

October - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The one-man commission of judge B. Gokuldas, to probe the methanol-laced arrack resulting in the deaths in Kallakurichi district, has asked members of the public, social activists and NGOs to present their views, opinions and suggestions on the incident.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Mumbai is established through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with a collaboration between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Tata IIS.
- ❖ The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) has recently announced the integration of the UMANG app with DigiLocker - India's Digital Wallet.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee approved deals for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from U.S. as well indigenous construction of two Nuclear Attack Submarines.
- ❖ The IIT Indore has developed a device for early detection of breast cancer by using optical and acoustic signals combo at an affordable cost.

TAMIL NADU

Statues of freedom fighters 2024



- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister through video conferencing, has unveiled a statue of various freedom fighters.

- ❖ Venni Kaladi statue was unveiled in Tenkasi district.
- ❖ Another statue of Veteran Kuyili was unveiled in Sivagangai district.
- ❖ A Statue of Thali Palayakar Malayandi Vengidupathi Ethalapar Nayakar, and a memorial hall was unveiled in Tiruppur district.

NATIONAL

National Maritime Heritage Complex Development

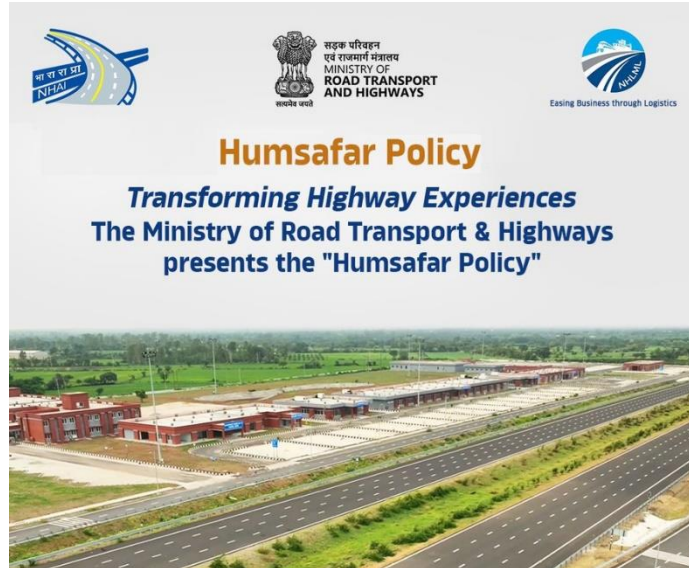


- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Cabinet has also accorded in-principal approval for Phases 1B and 2 of the projects.
- ❖ Phase 1A will have the NMHC museum with six galleries, including an Indian Navy and Coast Guard gallery envisaged to be one of the largest in the country.
- ❖ Phase 1B will see NMHC museum getting eight more galleries, and the Light House Museum which is planned to be world's tallest.

Humsafar Policy

- ❖ Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways has unveiled the Humsafar Policy.
- ❖ It is a major initiative aimed at improving the overall infrastructure along India's national highways.
- ❖ This policy focusses on providing essential amenities and enhancing the travel experience for commuters.
- ❖ It is also ensuring that highways are more user-friendly and accessible to all.

- ❖ Under the Humsafar Policy, several essential facilities will be introduced or upgraded across national highways.



Rice fortification supply extension

WHAT IS FORTIFIED RICE?		
<p>Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in food to improve its nutritional quality and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health</p>		
<p>➤ The fortification factor does not last for more than 45 days, so it isn't advisable to store fortified rice for long</p>	<p>➤ According to National Family Health Survey, 78.7% children and 75% in the district are anaemic and suffer from malnutrition</p>	<p>➤ In the first phase, fortified rice will be distributed in Badangi, Bobbili, Ramabhadrapuram and Terlam mandals</p>

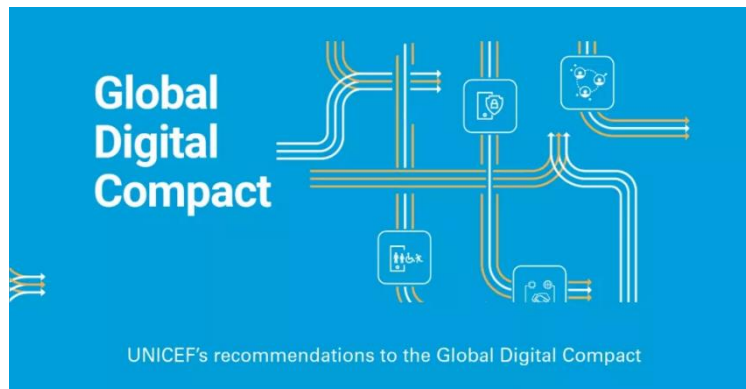
- ❖ The Union cabinet approved the extension of the free fortified rice scheme from July 2024 to December 2028.
- ❖ The aim of this is to “address anaemia and micro-nutrients deficiency”.

- ❖ The Fortification defines as “deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients in a food so as to improve the nutritional quality of food and to provide public health benefit with minimal risk to health”.
- ❖ One kg of fortified rice will contain iron (28 mg-42.5 mg), folic acid (75-125 microgram), and vitamin B-12 (0.75-1.25 microgram).

INTERNATIONAL

Global Digital Compact 2024

- ❖ The ‘Global Digital Compact’ (GDC) was adopted in the recently concluded UN ‘Summit of the Future’.
- ❖ It is not a binding law but a diplomatic instrument with a set of shared goals for governments, institutions, firms, and other stakeholders to bear in mind.
- ❖ The GDC is a collaborative project with the objective of ensuring human oversight of technologies in ways that advance sustainable development.
- ❖ To address the digital divide, the GDC proposes “digital public goods” that will include open-source software, open data, and open AI models, plus adherence to privacy and best practices.
- ❖ Earlier, the UN helped pilot and legitimise two other compacts.



ECONOMY

Limits on UPI 123 & UPI Lite

- ❖ RBI has announced an increase in transaction limits on UPI123 and UPI Lite.
- ❖ Currently, the per-transaction limit in UPI123Pay is capped at ₹5,000.
- ❖ RBI has decided to enhance the per-transaction limit to ₹10,000.

- ❖ Currently, UPI Lite has a limit of ₹500 per transaction and an overall ₹2,000 per UPI Lite wallet.
- ❖ It was hiked to a per-transaction limit of ₹1,000 and an overall wallet limit of ₹5,000.

FRESH CAP

UPI123Pay limit (per transaction)
Earlier: ₹5,000
Now: ₹10,000

UPI Lite limit
(per transaction)
Earlier: ₹500
Now: ₹1,000

UPI Lite (wallet limit)
Earlier: ₹2,000
Now: ₹5000



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

'Refreeze' Arctic Sea

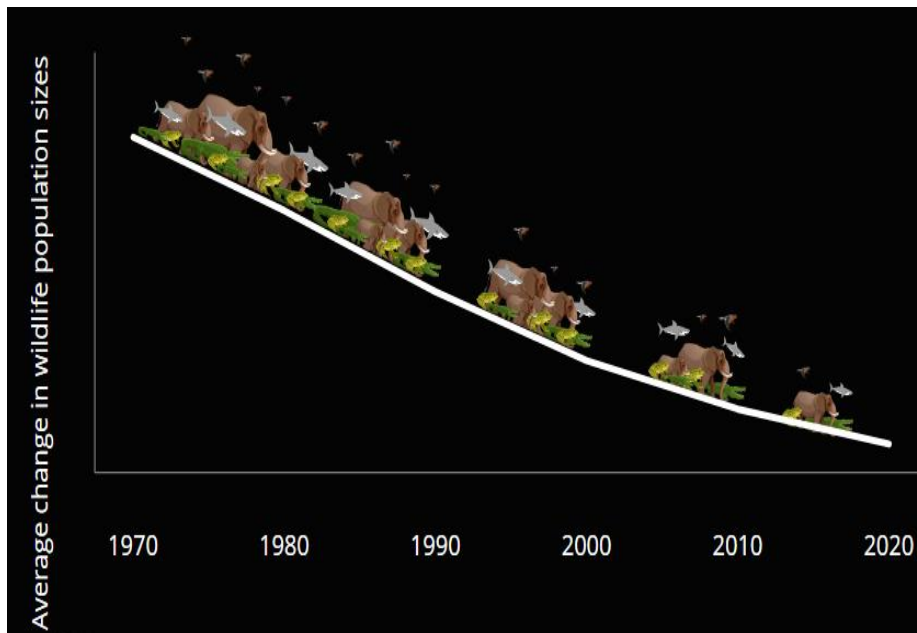


- ❖ An innovative way is being created by scientists which will help them in "growing" ice and "refreezing" the Arctic Sea.

- ❖ Pumps will be used by the engineers to cover ice with seawater, which is expected to freeze in winter and thicken the ice layer.
- ❖ This will ensure that the ice lasts longer during the summer.
- ❖ This is the first time done successfully with the help of hydrogen.
- ❖ Every decade, the Arctic Ocean is losing nearly 13 per cent of its ice.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Living Planet Report 2024



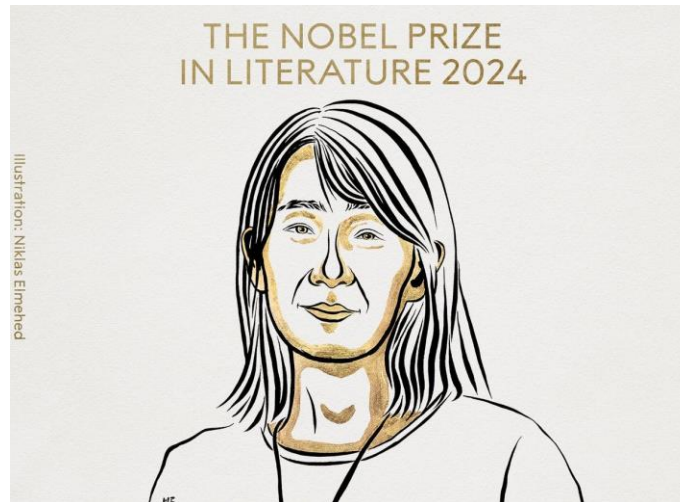
- ❖ The Living Planet Report 2024 is a biennial assessment by the conservation organisation the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- ❖ It revealed that the average size of monitored wildlife populations has decreased by 73 per cent since 1970.
- ❖ Nearly 35,000 wildlife populations and 5,495 species of amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles declined significantly.
- ❖ Between 1970 and 2020, freshwater species were the most affected, with an 85 per cent decline.
- ❖ It is followed by a 69 per cent decline in terrestrial species and a 56 per cent decline in marine populations.
- ❖ Latin America and the Caribbean, where populations have dropped by 95 per cent, is followed by Africa, which has seen a 76 per cent decline.
- ❖ The Asia-Pacific region collectively reported a 60 per cent decline.

- ❖ Chinook salmon population dropped by 88 per cent between 1950 and 2020.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nobel Prize 2024 in Literature

- ❖ The 2024 Nobel Prize has been awarded for the Literature to South Korean author Han Kang.
- ❖ It is recognizing her "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."
- ❖ Her another most notable works, "Human Acts" (2014), exemplifies her approach to literature.
- ❖ The novel is rooted in the real-life Gwangju Uprising of 1980.
- ❖ Han's short story "Europa" (2012) further showcases her literary prowess.
- ❖ Her "The Vegetarian" (2007) won the Man Booker International Prize in 2016.
- ❖ The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 116 times to 120 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2023.



SPORTS

Rafael Nadal Retirement

- ❖ Spain's tennis player Rafael Nadal has announced his retirement from the professional tennis.
- ❖ Nadal has won 22-grand slam singles title and a record 14 French Open titles.

- ❖ A five-time year-end world number one, he remained in the ATP top 10 for an incredible 17 years, from 2005 until March 2024.
- ❖ During his peak years, he spent 209 weeks ranked as the world's top player.
- ❖ He won at least one title every year from 2004 to 2022.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Mental Health Day 2024 – October 10



- ❖ This initiative was dedicated for raising the awareness, promoting mental health education, and advocating against the stigma surrounding mental health.

- ❖ World Mental Health Day was first observed on October 10, 1992.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'Mental Health at Work'.

International Day of the Girl Child 2024 - October 11



- ❖ It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011.
- ❖ This day was dedicated for raising awareness about the unique challenges girls face worldwide and promoting their empowerment.
- ❖ This day highlights the need to address issues such as gender inequality, child marriage, and limited access to education and healthcare.
- ❖ The theme of 2024 is “Girls’ vision for the future.”
- ❖ UNESCO proclaimed 1979 as the International Year of the Child.

