

October - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has awarded the task of preparation of master plans for 42 towns to four consultants under the Union government's scheme of Amrut 2.0.
- ❖ The Vellore district administration will set up a modern compost yard to handle waste generated from six village panchayats at least 2 km away from Indian Naval Station (INS) Rajali in Arakkonam to prevent bird hits.
- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that contract employees too are entitled to maternity benefits and that the provisions of the Maternity Act of 1961 would prevail over contractual conditions if the latter either deny or offer less favourable benefits.
- ❖ Lignite and coal mines of NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) have got top scores and five-star ratings for the year 2022-23 in a Union Coal Ministry survey.
- ❖ The former chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women, Vijaya Rahatkar has been appointed as chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).
- ❖ A special parliamentary committee in Pakistan has appointed Justice Yahya Afridi as the next Chief Justice, bypassing the traditional seniority principle.
- ❖ Footballer Bala Devi of Manipur has become the first Indian woman to score 50 international goals.

TAMIL NADU

Report of Vadakkupattu excavation

FOUR CIVILIZATIONS		
<p>Early and later Pallava period (from 1,200 years to 1,800 years ago) Vishnu, Shivalinga sculptures</p>	<p>Sangam era (2,000 years ago) Roman amphora sherds, glass beads, rouletted ware, gold ornaments, terracotta toys, beads, pieces of bangles, pot sherds and coins</p> 	<p>Mesolithic period (12,000 years ago) Stone tools including hand axes, scrapers, cleaver, choppers and stone fragments</p> 
		 <p>RICH HAUL: The excavation site at Vadakkupattu</p>

- ❖ A 700-page detailed final report on the two-phased excavations at Vadakkupattu village in Kancheepuram district has been submitted to Director General, ASI.
- ❖ The aim was to know the complete history and information of the lower Palar River Valley palaeolithic site.

- ❖ The first phase of excavation began in July 2022, wherein nine trenches were dug up.
- ❖ In May 2023, the ASI carried out excavations at 12 more trenches.
- ❖ The excavated materials revealed that the site belonged to the Middle Paleolithic Age, and flourished during the early historic and historic (Pallava) periods.
- ❖ One of the remarkable antiquities found during the excavation was the potsherds with Tamil Brahmi script called 'Matti'.

Pink Auto rickshaws

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government partially funded 'pink autorickshaws' that will be operated by women for women in Chennai.
- ❖ It aims to ensure the safe travel of women and children.
- ❖ The government will provide 1 lakh each as a grant to 250 women residing in Chennai to buy CNG/hybrid autorickshaws.
- ❖ Women in the age group of 25-45 can apply for the scheme, and priority would be given to widows and destitute women.
- ❖ The applicants should be residents of Chennai, should have passed the SSLC examination and possess a driving licence.



Private radio FM channels

- ❖ Eleven towns in Tamil Nadu are set to get three private radio FM channels each.

- ❖ The Government of India (GoI) is gearing up for an e-auction to allot channels to places that have not been covered so far.
- ❖ Coonoor, Dindigul, Karaikudi, Karur, Nagercoil, Neyveli, Pudukkottai, Rajapalayam, Thanjavur, Tiruvannamalai and Vaniyambadi are in the list of the 234 towns in the notice.
- ❖ The GoI has decided to conduct 'ascending e-auctions' to allot 730 channels to 234 uncovered places under the third batch of FM Phase-III radio channels.



Windergy India 2024



- ❖ The 'Windergy India 2024' conference was recently held in Chennai.
- ❖ The State aims to add 30 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity in the next six years.
- ❖ The State have a total renewable energy capacity of 24 GW.

- ❖ It has set a target of 50% of energy consumption coming from renewable energy sources by 2030.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has a wind installed capacity of 10.5 GW and is a pioneer in wind energy.

NATIONAL

SARTHI System

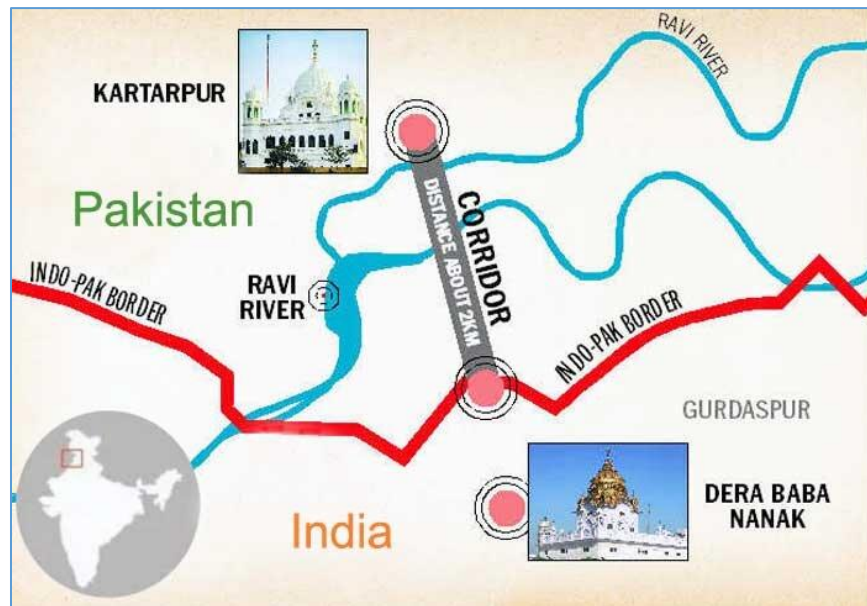
- ❖ The Solar Assisted Reefer Transportation with Hybrid Controls and Intelligence (SARTHI) system was introduced recently.
- ❖ It has introduced by the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K).
- ❖ It is an innovative solution to reduce post-harvest losses in perishable food transportation.
- ❖ It features dual compartments designed to store fruits and vegetables at different temperatures, addressing their unique storage needs.
- ❖ This design helps to extend shelf life and reduces losses due to chilling injury or moisture loss.



Kartarpur Corridor Agreement 2024

- ❖ India and Pakistan agreed through diplomatic channels to extend the validity of the agreement on Kartarpur Sahib corridor for another five years.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on October 24, 2019 for a period of five years.
- ❖ It aims to facilitate the visit of pilgrims from India to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Narowal, Pakistan, through the Kartarpur Sahib corridor.

- ❖ Extension of validity of the agreement will ensure uninterrupted operation of the corridor for use by pilgrims from India to visit the holy gurdwara in Pakistan.



INTERNATIONAL

Hand-in-Hand Initiative

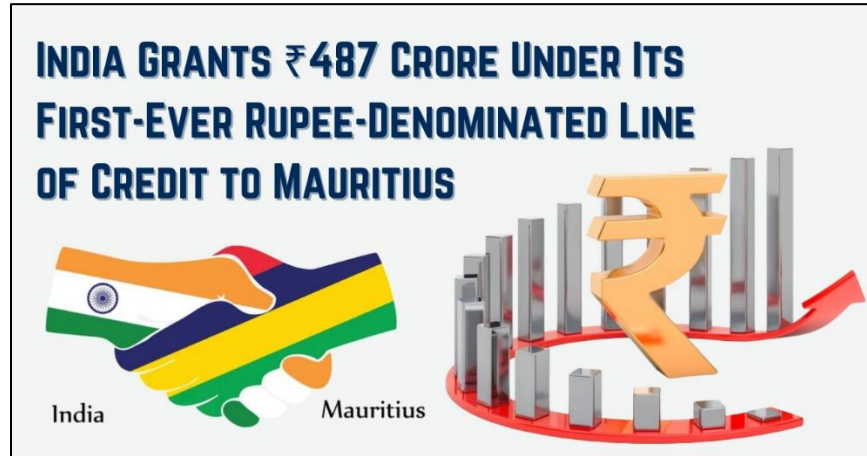


- ❖ The Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum 2024 was held in Rome during the World Food Forum.
- ❖ There are now 72 countries that have joined the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.
- ❖ The Hand-in-Hand Initiative has so far catalysed more than \$3 billion in the prioritized agrifood investments.
- ❖ HIH Initiative, launched in 2019, is a flagship of FAO and one of its core priority programme areas.

- ❖ It supports the implementation of the nationally led ambitious programmes to accelerate the agrifood systems transformations by eradicating poverty (SDG1), ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2), and reducing inequalities (SDG10).

ECONOMY

INR denominated Line of Credit



- ❖ India has extended a new Line of Credit worth Rs 487.60 crore to the Government of Mauritius.
- ❖ This marks the first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit extended by India to any country.
- ❖ This is provided for project financing under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).
- ❖ The IDEAS initiative supports the developmental projects in partner countries through concessional loans.
- ❖ The project will be financed by the State Bank of India on concessional terms.

ENVIRONMENT

COP16 of CBD

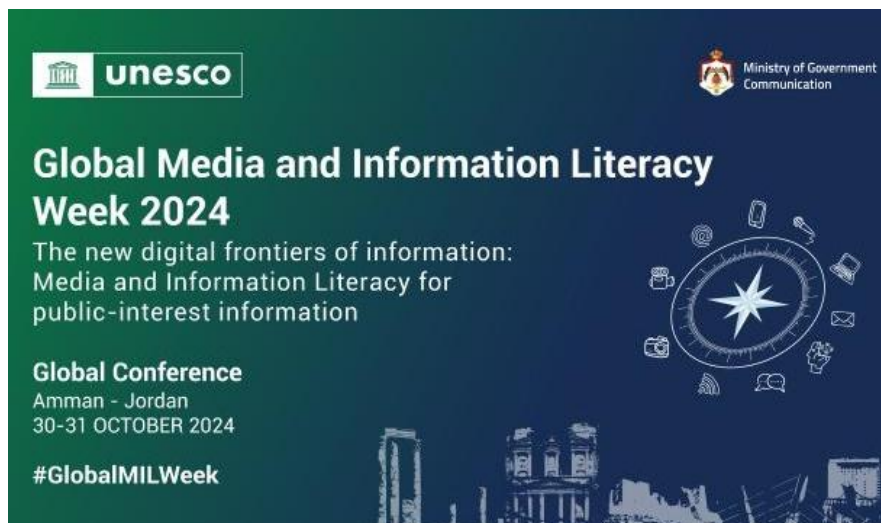
- ❖ The 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is taking place in Cali, Colombia.
- ❖ During the event, they released a report titled 'Closing Window of Opportunity: Mapping Threats from Oil, Gas and Mining to Important Areas for Conservation in the Pantropics'.

- ❖ It shows that the world's best and most important ecosystems are facing a threat from extractive industries.
- ❖ These include key biodiversity areas, high-integrity forest landscapes, protected areas, and Indigenous territories.
- ❖ The data reveals 518 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), which are 18 per cent of the total such areas, have active and potential oil and gas concessions.
- ❖ As much as 180 million hectares of high-integrity forests are at risk in Amazon and Congo basin regions and Southeast Asia.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2024 - October 24/31



- ❖ It aims to share ideas and promote Media and Information Literacy for all.
- ❖ It is an annual event organised by UNESCO to raise awareness of the importance of media and information literacy (MIL).

- ❖ It also celebrates the progress made towards achieving MIL for all.
- ❖ The Theme for 2024 will be “The new digital frontiers of information: Media and Information Literacy for public-interest information”.

Disarmament Week 2024 - October 24/30

- ❖ It seeks to promote awareness and better understanding of disarmament issues and their cross-cutting importance.
- ❖ It is starting on 24 October, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.
- ❖ The Ottawa Treaty, or the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, marks its 25th anniversary this year.
- ❖ The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) was entering into force in 1970.
- ❖ The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was opened for signature in 1996.
- ❖ Nuclear Suppliers Group was established in 1974 after Pokhran test.
- ❖ The Australian Group was established in 1985.
- ❖ The Missile Technology Control Regime was established in 1987.

