

April - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Romain Rolland Book Prize 2024 was awarded to the Bengali translation 'Staliner Divan' by Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee.
- ❖ The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Kerala section was conferred the 2024 K.P.P. Nambiar Award on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath.
- ❖ Sunil Bharti Mittal becomes first Indian citizen to be conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King.
- ❖ Recently, Adani Group has inaugurated South Asia's largest ammunition and missile complex in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh spanning 500 acres.
- ❖ The 21st edition of BioAsia, Asia's premier biotechnology and life sciences convention was held in Hyderabad, India.
 - The theme for current year summit is "Transforming Life Sciences with Data and AI".
- ❖ Krutrim, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup, has introduced its beta version AI chatbot.

INTERNATIONAL

World's Third-Largest Mosque



- ❖ Algeria has inaugurated the world's third-largest and Africa's largest mosque.

- ❖ Known locally as the Djamaa El-Djazair, it features the world's tallest minaret at 265 metres (869 feet), can accommodate 120,000 people.
- ❖ This is the world's largest mosque only after Islam's holiest sites in Saudi Arabia's Mecca and Medina.

Ban On Donkey Skin Trade



- ❖ African Union Commission (AUC) passed a resolution in favour of a 15-year ban on the commercial killing of donkeys for their skin.
- ❖ This is a significant outcome following the Dar-e-Salaam declaration adopted at the first AU-IBAR Pan-African Donkey Conference in December 2022.
- ❖ Donkey skin is used to make the traditional Chinese medicine ejiao.
- ❖ In five years between 2016 and 2021, ejiao production is estimated to have increased by 160 per cent.
- ❖ The ejiao industry now requires a minimum of 5.9 million donkey skin annually to keep up with the latest Chinese demand.
- ❖ Africa is home to over two-thirds of the 53 million donkeys estimated to exist worldwide.

New Zealand repeal Anti-Tobacco Law

- ❖ New Zealand is repealing the world's first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.

- ❖ The smoking ban was passed under former prime minister Jacinda Arden's government.
- ❖ The ban was set to come into effect from July.
- ❖ The ban restricted sales of tobacco to those born after January 1, 2009.
- ❖ Further, it has cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers in the country by over 90%.
- ❖ On March 29, 2004, Ireland became the first country in the world to put an end to all indoor smoking at workplaces.
- ❖ In 2023, Mexico announced one of the strictest anti-tobacco laws.



Withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty

- ❖ The Government of the United Kingdom (UK) announced that it would withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).
- ❖ The ECT is a multilateral treaty which seeks to promote international investment in the energy sector.
- ❖ It provides protection for the investments of investors in the energy sector from State conduct that breaches its terms.
- ❖ More than 50 states are contracting parties to the ECT.
- ❖ The UK will become the 11th Contracting Party to announce its intention to withdraw from the ECT in recent years.

- ❖ France, Germany, and Poland's withdrawal from the ECT became effective at the end of 2023.



ENVIRONMENT

Restoration degraded ecosystems – EU



- ❖ The European Parliament adopted the first European Union (EU) law to restore degraded ecosystems across the 27-nation political and economic bloc.



- ❖ The new law sets a target for the EU to restore at least 20 per cent of its land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.
- ❖ The law calls on EU members to restore at least 30 per cent of drained peatland by 2030, 40 per cent by 2040 and 50 per cent by 2050.
- ❖ EU nations must restore at least 25,000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers.
- ❖ Also needs to ensure there is no net loss in the total national area of urban green space and of urban tree canopy cover.

Ecocide as a crime

- ❖ Belgium has become the first in the European Continent to recognise 'ecocide' as a national as well as an international crime.
- ❖ Ecocide is "Unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts".
- ❖ The punishment for individuals may include up to 20 years in prison, while corporations could face fines of up to €1.6 million.
- ❖ In addition, Belgium now recognises ecocide as a fifth 'international crime' after war crimes, crimes of aggression, crimes against humanity and genocide.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards

- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has secured top position in three awards at 14th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards.

- ❖ The first award was jointly shared with Google India, in the category “Innovation in AI” for its pioneering ASTR project.
- ❖ Second award belongs to the category “Innovation in Social Good” for its ground breaking CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) solution.
- ❖ The third award bagged is for “Innovation in Telecom” category for its Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) product.
- ❖ This award was initiated in 2010 by the Aegis School of Data Science.
- ❖ This pays a tribute to the father of the telephony and great innovator, Alexander Graham Bell.



National Creator's Awards 2024

- ❖ The central government launched the National Creators Award to recognise the expanding impact of digital artists and influencers and support India's digital economy.
- ❖ The award is intended to highlight several voices and skills that are influencing India's future and also promoting positive social change in the digital space.
- ❖ The National Creators Award features a wide array of impactful voices across 20+ categories.

- ❖ It is recognizing excellence and impact across domains, including storytelling, social change advocacy, environmental sustainability, education, gaming and others.
- ❖ Apart from this, there is one award for an international creator.



2023 GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence



- ❖ Dr Aditi Sen De, a physicist with the Harish Chandra Investigate Institute, Prayagraj, has received the 2023 GD Birla Award for Scientific Excellence.
- ❖ The award is given annually by the KK Birla Foundation since 1991.



- ❖ It recognises outstanding contributions by Indian scientists who are under the age of 50 and living and working in India.
- ❖ She is the 33rd scientist, and the first woman, to receive the award.
- ❖ she has awarded for her outstanding contribution to the development of quantum technologies.

First Pey Jal Survekshan Awards



Pey Jal Survekshan

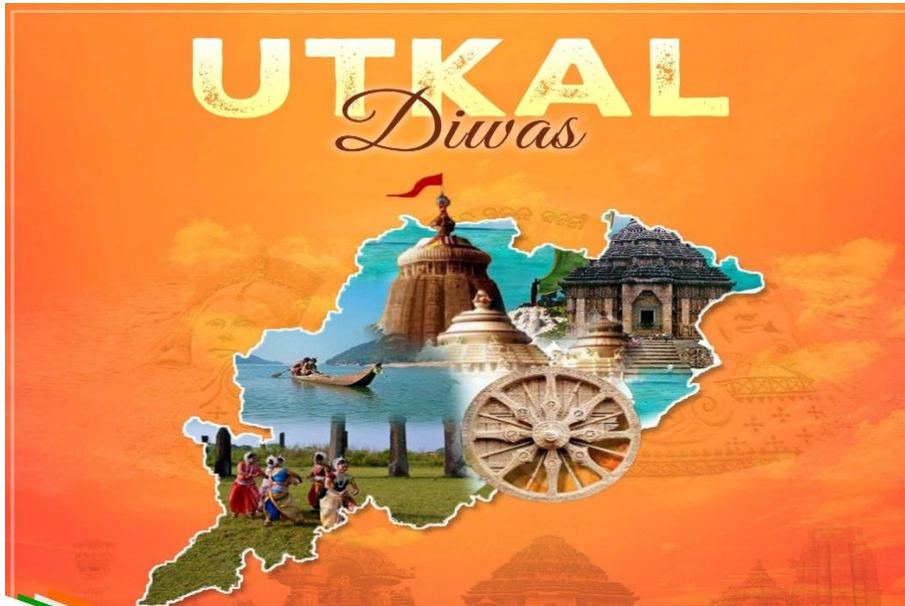
- ❖ The Indian President Droupadi Murmu has presented the first edition of Pey Jal Survekshan Awards.
- ❖ Around 130 awards have bestowed for the remarkable accomplishments of cities and States.
- ❖ These accolades span various categories, from the prestigious Pey Jal Gold, Silver, and Bronze City Awards.
- ❖ The awards extend to commendations for Best Water Body, Sustainability Champion, Reuse Champion, Water Quality, City Saturation, and the coveted AMRUT 2.0 Rotating Trophy of the Year.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Odisha Foundation Day 2024 – April 01

- ❖ Odisha Foundation Day, celebrated annually on April 1, marks the formation of the state of Odisha. Also known as Utkal Diwas.

- ❖ It commemorates the day when Odisha was created as a separate province on April 1, 1936 from the united Bihar and Orissa province.
- ❖ This day is significant for the people of Odisha as it symbolizes their cultural identity, historical heritage, and the progress made by the state since its inception.



Prevention of Blindness Week 2024



- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur founded the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in 1960 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- ❖ Indian government designates April 1 to April 7 as Prevention of Blindness Week.

- ❖ The week aims to raise awareness regarding the myriad factors contributing to blindness.
- ❖ It seeks to educate people on various eye injuries, visual impairments, effective preventive measures, treatment modalities, and potential cures.

World Autism Awareness Day 2024 – April 02



- ❖ The day is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of people with Autism and to raise awareness about the challenges they face.
- ❖ Autism is a spectrum disorder that affects communication and social interaction.
- ❖ Symptoms of Autism can include social anxiety, fear, and difficulty in concentrating.
- ❖ The condition can impact a person's daily life and cause significant problems.
- ❖ World Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize the uniqueness of people with autism and to promote understanding and acceptance of their differences.
- ❖ It is also a reminder that Autism is a lifelong condition and that there is no cure.
- ❖ Theme of 2024 is "Empowering Autistic Voices".

