

April - 26

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Intel has introduced Hala Point, the world's largest neuromorphic computer, showcasing a significant leap towards emulating the human brain's functionalities.
- ❖ A remote volcano Mount Ruang in Indonesia's outermost region erupted again recently.
- ❖ Reuters photographer Mohammed Salem won the prestigious 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.
- ❖ In the fiscal year 2024, India experienced a notable surge in exports of plain gold jewellery.
  - This is marking a 61.72% increase to \$6,792.24 million from \$4,199.96 million in the preceding fiscal year.

## TAMIL NADU

### Carrying capacity of ghat roads

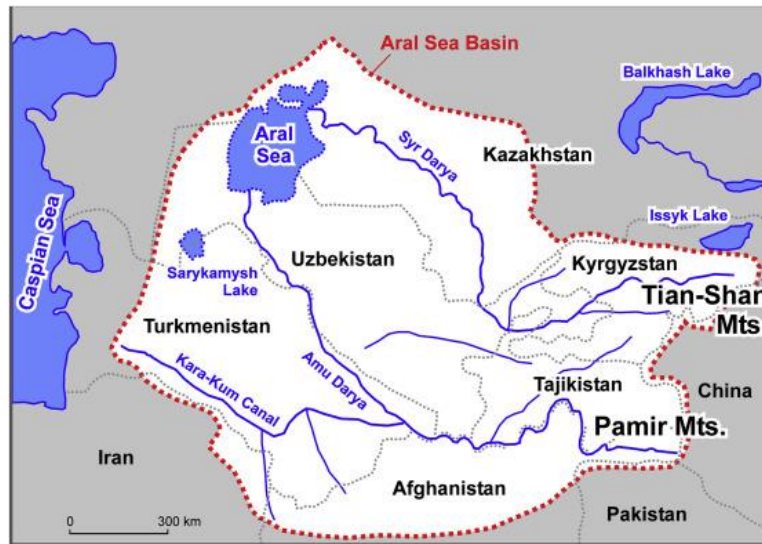


- ❖ The Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore (IIM-B) and IIT- Madras would carry out studies required for fixing the carrying capacity of the ghat roads leading to the Nilgiris and Kodaikanal respectively.
- ❖ The government was in agreement with the court's view on fixing a cap on the number of vehicles and tourists who could be allowed to enter the hill stations.

- ❖ It also wanted to assess the carrying capacity in tune with international best practices and by leveraging expert insights.
- ❖ The definition of ‘tourism carrying capacity’ provided by the UNWTO underscores the importance of estimating carrying capacity under various parameters such as physical, economic, socio-cultural, biophysical and ecological capacities.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Drying of Aral Sea



- ❖ The Aral Sea, the world’s fourth-largest lake until the early 1960s, has dried up.
- ❖ The drying up of the Aral Sea has made Central Asia dustier by 7 per cent over the past 30 years.
- ❖ The Aralkum Desert is now considered one of the most significant man-made sources of dust on earth.
- ❖ Between 1985 and 2015, dust emissions from the growing desert almost doubled from 14 to 27 million tonnes.
- ❖ The Aral was fed by the two great rivers of Central Asia — the Amu Darya (Oxus in Antiquity) and the Syr Darya (Jaxartes).
- ❖ Its basin was spread over seven Central Asia nations—Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Iran.

### Euvichol-S Cholera Vaccine

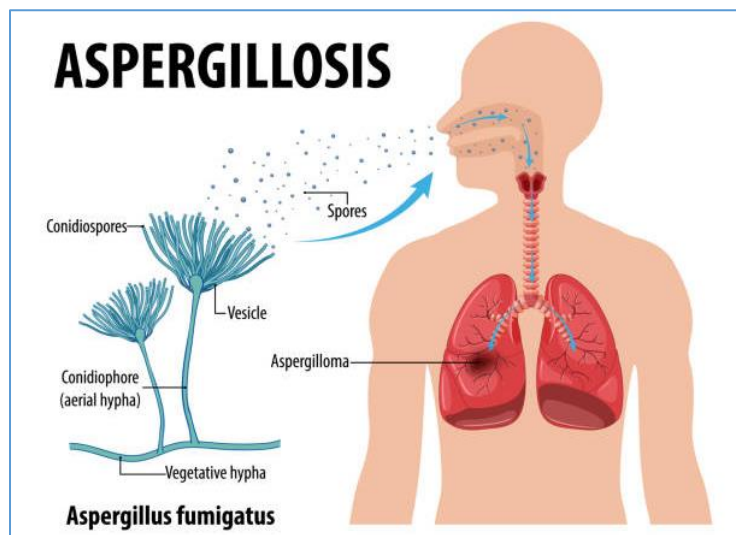
- ❖ The new inactivated oral vaccine Euvichol-S for cholera has received prequalification by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

- ❖ There were 473,000 cholera cases reported to WHO in 2022, double the number from 2021.
- ❖ Further increase of cases by 700,000 was estimated for 2023.
- ❖ Currently, 23 countries are reporting cholera outbreaks with most severe impacts seen in the Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Aspergillus fumigatus - Deadly Fungus



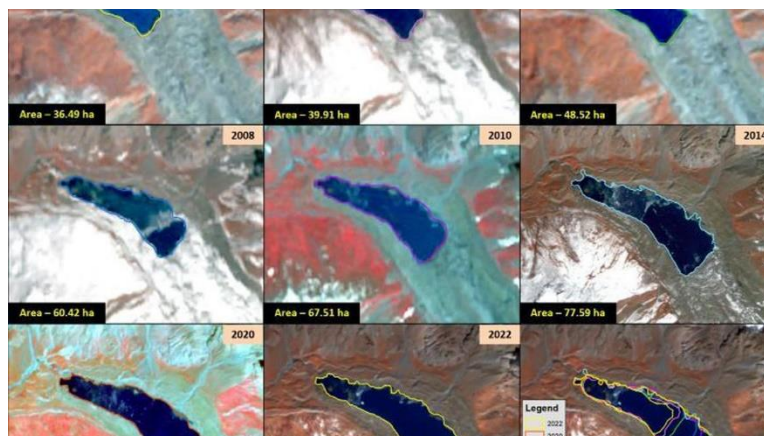
- ❖ The emergence of azole-resistant Aspergillus fumigatus (ARAF) across the world is an important public health concern.
- ❖ Azoles are an important class of antifungal medicines and the most frequently used medicines for the treatment of Aspergillus fumigatus infections.
- ❖ People with azole-resistant infections are 33% more likely to die.

- ❖ Aspergillus fumigatus is a fungus that causes diseases in humans.
- ❖ Aspergillosis threatens the life of more than 300,000 people each year.
- ❖ It is a fungus of the class Eurotiomycetes and is widespread in nature.
- ❖ It's found in soil, decaying vegetation, air-conditioning and heating systems, and household items.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Expansion of Glacial Lakes

- ❖ ISRO's long-term satellite imagery covering the catchments of Indian Himalayan River basins from 1984 to 2023 have shown significant changes in glacial lakes.
- ❖ Of the 2,431 lakes larger than 10 hectares identified during 2016-17, 676 glacial lakes have notably expanded since 1984.
- ❖ Specifically, 130 of these lakes are situated within India, with 65, seven, and 58 lakes located in the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra River basins, respectively.
- ❖ Of these lakes 601 lakes (89%) have expanded more than twice, 10 lakes have grown between 1.5 to 2 times and 65 lakes 1.5 times.
- ❖ The elevation-based analysis reveals that 314 lakes are located in the 4,000 to 5,000 m range and 296 lakes are above 5,000 m elevation.



### Clouded Tiger Cat in Brazil

- ❖ A new tiger species has been recently discovered in the dense rainforests of Brazil.
- ❖ It is named as the clouded tiger cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*).
- ❖ The clouded tiger cat is a small wildcat, roughly the size of a domestic housecat.

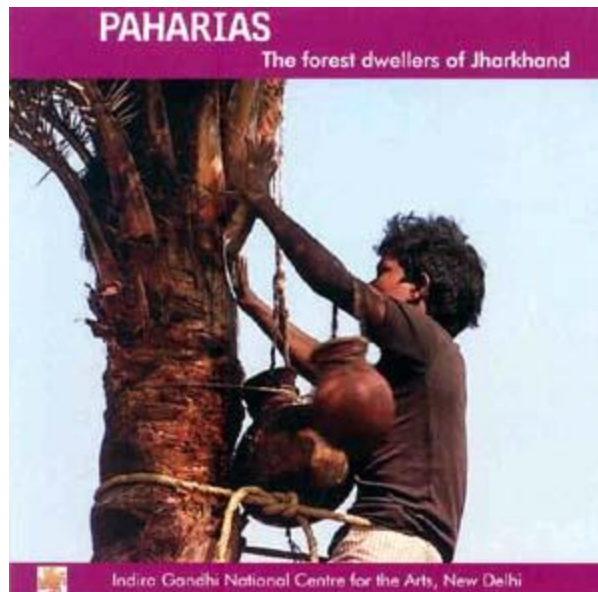


- ❖ The clouded tiger cat's range stretches from Costa Rica through Panama, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina.
- ❖ Its habitat is a world away from the savannas and shrublands where its cousins, the northern tiger cat and the Atlantic Forest tiger cat, reside.



## STATES

### **Pahariya Tribes**



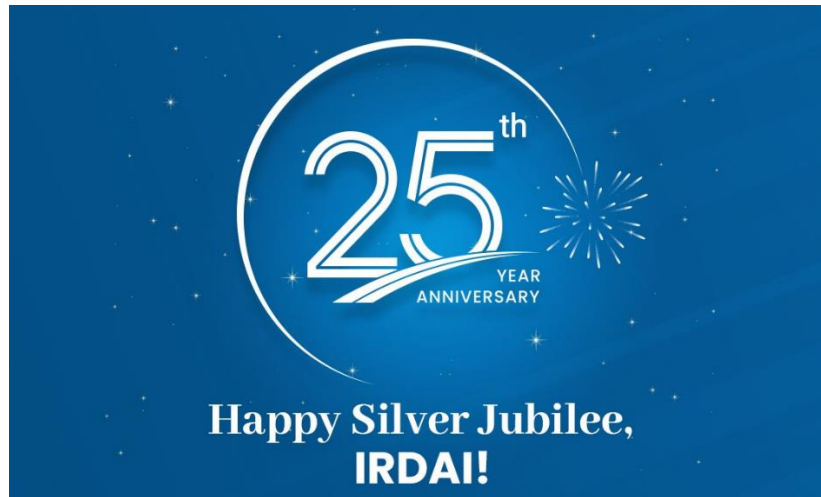
- ❖ In mid-2019, four community-led seed banks were set up in the hilly districts of Pakur and Godda.
- ❖ Earlier they bought seeds from moneylenders, who would then take two-thirds of our harvest.
- ❖ Currently, the banks cater to more than 1,350 households in 90 villages.



- ❖ Residents in these districts belong to the Pahariya community.
- ❖ They practise jhum or shifting cultivation that involves clearing land by burning vegetation for farming for a few years.
- ❖ They believed to have been derived from the word pahar meaning hills.
- ❖ They live mainly in the states of Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- ❖ There are also scattered groups of them in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **IRDAI silver Jubilee**



- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) celebrates its Silver Jubilee on April 19.
- ❖ In line with the Malhotra Committee report's recommendations, the IRDAI was set up in 1999 as an autonomous body for regulating and taking ahead the insurance industry.
- ❖ On April 19, 2000, it was formally established as a statutory body.
- ❖ IRDAI has been at the forefront of shaping India's insurance ecosystem, fostering transparency, efficiency, and customer-centricity.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Intellectual Property Day 2024 - April 26**

- ❖ It is observed to promote awareness about the influence of patents, copyrights, trademarks, and design on daily life.

- ❖ The function of intellectual property (IP) rights is to stimulate innovation and creativity across the various civilizations present in the world.
- ❖ Intellectual property (IP) is a non-physical asset that a person or corporation possesses.
- ❖ They are the rights granted to individuals over the production of minds.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is 'IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity'.

Celebration of

## World Intellectual Property Day

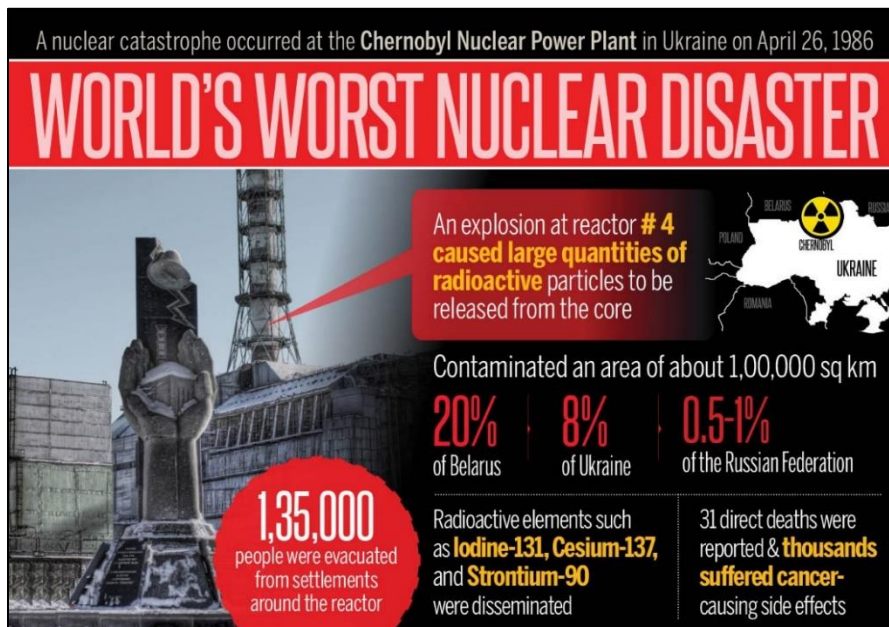
26th April 2024

Theme : *"IP and the SDGs Building our common Future with innovation and creativity"*

### International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2024 - April 26

A nuclear catastrophe occurred at the **Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant** in Ukraine on April 26, 1986

## WORLD'S WORST NUCLEAR DISASTER



An explosion at reactor #4 caused large quantities of radioactive particles to be released from the core

Contaminated an area of about 1,00,000 sq km

20% of Belarus | 8% of Ukraine | 0.5-1% of the Russian Federation

1,35,000 people were evacuated from settlements around the reactor

Radioactive elements such as **Iodine-131**, **Cesium-137**, and **Strontium-90** were disseminated

31 direct deaths were reported & **thousands** suffered cancer-causing side effects

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the consequences of the deadly nuclear disaster, which took place on the same day in 1986.
- ❖ The UNGA resolution 71/125 in 2016 designated this day.
- ❖ On April 26, 1986, a nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the erstwhile Soviet Union was exploded.



- ❖ Based on the official reports, nearly 8,400,000 people in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine were exposed to the radiation.
- ❖ About 155,000 sq. km of territories in the three countries were contaminated.
- ❖ Agricultural areas covering nearly 52,000 sq. km contaminated with cesium-137 and strontium-90, with 30-year and 28-year half-lives respectively.

