

March - 10

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in Thiruvananthapuram is being “actively considered” as a possible location for the proposed Bharat Semiconductor Research Centre.
- ❖ Jindal Stainless (JSL) has commenced the inaugural usage of green hydrogen in its stainless-steel plant located in Hisar, Haryana.
- ❖ South Eastern Coalfield Limited’s Gevra Mine in Chhattisgarh is set to become the Largest Coal Mine in Asia.
  - It has received environmental clearance to expand its production capacity to 70 million tonnes annually.

## NATIONAL

### Swachhata Green Leaf Rating initiative



- ❖ Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Initiative was launched by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ This rating system aims to ensure world-class hygiene and sanitation in hotels, resorts and homestays
- ❖ But it has become a non-starter with no state is opting for it as of now.

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has taken the lead by obtaining the first Five Swachhata Green Leaf Rating Certificate of Recognition.

### **DefConnect 2024**

- ❖ 'DefConnect 2024' was inaugurated to give a boost to indigenous innovation in defence production.
- ❖ The event aims to forge partnerships and tackle emerging security challenges.
- ❖ During the event, Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme was launched.
- ❖ It was organized by Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO).

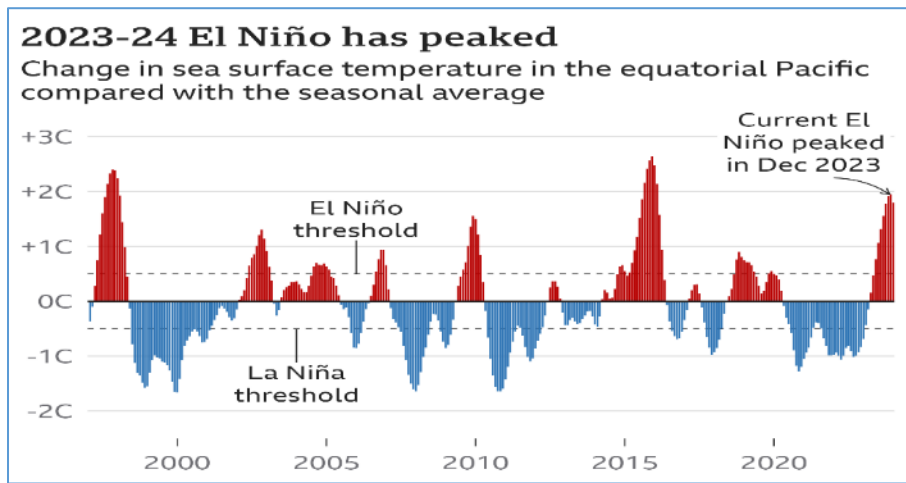


## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Strongest El Niño 2023-24**

- ❖ The 2023-24 El Niño has peaked as one of the five strongest on record.
- ❖ It will continue to impact global climate in the coming months despite a weakening trend.
- ❖ The prevailing El Niño conditions fuelled record temperatures and extreme events the world over, with 2023 being the warmest on record.
- ❖ It has displayed a peak value of about 2.0 degrees Celsius above the 1991 to 2020 average sea-surface temperature for the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean.

- ❖ This made it one of the five strongest El Niño events ever, though it was weaker than the 1997-98 and 2015-2016 events.
- ❖ The global mean temperature has breached the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold for an entire year for the first time in January.
- ❖ Every month since June 2023 has set a new monthly temperature record -- and 2023 was, by far, the warmest year on record.
- ❖ El Niño is a periodic warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It occurs every two to seven years on an average, and typically lasts nine to 12 months.



## ENVIRONMENT

### 1,036 species for backyard bird count

CHECKLISTS ▾		SPECIES ▾	
1 United States	172,025	1 Colombia	1363
2 India	60,810	2 Ecuador	1130
3 Canada	25,420	3 India	1036
4 Australia	4856	4 Brazil	1007
5 United Kingdom	4327	5 Peru	939

- ❖ Birding enthusiasts from all over the country documented 1,036 species for the Global Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2024.

- ❖ India has submitted over 1,000 species in a global citizen science initiative to document bird diversity.
- ❖ This is the second highest number of submissions in the world.
- ❖ India submitted the second-highest number of checklists and the third-highest species among all participating countries.
- ❖ The United States submitted the greatest number of checklists with 172,025.
- ❖ It is followed by India; Canada had the third highest number of checklists at 25,420.
- ❖ Colombia (1,363) and Ecuador (1,130) submitted the most species.
- ❖ Kerala recorded the highest number of checklists (14,023), followed by Tamil Nadu (13,661) and Maharashtra (5,725).
- ❖ The backyard bird count happens every year, usually over a four-day period in February.

### **6th United Nations Environmental Assembly**



- ❖ The sixth edition of United Nations Environment Assembly, or UNEA-6, was held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ❖ UNEA-6 adopted 15 resolutions aimed at addressing some of the planet's most-pressing environmental challenges, including climate change, air pollution and desertification.



- ❖ Every two years, all 193 UN Member States have an opportunity to collectively address critical environmental issues facing the planet.
- ❖ UNEA was created in 2012, as an outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Brazil.

## STATES

### Remarriage Incentive Scheme – Jharkhand



- ❖ In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Jharkhand launched 'Vidhwa Punar vivah Protsahan Yojana' (widow remarriage incentive scheme).
- ❖ Under this, women who chose to get married again after the death of their husbands, will be given an incentive of Rs 2 lakh by the government.
- ❖ The beneficiary should be of marriageable age and not a government employee, pensioner or income tax payer.

### Centre for Industrial Revolution

- ❖ Hyderabad witnessed the inauguration of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR).
- ❖ This is the world's first thematic centre focussed on healthcare and life sciences.

- ❖ The C4IR focuses on three key areas: real-world evidence, healthcare analytics and informatics, and software as a medical device.



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

### **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2022 and 2023**

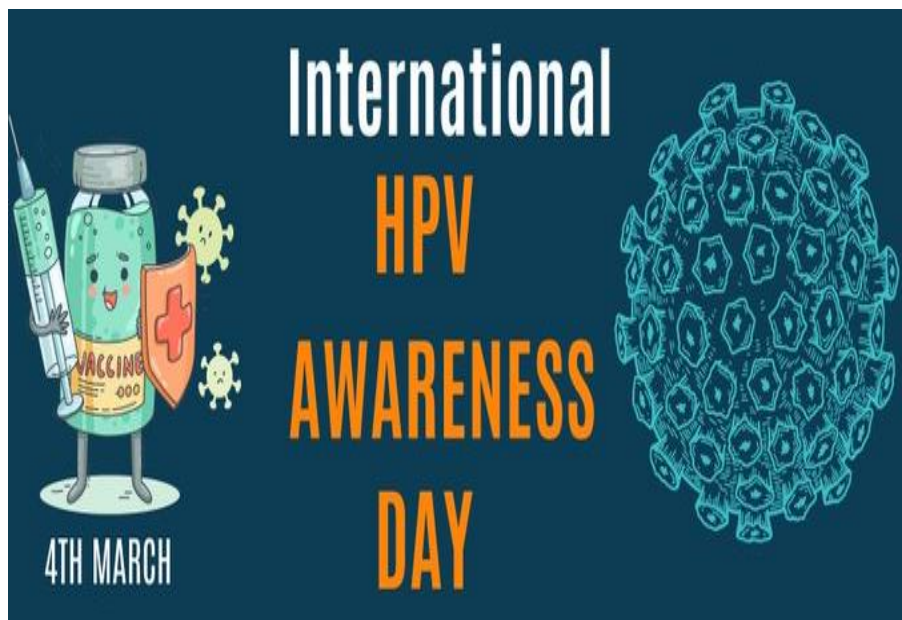
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred 94 Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 and 2023.
- ❖ They were given to eminent artists in the field of performing arts, including music, dance, drama, folk and tribal arts.
- ❖ Twelve people from the field of music, and equal number from dance, 9 from the field of theatre and 11 from folk and tribal arts have received the Akademi awards for 2023.
- ❖ Some notable artists include
  - Carnatic vocalist Bombay Jayashri Ramnath from Tamil Nadu,
  - Neyveli Narayanan from Tamil Nadu for Carnatic Instrumental (Mridangam),
  - Urmila Sathyanarayanan, from Tamil Nadu for Bharatanatyam and
  - Pallavi Krishnan from Kerala for Mohiniattam.
- ❖ The President of India also bestowed the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship to 6 eminent artists.
  - Vinayak Khedekar, Goa, Indian Music
  - R. Visweswaran, Karnataka, Indian Music
  - Sunayana Hazarilal, Maharashtra, Indiana Dance
  - Raja & Radha Reddy, Delhi, Indian Dance
  - Dulal Roy, Assam, Indian Theatre
  - D.P. Sinha, Uttar Pradesh, Indian Theatre

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship or “Akademi Ratna” is the highest honour given to eminent artists in the field of performing arts for his or her exceptional contribution to performing art form.
- ❖ It is restricted to 40 at any given time.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

**International HPV Awareness Day 2024 - March 04**



- ❖ This day was developed in 2018 by the International Papillomavirus Society (IPVS).

- ❖ It aims to educate about Human Papillomavirus and its association with cancers and prevention tips against the virus.
- ❖ Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a group of related viruses that can infect various parts of the body, primarily the genital area.
- ❖ Of the over 100 different types of HPV, some are classified as high-risk, increasing the likelihood of developing cancer.

### **World Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation 2024 - March 04**

- ❖ The day's primary goal is to unite the world to take a stand against all forms of sexual exploitation.
- ❖ 98 per cent of the victims are women and children.
- ❖ In 2009, the first World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation is observed as a global movement.



### **International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness - March 05**

- ❖ It aims to promote better awareness and understanding of disarmament issues among the public, especially young people.
- ❖ In 2022, global military spending has reached \$2.24 trillion.



❖ 2,500 nuclear weapons remain an existential threat to humanity today.



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