

March - 13

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Prime Minister unveiled a 125-foot bronze statue of 'Ahom general' Lachit Borphukan in Assam's Jorhat.
- ❖ Panama has officially ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and became the 97<sup>th</sup> member nation.
- ❖ The second outreach programme for the 'Sangam: Digital Twin initiative' was conducted at IIIT Bangalore.
- ❖ ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Karnataka was organized a mega "National Horticulture Fair – 2024.
- ❖ Yatin Bhaskar Duggal from Haryana won the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024.
  - Vaishna Pitchai from Tamil Nadu won the second prize and Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan the third prize.

## NATIONAL

### 22nd Law Commission on Trade Secrets



- ❖ The 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission recommended that new legislation be introduced to protect trade secrets with exceptions relating to whistleblower protection, compulsory licensing, government use, and public interest.
- ❖ The 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.

- ❖ Trade secrets are intellectual property rights on confidential information that may be sold or licensed.
- ❖ They derive their value from being kept secret.
- ❖ Currently, India lacks a specific law for the protection of trade secrets.
- ❖ Instead, they are safeguarded under the general laws governing contracts, common law, criminal law, and principles of breach of confidence and equity.

### **World's Longest Twin-Lane Sela Tunnel**

- ❖ The world's longest twin-lane Sela tunnel was recently inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The tunnel is situated at an elevation of 13,000 feet and is strategically crucial as is close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- ❖ The Sela tunnel has been constructed using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM).



## **INTERNATIONAL**

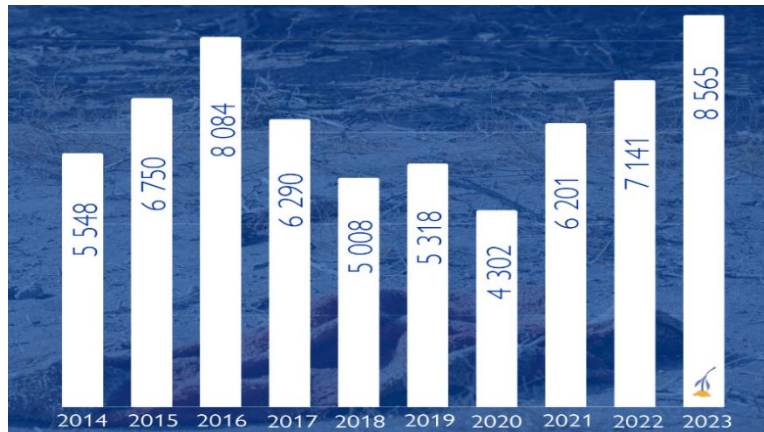
### **2<sup>nd</sup> biggest man-made methane leak**

- ❖ The drilling incident took place last year at an exploration well in the Mangistau region of southwestern Kazakhstan was possibly the second biggest man-made methane leak ever.

- ❖ The drilling incident at the exploration well caused a fire that raged between June and December 2023 and released 127,000 tonnes of methane into the atmosphere.
- ❖ Methane is a potent greenhouse gas traps heat in the atmosphere and adds to global warming.
- ❖ Leaks from fossil fuel operations are the biggest source of methane emissions.
- ❖ About 40% of human-caused methane emissions come from such operations.



### Deadliest Year for Migrants – 2023



- ❖ As per the United Nations report, at least 8,565 people died on migration routes worldwide in 2023.
- ❖ This is making 2023 as the deadliest year since records began a decade ago.
- ❖ The 2023 death count represents a tragic increase of 20 percent compared to 2022.

- ❖ The 2023 total surpassed the previous record reached in 2016, when 8,084 people died during migration.
- ❖ The Mediterranean Sea, where many migrants try to reach southern Europe from northern Africa, continues to be the deadliest route for migrants.

### **Blue Leaders High-Level Event**

- ❖ The Blue Leaders High-Level Event on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction was held in Belgium.
- ❖ It urges nations to ratify a new treaty to protect the high seas from pollution, climate change and overfishing.
- ❖ Countries like Belgium, Cape Verde, Greece, Monaco, Nigeria, Norway and the United Kingdom participated in the event.
- ❖ Countries agreed to a new treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty) in March 2023. It was formally adopted two months later.
- ❖ So far, 88 countries are signatories to the treaty. Only two — Chile and Palau — have ratified it so far.
- ❖ The BBNJ will “enter into force” when at least 60 countries ratify it.

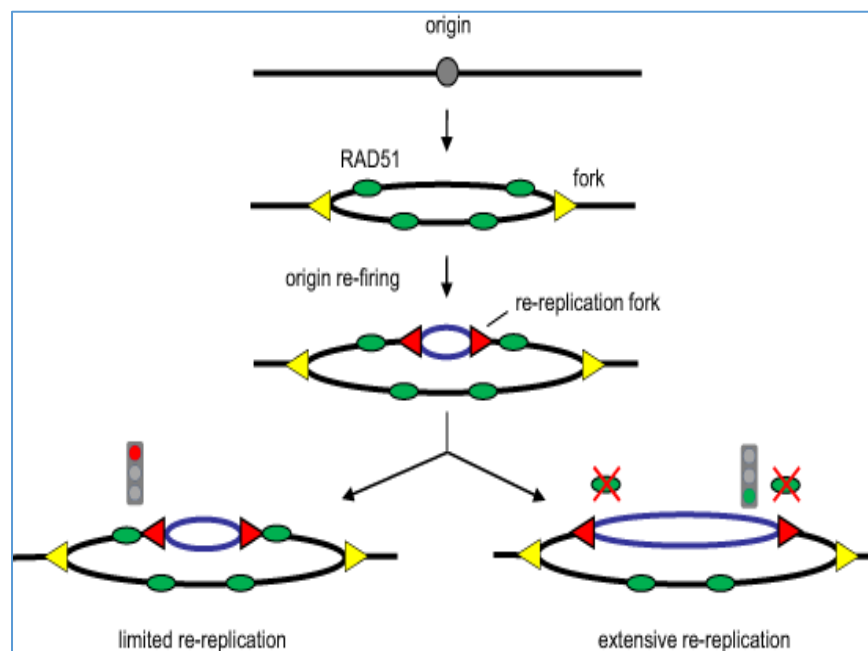


## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **RAD51 Protein**

- ❖ Researchers observed that RAD51 temporarily binds to the newly synthesized DNA.

- ❖ Thus, RAD51 prevents genomic duplications that could arise from re-activated origins.
- ❖ Every time a cell divides, its DNA is duplicated so that the two daughter cells have the same genetic material as their parent.
- ❖ This means that millions of times a day a biochemical wonder takes place in the body: the copying of the DNA molecule.
- ❖ It is a high-precision job carried out by specific proteins and includes systems to protect against potential errors that could lead to diseases such as cancer.
- ❖ When a region of DNA is over-replicated, breaks are created in the molecule, and the likelihood of a cancer-related gene being over-expressed increases.
- ❖ Therefore, avoiding excess replication prevents DNA damage and reduces the chances of oncogenes being amplified.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Asiatic lion IUCN status

- ❖ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which categorized the Asiatic lion as endangered in 2008, has reclassified it as vulnerable.
- ❖ The likelihood of a 33% decline in lion population in Africa is 19 times higher than in India.
- ❖ The lion population in Africa is estimated to have a 41% probability of declining by one third (33%) within three lion generations (past, present and future).



- ❖ But this risk is estimated to be at just 2% in Saurashtra, India.



## STATES

### Ban on Tiger Safari



- ❖ The Supreme Court has banned tiger safari in the core areas of the Jim Corbett National Park.
- ❖ It is reprimanding Uttarakhand government for illegal construction and felling of trees in the Reserve that is causing danger to wildlife.
- ❖ Jim Corbett National Park is one of the 13 protected areas under World Wide Fund for Nature under their Terai Arc Landscape programme.

- ❖ It aims to protect three of the five terrestrial species – tigers, Asiatic elephants and green-horned rhinoceros.

### State-Run OTT Platform



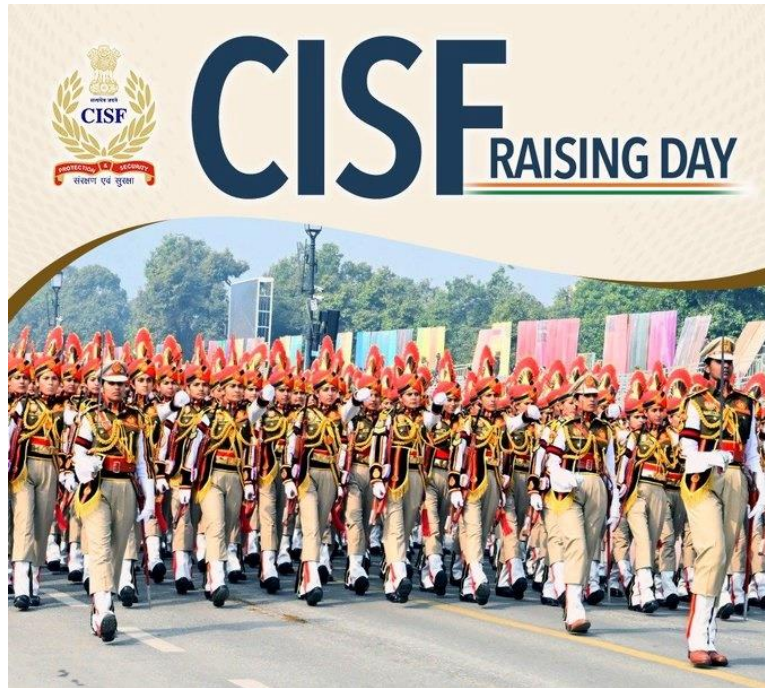
- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister inaugurated the state's own Over-The-Top (OTT) platform - CSpace recently.
- ❖ This India's first government-backed OTT platform addresses challenges in selecting and distributing content.
- ❖ It will manage by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).
- ❖ CSpace operates under the support of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Kerala.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

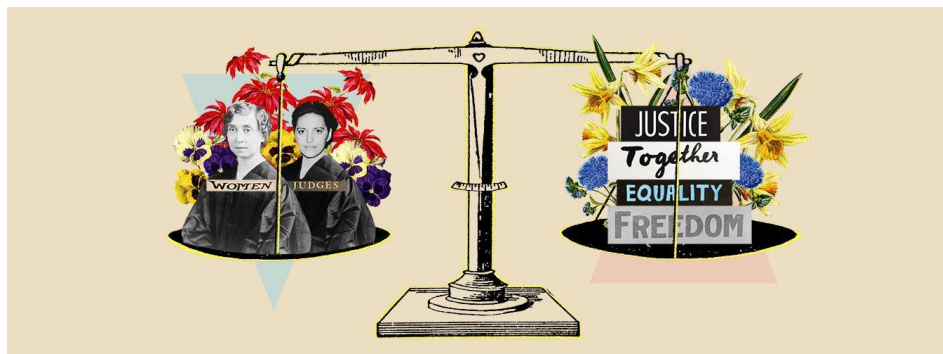
### CISF Raising Day 2024 - March 10

- ❖ The Central Industrial Security Force is instrumental in safeguarding the assets and infrastructures of the country.

- ❖ Under the CISF Act, 1968, the Central Industrial Security Force was established to address growing needs.
- ❖ They help in safeguarding the government infrastructure projects, industrial establishments and public sector undertakings.
- ❖ With 165000 personnel, it is one of the largest and strongest security forces in the country.



### **International Day of Women Judges 2024 - March 10**



- ❖ The day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of women judges worldwide.
- ❖ It aims to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in the judiciary.
- ❖ In India, Anna Chandi became the first female judge of a high court in 1937.





- ❖ In 1989, Fathima Beevi became the first female judge of the Supreme Court of India.

