

- The species was so far known only from a single individual, collected in **1906**. It has now been **recently discovered again in 2019**.
- These tortoises **can't swim from one island to another**. But they can be carried from one Galápagos island to another **during major storms**. There are also historical records of seafarers moving the tortoises between islands.

#### **Fernandina Island**

- Fernandina Island is the **third largest**, and **youngest, island of the Galápagos Islands**, as well as the furthest west
- Like the others, the island was **formed by the Galapagos hotspot**.
- The island is an **active shield volcano** that has most recently been erupting.

## 15. Neeli Jheel

### Why in News?

The government of Delhi has given permission to develop the area near Neeli Jheel in Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary as an ecotourism hub.

### About

- Neeli Jheel is a **large lake hidden in** the thick scrub forests of the **Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The area bordering the lake will be developed as an **ecotourism hub**.
- It **will get a** natural stepped seating facility, amphitheater, selfie point, toilets, 3D animal exhibits, and parking.
- The **bamboo and other eco-friendly products** would also be used for the beautification of the place.
- **E-vehicles** would be used to ferry a limited number of people inside the sanctuary.

#### **Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary**

- Location → Sanctuary is situated in the **South Delhi Ridge section of the Aravalli range** on the Delhi-Haryana border.
- The sanctuary contains one of the **last surviving remnants of the Delhi Ridge hill range** and its **semi-arid forest habitat and its dependent wildlife**.
- The sanctuary has **23 species of mammals, 252 bird species, 28 reptile species, and 86 butterfly species**.
- Animals → Among the **animals** that are sighted here are leopards, jackals, palm civets, black-naped hare, grey mongoose, rudy mongoose, striped hyena, porcupine, hog deer, black buck, spotted deer, wild boar and langur.
- Historical places around the sanctuary → **Surajkund and Anangpur Dam** (both in Haryana), **Tughlaqabad Fort** and **Adilabad ruins** (both in Delhi), **Chhatarpur Temple** (in Delhi).

## 16. Air Quality Life Index

### Why in News?

The Air Quality Life Index has been released.

### About

- It is produced by the **Energy Policy Institute** at the University of Chicago (EPIC).
- Purpose → The index **converts air pollution concentrations into their impact on life expectancy**. From this, the public and policymakers alike can determine the benefits of air pollution policies in perhaps the most important measure that exists: longer lives.

#### **Key findings**

- Globally, air **pollution reduces 2.2 years of life expectancy**. This impact on life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water, six times that of HIV/AIDS and 89 times that of conflict and terrorism.
- Related to India →