

March - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Recently the Rajasthan government presented its first paperless budget in the state assembly.
- ❖ The All-India Football Federation has announced that, Odisha will host the Indian Women's League (IWL) in 2021.

TAMIL NADU

Namma Chennai Smart Card

- ❖ Namma Chennai Smart Card is a Ru-Pay powered co-branded, contactless prepaid card.
- ❖ It facilitates various digital payments like tax and utility bill payments Greater Chennai Corporation centres.
- ❖ ICICI Bank has partnered with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) for the launch of this card.



NATIONAL

Cross-Border Firing in Kashmir

- ❖ India and Pakistan militaries have agreed to “strictly” observe all agreements and adhere to ceasefire along the Line of Control from midnight of February 24.
- ❖ It is the first such understanding since the 2003 ceasefire violations pact.
- ❖ The ceasefire agreement was reached in November 2003, four years after the Kargil War.

- ❖ On November 26, 2003 the ceasefire took effect along the entire stretch of the India-Pakistan frontier.

INTERNATIONAL

India on BRICS Chair ship

- ❖ India has started its BRICS Chair ship with the inaugural three-day-long Sherpas' meeting on February 25, 2021.
- ❖ BRICS is the acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ❖ The BRICS state meet annual formal summits starting from 2009.
- ❖ The 12th BRICS Summit was held by the Russia virtually.

Loneliness" Minister to Check Suicide

- ❖ Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga added a minister of loneliness to his Cabinet.
- ❖ This move is to check rising suicide cases in wake of coronavirus.
- ❖ Japan's suicide rate reportedly increased for the first time in 11 years during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ UK became the first country to create a similar role in 2018.

18th Edition of BioAsia 2020

- ❖ Asia's Largest Life Sciences and Biotechnology Convention – BioAsia 2021 was held in Hyderabad.
- ❖ It focused on COVID-19 with the participation of industry leaders in the global life sciences sector.
- ❖ Theme of the event is "Moving the Needle".

Re-establishes of House of Representatives

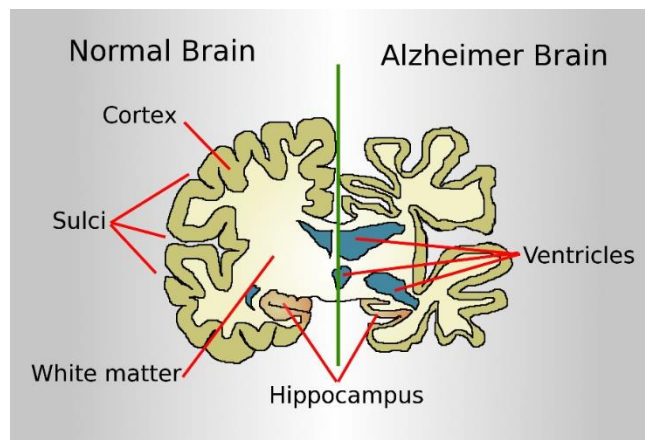
- ❖ The Supreme Court of Nepal restored the dissolved House of Representatives.
- ❖ Nepal was facing a political crisis after President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House of Representatives on December 20, 2020.
- ❖ She further announced the fresh elections in the country to be held on April 30 and May 10, 2021.

Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River

- ❖ The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins was inaugurated by the Minister for Jal Shakti.
- ❖ It is being organised by the International Commission on Large Dams (INCOLD) in association with
 - Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP),
 - Central Water Commission (CWC) and
 - National Hydrology Project (NHP).
- ❖ It aims to providing an opportunity to Indian Dam Engineering Professionals and Agencies to share their experiences, ideas and latest developments.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Drug for Alzheimer's treatment



- ❖ The scientists have designed a set of novel small molecules that could disrupt the mechanism.
- ❖ Through it, the neurons become dysfunctional in Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ They are from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR).
- ❖ The molecule (molecule TGR63) could reduce the toxicity of Amyloid Beta (A β) toxicity.
- ❖ It is a potential drug candidate to halt or cure the leading cause of dementia (70-80%) worldwide.
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder.



- ❖ It slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks.

ENVIRONMENT

New Alpine Plant Species

- ❖ A group of scientists discovered a new species of alpine plant in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The details were published in Biodiversitas: Journal of Biological Diversity.
- ❖ The new species of plant belongs to the family of Himalayan sunflower.
- ❖ It has been named as Cremanthodium indicum.
- ❖ This species of plant generally flowers from July to August.
- ❖ It is endemic to the Penga-Teng Tso Lake of Tawang district.
- ❖ As per the IUCN Guideline, this alpine plant species has been listed as critically endangered.

STATES

Kushinagar Airport

- ❖ The under-construction Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh has received the clearances to operate international flights.
- ❖ This was approved by aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- ❖ Once operational, Kushinagar airport will become the third functional international facility in the state.
- ❖ Currently, the two international airports functional in Uttar Pradesh are:
 - Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport at Lucknow and
 - Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Varanasi.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

NASA's Mars 2020 mission

- ❖ Swati Mohan, Indian-American led NASA's operation Perseverance Rover landing on Mars.
- ❖ Her family emigrated from India to America.

- ❖ The landing marks the third visit to Mars in just over a week.
- ❖ Two spacecraft from the United Arab Emirates and China swung into orbit around Mars in previous week.

MISCELLANEOUS

Australia's oldest Aboriginal rock art

- ❖ A kangaroo painting was identified in Australia with the help of some ancient wasps.
- ❖ The kangaroo painting was created over 17,000 years ago by the Aboriginal community artists.
- ❖ The painting was identified as Australia's oldest intact rock art.
- ❖ The painting is a two-metre-long artwork.
- ❖ This artwork was painted in an early naturalistic style.
- ❖ The team discovered around 27 mud wasp nests along 16 different paintings from across the eight rock shelters.



State of School Feeding Worldwide 2020

- ❖ The United Nations World Food Programmes (WFP) has released its report titled "The State of School Feeding Worldwide".
- ❖ It provides an analysis of the State of School Feeding Worldwide in 2020.
- ❖ It was first published by WFP in 2013.



- ❖ The 2020 version seeks to analyse the direction and scale of change between 2013 and 2020.
- ❖ It provides an update on advances in evidence and understanding of school feeding programmes.
- ❖ When the pandemic was at its peak around April 2020, 199 countries had closed their schools.
- ❖ Due to this, 370 million children were suddenly deprived of nutritious meal of the day.

