

March - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Table tennis player Sathiyam Gnanasekaran has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Indian to clinch a men's singles title at a WTT Feeder Series event held in Beirut, Lebanon.
- ❖ The French Language Day is annually celebrated on March 20, to promote the preservation and revitalization of French language and culture.

TAMIL NADU

Chola-era inscriptions in Tiruchi

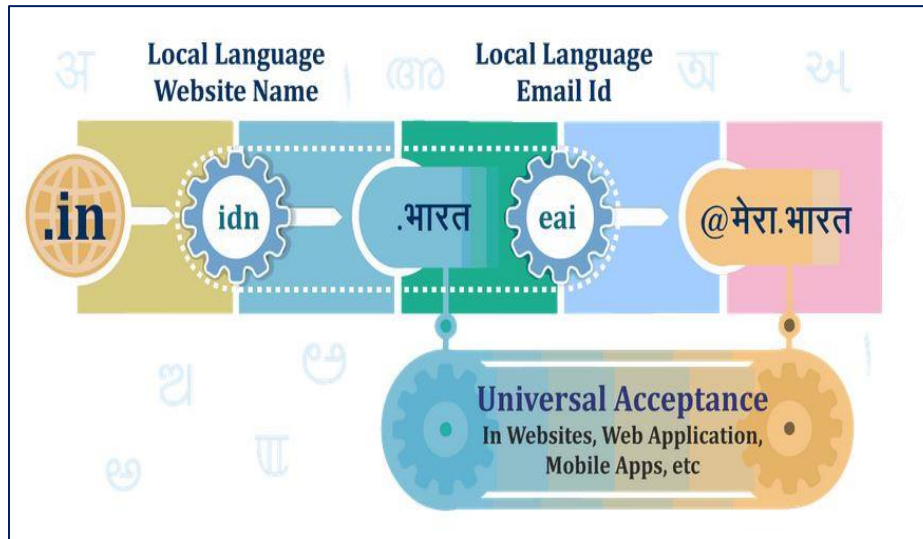


- ❖ Two Chola-period inscriptions have been found at the Viraiachilai Andavar Temple in Rachandar Thirumalai, Tiruchi.
- ❖ One is a land record and another pertaining to tax exemption granted to a temple.
- ❖ The inscription of Kulottunga III appears to be a land document and throws light on a bronze icon, referred to as 'Desanayaga Perumal', at the temple.
- ❖ The inscription indicates that temple officials had purchased two plots of land at Karaiyur and Merkaraiyur from a few Brahmins of Maduranthaka Chadurvedimangalam by paying 3,000 anradu narkasu.
- ❖ Another inscription reveals a royal order of Rajaraja III that was written by Neri Yudai Chola Muvendavelan, the chief document writer of the king.

- ❖ As per the order, two veli of lands belonging to the two bronze icons of the temple named Desanayagar and Nachiyar, were exempt from all taxes including antharayam and pattam.

NATIONAL

BhashaNet Portal



- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) on Thursday unveiled the BhashaNet portal.
- ❖ The portal is designed to establish a multilingual internet environment, where website names and email addresses can be accessed in local languages.
- ❖ By catering to users in their native languages, the initiative promotes inclusivity and enhances accessibility.

INTERNATIONAL

Operation Indravati

- ❖ India launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its nationals from Haiti.
- ❖ The Caribbean nation of Haiti has been plagued by widespread gang violence for over two years since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.
- ❖ After the assassination, the country's de facto leader, Prime Minister Ariel Henry, assumed power, with the support of several nations.
- ❖ Various armed groups launched coordinated attacks on key installations in Haiti in an attempt to force the resignation of the PM.

- ❖ Haiti has not held functional elections since 2019.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Winged rocket – Pushpak

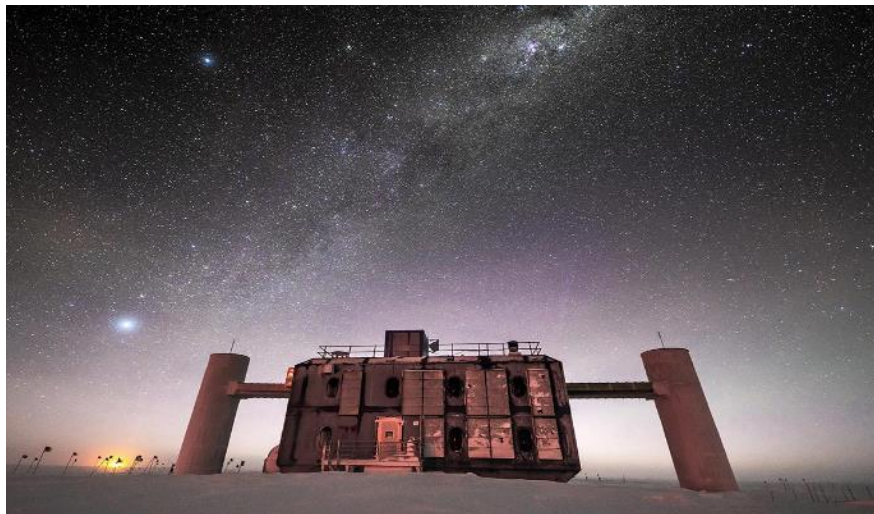


- ❖ ISRO successfully conducted the second landing test of its RLV, Pushpak.
- ❖ Pushpak is an SUV-sized winged rocket dubbed the "swadeshi space shuttle".

- ❖ This is marking a major milestone in the country's attempt to enter the reusable rocket segment.
- ❖ The rocket was dropped from an Air Force helicopter as part of the test.

Astrophysical neutrinos

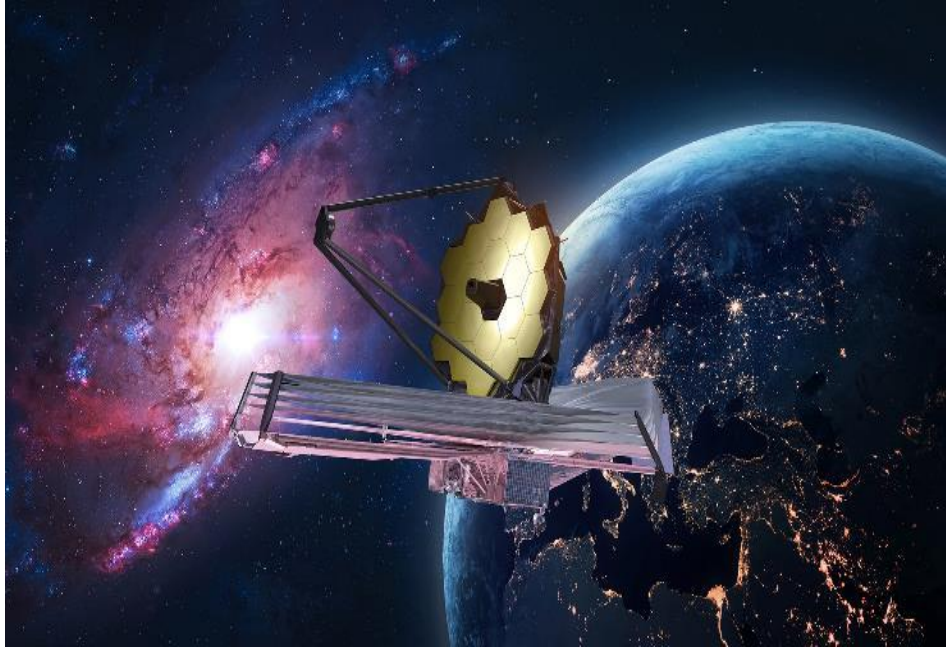
- ❖ Scientists using data from the Ice Cube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica believe they have potentially found the first evidence for "ghost particles".
- ❖ Neutrinos are miniscule subatomic particles that hardly interact with anything.
- ❖ Astrophysical neutrinos are the name for high-energy neutrinos that come from the farthest reaches beyond our galaxy.
- ❖ These particles come in three different "flavours": electron, muon and tau.
- ❖ The last one has proven to be especially difficult to observe and detect, earning the moniker of "ghost particle."



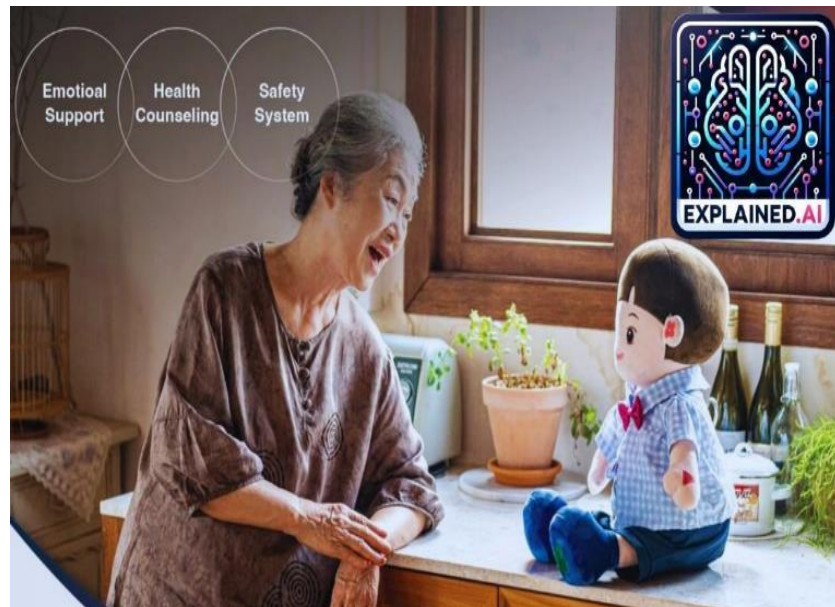
Planet TOI-270 d

- ❖ Astronomers using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have found hints of a distant planet that could be entirely covered in a deep ocean.
- ❖ The planet, known as TOI-270 d, is located 70 light-years away and is twice the size of Earth.
- ❖ Observations of the planet's atmosphere revealed water vapour, methane, and carbon dioxide, which is consistent with a water world.
- ❖ Some researchers believed that TOI-270 d might be too hot for liquid water, with temperatures reaching 4,000 degrees Celsius.

- ❖ There might be an ocean on TOI-270 d because they haven't detected ammonia in its atmosphere.



Hyodol's social robot



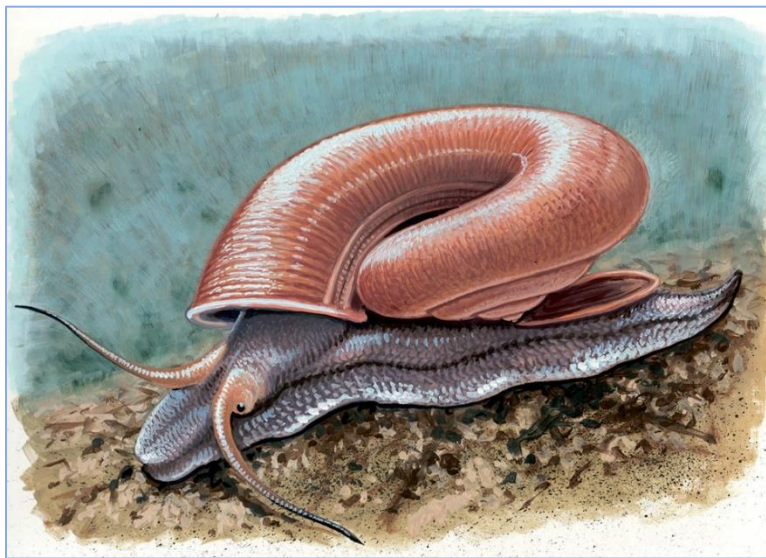
- ❖ The South Korean company Hyodol has come up with a way to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to beat loneliness among elders with dementia.
- ❖ It has unveiled a 'social robot' named Hyodol.

- ❖ Their advanced language processing and ability to recognise emotions, talk, and play music can offer some form of engagement to seniors.

ENVIRONMENT

70-Million-Year-Old Snail

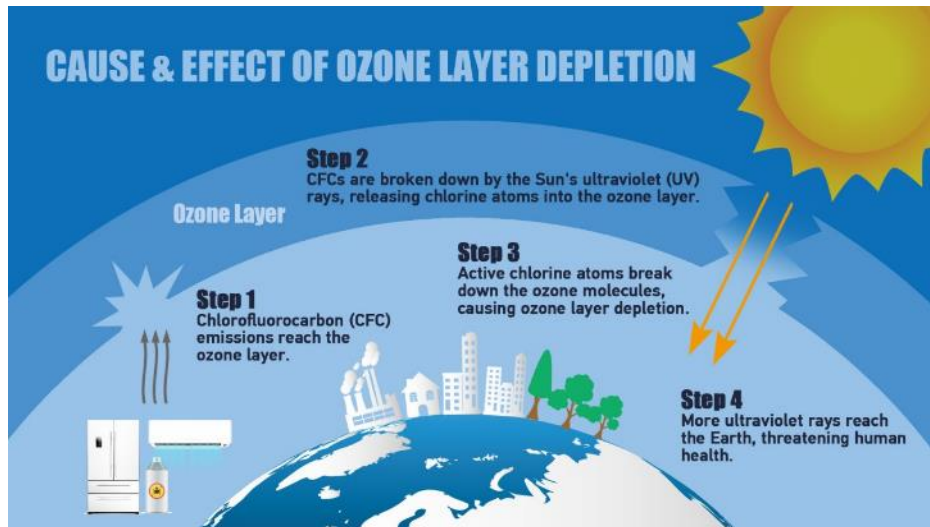
- ❖ Scientists have recently discovered a new species of an extinct land snail called *Ferussina*.
- ❖ The specimen is believed to have lived about 72 million years ago during the Maastrichtian age of the Late Cretaceous epoch.
- ❖ The newly-described species, *Ferussina petofiana*, belonged to a small genus of land snails that existed during the Paleogene period.
- ❖ It is currently classified in its own family, *Ferussinidae*, in the superfamily *Cyclophoroidea*.



Antarctic Ozone Hole Recovery Trends

- ❖ The ozone hole over the Antarctic has not only grown larger but also thinner throughout most of the spring.
- ❖ Despite making a recovery in area and depth since the 2000s, the Antarctic ozone hole has been massive in the last four years.
- ❖ There is much less ozone in the centre of the ozone hole compared to 19 years ago and may take longer to recover.
- ❖ The hole averaged 23.1 million square kilometres, approximately the size of North America, making it the 16th largest over this period.

- ❖ The Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances quadrennial assessment report of 2022 confirmed the phase-out of nearly 99 per cent of banned ozone-depleting substances.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sparrow Day 2024 - March 20

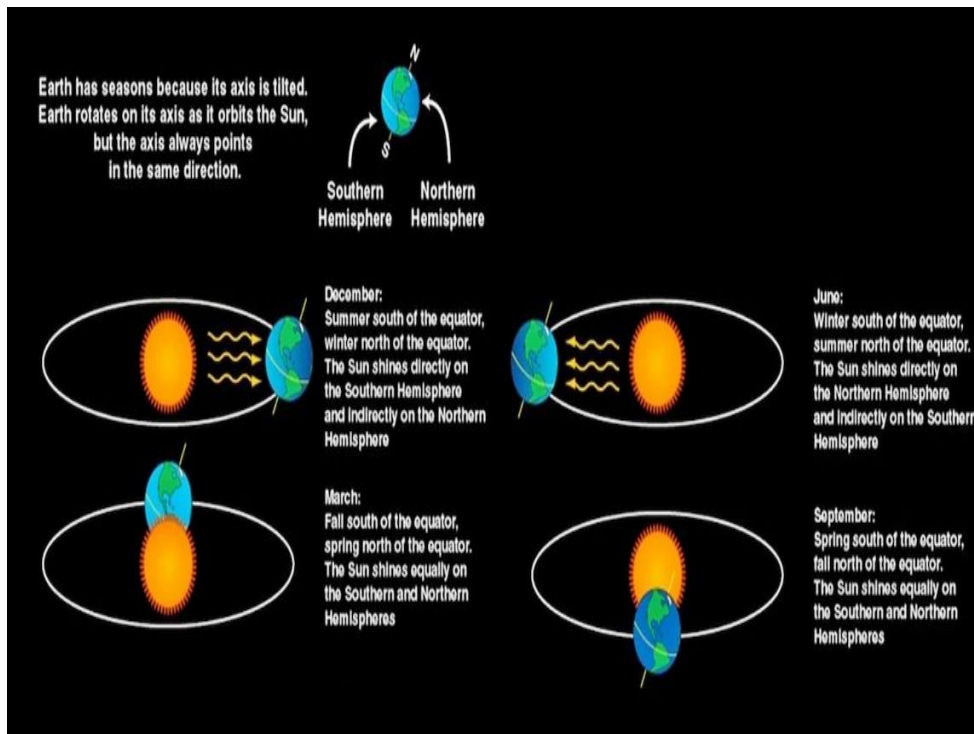


- ❖ The Nature Forever Society of India, along with other organisations around the world, started World Sparrow Day in 2010.

- ❖ Sparrows are more than just cute little birds.
- ❖ They play a vital role in our ecosystem.
- ❖ There are over 60 different sparrow species around the world.
- ❖ The official theme for 2024 is "I Love Sparrows".

March Equinox 2024 - March 20

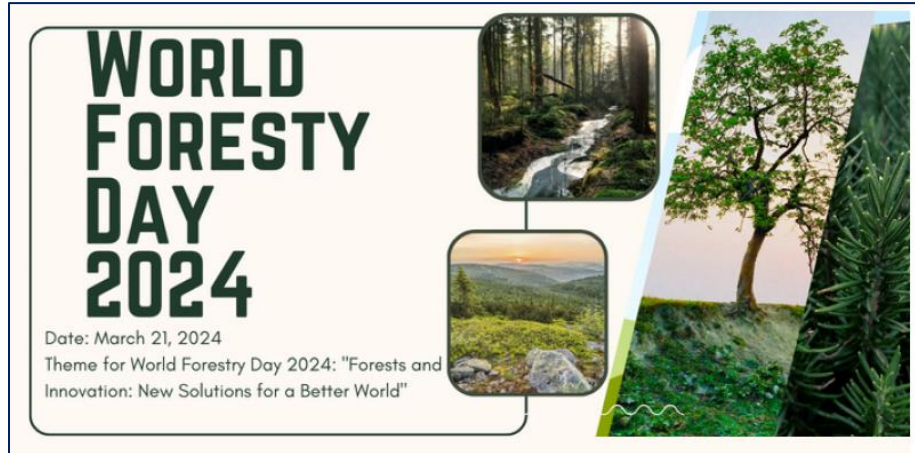
- ❖ The March spring equinox occurs around March 20 or 21 each year.
- ❖ On this day, the Sun crosses the celestial equator, moving from south to north.
- ❖ During this time, day and night are approximately equal in length all over the world.
- ❖ This astronomical event is called the March Equinox or the Vernal Equinox.



World Forestry Day 2024 - March 21

- ❖ It aims to remind people of the significance of forests and trees in our lives.
- ❖ The idea of World Forestry Day was proposed in 1971 by the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture.
- ❖ March 21 was chosen by the United Nations as it aligns with the Vernal Equinox and Autumn Equinox in the northern and southern hemispheres, respectively.

- ❖ The theme for this year is - Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World.



World Down syndrome Day - March 21

- ❖ This day aims to promote awareness about Down syndrome and to assist those who live with the condition.
- ❖ Down syndrome is a genetic condition caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21.
- ❖ This additional genetic material affects the development of a person, leading to distinct physical and cognitive characteristics.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'End the Stereotypes'.

