

March - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) fertilizer plant in Barauni (Bihar) was inaugurated and dedicated to the nation recently.
- ❖ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has commissioned its first indigenously manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant located in Hazira, Gujarat.
- ❖ India's first-ever endangered Gangetic River dolphin research centre was inaugurated in Patna, Bihar.
- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India discovered a new variety of sea slug mollusk off the coasts of Odisha and Bengal.
 - It is named after the President Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ Kerala has introduced its first generative AI teacher, Iris.
 - It is built under the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) project initiated by NITI Aayog
- ❖ The first make in India ASTDS Tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ India's first under-river metro tunnel was inaugurated in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ Spain's women's football team secured a historic victory over France, winning the first-ever UEFA Women's Nations League.
- ❖ Employee Appreciation Day has observed every year on the 1st Friday of March.

NATIONAL

Minimum age to cast postal ballots



PwD & ELDERLY VOTERS

- All Polling Stations on **ground floor**
- **Ramps** with proper gradient
- **Volunteer & wheelchair Facility**
- **Saksham App** for PwDs to avail facilities at Polling stations
- **Guidelines** to Parties for respectful discourse towards PwDs
- Home Voting Facility (Postal Ballot facility) - **Fill Form 12 D**

- ❖ The government has amended the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to raise the minimum age for senior citizens eligible for voting by postal ballot to 85 years from 80 years.

- ❖ Postal ballot facility was extended under Rule 27A of the Conduct of Election Rules, to senior citizens above 80 years, persons with disability, poll officers, and Covid-positive persons.
- ❖ The total number of senior citizens above 80 years is around 1.75 crore, with those aged 80-85 years being around 98 lakhs.

Legislators taking bribes to vote in Parliament



Taking away privilege

A look at the observations made by the seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in its unanimous verdict:

- The JMM bribery case judgment of 1998, granting lawmakers immunity from prosecution for bribery, had wide ramifications on public interest, probity in public life and parliamentary democracy
- A claim of immunity should fulfil the twofold test that it is tethered to the collective functioning of the House and that it is necessary for the discharge of the essential duties of a legislator
- The offence of bribery is complete at the point when the legislator accepts the bribe

- ❖ The Supreme Court has declared that parliamentary privilege will not protect legislators who take bribes to vote or speak in Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies from criminal prosecution.
- ❖ Now, the legislator will face criminal prosecution whether or not he makes a speech or votes in favour of the bribe-giver.
- ❖ The unanimous verdict overruled a 25-year-old majority view of the Supreme Court, laid down in the infamous JMM bribery case judgment of 1998.
- ❖ The ruling held that, the lawmakers who took bribes were immune from the prosecution for corruption if they go ahead and vote or speak in the House as agreed.

INS Jatayu

- ❖ The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Jatayu, at Minicoy Island in the Lakshadweep Islands.

- ❖ This is its second base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweep rakshak in Kavaratti.
- ❖ INS Jatayu is the beginning of a phased expansion plan to strengthen India's surveillance and security posture in the strategically located islands close to the Nine Degree channel and critical sea lanes of communication.
- ❖ The Navy also commissioned its first MH-60R multi-role helicopter squadron INAS 334 'Seahawks' at Kochi.



Chakshu Platform



चक्षु - REPORT SUSPECTED FRAUD COMMUNICATION

Helps you report suspected communication received through Call/SMS/WhatsApp intended for cyber crime, financial fraud, fake customer services, KYC update, loan offer / job offer etc.

'Sanchar Saathi' – an Integrated Citizen Centric Web Portal
<https://www.sancharsaathi.gov.in/>

- ❖ The Centre has launched two new digital platforms, 'Chakshu' and 'Digital Intelligence Platform'.
- ❖ The portal aims to empower subscribers to report suspected fraud calls and messages, as well as instances of leaked phone numbers by businesses.

- ❖ The new platforms, 'Chakshu' and 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)', will integrate with the Sanchar Saathi portal.

INTERNATIONAL

French Constitution on Abortion

- ❖ French lawmakers have approved a bill that will enshrine the right to an abortion in the Constitution of France.
- ❖ The move makes France the first country in the world to offer explicit protection for terminating a pregnancy in its basic law.
- ❖ France have already adopted a bill to amend Article 34 of the constitution to specify a woman's right to an abortion is guaranteed.
- ❖ Women have had the legal right to abortion in France since 1974.

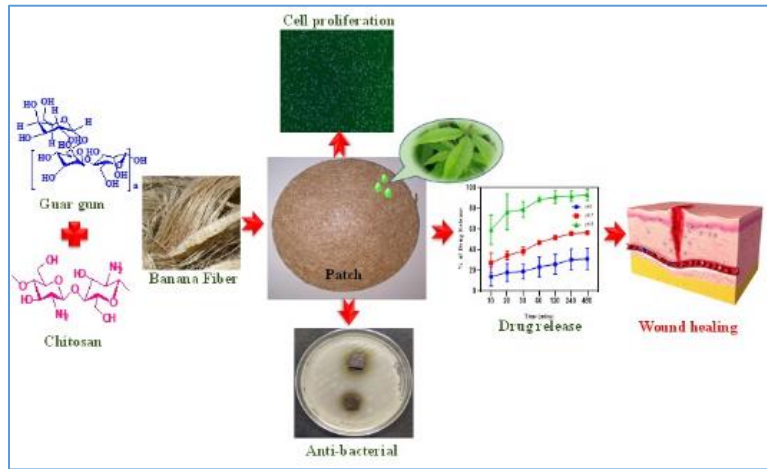


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dressing material from banana fibres

- ❖ Scientists at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) in Assam has formulated a sustainable and economical wound dressing material utilising banana fibres.
- ❖ The scientists combined banana fibres with biopolymers such as chitosan and guar gum to create the innovative dressing material.

- ❖ Additionally, the patch was loaded with an extract from the *Vitex negundo* L. plant, showcasing its capabilities in in vitro drug release and antibacterial activity.



STATES

Chapchar Kut Festival



- ❖ Chapchar Kut is a celebration held in anticipation of a golden harvest of Mizoram.
- ❖ In recent times, the festival is celebrated on the first Friday of March every year.
- ❖ The greatest highlight of the Chapchar Kut is the popular bamboo dance called Cheraw.

Lac bangles from Hyderabad

- ❖ The Lacquer or lac bangles of Hyderabad got a Geographical Indication tag.
- ❖ The bangles of the Laad Bazaar are known for their dazzling stonework.

- ❖ Lac bangles are made of resin which is malleable with heat and has a special ability to absorb colour.
- ❖ Lac bangles is the 17th product from Telangana to get the GI tag



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Tyler Prize 2024



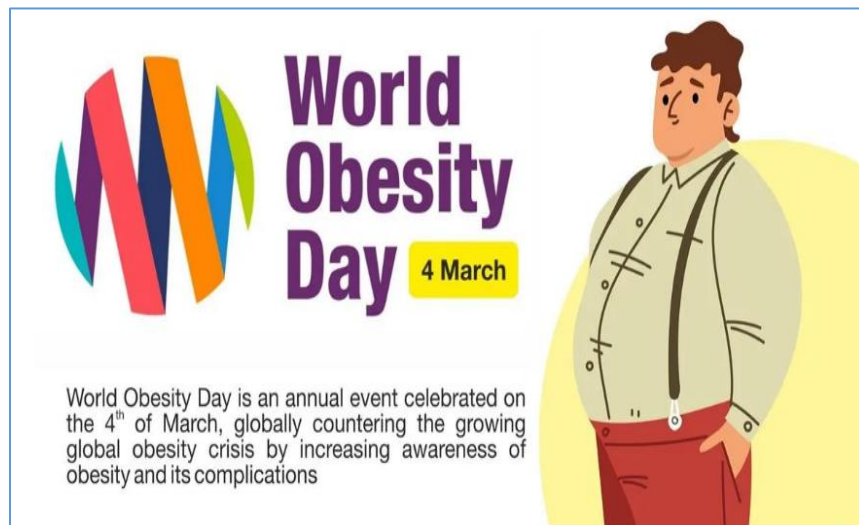
- ❖ The 2024 Tyler Prize for environmental achievement will be awarded to Johan Rockstrom.
- ❖ This recognises his groundbreaking contributions and pioneering work to the development of the Planetary Boundaries framework.
- ❖ Rockstrom is director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and co-chair of the Earth Commission.

- ❖ The Planetary Boundaries is an international collaboration across multiple Earth system science disciplines.
- ❖ The theory establishes defined boundaries for nine Earth systems.
- ❖ They are emphasising the critical importance of their stability and resilience in preserving life as we understand it.
- ❖ The prestigious Tyler Prize is often described as Nobel Prize for environment.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Obesity Day 2024 - March 04

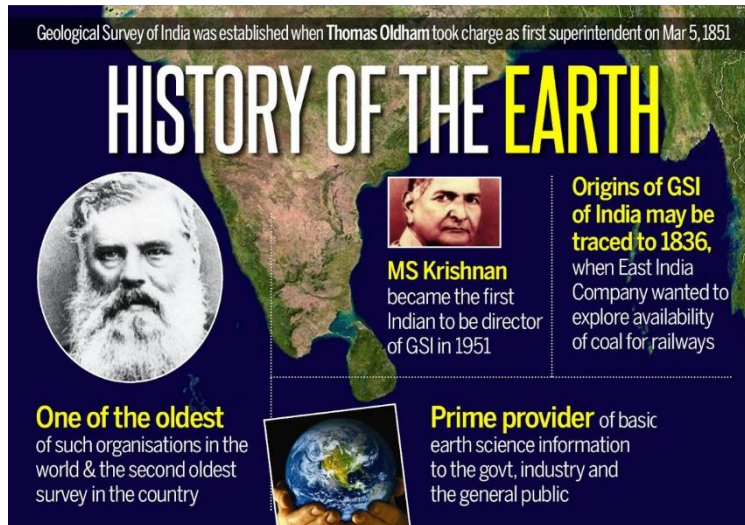
- ❖ It aims to changing perspectives on obesity, correcting misconceptions, ending stigmas and raising awareness on this medical condition.
- ❖ It can cause serious health problems such as heart diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, severe arthritis and even certain cancers.
- ❖ According to the WHO, a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or higher is considered overweight and a BMI of 30 or higher is considered obese.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Let's Talk About Obesity And...'



Foundation Day of GSI 2024 - March 04

- ❖ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) celebrated its 174th Foundation Day on 4 March.
- ❖ GSI was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
- ❖ John McClelland for the first time used the term Geological Survey of India in his report in 1848.

- ❖ GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.
- ❖ It also has six regional offices located at Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong, and Kolkata.



World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development 2024 - March 04

- ❖ It was established by UNESCO in 2019 to raise awareness of the importance of engineering in achieving sustainable development.
- ❖ It aims to improve public understanding of how engineering and technology are central to modern life and sustainable development.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World”.

