

March - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Chinara Corps celebrated their 80th Raising Day in Srinagar.
 - Chinara Corps was raised during World War II at Barrackpore, 1942.

NATIONAL

Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021

- ❖ The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938
- ❖ It is to increase the maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company.
- ❖ The Bill increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%.
- ❖ It removes restrictions on ownership and control.
- ❖ While control will go to foreign companies, the majority of directors and key management persons will be resident Indians who will be covered by law of the land.
- ❖ Foreign investment in the insurance sector was first permitted in the year 2000 up to 26%.

Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021

- ❖ It seeks to put seven castes under one nomenclature of “Devendrakula Vellalars” with some exceptions for some of the castes in certain districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The castes include Devendrakulathan, Kadaiyan, Kalladi, Kudumban, Pallan, Pannadi and Vathiriyan.
- ❖ It is to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It was introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The Constitution empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in various states and union territories.
- ❖ Further, it permits Parliament to modify this list of notified SCs.

INTERNATIONAL

World's Most dangerous roads report

- ❖ It was according to a study undertaken by international driver education company Zutobi.
- ❖ Among the list of 56 countries in the study, South Africa has world's most dangerous roads.
- ❖ Thailand came in second position and the US took up third spot.
- ❖ India came in at fourth place in this list.
- ❖ The safest roads in the world can be found in Norway.
- ❖ It is followed by Sweden and Japan.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INS Dhruv

- ❖ India Navy is set to commission INS Dhruv to track satellites, strategic missiles and map the Indian Ocean bed.
- ❖ It has been built by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd at its Visakhapatnam facility.
- ❖ It has been developed with the help of the DRDO and Indian Navy with India's Strategic Force Command and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).
- ❖ India will be the only country outside the P-5 – the US, the UK, China, Russia and France – to have this capability.
- ❖ It will act as a major force multiplier to India's ocean surveillance capabilities.



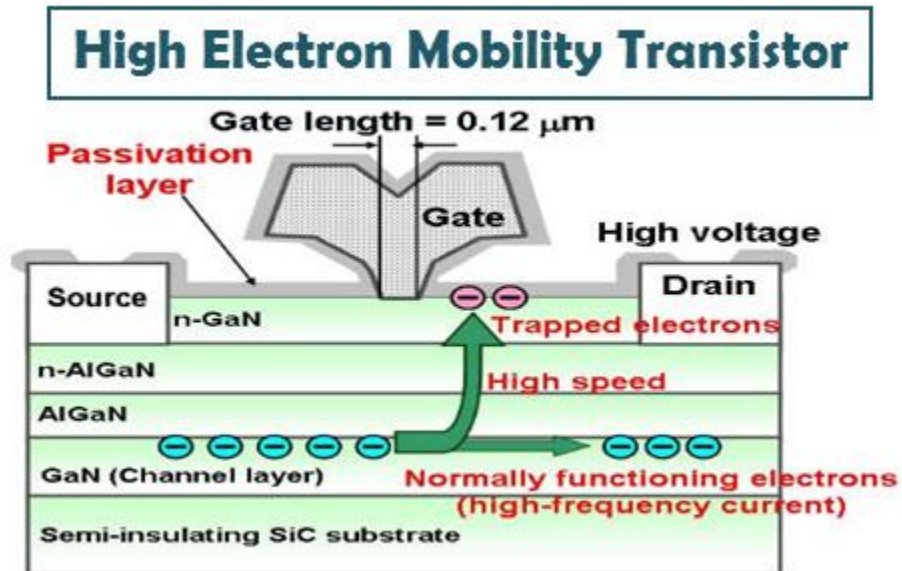


Efficient Removal of Heavy Metals

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi has developed a reusable fibrous membrane filter using a biopolymer-based material.
- ❖ That helps to separate out the heavy metals from water samples.
- ❖ These membranes contain adsorbents (materials that attract and hold the metals) that has large amount of a biopolymer, Chitosan.
- ❖ Chitosan derived from crab shells that are mixed with a synthetic polymer, Nylon.
- ❖ Normally, the fibres used to make regular cartridge filter-assemblies are processed by a method called melt blowing.
- ❖ But the IIT Mandi has used a process called “solution blowing”.
- ❖ Solution blowing produces fibres that are nanometres in diameter.
- ❖ That increases their surface area tremendously and results in better adsorption of heavy metals.

High Electron Mobility Transistors (HEMTs)

- ❖ The Indian scientists have developed a highly reliable HEMT from gallium nitride (GaN).
- ❖ This is the first-ever indigenous HEMT device.
- ❖ It is useful in electric cars, locomotives, power transmission and other areas requiring high voltage and high-frequency switching.
- ❖ It will also make India self-reliant in power transistor technology.
- ❖ This would reduce the cost of importing such stable and efficient transistors required in power electronics.
- ❖ It is a normally OFF device.
- ❖ It can switch currents up to 4A and operates at 600 V.
- ❖ HEMTs are used in integrated circuits as digital on-off switches.
- ❖ HEMT transistors are able to operate at higher frequencies than ordinary transistors, up to millimetre wave frequencies.
- ❖ HEMTs are used in high-frequency products such as cell phones, satellite television receivers, voltage converters, and radar equipment.
- ❖ They are widely used in satellite receivers, in low power amplifiers and in the defence industry.



ENVIRONMENT

Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020

- ❖ The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020.
- ❖ It was awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ Earlier, the Bureau had received the award in 2018 under the same category.
- ❖ It is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ In a first for India, a female forest officer from Odisha, Sasmita Lenka has been felicitated with United Nation's Asia Environmental Enforcement Award.



STATES

SAAMAR Campaign

- ❖ The Jharkhand government announced the launch of SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anaemia Reduction) campaign.
- ❖ It is to tackle malnutrition in the state.
- ❖ It has been launched with a 1000 days target.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Bihar Day - March 22

- ❖ It was marking the formation of the state of Bihar.
- ❖ It was on this day when the British carved out the state from Bengal in 1912.

World Water Day – March 22



- ❖ The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was in 1993.
- ❖ UN-Water is the convener for World Water Day
- ❖ The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year around World Water Day.

- ❖ The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 was "Valuing Water" and "a conversation about what water means to you".
- ❖ The theme of each day focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which is in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

World Meteorological Day – March 23



- ❖ It is observed as a celebration of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ❖ The World Meteorological Day has been observed on March 23 each year since 1961.
- ❖ The WMO came into existence on March 23, 1950.
- ❖ The theme for this year is 'The Ocean, our climate and weather'.
- ❖ It is in conjunction with the launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable (2021-30).
- ❖ The International Meteorological Organization was established at the first International Meteorological Congress in Vienna, Austria, in 1873.
- ❖ The International Meteorological Organization became the World Meteorological Organization on March 23, 1950.

