UPSC Daily Current Affairs| One Liners 22-03-2025

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History, Art and Culture

Indo-U.S. Cultural Property Agreement

• **Signed in** – 2024.
• **Aim** – To *prevent smuggling of Indian antiquities* to USA.
• **Features** – It has provision for fostering cooperation and mutual understanding in the matters of technical assistance, illicit trade and pillage of cultural property.
• Agreement, being preventive in nature has *no timelines or target numbers.*
• **Repatriation of antiquities** – So far, *588 antiquities* have been repatriated from USA, out of which 297 received in 2024.

Economy

Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme

• **Launched in** – 2021.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
• **Objectives** – To make India a global hub for high-tech production and *attract multinational chip manufacturers*.
• To *generate 85,000 industry-ready manpower* at B.Tech, M.Tech, and PhD levels specialized in semiconductor chip design.
• **Activity** – It provides the students a complete *hands-on experience* in chip design, fabrication, and testing.
• **Participating Institutions** – Academic institutions/R&D organizations, Start-ups and MSMEs.

Oeko Tex Certification

• It is a *worldwide certification for textiles* such as yarns, fabrics, buttons, linens, terry cloth, thread, and other accessory materials.
• It *tests for harmful substances* in raw, semi-finished and finished textile materials and products.
• **In India** – The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, has obtained Oeko-Tex certification *for eri silk* from Germany.
• **Significance** – Certification ensures that the *final product is safe* for human use.

Eri silk

• It is one of the most durable and strong fibres.
• **Properties** – It provides cooling effect in the summer and warming effect in the winter.
• **World's only vegan silk** – It distinguishes itself through an ethical production process where the *silk moth is allowed to naturally emerge* from its cocoon, leaving the silk intact.
• **In India** – It is mostly cultivated in *tribal areas of Assam*.

Agriculture

Radiation based Food Preservation

• **Radiation processing of food** – It involves controlled application of energy from ionizing radiations such as *gamma rays, electrons and X-rays* for food preservation.
• **Working** – It *disrupts the biological processes* that lead to decay.
• The interaction of radiation and radiolytic products of water with DNA *impair reproducing capacity of microorganism* and insects.
• **In India** – Presently, *37 Gamma Radiation Processing Plants* are in private, cooperative, semi government and government sector.
• 21 plants out of 37 are capable of carrying out radiation processing of agricultural/ food products.

Environment

International Day of Forests 2025

• **Celebrated on** – *March 21st* every year.
• **Declared by** – United Nations in *2021*.
• **Aim** – To celebrate and raise awareness about the vital role of all types of forests.
• To recognize the importance of trees and forests, and take action to protect them.
• **2025 theme** – '**Forests and Food',** which emphasizes the deep connection between forests and global food security.

Science

Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) scheme

• It is for *promoting the Indian industry* especially start-ups towards commercialization of early-stage space technologies.
• **Launched by** – *Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre* (IN-SPACe), Department of Space.
• **Objectives** – Upgradation of the existing space technologies and development of innovative products.
• Import substitution of components whose technologies have not matured in the Indian industry.

Criteria for Funding support to Space Technology Startups

• The startup should be under *Indian management and control*.
• The proposal of the startup shall have *potential commercial value*.
• The startup shall *not source any funding from any other central & state* government departments and/or ministries for the project forming the subject of their proposal(s).

National Cancer Grid (NCG)

• **Established in** – *2012.*
• **Established and managed by** – *Tata Memorial Centre* (TMC), with the support of Department of Space, Ministry of Science and Technology.
• **Objectives** – To involve and implement *uniform standard of cancer care* across India.
• To offer state-of-the-art services for patients and to create human resources to tackle the rising need for cancer care.
• To run *epidemiological intervention studies* to prevent cancer.
• To direct cancer research in clinic and laboratory to *offer cost effective solution* to cancer in India.
• **Network** – There are 362-member organizations in the NCG.

Nuclear Energy Mission

• **Announced in** – Union Budget 2025.
• **Nodal agency** – *Department of Atomic Energy* under Prime Minister's Office.
• **Objectives** – To deploy *100 GWe of nuclear energy by 2047*, which is essential for NetZero by 2070.
• To provide *reliable energy alternative* to fossil fuel energy sources with an objective to replace retiring thermal power-plants.
• To set up *captive plants* for energy intensive industry.
• To provide energy for remote as well as off-grid location with objective to decarbonize the energy sector.

