

# **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 <u>prevent smuggling of Indian antiquities</u> 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 <u>no timelines or target numbers</u>.
- **Repatriation of antiquities** So far, <u>588 antiquities</u> 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 <u>attract</u> <u>multinational chip manufacturers</u>.
- 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 <u>hands-on experience</u> 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 <u>tests for harmful substances</u> 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 <u>impair reproducing</u> <u>capacity of microorganism</u> and insects.
- **In India** Presently, <u>37 Gamma Radiation Processing Plants</u> 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 <u>2021</u>.
- 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 <u>not source any funding from any other central & state</u> 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 <u>uniform standard of cancer care</u> 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 <u>offer cost effective solution</u> 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 <u>100 GWe of nuclear energy by 2047</u>, which is essential for NetZero by 2070.
- To provide <u>reliable energy alternative</u> 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.

