PadhAI

Daily PIB Summary

1st March

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1.Vice President Lays Foundation Stone of Chetana Ganashram in Thrissur, Kerala

- The foundation stone ceremony marks the beginning of a community-oriented development project in Kerala.
- Chetana Ganashram is envisioned as a center for social service, education, and cultural engagement.
- The Vice President emphasized the importance of service, inclusivity, and societal harmony.
- Such institutions contribute to grassroots empowerment and social cohesion.
- The initiative aligns with India's emphasis on community-driven development.
- It also highlights Kerala's active civil society participation in social welfare initiatives.
- From a governance perspective, it reinforces collaborative development between state and community institutions.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Role of the Vice President

The Vice President of India:

- Is the second-highest constitutional office in India.
- Acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Article 64).
- Is elected under Article 66 of the Constitution.

Thrissur, Kerala

Thrissur is:

- Known as the cultural capital of Kerala.
- A hub for religious harmony and social reform movements.
- Prominent for community-driven institutions and public initiatives.

Community Institutions & Social Development

Institutions like Ganashrams typically focus on:

- Education and skill development
- Cultural preservation
- Social outreach programmes
- Value-based community engagement

Such projects complement state-led welfare schemes.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Foundation Ceremony:** Launch of a new community development initiative.
- **Social Welfare Focus:** Emphasis on service and inclusive growth.
- **Cultural Significance:** Strengthens local heritage and values.
- **Constitutional Presence:** Vice President's participation underscores importance.
- **Community Empowerment:** Encourages grassroots development.

- **Collaborative Governance:** Partnership between public institutions and civil society.
- **Way Forward:** Expansion of service-oriented community infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 64:** Vice President is ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- **Article 66:** Election of Vice President.
- **Thrissur:** Cultural capital of Kerala.
- **Ganashram:** Community-based socio-cultural institution.
- **Grassroots Development:** Community-driven welfare initiatives.
- **Rajya Sabha:** Upper House of Parliament.
- **Constitutional Offices:** President, Vice President, Governors, etc.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Vice President of India acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
2. The Vice President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament.
3. The Vice President is directly elected by the people of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

2.International Conference ANVESH-2026 Showcases Next-Generation Vision for Emerging & Sustainable Healthy Foods

- ANVESH-2026 focused on next-generation foods that are nutritious, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable.
- Discussions included plant-based proteins, millets, functional foods, nutraceuticals, and biofortified crops.
- The conference emphasized integrating traditional food knowledge with modern food technology.
- It aligned with India's push for sustainable agriculture and nutrition security.
- Food innovation was positioned as central to tackling malnutrition and climate change.
- The platform encouraged academia-industry collaboration and startup incubation.
- Strategically, it supports India's leadership in sustainable food systems.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Sustainable Healthy Foods

These include:

- Millets and climate-resilient grains
- Plant-based protein alternatives
- Functional foods with added health benefits
- Biofortified crops (e.g., iron-rich, zinc-rich varieties)
- Probiotic and fermented products

Nutrition & Public Health Linkage

India continues to address:

- Malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies
- Rising lifestyle diseases (diabetes, obesity)
- Food security challenges under climate stress

Food innovation plays a crucial preventive health role.

Policy Context

- National Food Security Act (NFSA)
- POSHAN Abhiyaan
- International Year of Millets (2023 legacy impact)
- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – Zero Hunger

Climate & Food Systems

- Agriculture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Sustainable food production reduces water and carbon footprints.
- Crop diversification improves resilience.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Innovation Focus:** Emerging food technologies and alternative proteins.
- **Climate Resilience:** Promotion of millets and low-water crops.
- **Health Integration:** Nutraceutical and functional food research.
- **Startup Ecosystem:** Encouragement for food-tech entrepreneurship.
- **Traditional Knowledge Integration:** Combining indigenous diets with modern science.
- **SDG Alignment:** Supports Zero Hunger and Good Health goals.
- **Way Forward:** Scaling sustainable supply chains and consumer awareness.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Functional Foods:** Foods providing additional health benefits beyond basic nutrition.
- **Biofortification:** Increasing nutrient content of crops through breeding.
- **Millets:** Nutri-cereals like jowar, bajra, ragi.
- **SDG 2:** Zero Hunger.
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** National Nutrition Mission.
- **Nutraceuticals:** Food-derived products with medicinal benefits.
- **Climate-Resilient Crops:** Adapted to drought and temperature variability.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Biofortification refers to increasing the nutrient content of crops through scientific breeding methods.

2. Millets are considered climate-resilient crops requiring relatively less water.
3. Functional foods provide only basic caloric energy without additional health benefits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

3.CSIR-NIScPR Organises Workshop on Strengthening India's Semiconductor Ecosystem

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR and Secretary of DSIR inaugurated the Main Gate of CSIR-NIScPR at the Pusa Campus on 21 March, 2024

- The workshop aimed to promote research collaboration and policy dialogue in the semiconductor sector.
- It highlighted the strategic importance of semiconductors for electronics, defence, telecom, and emerging technologies.
- Discussions focused on design capabilities, fabrication infrastructure, and skilled workforce development.
- The event aligned with India's push for self-reliance in critical technologies.
- It also emphasized strengthening the semiconductor value chain—from R&D to manufacturing and packaging.

- Strategically, the initiative supports technological sovereignty and economic security.
- The workshop reinforced the role of science-policy integration in industrial growth.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

CSIR-NIScPR

The **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research** functions under the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
It works on science communication, STI policy research, and innovation studies.

Semiconductor Significance

Semiconductors are essential for:

- Smartphones and consumer electronics
- 5G and telecom infrastructure
- Electric vehicles
- Defence systems
- Artificial Intelligence and IoT devices

Global supply chain disruptions during the pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities in chip manufacturing.

India's Semiconductor Push

- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.
- Semiconductor fabrication (fab) and packaging incentives.
- Focus on chip design and electronics manufacturing clusters.

Strategic Context

- Semiconductors are critical for national security.
- Countries are pursuing supply chain diversification.
- Technology geopolitics increasingly centers on chip manufacturing.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Dialogue:** Academia-industry-government collaboration.
- **R&D Focus:** Strengthening chip design capabilities.
- **Manufacturing Push:** Emphasis on fabrication and packaging units.
- **Skill Development:** Training semiconductor workforce.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Reducing import dependency.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Addressing global vulnerabilities.
- **Way Forward:** Public-private partnerships and global collaborations.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CSIR:** India's premier R&D network under Ministry of Science & Technology.
- **NIScPR:** Science policy and communication institute.
- **Semiconductor:** Material with conductivity between conductor and insulator.
- **Fab (Fabrication Unit):** Facility where semiconductor wafers are manufactured.
- **PLI Scheme:** Incentive scheme to boost domestic manufacturing.

- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):** Initiative to build semiconductor ecosystem.
- **Chip Design vs Fabrication:** Design = architecture; Fabrication = physical manufacturing.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. CSIR-NIScPR functions under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
2. Semiconductor fabrication units are commonly referred to as "fabs."
3. Semiconductors are used only in consumer electronics and not in defence systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

4.Controller General of Communication Accounts Inaugurates North Zone Review Meeting

- The North Zone Review Meeting reviewed performance, compliance, and financial oversight in telecom operations.
- Key discussions included spectrum revenue collection, license fee assessment, and audit compliance.
- The meeting aimed to streamline coordination between field units and headquarters.
- It emphasized digital tools for monitoring telecom revenue and regulatory compliance.
- The initiative aligns with India's expanding digital infrastructure and telecom sector growth.
- Strategically, it strengthens fiscal discipline and transparency in the communications domain.
- It also reinforces inter-regional coordination within the Department of Telecommunications.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA)

The CGCA functions under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.

Key responsibilities include:

- Assessment and collection of license fees from telecom operators
- Spectrum usage charge (SUC) accounting
- Monitoring telecom revenue
- Financial reporting and compliance audits

Telecom Revenue Framework

Revenue streams include:

- License fees
- Spectrum usage charges
- Penalties and dues
- Universal Service Obligation (USO) contributions

Digital Governance Context

With rapid 5G rollout and telecom expansion:

- Revenue monitoring systems require digital dashboards.
- Compliance tracking ensures fair competition.
- Transparent accounting strengthens investor confidence.

North Zone Significance

The North Zone includes several key telecom circles with high subscriber density and infrastructure development.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Regional Review:** Focus on North Zone telecom performance.
- **Revenue Monitoring:** Strengthening spectrum and license fee oversight.
- **Compliance Framework:** Enhancing audit and regulatory mechanisms.
- **Digital Tools:** Promoting real-time financial monitoring.
- **Inter-Unit Coordination:** Improving administrative efficiency.
- **Telecom Expansion Context:** Supports 5G and broadband rollout.
- **Way Forward:** AI-based revenue analytics and strengthened audit systems.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CGCA:** Apex accounting authority for telecom revenues.

- **Department of Telecommunications (DoT):** Under Ministry of Communications.
- **Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC):** Fees paid for spectrum allocation.
- **License Fee:** Percentage of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
- **USOF:** Universal Service Obligation Fund for rural telecom expansion.
- **5G Rollout:** High-speed telecom expansion phase.
- **AGR:** Adjusted Gross Revenue calculation for telecom dues.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Controller General of Communication Accounts functions under the Department of Telecommunications.
2. Spectrum Usage Charges are collected from telecom operators for spectrum allocation.
3. Universal Service Obligation Fund is used exclusively for defence communications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

5.INSV KAUNDINYA TO BE FLAGGED INTO MUMBAI HARBOUR

- INSV *Kaundinya* represents India's commitment to reviving traditional seafaring skills and maritime exploration.
- The vessel's arrival in Mumbai symbolizes successful completion of its voyage.
- It reflects the Indian Navy's emphasis on adventure, endurance, and oceanic navigation.
- Such expeditions strengthen maritime awareness and naval diplomacy. The initiative also celebrates India's ancient maritime legacy.
- Strategically, it highlights the Indian Navy's outreach and soft power projection.
- The flag-in ceremony reinforces India's maritime identity.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV)

The INSV series of vessels are operated by the **Indian Navy** for:

- Training in navigation and seamanship
- Long-distance ocean expeditions
- Promoting maritime heritage

Name 'Kaundinya'

The vessel is named after Kaundinya, an ancient Indian mariner associated with early maritime links between India and Southeast Asia.
This reflects India's historical oceanic trade and cultural exchanges.

Mumbai Harbour

Located in Maharashtra, Mumbai Harbour is a key naval and commercial maritime hub.
It hosts major naval commands and dockyards.

Maritime Significance

- Reinforces India's SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- Promotes maritime security and blue economy awareness.
- Enhances ocean navigation skills.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Voyage Completion:** Successful maritime expedition.
- **Heritage Revival:** Celebration of ancient seafaring traditions.
- **Naval Training:** Strengthens seamanship skills.
- **Strategic Messaging:** Maritime outreach and diplomacy.
- **Youth Inspiration:** Encourages adventure and naval careers.
- **Maritime Security Vision:** Supports SAGAR doctrine.
- **Way Forward:** Expanded ocean expeditions and international maritime cooperation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **INSV:** Indian Naval Sailing Vessel.
- **Indian Navy:** Maritime arm of India's Armed Forces.
- **SAGAR:** Security and Growth for All in the Region doctrine.
- **Blue Economy:** Sustainable use of ocean resources.
- **Seamanship:** Skills related to ship handling and navigation.
- **Mumbai Harbour:** Major port and naval base.
- **Maritime Diplomacy:** Naval engagement for foreign policy objectives.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. INSV vessels are operated by the Indian Navy for training and expeditions.
2. SAGAR stands for "Security and Growth for All in the Region."
3. The Indian Navy operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)