

TATHASTU ICS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

KK/AJ

TEXTILE EXPORTS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

SOURCE: [THE WIRE](#), [TH](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

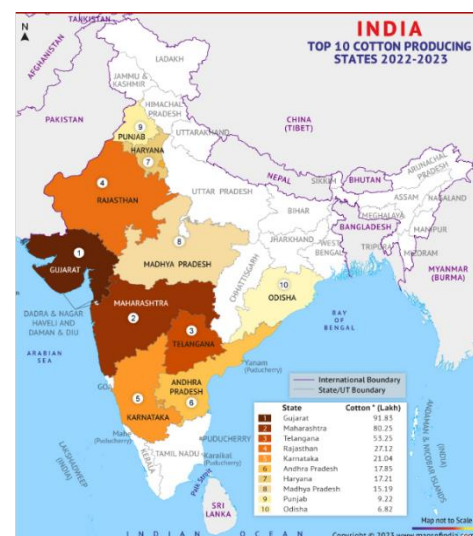
India's textile and apparel industry saw an 11.3% reduction in exports in June 2023 compared to the previous year while several mills continue to face acute cash loss, several mills in the South also suspended production citing lack of demand.

OVERVIEW OF TEXTILE SECTOR IN INDIA:

Aspect	Details
Historical Significance	India's textile industry has a long history, dating back several centuries.
Fiber Variety	Utilizes diverse Fibers, including natural (cotton, jute, silk, wool) and synthetic (polyester, viscose, acrylic) options, often blended.
Economic Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes about 14% to industrial production. Adds around 3% to the country's GDP Textiles and clothing sector generates approximately 27% of foreign exchange earnings. Contributes about 8% of total excise revenue collection. Employs 21% of total workforce, with around 35 million direct and 60 million indirect jobs.
Global Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest cotton and jute producer globally. Second-largest producer of silk. Sixth-largest producer of Technical Textiles. Third-largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel. Dominates with 95% of world's hand-woven fabric production.
Locational Factors	Dependent on six geo-economic factors: Climate, Power availability, Raw Material access, Labor availability, Transport infrastructure, and Market opportunities.

CHALLENGES FACED BY TEXTILE SECTOR IN INDIA:

- **Global Competition:** Intense competition from countries with lower production costs, such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, affects India's export competitiveness.
- **Outdated Technology:** Many textile units still use outdated machinery and technology, resulting in lower productivity and quality. For instance, traditional handloom weavers struggle to compete with modern manufacturing.
- **Lack of Skilled Labor:** A shortage of skilled labor in specialized areas like dyeing and finishing hampers production efficiency and quality. The sector's growth is impeded by this skill gap.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Textile production is resource-intensive and can have negative



environmental impacts. Issues like water pollution from dyeing processes can harm local ecosystems and communities.

- **Infrastructural Bottlenecks:** Inadequate infrastructure, including unreliable power supply and inadequate transportation networks, increases production costs and delays deliveries.
- **Complex Regulatory Framework:** Stringent labor laws, multiple regulatory requirements, and complex compliance processes can hinder business operations and growth.
- **High Production Costs:** Factors like energy costs, expensive raw materials, and compliance with environmental regulations contribute to higher production costs.
- **Low Value Addition:** The sector largely focuses on low-value products, limiting its potential for higher earnings. Lack of investment in research and development restricts innovation.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE TEXTILE SECTOR:	
Steps Taken by Government	Description
Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)	Provides capital subsidy for modernizing and upgrading textile machinery and technology.
Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)	Revised version of TUFS to include additional segments like technical textiles, jute, silk, etc.
Schemes for Skill Development	Various skill development initiatives to bridge the skill gap and improve labor productivity.
Make in India Initiative	Promotes domestic manufacturing, including textiles, by providing incentives and improving ease of doing business.
National Textiles Policy (NTP)	Aims to achieve sustainable growth, attract investments, and promote innovation in the textile sector.
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)	Provides clean cooking fuel to rural households, indirectly benefiting the jute industry (gunny bags for LPG cylinders).
Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan	Focuses on self-reliance, encouraging local production and reducing dependence on imports.
Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme	Offers incentives to promote manufacturing of textiles and garments, enhancing their global competitiveness.
National Technical Textiles Mission	Aims to promote technical textiles and enhance the production of specialized textiles in India.
Support for Handloom and Handicrafts	Various schemes to promote handloom and handicraft sectors, preserving traditional arts and crafts.
Infrastructure Development	Focus on improving logistics, connectivity, and industrial infrastructure.

VARIOUS TEXTILE CROPS: PRELIMS SPECIFIC		
Textile Crop	Geographical Factors	Cultivation Factors

Cotton	Grown in regions with warm climate and well-drained soil.	Requires a frost-free period, around 6-8 months of warm weather. Planted in Feb-March and harvested from Oct-Dec.
Jute	Thrives in areas with high humidity and alluvial soil.	Grows best in areas with high rainfall and temperature. Sown during monsoon (June-July) and harvested in autumn.
Silk	Sericulture practiced in states with suitable climate and resources.	Requires specific host plants (mulberry, castor) and controlled environment for silkworm rearing.
Wool	Sheep farming done in hilly areas with colder climates.	Requires grazing land, proper nutrition, and healthcare for sheep. Shearing of wool is a seasonal process.
Flax	Grows well in temperate regions with moderate rainfall.	Cultivated for its fibers (linen). Requires well-drained soil and sowing during spring or early summer.

WAY AHEAD:

- **Export Diversification:** Explore new international markets and diversify product offerings to reduce dependency on specific regions and products.
- **Digital Transformation:** Embrace e-commerce and online platforms to reach global customers directly and efficiently.
- **Promote Local Consumption:** Launch campaigns to encourage domestic consumers to support local textiles and boost demand.
- **Supply Chain Efficiency:** Streamline supply chains for faster production cycles, reducing costs and increasing responsiveness.

VISHWAKARMA YOJANA

SOURCE: [PIB](#), [TH](#), [THE ECONOMIC TIMES](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced during his Independence Day address the launch of **Vishwakarma Yojana** which is the **Rs 13,000- crore scheme**, aimed at **benefiting individuals skilled in traditional craftsmanship** for a period of **five years** up to **2027-28 financial year**.

FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

- The program aims to encompass **18 traditional vocations** and is estimated to **encompass around 3 million families of artisans**.

- The included trades comprise carpentry, boat crafting, metalworking professions like blacksmithing and armour making, tool crafting, locksmithing, goldsmithing, pottery, sculpture, cobbling, masonry, coir weaving, toy making, hairdressing, garland making, laundry, tailoring, and fishing net weaving.

GI TAGS FOR HANDICRAFTS IN 2023	
Hmaram	Mizoram
Pawndum	Mizoram
Ngotekherh	Mizoram
Tawlhlohpuan	Mizoram
Idu Mishmi Textiles	Arunachal Pradesh
Mizo Puanchei	Mizoram
K dangi Saree	Tamil Nadu

- Artisans and craftspeople will be **acknowledged** through the **PM Vishwakarma certificate and identity card**.
- Furthermore, they will have access to **interest-free credit up to Rs 100,000 (initially) and Rs 200,000 (subsequently) at a concessional 5% interest rate**.
- The initiative will also aid artisans in enhancing their skills and offer incentives for digital transactions and marketing assistance.
- **Skill training will be subsidized with a Rs 500 stipend**, while an additional Rs 1,500 will be allocated for the procurement of contemporary tools.
- **Enrolment** for the program can be completed through **common services centers** located in rural areas.
- In its inaugural year, the scheme intends to cover **500,000 families**, with a **long-term goal of reaching 3 million families within five years**.

CHALLENGES FACED BY ARTISANS AND CRAFTSMEN:

- **Lack of Recognition:** Artisans often lack recognition for their skills and contributions to traditional crafts, leading to undervaluation of their work.
- **Financial Constraints:** Limited access to credit and financial resources hinder artisans' ability to invest in their businesses, purchase raw materials, and modernize their tools.
- **Skill Gap:** Traditional skills often remain unupgraded, making artisans vulnerable to competition from modern products and technologies.
- **Lack of Infrastructure:** Inadequate infrastructure for workspace, storage, and transportation limits artisans' productivity and quality of output.
- **Economic Marginalization:** Artisans are at risk of exploitation, receiving inadequate payments for their products, and remaining trapped in a cycle of poverty.

OTHER IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT AND UPLIFT TRADITIONAL ARTISANS AND CRAFTSMEN:

Key Initiatives	Description
PM Vishwakarma Samman Yojana	This scheme covers 18 traditional trades, benefiting around 30 lakh artisan families. It offers recognition through certificates and identity cards, credit support, skill training, modern tools, digital transaction incentives, and marketing support.
Credit Support Schemes	Various credit support schemes, including Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India, offer financial assistance to artisans for starting or expanding their businesses without the need for collateral.
Hunar Haat	Organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Hunar Haat provides a platform for artisans to showcase and sell their products, promoting traditional art and culture while enhancing their market access.
National Handicraft Development Program	This program focuses on capacity-building, skill development, design improvement, and market promotion for artisans. It aims to elevate the livelihoods of artisans and preserve traditional crafts.
Artisan Credit Card Scheme	This scheme provides credit facilities to artisans for working capital requirements, purchasing tools, raw materials, and other necessary resources. It enables them to run their businesses smoothly.
Cluster Development Programs	The government supports the establishment of artisan clusters, providing common facilities, infrastructure, design development, and marketing assistance to enhance the competitiveness of artisan groups.
Crafts Museum and Exhibitions	The government promotes crafts museums and exhibitions, showcasing the work of artisans and helping them gain recognition and market exposure.
Digital Platforms	Initiatives like e-commerce platforms for handicrafts and digital marketing campaigns enable artisans to reach a broader audience and increase sales.
Promotion of Geographical Indications (GI)	The government emphasizes obtaining GI tags for traditional crafts to protect their authenticity and heritage, enhancing the marketability of artisan products.
Artisan Training and Skill Development	Skill development programs and training workshops are conducted to enhance artisans' skills, enabling them to create high-quality products and stay relevant in the market.

WAY AHEAD:

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch awareness campaigns to inform traditional craftsmen about the Vishwakarma Yojana and its benefits.
- **Registration Simplification:** Streamline the registration process to make it easily accessible and understandable for craftsmen.
- **Skill Enhancement:** Offer skill development programs to upgrade traditional craftsmen's skills and ensure their products meet modern demands.
- **Access to Funds:** Ensure easy access to the allocated funds to enable craftsmen to invest in their businesses.

PM E BUS SEWA SCHEME

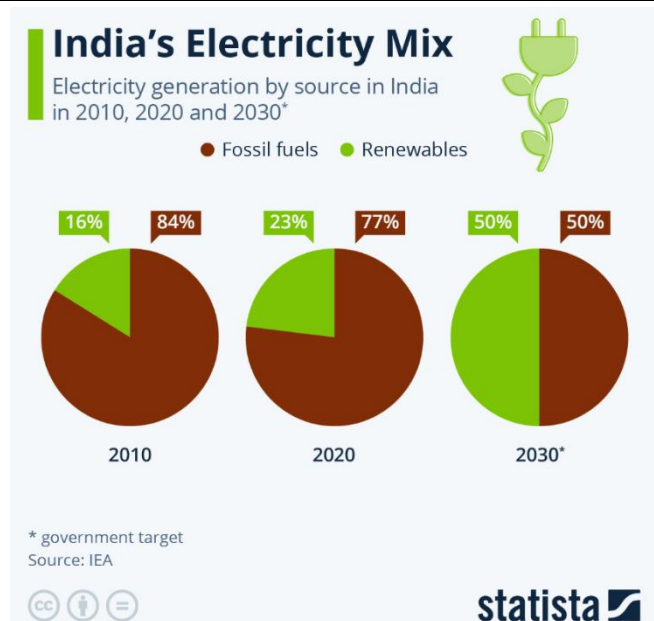
SOURCE: [PIB](#), [LIVEMINT](#), [TIMES OF INDIA](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

With the aim of **encouraging eco-friendly transportation nationwide**, the Union Cabinet has given the green light to the PM e Bus Sewa initiative. This program aims to deploy **10,000 electric buses in 100 cities**, prioritizing areas that lack a structured bus service.

About the PM-eBus Sewa:

- The PM-eBus Sewa initiative aims to **enhance urban bus services** through the inclusion of **10,000 electric buses** utilizing a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach**.
- **Scheme Coverage:** The scheme's scope encompasses **cities with populations exceeding 300,000 based on the 2011 census**, including all **Union Territory capitals, North Eastern Region, and Hill States**. Cities without organized bus services will receive priority under this initiative.
- **Projected Employment Impact:** It is anticipated that the scheme will generate between **45,000 to 55,000 direct employment** opportunities.
- **Two Scheme Components:**
 - **Segment A – Enhancing City Bus Services (169 cities):** The endorsed bus program will enhance city bus operations by introducing 10,000 electric buses through a PPP model.
 - **Segment B – Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI) (181 cities):** This segment focuses on ecologically conscious initiatives such as bus priority measures, infrastructural enhancements, multimodal interchange facilities, Automated Fare Collection Systems based on the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), charging infrastructure, and more.



CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEME:

- **Infrastructure Readiness:** Establishing the required charging infrastructure for a large fleet of electric buses is a significant challenge, requiring substantial investment and planning.
- **Operational Costs:** While electric buses have lower operating costs over time, initial maintenance and repair expenses might be higher, impacting the scheme's cost-effectiveness.
- **Technological Challenges:** Ensuring the availability of reliable and advanced electric bus technology and addressing potential technical glitches or battery-related issues.
- **Skilled Workforce:** Developing a skilled workforce capable of maintaining and repairing electric buses, as well as managing the charging infrastructure, is essential.

OTHER INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE E-MOBILITY:

Initiative	Description
Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) Scheme	Launched to promote electric and hybrid vehicles by providing financial incentives and charging infrastructure.

National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP)	Aims to achieve national energy security by promoting electric vehicles and their manufacturing.
National Electric Mobility Fund (NEMF)	Established to support research, innovation, and infrastructure development for e-mobility.
Green Urban Transport Scheme (GUTS)	Aims to provide financial assistance to states and cities for procurement of electric buses.
National Auto Policy 2021	Introduces measures to encourage electric vehicle adoption, including incentives and support for manufacturing.
Incentives for Electric Vehicle Manufacturing	Offers subsidies, tax benefits, and incentives for manufacturing electric vehicles and components.
Public Charging Infrastructure Guidelines	Provides guidelines for setting up public charging stations, ensuring uniformity and accessibility.
Income Tax Benefits for Electric Vehicle Buyers	Offers income tax deductions for individuals purchasing electric vehicles.
E-Mobility Promotion by State Governments	Many states have launched their own policies and incentives to promote electric vehicle adoption.

INSTALLED GENERATION CAPACITY (SECTOR WISE) AS ON 31.05.2023

SOURCE: [CENTRAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY](#)

Sector	MW	% of Total
Central Sector	1,00,055	24.0%
State Sector	1,05,726	25.3%
Private Sector	2,11,887	50.7%
Total	4,17,668	

Installed GENERATION CAPACITY(FUELWISE) AS ON 31.05.2023

CATAGORY	INSTALLED GENERATION CAPACITY(MW)	% of SHARE IN Total
Fossil Fuel		
Coal	205,235	49.1%
Lignite	6,620	1.6%
Gas	24,824	6.0%

Installed GENERATION CAPACITY(FUELWISE) AS ON 31.05.2023		
CATAGORY	INSTALLED GENERATION CAPACITY(MW)	% of SHARE IN Total
Diesel	589	0.1%
Total Fossil Fuel	2,37,269	56.8 %
Non-Fossil Fuel		
RES (Incl. Hydro)	173,619	41.4%
Hydro	46,850	11.2 %
Wind, Solar & Other RE	125,692	30.2 %
Wind	42,868	10.3 %
Solar	67,078	16.1 %
BM Power/Cogen	10,248	2.5 %
Waste to Energy	554	0.1 %
Small Hydro Power	4,944	1.2 %
Nuclear	6,780	1.6%
Total Non-Fossil Fuel	179,322	43.0%
Total Installed Capacity (Fossil Fuel & Non-Fossil Fuel)	4,17,668	100%

WAY AHEAD:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Invest in charging infrastructure across cities to support the widespread adoption of electric buses.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch campaigns to educate the public about the benefits of electric buses and encourage their usage.
- **Financial Incentives:** Provide financial incentives to encourage public and private stakeholders to invest in electric bus manufacturing and operations.