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Daily News Decoding

Current Affairs

16th MARCH 2023



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Age of Marriage

Prelims & GS Paper - I & II

Context: *The increase in minimum age of marriage for women to 21 years as provisioned in the Prohibition of Child Marriage Amendment Bill, 2021, would come into effect two years after the Bill is notified following its passage in Parliament.*

Child Marriage:

- Child marriage refers to any **formal marriage or informal union** between a **child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child**.
- Child marriage **violates children's rights** and places them at **high risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse**.
- Child marriage is a human rights violation.
- It is the result of the **interplay of economic and social forces**.
- In communities where the **practice is prevalent, marrying a girl** as a child is part of a **cluster of social norms and attitudes** that reflect the low value accorded to the human rights of girls.
- At the global level, **child marriage** is included in **Goal 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"** under **Target 5.3 "Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation"**.

Regional Trends:

- South Asia has the highest rates of child marriage in the world.
- Almost half (45%) of all women aged 20-24 years reported being married before the age of 18.

- Almost one in five girls (17%) are married before the age of 15.
- India has the largest number of brides in the world – one-third of the global total.
- Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage in Asia (the fourth highest rate in the world).
- Nepal has also one the highest rates of child marriage in Asia for both boys and girls.

Efforts:

- In 2016, **UNICEF and UNFPA** joined forces through a **Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage** in 12 countries with the highest rates of child brides.
- **5 Policy Framework for International Center for Research on Women:**
 - **Empower girls** with information, skills and support networks
 - **Provide economic support and incentives** to girls and their families
 - **Educate and rally parents** and community members
 - **Enhance girls' access** to a high-quality education
 - **Encourage supportive laws and policies.**

Causes:

- **Poverty:** Even today in rural areas many females and female children are denied their equality to common resources when a family is poor. Female members, mainly female children, are victimized by poverty in the family. A poor family usually jeopardizes female children. Every chance is opted so that the burden of



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a female child is avoided. So poverty is one of the reasons why families naturally resort to child marriages to avoid all sorts of burden of a female child.

- **Social Insecurity: Unmarried women are viewed with malafide intentions that lead to crimes against them.** So to be secure from these offenses, assaults, teasing against unmarried girls, their parents are in a hurry to marry their daughters soon after she attains puberty or even before that.
- **Avoiding Shares in Ancestral Property:** Generally in rural areas parents use to think that all their ancestral property belongs to their sons and if they marry their daughters at an early age then they will be out of the share. If marriage of the girl child is done at an early age then they would not demand her share. Therefore the right of females to share ancestral property is also one of the reasons responsible for child marriages.
- **Avoiding Expenditure on Female Education:** Usually families discriminate between boys and girls. In investment on education, male children of the house are considered as the future assets and economic base of the house that will work and earn money whereas female children are considered as a burden as they do not need to work and have to look after the household chores before and after marriage. Due to these reasons female children are given less or no priority.

Impact:

- Child marriage **ends childhood.**
- It negatively **influences children's rights to education, health and protection.** These consequences impact not just the girl directly, but also her family and community.

- A girl who is married as a child is more **likely to be out of school and not earn money** and contribute to the community. Child marriage negatively affects the Indian economy and can lead to an intergenerational cycle of poverty.
- She is more likely to **experience domestic violence and become infected with HIV/AIDS.**
- She is more **likely to have children when she is still a child.** There are more chances of her dying due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

Government of India's Efforts:

- **National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001:** Interventions...and special programmes... should impact on delaying the age of marriage so that by 2010 child marriage is eliminated.
- **National Youth Policy, 2002:** Sensitization of youth at the correct age at marriage.
- The **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**, which is the national law against child marriage, does not allow the question of consent in case of minors and treats child marriage as a punishable offence.
- **Section 366 of the IPC kidnapping/abduction of a woman to compel her marriage or for illicit intercourse** and use of criminal intimidation or any other method of compulsion is a punishable offence.
- **Section 496** makes going through the marriage ceremony with fraudulent intention a punishable offence.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** implements the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme**, wherein women and society at large are made aware about gender equality and ill effects of child marriages.



- **State of Haryana** introduced the program named as “**Apni Beti, Apna Dhan**” in the year 1994, which states “My Daughter, My Wealth”. It is a conditional cash transfer program which is dedicated to delay young marriages by providing a government paid bond in her name and the amount of Rs.25,000 in her account only on the condition that she is not married on her 18th birthday.
- **Rupashree Prakalpa is a West Bengal state government initiative** that provides a one-time financial grant of Rs. 25,000 for economically stressed families at the time of their adult daughters’ marriages.

UNICEF’s 5 Entry Points to Accelerate Changes:

- **Increase agency and resources for adolescents** – especially girls – at risk of and affected by child marriage.

- **Enhance legal and development policy frameworks** for an enabling environment that protects the rights of adolescent girls and boys.
- **Increase the generation and use of a robust evidence base** for advocacy, programming, learning and tracking progress.
- **Enhance systems and services that respond to the needs of adolescents** at risk of or affected by child marriage.
- **Increase social action, acceptance, and visibility** around investing in and supporting girls, and shifting social expectations relating to girls, including by engaging boys and men.

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Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics

Prelims & GS Paper - III

Context: Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala unveiled the department's annual publication, the 'Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022'.

Animal Husbandry Statistics:

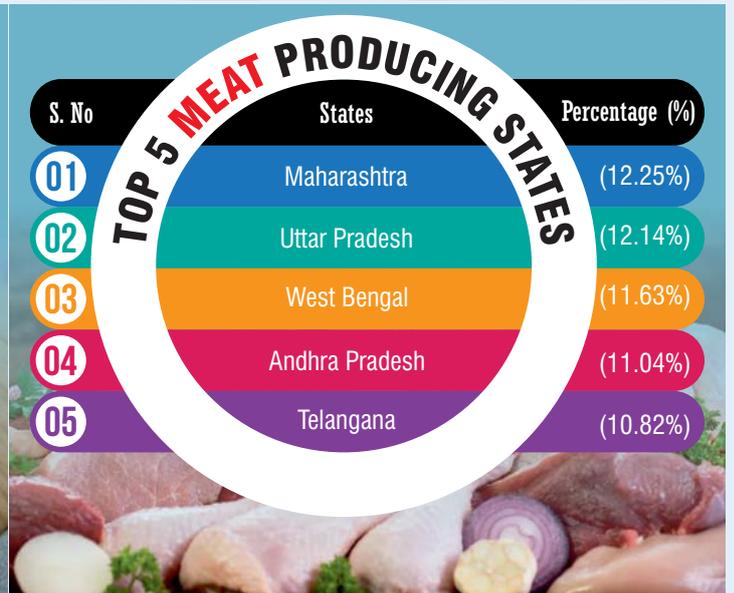
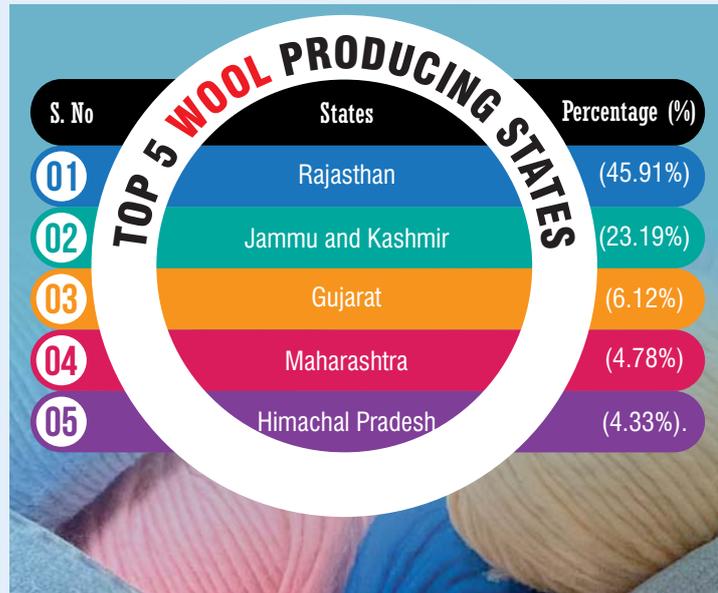
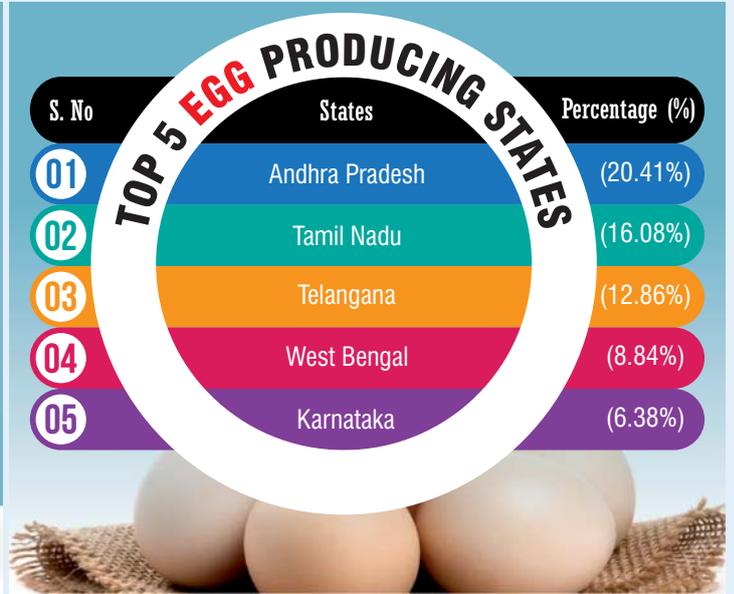
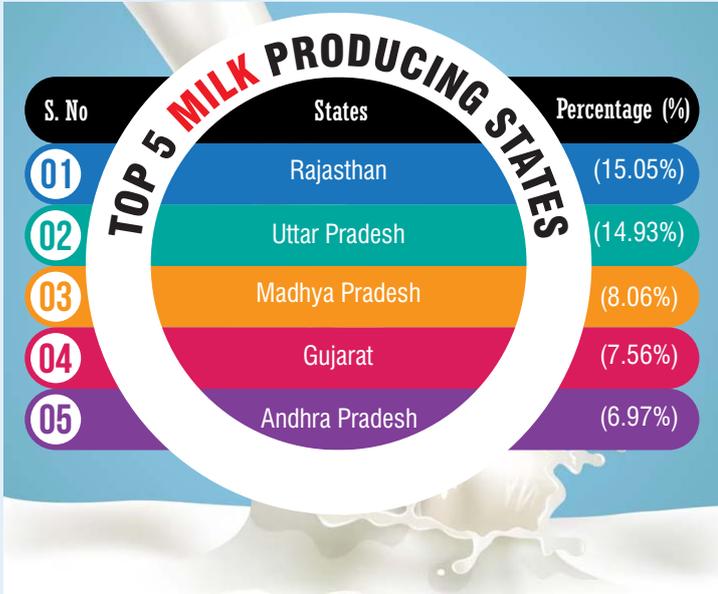
- The **Animal Husbandry Statistics (AHS) Division** of Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) is entrusted with the generation of **Animal Husbandry Statistics**.
- This evaluation is done through the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Livestock Census and Integrated Sample Survey"**.
- The programme has two components:
 - **Livestock Census (LC)**
 - **Integrated Sample Survey (ISS)**
- The scheme is being implemented by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** through State Animal Husbandry Departments.

Mandate:

- **Conducting quinquennial Livestock Census (LC)**
- **Conducting annual sample surveys** namely Integrated Sample Survey (ISS).
- Publishing **All India Livestock Report** consisting of **livestock population** of major species at National and States/UT level by **use, sex and age**.
- **Publishing Breed-wise report** based on the **latest Livestock Census** consisting of detailed **breed-wise livestock population at aggregate** as well as **segregated level**.
- Publishing of annual publication title **Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics** to release the production estimates of four major livestock products like **milk, meat, egg and wool**.

Key Highlights:

- **Total milk production** in the country during 2021-22 is **221.06 million tonnes**.
- In the current year 2021-22, **milk production** has registered an **annual growth rate of 5.29%**.
- The **per-capita availability of milk** is **444 gram/day** during 2021-22 increased by **17 gram/day** over previous year.
- The **Indigenous cattle contribute 10.35% of the total milk production** in the country.
- **Non-descript cattle contribute 9.82%** and **non-descript buffaloes contribute 13.49%** of the **total milk production** in the country.
- **Goat milk** shared a **contribution of 2.93%** in the total production across the country.
- In 2021-22, the **per-capita availability of eggs** is **95 nos/annum**, an **increase of 5 nos/annum** over previous year.
- The **total meat production** in the country is **9.29 million tonnes** for the year 2021-22 with an **annual growth rate of 5.62%**.
- The **per-capita availability of meat** is **6.82 kg/annum** during 2021-22 **increased by 0.30 kg/annum** over previous year.
- The **total wool production** in the country during 2021-22 is **33.13 thousand tonnes** which has **declined by 10.30%** as compared to previous year.
- During 2014-15 and 2020-21, the **value addition** of the sector grew at a **compound annual growth rate of 7.93%**.
- In 2020-21, the **share of Livestock at constant prices** in the **Agriculture Sector** and **total GVA** was **30.13%** and **4.9%** respectively.



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Floor Test

Prelims & GS Paper - II

Context: *Calling for a trust vote merely on the ground of differences between MLAs of a ruling party can topple an elected government, the Supreme Court observed.*

What is the Floor Test?

- A floor test is primarily taken to know whether the **executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature.**
- It is a **constitutional mechanism** under which a **Chief Minister appointed by the Governor** can be asked to **prove majority** on the **floor of the Legislative Assembly of the state.**
- As per the Constitution, the **Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of the state.**
- When a **single party secures the majority of the seats** in the house, the **Governor appoints the leader of the party** as the Chief Minister.
- In case the **majority is questioned**, the **leader of the party which claims majority** has to **move a vote of confidence** and **prove majority** among those present and voting.
- The **Chief Minister has to resign** if they **fail to prove their majority** in the house.
- This **happens both in the parliament** and the **state legislative assemblies.**
- In case a **floor test is required at the initial stage of formation of the Government**; when the **elected members of the legislature are yet to take oath** and the **Speaker is not elected**, a **Protem Speaker is appointed to conduct it.**
- As per convention, the **senior most member of the House** is called upon by the **Governor to assume the role of the Protem Speaker.**

- **Why should it be conducted immediately?**
According to Former **CJI NV Ramanna**, In a situation wherein, if the **floor test is delayed**, there is a **possibility of horse trading**, it **becomes incumbent upon the Court** to act to **protect democratic values.** An immediate floor test, in such a case, might be the most effective mechanism to do so.
- The **Courts are not empowered to issue directions** that a **floor test** cannot be **conducted** if any **one or more Members** do not remain present in the Assembly.

Interpretations:

- **The Governor does not enjoy** the power to **decide whether the Government commands the confidence of the House** by way of an **independent verification without directing a floor test** to be conducted.
- Where the **Governor is satisfied** that the **incumbent Government does not possess the support of the majority** in the legislative assembly, they would **call upon the Chief Minister to face the Assembly** and **prove his majority** within the shortest possible time.
- In **SR Bommai** Case, it was held that if the **Chief Ministers failed to comply** with the **order to take a vote of confidence**, the **Governor would be duty bound** to take steps to **form an alternative Ministry.**
- The **Chief Minister's refusal to take the test** could be construed to, prima facie, indicate that they do **not enjoy the confidence of the Legislature.**
- The **basis of the satisfaction of the Governor is not immune from judicial scrutiny.** Whether



the **Governor**, prima facie, had **relevant and germane material** to direct a **floor test** can be **examined by the constitutional courts**.

- The **Sarkaria Commission** opined that the **Governor should not dismiss a Council without putting it to test on the floor of the Assembly**.
- If the **Chief Minister refuses to do so**, the **Governor can summon the Assembly** for the **purpose of floor test**, within a reasonable time.
- The said view was reaffirmed by the **MM Punchhi Commission**, set up in 2007 for the same purpose.
- **Article 174 of the Constitution** vests the power to **summon, prorogue or dissolve** the State Legislature with the Governor.

Composite Floor Test:

- There is another test, **Composite Floor Test**, which is **conducted only when more than one person stakes claim to form the government**.
- When the **majority is not clear**, the **governor might call for a special session** to see who has the **majority**.
- The majority is **counted based on those present and voting**.
- This can also be **done through a voice vote** where the **member can respond orally or through division voting**. Some legislators may be absent or choose not to vote.
- In division vote, **voting can be done through electronic gadgets, ballots or slips**.
- The person who has the **majority will form the government**. In case of tie, the speaker can also cast his vote.

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PM MITRA

Prelims & GS Paper - III

Context: *The Ministry of Textiles will shortly name the states identified for implementation of PM MITRA Parks Scheme.*

About:

- The **Ministry of Textiles (MoT)** has launched the **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks (MITRAs) Scheme**.
- This programme is to **strengthen the Indian textile industry** by way of enabling **scale of operations, reduce logistics cost** by **housing the entire value chain at one location, attract investment, generate employment and augment export potential**.
- The scheme will develop an **integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility** for the total value-chain of the textile industry. These parks are **envisaged to be located at sites** which have inherent strengths for the textile industry to flourish and have necessary linkages to succeed.
- The scheme envisages to **leverage the Public Private Partnership model** for **fast paced implementation** in a time-bound manner.
- It is **inspired by the 5F vision** of Hon'ble Prime Minister - **Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign**.
- It is also **envisaged** to help **India in achieving** the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9**.

Eligibility:

- PM MITRA Parks will be set up on the basis of **proposals received from State Governments** having **ready availability of contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcels** of minimum 1000 acres.

- The **State Government** will **transfer land** to the **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** at notional price.
- The land asset will be used to **leverage/ attract investment** in the **PM MITRA parks** for **development** and **maintenance** of the parks with high standard specifications.
- SPV will be a **legal entity** (with **51% equity shareholding of State Government** and **49% of Central Government**) set up by the **State Government** for the purpose of implementing the PM MITRA Park Project.

Development Capital Support (DCS):

- The **Central Government** will **provide DCS** in the form of **Grant in Aid (Capital)** to the Park SPV.
- **DCS** is a **support for creation of Core Infrastructure** and Support Infrastructure.
- The DCS will be provided in two Phases:
 - ▶ **Phase I** – Rs 300 Cr for Greenfield Park and Rs 100 Cr for Brownfield Park, as per phasing of construction. Concession period will be 25 years till completion of Phase 1
 - ▶ **Phase II** – Rs 200 Cr for Greenfield Park and Rs100 Cr for Brownfield Park.

Competitive Incentive Support (CIS):

- For **incentivizing manufacturing units** to get **established early** in PM MITRA Park, there is a **provision of Rs 300 Cr per park**.
- Incentives will be provided to **manufacturing units up to 3% of the total sales turnover** to the unit established in the PM MITRA Park to reduce its cost and offset its disadvantages to a certain extent.



- The **CIS will be Fund Limited** and it will be available on a first come first serve basis.
- The incentives will only be available to those manufacturing companies who are **not availing benefits of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for Textile Scheme.**
- The close linkage of the **textiles industry to agriculture** (for raw materials such as cotton) and the **ancient culture and traditions of the country** in terms of textiles makes it unique in comparison to other industries in the country.

Textile industry in India:

- India's textiles sector is one of the oldest industries in the Indian economy, dating back to several centuries.
- The industry is **extremely varied**, with **hand-spun** and **hand-woven textiles sectors** at one end of the spectrum, with the **capital-intensive sophisticated mills sector** at the other end.
- The fundamental strength of the textile industry in India is its **strong production base** of a wide range of **fiber/yarns** from natural **fibers** like **cotton, jute, silk** and **wool**, to synthetic/man-made fibers like **polyester, viscose, nylon** and **acrylic.**
- The **decentralized power looms/hosiery** and **knitting sector** form the **largest component** of the textiles sector.
- India's Textiles Exports were highest ever in FY 2021-22, crossing US\$ 44 Bn
- India is the **largest cotton producer** (23%) in the world and has the **highest area under cotton cultivation** (39% of world area).
- Cotton plays a **major role in sustaining the livelihood** of an **estimated 5.8 Mn cotton farmers** and **40 - 50 Mn people engaged in related activities** such as cotton processing and trade.
- **India produced 90 Lakh bales of raw jute** in FY 2021-22
- The highest contributors to FDI in the **Textile sector of India** (including dyed, printed) from April 2016 to March 2021 are **Japan, Mauritius, Italy, and Belgium.**
- **USA** was the **top export destination** accounting for **27% share**, followed by **EU** (18%), **Bangladesh** (12%) and **UAE** (6%).

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL SUPPORT (PM MITRA)

01

Internal Road

Development of Plug & Play Infrastructure for Textiles Designers, Apparel Manufacturers, Accessories Manufacturers

04

02

Power Distribution Infrastructure

Factory Sites

05

03

Water and Waste Water treatment and other facilities

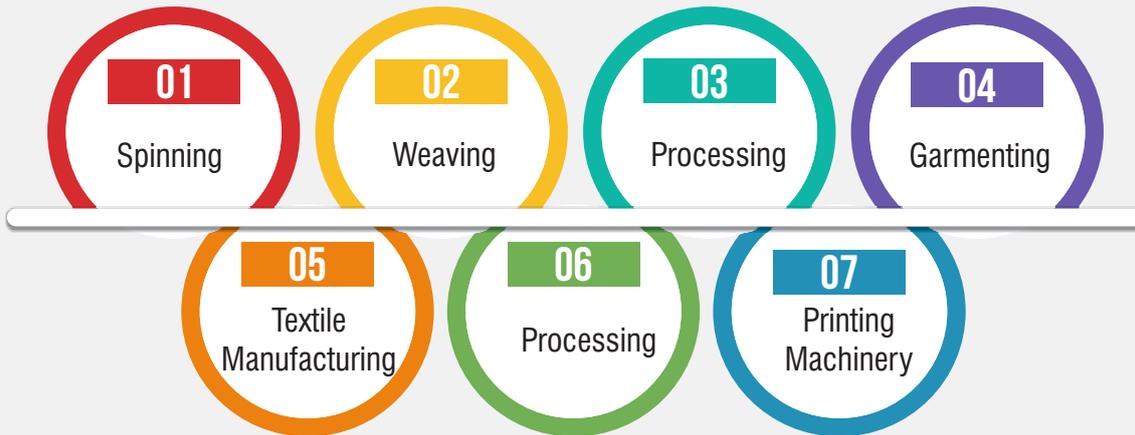
Incubation Centre

06

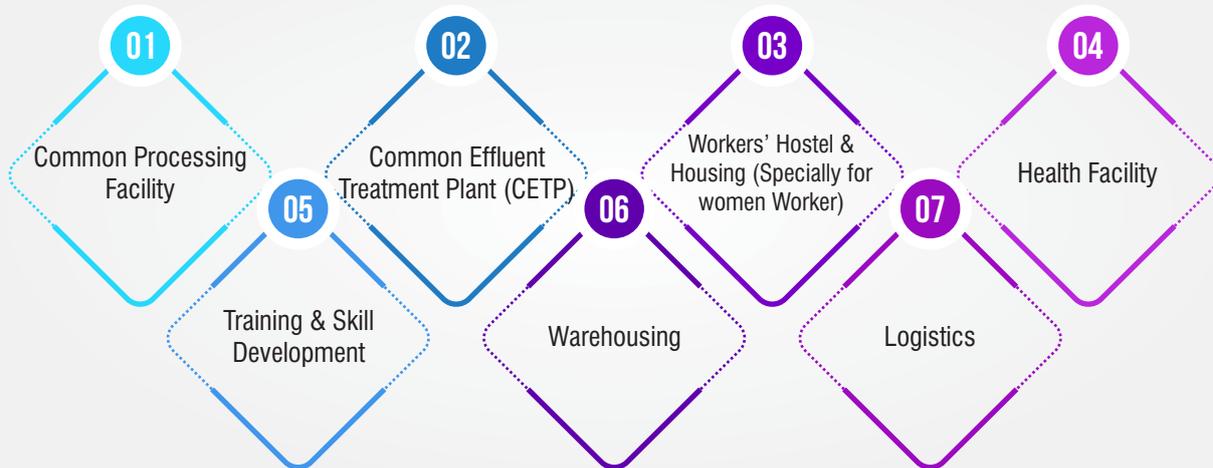


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TEXTILE PROCESSES UNDER PM MITRA



SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL SUPPORT (PM MITRA)



MEMBERS OF PROJECT APPROVAL COMMITTEE

- 1 Secretary Textiles – **Chairman**
- 2 Financial Advisor, MoT – **Member**
- 3 Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary MoT – **Member Convenor**
- 4 Representative of NITI Aayog – **Member**
- 5 Representative of DPIIT – **Member**



National Commission for Backward Classes

Prelims & GS Paper - II

Context: *The Union Government said that it had appointed a chairperson and one member to the National Commission for Backward Classes.*

About:

- **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** was initially constituted by the **Central Govt** by the **National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993**
- The **National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993** has been **repealed** through the **National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Act, 2018**.
- **Composition:** The Central Government shall constitute a body to be known as the National Commission for Backward Classes to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to, it under this Act. The Commission shall consist of the following Members nominated by the Central Government:
 - ▶ A Chairperson, who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court
 - ▶ A social scientist
 - ▶ Two persons, who have special knowledge in matters relating to backward classes
 - ▶ Member-Secretary, who is or has been an officer of the Central Government in the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India.
- **Term:** Every Member shall hold office for a term of three years from the date he assumes office. A Member may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Central Government, resign from the office of Chairperson or of Member at any time. The Central Government shall remove a person from the office of Member if that person –
 - ▶ Becomes an undischarged insolvent
 - ▶ Is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude
 - ▶ Becomes of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court
 - ▶ Refuses to act or becomes incapable of acting
 - ▶ Is, without obtaining leave of absence from the Commission, absent from three consecutive meetings of the Commission
 - ▶ Has, in the opinion of the Central Government, abused the position of Chairperson or Member as to render that person's continuance in office detrimental to the interests of backward classes or the public interest.
- **Functions:** The Commission shall examine requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the lists and hear complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate. The advice of the Commission shall ordinarily be binding upon the Central Government.
- **Powers:** The Commission shall, while performing its functions have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and, in respect of the following matters, namely:
 - ▶ Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath



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- ▶ Requiring the discovery and production of any document
 - ▶ Receiving evidence on affidavits
 - ▶ Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court of office
 - ▶ Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents
 - ▶ Any other matter which may be prescribed.
 - **Annual Reports:** The Commission shall prepare, in such form and at such time, for each financial year, as may be prescribed, its annual report giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year and forward a copy thereof to the Central Government.
- 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act:**
- The **102nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2018** inserted articles **338B**, which deals with the **structure, duties and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes**, and **342A** that **deals with the powers of the president to notify a particular caste as an SEBC** and the **power of Parliament to change the list**. Article 366 (26C) defines **SEBCs**.
 - In a bid to clothe the Commission with the same powers as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission, Parliament used wording identical to the existing provisions relating to the SC/ST Commission.
 - Under Article 342A, it was laid down that the President shall notify a list of SEBCs in relation to each State and Union Territory in consultation with the Governors. This was called the 'Central List', and once it was notified, only Parliament alone could make changes to it.
 - Based on this, the Supreme Court, while considering a challenge to the Maratha reservation in Maharashtra on various grounds, concluded that after this Amendment came into force, states can no longer notify or identify backward classes, and only the President could do so, and further changes could be made by Parliament.
 - Parliament adopted fresh legislation to undo the effects of the Supreme Court's interpretation. Therefore, it contains specific clauses that seek to restore the original intention of having a 'Central List' for the purposes of the Union and letting States retain their respective lists.
 - It first adds a provision to the effect that the **requirement that the National Backward Classes Commission should be consulted on policy matters** will not apply to the State lists of SEBCs.
 - It specifies that the **list of SEBCs notified by the President** shall be only for the **purposes of the Central government** alone, and that the 'Central List' means only the list "prepared and maintained by and for the Central Government".
 - Further, the **105th Amendment clarifies that every State or Union Territory** may, by law, **prepare and maintain for its own purposes a list of SEBCs** and this may be different from the Central List.
 - These **changes are aimed at undoing the conclusion of three judges** on the **five-Judge Bench in the Maratha reservation case** that the term 'Central List' applied to all SEBCs notified by the President and that it was the only List "**for the purposes of the Constitution**".