Magic of Indian Silk

Prelims – *Current events of national and international importance| Economic and Social Development.*

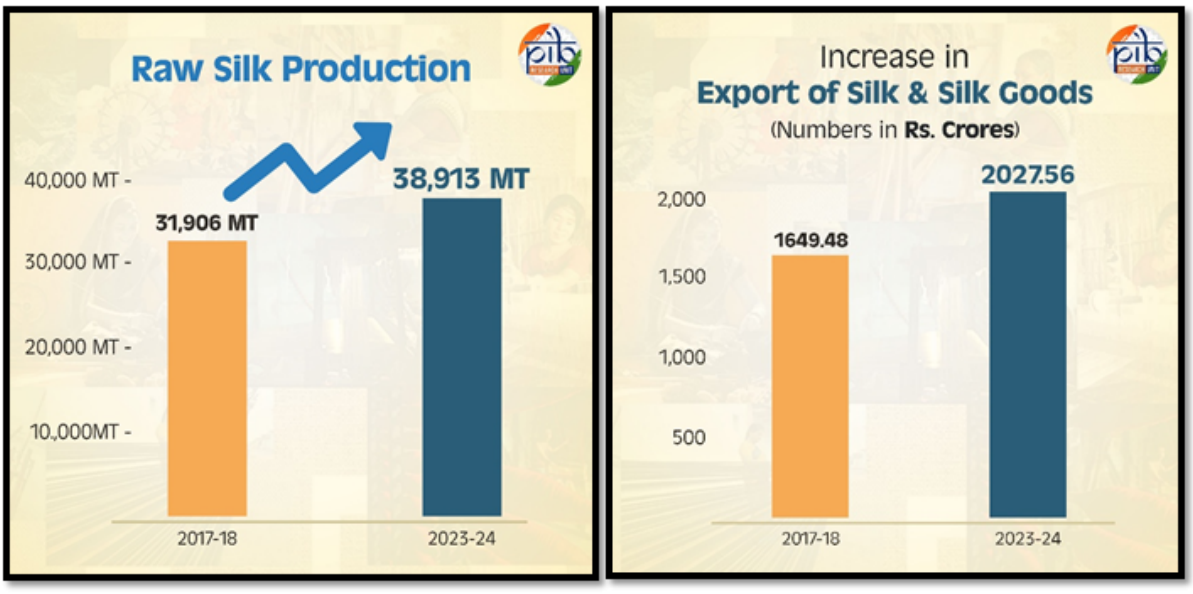
Mains (GS III) – *Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.*

Why in News?

According to the recent data of Ministry of Textiles, India's silk production and exports have been raised from 2017-18 to 2023-24.

- **Silk** – It is a thread made from ***pure mulberry silk***, which is woven by skilled artisans.
- **Silk from silkworms** – *Sericulture* is the process of farming silkworms, which eat mulberry leaves to make silk.
- **Global production –** It has accounting for *only 0.2 % of world's total textile production.*
- **India's production** – It is the ***2nd largest producer and consumer*** of silk globally.
- **State wise production**
  - **Mulberry silk** – Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal.
  - **Non-mulberry silk** – Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Orissa and north-eastern states.

India's total raw silk production *increased during the period 2017-24 and Exports of silk and silk goods rose during the period 2017-24.*



Initiatives to Silk Development

- **Silk Samagra Scheme –** To scale up production by *improving the quality and productivity* of sericulture in the country.
- **Silk Samagra-2** – To improve the *entire silk production process*, from raising silkworms to producing quality silk fabrics.
- **Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS)** – To make available *quality yarn* & their blends to the eligible Handloom weavers at *subsidized rates*.
- **National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) –** To support weavers in the handloom sector, including silk fabric producers.
- **Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector Scheme (SAMARTH)** – To focus on *entry-level training, upskilling and reskilling* in Apparel & Garmenting, handloom, handicraft, silk, and jute.

Types of Silk in India
• **Mulberry silk** – It comes from silkworms that *eat only mulberry leaves*. • **Feature** – It is soft, smooth, and shiny with a bright glow, making it perfect for luxury sarees and high-end fabrics. • ***92%*** of the country's total raw silk production comes from mulberry. • **Non-mulberry silk** – It comes from wild silkworms that feed on leaves from trees like oak, castor and arjun. • **Feature** – It is a natural silk with less shine but is strong, durable, and eco-friendly. • **Silk waste** – It's repurposed to *create lower-quality products* like silk yarn or fabric, or even recycled into new silk items.

Reference

PIB| Magic of Indian Silk Production

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