National Traders' Welfare Board (NTWB)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity & Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, National Traders' Welfare Board Holds 10th Meeting in Hybrid Mode, Strengthening Digital Governance and Stakeholder Participation.

- It is an ***advisory body*** constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Aim -** To advise the ***government on policies*** to improve the welfare of small traders, retailers, and their employees, reduce their compliance burdens, and modernize internal trade
- **Nodal Ministry -** Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- **Constituted on –** 19th June, 2019.
- **Objectives**
  - Identify policy measures for the welfare of traders and their employees.
  - Suggest simplifications of the Acts and Rules applicable to traders.
  - Recommend on reduction of the compliance burden of traders.
  - Improve access to funds for traders.
  - Recommend social security benefits for traders & their employees like insurance, pension etc.
  - Address challenges and issues of traders and their employees.
  - Formulating a National Retail Trade Policy aims at realizing the full potential of all formats of the retail trade.
- **Members -** TWB consists of 1 Chairperson and 20 non-official members, with Joint Secretary, DPIIT, being the convener of NTWB.
- The Joint Secretary dealing with Internal Trade in DPIIT acts as the board's official convener.

Recent Initiatives & Key Focus Areas

DigiDukaan Platform	• A specialized B2B digital commerce initiative designed to help small retailers and kirana stores effortlessly transition into the digital economy. • Following a successful pilot in cities like Jaipur, plans are underway for a nationwide rollout.
Digital Integration	• Encouraging small scale merchants to use the *Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)* to expand their market reach.
Decriminalisation Reforms	• Reviewing and supporting major ease-of-doing-business overhauls, such as the Jan Vishwas Amendment Act, which decriminalised hundreds of minor business compliance violations.
Vocal for Local	• Driving campaigns to bolster indigenous, locally manufactured goods across regional ecosystems.
State Boards	• Encouraging individual Indian States and Union Territories to set up their own localized State Traders' Welfare Boards for direct grassroots grievance redressal. • The board reviewed the newly launched Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy, analyzing its provisions for trade credit support, customized insurance assistance, and structural fiscal incentives for small traders.

Reference

PIB | National Traders' Welfare Board

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