Textile export increase reported by Ministry

Why in News?

The Ministry of Textiles reported a 7% increase in textile and apparel exports, including handicrafts, from April to December 2024, compared to the previous year.

- **Status of India in Textiles** - India continues to rank among the ***top textile-exporting nations*** in global textiles and apparel exports.
- It boasts a robust raw material base comprising natural fibres like cotton, silk, wool, and jute, alongside man-made fibres.
- **Key export markets for Indian textiles** - USA, European Union, and UK.

Government initiatives to boost textile sector

- To strengthen India's position in the global textile market.
- **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme -** Aimed at building world-class textile infrastructure.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme -** Focusing on MMF fabric, apparel, and technical textiles, seeks to boost large-scale manufacturing.
- **Scheme For Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH) -** A capacity-building program designed to provide placement-oriented skilling in the textile sector.
- **Minimum Support Price –** Given annually to ensure the ***steady supply of cotton*** and encourage its cultivation.
- **National Technical Textiles Mission (2020-2026)** - Focuses on cutting-edge research in specialty fibres and application-based textiles such as geotextiles, medical textiles, and sports textiles.
- The mission also promotes research into biodegradable textiles using unconventional natural fibres like milkweed and bamboo.
- The Ministry of Textiles conducted various innovation challenges in collaboration with Startup India and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **International Agreements -** India has signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) to enhance its export potential.
- **Reducing Custom Duties -** The custom duty on Extra-Long Staple (ELS) cotton was *reduced to zero* from 2024.
- It allows duty-free ELS cotton imports under the ***India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)***.
- The *Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme and the Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) program* supports by enhancing competitiveness and promoting zero-rated exports.
- To curb the import of low-quality knitted fabrics, the government imposed a Minimum Import Price (MIP) on relevant Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) codes.

- Various Quality Control Orders (QCOs) have been implemented to safeguard domestic producers from the influx of substandard goods.

Reference

DD News - Government implements schemes to boost sector

