World Cotton Day' 2025

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

The Union Minister of Textiles and Union Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs attended the celebration of World Cotton Day 2025 at New Delhi.

- **World Cotton Day –** 7th October.
- **First celebrated on** - October 7, 2019, at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva.
- **Aim -** To symbolize cotton's role in weaving together communities, cultures, and economies around the world.
- **Event, 2025**
  - **Jointly hosted by -** The Republic of Chad, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Trade Centre (ITC).
  - **Theme,2025** - "The Fabric of Our Lives".

World Cotton Day, 2025 celebration in India

- **Jointly organized by -** The Ministry of Textiles and Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI).
- **Theme, 2025 -** "Cotton 2040: Technology, Climate & Competitiveness."
- **Government's commitments -** To achieve the **USD 350 billion** textile sector target by **2030**, including USD 100 billion in exports and moving towards ***carbon neutrality.***

India accounts for 40% of the world's cotton area and the productivity is around 450 kg per hectare. Cotton sector supports 6 million farmers and provides employment to over 45 million people across the value chain.

- **Related Government Initiatives**
- **Kasturi Cotton Bharat**
    - It is an initiative by the Government of India, the Cotton Corporation of India, and various textile industry bodies to brand and **certify premium Indian cotton**.
    - The program focuses on traceability, sustainability, and quality to enhance the competitiveness and global image of Indian cotton.
    - It has the potential to contribute immensely to the '5F' (farm-fibre-factory-fashion-foreign) vision of the Government.
- **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) –**
    - It is a flagship **credit-linked subsidy program** by the Ministry of Textiles, designed to modernize the country's textile industry.
    - It provided financial assistance for textile units to upgrade their manufacturing technology and machinery.
- **PM MITRA -**
    - PM MITRA stands for PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks.
    - To boost India's textile industry by creating integrated, world-class industrial infrastructure.
- **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) -** It is a flagship initiative by the Ministry of Textiles.
- The mission aims to increase the penetration level of **technical textiles** within the country and boost innovation, market development, and exports in the sector.

Types of organic and environment friendly cotton varieties

• **Organic cotton –** It is grown with a low environmental impact, avoiding toxic pesticides and synthetic fertilisers.
• **Recycled cotton** - It is produced from waste cotton materials, such as factory scraps (pre-consumer) and discarded clothes (post-consumer).
• These materials are then shredded, cleaned, and re-spun into new yarn to create fresh fabric.
• **Kala cotton** - It is also another type of sustainable cotton, which is grown in the region of Kutch in Gujarat.
• This unique, ancient, and purely organic variety of cotton is a rain-fed crop, meaning it relies solely on rainwater and is cultivated without the use of chemical pesticides or fertilisers.
• **Kandu cotton -** From Karnataka is naturally brown-coloured and is sustainably farmed, rain-fed, and pesticide-free, emphasising a connection to the earth.
• **Ponduru cotton -** Refers to a type of Khadi (handspun and handwoven cotton) produced in the village of Ponduru, Andhra Pradesh.
• It is made from a rare, indigenous, and organic short-staple hill cotton that requires no chemicals and is spun and woven by hand using traditional methods.

References

1. PIB | 'World Cotton Day' 2025
2. Zeebiz | World Cotton Day 2025

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