

INDIAN TEXTILE SECTOR EXPORTS: FY 2025-26 HIGHLIGHTS

1. GROWTH METRICS

- **Total Exports:** Increased from ₹3,09,859.3 crore in 2024-25 to ₹3,16,334.9 crore in 2025-26.
- **Growth Rate:** A growth of 2.1% was recorded compared to the previous year.

2. SECTOR-WISE PERFORMANCE

- **Ready-Made Garments (RMG):** Holds the largest share in textile exports. It achieved a growth of 2.9% (₹1,39,349.6 crore).
- **Handicrafts:** This sector recorded the highest growth at 6.1%.
- **Man-made Yarn:** Recorded a growth of 3.6%.
- **Cotton Yarn & Handloom:** Registered a steady growth of 0.4%.

3. INTERNATIONAL MARKETS & EXPORT DESTINATIONS

- India has expanded its exports to approximately **120 countries**.
- **Countries with Highest Growth:** Sudan (205.6%), Senegal (54.4%), Egypt (38.3%), UAE (22.3%), and Japan (20.6%).

4. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT SCHEMES

To encourage exports, the government has extended the following schemes beyond March 31, 2026:

- **RoSCTL Scheme:** (Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies).
- **RoDTEP Scheme:** (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products).

5. FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAS - 2025-26)

Key agreements were reached this fiscal year to boost the textile sector:

- **India-EFTA TEPA:** Effective from October 1, 2025.
- **India-UK CETA:** Signed in July 2025.
- **India-Oman CEPA:** Signed in December 2025.
- **India-New Zealand FTA:** Announced on December 22, 2025.
- **India-EU FTA:** Concluded on January 27, 2026.

IMPORTANT PRACTICE POINTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- **Which sector recorded the maximum growth in textile exports?**

(Answer: Handicrafts – 6.1%)

- **What is the primary objective of the RoSCTL and RoDTEP schemes?**

(Answer: To reduce the tax burden on exporters and increase competitiveness in the international market.)

- **With which major countries/entities did India recently conclude FTAs?**

(Answer: UK, Oman, New Zealand, and the European Union.)

NATIONAL FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NFDC) - MALAYALAM FILM: "ACHAPPA'S ALBUM"

1. FILM IN THE NEWS

- **Film Title:** *Achappa's Album* – meaning "Grandpa's Album."
- **Language:** Malayalam.
- **Core Theme:** The film is built on a fictional **time-travel** concept blended with **generational emotions**.

2. KEY PEOPLE

- **Director:** Deepti Pillay Sivan.
- **Writer:** Sanjeev Sivan.
- **Lead Cast:** Priyanka Nair, Anjana Appukuttan, Sudhanshu Sanjeev Sivan.

3. ROLE OF NFDC (EXAM POINT OF VIEW)

- This film was produced directly by the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**.
- The primary objective of the NFDC is to promote meaningful cinema and diverse stories rooted in Indian culture.

4. ABOUT NFDC (STATIC GK)

- **Establishment:** Founded in **1975**.
- **Ministry:** It is the apex body under the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**, Government of India.
- **Functions:** It supports the development, production, promotion, and preservation of Indian cinema across various languages.
- **Current MD (as of 2026):** Shri Prakash Magdum.

POSSIBLE COMPETITIVE EXAM QUESTIONS

- **What is the main theme of the Malayalam film 'Achappa's Album' which was recently in the news?** (Answer: Time-travel and generational emotions)
- **In which year was the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) established?** (Answer: 1975)
- **Under which Union Ministry does the NFDC operate?** (Answer: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY): ENROLMENTS SURPASS 9 CRORE MILESTONE

1. LATEST STATISTICS (APRIL 2026)

- **Total Subscribers:** As of April 21, 2026, total enrolments reached a historic milestone by crossing the **9 crore** mark.
- **Annual Growth:** A record **1.35 crore** new subscribers joined in the FY 2025–26 fiscal year alone. This is the highest single-year registration since the scheme's inception.

2. BACKGROUND & VISION

- **Launch Date:** May 9, 2015.
- **Regulatory Body:** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**).
- **Objective:** To provide universal social security to unorganized sector workers, the poor, and underprivileged sections of society.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- **Age Limit:** All Indian citizens between the ages of **18 and 40** are eligible.
- **Restriction: Income Tax Payers** are not eligible to join this scheme.

4. TRIPLE BENEFITS ('COMPLETE SECURITY COVER')

- **Guaranteed Pension:** Subscribers receive a monthly pension ranging from **₹1,000 to ₹5,000** after attaining 60 years of age.
- **Protection for Spouse:** After the death of the subscriber, the same pension amount is provided to their spouse.
- **Return of Corpus to Nominee:** In the event of the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the total accumulated corpus (up to age 60) is handed over to the **nominee**.

5. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Private Banks, Payment Banks, and the Department of Posts (DoP).

IMPORTANT PRACTICE POINTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- **What is the eligible age group for the Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?**

(Answer: 18 to 40 years)

- **Which organization monitors and regulates the APY scheme?**

(Answer: PFRDA – Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority)

- **Can individuals who pay income tax join APY?**

(Answer: No; as per the rule effective from October 2022, income tax payers are not permitted to join)

- **What is the maximum monthly pension available under APY?**

(Answer: ₹5,000)

'SHEKHA JHEEL' DESIGNATED AS INDIA'S 99TH RAMSAR SITE

1. LATEST DESIGNATION

- **Announcement:** Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, announced the **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary**, located in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, as a Ramsar Site.
- **Milestone:** This is the **99th Ramsar Site** in India.

2. STATE-WISE STATUS

- With this declaration, the total number of Ramsar Sites in **Uttar Pradesh** has reached **12**.
- Uttar Pradesh continues to demonstrate its priority in environmental conservation and wetland management.

3. ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

- **Central Asian Flyway:** Shekha Jheel serves as a crucial **stopover** for migratory birds along their travel route.
- **Migratory Birds:** During winter, the lake is visited by species such as the **Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork**, and various types of ducks.
- **Benefits:** Beyond biodiversity, it supports local livelihoods, water security, and climate balance.

4. ABOUT THE RAMSAR CONVENTION (STATIC GK FOR EXAMS)

- **Establishment:** This international treaty was signed on **February 2, 1971**, in the city of **Ramsar, Iran**.
- **Objective:** To conserve and protect **wetlands** worldwide.
- **India's Participation:** India signed the convention on **February 1, 1982**.

IMPORTANT PRACTICE POINTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- **Which is the 99th Ramsar Site in India?**

(Answer: Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary – Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh)

- **Which state has the highest number of Ramsar Sites (as of April 2026)?**

(Answer: Tamil Nadu – Note: Uttar Pradesh remains in second place with 12 sites)

- **In which migratory flyway is Shekha Jheel located?**

(Answer: Central Asian Flyway)

- **When is World Wetlands Day celebrated?**

(Answer: February 2)

DEFENSE MINISTER'S VISIT TO GERMANY: STRENGTHENING INDIA-GERMANY RELATIONS

1. VISIT DETAILS

- **Defense Minister:** Shri Rajnath Singh visited Germany for three days starting from **April 21, 2026**.
- **Location:** Berlin (Capital of Germany).

2. INDIA-GERMANY BILATERAL RELATIONS (75 YEARS)

- **Milestone:** The year **2026** marks a significant milestone as it completes **75 years** of diplomatic relations between India and Germany.

IMPORTANT PRACTICE POINTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- **Who is the current Defense Minister of India visiting Germany in April 2026?**

(Answer: Shri Rajnath Singh)

- **How many years of diplomatic relations are India and Germany celebrating in 2026?**

(Answer: 75 Years)

IN-SLN DIVEX 2026: INDIA-SRI LANKA JOINT NAVAL EXERCISES

1. EXERCISE DETAILS

- **Exercise Name:** IN-SLN DIVEX 2026 (India - Sri Lanka Diving Exercise).
- **Edition:** 4th Edition.
- **Venue:** Colombo Port, Sri Lanka.
- **Dates:** April 21 to 27, 2026.

2. PARTICIPATING WARSHIP

- **INS Nireekshak:** A 'Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel' belonging to the Indian Navy.

3. PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- To enhance **interoperability** between the navies of the two nations.
- To share **best practices** in diving operations.
- To promote security and stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

4. KEY INITIATIVES & ASSISTANCE (EXAM POINTS)

- **Aarogya Maitri:** As part of this initiative, India gifted two **BHISHM Cubes** (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) to Sri Lanka.

- **BHISHM Cube:** These are state-of-the-art portable medical units. Each cube is capable of handling up to 200 emergency cases.
- **Defense Cooperation:** The Indian Navy provided **50,000 rounds of 9mm ammunition** to Sri Lanka.

5. RELATED VISION (POLICY CONTEXT)

- These exercises are conducted as part of the Government of India's **MAHASAGAR** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision.

IMPORTANT PRACTICE POINTS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- **Which Indian warship participated in the IN-SLN DIVEX 2026 exercise?**

(Answer: INS Nireekshak)

- **What are the 'BHISHM' cubes provided by India to Sri Lanka related to?**

(Answer: Portable medical units / Emergency medical services)

- **What is the primary objective of the 'Aarogya Maitri' project?**

(Answer: To provide medical assistance to friendly nations during disasters or humanitarian crises)

- **What is the MAHASAGAR vision related to?**

(Answer: Comprehensive security and growth among nations in the Indian Ocean Region)