

UNDERSTAND UPSC

POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "Universities are different from religious institutions"**What is a 'minority institution'?**

- **Article 30(1):** guarantees **religious and linguistic minorities** to establish and manage educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 30(2):** State must ensure **"equality of treatment"** in granting aid to all educational institutions, regardless of their minority status.
- **Article 15(5):** Minority institutions are exempted from providing reservations for SCs and STs, and may **reserve up to 50% of seats for students** from their own community.
- **T.M.A. Pai Foundation (2002) case:** the Supreme Court clarified that a **'minority' status should be determined based on the demographic composition of the concerned State**, rather than the national population.

Aligarh Muslim University:

- In **1875**, Muslim reformer and educationist **Sir Syed Ahmed Khan** established the **Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College in Aligarh** to offer **modern British education rooted in Islamic values to Muslims**.
- In **1920**, the Aligarh Muslim University Act (AMU Act) passed:
 - Under the Act, **only Muslims** were permitted to be members of the **university's governing body**.
 - Students from other religious communities were also admitted.
- **1965 Amendment to AMU Act:** allowed **President of India to nominate members to governing body** (no more limited to Muslim community).
- In **2005**, the university introduced a policy reserving **50% of seats for Muslim students**.
 - **Allahabad High Court struck down the policy** on the ground that the university did not qualify as a minority institution, since it was established through Central legislation i.e AMU Act 1920.

2024 Supreme Court Verdict:

- Educational institutions established before the Constitution's adoption are **entitled to the protections granted in Article 30(1)**.
- **Statutory enactments recognizing institutions** do not compromise their minority character.
- **An institution retains its minority character** even if its administration is no longer community-based.
- **Recognising an institution as one of national importance** does not inherently diminish its minority character.

16 Nov 2024

ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

TEXTILE SECTOR

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "India must seize the opportunity to boost textile exports"**Status of textile sector:**

- **Potential:**
 - **Textile and apparel industry, worth \$150 billion in India.**
 - In 2022, India was the **third largest textile exporter** globally, with a 5.5% share.
- **Employment:**
 - **Second largest manufacturing capacity**, with a robust capability across the value chain.
 - About **10.5 crore people are employed** by the textile and garment units, directly and indirectly. compared to 5.5 million in the IT sector.
 - **Textile factories often employ 60-70% women**, empowering those who might otherwise be confined to unpaid work.
- **Contribution:**
 - The sector's **contribution to GDP is close to 2.5%** (FY21) and 10% of total manufacturing GVA in 2023.
 - Home to **80% of MSMEs**.

Causes for decline:

- **Geopolitical developments:** wars, supply chain issues etc.
- **Slump in demand** in buying countries due to global slowdown.
- The **imposition of a 10% import duty** on cotton has made Indian cotton more expensive compared to international prices.
 - As a result of the above, **Tamil Nadu**, which has the largest spinning capacity in the country, saw the **closure of nearly 500 textile mills in the last two years**.
- **Job losses in manufacturing sector due to imports of Chinese goods:** ~2 million jobs were lost in the textile and toy industries between 2015 and 2020-**FICCI 2021**.

PM MITRA:

- **Ministry:** Textiles.
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Aim:** 5F vision: **F**arm to **F**ibre to **F**actory to **F**ashion to **F**oreign.

Features:

- **PM MITRA parks: 1000+ acres** of land with an integrated **value chain of everything at once place** spinning, weaving, processing etc.
- **Bring down the logistics cost** Eg. **Cotton of Maharashtra is processed in Tamil Nadu** due to lack of spinning equipment in Maharashtra.
- Intended to generate **1 lakh direct and 2 lakh indirect Employment** per park.
- Park sites will be selected on objective criteria.

16 Nov 2024

BIODIVERSITY

PRE-CONTEXT

ELEPHANT

THE HINDU, Pg.NO: 7.

News: "A jumbo crisis in Madhya Pradesh".

Context: 10 Elephants died after eating Kodo millet in Bhadvagarh National Park (MP).

Elephants:

- **Largest living land animal on Earth**, considered a **keystone species** (their activities shape the environment, benefiting other species).
- **Three species of Elephants:**
 - African Savanna Elephant (EN), African Forest (CR) Elephant, Asian Elephant (EN).
 - **African Elephants have significantly larger ears** compared to Asian Elephants.
 - In case of **African elephants both males and females have tusks**, while in Asian elephants, only males typically have large tusks.
- They've got **thick skin (protects from sunburn)**.
- An Elephant **never forgets**.
- Elephants are **constantly eating** (need to eat 150kg food per day).
- They have **long gestation period of 22 months** (longest of any animal in the world).
- They can hear and **communicate through the ground (seismic signals)** and **sound of approaching cloud**.
- They are **intelligent and social animals**, living in herds with their relatives.
- They can **live upto 60-70 years** in the wild.
- **Botswana has highest number of Elephants in the world (1,30,000)**.

India and Asian Elephant Conservation:

- **Project Elephant is now merged with Project Tiger**.
- **Listed under Schedule I of WLP, 1972**, providing the highest level of legal protection.
- **Elephant census 2017:** approx 30,000 elephant population present in India.
- **Elephant corridors:** Narrow strips of land that connect two significant habitats of elephants.
 - The **Northeast region** possesses the highest number and the largest area of the Elephant Corridors.
- **Elephant Reserves:** dedicated protected habitats for Indian elephants.
 - As of 2024, **there are a total of 33 Elephant Reserves** present.
 - **Largest** in Singhbhum (Jharkhand).
 - **Highest** in Assam and TamilNadu (5 ERs in each).
- **Highest population of Elephants:** Mysore (Karnataka).

About Kodo Millet:

- **High in protein and fibre**, Kodo has now become popular among people with lifestyle diseases.
- **Kodo is more susceptible to fungal infections** (especially ergot fungi), fungi produce chemicals called mycotoxins.
- **Elephants ate fungal infected Kodo**.

Mycotoxins:

- **Myco** = fungal, **toxin** = poison.
- **Several mycotoxins** are known, including *aflatoxins, ochratoxin, patulin, trichothecene* etc not always destroyed by cooking since **they can withstand high temperatures**.
- **Conventional methods cannot detect them easily:** they're tasteless and odourless, those who consume them are unaware of their existence.

ADESH



Thank you!