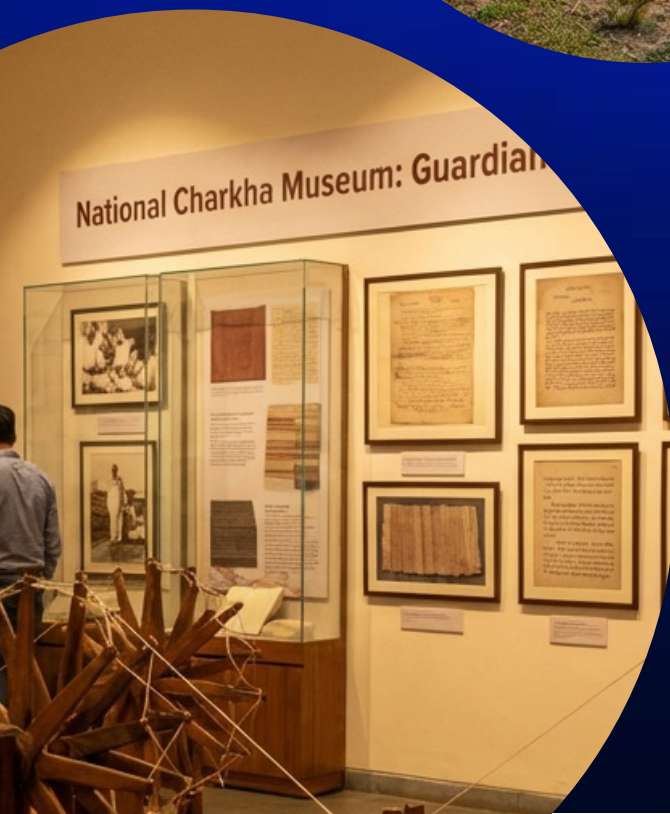




PadhAI

Kurukshetra

December Edition



Welcome to PadhAI

KURUKSHETRA MONTHLY COVERAGE

You are here because you understand a fundamental truth of UPSC preparation: ***it's not about reading everything – it's about reading what truly matters, in the right way, at the right time.***

Magazines like Kurukshetra offer deep insights into rural development, governance, social schemes, and grassroots policy implementation. Yet for many aspirants, the challenge lies in separating exam-relevant content from general narratives.

PadhAI's Kurukshetra coverage is designed to do exactly that - ***filter, structure, and align policy discussions with UPSC requirements.***

Why This Kurukshetra Coverage Matters

At PadhAI, we don't reproduce articles. We ***extract core themes***, map them with the syllabus, and connect them with ***Prelims and Mains PYQs***.

Every topic included here:

- carries relevance for ***GS Papers or Essay***,
- strengthens understanding of ***developmental and governance issues, and***
- builds ***analytical depth*** rather than surface-level knowledge.

Nothing is added for volume.

Everything is added for value.

Part of the PadhAI Preparation Ecosystem

This Kurukshetra coverage forms part of a larger, integrated learning system that includes:

- early and concise ***monthly magazines***,
- ***daily PIB summaries*** with exam-focused clarity,
- ***monthly compliance tracking***,
- complete ***Prelims & Mains PYQs with structured answers***,
- relevant ***news article summaries***, and
- ***personal tutor chat support*** for continuous guidance.

The aim is simple:

one trusted ecosystem instead of multiple scattered sources.

Our Guiding Philosophy

At PadhAI, everything is built around one belief:

- *Learn only what matters.*
- *Learn it the right way.*
- *Learn it at the right time.*

We don't believe in shortcuts.

We believe in clarity, consistency, and cumulative preparation.

A Final Note

UPSC preparation is demanding and often overwhelming.

PadhAI exists to ensure you prepare with ***direction, relevance, and confidence*** — never blindly, never alone.

If this **Kurukshetra** coverage helps you save time, connect policy with practice, and strengthen your answers, then it has served its purpose.

Welcome to PadhAI.

A community built to prepare — not to overwhelm.

Topic 1: Khadi: Innovation, Sustainability and India's Textile Renaissance



Summary: Khadi is an iconic hand-spun and handwoven fabric that serves as a convergence of **heritage, sustainability, and rural livelihoods**. In the modern era, it has been repositioned as a **premium, eco-conscious textile** that offers a viable alternative to resource-intensive fast fashion while promoting inclusive growth.

Background: The roots of Khadi extend back to ancient civilisations, with archaeological evidence from **Mohenjo-Daro** and references in **Chanakya's Arthashastra**. It gained modern political significance in 1918 when **Mahatma Gandhi** launched the Khadi Movement to resist colonial economic exploitation and address rural poverty through **Swadeshi and self-reliance**.

Key Points:

- **Definition and Characteristics:** Khadi (or khaddar) is hand-spun and handwoven from natural fibres like cotton, silk, or wool, offering unique **breathability and thermal versatility**.
- **Institutionalisation:** Following independence, the sector was structured through the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), 1957**, to manage raw materials, production techniques, and marketing.
- **Designer-Led Revival:** Efforts in the late 1980s and 1990s by designers like Ritu Kumar began repositioning Khadi as a **premium artisanal fabric** by introducing contemporary patterns and innovative dyeing.

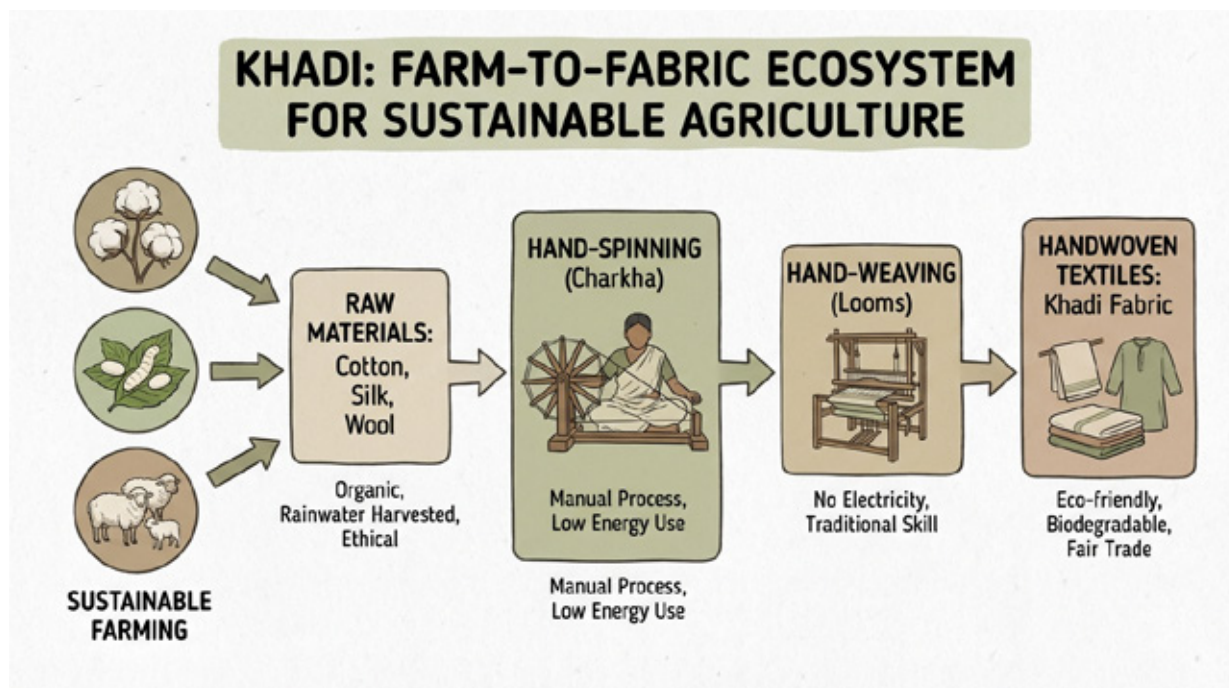
- **Technological Interventions:** Modern resurgence is supported by **solar-powered charkhas**, ergonomic looms, and low-impact dyes that reduce physical drudgery while maintaining the fabric's handmade character.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. Khadi is defined under the KVIC Act, 1956, as cloth hand-spun and handwoven from cotton, silk, or wool in India.
2. The **charkha** served as a national symbol of resistance and dignity of labour during the freedom movement.
3. The global fashion industry is responsible for nearly **10 per cent of global carbon emissions**, making Khadi's low-energy production highly relevant.
4. KVIC operates under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which of the following bodies was established in 1957 to institutionalise the promotion and development of the Khadi sector in India? A) National Textile Corporation B) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) C) Handloom Export Promotion Council D) Ministry of Textiles **Answer: B** (KVIC was established in 1957 to supply raw materials, improve techniques, and generate sustainable rural employment.)

Topic 2: Strengthening the Rural Economy and Self-Reliance



Summary: Khadi acts as a major driver for the **rural economy**, integrating self-reliance with national identity under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative. It creates a decentralised value chain that empowers women and supports millions of livelihoods in semi-urban and rural regions.

Background: Mahatma Gandhi envisioned Khadi as a tool for **economic Swaraj**, allowing villages to become self-sufficient units. Post-independence, KVIC has been mandated to foster rural industrialisation and prevent distress migration by providing credit and skill support.

Key Points:

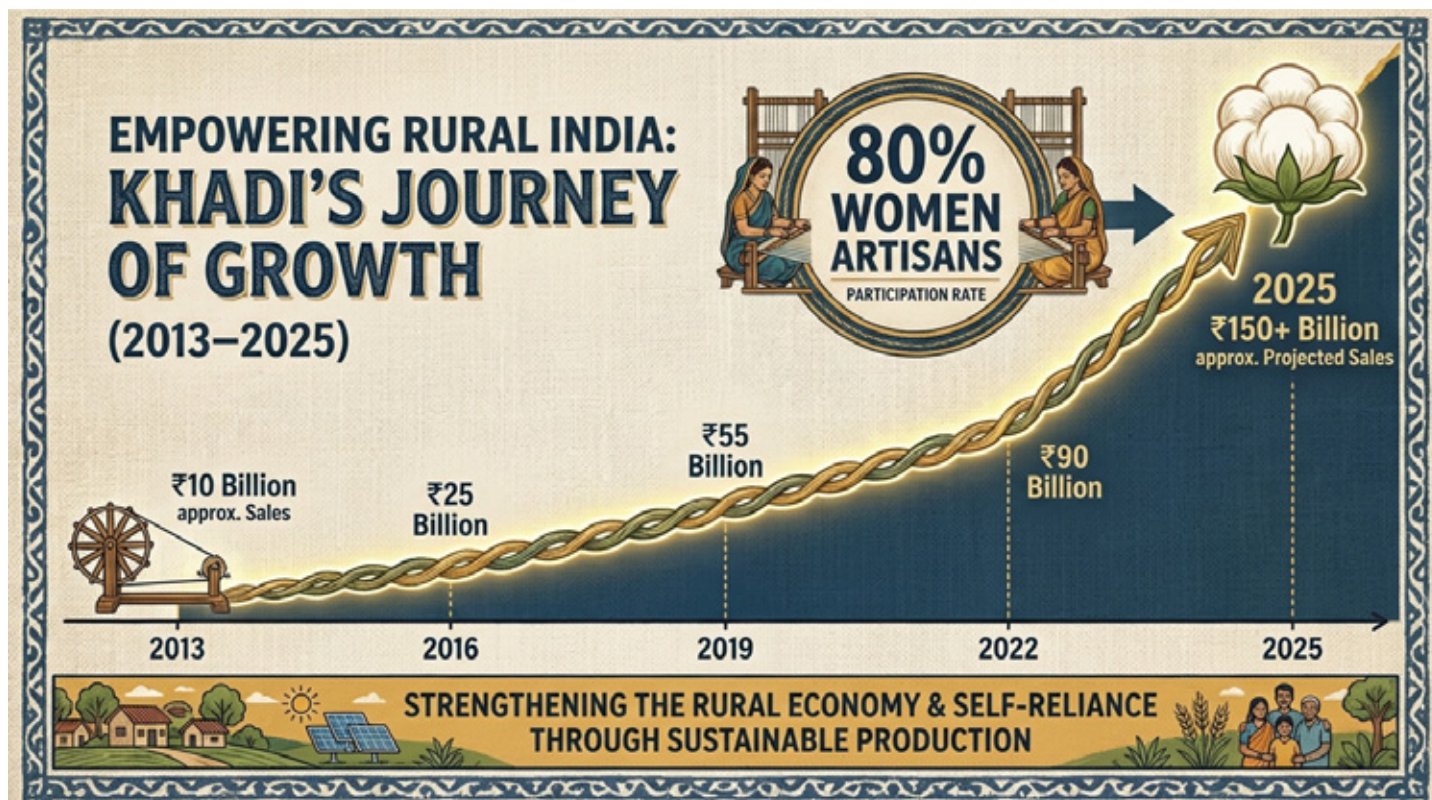
- **Historic Growth:** Between 2013–14 and 2024–25, Khadi production increased by **347 per cent**, while sales grew by **447 per cent**, reaching a historic turnover of **Rs 1.70 lakh crore**.
- **Employment and Women Empowerment:** The sector supports approximately **1.94 crore people**, and notably, women constitute **80 per cent of all Khadi artisans**.
- **Global Reach:** KVIC has registered Khadi trademarks in **15 countries** and logos in 31, with international brands like **Patagonia** placing significant orders for the fabric.
- **The 3P Approach:** The Ministry of MSME utilises a strategy to **Protect, Promote, and Propel** the industry through infrastructure modernisation and diversified market access.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. Artisan wages in the Khadi sector have increased by **275 per cent** over the last 11 years.
2. India's first **Khadi Mall**, featuring AI-based virtual try-ons, is located at Connaught Place in New Delhi.
3. The **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** has generated employment for 90 lakh individuals through micro-enterprises.
4. Khadi exports stood at **Rs 37.88 crore** in 2023–24, reaching markets such as Russia, China, and Tanzania.

MCQ Practice: Q. What percentage of Khadi artisans in India are women, as per the MSME and KVIC data for 2024–25? A) 33% B) 50% C) 80% D) 95% **Answer: C** (Women constitute 80 per cent of Khadi artisans, benefiting from home-based spinning and weaving that promotes social empowerment.)

Topic 3: Khadi as a Driver of Sustainable Agriculture



Summary: Khadi serves as a strategic link between **agriculture and cottage industries**, enhancing rural resilience by providing income diversification for small and marginal farmers. It promotes a **green economy** through the use of organic fibres and natural dyes, aligning with global climate goals.

Background: The **farm-to-fabric ecosystem** preserves traditional skills while maximising local resource utilisation. This symbiosis is reinforced by Gandhian principles that encourage household-level production during agricultural off-seasons to reduce economic dependence.

Key Points:

- **Livelihood Security:** By offering off-season employment, Khadi reduces the vulnerability of rural families to **climatic shocks and crop failures**.
- **Sustainable Sourcing:** The industry sources raw materials directly from farms, including **cotton, silk (sericulture), and wool (sheep rearing)**.
- **Millet Mission Integration:** Linking Khadi with **millets (Shree Anna)** strengthens climate-smart livelihoods as millets require less water and are suitable for dry regions.
- **Flagship Allied Schemes:** Initiatives like the **Honey Mission** (beekeeping) and **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana** (pottery) further diversify supplementary rural income.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. Khadi production involves **negligible carbon emissions** due to manual hand-spinning and hand-weaving processes.
2. The **SFURTI** scheme focuses on cluster-based development for infrastructure and marketing of traditional industries like Khadi.
3. Integration with organic practices helps Khadi align with India's **Net Zero 2070** commitment.
4. The sector created **10.17 lakh new jobs** over the last decade, reflecting an 81 per cent growth in employment.

MCQ Practice: Q. How does the Khadi sector contribute to India's Net Zero 2070 commitment? A) Through the mass production of synthetic fibres B) By using manual production processes with minimal electricity and low carbon footprints C) By centralising all textile production in urban hubs D) By relying exclusively on heavy industrial machinery **Answer: B** (Manual hand-spinning and weaving result in negligible carbon emissions and minimal electricity dependence.)

Topic 4: Eco-Friendly Textile and Living Cultural Heritage



Summary: Khadi is reimagined as a **climate-smart textile** and a **living heritage craft**, embodying ethical consumption long before sustainability became a global trend. It exemplifies

a **circular economy** through zero-waste craftsmanship and the use of biodegradable natural fibres.

Background: The fabric is rooted in a philosophy of **harmony between nature, craft, and community**. Post-independence, the government has protected this heritage value through the **Khadi Mark certification** to ensure authenticity against machine-made imitations.

Key Points:

- **Low Energy Footprint:** Manual spinning eliminates the need for heavy machinery and electricity, distinguishing it from mill-made fabrics.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Being biodegradable, natural Khadi fibres avoid the **microplastic pollution** associated with synthetic textiles.
- **Water Efficiency:** The use of natural and herbal dyes minimises water pollution and toxic chemical discharge.
- **Heritage Governance:** KVIC and State Khadi Boards use schemes like **SFURTI** to regenerate traditional clusters and integrate them into **heritage tourism circuits**.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. **Khadi Mark certification** is used to protect the fabric's heritage value and ensure its authenticity.
2. The manual production of Khadi reflects **circular economy principles** by reusing fabric scraps for accessories and paper.
3. Fast fashion consumes vast resources, while Khadi offers a **low-impact, slow-fashion alternative**.
4. The UGC and NIFT have established **Centres of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK)** to bridge the gap between heritage craft and modern markets.

MCQ Practice: Q. In the context of the circular economy, how is "zero-waste craftsmanship" practiced in the Khadi industry? A) By discarding all fabric scraps to maintain quality B) By using only synthetic dyes that never fade C) By reusing fabric scraps for accessories, quilts, and paper production D) By burning excess materials to generate electricity **Answer: C** (Khadi follows circular economy principles by reusing scraps for various products, minimising waste.)