



## Sericulture in India

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### Why in News

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**Cocoon production in Karnataka** has picked up to meet the growing demand for indigenous silk.

Silk imports from China have been badly hit on account of **Coronavirus**.

### Key Points

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- **Sericulture:**
  - It is an **agro-based industry**.
  - It involves **rearing of silkworms** for the production of raw silk, which is the yarn obtained out of cocoons spun by certain species of insects.
  - The major activities of sericulture comprise of food-plant cultivation to feed the silkworms which spin silk cocoons and reeling the cocoons for unwinding the silk filament for value-added benefits such as processing and weaving.
  - **Domesticated silkworm (Bombyx mori)** are raised for the purpose of sericulture.
- The **Government of India** has allocated ₹2161.68 crores for three years i.e. **2017-2020** to its **Central Sector Scheme 'Silk Samagra'** for the development of sericulture in the country.
- **Silk Production in India:**
  - There are **five major types of silk of commercial importance**, obtained from different species of silkworms. These are **Mulberry, Oak Tasar & Tropical Tasar, Muga and Eri**.
  - Except for mulberry, other non-mulberry varieties of silks are **wild silks**, known as **vanya silks**.
  - India has the **unique distinction of producing all these commercial varieties** of silk.
  - **South India** is the leading silk producing area of the country and is also known for its famous silk weaving enclaves like **Kancheepuram, Dharmavaram, Arni**, etc.

Sl no	State	Silk Centre
1	Andhra	Dharmavaram, Pochampalli, Venkatagiri, Narainpet
2	Assam	Sualkuchi
3	Bihar	Bhagalpur
4	Gujarat	Surat, Cambay
5	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
6	Karnataka	Bangalore, Anekal, Ilkal, Molakalmuru, Melkote, Kollegal
7	Chattisgarh	Champa, Chanderi, Raigarh
8	Maharashtra	Paithan
9	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram, Arni, Salem, Kumbhakonam, Tanjavur
10	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi
11	West Bengal	Bishnupur, Murshidabad, Birbhum

**Source: TH**