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National Technical Textiles Mission

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Why in News

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the setting up of a **National Technical Textiles Mission** at a total outlay of ₹1,480 crores.

Key Points

- It aims to position the country as a **global leader in technical textiles** and **increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market**.
The Mission will aim at taking **domestic market size to \$40 billion to \$50 billion by 2024**.
- A **Mission Directorate** will be operational in the **Ministry of Textiles**.

- It will be implemented for **four years starting from 2020-2021** and will have **four components-**
 - **First component:** It will focus on **research, development and innovation** with an outlay of ₹1,000 crores.
 - The **research** will be at both **fibre level and application-based** in geo, agro, medical, sports and mobile textiles and development of bio-degradable technical textiles.
 - Research activities will also focus on the **development of indigenous machinery and process equipment.**
 - **Second component:** It will be for the **promotion and development of the market** for technical textiles.
 - **Third component:** It will focus on **export promotion** so that technical textile exports from the country reach from the ₹14,000 crores to ₹20,000 crores by 2021-2022 and **ensure 10% average growth every year** till the Mission ends.

An **export promotion** council for technical textiles will be set up.
 - **Fourth component:** It will focus on **education, training and skill development.**

The Mission will **promote technical education at higher engineering** and technology levels related to technical textiles and its application areas.

- **Data on the Indian Technical Textiles Segment:**

- It is estimated at \$16 billion which is approximately 6% of the \$250 billion global technical textiles market.
- The penetration level of technical textiles in India varies between 5% and 10% against the level of 30% to 70% in developed countries.

Technical Textiles

- Technical textiles are **functional fabrics** that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.
- Based on usage, there are **12 technical textile segments**; Agrotech, Meditech, Buildtech, Mobiltech, Clothtech, Oekotech, Geotech, Packtech, Hometech, Protech, Indutech and Sportech.
- **For example**, ‘mobiltech’ refers to products in vehicles such as seat belts and airbags, airplane seats; geotech, which is incidentally the fastest growing sub-segment, used to hold back soil, etc.

Source: TH