



## Indian Coir Industry

**For Prelims:** Coir, MSME, Eco mark, Initiatives related to Coir

**For Mains:** Mobilization of Resources, Status of Coir Industry and its Significance

### Why in News?

The Ministry of [Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises](#) inaugurated the 'Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022' at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

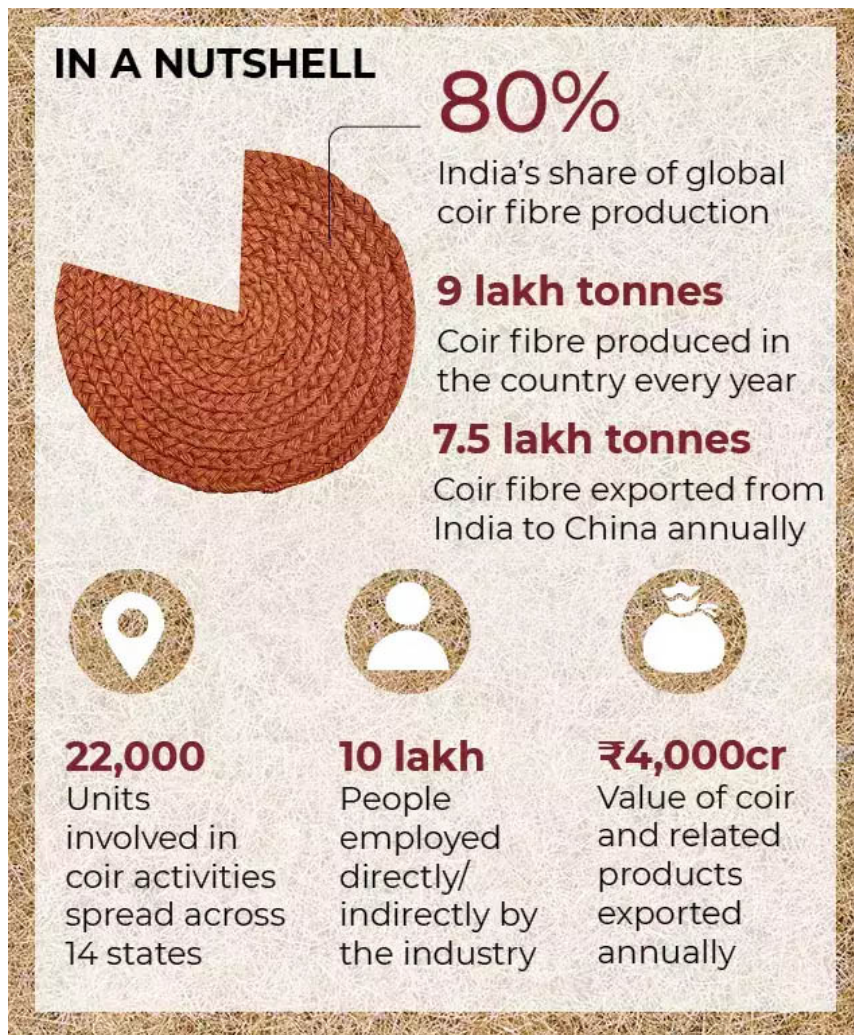
- The event is being organized with the idea of bringing **about a co-ordinated effort between the State and Central Governments to promote production of coir and coir products** and to identify new areas of application of coir.
- A 'Run for Coir' is also being organized on **6<sup>th</sup> may, 2022** to promote the use of coir, as a natural, degradable, eco-friendly product. More than a thousand people, including dignitaries, college students and the general public are expected to participate in the run.

### What is Coir?

- It is a **material found in nature; a hearty byproduct of coconuts** produced in abundance by coconut palms.
- It is the **naturally occurring fibrous material found on the outside of coconut husks** that is naturally processed for use.
- Coir has been **used for centuries by navigators in rope form for rigging and ship cables.**
- Today, **coir is used to create an assortment of products, from rugs and doormats to plant pots and hanging basket liners, to cultivation-enhancing gardening material and blankets** used for erosion control. Some potting mix products also include coir.

### What is the Status of Coir Industry in India?

- Coir Board was set up under the **Coir Industry Act, 1953 by the Government of India** for the overall sustainable development of coir industry in the Country.
- The **functions of the Board are** undertaking, assisting and encouraging scientific, technological and economic research, modernization, quality improvement, human resource development, market promotion and welfare of all those who are engaged in this industry.
- The functions mandated under the Coir Industry Act are carried out by **Coir Board under the various Schemes/Programmes, including research and development activities, training programmes, extending financial support** for setting up of coir units, domestic as well as export market development, welfare measures to the workers etc.



### What is its Significance?

- **Employment:**
  - The Coir industry provides **employment to more than 7 lakh people in the rural areas of the coconut growing states.**
  - More interestingly, 80% of these artisans **are women but its production has so far been confined to the southern coconut producing States/UTs in the country.**
- **Export:**
  - The export of Coir and Coir products from India during the year **2020-21 registered an all-time high record of Rs.3778.98 crores** with an increase of over Rs.1021 crores from the previous year.
- **Domestic Consumption:**
  - Over **50% of the coir fiber produced annually throughout the world is consumed mainly in India.**
  - **The growing affinity towards environmentally friendly products has helped coir and coir products in domestic as well as foreign markets.**
- **Eco-friendly:**
  - Coir Products are **ecofriendly in nature and gained “Eco Mark”** certification by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. Of India.
  - Coir products **save the environment and help to reverse Global Warming.**
  - New end use applications of coir like the use of **Coir Geotextiles for preventing soil erosion, conversion of Coir Pith into a valuable bio- fertilizer and soil conditioner** and Coir Garden articles have gained popularity in India and abroad.

### What are some Indian Initiatives Related to Coir?

#### ▪ **Coir Geo Textile:**

- Coir Geotextile is **naturally resistant to rot, mold and moisture, and free from any microbial attack** hence it needs no chemical treatment.

#### ▪ **Coir Udyami Yojana:**

- Coir Udyami Yojana is a **credit linked subsidy scheme for setting up of coir units with project cost up to Rs.10 lakhs** plus one cycle of working capital, which shall not exceed 25% of the project cost. The scheme is being implemented by the Coir Board.

#### ▪ **Coir Vikas Yojana:**

- The scheme **facilitates development of domestic and export markets, skill development and training, empowerment of women**, employment/entrepreneurship creation and development, enhanced raw material utilization, trade related services, welfare activities for the coir workers, etc.
- This is undertaken through **the following 6 schemes:**
  - Skill Upgradation and Mahlia Coir Yojana
  - Export Market Promotion (EMP)
  - Development of Production Infrastructure (DPI)
  - Domestic Market Promotion (DMP)
  - Trade and Industry Related Functional Support Services (TIRFSS)
  - Welfare Measure (Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme)

### **Way Forward**

- Coir has immense potential and can really play an instrumental role in enhancing exports and adding to MSME's share in **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** of the country.
- Coir is a good example of **'waste to wealth'**, which provides a sustainable solution, as it is eco-friendly and helps conservation of water and soil.

**Source: PIB**

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