Syllabus subtopic: Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.

**Prelims and Mains focus**: about the new textile policy: key focus areas and challenges ahead

**News**: The Central Government is expected to roll out a Textile Policy by the middle of 2020.

**Background**

The existing **National Textile Policy 2000** was framed about 13 years ago. Since then, the industry has undergone various changes on the domestic and international front. The domestic textile industry has seen large-scale modernisation and technological up-gradation in the last decade and faces new challenges.

**About the new policy**

- It is aimed at developing in the country a **competitive textile sector** which is **modern, sustainable and inclusive**.

- This new policy will have a **special focus on manufacturing of apparel and garment, technical textiles, man-made fibre products and exports**.

- It will envisage positioning India as a fully integrated, globally-competitive manufacturing and exporting hub.

- It will entail the strategy and action plan for the country’s textile and apparel segments, **while maintaining pre-eminent position in handicraft and handloom sectors**.

- **Technical textiles**: The Cabinet is expected to approve the **National Technical Textiles Mission**, announced in the Budget, soon. The govt. will
spend Rs.1,000 crore in developing raw materials for technical textiles; research associations will be asked to produce applications for these.

Challenges ahead

- need for **cost effectiveness** is a major challenge.

- One factor affecting cost effectiveness is **lack of scale**. New industries should look at scale. The Textiles Ministry **plans to develop 10 mega textile parks. Each one will be an integrated park**. It is hoped to bring some economies of scale with this. Any State which has minimum 1,000 acres ready for the park will be supported to develop it.

- **Indian exporters** are largely **cotton based**. Therefore we should move to **MMF (manmade fibre)**. If Indian exports in MMF grow to the level of cotton (i.e., the share of Indian cotton product exports in global trade) the overall exports will increase by $20-25 billion.