



# Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme

**For Prelims:** Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme Scheme

**For Mains:** Leather Industry, Government policies and interventions

## Why in News?

Recently, the Union Government has approved the continuation of the Scheme '**Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)**' till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 or till further review.

- IFLDP was approved as continuation of the erstwhile IFLADP (**Indian Footwear Leather and Accessories Development Programme**).

## What is IFLDP Scheme?

### ▪ About:

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, which aims at **development of infrastructure** for the leather sector, address **environmental concerns** specific to the leather sector, facilitate **additional investments, employment generation and increase in production**.
- It was launched by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

### ▪ Sub-Schemes:

- Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (STEP)
- Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS)
- Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD)
- Establishment of Institutional Facilities (EIF)
- Brand Promotion of Indian Brands in Footwear and Leather Sector
- Development of Design Studios in Footwear and Leather Sector

## What is the Impact of erstwhile IFLADP?

- The programme has a direct benefit towards **quality employment** generation especially for women, **skill development**, decent work, making the industry more **environment friendly** and prompting a **sustainable production system**.
- The leather clusters located in different parts of the country have accrued benefit in terms of **reduction of poverty, gender equality, sector specific skill/education**, etc., thus touching many of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Other **National Development Plans (NDPs)** such as economic growth, generation of employment, good health and well-being, infrastructure development, affordable and **clean energy** and other environmental benefits are well-served by the IFLAD Programme.

## What is the Current Status of India's Leather Industry?

- The Leather industry in India accounts for around **13% of the world's leather production** of hides/skins and handles a robust **annual production of about 3 bn sq. ft. of leather.**
- The industry is known for its consistency in high export earnings and it is among the **top 10 foreign exchange earners for the country.**
- India has an abundance of raw materials with **access to 20% of the world's cattle and buffalo** and **11% of the world's goat and sheep population.**
- The Leather industry is an employment intensive industry providing **jobs to more than 4 million people**, mostly from the **weaker sections of the society.**
  - Women employment is predominant in Leather products industry with about 30% share.
  - The Leather industry in India has one of the youngest workforces with 55% of the workforce below 35 years of age.
- As of 2022, India is the **second largest producer of footwear and leather garments**, second largest exporter of leather garments and fifth largest exporter of leather goods & accessories in the world.
- The **major production centres of leather and footwear products** in India are located in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.
- The **major markets** for Indian Leather & Footwear Products are USA, Germany, U.K, Italy, France, Spain, Netherlands, U.A.E, China, Hong Kong, Belgium, and Poland.
  - USA is the **largest importer of leather and leather products from India** and accounted for 25.19% of the country's total leather exports during April-August 2022.

**Source: PIB**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/indian-footwear-and-leather-development-programme-1>

