



# World Cotton Day 2023

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## Why in News?

Recently, the [Ministry of Textiles](#) hosted a conference for [World Cotton Day](#) (7<sup>th</sup> October , 2023) in collaboration with [Cotton Corporation of India \(CCI\)](#) and EU-Resource Efficiency Initiative which discussed best practices and sustainable methods in the cotton value chain.

- Conference led to the Introduction of the "**Bale Identification and Traceability System (BITS)**" using [Blockchain Technology](#).
- It also led to the launch of the Kasturi [Cotton program](#) for quality cotton with traceability.

## Note

On October 7, 2019, the [World Trade Organisation \(WTO\)](#) organized the first World Cotton Day, initiated by the Cotton-4 nations, which are Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali.

## What is Bale Identification and Traceability System (BITS) and Kasturi Cotton Program ?

- **Bale Identification and Traceability System (BITS):**
  - The BITS is a technological initiative in the cotton industry that utilizes [Blockchain Technology](#) to assign **unique QR codes to cotton bales**.
- **Objective:**
  - BITS was introduced to ensure that key information about cotton bales, such as their quality, variety, origin, and processing details, is transparent and easily accessible to both domestic and international buyers.
- **Traceability:**
  - By scanning the QR code, stakeholders, including cotton buyers, textile manufacturers, and others, **can trace the entire journey** of the cotton bale from its origin to the final product.
- **Implementation:**
  - BITS is implemented by the **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders **such as State Governments**.
- **Kasturi Cotton Program:**
  - The [Kasturi Cotton Program](#) is an initiative introduced by the **Ministry of Textiles** in India to promote the production and availability of premium quality cotton with traceability.
    - **TEXPROCIL**, in collaboration with CCI on behalf of the Ministry of Textiles, is overseeing the implementation of this program.
  - **Certified Quality:**
    - **Kasturi Cotton is not just any cotton**; it is certified to meet certain quality standards, which may include **fiber length, strength, color, and other characteristics** that make it suitable for premium textile products.

## What are the Key Facts about Cotton?

- **About:** Kharif Crop which requires 6 to 8 months to mature.
  - Drought - resistant crops which are ideal for arid climates.
  - Occupies 2.1% of the world's arable land, meets 27% of the world's textiles needs.
- **Temperature:** Between 21-30°C.
- **Rainfall:** Around 50-100 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Well-drained **black cotton soil (Regur Soil)** (E.g. Soil of Deccan Plateau)
- **Products:** fiber, oil and animal feed.
- **Top Cotton Producing Countries:** India > China > US
- **Top Cotton Producing States in India:** Gujarat > Maharashtra > Telangana > Andhra Pradesh > Rajasthan.
- **Four cultivated species of cotton:** Gossypium arboreum, G. herbaceum, G. hirsutum and G. barbadense.
  - **Gossypium arboreum and G. herbaceum** are known as old-world cotton or Asiatic cotton.
  - **G. hirsutum** is also known as American cotton or upland cotton and G. barbadense as Egyptian cotton. These are both new world cotton species.
- **Hybrid Cotton:** Cotton made by **crossing two parent strains** that have different genetic characters. Hybrids are often spontaneously and randomly created in nature when open-pollinated plants naturally cross-pollinate with other related varieties.
- **Bt Cotton:** It is a **genetically modified organism** or genetically modified pest-resistant variety of cotton.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q1. The black cotton soil of India has been formed due to the weathering of (2011)**

- (a) brown forest soil
- (b) fissure volcanic rock
- (c) granite and schist
- (d) shale and limestone

**Ans: (b)**

**Q2. A state in India has the following characteristics: (2011)**

1. Its northern part is arid and semi-arid.
2. Its central part produces cotton.
3. Cultivation of cash crops is predominant over food crops.

**Which one of the following states has all of the above characteristics?**

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Tamil Nadu

**Ans: (b)**

**Q3. With reference to the cultivation of Kharif crops in India in the last five years, consider the following statements: (2019)**

1. Area under rice cultivation is the highest.
2. Area under cultivation of jowar is more than that of oilseeds.
3. Area of cotton cultivation is more than that of sugarcane.
4. Area under sugarcane cultivation has steadily decreased.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- (a)** 1 and 3 only
- (b)** 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c)** 2 and 4 only
- (d)** 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (a)**

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