

**1. Telangana has witnessed a surge in rice production in recent years. Analyze the contributing factors and highlight the key challenges associated with this growth.**

### **Introduction**

Over the past decade, Telangana has emerged as a significant rice-producing state. The area under cultivation has increased from **1.31 crore acres to 2.20 crore acres**, and **paddy production has risen from 68 lakh metric tonnes to 2.7 crore metric tonnes**. The state now contributes to **over 60% of the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) paddy procurement**, transforming it into a modern-day rice bowl of India.

### **Factors Contributing to the Surge in Rice Production**

#### **1. Free Electricity Supply**

- ✓ Continuous and **uninterrupted power supply** has enabled farmers to pump groundwater and expand rice cultivation.

#### **2. Rythu Bandhu Scheme**

- ✓ Investment support of **₹10,000 per acre per year** has eased capital constraints, helping farmers purchase inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides.

#### **3. Irrigation Infrastructure Expansion**

- ✓ Post-state formation, projects like **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation, Mission Kakatiya**, and rejuvenated tank systems have significantly increased **irrigated acreage**.

#### **4. Government Procurement at MSP**

- ✓ State-supported **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** procurement has incentivized paddy cultivation.
- ✓ For instance, **37.59 lakh metric tonnes** of paddy were procured in a single recent season.

#### **5. Loan Waivers and Subsidies**

- ✓ Periodic **farm loan waivers** have improved farmers' liquidity, while **input subsidies** reduce production costs.

### **Challenges Arising from Excessive Focus on Rice**

#### **1. Monoculture Dominance**

- ✓ **Over 44 lakh acres** under paddy have led to **neglect of other crops** such as millets, pulses, and oilseeds.
- ✓ Hampers food diversity and agricultural resilience.

#### **2. Environmental Concerns**

- ✓ **High methane emissions** from flooded paddy fields contribute to greenhouse gases.
- ✓ **Overuse of water and fertilizers** leads to soil degradation and groundwater depletion.

#### **3. Lack of Crop Diversification**

- ✓ Districts like **Suryapet and Karimnagar** have the **lowest crop diversification index**, leading to regional imbal
- ✓ Neglect of vegetables and oilseeds affects **food inflation** and supply chain stability.

#### 4. Intergovernmental Conflicts

- ✓ Disputes over **paddy procurement quotas** and **WTO compliance** create federal tensions between the Centre and State.

#### Conclusion

While Telangana's rise in rice production showcases the success of pro-farmer policies, it also highlights the **risks of unsustainable crop patterns**. Going forward, promoting **crop diversification**—especially through **incentives for oil palm, millets, and horticulture**—is critical to ensuring long-term **food security, environmental sustainability, and agricultural resilience**.

## 2. Provide an overview of the traditional handicrafts industry in Telangana. What are the key issues hindering its sustainability and global competitiveness?

#### Introduction

Telangana has a rich legacy of traditional handicrafts that reflect its cultural depth and artisanal excellence. These crafts are not only a source of **livelihood for rural and tribal communities**, but also act as **living repositories of heritage and creativity**. Spread across various districts, these crafts have earned national and international recognition.

#### Overview of Major Handicrafts in Telangana

##### 1. Wood Carvings

- Known for intricate designs and traditional motifs.
- **Nirmal wooden furniture and Nizamabad panels** are popular examples

##### 2. Traditional Paintings

- Include **Cheriyal scroll paintings, Nirmal paintings, and Batik art**.
- Rich in storytelling and folk themes, these are integral to Telangana's visual culture.

##### 3. Metal Crafts

- Include **Bidriware, Pembrothi brassware, Dokra casting, and Karimnagar silver filigree**.
- These crafts require skilled labor and are often passed down through generations.

##### 4. Textile and Fabric Arts

- Telangana is known for **Pochampally Ikat, Gadwal saris, Narayanpet handlooms, and Siddipet Gollabama weaves**.
- Cotton durries and handwoven garments symbolize a blend of utility and artistry.

##### 5. Toys and Jewellery

- **Nirmal toys, pearl jewellery, and lac bangles** represent vibrant folk art traditions.

#### Key Issues Hindering Sustainability and Global Competitiveness

##### 1. Lack of Access to Credit and Capital

- ✓ Artisans face difficulty accessing **institutional finance** to expand or modernize production.

##### 2. Erosion of Skilled Manpower

- ✓ Young generations are moving away from crafts due to **lack of economic viability**.
- ✓ Example: Only **two Bidri artisans remain** in Hyderabad today.

##### 3. Raw Material Shortages

- ✓ Rising **cost of inputs** and **GST imposition** on essential materials affect production costs.

#### 4. **Weak Marketing and Branding Capabilities**

- ✓ Limited knowledge of **digital marketing and e-commerce** impedes wider market access.
- ✓ Crafts often suffer from **poor visibility and weak brand identity**.

#### 5. **Competition from Industrial Goods**

- ✓ Cheap **plastic, synthetic fabrics**, and mass-manufactured alternatives undercut traditional goods.

#### 6. **Vulnerability to Market Shocks**

- ✓ Events like **COVID-19** severely affected sales and disrupted artisan livelihoods.

#### 7. **Inadequate Infrastructure and Policy Support**

- ✓ Lack of **artisan clusters, design labs, and export facilitation centers** weakens competitiveness.

### **Conclusion**

To ensure sustainability and global recognition, Telangana's handicrafts sector must be supported through **financial access, infrastructure, digital skill training, and strong branding initiatives**. Government efforts like **Nethannaku Cheyutha, Textile Park in Warangal, and GI tagging** are steps in the right direction, but long-term revival demands a **comprehensive ecosystem** that protects artisans while aligning with modern market demands.