



# 06-12-2024 NEWS

## Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

- MSMEs play a vital role in India's economic growth.
- These enterprises contribute significantly to infrastructure development, exports, and job creation as part of the national economy.
- MSMEs account for 45% of industrial production, 40% of exports, and provide employment to over 11 crore people in India.

### Classification and Distribution

- MSMEs are categorized into cottage industries, small-scale industries, and medium-scale industries.
- According to the 2023 report by the Ministry of MSMEs, India has 6.3 crore MSMEs, of which 96% are small-scale industries. This includes 3.5 lakh small-scale units and 60,000 medium-scale industries.
- The 73rd National Sample Survey indicates that most MSMEs are located in rural areas.

### Rural vs Urban MSMEs

- Rural MSMEs primarily focus on agriculture-related practices, handicrafts, and small-scale manufacturing.
- Urban MSMEs are engaged in services, production, and information technology sectors.
- The 2021 Ministry report states that 51% of MSMEs are in rural areas, engaged in activities such as food processing, handicrafts, and small-scale manufacturing. The remaining 49% are in urban areas, focusing on IT services, textiles, engineering, and other industries.

### Social Contribution

- MSMEs significantly promote gender equality, especially in industries like textiles, handicrafts, food production, and beauty products, where 20–30% of employees are women.
- MSMEs also play a key role in production, exports, and job creation, enhancing India's economic landscape.

### Key Sectors and Products

- MSMEs contribute to garment production, silk weaving, engineering tools, cosmetics, and artisanal products.
- India's handicrafts, including woodwork, jewelry, metal art, and paintings, are globally renowned, making a significant contribution to the economy.

- The food processing industry produces local delicacies, spices, and other export-quality products.

### Tamil Nadu's MSME Landscape

- Tamil Nadu is one of India's most technologically advanced states, with over 15 lakh MSMEs contributing 40% to the state's industrial production in 2021-2022.
- MSMEs in Tamil Nadu excel in automobile parts, textiles, leather goods, and food processing, with an export value of Rs.25 lakh crore annually.
- Despite their success, Tamil Nadu's MSMEs face challenges such as lack of investment, technological gaps, infrastructure issues, and human resource challenges.

## Child Marriages in India

- Annapurna Devi, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, revealed that one in five girls in India is married before turning 18 years old.
- In 2023, approximately 2 lakh child marriages were reported.
- Despite the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006), awareness remains low, particularly in rural areas where 27% of child marriages occur, compared to 15% in urban areas.

### Key Statistics and State Initiatives

- India accounts for 34% of global child marriages, with 47% occurring in South Asia.
- States like West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan have the highest rates of child marriages.
- Assam has become a model state, reducing child marriages from 3,225 in 2021-2022 to 627 in 2023-2024 by initiating 3,000 arrests.

### Legal and Strategic Measures

- Himachal Pradesh has raised the legal marriage age for girls from 18 to 21 years, ensuring stricter enforcement of child marriage laws.
- The "Child Marriage-Free India" initiative aims to reduce child marriages by 35% immediately and bring the rate down to 5% by 2029.
- Strict penalties under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006) include 2 years of imprisonment or a fine of Rs.1 lakh.
- The government and non-profits must continue working together to combat challenges in MSMEs and child marriages, both of which are crucial to India's social and economic growth.