



Sanskriti IAS



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SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS

9th April 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. The other side of sport - mastering manufacturing**
(GS Paper III - Economy)
- 2. The thermal cost of India's textile surge**
(GS Paper III - Economy)
- 3. We owe it to narishakti to come together to advance women's representation**
(GS Paper II - Polity)

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1. THE OTHER SIDE OF SPORT - MASTERING MANUFACTURING

(GS Paper III - Economy)

This editorial 'The other side of sport - mastering manufacturing' was published in **The Hindu** on 9th Apr 2026, highlights how **structural bottlenecks** are limiting India's ability to become a competitive **sports equipment** manufacturing hub.

Sector profile and structural constraints

- India's **sports economy** is expanding, but **manufacturing** remains an under-recognised growth component.
- The sector contributes only about **0.5%** to the nearly **\$50 billion** global sports goods trade.
- Domestic **production** is concentrated in **Jalandhar** and **Meerut**, which together account for over 80% output.
- The industry is dominated by **MSMEs** producing labour-intensive, low-end **equipment** in fragmented clusters.
- Strong artisanal **skills** have sustained output, but also limited scaling and **technology** adoption.
- Wide product **diversity** across equipment types makes generic **policy** interventions ineffective.

Cost, logistics and compliance barriers

- Indian firms face an average **15% cost** disadvantage against **China** and **Pakistan**.
- A football made in India may cost **₹100**, against **₹85-87** in competing countries.
- High **input costs** and weak logistics reduce export **competitiveness** and pricing power.
- Import duties on specialised **components** and advanced **machinery** raise production costs sharply.
- Northern production **concentration** increases transport dependence on distant **ports** and raises export costs.
- Rising **land prices**, fragmented infrastructure and compliance delays erode operational **efficiency**.
- India lacks enough certified **facilities** to meet global performance **standards** across sports categories.

- Annual **testing costs** of ₹5-50 lakh per **SKU** are prohibitive for MSMEs.
- Prolonged **certification** delays market entry and discourages product **innovation**.
- Weak domestic **brands** and low marketing spend depress global demand and **premiumisation**.

Reform pathway and future opportunity

- The report urges rationalised **import duties** on raw materials and advanced **machinery**.
- It recommends targeted **fiscal support**, including export incentives and certification-cost **offsets**.
- India should link sports clusters with **technical textiles**, plastics processing and light **engineering**.
- Internationally recognised **testing centres** can reduce compliance costs and accelerate **market-entry**.
- Greater domestic production of **raw materials** and performance **fabrics** can reduce import dependence.
- The demand side requires stronger **brands**, athlete linkages and coordinated national **campaigning**.
- Strategic **procurement** tied to major events can generate short-term domestic **demand**.
- The editorial sees the next **decade** as a chance to build advanced large-scale **manufacturing**.

BEYOND EDITORIAL

Need for an integrated sports industrial ecosystem

- **Cluster integration:** Sports goods manufacturing cannot scale sustainably if clusters like Jalandhar and Meerut remain weakly linked to testing, logistics, and export ecosystems.
- **Backward linkages:** A stronger domestic base in specialised materials is necessary, as the NITI Aayog-FED report itself flags dependence on imported performance inputs.
- **Technology diffusion:** MSME-dominated clusters need shared modern facilities, as the report recommends common testing and certification support rather than firm-by-firm compliance.

- **Design capability:** Global competitiveness now depends on product design and validation, as the report highlights athlete and institutional endorsement as trust-builders.
- **Standards ecosystem:** Internationally credible compliance must become ecosystem-based, because the report identifies shared testing and alignment with global standards as core gaps.
- **Domestic demand base:** A stable home market can support scale first, much like Samagra Shiksha provides annual sports-equipment grants to government schools.
- **Brand architecture:** Moving from contract production to brand ownership needs coordinated support, as the report stresses athlete linkages, branding, and market-facing credibility.

2. THE THERMAL COST OF INDIA'S TEXTILE SURGE

(GS Paper III - Economy)

This editorial 'The thermal cost of India's textile surge' was published in **The Hindu** on 9th Apr 2026, highlights how **heat stress** is turning India's **textile export** gain into a labour and supply-chain crisis.

Productivity collapse under heat stress

- India's **textile** export surge is colliding with a mounting **heat-stress** crisis in factory clusters.
- A Tamil Nadu **worker** at **40°C** can lose 50% work capacity and daily wages.
- Between 2001 and 2020, India lost **259 billion** annual **labour-hours** to heat stress.
- This annual **productivity-loss** exceeded **\$600 billion**, showing heat as an economic rather than seasonal shock.
- In 2024 alone, lost **labour-hours** rose to **247 billion**, signalling intensifying industrial disruption.
- In Palghar, factory **capacity** reportedly drops by up to **50%** during extreme heat.
- Indoor **temperatures** in Karnataka factories often cross **35-40°C**, above the permitted 30°C threshold.
- At **33-34°C**, effective worker **capacity** is cited as roughly halved by physiological stress.

- The cited **2021** study links each degree Celsius rise to a 2% annual **output** fall.
- On especially hot **days**, the cited **decline** in output can reach 4%.

Supply-chain pressure and unequal burden

- Global **brands** impose strict delivery schedules, but workers face hard **physiological** limits.
- Factory **managers** face a choice between shipment failure and worker **collapse** under heat.
- Tiruppur and similar **clusters** face a “thermodynamic bottleneck” as surge **orders** meet record heat.
- The editorial calls this a regressive **weather-tax** shifted downward onto poorer **workers**.
- Global **buyers** can diversify sourcing, but local **owners** lack power to renegotiate terms.
- The ultimate **burden** falls on informal **labour** lacking safety nets or income protection.
- When a shop floor turns furnace-like, workers lose both **productivity** and **wages** together.
- During **COVID-19**, brands cancelled \$2.8 billion of Bangladesh **orders** in March 2020.
- That Bangladesh **shock** affected about **1.2 million** workers, showing labour’s vulnerability in export chains.
- By 2030, India may lose **5.8%** daily working hours, equal to **34 million** jobs.

Climate-smart transition in textiles

- Policymakers must treat **heat-stress** as a formal **supply-chain** risk in industrial strategy.
- Industrial **clusters** need mandatory **heat-action** plans with thresholds, cooling breaks and health checks.
- Banking **assessments** must integrate **climate-risk** into credit decisions for industrial finance.
- Governments should provide concessional **credit-lines** for cooling systems and water **management** investments.
- Stronger **labour-codes** must guarantee drinking water and shaded **rest-areas** for workers.

- Targeted **R&D** should support wearable cooling and heat-tolerant **cotton** varieties.
- International **buyers** must bear part of the adaptation **cost** through pricing and longer lead times.
- The editorial rejects the old **spreadsheet** view of static **production-costs** in fashion supply chains.
- If **boardrooms** ignore heat stress, workers will keep paying through lost **wages** and lives.

BEYOND EDITORIAL

Climate resilience as a factor of industrial competitiveness

- **Productivity risk:** Heat stress is now an industrial risk, as Ahmedabad's Heat Action Plan emerged from repeated evidence of severe heat-related disruption.
- **Supply-chain reliability:** Buyers increasingly value dependable fulfilment, and clusters without heat preparedness can face disruptions despite favourable labour or market conditions.
- **Cost structure shift:** Cooling, water systems, and workplace adaptation are becoming core costs, just as Ahmedabad's plan incorporated cool-roof and heat-response measures.
- **Investment signal:** Industrial zones that ignore climate risk may weaken long-term investor confidence, which is why integrated schemes like PM MITRA need resilient infrastructure.
- **Comparative advantage:** In a warming world, competitiveness will depend on resilient production conditions, not only cheap labour, especially in textile hubs being expanded under PM MITRA.
- **Financial assessment:** Industrial finance must internalise climate exposure, because climate-vulnerable manufacturing can undermine business continuity and repayment stability over time.

3. WE OWE IT TO NARISHAKTI TO COME TOGETHER TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION

(GS Paper II - Polity)

This editorial 'We owe it to narishakti to come together to advance women's representation' was published in **The Indian Express** on 9 Apr 2026, highlights the need for broad **national consensus** to strengthen **women's representation** in legislatures.

Women's progress and political underrepresentation

- Indian **women** are advancing across **science**, technology, entrepreneurship, sports, armed forces and the arts.
- Expanded **education** access and improved **healthcare** have strengthened the base of women's empowerment.
- Better **financial-inclusion** and wider **basic-amenities** access have deepened women's economic and social participation.
- Yet women's **representation** in **legislatures** remains below their role in society and national progress.
- Greater female **participation** in **decision-making** can enrich public discourse and improve governance quality.

Democratic and constitutional significance

- The proposed **reservation** measure is presented as an affirmation of women's **aspirations** across India.
- The editorial links women's **progress** with a broader **civilisational-ethos** that society advances when women advance.
- Since women form nearly half the **population**, their fuller presence in **institutions** is treated as necessary.
- Stronger women's **participation** in **legislatures** is aligned with the Constitution's vision of equal citizenship.
- Delaying women's **representation** would prolong a recognised **imbalance** in democratic institutions.
- A more representative **democracy** is also described as more **inclusive**, responsive and future-ready.

Consensus, timing and national duty

- The editorial recalls repeated past **efforts** and unfinished **bill-drafts** on women's legislative representation.
- In September 2023, Parliament passed the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** in a spirit of **consensus**.
- The upcoming **Parliament** sitting is presented as a historic **opportunity** that should not be deferred.
- The appeal is directed to all **Members-of-Parliament** across **party-lines** to support the measure.
- The issue is framed not around one **government** or **party**, but around national democratic responsibility.
- Acting now would honour long-standing **commitments** and sustain the current **momentum** of reform.
- The step is presented as important not only for the present, but for future **generations** and **democracy**.

BEYOND EDITORIAL

From numerical presence to effective political power

- **Candidate selection:** Reservation can improve entry, but real empowerment also depends on parties giving women **winnable seats**, especially when their share in legislatures remains limited, as PRS data shows.
- **Intra-party democracy:** Representation becomes more meaningful when parties give women roles in **agenda-setting** and decision-making, rather than limiting them to symbolic visibility during elections.
- **Legislative effectiveness:** Elected women need **institutional support** and research capacity so that representation strengthens lawmaking and policy influence, not just numerical presence.
- **Social barriers:** Patriarchal norms, mobility limits, and care burdens can still restrict women's political agency despite **Article 243D** and wider reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions.

- **Proxy politics:** Without deeper empowerment, some women representatives may remain vulnerable to “**pradhan pati**” style proxy control, a problem noted in governance studies.
- **Political financing:** Campaign-resource constraints affect women disproportionately, making **party backing** and financial support crucial for turning formal representation into effective authority.
- **Leadership pipeline:** Lasting empowerment requires a steady pipeline from **local bodies**, especially when 21 States and 2 Union Territories already provide 50% reservation in Panchayats.