Chennai hosts 27th International Congress on Sericulture and Silk

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News

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the 27th International Congress on Sericulture and Silk Industry (ISCC-2026) and the Silk Mark Expo 2026 in Chennai on 23 Nov 2026. The five-day congress (23–27 Nov) of the International Sericultural Commission (ISC) has the theme "Silk for a Sustainable Future" and about 350 delegates. The congress is in India for the fourth time, and in Chennai for the first time.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Organiser	International Sericultural Commission (ISC), with the Central Silk Board
Dates	23–27 November 2026, Chennai
Theme	"Silk for a Sustainable Future"
ISC	Set up in 1960; headquarters in Bengaluru since 2013
Participation	About 350 delegates from 23 member countries; 121 oral papers and 108 posters

Background

- India is the world's second-largest silk producer (after China) and the largest consumer of silk. It is the only country that produces all five commercial silks: Mulberry, Tropical Tasar, Oak Tasar, Eri and Muga. Muga (golden silk) is special to Assam.
- The Central Silk Board is a statutory body set up under the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, under the Ministry of Textiles, with headquarters in Bengaluru. Karnataka is the largest producer of mulberry silk. The Silk Mark label assures buyers of pure silk.
- The silkworm used for mulberry silk is Bombyx mori; rearing silkworms is sericulture.

Tamil Nadu link: Kanchipuram silk saris carry a Geographical Indication (GI) tag; Arani is another silk-weaving centre. Sericulture is practised in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Salem districts, and the Co-optex society markets handloom silk. Of about 7,500 authorised Silk Mark users in India, about 1,700 are in Tamil Nadu.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Organiser: International Sericultural Commission (ISC), with the Central Silk Board; Dates: 23–27 November 2026, Chennai; Theme: "Silk for a Sustainable Future"; ISC: Set up in 1960; headquarters in Bengaluru since 2013.

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Where is the 27th International Congress on Sericulture and Silk Industry (ISCC-2026) being held?

A) Mysuru

B) Chennai

C) Bengaluru

D) Guwahati

Answer: B – Explanation: Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh opened the 23–27 Nov 2026 congress; its 4th time in India and first in Chennai.

2. Since 2013, where is the headquarters of the International Sericultural Commission (ISC)?

A) Tashkent

B) Lyon, France

C) Beijing

D) Bengaluru

Answer: D – Explanation: Set up in 1960, the ISC has worked from Bengaluru since 2013; its 27th congress is being held in Chennai.

3. Muga, the 'golden silk', is special to which State?

A) West Bengal

B) Assam

C) Jharkhand

D) Karnataka

Answer: B – Explanation: India alone produces all five commercial silks (mulberry, tropical tasar, oak tasar, eri, muga); muga is unique to Assam.

4. The Central Silk Board was set up under an Act of which year?

A) 1956

B) 1948

C) 1972

D) 1962

Answer: B – Explanation: A statutory body under the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, under the Ministry of Textiles, headquartered in Bengaluru.

5. The silkworm 'Bombyx mori' produces which kind of silk?

A) Muga silk

B) Eri silk

C) Mulberry silk

D) Tasar silk

Answer: C – Explanation: Bombyx mori feeds on mulberry leaves and gives most of the world's silk; Kanchipuram saris are woven from mulberry silk.