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India-UK CETA
Comes into Effect on July 15



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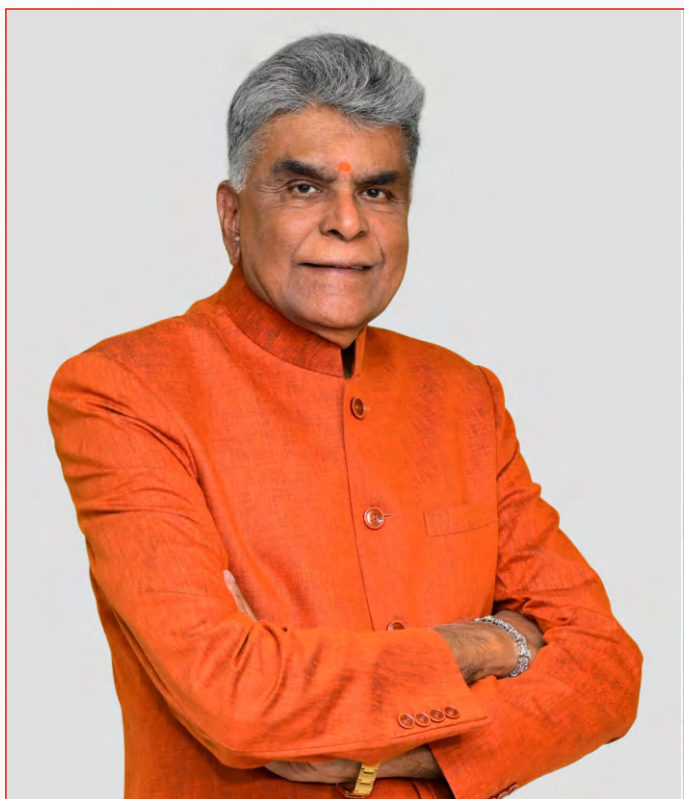
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

The Indian apparel industry stands at a defining moment in its growth journey. As global supply chains continue to diversify and international buyers seek reliable, sustainable and competitive sourcing destinations, India is uniquely positioned to strengthen its leadership in global apparel trade. Backed by progressive Government policies, strategic reforms and increasing global confidence in Indian manufacturing, our industry is well placed to contribute significantly towards the national vision of building a USD 350 billion textile ecosystem with USD 100 billion in textile and apparel exports by 2030.

This vision was at the heart of the Textile Summit 2026, organised by the Ministry of Textiles under the theme "Textiles for Global Markets." It was an honour to represent the Indian apparel export industry at this landmark summit, where policymakers, industry leaders, state governments and stakeholders came together to deliberate on the roadmap for transforming India's textile sector into a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse.

The summit reaffirmed that India's future competitiveness will depend on technology, innovation, sustainability, strong manufacturing clusters and a resilient workforce. During the

deliberations, AEPC highlighted several key priorities for the apparel sector. We strongly advocated the creation of a dedicated Technology Upgradation Fund to accelerate investments in automation, digitalisation and AI-enabled manufacturing, enabling Indian exporters to enhance productivity, improve quality and compete effectively in an increasingly technology-driven global marketplace.

Recognising the growing importance of Man-Made Fibre (MMF) in global apparel trade, we also proposed stronger technology partnerships and joint ventures, particularly with Taiwan, to strengthen India's MMF ecosystem and facilitate technology transfer. We further recommended that MMF fabric processing be accorded thrust-sector status across all PM MITRA Parks to build an integrated domestic value chain and attract greater investment into this fast-growing segment.

AEPC also emphasised the need to strengthen district and cluster-led manufacturing ecosystems through improved infrastructure, better logistics, enhanced access to finance and future-ready skill development. We proposed modern hostel facilities for workers in major textile and apparel clusters to improve labour welfare and mobility while recommending greater participation of MSMEs by lowering investment thresholds under Government support schemes. These measures will help build a stronger, more resilient and globally competitive textile ecosystem.

The Government's continued commitment to strengthening India's textile and apparel sector was further reinforced during the visit of Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh to Tiruppur, one of the country's leading apparel manufacturing hubs. During his interaction with industry leaders, the Hon'ble Minister emphasised the need to expand Man-Made Fibre (MMF) production, promote sustainability, encourage value addition and enhance India's global competitiveness. His vision for technology-driven growth and closer collaboration between Government and industry complements the priorities deliberated at the Textile Summit and provides further momentum to India's textile transformation.

Another defining milestone for our industry is the coming into effect of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on 15 July 2026. The implementation of this

landmark agreement ushers in a new era for Indian apparel exports by providing duty-free access to one of our most important international markets. It significantly enhances India's competitiveness, creates a level playing field with key sourcing nations and opens immense opportunities for exporters to expand their presence in the UK market.

The recent visit of Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal to the United Kingdom during India-UK Week marked an important step in advancing bilateral trade and investment following the conclusion of CETA. The high-level engagements between Government and industry reflected the shared commitment of India and the UK to translating the agreement into tangible business opportunities. AEPC was honoured to participate in these engagements, reaffirming the apparel industry's readiness to leverage CETA to expand exports, attract investments, strengthen supply chains and build enduring partnerships with the UK.

Recognising that awareness and preparedness are key to fully utilising the benefits of Free Trade Agreements, AEPC has launched a Pan-India FTA Utilisation Seminar Series across major apparel clusters. Beginning with highly successful programmes in Bengaluru and Ludhiana, the initiative equips exporters with practical guidance on rules of origin, documentation, compliance requirements and strategies for effectively leveraging India's expanding network of FTAs. We will continue taking these knowledge-sharing sessions to apparel hubs across the country, enabling our members to maximise the benefits of these agreements.

Our engagement with exporters has also been strengthened through initiatives such as Niryat Samvad, which provides an important platform for direct dialogue between exporters, policymakers and implementing agencies. Such interactions help address industry concerns, improve policy implementation and ensure that the voice of the apparel sector is effectively represented in policy formulation.

Preparations for Bharat Tex 2026 are progressing at full pace. As the world's largest textile and apparel event, Bharat Tex will once again showcase India's complete textile value chain, manufacturing excellence, sustainability initiatives and innovation capabilities before buyers, brands and investors from across the globe. The event will further strengthen India's position as a trusted and preferred sourcing destination while creating new business opportunities for Indian exporters.

AEPC remains committed to working closely with the Government to improve ease of doing business, strengthen market access, promote sustainability, encourage technological advancement and enhance the global competitiveness of Indian apparel exports. We will continue to advocate policies that support exporters and create an enabling environment for long-term, sustainable growth.

As we enter this exciting new phase, I am confident that the combined impact of the Textile Summit's strategic roadmap, the implementation of the India-UK CETA, the Government's continued support, our expanding network of Free Trade Agreements and the collective efforts of the industry will unlock unprecedented opportunities for India's apparel sector. Together, by embracing innovation, technology, sustainability and collaboration, we can realise our shared vision of making India the world's most preferred apparel sourcing destination and contribute meaningfully to achieving the national goal of USD 100 billion in textile and apparel exports by 2030.

I sincerely thank all our members for their continued trust, support and partnership. Let us work together to transform these opportunities into lasting success for the Indian apparel industry.

Warm regards,

Dr. A. Sakthivel
Chairman
Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)



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India-UK CETA

Ushers in a New Era for Apparel Trade

AEPC Chairman with
Shri Periasamy Kumaran,
High Commissioner of India
to the United Kingdom.



AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel expressed his sincere gratitude to Shri Periasamy Kumaran, High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, and Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Minister (Economic), High Commission of India in London, for their continued support and dedicated efforts in advancing the India-UK Free Trade Agreement, strengthening bilateral trade relations, and creating greater market access and opportunities for India's apparel export sector.

AEPC Chairman with
Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Minister
(Economic), High Commission of India
London, UK.





AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel Joins Indian Business Delegation During UK-India Week 2026

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is set to redefine bilateral trade and create new opportunities for Indian exporters, particularly the apparel sector. As India and the United Kingdom prepare for the landmark agreement and the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) to come into effect on **15 July 2026**, UK-India Week in London served as a significant platform to strengthen economic and business ties between the two nations.



Representing India's apparel industry, **AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel** was honoured to be part of the **Indian Business Delegation** accompanying **Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal** during his visit to London for UK-India Week 2026. The high-level engagement brought together government leaders, policymakers and industry representatives to discuss the next phase of the India-UK economic partnership.

Dr. Sakthivel expressed his appreciation to **Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** for his visionary leadership and to **Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal** for his pivotal role in bringing the landmark agreement to fruition. He also congratulated Shri Goyal on receiving the **"Exceptional Leadership in Elevating UK-India Ties"** award, recognising his outstanding contribution to strengthening bilateral economic relations.



During the visit, Dr. Sakthivel also interacted with **Mr. Peter Kyle, UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade**, and exchanged views on strengthening India-UK trade, innovation and investment. The discussions highlighted the transformative potential of the India-UK CETA in enhancing bilateral commerce and creating new opportunities for India's apparel exporters.

For India's apparel industry, the India-UK CETA is expected to significantly enhance market access, improve competitiveness and foster greater collaboration across the textile and apparel value chain. The agreement is also expected to boost investment, strengthen supply chains and support the long-term growth of India's export-oriented manufacturing sector.

As the apex body representing India's apparel exporters, AEPC remains committed to working closely with the Government of India and industry stakeholders to ensure that exporters fully leverage the opportunities created by this landmark agreement. The implementation of CETA marks the beginning of a new chapter in India-UK economic relations and reinforces India's position as a trusted global sourcing destination for apparel.



India-UK CETA

Set to Transform Apparel Exports with Duty-Free Access from July 15



Landmark Trade Pact Opens New Growth Avenue for India's Apparel Industry

India's apparel export sector is poised for a major boost as the India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) comes into force on 15 July 2026. The agreement, alongside the Double Contribution

Convention (DCC), marks one of India's most significant trade milestones and is expected to enhance the competitiveness of Indian apparel exports in one of the world's most lucrative fashion markets.

The implementation of CETA reflects India's growing economic engagement with global markets and aligns with the Government's vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. For the apparel industry, the agreement brings a long-awaited advantage: complete elimination of UK import duties on Indian textiles and clothing, which currently attract tariffs up to 12 per cent. The agreement is also expected to deepen economic cooperation under the India-UK Roadmap 2030 by strengthening trade, investment, innovation and manufacturing partnerships. CETA is a transformational milestone that could help accelerate bilateral trade towards the ambition of textiles and apparel exports crossing USD 100 billion by 2030.

Level Playing Field for Indian Apparel Exporters

The United Kingdom is among India's important apparel export destinations, with demand for sustainable, ethically produced and value-added garments continuing to rise. Under CETA, nearly 99 per cent of India's exports to the UK will receive duty-free access, covering almost



the entire trade value between the two countries.

For Indian apparel manufacturers and exporters, this translates into a significant pricing advantage over competing suppliers. The removal of tariffs is expected to improve margins, increase order volumes and strengthen India's position within UK retail supply chains. Duty-free access is also expected to enhance India's competitiveness against countries that already enjoy preferential access to the UK market, enabling exporters to secure larger orders from British retailers and global fashion brands while integrating more deeply into international value chains.

Industry stakeholders believe the agreement will particularly benefit labour-intensive segments such as garments, home textiles, fashion accessories and value-added apparel products, while encouraging fresh investments in manufacturing, technology upgradation and employment generation.

Boost to MSMEs and Regional Manufacturing Hubs

The agreement is expected to create substantial opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which form the backbone of India's apparel export ecosystem. By improving market access and reducing trade barriers, CETA will help smaller exporters integrate more effectively into global value chains.

Traditional garment clusters across Tiruppur, Bengaluru, Noida, Gurugram, Ludhiana and Jaipur are likely to benefit from increased demand from UK buyers seeking reliable sourcing partners.

The agreement's focus on transparency, sustainability, innovation and SME participation is also expected to support India's transition towards higher-value and more sustainable apparel exports. Improved market access is expected to encourage capacity expansion, greater technology adoption and fresh investments across labour-intensive manufacturing clusters, creating additional employment opportunities while strengthening India's export competitiveness.

New Opportunities in Services and Professional Mobility

Beyond merchandise trade, CETA offers one of the most comprehensive services packages ever also granted by the UK, covering 137 service sub-sectors. The provisions are expected to support Indian businesses engaged in design, fashion technology, sourcing, consulting, logistics and related professional services.

The agreement also provides enhanced mobility pathways for business visitors, investors, intra-corporate transferees and independent professionals, facilitating closer collaboration between Indian exporters and UK buyers. Dedicated annual mobility opportunities have also

been created for Indian chefs, yoga instructors and classical musicians, highlighting the agreement's broader people-centric approach. In addition, the agreement promotes greater regulatory cooperation and lays the foundation for future Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for professional qualifications, further facilitating cross-border business collaboration.

Relief for Indian Professionals Through Social Security Pact

One of the major achievements is CETA is the implementation of the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), which exempts Indian professionals and their employers from making dual social security contributions while on temporary assignments in the UK.

The exemption period has been extended from three years to five years, benefiting more than 75,000 Indian professionals and over 900 companies. This measure is expected to reduce costs for Indian businesses operating in the UK, improve the competitiveness of Indian talent overseas and facilitate smoother cross-border business operations.

A Strategic Opportunity for the Apparel Sector

For India's apparel industry, CETA represents more than a trade agreement—it is a strategic gateway to deeper integration with a premium global market. As global brands diversify sourcing destinations and seek resilient supply chains, India's combination of manufacturing scale, skilled workforce, sustainability initiatives and now duty-free access positions the country favourably to capture a larger share of the UK market.

Industry expectations suggest that the agreement could significantly accelerate India's apparel and textile exports to the UK over the coming years by improving price competitiveness and expanding sourcing opportunities. At the same time, exporters are expected to place greater emphasis on sustainability, supply-chain transparency and environmental compliance as global regulatory standards continue to evolve.

The coming into force of the India–UK CETA on 15 July 2026 is expected to strengthen bilateral trade, create new export opportunities and provide fresh momentum to India's ambition of becoming a leading global apparel sourcing destination.

With duty-free access, improved mobility provisions and a modern trade framework, the agreement offers Indian apparel exporters a powerful platform to expand their global footprint, attract long-term sourcing partnerships and contribute to the country's export-led growth strategy.

AEPC Chairman Calls for Technology Upgradation, MMF Partnerships at Textile Summit 2026



Dr A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), represented the Indian apparel export industry at the Textile Summit 2026, organised by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, under the theme “Textiles for Global Markets”.

The summit brought together policymakers, industry leaders, experts, state government representatives and stakeholders from across the textile value chain to deliberate on strategies for achieving the Government's Vision 2030 for the textile sector, including the target of creating a USD 350 billion textile ecosystem with USD 100 billion in exports by 2030.

Dr Sakthivel addressed the session on “District & Cluster-Led Export Strategy”, which focused on transforming districts into export growth engines through stronger collaboration, execution and ecosystem development. The discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening district and cluster-based manufacturing ecosystems, improving infrastructure and logistics, enhancing access to finance and building future-ready skills to support India's textile export ambitions.

Speaking in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh and Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Smt Neelam Shami Rao, Dr Sakthivel underscored the critical role of apparel and textile clusters in driving employment, exports and regional economic development.

Highlighting the growing significance of Man-Made Fibre (MMF) products in global trade, Dr Sakthivel advocated the promotion of



joint ventures and technology partnerships with Taiwan to accelerate the development of India's MMF ecosystem. He noted that strategic international collaborations would help strengthen India's manufacturing capabilities, facilitate technology transfer and improve global competitiveness.



To support the industry's workforce requirements, he called for the creation of modern hostel facilities for workers in major textile and apparel clusters. Such infrastructure, he said, would improve worker welfare, facilitate labour mobility and help address manpower challenges faced by manufacturing hubs.

Emphasising the need for rapid technological advancement, Dr Sakthivel proposed the creation of a dedicated fund for technology upgradation to support investments in modern manufacturing systems, automation, digitalisation and emerging technologies, including AI-enabled solutions. He stressed that technology adoption would be essential for improving productivity, quality and sustainability across the textile value chain.

Dr Sakthivel also urged the Government to consider reducing the minimum investment threshold under relevant support schemes to ₹25 crore to enable greater participation by MSMEs, which form the backbone of India's textile and apparel industry.

Drawing attention to the importance of cluster-led development, he sought special policy support for the Tiruppur knitwear cluster, including consideration of a dedicated PM MITRA Park for the region. He highlighted Tiruppur's contribution to India's apparel exports and its potential to play a pivotal role in achieving the country's export growth targets.

The summit deliberations also focused on product and design enhancement, value addition, quality and sustainability standards, utilisation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), market diversification and strengthening India's participation in global textile and apparel value chains.

According to presentations made during the summit, the textile sector contributes 2.3 per cent to India's GDP, accounts for 10 per cent of manufacturing output and employs nearly 50 million people, making it the largest employer after agriculture. The sector exports to more than 190 countries and remains a strategic pillar of India's export ecosystem.

Reaffirming AEPC's commitment to the Government's vision for the sector, Dr Sakthivel stated that focused investments in technology, workforce infrastructure, cluster development and export-oriented manufacturing would be critical to achieving the goal of USD 100 billion in textile and apparel exports by 2030.

The summit served as an important platform for collaboration between the Centre, States and industry stakeholders to strengthen India's position as a leading global sourcing destination for textiles and apparel.



Union Minister for Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh Visits Tiruppur; Calls for MMF Expansion and Sustainable Growth



Tiruppur, June 28, 2026: Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, visited Tiruppur today as part of his official tour. He was accompanied by Shri T.N. Venkatesh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu, and Dr. Beena, IAS, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

The Minister began his visit at Nethaji Apparel Park, India's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model textile park, where he toured garment manufacturing units and interacted with industry representatives to understand Tiruppur's world-class manufacturing capabilities and sustainable production practices. He also participated in the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat programme.

The Minister later attended an exporters' interaction organised by the Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).



Welcoming the Hon'ble Minister, Dr. A. Sakthivel highlighted the need to strengthen the PM MITRA Scheme by extending a 50 per cent capital subsidy for textile processing units, promote balanced growth of Man-Made Fibre (MMF) and cotton garments, simplify fabric imports under export schemes, establish a Centre of Excellence for Green Processing, and provide policy support to enable India's apparel exports to

reach USD 40 billion, including USD 20 billion from MMF garments.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Giriraj Singh lauded Tiruppur's remarkable transformation from an unorganised cluster into a globally recognised and sustainable apparel manufacturing hub. He appreciated the tireless efforts of the entrepreneurs and congratulated Dr. A. Sakthivel for his visionary leadership in taking Tiruppur to global prominence. The Minister also commended the contributions of Dr. Beena, IAS, and Shri T.N. Venkatesh, IAS, towards the development of the textile sector.

The Minister emphasised that branding Tiruppur should be a national priority and described the textile sector as the largest employment generator after agriculture. Referring to the recent Textile Summit held in New Delhi, he said that Tamil Nadu has been assigned an apparel export target of USD 21 billion by 2030. He urged exporters to diversify their product portfolio and progressively shift 40 per cent of their production towards MMF garments to enhance global competitiveness.

He assured the industry that both the Central and State Governments would extend support for workers' hostel facilities and give positive consideration to the industry's representations. He also highlighted the achievements of the Government over the past 12 years, including progress in GST collections, textile consumption, manufacturing growth and other key economic indicators.

The meeting was attended by presidents and representatives of various textile and trade associations, exporters and members of the business community. During the interactive session, participants presented their concerns and suggestions relating to textile and apparel exports. Responding to the representations, the Hon'ble Union Minister assured the industry that the Government would take prompt steps to address their issues and extend all possible support to accelerate the growth of India's textile and apparel exports.





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US-Iran Interim Deal Raises Hopes for Smoother Trade and Apparel Exports

Fresh diplomatic engagement could eventually ease logistics, strengthen supply chains and support apparel exports, though risks remain.



The latest diplomatic engagement between the United States and Iran has renewed hopes for improved global trade and shipping, even as tensions around the Strait of Hormuz continue to pose challenges. Following renewed military exchanges, both countries have reportedly agreed to halt attacks and resume technical talks in Doha aimed at

resolving differences over navigation through the strategic waterway. The discussions build upon the earlier 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), under which both sides had committed to restoring commercial shipping and negotiating a broader agreement within a 60-day framework.

For India's apparel industry, a lasting resolution would translate into lower logistics costs, improved delivery schedules and stronger export competitiveness, particularly in key Gulf markets. However, shipping companies and exporters continue to closely monitor developments as commercial traffic through the Strait has yet to return to normal.

Strait of Hormuz Remains Critical

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes, carrying a significant share of global oil supplies and commercial cargo. Disruptions during the recent conflict resulted in higher freight charges, elevated marine insurance



premiums and shipment delays, affecting exporters across the world, including India's apparel sector.

While the renewed talks have improved market sentiment, differing interpretations over the management of the Strait continue to create uncertainty. The coming negotiations are expected to determine how commercial navigation will operate over the coming weeks. Industry observers believe that sustained stability will be essential before shipping and insurance costs return to pre-conflict levels.

Hope for Apparel Exporters

According to AEPC Chairman Dr A. Sakthivel, continued diplomatic engagement offers an encouraging signal for Indian apparel exporters despite the challenges that remain.

"The decision by the United States and Iran to resume dialogue is a positive development for global trade. A durable agreement that restores uninterrupted commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz would help reduce logistics costs, improve supply chain reliability and strengthen buyer confidence. Indian apparel exporters stand to benefit significantly once stability returns to the region," he said.

During the conflict, exporters faced emergency war risk surcharges, vessel rerouting, longer transit times and increased marine insurance costs. Industry estimates suggested that additional war risk charges ranged between US\$500 and US\$2,000 per container, significantly raising export costs.

Trade Recovery Still Possible

Government trade data indicates that India's trade with West Asia had already begun recovering after sharp declines during the conflict.

India's exports to West Asia fell from US\$6.48 billion in January 2026 to US\$2.62 billion in March before recovering to US\$5.30 billion in May. Imports from the region also rebounded from US\$8.16 billion in March to US\$10.74 billion in May.

The Gulf region remains an important destination for Indian apparel exports, with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman serving as key markets and regional trading hubs.

Potential Benefits Once Stability Returns

If negotiations lead to a lasting settlement and uninterrupted commercial navigation, exporters can expect several advantages:

- Improved shipping schedules
- Lower freight and marine insurance costs
- Reduced transit uncertainty
- Greater predictability in deliveries
- Enhanced buyer confidence
- Stronger supply chain resilience

Stable energy prices resulting from reduced geopolitical tensions would also help moderate manufacturing, transportation and synthetic fibre costs across the apparel value chain, further improving export competitiveness.

Outlook

While the renewed US-Iran talks have eased immediate concerns and created optimism for diplomacy, important issues relating to navigation through the Strait of Hormuz remain under negotiation. Until a durable agreement is reached and commercial shipping fully normalises, exporters are likely to remain cautious.

Nevertheless, the continuation of dialogue is an encouraging step towards restoring confidence in global supply chains. For India's apparel exporters, a successful outcome could eventually deliver lower logistics costs, improved market access and stronger competitiveness in international markets during the second half of 2026.



INDIA'S READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG)

India's RMG Export to World

Month	(In USD million)			YoY Growth (%)	
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26 over 2024-25	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	1198.4	1371.3	1211.5	14.4	-11.7
May	1357.4	1511.5	1297.2	11.4	-14.2
June	1293.9	1309.8		1.2	
July	1278.0	1338.7		4.7	
August	1268.2	1234.6		-2.6	
September	1110.1	997.6		-10.1	
October	1227.6	1069.4		-12.9	
November	1121.1	1247.4		11.3	
December	1463.4	1509.3		3.1	
January	1606.4	1544.8		-3.8	
February	1534.9	1403.0		-8.6	
March	1531.3	1240.5		-19.0	
Total	15990.6	15777.7	2508.7	-1.3	-13.0

Note- 1) Data for the month of May 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 15.06.2026

2) Sum of the value for (Apr-Mar) 2024-25 is USD 15990.6 Mn. and (Apr-Mar) 2025-26 is USD 15777.7 Mn.

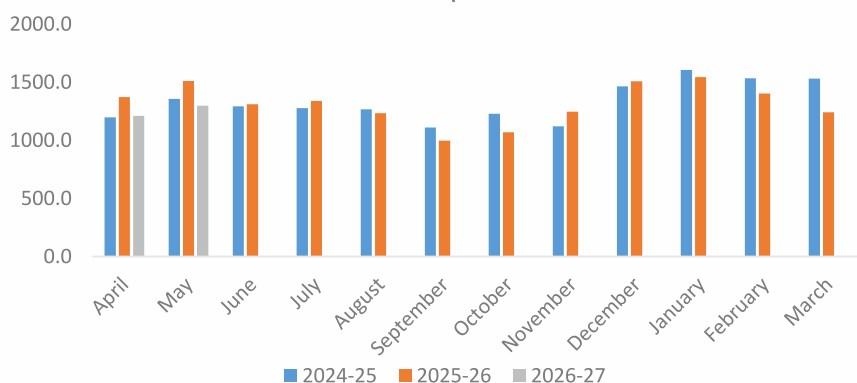
3) Source: DGCI&S 2026

4) For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April-May only and growth is calculated against the corresponding period of the previous year.

RMG exports for the month of **May 2026** have declined by **14.2%** as compared to **May 2025** and declined by **4.4%** as compared to **May 2024**.

Similarly, cumulative RMG exports for the period **April May 2026 27** stood at USD **2508.7** million showing a decline of **13.0 %** over **April -May 2025 26** (USD **2882.8** million)

India's RMG Export to World (In USD million)



India's RMG Export to World

	(In INR Crore)			YoY Growth (%)	
Month	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26 over 2024-25	Apr-May: 2026-27 over 2025-26
April	9995.4	11733.3	11333.3	17.4	-3.4
May	11319.9	12876.5	12401.2	13.8	-3.7
June	10800.2	11251.3		4.2	
July	10683.3	11527.7		7.9	
August	10639.5	10804.7		1.6	
September	9304.0	8810.6		-5.3	
October	10315.3	9455.4		-8.3	
November	9457.8	11079.8		17.1	
December	12424.2	13550.6		9.1	
January	13857.9	14026.6		1.2	
February	13362.1	12729.1		-4.7	
March	13267.1	11507.0		-13.3	
Total	135426.6	139352.7	23734.5	2.9	-3.6

Note- 1) Data for the month of May 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 15.06.2026

2) Sum of the value for (Apr-Mar) 2023-24 is Rs. 120304.7 Cr; (Apr-Mar) 2024-25 is Rs. 135427.6 Cr and (Apr-Mar) 2025-26 is Rs.139349.6 Cr

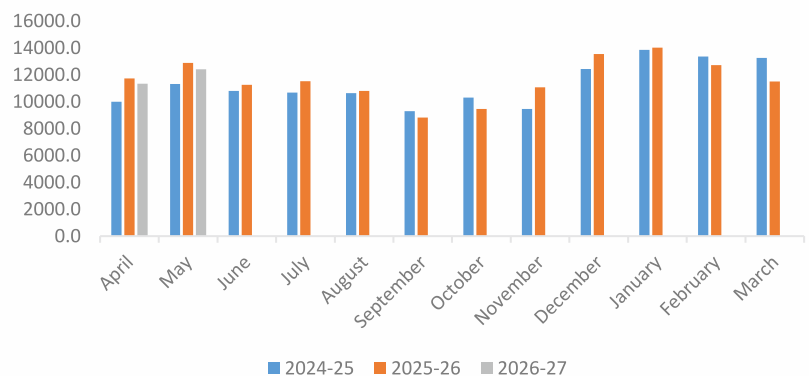
3) Source: DGCI&S 2026

4) For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April-May only and growth is calculated against the corresponding period of the previous year.

RMG exports for the month of **May 2026** have declined by **3.7 %** as compared to **May 2025** and have increased by **9.5 %** as compared to **May 2024**.

Similarly, cumulative RMG exports for the period **April- May 2026- 27** are Rs. **23734.5** Crore showing a decline of **3.6%** over **April May 2025 26 (Rs. 24609.8 Crore)**.

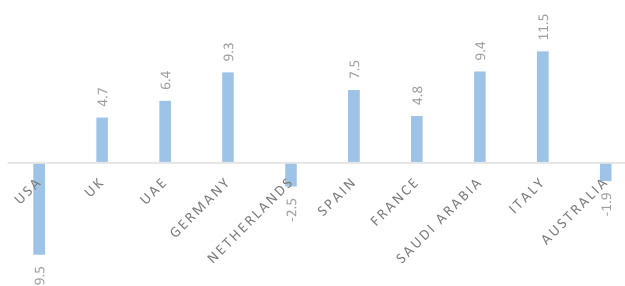
India's RMG Exports to World In INR Crore



India's Top 10 RMG Export Destinations

S. No.	Countries	Value in USD mn.		
		April-March 24-25	April-March 25-26	% Change
	Total RMG Export	16007.0	15814.6	-1.2
1	USA	5333.4	4827.1	-9.5
2	UK	1432.6	1499.5	4.7
3	UAE	1225.3	1303.9	6.4
4	Germany	853.0	932.7	9.3
5	Netherlands	804.3	784.6	-2.5
6	Spain	687.5	739.2	7.5
7	France	604.9	634.2	4.8
8	Saudi Arabia	360.1	394.1	9.4
9	Italy	357.4	398.5	11.5
10	Australia	350.0	343.4	1.9

% CHANGE IN INDIA'S TOP 10 RMG EXPORT DESTINATIONS

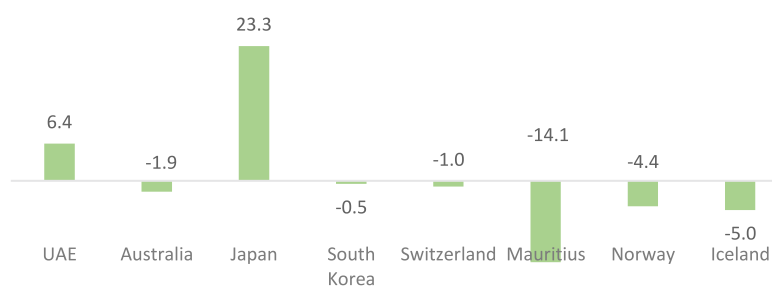


India's Trade with FTA Countries

S. No.	Countries	April-March 24-25	April-March 25-26	% Change
1	UAE	1225.3	1303.9	6.4
2	Australia	350.0	343.4	-1.9
3	Japan	204.1	251.6	23.3
4	South Korea	68.4	68.0	-0.6
5	Switzerland	37.0	36.7	-1.0
6	Mauritius	40.2	34.5	-14.1
7	Norway	18.1	17.3	-4.4
8	Iceland	0.3	0.3	-5.0

Source: DGCI&S, 2026

% Change of India's Trade with FTA Countries



India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Textiles & Wearing Apparel update for India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of April in FY 2026-27

Month	Manufacture of Textiles		Growth Rate (In %)	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel		Growth Rate (In %)
	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 over 2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	114.7	132.6	15.6	98.5	91.6	-7.0
May	103.8		-3.0	126.5		2.3
June	107.8		1.5	127.5		4.0
July	107.3		-1.6	112.7		0.9
August	107.7		-1.6	107.2		-4.7
September	110.7		1.3	100.6		-3.0
October	106.6		-2.4	89.6		-6.1
November	110.0		3.2	105.3		-14.4
December	111.1		-2.5	109.4		-8.1
January	109.7		-3.5	108.7		-10.2
February	107.0		0.3	100.7		-17.1
March	108.9		-3.6	123.6		-14.6
Cumulative Index (Apr-Mar 2025-26)	116.7	119.4	2.3	101.6	98.5	-3.1

Source: CSO, 2026

*Figures for April 2026 are Quick Estimates. (Base: 2022-23)

- Manufacturing of Textiles Index for the month of April 2026 stood at **132.6**, as against **114.7** in April 2025, registering a growth of **15.6%** year-on-year.
- Manufacturing of Wearing Apparel Index for the month of April 2026 stood at **91.6**, as compared to **98.5** in April 2025, reflecting a decline of 7.0% year-on-year.
- As per the Quick Estimates released by CSO, the strong growth in the Textiles Index indicates improved manufacturing activity during April 2026, while the Wearing Apparel segment witnessed a contraction compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

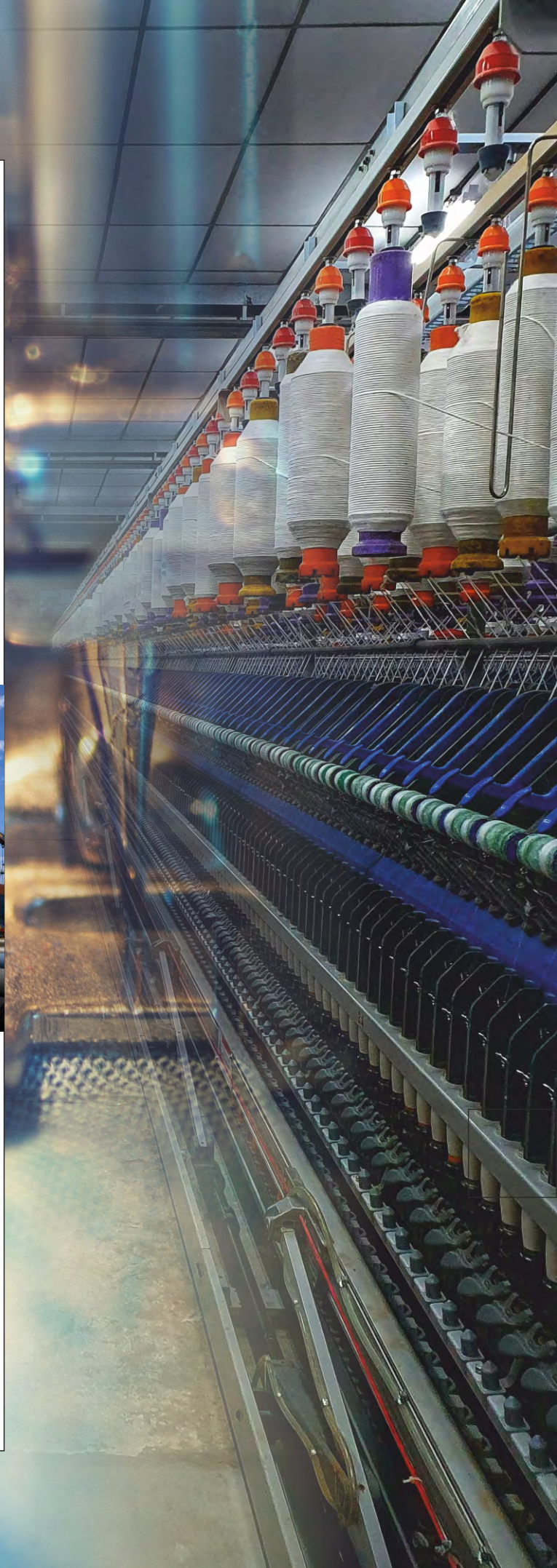


***PLI Scheme Gains
Further Momentum:
96 Companies Commit
₹12,822 Crore to
Strengthen India's Textile
Manufacturing
Ecosystem***



The Government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles has received a significant boost with the approval of 22 additional companies under Round III of the programme. The latest approvals reaffirm industry confidence in India's textile growth story and underscore the success of policy measures aimed at transforming the country into a global manufacturing hub for value-added textile products.

With the inclusion of the newly approved applicants, a total of 96 companies have now been selected under Round III of the Textile PLI Scheme. Collectively, these companies have committed investments worth ₹12,822.67 crore and are expected to generate a projected turnover of ₹58,294.18 crore in notified products.





The 22 newly approved companies alone are expected to invest ₹2,339.14 crore, generate a turnover of ₹15,561.34 crore and create more than 36,000 direct employment opportunities across the textile value chain. The investments are spread across key segments identified under the scheme, including Man-Made Fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics and technical textiles, which are among the fastest-growing categories in global textile trade.

Strengthening India's Competitiveness

The PLI Scheme for Textiles was launched to encourage large-scale investments in high-value and high-growth textile segments where India has significant potential to expand its global market share. Traditionally, India's textile exports have been dominated by cotton-based products, while international demand has increasingly shifted towards MMF-based apparel and technical textiles.

The fresh wave of investments is expected to accelerate capacity creation in these sunrise sectors, helping Indian manufacturers diversify product offerings, improve economies of scale and strengthen integration with global supply chains.

Opportunities for the Apparel Sector

For the apparel industry, the expansion of MMF manufacturing capacity is particularly significant. Global apparel consumption is increasingly driven by synthetic and performance-based fabrics, making MMF products a key growth area for exports.

The investments approved under the PLI Scheme are expected to create a stronger domestic ecosystem for fibres, fabrics and garments, reducing dependence on imports and enabling Indian exporters to offer competitive, value-added products to international buyers.

In addition to supporting export growth, the investments are likely to drive technological upgradation, encourage innovation and promote sustainable manufacturing practices across the sector.

Employment and Regional Development

One of the most significant outcomes of the scheme is its employment generation potential. The newly approved projects are expected to create more than 36,000 jobs, while the cumulative impact of all approved investments is expected to support a much larger workforce through direct and indirect employment opportunities.

The establishment of new manufacturing facilities across various states will also contribute to regional industrial development, skill creation and inclusive economic growth. Supporting the Vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat

The continued response from industry reflects confidence in the Government's long-term vision for the textile sector. Along with initiatives such as PM MITRA Parks, free trade agreements with key global markets, infrastructure improvements and export promotion measures, the PLI Scheme is emerging as a critical pillar in India's strategy to become a preferred global sourcing destination.

As these investments begin translating into production capacity and exports, the textile and apparel sector is poised to play an increasingly important role in achieving India's ambition of becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse while generating employment and fostering sustainable economic growth.

Key Highlights

• 96 companies approved under Round III of the Textile PLI Scheme

• **Total committed investment:** ₹12,822.67 crore

• **Projected turnover:** ₹58,294.18 crore

• 22 new companies approved in the latest round

• **New investment commitment:** ₹2,339.14 crore

• **Expected turnover from new applicants:** ₹15,561.34 crore

• **Estimated employment generation:** 36,217 jobs

• **Focus sectors:** MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics and Technical Textiles



BHAVYA Scheme to Create Investment-Ready Industrial Parks and Strengthen Manufacturing



The Government of India is taking a significant step towards strengthening the country's manufacturing ecosystem through the launch of the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), a scheme aimed at developing investment-ready industrial parks capable of attracting industries, generating employment and boosting export competitiveness.

Speaking at a workshop organised by the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) under the aegis of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said the scheme is designed to accelerate industrial growth by creating industrial parks where infrastructure readiness translates into rapid investment and manufacturing activity.

He emphasised that the success of the BHAVYA scheme would not be measured solely by the creation of physical infrastructure, but by the ability of industrial parks to attract investors and emerge as vibrant manufacturing hubs. States and Union Territories have been encouraged to submit investor-centric proposals that showcase their competitive advantages, ease of doing business and supportive industrial ecosystems.

According to Bhatia, project evaluation under the scheme will focus on long-term industrial viability and investment potential, ensuring that approved projects contribute meaningfully to economic growth and job creation.

"The scheme seeks to create industrial parks where infrastructure readiness translates into rapid investment grounding, manufacturing activity, employment generation and export competitiveness," he said.

The workshop, held at Vanijya Bhawan, brought together more than 100 representatives from 31 States and Union Territories to discuss the framework of the BHAVYA scheme and the role of testing and quality infrastructure in industrial development.

In his address, Rajat Kumar Saini, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of NICDC, highlighted the importance of developing integrated industrial ecosystems supported by modern infrastructure, testing facilities and institutional support. Such ecosystems, he noted, are critical for attracting both domestic and international investments.

A key focus of the workshop was quality assurance infrastructure. Dr Alok Srivastav, Director General of the National Test House (NTH), presented the organisation's expanding testing and certification capabilities across emerging sectors, including drone technology, electric vehicle batteries, aerospace components, solar equipment and organic food products.

NTH also highlighted its collaboration with NICDC to establish testing facilities and sample collection centres within industrial corridor projects. These facilities will enable manufacturers to access quality certification and testing services closer to production centres, reducing costs and improving operational efficiency.

For the textile and apparel industry, the BHAVYA scheme could create new opportunities by facilitating the development of modern industrial parks equipped with world-class infrastructure, logistics connectivity and testing facilities. Such integrated industrial ecosystems can help manufacturers scale operations, improve productivity and enhance India's position in global value chains.

As India pursues its ambition of becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse, the BHAVYA scheme is expected to play a pivotal role in creating industrial infrastructure that supports investment, innovation, employment generation and export-led growth.

Gujarat's Industrial Policy 2026

Prioritises Textiles, Technical Textiles and Footwear Growth

The Government of Gujarat has launched its Industrial Policy 2026, unveiling an ambitious roadmap to strengthen the state's manufacturing ecosystem, attract fresh investments, and position Gujarat as a global hub for innovation-driven industrial development. The policy targets ₹10 lakh crore (approximately US\$105 billion) in investments over the next five years, with textiles, technical textiles, footwear, and textile waste recycling identified among its key priority sectors.

The policy offers an attractive package of financial incentives for industries across categories. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will receive support covering 35–45 per cent of their fixed capital investment through capital subsidies, interest subsidies and power tariff reimbursements, depending on their location and category. Large industries in identified thrust sectors will be eligible for incentives ranging from 25–35 per cent, while mega and ultra-mega projects may receive assistance of up to 40 per cent. Certain priority sectors, including footwear manufacturing, can avail incentives of up to 50 per cent.

Recognising the importance of entrepreneurship, the policy also provides substantial support for start-ups. Eligible ventures will receive monthly sustenance allowances, seed funding assistance and additional benefits for women-led enterprises. Start-ups with women co-founders can receive monthly support of up to ₹30,000, along with seed funding assistance of up to ₹30 lakh.

Sustainability forms a key pillar of the new policy. The government has announced incentives for industries investing in Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) systems, wastewater recycling projects, cleaner production technologies and common environmental infrastructure, encouraging manufacturers to adopt environmentally responsible production practices.

The policy also aims to strengthen industrial infrastructure and workforce welfare through support for worker housing, working women's hostels, private industrial parks, skill development centres and Industry 4.0-ready manufacturing facilities.

One of the notable initiatives under the policy is Project

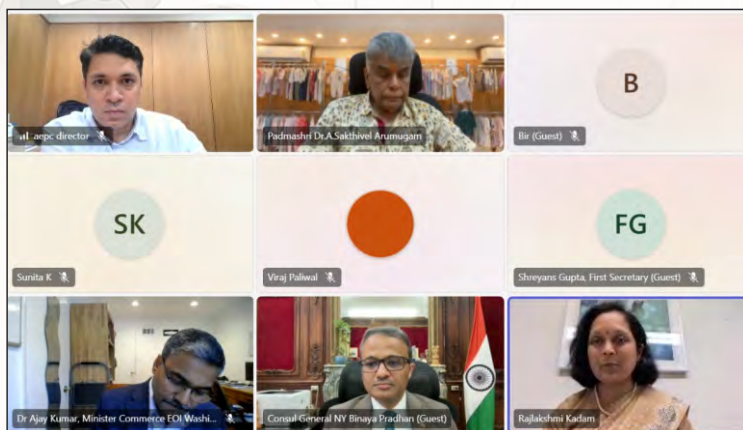
THRIVE (Transition for Harmonized Relocation and Inclusive Vibrant Economy), designed to encourage industries operating in congested urban areas to relocate to emerging industrial zones. Relocating units will be treated as new enterprises and become eligible for a host of incentives, including capital subsidies, wage support of ₹5,000 per employee per month for six months, assistance for worker housing and infrastructure, and relaxations in Floor Space Index (FSI) norms.

Overall, Gujarat's Industrial Policy 2026 seeks to accelerate industrial expansion while promoting sustainable manufacturing, enhancing ease of doing business, supporting entrepreneurship and creating a future-ready ecosystem for sectors such as textiles and apparel.



Consulate General of India, New York Partners With AEPC to Host First Virtual India–USA Textile & Apparel Exhibition

22 Indian Apparel Exporters Showcase Products to 35 US Importers Through Digital Trade Platform



In a significant step towards strengthening India–USA trade engagement, the Consulate General of India, New York, in collaboration with the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), successfully organised the 1st Virtual Exhibition of the Indian Textiles and Apparel Sector on the India–USA Trade Facilitation Portal on 29 June 2026. Held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. IST, the virtual event provided Indian apparel exporters with a dedicated platform to connect directly with prospective buyers from the United States.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Ajay Kumar, Minister (Commerce), Embassy of India, Washington D.C., in the presence of Shri Binaya S. Pradhan, Consul General of India, New York, Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, and Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC.

In his opening remarks, Dr. A. Sakthivel appreciated the initiative of the Consulate General of India, New York, for creating a digital platform that enabled AEPC members to engage with US buyers despite geographical barriers. He noted that such virtual initiatives complement conventional trade promotion activities by providing exporters with greater market access, expanding buyer outreach, and facilitating year-round business engagement.

The inaugural edition of the virtual exhibition witnessed participation from 22 Indian apparel exporters, representing a

diverse range of products including men's, women's and children's wear, knitwear, woven garments, denim, fashion apparel, ethnic wear and value-added clothing. Each participating company was provided with a dedicated virtual booth featuring digital product catalogues, brochures, images and company profiles.

The event attracted 35 importers from the United States, who explored exhibitors' virtual booths, reviewed product portfolios and interacted directly with Indian suppliers through integrated chat and appointment-booking features. The digital platform enabled importers to schedule one-on-one business meetings, discuss sourcing requirements and initiate potential business partnerships in a seamless virtual environment.

According to feedback received after the event, both exhibitors and buyers reported productive business interactions, with participants expressing satisfaction over the quality of buyer engagement and the ease of conducting meetings through the online platform. The exhibition demonstrated the growing effectiveness of digital trade promotion in connecting Indian manufacturers with international markets and opening new avenues for export growth.

The initiative reflects the continued commitment of the Consulate General of India, New York, and AEPC to leverage technology-driven trade facilitation tools for enhancing India's apparel exports to the United States. As global sourcing increasingly embraces digital engagement, such virtual exhibitions are expected to become an important complement to physical trade fairs, enabling exporters to reach a wider audience while reducing the cost and time associated with international business development.

The successful conclusion of the first virtual exhibition marks another milestone in AEPC's efforts to promote Indian apparel globally and strengthen commercial ties between India and the United States through innovative and technology-enabled trade promotion initiatives.



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Join India's Leading Apparel Export Network

Membership Opportunities for Apparel Exporters.

Apparel Export Promotion Council invites exporters, entrepreneurs and businesses in the apparel sector to become members and access industry support, policy guidance and global market opportunities.

Membership Categories



**New membership
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Entrepreneurs**

₹8,000 + GST

(Entrance Fee: ₹1,000 extra)



**New membership for
Young & Start-up
Entrepreneurs**

₹8,000 + GST

(Entrance Fee: ₹1,000 extra)



**New membership
for Others**

₹12,000 + GST

(Entrance Fee: ₹1,000 extra)

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Khadi India: From Gandhi's Spinning Wheel to a Modern Lifestyle Brand



Few Indian brands possess a legacy as rich and enduring as Khadi India. More than a retail label, it is a symbol of self reliance, craftsmanship, and rural entrepreneurship. For over a century, khadi has been woven into the story of India's social and economic development, evolving from a grassroots movement into one of the country's most recognisable heritage brands. Today, under the stewardship of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Khadi India stands as a modern umbrella brand that promotes apparel, village industry products, and natural wellness offerings while preserving the traditions that define its identity.

The origins of khadi can be traced back to the early years of the twentieth century. Around 1917 and 1918, Mahatma Gandhi produced the first piece of hand woven khadi cloth at Sabarmati Ashram. At a time when imported textiles dominated the Indian market, the promotion of hand spun and handwoven fabric was seen as a way to encourage local production and generate employment in rural communities.

In 1920, khadi became a central pillar of the Swadeshi movement and was promoted as both an economic tool and a symbol of self sufficiency. The movement encouraged Indians to support indigenous industries and reduce dependence on foreign goods. As demand for khadi increased, organised efforts were undertaken to strengthen its production and distribution network across the country.

A major milestone came in 1922 when the Indian National Congress established the All India Khadi Board to coordinate and promote khadi activities. This was followed by the formation of the All India Spinners Association in 1925, which worked to support artisans, improve production systems, and expand the reach of khadi products. These initiatives helped lay the foundation for a structured ecosystem that connected rural producers with consumers nationwide.

Following Independence, the focus shifted towards institutionalising and expanding the sector. In February 1953, the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board commenced operations to support village based industries and traditional crafts. Four years later, in 1957, the Government of India established the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The commission was





entrusted with planning, promoting, organising, and assisting the development of khadi and village industries throughout the country.

The creation of KVIC marked the beginning of a new chapter in the evolution of Khadi India. What had started as a movement gradually developed into a nationally recognised brand supported by an extensive production and retail network. Through its initiatives, KVIC helped create employment opportunities for artisans, spinners, weavers, and small entrepreneurs while preserving traditional skills that might otherwise have been lost.

Today, Khadi India functions as the umbrella retail brand for a diverse range of products. While hand spun and handwoven textiles remain at its core, the brand's portfolio has expanded significantly over the years. Consumers can now purchase apparel, home furnishings, honey, herbal products, natural cosmetics, personal care items, handcrafted goods, and a variety of village industry products through Khadi India outlets across the country.



One of the brand's greatest strengths lies in its commitment to authentic craftsmanship. Unlike mass manufactured textiles, khadi fabric is created through labour intensive processes that rely on human skill and expertise. Every piece carries a distinctive texture and character, reflecting the work of artisans whose knowledge has been passed down through generations. This emphasis on craftsmanship has helped Khadi India maintain its unique position in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

The brand has also adapted to changing consumer expectations. Modern retail formats, contemporary designs, improved merchandising, and digital initiatives have enabled Khadi India to connect with younger audiences. Khadi garments are no longer viewed solely as traditional attire but have emerged as versatile fashion choices that appeal to consumers seeking both style and substance.

The rise of sustainable consumption has further strengthened the relevance of the brand. As awareness of

environmental issues grows, consumers are increasingly drawn towards products that support responsible production practices. Khadi's hand spun and handwoven processes require minimal industrial energy, making it an attractive alternative for those seeking environmentally conscious choices. Its emphasis on local sourcing and artisan led production aligns closely with the values of today's mindful consumer.

Beyond its commercial success, Khadi India continues to play a significant role in supporting rural livelihoods. The brand provides opportunities for thousands of artisans and small producers across India, contributing to local economies while preserving traditional skills. In doing so, it demonstrates how heritage can be transformed into a sustainable model for economic development.

From its beginnings as a movement promoting self reliance to its present status as a modern heritage brand, Khadi India's journey reflects the resilience and adaptability of Indian craftsmanship. More than a century after its origins, the brand continues to evolve while remaining rooted in the values that shaped its foundation. In every thread, every weave, and every handcrafted product, Khadi India carries forward a legacy that connects India's past with its future.





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AEPC Congratulates Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Becoming India's Longest-Serving Elected Prime Minister

Chairman Dr A. Sakthivel Highlights Transformative Reforms that Strengthened India's Apparel Export Sector

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has extended its heartfelt congratulations to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on achieving the historic milestone of becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister.



In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, AEPC Chairman Dr A. Sakthivel lauded Shri Modi's visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to nation-building and transformative governance that has propelled India to new heights of economic growth, global influence and industrial development.

Dr Sakthivel stated that under the Prime Minister's leadership, India has witnessed remarkable progress over the past decade through bold economic reforms, infrastructure expansion, digital transformation and enhanced global engagement. These initiatives have significantly improved India's competitiveness and created new opportunities for businesses, exporters and citizens across the country.

Highlighting the impact on the textile and apparel sector, Dr Sakthivel noted that the industry has been a direct beneficiary of several landmark policy interventions introduced by the Government. These include the PM MITRA

Mega Textile Parks programme, the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for textiles, the National Logistics Policy and various ease of doing business reforms that have strengthened India's manufacturing and export ecosystem.

"The apparel industry deeply appreciates the Government's sustained support towards enhancing the competitiveness of India's textile and apparel value chain. These initiatives have helped generate employment, strengthen MSMEs, attract investments and improve India's position in the global sourcing landscape," Dr Sakthivel said.

The AEPC Chairman also acknowledged the Government's success in expanding India's global trade footprint through a series of landmark Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements. He noted that India today got preferential market access through recently signed trade agreements with 38 countries, creating significant opportunities for Indian apparel exporters in key international markets.

Dr Sakthivel further highlighted the Prime Minister's visionary SF framework of "Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion and Fashion to Foreign", which has provided a clear roadmap for the integrated development of the textile and apparel value chain. He observed that this vision, coupled with a strong focus on sustainability, innovation, skill development and investment promotion, has laid a robust foundation for the future growth of the sector.

Reaffirming the industry's commitment to the national development agenda, Dr Sakthivel said that the apparel export sector remains fully aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and will continue to contribute towards employment generation, export growth, investment promotion and strengthening India's position as a global textile and apparel powerhouse.

On behalf of the entire apparel export industry, AEPC conveyed its sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister for his leadership and wished him continued success in guiding the nation towards greater prosperity, inclusiveness and global prominence.

AEPC and Department of Commerce Organise Media Briefing in Jaipur on Strengthening India's Position in Global Apparel Trade

Industry leaders, government officials and exporters discuss emerging opportunities, policy initiatives and Jaipur's growing role in making India a preferred global sourcing destination for apparel and textiles.

As India strengthens its position as one of the world's most reliable sourcing destinations for apparel and textiles, Jaipur is steadily emerging as a key growth engine in the country's export success story. Against the backdrop of the Government of India's sustained efforts over the past 12 years to enhance trade competitiveness, exports and manufacturing, the Department of Commerce, Government of India, in collaboration with the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), organised a regional media briefing in Jaipur on the theme, *"Strengthening India's Position in Global Apparel Trade: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward."*

The event brought together senior government officials, industry leaders, exporters and media representatives to discuss India's growing influence in global apparel supply chains and the critical role being played by regional manufacturing hubs such as Jaipur in driving export-led growth.

Over the past decade, India's textile and apparel sector has benefited from significant improvements in infrastructure, logistics, digitalisation, ease of doing business and manufacturing competitiveness. Combined with a strong focus on sustainability, innovation and skill development, these reforms have enhanced India's reputation as a trusted sourcing partner for global brands seeking resilient and diversified supply chains.

At a time when international buyers are increasingly looking beyond traditional sourcing markets, India is being recognised for its integrated textile value chain, abundant raw material base, skilled workforce, compliance capabilities and

policy support. The country's emphasis on sustainability, ethical manufacturing and traceability is further strengthening its appeal among global retailers and fashion brands.

Jaipur, long celebrated for its rich textile traditions, handcraftsmanship and entrepreneurial spirit, has emerged as Rajasthan's leading apparel export cluster. The city accounts for nearly 86 per cent of the state's ready-made garment exports and has successfully combined traditional textile strengths with modern manufacturing practices. Today, exporters from Jaipur serve some of the world's largest apparel markets across North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.



Welcoming the participants, Mr Rakshit Poddar, President, Garment Exporters Association of Rajasthan (GEAR) and Executive Committee Member, AEPC, highlighted Jaipur's



growing significance in India's export ecosystem. He noted that the city's exporters have consistently adapted to changing market requirements while preserving the unique design heritage and craftsmanship that distinguish Jaipur-made products in global markets.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Aseem Kumar, Executive Committee Member, AEPC, emphasised that the apparel industry continues to be one of India's most important employment-generating sectors and a major contributor to foreign exchange earnings. He stressed the need for continued investment in technology adoption, sustainability standards, skill enhancement and infrastructure development to further strengthen India's competitiveness in international markets.

Delivering the keynote address, Mr Agrim Kaushal, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Commerce, Government of India, outlined the Government's vision of transforming India into a global textile and apparel powerhouse through the Prime Minister's 5F vision of "Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion and Fashion to Foreign."

Mr Kaushal highlighted a range of transformative initiatives, including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles, PM MITRA Mega Textile Parks, the National Technical Textiles Mission and various export promotion measures that are strengthening the textile value chain and creating new growth opportunities for exporters. He also drew attention to the opportunities arising from India's expanding network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the recently launched Export Promotion Mission (EPM), which aims to support MSMEs and emerging exporters in accessing global markets.

Emphasising Jaipur's unique strengths, Mr Kaushal observed that the city's strong MSME ecosystem, rich textile heritage, entrepreneurial culture and expanding manufacturing capabilities position it as a major contributor to India's future export growth.

A detailed presentation by Mr Kaushal highlighted Jaipur's contribution to India's apparel exports and outlined key strategies to further enhance the city's global competitiveness. The presentation underscored the importance of infrastructure development, logistics efficiency, sustainability, digital transformation, product diversification, innovation and workforce development in sustaining long-term export growth.

Throughout the discussions, participants noted that global

supply chains are undergoing significant shifts as international brands seek greater diversification and supply chain resilience. India is increasingly emerging as a preferred sourcing destination due to its large-scale manufacturing base, integrated textile ecosystem, competitive workforce and supportive policy environment.

The briefing also highlighted the substantial opportunities expected from recently concluded and ongoing trade agreements, which are set to improve market access, reduce tariff barriers and enhance the competitiveness of Indian apparel exports across major international markets.

Reaffirming the industry's confidence in India's growth trajectory, the interaction underscored AEPC's continued commitment to working closely with the Government of India and industry stakeholders to strengthen export competitiveness, generate employment and expand India's presence in the global apparel value chain.

Concluding the programme, Mr Ravi Poddar, Executive Committee Member, AEPC, delivered the vote of thanks and reflected on the significant transformation witnessed in India's apparel export ecosystem over the past decade. He noted that India's emergence as a preferred global sourcing destination is the result of sustained policy support, industry resilience and the collective efforts of exporters across the country.

Mr Poddar emphasised that global buyers today increasingly view India not merely as a manufacturing destination but as a strategic sourcing partner capable of offering scale, quality, innovation, sustainability and supply chain reliability. He observed that apparel hubs such as Jaipur have played a crucial role in strengthening this perception by consistently meeting international standards while preserving India's unique design and craftsmanship heritage.

The event concluded with an interactive session with media representatives, providing further insights into the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of India's apparel export sector.

As India progresses towards its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, the textile and apparel industry is expected to remain a major pillar of economic growth, employment generation and export expansion. With its globally recognised textile heritage, strong manufacturing ecosystem and growing international presence, Jaipur is poised to remain at the forefront of India's apparel export journey.



AEPC Marks World Environment Day with Tree Plantation Drive at Apparel House

Reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible corporate citizenship, the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) commemorated World Environment Day 2026 with a tree plantation drive at Apparel House, Gurugram.

Observed annually on June 5, World Environment Day serves as a reminder to raise awareness and encourage action for environmental protection. Aligning with this year's celebrations, AEPC organised a plantation initiative aimed at promoting ecological consciousness and inspiring collective action towards a greener future.

Employees of the Council enthusiastically participated in the drive, planting saplings across the Apparel House premises. The initiative reflected AEPC's ongoing commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development, while contributing to the broader national objective of increasing green cover and enhancing ecological balance.

The plantation activity also highlighted the important role that organisations and individuals can play in addressing environmental challenges through simple yet meaningful actions. By nurturing greenery and fostering environmental

awareness, the Council reaffirmed its dedication to creating a healthier and more sustainable environment for future generations.

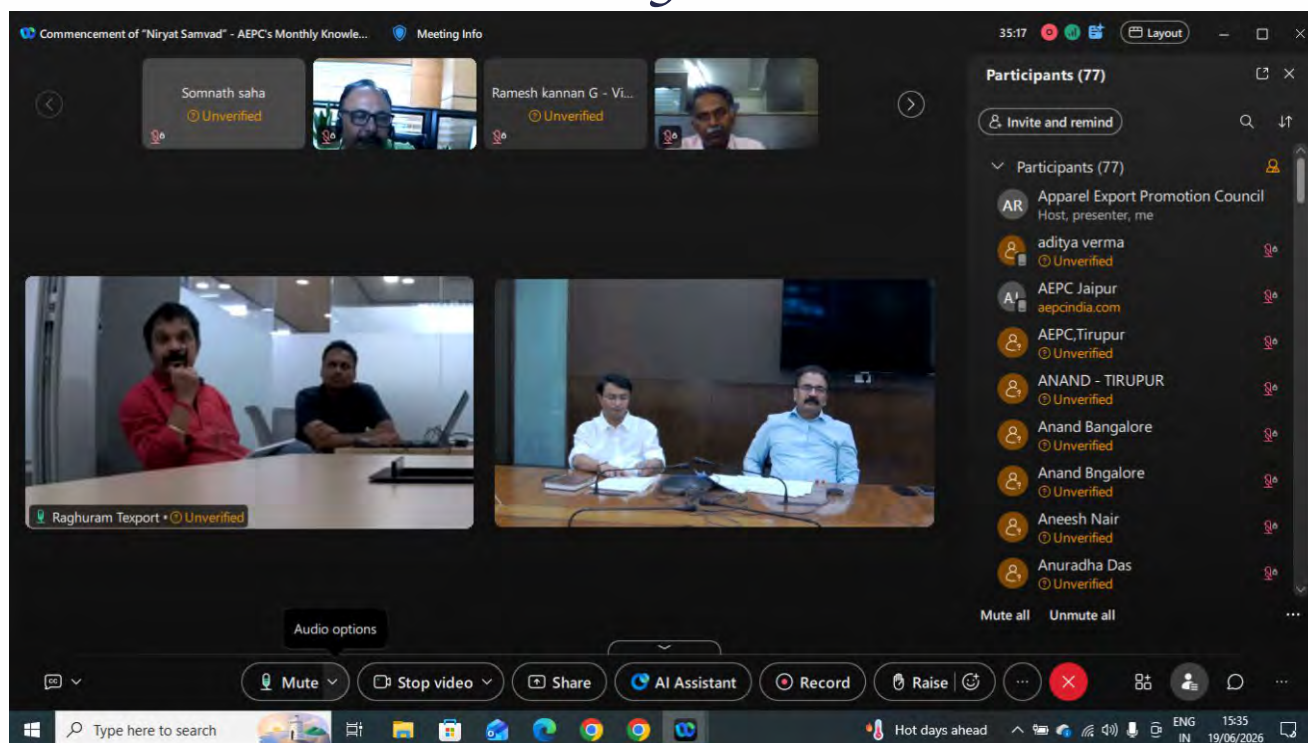
Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC emphasised that sustainability is increasingly becoming an integral part of the global apparel value chain. As the industry continues to evolve, environmental stewardship and responsible business practices are emerging as key pillars of long-term growth and competitiveness.

The event concluded with enthusiastic participation from employees, who pledged to continue supporting environmental initiatives both within and beyond the workplace. The successful celebration underscored the message that collective efforts, no matter how small, can make a significant difference in protecting the planet and building a sustainable future.

Through such initiatives, AEPC continues to encourage a culture of environmental responsibility while supporting India's broader vision of sustainable development and green growth.



AEPC Launches 'Niryat Samvad' to Keep Exporters Updated on Trade Policy Developments



In a significant step towards strengthening industry awareness and policy preparedness, the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), under the leadership of Chairman Dr A Sakthivel, launched the inaugural session of 'Niryat Samvad', a monthly Trade Policy and Regulatory Update programme for apparel exporters, on 19 June 2026 through a virtual platform.

The initiative has been designed to provide exporters with timely updates on trade policies, customs procedures, regulatory changes and emerging market opportunities, enabling them to navigate the evolving global trade landscape more effectively.

Addressing the participants, Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, emphasised the importance of staying abreast of policy and regulatory developments that have a direct bearing on export competitiveness and business operations. He noted that regular dissemination of such knowledge would help exporters take informed decisions and respond swiftly to changing trade requirements.

The maiden session covered a comprehensive review of key notifications and policy measures issued by various government departments relating to trade policy, customs, GST and export procedures during May 2026 and up to 15 June 2026. Participants were briefed on recent developments that could impact export operations, compliance requirements and market access.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from apparel exporters across the country, reflecting the industry's keen interest in understanding the latest regulatory and policy changes.

With the launch of Niryat Samvad, AEPC has reinforced its commitment to supporting exporters through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives. The Council plans to organise the programme every month, creating a regular platform for industry stakeholders to stay informed about important policy announcements, regulatory updates and trade-related developments and have their doubts about regulatory provisions clarified.



Income Tax Act 2025 Outreach Programme Highlights Ease of Compliance for Exporters

The Income Tax Department, Tiruppur, organised an outreach programme on the Income Tax Act, 2025 under the banner PRARAMBH 2026 on 18 June 2026 at the Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) Auditorium. The initiative was aimed at creating awareness among taxpayers, exporters, professionals and other stakeholders about the provisions of the new legislation and its focus on simplifying tax compliance.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, welcomed Shri Sanjeev Shankar, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Coimbatore Region, and lauded the Government's efforts under the leadership of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to streamline tax procedures and strengthen engagement with taxpayers.

Highlighting Tiruppur's remarkable growth story, Dr. Sakthivel noted that the city's knitwear exports have expanded from just ₹10 crore in 1984 to nearly ₹45,000 crore today, making it one of India's most prominent textile export hubs. He also pointed out that women constitute nearly 85 per cent of the garment sector workforce, underlining the industry's significant contribution to employment generation and women's economic empowerment.

Drawing attention to the need for improved worker welfare infrastructure, Dr. Sakthivel advocated for enhanced government support for labour housing. He urged policymakers to consider providing a 50 per cent capital subsidy along with low-interest financial assistance for the development of worker hostels, which would help address

accommodation challenges faced by the sector's workforce.

Speaking on the outlook for exports, Dr. Sakthivel expressed confidence that India's growing network of Free Trade Agreements would strengthen the country's global competitiveness. He stated that the India-UK Free Trade Agreement, scheduled to come into force on 15 July 2026, is expected to provide fresh momentum to textile and apparel exports while contributing to a broader expansion of the tax base in Tiruppur and other export-oriented clusters.

In his keynote address, Shri Sanjeev Shankar praised Tiruppur's contribution to India's export growth and described exporters, taxpayers and tax professionals as the three pillars supporting economic development. He revealed that Tiruppur had achieved gross tax collections of ₹2,078 crore during the previous financial year against a target of ₹1,528 crore and currently serves nearly 2.5 lakh taxpayers.

He emphasised that the Income Tax Act, 2025 has been designed to modernise India's taxation framework, simplify regulatory processes and support the country's vision of becoming a developed nation under the Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap.

The programme witnessed active participation from exporters, chartered accountants, tax practitioners and industry representatives, reflecting the sector's keen interest in understanding the new tax regime and compliance framework.



AEPC Celebrates International Day of Yoga 2026 with Enthusiastic Participation

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) celebrated International Day of Yoga 2026 with great enthusiasm and active participation from its employees, reaffirming its commitment to promoting health, wellness and holistic well-being in the workplace.

Observed under the global theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", the programme brought together the AEPC team for a rejuvenating morning dedicated to physical fitness, mental well-being and inner harmony. The event reflected AEPC's belief that a healthy workforce is essential for achieving professional excellence and sustaining growth in a dynamic business environment.

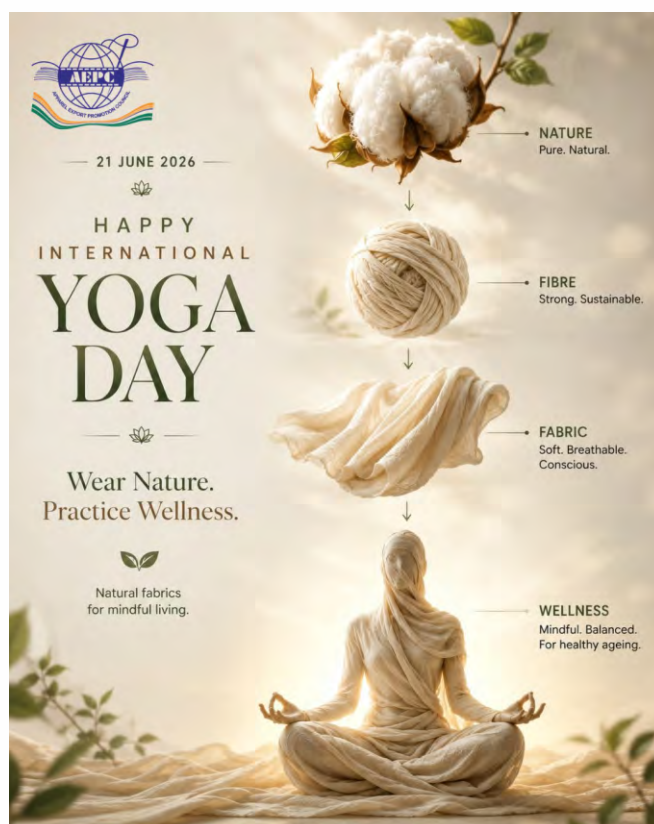
The yoga session was conducted by renowned yoga trainer Jaiveer Singh, who guided participants through a series of yoga asanas, breathing exercises and meditation techniques. Through his engaging and practical approach, he explained how regular yoga practice can help improve flexibility, strengthen the body, enhance concentration and reduce stress. He also highlighted the importance of integrating yoga into daily routines to maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

AEPC Secretary General Shri Mithileshwar Thakur was present during the programme and participated in the session alongside employees. The session commenced with warm-up exercises, followed by a demonstration of various yoga postures aimed at improving posture, flexibility and overall fitness. Participants actively performed the asanas under the trainer's guidance and also practised pranayama techniques that focus on controlled breathing to enhance mental clarity and emotional well-being. The programme concluded with a brief meditation session that encouraged mindfulness and relaxation.

Employees appreciated the opportunity to participate in the wellness initiative and expressed enthusiasm about incorporating yoga into their daily schedules. Many participants found the session both energising and informative, particularly the practical guidance on managing stress and maintaining work-life balance through simple yoga practices.

The celebration also served as a reminder of yoga's growing global significance as a powerful tool for promoting health and wellness. Over the years, International Day of Yoga has evolved into a worldwide movement that encourages individuals to embrace healthier lifestyles and develop greater awareness of their physical and mental well-being.

For AEPC, the observance of International Day of Yoga was more than a ceremonial event. It reflected the Council's commitment to fostering a positive and healthy workplace culture where employee welfare remains a priority. By encouraging its team members to adopt wellness practices such as yoga, AEPC continues to promote an environment that values holistic development, productivity and personal well-being.



STRENGTHENING INDIA–JAPAN TEXTILE TIES: Key Takeaways from the Indian Textile Delegation Visit to Japan

By Ajay Agarwal

India's textile and apparel industry took another significant step towards expanding its global footprint through a high-level delegation visit to Japan in June 2026. The four-day programme across Tokyo and Osaka provided valuable opportunities to deepen engagement with Japanese brands, retailers, trading houses, industry associations and technology providers while showcasing India's growing strengths as a sourcing and manufacturing destination.



The delegation was led by Mrs Neelam Shami Rao, Hon'ble Textile Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, and included Ms Padmini Singla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Mr Kartikay Dhanda, Secretary, Textile Committee; representatives from Invest India; members of various Export Promotion Councils; and industry leaders including Mr Ravi Poddar and Mr Ajay Agarwal, Executive Committee Members of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC).

Tokyo: Building Strategic Business Partnerships

The Tokyo leg of the visit centred on a series of productive meetings with leading Japanese apparel brands, retailers, sourcing organisations and trading houses. Among the key interactions was a meeting with Ryohin Keikaku, the company behind the globally recognised MUJI brand. The delegation also engaged with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to discuss opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

A clear and encouraging message emerged from these discussions. While many Japanese companies already source textiles and apparel from India, the overall volumes remain modest compared to sourcing from countries such as China and Vietnam. However, there is a growing interest among Japanese businesses to significantly increase sourcing from India in the coming years.

Many companies highlighted their efforts to diversify supply chains and reduce dependence on traditional sourcing destinations. India's integrated textile value chain, manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce and growing emphasis on sustainability make it an increasingly attractive alternative.

Several Japanese companies also expressed interest in viewing India not only as a sourcing destination for the Japanese market but as a manufacturing hub for exports to Europe, the United States and other global markets. This reflects growing confidence in India's ability to support large-scale, globally competitive production.

Another positive development was the increasing engagement of Japanese firms with Invest India as they explore opportunities to establish manufacturing facilities and business operations in the country. Such investments have the potential to strengthen industrial cooperation and create long-term value for both economies.

A highlight of the Tokyo programme was the CEO Interaction Session jointly organised by the Embassy of India in Tokyo and JETRO. Around 25 leading Japanese companies participated in the session, sharing insights into their growth plans, sourcing strategies and expectations from Indian suppliers. The interaction provided a deeper understanding of evolving market dynamics and reinforced the immense potential for closer collaboration between the two countries.



Understanding the Japanese Market

One of the most valuable lessons from the visit was the unique nature of the Japanese market.

Unlike many Western markets where cost and speed often dominate sourcing decisions, Japanese buyers place exceptional importance on quality, consistency, reliability and long-term partnerships. Products, manufacturing processes and supplier capabilities are evaluated with great attention to detail.

Trust and transparency play a central role in business relationships. Japanese companies prefer suppliers who demonstrate commitment, continuous improvement and a willingness to invest in long-term engagement rather than short-term transactional gains.

For Indian exporters, this presents a significant opportunity. Companies that focus on product excellence, quality assurance and relationship building can establish durable partnerships and secure sustainable growth in one of the world's most sophisticated consumer markets.

Osaka: Showcasing India's Strengths

The delegation subsequently travelled to Osaka and participated in the India Fashion Exhibition organised by FIEO and JIIPA. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Textile Secretary and served as a platform to showcase the capabilities of India's textile and apparel industry to Japanese buyers and stakeholders.

The event featured nearly 48 exhibitors representing apparel, home textiles and lifestyle products. It enabled Indian exporters to engage directly with prospective buyers, understand market preferences and explore new business opportunities.

The response from visitors was highly encouraging and reflected growing interest in Indian products. The exhibition highlighted India's strengths in manufacturing, design innovation, sustainability and product diversity.

During the Osaka programme, the delegation also interacted with leading Japanese textile and apparel companies, including Koizumi Holdings and Moririn Co. These meetings offered valuable insights into Japanese sourcing practices, market expectations and future avenues for partnership.

The Consulate General of India in Osaka hosted the delegation and senior executives from Japanese companies and

JETRO, creating another platform for meaningful dialogue and networking.

Exploring Technology and Education Collaboration

A significant component of the visit was the delegation's engagement with technology and educational institutions.

The delegation visited Murata Machinery Ltd. (Muratec) in Kyoto, a globally recognised manufacturer of advanced textile machinery and the pioneer of Vortex Spinning Technology. The visit provided insights into cutting-edge innovations that are enhancing productivity, efficiency and product development across the textile industry.

Another noteworthy engagement was with Osaka Mode Gakuen, one of the leading fashion institutes in the Kansai region. Discussions explored potential collaboration with India's National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) through student exchanges, academic partnerships, internships and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The Hon'ble Textile Secretary welcomed the proposal and indicated that the Ministry of Textiles would explore ways to facilitate and support such collaborations, opening new opportunities for talent development and industry-academia partnerships.

A Promising Road Ahead

The visit reinforced the strong potential for expanding textile and apparel cooperation between India and Japan. Japanese companies are increasingly recognising India's strengths as a reliable sourcing destination, manufacturing partner and investment hub.

The delegation successfully showcased India's capabilities across the value chain, from fibre and textiles to apparel manufacturing, innovation and sustainability. As Japanese businesses continue to diversify their sourcing networks, India is well positioned to capture a larger share of this opportunity.

Continued engagement, stronger business relationships and a sustained focus on quality, innovation and sustainability will be critical in unlocking the full potential of the India-Japan textile partnership.

The visit marked an important milestone in strengthening economic ties between the two nations and laid the foundation for deeper collaboration, greater investment and enhanced trade across the textile and apparel sector.

ATDC CONDUCTS AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR OGTC MEMBER'S FACTORIES ON "CATEGORIZATION OF SKILL SETS INTO UNSKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED, SKILLED AND HIGHLY SKILLED"

The Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC) is a vocational Institute providing training program across a wide spectrum of course across the country. It was established by the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) and is registered under the Societies Registration Act. ATDC is fundamentally designed as an industry body operating on the principle of being "By the Industry, With the Industry, For the Industry."

Prof. Dr. Roopak Vasishtha has joined as the Director General & CEO of the Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC). Before taking charge at ATDC, Dr. Vasishtha served as the DG & CEO of the Apparel Made-Ups and Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMH-SSC) under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India. Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Vasishtha, ATDC Pro-Up, the industry engagement and capacity-building vertical of ATDC, is rapidly expanding its portfolio of customized training and consulting interventions for the apparel sector and is undertaking a wider range of industry-focused projects and initiatives.

ATDC was approached by OGTC to provide knowledge and awareness sessions to its member's factories for Categorization of skill sets into Unskilled, Semi-skilled, Skilled and Highly skilled as per the New norms of the labor codes.

Keeping this in view ATDC conducted two sessions on "Awareness Sessions Program on Identification of Skills Sets for Various Job roles" at ATDC Gurugram & ATDC Noida respectively for the member factories.

Dr. Roopali Shukla Director ATDC (Pro-Up & CSR), addressed both the programs. The sessions included pertinent topics like Understanding the Four Grades (Unskilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled and Highly Skilled), Department Wise Skill Mapping, Skill-set evaluation methodology and quantitative method of skills assessment. In addition, ATDC provided a structured mathematical approach for assessing employee skill levels.

During the program, Dr. Roopali Shukla emphasized that the four skill categories are applicable across all departments and not merely to the sewing floor. Consequently, each department was discussed separately to reinforce this understanding. Participants also gained valuable insights into the importance of employee upskilling, multi-skilling, and workforce flexibility in today's competitive apparel industry.

The session was highly interactive and engaging, featuring meaningful discussion between participants and industry experts.

The research and content development for these sessions was undertaken by Pro-up officials Ms. Aastha, Mr. Adarsh, and Mr. Nirupam.

The Session was attended by 44 participants across the two sessions which included HR Heads, Operations Head, COO and Head of other Departments of the factories.

The participating member factories were Matrix Design & Industries Pvt. Ltd.; Orient Fashion Exports India Pvt. Ltd.; Trend Setters International; Indigo Crafts Pvt. Ltd.; Panorama Exports Private Limited; Radnik Exports Global Pvt. Ltd.; Pee Empro Exports Pvt. Ltd.; Neetee Apparel LLP; Afflatus International; Ishman International; Pooja International; Fancy Fashions; New Delhi Export House; Rainbow Fabart Pvt. Ltd.; Meenu Creation LLP; Paramount Products Pvt. Ltd.; Orient Fashion Exports; Sonu Exim Pvt. Ltd.; and Team Krian.

ATDC expresses its gratitude to the OGTC team and particularly Col. S. Kapoor, Director General for taking up this initiative that would enable factories to widen their understanding and thus enable smooth implementation of the revised norms effectively.

ATDC looks forward to conducting many more such programs with OGTC and other organization thus contributing to the continued growth, compliance, and skill enhancement of the Indian apparel industry.



ATDC Gurugram



ATDC Noida



AEPC's Pan-India FTA Seminar Series Kicks Off in Bengaluru, Continues in Ludhiana

As India enters a new phase of global trade integration through a growing network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has launched a nationwide initiative aimed at helping apparel exporters translate these agreements into tangible business opportunities.

Under the leadership of Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, the Council has embarked on a Pan-India Seminar Series on “Unlocking Growth Opportunities: FTA Utilisation for Apparel Exporters”, bringing expert guidance and practical knowledge directly to apparel manufacturing clusters across the country.

The initiative began with a highly successful inaugural programme in Bengaluru on 25 June 2026, followed by another well-attended seminar in Ludhiana on 27 June 2026, drawing participation from exporters, policymakers, trade experts and industry stakeholders eager to understand how India's evolving trade landscape can support export growth.

Why FTAs Matter More Than Ever

India's recently concluded and ongoing trade agreements are creating unprecedented opportunities for the country's apparel sector. Preferential market access, lower tariffs and enhanced competitiveness in key export destinations have the potential to significantly boost apparel exports. However, the benefits of these agreements can only be realised when

exporters understand and effectively utilise the provisions available under them.

Recognising this need, AEPC designed the seminar series to demystify complex FTA provisions and equip exporters with actionable insights on market access, tariff benefits, sourcing strategies and compliance requirements.

Bengaluru Sets the Tone

The inaugural seminar in Bengaluru witnessed enthusiastic participation from exporters from Karnataka and neighbouring regions. The programme focused on providing a practical understanding of FTAs and their implications for apparel exports.

Opening the session, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, highlighted the transformative role FTAs can play in strengthening India's position in global value chains and emphasised the need for greater awareness and utilisation of these agreements by the industry.

The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Dona Ghosh, ITS, Joint DGFT, Bengaluru, who underlined the strategic importance of FTAs in enhancing market access and urged exporters to proactively leverage the opportunities available under India's trade agreements.

A comprehensive technical presentation by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mangla, Associate Professor, Economics & International Trade, Symbiosis Institute of Management

Studies (SIMS) provided participants with detailed insights into tariff concessions, emerging market opportunities and practical approaches to improving export competitiveness through FTA utilisation.

One of the most engaging sessions of the programme focused on Rules of Origin for the Textile Sector across FTAs, delivered by Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur. The session helped exporters understand how sourcing decisions and procurement strategies influence eligibility for preferential tariff benefits under various trade agreements.

Dr. Tamanna Chaturvedi, Vice President, Trade Vertical, ITPO, also guided participants on identifying the most suitable FTA markets for their products and developing effective utilisation strategies. The seminar concluded with Q&A session which witnessed enthusiastic participation from attendees.

Ludhiana Continues the Momentum



Building on the strong response in Bengaluru, AEPF carried the initiative to Ludhiana, one of India's important textile and apparel manufacturing hubs.

The Ludhiana programme featured participation from senior government officials and industry experts who shared practical insights on international trade, customs procedures, sustainability requirements and compliance frameworks increasingly relevant in global markets.

The seminar was addressed by Mr. Sukhminder Rekhi, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Govt of Punjab, who highlighted the importance of trade facilitation measures and informed exporters about evolving opportunities arising from India's trade partnerships.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mangla delivered a technical session on FTAs, helping exporters understand how trade agreements can be leveraged for business expansion and market diversification.

Recognising the growing importance of responsible and transparent supply chains, the Ludhiana seminar also featured expert presentations on social, ethical and environmental audits, traceability certification programmes, sustainability certifications, advisory services and assessment frameworks. These sessions helped exporters understand emerging buyer expectations and the increasing role of sustainability in international sourcing decisions. A dedicated question-and-answer session enabled participants to seek practical guidance on compliance and implementation challenges.

Building Export Readiness Across India

Speaking about the initiative, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur noted that while India continues to secure improved market access through trade agreements, the real gains will come from widespread industry awareness and effective utilisation of these opportunities.

The Pan-India Seminar Series is therefore designed not merely as an awareness programme but as a capacity-building platform that empowers exporters with the knowledge needed to make informed business decisions.

By taking these seminars to major apparel clusters across the country, AEPF aims to ensure that exporters of every category can benefit from expert guidance on FTAs, Rules of Origin, market access opportunities and emerging compliance requirements.

Towards a More Competitive Export Sector

The encouraging response received in Bengaluru and Ludhiana demonstrates the industry's growing interest in understanding and leveraging India's expanding trade architecture. As the seminar series travels to additional apparel hubs in the coming months, it is expected to play a significant role in strengthening exporters' preparedness, enhancing utilisation of FTAs and supporting India's ambition of becoming a preferred global sourcing destination for apparel. Through initiatives such as these, AEPF continues to reinforce its commitment to enabling exporters, promoting competitiveness and creating pathways for sustainable growth in India's apparel export sector.



Bharat Tex 2026:

India's Global Textile Showcase Returns Bigger Than Ever



India's flagship textile and apparel exhibition, **Bharat Tex 2026**, is set to reinforce the country's position as a global sourcing and innovation hub when it opens at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **14–17 July 2026**. Organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTF) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles and leading Textile Export Promotion Councils, the event brings together the entire textile value chain under one roof.

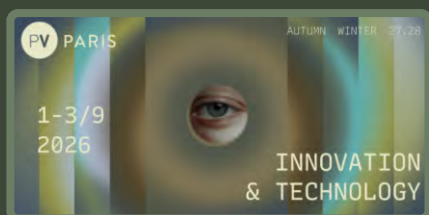
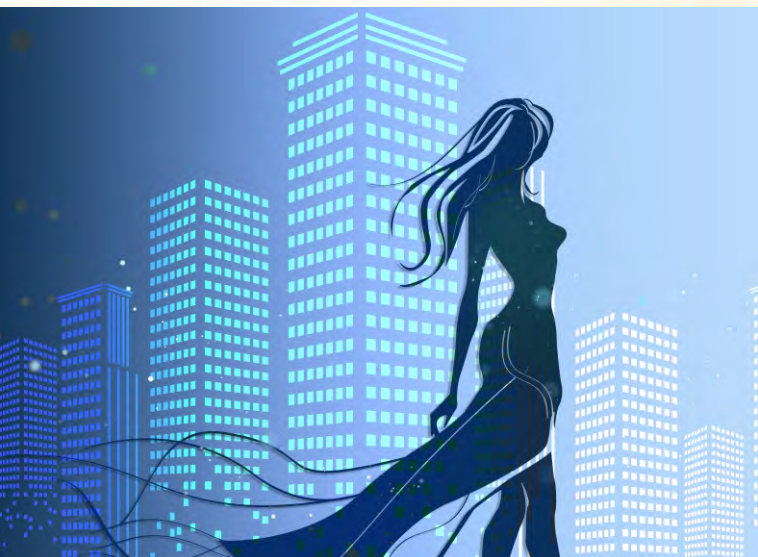
Building on the success of its previous editions, Bharat Tex 2026 is expected to host **over 3,500 exhibitors**, **7,000 international buyers**, showcase **20,000+ textile products**, and welcome more than **130,000 trade visitors** from across the world. Spread over **1.6 million sq. ft.**, the exhibition will feature manufacturers, exporters, brands, sourcing professionals, technology providers, start-ups and policymakers, making it one of the world's largest integrated textile events.

The exhibition will cover the complete textile ecosystem, from fibres, yarns and fabrics to apparel, home textiles, technical textiles, fashion accessories, machinery, chemicals and sustainable solutions. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the latest innovations, discover new sourcing partners and gain insights into emerging global trends shaping the future of the industry.

A major attraction of Bharat Tex 2026 will be its extensive programme of **knowledge sessions, B2B meetings, product launches, designer showcases and networking events**, offering a platform for collaboration between Indian manufacturers and global buyers. The event will also spotlight sustainability, circularity, digital transformation and next-generation manufacturing technologies that are redefining the textile and apparel sector.

For apparel exporters, Bharat Tex presents an unmatched opportunity to expand international business, forge strategic partnerships and showcase India's manufacturing excellence to buyers from key global markets. As India's premier textile exhibition continues to grow in scale and stature, Bharat Tex 2026 is poised to strengthen the country's ambition of becoming a preferred global sourcing destination for textiles and apparel.





PREMIÈRE VISION PARIS 2026

To Spotlight Innovation, AI and Sustainable Fashion



The global fashion industry will turn its attention to **Première Vision Paris** from **1–3 September 2026**, where innovation, technology and sustainability will take centre stage. Scheduled at **Paris Nord Villepinte**, the exhibition will bring together more than **850 exhibitors** from across the fashion value chain, reinforcing its position as one of the world's leading sourcing and innovation platforms for the textile and apparel industry.

This year's edition comes at a time when the apparel industry is navigating shifting consumer preferences, supply chain realignments and increasing sustainability requirements.

Reflecting these changes, the exhibition has adopted **Innovation & Technology** as its central theme, highlighting practical solutions that enable brands and manufacturers to improve efficiency, competitiveness and environmental performance.

A Platform Beyond Traditional Sourcing



Première Vision Paris has evolved beyond a conventional trade fair into a strategic business platform where manufacturers, brands and technology providers collaborate to address challenges such as margin pressures, product innovation, sourcing optimisation and regulatory compliance.

The exhibition will feature dedicated sectors covering **Yarns, Fabrics, Designs, Accessories, Leather, Smart Creation, Manufacturing, Bag & Shoe and Leatherwear**, enabling buyers to source across the complete value chain under one roof.

Artificial Intelligence Moves into Mainstream Fashion

One of the strongest themes at the exhibition will be the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in fashion.

The **Smart Creation** zone will showcase companies developing AI-powered trend forecasting, digital product development, advanced materials and sustainable manufacturing technologies. Solutions such as AI-based consumer analytics, 3D garment visualisation, bio-based dyes, circular sourcing platforms and responsible supply chain management will demonstrate how technology is rapidly becoming an integral part of fashion production rather than a future concept.

For apparel exporters, these innovations offer valuable insights into faster product development, improved inventory planning and greater responsiveness to changing global demand.



Sustainability Through Practical Innovation

The event will highlight innovations including low-energy dyeing technologies, circular raw material sourcing, improved labour standards and responsible production systems. In addition, Première Vision will launch a new web-based sourcing application developed in partnership with **Paris Good Fashion**, designed to help companies identify more sustainable raw materials by comparing over 60 material options based on quality, availability, industrial maturity and environmental impact.

Such initiatives are expected to support apparel manufacturers seeking to meet increasingly stringent sustainability requirements from international buyers.

Knowledge Sharing for the Future

A comprehensive conference programme will accompany

the exhibition, focusing on critical industry issues including profitability, AI adoption, Digital Product Passports (DPP), sustainability, recycling technologies and strategies for managing geopolitical uncertainty and global trade disruptions.

Industry experts, technology leaders and fashion innovators will share practical case studies aimed at helping businesses navigate the next phase of global fashion transformation.

Expanding Business Opportunities

Première Vision Paris will also introduce a new **Cosmetic Village**, developed in partnership with **Cosmetic Valley**, reflecting the growing convergence between fashion, beauty and lifestyle industries. The exhibition will further strengthen international networking through hosted buyer programmes, digital business tools and curated matchmaking initiatives.

Why It Matters for Indian Apparel Exporters

For Indian apparel exporters, Première Vision Paris continues to be an important platform for understanding emerging global sourcing trends and buyer expectations. As international markets increasingly demand digital capabilities, sustainable manufacturing and innovative product development, the exhibition provides valuable insights into technologies and business models that are shaping the future of the apparel industry.

With India's growing emphasis on value-added exports, sustainability and technology-driven manufacturing, the innovations showcased at Première Vision Paris 2026 offer useful benchmarks for exporters looking to strengthen their competitiveness in international markets.





WORLD TEXTILE INDIA 2026: *A Global Textile Marketplace*



World Textile India (WTI) 2026, to be held from 1–4 October 2026 at KTPO, Bengaluru, is set to become a major meeting point for the global textile and apparel industry. The exhibition is expected to attract 300–400 exhibitors, over 25,000 visitors, and international buyers from Italy, UAE, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and more than 30 other countries.

The event will feature 500+ buyer-seller meetings, export-focused business opportunities, startup and innovation forums, and over 25 knowledge sessions on industry trends and market developments. Special emphasis will be placed on supporting MSMEs and fostering global trade partnerships.

A vibrant fashion show showcasing Indian textiles for international markets and prestigious industry awards will add to the event's appeal. Bringing together manufacturers, exporters, retailers, innovators, and policymakers, WTI 2026 promises to be a powerful platform for business growth, networking, and showcasing the best of Indian textiles to the world.





Flipkart and Myntra Strengthen Leadership as India's E-Commerce Market Expands



India's e-commerce sector continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience, with Flipkart Group consolidating its position as the country's leading online retail platform while Myntra further strengthens its dominance in the fashion and lifestyle segment, according to a recent analysis by Bank of America Securities (BofA).

Drawing on user engagement data and industry assessments, the report highlights sustained consumer demand across digital commerce channels despite an increasingly competitive marketplace. The findings underscore the growing maturity of India's online retail ecosystem and the rising importance of fashion-led e-commerce in driving consumer spending.

Flipkart maintained its leadership in overall e-commerce engagement during the first half of 2026, while Myntra widened its lead in the online fashion category. Industry experts attribute Myntra's continued success to its strong brand portfolio, premium fashion offerings, beauty products and customer-focused shopping experience. The platform has also benefited from increasing consumer preference for branded apparel, lifestyle products and curated fashion experiences.

The report suggests that competitive pressures have not significantly altered the market structure, with leading platforms continuing to attract and retain large customer bases. Myntra's growing dominance in the fashion segment is particularly noteworthy as online fashion retail remains one of the fastest-growing categories within India's digital commerce landscape.

The positive outlook for e-commerce comes at a time when consumer sentiment is showing signs of improvement. Easing inflationary pressures, lower commodity prices and a more stable global economic environment are expected to support discretionary spending, including expenditure on apparel, footwear and lifestyle products.

Shipment trends observed by third-party logistics providers also indicate healthy demand across e-commerce channels. Logistics volumes have remained robust, reflecting continued consumer confidence and reinforcing expectations of sustained growth in online retail activity.

For the apparel industry, the strengthening performance of fashion-focused e-commerce platforms presents significant opportunities. Online channels have become critical growth drivers for both established brands and emerging labels, enabling wider market access, deeper consumer engagement and faster adoption of new fashion trends.

The report also points to the increasing role of artificial intelligence in shaping the future of digital commerce. Leading internet companies are deploying AI-driven tools to enhance customer personalisation, improve product recommendations, optimise inventory management and reduce operational costs. While the immediate impact on revenues may be limited, AI adoption is expected to improve efficiency and profitability across the sector.

Beyond fashion, other digital segments including online travel, quick commerce, logistics and fintech have also demonstrated resilience. However, fashion and lifestyle retail remain among the most significant contributors to e-commerce growth, supported by rising internet penetration, increasing smartphone adoption and changing consumer preferences.

As India's digital economy continues to evolve, the strong performance of Flipkart and Myntra highlights the growing influence of e-commerce on retail consumption patterns. For apparel manufacturers and exporters, the continued expansion of online fashion retail offers valuable opportunities to connect with consumers, strengthen brand visibility and participate in one of the fastest-growing segments of the domestic market.

With consumer demand remaining stable and digital adoption accelerating across urban and emerging markets alike, India's e-commerce sector appears well positioned for sustained growth, reinforcing its role as a key pillar of the country's retail and fashion ecosystem.



FOCUS COUNTRY IS OMAN

Economic Overview:

Resource-rich Gulf economy undergoing economic diversification; growth supported by logistics, tourism, manufacturing, mining, and port-led development.

➤ Economic Indicators:

Indicators	Value (in USD)
GDP, 2024	107.14 Billion
GDP per capita, 2024	20,285.2
GDP growth (annual), 2024	1.6%
Inflation, consumer prices (annual), 2024	0.6%
Source: World Bank, 2026	

➤ Average Tariff for India:

Zero duty access under the India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (India–Oman CEPA)

➤ Exchange Rate :

Indicators	Value (in USD)
Indian Rupees (INR) per Omani Rial (OMR)	248.84
Omani Rial (OMR) per US Dollar (USD)	2.60
Source: X-Rates (June 2026)	

➤ **Oman's RMG Trade:****Oman's RMG Import from World and India (In USD Mn.)**

	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2025 over 2024
Oman's RMG imports from World	422.3	435.3	135.5	-68.9%
Oman's RMG imports from India	65.0	68.7	52.0	-24.4%
India's Share in Oman's total RMG imports from World, %	15.4%	15.8%	38.4%	

Source: ITC Trade Map 2026; *Mirror Data Used

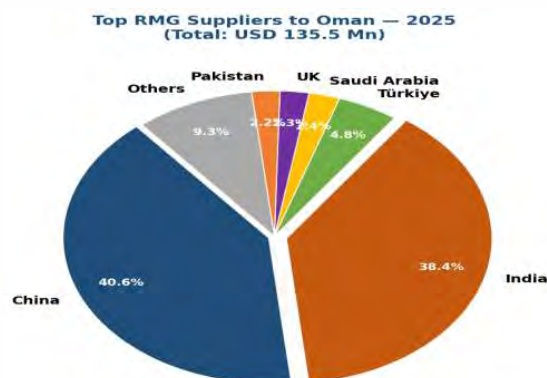
The above table shows that Oman's RMG imports from the World were to the tune of USD 135.5 million in 2025. Oman's RMG imports from India stood at USD 52.0 million in 2025. India's percentage share in Oman's total RMG imports from the World was 38.4% in 2025, reflecting India's dominant position as a supplier.

➤ **Top RMG Supplier to Oman:****Top RMG Supplier to Oman and India's Position**

Position	Countries	Imported value in 2025 (in USD mn)	% Share
	World	135.5	100
1	China	55.1	40.6%
2	India	52.0	38.4%
3	Türkiye	6.5	4.8%
4	Saudi Arabia	3.3	2.4%
5	United Kingdom	3.1	2.3%
6	Pakistan	3.0	2.2%
7	Egypt	1.8	1.3%
8	Indonesia	1.8	1.3%
9	United States of America	1.6	1.1%
10	Czech Republic	1.2	0.9%

Source: ITC Trade Map

The above table highlights the competitive position of India. China remains the top supplier of RMG to Oman with a 40.6% share in 2025 with India as the 2nd largest supplier of RMG to Oman with a 38.4% share, demonstrating a near-parity position with China and strong bilateral trade ties.



➤ **Oman's Major RMG Products Import from World vs India's Share:**

Major RMG Products Imported by Oman from World (in USD mn)					
S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Imported from World in 2025*	Imported from India in 2025	India's Share in %
		Total RMG	135.5	52.0	38.4%
		Sum of Major Products	47.7	33.7	70.6%
1	621420	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and similar articles of wool or fine animal hair ...	13.4	13.3	99.5%
2	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	6.5	3.3	49.8%
3	620349	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of textile materials (excl. ...)	3.4	3.0	89.3%
4	620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other ...)	3.7	2.9	80.2%
5	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted ...)	5.3	2.3	44.3%
6	610791	Men's or boys' bathrobes, dressing gowns and similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted	2.1	2.0	94.6%
7	610329	Men's or boys' ensembles of textile materials (excl. wool, fine animal hair, cotton or synthetic ...)	1.8	1.8	99.5%
8	621132	Men's or boys' tracksuits and other garments, n.e.s. of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted)	3.1	1.7	56.1%
9	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	6.8	1.7	24.7%
10	611190	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. ...)	1.7	1.6	97.5%

Source: ITC Trade Map 2026.
Note: 1) The import data from India is proxied using export value to Oman reported by India. 2) *Mirror data used for 2025.

The above table shows Oman's major RMG products imported from the World vis-à-vis from India. The major products imported from the World were to the tune of USD 47.7 million in 2025 and imports from India of these products were to the tune of USD 33.7 million. India has a 70.6% share in Oman's major products imported from the World, indicating a high degree of import concentration from

India across key product categories.

The major products imported by Oman from the World include: (i) Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and similar articles of wool or fine animal hair; (ii) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; (iii) Men's or boys' shirts of cotton.



➤ Oman's Major RMG Products Imported from India:

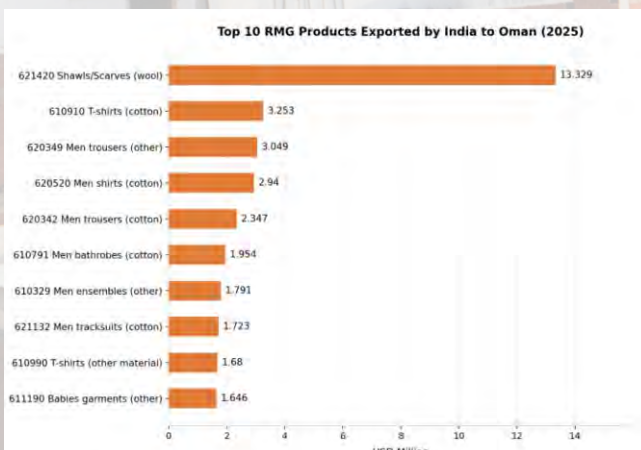
Major RMG Products — India's Export to Oman (in USD mn)				
S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Export from India, 2025	% Share in 2025
		Total RMG	51.97	100.0%
		Sum of Major products	33.71	64.9%
1	621420	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and similar articles of wool or fine animal hair ...	13.33	25.7%
2	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	3.25	6.3%
3	620349	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of textile materials (excl. ...)	3.05	5.9%
4	620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other ...)	2.94	5.7%
5	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted ...)	2.35	4.5%
6	610791	Men's or boys' bathrobes, dressing gowns and similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted	1.95	3.8%
7	610329	Men's or boys' ensembles of textile materials (excl. wool, fine animal hair, cotton or synthetic ...)	1.79	3.4%
8	621132	Men's or boys' tracksuits and other garments, n.e.s. of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted)	1.72	3.3%
9	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	1.68	3.2%
10	611190	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. ...)	1.65	3.2%

Source: ITC Trade Map 2026

The above table elucidates on Oman's share in India's exports. Oman's major products imported from India were to the tune of USD 33.71 million with a 64.9% share in Oman's total RMG imports from India.

The top products imported by Oman from India include: (i) Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and

similar articles of wool or fine animal hair — the dominant category with USD 13.33 million and a near-100% India share; (ii) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; (iii) Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of textile materials.



FOCUS COUNTRY IS

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Economic Overview:

High-income, oil-driven Middle Eastern economy; diversification through tourism, construction, and services; strong foreign direct investment orientation; continued government investment and business-friendly reforms.

Economic Indicators:

Indicators	Value (in USD)
GDP, 2024	552.32 Billion
GDP per capita, 2024	50,273.5
GDP growth (annual), 2024	4.0%
Inflation, consumer prices (annual), 2024	1.7%

Source: World Bank, 2026

Average Tariff for India:

Zero duty access under the India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (India–UAE CEPA)

Exchange Rate :

Indicators	Value (in USD)
Indian Rupees (INR) per Emirati Dirham (AED)	25.95
Emirati Dirham (AED) per US Dollar (USD)	3.67

Source: X-Rates (June 2026)

UAE's RMG Trade:

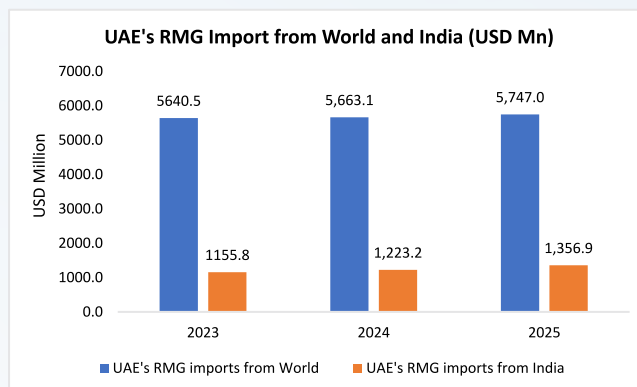
UAE's RMG Import from World and India (In USD Mn.)

	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2025 over 2024
UAE's RMG imports from World	5,640.5	5,663.1	5,747.0	1.5%
UAE's RMG imports from India	1,155.8	1,223.2	1,356.9	10.9%
India's Share in UAE's total RMG imports from World, %	20.5%	21.6%	23.6%	

Source: ITC Trade Map

NOTE: *2025 reports mirror data

The above table shows that UAE's RMG imports from the World were to the tune of USD 5,747.0 million in 2025 showing a growth of 1.5% as compared to 2024. RMG imports from India have increased significantly to USD 1,356.9 million, registering a robust growth of 10.9% as compared to 2024 consequently witnessing India's percentage share in UAE's RMG imports from the World soaring to 23.6% in 2025.

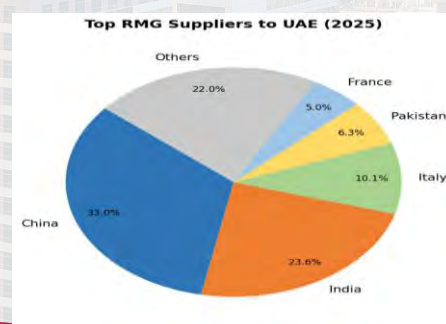


Top RMG Supplier to UAE:

Top RMG Supplier to UAE and India's Position			
Position	Countries	Imported value in 2025 (in USD mn)	% Share
	World	5,747.0	100
1	China	1,895.9	33.0
2	India	1,356.9	23.6
3	Italy	577.9	10.1
4	Pakistan	364.3	6.3
5	France	289.8	5.0
6	Turkey	156.9	2.7
7	Hong Kong	146.7	2.6
8	UK	127.5	2.2
9	Germany	95.7	1.7
10	USA	91.1	1.6

Source: ITC Trade Map

The above table shows that China has remained the top supplier of RMG to the UAE with a 33.0% share in 2025. India is the 2nd largest supplier of RMG to the UAE with a 23.6% share, reflecting a strong and growing trade relationship.



UAE's Major RMG Products Import from World vs India's Share:

Major RMG Products Imported by UAE from World (in USD Mn)					
S.No.	HS Code (6 digit)	Product label	Imported from World in 2025*	Imported from India in 2025	India's Share in %
		Total RMG	5,747.0	1,356.9	23.6%
		Sum of Major RMG Products	1,590.8	664.2	41.8%
1	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	387.4	163.2	42.1%
2	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	226.8	97.7	43.1%
3	620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	198.4	66.3	33.4%
4	610510	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. nightshirts, T-shirts, singlets ...)	123.4	62.9	51.0%
5	611120	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. hats)	142.7	58.7	41.1%
6	620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other ...)	112.9	57.2	50.7%
7	620349	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of textile materials (excl. ...)	79.3	49.7	62.7%
8	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted ...)	188.5	39.6	21.0%
9	621410	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and similar articles of silk or silk waste (excl. ...)	53.8	39.1	72.7%
10	610342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, knitted or ...	77.6	29.9	38.5%

Source: ITC Trade Map 2026.
 Note: 1) The import data from India is proxied using export value to UAE reported by India. 2) *Mirror Data used for 2025

The above table shows the UAE's major RMG products imported from the World vis-à-vis from India. The major products imported from the World were to the tune of USD 1,590.8 million in 2025 and imports from India of these major products were to the tune of USD 664.2 million.

World include: (i) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; (ii) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton); (iii) Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres.

The major products imported by the UAE from the



UAE's Major RMG Products Import from India:

Major RMG Products India's Export to UAE (in USD mn)

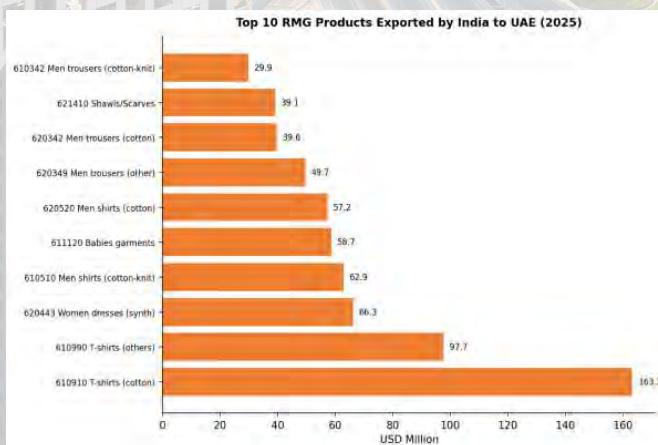
S.No.	HS Code	Product label	Export from India, 2025	% Share in 2025
		Total RMG	1,356.9	100.0%
		Sum of Major Products	664.2	48.9%
1	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	163.2	12.0%
2	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	97.7	7.2%
3	620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	66.3	4.9%
4	610510	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. nightshirts, T-shirts, singlets ...)	62.9	4.6%
5	611120	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. hats)	58.7	4.3%
6	620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other ...)	57.2	4.2%
7	620349	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of textile materials (excl. ...)	49.7	3.7%
8	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted ...)	39.6	2.9%
9	621410	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and similar articles of silk or silk waste (excl. ...)	39.1	2.9%
10	610342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, knitted or ...	29.9	2.2%

Source: ITC Trade Map

The above table elucidates on UAE's share in India's exports. The UAE's top 10 products imported from India were to the tune of USD 664.2 million with a 48.9% share in the UAE's total RMG imports from India.

The top products imported by the UAE from India

include: (i) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; (ii) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton); (iii) Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres.



India-US Trade Talks Gain Momentum as Modi, Trump Discuss Maritime Security and Economic Cooperation



The India-United States strategic partnership received renewed attention on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, France, where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held discussions on bilateral trade, regional security and the safety of Indian seafarers operating in the Gulf region.

Describing the interaction as “very good,” President Trump indicated that both countries are actively working towards trade agreements aimed at strengthening economic ties. He also referred to Prime Minister Modi as a “tough negotiator,” underlining the importance of the ongoing discussions between the two nations.

The meeting marked the first face-to-face engagement between the two leaders since Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Washington in February 2025, where both sides had agreed to address outstanding trade and tariff-related concerns. Over the past year, bilateral trade relations have witnessed challenges, including the imposition of higher tariffs on certain Indian exports and differences over energy procurement policies. However, recent diplomatic engagements indicate a willingness on both sides to deepen economic cooperation.

A key focus of the discussions was maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most critical shipping corridors. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the importance of safeguarding Indian seafarers who serve aboard commercial

vessels across international trade routes, particularly in the Gulf region.

“Hundreds of thousands of Indian seafarers are working across the world, including along the Strait of Hormuz, and their safety is of utmost importance to us,” the Prime Minister said during the interaction.

The issue has gained significance following recent security incidents in the Gulf that affected commercial shipping operations and raised concerns among maritime nations. Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that ongoing diplomatic efforts to stabilise the region would prioritise the safety of seafarers and ensure uninterrupted global trade flows.

The discussions also touched upon the recently announced US-Iran understanding aimed at reducing tensions in the region. Stability in the Gulf is particularly important for India, given its dependence on maritime trade routes for energy imports and merchandise exports.

For India’s export-oriented sectors, including apparel and textiles, secure shipping lanes through the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz remain vital for maintaining efficient access to key markets across Europe, North America and the Middle East. Any disruption in these routes can significantly impact freight costs, delivery schedules and supply chain reliability.

President Trump also reiterated the strength of the India-US strategic partnership, emphasizing continued cooperation on economic and security matters. The leaders are expected to maintain engagement on trade negotiations, with both countries exploring pathways to enhance bilateral commerce and investment.

The meeting reinforces the growing recognition that trade, supply-chain resilience and maritime security are increasingly interconnected in shaping the future of global commerce. For Indian exporters, particularly those in labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, progress in India-US trade relations and stability in major shipping corridors will remain important factors influencing growth and competitiveness in international markets.



India's Textile Industry on Track to Achieve \$350 Billion Target by 2030: Shri Giriraj Singh



Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh has expressed confidence that India's textile and apparel industry is well positioned to achieve the ambitious target of USD 350 billion by 2030, driven by robust domestic growth, expanding exports, technological advancements and large-scale infrastructure development.

Addressing the media, the Minister highlighted that the Indian textile industry has grown to nearly USD 190 billion in 2025-26, marking significant progress towards the government's long-term vision for the sector. He noted that the domestic textile market has expanded from approximately ₹6 lakh crore in 2014-15 to over ₹16 lakh crore, underscoring the industry's growing contribution to India's economy.

"The textile and apparel sector currently provides direct employment to more than 5.3 crore people and is expected to create nearly two crore additional jobs over the next three years," Shri Giriraj Singh said.

The Minister attributed the sector's growth to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 5F vision: Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion and Fashion to Foreign. He said this integrated approach has strengthened linkages across the textile value chain, benefiting farmers, manufacturers, weavers, artisans and exporters alike.

Highlighting India's emergence as a global player in technical textiles, Shri Singh said the country's technical textile market has expanded from around USD 6 billion to USD 25 billion under the National Technical Textiles Mission. Investments in research, innovation, incubation centres and

industry-academia partnerships are helping create a future-ready textile ecosystem capable of meeting evolving global demand.

The Minister also pointed to significant progress in textile infrastructure development. The government is establishing seven PM MITRA Parks across strategic locations in the country, which are expected to attract investments of nearly ₹70,000 crore and generate approximately 21 lakh employment opportunities. These integrated textile parks are expected to enhance manufacturing efficiency, strengthen supply chains and improve India's competitiveness in global markets.

Shri Singh further noted that technology upgradation initiatives have supported the modernisation of the powerloom sector, while premier institutions such as the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) are expanding their academic and innovation capabilities. Programmes such as VisioNxt and IndiaSize are helping strengthen India's fashion, design and product development ecosystem.

For the apparel export sector, the government's focus on infrastructure creation, skill development, technical textiles and innovation is expected to create new opportunities for value addition, investment and employment. Industry stakeholders believe that continued policy support, coupled with growing global demand and enhanced manufacturing capabilities, will play a crucial role in helping India achieve its USD 350 billion textile industry target by the end of the decade.



India's Textile Exports Rise 2.1% in FY 2025-26, Supported by Strong Apparel Demand and Policy Measures

India's textile and apparel sector continued its growth trajectory in FY 2025-26, with total textile exports, including handicrafts, increasing by 2.1% year-on-year. According to the Ministry of Textiles, exports rose from over ₹3.09 lakh crore in FY 2024-25 to more than ₹3.16 lakh crore in FY 2025-26, reflecting the sector's resilience amid evolving global trade dynamics.

The growth highlights sustained international demand for Indian textile products and the industry's ability to maintain competitiveness across key export categories. The performance comes at a time when exporters are navigating changing market conditions, supply chain realignments and increasing competition from other textile-producing nations.

Among the major export segments, ready-made garments remained the largest contributor to India's textile exports, reinforcing the country's position as a leading apparel sourcing destination. Other key categories, including cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products, also recorded steady export growth during the year.

The government continued to support the sector through a range of export promotion and remission schemes. These include the extension of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes

and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme beyond March 31, 2026. These measures are aimed at enhancing the global competitiveness of Indian exporters by offsetting embedded taxes and levies.

A significant development during FY 2025-26 was the progress made under India's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) agenda. Several trade negotiations and agreements advanced during the year, creating new opportunities for the textile and apparel industry. Industry stakeholders expect these agreements to improve preferential market access, reduce tariff barriers, strengthen supply chain integration and enhance India's export prospects in key international markets.

The Ministry noted that the combination of rising exports, supportive government policies and expanding market access through FTAs is expected to further strengthen the sector's contribution to economic growth and employment generation. As India seeks to increase its share in global textile and apparel trade, the focus remains on promoting higher value-added exports and enhancing the competitiveness of domestic manufacturers.

The sector's positive performance in FY 2025-26 underscores the continued importance of textiles and apparel as one of India's largest export industries and a key driver of jobs and foreign exchange earnings.

Giriraj Singh Highlights Innovation and Sustainability at NITRA's 52nd Foundation Day



Reinforcing the government's commitment to innovation-led growth in the textile sector, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh attended the 52nd Foundation Day celebrations of the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) in Ghaziabad. He was accompanied by Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles Shri Pabitra Margherita.

reflecting India's growing capabilities in advanced textile materials and sustainable manufacturing solutions. The exhibition showcased how research and technology are opening new opportunities for value addition, product diversification and global competitiveness in the textile industry.

The Minister interacted with scientists and researchers and was briefed on the latest developments in fibre technology, testing, product development and sustainable textile solutions. Appreciating NITRA's contribution to the sector, Shri Giriraj Singh underscored the importance of research and innovation in driving the next phase of growth for India's textile and apparel industry.

The Minister's visit comes at a time when the government is placing strong emphasis on modernisation, sustainability and technological advancement to achieve its vision of making India a global textile powerhouse. Institutions such as NITRA are expected to play a critical role in supporting this transformation by developing innovative products, improving quality standards and facilitating the adoption of advanced technologies across the textile value chain.



The products displayed during the Foundation Day celebrations highlighted the growing potential of New Age Fibres in creating environmentally responsible and high-performance textile solutions. Such innovations are increasingly becoming important as global buyers seek sustainable products and supply chains that meet stringent environmental standards.

For over five decades, NITRA has served as a key pillar of textile research and development in India, providing testing, consultancy, training and technical support services to the industry. Its work has helped strengthen the sector's competitiveness and encouraged the adoption of best practices in manufacturing and product development.



During the visit, Shri Giriraj Singh reviewed a range of innovative products developed from New Age Fibres,

Addressing the significance of innovation in the sector's future, Shri Giriraj Singh emphasised that research-driven initiatives will be instrumental in building a resilient, sustainable and globally competitive textile ecosystem. The Minister's engagement with NITRA's researchers and innovators reflects the government's continued focus on fostering collaboration between industry, academia and research institutions.

The Foundation Day celebrations served as a reminder of

the vital role played by research organisations in shaping the future of Indian textiles. With sustained policy support and a growing focus on innovation, sustainability and technology, India is steadily moving towards creating a future-ready textile industry capable of meeting the demands of global markets while maintaining environmental responsibility.

Shri Giriraj Singh's visit to NITRA reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the country's research and innovation ecosystem, recognising it as a key driver of growth, sustainability and long-term competitiveness in the textile and apparel sector.



RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25%; Cuts Fy27 Growth Forecast, Raises Inflation Outlook



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent while lowering its economic growth forecast and raising inflation projections for FY27, reflecting mounting concerns over global supply chain disruptions, elevated energy prices and weather-related risks.

Announcing the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the committee unanimously voted to maintain the repo rate at 5.25 per cent and continue with its neutral policy stance.

Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 5 per cent, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate continue at 5.50 per cent.

The central bank revised its FY27 real GDP growth projection downward to 6.6 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.9 per cent. Quarterly growth is now projected at 6.6 per cent in Q1, 6.3 per cent in Q2, 6.5 per cent in Q3 and 6.8 per cent in Q4.

At the same time, the RBI raised its Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation forecast for FY27 by 50 basis points to 5.1 per cent. Inflation is expected to average 4.2 per cent in Q1, 5.1 per cent in Q2, 5.9 per cent in Q3 and 5.4 per cent in Q4.





Meesho Acquires Kirana Club for ₹202 Crore to Strengthen B2B Retail Presence

In a significant move to deepen its presence in India's retail commerce ecosystem, e-commerce platform Meesho has announced the acquisition of community-led B2B platform Kirana Club in an all-cash deal valued at approximately ₹202 crore. The acquisition is expected to strengthen Meesho's reach among millions of small retailers and kirana stores across the country.

According to a regulatory filing, Meesho's Board of Directors has approved the acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding in Singapore-based Kirana Club Pte Ltd and its Indian subsidiary, Retail Pulse Labs Pvt Ltd (RPLPL). The transaction will be completed in three tranches and is expected to conclude on or before March 31, 2027.

Founded in 2020, Kirana Club operates a mobile-first B2B platform that enables small retailers, particularly in Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities as well as rural markets, to discover, compare and purchase FMCG products directly from brands. The platform has built a network of more than 4.1 million registered retailers across India.

The acquisition aligns with Meesho's strategy of expanding beyond consumer e-commerce and tapping into India's vast general trade and grocery market. By integrating Kirana Club's retailer network and technology-driven platform, Meesho aims to enhance product discovery, accessibility and transparency for small businesses operating in underserved markets.

Commenting on the acquisition, Meesho's leadership highlighted the shared vision of empowering small retailers through technology and improving access to efficient commerce solutions. Kirana Club will continue to operate independently as a wholly-owned subsidiary within the Meesho Group.

The transaction underscores the growing importance of technology-enabled B2B commerce in India and reflects increasing efforts by digital platforms to support the country's vast network of neighbourhood retailers. Industry observers believe the deal could help accelerate the digital transformation of kirana stores while creating new opportunities for brands, distributors and retailers across the value chain.



India Eases Foreign Investment Norms, Expands Access to Listed Equities

In a significant move aimed at strengthening capital inflows and deepening India's financial markets, the Government of India has notified amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2019, expanding access to listed Indian equities for overseas investors. The revised provisions came into effect on June 12, 2026, following their publication in the Official Gazette.

The amendments broaden the scope of eligible investors by allowing all persons resident outside India, including foreign individuals, to invest in listed Indian companies under the prescribed framework. Earlier, certain investment avenues were primarily available to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs). The revised rules are expected to enhance foreign participation in Indian capital markets and support the government's objective of attracting greater global investment.

Under the updated regulations, an individual overseas investor can hold up to 10 per cent of the paid-up equity capital of a listed Indian company, while the aggregate holding limit for such investors has been enhanced to 24 per cent. The changes

are intended to provide greater flexibility for international investors while maintaining safeguards against excessive concentration of ownership.

To ensure regulatory compliance, the amended rules stipulate that if an investor's holding exceeds the prescribed threshold, the excess stake must be brought back within the permissible limit within five trading days. This provision seeks to balance market openness with effective oversight.

The reforms are expected to improve liquidity in Indian equity markets, broaden the investor base and reinforce India's position as an attractive destination for global capital. For export-oriented sectors such as textiles and apparel, stronger foreign investment flows can contribute to overall economic growth, enhance investor confidence and support the country's long-term competitiveness in global trade.

Industry observers view the amendments as another step in India's ongoing efforts to liberalise investment regulations and align its financial framework with international best practices, while maintaining robust regulatory safeguards under the FEMA regime.



Society of Dyers and Colourists Appoints Liz Straughan as President for 2026-27

The Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC), one of the world's oldest and most respected professional organisations dedicated to textile coloration, has appointed Liz Straughan as its President for the 2026-27 term. The appointment was announced at the Society's Annual General Meeting in Bradford, United Kingdom.

Founded in 1884, the SDC plays a significant role in advancing knowledge, education and professional standards in textile dyeing, printing, coloration and finishing. The organisation serves textile professionals, researchers, manufacturers and students across the globe through training programmes, technical publications, qualifications and industry networking initiatives. Its widely recognised Colour Index, developed jointly with the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), is considered a global reference for dyes and pigments used in the textile industry.

Straughan succeeds Stuart Wilkinson and takes over at a time when the global textile industry is accelerating efforts towards sustainability, innovation and workforce development.

Bringing decades of experience in textile dyeing, finishing, textile machinery, specialty chemicals and international trade, Straughan has worked extensively across textile markets in

Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. She currently serves as Chair of SDC Enterprises Group Ltd and has maintained a close association with the Society throughout her career.

Her appointment highlights the growing importance of technical expertise in helping the textile sector address challenges related to environmental sustainability, resource efficiency and compliance with evolving global standards. As brands and retailers increasingly demand lower-impact production processes, innovations in dyeing and finishing are becoming critical to reducing water consumption, chemical use and carbon emissions across the textile value chain.

Industry stakeholders expect Straughan's leadership to further strengthen knowledge-sharing, professional development and innovation within the global textile community. For apparel exporters, developments within organisations such as the SDC are particularly relevant as sustainable processing, chemical compliance and product quality continue to influence sourcing decisions in major international markets.

The appointment reflects the textile industry's increasing emphasis on technical excellence and collaboration as it works towards a more sustainable and competitive future.

India Moves to Develop Sustainability Certification Framework for Exports



As global markets tighten sustainability requirements for imported products, India has initiated efforts to develop a robust sustainability certification framework aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of its exports and ensuring compliance with emerging regulations in key destination markets.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has begun consultations with export-oriented sectors to identify products that are likely to face sustainability-related compliance requirements in the near future. Industry stakeholders have been asked to provide inputs on products requiring sustainability validation, as well as the data points, methodologies, and verification mechanisms that should form part of an Indian certification system.

The initiative comes at a time when sustainability has become a critical factor in international trade. While there is currently no single universal sustainability certificate, global buyers increasingly demand evidence of responsible sourcing, environmental stewardship, traceability, emissions reporting, and ethical production practices. Compliance is typically demonstrated through sector-specific certifications, independent audits, and transparent supply chain documentation.

For Indian exporters, particularly those serving developed markets, sustainability compliance is rapidly evolving from a value addition to a market access requirement. In the European Union, for instance, regulations such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the Ecodesign for Sustainable

Products Regulation (ESPR) require greater transparency and accountability across supply chains.

According to government officials, the proposed framework aims to identify sectors most likely to encounter sustainability-linked trade requirements and establish credible certification standards backed by verifiable data. The objective is not only to improve product quality and strengthen sustainability credentials but also to enhance India's ability to meet the regulatory expectations of trading partners.

The move gains significance as Europe and North America together account for nearly 40 per cent of India's merchandise exports. India has recently concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom, completed negotiations for an FTA with the European Union, and is pursuing trade agreements with the United States and Canada. At the same time, both the EU and the UK are advancing Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs), which could have significant implications for exporters.

Government officials have noted that sustainability regulations vary across countries, but common themes include supply chain traceability, environmental performance disclosures, sustainable sourcing obligations, carbon accounting, eco-labelling, and digital product information systems.

As part of the exercise, the Ministry is also gathering information on products and export destinations where sustainability certifications or related documentary evidence are already mandatory or widely expected by buyers.

For India's apparel and textile sector, which is increasingly positioning itself as a preferred sourcing destination, the development of a nationally credible sustainability certification framework could provide a significant advantage. It would not only support compliance with evolving global standards but also strengthen the industry's reputation as a responsible and sustainable manufacturing hub.

With sustainability becoming central to global trade policies and consumer preferences, India's proactive approach signals a strategic effort to future-proof its export sectors and secure long-term access to high-value international markets.



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