



AEPC VOICE

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India's RMG Export to World (Value)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| - April, 2026 | : USD 1211.5 mn. |
| - April, 2025 | : USD 1371.3 mn. |
| - Growth | : -11.7% |
| - Apr – March 2025-26 | : USD 15772.1 mn. |
| - Apr – March 2024-25 | : USD 15990.6 mn. |
| - Growth | : -1.4 % |

(Quantity)

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| - Jan., 2026 | : 375816.5 Thousand Units |
| - Jan., 2025 | : 396849.1 Thousand Units |
| - Growth | : -5.3 % |
| - Apr – Jan 2025-26 | : 3294839.7 Thousand Units |
| - Apr - Jan 2024-25 | : 3223055.2 Thousand Units |
| - Growth | : 2.2 % |

AEPC News

AEPC urges for the growth and development of Tamil Nadu's apparel industry

Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman AEPC, through his letter dated May 10, 2026, welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru C. Joseph Vijay and submitted a roadmap on the growth and development of Tamil Nadu's apparel industry, with a target of reaching ₹1 lakh crore by 2030.

AEPC urged the Tamil Nadu government to fast-track affordable rental housing scheme for migrant and women garment workers in Tiruppur.

In the letter, Dr. Sakthivel noted that the Tiruppur knitwear cluster employs over 10 lakh workers, nearly 65% of them women, and requested a 50% capital subsidy for worker hostels along with interest subvention support.

The representation also sought residential electricity tariffs for hostels, improved transport and welfare measures for women workers, and stronger financial support for export-oriented MSMEs.

Additional demands included better road and rail connectivity to ports, support for renewable energy and effluent treatment systems, simplification of regulatory clearances, and other

measures aimed at strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the apparel sector.

AEPC delegation meets Hon'ble Vice President of India, and requested to remove of cotton import duty to enhance India's global competitiveness

On May 13, 2026, a delegation led by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman AEPC met Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Vice President of India seeking removal of the 11% cotton import duty to improve the global competitiveness of India's apparel and textile sector.

The industry said lower raw material costs are essential for exporters to benefit from upcoming FTAs and compete with neighbouring countries that enjoy easier access to cotton at global prices.

The delegation stressed that timely policy support would strengthen supply chains, attract larger export orders, and support employment generation in India's labour-intensive textile industry.

The delegation included representatives from leading textile and apparel industry associations from the Tirupur cluster, including TEA, SIMA, TTPK, DAT, TEKMA, TEKPA and SIIMKA.

AEPC Chairman holds discussions with senior union ministers on cotton import duty and industry competitiveness

Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman AEPC, along with a delegation from the apparel industry, met Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh to discuss the urgent need for reduction of cotton import duty from 11% to Zero.

Shri L. Murugan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, coordinated the delegation meetings and facilitated

discussions on strengthening India's global competitiveness in textiles and apparel exports.

The delegation highlighted that high cotton prices and rising input costs are impacting the competitiveness of Indian apparel exporters, especially at a time when India is expanding trade opportunities through multiple FTAs.

The industry emphasised that reduction in cotton import duty is essential to improve competitiveness, ensure adequate raw material availability, support exports, attract investments, and generate employment across the textile value chain.

AEPC requested for worker hostel support during Textile Commissioner's Tirupur visit

Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, welcomed Smt. Vrunda Manohar Desai, Textile Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, and Smt. R. Lalitha, Commissioner of Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu during their visit to Tirupur on 15 May 2026.

During the interaction, Dr. Sakthivel highlighted the urgent need for affordable worker hostel accommodation to support the growing workforce requirements of the knitwear and apparel sector, especially in light of emerging opportunities through FTAs.

He also reiterated the industry's request for a 50% capital subsidy for worker hostel construction, with the remaining support through concessional loans at 5% interest.

The Textile Commissioner informed that the Ministry of Textiles is actively working on the proposed scheme and expressed confidence about a positive announcement soon. Smt. R. Lalitha assured support from the Tamil Nadu Government in providing the necessary facilities.

AEPC attended nationwide FTA awareness and dissemination campaign

Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, SG AEPC, attended a meeting on the nationwide campaign for dissemination and awareness of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) initiated by the Department of Commerce on May 5th 2026. The discussion highlighted the significant trade opportunities created through recent FTAs signed by India with countries/regions such as UAE, Australia, EFTA, UK, Oman, EU, and New Zealand, particularly for MSMEs. EPCs were requested to support the campaign by organizing sector-specific awareness sessions across industry clusters.

AEPC attended the twelfth meeting of the Steering Committee of MoT on Ksturi Cotton

Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, SG AEPC, attended the twelfth meeting of the Steering Committee set up by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India held on May 5, 2026 for implementation of traceability, certification and branding of "Kasturi Cotton India."

AEPC participates in 4th meeting of the Sub-Committee on Warehousing and Logistics under EPM

Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, SG AEPC, attended the 4th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Warehousing and Logistics under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), convened on May 13, 2026 by DGFT to discuss the Facilitating Logistics, Overseas Warehousing & Fulfilment intervention.

The meeting focused on enhancing the uptake of the scheme through proposal-driven discussions on overseas warehousing and fulfilment facilities in key export markets. Stakeholders, including EPCs and logistics operators, deliberated on viable models, target geographies, sectoral priorities, and implementation mechanisms to support export diversification and improve global market access for Indian exporters.

AEPC attends meeting on FTA utilization

Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, SG AEPC, attended a VC, on May 13, 2026, with all associations on FTA utilization by Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal, to improve awareness and utilization of benefits under FTAs, especially among small and micro enterprises.

Bharat Tex 2026 preparations reviewed by Hon'ble Textiles Minister

In a significant step towards the successful organisation of Bharat Tex 2026, a delegation comprising leaders from major textile and apparel export promotion councils briefed Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, on the ongoing preparations for the mega global textile event.

The delegation was led by Shri Naren Goenka, Chairman, Bharat Tex, and included Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC; Mr Sudhir Sekhri, Core Committee Member, Bharat Tex; Shri Rakesh Kumar, CEO and Secretary General, Bharat Tex; Mr Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC; Mr Vijay Agarwal, Chairman, TEXPROCIL; Shri Toshniwal, Chairman, MATEXIL; Shri K. Sakthivel, Chairman, PDEXCIL; and Mr Bimal Mawandia, Chairman, ISEPC and

EPCH. Ms Arti Kanwar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Hon'ble Minister about the extensive preparations underway for Bharat Tex 2026, which is expected to further strengthen India's position as a global sourcing and manufacturing hub for textiles and apparel. Discussions focused on industry participation, international outreach, buyer engagement, and the collaborative efforts being undertaken by various textile export promotion councils and industry stakeholders to make the event a landmark success.

AEPC welcomes ECLGS 5.0 approval; calls it timely relief for MSME exporters

AEPC welcomed the Union Cabinet's approval of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0, announced under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on May 5th 2026. AEPC also acknowledged the continued support and guidance of Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Ms Nirmala Sitharaman in strengthening credit access for industry, terming the move a timely measure to support businesses amid the West Asia crisis.

Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman AEPC, said that ECLGS 5.0 will provide crucial liquidity support to MSME exporters, helping sustain production, protect jobs, and maintain supply chains during this challenging period. The 100% guarantee and zero fee will further ease credit access.

The scheme aims to enable additional credit flow of Rs. 2.55 lakh crore and support businesses in managing short-term liquidity challenges. AEPC expressed confidence that the initiative will strengthen industry resilience and ensure continuity in exports.

Further Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman AEPC, vide letter dated 6.5.2026 to the member exporters shared the key features of the ECLGS 5.0 and advised to approach their respective banks and financial institutions to avail themselves of the benefits under this scheme.

AEPC vide its circular dated 6th May 2026 to the member exporters also disseminated the information about the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

AEPC organizes webinar on Navigating the Gulf Crisis: ECGC Support for Apparel Exporters

AEPC, in collaboration with ECGC, organized a webinar on "Navigating the Gulf Crisis: ECGC Support for Apparel Exporters" on 8 May 2026, which witnessed participation

from more than 50 members of the apparel exporting community.

Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, SG-AEPC in his opening remarks highlighted the challenges faced by exporters due to global disruptions, including geopolitical tensions, rising freight and insurance costs, while emphasizing the resilience of the apparel sector and the importance of risk mitigation through ECGC support.

Shri Amit Kumar, AGM, ECGC underlined ECGC's commitment towards supporting exporters through comprehensive commercial and political risk coverage and encouraged exporters, especially MSMEs, to utilize the Government's relief measures. Ms. Renuka Aghav, Senior Manager, ECGC gave a detailed presentation and provided a comprehensive overview of ECGC's relief measures, policy coverage, eligibility criteria, reimbursement provisions, and the claims process for exporters affected by the Gulf crisis.

The webinar also featured an interactive Q&A session where queries raised by participants were suitably addressed by the ECGC representatives.

AEPC organizes seminar in Jaipur on Apparel Exports in 2026: Cash Flow Challenges and Opportunities

AEPC organised a seminar on "Apparel Exports in 2026: Cash Flow Challenges and Opportunities" in Jaipur, bringing together exporters, Government officials, financial institutions, and industry stakeholders to discuss liquidity challenges, trade facilitation, and emerging global opportunities for India's apparel sector.

Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, highlighted the importance of efficient cash flow management in sustaining export competitiveness, especially for MSME exporters navigating global uncertainties and supply chain disruptions.

The seminar featured key addresses by Shri Rakshit Poddar, President, GEAR & EC Member, AEPC; Shri Ravi Poddar, EC Member, AEPC; and Shri R.K. Chandan, Commissioner, Customs, Jaipur, who reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards trade facilitation, transparency, and ease of doing business.

Industry leaders and officials also discussed growing opportunities in key global markets, particularly Europe and the UAE, while emphasising India's strengths in compliance, sustainability, and supply chain reliability.

AEPC invites industry feedback on logistics challenges amid Middle East Crisis

AEPC, vide its circular dated May 4, 2026, has requested its members to share details of grievances and challenges being faced in logistics and transportation due to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

Members have been specifically asked to provide information on issues such as held-up or delayed shipments at ports across Middle Eastern countries, shortage of vessels and containers, increased shipping costs, and other related disruptions arising from the conflict in the region, for onward submission to the Ministry of Textiles to facilitate appropriate intervention with the concerned government agencies.

AEPC empanelled for online issuance of Export Turnover/GST Certificates via SWIFT portal

AEPC, vide its Circular No. 236 dated May 4, 2026, has informed its members that it has been empanelled for issuing online Export Turnover Certificates and GST Certificates, as required under Customs Circular No. 31/2019-Customs. The facility is now operational on the SWIFT Portal.

Exporters are required to submit applications through the SWIFT Portal along with prescribed documents and payment of ₹500 plus applicable GST for issuance of certificates for the preceding two years. Upon receipt of complete applications, AEPC will issue the certificates online through the portal.

Members are advised to avail of this facility. A user manual has also been provided for guidance.

AEPC requests to submit suggestions related to FTA utilization

AEPC, vide its circular dated 5 May 2026, has invited suggestions from member exporters on the utilization of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), in view of the Department of Commerce's upcoming nationwide campaign to promote their effective use.

India has signed FTAs with several countries and regions, including the EU, UK, New Zealand, Oman, EFTA nations, as well as earlier agreements with key apparel markets such as Australia, UAE, Japan, and South Korea. However, the apparel sector has not fully leveraged these agreements, leading to limited export growth despite preferential access.

The feedback will enable AEPC to take up appropriate remedial measures with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

AEPC's participation in "India Apparel & Accessories Fair 2026" Tokyo, Japan

AEPC is participating in "India Apparel & Accessories Fair 2026" Tokyo, Japan scheduled to be held from 29th to 31st July, 2026. The Fair will be held at Shinjuku Sumitomo Building Triangle Square, 2 Chome 6-1 Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku City, Tokyo, Japan 163-0290

Early Bird Discount will be Rs. 10,000/- If payment is made on or before 29th May, 2026.

The last date for submission of application with payment is 19th June, 2026 (Friday).

The detailed circular can be seen by clicking chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnbpcajpcgclcfndmkaj/<https://www.aepcindia.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/Participation%20in%20India%20Apparel%20%26%20Accessories%20Fair%20Tokyo%20Japan.pdf>

Relevant Government Notifications / PIB Releases

- [PIB News - Bharat Khara Assumes Charge as Secretary, Ministry of MSME](#)
- [Custom's Circular No 22 dated 04.05.2026 - Extension of validity of the Circulars issued under Section 143AA of the Customs Act, 1962, to mitigate challenges arising from ongoing disruptions in maritime routes due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz](#)
- [Public Notice No 7 - Validity of Ad-hoc norms under Para 4.12 \(vi\) of HBP-2023](#)
- [PIB News - Cabinet approves Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0](#)
- [PIB News - Cabinet approves "Mission for Cotton Productivity" with Rs.5659.22 crore Outlay for Self-Sufficiency in Cotton and Competitiveness in Global Textile Markets by 2030-31](#)
- [Amendment in Appendix 2B under FTP 2023 includes the United Kingdom \(UK\) under the Preferential Certificate of Origin framework. The notification contains important points regarding authorised agencies for issuance of Certificate of Origin.](#)
- [Trade Notice 03/2026-27 - Clarifications on Interest Subvention Support for Pre- and Post-Shipment Export Credit under Export Promotion Mission – Niryat Protsahan](#)
- [Identification and import clearance of Hazardous cargo](#)
- [Extension of validity of the circulars issued under Section 143AA of the Customs Act, 1962, to mitigate challenges arising from ongoing disruptions in maritime routes due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz](#)

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- [UP nod to Rs.547 crore for six-lane road to link textile park](#)
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- [APEC urges government to scrap 11% import duty on cotton imports](#)
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- [Govt rejects portrayal of India as dumping ground for textile waste](#)
- [Textile Ministry studying demand for removal of import duty on cotton](#)

Top Global News

- [Global cotton trade to drop 2.7% in 2026-27: ICAC](#)
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- [Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris to convene global industry leaders](#)
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- [Project to develop Sri Lanka's textile-RMG sector net-zero road map](#)
- [Pakistan's Textile Industry Faces Looming Collapse as Afghan Cotton Halt Worsens Supply Crisis](#)
- [Vietnam, Sri Lanka deepen textile and logistics ties to boost \\$1 billion trade target](#)
- [Australian wool prices slip as fine merino demand weakens](#)

Currency Trend

| INR versus USD FY 2026-27 | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Months | INR |
| April | 93.40 |
| 15 th May | 94.85 |

Source: x-rates.com

India's Textile & RMG update for Index for Industrial Production

| Quick Estimates FY 2025-26 | | |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|
| Months | Textiles | Apparel |
| April | 105.7 | 114.2 |
| May | 103.8 | 126.5 |
| June | 107.8 | 127.5 |
| July | 107.3 | 112.7 |
| August | 107.7 | 107.2 |
| September | 110.7 | 100.6 |
| October | 106.6 | 89.6 |
| November | 110.0 | 105.3 |
| December | 111.1 | 109.4 |
| January | 109.7 | 108.7 |
| February | 107.0 | 100.7 |
| March | 108.9 | 123.6 |

Source: CSO

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