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from the editor...

The Indian textile industry is witnessing a remarkable resurgence in the current financial year, with exports showing a steady growth. From April to November 2024, textile exports rose by 3.9 percent to USD 13,478 million, while apparel exports surged by 11.39 percent to USD 9,853 million. Overall, exports have grown by 6.93 percent during this period, indicating a revival in the sector.

Indian cotton has maintained strong export performance even if its prices are higher than those of other countries. According to Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) data from November 2024, textile exports increased by 3% and apparel exports increased by 8% over November 2023.

Bangladesh's ongoing crisis has shifted many international orders to India, utilising idle garment capacities. Southern and Gujarat-based garment manufacturers are particularly benefiting from this shift.

The weakening of the rupee against the dollar has also played a pivotal role in enhancing the competitiveness of Indian textile exports. Markets in Southeast Asia, Europe, and the USA have shown increased demand for Indian products.

India is in a unique position to absorb this redirected demand thanks to its established strengths in exporting cotton yarn and its growing infrastructure, which is supported by programs like the PLI Scheme and PM MITRA Parks. However, this is an issue of obligation as much as opportunity. India must show that it can provide both scalability and sustainability as multinational brands negotiate supply chain risks.

The next decade will likely witness a recalibration of fashion supply chains, with India taking centre stage with its stable geopolitical reigns combined with government support for manufacturing. India needs to invest aggressively in manufacturing infrastructure, sustainable practices, and workforce upskilling and cement its reputation as a reliable, innovative, and resilient manufacturing hub.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage during the past year, and we wish you a wonderful year ahead.

Kumar

Arvind Kumar, Editor & Publisher

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Sri Lanka and Bangladesh discuss strengthening bilateral trade ties

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh, Dharmapala Weerakkody held talks on enhancing bilateral trade ties between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka with Vice Chairman and CEO of the Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh (EPB), Anwar Hossain, on 09 December 2024 at EPB Office. Vice Chairman & CEO, Anwar Hossain also serves as the Administrator of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA).

High Commissioner Weerakkody initiated the discussion by explaining the current status of bilateral trade relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, while emphasizing the significant untapped potential between the two countries. He highlighted that the apparel and textile industry is the largest contributor to Sri Lanka's exports. In 2023, the industry accounted for 32% of the country's total export earnings. The High Commissioner further noted that leading Sri Lankan garment companies including MAS, Brandix, Hirdaramani and Univogue etc. are currently operating in Bangladesh, and many Sri Lankan professionals are also working in Bangladesh's apparel industry. He also stated that textile companies of Bangladesh have an opportunity to invest in Textile Zone in Eravur, Sri Lanka which was developed by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI).

Vice Chairman and CEO of EPB, Anwar Hossain mentioned that Bangladesh authorities highly recognize the contribution of Sri Lanka to the development of Bangladesh's apparel and textile industry. He explained that Sri Lankan coconut-based products including coconut oil and spices have a robust demand in the Bangladesh market. In addition, he pointed out that both countries have the potential to develop cooperation, especially in the tourism and healthcare sectors. Further, he expressed EPB's interest in participating in relevant trade fairs in Sri Lanka in the coming year.

Both the High Commissioner and the Vice Chairman & CEO of EPB agreed on the active implementation of the MoU signed between the Chittagong BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel in 2017. In addition, both parties discussed the possibility of expanding the scope of the MoU signed between the Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh (EPB) and Sri Lanka Export Development Board in 2011. Moreover, both sides agreed to consider organizing single country products exhibitions ■

Vietnam overcomes Bangladesh to become world's 2nd-biggest apparel exporter

Vietnam's apparel-textile sector is set to earn an export revenue of $44 bn this year, up 11% year-on-year, and will likely surpass Bangladesh to become the world's second-biggest exporter in the sector.

Cao Huu Hieu, CEO of Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex) - the country's biggest garment maker, made the statement recently in a press meeting. He stressed that the sector's performance was weak in the first half of 2024 as the global economy underperformed and the sector received few orders with strict conditions. However, the sector recovers and thrives in the second half of this year, not thanks to the growing demand, but because of the political issues in Bangladesh promoting firms to make orders in Vietnam. This is a "fortune" for the sector amid challenges, he added.

The trend can continue helping Vietnam as many firms have received orders for the first quarter of 2025, even for April and May 2025. India is the biggest beneficiary of this relocation, Hieu emphasized. He also noted that China remains the world's biggest apparel-textile exporter. Besides, Hieu noted challenges for the sector, including instability and conflicts in many countries, high sea freight costs, sluggish global economy, climate changes and natural disasters, and energy security.

For 2025, Vinatex expects that Vietnam can earn $45-46 billion from exporting apparel-textile goods. Apparel-textile is Vietnam's fourth-biggest source of export revenue, only behind electronics, computers and components; phones and components; and machinery-equipment, according to the General Statistics Office ■

Changes in US policy could affect the textile industry's expansion in Asia-Pacific

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has highlighted that recent change in US economic policies could significantly impact the growth prospects of the Asia-Pacific region. According to the ADB, the US's policy shifts, including potential changes in trade, monetary, and fiscal policies, may have far-reaching effects on emerging economies in Asia.

In particular, the US's stance on trade relations, especially with China, could influence the flow of goods and investments within the region. The ongoing trade tensions between the two global powers could disrupt supply chains and affect the broader economic stability of Asia-Pacific nations. Furthermore, shifts in US monetary policy, such as interest rate changes, could influence capital flows into the region, potentially raising borrowing costs for developing countries.

Despite these challenges, the ADB remains cautiously optimistic about the region's growth. The bank notes that strong domestic demand, particularly in countries like India and Southeast Asia, could help offset the external risks posed by the changing US policies. Additionally, the Asia-Pacific's diversified economies and robust infrastructure development plans provide a buffer against potential economic headwinds.

The ADB has called for continued regional cooperation and policy adjustments to minimize the impact of global uncertainties. As Asia-Pacific nations navigate these challenges, maintaining resilient economic strategies and fostering regional integration will be key to sustaining long-term growth in the face of external pressures ■

US apparel imports decline 0.33% in 2023, Bangladesh faces shipment challenges

The US's overall apparel imports from the world fell by 0.33 percent year-on-year to $67.04 billion in the January-October period this year. China ranked first in apparel shipments to the US, with Vietnam in second place. Bangladesh retained its position as the third-largest garment exporter to the US. File Photo the prices of major garment items exported to the US declined year-on-year in the January-October period this year as American consumers are yet to recover from heightened inflationary pressures. During the 10 months, the price of men's cotton woven trousers declined by 7.7 percent, according to data from the US Office of Textiles and Apparel (OETXA).

Meanwhile, prices of women's cotton woven trousers declined by 4.4 percent, men's cotton woven shirt by 3.8 percent, cotton knitted sweater by 7 percent and cotton knitted t-shirt by 3.9 percent. This resulted in 3.33 percent decline in garment shipments from Bangladesh to the US, hitting $6.14 billion.

The US's overall global apparel imports fell 0.33 percent to $67.04 billion in the same period. China ranked first in apparel shipments to the US while Vietnam took second place. Bangladesh retained its position as the third-largest garment exporter to the US. Both the prices and volume of garment export to the US, Bangladesh's single largest export destination, declined as the world's largest economy slowly recovers from persistent inflation, with retail sales growth increasing gradually. Additionally, due to some domestic problems, the export prices of the garment items declined.

For instance, the garment sector faced massive spates of labour unrest in recent months, meaning many factories could not ship goods on time. So, they had to provide big discounts, reduce prices, or face work order cancellations.

Faruque Hassan, former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, added that the negative import growth of clothing items by US retailers and brands also impacted the volume and value of Bangladeshi garments.

"But on the bright side, the US market is rebounding gradually. Shipments have been showing a bit of an upward trend," Hassan told. The garment and textile sectors must be supplied with adequate gas and power so that those can run at full capacity, recover their exports and ensure timely shipments, he added.

The taka's sharp depreciation against the US dollar is another reason, with the per unit price of local garment items falling. The taka has lost 36 percent of its value against the greenback since January 2022. Another reason outlined by the former BGMEA chief is that local manufacturers are now booking work orders at lower prices to keep factories running since they have to incur big losses if machines remain idle.

Local garment factories have been facing challenges such as massive labour unrest and factory closures following the deferral in timely production and shipment. Very often, factories were shut down in major industrial zones like Ashulia, Savar, Zirani and Zirabo because of the labour unrest, which affected the production and shipment of goods, exporters said ■

Vietnam's garment-textile exports to reach $44 bn in 2024

Vietnam's garment-textile export value is expected to reach 44 billion USD in 2024, marking an 11.26% increase from 2023, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS).Meanwhile, garment-textile import turnover is estimated at 25 billion USD, up 14.79%, resulting in a trade surplus of 19 billion USD, up 6.93% compared to the previous year.

VITAS President Vu Duc Giang noted that many companies in the sector are experiencing growth in orders for both 2024 and 2025. Despite ongoing global complexities, fluctuating shipping costs, slow trade recovery, and reduced global investment, Vietnam's garment-textile industry has managed to maintain strong growth.

For 2025, the entire industry aims for an export turnover of around 48 billion USD, said Giang said, emphasising that this figure is based on thorough calculation and research on order trends, predicting an abundant order volume for the sector compared to 2024.

However, he warned that despite optimistic forecasts, the industry will encounter significant challenges in 2025, including limited opportunities for large orders, stagnant prices, and slow consumer demand recovery. Companies will also face new challenges such as persistently low order prices alongside rising input costs, significant changes in purchasing practices by brands, and stricter regulations on payments and production volumes.

Moreover, the pressure of lower order prices combined with new regulations demanding stricter standards related to sustainability in production and self-sufficiency in raw materials will pose ongoing challenges for textile enterprises in the coming year.

Additionally, under intense competitive pressure from supply markets, Vietnamese garment-textile companies have to meet stringent labour standards, traceability requirements, and low carbon emissions targets from major export markets like the EU.

Nguyen Xuan Duong, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hung Yen Garment Corporation, pointed out that while the sector is projected to reach 44 billion USD in exports in 2024, exports to the EU remain modest. A significant challenge for the industry is the issue of sourcing, as raw materials are largely imported from China and other non-FTA countries.

To better leverage this large market and effectively utilise the tariff benefits provided by the EVFTA, Duong proposed competent agencies to address the industry's limitations. Meeting origin rules must be tied to developing local raw material resources, while it is necessary to make planning for large industrial zones to attract investors ■

South Africa's textile imports surge 11.3% in 2024 amid local manufacturing challenges

South Africa has experienced a notable increase in its textile imports during the first ten months of 2024, with a rise of 11.3% compared to the same period last year. The surge in imports reflects both growing domestic demand for textile products and ongoing challenges within the local manufacturing sector.

According to the latest data, South Africa's textile imports from January to October 2024 totaled approximately $3.4 bn. The country has been increasingly reliant on imported textiles, especially in light of limited local production capacity and rising consumer demand for a diverse range of clothing and textile goods. The rise in imports highlights a trend toward greater dependence on international markets, particularly from key textile-exporting countries. This shift also signals potential challenges for South Africa's textile industry, which is grappling with issues such as high production costs and competition from cheaper imported goods.

Despite the increase in imports, local textile manufacturers are calling for more strategic investments in the sector, along with supportive government policies to boost local production and reduce the reliance on foreign goods. Industry experts are optimistic that with the right support, South Africa's textile industry can strengthen its competitiveness and meet growing demand in both the domestic and international markets. The country's textile sector remains a key component of its economy, and the rise in imports underscores the ongoing transformation of the global textile trade landscape ■

Sri Lanka's garment exports reach $4 bn in November 2024

Sri Lanka's garment exports touched the USD 4 billion revenue mark in the first week of November 2024.Sri Lanka's garment exports rose by 5.7% from January to October totaling USD 3.8 billion and in the first week this touched the USD 4 billion mark. One of the main contributors for this was the exports of Apparel & Textile to the USA and UK increasing by 23.28 % and 23.26% respectively in October 2024 compared to October 2023. The total combined exports of textiles and garments significantly contributed to Sri Lanka's merchandise export performance in October 2024. The total value of apparel exports in 2023 was USD 4,848.55 million while the best year for apparel exports was in 2022 where the country earned USD 5,933.52 million ■

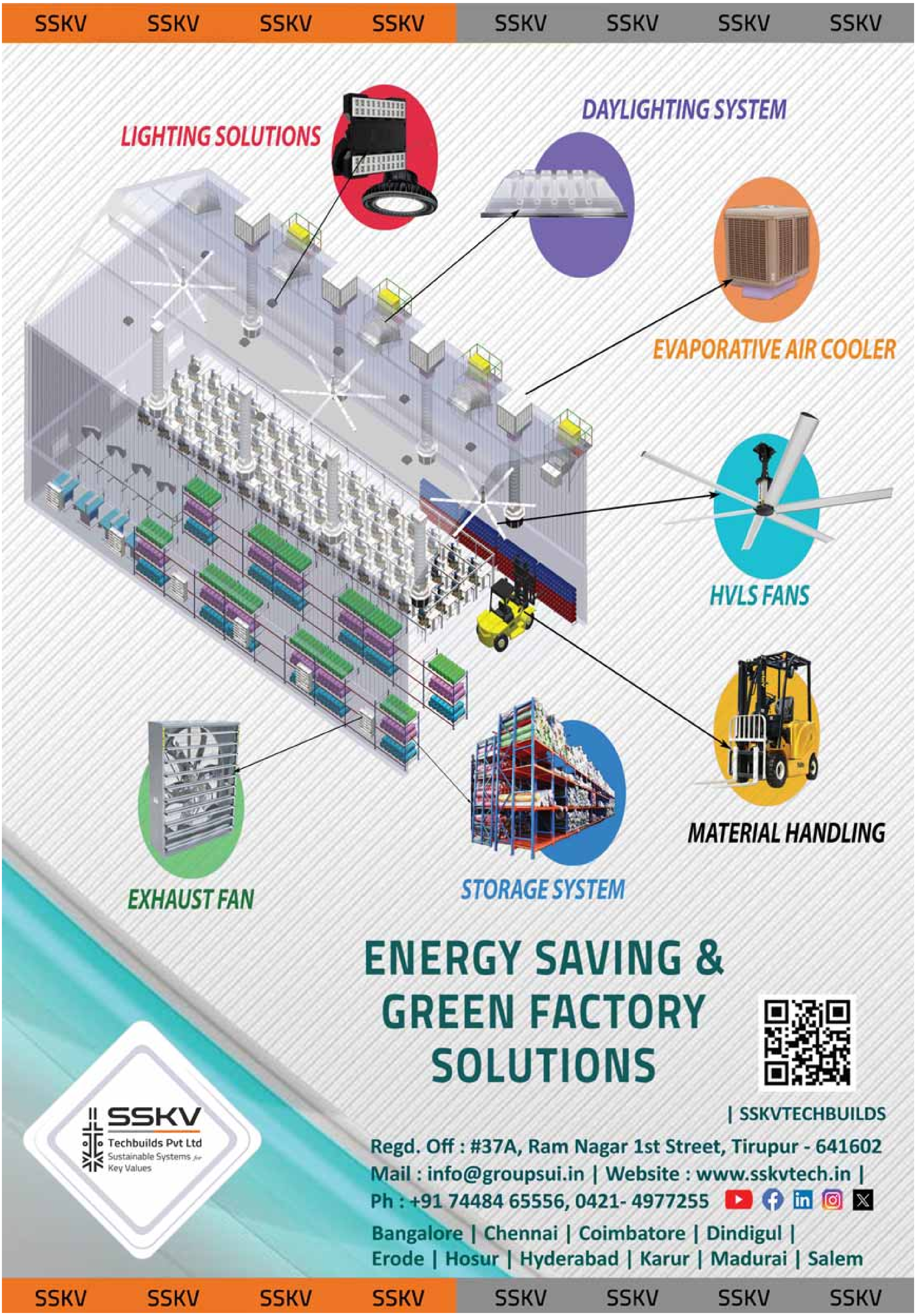
VITAS and ILO launch working group to promote sustainability in Vietnam's textile industry

The Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association has partnered with the International Labour Organization to launch a new working group aimed at promoting sustainability within the textile industry. The initiative, announced recently, focuses on advancing sustainable practices in the textile sector, with an emphasis on improving environmental, social, and economic sustainability across the value chain.

The working group aims to address key challenges such as reducing waste, improving resource efficiency, and ensuring fair labor practices. Through collaboration, VITAS and ILO seek to help textile manufacturers adopt cleaner production techniques and enhance their compliance with international labor standards. The group will also provide guidance on implementing circular economy principles and promoting responsible sourcing, which are critical to reducing the environmental impact of textile production.

This partnership underscores the increasing importance of sustainability in the global textile industry, which is facing growing pressure to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance ethical practices. By bringing together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, the working group aims to drive systemic change, providing a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and solutions to common sustainability challenges.

VITAS and ILO's efforts reflect a broader global trend toward more sustainable and responsible textile manufacturing. As the industry continues to face sustainability challenges, collaborations like this are vital in ensuring long-term positive impacts for both the environment and workers within the sector ■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Pakistan and China strengthen textile ties with MoU

China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) and Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the 2024 China Textile Conference in Keqiao, Shaoxing.

At present, China's textile industry is at an important juncture of change and transformation. How to take "science and technology fashion and green" as the guide, constantly cultivate new productivity, and create the future of the industry and the future industry has become a new issue in front of the industry.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi addressed the conference and said that signing a landmark MoU between Pakistan's Board of Investment and CNTAC. The robust framework for developing textile parks in Pakistan would enhance bilateral trade, foster technology transfer, and enhance capacity. Focusing on four core topics "Innovation

Environment, Materials, Artificial Intelligence, and Production Processes," the guests discussed leading trends in industry innovation, aiming to promote the transformation and optimization of the global textile supply chain, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

"Secretary Board of Investment and I along with Pakistani leading textile industry representatives attended the annual China Textile Conference organized by China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) in Shaoxing City. Pakistan was given this exclusive privilege for the first time as the only foreign participant. We highlighted why investing in Pakistan's textile & apparel sector was a mutually beneficial proposition", the Ambassador added, noting that Secretary BOI signed an MoU with the Vice President of CNTAC on cooperation in the field of textiles and apparel including the establishment of parks in this important sector in Pakistan. "Grateful to Shandong Ruyi Group for its support".

"The textile sector is the backbone of our economy, a major contributor to our exports. As the second-largest global supplier of cotton cloth, and the fifth-largest exporter of cotton offers unmatched potential for collaboration. Combining strategic location, skilled workforce, and vertical integration, Pakistan is uniquely positioned as an ideal partner for Chinese enterprises," Hashmi stated ■

Bangladesh turmoil and Vietnam costs to boost India's textile exports

The internal turmoil in Bangladesh and high production costs in Vietnam are expected to play well for Indian textile exporters, asserted financial advisory firm JM Financial in a report. "The internal turmoil in Bangladesh and high factor costs in Vietnam might play well for Indian exporters. The huge addressable market size / top-notch execution / UK FTA bode well for key players in India's home textile/apparel sector," read the report. Bangladesh and Vietnam are key manufacturers and exporters of textiles and apparel.

According to the firm's report, the huge addressable market size, top-notch execution, and FTA with the UK bode well for key players in India's home textile and apparel sector. The elevated freight costs due to peak season shipments and the Red Sea issue are expected to cool off in the coming months, which will aid margins for Indian players. The deflation in the cost of yarns will also aid margins. India's market shares in apparel exports to the US and the UK have risen steadily to 7 per cent and 6 per cent in 2024 from 6 per cent to 5 per cent in 2023.

At the same time, China has been losing market share across the world. As per the JM Financial report, the UK market share is down from 27 per cent in 2020 to 19 per cent in year-to-date of 2024) with rising labour costs amidst the China+1 theme playing out. Overall, global demand might see a marginal uptick given the ongoing holiday season, it asserted.

The global inventory de-stocking cycle has now come to an end with Indian players expecting relatively better demand in the second half compared to the first as retailers get ready for the holiday season.

According to Invest India, the domestic textile market, valued at around USD 165 billion in 2022, including USD 125 billion from domestic sales and USD 40 billion from exports. Projections indicate that the market will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10 per cent to reach USD 350 billion by 2030.India is one of the world's largest producers of textiles and apparel ■

Eastman successfully reconfirmed dark green shirt in 2024 Canopy Hot Button Ranking and Report for sustainable Naia™ fibers

Once again, this year, Eastman and its innovative Naia™ cellulosic fibers have earned the coveted dark green shirt designation in the Canopy Hot Button Ranking and Report, underscoring the steadfast commitment to protecting ancient and endangered forests while driving innovation in Next Generation fiber solutions.

With "buttons" being used in the report as a measure of MMCF producer's sustainability performance across seven critical categories, Eastman maintained an impressive score of 30 buttons for the sustainable production of Naia™ cellulosic fibers. This recognition has been consistently reconfirmed since 2022, after Eastman's first light green designation in 2019, reflecting their ongoing efforts to prioritize sustainable raw material sourcing, low-impact production processes, and fiber innovation that comes with a lighter impact on the planet.

"This confirmation once again motivates us to continue striving for change in the development of sustainable textile solutions," said Carolina Sister Cohn, global marketing leader for Eastman's textiles division. "Through our Naia™ brand, we are guided by a vision of shaping a more sustainable future of textiles – one where innovation and responsibility come together to meet the evolving needs of our customers while safeguarding the planet for generations to come."

"Canopy applauds Eastman for its continued leadership in keeping critical Ancient and Endangered Forests out of its supply chain and investing in scaling Next Gen Solutions," said Nicole Rycroft, Canopy's Founder and Executive Director. "These efforts have resulted in it achieving a dark green shirt and being one of the top-rated MMCF producers in this year's Hot Button Report."

The Naia™ Renew portfolio, including the groundbreaking Naia™ Renew ES, has also been a cornerstone of this success. Already available at scale, Naia™ Renew ES is created from a blend of 40% certified recycled waste materials, 20% certified recycled cellulose, and 40% sustainably sourced wood pulp. This innovative fiber has become a preferred choice for sustainability-driven brands like Reformation which has already launched its 2nd collection and is gaining increasing traction in retail markets worldwide. By investing in cutting-edge technologies and industry collaboration, Eastman is redefining what is possible in sustainable fiber innovation. The company remains committed to advancing its mission of creating high-quality, eco-conscious solutions that support the well-being of the planet, industry workers, and consumers alike ■

VITAS and ILO launch working group to promote sustainability in Vietnam's textile industry

The Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) has partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to launch a new working group aimed at promoting sustainability within the textile industry. The initiative, announced recently, focuses on advancing sustainable practices in the textile sector, with an emphasis on improving environmental, social, and economic sustainability across the value chain.

The working group aims to address key challenges such as reducing waste, improving resource efficiency, and ensuring fair labor practices. Through collaboration, VITAS and ILO seek to help textile manufacturers adopt cleaner production techniques and enhance their compliance with international labor standards. The group will also provide guidance on implementing circular economy principles and promoting responsible sourcing, which are critical to reducing the environmental impact of textile production.

This partnership underscores the increasing importance of sustainability in the global textile industry, which is facing growing pressure to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance ethical practices. By bringing together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, the working group aims to drive systemic change, providing a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and solutions to common sustainability challenges.

VITAS and ILO's efforts reflect a broader global trend toward more sustainable and responsible textile manufacturing. As the industry continues to face sustainability challenges, collaborations like this are vital in ensuring long-term positive impacts for both the environment and workers within the sector ■

Italian Textile Machinery manufacturers to exhibit at Colombiatex 2025

There will be 23 Italian textile machinery manufacturers partecipating at the upcoming Colombiatex, the main Colombian textile fair, which will take place in Medellín from January 28 to 30, 2025, once again confirming the strong connection between local textile companies and Italian suppliers of textile technology. Despite a decrease in demand for textile machinery from the Colombian textile sector during the first nine months of 2024, the Country remains one of the main markets in the area for textile machinery manufacturers. Specifically, in 2023, Italy was the second largest technology supplier behind China, with an export value of around 13 million euros. In the first nine months of 2024, Italian sales in Colombia reached 8 million euros.

ACIMIT
ITALIAN TEXTILE MACHINERY

"The Colombian textile and clothing industry has experienced strong growth in recent years, also supported by a technological upgrade in which Italian machinery has often played a key role, "comments Marco Salvadè, President of ACIMIT. "For many of Italian manufacturers Colombiatex remains an unmissable event in the international trade fair calendar to strengthen partnership with Colombian textile companies".

In the Italian pavilion organized by Italian Trade Agency and ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, among the 23 exhibitors, the following ACIMIT member companies will also be present: Biancalani, Btsr, Color Service, Danti, Dettin, Fadis, Flainox, Isotex, Itema, Kairos Engineering, Lonati, Mcs, Mts, Monti-Mac, Ratti, Reggiani Macchine, Salvadè, Santoni, Stalam, Tecnorama, Tonello, Triveneta ■

China-Bangladesh collaboration discussed at BGMEA meeting to boost apparel sector

H.E. Yao Wen, Ambassador of China to Bangladesh, paid a courtesy visit to Anwar Hossain, Administrator, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) on 17 December at the BGMEA Complex in Dhaka. Discussions during the meeting focused on strengthening bilateral relations and exploring opportunities for enhanced collaboration between the two countries, especially in the apparel and textile sectors.

Anwar Hossain provided an overview of Bangladesh's thriving ready-made garment (RMG) industry, emphasizing key priorities such as diversifying into high-value non-cotton garments, fostering environmental sustainability, and adopting advanced technologies.

He highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing between Bangladeshi and Chinese institutions in the textile and fashion industries. Additionally, Hossain underscored the need to diversify export products for the Chinese market and called for increased exchange of business delegations between the two nations. He encouraged participation in trade exhibitions to identify opportunities for bilateral trade and investment.

The meeting was attended by BGMEA Support Committee members Miran Ali and Shehab Udduza Chowdhury. The BGMEA Administrator also urged China to share market intelligence to support Bangladeshi businesses, ensuring smoother trade interactions and enhanced business opportunities with China.

Ambassador Yao Wen reaffirmed China's commitment to the partnership, noting that China is a key supplier of man-made fiber-based fabrics, chemicals, and other raw materials critical to meeting the growing demands of Bangladesh's apparel industry ■

TWINSET partners with TrusTrace to Support Supply Chain Traceability and Environmental Impact Initiatives

TrusTrace, a global SaaS company with a market-leading platform for product traceability and supply chain compliance in fashion and retail, announced that TWINSET, a high-end Italian fashion brand, has selected the TrusTrace platform to help identify suppliers, support eco-design initiatives, and measure each product's environmental impact.

"By partnering with TrusTrace, TWINSET has deepened its commitment to tracing their supply chain in granular detail. Now, they can better understand where and how their clothing is produced, and track each product's environmental impact – all within one platform," said TrusTrace CEO and Co-Founder Shameek Ghosh.

According to Silvia Zaganelli, Traceability and Business Development Manager at TWINSET, "Since signing on with TrusTrace in May 2024, we have started implementing the TrusTrace platform as the backbone of our three-year Traceability program. This is a company-wide strategic program ambitioning to discover sub-suppliers, map and collect data for key value processes, and achieves PO-level traceability."

With a three-year roadmap, results will be reached progressively by scaling-up to ultimately trace the full range of product categories and suppliers. Key objectives are to identify material country of origin, manage supply-chain risk such as forced labour, and enable eco-design by assessing the environmental impact of the product. To support the environmental impact initiative, TrusTrace partnered with a leading life cycle assessment (LCA) solution Peftrust, which feeds traceability data directly to the LCA solution to get the most precise PEF (Product Environmental Footprint) scoring.

This strategic initiative has especially helped support TWINSET to prepare for incoming regulations such as Digital Product Passports (DPPs) which will be mandatory on textiles sold in Europe by 2030, as well as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which requires companies to report on their environmental and social impact ■

Lutai Group to invest $385M in first textile factory in Egypt

Hossam Heiba, the CEO of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), has met a high-level delegation from Lutai Group, the world's largest producer of dyed fabrics and shirts, to discuss plans for the company's first factory in Egypt. The proposed facility, with $385m estimated investment, is set to strengthen Egypt's position in the global textile industry.

The factory, covering an area of 500,000 square meters, will serve as a key hub for Lutai's fully integrated supply chain, from yarn production and fabric manufacturing to finished garments. With a focus on 100% export, the new facility will help Egypt become a major player in the international textile market, aligning with the nation's strategy to boost exports.

The Lutai delegation included Liu Deming, Global Marketing Director; Du Lixin, Chief Technology Officer; Zhang Wei, Assistant Chairperson; and Li Jie, Director of Strategy and Marketing. The Egyptian delegation featured Mohamed Qassem, Chairperson of the Egyptian Exporters Association (ExpoLink); Shireen Taha, Director of Policy Support Unit; Ahmed Zohair, Head of the Central Department for Foreign Promotion at GAFI; and Menna Moenes, Investment Promotion Officer for Chinese projects.

Liu Deming emphasized that Lutai's entry into Egypt represents a significant step toward creating a comprehensive, fully integrated supply chain. The company plans to leverage advanced technology, including the world's most advanced spinning systems, to enhance production capabilities. Lutai's reputation for innovation is evidenced by its four-time receipt of the Chinese National Science and Technology Award, underscoring its commitment to high-quality, cutting-edge products. This will further boost Egypt's competitiveness in global markets.

Liu also highlighted the economic stability, sustainable growth, and skilled workforce that make Egypt an ideal location for the company's expansion. He noted the strong ties between Egypt and China, which facilitate the flow of Chinese investments into the country. Hossam Heiba emphasized Egypt's favorable investment environment, driven by its investment law and associated incentives. He pointed out that Egypt's economic growth is consistently above the regional average, with access to trade agreements that open doors to a market of over three billion consumers. Moreover, Egypt's low costs for construction, utilities, and essential services make it an attractive destination for foreign investment.

Heiba also outlined the various investment systems available to businesses, ensuring that Lutai will receive the maximum financial and regulatory incentives. These incentives align with Egypt's goals of promoting technology localization, labor-intensive industries, export-oriented investments, and developing underutilized regions. The new factory is also eligible for the "Golden License," a fast-track approval that guarantees all necessary permits within just 20 working days.

Mohamed Qassem, Chairperson of the Egyptian Exporters Association, noted the growing influx of foreign investment in Egypt's textile and garment sectors, particularly from China. This influx is driven by the global restructuring of supply chains and a search for investment-friendly environments. Qassem also highlighted Egypt's ongoing economic reforms, which improve the competitiveness of its exports in the textile and garment industries, further solidifying the country as an attractive destination for foreign capital ■

Zara, Nike, H&M, and Levi's face pressure from EU sustainability laws over heat stress

Workers in some of the world's biggest garment manufacturing hubs in Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Pakistan are increasingly exposed to extreme heat as climate change pushes temperatures up, a report found on Sunday, a problem multinational retailers and brands will have to help address. New European Union regulations make retailers selling in the bloc, like Inditex, H&M and Nike, legally liable for conditions at their suppliers, putting pressure on them to help fund improvements to cool factories they source from.

In Dhaka, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh and Karachi, the number of days with "wet-bulb" temperatures - a measurement that accounts for air temperature as well as humidity - above 30.5 degrees Celsius jumped by 42% in 2020-2024 compared to 2005-2009, researchers at Cornell University's Global Labor Institute found. Above that threshold, the International Labor Organisation recommends as much rest as work in any given hour to maintain safe core body temperature levels. The report identified only three retailers - Nike, Levi's, and VF Corp - which specifically include protocols to

protect workers from heat exhaustion in their supplier codes of conduct.

Companies Warned

"We've been talking to brands for ages now about this issue, and they're only now starting to turn their attention to it," Jason Judd, executive director at Cornell University's Globa Labor Institute, told Reuters.

"If a brand or retailer knows that temperatures in a production area are excessively high or doing damage to worker health, then they're obligated under this new set of rules to do something about it," he added.

The EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive came into force in July and will start applying to large companies from mid-2027. Fixes to cool factories could include better ventilation and water evaporative cooling systems, instead of energy-intensive and expensive air conditioning that would increase manufacturers' carbon emissions. Some factory owners would likely be willing to make such investments themselves, given how heat stress significantly impacts productivity, Judd said, but the EU rules highlight brands' responsibility to address the issue too.

The report also urged retailers and brands to invest in higher wages and health protections so that workers can manage the risk of missing work days due to heatwaves. Extreme heat and flooding could erase $65 billion in apparel export earnings from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan and Vietnam by 2030, research from asset manager Schroders and the Global Labor Institute found last year ■

Anta Sports joins Dow Jones sustainability emerging markets index

Anta Sports announced on December 24 that it has been included for the first time in the Dow Jones Sustainability Emerging Markets Index, becoming the only Chinese footwear and apparel company to be listed in this index. This reflects the company's leadership in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance. The Dow Jones Sustainability Index selects companies that excel in ESG performance based on S&P Global's Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA).

It is widely used by global investment institutions as a benchmark for sustainable investments and is one of the most prominent sustainability indices internationally. In 2024, over 13,000 companies globally participated in the evaluation. Anta Sports achieved outstanding results in the earlier CSA assessment, with a 30% increase in its score compared to the previous year, ranking in the top 6% of around 190 global textile, apparel, and luxury brands, and leading the Chinese footwear and apparel industry ■

Samsara Eco develops enzyme to recycle Nylon 6, tackling plastic waste in textiles

Samsara Eco, the climate tech innovator, has today announced its latest step to help combat the plastics crisis, developing enzymes capable of recycling nylon 6, a synthetic fibre commonly used in apparel, hosiery and automotives. The innovation builds on Samsara Eco's existing capabilities to infinitely recycle nylon 6,6 and polyester and marks an important leap to tackle waste and eliminate the use of virgin plastics – plastics including synthetic textiles like nylon and polyester made from fossil fuels.

The innovation comes at a critical time when almost two-thirds of the 3.25 billion tonnes of textiles produced each year end in landfill or incineration. Currently less than 1 per cent of textiles are made from recycled textiles, meaning almost all synthetic textiles are still made from carbon-intensive fossil fuels. Samsara Eco's latest innovation opens another pathway for textiles to end the reliance on fossil fuels and reduce waste so brands can use what they've already created to make new products.

The newest enzymes can break down nylon 6 into its original building block that can be reused repeatedly without losing quality. The breakthrough was achieved using Samsara Eco's proprietary enzyme design platform, which creates enzymes capable of breaking down plastics at speed, scale and with precision.

"The current take-make-waste economy is incredibly damaging to our planet. We must reduce our reliance on carbon-intensive fossil fuels and instead, use what's already in circulation," said Paul Riley, CEO and Founder of Samsara Eco.

"Our latest breakthrough makes it possible to believe future textiles will be made from waste and excess, not fossil fuels. We are now able to give new life to nylon 6 and continue to recycle the typically unrecyclable, infinitely. Our ability to recycle nylon 6, nylon 6,6, polyester and mixed fibres, including coloured and dyed blends, is a game changer for the textile and fashion industry. Apparel is very rarely made from a single fibre so being able to recycle mixed fibres is the only way we can create true circularity for the industry.

"Pushed by incoming regulation, industries are becoming increasingly mindful of the entire lifecycle

of their products and their carbon impact. We're providing a way to address both concerns with a real scalable textile-to-textile recycling solution."

The latest achievement follows intensive research, lab testing and bench-scale proof of concept. Samsara Eco will collaborate with customers in textiles and automotive – two industries where nylon 6 is prevalent – as well as strategic partners to trial the new enzymes on nylon 6 products and blended materials from its innovation campus in Jerrabomberra, New South Wales, set to open mid-2025 ■

China and US lead global shift towards circular economy with recycled polymers

The global shift towards a circular economy is accelerating, with recycled polymers playing a pivotal role in this transformation. According to a recent report, China and the United States are leading the charge in advancing the use of recycled materials in various industries, particularly in plastics and textiles. These nations are investing heavily in infrastructure and technologies to promote the recycling of polymers, ensuring that plastic waste can be reprocessed and reused to create new products.

China, as the largest global producer and consumer of recycled polymers, is rapidly scaling up its capabilities in plastic recycling. The country's policies and governmental support for waste management are driving innovation in the recycling sector. Similarly, the United States is witnessing increased adoption of recycled polymers in manufacturing, with several companies introducing eco-friendly alternatives to traditional plastic products. This trend is not only helping to reduce plastic waste but also fostering sustainable practices across industries.

Experts highlight that the circular economy model, which emphasizes the reuse and recycling of materials, is key to addressing the growing environmental concerns related to plastic pollution. By integrating more recycled content into production processes, both China and the US are setting a strong example for other countries to follow. The ongoing advancements in polymer recycling technologies will continue to play a critical role in achieving global sustainability goals and mitigating the impact of plastic waste on the environment. With ongoing efforts, these two countries are spearheading the transition to a more sustainable and circular economy, encouraging the world to rethink its approach to plastic use and waste management ■

Myanmar garment industry faces severe labour shortage amid economic and political challenges

Myanmar's garment industry is grappling with a severe labour shortage, primarily driven by the Conscription Law and rising living costs. Factories report a 20 per cent drop in production, with many unable to accept new orders due to a lack of skilled workers.

Factory owners reveal that the industry is regressing, with workers leaving for farming seasons or migrating abroad for better opportunities. "Skilled workers are leaving, and we can't meet production demands," one factory owner stated, highlighting the impact on business operations and customer retention.

The labour crisis has led to excessive overtime for remaining workers, diminishing productivity and inflating costs. Strikes and labour rights violations have become common, with workers citing unpaid overtime and increasing workloads. Factory closures are also escalating, with 60 per cent of small factories halting operations.

Additionally, economic challenges such as currency restrictions and electricity rationing are compounding the industry's struggles. Workers face significant hardships, including forced military recruitment and insufficient wages. Many women are now considering migration as the Conscription Law could expand to include females ■

Seminar in Tiruppur focuses on boosting garment exports to Japan and quality requirements

A seminar was held in Tiruppur this week to discuss ways to increase export trade with Japan in knitted garments and on Japanese Style Inspection and Quality requirements.

Director (EP & QA), Mumbai Textiles Committee J. D. Barman, in his introductory remarks, said that all products exported to Japan have to undergo 100% third party inspection and India's export contribution to Japan was very low due to lack of quality testing centres. He said Textiles Committee is taking proactive measures to address this issue.

President of Tiruppur Exporters Association K.M. Subramanian welcomed the delegates from Japan and said: "We all know how important quality testing is in the knitting industry. I appreciate the fellow exporters who are already exporting to Japan under very stringent quality control norms. All products exported to Japan must undergo 100% third-party inspection at the common facility. India's share in Japanese textile imports is very low (1%). AOTS and NISSENKEN have been selected by the Government of Japan to explore the possibility of increasing India's market share in Japanese imports. I thank the Textiles Committee for taking the initiative to establish a common platform for third-party inspection of garments proposed to be exported to Japan by entering into an MoU with NISSENKEN."

He added that this session on "Japanese style of inspection and quality requirements" would help in clearing many doubts in the minds of exporters and help them in future inspections.

Kumar Duraiswamy Joint Secretary of Tiruppur Exporters Association elaborated on the activities undertaken by the association under the principle of sustainable production, such as zero liquid discharge (ZLD), carbon neutral, non-conventional power generation, tree plantation, desilting of ponds and providing facilities to Government schools by adopting them.

Karthikeyan Natarajan from PQC India Pvt. Ltd., which specialises in third party inspection for Japanese exports, spoke at length about third party inspection techniques, the readymade garment market in Japan and the business culture of the Japanese.

Business Development Manager, of NISSENKEN, Junji Iwata said that Bangladesh's exports to Japan have increased manifold in a short span of time, while India's exports were very low. He said that there is a huge potential in Japan for Tirupur exporters. Senior Member of the Association and Member of the Advisory Committee, Mico Velusamy and Executive Committee Member K. Mezhiselvan shared their experiences in the Japanese market ■

Punjab traders raise concerns over new GST slabs on textiles

During a meeting of the Punjab Pradesh Beopar Mandal (PPBM), the State General Secretary and a member of the Central Traders Welfare Board expressed concerns about the 28% GST on cloth, questioning why a basic necessity was being taxed as a luxury item. Under the current system, fabrics priced below Rs. 1000 (US $12) are taxed at 5% GST, while those above Rs. 1000 (US $12) are taxed at 12% GST. The revised plan introduces new tax brackets: 5% GST for fabrics priced under Rs. 1500 (US $18), 18% GST for fabrics between Rs. 1500 (US $18) and Rs. 10,000 (US $117), and 28% GST for fabrics exceeding Rs. 10,000 (US $117).

The majority of knitted sweaters would now be subject to the 18 per cent GST slab, traders noted. Additionally, the majority of fabric purchases during the wedding season cost more than Rs. 10,000 (US $117). The dealers suggested that, should an amendment be necessary, fabrics priced up to Rs. 2000 (US $24) should be subject to the same 5 per cent GST rate as is currently applied to those priced up to Rs. 1000 (US $12).

They emphasised that Punjab is the centre of North India's textile sector, especially Ludhiana. Due to issues like farmers closing their borders and disrupted law and order, Punjab's economy has already been under stress in recent years. Over the previous two and a half years, Punjab firms have lost at least Rs. 5 lakh crore (US $ 58.64 billion), and the state's industries and enterprises would be further burdened by the higher GST rates.

The traders added that they will soon meet with Harpal Cheema, the Finance Minister of Punjab and a member of the GST Council, to demand his assistance in order to rescue Punjab's textile industry ■

Gujarat leads India's cotton production and textile exports

Gujarat has been No.1 state in terms of cotton production in the country in the last two years. The state produced 87.95 lakh bales and 90.57 lakh bales of cotton in 2022– 23 (Oct to Sept) and 2023–24 (Oct to Sept) respectively as against India's total production of 336.60 lakh bales and 325.22 lakh bales in the corresponding periods. Moreover, Gujarat accounted for nearly 30 per cent of India's total cotton textile export in 2023– 24. The information was provided by Union Minister of State for Textile Shri Pabitra Margherita in the Rajya Sabha while replying to questions asked by RS MP Parimal Nathwani.

India's total cotton textile export in the last two years stood at $11,085 mn and $12,258 mn in 2022–23 and 2023–24, while Gujarat's stood at $2,835 mn and $3,615 mn during the same periods.

Nathwani wanted to know about the total production and export of cotton from the country, steps taken by the government to increase the exports of cotton from the country as well as to promote research work in the field of cotton production.

To boost the export of textiles products, the Centre is implementing a scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) on exports of Apparel/ Garments and Madeups. Further, textiles products not covered under the ROSCTL are covered under Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products along with other products, the minister elaborated. India has also signed 14 Free Trade Agreements and six Preferential Trade Agreements with trading partners, which would ease access to global markets, the minister informed ■

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India's cotton textile exports decline by 29% in 2023-24

India's cotton textile exports in 2023-24 were valued at $12,258 mn, reflecting a nearly 29 per cent decline compared to 2021-22, as per data presented in the Rajya Sabha during the on-going winter session.

In 2021-22, exports amounted to $17,166 mn. The quantity of cotton fabrics and made-ups exported from India fell by 19 per cent in 2023-24, while cotton yarn exports saw a 31 per cent drop. Additionally, exports of raw cotton declined by 60 per cent. However, exports of other textile yarns and made-ups increased by 12 per cent during the same period. Minister of State Pabitra Margherita shared these details in response to a question from MP Parimal Nathwani.

India's exports, which had been as high as $17,166 mn in 2021-22, dropped to $11,085 mn in 2022-23. However, in the following fiscal year, the value of exports rebounded with an 11 per cent increase. Key export markets for Indian cotton textiles include the United States, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, and the UAE. Gujarat, which accounts for nearly 30 per cent of India's cotton textile exports, saw a decline in exports from $4,760 mn in 2021-22 to $3,615 mn in 2023-24.

Regarding cotton production, Gujarat leads the country, surpassing a production of 90 lakh bales (170 kilograms each) between October-September 2023-24, marking a 20 per cent increase from the previous period. In contrast, Maharashtra, the second-largest producer, saw a 2 per cent decline, producing 80 lakh bales in 2023-24. Telangana, with 51 lakh bales during the same period, ranked third.

In its written reply, the government highlighted its efforts to boost exports, including implementing the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme for apparel, garments, and made-ups.

Products not covered by RoSCTL are eligible for the Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme. The ministry is also supporting Export Promotion Councils/Associations in organising BHARAT TEX 2025 in February 2025, a mega textile show to showcase India's textile value chain, innovations, and trends. Furthermore, India has signed 14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) to facilitate access to global markets in the cotton textile sector.

The government also mentioned that the ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, along with the AICRP on Cotton, is focused on developing improved cotton varieties and agro-technologies. Over the past decade, 333 cotton varieties have been released, including 191 non-Bt and 142 Bt cotton varieties ■

Indore Garment Manufacturing Industry Poised for 15% growth

The political instability in Bangladesh, the world's second-largest apparel exporter, has opened up new opportunities for Indore's garment manufacturers, who are now receiving a surge in orders from both domestic and international markets. As global brands and retailers seek more politically stable sources for their finished products, India's garment sector, particularly in Indore, has seen heightened interest.

However, the region faces significant challenges due to its insufficient infrastructure and limited production capacity. Indore's garment manufacturing industry, known for its ready-made garments, is optimistic about achieving over 15 per cent growth in the coming year. This growth is largely driven by the increasing volume of orders from international brands and a rise in domestic inquiries. Despite these promising developments, industry leaders caution that the city's current infrastructure cannot fully accommodate the surge in demand.

Rahul Mehta, Chief Mentor of the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), pointed out that while the Bangladesh crisis has shifted some garment orders to India, the local industry's production capacity remains limited."The average size of garment industries in Bangladesh is around 2,000 machines, while in India it is between 200 to 500 machines," Mehta said, underlining a key constraint for scaling up operations.

Akhilesh Rathi, Joint President of the Federation of MP Chamber of Commerce and Industries, highlighted that despite these limitations, Indian fabric mills and garment manufacturers have benefited from the disruption in Bangladesh's supply chain."Bangladesh remains a vital trading partner for India, and both countries will continue substantial trade despite the current political challenges," he added.

Indore, which has established itself as a key hub for children's wear, is now looking to enhance its presence in the export market. In response to this growing demand, the Readymade Textile Dealers Association has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with CMAI to focus on skill enhancement and improving quality output for both domestic and international markets. While the Bangladesh crisis presents challenges, it also signals significant opportunities for India's garment sector to bolster its capabilities and capitalise on emerging market trends ■

Punjab textile merchants urge Finance Minister to oppose GST hike on garments

The Punjab Textile Merchant Association has urged Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to oppose proposed changes to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on garments at the upcoming GST Council meeting. In a letter to Cheema, association members highlighted their concerns over the potential increase in GST rates. The proposals include raising the GST from 12 per cent to 18 per cent on garments priced between Rs 1,500 and Rs 10,000 and imposing a 28 per cent GST on garments priced above Rs 10,000. The traders warned that such measures would severely impact the already strained garment sector.

"As the Finance Minister of Punjab and a member of the GST Council, your role is crucial in safeguarding the interests of industries and workers in the state," the letter stated. The association argued that increasing the GST to 18 per cent for mid-range garments would make them unaffordable for middle-income consumers, leading to decreased demand and slower sales. Meanwhile, the proposed 28 per cent GST on high-end garments would shrink the premium market, discouraging purchases and pushing businesses into financial trouble.

The garment industry, heavily reliant on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), operates on narrow profit margins. Association members warned that businesses would struggle to absorb the increased tax burden, which could result in closures and significant job losses.

The traders called on Cheema to advocate for the industry's needs and ensure that policies support its growth rather than exacerbating its challenges. They emphasised that the proposed GST hikes could undermine the sector's contribution to Punjab's economy and employment. The upcoming GST Council meeting will likely address these proposals, and industry stakeholders await its outcomes with concern ■

New textile policy offers hope for Guntur Textile Park revival

The State government's approval of the new Textile, Apparel, and Garments Policy 2024-29 has raised hopes for textile industrialists struggling with losses at the Guntur Textile Park.

Established in 2014 as part of a Central government's initiative to boost the textile sector, the park at Gopalamvaripalem near Chilakaluripet was initially planned with 61 units, including five weaving processing units, 54 weaving units, and two garment units. However, the abrupt withdrawal of the Central policy discouraged several industrialists, leaving only nine units operational at 50% capacity, with just 400 employees.

The newly approved policy aims to rejuvenate the sector by offering a 30% subsidy on investment, Rs 2 per unit electricity tariff, a 50% subsidy on electricity bills, and sales tax waivers for six years. Additional benefits include a 45% subsidy for SC, ST, and BC women entrepreneurs and an extra 18% subsidy for units starting production within 18 months of registration. Guidelines for the 2018-23 Textile Policy were also released, granting existing units a 20% investment subsidy, reduced electricity costs, and tax relief for a decade.

Speaking, Guntur Textile Park Managing Director Samineni Koteswara Rao welcomed the policy but stressed the need for the government to clear pending incentives worth Rs 1,100 crore from the last decade. He highlighted that the vision behind the policy could only materialise if backlog payments were addressed promptly. Rao also urged the government to set a fixed timeline for subsidy disbursement to enhance the policy's impact. Industrialists are optimistic that the incentives, if implemented as promised, will restore the park's full capacity, attract fresh investments, and provide much-needed employment opportunities for the local population ■

CITI highlights resilience of India's textile & apparel sector amid record trade deficit challenges

According to estimates released by the Department of Commerce, India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record high of US$ 37.84 billion in November 2024. The surge reflects the twin challenges of a global economic slowdown and rising imports. Amidst these headwinds, India's Textile and Apparel (T&A) sector demonstrated remarkable resilience, registering an export growth of 5.81% compared to last year.

Rakesh Mehra, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), commended the sector's consistent performance despite challenging global dynamics. He said, "The T&A sector has shown encouraging progress this year, particularly with strong export growth recorded in October 2024.

However, November brought challenges due to ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainties impacting global trade flows. The rising imports of textile products and apparel also call for a renewed focus on India's cost competitiveness."

While acknowledging these hurdles, Mehra was optimistic about the sector's prospects in the coming months. He underscored the importance of government support in strengthening India's competitive edge, particularly as global competition intensifies. "The upcoming expiry of the RoDTEP scheme for AA/SEZ and EoU units on 31st December 2024 is a matter of concern. A timely extension of this scheme, in alignment with DTA units, would help address cost challenges and sustain export growth momentum," he stated.

CITI remains confident in the government's proactive approach and anticipates an extension of the RoDTEP scheme to support AA/SEZ and EoU units. With continued policy backing, Indian T&A products can maintain their competitive edge in global markets and foster sustained sectoral growth ■

RMG exports registers 9.8% growth in November 2024

Speaking on the export growth momentum Sudhir Sekhri, Chairman AEPC stated that, "India's RMG sector is registering significant export growth signaling acceptability and rise in demand for made in India products globally. While the overall exports declined, apparel exports withstood the headwinds showing the resilience to buck the adverse situation. I am hopeful that with the changing geopolitical equations a lot more business will shift to India in the near future"

With India's inherent strengths and strong supportive policy framework by the Centre and States, India is all poised to reap its benefits" With end-to-end value chain capability, a strong raw material base and factories focusing on sustainable responsible business practices, India will surely see substantial growth in times to come. Sekhri added.

RMG exports for the month of November 2024 has increased by 9.8 % as compared to November 2023 and decreased by 6.6 % as compared to November 2022. Similarly, cumulative RMG exports for the period April- November 2024-25 is USD 9853.9 million showing a growth of 11.4% over April-November

2023-24 and a decline of 4.9 % over April- November 2022-23. Further, Chairman AEPC emphasized, "The growth for the month of November 2024 reflects the growing trust of the global brands for made in India products especially looking at the uptick in the festive season demand."

Further, Sekhri said, "The growth in the USA and UK is picking up which are our top markets. I am happy to see that we are also witnessing green shoots from our FTA markets such as Australia, Korea, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, UAE, etc."

Chairman AEPC appealed to the international buyers to visit India and participate in Bharat Tex Expo 2025 which is a great platform to see India's entire textiles value chain under one roof. "We have been to various countries during the Bharat Tex Roadshow and have received phenomenal response from international buyers and retail chains. I am sure this platform will enable great collaboration and expand sourcing networks while promoting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India."

The RMG industry has been making rapid strides and India is fast emerging as the preferred sourcing destination for international buyers and big brands. The support of the government at this juncture could turn the table. We have requested not only for continuation of the interest equalization scheme but also for enhancement of the interest equalization rate to 5% to offset high cost of capital. Besides, implementation of our demand for PLI 2.0 scheme for all kinds of garments. We hope that with support from the textiles ministry, this scheme will see the light of the day, which in turn will result in exponential growth in capacity expansion, Chairman AEPC observed ■

Apparel industry warns of job losses and disruptions from proposed GST hike

The apparel industry has expressed serious concerns over the proposed GST rate hike recommended by the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation. Under the new tax structure, garments priced between Rs 1,500 & Rs 10,000 would be taxed at 18 per cent, while apparel above Rs 10,000 would fall under the highest GST slab of 28%. The rate for apparel priced up to Rs 1,500 would remain at 5%.

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) has urged the government to reconsider the hike, warning that it could lead to reduced consumer demand, widespread job losses, and disruptions in the industry's value chain. The association emphasised the need for government policies that support the growth and stability of the industry, advocating a balanced approach to ensure long-term sustainability and benefits for all stakeholders.

"The proposed GST rate hike risks severely disrupting the formal retail sector by pushing both consumers and businesses toward informal channels. This shift would hurt legitimate retailers and potentially benefit unscrupulous sellers and illegal merchants. The textile industry, already under strain, could face job losses of up to one lakh," CMAI said in a statement. The CMAI further suggested that a uniform GST rate of 5 per cent would be more practical and beneficial for the industry, urging the government to at least maintain continuity in the existing rates.

"The proposed GST rate revisions pose a significant threat to the apparel industry as a whole, which is already facing challenges such as declining consumer demand, profit erosion, and working capital issues. If implemented, it could lead to the closure of MSMEs in our sector, further destabilising an industry

that plays a vital role in employment and economic growth," CMAI president Santosh Katariya said. Katariya also questioned the rationale behind taxing clothing priced over Rs 10,000 at 28 per cent while mobile phones priced up to Rs 1.5 lakh are taxed at 18 per cent. Industry stakeholders fear that the increased tax burden could further erode profit margins and intensify job losses ■

AEPC highlights UK opportunities at Bharat Tex 2025

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said huge import opportunities are there for British apparel firms in India and they should participate in large numbers in the upcoming mega textile show here next year. Bharat Tex 2025 will be held here from February 14-17, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam and from February 12-15 next year at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida. Companies will showcase the entire textile value chain, with a special focus on key sectors such as Handicrafts, Apparel Machinery, Chemicals, and Dyes.

AEPC Chairman Sudhir Sekhri said that the UK is a global fashion hub and the sixth largest importer of apparel, with a total import value of $20.27 bn in 2023. "India, with its robust textile and apparel sector, has long been a trusted partner for the UK. In the past year (2023) alone, India's exports to the UK reached $1.2 bn, securing a 6.14 per cent share of the UK's textile and apparel market," he said.

Exports of ready-made garments to the UK during April- October 2024-25 rose by 9.4 per cent, Sekhri added. To attract British participation, the council has organized the Bharat Tex Roadshow in London from November 27 to 29.

Sekhri also said that at Bharat Tex 2025, UK brands such as Marks & Spencer, Primark, Next, Charles Tyrwhitt, Burberry, Dunhill, Clarks, and JW Anderson already source high-quality products from India. Fast-fashion leaders like Primark, Asos, and Boohoo also turn to India for innovative solutions that align with their commitment to quality and sustainability.

"These are the values that will take centre stage at Bharat Tex 2025, as we highlight India's advancements in eco-friendly materials, closed-loop manufacturing, and waste management principles that strongly resonate with the UK's commitment to a sustainable future," he said ■

VFY prices in India jump in November on weak Chinese demand & market challenges

The Asian Viscose Filament Yarn (VFY) market exhibited a bullish trend in November 2024, largely driven by evolving demand dynamics, geopolitical factors, and seasonal influences. In China, VFY prices experienced minimal fluctuations during the period, influenced by the United States' announcement of new tariffs. The US fashion industry's dependence on Chinese apparel sourcing is under scrutiny due to rising tariffs, forced labor allegations, and escalating geopolitical tensions.

Additionally, the political instability in Bangladesh following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government disrupted the textile sourcing supply chain, further impacting the VFY market in the region. These circumstances created opportunities for neighboring countries, especially India, to strengthen their position in the global VFY market.

The Indian VFY market showed robust performance during November 2024. Prices for VFY in India improved by 3.66% in November, reaching INR 420,400/MT Ex-Surat. This upward trend was primarily fueled by strong demand, government initiatives, and increased overseas export activity. Reports indicate that India's share of apparel exports to the US and UK rose to 7% and 6%, respectively, in 2024, compared to 6% and 5% in 2023.

The Indian government has been actively promoting the textile and apparel sector through initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing and exports. Union Minister Giriraj Singh highlighted the Textile Department's vision of growing India's textile market from USD 176 billion to USD 300 billion. "Under the leadership of PM Modi, I am confident we will achieve new heights," he stated.

India's textile exports rose by 11.56% year-on-year in October 2024, reaching USD 1,833.95 million. Meanwhile, apparel exports recorded a remarkable growth of 35.06%, totaling USD 1,227.44 million. According to the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, cumulative exports of textiles and apparel in October 2024 increased by 19.93% compared to October 2023. This growth underscores the sector's strategic importance in India's export economy and its ability to capitalize on global opportunities for VFY.

China's VFY market encountered challenges from low production costs, rising logistics expenses, and geopolitical uncertainties. Feedstock trends significantly influenced these issues, with softwood pulp prices briefly rising before falling, and hardwood pulp prices gradually declining throughout November.

Additionally, caustic soda prices fluctuated sharply, dropping by 5.7% in the latter half of the month, adding to production cost pressures for Chinese VFY manufacturers. Despite these challenges, the October report indicated a slight improvement in overall textile exports, reflecting some resilience in the market ■

Surat's textile industry poised for growth amid Bangladesh's struggles

Surat's textile industry is experiencing increased attention from both global and local brands as political instability and worker unrest in Bangladesh prompt companies to seek alternative garment suppliers. Industry experts in Surat report receiving a high volume of inquiries for ready-to-wear garment production, which could greatly enhance the sector's growth.

Surat's garment sector, currently expanding at 12 percent annually, is expected to see a 20-25 percent growth if these inquiries result in confirmed orders, experts suggest. Textile hubs in Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Noida are also poised to benefit from this shift, according to a report.

Bangladesh, the second-largest exporter of ready-made garments after China, heavily depends on fabric from Surat. However, due to ongoing political instability, law-and-order issues, and unrest among workers, many major brands are now seeking alternatives in Indian manufacturing.

"Surat traditionally produces ethnic wear, kurtis, low-priced women's clothing, and some denim. But we are now seeing a significant rise in queries from global brands, which could bring huge benefits to the sector," said Ashish Gujarati, Former President of the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, reported.

Surat's textile industry currently generates a monthly turnover of Rs 600 cr, primarily from man-made fibres. Other textile hubs, including Tiruppur and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Ludhiana in Punjab, and Noida in Uttar Pradesh, are also expected to benefit from this shift.

Gujarati emphasized that while short-term growth is apparent, sustained long-term development will require government support. "With the right backing, India could greatly enhance its standing in garment manufacturing," he remarked.

Bangladesh's garment industry is facing pressure due to financial difficulties, resulting in widespread unrest in areas such as Dhaka, Chittagong, Gazipur, and

Narayanganj. A recent report from Swedwatch, a Swedish non-profit, shed light on the challenges faced by workers and called on European Union members to implement stricter regulations to safeguard workers' rights.

The report also recommended that global brands engage in constructive partnerships with stakeholders and trade unions to improve working conditions and ensure fair wages. Additionally, it suggested implementing training programs to address worker concerns and boost productivity ■

Birla Cellulose achieves top ranking in Canopy's 2024 Hot Button Report

Canopy, an environment focussed not-for-profit entity, has released their annual Hot Button Report, which enables fashion brands and retailers to independently assess suppliers of Man-Made Cellulosic Fibers (MMCF) for their forest fibre sourcing.

Commenting on the ranking, H.K. Agarwal, Managing Director, Grasim Industries Ltd., and Business Director Birla Cellulose, said, "Birla Cellulose is proud to be leading the collaborative effort for scaling up Next Gen solutions. This prestigious recognition affirms Birla Cellulose's unwavering dedication to enhancing sustainable wood sourcing practices, forest conservation, and maintaining transparency in the value chain."

Birla Cellulose continues to invest in R&D in developing Next Gen Solutions and conduct lab and pilot-scale trials with a wide variety of feedstocks. The company will further develop and significantly scale up the use of Next Gen Solutions to reduce impact on forests.

"Hearty congratulations to Aditya Birla Group for once again securing the top spot in Canopy's 2024 Hot Button Report," said Nicole Rycroft, Canopy's Executive Director. "We commend their hard work to remove Ancient and Endangered Forests from the MMCF supply chain and are encouraged by their consistent progress in brining Next Gen fibres to market at scale. We look forward to their continued leadership in 2025 in driving the sector's transition to low-carbon Next Gen production" ■

AP cabinet approves key policies for IT, Textile, and Maritime growth

The Andhra Pradesh cabinet on Tuesday approved policies of Information Technology and Global Competitive Centres, Apparel and Textile and Maritime, among others, the state government said. AP Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P Narayana said the cabinet approved to call tenders for stalled infrastructure works estimated to be over Rs 11000 crore at the capital Amaravati.

Information and Public Relations Minister K Parthasarathy, giving details of the cabinet decisions, said it has approved Information Technology and Global competitive Centres policy 4.0 2024-29 under which Remote, Hybrid and co-working spaces will be developed. Parthasarathy said under the policy, incentives will be given to co-working and neighbourhood space developers, based on certain criteria.The aim is to make the state an IT hub and also to provide job facilities for educated youth," he said.

The Andhra Pradesh Apparel and Textile policy 4.0 2024-29, which was approved by the cabinet is aimed at attracting Rs 10,000 crore investments and creating two lakh jobs in the next five years. He said five textile parks under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model will be set up across the state giving incentives to entrepreneurs depending on the criteria."During the next five years, USD 1 billion exports were targeted under the policy," he said.

The cabinet also approved the Andhra Pradesh Sustainable Electric Mobility Policy 4.0. Under the new policy, the state envisages Rs 30,000 crore investments, creating 60,000 employment opportunities. The Andhra Pradesh Maritime policy 4.0 aiming at utilising the 975 km long coastline in the state was also approved by the Cabinet. Under this, ports and port-based industries would be developed. The Cabinet also gave its nod to several drinking water projects in the state, besides deciding on completing the construction of unfinished houses under government scheme. Minister Narayana said all the legal and technical issues with regards to works in Amaravati have been overcome and by December end tenders will be called for and works will begin next month ■

India's rising role in reshaping global textile supply chains – Subin Mitra, Groyyo

The recent disruptions in Bangladesh's textile and apparel sector underscore the vulnerabilities inherent in concentrated global supply chains. Political unrest, catastrophic climate events, and energy crisis can bring entire factories to a halt, causing chunks of garment orders to be delayed or lost. This upheaval has sent international buyers scrambling for stable alternatives and robust, cost effective supply chains, with India emerging as a prime contender; Some green shoots towards the same are already visible with exporters in Tirupur witnessing a surge in order placements.

India's proven strengths in cotton yarn exports and its expanding infrastructure, bolstered by initiatives like the PLI Scheme for textiles, position it uniquely to absorb this redirected demand. However, this is not merely a matter of opportunity but of responsibility. As global brands navigate supply chain uncertainties, India must demonstrate its ability to deliver both scalability and sustainability. The latter has become an area of critical focus for almost all brands globally - emphasizing on the need for sustainability on not just the shop-floor but also in terms of the raw material utilized in the manufacturing process.

The next decade will likely witness a recalibration of fashion supply chains, with India taking center stage with its stable geo-political reigns combined with Govt. support for manufacturing. For India, the task is clear - Invest aggressively in manufacturing infrastructure, sustainable practices, and workforce upskilling and cement its reputation as a reliable, innovative, and resilient manufacturing hub, ready to shoulder greater global responsibilities while fostering local growth ■

AATCC and TAI Forge partnership to boost textile industry collaboration in India

The American Association of Textile Chemists & Colourists, or AATCC, recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Textile Association (India) (TAI) as part of the Association's global expansion. The MoU aims to increase communication between the two organisations, prevent duplication of work when feasible, raise awareness of AATCC standards in India, engage in educational activities along the fibre-to-fashion chain, and use the resources of AATCC and The Textile Association (India) to support each other's efforts to benefit individuals and businesses in the Indian textile industry.

India's textile sector is one that is strong and expanding. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TAI represents a milestone in AATCC's mission to promote global connections among textile, chemistry, and colour science professionals, the organization's president, Christina Rapa, added stating that AATCC looks forward to providing the Indian market with comprehensive training programs, high-quality testing standards, and beneficial networking opportunities in the years to come.

For the benefit of members of The Textile Association (India) as well as other people and businesses in the Indian textile sector, the organisations committed in the MoU to developing collaborative educational and training initiatives, including conferences. With more than 26,000 members, the Textile body (India) (TAI) is the biggest trade body in the textile industry.

This partnership will facilitate the planning of international conferences, webinars, seminars, and cooperative educational initiatives, according to Tulsi L. Patel, President of TAI, who added that individuals and company members can gain by increasing their market prospects and knowledge.

Members of either organisation are also eligible for a 30 per cent membership discount in the other organisation under the terms of the MoU. In addition to these actions, the MoU states that AATCC will provide corporate and individual TAI members with a unique introductory pricing.

The Association has designated AATCC Chapin Award winner Seshadri Ramkumar as AATCC Ambassador to India in addition to the MoU as part of AATCC's outreach to India. He has the authority to represent the Association in negotiations with Indian businesses and associations. Ramkumar is also a member of The Textile Association (India) and an Honorary Fellow. Ramkumar teaches advanced materials at Texas Tech University, located in Lubbock, Texas, in the United States ■

Pepe Jeans unveils Cozy and Stylish winter wear collection

Pepe Jeans, the globally recognized denim lifestyle brand known for its premium casual wear, is excited to announce the launch of its exclusive Winter Wear Collection. With winter well and truly upon us, it's the perfect time to update your wardrobe with stylish yet practical pieces that ensure warmth and comfort during the colder months. Featuring an exquisite selection of jackets, hoodies, sweaters, and more, Pepe Jeans offers winter essentials that combine cutting-edge design with the latest trends to provide the perfect balance of fashion and functionality.

As temperatures drop, Pepe Jeans' Winter Wear Collection offers high-quality, versatile pieces for warmth and style. The collection features the Parka Jacket with advanced insulation, weather-resistant fabric, and functional details like adjustable hoods and pockets. Puffers with 3M-Thinsulate insulation that provide warmth without bulk in 6 colors. Sweaters & Hoodies offer sleek, modern designs with lightweight warmth for casual or outdoor wear. Jackets blend timeless style with modern trends, while Puffer Jackets provide insulation, weather protection, and pack-ideal for travel.

Pepe Jeans continues to be a leader in the global fashion landscape, known for delivering high-quality, stylish clothing to fashion-forward individuals worldwide. The Winter Wear Collection continues this legacy by offering functional, yet stylish, pieces that are perfect for modern living. The collection has been thoughtfully designed to emphasize comfort and warmth, all while maintaining the signature Pepe Jeans style, ensuring that customers look great while staying cozy through the colder months ■

Hosiery industry set for 10-12% growth driven by rural demand and exports

Hosiery manufacturers in India are likely to witness 10-12 per cent on-year revenue growth this financial year following a revival in rural demand and volume support from the export market, a report said. The industry's operating margin is expected to improve 150-200 basis points (bps) this fiscal, owing to softer input prices and improved capacity utilisation, aided by higher volume growth, Crisil Ratings said in a statement.

"The revenue growth of 10-12 per cent will ride on higher contribution of rural sales, which account for almost half the domestic revenue. Increase in agricultural yield following an above-normal monsoon, hike in the minimum support price and higher government spending on rural infrastructure will support rural spending."Increase in exports to the Middle East and North Africa along with expected growth in urban demand led by growing modern trade will also improve volume growth," Crisil Ratings Director Argha Chanda said.

The report further said the hosiery industry typically sees a spike in volume by year-end as channel partners start stocking to meet high demand during the summer season. Meanwhile, the stability in yarn prices this fiscal and 1-2 per cent dip in selling prices have led to a resurgence in demand from channel partners. Moreover, operating leverage will increase amid higher capacity utilisation, it added. It said, the operating margin of hosiery manufacturers should widen 150-200 bps to 11.5-12 per cent this fiscal, driving up cash accruals.

Higher cash accruals and reduced inventory holding periods are expected to lower the working capital requirement and strengthen the liquidity of hosiery players. Also, capacity utilisation continues to be moderate and no major expansion is expected, which should limit long-term borrowings and finance costs, the Crisil Ratings report said.

"Inventory holding is expected to fall to a historical low of 90-100 days this fiscal from 150 days in fiscal 2024. Accordingly, moderation in working capital requirement and no major debt-funded capital expenditure should keep debt levels in check. The ratio of total outside liabilities to tangible net worth is forecast to remain below 1 time, consistent with last fiscal. "The improved operating performance of hosiery makers will improve interest coverage to 6.5 times this fiscal from 4.5 times last fiscal," Crisil Ratings Team Leader Vishnu Sinha said.

However, the impact of inflation and sustenance of farm incomes are key aspects of the rural economy that will bear watching, the report said, adding that export growth and dynamics within the modern trade segment will also need to be monitored as they play a crucial part in achieving higher-than-expected volume and margin growth ■

RSWM Limited appoints Rajeev Gupta as Chief Executive Officer

RSWM Limited, the flagship company of the LNJ Bhilwara Group and one of India's largest textile manufacturers, has announced the appointment of Rajeev Gupta as its Chief Executive Officer. With over 30 years of transformative leadership across various industries, Gupta brings unparalleled expertise in operational optimization, strategic vision, and technological advancement.

Known for his proficiency in driving operational excellence, Gupta has successfully applied Lean, Six Sigma, TPM, and TQM methodologies to streamline processes and enhance productivity. His experience spans the textile, home textile, and pulp & paper industries, with leadership roles at leading organizations including Reliance, Trident, and Vardhman. At these companies, he led initiatives that resulted in substantial EBITDA and revenue growth.

Under Gupta's leadership, RSWM Limited is expected to accelerate its transformation initiatives, particularly in leveraging advanced technologies to improve efficiencies. His strategic approach is set to further solidify RSWM's reputation for innovation, particularly as the textile industry faces rapid changes and evolving consumer demands.

Reflecting on his new role, Rajeev Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, RSWM Ltd. said, "RSWM has long been a leader in innovation and excellence in textiles, built on a strong legacy of operational excellence and sustainability. I am committed to advancing this foundation by adopting modern technologies and practices, driving efficiency, and meeting the evolving needs of the industry while reinforcing our dedication to sustainable value for stakeholders."

Commenting on the appointment, Riju Jhunjhunwala, Chairman and Managing Director of RSWM Ltd, said, "Rajeev's industry knowledge and exceptional leadership abilities are assets that will help us realize our business objectives. His strategic mindset, along with his operational expertise, will be important for us to strengthening our operations and expanding into new markets."

With a history spanning over six decades, RSWM Limited continues to prioritize growth through market expansion, product diversification, and sustainability. Mr. Gupta's appointment is expected to significantly enhance RSWM's competitive edge, reinforcing its leadership position in the industry ■

Neelam Shami Rao appointed new Secretary of Ministry of Textiles

Neelam Shami Rao has been appointed as the new Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India which is led by Giriraj Singh. Prior to joining MoT, she has been the Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Ministry of Minority Affairs. Smt. Rao has also served esteemed organizations like EPFO in senior position like Central Provident Fund Commissioner. She was also the Director General of Training in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the rank of Additional Secretary. Early in her career, she served as District Collector in Guna and Koria Districts of Madhya Pradesh.

She brings in rich and varied experience as an IAS officer who held various administrative positions in different departments of Central and State Governments. She has been instrumental in many reforms in EPFO resulting in making it a more efficient, transparent and delivery oriented Organization. She is IAS officer of 1992 batch of Madhya Pradesh Cadre and alumni of Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad with a B. Tech. degree in Electronics ■

Vietnam's garment sector eyes closed-loop supply chain to boost exports to UK

Vietnam's garment and textile industry needs to develop a closed-loop supply chain with a focus on obtaining self-sufficiency in raw materials in order to meet the rules of origin under the UK – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (UKVFTA) for expanding exports to this market.

The garment and textile sector is doing well in taking advantage of 17 active free trade agreements (FTAs), including new generation trade deals such as the UKVFTA, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU – Vietnam FTA (EVFTA), according to Vu Duc Giang, Chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas). However, there remains largely untapped potential.

The sector is poised to earn US$44 billion from exports this year, an increase of nearly 11.3 percent over last year – an impressive result in a world with complicated and unpredictable developments including escalating conflicts, volatile oil prices and transportation costs, and slow global trade recovery, he said. The industry has set a goal of exporting up to $48 billion worth of products in 2025.

Aside from taking advantage of FTAs, Vietnam's garment industry has effectively capitalised on the shift in export orders away from countries like China and Bangladesh, coupled with efforts to diversify markets and meet import market requirements, Giang said.

Vietnam's garment and textile exports to the UK have seen improvements since the UKVFTA took effect in 2021 and have remained stable in the past few months, at $76.7 million in August, $52.5 million in September and $61.9 million in October, customs statistics showed. The country earned more than $622.8 million from garment and textile exports to the UK in the first 10 months of this year.

Still, Vietnam holds a modest share in the UK's imported garment and textile market, which was estimated at more than $20 billion per year. Under the trade deal, the UK has removed 42.5 per cent of the tariff lines starting in the beginning of 2021 and will eliminate the remaining tariffs in two, four or six years.

FTA ecosystem required

Ngo Chung Khanh, deputy director of the Multilateral Trade Policies Department under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has pointed out five major problems in the garment and textile industry. One is the heavy dependence of imported raw materials, which is hindering the industry from taking further advantage of FTAs.

Another issue is that the industry mainly uses contract manufacturing, coupled with a shortage of capital, a lack of market information and failures in promoting brands for garment products. The latest updates from the General Department of Customs showed that Vietnam imported $22.82 billion worth of raw materials for the garment, textile and footwear industries in the first 10 months of this year, representing a strong increase of 44.2 per cent over the same period last year. Imported materials were mostly fabric worth a total of $12.27 billion, up 14.7 per cent over the same period last year.

Notably, the raw materials were mainly imported from China, accounting for 51 per cent of imports. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, domestic garment and textile producers are forced to import around 70 per cent of raw materials, as domestic supply sources remain limited and are unable to meet the demand in terms of quality.The heavy dependence on imported raw materials significantly affects the development of the garment and textile industry, especially in meeting rules of origin under FTAs, including the UKVFTA, for sustainable export expansion.

Pham Xuan Thuy, deputy director of the Tien Thang Garment Company in Da Nang Province, said that Vietnamese-made fabric is not only expensive, but also fails to meet the quality requirements of foreign partners. Thus, domestic garment producers rely on imported sources to ensure quality and lower prices.

A report by the Ministry of Industry and Trade stated that the rules of origin under the UKVFTA for garments and textile products require two-stage criteria, meaning that the weaving stage and sewing stage for finished products must be carried out in Vietnam or the UK.

This means that the fabric used for cutting and sewing must originate from Vietnam or the UK – a significant challenge for the Vietnamese textile and garment industry, because the industry remains dependent on imported raw materials. To make up for this, Vietnam can take advantage of the accumulation principle regarding the origin of fabric, meaning the country can use fabric from Korea, Japan, the EU or countries that have FTAs with the UK for cutting and sewing in Vietnam.

However, in the long term, the UKVFTA's 'from fabric onwards' rules of origin combined with the CPTPP's 'from yarn onwards' will require the establishment of a closed production chain, with a focus on ensuring self-sufficiency in raw materials so that the industry can better exploit FTAs, the report said.

According to Khanh, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is enhancing cooperation with relevant ministries, agencies and associations to establish an FTA ecosystem that will create conditions for the garment and textile industry to effectively use FTAs.

"Most importantly, the FTA ecosystem for the garment and textile industry will help connect garment producers with raw material suppliers," Khanh said.

Deputy Director of Da Nang Department of Industry and Trade Do Thi Quynh Tram said that the FTA ecosystem should be completed early and put into practice with the active participation of enterprises.

In the strategy for development of the garment, textile and footwear industry through 2030, one bold solution is to promote the development of the supporting industry for garment production.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade said that large-scale industrial zones specialising in garment and textile production will be developed, which will facilitate the establishment of a closed-loop supply chain for the industry.

The foundation of a raw material centre for the garment and textile industry should also be accelerated along with measures to ensure its efficient operation, Truong Van Can, Vitas' general secretary, said.

To expand exports to the UK sustainably, garment producers also need to enhance production capacity and competitiveness by applying technology, automation, digital transformation and green production to meet market requirements


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India's share of global trade in textiles and apparel stands at 3.9%

India is the 6th largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel in the world in 2023. The share of textile and apparel (T&A) including handicrafts in India's total exports stands at a significant 8.21% in 2023-24. Our country has a share of 3.9% of the global trade in textiles and apparel. Major textile and apparel export destinations for India are USA and EU and with around 47% share in total textile and apparel exports. India is a major textile and apparel exporting country and enjoys trade surplus. Bulk of import takes place for re-export or for industry requirement of raw material.

It is noteworthy that export is a function of demand and supply and depends on factors such as global demand, internal consumption and demand, order flow, logistics etc. Exports also gets affected by many geopolitical situations (such as red sea crisis, Bangladesh crisis etc.). Export in FY 2024 was initially low mainly due to the geopolitical crises around red sea, which affected export movement during January, February and March 2024.

The overall export of Textiles & Apparel (incl. handicrafts) marked a growth of 7% during April-October period of FY 2024-25 ($ 21,358 Mn) compared to same period of FY 2023-24 ($ 20,007 Mn).

Ready Made Garments (RMG) category with export of $ 8,733 Mn has the largest share (41%) in the total exports ($ 21,358 Mn) during the period of April-October of FY 2024-25, followed by Cotton Textiles (33%, $ 7,082 Mn), Man- Made Textiles (15%, $ 3,105 Mn).

Growth of exports is observed in all principal commodities during the period of April-October of FY 2024-25 compared to corresponding period of FY 2023-24, except wool and handloom which decline by 19% and 6% respectively.

Import of textiles and apparel products by India during FY 2023-24 ($ 8,946 Mn) has decreased by approximately 15% in comparison to FY 2022-23 ($10,481 Mn).

The overall import of Textiles & Apparel (incl. handicrafts) decline 1% during April-October period of FY 2024-25 ($ 5,425 Mn) compared to same period of FY 2023-24 ($ 5,464 Mn)

Man-made Textiles category with import of $1859 Mn has the largest share (34%) in the total imports ($ 5,425 Mn) during the period of April-October of FY 2024-25, as there is demand supply gap in this sector.

Growth of imports is observed majorly in Cotton Textiles mainly on account of import of long staple cotton fibre and such trends of import indicates towards an increase in production capacity of the country amidst rising consumption and self reliance

Export of Textile & Apparel Including Handicrafts (Apr-Oct)

Commodity	Oct-23	Oct-24	% Change	Apr-Oct 2023	Apr-Oct 2024	% Change
Readymade Garment	909	1227	35%	7,825	8,733	12%
Cotton Textiles	1005	1049	4%	7,014	7,082	1%
Man-made textiles	414	474	14%	2,958	3,105	5%
Wool & Woolen textiles	16	14	-11%	117	95	-19%
Silk Products	13	14	5%	70	98	40%
Handloom Products	12	13	4%	89	84	-6%
Carpets	126	147	17%	795	893	12%
Jute Products	25	36	44%	218	220	1%
Total Textile & Apparel	2,520	2,974	18%	19,087	20,309	6%
Handicrafts	129	171	33%	921	1,050	14%
Total T&A including Handicrafts	2,649	3,144	19%	20,007	21,358	7%

Source: DGCIS, Provisional Data *Value in USD Million*

Import of Textile & Apparel Including Handicrafts (Apr-Oct)

Commodity	Oct-23	Oct-24	% Change	Apr-Oct 2023	Apr-Oct 2024	% Change
Readymade Garment	162	183	13%	934	951	2%
Cotton Textiles	209	310	48%	1,529	1,721	13%
Man-made textiles	342	297	-13%	2,127	1,859	-13%
Wool & Woolen textiles	30	28	-8%	219	197	-10%
Silk Products	15	16	5%	130	102	-21%
Handloom Products	0	0	34%	1	1	56%
Carpets	4	4	0%	19	21	12%
Jute Products	20	24	20%	179	151	-16%
Total Textile & Apparel	783	861	10%	5,138	5,004	-3%
Handicrafts	34	44	29%	326	421	29%
Total T&A including Handicrafts	817	905	11%	5,464	5,425	-1%

Source: DGCIS, Provisional Data *Value in USD Million*

Empowering women in the garment sector RISE reaches 400,000 on workers' rights and life skills

RISE (Reimagining Industry to Support Equality) is promoting sustainable transformation to improve the rights of female workers and gender equality in the garment, footwear and textile industries.

Approximately 75% of the estimated 60 million workers in the global garment sector are women. These women often face gender discrimination, workplace harassment and violence, and limited career development opportunities. The aftermath of COVID-19, combined with ongoing economic uncertainties, has left many female workers in increasingly precarious positions. Against this backdrop, four global organizations-BSR's HER project, GAP Inc's P.A.C.E., CARE and Better Work-joined forces in 2023 to launch RISE, a collaborative initiative aiming to empower women workers, embed gender equality in business practice and catalyze systems change.

In 2024, RISE reached nearly 400,000 workers, 65% of them women, across Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Pakistan and Vietnam, well on its way to reaching 1.5 million workers by the end of 2026. RISE provides comprehensive support, empowering female workers to increase their skills, knowledge and confidence to boost their professional and personal development. After attending RISE programs, women reported their belief in their self-worth increased by 49%. Across five countries, there was a 46% reduction in the belief that granting more rights to women comes at a cost to men.

RISE's programs seek to scale and sustain action for women's empowerment in their workplaces. They include:

- Financial Health, enhancing financial literacy to bolster economic resilience and stability
- Respect, fostering a safe and equitable work environment by addressing gender-based violence and harassment
- Foundations, a workplace development program to increase agency and advance the rights of women workers.
- Digital Program, improving digital literacy and health, financial and stress management skills.

Leak, a Quality Controller in Cambodia who took part in the financial health program, shared she is using her new skills to plan her saving for her future: "Before I would save $10USD a month, but now I can save $25 a month because I am identifying my needs and wants better. I am saving for an AC unit for my home as it gets very warm during the hot season and in case of an emergency."

RISE plays a pivotal role in addressing gender inequalities and promoting women's economic independence. The organization prioritizes establishing gender-sensitive, responsible business practices in the garment sector, while advocating for changes in relevant laws and policies.

Christine Svarer, Executive Director of RISE, says "RISE now has over 30 members, including buyers and suppliers, which is crucial for achieving real improvement on the production floor. Factories that implement our programs notice real business benefits: a survey of 37 workplaces across six countries showed a 30% reduction in turnover rates, increased productivity, and a decline in rework rates from 7.2% to 5.5%. This highlights RISE's tangible impact which we are continuously scaling up as we expand to new members, factories and countries."

In the rapidly evolving garment, footwear and textile industries, protecting workers' rights is no longer optional but essential for sustainable growth. Initiatives like RISE mark a crucial starting point for sustainability, and more companies are expected to adopt responsible management practices through such programs

Cotton farmers in Benin Benefit from organic cotton cultivation

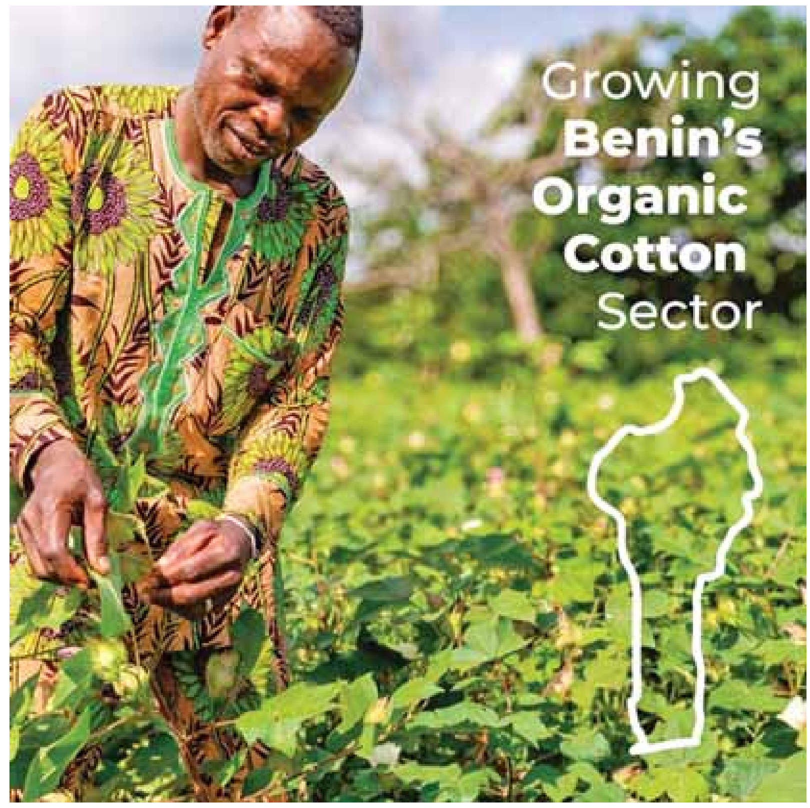
Launched three years ago with EUR 1 million in total volume, a project called "Growing Benin's Organic Cotton Sector" aimed to support small-scale farmers in transitioning to organic cotton cultivation in accordance with the Cotton made in Africa Organic standard, to avoid the use of synthetic pesticides, and to further develop the organic cotton sector, thereby securing the future of farming communities. The project has proved a success as participating cotton farmers are benefiting from higher incomes. Due to its positive results, the project will now be extended into a second phase. Implemented by OBEPAB (Organisation Béninoise pour la Promotion de l' Agriculture Biologique), the project was funded by BMZ (the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) in collaboration with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaftfür Internationale Zusammenarbeit), the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK, Paul Reinhart AG, and the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF).

Reaching nearly 9,000 farmers, the community project doubled the number of cotton farmers who have switched to growing organic cotton in Benin. They are benefiting from the project's broad array of measures, which not only enabled them to switch from conventional cotton to CmiA Organic production but also contributed to a significant increase in their incomes. Within three years, the production of organic cotton verified under CmiA Organic grew by 65 percent; the profitability of small-scale farms increased as well, by an average of 9 percent. In addition to the crucial transfer of knowledge on agricultural topics such as organic pest management or seed varieties—conducted via training courses, workshops, and other events—the project also focussed on empowering women. For instance, the proportion of women holding leadership positions in the committees of the co-operatives had increased by 30 percent by the end of the project.

"The cotton farmers are very important to The Aid by Trade Foundation. We are pleased to have successfully supported them in switching to organic cotton, and we look forward to continuing to do so together with OBEPAB, which plays a key role in this effort," says Alexandra Perschau, the head of standards and outreach at AbTF, adding, "We also pride ourselves on offering these cotton producers greater market access through two of our standards—Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) and CmiA Organic—as the Aid by Trade Foundation is a key partner for the global textile trade with over 2,700 partners worldwide."

Around 30 percent of cotton produced in Africa is verified under CmiA or CmiA Organic. It is in great demand internationally, with regular purchasers including well-known brands and retailers. Recently, the fashion juggernaut Bestseller reported buying a record volume of CmiA Organic cotton from Africa.

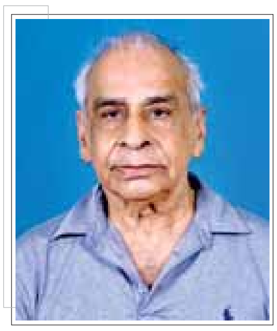
Benjamin Mohr, the Deputy Manager of the program "Sustainability and Value Creation in Supply Chains" (AgriChains) at GIZ, comments, "Through AgriChains, one of our global programmes, we are making agricultural supply chains green, fair, and inclusive. By bringing together businesses, governments, and civil society, we can address global challenges through joint action. In Benin, we are doing just that: connecting and strengthening stakeholders throughout the cotton supply chain, from farm to market." He adds, "We are focussing on the organic cotton sector in Benin and its links



to global markets, with the ultimate aim of building up the resilience of cotton-growing communities." Marco Bänninger from Reinhart complements on that: "In addition to CmiA Organic from Tanzania, which has been an integral part of the supply chain for several years, we are now able to offer another origin with Benin CmiA Organic Cotton, which is known for its excellent quality characteristics." Rajan Bhopal, International Project Manager, Pesticide Action Network UK, is pleased with the results of the project: "This project demonstrates the impact that high-quality farmer support has on supporting cotton farmers livelihoods and resilience. By adopting agroecological practices and locally-produced bio-inputs, organic farmers in Benin are growing healthy crops with much lower costs, leading to significantly improved income, better health and improved soils."

During a recent visit to Benin's new textile production centre and a subsequent visit to areas where CmiA Organic cotton is grown, a delegation representing AbTF, GIZ, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), and the African Cotton Foundation (ACF) was able to personally confirm the momentum of Benin's textile sector and the growing importance of organic cotton production. "We met motivated farmers committed to growing high-quality organic cotton that is good for the environment and the health of their families," says Alessandra Fiedler, who is co-responsible for the implementation of the project in Benin on behalf of GIZ. She continues, "Everything is in place to expand organic production and to establish Benin as a destination of choice for both the procurement and the processing of organic cotton. We are therefore pleased to start a new phase of co-operation with OBEPAB, Reinhart, AbTF, PAN UK, and SODECO"

Tariff war on cards with return of Trump



S.VENKITACHALAM is a senior economic journalist with more than 40 years of experience, covering Industry, Commerce & Textile Ministries. In this article author discusses on how Trump's return as President of US might impact India's competitiveness in US market with the likelihood of higher tariffs on Indian textiles.

Just over a month left for the Donald Trump to assume office as the 43rd President of the United States. Immediately thereafter, he is expected to swing into action to redeem the promises he had made during the election campaign. Pressure will mount on India to reduce tariffs and brace for higher tariffs on its textile exports to the US.

Higher levies could render these exports uncompetitive in the American market and come at a time when there are signs of a decline in apparel exports to th US in the first quarter of this year. (January - March 2024) over the same period last year – from $ 1332 mn to $ 1125.26mn. China's exports in this period also fell from $ 3495.26 mn. To $ 3470 mn.

While higher duties could pose challenges for Indian exporters, it also presents opportunities to capture a large share of the US market, especially given the political turmoil in other major textile exporting countries like Bangladesh, said a senior textile industry leader Indias chief economic adviser has stressed the need to brace for these potential increase and adapt to the evolving landscape. "Navigating these changes will require stratergic adjustments and a focus on enhancing competitiveness to mitigate the impact of higher tariffs.

Global agencies such as IMF and World Bank have pointed to the need for India reducing its tariffs. And Union Finance Minister Nirmala Seetharaman has hinted at lifting some tariffs, if they do not hurt domestic companies. She asserted that there is need to balance the interest of companies which need imported inputs. It is possible to explain every tariff that has to be levied and those that were not imposed to control imports.

She said "inputs are required intermediate goods are required to be imported. I will have to encourage that. I will lift the tariffs on them, provided it does no intended or unintended having my own capacity to produce. I will to balance the two", Seetharaman stated.

She further said in response to a question on Trump's proposed tariff policy "Do we have a moral authority or will or nip in the bud those who are growing in India and who can produce in India? I need to give them that protection as well as I have to encourage industries which need those imports" Reports have it that Trump may bring in wider measures including a 10-20 percent charge on all imported goods and 60 percent on Chinese goods.

Trump considers China as the "toughest" and India "tough". Given that perception, the prime focus of his actions is likely to be on Beijing. And if he raises tariffs for countries like India by a lower magnitude than China, then it stands to gain, says Jayant Dasgupta, India's former Ambassador to WTO.

With Trump returning to office, higher tariffs on Indian textiles may reduce competitiveness in the US market. However, political instability in other countries could present opportunities for India. India's textile industry faces challenges from declining exports, but strategic adjustments and potential tariff reductions could mitigate the impact. While an FTA could boost India's market share, it remains unlikely. The overall trade climate, shaped by Trump's protectionist policies, will require India to adapt strategically to stay competitive.

Again in 2023 China's goods exports to the US were estimated at $ 427 bn five times higher than India's $ 84 bn.

So he will come down heavily on China. All these may potentially open the doors for some Indian businesses, provided they have the capacity to produce these goods required by US customers.

When it comes to tariffs, India is not alone. There are several countries around the world that keep high levies on products that are "sensitive". With Trumps return they are bracing for fresh trade tensions.

Trump believes import taxes can help shore up revenues as well as reduce US trade deficit and reshore manufacturing. The self proclaimed "tariff man", Trump had in his first term in office enacted duties on about $380 bn in imports. He had also demonstrated that the President can enact tariffs essentially single –handably.

Last time, he had called India "Tariff king" and went on to increase import duty on steel and aluminum by 10-25 percent invoking national security provisions. It impacted 2.3 percent of India's trade with the US and New Delhi responded with retaliatory tariff on almonds, apples, lentils and steel after preferences were also withdrawn by the Trump administration. He had then indicated his preference for "tit for tat" tariffs" so we are going to do reciprocal trade. If anybody charges us 10 cents, if they charge us $ two, if they charge us 100 per cent, we charge the same".

He does not believe in looking at average tariffs or if the levies are within permissible limits.

The average tariffs in US on textile products range between 15 percent and 16 percent. For India, it is

curtains down on the special market access granted by Washington under its Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Scheme, Washington believes that India's tariffs on American products are high enough and is continuing with several export promotion schemes which have an element of subsidy. EU has already stopped benefits to India under its GSP scheme.

For textiles nearly 99 percent of products are not covered by GSP. The remaining one percent coverage have most favoured nation (MFN) duties (normal duties) of just 2-3 percent. Thus the US withdrawal of GSP is a "non- issue" according to some trade experts.

Further, an analysis by the Federation of Indian Exports Organisations (FIEO) reveals that the duty advantage under GSP is on 5,111 items out of 18770 tariff lines. For over 2,110 items, the advantage is 4 percent or less. Exports with over three percent duty preference are likely to be affected.

While an FTA with the US will majorly improve India's share in the US apparel imports, New Delhi has termed the idea as "fanciful". A study by FICCI and

India's Export of textiles and Clothing (in US$ Bn.)

Year	World	USA
2017-18	37.1	8.1
2018-19	35.5	8.5
2019-20	29.6	7.5
2020-21	41.5	10.8
2021-22	38.3	10.8
2022-23	34.2	9.3

Wazir Advisors says that from a value of 5-8 percent, it could increase as high as 20 percent by 2025. India's share in the US's import of textiles – yarn, fabrics and made – ups – will also increase substantially in segment of MMF yarns and fabrics.

As reported in these columns earlier the current global apparel market is worth $ 1.7 trillion and it constitute around two percent of GDP. EU – 27 US and China are the largest apparel markets with a combined share of 54 percent. The global apparel market is expected to touch $ 2.6 trillion by 2025 by a projected rate of 4 percent. The major growth drivers are the developing countries, mainly China and India, growing in double digits.

According to official data the US was India's top trading partner in 2022-23. India's exports at $ 78.5 bn came down from 78.5 bn to $ 77.5 bn in 2023-24. Imports declined from $ 50.5 bn to $ 42.2 bn. In this period total trade at $ 129.3 bn came down to $ 119.7 bn.

The data show that India's textiles and clothing exports to the US which was 10.8 bn 2020-21 and 2021-22 dropped to 9.3 bn in 2022-23. Exports at $ 8.1 bn 2017-18 increased to $ 8.5 bn in 2018-19 but declined again to $ 7.5 bn 2019-20. Total textile and clothing exports to the US in the last 6 years were valued at $ 37.1 bn, $ 35.5 bn, $ 29.6 bn, $ 41.5 bn, $ 38.3 bn and $ 34.2 bn respectively ◘

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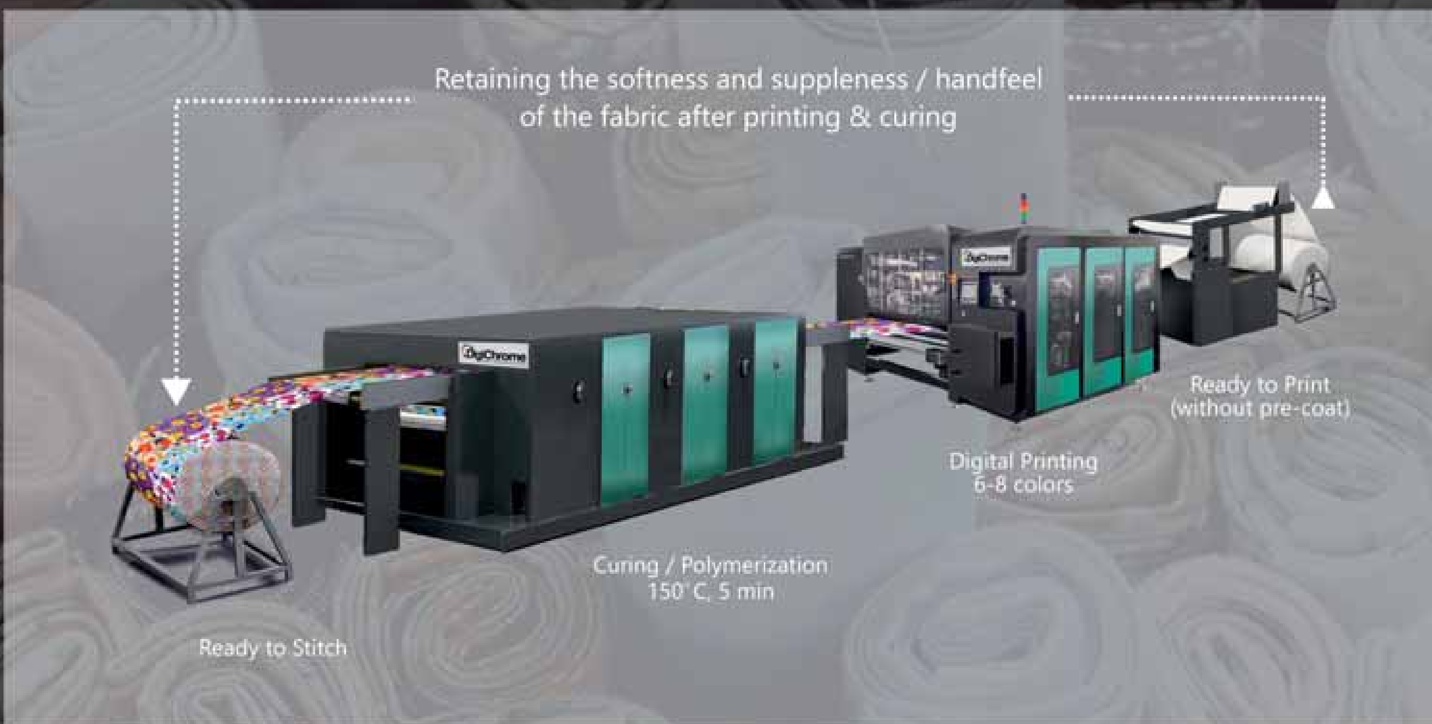


Sustainable - water, energy & time saving process

Fastness	Method	Cotton	Blends (C-P)
Light	ISO 105 BO2	6-7	6-7
Crock Wet Rub	ISO105 X12	3-4	3-4
Crock Dry Rub	ISO105 X12	4	4
Wash	ISO 105 CO3	4-5	4-5

How handloom textiles are changing the global fashion landscape

The Indian handloom industry, which is renowned for its sustainability, authenticity, and workmanship, makes a significant contribution to the global fashion industry. This industry is growing globally, with roots in heritage but adapting to contemporary demands.

A Tradition of Craftsmanship

With 3.52 million workers and 2.8 million looms, India's handloom industry contributes significantly to the rural economy of the nation ((according to IBEF). 72% of these employees are female, demonstrating the industry's commitment to women's empowerment. Unique hand-spinning, weaving, and printing techniques are preserved since talents are passed down through the generations in both tiny villages and bigger clusters.

Regions like Varanasi, known for Banarasi silk sarees, and Telangana, famous for PochampallyIkat, specialize in distinct weaving techniques. These textiles are not limited to traditional sarees and shawls but also extend to contemporary fashion fabrics, western garments, and home furnishings. This adaptability allows Indian handlooms to cater to diverse consumer preferences.

Handlooms and Sustainability

The global push for sustainable fashion has brought attention to handloom textiles. As per Research and Markets, the Ethical Fashion Market grew from USD 22.10 billion in 2023 to USD 24.17 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 41.91 billion by 2030. Handlooms, which use natural fibers and minimal electricity, align with these values.

Handloom textiles have a low carbon footprint, making them appealing to environmentally conscious consumers. Natural dyes and biodegradable materials further enhance their appeal. With reports showing that 62% of Gen Z shoppers prefer sustainable brands and 73% are willing to pay more for eco-friendly products (as per First Insight), handlooms fit well into these emerging preferences.

Cultural Significance

Indian handloom textiles are deeply tied to cultural heritage, with UNESCO recognizing 50 iconic heritage crafts in India. Each textile reflects its regional origins and techniques, such as Assam's Muga silk or Gujarat's Bandhani tie-dye. These crafts carry stories of local traditions and artistry, giving them a unique identity in the fashion world.

This cultural value has made Indian handlooms popular beyond domestic markets. They are increasingly showcased at international events, bringing regional crafts to a global audience.

Empowering Artisans and Communities

The handloom industry plays a critical role in sustaining artisan livelihoods. Nearly 15% of India's cloth production comes from this sector, and exports of handloom products reached $343.69 million in FY 2019 (as per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics). Major importers like the US, UK, and Germany highlight the international demand for Indian handloom products.

Government initiatives such as the National Handloom Development Program and Production Linked Incentive schemes are supporting the sector. Investments of over Rs 90,000 crore are expected through programs like PM MITRA Park, strengthening infrastructure and export potential.

Adapting to Modern Trends

Handloom textiles are evolving to meet contemporary needs. By blending traditional techniques with modern designs, these fabrics now cater to a wider audience. For example, lightweight and sheer Chanderisarees are being adapted into western-style outfits, while traditional prints are used in modern home décor.

Tufan Kumar Saha is a visionary Entrepreneur and the Founder of Huts and Looms, a brand focused on reviving India's traditional handloom products while empowering artisans.

Digital platforms are playing a key role in promoting handloom products. Storytelling on social media boosts engagement by 25%, allowing artisans and brands to connect directly with global consumers. These platforms highlight the craftsmanship and effort behind each piece, enhancing their value.

International Recognition

Indian handloom textiles are gaining visibility on global platforms. Designers frequently feature handloom fabrics at international fashion weeks, showcasing their versatility and appeal. These events highlight how traditional textiles can seamlessly integrate with global fashion trends.

This recognition underscores the growing appreciation for handloom craftsmanship and authenticity. It also helps build a sustainable market for these products, creating steady demand and encouraging innovation.

Ethical Consumerism and Demand

With increased awareness about sustainable and ethical fashion, consumers are prioritizing products that reflect responsible practices. The use of biodegradable materials and minimal energy in production makes handloom textiles a natural fit for this trend.

Reports from First Insight suggest that a significant percentage of younger shoppers are willing to pay more for sustainable options. This shift in consumer behavior is driving the popularity of handloom textiles, both in domestic and international markets.

Government Support and Future Prospects

The Indian government has been proactive in promoting the handloom sector. As per the Ministry of Textiles, India's textile exports reached $44.4 billion in FY 2021-22, the highest-ever figure. With projections of reaching $100 billion by 2030, the industry is poised for growth.

Initiatives like the PM MITRA Park Scheme aim to attract investments and enhance the sector's infrastructure. These measures are expected to modernize the industry while preserving its traditional essence.

Indian handloom textiles are carving a niche in the global fashion industry by combining traditional artistry with sustainable practices. Their adaptability to modern trends and cultural significance make them a unique offering in a market increasingly focused on ethical consumerism ◘

India's cotton output to drop 8% in 2024-25 due to reduced acreage

India's cotton output is projected to drop by 8% to 299.26 lakh bales in 2024-25, primarily due to a 10% reduction in acreage. The Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (CCPC) attributes this decline to shrinking sowing areas, despite improved yields of 447.84 kg/ha over last year. Regional variations in production and acreage are evident, with the Central Zone showing the largest contribution. The CCPC's estimates are slightly below the Cotton Association of India's (CAI) forecast of 302 lakh bales. Yields, however, remain positive across zones, reflecting advancements in crop practices.

Key Highlights

- Cotton production estimated at 299.26 lakh bales, down 8% YoY
- Acreage declines 10% to 113.60 lakh hectares this year
- Yields improve to 447.84 kg/ha, supporting overall output
- Central Zone remains the largest producer with 182.93 lakh bales
- CCPC's estimates are marginally lower than CAI's projection of 302 lakh bales

India's cotton output is forecast to decline by 8% to 299.26 lakh bales for the 2024-25 crop year, according to the Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (CCPC). This drop is attributed to a 10% reduction in acreage, which fell to 113.60 lakh hectares compared to 126.88 lakh hectares last year. Despite the reduced area, yields have improved to 447.84 kg/ha from 435.75 kg/ha, cushioning the impact on production.

The Central Zone, comprising Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, continues to lead production with 182.93 lakh bales. However, its acreage dropped from 75.47 lakh hectares to 69.88 lakh hectares. Similarly, the Northern Zone saw production decline from 47.60 lakh bales to 33.05 lakh bales, as acreage shrank by 31%. The Southern Zone reported marginal drops in both production and acreage, at 78.01 lakh bales and 29.58 lakh hectares, respectively.

Supporting the price outlook, improved yields and declining acreage are expected to tighten supply, which may bolster cotton prices in the domestic and international markets. The CCPC's estimate is slightly below the Cotton Association of India's projection of 302 lakh bales, indicating possible revisions as the season progresses.

In other developments, advancements in agricultural practices have contributed to better yields, highlighting opportunities for further investment in cotton cultivation.India's cotton output dip, coupled with tighter acreage, is expected to support prices. Improved yields reflect positive agricultural strides amid production challenges ◘

Textile & Apparel 360° report highlighting key trends for 2025 unveiled by Groyyo

The Textile & Apparel 360° Report 2024 by Groyyo was released highlighting pivotal trends shaping the global textile and apparel (T&A) industry. The report examines India's growing significance in this dynamic sector. With the global textile and apparel (T&A) trade expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.8%, reaching USD 1.53 trillion by 2033, India stands at a critical juncture to harness its potential as a leading textile hub.

As the global T&A market races towards $1.5 trillion, Groyyo Consulting's report underscores the critical role of innovation, sustainability, and localization in shaping the future. China continues to dominate T&A exports, contributing 30% of global apparel trade with exports worth $154 billion in 2023, while the EU-27 remains the largest importer of T&A products, accounting for 41% of readymade garment (RMG) imports.

Key Findings in Global T&A Trade

- China leads in yarn and fabric exports, while Bangladesh and Vietnam maintain strong positions in apparel exports.
- The EU and the US are the largest importers, with EU imports worth $183 billion, followed by the US at $82 billion.
- Increased focus on regional partnerships and supply chain optimization highlights significant growth potential across value chains.

The report underscores India's dual role as a rising exporter and importer in the T&A sector. While apparel exports from India to the US, UK, and UAE dominate, India also experienced notable growth in textile imports, particularly yarn (+11%) and knit fabrics (+4.7%) between 2019 and 2023, a concern for the growth of homegrown industries.

Speaking on the findings, Pratik Tiwari, Co-Founder, Groyyo, the company that brought out the report analyzing ITC Trademap data, emphasized, "This report demonstrates India's increasing integration into the global textile ecosystem, offering significant opportunities for businesses to tap into new markets and drive sustainable growth."

Key Trends from India

- **Export Highlights -** India's share in global T&A exports stands at 4%, with a mixed performance in recent years. While yarn and fabric exports grew by 2% and 1% respectively (2019–2023), fiber exports declined by 4%. This should improve by the end of 2024 in response to improving export opportunities for Indian manufacturers.
- **Import Shifts -** Imports of textile yarn surged by 11% during the surveyed period, driven by increasing demand for synthetic fibers and fabrics. However, fiber imports decreased by 5.6%, indicating growing domestic production capabilities. In this regard, the Indian government's anti-dumping duties policy will help protect the producers at home.
- **Growth Prospects -** India's "Make in India" initiative is driving significant growth in the textile and apparel sector, positioning the country as a regional hub for sustainable and technical manufacturing. Policies like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme are boosting the production of man-made and technical textiles, enhancing exports, and reducing import dependency. Alongside this, a strategic focus on digital capacity building for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) manufacturers is fostering innovation, improving efficiency, and enabling inclusive growth.

Abhishek Yugal, Managing Partner at Groyyo, stated, "The global textile industry is evolving rapidly, and India has the opportunity to emerge as a leader by focusing on high-value products and sustainable practices. By leveraging digital technologies and capitalizing on government initiatives, Indian manufacturers can achieve significant growth in exports and redefine their role in the global supply chain."

The company aims for the Textile & Apparel 360° Report 2024 to serve as a comprehensive guide for stakeholders across the industry, from manufacturers to policymakers, charting a course toward innovation and collaboration in a rapidly evolving market ◘

Pakistan textile industry urges Govt. to prioritize export growth and lower production costs

The value-added export-oriented textile industry has asked the government to give them top priority through providing maximum facilitation, which could help meet export requirements.The government also needed to establish long-term and sustainable policies in consultation with the real stakeholders to enhance exports and increase foreign exchange earnings for the country, it said. At present, the high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for the export-oriented apparel industry, as the ever-increasing gas and power tariffs are the real threat to the economy amid high markup rates and continuous fluctuations in the exchange rate.

These views were expressed in an interactive session jointly organised by the Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) and the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) on Saturday. Meeting participants asked the government to take prompt measures to bring down production costs for the export industry to enable it to compete in the international market. PHMA North Zone Chairman Abdul Hameed said that the export industry was having difficulty in competing in the global market because of a rapid increase in production costs, which was not good for exports.

Hameed said that high energy tariffs, growing rates of taxes and the lack of skilled labour were the main reasons behind the increase in the cost of production. Manufacturing and production industries have the potential to significantly impact economic growth by reducing unemployment in the country. "We are the biggest employment generators and largest exporters, contributing two-thirds of textile exports and one-third of the country's exports. The apparel sector has immense potential to create jobs with comparatively low investment and less energy needs, as it generates four times the employment at one-fourth of the energy consumption compared to other textile sectors."

The chairman said that Pakistan's industry was struggling in the international market due to challenges such as high inflation, political instability, increased power tariff, rising fuel costs, energy shortages and the lack of research and development activity.

An effective strategy is needed to improve the performance of the industrial sector. The government should facilitate exporters by providing a level playing field in terms of business costs, particularly utility prices, he suggested. Hameed said Pakistan's economy, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, was struggling to cope with the current economic crunch and needed support.

Rather than providing subsidies or waivers, the industries are being burdened through higher production costs. The burden of surging oil prices in the international market is immediately transferred to consumers by the government, but the process of reducing prices is always very slow, he noted. He asked the government to work on a fast-track plan to address the expensive energy issue and give priority to the value-added textile industry.

The chairman urged for increasing ease of doing business, lowering cost of production, paying early refunds to solve the liquidity crunch, relaxing import policy for industrial raw material and equalising energy tariff across the country.He pointed out that various provincial departments, including the EOBI, social security, women welfare, environment, etc were playing a negative role and badly treating manufacturers and exporters

Pantone names Mocha Mousse as 2025 Colour of the Year, reflecting comfort and 'Little Treat Culture'

Colour specialist Pantone has announced Mocha Mousse as its 2025 colour of the year – a chocolatey brown hue selected to reflect the importance of "little treat culture". Pantone 17-1230 Mocha Mousse is described by the Pantone Colour Institute as a mellow brown that conjures feelings of comfort and warmth.

"As we began our selection process for this year, one of the things that kept bubbling up to the top was this desire for harmony," the institute's Vice President Laurie Pressman told Dezeen. The institute is Pantone's trend forecasting consultancy, which every year since 1999 has chosen a Pantone colour that it believes to straddle the mood of the current moment and the year ahead. Pressman explained that Mocha Mousse is a subtle evolution from last year's colour of the year, Peach Fuzz, which reflected similar themes.

"As people continue to seek harmony and balance, there is a shift to focussing on curating moments or experiences that boost our sense of personal comfort and wellness," said Pressman. "[It's] this reframing of anything that could possibly be a trigger into something more positive, and this whole idea of little treat culture," she added.

"How do we fill ourselves back up and have that momentary escape from everything that's taking place around us, so that we feel full and can go back out and do what we were doing?"

"It's an evocative soft brown," agreed the institute's executive director Leatrice Eiseman. "All of our senses are awakened – in particular our sense of taste, for obvious reasons, and our sense of smell – who can resist the chocolate cookies baking in the oven?" The Pantone team said that Mocha Mousse reflects a desire for a neutral colour that is less typical than beige or grey. "It's an unpretentious classic," said Eiseman. Shoppers, Eiseman explained, are making fewer purchases and focusing on products that are "seasonless, genderless and highly versatile" as a result of rising living costs and an increasing urgency for sustainability.

"In a recession, and in an economy that's shaky, you are thinking more about what you already own and how you can continue to use those things," she said. The duo explained that the Pantone team travels across the world, conducting interviews and scouring visual references to determine its colour of the year.

The annual hue is chosen from Pantone's existing bank of colours."Everybody has their individual feelings about colour," said Eiseman, considering how Mocha Mousse will be received. "And that's okay – it extends the conversation and keeps it going." "I think, though, that the deliciousness of the colour is definitely going to play into it. I mean, I can't imagine anybody saying 'I hate chocolate'."

In the wake of 2020's coronavirus pandemic, Pantone selected two colours for 2021 – contrasting shades of yellow and grey – to reflect global uncertainty. Last year, interiors expert Michelle Ogundehin shared an opinion piece on Peach Fuzz, calling it "the right colour for all the wrong reasons"

CONVERGE’24: INVIYA® (Indorama) Customer Meet Grand celebration of innovation & collaboration

INVIYA® (Indorama) hosted its customer meet, CONVERGE’24, bringing together industry leaders, channel partners, academic leaders and dignitaries for an evening filled with insightful discussions and celebrations. Held at Poppy’s Vista, Tiruppur, the event showcased the Group's legacy, vision, and unwavering commitment to quality, innovation and sustainability.

The event commenced with a welcome note from Shalendra Vasudeva, Chief Marketing Officer, followed by ceremonial lamp lighting by the dignitaries. G. Venkatesh, Group Director (Textiles & Corporate Development), Indorama Corporation, delivered an engaging overview of Indorama Group's accomplishments and future plans. Vasudeva presented insights into the spandex market scenario, highlighting key trends and growth opportunities, while Sandeep Shelke, Chief Executive Officer, shared the eventful journey of INVIYA®, highlighting its innovation.

The leadership team expressed their sincere thanks to customers for their unconditional support in this successful journey.

Guest speakers included P. Boobalan, Founder & CEO of Texcoms Worldwide, who presented on the opportunities for India’s textile sector over the next decade, and Dr. G. Thilagavathi, Professor and HOD of Textile Technology at PSG College of Technology, who passionately spoke about sustainability initiatives shaping the sector.

The Chief Guest, Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, delivered an inspiring address, emphasizing the importance of spandex in garment manufacturing and highlighting future growth opportunities. He conveyed a compelling message to see inclusiveness & growth of MMF fibres in Tiruppur to keep pace with emerging global trends and reap benefits of legacy of Tiruppur.

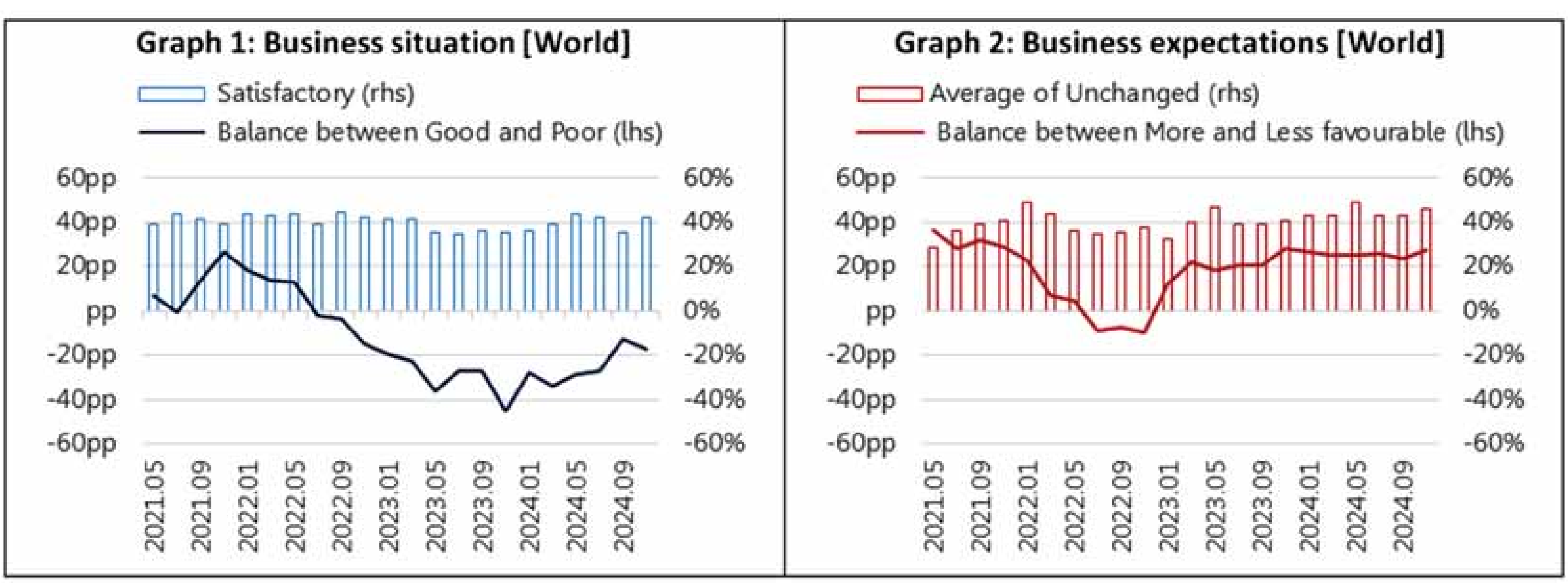
The evening also featured mesmerizing performances by a renowned mentalist, Preveen Pandita, and a soulful flute artist, Raj Chandran, adding a celebratory touch to the event. The event was attended by 400 guests.

CONVERGE’24 reinforced INVIYA® brand’s leadership among quality conscious customers addressing their needs and future aspirations. INVIYA® is spandex brand of Indorama India Private Limited, which is part of US Dollars 6 billion Indorama Corporation, headquartered at Singapore and is known for its exemplary vision in fertilizer, polymers, fibres/yarns, rubber gloves and minerals sector across different continents

29th ITMF Global Textile Industry survey mixed outlook for the global textile value chain

ITMF’s 29th Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS), conducted in the second half of November 2024 reveals nuanced shifts within the global textile value chain, highlighting both challenges and resilience. While business sentiment has declined slightly over the past two months, long-term improvements have persisted since the low of November 2023. South America leads in regional performance with strong optimism, together with Africa. Order intake has improved globally, driven by gains in South America as well. Europe and the textile machinery segment experienced the weakest order intake. Inventory levels along the textile value chain continue to decrease worldwide, though variations exist, with Africa reporting the highest inventories and garments maintaining the lowest.

Despite recent challenges, the industry remains optimistic about future business prospects, propelled by confidence among South American and African respondents. The survey underscores that global demand remains the primary concern, although its intensity is gradually diminishing, with geopolitical tensions, high energy prices, and inflation gaining attention. Interestingly, the lack of workers/talents ranks third when it comes to concerns. Order cancellations have continued to decline, confirming a 14-month trend, and the average order backlog stands at 2.1 months, reflecting slight declines but indicating ongoing recovery



Source: 8th-29th ITMF Global Textile Industry Survey (29th: 17-25.11.2024)

Confederation of Indian Textile Industry raises concerns over proposed GST rate hike

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has raised concerns over the proposed GST rate revisions on ready-made garments, warning of potential far-reaching impacts on the textile industry, employment, and the overall economy. Under the proposed framework, garments priced up to Rs.1,500 will continue to attract a 5% GST rate. However, garments priced between Rs.1,500 and Rs.10,000 will face a steep increase to 18%, and those priced above Rs.10,000 will fall under the highest tax slab of 28%.

GST Challenges in the MMF Sector

CITI has also flagged the persistent issue of an inverted duty structure (IDS) in the man-made fibre (MMF) segment, where varying GST rates across the value chain block working capital and stifle growth.

CITI reiterated its previous recommendations to reduce GST rates on raw materials such as PTA and MEG from 18% to 12%, which would ease the IDS issue in the MMF sector without impacting government revenues. CITI fears that the proposed hike will disrupt the formal retail sector, driving consumers and businesses toward informal and unregulated channels.

Employment Losses and Sectoral Impact

The textile industry, already facing economic strain, stands to lose up several jobs, particularly in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) involved in spinning, weaving, and garment manufacturing.

The proposed GST hike is expected to heighten price inflation, disproportionately affecting price sensitive consumers. CITI has urged the government to reconsider the proposed GST rate hike and adopt a balanced approach that fosters growth in the textile sector while ensuring consumer affordability.

"Higher taxes on garments tied to celebrations and festivals will slow down consumption at a time when demand is already under pressure. This could have a ripple effect on the economy, and the textile sector is a cornerstone of India's economy, providing livelihoods to millions. Policies must nurture its growth rather than create hurdles," said Rakesh Mehra, Chairman, CITI

Bihar Government plans to transform state into textile hub with strategic investments

The Bihar government is aiming to transform the state into a thriving hub for textiles by creating enabling environment through policy support and better infrastructure, a senior government official said. The state government is making efforts to position Bihar as a crucial player in India's textile and leather industries with the overall objective of generating large-scale employment opportunities.

Officials from the Department of Industries recently visited Tamil Nadu to study the textile and leather sector, with a view to gain actionable insights and also forge strategic collaborations, the state government said in a release.

A delegation from the department visited Tiruppur, a global textile manufacturing centre, to engage with leading manufacturers and industry experts. The delegation gathered valuable insights into advanced technologies, efficient processes and best practices that have transformed Tiruppur into a global leader.

Alok Ranjan Ghosh, Director of Industries, Bihar, said the "visit to Tiruppur has equipped us with critical knowledge to replicate successful models in Bihar". "By fostering a conducive environment through infrastructure, policy support, and incentives, we aim to transform Bihar into a thriving hub for textiles and generate large-scale employment opportunities," Ghosh added.

The delegation also visited Ranipet, Tamil Nadu, to study the operations of the zero liquid discharge (ZLD) plant. Officials at the Ranitec Common Effluent Treatment Plant highlighted their ability to treat tannery wastewater and recycle 85 per cent of it for reuse. Such innovative practices hold promise for Bihar's emerging leather sector.The delegation met Selvam, Executive Director, Council of Leather Exports (CLE), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), to discuss opportunities in Bihar's leather sector.

The state government is committed to accelerate industrial growth, providing an enabling ecosystem and attracting top-tier manufacturers to the state. To attract domestic and global investors, the state government will organise the second edition of 'Bihar Business Connect' from December 19-20, 2024 in Patna.

On November 24 in Delhi, the Bihar government's Industries Minister Nitish Mishra had said the upcoming global business summit in Patna would be a huge success and attract more investment proposals than about Rs 50,000 crore it received in the 2023 edition. "Last year, we received investment proposals of around Rs 50,000 crore. I am very much confident that this year we will get more investment proposals," Mishra told on in the national capital. He said the upcoming investors' meet will lead to the start of a new industrial era in Bihar.The last edition of the investor meeting in 2023 saw several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) being signed for proposed investment of Rs 50,500 crore by as many as 278 companies.

Mishra said there is a huge opportunity of investment across all major sectors, including food processing, textiles, and tourism. "So this is a major, a big investors meet, where we would be showcasing Bihar, all our policies, and why one should be interested in or why one should invest in Bihar... We are confident that the Bihar Business Connect 2024 will be one of the biggest events which Bihar ever had," Mishra said.To promote this event, many roadshows have been held across India, including in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ludhiana, and Kanpur

Jack team successfully launches the URUS Machine in Indore

On December 19, 2024, the Jack Ahmedabad office partnered with Mr. Lakesh Kothari, Director of Nug Marketing, a local distributor, to successfully introduce the URUS machine at the Marriott Hotel, Indore. The event was attended by more than 245 garment manufactures and exporters.

The progress of humanity has driven a change in consumer attitudes, leading to a strong demand for fashion and personalisation in clothing. Therefore, the demand for clothing orders has become fragmented, and quick delivery has become increasingly fierce. The tendency for small orders and quick responses in garment enterprises is inevitable in global garment manufacturing. To respond to this new supply chain, digitalisation, intelligence, and automation technology are the needs of the hour.

In the series of new product launch events of Urus in India after Tirupur, Ludhiana, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Ichalkaranji, the next destination was Indore. There are many emerging garment manufacturers purely focusing on the domestic market but having state-of-the-art manufacturing units. On December 19th, 2024, Jack organised a new product launch event of URUS with Nug Marketing, the distributor for the Madhya Pradesh region, at the Marriott Hotel, Indore.

The event was inaugurated by the honourable chief guests: Mr. Rajesh Rathore, Executive Director of MPIDC Indore and Ujjain; Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Zonal Manager, Bank of India, Indore; Mr. Ashish Nigam, President of Readymade Vastra Vyapari Sangh, Indore; and Mr. Sandeep Vasudeva, President of Apparels Manufacturers Society of Indore, in the presence of Mr. Lakesh Kothari, Director, Nug Marketing; Mr. Sudhakar Varma, Director; and Mr. Atul Pandey, Branch Manager, Jack Sewing Machine Co. Ltd. The new Urus was unveiled in the presence of around 245 garment manufacturers and exporters who attended the event.

The event's proceedings commenced with an insightful keynote address by guest speaker Mr. Ashish Nigam, President of Readymade Vastra Vyapari Sangh. Mr. Ashish Nigam expressed his privilege in participating in Jack's product launch and shared his experience about Jack's factory visit, underscoring the importance of innovative sewing equipment to elevate production standards for Indian garment manufacturers. He also congratulated Jack for becoming No. 1 in India.

During the launch event presentation, the stage was taken by Mr. Sudhakar Varma, Director of Jack India, to finalise the A4B Challenge campaign activity. Jack Company announced this activity in May for all the garment operators in India. The main motive is that the operator should experience the full UBT model, in which company finalises 15 numbers of participants from all over India and gives them cash awards i.e. first prize of Rs. 1,20,000, Second price: Rs. 80,000, Third prize Rs. 64,000 and the rest of the participants got Rs. 12,000. In this activity, the company did 514 roadshows, approached 47,680 numbers of operators by visiting 1,485 numbers of garment factories, and completed 78 numbers of banquets.

The event started with a presentation by Atul Pandey, Branch Manager, about the Jack Company group's introduction of Urus machine. He explained about Jack's state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in China and their strong R&D. He also shared data about Jack's Market share in the world market and how Jack has grown over the years and is now the world's number one sewing machine brand. He further gave details about new technology used in Jack Urus, i.e., the pressure foot transformer and smart rhino feeding. He said that after getting the success of AMH, they have implemented the same technology in overlock machines and launched Urus after 3 years of R&D.

Urus is equipped with an industry-leading AI full-speed feeding system, a key technology that enables URUS to break through all joints of the thick fabric, elastic fabric, and thin fabric. Even if the thickness of different joints varies by hundreds of times, it can pass smoothly at full speed without slowing down. Plus, it has a 'Super Brain'. With a million-level pressure-to-feed ratio model library, the system could perform multimode intelligent detection of fabric thickness changes at a speed of 32,000 times per second. Once the fabric changes slightly, it immediately calculates to generate the best pressing force and feeding force parameters.

A live demo of Urus was successfully conducted by a car-pulling activity, and the audience was surprised to see the performance and power of Urus. This activity shows the feeding capacity of URUS and the pulling power of new technology. In the second activity, they demonstrated continuous stitching of thick fabric, light fabric, and elastic fabric with 100% accuracy and zero stitch error, stitch gap error, thread breakage error, and needle break issues. This activity shows the new technology "pressure foot transformer" used in Urus. A fashion show was also organised, showing garments made of very light fabric, heavy fabrics, and metal sewn together in one garment.

Lastly, Mr. Lakesh Kothari, Director, Nug Marketing, talked about his company and their successful association with Jack Company. He said, "Jack sewing machines are known for their sturdy, functional, and superior quality. We are dedicated to customer satisfaction and welcome their suggestions. The one machine, Urus, can be used for all kinds of fabrics like denim, silk, lycra, and net fabric. We are getting a very good response from customers, and he thanked all the invitees for attending the launch and making the event successful."

Established in 1995, Jack Technology has grown as a global enterprise with the largest production and sales volume and the strongest comprehensive strength in the global sewing equipment industry. Jack Technology products benefit more than 160 countries and regions globally and serve many fields such as garments, shoes, luggage, furniture, leather, auto, and aviation. The release of URUS highlights the innovative strength and market influence of Jack Technology in the sewing equipment domain once again.

Urus will help to transform and upgrade the Indian garment industry and solve the difficulties of sewing adaptation caused by different types of fabrics. This technology will embark on a new journey of leading the garment industry towards digital upgradation and sustainable development of green energy.

At the end of the presentation, the customers were invited to witness the live demonstration of the machine and samples stitched by Urus. A special offer was also given to the customers for booking the machine during this event. The customers really appreciated the technology, and many orders were confirmed by existing and new customers ◘

Retail leaders converge at RAI Kolkata Retail Summit 2024 to explore the future of retail in Eastern India

The Retailers Association of India (RAI) successfully hosted the Kolkata Retail Summit (KRS) 2024, also known as the Retail Convention of Eastern India, on December 6, 2024, at The Park, Kolkata. This year's summit brought together retailers, service providers, and industry leaders to foster collaboration, explore growth opportunities, and discuss the future of the retail industry with a key focus on the rise of Omnichannel strategies. The summit featured insightful discussions, impactful networking sessions, and an engaging exchange of ideas on emerging trends shaping the retail ecosystem. KRS 2024 once again proved to be an exceptional platform for driving innovation and partnerships in the region's dynamic retail sector.

Speaking about KRS 2024 and the retail landscape in Eastern India, Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India (RAI), said, "The retail sector in Eastern India has seen consistent growth over the past five years and is now undergoing a significant metamorphosis. Retailers in the region are finding ways to balance heritage with innovation, reshaping traditional business models to meet evolving consumer preferences. The emergence of direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands and the steady progress of ONDC adoption highlight the region's growing inclination toward digital integration. These developments underscore a retail landscape that is agile, inclusive, and primed for sustainable growth."

Priyanka Gupta, Director of Brands, GKB Opticals, said, "The retail industry is at a pivotal moment where integrating physical and digital touchpoints is no longer optional but essential. Omnichannel retailing is helping bridge the gap between convenience and experience, reshaping how consumers interact with brands. Moving forward, leveraging technology to personalize offerings and enhance customer satisfaction will be the key to staying competitive in this dynamic landscape."

Vikram Bothra, MD & CEO, Chandan Retail Pvt. Ltd. (Askaran Binjraj), said, "The growth of retail in emerging markets, especially in tier-II and tier-III cities, is a testament to the untapped potential of regional economies. With improved infrastructure and growing disposable incomes, these markets are driving innovation in retail formats and customer engagement. Retailers who understand local consumer behavior and adapt quickly will be best positioned to succeed."

Rochita Dey, Director, Sreeleathers Ltd., said, "Retail today is about finding the right balance between tradition and modernity. While customers value heritage and authenticity, they also expect innovation in product offerings and seamless shopping experiences. The future of retail lies in combining these elements thoughtfully to build trust and loyalty in an increasingly competitive market."

KRS 2024 featured insightful panel discussions on key themes shaping the retail landscape. Experts explored strategies for 'Future-Proofing Retail by Adapting to Evolving Consumer Behaviour and Market Dynamics', with a focus on agility, resilience, and innovation to drive sustainable growth. A session on 'Innovative and Practical Tech Solutions for Retail Growth', emphasized practical tools like digital payments and loyalty programs to boost efficiency and customer satisfaction. Panelists also discussed 'Unlocking Growth Across Diverse Consumer Segments in Retail', highlighting the importance of tailored strategies and inclusivity.

In addition, self-made entrepreneurs shared insights and inspiring stories on 'Balancing Heritage with Innovation', showcasing how brands can blend tradition

Retail leaders converge at RAI Kolkata Retail (Mr. Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailors Association of India)

with modern trends to build loyalty. The summit reinforced its position as a cornerstone of Eastern India's retail ecosystem, fostering collaboration and innovation for a thriving future.

Retail leaders speaking at the summit included Ankit Poddar, Poddar Group; Ashim Ashok Patil, i-TEK RFID; Azra Asher Ather, Aminia Restaurants; Biyas Roy, Arambagh Foodmart; Chetan Thakwani, Legacy of Bhojraj; Darshan Dudhoria, Indian Silk House Agencies & Vcut; Gautam Jatia, Emami Frank Ross; Iffat Jahan, Metto Supermarket; Murali Krishnan, Wow! Momo Foods; Priyanka Gupta, GKB Opticals; Ravindra Khandelwal, Dhanwantary Pharmacy; Rochita Dey, Sreeleathers; Sanjib Das, George Telegraph Group; Shitanshu Jhunjhunwalla, Turtle; Tanay Agarwal, Skipper Furnishings; Vikram Bothra, Chandan Retail; among others.

The Kolkata Retail Summit, is the premier platform for retailers and retail service providers to connect, collaborate, and explore growth opportunities. This year, KRS features a dynamic lineup of panel discussions, fireside chats, and networking sessions, offering attendees the chance to meet potential business partners, customers, and industry peers, all while gaining valuable insights into the evolving retail landscape

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UMPESL, a 100% wholly owned subsidiary of Voltas Limited & Kirloskar collaborate to strengthen business in India

Universal MEP Projects & Engineering Services Limited (UMPESL), a 100% Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Voltas Limited, A TATA Enterprise and M/s Kirloskar Pneumatic Company Limited (KPCL) have entered into an agreement to deliver world-class, energy efficient, Centrifugal and Screw Compressors to the Textile industry in India.

Kirloskar Pneumatic Company Limited, a flagship company of Kirloskar Group, is a leading manufacturer of Compressors and compression system in India and serves a variety of sectors like Oil, Gas, Steel, Cement, Food & Beverage, Railways, Defence & Marine sectors with its cutting-edge technology and advanced products.

Speaking on the occasion, K Srinivasan, Managing Director of M/s Kirloskar Pneumatic Company Limited said "As the textile industry in India scales up to address the emerging global opportunities, having world-class compressors like the Tezcatlipoca Centris and the KES range of Screws will add to its competitiveness and allow for rapid scale-up. With the strong support from UMPESL, the customers can now expect world-class service as well."

Pradeep Bakshi, Managing Director, Universal MEP Projects & Engineering Services Ltd. said "This association adds to our established portfolio of UMPESL's products and thus expands the company's position as a market leader providing customers with a one-stop shop solution and state-of-the-art products to meet their complete manufacturing. This co-operation is expected to strengthen both UMPESL & KPCL's reach in the Textile Industry with the technological know-how acquired in other industries." He further added "The application of Compressed Air in Textile Industry has become an integral requirement in all the modern machinery working

with lot of automation. While the air is free, Centrifugal air is not free. The cost of offering reliable compressed air with required pressure consistently and with least lifecycle cost of ownership and maintaining the compressor is a big concern for many customers. Modern Centrifugal and Screw compressors from KPCL can offer the lowest SPC (Shaft Power Consumption) at the lowest maintenance and spares cost."

Pradip Roy, Head- Textile Machinery Division, Universal MEP Projects & Engineering Services Ltd. said "The textile industry in India is at the cusp of a revolution driven by technology and sustainability. We believe that the Indian textile industry is a key contributor to the global supply chain. This association would help us to offer the best-in-class Air Compression Solutions to the textile industry and we look forward to working with KPCL"

Teijin to invest in Circularise B.V. and adopt its supply chain traceability platform to promote the circular economy

Teijin Limited announced that it will invest in Circularise B.V., a company based in The Hague, Netherlands, which develops product traceability management systems using blockchain technology. Teijin will also implement Circularise's software to improve visibility into its global supply chain. Circularise's proprietary "Smart Questioning"(*) solution, which utilizes Zero-Knowledge Proof (ZKP) technology, provides both anonymity and transparency to ensure a highly reliable product traceability system.

Teijin will leverage Circularise's digital traceability platform to enhance the transparency and reliability of its supply chain. This platform will enable the company to procure raw materials with lower environmental impact that contribute to the development of new, sustainable products and services. Teijin aims to promote efficient and effective resource utilization across its entire supply chain. This initiative will help the company reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Circularise's digital traceability platform allows organizations to track the history, location, composition and application of a product or material throughout the supply chain to the point of origin. It will empower Teijin with trustworthy, verified information from suppliers about the carbon emissions associated with their products to support regulatory compliance and auditing.

Teijin committed to prioritizing the health of the planet, protecting the environment, and supporting a circular society - has been actively seeking partners with digital traceability platforms to lead the industry in the realization of a circular economy. Circularise, on the other hand, has been looking for partners to promote the adoption of its digital traceability platform, which enhances transparency and reliability in global supply chains.

"We believe that, together with Teijin, we can set a benchmark for industry-leading examples of the circular economy, delivering scalable and rapid solutions to the market," said Jordi de Vos, Co-Founder of Circularise. "We are honored to welcome Teijin Group as a strategic investor. This collaboration reflects our shared vision for a transparent, traceable, and sustainable supply chain. We look forward to this collaboration to further propel our mission and strengthen our market presence."

"As a leading company in high performance materials, we at Teijin are actively increasing our efforts to become more circular," said Ton de Weijer, General Manager of the Environment Solution Division at Teijin "The investment in Circularise will enable us to cooperate with a leader in the field of traceability and to create an environment that will support us in setting the right steps forward."

As the world works toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, there is an increasing global demand for initiatives that support the circular economy—maximizing added value while efficiently utilizing resources throughout the supply chain. In Europe, the introduction of mandatory Digital Product Passports (DPPs) aims to enable comprehensive tracking of the production, usage, and disposal of products. The adoption of digital traceability platforms, which facilitate product and material traceability, will be a critical component in realizing the vision of a circular economy.

(*) Smart Questioning is Circularise's proprietary technology designed to allow a verifier (e.g. brand owner) to ask a series of carefully curated questions from a prover (e.g. supplier) in order to obtain relevant information about a product without disclosing any sensitive data

SAMR TECHNOLOGY & Style3D Revolutionizing automation and fashion design

Within a short span of 4 years, SAMR TECHNOLOGY has emerged as the fastest growing cutting automation company. Over 40 auto cutting equipment commissioned during this period in fashion, footwear, furniture, upholstery and transportation Industries, with customers ranging from big corporates to mid-size and flourishing small scale units.

Our success is based on three factors: i) affordable solutions with a low cost of entry, ii) minimal maintenance cost for proper asset care, and iii) precise cut parts for production, and never letting these factors chew into their customer's profitability.

Founded in the year 1992, Hangzhou IECHO Science & Technology Co., Ltd. is a Shanghai stock listed (stock code: 688092) with robust revenue of 449M CNY and a market cap of 1.90B CNY, a global intelligent cutting solution provider to more than 100 countries, has been associated with SAMR TECHNOLOGY P LTD since Y2021.

iECHO GF9 series 90mm compressed height multiply cutter is our newest edition with industry 4.0, available in different widths, 600 rpm, and average throughput up to 10 meters/min perimeter cutting combined with Alzer-Impact cradle feed auto spreader makes a perfect combination for high production for knitwear or woven. They displayed both these solutions in recent GTE Bangalore in September 2024.

SAMR has one of the finest support and application teams all over India, with an average individual experience of

10 years among themselves. Most of their sales are repeat orders; therefore, speaking for their tremendous service support.

Assyst + Styel3D unveil highly anticipated and groundbreaking software Version 7.2

Style3D Studio has launched its highly anticipated version 7.2, introducing a suite of innovative features aimed at redefining workflows in 3D design and fashion technology.

At the core of the V7.2 release, the integration of AI-enhanced real-time rendering delivers stunningly detailed visuals for products and avatars, enabling designers to create lifelike e-commerce imagery with ease. This allows businesses to start market testing and sales campaigns earlier, enhancing competitiveness in fast-paced markets.

The all-new, updated grading and fitting tools take it further forward, offering optimized precision and performance for pattern adjustments and accessory design. Seamlessly integrating with Assyst and other CAD systems. Style3D Studio ensures smooth workflows between CAD and 3D modelling environments, allowing creators to achieve exceptional accuracy with minimal effort.

The all-new,GPU-powered simulation, delivering a remarkable 64% improvement in speed. Users can now enjoy superior stability and quality when simulating complex multi-layer garments, soft body avatars, and intricate accessories. This enhancement streamlines the modelling process while reducing waste, reinforcing Style3D Studio's commitment to sustainability in design.

Style3D Studio 7.2 version brings exciting improvements, including AI-enhanced real-time rendering, upgraded grading, and, most importantly, GPU-powered simulation improvements for cloth, trims, and softbody © 2024 Assyst

Enhanced update on improved avatar customiaation, support for 4K output, garment pleat effects, and expanded tools for garment modelling and simulation

Polartec® announces 2024 Apex Awards winners celebrating innovation & sustainability

Polartec®, a Milliken™ & Company brand and premium creator of innovative textile solutions for future thinking, sustainably-driven brands, is delighted to announce the winners of the 2024 Polartec Apex Awards, the annual design contest that celebrates the brands and designers who embody the ethos, Made to Go Beyond.

By awarding cleverly authentic sport, performance and lifestyle concepts, Polartec brings its commitment to People, Products and the Planet to a full circle. Guided by a shared desire to push the envelope, the winning designs reflect an "inside out" approach—where thoughtfully crafted gear supports people's well-being, fueling growth and resilience. By enhancing lives from within, these garments empower everyone to thrive outdoors, driving a cycle of impact that connects personal performance with planetary care.

The 2024 winners have been selected from hundreds of entries based on their creative approach, the ability to address and overcome challenges, and the degree to which they successfully blend high-performance, aesthetics and functionality across sports, lifestyle, and performance categories. The 2024 winners are:

Direct Alpine – Alpha T-Shirt

Anyone facing winter head-on will quickly see that Direct Alpine's Alpha T-Shirt for men is an absolute game changer. Crafted with Polartec® Alpha™ active insulation, it effortlessly adapts to the body's needs, balancing warmth and breathability with next-to-skin comfort. From the moment you put it on to the end of your mountaineering adventure, this anatomically fitted t-shirt is ready to stand up to nature's most challenging tests. With reinforced shoulders to prevent wear and tear and fitted thumbholes to keep the sleeves in place (and your hands warm), Direct Alpine proves that versatility and high performance can go hand-in-hand.

"The Alpha T-Shirt was created in response to our customers' demand for products belonging to the so-called fast and hike collection. For potential customers, every extra gram matters, and the product's maximum functionality is crucial. We wanted to create a product that weighs next to nothing, takes up minimal space in a backpack, and at the same time provides excellent thermal comfort. Polartec® Alpha™ material is outstanding for this purpose, offering warmth at a low weight. We then reinforced high-stress areas with stronger material, and the product was complete." – Development Department

ThruDark – Wraith Bomber Jacket

Blending urban style with tactical prowess, the Wraith Bomber Jacket brings a sense of purpose to heading out. Featuring Polartec® Alpha™ active insulation, which was originally created for the US Special Forces, it effortlessly keeps you fresh and comfortable when you're moving fast and delivers warmth when you're not. Built for the outdoors yet perfect for city life, the Wraith seamlessly transitions both –making it as dependable on bustling streets as it is on rugged trails.

"The use of Polartec® Alpha™ gives a technical; performance edge to what is a classic, everyday style. This considered blend of form and function creates our Wraith Bomber Jacket. A garment that can take the role of a soft shell in dynamic outdoor pursuits but can also double up as urban wear for day-to-day life. Not only pushing but blurring the boundaries between performance and lifestyle wear." – Louis Tinsley, ThruDark Co-Founder

SANTINI – Magic Packable Waterproof Unisex Jacket

Welcome to a whole new paradigm in breathable waterproof fabrics. Designed to keep pace with your every move, this lightweight, fully non-PFAS stowable jacket is made of 100% recycled & recyclable Polartec® Power Shield™ RPM shell fabric to provide all-day protection without the risk of overheating, making it a true high-performance shield. Fully thermo-sealed and exceptionally resilient, it's built to withstand the elements while folding neatly into its own back pocket for ultimate portability. Thoughtfully designed for cycling, it ensures discreet functionality without compromising on style. For those who live to be outdoors, rain or shine, the Magic Jacket redefines freedom and functionality.

"The core idea behind our Magic jacket was to develop a lightweight, multi-season, multi-purpose membrane garment that brought a clear message to the market regarding the importance of sustainability. The key technical aspects of Polartec® Power Shield™ RPM, enabled us to create a product that has class leading breathability – a critical aspect in relation to the high output activity of cycling, while utilizing post-consumer recycled material that offered full water-proof protection." – Fergus Niland, Creative Director Santini SMS

GOBIK – SUBZERO BLACK Bib Tights

The Subzero Bib Tight by Gobik is designed to excel outdoors, delivering endurance and comfort for winter's toughest rides. Featuring Polartec® Power Shield™ Pro made with Biolon™ nylon and a non-PFAS DWR & membrane construction, the pants provide advanced weather protection while the premium padding and antibacterial graphene threads ensure comfort over long distances. The fabric's 48% plant-based content also lowers carbon footprint by up to 50%. With reflective details for visibility and an adjustable fit around the ankle, they're made to embrace the coldest days, pushing the boundaries of where and when you can ride.

"Designing cycling gear isn't just about protection, it's about enhancing every ride regardless of the weather. Our garments need to handle the demands of performance riding while keeping you comfortable and dry, which is where our partnership with Polartec comes in. With Polartec by our side, we create gear that empowers every rider to go beyond their limits and fully embrace the journey, rain or shine." – Gobik Design Team

OBERMEYER – Women's Explorer Tech Henley

Obermeyer's Explorer Tech Henley from the Off Grid Collection lets you beat the cold with style, making it an ideal midlayer for just about anything. Infused with the warmth of Polartec® Power Air™, an innovative technology that encapsulates air within a smooth shell to deliver reliable insulation while reducing shedding and microfiber pollution, the Explorer Tech Henley merges multi-season functionality with a sleek urban aesthetic. Wear it alone or layered, this versatile Tech Crew is the essential companion for anyone who wants to explore without limits.

"The Women's Explorer Tech Henley was designed as part of the layering system in the Off-Grid collection. We wanted layering pieces that had a strong sustainability and durability story; so, Polartec® Power Air™ was a great material choice for its low-shed properties, while encapsulating air and providing sustainable warmth when out in nature. This overall concept pairs back to our new material story within the Off-Grid outerwear collection, made of our very own BlueThread™." – Siobhan Phillips, Obermeyer Director of Merchandising

FORLOH – Women's Raider Polartec® 200 Fleece Vest

FORLOH's Raider Vest for women is designed for multifaceted versatility in any outdoor setting. A perfectly adaptable layering piece, it combines rugged functionality with incredibly soft Polartec® 200 fleece with proprietary Shed Less™ technology to drastically reduce microfiber shedding without compromising the performance, comfort or durability of the fleece fabric. Engineered for everything from high-altitude hikes to wandering the city streets, its durable ripstop overlays deliver added resilience and its ample, secure pockets let you easily store all your essentials, making the Raider Vest an everyday staple. If tackling diverse environments in comfort sounds too good to be true, think again. This is a vest you can count on to adapt to whatever the day may hold.

"FORLOH wanted to create a mid-layer that would work well on its own and that could be worn under a jacket as a functional thermal regulating layering piece. Utilizing a mixture of low-profile construction finishes and comfort-enhancing paneling, we were able to create this unique fan favorite. We chose Polartec® 200 Series fleece with Shed Less™ technology to give our customers an amazing and timeless piece that resists fiber fragment shedding during home laundering. In this way, the Raider Polartec® 200 Fleece Vest keeps our customers warm, dry and comfortable with less impact on our oceans and waterways." – AugieVergara Director of Product at FORLOH

INDYEVA – Lampaat Vest

This lightweight, multi-season sleeveless jacket is made of retro-looking Polartec® Thermal Pro™ shearling fleece and pairs heat retention and freedom of movement with an oh-so-comfy vibe. Taffeta pocket inserts add a distinctive look, while the indulgently soft fleece provides warmth without the bulk. Versatile enough for outdoor adventures and everyday wear, this jacket seamlessly blends modern style with practical performance, making it a go-to layer for life on the move.

"We are thrilled that our latest design has won an award for innovation in outdoor fashion! At Indyeva, we pride ourselves on pushing the boundaries with classic outdoor materials, transforming them into something unexpected and unique. This achievement highlights the strength of our brand in combining tradition with bold, forward-thinking design." – Stéphanie Noël, Co-Founder, Vice-President of Design

SATISFY RUNNING – GhostFleece™ AD Light Half-Zip

SATISFY Running's GhostFleece™ AD Half-Zip harnesses the advanced thermoregulation of Polartec® Alpha™ active insulation to keep runners warm, dry, and fully in sync during dynamic movement. Engineered with thumb loops, gusseted underarms, and a seamless design, it offers a truly friction-free running experience. And by ensuring that nothing stands in the way when you chase the elements, it helps empower your quest to push the boundaries. The GhostFleece™ doesn't just keep up, it fuels your run with inside-out performance to inspire every step of the journey.

"The GhostFleece™ AD series redefines performance wear with Polartec's Alpha® Direct fabric—an advanced insulation technology originally engineered for tactical applications where warmth, weight, and mobility are critical. By adapting this military-grade fabric, SATISFY brings elite-level functionality to the world of running and endurance sports." – SATISFY Design Team

MILLET – Women's Softshell jacket RUTOR XCS AIR

Engineered for high-intensity ski touring, Millet's Rutor XCS Air jacket combines stretch and durability in a lightweight shell. Its strategic use of the new Polartec® Power Dry™ mesh fabric technology wicks away moisture, delivering optimal comfort during the most intense alpine challenges. Designed for adventurers who live for high-altitude action, its hybrid construction seamlessly adapts to the body's needs on rugged mountain slopes, delivering warmth to rapid alpine ascents without weighing you down.

"The perfect windproof, water-repellent jacket for high-intensity ski touring. Innovatively placed Polartec® Power Dry™ active insulation inside the product provides warmth without compromising breathability." – Evan Charbouillot – MILLET Apparel product manager

SUN DAY RED – 3L Wind/Rain Half Zip Jacket

Look no further than the 3L Wind/Rain Half Zip Jacket by Sun Day Red when rain or wind threaten your game. Designed to facilitate a full range of motion and an unrestricted swing, it's built for performance – from its use of Polartec® Power Shield™ Pro breathable weather protection to its streamlined shape that won't billow or bend out at the wrong moments, like when you're lining up a putt. Perfectly suited for golf, it also offers the versatility to perform in other outdoor settings, making it a reliable choice both on and off the green. The high-performance shell fabric technology is designed for the future thinking and sustainably committed. It also provides plenty of stretch, making it easy to slip on over a polo without taking your focus off the green.

"Sun Day Red has raised the bar with a collection that truly meets the demands of the game. Crafted from three soft and lightweight layers of Polartec® Power Shield™ Pro, their award-winning half-zip jacket delivers soft, stretchy 3-Layer comfort that is also waterproof, windproof, highly breathable and quieter than other noisy, motion-restricting shells. All of which helps ensure that golfers can perform at their best rain or shine." – The Polartec Product Team

VUORI – Aspen Shirt Jacket

The versatile indoor-outdoor vibe of Vuori's Aspen Jacket delivers more than meets the eye. Sure, it's the perfect blend of shirt and jacket. But with its use of Polartec® Wind Pro™ fabric technology, this jacket feels as comfortable in rugged conditions as it does when you're cruising the beach. With a durable and water repellent exterior, Wind Pro™ makes the Aspen shirt a dependable wind resistant fleece with versatility for all weather conditions. And because it's tailored for every environment, it lets you venture from city streets to backcountry trails in one outing.

ARITZIA – Polartec® 200 Aurora Zip-Up

Aritzia's Aurora Zip-Up blends cozy warmth with a modern design that's hard to beat. Featuring Polartec® 200 Series Fleece made from 100% recycled polyester and featuring Polartec® Shed Less™ technology to reduce microfiber shedding up to 85% during home laundering, it delivers weightless warmth and softness with a planet-friendly peace-of-mind. With a cinchable shock cord hem and sleek zippered pockets, this zip-up hoodie just may be the perfect addition to any outfit, indoors or outdoors.

"Leveraging the longstanding relationship between our brands, the award-winning Polartec® 200 Series Aurora Zip by Aritzia benefits from our commitment to lightweight warmth and sustainability. Crafted from our sumptuously soft 100% recycled polyester fleece, it is designed to feel effortless yet perform flawlessly, keeping you cozy without holding you back."- The Polartec R&D Team

The 2024 Polartec Apex Awards winners are forward-thinking product partners who recognize and embody Polartec's commitment to innovation while inspiring others to go beyond.

Breaking barriers isn't just about athletic performance – it's about resilience in everyday challenges. These awards honor those who embody this spirit, celebrating the human drive to overcome and inspire.

This vision is at the heart of the "Inside Out" campaign concept, curated by Italian creative agency Wanderlust Vision, which explores how true progress begins within. With the Apex Awards, we don't just recognize industry leaders—we honor the best in all of us. Each winner has received a trophy in celebration of their winning designs, along with dedicated joint marketing support. In addition to receiving the Polartec award, the Apex Awards program also feature a "People's Choice" contender – which will be selected by a public vote via Polartec's website and announced in the coming weeks ◘

Sustainability through storage, retrieval, and inventory control solutions from Craftsman Automation

The increasing need for sustainable and efficient operations has become a top priority for organisations. Adopting sustainable practices—such as implementing circular economy principles, reducing waste, and minimising environmental impact—is not only an ethical responsibility but also a strategic necessity. Many green practices also increase efficiency and hence reduce overall costs. For e.g. by prioritising sustainability in inventory management, companies can lower supply chain expenses, attract eco-conscious consumers, and enhance their reputation.

Maximising Space in Textile Warehousing

Manufacturing Space is one of the most valuable resources, particularly in textile production and warehousing. Craftsman Storage Systems are engineered to make optimal use of available space, providing end-to-end storage solutions that boost storage density, speed up material handling, and enhance operational flow.

Challenges with Traditional Inventory Management

Traditional inventory management methods often lead to significant operational challenges, including inefficiencies and inaccuracies due to manual processes. Reliance on paper records or basic spreadsheets can lead to errors in stock counts, item misplacement, and difficulties in tracking inventory in real-time. These issues can result in stockouts, overstocking, and increased operational costs. Furthermore, manual systems are time-consuming and labor-intensive, slowing down inventory processes and impeding a company's ability to respond quickly to market demands. The lack of real-time data and automation also limits a business's ability to forecast accurately and manage supply chain disruptions effectively.

Craftsman Advanced Textile Storage Systems

Craftsman Storage Systems, a division of Craftsman Automation Ltd, provides cutting-edge, customised storage solutions for various industries, including textiles. Established in 1986, the company has grown exponentially to cross Rs. 4000 crore in turnover, employing more than 3200 people across 8 manufacturing facilities. It specialises in bespoke storage solutions through a comprehensive range of product types. Their textile storage solutions are specifically designed to minimize floor space while ensuring cost-effectiveness, efficiency, speed, and ergonomic benefits that meet the automatic materialstorage and retrieval needs of their clients.

As a leader in the storage systems industry, Craftsman offers tailor-made solutions for the textile sector. With a focus on maximising resource utilisation and streamlining material flow, our advanced storage systems provide flexibility and reliability, crucial in the fast-paced textile industry.

Automated Storage & Retrieval Systems (ASRS)

Craftsman's AS/RS solutions are designed to handle both palletized and roll storage for textile manufacturers. Featuring single or double mast stacker cranes with telescopic or direct roll forks, these systems enable smooth and safe retrieval with high throughputs for a large range of textile goods, with 100% automated storage operations.

Single deep/double-deep/multi-deep storage: Capable of storing loads up to 3000 kg, with running speeds of 2.5 m/s and lifting speeds of 1 m/s, and heights up to 40 meters to maximise warehouse capacity.

Roll Storage Solutions for Textile Manufacturers

Craftsman Storage Systems offers innovative solutions for managing large volumes of fabric rolls. This system results in a remarkable 65% increase in floor area utilisation, making it an ideal choice for warehouses aiming to make the most of their available space.

Direct Roll Storage: Ideal for a variety of fabric rolls, this system eliminates the need for pallets, offering highly efficient space utilization storage. Key features include single/multiple roll picking, FIFO control, ERP synchronisation, and customisable heights for maximum vertical.

Palletized Roll Storage: Our ASRS systems use telescopic forks for high throughput and efficient palletized roll handling. These systems feature high-efficiency drives and are equipped for 24/7 operation, with customisation options for warehouse height.

High-Density Solutions for Textile Warehouses

Multi-Deep Shuttle ASRS: It is an automated pallet storage system which integrates various equipment types that operate collaboratively, including an ultra-capacitor-powered pallet shuttle, a shuttle carrier, a pallet lifter, and buffer conveyors.

Pallet Transportation Systems: Warehouse operations require a steady flow of materials for production, storage, and dispatch purposes. Craftsman design flexible and cost-effective pallet conveyor systems suitable for assembly lines or storage facilities, using automatic or manually controlled workstations thereby increasing productivity and reducing costs. This system allows pallets, both big and small, to be moved from one location to another, while it carefully controls the speed at which pallets are moved and automatically loaded and unloaded.

Automated Bin Storage for Trim and Accessories

The mini load shuttle ASRS is designed for managing smaller items such as trims, spares, and packing materials, with the ability to handle totes up to 50 kg. Its modular design allows for easy scalability, making it perfect for fast-moving inventory in textile supply chains.

Advantages of ASRS:

- Increase the storage density of the warehouse system by optimised space utilisation
- Cost savings in labor and space
- Optimum sequencing of material
- Single, double, and multi-deep for optimum pallet selectivity
- Optimum solutions for all unit loads owing to Craftsman's load handling attachments
- Guaranteed pallet throughput
- Simple machine control with plug & play solutions for faster commissioning
- Low maintenance and noise operation

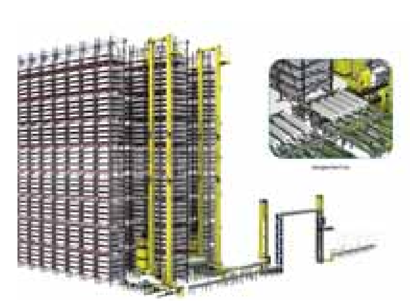
Conclusion

Effective inventory management with a focus on sustainability has become essential. By reducing waste, optimising stock levels, and adopting environmentally responsible practices, businesses can simultaneously lessen their ecological footprint, increase profitability, and improve their brand image.

Craftsman and A.T.E. can help you transform your inventory management.

A.T.E. is committed to providing advanced, efficient, and environmentally friendly equipment that enables customers to achieve a competitive edge. By prioritising innovative technology, A.T.E. ensures that clients are adequately prepared to tackle future challenges. Beyond delivering comprehensive machinery solutions for the processing sector, A.T.E. also provides after-sales support, technological assistance, annual maintenance contracts, and machine evaluations. With a wealth of experience in managing both new projects and expansions, A.T.E. is an ideal partner for sustainable success ◘

MINI LOAD SHUTTLE SYSTEM WITH TOTE LIFT



DIRECT ROLL STORAGE

PALLETIZED ROLL STORAGE

Swiss Technology leader Haelixa enhances organic cotton traceability with C&A partnership

Haelixa has partnered with C&A, one of Europe's leading fashion retailers, to advance the traceability of its organic cotton. The partnership stems from C&A's commitment to working with others in the apparel industry to pilot and scale innovation. C&A's targets include supporting the growth of organic cotton without synthetic pesticides and fertilisers, resulting in cleaner waterways, healthier ecosystems, and lower farmer costs.

The partnership between Haelixa and C&A began in 2022 with a pilot project, and since then, they have continuously worked together to trace raw materials. The result is this agreement with Haelixa to mark their organic cotton for the next three years. Using Haelixa's DNA markers, C&A can trace the journey of its organic cotton from farm to finished garment. According to the C&A Sustainability Report, they are working with other organisations to foster organic cotton farming.

Alexandre Saus-Salas, Head of Sourcing at C&A, commented, "Transparency and ethical sourcing are crucial in our supply chain. As part of our commitment to traceability, we have begun implementing Haelixa DNA within our organic supply chain. This gradual roll-out will continue over multiple seasons in 2025, with an impact foreseen over the next three years."

Haelixa's solution utilises DNA markers to create a tamper-proof, verifiable traceability that tracks organic cotton throughout the supply chain. The cotton, sourced through CottonConnect, is marked with uniqueDNA, which acts as a specific identifier. Once applied, the cotton is tested throughout the supply chain to verify the material using forensic PCR tests. Traceability with the fiber-forward approach ensures the final garment materials are authentic.

The marking ensures the authenticity of organic cotton and mitigates the risk of sourcing from regions associated with forced labour. Using the Haelixa markers enables C&A to make reliable statements about the presence of organic cotton in its products marked at the field level (in the ginning process).

Patrick Strumpf, CEO of Haelixa, noted, "Trust is the foundation of transparent storytelling. By tracing organic cotton from farm to finished garment, we empower brands like C&A to tell an authentic story, fostering greater consumer confidence in their sustainability efforts."

This project is one of the initiatives that C&A has undertaken to enhance accountability through its supply chain. One of the goals listed in their Sustainability Report is enabling customers to make informed choices by increasing transparency around products and the company. The traceability of organic cotton demonstrates that innovation can support business success through customer trust.

This partnership illustrates for Haelixa that successful collaboration demands a long-term commitment to growth. The work on previous pilots has earned the trust of C&A, enabling Haelixa to execute the project at scale with speed and efficiency

JIAM 2024 OSAKA concludes, spotlighting innovations in apparel production technologies

Key players from various sectors took part in the 13th edition of JIAM 2024 OSAKA, known by its full name as the Japan International Apparel & Non-Apparel Manufacturing Technology Trade Show. Organised by the Japan Sewing Machinery Manufacturers Association (JASMA), the show wrapped up successfully after four days of vibrant business from 27 – 30 November 2024 at INTEX Osaka. This year's fair featured 157 exhibitors from 10 countries and regions, attracting 8,909 visitors from around the globe.

Across the show floor, fairgoers engaged in dynamic business discussions. This edition's inclusion of the non-apparel sector as exhibitors, including automotive, aerospace, and interior design, expanded the platform's scope and attracted increased attention from visitors in these industries. Overall, fairgoers from the apparel sector and beyond took the opportunity to explore cutting-edge textile technology while networking and sharing cross-sector knowledge.

"At JIAM 2024 OSAKA, we bring together the latest technologies and trends from both the domestic and international sewing machinery industries," remarked Ms Chizuru Suga, Director of the Industrial Machinery Division at the Ministry of Economy, during the opening ceremony on the first day. "I hope this exhibition will contribute to the further development of the sector and the establishment of strong international networks. I wish the fair every success."

One of the show's highlights was a special symposium titled "Solutions for Sewing Technologies." Esteemed speakers shared their insights, including Mr Hiroshi Nakamura from JUKI Corporation Masahiro Shiraishi from Japan Apparel Sewing Industry Federation, Mr Tadahiro Kubo from Toray Advanced Computer Solution, Inc, and Fashion Designer Mr Kosuke Tsumura. Discussions spanned industry trends, domestic sewing opportunities, and sustainable practices, leaving the audience inspired to explore new possibilities. Comments from attendees highlighted the symposium's value, with feedback including that the event broadened understanding of domestic sewing demand and provided an opportunity to reflect on the future of sustainable manufacturing.

Exhibitors' assessments

Sebastian Kinnius, Head of Product Management & Marketing, Dürkopp Adler GmbH - "We established valuable connections with top customers from Japan, as well as visitors from South Asian countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The quality of leads exceeded expectations, and we received very positive feedback from Russian visitors. Plans are already in place to exhibit at the next edition of JIAM, as we anticipate it will continue to grow as a key hub to connect us to Korea and South Asia."

Nicola Messali, Commercial Director, Morgan Tecnica Spa - "On the first and second days, we successfully secured high-quality meetings and appointments. Compared to 2016, there was a notable increase in visitors. It was especially valuable to connect with high-level decision-makers, such as company executives and general managers. Engaging with these key figures had a significant impact, and we are extremely satisfied with the results."

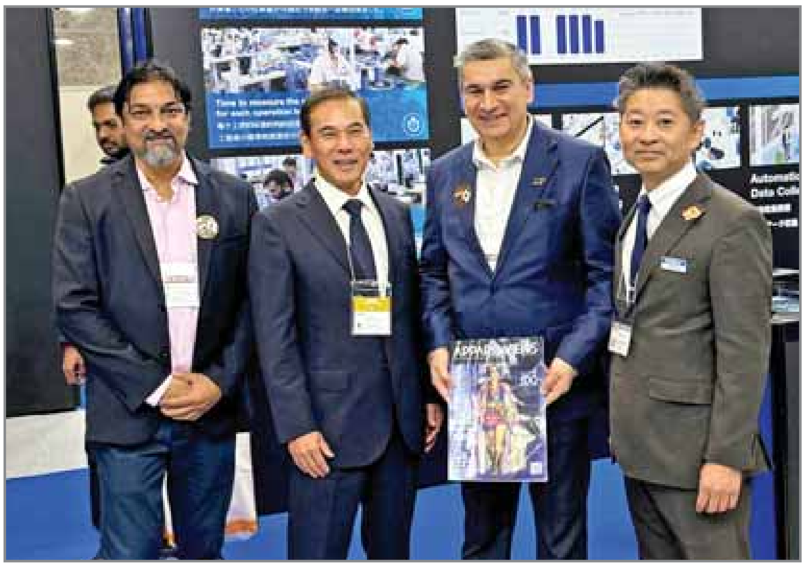
Masanao Shinohara, Marketing Department, Yamato Sewing Machine Mfg. Co., Ltd. - "Top management from major domestic and international sewing companies visited our booth frequently, demonstrating strong interest in our displays. This resulted in fruitful business discussions and orders. In addition to showcasing our products, we placed a strong emphasis on branding, which helped visitors gain a comprehensive understanding of our products and services. We also saw strong attendance from South Asia, Central Asia, and Europe."

Kouichi Miyake, General Manager, KLEIBERIT Adhesives of Japan Co., Ltd. - "This was our first time exhibiting with the aim of expanding brand awareness, and it provided a valuable opportunity to connect with companies we had not interacted with previously, including major corporations. We received high praise for our products, and although we had confidence in their quality, the response exceeded our expectations. The demand for our products has proven to be much stronger than anticipated."

Katsuharu Yoshikawa, Managing Director, TISM Co., Ltd. - "Aligned with JIAM's concept of showcasing new technologies and services, we focused on addressing challenges such as labour shortages while expanding the possibilities of embroidery. Our newly launched Embroidery Personalisation System received high praise from both visitors and other exhibitors, and we are very satisfied with the positive feedback and the strong interest it generated."

Japan International Apparel & Non-Apparel Manufacturing Technology Trade Show has been held since 1984 as one of Japan's largest sewing machinery manufacturers' industry trade fairs. The next edition of JIAM will be held in Autumn 2028


SHIMA SEIKI
Reborn
APPAREL VIEWS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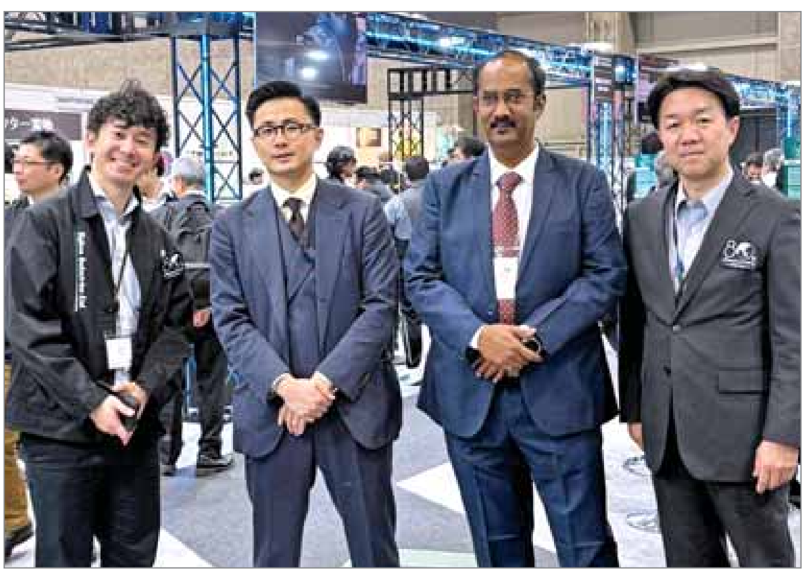


PLOTTER PAPER
MARKER PAPER
HEAT SEAL PAPER
(Hot Melt & Water Based)
PVT. LTD.
INDIA


MAQI
World-Class Quality

SINGER India introduces PFAFF and Husqvarna Viking brands to India

SINGER, the world's leading sewing machine brand with a legacy spanning 170 years, announced the introduction of two premium global sewing brands - PFAFF and Husqvarna Viking - to the Indian market. With a combined legacy of over 300 years, these brands represent the pinnacle of precision, engineering, and innovation in sewing. As part of SVP Worldwide - the world's largest consumer sewing machine company headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee - SINGER, Viking, and PFAFF together account for approximately one in every three sewing machines sold globally each year.

Rakesh Khanna, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of SINGER India

Introducing the brands and their offerings in India

PFAFF

- With its celebrated 150-year German heritage, PFAFF is known as the "Perfector of the Craft"
- The PFAFF® Passport™ 3.0 Sewing Machine is specially designed for small spaces, featuring 100 stitches, IDT™ fabric feeding, and The Original IDT™ System Integrated Dual Feed for perfect stitching every time. This electronic home machine offers maximum control and customization for demanding sewers and quilters

Husqvarna Viking

- Rooted in Swedish engineering since 1872, Viking delivers innovative solutions for sewing enthusiasts at all levels
- The home sewing lineup includes:
  - ONYX 15 & 25: Mechanical Zig Zag machines designed for everyday sewing needs
  - DESIGNER TOPAZ™ 50: A sewing and embroidery machine recognized as a Consumers Digest "Best Buy". Key features include:
    - An interactive color touch screen for intuitive navigation
    - Design Positioning for perfect placement of large embroideries
    - Internet-enabled updates for continuous performance enhancements

SINGER India introduces PFAFF and Husqvarna

Both PFAFF and Viking machines will be available at SINGER India's newly inaugurated flagship Experience & Retail Center in Nehru Place, Delhi.

Marking a pivotal shift in its retail strategy, SINGER India has launched a 1,550-square-foot, two-level flagship store that blends retail with interactive experiences. Designed to resemble a modern country cottage, the center offers:

- **Product Showcases:** A curated selection of SINGER's top models, including straight stitch, artisan, zig-zag, embroidery, and industrial machines
- **Sewing Studio:** A dedicated space for workshops and classes aimed at nurturing creativity among hobbyists and aspiring designers
- **History Wall:** A visual tribute to SINGER's 170-year journey, highlighting milestones like its role in crafting NASA's Apollo mission spacesuits

The launch of this flagship store is part of SINGER's plan to transform 21 existing retail outlets nationwide into experience-driven hubs.

A New Era for SINGER India

Speaking at the launch, Rakesh Khanna, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of SINGER India, said: "This is an exciting time for SINGER India. We are transforming the sewing experience on multiple fronts. The launch of our Experience Center provides a unique destination for sewing enthusiasts to explore, learn, and connect. It's a place where they can experience first-hand the latest innovations in sewing technology, participate in interactive workshops, and become part of a vibrant community.

By introducing PFAFF and Husqvarna Viking - renowned for precision engineering and advanced features - we are bringing world-class expertise to India. These are not just new machines but represent a leap forward in capability and performance, empowering sewists of all levels to achieve professional-grade results.

We believe this combination of innovative retail experiences and premium brands will empower a new generation of Indian sewists while driving growth and innovation across the sewing industry"

Eurasian textile industry leaders gather at VIATT 2025 amid Vietnam's promising export environment

Ho Chi Minh City. Despite global challenges, Vietnam's textile industry is poised for robust growth. This year, the country's textile and garment exports are projected to reach USD 44 billion [1], reflecting an impressive increase of over 11% compared to the previous year. With more than 42% of local firms anticipating improved business performance in the fourth quarter[2], the Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel, Textiles and Textile Technologies (VIATT) stands out as a crucial event for the industry to continue its momentum. Scheduled for 26 – 28 February 2025 at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC), the fair will leverage Vietnam's position as a leading textile and apparel manufacturing hub and provide opportunities to textile players from across ASEAN, Europe and beyond.

Spanning 15,000 sqm of exhibition space across Halls A and B1, VIATT will once again showcase a comprehensive range of products and solutions that encompass the full textile spectrum, including apparel fabrics and accessories; yarns and fibres; garments; home and contract textiles; technical textiles, nonwovens and equipment; and various certifiers and solutions providers. This edition will place a strong emphasis on 'what's next' in the industry, by introducing Econogy Hub and the Innovation & Digital Solutions Zone, respectively highlighting the industry's movement towards sustainability and technological innovation.

The fair will feature robust international exhibitor participation, especially in the dedicated country / region pavilions and zones from India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Taiwan, and Thailand, as well as the inaugural European Zone. Highlighted European exhibitors include:

Bossa Ticaret Ve Sanayi Isletmeleri TAS (Türkiye; Apparel fabrics & fashion): established in 1951, Bossa is one of Türkiye's largest integrated textile corporations. It offers a wide range of high-quality denim fabrics, with a high dyeing and finishing production capacity.

Chargeurs PCC Asia Limited (France; Apparel fabrics & fashion): a leading global provider of inner component solutions, the company produces over 350 million metres of interlinings annually across seven production sites worldwide, catering to diverse markets ranging from luxury to athleisure.

Hohmann GmbH & Co. Kg (Germany; Home & contract textiles): founded in 1907, Hohmann offers a wide range of production with high-shelf warehousing that ensures immediate supply with a diverse stock. Its expanded production space has now reached 30,000 sqm, housing 330 Dornier weaving machines with a daily capacity of 45,000 metres.

Technical Absorbents Ltd (UK; Technical textiles & technologies): a trusted brand in the superabsorbent and nonwovens industries, this company has been innovating its Super Absorbent Fibre (SAF™) technology for over 30 years, producing a diverse array of high-performance superabsorbent materials.

Other notable exhibitors include Albini 1876 – Thomas Mason (Italy), displaying premium shirting fabrics; Alumo AG (Switzerland), featuring top quality STeP by OEKO-TEX-certified cotton fabrics, and Homeplus (Germany), presenting carpets and rugs with special features such as 3D patterns that add a playful dimension and texture.

VIATT 2025 will also serve as a vital platform to provide Vietnamese and international buyers with access to innovative textiles and technologies from leading exhibitors across Asia. While Japan remains the second-largest destination for Vietnam's apparel exports[3], the country is also a steady supplier in many textile categories. Hoping to attract new export business at the show, key Japanese exhibitors include:

Murata Machinery (Technical textiles & technologies): Murata is a world-leading textile machinery company. Its signature product, VORTEX, utilises air technology to produce yarns with a unique structure. This product also promotes sustainability through it's high productivity and energy efficiency.

Tamurakoma & Co (Apparel fabrics & fashion): established in 1894, the enterprise will display functional fabrics, such as POLICOTT and Comfeel, highlighting innovative Japanese technology and products made in Japan and Vietnam.

Toyoshima & Co (Apparel fabrics & fashion): over nearly two centuries, Toyoshima has adapted to evolving market needs, engaging in the entire process from raw material to final product delivery, and remains dedicated to continuous, comprehensive fashion development.

Joining them are Stylem Takisada-Osaka, a premier fabric manufacturer, overseeing the entire manufacturing journey from raw materials to finished apparel products; Takisada Nagoya, featuring high-quality apparel products made by a robust network of spinning facilities, weavers, knitters, and dye works; and Toyobo Textile Co, presenting fabric and sewn products that meet high Japanese standard.

Other Asian exhibitors include: IDFL Vietnam (Vietnam) and Honest Rich Pacific (Hong Kong) in Apparel Fabrics & Fashion Zone; Sigma Vietnam Industrial (Vietnam) and Youngdo Velvet (Korea) in Home & Contract Textiles Zone; as well as AiDLab (Hong Kong), JB Ecotex (India), and Rovitex Asia (Thailand) in Technical Textiles & Technologies Zone.

With VIATT 2025 welcoming exhibitors from across Europe and Asia's diverse textile sectors, the fair is set to enhance its status as a top sourcing destination for the ASEAN region, and buyer delegations from Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and beyond have already confirmed their participation next year.

The Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel, Textiles and Textile Technologies (VIATT) is organised by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd and the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VIETRADE), covering the entire textile industry value chain. VIATT will be held from 26 – 28 February 2025 ◘

Denim Première Vision
The event that thrilled the jeanswear industry

On December 4th and 5th at Superstudio Più in Milan, 2,610 visitors gathered for Denim Première Vision - the international meeting place for denim industry professionals - for two days dedicated to innovation, creativity, and trends. Under the patronage of the City of Milan, the event brought together key players in the denim industry, offering fashion brands the opportunity to meet experts from around the globe and discover the latest innovations and collections for the Spring-Summer 26 season. The event was praised for its vibrant atmosphere, high-quality offer and attendees.

"Denim is evolving with unique versatility, spanning from casual to sophisticated, and is more than ever establishing itself as a cornerstone of the luxury sector. Today, it reflects the overarching aspirations of our entire industry: combining excellence, sustainability, and innovation. This edition of Denim Première Vision embodied an exceptional collective energy, with a resolutely forward-looking spirit. In a global context marked by uncertainty, the success of this event highlights our industry's strong determination to maintain its momentum of collaboration and innovation. Attendance met expectations, both in terms of volume and the remarkable diversity of profiles. Denim Première Vision will return on May 21-22, 2025, for the Fall-Winter 26-27 Denim season." said Florence Rousson, President of the Première Vision Management Board.

A look into the future of denim and sustainable fashion

The conferences were packed to capacity. Talks (led by industry experts) and Pitches (a new format allowing exhibitors to present their latest technological innovations and sustainable initiatives on stage) provided a real space for dialogue, fostering reflection, idea-sharing, solution-finding, and shaping the future of denim. Here, innovation, sustainability, and collective intelligence come together to address the challenges of tomorrow.

Visitors had the opportunity to explore key themes shaping the future of denim and sustainable fashion. On stage, experts highlighted the importance of innovation in transformation processes, particularly in washing, dyeing, and sustainable material management. The presentation of BIOAWAKE by Orta showcased the future of eco-friendly denim, demonstrating how companies are integrating sustainability into their production strategies.

Craftsmanship and technology were also central to the discussions, with a particular focus on Made in Italy and sustainable washing practices highlighted by Blue Jeans Lavanderie. Emphasis was placed on the importance of combining traditional expertise with technological innovations to reduce environmental impact while maintaining product quality. Andrea Venier's presentation on the "Zero PP" concept provided valuable insights into new approaches for eliminating plastics in denim production. Amy Leverton, founder of Denim Dudes, explored topics ranging from pop culture to protest movements, demonstrating how every meme, movement, and mindset will shape the design, manufacturing, and marketing of jeans by 2026.

Finally, the sociocultural challenges of the Middle Eastern market were explored, highlighting market entry strategies and growth prospects for denim and fashion in this rapidly transforming region. The role of women in the revolution of fashion trends was also a key discussion, emphasizing the growing impact of female figures in the redefinition of stylistic and social codes.

In addition to the particularly rich conference program, fashion seminars led by denim expert Julieta Mercerat highlighted denim trends for the Spring-Summer 26 season, offering a preview of upcoming stylistic and technical developments. These essential educational platforms showcased major advancements in manufacturing, highlighting the most innovative products from Denim PV exhibitors. The event offers practical solutions, allowing visitors and brands to access the best products and the most innovative developments, while addressing the challenges of a constantly evolving market. These seminars provide a unique opportunity to share knowledge, explore new perspectives, stimulate idea exchanges, and foster the creation of partnerships and business opportunities in the event's aisles.

In addition to the exhibitors' offer (including spinners and weavers, manufacturers and finishers, promotion and technology services, accessory and component

makers), conferences, fashion seminars, and the fashion forum, visitors had the opportunity to:

- Explore collections from emerging denim designers and talents within the Denim Fashion District
- Participate in workshops and explore exhibitions

Key figures of this edition

- 2.610 Visitors Fashion and accessory brand leaders, buyers, stylists, designers, production managers... From: Italy, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, USA, Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, China, and more
- 71 Exhibitors 63% Denim Spinners and Weavers / 27% Manufacturers and Finishers 6% Services and Technologies / 4% Accessory and Component Manufacturers From 14 countries: Japan, Italy, France, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, and more
- 15 International Hosted Guests Investment program to strengthen key industry connections and develop strategic partnerships
- 2 Fashion Seminars « SPRING-SUMMER 26 » Led by Julieta Mercerat (Denim Expert – Première Vision)
- 23 Conferences (29 speakers) 7 Talks (9 speakers) & 16 Pitches (20 speakers)

These Brands Were Present

Angels Jeans / Bellerose / Bershka / Blue De Genes / Blue Of A Kind Bottega Veneta / Brave Kid / Calzedonia / Canali / Chloé / Cigalas Citizens Of Humanity / Closed / Colin's / Corneliani / County Of Milan Dedimax / Denim Service / Diesel / Dior / Dolce & Gabbana / Dondup Ds 55 / Entre Amis / Ermenegildo Zegna / Ferrari / Fracomina / G-Star Gang / Gas Milano 1984 / Giada / Giorgio Armani / Guess / H.Eich / Hen's Teeth / Herrlicher / Hess Natur / Hugo Boss / Iber Jeans / Ideal Blue Ikks / Imperial / Inditex / Interfashion / Iro / Jacob Cohen / Jc Industry Jeckerson / Jil Sander / John Lewis / Kering / Kocca / Levi's / Libero Louis Vuitton / Marella / Massimo Dutti / Max Mara / Miniconf Miroglio / Missoni / Moncler / Moorer / Nigel Cabourn / Nudie Jeans Nyky / Off White / Ovs / Palm Angels / Prada / Replay / Rethread Denim Rick Owens / S.Oliver / Scalpers / Sinv / Stella Mccartney Stradivarius / Teddy / Unlimited / Versace / Vivienne Westwood.

About the GL Events Fashion Division

With 19 shows and events a year, the Fashion Division of GL events encompass the Première Vision, Tranoï and Fashion Source shows. Its goal is to develop a unique hub of events and services to meet the new challenges of the fashion market in France and abroad. The Fashion Division is at the heart of the creative industry, providing a platform for dialogue and debate for all creative industry players

The 21st edition of Garknit-X Kolkata was held successfully

West Bengal is the birthplace of the hosiery industry in India and has been maintaining its position as the hub of hosiery goods manufacturing and trade. The textile industry of Kolkata plays a significant role in the economy of the capital city of the State of West Bengal. Apart from that, this industry even contributes to the industrial output, export, and employment sectors of the city. As compared to the other metropolitan cities of India, Kolkata has a lower cost of business operation. The jute/handloom sector has made a huge contribution to the industrial development of the city. The cotton industry, apart from contributing to the textile industry of Kolkata, has been playing an important role in the employment of the skilled and semi-skilled personnel of the city. Kolkata is known for saris, dress material, kids wear, and undergarments. The state government envisages developing West Bengal as a competitive textile hub by increasing its share from the current 6% to at least 12% in the next few years, and to fulfill this, many new apparel parks are under planning, and policy initiatives are taken by the government.

Garknit–X exhibition has always been playing a key role in spreading the technological revolution in the eastern region of India. This time again, it provided a perfect platform to the participants to gain a foothold in the fast-growing market, as Kolkata is witnessing improvements in manufacturing capacities along with huge investments. The industry here is growing every year and plays a very important role in the economy of the capital city of the State of West Bengal. West Bengal has the potential to emerge as a major textile centre in the country. The State has a rich heritage of skilful workmanship and artistry in the textile industry. The region is also well-known for its well-developed knitting and garment industry. More than 2 mn people are directly employed by the region's textile industry and another half a mn indirectly.

The 21st edition of Garknit – X and Yarnfab was held from December 20–22, 2024, at the Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, the world-class exhibition and convention centre in Kolkata. The complex is owned and managed by the West Bengal Trade Promotion Organisation (WBTPO), Government of West Bengal. The three-day event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sri Nirmal Saraf with the leading industry players. The three-day fair saw a good display of the latest machinery for CAD/CAM, spreading, cutting, sewing, embroidery, laser, finishing, digital & screen printing, knitting, and weaving, along with accessories.

Garknit – X and Yarnfab – TX, organised by Vardaan Events Pvt. Ltd., the exhibition drew a good number of visitors from this region. This year, more than 45 exhibitors representing more than 100+ brands, including both international and domestic, participated in the fair. The expo was attended by eminent professionals, senior corporate executives, and industry decision-makers. It featured live demonstrations to help visitors to know about the latest technology developments in this sector. The show has brought many new innovative technologies to the doorsteps of manufacturers in West Bengal who are unable to compete in the international market, so that they could install these machines and upgrade their factories. The show had good visitor response and facilities.

"The show generated a lot of enquiries for the new products on display, and infact, a very good number of on-the-spot orders was placed. The show witnessed a quality of visitors and hosted around 10,000 trade customers from various parts of West Bengal and nearby states. The market here has huge potential for weaving, knitting, printing and embroidery machinery manufacturers due to the presence of the kidswear and sarees segments. In all, the presence of important apparel technology brands with world-class venues has proved it to be a good show," said B P Mishra, organizer of the show. Overall, the visitors' turnout and feedback itself indicate the growth of the Kolkata apparel and textile market. Though markets all over India are going through a slowdown, the Kolkata market is also affected. The industry here need to upgrade their factories and should replace their outdated machinery with new technologies to remain competitive


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ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025
expands exhibition space to accommodate strong response

ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025 has received overwhelming support, surpassing the show owners' expectations with a 30 per cent increase in the number of applicants to date. ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025 is owned by CEMATEX (the European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers), China Textile Machinery Association (CTMA) and the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT (CCPIT TEX).

Scheduled to be held at the Singapore Expo from 28 to 31 October 2025, the exhibition has attracted over 770 technology and service providers from 33 countries and regions to apply for space. They include many international textile machinery manufacturers, as well as new technology providers. As a result of the increased demand, the show owners have expanded the booked hall space from 60,000 to 70,000 square metres.

Speaking on behalf of the owners, Alex Zucchi, president of CEMATEX said: "We are grateful to have the continued support of the industry. To accommodate all the eligible applicants, we have increased the booked hall space to allow more machinery manufacturers to showcase their latest products and solutions to the region's buyers who aspire to leverage technology to drive cost efficiency and remain competitive.

"The strong interest in the Singapore edition, despite being scheduled just a year after the Shanghai edition, highlights the need to penetrate deeper into emerging markets to sustain and grow our manufacturers' businesses."

MrGu Ping, president of CTMA, concurred: "In recent years, digital technology has significantly influenced the development of the textile industry, with burgeoning new demand from regions such as South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. In response, we have added the Singapore edition between ITMA ASIA + CITME 2024 and 2026 exhibitions to meet the expectations of global exhibitors and visitors, hoping to bring them greater benefits."

At the close of space application on 12 November, almost all the booked exhibition space at Singapore Expo had been snapped up. Since then, applications have continued to stream in, prompting the show owners to expand space at the venue.

Hall sector plan: Spanning seven halls of the Singapore Expo, the sector plan features 19 product chapters of the complete textile and garment manufacturing chain. Based on the exhibition's unique selling proposition, the exhibits have been clustered in product sectors, enabling buyers to source more conveniently. The three biggest sectors based on space booked are finishing, followed by spinning and knitting.

Billed as The Leading Textile Technology Exhibition Driving Regional Growth, ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025 will be held from 28 to 31 October 2025. The exhibition is organised by ITMA Services and co-organised by Beijing Textile Machinery International Exhibition Company. Japan Textile Machinery Association (JTMA) is a special partner of the exhibition ◘

Forthcoming trade events...

INTERNATIONAL

GARMENT TECHNOLOGY BANGLADESH
09 – 12 January, 2025
Venue: International Convention City, Bashundhara, Dhaka
Organizer: Ask Trade & Exhibitions Pvt Ltd
Tel: +88-01678-447822

PREMIERE VISION NEW YORK
14 - 15 January, 2025
Venue: Tribeca 360, NYC
Organizer: Première Vision
Tel: +33 (0)4 51 42 04 41

PITTI IMMAGINE UOMO
14 – 17 January, 2025
Venue: Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy
Organizer: PittiImmagine
Tel: +39 055 36931

DHAKA INTL. DENIM SHOW DHAKA
15 – 18 January, 2025
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara - ICCB, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: CEMS
Tel: +55-11-3181-2923

MUNICH FABRIC START SPRING.SUMMER 26
21 – 22, January 2025
Venue: MOC & Zenith Area Munich
Organizer: Munich Fabric Start Exhibitions GmbH
Tel: +49 (0)89 45 22 47 0

PITTI IMMAGINE BIMBO
22 – 24 January, 2025
Venue: Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy
Organizer: PittiImmagine
Tel: +39 055 36931

AVANTEX PARIS
11 – 12, February, 2025
Venue: Paris-Le Bourget Exhibition Center, Paris
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt France S.A.S.
Tel: +33 6 74 29 09 07

TEXWORLD APPAREL SOURCING PARIS
10 – 12, February, 2025
Venue: Paris-Le Bourget Exhibition Center, Paris
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt France S.A.S.
Tel: +33 6 74 29 09 07

PREMIÈRE VISION PARIS
11 – 13, February, 2025
Venue: Paris-Nord Villepinte Exhibition Center, Paris
Organizer: Première Vision
Tel: +33 (0)4 72606500

ISTANBUL YARN FAIR ISTANBUL
13 – 15 February, 2025
Venue: Tüyap Fair Convention & Congress Center, Istanbul, Turkey
Organizer: Reed Tüyap Fairs and Exhibition Organization Inc.
Tel: +90 (0)212 8671100

DTG BANGLADESH 2025
20 – 23, February 2025
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: Chan Chao International Co., Ltd
Tel: +886-2-26596000

GLOBAL TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING SHOW
21 – 23, February 2025
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: India ITME Society
Tel: +91 70210 89987

VIETNAM INTL. TRADE FAIR FOR APPAREL, TEXTILES & TECHNOLOGIES
26 – 28, February 2025
Venue: Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.
Tel: +852 2802 7728

INTERTEXTILE SHANGHAI APPAREL FABRICS – SPRING EDITION
11 – 13, March 2025
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.
Tel: +852 2802 7728

YARN EXPO – SPRING EDITION
11 – 13, March 2025
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.
Tel: +852 2802 7728

COLOMBO INTL. YARN & FABRIC SHOW
20 – 22 March, 2025
Venue: Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre Paijanindia, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Organizer: CEMS Lanka
Tel: +1-212-914-9914

DTG DHAKA INTL. TEXTILE & GARMENT MACHINERY EXHIBITION DHAKA
20 – 23 March, 2025
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara - ICCB, Downtown Dhaka
Organizer: Chan Chao Intl. Co., Ltd.
Tel: +886 (2) 26596000

VIETNAM SAIGON TEXTILE & GARMENT INDUSTRY EXPO
09 - 12 April, 2025
Venue: SECC, Hochiminh City, Vietnam
Organizer: CP Exhibition Ltd & CP Vietnam Exhibition Organizing Co Ltd
Tel: +852 25117427, +84 918008668

INDO DYECHEM JAKARTA
15 – 17 April, 2025
Venue: JI Expo Jakarta International Expo, Jakarta, Java, Indonesia
Organizer: Peraga Expo
Tel: +62 (2)1 6493717

TEXPROCESS AMERICAS ATLANTA
06 – 08, May 2025
Venue: Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt, Inc.
Tel: +1 (4)04 7709848016

TECHTEXTIL AMERICAS ATLANTA
06 – 08, May 2025
Venue: Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt, Inc.
Tel: +1 (4)04 7709848016

INTEX SOUTH AISA - BANGLADESH
25 – 27, June, 2025
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91-(22) 40376700 – 30

INTEX SOUTH AISA – SRI LANKA
06 – 08, August, 2025
Venue: Bandaranaike Memorial Intl. Conference Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91-(22) 40376700 – 30

DOMESTIC

SURAT INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE EXPO – SITEX '25
10 – 12, January 2025
Venue: Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Surat, India
Organizer: The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI)
Tel: +91-0261 – 2291111, 7211173112

YARNEX / DYECHEM
17 - 19 January, 2025
Venue: Dana Mandi, Bahadur Ke Road, Ludhiana
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 8884564643

GARFAB-TX JAIPUR
18 – 20, January 2025
Venue: Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre, Jaipur
Organizer: Vardaan Events Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 9821170104, 9341444727

FIBERS N YARNS EXPO
23 – 25, January 2025
Venue: Jio World Convention Centre, BKC, Mumbai
Organizer: Tecoya Infotech
Tel: 91-22-46062530

F&A SHOW / APPAREL SOURCING FAIR
07 - 09 February, 2025
Venue: KTPO, Whitefield, Bangalore
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 8884564643

GMMSA EXPO
07 – 10, February, 2025
Venue: Dana Mandi, Bahadur Ke Road, Near Jalandhar Byepass, Ludhiana
Organizer: Garments Machinery Manufacturers & Suppliers Association
Tel: +91-98158-23182, 99885-18082

GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO (CO-LOCATED WITH BHARAT TEX 2025)
12 – 15 February, 2025
Venue: Hall No. 14 & 15, India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, UP
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 9901106749/ 9310029439

BHARAT TEX 2025
(Supported by Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)
12– 15 February, 2025
Venue: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, UP
14 – 17 February, 2025
Venue: Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: Consortium of Textile Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)
Tel: +99308 37978

GLOBAL TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING SHOW
21 – 23, February 2025
Venue: Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: India ITME Society
Tel: +91 70210 89987

GARFAB-TX SURAT
04- 06 April, 2025
Venue: Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Surat
Organizer: Vardaan Events Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 9821170104, 9341444727

GARFAB-TX HYDERABAD
11 – 13, April 2025
Venue: Classic Gardens Paradise Circle, Hyderabad
Organizer: Vardaan Events Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 9821170104, 9341444727

FAB SHOW
21 – 23 April, 2025
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: CMAI
Tel: 02244750909

BHARAT PRINT EXPO
24 – 26 April, 2025
Venue: Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Bengaluru
Organizer: ReEnvision Events P. Ltd.
Tel: 91-22-27812093, 91-22-27812619

DENIM & JEANS INDIA
14 – 15 May, 2025
Venue: The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore
Organizer: DenimsandJeans
Tel: (91)-11 42828050

F&A SHOW / YARNEX
15 - 17 May, 2025
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 8884564643

GARTEX TEXPROCESS - MUMBAI
22 – 24, May 2025
Venue: Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai
Organizers: MEX Exhibitions &Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

FABRICS & TRIM SHOW
22 – 24, May 2025
Venue: Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai
Organizers: Mex Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 91 - 22 61445990

F&A SHOW / TEXINDIA / DYECHEM / APPAREL SOURCING FAIR
10 - 12 July, 2025
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: 8884564643

KNIT-SHOW
08 – 10, August 2025
Venue: Toplight Trade Center, Kangeyam Main Road, Manimahal Bus Stop, Tirupur
Organizers: Knit Show Trade Exposition
Tel: 94437 92612, 98436 26285

GARTEX TEXPROCESS - DELHI
21 – 23, August 2025
Venue: Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi, India
Organizers: MEX Exhibitions & Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

TECHTEXTIL INDIA
19 – 21 November, 2026
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre (BEC) NESCO, Western Express Highway Goregaon East, Mumbai, India
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +4969 7575-5869

(You are requested to reconfirm dates and other information from respective organisers prior to making your travel arrangements)


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