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Knitting views

INSIGHTFUL • INCISIVE • INFORMATIVE

January - February 2026 Vol.21 / Issue No.01

- **UNION BUDGET 2026-27**
  Strengthening India's Textile Value Chain
- **Knitting Machine Market Size to Exceed USD 10.00 Billion by 2033**

From The Editor's Desk...

India and the European Union (EU) announced the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), an important milestone in one of India's most strategic economic partnerships. India's textile exports to the European Union will get a major boost, as they will get duty-free access in the 27-nation bloc. At present, the import duty in the EU on Indian textiles ranges between 0 and 12%.

The European Union is India's second-largest export destination for textiles and apparel, after the USA. The EU's total global imports of textiles and apparel stood at USD 263.5 billion in 2024, highlighting the scale and long-term potential of the EU market for Indian textile exporters. India's textile exports to the EU have also shown positive growth in the last 5 years.

Now with zero duty access in textiles and clothing, covering all tariff lines and reducing tariffs by up to 12%, it would open up the EU's INR 22.9 Lakh Crore (USD 263.5 billion) import market. Building on India's current INR 3.19 Lakh Crore (USD 36.7 billion) in global textile and apparel exports, including INR 62.7 Thousand Crore (USD 7.2 billion) to the EU, such access would significantly expand opportunities, particularly in cotton yarn, man-made yarn, apparel, and home textiles.

The FTA corrects a long-standing tariff disadvantage vis-à-vis competitors such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Pakistan and Turkey. The Agreement gives a decisive boost to the textile industry by enhancing price competitiveness and expanding market access in one of the world's most sophisticated consumer markets. This would enable MSMEs to scale, generate employment, and reinforce India's positioning as a reliable, sustainable, and high-value sourcing partner.

Some of the major garment-importing countries of the EU, like Germany, France, Spain and Italy, source substantially from India, and this deal will further boost the country's apparel exports to these economies. The textile industry projections estimate that Indian apparel exports could grow by 20–25% year on year after operationalisation of the FTA as against the current growth rate of 3.01% in the EU market.

ARVIND KUMAR
Editor & Publisher

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VSM SPINNERS

NEWS

global update...

Cambodia's garment exports hit $15.7 bn

Cambodia's garment industry body TAFTAC has elected new leadership as the country's textile and apparel exports surged to $15.7 billion in 2025, underscoring the sector's resilience and central role in the economy.

The Textile, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC) named He Enjia as president for the 17th term (2026–2028) during its annual meeting on Saturday at the Royal Group Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone. Labour Minister Heng Sour and industry representatives attended the event.

Enjia said the sector was "a pillar of Cambodia's economy, a major source of employment, and a key bridge to global supply chains," pledging to balance competitiveness with sustainability and national priorities. He outlined commitments to strengthen TAFTAC's role as a partner to government, promote stable labour relations, advance environmental compliance, and safeguard market access.

Cambodia's garment, footwear and travel goods exports rose 15.8 percent from $13.5 billion in 2024, despite global economic uncertainties. The industry employs more than 2.1 million workers across 46,649 registered factories and enterprises, according to the Labour Ministry.

Minister Sour praised TAFTAC as a "trusted partner" of the government, saying strong leadership would help attract new investors, create jobs, and support Cambodia's broader goal of diversifying its industrial base. Founded 29 years ago, TAFTAC has served as the unified voice of investors, fostering dialogue between government, employers and workers while supporting sustainable export growth

Turkish firm Bonny Socks plans US$ 70 mn textile factory in Egypt

Egypt is set to strengthen its textile manufacturing base as Turkish sock producer Bonny Socks moves forward with plans to establish a large-scale production facility in the country.

Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Hassan El-Khatib met with senior executives of Bonny Socks to review the proposed project, according to a statement from the ministry. The factory will cater to both the Egyptian market and international export destinations.

The proposed facility will be developed on a 75,000-square-metre site dedicated to sock manufacturing, with an additional 45,000 square metres reserved for future expansion. Once operational, the plant will be equipped with between 2,000 and 3,000 knitting machines, with the capacity to scale up to 4,000 machines as demand grows.

Exports will be a key focus of the project, particularly to European markets during the initial phase. Annual export revenues are projected to reach approximately US$ 80 million. A portion of production will also serve the domestic market, supplying European brands with manufacturing operations in Egypt.

Total investment for construction, infrastructure and production equipment is estimated at US$ 70 million. The project is expected to support Egypt's broader strategy to attract foreign investment, boost textile exports and position the country as a competitive manufacturing hub for European markets

The Lycra Company appoints RADCCO as exclusive distributor for India from 1 February.

The Lycra Company, a global supplier of innovative and sustainable fibre solutions for the apparel and personal care industries, has appointed RADCCO as its exclusive distributor in India. Based in New Delhi, RADCCO will represent the company's full product portfolio nationwide, effective 1 February, succeeding SmarText Solutions. RADCCO is a wholesale trader specialising in textiles and apparel-related products.

"We are grateful to the SmarText team for a decade of dedicated partnership supporting our business in India, and we're excited to welcome RADCCO as our new exclusive distributor," said Alistair Williamson, vice president, EMEA & South Asia at The Lycra Company.

"This appointment underscores our commitment to one of the world's most dynamic and rapidly expanding markets. RADCCO's deep industry expertise and customer-first approach position them as the ideal partner to help us accelerate growth in the region," he added. The Lycra Company said it is working closely with both RADCCO and SmarText Solutions to ensure a seamless transition with no disruption to service, support or product availability for customers

Sri Lankan apparel exports end year on a strong note

Sri Lanka's exports of apparel and made-up textile articles rose to US$447.21 million in December 2025, an increase of 5.43% compared with US$424.18 million in the same month of 2024, according to industry export statistics covering HS Chapters 61, 62 and 63.

Growth was recorded across the three main destination markets. Exports to the USA increased by 6.49% year-on-year to US$178.29 million, while shipments to the EU, excluding the UK, rose 6.76% to US$141.00 million. Exports to the UK posted the strongest monthly increase, up 12.95% to US$55.12 million. By contrast, exports to other markets declined by 4.06% to US$72.80 million. Overall, December exports were US$23.03 million higher than a year earlier.

For the full January to December 2025 period, apparel exports increased 5.42% year-on-year to US$5,019.20 million, compared with US$4,761.02 million in 2024. The annual increase amounted to US$258.18 million. In addition, exports of fabrics reached US$526.33 million, bringing total sector exports to around US$5.5 billion for the year.

Market-wise, the EU excluding the UK delivered the strongest full-year performance, with exports rising 12.48% to US$1,576.39 million. Exports to the USA grew by 2.15% to US$1,947.37 million, while shipments to the UK were broadly stable, edging up 0.74% to US$679.66 million. Exports to other markets increased 4.80% to US$815.78 million.

Taken together, the USA and EU accounted for approximately 71% of December exports and contributed the largest share of the month's year-on-year increase.

Commenting on the results, the Joint Apparel Association Forum said that closing the year above US$5.0 billion reflects consistent performance across core markets, with the EU providing the strongest momentum. It added that the December improvement in the UK, alongside continued growth in the USA and EU, was encouraging, while the decline in other markets highlighted the ongoing need to diversify demand.

The industry body noted that sustaining growth will depend on improving competitiveness, protecting delivery reliability and strengthening buyer confidence through consistent quality and responsible production, alongside expanding access to new and emerging markets

Steiger expands Swiss operations

Steiger Participations SA, the Swiss flat knitting machine manufacturer is preparing for the future of its operations in Vionnaz with plans to construct a new industrial hall at the rear of its existing site. The modern two-storey building will cover a total area of 2,400 square metres and is the result of a collaboration opportunity with a client, supporting the company's strategic development.

Half of the new hall is expected to be occupied by a partner specialising in the production of sports shoes in China and Vietnam using Steiger technology. The partner aims to move closer to Western customers by setting up a showroom and installing machines to host designers from major international brands for rapid prototyping activities. This direct proximity to users is expected to allow Steiger to influence the ongoing development of its machines and better anticipate future market needs.

The remaining space will be dedicated to Steiger's own activities. For many years, the company has focused on niche applications such as medical textiles, high-end fashion and technical knitwear. Looking ahead, Steiger is considering the creation of an innovation centre dedicated to smart textiles integrating sensors, with potential applications including humanoid robotics.

Founded in Switzerland, Steiger is internationally recognised for its advanced flat knitting solutions and has a long heritage of innovation in electronic knitting technology. The company operates as part of the Cixing Group, its Chinese parent company.

Cixing, based in China, is one of the world's largest manufacturers of computerised flat knitting machines, supplying customers globally across apparel, technical and industrial knitting sectors. Through the integration of Steiger's Swiss engineering expertise and Cixing's industrial scale, the group aims to accelerate innovation and strengthen its global market presence.

Construction of the new facility is expected to begin shortly, with the premises scheduled to be available by the end of 2026. The investment is intended to anchor Steiger's activities in Vionnaz over the long term

Pakistan's textile and apparel exports declined

Pakistan's textile and apparel exports suffered a broad-based decline across its three largest markets, the European Union, the United States and the United Kingdom, during the first half of FY26, signalling a deepening competitiveness crisis for the country's largest export sector.

Chairman of Pakistan Textile Council (PTC) Fawad Anwar said the downturn was not confined to a single product or destination but reflected systemic weaknesses in the cost of doing business, according to a statement issued on Wednesday. Textiles and apparel, Pakistan's biggest export-oriented industry, face immediate risks to foreign exchange earnings, employment and industrial capacity utilisation, he warned.

An analysis of export trends for knitted apparel, woven apparel and home textiles shows a steady weakening through the half year, with November and December emerging as the lowest point. The decline was visible across all major categories and markets simultaneously.

"The data confirms this is not a demand-side or market-access issue. It is fundamentally a cost-of-doing-business and competitiveness crisis," Anwar said. "When exports decline across all major product categories and markets simultaneously, the problem is systemic."

He noted that while Pakistan's exports weakened, competitor economies intensified state support for industry. Despite trade tensions, China recorded a trade surplus of nearly one trillion dollars in the first eleven months of 2025, supported by diversification and sustained industrial backing. India approved a five-billion-dollar export support package, while Vietnam introduced tax relief, improved access to industrial land and targeted incentives

Egypt signs $5.6 mn deal with Turkish firm to build garment factory

The Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) has signed a $5.6 million agreement with Turkish garment maker Eroglu Moda Tekstil to establish a ready-made garments factory in the Qantara West Industrial Zone, the authority said. The fully self-financed project will be built on a 5,700-square-metre site and is expected to create about 700 direct jobs once operational.

The factory will produce ready-made garments and denim products, with an annual capacity of up to one million pieces. Around 95 percent of output will be exported, while the remaining five percent will be supplied to the local market, according to SCZone.

SCZone chairman Waleid Gamal Eldien signed the contract with Eroglu Moda Tekstil San Ve Tic S.A. The project adds to a growing cluster of textile and manufacturing investments in the Qantara West zone. El-Dien said the number of contracted projects in Qantara West has reached 50, covering a total area of about 3.46 million square metres, with cumulative investments estimated at $1.35 billion and more than 70,000 direct jobs. He added that

the figures include projects developed with the Main Development Company (MDC), SCZone's development arm, which builds ready-to-operate factories and industrial facilities for investors

Sri Lanka's apparel exports rise 5.4% in first 11 months of 2025

Sri Lanka's apparel industry recorded a strong performance in the first 11 months of 2025, with cumulative exports reaching USD 4,571.99 million, a 5.42% increase compared to the same period last year, according to data released yesterday by the Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF).

Apparel exports for November 2025 totalled USD 367.60 million, reflecting a slight decline of 1.96% from USD 374.94 million in November 2024. The monthly results were mixed across key markets, with the US posting USD 152.32 million (up 5.79% from USD 143.98 million), the EU (excluding UK) at USD 119.61 million (up 3.35% from USD 115.73 million), the UK declining to USD 43.63 million (down 13.83% from USD 50.63 million), and other markets at USD 52.04 million (down 19.44% from USD 64.60 million).

Despite the modest dip in November, year-to-date performance demonstrates solid growth. From January to November 2025, exports totalled USD 4,571.99 million, up 5.42% from USD 4,336.84 million over the same period in 2024. By market, cumulative exports reached USD 1,435.39 million to the EU (excluding UK), up 13.07%, USD 742.98 million to other markets (up 5.75%), USD 1,769.08 million to the US (up 1.73%), and USD 624.54 million to the UK (down 0.22%).

Commenting on the performance, the JAAF said, "The 5.42% growth in cumulative exports for the first 11 months of 2025 reflects the resilience and adaptability of Sri Lanka's apparel sector amid a challenging global environment. While November saw a modest decline of 1.96%, this should be viewed within the context of our strong year-to-date performance."

The forum highlighted the 13.07% growth in the EU market as particularly encouraging, noting it reflects the success of Sri Lanka's strategic focus on building relationships with EU buyers and meeting stringent sustainability and compliance standards. Continued growth in the US market, despite tighter margins, further demonstrates that Sri Lankan manufacturers remain competitive in quality, delivery, and ethical manufacturing practices

Clover Knits appoints Stacey Bridges as Vice President of Sales and Operations

Clover Knits, Inc. (CK), a trusted, family-owned supplier of 100% Made in the USA quality knit fabrics for more than four decades, announces the appointment of textile industry veteran Stacey Bridges to the newly created position of Vice President of Sales and Operations.

With more than 30 years of textile experience, Mr. Bridges brings deep industry expertise to his new role at CK. He most recently served as VP of Sales at Hanes Dye & Finishing and held a variety of production and sales management roles during his 30 years with the former Carolina Cotton Works (CCW). Bridges holds a Bachelor's degree in Textile Science from Clemson University.

"Stacey's vast experience makes him the perfect fit to drive sales growth and optimize our operations to best meet customer needs," said CK President Kevin McCarter. "Widely recognized for his industry knowledge and customer focus, we look forward to Stacey playing a strategic role as we expand on the innovation that distinguishes CK in the market."

"I am excited to be joining the Clover Knits team," said Bridges. "I look forward to helping new and existing customers achieve their product and production goals by leveraging the innovation that CK is widely recognized for across the industry"

HIKARI 2026 Global Smart Product Launch Tour receives strong response in Dhaka

Over 600 industry professionals gathered at the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka for the Bangladesh leg of the HIKARI 2026 Global Smart Product Launch Tour. HIKARI, long committed to technological innovation, officially unveiled two groundbreaking products: the world's first AI-driven intelligent single-needle lockstitch machine, the H9V?, and the technologically advanced intelligent double-needle lockstitch machine, the HT92VII. These releases are poised to provide robust technological support for the upgrading and digital transformation of Bangladesh's garment industry.

Mr. Wu Liangjie, Chairman of HIKARI, engaged in cordial exchanges with attending guests and delivered a keynote address at the event. Distinguished guests from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), including Dr. Nafis Uddoula, Dr. Md. Hasib Uddin, and Mr. Faruque Hassan, took the stage to share their insights. They reviewed HIKARI's significant market value and growth trajectory within Bangladesh, offering high praise and full endorsement of the brand. Each speaker expressed strong confidence in HIKARI's future, with Mr. Uddoula stating, "We believe HIKARI will soon become the most preferred brand in the Bangladesh market."

Numerous industry media outlets were present to conduct interviews and capture the event, sparking trending discussions on social media platforms like Facebook. Consistently committed to internationally acclaimed quality, HIKARI's latest launch has garnered extensive local attention and recognition. The brand is confidently expected to deliver an exceptional performance in the Bangladesh market throughout 2026


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SHIMA SEIKI announces joint webinar with Lonati

Leading knitting solutions provider SHIMA SEIKI MFG., LTD. of Wakayama, Japan is pleased to announce that it will be co-hosting a webinar held jointly with renowned hosiery machine manufacturer Lonati S.p.A. of Brescia, Italy on March 4th, 2026. The webinar is the first such event by both companies since they entered into a strategic collaboration in May of 2025 to promote digitalization and sustainable product development within the sock industry. This webinar introduces a new product development workflow aimed to help the industry shed its dependence on traditional physical sample creation processes within the sock industry.

In the fashion industry, particularly in the sock sector, it is common practice to create physical samples for design consideration and production decisions. However, this process presents numerous challenges, including waste of resources and labor, economic burdens such as sampling costs and material expenses, as well as delays due to lead times before market launch.

By combining SHIMA SEIKI's APEXFiz® Design-Sox software which features dedicated 3D virtual sampling capability for socks, together with Lonati's ORION programming software which allows users to proactively verify data in 3D from a technical perspective, potential issues can be identified and resolved in advance at each stage from programming to manufacturing. This integration enables companies to shorten time-to-market while efficiently delivering high-quality products. Furthermore, utilizing 3D virtual sampling significantly reduces the need for physical samples, thereby minimizing material waste and environmental impact caused by disposal of unnecessary samples, contributing to sustainable manufacturing

Rieter completes acquisition of barmag

Rieter has successfully completed the acquisition of Barmag as of February 2, 2026. This strategically important acquisition makes Rieter the world's leading system provider for natural and synthetic fibers. Barmag will be consolidated as of February 2, 2026, and integrated into the Rieter Group as the "Man-Made Fiber" Division. The management of Barmag will remain with the company. Georg Stausberg will continue to lead the division and report to Thomas Oetterli, CEO of Rieter. At the same time, he will join the Group Executive Committee.

The transaction is financed by the capital increase completed in October of last year as well as by long-term bank loans. In addition to substantial cash reserves in its operating units, Rieter also has a significantly increased revolving credit facility at its disposal.

Thomas Oetterli, CEO of Rieter: "Barmag's know-how is a perfect fit for Rieter and will accelerate profitable growth as well as strengthen our market leadership in the important region of Asia. The acquired filament know-how will help to expand our areas of expertise as a system provider and further advance automation and digitization solutions. This is the start of a successful future together and an important milestone in the implementation of our corporate strategy"

Italian textile machinery at Colombiatex

Numerous Italian textile machinery manufacturers will take part in the forthcoming Colombiatex, the leading trade fair for the Colombian textile supply chain, to be held in Medellin from 27 to 29 January 2026. The event once again underlines the strong and longstanding relationship between Colombian textile producers and Italian technology providers.

Although demand from the Colombian textile sector declined during 2024, the country continues to represent one of the most important South American markets for textile machinery manufacturers. The latest figures point to a marked recovery, with Italian machinery sales in Colombia reaching 6 million euro in the first half of 2025, an increase of 48% compared with the same period the previous year. If this trend continues, Italian exports could approach the record levels achieved in 2022, when sales totalled 18 million euro.

According to Marco Salvadè, President of ACIMIT, the Colombian textile and clothing industry has shown significant growth in recent years, supported by technological upgrading in which Italian machinery has often played a leading role. He notes that for many Italian companies, Colombiatex remains a key international exhibition for reinforcing partnerships with Colombian textile manufacturers.

As in previous editions, ICE – Italian Trade Agency, in collaboration with ACIMIT, will organise a national Italian Pavilion for Colombiatex 2026, located in the Pabellon Amarillo. Twenty-two Italian companies will exhibit within the pavilion, covering a broad range of textile machinery and technology solutions. In addition, several other ACIMIT member companies will participate with individual stands or through local agents, further highlighting the strength and breadth of Italian participation at the event.

The 22 Italian companies present within the pavilion will be: Ugolini Srl, Lonati Spa, Plm Impianti Srl, 3G Dosing Automation Srl, Santoni Spa, Laip Srl, Salvadè Srl, Cubotex Srl, BTSR International Spa, Reggiani Macchine Spa, Monti-Mac Srl, Ratti Luino Srl, Tonello Srl, Itema Spa, Noseda Srl, Kairos Engineering Srl, MCS Officina Meccanica Spa, LGL Electronics Spa, Waternext Spa, Lafer Spa, Fadis Spa, FICIT Srl

China to slash tariffs on cotton, wool, and fur to boost textile industry

Starting January 1st, the Chinese government reduced provisional tariffs on 935 imported goods, including cotton, wool, and hides for footwear and leather goods, easing supply for its industry.

The Asian giant facilitates the sourcing of raw materials for its textile industry. China will apply reduced tariffs during 2026 to a total of 935 imported products, including key inputs for the textile and leather industry, according to the plan approved by the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council and published by the Chinese Ministry of Finance.

According to the official document, "provisional tariffs will be applied to 935 imported products, excluding those subject to quotas." The measure will come into force on January 1st, 2026 and will be extended for the whole year, with possible adjustments in subsequent years.

In the textile industry, the most relevant reductions affect cotton, one of the country's main inputs. Uncarded and uncombed cotton and carded or combed cotton will see their most-favored-nation (Mfn) tariff reduced from 6% to a provisional 1%. However, certain volumes of out-of-quota cotton will be managed through a staggered tariff, as stated in the document: "for a certain amount of imported out-of-quota cotton, a provisional tariff will continue to be applied through a staggered system".

Wool, both raw and in intermediate stages of processing, will also benefit from the cuts. Uncarded and uncombed, greaseless and scoured wool will be reduced from 6% to a provisional 1%, while combed and top-spun wool will have its rate reduced from 8% to 3%, a measure that could favor the supply of industrial spinning.

The plan is complemented by additional reductions under existing free trade agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which groups China and 14 Asia-Pacific countries such as Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, as well as bilateral agreements with countries such as Switzerland, Serbia and Chile. According to the official document, "in accordance with the 24 free trade agreements and preferential agreements with 34 trading partners, the preferential tariff rate will continue to be applied to products imported from these partners", reinforcing the competitiveness of their imports vis-à-vis other global production poles.

From a strategic perspective, these measures make key inputs cheaper and consolidate China's position as a global textile processing center, with advantages in spinning, weaving and tanning, as well as in the integration of the local production chain. For European industry, the adjustment could imply greater competitive pressure, although it could also open up opportunities to integrate Chinese suppliers into strategic supply chains

US to exempt some Bangladeshi clothes from tariffs

Bangladesh has secured exemptions for some clothes and textiles that are made with US-produced materials, as part of a new agreement announced on Monday. Washington will also cut its tariffs on Bangladesh from 20% to 19%, in exchange for Dhaka to open its markets to a wider range of American goods.

The apparel industry forms the backbone of Bangladesh, which is the world's second largest exporter of clothes after China. The South Asian country has been in long-drawn talks with the White House after President Donald Trump imposed sweeping tariffs on global trading partners in April last year.

The White House said in a joint statement between the sides that the agreement will strengthen the countries' economic ties and offer both "unprecedented access" to each market. It said the US will lower its tariff rate on Bangladesh and will also identify certain clothing and textile goods from the country to enter the US free of tariffs.

The goods include those produced with American cotton and man-made textiles, the statement said. The volume of these will be determined by how much textiles the US exports to Bangladesh.

The clothing sector accounts for more than 80% of Bangladesh's total export revenue and employs around four million workers. In exchange, Bangladesh has agreed to provide "significant preferential market access" to a host of American agricultural and industrial goods. These include opening up its markets to more US chemicals, medical devices, car parts, soy products and meat, said the White House

Archroma and HeiQ partner to bring revolutionary antimicrobial and odor-control solutions

Archroma, a global leader in specialty chemicals towards sustainable solutions, and HeiQ, a Swiss deeptech materials innovator active in functional textiles and sustainable fibers, have entered into a co-marketing agreement that combines their complementary strengths to deliver advanced, planet-conscious anti-odor and antimicrobial technologies to brands, retailers, and textile mills worldwide.

Together, Archroma and HeiQ will provide brands and textile manufacturers access to an expanded portfolio of high-performance, sustainable effects, underpinned by global reach, application expertise, and proven market innovation.

“This partnership marks an exciting chapter for Archroma and HeiQ, and a huge step forward for the textile industry,” said Dhirendra Gautam, VP Commercial, Archroma. “By uniting our global reach and application know-how with HeiQ’s powerful innovation engine, we are bringing high-performance, sustainable technologies to more customers and accelerating the industry’s transition towards a more planet-conscious textile value chain.”

“HeiQ has always been driven by a mission to pioneer deeptech material innovation for people and planet,” said Carlo Centonze, CEO of HeiQ. “Together with Archroma’s extensive network and expertise, we are scaling our technologies globally, ensuring that brands and mills can access functional, sustainable solutions that enhance product performance while lowering environmental impact.”

The collaboration enables HeiQ’s advanced technologies to be delivered through Archroma’s well-established global customer network, making it easier for textile manufacturers to integrate functional, compliant, and sustainable performance effects into their products. The alliance is also about scaling innovation. Together, we will empower brands and manufacturers to meet consumer demands for hygiene, freshness, and sustainability

Japan aims to cut 25% of clothes waste by 2030 via recycling and re-use

Japan aims to reduce clothes waste by 25 per cent by fiscal 2030 compared with 10 years before to address the environmental impact of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions-heavy garment production. The move to promote the re-use and recycling of clothing comes as textile product waste has become a major issue worldwide, with the fashion sector generating an estimated 93 million tonnes annually, according to the United Nations Development Programme.

This has contributed significantly to environmental pollution and accounted for about 10 per cent of global carbon emissions, the New York-based world body said in March. Based on a new action plan to be compiled by March, the Japanese government will promote wider re-use and recycling of clothes, calling on local governments, businesses and households to work together to reduce textile waste.

A total of 830,000 tonnes of new clothing was estimated to be supplied in Japan in 2024, most of which was imported, according to an Environment Ministry report. The report showed 8.38 billion cubic m of water were estimated to be consumed annually through dyeing and transportation processes of clothing supplied to Japan, while 96 million tonnes of CO2 were estimated to be emitted.

With sales to secondhand stores and recycling into repurposed textiles limited, an estimated 570,000 tonnes of clothing were incinerated or sent to landfills in 2024, about 90 per cent of which came from households.

To promote environmentally friendly “circular fashion”, the upcoming plan will set five key initiatives, including strengthening systems to collect used clothing, expanding re-use and extending product lifespans. Specific measures will be outlined for central and local governments, companies and households under the plan.

Municipalities will be encouraged to improve collection rates and make second hand clothing more accessible to citizens in need, while apparel companies will be asked to design products that are easier to repair or re-use

Monforts names new Managing Director

A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG has announced a change in its senior management, effective from January 1, 2026. Volker Gingter has been appointed Managing Director of the Mönchengladbach-based dyeing and finishing technology specialist.

He succeeds Gunnar Meyer, who stepped down from the role on December 31, 2025. Meyer will continue to support the company in an advisory capacity until his retirement in July 2026.

Commenting on the transition, marketing manager Nicole Croonenbroek thanked Meyer for his long-standing commitment to the business and his efforts in maintaining Monforts' competitiveness and global market leadership.

Gingter began his career as an electrician in 1997 at Sucker-Müller-Hacoba and joined Monforts in 2000 as an in-house commissioning engineer. From 2010 to 2013 he worked on the development of a new European warehouse for Esprit, before returning to Monforts as engineering service manager. He was appointed head of the service department in 2020 and assumed responsibility for the spare parts department in 2025.

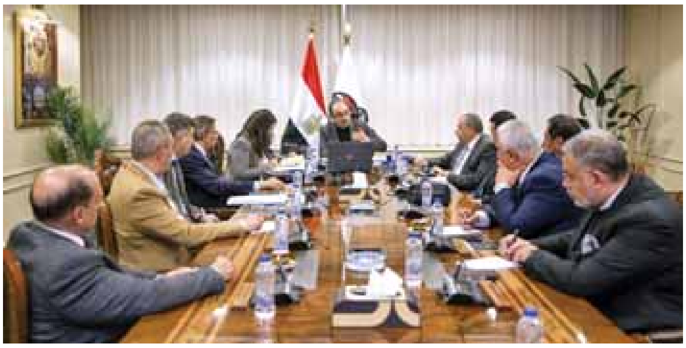
Looking ahead, Gingter said he is prepared to guide the company through challenging global market conditions and highlighted the importance of close customer relationships. He is looking forward to meeting customers and partners from around the world at the Techtextil 2026 exhibition in Frankfurt.

Founded in 1884, Monforts is a leading supplier of textile dyeing and finishing machinery and coating systems. The company is recognised as a market leader in stenters, continuous dyeing ranges, sanforising ranges and specialised solutions for denim and technical textiles.

Monforts operates an Advanced Technology Center in Mönchengladbach, where customers can carry out fabric trials under real production conditions, and has maintained its production site in St. Stefan, Austria, for more than 40 years. The company is a member of the CHTC Fong's Group

Egypt promotes private sector partnership to accelerate textile industry development

Egypt's Minister of Public Enterprises Sector, Mohamed El-Shimy, held a meeting with representatives from the Ready-Made Garments and Home Textiles Chamber, the Textile Industries Chamber, and the Apparel Export Council to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation with companies affiliated to the Holding Company for Cotton, Spinning, and Weaving.



According to a statement from the ministry, the meeting focused on expanding collaboration with the private sector to support local manufacturing, increase value added, and boost Egyptian exports to global markets.

El-Shimy emphasised that the ministry maintains a policy of full openness and readiness to partner with private enterprises, underlining the importance of government-private sector integration in developing national industry. He highlighted the promising investment opportunities in Egypt's spinning, weaving, and textile sector, particularly amid ongoing modernisation efforts.

Participants reviewed the implementation status of the national project to develop Egypt's spinning and weaving industry, being executed across several state-owned companies, including Misr Spinning and Weaving in El Mahalla El Kubra, Kafr El Dawar, Shebin El Kom, Damietta, Dakahlia, Helwan, and Upper Egypt Spinning and Weaving in Minya.

El-Shimy noted that the first phase of the project was successfully completed and operational over a year ago, while work is ongoing to finalise and operate the second phase. The third phase is expected to be completed in the coming months, marking a comprehensive transformation of this strategic sector.

He explained that the development relies on the latest global machinery and technologies to ensure high-quality production capable of competing in international markets. The plan also includes implementing an ERP system to improve resource management, operational efficiency, governance, and transparency, alongside rehabilitating and upgrading older factories while preserving the historical legacy of Egypt's textile industry.

Private sector representatives welcomed the scale of the development, expressing strong interest in partnering with the ministry's affiliated companies. They praised the investment opportunities created by the national project, highlighting its role in localising industry, creating jobs, and strengthening Egypt's position as a regional hub for spinning, weaving, and ready-made garment manufacturing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US textile and apparel imports from India plunge over 31% in November 2025

The United States (US) recorded divergent trends in textile and apparel (T-and-A) imports from its key Asian suppliers in November 2025, reflecting shifting sourcing patterns amid global trade adjustments, according to OTXEA data and CITI Analysis. Imports from India witnessed a sharper contraction, falling 31.4% year-on-year in November 2025 compared with November 2024, marking one of the steepest monthly declines among major suppliers, it said.

This significant decline is indicative of the challenges faced by India's textile and apparel exporters in the US market. On the other hand, the US T-and-A imports from Vietnam rose by 12.2% year-on-year in November 2025, underscoring Vietnam's growing importance as a sourcing hub.

In contrast, imports from Bangladesh declined by 14.5% over the same period, signaling pressure on shipments from the South Asian exporter, as per the data. On a broader monthly basis, Vietnam consistently posted strong growth throughout 2025, with double-digit increases in several months, including April, May, and June.

China, however, continued to see a sustained slowdown, with imports declining sharply across most months of 2025, including a 48.5% drop in November.

Cumulatively, during the January-November 2025 period, U.S. imports from Vietnam increased by 12.4%, while imports from China fell by 31.0%. India recorded a modest 2.3% growth over the same period, whereas Bangladesh saw an overall rise of 12.1%, despite the November setback, the data showed

India-US trade deal: Tiruppur expects garment exports to double

In Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur, garment exporters expect shipments to the US to double to about Rs.30,000 crore in the next three years, following the recently announced India-US trade framework. Citing industry executives, the report said that the exporters believe the sector could likely generate nearly 500,00 additional jobs as orders and production expand.

The development comes after New Delhi and Washington, on 7 February, announced the finalisation of the framework for the first phase of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). Under the proposed agreement, both sides will be slashing import duties on a variety of goods to boost bilateral trade.

Welcoming the move, Tiruppur Exporters' Association president KM Subramanian told PTI that the deal with the US assumes significance as it will provide Tiruppur, the textile town of Tamil Nadu, huge growth in the next five years. He further added that currently, the garment exports from Tamil Nadu are valued at Rs.15,000 crore. This is expected to double over three years after the agreement.

Subramanian further stated that the impact of the deal is likely to be seen in the next three months, following which he believed that they would be able to witness strong growth for India-made garments, which will be exported from Tamil Nadu's textile hub

AEPC welcomes export incentives

The AEPC has welcomed the Interest Subvention Scheme announced for MSME exporters with immediate effect, and said it will give financial relief to the garment exporters.

Interest subvention of 2.75% is allowed on both pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit for MSME exporters. The maximum interest subvention benefit admissible is Rs. 50 lakh for a MSME exporter in a financial year. MSME manufacturing exporters and merchant exporters falling under the notified positive list of HSN – 6 digit tariff lines are eligible and the Reserve Bank of India will issue master directions for implementation of the scheme to all banks.

A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council, said, “This timely intervention will provide significant financial support to MSME exporters, especially at a time when the industry is passing through a challenging phase. This initiative will go a long way in improving liquidity, reducing financing costs, and enhancing the global competitiveness of Indian apparel exporters”

India's textile & apparel import dependency falls 13.9% in Apr.–Dec. 2025

India's import dependency in the textile and apparel sector, including ready-made garments, declined by 13.9 per cent during April–December 2025 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, following a series of reforms aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the domestic industry.

During this period, India's imports of textiles and apparel from Bangladesh amounted to USD 705.4 million. This information was provided by the Minister of State for Textiles, Pabitra Margherita, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today. India ranked as the world's sixth-largest exporter of textiles and apparel in 2024 and recorded exports worth USD 27,312.7 million during April–December 2025.

Exports from the sector registered growth across more than 100 destinations during the period, indicating wider market penetration and increased export diversification. The government has undertaken multiple policy and programmatic measures to strengthen export performance and improve global competitiveness.

The government has signed 16 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the recently concluded India–Oman FTA, and has completed FTA negotiations with New Zealand and the European Union. These agreements are intended to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, simplify trade procedures, and address structural constraints, thereby improving market access for Indian textile and apparel exports.

Key initiatives supporting the sector include the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme to develop modern, integrated textile infrastructure; the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for man-made fibre fabrics, apparel and technical textiles; the National Technical Textiles Mission focusing on research, innovation and market development; and the SAMARTH scheme for capacity building and skill development.

Other programmes include Silk Samagra-2 for strengthening the sericulture value chain, the National Handloom Development Programme, and schemes for the promotion of handicrafts. In addition, the government has approved the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE) which provides 100 per cent credit guarantee coverage through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited to member lending institutions for extending additional credit to eligible exporters, including MSMEs

Impact of US-Bangladesh trade deal on Indian textile exports

The recent announcement of a trade agreement between the United States and Bangladesh has prompted concerns among Indian textile exporters regarding their competitive advantage in the lucrative US market. As part of the new deal, the US has permitted specific Bangladeshi textile and apparel exports to enter the market at zero tariffs, stirring uncertainty among Indian businesses.

Prior to this agreement, Indian textile exporters celebrated the reduction of tariffs from 50% to 18% as part of a separate deal with the Trump administration. This change positioned India favourably among countries exporting to the US, outranking competitors such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, and China in tariff rates. However, the recent development granting select Bangladeshi products zero-tariff access has shifted the dynamics.

The zero-tariff provision applies specifically to Bangladeshi textile goods manufactured using American cotton and man-made textiles, thereby directly impacting the cost competitiveness of Indian exports. While India's textiles now face an 18% tariff, the Bangladeshi garments benefiting from this clause are expected to be cheaper in the US market.

The US is a principal market for Indian textile exports, accounting for approximately $10.5 billion, or 30% of the country’s textile and apparel shipments. Amid previous high tariffs, Indian textile exports experienced a significant drop, decreasing by over 31% year-on-year in November 2025. The recent reduction in tariffs provided a much-needed boost to the sector, which plays a crucial role in India's economy, contributing 2.3% to its gross domestic product (GDP).

Moreover, the dependence of Bangladesh on cotton imports raises additional concerns for India’s cotton traders. Once the largest supplier of cotton to Bangladesh, India is now witnessing a decline in this business as Bangladesh seeks to diversify its imports. Tensions have arisen due to shifts in political allegiances in Bangladesh, which have influenced trade relations and cotton sourcing strategies.

The opposition party, Congress, has highlighted these developments, arguing that the US-Bangladesh trade deal represents a significant setback for the Indian textile industry. Criticism stems from the belief that it jeopardises the livelihoods of cotton farmers and yarn spinners across India. Congress has asserted that this trade deal can potentially weaken India's textile sector and lead to job losses.

With the signing of the final trade agreement expected in the coming weeks, India's government may need to address the implications of the zero-tariff provision to safeguard its textile sector. The ongoing dialogue will likely shape future negotiations and potentially secure concessions vital for sustaining Indian exports against newly emerging challenges

RAI Signs MoU with Kumaraguru College to Strengthen Industry-Academia Collaboration

The Retailers Association of India (RAI) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (KCLAS), marking a significant step towards deepening collaboration between India’s retail industry and higher education institutions.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Shankar Vanavarayar, President, Kumaraguru Institutions, and Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India, as part of a structured programme focused on the future of retail, innovation, and talent development.

The partnership aims to create sustained engagement between industry and academia through knowledge exchange, student exposure, faculty interaction, research collaboration, and co-created initiatives that reflect the evolving needs of India’s retail ecosystem. The collaboration calendar for 2026-2027, unveiled during the event, outlines a series of engagements including industry sessions, student-led initiatives, experiential learning opportunities, and thought-leadership forums.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India, said, “Through this MoU, RAI is deepening its engagement with academic institutions to better prepare students for a rapidly evolving retail landscape. At the same time, it allows the industry to tap into new thinking and emerging perspectives that students bring. Retail must not only train future professionals, but also remain open to learning from the next generation shaping its future.”

The MoU aligns with RAI’s broader mission to support the long-term growth and professionalism of the retail sector by investing in future-ready talent and fostering industry-relevant education.

Addressing the gathering, Shankar Vanavarayar, President, Kumaraguru Institutions, said, “At Kumaraguru, we believe education must remain deeply connected to the world it seeks to serve. Our partnership with the Retailers Association of India is a step towards creating meaningful learning ecosystems where industry insight, academic rigour, and entrepreneurial thinking come together. This MoU will enable our students and faculty to engage directly with the retail sector, encouraging innovation, applied research, and future-ready skills that are essential for India’s economic and social progress.”

This partnership reflects a shared vision between RAI and Kumaraguru Institutions to nurture talent, encourage innovation, and contribute meaningfully to India’s retail growth story through structured, long-term collaboration

Market Access Support launch to aid diversification drive

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) welcomes the launch of the Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) approved by the Union Cabinet earlier and feels that it could prove a big help to India's textile and apparel exporters as they seek to venture into newer geographies.

"Coming on the back of the signing of the India-Oman trade pact and the conclusion of the FTA negotiations with New Zealand earlier in December, it's one of the best news to end what has otherwise been a very challenging year for the textile and apparel sector," CITI Chairman Shri Ashwin Chandran said.

"With the trade deals already signed by India and those on the anvil opening new opportunities, the Market Access Support intervention will provide a fillip to textile and apparel exporters to expand their presence in more countries, which, by extension, will also have a positive ripple effect on the creation of more jobs and livelihood opportunities here," the CITI Chairman added.

Under the Market Access Support Intervention, structured financial and institutional support will be provided for activities including Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs), participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, Mega Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSMs) organised in India, and trade delegations to priority and emerging export markets. In July, India signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom. Talks are also ongoing on an FTA with the European Union, besides a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States.

The CITI Chairman said the trade data for November 2025 has demonstrated the resilience of the Indian exporting community to hold its ground despite global headwinds. "November 2025 proved that the diversification strategy has started yielding results. The full benefits of the diversification strategy will be evident once all the measures under the Export Promotion Mission are rolled out," he added. India's textile and apparel sector has been hit hard by the 50% US tariff, effective August 27, 2025. The US is the single-largest market for India's textile and apparel sector, contributing almost 28% to the total revenue of India's textile and apparel exporters. India's textile and apparel exports to the US stood at nearly $11 billion in 2024-25. India has set itself a target of creating a $350 billion textile and apparel industry by 2030, including achieving $100 billion of exports by that period

Yamuna Expressway emerges as a new garment hub

The Uttar Pradesh government is swiftly implementing a comprehensive strategy to develop the Yamuna Expressway region into an export-oriented industrial hub. As part of this vision, an Apparel Park is being developed across 175 acres in Sector-29 under the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA). This ambitious project will play a pivotal role in positioning Uttar Pradesh as a leading centre for the garment industry. The Apparel Park is expected to significantly expand employment opportunities, particularly for women, thereby strengthening their social and economic empowerment. The initiative aligns with the state's industrial policy and the vision of a self-reliant India, while reinforcing the state government's 'Make in UP' and the Central Government's 'Vocal for Local' campaigns.

Designed specifically for export-oriented ready-made garment units, the Apparel Park will house nearly 100 production-based units catering to both domestic and international markets. Developed on a cluster-based model, the park will enable industries to benefit from shared infrastructure and common services, enhancing efficiency and productivity. The location of the Apparel Park is strategically significant. With direct connectivity to the Yamuna Expressway and proximity to the upcoming Noida International Airport, the project is well-positioned to significantly boost garment exports. Its proximity to the Delhi-NCR region will reduce logistics costs and ensure faster, time-bound deliveries, a crucial advantage for exporters. A state-of-the-art Common Facility Centre (CFC) will form the backbone of the Apparel Park. The CFC will house a design centre, training facilities, unit testing laboratories, and quality control infrastructure. In addition, Research and Development (R&D) support and marketing assistance will be provided to exporting units. This shared infrastructure will allow small and medium enterprises to avoid heavy capital investments in standalone facilities, thereby lowering production costs and improving global competitiveness.

The Apparel Park will also serve as a major engine of employment generation, creating a large number of direct and indirect jobs. Local youth and women will find opportunities across multiple segments,

including stitching, design and pattern-making, packaging, quality control, and logistics. The project reflects the Yogi government's policy focus on transitioning from raw material-based production to value-added manufacturing. By developing the entire textile and garment value chain within the state, the Apparel Park will also generate indirect benefits for farmers, handloom weavers, and small entrepreneurs. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a state with a robust and investor-friendly industrial ecosystem. Once fully operational, the Apparel Park will provide fresh momentum to economic activity in the Yamuna Expressway region and mark a new chapter in the state's industrial growth

Textile resurgence is turning India into global jobs hub

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday highlighted the rise of India's textile sector from a legacy industry to a powerful job-creating and people-centric engine of growth, embodying the true spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

PM Modi referred to an article written by Union Minister Giriraj Singh, which underlines the importance of the Centre's PLI schemes and new Free Trade Agreements, which are creating the next wave of employment.

India's textile resurgence is rooted in strong domestic demand and rising consumption. With a population of over 140 crore, India is one of the world's most resilient textile markets. The domestic textile market grew from about Rs 8.4 lakh crore to an estimated Rs 13 lakh crore in just five years, the minister has pointed out.

He further stated that consumption trends reinforce this momentum as per capita textile consumption has almost doubled over the past decade, from around Rs.3,000 in 2014-15 to over Rs.6,000 in 2024-25 and is projected to double again to Rs 12,000 by 2030.

Exports have mirrored this demand-led expansion. Textile and apparel exports rose from Rs.2.49 lakh crore in 2019-20, the year Covid struck, to nearly Rs.3.5 lakh crore in 2024-25, marking around 28 per cent growth in the post-Covid period. This sharp rebound underscores India's ability to scale manufacturing quickly as global demand returns and, crucially, to convert export growth into employment across the textile value chain, the Minister added.

The minister also highlighted the importance of the PM MITRA Park scheme. The Government expects investments to the tune of Rs.18,500 crore to flow into the textiles sector under the proposals that have been received under this scheme, which aims to boost production, employment and exports.

With a view to develop integrated large-scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility for the entire value-chain of the textile industry, the Government has approved the setting up of seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in greenfield and brownfield sites with an outlay of Rs.4,445 crore for the period 2021-22 to 2027-28.

The government has finalised 7 sites, viz. Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navsari), Karnataka (Kalaburagi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Maharashtra (Amravati) for setting up PM MITRA Parks.

Once completed, it is expected that each PM MITRA Park will attract about Rs. 10,000 crore investment and generate about 3 lakh (both direct and indirect) employment opportunities

True Colors facilitates India's first Konica Minolta Nassenger SP-1 installation

True Colors has successfully concluded the sale of India's first Konica Minolta Nassenger SP-1 single-pass digital textile printing machine, scheduled for installation before March 2026.

This milestone goes beyond a machine transaction. It has been made possible by the confidence and forward-looking vision of Amarasha Digital Prints, who will be installing the SP-1 platform. It reflects a generational shift in Indian textile manufacturing where speed, scale, and consistency no longer come at the cost of flexibility and precision.

With single-pass technology now capable of matching traditional screen-printing volumes while retaining the advantages of digital production, Indian manufacturers are stepping into a new level of global competitiveness.

What makes this moment truly significant is not just the adoption of advanced technology, but the confidence to invest in future-ready systems and the mindset to move from capacity-driven growth to value-driven production. India has officially joined the group of global textile hubs where such platforms are already shaping the future of manufacturing.

On this occasion Mr Sanjay Desai, Managing Director of True Colors said "we are grateful for the trust placed in us, and encouraged by what this transition represents for the industry ahead".

Konica Minolta is a major player in digital printing, known for its innovative production printers (like the AccurioPress series), industrial inkjet solutions (especially for textiles), and focus on automation, workflow efficiency, high image quality (using polymerized toner), and sustainability, offering solutions.

True Colors is a prominent Indian company specializing in digital textile printing, offering a complete solution from importing and distributing textile printers/inks to manufacturing sublimation paper and providing large-scale fabric printing services for brands, exporters, and manufacturers, with a strong presence across India and a focus on innovation and sustainability in the textile industry

Indian delegation visits Vietnam to open new opportunities

The Central Silk Board (CSB), under the Ministry of Textiles & leading Indian silk entrepreneurs, undertook a five-day official visit to Vietnam with the support of the Embassy of India, Hanoi. The visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in sericulture, silk, textiles and technical textiles, in alignment with the Government of India's focus on expanding international collaboration, strengthening value chains and promoting sustainable growth in the textile sector.

During the visit, Dr. Naresh Babu N., Joint Secretary (Tech.), Central Silk Board, felicitated the Chairman of Bitexco Nam Long Joint Stock Company, one of Vietnam's leading textile manufacturers and exporters, with the Five-in-One Silk Stole and invited the company to participate in Bharat Tex 2026. He also invited Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) for Bharat Tex 2026 and interacted with the Vietnam Association of Craft Villages (VICRAFTS) on promotion of handlooms and handicrafts, product development, village-level strategies, exports and policy support, with the association expressed keen interest in collaboration.

During the visit, the delegation also called on Shri Tshering Wangchuk Sherpa, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, at the Embassy of India, Hanoi, and discussed avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the silk and textile sectors.

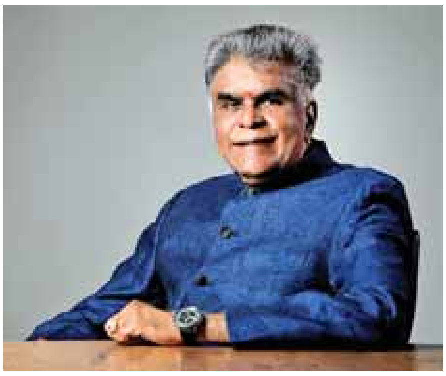
The delegation visited the historic Van Phuc Silk Craft Village in Hanoi and interacted with local weavers and artisans, gaining insights into its integrated model linking weaving, embroidery, design, fashion and market access, with key learnings for developing a sericulture-tourism model in India.

The delegation toured modern facilities, including automatic reeling units and mulberry farms, and also participated in major international exhibitions - Vietnam International Value Chain Exhibition 2026 (VIVC 2026) and the Vietnam Glorious Spring Fair 2026 (VGSF 2026) at the Vietnam Exhibition Center, where the Central Silk Board stall showcasing Indian silk products attracted strong interest, highlighting growing global opportunities for Indian silk. They further visited traditional silk outlets in Ho Chi Minh City, where they examined a diverse range of silk fabrics and heritage fashion products. They interacted with local artisans, explored stitching techniques and innovative design practices, highlighted opportunities for product diversification and strengthened prospects for collaboration between India and Vietnam in the textiles and handicrafts sector.

The visit has strengthened pathways for joint research and development, technology transfer, business-to-business partnerships and enhanced global market linkages between India and Vietnam in the silk and textile sectors

Dr. A. Sakthivel takes charge as Chairman of AEPC

Padmashri Dr. A. Sakthivel, one of India's most respected industry leaders and a pioneer of the apparel export movement, has assumed charge as the Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) for the fifth term in January 2026, marking a historic moment in his journey. He has been a board member of AEPC for the last 43 years. Through hard work, dedication and innovative trade practices he has sown the seed and nurtured Poppys Knitwear Pvt Ltd. to be one of the leading knitwear exporters of India.



Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, wished the incoming Chairman Dr A Sakthivel and said Dr Sakthivel brings a lot of joy to every exporter through his warmth and affection. Speaking on the occasion of Dr Sakthivel taking over as Chairman AEPC, Shri Kansal said, "One world which defines the textiles industry is resilience. The government is cognizant of the difficulties of the industry and is ready to continue its support for boosting textiles exports." The past Chairman Shri Sudhir Sekhri and other prominent members of the industry, representatives of buying houses and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Sakthivel's leadership has left an indelible mark on India's apparel export ecosystem. His vision and relentless efforts have been instrumental in transforming Tiruppur into a global knitwear hub, with exports from the region growing from a modest Rs.5 crore in 1984 to an extraordinary Rs.45,000 crore in 2024–25. During his previous tenure he emphasized the production of Man-Made Fibre (MMF) garment and medical textiles which led to the introduction of MMF in the PLI Scheme.

In 2009, the Government of India honored him with 'Padma Shri' for his exceptional service in the export sector. Dr Sakthivel has also received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from the Bharathiar University in 2011. Well recognized for his consensus-building approach, Dr. Sakthivel has consistently championed the causes of competitiveness, employment generation, MSME empowerment, and sustainable growth. His leadership has been pivotal in aligning the industry with global best practices while ensuring that Indian exporters remain resilient and future-ready.

On taking charge for his fifth term, Dr. Sakthivel reiterated his commitment to working closely with the Government of India, state governments, and industry stakeholders to expand market access, leverage India's growing network of FTAs, address emerging challenges such as sustainability compliance, and enhance India's share in global apparel trade.

Dr. Sakthivel's journey stands as a testament to his visionary leadership, collective effort, and the power of entrepreneurship in shaping India's export success story-truly leaving an indelible mark on history.

Highlighting the immediate priority Dr. Sakthivel said, "It is to mitigate the adverse impact of the recent US tariff measures on Indian apparel exporters and the millions of workers dependent on the sector." He thanked the government for recent support measures to the export sector in general and labor-intensive sectors like apparel in particular." He reiterated that AEPC will continue to focus on export growth, market diversification and addressing emerging global trade challenges

NIFT marks 40 years with International Conference on 'Design for Inclusive Futures'

To mark the celebrations of 40th Foundation Day, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) will host the NIFT International Conference 2026, titled "Design for Inclusive Futures", on 22 and 23 January 2026 at its Mumbai campus. Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, and Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Smt Neelam Shami Rao, will grace the occasion as chief guests and will also unveil the NIFT Timeline Wall and release the NIFT commemorative book highlighting key milestones achieved over the last 40 years.

Marking four decades of the National Institute of Fashion Technology's contribution to fashion education, design innovation and industry engagement in the country, the two-day event will feature keynote addresses by eminent thought leaders, parallel paper presentation sessions, panel discussions, invited papers, hands-on workshops, a crafts bazaar, and student and industry exhibitions. A special highlight on the evening of 22 January 2026 will be "Samvaad", an interactive breakout session with NIFT alumni and industry representatives, including a masterclass on VisionNxt, NIFT's AI- and EI-enabled Fashion Forecasting Lab.

A specially curated crafts bazaar will give conference delegates an opportunity to witness live demonstrations of craft-making and to buy handicrafts and handlooms directly from the artisans. An exhibition by University of the Arts London (UAL) on three India-based projects, mentored by NIFT faculty under the theme "New Landscapes" in collaboration with the British Council, will also be showcased. Presenters will represent leading institutions, including Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design (New Zealand), Swiss Textile College, NSUT Delhi, NID, CEPT University, Amity University, IIAD, United World University and NIFT, among others.

Established in 1986, NIFT is India's premier institution for fashion education and was accorded statutory status in 2006 through an Act of the Indian Parliament. Over the years, NIFT has played a significant role in building professional leadership for the textile, apparel, and allied industries, while also functioning as a knowledge partner to central and state governments. The institute has consistently contributed to design development initiatives, sustainability, and the positioning of handlooms and handicrafts

India–Europe Free Trade Agreement: A defining opportunity for the future of fashion manufacturing

With the current on-going structural resetting of the global supply chain, the recently announced India-European Union Free Trade Agreement comes across as more than a trade negotiation. It is in fact a strategic opportunity to redefine how fashion is sourced, produced, and scaled. For the apparel and textile ecosystem, this agreement is likely to become a cornerstone in building a more resilient, transparent, and future-ready manufacturing network between two of the world's most influential markets.

Europe remains one of the largest consumption hubs for fashion globally, while India has evolved into a full-stack manufacturing powerhouse-spanning raw materials, design capabilities, skilled labor, and increasingly, digital infrastructure. Amidst this, the India–EU FTA has the potential to unlock this natural complementarity at an unprecedented scale.

Reducing Friction, Unlocking Competitiveness

At the heart of the FTA lies a simple but powerful outcome: reduced trade friction. Currently, tariffs on apparel and textile exports to the EU range from moderate to high, directly impacting cost competitiveness for Indian manufacturers. Therefore the gradual elimination of these duties will significantly improve price parity for Indian suppliers, allowing European brands to diversify sourcing without compromising on margins.

For the fashion brands in Europe, especially mid-sized and emerging labels, this pact will allow access to a broader supplier base with a combination of cost efficiency, speed, flexibility, and scale. On the other hand, the agreement offers a level playing field against other exporting nations and a pathway for the Indian manufacturers, thereby paving a way for them to move up the value chain.

The India–EU FTA promises wide-ranging tariff liberalization across goods and services, which is especially significant for the fashion sector: Providing multi-fold benefits, the deal will liberalize duties on more than 96 % of EU goods exported to India and approximately 99 % of Indian goods entering the EU. Beyond just trading goods, the agreement also offers opportunities for services, investment, and digital trade, sectors where India has high competitive strengths.

Strategic Impact for Fashion Supply Chains

Over the years, India has emerged as a vital production base for global fashion. Its strengths - vast skilled labor, manufacturing versatility ranging from cotton to high-tech performance textiles, and evolving compliance standards thereby strengthening India's position in the global supply chain networks. The India–EU FTA further boosts this potential in several ways including competitive cost advantage, broadened product reach and simplified trade logistics.

Opportunities and Challenges

For fashion enterprises, the FTA opens avenues to rethink sourcing, manufacturing strategies, and market positioning. For the Indian manufacturers, their exports are anticipated to grow by up to 50% in the next five years accompanied by free trade access to key markets. The benefits are both ways, the European labels will get advantage from diversified supply sources and shorter, more transparent supply chains.

However, the pact also comes with certain challenges at the implementation stage and compliance issues.

The Bottleneck

The India–EU FTA marks a pivotal shift in the post-pandemic global economy. For the fashion industry, a sector that is both labor-intensive and globally atomized, this trade deal offers a platform for deeper integration, innovation, and growth.

By lowering barriers and fostering closer economic ties, the agreement sets the stage for more dynamic, efficient, and resilient fashion supply chains. For Indian manufacturers, it reinforces the country's role as a core production hub. For European brands, it provides enhanced access to talented manufacturers and rising consumer markets.

As this agreement moves toward implementation, stakeholders across the fashion ecosystem from MSMEs to major brands should prepare to seize the opportunities it presents and navigate the challenges with agility and foresight ▫

(By Abhishek Sharma, Co-Founder & CEO at Fashinza)

CITI calls for 5-year RoSCTL scheme extension to protect apparel, made-ups exports & jobs

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has urged the government to extend the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme beyond its current expiry date of March 31, 2026. CITI sought a minimum 5-year extension of the scheme to provide stability to apparel and made-ups exporters and protect employment in the sector.

CITI Chairman Ashwin Chandran said, “CITI believes that a predictable policy framework is critical for enabling companies in the apparel and made-ups sectors to plan investments, remain competitive in global markets, and prevent job losses, besides reinforcing India’s position as a reliable global sourcing destination at a time when the textile and apparel sector continues to be buffeted by global headwinds.”

Request for Rate Revision and Wider Coverage

CITI has also asked for a revision of RoSCTL rates to account for sustained cost inflation and certain embedded taxes that remain unreimbursed, including stamp duties, levies on renewable energy equipment, and service-linked charges.

In addition, the industry body has called for the removal or revision of rebate caps, citing currency depreciation as a factor limiting real benefits. It has also sought an expansion of the scheme’s coverage to Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Export Oriented Units (EOUs), advance authorisation holders, and e-commerce exports.

To improve fund realisation, particularly for MSME exporters, CITI has proposed the introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) or wider use of scrips.

Role of the Scheme

The RoSCTL scheme aims to offset State and Central taxes and levies on exports of apparel, garments, and made-ups, in addition to the Duty Drawback scheme. CITI stressed that RoSCTL is a tax-neutrality mechanism rather than a subsidy, aligned with the global principle of zero-rating exports.

Industry Concerns

According to industry estimates, export volumes could have fallen by 25-50 per cent during recent global downturns without the RoSCTL scheme. Over the past five years, while input costs rose by 3-4 per cent annually, export prices remained largely unchanged, with the scheme helping bridge the cost gap. CITI said the scheme has helped safeguard over eight lakh jobs during this period, making it a significant employment-protection measure

Historic and landmark India–EU FTA Pact SIMA hails Hon'ble Prime Minister's visionary leadership

India has successfully concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, the world's second-largest economy, while India stands as the fourth largest. This landmark, win-win trade agreement is poised to benefit India and all 27 EU member countries by catalysing economic growth and strengthening trade, safety, and strategic security ties.

Durai Palanisamy
Chairman,
The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA)

Negotiations that commenced in 2007 had remained stalled for several years due to various issues. However, the concerted and sustained efforts of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal ji, under the visionary leadership and guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, have expedited the process and brought it to a successful conclusion. The timing of this achievement, coinciding with the 77th Republic Day of the nation, lends it added significance and symbolism, offering a renewed lease of life to India–EU economic relations.

Against the backdrop of unprecedented global trade disruptions and the imposition of abnormal and non-uniform tariffs by the United States, the India–EU FTA assumes greater relevance. The agreement is expected to enhance competitiveness, deepen supply-chain resilience and enable both India and the European Union to strengthen their economies amid an increasingly uncertain global trade environment.

In a press release issued here today, Mr. Durai Palanisamy, Chairman, The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), has highly appreciated and complimented the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal ji, for this landmark achievement between India and the European Union.

He stated that the India–EU Free Trade Agreement would provide a significant boost to the Indian textile and clothing industry, with the ready-made garments, home textiles, technical textiles, and fabrics segments emerging as the major beneficiaries.

Mr. Durai further stated that India's annual exports of textiles and clothing to the European Union are valued at around USD 8 billion, accounting for nearly 6 per cent of the EU's total textile and apparel imports. He noted that the conclusion of the India–EU FTA would enable India to effectively compete with key supplier countries such as Bangladesh, Turkey, and Vietnam, which currently command shares of about 21 per cent, 10 per cent, and 5 per cent respectively. He added that the agreement would also strengthen India's ability to compete with China, which remains the largest supplier to the EU with a share of around 29 per cent.

SIMA Chairman has stated that Hon'ble Prime Minister has been giving major thrust for addressing the structural issues and strengthening global competitiveness. Removal of Anit-Dumping Duty and Quality Control Orders on Man-made fibers, Raw Materials, reduction of GST from 18% to 5% on Man-made Fibers and 12% to 5% on Man-made Filaments, slotting entire textile value chain under the lowest slab of 5%, adequately refunding duties by way of Duty Drawback, RoDTEP, interest subvention, need based financial relief measures to tide over the crisis, conclusion of FTA's with several countries in record time including EU are some of the proactive initiatives taken by the Government, says Mr. Durai.

SIMA Chairman has stated that Tamil Nadu accounts 29% of the Indian textile export to EU country to the tune of 2.3 bn USD and the State would be the major beneficiary of India-EU pact. He added that the India–EU and India–UK Free Trade Agreements would create significant opportunities to double exports from major textile clusters such as Tiruppur and Karur, which predominantly supply knitted garments and kitchen linen to several leading global brands based in the European Union and the United Kingdom.

He has pointed out that the deal would also benefit the country to get know- how on Value Addition, product development, Technology innovation etc., and strengthen the global competitiveness. Mr. Durai has stated that except spinning machinery majority of the state-of-the-art technology weaving machines, processing machines, technical textile manufacturing machines, critical textile spares and accessories being imported from EU would also gain advantage and improve the competitiveness. He has said that Indian Textile & Clothing industry is currently importing around 2.62-3 bn USD worth textile machineries from EU countries.

SIMA Chairman appealed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal ji, to continue the dialogue and ensure the expeditious implementation of the Free Trade Agreements, including with the United Kingdom, within a timeframe of six to eight months. He emphasised that timely implementation is critical to reviving the textile and clothing industry, which has been passing through a prolonged period of severe recession, resulting in under-utilisation of production capacity to the extent of 20–25 per cent. He added that early operationalisation of the FTAs would help restore capacity utilisation and generate employment for several million people across the textile value chain.

Mr. Durai has stated that India-EU FTA would be the game changer and driver for the textile industry to achieve the vision of increasing the textile business size from USD 172 bn to USD 250 bn and exports from 37 bn USD to 100 bn USD by 2030, increase new investment to the tune of 100 bn USD and create new jobs for 20 million people especially the rural masses and women folks across the nation

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Union Budget 2026–27
Strengthening India's Textile Value Chain

- The Union Budget 2026-27 places Textiles at the centre of growth strategy with focus on employment, exports, rural livelihoods and sustainable manufacturing.
- Push for scale and modern manufacturing through mega textile parks and support for MMF and technical textiles.
- MSMEs and artisans supported through liquidity measures, cluster modernisation and skilling initiatives.
- Policy direction emphasises scale, sustainability and competitiveness to strengthen India's position in global textile value chains.

Textiles take centre stage in Union Budget 2026-27

India's textile sector is one of the nation's oldest and most diverse industries, deeply rooted in centuries-old traditions. The Union Budget 2026–27 places the textile sector at the heart of India's growth, underlining its strategic importance to the economy. By prioritising this labour-intensive industry, the Budget acknowledges textiles as a key driver of job creation, export growth, rural livelihoods and sustainable manufacturing.

Notably, the Indian textile sector possesses significant intrinsic strengths- the country is the world's largest cultivator of cotton by acreage, the largest producer of jute, the second-largest producer of silk and cotton, second major global hub in the man-made fibres (MMF) segment and the second-largest producer of polyester and viscose fibres.

Weaving growth: How Budget 2026–27 boosts India's textile sector

In the Union Budget 2026-27, a comprehensive and integrated policy framework has been declared to bolster the entire textile value chain- from fibre to fashion, from village industries to global markets.

With the objective of boosting competitiveness, fostering self-reliance and creating jobs, the Government has proposed an Integrated Programme for the textile sector, structured around five sub-components:

- **National Fibre Scheme:** This scheme aims to build self-reliance across the fibre spectrum by supporting natural fibres such as silk, wool, and jute, alongside man-made fibres (MMF) and new-age fibres. By strengthening domestic fibre availability and encouraging innovation in advanced textile materials, the scheme seeks to reduce import dependence, promote diversification beyond cotton, and enhance India's capability in high-performance and specialised textiles.
- **Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme:** Focused on modernisation of traditional textile clusters, this component provides capital support for machinery, technology upgradation, and the establishment of common testing and certification centres. The scheme is expected to enhance productivity, improve quality compliance and enable large-scale employment generation.
- **National Handloom and Handicraft Programme:** Existing schemes for handloom and handicrafts will be integrated and strengthened under a unified national programme. The objective is to provide targeted and effective support to weavers and artisans, improve incomes, ensure market linkages, and preserve India's rich textile heritage. Additionally, the Government is providing financial assistance for the promotion of natural and vegetable dyes and for the establishment of dye houses, through two components viz. the Mega Cluster Development Programme and Need-based Special Infrastructural Projects.
- **Tex-Eco Initiative:** The Tex-Eco Initiative promotes globally competitive and environmentally sustainable textiles and apparel (T&A) manufacturing. It aligns domestic production with international sustainability standards, and supports access to emerging green markets.
- **Samarth 2.0:** An upgraded skilling programme, Samarth 2.0 aims to modernise the textile skill ecosystem through deeper collaboration with industry and academic institutions. It seeks to ensure the availability of industry-ready skilled manpower across the value chain.

Mega Textile Parks and Technical Textiles

The Government has announced the setting up of Mega Textile Parks in challenge mode, with a focus on providing integrated infrastructure, enabling scale efficiencies, and promoting value addition across the textile value chain. These parks are also expected to support the growth of technical textiles, a high-potential segment with applications in industrial, medical, defence, and infrastructure sectors.

Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative

The Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative focuses on strengthening khadi, handloom, and handicrafts. The initiative emphasises global market linkage, branding, streamlined training, skilling, quality improvement, and process modernisation. It aims to benefit weavers, village industries, and rural youth, while supporting One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.

Export promotion measures for textiles and allied sectors

To support exports of textiles and allied sectors, the Budget has announced the extension of the export obligation period from six months to twelve months for exporters of textile garments, leather garments, leather or synthetic footwear, and other leather products manufactured using duty-free imported inputs. This measure is intended to provide greater operational flexibility, ease of compliance, and improved working capital management for exporters.

What is TReDS?

TReDS is an electronic platform that enables financing and discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs via multiple financiers. The receivables can be due from corporates, other buyers, including Government Departments, PSUs.

Liquidity support for textile MSMEs through TReDS

To strengthen liquidity access for textile MSMEs, the Government has announced measures to enhance the effectiveness of the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), through which over Rs.7 lakh crore has already been facilitated.

Key measures include:

- Mandatory use of TReDS by CPSEs for procurement from MSMEs
- Credit guarantee support through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for invoice discounting on TReDS
- Linking the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) with TReDS to enable faster and lower-cost financing of government procurement receivables
- Introduction of TReDS receivables as asset-backed securities to support secondary market participation and improve liquidity

SME growth fund and champion SMEs

A dedicated Rs.10,000 crore SME Growth Fund has been introduced to support the creation of future “Champion SMEs.” The fund is poised to incentivise enterprises based on select criteria.

Textile Sector driving growth, exports and employment in India

With an estimated size of USD 179 billion, the Indian T&A industry contributes 2% to the country’s GDP, accounts for 11% of

manufacturing gross value added (GVA), and 8.63% to exports, underscoring its critical role in India’s economic architecture.

Exports maintain growth momentum

On the export front, India is the 6th largest global exporter of T&A, with a share of 4% in world exports in this segment. India’s export of T&A (including Handicrafts) increased to USD 37.75 billion in FY25, up from USD 35.87 billion in FY24, despite subdued global trade environment, reflecting the sector’s adaptability, diversified market presence, and strength across value-added and labour-intensive segments.

- In December 2025, export growth was broad-based across key segments, led by Handicrafts (7.2%), Ready-Made Garments (2.89%), and MMF yarn, fabrics and made-ups (3.99%).
- These trends reinforce India’s competitive advantage across value-added manufacturing, traditional crafts and employment-intensive segments, amid fluctuating global demand.
- During January–November 2025, India’s textile sector recorded export growth across 118 countries and export destinations!
- 2025 was a year of significant market diversification across both emerging and traditional markets including the UAE, Egypt, Poland, Sudan, Japan, Nigeria, Argentina, Cameroon and Uganda. Growth remained steady in key European markets such as Spain, France, the Netherlands, Germany and the UK.

Employment generation

The textile sector is the second-largest employment generator in India, after agriculture. As per the Economic Survey 2026-27, textiles industry has a 9% share in employment across 8 major industry groups. The 2025 estimates show that the sector provides direct employment to 45 million+ people, including women and rural communities.

Growth drivers of India’s textile sector

Over the years, India has developed the capacity to cater to a broad spectrum of demand- from affordable mass-market apparel to niche, high-value segments- across both domestic and international markets. To sustain this competitiveness and further attract investment, the Government has been actively supporting the sector through a range of targeted initiatives.

PM MITRA Scheme's significant progress in 2025

- The Government approved setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/ Brownfield sites with an outlay of Rs.4445 crore for a period of 7 years up to 2027-28.
- Investment MoUs with expected investment potential of Rs.27,434 crore+ have been signed.
- Infrastructure works worth Rs.2590.99 crore have been started by all 7 State Governments.
- The scheme is expected to generate employment of 3 lakhs (1 lakh direct and 2 lakh in-direct) with an estimated investment of Rs.10,000 crore per park.

PLI Scheme for textiles

The Production Linked Scheme (PLI) for Textiles, operational up to FY 2029-30 aims to promote production of MMF Apparel & Fabrics and products of Technical Textiles. It aims to help the industry achieve size and scale, become competitive, create employment opportunities and support creation of a viable enterprise and competitive industry.

Cotton Sector Reforms

- The cotton sector supports 6 million farmers and 40–50 million people across value chains.
- To enhance transparency, the Kapas Kisan mobile app was launched, enabling farmer self-registration and slot booking.
- The 'Kasturi Cotton Bharat' Programme was launched, to enhance the global market acceptance of Indian cotton.
- Additionally, the Quality Control Order (QCO) 2023 for cotton bales has been deferred till August 2026.

Initiative to Promote Sustainability and Circularity

A tripartite MoU was signed between Textiles Committee, GeM and Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), Circle Back campaign, National Handloom Development Programme, National Textile Sustainability Council to promote and mainstream the public procurement of upcycled products.

Labour Reforms

The implementation of the new Labour Codes carries significant implications for the textile industry. By establishing a unified framework covering wages, employment conditions, workplace safety, social security and dispute resolution, the Codes streamline compliance while reinforcing worker welfare.

Goods & Service Tax 2.0 (GST)

2025's Next-Gen GST rationalisation in textiles resulted in lower prices for consumers, relief for manufacturers and boosted exports and employment. The sustained export momentum, broadening market footprint, and robust performance of value-added segments reaffirm India's position as a reliable and resilient global sourcing hub for T&A. With continued emphasis on diversification, competitiveness, and MSME participation, the sector is well-placed to scale up exports and deepen its integration with global value chains in the period ahead.

Textile Sector Outlook

The recent policy push is towards scale and modernisation - integrated textile parks, support for MMF and technical textiles, investment incentives, and easing of raw-material constraints are all aimed at boosting competitiveness and value addition.

At the same time, the Ministry of Textiles has set an ambitious direction for exports, with current textile exports around Rs.3 lakh crore and a Vision 2030 objective of expanding this to about Rs.9 lakh crore through stronger domestic manufacturing and wider global outreach.

Trade developments add another layer to the outlook. A transformational trade deal for India's T&A sector, the India-EU FTA offers zero duty access in textiles and clothing, covering all tariff lines and reduces tariffs by up to 12%. It lowers duties of up to 10.5% in Indian wooden, bamboo, and handcrafted furniture. The Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal recently said the India–EU FTA could significantly expand India's textile and garment exports to the European market by improving duty conditions, particularly benefiting labour-intensive segments.

The Union Budget 2026-27 direction further emphasizes employment generation, inclusive growth, sustainability, and coordinated implementation led by the Ministry of Textiles in partnership with States, industry, MSMEs, artisans, and skilling institutions, reinforcing India's position as a competitive, reliable, and forward-looking global textile and apparel hub.

Conclusion

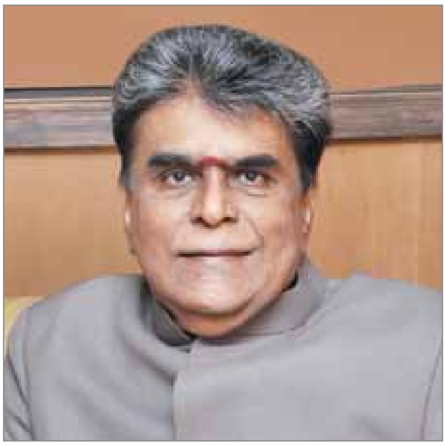
India's textile sector stands at a pivotal moment, supported by strong production fundamentals, rising exports and sustained policy backing. The Union Budget 2026–27 reinforces this trajectory by strengthening the entire value chain, from fibre and manufacturing to skills, sustainability and market access.

Together with expanding trade partnerships and a clear push towards scale, technology and value addition, these measures position the sector to deepen its global integration while continuing to generate employment and support livelihoods across the country ◘

Source: Ministry of Textiles

Textile industry welcomes growth oriented Union Budget 2026-27

India's textile sector is one of the nation's oldest and most diverse industries, deeply rooted in centuries-old traditions. The Union Budget 2026–27 places the textile sector at the heart of India's growth, underlining its strategic importance to the economy. By prioritising this labour-intensive industry, the Budget acknowledges textiles as a key driver of job creation, export growth, rural livelihoods and sustainable manufacturing.



Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman
Apparel Export Promotion Council

The Budget is forward-looking, growth-oriented and balanced, reflecting the Government's strong commitment to building a competitive, resilient and globally integrated textile and apparel sector. This budget provides a roadmap for strengthening India's textile and apparel ecosystem, with a strong focus on self-reliance, sustainability, employment generation and global competitiveness. AEPC welcomes the government's clear commitment to positioning India as a resilient and future-ready textile powerhouse, he added.

The Budget 2026–27 provides a significant boost to SMEs and MSMEs, which form the backbone of India's apparel and textile exports. The emphasis on providing liquidity, ease of exports, particularly through customs-related reforms and simplified documentation procedures, will reduce transaction costs, enhance efficiency, and improve the overall ease of doing business for exporters, Dr. Sakthivel stated.

Further Chairman said, the strengthening of Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), with mandatory onboarding of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), credit guarantee support through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), linkage with Government e Marketplace (GeM), and introduction of TReDS receivables as asset-backed securities, will greatly enhance liquidity, access to affordable finance and cash-flow stability for MSMEs.

AEPC also welcomes the proposal to set up Mega Textile Parks in challenge mode, with a focus on value addition in technical textiles, which will attract investment, boost scale, and strengthen India's presence in high-growth segments. Also, the Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme to modernise traditional clusters through capital support for machinery, technology upgradation, and common testing and certification centres will greatly enhance productivity, quality and employment opportunities, particularly in MSME-dominated clusters.

The announcement of the National Fibre Scheme is a significant step towards self-reliance across natural fibres such as silk, wool and jute, man-made fibres and new-age fibres. This integrated approach will help India build a robust raw material base and reduce import dependence while supporting innovation. The launch of the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative will further energise khadi, handloom, and handicrafts, promoting inclusive growth and rural livelihoods.

The launch of Samarth 2.0 to modernise and upgrade the textile skilling ecosystem through collaboration with industry and academic institutions will help bridge skill gaps and promote employment especially for youth and women.

The Tex-Eco Initiative is a timely and much-needed intervention to promote globally competitive and sustainable textiles and apparel. This will further reinforce India's image as a trusted supplier of environmentally responsible fashion in international markets.

Trade facilitation measures such as recognition of trusted importers, reduced cargo verification, and factory-to-port clearance using electronic sealing will significantly reduce logistics costs and improve ease of doing business.

The Chairman AEPC welcomed the National Handloom and Handicrafts Programme, which seeks to integrate and scale up existing schemes. Dr. Sakthivel overall expressed confidence that the Union Budget 2026–27 will accelerate export growth, strengthen domestic manufacturing, promote sustainability, and support India's journey towards becoming a global textile and apparel powerhouse, in line with the vision of a Viksit Bharat

Ashwin Chandran, Chairman
The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) warmly welcomes the Union Budget for the financial year 2026–27 presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, for the decisive boost it can provide to the pivotal textile and apparel sector in raising its global competitiveness, increasing exports, and safeguarding employment.

Commenting on the Budget, CITI Chairman Shri Ashwin Chandran said, the Budget is a strong manifestation of the Government's commitment to future-proof the textile and apparel sector, make it more resilient to global headwinds, and comes as a huge shot in the arm for the industry.

We convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Finance Minister, the Textiles Minister and all senior officials for announcing measures that will help the textile and apparel industry attain greater heights, emerge in a stronger position to contribute to the Viksit Bharat (developed India) mission, and create more and better-quality jobs.

The CITI Chairman said the launch of the National Fibre Mission, announcements about the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative, Tex-Eco Initiative, establishment of mega textile parks in challenge mode, textile expansion and employment to modernise traditional clusters, National Handloom and Handicrafts Programme, and the SAMARTH 2.0 skill development scheme will help local manufacturers become more efficient, innovative and sustainable, and expand their presence in global markets.

Referring to the three Kartavya that inspired the Budget, Shri Chandran observed, The first Kartavya focuses on improving cost competitiveness. While we are studying the proposal, no direct announcement for the removal of import duty was made towards improving the cost competitiveness of Indian cotton-based products, which accounts for about 60% of India's total textile and apparel market.

The CITI Chairman welcomed the Government's emphasis on nurturing champion MSMEs and supporting micro enterprises, noting that the textile and apparel sector is predominantly MSME-driven. However, he pointed out that the industry has consistently sought a dedicated investment incentivisation scheme, particularly to support MSMEs in transitioning towards sustainable production models, which will also help in leveraging the upcoming India-EU FTA. While the details of the Tex-Eco initiative are awaited, the absence of a direct investment support mechanism is felt.

The proposal to extend the time period for export of final product from the existing 6 months to one year for exporters of textile garments, enhanced focus on improving logistics through freight corridors, the decision to establish a High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat, and simplification of export-import procedures are also particularly welcome.

On its part, CITI reiterates its commitment to work closely with the Government to ensure effective implementation of the announced measures, keeping in mind the national aim of creating a $350 billion textile and apparel industry by 2030, including achieving exports worth $100 billion by that period, Shri Chandran said.

India's textile and apparel industry is the second-biggest generator of jobs and livelihoods in the country. It is also a significant contributor to the GDP and the nation's overall exports.

The textile and apparel sector has been adversely affected by the 50% US tariff on Indian goods, effective August 27, 2025, which has put exports worth billions of dollars and millions of jobs at risk. The US is the single-largest market for India's textile and apparel exports. At nearly $11 billion, India's exports of textile and apparel items to the US accounted for close to 28% of the country's total exports of these products in the financial year 2024-25

Durai Palanisamy, Chairman
Southern India Mills' Association

The government has given importance for the growth of the textile industry by announcing National Fibre Scheme that focuses on strengthening the availability of raw materials, including man-made fibres and new age fibres.

The government has already allocated Rs. 5,900 crore under "Mission for Cotton Productivity" that covers new age fibres. Man-made fibres being the growth engine and there being a huge potential to increase the market shares in all the FTA signed countries, the scheme would provide opportunities to capture new markets.

I am of the view that the announcement of Capital Support Scheme for Modernisation would enable the industry to upgrade the technology. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, the flagship programme of the government, had attracted new investments of around Rs 4 lakh crore and now the investments had dwindled down as the TUF scheme was discontinued since April 1, 2022. I believe that given the high capital costs and the capital-intensive nature of India's textile industry, the dedicated capital support scheme would enable the sector to attract the envisaged investment of $100 billion by 2030.

Moreover, coastal cargo scheme, allocation of Rs 10,000 crore for manufacturing, announcement of high-speed rail corridors, scheme for emerging technologies and AI would also help the textile industry to enhance its global competitiveness

Santosh Katariya, President
The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) has welcomed the Union Budget 2025-26, noting its potential to positively impact the textile industry. While no specific schemes have been introduced for the sector, there are several key benefits that could support both production and consumption growth.

On the production side, measures aimed at MSMEs, particularly the Micro sector, are expected to provide a significant boost. Although detailed guidelines are awaited, the increase in various upper limits is a promising step. The launch of the Cotton Mission marks a major milestone for the industry, while initiatives to enhance export competitiveness, strengthen domestic manufacturing capacities, and improve ease of doing business are expected to drive growth. Additionally, the lowering of Basic Customs Duty on certain textile machinery will provide further impetus to the sector.

On the consumption front, the lowering of income tax across various levels is likely to increase disposable income, leading to greater consumer spending. Furthermore, revised TDS and TCS limits are expected to stimulate consumption, benefitting the textile and apparel industry.

Overall, CMAI views the Budget as a positive step for the industry, provided that its benefits are not counteracted by a rise in GST rates, particularly in the textile and apparel sector. With a strong focus on manufacturing and consumption, the Budget 2025-26 sets a promising direction for the future of India's textile industry

Ronak Chiripal, Promoter
Chiripal Group

The Union Budget 2026 provides a clear policy roadmap for the labour-intensive textile sector, with a welcome focus on fibre self-reliance, cluster modernisation and sustainability. The proposed integrated programme that covers natural and man-made fibres, technology upgradation in traditional clusters, targeted support for handlooms and handicrafts, and the Tex-Eco initiative; addresses long-standing structural gaps and also aids in improving India's export competitiveness.

The emphasis on building 'Champion SMEs' through dedicated equity and liquidity support is equally significant for textiles, where MSMEs drive employment and value addition. Measures such as the Rs 10,000-crore SME Growth Fund, additional risk capital for micro enterprises, and expanded use of TReDS for faster invoice settlement should ease working capital pressures. The proposed 'Corporate Mitras' framework can further help smaller units manage compliance efficiently, particularly in Tier-II and Tier-III textile clusters. Long-term growth in competitiveness will further aid a stability to apparel and textile prices for end-consumers as well

Madhu Sudhan Bhageria
Chairman and MD, Filatex India Ltd.

We see the Union Budget 2026-27 as a comprehensive and forward-looking framework for strengthening India's textile ecosystem, particularly through its integrated approach to fibers, manufacturing, skilling and sustainability. The proposed National Fibre Scheme, with its focus on man-made fibres alongside natural and new-age fibres, is a timely recognition of how the global textile industry is evolving and of India's growing role within it.

We believe initiatives such as the Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme and SAMARTH 2.0 can play a meaningful role in modernising clusters, upgrading technology and building a skilled workforce aligned with industry requirements. For manufacturers, this emphasis on capital support, testing infrastructure and skilling is critical to improving productivity, quality and global competitiveness.

For a company like Filatex India Ltd., which operates at the upstream end of the man-made fibre value chain, these measures support a more robust downstream ecosystem, improve demand visibility and encourage long-term investments in capacity, quality and value-added products. The emphasis on the Text-ECON initiative further reinforces the industry's shift towards sustainable and globally competitive textiles, a direction that is closely aligned with Filatex's ongoing focus on circular recycling, responsible manufacturing and traceability through its Ecosis sustainability platform.

Overall, we believe the Budget lays a strong foundation for a more resilient, globally competitive and sustainable textile industry, encouraging capability building and investment across the value chain

Sanjay Jain, Group CEO
PDS Limited

We welcome the integrated vision for the Indian textile and apparel sector outlined in the Union Budget 2026. As a sector that provides direct employment to over 45 million people and supports nearly 100 million livelihoods indirectly through allied industries and MSME clusters, these measures are both timely and impactful. The continued thrust on public capex, creation of champion MSMEs, and targeted support for labour-intensive sectors like textiles will significantly strengthen India's global competitiveness.

The launch of SAMARTH 2.0 is a positive step towards modernising the skilling ecosystem through deeper collaboration between industry and academic institutions, while enhancing productivity across export-oriented clusters. At PDS, we are deeply committed to building a learning-driven culture through a structured three-tier learning and development framework. Our approach is anchored in the globally recognised 70-20-10 learning model, where the majority of learning takes place on the job, supported by peer and mentor interactions and formal training programmes.

Further, the Text-ECON initiative sends a strong signal of India's ambition to emerge as a global hub for sustainable and value-added textiles. The renewed focus on PM MITRA mega textile parks, along with targeted capital support and infrastructure upgrades for traditional clusters, is expected to drive higher investments and accelerate sectoral growth. These measures will also strengthen domestic manufacturing by reducing import dependence and promoting the production of man-made fibre (MMF) apparel and technical textiles.

We believe these initiatives will also help boost exports and reduce logistics costs, further enhancing the competitiveness of Indian textiles in global markets. This Budget reinforces confidence in India's journey towards becoming a globally integrated, high-quality manufacturing hub under the vision of Viksit Bharat

Vinod Kumar Gupta, MD
Dollar Industries Ltd.

We warmly welcome Union Budget 2026's decisive push for manufacturing, particularly the Rs.10,000 crore credit boost for MSMEs, also for introducing the National Fibre Scheme, a transformative step towards achieving self-reliance in both natural and man-made fibres. This initiative directly boosts domestic supply and competitiveness for the hosiery sector, addressing our core raw material needs. It lays a strong foundation for sustainable growth and robust employment generation in our labour-intensive industry

Gautam Shahi, Director
Crisil Ratings

India's tariff-impacted textile sector and its entire value chain have received support from an array of schemes announced in Union budget 2026. The proposed establishment of textile megaparks, coupled with initiatives such as the National Fibre Scheme, Textile Expansion Employment Scheme, Tex Echo Initiative, Samarth 2.0, and the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative should enhance its long-term global competitiveness. This, complemented by free trade agreements, will expand market access for domestic textile makers

Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO
Retailers Association of India

Union Budget 2026–27 is not designed to stimulate consumption in the short term. Instead, it focuses on shaping the operating environment for retail through fiscal consolidation, infrastructure investment, MSME enablement, skilling, and regional growth. For the retail sector, its impact will be gradual and uneven, driven more by improvements in supply chains, workforce readiness, and rural and non-metro demand than by direct policy support

Rajeev Gupta, Joint Managing Director
RSWM Limited

The Union Budget 2026–27 presents a decisive and reform-led roadmap for the textile sector, firmly positioning it within India's strategy to scale manufacturing, reduce import dependencies and generate employment. The announcement of an Integrated Programme for Textiles, with clearly defined sub-parts, reflects a holistic policy approach that addresses the entire value chain, from fibre security to skilling, sustainability and global competitiveness.

The National Fibre Scheme is particularly significant in strengthening self-reliance across natural, man-made and new-age fibres, while mitigating supply-chain vulnerabilities amid global disruptions. Complementing this, the Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme will accelerate modernisation of traditional clusters through technology upgradation, testing and certification infrastructure, directly enhancing productivity, quality and formal employment, especially in MSME-led regions.

The consolidation of handloom and handicraft interventions, along with the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative, reinforces inclusive growth by strengthening artisans, weavers and rural enterprises through market access, branding and skilling. The continued focus on Samarth 2.0, Tex-Eco and mega textile parks, particularly with an emphasis on technical textiles, signals strong intent to future-proof the sector. With effective implementation, these measures can significantly strengthen India's position as a globally competitive, sustainable and resilient textile manufacturing hub

Sanjay Gandhi, Group CFO
Pearl Global Industries Limited

The Union Budget 2026 outlines a comprehensive and integrated approach to strengthening India's textile ecosystem, with a clear focus on infrastructure development, capital access, and skill augmentation. Initiatives such as SAMARTH 2.0 signal a renewed push towards industry-aligned skilling, while the emphasis on self-reliance in natural, man-made and new-age fibres is a positive step towards long-term raw material security. The strong focus on building technical textile capabilities is particularly significant as the sector moves up the value chain. From an apparel perspective, greater clarity will emerge once the detailed framework of the Text-ECON initiative is available, especially around its role in driving globally competitive and sustainable manufacturing. Overall, the budget seeks to enhance cost competitiveness across the textile value chain, enabling the industry to better leverage recently announced FTAs with Europe, the UK and other markets, and compete more effectively with manufacturing hubs such as Vietnam and Bangladesh. As always, the actual impact will hinge on timely execution, detailed guidelines, and the pace of on-ground implementation

Abhishek Sharma, CEO & Co-Founder
Fashinza

Union Budget 2026 has marked a decisive shift in India's textile policy, signalling a move from scale-led apparel manufacturing to higher value-added and technology-driven segments. The Finance Minister's proposal to set up mega textile parks with a focused thrust on technical textiles reflects a strategic attempt to address long-standing structural gaps in the sector.

While India has built significant scale in apparel manufacturing over the past decade, its presence in technical textiles ranging from industrial and medical textiles to performance and protective wear-has remained limited. Global demand, however, has increasingly tilted towards synthetics, blended fabrics, and specialised textile applications, making value addition and innovation critical to future competitiveness.

The proposed mega textile parks aim to create integrated manufacturing ecosystems that combine infrastructure, processing, finishing, and ancillary services within unified clusters. Industry experts view this as a necessary intervention to overcome the inefficiencies caused by fragmented production capacities, which have historically impacted turnaround times, quality consistency, and compliance with global sourcing standards.

The Budget sends a positive signal for manufacturing and reinforces the broader Make in India vision. From a textile industry perspective, it acknowledges several structural gaps that have existed for years. While India has achieved scale in apparel manufacturing, technical textiles and higher value-added segments have lagged. The renewed focus on technical textiles, along with targeted support for man-made fibres, is therefore a welcome step.

Support for man-made fibres (MMF) is another notable aspect of the Budget, aligning domestic manufacturing priorities with global consumption trends. MMF-based textiles dominate segments such as performance apparel, industrial applications, and home textiles, where consistency, durability, and functionality are key.

The importance of integrated infrastructure, adding, Large, integrated manufacturing clusters are essential for India to compete globally on speed, quality, and compliance. Historically, fragmented capacity has limited efficiency, and bringing infrastructure, processing, and value addition together can significantly enhance competitiveness.

In parallel, initiatives such as SAMARTH 2.0 underscore the government's intent to align skilling with capacity expansion, addressing labour productivity and workforce readiness. If executed consistently, industry stakeholders believe these measures could help India transition from volume-led growth to a more resilient, value-driven textile ecosystem, strengthening its position in global supply chains

Abhishek Dua, Co-Founder
Showroom B2B

The Budget's integrated approach towards strengthening the labour-intensive textile sector is a positive and much-needed step for India's apparel manufacturing ecosystem. The focus on fibre self-reliance, modernisation of textile clusters, and targeted support for handloom and handicraft segments addresses long-standing structural gaps across the value chain.

Initiatives such as the National Fibre Scheme and capital support for machinery and technology upgrades will help manufacturers improve productivity, quality standards and supply reliability, which are critical for both domestic growth and export competitiveness. The proposal to set up mega textile parks further strengthens the ecosystem by enabling scale, shared infrastructure and compliance readiness.

For apparel manufacturers supplying large-scale value fashion retailers, these measures provide greater confidence to plan capacity, invest in modernisation and generate sustained employment while remaining globally competitive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India’s textile & apparel exports maintain growth momentum amid global headwinds

India’s Textile and Apparel (T&A) exports have demonstrated resilience and steady growth despite a subdued global trade environment, reflecting the sector’s adaptability, diversified market presence, and strength in value-added and labour-intensive segments. The sector recorded positive growth for the second consecutive month, with exports in December 2025 rising by 0.40% over December, 2024 to USD 3.27 billion, following strong growth in November 2025.

During December 2025, export growth was broad-based across key segments, led by Handicrafts (7.2%), Ready-Made Garments (2.89%), and MMF yarn, fabrics and made-ups (3.99%). These trends underline India’s competitive advantage in value-added manufacturing, traditional crafts, and employment-intensive production, even amid volatile global demand conditions.

On a calendar-year basis (January-December 2025), textile and apparel exports remained stable at USD 37.54 billion, with notable cumulative growth in Handicrafts (17.5%), Ready-Made Garments (3.5%), and Jute products (3.5%). Stability at this scale, despite geopolitical tensions and inflationary pressures in key markets, reflects the sector’s structural strength and diversified export basket.

A key highlight of 2025 has been significant market diversification. During January–November 2025, India’s textile sector recorded export growth across 118 countries and export destinations compared to the corresponding period of 2024, reflecting a broad-based improvement in market performance. Strong expansion was observed in both emerging and traditional markets, including the United Arab Emirates (9.5%), Egypt (29.1%), Poland (19.3%), Sudan (182.9%), Japan (14.6%), Nigeria (20.5%), Argentina (77.8%), Cameroon (152.9%), and Uganda (75.7%), along with steady growth in key European markets such as Spain (7.9%), France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

This diversified growth pattern underscores the resilience of India’s textile export sector and the strengthening of India’s global market presence across a wide range of destinations.

This positive export performance is being reinforced by a coherent policy framework focused on enhancing competitiveness, value addition, and market expansion. Overall, the sustained export momentum, widening market footprint, and strong performance of value-added segments reaffirm India’s position as a reliable and resilient global sourcing hub for textiles and apparel. With continued emphasis on diversification, competitiveness, and MSME participation, the sector is well-placed to scale up exports and deepen its integration with global value chains in the period ahead ◘

Exports (Values in US$ mn)						
Particulars	**Dec-24**	**Dec-25**	**% Change**	**Apr-Dec'24**	**Apr-Dec'25**	**% Change**
Cotton Yarn/Fabs./made-ups, Handloom Products etc.	1,050.60	1,008.95	-3.96%	8,918.02	8,619.56	-3.35%
Man-made Yarn/Fabs./made-ups etc.	421.44	438.25	3.99%	3,610.67	3,625.63	0.41%
Jute Mfg. including Floor Covering	37.86	29.64	-21.71%	284.37	274.73	-3.39%
Carpet	134.23	127.04	-5.36%	1,149.52	1,104.44	-3.92%
Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet	154.55	165.68	7.20%	1,319.86	1,322.96	0.23%
Textiles	1,798.68	1,769.56	-1.62%	15,282.44	14,947.32	-2.19%
Apparel	1,461.90	1,504.10	2.89%	11,316.70	11,583.93	2.36%
Textile and Apparel	3,260.58	3,273.66	0.40%	26,599.14	26,531.25	-0.26%
All Commodities	37,804.05	38,509.00	1.86%	3,22,407.55	3,30,289.70	2.44%
% of T&A in Total Exports	8.62%	8.50%		8.25%	8.03%	
Imports (Values in US$ mn)						
Cotton Raw & Waste	142.89	446.44	212.44%	918.69	1656.52	80.31%
Textile yarn fabric, made ups	219.47	213.07	-2.92%	1847.55	1963.72	6.29%

Source: PIB

Rollback of US tariff
A lifeline for Indian Textile Industry – SIMA

The sudden imposition of a 50% punitive US tariff has posed an unprecedented challenge to the Indian textile and clothing industry, which accounts for nearly 29% of total US textile and apparel imports. As the second-largest employment provider after agriculture, supporting over 110 million livelihoods, particularly the rural communities and women, the sector has traditionally depended heavily on the US market and was anticipating the early conclusion of a Bilateral Trade Agreement between the two Nations, which had been progressing on a fast track. The abrupt tariff hike has not only disrupted India's manufacturing value chain but has also adversely impacted US consumers and importers through higher costs and supply uncertainties. Textile and clothing exports to the US, amounting to around USD 11 billion, account for nearly 29% of India's total T&C exports, underscoring the market's critical importance to the sector.

The industry is now poised to achieve a sustained double-digit growth rate in the coming years, aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047. With strong policy support, enhanced market access and continued investments, the textile and clothing sector aims to expand to a domestic market size of USD 1.8 Trillion and achieve export earnings of USD 600 Billion, positioning India as a global leader in the textile value chain.

In a press release issued here today, Mr. Durai Palanisamy, Chairman of SIMA, expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry for successfully concluding two landmark trade deals within a week, in addition to announcing game-changing policy measures for the textile industry in the recent Union Budget 2026–27.

Mr. Durai has stated that exporters predominantly dependent on the US market, particularly those in Tamil Nadu, faced a severe crisis following the tariff hike. Production levels declined by 30–70% across several units, rendering around 10 lakh workers jobless and prompting the Government to announce a relief package to mitigate the unforeseen disruption.

He has further noted that US buyers began shifting their sourcing to competing countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam, posing a serious threat to India's export competitiveness and market share in the US textile and apparel segment.

Mr. Durai has also thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for recommending the industry's concerns to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and for extending full support toward securing an amicable trade deal with the United States.

Mr. Durai has appreciated the unstinted efforts of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles for their proactive engagement in persuading the US President to roll back the punitive tariff. He has further noted that the reduction of the tariff to 18% would significantly enhance the global competitiveness of Indian textile exports and restored confidence across the industry.

SIMA Chairman stated that the 18% tariff is the lowest rate negotiated by any T&C export competing country with the United States, reflecting the Government of India's strong diplomatic and trade efforts. He noted that India has successfully concluded trade agreements with three major global economies and markets (i.e) the US, the UK and Europe, apart from several other countries and is steadily moving towards securing preferential or free market access across most key international markets. These strategic initiatives are expected to trigger a significant surge in demand, strengthen export momentum and place the country on a higher and more sustainable growth trajectory

Stalin's boost to Textile industry, announces 20 percent capital subsidy

In a major boost to the Textile industry which was facing hardships due to US tariff hike, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday announced 20 percent capital subsidy for purchase of modern machinery for weaving and knitting units in the State.

Virtually inaugurating the 2-day first ever International Textile Summit-360 in the Textile city of Coimbatore, he said for this purpose Rs 30 crore funds would be earmarked every year. He said while ensuring inclusive growth with social justice under the ruling DMK's Dravidian Model regime, Tamil Nadu has retained its position as the largest exporter of readymade garments for the lasyt five years in succession.

This accounted for 33 per cent of the country's total textile trade providing direct jobs to 31 lakh workers of whom 60.12 per cent were women. Highlighting the good infrastructure and investor-friendly ecosystem, Mr Stalin said the State government was taking proactive steps to mitigate the impact of the 50 per cent tariff hike imposed by the US, including identifying new export markets.

While urging the Centre to abolish 11 per cent import duty on cotton, Mr Stalin said the textile sector witnessed remarkable growth on par with automobile, IT and footwear sectors, and promised to elevate the Textile sector to global standards.

Exuding confidence that the conference would play a key role in attracting foreign investments amid the ongoing India-EU trade dialogue, the Chief Minister a total of 55 MoUs are to be signed for Rs 915 crore at the summit. During the summit, an integrated Textile policy 2025-26 was also launched.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Minister for Handlooms and Textiles announced that a textile park was coming up in the southern Virudhunagar district which would attract investments to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore.

In his address at the summit organised by the Tamil Nadu government and the CII at the CODISSIA complex, he said the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) at Virudhunagar on 1,053 acres will have common infrastructure developed at Rs 1,894 crore.

In his address, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin said known as the Manchester of South India, Coimbatore truly reflects the innovation, industrial excellence and the entrepreneurial spirit of Tamil Nadu's vibrant textile sector.

Stating that this summit will further reinforce Tamil Nadu's position as the Textile Valley of India, he said "Our greatest strength lies in the comprehensive textile ecosystem - from fiber to fashion, we deliver everything. Our major textile clusters-Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Karur, Salem and Chennai have evolved into globally recognized hubs.

Recently Madurai, Dindigul and Virudhunagar together are emerging as key growth corridors for spinning, weaving, processing, garmenting and value-added textiles". These clusters set benchmarks in quality and innovation, he added.

Observing that Tamil Nadu's contribution to India's textile sector was both immense and consistent, Mr. Udhayanidhi said Tamil

Nadu accounted for 33 percent of India's textile business with 46 per cent of yarn production capacity and 70 per cent of cotton fabric knitting capacity.

More importantly, the textile sector in Tamil Nadu provides livelihoods to over three million people, accounting for nearly 28 percent of India's total textile employment. Notably, 42 per cent of all women working in factories in India are employed in our state from Tamil Nadu which reflects the Chief Minister's commitment to inclusive growth and women empowerment. With various reforms and support from the state Government, Tamil Nadu is not just competing in the global textile market, but was setting new standards for others to follow.

As the Chief Minister leads Tamil Nadu towards the vision of one trillion-dollar economy, the textile sector will remain a very key pillar. By moving up the value chain, adopting new technologies and expanding global reach, our industries will drive this growth very soon, he added.

From Artificial Intelligence-driven business models, smart automation to robotics and next-generation machinery, Tamil Nadu's textile industry is accepting the future with confidence and global ambition.

Assuring that the TN government was fully committed to supporting the textile industry ever, he said in response to the request made by the spinning mills from across the state, the State Government will be making necessary amendments to the six per cent interest subvention scheme guidelines.

This will enable the extension of benefits to pre-spinning and post-spinning machinery used in spinning mills. This will also allow the industry to apply under this scheme up to three times.

The launch of the new Integrated Textile Policy 2026 clearly reflects our focus on competitiveness, ease of doing business, sustainability and investment promotion. Observing that TN always offers a stable policy environment, a skilled workforce, robust infrastructure and strong governance, Udhayanidhi said these strengths make TN one of the most attractive destinations for the textile investments in the country and invited global buyers, technology providers and investors to partner with Tamil Nadu to collectively shape the future of sustainable and inclusive growth, especially textile growth

US tariff relief soothes export sentiment, for now, in a volatile trade environment

Rating agency ICRA highlighted that the downward reset in US tariffs to 18% from the elevated levels seen in 2025 represents a relatively smooth landing for Indian exporters at a time when global trade dynamics remain fluid. Following this development, the labour-intensive export sectors, including textiles, cut and polished diamonds, seafood, and footwear will see improved landed-cost competitiveness. While the sentiment boost is immediate, the translation of this policy development into higher export volumes and margin restoration is likely to unfold with a lag, depending on how quickly contracts with US buyers are refreshed and how US demand patterns evolve, ICRA added. The rating agency has restored its outlook on apparel exports to Stable while that on cut and polished diamonds stays Negative.

The reciprocal tariffs on India have now been lowered to 18% from 25% earlier as per the recently issued US-India joint statement. This apart, as per the joint statement, subject to the conclusion of the Interim Agreement, reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US on select Indian goods, including generic pharmaceuticals, gems and diamonds, and aircraft parts, would also be removed. Further, the additional ad valorem duty of 25% on Indian imports (introduced in August 2025 in lieu of Russian oil imports by India) now stands eliminated as per the Executive Order issued by the US President.

Jitin Makkar, Senior Vice President and Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited, said: “The sharp increase in US tariffs last year had been particularly debilitating for export-oriented companies in sectors such as textiles, cut and polished diamonds, and leather and leather products. Apparel exporters, for instance, saw their margins compress by nearly 200 basis points over the past couple of quarters as they were compelled to extend discounts to US buyers to retain volume share. Likewise, polished diamond exporters sought to minimise tariff-related frictions by reorganising their supply chains to reach US buyers while compromising their working capital cycles, with shipment timelines lengthening by around 30 days. Against this backdrop, the lowering of US tariffs, as a prelude to the formal signing of the US-India trade agreement in due course, as also the anticipated implementation of the India-EU free trade agreement next year, besides other bilateral trade pacts, augur well for a gradual strengthening of India’s manufacturing export growth over the medium term.”

Based on this latest development, ICRA has revised the outlook on the Indian Apparel (exports) sector to Stable from Negative. India’s apparel exports stood at USD 16 billion in FY2025, with the US accounting for around one-third of this value, underscoring the primacy of the US market, not only because it is a large contributor to the Indian apparel exporters’ revenue pie, but also because it is generally more profitable than other markets. The outlook had been revised to Negative in September 2025, when ICRA had projected a decline in India’s apparel exports, in INR terms, by 6-9% in FY2026 and a further decline of 4-6% in FY2027, had the elevated tariff regime persisted. With US tariffs now lowered, apparel export revenues are still

expected to contract in FY2026, although the extent of decline is now forecast at a more moderate 3-5%. Further, revenues are projected to rebound in FY2027, registering a growth of 8-11%. Concurrently, operating profit margins (OPM), which are expected to compress by about 200 bps to around 7.7% in FY2026, would likely recover to around 9.5% in FY2027, prompting a restoration of the Stable outlook.

In comparison, ICRA continues to maintain a Negative outlook on the cut and polished diamonds sector, notwithstanding the prospect of tariff removal on India’s diamond exports once the Interim Agreement between Indian and the US is concluded. The sector’s sheen has been taken away by lab grown diamonds that have gained consumer acceptability, harming both volumes as well as prices of natural diamonds. India’s diamond exports had touched a peak of USD 24 billion in FY2022, but since then demand has crashed, with FY2026 exports projected by ICRA at around USD 12 billion. Alongside volume contraction, natural diamonds have also faced pricing pressures with average realisation per carat ebbing to around USD 725 in 9M FY2026, sliding at a 7% CAGR over the past three years. That said, ICRA expects India’s natural diamond exports to expand by 6-8% in FY2027, supported by the anticipated removal of US tariffs, a bottoming-out of prices, the introduction of BIS labelling aimed at distinguishing natural diamonds from lab grown ones, and a pick-up in restocking momentum as both categories find a more stable equilibrium on retailer shelves. Despite the rise, India’s overall diamond exports in FY2027 will remain substantially lower than the FY2022 peak, because of which earnings will remain curtailed, thereby necessitating a continuation of the Negative outlook.

While the US tariff reduction offers a meaningful near-term relief to exporters, ICRA expects that over the longer term, geographical diversification will emerge as a key risk mitigation strategy that corporate India will adopt. For exporters, this would entail strengthening efforts to build a geographically more diversified customer footprint, even if it involves parting with some margins in the near term. In addition, investing in overseas manufacturing facilities or partnering with local entities to establish a globally diversified production base would likely gain traction, as a hedge against an increasingly volatile and geopolitically-influenced trade environment

Textiles sector has seen tremendous growth in the last decade: Union Textiles Minister

Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, inaugurated the 74th Edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF), at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi on 23rd January 2026, in presence of exhibitors and international buyers. The inauguration was followed by the lamp lighting, unveiling of fair guide and Minister's address. IIGF is one of Asia's largest garment fairs bringing MSMEs and buyers together. The Minister also took rounds of stalls after the inauguration. Shri Giriraj Singh was the Chief Guest of the event.

Speaking at the event Shri Singh said, "I am fortunate that I got the opportunity to visit last year when I became a minister, and that was my first such occasion. I thank everyone for this. I am very happy that IIGF has invited me again. This is a trusted platform, and I can say that the India International Garment Fair has now become a major global platform for international garment buyers."

He further said the Shri Narendra Modi government has removed all barriers in textiles, be it QCO, increasing RoDTEP, RoSCTL, reduced import duty by 6 months, rectified the inverted duty structure, etc. We have supported the industry through Rs 50,000 crore via RoDTEP, RoSCTL schemes."

Textiles Minister in his address highlighted that, the Textiles sector has seen tremendous growth in the last decade, from 8.4 lakh crore rupees in 2014 to around 16 lakh crore rupees today. Shri Singh said that the domestic market has also increased from 6 to 13 lakh crore rupees in 2025, while the country's exports have also witnessed over 25% rise post-pandemic. Minister said that the sector has become one of the biggest platforms for generating employment.

The Minister said that the challenges have allowed us to remain resilient and stable despite headwinds. Our export diversification drive to 40 new countries is showing positive results. Minister further informed that in Argentina we grew by 77%, Egypt- 30%, Poland and Japan by 20%, Sweden and France by 10% which is a very encouraging sign. The positive news is India- EU agreement will be signed in the next few days. We have a young workforce, raw material and foreign exchange surplus therefore we must see that we achieve all targets, the Minister noted.

In his address, the Union Textiles Minister noted that, India is moving away from reliance on foreign benchmarks and is developing its own standards through indigenous initiatives such as VisionNxt and IndiaSize, in line with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat by strengthening India-specific design forecasting and identity. He appealed to the industry to use Indian standards.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Dr A Sakthivel, Chairman AEPC said, "The 74th edition of IIGF, with 233 exhibitors spread across 5,073 square metres and over 1,120 registered buyers, once again reflects the strong and sustained global interest in India. The presence of exhibitors from all parts of the country highlights the depth and breadth of our manufacturing ecosystem, while the enthusiastic participation of international buyers reaffirms confidence in Indian capabilities."

Despite challenging global conditions and ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainties, the Indian apparel industry has demonstrated remarkable resilience. I am happy to share that

cumulative RMG exports during April–December 2025–26 stood at USD 11,584.3 million, registering a growth of 2.4% over the corresponding period of the previous year. This performance underscores the industry's ability to adapt, innovate, and move forward even in turbulent times, Chairman AEPC added.

Further Chairman AEPC remarked, "At the same time, the industry has placed certain important requests before the Government to sustain and strengthen our export competitiveness. These include the introduction of a Focus Market Scheme for apparel exports to the USA, with freely transferable duty credit scrips equivalent to 20% of the FOB value, removal of the annual value cap of ?50 lakhs per exporter under the interest equalization scheme under the Export Promotion Mission, enhancement of interest subvention rate to 5% etc. We are confident that such supportive measures will provide a much-needed boost to exporters, especially MSMEs, in these difficult times."

I am particularly delighted to note the strong participation of international buyers from major global brands and retail chains at this edition of IIGF. Buyers from Lulu Group – Reo Brand (UAE), Al Fan Emirates (UAE), CNLFNC Co. Ltd (South Korea), Queenspark (South Africa), Imtiaz Al Arabia (Saudi Arabia), Melon Fashion Group (Russia), Teijin Frontier, Koizumi, Gloria, and Takahashi Companies from Japan, Alex Group (Italy), Crazy Line (Israel), Santex International (Hong Kong), Groupe Eram (France), Jetha Tulsidas & Sons (Mauritius), Coosy (Spain) and many others are here to explore sourcing opportunities from India. Their presence clearly reflects the growing global trust in India's design, quality, compliance, and delivery capabilities, Dr Sakthivel informed.

Chairman AEPC underlined, "Looking ahead, we are optimistic about the future. With the India–EU Free Trade Agreement expected to be concluded soon, and competing countries gradually losing preferential market access such as GSP benefits, the tables are likely to turn decisively in India's favour. These developments will open new avenues for growth and enhance India's competitiveness in key global markets. We remain confident that with the collective efforts of industry and government, India will achieve the ambitious target of USD 40 billion in apparel exports by 2030."

Shri Rakesh Vaid, Vice Chairman IGFA delivered a vote of thanks and praised everyone for this effort

Hyosung TNC presents new textile developments and trends at winter 2026 industry events

At major winter trade shows this season, which include Mills Fabrica London, Première Vision Paris, and Interfilière New York, Hyosung TNC will showcase new regen™ sustainable and CREORA® functional fiber solutions focused on performance, versatility, and reduced environmental impact. The exhibits reflect the company's continued investment in material innovation for apparel and textile applications.

At Mills Fabrica London – Performance Without Toxicity

Mills Fabrica's Performance Without Toxicity is an exhibition at their Fabrica X gallery in London, which explores how innovation, materials and systems are redefining performance apparel for a cleaner, healthier future. The exhibit is open to the public over a six-month run, from January 26 to June 2026, 2026.

Hyosung TNC will be one of 37 pioneering companies demonstrating how high performance can be achieved without hidden costs to people or the planet. The company will highlight its new regen™ Bio Elastane made with sugarcane derived bio BDO. Scheduled for commercial production in Q2 2026, regen™ Bio Elastane delivers enhanced environmental benefits and supply reliability through fully integrated, in-house production in Vietnam.

The transition from Hyosung TNC's corn-based to sugarcane-based feedstock, verified under the globally recognized VIVE program, reinforces the company's commitment to responsible sourcing. Without sacrificing performance, regen™ BIO Elastane offers the same properties as conventional spandex, enabling a smooth and effortless transition to bio-based solutions.

"Performance Without Toxicity at Fabrica X is about accelerating change, and we're excited to collaborate with innovators shaping a cleaner, healthier future," said Simon Whitmarsh-Knight, Hyosung TNC Marketing and Sustainability Director-Textiles.

At Première Vision Paris – Presenting Korean Savoir Fair

At Première Vision Paris (PV Paris), February 3-5, Hall 6, booth S29, Hyosung TNC will showcase its innate Korean savoir-faire; a refined mastery of elastane, nylon, and polyester, where global scale, reliable supply, and sustainable materials define true quality.

Within its clean and sophisticated booth design, the company will highlight its latest sustainable and functional fiber developments with a focus on regen™ BIO Elastane and its feedstock transition from corn to sugarcane derived Bio BDO developed in Hyosung TNC's new integrated Bio BDO facility in Vietnam.

Also showcased will be the company's regen™ Recycled Solutions with Performance collection that include 100% recycled elastane, polyester, nylon textiles, which combine outstanding craftsmanship, quality, and functionality with responsible material sourcing without compromising quality and performance.

"We're excited to bring our distinct Korean savoir-faire and high-performance textile solutions to PV Paris," said Laurent Muckensturm, Hyosung TNC European Manager - Textiles. "The show brings together an incredible cross-section of the ready-to-wear, denim, activewear, swimwear, and intimate apparel markets, offering an exceptional platform to connect, collaborate, and drive material innovation."

Each textile solution within the booth will be supported by garments made with Hyosung TNC specialty fibers developed by the company's Fashion Design Center (FDC). Through its R&D and Fashion Design Center, Hyosung TNC anticipates trends, develops breakthrough materials, and delivers future-ready solutions.

At Interfilière NYC – Functional fibers designed for the modern intimate lifestyle

The intimate apparel market is rapidly evolving, demanding fabrics that combine delicate aesthetics with high-performance functionality. Consumers now expect multi-functional qualities that keep wearers comfortable, fresh, and confident, while maintaining a luxurious hand-feel and vibrant color. Hyosung TNC anticipates these needs, offering fiber solutions that redefine comfort and elegance in next-to-skin garments.

Hyosung TNC is the major sponsor of Interfilière NYC (IFL NYC) this year that takes place February 4-5. The company will host four of its mill partners to include Acetech, Wanjiali, Golden Horizon, and XYX Materials adjacent to its IFL NYC Pavillion 204.

In addition to its featured regen™ BIO Elastane and 100% recycled regen™ Elastane, Hyosung TNC will highlight the following specialized fibers along with concept garments crafted with its innovative yarns designed by its FDC team.

Hyosung TNC's CREORA® Rexy2 Nylon offers a luxurious gloss and soft texture, mimicking the sheen of rayon and silk. CREORA® EasyFlex Elastane provides a soft feel, lasting fit, and size inclusivity. A dyeable version is also available, ensuring superior color consistency and reduced grin-through. CREORA® Color+ Elastane overcomes the difficulty of dyeing regular spandex blended with nylon and natural fibers allowing for deep and vivid colors. CREORA® Coolwave Nylon and CREORA® Aqua-X Nylon deliver superior cooling performance and moisture absorption to keep you comfortable all day.

"The intimate and bodywear markets are evolving rapidly around comfort, inclusivity, and sustainability, and we're excited to bring our latest fiber innovations to the IFL NYC community," said Malvina Hoxha, Hyosung TNC US Marketing Director - Textiles.

Hyosung TNC will sponsor a panel discussion titled BIO Preferred Solutions in Innerwear Market presented by Malvina Hoxha and Kaela Bonaquist, Lenzing Business Development Manager, East Coast and Canada ◘

Hybrid Digital Printing
The production shift reshaping Tirupur's export floors

Five years ago, an 8-colour export job meant eight screens, multiple trial runs, senior colour master's on standby, and significant setup pressure. Today, the same artwork can run with one white screen and digital colour integration - with setup completed in under 45 minutes. This is not a technological experiment. It is a production recalibration. Across Tirupur's leading export units, hybrid digital printing has moved from curiosity to core workflow not because of trends, but because export realities demanded it.

The Shift: From screen-heavy to smart integration

The transition did not happen by replacing screen printing. It happened by optimizing it.

Typical hybrid workflow in Tirupur today:

- White paste or discharge executed through screen.
- 1–3 screens instead of 8–10.
- Complex multi-colour artwork handled digitally.
- Specialty finishes (puff, foil, high density, shimmer) retained in screen.
- Setup time: 30–45 minutes.
- Integrated directly onto automatic carousels.

The result: lower screen dependency, fewer manual adjustments, and faster job stabilization.

What exporters experienced

Mr. Babu, Aara Tex Exports "Earlier, high-colour jobs meant heavy preparation and skilled alignment pressure. With hybrid, production flow has become smoother. Screen room workload reduced. Repeatability improved."

Mr. Sasikumar, Aura Printers "Skilled labour shortage is real. Hybrid has helped us reduce dependency on high-precision registration experts. Complex export designs are now easier to execute without slowing production."

These insights reflect a broader industry pattern: hybrid systems are reducing operational friction.

Why hybrid found ground in Tirupur

1. Labour & skill constraints

- Registration experts are limited.
- Wage costs are rising.
- High-colour exports increase complexity.

By shifting intricate colour separations to digital while retaining strong base layers in screen, factories reduce manual calibration pressure and production variability.

2. Setup efficiency & flexibility

- Reduced screen count.
- Faster artwork changeovers.
- Lower screen room congestion.
- More predictable production timelines.

Factories handling mid-sized export orders report smoother batch transitions and fewer rework cycles.

3. Export-driven agility

Tirupur operates on tight buyer timelines. Artwork revisions are frequent. Design complexity continues to increase.

Hybrid enables:

- Digital artwork adjustments without remaking multiple screens.
- Faster strike-offs.
- Controlled colour consistency across batches.
- This directly strengthens export responsiveness.

A production-first evolution

Hybrid digital printing has not spread through marketing campaigns. It has spread through factory-to-factory observation. One exporter improves setup efficiency. Another notice is reduced downtime. Adoption follows results. The industry's discipline remains intact: automatic carousels, structured workflows, high daily outputs. Hybrid simply enhances colour execution within that system.

The real outcome

- Reduced dependency on high-skill manual registration.
- Lower screen preparation load.
- Faster transitions between export styles.
- Stable repeatability across batches.
- Stronger margin protection in fluctuating markets.

Hybrid digital printing is not positioned as a replacement technology. It is a production strategy, one that aligns with modern export complexity.

Tirupur's strength has always been intelligent adaptation. Hybrid integration is another example of that maturity. The shift is not loud. But on the factory floor, it is measurable ◘

(By Deepak Siddharth, Founder & CEO – RDX Digital Technologies)

Mayer & Cie. acquired by Chinese owner family

Xu Hongjie signed the purchase agreement for Mayer & Cie. The Chinese entrepreneur is thereby acquiring the company's entire circular knitting business, including its subsidiaries in Vsetín (Czech Republic) and Jintan (China).

Xu Hongjie comes from a southern Chinese entrepreneurial family that has been running the company Huixing for almost 30 years. Huixing employs around 1,000 people and develops, manufactures and sells circular knitting machines worldwide. With machines under the Mayer & Cie. brand, Huixing aims to enter the premium segment in the future. As development and manufacturing are at the core of the Mayer & Cie. brand, the Albstadt site will continue to be of strategic importance going forward.

"We are very pleased that a future perspective has emerged for the company and for everything we associate with it," says Wolfgang Müller. He has worked at Mayer & Cie. for many years as Head of Sales and, over the past weeks, has worked intensively with his colleagues and Xu Hongjie on a plan for the restart of Mayer & Cie.

The new owner returns his thanks and sincere gratitude to all the employees who supported him throughout the two-month negotiation process. He highlights Wolfgang Müller and Rainer Müller in particular: "They bestowed upon me courage and wisdom, serving as the ever-shining Big Dipper in the long night."

Restart in several phases

For the company through which he intends to implement the restart of Mayer & Cie., Xu Hongjie has initially chosen the name "Blitzstart" (Lightning Start). The young Chinese entrepreneur does not (yet) speak German, but the 32-year-old did not choose the name by chance: In the coming weeks, the new owner plans to set up a small team to boost sales again and prepare the relaunch.

All employees will need to be rehired, as today's signing of the purchase agreement marks the dissolution of the former Mayer & Cie. GmbH & Co. KG. For Xu Hongjie, a father of two, this means there will be no Chinese New Year celebrations this year. The holiday is celebrated on 17 February and is comparable in significance to Christmas. "There is a lot to do and very little time," he says. "We need to make sure the company survives."

The new owner's goal is to gradually restart production in spring. In recent days, only assembly work has continued in the facilities on the outskirts of Albstadt-Tailfingen-machines already on order are scheduled to be delivered in the coming days-while production itself has come to a halt. Employees will also need to be brought back on board for this area.

Clear objectives

With Mayer & Cie. and its premium machines for single jersey, double jersey, interlock and jacquard, the Chinese textile entrepreneur intends to continue addressing textile innovators around the world.

They should find "intelligent, reliable knitting technologies at Mayer & Cie. - developed in Albstadt, powered by our employees and designed for long-term use," explains Xu Hongjie.

A customer-centric approach is particularly important to him: "We listen, we implement and we improve-and we do it fast," says Xu. To underline what he means, he refers to his experience at the family-owned company Huixing: "If our customers have complaints about the machine we delivered, we make it better-once, twice, three times. And we do it as quickly as possible."

This approach is part of Huixing's recipe for success: Over the past three decades, the Chinese circular knitting machine manufacturer has established itself worldwide, particularly in the field of mattress ticking fabrics.

Production to remain in Albstadt

Xu Hongjie's clearly stated goal is for Mayer & Cie. to remain what it is today: a German premium brand, developed and manufactured in Germany. "People love and trust brands with tradition," says Xu Hongjie. "We are proud of the 120-year history and the technology within this company."

At the same time, he emphasizes how important agility is to him-especially in development and in turning customer needs into solutions. "Our customers should see us as a partner." Internal friction, for example caused by complex structures and lengthy processes, is not an option for him. "Simplify, digitize and renew" is the guiding principle.

From competitor to sister company

Huixing, headquartered in Shishi in China's Fujian province, has evolved from a single machinery manufacturer into a diversified industrial group with a strong global footprint. With advanced manufacturing at its core, the group operates seven large-scale production sites, covers more than 300,000 square meters of modern facilities and has expanded its activities beyond textile machinery into areas such as software development, AI applications and industrial internet services.

With the acquisition of Mayer & Cie., Xu Hongjie is bringing together two strong names in circular knitting - a 120-year-old German premium brand and a fast-growing Chinese industrial group. Xu Hongjie describes the move as a landmark step guided by his "1+1=11" philosophy: not a simple addition, but a "chemical reaction, that unlocks synergy far beyond the expected".

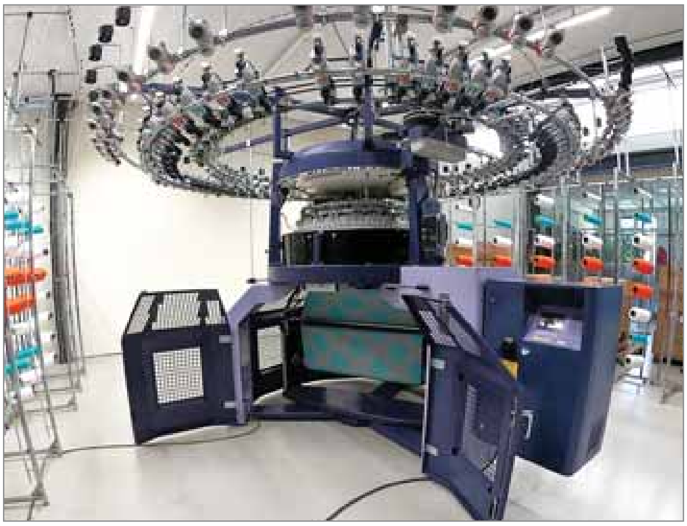
"We are honored to join Mayer, a great platform, and become part of this big family," he says, stressing that the company's core R&D and manufacturing base will remain in Albstadt, Germany. Xu Hongjie also underlines the cultural fit between the two organizations: "The more I have gotten to know the people at Mayer & Cie., the more I have felt like being part of a family - a family that knows its values and stands up for them." He concludes: "In Chinese, Huixing means 'connecting stars'. That is exactly what we aim to achieve with this step."

The new owner

Xu Hongjie, aged 32, comes from the Chinese owner family behind Huixing, a family-run circular knitting machine manufacturer founded in 1998 with around 1,000 employees. He studied Business Management in China and the United Kingdom. This cross-cultural background enables him to understand the efficiency of Chinese manufacturing while respecting the technical rigor of German industry.

He has been actively involved in the family business for more than ten years, most recently focusing on sales and international business development. In addition to his entrepreneurial role, Xu serves as Chairman of the Shishi Young Entrepreneurs Association, where he is committed to supporting and mentoring the next generation of business leaders. He is also a member of the Quanzhou Municipal People's Congress, representing the city of Shishi

Terrot introduces T-Frame Platform to redefine stability and flexibility in large-diameter circular knitting



Terrot Textilmaschinen GmbH has unveiled the new T-Frame, a universal machine frame platform for large-diameter circular knitting machines. Designed to meet growing demands for flexibility, stability, and operational safety, the T-Frame provides a next-generation foundation for both current and future industrial knitting machines, combining German engineering expertise with a modular, future-ready design approach.

Industry relevance & market context

Circular knitting producers worldwide are facing growing pressure to increase output flexibility while maintaining consistent fabric quality under tighter cost and labor constraints. At the same time, demand for ergonomic operation, machine safety and sustainable production concepts are rising. The T-Frame directly addresses these challenges by combining mechanical robustness with smart structural design, enabling manufacturers to respond faster to market changes without compromising process reliability.

Technological core

With the T-Frame, Terrot introduces a newly engineered tubular machine frame made from premium steel, developed to handle higher mechanical loads while improving precision and machine accessibility. After nearly three decades of proven large-diameter machine concepts, the company as completely redesigned the frame architecture.

At the core of the innovation is an intelligently welded frame construction that combines structural rigidity with modular adaptability. A single, standardized frame platform supports multiple extraction and take-down variants, reducing mechanical complexity while enabling fast configuration changes. Integrated cable routing, centralized display positioning and optimized component layouts replace traditional add-on solutions and improve both ergonomics and safety.

Industrial benefits & business impact

The T-Frame platform delivers measurable advantages in daily production environments:

- **Operational flexibility:** One universal frame supports multiple machine configurations, enabling rapid adaptation to changing fabric requirements.
- **High productivity:** Increased structural stability guarantees knitting precision at industrial speeds, particularly in large diameters ranging from 26 to 54 inches.
- **Improved efficiency:** Standardized components and optimized accessibility reduces setup times and simplifies maintenance routines.
- **Enhanced safety & reliability:** Intelligent cable management and reduced external attachments minimize failure points and support long-term process stability.
- **Future readiness:** The platform is designed to accommodate upcoming machine generations, protecting customer investment.

"With the T-Frame, we have focused on the foundation of machine performance," said Michael Lau, Head of R&D at Terrot. "By rethinking the frame architecture, we deliver higher stability, easier handling, and a level of flexibility that meets current production needs while enabling future technological developments."

Terrot T-Frame platform is available for large-diameter tubular circular knitting machines in multiple frame sizes and configurations. The development stands for transformation in textile manufacturing, combining the company's long-standing engineering expertise with a clear commitment to future-oriented, user-friendly production processes. Visitors can experience the new T-Frame live at various upcoming trade shows, where Terrot will demonstrate the next level of circular knitting technology ◘

US startup Variloom develops 3D printed clothes process to minimize waste

Company has developed a proprietary 3D printing and materials system that integrates into brands' existing workflows, with the aim of reducing vast industry inefficiencies

Variloom, a Palo Alto-based startup in the fashion textile space, is developing what it claims is a "transformative filament and 3D printing system designed for ultra-efficient fabrication of versatile and recyclable fabrics".

The company's technology is patent pending, and the goal is to provide the industry with a 3D printing system for apparel production that eliminates pattern waste and enables on-demand manufacturing closer to brands' facilities.

Billions of garments produced annually worldwide go unsold, and traditional cut-and-sew methods generate substantial scrap waste, inefficiencies the company wants to address with its system which allows brands to produce exact quantities in final form without excess material or inventory.

Variloom's modular units integrate into existing production sites, reducing supply chain touchpoints and transportation emissions. Traditional garment manufacturing involves journeys of thousands to tens of thousands of miles from fiber to finished product per garment.

US startup Variloom has developed a proprietary 3D printing and materials system that integrates into brands' existing workflows

"Our main goals are to bring production closer to brands and suppliers, to customize for them, and to work with sustainable, recyclable materials," stated Bethany Meuleners, Apparel/Textile Design & Development Lead at Variloom.

Variloom uses biobased thermoplastic polyurethane for durability and tensile strength, combined with natural fibers and additives sourced from agricultural and textile waste. Third-party testing showed the materials maintained integrity through three recycling cycles, addressing an industry where less than 1% of garment fabrics became new clothing.

The company has already worked with Japanese zipper manufacturer YKK and Australian sportswear brand Rip Curl, with products scheduled for 2026 release. YKK used the technology to produce zipper pullers without meeting the high minimum order quantities required by injection molding, while reducing carbon footprint and eliminating metal molds for custom designs.

Rip Curl deployed the system for board shorts made from biobased TPU and wool, replacing elastane while maintaining performance in harsh surf conditions involving UV exposure, saltwater, and chemicals. The precision manufacturing enabled design modifications, including reinforced waistbands and ventilation panels.

Jake Koh, CEO of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, which validated Variloom's feedstock recyclability and co-developed the printing machine, highlighted the integration between materials and hardware. "The printing machine works seamlessly with Variloom's materials, adding a powerful new dimension," he stated.

Variloom plans to launch a pilot facility in 2026, transitioning from research to production volumes ◘

Woolmark strengthens India - Japan Wool Trade links through wool connect initiative in Tokyo

The Woolmark Company continues to strengthen global wool supply chain partnerships with the launch of Wool Connect, a focused B2B matchmaking initiative designed to connect Woolmark-certified Indian wool manufacturers with international buyers. The platform aims to accelerate sourcing conversations, enable meaningful trade engagement, and reinforce the value of high-quality, Australian merino wool in global markets.

The inaugural Wool Connect programme was held in Tokyo in collaboration with the Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council (WWEPC), on the sidelines of the India Trend Fair. The event was attended by Nagma M. Mallick, Ambassador of India to Japan, alongside senior representatives from the Indian and Japanese textile and apparel industries, underlining the initiative's significance in advancing bilateral trade ties.

Structured in a one-on-one, speed-meeting format, Wool Connect brought together 10 Woolmark manufacturing partners from India, spanning yarn to finished garment production, with 10 leading Japanese trading houses and brands. The format facilitated nearly 100 targeted business meetings in a single day, enabling focused discussions and accelerating pathways to commercial collaboration.

Indian participants included Jayashree Textiles, Raymond, Linear Design, KCS, Shakti knitting and Bansal Spinning Mills, etc., while Japanese participants featured MN Inter, Takisada Nagoya, Pheeta, Moririn, Itochu, Toyoshima, among others. The carefully curated matchmaking ensured alignment across capability, quality standards, and sourcing requirements.

Participants highlighted the initiative's value in generating high-quality leads, enabling efficient and transparent sourcing discussions, and building long-term engagement with Japan, one of the world's most discerning and premium wool markets.

"Wool Connect reflects Woolmark's role as a catalyst within the global wool ecosystem," said Ajay Pradhan, Country Manager, The Woolmark Company. "By bringing quality merino wool manufacturers from India and Japanese buyers together in a highly focused environment, we are enabling meaningful commercial dialogue while reinforcing the value of Australian merino wool across international supply chains."

R.C. Khanna, Chairman, WWEPC, "Wool Connect is a truly unique initiative by Woolmark, in partnership with WWEPC, thoughtfully curated to connect India's woollen manufacturers with the sophisticated Japanese market and promote exports from India. Launched at India Fashion & Lifestyle Show, held from 28–30 January, 2026 in Tokyo, Japan, this platform reflects our shared commitment to innovation, sustainability and positioning Indian woollen products as a premium global offering"

Daljit Bal, Sales Head-Jayashree Textiles "Wool Connect was a great platform to connect with Japanese buyers and trades in one place and have focused business conversations"

Devdatt M Chobey, Dy. GM, International Business, Raymond Lifestyle, "Raymond being the largest wool fabric manufacturer in India and one of the oldest certified partners to Woolmark, it made great sense to be in Wool Connect. Japan market for wool has good potential in the premium and made-to-measure categories"

Chintan Bansal, Owner, Bansal Spinning Mills "We had well-structured one-on-one meetings with Japanese buyers to understand their requirements and issues. Woolmark embodies the core of anyone working with wool, highlighting its significant value.

Through the Wool Connect initiative, The Woolmark Company reinforces its position as the global authority on wool, leveraging its international network to bridge supply and demand. The programme supports the growth of certified merino wool in high-value markets while fostering long-term, trust-based trade relationships across geographies

KARL MAYER opens a new TEXTILE INNOVATION CENTRE - a new era of textile innovation begins

KARL MAYER is opening its new TEXTILE INNOVATION CENTRE (TIC), sending a strong signal that it is driving textile innovation forward and opening up new perspectives for the textile industry. The TIC brings together the latest developments in Warp Knitting, Technical Textiles and Warp Preparation - KARL MAYER's core areas of expertise.

"With our TEXTILE INNOVATION CENTRE, we are strongly focusing on textiles as the heart of our industry and the growth engine for our customers. The TIC marks a key milestone in KARL MAYER's strategic orientation. We are investing in innovation, quality and partnership-based development so that our customers not only remain competitive, but also have access to innovative textiles that open up new business areas for them," says Lutz Wolf, CEO of KARL MAYER.

The TIC is more than just a building; it is a place for collaboration, creativity and market-relevant solutions - a home for textile innovations. At KARL MAYER's headquarters in Obertshausen, a "place to be" for the international textile industry is being created: a place that inspires, connects and supports customers in translating their textile innovation into market success. This is where the entire textile world will come together to exchange knowledge, develop ideas, create innovative fabrics on the right machines and make important contacts. This is where the future is being created - with passion, expertise and market focus.

In parallel to Techtextil in Frankfurt, international textile machine manufacturer KARL MAYER invites you to a grand opening week in Obertshausen. From 21 to 24 April, you can experience a thrilling programme of new groundbreaking textile applications, guided innovation tours, expert lectures and networking in a creative atmosphere.

Centre of textile excellence with almost 5,000 m2

"The size and equipment of our new TEXTILE INNOVATION CENTRE are unrivalled in the world," says Karl Josef Mayer, representative of the Mayer family and patron of the TIC. "Here, we are aiming at the Medici effect basically a renaissance of the textile industry - it's about preserving and building up textile know-how and textile technology, as well as developing innovative textile solutions."

The TIC meets these high expectations with the following offerings:

Inspiration at a glance: Insights into proven and promising current textile developments and future trends; a spacious showroom and an open, unique sample archive as an "inspiration hub" invite visitors to think about materials, structures and applications in a new way.

Direct access to top experts: At the TIC, customers will work closely with KARL MAYER's textile experts. Here they will find the knowledge they need for their innovation process - from material and process know-how to machine and application expertise.

From idea to marketable solution: The TIC will accompany not just customers, but fibre manufacturers and especially brands throughout the entire development process, from the initial idea to the implementation of a near-market prototype on the latest machines. And this goes for all their goals, whether new textile developments, new product launches or sustainable solutions.

Platform for exchange and networking: As an open meeting place, the TIC will bring together the right players from across the entire textile value chain. "Connected Textile Innovation" - from fibre to consumer.

Training courses for professionals: The KARL MAYER Academy, which is well established in the market, will be part of the TIC in future and will offer specialist courses for customer technicians, brand employees and its own service technicians as well as students of textile-related subjects ◘

Boss Introduces NovaPoly Yarn at the Australian Open

Boss is taking a significant step toward redefining sustainable performance wear with the debut of its innovative NovaPoly yarn at the Australian Open in Melbourne. The German fashion brand is showcasing the new material through exclusive tennis kits worn by professional players Taylor Fritz and Matteo Berrettini during one of the sport's most high-profile tournaments.

By launching NovaPoly on a global stage, Boss highlights its commitment to merging technical performance with responsible innovation. The Australian Open provides an ideal platform to demonstrate how advanced textile technology can meet the demands of elite athletes while supporting broader sustainability goals.

What Makes NovaPoly Yarn Different

NovaPoly yarn is a recycled alternative to virgin polyester, engineered to address some of the fashion industry's most pressing environmental challenges. Developed in collaboration with Jiaren Chemical Recycling and NBC LLC, the yarn is produced using recycled textile waste sourced from both pre-consumer and post-consumer phases.

The innovation lies in a specialized additive integrated into the recycled polyester. This additive accelerates degradability compared to conventional polyester fibers, allowing NovaPoly to break down more efficiently in anaerobic active microbial environments. As a result, the material represents a meaningful evolution in the way synthetic performance fabrics can be designed with end-of-life considerations in mind.

Performance Meets Sustainability on the Court

Boss has chosen to debut NovaPoly yarn through its on-court tennis kits to prove that sustainability does not compromise performance. The innovative yarn is featured across jerseys, shorts, and caps worn by Fritz and Berrettini, garments that must meet strict standards for breathability, durability, and freedom of movement.

Tennis demands lightweight fabrics that manage moisture, withstand repeated motion, and maintain comfort under intense physical conditions. By equipping its ambassadors with NovaPoly-based apparel, Boss demonstrates that recycled and degradable polyester can deliver the technical qualities required at the highest level of professional sport.

Strategic Collaboration Driving Innovation

The development of NovaPoly reflects the importance of collaboration across the textile value chain. By partnering with Jiaren Chemical Recycling and NBC LLC, Boss combines expertise in chemical recycling, material science, and performance apparel design.

This collaborative approach allows recycled textile waste to be transformed into high-quality yarn suitable for premium sportswear. It also supports the broader transition toward circular material systems, where waste is reintegrated into production rather than discarded.

NovaPoly and The Change Initiative

NovaPoly is the second textile innovation launched under Boss' The Change initiative, a long-term platform focused on exploring futuristic technologies and purposeful design. The initiative serves as a testing ground for advanced materials that align with the brand's strategic sustainability pillars.

Through The Change, Boss aims to develop alternatives to conventional polyester and polyamide fibers, particularly those that contribute to microplastic pollution. NovaPoly complements these efforts by offering a solution that not only uses recycled content but also addresses material persistence in the environment. NovaPoly yarn

Addressing Microplastics and Material Impact

Synthetic fibers such as polyester are known contributors to microplastic pollution, a growing environmental concern. While no single innovation can solve the issue entirely, NovaPoly represents a step toward reducing the long-term impact of performance textiles.

By enhancing degradability in specific environments, Boss is exploring how material science can help mitigate the accumulation of synthetic fibers after their useful life. This aligns with the brand's broader sustainability strategy, which focuses on responsible sourcing, innovation, and measurable environmental progress.

A Signal to the Sportswear Industry

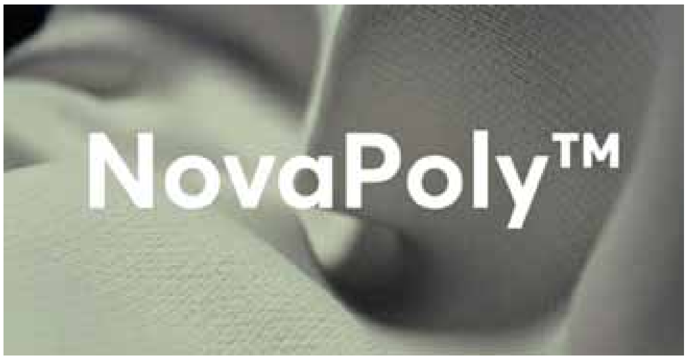
The debut of NovaPoly yarn at the Australian Open sends a strong signal to the sportswear and fashion industries. High-performance apparel no longer needs to rely solely on virgin synthetic materials to meet athletic demands.

Boss is positioning itself as a brand willing to invest in research-driven solutions that balance performance, aesthetics, and sustainability. As consumer awareness around material impact grows, innovations like NovaPoly are likely to play a key role in shaping the future of sportswear.

Looking Ahead for Sustainable Performance Apparel

While NovaPoly is currently showcased in tennis kits, its potential applications extend far beyond the court. The yarn could influence future collections across activewear, athleisure, and performance-driven fashion categories.

By continuing to test and refine materials through real-world use, Boss can gather valuable insights into durability, comfort, and lifecycle performance. These learnings will help guide the next generation of sustainable textiles within the brand's portfolio.



Conclusion

Boss' introduction of NovaPoly yarn at the Australian Open marks an important milestone in sustainable sportswear innovation. By combining recycled content, enhanced degradability, and elite athletic performance, the brand demonstrates how responsible material development can thrive on the world stage.

As NovaPoly gains visibility through professional tennis, it reinforces the idea that sustainability and high performance are not opposing goals, but complementary forces shaping the future of fashion

KARL MAYER and Lenzing partner to advance warp knitting with scalable cellulose fiber solutions

The Lenzing Group, a leading supplier of regenerated cellulosic fibers for the textile and nonwovens industries, together with KARL MAYER, the global market leader in warp knitting machines and warp preparation systems, debut a joint innovation project during Premiere Vision, Paris.

The collaboration focusing on identifying new, efficient ways to process Lenzing's TENCEL™ Lyocell and Modal fibers with Micro Technology, made from the natural material wood, sourced from certified or controlled sources [1] and manufactured using a responsible production process with a low environmental impact [2], on warp knitting machines, whilst demonstrating their suitability for high-quality textile applications.

TENCEL™ Lyocell and Modal fibers produced with Micro Technology are characterized by their fine titers which enable the production of finer yarns, resulting in smooth and consistent fabrics that deliver softness and lightness for enhanced comfort, whilst yielding superior drape and movement.

Cellulose fibers offer consistent fiber length uniformity, forming the basis for high mechanical performance. Despite this advantage, the production of warp-knitted fabrics from cellulose fibers presents significant technical challenges. To address this complexity, the two partners joined forces to develop a new innovation project; Lenzing contributing extensive expertise in fiber production and yarn development, including the downstream spinning process, whilst KARL MAYER complemented with many years of experience in warp beam production from staple fibers and their processing on high-performance warp knitting machines. The manufacturer's machines are renowned on the market for their maximum efficiency, reliability and quality.

Yarn Properties: Minimal Hairiness, Homogeneous Cross-Section

The first step within the project development was to select fibers and spinning technologies that would result in yarns with reduced hairiness. Low hairiness prevents contamination by lint or flying fibers during the beaming and warp knitting process.

In addition, a uniform yarn cross-section is important. A high level of homogeneity of the yarns ensures the tensile strength required to process several thousand threads at maximum speed on KARL MAYER warp knitting machines. Four different yarns were used, each made from two fiber raw materials and two spinning processes.

"We opted for Ring Compact and SIRO Compact spinning technology because it guarantees yarns with low hairiness and better performance and quality of the fabrics made from them," says Bernd Schleuchardt, Senior Manager Apparel in the Business Development Division at Lenzing. "By combining fiber innovation with downstream processing expertise, we aim to support scalable, industrial solutions that open up new commercial opportunities for cellulose fibers in warp knitting."

Specifically, the choice fell on:

1. *TENCEL™ Modal with Micro technology Ne 60/1 (Nm 100/1) Ring Compact – from Gebr. Otto GmbH + Co. KG, 89165 Dietenheim (Germany)*
2. *TENCEL™ Lyocell with Micro technology Ne 60/1 (Nm 100/1) Ring Compact – from Gebr. Otto GmbH + Co. KG, 89165 Dietenheim (Germany)*
3. *TENCEL™ Modal with Micro technology Ne 60/1 (Nm 100/1) SIRO Compact – from Inovafil - Fiação, S.A., 4770-583 Vila Nova de Famalicão (Portugal)*
4. *TENCEL™ Lyocell with Micro Technology Ne 60/1 (Nm 100/1) SIRO Compact – from Inovafil - Fiação, S.A., 4770-583 Vila Nova de Famalicão (Portugal)*

Processing: High Efficiency, Good Quality

The yarn material was warped to a high standard, particularly in terms of lint and used on a high-performance warp knitting machine in a gauge of E 28 with two guide bars. This resulted in three different articles for the clothing sector from each yarn: an open worked three-stitch tulle net, a close-knit fabric made counter-lapped open tricot lap and a fabric made from a counter-lapped atlas lap, also with a dense surface.

The processing tests revealed a clear winner: SIRO Compact impressed with significantly reduced hairiness, resulting in less fiber abrasion and less contamination of the machine.

"The project with Lenzing has shown that efficient processing of cellulose fibers on knitting machines is possible by using the right fibers and the right spinning process. We are currently working on optimisations to achieve even higher output," says Markus Otte, Senior Expert, Textile Development at KARL MAYER.

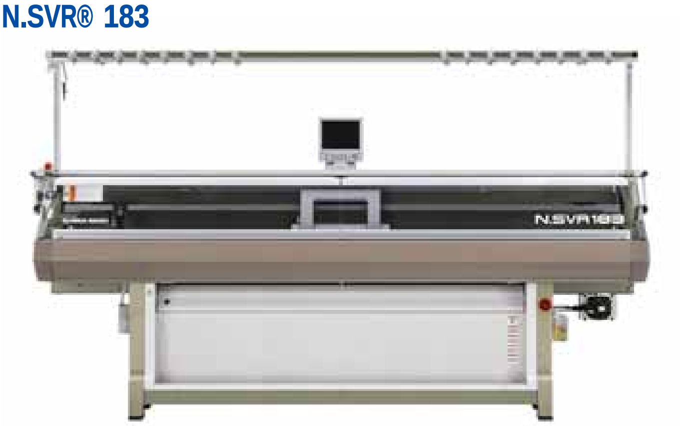
Debut Showcase: Market Ready Solutions

The results of the innovation project will be presented to the textile world during Premiere Vision, Paris, 3rd-5th February, introducing a capsule collection as a mix of applications across lingerie, innerwear and lifestyle pieces for everyday wear. The Lenzing team will be at the Lenzing stand 6P30 to welcome guests, engage in discussions on all the latest innovations across the Lenzing portfolio, whilst exploring the new applications across the capsule

SHIMA SEIKI to Exhibit at GMMSA Expo India

Leading Japanese computerized flat knitting technologist SHIMA SEIKI MFG., LTD. of Wakayama, Japan, together with its Indian sales representative Universal MEP Projects & Engineering Services, Ltd., recently participated in Garments Machinery Manufacturers & Suppliers Association (GMMSA) Expo India 2026 exhibition in Ludhiana. Through its lineup at GMMSA, SHIMA SEIKI further strengthen its presence within the Indian market with an exhibit that caters to diverse needs, consisting of seam-free WHOLEGARMENT® knitting technology as well as a brand-new shaping machine with high productivity and excellent cost performance.

N.SVR® 183



SHIMA SEIKI exhibited its WHOLEGARMENT® knitting technology whereby an item can be produced in one entire piece on the machine without linking or sewing. Its N.SVR® 183 WHOLEGARMENT® knitting machine produces WHOLEGARMENT® knitwear using every other needle. N.SVR®183 is equipped with the R2CARRIAGE® system and a compact, lightweight carriage for high productivity. Shown in 14 gauge at the GMMSA Expo, N.SVR® 183 is an ideal machine for flexible, entry-level WHOLEGARMENT® production of 7-gauge items, with the versatility to respond to fluctuating market demand.

N.SSR®132

SHIMA SEIKI's global standard in shaped knitting, the N.SSR® series, now includes an even more cost-effective choice. The new N.SSR® 132 is shown for the first time in India, after being well-received by Indian delegates at the ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 exhibition in Singapore last October. It features high productivity with a compact, lightweight carriage and maximum knitting speed of 1.2 meters per second, as well as proven SHIMA SEIKI technology such as the R2CARRIAGE® system, the Digital Stitch Control System (DSCS®), spring-type moveable sinker system, stitch presser, yarn gripper and cutter, and takedown comb. New features include a 52-inch (132 cm) knitting width for supporting larger sized garments and optional sub-rollers, offering the flexibility required for responding to various customer and market needs. Realizing excellent cost performance while ensuring Made-in-Japan quality, safety, reliability and user-friendliness, N.SSR®132 sets a new standard for a new era in computerized flat knitting machines. The N.SSR® 132 will be shown in 14 gauge.

SDS®-ONE APEX4 and APEXFiz®

SDS®-ONE APEX4 3D design system and APEXFiz® subscription-based design software support the creative side of fashion from planning and design to realistic fabric simulation and 3D virtual sampling. Virtual samples are a digitized version of sample making that are accurate enough to be used effectively as prototypes, replacing physical sampling and consequently reducing time, cost and material that otherwise go to waste. Moreover, users can take advantage of this capability not only on the design side but also on the production side. Suppliers can make proposals by leveraging their own expertise in knitting and materials, allowing accelerated product development. When a design is approved for production, knitting data which is automatically generated can be converted easily into machine data, digitally bridging the gap between design studio and factory. SDS®-ONE APEX4 and APEXFiz® help to realize sustainability while digitally transforming the fashion supply chain. The product planning capability of APEXFiz® is enhanced by several web services which will also be demonstrated along with SDS®-ONE APEX4 and APEXFiz® ◘

Knitting machine market size to exceed USD 10.00 bn by 2033 driven by rising demand for knitted fabrics

The Global Knitting Machine Market is expected to reach USD 6.50 Bn in 2026 and will expand to USD 10.00 bn by 2033, registering a CAGR of 7.5% between 2026 and 2033. The global knitting machine market is expanding as growing consumer demand for flexible and breathable fabrics fuels increased adoption of knitted textiles. Known for their superior softness, elasticity, and comfort compared to woven fabrics, knitted materials are widely used in sportswear, casual apparel, and home furnishings. As athleisure and performance-driven fashion continue to gain popularity, greater emphasis is placed on fabric functionality, particularly freedom of movement and effective moisture management.

Global knitting machine market key takeaways

- Warp knitting machines are expected to remain the top-selling type, accounting for a market share of 55% in 2026.
- The single knit segment is slated to account for 51% of the global knitting machine market share in 2026.
- Demand remains especially high for manual knitting machines, with the target segment expected to account for 39% of the market share in 2026.
- North America is expected to dominate the global knitting machine industry with a 33% market share in 2026. This is mostly due to rising demand for industrial knitting machines and development of smart knitting machines.
- Asia Pacific, with an estimated market share of 28% in 2026, is poised to emerge as a central hub for knitting machine manufacturers during the forecast period.

Rising knitting fabrics demand fueling market growth

Coherent Market Insights' latest knitting machine market analysis highlights major factors driving market growth. Growing demand for knitted fabrics, expanding apparel and textile sector, ongoing digital transformation, booming e-commerce, and advancements in knitting technologies are some of the major knitting machine market growth factors.

There is an increasing preference for knitted fabrics in fashion apparel, sportswear, athleisure, and technical textiles due to comfort, stretch, and versatility. This growing trend towards knitted fabrics is providing impetus for the growth of knitting machine market. Similarly, increasing adoption of stylish knitwear and growth in fashion awareness are expected to drive demand for knitting machines during the forecast period.

The global knitting machine market outlook remains positive, owing to rising demand for knitted fabrics, growing adoption of advanced knitting equipment, and development of 3D knitting technologies. However, high costs of sophisticated knitting machines and the use of alternative textile manufacturing technologies might slow down market growth to some extent during the forecast period.

Automated knitting machines are very costly and usually cost tens to hundreds of thousands of USD per unit. Because of this high cost, many small and medium-sized textile manufacturers in developing regions cannot afford them, which reduces overall knitting machine market demand. In addition, other textile manufacturing technologies, such as warp knitting, compete with knitting solutions and can shift investment away from them.

expanding textile and apparel industry creating lucrative growth opportunities

The global apparel and textile industry is growing steadily due to increasing apparel production and rising usage of knitted fabrics in fashion, sportswear, home textiles, and medical textiles. According to CMI's latest report, the global textile and apparel market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 4% between 2025 and 2032, reaching USD 3,107,397.0 mn by 2032. This expansion of apparel and textile industry is anticipated to create growth opportunities for manufacturers of knitting machines during the forecast period.

Emerging global knitting machine market trends

Rising demand for customized and complex fabrics is a key growth-shaping trend in the knitting machine market. Top brands are increasingly looking for customized, small batch, or intricate knitted products, such as seamless garments, athleisure, and technical fabrics. This growing demand is pushing the adoption of advanced knitting technologies.

Sustainability is gradually taking central stage in knitting machine industry. There is a rising demand for energy efficient machines, reduced fabric waste, and the use of recycled or organic yarns. This is encouraging manufacturers to invest in greener knitting solutions.

Digital transformation and the growing adoption of industry 4.0 are driving sales of automatic knitting machines. Manufacturers are using automated knitting machines to improve operations, reduce downtime, and enhance quality. To take advantage of these opportunities, knitted machine companies are introducing new models. For example, Shima Seiki recently launched its latest generation of advanced flat knitting machines and digital solutions at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 in Singapore.

Growing demand for technical and functional textiles is boosting growth of knitting machine market. Knitted fabrics are being increasingly used in automotive interiors, medical textiles, protective gear, and industrial applications. This rising use is increasing demand for specialized knitting machines.

Booming e-commerce and fast fashion are creating new revenue opportunities for knitting equipment manufacturers. The growth of online retail and fast fashion increases the need for shorter lead times, better production flexibility, and faster turnaround. As a result, manufacturers are encouraged to adopt more advanced knitting systems.

Continuous innovations such as computerized, automated, and fully automatic knitting machines are improving productivity, precision, and flexibility while lowering labor costs. The use of IoT, AI, smart controls, and digital design software allows real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and quicker pattern changes, which makes knitting machines more appealing to manufacturers. These advancements are expected to support expansion of the knitting machine market during the forecast period.

Analyst's view

"The global knitting machine market is expected to witness steady growth over the forecast period, driven by rising demand for knitted apparel, increasing automation in textile manufacturing, rapid expansion of the fashion and sportswear industries, and growing adoption of advanced knitting technologies to enhance production efficiency and product quality," said a senior CMI analyst

(By https://www.coherentmarketinsights.com)

Fashion for Good launches new project to validate Bio-based and Recycled Elastane

Stretching Circularity is a collaborative project initiated by Fashion for Good dedicated to accelerating the adoption of lower-impact elastane alternatives that are compatible with circular textile systems. By validating bio-based and recycled elastane solutions through pilot-scale testing and demonstrator garments, the initiative aims to remove one of the most significant technical barriers to a circular textile economy.

Launched recently, Stretching Circularity is a collaborative project initiated by Fashion for Good dedicated to accelerating the adoption of lower-impact elastane alternatives that are compatible with circular textile systems. By validating bio-based and recycled elastane solutions through pilot-scale testing and demonstrator garments, the initiative aims to remove one of the most significant technical barriers to a circular textile economy.

Present in approximately 80% of all clothing, elastane is a material added in varying concentrations (typically from 1–5% by weight in cotton or wool garments to up to 20% in polyester or polyamide garments) to provide stretch and comfort. This fossil-based material creates two critical sustainability challenges:

- First, it contributes to carbon emissions and non-renewable resource consumption across the industry.
- Second (and more critically for circularity), even minimal concentrations of elastane act as a “contaminant” in textile recycling feedstocks, compromising fibre-to-fibre recycling of high-volume fibres like polyester and cotton. This effectively blocks circularity for the vast majority of clothing, leaving the industry with limited options beyond downcycling or landfill.

Stretching Circularity is a project initiated by Fashion for Good which tackles this challenge through two key workstreams. One workstream focuses on testing next-generation elastane materials made from alternative inputs, including bio-based materials and other feedstocks. This phase includes the creation of “demonstrator” garments, specifically a technical t-shirt (with 10% elastane) and a non-technical t-shirt (with 2% elastane). The other focuses on testing regenerated elastane made through emerging recycling innovations. Both workstreams follow a pilot-scale validation approach to generate comparable data on performance, impact, economical feasibility and scalability.

Driving this work is a powerful coalition of industry stakeholders representing the entire value chain. The consortium includes Fashion for Good partners Levi Strauss & Co (Beyond Yoga), On, Paradise Textiles, Positive Materials, and Reformation, with Ralph Lauren Corporation as an Advisor. Supported by ecosystem experts like Materiom and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the group will support knowledge sharing across the consortium to identify gaps and generate comparative data to de-risk the adoption of these circular solutions for the wider industry. Stretching Circularity operates under a structured due diligence and validation framework to assess if alternative materials are not just conceptually sound but also meet the performance standards of conventional elastane.

“Lower-impact elastane solutions exist, but they lack the pilot-scale validation brands need to scale them confidently,” Katrin Ley, Fashion for Good Managing Director. “This initiative seeks to provide that missing data, turning a well-known recycling “contaminant” into a functional component of a circular supply chain.” “Elastane is one of the most overlooked blockers to true circularity in fashion: it’s everywhere and yet there is a significant challenge to recovering it at scale. Stretching Circularity is about tackling that problem at the root and proving that lower-impact stretch materials and new recycling pathways can meet real performance and design standards.” Carrie Freiman Parry, Senior Director of Sustainability at Reformation

Forthcoming trade events...

INTERNATIONAL

VIATTS
26 – 28, February 2026
Venue: Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.
Tel: +852 2238 9963

SPINEXPO SHANGHAI
10 – 12, March 2026
Venue: Shanghai World Expo Exhibition and Convention Center, China
Organizer: Well Link Consultants Ltd
Tel: +7 495 120 0868

INTERTEXTILE SHANGHAI APPAREL FABRICS – SPRING EDITION
11 – 13, March 2026
Venue: Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt GmbH
Tel: +4969 7575-5869

YARN EXPO - SPRING
11 – 13, March 2026
Venue: Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt GmbH
Tel: +4969 7575-5869

INTERNATIONAL ISTANBUL YARN FAIR
26 – 28, March 2026
Venue: TÜYAP Fair and Congress Center, Turkey
Organizer: Tüyap Trade Fairs Inc.
Tel: +90 (212) 867 11 00

SAIGONTEX 2026 - VIETNAM SAIGON TEXTILE & GARMENT INDUSTRY EXPO
08 – 11 April 2026
Venue: Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC), Vietnam
Organizer: CP EXHIBITION LTD
Tel: +852-25117427

CHINA INTL DYE INDUSTRY, PIGMENTS & TEXTILE CHEMICALS EXHIBITION
15 – 17, April 2026
Venue: Shanghai World Expo Exhibition & Convention Center, China
Organizer: Shanghai Intl. Exhibition Management Co., Ltd.
Tel: +86-21-62792828

TECHTEXTIL FRANKFURT
21 – 24, April 2026
Venue: Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt GmbH
Tel: +4969 7575-5869

TEXPROCESS FRANKFURT
21 – 24, April 2026
Venue: Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt GmbH
Tel: +4969 7575-5869

GLOBAL SOURCING FAIR VIETNAM
22 – 24 April, 2026
Venue: Saigon Exhibition & Convention Center, Hall B2, Ho-Chi-Minh City, Vietnam
Organizer: Global Sources
Tel: +84-28-7101-2828

TEXTILEEXPO UZBEKISTAN SPRING 2026
13 – 15 May 2026,
Venue: Uzexpocentre NEC / Uzbekistan
Organizer: Iteca Exhibitions
Tel: +998 71 205 18 18, +998 94 800 18 18

INTL APPAREL & TEXTILE FAIR
18 – 20 May 2026
Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai
Organizer: Nihalani Events Management
Tel: +971 55 884 6186

FESPA GLOBAL PRINT EXPO
19 – 22 May 2026
Venue: Fira Barcelona, Spain
Organizer: Federation of European Screen Printers Associations
Tel: +01737 240788

ASIAN INTL. YARN AND FABRIC SOURCING SHOW
03 – 05, June 2026
Venue: Impact Exhibition Center, Bangkok - Thailand
Organizer: CEMS Global
Tel: +1-516-240-8077

TEXTECH ASIA
03 – 05, June 2026
Venue: Impact Exhibition Center, Bangkok - Thailand
Organizer: CEMS Global
Tel: +1-516-240-8077

ITM - INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MACHINERY EXHIBITION
09 – 13, June 2026
Venue: Tuyap Exhibition and Convention Center, Büyükçekmece, Turkey
Organizer: Tuyap Fairs and Exhibitions Organization Inc.
Tel: +90 212 867 11 00

GFT EXPO BANGKOK
01 – 04 July 2025
Venue: BITEC, Bangkok
Organizer: RX BITEC
Tel: +66 2686-7299

DOMESTIC

SITEX
21 – 23, February 2026
Venue: Surat International Exhibition & Convention Centre, Sarsana, Surat, Gujarat
Organizer: SGCCI
Tel.: +91 7211173112

TEX TECH SHOW
28 Feb – 1 March 2026
Venue: Prem Mahal, Karur,
Organizer: Knit Show
Tel.: 7010115200

SIMA TEXFAIR 2026
06 – 09, March 2026
Venue: CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore
Organizer: The Southern India Mills' Association
Tel: +91 422 4225333

KNIT-TECH
06 – 09, March 2026
Venue: Hi-Tech Tirupur Exhibition Centre, Tirupur
Organizer: Hi-Tech Intl. Trade Fair India P. Ltd.
Tel: +91 9363030262, 8056259991

YARN, FABRIC & ACCESSORIES - TRADE SHOW (YFA)
19 – 21, March 2026
Venue: IKF Complex, Tirupur, Tamilnadu
Organizer: Vision Communications
Tel: +91- 981087214, 9212707924

GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO – DELHI/NCR
20 – 23, March 2026
Venue: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo P. Ltd.
Tel: +91-7428499699, +91-11-41601663

GARFAB-TX
27 – 29, March 2026
Venue: SIECC Sarsana, Surat
Organizer: Vardaan Events Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91 9821170104, 9341444727

FABRICS & ACCESSORIES SOURCING SHOW
02 – 04 April 2026
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon East, Mumbai
Organizer: CMAI
Tel: 022-44750909

GARTEX TEXPROCESS - MUMBAI
09 – 11, April 2026
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: MEX Exhibitions & Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

DENIM SHOW - MUMBAI
09 – 11, April 2026
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: MEX Exhibitions & Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

SCREEN PRINT INDIA- MUMBAI
09 – 11, April 2026
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizers: MEX Exhibitions & Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

GLOBAL FABRIC EXPO 2026
26 – 28, June 2026
Venue: Surat International Exhibition & Convention Centre (SIECC), Sarsana, Surat, Gujarat
Organizer: SGCCI
Tel.: +91 261 2291111

EAST INDIA NATIONAL GARMENT FAIR
08 – 10, July 2026
Venue: Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata
Organizer: All India Association of Textile & Fashion
Tel: +91 96741 32635

BHARAT TEX 2026
14 – 17, July 2026
Venue: Bharat Mandapam, (Pragati Maiadan) New Delhi
Organizer: Bharat Tex Trade Federation
Tel.: +91 9818373737, 81300 73178

GARTEX TEXPROCESS - DELHI
06 – 08, August 2026
Venue: Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi
Organizer: MEX Exhibitions & Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

DENIM SHOW - DELHI
06 – 08, August 2026
Venue: Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi
Organizer: MEX Exhibitions & Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd.
Tel: 9873993950, 91-22-61445990

GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO (BENGALURU)
18 – 20, September 2026
Venue: Gayatri Vihar Palace Ground, Bengaluru
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo P. Ltd.
Tel: +91-7428499699, +91-11-41601663

KNIT SHOW
21 – 23, August 2026
Venue: Toplight Center, Manimahal Stop, Kangeyam Road, Tirupur
Organizer: Knit Show
Tel: +91 94437 92612, 98436 26285

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