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APPAREL VIEWS

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from the editor...

The RMG exports during April–January 2025-26 stood at $13,129.1 million, registering a growth of 1.6 per cent over the corresponding period of April–January 2024-25 and a significant growth of 13.3 per cent compared to April–January 2023-24. When compared to January 2024, RMG exports increased by 7.2%, demonstrating the industry's underlying strength and recovery progress despite ongoing global challenges.

The temporary decline in January exports can largely be attributed to high US tariff pressures and ongoing global volatility, which have disrupted order flows and created uncertainty across key markets. The tariff reduction on 7th February is likely to improve India's export competitiveness and support recovery in textile and apparel shipments in the coming months.

But now the textile industry is facing fresh geopolitical headwinds after Israel and the US launched air strikes on Iran. India exports textile and apparel products worth nearly Rs 5,000 crore to the UAE alone and another Rs. 1,500 crore to other parts of West Asia. Nearly 13–14% of India's textile and apparel products are exported to West Asia. The UAE is among the largest markets for Indian textile and apparel exporters in West Asia. In 2024, it was the fourth-largest market for India's textile and apparel exports after the US, the EU and Bangladesh.

One of the worst-affected segments is likely to be polyester yarn. Oil is the primary raw material for polyester yarn, derived from petroleum-based hydrocarbons such as para-xylene. These are processed into purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and ethylene glycol, which are polymerised under high heat to create polyester polymer that is spun into yarn. For one kg of yarn, nearly 85% to 90% of the input is PTA.

Shipping companies have also raised freight charges sharply. Some have increased rates by $1,500 to $2,000 per container from the earlier $200–$250 range. Maersk has reportedly increased rates by nearly $1,700 per container to West Asia and beyond, while CMA CGM has raised rates by $2,000 to $3,000 per container. The exporters have urged the government to waive demurrage charges on export cargo in view of flight disruptions arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis.

Recently Dr Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, met the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor and advocated for a dedicated export policy tailored specifically for the MSME sector. He proposed introducing a Special Interest Package Scheme aimed at improving access to affordable finance and strengthening the growth trajectory of smaller exporters. He also urged the RBI to consider removing the current cap of Rs. 50 lakh and to enhance eligibility limits under the scheme through a graded structure linked to turnover and export performance.

Arvind Kumar, Editor & Publisher

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Contents

Epoch Biodesign and Invista to launch large-scale recycled nylon

New initiative to scale up chemical recycling of textile to textile nylon. Epoch Biodesign, owned by Inditex, has reached a collaboration agreement with Invista, a global manufacturer of chemical intermediates, polymers and fibers, to advance the recycling of nylon 6.6, a key material in fashion, automotive and industrial applications. The pact establishes a joint framework to accelerate circular solutions on a commercial scale.

The alliance will combine Epoch's AI-engineered enzymatic recycling technology with Invista's polymerization expertise and global industrial footprint. The goal is to produce "virgin quality" recycled nylon 6.6, validated by customers and suitable for use in demanding supply chains.

"The fact that a company whose legacy is tied to the invention of nylon 6.6 choose our technology is a defining moment," said Jacob Nathan, CEO of Epoch Biodesign, a company that closed an investment round with Inditex in 2025 of more than 18 million euro. "Working with Invista will accelerate a real change in the material chain and allow us to transform waste into products equivalent to virgin material," he added.

For her part, Ethel Garnier, global director of sustainability at Invista, stressed that the company "is committed to exploring innovative technologies that improve the sustainability and resilience of nylon 6.6 supply chains," and added that the collaboration responds to "a real market need."

The memorandum of understanding marks the start of a structured collaboration. The companies have already launched the technical evaluation and qualification phases of the polymer, which will be followed by performance tests in end-use applications to validate its industrial use.

Epoch Biodesign is a UK-based biotech company specializing in enzymatic recycling of plastics and textiles using artificial intelligence and synthetic biology. Backed by investors such as Lowercarbon Capital, Extantia and Inditex, the company is developing what it defines as the largest nylon 6.6 biorecycling plant in the world, in line with the Galician group's commitment to more circular materials ■

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 recently. 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 ■

HIKARI 2026 Global Tour of Intelligent New Product Launch – Indonesia

February 10th, the HIKARI 2026 Global Tour of Intelligent New Product Launch – Indonesia Stop was successfully held at the Gumaya Tower Hotel.

Mr. Wu Liangjie, Chairman of HIKARI, solemnly unveiled two AI-powered next-generation intelligent sewing machines: the H9VIII Intelligent Lockstitch Sewing Machine and the HT92V2 Intelligent Double-Needle Lockstitch Sewing Machine. The event drew nearly 300 clients in attendance, with numerous industry professionals expressing keen interest in the application prospects of AI technology in the sewing sector.

HIKARI has consistently maintained its passion and commitment to technological innovation. Its proprietary Intelligent Thread Tension Control Technology has been widely adopted in mass-produced equipment and has received positive feedback from customers worldwide. The integration of AI technology represents a further leap forward, empowering factories to boost production efficiency while effortlessly producing garments of superior quality.

The event garnered extensive coverage from local media. The successful launch not only fully showcased HIKARI's technological prowess and innovative achievements in the field of intelligent sewing, but also significantly elevated HIKARI's brand influence and industry recognition in overseas markets, laying a solid foundation for the brand's continued advancement in its global expansion strategy ■

Italian textile machinery orders index, Q4 2025

In the fourth quarter of 2025, orders for Italian textile machinery manufacturers decreased by 36% compared to the same period in 2024, reflecting a still challenging global market environment. The downturn affected both the domestic market (-50%) and foreign markets (-34%).

Compared to the previous quarter (July–September 2025), total orders were down 25%. The orders index for October–December 2025 stood at 31.5 points (base year 2021 = 100). The index reached 28.4 points in the domestic market and 31.9 points abroad.

Overall, in 2025 order intake declined by 22% compared to the previous year (-28% domestically and -21% in foreign markets). At the end of 2025, the order backlog ensured approximately 2.9 months of production.

From a sector perspective, the spinning sector is showing signs of greater dynamism. Forecasts for the first quarter of 2026 still indicate caution, although a number of companies expect stability or improvement compared to the previous quarter.

Marco Salvadè, president of ACIMIT, commented: "the environment remains challenging for our manufacturers, but data relating to Italian exports for the first ten months of 2025 also show encouraging signs. In particular, the 46.7% growth recorded in India, now our leading destination market, confirms that Italian technology continues to be highly valued in high-potential countries. Innovation, quality and a strong presence in strategic markets will be the foundations of the sector's recovery" ■

From lace-like optics to woven-like looks

KARL MAYER's new RE 6 EL from KARL MAYER brings a breath of fresh air to raschel fabric production. The latest samples from the textile product development department of this innovative textile machine manufacturer demonstrate the extensive design possibilities on offer.

A series of fine filet articles showcase lace looks in Jacquard style, including a version with sequential patterning. To produce the lightweight fabrics, the two front guide lay bars worked fine hole designs through the EL pattern drive, while GB 3 and GB 4 jointly produced a ground from powernet or variants thereof. The two GBs at the back were threaded with heavy elastane.

A dense fabric with a power net look combines a pleasant, subtly grainy feel with high modulus in both the longitudinal and transverse directions, making it perfect for use in shapewear and corsetry. Its exceptional stretch properties are based on two-needle-overlap and a high proportion of elastane with different elongations, threaded in GB 3 to GB 6. For a second family of patterns, a two-needle-overlap was used but unusually with filet threading. The result was a fine, open-structure with extremely high width stretch and – thanks to symmetrical counterlapping – a remarkably regular fabric appearance.

A third family of patterns was produced providing of a more delicate appearance, more suited to elastomeric underwear products, with a geometric pattern on a filigree net base. The articles were manufactured with a power net setup and a GB 1 and GB 2 threading of 1 in, 63 out. The long shogging distances of the guide bars and the low number of threads resulted in a very thin, lightweight fabric. All items were a mix of semi-dull Nylon (DTY) and elastane ■

Egypt garment exports set to see huge growth

According to a new report from the Apparel Export Council of Egypt, and insights from the Egyptian Ready-to-Wear Export Council, garment exports will continue to surge, generating $4.4 billion in revenue in 2026. The Apparel Export Council's report noted that ready-made garment exports reached $2.8 billion in the first 10 months of 2025, a 22 percent bump from $2.3 billion during the same period in 2024. The sector's largest spike came in February 2025, with exports increasing by more than 30 percent, and October 2025 logged a 10 percent year-on-year increase to $282 million from $257 million from the same period a year before.

Apparel Export Council chairperson Fadel Marzouk said that Egyptian factories account for 63 percent of the country's total garment exports, attributed to robust growth and the support of government entities such as the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Investment.

The United States is Egypt's top export destination, followed by the European Union, Turkey and several

Arab countries. Exports to the U.S. grew by 10 percent last year to $1.08 billion, while those to Turkey soared 71 percent to $321 million, and Saudi Arabia more than doubled to $304 million. The E.U. saw a 34 percent increase to $717 million in exports.

Marzouk-who also chairs the Egyptian Ready-to-Wear Export Council-said he believes the ready-made garment sector can reach $4.4 billion in exports by 2026, representing a growth of around 22 percent over last year. He said that the start of new industrial projects in 2025 by Chinese and Turkish investors will help boost production capacity and export volumes in Egypt's garment sector. "The impact of the projects approved in 2025 will begin to be felt from 2026 to 2027," he said.

Among those projects is an integrated textile and apparel complex in the West Qantara industrial zone backed by Chinese group Zhejiang Jasan, which signed an agreement with the general authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone. Additional projects have been announced, such as a $130 million investment by Chinese companies Everfar Textile Egypt, Changzhou Kingcason Printing & Deying Co. ($24.5 million investment) and Shanghai Honour Home Textile, as well as a $120 million project with Oraglu of Turkey.

Egypt's garment industry growth figures into the country's push to expand the overall textile industry. The nation looks to increase annual textile export revenues to $11.5 billion by 2030, nearly four times Egypt's 2024 revenue of $2.8 billion ■

Denim Deal and Green Story partner to leverage data for scaling post-consumer recycled cotton

The Denim Deal recently announces a strategic collaboration with Green Story to leverage the power of data and AI in building confidence, credibility, and momentum in scaling post-consumer recycled (POCR) cotton across the global denim value chain.

As support to the denim industry to move from pilot initiatives to scalable circularity, Green Story will serve as the strategic intelligence partner, providing the data foundation necessary for the Denim Deal's upcoming annual report, scheduled for publication in Q4 2026. This collaboration marks a shift toward translating collective circular ambition into measurable, audit-ready outcomes that support both commercial decision-making and regulatory readiness.

Beyond impact measurement, the collaboration will address broader industry questions around data, transparency, and storytelling. A key focus will be on the role of Digital Product Passports (DPPs), exploring their untapped potential for consumer engagement, credible storytelling, and value chain transparency. In parallel, the partnership introduces a semi-autonomous circularity package designed to help brands overcome the common "bandwidth gap." By combining Green Story's AI-first platform with embedded expert support, the initiative provides a "bolt-on" sustainability function. This allows brands to conduct circularity assessments, identify operational gaps, and build credible roadmaps toward PCR cotton adoption without the need to hire large internal teams.

Moving beyond mere compliance, the partnership will explore how DPPs can drive B2C engagement and trust. By bringing robust, comparable data into Denim Deal collections, Green Story will enable brands to communicate the environmental performance of recycled materials with total transparency. By combining Denim Deal's collective, value chain-driven

approach with Green Story's expertise in environmental impact data and analytics, this collaboration aims to strengthen trust in post-consumer recycled cotton solutions and accelerate their adoption at scale ■

BTMA seeks clarity on zero tariff clause for US cotton-made garments

Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) sought clarification on some provisions of a clause in an agreement between Dhaka and Washington that provides conditional zero reciprocal tariff access for garments made using American cotton and manmade fibre.

BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russel in a letter to President and CEO of National Cotton Council of America, Dr Gary Adams, made the request aiming to ensure smooth implementation and mutual benefits.

The trade body that represents 1,873 mills with cumulative investments exceeding $23 billion, also said the deal could significantly expand imports of American cotton while boosting apparel exports to the United States. It noted that US cotton accounted for around 10 per cent of Bangladesh's total cotton imports

in 2025 and added that there is an opportunity to increase that share four to five times in the near term.

The BTMA further sought the Council's support in facilitating constructive engagement with relevant US authorities, including cotton producers, trade bodies, apparel importers associations and industry leaders, to operationalise Article 5.3 (textile) in a practical and mutual beneficiary manner.

Among the issues flagged were eligibility criteria for synthetic fibre components under article 5.3 and consideration of a policy waiver for recycled components, saying traceability of recycled content used in denim production is challenging.

On the proposed cap mechanism, the BTMA suggested setting export eligibility at five to six times the value of US cotton imports, noting that $1 worth of cotton typically translates into $5-6 in FOB apparel exports. It also sought clarity on whether the cap would be allocated nationally on a first-come basis or company-wise linked to actual cotton imports.

For certification, BTMA recommended using the US Cotton Trust Protocol, proposing a temporary transitional waiver for facilitating an effective kick-start of the programme ■

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BASF collaborates with Niber Technologies on high-performance electrospun innovation

At CHINAPLAS 2026, BASF will showcase an outdoor jacket produced in collaboration with Niber Technologies, Pte. Ltd. (Niber Technologies), a leading electrospinning specialist. The jacket incorporates the newly developed Freeflex® E 130, a thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) based electrospun nano membrane.

"Through our collaboration with BASF, we were able to develop an ultralight and soft-touch comfort outdoor jacket offering excellent membrane uniformity with high Moisture Vapor Transmission Rate (MVTR) and increased membrane application possibilities enabled by higher lamination temperature resistance. Made without the intentional use of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), the TPU-based membrane is a sustainable alternative to traditional ePTFE (Expanded Polytetrafluoroethylene)," said Jaehyung Park, CEO, Niber Technologies.

The outstanding performance characteristics were made possible by Freeflex's ability to form 100-600 nanometer ultrafine fibers through electrospinning, creating a high surface-to-volume ratio and a highly porous morphology.

Alongside its electrospun innovations, BASF will also showcase PP (Polypropylene)/PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) sports apparel containing 15% Freeflex melt spun TPU fibers, delivering excellent wearing comfort, quick drying performance, as well as enhanced elasticity and durability for activewear. Freeflex melt spun fibers are REACH compliant and certified with the Oeko Tex® Eco Passport, meeting stringent safety and chemical transparency standards for textile applications.

The electrospun nanomembrane capability and melt spun fiber versatility of Freeflex empower producers to design and develop the next generation of performance apparel. Additionally, Freeflex is advancing through Bluesign® certification and is set to be ready by 2026, meeting the growing regulatory and sustainability requirements of the global apparel and textile industries.

"With the addition of Bluesign® certification across Freeflex portfolio, BASF aims to drive sustainable transformation together with customers in apparel and textiles industries seeking high performance, compliant and environmentally conscious material solutions," said Rohit Roop Ghosh, Vice President, Business Management TPU, Performance Materials Asia Pacific, BASF. "The initiative reinforces BASF's commitment to cleaner materials, responsible production, and performance-driven textile innovation" ■

Cambodia garment sector seeks upstream industries to expand local sourcing

Hem Vanndy, Minister of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, recently received a delegation from the Textile, Apparel, Footwear, and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTA), led by its new Chairman, In Choy Ho, to discuss strengthening cooperation between international manufacturers and local enterprises as Cambodia prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in late 2029.

During the meeting, TAFTAC called for the development of upstream industries to expand local sourcing and strengthen domestic supply chains. Minister Vanndy emphasized the need to build stronger links between large factories and Cambodian suppliers to ensure the industry remains competitive in a changing global environment.

"We have two different worlds today - the world of large factories and the world of local enterprises. We must bridge these two worlds," the Minister said. He called on TAFTAC to work with MISTI to develop local industries that can supply to large factories, including sharing data on the raw materials and accessories needed by the sector.

"Strengthening local sourcing will be essential for Cambodia's long-term industrial development, particularly as global supply chains face disruptions and buyers increasingly require stronger local value addition," Minister Vanndy added.

Mr. Enjoy Ho, who has worked in Cambodia's garment sector for nearly three decades, noted that the industry has grown dramatically from about 20 factories in the mid-1990s to more than 860 member factories today. "As Cambodia prepares to graduate from LDC status, upstream industries for raw materials will be very important to ensure that our sector remains competitive and continues to provide employment," he said.

The garment, textile, footwear and travel goods sector currently employs around 1.1 million Cambodian workers and supports millions more through related economic activities. The meeting also discussed promoting business-to-business linkages between TAFTAC members and Cambodian SMEs, strengthening industrial safety standards, and exploring opportunities to diversify Cambodia's manufacturing sector while reinforcing the foundation of domestic supply chains ■

Revived Replacement Elements for VISLON® wins the iF Design Award 2026

YKK Corporation (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) is proud to announce that its Revived Replacement Elements for VISLON® has been awarded the prestigious iF DESIGN AWARD 2026, an award that recognizes excellence in design and quality, organized by iF Design Foundation.

?Established in 1954 in Germany, the iF Design Award is one of the world's most prestigious international design awards. For the 2026 awards, more than 10,000 entries were submitted from 68 countries and regions, and a rigorous evaluation was conducted by a jury of 129 design experts.

The Revived Replacement Elements for VISLON® enable damaged VISLON® zippers to be repaired by attaching die-cast replacement elements with a dedicated tool when individual elements come off the zipper tape. By introducing these elements together with dedicated tools, brands' repair centers can perform repairs more efficiently, significantly reducing repair time by allowing only the damaged element to be replaced rather than removing and replacing the entire zipper. The product received particularly high evaluations in the Sustainability and Idea categories, leading to this award. Further information about the Revived Replacement Elements for VISLON® can be found on the official ifdesign.com website under "Winners & iF Ranking" and in the "YKK DIGITAL SHOWROOM" ■

UNIFI® introduces Luxel™ A linen-inspired, easy-care performance yarn

Unifi, Inc. the makers of REPREVE® and one of the world's leading innovators in recycled and synthetic yarns, today announced the launch of Luxel™, a groundbreaking yarn technology that combines the luxurious look and feel of linen with high-performance, easy-care, and textile-to-textile recycled materials.

Designed for brands and consumers who value comfort, style, and sustainability, Luxel captures the natural look and feel of linen while offering advanced performance features such as moisture-wicking, wrinkle resistance, and odor control. This innovative technology is built directly into the yarn, providing exceptional versatility across a wide range of fabric constructions ranging from apparel and footwear to home furnishings, work wear, and accessories, empowering material developers to innovate across multiple categories with ease.

Luxel is available globally and made with REPREVE recycled polyester yarn, including 30% REPREVE Takeback™, reinforcing UNIFI®'s commitment to sustainability and circularity in the textile industry. By incorporating recycled content, including textile waste, Luxel helps brands reduce environmental impact while delivering high-performance, stylish fabrics.

"Luxel represents a true innovation in textile performance," said Eddie Ingle, CEO of UNIFI. "We developed this yarn to provide designers and manufacturers with a product that delivers the premium look and tactile appeal of linen but delivering on enhanced benefits of easy care, durability, and sustainability. Luxel allows brands to offer elevated, functional fabrics, made with REPREVE Takeback, and designed for premium functional performance, which is important to today's consumers."

Key Benefits of Luxel:

- Luxurious feel and breathability: Delivers a natural, linen-inspired texture with a smooth finish.
- Enhanced function and performance: Provides moisture management and built-in odor control for effortless maintenance.
- Wrinkle resistance: Maintains a polished, fresh appearance with minimal effort.
- Sustainable and traceable: Made with REPREVE recycled polyester including 30% REPREVE Takeback circular polyester embedded with our proprietary FiberPrint® tracer technology and verified by U-TRUST® to certify recycled content.

UNIFI continues to lead the textile industry in sustainable innovation, providing brands with products that combine functionality, style, and responsibility. With Luxel, the company takes another step forward in creating yarn solutions that meet both consumer expectations and environmental goals.

UNIFI will showcase Luxel at the Functional Textiles Shanghai by Performance Days (Booth Hall 3, G27) in Shanghai, China, March 5-6, the NW Materials Show (Booth #4015) in Portland, Oregon, March 11-12, and Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Spring Edition (Hall 5.1, Econogy Hub) ■

Egypt strengthens textile quality testing to support exports

The General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC) has signed a cooperation protocol with the Egyptian Chamber of Apparel and Home Textile Industries (ECAHT) to enhance testing and inspection services for textiles, ready-made garments, and technical apparel, aiming to improve product quality and strengthen the global competitiveness of Egyptian exports.

The agreement aligns with the directives of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade to upgrade the quality of locally manufactured products, support export-oriented industries, and boost the competitiveness of Egyptian goods in international markets. The protocol was signed by Essam El-Naggar, Chairperson of GOEIC, and Mohamed Mohamed Abdel Salam at the headquarters of the Federation of Egyptian Industries.

The agreement aims to expand cooperation in the inspection and laboratory analysis of textile, ready-made garment, and technical apparel samples in accordance with the latest approved Egyptian and international standards. It also seeks to strengthen coordination between regulatory bodies and the industrial sector to improve the quality of national products and facilitate their access to export markets.

According to a joint statement, the protocol will utilise GOEIC's advanced laboratory and technical capabilities. The authority operates specialised laboratories equipped with modern testing equipment and supported by qualified scientific and technical experts capable of conducting comprehensive examinations of textile and garment samples.

Under the agreement, GOEIC will provide testing and analysis services for samples submitted by companies and factories affiliated with the chamber. Technical test reports will be issued within specified timeframes, helping to accelerate inspection procedures and enhance the efficiency of quality assurance systems for products destined for both local and export markets.

The protocol also includes the establishment of an electronic data-exchange mechanism through a dedicated digital platform linking the two parties. The platform is intended to streamline procedures while ensuring accuracy and security in the handling of laboratory testing data.

Commenting on the agreement, El-Naggar said the protocol aligns with the ministry's strategy to support national industry and strengthen the quality framework of Egyptian exports, particularly in high value-added sectors such as ready-made garments and home textiles.

He added that GOEIC possesses advanced laboratory and digital infrastructure, as well as extensive technical expertise, enabling it to conduct a wide range of technical tests in line with the latest Egyptian and international standards. This, he said, will support manufacturers and enhance their ability to access global markets with confidence.

For his part, Abdel Salam said the cooperation represents an important step in supporting companies and factories operating in the sector by providing advanced inspection and testing services that help improve product quality and ensure compliance with international standards.

He added that the chamber is committed to supporting its members and enabling them to expand into international markets, noting that the partnership will help strengthen global confidence in Egyptian products and support export growth in the ready-made garments sector.

The protocol will remain in effect for five years, renewable upon mutual agreement. A joint committee from both sides will oversee its implementation and establish operational mechanisms to ensure maximum benefit for Egypt's garments and home textiles industry ■

US remove tariffs on 99 percent of US goods exported to Indonesia

Indonesia and the United States have agreed to eliminate tariff barriers on more than 99 percent of US goods exported to Indonesia across all sectors, the Office of the United States Trade Representative said in a press release.

US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer said the landmark agreement removes trade barriers and advances the economic and national security interests of the American people. He also expressed appreciation to Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartarto, for his commitment to rebalancing the trade relationship between Indonesia and the United States. "I look forward to close coordination and engagement with Indonesia on the implementation of these high-standard commitments," Greer said.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and US President Donald Trump signed the Reciprocal Trade Agreement in Washington, DC, on February 19, 2026.

According to a White House fact sheet, the United States will maintain a reciprocal tariff of 19 percent on imports from Indonesia, except for certain products that will receive a reciprocal tariff of 0 percent.

"The United States committed to establishing a mechanism allowing certain textile and apparel goods from Indonesia to receive a 0 percent reciprocal tariff rate for a to-be-specified volume of apparel and textile imports," the fact sheet said.

The document stated that the volume would be determined based on the quantity of textile exports produced from US cotton and manufactured fiber textile raw materials sourced from the United States.

Indonesia and the United States also reached an investment agreement worth approximately US$33 billion in the agriculture, aerospace, and energy sectors in the United States.

The agreement includes the purchase of approximately US$15 billion in US energy commodities, the procurement of around US$13.5 billion in commercial aircraft and aviation-related goods and services, including from Boeing, and the purchase of more than US$4.5 billion in US agricultural products.

The fact sheet also stated that Freeport-McMoRan signed a memorandum of understanding with Indonesia to extend its mining permit and expand operations in the Grasberg mineral district in Mimika District, Central Papua.

"This deal is expected to generate US$10 billion in annual revenue and will further strengthen US supply chains for critical minerals," the fact sheet said.

The document further noted that Indonesia will eliminate tariff barriers on more than 99 percent of US products exported to Indonesia across all sectors, including agricultural goods, health products, seafood, information and communication technology products, automotive goods, and chemicals.

According to the fact sheet, Indonesia is also committed to eliminating digital trade barriers, including Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) tariffs on intangible products, supporting an unconditional and permanent moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions at the World Trade Organization (WTO), and ensuring fair competition for US electronic payment companies ■

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India's textile & apparel import dependency falls 13.9% in April–December 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 ■

Tamil Nadu Interim Budget 2026-27 allocates Rs.1,943 crore for handlooms & textiles : SIMA Thanks Hon'ble CM

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking numerous policy initiatives and extending benefits to strengthen the global competitiveness of Tamil Nadu Textile Industry that accounts 1/3 rd textile business size of the country. The Textile Industry would play a key role in the State Vision of USD 1 Trillion Economy by 2031. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin released the Tamil Nadu Integrated Textile Policy 2025-26 on 29th January 2026 at the inaugural function of International Textile Summit 360, a 2 day maidan event organized by Government at Coimbatore.

The Interim Budget announced by Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Thiru Thangam Thennarasu has allocated Rs.1,943 Crore exclusively for Handlooms & Textiles apart from allocating equal amount for MSME and Rs.4,282 Crore for Industries that would also benefit the Textile Industry.

In a Press Release issued here, Mr Durai Palanisamy, Chairman, The Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) has welcomed the Interim Budget and thanked Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru M. K. Stalin for giving a significant support for implementation of various policy measures included in the Integrated Textile Policy and encouraging modernization, infrastructure development and employment generation.

Mr. Durai has welcomed the allocation of Rs.6 Crore for establishing an Advanced Quality Testing Laboratory at the The South India Textile Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore to promote athleisure and other technical textiles manufacturing in the State. He has stated that adequate funds had been allocated for establishing Handloom Parks, Modernisation of Powerlooms, Installation of Shuttleless looms, attracting new investment in processing technical textiles and garmenting. He also welcomed the proposal to release 'New Integrated Renewable Energy Policy' to enhance renewable energy capacity in the State, with a budget allocation of Rs.18,091 Crores ■

The Lycra company appoints RADCCO as new distributor in India

The LYCRA Company, a global leader in innovative and sustainable fiber solutions for the apparel and personal care industries, has named RADCCO as its exclusive distributor in India. The New Delhi-based company succeeds SmarText Solutions and will represent the company's full product portfolio nationwide, effective February 1. RADCCO is a wholesale trader specializing 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, The LYCRA Company's Vice President, EMEA & South Asia. "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. We are working closely with both RADCCO and SmarText Solutions to ensure a seamless transition with no disruption to the service, support, or product availability our customers depend on" ■

Mafatlal Industries forays into D2C segment with Mafatlal Medfits

The new platform aims to meet the growing demand for high-quality, comfortable medical wear, providing healthcare professionals across India with access to a diverse range of affordable apparel tailored to their needs

Mafatlal Industries Ltd (MIL), the flagship company of the Arvind Mafatlal Group, on Monday announced its foray into the direct-to-consumer segment with the launch of Mafatlal MedFits, a dedicated digital platform for medical apparel.

The new e-commerce platform will feature a wide portfolio of medical wear, including scrubs, lab coats, under scrubs, medical caps, and allied products, designed to address the evolving functional and comfort needs of healthcare professionals, the company said in a statement.

"The launch of Mafatlal MedFits marks a crucial step in the expansion of our healthcare and technical textiles portfolio. It reflects our continued investment in manufacturing capability, quality systems, and process excellence," Mafatlal Industries Ltd CEO Raghunath Mannil Balakrishnan said.

Through this digital platform, he said, "We are extending our strengths directly to healthcare professionals across India by offering medical scrubs and related essentials in internationally benchmarked styles and designs, engineered for comfort, functionality, and durability."

Mafatlal MedFits further strengthens the expanding presence of Mafatlal Healthcare in the medical textiles segment, the company said, adding that products on the platform are competitively priced, ranging from Rs.549 to Rs.1,999 ■

SITRA will establish a lab for sportswear and athleisure apparel in Coimbatore

The South India Textile Research Association (SITRA) in Coimbatore will set up a laboratory soon to test fabrics used to make garments for sports and athletics (sportswear and athleisure). The Tamil Nadu government recently announced in its Interim Budget for 2026-27 that it will give Rs.6 crore to SITRA to set up a laboratory.

Prakash Vasudevan, director of SITRA, told The Hindu on Friday that a 2,000 sq.ft laboratory will be set up soon with imported machinery to test fabrics that are used to make sportswear and athleisure wear. The Association has developed the required infrastructure at about Rs. 30 lakh and is likely to spend another Rs. 30 lakh, apart from the funds from the Tamil Nadu government, to purchase the requirement equipment.

More than half a dozen companies in India make these garments and there is just one laboratory in Mumbai to test the fabrics. Most of the manufacturers currently import speciality fibre to make sportswear or athleisure wear. These fabrics need to be tested regularly for various parameters - stretchability, moisture absorption capacity, softness, and so on. These garments are highly engineered right from yarn to finishing and are in huge demand in India and abroad. When a company imports the fabric samples, these need to be tested to see if the fabric will meet the specifications of the garment. Setting up a laboratory for this purpose will encourage more companies to go in for apparel used for sports and athletics, which are highly value added. “The laboratory can be commissioned in three months from the time of receipt of funds,” he said.

The SITRA has also submitted a proposal to the National Technical Textile Mission to set up a facility here at Rs. 20 crore to develop the fibre to make yarn for these garments. If this project is sanctioned, it will be a major boost to production of sportswear in India, he added ■

Odisha unveils major textile parks push to boost jobs & industrial growth

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday announced that multiple textile parks will be established across Odisha, marking a significant step toward strengthening the state's industrial base and generating large-scale employment.

While laying the foundation stone for a Rs.100 crore Textile Park and a Rs.187 crore Disaster Recovery and Data Center at the campus of Dharanidhar University, in Keonjhar the Chief Minister said that, in addition to a Technical Textile Park in Bhadrak, dedicated textile and apparel parks will be set up in Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Balangir, Ganjam, Cuttack, and Jagatsinghpur.

"Our youth have been strengthening the textile industry in other states. Now, similar opportunities will be created in Odisha so that people can work closer to home," Majhi said. Reaffirming the government's commitment to diversified industrial development, the Chief Minister said Keonjhar would no longer be known only for mining and steel. "We are committed to transforming it into a multi-sector industrial hub. Our vision is to build a 'Golden Keonjhar,'" he added.

The proposed Textile Park, to be developed with an investment of Rs.100 crore, is expected to create employment opportunities for nearly 1,200 young men and women. With modern infrastructure and logistics support, Hindalco Industries will establish a garment manufacturing unit over seven acres of land, producing approximately 2.4 million garments annually.

Highlighting the transformative potential of the sector, the Chief Minister said the textile industry offers significant employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth. He also noted that during the O-Tex Textile Conclave held in Bhubaneswar in July last year, 33 MoUs worth Rs.7,800 crore were signed, creating employment potential for more than 53,000 people across the state.

On the occasion, Majhi also laid the foundation stone for a Disaster Recovery and Data Center project worth Rs.187 crore, to be implemented by the Electronics & IT Department through the Odisha Computer Application Centre.

The facility will serve as a backup to the State Data Center in Bhubaneswar, ensuring uninterrupted delivery of digital government services during natural disasters or cyber threats. The center will also support data localization efforts and strengthen the resilience of the state's digital governance framework. Keonjhar was selected for the project as it falls under a low seismic risk zone (Zone II), making it suitable for critical digital infrastructure.

Emphasizing balanced regional development, the Chief Minister said Rs.312 crore has been allocated for temple development in the district, while projects worth Rs.1,900 crore were launched during the Makar festival. "A prosperous Odisha will be built through the prosperity of its districts. Industrial growth and digital empowerment are key drivers of our journey toward a developed India," he said ■

Krishnammal College signs Mou with Grasim Industries

Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Grasim Industries Ltd., Aditya Birla Group, Mumbai, to foster academic and industry collaboration in the textile and apparel sector.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr Nandini Rangaswamy, Chairperson, GRG Institutions, Coimbatore, and Shri Murugan Thenkondar, President and Head, Global Business Development, Grasim Industries Ltd., Mumbai.

The agreement focuses on knowledge sharing, skill development, collaborative research, joint publications, design ideation and new product development. The initiative is expected to strengthen the academic-industry interface and equip students with practical exposure to evolving market trends and technological advancements.

Through this partnership, the Department of Costume and Apparel Design aims to remain aligned with the latest developments in the textile and fashion industry. The collaboration will also open avenues for innovation, internships and real-time industry engagement for students and faculty members. College authorities expressed confidence that the MoU would pave the way for long-term cooperation and meaningful outcomes in research and product innovation ■

RMG export figures show resilience of apparel sector

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said the latest ready-made garment (RMG) figures show resilience of Indian apparel exporters, who continue to navigate challenging international conditions.

On a cumulative basis, RMG exports during April–January 2025-26 stood at $13,129.1 million, registering a growth of 1.6 per cent over the corresponding period of April–January 2024-25 and a significant growth of 13.3 per cent compared to April–January 2023-24.

RMG exports also showed a positive growth of 7.2 per cent when compared with January 2024, indicating underlying strength and recovery momentum in the industry despite persistent global headwinds, said Dr A Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC. The temporary decline in January exports can largely be attributed to high US tariff pressures and ongoing global volatility, which have disrupted order flows and created uncertainty across key markets.

"Just to retain customers, many of RMG exporters attempted to absorb part of the cost pressures by offering discounts up to even 20 per cent. However, with tariff levels rising to nearly 50 per cent, the price disadvantage became too significant, resulting in a loss of orders to competing sourcing destinations," said Sakthivel.

India has now signed free trade agreements (FTAs) with 37 countries, creating unprecedented market access for the textile and apparel sector. The coming decade presents a strategic window for India to leverage its inherent strengths - including a strong manufacturing base, skilled workforce, and integrated value chain - to accelerate export growth and expand its global market share, said Sakthivel. He also underscored that MSMEs form the backbone of the apparel sector and require targeted policy support to enhance competitiveness and sustain growth.

AEPC Chairman on Monday met the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra, and advocated for a dedicated export policy tailored specifically for the MSME sector.He proposed introducing a Special Interest Package Scheme aimed at improving access to affordable finance and strengthening the growth trajectory of smaller exporters.

To address export finance constraints, Dr. Sakthivel requested an increase in the Interest Equalisation Scheme from the existing 2.75 per cent to 5 per cent for manufacturing exporters. He also urged the RBI to consider removing the current cap of Rs 50 lakh and to enhance eligibility limits under the scheme through a graded structure linked to turnover and export performance ■

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MoU exchange between Colorant Ltd and TIT&S, Bhiwani at ATSCA 2026

In a noteworthy advancement towards strengthening industry–academia collaboration in India's textile sector, Colorant Limited, Ahmedabad, led by its Founder & Managing Director Mr. Subhash Bhargava, entered into a strategic partnership with The Technological Institute of Textile & Sciences (TIT&S), Bhiwani, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Colorant Centre of Excellence (CoE) – Dyes Synthesis and Application.

The MoU was formally signed on 28th February 2026 during the International Conference on Advanced Textile Structural Composites and Geosynthetics (ATSCG-2026) held at the Central Auditorium of TIT&S, in the august presence of Shri Giriraj Singh Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Government of India. The agreement was signed by Mr. Subhash Bhargava, Founder & Managing Director, Colorant Limited, and Prof. Dr. B. K. Behera, on behalf of TIT&S, Bhiwani, who also contributed to the conference through technical deliberations on advanced textile structural composites.

The conference witnessed the participation of eminent academicians and global researchers including Prof. Savvas Vassiliadis (University of West Attica,

Greece), Dr. Michal Petru (Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic), Prof. Frantisek Novy (University of Zilina, Slovak Republic), Prof. Robert Böhm (HTWK Leipzig, Germany), and Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra (Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague), reflecting the international significance of the platform.

Further adding to the collaborative spirit of the event, doc. Ing. Aleš Kocourek, Rector, Technical University of Liberec (Czech Republic) addressed the gathering on future academic–industrial partnerships and presided over the signing of MoUs with participating industries.

Amidst this global academic congregation, the establishment of the Colorant Centre of Excellence emerged as a pivotal initiative aimed at integrating real-time industrial practices within academic learning environments. With its operational expertise based in Vatva, Ahmedabad, Colorant Limited will supply, install, and commission the necessary dye synthesis testing and application equipments, while TIT&S will provide laboratory infrastructure and oversee operational maintenance, as outlined in the MoU framework.

Talking about the occasion, Mr. Subhash Bhargava emphasized the importance of creating practical learning ecosystems for future textile technologists. He noted that the Centre would enable students and researchers to gain hands-on experience in dye chemistry, process optimization, and industrial-scale application methodologies aligned with evolving global textile demands.

The initiative stands as a testament to Colorant's commitment to transforming academic insight into industrial innovation, thereby contributing meaningfully to India's growth story. The Colorant Centre of Excellence is envisioned to evolve into a dynamic hub where research meets application, fostering innovation-driven growth across the textile value chain ■

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 ■

Green Story welcomes Manohar Samuel as Strategic Advisor

Green Story is pleased to announce the appointment of Manohar Samuel, former Senior President, Marketing & Business Development at Birla Cellulose, as Strategic Advisor.

With decades of leadership experience across the fibre and textile value chain, Manohar brings deep expertise in building market-led growth strategies, scaling ingredient brands, and translating fibre-level innovation into tangible commercial outcomes. Over the course of his career, he has played a pivotal role in advancing the adoption of cellulosic fibres through industry collaboration, brand engagement, and sustainability-focused positioning.

Recognized for his B2B2C approach to market development, Manohar has consistently championed greater traceability and responsible material choices that are now central to the global sustainability transition. His work has contributed significantly to shaping industry dialogue around the future of sustainable textiles and the role of measurable impact in driving transformation.

In his role as Strategic Advisor at Green Story, Manohar will support Green Story's strategic direction as the company builds the intelligence infrastructure required for the industry's green transition. He joins an expanding senior advisory network that includes leaders such as Prama Bhardwaj, David Prais, and Tricia Carey.

"I've known Manohar's work for years, and what has always stood out is his ability to connect fibre-level innovation with what brands and consumers actually care about. Our conversations have consistently come back to the same theme, sustainability only works when it's measurable, practical, and commercially viable. Having him as part of our advisory ecosystem feels like a very natural step, and I'm genuinely looking forward to building the next phase of this journey together." says Dr. Kannan Muthu, CSO, Green Story, reacting to the appointment.

Commenting on his appointment, Manohar Samuel said, "I am delighted to be associated with Green Story as a Strategic Advisor. Credible sustainability

intelligence is central to global brand and supply chain success, and Green Story is at the forefront of this transformation. I look forward to contributing and helping accelerate this journey."

Green Story remains committed to enabling brands and manufacturers to move from sustainability ambition to verified action, leveraging data, collaboration, and strategic expertise to drive meaningful industry change ■

Textile exports to Gulf nations are unclear due to the West Asian conflict

India's textile industry is facing fresh geopolitical headwinds after Israel and the US launched air strikes on Iran. India exports textile and apparel products worth nearly Rs.5,000 crore to the UAE alone and another Rs 1,500 crore to other parts of West Asia. Tiruppur accounts for shipments of around Rs 450–500 crore per month to West Asian countries. Nearly 13–14% of its textile and apparel products to West Asia.

The conflict has disrupted trade flows, with vessels remaining anchored at ports over the past two days. Exporters are still assessing the overall losses.

One of the worst-affected segments is likely to be polyester yarn. Oil is the primary raw material for polyester yarn, derived from petroleum-based hydrocarbons such as para-xylene. These are processed into purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and ethylene glycol, which are polymerised under high heat to create polyester polymer that is spun into yarn. For one kg of yarn, nearly 85% to 90% of the input is PTA.

The UAE is among the largest markets for Indian textile and apparel exporters in West Asia. In 2024, it was the fourth-largest market for India's textile and apparel exports after the US, the EU and Bangladesh.

Shipping companies have also raised freight charges sharply. Some have increased rates by $1,500 to $2,000 per container from the earlier $200–$250 range. Maersk has reportedly increased rates by nearly $1,700 per container to West Asia and beyond, while CMA CGM has raised rates by $2,000 to $3,000 per container.

A Sakthivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, has urged the government to waive demurrage charges on export cargo in view of flight disruptions arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis ■

Kesaria Textile Company launches Menzaro and Kikiboo apparel brands

Kesaria Textile Company, a leading name in the textile industry of Surat, has further strengthened its presence with the launch of two new brands, Menzaro for menswear and Kikiboo for children's wear.The grand launch event was attended by leading textile traders, wholesalers and retailers from across the city. The introduction of the two brands marks a strategic expansion for the company, which has supported more than one lakh businesses through its B2B, B2C and franchise models.

With Menzaro and Kikiboo, customers can expect the latest trendy collections at direct factory rates, enabling better margins for retailers and business partners. Special grand opening offers were also announced as part of the launch. The company said that the initiative is not just a brand launch, but an opportunity for traders and entrepreneurs to scale their businesses.

Speaking on the occasion, Ritesh Modi, Founder of Kesaria Textile Company, said, "The launch of Menzaro and Kikiboo reflects our commitment to providingquality products and profitable opportunities to our partners. We have always believed in growing together with our traders. Through our direct pricing and structured business models, we aim to make expansion easier and more sustainable for entrepreneurs" ■

India's textile and apparel exports down by 3.75% in January

India's textile and apparel exports registered a decline in January compared with the same period last year, largely due to high tariffs imposed by the United States that remained in force till February 7.

According to the data shared by Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), textile exports in January have declined by -3.68 per cent, while apparel exports are down by -3.84 per cent in January 2026 compared with January 2025.

Overall, combined exports of textiles and apparel stood at 3,275.44 million US dollars in January 2026, down from 3,403.19 million US dollars in January 2025, registering a degrowth of -3.75 per cent.

The decline was mainly seen across key textile segments. Exports of cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups, and handloom products fell by -4.15 per cent to 995.58 million US dollars in January 2026 from 1,038.69 million US dollars in January 2025.

Carpet exports also declined sharply by -12.05 per cent to 118.99 million US dollars, while exports of jute manufactured products, including floor coverings, dropped significantly by -18.92 per cent during the same period. Handicrafts, excluding handmade carpets, also saw a decline of -2.70 per cent.

However, exports of man-made yarn, fabrics, and made-ups showed some resilience and recorded a slight growth of 1.01 per cent, rising to 430.29 million US dollars in January 2026 compared with 425.97 million US dollars in January 2025.

The data further revealed that during the period from April 2025 to January 2026, textile exports registered a degrowth of -2.35 per cent, while apparel exports recorded a growth of 1.59 per cent compared with the same period of the previous financial year.

Despite this growth in apparel exports, cumulative textile and apparel exports during April 2025 to January 2026 registered a marginal decline of -0.65 per cent compared with April 2024 to January 2025.

The share of textile and apparel exports in India's total exports also declined. The sector accounted for 8.96 per cent of total exports in January 2026, compared with 9.37 per cent in January 2025.

For the April 2025 to January 2026 period, the share stood at 8.13 per cent, lower than 8.36 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

On the import side, imports of cotton raw and waste increased significantly by 12.33 per cent in January 2026 and rose sharply by 72.36 per cent during the April 2025 to January 2026 period. This increase suggests higher domestic demand for raw materials or supply adjustments within the textile industry.

Now the outlook is expected to improve going forward following the United States' reduction of tariffs on February 7. The tariff reduction is likely to improve India's export competitiveness and support recovery in textile and apparel shipments in the coming months ■

Odisha govt. clears Rs 4.7k-cr worth investment proposals

Odisha govt on Friday cleared 25 investment proposals worth Rs 4,729 crore with a potential to generate 25,200 jobs. The state level single window clearance authority (SLSWCA), chaired by chief secretary Manoj Ahuja, approved projects spread across districts like Khurda, Jajpur, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj, Angul and Gajapati.

Among the major proposals, Colortone Textiles Pvt Ltd will invest Rs 700.29 crore in Khurda for an integrated textile facility, generating 1,010 jobs. In steel, the panel approved Konark Ispat's Rs 990 crore investment plan in Jharsuguda, which is expected to create 2,000 jobs through expansion of its rolling mill, pellet plant and captive power unit.

The latest approvals span 13 key sectors - textiles, steel, chemicals, IT, infrastructure, logistics, renewable energy, tourism, metal downstream, circular economy, cold storage, capital goods - underscoring Odisha's push for diversified industrial growth. These projects reflect Odisha's strategic focus on employment-intensive sectors like textiles and apparel, while also investing in high-value industries such as steel, chemicals and renewable energy.

Textiles and apparel sector could result in 18,000 jobs, the most among the projects cleared. Major investments include SCM Garments Pvt Ltd (Rs 150 crore, 4,000 jobs), Piu Fashion Pvt Ltd (Rs 96.99 crore, 3,700 jobs), and Techno Activewear Pvt Ltd (Rs 100 crore, 2,500 jobs).

As Odisha advances steadily towards its vision of Samrudha Odisha 2036, the state govt, under the leadership of chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi, continues to accelerate inclusive industrial growth with a focus on balanced regional development, a senior govt official said ■

190 Acres industrial land allotted in PM MITRA Park Virudhnagar in Tamilnadu

190.44 acres of industrial land were allotted to 23 investors recently by the Board of Directors of PM MITRA Park Tamil Nadu, unlocking committed investments of nearly Rs.2,192.21 cr. with a potential for generating 15,000 jobs. The approved investments span various segments including integrated plants, yarn manufacturing, fabric production, processing and finishing, garment manufacturing and technical textiles

The land allotment decisions were taken in the 9th Meeting of the Board of Directors of PM MITRA Park, Tamil Nadu Ltd. (SPV) held on 27 February 2026 under the chairpersonship of Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles.. The meeting was attended by Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Shri Arun Roy Vijayakrishnan, Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Government of Tamil Nadu; Shri Senthil Raj Krishnan, MD, SIPCOT, Tamil Nadu along with representatives from NICDC, Ministry of Textiles and SIPCOT.

The Board noted that the investor interest in the Park signals strong industry confidence in the Park's design, governance structure and long-term competitiveness. It also noted that allotment of land in the PM MITRA Park at Virudhnagar in Tamil Nadu would accelerate the process of establishment of an integrated value chain of yarn, fabric and garment production in the region which is already a major manufacturer and exporter of textiles and apparel. In addition, the 20 MLD ZLD at the PM MITRA Park would enable clean and sustainable processing facilities to a number of processing units including small and medium sized units.

The PM MITRA Park at Virudhnagar is one of the 7 mega Parks being set up under the PM MITRA scheme. The Park is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 1894 cr. and includes provisions for a 15 MLD CETP with ZLD, a 20 MW solar power plant, centralised steam boilers besides nearly 13 lakh sq ft. ready to move plug and play units. Located right on the National Highway NH 44 and just 106 km away from Tuticorin port, it offers excellent connectivity and logistics and a mature textile ecosystem. Nearly Rs. 550 cr. of infrastructure works are already under execution in and around the Park site and the Park is targeted to be completed by December 2027.

The Board noted the development works in progress and reaffirmed the commitment to transparent, policy-aligned and ecosystem-driven development of PM MITRA Park, Tamil Nadu, aimed at strengthening India's integrated textile value chain and enhancing global competitiveness ■

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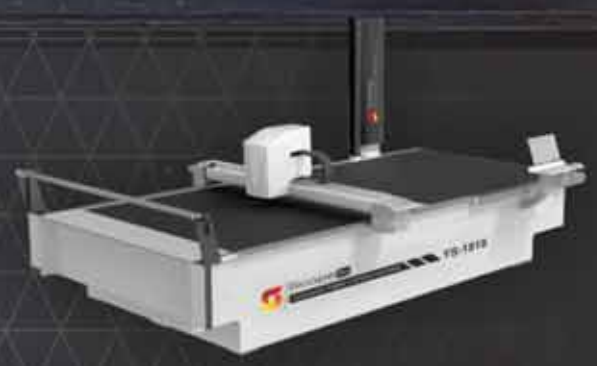

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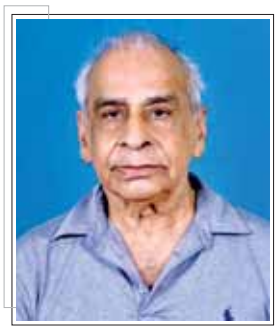
Uncertainty Persists Over India US FTA with Raging War in West Asia



S.VENKITACHALAM is a senior economic journalist with more than 40 years of experience, covering Industry, Commerce & Textile Ministries. In this article the author discuss about the Uncertainty persists over India from US FTA with Raging War in West Asia.

Already facing uncertainty over the frequent position taken by Trump on the tariff issue, the war in West Asia has cast a shadow on the proposed trade pact (FTA) with the US. However according to experts, the India – EU FTA hailed as the "Mother of all Deeds" by the EU Commission President is likely to materialise. What has lent credence to this is that the 22 out of 27 EU members who participated in the New Delhi AI Summit agreed to speed up ratification by EU Parliament of the EU – India FTA deal. Worse, the global trade scenario has been in turmoil after Trump announced "reciprocal" tariffs on India and certain other countries on August 7 last year. The situation has only worsened with frequent statements by Trump by raising tariffs on all countries by 10 percent on February 20 and increasing it further to 15 percent on February 25, What is more, the 15 per tariff will be over and above the current tariffs that is, 18 percent after reducing it from 50 percent plus the most favoured – Nation (MFN) tariff which is now 12 percent for India. This means New Delhi has to cough up a total duty – a halfy one – of 40 percent - 18 percent plus MFN tariff of 12 percent and the newly announced rate of 10 percent. With this, India's textile exporters have received a severe beating at the hands of the US administration. What is in store for India and others is unclear at the moment. New Delhi has put on hold further negotiations with Washington.

On February 26 he issued a stern warning to America's trading partners to "stick to the existing trade deals along the same successful path we negotiated or they will find the next chapter far more painful". This warning has made Indian exporters more nervous at a time when they were offering discounts to their American buyers to clinch deals even at the cost of losing export margins. Some are worried over their shipments already made to the US.

Amid this rather "fluid" world trade scenario, however there is some hope. India may be able to fend off competition from Bangladesh if the former gets the same concession offered to Bangladesh by the US. Briefly stated, Bangladesh garments made with US cotton could avoid the 19 percent reciprocal duty. Total duty payable comes to 19 percent plus 12 percent MFN totalling 31 percent compared to 30 percent for India.

Given Bangladesh's export structure and heavy dependence on non-US textile inputs mean the arrangement is likely to result in only a limited increase in garment exports to the US, said Trade Research Body (CTRI). Commerce Minister is hopeful that India will get the some concession.

In addition (CTRI) he said Bangladesh has agreed for more concessions to bag the deal from the US opening its market to US machinery, chemicals etc. It also noted that the import of US cotton involves transportation cost and the spinning industry in and around Bangladesh is not very competitive. It has been struggling until a few months ago. "A large part of the global trade uses man-made fibre. So we do not have much reason to worry", said Premal. H. Udani, CMD of Keytee Corporation. The US would also like itself to satisfy that American cotton is indeed used by Bangladesh for converting into garments and supplying them to the US.

Yet another development that may weigh in India's favour is that Bangladesh's status as s Least Developed Country (LDC) may expire in November – December this year. So it may not receive duty free access in the EU bloc, whereas order the proposed FTA deal with EU India gets zero duty access to its textiles and garments. So we may be more competitive than Bangladesh.

The US – India economic relationship has never been stronger. With the new dollar 500 bn target in bilateral trade, both countries are creating jobs, driving innovation and building shared prosperity, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said. Piyush Goyal said, talks with US commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick in New Delhi signalled that the two sides remain engaged on the tariff issue. Lutnick is the highest ranking American official from Trumps economic team to visit India.

In the EU the European Parliament is to ratify the recently finalised FTA with India. In India, tariff reduction as agreed to only after the legal act because US tariffs (rates applicable to countries with which concessional or FTA rates have not been worked out, says commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal.

Indian exporters have been at tenterhooks for the last three quarters as they have been offering very heavy discounts to retain US business. The US economic resilience is the only help that mitigated these efforts. Over the last 10 months Indian exporters have seen multiple changes and most businesses are bracing for more twists and turns as the current tariffs of are in place for 150 days.

The proposed deal with the US will "expand cotton demand" rather than hurt domestic growers, Goyal said, adding Indian farmers stand to gain from increased textile exports". Explaining he said "if you buy cotton or yarn from the US and process it and use it to make garments, you are able to export to the US at zero duty. That is an established principle of theirs and India will benefit from the same way of working".

Goyal said that India has concluded nine FTAs in the last three and a half years with 37 developed economics, effectively opening up to over 70 percent of global trade.

There has never been a country that became developed while remaining insulated from the global economy", he said, adding that India's calculated opening up is designed to balance consumer interests, farmer protection and export led growth.

More than half of India's trade is now covered under trade pacts, without taking into account deals with countries like Sri Lanka and China. It is believed that the trade agreement with the EU appears to have provided a strong goad for the US to wrap up the long lingering negotiations with India.

Indian government officials clarify that New Delhi has offered quotas for most agricultural goods, where duty is sought to be reduced as part of the deal with the US. In most cases, the quantities offered is small and inputs such as cotton that are already being imposed will be allowed in a way that they feed into the requirements of the textiles industry. It can step up exports after the finalisation of trade pacts with the EU and the UK

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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 ▫

Chairman AEPC requested for a separate MSMEs export sector policy from RBI Governor

A Sakthivel, Chairman AEPC met Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, Reserve Bank of India in Mumbai today and requested for a separate export policy for the MSMEs sector. Chairman AEPC proposed that a dedicated Special Interest Package Scheme be introduced for MSMEs. Currently, banks determine lending rates based on their internal policies and balance sheet considerations, leading to inconsistencies and higher borrowing costs.

Chairman AEPC meeting with the RBI Governor assumes important as India has signed FTA with 37 countries the next decade is going to the India's advantages in apparel and textiles and it is time to leverage this for boosting exports from the country. In his representation Dr Sakthivel said, "A large number of apparel exporters across India - predominantly MSMEs - face several operational and regulatory difficulties, particularly in their interactions with Authorised Dealer (AD) Banks, export finance systems, and compliance frameworks." MSMEs sector face challenges like high interest rates on MSME loans, increasing the cost of borrowing and affecting competitiveness; lending rates closely linked to CIBIL scores, which places small enterprises and first-time exporters at a disadvantage; high Turnaround Time (TAT) for processing and sanctioning MSME loans, impacting working capital cycles, limited digitalization of MSME lending processes, resulting in procedural delays and lack of transparency, etc. he added.

As a suggestion, Dr Sakthivel proposed, "A dedicated Special Interest Package Scheme be introduced for MSMEs. Currently, banks determine lending rates based on their internal policies and balance sheet considerations, leading to inconsistencies and higher borrowing costs. In this regard, the RBI may kindly consider issuing appropriate regulatory guidelines to ensure fair, transparent, and uniform lending practices for MSMEs, thereby improving credit accessibility and supporting sustainable sectoral growth with end-to-end digital loan processing and real-time tracking."

Further Chairman AEPC requested to solve the export finance constraints, the Interest Equalisation Scheme may be increased from existing 2.75% to 5% for manufacturing exporters and the Reserve Bank of India may consider removing the cap of Rs.50 Lakhs and enhancing the eligible limit for Interest Equalisation Scheme in a graded manner based on turnover/export performance.

Chairman AEPC in his representation also requested for hosts of other measures to strengthen the MSMEs sector. The few other suggestions are as below:

- External credit ratings may be made mandatory only for MSME units with total banking exposure above Rs.100 crores

- Credit Information Reports (CIRs) may be replaced with CRILC (Central Repository of Information on Large Credits) reports for regulatory and monitoring purposes, wherever applicable
- Processing charges on renewal of existing bank limits (where there is no enhancement or restructuring) may be waived or significantly reduced only to the enhanced amount of bank limits
- A standardised structure should be implemented across all banks, and the Reserve Bank of India may kindly regulate both forex conversion and general bank service charges to ensure transparency and uniformity
- Exporters obtain post-shipment risk coverage through active buyer policies from the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India. However, for pre-shipment packing credit facilities, lender banks secure separate coverage, and the premium cost is passed on to exporters. This results in increased financing costs and additional compliance burden, despite exporters already maintaining adequate risk protection
- Integration and seamless transmission of foreign bank charges data from the RBI-EDPMS system to the Customs ICEGATE system will help eliminate unnecessary short realisation notices from Customs

Chairman AEPC stated that, MSME exporters play a vital role in India's export growth and employment generation. However, procedural delays, banking constraints, and regulatory complexities are affecting their operational efficiency and competitiveness." MSMEs form the backbone of India's economy, contributing nearly 30% to GDP, 45% to exports, and providing employment to over 11 Crore people. However, persistent structural, financial, and procedural challenges are impacting their competitiveness and export performance, he added ▫

AEPC commemorates its 48th Foundation Day

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) celebrated its 48th Foundation Day at its headquarters, Apparel House, Gurugram, marking nearly five decades of dedicated service to the Indian apparel export industry.

On the occasion, Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, said, "The successful completion of 48 years reflects AEPC's unwavering commitment to meeting the expectations of the apparel industry, particularly exporters. Over the years, the Council has consistently taken up industry concerns with the government and relevant stakeholders to promote, protect, and safeguard the interests of the ready-made garment (RMG) sector."

Highlighting recent developments, Dr. Sakthivel added, "Aligned with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, sustained efforts have contributed to the signing of several landmark Free Trade Agreements, including the recent India–EU and India–US FTAs, which cover two of our largest markets. Despite global headwinds, geopolitical uncertainties, and ongoing supply chain disruptions, the sector registered a moderate export growth of 1.6% during April–January 2025-26 compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year."

He further noted that exports to several key markets have shown encouraging growth, including Italy (16%), the UK (4.8%), UAE (10.6%), Saudi Arabia (18.5%), Germany (8.7%), and Spain (7.1%). Strong performance has also been observed in both traditional and emerging FTA partner countries such as Japan, Iceland, and Australia. With the FTA with the USA the exports to the US market will double in next three years. Next decade will surely be India's decade in apparel and textiles exports.

On this occasion, AEPC expressed its sincere gratitude to the Government of India, particularly Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh, and Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, for their continued guidance and support to the garment industry.

The Council acknowledged several key government initiatives that are expected to accelerate sectoral growth, including PM MITRA Parks, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Mega Textile Parks, the Export Promotion Mission, the SAMARTH skilling programme, and the development of deeper export strategies for 40 priority countries through engagement with Indian missions abroad. Additional support measures such as promoting extra-long staple cotton cultivation, enhancing ease of doing business, improving credit access for MSMEs through expanded credit guarantee coverage, and establishing national centres of excellence for skilling are also expected to provide significant momentum to the industry.

Looking ahead, AEPC plans to further expand the global footprint of Indian apparel exports through diversification into new and non-traditional markets, supported by targeted export promotion activities during 2026-27.

The Council continues to encourage the industry to adopt eco-friendly and sustainable practices, while aligning with global best standards in environmental and social compliance.

Reflecting on its 48-year journey, AEPC reaffirmed its commitment to achieving new milestones through market intelligence, capacity building, trade facilitation, participation in international events, and strong policy advocacy.

To mark the occasion, AEPC also launched a social media outreach campaign highlighting its ongoing initiatives and the government's supportive measures for the apparel sector. Members of the Executive Committee extended their congratulations to all employees of the Council for their dedication and contributions towards the organisation's continued success ◘

Hyper-Personalisation in Fashion Why AI Styling is the Next Big Shift

SAI KIREN VEMURI, CEO & Founder, Stylz, is a forward-thinking entrepreneur and technology enthusiast, driven by a deep passion for innovation, creativity, and human-centered design. As a key force behind Stylz, he brings together his expertise in artificial intelligence, data science, and storytelling to shape a platform that reimagines self-expression through style. His approach is rooted in building solutions that are deeply Indian in perspective while remaining globally relevant in their impact.

Most fashion platforms talk about "personalisation," but what they usually mean is faster selling. The system watches what you click, what you add to cart, and what people like you are buying, then it shows you more of the same so you purchase sooner and more often. That helps the platform clear stock and increase order value. But for the buyer, it often fails at the one thing that matters: answering "Will this look good on me?" That gap is exactly why personal styling is different from recommendation engines.

Personalisation starts from identity-based styling. It is when clothing starts matching you, not the other way around. The outfits look perfect for your day without feeling like a costume. And most importantly, it solves the problem of decision fatigue, because the suggestions feel like they were made for your life, your comfort, and your personality.

The need for identity-based styling matters even more now because fashion and digital access are growing side by side in India. The Ministry of Textiles reported that textile and apparel exports reached USD 37.8 billion in 2024–25, which shows the scale and momentum of the sector. At the same time, India's digital base is expanding rapidly, with internet connections rising to 96.96 crore in 2024. That means people are discovering endless styles, comparing looks, and shopping a lot, so the need for personal styling is growing stronger each year.

Most personalisation is still product-led

Traditional fashion personalisation usually starts with inventory. The system asks what it can sell, then tries to match a user to that stock. This is why so many recommendations feel repetitive. If someone buys one black kurta, they are shown ten more. If someone clicks on a sneaker once, the feed turns into sneakers for a week. That is not how people actually dress.

Styling decisions should be based on body shape, skin tone, proportions, climate, routine, comfort, social setting, and confidence. This is where hyper-personalisation changes the conversation. AI styling is moving beyond click history to understand how a person lives and dresses. It can factor in body structure, skin undertone, fit preferences, work-life patterns, cultural context, and even how someone repeats outfits through the week. That makes the output more useful and helps the user dress with intent.

AI styling is not about chasing trends

There is a common misunderstanding that AI in fashion only means trend prediction. Trend forecasting is one use case, but it is not the primary thing.

That means someone can get suggestions that match their actual body type, the clothes they already own, and the kind of day they are dressing for. A college student, a corporate professional, and a new mother may all like similar colours, but their styling needs are completely different. Hyper-personalisation works when the system recognises this difference instead of pushing the same "top picks" to everyone.

Making expert styling scalable

Personal stylists have always done this well. They observe patterns, understand preferences, and suggest what works for the person in front of them. The problem is scale. AI changes the limitation and access of stylists by making it available to everyone who is looking for a personal stylist.

It makes expert-style guidance available to many more people by handling the first layer of analysis quickly and consistently. It can process wardrobe data, suggest combinations, identify gaps, and learn from feedback over time. AI brings speed and memory. Human stylists bring taste, nuance, and context. Together, they solve a problem that older fashion commerce systems could not solve well.

How AI plus human styling changes daily life

This blend changes small daily clothing decisions instantly and makes it easier for everyone. You spend less time staring at your wardrobe and more time getting on with your day. Outfits become easier to repeat because they are built around what suits you, not around what is new. Last-minute plans feel less stressful because you can get options that already match your body, your comfort, personality and the setting. And over time, you start buying less "maybe" clothing, because you can see clearly what works and what does not.

The change is also emotional, not just practical. When people stop guessing and start dressing in a way that fits them, they show up differently. They feel more steady in social settings, more confident at work, and less self-conscious in photos. That is why hyper-personalisation will matter more in the future, because clothing is becoming a bigger part of how people express identity, not only how they look.

Why this shift matters for consumption

The fashion industry has long optimised for trend velocity. But that model also increases overbuying and underuse. Hyper-personalised styling can help correct this pattern. When people understand what suits them and how to style what they already own, they tend to buy with more clarity. Purchases become more intentional. Outfit repetition becomes easier. Wardrobes become more functional. As digital commerce scales, fashion platforms and brands will need to move from generic recommendation engines to identity-based styling systems.

The next big shift in fashion

Hyper-personalisation in fashion is not just a feature upgrade. It is a change in how fashion is delivered. For years, the industry asked people to adapt to trends. AI styling makes it possible for fashion to adapt to people. That is a much bigger shift. The brands and platforms that understand this early will build stronger trust because they will help consumers dress better with intent and not just shop more. In the long run, personalisation won't be about offering more choices, it will be about making the right ones easier ▫

US tariff relief soothes export sentiment 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 bilaterial 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

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Tamil Nadu Textile Industry Expresses Gratitude to the Hon'ble CM for Visionary Textile Policies

The industry thanked the Government of Tamil Nadu led by your goodself for creating a separate department exclusively for Textiles for the first time in Indian history to enhance modernization, sustainability and a globally competitive textile sector, focusing on technical textiles, spinning and garmenting. On behalf of the entire textile value chain, they also respectfully conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Major Tamil Nadu Textile Policies Reforms

- Removal of 1% market committee Cess on seed cotton, cotton waste and cotton lint that prevailed since 1959; advising CCI to commence depot sale to benefit the small and medium Spinning mills in Tami Nadu
- Implementation of the PM MITRA Park at Virudhunagar, one of the seven parks approved by the Ministry of Textiles
- Including machinery in addition to infrastructure and making the mini textile park scheme investment friendly and thereby attracting huge investments
- Launching sustainable cotton mission for increasing the cotton production and productivity in Tamil Nadu
- Announced launching a mega Viscose Staple Fibre production factory near Tuticorin to strengthen the competitiveness of Viscose Staple Fibre value chain in Tamil Nadu that accounts 70% of viscose staple fibre being consumed in the State

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin released Tamil Nadu New Integrated Textile Policy 2025-26 on 29th January 2026 at Coimbatore, The Unique benefits extended under the policy are

1. 6% Interest Subvention for all the spinning machines
2. 20% Capital Subsidy for 1,000 looms to modernize as shuttleless looms with Electronic Jacquard
3. 50% Capital Subsidy to upgrade 3,000 Powerlooms as raiper shuttleless looms
4. 5% to 25% Subsidy to establishment of worksheds for shuttleless looms in powerloom clusters
5. 25% Capital Investment Subsidy to set up New Textile Processing units (Dyeing, Printing and Finishing) and IETPs and 25% for Expansion / Modernisation / Upgradation of existing Textile Processing Units and IETPs
6. 25% Capital Investment Subsidy for setting up of manufacturing facility for non-conventional fibres/yarn such as Banana, water hyacinth, bamboo, hemp, flax, pineapple fibre, etc.,
7. Allocation of Rs 15 Crores to accelerate growth and promote diversification into Technical Textiles and Rs 25 Crores for Research and Business Development Fund for Technical Textiles and Man Made Fibre

8. 50% Capital Investment Subsidy for purchase of brand new fully computerized cutting machine with CAD / CAM Software

Power related reforms

1. Continuation of annual banking facility for wind power generations to enhance the performance of Tamil Nadu textile industry
2. Permitting to continue operating old wind mills of 20 years and above with annual banking facility
3. Free electricity units was increased from 200 units to 300 units for handloom sector and from 750 units to 1000 units for power loom sector
4. The Peak Hour charges for LT (Low Tension) industrial consumers were waived. Extended 50% concession in the Network Charges for the LT Consumers having Rooftop Solar

Schemes benefitted the Tamil Nadu textile industry by continuously persuading the Government of India, through Hon'ble Minister for Textiles, Thiru R Gandhi, as well as through Hon'ble Members of Parliament;

- The 11% import duty imposed on long-staple cotton was completely withdrawn. For other cotton varieties, duty exemptions were granted during the period April–October 2022 and August–December 2025
- The Quality Control Order (QCOs) regulations imposed on Man-Made Fibre, Filaments and Yarns were withdrawn
- The GST rate on Man-Made Fibre was reduced from 18% to 5%, and MMF yarn from 12% to 5%
- During periods of COVID and the 50% Tariff imposed by US and economic recession, financial assistance and other relief measures were provided

For implementing such historic and landmark schemes, on behalf of the entire Textile Industry, The industry conveyed their heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ▫

CITI calls for 5-year RoSCTL scheme extension

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. In a press release on February 9, 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 ▫

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Waterproof breathable textiles market to hit USD 4.64 billion by 2033

According to latest research by Growth Market Reports, the global waterproof breathable textiles market size reached USD 2.53 billion in 2024, demonstrating robust growth driven by heightened demand for functional apparel across several sectors. The market is expanding at a CAGR of 6.8% and is forecasted to attain a value of USD 4.64 billion by 2033. This growth is primarily fueled by the increasing adoption of high-performance textiles in sportswear, protective clothing, and outdoor apparel, as well as the rising consumer preference for comfort combined with weather protection.

The Waterproof Breathable Textiles Market is witnessing steady growth as consumers increasingly prioritize performance-driven apparel that offers protection without compromising comfort. These textiles are engineered to block external moisture while allowing perspiration vapor to escape, making them essential in outdoor wear, sports gear, medical textiles, and protective clothing. Rising awareness of health, hygiene, and climate adaptability is accelerating adoption across both consumer and industrial sectors.

Key Growth Drivers

Rising Demand for Functional Apparel

Outdoor recreation, fitness trends, and adventure tourism have fueled demand for high-performance clothing. Consumers seek garments that offer protection from rain and wind while maintaining breathability during physical activity. This trend is particularly strong in sportswear, hiking gear, and urban commuter apparel.

Expansion in Healthcare Applications

Waterproof breathable textiles are increasingly used in medical bedding, surgical gowns, and protective covers. These materials help maintain hygiene by preventing fluid penetration while ensuring airflow, reducing the risk of infections and improving patient comfort.

Technological Innovations

Advancements in textile engineering, including microporous membranes, hydrophilic coatings, and nanotechnology, are enhancing fabric performance. Innovations enable improved moisture management, increased durability, and reduced environmental impact through solvent-free and recyclable materials.

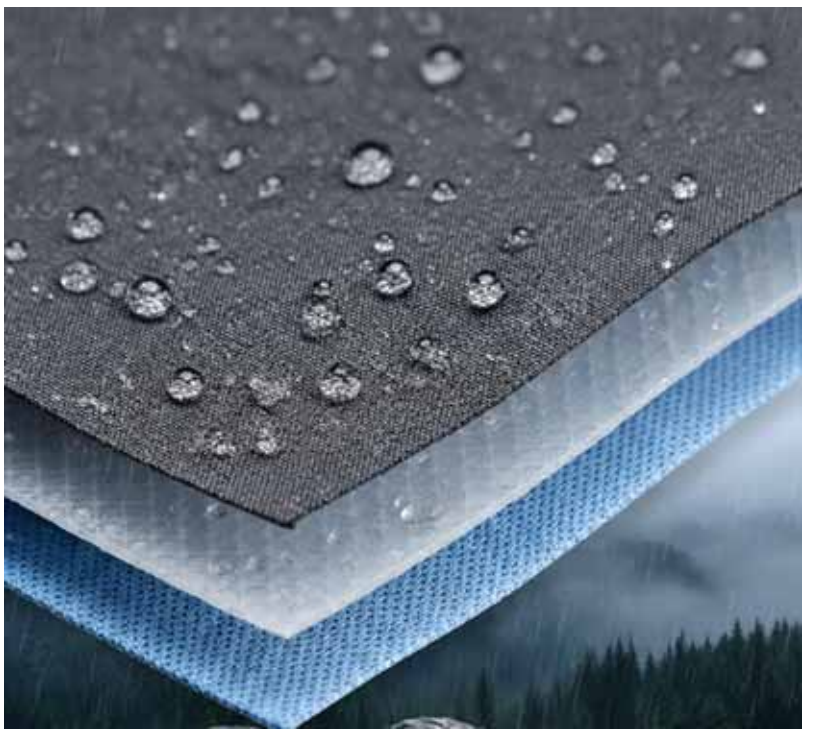
Market Challenges

High Production Costs

Advanced waterproof breathable fabrics require specialized materials and manufacturing processes, leading to higher production costs. This can limit adoption in price-sensitive markets and create barriers for small-scale manufacturers.

Environmental Concerns

Traditional water-repellent treatments often rely on fluorinated chemicals, which pose environmental and health risks. Regulatory pressure is pushing manufacturers to develop eco-friendly alternatives, increasing research and compliance costs.



Emerging Opportunities

Sustainable Textile Solutions

The shift toward environmentally responsible products is creating opportunities for biodegradable membranes, PFC-free coatings, and recycled fabric blends. Brands adopting sustainable practices can gain a competitive edge and appeal to eco-conscious consumers.

Growth in Emerging Markets

Rising disposable incomes and expanding middle-class populations in Asia-Pacific and Latin America are driving demand for premium apparel and protective textiles. Urbanization and changing lifestyles further support market expansion in these regions.

Competitive Landscape

- W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
- Polartec, LLC
- Mitsui & Co., Ltd.
- Nextec Applications, Inc.
- HeiQ Materials AG
- Toray Industries, Inc.
- Sympatex Technologies GmbH
- Rudolf Group
- eVent Fabrics (BHA Technologies, Inc.)
- Teijin Limited

Future Outlook

The Waterproof Breathable Textiles Market is poised for sustained growth as technological advancements and sustainability initiatives reshape the industry. Increasing demand for versatile, eco-friendly, and high-performance fabrics will continue to drive innovation. Companies that invest in green technologies and cost-effective production methods are likely to lead the next phase of market expansion ▫

(Source: https://growthmarketreports.com)

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Digital textile printing market size worth USD 18.22 billion by 2034

The global Digital Textile Printing Market is experiencing transformational growth as fashion, home décor, and technical textile manufacturers shift toward sustainable, high speed, and customizable printing solutions. According to the latest Polaris Market Research report, the industry is projected to grow from USD 6.35 billion in 2025 to USD 18.22 billion by 2034, representing a robust CAGR of 12.4% during the forecast period.

Strategic shift in textile printing: Why digital is the future

Digital textile printing refers to the advanced process of applying colorants directly onto fabrics using state of the art digital inkjet technology, offering unparalleled design precision, shorter production cycles, and environmentally responsible workflows compared to conventional screen and rotary printing techniques. This cutting edge methodology empowers manufacturers and brands to print intricate, multicolor designs on demand - with minimal setup cost and vastly improved sustainability profiles.

As digital commerce, fast fashion, and bespoke textile offerings continue to dominate the marketplace, the Digital Textile Printing Market is emerging as an indispensable cornerstone of modern textile production, enabling brands to respond to consumer demands for personalization, sustainability, and speed.

Sustainability & cost efficiency propel adoption

One of the most compelling drivers of digital textile printing adoption is its environmental advantage. Unlike traditional printing methods that consume large volumes of water and generate significant chemical waste, digital printing dramatically reduces water usage and harmful effluents - aligning with global sustainability goals and brand commitments to eco friendly production.

As global textile manufacturers face mounting pressure to reduce their environmental footprint, digital textile printing is rapidly becoming the strategy of choice. Its ability to produce low waste, short run garments and décor without compromising quality is transforming supply chains and improving operational efficiencies across the value chain.

Market dynamics & key growth drivers

1. On demand production & customization

Digital textile printing enables brands to produce on demand batches with customized patterns and limited editions - a capability highly valued in the age of direct to consumer (DTC) retail. As fashion cycles shorten and consumer preferences diversify, the ability to offer bespoke textiles without inventory backlog gives companies a strategic edge.

2. Technological advancements

Recent innovations in printer hardware, ink chemistries, and design software have significantly enhanced production speed, resolution, and substrate compatibility. These technological strides make digital printing more efficient and economically viable, encouraging accelerated industry adoption.

3. Eco friendly ink systems

Market segmentation by ink type reveals that sublimation inks accounted for the largest share in 2024 due to their compatibility with polyester textiles and excellent color performance. These sustainable ink systems help reduce waste and improve wash durability, driving broader acceptance across textile sectors.

Segmentation insights: process, ink & end use

According to the Digital Textile Printing Market Report, the industry is segmented across several key dimensions, including:

- Printing Process: Direct to Garment (D2G), Dye Sublimation, Direct to Fabric
- Ink Type: Sublimation, Reactive, Acid, Direct Disperse, Pigment
- Substrate: Digital Cotton, Silk, Rayon, Linen, Polyester, and others
- End Use: Clothing, Households, Displays, Technical Textiles

The dominance of sublimation ink reflects the strong demand for polyester products in apparel, sportswear, and home textiles, where vibrant colors and enhanced durability are critical. Meanwhile, the proliferation of Dye Sublimation printing is enabling brands to produce wrinkle resistant, lightweight fabrics with complex designs - essential in today's competitive textile landscape.

Regional forecast

Geographically, North America led the Digital Textile Printing Market in revenue share in 2024, driven by advanced manufacturing infrastructure, large fashion brands, and high consumer demand for quality, customized textile products. The region's mature e commerce ecosystem further propels digital printing adoption by enabling smaller batch runs and flexible production schedules.

However, the Asia Pacific region is projected to witness the fastest growth through 2034, buoyed by expanding textile manufacturing capacity, increasing investments in automation, and growing demand for high quality fashion exports. Countries like China, India, and Bangladesh are increasingly investing in digital textile printing technologies to serve both domestic and global markets.

Competitive landscape & innovation agenda

The competitive environment in the digital textile printing market is vibrant and rapidly evolving. Industry leaders such as Durst, Epson, Kornit Digital, and Brother Industries continue to innovate with advanced hardware systems, integrated ink solutions, and software platforms that streamline workflow and improve color fidelity.

Emerging players are also gaining traction by offering cost effective, scalable solutions tailored to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), expanding the addressable market beyond large manufacturers. Strategic collaborations, end to end workflow solutions, and investments in single pass printing technologies are shaping the future competitive landscape.

Looking ahead: Expansion & market potential

The Digital Textile Printing Market is poised for sustained growth as brands, converters, and textile producers embrace digital processes that offer sustainable, agile, and cost effective production. With rapid advancements in ink chemistry, machine efficiency, and digital design capabilities, the market is well positioned to reshape global textile manufacturing.

In conclusion, the surge toward digital textile printing represents not merely a shift in technology but a strategic transformation - enabling textile manufacturers to meet the rising demands for customization, sustainability, and speed. As investment accelerates and technology continues to advance, the digital textile printing market is set to redefine industry norms and unlock significant competitive advantages across the global textile value chain ◘

(By Polaris Market Research and Consulting)

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YARNS

400 metric tones per day

Eco Spin Yarns: MVS (Vortex) Ring-Compact, SIRO-Compact, Slub, TFO, High Twist

Viscose Black & Black Melanges

KNIT FABRICS

30 metric tones per day

Single Jersey, Single tuck pique, Double tuck pique, 2 thread terry (French terry), Crepe, Wrinkle jersey, Denim knit, Plaited jersey, Mesh knit

WOVEN FABRICS

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WOVEN FABRIC WIDTHS

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AI and Image Processing Improve Textile Recycling Efficiency

The mountain of old textiles continues to grow in Germany every year. Less than one per cent of this enters a closed recycling loop. Reasons for this include so-called "fast fashion", which leads to an increasing amount of low-quality textiles, as well as the wide variety of materials, which makes efficient recycling even more difficult. Today, sorting is mostly done manually and is almost impossible to manage given the quantities involved: Of around 1.4 million tonnes, only about 200,000 tonnes are actually checked and allocated. The rest is thermally recycled or exported abroad. Automated processes are therefore a key lever for keeping significantly more used textiles in circulation.

The Recycling Atelier at the Augsburg Institute for Textile Technology (ITA) is tackling this challenge. As a model factory, it maps the entire process of mechanical textile recycling. The focus is on a holistic concept that does not optimise individual sub-processes but rather takes the entire system into account. This approach led to the development of DETEX – an AI-based system for the automatic sorting of textiles. With the help of artificial intelligence and two high-resolution uEye XC cameras from IDS Imaging Development Systems GmbH, DETEX captures the essential features of the garments and assigns them precisely to specific categories. This makes sorting more accurate and lays the foundation for efficient recycling.

Why is sorting old clothes so important?

Before worn-out trousers, T-shirts or jumpers can be turned into something new, they must first be mechanically processed. The aim of this process is to create entirely new fabrics from the used garments. To achieve this, they are shredded, freed from buttons or zippers, and broken down into individual fibres. Preserving fibre length during this process is crucial to the quality of the recycled material produced. Differences in fabric structure and areal density must also be taken into account during processing. Precise classification into material categories is therefore essential and determines the subsequent handling of the textiles.

Until now, sorting has been done mainly by hand – a time-consuming process that requires a high level of expertise. In other industries, such tasks have long been performed by automated, AI-supported recognition systems. This is precisely where DETEX comes in: The research project is developing and testing AI models designed to make the sorting of used textiles significantly more efficient.

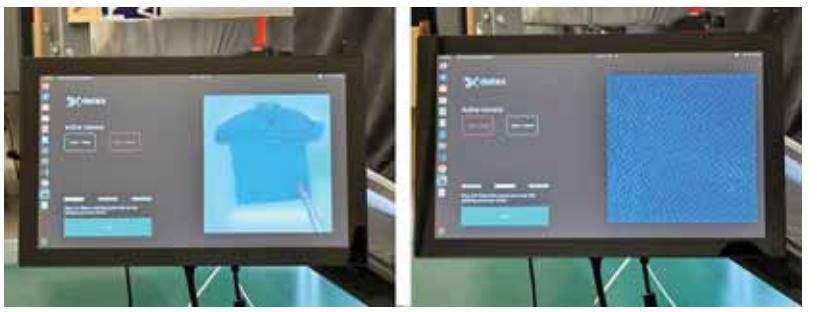
The AI uses a uEye XC camera to determine the type of material used in the textiles

How does the system work?

DETEX relies on intelligent image processing to automatically recognise and classify textiles. Two high resolution industrial cameras provide the necessary images by scanning garments as they move along a conveyor belt. Neural networks analyse the images and recognise patterns and structures based on previously learned data. To enable this, they were trained in advance using a large number of sample images, including photographs of various garments as well as close-up images of different fabric types. At least 3,000 samples per clothing category were required. This training data had to be manually categorized beforehand, for example by labelling an image of trousers as “trousers“. On this basis, DETEX can quickly and reliably assign new images to the appropriate textile categories.

For precise analysis, DETEX works with pre-trained neural networks – one model each for classification, object recognition and material identification. Different architectures and scenarios are being tested. This allows different degrees of difficulty and realism to be simulated in order to test how robust the AI models are against folds, overlaps or rotations.

Initially, an object detection model analyses the images captured by the first camera mounted above the conveyor belt. It determines the type of garment, such as a T-shirt, trousers or a dress. The second camera scans the garments again from a height of approximately 5 centimetres, focusing on material properties and the detection of features such as stains or buttons. The identified image sections are cropped and passed on to a second AI model, which classifies the type of material – specifically distinguishing between woven and knitted fabrics. Finally, the analysis results are clearly displayed on a screen.



The analysis results are shown on a display

Which cameras are used?

For image capture, the Augsburg-based institute relies on uEye XC cameras from IDS, specifically the uEye XC Starter Set. The complete package includes a camera, tripod, cables and a macro lens, providing a ready-to-use solution for the research project. Key factors in the camera selection were its compact design, 13-megapixel sensor and ease of use, as Martin Kohnle, Project Manager for AI & Digitalisation

at ITA, explains: “The uEye XC is as easy to use as a webcam, but has been specially developed for industrial applications. It delivers razor-sharp images even with varying object distances or challenging lighting conditions.” In addition, features such as a 24x digital zoom, auto white balance and automatic colour correction ensure precise capture of even the finest details. As a genuine industrial camera, it was designed with long-term component availability in mind – an important advantage over conventional consumer webcams.

Thanks to the 24x digital zoom, auto white balance and automatic colour correction, the camera captures every detail

The Augsburg-based team relies on the free IDS peak camera software for image processing integration. The Software Development Kit (SDK) provides all necessary programming interfaces and tools for operating and controlling the cameras. “IDS peak enables straightforward and high-performance integration of our cameras via USB3 Vision. The uniform SDK structure greatly simplifies development, control and image acquisition. This enables us to implement our AI-based image processing workflows more quickly and adapt them flexibly”, Kohnle confirms.

What’s next?

The textile recycling market is increasingly moving towards data-driven, AI-based processes that require high-quality image data in real time. This increases the requirements for camera quality, synchronisation and API compatibility for the recycling studio. Research focuses in particular on the flexible integration of various sensor technologies into adaptive sorting and analysis systems.

DETEX itself is also set to evolve: What is currently a conveyor-belt-based system will be expanded into a modular, mechanical-robotic overall solution that addresses both recycling and reuse. At its core will be a free-fall system enabling multi-perspective, 360° capture of textiles. In addition, a downstream, two-sided shot by robot-assisted grippers will allow for detailed analysis of further material characteristics. This approach makes it possible to capture a significantly broader range of information and to assign textiles even more precisely to suitable recycling or reuse pathways. Another important step towards a closed recycling loop – supported by industrial image processing.

Camera - uEye XC
Automatically perfect images

Customer

The Recycling Atelier at the Institute for Textile Technology Augsburg (ITA) is a model and learning factory for mechanical textile recycling. The team is researching pioneering methods for the circular recycling of textiles. The vision: High-quality recycling instead of landfill and energy recovery ◘

(Author - Sabine Terrasi, IDS Imaging Development Systems GmbH)

MP takes lead with Rs 21,500 cr investment in pipeline

Madhya Pradesh's PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Dhar district has emerged as the frontrunner among the seven textile mega parks, drawing the highest level of committed investment and the fastest pace of land allotment, even as several competing locations remained at earlier implementation stages.

Based on the Centre's 5F vision farm to fibre to factory to fashion to foreign the park aims to create integrated manufacturing infrastructure, upgrade technology, foster innovation, enhance skills and reduce production costs across the textile value chain.

In the second phase of allotment completed recently in MP, 320 acre were allocated to 13 companies proposing investments of about Rs 7,500 crore and generating more than 16,000 jobs. Around 1,130 acre was already allotted, while lease execution and plot possession were being expedited ahead of the third phase.

"We are establishing an integrated unit to supply fibre to our existing plants. The favourable industrial climate in Madhya Pradesh, coupled with our successful pilot project in Ujjain, made this an attractive opportunity. We are optimistic about growth in MP, especially given its accessibility to raw material and supportive policies," said Rajkumar Ramasamy, managing director of a Tamil Nadu-based textile company planning to invest Rs 981 crore in the park.

A major anchor investor is Bhilosa Industries, which proposed an investment of about Rs 4,500 crore over 200 acre and is expected to generate 3,500 jobs, strengthening the man-made fibre ecosystem in central India.

Industries attribute MP's lead to faster development of the park, quicker approvals, proactive investor outreach and integrated planning of social infrastructure such as housing, healthcare, education and recreation around the park. Industry participants said a comparative study of all 7 PM MITRA parks gave Madhya Pradesh an edge due to its early start, competitive power tariffs and strong traction of anchor industries. They added that power prices offered by MP are very competitive, significantly improving project viability and long-term cost efficiencies.

"We are developing a 30-acre integrated project inside the PM MITRA park in Madhya Pradesh, covering knitting, dyeing, and garmenting on one campus. The EU tariff advantage, combined with plug-and-play infrastructure and state garment and labour incentives, makes integrated manufacturing cost-effective and globally compliant, exactly what European buyers are now seeking," said NASAS Fibre to Fashion managing director Sanjay Agrawal.

MPIDC managing director Chandramauli Shukla said, "Response from industries is very encouraging for the park. So far, 38 firms submitted proposals with cumulative investment commitments crossing Rs 21,500 crore, which are expected to generate nearly 55,000 jobs. Our priority now is to accelerate plot possession, build social infrastructure, and ensure early commissioning of anchor units so that integrated textile manufacturing begins at scale."

Seven PM MITRA parks have approved across Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra under a

central outlay of Rs 4,445 crore, each targeting large-scale textile investment and employment generation. Of these, five are greenfield sites, while two brownfield locations, Amravati in Maharashtra and Warangal in Telangana, are being developed on existing industrial land.

Progress across states remained uneven. Telangana grounded investments of about Rs 3,862 crore with 540 acre allotted, while Tamil Nadu completed land acquisition and secured clearances with proposals of about Rs 2,076 crore. Maharashtra initiated land allotment and other states remained at preparatory or early implementation stages. The information was provided by minister of state for textiles Pabitra Margherita in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

"Maharashtra started the process of inviting investment proposals and DPRs for the projects being developed on the PPP mode were also ready. Infrastructure work is in process in all the seven parks and the next phase of the programme will focus on fast-tracking infrastructure completion, attracting large anchor investors and enabling integrated value chains from fibre to finished apparel," said a senior textile ministry official wishing anonymity

AI and Automation to drive the next phase of growth in textile industry: SIMA AI Tex Summit

Clothing, one of the most fundamental needs of human beings has a history spanning several thousand years. Over time, the textiles and clothing industry has undergone significant technological transformations. Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automation are revolutionising textile manufacturing by improving productivity, enabling production of high-value products with consistent quality, reducing manual intervention & waste and facilitating predictive maintenance.

The journey of the textiles and clothing industry has witnessed four major phases of transformation from the ancient cottage industry to the mechanised industry, followed by the automated industry, and now progressing towards Industry 4.0, which integrates AI, the Internet of Things (IoT) and data analytics.

AI-driven technologies are enabling real-time defect detection to ensure consistent product quality. By analysing machine data, AI can predict potential failures and prevent machine breakdowns through predictive maintenance. It also optimises material utilisation, reduces environmental impact, predicts fashion trends and enables personalised, digitally driven design solutions.

Recognising the importance of creating awareness and equipping entrepreneurs and technocrats with the latest advancements in automation, AI and digital transformation, the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) has conceived the AiTex Summit. The maiden edition of the summit was launched immediately after the inauguration of SIMA Texfair 2026, the International Exhibition on Textile Machinery, Spares and Accessories, held on 6th March 2026 at Coimbatore.

In his welcome address, SIMA Chairman Mr. Durai Palanisamy highlighted that the SIMA AiTex Summit showcases successfully implemented automation solutions that help textile mills enhance productivity, reduce production costs and improve operational efficiency across the value chain. By leveraging AI, ERP integration, intelligent data extraction and real-time analytics, these initiatives transform manual, experience-driven processes into structured, data-driven systems, delivering improved quality control, stronger compliance, optimised resource utilisation and a better overall experience for stakeholders across procurement, production, finance and management.

The summit was inaugurated by Mr. Ashwin Chandran, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), the Apex body representing the Indian textiles and clothing sector. In his address, the CITI Chairman emphasised the urgent need for the textile industry to adopt AI-driven technologies to remain globally competitive, enhance productivity and ensure sustainable growth.

The expert sessions at the summit covered several key topics, including Leveraging Data and AI Technology for Overall Excellence, LMW e-Spares ERP Integration and Tracker, centralised ERP-integrated tool that captures forex exposures and maps them against hedge contracts to provide real-time visibility and improved financial risk management. Other sessions focused on Digital and Operational Automation in Textile Mills with EXIM Automation and Trade Compliance, Cotton Testing through HVI and AFIS Data Integration, Dispatch Entry Automation, and practical success stories on transforming spinning production from data to decision-making.

The summit underscored the growing need for widespread adoption of AI and digital technologies in the textile industry to enhance efficiency, strengthen competitiveness and build a resilient and future-ready manufacturing ecosystem

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DPI Techology: Pioneer disperse printing

The Secret to Long-lasting and Vivid Colors

In a consumerism era that values both personalization and sustainability, the textile printing industry is facing unprecedented challenges: how to achieve long-lasting and vivid colors, produce efficiently and in an environmentally friendly manner, and control costs simultaneously? Traditional printing technologies often struggle to balance color fastness, environmental compliance, and the expressiveness of complex patterns, becoming an "invisible bottleneck" for many enterprises. High-temperature disperse ink technology is innovating industry logic, helping companies build differentiated competitiveness in a highly contested market with several breakthrough advantages.

High-Temperature Disperse Ink High-temperature disperse ink is an advanced ink system developed specifically for digital textile printing. With its excellent adhesion, color performance, and environmental characteristics, it is gradually becoming the preferred solution for the mid-to-high-end printing market.

Core Technical Principle: Why does it "stick" to fibers better?

High-temperature disperse ink utilizes nano-scale pigment particles combined with high-polymer synthetic materials and eco-friendly solvents. Under the influence of high temperatures, it can penetrate deeply into the interior of the fibers and form a stable ring-bonded structure with the fiber molecules. This process not only strengthens color adhesion but also utilizes thermal-melt lattice fusion technology to ensure the printed patterns possess superior physical and chemical stability.

Four Major Advantages Addressing Industry Pain Points

Vivid and Long-lasting Colors, No Fading or Deformation Suitable for fine patterns and high-saturation designs with extremely high color restoration. Resistant to washing and friction; colors remain as good as new even after multiple washes, greatly improving product lifespan and customer satisfaction.

Environmentally Friendly and Healthy, Aligning with Sustainability Trends Contains no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or heavy metals, reducing pollution at the source. Complies with global environmental regulations and green consumption demands, helping enterprises build a "green supply chain."

Strong Adaptability with Wide Application Scenarios Applicable to various synthetic and blended fabrics, such as chemical fiber fabrics or materials with a polyester coating on the surface. Performs excellently in fields like sportswear, home textiles, and high-fashion apparel, supporting small-batch and quick-turnaround orders.

Controllable Costs and Improved Production Efficiency The ink itself is competitively priced and compatible with existing digital printing equipment, requiring low investment for upgrades. The printing process is simple and stable, reducing scrap rates and significantly lowering comprehensive production costs.

Market Prospects: Not Just a Technology, But a Strategic Choice

As the textile market transforms toward customization, environmental protection, and high quality, high-temperature disperse ink is no longer just a "printing tool" but has become a strategic resource for enterprises to achieve technological upgrades, brand value enhancement, and sustainable development. In the future, it will play an increasingly critical role in intelligent printing, functional textiles, and closed-loop production systems ◘

(By CS Wu, Director International Business Development, DPI china)

Kyocera's inkjet textile printer supports the sustainable fashion presented by Florania at Milan Fashion Week

KYOCERA Document Solutions Italia S.p.A. is pleased to announce that print technology from our sustainable inkjet textile printer "FOREARTH" has been adopted for the Fall/Winter 2026/2027 collection of the Italian fashion brand Florania.

This collection was presented in Milan on Thursday, February 26, as Florania's first runway show listed on the official Milan Fashion Week calendar, and it attracted significant attention from both inside and outside the fashion industry even before the unveiling. The event drew a large number of media and attendees, and the venue was charged with excitement. Presenting on such a globally watched stage provided an opportunity to further reinforce the brand's presence. Our company has maintained an ongoing collaboration with Florania, a brand renowned for embodying sustainability; this is our fourth collaboration with them.

The collaboration with Florania was realized when Flora Rabitti, Florania's founder and a proponent of sustainable creative practices, expressed alignment with FOREARTH's concept of contributing to the reduction of environmental impact in the textile and apparel industry.

Comment from Flora Rabitti

This collection was born from the idea that "unity is protection." It is grounded in the belief that connection is strength, and that identity gains power when shared rather than isolated. The core message of the collection-"If we are all one, you can't hurt me"-speaks to emotional resilience, fragility, and freedom. I conceive of the body as a space for transformation. Through silhouettes, materials, and textures, I fuse Florania's traditions with innovative textile technologies to design garments that convey both a sense of being protected and a sense of openness. Garments produced with FOREARTH are lightweight and easy to move in, finished in high-quality materials such as satin, stretch tulle, and pleated viscose. The artwork is reproduced in a wide range of tones, offering a high degree of freedom in both design and printing. By valuing resources and reducing environmental impact while preserving beauty and creating value, FOREARTH emphasizes production freedom and circular innovation, simplifying processes, cutting waste, and enabling flexible production systems. Its location-free capability reduces dependence on infrastructure, allowing for more flexible and efficient manufacturing ◘

Sutlej Textiles advances sustainability measurement & data-driven action planning with Digital Product Passport

Mr. Ashish Kumar, CEO and Wholetime Director
Sutlej Textiles and Industries Limited

Sutlej Textiles and Industries Limited, a leading Indian textile manufacturer, has strengthened its sustainability measurement and data-driven decision-making framework by implementing advanced life cycle assessment and product transparency tools, including Digital Product Passports (DPPs) for key products. This initiative enables more accurate environmental impact assessment and supports data-led action planning across the organisation.

As part of this effort, Sutlej has created Digital Product Passports that compile essential product information, including material composition, manufacturing location, environmental impact data and sustainability attributes, in a transparent, accessible format. These Digital Product Passports enhance traceability and provide verified sustainability insights for customers and stakeholders increasingly seeking robust environmental data.

Commenting on the engagement, Mr. Ashish Kumar, CEO and Wholetime Director, Sutlej Textiles and Industries Limited said, "Sustainability is a strategic enabler at Sutlej, essential for long-term competitiveness, resilience, and value creation. We are embedding a robust, data-led framework to move beyond intent, transforming sustainability into a driver of innovation and enduring value.

GreenStitch is a key partner in this journey, delivering credible methodologies and intuitive digital tools. Through AI-powered LCA, GHG accounting, and Digital Product Passports, we now have clear visibility into product-level environmental footprints.

This empowers us to make smarter decisions, target high-impact reductions, increase stakeholder transparency, and accelerate our shift to truly sustainable manufacturing."

With this implementation, Sutlej has established a centralised, standardised sustainability data system that supports structured product-level Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) accounting. Phase 1 of the implementation supports LCAs across selected yarn and fabric product categories, alongside monthly environmental impact tracking. Further these results will be used to make products more sustainable.

By digitising data collection, validation and impact calculation, Sutlej has improved data accuracy and consistency, streamlined reporting processes and strengthened preparedness for buyer disclosures, audits and evolving regulatory requirements. The product-level impact data now supports buyer-specific carbon disclosures, substantiates sustainability claims, and enables more effective responses to market and regulatory expectations.

Importantly, the clearer visibility into impact hotspots across operations is empowering Sutlej's sustainability and operations teams to prioritise footprint reduction initiatives and support informed product and process decisions.

Sutlej worked with sustainability intelligence platform GreenStitch to support the development and implementation of the digital framework, including the Digital Product Passports. GreenStitch's tools facilitated product-level impact measurement and reporting, enabling Sutlej to operationalise sustainability data effectively across its value chain.

Mr. Narendra Makwana, Co-founder and CEO of GreenStitch, added, "Sutlej is among the front-runners in operationalising sustainability at scale, with a clear focus on translating data into business-relevant action. Their adoption of product-level LCA and structured sustainability measurement shows strong leadership in moving from compliance to value creation.

We are excited to work with a partner that is embedding sustainability into core manufacturing decisions and setting a benchmark for the industry."

This initiative builds on Sutlej's established sustainability priorities, including regulatory compliance, buyer-driven standards, operational efficiency, and climate-focused actions such as renewable energy adoption and circular material integration. Looking ahead, Sutlej plans to deepen supplier engagement and use LCA insights to support decarbonisation planning, product and process redesign, and regulatory preparedness ▫

Innovation in the Embroidery Design technology

In this article we share some thoughts about how the design software development supports different sectors of the industry.

The embroidery industry has various areas

Export and domestic embroidery

Thirty years ago, the industry was dominated by exporters who sold decorated garments to OECD countries. Domestic manufacturing was relatively small and traditional garments were mostly created by the cottage industry. Today, it is quite the opposite, domestic production dominates the industry while the export quantities of embroidered garment are relatively less significant. The industry is mostly focused on the domestic market, and this relates to embroidery machines imported with special functionalities. India is the largest importer of specialised embroidery machines and therefore use of specialised techniques is the highest here.

Logo embroidery and traditional fashion garments

In the OECD countries embroidery is focused on the Logo business, uniforms for military, police, security agencies, also corporate identification, schools, clubs, using embroidery on their uniforms. Another group is “corporate and fashion branding”, famous and popular brands of sportswear, leisurewear. Here “value addition” is the key profit factor, a plain, T-shirt will sell at a fraction of the price of a branded T-shirt that has a piece of embroidery that may cost less than a dollar to produce. Another very profitable niche market is the “haute couture”, where individual dresses are created by design houses. A growing area is the “traditional, folkloristic, tribal” dresses. Embroidery decoration has been created by hand for hundreds of years by the local cottage industries. With urbanisation and fast-growing middle class, the cottage industry can no longer satisfy the demands, and the embroidery machine industry brought this area into mass production. The Indian seasonal traditions, like the “wedding season” create a predictable design and production cycle with demand for decorated dresses.

In India, being the most populous country in the world, the uniform sector has strong demand for logo embroidery, also, leisurewear is a fast-growing sector that requires simple embroidery machines but efficient design systems for high quality embroidery lettering and monograms as well as special effects used in artistic emblems.

Contract Designers vs in-house designing

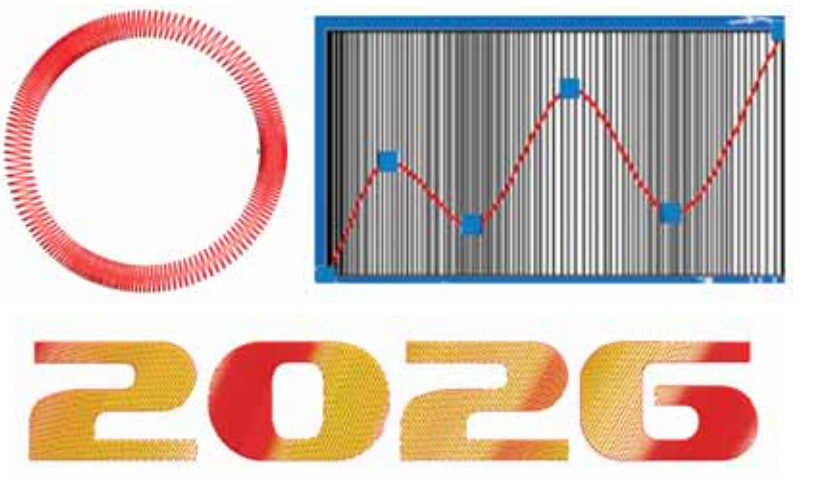
Today there are millions small embroidery operators with a single machine and very little embroidery training. They mostly use contract designers; India has many of these companies. These design companies require high level design capabilities that can support any of the industry segments and design types efficiently.

Hobby users

A fast-growing area is the embroidery hobby market. Here efficiency is not critical but artistic expression is and simple easy operation that does not require a year-long course to operate the software and the machine.

Embroidery Software developers like Wilcom, need to cater for demands from all parts of the world. For example, Wilcom has over three hundred thousand customers in 192 countries who continuously satisfy requests in every sector. One way of fulfilling the frequently raised demands is annual software releases.

In the last three years Wilcom released a major new version every year. The latest EmbroideryStudio 2026 shown at the GTE 2026 Delhi, includes several new features and improvements. Here we can talk about one feature that addresses an issue where embroidery and printing are quite different: color shading, i.e. how we can express a grading of colors with embroidery stitches? With the new Multi Blend feature a much more artistic shading can be producted. The designer can continuously change the stitch density in the individual objects. Visitors can see the latest features at the GTE ▫



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APPAREL VIEWS

Knitting views

Sustainability Benefits of Digital Printing
Becoming Increasingly Important in Sourcing Decisions

How digital textile printing is changing production scale and consistency in India

Digital textile printing is driving a structural shift in how textile production is planned and executed in India. Traditionally, manufacturing was built around long production runs and standardised designs using analogue processes. However, as market demand moves towards shorter cycles, faster design refresh, and greater customisation, digital technology is enabling manufacturers to respond with far greater flexibility and speed without compromising productivity.

Equally important is the consistency that digital printing delivers. Advanced colour management and precision inkjet technology enable reliable, repeatable output across batches, which is critical for brands and export customers who require uniform quality. As a result, manufacturers across India are increasingly integrating digital printing alongside conventional production to create more agile, responsive, and quality-driven manufacturing environments.

Digital textile printing also supports more responsible production practices. Compared to traditional processes, it can significantly reduce water consumption, minimise chemical usage, and lower material wastage, while enabling on-demand production that helps reduce excess inventory. This combination of efficiency and sustainability is becoming increasingly important for manufacturers serving global markets.

In this transition, high-performance industrial solutions such as Epson's Monna Lisa digital textile printers are playing an important role. Designed for industrial-scale production, Monna Lisa combines precision, colour stability, and application versatility, enabling manufacturers to achieve consistent quality, improved operational efficiency, and more sustainable production aligned with evolving industry and market expectations.

Looking ahead, how do you see digital textile printing shaping India's position in the global textile and home décor supply chain over the next few years?

Looking ahead, digital textile printing is expected to play a critical role in strengthening India's position in the global textile and home décor supply chain. As international buyers increasingly prioritise speed, design flexibility, consistent quality, and responsible production practices, digital technology enables Indian manufacturers to align more closely with these evolving expectations.

Digital textile printing supports on-demand and shorter-run production, allowing manufacturers to respond quickly to changing trends while reducing inventory risk. It also enables consistent colour quality and repeatability, which are essential for global brands managing multi-region sourcing. In parallel, the sustainability benefits of digital printing, including lower water usage, reduced waste, and more efficient resource consumption, are becoming increasingly important in global sourcing decisions.

Our customers are telling us that they are winning orders based on the fact that they are using Epson's Monna Lisa printers. Buyers are familiar with the brand and are able to immediately rest assured with the quality they are guaranteed and the manufacturing methods used. Over the next few years, wider adoption of industrial digital textile printing solutions will help Indian manufacturers move towards more agile, export-ready production models. This shift is likely to enhance India's reputation as a reliable, responsive, and quality-focused sourcing destination for textiles and home décor, particularly in segments where speed, customisation, and sustainability are key differentiators.

Prabagaran S, Senior General Manager, **Epson India**

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What role does end-to-end support and application know-how play in ensuring successful technology adoption for textile manufacturers?

Successful adoption of digital textile printing goes well beyond installing new equipment. As manufacturers transition from analogue to digital production, application know-how, colour science, workflow integration, and process optimisation become critical to achieving stable, high-quality, and scalable output. Every fabric type, ink set, and application require careful calibration, and structured technical guidance plays a key role in ensuring consistent and predictable production.

End-to-end support helps manufacturers integrate digital printing smoothly into their existing production environment, optimise processes, and minimise downtime. This includes training, application development, colour management, and ongoing service support, all of which contribute to improving productivity and maintaining output reliability over time. This is exactly what Epson does.

For industrial digital textile printers such as Epson's Monna Lisa, which are designed for high-performance production, strong application and technical support are particularly important to help customers fully utilise the printers capabilities. With the right support ecosystem in place, as provided by brands like Epson, manufacturers are able to accelerate adoption, maintain consistent quality, and realise the full operational and business value of digital textile printing.

What challenges do Indian textile manufacturers face when transitioning from conventional to digital printing technologies, and how can they overcome them?

The transition from conventional to digital textile printing involves technological and operational changes, not challenges. Manufacturers need to adapt from analogue production methods, which are optimised for long, standardised runs, to digital workflows that enables require greater flexibility, colour management precision, and process control. Initial learning curves around application optimisation, digital colour consistency, and workforce familiarisation with new systems need to be considered during the early stages of adoption.

In addition, manufacturers often need to rethink production planning, fabric preparation, and workflow integration to fully benefit from digital capabilities such as shorter runs, faster design changes, and on-demand production. Managing this transition while maintaining ongoing production stability can be a key consideration.

These changes can be effectively addressed through a phased and well-supported approach. Structured training, strong technical and application support, and gradual integration of digital alongside existing conventional processes help build confidence and operational stability. Many manufacturers are successfully adopting hybrid production models, where digital complements conventional printing, enabling smoother transition, improved flexibility, reduced waste, and enhanced production efficiency over time.

How do you see digital textile printing influencing sustainability, efficiency, and turnaround times in India's textile export ecosystem?

Digital textile printing is playing an increasingly important role in helping India's textile export ecosystem move towards more efficient and responsible production. Compared to conventional processes, digital

printing can significantly reduce water consumption, minimise chemical usage, and lower material wastage. In addition, the ability to produce on demand helps reduce excess inventory and overproduction, which is becoming increasingly important in a demand-driven global market.

From an operational standpoint, Epson's digital textile printers improve efficiency by simplifying workflows and reducing multiple intermediate steps typically involved in traditional printing. Faster design changes and quicker job changeovers enable manufacturers to significantly shorten production cycles and improve turnaround times, which is critical for export markets where speed and responsiveness are key.

With growing emphasis on sustainability, traceability, and supply chain agility across global markets, Epson's digital textile printers are helping Indian manufacturers better meet these changing requirements. By bringing together efficiency, consistency, and more sustainable production, digital technology is enhancing the competitiveness and responsiveness of India's textile export ecosystem ▫

CHT to showcase sustainable innovations at PERFORMANCE DAYS SPRING Functional Fabric Fair

The CHT Group, a global player in textile chemistry and dyes, will be presenting its latest sustainable textile technologies at the PERFORMANCE DAYS Functional Fabric Fair in Munich on March 18 and 19, 2026. The focus will be on innovative dyeing processes and functional finishes for the targeted improvement of textile properties.

Our trade fair highlights:

- **PIGMENTURA by CHT -** Our innovative, pigment-based dyeing process does not require any water for soaping and rinsing and does not require energy-intensive heating of the process water. This reduces water consumption in the dyeing process by up to 96 %. This groundbreaking technology was awarded the German Federal Ecodesign Award in the Product category in 2024 and the German Sustainability Award in the Products category in 2026.
- **BeSo® STRONG -** Wear longer. Waste less. BeSo® STRONG is an innovative textile effect from CHT that specifically increases the durability and wear resistance of textiles. Improved abrasion resistance and longevity mean that garments remain in use for longer - without compromising on comfort or appearance. BeSo® STRONG is suitable for knitted and woven fabrics made from cellulose fibers and their blends and is ideal for applications such as workwear, outerwear, knitwear, and everyday clothing. Recycled cotton fibers also benefit from the technology, making BeSo® STRONG a sustainable solution for more durable clothing and reduced environmental impact.
- **ARRISTAN rAIR -** Our sustainable hydrophilic finish is made from recycled PET flakes and ensures optimal moisture management, quick drying, and excellent dirt repellency. ARRISTAN rAIR is ideal for finishing recycled yarns and fabrics that can then be recycled again - an important contribution to the circular textile economy.

In 2025, CHT was honored by adidas with the adiFORMULATOR AWARD for the third time in a row as a champion of sustainable innovation. This award underscores our commitment to actively shaping the future of the textile industry with sustainable solutions.

As a foundation-owned company, the CHT Group is committed to a comprehensive sustainability agenda. Our products are developed and manufactured according to strict standards, with a focus on the use of biobased, biodegradable, and recycled materials to support the circular economy.

Visit us at our booth E01 at the PERFORMANCE DAYS SPRING Functional Fabric Fair in Munich and discover our sustainable innovations. Our team looks forward to introducing you to our products and providing exciting insights into the future of textiles! ◘

Jeanologia urges industry to accelerate PP Spray phase-out following ZDHC Watchlist update

Potassium permanganate has officially entered the Chemical Watchlist of the ZDHC Foundation, signaling increased scrutiny and potential phase-out of one of the most hazardous chemicals still used in denim finishing. The inclusion confirms an industry shift that Jeanologia anticipated more than a decade ago.

For years, Jeanologia has called for the elimination of PP spray, warning about its impact on worker health, operational safety and the environment. Now, the industry is formally acknowledging what has been evident on factory floors worldwide.

PP spray is commonly used to create localized vintage effects in denim, but it exposes operators to chemical micro-particles and presents serious occupational risks. Despite growing awareness and available alternatives, this practice continues to be used in parts of the industry. According to Jeanologia, millions of workers globally are still affected by this process.

Jeanologia eliminated the need for PP spray in 2015, becoming the first technology provider to offer a scalable industrial alternative through laser-based finishing. Today, the company replaces PP spray through its laser technology with Light Bright tool and combined with G2 Ozone technology, delivering authentic vintage effects without chemical spraying. The solution offers full digital control, safer working conditions and reliable industrial performance.

This approach is reinforced by Jeanologia's Environmental Impact Measuring (EIM) platform. In its Innovations and Challenges in Denim Finishing 2024 Report, EIM identifies potassium permanganate as one of the remaining high-risk processes in garment finishing and highlights the urgent need for safer technologies, reinforcing laser-based solutions as a low-impact alternative.

"PP spray belongs to the past. This is not about compliance; it's about protecting people and transforming the way denim is made. The tools to eliminate PP already exist and are fully scalable. What the industry needs now is courage to move forward. It's time to BAN PP SPRAY and embrace a cleaner, safer future for denim." claims Jeanologia's Global Marketing Director Carmen Silla.

Over the past decade, Jeanologia has progressively replaced the most hazardous denim finishing processes with eco-efficient technologies, becoming the first company to eliminate sandblasting and to advance alternatives to stone washing, manual scraping and PP spray. Today, its laser and G2 Ozone technologies are implemented worldwide, enabling denim brands to achieve the same aesthetic results while improving worker safety, reducing chemical use and lowering water consumption, with measurable impact across global production.

As transparency requirements, ESG reporting frameworks and chemical management standards continue to evolve, early adoption of safer technologies is increasingly becoming a competitive advantage. Jeanologia calls on brands, laundries and manufacturers to accelerate the transition toward chemical-free finishing. The technology exists. The transition is achievable. The time to act is now. BAN PP SPRAY is no longer a vision. It is already an industrial reality ◘

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

Better Cotton Initiative awarded for sustainability and traceability leadership in India

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) has been recognised for its contribution to the cotton sector's sustainability and traceability progress at the annual International Conference on Advanced Textile Structural Composites and Geosynthetics (ATSCG), held between 28 February and 1 March.

BCI picked up the Excellence Award for Traceability and Sustainable Supply Chains, presented by the Minister of Textiles of India, Shri Giriraj Singh, for its leadership in mainstreaming sustainable cotton production, convening global stakeholders, and boosting supply chain transparency.

Jyoti Narain Kapoor, Director of the Better Cotton Initiative's India programme, said: "It is a huge honour for this award to be bestowed upon us. India was among the first countries that BCI invested in, launching a programme back in 2011. Since then, we have grown to engage more than 777,000 farmers which is testament to these communities' appetite for change. We will continue to invest, innovate, and drive forward the sustainability agenda across India."

This year's ATSCG awards, organised by the Technological Institute of Textile and Science (TIT&S), and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles' National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), brought together more than 320 global participants to explore and celebrate innovation in textiles.

Ashok Malhotra, Mission Director at the NTTM, said: "Traceability and sustainability are rapidly becoming defining pillars of the global textile industry. BCI's work in building transparent and responsible cotton supply chains are critical for strengthening trust, accountability, and sustainability across the sector."

He added: "Integrating digital traceability systems and responsible sourcing practices will also play an important role in enhancing transparency, market access, and long-term competitiveness."

The Better Cotton Initiative continues to champion innovation both within the farming communities it supports, and the global fashion and textile supply chains that use certified Physical BCI Cotton.

Physical BCI Cotton, traced from BCI Cotton-producing countries around the world, is cotton grown to the organisation's field-level standard then traced throughout supply chains to retailers and brands, creating visibility of its journey from farm to fashion.

Bijoya Kumar Behera, Director at the Technological Institute of Textile and Science, said: "For more than eight decades, TIT&S has been shaping the future of the textile industry by nurturing leaders who drive innovation across every segment of the textile value chain. It is encouraging to see organisations like the Better Cotton Initiative advancing these very principles through their work from farm to fashion.

"BCI's commitment to sustainability, responsible sourcing, and greater transparency in global supply chains aligns closely with the vision of TIT&S to prepare future textile professionals who can champion sustainability and strengthen traceability across the textile value chain"

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.

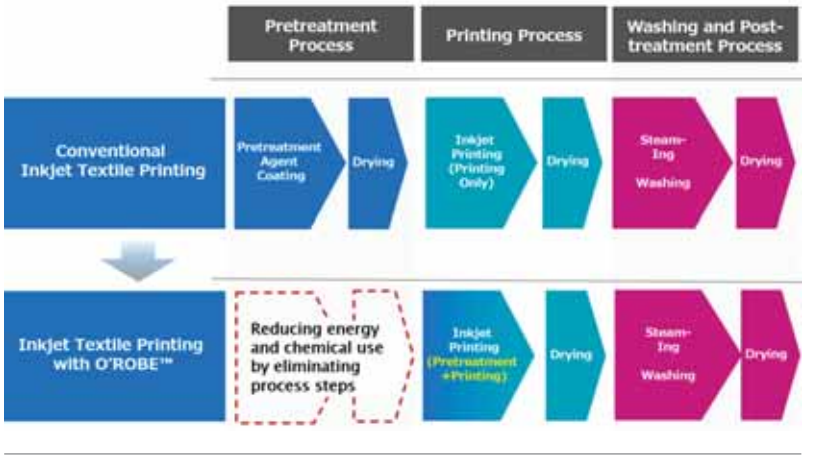
Rip Curl deployed the system for board shorts made from biobased TPU and wool, replacing elastane while maintaining performance in harsh surf conditions

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 ◻

Konica Minolta launches O'ROBE an inline pretreatment ink for reactive dyes

Konica Minolta, Inc. (Konica Minolta) announced that the Company has added the O'ROBE inline pretreatment ink for reactive dyes to reduce energy consumption by shortening the inkjet textile printing process, to the lineup of inks for the Nassenger* series of inkjet textile printers.



Value Proposition of Konica Minolta's O'ROBE

1. Reduced environmental impact

In the inkjet textile printing process, specialized products called reactive dye inks, which are derived from dyes, are used to dye natural fibers such as cotton and silk. To enable reactive dye inks to achieve vivid, rich color on fabric fibers without blurring and ensure good retention after laundry, pretreatment is required to coat the fabric with chemical agents, including urea. These chemical agents must be treated properly upon disposal, requiring equipment and imposing costs on the textile industry. This is considered a social issue.

By using O'ROBE in the Nassenger series printers, it is possible to accurately apply pretreatment ink only as needed in those areas of the fabric to be dyed, concurrently with reactive dye inks.

This eliminates the drying process after coating, which is required in the conventional pretreatment process, thus significantly reducing the use of energy such as electricity and gas, as well as the consumption of chemical agents for pretreatment, reducing the environmental impact.

2. Improved profitability of dyeing and finishing companies

Fabric coated in the print pretreatment process may become discolored by temperature and humidity during storage. Dyeing and finishing companies must choose whether to apply coating with their own specialized equipment or to subcontract this work, i.e., whether to invest in equipment or to risk longer lead times when placing orders.

O'ROBE ink reduces the burden on dyeing and finishing companies and helps improve profitability by integrating the pretreatment process into the printing process.

Demonstration of the Effect through Introduction to a Towel Printing Process

Yutaka Co., Ltd., which sells original towels and T-shirts online, used to subcontract the pretreatment of towel fabric before printing by the Nassenger. By using O'ROBE in the Nassenger, the company could perform pretreatment in the in-house inkjet textile printing process. This eliminated the need to transport and store pretreated fabric and reduced the risk of quality variations and administrative burden.

O'ROBE also facilitates the penetration of dye ink into fabric, eliminating the granular texture of skins printed on towels and achieving natural rendering.

Growth of the Printed Towel Market

Decorative towels with high-quality printing are highly practical and create a sense of uniqueness and luxury. Demand has been growing in art and sport events and concerts as well as campaign-related novelty markets. The market for originally designed decorative towels for hobbies and collections is also growing. With this background, inkjet textile printing enables small-lot production for limited-edition items based on themes, such as regions and seasons, and demand is expected to grow.

By introducing the O'ROBE ink, Konica Minolta increases the efficiency of towel production, thereby helping to energize and expand the market.

Concept behind the Name of O'ROBE

O'ROBE was coined by combining "O'" and "ROBE." "O'" has three meanings: Optimization, One (integration), and Origin (a new start), and "ROBE" means "garments and cloth" in old French. Thus, O'ROBE represents the fusion of fabrics and inks.

It also embodies the concept of the ink, which is to simplify the process by simultaneously completing pretreatment and printing and to offer an optimal ink jet textile printing process.

Commitment to Using Limited Resources Effectively

Konica Minolta has been working on five material issues, including "Using Limited Resources Effectively," through its business. The Company has also been seeking to reduce the amount of resources used for its products and offer products which help reduce the consumption of earth's natural resources in society. The Nassenger series inkjet textile printers have helped transform analog textile printing to digital textile printing in the field of dye inks for more than 20 years after market launch. The printers have helped solve environmental issues in the textile industry, including water resources, waste, and climate change ◘

California just made fashion brands responsible for their old clothes

Think about every piece of clothing you've thrown away in the last year. A worn-out T-shirt, a pair of jeans that didn't survive the move, a jacket that never quite fit right. Now multiply that by 40 million - the population of California. In California alone, 1.2 million tons of textiles are discarded every year, according to CalRecycle. Nationally, well over 17 million tons of textiles enter the domestic waste stream annually, according to the U.S. EPA. For decades, that problem landed squarely on consumers, municipalities, and nonprofits like Goodwill. California just decided that's no longer how it works.

CalRecycle selected Landbell USA as the producer responsibility organization to enact the Responsible Textile Recovery Act, which mandates that producers of textiles and apparel pay into a system to keep waste out of landfills. The announcement, made Feb. 27, puts into motion the first extended producer responsibility, or EPR, program for textiles in the United States - a framework that shifts the financial burden of managing end-of-life clothing from the public to the brands and manufacturers that made it in the first place.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed S.B. 707 into law in October 2024, making apparel and textile producers responsible for creating a plan to collect, repair, and recycle their products. Under the law, covered products span an impressively wide range: everything from shirts and dresses to handbags, bedding, window coverings, towels, and tablecloths. Secondhand sellers and businesses with less than $1 million in annual global sales are exempt.

Landbell USA

Landbell USA beat out two other applicants - the Circular Textile Alliance and the Textile Renewal Alliance, both Sacramento-based - to take on the role. It's part of the Landbell Group, headquartered in Mainz, Germany, which bills itself as a global leader in EPR solutions. Its program philosophy leans heavily on the idea that recycling is the last resort, not the first. Landbell USA's program messaging is intentionally straightforward: "Mend it. Wear it. Pass it On." - meaning repair comes first, reuse follows, and recycling is there when those first two options aren't possible.

The organization is planning to build real infrastructure to back that up. Its plan for the estimated 35,000 to 40,000 producers covered by S.B. 707 includes establishing 15,800 municipal collection bins, each serving roughly 2,500 state residents, with retailers also taking on roles as collection partners.

The National Stewardship Action Council, known as NSAC, applauded CalRecycle's "careful due diligence" in the selection. "The selection of a

textile PRO represents a critical milestone in moving landmark policy into operational practice," NSAC said. "Successful implementation of S.B. 707 will require collaboration, transparency, innovation, and strong stakeholder engagement across the textile value chain." NSAC Executive Director and CEO Heidi Sanborn will serve on Landbell's Advisory Committee, which brings together experts in policy, municipal outreach, eco-design, digital product passports, footwear deconstruction, and more.

What comes next

For brands, the clock is already ticking. The July 1, 2026, deadline requires producers to join the PRO, followed by a needs assessment due by March 1, 2027. CalRecycle must adopt implementing regulations by July 1, 2028, with full program rollout and enforcement beginning July 1, 2030 - including daily fines of up to $50,000 for knowing or intentional violations.

Rachel Kibbe, Founder and CEO of American Circular Textiles, says the real test starts now. "The designation is an important step, but the real work begins now," she said in a statement. "Companies are focused on implementation, timeline, costs, governance, and how the system will operate in practice. Because other states are watching closely, the decisions made in California will likely influence how textile EPR develops nationally."

Legislatures in New York and Washington state have already considered similar legislation, though nothing has passed either statehouse as of yet. That could change quickly. California has a long track record of setting the regulatory pace for the rest of the country - and this time, what gets built here isn't just a recycling program. It's a blueprint ▫

Epson expands digital textile printing footprint with installation of Monna Lisa 64000 Printer

The Indian textile industry is witnessing a rapid shift toward digital printing as manufacturers seek shorter production cycles, greater design flexibility, consistent quality, and more sustainable processes. Epson India today announced the installation of its 64-print head Monna Lisa 64000 digital textile printer at Priyadharshini Designs, Karur. This is the first installation of this printer in India with advanced pigment ink technology. This installation reinforces the growing adoption of high-capacity digital textile printing in the country.

Priyadharshini Designs, a renowned supplier to exporters in the home d?cor textile segment, is an existing Epson customer and has been successfully using the Monna Lisa 8000 for the past three years. Building on its experience with Epson's print quality, consistency, operational efficiency and post-sales support, the company has now invested in the Monna Lisa 64000 to significantly enhance production capacity, improve turnaround times, and better serve growing demand.

Digital textile printing enables on-demand production, reduced water and chemical consumption, and faster response to global export markets, making it increasingly critical for home d?cor, fashion, and industrial textile segments. As a global innovator in digital textile printing, Epson is further strengthening this transformation with its Monna Lisa digital textile printers. The Epson Monna Lisa series is recognised for its exceptional colour precision, production reliability, and advanced pigment ink technology, enabling manufacturers to achieve industrial-scale productivity while advancing more sustainable, resource-efficient production.

"Our experience with the Monna Lisa 8000 gave us the confidence to invest in Monna Lisa 64000. The printer delivers consistent colour, reliable production, and the flexibility we need for export markets. With Epson's strong product performance and post-sales support, we have enhanced efficiency and grown our business with confidence," said Selvaraj Dhivakar, Owner, Priyadharshini Designs.

Epson Monna Lisa 64000 – Key Highlights

- Industrial-Scale Productivity: Designed for high-volume textile production
- PrecisionCore Printheads: High-speed printing with superior image clarity
- Advanced Pigment Ink Technology: Supports compliance with OEKO-TEX? Eco Passport, GOTS 7.0, and bluesign? standards
- Colour Consistency & Repeatability: Critical for export-oriented supply chains
- 10L Bag-in-Box Ink System: Hot-swap capability for uninterrupted production
- Automated Maintenance & Calibration: Built-in RGB camera and nozzle verification reduce downtime
- Remote Monitoring: Enabled via Epson Cloud Solution PORT
- Reduced Water & Chemical Usage: Supports more sustainable, resource-efficient textile production

"The installation of the Monna Lisa 64000 at Priyadharshini Designs further strengthens the structural shift toward digital textile printing that delivers both productivity and sustainability. At Epson, we are committed to supporting our customers with advanced technologies and end-to-end solutions that enable scalable, profitable growth for our customers," said Samba Moorthy, President, Epson India

The 65th edition of Filo closes performing good results

The 65th edition of Filo, the International Yarns and Fibres Exhibition, has closed today in Milan achieving good results. The main innovative element distinguishing Filo65 was represented by the closer synergy with Lineapelle. A very positive and profitable synergy was created with the leather goods exhibition, as proven by the large number of visitors who saw both exhibitions, thus gaining a more complete overview of the textile industry's proposals for the upcoming season.

Visitors' flow over the two days of Filo65 has been constant, despite this has been a special edition due to the concurrence with Milano-Cortina Olympic Winter Games, which caused some logistical problems. Exhibitors brought high quality collections, appreciated by national and international buyers for their contents related to style, innovation and research.

On the second day of the 65th edition, Filo received a visit from Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, Minister of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE), who said: 'Textile industry is an important sector of our economy, as example of style and creativity: an excellence that combines quality and tradition in Italian products. Strengthening the competitiveness of our companies in the global market means rejecting the concept of fast fashion, which is an affront to rights and nature', said the Minister. 'The government is pursuing an innovative path on extended producer's responsibility. MASE has prepared a draft regulation for textile supply chain, whose adoption is currently in progress, and it will apply to post-consumer urban waste. Companies will thus be directly involved in the end-of-life stage of what they produce.'

As explained by Mr. Pichetto: 'The Ministry has adopted specific measures for the eco-design of products, sustainability and circularity in the sector. We are working to promote innovation and the use of low-impact fibres, moving away from unsustainable raw materials.' According to the Minister of the Environment: 'Italy is leading the world in the transition of textile and fashion sectors: therefore, the direct involvement of companies throughout the whole production cycle is the key to the success of the supply chain, protecting those who operate in compliance with high standards and against unfair competition.'

As an international exhibition since its inception, Filo has accompanied its growth process with increasing internationalisation. In the process leading to continuous and selective growth in foreign buyers and exhibitors, Filo can count on the constant collaboration of ITA – Italian Agency for the promotion abroad and internationalisation of Italian companies and the Piedmont Region.

The collaboration with ITA-Agency has brought here a delegation of 25 buyers, mainly from European countries - France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Hungary and Finland - and from the fastest-growing areas of Asia, such as India and China. ITA – Agency has also renewed its sponsorship of Made in Filo project for this edition.

Ten buyers from Finland, France, Japan, Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom took part in the 'Buyers Days' organised by Ceip, the Piedmont Region's Regional Agency for Internationalisation and Investment Attraction, as part of the activities of the Piedmont Region's Integrated Textile Supply Chain Project (PIF) "Textiles" of the Piedmont Region, funded by the PR FESR 2021-2027.

Paolo Monfermoso, Head of Filo, declares that: 'Despite the challenging context, the 65th edition closed with positive results. Filo confirms its status as a leading trade fair, thanks to the high quality of its products and the professionalism and practicality of its visitors. This result was not a foregone conclusion because, despite signs of improvement, the industry continues to be affected by the uncertainties caused by the international geopolitical situation, in addition to minor logistical inconvenience caused by Milano-Cortina Olympic Winter Games. For this reason, we chose to strengthen our synergy with Lineapelle, which yielded excellent results, offering visitors a broader view of the textile supply chain's capacity for innovation, creativity and sustainability.

In relation to research and innovation, I would like to highlight the great interest shown by visitors for the third edition of Made in Filo, the collection of fabrics entirely designed, produced and manufactured by Filo, made by using yarns provided by exhibitors and processed by implementing the best manufacturing techniques. As far as sustainability is concerned, we are cooperating with CLASS by Giusy Bettoni, which allows us to offer a vision of the topic focused on responsible innovation, with concrete experiences and case histories, starting with the InsideOut by C.L.A.S.S. project, which aims at giving visibility to less visible parameters in the textile and clothing industry, from ethics to traceability and transparency, from health to circularity.'

Monfermoso also adds that: 'We are honoured to have received a visit from Minister Pichetto Fratin, who visited the booths to admire the style and creativity of exhibitors' proposals. During the Opening Ceremony of the 65th edition of Filo, we talked a lot about the supply chain and the added value it ensures to companies and their competitiveness in the markets, as Paolo Barberis Canonico, President of Unione Industriale Biellese, pointed out in his speech. This theme was also addressed during the Dialoghi di Confronto, held over the two days, as a sign of how collaboration and synergies within the supply chain are seen as an essential element for this industry's future.'

Monfermoso concludes saying that: 'After two days of intense work, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of Filo65: the companies and buyers, Lineapelle and in particular Fulvia Bacchi – CEO of Lineapelle, the institutions that support us, first and foremost ITA- Italian Agency and the Piedmont Region with Ceipiemonte, the speakers who participated in the Opening Ceremony and in the Dialoghi di Confronto, and the partners who collaborated for the creation of Made in Filo. See you in September for Filo66.'

The 66th edition of Filo is scheduled to be held on the 15th and the 16th of September 2026 at Fiera Milano - Rho

Bharat CotNet 2026 paves way for sustainable cotton ecosystem

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and CITI-Cotton Development and Research Association (CITI-CDRA) organized a pivotal conference, 'Bharat CotNet 2026', in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, on February 17, to enable stakeholders across the value chain discuss and deliberate on ways to create a robust, resilient, and sustainable cotton ecosystem in the country.

The conference, organized in partnership with TEXPROCIL (The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council) and Kasturi Cotton, and supported by the Union Textiles Ministry, the Rajasthan government and Cotton Corporation of India, witnessed the launch of two signature initiatives aimed at boosting premium cotton production with a special focus on ELS varieties:

• Kasturi Cotton Villages • Kasturi Cotton Mitras

Across the various sessions, speakers – that included Rajasthan Chief Secretary Shri V. Srinivas and Union Textiles Ministry Joint Secretary (Fibre) Ms Padmini Singla – highlighted that when the cotton value chain thrives sustainably, farmers prosper, manufacturers scale responsibly, exporters grow stronger, and India gains more strength in the global textiles and apparel arena.

In keeping with this thought, under the Kasturi Cotton Villages program, select cotton-growing hubs will be "adopted" as model villages. These sites will serve as benchmarks for the Kasturi Cotton Bharat (India's premium cotton brand) standard, focusing on certified seed adoption, best agronomic and harvesting practices, and complete traceability. The goal is to establish 3–5 model villages per district across India's cotton belt.

As part of the Kasturi Cotton Mitras initiative, trained field facilitators will be deployed to provide real-time, science-based handholding support to farmers for soil regeneration (using biochar), water management, and judicious fertiliser use, ensuring every harvest meets world-class specifications.

Addressing the conference, Chairman of CITI and CITI-CDRA, Shri Ashwin Chandran, said that the strength of India's textile industry depends upon the prosperity of the farmer. "When the farmer gains confidence and stability, the entire value chain becomes stronger," he remarked.

"By identifying villages and empowering trained Mitras, we are creating a system where scientific agronomy, clean picking and contamination-free handling become part of daily farming practices. This will convert Kasturi Cotton from a certification concept into a living ecosystem," Shri Chandran pointed out.

CITI Deputy Chairman Shri Dinesh Nolkha said the partnership between government institutions and organisations like the CITI-CDRA will be critical to ensuring that the benefits of the Kasturi Cotton Villages and Kasturi Cotton Mitras initiatives reach every cotton-growing village.

"Rajasthan, with its integrated cotton-to-textile ecosystem, offers an ideal starting point. I am confident that the experience gained here will pave the way for replication across other cotton-growing states and further strengthen India's position in global textile markets," Shri Nolkha stated.

Rajasthan Chief Secretary Shri V. Srinivas said there was an urgent need to improve the productivity of India's cotton sector. The Rajasthan government would offer its full support to the Kasturi Cotton Villages and Kasturi Cotton Mitras programs.

Sangam (India) Vice Chairman Dr S.N. Modani and TEXPROCIL Executive Director Dr Siddhartha Rajagopal also underlined the important role that the Kasturi Cotton Villages and Kasturi Cotton Mitras could play in strengthening India's cotton ecosystem.

In her introductory remarks, CITI Secretary General Ms Chandrima Chatterjee said the Kasturi Cotton Villages and Kasturi Cotton Mitras were steps towards ensuring that quality begins at the farm itself

Krupa Chatons: Building India's Largest Glass Bead Manufacturing Ecosystem

In the global fashion and decorative industries, embellishment materials are far more than decorative elements - they are components that transform design into brilliance. From couture garments and jewellery to footwear and accessories, precision glass beads form the foundation of decorative design, defining texture, movement, and sparkle across a wide range of applications.

Within this specialised sector, Krupa Chatons Manufacturing Company Pvt. Ltd. has established itself as one of India's most significant manufacturers of glass beads and embellishment components, serving designers and manufacturers across more than 50 industries worldwide.

A legacy of manufacturing excellence

Krupa Chatons Manufacturing Company Pvt. Ltd. was taken over by Mr. Satish Dhirajlal Vithalani in 1982, marking the beginning of a sustained journey of industrial growth, technological development, and product innovation. For over four decades, the group has consistently manufactured and exported high-quality glass beads and glass bead accessories used across industries such as jewellery, garments, handicrafts, footwear, accessories, and decorative applications.

Today, the company's brands Krupa and Asmara have established a strong presence not only across India but also in international markets including Africa, the Middle East, North America, and South America.

With production capacity reaching millions of glass beads every day, Krupa operates one of the most extensive glass bead manufacturing facilities in India, supplying a wide spectrum of embellishment materials to designers, manufacturers, and distributors around the world.

Integrated manufacturing and material control

A key strength of Krupa's manufacturing ecosystem lies in its commitment to backward integration and in-house manufacturing capabilities.

By producing its own glass and developing specialised manufacturing technologies, the company maintains strict control over raw materials, colour development, and product consistency. This integrated approach allows greater flexibility in developing new products while ensuring reliable quality across production batches.

Krupa currently manufactures more than 60 natural colours of high-quality glass, produced using advanced electric and gas furnaces that allow precise control over temperature and material composition.

In addition to these natural glass colours, specialised colouring, silvering, and high-vacuum coating processes enable the creation of thousands of colour variations and visual effects, giving designers and manufacturers exceptional flexibility across applications.

Precision manufacturing technology

The production of precision glass beads requires sophisticated manufacturing systems and rigorous quality control. At Krupa, glass formulation begins in an automated batch house, where raw materials are measured and blended to ensure accurate glass recipes and consistent composition.

During tube forming, sensor-based monitoring systems regulate tube diameter and hole size to achieve precise dimensional control.

Modern cutting technologies are used to produce beads with accurate lengths, smooth edges, and consistent dimensions, while the rounding process is carried out using self-developed machinery refined over many years. These machines have demonstrated bead roundness comparable to standards associated with European and Japanese bead manufacturers.

To further enhance brilliance, Krupa utilizes proprietary fire polishing systems that remove surface roughness and restore the natural shine of the glass.

Throughout the production process, beads undergo multiple sieving and inspection stages, where size accuracy, hole consistency, and surface finish are carefully verified. Strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) govern every stage of production to ensure consistent quality.

Each production lot is also tested in the company's laboratory to verify coating durability and product performance.

Product portfolio

Krupa Chatons offers one of the most diverse ranges of glass bead products manufactured in India.

Machine Beads are designed for automated garment embroidery machines, ensuring smooth feeding and uninterrupted production.

Seed Beads, ranging from 1.2 mm to 4.5 mm, are available in multiple shapes including round, bugle, and hexagonal varieties.

Pressed Beads are produced by pressing heated glass rods into moulds, offering a wide range of shapes, sizes, and colours.

Fire Polished Beads are machine cut and then polished with fire to produce smooth surfaces and strong reflective shine in sizes from 3 mm to 20 mm.

In addition to beads, Krupa also manufactures Chatons (rhinestones) and Crystal AD (Artificial Diamond), precision-cut glass embellishments used in fashion, footwear, and decorative applications.

The company also produces value-added components such as Sew-On Cups, Cup Chains, decorative Shoe Uppers, and Rock Sheets, which simplify the application of glass embellishments across garments and accessories.

Responsible manufacturing

Krupa Chatons Manufacturing Company Pvt. Ltd. places strong emphasis on environmental responsibility and workplace safety. The company's facilities are equipped with advanced dust collection and air filtration systems designed to capture fine particulate matter generated during cutting and polishing processes, improving air quality and creating a safer working environment.

In addition, Krupa operates an in-house water treatment plant that processes wastewater to remove contaminants before discharge, ensuring compliance with environmental standards and protecting surrounding ecosystems.

Craftsmanship at industrial scale

With over four decades of experience in glass manufacturing, Krupa Chatons Manufacturing Company Pvt. Ltd. has built a unique position within the industry by combining traditional glass craftsmanship, proprietary manufacturing technologies, and large-scale production capabilities.

As global demand for decorative materials continues to evolve, Krupa Chatons remains committed to innovation, product development, and responsible manufacturing. With its combination of manufacturing scale, technical expertise, and continuous innovation, Krupa Chatons continues to play a defining role in shaping the future of glass bead manufacturing in India ◘

Texprocess 2026
Market overview for strategic future investments

At Texprocess 2026, 200 exhibitors from 28 countries will be represented. In a challenging market environment, the leading trade fair is a constant and reflects progress in textile processing – driven by automation, digitalisation and AI. In addition, international start-ups present their ideas and meet partners from industry and research. Techtextil takes place in parallel with an optimised hall layout.

Those investing in new processing technologies today are strengthening the future viability of their companies. New technologies offer solutions to a wide range of requirements – from increased efficiency and enhanced quality to optimised use of resources. At Texprocess, from 21 to 24 April 2026, visitors find a comprehensive market overview for these investment decisions. The leading international trade fair brings together 200 exhibitors from 28 countries at the Frankfurt exhibition grounds. The most represented exhibitor nations are Germany, Italy, Taiwan, Turkey and Great Britain. New exhibitor countries are Australia, Finland, Slovakia and Hungary.

Exhibitors include both long-standing customers and new participants. Again represented are e.g. bullmer (Germany), Brother Internationale Industriemaschinen (Germany), Eton Systems (Sweden), Kai Corporation (Japan), Morgan Tecnica (Italy), Style3D | Assyst (Germany), Veit (Germany) and Zünd (Germany). New exhibitors include e.g. Amann & Söhne (Germany), Coats Group (Great Britain), Melco International (Switzerland), NedGraphics (USA), Ozbilim (Turkey), Pathfinder Australia, PGM System (China) and Robotextile (Germany).

Up-and-coming newcomers are also showcasing their solutions at Texprocess. In the Start-up Stars area, participants include, among others, ProMSD – Pusztay (Slovakia), Prodactive Solutions (Belgium), Qsee.ai (Hong Kong) and White Pattern (Germany). Here, they connect with partners from industry and research.

Across 15 product groups, visitors discover new perspectives for their business. They compare solutions along the entire process chain – from CAD/CAM to cutting, sewing, embroidery and finishing. This forms the basis for investment decisions. For example, visitors benefit from the world's most comprehensive range of cutting technologies. New exhibitors in this segment include Anhui Han-Bond Technology (China), Comelz (Italy), Cutting Edge Automation Machines (Italy) and Sheffield Cutting Equipment (USA).

Texprocess exhibitors present state-of-the-art processing technologies and world premieres for a wide range of requirements – whether for increasing efficiency or the precise processing of high-tech materials for extreme applications.

Efficient processing technologies, digital processes and AI-optimised workflows drive the future viability of the industry.

"Texprocess shows us the opportunities that new technologies offer to many companies. Investing in fast, connected and cost-efficient systems enables businesses to future-proof their production. Especially in light of current challenges such as volatile tariff policies, skilled labour shortages and persistently high energy costs, performance-optimised machinery and processes provide a decisive competitive advantage," says Sabine Scharrer, Director Brand Management Technical Textiles & Textile Processing, Messe Frankfurt.

Rewarded innovations

Texprocess is the industry's most important platform for experiencing innovations first-hand. The Texprocess Innovation Award showcases particularly outstanding ideas – selected by a renowned jury of experts. The focus is on solutions for quality enhancement, digitalisation and AI, as well as ecological and economic optimisation. The number of submissions has increased. What unites the selected innovations is their transformative impact on the textile industry. Guided tours to the award winners' stands offer an in-depth insight into these developments.

Expert knowledge and best practices

At the Texprocess Forum, leading industry experts come together to discuss topics ranging from sustainable processing to AI-driven solutions. Selected presentations include: "AI for fashion – an E2E Ecosystem from Digital to Physical"

(Gerhard Karl, Style3D | Assyst) or "Modernizing Fashion Manufacturing Without Major Investment: A Scalable Path to Industry 4.0" (Gregory Gueret, Lectra).

The entire textile production process in one place

Techtextil, the leading trade fair for technical textiles and nonwovens, takes place in close proximity to Texprocess. The two events cover the entire textile production process. Together, they bring more than 1,700 exhibitors to the Frankfurt exhibition grounds. Texprocess visitors find high-tech materials for their applications at Techtextil. Of particular relevance to the apparel industry: the Performance Apparel Textiles product segment is newly positioned in Hall 9.0 of Techtextil. Thereby it moves even closer to Texprocess in Hall 8.0. For visitors, this means: short distances and additional networking opportunities

The 58th edition of Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris

The 58th edition of Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris closed its doors on February 4 after three particularly intense days of activity for the 1,100 exhibitors at the Paris-Le-Bourget Exhibition Centre. Once again, the trade show confirmed its role as the world's leading sourcing platform serving international buyers.

A strong and diversified offer

Despite a market environment undergoing significant transformation, marked by lasting economic shifts and a reconfiguration of distribution networks, this session confirmed the show's ability to generate strong business momentum aligned with the sector's evolving expectations. While overall attendance was slightly lower than in February 2025, it remained stable compared to last September's edition and reflects the structural changes shaping the apparel market. The strong presence of French visitors, combined with the high quality of international profiles in attendance, fostered particularly rich and sustained exchanges.

A clear increase in French visitors

Attendance figures once again confirm the structural importance of major European markets in driving the fashion and apparel industry. France ranked first, accounting for 22% of visitors, a sharp increase compared with the previous edition, reflecting the strong commitment of domestic players in a market undergoing transformation. France was followed by the United Kingdom (9.4%), then Italy (6.5%) and Spain (6.2%). The Netherlands and Germany completed the Top 6, tied at 4.1% each, confirming the strength of the show's European base.

"The attendance at this edition reflects the market itself – more concentrated, but also more targeted – yet, beyond that, what clearly stands out is the quality of visitors and the intensity of the business discussions observed over these three days," notes Julien Schmoll, Marketing and Communication Director at Messe Frankfurt France.

A sustained business climate

Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris' long-standing partners – the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CCPITTEX), the Korea Federation of Textile Industries (KOFOTI), and the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO), which represents Turkish exhibitors – all share the same feedback: exhibitors did business, met qualified buyers, and engaged in concrete discussions.

Individually interviewed, exhibitors echo this positive assessment. A specialist in technical fabrics for premium down jackets, the Chinese manufacturer Oracle Textile Technology works with more than 200 international brands. Its President, Ken Mei, also confirms the quality of exchanges. "We achieved our objectives both in terms of new contacts and the level of discussions initiated with several major European and American accounts we met at the show."

For David Chen, Sales Manager at Huaren Linen, Texworld is also a key industry event: "Beyond our traditional clients, such as Marks & Spencer or Monoprix, for whom the show is our main physical meeting point in Europe, we generated this year a significant number of prospects with whom we hope to develop new projects."

The same applies to Sara Fashionwear. This Bangladeshi specialist in sportswear knitwear produces fabrics and manufactures premium finished products for major European brands (Liu Jo, Sergio Tacchini, Henry Cotton's, etc.). "The show allows us to concretely demonstrate the breadth of our range and our expertise," explains Sara Abu, owner of the company. "Around 10 to 15% of the contacts made this year are new, particularly from Eastern Europe."

Quality and responsiveness

On the buyer side, sourcing strategies are increasingly focused on finding premium-quality offerings at the best possible price, as well as responsiveness for collection replenishment, both in materials and finished products. Céline Simon, Materials Manager at Gémo, attended the show with a clear objective: to bring certain sourcing zones closer for strategic materials. "We identified some very interesting opportunities at the show with Egyptian manufacturers for specific fabrics," she explains. Her team also established contacts with accessories and trims suppliers, confirming the value of a broader offer to complement collections.

A committed designer and well-known figure on the Paris fashion scene, Lamine Badian Kouyaté, founder of XULY Bët, is a regular visitor to Texworld. Looking for finished knitwear manufacturers, he highlights the quality of the proposals presented to him: "I was truly impressed by the level and responsiveness of the offers," he notes. Initially planned for the Autumn-Winter season, the collaboration evolved toward possible delivery as early as the Summer collection, illustrating the flexibility of the exhibitors he met.

"The evolution of sourcing practices, along with the growing focus on quality and suppliers' ability to adapt, reflects the reality of a market that has become more demanding and more selective," notes Frédéric Bougeard, President of Messe Frankfurt France. "In this context, Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris responds in a smart and agile way: we offer buyers a diverse and carefully curated selection, associated services, and immediately operational solutions - less volume, but more concrete projects. It is this 'smart sourcing' approach that now defines the show's strength and relevance," he concludes ◻

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Forthcoming trade events...

INTERNATIONAL

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
13 – 15, May 2026
Venue: Uzexpocentre NEC / Uzbekistan
Organizer: Iteca Exhibitions
Tel: +998 712051818, +998 948001818

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

GUANGZHOU INTL. TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND PRINTING INDUSTRY EXPO
19 – 21, May 2026
Venue: Guangzhou Poly World Trade Center Expo, China
Organizer: Hong Kong Allall infomation Media Group Limited
Tel.: 020-83587112

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

INTEX BANGLADESH
18 – 20, June 2026
Venue: ICCB, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion Pvt. Ltd.
Tel.: 022-40376700 - 30

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

TEXWORLD NEW YORK CITY 2026
29 – 31, July 2026
Venue: Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York, USA
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt GmbH
Tel.: +1 678.737.8029

TEXWORLD PARIS
15 – 17, September 2026
Venue: Paris Porte de Versailles, Paris, France
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt France S.A.S.
Tel: +33 6 74 29 09 07

FLORENCE TEXTILE EXPO
14 – 16, October 2026
Venue: Stazione Leoplolda, Florence / Italy
Organizer: Meridyen Uluslararasi Fuarcilik
Tel: +0212 210 5050

VIETNAM INT'L TEXTILE & GARMENT INDUSTRY EXHIBITION
14 – 17, October 2026
Saigon Exhibition & Convention Center, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Chan Chao Int'l Co., Ltd.
Tel: +886-2-2659-6000

TEXTECH MOROCCO INTL. EXPO
03 – 05, November 2026
Venue: Foire International de Casablanca Expo Center, Casablanca – Morocco
Organizer: Conference & Exhibition Management Services Ltd.
Tel: +1-516-240-8077

ADVANCED TEXTILES EXPO
03 – 05, November 2026
Venue: Orlando, FL USA
Organizer: Advanced Textiles Association
Tel: +1 651 222 2508, 800 225 4324

ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026
20 – 24, November 2026
Venue: National Exhibition and Convention Center, Shanghai, China
Organizer: ITMA Services Pte Ltd.
Tel: +65 6849 9368

DOMESTIC

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

KNIT-TECH
6 – 9, March 2026
Venue: Hi-Tech Tirupur Exhibition Centre, T.M. Poondi, 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

LACE & TRIMS SHOW
20 – 23, March 2026
Venue: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo P. Ltd.
Tel: +91-7428499699, +91-11-41601663

GREAT INDIA TEXTILE SHOW
27 - 29, March 2026
Venue: BLW Sports Ground, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Organizer: Global Trade Fairs
Tel.: 7867892000, 9843099051

CMAI FAB SHOW 2026
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

FIBERS N YARNS EXPO 2026
16 – 18, April 2026
Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, India
Tecoya Trend Publications Private Limited
Tel: 022-46062530, 098214 34749

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

HGH INDIA 2026
30 June – 03, July 2026
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Center, Mumbai
Organizer: Texzone Information Services Pvt. Ltd.
Tel.: +91 (22) 6997 1122

EAST INDIA NATIONAL GARMENT FAIR
08 – 10, July 2026
Venue: Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata
Organizer: AIATF (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

LACE & TRIMS SHOW (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

DYECHEM TEXPROCESS SHOW/ YARNEX/F&A/ASF
24 – 26, September 2026
Venue: IKF Complex, Tirupur
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91 8884564643, +91 9035263008

IHGF DELHI FAIR (AUTUMN 2026)
13 – 17, October 2026
Venue: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida
Organizer: Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts
Tel.: +91 11 26135256

GARKNIT-X
27 – 29, November 2026
Venue: Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata
Organizer: Vardaan Events Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91 9821170104, 9341444727

INDIA ITME GREATER NOIDA
04 – 09, December 2026
Venue: India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, UP
Organizer: India ITME Society
Tel: +91 - 22 4972 4603 / 2202 0032

F&A SHOW / YARNEX/ ASF
09 – 11, December 2026
Venue: New Delhi
Organizer: SS Textile Media Pvt. Ltd.
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