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AEPC and Textile Ministry Connecting Indian Craftsmanship with Global Luxury Markets



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CONTENTS



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01 | CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

02 | COVER STORY

1- Ministry of Textiles, AEPC Lead Strategic Paris Outreach for Indian Apparel Exporters
2- From Indian Craftsmanship to Global Luxury
3- From Paris to Milan: Creating a Deeper European Market Connect

03 | BRICS

1- BRICS New Delhi Declaration Puts Resilient Supply Chains, Manufacturing and MSMEs at the Heart of Economic Cooperation

04 | INDIA'S READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG DATA)

05 | INDIA'S INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP DATA)

06 | POLICY AFFAIRS

1- Government extends RoSCTL scheme for apparel and garment exports till Dec 2026
2- India's Exports Rise 15.55% to US$399.27 Billion During April–August 2026-27
3- India's Textile Exports Rise 16.1% to ₹29,776 Crore in August

07| FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

1- 53rd India International Knit Fair Showcases the Future of Fashion

2- 2- AEPC & IKFA Tirupur Drive Dialogue on Global Growth, Innovation and Technology
3- AEPC Leads Strong Indian Presence at Saudi Fashion & Tex Expo 2026

08 | UPCOMING FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

1- Upcoming Fairs & Exhibitions

09 | COUNCIL AFFAIRS

1- AEPC Holds 47th AGM, Charts Roadmap for a More Competitive and Globally Integrated Apparel Industry
2- AEPC, Chennai Customs and CGST-Coimbatore Hold Trade Outreach Programme in Tiruppur
3- Local Roots, Global Reach: AEPC Webinar Guides Apparel MSMEs on the Next Growth Journey
4- Warm Birthday Greetings to Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh
5- AEPC Conducts Webinar on Logistics e-Marketplace, Highlights Digital Solutions for Export Competitiveness
6- 4th Niryat Samvad Addresses Key Exporters' Concerns
7- AEPC Kolkata Organises FTA Outreach Programme to Strengthen Exporters' Understanding of Global Trade Opportunities
8- ATDC imparts special training in Protech Technical Textiles to undergraduate students
9- Stakeholder Consultation in Coimbatore Highlights Industry Priorities for Textile Sector Growth

10 | FOCUS COUNTRY

1- SWITZERLAND

11 | COUNCIL MEMBERS

1- AEPC Extends Warm Welcome to New Members Added in this Quarter

12 | INDIA NEWS

1- India-New Zealand FTA Set to Take Effect on October 20, Opening New Opportunities for Apparel Exports
2- BIS Strengthens Cotton Fibre Testing Infrastructure with ₹38.72 Crore National Initiative
3- Ladakh's Traditional Textiles Get a Design and Market-Access Push
4- India–Nepal Trade Talks Focus on Market Access, Customs Facilitation and Connectivity

13 | TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

1- IITs, NITs Experts to Strengthen MANTRA's Textile Research Advisory Committee

14 | GST UPDATE

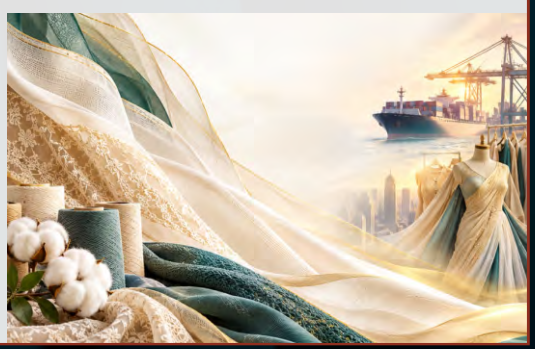
1- GST collection for August rises by 14.8% to ₹1.99 trillion

15 | GLOBAL NEWS

1- US Russia Sanctions Law Creates Fresh Tariff Uncertainty for Indian Exporters
2- India Highlights 'Security, Connectivity and Opportunity' for Stronger SCO Trade
3- Euratex Urges EU to Strengthen Textile and Apparel Competitiveness

16 | SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

1- PM Narendra Modi Highlights Sustainability as Key to India's Textile Future
2- Bengaluru Launches Circular Textile Lab to Turn Waste into New Products
3- IIT Guwahati, IIT BHU Develop Bacterial Solution for Textile Dye Wastewater



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The Indian apparel industry has demonstrated remarkable resilience in navigating a rapidly changing global environment. As we look ahead, our focus must be on strengthening competitiveness, expanding our global footprint and creating greater opportunities for Indian exporters.

The global apparel and fashion industry is evolving rapidly, with buyers placing increasing emphasis on quality, innovation, sustainability, traceability and supply-chain reliability. Technology, Artificial Intelligence, automation and digitalisation are also transforming the way the industry operates. India must remain at the forefront of these changes.

At AEPC, we are working closely with the Government and industry to strengthen market access, build international partnerships and create new opportunities for Indian apparel exporters.

I had the opportunity to accompany the Ministry of Textiles delegation led by Secretary, Textiles, Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, IAS, during our recent visit to Paris. The delegation engaged with leading global fashion and textile institutions, including Première Vision, Messe Frankfurt, Texworld, CHANEL, LVMH and major European retailers. These engagements provided an opportunity to showcase India's strengths in manufacturing, craftsmanship, sustainability and innovation, while exploring avenues for deeper integration with global value chains.

The MoU between Bharat Textile Trade Federation and Première Vision is an important step towards strengthening India–France cooperation in trade, sourcing, design, sustainability and market linkages. Our discussions with global luxury and retail houses also highlighted the growing potential for Indian apparel in higher-value and specialised segments.

The proposed India Textile Immersive Centre in Milan, for which the Ministry of Textiles has entrusted AEPC with the responsibility of setting up the initiative, will further strengthen our engagement with European buyers, brands and fashion stakeholders. It will provide a sustained platform to showcase India's capabilities and build long-term business relationships.

Technology and innovation will be critical to the next phase of growth. AI, automation and digital solutions can help our manufacturers improve productivity, quality, efficiency and speed-to-market. At the same time, sustainability, traceability and responsible production are becoming essential to global competitiveness. Our industry must embrace these changes while building on India's strengths in fibres, craftsmanship and manufacturing.

The 53rd India International Knit Fair in Tirupur reflected this transition, with a strong focus on MMF, innovation and sustainability and participation from international buyers. Such platforms are important in connecting Indian exporters with emerging global demand.

Market diversification will also remain a key priority. Our participation at the Saudi Fashion & Tex Expo and continued engagement with international markets are helping Indian exporters explore new business opportunities and strengthen global linkages.

The India–New Zealand FTA, which is scheduled to come into force on October 20, 2026, is another significant opportunity for Indian apparel exporters. With Indian textile and clothing exports receiving duty-free access to the New Zealand market, the agreement can support greater competitiveness and help our exporters develop stronger business relationships in the region.

At the same time, global uncertainties, geopolitical developments, tariff concerns and changing sourcing patterns underline the need for resilience and agility. Strengthening MSMEs, improving ease of doing business, adopting technology and diversifying markets will be essential for sustained growth.

AEPC will continue to work closely with the Government and industry to facilitate market access, strengthen international partnerships, address policy and operational concerns, and support exporters in meeting the evolving demands of global markets.

India has the talent, manufacturing capability, craftsmanship and entrepreneurial strength to play a larger role in the global apparel industry. Our collective effort must now be to convert these strengths into greater value addition, stronger global partnerships and a more competitive Brand India.

Dr. A. Sakthivel
Chairman, AEPC





Ministry of Textiles, AEPC Lead Strategic Paris Outreach for Indian Apparel Exporters

Strategic engagement with Première Vision, Messe Frankfurt and Texworld opens new avenues for Indian exporters across global sourcing, premium fashion, sustainability and market access

India's textile and apparel industry is strengthening its engagement with the global fashion and sourcing ecosystem, with a focus on expanding international market access, enhancing the visibility of Indian exporters and creating deeper connections with global buyers, brands and industry stakeholders.

This strategic outreach came into focus during a high-level Indian textile delegation's visit to Paris, led by Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), accompanied the Secretary, along with senior government officials, Chairmen and representatives of various Export Promotion Councils and industry stakeholders.



The delegation's programme included engagements with leading international textile and fashion platforms, including Première Vision Paris, Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris and Messe Frankfurt, with discussions centred on strengthening India's participation in global sourcing networks and creating new opportunities for Indian textile and apparel enterprises.

A Strategic Partnership with Première Vision



One of the key milestones of the Paris visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) and Première Vision SA on 2 September 2026 at Première Vision Paris.

The MoU was signed by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Core Committee Member, BTTF and Chairman, AEPC, and Ms. Florence Rousson, CEO – Fashion Division, Première Vision SA. The signing ceremony took place in the presence

of Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, and Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), along with industry leaders, BTTF representatives and other stakeholders.

The agreement builds upon the Letter of Intent signed at Bharat Tex 2026 in New Delhi in July 2026 and establishes a framework for multi-year institutional cooperation between BTTF and Première Vision.

The partnership spans several areas of strategic importance to the textile and apparel industry, including trade promotion, sourcing, design, market linkages, sustainability, circularity, knowledge exchange and textile heritage.

Under the agreement, the two organisations will facilitate reciprocal participation of exhibitors, delegations, speakers and experts across their respective platforms. Cooperation will also cover joint export promotion initiatives, buyer-seller and reverse buyer-seller meetings, exchange of market intelligence and activities aimed at strengthening international market linkages.

For Indian exporters, the partnership provides an important platform to connect with an international fashion and sourcing ecosystem that places strong emphasis on creativity, innovation, quality, sustainability and differentiated products.

Bringing Indian Textile Heritage to the Global Fashion Stage

An important dimension of the Première Vision partnership is its focus on textile heritage and craftsmanship.

The agreement envisages an ***"Eternal Crafts Collaboration"*** to showcase Indian and French textile heritage to the international luxury and creative fashion community.

As part of this collaboration, ***"A Living Thread"*** is planned for January 2027. The initiative will bring Indian hand embroidery, handloom and allied heritage techniques together with French textile heritage, creating a platform for artisans and ateliers to engage with an international audience.

The initiative provides an opportunity to position India's rich textile traditions alongside contemporary global fashion and luxury conversations, while highlighting the craftsmanship, skills and heritage embedded in Indian textiles.

Deepening India–France Collaboration in Luxury and Craftsmanship

The Paris outreach also included an important engagement between the Ministry of Textiles and Comité Colbert, the association representing leading French luxury houses. Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, held discussions with Mrs. Bénédicte Épinay, President & CEO, Comité Colbert, on strengthening India–France collaboration in luxury, craftsmanship and sustainable creation.



The discussions explored opportunities to build stronger sourcing linkages between India's rich ecosystem of handlooms, embroidery, carpets, jewellery and heritage crafts and France's globally renowned luxury maisons. Areas of potential cooperation included artisan and designer exchanges, sustainable and traceable value chains, collaborative collections and greater engagement with Indian platforms such as Bharat Tex.

The interaction highlighted the significant potential to connect India's skilled artisan communities with global luxury markets while preserving traditional savoir-faire and embracing innovation. Greater collaboration in this space can also create new avenues for Indian textile and craft enterprises to participate in international luxury and premium fashion value chains, strengthening India's visibility as a source of craftsmanship, creativity, sustainability and responsible production.

Greater International Opportunities Through Messe Frankfurt

Another important engagement during the Paris visit was a meeting between AEPC Chairman Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel and Mr. Frederic Bougeard, President & CEO, Messe Frankfurt.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Nicolas, Director – Apparel, Messe Frankfurt; Ms. Priyanka, Messe Frankfurt India; and Shri N. Thirukkumaran, Executive Committee Member, AEPC. Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director, Bharat Tex, also participated in the interaction.



The discussions focused on creating greater opportunities for AEPC members to participate in Messe Frankfurt's leading textile and apparel fairs across Europe.

Particular attention was given to the possibility of dedicated booths and pavilions tailored to the requirements of Indian exporters. Such platforms can provide participating companies with greater visibility, facilitate buyer interactions and enable them to showcase their products and capabilities to international markets.

The Messe Frankfurt leadership acknowledged the growing importance of India's textile and apparel sector and its increasing role in the global market.

The discussions also reflected the willingness of both sides to work closely to facilitate and strengthen the participation of Indian exporters in international fairs.

Strengthening India's Presence at Texworld

The delegation also visited Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris, where it interacted with Indian companies participating in the fair and visited their booths.

The interactions provided an opportunity to engage directly with Indian exhibitors and understand their participation at one of Europe's important textile and apparel sourcing platforms.

The delegation also held discussions with Texworld authorities on strengthening future collaboration and facilitating greater participation of Indian textile and apparel entrepreneurs in upcoming editions.

For Indian exporters, international sourcing fairs provide an important avenue to showcase manufacturing capabilities, establish buyer relationships, understand evolving market requirements and explore new business opportunities.

From Participation to Long-Term Market Engagement

The engagements with Première Vision, Messe Frankfurt and Texworld reflect different but complementary dimensions of India's global textile and apparel outreach.

The partnership with Première Vision provides an institutional framework spanning trade, sourcing, design, sustainability, market linkages and textile heritage. Engagement with Messe Frankfurt focuses on creating greater participation opportunities for Indian exporters across international textile and apparel fairs, while the Texworld interaction strengthens India's presence at an established European sourcing platform.

Together, these initiatives can help create a more sustained international presence for Indian textile and apparel companies.

The emphasis is also expanding beyond conventional sourcing towards higher-value opportunities involving design, innovation, craftsmanship, sustainability and responsible production.

India brings to the global textile ecosystem a combination of manufacturing capabilities, skilled manpower, diverse textile traditions, handlooms, embroidery, natural fibres and an expanding base of sustainable manufacturing.

The opportunity lies in connecting these capabilities more closely with international buyers, brands, designers and sourcing networks.

Strengthening India's Global Textile Connect

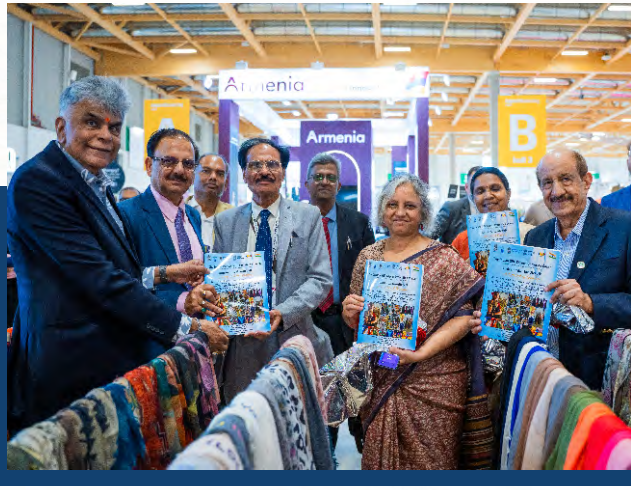
The Paris engagements underline the growing importance of institutional partnerships and international platforms in strengthening India's global textile and apparel presence.

For AEPC members, the initiatives can open additional avenues for international visibility, buyer engagement, market intelligence and participation in global sourcing platforms.

As India seeks to deepen its presence across international fashion and textile value chains, partnerships such as the one between BTTF and Première Vision, along with enhanced engagement with Messe Frankfurt and Texworld, provide platforms for Indian exporters to connect with evolving global demand.

The Paris outreach therefore marks an important step in building stronger bridges between India's textile and apparel industry and the international fashion ecosystem—creating pathways for Indian enterprises to showcase their capabilities, forge new relationships and expand their presence in global markets.

From Indian Craftsmanship to Global Luxury



Paris engagements with CHANEL, LVMH and leading European retailers open conversations across sourcing, design, sustainability and high-value manufacturing

India's engagement with the global fashion industry is expanding beyond conventional sourcing relationships, with increasing focus on craftsmanship, design, sustainability, innovation and high-value manufacturing.

This wider ambition was reflected during a high-level Indian textile delegation's visit to Paris, led by Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), accompanied the Secretary, along with Dr. M. Beena, IAS, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Shri Sarvesh, Director, Ministry of Textiles, and representatives of various Export Promotion Councils.

The delegation engaged with leading global fashion, luxury and retail organisations, including CHANEL's le19M, LVMH, Galeries Lafayette, Okaïdi and Monoprix. These interactions explored opportunities across diverse segments of the fashion and apparel value chain.

Exploring Opportunities with CHANEL



Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), along with Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), and Shri Sarvesh, Director, Ministry of Textiles, engaged with the team at CHANEL's le19M during their visit to Paris.

The discussions explored opportunities to strengthen collaboration in luxury craftsmanship, artisanal techniques, sustainable textiles, design innovation and high-value textile and apparel manufacturing.

India's rich heritage of handlooms, embroidery, natural fibres and artisan-led craftsmanship, combined with its growing capabilities in sustainable manufacturing and product development, offers significant opportunities for deeper engagement with global luxury houses.

Strengthening Engagement with LVMH



Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), accompanied by Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), and Shri Sarvesh, Director, Ministry of Textiles, held an engaging interaction with LVMH in Paris.

Discussions focused on opportunities for deeper collaboration across textile and apparel sourcing, luxury manufacturing, craftsmanship, sustainability, design and product development.

Connecting with Galeries Lafayette



The Paris programme also included an interaction with Galeries Lafayette.

The discussions explored opportunities in textile and apparel sourcing, innovative product development,

sustainable manufacturing, craftsmanship and design-led collaborations.

For Indian exporters, engagement with international Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), along with Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Shri Sarvesh, Director, Ministry of Textiles, and Shri N. Thirukkumaran, Executive Committee Member, AEPC, engaged with Galeries Lafayette during their visit to Paris.

The interaction explored opportunities to strengthen India's presence in the global fashion ecosystem through textile and apparel sourcing, innovative product development, sustainable manufacturing, craftsmanship and design-led collaborations.

India's rich textile heritage, skilled artisans, handlooms, embroidery traditions, natural fibres and growing manufacturing capabilities offer a strong foundation for deeper partnerships with leading global fashion and retail houses.

The engagement reaffirmed India's vision of becoming a global partner in creativity, craftsmanship, sustainability, innovation and high-value textile and apparel manufacturing.

Expanding India's Children's Apparel Connect with Okaïdi



Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), along with Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Shri Sarvesh, Director, Ministry of Textiles, and Shri N. Thirukkumaran, Executive Committee Member, AEPC, engaged with Alice Tran, Global Sourcing Manager, Okaidi, during their visit to Paris.

The discussions explored opportunities to deepen collaboration in children's apparel sourcing, product development, sustainable manufacturing and responsible textile value chains.

A prominent French children's fashion brand and part of the

IDKIDS Group, Okaïdi operates around 890 stores across 51 countries, making it an important global player in the children's apparel segment.

India's strong manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce, diverse textile ecosystem and growing focus on sustainable production position Indian apparel manufacturers well to partner with leading international brands.

Exploring Opportunities with Monoprix



Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), along with Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Shri Sarvesh, Director, Ministry of Textiles, and Shri N. Thirukkumaran, Executive Committee Member, AEPC, engaged with Ms. Charlotte Dezamy, Sourcing Manager, Monoprix, along with Mr Ashim Khanna during their visit to Paris.

The discussions explored opportunities to strengthen India-France collaboration in apparel sourcing, product development, sustainable textiles and responsible supply chains, with a focus on expanding market access for Indian textile and apparel products.

India's Evolving Global Value Proposition

Taken together, these engagements demonstrate the breadth of India's textile and apparel capabilities and the range of opportunities available in the European market.

From luxury craftsmanship and artisanal techniques to children's wear, retail sourcing, sustainable manufacturing and product development, Indian exporters are increasingly engaging with different segments of the global fashion ecosystem.

India's advantage lies in the diversity of its textile base—the combination of traditional craftsmanship and modern manufacturing capabilities.

The Paris interactions provided an important platform to showcase these strengths and explore avenues for deeper engagement with global brands and retailers.

For the Indian apparel industry, the opportunity lies in translating these conversations into sustained commercial relationships while continuing to strengthen capabilities in quality, sustainability, design, innovation and responsible production.



From Paris to Milan: Creating a Deeper European Market Connect

Proposed Milan Immersion Centre seeks to bring Indian apparel exporters closer to European buyers, brands and fashion stakeholders

India's engagement with the European textile and apparel market is increasingly moving towards a more sustained and market-oriented approach.



During the high-level Indian textile delegation's visit to Paris, discussions on the proposed establishment of an Immersion Centre in Milan emerged as an important initiative aimed at strengthening the connect between Indian apparel exporters and the European fashion ecosystem.

Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, along with Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), and Shri N. Thirukkumaran, Executive Committee Member, AEPC, held discussions with Mr. Francesco Portalani regarding the proposed initiative.

Creating a Continuous European Interface

The proposed Immersion Centre is envisaged as a platform that can bring Indian textile and apparel exporters into closer contact with European buyers, brands and industry stakeholders.

While international exhibitions provide concentrated opportunities for business networking and buyer engagement, a market-facing centre can potentially provide a more continuous interface with the European fashion ecosystem.

The proposed initiative could facilitate interactions with buyers and brands, support greater understanding of market requirements and create avenues for sustained business engagement.

Its proposed location in Milan is particularly relevant given the city's role in the international fashion ecosystem.

Beyond the Traditional Trade Fair Model

For Indian apparel exporters, participation in international exhibitions remains an important route to global markets. However, sustained market engagement increasingly requires continuous understanding of buyer expectations, fashion trends, product development requirements and sustainability priorities.

An immersion-based model could complement India's participation in global fairs by providing a platform for ongoing interaction.

The initiative also aligns with the broader approach witnessed during the Paris visit, where institutional partnerships, trade fairs and direct engagement with global brands were pursued alongside discussions on longer-term market access.

A Wider European Outreach

The proposed Milan initiative forms part of a larger European outreach undertaken by the Indian textile delegation.

During the Paris visit, the delegation engaged with Messe Frankfurt and Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris, while the Bharat Tex Trade Federation signed a strategic MoU with Première Vision SA.

The delegation also held discussions with international fashion and retail organisations including CHANEL's le19M, LVMH, Galeries Lafayette, Okaïdi and Monoprix.

These engagements covered a wide range of areas—from luxury craftsmanship and artisanal techniques to apparel sourcing, sustainable manufacturing, children's wear, product development and responsible supply chains.

Together, they provide a broader picture of the opportunities available to Indian textile and apparel companies across Europe.

Connecting India's Capabilities with European Demand

India brings to the European market a diverse combination of manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce, traditional textile knowledge and an extensive ecosystem of artisans, handlooms and embroidery.

At the same time, Indian manufacturers are increasingly developing capabilities in sustainable production, product innovation, advanced manufacturing and responsible sourcing.

The proposed Milan Immersion Centre could provide an avenue to connect these capabilities more closely with European market requirements.

For exporters, closer market engagement can help improve their understanding of buyer expectations and support the development of products and business propositions aligned with international demand.

Strengthening India's Global Apparel Position

The European market remains an important destination for Indian textile and apparel products, making stronger institutional and commercial engagement a significant component of India's export strategy.

The initiatives discussed during the Paris visit demonstrate a multi-dimensional approach: participation in international fairs, strategic partnerships, direct engagement with global brands and retailers, and exploration of permanent or semi-permanent market interfaces.

The proposed Milan Immersion Centre adds another dimension to this approach by seeking to create a closer and more continuous connection between Indian exporters and the European fashion industry.

As India's apparel industry looks towards expanding its international footprint, the focus is increasingly shifting towards building relationships that extend beyond individual transactions.

From Paris to Milan, the objective is to create stronger bridges between Indian capabilities and global opportunity—connecting exporters not only with markets, but with the buyers, brands and fashion ecosystems that shape them.



BRICS New Delhi Declaration Puts Resilient Supply Chains, Manufacturing and MSMEs at the Heart of Economic Cooperation



The 18th BRICS Summit, held in New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026, placed economic resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability at the centre of discussions among the expanded grouping. The New Delhi Declaration, adopted at the summit, outlined a broad agenda covering global trade, manufacturing, supply chains, MSMEs, digitalisation, customs cooperation, technology and sustainable development.

For the global apparel and textile industry, several of the Declaration's priorities are particularly relevant, as the sector is deeply integrated with international value chains and depends on efficient trade facilitation, competitive manufacturing ecosystems, access to finance and predictable movement of goods.

Focus on resilient and inclusive global value chains

A significant element of the Declaration is its emphasis on strengthening Global Value Chains (GVCs). BRICS leaders reiterated the importance of making value chains resilient, efficient, predictable, productive, transparent, secure, fair, stable and inclusive.

The Declaration also calls for greater technical cooperation in trade facilitation, capacity building, connectivity, industrial capacities and access to technology. It supports further development of the BRICS GVC Action Plan 2026–2030, with particular attention to the challenges faced by emerging markets and developing economies in moving up the value chain.

For apparel exporters, stronger and more predictable value chains can support closer integration across sourcing, manufacturing, logistics and markets. The emphasis on technology transfer and industrial capacity also aligns with the industry's continuing transition towards higher productivity, digital manufacturing and more sustainable production.

Manufacturing and Industry 4.0 gain prominence

The Declaration recognises the industrial sector as an important driver of economic growth and structural transformation. BRICS countries agreed to promote entrepreneurship and startup-led innovation, industrial park development, manufacturing exports, MSME market access, technology transfer, productivity and environmental sustainability.

The grouping also reaffirmed cooperation under the Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR), including collaboration in Industry 4.0 and greater engagement among startups and SMEs. The Declaration welcomed the establishment of the BRICS Incubator Network and further consideration of a BRICS Startup Innovation Fund.

These priorities are relevant to apparel manufacturing as factories increasingly adopt automation, digital production systems, AI-enabled planning, smart manufacturing and data-driven quality and productivity tools.

MSMEs at the centre of internationalisation

The Declaration gives specific attention to MSMEs, recognising their role in economic growth and prosperity and identifying access to affordable finance as a major constraint on their participation in trade and integration into global value chains.

BRICS leaders welcomed guiding principles for credit assessment frameworks for export-oriented MSMEs, along with innovative digital and platform-based financing solutions. They also welcomed the Jaipur Consensus to study an invoice discounting mechanism for BRICS members, aimed at helping MSMEs unlock working capital and strengthen their participation in international trade.

For India's apparel sector, where a large number of enterprises operate across manufacturing and supply-chain segments, easier access to trade finance and working capital could have significance for export competitiveness and participation in international markets.

SEZs and digital trade facilitation

Another area of direct relevance to exporters is the Declaration's focus on Special Economic Zones (SEZs). BRICS countries expressed willingness to harness SEZs as mechanisms for promoting trade, investment, industrial cooperation, innovation and integration into resilient and sustainable global value chains.

The Declaration also calls for cooperation in connectivity and trade facilitation, including the digitisation of trade documentation, with the objective of creating a more efficient, transparent and seamless trading environment.

For export-oriented industries, such measures can contribute to reducing administrative friction and improving the efficiency of cross-border trade processes.

Customs cooperation and smoother movement of goods

The New Delhi Declaration also advances the customs cooperation agenda among BRICS members. It welcomes convergence on the BRICS Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, subject to completion of national processes.

It further supports cooperation on Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes through information exchange, capacity building, sharing of best practices and mutual recognition, while also proposing continued cooperation to strengthen customs enforcement.

Greater customs coordination, information exchange and digitalisation can contribute to more predictable cross-border movement of goods—an important consideration for industries operating within time-sensitive international supply chains.

Trade system and WTO reform

The Declaration reaffirmed BRICS support for an open, equitable, transparent, fair, inclusive and predictable rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core.

The leaders expressed concern over rising unilateral tariff and non-tariff measures and protectionist actions, noting their potential impact on global trade, supply chains and economic development. They called for a more responsive multilateral trading system capable of addressing the needs of emerging markets and developing economies.

For export industries, the emphasis on predictable trade rules and reduced uncertainty is particularly significant given the increasingly complex global trading environment.

Cross-border payments and local currencies

BRICS is also continuing work on practical solutions for cross-border payments. The Declaration notes efforts to examine interoperability of payment and messaging channels and discussions on trade settlements and investments using BRICS local currencies.

The BRICS Payment Task Force has been encouraged to continue developing solutions that are fast, low-cost, accessible, efficient, transparent and secure, while recognising that there is no one-size-fits-all approach.

Efficient payment mechanisms can become an important component of trade facilitation, particularly for businesses engaged in growing intra-BRICS trade.

Standards, technology and sustainability

The Declaration also highlights cooperation among national standards bodies and supports greater information exchange, capacity building and coordination on standardisation. It identifies emerging areas, including AI standardisation, as areas for cooperation.

At the same time, BRICS has placed sustainability within its broader industrial and economic agenda. The Declaration calls for resilient and sustainable supply chains and greater participation of developing countries in higher-value segments of global manufacturing and production.

For the textile and apparel sector, this convergence of trade, technology, standards and sustainability is increasingly important as international buyers place greater emphasis on traceability, responsible production, resource efficiency and transparent supply chains.

A broader platform for intra-BRICS trade

The Declaration also welcomed the BRICS Business Forum 2026 and the continued work of the BRICS Business Council towards strengthening economic cooperation, trade and investment and resilient supply chains.

Taken together, the outcomes point towards a BRICS economic agenda increasingly focused on practical cooperation—improving trade processes, strengthening manufacturing capabilities, facilitating MSME participation, building resilient value chains and expanding technology cooperation.

For India's apparel export sector, these developments provide a broader framework for engagement with emerging markets. As BRICS economies deepen cooperation in manufacturing, logistics, finance, digital trade and sustainable production, opportunities could emerge for greater business-to-business engagement, technology partnerships and integration of Indian enterprises into evolving global value chains.

The New Delhi Declaration therefore goes beyond broad geopolitical and diplomatic themes. Its economic agenda touches several of the operational issues that determine export competitiveness—from access to finance and customs procedures to technology, supply chains, standards and market connectivity.

With India having steered the 2026 BRICS Chairship under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," the outcomes of the New Delhi Summit provide a framework for continued economic engagement among BRICS members, with businesses and exporters positioned to play an important role in translating this cooperation into commercial opportunities.



The priorities outlined in the Declaration were echoed at the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, where Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal called for deeper, more resilient and balanced intra-BRICS trade. He urged member and partner countries to open markets, simplify regulatory procedures, diversify supply chains and facilitate faster clearance of consignments. Shri Goyal also called for stronger cooperation across agriculture, pharmaceuticals, engineering, electronics, automobiles, services, startups and emerging technologies, while advocating greater interoperability of payment systems and increased use of local currencies for trade. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar highlighted supply-chain connectivity, trade facilitation, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, fintech and advanced manufacturing as key areas for the next phase of BRICS cooperation. He also stressed the importance of a predictable business environment, diversified commercial relationships and transparent trade and investment.

The business-focused discussions further underlined the opportunities for MSMEs and export-oriented sectors. Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal noted that trade among BRICS countries had grown from USD 84 billion in 2003 to nearly USD 1.2 trillion in 2024, and called for stronger global value chains through BRICS Connect, business-to-business partnerships, an annual BRICS Trade and Investment Expo, digital trade documentation and greater sectoral cooperation. He also highlighted affordable working capital for MSMEs and the Jaipur Consensus as a foundation for exploring a common BRICS mechanism. For India's apparel and textile industry, these priorities reinforce the potential importance of resilient supply chains, easier market access, digital trade facilitation, affordable finance and stronger business linkages across BRICS economies. Together with the New Delhi Declaration, the outcomes of the Business Forum provide a practical framework for translating BRICS economic cooperation into greater trade, investment, technology partnerships and integration into global value chains.

INDIA'S READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG)

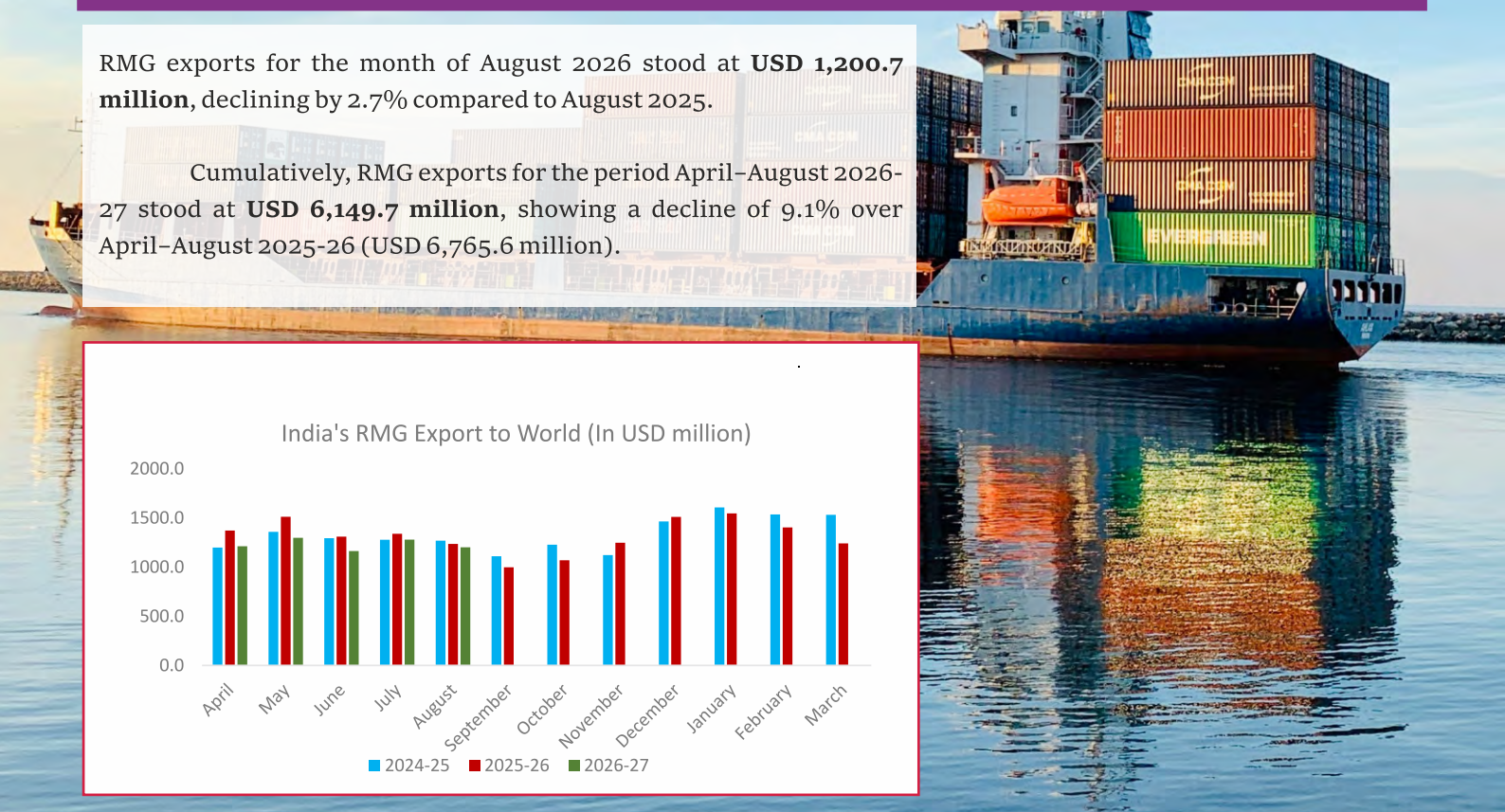
India's RMG Export to World

	(In USD million)			YoY Growth (%)	
Month	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26 over 2024-25	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	1198.4	1371.3	1211.5	14.4	-11.7
May	1357.4	1511.5	1297.2	11.4	-14.2
June	1293.9	1309.8	1162.3	1.2	-11.3
July	1278.0	1338.7	1278.6	4.7	-4.5
August	1268.2	1234.6	1200.7	-2.6	-2.7
September	1110.1	997.6		-10.1	
October	1227.6	1069.4		-12.9	
November	1121.1	1247.4		11.3	
December	1463.4	1509.3		3.1	
January	1606.4	1544.8		-3.8	
February	1534.9	1403.0		-8.6	
March	1531.3	1240.5		-19.0	
Total	**15990.6**	**15777.7**	**6149.7**	**-1.3**	**-9.1**

Note- 1) Data for the month of August 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 15.09.2026
2) Sum of the value for (April-Aug) 2025-26 is USD 6765.6 Mn. and (Apr-Aug) 2026-27 is USD 6149.66 Mn.
3) Source: DGCI&S 2026
4) For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April–Aug only and growth is calculated against the corresponding period of the previous year.

RMG exports for the month of August 2026 stood at **USD 1,200.7 million**, declining by 2.7% compared to August 2025.

Cumulatively, RMG exports for the period April–August 2026-27 stood at **USD 6,149.7 million**, showing a decline of 9.1% over April–August 2025-26 (USD 6,765.6 million).



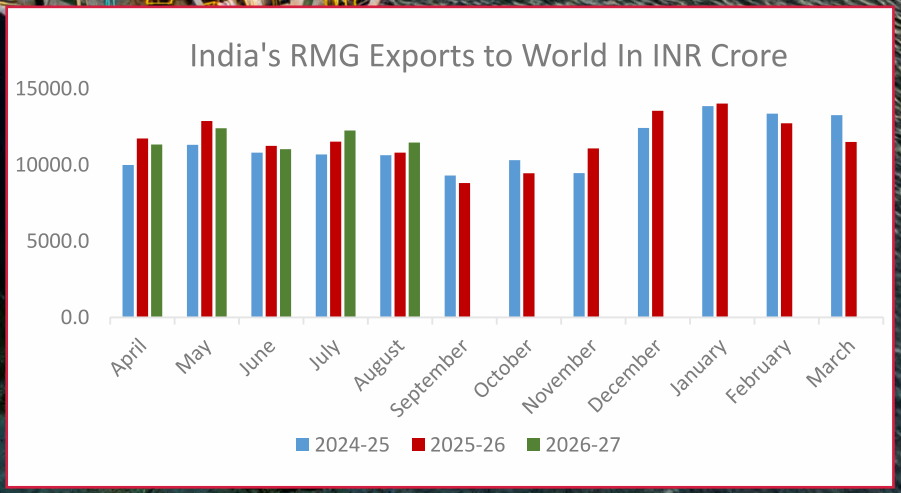
India's RMG Export to World

Month	(In INR Crore) 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	YoY Growth (%) 2025-26 over 2024-25	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	9995.4	11733.3	11333.3	17.4	-3.4
May	11319.9	12876.5	12401.2	13.8	-3.7
June	10800.2	11251.1	11036.0	4.2	-1.9
July	10683.3	11527.7	12251.6	7.9	6.3
August	10639.5	10804.7	11463.9	1.6	6.1
September	9304.0	8810.6		-5.3	
October	10315.3	9455.4		-8.3	
November	9457.8	11079.8		17.1	
December	12424.2	13550.6		9.1	
January	13857.9	14026.6		1.2	
February	13362.1	12729.1		-4.7	
March	13267.1	11507.0		-13.3	
Total	**135426.6**	**139352.5**	**58481.9**	**2.9**	**0.5**

Note- 1) Data for the month of August 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 15.09.2026
2) Sum of the value for (Apr-Aug) 2025-26 is Rs. 58191.62 Cr. and (Apr-Aug) 2026-27 is Rs.58481.98 Cr.
3) Source: DGCI&S 2026
4) For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April-August only and growth is calculated against the corresponding period of the previous year.

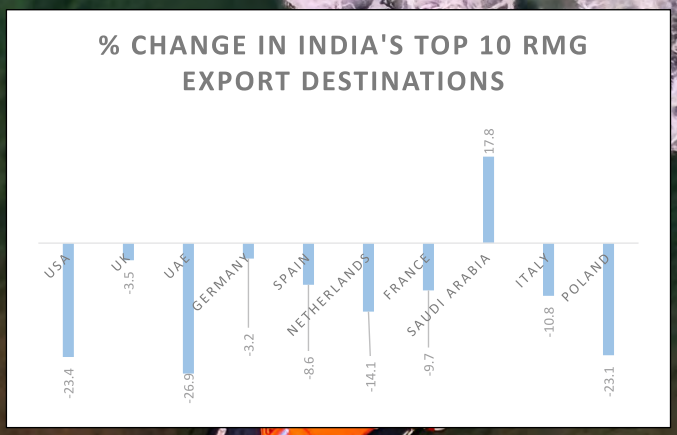
RMG exports for the month of August 2026 stood at **Rs. 11,463.9 crore,** showing an increase of 6.1% compared to August 2025.

Cumulatively, RMG exports for the period April–August 2026-27 stood at **Rs. 58,481.9 crore**, showing an increase of 0.5% over April–August 2025-26 (Rs. 58,191.62 crore).



India's Top 10 RMG Export Destinations

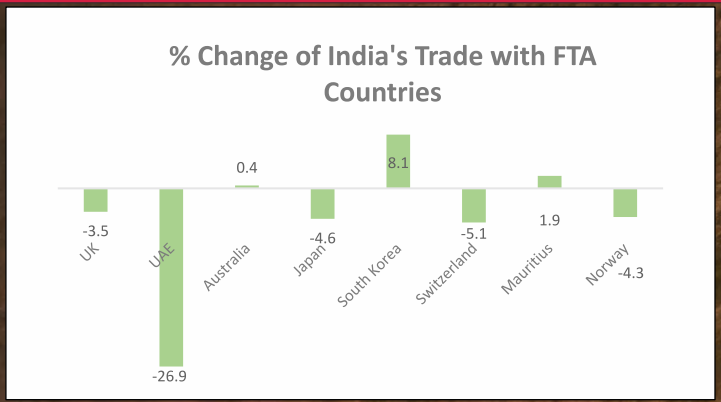
S. No.	Countries	Value in USD mn.		
		April- June 2025-26	April- June 2026-27	% Change
	Total RMG Export	4203.7	3680.1	-12.5
1	USA	1428.0	1093.3	-23.4
2	UK	369.7	356.6	-3.5
3	UAE	330.3	241.6	-26.9
4	Germany	231.0	223.7	-3.2
5	Spain	219.3	200.6	-8.6
6	Netherlands	205.0	176.1	-14.1
7	France	162.7	146.8	-9.7
8	Saudi Arabia	82.1	96.7	17.8
9	Italy	94.0	83.8	-10.8
10	Poland	105.4	81.1	-23.1



India's Trade with FTA Countries

S. No.	Countries	April- May 2025-26	April- May 2026-27	% Change
1	UK	369.7	356.6	-3.5
2	UAE	330.3	241.6	-26.9
3	Australia	79.4	79.8	0.4
4	Japan	72.4	69.0	-4.6
5	South Korea	13.6	14.7	8.1
6	Switzerland	9.9	9.4	-5.1
7	Mauritius	7.4	7.6	1.9
8	Norway	4.8	4.6	-4.3

Source: DGCI&S, 2026



India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

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

Month	Manufacture of Textiles		Growth Rate (In %)	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel		Growth Rate (In %)
	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 over 2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	114.7	132.6	15.6	98.5	91.6	-7.0
May	120.9	136.2	12.7	103.6	94.5	-8.8
June	120.0	136.4	13.7	102.7	95.6	-6.9
July	130.4	135.5	-3.9	96.5	95.9	-0.6
August	107.7		-1.6	107.2		-4.7
September	110.7		1.3	100.6		-3.0
October	106.6		-2.4	89.6		-6.1
November	110.0		3.2	105.3		-14.4
December	111.1		-2.5	109.4		-8.1
January	109.7		-3.5	108.7		-10.2
February	107.0		0.3	100.7		-17.1
March	108.9		-3.6	123.6		-14.6
Cumulative Index (Apr-July)	122.0	136.0	11.5	100.1	94.9	-5.2

Source: CSO,2026
**Figures for July 2026 are Quick Estimates. (Base: 2022-23)*

• **Manufacture of Textiles Index** for the month of July 2026 stood at 135.5, recording a 3.9% growth over July 2025.

• **Manufacture of Textiles Index (Cumulative: April-July 2026)** stood at 136.0, registering an 11.5% growth over the corresponding period (April-July 2025).

• **Manufacture of Wearing Apparel Index** for the month of July 2026 stood at 95.9, registering a 0.6% decline over July 2025.

• **Manufacture of Wearing Apparel Index (Cumulative: April-July 2026)** stood at 94.9, registering a 5.2% decline over the corresponding period (April-July 2025).

• As per the Quick Estimates released by CSO, the Textiles Index continued to register robust growth during July 2026, reflecting sustained improvement in manufacturing activity compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.



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3. Go to e-RCMC
4. Login with your DGFT credentials

For assistance, please contact AEPC offices or website at **www.aepcindia.com**

Government extends RoSCTL scheme for apparel and garment exports till Dec 2026

The Ministry of Textiles has extended the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme for exports of apparel, garments and made-ups for another three months, providing continued support to the labour-intensive textile and apparel export sector.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Textiles on September 30, 2026, the RoSCTL scheme will remain in force from October 1 to December 31, 2026. The extension will continue with the same scope, structure, coverage, cost norms and other terms and conditions that were applicable as of September 30, 2026.

The notification states that the rebate will continue to be provided through the existing mechanism of duty credit scrips/e-scrips. The prevailing rebate rates and caps for different items under the scheme will remain unchanged unless separately notified.

The Ministry further said that the scheme will continue to be implemented by the Department of Revenue, with the process for issuing transferable Duty Credit Scrips maintained through an electronic ledger in the Customs system. The notification also clarifies that Duty Credit Scrips under RoSCTL will be issued without insisting on realization of export proceeds.

To ensure that expenditure under the scheme remains within the allocated amount, the government will undertake a quarterly review of expenditure and liability. The review will be carried out by a committee headed by the Department of Expenditure, with representatives from the Department of Revenue, Department of Commerce and Ministry of Textiles.

The government has also retained the right to adjust rebate rates and caps in view of changes in relevant underlying conditions. However, the eligibility criteria under RoSCTL will remain unchanged.

The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Textiles in August 2021 will continue to govern the implementation of the scheme. The extension comes into effect from October 1, 2026.



India's Exports Rise 15.55% to US$399.27 Billion During April–August 2026-27



India's total exports of merchandise and services are estimated at US$399.27 billion during April–August 2026-27, registering a growth of 15.55% over US$345.55 billion in the corresponding period of 2025-26, according to the latest trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

The export momentum strengthened further in August 2026, with India's combined merchandise and services exports estimated at US$82.68 billion, compared with US$65.93 billion in August 2025, representing a year-on-year growth of 25.41%. Merchandise exports during the month stood at US$43.81 billion, up from US$34.74 billion a year earlier, while services exports were estimated at US$38.87 billion.

Textile Exports Register Positive Growth

The performance of key textile-related categories remained positive during August. Exports of cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products increased 13.79%, rising from US$0.99 billion in August 2025 to US$1.12 billion in August 2026. Exports of man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups increased 9.92% over the same period. Carpet exports also recorded growth of 5.38%.

The growth in textile-linked exports comes amid broader expansion across India's merchandise export basket. During August 2026, electronic goods exports rose 89.82%, petroleum products 63.27%, engineering goods 24.86%, marine products 27.76% and handicrafts excluding handmade carpets 29.63%.

Merchandise and Services Both Contribute

During April–August 2026-27, merchandise exports were estimated at US$215.91 billion, compared with US$183.21 billion in the corresponding period of 2025-26, registering growth of 17.85%. Services exports were estimated at US$183.36 billion, compared with US$162.34 billion in the year-ago period.

Non-petroleum exports during the five-month period stood at US$180.61 billion, registering a 14.39% increase over US$157.89 billion in April–August 2025-26. Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports also increased to US$168.69 billion from US$146.52 billion.

Key Export Markets Show Growth

The data also indicates positive export growth across several major destinations. During August 2026, exports to the United States increased 21.83%, while Singapore, Spain, China and Tanzania recorded increases of 160.96%, 196.47%, 52.35% and 214.52%, respectively, in value terms compared with August 2025.

For April–August 2026-27, exports to Singapore, China, the United States, Tanzania and Malaysia also recorded positive growth compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Outlook for Exporters

The latest figures point to continued growth across India's merchandise and services exports, with textile-related categories contributing to the positive performance. For the apparel and textile sector, the rise in exports of cotton-based products, man-made fibre products and carpets provides an important indicator of export activity across value-added textile segments.

Note: The Ministry has clarified that the August 2026 services figures are estimates, as the latest services-sector data released by the RBI at the time of publication was for July 2026. The April–August figures have also been revised on a pro-rata basis using quarterly balance-of-payments data.

India's Textile Exports Rise 16.1% to ₹29,776 Crore in August

India's textile export sector maintained strong growth momentum in August 2026, with total textile exports rising 16.1% year-on-year to ₹29,776 crore, compared with ₹25,656 crore in August 2025, according to data released by the Government of India.



The positive trend has also been reflected in the cumulative export performance. During April–August 2026, India's textile exports reached ₹1.43 lakh crore, registering a 10.3% increase over the corresponding period of the previous year.

Broad-Based Growth Across Textile Segments

The export expansion in August was broad-based, with several major segments recording double-digit growth. Cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products registered a growth of 24.1%, while exports of man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups increased by 19.9%.

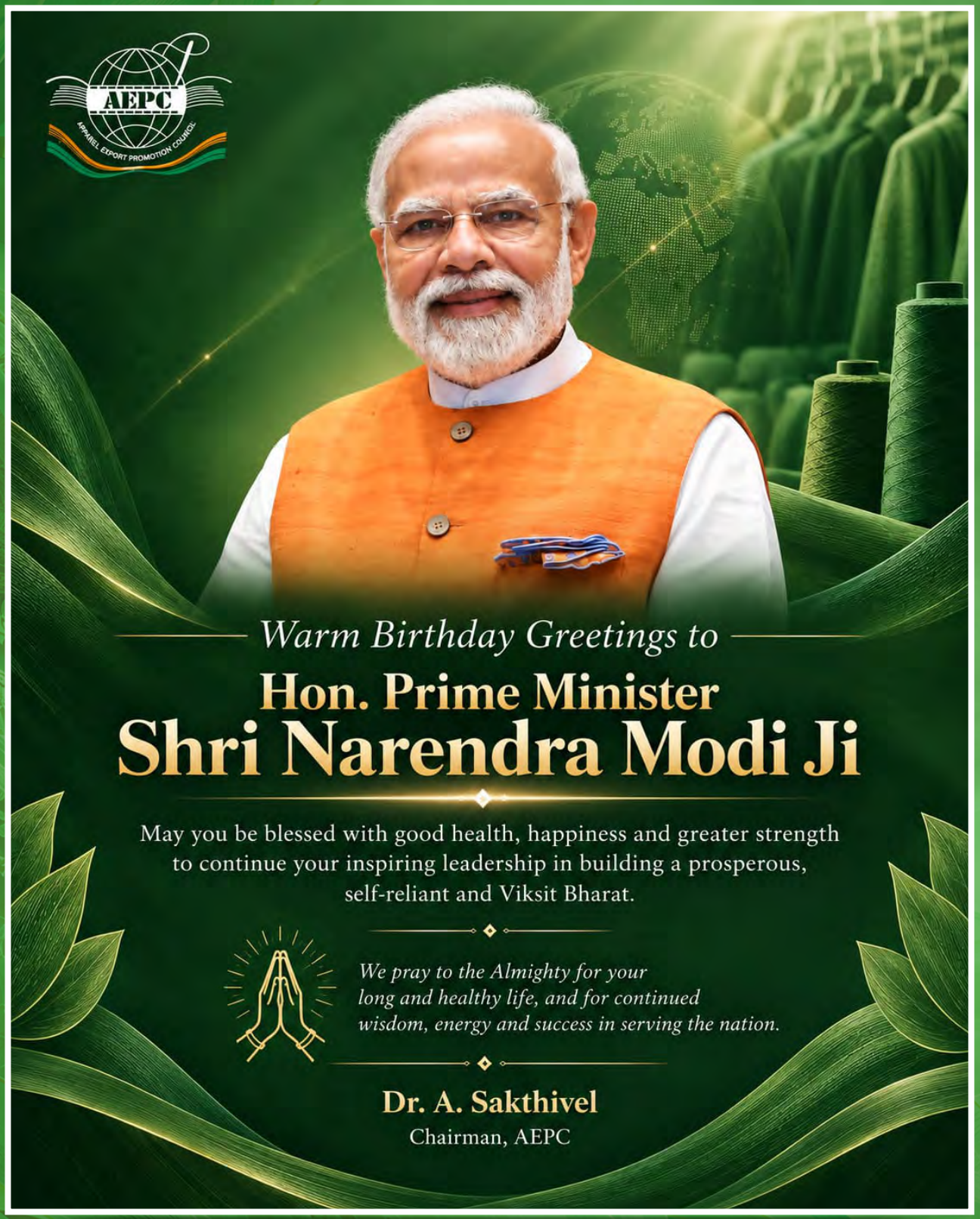
Carpet exports grew by 15.0%, while handicrafts, excluding handmade carpets, recorded particularly strong growth of 41.4%. Ready-made garments of all textiles, a key segment of India's textile and apparel export basket, also remained on a positive trajectory, registering 6.1% growth during the month.

The cumulative April–August performance was similarly encouraging. Cotton textiles grew by 18.0%, followed by man-made textiles at 13.6%, carpets at 11.9%, and handicrafts at 44.0%.

Positive Momentum for India's Export Basket

The sustained growth across major segments points to continued diversification and strengthening of India's textile export basket. Improved market access, policy support, greater value addition and efforts to diversify international markets are contributing to the sector's export momentum.

For India's apparel industry, the continued expansion in textile exports provides an encouraging backdrop as exporters navigate evolving global demand, changing sourcing patterns and increasing competition in international markets.


AEPC
APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
Warm Birthday Greetings to
Hon. Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi Ji
May you be blessed with good health, happiness and greater strength to continue your inspiring leadership in building a prosperous, self-reliant and Viksit Bharat.
We pray to the Almighty for your long and healthy life, and for continued wisdom, energy and success in serving the nation.
Dr. A. Sakthivel
Chairman, AEPC

53rd India International Knit Fair Showcases the Future of Fashion



Three-day Tirupur fair spotlights MMF, innovation and sustainability, generating ₹250 crore in immediate business and ₹800 crore in long-term enquiries

The future of fashion took centre stage in Tirupur as the 53rd India International Knit Fair (IIKF) brought together leading apparel exporters, international buyers, sourcing professionals and industry stakeholders from September 16–18, 2026. Organised by the India Knit Fair Association (IKFA) under the aegis of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), sponsored by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the three-day fair at the IKF Complex focused on the theme "The Future of Fashion through MMF, Innovation and Sustainability."



The event was inaugurated by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC & IKFA, in the presence of Shri K.M. Subramaniam, President, Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA), Shri V. Elangovan, President, ABAT, representatives of AEPC and TEA, members of the IKFA Committee and Managing Committees of ABAT, BAA, BSL and NIFTA, besides exporters, exhibitors, buyers and buying agents.

Strong showcase of India's apparel capabilities

The 53rd IIKF brought together around 50 leading exporters from major textile and apparel clusters including Tirupur, Coimbatore, Erode, Karur, Chennai, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Mohali, Noida and Ludhiana.

The exhibitors presented an extensive portfolio of apparel and textiles, with sustainability and material innovation emerging as key themes. The collections showcased garments made from recycled PET, recycled cotton, tiger cotton, fair-trade cotton, organic cotton, bamboo, viscose, modal, polyester, wool and blended fibres, among others.

The fair also highlighted innovative product categories such as fully fashioned garments, flat-knit apparel, natural-dyed and tie-dye garments, liquid-finish garments, sublimation-printed products and other eco-friendly innovations.

The diverse range covered apparel for infants, children, boys, girls, men and women, reflecting the growing capabilities of Indian manufacturers to cater to varied international market requirements.

MMF and fabric innovation take the spotlight

A major highlight of the fair was the extensive display of man-made fibre (MMF) and innovative fabric options. The fabric range included Jacquard, rotary-printed, cotton/linen, liquid-touch finish, wool blends, velvet-finish, 100% polyester, mini Jacquard, transfer Jacquard, cotton/wool blends, cotton-modal blends, Pima cotton and MMF fabrics and yarns sourced from both domestic and international markets.

The strong focus on MMF and sustainable materials underscored the industry's growing emphasis on diversification, innovation and environmentally responsible manufacturing.

International buyers drive business opportunities

The 53rd IIKF witnessed participation from around 175 buyers and sourcing consultants, who explored the latest collections and manufacturing capabilities on display.

Leading buying houses and sourcing companies participating in the fair included Triburg Consulting Pvt. Ltd.,

Mothercare, Levi Strauss, Taffles Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd., PDS Ltd., Tex International (Walmart), Nkayama Trading Pvt. Ltd., Globgrid Fashion Hub Pvt. Ltd., Concepts N Strategies, Crystal Sourcing Inc., Street Legal Clothing, International Sourcing Inc., R.V. Merchandising, Nexia, TQM Global Buying, Vinayakam Fashionhut Pvt. Ltd., Unisources Trading India Pvt. Ltd., Keleone Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd., VMN Ventures, Haddad Brands, Clothing Connections, Vogue Serv Overseas, Nera Global Style, Faith Global, SAS Holding Pvt. Ltd. and Sportskin International Pvt. Ltd., among others.



Buyers travelled from key international markets including the UK, Japan, USA, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Mauritius and Indonesia, providing exhibitors with an opportunity to engage directly with global sourcing networks.



The fair generated encouraging business interest, with exhibitors reporting immediate orders valued at around ₹250 crore, while long-term enquiries were estimated at ₹800 crore.

India-EU FTA adds momentum

The timing of the fair was particularly significant, with the apparel industry closely watching developments around the proposed India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and India's expanding network of trade agreements.

The prospect of improved market access to the European Union has generated considerable interest among exporters and international buyers. The fair provided an important platform for businesses to explore sourcing opportunities and strengthen relationships ahead of potential changes in the trade environment.

Industry participants expressed optimism that enhanced market access could create new avenues for Indian apparel and textile exporters, while strengthening India's position as a global sourcing destination.

A focused platform for MSMEs and exporters

The response from both exhibitors and buyers reaffirmed the role of IIKF as a focused B2B platform for the apparel industry. Participating exhibitors reported promising enquiries and spot orders, while buyers appreciated the quality, variety and innovation represented across the collections.

The fair also provided an important platform for MSMEs, emerging entrepreneurs, manufacturers and exporters to connect with international sourcing communities and explore new business opportunities.

With sustainability, MMF, product innovation and global market access increasingly shaping the apparel industry, the 53rd IIKF reflected the evolving priorities of the sector and the growing capabilities of Indian manufacturers to respond to changing global demand.

Industry support behind the successful edition

IKFA acknowledged the contribution of exhibitors, visiting buyers, buying agents, AEPC, TEA, AHEA, sourcing partners including BAA, ABAT, BSL and NIFTA, sponsors, and members of the press and media for their support in making the three-day event a success.

The 53rd India International Knit Fair thus concluded on a positive note, combining business generation with a strong showcase of sustainable materials, MMF innovation and India's expanding apparel manufacturing capabilities.



AEPC & IKFA Tirupur Drive Dialogue on Global Growth, Innovation and Technology

In conjunction with the 53rd Edition of the India International Knit Fair (IIKF), the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), organised a Brainstorming Session and Exporters' Meet on the evening of 16th September 2026, the first day of the exhibition.



The programme was presided over by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC & IKFA. The session brought together industry stakeholders, exporters and experts to deliberate on emerging opportunities in international trade, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Man-Made Fibre (MMF), technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the future growth of the Tirupur textile and garment industry.

Session 1: India's MMF Opportunity – Converting FTAs into Global Textile Growth

Speaker: Mr. Kishan Daga, Concepts N Strategies



The first session focused on the significant growth potential of India's Man-Made Fibre (MMF) textile sector and the opportunities emerging from India's Free Trade Agreements with various partner countries.

The Concepts N Strategies team presented research-based insights into the activewear business landscape across FTA partner countries, highlighting market trends, export opportunities and the potential for Indian manufacturers to strengthen their presence in international markets.

The speaker highlighted that discussions on FTAs are the need of the hour, particularly as Tirupur's textile and apparel industry is gradually expanding beyond its traditional cotton-based strengths into the MMF and activewear segments. It was stated that MMF accounted for approximately 12% of Tirupur's production during the previous year, underlining the need to further strengthen the supporting manufacturing and supply-chain ecosystem.

The presentation explained how preferential tariff access under FTAs can reduce landed costs and enhance the competitiveness of Indian apparel in international markets. It also covered countries with which India has active FTAs, along with leading activewear brands and major retailers manufacturing and marketing MMF-based products.

Various MMF product categories, manufacturing techniques, sustainability considerations, and the key characteristics and applications of man-made fibres in the textile and apparel industry were also discussed.

The session emphasised the need for the Indian textile and garment industry to strategically utilise FTAs to:

1- Expand exports and diversify international markets;

2- Increase India's share in the growing global MMF and activewear segments;

3- Understand changing consumer preferences and market-specific requirements; and

4- Develop products and export strategies aligned with evolving global demand.

Overall, the session provided valuable insights into the opportunities available for Tirupur to strengthen its MMF ecosystem, leverage FTAs and expand its presence in the global activewear and apparel market.

Session 2: FTA Opportunities for Trade between India and the UK

Speakers: Mr. Matthew Walker, Creative Director, Nkyama Tradings Pvt. Ltd., UK and Ms. Gaitri Hingorani, Founder & CEO, Nkyama Tradings Pvt. Ltd.



The second session focused on emerging trade opportunities between India and the United Kingdom, particularly in the textile, apparel and fashion sectors.

The speakers shared their perspectives on the potential business opportunities arising from the evolving India–UK trade framework and discussed ways of strengthening bilateral trade and developing long-term business relationships with UK buyers and brands.

The speakers highlighted the growing opportunities available to Indian textile and apparel manufacturers in the UK market, particularly in the MMF segment. It was emphasised that the ability of Tirupur manufacturers to meet the Minimum Order Quantities (MOQs) and other sourcing requirements of UK buyers could create significant opportunities for business expansion.

The session emphasised the importance of making effective use of the opportunities arising from the India–UK FTA over the coming 24 months, with a particular focus on identifying and approaching the top 15 retailers in the UK.

A strategic framework is being developed to identify these retailers, understand their sourcing requirements, and support Tirupur manufacturers in meeting the required standards relating to quality, volumes, compliance and product development. Such an approach would help strengthen Tirupur's presence in the UK market and enable exporters to make effective use of the emerging trade opportunities.

The session also highlighted the importance of identifying new customers and expanding Tirupur's buyer base beyond its traditional markets.

Key Points Discussed

Bringing new and next-level brands to Tirupur:

The industry should focus on attracting premium global and domestic brands that are currently not sourcing from Tirupur. It was also emphasised that exporters should avoid unnecessary price competition and undercutting among themselves and instead focus on creating additional value through quality, innovation, product development and service.

Strengthening design capabilities:

The need to enhance Tirupur's design capabilities was highlighted. It was suggested that designers and design professionals from institutions such as NIFT Delhi and other leading design institutions, including those in Bihar and Gujarat, could work closely with Tirupur's product development teams to strengthen their understanding of aesthetics, design trends and international product requirements.

Session 3: TEA and Tech – What's Ahead
Speakers: TEA IT Wing



The third session focused on the increasing role of technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in transforming the textile and garment industry.

The TEA IT Wing conducted a practical and industry-oriented session demonstrating how business owners can effectively utilise digital tools and AI-driven solutions in their day-to-day business development and operational activities.

The session provided practical demonstrations on the use of effective AI prompts to identify buyer lists from specified countries and shortlist potential buyers based on targeted market requirements.

The session highlighted the potential of technology and AI to:

Streamline business and operational processes;
Reduce costs and improve efficiency;
Increase productivity;
Save valuable time;
Support faster decision-making;
Improve business communication and information management; and
Prepare the industry for emerging technological developments.

The speaker also demonstrated the use of AI tools for

identifying relevant buyers, creating sample 3D mannequins for visualising apparel designs, and managing business contacts efficiently through practical examples.

These technologies can assist manufacturers and exporters in improving buyer research, product presentation and customer relationship management, thereby supporting more effective business development and international market expansion.

The session encouraged exporters and business owners to adopt appropriate digital technologies and explore AI-based solutions as part of their ongoing business transformation and competitiveness enhancement.

Stall Award Function

As part of the 53rd IIKF and alongside the brainstorming sessions, a Stall Award Function was conducted to recognise and honour exhibitors adjudged by the jury for their outstanding presentation and achievements. The awards were presented under the following categories:

Category	Award Winner
Best Exhibit:	M/s. Bhandari Hosiery Exports Ltd., Ludhiana
First Runner-Up:	M/s. SNQS Internationals Pvt. Ltd., Tirupur
Second Runner-Up:	M/s. Shree Bharat International Pvt. Ltd., Noida
Consolation Certificate:	M/s. ABC Textiles, Tirupur
Excellence in Sustainability:	M/s. Jeyavishnu Clothing Pvt. Ltd., Tirupur
Excellence in MMF:	M/s. Eastman Exports Global Clothing (P) Ltd., Tirupur



Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC & IKFA, along with Shri K. M. Subramaniam, Chairman – Export Promotion Sub-Committee, AEPC, distributed the awards and appreciation certificates to the winners.

Concluding Remarks

In his concluding remarks, Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC & IKFA, emphasised the importance of the session on "FTA Opportunities for Trade between India and the UK", noting that the United Kingdom is a significant market for Indian apparel exports.

He stated that a clear understanding of the opportunities arising from the India–UK trade relationship, together with market requirements and emerging business possibilities, would enable Indian exporters to plan their business strategies more effectively and explore new avenues for growth.

He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA), the moderators, distinguished speakers, and the TEA IT Wing Sub-Committee for their valuable efforts in organising the sessions and making the programme meaningful and industry-oriented.

Concluding his address, Dr. Sakthivel stated that the successful conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union's 27 member countries would provide significant opportunities for Indian textile and apparel exporters. He observed that, with European markets seeking diversified sourcing options, Indian manufacturers—particularly those in the knitwear sector—could be well positioned to benefit from the emerging opportunities.

He expressed the view that the coming period could usher in a significant growth phase for the Indian knitwear sector, particularly with greater market access, product diversification and stronger engagement with international buyers.

He also extended his heartfelt gratitude to all the supporters, sponsors and stakeholders whose valuable contributions helped make the event successful. He noted that such support strengthens the industry's efforts to create meaningful platforms for knowledge sharing, networking, business development and sustainable growth.

The Brainstorming Session and Exporters' Meet provided a valuable platform for industry stakeholders to exchange ideas, understand emerging global opportunities and identify practical strategies for strengthening the competitiveness and international presence of the Tirupur textile and apparel industry.

AEPC Leads Strong Indian Presence at Saudi Fashion & Tex Expo 2026



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), led by Mr. V. Elangovan, Senior Executive Member, AEPC, participated with a strong delegation of 22 exhibitors at the Saudi Fashion & Tex Expo 2026, held at the Jeddah International Convention Centre from 24–27 September 2026. The participation formed part of a larger Indian delegation of 38 exhibitors from across the country, showcasing the strength, diversity and capabilities of India's textile and apparel industry.

The event provided Indian exporters with an important platform to showcase their products and engage with buyers, industry stakeholders and potential business partners from Saudi Arabia and international markets.



The India Pavilion was inaugurated by Mr. Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri, Consul General of India, Jeddah, and Mr. Emad Mohammed Alobood, Vice Chairman, Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, in the presence of officials from the Consulate General of India.

Following the inauguration, Mr. Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri, accompanied by Ms. Sadaf Choudhary, Consul (Haj & Commerce), visited the stalls at the India Pavilion and interacted with the participating exhibitors. The interaction provided an opportunity to understand the products and offerings being showcased by Indian companies and highlighted the capabilities of Indian textile and apparel manufacturers to the Saudi market.

Mr. V. Elangovan, Senior Executive Member, AEPC, who led the AEPC delegation, also participated in the panel discussion titled "Fabric to Fashion". During the session, he highlighted India's strengths across the textile and apparel value chain and emphasised the country's capabilities as a comprehensive sourcing destination. He also encouraged buyers from Saudi Arabia to explore business opportunities with Indian textile and apparel exporters.

The participation of Indian companies at Saudi Fashion & Tex Expo 2026 further strengthened the growing engagement between the Indian textile and apparel industry and the Saudi market. The expo provided Indian exporters with opportunities to establish new business connections, understand market requirements and explore avenues for expanding their presence in the region.

The strong Indian presence at the expo, with 38 exhibitors, including 22 participating through AEPC, reflected the growing interest of Indian textile and apparel companies in the Saudi market. It also underlined India's ability to offer a diverse range of products and integrated capabilities across the textile and apparel value chain.

AEPC's participation reaffirmed its continued efforts to facilitate international market access for Indian exporters, strengthen business linkages and promote India as a reliable and competitive sourcing destination for global buyers.



UPCOMING FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

International Apparel and Textile Fair, Dubai

16–18 November 2026 | Dubai, UAE

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) is inviting its members to participate in the International Apparel and Textile Fair (IATF), Dubai, scheduled to be held from 16–18 November 2026 in Dubai, UAE. The fair will provide Indian apparel and textile exporters an opportunity to showcase their products and explore business prospects in the UAE and wider international markets.



AEPC has further extended the Early Bird Discount and the deadline for submission of applications along with payment.

The Early Bird Discount is available up to 30 September 2026, while the last date for submission of applications along with payment is 15 October 2026.

For exhibitors participating with MAI support, the participation charge is Rs. 2.40 lakh for a 9 sq. metre booth and Rs. 3.20 lakh for a 12 sq. metre booth. Only five 12 sq. metre booths are available and will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. An Early Bird discount of Rs. 10,000 is applicable for payments made on or before 30 September 2026. The participation charge without MAI support is Rs. 4.20 lakh. An additional Rs. 15,000 will be charged for corner booths, subject to availability.

The fair is expected to offer participating Indian exporters a platform to strengthen international business linkages and expand their presence in the Dubai and regional markets.

Global Sourcing Expo Australia 2026

17–19 November 2026 | Melbourne, Australia

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) invites Indian apparel exporters to participate in the Global Sourcing Expo Australia 2026, scheduled to be held from 17–19 November 2026 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne.



The exhibition will provide Indian exporters an opportunity to showcase their apparel and textile products and explore business and sourcing opportunities in the Australian market.

AEPC has announced a revised participation charge of Rs. 2.40 lakh for a 9 sq. metre booth with MAS support. The last date for submission of applications along with payment is 20 October 2026.

The participation initiative is aimed at facilitating greater engagement between Indian exporters and international buyers and strengthening India's presence in the Australian apparel and textile market.

AEPC Holds 47th AGM, Charts Roadmap for a More Competitive and Globally Integrated Apparel Industry

The Annual General Meeting reviewed the Council's activities during 2025–26 and highlighted market diversification, FTAs, technology, sustainability, productivity and Brand India as key priorities for the sector.



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) held its 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9 September 2026, bringing together members and senior officials to review the Council's activities during the year and discuss the evolving global business environment. The AGM was attended by 54 members through physical and virtual participation. The meeting also witnessed the election of Executive Committee Members, adoption of the audited annual accounts for FY 2025–26 and approval of the appointment of an Executive Committee Member against a casual vacancy.

Chairman Highlights Industry Resilience and Emerging Opportunities



Addressing the AGM, AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel highlighted the resilience and adaptability of the Indian apparel industry amid geopolitical uncertainty, supply-chain disruptions, changing tariff structures, inflationary pressures and evolving sustainability and compliance requirements.

India's readymade garment exports during FY 2025–26 were noted at approximately US$15.8 billion. Against this backdrop, the Chairman emphasised the need for greater market and product diversification, technology adoption, sustainability, higher productivity and improved speed-to-market to strengthen the competitiveness of Indian apparel exporters.

Free Trade Agreements were also highlighted as important opportunities for the sector, particularly the India–UK and India–EFTA agreements, along with the ongoing India–EU FTA negotiations.

A significant development highlighted during the AGM was AEPC's role in establishing an "India Textile Immersive Centre" in Milan. The Chairman informed members that the Ministry of Textiles has given AEPC the task of setting up the centre and that the Council has submitted its proposal to the Ministry. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the visibility and positioning of the Indian textile and apparel sector among international buyers, visitors and other stakeholders.

Strengthening Policy Advocacy and Trade Facilitation

The Chairman outlined several initiatives undertaken by AEPC during the year across policy advocacy, trade facilitation, international market engagement, technology, sustainability and capacity building.

On the domestic front, the Council continued its policy advocacy on issues relating to market access, tariff-related challenges, RoSCTL, Duty Drawback, export credit, Customs and ease of doing business.

The launch of the Thunaivan Portal at Tirupur was also highlighted as an initiative to facilitate the resolution of Customs-related issues faced by the industry. In addition, AEPC undertook capacity-building and knowledge initiatives covering trade, finance, compliance, technology and sustainability.

The electronic issuance of Preferential Certificates of Origin under APTA and SAPTA through the DGFT portal was another initiative highlighted during the AGM.

Expanding India's International Engagement

AEPC's international engagement during the year included

the organisation of the 73rd and 74th India International Garment Fairs and participation in major international trade platforms such as the Barcelona Textile Expo, India Trend Fair Tokyo and Sourcing at MAGIC, Las Vegas.

The Council also participated in an India–Japan CEO Roundtable, with discussions focusing on sourcing, investment, innovation and sustainability. Other international engagements included participation in events and trade engagements in Lodz, Moscow and London.

These initiatives form part of AEPC's broader efforts to strengthen international market linkages and create greater opportunities for Indian apparel exporters.

From Fibre to Fashion: Building Brand India

Looking ahead, the Chairman stressed India's potential to build a stronger "Brand India", supported by the broader 5F vision — Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

The address called for greater focus on Man-Made Fibre (MMF), value-added and specialised apparel, technology, artificial intelligence, automation, digitalisation, sustainability and traceability.

The Chairman identified market and product diversification, effective utilisation of FTAs, technology and sustainability, higher productivity and quality, ease of doing business and Brand India as key priorities going forward.

Chairman's Vision for the Sector



"From Fibre to Fashion" and towards a stronger "Brand India", with the 5F vision of Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

New Executive Committee Members Elected

The 47th AGM also saw the election of Executive Committee Members from different regions of the Council, including the reserved seat for a woman entrepreneur.

Western Region

- Shri Vishwanshu Vijay Kumar Agarwal – M/s. Creative Garments Pvt. Ltd.
- Shri Navinn Kumar Agarwal – M/s. Bangalore Shirt Company Pvt. Ltd.
- Shri Rakshit Poddar – M/s. Cheer Sagar Exports

Northern Region

- Shri Saurabh Sekhri – M/s. Trend Setters International
- Shri Anuj Goel – M/s. Sonu Exim Pvt. Ltd.
- Shri Manoj Sahu – M/s. Sahu Global Pvt. Ltd.

Southern Region

- Dr. A. Sakthivel – M/s. Poppys Knitwear Pvt. Ltd.
- Shri Sivaramakrishnan Ganapathi – M/s. Gokaldas Exports Ltd.
- Shri D. M. Kumar – M/s. Eastern Global Clothing

Eastern Region

- Shri Sohm Buchasia – M/s. Amrit Exports Pvt. Ltd.

Women Entrepreneur – Reserved Seat

- Ms. Astha Kapoor – M/s. Affordable Exports Pvt. Ltd.

Key Resolutions Passed

During the AGM, two resolutions were put to members through e-voting on the NSDL portal and were duly passed. These included the adoption of the audited annual accounts for FY 2025–26 and approval of the appointment of the Executive Committee Member made against a casual vacancy. The report records that 299 members cast their votes through the e-voting process.

Looking Ahead

The 47th AGM reinforced AEPC's focus on strengthening the competitiveness and global positioning of India's apparel industry. With greater emphasis on market diversification, FTAs, technology, sustainability, productivity, quality and ease of doing business, the Council's agenda reflects the changing requirements of the global apparel market.

The focus on MMF and value-added apparel, alongside AI, automation, digitalisation, sustainability and traceability, also underlines the importance of moving towards higher-value and more technology-enabled apparel manufacturing.

The AGM concluded with appreciation for the support and contribution of government ministries and departments, industry associations, Executive Committee Members, sub-committees, members, media and the AEPC team towards the growth and promotion of India's apparel exports.

Overall, the 47th AGM provided a platform to review AEPC's work during the year while setting out a forward-looking agenda centred on global market access, innovation, sustainability and strengthening India's position in the international apparel value chain.

AEPC, Chennai Customs and CGST-Coimbatore Hold Trade Outreach Programme in Tiruppur

Senior officials discuss Customs, GST and system-related issues with apparel exporters; dedicated facilitation mechanism proposed for faster grievance resolution







The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in association with the Chennai Customs Commissionerate and CGST-Coimbatore, organised a Trade Outreach Programme on Trade Facilitation Matters on September 11, 2026, at the Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) Hall, Tiruppur. The programme provided a platform for direct interaction between senior Customs and CGST officials and the apparel exporting community on key procedural, operational and system-related issues affecting exporters.

The programme was presided over by Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC. Shri K. M. Subramanian, Chairman–Export Promotion, AEPC; Shri V. Elangovan, EC Member, AEPC; Shri N. Thirukumaran, EC Member, AEPC; Shri D. M. Kumar, EC Member, AEPC; Shri Anand, Joint Secretary, TEA; senior officials from Customs and CGST; and representatives of the apparel export industry were also present.

Shri S. K. Vimalanathan, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Shri Dinesh P. Rao Pangarkar, IRS, Principal Commissioner, CGST-Coimbatore, participated as Special Guest.

Customs Focus on Exporter Facilitation

Addressing the gathering, Shri S. K. Vimalanathan expressed his pleasure at visiting Tiruppur and appreciated AEPC's initiative in bringing together Customs officials and exporters. He highlighted Tiruppur's major contribution to India's textile and apparel exports, particularly in cotton readymade garments and knitwear.

He noted the transformation of Customs from a predominantly control-oriented administration towards a more facilitation-oriented approach, while maintaining the necessary enforcement framework. He emphasised that timely resolution of Customs and system-related issues is critical for exporters, as delays can block working capital and adversely affect business operations.

A key focus of his address was the "Thunaivan" Exporters Facilitation Portal and Facilitation Centre at Tiruppur, established to provide direct handholding to exporters and route their grievances to the appropriate Customs officers for speedy resolution. He appreciated the effective functioning of the initiative and described Thunaivan as a true supporting companion for exporters.

The Chief Commissioner informed the gathering that several issues relating to ICEGATE/ICES and SCMTR systems had been reviewed and solutions identified for some of the problems. To strengthen the mechanism further, a dedicated Customs Facilitation Centre in Chennai is proposed, with a Deputy Commissioner and supporting officers tasked with monitoring exporter grievances and coordinating with DG Systems.

The proposed centre is also expected to maintain a "Known Error Database" containing recurring and already-identified system issues and their solutions. Periodic meetings with DG Systems and other stakeholders, along with handholding sessions for freight forwarders, consolidators, shipping lines, steamer agents, Container Freight Stations (CFSs) and other stakeholders, are also envisaged.

Shri Vimalanathan stressed that prompt resolution of technical and Customs-related issues would help exporters avoid unnecessary delays and financial constraints. He also assured the trade that suitable measures would be explored for GST-related issues, while noting that certain GST system matters require coordination with GSTN and the GST Council.

GST Reforms and Facilitation Measures

Shri Dinesh P. Rao Pangarkar, IRS, Principal Commissioner, CGST-Coimbatore, appreciated AEPC for organising the outreach programme and highlighted Tiruppur's global importance as a leading apparel and knitwear manufacturing and export hub.

He outlined various GST reforms and trade facilitation measures available to exporters, including options relating to IGST refund and refund of accumulated Input Tax Credit. He also highlighted the rationalisation of the inverted duty structure under GST 2.0, with the textile value chain largely streamlined at the 5% rate, subject to applicable exceptions.

The Principal Commissioner also explained the revised GST rate structure for readymade garments, under which garments priced up to ₹2,500 attract 5% GST, while those priced above ₹2,500 attract 18%.

He further highlighted the reduction in GST on commercial vehicles and delivery vans from 28% to 18%, noting its relevance to exporters in the context of logistics and transportation costs.

Emphasising the Government's focus on MSME facilitation, Shri Pangarkar spoke about GST Suvidha Kendras and GST Seva Kendras, which provide assistance relating to registration, returns, refunds and other compliance requirements. He also informed participants that monthly trade facilitation meetings are conducted at the Coimbatore headquarters, particularly for MSMEs, to discuss policy changes and address trade grievances.

He assured exporters that operational issues could be taken up at the Commissionerate, Division and Range levels, while policy-related matters would be escalated to the competent authorities. For system-related issues, taxpayers were advised to raise tickets with the concerned system authorities, with the department extending necessary follow-up support.

Chairman AEPC Calls for Regular Industry–Government Dialogue

In his presidential address, Dr. A. Sakthivel expressed his gratitude to Chennai Customs for its continued cooperation and supportive measures towards the Tiruppur apparel industry.

Welcoming the senior officials to Tiruppur, he said regular interaction between the industry and government agencies was essential to identify bottlenecks and resolve trade-related issues in a timely manner.

Dr. Sakthivel particularly appreciated Shri S. K. Vimalanathan's contribution towards the creation of the "Thunaivan" Exporters Facilitation Portal, which has emerged as an important mechanism for exporter support.

He suggested that periodic outreach and interaction meetings should be organised to identify emerging challenges faced by exporters and work towards their speedy resolution.

Exporters Raise Key Operational Concerns

The interactive session provided exporters with an opportunity to place their operational challenges directly before senior Customs and CGST officials.

Among the issues raised were those relating to EGM and Gateway EGM, stuffing, BRC, delays in receipt of Drawback and RoSCTL benefits, and old notices concerning EODC claims. Exporters also highlighted various operational challenges and sought greater support from Customs authorities in addressing emerging trade and logistics-related issues.

The direct engagement enabled officials to understand the practical difficulties faced by exporters and provided an avenue for discussing possible solutions and escalation mechanisms.

The programme was well received by the apparel exporting community and reinforced the importance of sustained dialogue between the government and industry to improve the ease of doing business and facilitate the smooth movement of export consignments.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri K. M. Subramanian, Chairman–Export Promotion, AEPC, who expressed appreciation to the Customs and CGST authorities, AEPC and TEA office-bearers, and the exporters for the

Local Roots, Global Reach: AEPC Webinar Guides Apparel MSMEs on the Next Growth Journey

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with Wadhwani Foundation, organised a webinar on "Local Roots, Global Reach: The Next Growth Journey for India's Apparel MSMEs" on 2 September 2026. The session focused on helping apparel MSMEs understand the fundamentals of starting an export business, preparing for international markets and identifying opportunities for sustainable global growth.

The webinar was led by Shri Vibhu Dixit, Export Consultant, Wadhwani Foundation, who provided a step-by-step overview of the key requirements for establishing an import-export business. The session covered the selection of an appropriate business structure, obtaining PAN, opening a bank account, GST registration, securing an Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) and obtaining the Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC). Participants were also introduced to various export modes, including courier, air and sea shipments, along with Direct-to-Customer (D2C) and Business-to-Business (B2B) models.

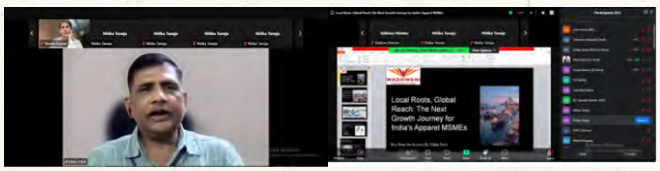
A key focus of the webinar was market selection and export preparedness. Participants were advised to assess overseas markets on parameters such as market size, competition, quality standards, payment terms and benefits available under bilateral trade agreements and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). The session also highlighted the need for region-specific product and sample development, taking into account factors such as colour preferences, sizing, cultural considerations, price sensitivity and individual market requirements.

The webinar further explored practical ways for MSMEs to identify genuine international buyers and suppliers. These included social media platforms, B2B portals, buyer-seller meets, sourcing agents, international trade fairs, multilingual websites, Export Promotion Councils, Indian Missions abroad and overseas chambers of commerce.

Participants also gained insights into critical elements of export transactions, including costing and pricing, logistics, Incoterms and payment terms. The discussion emphasised the importance of developing competitive yet commercially viable export pricing while understanding the logistical and contractual aspects of international trade.

An interactive Q&A session provided participants with an opportunity to seek clarification on export readiness, international market and buyer identification, competitive pricing and effective utilisation of Government support for expanding their export businesses. AEPC and Wadhwani Foundation also indicated that further guidance and user-friendly documentation support would be made available to exporters.

The webinar witnessed participation from more than 150 exporters, reflecting the growing interest among apparel MSMEs in strengthening their export capabilities and accessing international markets.

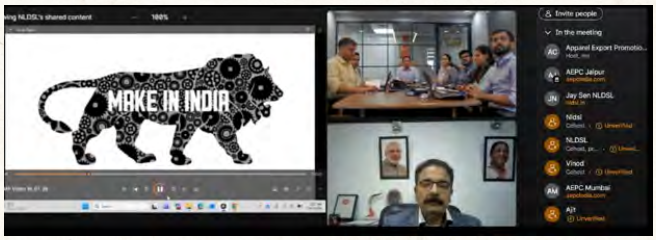


Warm Birthday Greetings to Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh

AEPC Chairman, Padma Shri Dr. A. Sakthivel, personally met and greeted Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh on his birthday and conveyed his warm wishes for good health, happiness and continued success.



AEPC Conducts Webinar on Logisticse-Marketplace, Highlights Digital Solutionsfor Export Competitiveness



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited (NLDSL), organised a webinar on "Logistics e-Marketplace: Enabling Growth for Apparel Exporters" on September 16, 2026. The session focused on the role of digital logistics solutions in improving access, transparency and efficiency for apparel exporters and strengthening India's export competitiveness.

Addressing the participants, Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, highlighted the growing importance of logistics in the highly competitive and fast-fashion-driven global apparel market. He noted that the ability to deliver the right product within a short and predictable timeframe is increasingly as important as the cost and quality of production.

He emphasised that logistics is no longer merely a post-production activity but an important determinant of market responsiveness, buyer confidence and overall export competitiveness.

Digital Platform to Improve Logistics Access

Shri Thakur highlighted the Logistics e-Marketplace (LeMP) as a digital platform connecting exporters with logistics service providers and enabling them to discover, compare and select services based on their shipment requirements. The platform can help reduce information gaps and enable exporters to make more informed logistics decisions.

The initiative is particularly relevant for MSME apparel exporters, who may have limited access to established logistics networks and relatively lower bargaining power with service providers. By expanding the range of available logistics options, LeMP can enable smaller exporters to engage with a wider pool of service providers on more informed terms.

The platform can also support exporters seeking to diversify into new markets, where established logistics networks may not yet be readily available. Greater access to logistics services and information can help exporters plan shipments more effectively and integrate logistics more closely with their overall supply-chain strategy.

Shri Thakur encouraged participants to familiarise themselves with the platform and share their practical experiences and requirements to help make LeMP increasingly responsive to the needs of the apparel-exporting community.

NLDSL Demonstrates Logistics e-Marketplace

The NLDSL team gave participants a detailed presentation and live demonstration of the ULIP-powered Logistics e-Marketplace, explaining how the platform brings exporters, logistics service providers, financial institutions and government systems onto a digital ecosystem.

The demonstration covered registration and user login, dashboard features and the creation of export, import, domestic and warehousing orders. Participants were shown how to select HSN codes, shipment modes and cargo details and provide relevant information such as Incoterms.

The platform's bidding and negotiation mechanisms were also demonstrated, including L1/L2 ranking, enabling users to compare logistics service offerings and make more informed selections.

Another key feature highlighted during the session was the platform's rules engine, which provides information related to tariffs, duties, compliance requirements and export incentives.

The NLDSL team also showcased facilities including shipment tracking, Document Vault, Document Exchange, networking, a warehousing/ICD locator and an AI-based HSN Explorer.

Addressing Exporters' Practical Queries

The interactive session provided participants with an opportunity to raise practical questions about the platform and its applicability to different logistics requirements.

Questions were raised regarding air-shipment bidding, including domestic and air-freight options. Participants also sought clarification on the legal implications of accepting an online bid while users are still becoming familiar with the platform.

The NLDSL team clarified that acceptance of a bid indicates intent and initiates further engagement, while

binding obligations depend on the subsequent acceptance and execution of the applicable Service Level Agreement (SLA). Other issues discussed included user eligibility, data security, LTL/LCL services and possible future integration with DGFT systems.

Towards a More Efficient Export Supply Chain

The webinar highlighted how digitalisation can help address information gaps in logistics and provide exporters with greater visibility and choice while arranging shipments. For the apparel sector, where delivery timelines and supply-chain predictability are critical, such tools can support more effective logistics planning.

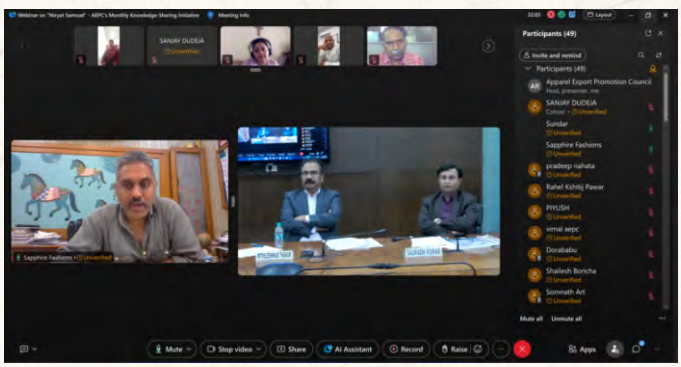
The session also reinforced the importance of enabling MSME exporters to access a wider range of logistics service providers and make decisions based on relevant information and competitive offerings.

The webinar concluded with an interactive Q&A session, followed by closing remarks from Shri Sanjay Dudeja, who thanked the participants and the NLDSL team for the detailed presentation and demonstration of the Logistics e-Marketplace.

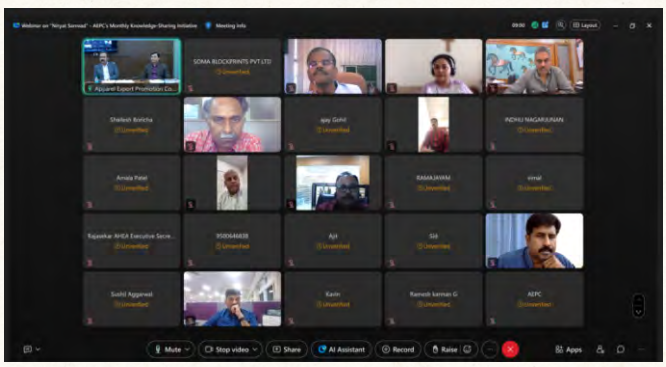
AEPC encouraged apparel exporters to explore the platform, understand its various functionalities and leverage its digital capabilities to enhance the efficiency and transparency of their logistics operations.

4th Niryat Samvad Addresses Key Exporters' Concerns

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) organized "Niryat Samvad" – AEPC's Monthly Knowledge-Sharing Initiative on 24th September 2026. The session provided an interactive platform for apparel exporters to receive updates on recent Government notifications, trade policy developments, customs procedures, export incentives, FTAs and operational issues faced by the exporting community.



Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, provided updates on recent developments relating to DGFT/RBI, CBIC, shipments affected by the Hormuz crisis, foreign post-office clearance procedures and the inventory-based cross-border e-commerce export framework. He also addressed exporters' queries on the UK and New Zealand FTAs, preferential certificates of origin, rules of origin and the documentation required for availing preferential market access. He further clarified issues relating to MMF imports, IGCR, Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations (SCMTR) and export-related schemes, while assuring participants that unresolved operational issues would be taken up with the concerned Government authorities. The session also discussed MMF import challenges, including testing procedures, import duties, demurrage and storage costs affecting apparel exporters.



Overall, the session served as an interactive knowledge-sharing and grievance-resolution platform, enabling exporters to seek clarifications on policy and operational matters. The session was attended by around 100 exporters.

AEPC Kolkata Organises FTA Outreach Programme to Strengthen Exporters' Understanding of Global Trade Opportunities

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Kolkata organised an FTA Outreach Programme on 23 September 2026 at Hyatt Regency Kolkata, bringing together apparel exporters and industry stakeholders to enhance their understanding of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the opportunities they offer for India's apparel sector.

The programme was organised with the objective of creating greater awareness among exporters about preferential market access, tariff benefits, Rules of Origin, compliance requirements and documentation procedures under FTAs. Particular emphasis was placed on the opportunities emerging from India's recently concluded FTAs with the United Kingdom and the European Union, especially for labour-intensive sectors such as apparel.

The programme commenced with moderation and welcome remarks by Dr. Saurabh Kumar, General Manager, R&PA, AEPC, who set the context for the session and welcomed the participating exporters and industry representatives.



This was followed by the opening remarks and background setting on FTAs by Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that Indian apparel exporters are equipped to effectively utilise the market access opportunities created through FTAs and translate preferential trade provisions into greater export competitiveness.

The programme also featured a special address by the Chief Guest, Shri Vishnu Kant, Joint DGFT, who shared insights into India's evolving international trade landscape, FTAs and the role of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in facilitating exports. His address provided participants with a broader perspective on the regulatory and institutional framework supporting India's international trade.

A detailed technical presentation on FTAs was delivered by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mangla, Associate Professor, Economics & International Trade, Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies (SIMS). The session provided practical insights into FTA utilisation, covering key areas such as Rules of Origin, tariff preferences, compliance requirements and documentation. The presentation also helped participants understand the procedural aspects that exporters need to consider while seeking preferential access to international markets.

The programme witnessed participation from 52 apparel exporters and industry stakeholders. The interactive discussions and question-and-answer sessions enabled participants to seek clarifications on issues related to preferential market access, Rules of Origin, documentation and compliance.

The outreach programme provided an important platform for industry stakeholders to understand how FTAs can be effectively leveraged to enhance India's presence in international apparel markets. With India's trade agreements opening new avenues for exporters, greater awareness of the provisions and compliance requirements will be critical for the industry to fully realise the benefits of preferential market access.

The programme concluded successfully, meeting its objective of strengthening awareness among apparel exporters and facilitating a better understanding of the opportunities and practical requirements associated with India's FTAs.

ATDC imparts special training in Protech Technical Textiles to undergraduate students

India's technical textile sector is witnessing rapid growth and the Ministry of Textiles (MoT), through its flagship scheme - National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), is making efforts and boosting manufacturing, innovation & exports and positioning India as a Global Leader.

The Ministry of Textile is promoting skill development & training in the growing field of technical textile and Apparel Training & Design Centre has been empaneled as an implementing agency to provide training to undergraduates and upskilling manpower in the apparel industry in Protective Textiles. The skill training of youth is an important initiative towards building awareness, knowledge and employability among students and learners in the emerging field of Technical Textiles.



The Foundation Course on Protech provides students with an introduction to Protective Technical Textiles, high-performance fibres, fabric construction, manufacturing processes, testing and specifications, helping them understand the growing opportunities in the Protect sector.

ATDC trained 400 under graduates of BVoc Degree programmes pan India at ATDC Hubs. On successful completion of the module, candidates were assessed and certified. A Certificate Distribution Ceremony was organized at ATDC Gurugram on 9 September 2026 to recognize and felicitate students who successfully completed the Foundation Course.



The certificates were distributed by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, ATDC & AEPC in the presence of Mr. H. K. L. Magu, Mr. Anil Varma and Dr. Roopak Vashishtha, DG & CEO, ATDC.

The certificate distribution ceremony marked the successful completion of the training and encouraged students to explore further education and career opportunities in this rapidly developing sector.

ATDC remains committed to strengthening Technical Textile education and developing industry-ready talent in alignment with the objectives of NTTM.


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Stakeholder Consultation in Coimbatore Highlights Industry Priorities for Textile Sector Growth







The Department of Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu, in coordination with the District Textile Task Force (DTTF), Coimbatore District, organised a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on September 3, 2026, at the District Collectorate, Coimbatore, to discuss key challenges and measures required to strengthen the district's textile and apparel ecosystem.

The meeting brought together representatives from the textile and apparel industry, government departments, industry associations and other stakeholders. Shri A.V. Surendran, B.E., District Revenue Officer (DRO), Coimbatore, was also present.

Discussions focused on issues related to infrastructure, government support, skill development, access to finance, quality services and other interventions needed to enhance the competitiveness of the textile sector in Coimbatore.

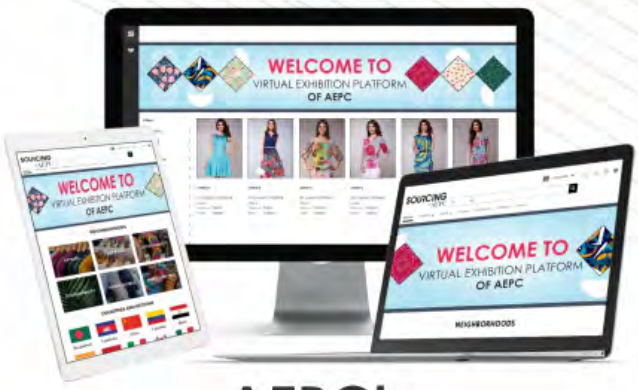
Representing the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Shri C. Eswarasundar, General Manager, highlighted several key concerns of the industry. These included the need for continuation and extension of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme, an Interest Subvention scheme, hostel facilities for workers and measures to address the sharp increase in yarn prices.

As part of its intervention, AEPC also submitted the District-Level Textile Task Force (DLTT) Action Plan for Coimbatore District to the Department of Textiles through the District Revenue Officer. The action plan, prepared along the lines of the Panipat model, seeks to support coordinated interventions for the development of the textile sector at the district level.

The Department officials took note of the issues and suggestions raised by industry stakeholders and assured that these would be examined for appropriate action and considered while formulating measures for the development and promotion of the textile sector in Coimbatore District.

The consultation provided an important platform for strengthening industry-government engagement and identifying focused interventions to support the growth, competitiveness and sustainability of Coimbatore's textile and apparel sector.









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FOCUS COUNTRY
SWITZERLAND



• Economic Overview:

Switzerland is a high-income, advanced and highly diversified economy, with a strong services sector supported by banking, finance, insurance and tourism. It also has established strengths in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, precision instruments and machinery; economic activity is supported by high value-added exports, financial services and international investment. Switzerland, a member of EFTA, is also covered by the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which entered into force on 1 October 2025. The TEPA provides a framework for enhanced market access, trade facilitation and deeper economic cooperation between India and the EFTA States.

• Economic Indicators:

ECONOMIC INDICATORS:	
Indicators	**Value (in USD)**
GDP,2025	1.04 trillion
GDP per capita, 2025	114,769.00
GDP growth (annual), 2025	1.3%
Inflation, consumer prices (annual), 2025	0.2%
Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (accessed August 2026)	

• Average Tariff for India:

0% (India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA))

• Exchange Rate:

EXCHANGE RATE	
Indicators	***Value (in USD)***
Indian Rupees (INR) per Swiss Franc (CHF)	116.90
Swiss Franc (CHF) per US Dollar (USD)	0.82
Source: X-Rates (as on 22 Sept 2026)	

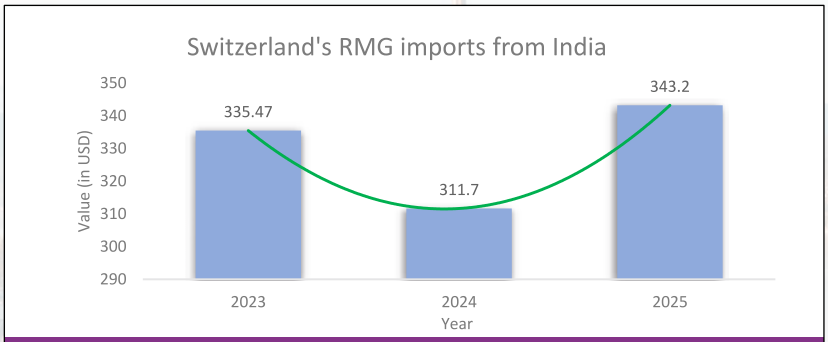




• Switzerland's RMG Trade

SWITZERLAND'S RMG IMPORTS FROM WORLD AND INDIA (IN USD MN.)				
Year	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2025 over 2024
Switzerland's RMG imports from World	8378.5	8360.6	9068.7	8.5
Switzerland's RMG imports from India	335.5	311.7	343.2	10.1
India's Share in Switzerland's total RMG imports from World, %	4.00	3.73	3.78	

Source: UN Comtrade,2026



Source: UN Comtrade, 2026

The above table and graph depict the trend in Switzerland's RMG imports from the World and India during 2023-2025. Switzerland's total RMG imports from the World declined from USD 8,378.5 million in 2023 to USD 8,360.6 million in 2024, before increasing to USD 9,068.7 million in 2025, registering a growth of 8.5% over 2024. India's RMG exports to Switzerland followed a similar trend, declining from USD 335.5 million in 2023 to USD 311.6 million in 2024, before recovering to USD 343.2 million in 2025, recording a growth of 10.1% over 2024. The graph further illustrates the recovery and increase in Switzerland's RMG imports from India in 2025. India's share in Switzerland's total RMG imports from the World stood at approximately 3.8% in 2025, indicating continued opportunities for Indian apparel exports in the Swiss market.

• Top RMG Suppliers to Switzerland :

Switzerland's RMG import market is dominated by China, which was the largest supplier in 2025 with a market share of 30.0%. Bangladesh was the second-largest supplier with a 12.0% share, followed by Italy with 10.5% and Turkey with 7.1%. India ranked as the 6th largest supplier of RMG to Switzerland, with exports valued at USD 343.2 million, accounting for 3.8% of Switzerland's total RMG imports in 2025. Vietnam, Germany, Cambodia, Pakistan and Tunisia were other major suppliers, with market shares of 5.7%, 3.4%, 3.2%, 2.7% and 1.8%, respectively.

TOP 10 RMG SUPPLIERS TO SWITZERLAND AND INDIA'S POSITION			
Position	Countries	Imported value in 2025 (in USD Mn.)	% Share
	World	9068.7	100.0
1	China	2719.2	30.0
2	Bangladesh	1091.3	12.0
3	Italy	948.0	10.5
4	Turkey	643.6	7.1
5	Vietnam	518.7	5.7
6	India	343.2	3.8
7	Germany	312.4	3.4
8	Cambodia	291.9	3.2
9	Pakistan	243.3	2.7
10	Tunisia	166.1	1.8

Source: UN Comtrade,2026

- **Switzerland's top 10 RMG Products Import from World vs India's share:**

TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY SWITZERLAND FROM WORLD (in USD Mn.)					
S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Imported from World in 2025	Imported from India in 2025	India's Share in %
		Total RMG	**9068.7**	**343.2**	**3.8**
		Sum of Top 10	**3842.1**	**108.3**	**2.8**
1	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, underpants and swimwear)	674.3	12.1	1.8
2	611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	592.4	28.3	4.8
3	611030	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	501.4	4.3	0.9
4	620240	Women's or girls' overcoats, car-coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks, incl. ski jackets, wind-cheaters, wind-jackets and similar articles, of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted, suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers and trousers)	490.3	1.3	0.3
5	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	373.1	29.1	7.8
6	620462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, panties and swimwear)	304.9	9.3	3.1
7	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	252.0	4.2	1.7
8	620140	Men's or boys' overcoats, car-coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks, incl. ski jackets, wind-cheaters, wind-jackets and similar articles, of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted, suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers and trousers)	222.8	0.6	0.3
9	620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	215.6	16.9	7.8
10	620463	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted, panties and swimwear)	215.3	2.0	0.9
Source: UN Comtrade, 2026					

The above table shows the top 10 RMG products imported by Switzerland from the World vis-à-vis from India and India's share in those products in 2025. The top 10 products imported from the World were to the tune of USD 3,842.1 million, while imports of these products from India amounted to USD 108.3 million. India accounted for an overall 2.8% share in Switzerland's imports of the top 10 RMG products.

The major products imported by Switzerland from the World include (i) men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton; (ii) jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted; and (iii) jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted. Among these, India had its highest share in women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres at 7.8%, followed by T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted at 7.8%.

- **Switzerland's Top 10 RMG products import from India:**

TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS: SWITZERLAND'S IMPORT FROM INDIA (in USD Mn.)

S.No.	HS Code	Product label	Export from India, 2025	% Share in 2025
		Total RMG	**343.2**	**100.0**
		Sum of Top 10	**198.4**	**57.8**
1	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	29.1	8.5
2	611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	28.3	8.3
3	620640	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and vests)	24.5	7.1
4	620442	Women's or girls' dresses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	22.1	6.5
5	620630	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and vests)	21.5	6.3
6	620444	Women's or girls' dresses of artificial fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	19.9	5.8
7	620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	16.9	4.9
8	620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other vests)	14.6	4.3
9	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, underpants and swimwear)	12.1	3.5
10	620462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, panties and swimwear)	9.3	2.7

Source: UN Comtrade,2026

The above table shows the top 10 RMG products imported by Switzerland from India and India's share in Switzerland's total RMG imports in 2025. India's total RMG exports to Switzerland stood at USD 343.2 million, while the top 10 RMG products accounted for USD 198.4 million, representing 57.8% of India's total RMG exports to Switzerland.

The major products exported by India to Switzerland include (i) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted, valued at USD 29.1 million and accounting for 8.5% of India's total RMG exports to Switzerland; (ii) jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted, valued at USD 28.3 million with an 8.3% share; and (iii) women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres, valued at USD 24.5 million with a 7.1% share. Other important products include women's or girls' dresses of cotton, women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton, and women's or girls' dresses of artificial fibres.

AEPC EXTENDS WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS ADDED IN THIS QUARTER

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3	ORANGE CITY GARMENTS LLP	NAGPUR	MAHARASHTRA	vipul@ocgc.in
4	DIYA ENTERPRISE	SURAT	GUJARAT	caharesh99-diyadiamond@yahoo.com
5	FLUBBI TEXTILE	SURAT	GUJARAT	hkefiling-FlubbiTextiles@yahoo.com
6	NETFLEX (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED	MUMBAI	MAHARASHTRA	accounts@netflex.in
7	SAKTHI IMPRINTS LLP	TIRUPUR	TAMIL NADU	gokulprasad@me.com
8	FIZZY CLOTHING LLP	BIDHANNAGAR	WEST BENGAL	connect.fizzy@gmail.com
9	URVASHIBEN DHAVAL ITALIYA	SURAT	GUJARAT	DHAVALITALIYA01@GMAIL.COM
10	CORNERSTONE APPAREL EXPORTS	TIRUPPUR	TAMIL NADU	logujoseph63@gmail.com
11	BON MOYAR (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED	MUMBAI	MAHARASHTRA	bonmoyarindia@gmail.com
12	LORD SHIVA INTERNATIONAL	KANPUR NAGAR	UTTAR PRADESH	accounts@lordshivaintl.com
13	APEEGEE CLOTHING MILLS	TIRUPPUR	TAMIL NADU	apeegeeclothingmills@gmail.com
14	INIZIO TRENDZ PRIVATE LIMITED	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	inizio.trendz@gmail.com
15	BELLA CASA FASHION & RETAIL LIMITED	JAIPUR	RAJASTHAN	naresh@bellacasa.in
16	SPADEWORKS SOURCING LLP	CHENNAI	TAMIL NADU	Sudar@spadeworks.net
17	D.A EXPORTS	CHENNAI	TAMIL NADU	kamala0719@gmail.com
18	MANTHIRAGIRI VELAN EXPORTS	TIRUPPUR	TAMIL NADU	tuprajkumar@gmail.com
19	VISHAL HANDICRAFTS INC	JAIPUR	RAJASTHAN	Vishalhandicraft4@gmail.com
20	ROVAS GARMENTS	GOREGAON EAST	MAHARASHTRA	riddhi@v2intex.com
21	NAGARJUNAN K	COIMBATORE SOUTH	TAMIL NADU	nagarujunan.cbe@gmail.com
22	SHRI DEVI EMBROIDERY	TIRUPUR	TAMIL NADU	shrideviembroidery25@gmail.com
23	TULUA LUXE PRIVATE LIMITED	MUMBAI	MAHARASHTRA	tuluaindiaco@gmail.com
24	SARVANTA GLOBAL	MUMBAI	MAHARASHTRA	sarvantaglobal@gmail.com
25	AMNIK INDUSTRIES	KHARGHAR	MAHARASHTRA	Amitmuluk33@gmail.com
26	SHRI SARAVANA FASHIONS	TIRUPUR	TAMIL NADU	dinesh@srisaravanafashions.in
27	IRA SPORTS	TIRUPUR	TAMIL NADU	arunshankar@irasportswear.com
28	WISDOM GLOBAL FASHIONS	TIRUPUR	TAMIL NADU	Wisdomglobalfashions@gmail.com
29	SHRISAY MEDICAL SYSTEMS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	FARIDABAD	HARYANA	tarun@shrisaymedical.com
30	TUSKER BRIGADE	DAVANGERE	KARNATAKA	prajwalnayakaa@gmail.com

S.No	Firm Name	City	State	Email
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32	AADEWS WORLD	JAIPUR	RAJASTHAN	avyaydewan@aadewsworld.com
33	GREATEX SYNTHETICS PRIVATE LIMITED	DELHI	DELHI	greatexsynthetics@gmail.com
34	SAI KNITFAB PRIVATE LIMITED	GURGAON	HARYANA	eshanamohan@gmail.com
35	MAJIC THREAD	LUCKNOW	UTTAR PRADESH	Zafarmabe.sk1@gmail.com
36	RADHANYA GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED	NOIDA	UTTAR PRADESH	radhanyaglobal@gmail.com
37	ARTISAV EXPOTRADE JAIPUR PRIVATE LIMITED	JAIPUR	RAJASTHAN	artisav.jaipur@gmail.com
38	MANGLAM STUDIO PRIVATE LIMITED	SITAPURA	RAJASTHAN	manglamgapl@gmail.com
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41	M.M ENTERPRISES	KOLKATA	WEST BENGAL	mmenterprises1948@gmail.com
42	PURPLE TREE CLOTHING PRIVATE LIMITED	GREATER NOIDA	UTTAR PRADESH	purpletree.cpl@gmail.com
43	GODWIT VENTURES LLP	NEW DELHI	DELHI	control@saiimpex.com
44	GLOBAL ARMOUR INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	VIJAYAWADA	ANDHRA PRADESH	globalarmourindia@gmail.com
45	TASHT DESIGNS GROUP PRIVATE LIMITED	COIMATORE	TAMIL NADU	Rajsourcing7@gmail.com
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49	NU-DYNASTY APPARELS LLP	GURUGRAM	HARYANA	dynasty@dynastyapparels.in
50	RITHU EXPORTERS	AVINASHI	TAMIL NADU	rithuexporters@gmail.com
51	OXF GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED	TIRUPUR	TAMIL NADU	admin1@oxfglobal.com
52	ANAMICA FASHION LLP	PHULERA	RAJASTHAN	growth.anamikafashion@gmail.com
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54	MAFATLAL APPAREL EXPORTS PRIVATE LIMITED	MUMBAI	MAHARASHTRA	kedar.mahadik@mafatlals.com
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60	VRUNDAA GLOBAL EXPORTS LLP	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar	MAHARASHTRA	vrundaaglobalexports@gmail.com
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India-New Zealand FTA Set to Take Effect October 20, Opening New Opportunities for Apparel Exports



The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is set to enter into force on October 20, 2026, following the completion of the domestic ratification procedures by both countries. The agreement, signed in New Delhi on April 27, 2026, marks a significant step in strengthening bilateral trade and expanding market access for Indian exporters.

The agreement provides 100 per cent duty-free access for Indian exports to New Zealand from the date of entry into force, covering a wide range of products, including textiles and clothing, leather and footwear, engineering goods, agriculture and processed food products. The Indian Department of Commerce has specifically identified textiles and clothing among the sectors expected to benefit from the agreement.

For India's apparel and textile industry, the FTA is expected to create a more favourable market-access environment in New Zealand by removing tariff barriers and improving the competitiveness of Indian products. This comes at a time when Indian exporters are seeking to diversify markets and strengthen their presence in high-value and emerging destinations.

Significant Market Access for Indian Exports

Under the agreement, all Indian goods covered by the tariff schedule will receive duty-free access to New Zealand from the date the FTA comes into force. This contrasts with the phased liberalisation offered to New Zealand exporters entering the Indian market.

New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has said that 57 per cent of its exports to India will become duty-free immediately, with the share rising to 82 per cent over time, while tariffs on a further 13 per cent will be substantially reduced. Overall, preferential access will eventually cover around 95 per cent of New Zealand's current exports to India.

For Indian apparel exporters, the immediate elimination of duties in New Zealand can help improve price competitiveness and create opportunities to expand exports across garments, made-ups and other textile products, subject to the agreement's product-specific rules and rules of origin.

Boost to India's Apparel and Textile Exports

The agreement comes with particular relevance for India's labour-intensive export sectors. The Department of Commerce has identified textiles and clothing among the key sectors that will gain from zero-duty access to the New Zealand market.

The removal of tariffs can support Indian manufacturers and exporters in competing more effectively with suppliers from countries that already enjoy preferential access to New Zealand. It could also encourage Indian apparel companies to explore new buyer relationships, expand product portfolios and build longer-term partnerships in the New Zealand market.

For the Indian textile and apparel industry, the agreement also fits into the broader objective of expanding India's export footprint across multiple markets and reducing excessive dependence on individual destinations.

Beyond Goods: Investment and Services

The FTA extends beyond merchandise trade to include services, investment and movement of professionals.

New Zealand has committed to facilitate USD 20 billion of investment into India over 15 years, supporting potential opportunities in manufacturing, infrastructure and other sectors. The agreement also provides India with market-access commitments across 118 services sectors/sub-sectors, along with Most-Favoured-Nation treatment in 139 sectors/sub-sectors.

The pact also establishes a pathway for skilled Indian professionals, including a 5,000-visa framework covering specified occupations such as IT, engineering, healthcare and

education, along with selected Indian traditional and cultural occupations. A working holiday scheme for up to 1,000 young Indians annually has also been included.

Strengthening Trade and Supply-Chain Linkages

The agreement also contains provisions aimed at making trade more predictable and efficient, including commitments on customs procedures, trade facilitation and rules of origin. New Zealand's official summary notes that the FTA promotes electronic systems and paperless trade and provides for approved exporters to self-declare origin, subject to the agreement's conditions.

For apparel exporters, efficient customs procedures and clear rules of origin are important components of a predictable export environment, particularly for businesses operating on tight production and delivery schedules.

A New Chapter in India-New Zealand Trade

India and New Zealand concluded negotiations on the FTA in December 2025 before signing the agreement in April 2026. New Zealand's Parliament subsequently passed the implementing legislation on September 16 by a vote of 93-29, completing a key domestic step towards implementation.

With the agreement now scheduled to take effect on October 20, Indian exporters will gain a preferential trade framework in a developed market with opportunities across goods and services.

For India's apparel and textile sector, the agreement provides another avenue to expand exports, diversify markets and strengthen India's integration with international value chains. The coming months will be important for exporters to understand the applicable tariff schedules, rules of origin and documentation requirements and translate the new market access into commercial opportunities.

BIS Strengthens Cotton Fibre Testing Infrastructure with ₹38.72 Crore National Initiative



The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has launched a major initiative to strengthen cotton fibre testing infrastructure across India, with an investment of ₹38.72 crore aimed at modernising testing facilities across key cotton-producing regions.

Under the Scheme for Supporting Other Laboratories for Creation/Augmentation of Test Facilities in Critical Areas, BIS, with the approval of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, is supporting the creation and augmentation of high-precision testing facilities at 21 laboratories operated by the Textiles Committee, Power Loom Service Centres and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

Advanced Testing Infrastructure

The project envisages the deployment of:

Infrastructure Component	Planned Deployment
High Volume Instrument (HVI) Testers	22 Units
Trash Analysers (TA)	44 Units
Participating Laboratories	21 Network Labs

Considerable progress has already been made under the initiative. Fourteen HVI Testers and 28 Trash Analysers have been installed and commissioned across 13 laboratories, including 11 laboratories operated by the Textiles Committee and two by the Cotton Corporation of India.

The upgraded laboratories are spread across India's Northern, Central, Southern and Eastern zones, covering major cotton-producing states including Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

Supporting Quality Across the Cotton Value Chain

The initiative assumes significance for India's textile and apparel industry, where consistent fibre quality is an important factor in determining yarn performance, processing efficiency and the quality of downstream textile products.

High-precision testing enables objective assessment of key fibre characteristics and can contribute to greater consistency in quality assessment, pricing and quality assurance across the cotton supply chain.

India is among the world's leading cotton producers, making robust testing infrastructure important for strengthening quality management from the farm and ginning

stages through spinning and downstream textile manufacturing.

By expanding access to modern testing facilities across cotton-producing regions, the BIS initiative is expected to help address gaps in regional testing infrastructure and promote greater standardisation of cotton-fibre quality assessment.

For India's textile and apparel exporters, stronger quality infrastructure can support greater consistency in raw-material sourcing and contribute to the industry's broader efforts to enhance quality, competitiveness and international market acceptance.

Ladakh's Traditional Textiles Get a Design and Market-Access Push



Ladakh is strengthening its traditional textile sector through a new capacity-building initiative aimed at enhancing artisan skills, product design, value addition and market access for its pashmina, wool and other traditional textile products.

The Department of Industries & Commerce, UT of Ladakh, organised a capacity-building training programme under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). The programme, held in Leh on September 12, was conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar Campus.

The initiative is part of broader efforts to strengthen Ladakh's textile value chain and help traditional products respond to contemporary markets. The collaboration between the Department of Industries & Commerce and NIFT Srinagar is focused on value addition and design development, enabling artisans to explore contemporary interpretations while retaining the region's traditional craftsmanship.

Inaugurating the programme, Chief Secretary, UT of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, highlighted the potential of Ladakh's distinctive textile products, particularly pashmina and wool, to gain greater visibility in national and international markets. He emphasised the need for stronger linkages between traditional artisans, designers, buyers and established brands.

The programme also addressed challenges related to marketing and market access. Participants were encouraged to explore stronger B2B linkages and opportunities to showcase Ladakhi products through exhibitions and other platforms, helping local enterprises reach wider consumer and business markets.

Design intervention is another key component of the initiative. NIFT Srinagar highlighted the scope for integrating contemporary design with traditional skills, with the objective of improving product appeal, quality and marketability while preserving Ladakh's textile heritage.

The Department also highlighted the importance of Geographical Indication (GI) protection for traditional products. The process for GI registration of 26 products/applications has been initiated, potentially strengthening the identity and market positioning of Ladakh's traditional offerings.

The training covered areas including design, product development, value addition, quality enhancement and market-oriented production. Participants were also briefed on government support mechanisms, including Udyam Registration, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and other schemes available to artisans and entrepreneurs.

The initiative reflects an effort to combine traditional craftsmanship with modern design, skills and market linkages. For Ladakh's pashmina and wool sector, such interventions could help create higher-value products while supporting artisans and preserving the region's distinctive textile traditions.

India–Nepal Trade Talks Focus on Market Access, Customs Facilitation and Connectivity



India and Nepal held the Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee (IGSC) on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade in New Delhi on 16–17 September 2026, reviewing a broad range of issues aimed at facilitating bilateral trade, improving transit connectivity and strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, while the Nepali delegation was headed by Shri Buddha Bahadur Gurung, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal.

The IGSC serves as an important bilateral institutional mechanism for detailed discussions on trade and trade-related matters and for facilitating bilateral trade and transit between India and Nepal.

Focus on Market Access and Trade Facilitation

During the two-day meeting, both sides discussed measures to expand market access for products from India and Nepal. The discussions covered agricultural and dairy products, food products, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and AYUSH products, along with issues relating to standards, food safety and phytosanitary requirements.

The two countries also reviewed cooperation on Customs and trade facilitation, with particular emphasis on the use of digital systems to make cross-border trade more efficient.

Key areas discussed included pre-arrival exchange of information, electronic verification of Certificates of Origin, Customs automation and digitalisation. These measures are aimed at facilitating legitimate trade while strengthening compliance with applicable rules and reducing the scope for misuse of preferential trade arrangements.

Improving Transit and Border Connectivity

Transit and connectivity formed another important part of the discussions. India and Nepal reviewed rail and road connectivity, freight movement, Integrated Check Posts and land-port infrastructure.

The two sides discussed ways to improve the utilisation of existing infrastructure and address operational bottlenecks affecting bilateral and transit trade. Efficient border infrastructure and smoother freight movement are critical to reducing delays and improving the overall cost competitiveness of cross-border trade.

Strengthening Standards and Compliance

Both sides welcomed continued institutional cooperation in areas including standards, food safety, plant quarantine and conformity assessment.

Capacity-building initiatives and closer coordination among relevant agencies were also discussed, with the objective of ensuring that legitimate businesses can undertake cross-border trade more efficiently while maintaining regulatory compliance.

India and Nepal further emphasised the importance of continued cooperation to address unauthorised trade and commercial fraud, while facilitating legitimate movement of goods across their shared border.

Continued Bilateral Engagement

The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, with both sides agreeing to maintain close engagement through established institutional mechanisms. They also agreed to pursue time-bound follow-up on issues requiring further technical examination.

India and Nepal share longstanding historical, cultural and economic ties, with India remaining Nepal's largest trading partner and an important source of investment.

The outcomes of the IGSC discussions are expected to contribute to smoother bilateral trade, stronger transit connectivity and closer economic cooperation between the two countries, while improving the trade facilitation environment for businesses operating across the India–Nepal trade corridor.



IITs, NITs Experts to Strengthen MANTRA's Textile Research Advisory Committee

The Man Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA), a leading textile research institution recognised by the Ministry of Textiles, has strengthened its Research Advisory Committee with experts from premier academic institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU) and the textile industry.

The move is aimed at giving greater impetus to research, innovation and technology development across the textile sector, with a particular focus on emerging technologies and industry-oriented applications. MANTRA is engaged in research and knowledge development covering both technical textiles and conventional textiles.

The newly strengthened committee will guide MANTRA in identifying emerging areas of research, evaluating research proposals and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration. It will also work towards strengthening industry-academia linkages and facilitating the translation of research outcomes into technologies that can be adopted for commercial and industrial applications.

According to MANTRA Director Pankaj Gandhi, the participation of experts from leading academic institutions alongside a representative from the textile industry is expected to further strengthen the organisation's innovation-driven and application-oriented research capabilities. The committee will also contribute towards providing direction to R&D in areas such as technical textiles, advanced materials and sustainable textile technologies, along with other emerging areas of strategic importance to the sector.

The initiative comes at a time when the textile and apparel industry is increasingly focusing on technology-led manufacturing, material innovation, sustainability and the development of high-value textile applications. Stronger collaboration between research institutions, academia and industry can help accelerate the movement of innovations from laboratories to commercial applications.

For India's textile ecosystem, such industry-academia partnerships can also support the development of indigenous technologies and solutions, while helping manufacturers respond to evolving global requirements in sustainability, performance and product innovation.

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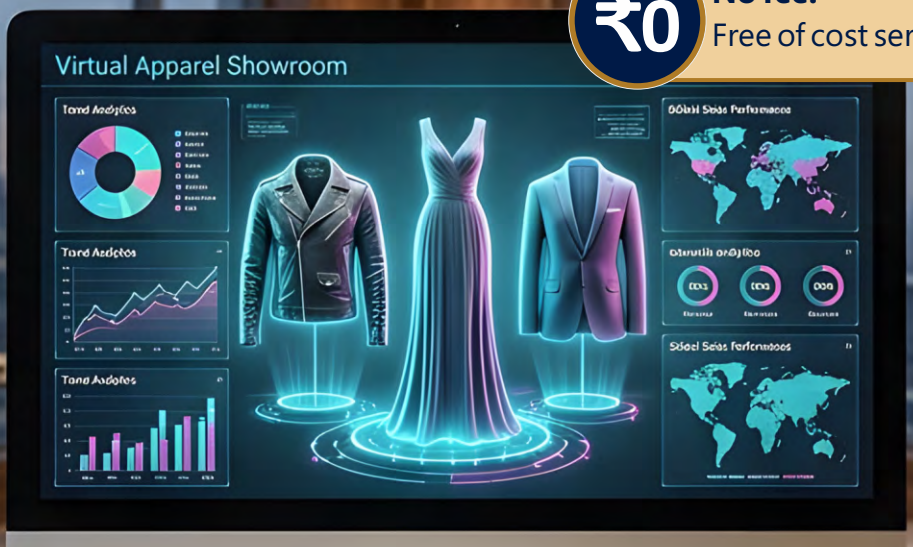
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GST collection for August rises by 14.8% to ₹1.99 trillion

BY CA BALKISHAN CHHABRA

Gross GST collections grew 14.8 per cent to over Rs 1.99 lakh crore in August on higher revenues from domestic transactions.

The Central GST collection stood at Rs 38,413 crore, State GST at Rs 46,316 crore and Integrated IGST at Rs 1,15,124 crore, according to government data released on Tuesday.

The total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue grew 14.8 per cent to over Rs 1.99 lakh crore in August as compared to Rs 1.74 lakh crore in the same month a year ago, it said.

In April, GST collections of Rs 2.42 lakh crore were the highest GST mop-up with 8.7 per cent annual growth. The highest-ever collection was in April 2026 at over Rs 2.42 lakh crore.

New advisory by GSTN: Enabling Filing of Appeals in Cases Involving NIL or Zero Demand Amount – reg., Advisory on use of version 3.3 of emSigner,

The **Goods and Services Tax Network** (GSTN) has announced the implementation of important changes to the **GST** portal, which affect the business of buyers, sellers and transporters equally.

Enabling Filing of Appeals in Cases Involving NIL or Zero Demand Amount – reg.

The GSTN vide Advisory No. 671 dated September 07, 2026, enabling Filing of Appeals in Cases Involving NIL or Zero Demand Amount.

In cases where a dispute regarding liability exists but the demand amount is reflected as "NIL" or "Zero" in the demand order, and payment has been made by the taxpayer prior to the issuance of the demand order, the previous validation

restricting the filing of an appeal against such demand orders has been removed from the GST Portal. Accordingly, taxpayers are now enabled to file an appeal in Form GST APL-01 against demand orders reflecting a NIL or Zero demand amount.

Taxpayers facing the above issue may now file an appeal in Form GST APL-01 against such demand orders.

In case of any query or difficulty while filing the appeal, taxpayers may raise a ticket with the GST Helpdesk for assistance.

Advisory on use of version 3.3 of emSigner

The GSTN advisory dated September 19, 2026 provides advance information to taxpayers and tax officers using Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) on the GST Portal regarding the availability of emSigner version 3.3. The new version is intended to provide compatibility with USB dongles issued on or after September 21, 2026. Users whose existing DSCs and tokens continue to work normally may continue using their current emSigner version, while users experiencing signing failures or certificate-selection issues may upgrade to version 3.3, which is stated to be backward compatible with existing tokens. Users receiving newly issued or renewed certificates in new dongles on or after September 21, 2026 are required to upgrade to emSigner v3.3. The advisory also specifies minimum system requirements, including a 64-bit operating system, 8 GB RAM, 64 GB storage and Java 1.8, with Java 9 and above unsupported. It further refers to the CCA advisory concerning migration from FIPS 140-2 to FIPS 140-3. The accompanying migration advisory explains that FIPS 140-3 supersedes FIPS 140-2 and establishes a transition framework for cryptographic modules, including crypto tokens, HSMs and secure elements. It states that DSCs downloaded onto FIPS 140-2 dongles on or before September 21, 2026 may continue until expiry, subject to specified exceptions, while fresh issuance and renewal generally require FIPS 140-3 modules. The migration objective is to retire or replace non-compliant or obsolete cryptographic components by September 21, 2029. The advisory also sets out responsibilities for OEMs, distributors, Certifying Authorities, government organisations and other users, along with an applicability matrix and a model acknowledgement and risk-assessment letter for continued use of FIPS 140-2 modules in permitted circumstances.

Case Laws

Madras High Court says The statutory 10% penalty cannot be waived where the taxpayer fails to pay tax and interest within thirty days of receipt of the show cause notice, even where delayed tax payment relates to the COVID-19 period.



Case Name: M/s. Global Infonetwork V/s The Superintendent of Central GST and Central Excise

Facts of the Case:

M/s. Global Infonetwork challenged Order-in-Original No. 14/2025-GST dated 14.02.2025, which confirmed short payment of GST arising from a GSTR-3B versus GSTR-1 mismatch for the period May 2020 to October 2020. The order imposed applicable interest, penalty and late fee. Before the High Court, however, the challenge was addressed insofar as the imposition of penalty was concerned.

The petitioner contended that the proceedings related to FY 2020-21, during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in delay in remitting tax through GSTR-3B. The Revenue submitted that a 10% penalty was imposed under Section 73(1) and interest under Section 50(1), and therefore there was no infirmity in the order. The litigation consequently centred on whether the penalty could be interfered with because the delayed payment occurred during the pandemic period.

Held by Court:

The Madras High Court observed that, except where tax and interest are paid within thirty days from the date of receipt of the show cause notice, the statute does not enable waiver of the penalty at 10% of the tax. Therefore, the petitioner's reliance on the fact that the relevant assessment period fell during the COVID-19 pandemic did not provide a statutory basis for waiver of the penalty.

The Court noted that the penalty had been imposed at 10% of the tax demand of ₹7,14,322. It found no infirmity in the impugned order warranting interference. Accordingly, the writ petition was disposed of without any order as to costs, and the connected miscellaneous petition was closed. Thus, the Court did not interfere with the penalty imposed on the petitioner.

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US Russia Sanctions Law Creates Fresh Tariff Uncertainty for Indian Exporters



New legislation gives President Trump authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on goods from major buyers of Russian oil and gas

The United States has enacted a new law expanding sanctions against Russia and Iran and giving President Donald Trump the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods imported from countries that are among the largest purchasers of Russian crude oil or natural gas. The measure has placed major buyers such as India and China under potential tariff risk and introduced another layer of uncertainty for exporters accessing the US market.

President Trump signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 on September 18, following its passage by the US House of Representatives by 262-159. The legislation had earlier cleared the US Senate with an 86-11 vote.

The legislation is primarily aimed at increasing economic pressure on Russia by targeting its energy sector, defence-related activities and the so-called Russian "shadow fleet" involved in sanctions evasion. At the same time, it gives the US administration significant authority to impose additional tariffs on countries purchasing Russian energy.

India Among Countries Facing Potential Exposure

India's position as a major importer of Russian crude puts it among the countries potentially affected by the new provisions. The law provides for tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from countries identified among the five largest purchasers of Russian crude oil or natural gas during the relevant period.

However, the legislation does not automatically impose a 100 per cent tariff on Indian exports. It gives the US President the authority to determine the application, scope and rate of such tariffs. The law also contains provisions allowing exemptions or waivers under specified circumstances.

This distinction is important for Indian exporters. At present, the key concern is therefore not an immediate additional 100 per cent duty, but the uncertainty over whether and how the US administration may exercise the authority provided under the new law.

Implications for India's Apparel Exports

Any significant additional tariff on Indian goods entering the US would have implications for India's labour-intensive export sectors, including textiles and apparel.

The US is an important market for Indian apparel exporters, and higher duties could increase the landed cost of Indian products and affect their competitiveness against suppliers from countries that are not subject to comparable measures.

The textile and apparel industry has already expressed concern over the possible impact. Industry body CITI has called for urgent government engagement with the US to protect exporters, particularly MSMEs, from the potential consequences of additional tariffs.

For apparel exporters, uncertainty itself can also become a business challenge. US buyers planning seasonal collections and placing forward orders typically require clarity on costs and delivery economics. Prolonged uncertainty over tariff treatment could therefore influence sourcing decisions even before any additional duty is actually imposed.

A New Variable in India-US Trade Relations

The development comes at a time when India and the US are engaged in discussions on bilateral trade. The new tariff authority could add another variable to the negotiations, particularly because the measure links access to the US market with the energy-import decisions of third countries.

Indian officials have maintained that the country's energy sourcing decisions are guided by national interest and energy security. India has also emphasised that it sources crude from a diversified group of suppliers.

Reuters reported that the new legislation could complicate India-US trade discussions, with Indian officials warning that

the potential tariffs could affect bilateral economic relations.

What Could It Mean for Exporters?

For India's apparel industry, the immediate priority is to closely monitor the implementation of the US legislation and its eventual application to individual countries and product categories.

A sustained period of tariff uncertainty could make market diversification, cost competitiveness and supply-chain resilience increasingly important for Indian exporters. At the same time, continued engagement between the Indian and US governments will be critical to seek clarity on the proposed measures and minimise disruption to established trade flows.

The legislation therefore represents a potential tariff risk rather than an immediate 100 per cent duty on Indian exports. Its actual impact on India's apparel sector will depend on how the US administration implements the law, whether India is included within the final tariff framework, the rate eventually applied and whether exemptions or other arrangements are negotiated.

For Indian exporters, particularly MSMEs, timely clarity on the US tariff regime will remain essential for business planning, pricing and order commitments in the world's largest consumer market.

India Highlights 'Security, Connectivity and Opportunity' for Stronger SCO Trade



The 25th Meeting of Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States Responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade Activities was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 17 September 2026, with India calling for stronger intra-SCO trade, resilient supply chains and improved connectivity to unlock the region's economic potential.

Representing India, Shri Yashvir Singh emphasised the need to translate the significant economic potential of the SCO into tangible outcomes by reducing trade costs, facilitating market access and strengthening economic linkages among member states.

Drawing on the vision articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the SCO Summit in Bishkek, India highlighted three key pillars, Security, Connectivity and Opportunity, and underlined their economic significance.

India stressed that resilient supply chains, efficient and trusted connectivity and wider market access are essential to creating greater opportunities for businesses across the SCO region.

Focus on Trade Facilitation and Digitalisation

India highlighted the role of trade facilitation and digitalisation in reducing the time and cost involved in cross-border trade. It called for simplified customs procedures, paperless trade and the electronic exchange of trade documents.

The emphasis on multimodal connectivity and shorter transit times is particularly significant for export-oriented sectors, where logistics efficiency and predictable movement of goods can directly influence competitiveness in international markets.

India also called for greater cooperation among SCO members to diversify and strengthen supply chains in strategic and emerging sectors, including agriculture, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and electronics.

The discussions also covered opportunities for enhanced cooperation in energy security, renewable energy and green hydrogen, reflecting the wider economic and sustainability priorities of the region.

Expanding Opportunities for MSMEs and Start-ups

Recognising the importance of smaller businesses in regional and global trade, India highlighted the need to make cross-border commerce more accessible to MSMEs and start-ups.

India emphasised the potential of digital payments, cross-border payment systems and accessible trade finance to enable smaller enterprises to participate more effectively in international markets.

Greater participation of SCO economies in global value chains was also encouraged. India reiterated its commitment to

an open, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core.

Key Outcomes of the Meeting

The Ministers adopted the Statement of the Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States Responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade Activity. They also agreed on the Action Plan for 2026–2030 for the Implementation of the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States, which will be submitted for further approval by the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States.

Another key outcome was the approval of the Regulations on the Special Working Group of the SCO Member States on the Development of the Creative Economy.

The Ministers also took note of updates from the SCO Business Council on its activities and information from the Tajik side regarding the work of the SCO Consortium of Economic Analytical Centres.

The next Ministerial Meeting on foreign economic and foreign trade activities is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan in 2027.

Euratex Urges EU to Strengthen Textile and Apparel Competitiveness





The European textile and apparel industry has called on the European Commission and EU member states to turn recent commitments on fair trade, deregulation and strategic autonomy into concrete measures to strengthen the competitiveness of the sector.

The call has been made by Euratex, the European textile and apparel industry association, following European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's 2026 State of the Union address to the European Parliament. Euratex stressed that the textile and apparel value chain needs a supportive policy environment to remain competitive amid changing global trade dynamics and increasing regulatory requirements.

The industry body is seeking greater policy support across areas including fair trade, regulatory simplification and strategic autonomy, with the objective of creating conditions that enable European textile manufacturers to invest, innovate and compete globally.

Euratex's intervention comes at a time when the European textile and apparel sector is navigating a rapidly changing global landscape, marked by evolving trade policies, sustainability requirements and supply-chain considerations. The organisation has emphasised the need for the EU to translate its strategic commitments into practical measures that support the entire textile and apparel value chain.

The developments are also significant for global apparel exporters, as the European Union remains an important market for textile and clothing products. Changes in EU trade and regulatory policies can have implications for sourcing decisions, market access, compliance requirements and competitiveness across international supply chains.

The European industry's emphasis on competitiveness highlights the broader challenge facing textile-producing economies: balancing sustainability and regulatory objectives with the need to maintain efficient production, investment and international trade.

For apparel exporters worldwide, closer monitoring of EU policy developments will therefore remain important as the bloc shapes its future approach to trade, industrial policy and sustainability.

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PM Narendra Modi Highlights Sustainability as Key to India's Textile Future



Sustainability is moving from the periphery to the centre of India's textile and apparel industry, with circular production, textile recycling, cleaner technologies and responsible manufacturing emerging as important pillars of the sector's future.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on September 19, 2026, highlighted the growing importance of sustainability in India's textile sector while sharing an article by Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh. The article underlined how initiatives focused on textile recycling, waste recovery, cleaner production and green technologies are helping build a more circular and competitive textile industry.

The development comes at a time when sustainability is increasingly linked not only with environmental responsibility but also with competitiveness, market access and long-term growth. India is targeting a $350 billion textile and apparel industry by 2030, making the adoption of sustainable practices increasingly significant across the entire value chain—from fibre and yarn to processing, apparel, technical textiles and made-ups.

From linear production to circularity

A key element of this transformation is the shift towards a circular textile economy, in which materials are kept in use for longer through reuse, recycling, upcycling and recovery.

According to a July 2026 PIB backgrounder, India manages around 7.8 million tonnes of textile waste annually, with more than 70 per cent currently recovered through recycling, upcycling, downcycling or reuse. Recovery is particularly strong in pre-consumer waste, with nearly 95 per cent collected and reused through established value-chain networks. The spinning industry is another example of closed-loop production, with nearly all spinning waste being reintegrated into manufacturing.

Post-consumer textiles, however, present a larger opportunity for further circularity. Around 55 per cent of post-consumer textile waste is currently diverted from landfills through collection and sorting networks. These activities also support an estimated 40–45 lakh livelihoods, with women from marginalised communities playing an important role in collection, sorting and redistribution.

India's established textile-recycling clusters demonstrate the potential of such systems. Panipat, for instance, has developed into a major downstream textile recycling hub, while local networks such as Delhi's Mongolpuri Katran Market connect textile waste collection and sorting with formal recycling clusters.

Cleaner inputs and responsible production

Sustainability begins well before a garment reaches the factory floor. Fibre selection, chemicals, water consumption and energy use all influence the environmental footprint of textile production.

Policy initiatives are supporting organic and natural fibres, safer chemicals and resource-efficient manufacturing. The National Programme for Organic Production provides a certification framework for organic products, including organic cotton, while programmes such as Jute-ICARE and initiatives under the Mission for Cotton Productivity seek to encourage sustainable cultivation and the wider use of natural fibres.

Efforts are also underway to reduce hazardous chemicals in the textile supply chain. A pilot project covering 400 factories across eight clusters and four fashion houses is aimed at eliminating hazardous chemicals from the textile and fashion supply chain, with the stated objective of reducing harmful chemical use and associated environmental impacts.

Green manufacturing and modern textile infrastructure

Manufacturing and processing remain critical areas for improving resource efficiency, particularly because textile production involves significant consumption of water, energy and other resources.

The PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks are envisaged as integrated manufacturing hubs incorporating infrastructure such as Common Effluent Treatment Plants, wastewater recycling, scientific waste management and shared utilities. Seven PM MITRA Park sites have been approved, with an outlay of ₹4,445 crore up to 2027-28.

For the sector's large MSME base, green technology adoption is another important area. Under the RAMP programme, initiatives such as MSE-GIFT and MSE-SPICE provide support for green technologies, clean energy, resource efficiency and circular-economy investments by eligible micro and small enterprises.

Recycling as an emerging growth opportunity

Textile recycling is increasingly being viewed not simply as a waste-management activity but as an emerging economic opportunity.

The government's 2026 backgrounder estimates that India's textile recycling sector could reach USD 3.5 billion by 2030, with the potential to generate nearly one lakh green jobs over the next five years. At the same time, the National Technical Textiles Mission is supporting research and development into technologies that can convert textile waste, biomass and bio-residues into advanced green materials.

This creates opportunities for businesses across the value chain—from waste collection and sorting to fibre regeneration, recycling technologies, sustainable materials and the manufacture of higher-value products from recovered textiles.

Sustainability and global market access

For India's export-oriented textile and apparel industry, sustainability is increasingly connected with the expectations of international markets.

The government has highlighted initiatives around eco-labelling, traceability, responsible sourcing and sustainability benchmarks. Under the Eco-Mark Scheme, 2024, textiles are among the product categories eligible for certification against specified environmental criteria. Traceability initiatives, including those associated with Indian cotton and silk, are also aimed at strengthening transparency and the global positioning of Indian textiles.

Such developments are particularly relevant as global buyers increasingly assess suppliers on factors extending beyond product quality and price, including environmental performance, resource efficiency, traceability and responsible production.

Balancing growth with sustainability

India's textile industry has deep-rooted traditions of reuse, repair and resource-conscious production. The emerging sustainability agenda is bringing these principles into a modern industrial framework through technology, recycling systems, cleaner production and stronger supply-chain transparency.

As India works towards its long-term textile and apparel growth ambitions, sustainability is increasingly becoming part of the sector's competitiveness strategy. The transition presents opportunities for manufacturers and exporters to invest in resource-efficient technologies, develop circular products, improve traceability and respond to evolving global market requirements.

The direction is clear: the future of Indian textiles is increasingly being shaped not only by how much the industry produces, but also by how efficiently resources are used, how waste is recovered and how responsibly products are made.

Bengaluru Launches Circular Textile Lab to Turn Waste into New Products



Bengaluru has launched its first Circular Textile Lab in Koramangala, marking a step towards strengthening urban textile waste management and promoting circularity in the apparel and textile sector. The facility is designed to divert discarded textiles from landfills by recovering and converting waste fabric into reusable products.

The lab will collect textile waste from garment manufacturing units and tailoring establishments and process the material for reuse. Recovered textiles will be transformed into products such as garments and eco-friendly bags, enabling discarded fabrics to re-enter the production cycle and extending their useful life.

The facility was inaugurated at Kasa Rasa Kendra, a ward-level solid waste management centre initiated by NGO Saahas. The initiative has been undertaken by South City Corporation and was inaugurated by Karnataka Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy in the presence of officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Beyond waste diversion, the project has a strong livelihood component. The lab will create employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged communities, with a particular focus on local tailors and women. By linking textile waste recovery with income generation, the initiative seeks to demonstrate how circular waste-management models can

deliver both environmental and social benefits.

A thrift store at the facility will offer recycled textile products for sale. The revenue generated will contribute towards the welfare of workers and the continued operation and management of the circular textile initiative.

Environmental safeguards have also been incorporated into the facility. An effluent and sewage treatment system has been installed to treat dyes and chemicals generated during textile processing, helping minimise the risk of additional pollution from recycling and upcycling activities.

The circular textile model has previously been implemented in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF). The Koramangala facility will initially serve as a pilot before the model is expanded to other wards across Bengaluru.

The initiative highlights the growing emphasis on decentralised textile waste management and circular solutions within urban ecosystems. For the apparel and textile industry, such models can provide additional avenues for recovering production and tailoring waste while supporting resource efficiency, local livelihoods and the wider transition towards a circular economy.

IIT Guwahati, IIT BHU Develop Bacterial Solution for Textile Dye Wastewater



Researchers from IIT Guwahati and IIT (BHU) have developed a biological approach to treat textile wastewater containing toxic azo dyes, offering a potential eco-friendly alternative to conventional chemical and physicochemical treatment methods.

The research focuses on a novel bacterium, Brevundimonas sp. AJZ05, which was isolated from a native textile effluent discharge site. In laboratory studies, the bacterium degraded 98.50 per cent of Direct Blue-6 (DB-6), a synthetic dye widely used in textile processing. The researchers also found that the compounds produced during the biodegradation process were non-toxic.

Azo dyes are particularly challenging to treat because their characteristic azo bond (–N=N–) gives them chemical stability and resistance to several conventional treatment processes. If inadequately treated, textile effluents can pose environmental concerns, particularly for aquatic ecosystems.

The IIT-led research identified the bacterium's ability to produce azoreductase, an enzyme that breaks the azo bond responsible for the colour and stability of these dyes. The team subsequently used a statistical multi-objective optimisation approach based on Response Surface Methodology to optimise both dye degradation and azoreductase production.

An important aspect of the study was that the researchers went beyond measuring colour removal. They analysed the metabolites generated during biodegradation and conducted toxicity assessments. The results indicated that the degradation products were non-toxic after bacterial treatment, suggesting that the process can transform the dye into safer compounds rather than simply removing its visible colour.

For the textile and apparel industry, biological treatment technologies such as this could support efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of wet-processing operations. IIT Guwahati has also undertaken research in biological wastewater treatment and textile-effluent recycling, including work on membrane-based treatment systems aimed at zero-discharge applications.

The researchers are now working to move the technology beyond laboratory-scale testing. The next stage involves developing a continuous treatment system for azo-dye removal, with the longer-term objective of advancing the microbial platform towards industrial application.

The study has been published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Geochemistry and Health.



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