



Apparel INDIA

YR 26 ISSUE 08

APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL MAGAZINE | AUGUST 2026 | RNI NO. HARENG/2012/45083 ₹ 100



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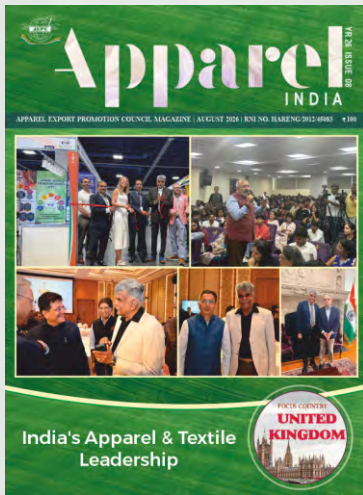
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YR 26 | ISSUE 08 | August, 2026 | PAGES 60



C O N T E N T S



CHAIRMAN AEPC

Dr. A. Sakthivel

CHAIRMAN EP

Shri K.M Subramanian

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur

EDITOR

Pallavi Mishra

PUBLISHER

Apparel Export Promotion Council
Apparel House, Sector-44,
Institutional Area,
Gurugram,
HARYANA – 122003.
Phone: 0124-2708000
www.aepcindia.com

DESIGNING & LAYOUT

Mr. Rajiv Rai

Email: rajivraigzp@gmail.com

PRINTING PRESS

Asian paper products, New Delhi
Email: asianpaper88@gmail.com
Mobile: + 91 98717 34269

01 | CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

02 | COVER STORY

1- India Pavilion at Sourcing at MAGIC Highlights India's Apparel and Textile Strength

2- Strengthening India-US Apparel Trade: AEPC Chairman Meets Indian Ambassador to the US

03 | FTA TRIPPUR

1- AEPC Organises FTA Seminar in Tiruppur to Unlock New Growth Opportunities

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

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

06 | SPECIAL FOCUS

1- India Concludes 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur, Advances Agenda for Resilient Industrial Growth
2- 13th IMSC Meeting Held to Discuss and Finalise ATUFS Cases

07 | POLICY AFFAIRS

1- NITI Aayog Puts Textiles at the Centre of India's Manufacturing Ambition
2- DGFT Transfers Interest Subvention Scheme Administration to EXIM Bank
3- DGFT Expands 'Source from India' Platform to Include DPIIT-Recognised Start-ups

08 | SUCCESS STORY

1- Amrit Exports: Building Global Trust from Kolkata

09 | UPCOMING FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

1- Upcoming Fairs & Exhibitions

10 | COUNCIL AFFAIRS

1- AEPC & Trichirappalli Customs Commissionerate Organise Trade Outreach Programme on AEO and Thunaiyan Portal
2- Independence Day Celebrations at AEPC
3- AEPC Conducts July Edition of "Niryat Samvad" for Apparel Exporters
4- Strengthening Compliance Readiness for UK and EU Apparel Markets
5- Farewell to Mr. Praveen Kukreja
6- ATDC Jaipur Welcomes New Students with a Vibrant Fresher's Party
7- Review Meeting on RoSCTL Rates
8- India Textile Immersion Centre Proposed for Global Markets
9- AEPC Webinar Explores AI Driven Smart Manufacturing
10- AEPC & Tuticorin Customs Commissionerate Organise "eBRC Mela and Trade Outreach Programme on Trade Facilitation Measures" with Tuticorin Customs at Tirupur

11- AEPC Urges Government to Regulate 20s Count and Above Cotton Yarn Exports to Stabilise Prices

11 | TRENDING

1- PM Calls for a People's Movement to Showcase India's Rich Handloom Heritage
2- Google Celebrates India's 80th Independence Day with Textile-Inspired Doodle

12 | FOCUS COUNTRY

1- UNITED KINGDOM

13 | INDIA NEWS

1- Retail Inflation Rises to 4.45% in July as Food Prices Add Pressure
2- Handloom Haat Reimagined as India's Handloom Experience Centre
3- Srijan: Voices from the Loom Celebrates the Women Weaving India's Heritage
4- Design and Market Access Key to Boosting Handloom Incomes
5- Handloom Sector Poised for Transformation Through Technology, Design and Industry Linkages
6- Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh Visits NIFT Mumbai, Highlights Innovation, Sustainability and Global Opportunities

14 | GST UPDATE

1- India, SACU Lay Groundwork for Preferential Trade Agreement Talks

15 | GLOBAL NEWS

1- India, SACU Lay Groundwork for Preferential Trade Agreement Talks

16 | SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

1- MIT Develops Recyclable Elastic Yarn, Offering New Pathway for Circular Textiles
2- OEKO-TEX Strengthens Certification Framework as EU Tightens Greenwashing Rules



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It gives me immense pleasure to present this edition of Apparel India, which reflects the growing momentum of India's apparel export sector and the opportunities emerging across global markets.

The international apparel landscape is undergoing significant transformation, creating new opportunities for India to strengthen its position as a reliable, competitive and responsible sourcing destination. Our participation at Sourcing at MAGIC in Las Vegas was an important step in this direction. The India Pavilion brought together 50 Indian exhibitors, including 20 facilitated by AEPC, showcasing the breadth of India's capabilities across apparel, textiles, silk, handicrafts, leather accessories and other value-added products. The strong emphasis on sustainable materials, responsible manufacturing and India's rich craft heritage further demonstrated the diversity and strength of our industry.

The United States remains one of the most important markets for Indian apparel. I had the opportunity to lead the Indian delegation at Sourcing at MAGIC, Las Vegas, where we engaged with buyers, industry stakeholders and other key partners to strengthen India's presence in the US market. During my visit, I also had the opportunity to meet Shri Vinay Kwatra, Ambassador of India to the United States, and discuss opportunities to further strengthen India's apparel exports and deepen engagement with the US market. I am confident that sustained collaboration between industry and government will help our exporters expand their presence and contribute to stronger India-US trade relations.

At the same time, India's expanding network of Free Trade Agreements is opening significant new avenues for the apparel industry. The recent AEPC

seminar in Tiruppur on FTA utilisation brought together exporters, government officials and trade experts to discuss how preferential market access can be converted into actual business opportunities. With major markets such as the UK and the European Union offering significant potential, our exporters must prepare themselves by increasing capacity, improving competitiveness and understanding the requirements associated with Rules of Origin, Certificates of Origin and compliance.

Signing trade agreements is only the beginning. The real benefit will come from their effective utilisation by our exporters. I therefore urge the industry to prepare early, invest in capacity and technology, strengthen sourcing and compliance systems, and actively explore new markets. AEPC will continue to support exporters through international fairs, buyer-seller engagements, seminars, delegations and other initiatives designed to strengthen global buyer linkages, create immersive market experiences, and build greater resilience and competitiveness for the Indian apparel industry.

India's participation in international platforms is also an important part of our broader strategy to diversify export markets. Our engagement with the global sourcing community will help Indian exporters understand evolving buyer requirements and build long-term business relationships across the US, UK, EU, Japan and other key markets.

The BRICS engagements during India's Chairship also present an important opportunity to deepen India's integration into global value chains. I am confident that a more business-focused approach to BRICS cooperation will create new avenues for trade and investment and open additional opportunities for India's apparel industry.

The future of Indian apparel exports is full of promise. Our strengths in manufacturing, skilled manpower, craftsmanship, sustainability and product diversity give us a strong foundation to compete globally. What is required now is greater scale, speed,

innovation and market responsiveness.

At the same time, maintaining the competitiveness of our industry requires ensuring the availability of key raw materials at competitive prices. AEPC has recently urged the Government to consider suitable measures to regulate exports of cotton yarn, particularly 20s count and above, in view of the sharp rise in yarn prices and the resulting pressure on apparel manufacturing costs. Ensuring adequate yarn availability will be important for enabling our exporters to remain competitive and fully leverage the emerging opportunities in global markets.

AEPC remains firmly committed to working alongside the Government and the industry to convert emerging opportunities into new orders, greater capacity utilisation, employment and sustained export growth.

I call upon our exporters to prepare for the opportunities ahead with confidence and ambition. The global market is opening new doors for Indian apparel, and together, we must ensure that India is ready to step through them.

Dr. A. Sakthivel
Chairman, AEPC





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COVER STORY



India Pavilion at Sourcing at MAGIC Highlights India's Apparel and Textile Strength

India showcased its diverse apparel, textile and lifestyle capabilities at the August 2026 edition of Sourcing at MAGIC, held from 10 to 12 August at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The India Pavilion brought together 50 Indian exhibitors, including 20 exhibitors facilitated by the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), offering international buyers a wide-ranging portfolio of Indian products and manufacturing capabilities.

The India Pavilion was inaugurated by Shri Kulwant Singh, Consul, Consulate General of India, Los Angeles, in the presence of Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC. The inauguration was attended by Mr. Simon, Vice President, Informa; Ms. Pinar, Director, Informa; and Mr. S. Hari Krishnan, Senior Director, AEPC, along with participating exhibitors and industry stakeholders.



The pavilion showcased an extensive range of products, including apparel, silk garments, powerloom products, leather accessories, Indian handicrafts and other value-added products. A strong focus on sustainability was evident, with several Indian exhibitors presenting collections centred on environmentally conscious materials and responsible manufacturing practices.



The participation also highlighted India's rich craft heritage, with Indian artisans showcasing handmade paintings, Phulkari products and other traditional crafts. The presence of these artisans added a distinctive cultural dimension to the pavilion while demonstrating the diversity of India's textile and handicraft ecosystem.

Throughout the three-day exhibition, AEPC exhibitors engaged with international buyers and industry stakeholders, presenting their collections, understanding evolving market requirements and exploring potential business opportunities. Buyer footfall remained moderate and steady, with exhibitors reporting encouraging interactions and meetings with prospective buyers.

The exhibition also provided a platform for AEPC to strengthen its engagement with Informa, the organiser of Sourcing at MAGIC, and discuss opportunities for expanding India's participation in future editions. Dr. A. Sakthivel discussed AEPC's proposed participation in the Sourcing at MAGIC New York edition, scheduled for 7 to 9 February 2027, and sought a competitive package that would encourage greater participation by Indian exporters.

The successful participation at Sourcing at MAGIC underlines India's growing potential as a global sourcing destination, combining modern apparel manufacturing

with sustainable production, traditional craftsmanship and diverse value-added products. For AEPC, the exhibition served not only as a platform for Indian exporters to connect with US buyers, but also as an opportunity to build international partnerships and identify new avenues for market expansion across the US, Europe and Japan.

With sustained efforts to diversify export markets and strengthen buyer linkages, AEPC's participation at international sourcing platforms continues to support Indian apparel exporters in expanding their global footprint and positioning India as a reliable, competitive and responsible sourcing partner.





Strengthening India-US Apparel Trade: AEPC Chairman Meets Indian Ambassador to the US



Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel met Shri Vinay Kwatra, Ambassador of India to the United States, in Washington, D.C., for a fruitful discussion on strengthening India's apparel exports to the US market and exploring new avenues for growth.

The US remains one of the most important markets for India's apparel industry, offering significant opportunities for Indian exporters to expand their presence and deepen bilateral trade ties. The meeting focused on opportunities to further strengthen India's apparel exports and facilitate greater engagement with the US market.

Dr. Sakthivel expressed confidence that India's exports to the United States will continue to grow, contributing to the further strengthening of the India-US trade partnership.

The meeting comes at a significant juncture for India's apparel sector as exporters look to expand their global footprint and capitalise on emerging opportunities in key international markets. Enhanced engagement with the US is expected to support the sector's export growth and reinforce India's position as a competitive and reliable apparel sourcing destination.



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For Details / Clarifications, Please Contact :
Abhinandan Rajpal, General Manager-IT

Ph. – 0124-2708110, Mob – 9313429666 • E-mail : gmit@aepecindia.com

AEPC Organises FTA Seminar in Tiruppur to Unlock New Growth Opportunities



Seminar highlights how Tiruppur's apparel exporters can leverage India's expanding network of Free Trade Agreements to boost competitiveness and exports

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) organised a seminar on “Unlocking Growth Opportunities: FTA Utilization for Apparel Exporters” in Tiruppur as part of its Pan India Seminar Series. Held at Poppys Vista Hotel and supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank, the seminar brought together apparel exporters, industry leaders, government representatives and trade experts to discuss how India’s expanding Free Trade Agreement (FTA) network can translate into greater exports and competitiveness.

Dr. Sakthivel urged exporters to prepare for the opportunity by increasing capacity, improving competitiveness and actively exploring new markets. He said AEPC is encouraging exporters to participate in international fairs and is also facilitating buyer visits to India and Tiruppur.

“Prepare yourself for export. Increase your capacity. I will make sure you will not be disappointed. The future is ours,” Dr. Sakthivel said, expressing confidence in the growth prospects of the Indian apparel industry.



Addressing the gathering, Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, said India’s expanding FTA network is opening a major new opportunity for the apparel industry. Once the agreement with the European Union is implemented, India will have recently signed FTAs with 38 countries, including the 27 EU member states, covering around 65 per cent of the global population. He noted that these markets offer significant potential for Indian apparel.



Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, highlighted the need to move beyond merely signing trade agreements and focus on their actual utilisation by exporters. He said that the real benefit of an FTA is realised only when exporters are able to identify applicable preferences, meet Rules of Origin and sourcing requirements, complete documentation and compliance requirements, and successfully claim the preferential tariff.

He emphasised that FTA utilisation needs to begin at the



product and sourcing stage, with exporters factoring tariff preferences and origin requirements into product costing, pricing and buyer negotiations from the outset.



Shri D. Sridhar, ITS, Additional DGFT, Coimbatore, said India's recent FTAs, particularly the India-UK CETA, have opened a major opportunity for Tiruppur's apparel exporters by improving their competitiveness in the UK market, with nearly 99 per cent of goods gaining zero-duty access. He said the India-EU agreement, expected to be a major game-changer when it comes into effect, could further expand market opportunities for Indian apparel. However, he cautioned that preferential access can only be converted into business if exporters understand and comply with key requirements, particularly correct HS classification, Rules of Origin and Certificates of Origin. He highlighted the DGFT's digital platform for seamless, paperless self-certification and urged exporters to prepare their documentation and systems now rather than wait for the EU agreement. "Get ready for 2027," he said, stressing that the Government has done its part at the negotiating table and the opportunity now rests with industry to convert it into orders, jobs and growth.



Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mangla, Associate Professor, Economics and International Trade, Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies (SIMS), delivered a detailed technical presentation on the practical aspects of FTAs and their utilisation by exporters. He emphasised that while India's expanding FTA network creates a major new growth opportunity, duty-free or preferential market access alone does not guarantee export

success. Exporters need to identify the right products and markets, correctly apply Rules of Origin and Product-Specific Rules, understand requirements such as Change in Tariff Heading (CTH) and Qualifying Value Content (QVC), maintain robust documentation and strategically manage sourcing.

Dr. Mangla also highlighted the potential of the India-UK CETA and the emerging India-EU trade framework to strengthen India's competitive position in major apparel markets.

A presentation by Kotak Mahindra Bank was also part of the programme, followed by an interactive Q&A session that enabled participating exporters to discuss practical issues and seek greater clarity on the effective utilisation of FTAs.



The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Shri N. Thirukumaran, EC Member, AEPC, who expressed his sincere gratitude to Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel, Secretary General Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mangla, Shri D. Sridhar, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Poppys Vista Hotel and all the participating exporters and industry representatives. He thanked the Chairman and Secretary General for their continued guidance and support and appreciated the exporters for their enthusiastic participation and valuable inputs. He noted that the strong participation and engaging questions during the Q&A session reflected Tiruppur's keen interest in leveraging India's FTAs more effectively to strengthen competitiveness, explore new markets and drive export growth.

The Tiruppur seminar reaffirmed AEPC's commitment to helping exporters convert India's expanding FTA network into new markets, larger orders, higher capacity utilisation and sustained export growth.



India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Textiles & Wearing Apparel update for India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of June 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	107.3		-1.6	112.7		0.9
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-Jun)	119.2	136.3	14.3	101.3	93.8	-7.4

Source: CSO, 2026

*Figures for June 2026 are Quick Estimates. (Base: 2022-23)

- **Manufacture of Textiles Index** for the month of June 2026 stands at 136.4, recording a 13.7% growth over June 2025.
- **Manufacture of Textiles Index (Cumulative: April-June 2026)** stands at 136.3, registering a 14.3% growth over the corresponding period (April-June 2025).
- **Manufacture of Wearing Apparel Index** for the month of June 2026 stands at 95.6, recording a 6.9% decline over June 2025.
- **Manufacture of Wearing Apparel Index (Cumulative: April-June 2026)** stands at 93.8, registering a 7.4% decline over the corresponding period (April-June 2025).
 - As per the Quick Estimates released by CSO, the Textiles Index continued to register robust growth during June 2026, reflecting sustained improvement in manufacturing activity compared to the corresponding month of the previous year. In contrast, the Wearing Apparel segment remained in contraction, indicating continued weakness in apparel manufacturing despite the positive performance of the overall textiles sector.



INDIA'S READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG)

India's RMG Export to World

Month	(In USD million)			YoY Growth (%)	
	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		-2.6	
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	4949.3	-1.3	-10.5

Note- 1) Data for the month of July 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 13.08.2026

2) Sum of the value for (April-July) 2025-26 is USD 5531.09 Mn. and (Apr-July) 2026-27 is USD 4949.28 Mn.

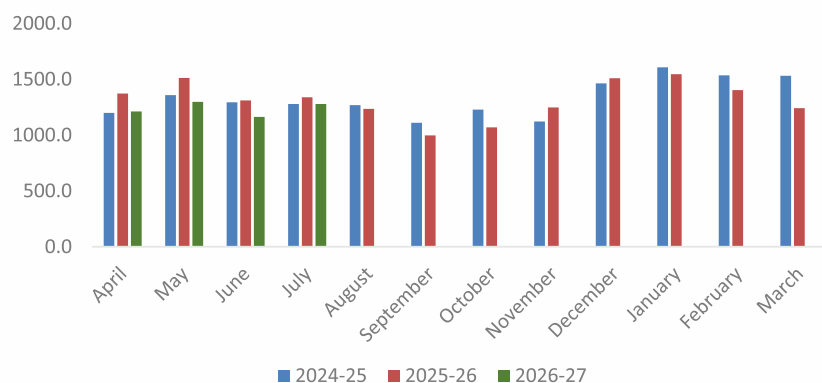
3) Source: DGCI&S 2026

4) For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April-July only and growth is calculated against the corresponding period of the previous year.

RMG exports for the month of July 2026 stood at USD 1,278.6 million, declining by 4.5% compared to July 2025.

Cumulatively, RMG exports for the period April-July 2026-27 stood at USD 4,949.3 million, showing a decline of 10.5% over April-July 2025-26 (USD 5,531.09 million).

India's RMG Export to World (In USD million)



India's RMG Export to World

	(In INR Crore)			YoY Growth (%)	
Month	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	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		1.6	
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	47021.4	2.9	-0.77

Note- 1) Data for the month of July 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 13.08.2026

2) Sum of the value for (Apr-July) 2025-26 is Rs. 47387.42 Cr. and (Apr-July) 2026-27 is Rs. 47021.42 Cr.

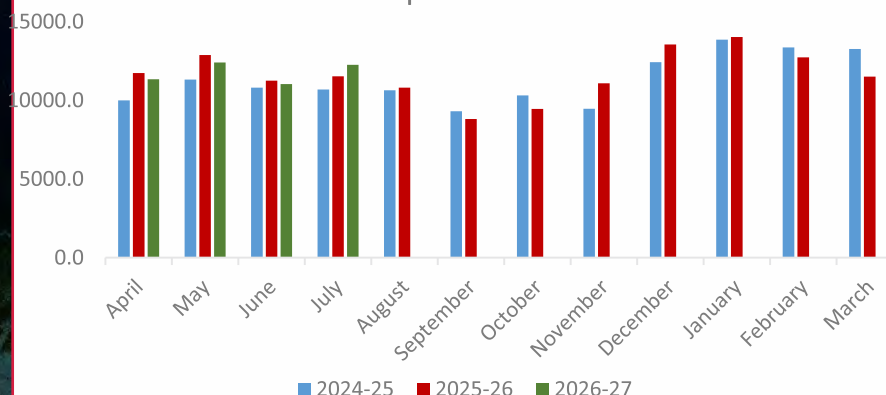
3) Source: DGCIS 2026

4) For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April-July only and growth is calculated against the corresponding period of the previous year.

RMG exports for the month of July 2026 stood at Rs. 12,251.61 crore, showing an increase of 6.3% compared to July 2025 and 14.7 % compared to July 2024.

Cumulatively, RMG exports for the period April-July 2026-27 stood at Rs. 47,021.42 crore, showing a decline of 0.77% over April-July 2025-26 (Rs. 47,387.42 crore).

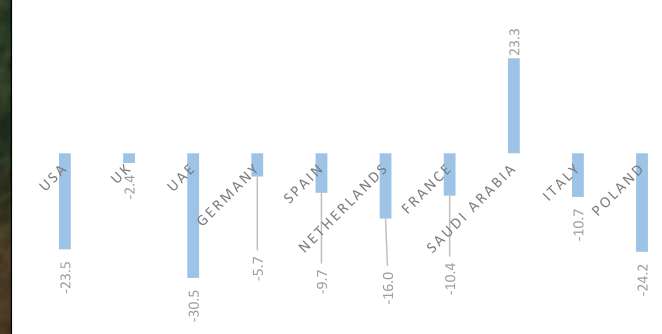
India's RMG Exports to World In INR Crore



India's Top 10 RMG Export Destinations

S. No.	Countries	Value in USD mn.		
		April- May 2025-26	April- May 2026-27	% Change
	Total RMG Export	2893.1	2515.2	-13.1
1	USA	983.4	751.8	-23.5
2	UK	254.1	248.0	-2.4
3	UAE	236.4	164.2	-30.5
4	Germany	158.7	149.7	-5.7
6	Spain	152.6	137.9	-9.7
7	Netherlands	136.2	114.4	-16.0
5	France	116.2	104.1	-10.4
9	Saudi Arabia	57.1	70.4	23.3
8	Italy	62.6	55.9	-10.7
10	Poland	72.9	55.3	-24.2

% CHANGE IN INDIA'S TOP 10 RMG EXPORT DESTINATIONS

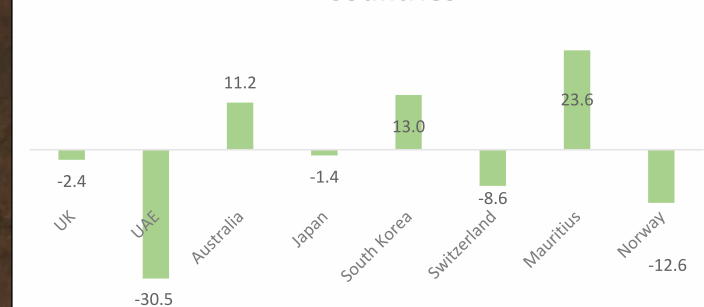


India's Trade with FTA Countries

S. No.	Countries	April- May 2025-26	April- May 2026-27	% Change
1	UK	254.1	248.0	-2.4
2	UAE	236.4	164.2	-30.5
3	Australia	46.3	51.4	11.2
4	Japan	50.4	49.7	-1.4
5	South Korea	8.9	10.1	13.0
6	Switzerland	6.2	5.7	-8.6
7	Mauritius	4.6	5.6	23.6
8	Norway	3.6	3.2	-12.6

Source: DGCI&S, 2026

% Change of India's Trade with FTA Countries



India Concludes 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur, Advances Agenda for Resilient Industrial Growth



India successfully concluded the 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur under its BRICS Chairship 2026, marking another milestone in strengthening industrial cooperation among emerging economies. Held under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," the meeting culminated in the adoption of a Joint Declaration aimed at deepening collaboration in areas such as MSMEs, photovoltaics, startups and logistics.

The meeting brought together Industry Ministers and senior representatives from BRICS member countries under the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) to deliberate on strengthening industrial capabilities, accelerating technological transformation and building resilient, future-ready industries.



Addressing the Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal welcomed delegates to the Pink City, describing it as a place where centuries-old craftsmanship meets a modern industrial economy. He emphasized that BRICS countries must leverage their complementary strengths to translate shared aspirations into practical innovation and cooperation, while reaffirming that PartNIR has emerged as the principal platform for advancing industrial collaboration among member countries.



Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Shri Jitin Prasada reiterated India's commitment to fostering stronger industrial partnerships and highlighted the importance of innovation, cooperation and mutual trust in building a resilient and inclusive industrial future.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the adoption of the Joint Declaration of the Tenth BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting, reflecting the collective commitment of member countries to move beyond dialogue towards practical and institutional cooperation. The meeting also witnessed the finalisation of the Framework for Cooperation in the SME Working Group, the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Action Plan for the BRICS Working Group on the Photovoltaic Industry, and the finalisation of the Action Plan on Innovation-led Growth through Startups.



India further proposed the establishment of a BRICS Incubator Network and a BRICS Startup Innovation Fund to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation across member countries. Deliberations also underscored the importance of resilient transport and logistics systems, including GIS-based infrastructure planning and city logistics planning.

Industry Ministers and Heads of Delegation from BRICS countries shared national experiences and policy priorities aimed at strengthening industrial competitiveness, accelerating digital transformation and building inclusive industrial ecosystems. Delegations welcomed the progress achieved under India's BRICS Chairship and appreciated the institutional mechanisms developed under PartNIR to promote long-term cooperation.

Earlier, on August 3, the BRICS engagements commenced with the BRICS India 2026 Welcome Dinner hosted by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal in the presence of Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Shri Jitin Prasada at The Leaders' Lounge, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, ahead of the BRICS Business Forum. Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, attended the event, which brought together ministers, senior government officials, business leaders, diplomats and delegates from across BRICS nations. Dr. Sakthivel appreciated Shri Piyush Goyal's leadership in advancing India's trade and export agenda and welcomed the focus on building a more business-centric BRICS. He expressed confidence that the initiatives under India's Chairship would create new opportunities for the Indian apparel industry and strengthen its integration into global value chains.



13th IMSC Meeting Held to Discuss and Finalise ATUFS Cases



The 13th meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) was held on 25 August 2026 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, to deliberate upon and finalise pending cases under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS).

from the Department of Financial Services; and other senior officials and stakeholders.

The deliberations focused on the pending ATUFS cases and measures to facilitate their timely finalisation. The discussions assume significance for the textile industry, as the scheme seeks to support technology upgradation and modernisation across the sector.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of facilitating timely support to textile units and strengthening the sector's technological capabilities. Effective implementation and resolution of pending cases under ATUFS are expected to contribute towards enhancing productivity, competitiveness and the overall growth of India's textile industry.



Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), attended the meeting along with senior officials and representatives of key stakeholders. The meeting was attended by Ms Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Textiles; Ms Aarti Kanwar, Additional Secretary, Textiles; Ms Vrunda Manohar Desai, Textile Commissioner; officials

The participation of AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel reflects the Council's continued engagement with the Government on matters of importance to the apparel and textile industry and its efforts towards ensuring that industry concerns and priorities are appropriately represented in policy deliberations.





NITI Aayog Puts Textiles at the Centre of India's Manufacturing Ambition

NITI Aayog identifies textiles and apparel as a strategic sector to strengthen India's position as a global manufacturing hub

India's ambition to emerge as a global manufacturing powerhouse is closely linked to the growth and competitiveness of its textile and apparel industry. In its recent report, Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub, NITI Aayog has identified textiles and apparel as one of the country's important manufacturing sectors with significant potential to expand its global footprint.

The report underlines the strategic importance of the textile and apparel industry, which contributes approximately 2 per cent to India's GDP, 11 per cent of manufacturing Gross Value Added and 9 per cent of merchandise exports. The sector also remains one of India's largest employment generators, providing livelihoods to more than 45 million people and supporting a vast network of MSMEs across the country.

India's position in global textile trade also offers considerable room for expansion. In FY2025, the country exported textile products worth approximately USD 37.7 billion and accounted for 4.1 per cent of global textile and apparel exports, making India the sixth-largest textile exporter globally.

Building competitiveness across the value chain

NITI Aayog's assessment points to several areas that can determine India's ability to increase its share in global textile and apparel markets. Improved availability of raw materials, greater manufacturing scale, infrastructure support and expanded market access have been identified as key priorities. For India's apparel export industry, access to competitive and

quality raw materials is particularly important. Strengthening the domestic textile value chain, improving supply chain efficiency and ensuring greater integration between different stages of production can help exporters compete more effectively with major global sourcing destinations.

The report also emphasises the importance of deeper trade integration. Strategic use of trade agreements can provide Indian manufacturers and exporters with greater access to international markets, while helping address tariff disadvantages and create opportunities in high-potential export segments.

Technology, clusters and skills as growth enablers

The report highlights the need to move beyond manufacturing scale alone and focus on productivity, technology and quality. Joint ventures and technology transfer, integrated industrial clusters, testing and certification infrastructure, and industry-oriented skill development have been identified as important interventions.

For the apparel industry, stronger clusters can help create an ecosystem where manufacturers, suppliers, logistics providers, testing facilities and skill institutions operate in greater coordination. Such an approach can improve efficiencies, reduce production costs and enable Indian companies to respond more rapidly to changing global sourcing requirements.

Skill development will also remain critical as the industry adopts newer technologies, sustainable production practices and increasingly sophisticated manufacturing processes. Industry-led training and closer alignment between skilling institutions and the needs of exporters can strengthen India's workforce advantage.

From export strength to global leadership

NITI Aayog's report comes at a time when global apparel sourcing is undergoing significant transformation. Buyers are increasingly looking for competitive manufacturing destinations that can offer scale, quality, reliability, sustainability and diversified supply chains.

India possesses several of these strengths, including a large textile manufacturing base, an extensive workforce, a growing domestic market and capabilities spanning fibre, yarn, fabric and apparel. The challenge is to convert these advantages into a larger share of global trade.

The report's emphasis on raw material availability, infrastructure, technology, skills, clusters and trade integration provides a useful framework for addressing some of these challenges.

For India's apparel exporters, the larger opportunity lies in moving towards higher-value manufacturing, strengthening product diversification, improving productivity and building deeper connections with international brands and markets.

A collaborative manufacturing roadmap

NITI Aayog envisages the report as an instrument to guide selected sectors in strengthening their manufacturing ecosystems through interventions tailored to their specific challenges. The approach places collaboration between government and industry at the centre of India's manufacturing ambitions.

For textiles and apparel, such collaboration can help create the conditions required for sustainable export-led growth. Policy support, industry investment, technology adoption, infrastructure development, skilling and stronger trade partnerships will need to work together to enhance India's competitiveness.

As India seeks to establish itself as a reliable and competitive global manufacturing destination, the textile and apparel sector can play a pivotal role. With the right ecosystem and continued policy-industry collaboration, the sector has the potential not only to expand India's export footprint but also to strengthen the country's position as a preferred global sourcing and manufacturing hub.





DGFT Transfers Interest Subvention Scheme Administration to EXIM Bank

In a move aimed at streamlining the implementation of export credit support, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified the transition of the implementing agency for the Interest Subvention Support Scheme under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – Niryat Protsahan from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). The transition is effective from 1 April 2026.

Under the revised framework, EXIM Bank will now be responsible for operationalising the scheme, including portal management, verification of claims and reimbursement to participating lending institutions. The change is intended to strengthen the administration of the interest subvention programme while ensuring seamless support to eligible exporters.

The Trade Notice clarifies that supplementary claims

pertaining to the January–March 2026 quarter will continue to be processed by the RBI, ensuring a smooth transition without disrupting ongoing settlements.

DGFT has also amended the relevant provisions of the Handbook of Procedures and Appendix-A to substitute EXIM Bank in place of RBI for reimbursement, claim scrutiny and reporting functions. Lending institutions will continue to extend the interest subvention benefit upfront to eligible MSME exporters, while reimbursement claims will now be submitted to EXIM Bank under the revised operational framework.

Importantly, the notification does not alter the scope, eligibility criteria or benefits available under the Interest Subvention Support Scheme. All other operational provisions issued under earlier trade notices remain unchanged, with only the implementing agency being replaced.



DGFT Expands 'Source from India' Platform to Include DPIIT-Recognised Start-ups

In a significant step towards strengthening India's export ecosystem, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has expanded the eligibility criteria for its "Source from India" initiative on the Trade Connect ePlatform to include eligible DPIIT-recognised start-ups. The move is expected to provide innovative Indian enterprises with greater visibility among international buyers and facilitate their integration into global value chains.

Launched as a flagship feature of the Trade Connect ePlatform, "Source from India" serves as a digital marketplace where overseas buyers can discover credible Indian exporters, explore their products and capabilities, and connect directly with suppliers. The platform enables exporters to create dedicated microsites showcasing their products, certifications and business credentials, thereby enhancing their global digital presence.

Under the revised guidelines, eligible DPIIT-recognised start-ups can now create their profiles on the platform and will be identified with a unique Start-up badge, making them easily distinguishable to international buyers. Their onboarding will be carried out after verification of export activity through the DGFT's Import Export Code (IEC) database.

The Trade Notice also introduces a special provision for DPIIT-recognised start-ups that may not fulfil the earlier export performance criteria. Such start-ups will also be permitted to register on the platform, provided they possess a valid IEC and are not included in the Denied Entity List (DEL). This measure is expected to encourage a larger number of emerging exporters to access overseas markets at an early stage of their growth.

Recognising the growing contribution of start-ups to India's export landscape, DGFT noted that greater visibility on an official buyer-discovery platform would help diversify the country's export basket and strengthen India's position as a hub for innovation-led exports. Indian Missions abroad have also been encouraged to use the "Source from India" platform while assisting foreign buyers in identifying reliable Indian suppliers. Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and industry associations have been requested to publicise the initiative and encourage participation by eligible members.

The initiative is particularly relevant for MSMEs and start-ups in sectors such as apparel, textiles and fashion, offering them an opportunity to showcase their capabilities to global buyers through an authenticated government-backed platform. By widening access to the "Source from India" ecosystem, the DGFT aims to foster greater participation of emerging exporters in India's international trade growth story.

SUCCESS STORY

Amrit Exports: Building Global Trust from Kolkata

From a niche workwear business to a vertically integrated textile and garment exporter, Amrit Exports has built its three-decade journey on manufacturing strength, international quality and, above all, trust.



Late Mr. Anand Buchasia



Mr. Anil Buchasia

In an industry shaped by shifting global markets, evolving customer expectations and persistent supply-chain pressures, sustainable growth rarely comes from short-term opportunities alone. For Kolkata-based Amrit Exports Pvt. Ltd., the answer has been consistent investment in manufacturing, long-term customer relationships and a

business philosophy centred on transparency and trust.

Established in **1996** by **Late Mr. Anand Buchasia** and Mr. Anil Buchasia, Amrit Exports began with a focused ambition: to create a manufacturing and export business in the then-niche segment of workwear and industrial garments. Today, under the leadership of **Managing Director Mr. Anil Buchasia**, the company has evolved into a Government of India-recognised export house with an integrated textile and garment manufacturing operation.

The company specialises in **workwear, industrial garments, uniforms and safety wear**, while its portfolio also spans casual wear, men's, women's and children's apparel, T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters and other knitted and woven garments. Its principal international markets are the USA and European Union, building on a longstanding presence in Europe and an established business in the US.

From Opportunity to Enterprise



The origins of Amrit Exports lie in an opportunity that could easily have remained just a consulting assignment.

In the early 1990s, the company's founders, both professionally qualified, Late Mr. Anand Buchasia as a Cost Accountant and Mr. Anil Buchasia as a Chartered Accountant, prepared a detailed report for a European company examining business opportunities

and challenges in India, particularly Kolkata, for industrial garments and workwear.

The European company subsequently offered them an opportunity to become its buying agents in India. But the founders saw a larger possibility. Rather than limiting themselves to an agency role, they chose to build their own manufacturing and export business.

That decision became the foundation of Amrit Exports.

The company commenced exports to European markets in

1998 and crossed **₹10 crore in turnover by 2001**. ISO 9001 certification followed in 2002, while a major expansion in 2006 saw the acquisition of land and development of a garment manufacturing facility of approximately 150,000 sq. ft.

The next phase was about strengthening control over the value chain. In 2017, Amrit established its own fabric knitting unit. A fabric dyeing and processing plant was subsequently established near Kolkata in 2017 on a seven-acre site. The company's manufacturing capabilities have continued to expand, including increased knitting capacity in 2025 and an expansion of dyeing and processing capacity from **12 tonnes per day to approximately 20 tonnes per day in 2026**.



KEY MILESTONES: AMRIT EXPORTS GROWTH JOURNEY

1998



Commenced exports to European markets.

2001



Crossed ₹10 crore in turnover.

2002



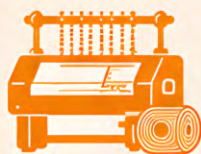
Became an ISO 9001 certified company.

2006



Major capacity expansion through acquisition of its own land and establishment of a garment manufacturing facility with approximately 150,000 sq. ft. of construction.

2007



Set up its own fabric knitting unit, marking an important step towards vertical integration.

2014



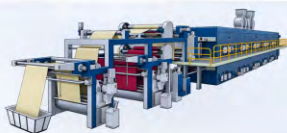
Won a prestigious Switzerland defence tender for the supply of garments. The Company was among the first Asian companies to be selected in a procurement environment that had historically been dominated by European suppliers.

2016



Expanded into the USA market.

2017



Set up a 12-tonnes-per-day capacity fabric dyeing and processing plant near Kolkata on a 7-acre site, providing substantial scope for future expansion.

2025



Expanded its knitting capacity.

2026



Expanded its dyeing and processing capacity from 12 tonnes per day to approximately 20 tonnes per day.



A Defining Global Milestone

Among the company's most significant international milestones came in 2014, when Amrit Exports won a prestigious Switzerland defence tender for the supply of garments.

The achievement carried significance beyond the order itself. The company was among the first Asian companies selected in a procurement environment historically dominated by European suppliers.

For an Indian exporter, it represented an important validation of its ability to meet demanding international requirements for quality, reliability and compliance. Two years later, in 2016, Amrit expanded into the US market, further broadening its global footprint.



Integration as a Competitive Advantage

Today, Amrit Exports' manufacturing ecosystem extends across garment manufacturing, circular knitting, fabric dyeing and processing, embroidery and printing.

Its garment manufacturing facility at Madhyamgram, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, covers approximately 200,000 sq. ft., while its knitting, dyeing and processing facilities are located on an approximately seven-acre site at Jessore Road, Bira, Joypul. The company has a garment manufacturing capacity of around 3,00,000 pieces per month and employs approximately 500 people across its operations.

This vertical integration is central to the company's operating philosophy. By controlling more stages of the production chain internally, Amrit aims to strengthen control over fabric quality, production planning, consistency and delivery schedules while reducing dependence on external suppliers.

The strategy reflects a long-term vision articulated by the company from its early years: to build a vertically integrated textile and garment enterprise from Eastern India, with particular strengths in workwear and technical textiles.



Growth Through Difficult Cycles

Amrit's growth has been achieved against a backdrop of repeated global disruptions. Over nearly three decades, the company has navigated the 2008 global financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical disruptions, supply-chain challenges and more recent uncertainty around US tariffs and international trade.

Yet the company reports that it has achieved strong growth over the past three years while continuing to invest in manufacturing.

The Amrit Group currently has a turnover of approximately ₹300 crore and recorded over 25% growth in FY 2025–26 compared with FY 2024–25. Reflecting its continued commitment to manufacturing-led growth, the Group also has investments of approximately ₹100 crore currently ongoing, aimed at further strengthening its manufacturing capabilities and supporting its long-term expansion plans.

Rather than treating challenging cycles as a reason to pause investment, the company has used them to strengthen its manufacturing foundation. The recent expansion of dyeing and processing capacity to approximately 20 tonnes per day is an example of this approach.



Quality Beyond Inspection

For an exporter serving demanding international markets, quality is not treated simply as a final-stage inspection.

Amrit operates a documented Quality Management System under ISO 9001:2015, with quality checks covering incoming materials, in-process production and final inspection. Customer-specific specifications and destination-market requirements are incorporated into manufacturing and inspection procedures, supported by internal, customer and third-party audits.

The company holds ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, GOTS, GRS and OEKO-TEX certifications, along with Sedex and applicable social-compliance audits.



Its vertically integrated model further supports this quality philosophy by allowing greater control from fabric and processing stages through to finished garments.

Sustainability Embedded in Operations

Sustainability at Amrit is being pursued through both certifications and changes in manufacturing practices.

The company maintains an Environmental Management System aligned with ISO 14001 standards and holds GOTS and GRS certifications. Where applicable, it procures OEKO-TEX-certified fabrics and accessories and encourages the use of recycled polyester fabrics and yarns made from recycled PET bottles in line with customer requirements.

The company has also moved towards alternative fuel usage, including the use of rice husk as boiler fuel instead of coal, while pursuing recycling, responsible material use, textile-recycling initiatives and tree plantation campaigns. Packaging and trim materials such as cardboard and tags are sourced from FSC-certified manufacturers wherever applicable.

The Value of an Industry Voice

For Amrit Exports, membership of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) represents more than participation in an industry body.

The company says it particularly values AEPC's role as a collective voice for apparel exporters before the Government of India. According to the company, the Council provides an important institutional platform for raising operational and policy-related concerns involving areas such as DGFT, Customs, export procedures and ease of doing business.

For exporters operating in competitive global markets, manufacturing capability is only one part of the equation. Trade policy, customs procedures, logistics and regulatory requirements can also directly influence international competitiveness. Industry representation therefore becomes an important component of the larger export ecosystem.

Resilience Built on Trust

Perhaps the strongest thread running through Amrit Exports' journey is its emphasis on trust.

The company identifies transparency, commitment to stakeholders and financial prudence as three principles that have helped it navigate difficult periods. Rather than responding to every disruption with drastic changes, its approach has been to protect relationships, maintain commitments and strengthen the fundamentals of the business.

For Mr. Anil Buchasia, the lesson from three decades in international business is straightforward: authenticity and honesty create trust, and trust creates the foundation for sustainable business relationships.

“Be authentic, be real and be honest. This is how you earn trust,

and when you earn trust, business follows.”

He describes transparency with customers, suppliers, employees and other partners as a longstanding “thumb rule” at Amrit. During difficult periods, the confidence built over years has helped stakeholders stand by the company.

That philosophy is also reflected in the company's leadership principles: long-term customer relationships over short-term transactions, quality before volume, responsible growth, continuous manufacturing investment, employee development, strong compliance and vertical integration.

Looking Ahead

Amrit Exports' next chapter is focused on deepening the capabilities it has built rather than departing from them.

The company plans to strengthen its presence in its core international markets while exploring opportunities in specialised workwear, industrial garments, safety wear, technical textiles and other value-added apparel categories.

Its long-term ambition is to build a comprehensive, vertically integrated textile and garment manufacturing business from Eastern India with a strong international presence. Continued investment in manufacturing, technology, quality and people will remain central to that vision.

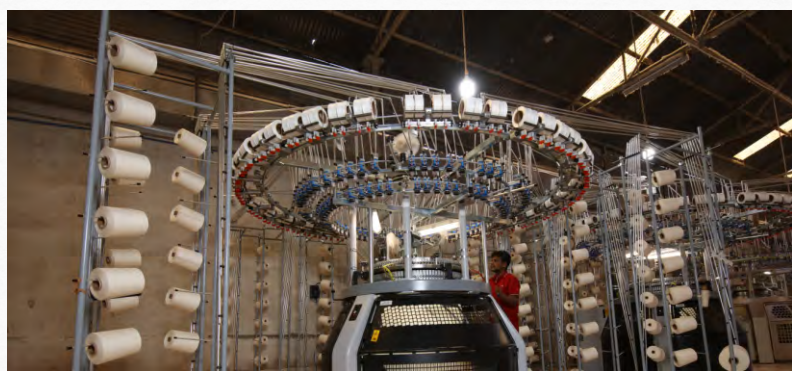
The company is also extending its idea of responsible growth beyond its factories. Through its community initiatives, Amrit supports a nationally accredited CBSE school in Fatehpur, Rajasthan, as well as the development of an educational centre. The first phase is already underway, with approximately 400 students pursuing their education.

A Story of Steady, Sustainable Growth

Amrit Exports' journey from a Kolkata-based entrant in the niche workwear market to an internationally oriented, vertically integrated textile and garment manufacturer offers a distinct lesson for India's apparel export sector.

Its growth has not been built around a single breakthrough order or a short-term market opportunity. Instead, it has been shaped by decades of manufacturing investment, global customer relationships, quality systems, financial discipline and the willingness to strengthen capabilities through difficult cycles.

In a global apparel industry where reliability, compliance and resilience are increasingly important, Amrit's story demonstrates the value of building for the long term, and of making trust itself a competitive advantage.



UPCOMING FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Apparel Export Promotion Council
invites Exporters to participate in the :

1-4/9/2026
CPM
International Fashion Trade Show
Moscow

Collection Premiere Moscow, Moscow, Russia

1st to 4th September, 2026
Crocus Expo Exhibition Centre,
Moscow, Russia

For further details contact, Ms. Neelam Seth, Jt. Director, Export Promotion,
+91 9810505165, nseth@aecindia.com

International Fashion Trade Show Moscow 2026

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) is inviting Indian apparel exporters to participate in the International Fashion Trade Show Moscow, scheduled from September 1 to 4, 2026, at the Crocus Expo Exhibition Centre, Moscow, Russia. The trade show will provide Indian apparel manufacturers and exporters with an opportunity to showcase their latest collections, connect with international buyers and sourcing professionals, explore new business partnerships and strengthen their presence in the Russian and

wider Eurasian markets. Moscow offers an important platform for Indian apparel companies seeking to diversify their export destinations and tap into emerging sourcing opportunities. AEPC is facilitating participation at a revised charge of Rs. 5,10,000 per standard 9 sq. m booth, enabling Indian exporters to present their products to an international audience and expand their global business networks.

4th Saudi Fashion & Tex Expo

Apparel Export Promotion Council
invites Exporters to participate in the :

4th SAUDI FASHION & TEX EXPO
لأزياء والنسيج السعودي

24th to 27th September, 2026
Jeddah International & Convention
Center, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

For further details contact, Ms. Sudha Mol V, Assistant, Export Promotion,
+91 9745036461, sudha.aepc@gmail.com

and other industry stakeholders from Saudi Arabia and the wider region. The event will provide a platform for Indian exporters to showcase their latest collections, build business relationships and explore long-term commercial opportunities in the Gulf market. With Saudi Arabia emerging as an important fashion and retail destination, participation can help Indian companies strengthen their market visibility and understand evolving sourcing and consumer requirements.

International Apparel & Textile Fair, Dubai



AEPC is facilitating the participation of Indian apparel exporters at the International Apparel & Textile Fair, scheduled from November 16 to 18, 2026, at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), Dubai, UAE. The fair will bring together manufacturers, exporters, brands, retailers, designers, sourcing professionals and buyers from regional and international

markets, offering Indian companies a valuable platform to showcase their apparel, fabrics, accessories and textile products. Dubai's position as a major global trading and sourcing hub makes the exhibition particularly relevant for Indian exporters looking to expand their presence in the Middle East and neighbouring markets. Participation will enable exporters to connect directly with potential buyers, explore new business partnerships and diversify their export markets through greater engagement with the Gulf region.

Global Sourcing Expo Australia 2026



AEPC is facilitating the participation of Indian apparel exporters at Global Sourcing Expo Australia, scheduled from November 17 to 19, 2026, at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia. The exhibition will provide Indian manufacturers and exporters with an opportunity to showcase their apparel and textile products to international

buyers, sourcing professionals, retailers and businesses seeking global supply partners. Australia represents a promising market for Indian apparel exporters, offering opportunities for market diversification and stronger trade relationships. Participation in the expo will enable Indian companies to present their product capabilities, develop new buyer relationships and explore opportunities across Australia's apparel and sourcing ecosystem. AEPC is offering revised participation charges with a subsidised cost of Rs. 2,40,000 for a 9 sq. m booth, supporting exporters in accessing international trade platforms and expanding India's apparel export footprint in the Australian market.

Textile Expo Barcelona: Gateway to European Textile Markets



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) is inviting Indian apparel exporters to participate in Textile Expo Barcelona, scheduled from 21 to 23 October 2026 at Fira de Barcelona, Spain. The exhibition will provide exporters with an opportunity to showcase their products, engage with international buyers and explore new business prospects across Spain and the wider European market. Participation in the expo can help Indian companies strengthen their global presence, build new buyer networks and tap into emerging sourcing opportunities in Europe. The revised participation fee is Rs. 2,25,000 per standard 9 sq. m. booth, with participation open until 15 September 2026.

AEPC & Trichirappalli Customs Commissionerate Organise Trade Outreach Programme on AEO and Thunaivan Portal



Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in association with the Trichirappalli Customs Commissionerate, Preventive Zone, successfully organised a Trade Outreach Programme on the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Scheme, the “Thunaivan” Exporters’ Facilitation Portal, and other important trade facilitation initiatives on 19 August 2026 at the Tiruppur Exporters’ Association (TEA) Hall, Tiruppur.



The programme was presided over by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC. The programme was attended by Shri N. Thirukumar, Secretary-TEA & EC Member-AEPC, Shri Vijay Krishna Velan, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Trichy, Shri. B Prakash, IRS, Dy Commissioner, ICD, Tiruppur, along with Executive Committee members of AEPC and TEA and representatives of the apparel export industry.

Shri P. V. N. Suresh Babu, IRS, Chief Commissioner of

Customs, Trichy Customs Preventive Zone, Tiruchirappalli, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He interacted with exporters and explained the various trade facilitation measures being undertaken by Customs to support the exporting community.

In his presidential address, Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, expressed his gratitude to Trichy Customs for their continued cooperation and supportive measures in facilitating the growth of Tiruppur’s apparel exports.

He emphasised the importance of strengthening the partnership between Customs authorities and the textile and apparel industry. He stated, “This interaction is vital for understanding the needs of our exporters and ensuring a smooth operational framework that benefits all parties involved.”

THUNAIVAN was launched by AEPC on 12 June 2025 to provide apparel exporters with a single platform for raising and resolving Customs-related issues.

Strong track record: So far, 731 grievances have been received, of which 493 have been resolved, which is around 70%. The balance are under process and awaiting additional information from exporters. He requested the fellow exporters to provide the required details at the earliest to help us achieve 100% resolution.

I am happy to share that, against total claims of nearly 7 crore, almost 6 crore has already been credited to exporters, which is around 85% of the total claims, within just one year of the launch of the portal.

Dr. Sakthivel also suggested that periodic outreach and interaction meetings should be organised to identify and resolve trade-related issues faced by exporters and to further facilitate the smooth movement of export consignments.

In his address, Shri P. V. N. Suresh Babu, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Trichy Customs Preventive Zone, expressed his pleasure at participating in the programme and thanked Dr. A. Sakthivel for facilitating the interaction between Customs and the apparel exporting community.

He highlighted the collective efforts of AEPC & TEA exporters and various government departments in addressing issues faced by the industry over the years. He noted that the Customs system has evolved considerably from the earlier manual regime, under which exporters faced challenges relating to shipping bills, drawback claims, port procedures and clearances.

He underlined the significant progress made through digitisation and automation, including the introduction of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), electronic processing of drawback claims and integration of various Customs and GST-related systems. These initiatives have substantially improved the speed and transparency of export-related procedures.

Particular appreciation was expressed for the automated grievance-redressal mechanism “THUNAIVAN” Portal developed with the support of AEPC. The system enables exporters to register and track their grievances, facilitating quicker coordination with Customs and port authorities. It was noted that the mechanism has already contributed to the release of pending drawback claims amounting to approximately ₹6 crore.

He assured the exporters that Customs would continue to work closely with the industry to resolve operational difficulties, including initial technical issues arising from the implementation of new systems. He stated that efforts are also being made to strengthen digital integration so that exporters can conveniently track the status of shipping bills, licences, refunds and other transactions through online platforms.

Emphasising the changing role of Customs, he stated that the department is increasingly functioning as a facilitator of international trade, while continuing to discharge its enforcement

He reaffirmed the commitment of Trichy Customs to extending necessary support to exporters in their import and export activities. He also announced that Trichy Customs would organise periodic interaction meetings with exporters to understand their concerns and facilitate timely resolution of issues.

During the programme, Customs officials made detailed presentations on the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Scheme and the “Thunaivan” Exporters’ Facilitation Portal.

The session highlighted the key features, benefits and procedures associated with the AEO Scheme and explained how the “Thunaivan” Portal can assist exporters in accessing Customs-related facilitation and services more efficiently. The officials also interacted with exporters and clarified their queries relating to Customs procedures and trade facilitation measures.

In the Interactive session, the Apparel exporters shared their concerns, DBK issues, operational challenges and expectations from the Customs authorities in addressing emerging trade and logistics-related issues.

The discussions provided an opportunity for exporters and Customs officials to exchange views and identify areas requiring further coordination and support.

The discussions reinforced the importance of close coordination between Customs authorities and the apparel export industry for improving trade facilitation, reducing procedural difficulties and ensuring a more efficient export ecosystem.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri N. Thirukumaran, Secretary, TEA & Executive Committee Member, AEPC.



Independence Day Celebrations at AEPC



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and pride at its office in Gurugram.

The celebrations brought together AEPC officials and employees to commemorate the nation's journey and reaffirm their commitment to India's growth and development.

The celebrations began with a spirited flag march, followed by a rendition of Vande Mataram, as the AEPC team came together to express their pride in the nation and pay tribute to the sacrifices of the freedom fighters.

Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, hoisted the Tricolour at the AEPC office in Gurugram in the presence of officials and employees. The flag hoisting ceremony was followed by the singing of the National Anthem, creating a deeply patriotic atmosphere and reinforcing the values of unity, integrity and national pride.

The celebrations concluded with the distribution of sweets among AEPC officials and employees. The gathering reflected the spirit of unity and patriotism within the AEPC family as the Council joined the nation in celebrating 80 years of Independence.



AEPC Conducts July Edition of “Niryat Samvad” for Apparel Exporters

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) conducted the July edition of its monthly trade policy and regulatory update session, “Niryat Samvad”, on 31 July 2026 through a virtual platform. The initiative is aimed at keeping apparel exporters updated on the latest developments in trade policy, customs procedures, taxation and export-related regulations.

Welcoming the participants, Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, highlighted the importance of exporters staying abreast of evolving trade policies, customs procedures, regulatory requirements and emerging market opportunities. He emphasised that timely awareness of policy changes enables exporters to respond effectively to emerging requirements and ensure smooth compliance.

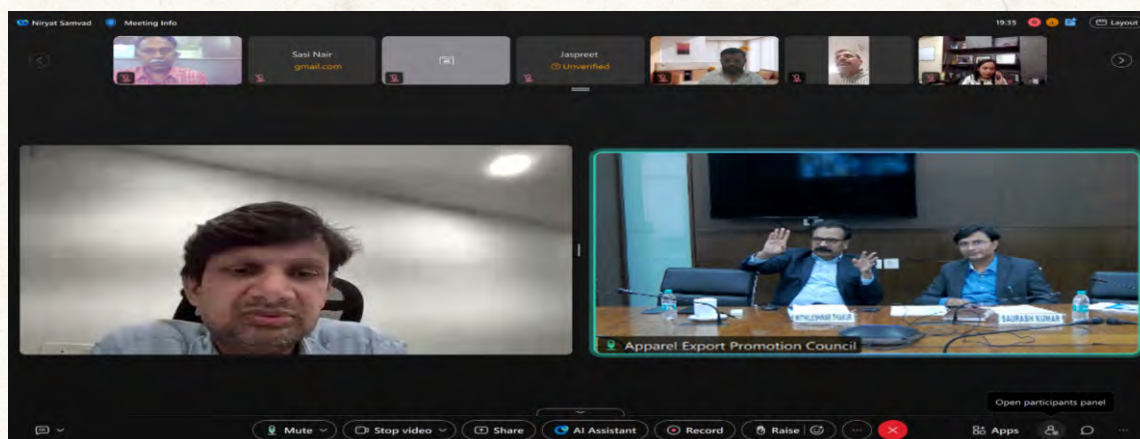
The session provided an overview of key trade policy, customs, GST and export-related notifications issued by various Government departments during June 2026 and up to 20 July 2026. The updates covered important developments relevant to the apparel export sector and

helped participants understand their implications for day-to-day export operations.

The information session was followed by an interactive open house, during which member exporters raised queries and shared concerns relating to trade and regulatory matters. The interaction provided an opportunity for participants to seek clarifications and facilitated effective grievance redressal on issues faced by exporters.

The programme witnessed active participation from apparel exporters across the country. Through “Niryat Samvad”, AEPC continues to provide a regular platform for industry members to stay informed about policy and regulatory developments and engage directly with the Council on matters affecting the export business.

AEPC reaffirmed its commitment to conducting “Niryat Samvad” every month, strengthening its efforts to facilitate compliance, address industry concerns and keep exporters informed about the evolving trade and regulatory landscape.



Strengthening Compliance Readiness for UK and EU Apparel Markets

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with Bureau Veritas, organised a webinar on “TRACE Scheme and Compliance Requirements in the Apparel Export Sector” on August 18, 2026, to help apparel exporters navigate the evolving regulatory and compliance landscape in the UK and European Union markets. The session was attended by more than 150

exporters and provided practical guidance on regulatory requirements, testing, certification and financial support available to eligible exporters.

Shri Rahul Srivastava, Senior Manager, UK and EU Reporting, Bureau Veritas, provided detailed insights into key



UK and EU regulations applicable to apparel products. The session covered requirements related to general product safety, textile labelling, chemical restrictions, UK REACH, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), PFAS, fibre composition, AZO dyes, phthalates, Chromium VI, formaldehyde and nightwear flammability.

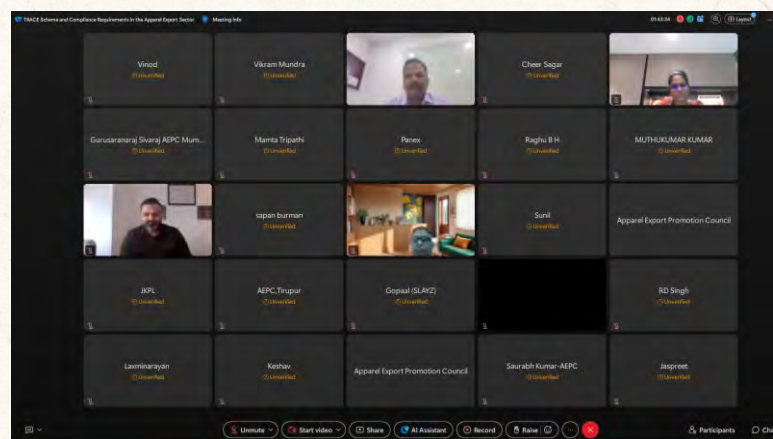
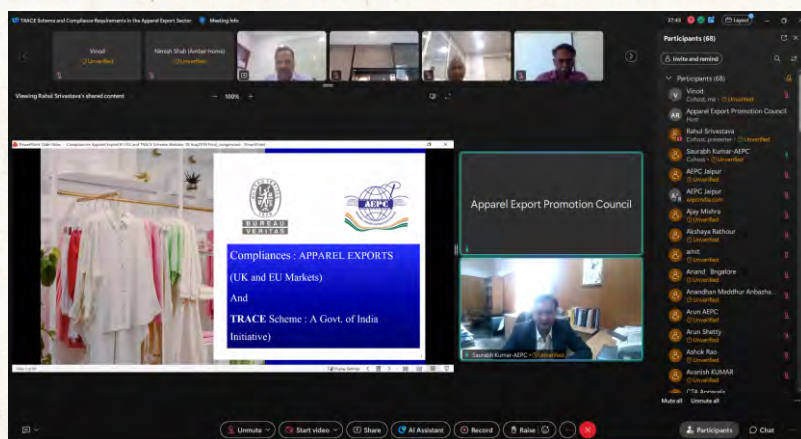
A key focus of the webinar was the TRACE Scheme, a government initiative that provides financial reimbursement to eligible MSME exporters towards testing, certification and other compliance-related activities. Participants were briefed on eligibility criteria, reimbursable expenses, documentation requirements and the reimbursement process, with emphasis on accurate and complete submissions to facilitate timely processing.

Bureau Veritas also highlighted its global services in testing, inspection, certification, sustainability and regulatory

compliance, which can support exporters in meeting market-specific requirements and strengthening their compliance preparedness.

The interactive Q&A session provided exporters an opportunity to seek clarification on audit costs, certification assistance, eligibility requirements and document submission procedures under the TRACE Scheme. AEPC and Bureau Veritas also indicated that further guidance and user-friendly documentation support would be made available to exporters to facilitate compliance and scheme utilisation.

The webinar reinforced the importance of proactive compliance preparedness for apparel exporters seeking to strengthen their presence in the UK and EU markets, while making effective use of available government support mechanisms.



Farewell to Mr. Praveen Kukreja

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) bid a warm farewell to Mr. Praveen Kukreja, Additional Director, R&PA and QRM Department, who retired from the Council on 31 August 2026 upon attaining the age of superannuation.

To honour his 33 years of dedicated service, AEPC organised a farewell celebration attended by Council officials and colleagues. On the occasion, officials expressed their heartfelt appreciation for Mr. Kukreja's valuable contribution and commitment to the Council over the years.

AEPC conveyed its best wishes to him for good health, happiness and a fulfilling new chapter ahead.



ATDC Jaipur Welcomes New Students with a Vibrant Fresher's Party



The celebration featured an exciting Ramp Walk and Talent Hunt, allowing students to express their creativity, individuality and confidence. The enthusiastic participation of the students added energy and excitement to the occasion.

Adding to the celebrations, ATDC Principal Ms. Arti Purohit, along with senior faculty members, presented a special dance performance for the freshers. The performance was warmly received and made the occasion even more enjoyable and memorable for the students.



The event was honoured by the presence of Mrs. Pooja Agarwal, Owner of JUNIPER, a prominent garment brand, as the Chief Guest. With JUNIPER having established a strong retail and distribution presence, including 700+ stores, eight major online platforms and presence across 10,000 MBOs, her interaction with the students offered valuable industry insights and inspiration.

Sharing the story of JUNIPER's growth, Mrs. Agarwal spoke about how the brand began with a team of just two people and has grown into an organisation with around 900 people across sales and operations. Her journey offered the students an inspiring example of entrepreneurship, perseverance and the possibilities available within the apparel and fashion industry.

Mrs. Agarwal interacted with the students, appreciated their enthusiasm and encouraged them to remain committed to learning and developing their skills. She also invited students to consider joining JUNIPER as interns after completing their courses, providing them with an opportunity to gain practical exposure and understand the industry from within.

A special highlight of the event was the crowning of Mr. Fresher and Ms. Fresher by Mrs. Agarwal. The recognition added to the excitement and gave the winners a memorable start to their journey at ATDC.

The Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC), Jaipur, organised a vibrant and memorable Fresher's Party on August 7 to warmly welcome its new batch of students and celebrate the beginning of their academic journey. The event was attended by 127 students and provided a lively platform for the freshers to interact with their seniors, showcase their talents and build confidence.

The Fresher's Party successfully combined fun, creativity and industry interaction, giving students an opportunity to showcase their talents while connecting with their peers, seniors and faculty. More importantly, the event helped create a positive and welcoming environment for the new students as they embarked on their journey of learning and professional growth in the apparel and fashion industry.

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Review Meeting on RoSCTL Rates

The Ministry of Textiles has initiated a comprehensive review of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme to assess its effectiveness and ensure continued support for India's apparel and textile exporters. An Internal Committee comprising senior officials of the Ministry of Textiles and representatives from leading Textile Export Promotion Councils and industry bodies has been constituted for the review. The first meeting of the Committee was held on August 3, 2026, under the chairpersonship of Ms. Shubhra, Principal Adviser, Ministry of Textiles. Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, and Shri

Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC and Member Secretary of the Internal Committee for Review of RoSCTL Rates, participated in the meeting. The review assumes significance as RoSCTL remains an important export support mechanism for the apparel sector, helping exporters offset embedded state and central taxes and levies and strengthen their competitiveness in international markets. The Committee is expected to examine industry requirements and relevant RoSCTL rates to ensure that the scheme remains aligned with the evolving needs of exporters.



India Textile Immersion Centre Proposed for Global Markets



The Ministry of Textiles convened a meeting on August 13, 2026, to discuss the proposal for establishing India Textile Immersion Centres (ITIC) in key international markets, including Milan and Tokyo through AEPC and New York through TEXPROCIL. The meeting was

held in hybrid mode under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Textiles, with Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, representing the Council. Shri N. Thirukkumaran, EC Member, AEPC, made a presentation on the proposed ITIC, outlining its objectives and potential to strengthen India's textile and apparel exports in the European market. The proposed centres are envisioned as platforms to enhance India's global textile presence, facilitate greater market engagement and showcase the country's capabilities across textiles and apparel. The presentation was followed by detailed discussions on the issues raised, with Shri Mithileshwar Thakur taking up the trade-related matters with the Secretary, Textiles. The initiative marks an important step towards creating stronger international market linkages and positioning India as a reliable and competitive sourcing destination for global buyers.

AEPC Webinar Explores AI Driven Smart Manufacturing



AEPC, in collaboration with Athena Infonomics, organised a webinar on August 13, 2026, on "Use of AI Smart Manufacturing: Transforming the Apparel Export Industry", bringing together apparel exporters to explore the growing role of artificial intelligence in manufacturing. In his opening remarks, Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, highlighted the importance of adopting AI to enhance competitiveness, productivity and sustainability across the apparel sector. Experts from Athena Infonomics presented practical applications of AI in smart manufacturing, with discussions covering areas such as quality control, predictive maintenance and supply chain optimisation. The session provided exporters with insights into how emerging technologies can be integrated into manufacturing processes to improve operational efficiency, reduce disruptions and support data-driven decision-making. The webinar concluded with an interactive question and answer session and witnessed participation from more than 150 exporters, reflecting the industry's growing interest in technology-led transformation and the adoption of smarter manufacturing practices.



AEPC & Tuticorin Customs Commissionerate Organise "eBRC Mela and Trade Outreach Programme on Trade Facilitation Measures" with Tuticorin Customs at Tiruppur

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in association with the Tuticorin Customs Commissionerate, organised an "eBRC Mela and Trade Outreach Programme on Trade Facilitation Measures" on 21st August 2026 at the Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) Hall, Tiruppur.

The programme focused on various Customs-related trade facilitation measures and procedures, including Self Clearance, Direct Port Delivery (DPD), Direct Port Entry (DPE), and the Deferred Payment Scheme for eligible Manufacturer Importers. The programme also provided an opportunity for apparel exporters to interact directly with senior Customs officials and seek clarification on operational issues.



The programme was presided over by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC. The programme was attended by Shri. R. Rajkumar, Southern Region Incharge-AEPC & Vice president-TEA, Shri. Shri. Kathirvel, Deputy Commissioner, Tuticorin along with Executive Committee members of AEPC and TEA and representatives of the apparel export industry.

Shri Devendra V. Nagvenkar, IRS, Principal Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He interacted with the exporters and explained the various trade facilitation initiatives being undertaken by Customs to facilitate international trade and improve the ease of doing business for exporters.

In his presidential address, Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, expressed his appreciation to the Tuticorin Customs Commissionerate for organising the eBRC Mela at Tiruppur and for its continued support to the apparel export industry.

The Commissioner's visit provided an important opportunity for local exporters to directly present their grievances and clarify their doubts. Around 30 exporters participated in the Mela and submitted the required supporting documents to the Customs officials.



Dr. Sakthivel appreciated the friendly and supportive approach of the Tuticorin Customs officials and stated that the interaction had strengthened exporters' confidence in approaching the department for assistance in the future. He has also appreciated the Commissioner's positive approach and willingness to support exporters.

He highlighted that approximately 60% of Tiruppur's cargo is routed through Tuticorin Port. He also noted that Tuticorin offers a significant logistical advantage, being around five hours from Tiruppur compared with nearly ten hours to Chennai.

The ongoing project to deepen Tuticorin Port to accommodate mother vessels was welcomed as a major infrastructure development. It is expected to help exporters ship goods directly to the USA and Europe, reducing the need to route cargo through Colombo.

Dr. Sakthivel conveyed his sincere thanks to the Principal Commissioner and all the visiting Customs officials for their valuable time, cooperation, and support to the exporters of Tiruppur.

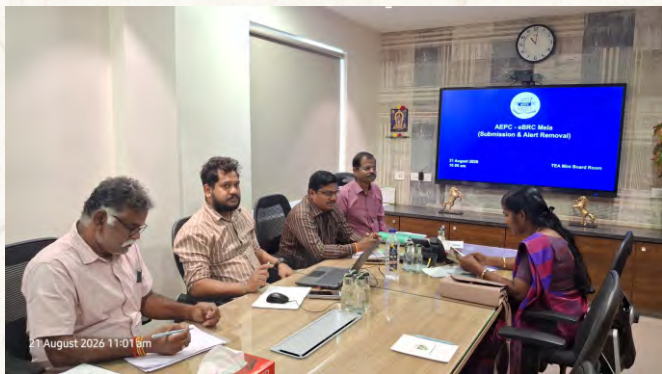
In his address, Shri Devendra V. Nagvenkar, IRS, Principal Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin, expressed his appreciation for the programme and thanked Dr. A. Sakthivel for facilitating direct interaction between Customs authorities and the apparel exporting community.

He highlighted the Customs Department's efforts to improve trade facilitation and address exporters' concerns. Recognizing Tiruppur as the knitwear capital of India, he praised the region as a world-class manufacturing hub after

visiting Netaji Park and observing export cargo handling at the CFS in Tuticorin. after visiting Netaji Apparel Park, appreciated its world-class manufacturing capabilities and contribution to exports and foreign exchange earnings. He also appreciated the efforts and planning involved throughout the manufacturing and export process. He said that he had visited Tiruppur to interact directly with exporters and understand their practical concerns. Referring to the pending Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC) issues, he said the interaction was intended to jointly understand and resolve the concerns, with unresolved matters to be taken up for further examination.



He acknowledged the hard work, meticulous planning and operational challenges faced by exporters, emphasizing the apparel industry's significant contribution to foreign exchange earnings.



Regarding the unresolved issue of Bank Realisation Certificates (BRCs) raised during the first PTFC hearing, he stressed the need for a joint effort to find a solution. He also assured exporters of direct access to the Customs authorities to raise and resolve logistical issues at Tuticorin Port. He concluded by inviting suggestions and requests from exporters, reaffirming the Customs Department's commitment to supporting the exporting community.

During the programme, Shri Kathirvel, Deputy Commissioner, Tuticorin Customs, made a detailed presentation on Customs procedures and various trade facilitation measures available to exporters.

The presentation covered important aspects and procedures relating to: Self Clearance, Direct Port Delivery (DPD), Direct Port Entry (DPE), Deferred Payment Scheme for eligible Manufacturer Importers, eBRC-related procedures and issues, Other Customs trade facilitation initiatives.

The Customs officials subsequently interacted with the exporters and clarified their queries relating to Customs procedures, documentation and trade facilitation measures.

An Open House grievance redressal session was also conducted as part of the programme. Apparel exporters actively participated and raised various issues affecting the export trade and logistics operations.

The key issues raised by the exporters included, Container shortages, Vessel shortages, Abnormally high freight costs, Unnecessary and old BRC enquiries, Drawback (DBK) and RoSCTL-related issues, EGM and Gateway EGM-related issues, Expectations from Customs authorities in addressing emerging trade-related issues.

The Customs officials heard the concerns raised by the exporters and provided clarifications on the issues discussed. The interaction provided a useful platform for identifying practical difficulties faced by the exporting community and exploring possible solutions.

The eBRC Mela and Trade Outreach Programme on Trade Facilitation Measures served as an important platform for strengthening coordination between the Tuticorin Customs Commissionerate and the Tiruppur apparel exporting community.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Shri R. Rajkumar, Southern Region Incharge-AEPC & Vice president-TEA, who expressed his appreciation to the Tuticorin Customs Commissionerate, AEPC, TEA, officials and all participating exporters for their valuable contribution towards the successful conduct of the programme.

Mr. N. Thirukkumaran, General Secretary, TEA, Mr. R. Gopalakrishnan, Treasurer, TEA and Mr. M. Anand, Joint Secretary, TEA and around 50 exporters attended the meeting.





AEPC Urges Government to Regulate 20s Count and Above Cotton Yarn Exports to Stabilise Prices

Seeks urgent intervention of Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and support of Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has urged the Government to consider suitable measures to regulate exports of cotton yarn, particularly 20s count and above, amid a sharp rise in yarn prices and growing cost pressures on India's apparel manufacturing and export sector.



In a letter to Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel highlighted the challenges facing apparel exporters due to rising cotton and yarn prices and sought urgent intervention to ensure adequate availability of yarn at competitive prices. The Council has also sought the intervention and support of Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh.



AEPC noted that limited cotton stocks with ginners, reduced arrivals and increasing dependence of mills on CCI auctions have contributed to supply constraints. A substantial

quantity of cotton has also moved from farmers to traders, contributing to hoarding and speculative activity. Cotton yarn prices have increased by around 60 per cent, from approximately Rs 250 per kg in early 2026 to around Rs 400 per kg currently, adding to the pressure on the apparel manufacturing value chain.

The Council also highlighted increased exports of Indian cotton and cotton yarn to apparel-producing countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, following US restrictions on the use of Chinese cotton under the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA). For Indian apparel exporters, who predominantly source fabric domestically, higher yarn prices are translating into higher fabric and garment manufacturing costs at a time when opportunities are expanding in international markets, including new FTA markets such as the UK and New Zealand.

Prioritising Value-Added Exports

AEPC has emphasised the need to prioritise exports of value-added textile and apparel products over raw materials, given their significantly higher value realisation and employment potential. According to the Council, raw cotton fetches approximately Rs 275 per kg, while cotton converted into yarn fetches around Rs 325 per kg. In comparison, a kilogram of finished garments can generate a value of approximately Rs 800–1,200.

Dr. Sakthivel also recalled the emphasis of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on promoting value-added products such as garments rather than raw materials, considering their greater contribution to domestic value addition and employment generation.

“At this critical juncture, ensuring adequate availability of cotton yarn at competitive prices will help our apparel exporters remain competitive and take full advantage of the emerging opportunities in global markets.”

AEPC has requested the Government to consider suitable measures to regulate exports of cotton yarn, specifically 20s count and above, and stabilise domestic prices so that yarn remains available to apparel manufacturing and exporting units at competitive rates.

The Council expressed confidence that timely Government intervention would provide relief to the apparel export industry, protect India's global competitiveness and support the country's objective of expanding value-added apparel exports.



PM Calls for a People's Movement to Showcase India's Rich Handloom Heritage



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TO THE WORLD



PRESERVING
OUR TRADITIONS



National Handloom Day puts India's timeless weaves in the spotlight, with a renewed focus on artisans, sustainability and global appeal



As India prepares to celebrate National Handloom Day on August 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon citizens to actively showcase the country's rich and diverse handloom traditions and make India's handloom heritage more visible to the world.

In a message posted on social media on August 6, the Prime Minister urged people to share videos featuring their favourite handloom products, including GRWM, or Get Ready With Me, videos, and use #NationalHandloomDay to promote India's handloom diversity.

The appeal comes at a time when traditional Indian textiles are increasingly finding space in contemporary fashion, conscious consumption and global markets. By encouraging citizens, particularly younger consumers, to showcase handloom products on digital platforms, the initiative seeks to take India's textile heritage beyond traditional exhibitions and into everyday fashion and popular culture.

Celebrating a Living Textile Heritage

Observed every year on August 7, National Handloom Day honours the country's handloom weaving community and highlights the sector's contribution to India's socio economic development.

The date has historic significance. August 7 commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, when the promotion of indigenous products and production became an important part of the national movement. The Government designated August 7 as National Handloom Day in 2015, with the first celebrations inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Chennai.

India's handloom sector represents an extraordinary



diversity of regional traditions. From Banarasi and Jamdani to Kanchipuram silk, Sambalpuri Ikat, Paithani, Kani Pashmina, Bawan Buti, Kotpad, Ilkal, Himroo and Risha, each weave carries the history, culture and craftsmanship of the community that created it.

Recent initiatives have also highlighted the breadth of this heritage. The Weaves of India Festival, organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner Handlooms in New Delhi, showcased heritage weaves from across the country. The festival brought together master weavers, designers, collectors, buyers, researchers and the public, while promoting greater appreciation for authentic, artisan led production.

From Tradition to Contemporary Fashion

The Prime Minister's social media appeal reflects an important shift in the way handloom can be promoted. Instead of positioning traditional textiles only as products of heritage or occasion wear, digital campaigns can present them as relevant to everyday wardrobes and contemporary lifestyles.

Social media platforms offer designers, brands, consumers and artisans an opportunity to tell the story behind a handwoven product. The story can include the region it comes from, the technique used, the people who created it and the cultural traditions embedded in its motifs.

The growing popularity of handloom also aligns with the global movement towards more responsible and sustainable fashion. Handloom production supports decentralised artisan communities and helps preserve traditional skills and livelihoods. It also provides opportunities for women and rural communities to participate in the textile economy.

Technology Meets Tradition

While preserving traditional skills remains central to the handloom ecosystem, innovation is increasingly becoming part of its future.

The Handloom Hackathon 2026, organised as part of the National Handloom Day celebrations, brought technology, design, entrepreneurship and sustainability into the handloom sector. The initiative sought technology driven solutions that can strengthen the sector while helping traditional crafts adapt to contemporary challenges.

Such initiatives point towards a future in which India's handloom traditions can retain their authenticity while benefiting from modern design, digital marketing, e commerce, technology and new age consumer engagement.

Taking Indian Weaves to the World

For India's textile and apparel ecosystem, the renewed focus on handloom offers an opportunity to strengthen the country's identity as a source of distinctive, culturally rooted and sustainable textile products.

Events such as Indie Haat 2026, organised around Bharat Tex 2026, have provided platforms to showcase India's handloom and handicraft heritage to international buyers and visitors. Such initiatives can help connect traditional Indian craftsmanship with global markets while supporting the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local.

The challenge and opportunity now lie in translating heritage into contemporary relevance. Better design interventions, branding, quality assurance, market access, digital storytelling and stronger links between artisans and fashion businesses can help Indian handloom move from being merely celebrated to being increasingly consumed and exported.

A New Generation of Handloom Ambassadors

The Prime Minister's call to share handloom videos on social media places consumers at the centre of this effort. A handloom saree, stole, jacket, dress or home textile can become more than a product. It can become a story of Indian craftsmanship shared with millions of people.

As India celebrates National Handloom Day, the message is therefore not only about preserving the past. It is about ensuring that centuries old weaving traditions remain relevant to the present and have a place in the future of Indian and global fashion.

From the loom to the wardrobe, and from India to the world, National Handloom Day offers an opportunity to celebrate the people, skills and stories woven into the fabric of the nation.





Google Celebrates India's 80th Independence Day with Textile-Inspired Doodle

Google marked India's 80th Independence Day with a vibrant Doodle inspired by the country's rich textile traditions, regional craftsmanship and cultural diversity.

Displayed on Google's homepage on August 15, the artwork transforms the familiar Google logo into a colourful textile tapestry, bringing together vivid colours, intricate patterns and traditional motifs representing India's diverse craft heritage. Rather than highlighting a single region or technique, the Doodle brings together multiple traditions to reflect the cultural richness of the country.

According to Google, the 2026 artwork is a modified reissue of the iconic 2023 Independence Day Doodle created by New Delhi-based artist and graphic designer Namrata Kumar. This year's version features an updated, magnified font

layered over digital textile swatches, giving the design a contemporary interpretation.

The textile-inspired artwork also pays tribute to generations of Indian weavers, dyers and printers whose skills and craftsmanship have helped shape the country's cultural identity. By placing textiles at the centre of its Independence Day celebration, Google has highlighted the enduring connection between India's craft traditions, communities and cultural heritage.

Google has previously used its Independence Day Doodles to showcase India's diverse artistic and cultural traditions. The 2025 Doodle celebrated regional ceramic traditions, including Jaipur Blue Pottery and Bengal Terracotta, while the 2024 artwork highlighted local communities and Independence Day celebrations centred around the national flag.



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FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT

Dr. Saurabh Kumar

General Manager, R&PA

E-mail: saurabh.kumar@aepcindia.com

Tel: +91-7891469886

FOCUS COUNTRY UNITED KINGDOM

• Economic Overview:

The United Kingdom is a high-income, advanced and highly diversified economy, with a strong services sector supported by finance, business services, technology, professional services and tourism; it also has established strengths in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, aerospace and advanced industries; economic activity is supported by domestic consumption, services exports and international investment; the UK maintains extensive global trade links and has signed the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which entered into force on 15 July 2026 and is expected to strengthen bilateral trade, reduce tariffs and improve market access; the agreement is expected to support deeper integration between the UK and India and expand opportunities for businesses in both countries.

• Economic Indicators:

ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

Indicators	Value (in USD)
GDP, 2025	4 trillion
GDP per capita, 2025	57,602.00
GDP growth (annual), 2025	1.4%
Inflation, consumer prices (annual), 2025	3.9%

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (accessed August 2026)

• Average Tariff for India:

0% (India-UK CETA)

• Exchange Rate:

EXCHANGE RATE

Indicators	Value (in USD)
Indian Rupees (INR) per British Pound (GBP)	128.34
British Pound (GBP) per US Dollar (USD)	0.74

Source: X-Rates (Monthly average as on 13 August 2026)

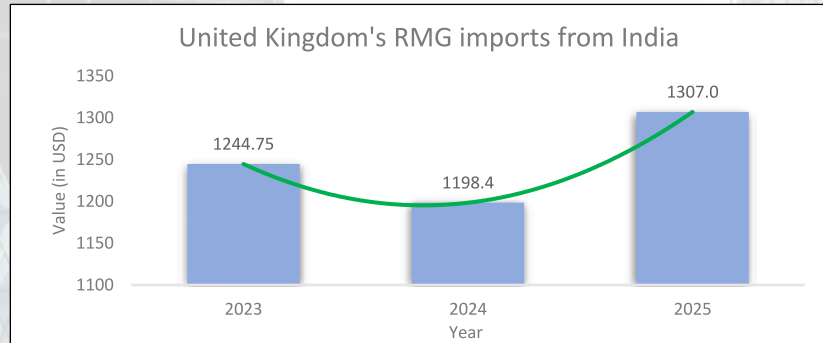


• United Kingdom's RMG Trade

UNITED KINGDOM'S RMG IMPORTS FROM WORLD AND INDIA (IN USD MN.)

Year	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2025 over 2024
UK's RMG imports from World	20271.4	19657.1	21307.7	8.4
UK's RMG imports from India	1244.8	1198.4	1307.0	9.1
India's Share in UK's total RMG imports from World, %	6.14	6.10	6.13	

Source: UN Comtrade, 2026



Source: UN Comtrade, 2026

The above table and graph depict the trend in the United Kingdom's RMG imports from the World and India during 2023-2025. The UK's total RMG imports from the World declined from USD 20,271.4 million in 2023 to USD 19,657.1 million in 2024, before increasing to USD 21,307.7 million in 2025, registering a growth of 8.4% over 2024. India's RMG exports to the UK also showed a positive trend, rising from USD 1,198.4 million in 2024 to USD 1,307.0 million in 2025, recording a growth of 9.1%. The graph further illustrates the recovery and increase in the UK's RMG imports from India in 2025. India's share in the UK's total RMG imports from the World stood at approximately 6.1% in 2025, indicating a significant presence and continued opportunities for Indian apparel exports in the UK market.

• Top RMG Suppliers to United Kingdom :

The United Kingdom's RMG import market is dominated by Asian suppliers, with China maintaining its position as the largest supplier in 2025 with a market share of 25.0%. Bangladesh was the second-largest supplier with a 22.2% share, followed by Turkey with 7.1%. India ranked as the 4th largest supplier of RMG to the UK, with exports valued at USD 1,307.0 million, accounting for 6.1% of the UK's total RMG imports in 2025. Cambodia, Vietnam and Pakistan were other major suppliers, with market shares of 6.0%, 5.4% and 5.0%, respectively.

TOP 10 RMG SUPPLIERS TO UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA'S POSITION

Position	Countries	Imported value in 2025 (in USD Mn.)	% Share
	World	21307.7	100.0
1	China	5324.4	25.0
2	Bangladesh	4738.5	22.2
3	Turkey	1511.9	7.1
4	India	1307.0	6.1
5	Cambodia	1275.3	6.0
6	Vietnam	1150.2	5.4
7	Pakistan	1058.4	5.0
8	Italy	980.1	4.6
9	Sri Lanka	637.6	3.0
10	Portugal	354.4	1.7

Source: UN Comtrade, 2026

• **United Kingdom's top 10 RMG Products Import from World vs India's share:**

TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY UNITED KINGDOM 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	21307.7	1307.0	6.1
		Sum of Top 10	8622.1	293.8	3.4
1	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	1612.3	145.6	9.0
2	611030	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	1412.8	7.6	0.5
3	611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	1271.1	45.1	3.5
4	620462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, panties and swimwear)	727.2	44.7	6.1
5	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, underpants and swimwear)	725.7	44.7	6.1
6	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	716.3	14.9	2.1
7	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)	579.6	2.3	0.4
8	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)	566.5	2.9	0.5
9	610463	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted (excl. panties and swimwear)	511.1	4.1	0.8
10	620343	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted, underpants and swimwear)	499.7	5.5	1.1

Source: UN Comtrade, 2026



The above table shows the top 10 RMG products imported by the United Kingdom 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 8,622.1 million, while imports of these products from India amounted to USD 293.8 million. India accounted for an overall 3.4% share in the UK's imports of the top 10 RMG products.

The major products imported by the UK from the World

include (i) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; (ii) Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted; and (iii) Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted. Among these, India had its highest share in cotton T-shirts, singlets and other vests at 9.0%, followed by women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton at 6.1%.

• United Kingdom's Top 10 RMG products import from India:

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

S.No.	HS Code	Product label	Export from India, 2025	% Share in 2025
		Total RMG	1307.0	100.0
		Sum of Top 10	675.5	51.7
1	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	145.6	11.1
2	611120	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. hats)	108.1	8.3
3	620442	Women's or girls' dresses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	87.6	6.7
4	620630	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and vests)	76.3	5.8
5	620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	52.6	4.0
6	620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other vests)	47.4	3.6
7	611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	45.1	3.4
8	620462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, panties and swimwear)	44.7	3.4
9	620640	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and vests)	34.1	2.6
10	610831	Women's or girls' nightdresses and pyjamas of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. T-shirts, vests and negligés)	34.0	2.6

Source: UN Comtrade, 2026

The above table shows the top 10 RMG products imported by the United Kingdom from India and India's share in the UK's total RMG imports in 2025. India's total RMG exports to the UK stood at USD 1,307.0 million, while the top 10 RMG products accounted for USD 675.5 million, representing 51.7% of India's total RMG exports to the UK.

The major products exported by India to the UK include (i) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted,

valued at USD 145.6 million and accounting for 11.1% of India's total RMG exports to the UK; (ii) babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, valued at USD 108.1 million with an 8.3% share; and (iii) women's or girls' dresses of cotton, valued at USD 87.6 million with a 6.7% share. Other important products include women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton, women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres, and men's or boys' shirts of cotton.

Retail Inflation Rises to 4.45% in July as Food Prices Add Pressure



India's retail inflation edged up to 4.45% in July 2026, from 4.38% in June, marking the second consecutive month in which consumer price inflation remained above the Reserve Bank of India's 4% medium-term target. The increase was driven primarily by higher food prices, according to data released by the National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Food inflation, measured by the Consumer Food Price Index, rose to 5.52% in July from 5.32% in June. Rural food inflation stood at 5.79%, while urban food inflation was 5.05%. Overall retail inflation was also higher in rural India at 4.84%, compared with 3.96% in urban areas.

The July reading is based on the new Consumer Price Index series with 2024 as the base year. Retail inflation has risen steadily from 2.75% in January to 4.45% in July, reflecting a gradual rebuilding of price pressures after inflation had moderated sharply earlier in the year.

Food remains the key pressure point

The latest data indicates that food prices remain the principal source of inflationary pressure. Prices of several kitchen staples, including onions and ginger, contributed to the increase, while uneven rainfall and changing agricultural supply conditions have added to concerns around food availability and prices.

The inflation trajectory will also depend on the progress of the monsoon, global commodity prices and the extent to which higher input costs are passed through to consumers. Economists have pointed to potential upside risks from food, edible oil and transport costs in the months ahead.

Despite the July increase, headline inflation remains within the RBI's 2% to 6% tolerance band. Core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, has remained comparatively contained, giving policymakers some room to assess whether the recent rise represents a temporary food-led movement or the beginning of broader price pressures.

Implications for the apparel industry

For the apparel sector, the inflation trend is important not only from the perspective of domestic consumption but also because sustained cost pressures can influence the broader manufacturing and export environment. Higher food prices can affect household budgets and discretionary spending, while increases in transportation, energy and other operating costs can add pressure across manufacturing and supply chains. For apparel exporters, the impact of inflation needs to be viewed alongside global demand, raw material prices, freight costs, exchange rate movements and wage costs. A sustained increase in domestic input costs could put pressure on margins if exporters are unable to pass higher costs through to international buyers.

At the same time, India's relatively moderate headline inflation compared with periods of significantly higher price pressure provides a degree of macroeconomic stability for businesses planning production and investment. The key for the apparel industry will be whether inflation remains concentrated in food or begins to broaden across non-food categories and production costs.

Policy outlook

The July inflation data is unlikely, by itself, to trigger an immediate change in monetary policy, with analysts noting that the rise has largely been food-led and core inflation remains relatively contained. However, continued increases in food and other input prices could make the inflation outlook more challenging in the coming months.

For policymakers and industry, the focus will therefore remain on the durability of food price pressures, monsoon developments and global commodity trends. For India's apparel exporters, maintaining cost competitiveness while improving productivity, supply chain efficiency and value addition will remain critical as the domestic and global economic environment evolves.

Handloom Haat Reimagined as India's Handloom Experience Centre



Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated the re-envisioned Handloom Haat: The Handloom Experience Centre at Janpath, New Delhi, on 14 August 2026, marking a significant step towards creating a distinctive public destination for experiencing, understanding and engaging with India's rich handloom heritage.

The transformed Handloom Haat brings together heritage, knowledge, contemporary design, enterprise and retail under one roof, offering visitors an opportunity to discover the stories, techniques, materials and communities behind India's handwoven textiles while experiencing their contemporary relevance.

Connecting Heritage with Contemporary Design

Envisioned as a showcase of India's vibrant handloom ecosystem, the Handloom Experience Centre goes beyond the conventional retail format. It provides a platform where traditional knowledge can be preserved, interpreted and experienced, while also creating opportunities for weavers, designers and handloom enterprises to reach new audiences.

The inaugural showcase features 24 award-winning weavers through an exhibition organised by the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), alongside more than 30 curated brands participating through the fifth edition of Weave The Future.

Weave The Future 5.0, showcased across the ground and first floors, brings together weavers, designers, brands, researchers and other stakeholders to explore sustainable, circular and craft-led approaches to textiles. The showcase highlights contemporary products developed using handloom and regenerative materials, with particular emphasis on indigenous fibres, material innovation and responsible textile practices.

Installations exploring India's indigenous fibre landscape also highlight the close relationship between geography, agriculture,



ecology and textile production.

A Journey Across India's Handloom Traditions

The three-floor centre offers visitors a multi-layered experience of India's handloom traditions.

The ground floor hosts the temporary exhibition “Reimagining Odisha Weaves – Cloth | Craft | Creativity | Community” by Vriksh Designs. The exhibition demonstrates how contemporary design can help revitalise regional textile traditions through collaboration between designers and master weavers.

It showcases the revival of lesser-known Odisha traditions, including Ganjam Bomkai and Dhalapathar Tapestry, alongside innovations in Ikat, Jaala and Phoda weaving. New colourways, textures, motifs, natural dyes and product forms further demonstrate the possibilities of combining traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design.

The first floor is home to the Visvakarma Gallery, a permanent gallery featuring rare textiles from the landmark Visvakarma exhibition series held between 1981 and 1991. Developed through Weavers' Service Centres in collaboration with weaving communities, these textiles represent the coming together of technical expertise, creative imagination and contemporary inquiry in post-Independence India.

The gallery also pays tribute to Sant Kabir Award and Padma Shri awardees, recognising practitioners whose exceptional contributions have strengthened the practice, understanding and visibility of Indian handlooms.

The second floor features a Design Conclave and immersive experience, taking visitors on a visual and sensory journey inspired by India's forests and the rich repertoire of animal, bird, floral and natural motifs found across the country's diverse handloom traditions.

Strengthening Market Access for Weavers

The re-envisioned Handloom Haat seeks to strengthen the visibility and market presence of Indian handlooms while creating greater opportunities for weavers, designers and handloom enterprises.

By integrating exhibitions, knowledge, design, retail and public engagement, the centre aims to bring India's handloom communities closer to contemporary consumers. Visitors can not only purchase handloom products but also understand the

craftsmanship, cultural traditions and sustainable practices that give each textile its distinctive identity.

The Handloom Experience Centre thus represents a shift from viewing handloom merely as a product to experiencing it as a living ecosystem of people, skills, materials, culture and innovation.

With its focus on Handloom Excellence, Experience and Enterprise, Handloom Haat at Janpath is poised to become an important destination for India's textile heritage, providing a platform where traditional craftsmanship can meet contemporary design and evolving consumer aspirations.

The inauguration marks the beginning of a new chapter for Handloom Haat, positioning it as a space where India's living textile heritage can be seen, understood, experienced and carried forward to future generations.





Srijan: Voices from the Loom Celebrates the Women Weaving India's Heritage

More than 100 women weavers from six handloom clusters come together to share stories of resilience, creativity and tradition

The rhythmic sound of the loom has long been woven into the cultural fabric of India. Yet, behind every intricate weave are the hands, stories and dreams of the artisans who keep these traditions alive. Bringing these women and their voices to the forefront, the Ministry of Textiles organised 'Srijan: Voices from the Loom', a special gathering celebrating the journeys and contributions of India's women weavers.



Organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the programme was held on 13 August 2026 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. It brought together

more than 100 women weavers representing six handloom clusters from across the country, creating a unique platform for them to share their lived experiences, challenges, creativity and aspirations.

The event went beyond celebrating craftsmanship. It placed the women behind the loom at the centre of India's handloom story, recognising their role as custodians of traditional knowledge and skills passed down through generations. Their journeys reflected resilience in the face of challenges, ingenuity in adapting to changing times and an enduring commitment to preserving India's diverse weaving heritage.

A key highlight of the programme was the release of an anthology featuring the stories and voices of the participating women weavers. The publication brings together their personal journeys and experiences, offering readers a glimpse into the lives behind India's handloom traditions. By documenting these narratives, the initiative has helped take their voices beyond the weaving clusters and into a wider national conversation.

The programme was graced by Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Textiles, and Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms). Ms. Kanta Singh, Deputy Country Representative, UN Women India, joined the programme as the Guest of Honour.

The gathering highlighted an important dimension of India's handloom ecosystem: the central role played by women not only in weaving and preserving traditional crafts, but also in sustaining families, communities and local economies. Their contribution is deeply intertwined with the continuity of India's textile heritage.

Srijan: Voices from the Loom served as a celebration of these women and an acknowledgement of the stories that are often left behind the finished textile. Each narrative brought to life the determination, imagination and pride that go into creating India's handloom products.

For the handloom sector, the initiative was more than an event. It was a reminder that India's textile heritage is not preserved merely in museums or archives, but lives on through the skilled hands and voices of its artisans. By giving women weavers a platform to tell their own stories, Srijan reinforced the idea that the future of India's handloom tradition lies in recognising, empowering and celebrating the people who continue to weave it—one thread at a time.



Design and Market Access Key to Boosting Handloom Incomes

National Handloom Designers' Conclave highlights the role of innovation, market access and design in strengthening the handloom sector

The need for Indian weavers and designers to respond to evolving consumer preferences and changing market trends was highlighted at the inaugural session of the National Handloom Designers' Conclave in New Delhi.



Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles, Neelam Shami Rao, said that weavers and designers should closely understand changing market requirements and develop products that can help expand their market reach and increase their incomes.

Addressing the conclave, the Secretary emphasised the crucial role of design in strengthening the handloom sector. She noted that improving product designs in line with

contemporary preferences can help weavers enhance the appeal of their products, expand sales and create greater value in the marketplace.

The Secretary also commended weavers and designers from across the country for their excellence and contribution to India's rich handloom tradition. The conclave brought together artisans, designers and other stakeholders, providing a platform to showcase innovative handloom products while facilitating greater access to markets.

The event underlined the importance of combining India's traditional weaving heritage with contemporary design approaches to make handloom products more relevant to today's consumers. Greater collaboration between weavers and designers can help create products that retain their traditional identity while meeting evolving market expectations.

On the occasion, the Textiles Secretary also felicitated the winner of the National Handloom Design Contest, recognising excellence and creativity in handloom design.

The National Handloom Designers' Conclave thus reinforced the growing importance of design, innovation and market connectivity in ensuring that India's handloom sector remains competitive while enabling its skilled weaver community to secure better economic opportunities.



Handloom Sector Poised for Transformation Through Technology, Design and Industry Linkages



The handloom sector is at a critical juncture where tradition must converge with technology, contemporary design and market intelligence to create sustainable livelihoods and unlock new growth opportunities for weavers and artisans. Emphasising this need, Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh has called for a comprehensive transformation of the sector, with a sharper focus on innovation, market-driven products and stronger industry linkages.

Addressing the first Annual Conclave of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology, SUTRA 2026, in New

Delhi, the Minister said handloom, which had once emerged as a powerful symbol of resistance during the freedom movement, must now evolve into an instrument of economic empowerment for millions of artisans and weavers.

He urged students and young professionals entering the handloom ecosystem to understand market requirements before developing products. According to the Minister, design interventions must be guided not only by creativity and tradition but also by consumer preferences, commercial viability and emerging market opportunities.

From Tradition to Market-Ready Products

The Minister highlighted the importance of upgrading handloom products through contemporary designs and modern technologies while retaining their traditional identity. A stronger understanding of domestic and international markets, he said, can help handloom producers develop products that command greater value and open new avenues for income generation.

The focus on market-oriented design assumes particular significance as consumers increasingly seek products that combine authenticity, craftsmanship, sustainability and contemporary aesthetics. By responding to these trends, the handloom sector can position itself more effectively in premium and niche markets.

Shri Singh also called for handloom to be developed as a niche, high-value segment, with greater emphasis on Geographical Indication, or GI-tagged products. Such positioning can strengthen the identity of traditional Indian crafts, enhance their market value and create stronger linkages between regional craftsmanship and global consumers.

Technology and Industry Collaboration

Technology and institutional collaboration were identified as important pillars of the sector's transformation. The Minister stressed the need for stronger linkages between handloom institutions, industry and academia to encourage research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The exchange of Memoranda of Understanding at SUTRA 2026 marked an important step in this direction. MoUs were exchanged with Grasim Industries Limited, Indian Institute of Management, Sambalpur and Northern India Textile Research Association, NITRA. The collaborations are aimed at strengthening research and innovation, entrepreneurship, faculty development, internships and institutional capacity

building across the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology ecosystem.

Such partnerships can help bridge the gap between classroom learning, technological research and industry requirements. They can also provide students with greater exposure to real-world challenges and opportunities across the textile and handloom value chain.

Encouraging the Next Generation

The Minister encouraged students of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology to look beyond conventional career pathways and consider entrepreneurship as an avenue for creating employment and building enterprises around India's rich handloom heritage.

The message is particularly relevant at a time when the textile and apparel industry is witnessing rapid changes in technology, consumer behaviour and global sourcing patterns. Young professionals equipped with technical knowledge, design capabilities and an understanding of markets can play an important role in creating new business models for the handloom sector.

The Minister also visited the exhibition organised during the conclave and interacted with students, providing an opportunity to view their innovations and understand their perspectives on the future of handloom.

Building a New Future for Handloom

The transformation envisioned for the handloom sector is not about replacing tradition with technology. Rather, it is about using technology, design, research and industry partnerships to enhance the value of traditional craftsmanship.

With stronger industry-academia collaboration, market-responsive design and a renewed focus on premium, sustainable and GI-tagged products, Indian handloom has the potential to move beyond being viewed solely as a heritage sector and emerge as a competitive, high-value segment of India's broader textile economy.

For India's weavers and artisans, this transition can translate into better market access, higher value realisation and more sustainable livelihoods. For the next generation, it can create opportunities to build enterprises that connect India's centuries-old textile traditions with the demands of modern consumers.



Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh Visits NIFT Mumbai, Highlights Innovation, Sustainability and Global Opportunities



Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh visited the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Mumbai, where he interacted with students and highlighted the growing opportunities for India's textile and fashion industry in global markets. He was accompanied by Development Commissioner (Handlooms) Dr. M. Beena and Textile Commissioner of India Vrunda Manohar Desai.

The interactive session with NIFT Mumbai students focused on the role of young designers in strengthening India's textile ecosystem and enhancing the country's global competitiveness. The Minister encouraged students to contribute to employment generation, foreign exchange earnings and exports, while drawing on India's rich textile and handloom heritage.

Shri Singh stressed the importance of preserving traditional knowledge while creating contemporary opportunities for artisans and weavers. He called upon students to combine India's strong craft and design traditions with innovation and emerging technologies.

Sustainability and material innovation also featured prominently in the discussion. The Minister highlighted the potential of natural and composite fibres and urged young designers to explore solutions that can support a more sustainable textile industry. He also pointed to the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and 3D printing across the textile and fashion value chain.

Emphasising the need to bridge creativity with commercial and industry awareness, Shri Singh encouraged students to develop skills that would enable them to compete effectively in

international markets. The interaction provided students with insights into evolving industry trends, government priorities and emerging opportunities in the textile and fashion sectors.

Welcoming the Minister, NIFT Mumbai Director Prof. Dr. Ajit Kumar Khare underlined the importance of direct engagement between students and policymakers. Such interactions, he noted, help young designers better understand industry developments, government initiatives and the opportunities emerging across the sector.

Strengthening Support for Handloom Artisans

A key highlight of the visit was the inauguration of the new facility of the Bunakar Seva Kendra (Weavers' Service Centre), Mumbai, located within the NIFT Mumbai campus at Kharghar.

The facility was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. M. Beena, Vrunda Manohar Desai, senior government officials and other stakeholders. The new centre is aimed at strengthening institutional support and services for India's handloom and weaving community.

The co-location of the Weavers' Service Centre within the NIFT campus also creates opportunities for greater interaction between traditional weaving communities and the country's emerging design talent. Such collaboration can help connect traditional skills and heritage with contemporary design, technology and market requirements.

The visit underlined the Ministry of Textiles' broader focus on building a globally competitive textile ecosystem—one that combines India's heritage and craftsmanship with sustainability, technology, innovation and market-oriented design.





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GST & Customs: Key Compliance Updates for Exporters

India's GST and customs framework continued to evolve in June and July 2026, with strong revenue collections accompanied by several measures aimed at improving compliance, digitising processes and easing trade procedures.

GST collections remain robust

Gross GST collections rose 13.9% year-on-year to ₹1.94 lakh crore in June 2026, supported by higher domestic transaction revenues. Collections increased further in July, rising 15.4% to ₹2.11 lakh crore, compared with ₹1.83 lakh crore in July 2025. July collections included ₹39,835 crore in CGST, ₹47,881 crore in SGST and ₹1.23 lakh crore in IGST.

GSTN strengthens digital compliance

GSTN revised the timeline for amendment of Aggregate Annual Turnover (AATO) for FY 2025–26, providing an amendment window from July 1 to July 31, followed by verification by jurisdictional tax officers from August 1 to August 15. Taxpayers were advised to carefully review their pre-filled turnover figures and make corrections within the prescribed period.

GSTN also issued FAQs on the proposed 'Ship-to' GSTIN requirement and voluntary closure of e-Way Bills. However, in a subsequent advisory, GSTN announced that implementation of these proposed e-Way Bill enhancements had been kept on hold until further notice. Stakeholders were advised not to make changes in their production systems until further communication.

Faster digital refunds for courier imports

In a significant customs facilitation measure, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) introduced an automated refund mechanism for courier imports through the Express Cargo Clearance System (ECCS).

Under Circular No. 34/2026-Customs dated July 30, 2026, authorised couriers can electronically file refund claims along with supporting documents. The system generates a Refund Request Number (RRN) for online tracking, while deficiencies and refund orders will be communicated electronically through the ECCS portal.

As a transition measure, manual and electronic filing will both be permitted until September 30, 2026. Thereafter, manual applications will ordinarily not be accepted. The move is expected to reduce manual interface, improve transparency and enable better tracking of refund claims.

Key judicial developments

The Supreme Court also delivered important rulings on GST. In one case concerning assignment of industrial leasehold rights, the Court allowed the Gujarat High Court's ruling to stand, confirming that GST is not leviable on the assignment or transfer of GIDC industrial leasehold rights. Related 18% GST demands and show-cause notices were quashed.

In another significant judgment, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Section 16(2)(c) of the CGST Act, holding that input tax credit can be denied where the supplier has not actually deposited the tax with the Government. The Court upheld the Gujarat High Court's reasoning and dismissed the petitions challenging the provision.

What it means for exporters

The latest developments underline the Government's broader push towards digital compliance, automated customs processes and greater accountability across the GST ecosystem. For exporters and other businesses, timely monitoring of GSTN and CBIC advisories, accurate transaction reporting and regular updates to accounting, ERP and logistics systems will remain important to ensure smooth compliance and minimise disruptions.

India, SACU Lay Groundwork for Preferential Trade Agreement Talks



India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) have taken a significant step towards strengthening trade ties by signing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for negotiations on a proposed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The agreement sets the framework for formal negotiations aimed at improving market access and creating new trade opportunities between India and the five SACU member states.

The ToR was signed at Vanijya Bhawan,

New Delhi, in the presence of Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, senior Indian government officials and representatives of SACU. The move marks the beginning of negotiations and does not, by itself, introduce any tariff concessions.



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal called for a balanced, fair and equitable agreement that benefits both sides. He urged the negotiating teams to work with urgency towards an early conclusion of the PTA, highlighting the potential of deeper India-Southern Africa economic engagement to diversify markets and strengthen supply chain linkages.

For India's textile and apparel sector, the proposed PTA could open avenues for greater access to Southern African markets. The negotiations come against the backdrop of growing interest in market diversification and the need for exporters to develop new sourcing and destination markets.

India and SACU have identified complementarities across several sectors, including engineering goods and machinery, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture and agri-processing. A preferential trade framework could therefore create opportunities not only for exporters but also for sourcing companies and businesses seeking to integrate more closely with global value chains.

According to Rajesh Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Commerce, the signing represents India's first Terms of Reference with the African region. He also highlighted SACU's

importance as the world's oldest customs union. The proposed PTA will cover eight broad areas: trade in goods and market access, rules of origin and origin procedures, customs procedures and trade facilitation, trade remedies including a bilateral safeguard mechanism, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, dispute settlement, and legal and horizontal provisions.

The rules of origin and customs provisions will be particularly relevant for businesses, as they can determine how preferential treatment is applied and how efficiently goods move across borders. Clear and predictable procedures could help reduce trade frictions and improve the ease of doing business once a final agreement is concluded.

Ndiitah Nghipondoka-Robiati, Executive Director, Ministry of International Relations and Trade, Namibia, described the signing as an important milestone in formalising India-SACU engagement. She emphasised the need for a balanced outcome that takes into account different levels of development among the participating economies, including the interests of Least Developed Countries and Small and Vulnerable Economies within SACU.

Shri Goyal also underlined that India's engagement with Southern Africa extends beyond commercial interests. He pointed to opportunities for cooperation in affordable medicines, IT talent development and integration of SACU economies into global supply chains. He described the relationship as a longstanding partnership based on cooperation and shared interests.

For exporters, the immediate significance of the development lies in the creation of a structured negotiating framework. No tariff has been reduced and no new preferential market access has yet come into effect. Such benefits will depend on the successful conclusion and implementation of the final agreement.

As negotiations move forward, the proposed India-SACU PTA will be closely watched by businesses across sectors, including textiles and apparel. A well-designed agreement could provide Indian exporters with improved market access, greater predictability and opportunities to expand their presence across Southern Africa, while strengthening two-way trade and supply chain integration.

MIT Develops Recyclable Elastic Yarn, Offering New Pathway for Circular Textiles



A new fibre innovation from researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology could offer the apparel industry a promising route to address one of the major challenges in textile circularity: recycling garments that rely on elastic fibres.

MIT engineers have developed an elastic yarn that can be melted and respun into new fibre multiple times, potentially allowing stretch textiles to be recycled without compromising their essential properties. In laboratory tests, the yarn was successfully recycled up to 10 times while retaining its strength and elasticity.

The innovation is particularly significant for apparel because stretch fibres are widely used in products ranging from activewear and sportswear to denim, intimate apparel and everyday clothing. Conventional elastic fibres such as spandex, also known as elastane, can complicate textile recycling because they are difficult to separate from other materials in blended fabrics.

The MIT team developed the new yarn using polyethylene, a thermoplastic material that can be melted and reprocessed. The researchers engineered the material at the fibre level to provide the stretch and strength required for apparel applications while retaining its ability to undergo repeated thermal processing.

The approach could support a shift towards designing textiles with their end of life in mind. Instead of treating garments as products that eventually become waste, recyclable yarns could enable materials to be recovered, reprocessed and incorporated into new textile products.

The researchers demonstrated that the yarn could withstand repeated melt-processing and spinning cycles while maintaining its key mechanical characteristics. The work points towards the possibility of developing textile materials that are compatible with more circular manufacturing systems.

For the apparel industry, the development is relevant beyond fibre technology. Increasing demand for sustainable products is encouraging manufacturers and brands to look at the entire product lifecycle, from raw material selection and production to use, collection and recycling. Designing garments with recyclable components could help reduce the complexity associated with recovering materials at the end of their useful life.

MIT researchers are now looking at further developing the technology for use in knitted and woven textiles and exploring its potential for larger-scale production.

While the innovation remains at the research and development stage and is not yet a commercially available replacement for conventional elastane, it highlights the direction in which textile innovation is moving. Future advances in recyclable stretch fibres could help the apparel sector reduce textile waste while maintaining the performance, comfort and flexibility expected from modern garments.

For an industry increasingly focused on circularity, such innovations underline an important principle: sustainability can begin at the yarn level, with material choices made during product design potentially determining how easily a garment can be recycled at the end of its life.

OEKO-TEX Strengthens Certification Framework as EU Tightens Greenwashing Rules



From sustainability claims to verified evidence

The EU's evolving approach signals a broader transformation in how sustainability is communicated in the apparel sector. Environmental claims can no longer rely solely on marketing language. Companies increasingly need robust documentation and credible third-party verification to support what they communicate to buyers and consumers.

For apparel exporters, this means that sustainability certification is becoming closely linked to compliance and market access. European brands and retailers are likely to place greater emphasis on the credibility of certificates, the independence of certification bodies and the traceability of information supporting environmental claims.

For Indian apparel exporters, the development is particularly relevant given the importance of the European market. Maintaining internationally recognised certifications and ensuring that sustainability claims are supported by verifiable evidence can strengthen buyer confidence and reduce compliance risks.

The changing regulatory landscape also highlights the need for exporters to look beyond finished-product certification. Greater attention is being placed on supply-chain transparency, documentation, traceability and the consistency of sustainability information across the value chain.

A new compliance landscape

The developments around OEKO-TEX reflect a wider trend in global apparel markets: sustainability is steadily moving from a voluntary branding exercise towards a more structured compliance requirement.

For manufacturers and exporters, the message is clear. As regulatory scrutiny increases, credible certification, transparent processes and evidence-based sustainability claims will become increasingly important to maintaining competitiveness in international markets.

For India's apparel industry, this presents both a compliance challenge and an opportunity. Exporters that invest in robust sustainability systems, traceability and credible certification can strengthen their positioning with global buyers as the European market moves towards greater accountability for environmental claims.

As the European Union moves to tighten rules governing environmental claims, sustainability certification is coming under greater scrutiny across the textile and apparel value chain. The shift is putting greater emphasis on independent verification, transparent criteria and credible evidence behind sustainability claims.

The EU's Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (EU) 2024/825, which will apply from 27 September 2026, introduces stricter requirements to address misleading environmental claims and regulate sustainability labels and certification schemes. The directive is designed to prevent consumers from being misled by vague claims such as "green", "eco-friendly" or "sustainable" when these cannot be substantiated.

Against this evolving regulatory backdrop, OEKO-TEX has strengthened its governance and certification framework, with a clearer separation between standard-setting and conformity-assessment activities. The organisation has said the structure is intended to reinforce the independence, transparency and credibility of its certification system.

The changes are significant for the textile industry, where sustainability certifications are widely used to demonstrate compliance with requirements relating to chemicals, product safety, environmental performance and responsible production.

OEKO-TEX has also introduced updates to its 2026 standards, including changes to chemical requirements, limit values, testing criteria and certification procedures. The updated requirements reflect developments in scientific knowledge as well as changing regulatory and market expectations.



For Ads / Collaborations,
please contact:

Neetu Sharma
Assistant Director
(Media & Communication)
Phone: 9958410354
Email: neetu.aepc@gmail.com





APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Sponsored by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)

Apparel House, Institutional Area, Sector - 44,
Gurugram - 122003 (Haryana)
Tel - 0124-2708000

Website: www.aepcindia.com

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