TEXPROCIL
THE COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Indian Cottons, Global Reach!

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Kasturi Cotton made a significant impact at Bharat Tex 2025 with a prominent booth and kiosk in the exhibition that garnered attention from key industry leaders.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

THINK COTTON, THINK INDIA!

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TEXPROCIL E-NEWSLETTER

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TEXPROCIL - THE FACILITATOR

Kasturi Cotton Standard:

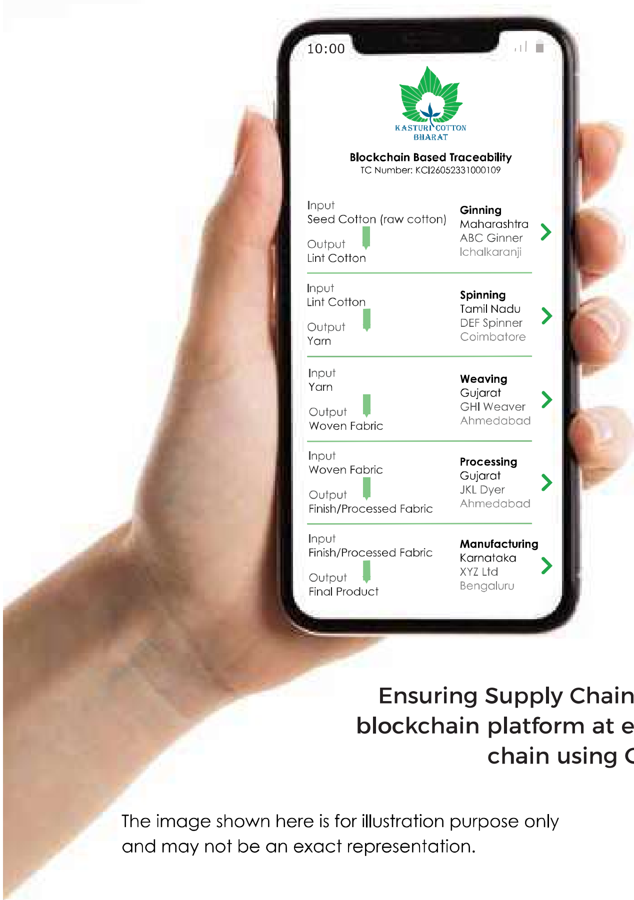
Parameter	Criteria	
Staple length/UHML	30 mm+	29 mm+
Micronaire value	3.7 to 4.5	3.7 to 4.5
RD value	76+	76+
Fibre strength	30.5 (±1.5) g/tex	29.5 (±1.5) g/tex
Uniformity index	84% or more	83% or more
Trash	2% or below	2% or below
Moisture content	8% or below	8% or below

Kasturi Cotton Standards will be implemented with the following processes:

» Audit & Inspection » Sampling & Testing » Certification » Branding

Kasturi Cotton is an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Trade Bodies and Industry. The branding, traceability and certification of Kasturi Cotton is implemented The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), in association with the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

Kasturi Cotton Traceability with Blockchain Technology



Ensuring Supply Chain traceability using blockchain platform at every stage of supply chain using QR code.

The image shown here is for illustration purpose only and may not be an exact representation.

Editorial

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal
Executive Director
TEXPROCIL

Dear Reader,

The Union Budget for 2025-26 highlights – Agriculture, MSME, Investment, and Exports as the "engines of growth in the journey to Viksit Bharat." To ensure seamless implementation of the Budget's transformative measures, the government is focusing on policy execution, investment facilitation, and technology adoption. By doubling down on innovation, operational excellence, and expanding into new markets, the Indian textile industry can position itself as a key global player in both production and sustainability.

The recent presentation of India's vast textile capabilities at the Bharat Tex 2025 – the global textiles mega event held in New Delhi, clearly depicted the industry's ability to attract export enquiries and quickly adapt to the demands of international markets. Indian textile had its moment at the massive expo spread across two venues, showcasing the full textile ecosystem.

Bharat Tex 2025 attracted a distinguished line-up of policymakers and global CEOs, alongside over 5,000 exhibitors and 6,000 international buyers from more than 120 countries. A detailed report on 'Bharat Tex 2025' is presented in the Trade Facilitation column of this issue.

TEXPROCIL, on its part, marked its presence at Bharat Tex 2025 and took significant steps to promote 'Kasturi Cotton' globally. On 16th February, 2025, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi during his visit engaged in discussions about the Kasturi Cotton program's progress with Shri Vijay Agarwal, Chairman of TEXPROCIL. The Cover Image of this issue captures the proud moment of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's interaction with the Council's Chairman.

The promotional activities organised by the Council at Bharat Tex 2025 included the signing of MoU with Alok Industries and Indo Count Industries, holding a Masterclass on Kasturi Cotton, jointly organising a Panel Discussion on Cotton along with Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and presenting CITI-TEXPROCIL Kasturi Ginner Awards 2024-25. The Trade Promotion column of this issue offers an exclusive coverage of these activities organised by the Council.

The textile and apparel sector has welcomed the announcements in the Union Budget, especially the announcement of Mission on Cotton Productivity. Welcoming the Union Budget 2025-26, Shri Vijay Agarwal, Chairman, TEXPROCIL said that the Budget is dedicated to accelerating growth and laying the foundations for a 'Viksit Bharat'. The official statement of Chairman, TEXPROCIL on the Union Budget 2025-26 appears in the 'Special Feature' column of this issue.

The 'Policy Talks' section of this Newsletter presents the recent changes in policy and procedures announced by the government and various provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy, incentive schemes, and issues of taxation.

We do hope that you find reading this edition of the E-Newsletter worthwhile.

We welcome your valuable feedback on the present edition and also invite contributions in the form of short articles on matters relevant to trade and industry.

TEXPROCIL E-Newsletter values your comments and contributions and looks forward to receiving continuous support for the various activities of the Council.

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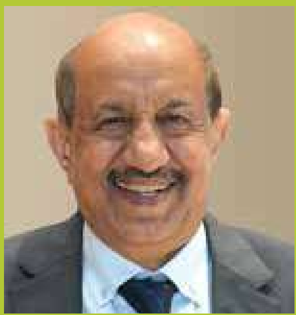
TEXPROCIL - Grievance Redressal Cell

For representing Procedural / Policy issues with various Govt. Authorities and Redressal of Complaints / Trade Disputes against Buyers/ Suppliers with Indian Missions Abroad/ Foreign Missions in India, you may kindly write to us at sybil@texprocil.org and annie@texprocil.org

Chairman's Page



Vijay Agarwal
Chairman
TEXPROCIL

Dear Friends,

The Economic Survey 2025, presented just before the Union Budget, pithily observed that it is "Time to be deft about our warp and weft", highlighting the challenges being faced by textile exporters. The Survey cited complex procedures, rising costs, and sustainability regulations as impediments to the textile sector's growth. Addressing these challenges can significantly reduce costs and ease the burden on exporters, helping them become more efficient and competitive, said the survey.

The Survey was able to capture the sentiments of the exporting community in the most apt manner. We sincerely hope that some of the key suggestions in the Survey like simplification, consolidation, and elimination of processes that consume the financial and managerial bandwidth of our exporters, are implemented over time.

Union Budget 2025-26

Following the trail, Union Budget 2025-26 gave a clarion call to embrace transformation and unlock the full potential of India's textile industry. Calling for a shift in focus towards effective implementation and collaboration between the government and industry, the Union Budget has proved itself to be a visionary blueprint for the future of India's textile industry. By addressing critical areas such as cotton productivity, technical textiles, export promotion and handicrafts, Union Budget 2025-26 aims to create a more sustainable, innovative and globally competitive sector.

The Union Budget 2025-26 seeks to address the ongoing challenges and propel the industry forward. The 19% increase in allocation to the Textile Ministry in the budget reflects the government's commitment to addressing long-standing challenges and unlocking new opportunities for growth.

Indian textile has its moment @ BharatTex 2025

The second edition of BharatTex—mega textile event, which brought together key stakeholders from the textile industry, was organised at IEML from February 12-15, 2025 in Greater Noida and Bharat Mandapam February 14-17 in New Delhi with a strong emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and global collaborations. With participation from over 120 countries, 33 international trade associations, and 46 leading global brands, BharatTex 2025 reinforced India's role as a key player in the global textile supply chain.

In my view, as a member of the core organising committee, BharatTex 2025 was able to offer all the ingredients necessary to propel India's textile sector forward. As the event progresses onwards to its future editions, I am confident that it will continue to ensure that India remains at the forefront of the global textile industry.

TEXPROCIL @ BharatTex 2025

TEXPROCIL, as one amongst the consortium of textile EPCs that organized the global textile event, contributed towards the success of BharatTex 2025 by

mobilising participation of 148 member companies (5700 Sqm of exhibition space) and facilitating the visit of 280 buyers from 36 countries across the globe.

TEXPROCIL also partnered with Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) in organizing a panel discussion titled 'Cotton Value Chain: Global Trends, Challenges and Opportunities' on the latest global trends shaping the cotton value chain, addressing challenges, and identifying opportunities to drive sustainability, efficiency, and competitiveness across the sector.

As an implementing agency for the 'Kasturi Cotton Bharat' programme, the Council ensured that numerous brands including Alok, Adwaith, Creative Textiles, and Trident, amongst others, showcased products made exclusively from Kasturi Cotton at the eventAlso, for the first time, CITI-TEXPROCIL Leading Ginners' Award was presented to encourage active participation in the Kasturi Cotton program, which has gained widespread industry acceptance.

Kasturi Cotton @ BharatTex 2025

Kasturi Cotton made a significant impact at BharatTex 2025 with a prominent booth and kiosk that garnered attention from industry leaders. It was a matter of great honour and privilege for me personally, as the Chairman of TEXPROCIL, to welcome the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji and engage in discussions with him about the program's progress. The Hon'ble Prime Minister suggested to decide on the future roadmap for 'Kasturi Cotton' by scaling-up operations, including ELS cotton and making contributions to growth of cotton productivity in India.

A Masterclass on Kasturi Cotton, led by Shri Sunil Patwari, Immediate Past Chairman of TEXPROCIL, and Dr. P.K. Mandhayan, Retired Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIRCOT attracted tremendous interest from visitors, highlighting the program's growing influence. A key milestone was the signing of a MoU with Alok Industries Ltd. and Indo Count Industries Ltd. to promote Kasturi Cotton on a global scale.

Overall, Kasturi Cotton's presence at Bharat Tex 2025 marks a major step forward in establishing a globally recognized Indian cotton brand, strengthening the Indian textiles industry.

Navigating the U.S. Tariff threats

President Trump, in his second term, is looking to revisit many issues including—existing global frameworks, trade relationships, and also America's engagement in world conflicts—many of which have a direct bearing on India. The U.S. tariffs are likely to hit Indian textiles, amongst other sectors, making them vulnerable for higher duties, as per reports by Moody's—global credit rating agency and think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

India is seeking ways to navigate these changes and maintain a strong relationship with the U.S., a strategically important bilateral partner. On February 13, during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji to the United States, India and the U.S. agreed on a new goal — "Mission 500" — aiming to more than double the bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

Both the issues of reciprocal tariffs and signing of the multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the U.S. by the fall of 2025 are engaging the attention of our Government. With a limited time frame available, it has become even more challenging to shield Indian exports from the U.S. President Donald Trump's "fair and reciprocal plan" trade, which seeks to impose new levies on a country-by-country basis.

Way forward

Friends, in a changing world, bilateral agreements are superseding multilateral commitments. Also, the WTOs time honoured principles of "most favoured nations" (MFNs) and "special and differential treatment provisions" (S&D or SDT) for developing countries are being questioned against a background of "reciprocal tariffs" and "protectionism". Developing countries like India will have to recalibrate their export strategies to keep up with the changing global trading regime. Going forward, the key component of any strategy will be to remain cost competitive inspite of the emerging challenges.

:: TEXPROCIL ::

Trade Facilitation

Indian textile has its moment at BharatTex 2025

Bharat Tex 2025, India's premier global textile and apparel event, took place from February 14-17 at Bharat Mandapam. This unique event brought together the entire textile value chain, from raw materials to finished products, including accessories, chemicals, and dyes, all under one roof.

As the largest and most comprehensive event in the textile and clothing industry, Bharat Tex 2025 featured a massive expo spread across two venues, showcasing the full textile ecosystem. The event included over 70 conference sessions, roundtables, panel discussions, and master classes on a global scale. Special highlights included dedicated Innovation and Startup Pavilions, a hackathon-based Startup Pitch Fest, Innovation fests, Tech Tanks, and Design Challenges, providing funding opportunities for startups through leading investors.

Bharat Tex 2025 attracted a distinguished line-up of policymakers and global CEOs, alongside over 5,000 exhibitors and 6,000 international buyers from more than 120 countries. Additionally, over 25 leading global textile organizations and associations, including the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), EURATEX, Textile Exchange, and the US Fashion Industry Association (USFIA), participated in the event.

At Bharat Mandapam, Hall 1 was designated for yarns and fibers, while Halls 5 and 6 showcased fabrics, and Hall 14 featured home textiles. TEXPROCIL played a significant role in organizing the participation of 148 member companies across various halls, aligning with their product categories. The council also facilitated the visit of 280 overseas buyers from 36 countries, including delegations from Colombia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Russia, Thailand, Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Chile, and the USA, enabling meaningful interactions with Indian exhibitors.

Indian textile has its moment at BharatTex 2025

Trade Facilitation

Over the course of four days, Bharat Tex 2025 provided an unparalleled platform for showcasing textiles, fostering insightful trade discussions, and facilitating knowledge exchange. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, along with the Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, Secretary of Textiles, Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, and other distinguished dignitaries, who engaged with participants throughout the exhibition.

During the Textile Samvaad Session on February 16, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, welcomed attendees and highlighted that Bharat Tex is evolving into a robust platform for engagement, collaboration, and partnerships among policymakers, CEOs, and industry leaders worldwide. He noted that India's textile and apparel exports had grown by 7%, positioning the country as the world's sixth-largest exporter in the sector. The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of skill development in the textile industry and emphasized India's leadership in sustainable fashion. He highlighted the country's potential in turning 'Fast Fashion Waste' into an opportunity by leveraging its rich traditions in textile recycling and upcycling.

Trade Facilitation

Indian textile has its moment at BharatTex 2025

Before addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Prime Minister walked through the exhibition and visited a special kiosk dedicated to Kasturi Cotton Bharat. He interacted with Shri Vijay Agarwal, Chairman of TEXPROCIL, and received updates on the progress of the Kasturi Cotton initiative. He was assured that the Kasturi Cotton project launched by the Ministry of Textiles and the industry will continue to remain a prestigious initiative in establishing India's unique identity in cotton.

The Kasturi kiosk showcased a range of products made from India's finest cotton, including hand towels, bath towels, bed sheets, bathrobes, jackets, and T-shirts. Additionally, it displayed yarns of various counts and mini-bales, providing a sensory experience. Each product featured a QR code, allowing visitors to trace the journey of the product from ginning to the final branded form, a feature that was widely appreciated for its transparency and traceability. A dedicated 54 sq. meter stall in Hall No. 5 also exclusively displayed Kasturi Cotton products.

The strong participation of delegates from Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Southeast Asia reinforced Bharat Tex 2025's status as a premier international trade platform. The event hosted dedicated buyer-seller meetings, policy roundtables, and networking sessions that facilitated meaningful business engagements, further strengthening India's position as a preferred global textile sourcing hub.

With its second successful edition, Bharat Tex 2025 has firmly established itself as a key event driving industry collaborations, innovation, and trade expansion. The event effectively highlighted the richness of Indian textiles while reinforcing the nation's reputation as a leader in tradition, innovation, and sustainability.

Trade Promotion

TEXPROCIL signs MoU at Bharat Tex 2025

TEXPROCIL taking significant steps to promote Kasturi Cotton globally

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15 February 2025 with Alok Industries Ltd and Indo Count Industries Ltd for promotion of Kasturi Cotton. Shri Sunil Patwari, Immediate Past Chairman, & Chairman, Sub Committee on Project Implementation – Kasturi Cotton and Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director represented TEXPROCIL during the signing of the MoU.

Kasturi Cotton Bharat has been the new face of Indian Cotton, it is a joint initiative of the Textile Ministry, Government of India, The Cotton Corporation of India, Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), and various textile trade bodies. Its mission is to elevate Indian cotton globally among the world's best cotton. Cotton bearing the Kasturi mark reflect superior cotton that is traceable and sustainable.

TEXPROCIL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15 February 2025 with Alok Industries Ltd and Indo Count Industries Ltd for the procurement of over 50,000 bales of Kasturi Cotton in total during the cotton seasons 2025-2026. The MoUs were signed in the presence of Shri Purnesh Gururani, Director (Cotton), Ministry of Textiles along with eminent national and international experts including Mr. Eric Trachtenberg (International Cotton Advisory Committee), Ms. Pernille Bruun (Better Cotton Initiative), Mr. Arvind Rewal (IKEA), Mr. Raman Bhalla (Louis Dreyfus Company) and other brands representing the cotton value chain.

MoU signed by Shri Malay Mahanti, Senior Vice President, Indo Count Industries Ltd.

MoU signed by Shri Biji Chacko, Chief Operating Officer, Alok Industries Ltd.

This strategic partnership marks a significant step in promoting India's premium Kasturi Cotton and enhancing its presence in the global textile market. Through this collaboration, Alok Industries will manufacture high-quality textile products using 100% Kasturi Cotton, reinforcing India's commitment to sustainable and superior-quality cotton production. This initiative aligns with the broader vision of positioning Kasturi Cotton as a globally recognized brand while strengthening the domestic cotton value chain.

We look forward to the successful implementation of these MoU's and their positive impact on the Indian textile industry.

Trade Promotion

Masterclass on Kasturi Cotton at Bharat Tex 2025

TEXPROCIL Successfully Hosts Masterclass on Kasturi Cotton at Bharat Tex 2025

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) conducted the Masterclass on Kasturi Cotton on 15th February 2025 at Bharat Mandapam during Bharat Tex 2025, New Delhi. The Session titled "Branding of Indian Cotton – Conceptualization of the Kasturi Cotton Bharat Programme", successfully brought together key stakeholders from across the cotton value chain.

The session commenced with an insightful speech by Shri Sunil Patwari, Immediate Past Chairman, TEXPROCIL, who elaborated on the Kasturi Cotton Bharat program, highlighting its objectives and methodology. His address set the stage for deeper discussions on the importance of branding Indian cotton.

Dr. Pradeep Mandhyan, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIRCOT and CEO Cotton Association of India, then delivered an in-depth presentation on the significance of branding and its long-term benefits for the Indian cotton industry. He emphasized the positive financial impact of Kasturi Cotton on the entire cotton value chain, urging stakeholders to embrace the initiative and capitalize on its potential.

Both speakers captivated the audience with their insights, generating a lively and engaging discussion on the future of Kasturi Cotton Bharat.

The session successfully reinforced the importance of branding, sustainability, and policy support for Kasturi Cotton, ensuring a stronger global positioning for Indian cotton.

For more information please log-on to our website: kasturicotton.com

Panel Discussion by TEXPROCIL and BCI at Bharat Tex 2025

Trade Promotion

"Cotton Value Chain: Global Trends, Challenges & Opportunities" Panel Discussion by TEXPROCIL and BCI

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) in association with Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) organized a panel discussion during Bharat Tex 2025 on 15th February, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Panel Discussion titled "Cotton Value Chain: Global Trends, Challenges & Opportunities" featured industry experts from across the value chain. Moderated by Mr. Eric Trachtenberg, Executive Director, International Cotton Advisory Council (ICAC), USA, the eminent panellists included Ms. Anne Raudaskoski, Co-Founder, Ethica Oy; Mr. Arvind Rewal, Global Raw Material leader, IKEA; Mr. Raman Bhalla, India Head, Louis Dreyfus Company; Ms. Jyoti Narain Kapoor, Country Head, Better Cotton Initiative (BCI); Mr. Sisira Kaluaracchi, Sourcing and Supply Chain, Foundation Garments, Hela Clothing; and Mr Raghav Agarwal, Director, Salona Group.

During the session, the experts discussed important aspects including sustainable sourcing strategies, and global collaboration in supply chains necessary for sustaining the growth of cotton value chain.

The panel discussion was deeply enriching and touched upon the entire value chain of cotton with great insights into the latest global trends shaping the cotton value chain, addressing challenges, and identifying opportunities to drive sustainability, efficiency, and competitiveness across the sector.

With India's critical position in the global cotton economy, the discussion also explored how the country can leverage its strengths to adapt to these trends and lead the way in creating a resilient and sustainable cotton ecosystem.

The discussions concluded with suggestions on a strategic roadmap for promoting cotton textiles to position India as a leading textile hub. Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director – TEXPROCIL, proposed a vote of thanks to the moderator and the panellists.

For more information please get in touch on our email: info@texprocil.org

Trade Promotion

CITI-TEXPROCIL
Kasturi Ginner Awards 2024-25

CITI and TEXPROCIL proudly announce the winners of the prestigious Leading Kasturi Ginner Awards at Bharat Tex 2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TRAILBLAZERS

WINNER	Shri Krishna Agarwal, Ram Agro, Nandurbar (MH)
1st RUNNER-UP	Shri Jayesh Patidar, Kukshi (MP)
2nd RUNNER-UP	Shri Vineet Mohota, Gimatex Industries P. Ltd, Hinganghat (MH)

Thank you for your unwavering support in our vision to make Indian Cotton great again!

News in Pictures – Interactions at Bharat Tex 2025

Trade Promotion

TEXPROCIL Interactions at Bharat Tex 2025 ensued a close global co-operation

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) held successful interactions with global buyers during Bharat Tex 2025 held during 14-17 February, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The Council recognized and acknowledged the diverse sourcing needs of the international audience. The interactions evoked the essence of the famous verse 'Ram thou thy fruitful tidings in mine ears', which means 'Share the good news quickly with me'.

Ms. Shubra, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India along with Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL in a discussion with Mr. Ricardo Mora and Ms. Ivonne Preciado, Casa Maca, Mexico

Shri Sunil Patwari, Imm. Past Chairman and Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL with Mr. Jorge Luis Oviedo, Camara Colombia

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL with Eng. Cary Araujo Cesar Augusto, CEO & GM, Vanitex Import & Export SAC, Peru

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL with Ms. Welvita Dilhara and Mr. Rosheth Nishshanka, Teejay Lanka PLC

Trade Update

India's Export Statistics of Cotton Textiles (Apr – Nov 2024)

India's Export Statistics of Cotton Textiles							
Product	**Unit**	**in Quantity (Million)**		**% Growth**	**in Value (Million USD)**		**% Growth**
		April - November			**April - November**		
		2023-24	**2024-25**		**2023-24**	**2024-25**	
Fibre	Kgs	272.81	276.09	1.20	541.25	500.55	-7.52
Yarn	Kgs.	810.86	742.86	-8.39	2,557.59	2,325.24	-9.08
Fabrics	Kgs.	42.94	49.79	15.95	239.51	270.74	13.04
	Sqm	1,418.16	1,440.88	1.60	1,235.74	1,243.06	0.59
					1,475.25	1,513.80	2.61
Made-ups	Kgs.	244.16	254.93	4.41	1,415.90	1,529.16	8.00
	Nos.	710.47	694.73	-2.22	1,443.01	1,506.38	4.39
					2,858.91	3,035.54	6.18
Total (Fibre, Yarn, Fabrics, Madeups)					**7,433.00**	**7,375.13**	**-0.78**

Source of Data: DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce

The above table provides India's export statistics for cotton textiles during April-November for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25, comparing the performance in terms of both quantity and value. Here's the explanation:

1. Fibre (in kilograms):

   Quantity exported grew by 1.2% (from 272.81 million kg to 276.09 million kg). However, export value decreased by 7.52% (from USD 541.25 million to USD 500.55 million)

2. Yarn (in kilograms):

   Quantity exported declined by 8.39% (from 810.86 million kg to 742.86 million kg). Export value also saw a decline of 9.08% (from USD 2,557.59 million to USD 2,325.24 million).

3. Fabrics (in kg and square meters):

   Quantity exported increased by 15.95% (from 42.94 million kgs to 49.79 million kgs). Export value grew by 13.04% (from USD 239.51 million to USD 270.74 million). In square meters: Quantity increased slightly by 1.60% (from USD 1,418.16 million to 1,440.88 million). Export value also recorded growth of 0.59% (from USD 1,235.74 million to 1,243.06 million).

4. Made-ups (measured in kg and numbers):

   In kg: Quantity exported rose by 4.41% (from 244.16 million kg to 254.93 million kg). Export value increased significantly by 8% (from USD 1,415.90 million to USD 1,529.16 million). In numbers: Quantity decreased slightly by 2.22% (from 710.47 million to 694.73 million). Despite this, value rose by 4.39% (from USD 1,443.01 million to USD 1,506.38 million).

Overall Performance (Fibre, Yarn, Fabrics, Made-ups)

- Overall, a slight decline of 0.78% is seen in the performance during the period April – November 2024.

Quick Estimates For Texiles & Clothing (Apr 2024 – Jan 2025)

Trade Update

Exports (Million USD)	Jan'24	Jan'25	% Change	Apr'23-Jan'24	Apr'24-Jan'25	% Change
Cotton Yarn/Fabs/made-ups, Handloom Products etc	892	1,039	16.41%	9,562	9,955	4.10%
Man-made Yarn/ Fabs/ made-ups etc.	380	426	12.14%	3,808	4,036	5.99%
RMG of all Textiles	1,441	1,606	11.45%	11,583	12,922	11.56%
Jute Mfg. Floor Covering	25	35	40.69%	284	319	12.37%
Carpet	115	136	18.04%	1,153	1,285	11.47%
Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet	135	161	19.49%	1,307	1,480	13.24%
Textiles	1,547	1,796	16.14%	16,114	17,075	5.96%
Apparel	1,441	1,606	11.45%	11,583	12,922	11.56%
Textiles & Apparel	**2,988**	**3,403**	**13.88%**	**27,697**	**29,997**	**8.30%**
All Commodities	37,324	36,426	-2.41%	353,974	358,907	1.39%
% Share of T&C in Total Exports	8.01%	9.34%		7.82%	8.36%	

Imports (Million USD)	Jan'24	Jan'25	% Change	Apr'23-Jan'24	Apr'24-Jan'25	% Change
Cotton Raw & Waste	20	122	520.39%	518	1,040	100.68%
Textile yarn Fabric, made-up articles	185	238	28.82%	1932	2,081	7.74%

Source of Data: DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce

- According to the quick estimates data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, exports of cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, handloom products etc from India grew by 16.41% in January 2025 over January 2024.
- During Apr'24-Jan'25, Indian cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, handloom products registered a growth of 4.10%.
- During January'25, Indian Textiles Exports grew by 16.14% over the previous year and Apparel Exports registered a growth of 11.45% during the same time period.
- Cumulative Exports of Textiles and Apparel during January'25 have registered a growth of 13.88% over January'24
- During April'24- January'25, Indian Textiles Exports registered a positive growth of 5.96% over the previous year while Apparel Exports registered a growth of 11.56% during the same time period. Overall T&A registered a growth of 8.30% during Apr'24-Jan'25.

Trade Update

International News

Sri Lanka, China to expedite signing of comprehensive FTA

Sri Lanka and China have expressed commitment to advancing all major development projects, including the integrated development of the Colombo Port City and Hambantota Port, and expedite the signing of a comprehensive free trade agreement.

During Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's state visit to China recently, both sides issued a joint statement that outlined the signing of a Belt and Road cooperation plan aimed at opening new avenues for successful development.

The joint statement emphasised the swift implementation of the agreed debt restructuring plan with Chinese financial institutions.

China reiterated that it will respect and support Sri Lanka in independently choosing a development path suited to its national conditions.

Both sides agreed to work together actively on climate change.

China will work with Sri Lanka to implement the Luban Workshop to good effect and nurture more professionals through vocational and technical training for Sri Lanka.

They sides will continue to work in and develop the China-Sri Lanka Joint Centre for Education and Research under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and strengthen scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation and education in the universities and research institutes of the two countries.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Bangladesh economy to grow 4.1% in FY25: World Bank report

The World Bank (WB) has kept its forecast for Bangladesh's economic growth almost unchanged for the current fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, citing subdued investment and industrial activity amid heightened political uncertainty.

Bangladesh's economy may grow 4.1 percent in FY25, the WB said in its latest Global Economic Prospects released Thursday.

The growth projection is slightly higher than its October forecast of 4 percent for FY25.

Growth is projected to pick up to 5.4 percent in FY26, assuming broad political stability, successful reforms in the financial sector, an improved business climate, and increased trade, the WB report said.

"Easing inflation is expected to boost private consumption," said the multilateral lender.

The WB's latest forecast is also higher than the 3.8 percent growth projection made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December last year, which cited output losses caused by the July uprising, floods, and tighter policies.

As per the predictions of the two multilateral agencies, Bangladesh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in FY25 would be the lowest since FY20, when the Covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on the globe.

Earlier this month, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) said GDP growth was 1.81 percent in the July-September quarter of FY25.

The first-quarter growth was the lowest since the second quarter of FY21, when the pandemic continued to cripple the economy.

In the first quarter of FY24, GDP grew 6.04 percent.

The WB said inflation in Bangladesh has remained persistently high, and monetary policy has been tightened further.

The 12-month average inflation in Bangladesh rose to 10.34 percent in 2024, up from 9.48 percent a year earlier. In 2022, the annual average inflation was 7.7 percent, according to the BBS.

In December, the IMF kept its projection of inflation in Bangladesh elevated for the current fiscal year, ending on June 30, 2025. The WB said political turmoil in mid-2024 dampened economic activity and worsened investor confidence.

It said growth in FY24 is estimated to have slowed to 5 percent, a downward revision of 0.6 percentage points from previous projections. "Supply constraints, including energy shortages and import restrictions, weakened industrial activity and led to increased price pressures."

"High inflation reduced the purchasing power of households, slowing services growth." The WB also cautioned about the risk of social unrest in countries, including Bangladesh, where youth unemployment has risen since the pre-pandemic decade.

It said elevated social unrest could weigh on productivity and investor confidence in South Asia. "In addition, the incidence of political violence has increased in some countries in the region," it added.

More frequent or more severe weather events could reduce food production, drive up food price inflation, and raise living costs, the WB report added.

The Washington-based multilateral agency said slower-than-projected growth in major trading partners and the resulting weaker demand could dampen activity, particularly in countries with strong economic ties to Europe and the USA, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

"For example, countries in Europe account for about half of total goods exports in Bangladesh."

Source: thedailystar.net

South Korea's apparel imports rise 3% to $12.3 bn in 2024

South Korea's apparel imports reached $12.366 billion in 2024, marking a rise of 3.12 per cent compared to imports of $11.991 billion in 2023, according to the latest figures released by the Korea Customs Service. South Korea's imports of knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 61) were valued at $5.083 billion in 2024, compared to $4.842 billion in 2023. The import value of non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 62) was $7.283 billion in 2024, up from $7.149 billion in 2023.

In December 2024, South Korea's apparel imports reached $935.544 million, marking an 11.44 per cent increase from $839.208 million in the same month of the previous year. On a month-on-month basis, apparel imports also saw an increase of 3.08 per cent compared to inbound trade of $907.552 million in November 2024.

In December 2024, South Korea imported knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 61) valued at $401.665 million, compared to $340.092 million in December 2023. The import value of non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 62) was $533.879 million in December 2024, up from $499.116

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million in December 2023. In November 2024, the country's imports amounted to $367.478 million (Chapter 61) and $540.074 million (Chapter 62).

South Korea typically exports fabrics and textile materials while importing ready-made garments. In 2024, the country exported man-made filaments, strips, and similar materials of man-made textiles (Chapter 54) worth $1,987.300 million, slightly lower than the exports of $2,107.283 million in 2023. The shipment of knitted or crocheted fabrics (Chapter 60) was $1,713.855 million in 2024, easing from $1,788.741 million in 2023.

In December 2024, the country exported man-made filaments, strips, and similar materials of man-made textiles worth $168.640 million and knitted or crocheted fabrics (Chapter 60) worth $140.030 million. In December 2023, these exports were valued at $176.511 million for Chapter 54 and $158.147 million for Chapter 60. In November 2024, the export values were $174.247 million and $147.540 million, respectively.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

UK's clothing exports down 17% to $358 mn in November 2024

In November 2024, the United Kingdom's clothing exports totalled £294 million (~$358.18 million), reflecting a 17.87 per cent decline compared to £358 million in the same month the previous year. There was also a month-on-month decrease from the October 2024 figure of £308 million, according to the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The UK's textile fabric exports in November 2024 decreased by 4.04 per cent to £237 million, compared to £247 million in November 2023. There was also a month-on-month decrease from October 2024's figure of £244 million. Fibre exports in November 2024 totalled £81 million, up from £54 million in November 2023, as well as £66 million in September 2024.

During the third quarter of 2024, clothing exports totalled £771 million, compared to £927 million in Q3 2023 and £837 million in Q2 2024. Exports of textile fabrics and fibres in the same quarter were £652 million and £166 million, respectively. Textile fabric exports stood at £646 million in Q3 2023 and £710 million in Q2 2024, while fibre exports were £163 million in Q3 2023 and £172 million in Q2 2024.

In 2023, total clothing exports dropped to £3.772 billion (~$4.88 billion) from £3.931 billion in 2022 and £4.263 billion in 2021. Exports of textile fabrics and fibres in 2023 were £2.737 billion and £667 million, respectively, compared to £2.716 billion and £616 million in 2022.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Global cotton faces 2025 challenges amid supply-demand gap

The global cotton sector may face notable challenges in 2025, as production continues to rise faster than demand. Economic forecasts suggest growth will match last year's pace, while oil prices are trading lower, and cotton futures indicate stability for the year ahead, as per the Centre for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics (CEPEA).

Brazil concluded 2024 as the world's major cotton exporter, shipping 2.77 million tons, overtaking the United States, which exported 2.37 million tons. A significant factor behind Brazil's record exports was China, which imported 924.7 thousand tons.

Cotton prices in Brazil are likely to face downward pressure due to high ending stocks, limited global demand, and marginal global economic growth. However, the Brazilian real's devaluation against the US dollar could enhance export competitiveness, potentially stabilizing prices.

Conab estimates that Brazil's 2024/25 cotton crop planted area may grow by 3 per cent, reaching 2 million hectares. Productivity is projected to decline by 3.1 per cent compared to the previous season, to 1,845 kilos per hectare. Total production for the 2024/25 crop is anticipated at 3.695 million tons, a slight decrease of 0.2 per cent from the prior season.

Globally, USDA data indicates a 3.9 per cent rise in supply for the 2024/25 season, totalling 25.558 million tons. World cotton consumption is projected to increase by 1.3 per cent in the same period, reaching 25.211 million tons.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Cambodia clocks impressive growth of 24% in garment exports in 2024

Cambodia's apparel exports surged by 24.44 per cent to $9.791 billion in the recently concluded year, 2024. Apparel exports contributed 37.37 per cent to the country's total foreign income, which amounted to $26.196 billion, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) under the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Trade data for December 2024 showed growth in garment exports, reflecting stronger demand in the global textile and clothing market.

During this period, Cambodia's exports of knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 61) totalled $6.638 billion, marking a 21.2 per cent increase from $5.478 billion in 2023. Likewise, exports of non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 62) rose by 31.9 per cent to $3.153 billion, up from $2.390 billion in 2023. In December 2024, apparel exports grew by 11.38 per cent to $849.567 million, compared to $762.723 million in the same month of 2023. Exports of knitted apparel and accessories increased by 6.4 per cent to $529.374 million, compared to $497.610 million in December 2023. Meanwhile, exports of non-knitted apparel and accessories rose by 20.8 per cent to $320.193 million in December 2024.

On the import side, Cambodia's imports of knitted or crocheted fabrics (Chapter 60) reached $3.081 billion during 2024, an increase of 18.6 per cent from $2.597 billion in 2023. Imports of man-made fibres (Chapter 55) rose by 22.8 per cent to $1.349 billion, compared to $1,098.843 million in the previous year. Imports of cotton and cotton yarn (Chapter 52) also grew by 36.3 per cent to $766.003 million, up from $561.991 million in 2023.

Cambodia's strong performance in the textile and garment trade is notable, especially given the global challenges facing the sector. The sustained high export volumes underline the country's resilience amid the current global economic scenario. In 2023, Cambodia's apparel exports declined by 12.91 per cent to $7.87 billion. This contrasts with a 12.69 per cent increase in apparel exports in 2022, when the total reached $9.04 billion.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Trump Says New Duties on China Could Take Effect Feb. 1

President Donald Trump is fanning the flames of a trade war with

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China by renewing campaign threats to up duties on products made by the sourcing superpower.

In a statement to reporters at the White House on Tuesday evening, Trump said his administration was considering levying 10-percent tariffs on China starting next month.

"We're talking about a tariff of 10 percent on China based on the fact that they're sending fentanyl to Mexico and Canada," he said, according to a report from CNBC. "Probably Feb. 1 is the date we're looking at," he added.

The comments took place in the early morning hours for Chinese officials, who had not yet released comments on the matter by the time of publication. But at his morning briefing on Tuesday, China Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun responded to the news that Trump had ordered a review of trade issues pertaining to China.

"Economic cooperation and trade between China and the United States benefit both sides. Keeping business ties sound and stable serves the fundamental interests of both countries and both peoples, it is also conducive to global economic growth," he said.

"China stands ready to follow the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, strengthen dialogue and communication with the U.S., properly manage differences, and expand mutually beneficial cooperation," he added. "We hope the U.S. will work with us to promote the steady, sound and sustainable growth of bilateral trade and economic ties."

Trump also reiterated his thinking about a potential duty increase for Mexico and Canada during the exchange with news outlets, repeating comments that the two countries could see tariffs of "approximately 25 percent" by or around Feb. 1.

His first comments on the timeline took place within hours of his inauguration, prompting a swift but measured response from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. At a press conference Tuesday, the outgoing leader said, "If there are unfair tariffs, we will respond robustly and we will be there to support Canadians and protect our interests."

Conservative party Premier Doug Ford was more colorful in his remarks on the issue, telling the Associated Press that Trump "declared an economic war on Canada" with his tariff threat. The leader from Ontario said he and his contemporaries "are going to use every tool in our tool box to defend our economy," including imposing dollar-for-dollar duties on American-made alcohol and other products.

"President Trump seems intent on starting a trade war that will create the kind of economic uncertainty that only benefits China," Ford wrote on X Tuesday. "There's a better way. Let's beat China with Fortress Am-Can."

Source: sourcingjournal.com

EU policies challenge textile industry's access to biomass

The EU's Green Deal and transport regulations are driving climate neutrality, prioritizing sustainable fuels like second-generation biomass and synthetic carbon dioxide based alternatives in aviation and shipping. A report by the Renewable Carbon Initiative (RCI) highlights how these policies, while boosting demand for biofuels, could significantly impact other industries, including textiles and yarn production.

The competition for second-generation biomass is intensifying as aviation and shipping quotas absorb most of the available supply. This leaves limited renewable carbon resources for the textile industry, which increasingly relies on bio-based inputs for sustainable fiber production. With prices rising due to fuel sector demand, yarn manufacturers may face challenges in accessing affordable, renewable feedstocks essential for producing eco-friendly textiles.

However, the report identifies synergies. By-products like bio-based naphtha from Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production can serve as high-quality feedstock for chemicals, potentially benefiting fiber production. Additionally, redirecting food and feed crops toward industrial use could stabilize supply chains without compromising food security.

Innovative strategies, such as integrating electrification in transport with carbon recycling, could create a balanced approach, supporting the textile sector's defossilization. Policies that encourage a cascading use of biomass and prioritize circularity are critical to aligning the textile industry's goals with broader climate targets.

RCI urges policymakers to foster cross-sector collaboration and implement balanced policies to ensure sustainable resource allocation. For the textile industry, these measures are pivotal to achieving a resilient, low-carbon future while maintaining competitive global production.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Vietnamese ministry proposes new e-com regulation to improve oversight

Vietnam's ministry of industry and trade recently proposed a new e-commerce regulation to improve oversight of online sellers, requiring detailed identification and tax information to address regulatory gaps.

The country's business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce market reached $25 billion last year, it noted.

However, probing and addressing violations in online transactions are complex, and it is a challenge for authorities to trace warehouses or sellers in cases of misconduct due to insufficient electronic identification mechanisms and lack of comprehensive oversight, domestic media outlets reported.

E-commerce platforms are sometimes exploited for fraudulent activities or tax evasion; there is lack of transparency about products, services and seller information; the online dispute resolution process is ineffective; and customers are unable to resolve disputes with sellers and find it challenging to directly contact platform operators.

The ministry's proposal to address these issues includes defining e-commerce business models, clarifying the rights and obligations of participants, and enhancing the decentralisation of oversight responsibilities.

The draft law also specifies requirements for individuals engaged in activities such as livestream sales or advisory services for goods and services in regulated industries, a domestic media outlet reported.

Sellers using intermediary e-commerce platforms will need to verify their identities according to electronic identification regulations before offering goods or services.

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They will also have to provide information like names, addresses, identification numbers and personal income tax codes to intermediary platforms.

For cross-border e-commerce activities, businesses must obtain permits from the ministry, establish representative offices in Vietnam, or designate authorised local legal representatives.

Many cross-border e-commerce platforms operate in Vietnam without completing official legal procedures. Regulations for cross-border e-commerce are generally less stringent now than those applied to entities with official investments in the domestic market, creating an uneven competitive environment.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

EU to set up textile recycling facility in Estonia

The European Union plans to set up a major textile recycling facility in Sillamäe, Estonia. Set to become the largest in the Baltic region, the facility will be developed by three interconnected companies with an investment of €100 million. Of this, €39 million will be provided by the EU's Just Transition Fund through Estonia's Enterprise and Innovation Foundation.

The three companies will create a closed-loop system where each of their output will be fed into the next stage of the recycling process. The facility will process up to 70,000 tons of textile waste annually, with materials sourced from Estonia and neighboring countries.

The recycling process will begin with sorting incoming textile waste. Higher-quality materials will be earmarked for reuse, while lower-quality synthetic fibers will be blended with recycled plastic to manufacture construction boards. This innovative material will be made from a combination of textile waste fibers, recycled plastic, and additives.

Once operational in late 2026, the facility is expected to employ 150 people. The three factories will span approximately 1.5 hectare, and preliminary agreements have already been signed for both domestic and international product distribution.

The project aligns with broader EU initiatives to support regions facing socio-economic challenges in transitioning to climate neutrality. Estonia has designated Ida-Viru County, one of its economically disadvantaged regions, as the recipient of these resources.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Uzbek group to invest $40 mn in cotton-textile complex in Kazakhstan

Uzbekistan's Global Textile Group wants to launch five facilities—a logistics centre, a cotton processing plant, a textile factory, dyeing and spinning workshops, and garment factories—in Kazakhstan's Maktaaral district in the Turkestan region.

The cotton processing plant will have an annual capacity of 13,800 tonnes. Products will be supplied to the Kazakh market and exported to Europe as well.

The textile factory is expected to start operations in 2027.

The facilities are expected to create over 2,000 permanent jobs. The total project cost is an estimated 21 billion tenge ($39.61 million), media reports from Kazakhstan said.

Company chief executive officer Muzaffar Razakov and the region's governor Nuralkhan Kusherov discussed the project recently.

The company introduced 'Namangan-77' cotton seeds last year, planting them over 3,200 hectares. It also finished a cotton reception centre with an annual capacity of 10,000 tonnes.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Global cotton industry to counter significant challenges in 2025

With production continuing to outpace demand, the global cotton industry is set to encounter significant challenges in 2025. This year, growth will align with last year's pace, project economists. Oil prices continue to trend lower, and cotton futures indicate price stability for the year ahead, as per the Centre for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics (CEPEA).

Brazil emerged as the world's top cotton exporter in 2023-24, with shipments reaching 2.77 million tons to surpass the United States, which exported 2.37 million tons. China played a critical role in Brazil's record exports, importing 924.7 thousand tons of cotton.

In 2024-25, cotton prices in Brazil are expected to decline due to high ending stocks, limited global demand, and slow global economic growth. However, the depreciation of the Brazilian real against the US dollar could improve export competitiveness, potentially helping to stabilize prices.

As per Conab projections, Brazil's area under cotton cultivation is expected to rise by 3 per cent to 2 million hectare in 2024/25. The country's cotton productivity is expected to decrease by 3.1 per cent to 1,845 kg per hectare. Its total cotton production for the 2024/25 season is forecasted to decline by 0.2 per cent to 3.695 million tons.

On the global front, cotton supply in 2024-25 is forecasted to rise by 3.9 per cent, as per USDA data. World cotton consumption is expected to rise by 1.3 per cent during the same period, totaling 25.211 million tons.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Sri Lanka apparel exports rise 5%, focus on vertical integration

Sri Lanka's apparel exports rebounded in 2024, reaching $4.7 billion, marking a 5 per cent year-on-year increase. However, this figure falls short of the $5.3 billion achieved in 2019, indicating a 10.3 per cent shortfall.

Key markets exhibited mixed performance. While exports to the US, Sri Lanka's largest market, grew by 5.23 per cent, they remain 19.4 per cent below 2019 levels. Exports to the UK demonstrated robust growth of 7.65 per cent, nearing 2019 levels, driven by sustained demand for ethically and sustainably manufactured garments. The EU market saw modest growth of 0.81 per cent.

The Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF) emphasizes the critical role of localized fabric production in enhancing the industry's competitiveness. The Eravur Textile Zone, a dedicated area for local fabric manufacturing, aims to save foreign exchange, reduce production lead times, and improve the value proposition of Sri Lankan exports by meeting global demands for traceability and sustainability.

"The Eravur Textile Zone is more than just an initiative; it's a lifeline for the industry," said Yohan Lawrence, Secretary-General of JAAF. "Localizing fabric production is crucial to increasing

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competitiveness and meeting the demands of global markets."

Challenges remain, including downward pressure on pricing and the need for continued collaboration between the government and the industry. Key policy actions include enhanced market access, improving infrastructure, ensuring transparent and predictable electricity pricing, and addressing operational bottlenecks.

Despite these challenges, Sri Lanka's apparel sector has shown resilience. By focusing on strategic investments and reforms, the industry aims to reclaim pre-pandemic levels and achieve export earnings exceeding USD 6 billion, solidifying its position as a global leader in quality and ethical manufacturing.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

China's textile & garment exports gain 2.7% to $301 bn in 2024

China's cumulative exports of textiles, garments, and accessories totalled $301.101 billion in 2024, reflecting a modest increase of 2.79 per cent compared to $292.922 billion in 2023, according to data from the General Administration of Customs.

China succeeded in gaining in the global textile and apparel trade despite market volatility and a fragile geopolitical scenario. This growth was primarily driven by a rise in textile shipments, as garment exports continued to underperform. The exports of textile products, including yarn and fabric, saw an increase of 5.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY), reaching $141.959 billion, up from $134.332 billion in 2023.

Exports of garments and accessories amounted to $159.142 billion, with a mild gain of 0.3 per cent last year compared to $158.590 billion during the corresponding period in 2023.

In December 2024 alone, China's exports of textile yarn, fabrics, and related articles stood at $13.134 billion, while garment exports were valued at $14.934 billion, bringing the total export value for the month to $28.068 billion.

On the import side, China experienced a 7.8 per cent decrease in textile yarn and fabric imports, which fell to $10.829 billion in 2024, down from $11.742 billion in 2023. For December 2024, imports were valued at $1.020 billion.

In 2023, China's total exports of textiles, garments, and accessories declined by 8.05 per cent to $293.641 billion, down from $319.376 billion in 2022.

Garment exports decreased by 7.8 per cent to $159.144 billion, while textile exports fell by 8.3 per cent to $134.497 billion. Imports of textile yarn and fabric products also registered a 1.2 per cent decrease, dropping from $11.881 billion in 2022 to $11.742 billion in 2023.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

China largest online retail market for 12 years in a row: Govt

China has been the world's largest online retail market for 12 years in a row, with such sales reaching 15.5 trillion yuan ($2.16 trillion) last year, according to the country's commerce ministry.

The country's wholesale and retail industries have made steady progress driven by various policies, providing strong support for expanding domestic demand and forging a new development paradigm, vice commerce minister Sheng Qiuping told a press conference.

Sheng said the added value of the wholesale and retail industries reached 13.8 trillion yuan (~$1.9 trillion) in 2024, accounting for 10.2 per cent of the gross domestic product and playing a key role in smoothing circulation, creating jobs and reducing logistics costs, according to a state-controlled news outlet.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Japan's apparel imports inches up 3.5% to $23.6 bn in 2024

During the calendar year 2024, Japan saw an increase in its imports of clothing and accessories by 3.5 per cent to 3,674,140 million yen (approximately $23.619 billion). These imports accounted for 3.3 per cent of the nation's total imports, which amounted to 112,423,844 million yen, according to provisional data from Japan's Ministry of Finance.

However, Japan's imports of textile yarn and fabric last year decreased by 0.4 per cent, totalling 1,157,919 million yen and accounting for 1.0 per cent of total imports.

Conversely, Japan's exports of textile yarn and fabric rose by 6.9 per cent during the same period, reaching 839,583 million yen. In contrast, exports of textile machinery fell by 17.7 per cent to 270,557 million yen, contributing 0.3 per cent to total exports.

Japan registered a growth of 9 per cent in its imports of clothing and accessories, totalling 281,141 million yen (approximately $1.807 billion), during December, the last month of 2024. These imports contributed 2.9 per cent to Japan's total imports of 9,779,667 million yen in the same month.

The country's imports of textile yarn and fabric in December 2024 increased by 5.5 per cent year-on-year, totalling 96,937 million yen and accounting for 1.0 per cent of total imports.

Japan's exports of textile yarn and fabric rose by 2.9 per cent during the same period, reaching 79,616 million yen. The exports of textile machinery inched up by 0.4 per cent to 25,974 million yen which was 0.3 per cent to the total exports of 9,910,603 yen in the same period.

For fiscal 2023-24 (April-March), Japan's imports of clothing and accessories amounted to 3,564,850 million yen (approximately $23.107 billion), a decrease of 1.7 per cent. Imports of textile yarn and fabric fell by 10.4 per cent to 1,143,805 million yen. In the same fiscal, Japan exported textile yarn and fabric worth 802,178 million yen, while exports of textile machinery totalled 320,947 million yen.

In fiscal 2022-23, Japan's imports of clothing and accessories reached 3,619,550 million yen (approximately $25.05 billion), and imports of textile yarn and fabric totalled 1,275,608 million yen. During that fiscal, Japan exported textile yarn and fabric worth 776,999 million yen, while textile machinery exports amounted to 306,781 million yen.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Online fashion e-commerce booms in Europe, Middle East and Africa: Report

The fashion industry in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) is experiencing a digital boom, reveals BigCommerce's '2024 Global E-commerce Report: Fashion and Apparel'. The report, based on customer data, paints a picture of a thriving online market with significant growth potential.

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The report highlights a thriving global fashion e-commerce landscape. Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) has increased 10.7 per cent year-over-year, driven by a 7.2 per cent rise in order volume. The average order value (AOV) has also seen a healthy increase of 3.23 per cent. However, in the EMEA region, the figures are even more impressive

EMEA leads the charge

EMEA is experiencing a staggering 25.3 per cent growth in GMV compared to the same period last year. This surge is fueled by a remarkable 41.3 per cent increase in total orders. Interestingly, the average order value in EMEA has dipped slightly by 11.1 per cent. This could be attributed to factors like increased promotional activity or a shift towards more frequent, smaller purchases.

Experts believe several factors are contributing to EMEA's e-commerce fashion boom. Increased mobile penetration, improved internet infrastructure, and a growing appetite for online shopping are all playing a role. Additionally, the region boasts a diverse population with a wide range of fashion preferences, which online retailers are well-positioned to cater to.

Why the EMEA boom?

While the report doesn't delve into specific reasons for the EMEA growth, experts suggest a combination of factors could be at play:

Increased smartphone penetration: EMEA consumers are increasingly comfortable shopping online using their mobile devices.

Growing internet access: Improved internet infrastructure in many developing countries within the region is facilitating online shopping.

Shifting consumer preferences: A growing number of EMEA consumers are embracing the convenience and variety offered by online retailers.

The EMEA region is a hotbed for fashion e-commerce growth,say analysts. The report highlights the tremendous potential for brands to reach new customers and expand their reach through online channels.

BigCommerce's report underscores the immense potential of the EMEA fashion e-commerce market. With a strong foundation of growth already established, the future looks bright for brands that can capitalize on this digital wave. By offering a seamless online shopping experience, catering to local preferences, and embracing innovative technologies, fashion businesses in the EMEA region can solidify their place in this burgeoning market.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Pakistan targets $100 billion textile exports in next five years

The Pakistan Government has set an ambitious target of increasing its textile exports from the current $30 billion to $100 billion over the next five years.

To help achieve this, Imran Mehmood, Central Chairman of the All Pakistan Bed-sheets & Upholstery Manufacturers Association (APBUMA), urged the government to implement immediate measures to support the sector's growth.

Textile exporters in Pakistan also achieved a significant milestone at the world's largest textile trade fair in Frankfurt, Germany, Heimtextil as they secured export orders worth $3 billion.

Mehmood hailed this achievement as a major boost for Pakistan's textile sector. He emphasized on the critical role of Heimtextil for Faisalabad's year-round textile operations, highlighting its importance in securing vital orders.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Global home textile market to grow to US $ 235.9 billion by 2033

At a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.1 per cent, the global home textile market is projected to reach a value of around US $ 235.9 billion by 2033, up from US $ 130.5 billion in 2023, says a report from Market.US, a market research firm.

The size of the global home textile market is anticipated to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.1 per cent from 2024 to 2033, from US $ 130.5 billion in 2023 to around US $ 235.9 billion by 2033.

Rising global income levels and growing customer interest in home décor are the main drivers of this industry's success. The need for premium and personalised home textiles is still being driven by the trend towards improving interior design in residential spaces. Furthermore, eco-friendly materials and technological developments in fabric production are opening up new markets for producers.

The significance of this industry is also being acknowledged by governments around the world, who are funding infrastructure that facilitates textile production and providing incentives for environmentally friendly methods. Manufacturers are being encouraged to innovate and adhere to these updated principles as regulations are being reinforced to guarantee that home textiles fulfil safety and environmental standards.

In 2023, the demand for high-end, environmentally friendly materials propelled bedroom linen to the top of the product segment with a 45.3 per cent share. Polyester, which is preferred for its affordability and versatility, leads the material market with a 37.6 per cent share in 2023.

Supermarkets and hypermarkets are key players in the 65.5 per cent market share that offline distribution channels will hold in 2023. Strong manufacturing capabilities and a developing middle class in China and India support Asia Pacific's 45.6 per cent market share, which is valued at US $ 58.7 billion, making it the largest region in the world.

Source: apparelresources.com

Sri Lanka Apparel achieves 5% export growth in 2024

Sri Lanka's export earnings from apparel in 2024 reached USD 4.7 billion, recording a year-on-year growth of nearly 5%, according to the Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF). Adding the country's direct exports of textiles takes the overall export value to just over USD 5 billion. This underscores the resilience of the country's textile and apparel industry amidst both local and global challenges.

Growth analysis

While these positive reports have been welcome news for

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stakeholders across the apparel industry, if 2019 was used as a baseline - the last 'normal' pre-pandemic and economic crisis year - Sri Lanka's apparel export in 2024 communicates a more circumspect account for in 2019 Sri Lanka managed to export USD 5.3 billion resulting in last year's exports reporting 10.3% shortfall.

These stark facts highlight the need for more concentrated interventions to reclaim lost ground and chart a course to match and exceed the pre-pandemic export trajectory that Sri Lanka was on. However, key patterns in market performance reveal promising signs

- US Market: Exports to the US, Sri Lanka's largest destination, grew by 5.23% year-on-year to USD 1.9 billion in 2024. Despite this, the figure remains 19.4% below 2019 levels, emphasising the potential to regain further ground.

- UK Market: Growth in exports to the UK was robust at 7.65%, now nearing parity with 2019 levels, aided by sustained demand for ethically and sustainably manufactured garments.

- EU Market: While growth in the EU was modest at 0.81%, the sector has maintained a foothold in a highly competitive and increasingly regulated market.

- Emerging Markets: Exports to other destinations grew by 10.13%, demonstrating both new market penetration, and the trend for the industry to label pack and ship direct to third countries on behalf of our customers.

Eravur Textile Zone

The JAAF emphasises that localised fabric production remains critical for the industry's long-term recovery and competitiveness. Located on over a span of 300 acres, the zone has been designed and will provide opportunities for multiple verticals relating to the manufacture of textiles. Manufacturers can establish textile dying, washing, knitting, weaving and other associated plants in this dedicated area. This landmark project can save significant foreign exchange, reduce production lead times, and enhance the value proposition of Sri Lankan exports to global buyers increasingly demanding traceability and sustainability.

"The Eravur Textile Zone is more than just an initiative; it's a lifeline for the industry. Localizing fabric production is crucial to increasing competitiveness and meeting the demands of global markets," said Yohan Lawrence, Secretary-General of JAAF.

Trends and insights

Analysis of growth trends over the past five years indicates that while the sector has shown remarkable resilience, its trajectory reflects a gradual recovery process and the pandemic-induced dip in 2020 saw exports fall to USD 4.1 billion, a 22% drop from 2019. Exports peaked temporarily in 2022 as markets overestimated the covid recovery, only to see setbacks in 2023 due to global inflationary pressures and reduced consumer spending. The 5% growth in 2024, reflects also the downward pressure on pricing that the industry is currently seeing.

JAAF underscores the importance of continued collaboration between the industry and government stakeholders. Key policy actions - such as enhanced market access, enabling infrastructure projects like the Eravur Textile Zone, transparency and predictability with electricity pricing, and the easing operational bottlenecks as those currently experienced in the Colombo Port, - are paramount for long-term growth.

The recent adjustment to electricity tariffs is a welcomed step by the industry, particularly as Sri Lanka's energy costs have been higher compared to competitor countries. JAAF has long advocated for the independence of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) to ensure the country adopts the most cost-effective generation mix, passing on these savings to consumers through a fair, cost-reflective tariff.

Sri Lanka and Indonesia have jointly submitted an application to the UK DCTS authorities for the cumulation of Indonesian fabrics with Sri Lanka. If approved, this would allow apparel made in Sri Lanka using Indonesian fabric to access the UK market duty-free.

"Reclaiming pre-2019 levels and setting higher benchmarks is a challenge that requires a collective effort," Lawrence added. "Strategic investments and reforms can position Sri Lanka's apparel sector to cross USD 6 billion in export earnings, strengthening its reputation as a global leader in quality and ethical manufacturing."

As Sri Lanka aligns itself with global sustainability and traceability mandates, the opportunity to grow remains significant, provided strategic actions are undertaken to support both large and emerging players within the industry.

Source: knittingindustry.com

Germany's export expectations fell to -7.3 in January: ifo

Germany's export expectations dropped to -7.3 points in January, down from -6.1 points in December, according to the ifo Institute for economic research, an institution based in Munich. The latest data signals a continued decline in export outlook, as manufacturing companies anticipate weaker international demand.

Most industries anticipate a decline in international sales, including textile manufacturers (-6 points), apparel manufacturers (-20.8 points), and leather product manufacturers (-40.5 points). Meanwhile, companies in the chemical industry expect business to remain stable, ifo said in a press release.

"The start to the year in export business was sobering. The positive momentum abroad has so far had no significant impact on domestic exporters. The potential tariff threats from the new Trump administration are dragging sentiment down," said Klaus Wohlrabe, head of surveys at ifo.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Canada's apparel imports from Cambodia up 9.6%, trousers on top

Canadian apparel imports from Cambodia increased by 9.60 per cent during January–November 2024. The inbound shipment reached $976.655 million during this period. Trousers and shorts were the most dominant garments in Canada's total apparel imports from Cambodia, accounting for 33.28 per cent of the total.

According to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro, Canada imported apparel worth $891.038 million in January–November 2023. The country's total apparel imports from Cambodia amounted to $947.213 million in 2023. The inbound shipment peaked at $1,253.715 million in 2022 but declined in the

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following two years. Previously, Canada had imported apparel worth $1,009.641 million from Cambodia in 2019, but this decreased to $873.093 million in 2020. However, it recovered quickly in 2021, reaching $1,047.883 million.

During January–November 2024, Canadian imports of trousers and shorts were valued at $325.016 million, making up 33.28 per cent of the total. Jerseys were the second most dominant garment, with imports valued at $235.139 million, representing 24.08 per cent of total garment imports.

Canadian imports of T-shirts were $66.052 million (6.76 per cent), nightwear $56.881 million (5.82 per cent), shirts $53.274 million (5.45 per cent), coats $51.852 million (5.31 per cent), innerwear $30.949 million (3.17 per cent), dresses $22.965 million (2.35 per cent), jackets and blazers $22.005 million (2.25 per cent), and skirts $21.256 million (2.18 per cent), as per TexPro.

Canada imported cotton garments worth $452.660 million in the first 11 months of 2024, accounting for 46.35 per cent of total imports from Cambodia. The import of man-made garments was $418.995 million (42.90 per cent), wool/animal hair garments $18.988 million (1.94 per cent), silk garments $0.161 million (0.02 per cent), and other garments $85.889 million (8.79 per cent).

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Abu Dhabi Ports Group keen to invest in Bangladesh ports

UAE enterprise Abu Dhabi Ports Group is keen to invest in infrastructural development of Bangladesh's Mongla and Chittagong Ports, according to the latter's shipping adviser Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, who recently said the government plans to turn the south-western seaport into a regional trade hub.

A delegation from the group, which specialises in developing seaports, is visiting Bangladesh.

"Mongla Port, as the country's second biggest seaport, will be built as an inter-country communication and trade centre," a shipping ministry statement quoted the adviser as telling the delegation.

Hossain said the geographic location and closer proximity made the port a potential location of foreign trades of neighbouring India, Bhutan and Nepal.

Riverine and railway communication systems exist connecting the port to different parts of the country, he noted.

The delegation particularly expressed interest to be a party in constructing the Bay Terminal of the Chittagong Port, domestic media outlets reported.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Jan 13, 2025

Cambodia's share rises to 7.42 per cent in Spanish garment market

Cambodia has consolidated its position in the Spanish garment market and has become the fifth-largest supplier by gaining more market share in recent years. Cambodia's share increased to 7.42 per cent in the Spanish market as its garment imports from the country jumped 38.73 per cent to $1,298.449 million in January–October 2024.

According to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro, Spain's apparel imports totalled $17.500 billion in the first ten months of 2024. Imports from Cambodia jumped 38.73 per cent during this period, rising from $935.981 million in January–October 2023.

In 2023, Spain imported apparel worth $1,170.677 million from Cambodia, accounting for 5.81 per cent of its total apparel imports of $20.165 billion in the same year. Cambodia remained in the fifth position among the largest apparel suppliers.

Cambodia's position in the Spanish garment market was dented during the COVID year. It was the sixth-largest supplier, with a 4.51 per cent share in 2019. Spain's imports from Cambodia were recorded at $874.142 million, out of total apparel imports of $19.400 billion in the same year. Spain's total apparel imports dipped to $16.256 billion in 2020.

Spanish garment imports from Cambodia declined to $634.629 million, accounting for 3.90 per cent of the total. Cambodia's rank also slipped to eighth among the largest suppliers. In 2021, Spanish garment imports improved to $18.125 billion, but imports from Cambodia further eased to $626.853 million. Consequently, its share shrank to 3.46 per cent, though its rank improved to seventh, as per TexPro.

The European nation's apparel imports further rose to $22.006 billion in 2022, with imports from Cambodia also increasing to $981.277 million in the same year. Its share rose to 4.46 per cent, ranking as the sixth-largest supplier. Its share further increased to 5.81 per cent in 2023 and 7.42 per cent in January–October 2024.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

EU-Chile Interim Trade Agreement enters into force

The European Union (EU)-Chile Interim Trade Agreement (ITA) recently entered into force, following the completion of Chile's ratification process.

Signed in December 2023, the ITA is expected to boost business competitiveness on both sides, while providing a shared platform for the development of net-zero economies. It will also boost the EU-Chile privileged partnership.

This work will be further underpinned by ongoing initiatives under the Global Gateway, such as development of critical raw materials value chains and the production of green hydrogen in Chile, a release from the European Commission said.

The agreement will enable both sides to cooperate on global challenges like de-risking of supply chains and the fight against climate change.

The ITA will eliminate tariffs on 99.9 per cent of EU exports and providing a level playing field for EU goods on the Chilean market. It will ensure more effective and sustainable flow of raw materials and derived products;

It includes energy and raw materials chapter that will foster investment and provide the EU with steady, reliable and sustainable access to critical raw materials as well as clean fuel like hydrogen, crucial for the transition to the green economy.

It will give Chile all the policy space it may need to pursue its industrial policy objectives and ensure EU investors in Chile are treated the same way as domestic investors, the release said. An ambitious trade and sustainable development chapter confirms the parties' commitment to International Labour Organisation

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(ILO) standards and to the Paris agreement on climate change.

The EU and Chile negotiated between 2017 and 2022 to modernise the EU-Chile Association Agreement (in force since 2003). The negotiations concluded on December 9, 2022, and both sides signed the modernised agreement on December 13, 2023.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Global e-commerce apparel market to grow to $1.2 trillion by 2030: Report

Valued at $764.4 billion in 2024, the global e-commerce apparel market is projected to reach $1.2 trillion by 2030, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.8 per cent. As per a report by ResearchAndMarkets.com, this growth will be fueled by several key factors, including shifting consumer habits, technological advancements, and adaptive business models.

Titled, 'E-Commerce Apparel-Global Strategic Report,' the analysis says, consumers are increasingly turning to online shopping for its convenience, speed, and vast selection. The rise of smartphones and mobile apps has made shopping anytime, anywhere, a reality. Improved internet access and secure online payment systems have further broadened the reach of e-commerce, particularly in developing markets where online shopping is becoming increasingly popular.

Combined with the affordability and ease of online shopping, the rising demand for fast fashion is a major market driver of this growth. E-commerce platforms can quickly adapt to trends, offering new collections, discounts, and flash sales, which encourages frequent purchases. The ability to access international brands online expands consumer choice, creating a global apparel marketplace. This preference for online shopping, especially among younger, tech-savvy generations, is expected to continue driving market expansion.

Technological innovations are constantly enhancing the online shopping experience. Features like AI-powered recommendations, augmented reality (AR) virtual try-ons, and streamlined checkout processes improve customer satisfaction. Data analytics help businesses optimize their supply chains and better meet consumer demand. These technological advancements ensure that e-commerce apparel brands remain competitive, contributing to the overall market growth. Within the market, women's apparel segment is projected to grow at a CAGR of 7.7 per cent to $827.8 billion by 2030. Meanwhile, the men's apparel segment is poised to grow at a CAGR of 8.5 per cent over the forecast period.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Canada imposes 25% tariff on US apparel, other items amid trade war

The Canadian government has announced a 25 per cent tariff on US apparel imports, effective February 4, 2025, in response to what it calls "unjustified" US trade measures against Canadian goods.

Part of a $155 billion retaliatory tariff package, the move targets $30 billion in US imports, including clothing, footwear, appliances, motorcycles, and beverages. An additional $125 billion in tariffs on other US goods—including vehicles, steel, and agricultural products—will undergo public consultation before implementation.

Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc and Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly stated that Canada "will not stand idly by" as its economy and workers face unfair penalties. The government also warned that US tariffs would harm American industries by raising consumer costs and disrupting supply chains.

In addition, Canada is establishing a remission process to mitigate the impact on its businesses and workers while exploring further countermeasures if the US trade actions persist.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Global textile industry shows signs of recovery amid challenges

The ITMF's 30th Global Textile Industry Survey conducted in January 2025 reveals a cautiously optimistic outlook amid ongoing challenges in the textile value chain. While the overall global business balance remains negative at -15 percentage points (pp), the trend has been on an upswing since November 2024, especially in South America, which shows a positive balance of +21pp. Notably, garment manufacturers have also turned positive, registering a balance of +3pp.

Looking ahead, optimism is growing with 43% of survey participants expecting improved conditions in the next six months, lifting the global outlook to a positive balance of +29 percentage points. Regions like South America and producer groups such as spinners, which report a balance of +46pp and +45pp, respectively, are leading this sentiment.

Order intake continues its steady recovery with January 2025 figures showing a balance of –6pp after 14 months of progress. South Asia and South America post strong positive performances, but home textile is the only segment with a positive balance. Meanwhile, the global order backlog has risen to 2.5 months, with North & Central America at 2.9 months, indicating increased demand despite persistent concerns.

Challenges persist as global capacity utilization rate slips to 72%, even though it remains above previous lows. The survey also highlights ongoing worries over weak demand and geopolitical risks, with high energy and raw material prices adding to industry pressures. However, order cancellations have stayed low and stable, and overall inventory levels have remained relatively unchanged.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Turkiye's apparel exports drop 4.47 per cent to $17.4 billion in 2024

Turkiye's apparel exports declined by 4.47 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in 2024, totalling $17,494 million compared to $18,314 million in the same period of 2023, according to data from the Turkish Statistical Institute and the Ministry of Trade. However, exports also slipped by 10.52 per cent in December 2024.

Exports of knitted and crocheted clothing and accessories (HS Chapter 61) decreased by 1.6 per cent to $10,109.110 million, down from $10,277.566 million in 2023. Non-knitted apparel and accessories (HS Chapter 62) experienced an 8.1 per cent decline, falling to $7,385.592 million from $8,037.378 million during the same period last year, as per the trade report on the top twenty chapters.

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In December 2024, Turkiye's garment exports dipped by 10.52 per cent to $1,267.436 million. Exports of knitted and crocheted clothing and accessories decreased by 7.2 per cent to $753.112 million, compared to $811.313 million in December 2023. Non-knitted apparel and accessories saw a fall of 15.0 per cent, declining from $605.052 million in December 2023 to $514.324 million in December 2024.

Among the top 20 product chapters imported by Turkiye, no textiles-related chapter appeared in December 2024. However, the inbound shipment of non-knitted and crocheted goods and articles (HS Chapter 62) grew by 17.0 per cent to $1,635.267 million in January–October 2024, compared to $1,397.559 million in January–October 2023.

In 2023, Turkiye's apparel exports fell by 5.86 per cent to $18.321 billion, compared to $19.463 billion in 2022, following $18.294 billion in 2021.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Bangladesh's earnings from garment exports continue to rise despite factory closures: EPB

Despite a wave of garment factory closures in Bangladesh, export earnings from the sector continue to increase, as per the data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

In the first six months of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh's export earnings from the garment sector increased by approximately 13 per cent compared to the same period last year. Exports in December increased by 18 per cent with exports of woven garments rising by 20 per cent.

At tributing the factory closures to labor unrest and banking difficulties, entrepreneurs also noted this paradoxical increase in export income. They observed a gradual decrease in the crisis of confidence among garment sector business owners. According to economic analysts, this export growth offers some relief to the country's economy, which has faced challenges like a dollar shortage.

Bangladesh's primary source of export earnings, the RMG sector has been struggling due to worker unrest and other issues. The sector experienced four months of instability following the August government change, leading to a crisis of confidence among foreign buyers.

Despite efforts by the interim government and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to rebuild trust, numerous factories closed down. Data indicates, over 100 factories closed operations in the last six months, with 83 companies shutting down completely and at least 10 others suspending operations. Businesses attribute these closures to the political transition.

Mohiuddin Rubel, Former Director, BGMEA explains, export earnings from the sector continue to increase due to a rise in the workers' skilling which has boosted productivity in garment factories. While many small and medium-sized factories closed due to issues like lack of banking support, larger, more efficient factories have expanded production, states Rubel.

Other factors that contributed to the rise in export earnings include a rising US dollar against the Bangladeshi taka, scaling of production by larger factories, production of more value-added, premium garments, brands concentrating on fewer and larger facilities, diversification of raw material sources that helped manufacturers main production despite global disruptions.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Egypt's clothing exports to the UK rise to $101 million in 2024

Experiencing significant growth, Egypt's clothing exports to the United Kingdom rose to $101 million in 2024. Representing a remarkable 53 per cent increase over the past five years, this growth signals a rising global demand for Egyptian-made garments.

This achievement also positions Egypt as the seventh-largest supplier of apparel to the UK, according to data released by the Ready-Made Garments Export Council. As per figures from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Egypt's total clothing exports increased to approximately $2.526 billion in the first eleven months of 2024 from the $2.174 billion recorded during the same period in 2023. This not only highlights the robust growth of the Egyptian garment industry on the global stage but also demonstrates the strength of the Egyptian garment industry in the international market.

Currently, Egyptian companies are participating in the prestigious Fashion London exhibition, a key event in the international fashion industry. This platform brings together leading brands and designers, offering Egyptian businesses a prime opportunity to showcase their latest products and stay abreast of global fashion trends. At the exhibition, Egyptian firms are unveiling new designs specifically tailored for international markets and engaging in bilateral meetings with major importers, aiming to further expand their export reach.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Vietnam: Textile and garment sector sees export growth

Orders have already been booked through Q2, with some extending into Q3.

"Our company has secured significant orders for Q2 of 2025, setting a strong pace for the year," said Than Duc Viet, general director of Garment 10 Corporation.

Garment 10 is actively expanding its reach in both domestic and export markets, targeting traditional markets in the US, EU, and Japan while exploring opportunities in South Korea, China, and other Asian nations. The company underscored the sector's potential in 2024 by posting $187.9 million in total revenue and $5.26 million in pre-tax profit, up 10 per cent and 7 per cent on-year, respectively.

TNG Investment and Trading JSC revealed that many of its factories have locked in orders through Q2, with 46 per cent of exports headed to the US and 13 per cent to the EU. Song Hong Garment JSC directs over 70 per cent of its exports to the US and plans to expand production capacity by 25 per cent in 2025.

Meanwhile, Thanh Cong Textile Investment Trading JSC has successfully filled its Q1 orders and is actively fulfilling contracts for Q2. The company plans to develop a strategic business plan aimed at enhancing value for shareholders and investors, with primary export markets in Asia accounting for 68 per cent of its exports, followed by the Americas at 27.4 per cent and Europe at 4.2 per cent in 2025.

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State conglomerate Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group reported that several subsidiaries have already received orders through Q3 of this year, with additional negotiations underway. To meet rising Spring-Summer demand, many companies have ramped up production schedules to ensure timely order fulfilment, sustaining the recovery momentum that began in late 2024.

However, challenges remain. According to SSI Research, the industry is expected to return to a compound annual growth rate of 13–15 per cent in 2025 – similar to 2015–2019.

Rising shipping costs are also a concern, with freight rates increasing by 3 per cent for Asia-to-US West Coast routes and 1 per cent for Asia-to-US East Coast routes, according to Eimskip, Iceland's leading shipping and Logistics Company. Transportation expenses are projected to rise by 10–15 per cent on-year, which may pressure profit margins despite a forecast 15 per cent revenue growth.

In 2024, Vietnam surpassed Bangladesh to become the world's second-largest textiles and apparel exporter, trailing only China, with total export revenues reaching $44 billion.

SSI Research notes that Vietnam's textile and apparel industry maintains a competitive edge thanks to tariffs 10–20 per cent lower than China's and significantly cheaper labour costs—less than half of China's, which rose 40 per cent from 2019 to 2023.

Vietnam's textile and apparel industry is poised for continued expansion in 2025, leveraging cost advantages, rapid production turnaround, and strong global demand while proactively managing rising logistics costs and adapting to shifting trade dynamics to solidify its position in the competitive international market.

Source: vir.com.vn

Vietnam's PM asks ministries, industry, provinces to go green

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh recently issued an order to implement solutions to promote a circular economy; sustainable production, consumption and trade, energy conservation and efficiency; environmental protection; and adaptation to climate change to meet the European Union's (EU) green policies.

The official dispatch was sent to several ministries, people's committees of provinces and centrally-run cities, industry associations and companies.

Though the EU's green policies are a big challenge for Vietnamese exports, in the long term, proactively and comprehensively transitioning to a green economy will create numerous opportunities for businesses, helping them enhance competitiveness and expand the market for sustainable, green products with great potential, a domestic news agency reported citing the dispatch.

Therefore, it is crucial to accelerate the implementation of appropriate solutions to proactively respond to and meet these green policies, the dispatch stressed.

The order asked the ministry of industry and trade to intensify efforts to build and perfect policies, regulations, and standards that align with international commitments, regulations and standards on sustainable development and circular economy. The focus will be on ecological design, hazardous chemical and waste management and recycling to meet global standards.

The ministry of natural resources and environment will continue to develop and improve legal documents on environmental protection and climate change; organise the implementation of the national action plan on the circular economy; strengthen the making, perfection and implementation of policies and regulations on waste management and retrieval of discarded or expired products, and those aimed at reducing the disposal of hazardous waste in products in sectors heavily affected by the EU's green policies.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Turkiye's home textile exports to Europe fall to $2 bn in 2024

Turkiye's home textile exports to Europe stood at $2.093 billion in 2024, which was 2.99 per cent lower than the exports of $2.157 billion in 2023. Europe's share in the country's total home textile exports also declined to 45.39 per cent, marking the second consecutive year of decrease. Home textiles include bedding, curtains, bed sheets, covers, kitchen textiles, and many other non-wearable consumer textile products.

Europe's share in shipments was 46.34 per cent in 2023, when Turkiye's total home textile exports amounted to $4.656 billion. Turkiye's total exports of these products eased by 0.96 per cent to $4.611 billion in 2024. The decline in exports to Europe was greater than the overall drop in the country's total shipments, according to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro.

Europe's share in Turkiye's home textile exports was 49.48 per cent in 2022, marking the highest level in the past six years. Shipments to Europe were valued at $2.157 billion out of Turkiye's total exports of $4.656 billion in the same year.

In 2019, Turkiye exported home textiles worth $2.007 billion to Europe, accounting for 43.10 per cent of its total home textile exports, which stood at $4.657 billion. The share increased to 46.30 per cent in 2020, 47.06 per cent in 2021, and peaked at 49.48 per cent in 2022, before declining in the following years.

As per TexPro, The country's total home textile exports were recorded at $5.125 billion in 2020, $5.129 billion in 2021, and $5.187 billion in 2022. Shipments to Europe were valued at $2.373 billion in 2020, $2.884 billion in 2021, and $2.567 billion in 2022.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

EVFTA leads to many positives after 5 years: Vietnam's CIEM

Vietnam's Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) recently flagged several positive outcomes of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) after five years of implementation. Presenting a report, head of CIEM's general research department Nguyen Anh Duong pointed out remarkable results, including a robust growth of exports to the European Union (EU), particularly in key sectors like textiles and footwear that significantly benefit from tariff incentives.

The agreement has cultivated a transparent business environment, attracting high-quality foreign direct investment (FDI) from the EU, especially in high-tech and sustainable development sectors. Commitments related to intellectual property, environmental protection, labour and sustainable

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development under the agreement have encouraged Vietnam to upgrade its legal framework to align with international standards, noted the report.

Specifically, the proportion of exports to the EU in Vietnam's total export turnover has gradually increased, reaching 13.19 per cent last year. Vietnam maintains a substantial trade surplus with the EU, with $35.2 billion last year, the highest among the free trade agreements to which the country is a signatory.

The agreement has attracted significant interest from EU investors, particularly in high-tech, renewable energy and green manufacturing sectors. However, the actual inflow of FDI from the EU has not increased as expected, a Vietnamese media outlet reported.

The EVFTA has served as a crucial catalyst for Vietnam to adjust its policy and legal systems to meet high standards. Key changes are seen in areas like customs process transparency, business environment improvement, labour standards enhancement and environmental protection.

Implementation of the agreement faces challenges due to uneven enforcement capacity among ministries and localities, as well as difficulties in adjusting the legal framework to meet new requirements.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Bangladesh labour problems pose an important test for global clothing giants

The 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza factory complex in Bangladesh, which killed 1,138 people, was a hideous wake-up call for the global fashion industry. Big brands like Primark and Benetton collaborated on new initiatives to avoid a repeat tragedy (and another public relations disaster).

Twelve years on, safety standards in Bangladesh's clothing factories have improved significantly, proving multinational companies' capacity to drive positive change in their supply chains when they make an effort. But new research has highlighted the limits of this progress — and the extent to which big clothing companies themselves are a driver of human rights problems among their suppliers.

The study — co-ordinated by the University of Nottingham, the Bangladesh Labour Foundation and Goodweave International — showed basic safety standard improvements. Ninety per cent of the 1,974 workers interviewed said there was a safety committee with worker representation at their factory.

But in other regards, the results were dispiriting. The research, which was conducted from late 2023 to mid-2024, showed widespread violations of Bangladeshi law and basic human rights. With Bangladesh ranking as the world's second-largest apparel exporter after China, the problems are significant for the global garment industry as a whole.

About a third of workers said they were paid below the legal minimum wage (which itself is not enough to pay for basic necessities, according to the Global Living Wage Coalition). A similar proportion said they worked more than the legal maximum of 10 hours a day, six days a week; all the legal minors interviewed said they worked more than the limit for under-18s. More than half the workers said they suffered threats or abuse at work.

Importantly, these problems were far more severe among the subcontractors that supply the exporters. This suggests that, while due diligence by international clothing companies is having some effect on basic labour rights at their direct suppliers, it's having little such impact further down the supply chain.

The majority of workers at subcontracting factories said they were paid below the minimum wage, and they were far more likely to be working illegally long hours.

The research authors recommended that clothing companies invest in proper "mapping" of their extended supply chains, and collaborate with other businesses and non-profit groups to promote a broader improvement in transparency around indirect suppliers.

Many businesses now have a legal incentive to take these risks seriously. The EU's corporate sustainability due diligence directive, passed last year and now being phased into effect, carries tough penalties for harms caused by a European company's supplier, if it has failed to take proper measures to identify and act on related risks.

But clothing retailers need to ask themselves to what extent these abuses are, in fact, a function of their business model. Bangladesh's fragmented garment sector — its 7,000 factories are roughly evenly divided between exporters and their subcontractors — has evolved in part because of the huge need for flexibility, as suppliers race to respond to foreign orders with tight deadlines.

The report found that the time pressure from foreign customers was a major reason behind the illegally long hours worked by many factory workers. Another was the fact that some foreign customers had refused to increase their payment rates in response to a rise in Bangladesh's minimum wage.

The researchers argued that international clothing companies should co-ordinate to offer a premium to the payments made to their Bangladeshi suppliers, to fund higher worker wages. That might seem an optimistic request to make of clothing companies in the fast fashion era, as they jostle for low-margin business pushing out new designs at the frantic pace of viral social media trends.

For Bangladesh, the situation presents an economic dilemma. Competition among clothing exporters has been heating up, and the country has lost market share over the past four years to other Asian nations including Vietnam, India and Indonesia. Anything that adds to the cost of production might seem like a self-defeating move.

But failing to take action on these systemic labour violations may threaten Bangladesh's competitive position in a different way, as international companies face new legal pressure to eliminate abuses in their supply chains.

Whether those companies play a constructive role in addressing those problems — rather than simply pushing suppliers for lower prices, or abandoning Bangladesh for still lower-cost destinations — will provide an important test of their approach to questions of social responsibility.

Source: ft.com

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Will Big Fashion Brands Return to Russia?

H&M Group says it has no plans to reopen in Russia. Uniqlo owner Fast Retailing, too, sees “no foreseeable prospects” to resume operations. But other brands, including Zara parent Inditex, appear to be staying mum about a potential return to a market they left in far less equivocal terms when President Vladimir Putin’s forces invaded Ukraine.

The question has become pertinent in light of the Trump administration’s eagerness to end the war, even though it appears to be putting the onus on Ukraine to accept a deal that was seemingly made without the country’s input, or indeed that of any other European ally. With that has come a striking shift in U.S. policy, one that saw Marco Rubio, President Donald Trump’s secretary of state, declaring to a Moscow delegation in Riyadh recently that the United States could explore the “incredible opportunities that exist to partner with the Russians,” both economically and geopolitically, if the fighting came to an end.

It’s an astonishing turnabout from both U.S. foreign policy and the aggressive sanctions that Biden’s White House imposed following what it described as Putin’s “murderous assault.” Trump has falsely blamed Ukraine for starting the war and therefore undeserving of a seat at the table during peace talks with Russia. He has taken to social media to call Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelensky, a “dictator without elections” who has “done a terrible job” in office. Unlike his predecessor, Trump has refused to apply the same epithet to Putin. The tariffs he had originally threatened Russia with if it kept up the fighting have also apparently evaporated.

In a move said to have angered and frustrated European leaders, the United States voted against a United Nations General Assembly resolution that condemned the invasion on Monday, the third anniversary of the start of Russia’s full-scale attack on Ukraine. Instead, it provided a three-paragraph resolution—one that neither mentioned the former’s role as aggressor nor the latter’s position as a victim—that implored a “swift end to the conflict and…a lasting peace between Ukraine and Russia.”

Also on Monday, Trump claimed that the conflict could be over “within weeks.” Last week, he said that the fallout of the war mattered more to Europe than the United States, which is separated from the conflict by a “big, beautiful ocean.”

Leaving Russia, a lucrative market for apparel consumption, badly dinged many bottom lines, said Sheng Lu, professor of fashion and apparel studies at the University of Delaware. Before the war, Russia’s annual retail sales for designer ready-to-wear apparel and footwear exceeded $3 billion, eclipsing sales in many Western markets, including Canada ($2.6 billion), Spain ($2.4 billion) and Australia ($2.1 billion). Luxury fashion sales have since plummeted to below $0.9 billion in 2024, with a similar trend in the value and mass market segment that saw H&M, once 30 percent of Russia’s clothing retail sales fall to below 0.1 percent as of 2023.

But whether brands will flock back to Russia is uncertain. For some, the question is moot: European Union sanctions still forbid the transfer of luxury goods to “any natural or legal person, entity or body” in Russia or for use in Russia, meaning that imports from rarified names like Chanel, Hermès and Louis Vuitton are still technically frozen, even though goods are reportedly still making their way to consumers through intermediaries and other back-door channels. Others have wound up their business altogether, such as off-price retailer TJX, which sold its minority stake in Russian retailer Familia, or Nike, which cut ties with its Russian franchisees.

There is also the reputational risk to consider, Lu said, adding that doing business with Russia would almost certainly invite “intense scrutiny and raise controversies from consumers, civil society and other advocacy groups concerned about ethical business practices in the country.” And even if Trump and Putin reached an agreement, lifting economic sanctions on Russia would still be a “complex and lengthy process” because of the interconnectedness of global supply chains.

Even so, Russian state media reported last week that a trade group representing hundreds of the nation’s shopping malls wrote to H&M, Fast Retailing and Inditex urging them to reopen. It comes just months after the Russian Council of Shopping Centers said that nearly one-quarter of Russian malls are at risk of closing in the coming year due to a combination of exiting Western brands, increasing operational costs and mounting competition from online marketplaces. A representative from H&M said it received no such letter, while Fast Retailing did not respond to that specific query. Inditex, which offloaded its Russian business to Emirati conglomerate Daher Group in 2022, said it would not be making any comments, although it had not ruled out a possible return at the time of the sale.

Neil Saunders, managing director of Global Data Retail, a market analytics firm, said that while going back to Russia could work out in theory, doing so would be much more of a minefield in practice. Companies would be going back to a much-altered Russia, one characterized by double-digit inflation and labor shortages. Putin’s ever-changing rules, such as ballooning “exit taxes” on departing companies or the retaliatory confiscation of foreign asses, have only underscored the perilous nature of doing business in the country.

“I also think that even if fashion brands did find a path to re-entry, it would not simply be a case of picking up where things left off,” he said. “There has been a lot of consumer change in Russia and brands might not be welcomed back with open arms.”

Source: sourcingjournal.com

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The way to counter reciprocal tariffs

Indian manufacturing, already in a vulnerable position, is likely to be severely affected by US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs. Despite the government's efforts to boost the sector through the 'Make in India' initiative, the share of manufacturing in India's GDP was slightly lower at 15.83 percent in 2023-24, compared to 15.99 percent in 2014-15.

Reciprocal tariffs refer to levies on imports from any nation that charges duties on US exports. "An eye for an eye, a tariff for a tariff—the same exact amount," Trump promised during his campaign. What remains unclear is how these tariffs would be calculated.

With the US being India's largest export partner, Trump's reciprocal tariffs will likely have far-reaching consequences. The US administration's plans to impose tariffs on steel, aluminium, pharmaceuticals, textiles and certain electronics will significantly challenge Indian exports to America. These tariffs will not only increase costs for Indian exporters but also shrink market share, intensify competition from imports, and potentially lead to job losses and investment slowdowns.

The immediate consequence will be the increased cost of Indian exports to the US. Consider the case of the 25 percent tariff on all US imports of steel and aluminium announced by Trump on February 10. With the current rates ruling at 2.95 percent for steel imports and 3.91 percent for aluminium, the higher tariffs will place a burden on Indian exporters, making their products less competitive in the US market.

This would lead to reduced sales and revenue losses for companies engaged in these industries, eventually forcing layoffs and production cuts. This would only be a first-order effect. The downstream impact on industries such as automobile manufacturing and canned goods would also likely be substantial.

Similarly, India's pharmaceutical sector, a leading supplier of generic drugs to the US, will see its profit margins squeezed due to increased costs. The same applies to textiles and electronics, where higher tariffs could prompt buyers to shift to buying from other low-cost manufacturing hubs such as Vietnam and Bangladesh.

The impact of such tariffs will not be limited to an immediate reduction in merchandise exports. A sustained decline in exports, combined with higher tariffs on multiple products, would dampen investments. This would place additional strain on India's efforts to boost industrial growth.

Any attempt to mitigate the negative effects of reciprocal tariffs by reducing India's own tariffs on US imports could have a detrimental effect on domestic manufacturing.

Lower tariffs on US goods would make imported products more affordable, potentially shifting consumer demand away from locally manufactured goods. Industries such as consumer electronics, automobiles and machinery could struggle to compete with an influx of cheaper imports. Given that manufacturing plays a crucial role in employment generation, this shift could have far-reaching socio-economic consequences.

To navigate these challenges, India must rethink its economic strategy and take proactive measures to cushion the impact of Trump's tariffs. One key step would be to diversify its export destinations. While the US has traditionally been one of India's largest trading partners, the unpredictability of American trade policy underscores the need to explore alternative markets. Strengthening trade ties with the European Union could help offset losses in the US market, while expanding agreements with ASEAN nations could open up new opportunities. Additionally, emerging economies in Africa and Latin America present untapped potential for increased trade and investment.

India must also focus on strengthening domestic manufacturing to ensure resilience in the face of shifting geopolitical trade dynamics. Investment in innovation and technology will be critical to maintaining global competitiveness. Indian firms must adopt advanced manufacturing techniques and prioritise research and development to produce high-value, innovative products.

Policy measures to boost domestic demand, such as the recent increase in tax exemptions for income and interest proposed in the Union Budget 2025-26, could help counteract the negative impact of tariffs—provided the additional disposable income is not diverted toward imported goods. Ensuring the availability of affordable credit for businesses and consumers will also support investment and spending, strengthening the overall economy.

Trump's tariffs come at a time when India's manufacturing sector is already grappling with declining sales, rising inventories, and stagnating order books. However, this crisis also presents an opportunity for India to rethink its economic policies and adapt to a shifting global trade environment.

While Trump's tariffs pose short-term challenges, India has the potential to emerge stronger by strategically repositioning its economy for the future. By implementing forward-thinking policies, India can mitigate the adverse effects of these trade measures and create a more self-sufficient, competitive industrial sector in the long run.

Source: indianexpress.com

India must rethink trade strategy as US pushes reciprocal tariffs

Among the most significant, but also confounding, announcements by President Donald Trump in his first month in office is the imposition of "reciprocal tariffs" by the US on its trade partners. The White House memo of February 13, 2025, specifies a comprehensive approach to measuring non-reciprocity by US trade partners based on five detailed criteria.

In addition to tariffs imposed on US products, this includes non-tariff barriers, subsidies and/ or any measures, policies

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—including on exchange rates, taxes, practices or regulatory requirements in the partner country —that, in the judgement of the US administration, are discriminatory or impose limitations on market access for US businesses, workers, and/or consumers.

A systematic evaluation of all these measures, for almost 13,000 tariff lines traded by the US for each of its trade partners, seems like a near-impossible exercise to undertake. Speculation is therefore rife on whether the evaluation of tariffs will be product-specific or will sector averages be considered.

Furthermore, there are questions about whether this will be unidirectional or if the US will also reduce its tariffs correspondingly in sectors where it imposes relatively high tariffs, such as in apparel and clothing.

Given that there are yet no answers to these and many related queries, it may be best to wait and watch how the reciprocal tariffs unfold in April and beyond. In the interim, though, it may be useful to consider other options for trade.

So, what are India's options? India has, thus far, adopted a pre-emptive approach. This is unlike Mexico and Canada, the first two countries targeted by President Trump for the imposition of 25 per cent tariffs. Both responded, post-announcement, by promising to reinforce their border with the US to prevent illegal migration and the flow of Fentanyl opioid. This was, in effect, only an intensification of their ongoing border security policies.

India, in comparison, has responded to broad criticism of its tariff levels by President Trump. In the February 2025 Budget, tariffs in some product categories, including on 1,600 cc motorcycles, were brought down. This was followed, a few days later, by a reduction in tariffs on imports of Bourbon whiskey, clearly aimed at appeasing the US. Notwithstanding these pre-emptive moves, President Trump has continued with his adverse comments on India's tariffs with no indications of concessions for India in his plans to impose "reciprocal tariffs". India, it may be noted, is among the top 15 trading partners with which the US runs a deficit in goods trade.

While India is preparing for a bilateral deal with the US, this may not be sufficient to combat the challenge posed by US trade policy under Trump 2.0. The imposition of tariffs on Mexico and Canada serves as evidence of his willingness to violate the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement crafted under Trump 1.0.

India, therefore, needs to secure its trade opportunities through a systematic approach of diversification of its export markets and products. It could perhaps learn from the recent trade initiatives of other countries. For example, some have hastened the pace of their negotiations to conclude Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) as part of a diversified trade strategy. Mexico and the European Union recently concluded an upgrade of their earlier trade agreement with substantial tariff reduction and modern-day high-standard provisions, including on sustainability and green growth.

Similarly, the EU-Mercosur (Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil) trade deal, long under negotiation, was finalised in December 2024 in anticipation of Mr Trump's imminent presidency. The trade deal goes beyond tariffs to include environment standards as well as critical minerals. The UK has similarly begun its process of reviewing the economic cooperation agreement with the EU, having accomplished its membership of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in 2024.

For Asean economies, membership of the mega-regional trade agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and CPTPP provides avenues for further trade intensification. Furthermore, unlike India, some of the Asean economies continue to enjoy concessional market access through the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) in the US.

While India has also announced the resumption of FTA talks with the UK and EU, more groundwork will be needed to conclude the negotiations. Tariff reduction must be undertaken more systematically to achieve an actual reduction of effective tariffs. For most commodities for which basic Customs duty was reduced in the Budget in February, the additional levy of a cess has kept the effective duty rate unchanged. As the threat of reciprocal tariffs by the US looms large, it may be opportune and useful for India to formulate a time-bound plan to reduce and align its average applied tariffs with its comparator Asian economies. Coupled with an early review of the model Bilateral Investment Treaty, also announced in 2025 Budget, this will assist India in concluding deeper trade agreements and attracting export-oriented foreign direct investment.

On sustainability issues, too, India needs to evolve a suitable negotiating stance, given that trade today takes place in a milieu of global challenges such as climate change and political backlash related to worker conditions and rights. The EU-Mercosur FTA, wherein the Latin American economies with major agro and forest-based export interests have successfully negotiated these elements, may provide useful inputs in this context. Simultaneously, India should initiate its participation in the CPTPP, as its provisions have been formulated to respond to modern-day trade contours, and with its membership, existing and potential, it may soon be the largest, open rules-based trade bloc.

India also needs to evolve its perspective on the multilateral front. It should contribute more to collective action towards creating an alternative rules-based trade order. This is necessary as the principle of fairness in global trade can only be achieved through an overarching supra national institution — a role the WTO, in its present form, is unable to perform. India has thus far stayed away from plurilaterals, questioning their legality. This viewpoint may now need reconsideration and, in fact, it may be time now to collectively re-define plurilaterals through a set of common parameters while keeping membership open to individual country choice.

Therefore, for India, the need of the hour is a strategic trade policy that is multi-pronged and responsive to the varied challenges of the present-day global trade environment.

Source: business-standard

UK celebrates millions in Indian investments after FTA talks relaunch

The UK on Wednesday celebrated recent investment wins worth over GBP 100 million from Indian companies and pointed to India's insurance sector as a growth opportunity for British companies following the relaunch of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations this week. As Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds concluded his two-day visit to New Delhi after talks with his Indian counterpart, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the UK Department for Business and Trade (DBT) said recent Indian investments are expected to create hundreds of new jobs over the next three years.

These investments are said to cover a range of sectors including artificial intelligence (AI), professional services and textiles, with UK insurance companies "gaining more potential to expand thanks to the Indian Budget earlier this month", which had increased the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) permitted in the sector from 74 per cent to 100 per cent.

"These investment deals will deliver more than GBP 100 million for the UK economy, creating jobs, strengthening growth, and helping working people," said Reynolds.

"Now the UK will strive to be more ambitious and collaborative than ever before as we show the world why the UK is the best place to invest," he said. The minister went on to highlight companies in the UK's tech and life sciences sectors as leading the way with their expansion plans for the Indian market.

"I'm proud that government support has helped some of our finest businesses in these sectors to expand into the exciting Indian market. It's great to see them going for growth, and their successes will amount to tens of millions of pounds for the UK economy, which will see living standards improve, and put money in people's pockets," added Reynolds.

Among the recent Indian investments flagged by DBT are Aaseya Technologies, a professional services company specialising in digital transformation through automation, with GBP 25 million investment and Sastra Robotics' GBP 8 million in Manchester to expand the company's robotics innovation and development.

It also includes University Living, a global student housing managed marketplace, investing GBP 10 million to open a UK office, and Test Yantra, a testing and training services company, investing GBP 10 million.

On the other side of the two-way investment flows, UK businesses that have expanded their exports include Shipley-based Radio Design setting up a manufacturing facility in India; London-based Marcus Evans Group establishing a Mumbai base; Leicester-based chemicals company Microfresh rolling out smart antimicrobial technology across multiple Indian textile and leather players; and London-headquartered Novocuris operating in multiple Indian hospitals.

Meanwhile, UK Investment Minister Poppy Gustafsson travelled to Bengaluru this week as part of her two-city tour that also covered Mumbai to "bang the drum for Britain, champion free trade and promote exciting investment opportunities in the UK economy."

According to official statistics, while UK businesses exported a total of GBP 17 billion goods and services to India in the 12 months to September 2024, Indian FDI stock from India increased 28 per cent at the end of 2023 - with India the second-largest investor in terms of number of projects into the UK for five consecutive years.

DBT added: "A trade deal which brings down barriers could make selling to this huge market easier and cheaper for businesses, delivering on the government's 'Plan for Change.'

"Already an economic heavyweight, India is expected to become the fourth largest importer by 2035, presenting new opportunities for UK businesses."

Source: economictimes.com

Madhya Pradesh Government plans Textile Park in Malwa

Following the success of the apparel park in Pithampur, the Madhya Pradesh Government plans to set up a textile park under the PM Mitra scheme in the Malwa region. The park will be a key feature at the upcoming Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025 in Bhopal.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5F vision, PM Mitra Parks are being developed at seven locations across India through special purpose vehicles (SPVs). These Greenfield textile parks will receive Central Government support of Rs 500 crore.

The Madhya Pradesh Government will showcase this park at the GIS, aiming to attract industries to establish operations. The park will provide comprehensive facilities, from design to dyeing, for investors. A dedicated textile expo will be organized at the GIS to attract investors in the textile sector, as per a government official.

Approved by the Government of India in March 2023, the park will be located in Bhensola village of Badnawar tehsil in Dhar district. It will be developed as per a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Textiles and the Madhya Pradesh Government on May 21, 2023.

Madhya Pradesh is a significant producer of high-quality cotton, yielding 317,000 metric tons, which accounts for 24 per cent of the world's non-GMO organic cotton and 47 per cent of India's non-GMO organic cotton. Additionally, the state is the sole producer of extra-long staple (ELS) cotton in India.

In a high-level meeting last June, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to expedite the Rs 500 crore project approved by the Textile Ministry for the Integrated Textile and Apparel Park in Dhar

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district. He urged agencies to work swiftly to create 25,000 jobs through 21 units in the PM Mega Textile Park. The government has allocated Rs 4,445 crore for these parks up to 2027-28.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Textile, Tourism, Technology: PM Modi's 'mantra' for India's development

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that three sectors - textiles, tourism and technology- are "crucial" for India's development.

Addressing the Madhya Pradesh Global Investor Summit in Bhopal, the Prime Minister said these sectors will create "crores" of new jobs.

"Three sectors will play a crucial role in India's development--textiles, tourism, and technology. These sectors will create crores of new jobs. If we look at textiles, India is the second-largest producer of cotton. India has a whole tradition related to textile, it has skill as well as entrepreneurship," PM Modi said.

Terming the state as the "cotton capital" of India, the Prime Minister stated that about "25 per cent of India's organic cotton supply comes from Madhya Pradesh."

India is the sixth largest textile and apparel exporter in the world.

Notably, the Central government aims to target the export of USD 10 billion worth of technical textiles under its National Technical Textiles Mission. To position India as a global leader in technical textiles, the Mission was launched in 2020-21 and has been extended till 2025-26, with a financial outlay of Rs 1,480 crore.

Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products used primarily for their technical performance in various high-end industries. At present, India's technical textile exports are reportedly between USD 2 billion to USD 3 billion.

In his inaugural address at the Global Investor Summit, PM Modi also emphasised on the need to ensure water security for industrial development. He said that the government is constantly pushing for water conservation and promoting river interlinking mission.

"For industrial development, water security is important. To achieve this, on one side, we are pushing water conservation, and on the other, we are promoting the river interlinking mission. Agriculture is one of the biggest beneficiaries in this process," PM Modi said.

"Recently, the Rs 45,000 crore Ken-Betwa River Linking Project has been started. This will increase the productivity of 10 lakh hectares of agricultural land," he added.

PM also highlighted Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman decision in the Union Budget to make income up to Rs 12 lakh tax-free in order to boost consumption in the country.

"Our budget has come this month. In this budget, we have energized the growth of India. Our middle class is also the biggest test pay. It also creates demand for service and manufacturing. In this budget, many steps have been taken to empower the middle class. We have made income up to Rs 12 lakh tax-free and have restructured the tax slab. In the budget, emphasis has been laid on building local supply chain so that we can become completely self-dependent in manufacturing," PM Modi said.

Source: economictimes.com

Trump's tariff threats set to charge up India's FTA talks with UK, EU

India's free trade agreement (FTA) talks with the UK and the EU are set to get a firm push with high-level visits lined up this week in New Delhi even as US President Donald Trump's tariff threats have created uncertainty for the country's economic ties with Washington DC.

"The visits from UK's Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds, and EU President Ursula von der Leyen are likely to speed up the ongoing FTA negotiations as the EU and the UK, too, have been at the receiving end of tariff threats from Trump. They want greater ties with other partners. India is a market which holds a lot of potential," a source tracking the matter told businessline.

FTA push

The UK Trade Secretary is expected to restart the India-UK FTA talks, which were launched under the Conservative government in January 2022, with a potential to double bilateral trade to an estimated $100 billion by 2030.

While the Labour Party took its time in examining the details of the negotiations, the wait seems to be over now.

"The UK is now very interested in pushing an FTA with India with PM Starmer himself hosting an Indian business delegation in December 2024.

The Trade Secretary met the delegation separately to discuss opportunities under the proposed FTA," the official said, adding that Trump's tariff threats to all trading partners had added to the urgency.

While the UK steel industry will be directly hit if Trump imposes 25 per cent tariffs on imports next month, many more products are at risk because of the US threat of including VAT in the calculation of reciprocal tariffs.

"In India's case, exporters of items such as textiles, food & beverages, agri products and leather, which are at risk from Trump's tariffs, may all gain from an FTA with the UK. India offers a big market for not only UK's automobiles and Scotch but also for other items such as meat products, chocolates, processed foods, cereals and even pharmaceuticals. So, an FTA can be a much-needed win-win," the first source said.

Last month, while announcing her India visit, the EU President had noted, without directly naming US and President Trump

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that the world had entered a new era of "harsh geostrategic competition". Europe would keep seeking cooperation with its long-time friends and any country it shared interests with, she said.

"Europe and India are like-minded partners, bound by the shared conviction that democracy best serves the people. That's why one of the first visits of the new Commission is to India," Von der Leyen said on Friday.

Next Meeting

It is being hoped that following Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's meeting with the EU Trade Commissioner on February 28, the next round of the India-EU FTA negotiations in Brussels on March 10-14 will get a sufficient boost.

"The EU is India's largest trading partner, accounting for €124 billion worth of trade in goods in 2023 or 12.2 per cent of total Indian trade, topping the US (10.8 per cent) and China (10.5 per cent)," per EU figures.

The US, however, is India's largest trading partner country, with bilateral trade estimated at $129.2 billion in 2024 by the US government.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

India-ASEAN trade agreement review takes a slow pace

The next round of negotiations for reviewing the India-ASEAN free trade agreement in goods is expected in April, though the pace of talks is slow, an official said.

A free trade agreement in goods between India and the 10-nation bloc ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) was signed in 2009.

The ASEAN trade deal came into force in January 2010. In August 2023, both sides announced a complete review of the existing agreement in goods by 2025.

"The pace of talks is slow," the official said.

ASEAN as a group is India's one of major trade partners with about 11 per cent share in the country's global trade.

The review of the agreement is a long-standing demand of Indian industry and India is looking forward to an upgraded pact which will address the current asymmetries in bilateral trade and will make trade more balanced and sustainable.

India is asking for the review to eliminate barriers and misuse of the pact.

ASEAN members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

India's exports to the 10-nation bloc ASEAN were $41.2 billion in 2023-24, while imports aggregated at $80 billion in the last fiscal. ASEAN accounts for 10.9 per cent of India's global trade.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

India, UK to resume talks on proposed trade agreement from Feb 24

After a gap of over eight months, India and the UK will resume negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) here from February 24, an official said.

UK's Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds will be here for resumption of the talks. He will hold a bilateral meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the official said.

The India-UK FTA negotiations were launched on January 13, 2022.

Total 13 rounds of negotiations have been held till December 2023. The 14th round, which began on January 10, 2024, was underway when negotiations were paused by the UK side in May 2024 due to elections in that country.

The talks would resume the discussions from the progress achieved previously and seek to bridge the gaps for expeditiously closing the trade deal, the official added.

The agreement is aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investments.

In such pacts, two countries either eliminate or significantly reduce customs duties on maximum goods traded between them. They also ease norms for promoting trade in services and bilateral investments.

The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT and healthcare in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duty.

On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as scotch whiskey, electric vehicles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary items.

Britain is also looking for more opportunities for UK services in Indian markets in segments like telecommunications, legal and financial services, including banking and insurance.

The talks for the agreement may get an impetus as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to raise the foreign investment limit to 100 per cent in the insurance sector as part of new-generation financial sector reforms.

Presenting Union Budget 2025-26, the Finance Minister had said that foreign direct investment (FDI) limit for the insurance sector will be raised from 74 per cent to 100 per cent. The two countries are also negotiating a bilateral investment treaty (BIT).

There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which includes goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights.

The bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to $21.34 billion in 2023-24 from $20.36 billion in 2022-23. The average duty on goods imported from India into the UK is 4.2 per cent.

According to economic think tank GTRI, items including textiles,

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apparel (shirts, trousers, women's dresses, bed linen), footwear, carpets, cars, marine products, grapes, and mangoes would be benefitted from the pact as these products face relatively low to moderate tariffs in the UK.

Duties on yarn and fabric are 4 per cent, while tariffs on shirts, trousers, women's dresses, and bed linen range from 10 per cent to 12 per cent. Similarly, handbags and trunk cases attract 8 per cent tariffs, levies on footwear vary from 4 per cent to 16 per cent.

It has said that UK exporters would gain immediately after India eliminates high tariffs on most British products.

For example, the tariff on cars is 100 per cent and on Scotch whisky and wines it is 150 per cent. The simple average tariff in India on goods imported from the UK is 14.6 per cent.

The UK exported $2.7 billion worth of precious metals; and $374 million worth of Scotch and other alcohol into India during 2022-23. The United Kingdom is the sixth largest investor in India. The country has received $35.3 billion FDI during April 2000 and September 2024.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

India's e-com market to rise to $550 bn by 2035: Report

The Indian e-commerce sector's market size is projected to rise to $550 billion by 2035, growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 15 per cent, while the country's retail market may reach $2,500 billion in ten years, with a CAGR of 6 per cent, a recent report has revealed.

The country's e-commerce market size stood at $125 billion last year. It is likely to touch $345 billion by 2030-end.

While favourable demographics, rising income, evolving consumer preferences, easy credit availability and brand consciousness are the key growth drivers of Indian retail, increasing Internet penetration, smartphone adoption, digital payment infrastructure and a young, tech-savvy population are driving the growth of the e-commerce market, the report jointly released by Anarock and ETRetail noted.

The share of organised retail is projected to increase from 12 per cent in 2023 to 17 per cent by 2035.

E-commerce growth in tier-2 and tier-3 cities is accelerating, with such cities making up over half of total shopping in the past couple of years, outpacing tier-1 markets.

Online shopping is expected to account for nearly 65 per cent of retail shopping by 2030.

Government initiatives like 'Digital India', omni-channel retailing and rapid improvements in the country's logistics and supply chain networks have further boosted growth prospects of e-commerce in the country.

Following the pandemic, digital penetration has been steadily increasing, with online retail accounting for approximately 8 per cent of total retail in fiscal 2023-24. This share is projected to further rise to 18 per cent by fiscal 2029-30.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

India, Oman FTA talks progressing; both sides to hold another round of negotiations: Official

The negotiations for a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Oman are progressing at a healthy pace and the two sides will hold another round of talks to resolve the pending issues, an official said. The official said that issues pertaining to petrochemical products have been resolved. The negotiations received a much need impetus after the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Muscat last month. "One more round of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will happen," the official added.

On January 27 in Muscat, trade ministers of India and Oman reviewed progress of the proposed agreement and focused on advancing the negotiations for the pact. The agreement was discussed between Goyal and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef.

On January 14, India and Oman held the fifth round of talks for the agreement, aiming to boost bilateral economic ties. The negotiations for the agreement, officially dubbed CEPA, formally began in November 2023. In such agreements, two trading partners either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on a maximum number of goods traded between them. They also ease norms to promote trade in services and attract investments.

Oman is the third largest export destination among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for India. India already has a similar agreement with another GCC member UAE which came into effect in May 2022. The bilateral trade has declined to USD 8.94 billion (exports USD 4.42 billion and imports USD 4.5 billion) in 2023-24 from USD 12.39 billion (exports USD 4.47 billion and imports USD 7.91 billion) in 2022-23.

India's key imports are petroleum products and urea. These account for over 70 per cent of imports. Other key products are propylene and ethylene polymers, pet coke, gypsum, chemicals, and iron and steel.

Source: economictimes.com

Plan is to create separate agency to implement BharatTradeNet: DGFT

The Budget announcement to set up BharatTradeNet as a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions is an ambitious proposal and there is a plan to create a not-for-profit company to implement this project, a senior government official said on Tuesday. Proposed on the lines of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the platform will help in moving towards complete digitisation of the entire range of trade documentation and then allow seamless operability of different agencies which

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are involved in this, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Saranagi told reporters here.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said in the Budget speech that this will be set up as a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions and it will complement the Unified Logistics Interface Platform.

"So this is a highly ambitious proposal but we are ambitioning to do something which is a UIDAI kind of programme in future... Idea is to create a separate agency because we need a very strong IT team and system architecture team. They should have the idea of a full trade ecosystem and how it operates. So we have suggested creating a Section 8 company for implementing this because this will have to interact with multiple agencies," Sarangi said.

These agencies include RBI, CBIC, banking systems, multiple shipping lines, ports and airports.

Whosoever is involved in international trade, "we will have to work with them. So we need an institutional mechanism to do that," he added.

At present, there are about 30 entities that are involved in trade documentation and financing arrangement and each one of them has its own portal and systems and the exporter or importer has to fill up about 5,000 odd data points when it navigates through different trade and finance ecosystems.

Still, a lot of work is carried out through papers.

"So we will move towards digitisation of the entire range of trade documentation and then allow seamless operability of different agencies which are involved in this," Sarangi said.

He said the idea is that different agencies like bankers, factory service providers, customs, FSSAI, EIC (Export Inspection Council) and labs will interact through one digital public infrastructure.

"For example in UPI, multiple agencies are involved in one transaction but UPI is providing an anonymised platform where your identity is not known to others but payment is being received," he added.

He said the project may take 2-3 years to take shape.

The BharatTradeNet would enable the digitisation of over 30 trade documents, such as Bills of Lading, Promissory Notes, for secure electronic issuance, transfer, and storage, where required. Exporters and importers would be major beneficiaries as the platform would help in getting faster clearances and export credit access.

Besides, other segments that would benefit from the move included banks and NBFCs as they would get real-time trade finance data.

It will help convert critical trade documents like Bills of Lading, Letters of Credit, and Customs Declarations into secure digital formats; ensure real-time, secure data sharing between exporters, banks, regulatory authorities, and global trade networks; and help MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and exporters access loans and credit by integrating financial institutions into the system.

Besides, it would help automate compliance with global standards like UNCITRAL MLETR (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records), and UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), ensuring smooth international transactions.

The absence of uniform development standards leads to duplicity, inefficiencies, and higher efforts as entities adopt disparate approaches.

Source: economictimes.com

Trump's tariffs on China, Mexico, Canada double-edged sword for Indian exporters

US President Donald Trump's tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada could create opportunities for Indian exporters in sectors where they have capacity and a competitive edge, such as telecom, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electrical machinery, apparel, and footwear.

But the fact that Trump has actually started acting on his campaign threats against trade partners doesn't augur well for world trade as it could lead to trade diversion, disruption and more uncertainty, say exporters and trade experts.

"US importers will try to look for alternative suppliers to avoid higher costs of importing from the targeted countries. We have to identify such sectors where we have capacity and the extra penal tariffs can add to our own competitiveness and give us an edge," said Ajay Sahai from Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Some such items include telecom and mobile phones, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electrical machinery, apparel & fabric and foot wear, Sahai said quoting an internal analysis. Even in iron and steel, where the US gives a case-to-case exemption on the penal tariffs imposed by the earlier Trump regime on several countries including India & China, there could be gains, Sahai added.

In line with his campaign promise of penalising Mexico, Canada and China for alleged drug trafficking, Trump announced a levy of 25 per cent on Canadian and Mexican imports and an additional 10 per cent tax on Chinese goods on February 1 that would come into force on February 4. Most of the opportunities for India come from China's projected loss, while some items such as textiles & fabric and electric machinery could also benefit at the cost of Mexico, Sahai said.

Trade sceptical

However, the punitive tariffs have made exporters uneasy. "Indian exports to the US are also at risk if Trump chooses to impose reciprocal tariffs on India. That is worrying," said a Noida-based exporter of textiles.

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"There will be huge trade diversion happening. And it is not a good sign as it will add to the already high uncertainty. Global trade and global economy may slow down because of such tariff war," Sahai said.

India needs to focus more on protecting itself from future tariffs by opening a dialogue with Trump rather than look for opportunities, said Biswajit Dhar, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development.

"US is not getting after all these countries just to have fun. He has said that he wants to `make America great again' by punishing imports from countries that have a surplus. His ultimate objective is to get industries relocated to his country. It is not to benefit this country or that country," said Dhar.

The US is India's top export destination with exports to the country valued at $77.5 billion in FY24 and a trade surplus of about $35 billion.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

India-Bangladesh trade connectivity will continue, says India's envoy

Trade connectivity and economic engagement between India and Bangladesh will continue to strengthen the ties between the two nations, Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma said on Monday.

The High Commission of India, Dhaka organised an interactive session with leading businesses and business chambers from Bangladesh's textile sector on Monday.

The session was held in the context of the upcoming Bharat Tex 2025, a global textile event set to take place in New Delhi, India from 14-17 February 2025. The event will bring together major stakeholders from the textile industry and cover the entire textile value chain under one roof.

In his remarks at the event, High Commissioner Pranay Verma highlighted the importance of the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector in Bangladesh's socio-economic development and also in promoting closer supply/value chain linkages between India and Bangladesh.

He identified cooperation between the two countries in the RMG and textile sector as a testament to their interdependence and mutual benefit. He expressed hope that the participation of a large delegation from Bangladesh in Bharat Tex 2025 will open up new opportunities for establishing new supply chain linkages, and investment and technology tie-ups across various segments of the textile value chain.

High Commissioner also expressed hope that trade connectivity and economic engagement between India and Bangladesh will continue to bring the people and businesses of the two countries closer together.

Md. Anwar Hossain, Administrator, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) & Vice-Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and Mr. Mohammad Hatem, President, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) were the Guests of Honour for the event.

Faruque Hassan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) and Mr. Md. Jashim Uddin, Chairman of Bengal Commercial Bank & Vice Chairman of Bengal Group of Industries were the Special Guests for the event.

Industry representatives from Bangladesh looked forward to their participation in the Bharat Tex 2025 and expressed confidence that greater economic engagement with India will open up new avenues and growth opportunities for Bangladesh's garment industry.

Source: timesofoman.com

Govt plans alternative financing plans for MSME exporters

New Delhi: The government plans to provide alternative financing models including export factoring services under the budget's proposed Export Promotion Mission as it seeks to ensure collateral-free, pre-shipment loans to micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters.

"We will unveil further measures, including trade credit insurance and promotion of the Account Aggregator framework to support credit access," said an official.

Easier flow of credit is crucial for reviving India's goods exports which fell for the second straight month in December, declining nearly 1% from a year earlier.

A second official said various models of export factoring services are being examined, including reverse factoring. "We will hold discussions with other stakeholders, including the Factoring Association of India, to come up with different mechanisms to address any issues," he added.

Under existing mechanisms, a bank or specialised financial firm buys an exporter's short-term foreign accounts receivable for cash at a discount from the face value and assumes the risk on the pay ability of the foreign buyer, improving the seller's liquidity position.

Working Capital Needs

As per the latest credit guarantee scheme, loans up to ₹20 crore per borrower will be guaranteed for export-oriented units (EOUs) of MSMEs as well as units supporting import substitution. Credit facility will be offered on working capital requirements of the borrower as well as expansion projects in the form of term loans.

"The government has allowed lenders to follow board-approved policies on both interest rates and loan limits. With the backing of a credit guarantee, the interest rates on such sanctions should be at least 50-100 basis points lower based on borrowers ratings as well," said a bank executive.

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The ministries of commerce and industry, finance, and MSME will work on sectoral and ministerial targets to offer collateral-free pre-packaging loans sanctioned for financing the purchase, manufacturing, or packing of goods prior to shipment. Packing credit can also be extended as working capital assistance.

"Factoring is a good instrument, but the cost and condition of factoring and denial of interest equalisation benefits also need to be looked at to ensure ease of doing business for exporters," said Ajay Sahai, director general, Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

Currently, Indian exporters use factoring services offered by Singapore as they are 10-11% cheaper than India.

At a later stage, with the stabilisation of the credit guarantee scheme, the government has proposed to include units facilitating import substitution to avail these benefits.

Source: economictimes.com

Govt unveils new Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme to support MSME growth

The Centre has approved the introduction of the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS—MSME), which provides 60 per cent guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for credit facilities up to ₹100 crore sanctioned to eligible MSMEs. This fulfils the budget announcement of 2024-25.

MCGS-MSME is expected to facilitate the availability of credit for the purchase of Plant and Machinery / Equipment by MSMEs, giving a major boost to manufacturing and thereby to Make in India.

MLIs include All Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and All India Financial institutions (AIFIs) that register with NCGTC under the scheme.

SCHEME'S SALIENT FEATURES

Borrower should be an MSME with a valid Udyam Registration Number. The loan amount guaranteed shall not exceed ₹100 crore. Project costs could be higher. The minimum cost of equipment /machinery is 75 per cent of the project cost. Loans up ₹50 crore under the scheme shall have a repayment period of up to 8 years with a moratorium period of up to 2 years on principal instalments.

For loans above ₹50 crore, a higher repayment schedule and moratorium period on principal instalments can be considered. An upfront (initial) contribution of 5 per cent of the loan amount shall be deposited at the time of application for guarantee coverage; the annual guarantee fee on the loan under the scheme shall be Nil during the year of sanction.

During the next 3 years, it shall be 1.5 per cent per annum of loan outstanding as of March 31 of the previous year. Thereafter, the Annual Guarantee Fee shall be 1 per cent p.a. of the loan outstanding as on March 31 of the previous year

The scheme will be applicable to all loans sanctioned under MCGS-MSME during the period of 4 years from the date of issue of operational guidelines of the scheme or till a cumulative guarantee of ₹7 lakh crore is issued, whichever is earlier.

Source: thehindubusinessline

India and ASEAN's growing fashion partnership poised for further growth

A look at the growing potential of India's fashion, apparel, and textile trade with ASEAN countries

India's relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is blossoming, driven by the 'Act East Policy' and a shared vision for economic growth. Here is a look at the exciting potential for collaboration in the fashion, apparel, and textile sectors, drawing insights from the provided article, current data, and expert opinions.

India-ASEAN trade partnerships

In India-ASEAN trade, apparel and textiles are key sectors and it is driven by several factors. Uppermost is the complementary economies as India's strength in raw materials and skilled labor complements ASEAN's manufacturing prowess and growing consumer markets. The India-ASEAN Free Trade Area (AIFTA) has significantly reduced trade barriers, boosting bilateral trade. Also, they have shared cultural heritage and aesthetics that facilitate a deeper understanding of consumer preferences. And initiatives like UPI-PayNow linkage enhance financial transactions, making cross-border trade smoother.

In fact, Singapore's robust trade and investment relationship with India exemplifies the potential for collaboration. As the largest source of FDI into India, Singaporean companies are actively investing in India's fashion and textile industries.

On similar lines, platforms like Shopee and Lazada are witnessing an increase in cross-border fashion trade between India and ASEAN. Indian ethnic wear and textiles are gaining popularity in Southeast Asia, while ASEAN's trendy apparel finds a market in India.

The way forward

However, despite the collaborations there are some challenges in future growth. Non-tariff barriers are bug bear as technical regulations and standards can hinder trade. Harmonization efforts are crucial. Improving connectivity and streamlining supply chains are must to further enhance trade efficiency. Simultaneously, promoting ethical sourcing and sustainable production practices is essential for long-term growth.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Nitin Spinners to invest ₹1,100 crore over two years to double woven fabric capacity

Nitin Spinners, a Rajasthan-based manufacturer of cotton yarn,

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knitted fabrics, and finished woven fabrics, plans to invest ₹1,100 crore over the next two years to expand capacities.

Dinesh Nolkha, Chairman and Managing Director of Nitin Spinners said, “This particular capex will be located at one of our existing facilities in Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan. We will be nearly doubling our capacity of the woven fabrics, which we already have.”

Currently, the company is operating its spinning facilities at more than 95% utilisation and its fabric division at over 90% utilisation. Given the capacity constraints, Nitin Spinners aims to increase its capacity and diversify its product portfolio.

The addition of fashion fabrics, which were previously missing, is a key part of this expansion. Once fully operational, the new capacity is expected to generate an additional ₹1,000 crore in revenue.

The company expects stability in cotton and yarn prices going forward. Nolkha said, “Cotton prices have been continuously sliding. If you see, in last one year they have gone down by about 15% and similarly, yarn prices have also gone down by nearly 8 to 10%. Now we are feeling that this is a kind of a bottom of the prices internationally, as well as in India.”

Nitin Spinners experienced a sluggish demand in 2023, with exports of cotton yarn significantly declining. Currently, the international demand is gradually recovering, with European markets stabilising and the US market showing signs of resurgence. The company has seen strong demand for a variety of textile products in the US.

Domestically, the market has remained stable. However, some of Nitin Spinners’ garment exporters have recently received substantial orders from international brands, which is driving increased demand in the domestic market as well.

In the October-December 2024 quarter (Q3FY25), the company reported a revenue of ₹838 c

Nitin Spinners’ current market capitalisation is ₹2,141 crore. Its shares have gained 8% over the last year.

Source: cnbctv18.com

DGFT Launches Enhanced eCoO 2.0 System with Provisions for Back-to-Back Certificates of Origin

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has launched the enhanced Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 System, a significant upgrade designed to simplify the certification process for exporters and enhance trade efficiency.

This upgraded platform offers several user-friendly features, such as multi-user access, which enables exporters to authorize multiple users under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC). Additionally, the system now supports Aadhaar-based e-signing alongside digital signature tokens, providing greater flexibility.

An integrated dashboard offers exporters seamless access to eCoO services, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) information, trade events, and other resources. The platform also introduces an in-lieu Certificate of Origin feature, allowing exporters to request corrections to previously issued certificates through an easy online application process.

As of 1st January 2025, the electronic filing of Non-Preferential Certificates of Origin has become mandatory via the eCoO 2.0 platform, and is available to exporters at https:// trade.gov.in under the “Get Certificate of Origin” section.

This trade facilitation initiative has been streamlining the certification process, and improving turnaround times for exporters, marking a significant advancement in enhancing the Ease of Doing Business. The platform processes over 7,000 eCoOs daily, including both preferential and non-preferential certificates, connecting 125 issuing agencies which includes 110 national and regional chambers of commerce & industry, over 650 issuing officers and all Indian exporters under one unified system.

Reference Public Notice 43/2024-25 dated 27.01.2025, DGFT has introduced the procedure for availing online Back-to-Back Certificates of Origin (Non-Preferential). These certificates cater to goods not of Indian origin, intended for re-export, trans-shipment, or merchanting trade.

Issued based on documentary evidence from the foreign country of origin, the Back-to-Back CoO ensures transparency and accuracy by explicitly mentioning details of the origin and supporting documents.

This initiative not only simplifies the certification process but also accelerates processing times, making it particularly beneficial for global supply chains involving intermediary trade through India. The enhanced eCoO 2.0 system underscores DGFT’s commitment to facilitating trade and improving the Ease of Doing Business for Indian exporters.

Source: pib.gov.in

India eases export obligation under EPCG, textiles to get relief

The Government of India has relaxed and provided relief in the average export obligation (EO) under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme for those sectors where total exports in that sector/product group has declined by more than 5 per cent in compared to the previous year.

In the textile-apparel sector, several products under chapters 60, 61 and 62 have recorded decline of more than 5 per cent in 2023-24 over the previous year.

EPCG scheme is a programme that allows exporters to import capital goods at a reduced customs duty rate. The scheme’s goal is to help India’s manufacturing industry become more competitive by making it easier to import capital goods for production. Under the scheme, exporters have export obligations to meet out in the following years.

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According to the circular issued by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on January 21, 2025, all regional authorities have to re-fix annual average export obligations for EPCG authorisations for the year 2023-24 accordingly. The circular has been sent to DGFT's regional offices and customs authorities

Regional offices, while considering requests of reduction in the obligation, will ensure that in case of shortfall in EO fulfilment, policy circulars issued earlier should also be considered before issuance of demand notice.

Textile fibre, fabric and garments under the certain chapters had witnessed fall up to 93 per cent in fiscal 2023-24 over the fiscal 2022-23. Therefore, textile exporters will also get relief by the decision.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

CAI revises upwards 2024-25 cotton output, consumption figures

Cotton Association of India, the apex trade body for the fibre crop in the country, has revised upwards its crop projections by 2 lakh bales of 170 kg each from its earlier estimates for the crop year 2024-25 ending September. The trade body also estimates the consumption to be higher by two lakh bales, based on the emerging market trends.

Pertaining to the feedback from its various member associations in the key cotton producing states, CAI in its latest projections has pegged the output to be around 304.25 lakh bales of 170 kg each, about 2 lakh bales higher than its earlier projections. This is mainly on account of higher than expected output in Telangana, where the projections are revised upwards by 6 lakh bales.

Output in Telangana

Production in Telangana is now seen to be higher by 6 lakh bales at 42 lakh bales, while in North India, the output is expected to decline by 3.5 lakh bales. Total supplies till end December were estimated at 176.04 lakh bales of 170 kg each including the pressing figures of 133.85 lakh bales, imports of 12 lakh bales and opening stock of 30.19 lakh bales. Consumption till end-December stood at 84 lakh bales, while exports of 7 lakh bales are estimated to have been taken place. December-end stocks are estimated at 85.04 lakh bales.

Atul Ganatra, chairman, CAI said the consumption estimate for 2024-25 season has been increased by 2 lakh bales to 315.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs each on pick up in demand. The cumulative market arrivals of cotton as per the data collated by CAI stood at over 156 lakh bales as on January 22, exceeding half of the estimated crop size of 304.25 lakh bales.

The daily market arrivals are over 1.5 lakh bales, with large arrivals in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Arrivals are seen tapering in Telangana and Karnataka among other states.

Prices range-bound

Ramanuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent in Raichur said the prices of cotton are range-bound and hovering in the range of ₹53,000-54,000 per candy of 356 kgs. The demand has not picked up as mills are still buying on a need basis, covering their requirement and stocking for only two to three months, Boob said.

With the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) emerging as the biggest buyer and procuring a major chunk of the market arrivals, mills are aware of the fact that the state-run entity is holding huge stocks and not seen to be in a hurry to buy and stock the fibre crop. Boob said the exports of cotton are taking place mainly to Bangladesh, but not in full speed. "Cotton from Maharashtra is mainly going to Bangladesh," he said.

Of the total market arrivals of 156 lakh bales, about half the quantity is estimated to have been procured by CCI.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

India, Belgium strengthen trade ties expanding economic collaboration

India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, met with Belgian Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, and Foreign Trade Minister Bernard Quintin earlier this week in Brussels to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations. The discussions reaffirmed the strong ties between India and Belgium, focusing on expanding economic collaboration and exploring new opportunities to strengthen their partnership.

The India-Belgium trade is estimated at over $15.07 billion in 2023-2024 while Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) from Belgium into India was estimated at over $3.94 billion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a press release.

During the meeting, both leaders acknowledged Belgium's significant reliance on foreign trade and India's dynamic, growing economy as key factors for leveraging mutual opportunities. Recognising the potential of trade as a cornerstone of their partnership, they emphasised the importance of diversifying trade relations and deepening economic diplomacy to achieve sustainable growth.

The leaders also discussed the progress of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations and emphasised the importance of prioritising trade issues to streamline negotiations and strengthen economic ties.

Belgium recognised the importance of engaging with India as a strategic partner to diversify its trade relationships. The meeting concluded with a commitment to establish stronger mechanisms for resolving trade issues. Both leaders affirmed their dedication to fostering a robust and mutually beneficial trade partnership.

Source: fibre2fashion.com.

Special Feature

Chairman, TEXPROCIL Welcomes Union Budget 2025-26

Welcoming the Union Budget 2025-26, Shri Vijay Agarwal, Chairman of The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) said that the Budget is dedicated to accelerating growth and laying the foundations for a Viksit Bharat.

Shri Vijay Agarwal lauded the announcement of a 5-year Mission for Cotton productivity by encouraging the production of long staple cotton, yield per hectare, improved irrigation facilities, and measures to facilitate availability of long-term and short-term credit. These steps will also enable the development and processing of Kasturi Cotton which is a joint initiative of the Government and Trade Bodies.

Chairman, Texprocil mentioned that to boost the growth and efficiency of MSMEs, the Government will enhance the investment and turnover limits for MSMEs, increasing them by 2.5 times and 2 times respectively. This move is expected to empower MSMEs to scale up, innovate, and generate more employment opportunities for the youth. Moreover, the Government has announced enhancement of credit availability with guarantee cover to MSE, Startups and Exporter MSMEs which is a welcome step.

The Chairman lauded the Government's proposal to set up an Export Promotion Mission, with sectoral and ministerial targets, driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce, MSME, and Finance. This will facilitate easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and support to MSMEs to tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets which will provide the much needed Inter Ministerial co-ordination, he added.

Shri Agarwal said, that the digital public infrastructure, 'BharatTradeNet' (BTN) for international trade will be established as a unified platform for trade documentation and financing solutions. This will complement the Unified Logistics Interface Platform. The BTN will be aligned with international practices which will again ease the doing business by providing an integrated platform.

The Finance Minister has also outlined measures for labour-intensive sectors, adding that the government will undertake specific policy and facilitation measures to promote employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in labour-intensive sectors which is a step forward in strengthening India's competitiveness in these sectors.

Overall, Shri Vijay Agarwal, Chairman, Texprocil stated that the Budget represents a significant step forward, creating promising opportunities for India to achieve its ambitious export target of $100 billion in Textiles and Clothing by 2030. On its part, the Council remains confident in attaining its goal of $25 billion in cotton textile exports by 2030, he added.

Source: Texprocil Textile Intelligence

Textile industry welcomes announcement of Mission on Cotton Productivity

The textile and apparel sector has welcomed the announcements in the Union Budget, especially the announcement of Mission on Cotton Productivity.

The industry has been demanding for a Cotton Technology Mission supporting high yielding seed technology, adoption of global best agronomy practices, producing clean cotton and branding Indian cotton to benefit the farmers and the industry. The announcement of ₹600 crore to improve productivity and sustainability of cotton, promote ELS cotton and best of science and technology to cotton farmer on a mission mode approach will give a thrust to the cotton sector.

The textile industry feels that promotion of extra-long staple cotton through the Mission will increase the global competitiveness of the cotton sector and increase in kisan credit card limit will give farmers better access to funds. The Mission on Cotton is a vital initiative for the textile sector as it will increase cotton productivity and boost farmers' income.

Shri Vijay Agarwal, chairman of The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, said the proposal to set up an Export Promotion Mission, with sectoral and ministerial targets, will provide the much needed inter-ministerial co-ordination.

The Council remains confident in achieving the goal of $25 billion in cotton textile exports by 2030, he added.

Source: Texprocil Textile Intelligence

Important Notifications on Policies & Procedures

Policy Updates

Kindly get in touch with TEXPROCIL Grievance Redressal Cell for any clarifications, if required, on the herein shared notifications issued recently by the Council. The Member companies are appealed by the Council to send their suggestions sought on the various issues.

A) CBIC introduces Single Unified Multi-Purpose Electronic Bond in Customs – "Ekal Anubandh"

To simplify trade processes and enhance efficiency, CBIC has decided to launch "Ekal Anubandh" vide Circular No.4/2025-Cus. dtd. 17.02.2025. This initiative encourages the use of a Single All-India Multi-Purpose Electronic Bond (SEB) with end-to-end automation, reducing administrative burden, costs and delays.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376589-Eserve-32_of_2025.pdf)

B) Automation of Refund Application and Processing in Customs

CBIC vide Circular No.05/2025-Cus. dtd. 17.02.2025 has introduced the automation of refund applications and processing under Customs. This initiative aligns with the Government's commitment to digitize all remaining Customs processes by mid-2026, to increase efficiency and reduce the time and cost associated with cross-border trade.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376567-Eserve-31_of_2025.pdf)

C) Customs (On-Arrival Movement for Storage and Clearance at Authorised Importer Premises) Regulations, 2025

CBIC vide Notification No.11/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 17.02.2025 has notified the Customs (On-Arrival Movement for Storage and Clearance at Authorised Importer Premises) Regulations, 2025. These regulations aim to facilitate trade while ensuring compliance with Customs procedures.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376545-Eserve-30_of_2025.pdf)

D) JNCH introduces an option to allow amendment during final assessment of bill of entry for bulk cargo

JNCH vide Public Notice No.18/2025 dtd. 13.02.2025 has introduced an option to amend details during the final assessment of bills of entry for bulk and liquid bulk cargo.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376379-Eserve-29_of_2025.pdf)

E) Mandatory Online Submissions and Payments against Show Cause Notices and other proceedings under provisions of FTD&R Act

To promote ease of doing business and a paperless trade environment, DGFT has digitized the applications of various authorisations and processes associated with the lifecycle of Duty Exemption/Remission Authorisations. In this regard, DGFT has issued Trade Notice No. 29/2024-25 dated 11.02.2025.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376334-Eserve-28_of_2025.pdf)

F) Restrictions on allowing visitors to bring currency of value of a specified amount into the Regional Authorities, DGFT

The Council has received a Circular (File No.3/5/2024-Vig. dated 29.01.2025) issued by Dept. of Commerce, Vigilance Section to DGFT Office to restrict visitors from bringing currency of value of a specified limit into DGFT Regional Authorities (RAs).

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376308-Eserve-27_of_2025.pdf)

G) DGFT seeks details of manually issued Certificates of Origin in contravention of DGFT guidelines

DGFT has issued Trade Notice No.28/2024-25 dated 11.02.2025 mandating electronic issuance of CoOs via eCoO 2.0 platform (https://www.trade.gov.in), as per earlier Trade Notice Nos.24/2024-25 dtd. 20.12.2024 and 36/2023-24 dtd. 26.12.2023. However, some agencies continue to issue manual CoOs despite the transition deadline.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376279-Eserve-26_of_2025.pdf)

H) Procedure to be followed to check the status of container for scanning

JNCH has issued Public Notice No.16/2025 dated 07.02.2025 informing about the launch of the New CSD Web Portal by CSD (Container Scanning Division) which can be accessed at https://csd.jnpa.in.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376156-Eserve-24_of_2025.pdf)

Policy Updates

Important Notifications on Policies & Procedures

I) Updation of Mobile number and E-mail id associated with DPD Registration

JNCH has issued Public Notice No.17/2025 dated 07.02.2025 for all Importers, Exporters, Port Terminal Operators, Shipping Lines, CFSs and all stakeholders under JNCH, Nhava Sheva. All importers are requested to verify their updated email IDs and mobile numbers in DPD Registration.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1740376131-Eserve-23_of_2025.pdf)

J) Highlights of the Union Budget 2025-26

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Union Budget for 2025-26 on 01.02.2025.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1738573732-Eserve-22_of_2025.pdf)

K) DGFT issues FAQs on Filing of Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) for FY 2023-24

DGFT has issued Guidelines and FAQs on the filing of ARR vide Trade Notice No.27/2024-25 dated 29.1.2025.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1738573655-Eserve-21_of_2025.pdf)

L) DGFT amends Paras 2.91 & 2.93 of HBP to implement the eCoO system

DGFT has issued Public Notice No.43/2024-25 dtd. 27.01.2025 amending Paras 2.91 and 2.93 of HBP 2023 to implement the eCertificate of Origin (eCoO) system and streamline Non-Preferential CoO issuance.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1738573213-Eserve-19_of_2025.pdf)

M) DGFT provides relief in Average EO under EPCG Scheme in terms of Para 5.17(a) of HBP of FTP 2023

DGFT has issued Policy Circular No.11/2024-25 dated 21.01.2024 by providing relief to exporters of those sectors that have witnessed a decline by more than 5% in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1738572721-Eserve-18_of_2025.pdf)

N) Clarification on certain aspects of origin procedures under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

JNCH has issued Public Notice No.10/2025 dated 23.01.2025 on the above subject. This is to inform all concerned about CBIC Instruction No.23/2024-Customs dated 21.10.2024 (F.No.20000/6/2015 OSD(ICD)). As per this Instruction, Public Notice No. 55/2024 dated 24.06.2024 issued by JNCH Custom House is now modified accordingly.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1738572571-Eserve-17_of_2025.pdf)

O) Fee for application to grant extension time for submission of Applications for Fixation of Brand Rate of Duty Drawbaçk under Rule 6(1) and Rule 7(1) of the Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 2017

JNCH has issued Public Notice No.08/2025 dated 21.01.2025 about a clarification issued by the Drawback Division of CBIC on 16.01.2025 (F.No.609(A)/02/2024-DBK/36) regarding Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 2017.

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1738572537-Eserve-16_of_2025.pdf)

P) Enabling Voluntary Payment electronically on ICEGATE e-payment Platform

JNCH had issued Public Notice No.09/2025 dated 23.01.2025 on the above subject. A user manual on the Voluntary/Self-Initiated Payment (SIP) facility is available on the ICEGATE platform (click here: https://www.icegate.gov.in/guidelines/voluntary-payment).

Link of the Circular: (https://texprocil.org/circular/1738572488-Eserve-15_of_2025.pdf)

Promote Your Merchanadise / Services
Advertise with Us!

Trade Notification

Advertisement Package for promoting products and solutions in the Publications of TEXPROCIL

Dear Madam/Sir,

As a part of TEXPROCIL's knowledge sharing initiatives, the Council is coming up regularly with various E-publications. The circulation of these publications, averaging to over 3000 avid readers, includes the Council's strong database of 2,000 nos. membership comprising manufacturers, exporters, traders of Indian cotton fibre, yarn, fabrics and madeups range of products.

The readership database also includes the contacts of textiles trade associations, government representatives, foreign missions, etc. which are being updated from time to time.

The Council has planned to offer an **'Advertisement Package'** for the various Publications with a view to enhance the exposure of products and solutions being offered by various entities. We request you to kindly consider the advertisement opportunity as per details attached.

Publication details are as follows:

1. **Newsletter** – Published every fortnight
2. **IBTEX** – Published daily – Includes news clippings on articles of interest in T&C appearing in various publications.

Advertisement Package details are given below this column.

For further clarifications you may like to advise your office to kindly write to Mr. Rakesh Chinthal, IT Officer/ Mr. Rajesh Satam, Joint Director on email: rakesh@texprocil.org / rajesh@texprocil.org.

For queries related to advertisement booking kindly write to Mrs. Mrunal Sawant on email: mrunal@texprocil.org.

We look forward to receiving your enquiries / confirmation for availing the advertisement opportunity in publications of TEXPROCIL.

Regards,

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal
Executive Director
:: TEXPROCIL ::

ADVERTISEMENT PACKAGE
(For Advertisement in TEXPROCIL E-PUBLICATIONS)

TEXPROCIL E-NEWSLETTER (FORTNIGHTLY)

Ad. Option	One Issue	Six issues	Twelve Issues	Twenty Four Issues (BEST OFFER)
Double Spread	Rs. 12,000	Rs. 61,200	Rs . 1,15,200	Rs. 2,16,000
Quarter Page	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 10,200	Rs. 19,200	Rs. 36,000
Half Page	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 28,500	Rs. 54,000
Full Page	Rs. 5,000	Rs. 25,500	Rs. 48,000	Rs. 90,000

IBTEX E-NEWS CLIPPINGS (DAILY)

Ad. Option	Three Months	Six Months	Twelve Months	Twenty Four Months (BEST OFFER)
Click-on-Logo	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 25,000	Rs. 50,000	Rs. 90,000

For more information please contact:

Rajesh Satam
Joint Director

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)

5th floor,
Engineering Centre,
9, Mathew Road,
Mumbai - 400 004 India
T. 91-22- 49444000

Email
rajesh@texprocil.org

Website
www.texprocil.org

Trade Notification

Membership Renewal Subscription Fee for FY 2024-2025

Dear Member,

As you are aware, it is mandatory for all exporters to apply for registration/renewal/amendment of their RCMC through the e-RCMC module on the DGFT's portal www.dgft.gov.in

Accordingly, the 'Renewal of RCMC' process for 2024-2025 along with the payment of renewal subscription has to be made compulsorily at the DGFT portal only.

In this regard, please note that your Annual Renewal Subscription for the financial year 2024-2025 has become due for payment from 1st April 2024.

The Annual Renewal Subscription charges are as follows:

Type of Membership	Amount (Rs.)	GST @ 18%	Total Amount (Rs.)
Associate Member	Rs. 8,000/-	Rs.1,440/-	**Rs.9,440/-**
Ordinary Member	Rs. 14,000/-	Rs.2,520/-	**Rs.16,520/-**

You are requested to please renew your membership at the earliest.

Please ignore this email, if you have already renewed your membership for the year 2024-2025.

Steps for Renewal of Membership (Renewal of e-RCMC):

- Go to DGFT Website - https://www.dgft.gov.in
- Click on the Login button and log in by using your username and password
- Go to - Services >> e-RCMC >> Renewal of RCMC and click on 'Start Fresh Application'
- Choose the RCMC allotted to you by TEXPROCIL and click on 'Renew'
- Complete the details in each tab and go ahead by pressing "Save and Next"
- After filling up all the details in all the tabs, the payment of the renewal subscription option 'Payment of RCMC' will appear where you need to do the online payment and click on 'Submit' to submit the application.

Please feel free to contact us for any clarification or any guidance required from us by calling on 91-22-49444000 or sending emails to info@texprocil.org, rukshana@texprocil.org or smita@texprocil.org

Kindly renew your membership and allow us to serve you at our best.

Regards,

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal
Executive Director
:: TEXPROCIL ::

General Certificate of Conformity (GCC)

Authenticates Origin of Indian Farm Cotton
with **Blockchain-based Certification**

Additional Benefits of the GCC Program:

- Verifiable and Traceable at every stage of the textile value chain from Ginning onwards
- Certification process as per globally accepted standards
- Screening and recording of actual movement of goods

For more information, please write to: **gcc.cu@texprocil.org**

TEXPROCIL
THE COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
(Sponsored by Government of India)

5th Floor, Engineering Centre, 9 Mathew Road, Mumbai 400 004. India
Tel.: +91 22 4944 4000 | E.: info@texprocil.org | W.: www.texprocil.org

From:
The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)

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