TEXPROCIL

THE COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Indian Cottons, Global Reach!

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A Fortnightly Publication of THE COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL OF INDIA

India and Australia Strengthen Cotton Trade Ties with Strategic Partnership

TEXPROCIL welcomed a Delegation from Australian Cotton Shippers Association on 4th April 2025 at the Council's H.O. in Mumbai. The Australian side included Mr. Cliff White, Chairman, ACSA; Ms. Jules Willis, CEO, ACSA; Mr. Shay Dhabrelia, Director of Trade, ECOM; Mr. Joel Hatherell, Supply Chain Manager, Queensland Cotton and Mr. Theodare Immanueal, Director at Austrade. The Indian side was represented by Mr. Vijay Agarwal, Chairman, TEXPROCIL; Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director; Mr. Manoj Patodia, Past Chairman; Mr. Arun Todi, CoA Member of the Council and representatives from leading Indian textile firms such as Gimatex Industries Pvt. Ltd., Indo Count Industries Ltd. and Lahoti Overseas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

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TEXPROCIL E-NEWSLETTER

EDITOR & PUBLISHER:
Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal

ADVERTISEMENTS / FEEDBACK:

mrunal@texprocil.org
rajesh@texprocil.org

EDITORIAL & PUBLISHING OFFICE:

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council [TEXPROCIL]
(Sponsored by Government of India)
Engineering Centre, 5th floor,
9, Mathew Road, Mumbai 400004.
Tel.: +91 22 49444000
Email: info@texprocil.org
Website: www.texprocil.org

TEXPROCIL - THE FACILITATOR

Editorial

Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal
Executive Director
TEXPROCIL

Dear Reader,

Uncertainty continues to loom over global markets following the Trump administration's imposition of broad-based tariffs, which have triggered significant market volatility, raised fears of an economic slowdown, and placed downward pressure on the U.S. dollar. Several Asian economies—among the hardest hit by the U.S.'s "reciprocal" tariff measures—have taken the lead in trade negotiations with Washington to avoid steep import duties.

India is actively engaged in discussions with the United States toward establishing a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). Simultaneously, the Indian government is conducting extensive consultations with industry stakeholders to evaluate the impact of U.S. tariffs on the country's exports. There is cautious optimism within the domestic industry that these coordinated diplomatic and policy efforts will help mitigate the negative effects on export performance.

Continuing its export promotional efforts, to strengthen ties with the Australian market, the Council coordinated with 'AUSTRADE' and the Australian Consulate General, Mumbai to organize a meeting with a high-level delegation from Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) on 4th April 2025 at the Council's Head Office in Mumbai.

The Council also promoted Kasturi Cotton at the CMAI FAB Show (April 21-23, 2025) held at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, NESCO, Goregaon, in Mumbai.

Complete details about the meeting held with the Australian delegation and the Council's participation in the CMAI FAB Show are available in the 'Trade Promotion' section of this Newsletter.

Amid escalating trade tensions with India, there is a growing concern among the Council's member companies regarding Bangladesh's suspension of Indian yarn imports via land ports.

TEXPROCIL and SIMA co-hosted a webinar on April 24, 2025, to take stock of the implications on India's export of cotton yarn to Bangladesh. A report on the webinar can be seen at the 'Trade Facilitation' section of this Newsletter.

The Newsletter continues to feature national and international news, apart from the data on textile exports from India in the 'Trade Update' column. A 'Country Report' on the UAE market for exports of textiles from India is also presented in the present edition.

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 - The International face of Indian Cotton textiles !

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 global economy remains under strain from geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and political uncertainty. In this challenging environment, the Indian Government is actively working to protect exporters' interests. The world continues to feel the impact of U.S. President Trump's April 2 announcement of reciprocal tariffs on several countries, including India and China. Although a 90-day suspension was declared on April 9—excluding China and Hong Kong—the 10% baseline tariff remains in effect. Around 75 countries have since sought trade talks with the U.S., as the tariffs threaten to disrupt global trade and supply chains.

High-Level Meeting with Hon'ble CIM

To address these evolving challenges, a high-level meeting was convened on April 9, 2025, at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal. The session brought together key stakeholders, including Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and industry associations, to review the ongoing efforts aimed at cushioning the impact on India's exports.

During the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister updated the participants on negotiations with the U.S. toward a multi-sectoral Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and assured exporters of the Government's commitment to creating a conducive trade environment. TEXPROCIL, representing the cotton textiles sector, highlighted key issues and urged the Government to take proactive steps to support the industry during these uncertain times.

Strengthening Ties with Australia

The Council in coordination with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) and the Australian Consulate General, Mumbai organized a meeting with a high-level delegation from the Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) to Mumbai on 4th April 2025 at the Council's Head Office.

We welcomed the delegation from ACSA along with Shri Manoj Patodia, Past Chairman, Shri Arun Todi, CoA Member and Executive Director of the Council. Representatives from Indo Count Industries Ltd, Gimatex Industries Pvt. Ltd., and Lahoti Overseas were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, Executive Director, Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal presented the Council's key initiatives, including the Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) and General Certificate of Conformity (GCC) traceability platforms, along with data on the growing imports of Australian cotton following the India-Australia ECTA.

The members of the delegation were impressed to know about the Traceability platform of Kasturi Cotton Bharat and its ability to trace cotton up to farm level using a QR code. Both sides agreed to collaborate in near future to enhance competitiveness in the cotton sector.

Engagements with Commerce Ministry Officials

The Ministry of Commerce convened a series of meetings with EPCs on 2nd April and 8th April, 2025 taking feedback of their evaluation of the current trade situation and their assessment of the impact of U.S. tariffs. During the meetings, the participating apex Export Promotion Councils including TEXPROCIL provided information on the key issues facing the trade and industry. The Council also raised serious concerns about the adverse effects of the tariffs on demand, business margins, and order cancellations — issues particularly critical for MSME exporters. The Council cautioned that these challenges could threaten business continuity and employment in the textile sector.

Meeting on RoSCTL Scheme

TEXPROCIL Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director (DED), and other Council officials participated in a virtual meeting held on 3rd April 2025 at 3:00 PM. The meeting, chaired by the Ms. Shubra, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, reviewed the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) rates on the export of garments and made-ups. Some of the issues raised by the Council included – Inclusion of additional embedded taxes like port charges, sustainability, changes in rate caps etc. in the RoSCTL Proforma; Inclusion of RoSCTL for Advance Authorisation holders; and continuation of RoSCTL for another 5 years.

Cotton Productivity Mission and Fibre Development

On April 10, 2025, a meeting was held in Mumbai with Ms. Padmini Singla – the newly appointed Joint Secretary (Fibre), Ministry of Textiles. Discussions centered on the Cotton Productivity Mission (CPM), a five-year plan introduced in the Union Budget 2025–26. Aimed at increasing productivity — especially for Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton — the initiative seeks to expand fibre testing infrastructure, enhance ELS seed production, and further develop the Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand. TEXPROCIL, as the implementing agency, provided an update on the progress of the 'Kasturi Cotton' initiative and reaffirmed its commitment to driving growth and sustainability in India's cotton sector.

Webinar on India–Bangladesh Trade Tensions

Amid escalating trade tensions, including India's recent revocation of the trans-shipment facility for Bangladesh's third-country exports (except to Bhutan and Nepal), TEXPROCIL and SIMA co-hosted a webinar on April 24, 2025. The session addressed the implications of Bangladesh's suspension of Indian yarn imports via land ports.

The eminent panellists included Mr. Sunil Patwari & Mr. Manoj Patodia, Past Chairmen of TEXPROCIL, Mr. S. Dinakaran, Past Chairman, SIMA and Mr. Ashish Bagrodia, Managing Director, Winsome Textiles. Dr. K. Selvaraju, Secretary General, SIMA welcomed all to the webinar moderated by the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal.

The event featured leading industry voices and included input from Mr. Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, BKMEA's Executive President, who emphasized on efforts taken from the Bangladesh side to resolve the issue. The webinar was attended by leading Indian companies exporting to Bangladesh. The webinar fostered meaningful dialogue and generated suggestions for restoring and enhancing bilateral trade.

Promoting Kasturi Cotton @ CMAI FAB Show

The Council promoted Kasturi Cotton at the CMAI FAB Show (April 21–23, 2025) held at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, NESCO, Goregaon, in Mumbai. The Kasturi booth showcased collections made with certified, traceable cotton and drew strong interest from visitors eager to learn more and source the product. The show was instrumental in raising brand awareness and highlighting sustainability and quality.

Meeting of Apex Committee on Kasturi Cotton Bharat

The 7th meeting of the Apex Committee on Kasturi Cotton Bharat was held on April 22, 2025, in New Delhi, chaired by Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles. The Committee reviewed the initiative's progress and discussed strategies to strengthen supply chains and boost market adoption. The Council was asked to provide a roadmap aiming that 10 percent of the country's cotton gets certified as 'Kasturi Cotton'.

Plans for FY 2025–26 include empanelling more accredited agencies, launching brand-building campaigns, participating in trade fairs, and conducting workshops. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to promoting Kasturi Cotton and ensuring sustainable growth in India's cotton sector.

Way Forward

Friends, according to the IMF, increasing trade restrictions could reduce global output by as much as $7.4 trillion. With global trade fragmenting — as seen in U.S.–China tensions and Europe's shift away from Russia — India's textile sector stands at a crossroads.

This moment presents an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize India's rich textile heritage and transform traditional strengths into a globally competitive industry. Achieving this will require more than incremental improvements — it calls for a comprehensive approach focused on scale, supply chain agility, faster time-to-market, and a bold reinvention of products and target markets.

:: TEXPROCIL ::

Trade Promotion

India and Australia strengthen Cotton trade ties with strategic partnership

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) in coordination with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) forming part of the Australian Consulate General, Mumbai had organized a meeting with a high-level delegation from the Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) to Mumbai on 4th April 2025 at the Council's Head Office. The Council held meeting with the delegates and discussed various opportunities to bolster cotton trade relations between India and Australia.

The Australian delegation included Mr. Cliff White, Chairman, ACSA; Ms. Jules Willis, CEO, ACSA; Mr. Shay Dhabrelia, Director of Trade, ECOM; Mr. Joel Hatherell, Supply Chain Manager, Queensland Cotton and Mr. Theodare Immanueal, Director at Austrade. They were warmly welcomed by Mr. Vijay Agarwal, Chairman, TEXPROCIL; Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director; Mr. Manoj Patodia, Past Chairman; Mr. Arun Todi, CoA Member of the Council and representatives from leading Indian textile firms such as Gimatex Industries Pvt. Ltd., Indo Count Industries Ltd. and Lahoti Overseas.

Chairman TEXPROCIL extended a cordial welcome to the visiting delegation, while Executive Director of the Council delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Council's initiatives. He highlighted TEXPROCIL's emphasis on traceability through platforms like Kasturi Cotton Bharat (KCB) and the General Certificate of Conformity (GCC). KCB, which ensures farm-level traceability via QR codes, was particularly well-received by the Australian representatives.

Key discussion points included the rise in Australian cotton imports to India following the implementation of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). Under ECTA, India allows duty-free access for up to 51,000 tonnes of Australian cotton annually. Delegates also addressed logistical challenges, such as long shipping times, and explored the possibility of setting up an Australian cotton warehouse in India to streamline supply chains.

Both the sides expressed that such interactions will help to enhance market access, foster collaboration, and elevate the global competitiveness of both nations in the cotton industry.

A Promising Debut: Kasturi Cotton shines at CMAI Fab Show

Trade Promotion

Kasturi Cotton made a stellar debut at the CMAI Fab Show, marking a significant milestone in its journey towards becoming India's premium and sustainable cotton brand. From the very beginning of the event, our booth saw a steady stream of visitors, all eager to learn more about the purity, performance, and potential of Kasturi Cotton.

Highlights

Brand Recognition & Buzz

Thanks to previous campaigns and promotions, many visitors instantly recognized Kasturi Cotton. This brand recall sparked genuine curiosity and conversations, allowing our team to highlight the brand's commitment to sustainability, traceability, and quality.

High Product Interest

Attendees showed keen interest in sourcing fabrics and finished products made from Kasturi Cotton. The inquiries underscored strong market demand and confidence in the brand's value proposition.

In-Depth Engagements

Our team explained the eco-friendly properties, breathability, and versatile applications of Kasturi Cotton across fashion and home textiles. These conversations built awareness and excitement around the brand's future.

Special Visitors & Exciting Leads

Kasturi Cotton drew the attention of several notable industry players:

- **Kapil Biradar (Pantaloons):** Expressed admiration for the product range; follow-up meeting scheduled for April 24th.
- **Mheira Shahab Al Hashmi (UAE Buyer):** Interested in ladies' garments made from Kasturi Cotton.
- **Realstrong (Textile Committee–mentored startup):** Keen to place an order for 9,000 hosiery garments.
- **Garment Startup:** Considering an order of 1,500 round-neck T-shirts, impressed by the design and quality.
- **Supplier to Garment Manufacturer:** Looking to partner on the Realstrong 9,000-piece order, showcasing scalability potential.
- **Afzal & Sajjan (Globecot Yarn):** Interested in developing 300TC & 400TC Satin Fabrics for high-end home textiles.
- **Gurvish Modi (SG Cottex):** Discussed long-term collaboration for sourcing garments for leading retail brands.
- **Koushik Marathe (Cotton King):** Showed strong interest in Kasturi Cotton for their garment line.
- **Balaji Prasanna (Simple Approach):** Global manufacturer for Primark and Giant Tiger; keen to explore Kasturi Cotton–based apparel.

Designers & Trendspotting

The event also drew the attention of fashion designers exploring premium cotton options. Many expressed interest in using Kasturi Cotton in their upcoming collections, and the CMAI Fashion Show further emphasized its potential in trend-driven markets.

Moving Forward

The warm reception at CMAI Fab Show reaffirms the industry's growing appetite for responsibly sourced, high-quality Indian cotton. Kasturi Cotton is proud to carry the torch for sustainable excellence and is excited to build on this momentum through strategic partnerships and expanded global outreach.

Stay tuned – the best of Kasturi Cotton is yet to come!

Trade Promotion

Promoting Kasturi Cotton at HKTDC Investors Meet

Mr. Ronald Ho, Regional Director S.E. Asia & South Asia, HKTDC being greeted by Mr. Rajesh Satam, Joint Director and Mr. Rudolph D'Souza, Deputy Director, TEXPROCIL along with Mr. Rajesh Bhagat, Consultant S.E. Asia, HKTDC and Mrs. Arti Bhagat, Director, Worldex India at the HKTDC Investors Meet held on 23rd April, 2025 in Mumbai. The Council sought HKTDC support to promote the 'Kasturi Cotton' initiative amongst the Hong Kong fashion brands/retailers.

Webinar on Navigating Trade Barriers: Implications of Bangladesh's Import Restrictions on Indian Yarn via Land Ports

Trade Facilitation

The Council in association with The Southern Indian Mills Association (SIMA) organised a Webinar on "Import Restrictions by Bangladesh on Indian Cotton Yarn via Land Ports" on 24th April 2025 to analyse the situation and discuss the way forward.

The Webinar was organised w.r.t. the Notification issued by The National Board of Revenue, Customs Wing on 13th April 2025 on restricting imports of all types of yarn from India using the land port.

Member companies of both TEXPROCIL & SIMA were informed of the Webinar to participate in the session in order to seek clarifications and as well provide valuable inputs for the benefit of the Indian Spinning sector.

Dr. K. Selvaraju, Secretary General, SIMA welcomed all the Participants.

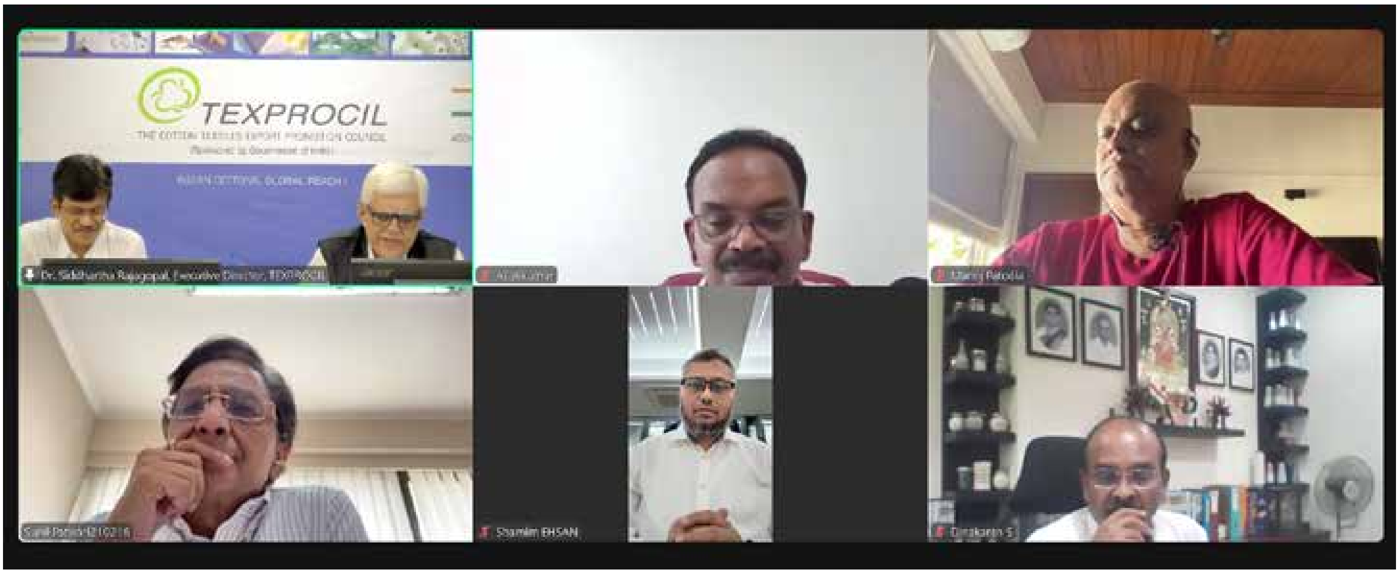
Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL gave a Power Point Presentation on the Implications of Bangladesh's Import Restrictions on Indian Yarn via Land Ports.

Shri. Sunil Patwari, Immediate Past Chairman, TEXPROCIL, Shri. Manoj Patodia, Shri. Manoj Patodia, Past Chairman, TEXPROCIL and Shri. Ashish Bagrodia, CMD, Winsome Textile Industries Ltd. were among the Panelists who shared their insights on the situation to help companies navigate the Trade Barriers effectively.

The Webinar was followed by a Q & A session moderated by Dr. Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director, TEXPROCIL.

Mr. Fazlee Shameem Ehsan, Executive President, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association was the special guest of the event. Mr. Shameem addressed the participants and expressed his view on the impact of restriction of Indian Yarn exports to Bangladesh via Land route. He advised Indian companies to look at alternative routes for export from Kolkatta using river and sea transport. Mr. Shameem mentioned that BKMEA has raised the issue with the concerned authorities in Bangladesh and was hopeful that some solution would materialize in 5 to 6 months' time.

The Webinar concluded by Vote of Thanks by Shri. S Dinakaran, Former Chairman, SIMA.



Trade Update

Country Report

UAE Textile Market Overview

The textile market in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a dynamic and significant sector of the country's economy. Encompassing a wide range of products, including apparel, home textiles, technical textiles, and fabrics, this market is a crucial component of the UAE's retail and fashion industries, catering to diverse consumer and business needs.

The UAE Textile Market's Growth and Dubai's Role in GCC Expansion

The UAE textile market, a significant component of the GCC's projected growth from USD 15.08 billion in 2024 to USD 20.93 billion by 2029, thrives on a diverse array of products from knitwear to high-end fashion. With its textile industry's income and employment contributions just behind oil and gas, the UAE's sector serves over 50 countries while enjoying strong domestic demand.

Dubai, a key player, leverages its 16 million annual tourists to boost retail and textile sectors, with the city contributing over 10% to the national GDP through its thriving retail and tourism industries.

The textile trade, apparel fabric manufacturing, yarn production, and textile processing in the UAE are set for growth due to favourable government policies and supportive legal frameworks. The Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) offer special investment and trade benefits within Gulf countries, including the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. The UAE ranks second in clothing retail industries based on retail development, production capacity, government policies, market infrastructure, and labour.

The UAE's Fujairah free zone has lured significant business relocations with tax exemptions and repatriation benefits. Established in 2012, a major textile mill there stands as the largest in the Middle East, with operational efficiency boosted by employees using roller skates for swift productivity.

Potential to Export Home textiles to the UAE

- India and the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022 to increase bilateral merchandise trade. Under this agreement, there is zero duty access for textiles (including home textiles) imported into the UAE from India.
- The UAE home textile market is growing due to the Government initiatives, development of infrastructure, tax exemptions, and growing population in the country.
- There is growth in demand for High–end, Premium and Stylish home textiles due to rise in consumer spending and higher investments in the country.
- Growth in the hospitality sector due to rising number of expatriates is expected to create demand for bed linen and bath linen products.
- The home textile segment has become one of the most attractive segments in the textile industry markets within the GCC nations.
- The large population, increasing rate of urbanization, and improved quality of living are leading to growing demand for home textiles like beddings, bed sheets, towels, carpets, quilts, blankets, and covers in the GCC markets.

Textile Manufacturing and Trade in the UAE

The UAE's textile industry includes various segments such as woven and knitted garments, fabrics, home textiles, and technical textiles. The country hosts around 170 garment and cloth manufacturers, mainly in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah. UAE exports textile products to over 52 countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. The textile trade, including apparel fabrics manufacturing and textile processing, is poised for growth due to supportive government policies and strategic advantages provided by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Key Players in the UAE Textile

The UAE textile market includes both local and international players. Key local players include Al Ghurair Group, Al Ain Alkhadra, and Naseej. Additionally, international fashion brands and luxury retailers have a significant presence in the UAE, contributing to its status as a fashion and shopping destination.

UAE Textile Statistics

Exports: The UAE's textile and apparel sector exports amounted to USD $4521.96 million.

Imports: The sector's imports totaled USD $7075.4 million.

Top Export Destinations: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Oman, and Bahrain are among the top export markets.

Top Import Sources: Major import sources include China, India, Bangladesh, Turkey, and Italy.

UAE Textile Dynamics

Strong Consumer Base: The UAE's large expatriate population with diverse cultural backgrounds leads to substantial demand for a variety of textiles and apparel.

Global Fashion Hub: The UAE's position as a global fashion and luxury hub increases demand for high-end textiles and designer clothing.

Government Support: Initiatives like Dubai Fashion Week and other government-backed events promote the textile and fashion industries.

Country Report

Dubai Textile City (DTC) is a TEXMAS and Dubai Port and Customs Authority venture, providing a duty-free platform for textile traders, enhancing re-export activities and global market reach.

The UAE is a significant importer and exporter of textiles and garments, benefiting from its strategic location and advanced infrastructure, which facilitate efficient global trade.

The UAE's textile market is expected to expand immensely in the coming years, driven by increasing demand, strategic investments, and a growing global presence. This growth is fuelled by advancements in infrastructure, trade opportunities, and a robust economic environment.

The UAE has world-class infrastructure that is critical for the textile industry, providing state-of-the-art facilities, advanced logistics, and efficient transportation networks. This infrastructure supports seamless production, import-export operations, and global trade connectivity.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) benefits from strategic advantages that fuel its textile industry's growth. Its prime location as a shipping hub boosts trade opportunities, while booming economies attract businesses with tax incentives and expand the customer base. Initiatives like the International Apparel and Textile Fair (IATF) and Domotex Middle East in Dubai foster industry collaboration and global visibility. Additionally, the UAE's expansion into Africa leverages lower production costs and central shipping routes, enhancing competitiveness and market reach.

Textile Challenges in the UAE

International Competition: The UAE competes with other textile manufacturing countries that offer lower production costs and greater capacities. The industry faces stiff competition from Turkey, which, due to its central location and similar goods, threatens the UAE's market share.

Environmental Concerns: The textile industry's environmental impact, including water consumption and waste generation, necessitates a shift towards more sustainable practices.

Energy crises remain a concern, with power outages and soaring natural gas prices driving up manufacturing costs and reducing the competitiveness of textile products.

The UAE's complex import regulations require Dubai garment buyers and UAE garment importers to be well-informed and compliant.

Lack of market information among traders, including knowledge of textiles, market statistics, and trends, limits the demand for textiles in the global economy.

Source: http://kohantextilejournal.com

UAE Imports of Textiles and Clothing in 2024 (January – December)

TEXTILES & CLOTHING			
Rank	Suppliers	Mn US$	%share
	World	10898.00	100.00
1	China	4597.26	42.19
2	**India**	**2141.57**	**19.65**
3	Italy	609.94	5.60
4	Pakistan	493.78	4.53
5	Turkiye	347.16	3.19
6	USA	290.58	2.67
7	France	282.93	2.60
8	UK	236.58	2.17
9	Indonesia	219.08	2.01
10	S. Korea	198.52	1.82

TEXTILES			
Rank	Suppliers	Mn US$	%share
	World	5531.00	100.00
1	China	2702.53	48.86
2	**India**	**918.36**	**16.60**
3	Pakistan	201.70	3.65
4	USA	198.94	3.60
5	S. Korea	195.53	3.54
6	Japan	167.19	3.02
7	Indonesia	154.91	2.80
8	Turkiye	148.78	2.69
9	UK	131.82	2.38
10	Taiwan	90.68	1.64

CLOTHING			
Rank	Suppliers	Mn US$	%share
	World	5367.00	100.00
1	China	1894.73	35.30
2	**India**	**1223.21**	**22.79**
3	Pakistan	534.10	9.95
4	USA	292.08	5.44
5	S. Korea	249.66	4.65
6	Japan	198.38	3.70
7	Indonesia	135.72	2.53
8	Turkiye	104.76	1.95
9	UK	91.64	1.71
10	Taiwan	89.01	1.66

OBSERVATIONS
China is the bulk supplier of T&C into UAE market with a share of 42.19% including 48.86% in Textiles, 35.30% in Clothing and 31.62% in cotton textiles
India is the 2nd supplier of T&C with a share of 19.65%, 2nd in Textiles with 16.60%, 2nd in Clothing with 22.79% and 2nd in Cotton Textiles with 30.07% share.
An analysis of product-wise imports shows that Cotton Made-ups dominate the cotton textiles import market with a share of60.53% followed by Cotton Fabrics and Cotton Yarn.

COTTON TEXTILES			
Rank	Suppliers	Mn US$	%share
	World	1430.00	100.00
1	Uzbekistan	452.37	31.62
2	**India**	**430.08**	**30.07**
3	China	103.33	7.22
4	Turkiye	97.23	6.80
5	Germany	40.35	2.82
6	Indonesia	30.76	2.15
7	France	30.49	2.13
8	Italy	27.70	1.94
9	Netherlands	23.89	1.67
10	UK	22.46	1.57

COTTON YARN IMPORTS			
Rank	Suppliers	Mn US$	%share
	World	31.57	100.00
1	Uzbekistan	13.27	42.04
2	**India**	**10.39**	**32.92**
3	China	4.88	15.47
4	Turkiye	2.04	6.47
5	Germany	0.49	1.54
6	Indonesia	0.12	0.37
7	France	0.10	0.32
8	Italy	0.09	0.29
9	Netherlands	0.05	0.15
10	UK	0.03	0.10

COTTON FABRIC IMPORTS			
Rank	Suppliers	Mn US$	%share
	World	5367.00	100.00
1	China	279.24	52.39
2	**India**	**138.04**	**25.90**
3	Pakistan	32.34	6.07
4	Taiwan	28.18	5.29
5	S. Korea	11.43	2.14
6	Italy	10.27	1.93
7	Japan	4.55	0.85
8	UK	4.20	0.79
9	Switzerland	3.87	0.73
10	Australia	3.36	0.63

COTTON MADEUP IMPORTS			
Rank	Suppliers	Mn US$	%share
	World	865.87	100.00
1	**India**	**281.64**	**32.53**
2	China	168.24	19.43
3	UK	99.10	11.44
4	Pakistan	64.88	7.49
5	Australia	40.30	4.65
6	Spain	28.94	3.34
7	Germany	2.98	2.42
8	Turkiye	19.59	2.26
9	USA	19.27	2.23
10	Saudi Arabia	18.35	2.12

Trade Update

International News

IMF: Trump's Tariffs Have the Power to 'Significantly Slow Global Growth'

U.S. President Donald Trump's back-and-forth tariff drama is likely to decrease the rate of growth in economies across the world, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Tuesday.

In a blog Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist at the IMF, noted that further trade tensions are likely to exacerbate risk to global economies.

"If sustained, this abrupt increase in tariffs and attendant uncertainty will significantly slow global growth," Gourinchas wrote.

The blog provides a reference forecast, which takes all tariff-related announcements that occurred between February 1 and April 4 into account—both the policies instituted by the United States and the countermeasures instated by other countries.

Using those specs, the IMF has lowered its growth forecast to 2.8 percent for 2025 and 3 percent for 2026, "a cumulative downgrade of about 0.8 percentage points" compared to its outlook in January. In 2024, the global economy grew at a rate of 3.3 percent.

But the U.S. is likely to fare even worse, the IMF projects. The reference forecast suggests that the U.S. economy will grow about 1.8 percent in 2025, nearly one full percentage point lower than the IMF's January forecast. About half of that is directly attributed to tariffs, per the IMF.

"Tariffs account for 0.4 percentage point of that reduction," Gourinchas' blog noted.

In 2024, the U.S. economy grew at a rate of 2.8 percent.

The U.S. is far from the only country impacted; the IMF also lowered its growth forecast for China this year, by a more modest 0.6 percentage point reduction, leaving its projected growth rate at 4 percent, down from 5 percent growth in 2024.

In addition to adjusting its economic outlook to meet the reference forecast, the IMF put forth two alternative forecasts, which are predicated on two scenarios: Trump drops much of his planned tariff activity and returns to the pre-April 2 status quo, or Trump sustains his 90-day pause on tariffs for countries other than China indefinitely, but tensions with China continue.

For the first alternative, which excludes Trump's tariffs and "Liberation Day" measures, the IMF projects that "global growth would have seen only a modest cumulative downgrade of 0.2 percentage point, to 3.2 percent for 2025 and 2026."

The projected path for the second alternative, which includes Trump's 90-day pause on tariffs for many nations and the U.S.-China trade war bubbling beneath the surface, comes much closer to the reference forecast; the IMF noted that the pause, even if it keeps up indefinitely, doesn't provide much relief from the reference forecast.

"This is because the overall effective tariff rate of the United States and China remains elevated even if some initially highly tariffed countries will now benefit," Gourinchas wrote. The International Apparel Federation (IAF) said in a statement last week that it welcomes the pause, but agreed that, compounded with other uncertainties, the trade war between China and the U.S. has already started to negatively impact players in the fashion and apparel industries.

"For IAF members, what has not been paused is the harm inflicted by the creation of a climate of tariff uncertainty (and, in the case of China, a punitive reality).

With global supply chains still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Sea crisis and weakened consumer confidence, the unpredictability of trade policy discourages investment and further undermines market stability and consumer confidence," the IAF's statement said. "Preventing the return of these harmful tariffs must be a top priority—followed by restoring a stable, predictable trade environment. Only then can we begin the critical work of re-evaluating global supply chains."

Source: sourcingjournal.com

China's online sales hit $499.6 bn in Q1 2025, led by trade-in push

China's e-commerce sector witnessed steady growth in the first quarter of 2025 (Q1 2025), driven by government efforts to stimulate consumption, including a large-scale consumer goods trade-in programme.

Official data shows online retail sales reached 3.6 trillion yuan (~ $499.6 billion), with physical goods sales up 5.7 per cent year-on-year. Online digital product sales rose 7.4 per cent, a state-controlled news agency reported, citing the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry noted strengthened collaboration between the government and enterprises to integrate domestic and foreign trade, with over 10 e-commerce platforms helping channel quality foreign trade goods into local markets.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Vietnam's govt, bizs act to prevent origin fraud, illegal transhipment

As stricter control over the abuse of origin labelling has turned essential amid growing pressure from US trade policies, Vietnam is trying to strengthen management of imported raw materials used in the production of exported goods.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) had earlier released a warning list of 17 export product categories from Vietnam to the United States that are at risk of trade remedy investigations due to concerns over origin fraud and illegal transhipment.

The new US tariff policies pose significant challenges to Vietnamese enterprises, as origin rules are likely to become more stringent, requiring higher domestic content in exported goods, experts say. This could raise production costs and place pressure on several export sectors.

To prevent the abuse of Vietnam's origin to evade tariffs through transshipment, businesses in the country are also taking advantage of the 90-day pause to US reciprocal tariffs to implement both short-term and long-term solutions to minimise potential negative impacts, domestic media outlets reported.

Several industry experts view this challenge as an opportunity to restructure production process and enhance competitiveness.

Many businesses are working with partners to raise shipments during the 90-day tariff delay period to avoid inventory pole-up and higher tariffs, if negotiations fail.

Several businesses in Hai Duong have started implementing digital logs—tools that help track the entire production process, from sourcing raw materials to final processing, with strict input control from the outset.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Bangladesh: Offer duty-free access for garments made of US cotton

Local textile millers yesterday sought duty-free export facilities

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to the USA for garment items produced in Bangladesh using American cotton.

The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), a platform for the primary textile sector, made the call through two letters — one sent to Gary Adams, president and CEO of the National Cotton Council of America, and another to Eric Geelan, counsellor for political/economic affairs at the US embassy in Bangladesh.

In the letters, BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russell also urged the US government to permanently remove Bangladesh from the list of countries subject to the additional duty.

Earlier, on April 2, US President Donald Trump imposed reciprocal tariffs on various countries; for Bangladesh, the rate was set at 37 percent. However, Trump issued a 90-day pause on imposing new tariffs, while maintaining a 10 percent baseline tariff rate.

“We are confident that these measures will significantly boost bilateral trade and further embed US cotton into global supply chains via Bangladesh’s growing ready-made garment (RMG) industry,” said the BTMA president.

“BTMA is committed to prioritising US cotton in a substantial portion of our production, much of which is exported to the US and other global markets.”

To support this vision, BTMA highlighted several government initiatives currently underway, including the establishment of a central warehouse in Bangladesh dedicated exclusively to US cotton, aimed at quadrupling import volume.

The Bangladesh government has expressed a strong commitment to strengthening trade ties with the United States, particularly in cotton and textiles, the BTMA president said in the letters.

He also referenced comprehensive proposals made by Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus directly to US President Donald J. Trump, outlining a strategic roadmap for mutual economic growth.

“Additionally, we are preparing to send an official BTMA delegation to the United States, in collaboration with the National Cotton Council of America, at the earliest possible date,” Russell said.

“This mission, comprising 12–13 representatives, will engage in high-level dialogue and negotiations with key US government and private sector stakeholders to advance our shared goals,” the BTMA stated.

In both letters, the BTMA noted that it is a trade body representing 1,856 member mills engaged in yarn and fabric manufacturing, dyeing, printing, and finishing — and has been a cornerstone of Bangladesh’s industrial and export economy.

To date, the textile sector has attracted cumulative investments of over $23 billion, the association added.

“On behalf of Bangladesh’s textile and apparel industry, we express our appreciation for the enduring and fruitful partnership with the United States,” the letter said, adding that in 2024, Bangladesh imported approximately $270 million worth of US cotton, accounting for around 12 percent of the country’s total cotton imports.

“We strongly believe this volume can be increased by four to five times in the near future with mutual collaboration and policy support,” Russell also stated.

Over 90 percent of total exports to the USA are garment items, which face over 15 percent duty, while Bangladesh levies 2.2 percent duty on imports of US goods.

Alongside the chief adviser’s letter to the Trump administration, Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin, in a separate letter sent to US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, offered zero-duty benefits to 100 additional US goods, on top of the existing 190 products.

Source: thedailystar.net

Tariff uncertainty threatens global apparel industry: IAF

The International Apparel Federation (IAF) represents the apparel manufacturing community across more than 40 countries—a global industry comprising hundreds of thousands of companies and millions of employees. Apparel and textiles are among the most globalized industries, historically foundational to industrial development around the world.

The punitive tariffs introduced by the US administration on April 2nd, with the highest rates reserved for countries heavily reliant on garment exports to the U.S., represent a direct and unprovoked threat to entire industries. These measures risk destabilizing economies and jeopardizing the livelihoods of countless employees and entrepreneurs in the apparel industry globally, including in the U.S. itself.

The IAF welcomes the decision to pause a significant portion of these punishing tariffs. However, the continued application of punitive tariffs on imports from China—one of the world’s largest apparel exporters—remains deeply concerning and underscores the real and ongoing risk of tariff escalation for other nations.

We implore that future trade negotiations have reasonable goals and that punishingly high tariffs on apparel do not return. Many apparel-exporting countries lack the domestic purchasing power to significantly boost imports from the U.S., making it unrealistic and unreasonable to demand steep trade balance corrections. Likewise, high tariffs will not realistically result in the large-scale return of apparel production to the U.S.

For IAF members, what has not been paused is the harm inflicted by the creation of a climate of tariff uncertainty (and, in the case of China a punitive reality).

With global supply chains still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Sea crisis, and weakened consumer confidence, the unpredictability of trade policy discourages investment and further undermines market stability and consumer confidence. Preventing the return of these harmful tariffs must be a top priority—followed by restoring a stable, predictable trade environment. Only then can we begin the critical work of re-evaluating global supply chains.

To be clear, no supply chain resilience strategy can withstand a tariff tornado of this scale. Nevertheless, going forward, our industry must reduce its vulnerability to sudden policy shifts. This requires expanding the foundation of competitiveness beyond cost alone. The IAF advocates for stronger, smarter, and more sustainable supply chains—anchored more in long-term partnerships, business sense, and mutual interdependence and less dependant on trade political decisions.

This has been the IAF’s core message in all of its publications and events for the past decade. In line with this, IAF will intensify its global initiatives to empower manufacturers and their as-

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sociations to act as strategic partners in the industry transition that we need—investing in people, processes, and technology.

Resilient supply chains are built together. Weathering this tariff crisis also requires a joint effort. We therefore urge brands and retailers to work collaboratively with manufacturers by honoring sourcing commitments, maintaining standards, and avoiding cost shifts that threaten supply chain viability.

The apparel industry is and always will be a global industry, with trade as an integral and indispensable part of it. IAF stands with the global manufacturing community, committed to unity and collective strength to be able to weather this storm and then to move to a stronger position together. Through collaborative approaches and strategic partnerships, we can build a more resilient and sustainable future for the global apparel industry—one that benefits all stakeholders across the value chain and ensures long-term prosperity despite policy turbulence.

Source: sourcingjournal.com

Trump's Trade War Has Denim Manufacturers at a Standstill

Though they were there to start planning for the Fall/Winter 2026-2027 season, President Donald Trump's upheaval of global trade policies was weighed on the minds of exhibitors and attendees at Kingpins Amsterdam last week. Many exhibitors said Trump's reciprocal tariff spree and subsequent 90 day pause on duty hikes, excluding China which soared to 125 percent on April 12, have put clients in a holding pattern.

A representative for Marmara Hemp compared the mood at the trade show to the quiet week between Christmas and New Years. There's a lot of excitement about products but no one wants to do business yet.

The standstill is discouraging for the French company which has been expanding its cottonized hemp program—90 percent of their denim mill clients were exhibiting at the show—and building buzz for Smart Linen. Made from spinning waste, it is the first pre-consumer GRS certified linen.

While existing customers like Levi's have pre-booked their orders for the company's cottonized linen the rep said he anticipates that most companies will wait to see how negotiations unfold before making any new commitments.

"Brands are waiting to see what's next," said Aydan Tuzun, Naveena Denim Mills SVP of sales and marketing. Approximately 40 percent of the Karachi, Pakistan-based mill's business is in the U.S. Clients have not asked for discounts, but Tuzun said she's heard of stories from other manufacturers about brands requesting mills to share the burden of the extra costs.

Having facilities that can produce the same type of products in China, Mexico and Vietnam is an advantage for Twin Dragon. A representative for the mill said no one is making drastic moves yet however they could shift their production from one region to another if they choose.

Likewise, Ebru Ozaydin, The Lycra Company's global strategic marketing director for denim and wovens, said the company's global reach and its ability to produce fibers in five countries helps balance the effects of turbulent economies. "Since we're at the very beginning of the supply chain, we have to wait and see how brands and the end consumer react," she said about the company's next moves.

Despite the uncertainty, Ozaydin remains optimistic, noting how momentum is building for Lycra's latest technologies. In the last six months, the company introduced FitSense technology, its targeted sculpting innovation, to the supply chain and launched it in the market with Spanx. The men's category is proving to be a major opportunity for its Adaptiv. Additionally, the first jeans made with bio-derived Lycra EcoMade just hit the market. The fiber, which is partially made with corn, is used in four Spring 2025 Agolde styles.

"Brands are still trusting us and trusting innovation," she said.

While Italian machinery company Tonello is scaling its business by recently acquiring its competitor Flainox and diversifying its capabilities, Alberto Lucchin, Tonello's marketing and sustainability manager, said the company is bound to feel the impact of tariffs, albeit indirectly. Many of Tonello's clients are based in Pakistan and Bangladesh and produce for U.S. brands.

AGI Denim is in preparation mode. Though the Pakistani mill showcased premium fabrics like a new silk blend, it balanced its collection with value added fabrics and the Flexible Collection, a family of fabrics that are almost always in production. Henry Wong, AGI Denim's VP of product development and marketing, said this allows clients to quickly place orders. "If there's a reprieve on tariffs, you want to be able to buy fast," he said. "It's unclear what will happen so brands and mills are positioning themselves for success."

Trump's ever-changing policies make it difficult to navigate solutions, but Keith O'Brien, Isko senior PR manager, said it is positive that companies are having open conversations about the realistic impact of tariff increases. He said clients are being cautious this season.

The Turkish mill is responding to this mindset with more practical technologies like We'Raw, a fabric family that maintains its raw look after home washes, and FitWise, an easy to cut and sew fabric with low shrinkage.

"We're trying to be more democratic with what people want," he said.

Whether companies make good on their promise to "circle back" after the 90 day pause ends in June remains to be seen. Many doubt the probability that the U.S. will negotiate new trade policies with 57 countries within the time frame. Others anticipate more chaos and unpredictability from the administration.

"Many people are looking for alternatives, but no one can make moves right away," said Luca Braschi, Soko's marketing and technology manager. The Italian chemical manufacturer's global distribution helps mitigate the impact of business lost in one region versus another, but Braschi anticipates that affects will be felt worldwide. However, U.S. companies may be the most vulnerable. "Trump could have said the tariff increases would go into effect in 2026 or 2027, which would have given U.S. companies time to strategize and other countries time to negotiate," he said. "Instead, he chose to drop a nuclear bomb on the economy."

Source: sourcingjournal.com

Global home textiles market to reach $185 billion by 2030

Encompassing items like bedding, curtains, towels, blankets, and rugs, the global home textiles market is projected to reach a substantial $185 billion by 2030. Fueled by shifting consumer tastes, technological advancements, and increasing disposable incomes, this expansion signifies a major transformation in the home decor and textiles sector. The market's trajectory is shaped by various economic and social factors, alongside

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innovations in fabric production and the growing demand for eco-friendly options.

Several factors are driving the robust growth of this segment. Rising disposable incomes allow consumers to spend more on home decor. Urbanization and changing lifestyles lead to greater attention to home aesthetics and functionality. The e-commerce boom provides convenient access to a wide array of products. Technological advancements in fabric manufacturing are introducing smart, antimicrobial, and eco-friendly materials.

Sustainability is a significant trend, with consumers increasingly prioritizing eco-friendly products made from organic, recycled, and biodegradable materials. Brands are adopting sustainable practices to meet this demand. Consumer preferences are also shifting towards customization, a greater focus on health and comfort, and alignment with evolving aesthetic trends in interior design.

The Asia Pacific region is anticipated to experience the fastest growth, driven by rapid urbanization and rising incomes in countries like India and China. North America and Europe show strong demand for premium and sustainable products.

Despite this positive outlook, the market faces challenges such as fluctuating raw material prices, competition from low-cost imports, and logistical issues. However, the future remains bright, with trends like smart textiles, sustainable innovations, rising demand for luxury goods, and the growth of online retail expected to drive continued expansion. The global home textile market is poised for significant growth, and companies that adapt to these evolving trends will be well-positioned for success.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Japan's clothing imports rise 5% in FY25, 15% in March

Japan's imports of clothing and accessories rose by 5.3 per cent to reach 3,764,657 million yen (approximately $26.440 billion) during fiscal 2024–25 (April–March). These imports accounted for 3.3 per cent of the nation's total imports, which stood at 114,156,283 million yen, according to provisional data from Japan's Ministry of Finance. Imports of clothing and accessories jumped 15.5 per cent in March, the final month of the fiscal.

The country's imports of textile yarn and fabric increased by 2.7 per cent to 1,174,598 million yen in the recently concluded fiscal, representing 1.0 per cent of total imports.

In March 2025, imports of clothing and accessories posted impressive growth of 15.5 per cent to reach 335,174 million yen (approximately $2.354 billion), accounting for 3.6 per cent of the nation's total imports of 9,303,763 million yen. Imports of textile yarn and fabric rose by 5.8 per cent to 94,735 million yen during the same month.

Japan's exports of textile yarn and fabric grew by 6.0 per cent during fiscal 2024–25, reaching 850,139 million yen. However, exports of textile machinery declined by 12.6 per cent to 280,408 million yen, contributing 0.3 per cent to total exports. In March 2025, exports of textile yarn and fabric inched up by 1.2 per cent to 75,419 million yen, while textile machinery exports jumped by 22.6 per cent to 29,366 million yen.

During the calendar year 2024, Japan's imports of clothing and accessories increased by 3.5 per cent to 3,674,140 million yen (approximately $23.619 billion).

However, imports of textile yarn and fabric declined by 0.4 per cent to 1,157,919 million yen. In the same period, exports of textile yarn and fabric rose by 6.9 per cent to 839,583 million yen, while textile machinery exports fell by 17.7 per cent to 270,557 million yen.

For fiscal 2023–24 (April–March), Japan's imports of clothing and accessories totalled 3,564,850 million yen (approximately $23.107 billion), marking a 1.7 per cent decline.

Imports of textile yarn and fabric dropped by 10.4 per cent to 1,143,805 million yen. During the same fiscal, Japan exported textile yarn and fabric worth 802,178 million yen, while textile machinery exports stood at 320,947 million yen.

In fiscal 2022–23, imports of clothing and accessories amounted to 3,619,550 million yen (approximately $25.05 billion), while textile machinery exports reached 306,781 million yen.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Bangladesh Apparel Sector Says High Freight Costs Are a Policy Problem

Bangladesh's apparel industry is calling on the country's interim government to help reduce freight costs and federal interest rates to preserve the sector's competitiveness amid ongoing tariff tensions and a more tenuous relationship with neighboring India.

On April 12, members of multiple apparel trade associations met in Dhaka to discuss the industry's roadmap to 2030 and plan for navigating through current ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.

Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Textiles Limited and a former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), drew attention to the high cost of air freight—an escalating problem for Bangladeshi exporters as air cargo space is limited.

"Air cargo from Bangladesh is among the most expensive in the world, prompting many exporters to use Indian ports for third-country shipments," said Ahmed. But the Indian outlet has largely been cut off, with the country recently revoking Bangladesh's access to its transshipment services.

In using that service, Bangladesh could export goods via its land borders using India's customs stations. Cargo flowing through these stations usually ends up being transported to Indian ports and airports.

According to data from the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association, roughly 18 percent of Bangladesh's garment air cargo was flown through Indian airports prior to the transshipment ban.

Lobbyists including the BGMEA have urged India to reconsider the ban, which they say will increase freight costs and lead times.

To be less reliant on its neighbor, Bangladesh is ramping up cargo-handling capabilities at its international airports, with Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka building out a third terminal expected to be operational by the end of the year. The expanded terminal will nearly triple airport's annual cargo-handling capacity from 200,000 metric tons to 547,000 metric tons.

Cargo services will open in Sylhet on April 27, with Chattogram following suit and an undisclosed date.

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Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, another former president of the BGMEA, shared his disappointment in customs inefficiencies endured throughout Bangladesh.

"Why does it take 10 days to clear goods at ports when it should take only three?" Parvez said. "And after a decade of consistency, why has the HS code product assessment process abruptly changed?"

Parvez also pointed to some of the current economic concerns Bangladesh is facing, on top of the 10-percent baseline tariff applied on all exports to the U.S. Bangladesh initially had a 37-percent tariff slapped on its goods on April 2, before President Donald Trump put a halt to the country-specific duties to make room for negotiations.

"Interest rates remain high, gas prices have tripled, and though we're being asked to operate in economic zones, those zones are far from fully developed," said Parvez.

Parvez also dismissed the idea that cheap labor has given Bangladesh any other cost advantages to its peers.

"If we compare ourselves to Vietnam, their transportation, financing, and logistics costs are much lower," said Parvez. "Factoring these in, our production costs are nearly the same," he said, calling for long-term policy consistency and stable governance.

"These issues stem from government policies, not from the private sector," he said.

Another meeting on April 10 held at the office of Dhaka's Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) involved more discussion on Bangladesh's desire to keep logistics costs down.

Derek Loh, Singapore's high commissioner to Bangladesh, told delegates at the meeting that the southeast Asian city-state is keen to invest further in Bangladesh's infrastructure sector.

Singapore hosts the largest transshipment port in the world, and second-largest port overall, and has emerged as a global trade center through efficient port management, Loh noted.

"By improving the efficient management of Bangladesh's ports, it is possible to reduce the business operating costs of entrepreneurs largely, which will increase the capacity of Bangladeshi entrepreneurs in global competition," Loh said.

Bangladesh is looking to cut these costs amid heightening tensions with India. The Bangladeshi government halted the import of yarn via India's land ports, which angered local apparel exporters concerned that they can't compete with cheaper imports.

Internal pressure came from domestic textile mills seeking to expand their market share. With the ban, which went into effect April 13, all yarn imports must now arrive by the more expensive transportation options including sea or air.

During a late March visit to Beijing, Bangladesh chief interim government adviser Muhammad Yunus pushed for more Chinese investment in his country, referring to India's northeast as being "landlocked."

"We are the only guardian of the ocean for all this region. So, this opens up a huge possibility [and] could be an extension of the Chinese economy," Yunus said, noting Bangladesh can "build things, produce things, market things, bring things to China, and bring it out to the whole rest of the world. That's a production house for you."

Source: sourcingjournal.com

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WTO slashes 2025 trade growth forecast, warns of deeper slump

The World Trade Organization sharply cut its forecast for global merchandise trade from solid growth to a decline on Wednesday, saying further U.S. tariffs and spillover effects could lead to the heaviest slump since the height of the COVID pandemic.

The WTO said it expected trade in goods to fall by 0.2% this year, down from its expectation in October of 3.0% expansion. It said its new estimate was based on measures in place at the start of this week.

"I'm very concerned, the contraction in global merchandise trade growth is of big concern," WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told reporters in Geneva.

U.S. President Donald Trump imposed extra duties on steel and car imports as well as more sweeping global tariffs before unexpectedly pausing higher duties on a dozen economies. His trade war with China has also intensified with tit-for-tat exchanges pushing levies on each other's imports beyond 100%.

The WTO said that, if Trump reintroduced the full rates of his broader tariffs that would reduce goods trade growth by 0.6 percentage points, with another 0.8 point cut due to spillover effects beyond U.S.-linked trade.

Taken together, this would lead to a 1.5% decline, the steepest drop since 2020.

"If we have contraction in global merchandise the concern is spill over into broad GDP growth.

We've seen that the trade concerns can have negative spill overs into financial markets, into other broader areas of the economy," Okonjo-Iweala added. She also raised alarm about the impact on developing countries.

DECOUPLING FEAR

The head of the WTO said her greatest fear was that the economies of China and the U.S. were decoupling from one another. The WTO estimates that merchandise trade between them will fall by 81% - a drop that could have reached 91% without recent exemptions for products such as smartphones.

"A decoupling could have far reaching consequences if it were to contribute to a broader fragmentation of the global economy along geopolitical lines to two isolated blocks," Okonjo-Iweala said. In this scenario, global GDP could shrink by 7% in the long term, which the director general described as "significant and substantial".

"The unprecedented nature of the recent trade policy shifts means that predictions should be interpreted with more caution than usual," said the WTO, which is also forecasting a modest recovery of 2.5% in 2026.

Earlier on Wednesday, the U.N. Trade and Development agency said global economic growth could slow to 2.3% as trade tensions and uncertainty drive a recessionary trend.

The Geneva-based WTO said disruption of U.S.-China trade was expected to increase Chinese merchandise exports across all regions outside North America by between 4% and 9%. Other countries would have opportunities to fill the gap in the United States in sectors such as textiles, clothing and electrical equipment.

Services trade, though not subject to tariffs, would also take a hit, the WTO said, by weakening demand related to goods trade such as transport and logistics. Broader uncertainty could dampen spending on travel and investment-related services.

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The WTO said it expected commercial services trade to grow by 4.0% in 2025 and 4.1% in 2026, well below baseline projections of 5.1% and 4.8%. The expected downturn follows a strong 2024, when the volume of world merchandise trade grew by 2.9% and commercial services trade expanded by 6.8%.

Source: economictimes.com

Bangladesh Bank again asks banks to clear overdue LC payments

The Bangladesh Bank instructed banks to further clear overdue letters of credit (LC) payments, as this type of non-payment tarnishes the image of the country's banking system, increases the cost of foreign trade, and disrupts the trade environment.

After issuing similar directives a couple of times over the past five months, the central bank reiterated the order to all banks in a circular issued yesterday.

Overdue LC payments, which were hovering above $445 million in November last year, came down to $242 million as of January 31, according to central bank data.

"If the bill against imports is not paid in a timely manner, it tarnishes the image of the country's banking system, increases the cost of foreign trade, and disrupts a favourable trade environment," the central bank said.

As such, banks have been ordered to take several measures to ensure prompt payment of overdue bills.

One of the measures is to draft a comprehensive action plan for overdue accepted bills (foreign or local) after detailed review and analysis, considering factors such as litigation status and realisation clause.

Additionally, performance evaluations must be conducted on a branch-wise basis, where applicable, and special monitoring measures should be introduced in branches with a high volume of overdue unpaid accepted bills (foreign or local).

If any bill under litigation is not payable, the supplier's bank must be informed accordingly, the central bank said.

When submitting the monthly report on overdue accepted bills, the information must be verified through the Online Import Monitoring System before submission.

All submitted bills, discrepancies (if any), and payment information at the authorised dealer branch must be preserved and sent to the relevant department at the head office on a monthly basis.

This directive will be effective immediately, the BB added.

Source: thedailystar.net

Cotton Highlights from April 2025 WASDE Report

USDA has released its April 2025 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. Here's this month's summary of the U.S. domestic and global cotton balance sheets.

In this month's 2024/25 U.S. cotton balance sheet, the only changes are a 100,000-bale reduction in exports to 10.9 million bales and an increase in ending stocks of the same amount to 5.0 million bales.

The projected 2024/25 season average upland farm price is unchanged at 63 cents per pound.

Production, consumption, and trade are reduced in this month's 2024/25 world cotton balance sheet while stocks are raised.

Lower production in Argentina, Cote d'Ivoire, and other countries more than offsets an increase in China, for an overall decline of 69,000 bales.

Global textile mill use is down 520,000 bales this month, primarily because of reductions for China and Indonesia that more than offset an increase for Turkey.

Similarly, imports are lower this month as reductions for China and Indonesia more than offset an increase for Turkey, with small changes elsewhere. Exports are reduced for Australia, Brazil, the United States, Cote d'Ivoire, and other countries, more than offsetting increases for Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Beginning stocks are increased 25,000 bales following back year adjustments to imports, consumption, and ending stocks for Egypt.

World ending stocks for 2024/25 are raised over 520,000 bales, with increases for China, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, and the United States that more than offset reductions for Turkey and Argentina, with largely offsetting changes elsewhere.

Source: cottongrower.com

UK to maintain duty-free access for 92% of Bangladeshi exports

The United Kingdom will continue to provide 92 per cent of Bangladesh's exports duty-free access to its market beyond the current scheme of trade preferences, UK trade envoy in Bangladesh Rosie Winterton recently assured participants at the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 in Dhaka.

Bangladesh receives duty-free and quota-free access to the UK market till 2029.

The UK Developing Country's Trading Scheme encourages Bangladesh to diversify its exports to the United Kingdom beyond garments, laying the groundwork of Bangladesh's economic security, ahead of graduation from the least developed country status next year, media outlets in Bangladesh reported.

"I am also pleased that his Majesty's revenue of customs will be providing capacity-building support to the customs way of the National Ward of revenue to enhance trade facilitation… taken together, these initiatives constitute significant UK contributions for Bangladesh's LDC graduation," she said.

Her country is working with the interim government in Bangladesh on the latter's priorities to restore law and order, ensure accountability and promote national unity, the envoy said.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

US' textiles & apparel imports rise 9.8% to $18 bn in Jan-Feb 2025

The United States' textile and apparel imports increased by 9.80 per cent, totalling $18.070 billion in January–February 2025, compared to $16.457 billion in the same period of 2024. China remained the largest supplier to the US, holding a 24.13 per cent market share, followed by Vietnam at 15.19 per cent.

During January–February 2025, apparel imports—which constitute the majority of US' textile imports—increased by 11.21 per cent to $13.550 billion, up from $12.183 billion in the same period of 2024. Non-apparel imports also rose, by 5.78 per cent, to $4.520 billion, according to the US Department of Commerce's Major Shippers Report.

US apparel imports from Jordan surged by 33.89 per cent, while those from Bangladesh rose by 26.64 per cent. Apparel imports from China also increased, by 8.85 per cent, Vietnam 11.14 per cent, India 25.70 per cent, Indonesia 18.27 per cent, Cambodia 10.14 per cent, Mexico 1.49 per cent, Pakistan 23.18 per cent, and Sri Lanka 23.18 per cent. Imports from Italy declined by 4.11 per cent during the period under review.

In the non-apparel sector, imports from China increased by 5.71

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per cent, India 18.87 per cent, Pakistan 8.57 per cent, Vietnam 12.03 per cent, Cambodia 19.90 per cent, and Indonesia 21.35 per cent. Meanwhile, shipments from Turkiye fell by 9.91 per cent, Mexico by 2.19 per cent, South Korea by 9.25 per cent, and Canada by 2.67 per cent.

During the review period, total US textile and apparel imports stood at $18.070 billion. Man-made fibre products accounted for the largest share, totalling $9.288 billion, followed by cotton products at $7.528 billion, wool products at $535.765 million, and silk and vegetable fibre products at $718.409 million.

In 2024, the country's textile and apparel imports experienced minimal growth of 2.66 per cent, reaching $107.723 billion. US apparel imports increased by 1.71 per cent to $79.257 billion, while non-apparel imports rose by 5.42 per cent to $28.465 billion.

In 2023, the US imported textiles and apparel worth $104.959 billion, marking a 20.51 per cent decrease. In 2022, imports rose to $132.201 billion, up from $113.938 billion in 2021, following a sharp decline in 2020, when imports fell to $89.596 billion compared to $111.033 billion in 2019.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Bangladesh's cotton imports projected to rise 1.2% YoY in MY26: USDA

Cotton imports by Bangladesh are projected to rise by 1.2 per cent year on year (YoY) to 8.2 million bales in marketing year 2025-26 (MY26), and the United States is losing its market share in cotton exports to the country amid concerns about logistics and long shipment duration, according to a recent report by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

West African countries and Brazil gained market share in cotton exports, USDA said in its 'Cotton and Products Annual report' released last month end.

Bangladesh's millers imported 7.8 million bales of cotton in MY24. Of that, the share of US cotton was 9 per cent. In MY23, the share of cotton imported from America was 10 per cent.

During the first seven months of MY25, importers in Bangladesh bought 286,056 bales of cotton from the United States. The amount was only 6 per cent of the total cotton imports, down from 11 per cent during the same period a year ago.

The West African countries collectively supplied 1.9 million bales, 41 per cent of Bangladesh's total imports during the first seven months of this MY, the USDA said.

As a single country, Brazil emerged as the major raw cotton supplier to Bangladesh during this period, it said. Brazil exported 970,487 bales, comprising 20 per cent of the market share, followed by India with 887,600 bales and a 19-per cent share.

"Spinners prefer to buy Brazilian cotton due to its competitive pricing, increased availability during the harvesting season, and supply stability. The shipment period is also shorter for Brazilian cotton as it is often sold while it is afloat," the report noted.

Citing industry contacts, the report said Bangladesh's ready-made garments sector has shown resilience and growth despite recent political upheavals that led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government in August last year. The unrest led to factory shutdowns and a decline in international work orders. However, the industry has rebounded.

"With law and order restored, international clothing brands have resumed placing new orders since mid-January 2025, fostering optimism among garment exporters, with an increase in work orders from early 2025 boosting the demand for cotton," USDA observed.

"As the RMG industry is expecting a resurgence in work orders, the demand for raw materials, including cotton, will increase," it added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Will Turkey Benefit from a Global Trade Reset?

As trade minister Ömer Bolat put it on Friday, the Trump tariffs are "the best of the worst" for Turkey.

While the worry about the high duties has been setting off alarm bells in other sourcing nations, it appears to be an injection of optimism in the Turkish industry, which has been decelerating over the past two years.

Apparel exports from Turkey saw a decline of 6 percent in January-February 2025, and a drop of 4.47 percent year-on-year in 2024, with the last month of the year falling almost 11 percent. In 2023, apparel exports were down 5.86 percent, to $18.32 billion.

In these two years there have been other factors to contend with: wages have increased more than 249 percent—factories have shuttered, margins have been thin.

Facing a Trump tariff of 10 percent, it is clear that trade minister Bolat is not exaggerating. Other sourcing locales—45 percent for Vietnam, 49 percent for Cambodia, 44 percent for Sri Lanka, 38 percent for Bangladesh—fared far worse.

The industry has been taking a hard look at all possible scenarios since president Trump's announcement on April 2.

"This could be the beginning of a new era in global trade," said Mustafa Gültepe, chairman, TIM (Turkish Exporters Assembly), adding that each sector was being examined carefully to assess future steps. "It seems that apparel exports can come to the forefront because the competitors of the ready-made clothing sector were mostly Far Eastern countries. China was coming to the forefront because there was less tax in labor-intensive sectors before and we did not have much chance of competing because of this," he said.

In economic terms there appears to be a dawning hope: Turkey's annual inflation rate dropped to 38.1 percent in March, down from 39.1 percent in February, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute, the lowest since December 2021, and 10 months into the declining numbers. Repairs to manufacturing units from the severe impact of the earthquake in February 2023 have been made. Nearshoring to Europe remains an option, and the competition from other sourcing countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam, which offered rates that Turkey could not compete with, could be waning.

Toygar Narbay, president, Turkish Clothing Manufacturers' Association (Türkiye Hazır Giyim Sanayicileri Derneği or TGSD) pointed out the context more clearly: over two years the apparel exports sector had lost $4.6 billion. Apparel exporters had to compete with costs that were 61 percent more than Asia and 46 percent more than North America. "Along with the production loss in the textile industry, there has been a total employment loss of 290,000 in the textile and apparel industries in the last two years," he said. Interest rates also rise while the exchange rate stayed 38 percent below inflation.

"This caused an extraordinary loss of profit and completeness in the industry," he said. "The costs for apparel manufacturers increased by 27 percent in these two years, and profit margins

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declined from 10.5 percent to minus 5.1 percent. With the continuing situation we would close 2025 at a loss again with minus 4.5 percent," he said.

Here's the chance to fix things, he observed.

"Trump's policies against China will increase geopolitical risks on the Asia-Pacific line, causing European and US buyers to review their supply security policies and turn to safer production centers. This will have a positive impact on Turkey, which has the largest vertical integration after China. It is also an advantage for us that the supply chains of Bangladesh and Vietnam, the largest exporters after China, are largely dependent on China."

TGSD has already been working on the long term with the Horizon 2040 Strategic Plan, and planning a TGSD Development Academy to help the industry make further strides, including in the important areas of sustainability and innovation.

Other organizations have reflected a similar sentiment.

"We may have the chance to increase our market share and should make good use of our potential to attract new investments with our geographical location, young and dynamic workforce, strong industrial infrastructure and logistics advantages," Seyit Ardıç, president, Ankara Chamber of Industry (ASO).

There are also those advising caution.

Erdal Bahçıvan, president of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO), observed: "We should prepare for the new competition conditions that will emerge within the framework of new tariffs that will disrupt all competition patterns in the world by studying our lessons very well. Because we have a picture in front of us that cannot be grasped with rote knowledge and stereotyped perspectives. Although the upcoming period will create opportunities for our economy and industry with specific targets, I think that the new process may also bring some risks in terms of our economy. It would be beneficial for our country to be specially prepared for each of our sectors."

It appears that this time around the industry has the ear of the policy makers, too.

Bolat has made it clear that the government would be paying attention to the sector. "We've decided to accelerate our efforts to increase mutual trade and exports with the U.S. which ranks second in our exports, working tirelessly with TİM, Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), and other business teams, especially the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey to make a shortlist of the areas with an competitive advantage," he said on Monday. "These studies are ready, and we have the files. We will strive to turn this new period into an advantageous situation," he said.

Turkish manufacturers have long been eyeing the U.S. market, and the consideration for a negotiation is in the cards, with plans for further discussion in May, when Bolat plans to attend the Turkish-American Conference in Washington.

Mustafa Gültepe stated that, "We plan to put this issue on the table in the meetings to be held in May." He shared that Turkey "already had a balanced foreign trade relationship with the U.S. at around $15 billion to $16 billion exports, and an estimated $12 billion to $13 billion of imports.

"If we can strengthen our competitiveness, the [overall] $375 billion export target we set for 2028 will become achievable," he said.

Source: sourcingjournal.com

Textile Tariffs: Fleeting political move or start of a protracted trade war?

Are the reciprocal tariffs in the textiles and apparel sector a fleeting political maneuver, or a harbinger of a protracted trade war? The question hangs heavy, devoid of easy answers. While the announcements suggest permanency, the inherent volatility of international relations leaves room for speculation. However, assuming these tariffs are indeed 'for real' their ramifications will reshape the global textile and apparel landscape.

Supply chain realignment

The most immediate and predictable consequence will be a significant diversion of the global supply chain. Manufacturers, driven by the need for cost efficiency, will shift towards countries offering low or no tariffs for exports to the US. This isn't merely a theoretical exercise; it's a fundamental economic principle. In the textiles and apparel sector, where margins are thin and turnaround times are tight, even minor disruptions trigger sourcing shifts. Brands and sourcing agents are already recalculating their country-of-origin equations.

Expect a rise in investments and production capacity in countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and potentially those in Sub-Saharan Africa, where preferential trade agreements exist or can be negotiated. These shifts won't happen overnight, but with every container rerouted from a tariffed country to a duty-free one, the momentum builds. Tariffs, thus, become catalysts for long-term structural reorientation rather than mere policy levers. It's not a seamless transition. Substantial infrastructure development and logistical adjustments are imminent. The speed and scale of this shift will be contingent upon the tariff differentials and the perceived longevity of these measures.

The illusion of reciprocal rollbacks

The notion of a retaliatory tariff regime has opened up a dangerous game of brinkmanship. However, many countries—especially those with trade surpluses with the US—may choose not to escalate but rather de-escalate. The logic: maintain competitiveness by rolling back duties and landing in the minimum 10 per cent slab, keeping access to the world's largest consumer market intact. This is fundamentally flawed. Countries will be reluctant to concede their bargaining chips without commensurate concessions. Emerging economies with heavy reliance on apparel exports to the US are unlikely to sustain high reciprocal tariffs for long. Quiet recalibrations are more probable than loud confrontations. Already, murmurs suggest that trade ministries in a few ASEAN nations are weighing tariff rollbacks quietly to avoid headlines but protect market share. The 10 per cent figure is unlikely to serve as a universal benchmark. Expect sector-specific negotiations.

Inevitable retaliatory storm

Retaliatory tariffs from China, Canada, and the EU are inevitable—but how impactful are they in textiles? China's play may not be in tariffs alone but in non-tariff barriers—customs delays, compliance red tape, sourcing bottlenecks. For the US apparel exporters (though a minority) this could hurt. But the bigger threat lies in China weaponizing its raw material dominance—polyester, cotton yarn, textile machinery—subtly throttling global supply. This will trigger a cascade effect, disrupting supply chains and inflating input costs. Canada and the EU may respond more symbolically, particularly in luxury goods and specialized apparel. Their impact will be felt more as sentiment shifts in trade alliances, pushing US apparel players to hedge supply chains even further. The potential for non-tariff barriers, like regulatory requirements and customs delays, looms large.

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The intricate web of global trade means that the consequences of these retaliations will ripple through the entire ecosystem, affecting not only manufacturers and retailers but also ancillary industries like logistics, warehousing, and transportation.

Are these tariffs for real?

These are not token gestures—they signal a structural shift in how trade negotiations are being weaponized. But tariffs rarely live forever. Their shelf-life depends on two things: domestic inflationary backlash and multilateral pushback.

The erosion of multilateralism and the rise of protectionist policies will create an environment of uncertainty and instability. With elections, consumer price sensitivities, and shifting global alliances, tariffs may be diluted or recalibrated. But by then, the supply chains will have already adapted—sometimes permanently.

Beyond the immediate economic impact, the geopolitical implications cannot be ignored. These tariffs are likely to increase existing tensions, potentially leading to a fragmentation of the global trading system. The erosion of multilateralism and the rise of protectionist policies will create an environment of uncertainty and instability, hindering long-term investment and innovation.

And for the textiles and apparel sector, this is less about reacting to tariffs and more about future-proofing sourcing, diversifying markets, and digitizing compliance. The winners won't be the lowest-cost producers, but the most agile ones—those who treat tariffs not as roadblocks but as signposts for strategic redirection. The industry must prepare for a period of significant upheaval, characterized by supply chain restructuring, price volatility, and heightened geopolitical risk.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

US loses cotton market share in Bangladesh

The United States is losing its market share in cotton exports to Bangladesh amid concerns about logistics and the lengthy shipment duration for American cotton, according to a recent report by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Bangladesh's millers imported 7.8 million bales of cotton in the marketing year (MY) 2023-24, beginning in August.

Of that, the share of US cotton, a key raw material for the country's apparel industry, was 9 percent. A year ago, in MY23, the share of cotton imported from America was 10 percent.

During the first seven months of MY25, local importers bought 286,056 bales of cotton from the US. The amount was only 6 percent of the total import of the item, down from 11 percent during the same period a year ago.

The USDA's report came just days before the Trump administration hiked tariffs on goods from 60 countries, including Bangladesh, entering the American market.

Bangladesh's exports will face a 37 percent higher tariff in the US market following Trump's tariff hike, which has created worries among exporters. It also prompted Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to write to the US President, promising to significantly increase imports of US farm products, including cotton.

The government is also finalising a dedicated bonded warehousing facility in Bangladesh, where US cotton will have duty-free access, according to the letter.

Citing its industry contacts, the USDA said the quality of US cotton is better than cotton from other sources.

"Many spinning mills in Bangladesh prefer US cotton; however, they always express concerns about the logistics and lengthy shipment duration required to obtain US cotton," it said in its Cotton and Products Annual report released on March 31. The agency said many cotton merchandisers sell South American and West African cotton while it is afloat.

"This practice helps to reduce the shipment duration. However, US cotton is not sold afloat. Merchandisers also store their cotton in nearby warehouses in ports in Malaysia, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. Cotton from these warehouses can be delivered to Bangladesh in just seven days."

As per the report, West African countries and Brazil gained market share in cotton exports.

The West African countries collectively supplied 1.9 million bales, 41 percent of Bangladesh's total imports during the first seven months of this marketing year, the USDA said.

The US agency said the market share of West African and South American cotton is gradually increasing based on these logistical benefits, which allow importers to take advantage of price shifts.

"As a single country, Brazil emerged as the major raw cotton supplier to Bangladesh during this period," it said. Brazil exported 970,487 bales, comprising 20 percent of the market share, followed by India with 887,600 bales and a 19 percent share.

"Spinners prefer to buy Brazilian cotton due to its competitive pricing, increased availability during the harvesting season, and supply stability. The shipment period is also shorter for Brazilian cotton as it is often sold while it is afloat."

Cotton imports to rise

The US agency forecast an increase in cotton imports by Bangladesh to 8.2 million bales in MY26, up 1.2 percent year on year.

The report, citing industry contacts, said the RMG sector has shown resilience and growth despite recent political upheavals that led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government in August 2024. The unrest led to factory shutdowns and a decline in international work orders. However, the industry has rebounded.

"With law and order restored, international clothing brands have resumed placing new orders since mid-January 2025, fostering optimism among garment exporters, with an increase in work orders from early 2025 boosting the demand for cotton."

"As the RMG industry is expecting a resurgence in work orders, the demand for raw materials, including cotton, will increase," it said.

Source: thedailystar.net

USDA Prospective Plantings: 9.87 Million Cotton Acres in 2025

USDA's Prospective Plantings report for the 2025 crop year shows an intended cotton planted area of 9.87 million acres for the year – down 12% from 2024 acreage.

The report was issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) on March 31.

Upland cotton area for 2025 is estimated at 9.71 million acres, down 12% from 2024. American Pima area is estimated at 157,000 acres – down 24% from last year.

Estimated cotton acres are projected to decrease in all but two cotton-producing states – Arizona (up 22%) and Kansas (up 7%). Regionally, the report shows total Southeast cotton area at 1.98 million acres and 1.6 million acres across the Mid-South states.

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Southwest area is projected at 5.97 million acres, with 282,000 total cotton acres noted for Arizona, California, and New Mexico.

Among other crops, the USDA report for 2025 showed a 5% increase in planted acreage for corn, a 4% decrease for soybeans, a 4% increase for sorghum, an 8% increase for peanuts, and a 1% decrease for rice.

Estimates in the Prospective Plantings report are based primarily on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March. The March Agricultural Survey is a probability survey that includes a sample of approximately 73,700 farm operators across the U.S. Data from operators was collected by mail, internet, or telephone to obtain information on crop acreage intentions for the 2025 crop year.

Source: cottongrower.com

Global crackdown looms on duty-free fast fashion shipments from China

A global backlash is intensifying against the rapid proliferation of duty-free, low-value parcel shipments, predominantly originating from China's fast fashion hubs like Guangzhou. These shipments, which have increased exponentially in recent years, are facing scrutiny and regulatory changes in major markets, including the US, Europe, and other developing nations, while simultaneously, the rise of 'micro-sweatshops' continues to plague the industry.

US restrictions on certain goods

President Donald Trump recently ordered a halt to the duty-free entry of parcels valued up to $800 into the US, citing concerns over the unchecked flow of potentially dangerous goods, such as fentanyl. This move, temporarily suspended, to allow for the development of inspection protocols, signals a potential shift in international trade and could significantly impact e-commerce giants like Shein, Temu, and Amazon's Haul, which heavily rely on the "de minimis" exemption.

As per The New York Times report the de minimis rule, which allows low-value parcels to bypass customs inspections and tariffs, has led to the explosive growth of fast fashion, with duty-free shipments to the US increasing tenfold since 2016, reaching four million parcels per day last year. Similar shipments to the EU have grown to 12 million parcels daily.

The European Commission has also proposed ending duty-free treatment for packages worth up to €150, citing concerns about product safety, counterfeit goods, and unfair competition. And South Africa has imposed 45 per cent tariffs on all clothing imports, regardless of value, and Thailand has ended its sales tax exemption for low-value parcels.

Labor conditions in Guangzhou, Yiwu in focus

The heart of this industry lies in cities like Guangzhou and Yiwu, where networks of workshops and factories churn out inexpensive clothing, toys, and other goods for global consumers. Labor conditions within these workshops are often harsh, with workers like Wu Hua earning as little as $5 per hour, including overtime, for 10-hour workdays. They often reside in cramped living quarters above the factories.

Shein and Temu, major players in the de minimis industry, coordinate their supply chains from Guangzhou, collaborating with thousands of small factories across China. Shein, in particular, emphasizes its ability to connect consumers directly with manufacturers, minimizing the need for traditional retail infrastructure. However, some workshop owners are concerned about the demanding requirements and low prices offered by companies like Shein. They also face challenges due to rising labor costs and a shrinking pool of workers, as younger generations opt for higher education and less physically demanding jobs.

The if the US permanently ends the de minimis rule, imported apparel could face significant tariffs and customs processing fees, potentially disrupting the business models of e-commerce companies and impacting consumer prices. Shein claims their suppliers pay workers twice the local minimum wage, and Temu states that nearly 60 per cent of its US sales are now from domestic warehouses with tariffs paid. Thus the future of the de minimis industry remains uncertain as governments worldwide grapple with the challenges and implications of this rapidly evolving trade landscape.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Bangladesh: Govt moves to halt yarn imports through land ports

The government has initiated steps to ban the import of yarn through land ports to prevent misuse of the facility, as these ports lack the capacity to properly identify different categories of yarn, according to sources at the Ministry of Commerce.

Ministry officials stated that the decision follows a request from textile millers, who have long argued that yarn imports through land ports undermine local industry.

Instead, they proposed that yarn, a key raw material for the ready-made garment (RMG) industry, should be imported only through seaports.

Apparel exporters have expressed concerns that restricting yarn imports through land ports could negatively impact small and medium-sized factories that rely on them for easier and more cost-effective access to raw materials.

"The sudden ban will put additional pressure on small factories, particularly those in border areas, which depend on land ports for quick and flexible imports. This could lead to financial distress," said a senior official from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

BTMA's rationale for the ban

The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), representing spinning and textile mill owners, made the request for the ban in a letter to Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

The letter, signed by BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russell, was forwarded to the National Board of Revenue in late January for regulatory consideration.

Showkat noted that a previous policy revision had allowed yarn imports through land ports but these ports lack the necessary infrastructure to scrutinise raw materials.

Additionally, the policy permitted partial shipments, which, according to industry observations, has led to widespread misuse, adversely affecting local mills.

"We have seen growth in apparel exports in the new fiscal year, yet local mills are struggling due to multiple challenges, including low orders," he said.

He also pointed out that while Bangladesh's textile industry faces difficulties, India's textile exports to Bangladesh have grown significantly, which he argued is detrimental to the country's interests.

"It is absurd that policies are being implemented against local industries and job creation. We believe the interim government

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will revise this decision to protect domestic industries," he added.

In its letter, BTMA warned that allowing continued yarn imports through land ports would cause irreparable damage to the country's textile sector, increasing reliance on imported yarn and leading to higher import costs and unemployment.

Concerns from apparel sector

Meanwhile, industry leaders warn that the move could disrupt the supply chain, increase production costs, and affect Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global apparel market.

Larger factories can source materials through seaports or local suppliers, but smaller manufacturers often lack these alternatives.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Mohammad Hatem stated that textile millers have large stockpiles due to the previous government's decision to reduce cash incentives on local yarn.

He added that apparel exporters are unwilling to accept such low incentives and that local textile millers are not competitive in pricing compared to their counterparts in other countries.

Citing research data, he noted that the price of 30 single yarn in Bangladesh is $3.40 per kg, whereas it is $2.90 per kg in India and $2.96 per kg in Vietnam.

Hatem also raised concerns about the volume of yarn imports through land ports and the percentage they constitute of total imported yarn.

He warned that a ban on yarn imports via land ports would negatively impact small and medium-sized factories, as well as fast fashion apparel manufacturers since seaports require a longer lead time.

BKMEA Executive President Fazlee Shamim Ehsan told TBS, "While we understand the government's concerns, a complete ban may not be the best approach. Instead, improving monitoring and customs procedures at land ports would be a more effective solution."

Exporters and industry leaders have urged the government to reconsider the decision, suggesting phased implementation or exemptions for smaller factories to mitigate the impact.

Challenges facing textile sector

The textile sector is already facing difficulties due to rising gas and electricity prices, the dollar crisis, soaring interest rates, reduced export incentives tied to LDC graduation conditions, and the depreciation of the taka.

Meanwhile, yarn and fabrics entering the local market at dumping prices from India through various land ports have created new challenges for domestic textile mills.

The BTMA letter highlighted the risks of yarn imports, noting that land ports such as Benapole, Bhomra, Sona Masjid, and Banglabandha lack proper infrastructure, yarn count measuring equipment, skilled manpower, and effective oversight.

As a result, import and export trade is not being efficiently managed.

Additionally, textile mills face unfair competition due to the marketing of unauthorised yarn, often imported through land ports with false customs declarations.

This practice not only harms local industries but also results in significant revenue losses for the government.

The letter further stated that the policy permitting partial shipments has been widely misused, allowing multiple imports under the same letter of credit beyond approved limits. BTMA suggested that shifting yarn imports to seaports would help protect the domestic textile sector and preserve valuable foreign exchange.

Seaports, they argued, have superior infrastructure, including high-quality scanners and yarn count measuring machines, and typically process imports within 13 to 15 days.

During a meeting at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday (24 March), its secretary, Mahbubur Rahman, requested BTMA to provide supporting documents regarding allegations of dumping practices by Indian exporters.

He noted that India has imposed anti-dumping duties on several goods from different countries, including Bangladesh, and assured that if the claim is substantiated, the government will take necessary action. BKMEA Executive President Fazlee Shamim Ehsan echoed the proposal for imposing anti-dumping duties, advocating for stronger regulatory measures to ensure fair trade practices.

Source: tbsnews.com

Global economic outlook uncertain; growth to slow: OECD

The latest Interim Economic Outlook of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) projects global growth slowing to 3.1 per cent in 2025 and 3 per cent in 2026, with important differences across countries and regions.

The global economy has been resilient in 2024, but some signs of weakness are appearing against a backdrop of slower growth, lingering inflation and an uncertain policy environment, it noted.

GDP growth in the United States is projected at 2.2 per cent this year before slowing to 1.6 per cent in the next. In the euro area, growth is projected to be 1 per cent in 2025 and 1.2 per cent in 2026.

China's growth is projected to slow from 4.8 per cent this year to 4.4 per cent in the next.

Inflation is projected to be higher than previously expected, although still moderating as economic growth softens.

Goods price inflation has begun picking up in some countries, although from low levels.

Annual headline inflation in G20 economies is projected at 3.8 per cent in 2025 and 3.2 per cent in 2026.

These projections have been revised upwards by 0.3 percentage points compared to OCED's Economic Outlook in December.

"Increasing trade restrictions will contribute to higher costs both for production and consumption. It remains essential to ensure a well-functioning, rules-based international trading system and to keep markets open," OECD secretary general Mathias Cormann said.

The Outlook highlights a range of risks, starting with the concern that further trade fragmentation could harm global growth prospects.

The Outlook also draws attention to the risk of macroeconomic volatility. An unexpected downturn, policy change or deviation from the projected disinflation path could trigger market corrections, significant capital outflows, and exchange rate fluctuations, particularly in emerging markets.

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High public debt levels and elevated asset valuations further heighten these risks.

Decisive fiscal actions are needed to ensure debt sustainability, preserve room for reacting to future shocks and generate resources to meet large impending spending pressures, it recommends.

Stronger efforts are needed to reallocate spending towards activities that support longer-term growth, set within credible medium-term adjustment paths tailored to country-specific circumstances, it adds.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Japan's clothing imports fell 6.9% to $1.7 bn in Feb 2025

After a period of impressive growth, Japan's imports of clothing and accessories fell by 6.9 per cent to 265,663 million yen (approximately $1.787 billion). These imports accounted for 3.1 per cent of the nation's total imports, which stood at 8,606,634 million yen, according to provisional data from Japan's Ministry of Finance.

The country's imports of textile yarn and fabric declined by 6.3 per cent to 78,061 million yen, representing 0.9 per cent of total imports.

Meanwhile, Japan's exports of textile yarn and fabric grew by 12.7 per cent during the same period, reaching 69,560 million yen. Exports of textile machinery increased by 7.3 per cent to 26,101 million yen, contributing 0.3 per cent to total exports.

In 2024, Japan's imports of clothing and accessories rose by 3.5 per cent to 3,674,140 million yen (approximately $23.619 billion). However, imports of textile yarn and fabric declined by 0.4 per cent to 1,157,919 million yen. During the same period, Japan's exports of textile yarn and fabric increased by 6.9 per cent to 839,583 million yen, while exports of textile machinery fell by 17.7 per cent to 270,557 million yen.

For fiscal 2023-24 (April-March), Japan's imports of clothing and accessories totalled 3,564,850 million yen (approximately $23.107 billion), marking a 1.7 per cent decline. 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 reached 320,947 million yen.

In fiscal 2022-23, Japan's imports of clothing and accessories amounted to 3,619,550 million yen (approximately $25.05 billion), while 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 exports of textile machinery reached 306,781 million yen.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Tariffs, Trade and Textiles

Uncertainty surrounding tariffs affects global trade and industry.

On Mar. 19, 2025, Jerome Powell, Chair of the United States Federal Reserve, indicated that tariffs have partly played its role with the elevated inflation situation. Given the headline inflation is at 2.8%, federal interest rate remains at 4.25-4.5%, which will influence consumer spending. Surveys indicate consumer confidence is down, which, in turn, will affect the buying of non-essential items that depend on discretionary spending.

Speaking about tariffs, Powell stated, "They tend to bring growth down, and they tend to bring inflation up."

On Mar. 20, 2025, the Bank of England also chose to maintain the current interest rate at 4.5% while its domestic economy is weak. Again, the global economic uncertainty due to tariff situations has weighed heavily to maintain the current interest rate.

The United States, China, and India – all with a sizeable middle-class population – have interests in textiles as they engage in exporting and importing fibers and textiles. The U.S. is the largest market for consumer goods, and its economy matters for global trade. While the U.S. economy is on strong footing, this year's growth will be slightly less than expected at 1.7%. According to the Federal Reserve's Powell, growth in the next two years will be slightly less than 2%.

The tariff situation, consumers' spending power, and, more importantly, confidence will determine the amount of trade in textiles and apparels. As textile manufacturing is labor intensive with less margins, the tariffs are not at a level to shift the manufacturing of commodity textiles to the United States.

Developed economies like the U.S. and the European Union are poised to grow its advanced textiles sector. More importantly with EU countries committing to spending more on their defense budget, opportunities in defense, healthcare, and industrial textiles will grow and may support new investments.

So, what will the textiles sector's landscape be in the tariff scenario?

Trade between China and the United States will see some change. China's exports to the U.S. will take a hit. Other countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, and Indonesia may see an increase in exports of apparels. However, industries with Chinese investments in Vietnam and low wage countries would see export enhancements.

China's imports of U.S. cotton will show a decreasing trend, which is already happening due to its weak domestic consumption. But this can be offset by exporting to other major textiles and apparel manufacturing nations. How much that shift will be is difficult to predict at this uncertain time.

India is currently in the fourth position as an exporter of apparels to the United States. It is unlikely to see a sudden shift in its ranking, but its share of exports will increase. According to the U.S. Office of Textiles and Apparels, in 2024, India exported about US$4.69 billion worth of apparels in 2024, while Bangladesh exported about US$7.34 billion.

Being importers of cotton, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Indonesia will have constraints in exponentially increasing its manufacturing, but their appetite for cotton will grow. India is poised to enhance its apparels exports to the United States.

India needs to increase its cotton availability by improving its productivity. This crop year (October 2024- September 2025), the production will be about 30 million bales (170 Kgs each), which is less than last year's production. This scenario opens opportunity for cotton exporting countries to trade with India, while India maintains an 11% tariff of imported upland cottons. Presently, mills are showing interest in procuring cotton from Brazil, which comes out to be competitive in terms of price. The U.S. cotton sector needs to promote its cotton for its quality, timely delivery and after-sale support, although it is relatively highly priced against Brazilian cotton.

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I recently discussed cotton trade dynamics with Velmurugan Shanmugam, general manager of India-based Jayalakshmi Textiles, which has recently bought Brazilian cotton to blend with Indian cotton. According to Shanmugam, balancing the cost and quality of imported cotton is a critical activity while making decisions on purchasing imported cotton. While Brazilian cotton comes out to be economical, United States cotton is still better in terms of nep counts, he stated.

Given the reciprocity tariff policy taking effect on April 2, textile trade with India will not be affected much as India's basic custom duty on knitted products is 20%, and apparels' tariff differential is normally about 7%. India will be competitive against China, as the United States has imposed 20% additional tariff over the existing ones, making it expensive from this point of view.

The Indian industry should utilize the opportunity to enhance its productivity and strengthen its cotton and synthetic base. Importantly, the apparel and garment sectors should increase the size of their product basket.

While it is difficult to predict the loss in export share of China to the United States, given the amount of export it has been doing in recent years, certainly other South Asian countries will benefit. This, in turn, provides opportunities for cotton exporting countries like the United States to realign its market space.

In the cotton trade, Brazil remains a competitor for the United States to penetrate India, but it is possible with coordinated marketing efforts.

The global textile landscape will see a shift.

Source: cottongrower.com

US retail sales see modest growth in Feb amid economic uncertainty

Overall retail sales in February increased by 0.2 per cent on a seasonally adjusted month-over-month (MoM) basis and rose 3.1 per cent unadjusted year-over-year (YoY), as per the data released by the US Census Bureau. This follows a decline of 1.2 per cent MoM in January and a YoY rise of 3.9 per cent.

"Lower-than-expected consumer spending in the first couple of months of the year likely reflected payback for very strong spending in the fourth quarter and weather-related events since then. Moreover, these results show that households are apprehensive and carefully navigating lingering inflation and turmoil related to changing economic policies," said National Retail Federation Chief Economist Jack Kleinhenz.

NRF's measure of core retail sales—excluding automobile dealers, gasoline stations, and restaurants—rose by 0.9 per cent seasonally adjusted MoM but fell by 0.2 per cent unadjusted YoY. This decline is attributed to a high base in February 2024. On a three-month moving average, core retail sales declined by 1.2 per cent YoY.

Despite the current slowdown, core retail sales had demonstrated strong performance in the previous months, growing by 4.2 per cent YoY during the 2024 holiday season and recording a full-year increase of 3.6 per cent.

A separate report from the CNBC/NRF Retail Monitor, powered by Affinity Solutions, showed a slight decrease of 0.22 per cent in seasonally adjusted core retail sales in February compared to January. However, on an unadjusted YoY basis, core retail sales increased by 4.11 per cent. This contrasted with January's figures, which recorded a 1.27 per cent MoM drop but a strong 5.72 per cent YoY increase.

"Regardless of the softer spending, consumer fundamentals remain healthy and intact so far, supported by low unemployment, steady income growth and other household finances. American shoppers will likely continue to spend as long as unemployment remains low, and job growth continues," Kleinhenz said in an NRF release.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

Bangladesh's apparel exports to key markets rise by double digits from July'24-February'25: EPB

In the first eight months of the fiscal year 2024-25, Bangladesh's apparel exports to key markets like the EU, the US, and Canada registered a double digits growth as demand from major brands and retailers increased.

As per data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladesh's RMG exports grew by 10.64 per cent globally, reaching $26.79 billion during the period spanning July 2024-February 2025.

Most of these exports were directed to the European Union, which absorbed 50.10 per cent of the total RMG exports, valued at $13.42 billion. Exports to the US reached $5.06 billion constituting18.91 per cent share, and Canada accounted for 3.16 per cent share with exports reaching $845 million. Exports to another significant market, the UK grew to $2.93 billion, representing 10.94 per cent of the total.

In terms of growth, EU exports rose by 11.53 per cent Y-o-Y, while the US saw a robust 16.38 per cent increase, and Canada grew by 14.12 per cent.

The UK, however, experienced a more modest 3.74 per cent growth.

Within the EU, Germany is the largest destination ($3.38 billion), followed by Spain ($2.35 billion), France ($1.43 billion), Italy ($1.05 billion), Poland ($1.13 billion), and the Netherlands ($1.43 billion). Notable growth was seen in Germany (11.03 per cent), the Netherlands (25.06 per cent), Poland (12.06 per cent), Denmark (14.58 per cent), and Sweden (21.12 per cent).

Exports to non-traditional markets also showed growth, with a 6.23 per cent overall increase, totaling $4.52 billion. Japan led these markets with $839 million in imports, followed by Australia ($582 million) and India ($478 million). Exports to Turkey ($305 million) and Mexico ($229 million) were also substantial.

Specifically, exports to India increased by 18.58 per cent, Mexico by 25.14 per cent, and Turkey by 32.20 per cent. While exports to Japan, Australia, India, Turkey, and Mexico were positive, shipments to Russia, Korea, the UAE, and Malaysia declined.

Mohiuddin Rubel, Former Director, BGMEA, attributes this growth to shifting global trade dynamics, offering Bangladesh opportunities if it strengthens its production capabilities. He emphasizes on the need to invest in backward linkages to maintain RMG sector competitiveness.

Highlighting the continued importance of the EU and US markets, Rubel points out to the potential for growth in non-traditional markets. Diversifying into these regions could lessen the reliance on traditional destinations, he emphasizes.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

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Turkish textile shift to Egypt shakes apparel sector as trade surplus turns to deficit

Rising production costs have driven Turkish textile investments to Egypt, significantly altering the balance of trade between the two nations in apparel. While Türkiye enjoyed a trade surplus of over $100 million with Egypt before 2022, this shifted to a nearly $200 million trade deficit by 2024.

In January alone, Türkiye's trade deficit with Egypt reached $27 million, marking a 50% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

Speaking to business-focused ekonomim.com, Seref Fayat, Chairman of the Ready-to-Wear and Apparel Industry Assembly of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), said that one of the main reasons for Türkiye's growing apparel trade deficit with Egypt is the demand from Turkish brands.

"Many local brands struggle to place orders in Türkiye because of high costs and price pressure from competitors. Their reliance on imports continues to widen the trade deficit. Given the government's foreign exchange policies, high interest rates, and inflation, alongside rising operational costs, this trend is likely to persist," Fayat said.

Currently, more than 200 Turkish textile factories operate in Egypt, while approximately 1,700 Turkish companies have invested over $3 billion in the country, contributing to both local market growth and export capacity. Turkish firms account for nearly one-third of Egypt's textile and apparel exports.

As a result, Egypt has become Türkiye's second-largest source of apparel imports, following China. Meanwhile, Türkiye has emerged as Egypt's second-largest export market after the United States.

Major Turkish apparel manufacturers operating in Egypt include Yesim Group, Tay Group, Eroglu Giyim, Calik Holding, LC Waikiki, and Diktas.

Egypt's competitive advantage losing ground

Labor costs in Türkiye have exceeded $1,000 per worker, whereas in Egypt, they remain around $200, providing a significant cost advantage for manufacturers producing at high volumes.

A recent report by the Turkish Clothing Manufacturers Association highlights that due to increasing production and financing costs, Türkiye is now 61% more expensive than its Asian competitors and 46% costlier than those in North Africa.

Additionally, Egypt benefits from trade agreements with both the European Union and the United States. The QIZ (Qualified Industrial Zones) agreement with the U.S. allows duty-free textile exports as long as they contain a specified percentage of Israeli input. The Free Trade Agreement with the EU further facilitates access to the European market.

Moreover, Egypt's strong domestic cotton production enhances its position as a key textile manufacturing hub.

However, as European brands reassess their supply chains, Turkish investments in Egypt are expected to slow down in the latter half of the year, Fayat noted. He pointed out that buyers who had rapidly expanded capacity in Egypt are now realizing the country may struggle to meet such high demand, as many now admit they have "neglected Türkiye" as a sourcing hub.

Despite ongoing pricing pressures, he stressed Turkish manufacturers are working hard to remain competitive.

"If financial costs decrease in the second half of the year and European demand rises, Egypt's appeal may decline," he said, suggesting that Türkiye could regain some lost ground.

While a return to a trade surplus is unlikely, Fayat predicted that demand for Egyptian production will enter a cooling phase.

Source: turkiyetoday.com

Price per unit of garments shipments from Bangladesh to EU, US declines despite rise in exports

Despite Bangladesh's garment shipments to major markets like the European Union (EU) and the United States rebounding strongly in recent months, the price per unit of these garments has fallen.

For example, in January 2025, the unit price of garments shipped from Bangladesh to the US decreased by 2.20 per cent, according to data from the US Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA). However, the value of exports grew by 45.93 per cent Y-o-Y during the month to reach $799.65 million. The volume of garments exports from Bangladesh to the US increased by 49.21 per cent during the month.

Similarly, the unit price of Bangladeshi-made garments shipped to the EU decreased by 4.84 per cent in the January-December period 2024, according to the latest data from Eurostat, the EU's statistical office.

Bangladesh's garment exports to the EU grew by 4.86 per cent to $19.77 billion last year. By volume, exports increased by 10.18 per cent in the same period. The EU's total apparel imports grew by 8.98 per cent.

The unit price of the EU's global apparel imports fell by 6.83 percent, significantly influenced by China's 8.43 per cent price reduction. Price cuts by Vietnam and Cambodia were also notable.

Historically, Bangladeshi garment exporters have received lower prices than those in competing countries.

The overall price of garment items traded globally declined last year and continues to do so this year, says Faruque Hassan, Managing Director, Giant Group and Former President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

This decline is due to a drop in the prices of raw materials such as cotton, yarn, fabrics, and freight charges, he adds.

If the country ensures better quality and timely delivery, buyers will willingly pay more. Additionally, unhealthy price competition among local manufacturers is another factor behind the low prices paid by buyers, avers Hassan.

In the July-February period of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh's garment exports grew by 10.64 percent to $26.79 billion, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

Of this amount, exports to the EU - accounting for 50.10 per cent of Bangladesh's total RMG exports - were valued at $13.42 billion.

Meanwhile, exports to the US reached $5.06 billion, representing 18.91 per cent of the total share.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

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IMF lowers India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.2%, maintains stable outlook

With rising global trade tensions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday lowered the growth forecast for India during Fiscal Years 2025-26 (FY26) and 2026-27 (FY27) by 30 basis points (bps) and 20 basis points, respectively. This is lower than the global growth projection, where the dip is estimated at up to 50 basis points.

"For India, the growth outlook is relatively more stable at 6.2 percent in 2025 (Fiscal Year 2025-26), supported by private consumption, particularly in rural areas, but this rate is 0.3 percentage point lower than that in the January 2025 WEO Update on account of higher levels of trade tensions and global uncertainty," IMF said in its annual publication 'World Economic Outlook.'

In January, it had a projected growth rate of 6.5 per cent for both FY 26 and FY 27. Now, the growth is expected to be 6.2 per cent for current fiscal and 6.3 per cent for next fiscal. The growth projection for the current fiscal is lower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 6.5 per cent announced earlier this month, reduced from 6.7 per cent. However, it is similar to the forecast range of the lower band (6-3-6.8 per cent) given by the Economic Survey.

Immediately after US President Donald Trump announced the reciprocal tariff on April 2, various agencies cut their projections. Morgan Stanley said it sees a downside risk of 30-60bps to its growth estimate of 6.5 per cent for F26. EY India feels GDP growth may come down to 6 per cent as against the expectation of 6.5 per cent in 2025-26 if India does not respond with suitable policies to neutralise this adverse impact.

Forecast for China, US

As the tariff war is focused on the US and China, growth in both economies is expected to see a deeper impact. For China, the IMF has revised 2025 GDP growth downward to 4 per cent from 4.6 per cent in the January 2025 projection. "This reflects the impact of recently implemented tariffs, which offset the stronger carryover from 2024 (as a result of a stronger-than-expected fourth quarter) and fiscal expansion in the budget," the multilateral agency said.

For the United States, growth is projected to decrease in 2025 to 1.8 per cent, 1 percentage point lower than the rate for 2024 as well as 0.9 percentage point lower than the forecast rate in the January 2025 WEO Update. "The downward revision is a result of greater policy uncertainty, trade tensions, and a softer demand outlook, given slower-than-anticipated consumption growth," IMF said.

Global Growth Forecast

For the global number, the IMF has used two references. "Our World Economic Outlook's reference forecast includes tariff announcements between February 1 and April 4 by the US and countermeasures by other countries. This reduces our global growth forecast to 2.8 percent and 3 percent this year and next, a cumulative downgrade of about 0.8 percentage point relative to our January 2025 WEO update," it said.

Further, it also presented a global forecast excluding the April tariffs (pre-April 2 forecasts). Under this alternative path, "global growth would have seen only a modest cumulative downgrade of 0.2 percentage point, to 3.2 percent for 2025 and 2026," it said.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Traders bodies seek implementation of e-commerce policy, independent regulator for digital commerce

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) along with other industry bodies has sought policy measures like immediate enforcement of FDI and e-commerce policies, and rolling out of e-commerce rules under the Consumer Protection Act. CAIT along with All India Mobile Retailers Association (AIMRA), All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF), and Organised Retailers Association (ORA) have also proposed levying of luxury tax under GST on purchases made through e-commerce platforms and an independent regulatory body for digital commerce.

Industry bodies said that the traditional retail sector is under siege by e-commerce and quick commerce companies and alleged that they are "blatantly violating laws, manipulating markets, and systematically dismantling small retailers for profit."

The industry bodies plan to submit their recommendation to the Commerce Ministry and Consumer Affairs Ministry. Additionally, the organisation stated that its affiliates, such as the All India Consumer Products Distributors' Federation and the All India Mobile Retailers Association, will approach the human rights commission regarding the well-being of gig economy workers.

Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary General, CAIT and MP, alleged that these players are involved in aggressive algorithm-driven consumer manipulation and the reckless use of FDI for predatory pricing. "There is a need for enforcement of FDI and e-commerce policies and rolling out of e-commerce rules under Consumer Protection Act. We are also proposing imposition of Luxury Tax under GST on purchase of goods from e-commerce platforms. We are also calling for prohibition of inventory-led operations by platforms posing as marketplaces and formation of an independent body for regulation of digital commerce."

CAIT said a full-scale nationwide campaign beginning May 1 will be launched to protect and promote the interests of traditional retailers. Local trade associations in every city and state will be involved and recommendations will be submitted to state and Central government officials.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

Trump govt may press India to give Amazon, Walmart's Flipkart full access to $125 bn e-comm market

In a renewed push for a 'fast-paced' reciprocal trade agreement, the United States may be pressing India to fully open its $125 billion e-commerce market to American retail giants like Amazon and Walmart, according to a report by the Financial Times.

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The talks are part of a broader framework for India-US trade deal that is expected to cover multiple sectors, including food and automobiles. On April 2, Trump had slapped India with a 26 per cent tariff, which, however, has been paused for 90 days.

The push from the US likely includes a demand for a level playing field in e-commerce. India's current regulatory framework makes US e-commerce firms act only like a marketplace where other sellers list products from toothpicks to drones for consumers of the world's most populous country.

However, the rules are different for Indian rivals who can manufacture, own and sell the products on their online portals. Washington calls this a "non-tariff barrier" while India also caps foreign direct investment in retail.

"Since 2006, the US has been trying to open up India's domestic market, and has been stymied successfully ever since," FT quoted Arvind Singhal, chair of retail consulting firm Technopak Advisors.

This comes amid US Vice President JD Vance's visit to India where he met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India and the US have finalised the Terms of Reference (TOR) for a potential trade deal to guide the forthcoming negotiations.

Industry executives told the FT that the Trump administration has been working closely with US e-commerce platforms on the trade strategy.

According to the FT report, Walmart CEO Doug McMillon first raised this issue at Mar-a-Lago, during a meeting with Donald Trump. McMillon was also reportedly present at the White House earlier to discuss tariff-related concerns.

The trade issue has broader business implications. Reliance, India's largest retailer, is emerging as a strong local competitor through its growing e-commerce platforms, bringing major US retailers like McMillon and Jeff Bezos into direct competition with Mukesh Ambani.

Walmart owns India's Flipkart, while Amazon continues to expand its operations since entering the market in 2013. However, Amazon lags Flipkart in user base. Amazon had fewer than four crore daily active users in India late last year, compared to Flipkart's five crore, according to Bank of America analysts.

Notably, India's 'unfavourable market conditions' have also delayed Walmart-backed retailer's IPO to late 2025 or early 2026. In the latest, Flipkart has moved its domicile from Singapore to India to further bank on tax benefits.

But for the US retailers, troubles are not restricted to just limited access to the market but also heavy crackdown by the Bureau of Indian Standards on their warehouses for possessing non-certified products.

"The attempt to pressure India into opening its ecommerce sector wider for American giants like Amazon and Walmart reflects a broader pattern of economic diplomacy aimed at securing market dominance for its corporations," said Praveen Khandelwal, secretary-general of the Confederation of All India Traders and a BJP MP.

"While foreign investment is welcome, it must not come at the cost of distorting India's retail ecosystem or undermining the interests of its [nine crore] small traders," he added.

The US remains India's largest trading partner, and the two countries have expressed interest in doubling bilateral trade of goods and services to $500 billion.

Source: economictimes.com

Tiruppur knitwear exports rise by 20 per cent, green practices pull buyers

TIRUPPUR: Tiruppur knitwear sector exported goods worth Rs 40,000 crore in the last fiscal, 2024-25, thus achieving a 20% growth over the Rs 33,400-crore mark of the previous fiscal, 2023-24. The exports surpassed the estimated 10 percent growth rate and is expected to grow 15 percent in the current financial year.

KM Subramanian, president of Tiruppur Exporter's Association, said, "Before we recovered from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, we faced international issues, including the Ukraine-Russia war.

Due to this, our exports, which exceeded Rs 34,000 crore in the 2022-23 financial year, decreased to Rs 33,400 crore in 2023-24. In the last FY, we made various efforts to get back on the growth track."

"We are giving importance to green production (production without affecting nature). In particular, Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), where we recycle 13 crore liters of water per day, with 96% being reused.

In terms of renewable energy, we produce 2,000 megawatts (MW) through windmills and 250 MW via solar power. We use 350 MW for our industry and the rest is supplied to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

Keeping climate change risks in mind, we have planted 2.2 million trees with a 90% survival rate. These have been key factors in attracting international buyers from various countries.

In addition, international circumstances were also favourable to us. We have received more orders from the US and European countries," he added.

Further, he said, "We expect 15% export growth in the current financial year. The central and state governments should also support us. Tiruppur's infrastructure facilities should be improved in line with export growth. It is necessary to provide bank loans with simple processes, subsidies and incentives."

A Sakthivel, Vice-Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), said, "Tirupur's knitwear exports have recorded a remarkable growth of 20% in the FY 2024-25 compared to the previous year. This achievement highlights the sector's sustained momentum and the robust global demand for Indian knitwear and apparels. The growth in knitwear exports is a highly encouraging sign, and this momentum will continue, despite global uncertainties. We are confident of sustaining this upward trend in the years ahead."

Further, he said, "India's readymade garment (RMG) sector also maintained its upward trajectory, registering a 10% growth in exports during the FY 2024-25. Total RMG exports in 2024-25 stood at USD 16 billion out of which 49% of exports were from the knit sector, marking a significant increase from the previous year."

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S Vijayakumar, an exporter, said, "Tiruppur knitwear sector has been on a growth path for over a year now. In particular, large orders are coming in a lot. Large companies benefit the most from this. Big US brands are now looking to India instead of China."

"At the same time, the hands of our competitors like Bangladesh and Vietnam are full already with orders. We get orders only after them due to the cost difference. Therefore, raw material prices in India should come down," he added.

Source: newindianexpress.com

India's T&A exports rise 6.32% in FY25

Compared to the previous year, India's textile and apparel (T&A) exports increased by 6.32 per cent in in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. As per a report by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), this growth was primarily driven by the apparel sector, where exports increased by 10.03 per cent during the fiscal year.

Rakesh Mehtra, Chairman, CITI, says, this strong performance in apparel exports and steady growth in textiles amidst global challenges underscore the resilience, adaptability, and global competitiveness of the Indian textile and apparel industry." He further attributed this success to the increasing momentum in establishing new trade partnerships and supportive policy decisions by the government, which have boosted confidence among exporters.

Mehra also emphasized the industry's optimism about sustaining this growth, particularly in light of shifting global trade dynamics. The ongoing trade tensions between the US and China present a strategic opportunity for India, especially in textile and apparel trade.

With the US actively looking to diversify its sourcing beyond China, India is well-positioned to become a reliable and preferred partner. However, this will require proactive diplomacy and a focused effort to secure a more favorable and stable tariff system, he notes.

In March 2025, India's textile exports declined by 5.81 per cent compared to March 2024, while apparel exports increased by 3.97 per cent during the same period. The combined T&A exports during the month declined by 1.63 per cent compared to March 2024.

However, for the period of April 2024 to March 2025, India's textile exports grew by 3.61 per cent Y-o-Y while apparel exports grew by 10.03 per cent during the same timeframe.

CITI's analysis indicates, this growth outperformed the overall merchandise exports, which remained largely flat during the same period.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

RBI draft directions for exports envisage more powers to authorised dealers

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the draft direction on the export and import of goods and services, and the draft Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2025, for comments or feedback from stakeholders before the end of this month. The RBI has also launched the Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and Authorisation (PRAVAAH), through which online applications for regulatory authorisations, licenses, and approvals should be submitted.

In a significant departure from the practice of giving detailed guidelines, the draft direction merely provides a list of RBI regulations that authorised dealers (ADs) must follow. It further states that ADs should ensure adherence to the extant Foreign Trade Policy as well as the guidelines issued by the Government of India related to export and import transactions, and merchanting trade transactions (MTT). ADs are also required to send all references to the RBI through the PRAVAAH portal and inform any doubtful transaction to the Directorate of Enforcement.

The draft regulations require ADs to put in place within six months a separate, internal policy document for handling transactions (including the reporting thereof) related to export and import of goods and services as well as MTT and on dealing with grievances and appeals against any decisions.

The monitoring of payments through the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) and Import Data Processing and Monitoring System (IDPMS) will continue. The time limits for realisation of export proceeds, submission of documents to ADs after exports, remittance for imports etc. more or less remain the same with powers to ADs to grant extensions.

In MTT, the period between the outward remittance and inward remittance is being raised to six months. Exports will be allowed only against full advance or irrevocable letter of credit for any exporter who fails to realise the export proceeds within 24 months from the due date (including extensions) and whose cumulative unrealized export outstanding exceeds ₹25 crore.

Any importer whose imports against advance remittances have not materialized and such remittances have not been repatriated and whose cumulative import advances exceed ₹25 crore cannot remit advances for imports except against irrevocable standby letter of credit or a bank guarantee.

Quite obviously, RBI does not want to micro-manage and wants to let ADs decide on most issues such as extension in the period for realisation of export proceeds or import payments, reduction in the amount of export proceeds to be realised, monitoring project exports and so on. So, each AD might use the discretion to offer easier terms and attract business, which could mean that similar transactions will get different treatment by different ADs. Whether that is desirable in matters concerning enforcement of regulations is a moot point.

The trade will welcome the direction that ADs shall levy reasonable charges for handling transactions and shall not levy any charges/penalty for any regulatory delay/violation. Exporters will be relieved that the draft regulations do not mandate surrender of proportionate export incentives in case of shortfall in realisation of export proceeds.

However, there would be disappointment that the RBI asks the ADs to police each and every import and export transaction.

SEZ units will be surprised that they will have to submit the export declaration forms to the development commissioners. Service providers will be peeved that a copy of every invoice will have to be submitted to the specified authorities.

Source: business-standard.com

India's retail industry may gain as Trump's tariffs singe Chinese exports

Trump's tariffs: If the 90-day tariff pause continues, experts and industry stakeholders believe that India could capitalise on the opportunity to boost its FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) and retail exports to the US, especially given a higher tax on China (145%). However, the current US tariff policy is creating pressure on the retail sector, both in India and globally, they said.

"The industries such as spice, tea, and cosmetics could be more impacted because tariff rates will increase their cost in the US market, and consumers may shift focus to other alternatives," says Chaudhary Dev Pratap Singh, Founder of FMCG company Univision Foods.

Singh advises India to swiftly leverage the 90-day tariff pause by boosting its exports, securing favourable trade terms, and solidifying its position as a reliable alternative to China in global supply chains. "To turn this temporary window into lasting trade advantages, a focused approach involving strategic diplomacy and close coordination between industry and government will be essential," says Singh.

Ravi Saxena, CEO & Founder of kitchen appliance and cookware brand Wonderchef, agrees with Singh. "India has a timely opportunity to boost its retail exports to the US. But this window is limited to specific products that meet high-quality standards, says Saxena.

"The US market will look to de-risk its overdependence on China, and India must step in to fill that vacuum in categories like packaged foods, wellness products, Ayurveda-based personal care, and spices—areas where we already have global recognition.

But scale and consistency are still weak spots. The US buyers demand uninterrupted supply and adherence to the highest global standards—something we must strengthen rapidly," adds Saxena.

For context, retail exports from India to the US reached $76,167 million in FY22, nearly $78,542 million in FY23, and nearly $77,515 million in FY24, according to the government data.

Need to reposition as a strategic retail partner

To seize the opportunity, India needs to reposition itself as a strategic retail partner by investing in automation, packaging technology, and quality assurance, say experts and stakeholders.

Streamlining the regulatory framework is also crucial to eliminating delays. With the tariff pause being temporary, swift action in high-potential categories like organic food, ready-to-eat meals, and plant-based products can help India boost exports and establish a lasting presence in the US retail market, says Saxena.

"This window also allows India to strengthen its case for favourable bilateral trade terms and enhances domestic manufacturing competitiveness. Additionally, it offers a chance to diversify export destinations, reducing over-reliance on any single market. However, this short timeframe may drive up freight costs, impacting profit margins, and the temporary nature of the pause adds planning uncertainty. Furthermore, India will face intensified competition from other countries also seeking to leverage the US-China trade dynamics," says Kanishk Maheshwari, Co-founder & Managing Director, Primus Partners.

Maheshwari notes that Indian exporters may recover faster and gain market share due to the higher tariffs on China, potentially giving India a competitive edge. "With several key free trade agreements (FTAs) on the horizon and the possibility of a bilateral trade deal with the US, India is poised to emerge stronger and more globally integrated despite the initial hurdles," adds Maheshwari.

Source: economictimes.com

Punjab govt to offer 33% subsidy on Bt cotton seeds to boost crop shift

The Punjab government on Saturday said it has decided to provide a 33 per cent subsidy on BT cotton hybrid seeds, as part of its move to promote crop diversification in the state. The subsidy will be given on seeds which are recommended by Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana.

Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian said a sum of Rs 20 crore has been allocated for the subsidy programme and this move would reduce financial burden on cotton growers, while simultaneously discouraging the cultivation of non-recommended hybrids to enable them to adopt high-yielding and pest-resistant BT cotton hybrid seeds.

The department has fixed a target to increase the cotton crop area to at least 1.25 lakh hectares this year, he said. Cotton, a crucial kharif crop in the south-western districts of the state, presents a viable alternative to the water-guzzling paddy crop, contributing to both agricultural diversification and economic growth.

Urging farmers to take advantage of this opportunity and opt for the recommended Bt cotton hybrid seeds, Khuddian said the state government is committed to supporting farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

This subsidy programme is a crucial step towards achieving crop diversification, besides ensuring the prosperity of our cotton industry, he said.

Dr. Basant Garg, administrative secretary of the department, informed that the subsidy programme is limited to a maximum of five acres or ten packets (each weighing 475gm) of cotton seeds per farmer.

He appealed to farmers to obtain original bills for all Bt cotton seed purchases, while directing the department officials to conduct regular monitoring and inspections to prevent entry of spurious seeds from neighbouring states.

Source: business-standard.com

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Ecommerce export credit card in works to aid exporters

New Delhi: The Centre is working on a proposal to meet the short-term credit needs of ecommerce exporters and offer support to those having warehouses abroad. The commerce department has proposed a credit card on the lines of Kisan Credit Card where the borrowing cost of exporters would be lower as compared to 15-18% now.

Officials said a note for the Expenditure Finance Committee's approval is in the works as the government seeks to push exports which were flat in FY25 at $437.42 billion, 0.08% higher than FY24.

The measures are also timely as the US has ended duty-free treatment for low-value imports from China and Hong Kong. Over 1.4 billion such packages, valued at $64.6 billion, arrived in the US in 2024 alone with nearly 60% of them from China.

"We are working on a larger scheme to promote ecommerce exports to resolve their financial issue," said an official, adding that the measures are part of the ₹2,250 crore Export Promotion Mission announced in FY26 budget.

India's ecommerce exports through courier and postal routes are pegged at around $1.5-2 billion annually. Including direct shipments, they are pegged at $8 billion.

Officials said these schemes could be for a period of five-six years.

The plan also includes giving support to those who have warehouses abroad, similar to what China offers, and branding initiatives. Talks are also ongoing between the commerce & industry ministry and the Reserve Bank of India to reduce delays in bank reconciliation under the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS). Under this, all export payments received must be matched against shipping bills to confirm payment realisation but low-value, high-frequency shipments typical of ecommerce exports face issues, said exporters.

Source: economictimes.com

Govt working on scheme to promote new exporters, markets, products

With an eye on the goods exports target of $1 trillion by 2030 the government is working on a scheme to encourage new entities, including start-ups, get into exports and also promote new markets and products, sources said. "The government is formulating a scheme to encourage new entities, including startups, get into exports. Some benefits are being explored such as extending more interest equalisation to these entities in addition to hand holding support through various processes," a source tracking the matter told businessline.

Encouragement may also be given for developing new markets and exporting new products, the source added. "If an exporter is looking at tapping a relatively new market, support such as provision of warehousing facilities in that market may be extended by the government. Similar support is likely to be given to encourage export of new products," the source said.

New scheme

The details of what all could be provided under the scheme for encouraging new exporters, new markets and new products are still being chalked out. "Hopefully, the scheme would be ready in a couple of months. This would be in alignment with the government's export promotion mission announced in budget 2025," the source said.

On February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the setting up of an export promotion mission with an outlay of ₹2,250 crore to push exports. The government said it would facilitate exporters to get easy access to credit, cross-border factoring support, and support MSMEs to tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets. With India's exports of goods in FY 25 likely to stay flat after a 3 per cent decline in FY 24 to $437 billion, exporters would appreciate more support to help them deal with challenges in a hostile global market. The BJP government has set an export target of $ 1 trillion each for goods and services by 2030.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

India's cotton panel recommends removing 11% import duty

The Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC), headed by the Union Textile Commissioner, has recommended to the Centre to remove the 11 per cent import duty on cotton.

The COCPC, which comprises all stakeholders in the cotton industry, made the recommendation at its meeting held in Mumbai on Wednesday, said K Venkatachalam, Chief Advisor, Tamilnadu Spinning Mills Association (TASMA). He was part of the stakeholders meeting.

"If the Centre is unable to remove the 11 per cent duty fully, then the COCPC recommended that it could freeze the customs duty for the next months," he told businessline.

Textile mills importing cotton have to be alert on the developing scenario, though any change in the import duty structure will have to be notified by the Ministry of Finance, he said.

Positive signal to US

Venkatachalam said the move will send a positive signal to the Trump administration in the US that India has made the import duty on cotton zero. "This will likely reflect positive on Indian textile exports to the US," he said.

This development follows the estimate of Indian cotton production at lower than 300 lakh bales (170 kg) by COCPC and industry bodies such as the Cotton Association of India (CAI).

According to the CAI's latest estimate, cotton output this season, to September, will likely be 291.30 lakh bales. The association has also projected imports to more than double to 33 lakh bales from 15.20 lakh bales last season.

The cotton supply this year, including 25 lakh bales imported as of March 31, is estimated at 306.83 lakh bales, compared to the estimated consumption of 315 lakh bales.

The Indian textile sector has begun importing cotton over the past few years, as the natural fibre's production has stagnated due to its lower yield. India's cotton production increased to nearly 400 lakh bales in the early 2010s after the introduction of genetically-modified Bt cotton.

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But, no new Bt variety has been introduced since 2006, and pest attacks such as pink bollworm and white fly, besides climate change, have begun to impact the productivity.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

Opportunity in every parcel: India's e-commerce export window widens after U.S. tariff shift

In a sweeping policy shift with global implications, the United States has ended duty-free treatment for low-value imports from China and Hong Kong, disrupting billions of dollars in cross-border trade. The decision, enacted through an Executive Order on 2nd April 2025, removes the de minimis exemption that previously allowed packages under USD 800 to enter the U.S. market without duties. Over 1.4 billion such packages, valued at USD 64.6 billion, arrived in the U.S. in 2024 alone—nearly 60% of them from China.

India, notably, is not included in the withdrawal. The de minimis benefit remains intact for Indian exporters, amounting to a rare unilateral tariff concession in today's tightly negotiated trade environment. For Indian businesses—especially MSMEs and artisan-led enterprises—this presents a significant cost advantage over Chinese sellers in the world's largest consumer economy.

Until now, shipments valued under USD 800 could enter the U.S. without customs duties under the de minimis rule. These duty-free shipments, often arriving via postal and courier routes, allowed Chinese sellers to undercut competition in price-sensitive categories. That window of advantage has now closed.

With this new U.S. directive, Chinese and Hong Kong e-commerce exporters will no longer benefit from the de minimis exemption. For postal shipments, a new duty of 30% ad valorem or $25 per item (whichever is higher) will apply from May 2, 2025, which will further increase to $50 per item from June 1, 2025. For non-postal shipments—such as those sent via courier and express parcels—standard U.S. Most Favoured Nation (MFN) import duties will apply, typically ranging from 2.5% to 32% depending on the product category. In addition, applicable goods may be subject to supplementary Section 301 tariffs in certain cases.

In contrast, India B2C e-commerce continues to enjoy duty-free access under the de minimis provision, that positions Indian e-commerce exporters at a significant cost advantage in the world's largest consumer market. This shift comes at a time when India's own digital trade ecosystem is showing robust growth. According to recent data, India ranks as the 4th largest domestic e-commerce market globally, with USD 120.8 billion in revenue in 2024 and a growth rate of 20.3%, one of the highest among major economies. Up to 70% of Indian SMEs are now actively leveraging e-commerce platforms, laying a strong foundation for growth in export performance. The global e-commerce market itself is expected to grow by 10.4% in 2025, outpacing the global economy (3.2%) and the global retail sector (4.2%).

India's strengths lie not only in its digital readiness but also in its product diversity and cultural craftsmanship. In segments such as fashion and apparel, gems and jewellery, home and living, organic wellness and beauty, and handcrafted lifestyle products, India holds a distinct edge. Regions like Jaipur and Surat are already transforming into digital hubs for

traditional exports—from semi-precious stones to beaded gowns and embroidered fabrics to artisanal décor and heritage textiles.

These are not just entrepreneurial stories; they are proof of e-commerce's power to democratise trade. By reducing barriers and middlemen, e-commerce enables even first-time exporters to reach global buyers at minimal cost. This has immense potential for employment, women-led businesses, and revival of traditional skills.

Despite this momentum, certain challenges remain. Chief among them is the procedural complexity around the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS). Under this system, all export payments received must be matched against shipping bills to confirm payment realisation. While this is sound in principle, it creates significant hurdles for low-value, high-frequency shipments typical of e-commerce exports.

Exporters often face delays in bank reconciliation, especially when dealing with platform-based payments or returns. In many cases, banks are hesitant to allow write-offs for returned or rejected goods, as well as expenses such as e-commerce platform charges, overseas warehousing fees, payment gateway deductions, and other transactional costs. This leads to the accumulation of 'unsettled' transactions. This not only affects the credit rating of exporters but can also hinder future exports if not cleared promptly.

These frictions, if left unresolved, could limit the segment that the government seeks to promote. A more agile, e-commerce-friendly framework for compliance—perhaps through self-declaration models or quarterly reconciliation windows—is the need of the hour. Additionally, tailored financial products like export credit for inventory, insurance for e-commerce exports, and fintech-driven forex platforms could go a long way in supporting first-time exporters.

With the U.S. closing its doors to duty-free Chinese shipments, and India still benefiting from de minimis access, could tip the balance in favour of Indian e-commerce exporters. For Indian exporters—especially those in Tier 2 and 3 cities—the moment is ripe to expand their presence and build long-term customer bases abroad.

However, the window may not remain open forever. Competing nations in Southeast Asia are already reforming their e-commerce export frameworks. India must act quickly, decisively, and collaboratively—with government, industry, and logistics players moving in tandem. The global marketplace is ready. The world is clicking. India must now deliver.

Source: economictimes.com

'Zero-for-zero' tariff under proposed India-US BTA unlikely: Report

A 'zero-for-zero' tariff strategy under the proposed bilateral trade agreement between India and the US is unlikely, as the two countries are at different levels of economic development, official sources said.

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Certain trade experts have suggested that India can propose a 'zero-for-zero' tariff strategy to the US for addressing America's reciprocal tariff hikes.

An official said that zero-for-zero tariffs can be possible between the US and the European Union (EU) as both are developed and advanced nations.

The India-US agreement will always be a "package" deal that could include issues such as goods and non-tariff barriers, the official said adding "it does not happen like this that if he will do 'zero' in electronics, we will also do in electronics. Trade agreements do not happen like this. It is a wrong thinking".

India and the US have been engaged in negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) since March. Both sides have targeted to conclude the first phase of the pact by fall (September-October) of this year with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030 from about $191 billion currently.

"The work has started for the agreement. India is far ahead of other countries in negotiating a trade deal," the official added.

India and the US have decided to hold sector-specific talks in the coming weeks under the agreement. The decision to hold discussions in the coming weeks follows four days of talks -- between senior officers of India and the US -- which concluded here on March 29.

In February, Delhi-based think tank GTRI suggested that India should propose a zero-for-zero tariff strategy to the US for addressing America's tariff hikes. Under this strategy, it has stated that India can identify tariff lines (or product categories) where it can eliminate import duties for American imports and in lieu of that, the US should also remove duties on a similar number of goods.

In a trade pact, two countries either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. They also ease norms to promote trade in services and boost investments.

While the US is looking at duty concessions in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles (electric vehicles particularly), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, agriculture items such as apples, tree nuts, and alfalfa hay; India may look at duty cuts for labour-intensive sectors like apparels, textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, plastics, chemicals, oil seeds, shrimp, and horticulture products.

From 2021-22 to 2023-24, the US was India's largest trading partner.

The US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in bilateral trade.

With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of $35.32 billion in goods in 2023-24. This was $27.7 billion in 2022-23, $32.85 billion in 2021-22, $22.73 billion in 2020-21, and $17.26 billion in 2019-20.

In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations and biologicals ($8.1 billion), telecom instruments ($6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones ($5.3 billion), petroleum products ($4.1 billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery ($3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton, including accessories ($2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel ($2.7 billion).

Imports included crude oil ($4.5 billion), petroleum products ($3.6 billion), coal, coke ($3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds ($2.6 billion), electric machinery ($1.4 billion), aircraft, spacecraft and parts ($1.3 billion), and gold ($1.3 billion).

Source: business-standard.com

Turning crisis into opportunity - by Amitabh Kant

Though the Donald Trump administration has given the world a respite from its new tariffs, global markets have been in turmoil ever since they were announced. Volatility and uncertainty spiked. Close to $6 trillion was wiped out from global markets. With the United States negotiating bilaterally, the multilateral trading system, where distinctions were made between developed, developing and least developed countries, stood threatened. In the next three months, India should explore the massive opportunity that the ongoing reshaping of globalisation gives us. However, navigating these changes will require concerted policy action.

First, we must renew our thrust on ease of doing business. This will be a crucial step if we are to attract manufacturing and investment to India. Large-scale scrapping of rules and procedures and total business process re-engineering must occur. Reforming land, building and construction norms is key. Rules under the new Labour Codes must be notified at the earliest. The movement must be state-led. Avenues for rent-seeking must be eliminated. We must also address the issue of regulatory overreach. Our regulators must be modernised and act as developmental bodies, coming out of their 'command and control' mode of functioning. We need a mindset change in India—free enterprise must be promoted. Free enterprise will build the economy through investment, innovation and job creation.

Second, we must liberalise the trade regime for critical inputs. In electronics, machinery, transport and others, we impose higher tariffs than competitors, harming our manufacturing competitiveness. Adopting a free-trade regime for key industry inputs is essential. Non-tariff barriers (NTBs), particularly quality control orders (QCOs), have proliferated, making it costly for industries like textiles to source raw materials. Studies indicate that QCOs have surged from hundreds to thousands, complicating foreign firms' ability to sell in India. We must eliminate these QCOs for critical inputs. Additionally, we should proactively sign trade agreements to protect interests and encourage investments in sectors like food processing, which can create lakhs of jobs.

Third, we must renew momentum in building our infrastructure. Large-scale projects like freight corridors and high-speed rail have seen cost and time overruns. These projects must be brought back on track, and private investment in infrastructure must be reignited. While public capex has stabilised at 3.5-4 per cent of the GDP in the past years, this must be further increased to 6 per cent. The focus must be on building regional connectiv-

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ity, such as regional transit systems and airports, and upgrading our ports.

Fourth, as we seek to move up the value chain, both in manufacturing and services, research and development (R&D) will be crucial. The Rs 1 lakh crore R&D fund announced in the July 2024 budget must be operationalised as soon as possible. The DeepTech Fund of Funds, announced in the February 2025 budget, must also be operationalised at the earliest. We must not allow Artificial Intelligence and these frontier technologies to be the monopolies of a few countries or companies, as happened with the technological revolutions of the past. We need to drive investments in DeepTech and clean tech, such as advanced cell chemistry (ACC) batteries, solar panels and electrolysers.

Finally, long-term plans for energy security must be set into motion now. While oil prices have not reacted adversely, geopolitical shocks almost always lead to energy price shocks, as we saw in February 2022. This is closely tied to R&D. Addressing energy storage and alternate fuels for hard-to-abate sectors will ensure our energy security in the long term.

We must also share our knowledge and experience with the world. India's development model, digital public infrastructure and playbook on climate action, which have led to significant improvements in healthcare, education and environmental sustainability, can be models for the Global South. This, in turn, will open up significant trading and investment opportunities for India and Indian companies. The reshaping of globalisation, marked by shifting trade rules and emerging technologies, presents a massive opportunity for India. This realignment is not a threat—it is our moment.

Source: indiatoday.in

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal chairs a meeting on the emerging trade scenario with Export Promotion Councils and Industry bodies

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, today held discussions with the Export Promotion Councils and Industry Bodies in New Delhi in the light of the emerging trade scenario. The meeting was called to deliberate on the impact as well as opportunities arising out of the evolving and very dynamic scenarios and to apprise the industry and trade about the steps being taken by the Government.

The Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) complemented the exporters and the industry for achieving the highest ever export of above USD 820 Billion in the fiscal 2024-25 which is nearly 6% growth over previous fiscal year. In spite of multiple headwinds including the red sea crisis, Israel-Hamas conflict spilling over to Gulf region, continuation of Russia-Ukraine conflict and slow growth in some developed economies, the Minister lauded the Exporters for their resilience and efforts.

During the meeting, CIM also apprised the exporters regarding discussions with the US for a mutually beneficial multi-sectoral Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), which has been ongoing due to the foresight of Honb'le PM Modi who was one of the first global leaders to agree on the BTA in his meeting with President Trump in February 2025.

The Commerce and Industry minister assured the exporters that the Government will work to provide a conducive environment to enable them to successfully navigate the recent changes in the global trade environment.

The Commerce and Industry Minister assured that the country is working in a proactive manner and exploring solutions which are in the best interest of the nation. The team working on BTA is exploring the right mix and the right balance and he exhorted the exporters to not panic and look at the silver lining in the present scenario. He assured that the team is working with speed but not in undue haste to ensure the right outcome for the country.

The CIM said that different countries are approaching the tariff imposition in a different manner. However, as far as India is concerned, there is a potential for increase in manufacturing, creation of additional jobs because it can attract big players in global supply chain as India has been able to establish itself as a trusted and reliable partner and with a predictable business friendly destination.

Various Export Promotion Councils, representing a wide array of sectors, presented their views and outlook in light of the emerging challenges in global trade and requested the government to take proactive measures to support the export industry in these challenging times.

The meeting was attended by Export Promotion Councils, Industry bodies and officials from Commerce and line ministries.

Source: pib.gov.in

India eyes trade pact push as US pauses reciprocal tariffs for 3 months

With US President Donald Trump "temporarily suspending" country-specific reciprocal tariffs until July 9, India sees the three-month window as an opportunity to renew its push for a proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US and expedite finalisation of the first tranche of the trade deal.

"The 90-day pause on the 26 per cent reciprocal tariff (imposed by the US on Indian imports) gives us the window to expedite the trade deal discussions that began last month. We still don't know if the pause on reciprocal tariffs will continue beyond 90 days," a senior government official told Business Standard.

Finalising at least the first tranche of the deal may offer some relief to Indian exporters, even if Washington decides to continue with the 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs after the three-month pause, the official added.

In February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Trump announced their intention to finalise the first phase of a mutually beneficial BTA by the fall of 2025.

After the US last week announced country-specific reciprocal tariffs ranging from 10 per cent to 50 per cent on imports from several countries, with India facing a 26 per cent duty, Trump on Wednesday reversed his decision and announced a 90-day pause on all reciprocal tariffs — except those on China — effective from midnight on April 9 (Eastern Time). Currently, a 10 per cent ad valorem tariff, over and above the existing most-fa-

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voured nation (MFN) tariff, continues on American imports.

America's plan to impose reciprocal tariffs on most countries has prompted several major trade partners to reach out to India for free-trade agreements (FTAs). Apart from the US, India is negotiating trade deals with the United Kingdom, the European Union, New Zealand, Peru, Chile, and Oman. Talks for trade agreements with Bahrain, Qatar, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) may also materialise.

The official cited above said India was planning to use this period to fast-track long-pending trade agreements with key partners, such as the UK and the EU.

In February, Prime Minister Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had set an ambitious target to sign an FTA by the end of 2025. At present, the approach is to finalise the deal in tranches, although a formal announcement regarding the same is pending.

India believes these trade deals will bring long-term benefits and boost exports to these regions, the official said.

"India's negotiating position is stronger now. Considering the fast-changing geopolitical environment and the EU's tension with the US, the trade bloc is more willing to address India's concerns on non-tariff barriers, such as carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) and deforestation regulation," the official said.

Before the tariff pause was announced, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday that India was working with the US administration to remove the 26 per cent tariff imposed on Indian goods.

"We believe that India was not one of those countries which really needed to have tariffs on them because we were already in engagement for a bilateral trade deal but the US has not differentiated. For every country, they have come out with a number. But we are in constant engagement. We will be working with them to take off these additional tariffs in the days to come."

Source: business-standard.com

India terminates trans-shipment facility for Bangladesh to export goods to third countries

New Delhi, Apr 9 (PTI) The government has terminated the trans-shipment facility that allowed export cargo from Bangladesh to third countries using Indian land customs stations en route to ports and airports, according to a government circular.

Indian exporters, mainly from the apparel sector, had earlier urged the government to withdraw this facility to the neighbouring country.

The facility had enabled smooth trade flows for Bangladesh's exports to countries like Bhutan, Nepal, and Myanmar. It was provided by India to Bangladesh in June 2020.

"It has been decided to rescind... circular...dated June 29, 2020, as amended with immediate effect. Cargo already entered into India may be allowed to exit the Indian territory as per the procedure given in that circular," the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs' circular, dated April 8, said.

The announcement came at a time when the US has imposed sweeping tariffs against a number of countries, including India and Bangladesh.

The earlier circular had allowed transshipment of export cargo from Bangladesh to third countries using Indian Land Customs Stations (LCSs) en route to Indian ports and airports.

According to trade experts, the decision will help many of the Indian exporting sectors like apparel, footwear, and gems and jewellery.

Bangladesh is a big competitor of India in the textile sector.

"Now we will have more air capacity for our cargo. In the past, exporters have complained about lesser space due to the transhipment facility given to Bangladesh," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said.

The apparel exporters' body AEPC has earlier urged the government to suspend this order, which allows the trans-shipment of Bangladesh export cargo to third countries through the Delhi Air Cargo complex.

AEPC Chairman Sudhir Sekhri had stated that almost 20-30 loaded trucks arrive in Delhi every day, which slows down the smooth movement of cargo, and airlines are taking undue advantage of this.

This leads to an excessive increase in air freight rates, delay in handling and processing of export cargo, and severe congestion at the Cargo Terminal at the IGI Airport, Delhi, resulting in exports of Indian apparel exports through the Delhi air cargo complex becoming uncompetitive.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said that the withdrawal of this facility is expected to disrupt Bangladesh's export and import logistics, which depend on Indian infrastructure for third-country trade.

"The previous mechanism had offered a streamlined route through India, cutting transit time and cost. Now, without it, Bangladeshi exporters may face logistical delays, higher costs, and uncertainty. Additionally, Nepal and Bhutan, both landlocked nations, may raise concerns about restricted transit access to Bangladesh, especially as this move will hamper their trade with Bangladesh," Srivastava said.

He added that according to WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules, all members are required to allow freedom of transit for goods moving to and from landlocked countries. This means such transit must be unrestricted, free from unnecessary delays, and not subject to transit duties.

Both India and Bangladesh are members of this Geneva-based organisation.

Source: livemint.com

Govt carrying out sectoral analysis to study impact of Trump tariffs

The government is carrying out a sectoral analysis of US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs on the country's exports to study its impact on various products ahead of the 26 per cent levies kicking in on April 9, sources have said.

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Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is scheduled to meet various export promotion councils on Wednesday to do a stocktaking of how exports of various items were getting affected by the tariffs and how much of the tariff burden could be passed on to the buyers.

"A number of export bodies and industry organisations were asked for a detailed impact assessment report on Trump's tariffs so that the government can plan suitable interventions. These inputs are also to be discussed in Wednesday's meeting," a source tracking the matter told businessline.

Uncertainty ahead

Almost all sectors are looking at an uncertain future in the US as importers are holding up orders to get a better clarity on how American buyers would react to higher prices but certain items such as gems & jewellery, marine products including shrimp, vehicles & parts, electricals and electronics are set to take a definite hit, according to the industry.

The possibility of India seeking a tariff deferral from the US till the India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) delivered results may also be discussed, but Trump said on Monday at the White House that he was not looking at pausing tariffs.

"Well, we're not looking at that. We have many, many countries that are coming to negotiate deals with us and they're going to be fair deals. And in certain cases they're going to be paying substantial tariffs. There'll be fair deals," Trump told reporters.

India-US BTA

India began talks with the US on a BTA weeks before the reciprocal tariffs were announced on April 2 and is hoping for an early conclusion of at least part of the pact which would convince the US to roll back the 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs.

With several other countries, including India's Asian rivals such as Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia, too, seeking a trade pact with the US, New Delhi is now in a hurry to not lose out on its early-mover advantage.

Even if Indian exporters manage to convince buyers to absorb the tariff hike fully, it could lead to payment delays and a cash crunch, a Delhi-based exporter pointed out. "Importers will need more money to pay the duty and they may not get credit readily for it. If they pay the duties upfront then they may delay payments to the exporters and the payment circle will get elongated causing a cash crunch," he explained.

Exporters are hoping that the meeting with Goyal on Wednesday will give some solutions to the problems at hand, the exporter said.

The US has demanded steep tariff cuts from India for many products such as automobiles, motorbikes, a range of agricultural items, alcohol and pharmaceutical and medical items.

India wants to settle the reciprocal tariff issue amicably with the US without resorting to retaliatory actions, like China, as Washington is its largest trade partner and export market and it doesn't want to sour ties, the first source said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

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Centre looks to integrate transport planning under new mechanism

Aiming at resolving multisectoral bottlenecks in transport, the Centre is looking to unify planning in this area under a mechanism to be led by a single ministry, Business Standard has learnt from official sources.

"A high-level meeting took place in March, where it was expressed that this inter-ministerial mechanism be set up, with an emphasis on transport planning becoming integrated for planning, both in the short and long terms. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways made some points to go forward," said a senior government official aware of the matter.

The government has an inter-ministerial consultative mechanism for infrastructure planning and execution — the Prime Minister Gati-Shakti framework. The new framework being considered is likely to work in coordination with Gati-Shakti but could have a slightly different remit.

"The Gati-Shakti platform is there, but a need was felt to have a separate transport-planning mechanism. While Gati-Shakti looks at infrastructure gaps and when those need to be filled, a comprehensive transport-planning body would look at which modes of transport will be best suited to meet the gaps, keeping long-term goals in mind," another top-level official said.

He added Gati-Shakti's primary role was to eliminate overlaps and bring in fast-track execution, and it covered all infrastructure sectors. An integrated transport-planning framework would entail a granular assessment of modal needs and past trends.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is working on a plan and its vision for integrated transport planning, which it will present to senior officials at the highest levels of the government.

Queries sent to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Railways on Monday remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

According to people aware of the developments, the Niti Aayog, which coordinates with all infrastructure ministries for the infrastructure and monetisation pipelines, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), which spearheads the Prime Minister Gati-Shakti National Master Plan, have shown an interest to be the lead departments in this exercise.

However, it is likely that a transport ministry like railways or highways could steer this framework once it is formed.

The government, at least in initial discussions, is not looking to create a statutory authority for this. "Creating a statutory body creates red tape, which will end up defeating the purpose of such an exercise," the first official said.

With congestion on railways and quality concerns with national highways, the National Democratic Alliance government in its third term has made the transport sector a priority, according to officials.

Last week, Minister of Railways and Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Union Cabinet had, within

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months of the new government's formation in June 2024, sanctioned transportation projects worth ₹4.18 trillion.

Source: business-standard.com

Government of India Procures 100 Lakh Bales of Cotton Under MSP Operations through its Nodal Agency

In current cotton season 2024-25, up to March 31, 2025, Government of India, through its nodal agency, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) under Ministry of Textiles has successfully procured 525 lakh quintals of seed cotton, equivalent to 100 lakh bales, under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. This procurement accounts for 38% of the total cotton arrivals of 263 lakh bales and 34% of the estimated total cotton production of 294.25 lakh bales in the country.

Among the states, Telangana has recorded the highest procurement at 40 lakh bales, followed by Maharashtra with 30 lakh bales and Gujarat with 14 lakh bales. Other states with significant procurement include Karnataka (5 lakh bales), Madhya Pradesh (4 lakh bales), Andhra Pradesh (4 lakh bales), and Odisha (2 lakh bales).

Procurement in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Punjab stands at 1.15 lakh bales. In total, Rs.37,450 crore has been paid to approximately 21 lakh cotton farmers across all cotton producing states.

The MSP mechanism continues to provide remunerative prices to cotton farmers, protecting them from distress sales when market prices fall below the MSP. To facilitate efficient procurement, CCI has opened 508 procurement centers nationwide.

Several digital initiatives have been implemented, including on-spot Aadhaar authentication, SMS notifications for payments and 100% direct payments through the National Automated Clearing House (NACH).

The Cott-Ally mobile app, available in nine regional languages, enables farmers to access real-time information on MSP rates, procurement centers, and payment tracking. Further, all cotton bales produced by CCI are traceable via QR codes, by using Block-chain technology to ensure transparency and accountability. Government of India remains committed to safeguard interests of cotton farmers through a fair, transparent and efficient procurement process.

Source: pib.gov.in

Banks told to push global trade settlement in Rupee

The government has asked banks to nudge their clients to settle international trade in Indian rupees and is in discussion with them on removing hurdles hindering faster adoption of the special rupee vostro account (SRVA) mechanism, which enables settlement in INR.

The Reserve Bank of India is working to make the Indian Financial Network (Infinet), which is currently used for domestic interbank transactions, accessible to international participants to facilitate secure fund transfers through SRVA, officials aware of the developments said.

These initiatives are part of the various strategies being pursued to deal with the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US, they said.

The US has imposed a 26% tariff on imports from India, to be effective from April 9.

Enabling international trade settlement in the Indian currency will reduce dependency on the US dollar and bring down foreign exchange costs besides facilitating faster cross-border transactions.

"As countries explore options towards more bilateral trade because of the ongoing tariff wars, there is a case for faster adoption of local currency settlements, and we want lenders to take advantage of this opportunity," a government official told ET.

A meeting on this issue with all stakeholders, including the RBI, may be held later this month, the person said.

The central bank has already established local currency settlement arrangements with the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and the Maldives, and the government has indicated more such agreements soon, a bank executive said.

Source: economictimes.com

India's home textile exports rise 10% in 9M FY2025: ICRA

India's home textile exports have shown a marked improvement, registering a growth of approximately 10 per cent in the first nine months (9M) of FY2025, compared to a modest 3 per cent in FY2024. The sector is gaining traction on the back of resilient global demand, a strategic shift by international buyers under the China Plus One policy, and inventory restocking by major global retailers, as per a recent report by ICRA.

Industry revenues are projected to rise by 7–9 per cent in FY2025 and by 6–8 per cent in FY2026, with operating profit margins expected to remain between 13–15 per cent. The performance momentum is likely to sustain, supported by gradual inventory liquidation at retailer levels and benefits from the vendor diversification strategy.

The United States remains the largest market for Indian home textile exports, accounting for 59 per cent of the market in FY2024 and 56 per cent in the first nine months of FY2025.

However, medium-term growth remains sensitive to tariff-related developments in the US and progress on free trade agreement negotiations with the UK and the EU, the report noted.

In terms of product segments, carpets, floor coverings, and bed, table, toilet, and kitchen linens recorded a robust 13 per cent year-on-year growth in 9M FY2025. This was attributed to heightened consumer focus on personal well-being and home aesthetics. Other categories, such as blankets and general furnishing articles, saw more subdued growth.

While US retail sales in furniture and home furnishing stores declined by 2 per cent year-on-year in calendar year 2024 due to weak demand, signs of recovery emerged in Q4 CY2024, with sales growing by 5.5 per cent year-on-year.

ICRA's sample of four companies — representing around 50 per cent of the industry's size — saw a 14 per cent year-on-year in-

National News

Trade Update

crease in revenues in FY2024, driven by export volume growth, strong domestic demand, and select inorganic expansions. However, this pace moderated to 8 per cent in 9M FY2025, the report added.

Despite stable raw material costs during FY2025, rising logistics and operational expenses are expected to compress margins by 100–150 basis points, although they are still projected to stay within the 13–15 per cent range.

Looking ahead to FY2026, margins are expected to be supported by improved scale, favourable currency rates, and consistent export incentives.

Source: fibre2fashion.com

How Make in India is Shaping the Future of Textiles and Apparel Industry

Introduction

The Make in India initiative, launched in 2014, has played a crucial role in positioning India as a global textile manufacturing and export hub. The textile and apparel industry is one of the largest contributors to India's economy, providing employment to millions and generating substantial foreign exchange earnings. With strong policy support, infrastructure development, and a skilled workforce, India has emerged as a preferred investment destination in the global textile sector.

Overview of India's Textile Industry

The textile and apparel industry contributes 2.3% to our GDP, 13% to industrial production, and 12% to exports. India exported textile items worth US$ 34.4 billion in 2023-24, with apparel constituting 42% of the export basket, followed by raw materials/semi-finished materials at 34% and finished non-apparel goods at 30%.

It is also the second largest employment generators, after agriculture, with over 45 million people employed directly, including many women and the rural population. As further evidence of the inclusive nature of this industry, nearly 80% of its capacity is spread across Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) clusters in the country.

The sector also has perfect alignment with the Government's overall objectives of Make in India, Skill India, Women's Empowerment, Rural Youth Employment and inclusive growth. The industry produces about 22,000 million pieces of garments per year, with the market size projected to reach US$ 350 billion by 2030, from the current $174 billion.

Recently, the Ministry of Textiles reported a 7% increase in textile and apparel exports, including handicrafts, from April to December 2024, compared to the same period the previous year. In line with the growth roadmap, the Indian textile market currently ranks fifth globally, and the government is actively working to accelerate this growth to a rate of 15-20% over the next five years.

Source: fashionatingworld.com

Trade Update

India's Export Statistics of Cotton Textiles (April 2024 – January 2025)

India's Export Statistics of Cotton Textiles							
Product	**Unit**	**in Quantity (Million)**		**% Growth**	**in Value (Million USD)**		**% Growth**
		April - January			**April - January**		
		2023-24	**2024-25**		**2023-24**	**2024-25**	
Fibre	Kgs	371.19	369.78	-0.38	729.40	660.53	-9.44
Yarn	Kgs.	996.27	945.70	-5.08	3,121.02	2,939.42	-5.82
Fabrics	Kgs.	54.17	61.95	14.36	301.61	339.45	12.55
	Sqm	1,769.64	1,874.04	5.90	1,533.67	1,613.47	5.20
					1,835.28	1,952.92	6.41
Made-ups	Kgs.	306.15	329.04	7.48	1,770.53	1,958.03	10.59
	Nos.	880.56	851.86	-3.26	1,793.15	1,870.09	4.29
					3,563.68	3,828.12	7.42
Total (Fibre, Yarn, Fabrics, Madeups)					**9,249.37**	**9,380.98**	**1.42**

Source of Data: DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce

Here's a category-wise detailed breakdown of all four segments: Fibre, Yarn, Fabrics, and Made-ups based on the export data for April–January (2023–24 vs 2024–25):

1. **Fibre** (in kilograms): Quantity exported declined marginally by -0.38% (from 371.19 million kg to 369.78 million kg). However, export value fell more significantly by -9.44% (from USD 729.40 million to USD 660.53 million)
2. **Yarn** (in kilograms): Quantity exported declined by -5.08% (from 996.27 million kg to 945.70 million kg). Export value also dropped by -5.82% (from USD 3,121.02 million to USD 2,939.42 million).
3. **Fabrics** (in kg and square meters): Quantity exported increased by 14.36% (from 54.17 million kg to 61.95 million kg), while export value grew by 12.55% (from USD 301.61 million to USD 339.45 million). In square meters: Quantity exported increased by 5.90% (from 1,769.64 million sqm to 1,874.04 million sqm), and export value grew by 5.20% (from USD 1,533.67 million to USD 1,613.47 million). Combined Fabric Value Growth: +6.41%.
4. **Made-ups** (measured in kg and numbers): **In kg**: Quantity exported rose by 7.48% (from 306.15 million kg to 329.04 million kg), and value increased by 10.59% (from USD 1,770.53 million to USD 1,958.03 million). Number Basis: Quantity declined slightly by -3.26% (from 880.56 million to 851.86 million), yet value rose by 4.29% (from USD 1,793.15 million to USD 1,870.09 million). Combined Made-up Value Growth: +7.42%

Overall Performance (Fibre, Yarn, Fabrics, Made-ups) showed a slight growth of 0.31% during the period April – December 2024.

Quick Estimates For Texiles & Clothing April 2024 – February 2025

Trade Update

QUICK ESTIMATES FOR TEXILES & CLOTHING (APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025)						
Exports (Million USD)	**MAR'24**	**MAR'25**	**% Change**	**APR'23-MAR'24**	**APR'24-MAR'25**	**% Change**
Cotton Yarn/Fabs/made-ups, Handloom Products etc	**1,094**	**1,118**	**2.16%**	**11,684**	**12,056**	**3.19%**
Man-made Yarn/ Fabs/ made-ups etc.	439	436	-0.85%	4,679	4,869	4.07%
RMG of all Textiles	1,473	1,531	3.97%	14,532	15,989	10.03%
Jute Mfg. Floor Covering	28	35	21.70%	339	384	13.35%
Carpet	129	137	6.52%	1,395	1,541	10.46%
Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet	279	130	-53.34%	1,802	1,767	-1.98%
Textiles	1,970	1,856	-5.81%	19,899	20,617	3.61%
Apparel	1,473	1,531	3.97%	14,532	15,989	10.03%
Textiles & Apparel	**3,443**	**3,387**	**-1.63%**	**34,431**	**36,606**	**6.32%**
All Commodities	41,693	41,968	0.66%	437,072	437,417	0.08%
% Share of T&C in Total Exports	8.26%	8.07%		7.88%	8.37%	
Imports (Million USD)	**MAR'24**	**MAR'25**	**% Change**	**APR'23-MAR'24**	**APR'24-MAR'25**	**% Change**
Cotton Raw & Waste	49	79	61.97%	599	1,219	103.67%
Textile yarn Fabric, made-up articles	161	193	19.98%	2,278	2,476	8.69%

Source: DGCIS/MOC

- 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 2.16% in March 2025 over March 2024.
- During Apr’24-Mar’25, Indian cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, handloom products registered a growth of 3.19%.
- During March’25, Indian Textiles Exports declined by (-) 5.81% over the previous year and Apparel Exports registered a growth of 3.97% during the same time period.
- Cumulative Exports of Textiles and Apparel during March’25 reported a decline of (-) 1.63% over March’24.
- During April’24 - March’25, Indian Textiles Exports registered a positive growth of 3.61% over the previous year while Apparel Exports registered a growth of 10.03% during the same time period. Overall T&A registered a growth of 6.32% during Apr’24-Mar25.

Policy Updates

Important Notifications on Policies & Procedures

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) India terminates transshipment facility for Bangladesh to export goods to third countries

CBIC has withdrawn the transshipment facility for Bangladesh export cargo through India to third countries through Land Customs Stations (LCSs) to ports and airports vide Notification No.13/2025-Customs dated 8.4.2025.

Link of the Circular: https://preview.mailerlite.com/o2q9h6k4m7/2723910603751032253/n9h7/

B) Operationalisation of Direct Port Entry (DPE) Facility at Blue Gate

Tuticorin Customs has issued Trade Notice dated 10.04.2025 regarding the operationalisation of the DPE facility for e-sealed factory-stuffed containers at the Blue Gate from 11.04.2025.

Link of the Circular: https://preview.mailerlite.com/v5r7k4c1e1/2723305660182693454/d0k2/

C) Operationalisation of DGFT 'Global Tariff and Trade' Helpdesk

To assist stakeholders, DGFT has launched a 'Global Tariff and Trade Helpdesk' as mentioned in Trade Notice No. 01/2025-26 dated 11.04.2025. This helpdesk shall look into issues relating to Import or Export Challenges, Import Surges or Dumping, EXIM Clearance, Logistics or Supply Chain Challenges, Financial or Banking issues, Regulatory or Compliance Issues, Other Issues or Suggestions.

Link of the Circular: https://preview.mailerlite.com/z7v1r7c3y9/2723285797343069937/m2j5/

D) List issued by Tuticorin Customs reg. IGST pending errors

Tuticorin Customs (INTUT1) has issued a list of Shipping Bills where they have identified errors in the pending IGST refunds.

Link of the Circular: https://texprocil.org/circular/1744265210-Eserve-71_of_2025.pdf

E) CBIC introduces Export Entry (Post export conversion in relation to instrument-based scheme) Regulations, 2025

CBIC has issued Notification No.21/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 03.04.2025 introducing the Export Entry (Post Export Conversion in Relation to Instrument Based Scheme) Regulations, 2025, replacing the earlier 2022 regulations.

Link of the Circular: https://texprocil.org/circular/1744265187-Eserve-70_of_2025.pdf

F) CBIC notifies the 5th tranche of tariff concessions under India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)

CBIC has issued Notification No.22/2025-Customs dated 28.03.2024 to give effect to the 5th Tranche – Table I and II of tariff concessions under India-Mauritius CECPA. This notification shall come into force from 01.04.2025.

Link of the Circular: https://texprocil.org/circular/1744265060-Eserve-64_of_2025.pdf

G) CBIC notifies the 4th tranche of tariff concessions under India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

CBIC has issued Notification No.21/2025-Customs dated 28.03.2025 to implement the 4th Tranche – Table I and II of tariff concessions under of the India-UAE CEPA. This notification shall come into force from 01.04.2025.

Link of the Circular: https://texprocil.org/circular/1744265038-Eserve-63_of_2025.pdf

H) CBIC notifies Postal Imports Regulations, 2025

CBIC vide Notification No.18/2025 – Customs (N.T.) dated 28.03.2025 has notified the Postal Imports Regulations, 2025. It outlines regulations

Important Notifications on Policies & Procedures

Policy Updates

for assessing and clearing goods imported through foreign post offices, excluding certain goods like animals, perishables and precious stones.

Link of the Circular: https://texprocil.org/circular/1744264953-Eserve-59_of_2025.pdf

I) CBIC notifies Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2025

CBIC has issued Notification No.20/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 28.03.2025 by amending the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018 and shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. The key change pertains to the extension of the compliance deadline specified in the regulations. In the relevant table, under Sr. No. 6, the deadline in column (3) has been updated to "31.05.2025," replacing the earlier entry.

Link of the Circular: https://texprocil.org/circular/1744264929-Eserve-58_of_2025.pdf

Trade Notification

Promote Your Merchandise / Services Advertise with Us!

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

TEXPROCIL

THE COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL OF INDIA

Get your eCertificate of Origin (eCoO)

ATTENTION EXPORTERS!

- *Exporters can apply for Non-Preferential eCoO through the Trade Connect Portal www.trade.gov.in*
- *Use your DGFT credentials to login or sign up if unregistered*
- *Select The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (CTEPC) as the Issuing Agency*
- *Required documents: Invoice & Packing List*
- *Fees: **Rs. 236/-** (ie Rs.200/- + 18% GST Rs.36/-)*

Contact details :

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council

5th Floor, Engineering Centre, 9, Shrimad Rajchandraji Marg, Charni Road East, Opera House, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400004

(022) 49444000 info@texprocil.org, rukshana@texprocil.org

www.texprocil.org

Trade Notification

Promote Your Merchandise / Services Advertise with Us!

Dear Member,

The Annual Renewal Subscription for the financial year 2025-2026 shall become due for payment on **1st April 2025**.

The Annual Renewal membership fees is as follows:

1) Associate Members : Rs. 8000/- + 18% GST = **Rs. 9440/-**
2) Ordinary Member : Rs. 14000/- + 18% GST = **Rs. 16520/-**

Exporters who wish to renew their membership for 3 years and 5 years are eligible for Special Discount of 10% and 15% respectively. This will be applicable w.e.f. 01.04.2025 only.

	Membership Fees		Discount	Discounted Fees		**Benefit to Exporters**	
	Associate	Ordinary	Slab	Associate	Ordinary	**Associate**	**Ordinary**
For 3 years	24,000	42,000	10%	21,600	37,800	**2,400**	**4,200**
For 5 years	40,000	70,000	15%	34,000	59,500	**6,000**	**10,500**

(Please note that 18% GST will be applicable on membership fees.)

<u>Membership Renewal for 3 years including GST will be as follows:</u>

Associate Member – Rs. 21600/- + 18% GST = Rs. 25488/-

Ordinary Member – Rs. 37800/- + 18% GST = Rs. 44604/-

<u>Membership Renewal for 5 years including GST will be as follows:</u>

Associate Member – Rs. 34000/- + 18% GST = Rs. 40120/-

Ordinary Member – Rs. 59500/- + 18% GST = Rs. 70210/-

<u>Introducing a new category for small exporters:</u>

Besides, in order to encourage small exporters and enable them to avail of the Council's services, the Committee of Administration of TEXPROCIL has decided to introduce a new category for Associate Members who are MSMEs with exports of less than Rs. 15 lakhs (or Nil Exports) in the previous financial year i.e. 2024-2025. Below is the Membership Renewal fee for such category:

Renewal – Associate Member – Rs. 2000/- + 18% GST = **Rs. 2360/-**

<u>Note:</u>

1. A Self-attested UDYAM REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE for F.Y. 2024-2025 is required

2. Self-Declaration for the export figures of the previous financial year i.e. 2024-2025 on the company letterhead duly stamped and signed by the partner or directors of the firm/company would also be required. (Format is enclosed and no other format will be accepted).

3. The new entrants who are falling under the above category will be charged Rs. 2950/- (Entrance Fee as Rs. 500/- + Annual Membership Fee as Rs. 2000/- + 18% GST).

Kindly ignore this email, if you have already renewed your membership for the year 2025-2026.

AMENDMENT OF e-RCMC

A nominal charge of Rs. 1000/- per amendment, excluding GST will be levied w.e.f. 01.04.2025.

SELF-DECLARATION

(To be submitted on the **Firm/Company Letterhead)**

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that M/s. ____ (Name and full address of the Firm/Company) having IE code No. ____________________, GST No. _________________________ have exported Cotton / Cotton Yarn / Cotton Fabrics / Cotton Madeups (Excluding Handloom Items / Readymade Garments and Silks, etc.) during the financial year 2024-2025 as under:

Sr. No.	**Description**	**2024-2025 [Rs. FOB value]**
1	Cotton	
2	Cotton Yarn	
3	Cotton Fabrics	
4	Cotton Madeups	
	TOTAL	

I hereby declare that the information related to this disclosure is complete and best to my knowledge and none of the above information is false or misrepresented and it is supported by financial statements & documents.

(Firm / Company Stamp)
(Signature of Proprietor / Partner / Director)

Date:
Place:

Salona Group

SPINNING YARN TO PERFECTION

9, Ramalinga Nagar, 4th Cross, Saibaba Colony, Coimbatore - 641 011. Tamilnadu, India.
Mobile : +91 9843140133 +91 9843071188 +91 7418701133
E-Mail : sales@salonagroup.com Website : www.salonagroup.com

YARN COUNTS

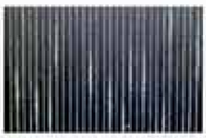
RING SPUN YARN
100% Cotton - Ne 20/1 - Ne 60/1
Ne 20/2 - Ne 40/2
Carded and Combed

RECYCLE COTTON YARN
BCI + Recycle GOTS Organic + recycle
Convention + recycle
Ring spun - Ne 10/1 - Ne 40/1
Ne 20/2 - Ne 32/2
Open end - Ne 6/1 - Ne 30/1

COMPACT YARN
100% Cotton - Ne 20/1 - Ne 60/1
Ne 20/2 - Ne 40/2 Combed

OPEN END YARN
100% Cotton - Ne 10/1 - Ne 30/1
Recycled Cotton - Ne 6/1 Ne - 30/1
Ne 6/2 Ne - 30/2

ORGANIC YARN
Ring spun organic
100 % Cotton Ne 20/1- Ne 60/1
Ne 20/2 - Ne 40/2
Open end organic yarn
Ne 6/1-Ne30/1 Ne 6/2-Ne30/2



SLUB YARN
100% Cotton - Ne 20/1 - Ne 40/1

KNITTED FABRIC

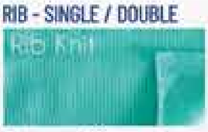
SINGLE JERSEY

Guage - 20,24,28,32
Dia - 18 to 36

INTERLOCK / DOUBLE KNIT

Guage - 24, 28
Dia - 24 to 36

RIB - SINGLE / DOUBLE



Guage - 18
Dia 16 to 36

FLEECE 2/3 THREAD

Guage - 24
Dia - 18 to 36

FRENCH TERRY

Guage - 20
Dia - 18 to 36

FULL / MINI JACQUARD

Guage - 24, 28
Dia - 30, 34

GROUP CERTIFICATION

COTTON AUSTRALIA · U.S. COTTON TRUST PROTOCOL · BCI · Sedex · Global Recycled Standard · OEKO TEX STANDARD 100 · GOTS · AEO · OCS · Textile Exchange

CHOOSE THE
FINEST INDIAN COTTON.

For the best-in-class Indian cotton, look no further than Kasturi Cotton. With the assurance of consistent, standardised quality you can trust. Kasturi Cotton is backed by KC TRACK, our blockchain-based traceability platform, ensuring complete authenticity from farm to final product. Kasturi Cotton is dedicated to uplifting the lives and livelihoods of farmers while fostering sustainable growth throughout the global value chain.

For assistance in purchasing certified Kasturi Cotton, visit **www.kasturicotton.com** or email us at **kasturi@texprocil.org**

KASTURI COTTON BHARAT

THE SPIRITUAL FIBRE
SOFTER · STRONGER · PURER

TRACEABLE 100% CERTIFIED

Scan to know more

KasturiCotton

kasturicotton.com | kasturi@texprocil.org

KC Track
Authenticity Through Blockchain-based Traceability

From:
The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)

Head Office
Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai 400 004, India

Regional Office
712, Indra Prakash Building, 7th Floor, 21, Barakhamba Road,
New Delhi 110001, India

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