



**IBTEX No. 187 of 2023**

**October 27, 2023**

<b>Currency Watch</b>			
<b>USD</b>	<b>EUR</b>	<b>GBP</b>	<b>JPY</b>
<b>83.24</b>	<b>87.87</b>	<b>100.88</b>	<b>0.55</b>

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **FY 2023 textile enforcement stats show CBP's efforts to protect American industry**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection released fiscal year 2023 textile enforcement statistics today. The data reflects robust enforcement efforts that protect American workers and legitimate importers by taking action against unlawful textile imports that attempt to circumvent U.S. trade laws, including those related to U.S. trade agreements.

In FY 2023, CBP seized more than 5,000 textile shipments valued at more than \$129 million, issued approximately \$67.2 million in commercial fraud penalties, and conducted audits that identified over \$2 million in additional duty owed to CBP.

Additionally, CBP conducted laboratory analysis on 323 shipments, 42% of which were found to be mis-declared or mis-described when arriving to the United States. CBP also conducts verification visits internationally to factories that export textiles and apparel to the United States to verify origin and ensure compliance with preferential duty treatment claimed on imports.

In FY 2023, CBP conducted 57 factory verification visits through its Textile Production Verification Team program resulting in approximately \$340,000 in duties recovered and potential additional enforcement actions.

“The textile industry is crucial for the health of the American economy, employing more than half-a-million people in this country,” said AnnMarie R. Highsmith, Executive Assistant Commissioner for CBP’s Office of Trade. “It’s not lost on us that the work we do has a direct impact on the jobs and livelihoods of so many Americans and their families – it’s why we get up in the morning.”

CBP also has an e-Allegations portal where the public can report to CBP any suspected violations of trade laws or regulations related to imported goods. Given its mission to protect U.S. industries and businesses from unfair trade practices, CBP takes all trade violation allegations seriously. In FY 2023, CBP received 30 textile related e-allegations.

The textile sector is critical to the United States economy, and textiles are one of seven Priority Trade Issues for CBP. The domestic textile industry is the third largest exporter of textile-related products globally. Many U.S.-produced textiles, such as yarn and fabric, are sold to countries that partner in free trade agreements with the U.S., where U.S. yarn and fabric are used to make finished apparel and various textile goods. These goods are often imported into the United States, where they are eligible for duty free benefits if they comply with all the requirements of the applicable trade agreement.

Textiles typically carry a higher duty rate compared to other U.S. imports, with some as high as 32%. Violators try to circumvent trade duties using tactics like misrepresenting the country of origin of textile imports, mislabeling and undervaluing shipments, among other illegal schemes. These types of fraud undermine legitimate trade and threaten U.S. jobs.

CBP will remain vigilant to prevent fraudulent trade practices and penalize individuals and entities violating or circumventing textile tariffs and trade laws, thus ensuring fair competition, safeguarding the U.S. domestic industry, and protecting U.S. economic security.

Source: [ajot.com](http://ajot.com)– Oct 26, 2023

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## **EUROSTAT: Apparel import data for January-August 2023**

The apparel import of the European Union (EU) from the world has declined by 9.61% during the first eight months of 2023, according to data released by EUROSTAT. This represents a decrease from US\$ 67.66 billion in January-August 2022 to US\$ 61.15 billion in January-August 2023. The quantity of apparel imported by the EU also declined by 14.64% during the same period, from 3 billion kilograms to 2.56 billion kilograms.

Bangladesh, the EU's second-largest apparel supplier, saw its exports to the EU decline by 13.71% in value terms during January-August 2023, from US\$ 15.45 billion in January-August 2022 to US\$ 13.33 billion. In terms of quantity, Bangladesh's exports to the EU declined by 15.07% during the same period, from 906.85 million kilograms to 770.17 million kilograms.

China, the EU's largest apparel supplier, saw its exports to the EU decline by 14.13% in value terms during January-August 2023, from US\$ 18.86 billion in January-August 2022 to US\$ 16.19 billion. In terms of quantity, China's exports to the EU declined by 13.05% during the same period, from 800.34 million kilograms to 695.88 million kilograms.

Turkey, the EU's third-largest apparel supplier, saw its exports to the EU decline by 10.89% in value terms during January-August 2023, from US\$ 8.24 billion in January-August 2022 to US\$ 7.35 billion. In terms of quantity, Turkey's exports to the EU declined by 23.23% during the same period, from 318.92 million kilograms to 244.83 million kilograms.

Despite the overall decline in apparel imports from the world, the EU's unit price of apparel imports increased by 5.89% in January-August 2023. This increase was driven by higher prices from China, Turkey, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Bangladesh was the only top supplier to experience a lower unit price during this period.

Overall, the apparel import data for January-August 2023 suggests that the EU apparel market is facing some challenges. However, it is important to note that this data is only preliminary and may be revised in the future.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Oct 26, 2023

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## **Textile Recycling Sees Flurry of Activity**

While the industry awaits legislation to advance textile recycling, the circular actors continue to forge ahead.

Worn Again Technologies, known for its polymer recycling technology, has joined the Alliance of Textile Chemical Recyclers (ACTR). Fronted by Accelerating Circularity, the new organization “aims to provide the textile industry with accurate information on textile chemical recycling through a unified voice” via educational opportunities. The first step, the alliance said, is creating a “dictionary,” so to speak, of common terms to unify and educate the industry on the chemical recycling process.

Worn Again Technologies and members including Renewcell and Lenzing are “committed to delivering sustainable initiatives,” such as ensuring a sustainably sourced supply chain, advocating for chemical recycling textile solutions and assisting brands and retailers in their journey toward reducing their carbon footprints.

“Becoming a member of the ACTR underscores our commitment to revolutionizing the textile industry,” Erik Koep, CEO at Worn Again Technologies, said. “The potential of chemical recycling is vast, promising end products with quality akin to virgin fibers and the opportunity for further reuse. As leading experts in the chemical recycling of textiles, we bring technical know-how that will help drive impactful outreach activities across the industry. Together, we’re not just imagining a world without textile waste, we’re actively helping to build it.”

Another company helping to build a world without textile waste is Hybridworks, a startup looking to make a mark in the market, valued at 4.63 billion in 2022, according to Grand View Research.

The textile recycling company received a \$3.2 million seed-series equity investment from a private Midwest-based investor—marking a “significant milestone” in Hybridworks’ mission to “revolutionize” the industry with energy-efficient and scalable renewable textile technology.

“This investment marks a pivotal moment for Hybridworks,” said Bob Fesmire Sr., Hybridworks CEO. “It not only validates the breakthrough status of our technology, but also strengthens our resolve to drive positive change in the textile industry.”

Founded in 2020, Hybridworks developed a two-phase patent-pending process and custom machinery to recycle blended textiles labeled as end-of-life. The Dayton, Ohio-based company's system separates the cotton from the polyester, resulting in high-integrity cotton that can be respun into new fiber. The recovered polyester is separated into terephthalic acid and ethylene glycol—the two primary chemicals necessary to make polyester and plastic—which are spun into new fiber or mixed with virgin fiber to make fiber with recycled content. The method also saves labor, uses 24 times less water than conventional textile processing systems and lowers energy costs, the company said. Hybridworks is developing a pilot plant that it expects to open in a few months, and is signing partnerships as well.

“Textile recycling solutions have never been more in-demand than at this very moment,” James “Bud” Honshell, Hybridworks’ founder and COO, said. Honshell founded Hybridworks after seeing firsthand the need for textile recycling solutions throughout his 50-year career in the industry. “Hybridworks is well-positioned to establish our next-level technologies as a cornerstone of textile sustainability efforts worldwide.”

The investment follows a \$300,000 pre-seed raise from angel investors and the founder team last year. This new equity investment will allow the company to expand its research and development capabilities and production infrastructure.

Hybridworks’ executives, Honshell and Fesmire, are textile industry veterans with a business relationship that goes back three decades. Fesmire is the chairman of Ellis Corporation and Ludell Water Systems, which claims to be the first industrial laundry manufacturer to venture into water waste management services.

Meanwhile, private investment firm Greybull Stewardship acquired RTCM Holdings, a group of textile recycling and distribution companies, for an undisclosed amount. Former Diamond Mattress president Craig McAndrews has been named CEO of RTCM.

“We are pleased to announce our investment in RTCM, an industry leader in the highly fragmented recycled textiles market. Over its history, RTCM has helped keep millions of pounds of textiles out of landfills and we’re proud to support this environmental mission,” Sasha Kovriga, partner at Greybull, said.

“RTCM’s rich heritage and expertise coupled with its loyal base of customers makes it a strong player in the space, and we’re looking forward to supporting the organization as it scales operations. We’re also excited to welcome Craig McAndrews as president and CEO to the RTCM team. Craig is a seasoned executive who brings a wealth of B2B and direct-to-consumer experience to RTCM.”

Greybull plans on helping the textile recycling company scale by entering emerging markets and expanding automation. RTCM has been in the reclaimed textile space for over 30 years through ventures including Reclaimed Industrial Cleaning Clothes, Recycled Shoes & Clothing, and World Wear Project.

“I am thrilled to step into the role of CEO and join a talented team that is dedicated to making the world a better place,” McAndrews said in a statement. “RTCM is strategically positioned to expand and strengthen its market presence. I look forward to collaborating with the Greybull team to harness the growth opportunities that are ahead.”

Source: [sourcingjournal.com](https://sourcingjournal.com)– Oct 26, 2023

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## **Canada's Seaway Strike Could Cost \$25 Million Per Day**

Another strike is disrupting freight shipments through Canada, but this time the work stoppage is impacting the country's eastern coast.

Roughly 360 workers at St. Lawrence Seaway walked off the job Sunday calling for higher wages, three months after more than 7,400 dockworkers at 30 Canadian West Coast ports went on a two-week strike. The workers operate lock systems, bridges and other infrastructure throughout the seaway, where the disruption will last until an agreement is reached.

While no vessels were waiting to exit the system, more than 120 were queued up to enter as of late Wednesday, according to the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC).

The seaway running through the St. Lawrence River into the Great Lakes is a key economic gateway into and out of Eastern Canada, including the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. In 2022, about 36.3 million metric tons of cargo valued at \$16.7 billion Canadian dollars (\$12.1 billion) passed through the St. Lawrence Seaway's infrastructure, according to Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME).

Mediation between the union and the SLSMC, its government-owned employer, will take place in Toronto on Friday.

"Unifor will comply with the call to mediation and will continue to support our members on the picket line while talks take place," the labor organization said in a statement. "Our goal remains to achieve a fair and reasonable collective agreement for those who work along the St. Lawrence Seaway."

According to the SLSMC, Unifor is seeking wage increases patterned after the current United Auto Workers (UAW) strike in the U.S., which is pushing for pay bumps of 36 percent for workers at Ford, General Motors and Stellantis.

A 72-hour strike notice was officially filed last Wednesday, and despite sustained negotiating efforts, the parties didn't reach a resolution by the Saturday 11:59 p.m. deadline.

“We’re seeing a lot of these strikes. I don’t believe this to be one of the last strikes that we’ll see,” said James Vanderloo, head of the Milwaukee bureau at freight forwarder OEC Group. “These things tend to be contagious, especially with economic conditions as they are.”

Vanderloo told Sourcing Journal that the closure impacts both Canada and the U.S., estimating that cargo transported via the waterway represents roughly 50 percent of their total cross-border traffic.

The seaway is the prime route for ships carrying vital exports such as grain and iron ore, as well as fuel for transportation, fertilizer for crops and other goods connected to factories and farms in the U.S. Midwest.

Unlike the draft restrictions affecting the Panama Canal, there aren’t many alternatives for ships looking to circumvent the St. Lawrence Seaway, Vanderloo said, particularly those bringing cargo directly to the Midwest.

One option that would traditionally be a workaround for these ships is the Mississippi River, but water levels are lower than usual, slowing the movement of vessels upstream, according to Vanderloo.

And if the ship is internationally owned and already leaving a U.S. port, then they won’t be able to enter the Mississippi under the Jones Act. The World War I-era legislation requires that any cargo traveling by sea between two U.S. ports must sail on an American-owned ship, built in the U.S. and with a majority crew of U.S. citizens.

“Canada does not have the same requirements of the Jones Act,” said Vanderloo. “They allow international ships to go in their portion of the waterways. But when it’s all locked at that end, and with the inability for those ships to enter the U.S. waters via the Mississippi, again, there’s just not much place for them to go.”

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which has urged the government to intervene to end the strike because of the risk it poses to the economy, estimates the seaway is responsible for 34 million Canadian dollars (\$25 million) per day.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is “very concerned” about the strike, according to Jasmin Guénette, the association’s vice president of national affairs.

“Small businesses were seriously affected by the long strike at B.C. ports and the supply chain disruptions it caused this summer. The last thing the Canadian economy needs right now is another strike blocking a busy trade route and impacting businesses once again,” Guénette said in a statement. “Small businesses are already dealing with inflation, labor shortages, heavy debt loads and weak demand. They cannot suffer from another strike that would impact their bottom line.”

Vanderloo agreed with the CFIB.

“[Small businesses] may not have the cash flow or the stock to be able to withstand a three-week to a month-long delay,” Vanderloo said. “If they’re trying meet certain deadlines and trying to produce things before the end of the year, it kind of puts them in a tough situation, in that regard.”

Source: [sourcingjournal.com](https://sourcingjournal.com)– Oct 26, 2023

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## **S Korea, Ethiopia open textile research centre in Addis Ababa**

Ethiopia and South Korea recently launched a textile research centre in Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian-Korean Textile Techno Park, located at the Bole Lemi Industry Zone, will offer advanced training and laboratory services to customers in the sector, an Ethiopian state-controlled media outlet reported.

Ethiopia's vast human resource and market demand, inadequate manufacturing industry and strategic location have created a conducive environment for export-oriented manufacturers, said Ethiopian state minister for industry Hasen Mohammed at the launch event.

He hoped that experienced and skilled South Korean experts in technology, manufacturing industry, energy and infrastructure can help further Ethiopia's industrialisation.

The memorandum of understanding for the research centre was signed in May 2016.

The Bole Lemi Park is an industrial base that hosts factories, including those of textiles.

There are now 12 parks in Ethiopia with a total revenue of \$1 billion, according to the country's Industrial Park Development Corporation.

South Korea started work on a similar research centre in Uzbekistan last month. Financed by the former's development aid, the facility is located in the Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – Oct 27, 2023

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## **Over 85% of global brands set decarbonisation targets amid new laws**

Over 85 per cent of major global brands have declared decarbonisation targets for their supply chains. Yet, with more than 35 new sustainability-linked legislations expected to be enforced globally in the next two to four years, many brands may find it challenging to adapt.

Raw materials constitute up to two-thirds of a brand's climate impact. Brands that act now to secure sustainable raw materials stand to gain an average net profit increase of 6 per cent over five years, according to a report titled 'Sustainable Raw Materials Will Drive Profitability for Fashion and Apparel Brands' conducted by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and in association with Textile Exchange and Quantis.

The findings also reveal that just 15 per cent of luxury brands currently comply with all the guidelines of a flagship sustainability-linked regulation, putting up to 8 per cent of their earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) at risk.

The report proposes a six-point materials strategy for brands, focusing on traceability, science-backed approaches, diversification, triple-win business cases, strengthened supply chain relationships, and ingrained organisational knowledge and tools.

Failure to act could see the demand-and-supply gap for sustainable raw materials rise to as much as 133 million tons by 2030, affecting both the industry and the planet.

Source: [fibre2fashion.com](https://www.fibre2fashion.com) – Oct 27, 2023

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## **GCC members, China keen to fast conclude FTA talks: Bahraini minister**

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member nations and China are keen to quickly conclude the China-GCC free trade agreement (FTA), according to Bahraini minister of industry and commerce Abdulla Fakhro.

Fakhro met Chinese commerce minister Wang Wentao in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, recently. The aim of the planned deal is to further reinforce economic and trade ties between both the sides.

Both sides have acknowledged the substantial value and benefits that such an agreement will contribute to their respective economies, Fakhro was quoted as saying by state-controlled Chinese media outlets.

Ten rounds of talks were held between 2005 and 2022 regarding the planned FTA. An agreement has been reached on the most issues concerning trade in goods. Negotiations on trade in services have been launched, according to the Chinese ministry.

Riyadh-headquartered GCC is a political and economic union of six Arab states—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The trade value between China and GCC countries was \$315.8 billion last year.

"A free trade agreement can serve as a robust foundation for future agreements, including those related to a wide range of aspects such as bilateral investment agreements and knowledge sharing. It lays the groundwork for the emergence of various other agreements in the future," said Fakhro.

Bahrain is willing to deepen its cooperation in jointly developing the Belt and Road Initiative with China, he added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com— Oct 27, 2023

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## **RCEP offers Cambodia conducive platform for structural transformation**

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is offering Cambodia a conducive platform for structural economic transformation and diversifying from more concentrated textile and garment exports, according to a study carried out by Jakarta-based Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

“RCEP will accelerate global value chain (GVC) effects and regional integration through the simplification of the rules of origin. It will facilitate business activities in GVCs in terms of the movement of goods. Under RCEP, there is an agreement for a single Restrictiveness of Rules of Origin (ROO) framework that could be applied across the 15 member countries in RCEP,” the research paper, titled ‘Potential Impact of RCEP and Structural Transformation in Cambodia’ noted.

“Current studies highlight that the co-sharing rule is less restrictive across other forms of ROO rules and regulations. RCEP allows for a co-sharing rule under the ROO framework,” it said.

Businesses under RCEP need to show that a product has the regional value content level of 40 per cent or has undergone a change in tariff heading at the four-digit HS code level classification.

“The single ROO framework under RCEP will have important implications for GVC activities in the region in terms of greater intra-industry trade and investment, and it is likely to create more value-added activities in the region. RCEP also includes a flexible provision for an ROO framework in terms of tariff differentials, where an importing party applies different tariff treatments for the same originating good,” the paper said.

The agreement will play a key role in the country’s dream of turning a high-income country by 2050, it said.

Comparative advantage analysis for China, Japan, and South Korea shows that Cambodia’s exports to CJK are in consumer final products, which are labour-intensive in terms of ‘cut, make, and trim’ in clothing exports.

“It is important to develop more functional service activities in garments and export such as branding, marketing, and sourcing that will allow the textile and garment industry in Cambodia to move up the value chain,” the study report was quoted as saying by a Cambodian news outlet.

Hong Kong’s entry into RCEP will be a game changer for Cambodia’s economic growth plans, it added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 27, 2023

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## **Bangladesh's Garment Industry Diversifies Export Markets**

Bangladesh's garment industry is diversifying its export markets and reducing its dependence on Europe and the United States, the traditional primary markets. This strategy has paid off, with positive results.

The share of apparel exports to non-traditional markets, such as Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Australia, is growing and becoming more significant. Data from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) shows that non-traditional markets accounted for 19.3% of the \$11.6 billion garment exports in the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2023-24, up from 17.4% in the same quarter last year.

Moreover, garment exports to these non-traditional markets grew by a remarkable 25% year-on-year, while growth in Europe, Bangladesh's biggest market, was only 11.4%. In contrast, growth in the United States, the second-biggest market, was much lower, at about 3%.

One key reason for this shift is that exporters are looking for new opportunities as Europe's market is saturating. Again, buyers in non-traditional markets are shifting away from Chinese suppliers.

The diversification of Bangladesh's garment export markets is a positive development for the industry and the country as a whole. It reduces Bangladesh's reliance on a few key markets, making the industry more resilient to shocks. It also opens up new opportunities for exporters to grow their businesses.

The government is supporting the diversification of export markets through initiatives such as export promotion campaigns and trade shows.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Oct 24, 2023

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal to attend G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka, Japan**

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal will attend the Group of Seven (G7) Trade Ministers' Meeting in Osaka, Japan from 28-29 October, 2023. The Minister will also have bilateral meetings with a few G7 countries, invitee countries and a few International organisations such as WTO, on the sidelines of the outreach programs.

Trade Ministers of G7 Member States hold an annual meeting with the aim to meet the current global challenges related to Trade and Investment and to set the course for a better future.

Under its Presidency this year for the G7 Trade Ministers meeting to be held during 28-29 October 2023, Japan has invited India along with a very few other invitee countries (Australia, Chile, Indonesia, and Kenya) to participate in the outreach program to be held on 28 October. Apart from them, International organisations such as WTO, ERIA and OECD have also been invited.

This year, Japan has selected contemporary topics for the outreach program namely, "How to enhance Supply Chain Resilience" and "Promote Trade and Sustainability- environment, Development and digital, including prospects for WTO MC13".

The G7 is an intergovernmental political forum consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, France, Canada and Germany. Additionally, the European Union (EU) is a "non-enumerated member".

G7 meetings are organized around shared values of pluralism, liberal democracy, and representative governments. G7 Members constitute 10% of the world's population but cater to around 40% of World GDP.

Source: pib.gov.in – Oct 26, 2023

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## **Indian Garment Production Falls 22.6% Between April & Aug**

Indian garment industry production declined sharply by 22.6 percent year on year between April and August this year

Data from the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) on the Index of Industrial Production for Textiles and Apparels informs that the garment index fell 22.6 percent in the first five months of fiscal 2024

“However, the garment index fell slower by 17.1 percent in August 2023, while textile index rose marginally by 1.6 percent, when compared with the same month of previous year” the CITI data said.

Experts attribute the fall in manufacturing in the garments industry to slowdown in both domestic and export market demand and fear that there might be job losses if this situation continues into next year.

Source: [textileinsights.in](http://textileinsights.in)– Oct 26, 2023

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## **India's RMG exports to MEA hit \$2.68bn in 2022-23**

India's ready-made garment (RMG) exports to the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region reached \$2.68 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23, and over \$774.5 million in the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2023-24).

According to a recent report by the Research & Promotion Department of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), the total RMG exports from India to GCC countries was reported to be \$1.83 billion on year 2022-23 and over \$541 million up to July 2023.

To capitalise on the growing RMG export market to the MEA region, the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) is hosting a prestigious B2B trade show called 'Brands of India' at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Halls 6 & 7 from November 27 to 29, 2023.

### **Largest importer**

The UAE was the largest importer of Indian RMG in the MEA region in 2022-23, with imports valued at \$1.21 billion. During the first seven months of 2023-24, UAE imports of Indian RMG reached \$368.78 million.

Supported by the Embassy of India, the Dubai Textile Merchants Association (TEXMAS), Dubai Chamber International, and Readymade Garments Merchants Group Dubai, 'Brands of India' is set to be India's largest apparel brands show in the Middle East. The trade show will bring together over 350 top Indian apparel brands, showcasing a diverse array of collections encompassing Indian ethnic wear, Western wear, and Fusion Wear across Men's wear, Women's wear, and Kid's wear categories.

'Brands of India' has been meticulously designed to serve as the primary destination for wholesalers, retailers, distributors, importers, and departmental chains from the Middle East and Africa region to conveniently connect with leading Indian apparel brands. The trade show will feature over 350 brands in Men's wear, Women's wear, and Kid's wear occupying 255 stalls and spread across 70,000 sq ft area at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Renowned brands such as Louis Philippe, BIBA, Soch, Stori, Cover Story, Sin, Ancestry, Indifusion, Touch, Dollar, Gini and Jony, Rachna Udyog, Siyaram, A-La Mode, Nostrum, Body Mark, and many others are participating in the show.

### Timely and important

Rajesh Masand, President of CMAI, said: “The 'Brands of India' trade show is a timely and important initiative for the Indian apparel industry. The Middle East & Africa are key export markets for our products, and this event will provide a unique platform for Indian brands to showcase their latest collections to a global audience of buyers. We are confident that the show will be a success and will help to further boost India's RMG exports to the region.”

Jayesh Shah, Vice President of CMAI, says: “The 'Brands of India' trade show is a testament to the growing strength and vitality of the Indian apparel industry. We are excited to bring together over 350 top Indian apparel brands under one roof to showcase their diverse and innovative collections to the world. The show is expected to attract a large number of buyers from the MEA region, and we are confident that it will generate significant business opportunities for Indian brands. We are also grateful for the support of the Embassy of India and the Dubai Textile Merchants Association in making this event possible.”

“Indian apparel brands have attained competitive pricing while adhering to international quality standards. However, currently, a majority of India's apparel exports are produced under the labels of buyers. Hence, there was a pressing need to establish a platform for the robust promotion of Indian apparel brands in the global marketplace. Aligned with the Government of India's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, the Brands of India show by CMAI represents a significant stride in offering the initial platform for both National and Regional apparel brands to venture into international opportunities,” Rahul Mehta, Chief Mentor, CMAI, further added.

### Immersive experience

'Brands of India' promises an immersive experience where visitors can connect with Indian apparel brands and manufacturers, fostering new business relationships and exploring potential collaborations for mutual growth.

The strategic choice of Dubai as the tradeshow's location is purposeful, leveraging the city's global reputation for exceptional infrastructure, connectivity, free trade zones, and business-friendly policies, making it the optimal epicentre for international trade.

Some selected overseas buyers will be provided with privilege facilities such as one-night complimentary hotel stay, pre-fixed one-on-one meetings with participants of interest in Men's wear, Women's wear and Kids wear - casuals, ethnic and western formals, Arabic interpreter on request, access to on-site VIP lounge, and much more.

Some of the leading names to visit the Brands of India show include Lulu Group, Landmark Group, Apparel Group, Yellow Flower Group, Snow White Garments, BMA International, City Centre & Bait Awladona Co. (Kuwait) to name a few.

Source: tradearabia.com – Oct 26, 2023

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## **Tiruppur garment exporters share details of sustainability initiatives**

The Tiruppur Exporters Association (TEA) is hopeful of having a session next year at the annual meeting of the Textile Exchange to share details of the sustainability initiatives taken by the garment exporters in Tiruppur district.

The Tiruppur Exporters Association (TEA) is hopeful of having a session next year at the annual meeting of the Textile Exchange to share details of the sustainability initiatives taken by the garment exporters in Tiruppur district.

Some of the office-bearers of the association who attended the annual meeting of the Exchange recently in London had informally shared information about zero liquid discharge, renewable energy generation, recycling of water and other resources, etc with the participants.

“The TEA became a part of the Exchange a couple of months ago and the members of the Exchange learnt at the London meeting how the garment exporters in Tiruppur are ahead in sustainability and environmental initiatives,” the association said.

Source: thehindu.com– Oct 26, 2023

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## **Tamil Nadu government approves six mini textile parks**

The Tamil Nadu government has so far approved setting up of six mini textile parks in the State and eight more are awaiting approval.

Textile Commissioner, Tamil Nadu government, M. Vallalar, told The Hindu that there are at least 100 expression of interest received for the scheme. “We have given life to the scheme that was dormant since 2015. It will start gaining momentum now,” he said.

The scheme offers 50 % or ₹2.5 crores subsidy to develop common facilities in a mini textile park. The park can come up on minimum two acres and with just three units. The stakeholders should identify land, form a special purpose vehicle, and submit a detailed project report.

Across the State, about 20 DPRs have been received for the scheme. “There are eight project from in and around Madurai. In Coimbatore, the slowdown has affected the textile industry and hence the response is gradually picking up,” he said.

Coimbatore District Collector Kranthi Kumar Pati held a meeting with industry representatives here on Wednesday, October 26, to explain details of the scheme. Officials, who were part of the meeting, said the scheme earlier mandated requirement of 10 acres and 10 industries. This has been reduced now.

Textile spinning mills will require more space and hence, the scheme will benefit those in the post-spinning operations, such as weaving, garmenting or finishing. If the park is set up in backward blocks of the district, the units can avail of capital subsidy from the MSME Department. Some of the weaving units in Annur area have evinced interest, they added.

Source: thehindu.com– Oct 26, 2023

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## **Dyed knitted fabric import glut worries TN textile units**

The continuing increase in import of dyed knitted fabrics, despite import duty, is a matter of concern for Tamil Nadu's textile industry, says Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor of Coimbatore-based Indian Texpreneurs Federation (ITF).

Dyed knitted fabrics are used to make all types of garments. During the first five months of the current fiscal year, India imported knitted fabrics valued at \$276 million (₹2,270 crore) — or ₹450 crore a month on average — predominantly from China. Dyed knitted fabrics in one HS code alone accounts for 30 per cent of such imports, he added.

The influx of dyed knitted fabrics directly impacts various sub-sectors within Tamil Nadu's textile manufacturing industry, including spinning, knitting, and processing, he told businessline. ITF covers the entire value chain of textile manufacturing.

“We have huge production capacity in our region and elsewhere in India. Several affiliated manufacturing companies have expressed growing concern over the detrimental effects of these imports on domestic manufacturing of yarn and fabric.

Tirupur manufactures around ₹35,000 crore worth of knitwear apparel — t-shirts, inner wear, women's leggings and shorts — for exports and ₹20,000 crore\* worth products for the domestic market.

### Local makers hit

To produce the Rs 50,000 crore worth of finished material, the basic materials like yarn, fabric and the processing capacity to dye them are available adequately in and around Tirupur. However, when dyed knitted fabric directly enters the market, it affects the units in the spinning, dyeing processing, knitting, and compacting sectors.

“The imported dyed fabric eliminates all the processes that have been done in and around Tirupur and Coimbatore with the involvement of multiple units,” he explained.

“Our cluster can make ₹15,000 crore worth of such fabric,” he said.

A preliminary study has shown that a majority of the imports are facilitated through traders who, in turn, distribute the fabric to domestic garment manufacturers in key hubs such as Coimbatore and Tirupur.

### Mislabelling worry

The retail selling price of these dyed fabrics fluctuates between ₹320 and ₹350 per kg in the domestic garment market. Given the 20 per cent import duty, the landed cost of the fabrics is concerning. Manufacturing at such price points appears untenable in any part of the world, he said.

“It is imperative that we scrutinise the materials used and ensure the imports are valued correctly, avoiding potential malpractices like under-invoicing or mislabelling with different materials and HS codes,” he said.

“With numerous spinning mills, and knitting fabric and processing units in our state producing similar fabric, this surge in imports poses a significant threat to TN textile manufacturers. We must undertake a rigorous examination of this issue and present a detailed report to both the Union and state governments, soliciting their attention and assistance,” he said.

Source: timesofindia.com– Oct 26, 2023

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## **Textile units embrace digital printing**

Ahmedabad: Textile processing units in Ahmedabad have been grappling with dwindling order volumes for nearly a year. High input costs and limited orders have left these process houses operating at just 60% of their capacity. But, these units have recently begun embracing innovative technologies to navigate these challenging waters.

Naresh Sharma, former VP of the Ahmedabad Textile Processors' Association, said, "The cotton price volatility has impacted the entire value chain, making traders wary of holding significant inventories.

This leads to fewer orders. "Around 50 process houses have purchased or placed orders for these machines in the past three months. These digital machines, mostly imported, cost between Rs 45 lakh and Rs 2.50 crore and can print orders as small as 4,000m."

P R Kankariya, chairman of Anupam Creation Pvt Ltd in Narol, said, "We probably installed the first digital printing machine in Ahmedabad five years ago. The machine offers better results in terms of quality, a key requirement in the export market, so more companies are adopting this technology." Aniket Agrawal, director of Prem Process House, stressed the need to adopt new technology due to rapidly changing fashion trends and intense competition in the market.

Source: timesofindia.com– Oct 26, 2023

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