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USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
87.22	94.57	112.67	0.59

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Australia's apparel imports rise 9.6% to $4.97 bn in Jul-Jan

Australia's imports of apparel and clothing accessories (classified under code 84) increased by 9.64 per cent to Au$7.852 billion (~$4.971 billion) during July 2024–January 2025, the first seven months of fiscal 2024–25 (July–June), according to the latest trade data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The country imported apparel and clothing accessories worth Au$7.161 billion during the same period in 2023–24. There was a significant month-on-month (MoM) increase in imports during January 2025.

Imports of textile yarn, fabrics, and made-up articles (classified under code 65) also rose by 8.62 per cent, reaching Au$2.771 billion (~$1.754 billion) in the first seven months of the current fiscal, compared to Au$2.551 billion in the same period last fiscal. Conversely, fibre imports (classified under code 26) fell by 9.45 per cent to Au$67 million, down from Au$74 million during the period under review.

In January 2025, imports of apparel and clothing accessories increased by 9.21 per cent to Au$1.244 billion, up from Au$1.139 billion in January 2024. Imports of textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, and related products rose to Au$410 million in January 2025, compared to Au$367 million in January 2024. Meanwhile, fibre imports declined to Au$9 million from Au$10 million in January 2024.

Meanwhile, Australia's exports of textile fibres (code 26) were valued at Au$4.174 billion (~$2.642 billion) during July 2024–January 2025, marking a 13.52 per cent decrease from Au$4.827 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year. Exports in January 2025 fell by 23.61 per cent to Au$262 million, compared to Au$343 million in January 2024.

In fiscal 2023–24, Australia's apparel and clothing imports totalled Au$12.231 billion (~$7.748 billion), a decline of 5.2 per cent from Au$12.903 billion recorded in 2022–23. Similarly, imports of textile yarn and fabrics dropped by 9.40 per cent, from Au$4.825 billion in 2022–23 to Au$4.371 billion (~$2.767 billion) in 2023–24.

Australia exported textile fibres worth Au$7.053 billion (~$4.465 billion) in 2023–24, representing a decline of 13.97 per cent from Au$8.199 billion in 2022–23. Notably, Australia is a significant producer and exporter of cotton.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 08, 2025

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German manufacturing orders drop 7% in January 2025: Destatis

Real (price-adjusted) new orders in Germany's manufacturing sector fell by 7.0 per cent in January 2025 compared to the previous month, according to provisional data released by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis).

Excluding large-scale orders, new orders declined by 2.7 per cent month-on-month.

The broader three-month comparison from November 2024 to January 2025 showed a 2.4 per cent decline in new orders compared to the previous three-month period. However, when large-scale orders were excluded, there was a slight increase of 1.0 per cent.

A key factor behind the decline in new orders was the sharp contraction in the 'manufacture of machinery and equipment' sector, which saw a 10.7 per cent drop from December 2024 after seasonal and calendar adjustments, as per Destatis.

The intermediate goods sector also reported a 1.4 per cent decline, while capital goods orders fell significantly by 11.0 per cent, and consumer goods orders were down by 2.0 per cent.

German manufacturers saw a steep decline in domestic orders, which plummeted by 13.2 per cent in January. Foreign orders also weakened, falling 2.3 per cent, with demand from the euro area dropping 2.5 per cent and orders from outside the euro area decreasing 2.3 per cent.

Despite the downturn in new orders, real turnover in manufacturing (seasonally and calendar adjusted) recorded a slight increase of 0.4 per cent in January 2025 compared to December 2024. Year-on-year, however, turnover was 0.9 per cent lower than in January 2024. Revised figures for December 2024 showed a 0.5 per cent increase in turnover from November 2024, an improvement from the previously reported -0.1 per cent.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 10, 2025

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China's foreign trade remains stable in early 2025

China's foreign trade remained stable in the first two months of 2025, with total goods trade volume amounting to 6.54 trillion yuan (~$ 912.07 billion), according to official statistics.

This represents a moderate decline of 1.2 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. However, after adjusting for incomparable factors, China's total goods imports and exports registered a 1.7 per cent year-on-year growth.

Exports showed positive momentum, rising by 3.4 per cent from a year earlier to reach 3.88 trillion yuan. On the other hand, imports saw a decline of 7.3 per cent year-on-year.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 08, 2025

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Tariff or No Tariff, Current Cotton Price Drops Not Surprising

Cotton found a rollercoaster ride on the week, slipping down to the 63-cent level that we forecast. But a bit of profit taking on the heels of a solid export sales report saw a triple-digit price increase back to the 65-66 cent prior lows. May fell to a low of 62.54 low at midweek and settled the week at 66.07. The rally then ran into the nine-day moving average in the 65.75 cent area on Thursday and could go no higher.

However, the 62.50 cent level should provide excellent support with price resistance at 66.25, additional resistance at 66.75 cents, and more at the 67.75 cent level.

Yet, the nearby support points should be considered as weak support. Trading above 67.75 next week or anytime on the horizon will be very difficult. Yet, for now, the 66.25 cent level offers strong resistance. Thus, for now, the very wide six-cent trading range of 62.50-68.50 is in play with the likelihood of the narrow two-cent 65-67 cent range seeing most of the trading.

Demand remains the issue, nothing else.

It is interesting to note that a few blamed Trump by name for cotton's demise down to 63 cents, but a sizable number in the market had predicted a slippage down to that level. It is noteworthy that cotton's rebound did not smoke out those same ones to thank him for a return to 66+ cents.

Generally, those who are tossing political blame to Trump have completely missed the fact that cotton world trade has changed. The U.S. is not the big boy on the cotton block it once was, and the Brazilian/Chinese collaboration is many times more important to U.S. agriculture than any tariff talk could ever be.

In reality, world cotton trade is not operating in a free trade vacuum, thus the tariffs are neither affecting sales of cotton nor directly affecting cotton prices. Again, the price failure down to 63 cents was written all over the market, well predicted, and not surprising.

The On Call report was (and is) as historically negative toward cotton as ever. The industry and USDA, as well, had previously noted that Chinese imports were going down, not up, well before the report's release. Too, if merchants had been leery of cotton tariffs, they would have prepositioned cotton in China. That has not been the case all year.

Yet, recall we have suggested cotton sales to China could be made – not because they need cotton or even need U.S. cotton, but rather because the world cotton price is now about 50% of the Chinese production cost. If the Chinese wish to make the economic decision to buy U.S., a tariff will not matter.

Exports proved to be very strong on the week, as prices slipped back to yearly lows. Next week's sales should also prove to be just as strong. Net export sales of upland totaled 241,500 bales, while shipments made another yearly high at 334,000 bales. The past month has seen 17-18 countries in the market – a very good sign. But still far too many countries are buying only small quantities.

Commenting that export sales and shipments are good is relative to the point that when compared to historical levels, they remain low. The weekly cotton On Call report continues to suggest cotton prices have extremely little room to move higher. On-call sales and on-call purchases are essentially equal, meaning there is no pent-up demand for cotton and little forward buying – both very negative for any price advance.

USDA's March supply demand report will be released Tuesday, Mar. 11. The New York Cotton Roundtable group will discuss the report at 1:30 PM Central time, following the report's release that morning. To listen to the discussion, call 605-313-5148 and enter code 571052 when prompted. You will have the opportunity to ask questions.

An archived recording will be available on Facebook, X (Twitter), and AgMarketNetwork.com. BASF – and its FiberMax and Stoneville cottonseed brands – is the sponsor.

Source: cottongrower.com– Mar 07, 2025

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Sri Lanka's garment exports up 22.7% to $428 million in Jan 2025

Garment exports from Sri Lanka reached $428.4 million in January 2025, reflecting a 22.7 per cent increase compared to the $349.1 million exported in the corresponding month of 2024, according to statistics released by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

During January 2025, textile exports from Sri Lanka increased by 3.9 per cent, totalling $23.9 million. During the same period, exports of other manufactured textile articles remained stable at $9.1 million, as reported by the Central Bank.

The combined exports of textiles, garments, and other manufactured textile articles accounted for 55.67 per cent of all industrial exports from Sri Lanka during this period. Total textile product exports amounted to $461.3 million in January 2025, while Sri Lanka's overall industrial exports were valued at $828.3 million during the period.

In terms of imports, textiles and textile articles saw a 3.6 per cent rise, totalling $232.7 million, while imports of clothing and accessories increased by 23.4 per cent, amounting to $22.6 million in January 2025.

During the last year 2024, the island nation's garment exports totalled $4,660.1 million, showing a 4.9 per cent increase. Sri Lanka had also exported textiles of $294.5 million and other manufactured textile articles of $106.4 million during the year. The country imported textiles and textile articles of $2,847.1 million and clothing and accessories of $225.8 million in 2024.

In 2023, Sri Lanka's garment exports were valued at $4,440.6 million, a 19 per cent decrease from the $5,483.1 million exported in 2022. Meanwhile, imports of textiles and textile articles dropped by 22.6 per cent to $2,371.2 million, and imports of clothing and accessories declined by 21.1 per cent, totalling $170.0 million in 2023.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 09, 2025

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USA: Retail Jobs Declined in February

Retail lost 6,300 jobs in February, after gaining 29,500 in January.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said on Friday that employment at food and beverage retailers fell by 15,000, offset by job gains of 10,000 at warehouse clubs, supercenters and other general merchandise retailers. It did not provide specifics regarding job losses and gains at fashion retailers. In related hiring, transportation and warehousing employment gained 18,000 jobs in February. The retail trade job losses followed two months of gains in the sector.

In the first full month under U.S. President Donald J. Trump, total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 151,000. Federal government employment fell by 10,000. More declines are likely in March following the layoffs at federal agencies as the Department of Government Efficiency continues of evaluate the streamlining of the federal government's infrastructure. Economists at Wells Fargo in a research note said that state and local government employment "more than offset" the decline in the federal workforce, with private sector hiring "broadened out in February."

The unemployment rate inched up by one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1 percent. The economists noted that optimism about a labor market acceleration has faded, in part possibly against the backdrop of the rising probability of a major trade war. On average, employers have added 200,000 over the past three months. And the 151,000 jobs added in February fell short of expectations. Even consumers expect job growth to slow.

The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index fell by 7 points in February to 98.3. Both components of the Index declined, with the Presentations Index down 3.4 points to 136.5 and the Expectations Index, a measure of outlook six months out, dropped 9.3 points to 72.9. Stephanie Guichard, The Conference Board's senior economist, global indicators, said pessimism about future employment prospects worsened in February, reaching a ten-month high. And she noted that survey responses reflected a "sharp increase in the mentions of trade and tariffs, back to a level unseen since 2019."

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Mar 07, 2025

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BCC downgrades UK growth as firms face rising costs & trade challenges

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) has downgraded the UK's growth forecast for 2025, projecting GDP to expand by just 0.9 per cent, down from an earlier estimate of 1.3 per cent. The revision reflects increasing cost pressures on businesses, along with global economic uncertainties and persistent inflation.

Business investment is expected to remain weak as firms contend with the impact of National Insurance increases and a higher minimum wage. The forecast for business investment in 2025 has been reduced to 0.6 per cent from 0.9 per cent, though a recovery to 1.8 per cent is expected in 2026, the BCC said in a release.

Exports are also predicted to decline, with the BCC forecasting a 0.5 per cent contraction in 2025, compared to an earlier expectation of 0.2 per cent growth. Challenges in trading with the EU and broader global uncertainties continue to weigh on trade prospects. Imports are expected to remain flat this year before rising modestly in 2026.

David Bharier, head of research at the BCC, highlighted the mounting difficulties businesses are facing. "Our downgrade to the economic outlook is reflective of the severe pressures piling up on businesses right now. UK firms are facing a double whammy of rising domestic taxation and a potential global trade war. Businesses are telling us that the rise in National Insurance and the minimum wage will increase costs, stall investment, and cause them to rethink their workforce plans."

Inflation is now expected to remain above the Bank of England's target until late 2027, with the consumer price index (CPI) forecast at 2.8 per cent in Q4 2025, up from 2.2 per cent in the previous estimate. Meanwhile, interest rates are projected to remain higher for longer, with the base rate expected to be 4.25 per cent by the end of 2025 before falling to 4 per cent in 2026.

Vicky Pryce, chair of the BCC Economic Advisory Council, warned of a difficult year ahead. "This is going to be a long and challenging year for UK businesses. The BCC's forecast shows an economy struggling without the secure foundations to kickstart business investment. Inflation will continue to be stubborn this year, forcing the Bank of England to keep interest rates relatively high. Global uncertainties will add further dark clouds to the economic climate."

The BCC emphasised that businesses cannot wait for long-term government strategies and need immediate support to invest, recruit, and trade. While the AI boom could offer new opportunities, small businesses require assistance in adopting new technologies to remain competitive.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 08, 2025

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Vietnam's textile & garment exports up 9.3% to $5.6 bn in Jan-Feb 2025

Vietnam's textile and garment exports (excluding yarn and fibre) grew by 9.3 per cent year-on-year (YoY), reaching $5.633 billion during January-February 2025, according to the Customs IT and Statistics Department of the General Department of Customs under Vietnam's Ministry of Finance.

During the first two months of 2025, Vietnam's yarn exports dropped by 2.8 per cent year-on-year to $648.158 million. In volume terms, yarn exports increased by 2.3 per cent, with the country exporting 284,389 tonnes of yarn in the first two months of 2025.

On a month-on-month basis, textile and garment exports decreased 23.5 per cent to $2.440 billion in February 2025 over the previous month. Yarn exports gained by 15.2 per cent in value and 16.5 per cent in volume in February 2025. The country exported 153,092-ton yarn, valued at $347.058 million during the month.

The United States remained the largest market for Vietnam's textile and garment exports, accounting for 43.63 per cent of the total, equivalent to $2.458 billion in the first two months of 2025. Japan and South Korea were also key markets, with exports amounting to $689.718 million and $536.283 billion, respectively.

For Vietnam's yarn exports, China was the largest buyer, accounting for 43.36 per cent of the country's total yarn shipments, valued at $281.834 million. Yarn exports to India were valued at $13.253 million during January-February 2025.

On the import side, Vietnam's cotton imports rose 9.6 per cent year-on-year to $526.953 million in January-February 2025. The volume of imported cotton increased 23.9 per cent year-on-year to 301,899 tonnes. The country also imported 189,337 tonnes of yarn, valued at $405.833 million, reflecting a 14.8 per cent increase in value and in 12.8 per cent in volume. Fabric imports totalled $2.110 billion, up 7.5 per cent year-on-year.

During 2024, Vietnam had exported textiles and garments worth $37.036 billion, 11.2 per cent up from the shipment of the previous year 2023. It had also exported 1.873-million-ton yarn valued at $4.407 billion in the last year. Yarn exports gained 1.2 per cent in value and 5.0 per cent in volume. The country also imported 1.503-million-ton cotton, valued at $2.884 million. The value and volume grew 1.8 per cent and 12.3 per cent year-on-year respectively. It also imported 1.243 million tonnes of yarn, valued at $2.713 billion, reflecting a 23.8 per cent increase in value and 18.1 per cent rise in volume. Fabric imports reached $14.905 billion, up 14.5 per cent year-on-year.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 10, 2025

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Tax rationalisation must for boosting exports: Pakistan Textile Exporter Association

ISLAMABAD: The value-added textile and clothing sector has asked the government to lower tax rates to boost export competitiveness.

This demand was part of a string of proposals submitted to the finance ministry by the Pakistan Textile Exporter Association (PTEA) for incorporation in the budget 2025-26.

The value-added manufacturers urged the government to remove the double taxation on the export sector. The exports have started declining, worrying industry players.

In the last budget, the association maintained that banks collected 1pc advance tax against export proceeds, which is declared as a minimum tax instead of a final tax. Simultaneously, an advance tax at the rate of 1pc has been levied through the insertion of sub-section (6C) in section 147.

However, local suppliers are liable to pay a 1pc advance tax on local supplies of textile goods and 0.5pc for yarn traders. The treatment meted out to the exporters is discriminatory and against the principles of equity and natural justice, according to PTEA.

The PTEA demands that advance tax on export proceeds be reduced to 1pc to ease the financial burden on exporters. Moreover, the final tax regime should be restored for the exporters, and the super tax should be abolished.

The current Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) ceiling through EXIM Bank is capped at Rs235 billion. This should be increased in phases to at least Rs1.2 trillion to meet capital requirements. This expansion is crucial to enhancing textile exports to $35bn by 2030.

The excessive protection provided to local polyester fibre manufacturers has caused significant losses to the value-added export sector and the same must be eliminated to ensure competitiveness and also enable Pakistani exporters to tap synthetic valued-added garments, which has the highest demand and consumption globally.

It was pointed out that reducing duties in line with regional competitors — Vietnam, China, Turkiye — would enhance the value-added textile sector's ability to compete globally and attract synthetic garment exports.

The cash withdrawals should be capped at 10pc based on a company's previous year's annual turnover to encourage digital transactions.

It was proposed to allow back-to-back LCs against master LCs with a mandatory 35pc value addition to promote value-added exports without additional securities.

Source: dawn.com– Mar 09, 2025

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NATIONAL NEWS

India, E.U. to hold next round of FTA talks from March 10 amid Trump tariff threats

India and the 27-nation European Union (E.U.) bloc will start the tenth round of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement from Monday (March 10, 2025) in Brussels amid Trump tariff threats, according to an official.

The talks are expected to focus on resolving remaining issues so that the agreement can be finalised by the end of this year.

During the recent visit of E.U. Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic, the two sides have discussed ways to accelerate efforts towards a balanced and mutually beneficial trade pact.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen last month agreed to conclude the ambitious India-E.U. free trade deal by this year amid fears of the Trump administration's threat of higher tariffs.

"The two sides are scheduled to hold the tenth round of negotiations for the FTA from March 10-14 in Brussels," the official said.

In June 2022, India and the 27-nation E.U. bloc resumed the negotiations after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets. The two sides are also negotiating an investment protection agreement and an agreement on Geographical Indications (GIs).

According to the think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), key sticking points include agricultural tariffs, especially on dairy and wine import duties, automobile tariffs, and regulatory barriers affecting labour-intensive goods.

India is reluctant to lower auto import duties and is cautious about committing to E.U. demands on sustainability and labour standards, it said, adding that services trade remains another contested area, with India seeking easier mobility for professionals and data security recognition under the E.U.'s GDPR framework (European Union's General Data Protection Regulation).

"Government procurement, investment protection, and environmental regulations like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) further complicate talks. Despite these challenges, a successful agreement could significantly enhance bilateral trade, which exceeded USD 190 billion in FY 2024," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

India exported $76 billion in goods and $30 billion in services to the E.U., while the E.U. exported $61.5 billion in goods and $23 billion in services to India.

Agriculture remains a highly sensitive area in the negotiations, as the E.U. is pushing India to cut tariffs on cheese and skimmed milk powder, which India currently shields through high duties to protect its domestic dairy industry.

Srivastava also said that the E.U.'s complex tariff system for agriculture makes negotiations particularly challenging, as it applies Non-Ad Valorem tariffs (NAVs) on 915 agricultural tariff lines (or product categories), which significantly raise the effective duty rates on imported products.

"These high tariff structures, combined with stringent Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), make it difficult for Indian agricultural exports to enter the European market. Even if tariffs are reduced, the E.U.'s regulatory framework remains a major hurdle for Indian farmers and food producers," he added.

European winemakers are pushing for greater access to the Indian market, where imported wines currently face a 150% tariff.

The E.U. wants India to eliminate or significantly reduce these duties to 30-40% levels, he said, adding that India may like to match what it offered to Australia under the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), where tariffs on wines were slashed to 50 per cent in 10 years.

India and the E.U. may be willing to eliminate tariffs on all textiles and garments from the first day of the pact's implementation.

Currently, India's textile exports to the E.U. face tariffs between 12-16%, making Indian products less competitive compared to exports from countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam, which enjoy preferential market access under EU trade agreements.

On auto, Srivastava said that European car manufacturers want India to cut import duties on completely built-up (CBU) vehicles to 10-20 per cent, down from the current 100-125%.

This would significantly lower the price of European luxury cars in India, making brands like BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Volkswagen more accessible to Indian consumers.

The E.U. already exports over $2 billion worth of automobiles and auto parts to India annually, with most of them in completely knocked-down (CKD) form, which faces a 15 per cent tariff when assembled locally.

However, India's auto industry is a major pillar of its economy, accounting for one-third of its manufacturing GDP and employing over 40 million people.

"Reducing import duties on CBUs could hurt domestic carmakers. Moreover, India has previously refused to lower auto tariffs for Japan and South Korea under its existing FTAs," Mr. Srivastava said.

If India agrees to significant tariff cuts for the E.U., it may have to extend the same benefits to other trading partners, reducing incentives for Japanese and Korean automakers to manufacture in India and instead increasing direct imports from their home countries, he added.

A potential middle ground may involve allowing a limited number of European cars to enter India at lower tariffs, he suggested.

Source: thehindu.com– Mar 07, 2025

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Textile and apparel exporters suggest reduction in tariff with the U.S.

Most textile and apparel export associations have suggested to the government to go in for reduction of tariff or zero-for-zero trade agreement with the U.S. The Apparel Export Promotion Council said the tariff levied by the U.S. on textiles and apparel ranges from 2% to 32%. Reduction in tariff will not affect Indian exporters, said AEPC's secretary general Mithileshwar Thakur.

According to the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), the U.S. is the single largest export destination for Indian textile and apparel sector, contributing to 28.5% of the total T&A exports between January and November last year. For the U.S., China remains the dominant supplier with a 25.6% share and India is the third largest supplier with 10.8% share. However, while the U.S. imports from China declined at a CAGR of 9.4% over the last five years, imports from India have grown at a CAGR of 9.1% during the same period. In 2024, the U.S. T&A imports from India stood at about $10.8 billion, whereas exports by the U.S. to India were worth $0.41 billion.

India primarily imports fibre products from the U.S., with cotton making up 50.6 % of total U.S. T&A exports to India. India's exports to the U.S. are dominated by apparel and home textiles, accounting for 81.5% of total shipments. India should explore a zero-for-zero trade agreement with the U.S. for T&A products with necessary safeguards for sensitive products. This will create a level playing field for Indian exporters against Vietnam, which benefits from duty concessions. With reduced tariffs, India's T&A exports to the U.S. could surge to $16 billion within the next three years, the CITI said.

According to the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (Texprocil), the tariffs can be reduced to equal the U.S. tariff for T&A. "The trade balance is in India's favour. Indian textiles can gain a lot from reduction or zero-for-zero agreement. India is also exploring free trade agreement with the U.S. So we need to wait and see," said Siddhartha Rajagopal, Texprocil's Executive Director.

Source: thehindu.com– Mar 08, 2025

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Textile & apparel units seek zero-duty trade with US

With the US planning to impose reciprocal tariffs on imports from its trade partners from April 2, India's textile and apparel industries want New Delhi to strike a "zero for zero" tariff deal with the country for most products, with special carve-out to safeguard "strategic products."

Interestingly, the push for reciprocal tariffs by US President Donald Trump is being looked at as an opportunity by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) as it will further strengthen the growth of exports to the US. "We are looking forward now since the scenario has changed and the US is looking for new partners," secretary general of CITI Chandrima Chatterjee said.

The proposal for zero duty textile and clothing trade between India and US has been conveyed by the industry to the government in the recent stakeholder consultations.

The US imposes duties ranging from 2.5% to 7.4% on Indian apparel imports while India's duties range from 5% to 12% depending on the price, an analysis by Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said.

"India has a golden opportunity to expand its footprint in the US market, especially in light of recent US policy shifts increasing tariffs on key competitors like China, Mexico, and Canada," CITI said. With reduced tariffs, India's textile and apparel exports to the US could surge to $ 16 billion within the next three years from $ 10.8 billion in 2024.

"Currently, India has only 6% share in US apparel imports. Even if we grow another 4%, it is Rs 25,000 crore opportunity," Convenor of the Coimbatore-based Indian Texpreneurs Federation Prabhu Damodaran said.

India is the third-largest supplier of textile and apparel products to the US after China and Vietnam. Its share is 10.8% of total imports of these products by the US of $ 118.4 billion.

China remains the dominant supplier with a 25.6% share. However, US imports from China have declined at a CAGR of 9.4% over the last five years (2024 to 2020) while imports from India have grown at a CAGR of

9.1% during the same period. “There is a window of opportunity for India to strengthen its position in the US market,” CITI said.

In 2024, US textile and apparel imports from India stood at approximately $ 10.8 billion, whereas US exports to India were limited to just $ 0.41 billion. India primarily imports fiber products from the US, with cotton making up 50.6% of the total.

“There isn’t enough cotton available in India this year due to crop failures. Mills are already facing shortages, so this tariff move should be leveraged to India’s advantage,” Chief Advisor of the Tamil Nadu Spinning Mills Association K Venkatachalam said.

China has already imposed retaliatory duties on US cotton. Compared to China, India now holds an advantage. While India currently imposes an 11% duty on cotton, it charges only 5.5% on imports from some African nations due to bilateral trade agreements. “We can extend the same benefit to the US and, in return, seek preferential treatment for Indian apparel,” Damodaran said.

The USA is the world’s single largest apparel importing country, primarily sourcing from Asia. It is one of our major export destinations accounting for approximately 35% of Indian apparel exports. In 2024 apparel exports to the US were $ 5.2 billion with a growth of 11.2% over 2023, according to secretary general of AEPC Mithileshwar Thakur.

The industry is also of the view that while focussing on bigger contributors to the export basket, the government should not lose sight of sectors like manmade fibres where India is emerging as a supplier. The AEPC has listed products where exports to the US exceed $ 100 million and products covered by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme as strategic for India in the negotiations.

Between January and December 2024, the US imported $79.26 billion worth of apparel. Of this, China accounted for 21%, followed by Vietnam (19%), Bangladesh (9.3%), and India (5.9%).

Source: financialexpress.com– Mar 07, 2025

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India accelerates efforts to finalise bilateral trade deal with US

India is accelerating efforts to finalise its offer to seal a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the United States (US), balancing its sensitivities while addressing Washington's key demands, sources familiar with the matter said. This follows a series of developments in the past couple of days including US President Donald Trump's claim that India had agreed to tariff cuts and US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick's statement that negotiating a trade deal at a product level could take years.

India's latest stand to firm up an offer quickly to strike a bilateral trade pact comes soon after Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's Washington visit.

Following talks with senior US officials in Washington, Goyal is set to meet with exporters and industry leaders later this week, signalling the urgency and importance of the trade negotiations. The government has also called on industry representatives to provide input on proposed tariff reductions.

The intensified talks come as the US plans to implement reciprocal tariffs starting April 2, 2025, in response to other countries' tariffs and trade barriers. India had hoped for an exemption from these measures, but Trump has repeatedly stated that India, with its high tariff structure, will not be granted special treatment.

In a joint announcement last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump declared their intention to complete the first phase of BTA in seven to eight months. The deal aims to increase market access, reduce both tariff and non-tariff barriers, and enhance supply chain integration between the two countries.

Since then, various ministries and government departments have been in back to back discussions to prepare for the negotiations, with India focusing on reducing the average applied tariff on US imports. Currently, India's weighted average tariff on US exports stands at 9.5 per cent, compared to the 3 per cent tariff on Indian exports to the US, according to a Nomura report.

The pressure on India to reduce tariffs, particularly on cars and agricultural products, is growing.

According to a White House factsheet, the US applies a 5 per cent average tariff on agricultural goods, while India's average tariff on these items is as high as 39 per cent.

Lutnick, while speaking virtually at a media event last week, also said that the US expects India to open up its market, particularly in agriculture—an area India has considered a sensitive red line.

A report by the Delhi-based Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) advised India to resist a comprehensive trade deal with the US, citing the need for long-term economic resilience over short-term concessions.

"First, India must avoid a comprehensive trade agreement with the US, as no other country is negotiating one under Trump's presidency. Instead, India should offer a "Zero-for-Zero" deal covering 90 per cent of industrial goods while excluding sensitive sectors like automobiles. This proposal should be presented before April 2, 2025," the report said.

If the US rejects the offer and imposes reciprocal tariffs, India should respond only if necessary, as trade data suggests that accurately calculated reciprocal tariffs will not hurt most industry sectors, the report said, adding that India may gain from tariffs on other countries as well.

Source: business-standard.com– Mar 09, 2025

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Race against April 2 deadline: For US tariff truce, government mulls 2-pronged strategy

India is examining its import basket to finalise the list of items for which it could build a bespoke — and lower — tariff structure for the US, while it also explores areas where further levy reductions are possible through an extension of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) approach.

The Centre has discussed the minute details of preferential tariff reductions for the US through both a trade pact and on an MFN basis for sectors including agriculture and automobiles — areas that would benefit US exporters were India to reduce tariffs further. To be sure, countries can grant duty cuts to one another's imports on a preferential basis in a free trade agreement (FTA).

"There have been discussions on giving concessions on the MFN and FTA basis," said an official, as India and the US aim to conclude the first tranche of their Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall this year.

India Agreed to Cut Duties: Trump

This assumes significance as US President Donald Trump claimed on Friday that India will significantly reduce tariffs on American imports, saying New Delhi imposed "massive" trade barriers and that "somebody is finally exposing them for what they have done". "India charges us massive tariffs. Massive. You can't even sell anything in India... They have agreed, by the way, they want to cut their tariffs way down now because somebody is finally exposing them for what they have done," Trump said.

Mutually Beneficial Deal

In response, New Delhi said that it was committed toward undergirding a trade and market-access infrastructure that would be mutually beneficial. A spokesperson for the ministry of external affairs said, "During the Prime Minister's visit to the United States last month, both sides had announced that they would negotiate a mutually beneficial multi-sector bilateral trade agreement...

The two governments are in the process of advancing discussions on the BTA." "Our objective through the BTA is to strengthen and deepen India-US two-way trade across goods and services, increase market access, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepen supply chain integration between the two countries." Diplomatic sources told ET that the issue of tariffs and an April 2 deadline for likely punitive measures figured during Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's recent US visit.

During Trump's first term, the two countries had discussed a mini-trade deal based on MFN status. India has reduced its average applied tariffs significantly for key developed countries like Australia, UAE, Switzerland, Norway, etc., under recently concluded mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreements. Similar negotiations are currently underway with the EU and the UK, among other partners. The ongoing discussions with the US should be seen in this context, sources said.

The Centre has also considered offering tariff rate quotas on gold purchases from the US. US secretary of commerce Howard Lutnick on Friday said that India should bring down its high tariffs for his country as Washington aims to pursue "something grand" in a bilateral trade deal between the two countries.

Lutnick insisted on a "broadbased trade agreement" under which India would bring down tariffs across the board rather than negotiate a product-wise trade deal that may take "forever". He also said New Delhi should be "smarter" and consider opening up sensitive sectors like agriculture, which it has traditionally protected to safeguard small farmers, and that a deal could be crafted with specific quotas and limits to balance the interests of both sides.

"With a chapter on tariff concessions on goods, one needs safeguards such as chapters on Technical Barriers to Trade, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures," the official said. These measures deal with technical regulations, standards, and testing and certification procedures, and food safety, and animal and plant health standards. Sources said that Prime Minister Modi and President Trump agreed to designate senior representatives to advance the negotiations. They added that the representatives are to work towards increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers and deepening supply chain integration.

Accordingly, an Indian delegation led by Goyal visited Washington this week, which engaged with the US Commerce Secretary, the US Trade Representative and their teams. Discussions on tariffs and other aspects of trade that were highlighted during PM's visit to Washington are an ongoing process. There are specifics which have been mentioned on various issues as part of the negotiation, said people familiar with the matter.

It is also natural that both countries have their interests and sensitivities, and these will be legitimate matters for a discussion, they said. Since the discussions have just begun, it would be premature to talk about details, said another person.

Farm, Tech Concerns

Experts said that the US is exerting pressure on India to accept trade demands that largely favour American interests and its emphasis on “everything being on the table” could lead to concessions that harm India’s strategic interests. They insisted that agriculture, passenger cars and other sensitive sectors must remain excluded. Experts said that opening up India’s agricultural sector to the US also has a livelihood dimension besides mere trade issues, and pointed to low tariffs on top US agricultural exports to India.

Washington, however, imposes some of the highest non-ad valorem tariffs on agricultural imports, they said. Market watchers also cautioned against a comprehensive trade deal with the US as it would open the door to demands beyond tariff reduction such as government procurement, agricultural subsidies, patent laws, and unrestricted data flows — all of which India has consistently opposed. “With India’s total agriculture, dairy, and marine exports to the US amounting to just $5 billion, retaliatory US tariffs would not significantly harm India. If India concedes today, more products will be added to the US list in the future,” said Ajay Srivastava, founder, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

Single-Digit Import Duties

Trade experts also ruled out duty elimination for any technology-led manufacturing and machinery and suggested that India retain single-digit import duties on such products besides enforcing strict Quality Control Orders to check any substandard products from entering the country.

“India has already reduced tariffs on many goods, but it can’t give zero duty benefit on every product on an MFN basis. It must retain minimum tariffs on products like mining machinery, electronics and electrical goods,” said a Delhi-based trade expert.

“There are products which India isn’t buying from China and they can come from the UK or US. These are the products where India can give MFN concessions,” the experts said, adding that dairy could be a non-negotiable area for India.

Source: economictimes.com– Mar 09, 2025

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Cotton imports increase despite pressure on Indian cotton prices

Increasing import of raw and waste cotton in the last seven months has brought to fore the urgent need for measures to improve cotton productivity in India.

Cotton imports were to the tune of $104 million in August 2024, $134.2 million in September 2024, $127.71 million in October, $170.73 million in November, and $142.89 million in December, 2024. In January this year, it stood at $184.64 million.

Import woes

An increase in the import of cotton in the last two years has brought to fore the urgent need for measures to improve cotton productivity in India

Cotton and raw cotton imports (in $ million)

Month	2023	2024
January	28.99	19.62
February	34.69	31.43
March	55.01	48.8
April	45.3	37.91
May	58.09	43.88
June	95.1	70.22
July	88.72	86.29
August	74.9	104.89
September	39.91	134.2
October	36.68	127.71
November	30.61	170.73
December	29.47	142.89

Month	2024	2025
January	19.62	184.64

Comparably, the imports were $74.4 million in August 2023, $39.91 million in September 2023, $36.68 million in October 2023, $30.61 million in November 2023, and $29.47 million in December 2023. In January 2024, the imports were $19.62 million.

Meanwhile, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has procured close to 100 lakh bales of Indian cotton that has come into the market since the beginning of the new season on October 1, 2024. In the peak cotton arrival season in December 2024, the CCI bought almost 60% of the daily arrivals at the minimum support price (MSP). The price of the Shankar 6 variety of cotton on Saturday was ₹52,500 a quintal.

Jaipal, a cotton farmer in Telangana, said at the beginning of the season that farmers are not happy because yield is less. “International cotton prices are weak and mills are able to buy from there,” he said.

Kurbur Shanthakumar, president of Karnataka State Federation of Farmer Associations, said the cost of production per quintal is ₹9,000 and the MSP is ₹7,235. But, brokers were buying in the open market at only ₹5,000 to ₹5,500 per quintal.

The Union Budget announced in February has a Cotton Mission aimed at improving productivity.

For the Indian textile industry, international cotton prices are weak and with export demand looking up for garments and home textiles, there is a need for the textile industry to be internationally competitive. More than 60% of garments exported are cotton-based.

Extra Long Staple cotton can be imported duty free and exporters can import cotton without duty under Advance Authorisation. The mills seem to have imported cotton as international cotton prices were lower than Indian prices and the imports have not disturbed the local market, industry sources said.

“Brazil is an aggressive seller [in the international market]. Australia, the U.S., Africa, and Brazil were all comfortably placed in prices till a few days ago. Indian cotton prices were higher compared with these countries. The Indian textile mills took a calculated risk and imported in spite of 11% duty as Indian cotton and yarn are relatively over priced.

The Indian government and textile industry should look at boosting demand so that textile exports increase and cotton prices remain in parity for the producers and processors. It is also very critical to maintain ‘fibre security’ for the mills by increasing cotton productivity and area,” Manish Daga, president of the All India Cotton Farmers Producers Organisations Association, said.

“If Indian cotton is 80-85 cents a pound, Brazilian cotton is 60-65 cents a pound. Cotton productivity in India is about 450 kg per hectare as against 1,800-2,000 kg/ha in Brazil. Indian yarn exports should increase,” Pankaj Sharda, director at Indian Cotton Association, said.

Cotton imports were high in 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 when the textile sector had good orders. India has 38% of cotton global acreage but only 23% of the global production. The government should look at acreage-based MSP for the farmers and take urgent steps to increase productivity, Southern India Mills’ Association chairman S.K. Sundararaman said.

Source: thehindu.com– Mar 10, 2025

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After Apple, Apparel

Of India's opportunities from Trumpian disruption, none holds more promise than textiles, which can create 10mn jobs. But the crucial first step must be zero-duty imports of raw material for man-made textiles

With Trump's return to White House, we are undergoing geopolitical reconfiguration. Trade-wise, his administration is doubling down on tariffs and economic nationalism. While this poses challenges, it is also a massive opportunity for India – if we get our policies right. If we deliver a manufacturing liftoff by implementing bold policy reforms in sectors such as textiles & apparel, food processing, and cleantech.

The textiles & garments industry, in particular, has the potential to add tens of millions of manufacturing jobs in India. Unlike capital-intensive sectors such as auto or pharma, it has relatively low barriers to entry. It also provides a platform for small- and medium-sized enterprises to flourish, thereby promoting inclusive growth. However, India has not been able to harness its potential fully.

Globally, 70% of the textiles & garments market comprises manmade fibres (MMF), and the rest 30% consists of cotton. In India, it's the other way around. Raw material for MMF is either polyester fibre or viscose fibre, both produced by just two large Indian conglomerates. Fibre is turned into yarn, yarn into fabric. This fabric is processed, then garments created for the domestic market or exported.

We are the world's sixth-largest exporter of textiles & apparel, with our textile exports reaching ₹3L cr. As PM said at Bharat Tex 2025, our ambitious goal is to triple this figure to ₹9L cr by 2030. However, this will not be possible without concerted policy action.

* First, we must address our lack of competitiveness at the raw material stage, especially in the MMF market. Raw materials, polyester and viscose, are subjected to high import duties. Earlier, they were also subjected to high anti-dumping duty, removed after concerted efforts. But this duty has now been superseded by quality control orders (QCOs).

These have the same effect, restricting the import of cheaper, critical raw materials. Raw materials for MMF are about 20% more expensive in the domestic market, as compared to our competitors. This cost disadvantage gets compounded as we move down the value chain. To make our MMF industry globally competitive, all import duties must be brought down to zero and QCOs scrapped.

* Second, we must address the source of the lack of scale. Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM-MITRA) Parks Scheme was launched to address this lack of scale. Seven such parks have been announced, with an outlay of ₹4,500cr, and they're expected to bring in investments of ₹10,000cr each. Development of these parks must be accelerated, ensuring that the entire value chain for the garments & textiles industry is consolidated here. Similarly, a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) was announced, with an outlay of $1bn.

* Third, we must raise the productivity of cotton. India is one of the biggest producers of cotton in the world. But per World Cotton Statistics, cotton yield in India is around 450 kg/hectare while the global average is 812 kg/ha. In countries like Brazil and Australia, cotton productivity ranges from 1,500 to 2,200 kg/ha.

Union Budget 2025-26 announced a five-year Mission for Cotton Productivity. This must be implemented speedily. Cotton imports in India are also subject to 10% import duty, which must be removed to make cotton garments more competitive. Pricing in the cotton import market must be market-determined rather than govt-determined. Despite being the largest producer of cotton, China still allows cotton imports.

* Fourth, we must unlock the potential of technical textiles. Their applications span agriculture, construction, automobiles, healthcare etc. The National Technical Textiles Mission was launched to promote the technical textiles sector in India. However, their penetration in our markets remains well below international standards. Strengthening domestic manufacturing, fostering sustainability through recycling initiatives, and building global branding will be key.

* Fifth, we must work with leading firms to develop the domestic manufacturing value chain. Strategic policy measures can lead to significant strides in our manufacturing sector. We have witnessed India's triumph in mobile manufacturing. From a mere $0.2bn worth of exports in 2014-15, we are now exporting over $15bn worth of mobile phones. From negligible levels in 2017, nearly 15% of all iPhones are now made in India. The recent news of domestically produced components of Apple products being exported to countries such as Vietnam and China is a

testament to our potential. Just as we have done in the case of mobile phones and electronics, we must initiate policy changes to create vast number of jobs in the textile sector.

India's garments industry has the potential to become a global leader and the biggest job creator, but bold reforms are essential. To recap, first, import duties on raw materials for MMF and cotton must be eliminated entirely. Second, all non-tariff barriers, in the form of QCOs, must be scrapped. Third, manufacturing scale must be achieved by consolidating the value chain and leveraging PM-MITRA. Fourth, cotton productivity must be raised, and cotton pricing must be made market-based. Fifth, we must work with and invite lead firms to set up manufacturing in India, as we have done in the case of mobile manufacturing.

The success of mobile manufacturing demonstrates that India can compete on the global stage with the right policies in place. We must target the creation of 10mn new jobs in this sector. It is time to act decisively and establish India as the world's textile and apparel leader.

Source: timesofindia.com– Mar 10, 2025

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DPIIT asks industries to submit monthly production data since April 2022 for IIP

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has asked manufacturing units to submit the monthly production statistics from April 2022 onwards for the new series of Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The department develops policies and strategies for industrial development in the country in line with the needs of the stakeholders.

To meet this goal, monitoring industrial growth is necessary, and for that, the department has sought the unit's cooperation in providing the primary information on industrial production, the DPIIT has said in a communication.

"In line with the above, you are requested to submit the monthly production statistics from April 2022 till the latest month and subsequent months," it added.

The units can submit the data on a government portal.

"The data you submit goes on to find representation in the IIP. As you may be aware, the IIP is an important indicator of industrial growth of the Nation, and your cooperation in this effort is valuable," it said, adding that the statistics will not be used for any purpose other than monitoring industrial growth.

India's industrial production growth slowed to a three-month low of 3.2 per cent in December 2024, mainly due to poor performance of mining and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released last month.

The country's factory output is measured in terms of the IIP. The National Statistical Office (NSO) releases the data.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Mar 09, 2025

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Trump tariffs unlikely to impact rising Indian textile exports, say experts

Discussions between India and the US to reduce tariffs are in full swing with less than a month left for US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff plan to be implemented.

A number of sectors may be impacted if both the countries do not reach a consensus.

However, industry experts said that the textiles industry is unlikely to have any major impact because neither of the countries has any differential advantage with regard to tariffs.

On Friday, Trump had said that India has agreed to reduce its 'massive tariffs'. This comes at a time when textile hubs like Tiruppur (Tamil Nadu) are seeing a spike in orders from the US.

The Indian industry witnessed a 14 per cent rise in revenue from exports to the US in the April-December period of 2024-25 in ready-made garments (RMG).

During the period, India's total RMG exports were at $11.30 billion, compared to $10.13 billion during the April-December period of 2023-24.

In 2024-25, out of the total exports in the segment, around 34 per cent or $3.79 billion came from the US, up from $3.34 billion in the previous financial year.

The UK is a distant second with exports of $974 million, up 9 per cent compared to the previous financial year.

In terms of tariffs on textiles and clothing, while India imposes a 10.4 per cent tariff on US imports, the tariff for Indian importers in the US is 9 per cent.

"We don't have any differential advantage in textiles and garments. Definitely, we are in an advantageous position with regard to the US market after the Bangladesh crisis. We are more competitive as a market, too, for the US," said Sanjay Kumar Jain, managing director (MD) of textile producer TT Ltd.

Interestingly, the uncertainties over Trump's tariff measures come at a time when textile hubs like Tiruppur are weaving a success story.

Between April and December, Tiruppur's exports reached ₹26,000 crore, almost eclipsing the previous financial year's total of ₹30,690 crore, according to sources in the Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA).

The final tally for 2024-25, based on conservative estimates, could soar as high as ₹35,000-40,000 crore. Tiruppur accounts for 55 per cent of India's knitwear exports.

"We expect both the governments to take positive steps to solve any possible crisis. I hope these tariff concerns will not affect us. We are getting more orders from the US market this year," said K M Subramanian, president of the TEA.

The list of buyers from Tiruppur includes global heavyweights like Primark, Tesco, Next, Marks & Spencer, Warner Bros, Walmart, and Tommy Hilfiger. Australian brands like Target and Woolworths, along with European players like Duns, have also placed significant orders.

Trump's decision to double down on his 'reciprocal tariffs' from April 2 is expected to lead to a fall in India's exports to the US by $2-$7 billion in the financial year 2025-26, according to India Ratings and Research.

Source: business-standard.com– Mar 09, 2025

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CBIC must re-examine, clarify on non-duty paid inputs for drawback

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has asked the Customs field formations to follow scrupulously the clarification through its circular no.19/2005-Cus dated May 21, 2005, regarding admissibility of drawback on export products manufactured from non-duty paid inputs. Still, it would help if the CBIC clarifies a related point.

Section 75(1) of the Customs Act, 1962, allows drawback of the Customs and Central Excise paid on the inputs used in the manufacture or processing of the export products. The government has notified the Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 2017, to carry out the provisions of the said Section 75(1). Rule 3 of the said rules empowers the government to notify the rates, known as All Industry Rates (AIR), at which drawback is granted on export of certain items. For items that are not covered under the AIR notification, the actual duty incidence can be claimed under Rule 6. Where the actual duty incidence is more than the notified AIR, drawback can be claimed under Rule 7 of the said Rules.

Export goods can be produced with some or all inputs on which no duty is paid or duty is paid at concessional rate (e.g. goods imported under exemption notifications relating to free/preferential trade agreements) or part or full duty is rebated or allowed as credit. The first proviso to Rule 3 says that the drawback admissible on the said goods shall be reduced taking into account the lesser duty paid or the rebate, refund or credit obtained.

“The intention of the first proviso to Rule 3 is essentially to provide a guideline to the Directorate of Drawback as to how AIR of drawback will be determined in certain situations. It is not intended for the field formations to use this rule for arbitrarily altering the AIR of drawback in the case of individual exporters for individual consignments”, said the CBEC Circular no.24/2001-Customs dated April 20, 2001.

This position was again clarified through CBEC Circular no.19/2005-Cus dated March 21, 2005, and the same position has now been reiterated through CBIC Instruction no.1/2025-Cus dated 28 February, 2025, because the denial of drawback on goods manufactured using some inputs on which duty is not paid or paid at reduced duty rates came to the notice of CBIC.

However, there is a second proviso to the said Rule 3, which deals with several situations when drawback can be denied. One clause in the said proviso says that no drawback shall be allowed where the goods are produced or manufactured, using imported materials or excisable materials in respect of which duties have not been paid. Some Customs field formations take a view that the said Circulars 24/2001-Cus and 19/2005-Cus talk of only the first proviso to the said Rule 3.

They contend that where all inputs are non-duty paid, the second proviso will apply and that the said circulars will not come into play. So, they ignore the said Circulars and deny the claim of drawback at AIR. The latest instruction does not address that issue. So, the CBIC should re-examine the matter and clarify whether the said second proviso can lead to denial of drawback, where all inputs used are non-duty paid. Otherwise, the problem is likely to persist despite the latest instructions.

Source: business-standard.com– Mar 09, 2025

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