TEXPROCIL
THE COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
(SPONSORED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
Exporting Excellence 70 Years & Beyond

IBTEX No. 49 of 2025 April 17, 2025

Currency Watch			
USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
85.56	97.13	113.05	0.60

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

No	Topics
1	WTO slashes 2025 trade growth forecast, warns of deeper slump
2	UN Development Agency's Tariff-Fueled Global Trade Outlook Far From Reassuring
3	Tariff Tumult Cripples Chinese Port Activity as Trade War Escalates
4	Trump's Tariff Crackdown Could Create Environment Rife With Customs Fraud
5	EU vs. US Garment Imports: A tale of diverging trends
6	UK clothing exports slide 11.6% to $310 mn in Feb 2025
7	Indonesian textile industry hit hard by tariffs, suggest ramping up US cotton imports
8	Textile Industry Automation: Where is Vietnam?
9	Pakistan: Yarn imports constitute silent threat to textile exports

DISCLAIMER: The information in this message be privileged. If you have received it by mistake please notify "the sender" by return e-mail and delete the message from "your system". Any unauthorized use or dissemination of this message in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. Any "information" in this message that does not relate to "official business" shall be understood to be neither given nor endorsed by TEXPROCIL - The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

NATIONAL NEWS	
No	**Topics**
1	Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal addresses High-Level Roundtable on IMEC
2	Tale of contrasts: India's FY25 trade surplus with US jumps, deficit with China widens
3	India-US bilateral trade deal: In-person talks may begin by May-end
4	Ecommerce export credit card in works to aid exporters
5	Govt working on scheme to promote new exporters, markets, products
6	India's exports to America, imports from China reach all-time high in 2024-25
7	Bangladesh restricts import of yarn from India by land
8	India sees export opportunity in 10 products amid US-China tariff war
9	India's cotton panel recommends removing 11% import duty
10	US cotton exports to India rise on lower prices, tariff uncertainties
11	How Indian Apparel SMEs Are Entering Global Supply Chains
12	Tirupur expects 25% jump in exports in FY26 from China, Bangladesh diversification

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WTO slashes 2025 trade growth forecast, warns of deeper slump

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DECOUPLING FEAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: economictimes.com– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

UN Development Agency's Tariff-Fueled Global Trade Outlook Far From Reassuring

At an Oval Office press conference earlier this month, President Donald Trump said he decided to pause his latest round of so-called "reciprocal" tariffs by 90 days because "we don't want to hurt countries that don't need to be hurt." But that might be easier said than done. As the second coming of "Liberation Day" continues to lurch closer with no give or take in sight, the outlook for the developing world grows even more desperate as it braces itself for sweeping changes that could rewrite the rules of trade or even upend entire economies.

It's why the United Nations Trade and Development Program, or UNCTAD, warned this week that the White House needs to exempt the world's most vulnerable countries from what appear to be unnecessarily punitive taxes. Even at the lowest 10 percent level, the additional duties on small and least-developed countries would only disproportionately harm their ability to export to the U.S. market without significantly closing their trade gap or boosting tariff revenues, the agency said.

Indeed, of the 57 named countries that Trump claims employ high tariffs and other unfair economic practices to put American exporters at a disadvantage, 36 percent of them, which means most of them, each generate less than 1 percent of current U.S. tariff revenues. And 28 of them, or nearly half of the list, each contribute less than 0.1 percent of the total U.S. trade deficit.

To lay out some numbers that were thrown around before the respite on the original tariff rates—barring, that is, China—a 45 percent levy on Myanmar would contribute only 0.047 percent to the U.S. trade deficit, while a 50 percent duty on Lesotho would add an even lower 0.019 percent. Even the most-tariffed of them—Laos, at 48 percent—would only bring in 0.063 percent.

"Some [of these] trading partners are very small and/or economically poor with very low purchasing power," UNCTAD wrote in a global trade update. "As a result, they offer limited or no export market opportunities for the United States. Trade concessions from these partners would mean little to the United States, while potentially reducing their own revenue collection."

That goes even for countries that export mineral products, such as Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which the agency said would generate negligible bonus revenue for the United States while further stymying their ability to diversify and add value to their exports. Major oil exporters, such as Guyana and Nigeria, would likewise yield very little, since oil has been carved out from any additional tariffs.

Then there's the fact that several trading partners export agricultural commodities that are not produced in the United States and for which there are few substitutes, such as vanilla from Madagascar and cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire. Considering Americans imported $150 million of the former and close to $800 million of the latter, increasing tariffs on such goods, while generating some revenue, can only result in higher prices for consumers, UNCTAD said.

Those countries aside, the world economy is on a recessionary trajectory, the agency said as it predicted a potential 2.3 percent slowdown this year. In a separate trade and development foresights report, also published this week, UNCTAD said that "subdued demand, trade policy shocks, financial turbulence and systemic uncertainty" are ramping up pressures to an almost unprecedented level, particularly for poorer nations.

Any late-2024 and early-2025 bump in global trade, it pointed out, was driven in part by front-loaded orders. This momentum is not only expected to stall but could even reverse as new tariffs come into effect during the rest of the year, further roiling the trade policy uncertainty that is running interference with long-term business decisions.

The data bears this out. It was only earlier in the year that the Economic Policy Uncertainty Index, which tracks mentions of the term "policy uncertainty" in the news, soared to its highest levels this century. Between early January and late March, the Comprehensive Shanghai Export Containerized Freight Index—a critical barometer of international shipping and trade activity—collapsed by 40 percent to levels last seen before the pandemic, when global merchandise trade was already showing signs of stagnation.

"Trade policy uncertainty, now at historic highs, is weighing heavily on business confidence and long-term planning and reshaping global trade patterns," UNCTAD said. "Manufacturers and investors are delaying decisions, reassessing supply chain strategies and stepping up risk management efforts."

Yet it's the world's suppliers, many say, that will end up bearing the brunt.
'Definitely going to kill sustainability'

For one denim manufacturer in a global South nation that will be hard hit if proposed rates go through, the idea that tariffs will bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States would be an admirable goal if it had been better realized.

"Reshoring sounds appealing in theory. But in practice, denim manufacturing relies on complex, interdependent systems—skilled labor, water and energy infrastructure, mature input supply chains, and decades of know-how," this person said, requesting anonymity because of fears of reprisal. "Most U.S. facilities are not currently positioned to take on this scale of production competitively or sustainably. What tariffs often achieve is not a return to domestic manufacturing, but a reshuffling of orders to other low-cost countries, sometimes with weaker labor and environmental oversight."

For suppliers that have invested in fair wages, environmental compliance, and low-carbon manufacturing, tariffs create a "double bind," the manufacturer added. "Brands push for transparency, traceability and emissions reduction—yet when tariffs raise costs, the financial burden is passed down to us. There is no room left to reinvest in sustainability or improve worker well-being when we're forced to absorb trade shocks with no warning or support. If the goal is fairer trade, there is a better path: incentivize shared responsibility, invest in ethical sourcing and reward suppliers who are leading on climate action and human rights."

Already, many apparel manufacturers, especially those that revolve around creating products for export to the United States, are seeing spooked buyers that are, if not outrightly freezing existing orders, then at least holding back on placing new ones until they can gain more clarity about final tariff figures. But even this augurs further financial pain for production to come.

"We're expecting to have to share the cost of tariffs one way or another," said a supplier from Pakistan, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity and is anticipating as much as a 29 percent tariff rate should a bilateral deal prove unsuccessful. "I think that will be part of the negotiations that will be happening as retailers figure out what their final costs will be. They still do not know that at the moment. But we expect a

lot of squeeze coming in. And most of that cost is going to come out from the human resources."

And if 29 percent tariffs go through, then manufacturing in Pakistan will become a numbers game as it competes with countries that have higher duties (Cambodia faces a 49 percent tax) or lower ones (Turkey could wind up on top with its more attractive 10 percent rate).

"A lot of work has stopped in terms of CSR and sustainability, because no one is sure about priorities at the moment and these are all capex-heavy investments," the supplier said. "Tariffs might not kill fast fashion, but it's definitely going to kill sustainability. People in the global South are already having difficulties finding financing for climate projects. Now it's going to be impossible, because a lot of investors are not going to make them a priority. There is no push from the government, even from the European side, with the omnibus package coming in and everything getting pushed back."

Muhammad Azizul Islam, professor in sustainability accounting and transparency at the University of Aberdeen Business School, already knows what price-cutting will look like. A survey of 1,000 suppliers he conducted in Bangladesh found 76 percent of respondents were selling finished garments at the same price in December 2021 as they did in March 2020, despite skyrocketing material and energy costs. Some 8 percent were even producing clothes for less than they cost to make, even for prominent retailers such as C&A, H&M and Zara owner Inditex. The tariffs' impact on Bangladesh, which could face a 37 percent or 53 percent tax bill, could be more catastrophic than Covid-19.

"For every $1 a Bangladeshi clothing factory makes, someone in America makes $9, $14 or $19. Who is extracting the most surplus value? Before imposing tariffs, why not acknowledge the massive global exploitation already underlying America's so-called 'greatness'?" Islam said. "Tariffs will only squeeze prices further, leading to even greater exploitation of workers. Since you can't make a T-shirt for $1, you somehow still need to keep trading with Bangladesh. So the ultimate victims of your game are the workers."

UNCTAD said that the White House should not ignore the fact that many low-income countries face a "perfect storm" of worsening external conditions, chief among them heavy debt burdens and diminishing domestic growth. More than half of low-income countries—35 out of 68—

are currently in or face a high risk of debt distress characterized by a fevered build-up of debt, exorbitant borrowing costs and diverted government spending from critical needs to debt servicing. Meanwhile, capital is increasingly being funneled toward “safer” or more “stable” assets and markets in the more advanced parts of the world.

But the agency also expects to see a “sharp deceleration” of the U.S. economy to 1 percent gross domestic product growth in 2025, largely due to the cloud of increased policy uncertainty, creating an economic environment that will disrupt private consumption and investment alike. Growth in the euro will “remain subdued” at 0.8 percent, and the United Kingdom will show a “marginal decline” in growth to 1 percent. In East Asia, UNCTAD expects regional growth to decline to 3.4 percent this year, with China in particular clocking in a likely 4.4 percent. In South Asia, it added, food price volatility and complex debt dynamics will continue to create headwinds for economies such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. South Africa, Egypt and Algeria, which make up nearly half of Africa’s combined economic output, similarly present a “mixed picture of recovery and challenges.”

Any tariff escalation that happens when processed or finished goods are taxed more than the raw materials used to make them, as is frequently the case with apparel production, tanning and other forms of light manufacturing, could further hobble the competitiveness of many low-income countries, posing what UNCTAD describes as a “structural barrier” to economic development that hurts the vulnerable and poor.

“Overall, current trends indicate a subdued outlook for the manufacturing sector, while instability over tariffs likely adds to risks of a slowdown,” the agency added. “Escalating trade tensions threaten development progress, particularly for the most vulnerable economies, with real negative effects on businesses already unfolding.”

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

Tariff Tumult Cripples Chinese Port Activity as Trade War Escalates

Chinese port activity has reportedly stalled in the wake of President Donald Trump's tariffs, in a prime indicator that exports out of the country are set to see a monumental slowdown.

According to China's ministry of transport, cargo handled by the country's ports including Shanghai, Ningbo and Shenzhen from April 7-13 slipped 9.7 percent from the week prior to 244 million tons. This marked a steep drop from the 0.88 percent decline registered in the week before, when Trump first announced his batch of "reciprocal" tariffs that initially stunned global markets.

The transport ministry also said container throughput dropped 6.1 percent on the week, a stark difference from the 1.9 percent rise a week earlier.

A report from U.S.-based nonprofit news service Radio Free Asia paints a grimmer picture for Chinese exports to the U.S., saying "virtually no cargo ships were bound for the U.S." out of ports in Shanghai and Guangdong as of Thursday. Additionally, operations at export factories throughout the country have ground to a halt.

Containers that weren't moved to the U.S.-bound vessels by the April 9 tariff implementation deadline are now piled high at these ports, the report said.

Another report from China-based business publication Caixin Global said that nearly half the vessels docked at Shanghai's Yangshan and Waigaoqiao terminals on April 7 and 8 were bound for the U.S., requiring port dockworkers to expedite cargo movement onto the ships. That's because any goods already on the water before April 9 were exempt from the reciprocal tariffs.

The dip in port activity after the tariff deadline comes as many U.S. importers have been forced to take a wait-and-see approach to manage inventory and costs, with bookings of product entering the U.S. plummeting dramatically amid a vat of cancelled and delayed orders.

Imports from China already had nosedived 64 percent in the April 1-8 period from the week prior, according to data from supply chain visibility provider Vizion.

U.S. West Coast ports and industry bodies have predicted significant inbound cargo declines for the back half of the year, with some estimates saying imports could fall off 20 percent on the wider tariff concerns.

China's exports surged 12.4 percent in March, severely exceeding forecasts and reversing a previous decline, according to China's customs authority. This helped boost China's gross domestic product (GDP) by a better-than-expected 5.4 percent in the first quarter. But much of the growth is largely because factories have rushed shipments out of the country ahead of the tariffs, which had been anticipated for months since he won the 2024 presidential election.

Trump's initially tacked on a 20-percent fentanyl-related tariff on all Chinese imports before his April 2 "Liberation Day" announcement, where he placed higher tariffs on dozens of countries worldwide and set a 10-percent baseline tariff for all trading partners. The U.S. temporarily halted the country-specific tariffs for 90 days in an effort to make room for negotiations.

After a tit-for-tat which saw both countries escalate the duties, most Chinese imports into the U.S. now have a 145-percent tariff attached, with Beijing retaliating with a 125-percent tariff on American goods headed to China.

The turbulent tariff scenario is expected to lead to a substantial decline in exports in the second quarter, with both the U.S. and China essentially imposing trade embargos on each other.

Major freight rate indices out of China reveal the declining demand of Chinese goods into the U.S.

Last Friday, the Shanghai Containerized Freight Index showed a 5 percent drop in Shanghai-to-U.S. West Coast rates, to $2,202 per 40-foot container, and a 2 percent dip in Shanghai-U.S. East Coast rates, to $3,226 per 40-foot container. Linerlytica said that the West Coast rates are set to drop below $2,000 in the next two weeks.

“There’ll be further turbulence as carriers adjust rates downwards over the coming days to deal with falling cargo volumes from China,” said the shipping consultancy.

For the same week ended April 11, the Ningbo Container Freight Index reported an 18-percent week-over-week slide in freight rates to the U.S. West Coast and a 10.8 percent decline in East Coast-bound rates.

On Wednesday, China’s foreign affairs spokesperson called on the U.S. to stop using “maximum pressure, threats and blackmail” throughout the trade war, and instead engage in dialogue “on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefit.”

“This tariff war was started by the U.S. China has taken necessary countermeasures in order to defend its legitimate rights and interests and international fairness and justice. This is fully justified and lawful,” said spokesperson Lin Jian in a media briefing. “China’s position has been very clear. Tariff and trade wars have no winners. China does not want to fight these wars but is not scared of them.”

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

Trump's Tariff Crackdown Could Create Environment Rife With Customs Fraud

With tariffs on China-made goods skyrocketing to a whopping 145 percent, something's got to give—and Chinese producers don't want it to be their share of the export market.

In the wake of President Donald Trump's tariffs on the so-called World's Factory, suppliers and their customers may be tempted to engage in workarounds that save them from paying prohibitively steep duty bills, according to Charles Schwab & Co. chief global investment strategist Jeffrey Kleintop. In fact, the temptation to take part in tariff avoidance—a form of Customs fraud—could prove "overwhelming" for U.S. companies in the months to come should the White House hold firm to its triple-digit tariff plan.

"We look at what these items are invoiced at when they're leaving China, and what they're invoiced at when they're coming in the U.S., and that's where we can see there's a 20-percent gap," he said. In 2024, the U.S. reported taking in $567 billion in imports from China and Hong Kong, while China and Hong Kong reported exporting $453 billion in products to the U.S.—an unreconciled delta of $114 billion, according to data amassed by Charles Schwab from several sources including the China's Custom's department and the U.S. Census Bureau.

"There could be legitimate reasons why that could be the case: there are time differences which could apply to some products that are commodity based; there are certainly some that could relate to just currency translation issues," Kleintop said—but the truth remains: U.S. imports from China are already being under-reported at a significant rate. "It's a pretty big deal, and that wasn't always the case."

In the past, China-based firms routinely over-invoiced their products to try to move money out of the country's economy, he explained. But since Trump's Section 301 punitive duties were rolled out during his first term in office, an opposing trend started taking shape, "and it's widened a little every year," the investment strategist said. "The incentives are obviously much greater now, so it wouldn't surprise me to see that to continue to widen."

Amid on-again, off-again tariffs on nations across the globe and the closure of the de minimis "loophole" for China-made goods, illicit activities like under-invoicing stand to create "an explosion of complexity for a [Customs] specialist to deal with."

"With the incredible understaffing that they seem to be faced with right now and the additional software challenges, it's going to be really hard to enforce [the new duties]," Kleintop explained. "There's just not enough hours in the day for them to even make much of a dent in what could be a really big step up in in tariff avoidance."

Illustrating the scope of the issue, Kleintop pointed to inadequacies in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staffing. "Basic math leads me to the conclusion that the CBP number of import specialists at ports who are responsible for classifying and appraising commercially imported merchandise that enters the country likely number a little over 1,000," he said, pointing to data from the agency's website which is admittedly several years stale.

Those historical insights help paint a picture, though, of the sheer magnitude of CBP's responsibility. "Going off that assumption, since the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach by themselves will process about 115,000 TEU next week (much of it on the most popular route from Shanghai); with 70 ports in the U.S. there might be 310 specialists at that port (weighted by average port volume for L.A. and Long Beach at 31 percent of U.S. containerized trade)," he said. "So that is about 50 TEU per CBP specialist per day."

Even a high-level inspection using an X-Ray and reconciliation against shipping documents could take 15 to 20 minutes, he said, with physical inspection taking at least an hour.

It's easy to see how a challenge becomes untenable when suppliers and importers double down on flouting the rules, Kleintop said. Firms are already engaging in practices like transshipment as a means of skirting duties, and he believes that stacking the issue of under-invoicing could lead to "30, 40, even 50 percent of the tariffs effectively being avoided through these mechanisms."

For companies on the brink of collapse, the appeal is obvious. "It might mean that the tariffs are less onerous than they appear on the surface, a little less bite than bark," he added, explaining that "a lot of smaller

businesses are just looking to find ways that they can survive in an environment where their costs may be jumping to a huge degree."

"This may look like a viable option to them to stay in business," he said. "When your back's against the wall, difficult decisions often get made."

But in the long run, the distortion of import data could contribute to recession risks. Inbound container volumes are set for a nosedive, and anecdotal reporting indicates that many brands, retailers and manufacturers dependent on overseas inputs have put a freeze on orders.

"Trade is the lifeblood of so many businesses, so if there's a backlash to that, it really can have a dramatic impact. If we're not getting good data, we have to rely a bit more on anecdotes, and so the market gets a bit more jumpy when it hears reports," Kleintop said. "We can't necessarily trust, in real time, the data that we're getting, so businesses are more likely to pull back on capital spending, on hiring decisions, and hold back on their guidance to analysts on their profit outlook."

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Apr 15, 2025

HOME

****

EU vs. US Garment Imports: A tale of diverging trends

The global garment industry is a complex web of production, distribution, and consumption, with shifting trends and regional disparities shaping its landscape. A focal point in understanding this dynamic is the comparison between the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) in terms of garment imports. Data compiled by David Birnbaum, a strategic planner for the global garment export industry, reveals a significant and growing divergence between the two regions.

The stark contrast in import volumes

Birnbaum's analysis highlights, the difference in garment import volumes between the EU and the US is substantial. As of 2023, EU garment imports were 5½ times higher than those of the US. This disparity highlights the EU's dominant position in the global garment import market compared to the US.

The table, derived from Birnbaum's data, illustrates the trend in garment imports for both the US and the EU over the years.

Table: Garment imports trends US and EU

Year	US imports	EU imports
2015	89,089	390,042
2016	83,969	383,393
2017	83,550	399,334
2018	86,697	428,238
2019	87,384	428,676
2020	71,166	376,418
2021	87,287	434,685
2022	105,353	493,201
2023	81,591	447,212
2024	83,710	-

The data reveals that the US garment import trends peaked in 2019, followed by a sharp reduction in 2020 due to Covid-19 lockdowns. The subsequent years saw fluctuations, with a collapse in imports in 2023. In contrast, EU garment imports did not follow the same pattern and were not distorted to the same extent as those of the US.

There are several reasons for the EU's stronger position in garment imports. First is the market size, the EU represents a larger and more stable market for garment imports. Also the EU market demonstrated greater resilience to the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent market corrections.

Birnbaum's analysis provides valuable insights into these diverging trends. As a strategic planner for the global garment export industry, his data-driven approach highlights the importance of understanding regional differences and market dynamics.

Birnbaum's data indicates that the differential between EU and US garment imports is expected to increase over time, reflecting the ongoing shifts in the global garment trade.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Apr 15, 2025

HOME

****

UK clothing exports slide 11.6% to $310 mn in Feb 2025

The United Kingdom's clothing exports declined by 11.69 per cent to £234 million (~$310.54 million) in February 2025, according to the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS). Exports during the same period last year were £265 million. The fall reflects sluggish demand, particularly in Europe, which remains a key market for UK clothing. For the full year 2024, clothing exports dropped by 11.74 per cent to £3,320 million (~$4,186.53 million).

However, UK clothing exports in February 2025 rose by 3.53 per cent from £226 million in January 2025. Textile fabric exports in February 2025 fell by 6.69 per cent to £223 million from £239 million in February 2024 but increased by 12.62 per cent month-on-month from £198 million in January 2025.

Textile fibre exports edged up by 1.72 per cent to £59 million in February 2025, compared to £58 million in February 2024 and £55 million in January 2025.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, clothing exports totalled £879 million, down from £987 million in Q4 2023 but up from £771 million in Q3 2024. Textile fabric and fibre exports in the same quarter were £670 million and £206 million, respectively. Fabric exports were £688 million in Q4 2023 and £653 million in Q3 2024, while fibre exports stood at £150 million in Q4 2023 and £166 million in Q3 2024.

The UK's total clothing exports for 2024 stood at £3,320 million (~$4,186.53 million), an 11.74 per cent decline from the previous year. Textile fabric exports remained relatively stable at £2,733 million, while fibre exports increased to £707 million.

In 2023, total clothing exports declined to £3.772 billion (~$4.88 billion) from £3.931 billion in 2022 and £4.263 billion in 2021. Textile fabric and fibre exports in 2023 were £2.737 billion and £667 million, respectively, compared to £2.716 billion and £616 million in 2022.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Apr 17, 2025

HOME

****

Indonesian textile industry hit hard by tariffs, suggest ramping up US cotton imports

With 40 per cent of Indonesia's textile and clothing exports going to the US market, the country's textile sector is expected to be one of the most severely impacted by the recent tariff increases in the US.

Industry participants caution that a 32 per cent so-called "reciprocal" tax that will be applied to Indonesian imports after a 90-day pause for bilateral talks ends may "accelerate layoffs" in a sector that was already having difficulties before the policy was introduced.

Associations representing the textile sector have proposed boosting imports of US-sourced raw materials, such as cotton, as a negotiating tool to balance bilateral trade, maybe reduce the impending tariff, and safeguard the home market by limiting imports.

Due to either little market demand or fierce rivalry from local competitors in target nations, efforts to diversify Indonesian exports outside of the US are considered impractical in the near future.

According to Redma Gita Wirawasta, chairman of the Indonesian Filament Yarn Producers Association (APSyFI), around 40 per cent of the industry's total exports, primarily in the form of completed goods, were sent to the United States. After China, India, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, Indonesia is currently the fifth-largest supplier of textiles and clothing to the United States.

He cautioned that Indonesia's ability to offer competitive prices in the US market may be weakened by the recent US tariffs. At the same time, nations subject to even higher reciprocal tariffs may begin to shift their excess supply to Indonesia, which could result in an overabundance of lower-priced commodities on the local market.

Redma, however, advised against increasing exports during this time frame because doing so could exacerbate the US trade deficit with Indonesia, which was the original reason for the tariff policy.

Instead, he urged the administration to prioritise diplomacy by resolving regulatory obstacles that could impede trade and pledging to increase imports of US goods.

The APSyFI suggests that the government exploit imports of cotton as a strategic negotiating chip in trade negotiations, in conjunction with the Indonesian Textile Association (API).

Textile groups counter that it won't be simple to leave the US. The US continues to be a vital market as the world's largest consumer of textile goods, supported by its enormous economy.

Exporting to other significant textile producers, such as China, India, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, is not a feasible option since those nations apply their own trade obstacles to protect domestic businesses, said Ian Syarif, deputy chairman for industrial affairs at the API.

Source: apparelresources.com– Apr 15, 2025

HOME

****

Textile Industry Automation: Where is Vietnam?

In an increasingly competitive global economy with strict requirements on quality, production costs, and delivery times, the textile and apparel industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation. Automation is no longer an option, but a vital factor to maintain and enhance competitiveness. Major textile and apparel exporting countries such as Bangladesh, India, and China have taken strong steps in applying automation technology to production, helping to improve productivity, reduce costs, and enhance resilience to market fluctuations.

Bangladesh, with the textile industry being one of the major economic drivers, has witnessed a major change in the manufacturing process thanks to the adoption of automation technology. In recent years, Bangladeshi textile companies have started to adopt automation systems in processes such as fabric cutting, weaving and sewing. This has helped reduce dependence on manual labor, reduce errors and increase production speed.

Bangladesh has focused on basic automation, with machines such as automatic fabric cutters, weaving machines and sewing machines, which not only increases productivity but also improves product quality – an increasingly demanding requirement from international brands such as H&M, Zara and Guess, which are major partners of factories here.

A prime example is the implementation of "Nidle" – a real-time productivity monitoring system, integrated into each sewing machine. This device displays production progress directly on the screen, using a color code from red (behind schedule) to green (on target), thereby creating pressure to boost labor productivity.

This is part of a "smart manufacturing" strategy that combines digital monitoring with semi-automated machines – semi-automated devices that perform tasks such as attaching pockets and attaching buttons with minimal human guidance. By applying technology like Nidle and other automated systems, many factories have recorded a 7–10% increase in production in a short period of time.

India: Digital Transformation and Manufacturing Process Optimization

The Indian market, one of the textile powerhouses, has implemented a strong automation strategy to optimize production processes and improve labor efficiency. Large enterprises such as Arvind Ltd and Vardhman Textiles have invested in automated production lines from yarn to weaving, dyeing and sewing.

According to data from The Textile Magazine, from 2022, Arvind Ltd has announced plans to invest INR 300–400 crore over the next 2-3 years, focusing on products such as leisure fabrics, man-made fibers and advanced materials, to take advantage of incentives from the government's PLI scheme. Notably, at the Bharat Tex 2025 event, Vardman Textiles showcased the latest advances in spinning, fabric and apparel solutions, including advanced dyeing techniques that significantly reduce the use of water and chemicals.

In addition, recognizing the importance of human resources in operating and maintaining automated systems, India has focused on training skilled human resources. These training programs are widely implemented in universities and vocational training centers, helping to prepare a highly skilled workforce for the textile industry.

According to information from ATDC India, Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC) is one of the largest vocational training networks in India with about 100 centers in major garment industrial clusters. ATDC has trained more than 313,500 students, providing employment opportunities for disadvantaged social groups.

Many training institutes like Technological Institute of Textile & Sciences (TIT&S) in Haryana and Government College of Engineering & Textile Technology in Berhampore offer in-depth training programmes in textile technology, combining theory and practice, to meet the growing demands of the industry.

China: Industrial Revolution 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing

China, the world's second largest economy, is leading the way in applying automation and smart manufacturing technology to the textile industry. From automated sewing lines to intelligent management systems, China has successfully integrated high technology into every stage of production, helping to optimize costs and labor productivity.

One of the key strategies China has adopted is “smart manufacturing,” where textile factories are connected to automated monitoring and management systems. Data collected from the production process is analyzed and used to optimize processes and predict problems before they occur. China has also pioneered the use of automated robots in high-precision processes such as sewing and quality control.

According to Textspace Today, the Chinese government has been pushing hard to adopt automation and smart manufacturing through its “Made in China 2025” initiative, aiming to enhance its manufacturing capabilities and global competitiveness. According to data from the International Federation of Robotics, China’s robot density reached 392 robots per 10,000 manufacturing workers in 2023, far exceeding the global average of 141.

Companies like Sewingtech have developed 3D automated sewing technology, which allows for the automation of sewing fabric panels of various shapes with high precision, minimizing errors and increasing production efficiency (according to chinadaily hk)

In addition, textile factories in China are also applying artificial intelligence (AI) to improve quality control, reduce waste and increase productivity. AI helps detect errors early in the production process, thereby minimizing defective products and optimizing production processes. However, the application of automation and AI also poses the challenge of retraining the workforce to adapt to new technology. Many training programs have been implemented to improve workers' skills, helping them operate and maintain automated systems effectively.

Difficulties of Vietnam's textile industry in investing in automation

Vietnam’s textile and garment industry is facing major challenges when deciding to invest in automation. Although the industry has great potential, there are still many significant challenges, especially in technology transformation and innovation of production processes.

High investment costs : Investing in automation requires a large amount of capital, which is difficult for small and medium enterprises, which make up the majority of the Vietnamese textile and garment industry. Investing in automation technology, although necessary, still faces barriers in terms of cost and financial capacity.

Shortage of high-quality human resources : The transition to automation requires a highly skilled workforce. However, currently, the majority of workers in the Vietnamese textile and garment industry are not equipped with the necessary technological skills to operate and maintain automated systems.

Internal resistance : A significant number of businesses still maintain manual production habits and are hesitant about technological changes. Convincing managers and workers to participate in the digital transformation process is a big challenge.

Open lessons for Vietnam

To overcome these difficulties, the Vietnamese textile industry needs to:

First , increase investment in basic automation technology : Vietnamese textile and garment enterprises, especially small and medium enterprises, should start by investing in basic automation technology. The application of simple but effective automatic machines will help increase labor productivity and improve product quality without requiring too much initial investment. Vietnam needs to actively encourage textile and garment enterprises to start with small but influential steps, especially in stages such as fabric cutting, sewing, and production supervision.

Second , digital transformation and production optimization : Vietnam needs to focus on digital transformation in the textile and garment industry, not only in the production process but also in management and supervision. Enterprises need to invest in production management software, work progress tracking systems and automation systems to optimize processes. At the same time, training highly skilled human resources is very important. The government and enterprises need to coordinate to develop vocational training programs to equip textile and garment workers with advanced technological skills.

Third , training and developing human resources: Developing highly skilled human resources is an important factor to maintain and develop automation technology. The government and businesses need to coordinate to organize specialized training programs for textile and garment workers.

Fourth , apply smart manufacturing and advanced automation : Vietnam needs to move towards applying smart manufacturing in the textile and garment industry. In particular, the use of automated robots and artificial intelligence in stages requiring high precision such as sewing and quality inspection will help improve product quality, minimize errors and optimize processes. However, to do this, Vietnam needs a long-term strategy for developing high technology and training qualified human resources to operate and maintain automated systems.

Vietnam needs to develop a comprehensive automation strategy, from upgrading infrastructure, innovating technology, to training a workforce with appropriate skills. Only then can the Vietnamese textile and garment industry maintain its competitive position and thrive in the era of Industry 4.0.

Source: vietnam.vn– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

Pakistan: Yarn imports constitute silent threat to textile exports

Pakistan's export sector is undergoing a seismic shift, one that will affect its competitive edge for years to come. The US has imposed 'reciprocal tariffs' globally, including a 29% duty on Pakistan, as part of its protectionist policy.

The misaligned trade diplomacy - relying on the US as its largest market for value-added exports while maintaining an intertwined supply chain with China - underscores how the 29% tariff is merely the first step toward a deeper economic pit that Pakistan risks falling into.

Structural inefficiencies - worsened by regressive taxation and ill-conceived energy policies - have already eroded Pakistan's export competitiveness. This year marked a turning point when over 50% of Pakistan's textile import bill was dominated by cotton and cotton yarn - a trend never seen before.

Table 1: Projected Import Bill for Cotton and Textile Intermediate Goods in FY 2025

	Volume, million KG			Value, million USD		
	FY24	FY25 Proj.	Increase	FY24	FY25 Proj.	Increase
Cotton	811	1,309	**61%**	1,656	2,484	**50%**
Yarn (Cotton + MMF)	108	296	**174%**	340	885	**160%**
Griege Cotton Fabric	538	613	**14%**	863	1,062	**23%**

Cotton: HS 5201-5203; Yarn: HS 5205-5207, 5509-5511; Griege Fabric: HS 5208-5012; FY25 linear projection based on Jul-Feb imports; PRAL data.

Once a leading producer, Pakistan is now increasingly reliant on imports, with cotton yarn imports expected to surge nearly 200% and the cotton import bill projected to rise by over 50% this financial year. Together, these are projected to cost the economy a staggering $2.8 billion, with the combined total for cotton imports and textile intermediates reaching $4.4 billion.

While Pakistan sources the bulk of its raw cotton from the US and Brazil, over 60% of its cotton yarn imports- cheaper than domestic yarn - now come from China, raising concerns over potential dumping and associated compliance risks.

As we officially enter the global trade war, beyond tariffs, another non-tariff threat looms: the potential for a US ban on Pakistani exports.

In 2019, the US banned Chinese cotton from Xinjiang over 'forced' labour concerns, extending restrictions to any product containing Xinjiang cotton, regardless of origin.

However, through strategies such as China Plus One, trans-shipment, and third-country exports, China has sustained its presence and deepened its hold on the global textile supply chain. In 2024, China exported $3 billion worth of cotton intermediates to eight South Asian countries, including Pakistan, accounting for 30% of its $10.8 billion global exports in this segment.

While Pakistan didn't directly benefit from China Plus One, it has become a key market for cheap Chinese textile intermediates, including knitted and woven fabrics, filament yarn, and cotton yarn.

Despite US policies and growing supply chain scrutiny, Pakistan remains one of the largest importers of Chinese cotton yarn. And this is where the fire begins.

Pakistan's trade dilemma - cheaper imports from China and compliance risks:

With a sharp decline in local cotton production, Pakistan has increasingly turned to cotton imports from the U.S. and Brazil, which now account for over 60% of total imports. In fact, Pakistan is the second-largest importer of U.S. cotton.

Simultaneously, the country has become the top importer of cotton yarn from China. This shift has strained the local spinning industry and at the same time introduced compliance risks, particularly due to the potential inclusion of Xinjiang cotton in Pakistan's textile supply chain, especially in the absence of a traceability mechanism.

Since Xinjiang produces 87% of China's cotton, China has redirected its (non-tradable) cotton toward textile manufacturing in response to US bans. Additionally, it has implemented a tariff-rate quota system on cotton imports, ensuring that textile manufacturers primarily rely on Xinjiang cotton.

The key question remains: What is driving Pakistan's growing reliance on imported cotton yarn?

Price disparities and the absence of a competitive edge for local yarn:

The Chinese textile and apparel industry benefits from extensive subsidies. Under the Make in China initiative, the government has introduced over 900 subsidies to support local manufacturing.

In contrast, Pakistan's textile sector faces mounting challenges, particularly following the reversal of regionally competitive tariffs and the withdrawal of zero-rating on local supplies under the EFS scheme.

Power tariffs have hit record highs of 12–14 cents per kWh (the highest in the region), and the price of gas for captive power plants has surged to Rs. 3,500/MMBtu, with an additional levy of Rs. 791/MMBtu. Beyond energy costs, the rising prices of other textile inputs have further undermined the competitiveness of yarn production in Pakistan, making it increasingly difficult to compete with cheaper, duty-free Chinese imports.

This disparity is evident in China's export prices for textile intermediates. The export prices offered to Pakistan for most traded cotton yarn tariff lines are not only lower than those offered to Vietnam and Bangladesh (Table 2a), but also significantly lower than Pakistan's domestic yarn prices (Table 2b).

Table 2a: China's Export Prices for Cotton Yarn in USD/KG

Yarn Count	Tariff Line	China's Export Price to Bangladesh	China's Export Price to Vietnam	China's Export Price to Pakistan
80/1, 100/1 (combed)	520528	4.3	9.1	4.5
60/1, 64/1, 70/1 (combed)	520527	5.1	6.4	3.8

Table 2b: Pakistan's Local Yarn Prices Vs Import Price in USD/KG

Yarn Count	Tariff Line	China's Export Price to Pakistan	Pakistan Local Yarn Price
80/1, 100/1 (combed)	520528	4.5	4.88 for 80/1 10.64 for 100/1
60/1, 64/1, 70/1 (combed)	520527	3.8	5.15 for 60/1

China Export Price for Yarn calculated in USD/KG

Pakistan Local Yarn prices calculated using rates from Sutarmandi

This price advantage enables China to maintain its competitiveness in the Pakistani market, while leaving Pakistani yarn manufacturers struggling to compete in a market distorted by cost disadvantages.

China's strategic emphasis on maintaining low production costs:

This price competitiveness is not accidental. China controls over 50% of global spinning capacity and 45% of fabric manufacturing, and in response to increasing global trade restrictions, it is doubling down on its domestic textile sector.

Plans are underway to expand spinning capacity in Xinjiang and raise the cotton-to-textile conversion rate from 40% in 2024 to 45% by 2028. Generous subsidies for transporting cotton from Xinjiang to central and eastern provinces further reduce production costs and incentivize yarn manufacturers.

With this level of government support and massive economies of scale, China is able to export yarn and other intermediates at competitive prices - often lower than the prevailing prices in importing countries.

Here the challenge for Pakistan is threefold: protecting its local industry from potential dumping, managing compliance risks tied to increased dependence on Chinese imports, and securing preferential access to key export markets, particularly the US and EU, where Pakistan's value-added textiles are primarily destined.

The current state of cotton yarn imports in Pakistan:

This competitive edge of Chinese yarn is also reflected in Pakistan's import dynamics. The most traded cotton yarn import tariff lines in Pakistan account for 100% of imports from China, which were initially subject to an 11% MFN duty (Table 3a).

However, under the 5th Schedule of Pakistan Customs, these duties were reduced to 5%, and the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement further lowered them to 4.2%.

Moreover, exporters can access duty-free yarn imports under the EFS scheme. The combination of low export prices and 0% duty has made Chinese yarn highly competitive in the domestic market - crowding out local production.

Table 3a: Pakistan Imports of Cotton Yarn from China and Applied Duties

Tariff Line	China's Exports to Pakistan 2023 (000 USD)	China's Exports to Pakistan 2024 (000 USD)	Share in Pakistan's Imports	MFN Duties	5th Schedule (Pakistan Customs Tariff)	Preferential Duty under CPFTA	Duty under EFS	Trade Remedies
520528	31,048	74,032	100%	11%	5%	4.20%	0%	No
520527	54,508	123,399	100%	11%	5%	4.20%	0%	No

Table 3b: Effective Duty for Cotton Yarn Imports from China

Under the heading	India	Bangladesh	USA
5205	17.7%	37%	Up to 34.1%
5206	17.7%	5%	40%
5207	17.7%	5%	25.5%

Note: The tariffs for Bangladesh on 5206 & 5207 are based on their respective customs schedules. The effective tax rate on these categories is higher when additional duties are factored in, as per their customs department.

India: Effective rate sourced from Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

U.S.: Effective rate sourced from U.S International Trade Commission.

In contrast, peer economies such as India and Bangladesh have adopted a more defensive policy posture, protecting their local industries through higher duties on Chinese yarn as reflected in their respective customs schedules

A global snapshot:

Under WTO rules, countries can impose anti-subsidy or countervailing duties to protect domestic industries from unfair price advantages created by subsidies from trading partners.

Recently, several countries have initiated anti-dumping investigations and imposed duties in response to unfair trade practices by China.

For example, the European Commission recently imposed anti-dumping duties (26.3% to 56.1%) on Chinese glass fiber yarn imports to protect 1,200 EU jobs and restore market competition. The investigation found that Chinese imports were harming local industry.

In December 2024, India launched investigations into the alleged dumping of nylon filament yarn and trimethyl dihydroquinoline (TDQ) from China, with potential recommendations for duties.

In September 2024, Turkey initiated an anti-circumvention investigation into synthetic staple fiber woven fabrics from Malaysia, suspecting that these imports were bypassing existing anti-dumping measures on China, as the share of Malaysian imports rose sharply in 2023 and 2024.

In June 2025, Malaysia announced provisional anti-dumping duties (6.33% to 37.44%) on polyethylene terephthalate (PET) imports from China and Indonesia.

Egypt also extended anti-dumping duties on Chinese synthetic fiber blankets, maintaining tariffs of 55% to 74% until August 2025 to prevent a surge of dumped products in its market.

Urgent call for government intervention to ensure fair trade:

Given the global trend of rising anti-dumping measures, Pakistan faces a similar threat to its domestic industry. With heightened trade restrictions on China from the US, such as increased tariffs and escalating non-tariff barriers, there is a growing risk of more dumping of cheaper textile intermediates, and local manufacturers risk being priced out of their own market.

The National Tariff Commission (NTC) has previously acted decisively - even imposing anti-dumping duties on relatively low-impact products like lead pencils from China. Today, the stakes are much higher, involving Pakistan's largest export sector, millions of livelihoods, and billions in export revenue. With the margin for error narrowing, Pakistan must take urgent and well-calibrated action to safeguard its textile industry from unfair competition.

Source: brecorder.com– Apr 17, 2025

HOME

****

NATIONAL NEWS

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal addresses High-Level Roundtable on IMEC

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) High-Level Roundtable on Connectivity and Economic Growth in New Delhi today.

Shri Goyal said that the IMEC is a powerful endorsement of the leadership and partnership of India and Middle East and East Europe a very forward and visionary concept that has caught the fancy of the world, he noted.

The Minister stated that IMEC is not merely a trade route, but a modern-day Silk Route — a partnership of equals — that fosters synergy, connectivity, and inclusive prosperity. "It will bring down logistics costs by up to 30%, reduce transportation time by 40%, and create seamless trade linkages across continents," he said. "We will not only be linking trade; we will be linking civilizations and cultures — from Southeast Asia to the Gulf, from the Middle East to Central Europe."

Highlighting its potential reach, Shri Goyal added that IMEC could even enhance connectivity to Africa through the Middle East. The corridor would include railways, roadways, energy pipelines, and clean energy infrastructure, including undersea cables. "India is already in discussions with Singapore on clean energy transmission. We are also engaged in dialogue with Saudi Arabia and the UAE," he shared.

Shri Goyal underscored the corridor's emphasis on sustainability and digital connectivity. "This initiative respects sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is not about dominance or creating economic unions. It is a partnership built on mutual trust, inclusivity and sustainability," he said.

He further outlined five key suggestions as a way forward for the IMEC initiative. First, Shri Goyal stressed the importance of viewing IMEC through the lens of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). He emphasized that leaving the initiative solely to the government would limit its efficiency and financial viability. Instead, he called for a collaborative model where the private sector leads, bringing to the table its real-world expertise, needs, and innovative capabilities. This approach, he noted, would ensure smarter and more cost-effective planning, as the private

sector can propose solutions that reflect practical utility. It would also allow policymakers to think systematically while the private sector introduces flexibility and innovation, ensuring the corridor remains viable, efficient, and sustainable in its execution.

Second, he highlighted the need to focus on Regulatory Connectivity, going beyond just physical infrastructure. Shri Goyal advocated for greater alignment in trade processes, customs procedures, and paperwork among participating nations. He cited India's ongoing regulatory collaboration with the UAE as an example and pointed out that successful implementation of the corridor would require seamless cross-border movement without excessive checkpoints. Interoperable systems, digitization, electric vehicle charging ecosystems, and synchronized regulations would be key to unlocking economies of scale. He suggested that common digital payment systems, such as India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), could serve as a model for enabling seamless financial transactions.

With periodic settlement in globally accepted reserve currencies, such mechanisms could reduce transactional friction and banking costs. He proposed that such innovations, combined with virtual trade corridor frameworks like the India-UAE initiative, could be extended through IMEC. These would support broader agreements such as FTAs with GCC and EU countries and bolster joint work in green hydrogen, renewable energy, and supply chain resilience.

Third, Shri Goyal underlined the need for Innovative Financing Models to support both the development of the corridor and the trade it will generate. He called for active involvement of multilateral financial agencies and suggested exploring instruments like green bonds and the creation of long-term "IMEC Bonds", to fund this transcontinental infrastructure in a sustainable and future-proof manner.

Fourth, he recommended active engagement with industry bodies and trade associations, asserting that their insights are essential for designing a corridor that aligns with the real needs of businesses. Such collaboration would help identify existing bottlenecks, promote best practices, and better integrate economies by removing trade frictions.

Lastly, Shri Goyal proposed bringing in Think Tanks and Academia to the visioning and design process. These institutions, he noted, bring creativity, research strength, and long-term thinking. Their involvement

would support policy advocacy, contribute to out-of-the-box solutions, and assist in capacity-building efforts along the corridor. He called this a well-rounded package of five initiatives that could help IMEC evolve into a robust, viable, and inclusive project. Reiterating India's clear and committed vision, he said the country is ready to act as a trusted, reliable bridge connecting regions and catalyzing global cooperation, under the guiding spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family.

Source: pib.gov.in– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

Tale of contrasts: India's FY25 trade surplus with US jumps, deficit with China widens

US President Donald Trump's complaints about the country's high trade deficit notwithstanding, India's trade surplus with the US increased to $41.18 billion in FY25 from $35.33 billion in the precious fiscal.

On the other hand, India's trade deficit with China widened to $99.2 billion in FY25 from $85.07 billion the previous fiscal fuelling worries on Beijing's increased dominance of the country's supply chains.

Trade surge

India's exports to the US in FY25 increased 11.59 per cent to $86.51 billion, according to quick estimates shared by the Commerce Department on Wednesday. The increase was led by sectors such as pharmaceuticals, electrical machinery & equipment, chemicals, plastics, apparel & textiles and articles of iron & steel.

Imports of American goods by India also increased in FY25, but at a lower 7.44 per cent to $45.33 billion. Increased imports were largely in sectors including fuels & mineral oils, gems & jewellery (including precious metals), machinery and mechanical appliances and electrical appliances.

"Although Trump has named India several times as a high-tariff-charging nation and has complained about the US' trade deficit, India's trade surplus against the US is low compared to countries like China, Mexico and Vietnam. India also ranks below countries such as Germany, Canada and Japan," an official tracking the matter pointed out.

Despite quality control orders and trade remedial measures, such as anti dumping and subsidy actions, to keep a check on influx of Chinese goods, India's imports from the country increased 11.52 per cent in FY25 to $113.45 billion.

The rise in imports is driven by increasing demand for electronics, EV batteries, solar cells, and key industrial inputs—sectors where China dominates India's supply chains, pointed out Ajay Srivastava from Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

China edge

“China is India’s top supplier in all eight major industrial product categories. The PLI schemes are fueling import growth due to their heavy reliance on imported components,” according to a GTRI analysis.

In contrast, India’s exports to China in FY25 fell 14.49 per cent to $14.25 billion. “This signals more than a trade issue; it’s a competitiveness crisis…India needs to fix its internal manufacturing gaps and invest in deep industrial capabilities,” the report noted.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

India-US bilateral trade deal: In-person talks may begin by May-end

India and the United States (US) are trying to finalise a trade deal as 'quickly as possible', with both sides gearing up for starting negotiations by the second half of May, a senior commerce department official said on Tuesday.

Virtual discussions on sectoral issues will start this week.

The terms of reference (ToR) of the India-US proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) was finalised and signed last month, during the visit of the US Trade Representative (USTR) team to New Delhi.

India is also looking at non-tariff barriers as well as tariff barriers in the agreement. If these barriers are reduced by both sides, it will lead to higher growth in trade for both countries.

Both sides hope to conclude the first phase of the pact by the fall (September-October) of this year, with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

They are also exploring a carve out for an interim trade deal within the next 90 days, provided the ongoing talks progress well and the outcome is a 'win-win' for both nations.

The US has paused the country-specific reciprocal tariffs for 90 days, excluding China. This will allow countries to strike bilateral trade deals with Washington.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said India has decided to follow the trade liberalisation path with the US. The BTA, if finalised, will open huge opportunities for both Indian and American businesses.

"...There are both concerns as well as opportunities for India in terms of the current tariffs (globally). India has already taken a path, where we will be going for trade liberalisation with the US," Barthwal told reporters during a briefing.

Dumping concerns

With the US imposing sectoral and additional tariffs, the government has set up an inter-ministerial import surge monitoring group as high tariffs on certain countries, such as China and Vietnam, may lead to diversion of goods to India.

China imposing retaliatory tariffs on American goods can further increase the flow of US agricultural products to India.

“With the global uncertainties related to tariffs, obviously there are elevated apprehensions related to likely flooding or surge in imports. To look at that, an import surge monitoring group has been set up,” additional secretary in the department of commerce L Satya Srinivas said.

Srinivas added that the group is monitoring weekly as well as monthly trends by commodities and by countries. If any unusual surge is reported, the commerce ministry can take action such as imposing anti-dumping, safeguard duties or levying minimum import price.

There’s a risk of merchandise dumping into India due to reciprocal tariffs amid global trade tensions. And, rising US costs may prompt exporters from countries like China, Vietnam and Indonesia — all with US trade deficits — to divert goods to India, potentially triggering import surges, the commerce department said.

Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said a help desk has been operationalised since April 11 for both exporters and importers to address their issues. “We have done stakeholder and inter-ministerial consultations for that,” added Sarangi.

India-EU to focus on finalising 1st tranche of deal

India and the European Union (EU) will follow a ‘pragmatic’ approach and attempt to finalise an ‘early harvest’ or first tranche of the long-pending trade deal, which may be easier to conclude, a senior commerce department official said on Monday.

The early harvest deal will focus on core trade issues such as rules of origin, tariff, and customs facilitation.

Typically, full-fledged, comprehensive free trade agreements (FTA) may take longer to conclude. The change in approach comes amid India and the EU's decision to sign a trade deal by the end of 2025.

Source: business-standard.com– Apr 15, 2025

HOME

****

Ecommerce export credit card in works to aid exporters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: economictimes.com– Apr 17, 2025

HOME

****

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

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

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

New scheme

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

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

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Apr 14, 2025

HOME

****

India's exports to America, imports from China reach all-time high in 2024-25

The concerns over reciprocal tariffs kicking off on April 2 seem to have resulted in a front-loading of shipments in March, with total exports to the US reaching an all-time high of $86.51 billion in 2024-25.

According to provisional trade data released by the Commerce Ministry, imports from China also surged to a record high of $113.45 billion in the last financial year.

Indian exporters shipped goods worth over $10 billion to the US in March alone, which represents a sharp jump of 35 per cent compared to March last year. Overall, total goods exports remained flat.

Simultaneously, imports in the same month from China jumped 25 per cent. This is much higher than the overall 11.52 per cent increase in imports recorded during FY25. Overall trade deficit was recorded at $94.26 billion, as imports also grew by 7 per cent to hit a record of $915.19 billion in the last financial year.

The data showed that goods exports remained flat at $437.42 billion in FY25, compared to $437.07 billion during the previous financial year.

In contrast, services exports logged 12.45 per cent growth, reaching $383.51 billion compared to $341.06 billion in the previous financial year. India maintained a healthy surplus in services trade, with imports in FY25 coming in at $195.95 billion. Former trade officer and head of think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), Ajay Srivastava, said that India's trade deficit with China has hit $99.2 billion in FY25, reflecting deeper structural dependencies, not just trade imbalances.

"China is India's top supplier in all eight major industrial product categories. The PLI schemes are fuelling import growth due to their heavy reliance on imported components. What's more alarming is that India's exports to China fell 14.5 per cent, dipping to $14.2 billion — now lower than they were in FY14, when the rupee was significantly stronger. This signals more than a trade issue; it's a competitiveness crisis," he said.

Amid drought and high temperatures in Brazil, a key coffee producer globally, India saw the steepest surge of 40 per cent in coffee exports. New

Delhi exported coffee worth $1.8 billion in FY25 — the highest ever — as prices of robusta coffee touched record highs in global markets.

With booming iPhone exports from India, electronic exports registered a 32 per cent jump to $38 billion. The Commerce Ministry said that India's export share in the US and UK markets in 2024 went up by 13.73 per cent and 14.31 per cent respectively.

Exports of drugs and pharmaceuticals, fruits and vegetables, cereal preparations, and miscellaneous processed items also rose between 5 and 10 per cent. However, exports of gems and jewellery, handicrafts, and organic and inorganic chemicals declined by 2 to 10 per cent.

Notably, engineering goods shipments recorded 6.74 per cent year-on-year growth in FY25 compared to the previous fiscal. However, in March, the value of Indian engineering goods exports declined nearly 4 per cent year-on-year to $10.82 billion, compared to $11.27 billion in March 2024.
Story continues below this ad

Engineering Export Promotion Council chairman Pankaj Chadha said that the additional duties imposed by the US on iron & steel and auto components are set to hit the engineering exports sector. "There could be a potential annual drop of $4-5 billion in engineering shipments to the US as a consequence.

Besides, we are going to face massive competition from China in other markets as they vehemently push their products there while chasing new regions to de-risk from the US," he said.

Competition in markets such as Latin America, Central America, the Middle East, and Africa is set to heat up as exporters explore new markets and further penetrate existing ones, he said, adding that this could dent profit margins, leaving little funding for investment.

Meanwhile, the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Wednesday warned that the volume of world merchandise trade is expected to decline by 0.2 per cent in 2025 under current conditions — nearly three percentage points lower than would be expected under a "low tariff" baseline scenario.

"Services trade, though not directly subject to tariffs, is also expected to be adversely affected, with the global volume of commercial services trade now forecast to grow by 4 per cent, slower than expected," the WTO said in a note.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said that the recent de-escalation of tariff tensions has temporarily relieved some of the pressure on global trade. However, the enduring uncertainty threatens to act as a brake on global growth, with severe negative consequences for the world — particularly for the most vulnerable economies.

Source: indianexpress.com– Apr 17, 2025

HOME

****

Bangladesh restricts import of yarn from India by land

Bangladesh has restricted import of yarn from India through its land ports through an order dated April 13.

India exported cotton yarn worth $ 1.6 billion in 2024 and manmade fibre (MMF) yarn worth nearly $ 85 million. A substantial volume of yarn goes through land.

On April 25, India rescinded its 2020 order that permitted transhipment of goods from Bangladesh through its Land Customs Stations to third countries, citing congestion at its ports.

According to Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director of Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, close to 32 % of yarn exported to Bangladesh is by land. The restrictions imposed on the export of cotton yarn is a matter of deep concern," he said.

Textile mills in the north, especially the small and medium scale units, prefer to ship by land as it is cost effective. They will now have to export through the Mundra, Thoothukudi, or Nhava Sheva ports and it will lead to higher costs. Readymade garment exporters in Bangladesh who are using imported yarn from India will also have to pay higher price due to hike in logistics cost and will face delays, he said.

Rakesh Mehra, chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, said Bangladesh accounts for more than 45% of cotton yarn exports from India. The recent suspension of imports of cotton yarn from India by Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue will have a serious impact on India's cotton yarn exports to Bangladesh.

Trade data suggests that Bangladesh has been the fastest growing market for India's cotton yarn with its exports growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 25% during the last five years. "As India is also a large market for Bangladesh's apparel industry, we are hopeful of an early resolution of this issue," he said.

Source: thehindu.com– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

India sees export opportunity in 10 products amid US-China tariff war

New Delhi: India has identified at least 10 sectors, including apparel and clothing accessories, chemicals, plastics and rubber, where high US tariffs give New Delhi a competitive advantage in the American market over other suppliers, said officials in the know.

The idea is to capitalise on the advantage in these sectors, which also include vehicles, other than railways, mineral fuel and pharmaceuticals, in the coming months to compensate for the loss in categories impacted by high tariffs.

While India faces a 10% 'baseline' tariff after the US suspended the 26% 'reciprocal' duties for 90 days, the levy remains at 145% on China, the biggest exporter to the US.

Providing support to advantageous exports is crucial, as competitors such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and Cambodia are offering duty and other concessions to the US.

"Our internal assessment shows that of the 30 top imports into the US, India has a competitive advantage on one-third, or roughly 10 products, and a higher scope to get more US market share," said an official.

Niti Aayog's analysis shows China's share of US' apparel imports at 25%, compared with India's 3.8%, leaving a huge opportunity for India with the high tariff differential.

Eyeing prelude to BTA by July

The US imports electronics worth $900 billion, of which China's share is over 50% against India's 7%, again giving scope to New Delhi to increase shipments.

"Also, there are (other) export opportunities arising because of the US-China tariff war. We are exploring those too," said another official.

Gems and jewellery, and articles of iron and steel are also areas where India can benefit.

Exploring such opportunities on a fast-track basis is crucial to aid the target of doubling India-US trade to $500 billion by 2030.

The 26% rate is expected to return on July 9, by when the two sides hope to sign an early harvest trade deal. This would be a prelude to a bilateral trade agreement, the first phase of which they aim to conclude in September-October.

“There are about 175 tariff lines, or product categories, including toys, essential oils, confectionery, footwear and leather products, where India is now much more competitive than China and can garner more market share,” said Ajay Sahai, director general of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

According to an apparel exporter, American buyers were earlier sourcing 30-40% from China and that market is now open for other players as well. The US imports about $120 billion in textile and apparel annually.

Source: economictimes.com– Apr 15, 2025

HOME

****

India's cotton panel recommends removing 11% import duty

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

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

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

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

Positive signal to US

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

US cotton exports to India rise on lower prices, tariff uncertainties

US upland cotton exports to India have risen in the past few months fueled by global tariff conflicts, declining American prices and rising demand in the South Asian country, industry experts said.

Exports to India from February to April jumped to 155,260 running bales, from 25,901 shipped during a year ago period, according to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) data. The exports hit an over 2-1/2-year high in the week of February 20.

The increase comes as Washington-Beijing trade tensions escalate, reducing US cotton exports to China. China will impose 125 per cent tariffs on US goods, up from the 84 per cent previously announced, the finance ministry said on Friday.

With these tariffs and a drop in China's demand, upland cotton grown in Texas and other regions is now finding a market in India, according to Ajay Kedia, director of Kedia Advisors.

At the same time, exports to China are expected to decrease, said Justin Cardwell, head of research and technology at Alternative Option.

India is the world's second-largest cotton producer after China, as well as one of the world's largest cotton yarn processors and exporters. However, declining yields have recently turned the country from a net exporter to a net importer of the fibre.

India mainly imports Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton from the US, benefiting from a 10 per cent duty exemption, unlike short staple cotton which has an 11 per cent import duty.

"The US ELS cotton remains cost-effective for many Indian buyers due to its higher ginning efficiency, better lint yield, and superior fibre quality," said Kedia.

The Cotton Association of India (CAI) this year lowered its cotton production estimate by 250,000 bales to 30.1 million bales, marking a 7.84 per cent drop from the 2023-24 season.

ICE cotton futures have dropped nearly 5 per cent so far this year.

India could see a cotton shortfall of 2.5 million bales this year, a gap that could be bridged with increased imports, said Y. G. Prasad, director of Central Institute for Cotton Research.

India's cotton imports in 2024/25 are expected to double due to falling production, according to the CAI. India also imports cotton from Australia, Brazil, and Egypt.

Source: business-standard.com– Apr 17, 2025

HOME

****

How Indian Apparel SMEs Are Entering Global Supply Chains

The apparel industry in India has long been recognised for its legacy in textiles, craftsmanship and production value. Nevertheless, SMEs have sustained constrained access to global markets and have been confined to sub-par supply chains and lack of supply chain visibility. In more recent history, this is changing as Indian apparel SMEs are showing up more on the global stage, integrating into international supply chains, and becoming central players in the global fashion system.

Digitisation: Unlocking Visibility and Scale

Historically, a significant hurdle for Indian apparel SMEs to enter global supply chains was the absence of digital infrastructure, as most businesses were operating in a traditional format with minimal technology adoption. However, the ongoing digital transformation through government initiatives and private platforms has begun to change this landscape.

Business-to-business (B2B) platforms now allow small manufacturers and wholesalers to connect directly with both domestic and international retailers. These platforms offer digital storefronts, real-time inventory updates, catalogue management, and integrated logistics solutions. This improves efficiency and offers SMEs visibility and scalability to serve global demand.

According to an estimate, the textile and apparel industry in India is anticipated to reach $350 billion by 20301 with more technology and innovation investment. This growth is a tremendous opportunity for SMEs to scale up in a global environment.

Compliance and Quality Standards: From Local to Global

To penetrate and remain within global supply chains, Indian apparel SMEs have significantly upgraded their compliance and quality systems. International buyers now expect traceability, ethical sourcing, and sustainability. In response, Indian SMEs have upgraded factory conditions, secured compliance certifications (such as ISO and WRAP) and implemented quality management systems aligned with global sourcing standards.

Interestingly, many SMEs have begun to adopt technologies that support their compliance, including cloud-based audit tracking systems and real-time production monitoring. These advancements have increased the credibility of Indian suppliers in global markets.

Collaborative Ecosystems: The Power of Aggregation

Another developing trend is the establishment of collaborative ecosystems in which technology, policy, and the industry function to jointly promote SME exports. Through these systems: manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers connect more effectively and create a more interconnected and responsive supply network. By aggregating demand from tier 2 and tier 3 cities and consolidating fragmented supply units, these ecosystems enable economies of scale. They also allow smaller production units to collaborate and fulfil large global sourcing orders collectively.

Also, SMEs rely on strategic alliances with export houses, logistics providers, and fintech to overcome common challenges such as financing, documentation, and timely delivery. These alliances are indispensable for building trust with buyers and seamlessly integrating into global supply chains.

A New Era for Indian Apparel SMEs

Apparel SMEs in India are no longer limited by geography or infrastructure. With access to digital tools, robust compliance frameworks, and collaborative partners, they are well-positioned to play a pivotal role in the global apparel value chain. B2B platforms are now transforming India's fashion export landscape by aggregating local manufacturing capacity to fulfil fast-fashion orders for global brands through an agile, tech-enabled model.

As the global landscape shifts towards more agile and diversified sourcing models, Indian SMEs are well-prepared to adapt especially when backed by technology and innovation.

Conclusion

Indian apparel SMEs are no longer constrained by traditional barriers as they successfully integrate into global supply chains. The advent of digital platforms has unlocked new avenues for scalability, allowing smaller manufacturers to compete with larger players on the global stage.

Upgrading compliance and quality systems has made these SMEs more attractive to international buyers, ensuring they meet the rigorous standards of sustainability, traceability, and ethical sourcing that are increasingly demanded in today's fashion industry.

Furthermore, the formation of collaborative ecosystems has enabled SMEs to overcome logistical challenges, achieve economies of scale, and fulfil large global orders that were once out of their reach. With these advancements, Indian apparel SMEs are well-positioned to be key contributors to the global fashion ecosystem, leveraging technology and innovation to keep pace with shifting market demands. As global sourcing models evolve towards greater flexibility and diversification, these SMEs will play a pivotal role in reshaping the future of apparel production.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Apr 16, 2025

HOME

****

Tirupur expects 25% jump in exports in FY26 from China, Bangladesh diversification

CHENNAI: Tirupur knitwear industry, which exported goods worth Rs 40,000 crore in 2024-25 financial year (FY25), expects around 25% growth in the next fiscal as buyers diversify purchases from Bangladesh and China amid political turmoil and ongoing US tariff war.

According to the exporters' body, buyers are increasingly placing orders with domestic companies. Dr A Sakthivel, vice chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) told TOI that domestic companies are witnessing more orders from the US and UK, two key export destinations for Tirupur, as they expect favourable terms from India's bilateral trade pacts with these two countries. Currently India is in talks with the US on a trade deal with the US with the deal expected to finalise later this year.

“India’s presence in the complete supply chain from raw material to finished goods, quicker execution of orders and recent improvements in quality has increased the confidence of Indian suppliers. That too is contributing to the increase of orders,” he said, adding it is expected to maintain a similar trajectory despite global uncertainties.

The Tirupur cluster recorded 20% growth in the previous year (FY25) with Rs 40,000 crore and roughly shipped 45% materials to Europe and 30% to the US. India’s readymade garment (RMG) sector registered 10% growth in exports during the fiscal year 2024 -25 with total goods worth $16 billion (approximately Rs 1,36,000 crore). Out of this 49% were knit sector exports, significant increase from the previous year.

Source: timesofindia.com– Apr 17, 2025

HOME

****