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USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
86.09	99.49	116.81	0.60

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China-to-US Freight Rates 'No Longer Surging'—Is it All Downhill from Here?

After a series of weeks which saw trans-Pacific container prices double in the wake of a tariff truce between the U.S. and China, ocean freight rates may have already hit their summer seasonal peak.

According to Hong Kong-based container shipping researcfh firm Linerlytica, rates have peaked after ocean carriers rolled back general rate increases (GRIs) from the previous two weeks as trans-Pacific capacity injections have still exceeded market demand.

A weekly update on Monday indicated that carriers are "struggling to fill the ships" on the pathway to Los Angeles-Long Beach.

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI), which saw ocean freight rates skyrocket 117 percent on the trans-Pacific trade lane in the four-week span prior to June 5, experienced a paltry 1 percent weekly jump to $5,914 per 40-foot container. The Shanghai-to-New York route had a major stabilization as well, shooting up 96 percent in a four-week span before inching up 2 percent to $7,285 per container.

Overall, week-over-week totals across the WCI remained stable at $3,543 per 40-foot container.

"Global container shipping has addressed short-term capacity shortages and spot rates are now no longer surging, which will come as a relief to shippers," said Philip Damas, head of Drewry Supply Chain Advisors.

As carriers resumed suspended services and new carriers entered the market, Asia-to-West Coast ship capacity rose 16 percent month over month in June and is expected to increase another 8 percent in July, "with far fewer cancelled sailings than in April/May," Damas told Sourcing Journal.

However, while GRI hikes are a lever ocean carriers often pull to capitalize on a surge in cargo and increase freight rates, the increased capacity forced them to pull back a week after taking effect.

“The June 1 GRI was fully implemented but failed to hold,” said Hua Joo Tan, co-founder of Linerlytica. “Freight rates are dropping from their early June peak and will continue to fall back due to excess capacity as well as the absence of box shortages and port congestion. The mid-June GRI appears to be doomed for the same reasons.”

According to a Thursday weekly update from Flexport, carriers have fully withdrawn planned June 15 GRIs for West Coast destinations. On the East and Gulf Coasts, GRIs remain in effect.

Not everyone is anticipating such a quick fall, with Xeneta expecting an element of front-loading to still permeate throughout the original 90-day tariff rollback period.

Xeneta’s chief analyst, Peter Sand, said that “mid-high” spot rates—rates paid by shippers in the 75th-highest percentile of the spot market—were the first batch that needed to get goods into the U.S. immediately and refill inventory.

This cohort drove the sharpest rise in China-to-U.S. demand right after the rollback was announced May 12, he said.

“As we head into the second half of June, shippers benchmarking themselves against mid-low and average freight rates on the trans-Pacific headhaul will have to pay up as well,” Sand told Sourcing Journal. “Still a tight market, but not tightening further to lift mid-high, as carriers are busy and soon done with bringing capacity back to the trans-Pacific trade lanes.”

Adding onto the uncertainty is the U.S.-China tariff situation itself, which is still up in the air despite the Trump administration’s insistence that there will be no more changes.

Although representatives from the U.S. and China came to a new trade deal on Wednesday that establishes a combined duty rate of 55 percent on imports from China, there have been scant details surrounding the agreement. Additionally, neither Presidents Donald Trump nor Xi Jinping have officially approved the deal.

"There are still a lot of moving parts on the tariff front and this is unlikely to be the end as far as China tariffs are concerned," Tan told Sourcing Journal. "The cargo volume trajectory will also depend on the rest of tariff discussions that are yet to be finalized."

This refers to the other 90-day deadline for U.S. trade partners that were recipients of the reciprocal tariffs. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Wednesday it is "highly likely" the July 9 deadline would be extended. But with these de-escalations occurring, rates are likely to go on a downward slope if demand for carrier space weakens.

"Looking ahead, the end of the 90-day tariff pause and the probable early end of the peak season are expected to cause another downcycle in demand, another need for ship capacity changes and another sharp fall in spot freight rates from July," said Damas.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– June 12, 2025

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Cotton Highlights From June 2025 WASDE Report

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

The 2025/26 U.S. cotton balance sheet is revised to show lower production, beginning stocks and ending stocks, with consumption, imports, and exports unchanged from last month.

Harvested area is lowered 2% to 8.19 million acres following extensive rainfall and delayed planting in the Delta. The national average yield for 2025/26 is reduced more than 1% from last month to 820 pounds per harvested acre, also because of the conditions in the Delta. As a result, the production forecast is reduced 500,000 bales to 14.0 million – below the 14.4 million bales produced in 2024/25 and the second smallest crop in the past decade.

Beginning stocks for 2025/26 are reduced 400,000 bales following a corresponding increase in projected exports for 2024/25. As a result, 2025/26 ending stocks are lowered 900,000 bales to 4.3 million, for a stocks-to-use ratio of 30.3%. The projected season-average price for 2025/26 is unchanged this month at 62 cents per pound.

For the 2025/26 world cotton balance sheet, production, consumption, beginning and ending stocks, and world trade are all revised downward. World production is lowered over 800,000 bales as a 1-million bale increase for China is more than offset by reductions for India, the United States, and Pakistan. Consumption is reduced over 300,000 bales for 2025/26 as an increase for Egypt is more than offset by reductions for India, Turkey and Bangladesh, with small changes elsewhere. Revisions to trade are largely offsetting as global exports are lowered 40,000 bales.

Beginning stocks for 2025/26 are lowered over 1.1 million bales, largely reflecting a 1-million reduction in India's 2024/25 crop. As a result, global ending stocks for 2025/26 are lowered nearly 1.6 million bales, primarily reflecting the reduction in beginning stocks and a decrease in production that exceeds the decrease in consumption.

Source: cottongrower.com– June 12, 2025

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Global air cargo volumes up 6% YoY in May, spot rates drop: Xeneta

While international trade continued to flow in May this year and global air cargo volumes rose by 6 per cent year on year (YoY), market sentiment and concerns over what comes next saw airfreight spot rates decline for the first time in a year, according to Xeneta's latest market analysis.

Midway through the month, the global air cargo market appeared to have dodged a perfect storm as the US-China 90-day tariff truce began on May 14 after the escalating retaliatory tariffs since April.

This welcome news came too late to reverse a softening in freight rates. The global air cargo spot rate fell by 4 per cent YoY in May to $2.44 per kg—the first such decline since April 2024. This could, in part, also be attributed to nearly 20 per cent YoY declines in jet fuel costs.

More downward pressure may lie ahead, said Xeneta's chief airfreight officer Niall van de Wouw in a release.

"Market fundamentals are holding up, but the drop in rates is likely a reflection of declining sentiment and concerns, particularly among airlines, over what will happen once more stability returns to international trade and there is less of a push for the security of airfreight. Whatever worse trade conditions take away from overall trade, this uncertainty gives a bit back to airfreight," he said.

"This climate is reducing trade and airfreight is getting a temporary piggyback on this uncertainty through an increase in 'emergency shipments' but that will not continue. It's difficult to relate the +6 per cent growth in demand in May to increased e-commerce or increasing trade at a time when companies overall are becoming more conservative," van de Wouw said.

The slower growth in airfreight volumes and rates over the last 5-6 months, he said, reflects growing sentiment "that it doesn't look good for trade".

"At the moment, the climate might be positive on certain lanes to airfreight demand, but there will be a time when there's an agreement on tariffs—and I don't expect the end result to promote trade and will, therefore, hamper airfreight," he noted.

Airlines, he feels, will be trying to hold onto their volumes in this very uncertain environment and willing to "pay a little bit for that security", he said.

By the week ending June 1, China to US spot rates rose by 14 per cent to $4.31 per kg, up from their low point in the week ending May 11 prior to the reduction in tariffs. Spot rates on this lane have now recovered above those from China to Europe, which stood at $4.11 per kg.

Despite the recent uptick, however, China to US seasonal rates continue to trend downwards from their early April peak (prior to Liberation Day in the US), signalling ongoing caution in the mid-term market outlook.

Global air cargo capacity rose by a modest 2 per cent YoY in May as airlines increased passenger belly capacity for the North hemisphere's summer season.

However, global air cargo dynamic load factor remained subdued, remaining flat at 57 per cent for the fifth straight month in May. Dynamic load factor is Xeneta's measurement of capacity utilisation based on volume and weight of cargo flown alongside available capacity.

Air cargo spot rates fell month on month on most routes following US tariff truce, Xeneta added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 13, 2025

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Dutch manufacturing output drops 0.5% in April 2025

The Dutch manufacturing sector saw a 0.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in calendar-adjusted output in April 2025, according to Statistics Netherlands (CBS). More than half of the industrial segments reported lower production compared to April 2024.

Seasonally adjusted data revealed a 1 per cent decrease in output from March to April, continuing the downward trend that began after May 2022. The sector had previously experienced a sharp decline in spring 2020, followed by a recovery phase until mid-2022.

Within the sector, machinery manufacturing saw a 3.4 per cent decrease in output compared to April 2024, CBS said in a release.

Producer confidence weakened further in May, driven by growing pessimism about future output. Although Germany—a key trading partner—reported improving sentiment for the fifth consecutive month, its manufacturing output dropped 2.5 per cent YoY and 1.8 per cent month-on-month (MoM) in April, according to Destatis.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 13, 2025

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German manufacturers see steady improvement in May export conditions

Purchasing managers' index (PMI) data from May this year indicated a steady improvement in export conditions for German manufacturers, with trade-weighted global economic output rising slightly since April despite elevated business uncertainty at home and abroad in the wake of recent US tariff announcements.

The headline Hamburg Commercial Bank (HCOB) Germany manufacturing PMI export conditions index posted 50.4 in May, up from 50.2 in April and above the neutral 50 threshold for the fourth consecutive month.

However, the latest reading was still weaker than the average since the index began in 2005 (52.2). There was a divergence between developed and emerging markets in May, with the former signalling the strongest upturn since August 2024 (index at 51).

In contrast, emerging markets business activity decreased for the first time since January. At 49.2 in May, down from 50.7 in April, the respective index was the lowest for eight months. This partly reflected a downturn in private sector output in China for the first time since December 2022.

The seasonally-adjusted new export orders index registered 51 in May, up from 50.3 in April and above the neutral 50 threshold for the second month in a row.

Although only indicative of a marginal upturn in new orders from abroad, the latest reading was the highest since February 2022, a release from S&P Global Ratings, which compiled the survey, said.

Improving export orders books across the German manufacturing sector contrasted with subdued global trade volumes in May. The worldwide measure of PMI new export orders posted 48, up slightly from 47.2 in April, but still inside contraction territory.

Three out of four broad categories within the German manufacturing sector recorded an expansion of new export order volumes in May.

Manufacturers in the chemicals sub-sector in the country recorded a marginal increase in new export sales during May. This was generally attributed to rising demand from clients in Asia and Europe, according to survey respondents.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 13, 2025

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Global textile outlook diverges sharply by region: ITMF May 2025 Survey

The International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) has released its 32nd Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS), conducted between May 12–22, 2025, revealing wide regional disparities in performance and outlook within the global textile sector.

While the overall global business situation remains challenging, with a negative balance of -20 percentage points, Africa stands out with a robust +23 pp, followed by South America at +6 pp. In contrast, East Asia faces significant headwinds, recording the weakest performance with -48 pp. Despite current challenges, future expectations are more optimistic, registering a global balance of +24 pp. North America leads confidence levels with +65 pp, trailed by Africa at +54 pp, whereas East Asia remains cautious with -18 pp.

Order intake continues to be a concern, declining steadily for four months and landing at -21 pp in May. Africa is the only region showing positive momentum (+18 pp), while Europe (-45 pp) and East Asia (-41 pp) remain subdued. Nevertheless, global order backlogs show signs of recovery, now averaging 2.3 months.

Capacity utilization reached 72 per cent in May, with Asian countries maintaining leadership. Upstream sectors, particularly spinning, are operating at higher rates than downstream segments.

Demand weakness is the leading concern for 61 per cent of survey respondents over the next six months, followed by trade tensions and rising operational costs. However, order cancellation rates remain low and stable across all regions, indicating some resilience in the supply chain.

The ITMF findings suggest a global industry under pressure but with emerging bright spots and a cautiously improving sentiment in several key markets.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– June 12, 2025

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UK fashion manufacturers report 68% sales surge in Q1 FY25: Unleashed

The average small to medium UK fashion manufacturer saw sales revenue rise by 68 per cent in the first quarter (Q1) of fiscal 2025 (FY25) compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal 2024, and by 171 per cent more year-on-year, as per new data from the latest Manufacturing Health Index, by inventory management software provider Unleashed.

Business confidence fell into negative territory in Q1 for the first time since 2022, weighed down by tax hikes, inflation, sluggish growth, and global uncertainty. Yet, the fashion sector's standout sales performance hints that UK manufacturers may be finding unexpected opportunities amid international market disruption.

"The unusual business conditions of the first three months of the year had generally played out well for the country's smaller producers, as had falling bank rates. Anecdotally, what we're hearing from some of our customers is that Q1 brought welcome windfalls. Some tariff-affected international customers have turned to UK firms to do business, while others raced to order more before tariff pauses came off. That's delivered a shot in the arm for some firms, but more importantly we're hearing that steadily falling bank rates are starting to stimulate the economy, which obviously is very welcome to UK manufacturers who've posted a really strong start to the year," Joe Llewellyn, GM of ERP Small Business at The Access Group, the parent company of Unleashed, said.

However Unleashed's data also showed profitability dropped compared to last year. Gross Margin Return on Inventory (GMROI) for the average clothing manufacturer declined -53 per cent against the fourth quarter and -36 per cent year-on-year, to £4.14 return for every pound spent on buying stock.

However, delivery lead times also dropped down to 19 days on average, which offers some reassurances. Faster delivery times allow businesses to reorder in smaller quantities, which is a more cost-efficient way to generate sales that improves margins.

Across all of the 12 manufacturing categories analysed, sales were up by 30 per cent in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024 – and 13 per cent year-on-year. Profitability also jumped by 10 per cent in Q1 2025.

It’s possible that the higher profit margins seen in Q1 across the wider manufacturing base were caused by purchasing managers deferring their inventory replenishment spend in response to low GBP-USD exchange rates. In January the pound dipped to $1.22, making international purchases more expensive for UK buyers of US-dollar denominated goods. By the end of March, however, the exchange rate had trended favourably and reached 1.34 at the end of April.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 13, 2025

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Cambodia's apparel exports jump 22% in Jan-May 2025

Cambodia's apparel exports rose by 22.93 per cent to $4.213 billion during the first five months of 2025. Apparel accounted for 35.7 per cent of the country's total foreign income, which reached $11.805 billion, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) under the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

During this period, Cambodia's exports of knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 61) totalled $2,696.428 million, marking a 23.3 per cent increase from $2,187.747 million in January–May 2024. Similarly, exports of non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 62) rose by 22.3 per cent to $1,517.575 million, up from $1,240.448 million in the same period of 2024.

In May 2025, exports of knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 61) amounted to $746.893 million, a 33.1 per cent increase from $561.315 million in May 2024. Likewise, exports of non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 62) rose by 20.2 per cent to $324.977 million, up from $270.366 million in May 2024.

Regarding imports, Cambodia's intake of knitted or crocheted fabrics (Chapter 60) reached $1,417.294 million in January–May 2025, an increase of 13.4 per cent from $1,250.236 million during the same period in 2024. Imports of man-made fibres (Chapter 55) rose by 5.7 per cent to $605.168 million, compared to $572.282 million in the previous year. Imports of cotton and cotton yarn (Chapter 52) also grew by 2.3 per cent to $327.066 million, up from $319.6 million in January–May 2024.

In 2024, the country's apparel exports surged by 24.44 per cent to $9.791 billion, comprising $6.638 billion from knitted apparel and $3.153 billion from non-knitted apparel. That same year, Cambodia imported knitted or crocheted fabrics worth $3.081 billion, man-made fibres worth $1.349 billion, and cotton and cotton yarn worth $766.003 million. In 2023, Cambodia's apparel exports declined by 12.91 per cent to $7.87 billion, in contrast to a 12.69 per cent increase in 2022, when total exports reached $9.04 billion.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 13, 2025

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NATIONAL NEWS

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Advances India–Sweden Collaboration Through Comprehensive Government and Industry Dialogues

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal held a series of substantive engagements with senior members of the Swedish government and industry leaders on day one of his two-day official visit to Stockholm. The visit aimed at further deepening the bilateral economic relationship, enhancing trade and investment flows, and exploring new avenues of cooperation in emerging sectors.

In his official interactions, Shri Goyal met with H.E. Mr. Benjamin Dousa, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, and H.E. Mr. Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary for Foreign Trade. Discussions focused on expanding the scope of India–Sweden trade and investment partnership, facilitating sustainable industrial collaboration, and identifying key areas for technology and innovation-driven growth.

The 21st session of the India–Sweden Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation was held during the visit. The session was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary for Foreign Trade, Joint Secretary from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Shri Sanjiv and Joint Secretary from the Department of Commerce, Shri Saket Kumar,.

The agenda included strategic cooperation in innovation and research and a roundtable discussion on strengthening the India–Sweden economic partnership. The meeting witnessed participation from key Swedish institutions including LeadIT, Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish National Space Agency, the National Board of Trade, the Swedish Export Credit Agency, Business Sweden, and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India. Both sides underscored their shared commitment to advancing joint projects in green transition, advanced technologies, and resilient supply chains.

Shri Goyal also addressed the India–Sweden Business Leaders' Roundtable, where he interacted with key members of Swedish industry. He invited companies to enhance their footprint in India by taking advantage of the country's enabling regulatory environment, growing consumer base, skilled talent pool, and well-developed industrial infrastructure. The Roundtable served as a platform for strengthening private-sector collaboration in clean energy, smart manufacturing, mobility, life sciences, and digital technologies.

The Minister participated in the India–Sweden High-Level Trade and Investment Policy Forum at the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise. The Forum brought together business leaders and policy-makers from both sides to discuss the evolving trade architecture and opportunities under the proposed India–EU Free Trade Agreement. Presentations were made by CII and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise. CEOs from leading companies shared their views on enhancing value-chain partnerships, technology transfers, and investment facilitation.

A number of one-on-one meetings were held with Swedish companies from sectors such as automation, renewable energy, sustainable food systems, maritime technology, and advanced materials. Several companies conveyed strong confidence in the Indian economy and expressed intent to scale their presence through new investments, capacity expansion, and deeper localisation. Areas of support discussed included facilitation in land access, skilling partnerships, and fast-track clearances.

The Embassy of India and the Sweden–India Business Council co-hosted a Roundtable Reception in the evening with business stakeholders, thought leaders, and government representatives. Shri Goyal reiterated India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing and innovation hub and called for sustained partnership with Sweden in critical sectors such as green technologies, innovation-led growth, and digital public infrastructure.

The engagements in Stockholm reflect the continued momentum in the India–Sweden strategic partnership and reaffirm the shared ambition to collaborate on high-impact, future-oriented initiatives.

Source: pib.gov.in – June 12, 2025

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India-EU FTA nears completion, says Goyal; focus now on non-tariff barriers

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said resolving non-tariff barriers would be crucial for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union.

Goyal, who is on an official visit to Sweden to meet his counterpart, made these remarks in Stockholm while addressing the reporters, news agency PTI reported. He further added that both sides are working actively to resolve these issues, adding that the two sides are "pretty" close to finalising the talks for the proposed free trade pact.

Speaking to reporters, Goyal said, "Significant progress has been made. More than half the chapters are ready. In terms of content, I would say we are almost 90 per cent ready for market access. The important issues to be addressed are non-tariff barriers and how we will make it smoother, easier, and better to do business between the EU and India."

Crucial Indian exports that face high barriers in the EU include chillies, tea, Basmati rice, milk, poultry, bovine meat, fish, and chemical products.

He also claimed that talks between the two sides are ongoing to find solutions to make business smooth for companies of both sides. Goyal said, "Unless countries recognise that over regulation and barriers to trade will be met with reciprocal action, everybody suffers. We are committed to deregulation, to finding solutions to the high cost of regulation, the non-tariff barriers that these regulations cause, and the impediments to free trade. I am quite hopeful that we will find very robust solutions to this problem."

Goyal's remarks come just days after he claimed that the FTA between India and the four-nation European bloc (EFTA) will bring stability, predictability, and continuity to businesses in the regions.

Earlier in February this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen agreed to seal a much-awaited free trade deal as concerns rose over US President Donald Trump's policy on tariffs.

The negotiations between India and the EU bloc resumed in June 2022, after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets.

Source: business-standard.com– June 12, 2025

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India's goods, services exports may cross $900 billion this year: Piyush Goyal

India's goods and services exports during 2025-26 are expected to cross $900 billion despite the global economic uncertainties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

Despite uncertainties due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Israel-Hamas war and the Red Sea crisis, the country's overall exports touched an all-time high of $825 billion in 2024-25 against $778 billion in 2023-24.

"We have crossed $825 billion exports last year, we are surely to cross $900 billion this year in all this global turmoil," he has said here while addressing the Indian business delegation last night.

The Minister is in Stockholm on an official visit to meet his Swedish counterpart and companies for promoting trade and investments between the two countries.

Apex exporters' body FIEO has projected that the country's overall goods and services exports are expected to grow by over 21% year-on-year to $1 trillion during 2025-26.

Source: thehindu.com– June 12, 2025

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New Joint Venture Plans to Boost India's Denim Production

A new state-of-the-art denim and bottoms manufacturing facility is coming to India.

The facility is the result of a budding partnership between Epic Group, a Hong Kong-based textiles trading firm with manufacturing facilities Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Jordan, and Creative Group, an Indian vertical apparel and textile manufacturer.

In January, the two companies announced the formation of Spectra, a joint venture that aims to set new benchmarks for apparel manufacturing in India.

The new facility will have a production capacity of 700,000 units per month. The partners said the facility will not only be one of the largest of its kind in India but also position the country as a key player in the global denim market.

The partnership is backed by an initial investment of $15 million, with a vision to achieve $60 million in the coming years.

Spectra brings together Epic Group's global manufacturing expertise and Creative Group's five decades textile knowledge. Together, the companies said they "aim to create value for our customers, partners, and stakeholders, while contributing to India's growth as a global hub for sustainable apparel manufacturing. Epic and Creative Group."

Epic Group's clients include Walmart, Levi's, Uniqlo, Kohl's, C&A and more. The company provides clients with design, sourcing and manufacturing support. It has strategic partnerships with mills across China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Creative Group offers end to end textile solutions for apparel, home textiles, outdoor, products and yarn. DKNY, Carrefour, US Polo, Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole, and Zara are among the company's garment division clients. The company produces over 20 million garments per year.

Through Spectra, the partners said they plan for long-term impact by creating 3,000 jobs initially, expanding to 10,000 jobs over time, “harnessing the talent and potential of India’s workforce.”

“By introducing advanced manufacturing practices, we aim to set new standards for excellence in the apparel industry,” they stated.

Source: thehindu.com– June 12, 2025

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Customs and AEPC launch portal for garment exporters in Tiruppur

The Tiruchi Preventive Customs Commissionerate and the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) have developed and launched "Thunaivan", a portal to facilitate trade for garment exporters in Tiruppur.

Mohan Kumar Singh, member of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, launched the portal in Tiruppur on Thursday.

A press release said the portal is tailored specifically for Tirupur to digitally empower exporters and improve ease of doing business. It is an user-friendly interface fostering real-time interaction between Customs and exporters with fast-tracked grievance redressal and issue resolution mechanisms. It promotes transparency and accessibility and enhances public-private partnership for trace facilitation.

According to SK Vimalanathan, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Tiruchi, the Customs officials had collected grievances of exporters during an earlier visit to Tiruppur and wanted to create an interface so that the right officers can see the grievances and forward it to the officials concerned for resolution and monitor the resolution. There may be some grievances that are repetitive too and exporters can be guided to overcome such challenges. The AEPC delivered the portal based on the inputs given by the Customs Department. It may require changes as more exporters use it and it will be taken up, he said.

Mr. Singh said there are online grievance redressal mechanisms in the Customs. The data captured in the Thunaivan portal and its analysis will support policy formation. Vice-chairman of the AEPC A. Sakthivel said Tiruppur has crossed ₹45,000 crore of annual garment exports. With Free Trade Agreement with the UK and a bilateral agreement on the cards with the U.S., there are several opportunities for the garment exporters in Tiruppur. The exporters need to build capacities and skill workers.

K.M. Ravichandran, Principal Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Tiruchi, and K.M. Subramaniam, president, Tiruppur Exporters' Association, were also present at the launch event.

Source: thehindu.com– June 12, 2025

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Cotton yarn demand sluggish as polyester gains in north India

Cotton yarn continued to face sluggish demand despite stable prices in north India, as spinning mills showed greater interest in export markets. Market experts noted a shift towards non-cotton yarns—especially polyester. While traders cite cash shortages and labour issues, others believe cost dynamics alone are not driving this trend. In the domestic market, polyester yarn is increasingly used without consumer awareness. Panipat saw slight gains in finer recycled yarn counts due to seasonal demand in north India.

The Ludhiana market witnessed average demand for cotton yarn, with no significant price movement. A local trader told Fibre2Fashion, "The downstream industry is facing a cash crunch and labour shortages. Weaving units are cautious in their purchases and are increasingly interested in polyester or blended yarn for fabric production."

In Ludhiana, 30 count cotton combed yarn was sold at ₹258-268 (~$3.01-3.13) per kg (inclusive of GST); 20 and 25 count combed yarn were traded at ₹248-258 (~$2.90-3.01) per kg and ₹253-263 (~$2.96-3.07) per kg, respectively; and carded yarn of 30 count was noted at ₹238-243 (~$2.78-2.84) per kg today, according to trade sources.

The Delhi market also reported weak demand for cotton yarn. Spinning mills are reluctant to lower prices as they have ongoing export orders and show limited interest in domestic sales. Meanwhile, polyester yarn continues to see strong demand. Trade sources noted that weaving units are more inclined towards polyester fabric, which is cheaper and more attractive to both buyers and manufacturers.

In Delhi, 30 count combed knitting yarn was traded at ₹260-261 (~$3.04-3.05) per kg (GST extra), 40 count combed at ₹285-286 (~$3.33-3.34) per kg, 30 count carded at ₹234-236 (~$2.73-2.76) per kg, and 40 count carded at ₹259-261 (~$3.03-3.05) per kg today.

In Panipat, finer counts of recycled yarn saw a price increase of ₹2–3 per kg over the past week, driven by seasonal demand. However, coarse counts of recycled yarn and raw materials like recycled polyester fibre and cotton comber remained stable. Trade sources noted that the summer season is driving demand for finer recycled yarns, and this trend may continue for a few more weeks. Consumers in north Indian states typically prefer finer bed sheets during periods of extreme heat and humidity.

In Panipat, 10s recycled PC yarn (Grey) was traded at ₹75-78 (~$0.88-0.91) per kg (GST paid). Other varieties and counts were noted at 10s recycled PC yarn (Black) at ₹52-55 (~$0.61-0.64) per kg, 20s recycled PC yarn (Grey) at ₹101-103 (~$1.18-1.20) per kg and 30s recycled PC yarn (Grey) at ₹130-135 (~$1.52-1.58) per kg. Cotton comber prices were noted at ₹100-103 (~$1.17-1.20) per kg and recycled polyester fibre (PET bottle fibre) at ₹74-79 (~$0.86-0.92) per kg today.

In north India, cotton prices edged up slightly despite thin trading activity. Prices rose by ₹10 per maund (37.2 kg) in Rajasthan and Haryana. On Wednesday, ICE cotton futures declined due to concerns over global demand. Traders said that a textile group based in Rajasthan made significant purchases at slightly higher prices, which supported local rates. Nevertheless, market sentiment remained weak due to slow procurement from spinning mills.

North India's total cotton arrivals were 700 bales (170 kg each), comprising 500 bales in Haryana and 200 in upper Rajasthan. No fresh arrivals were reported from lower Rajasthan or Punjab. Cotton prices ranged from ₹5,700 to ₹5,710 (~$66.60–66.71) per maund in Punjab, ₹5,520–5,580 (~$64.49–65.19) in Haryana, and ₹5,690–5,760 (~$66.48–67.30) in upper Rajasthan. In lower Rajasthan, prices stood at ₹53,200–₹54,700 (~$620.39–639.09) per candy of 356 kg.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 12, 2025

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