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| Currency Watch | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|------|
| USD | EUR | GBP | JPY |
| 88.77 | 104.09 | 119.31 | 0.60 |

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US consumer sentiment weakens; recession fears persist: TCB

The Conference Board (TCB) Consumer Confidence Index has declined for the second consecutive month in September 2025, falling by 3.6 points to 94.2 (1985=100) from August's 97.8.

The Present Situation Index dropped by 7 points to 125.4, reflecting worsening assessments of current business and labour market conditions. The Expectations Index eased by 1.3 points to 73.4, remaining below the recession-signal threshold of 80 since February 2025, TCB said in a release.

Confidence rose among consumers under 35 but fell for those above 35. Income-based results were mixed, with all cohorts except households earning \$25K–\$35K and those above \$200K still above April lows. By political affiliation, confidence improved slightly for Republicans and Democrats but fell sharply among Independents.

Mentions of jobs and employment in write-in responses surged to the highest since August 2024, mostly negative in tone. Consumers were less upbeat about the labour market: only 26.9 per cent said jobs were 'plentiful,' down from 30.2 per cent in August, while 19.1 per cent said jobs were 'hard to get.' Business conditions were also viewed more negatively, with 19.5 per cent calling them 'good' (down from 21.8 per cent) and 15.4 per cent 'bad' (up from 14.6 per cent).

"Consumers' write-in responses showed that references to prices and inflation rose in September, regaining its top position as the main topic influencing consumers' views of the economy.

References to tariffs declined this month, but remained elevated and continued to be associated with concerns about higher prices. Nonetheless, consumers' average 12-month inflation expectations inched down, to 5.8 per cent in September from 6.1 per cent in August. This is still notably above 5.0 per cent, the level at the end of 2024," Guichard added.

Consumers' assessments of their current financial situation saw the steepest one-month decline since this measure began in July 2022. Expectations for future finances also weakened. The share of consumers seeing a recession as 'very likely' rose slightly to the highest since May, with more also believing the economy is already in recession.

Looking six months ahead, 18.7 per cent of consumers expected business conditions to improve (down from 20.2 per cent), while 22.3 per cent expected them to worsen (down from 23.5 per cent). Labour market outlooks softened, only 16.1 per cent expected more jobs, down from 17.9 per cent. Income prospects were mixed, with 17.6 per cent expecting increases and 11.7 per cent expecting declines.

The data cutoff was September 21, 2025.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 06, 2025

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Japanese manufacturing conditions deteriorate at quicker pace in Sep

Manufacturing sector conditions across Japan deteriorated at a quicker pace in September this year, as the headline S&P Global Japan manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell from 49.7 in August to 48.5.

Factory output fell at the quickest pace in six months amid a steeper decline in overall new work, while companies raised their staffing levels at a much slower pace.

Business confidence around the year-ahead slipped to the lowest in five months.

While the rate of input cost inflation remained slower than that seen on average over the first half this year, selling prices increased at a faster and solid pace.

Business conditions have now worsened in 14 of the past 15 months. Intermediate goods producers recorded a solid deterioration in conditions, while both consumer and investment goods segments recorded only marginal rates of decline.

Manufacturing output saw an accelerated decrease during September. Furthermore, the rate of contraction was the quickest seen in six months, with survey respondents often linking the fall to reduced inflows of new work.

The overall amount of new business placed with Japanese manufacturers fell at a solid rate that was the fastest since April. Companies often mentioned that weaker market conditions had dampened customer spending and made clients more cautious with regards to their inventory levels, an S&P Global release said.

New export orders also decreased again at the end of the third quarter. Though solid, the rate of contraction eased from August's 17-month record.

The latest drop in export sales was partly linked to lower demand across China and the impact of US tariffs.

Meanwhile, hiring activity slowed notably in September. The latest increase in employment at Japanese manufacturers was the weakest recorded since February and only fractional. There were further signs of spare capacity, with outstanding orders falling further in the month. Notably, the rate of backlog depletion was the sharpest seen since January. Companies often mentioned that fewer new orders had enabled them to process and complete unfinished workloads.

Reduced customer demand also led firms to cut back on purchasing activity again in the latest survey period.

The rate of input price inflation edged up to a three-month high and was sharp. Companies often linked higher expenses to increased raw material and labour costs. However, the pace of inflation remained much slower than that seen on average over the first half of the year.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 06, 2025

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Sri Lanka's garment exports rise 7.4% to \$3.31 bn in Jan–Aug 2025

Garment exports from Sri Lanka reached \$3,318.1 million during January–August 2025, reflecting a 7.4 per cent increase compared to \$3,090.0 million recorded in the same period of 2024, according to statistics released by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The rise can be attributed to steady demand from US and EU buyers and improved competitiveness after currency stabilisation.

During the first eight months of 2025, textile exports eased by 3 per cent to \$196 million. Over the same period, exports of other manufactured textile articles increased by 11.6 per cent, totalling \$81.2 million, as reported in the Central Bank's publication External Sector Performance – August 2025. Weaker textile exports reflected slower regional fabric demand, while value-added segments like accessories gained momentum.

Combined exports of textiles, garments, and other manufactured textile articles accounted for 51.21 per cent of all industrial exports from Sri Lanka during the eight-month period. Total textile product exports amounted to \$3,593.3 million between January and August 2025, while the country's overall industrial exports were valued at \$7,015.4 million for the same period.

In August 2025, textile and garment exports eased by 0.8 per cent year-on-year, reaching \$508.1 million. By category, garment exports decreased by 1.6 per cent to \$469.6 million, while textile exports rose by 9.1 per cent to \$28.3 million. During the same month, exports of other manufactured textile articles climbed 16.7 per cent to \$10.1 million, according to the Central Bank. The monthly decline can be linked to cautious order placements amid global economic uncertainty.

As for the imports, textiles and textile articles fell by 2.5 per cent to \$1,793.5 million, while imports of clothing and accessories increased sharply by 33.8 per cent, amounting to \$184.2 million between January and August 2025. This surge in apparel imports is seen as a result of improving consumer sentiment and a rebound in local retail demand.

In August 2025, imports of textiles and textile articles declined by 10.3 per cent to \$208.4 million, while imports of clothing and accessories surged by 25.8 per cent year-on-year, reaching \$25.6 million. The spike in apparel

imports signals a revival in domestic retail consumption after a subdued 2023.

In 2024, the island nation's garment exports totalled \$4,660.1 million, marking a 4.9 per cent increase. Sri Lanka also exported textiles worth \$294.5 million and other manufactured textile articles worth \$106.4 million during the year. The country imported textiles and textile articles valued at \$2,847.1 million and clothing and accessories worth \$225.8 million in 2024.

In 2023, Sri Lanka's garment exports were valued at \$4,440.6 million, a 19 per cent decrease from the \$5,483.1 million exported in 2022. Meanwhile, imports of textiles and textile articles fell by 22.6 per cent to \$2,371.2 million, and imports of clothing and accessories declined by 21.1 per cent to \$170 million. The slump in 2023 can be largely attributed to global inflationary pressures and weak consumer demand.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 06, 2025

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China's land-sea trade corridor cargo surges 70% in 9M 2025

Cargo transport on the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor soared by 70.3 per cent year-over-year (YoY) to 1.09 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first three quarters or nine months (9M) of 2025, according to the China Railway Nanning Group co, ltd.

The milestone of one million TEUs was reached in 247 days—the fastest pace since the intermodal rail-sea service began, Chinese media reports said quoting Zhao Jian, a member of the China Railway Nanning Group.

He added that based on the current pace, the total annual volume is expected to surpass 1.3 million TEUs.

The corridor now facilitates exports from 75 cities across 18 provinces, linking 577 ports in 127 countries and regions. As of August 2025, it handled 1,316 product categories boosting high-quality development across western China, added the reports.

Source: fibre2fashion.com— Oct 06, 2025

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Texworld Apparel Sourcing Paris Sees Jump in Traffic

A snapshot of the European apparel market, designers' highlights at the latest edition of Texworld Paris included high-tech knitwear from China, contemporary embroideries and a balance between the apparel and textiles offer.

Sourcing teams from France, the U.K., Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Germany led the visitor list, browsing offerings from 1,300 manufacturers from 35 countries across three halls at the Parc des Expositions Paris-Le Bourget.

Confirming the show's September scheduling will continue in 2026, Messe Frankfurt president Frédéric Bougeaud, said the visitor uptick from the July 2024 edition is a good result in this challenging market. "Everyone knows the number of buyers has decreased, because of the concentration of brands. Before we had 10 buyers for 10 brands, now we have three buyers for 10 brands," he said.

"The ongoing consolidation in the sector is pushing brands to expand their collections and diversify their offerings without necessarily managing production themselves, or even, in some cases, the design process," stated Julien Schmoll, marketing and communication director at Messe Frankfurt France. "They're looking for suppliers who can deliver turnkey collections: creative, high-quality products in both large and small quantities, and at attractive prices that align with margin goals, especially in the mid-range and premium segments."

To meet that need, Texworld aimed for a balance between textile and garment offerings and continued to mix fabrics and apparel in each hall, a new format introduced last February.

This edition again welcomed a host of Chinese manufacturers looking to grow business in Europe to compensate for loss of U.S. exports. Texworld cited newcomer Wing Ka Shing, a knit sweater manufacturer with a factory in DongGuan, China, which does more than 80 percent of its business with U.S.-based brands, among companies seeking to expand to Europe to avoid taxes imposed on products entering the U.S.

The overall knitwear offer from China was a hit with multiple sourcing teams. “There are lots of new suppliers of quality knitwear,” said Laura Hazam, the third-generation owner and associate managing director of ready-to-wear label Apostrophe Paris. “We always find one or two new suppliers,” she said of Texworld overall. “We love the human side of meeting face-to-face here.”

Hazam noted, however, that the business outlook is challenging. “There’s so much uncertainty, all our suppliers are saying it—they have much lower orders, they’re more stressed when negotiating payment terms.”

Like other sourcing teams, Apostrophe Paris was also buying for summer. “We like this flexibility, because we have our own boutiques, this short-lead distribution; we can develop something in September to be in our boutiques in January, so we can be inline with trend directions and desires.” With a new Montaigne store just opened on rue Bayard, Apostrophe is rolling out a new boutique concept across its 10 locations at a pace of one a year, Hazam added.

Paris designer Christophe Guillarmé, browsing for his eponymous red-carpet label, named ultra-creative prints and “a contemporary, youth-driven” aesthetic in the embroideries at Veekay International among his standouts. “We always find a little gem here, there’s a real offer of personalization adapted to each brand.”

Guillarmé reported the label’s sales remained buoyant, even in the Middle East, except in Doha, where business was slower than two or three years ago.

Praising the innovative knitting techniques and quality-price ratio among the knitwear offer from China, Lamine Badian Kouyaté, designer of the label Xuly Bet, said in the face of the most major issue facing the planet, climate breakdown, finding solutions to industrial leftover stock was his primary goal.

“Brands will order 1 million meters of fabric, then use only 500,000 meters. It ends up in warehouses, or they burn it,” he said.

True to the brand’s name, which means “keep your eyes open” in Senegalese, Badian Kouyaté is seeking a collaborative approach to repurpose such deadstock. Xuly’s Bet’s upcycled collection, which repurposes unwanted items in the most mass-produced sectors of

sportswear—transforming four American football shirts into a jacket, for example—is among its bestsellers. The label, founded in 1991, is due to move to a new flagship in Paris’s La Defense business district.

Also browsing with carbon footprint top of mind, Chloe de Baillencourt, chief executive officer and founder of Arsene & Les Pipelettes, a ready-to-wear label for women and children with 10 boutiques in France, Spain and Belgium, bemoaned “too many suppliers from China offering the same thing. We try and source as close as possible to France, for quality, carbon footprint, it makes sense not to work on the other side of the world. It’s always interesting if I find one new supplier.”

De Baillencourt reported her budget at the show was flat on-year. And while business was good in Europe, her label’s sales in the U.S. had slowed. “We’re now really expensive for them.”

Among new sourcing regions, Texworld showcased Kyrgyzstan, where textile and apparel exports have increased 78 percent since 2018. The sales pitch included the possibility to order small batches, starting from 300 pieces and the possibility to import into Europe with zero percent tax. Armenia was another new sourcing showcase, with an offer of 11 manufacturers of diverse profiles, from sportswear to outerwear.

“We have seen many different types of brands – some looking for very low cost to those designer brands looking for greater sophistication,” reported Alla Pavlova, business development expert representing the Armenia platform, which was funded by the EU and Armenia’s ministry of economy.

To help buyers navigate the season, the salon’s conference program zoomed in on everything from generative AI to scaling bio-fashion, while new services included baggage check-in straight from the show. The Avantex Fashion Pitch 2025 awarded GoldenEye SmartVision for its AI-driven quality control system for the detection of defects and cutting material waste. Texworld holds its next edition from Feb. 2 to 4.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Oct 06, 2025

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Profit, Purpose, and Pixels: The new equation in apparel manufacturing

The global textile and apparel industry, one of the oldest and most resource-intensive sectors, is at a crossroads. Once defined solely by low-cost mass production and global export networks, it is now being reshaped by two transformative forces: sustainability and digital innovation. Rising consumer expectations, tightening regulations, and technological breakthroughs are forcing companies to rethink not only how clothes are made, but also how they are sold, used, and recycled. This is not a mere industry adjustment, it is a paradigm shift that could determine which brands thrive and which fade in the coming decade.

Growth amid transformation

Despite mounting challenges, the textile sector continues to grow, underscoring its economic weight in global trade and manufacturing. According to multiple market forecasts, growth remains steady, albeit with regional shifts and structural disruptions.

Asia-Pacific, home to the world's largest manufacturing hubs in China, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam, dominates with more than half the global market share. Yet, regions like North America and Europe are redefining their value proposition by investing in innovation, automation, and nearshoring. This reflects a dual trend: production remains rooted in Asia, while consumer-facing innovation is flourishing in developed economies.

There are several growth drivers that are boosting the sector. Conscious consumers are one of them with rising demand for sustainable, ethically produced garments. The rapid e-commerce expansion with digital platforms enabling borderless retail access has also been a major booster. Then there is the whole aspect of technological integration as AI, blockchain, 3D printing, and automation are powering efficiency.

Breaking the fast fashion cycle

The apparel industry's take-make-dispose model, popularized by fast fashion, is now under scrutiny. The sector generates nearly 92 million tons of textile waste annually, and contributes up to 10% of global carbon emissions, a figure larger than international aviation and shipping combined.

Brands are facing growing pressure from governments, activists, and consumers to move toward circular business models, where waste is minimized, and materials remain in use for longer.

There are numerous notable case studies of brands working actively towards a sustainable business modes who together, represent a radical departure from the disposable ethos of fast fashion..

- **Patagonia's worn wear program:** The outdoor apparel company, a pioneer in sustainability, has successfully implemented a comprehensive repair, reuse, and recycling program. Through its 'Worn Wear' initiative, Patagonia encourages customers to repair their gear rather than replace it, offers certified used clothing for sale, and provides an avenue for recycling garments at the end of their life. This approach not only reduces waste but also builds brand loyalty by promoting a philosophy of conscious consumption.
- **Primark's take-back scheme:** In a move to address textile waste, fast-fashion giant Primark introduced a take-back scheme in its UK stores. Customers can return unwanted clothing, footwear, and textiles, which are then re-used or recycled by partners. This initiative helps divert millions of garments from landfills each month and shows how even large-scale, high-volume retailers are being compelled to participate in the circular economy.
- **The rise of rental services:** Businesses like Rent the Runway and smaller niche players are pioneering an access-based model. Instead of owning an item, consumers can rent it for a specific period. This increases the utilization rate of a single garment, reducing the overall demand for new production and aligning with the principles of a shared, rather than owned, economy.

Supply chain reinvented, from opacity to transparency

Global apparel supply chains, long criticized for low wages, unsafe conditions, and environmental harm, are being forced into the light.

[Click here for more details](#)

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Oct 06, 2025

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Kenya assures textile-apparel sector of efforts to extend US AGOA

President William Ruto recently assured Kenya's apparel and textile sector stakeholders that his government is closely working with the United States to secure both the extension of the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the establishment of a more permanent trade framework that would guarantee stable and predictable market access for Kenyan exports.

He said this at a consultative meeting with players in the sector to discuss the future of the industry amid growing concerns. The AGOA expired on September 30.

"I briefed stakeholders on my recent discussions with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington, where we explored not only the extension of AGOA but also the establishment of a long-term framework to guarantee stable and predictable market access for our products," the President posted on X.

"This will go a long way in strengthening our apparel industry, which remains vital to our economy and the livelihoods of thousands of families," he said.

He assured players that industry operations will continue without disruption "as talks with the US Government proceed with the urgency they deserve."

With the expiry of the trade pact, industry leaders have expressed concern about possible loss of market share, job cuts, and reduced investment if a new arrangement is not put in place quickly.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 05, 2025

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Australia, New Zealand to fast track single economic market agenda

Agreeing to fast-track work on a more ambitious single economic market (SEM), advancing regulatory and standards alignment through a new Heads of Agreement between Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, and deepening economic integration by strengthening the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement were among some of the key outcomes of the annual Closer Economic Relations (CER) Trade Ministers' Meeting between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to coordinate regional and global trade engagement, including joint action on World Trade Organization (WTO) reforms ahead of the upcoming Ministerial Conference, and collaboration through various multilateral agreements, a joint statement issued after the meeting said.

New Zealand Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay and Australian Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell concluded meeting in in Monarto, South Australia.

“This is about making it simpler for businesses to trade, invest and grow, not just between our two countries but across the wider region,” McClay said.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 06, 2025

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South Korea's apparel imports down 1.5% to \$7.6 bn in Jan–Aug 2025

South Korea's apparel imports eased 1.52 per cent to \$7.679 billion during January–August 2025, compared to \$7.798 billion in the same period of 2024, according to the latest data from the Korea Customs Service. The decline reflects softer consumer demand amid global economic uncertainty and price pressures, along with retailers' cautious inventory management.

Imports of knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 61) were valued at \$3,269.219 million in the first eight months of 2025, almost steady against \$3,263.455 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. This stability suggests consistent demand for casual and knitwear products, supported by year-round consumption trends.

Meanwhile, imports of non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 62) totalled \$4,410.717 million, down 2.75 per cent from \$4,535.406 million in January–August 2024. The decline here could be linked to slower sales in the formalwear and outerwear categories, as hybrid work trends persist and consumers prioritise comfort over tailored garments.

In August 2025, South Korea's apparel imports stood at \$1,155.661 million, 7.22 per cent lower than the \$1,245.175 million recorded in August 2024. Imports of knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 61) were worth \$486.911 million in August 2025, down 5.99 per cent from \$517.344 million in August 2024.

Imports of non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (Chapter 62) were valued at \$668.750 million, 8.11 per cent lower than the \$727.832 million recorded in August 2024. This sharper monthly drop likely reflects reduced back-to-school retail demand and the impact of tariff uncertainties linked to US trade policies.

South Korea generally exports fabrics and textile materials while importing readymade garments. Between January and August 2025, exports of man-made filaments, strips, and similar materials (Chapter 54) were valued at \$1,159.405 million, down 13.44 per cent from \$1,339.399 million in the same period of 2024.

Exports of knitted or crocheted fabrics (Chapter 60) reached \$989.523 million, easing 15.18 per cent from \$1,166.068 million a year earlier. This contraction indicates weaker external demand from China, ASEAN, and Europe, where downstream garment orders have slowed due to high inflation and subdued consumer spending.

In August 2025, the country exported man-made filaments, strips, and similar materials worth \$116.300 million, and knitted or crocheted fabrics worth \$96.033 million. In comparison, exports in August 2024 for these categories were valued at \$133.384 million and \$128.829 million, respectively. The month-on-month decline highlights global buyers' shift to cheaper alternatives and stock adjustments as fashion retailers reduce procurement ahead of uncertain winter demand.

In 2024, South Korea's apparel imports reached \$12.366 billion, marking a 3.12 per cent increase from \$11.991 billion in 2023. Imports of knitted apparel and clothing accessories totalled \$5.083 billion, while non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories amounted to \$7.283 billion. That year, the country exported man-made filaments, strips, and similar materials (Chapter 54) worth \$1,987.300 million, slightly down from \$2,107.283 million in 2023.

Exports of knitted or crocheted fabrics (Chapter 60) were valued at \$1,713.855 million in 2024, compared to \$1,788.741 million in 2023. These earlier figures show that while demand for imported garments has been steadily rising, South Korea's own textile exports are gradually losing competitiveness due to rising production costs and stronger regional competition from China and Vietnam.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 05, 2025

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Bangladesh: Exports fall for second month

- Exports fall 4.6 percent in September, second monthly decline
- Garment shipments to US drop amid higher Trump tariffs
- Quarterly exports still rise 5.64 percent to \$12.31b
- Leather, agriculture, pharmaceuticals offset jute export weakness

The country's merchandise exports fell for the second consecutive month in September, due mainly to a decline in garment shipments to the American market following higher tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

In September, exports dropped 4.6 percent year-on-year to \$3.62 billion, according to data released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) yesterday.

Garment exports, which account for about 84 percent of the country's annual export earnings, fell by 5.66 percent to \$2.83 billion.

Of this, knitwear shipments brought in \$1.63 billion, down 5.75 percent from a year earlier, while woven garments earned \$1.20 billion, a 5.54 percent decline.

In August, the country's overall shipments had already fallen by 2.9 percent to \$3.91 billion.

Despite the recent slump, total exports in the July-September quarter grew by 5.64 percent year-on-year to \$12.31 billion, thanks to a steady growth in both knitwear and woven garment shipments.

Knitwear exports grew 4.31 percent year-on-year to \$5.58 billion, while woven garments fetched \$4.39 billion, up 5.41 percent.

Inamul Haq Khan, senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), blamed higher tariffs by the US administration for the recent decline in exports.

"Drop in exports in August and September is normal as we predicted it earlier," he said. "Because it is the time for adjustment of the reciprocal tariff by the US garment importers, as they feared a higher tariff rate."

Besides, demand among US consumers has weakened due to higher retail prices following the new duty, as the additional costs were passed on to end buyers, said Khan.

According to local exporters, many American retailers and brands had increased orders between April and early August, when the baseline tariff stood at 10 percent, in anticipation of the rate hike that took effect on August 7. By importing larger volumes before the new rates were enforced, US buyers reduced their orders later, leading to the export slowdown in August and September, they said.

BGMEA Senior Vice-President Khan said that July to September is typically a lean period for shipments, adding that exports to Europe, which are worth more than \$25 billion annually, remained stable.

"However, the future prediction of garment items export is bright as the US-based buyers are coming with a good volume of work orders to the local exporters," he added. Shovon Islam, managing director of Sparrow Group, also expressed optimism over future orders.

He said buyers are adjusting to the new tariff regime and are expected to place higher volumes of orders soon, as Bangladesh continues to face lower tariffs of around 20 percent compared with competing countries such as Vietnam and India. Md Abul Hossain, chairman of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association, said jute and jute goods exports declined in September due to a shortage of raw jute in the market.

"Even the local mills are facing the crisis of jute in the domestic markets, as the production is also low compared with demand," he said. In the July-September quarter, jute and jute goods exports still rose 3.73 percent to \$192.89 million, though September alone saw a 1.04 percent decline.

Meanwhile, leather and leather goods exports increased 10.6 percent year-on-year to \$319.74 million in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2025-26. Shipments of frozen and live fish, agricultural products and pharmaceuticals also performed well, according to EPB data.

Source: thedailystar.net– Oct 06, 2025

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Pakistan's cotton arrivals surge 49% to 30.44 lakh bales by end-Sept

Pakistan's cotton arrivals increased 49.24 per cent to 30.44 lakh bales of 170 kg each as of September 30, 2025, compared to 20.39 lakh bales recorded during the same period last year. The sharp rise was mainly due to favourable weather and improved crop management practices, especially in Punjab. Cotton arrivals were slow in July 2025, the first month of the current season, as harvesting and ginning were delayed by early pest attacks and localised flooding in Sindh.

The rise in arrivals can be attributed to improved weather conditions and timely crop management in Punjab, while the earlier dip in July was largely due to delayed harvesting and ginning operations—particularly in Sindh—following early-season pest attacks and localised floods. This recovery indicates better field conditions and successful pest control efforts in later months.

According to data released by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), 24.09 lakh bales of cotton were sold to the textile industry and 94,800 bales to exporters, out of a total of 25.04 lakh bales sold by the end of September. Higher offtake reflects improved demand from mills and exporters anticipating stable yarn orders and export recovery.

Punjab province reported arrivals of 11.36 lakh bales in the first three months of the current season, 56.37 per cent higher than during the same period in 2024.

Arrivals in Sindh reached 19.07 lakh bales, 45.29 per cent higher than the previous year. Punjab's growth was supported by timely sowing and favourable temperatures, while Sindh's late start improved once weather normalised.

Pakistan recorded total cotton arrivals of 5.524 million bales during the 2024–25 marketing year, 34.18 per cent lower than the 8.303 million bales recorded in 2023–24, as per PCGA data.

In 2023–24, production had rebounded after a steep decline in 2022–23, when output was just 4.912 million bales. The lower 2024–25 output reflects lingering effects of climate variability and pest damage.

During the last season, high temperatures damaged crops in Punjab and Sindh. Later, heavy and unseasonal rains caused crop diseases such as whitefly and pink bollworm, resulting in significant losses.

However, the crop recovered in the later months of the season due to improved weather conditions. This demonstrates the crop's resilience when supported by favourable climatic recovery and improved farm management.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 06, 2025

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NATIONAL NEWS

India-Qatar bilateral trade can be doubled by 2030: Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, is on an official visit to Doha, Qatar on 6–7 October 2025 to co-chair the meeting of the India–Qatar Joint Commission on Economic and Commercial Cooperation along with H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the State of Qatar.

The first day of his visit began with a floral tribute to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Embassy of India in Doha, followed by the planting of a sapling under the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative, symbolizing India’s commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

A bilateral meeting of Commerce and Industry ministers of both sides was also held, where both Ministers reviewed the overall trade and economic relationship, addressed existing trade barriers, and explored new areas for cooperation in sectors such as finance, agriculture, healthcare etc.

The two Ministers then jointly addressed the India–Qatar Joint Business Council (JBC) meeting, attended by senior representatives from FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, and the Qatar Chamber, along with members of the business community from both countries.

The Commerce and Industry Minister of India highlighted that despite global economic headwinds and supply chain disruptions, India continues to demonstrate strong macroeconomic stability for a thriving start-up ecosystem creating a highly enabling environment for global businesses and urged the Indian and Qatari business to explore greater opportunities.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry co-chaired the Qatar–India Joint Commission on Economic and Commercial Cooperation with H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Qatar.

The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties, addressing existing trade barriers and non-tariff challenges, and identifying new opportunities to boost economic cooperation across key

sectors. Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to pursuing an ambitious India–Qatar Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. While appreciating Qatar’s energy exports, including the long-term LNG supply agreement of 7.5 million tonnes per year from 2028, Shri Goyal stressed the need to boost India’s exports to Qatar. Despite bilateral trade standing at around USD 14 billion, both leaders recognized significant untapped potential of doubling bilateral trade by 2030. He identified promising sectors such as electronics, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, processed food, textiles, gems and jewellery, IT, and emerging high-tech industries and solar energy. He also underscored the importance of greater business interactions, and the success of the first face-to-face Joint Business Council meeting in fostering deeper economic ties.

On the side lines of the Joint Commission, the Hon’ble Minister held a series of high-level business meetings with senior Qatari dignitaries and corporate leaders. These interactions provided an opportunity to discuss avenues for greater investment flows, technology partnerships, and joint ventures between Indian and Qatari enterprises. Minister also participated in the launch of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at Lulu Mall, The Pearl Island, marking a key milestone in India’s digital cooperation with Qatar and enabling seamless digital transactions for the Indian diaspora and local consumers.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, during his first visit to Qatar, addressed the vibrant Indian community, appreciating their role as a strong pillar of India–Qatar relations. He highlighted the deepening bilateral ties under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and His Highness the Amir of Qatar, including the recent decision to elevate the relationship to a strategic partnership and the goal of doubling trade by 2030. Minister acknowledged the Indian community’s significant contributions to Qatar’s development and India’s growing economic strength, emphasizing India’s emergence as the world’s fastest-growing major economy and its vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Reaffirming India’s commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and global cooperation, he urged the Indian diaspora to continue serving as an important bridge between the two nations and as key partners in realizing India’s growth vision.

Source: pib.gov.in – Oct 06, 2025

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India's exports to the US for the 'summer' season may be hit if there is no deal: NITI Aayog CEO

India's exports to the US for the 'summer' season may be hit if the two countries do not settle a trade deal soon, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has said.

But there are hopes that a pact may come through by November avoiding disruptions, he added.

"The good thing is, both sides are still committed to having a trade deal. So negotiations happened last month, so I think both sides are hopeful," Subrahmanyam told reporters at the release of the 'Trade Watch Quarterly' on Monday.

Building a trade channel is difficult, and so is unwinding it, he said, adding that no impact on Indian exports was likely till Christmas. However, he pointed out that 'summer' could be a problem in the absence of a trade deal.

Major cost factor

"We are at a disadvantage... 50 per cent tariffs are a major, major cost factor. There is no escaping that. People are hopeful that if the trade deal comes through by November, then there will be no disruption," he said when asked to comment on the impact of the US tariffs on India.

The NITI Aayog CEO also said that India should lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers and open its markets to improve competitiveness in manufacturing. "I do not think India should protect any sector," he said.

He said India has to be competitive enough to sell to Asian countries, including China. "If you don't focus on Asia, if you are not able to sell much to China, it is pointless because it's a \$15 trillion economy.

You can't avoid that economy," he said. But if India is competitive, it can sell more products, Subrahmanyam added.

Manufacturing policy

India's new manufacturing policy will focus on clusters and building world-class ecosystem, he said. The country needs to diversify manufacturing.

India and the US are engaged in bilateral trade agreement (BTA) talks with the focus right now on rolling back the 50 per cent tariffs imposed on most Indian goods by the US, which includes a 25 per cent penalty for buying Russian oil.

Washington has been maintaining that India needs to stop buying Russian oil for it to consider a tariff cut. But New Delhi wants to keep sourcing crude from Moscow to ensure its energy security and also maintain good relations with Russia which is also an important trading and strategic partner like the US.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Oct 06, 2025

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India speeding up free trade talks with Chile, Peru to diversify trade

India is speeding up its free trade agreement (FTA) talks with Chile and Peru in its attempt to diversify trade given the US tariff challenge, sources said.

“Negotiators are trying to move towards concluding the India-Chile FTA soon and substantial results are expected by the year-end. With Peru, the FTA may take a bit longer, but things are progressing steadily. The visit of Indian negotiators to the two South American countries, beginning October 25, for face-to-face talks, will speed up things,” a person tracking the matter told businessline.

Striking trade deals with Latin American countries is an important part of India’s trade diversification strategy and there is a sense of urgency as the US tariffs on Indian goods are already hitting exports.
Comprehensive pact

India and Chile first signed a preferential trade agreement (PTA) in 2006 covering a handful of products and then expanded it in 2017. India offered concession on 1,031 tariff lines to Chile which offered concession on 1,798 tariff lines to India.

The India-Chile comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) now being negotiated will cover a substantial part of the bilateral trade in goods, as well as critical minerals, services, digital services, MSMEs and investment collaboration.

“There is a huge scope for growth of trade between India and Chile as bilateral trade was only at \$3.75 billion in FY25,” the source said.

In FY25, India’s exports to Latin America at \$15.17 billion was just about 3.5 per cent of its total exports, while its exports to Chile was at \$1.15 billion. In comparison, Chile’s imports from China in 2024 were at \$20.65 billion.

“The largest Indian exports to Chile are automobiles and pharmaceuticals. An FTA will boost not just these but also other items such as iron & steel, aluminium products, sugar, cereals, fertilisers and engineering goods,” the source said.

While the October round of negotiations will just be the third, both sides are enthusiastic about concluding the India-Chile FTA early. “The speed of negotiations depends on what kind of rapport or agreements you have and the concurrence of thoughts. Both sides will exchange offers in goods before the round and hopefully substantial progress will happen during the meetings,” he said.

9th round of talks

With Peru, this will be the ninth round of negotiations. “Things are moving on track with Peru as well, but the country likes to take things slower,” the source added.

India is concerned about Chinese misuse of the proposed FTAs with Peru and Chile and hence wants to scrutinise the demand lists from the two countries carefully. “India will also have to ensure adequate rules of origin to ensure that Chinese goods don’t enter India through the FTA partner countries,” the source said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Oct 06, 2025

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Slightly slower but India's GDP growth likely stayed strong in Q2

Growth in the Indian economy is expected to have maintained its momentum through the September quarter of 2025-26 (Q2FY26), even as the headline number may have slipped below the five-quarter high of 7.8 per cent recorded in the June quarter, according to economists.

A favourable base effect and subdued deflator growth, which lifted the Q1 figure, are thought to have persisted into Q2, though to a lesser extent. The impact of steep 50 per cent American tariffs did not fully materialise in the quarter, while front-loading of exports continued. An above-normal monsoon is also expected to have supported agricultural output and rural demand.

Gaura Sengupta, chief economist at IDFC Bank, said the “broad momentum” of the economy had continued into the second quarter, aided by several tailwinds. “In my estimate, it could very well be above 7 per cent,” she said.

“Low deflator growth and base effects remained, though less pronounced. The full impact of tariffs will be visible only in subsequent quarters. Listed companies’ profits, supported by lower input costs in Q1, continued to benefit in Q2. Government capital expenditure, though saw some moderation, remained supportive to the capex cycle,” she added.

Paras Jasrai, associate director at India Ratings, estimates Q2 growth between 6.5 per cent and 7 per cent, noting that the impact of the Trump era tariffs may have started to filter through, while one-off factors such as low deflator growth faded.

“Growth in consumer durables and non-durables slowed in Q2, as shown by the latest industrial production data. Flooding from the monsoon may also have affected crops, particularly perishables. While momentum was sustained, it certainly lost some steam,” Jasrai said.

Echoing that sentiment, Bank of Baroda’s Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis said that while growth momentum persisted, it was “a bit muted” as the economy faced a series of shocks.

Primary among them, he said, was a slowdown in private investment due to uncertainty over US tariffs. “Consumption was deferred because of the announcement of GST rate cuts. The positive impact of those will only be seen in the coming quarters,” Sabnavis added.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ratings, said the pace of economic growth likely moderated in July and August of FY26, as year-on-year prints in most high-frequency indicators eased compared with Q1. Excess rains weighed on some sectors, the GST rationalisation announcement led to deferred discretionary purchases, and the 50 per cent US tariffs hurt exports and production, she said.

“In particular, slower growth in government spending in these two months is expected to weigh on the growth print, which is likely to come in below 6.5 per cent in Q2FY26, compared with the unexpectedly high 7.8 per cent seen in Q1,” Nayar said.

At its bi-monthly policy review meeting last Wednesday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised its Q2 growth estimate to 7 per cent, noting that domestic economic activity had “sustained momentum” in the September quarter. “An above-normal monsoon (and) buoyancy in the services sector, coupled with steady employment conditions, are supportive of demand, which is expected to get a further boost from the rationalisation of GST. Taking all these factors into account, real GDP growth for Q2 is now projected at 7 per cent,” it said.

However, the central bank also warned of risks from ongoing tariff and trade policy uncertainties, prolonged geopolitical tensions, and volatility in international financial markets.

“The transmission of GST rate cuts, resolution of the tariff issue with the US, and the rise in retail inflation will be key factors to watch in the second half,” Sengupta said. “In our estimate, growth in H2FY26 will be around 6 per cent, compared with 7 per cent in H1. A lot of one-off factors are no longer there in the second half.”

Source: business-standard.com– Oct 06, 2025

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Textiles Ministry launches 'Swadeshi Campaign' to boost domestic demand

The Ministry of Textiles has launched the 'Swadeshi Campaign' across India to significantly increase domestic consumption of Indian handloom, handicrafts, and textile products. Running for six to nine months, the campaign aims to reposition Indian textiles as powerful symbols of pride, style, and heritage, particularly among urban youth and Gen Z consumers.

The core goals of the 'Swadeshi Campaign' include stimulating domestic textile consumption, directly empowering weavers, artisans, and textile MSMEs, and aligning with major government initiatives. These initiatives include the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, the PM MITRA Parks, and the One District One Product (ODOP) program.

A major focus of this campaign is to encourage institutional support. The campaign will urge government ministries, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and educational institutions to adopt Indian-made textiles for uniforms and furnishings.

The campaign's slogan, 'Swadeshi fabric is the pride of the nation - this is India's identity', will be promoted through various awareness channels, including targeted social media outreach, public events, and partnerships with state governments.

The campaign is strategically timed to capitalize on India's expanding textile and clothing market, which is valued at \$179 billion in 2024 and growing at a CAGR of over 7 per cent.

Domestic household consumption currently accounts for 58 per cent of the market and is growing at 8.19 per cent annually, signaling robust consumer demand. By targeting the digitally-savvy youth, the 'Swadeshi Campaign' seeks to accelerate this growth and ensure that local artisans and manufacturers benefit directly from the nation's economic momentum.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Oct 06, 2025

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Govt extends deadline for PLI scheme for textile applications till Dec 31

The government has extended the last date for receiving applications under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles and the application portal will now remain open till December 31, 2025, per the Textiles Ministry.

“Encouraged by the growing industry interest, the government is offering another opportunity to prospective investors to participate and benefit from the scheme. The decision to extend the deadline follows the receipt of large number of applications in the latest invitation round, started from August, from sectors including man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics and technical textiles,” according to a government statement issued on Friday.

Till September 1, a total of 74 participant companies with committed investments of ₹28,711 crore were selected as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme, the government estimated. These investments are expected to lead to manufacturing of textiles products across the complete MMF value chain.

The PLI scheme for textiles was notified on September 24, 2021, with a corpus of ₹10,683 crore. The objective was to promote production of MMF apparel & fabrics and products of technical textiles in the country and enable it to achieve size and scale, become competitive, create employment opportunities for people and support creation of a viable enterprise and competitive textile industry with an approved outlay.

Despite initial lukewarm response from the industry to the scheme just focussing on MMF and technical textiles, the government did not give in to the demand of extending it to garments made of all fabrics, including cotton. Instead, the Textiles Ministry is giving potential investors in the MMF and technical textiles more time to take their investment decisions. “The reopening of the application window is a direct response to the industry’s continued appetite for investment under the PLI scheme, reflecting increased market demand and confidence in domestic textile manufacturing,” the release noted.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Oct 03, 2025

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Leveraging trade deals for textile sector: Can UK FTA ease US tariff pain?

Despite facing a 9% import duty in the UK so far, India managed to secure a 6% share in its readymade garment imports, exporting goods worth approximately \$1.2 billion annually. With the elimination of tariffs, shipments to the UK are projected to increase by 30-40%.

Real-time flight prices. Easy comparisons. Maximum savings. Check Deals However, zero-duty access alone will not automatically guarantee an increase in exports. The India–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is a case in point. Despite similar concessions, Indian textiles struggled to find a footing in Japan’s highly structured and quality-conscious market.

In the UK too, India is seeking to expand in a playing field dominated by China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam — countries with well-entrenched supplier relationships, agile production cycles, and cost structures that are difficult to match. Several of them also enjoy zero-duty access, which could effectively neutralise India’s advantage under CETA. Therefore, the challenge lies in whether Indian textile exporters can match or outperform such global competitors in speed, quality, and reliability.

Moreover, while tariff walls fall under CETA, non-tariff barriers will continue to pose stiff challenges. The UK has been steadily tightening its regulations on sustainability, labour rights, and carbon emissions. Standards compliance, traceability, and carbon labelling are becoming decisive factors for gaining market access.

Indian firms will therefore need to invest in eco-friendly technologies, follow the rulebook on transparent and ethical supply chains, and comply with internationally accepted standards. Without these, tariff concessions will offer only marginal gains.

Encouragingly, though, India’s textile sector has not been left without policy support. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks, the Textile Cluster Development Scheme (TCDS), the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), and the Samarth skilling programme, all seek to address infrastructure gaps, modernise production, and

strengthen the workforce. If implemented effectively, they could raise the industry's annual growth rate to 15–20% over the next five years. India's textile strategy must be guided by more than just capital outlays. High-frequency, granular data on export trends, buyer requirements, compliance gaps, and global demand patterns must inform both public policy and private strategy.

The stakes are particularly high for regional textile clusters. Nearly 80% of India's textile production is concentrated in MSME clusters. Tamil Nadu alone accounted for \$7.99 billion in textile exports in 2024-25, equivalent to 26.8% of India's total, followed by Gujarat (18.9%) and Maharashtra (12.8%). Hubs like Tiruppur, Coimbatore, and Erode in Tamil Nadu are already known for their export-oriented ecosystems, combining skilled labour with infrastructure and entrepreneurial dynamism. With CETA in place, Tiruppur's knitwear, for instance, could find a broader market in Manchester, but only if Indian exporters can match the quality, timelines, and sustainability benchmarks of global competitors.

Equally important will be shifting from factor-driven growth — based on low-cost labour and raw material availability — to value-driven expansion. High-margin segments like technical textiles for health care, defence, and mobility present untapped potential. These offer scope for innovation and brand-building, with less competition from low-cost producers. To that end, enabling MSMEs and start-ups to innovate, digitise, and upgrade practices shall be vital. Collaborations with the creative industries, digital integration with e-commerce platforms, and co-branding with UK retailers could amplify India's positioning and reach in these premium segments.

Whether CETA proves to be a game-changer for Indian textiles will depend on how effectively the country navigates the post-tariff terrain — where cost shall matter, but credibility will matter more; where speed shall help, but standards will seal the deal.

Source: hindustantimes.com– Oct 05, 2025

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Exports making Indian factories greener by up to 25%: IIM study

Exports not only boost business growth but also make Indian factories greener, a study by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow, has found after analysing two decades of firm-level data.

Described as the first-of-its-kind, the study examined whether export orientation encourages Indian manufacturing companies to adopt greener practices. Led by Chandan Sharma, professor of Economics and Business Environment at IIM-Lucknow, it has been published in the prestigious Energy Economics (Elsevier) journal.

While trade is often criticised for raising environmental pressures in developing countries, there is limited causal evidence on whether exporting firms adopt greener practices, especially in terms of energy use.

By applying the Propensity Score Matching-Difference-in-Differences (PSM-DID) methodology, the researchers addressed this gap and explored several important insights.

"Our research shows that exports don't just boost growth, they also make Indian factories greener. Within a few years of entering global markets, companies become more energy efficient, largely by adopting advanced technologies.

"This highlights how trade can be a partner in India's journey toward sustainable and competitive manufacturing, apart from creating jobs," Sharma told PTI.

The findings of this study challenge the general perception that globalisation harms the environment in developing countries. Instead, it shows that international trade can become a driver of green growth to meet India's climate goals under the Paris Agreement.

According to the study, adoption of advanced foreign technologies improves a firm's energy efficiency by 25 per cent within three years, compared to similar non-exporters.

"We found that exposure of non-exporting firms to export-intensive industries leads to efficiency improvements. The findings also validate the robustness of results across multiple methods, alternative measures, and extended samples," Sharma said.

The professor explained that the firms entering the export markets tend to improve their energy efficiency, and these improvements persist over time.

"Mechanism analysis further reveals that these gains are largely driven by access to more advanced foreign technologies. In this way, trade may also serve as a channel for technology diffusion.

"By highlighting this connection, our study contributes to policy discussions on aligning trade with environmental objectives, particularly in developing economies facing the dual challenges of economic growth and ecological responsibility," Sharma said.

According to the professor, the findings of the study are relevant for policymakers who can induce exports by aligning trade policy with energy efficiency objectives.

"For instance, promoting foreign technology access, providing incentives for firms to upgrade to energy-efficient processes and reinforcing environmental standards among export-oriented industries," Sharma said.

Source: economictimes.com– Oct 05, 2025

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PM MITRA Park in India's UP draws \$563 mn in investment proposals

The PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (MITRA) Park, being developed across Lucknow and Hardoi districts in India's Uttar Pradesh state, has drawn investment proposals worth over ₹50 billion (~\$563.37 million). The projects are being developed over 1,000 acres, with 730 acres in Lucknow district and 270 acres in the other, the state government said in a press release.

The park is strategically connected, located 45 km from Lucknow airport, 15 km from Malihabad railway station and 40 km from Lucknow Junction. It is also well connected by road, with the Lucknow-Hardoi-Delhi national highway just 15 km away and the outer ring road situated 20 km from the site, the statement noted.

Leading textile brands and companies have signed MoUs with the state government and are set to roll out their projects. The Aditya Birla Group plans to set up spinning and weaving units, while GESL Spinners will establish a technical textile yarn unit, the government said. Ajul Denimkart is preparing to develop a denim fabric unit, and SAVM Inc D has proposed a garment manufacturing unit. Geosys India will set up a geogrid technical textiles unit and TTL Limited is planning a garment unit.

RGI Meditech will set up a sanitary napkins and diapers unit, while VD Group is establishing a polypropylene fabric unit and Maral Overseas is setting up a garment unit. The Okhla Garment and Textile Cluster will develop a garment manufacturing hub covering 125 acres.

To facilitate efficient operation and management, a special purpose vehicle called 'PM MITRA Park Uttar Pradesh Limited' has been formed, with the state government holding a 51-per cent stake and the central government holding the rest.

Once complete, the park is projected to attract investments of over ₹10,000 crore and generate direct and indirect employment for more than 100,000 people.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 06, 2025

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India's trade hurdle: Bureaucrats unchecked, entrepreneurs unheard

Last week, Wintrack, a firm based in Tamil Nadu, said it is halting its imports and exports business because of corruption and relentless harassment by the Chennai Customs, who denied the allegations. The government has ordered an investigation. Yet, few believe the denial — after all, most exporters and importers acknowledge that ‘speed money’ through intermediaries is a routine cost of doing business. These developments reminded me of a young woman entrepreneur whose ordeal captures the deep flaws in our trade ecosystem.

The entrepreneur filed her shipping bill for export of certain goods she had been exporting for years. But her consignment was blocked when a Customs officer arbitrarily alleged that the item was prohibited and ordered testing in a government-approved laboratory. The officer ignored test reports from a private laboratory that she presented, her pleas about urgent buyer requirements, and her warnings that delays would mean mounting demurrage and contractual penalties. Even after vigorous follow-up, it took three days for the Customs to just send the samples for testing.

She then escalated the matter to senior officers in the Customs House — citing government instructions that exports should not be detained, and that goods sent for testing must be cleared within three days. But her appeals were met with shrugs of helplessness.

In desperation, she wrote to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, the finance minister, and even the Prime Minister’s Office, begging for intervention. Nothing moved until 16 days later, when test results arrived confirming that the goods were not prohibited, something she had been saying from the beginning.

By then, airport demurrage charges had ballooned. Even the customs detention certificate failed to persuade airport staff to grant relief. After escalating the matter to the airport’s top management, she secured a waiver of demurrage. The consignment was finally shipped 25 days after the shipping bill was filed.

Throughout this ordeal, her buyer was agitated, pressing relentlessly for shipment. “The emotional toll was crushing because I was under immense financial and reputational pressure,” she recalls. At one breaking point, she confronted a senior Customs officer: “Aap batayie main kya karoon. Zeher pee loon?” (“You tell me what to do. Drink poison?”).

This is not an isolated story. It is a mirror to how fragile our trade facilitation claims really are. An honest exporter, with proper documentation, was reduced to humiliation and despair, while the officer who triggered the ordeal faces no consequence.

To be fair, the government has introduced several progressive measures — self-assessment, digitalisation, faceless assessment, e-sanchit and so on. But these facilitations collapse when an individual officer misuses discretionary power. The official line is that such cases are “rare”. The reality is that they are rare only because most exporters quietly comply with “informal costs”. Few dare to resist. Fewer still risk going public, fearing retribution.

If India aspires to be a developed country, it cannot afford even such rare cases of bungling. The Wintrack case gives an opportunity for introspection at the top levels of the government. Merely blaming the complainant does not inspire any confidence. Trade facilitation cannot just be about portals and procedures. It must be about accountability also. Unless individual officers are held answerable for harassment, honest entrepreneurs will continue to feel that the bureaucrats gang up to protect their own rather than be fair and reasonable with the trade.

Source: business-standard.com– Oct 05, 2025

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Uncertainty over cotton procurement ends in Telangana

The uncertainty over the cotton procurement process in Telangana has been resolved, with ginning mills and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) agreeing to address all outstanding issues and commence procurement within 10 days.

The stakeholders have agreed to start the procurement process during a meeting convened by Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.

The Minister has asked ginning millers and the CCI to take measures to procure cotton as early as possible.

The Minister, who held a meeting with representatives of ginning mills, the CCI, and officials from the Marketing Department here on Monday, requested that the CCI ensure ginning millers faced no roadblocks.

He appealed to the CCI to review the procurement process on a weekly basis and take the necessary corrective measures if needed.

Concerns over clauses

Ginning millers have expressed their reservations about certain clauses put forth by the CCI, which, they said, went against their interests.

“The government will not tolerate any act that harms the interests of the farmers. The CCI officials should monitor the situation weekly and take necessary corrective measures,” the Minister said.

“I request the CCI to start the procurement process immediately, keeping the farmers’ welfare in mind,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Minister asked the officials of the Agriculture Department to create awareness about the newly launched mobile app, Kapas Kisan, introduced by the CCI, and help them understand how to book a slot for their sales.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Oct 06, 2025

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North India cotton yarn dips amid liquidity crunch, weak demand

Cotton yarn prices eased slightly in Delhi and Ludhiana as traders and stockists faced slow demand amid payment issues. Traders said prices declined by ₹1 per kg in both markets. However, spinning mills struggled to maintain current price levels. Market experts noted that a liquidity crunch was the main reason for the sluggish demand. Recycled cotton yarn and recycled polyester-cotton yarn traded steady in the Panipat market, while cotton comber was slightly higher. Recycled polyester fibre declined in price.

The Ludhiana market saw a ₹1 per kg fall as the ongoing payment crisis reduced buyers' capacity. A trader from Ludhiana told Fibre2Fashion, "Spinning mills are avoiding price cuts despite a softening in cotton, but stockists and traders have reduced prices to attract buyers. Cotton yarn demand is seasonally sluggish. Demand may improve after Diwali when summer garment manufacturing picks up."

In Ludhiana, 30 count cotton combed yarn was sold at ₹249-259 (~\$2.80-2.92 per kg (inclusive of GST)); 20 and 25 count combed yarn were traded at ₹239-249 (~\$2.69-2.80) per kg and ₹244-254 (~\$2.75-2.86) per kg, respectively; and carded yarn of 30 count was noted at ₹229-234 (~\$2.58-2.64) per kg today, according to trade sources.

The Delhi market also saw a ₹1 per kg dip across various counts and varieties of cotton yarn. The market experienced subdued demand from fabric manufacturers. Trade sources said overall demand remained average amid poor liquidity, though cash flow is expected to improve after Diwali.

In Delhi, 30 count combed knitting yarn was traded at ₹252-253 (~\$2.84-2.85) per kg (GST extra), 40 count combed at ₹279-280 (~\$3.14-3.15) per kg, 30 count carded at ₹226-228 (~\$2.55-2.57) per kg, and 40 count carded at ₹251-253 (~\$2.83-2.85) per kg today.

India's home textile hub Panipat witnessed stability in recycled yarn prices, though cotton comber gained ₹1 per kg, while recycled polyester fibre eased by ₹1 per kg. Traders said that demand across the entire value chain improved last week but failed to lift yarn market sentiment due to

ample supply and large production capacity. Reports indicated higher fabric demand in the market.

In Panipat, 10s recycled PC yarn (Grey) was traded at ₹73-76 (~\$0.82-0.86) per kg (GST paid). Other varieties and counts were noted at 10s recycled PC yarn (Black) at ₹55-58 (~\$0.62-0.65) per kg, 20s recycled PC yarn (Grey) at ₹97-100 (~\$1.09-1.13) per kg and 30s recycled PC yarn (Grey) at ₹127-132 (~\$1.43-1.49) per kg. Meanwhile, 10s recycled cotton yarn were traded at ₹107-108 (~\$1.21-1.22) per kg and 18s recycled cotton yarn ₹135-136 (~\$1.52-1.53) per kg. Cotton comber prices were noted at ₹109-111 (~\$1.23-1.25) per kg and recycled polyester fibre (PET bottle fibre) at ₹77-82 (~\$0.87-0.98) per kg today.

In north India, new cotton arrivals slowed due to light rains in several areas. Prices remained stable on the first day of the week after declining late last week. Cotton prices had eased by ₹30-40 per maund (37.2 kg) in recent days. Traders said that light and sporadic rains are normal and unlikely to harm the crop. The monsoon is expected to end in the coming days. Mills remained cautious with new purchases. Cotton arrivals declined to 4,200 bales of 170 kg each, compared to 5,000 bales previously.

North India reported arrivals of about 4,200 bales, including 300 bales in Punjab, 1,200 in Haryana, 1,500 in upper Rajasthan, and 1,200 in lower Rajasthan. New cotton prices were recorded at ₹5,390-5,400 (~\$60.70-60.81) per maund in Punjab, ₹5,325-5,335 (~\$59.97-60.08) in Haryana, ₹5,400-5,450 (~\$60.81-61.37) in upper Rajasthan, and ₹52,000-53,000 (~\$586.58-596.84) per candy of 356 kg. Seed cotton was sold between ₹6,000-7,000 (~\$67.57-78.83) per quintal of 100 kg.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Oct 06, 2025

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