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AEPC Unlocks Apparel Opportunities







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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



I want to start by wishing everyone a very Happy Diwali. May the festival of lights usher in prosperity, happiness and new opportunities for growth and success.

The Indian textile and apparel industry is at an important juncture in its growth journey, with expanding global trade opportunities, evolving consumer preferences and a renewed focus on strengthening India's position as a preferred sourcing destination. As we work towards the national ambition of increasing textile and apparel exports to US$100 billion by 2030, our collective priority must be to enhance competitiveness, diversify markets, promote innovation and build a resilient, future-ready industry.

India's growing engagement with international markets presents significant opportunities for our exporters. The India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), with its provision for duty-free access across apparel tariff lines, offers considerable potential for expanding India's presence in Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. However, translating market access into sustained export growth will require greater product diversification, stronger buyer engagement, adherence to international quality and sustainability standards, and a thorough understanding of Rules of Origin. AEPC remains committed to helping exporters navigate these requirements and make effective use of the opportunities available under India's expanding network of free trade agreements.

The recent interaction between AEPC and Ms. Manisha Chatterjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, was a positive and constructive step towards strengthening the partnership between the industry and the government. The encouraging response to the suggestions and concerns raised by our Executive Committee members reflects the importance of sustained dialogue in shaping industry-responsive policies. Discussions on policy continuity, the PLI Scheme, raw material availability, technology upgradation, labour productivity and ease of doing business highlighted the key priorities for the sector's next phase of growth. I firmly believe that such engagements will help create a more supportive business environment, encourage fresh investments and strengthen the competitiveness of Indian apparel exporters in global markets. AEPC remains committed to representing the industry's interests and working closely with the Ministry to translate these opportunities into meaningful progress.

Our participation in international exhibitions reflects our continued efforts to connect Indian manufacturers with global buyers and strengthen commercial partnerships. My recent visit to Barcelona for the Barcelona Textile Expo 2026 was a

valuable opportunity to engage directly with Indian exporters, international buyers and other industry stakeholders. Interacting with our participating exhibitors at the India Pavilion gave me an opportunity to understand their business prospects, aspirations and the challenges they face while expanding into international markets. The constructive meetings and discussions with representatives from Spain and other international stakeholders also reinforced the importance of building lasting partnerships, understanding market-specific requirements and creating new avenues for Indian apparel businesses. I believe that such direct engagement is essential to translate India's manufacturing strengths into stronger buyer relationships and sustained export growth. These interactions reaffirmed my conviction that India has immense potential to emerge as a preferred global sourcing destination.

At the same time, strengthening our domestic export ecosystem is equally important. Through initiatives such as TEXPORT, organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, we are working to address the practical challenges faced by established exporters, irregular exporters and new entrants. Focused capacity building, market intelligence, compliance support, access to finance and improved buyer connectivity can help more businesses participate in international trade and contribute to a broader, more inclusive export base.

Bharat Tex has emerged as an important platform for showcasing India's integrated textile and apparel value chain and bringing together manufacturers, exporters, buyers, investors and policymakers. I am humbled and honoured to take on the responsibility of serving as the new Chairman of the Bharat Tex Trade Federation. I look forward to working closely with industry stakeholders to strengthen this collaborative platform and build on the momentum of its successful editions. Bharat Tex 2027 will provide another significant opportunity to showcase India's capabilities, facilitate meaningful business partnerships, attract investments and further position India as a leading global textile and apparel hub. I invite international buyers and industry stakeholders to engage with Indian manufacturers and explore the immense possibilities that India offers.

Looking ahead, our focus must extend beyond expanding export volumes to creating greater value through technology adoption, sustainable manufacturing, man-made fibre diversification, skill development and product innovation. Stronger collaboration between the government, industry, institutions and international partners will be essential to achieving these objectives.

AEPC will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to empower exporters, strengthen market access and create new opportunities for growth. Together, we can build a globally competitive, sustainable and inclusive textile and apparel industry that reinforces India's position in the international marketplace and contributes meaningfully to the nation's economic progress.

As we celebrate the festival of lights, I again extend my warm wishes to everyone and their families for a very Happy Diwali. May the occasion bring renewed hope, happiness, prosperity and success.

Dr. A. Sakthivel
Chairman
Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)



COVER STORY

AEPC Highlights Apparel Opportunities at 2nd India–EFTA Prosperity Summit 2026



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) participated in the 2nd India–EFTA Prosperity Summit 2026, held in New Delhi to mark one year of the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and strengthen trade and investment ties between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries — Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The summit brought together senior government officials, industry representatives and other stakeholders to discuss the progress of India–EFTA economic engagement and explore opportunities for deeper trade, investment and business partnerships.

AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel, along with Secretary General Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, represented the Council at the summit. In the presence of Shri Rajesh Agrawal, IAS, Commerce Secretary, Government of India; Shri Lav Agarwal, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT); and other senior government and industry dignitaries, AEPC Chairman and Secretary General made a presentation highlighting the opportunities for India's apparel sector under TEPA.



Significant Market Opportunity for Indian Apparel

The AEPC presentation highlighted the considerable potential offered by the EFTA market. EFTA countries — Switzerland, Norway and Iceland — collectively import

around US$12 billion worth of RMG from the world, providing significant headroom for Indian exporters to expand their presence.

India's apparel exports to EFTA stood at approximately US$453.7 million in 2025–26, making India the sixth-largest apparel supplier to the bloc. Switzerland remains the principal market for Indian apparel within EFTA, accounting for around 77% of India's exports, followed by Norway and Iceland.

While India has established a presence in the EFTA market, the presentation underlined the considerable scope to increase market share by better aligning India's product basket with EFTA's demand.

Product Diversification Key to Unlocking Growth

A key focus of the presentation was the opportunity for Indian exporters to diversify beyond traditional apparel products.

EFTA's import profile indicates significant opportunities in MMF-based apparel, winterwear, outerwear, functional clothing and thermal layers, where India's current presence remains relatively limited.

The presentation noted that while India already supplies some of EFTA's leading imported apparel products, there is scope to expand into products that currently account for a substantial share of EFTA's demand.

For Indian exporters, this presents an opportunity to combine India's existing strengths in cotton and woven apparel with greater capabilities in man-made fibres, technical textiles and value-added garments.

Understanding Rules of Origin

AEPC also highlighted the importance of Rules of Origin (RoO) for exporters seeking to effectively utilise TEPA preferences.

While most apparel products under Chapters 61 and 62 are covered by the Change of Chapter (CC) rule, certain specified headings have CTSH and value addition requirement in case of using non-originating material..

Exporters therefore need to understand the product-specific requirements and maintain appropriate documentation and origin trails to ensure that their shipments qualify for preferential treatment.

Beyond Tariff Advantage

The presentation emphasised that TEPA should be viewed as more than a tariff-access agreement. With duty-free access available across apparel tariff lines, the next priority is to convert this access into sustained market share and long-term buyer relationships.

For Indian apparel exporters, competitiveness in EFTA will increasingly depend on quality, design, product diversification, sustainability, traceability and reliable supply capabilities.

Greater engagement with EFTA buyers, participation in targeted trade fairs and business-to-business meetings, and alignment with the region's seasonal sourcing cycles can further strengthen India's position.

AEPC's Role in TEPA Utilisation

AEPC is actively supporting exporters in understanding and utilising the opportunities under through awareness programmes, webinars and FTA utilisation seminars across its regional clusters.

More than 1,000 exporters have participated in these initiatives so far, with AEPC aiming to reach more than 2,000 members. The Council is also facilitating exporter queries through its regional offices and disseminating information on TEPA through circulars, flyers and digital communication.

The Council's efforts are aimed at ensuring that exporters are equipped not only with information about the agreement but also with practical knowledge to use its provisions effectively.

Looking Ahead

The India–EFTA partnership also carries a significant investment dimension. The EFTA countries have committed to pursuing substantial investments in India, creating opportunities to strengthen India's textile and apparel value chain through technology transfer, advanced manufacturing, automation, processing, R&D and integrated infrastructure.

For the Indian apparel industry, the message emerging from the summit was clear: TEPA provides the market access, but sustained industry action is required to convert that access into exports, investment and market share.

AEPC will continue to work with the government and industry stakeholders to build awareness, address implementation challenges and help Indian apparel exporters tap the opportunities emerging from the India–EFTA partnership.

AEPC and Ministry of Textiles engage on the future of India's apparel export growth



AEPC hosts Ms. Manisha Chatterjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, for an interactive dialogue with Executive Committee members led by Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel

India's apparel export sector is poised to play an increasingly important role in the country's manufacturing growth, employment generation and expanding presence in global markets. With growing opportunities for diversification of sourcing destinations and increasing demand for quality, innovation and responsible manufacturing, closer collaboration between industry and government is essential to unlock the sector's full potential.

Reaffirming this shared commitment, the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) hosted Ms. Manisha Chatterjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, for an interactive meeting with members of its Executive Committee (EC), led by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC. The interaction was marked by a positive and encouraging response from Ms. Chatterjee, who appreciated AEPC's proactive engagement and its efforts to bring industry perspectives and concerns to the Ministry's attention. She responded positively to the suggestions put forward by the members and acknowledged the importance of continued dialogue in addressing industry requirements and facilitating the sector's growth. Her encouraging observations reflected the Ministry's openness to constructive industry feedback and its recognition of AEPC's important role in strengthening India's apparel export ecosystem.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for constructive engagement between policymakers and industry representatives, bringing together perspectives on strengthening India's apparel manufacturing ecosystem, enhancing export competitiveness and creating a supportive environment for sustainable growth.

Discussions covered a broad range of subjects, including policy continuity, government support schemes, raw material availability, labour productivity, technology upgradation and ease of doing business. The interaction also highlighted the importance of responsive policymaking and continued industry participation in shaping measures that support the sector's long-term ambitions.



A shared vision for India's apparel export ambitions

The interaction began with a focus on India's export aspirations and the opportunities available to strengthen the country's position in international apparel markets.

Ms. Chatterjee emphasised the importance of industry participation in achieving the sector's ambitious growth targets, highlighting the complementary roles of the government and manufacturers. While the government can facilitate growth through policy support and an enabling business environment, the industry's investment, production capabilities and market engagement are central to translating these opportunities into results.

She also encouraged EC members to share their perspectives and suggestions, creating an open forum for discussing industry priorities and potential areas for policy intervention.

The exchange reflected the importance of continuous dialogue between government and industry in ensuring that policy initiatives remain aligned with the evolving needs of apparel exporters.

For AEPC, the meeting reinforced its role as a bridge between the apparel industry and the government, facilitating discussions that can help strengthen the sector's competitiveness and support its expansion in global markets.

Building a stable and supportive policy environment

Policy continuity was among the key themes discussed during the meeting. Members highlighted how a predictable policy framework helps manufacturers plan investments, manage production costs and fulfil commitments to international buyers.

Given the advance planning involved in apparel manufacturing, long-term clarity on incentives and support measures can help businesses make more confident investment decisions and strengthen their engagement with global sourcing partners.

The discussion underscored the value of a multi-year policy perspective that provides the industry with greater certainty and allows businesses to plan for capacity expansion, workforce development and technology modernisation.

Ms. Chatterjee acknowledged the importance of giving businesses sufficient time to operate within government schemes and realise their intended benefits. Her observations highlighted the Ministry's recognition of the need for policy frameworks that support investment planning and encourage sustained participation by industry.

The exchange also demonstrated how direct engagement with industry representatives can help policymakers understand operational requirements and identify areas where greater continuity and clarity can support export growth.

***PLI Scheme:** Expanding opportunities for investment*

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme featured prominently in the interaction, with members discussing its potential to encourage manufacturing investment and strengthen India's textile and apparel value chain.

Particular attention was given to improving accessibility for eligible companies and ensuring that the scheme's parameters align with industry requirements.

Ms. Chatterjee shared an update on the proposed fourth round of the PLI Scheme, indicating that it was expected to open shortly, tentatively on 1 November 2026, with detailed parameters to be published separately. As discussed during the meeting, the proposed changes included reducing the turnover eligibility threshold from ₹200 crore to₹ 100 crore while retaining the investment threshold of ₹50 crore. The proposed structure was also expected to provide four years for performance and one year for the gestation period.

These proposed changes were discussed as part of the Ministry's efforts to address industry feedback and provide participating companies with an adequate timeframe to establish operations and realise scheme benefits.

The discussion highlighted the importance of investment-oriented initiatives in encouraging capacity creation, strengthening manufacturing capabilities and supporting India's ambition to emerge as a more competitive global sourcing destination.

The scheme details reflect the proposals discussed during the interaction and are subject to formal notification.

Strengthening raw material availability and the MMF ecosystem

Ensuring access to quality and competitively priced raw materials is an important element of building a globally competitive apparel export industry.

During the meeting, AEPC members discussed the

availability of man-made fibre (MMF) and man-made fabrics, emphasising the growing importance of a diversified product base in meeting international buyer requirements.

Members highlighted the potential to strengthen linkages between domestic fabric production and export-oriented apparel manufacturing. They also referred to a proposed Special Advance Authorisation Scheme that could facilitate duty-free imports of man-made fabrics under a simplified framework, subject to applicable conditions.

The discussion focused on how improved access to suitable fabrics could support product diversification, enable manufacturers to respond more effectively to buyer demand and create additional opportunities for Indian apparel exporters.

Raw material price stability was also discussed, with members sharing their perspectives on the importance of predictable input costs for production planning and export pricing.

Ms. Chatterjee acknowledged the concerns relating to price fluctuations and highlighted the need to examine appropriate ways of improving raw material availability.

The exchange reflected a shared interest in strengthening the broader textile value chain, with closer coordination between fibre, fabric and apparel manufacturers helping create opportunities for greater value addition and export growth.

Enhancing manufacturing competitiveness and productivity

India's apparel industry has significant potential to build on its manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce and established export base. Improving productivity and operational efficiency can further strengthen this position.

During the interaction, EC members discussed labour-related considerations, production costs and the need to improve manufacturing efficiency in an increasingly competitive international environment.

The discussion also covered working arrangements and shift systems, highlighting the importance of understanding factory-level requirements while identifying opportunities to improve productivity.

Ms. Chatterjee acknowledged that labour and productivity were important areas for the sector and referred to efforts to examine manufacturing practices, including through visits to factories.

The exchange provided an opportunity to consider how a combination of efficient production systems, workforce development, technology adoption and supportive policies can help manufacturers improve output and meet the delivery expectations of international buyers.

These discussions are particularly relevant as Indian exporters seek to strengthen their capabilities across product categories and respond to evolving global sourcing requirements.

Technology upgradation: *Preparing for the next phase of growth*

Modern manufacturing technology is increasingly important in improving productivity, product consistency and operational efficiency.

During the meeting, members highlighted the role of machinery modernisation in strengthening the apparel industry's competitiveness and supporting the transition towards more efficient manufacturing processes.

Ms. Chatterjee acknowledged the importance of technology upgradation and indicated that work was progressing on a possible support mechanism for machinery investment, although detailed provisions were not confirmed during the interaction.

The discussion highlighted the potential for technology-oriented support to encourage manufacturers to modernise facilities, improve production efficiency and build capabilities suited to changing international market requirements.

For the apparel industry, such investments can support both immediate operational improvements and longer-term competitiveness by enabling manufacturers to respond more effectively to buyer expectations on quality, productivity and delivery.

Ease of doing business and a stronger investment ecosystem

A supportive business environment is essential for encouraging investment and enabling manufacturers to scale their operations.

AEPC members shared their perspectives on procedural requirements associated with establishing and expanding manufacturing facilities. The discussion highlighted the value of simplified processes, efficient coordination and timely clearances in supporting business expansion.

Ms. Chatterjee noted that certain matters fall within state jurisdiction and may require engagement with the relevant state authorities. She indicated that industry concerns in these areas could be brought to their attention.

The exchange highlighted the importance of collaboration across different levels of government in supporting investment, encouraging capacity expansion

and strengthening India's appeal as a manufacturing destination.

A responsive operating environment, supported by predictable policies and efficient procedures, can help manufacturers focus on productivity, innovation and market development.

Strengthening coordination for industry-wide progress

The meeting also highlighted the importance of coordination among government departments in addressing issues that span multiple policy areas.

Members discussed the potential of inter-ministerial mechanisms to facilitate more integrated consideration of matters relating to labour, MSMEs, investment, raw materials and export competitiveness.

Ms. Chatterjee explained that some policy decisions require consultations across ministries and, in certain cases, higher-level approvals. Her observations highlighted the importance of sustained engagement and coordination in progressing matters that extend beyond the remit of a single department.

The discussion reinforced the value of industry associations such as AEPC in consolidating members' perspectives, identifying common priorities and presenting them to the appropriate authorities.

By bringing industry concerns into a structured dialogue, such interactions can help improve mutual understanding and support the development of practical, industry-responsive measures.

AEPC's role in facilitating constructive engagement

As the representative body for India's apparel exporters, AEPC continues to play an important role in connecting industry requirements with policy discussions.

The interaction with Ms. Chatterjee reflected the Council's commitment to providing a platform for members to share their experiences, discuss emerging opportunities and engage with the government on issues affecting the sector.

The meeting brought together a range of perspectives on strengthening investment, improving manufacturing efficiency, facilitating access to raw materials and ensuring that support schemes respond to the needs of the industry.

Such engagements also create opportunities to identify areas for continued follow-up, enabling AEPC to pursue discussions with the Ministry on matters of importance to exporters.

Under the leadership of Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel, the Council remains focused on facilitating dialogue and supporting initiatives that contribute to the growth and global competitiveness of India's apparel industry.

Looking ahead: *Turning collaboration into opportunities*

The interaction between AEPC and the Ministry of Textiles highlighted the value of a shared approach to strengthening India's apparel export ecosystem.

The discussions reflected a common interest in encouraging investment, improving productivity, supporting technological advancement and creating an enabling environment for manufacturers to expand their operations.

With global sourcing requirements evolving and opportunities emerging across markets and product categories, India's apparel industry can benefit from continued collaboration between policymakers and exporters.

Stable policy frameworks, effective support schemes, improved access to inputs and efficient manufacturing systems can collectively help businesses respond to these opportunities with greater confidence.

The meeting also reaffirmed the importance of keeping industry perspectives central to policy discussions. Regular engagement allows policymakers to better understand the requirements of manufacturers while enabling industry representatives to communicate their priorities and contribute to constructive solutions.

As India seeks to strengthen its position in global apparel trade, AEPC will continue to facilitate engagement with the government and support initiatives aimed at enhancing the sector's competitiveness.

The interaction with Ms. Manisha Chatterjee marked a constructive step in this ongoing dialogue, reinforcing the shared commitment of AEPC and the Ministry of Textiles to supporting India's apparel industry, encouraging investment and unlocking new avenues for export-led growth.



AEPC Chairman Dr. A. Sakthivel Elected Chairman of Bharat Tex Trade Federation; New Leadership to Strengthen India's Global Textile Footprint



The Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) has ushered in a new phase of leadership with the election of Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), as its Chairman, succeeding Shri Naren Goenka. The leadership transition took place at the Federation's 12th Board Meeting, held at Le Méridien, New Delhi, reaffirming the industry's commitment to strengthening India's position in the global textile and apparel market.

Shri Bhadresh Dodhia was re-elected as Co-Chairman, while Shri Sudhir Sekhri took charge as Treasurer. The new leadership team is expected to build on the momentum generated by the successful editions of Bharat Tex and further strengthen collaboration across the textile value chain.

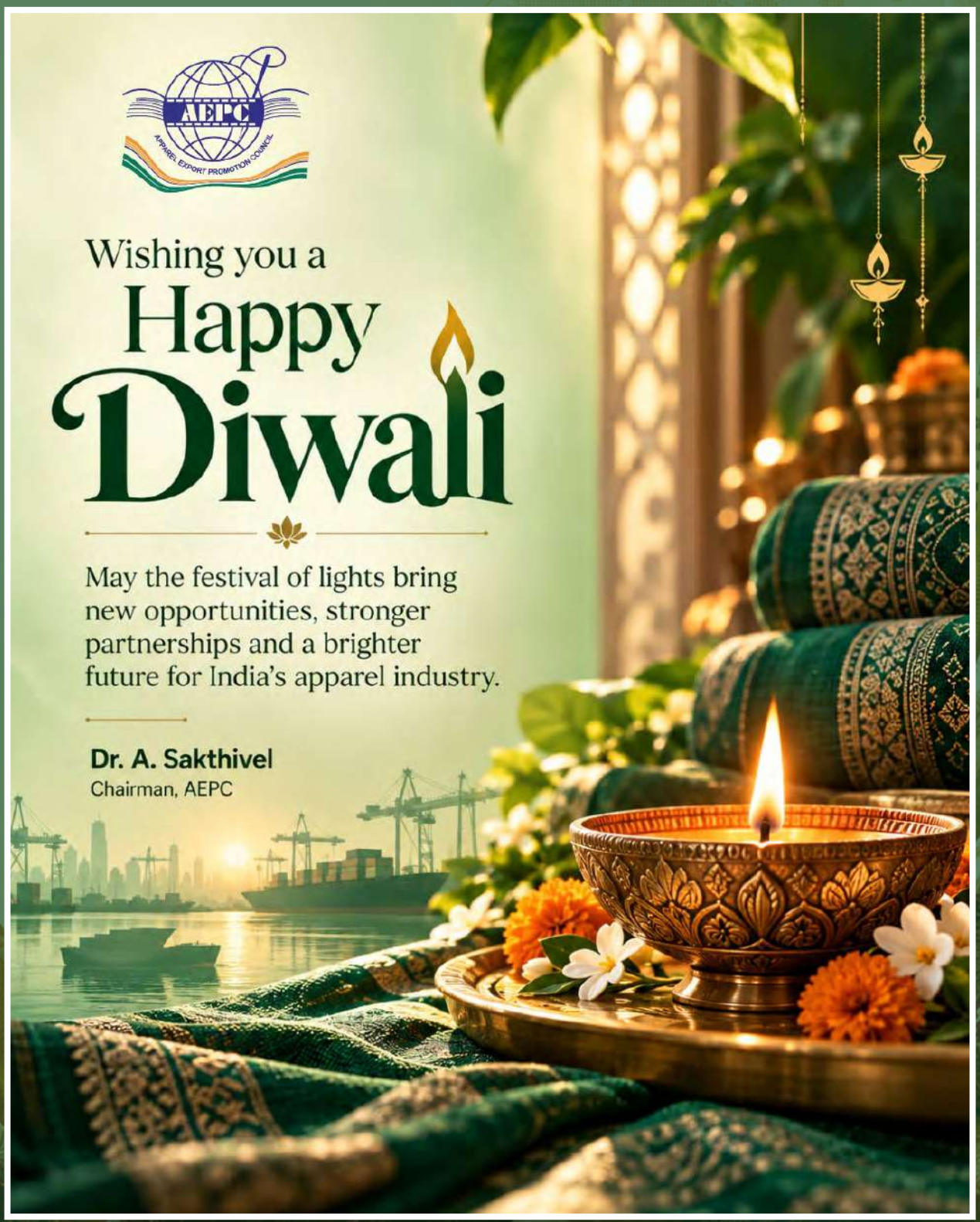
With three successful editions of Bharat Tex behind it, BTTF has emerged as an important platform for showcasing India's textile and apparel capabilities, facilitating business partnerships and connecting domestic industry stakeholders with international buyers and investors. The Federation's renewed leadership aims to build on this foundation by accelerating exports, encouraging innovation and creating new opportunities for international trade and investment.

Dr. Sakthivel's election comes at a significant time for India's textile and apparel industry, as the country seeks to expand its global market presence, diversify export destinations and strengthen its position as a reliable sourcing partner. His leadership at AEPC and his new role at BTTF provide an opportunity to strengthen synergies between apparel exporters and the wider textile industry, with greater emphasis on international market access, buyer engagement and export growth.

The Federation's vision centres on expanding India's global reach through stronger partnerships and sustained industry engagement. In this context, the upcoming Bharat Tex 2027, scheduled for March 31 to April 3, 2027, is expected to provide another major opportunity to showcase India's textile excellence, connect manufacturers and exporters with global buyers, and promote investment across the sector.

As the industry prepares for the next edition, BTTF's renewed leadership is poised to contribute to advancing India's textile trade ambitions. With a focus on collaboration, innovation and global market access, the Federation will continue to work towards positioning India as a leading destination for textile and apparel sourcing.

Bharat Tex 2027 will be held from March 31 to April 3, 2027.


AEPC
APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
Wishing you a
Happy
Diwali
May the festival of lights bring new opportunities, stronger partnerships and a brighter future for India's apparel industry.
Dr. A. Sakthivel
Chairman, AEPC

INDIA'S READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG)

India's RMG Export to World

	(In USD million)			YoY Growth (%)	
Month	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26 over 2024-25	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	1198.4	1371.3	1211.5	14.4	-11.7
May	1357.4	1511.5	1297.2	11.4	-14.2
June	1293.9	1309.8	1162.3	1.2	-11.3
July	1278.0	1338.7	1278.6	4.7	-4.5
August	1268.2	1234.6	1200.7	-2.6	-2.7
September	1110.1	997.5	1133.9	-10.1	+13.7
October	1227.6	1069.4		-12.9	
November	1121.1	1247.4		11.3	
December	1463.4	1509.3		3.1	
January	1606.4	1544.8		-3.8	
February	1534.9	1403.0		-8.6	
March	1531.3	1240.5		-19.0	
Total	**15990.6**	**15777.6**	**7282.9**	**-1.3**	**-6.19**

Note- 1) Data for the month of September 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 15.10.2026
2)Sum of the value for (April-Sept) 2025-26 is USD 7763.08 Mn. and (Apr-Sept) 2026-27 is USD 7282.93 Mn.
3)Source: DGCI&S 2026
4)For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April-September only; growth is calculated against the corresponding April-September period of the previous year.

RMG exports for the month of September 2026 stood at USD 1,133.9 million, growing by 13.7% compared to September 2025.

Cumulatively, RMG exports for the period April–September 2026-27 stood at USD 7,282.9 million, showing a decline of 6.2% over April–September 2025-26 (USD 7,763.1 million).



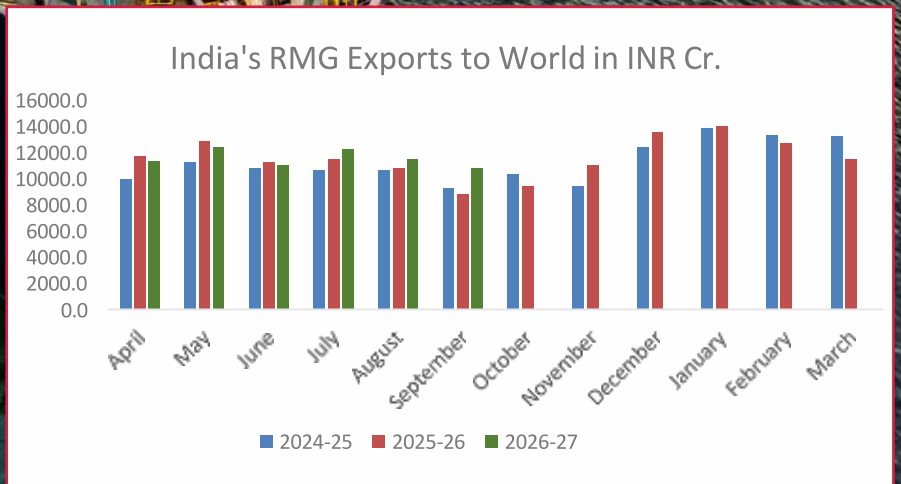
India's RMG Export to World

	(In INR Crore)			YoY Growth (%)	
Month	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26 over 2024-25	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	9995.4	11733.3	11333.3	17.4	-3.4
May	11319.9	12876.5	12401.2	13.8	-3.7
June	10800.2	11251.1	11036.0	4.2	-1.9
July	10683.3	11527.7	12251.6	7.9	6.3
August	10639.5	10804.7	11463.9	1.6	6.1
September	9304.0	8810.6	10824.6	-5.3	+22.9
October	10315.3	9455.4		-8.3	
November	9457.8	11079.8		17.1	
December	12424.2	13550.6		9.1	
January	13857.9	14026.6		1.2	
February	13362.1	12729.1		-4.7	
March	13267.1	11507.0		-13.3	
Total	**135426.6**	**139351.9**	**69300.6**	**2.9**	**+3.4**

Note- 1) Data for the month of September 2026 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 15.10.2026
2)Sum of the value for (Apr-Sept) 2025-26 is Rs. 67001.66 Cr. and (Apr-Sept) 2026-27 is Rs.69300.59 Cr.
3)Source: DGCI&S 2026
4)For 2026-27, values represent cumulative exports for April-September only; growth is calculated against the corresponding April-September period of the previous year.

RMG exports for the month of September 2026 stood at Rs. 10,824.6 crore, showing an increase of 22.9% compared to September 2025.

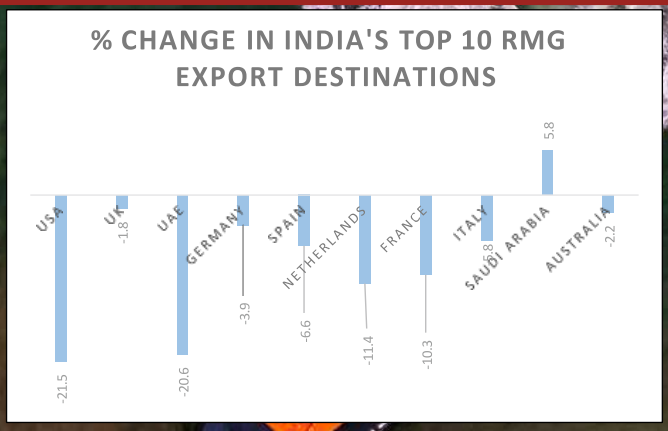
Cumulatively, RMG exports for the period April–September 2026-27 stood at Rs. 69,300.6 crore, showing an increase of 3.4% over April–September 2025-26 (Rs. 67,001.7 crore).



India's Top 10 RMG Export Destinations

S. No.	Countries	Value in USD mn.		
		April-July 2025-26	April-July 2026-27	% Change
	Total RMG Export	**5544.0**	**4960.9**	**-10.5**
1	**USA**	1865.8	1464.1	-21.5
2	**UK**	491.9	483.2	-1.8
3	**UAE**	434.9	345.4	-20.6
4	**Germany**	308.4	296.4	-3.9
5	**Spain**	274.5	256.5	-6.6
6	**Netherlands**	265.9	235.5	-11.4
7	**France**	207.3	186.0	-10.3
8	**Italy**	130.5	123.0	-5.8
9	**Saudi Arabia**	111.3	117.7	5.8
10	**Australia**	119.7	117.1	-2.2

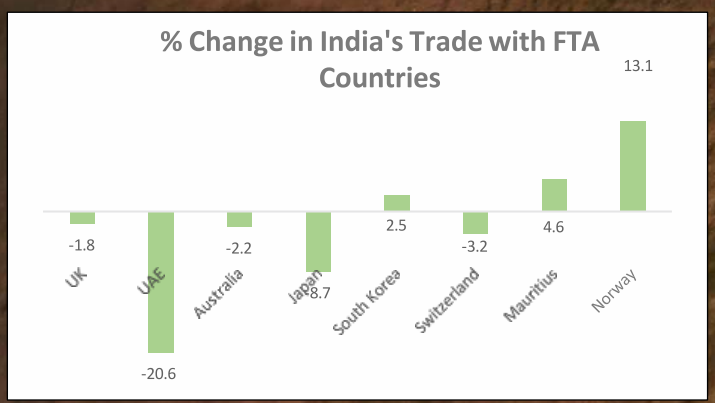
Source: DGCI&S, 2026



India's Trade with FTA Countries

S. No.	Countries	April- July 2025-26	April- July 2026-27	% Change
1	**UK**	491.9	483.2	-1.8
2	**UAE**	434.9	345.4	-20.6
3	**Australia**	119.7	117.1	-2.2
4	**Japan**	91.8	83.8	-8.7
5	**South Korea**	19.5	20.0	2.5
6	**Switzerland**	12.5	12.1	-3.2
7	**Mauritius**	10.0	10.4	4.6
8	**Norway**	5.9	6.7	13.1

Source: DGCI&S, 2026



India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Textiles & Wearing Apparel update for India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of August in FY 2026-27

Month	Manufacture of Textiles		Growth Rate (In %)	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel		Growth Rate (In %)
	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 over 2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27 over 2025-26
April	114.7	132.6	15.6	98.5	91.6	-7.0
May	120.9	136.2	12.7	103.6	94.5	-8.8
June	120.0	136.4	13.7	102.7	95.6	-6.9
July	130.4	135.5	3.9	96.5	95.9	-0.6
August	121.0	136.9	13.1	96.1	89.0	-7.4
September	110.7			100.6		
October	106.6			89.6		
November	110.0			105.3		
December	111.1			109.4		
January	109.7			108.7		
February	107.0			100.7		
March	108.9			123.6		
Cumulative Index (Apr-Aug)	121.8	136.3	11.9	99.3	93.7	-5.6

Source: CSO,2026
*Figures for August 2026 are Quick Estimates. (Base: 2022-23)

• **Manufacture of Textiles Index** for the month of August 2026 stood at 136.9, recording a 13.1% growth over August 2025.

• Manufacture of Textiles Index (Cumulative: April-August 2026) stood at 136.3, registering an 11.9% growth over the corresponding period (April-August 2025).

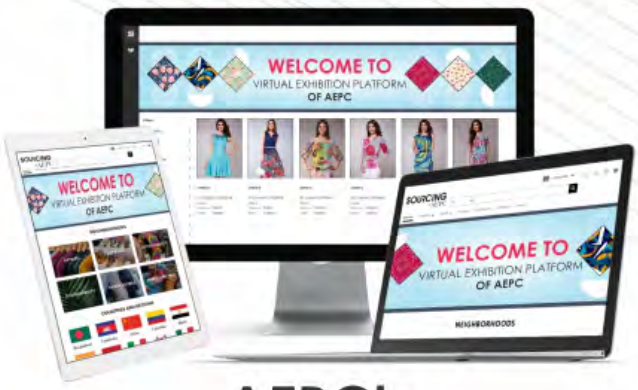
• **Manufacture of Wearing Apparel Index** for the month of August 2026 stood at 89.0, registering a 7.4% decline over August 2025.

• Manufacture of Wearing Apparel Index (Cumulative: April-August 2026) stood at 93.7, registering a 5.6% decline over the corresponding period (April-August 2025).

• As per the Quick Estimates released by CSO, the Textiles Index registered robust growth during August 2026, recording a 13.1% increase over August 2025, while the Wearing Apparel Index registered a 7.4% decline over the corresponding period.











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PLI Scheme for Textiles Opens Round 4 Applications, Lowers Turnover Threshold to ₹100 Crore



The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, has opened the fourth round of applications under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles, offering fresh opportunities for eligible companies to participate in the government's efforts to strengthen domestic textile manufacturing and enhance the sector's global competitiveness.

Fresh applications are being accepted from November 1 to December 31, 2026. A key feature of Round 4 is the reduction in the minimum turnover requirement under Part 2 from ₹200 crore to ₹100 crore, potentially widening access to the scheme for mid-sized enterprises and other eligible businesses seeking to expand their manufacturing capabilities and investments in the textile sector.

The Ministry has also announced an extension of the scheme tenure up to FY 2033–34 for Round 4 applicants. This extended timeline offers prospective participants a longer horizon for planning their investments and production strategies. In addition, a migration facility will be available to eligible existing participants, providing a pathway for those who meet the applicable criteria to transition under the revised provisions.

PLI Scheme for Textiles: Round 4 – Inaugural Webinar



The Ministry of Textiles marked the reopening of the application portal with an inaugural national webinar titled "PLI: The Next Leap" on November 1, 2026. The webinar witnessed an overwhelming response, with participation from over 120 key stakeholders, including heads of industry associations, CEOs and senior management representatives from prominent companies across India's Man-Made Fibre (MMF) and Technical Textiles sectors.

The session was led by Ms. Manisha Chatterjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, who engaged in a conversation with industry stakeholders on the key modifications introduced in Round 4, opportunities available under the scheme and the application process. Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), and Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, also participated in the webinar along with other industry representatives.

The interaction provided an important platform for the industry to understand the renewed provisions, seek clarity on the revised eligibility criteria and application process, and explore opportunities under the scheme. Industry representatives welcomed the strategic modifications, particularly the reduction in the turnover threshold, extended scheme tenure and migration provisions, which are expected to encourage wider participation and support long-term investment planning.

The PLI Scheme for Textiles is an important government initiative aimed at encouraging investment, boosting manufacturing capacity and strengthening India's position in the global textile value chain. The latest round provides eligible companies with another opportunity to explore the benefits of the scheme and align their expansion plans with the government's broader manufacturing and export ambitions.

Eligible applicants can submit their applications through the official portal: pli.texmin.gov.in. The portal will remain open for fresh applications until December 31, 2026.

With a revised turnover threshold, an extended scheme tenure and a migration facility for eligible existing participants, Round 4 marks an important opportunity for businesses looking to participate in India's textile manufacturing growth story and contribute to the vision of Make in India.

First Meeting of the Development Council for Textile Industry (DCTI) Held; Council Deliberates on Roadmap for a Competitive and Integrated Textile Value Chain

The first meeting of the Development Council for Textile Industry (DCTI) was held on 6th October, 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Smt. Neelam Shami Rao. The Council, constituted as the apex consultative platform of Government, industry and stakeholders, convened to deliberate upon its mandate of advising the Government on the orderly growth and development of the textile industry.



The meeting was attended by Senior Officers of the Ministry, representatives of Industry Associations, Export Promotion Councils, Research Associations, State Governments and Sector Experts.



Addressing the Council, the Chair underscored that the textiles and apparel sector continues to be among the largest employment generators and export earners for the country and called for a coordinated, whole-of-value-chain approach towards production, innovation and global market access.

The deliberations at the meeting focused on the following key areas:

- Production and Productivity: Capacity addition, modernisation, scale and cost competitiveness across the fibre, yarn, fabric, processing and apparel segments, with emphasis on addressing gaps across the value chain.
- Research and Development: Strengthening industry–research linkages, fostering innovation in new-age fibres and technical textiles, and facilitating faster commercialisation of R&D through Research Associations and institutions.
- Exports and Market Access: Diversification of products and markets, leveraging trade agreements, and addressing quality, compliance and logistics-related constraints faced by exporters.
- Raw Material and Input Availability: Ensuring stable and competitive availability of cotton, man-made fibres, yarn, dyes and chemicals, supported by effective market intelligence.
- Investment, Skilling and Sustainability: Promoting ease of doing business, strengthening support for MSMEs, workforce skilling, and adoption of sustainable and circular practices.

Members shared sector-specific suggestions on each of the above themes and welcomed the institutionalised industry - Government interface provided by the Council.

The Council agreed to constitute Working Groups/Sub Committees on priority themes and to meet at regular intervals to review progress. The Council's recommendations will inform the Ministry's policy and programme interventions and are aimed at:

- higher domestic production, improved productivity and a more integrated, scale-oriented value chain;
- faster translation of research into industry practice, including in the areas of technical textiles and new-age fibres;
- sustained growth in textile and apparel exports through wider market and product diversification; and
- greater investment, employment generation and a stronger and more sustainable domestic ecosystem.

The Chair thanked the members for their valuable inputs and reiterated the Government's commitment towards a collaborative and industry-facing approach for the sustained growth of the sector.

Government Extends Cotton Import Duty Exemption Till December 31, 2026

Two-month extension expected to improve cotton availability, ease input costs and strengthen the competitiveness of India's textile and apparel industry



In a significant move aimed at supporting India's textile and apparel industry, the Government of India has extended the customs duty exemption on cotton imports by two months, until December 31, 2026. The exemption, which was originally scheduled to remain in force until October 31, 2026, will now provide additional relief to the industry during the coming months.

The extension was notified by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) through Notification No. 35/2026-Customs, dated October 30, 2026, amending the earlier Notification No. 19/2026-Customs, issued on May 30, 2026.

Under the notification, cotton falling under Customs Tariff Heading 5201 will continue to enjoy exemption from the entire customs duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on imports into India until December 31, 2026.

The initial exemption, effective from June 1, 2026, was introduced to augment cotton availability for the domestic textile industry, moderate raw material costs and support the competitiveness of Indian textile manufacturers. The latest extension reinforces this policy support by providing the industry with additional time to access cotton through imports at reduced costs.

The decision is expected to benefit the entire textile value chain, particularly spinning mills, textile manufacturers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), by improving access to raw materials and helping manage input cost pressures. Greater availability of cotton can also support production planning, improve supply-chain flexibility and strengthen the industry's ability to meet domestic and international demand.

The government's approach also seeks to maintain a balance between the requirements of the textile industry and the interests of domestic cotton farmers, particularly in the context of seasonal availability and market stability.

The extension is a positive development for the Indian textile and apparel sector, reaffirming the government's focus on ensuring raw material availability, supporting manufacturing competitiveness and strengthening India's position in global textile and apparel markets.



Ministry of Textiles Promotes Cybersecurity Awareness and Responsible E-Waste Management



Workshops under Special Campaign 6 highlight digital safety, resource conservation and sustainable workplace practices

The Ministry of Textiles organised workshops on cybersecurity, secure digital disposal and e-waste management awareness on 15 October 2026 as part of Special Campaign 6. The sessions brought together more than 85 officials, including nodal officers, to promote safer digital practices and responsible management of electronic waste.

The initiative highlights the growing importance of integrating digital security with environmental responsibility in workplace operations.

Strengthening Digital Safety

The cybersecurity awareness session familiarised officials with emerging digital threats, including phishing attacks, malware, fraudulent WhatsApp messages and digital arrest scams. Participants were advised to exercise caution while handling emails, links, attachments and messages that may impersonate known contacts or seek sensitive information.

The session emphasised the importance of verifying suspicious communications, avoiding unverified downloads, protecting personal and official information, and reporting cyber incidents promptly. These practices are particularly relevant as organisations increasingly rely on digital systems for communication, administration and business operations.

Promoting Responsible E-Waste Management

The e-waste awareness session focused on the environmental risks associated with improper disposal of electronic and electrical equipment, including potential soil and water contamination and the release of hazardous substances.

Officials were sensitised to the importance of segregation, safe handling and disposal of obsolete equipment through authorised channels, in accordance with applicable regulations. The discussions also highlighted opportunities to conserve resources through the reuse, refurbishment and recycling of electronic equipment wherever feasible.

The Ministry has also undertaken initiatives to collect and appropriately manage e-waste generated within its premises. Equipment identified for end-of-life management includes desktop computers, keyboards, photocopiers, air purifiers and electric hot cases.

Relevance for the Textile and Apparel Industry

For the textile and apparel industry, the initiative underscores two areas of growing operational importance: cybersecurity and sustainable resource management.

Apparel exporters increasingly depend on digital systems for communication with international buyers, documentation, supply-chain coordination and business operations. Strengthening cyber awareness can help organisations reduce exposure to fraudulent communications, phishing attempts and other digital risks.

At the same time, responsible disposal and recycling of electronic equipment can support resource efficiency and more sustainable workplace practices. For exporters seeking to strengthen environmental management across their operations, proper e-waste handling can form part of a broader approach to waste reduction and responsible resource use.

While the workshops were conducted within the Ministry of Textiles, the principles they promote are relevant to businesses across the textile and apparel value chain.

Through these activities, the Ministry has reiterated its focus on digital safety, environmental responsibility and efficient resource utilisation as part of Special Campaign 6.

Source: Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, 16 October 2026.

DGFT Constitutes Panel to Boost Uptake of ₹497-Crore Export Relief Scheme

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has constituted a six-member sub-committee to review the implementation of the ₹497-crore Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) scheme and recommend measures to enhance its outreach, improve exporter participation and ensure effective utilisation of the approved funds.

The sub-committee was established through Trade Notice No. 33/2026-27 dated October 30, 2026, under the government's Export Promotion Mission (EPM). The panel will review all three components of the scheme, including the claims processed and funds remaining with the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), the implementing agency.

The committee will assess the progress of implementation, identify factors influencing the scheme's uptake and suggest measures to address operational challenges. Its recommendations will be submitted to the EPM Steering Committee for consideration. The panel may also invite stakeholders and co-opt additional members, wherever required, to facilitate its review.

The sub-committee will be jointly chaired by the Additional Directors General of Foreign Trade from DGFT's Logistics Division and EPM Division. Its members will include the Director of the Department of Commerce's Trade Finance Division, a functional director of ECGC and a representative of the Department of Financial Services. A Joint DGFT from the EPM Section will serve as the convenor, with the section providing secretariat support.

Launched on March 19, 2026, the RELIEF scheme was introduced to provide targeted assistance to Indian exporters facing exceptional increases in freight costs, insurance premiums and war-related risks arising from disruptions in the Gulf and wider West Asian maritime corridor. With an approved outlay of ₹497 crore under the Export Promotion Mission, the intervention aims to strengthen export resilience and help businesses manage logistics-related uncertainties.

ECGC was designated as the nodal agency for the scheme, responsible for verification, processing and disbursement of claims, as well as monitoring implementation. The scheme covers eligible export consignments destined for delivery or transshipment through specified countries in the affected region.

The RELIEF scheme has three distinct components to address different categories of exporter requirements. Component I provides enhanced risk protection of up to 100% for eligible exporters already holding ECGC insurance, subject to applicable conditions.

Component II facilitates insurance coverage for upcoming export shipments, offering up to 95% risk coverage and protection against increases in insurance premiums beyond pre-disruption levels. Component III provides partial reimbursement of extraordinary freight and insurance surcharges to eligible uninsured micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Under this component, exporters can receive reimbursement of up to 50% of eligible costs, subject to a maximum ceiling of ₹50 lakh per exporter and the submission of supporting documentation.

In a further measure to support exporters, the Department of Commerce has extended Component II of the scheme until March 31, 2027, through a notification dated September 30, 2026. A clarification issued on October 26, 2026, confirmed that the benefits are applicable to eligible standalone and whole-turnover insurance policies obtained on or after March 16, 2026.

The eligible cargo categories include full container loads (FCL), less-than-container loads (LCL) and refrigerated containers, excluding energy shipments. Exporters are required to submit their claims along with supporting documents through ECGC's customer portal.

The constitution of the review panel, alongside the extension of Component II, reflects the government's continued focus on facilitating exporters amid evolving global trade and logistics challenges. The review is expected to provide an opportunity to identify implementation gaps, strengthen awareness among eligible beneficiaries and improve access to the assistance available under the scheme.



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2. Go to services
3. Go to e-RCMC
4. Login with your DGFT credentials

For assistance, please contact AEPC offices or website at **www.aepcindia.com**





AEPC Showcases India's Apparel Strength at Barcelona Textile Expo 2026

India Pavilion inaugurated by Consul General of India in Barcelona; 32 Indian exhibitors explore new opportunities in the European market

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) participated in the 10th edition of the Barcelona Textile Expo 2026, held from 21 to 23 October at Pavilion 2, Fira de Barcelona, Spain. Organised by Meridyen, Türkiye, the international sourcing exhibition provided a valuable platform for Indian apparel exporters to showcase their products, connect with international buyers and explore new business opportunities across Europe.



The India Pavilion was inaugurated on 21 October by Shri Inbasekar Sundaramurthi, Consul General of India in Barcelona, Spain, along with Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC. The inauguration was attended by Ms. N. S. Aarsha, Consul and Head of Chancery; Mr. Sumodh, Vice Consul and DDO; and Ms. Jyoti Kaur, Additional Secretary General, AEPC, along with other officials from the Consulate.

AEPC's participation featured 32 exhibitors representing diverse regions of India, showcasing the country's rich textile heritage, manufacturing capabilities, design expertise and wide-ranging apparel collections. Dr. A. Sakthivel welcomed and led the Indian delegation, reaffirming AEPC's commitment to promoting Indian apparel exports and strengthening international trade partnerships.

During the exhibition, the Chairman visited all 32 participating booths, interacted with exporters, discussed their business prospects and encouraged them to explore the Spanish market. These interactions provided an

opportunity to understand the requirements and challenges of participating companies while motivating them to strengthen their international presence.



The Chairman also held discussions with Indian companies based in Spain, representatives of Northumbria University, UK, and other stakeholders to explore potential collaborations and opportunities for greater engagement with AEPC. Meetings with officials from the Consulate General of India and other embassy representatives further supported efforts to strengthen institutional and trade ties.



The exhibition also witnessed a visit by Mr. Ashwini Pandey, IAS, Director, Textile Commission Office, Mumbai, who held detailed discussions with the Chairman. He visited the booths of all Indian participants, encouraged the exporters and discussed certification requirements relevant to their businesses. Promotional activities for Bharat Tex were also undertaken at the AEPC booth and other locations across the exhibition venue, highlighting the upcoming event scheduled for 31 March to 2 April.

The exhibition recorded approximately 1,300 visitors on its opening day, with 165 exhibitors participating, indicating encouraging engagement at the event. The India Pavilion attracted visitors interested in exploring Indian manufacturers' diverse product offerings and establishing new business connections.

AEPC's participation at Barcelona Textile Expo 2026 reflects the Council's continued efforts to position India as a reliable global sourcing destination for quality apparel, innovative designs and diverse textile products. By facilitating direct buyer interactions, institutional engagement and discussions on future business events, the Council is creating new avenues for Indian exporters to expand their international footprint and develop lasting commercial partnerships.

The exhibition serves as an important gateway for Indian apparel manufacturers seeking to strengthen their presence in Europe and deepen trade relations between India and Spain.





UPCOMING FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS



Global Sourcing Expo Australia 2026

17–19 November 2026 | Melbourne, Australia

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) invites Indian apparel exporters to participate in Global Sourcing Expo Australia 2026, scheduled to be held from 17–19 November 2026 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

The exhibition will provide Indian apparel and textile exporters with a platform to showcase their products, connect with international buyers and explore sourcing and business opportunities in the Australian market.

AEPC has announced a revised participation charge of ₹2.40 lakh for a 9 sq. metre booth under MAS support. The deadline for submission of applications along with payment was 20 October 2026.

Participation in the exhibition is aimed at facilitating stronger engagement between Indian exporters and international buyers, fostering trade partnerships and expanding India's presence in the Australian apparel and textile market.

India Fashion & Lifestyle Show, Japan

27–29 January 2027 | TOC Exhibition Hall, Gotanda, Tokyo, Japan

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) invites Indian apparel exporters to participate in the India Fashion & Lifestyle Show, scheduled to be held from 27–29 January 2027 at the TOC Exhibition Hall, Gotanda, Tokyo, Japan. The exhibition will provide Indian exporters with an opportunity to showcase their apparel and lifestyle products, connect with Japanese buyers and explore new business opportunities in the Japanese market.

The event aims to strengthen trade relations between

India and Japan, facilitate business networking and create opportunities for Indian apparel manufacturers to expand their presence in the Japanese market.

Participation in the exhibition will offer exporters a platform to engage with potential buyers, understand market preferences and establish business connections in Japan's fashion and lifestyle sector.

For further details regarding participation and registration, exporters may contact Mr. P. A. Narasimhulu, Deputy Director, Export Promotion, AEPC.



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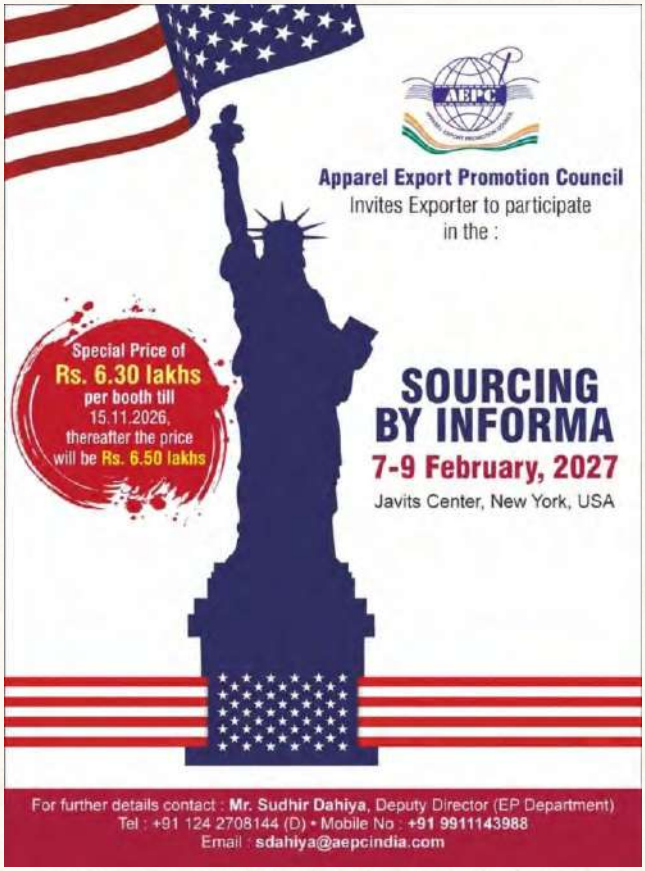
7–9 February 2027 | Javits Center, New York, USA

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) invites Indian apparel exporters to participate in Sourcing by Informa, scheduled to be held from 7–9 February 2027 at the Javits Center in New York, USA. The exhibition will provide Indian exporters with an opportunity to showcase their apparel collections, connect with international buyers and explore new business opportunities in the US market.

AEPC is offering an Early Bird Discount for participation, available until 30 November 2026. Exporters are encouraged to take advantage of the discounted participation opportunity and submit their applications within the stipulated deadline.

The exhibition is expected to facilitate business networking, strengthen buyer–exporter relationships and create opportunities for Indian apparel manufacturers to expand their reach in the US market.

For further details regarding participation and registration, exporters may contact Mr. Sudhir Dahiya, Deputy Director (EP Department), AEPC.



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- **Mobile:** +91 9911143988
- **Email:** sdahiya@aepcindia.com

International Apparel and Textile Fair, Dubai

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Ministry of Textiles and AEPC Organise TEXPORT Capacity Building Programme in Noida to Strengthen Apparel Export Preparedness

The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in collaboration with the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), organised a capacity building programme on "TEXPORT: How to Start, Sustain and Scale Apparel Exports" at the Radisson Blu MBD Hotel, Noida. The programme aimed to identify the challenges faced by apparel exporters and strengthen export preparedness by addressing the specific needs of regular exporters, irregular exporters and new or potential exporters, helping them build their capabilities and access international markets.



The programme was attended by Ms. Alaknanda Dayal, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Mr. A. Bipin Menon, ITS, Trade Adviser, Ministry of Textiles; Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC; Shri Sheshmani Panday, IAS, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Mr. Amit Kumar, ITS, Director (Trade); and Mr. Hemant Kumar, Deputy DGFT. Representatives from the apparel industry, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel institutions in Coimbatore, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and other participating organisations also attended the programme.



The programme commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC. He highlighted the need to broaden India's export base, noting that nearly 88% of the country's exports come from just 100 districts. He emphasised the importance of inclusive export growth and highlighted the strategy of developing 100 champion districts as global export hubs and 100 aspiration districts as self-reliant manufacturing centres. He also underlined the opportunities offered by India's expanding network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including new-generation agreements covering digital trade, e-commerce, investment and sustainability.

Ms. Alaknanda Dayal, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, emphasised that TEXPORT focuses on capacity building across India, catering to established exporters as well as new entrants and potential exporters. Highlighting Noida's potential as a champion district for apparel exports, she stressed the importance of identifying local opportunities, understanding exporter-specific challenges and providing targeted training, export-readiness support and institutional assistance. Following the programme in Surat, the Noida initiative reflects the broader effort to strengthen export preparedness across key textile and apparel centres nationwide.

Technical Presentations and Exporter Interactions

Mr. A. Bipin Menon, ITS, Trade Adviser, Ministry of Textiles, delivered a technical presentation on India's textile and apparel export potential and the opportunities available to strengthen the sector's global competitiveness. He outlined the vision of increasing textile and apparel exports from approximately US$37 billion to US$100 billion by 2030. His presentation highlighted the role of FTAs in improving market access and competitiveness, alongside country-product strategies, market intelligence, compliance, export promotion and effective international buyer engagement.



This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Jyoti Kaur, ASG, AEPC, on handholding support and participation in global trade fairs. She highlighted the Council's role in helping apparel businesses strengthen export readiness and connect with international markets. Ms. Srishti Rana, Senior Manager, delivered a separate presentation on global buyer identification.

The programme featured three dedicated interactive sessions for regular exporters, irregular exporters and new or potential exporters. Technical discussions and diagnostic questionnaires helped identify business-specific challenges and training requirements relating to export procedures, compliance, finance, logistics, product development, buyer connectivity and market access.

A dedicated Question and Answer (Q&A) session was also held, providing participants with an opportunity to raise questions, seek clarifications and receive answers to their queries on export-related matters.

Through the TEXPORT capacity building programme, the Ministry of Textiles and AEPC aim to broaden India's exporter base, strengthen local manufacturing clusters and enable more apparel businesses to enter and expand in international markets, contributing to India's ambition of becoming a leading global textile and apparel sourcing destination.

AEPC Webinar Equips Apparel Exporters with Insights on Export Finance, Compliance and Risk Management



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence and State Bank Academy (SBA) under the State Bank of India (SBI), organised a webinar on "Export Financing, Government Support Initiatives and Risk Management for Apparel Exporters" on 6 October 2026. The session brought together more than 150 apparel exporters, AEPC members and banking representatives to provide practical insights into export financing, payment realisation, regulatory compliance, EDPMS procedures and risk management.

Opening the session, AEPC welcomed the participants and highlighted the growing importance of efficient export financing, regulatory compliance and prudent risk management in navigating the increasingly competitive global apparel market. The webinar focused on helping exporters better understand banking facilities and regulatory processes that can support their international business operations.

The session featured Mr. Anirudh Kumar Choudhary, General Manager, State Bank Academy; Mr. Alok Shrivastava, Assistant General Manager, State Bank Academy; and Mr. Ravi Kant, Assistant General Manager, State Bank Academy, along with representatives from the Centre of Excellence for MSME, State Bank of India.

The speakers provided an overview of the evolving EXIM regulatory framework and stressed the importance of timely submission of export documents, monitoring payment realisation timelines and ensuring proper compliance with EDF/EDPMS requirements. Exporters were advised to maintain comprehensive documentation and work closely with their respective Authorised Dealer (AD) banks to address transaction-specific issues and ensure timely closure of export transactions.

A key focus of the webinar was on various export financing options available to exporters. The speakers explained facilities including pre- and post-shipment finance, Packing Credit in Foreign Currency (PCFC), foreign currency and rupee export finance, factoring, ECGC insurance and the Exporter Gold Card Scheme. The Gold Card Scheme was highlighted as an

important facility that provides simplified documentation and a standby limit, helping eligible exporters meet their working capital requirements more efficiently.

The interactive session also addressed several practical concerns raised by exporters. Participants sought clarification on EDPMS closure, receipt of export payments in Indian rupees, ECGC claims, e-commerce payments, refunds from overseas buyers, Russia-related transactions and financing options for new exporters. The speakers responded to the queries and provided guidance on handling such issues within the applicable banking and regulatory framework.

The webinar concluded with an emphasis on timely compliance, proper documentation and close coordination with Authorised Dealer banks for smooth management of export transactions. The session provided apparel exporters with valuable insights into financing opportunities, regulatory requirements and risk mitigation measures, enabling them to make more informed financial and operational decisions.

With participation from more than 150 exporters, the webinar served as a valuable knowledge-sharing platform, strengthening the industry's understanding of export finance and banking support mechanisms while addressing practical challenges faced by exporters in the course of international trade.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence and State Bank Academy (SBA) under the State Bank of India (SBI), organised a webinar on "Export Financing, Government Support Initiatives and Risk Management for Apparel Exporters" on 6 October 2026. The session brought together more than 150 apparel exporters, AEPC members and banking representatives to provide practical insights into export financing, payment realisation, regulatory compliance, EDPMS procedures and risk management.

Opening the session, AEPC welcomed the participants and highlighted the growing importance of efficient export financing, regulatory compliance and prudent risk management in navigating the increasingly competitive global apparel market. The webinar focused on helping exporters better understand banking facilities and regulatory processes that can support their international business operations.

The session featured Mr. Anirudh Kumar Choudhary, General Manager, State Bank Academy; Mr. Alok Shrivastava, Assistant General Manager, State Bank Academy; and Mr. Ravi Kant, Assistant General Manager, State Bank Academy, along with representatives from the Centre of Excellence for MSME, State Bank of India.

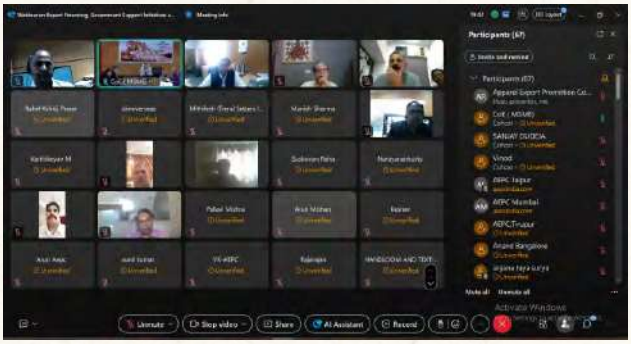
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AEPC Webinar Highlights the Way Forward for a Sustainable and Future-Ready Indian Apparel Industry

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with Catalyst Management Services (CMS), organised a webinar on "Future-Ready Apparel Industry: Navigating Sustainability & Global Market Expectations" on 8 October 2026. The webinar brought together industry experts and apparel exporters to discuss emerging sustainability requirements, evolving global regulations and their implications for India's apparel export sector.

The session focused on strengthening exporters' preparedness for changing environmental, social and governance (ESG) requirements, supply-chain traceability standards and the growing emphasis on transparency and responsible production in international markets. More than 100 exporters participated in the webinar, reflecting the industry's increasing interest in understanding and adapting to global sustainability expectations.



Addressing the participants, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, emphasised that global competitiveness is no longer determined by cost alone, but increasingly depends on compliance, sustainability and transparency across the value chain. He highlighted the significant export opportunities offered by India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and stressed that Indian exporters must strengthen their capabilities in supply-chain traceability, circularity, responsible production, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), digital systems, testing and certification to fully capitalise on these opportunities.

He also underscored the importance of capacity-building across the fragmented textile and apparel value chain to ensure that businesses of all sizes can adapt to emerging market requirements and remain competitive globally.

The webinar featured experts from Catalyst Management Services (CMS), Global Standards gGmbH and Green Story, who shared valuable insights into ESG strategy, textile chemistry, sustainability certification, traceability, environmental data management and Life Cycle Assessment. The discussions provided exporters with a better understanding of how sustainability considerations are increasingly influencing sourcing decisions, buyer requirements and access to international markets.

A key area of discussion was the evolving global regulatory landscape, including the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), Digital Product Passports (DPP), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and voluntary sustainability standards. Speakers highlighted the need for exporters to understand the specific requirements of their buyers and target markets before investing in compliance and certification initiatives. Aligning sustainability efforts with relevant market expectations, they noted, can help businesses improve competitiveness while avoiding unnecessary costs.

The session also examined the challenges faced by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in collecting, managing and reporting reliable product-level sustainability data. Fragmented information systems, limited resources and gaps in digital capabilities continue to pose significant hurdles for smaller enterprises seeking to meet increasingly stringent buyer and regulatory expectations.

To address these challenges, exporters were encouraged to adopt a proactive approach by strengthening data management practices, improving supply-chain traceability, enhancing resource efficiency and investing in digital capabilities. Early preparation and collaboration across the value chain were identified as important steps towards building a more resilient and transparent export ecosystem.

The webinar concluded with a strong message that sustainability is no longer merely a compliance obligation; it is a strategic imperative for long-term competitiveness, resilience and market access. As global markets increasingly prioritise responsible sourcing and verifiable sustainability performance, Indian apparel exporters must integrate sustainable practices into their business strategies and operations.

AEPC's initiative, in collaboration with CMS, reaffirmed the importance of industry awareness, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in preparing Indian exporters for the future. Continued cooperation among industry stakeholders, government bodies, sustainability experts and AEPC will be essential to support MSMEs, strengthen compliance readiness and position India as a trusted global sourcing destination for sustainable apparel.

Through such knowledge-driven initiatives, AEPC continues to support the Indian apparel industry in navigating emerging global challenges, embracing sustainable transformation and unlocking new opportunities in international markets.

AEPC and X-Rite Pantone Organise Webinar on Achieving Consistent Textile Colour in a Digital World



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with X-Rite Pantone, organised a webinar titled "Achieving Consistent Textile Colour in a Digital World" on 15 October 2026. The webinar focused on the growing importance of colour consistency, digital colour management and quality control across the textile and apparel supply chain, with particular emphasis on helping Indian apparel exporters reduce colour-related rejections, minimise production costs and enhance operational efficiency.

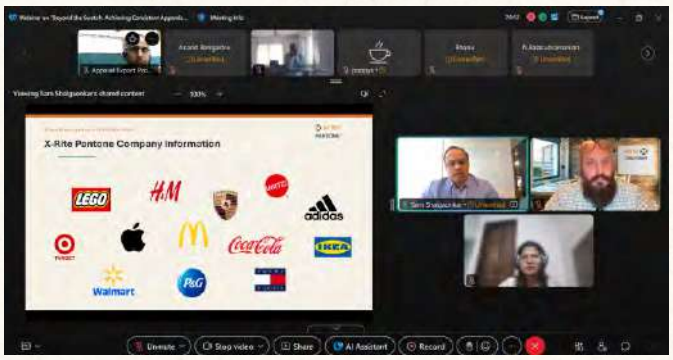
Highlighting the increasing importance of quality assurance and digital transformation in the global apparel industry, AEPC underscored the need for standardised colour management practices to strengthen the competitiveness of Indian exporters. The discussions emphasised how consistent colour data, calibrated instruments and integrated digital workflows can improve approval rates, accelerate production cycles, reduce material wastage and support greater efficiency and sustainability across the value chain.

The session featured expert insights from Mr. Sam Shalgaonkar, Strategic Brand Manager, South Asia Pacific, X-Rite Pantone; Mr. Ryan Stanley, Director of Product, Textile Retail, X-Rite; and Ms. Ocean Garg, Color Lab Manager and Solution Architect, X-Rite. The speakers highlighted the strategic role of colour management teams in product development, sourcing and production, stressing the importance of identifying colour-related risks at an early stage. They also discussed the distinction between colour achievability and feasibility, taking into account compliance requirements, regional chemical restrictions and supplier capabilities.

The webinar explored a five-level colour maturity model, outlining the progression from visual colour assessment to integrated, cloud-based colour management solutions. Speakers emphasised the importance of standardised colour data, calibrated instruments, spectrophotometers and secure Colour Specification Documents (CSDs) to ensure accurate measurement, reliable digital communication and remote colour approvals.

Practical demonstrations further familiarised participants with colour quality control, production monitoring, the LAB colour space, Delta E measurement and digital dye formulation tools. These technologies and processes can help manufacturers identify colour deviations, improve consistency between production batches and make informed decisions throughout the manufacturing process.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer discussion, during which X-Rite offered further technical assistance on instrument selection, formulation software and troubleshooting. Attended by more than 100 exporters, the webinar provided valuable insights into adopting standardised digital colour management practices to improve product quality, reduce rejections and strengthen the global competitiveness of India's textile and apparel exports.



AEPC Organises Webinar on Export Finance, Government Schemes and Banking Services for Apparel Exporters



Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in collaboration with Axis Bank, organised a webinar on "Export Finance, Government Schemes, and Banking Services for Apparel Exporters" on 16 October 2026, aimed at equipping apparel exporters with practical insights into export financing, regulatory compliance and payment risk management.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, emphasised the importance of staying abreast of evolving regulatory requirements and leveraging appropriate financial solutions to strengthen the global competitiveness of Indian apparel exporters.

The session featured Mr. Abhishek Jain, Senior Vice President, Axis Bank, and Ms. Karuna Arora, Head – Export Product Portfolio, Axis Bank, along with other representatives from the bank. The speakers provided insights into the revised Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) framework, highlighting the greater discretion available to Authorised Dealer (AD) banks under the consolidated FEMA 23R framework in matters relating to write-offs, set-offs and third-party receipts.

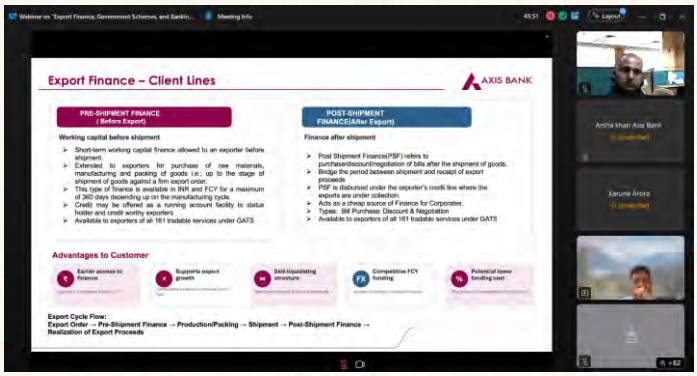
The webinar also covered the introduction of the Export Declaration Form (EDF), designed to consolidate reporting requirements for goods, services and software exports. Speakers underlined the importance of timely realisation of export proceeds and adherence to Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) requirements.

A key focus of the session was on financial solutions available to apparel exporters at different stages of the export cycle. Participants were briefed on pre- and post-shipment finance facilities, including Packing Credit in Foreign Currency (PCFC), Export Packing Credit (EPC) in Indian rupees, export bill discounting, Letter of Credit (LC) confirmation and export factoring. The Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES), including the interest subvention of up to 2.75% for eligible MSME exporters, was also discussed.

The interactive session addressed participants' queries on financing options for new exporters, ECGC coverage, eligibility for factoring services and the issuance of FIRC/EDRC documents. Axis Bank assured AEPC members of case-specific assistance through its relationship managers and branch-level consultations.

Attended by more than 100 exporters, the webinar served as a valuable knowledge-sharing platform, helping participants better understand export finance mechanisms, regulatory obligations and risk-mitigation tools to support smoother export operations and improved financial preparedness in international markets.





AEPC Webinar Explores Recent GST Reforms and Their Impact on the Apparel Industry



The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in association with Ernst & Young LLP (EY), organised a webinar on 22 October 2026 to discuss recent changes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework and their implications for the textile and apparel industry. The session aimed to familiarise exporters with proposed reforms concerning tax compliance, refund procedures and working capital management, while highlighting opportunities to improve ease of doing business.

Welcoming the participants and representatives from EY, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, highlighted key GST reforms relevant to the textile and apparel sector. These included reduced GST rates on garments, man-made fibres, yarn and sewing machines, along with proposed measures to expedite refunds and simplify compliance. He particularly emphasised on the proposal for the automatic sanction of 90% of eligible refund claims for zero-rated supplies and cases involving an inverted duty structure. The measures, to de-criminalise GST- related infringements along with higher prosecution thresholds and reduced penalties, are expected to ease compliance burden, improve liquidity and enhance the competitiveness of Indian apparel exporters in domestic and international markets.

The technical session was conducted by Mr. Prashant Raizada, Partner, EY, and Mr. Ankit Kumar Jain, Director, EY, who provided insights into the proposed changes and their practical implications for exporters. The speakers discussed measures to streamline refund processing, including the automatic release of 90% of eligible provisional refunds for low-risk cases, refunds of input tax credit (ITC) on input services from 1 November 2026, and phased refunds relating to capital goods, subject to applicable rules.

The session also covered key aspects of zero-rated supplies, export-related clarifications, automated amendments to GST registration, shorter timelines for refund acknowledgements, and the wider adoption of the Invoice Management System (IMS) and e-invoicing. These measures were discussed in the context of improving transparency, reducing procedural delays and enabling businesses to manage their tax obligations more efficiently.

Further discussions focused on proposed GST decriminalisation measures, including higher prosecution thresholds and reduced penalties, as well as Supreme Court rulings with implications for ITC claims. Participants were advised to closely monitor final government notifications and GST Network (GSTN) updates to ensure timely compliance. The speakers also underscored the importance of robust invoice management practices and thorough supplier due diligence to minimise compliance risks and safeguard eligible tax credits.

The webinar witnessed participation from more than 150 exporters, reflecting the industry's interest in understanding the evolving GST framework and its implications for business operations. The session provided valuable guidance on the proposed reforms and their potential to improve refund efficiency, strengthen working capital management and reduce compliance costs.

Through such knowledge-sharing initiatives, AEPC continues to support apparel exporters by facilitating access to expert guidance on regulatory developments and promoting a more efficient, transparent and competitive export ecosystem.

Dr A Sakthivel Leads ATDC Outreach to Strengthen IASOWA Partnership for Women's Empowerment

Continued training support and proposed expansion to other states build on the R K Puram initiative



Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) and Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC), met the leadership of the IAS Officers' Wives Association (IASOWA) to advance the organisations' collaboration in women's skill development and livelihood support. The meeting brought renewed attention to the R K Puram training initiative and the scope for extending the partnership to other states.

Dr. Sakthivel met Smt. Hema Somanathan, President, IASOWA; Smt. Shveta Gupta Kansal, Secretary; Smt. Archana Kumar, Treasurer; and Smt. Ragini Singh, Joint Secretary, in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Roopak Vasishtha, Director General & CEO, ATDC.

Under the Chairman's leadership, ATDC reaffirmed its commitment to providing training support, modern machinery and qualified faculty for the initiative. Dr. Sakthivel expressed his personal support for the project and sought Smt. Hema Somanathan's support in exploring similar collaborations in other states, with the aim of bringing apparel skills and income-generating opportunities to more women.

The engagement builds on the three-year Memorandum of Understanding signed by ATDC and IASOWA on 15 July 2025. The partnership combines ATDC's apparel training expertise with IASOWA's commitment to women's welfare. Its training facility operates at Grih Kalyan Kendra, Sector 4, R K Puram, New Delhi, with IASOWA providing space and essential utilities and ATDC supporting training delivery.

Progress presented for the meeting highlighted 47 students trained under the GAP-sponsored one-year Diploma in Apparel Manufacturing Technology and another 25 trained in the Sewing Machine Operator course. Beyond classroom learning, ATDC has helped women produce sling bags, laptop sleeves and home furnishing products for IASOWA. Participants have earned remuneration through this work while gaining practical experience in production, costing, quality and finishing, linking skill development with livelihood support.

Dr. Sakthivel also assured IASOWA President that overall two batches, consisting of 20 candidates each, sponsored by GAP or from any other CSR donor organisation would be earmarked for the R K Puram Centre.

The meeting places the partnership's next phase within Dr. Sakthivel's emphasis on continued institutional support and wider outreach. Building on the R K Puram experience, the proposed expansion offers a pathway to connect more women with practical apparel training, productive work and opportunities for greater economic independence.


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A JOURNEY OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT: AEPC BIDS FAREWELL TO MR. JITENDER SINGH BISHT



After more than 35 years of dedicated service, Mr. Jitender Singh Bisht, Joint Director, Finance Department, retired from the services of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on October 31, 2026, upon attaining the age of superannuation.

Mr. Bisht joined AEPC on June 6, 1991, and over the course of his long and distinguished association with the Council, contributed to the functioning of the Finance Department with commitment, sincerity and professionalism. His journey at AEPC spans over three decades, during which he witnessed the organisation's growth and evolution and remained an integral part of its institutional journey.

To mark this significant milestone and acknowledge his invaluable association with the Council, AEPC organised a farewell celebration in his honour. During the ceremony, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, AEPC, felicitated Mr. Bisht as a mark of appreciation and recognition of his over three decades of dedicated service to the Council.

The occasion provided an opportunity for colleagues and officials to express their gratitude for his long-standing association and valuable contributions. AEPC officials appreciated his commitment and wished him good health, happiness, peace and a fulfilling retired life.

As Mr. Bisht embarks on a new chapter of life, AEPC places on record its sincere appreciation for his 35 years of dedicated service and wishes him the very best for the years ahead.

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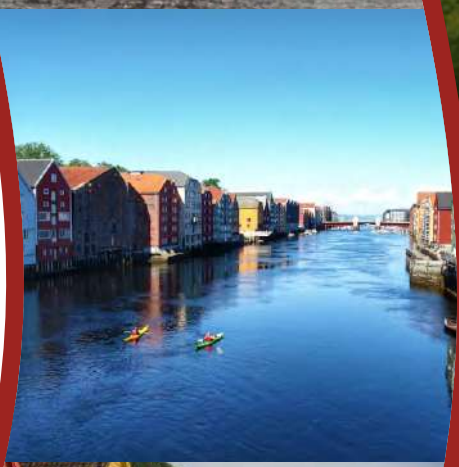


• Economic Overview:

Norway is a high-income, advanced economy with strong purchasing power and an established retail market for apparel. Its imports of readymade garments (RMG) are supported by consumer demand for quality clothing, functional outerwear and sustainable fashion. Norway, a member of EFTA, is also covered by the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which entered into force on 1 October 2025. The TEPA provides a framework for enhanced market access, trade facilitation and deeper economic cooperation between India and the EFTA States.

• Economic Indicators:

ECONOMIC INDICATORS:	
Indicators	**Value (in USD)**
GDP,2025	530.76 billion
GDP per capita, 2025	94,594.20
GDP growth (annual), 2025	1.1%
Inflation, consumer prices (annual), 2025	3.1%
Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (accessed October 2026)	



• Average Tariff for India:

0% (India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA))

• Exchange Rate:

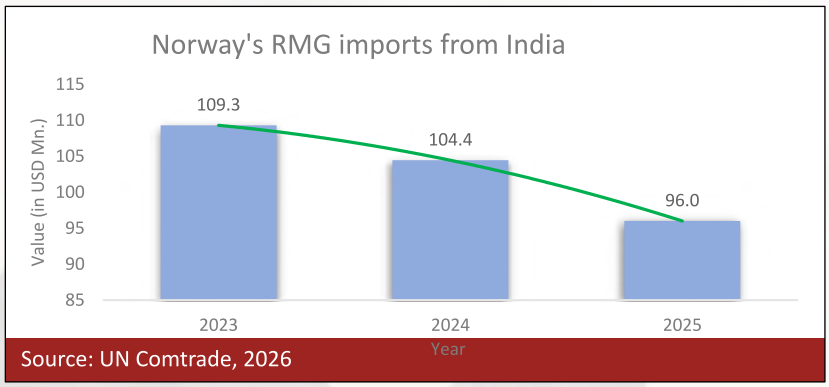
EXCHANGE RATE	
Indicators	***Value (in USD)***
Indian Rupees (INR) per Norwegian Krone (NOK)	9.97
Norwegian Krone (NOK) per US Dollar (USD)	9.62
Source: X-Rates (monthly average, 1–16 October 2026)	



• Norway's RMG Trade

NORWAY'S RMG IMPORTS FROM WORLD AND INDIA (IN USD MN.)				
Year	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2025 over 2024
Norway's RMG imports from World	2328.6	2389.7	2352.3	-1.6
Norway's RMG imports from India	109.3	104.4	96.0	-8.1
India's Share in Norway's total RMG imports from World, %	4.69	4.37	4.08	

Source: UN Comtrade, 2026



Source: UN Comtrade, 2026

The above table and graph depict Norway's RMG imports from the World and India during 2023–2025, with the graph illustrating imports from India. Norway's total RMG imports from the World increased from USD 2,328.6 million in 2023 to USD 2,389.7 million in 2024, before declining to USD 2,352.3 million in 2025, registering a decline of 1.6% over 2024. India's RMG exports to Norway followed a declining trend, falling from USD 109.3 million in 2023 to USD 104.4 million in 2024 and further to USD 96.0 million in 2025, recording a decline of 8.1% over 2024. The graph further illustrates the continued decline in Norway's RMG imports from India during 2023-2025. India's share in Norway's total RMG imports from the World stood at approximately 4.1% in 2025, down from 4.7% in 2023, indicating scope for Indian apparel exporters to regain share in the Norwegian market.

• Top RMG Suppliers to Norway:

Norway's RMG import market is dominated by China, which was the largest supplier in 2025 with a market share of 38.4%. Bangladesh was the second-largest supplier with a 15.0% share, followed by Turkey with 7.6% and Vietnam with 5.4%. India ranked as the 5th largest supplier of RMG to Norway, with exports valued at USD 96.0 million, accounting for 4.1% of Norway's total RMG imports in 2025. Italy, Pakistan, Cambodia, Lithuania and Myanmar were other major suppliers, with market shares of 3.5%, 2.4%, 2.1%, 1.8% and 1.6%, respectively.

TOP 10 RMG SUPPLIERS TO SWITZERLAND AND INDIA'S POSITION			
Position	Countries	Imported value in 2025 (in USD Mn.)	% Share
	World	2352.3	100.0
1	China	904.1	38.4
2	Bangladesh	351.7	15.0
3	Turkey	178.5	7.6
4	Vietnam	126.8	5.4
5	India	96.0	4.1
6	Italy	82.4	3.5
7	Pakistan	55.7	2.4
8	Cambodia	50.4	2.1
9	Lithuania	42.9	1.8
10	Myanmar	37.1	1.6

Source: UN Comtrade, 2026

- **Norway's Top 10 RMG Products Import from World and India's Share:**

TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY NORWAY FROM THE WORLD AND INDIA (in USD Mn.)

S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Imported from World in 2025	Imported from India in 2025	India's Share in %
		Total RMG	**2352.3**	**96.0**	**4.1**
		Sum of Top 10	**920.2**	**19.1**	**2.1**
1	611030	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	126.2	0.8	0.6
2	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	104.4	0.9	0.8
3	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, underpants and swimwear)	103.2	2.6	2.5
4	611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	103.0	3.5	3.4
5	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	101.7	7.8	7.6
6	620462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, panties and swimwear)	91.4	2.2	2.4
7	611011	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of wool, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	80.5	0.1	0.1
8	620343	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted, underpants and swimwear)	77.3	0.7	0.9
9	620240	Women's or girls' overcoats, car-coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks, incl. ski jackets, wind-cheaters, wind-jackets and similar articles, of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted, suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers and trousers)	75.4	0.6	0.8
10	621040	Men's or boys' garments of textile fabrics, rubberised or impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics or other substances (excl. of the type described in heading 6201, and babies' garments and clothing accessories)	57.0	0.0	0.1

Source: UN Comtrade, 2026

The above table shows the top 10 RMG products imported by Norway from the World vis-à-vis from India and India's share in those products in 2025. The top 10 products imported from the World were to the tune of USD 920.2 million, while imports of these products from India amounted to USD 19.1 million. India accounted for an overall 2.1% share in Norway's imports of the top 10 RMG products.

The major products imported by Norway from the World include (i) jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted; (ii) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton); and (iii) men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton. Among these, India had its highest share in T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted at 7.6%, followed by jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of cotton, knitted or crocheted at 3.4%.

- **Norway's Top 10 RMG Products Import from India:**

TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY NORWAY FROM INDIA (in USD Mn.)

S.No.	HS Code	Product label	Imports from India, 2025	% Share in 2025
		Total RMG	**96.0**	**100.0**
		Sum of Top 10	**56.1**	**58.4**
1	620630	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and vests)	10.1	10.5
2	620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other vests)	8.8	9.1
3	620442	Women's or girls' dresses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	8.7	9.1
4	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	7.8	8.1
5	620444	Women's or girls' dresses of artificial fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	4.4	4.6
6	620640	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and vests)	4.0	4.2
7	611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	3.5	3.7
8	620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	3.4	3.5
9	620452	Women's or girls' skirts and divided skirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	2.9	3.0
10	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, underpants and swimwear)	2.6	2.7

Source: UN Comtrade,2026

The above table shows the top 10 RMG products imported by Norway from India and their share in India's total RMG exports to Norway in 2025. India's total RMG exports to Norway stood at USD 96.0 million, while the top 10 RMG products accounted for USD 56.1 million, representing 58.4% of India's total RMG exports to Norway.

The major products exported by India to Norway include (i) women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton, valued at USD 10.1 million and accounting for 10.5% of India's total RMG exports to Norway; (ii) men's or boys' shirts of cotton, valued at USD 8.8 million with a 9.1% share; and (iii) women's or girls' dresses of cotton, valued at USD 8.7 million with a 9.1% share. Other important products include T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted, women's or girls' dresses of artificial fibres, and women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres.

Lakmē Fashion Week: Spotlight on Emerging Talent, Indian Craft and Global Collaborations

The October 2026 edition of Lakmē Fashion Week, in partnership with the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), brings together established designers, emerging labels, international collaborations and sustainability-led initiatives, highlighting the evolving landscape of Indian fashion.

Lakmē Fashion Week returned to New Delhi from October 13 to 18, 2026, bringing together designers, industry stakeholders and fashion enthusiasts for a showcase of contemporary Indian design, textile craftsmanship and emerging creative talent. The October edition featured a diverse programme of runway presentations, international partnerships and initiatives focused on circularity, artisanal traditions and the future of fashion.

With its main schedule hosted at the Taj Palace, New Delhi, from October 14, the event continued its role as an important platform for showcasing design innovation and connecting Indian fashion with global markets.

Emerging Designers Take Centre Stage



A key highlight of the edition was the continued emphasis on nurturing emerging talent through platforms such as GenNext, NIF Global 'The Runway' and FDCI x Pearl Academy First Cut. These initiatives provided young designers with opportunities to present new ideas, experiment with contemporary silhouettes and engage with the wider fashion industry.

The GenNext showcase featured Abhishek Chauhan Studio, Subbah and Day & Age, reflecting the diversity of perspectives shaping the next generation of Indian fashion. The programme reinforced the importance of supporting young design entrepreneurs and creating opportunities for new labels to build visibility and commercial connections.

Indian Craftsmanship Meets Contemporary Design

The event showcased the continued relevance of India's textile traditions and artisanal skills in contemporary fashion. Designers and labels including Péro, Sanjukta Dutta, Samant Chauhan and TASVA presented interpretations of Indian craftsmanship through distinctive design languages, occasion wear and modern silhouettes.

A special presentation, The Fifth Season: A Fashion Story from Ladakh, brought regional craftsmanship and indigenous design traditions into the national fashion conversation. Such showcases underline the potential of India's diverse textile heritage to create differentiated products for domestic and international markets.



The participation of established designers, including Suneet Varma, Namrata Joshipura and Amit Aggarwal, further demonstrated the breadth of Indian design, spanning intricate craftsmanship, contemporary menswear, experimental materials and innovative garment construction.

International Collaborations Expand Fashion Horizons

International partnerships formed another significant component of the October edition. The FDCI x Moscow Fashion Week collaboration featured Russian designer Sergey Sysoev, while Eccellenza: The Artisans of Italian Style brought Italian and Indian design perspectives together through the Italian Trade Agency, Confartigianato and FDCI.

These initiatives highlighted the scope for cross-border creative exchange, knowledge-sharing and stronger industry linkages. Such collaborations can help Indian designers explore international markets while creating opportunities for partnerships across design, textiles, craftsmanship and fashion business development.

Sustainability and Circularity Gain Momentum

Sustainability remained an important theme across the programme. The Circular Design Challenge, organised in partnership with the United Nations in India, took place on October 13 at the Embassy of France. The initiative received more than 220 applications globally this year, underscoring growing interest in circular innovation and responsible design.

The R|Elan™ x HUEMN presentation further connected fashion with sustainability-led innovation. The wider programme also drew attention to the role of material choices, resource efficiency and responsible production practices in shaping the industry's future.

For India's apparel sector, the growing prominence of circularity presents opportunities to develop products and processes aligned with evolving international expectations on sustainability, traceability and environmental performance. Integrating these principles into design and manufacturing can strengthen the industry's long-term competitiveness.

Occasion Wear and Contemporary Menswear



The schedule also reflected the continued importance of occasion wear and contemporary menswear in India's fashion market. Presentations by Manish Malhotra, Ethnix by Raymond, Pawan Sachdeva and TASVA explored different approaches to festive dressing, wedding wear and modern Indian menswear.



Manish Malhotra's Luxury Pret Festive Edit, presented with Maruti Suzuki NEXA, was among the prominent showcases, while Amit Aggarwal closed the event with the Lakmē Grand Finale. These presentations highlighted the continuing evolution of occasion wear through new silhouettes, innovative surface treatments and the integration of traditional design influences with contemporary aesthetics.

Strengthening India's Fashion and Apparel Ecosystem

The October edition of Lakmē Fashion Week demonstrated how fashion platforms can bring together creative talent, textile innovation, craftsmanship and international engagement. Alongside established designers, emerging labels and sustainability-focused initiatives, the programme highlighted the importance of developing new talent and encouraging responsible approaches to design and production.

For India's apparel industry, such platforms offer opportunities to strengthen the visibility of Indian design, promote the country's craft and manufacturing capabilities, and build connections with international stakeholders. As global fashion increasingly places emphasis on innovation, sustainability and distinctive design identities, the integration of India's textile heritage with contemporary product development can contribute to the industry's continued growth and global positioning.

India Targets US$350 Billion Textile Market by 2030, with Focus on Investment and Technical Textiles

PM MITRA and PLI schemes expected to strengthen manufacturing, garmenting and branded textile production

The Government of India is targeting a textile industry market size of US$350 billion by 2030, with a focus on expanding manufacturing capacity, encouraging entrepreneurship and tapping emerging opportunities in technical textiles. Union Minister for Textiles Giriraj Singh has called upon entrepreneurs to leverage the growing global demand for specialised textile products and contribute to the sector's expansion.



Addressing a consultation programme organised by the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) in Surat, the Minister highlighted the city's growing importance as a textile and economic hub. He emphasised that government initiatives, particularly the Prime Minister's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, would play a key role in accelerating growth in garmenting and branded textile manufacturing. The developments were reported by Akashvani News on October 9, 2026.

Policy Support for Manufacturing Growth

The PM MITRA scheme aims to develop integrated textile and apparel parks that bring multiple stages of the textile value chain together at a common location. By facilitating modern infrastructure, efficient logistics and a more integrated manufacturing ecosystem, the scheme seeks to improve operational efficiency, attract investment and strengthen the competitiveness of Indian textile manufacturers.

The PLI scheme for textiles complements these efforts by encouraging domestic production of man-made fibre apparel, man-made fibre fabrics and technical textiles. Together, these initiatives are intended to support capacity expansion, promote value addition and enable manufacturers to respond more effectively to evolving domestic and international market requirements.

Technical Textiles Offer New Opportunities

The Minister also stressed the importance of technical textiles, a segment with growing applications across industrial safety, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture and transportation. These products are engineered primarily for their functional properties, offering opportunities for manufacturers to move into specialised and higher-value product categories.

For India's apparel industry, this creates scope to diversify beyond conventional clothing into performance-oriented garments, protective workwear and other specialised textile products. Investment in research, advanced materials, product development and quality assurance will be important for manufacturers seeking to compete in these markets.

Surat's Role in the Textile Growth Story

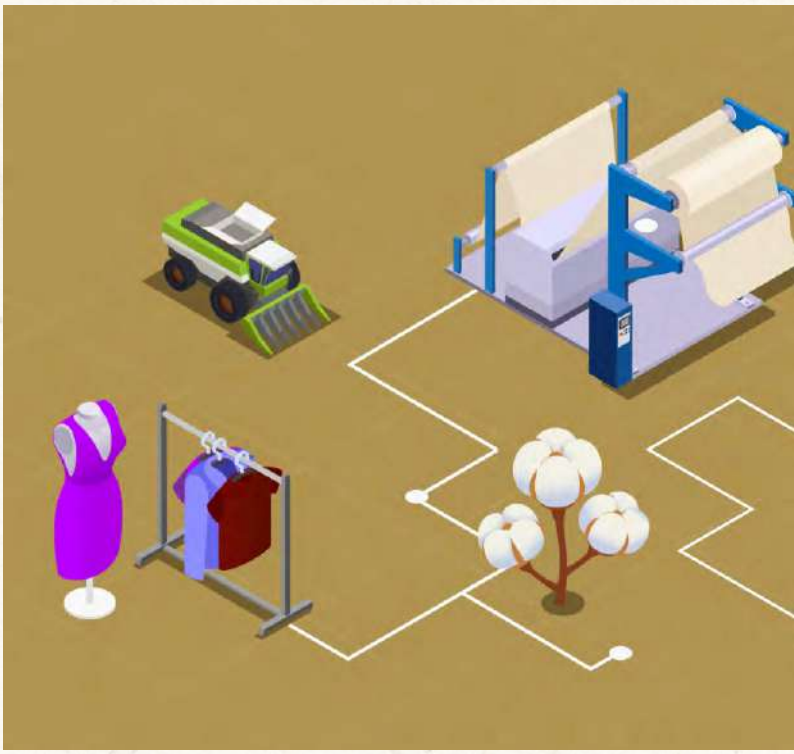
Surat's established textile manufacturing base positions it as an important contributor to India's ambitions. Greater integration of textile processing, fabric production and garment manufacturing, supported by infrastructure development and policy incentives, can help strengthen regional supply chains and create employment opportunities. The expansion of integrated textile infrastructure also offers the potential to improve coordination across the value chain, encourage investment in modern production facilities and support the development of a more competitive manufacturing ecosystem.

Implications for the Apparel Export Sector

India's US$350 billion textile-market ambition presents an opportunity to strengthen the country's position in global apparel trade. Achieving this target will require sustained investment, productivity improvements, greater product diversification and a stronger focus on quality, sustainability and delivery competitiveness.

For apparel exporters, the policy direction underscores the importance of upgrading manufacturing capabilities, exploring man-made fibre and technical textile opportunities, and developing products aligned with changing international demand. Effective implementation of infrastructure and investment schemes, together with stronger market linkages, will be essential to translating the growth ambition into higher production, employment and export performance.

As India works towards its 2030 target, coordinated efforts across infrastructure, innovation and manufacturing will remain central to building a resilient and globally competitive textile and apparel industry.



Technical Textiles Gain Momentum as India Targets a US$350 Billion Textile Industry by 2030

PLI investments, research initiatives and rising demand for protective clothing strengthen India's ambitions in high-value textile manufacturing



India's textile and apparel industry is moving towards a targeted market size of US$350 billion by 2030, supported by government initiatives to expand manufacturing capacity, encourage investment and strengthen the country's position in high-value textile segments. Technical textiles are emerging as an important growth driver, with applications spanning industrial safety, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, automotive and other specialised sectors.

According to a report published by Republic World on October 9, 2026, India's textile and apparel market is projected to expand from approximately US$350 billion. The report highlighted the role of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme and the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) in promoting domestic manufacturing, research and innovation,

and reducing import dependence.

PLI Scheme Supports Investment and Employment

The government's PLI Scheme for textiles is designed to promote the domestic production of man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics and technical textiles. The initiative seeks to attract investment, strengthen manufacturing capabilities and enable Indian companies to achieve greater scale and competitiveness.

As reported during the 14th edition of OSH India 2026 in Mumbai, 170 companies approved under the PLI Scheme had invested more than ₹8,100 crore and generated approximately 33,000 jobs. These investments reflect the growing emphasis on expanding domestic capabilities in specialised textile products and strengthening India's industrial ecosystem.

The scheme is particularly relevant as global demand evolves towards performance-oriented fabrics, advanced materials and products that meet increasingly stringent requirements for quality, functionality and safety.

Technical Textiles Emerge as a High-Growth Segment

Technical textiles are reportedly growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 12%, underlining their expanding role in India's textile industry. Unlike conventional textiles, these products are primarily designed for their functional and performance characteristics rather than aesthetic appeal.

The National Technical Textiles Mission, with an approved outlay of ₹1,480 crore, has supported research and development, with 186 research projects approved, according to the report. The mission aims to promote innovation, develop specialised materials and expand the application of technical textiles across strategic and industrial sectors.

Protective textiles represent a significant opportunity within this segment. Products such as heat- and flame-resistant clothing, firefighter suits, chemical-protective garments, industrial gloves, welding apparel and high-visibility workwear are increasingly important for worker safety across manufacturing, construction, infrastructure and other hazardous working environments.

The development of such products also creates opportunities for Indian manufacturers to move towards higher-value production, supported by material innovation, product testing, certification and compliance with international standards.

Personal Protective Equipment Market Set for Expansion

The report estimates India's personal protective equipment (PPE) market at approximately US 4.84 billion by 2033. Growing awareness of workplace safety, alongside the adoption of artificial intelligence, robotics, wearable devices and connected safety solutions, is expected to support market expansion.

For the textile and apparel industry, this trend opens up opportunities to diversify into specialised workwear and protective clothing. Manufacturers with capabilities in advanced fibres, functional fabrics, garment engineering and quality assurance could benefit from rising demand for products tailored to specific industrial applications.

Strengthening India's Textile Growth Trajectory

The expansion of technical textiles aligns with India's broader ambition to strengthen its textile manufacturing base, encourage value addition and create employment. Continued investment in research, manufacturing infrastructure and specialised product development will be important to translating the sector's growth potential into commercially competitive products.

For the industry, the emerging opportunity lies in combining India's established textile and apparel manufacturing strengths with advanced materials, technology and internationally aligned safety standards. This could help diversify the export basket, strengthen domestic supply chains and enhance the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers in specialised textile categories.

As India progresses towards its US$350 billion textile-industry ambition, technical textiles are poised to play an increasingly important role in driving innovation, investment and higher-value manufacturing.





Global Fashion Brands Launch Apparel Recovery Coalition to Address Textile Waste

Initiative aims to strengthen circularity, promote producer responsibility and improve post-consumer textile management across international markets

Leading global fashion companies adidas, H&M Group, Inditex and BESTSELLER have joined forces with Ghana-based non-profit organisation The Or Foundation to launch the Apparel Recovery Coalition (ARC), a two-year initiative aimed at addressing the environmental and social challenges associated with post-consumer textile waste and cross-border second-hand clothing trade.

Unveiled on September 29, 2026, in Accra, Ghana, the coalition seeks to develop and test a business model for producer responsibility that reflects the global movement of used textiles. Supported by circular-economy organisation Circle Economy, the initiative will explore ways to strengthen reuse, upcycling, recycling and responsible waste management in countries receiving substantial volumes of exported second-hand apparel.

A key objective of ARC is to examine how producer responsibility systems can address the environmental impacts of textiles beyond the markets in which products are originally sold. While existing systems are often linked to the countries where garments are first purchased, significant volumes of used clothing cross international borders, transferring waste-management challenges to importing countries.

According to the European Environment Agency, approximately 1.4 million tonnes of used textiles are exported

from the European Union annually, primarily to countries in Africa and Asia. The coalition aims to develop practical approaches that account for these international textile flows and encourage greater participation by brands in managing products at the end of their useful life.

First Demonstration Project in Ghana

The coalition's first demonstration project will be implemented in Accra, building on the work of The Or Foundation within Ghana's second-hand clothing ecosystem. Activities will include infrastructure improvements at Kantamanto Market, environmental remediation and training programmes.

The market is a major centre for the reuse, repair and upcycling of second-hand garments. According to an estimate cited by The Or Foundation, approximately 25 million garments are recirculated through the market every month, underlining the importance of reuse-based business models and local circular-economy networks.

ARC also plans to establish at least one additional demonstration project in another country that receives large volumes of second-hand clothing. The findings are intended to provide practical insights for brands, policymakers, recyclers, sorting businesses and producer responsibility organisations.

Implications for the Indian Apparel Export Industry

The initiative reflects a broader shift in the international apparel industry towards greater accountability for textile products throughout their lifecycle. For Indian apparel exporters, these developments reinforce the importance of integrating circularity and sustainability into manufacturing, sourcing and product-development strategies.

Potential areas of focus include designing garments for durability and recyclability, improving textile-waste segregation, exploring recycled fibres and strengthening traceability across supply chains. Collaboration with recycling companies and material innovators could also help manufacturers prepare for changing buyer expectations and evolving regulatory requirements in major export markets.

As international brands and policymakers explore mechanisms for managing post-consumer textiles, Indian manufacturers may need to pay closer attention to product composition, waste recovery and end-of-life management alongside traditional priorities such as cost, quality and delivery timelines.

A Step Towards a Circular Textile Economy

From 2026 to 2027, the participating brands will make voluntary financial contributions to support circular-economy activities in second-hand markets. The coalition intends to use evidence from its demonstration projects to inform wider approaches to post-consumer textile management and encourage additional industry participation.

For the global textile and apparel sector, the initiative highlights the need for cooperation across the value chain—from brands and manufacturers to consumers, recyclers and waste-management organisations. Its longer-term significance will depend on whether the proposed model can deliver effective financing, practical waste-management solutions and scalable circularity systems across markets.

For India, where the textile and apparel industry is seeking to expand its global presence, the growing emphasis on circular production presents both a sustainability imperative and an opportunity to strengthen competitiveness through innovation, resource efficiency and responsible manufacturing.



Karnataka Notifies Textile & Apparel Policy 4.0 with ₹4,000 Crore Outlay

Five-year roadmap targets ₹20,000 crore investment and five lakh jobs

The Government of Karnataka has officially notified its Textile & Apparel Policy 4.0 (2026–31), committing a financial outlay of ₹4,000 crore to attract investment, generate employment and strengthen the state's textile and apparel manufacturing ecosystem. The policy aims to attract ₹20,000 crore in domestic and foreign investment and create five lakh jobs over the next five years. It came into effect on September 30, 2026.

A key objective of the policy is to promote industrial development beyond Bengaluru and encourage textile and apparel manufacturing in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. To support this regional expansion, the state has identified 34 focus taluks where eligible new units will receive additional incentives and concessions over and above the benefits available under the policy.

The policy also places emphasis on strengthening Karnataka's silk value chain. For the first time, silk yarn production, including silk reeling and silk spinning, has been brought within the scope of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles, creating opportunities for greater investment and value addition in silk-related manufacturing.

Special incentives have also been envisaged for eligible textile and apparel units at the Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Kalaburagi. The initiative is expected to support industrial development in the Kalyana Karnataka region while expanding employment opportunities and attracting fresh investment.

The policy adopts a broad approach to sectoral development, covering textile and apparel manufacturing, technical textiles, handlooms, silk, skill development, exports and sustainable manufacturing. It also seeks to strengthen market linkages, encourage technological advancement and promote environmentally responsible production practices.

For India's apparel industry, Karnataka's new policy presents potential opportunities for capacity expansion, supply-chain development and investment in emerging manufacturing locations. Its emphasis on employment generation, regional industrial growth and export competitiveness could further strengthen the state's role in the country's textile and apparel sector.

The policy will remain in force for five years or until a new textile policy is notified, whichever is earlier. Its impact will depend on effective implementation and the extent to which the proposed incentives translate into fresh investment, manufacturing capacity and employment across the state.





India-EU Free Trade Agreement Set to Unlock New Opportunities for Indian Apparel Exports

Landmark trade pact expected to come into force by mid-2027, opening avenues for stronger market access, investment and supply-chain integration





The proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected to mark a significant milestone in India's global trade engagement, with the landmark pact likely to be signed by mid-December 2026 and become operational by mid-2027. The agreement is expected to provide fresh momentum to bilateral trade, strengthen economic cooperation and create new opportunities for Indian industries, particularly the textile and apparel sector.

According to David McAllister, Chair of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to Brussels in December

2026 for the official signing ceremony. Speaking to The Times of India during an EU Parliamentary delegation's visit to India, McAllister said that the European Parliament is expected to hold its consent vote by spring 2027, paving the way for the agreement to enter into force by the middle of the year.

Describing the agreement as the "mother of all deals", McAllister expressed confidence that it would receive broad support in the European Parliament. While the pact will undergo detailed scrutiny, he noted that Parliament's role would be to grant or withhold consent rather than amend the negotiated text. He highlighted the substantial economic benefits that the agreement is expected to deliver to both India and the European Union.

For India's textile and apparel industry, the proposed FTA represents an important opportunity to strengthen its presence in one of the world's largest and most sophisticated consumer markets. Improved trade access, greater predictability in market conditions and enhanced bilateral economic engagement could help Indian apparel manufacturers and exporters become more competitive in the European market. It could also encourage greater participation in global sourcing networks and strengthen India's position as a reliable manufacturing and sourcing destination.

Strengthening Investment and Supply-Chain Resilience

Beyond conventional trade liberalisation, the agreement is expected to facilitate stronger investment flows and deeper economic integration between the two partners. An important area of focus is the proposed separate investment protection agreement, which McAllister said could enhance investor confidence, encourage European investments in India and support employment generation.

The FTA is also expected to contribute to the diversification of global supply chains. With businesses and governments increasingly focusing on reducing economic dependencies and addressing geopolitical uncertainties, India and the EU see considerable scope for closer cooperation in building resilient and diversified supply networks.

For the Indian apparel industry, this evolving trade partnership could create opportunities to attract investments, strengthen manufacturing capabilities, improve technology adoption and deepen integration with European buyers and sourcing ecosystems.

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Expanding Strategic and Industrial Cooperation

The proposed trade agreement is part of a broader effort to deepen the India-EU strategic partnership. McAllister also emphasised the potential for greater cooperation in defence and security, particularly in information sharing, research, cybersecurity and industrial collaboration.

He underlined that both sides share an interest in reducing excessive dependence on individual countries and strengthening their strategic autonomy. India and the EU also recognise the importance of maintaining a free, open and stable Indo-Pacific region.

The growing convergence of economic and strategic interests provides a strong foundation for a more comprehensive partnership that extends beyond trade to investment, technology, innovation and industrial cooperation.

A Significant Opportunity for India's Apparel Industry

As India works towards expanding its textile and apparel exports and strengthening its position in international markets, the India-EU FTA could emerge as a transformative opportunity. The European Union's established apparel market, sophisticated consumer base and evolving sourcing requirements offer considerable potential for Indian manufacturers and exporters.

The agreement could help strengthen India's competitiveness, facilitate closer industry-to-industry engagement and create opportunities for long-term partnerships with European brands, retailers and sourcing companies. It could also encourage Indian exporters to enhance product quality, sustainability practices, compliance standards and value-added manufacturing to meet the expectations of the European market.

While the agreement will need to complete the necessary legal and parliamentary procedures before implementation, the expected timeline signals positive momentum in India-EU trade relations. Its eventual rollout could open a new chapter in bilateral economic cooperation and provide Indian apparel exporters with an important platform to expand their global footprint.





GST collection for August rises by 14.7% to ₹2.03 trillion

BY CA BALKISHAN CHHABRA

Gross GST collections grew 14.7 per cent to over Rs 2.03 lakh crore in September on higher revenues from domestic transactions.

The Central GST collection stood at Rs 37,762 crore, State GST at Rs 45,363 crore and Integrated IGST at Rs 1,20,396 crore, according to government data released on Thursday.
The total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue grew 14.7 per cent to over Rs 2.03 lakh crore in September as compared to Rs 1.77 lakh crore in the same month a year ago, it said.

In April, GST collections of Rs 2.42 lakh crore were the highest GST mop-up with 8.7 per cent annual growth. The highest-ever collection was in April 2026 at over Rs 2.42 lakh crore.

New advisory by GSTN: GSTN Introduces Multistate GST Registration Facility for Multiple States/UTs, Recommendations of the 57th GST Council Meeting – Key Reforms, Annual Returns in the form of GSTR-9/9C for FY 2025-26, Introduction of e-Invoicing Facility for Recipient Generated Self Invoices under Reverse Charge Mechanism for Domestic Supplies from Unregistered Persons (RCMDOM) and Import of Services (RCMIMP).

The **Goods and Services Tax** Network (GSTN) has announced the implementation of important changes to the **GST** portal, which affect the business of buyers, sellers and transporters equally.

GSTN Introduces Multistate GST Registration Facility for Multiple States/UTs.

GSTN has introduced a new "Multistate Registration" facility enabling taxpayers to apply for GST registration in multiple States/Union Territories simultaneously under the same PAN. At present, the facility is available only to Normal Taxpayers. A dedicated "Multistate Registration" tab has been added to the homepage of the GST Common Portal, through which applicants can select the States/UTs where registration is required. After selection, a Master Temporary Reference

Number (TRN) is generated. Using this Master TRN, the applicant can furnish Common Registration Information (CRI), including Business Details, Promoter/Partner details, Authorised Signatory, Authorised Representative, and details of Goods and Services. The Master TRN must be submitted within 15 days. Once the CRI is submitted, separate individual TRNs are generated for each selected State/UT. The common information furnished through the CRI is automatically populated in each individual TRN and remains editable. Applicants must thereafter provide State/UT-specific details, including Principal Place of Business (PPoB), Additional Place of Business (APoB), State-specific Information, and Aadhaar authentication. The new functionality eliminates the need to repeatedly enter common information in separate GST registration applications for different States/UTs, thereby reducing repetitive data entry and facilitating ease of doing business.

Recommendations of the 57th GST Council Meeting – Key Reforms

The GST Council, in its 57th meeting held on 8 October 2026, recommended a series of reforms to simplify GST compliance, streamline registration and return filing, expedite refunds, and improve the flow of Input Tax Credit (ITC). Key recommendations include the removal of arrest provisions under GST, raising the prosecution threshold from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore, reducing the maximum general penalty from ₹25,000 to ₹10,000 simplifying GST registration for small e-commerce sellers, and facilitating the movement of goods across States. The Council also recommended various clarifications and changes relating to GST rates on goods and services, exports, and relief measures for small taxpayers. These recommendations aim to promote ease of doing business, enhance transparency, and reduce the compliance burden on taxpayers. The recommendations will be implemented through the relevant notifications, circulars, and legislative amendments.

Annual Returns in the form of GSTR-9/9C for FY 2025-26

Annual Returns in the form of GSTR-9/9C for FY 2025-26 have been enabled on the GST portal from 8th October 2026. Please ensure that all returns (GSTR 1 and GSTR 3B) for FY 2025-26 are filed to enable the tile of GSTR-9/9C. Further, in case of any assistance in filing the Annual Returns, the taxpayers are advised to raise a ticket on GSTN helpdesk at https://selfservice.gstsystem.in/.

Introduction of e-Invoicing Facility for Recipient Generated Self Invoices under Reverse Charge Mechanism for Domestic Supplies from Unregistered Persons (RCMDOM) and Import of Services (RCMIMP).

GSTN has announced an enhancement to the existing e-invoicing framework to facilitate the reporting of recipient-generated self-invoices for specified domestic supplies received from unregistered persons and imports of services, where the registered recipient is liable to pay GST under the Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM).

The announcement follows the recommendation made at the 57th GST Council meeting and introduces two new supply type codes, namely RCMDOM and RCMIMP. The facility is intended for registered taxpayers having Aggregate Annual Turnover (AATO) of ₹5 crore and above, subject to the applicable statutory provisions and government notifications.

The development seeks to extend the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) reporting mechanism to specified transactions in which the registered recipient, rather than the supplier, generates the self-invoice.

1. Introduction of New Supply Types

The following two supply types are being incorporated into the existing e-Invoice framework:

Supply Type	Description
RCMDOM	Recipient generated self-invoices for specified domestic supplies received from unregistered persons, where the registered recipient is liable to pay tax under RCM.
RCMIMP	Recipient generated self-invoices for import of services from suppliers located outside India, where the registered recipient is liable to pay tax under RCM.

2. Applicability

The new functionality is intended for registered taxpayers having an Aggregate Annual Turnover (AATO) of ₹5 crore and above (i.e. the current eligibility threshold for e-Invoicing), subject to the relevant statutory provisions and notifications to be issued by the government in this regard. The scope, applicability and effective date of the requirement would be governed by the applicable notifications and provisions of GST law.

3. Reporting of Recipient Generated Self-Invoices

Under the existing B2B e-Invoice framework, invoices are ordinarily reported by registered suppliers. The proposed

enhancement would extend the facility to eligible and active registered recipients for reporting self-invoices issued in respect of specified RCM transactions. For such transactions, taxpayers would be required to select the appropriate supply type code, RCMDOM or RCMIMP, while reporting the self-invoice through an authorised IRP. Upon successful submission and validation of the prescribed invoice particulars, an Invoice Reference Number (IRN) would be generated in accordance with the applicable e-Invoice specifications.

4. Implementation and Availability in Sandbox

The necessary system enhancements for incorporating the two new supply types, RCMDOM and RCMIMP, have been implemented in the sandbox environments of all six authorised Invoice Registration Portals (IRPs). Taxpayers, GST Suvidha Providers (GSPs), Application Service Providers (ASPs), ERPs and other integration partners may access the sandbox environments through the respective IRP portals listed below to undertake testing and prepare their systems for integration.

IRPPortal URL

IRP	Portal URL
NIC IRP-1	https://einvoice1.gst.gov
NIC IRP-2	https://einvoice2.gst.gov.in
Cygnet IRP-3	https://einvoice3.gst.gov.in
Clear IRP-4	https://einvoice4.gst.gov.in
EY IRP-5	https://einvoice5.gst.gov.in
IRIS IRP-6	https://einvoice6.gst.gov.in

NIC e-Invoice API Developer Portal :https://einv-apisandbox.nic.in/

The implementation, applicable business validations and validation codes for these two supply types would be uniform across all six IRPs, in accordance with the technical specifications and release note issued by NIC IRP-1.The functionality is presently available for sandbox testing and integration. The date of production rollout and commencement of the associated reporting requirements would be communicated in due time.

5. Further Guidelines, Webinar and Preparatory Activities

NIC IRP-1 would issue a detailed release note covering the technical specifications, business validations, validation codes and other operational requirements relating to RCMDOM and RCMIMP. Taxpayers and integration partners are advised to refer to the release note for detailed implementation requirements.

GSTN along with IRPs would also organise a webinar to explain the new functionality and address relevant implementation aspects. The details of the webinar would be communicated separately.

Taxpayers, GSPs, ASPs, ERPs and other stakeholders are requested to sensitise their wider ecosystem partners about these changes and undertake the necessary system development, integration and testing activities to ensure readiness for implementation. Taxpayers are advised to regularly visit the official e-Invoice portal https://einvoice.gst.gov.in for further updates and announcements.

Case Laws

Madras High Court says The statutory 10% penalty cannot be waived where the taxpayer fails to pay tax and interest within thirty days of receipt of the show cause notice, even where delayed tax payment relates to the COVID-19 period.

Case Name: M/s Aparna Collection V/s Union of India & Ors.

Facts of the Case: M/s Aparna Collection, a registered proprietorship concern, faced two proceedings under Section 74 of the CGST Act involving alleged wrongful availment of Input Tax Credit from non-existent suppliers without actual receipt of goods. The disputed ITC amounted to ₹23,06,264 and ₹2,68,320 respectively. The substantive Show Cause Notices were dated 11.07.2024 and 09.07.2024, whereas Forms GST DRC-01 were dated 23.08.2024 and 28.08.2024.

The petitioner approached the Delhi High Court contending that both notices were time-barred because DRC-01 was issued after the alleged limitation deadline of 04.08.2024. Additionally, DRC-07 dated 21.02.2025 was challenged because it was issued after the alleged adjudication deadline of 04.02.2025, although the substantive orders were dated 27.01.2025 and 29.01.2025. The petitioner also disputed the invocation of Section 74, arguing that fraud, wilful misstatement, suppression of facts and knowledge of suppliers' alleged fraudulent activities had not been established.

Held by Delhi High Court:

The Delhi High Court held that the substantive Show Cause Notice and Form GST DRC-01 are distinct documents under Rule 142 of the CGST Rules. Section 74(2) prescribes limitation for issuance of the substantive notice, not its electronic summary. Since both substantive notices were dated before 04.08.2024, the subsequent dates appearing on DRC-01 did not render the proceedings time-barred. Similarly, Section

74(10) applies to the substantive adjudication order, while DRC-07 merely represents its electronic summary. Therefore, the subsequent DRC-07 date did not invalidate the earlier adjudication orders.

The Court further held that allegations concerning fraud, wrongful ITC availment, supplier non-existence and absence of collusion required examination of evidence by the statutory Appellate Authority. Accordingly, both writ petitions were disposed of, with liberty to pursue appeals under Section 107. All substantive contentions were kept open, including any request for exclusion of time spent pursuing the writ proceedings.

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FM Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 57th GST Council meeting in New Delhi



The 57th GST Council meeting is underway at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is chairing the meeting. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, and Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories are also attending the meeting.

The GST Council meeting will discuss policy reforms to resolve GST disputes and improve the flow of input tax credit, with the aim of reducing the time and cost of compliance. Sources in the Finance Ministry said that the government will propose a five-pronged plan for the next set of reforms to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system. These reforms are aimed at automating and easing many of the current administrative bottlenecks in the GST system and reducing the compliance burden, especially for small businesses.

The five-pronged proposal covers process reforms, structural reforms, ease of living and doing business, exports of services, and e-commerce. Some of the key changes proposed involve automatic invoice matching between buyers and sellers, reducing paperwork around claiming input tax credits (ITC), reducing the number of times small taxpayers have to file returns, and removing multi-state registrations for small businesses.

The last, 56th meeting of the GST Council was held in September last year. During the meeting, the Council approved rate rationalisation with a focus on the common man, labour-intensive industries, farmers and agriculture, health, and key drivers of the economy.

The Digital Product Passport: Reshaping the Future of Global Apparel Trade



As the European Union advances product-level transparency and circularity requirements, the Digital Product Passport is emerging as a significant development for global apparel supply chains. For exporting nations, the transition will place greater emphasis on traceability, reliable data and shared responsibility across the value chain.

The global apparel industry is entering a new phase in which a garment's journey—from raw material to finished product and eventual recycling—will increasingly need to be documented and verified. At the centre of this transition is the European Union's Digital Product Passport (DPP), an initiative designed to make relevant product information accessible across the value chain.

In the coming years, digital records linked to garments could enable consumers, brands, regulators and recyclers to access information about fibre composition, material origin, manufacturing processes, environmental attributes and end-of-life options. For apparel manufacturers and exporters, this development signals a shift from conventional factory-level compliance towards more detailed, product-level transparency.

The implications are particularly significant for countries whose apparel industries depend heavily on exports to Europe. Bangladesh, one of the world's leading apparel-exporting nations, offers an important perspective on the opportunities and challenges associated with preparing for this transition.

Europe's regulatory shift

The EU's Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) establishes a framework for improving product sustainability, durability, circularity and resource efficiency. Textiles and apparel have been identified as a priority product group for further requirements under this framework.

The precise information fields and implementation obligations for apparel will depend on the relevant product-specific measures adopted by the European Commission. Nevertheless, the direction of travel is clear: product information, traceability and substantiated environmental claims are becoming increasingly important considerations in international trade.

The DPP will also operate within a broader regulatory landscape encompassing environmental claims, forced-labour restrictions, textile waste management and corporate supply-chain responsibilities. Together, these developments are expected to influence how brands select suppliers, collect information and assess supply-chain risks.

For exporters, the challenge will extend beyond meeting individual buyer requests. They will need systems capable of producing consistent, verifiable information that can be exchanged across different platforms and supply-chain partners.

Bangladesh: A case study in readiness

The preparedness of Bangladesh's apparel sector illustrates the scale of the transition facing major manufacturing economies.

In his article, "A Passport for Every Dress: Is Bangladesh's Apparel Industry Ready?", published by Textile Today on 16 October 2026 and updated on 17 October 2026, Prof. Md. Masum, PhD, Head of the Department of Textile Engineering Management at Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX), examines the country's strengths and vulnerabilities as the DPP framework develops.

According to the article, Bangladesh's apparel sector benefits from established factory-compliance practices, investments in greener manufacturing and experience with buyer-led sustainability reporting. The country's relatively integrated knitwear supply chains and adoption of tools for chemical management and sustainability assessment also provide a foundation for more structured data collection.

However, Prof. Masum identifies significant gaps in upstream traceability, fragmented digital systems and the availability of consistent environmental information. Dependence on imported cotton, synthetic fibres and woven fabrics can make it difficult for garment manufacturers to obtain complete information about the origin and processing of materials. Smaller suppliers may also lack the technology, specialist personnel and financial resources needed to establish

comprehensive digital systems.

The analysis highlights a wider lesson for the global apparel industry: strong factory-level compliance does not automatically translate into complete product-level traceability.

From factory audits to product-level data

Traditional apparel compliance systems have concentrated on areas such as workplace safety, labour practices, environmental management and production standards. Digital product passports introduce an additional layer of information management by linking relevant data to individual products.

Depending on the final applicable requirements, manufacturers may need to maintain structured bills of materials, map upstream suppliers, document relevant processing information and establish reliable systems for environmental and chemical data. They may also need to ensure that records are compatible with buyer systems and supported by appropriate evidence.

This shift makes data quality a supply-chain responsibility. A garment manufacturer may not directly control fibre production, spinning, dyeing or finishing, yet information from these stages can be essential to establishing a product's complete record.

The challenge is especially pronounced in supply chains involving multiple tiers of suppliers, subcontractors and outsourced processes. Inconsistent documentation at any stage can create gaps in the information available for the finished product.

A shared challenge for apparel-exporting nations

The DPP is relevant well beyond Bangladesh. Major apparel-exporting economies, including India, Vietnam, Türkiye and other sourcing destinations, will need to assess how evolving European requirements intersect with their manufacturing structures and export strategies.

Countries with integrated supply chains may find it easier to consolidate information across production stages, while those relying extensively on imported materials or fragmented supplier networks may face additional traceability challenges. However, the level of preparedness will ultimately depend on the capabilities of individual manufacturers, their suppliers and the systems connecting them.

For India, the development is particularly relevant given the breadth of its textile and apparel value chain, spanning fibre production, spinning, weaving, knitting, processing and garment manufacturing. This industrial diversity can support traceability initiatives, although information gaps may persist where materials are imported or production processes are outsourced.

Investments in digital records, common data standards and supplier mapping can help Indian exporters prepare for evolving buyer expectations. Such capabilities may also strengthen operational visibility, improve information exchange and support closer engagement with international brands.

Who bears the cost of transparency?

One of the central questions surrounding the DPP is how the cost of compliance will be distributed across the supply chain.

Larger exporters may be better positioned to invest in digital platforms, specialised personnel and product-level data systems. Small and medium-sized enterprises, however, may face substantial barriers in terms of technology costs, training and the maintenance of records across multiple buyer relationships.

The risk of duplication is another concern. If different brands request similar information in incompatible formats, manufacturers may be required to maintain multiple systems for the same products. Greater alignment among buyers on data requirements and reporting standards could help reduce this burden.

The analysis by Prof. Masum also raises the question of buyer responsibility. Since reliable product information benefits brands as well as manufacturers, investment in supplier training, pilot projects, technology and longer-term commercial relationships could support a more effective transition.

A collaborative model would help ensure that digital transparency strengthens supply-chain resilience rather than becoming a barrier that disproportionately affects smaller manufacturers.

Preparing for a more transparent marketplace

Manufacturers can begin by assessing the quality and accessibility of their existing product information. Establishing digital bills of materials, mapping supplier networks, strengthening documentation and improving the consistency of environmental data are practical starting points.

Pilot projects involving selected product lines can help businesses identify gaps before scaling their systems across larger portfolios. Common identification standards and interoperable digital platforms may also reduce duplication and improve the exchange of information between manufacturers and buyers.

Industry associations, governments and development partners can support this process through awareness programmes, technical guidance, training and access to suitable financing. Universities and research institutions have an important role in developing expertise in traceability, life-cycle assessment, sustainable manufacturing and data management.

Equally important is continued engagement with international buyers and regulatory authorities. Exporters need clarity on the distinction between confirmed legal obligations, anticipated requirements and individual buyer expectations so

that investments are directed towards credible and practical solutions.

Transparency as a competitive capability

The Digital Product Passport represents a broader transformation in the global apparel industry: sustainability and traceability are moving closer to the core of product design, sourcing and market access.

Zas Prof. Masum's analysis of Bangladesh demonstrates, the transition involves more than adopting new technology. It requires coordinated information flows, dependable supplier relationships, consistent standards and investment across the value chain.

For apparel-exporting nations, the objective should be to build systems that make product information accurate, accessible and verifiable while remaining commercially practical for manufacturers of different sizes.

As regulatory expectations evolve, the ability to demonstrate how a garment is made, what it contains and how it can be used and recovered at the end of its life is likely to become an increasingly important element of global sourcing. The industry's readiness will depend not only on the technology available, but also on how effectively manufacturers, buyers, policymakers and knowledge institutions work together.

Denmark Unveils Three-Year Action Plan to Accelerate Textile Sector's Circular Transition

National initiative focuses on sustainable production, textile reuse, industry preparedness and compliance with emerging EU regulations



Denmark has unveiled a National Action Plan for Textiles to accelerate the transition towards a more circular and sustainable textile industry. Launched on October 2, 2026, the initiative establishes a three-year framework for 2026–2029, bringing together businesses, industry associations, public authorities, research institutions and civil society to reduce the environmental impact of textiles while strengthening industry competitiveness.

The action plan is supported by DKK 40 million allocated under Denmark's 2025 Finance Act. It seeks to reduce textile consumption and production, improve resource efficiency and encourage business models that extend product life and keep materials in use for longer.

The plan is structured around three key areas. The first focuses on supporting the textile and fashion industry's circular transition by helping companies develop circular business models, strengthen their capabilities and prepare for new European Union regulatory requirements. The second aims to establish the infrastructure, partnerships and market mechanisms required to facilitate textile collection, reuse and recycling. The third focuses on improving textile-related knowledge and skills among businesses, workers, educational institutions and consumers.

A central principle of the initiative is to prioritise waste prevention, product durability, repair and reuse over recycling and waste management. By encouraging longer product lifespans and more efficient use of textile materials, Denmark aims to reduce resource consumption and the sector's overall climate and environmental footprint.

The action plan also addresses the growing regulatory requirements facing European textile and apparel businesses. As EU policies increasingly emphasise sustainability, product documentation, circular design and producer responsibility, the initiative aims to help companies—particularly small and medium-sized enterprises—adapt to changing compliance expectations while identifying new opportunities for innovation and growth.

The programme has been developed through collaboration between Lifestyle and Design Cluster, the Danish Fashion & Textile industry association and TRACE, Denmark's innovation mission for the circular economy. Their partnership is intended to connect industry expertise, research and public-sector support to develop practical solutions across the textile value chain.

For India's textile and apparel export sector, Denmark's initiative highlights the growing importance of sustainability,

traceability, circular product design and resource efficiency in international markets. Indian manufacturers and exporters supplying European buyers may increasingly need to demonstrate compliance with evolving environmental requirements and strengthen their capabilities in responsible sourcing, material management and product lifecycle practices.

The Danish action plan reflects a broader shift in the global textile industry towards circularity, where competitiveness will increasingly depend not only on manufacturing efficiency and product quality but also on the ability to reduce environmental impacts and adapt to evolving sustainability standards.

Iran-US Tensions Over Strait of Hormuz Raise Concerns for Global Trade and Apparel Supply Chains

Uncertainty over a key maritime corridor highlights risks to shipping costs, energy prices and export delivery schedules

Iran has described the United States' response to its proposal to reopen the strategically important Strait of Hormuz as "insufficient", highlighting continuing uncertainty over efforts to restore normal maritime movement in the Gulf. In a statement reported by Reuters on October 11, 2026, Iran's security chief, Mohsen Rezaei, said Washington had accepted some of Tehran's seven proposed conditions but had left others unclear. Iran called on the United States to clarify the unresolved issues.

Iran had proposed reopening the waterway and restoring normal maritime passage within seven days, subject to its conditions. The US response was conveyed through Qatari intermediaries as regional diplomatic efforts continued. At the time of the report, the White House had not immediately responded to Reuters' request for comment.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global shipping corridor connecting the Persian Gulf with international markets. Before the conflict that began in late February 2026, approximately one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flows passed through the waterway. Disruption to maritime traffic has therefore raised concerns about energy supplies, shipping costs and the stability of international trade.

Implications for India's textile and apparel industry

For India's textile and apparel exporters, continued uncertainty in the Gulf region presents potential challenges across logistics, production costs and delivery schedules. Disruptions to shipping routes can lead to vessel diversions, higher freight charges, increased insurance premiums and longer transit times. These pressures are particularly significant for apparel manufacturers working with seasonal collections, fixed delivery windows and tight profit margins.

Higher energy and fuel costs can also affect manufacturing, transportation and the prices of petrochemical-based inputs, including synthetic fibres and certain packaging materials. If such cost increases persist, exporters may face additional pressure when negotiating prices with international buyers.

The West Asian region is an important market for Indian ready-made garments. Continued disruption to shipping and regional trade could affect the movement of consignments and buyer confidence, depending on the duration and extent of the disruption. Previous reporting by The Economic Times has highlighted the additional freight costs and delivery delays faced by Indian apparel exporters amid the wider West Asian conflict.

Outlook

The diplomatic exchanges underscore the close relationship between geopolitical stability and global supply-chain resilience. For Indian apparel exporters, developments affecting major maritime routes reinforce the importance of monitoring freight rates, maintaining communication with buyers and logistics providers, and evaluating alternative shipping arrangements where feasible.

The implications for the textile and apparel sector will depend on subsequent diplomatic developments, the restoration of predictable maritime movement and the evolution of shipping and energy costs. Greater stability in the region would help reduce uncertainty for exporters and support the timely movement of goods across international markets.



Circular Textiles: UNEP Calls for a Sustainable Transformation of the Global Textile Value Chain



The global textile and apparel industry is witnessing a growing shift towards sustainability, with circularity, responsible resource use and pollution reduction emerging as important priorities. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through its Textile Initiative, is working to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable and circular textile value chain by encouraging collaboration among governments, industry stakeholders and other partners.

The initiative recognises the textile and fashion sector's economic and cultural significance, while highlighting its environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste. It promotes a comprehensive approach to sustainability that addresses impacts across the textile value chain, from production and processing to consumption and end-of-life management.

Advancing Circularity Across the Value Chain

UNEP's Textile Initiative focuses on strengthening policy frameworks, supporting circular business models, promoting industry standards and addressing the use of hazardous chemicals. It also encourages a life-cycle approach to textile production and consumption, alongside efforts to tackle overproduction and overconsumption.

A key component of this work is UNEP's Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain: A Global Roadmap. Published in May 2023, the report outlines challenges, opportunities and potential solutions for building a more sustainable textile industry. It identifies nine building blocks for change and emphasises collaboration among stakeholders to advance the transition.

The initiative also supports governments through global textile policy dialogues and assists small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in developing countries, in adopting circular business models. These efforts seek to make sustainability a more integrated part of the industry's operations and decision-making.

Implications for the Indian Apparel Industry

For India's apparel export sector, the global movement towards circular textiles presents both opportunities and challenges. As international buyers increasingly focus on environmental performance and responsible sourcing, Indian manufacturers and exporters can strengthen their competitiveness by integrating sustainable practices into their production and supply chains.

Resource efficiency, waste minimisation, responsible chemical management and improved material utilisation can help businesses reduce environmental impacts while supporting more efficient operations. Circular approaches, including textile waste recovery, reuse and recycling, can also create opportunities for innovation and value addition across the supply chain.

The transition will require investment, technical capabilities, industry collaboration and access to suitable technologies. Small and medium-sized manufacturers may particularly benefit from knowledge-sharing, capacity-building initiatives and clearer sustainability standards that support practical implementation.

Collaboration for a Sustainable Future

UNEP's Textile Initiative underscores the importance of collective action in transforming the global textile value chain. Governments, manufacturers, brands, suppliers and other stakeholders have complementary roles in advancing circularity and promoting responsible production and consumption.

For India, strengthening sustainability across the apparel value chain can support long-term industry resilience and help exporters respond to evolving international market expectations. Integrating circularity into business strategies can therefore serve not only environmental objectives but also the broader goal of building a competitive, resource-efficient and future-ready apparel export sector.



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