

APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL (AEPC)

PRESS RELEASE

Meeting with Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Sakthivel

12 February 2026. New Delhi: A delegation led by Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), along with key representatives of the Garment Exporters and Manufacturers Association, New Delhi, Delhi Exporters Association, Tirupur Exporters Association, South India Hosiery Manufacturers Association, Southern India Mills Association, Tiruppur and Association of garment exporters of Sitapura, Jaipur, met Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, and Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, on 11th February, 2026.

The delegation included representatives from ten textile associations, comprising around 45 members in total.

During the interaction, Shri Piyush Goyal highlighted that India has signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with nearly 38 countries, including a major interim trade agreement with the United States. He further informed that India is expected to sign the agreement with the USA shortly and confirmed that benefits similar to one extended to the textile Industry of Bangladesh would most likely be extended to India as well.

Shri Piyush Goyal urged all stakeholders in the textile and apparel sector to effectively leverage the opportunities arising from these FTAs and ensure that their benefits reach across the country and every individual associated with the industry.

The association office bearers and industry representatives assured the Hon'ble Minister of their commitment to fully utilize the opportunities created by these trade agreements. They also congratulated him for his visionary leadership and his continued efforts in strengthening India's global trade position.

Dr. A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, expressed his sincere gratitude to Shri Piyush Goyal for his proactive efforts in advancing India's trade agenda, including the successful conclusion of the India-EU FTA, described as the "mother of all deals," and the Interim Trade Deal with the United States, both of which are expected to significantly boost India's textile and apparel exports. India now has free trade agreements with economies accounting for 70% of global GDP. These agreements will help boost exports from the Indian apparel industry exponentially and generate huge opportunities of employment, Chairman AEPC Dr. Sakthivel said while terming trade agreements with USA as "father of all deals"