RNI REGD. NO.
DELENG/2008/23959
DL©-10/1186/2023-2025
Annual Subscription 1500/₹
Date Of Publication 10/01/2025
Posted at N.I.E, H.O., ND-28, on 16-17 January. 25

Communion

Publication for Textile & Apparel Industry

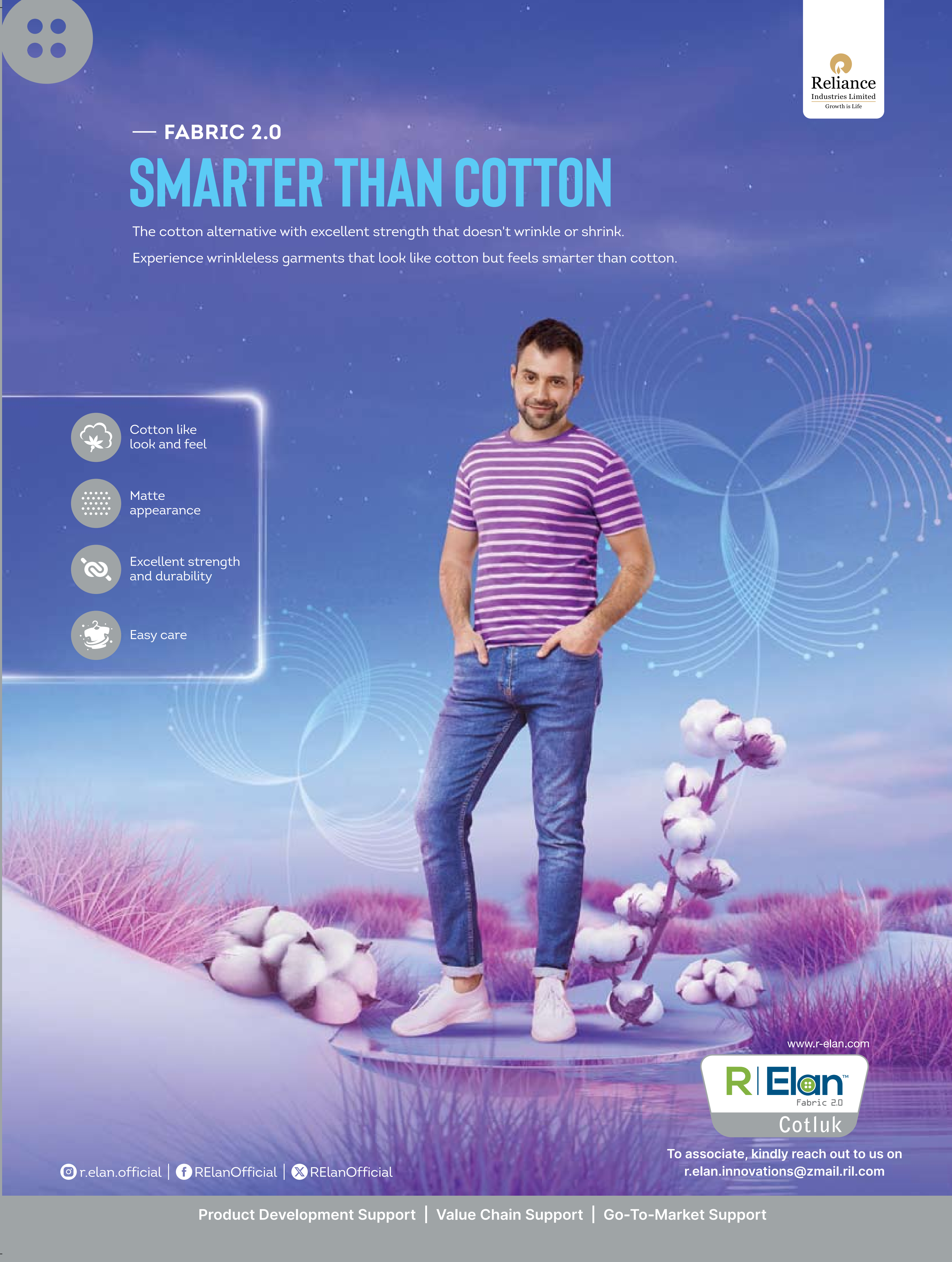
Volume 18 Issue 01 January 2025 Page 84

RAJKAMAL LACE INDUSTRIES

FATHER OF TORCHON (BOBBIN/ CROCHIA) LACE IN INDIA

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MR ASHOK GANDHI


India's Leading
Manufacturer
of PLASTIC
SEAL TAG
LOVED
aquafit
OZLO
REGATTA
TYLER
ZILLIAN
GELATO
Capapie
BOND WITH THE BEST
the Logo and Products are the trademenrks of their respective owners and are for display only
NILESH IMPEX
INDIA PVT LTD
Nilesh Impex India Pvt.Ltd.
www.nileshimpexindia.com
CORP. OFFICE :- 8/88, Lakshmi Nagar, 50 Feet Road,
Tirupur- 641 602. Tamilnadu (India) Ph: +91-421-4336364, 4336765
Tirupur Factory:- 228/2, Karukkandu Thottam,
Kaikattipudur (PO) Avinashi, Tirupur- 641654 Tamilnadu (India)
Surat Factory: Plot No. 97 & 98, Shiv Bhakti Industries,
Sanki, Palasana, Chalthan, Surat- 394305 (Guj.)
Mobile.:+91- 9443342838, 9487942838. Email: nileshimpex@yahoo.co.in



Reliance
Industries Limited
Growth is Life
— FABRIC 2.0
SMARTER THAN COTTON
The cotton alternative with excellent strength that doesn't wrinkle or shrink.
Experience wrinkleless garments that look like cotton but feels smarter than cotton.
Cotton like look and feel
Matte appearance
Excellent strength and durability
Easy care
www.r-elan.com
R|Elan™
Fabric 2.0
Cotluk
To associate, kindly reach out to us on
r.elan.innovations@zmail.ril.com
r.elan.official | RElanOfficial | RElanOfficial
Product Development Support | Value Chain Support | Go-To-Market Support


PUNAMIA LAICRA
PUNAMIA ELASTIC
MFG OF ALL KINDS OF ELASTIC TAPES
WOVEN ELASTIC | KNITTED ELASTIC | BRAIDED ELASTIC
OUR RANGE OF PRODUCTS
BLUE LABEL
BROWN LABEL
YELLOW LABEL
GREEN LABEL
ORANGE LABEL
DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS REQUIRED PAN INDIA
Office Add : 12/14 A, Ground Floor, Kutchi Lohana Mahajan Wadi, Opp. Satkar Hotel,
Near PNB Bank, Masjid Bunder (W), Mumbai - 400 003.
Contact : +91 96992 30369, +91 83696 72021
www.punamiatape.com | www.punamiaelastic.com | punamiatape@gmail.com


Vanraj Vanawala
+91 95125 36734
SPV
S.P LACE
Mfrs. & Exporter Of All Kinds Of
Bankdi, Trimmings Fancy And Hand Word Laces
Showroom : Shed No. 99 - 100,
Jay Narayan Ind. Soc. No. 2,
Anjana Farm Surat. (Guj.) INDIA.
Factory : Shed No. 101 - 104,
Jay Narayan Ind Soc. No. 2,
Anjana Farm, Surat. (Guj.) INDIA
info@spvlace.com, www.spvlace.com

Editorial

As the Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, expected to present the Union Budget of 2025-26, the Indian textile and apparel industry eagerly awaits new measures to address its challenges and boost growth. The sector has been a strong performer, with exports growing by 6.93% during April-November 2024 compared to the previous year. This shows that the industry plays a vital role in the economy, as it also provides employment to more than 45 million people, directly or indirectly, which makes it 2nd largest employment provider in India. However, the industry is facing numerous hurdles. High raw material costs, limited access to skilled labor, slow domestic consumption growth, and tough competition from countries like China, Vietnam, Thailand, etc. are major concerns. The lack of innovation & minimal machinery manufacturing in India has hindered technological upgrades in the sector. Even GST rates, especially the 12% and up to 28% on higher-priced goods, have also impacted affordability and domestic consumption.

Interestingly, the political turmoil in Bangladesh has created opportunities for Indian textiles and apparel manufacturers and exporters. Global brands are increasingly turning to Indian suppliers, particularly in Tirupur, for their sourcing needs. This shift has increased export orders and highlighted India's reliability in the global market.

Government initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for technical textiles was aimed to boost investments, but high eligibility criteria have limited participation. Additionally, the PM MITRA Park initiative, which promotes large-scale textile production hubs with state-of-the-art infrastructure, is expected to improve competitiveness and attract foreign investments. Revising the criteria for PLI and implementing Quality Control Orders (QCOs) with a focus on finished goods can address supply chain issues and make it robust. Also, promoting machinery innovation & manufacturing by investing more in R&D through PPP (Public – Private Partnership) model can significantly improve the industry's health and boost exports.

As stakeholders await the budget, they hope for measures like reduced GST rates, better support for MSMEs, affordable raw materials, and enhanced focus on infrastructure through programs like PM MITRA. These steps can help the industry to make the supply chain resilient, improve the growth rate, and finally achieve the target of $100 billion exports by 2030.

As we welcome 2025, COMMUNION wishes all our readers a joyful and prosperous New Year. May this year bring new opportunities, achievements, and continued growth for everyone.

Editor

Contents

January 2025 VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 01

Printed, Published, Edited and Owned by Ramesh Kumar Tripathi
From 2943/13, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Ranjeet Nagar,
New Delhi-110008, India. Ph: +91-11-41104740/41104741
E-mail: communionadvt@gmail.com, sales@communiononline.com
Printed at Mystical Graphics, A-26 Phase-II, Naraina Indusrial Area, New Delhi, India.

Mr Ashok Gandhi
(Rajkamal Lace Industries):
A Legend of Torchon (Bobbin, Braided and Crochia) Lace

-----------By R.K. Tripathi & Usha Jaimal

Communion Magazine proudly presents an in-depth and inspiring conversation with Mr. Ashok Gandhi, of Rajkamal Lace Industries. With decades of experience and a profound impact on the field, Mr. Gandhi's journey is a masterclass in perseverance, creativity, and ethical business practices. His life story serves as a blueprint for aspiring entrepreneurs, offering valuable insights into navigating the ever-evolving business landscape.

Throughout this interview, Mr. Gandhi shares not only the milestones of his illustrious career but also the challenges that tested his resolve and the solutions that defined his visionary leadership. From groundbreaking innovations in lace manufacturing to championing inclusivity and high moral values in business, Mr. Gandhi's journey is a source of inspiration for the next generation of entrepreneurs. Communion Magazine invites readers to delve into this compelling narrative and discover the principles that have made Rajkamal Lace Industries a shining example of industrial excellence.

How did your journey with Rajkamal Lace Industries begin?

Mr. Ashok Gandhi: Rajkamal Lace Industries: Rajkamal Lace Industries is India's first manufacturer of Torchon lace (Bobbin, Braided, and Crochia). The company was established in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in 1953 by my grandfather, who began by producing shoelaces supplied to Bata and other footwear manufacturers. My grandfather was a zealous man, known for his determination and hard work. He used to transport export shipments to the airport on a ghoda gaddi (horse cart). This story continues to inspire us to work hard every day to meet the aspirations of our customers.

In 1956, he imported two Crochia lace machines from Wilhelm Reising (Wuppertal-Barmen). Interestingly, during the same period, another company in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, imported two similar machines. However, they struggled to operate them effectively. Eventually, we acquired those machines and successfully operated them for decades.

When did you join the business, and what was your initial focus?

Mr. Gandhi: I joined the family business in 1972 when I was just 19 years old. My training began in the factory to understand the technicalities of lace manufacturing machines. By then, the machines had been running for nearly 25 years, and productivity had declined. To address this, I decided to import lace braiding (Bobbin Lace) machines. Since imports required a government license (Open General License), I secured the necessary licenses and imported two machines from Krenzler, followed by two more.

Later, one of our competitors (a garment exporter) imported 30 such machines with exclusive rights. In fact, that individual influenced Krenzler to stop providing spare parts to me in order to establish a monopoly in the domestic market. This was a sudden shock for me, but I refused to give up. This challenge motivated me to shift my focus to manufacturing spare parts. Looking back, I see that decision taught me many valuable lessons that were pivotal in shaping my career.

How did you enter the spare parts

and machine manufacturing business?

Mr. Gandhi: The constant need for spare parts in our factory motivated me to manufacture them. With the technical knowledge I gained, I developed spare parts for Krenzler lace braiding machines and sent them to Germany. Krenzler confirmed that our parts met 97% of their quality standards. Since we also operated lace manufacturing machines, we had a deeper understanding of the technical requirements, which contributed to our success.

In 1981, unable to import more machines, I decided to manufacture lace braiding machines in India. We hired a technical expert, and within 18 months, we had two machines ready. These machines were installed in our factory, and over time, we built 24 machines, all of which are still operational today.

Tell us about your experience with computerized lace braiding machines.

Mr. Gandhi: In 2005, we introduced computerized lace braiding machines with advanced features, allowing remote-controlled operations. To promote this machine, we participated in the Knit Show in Tirupur in 2006 and brought all the leading manufacturers, exporters, and traders of the narrow fabric industry to our launch party with the help of Mr. R.K. Tripathi (COMMUNION) and the late Mr. Arvind Singh (M/S Supertech Lace Tirupur Pvt Ltd).

We even adopted a rental model where machines could be remotely deactivated if rent was unpaid. Unfortunately, the technology was ahead of its time, and lace manufacturers were reluctant to adopt it. As a result, we discontinued production of these machines.

Can you share details about your current production and innovations?

Mr. Gandhi: At our peak, we operated 100 braiding machines. Currently, we have 80 machines, as we scrapped 20 old ones. Our factory spans 720 square yards, and we are manufacturing both Crochet (Cotton) lace and Crochia laces under our brand name Golden Lady. For the first time in India,

Mr. R.K Tripathi understand the process of Bobbin/ Crochia Lace

Mr. Ashok Gandhi with His Production Team

we produced Crochet (cotton) laces using an Italian machine designed for elastic laces made from polyester to meet the huge demand in the global market. This innovation involved converting the elastic machine from Comez into a Crochet (Cotton) lace-making machine. Notably, the same machine is now being used to make crochet fabrics.

Consistent supply of raw materials is one of the most fragile aspects of any manufacturing unit. How did you manage it, and please share any insightful story.

Mr. Gandhi: I disagree here. There is no doubt that the supply of raw materials is an important aspect of manufacturing, but it is not everything. I would like to share an experience. Once, a raw material supplier of a special kind of yarn increased the price, and it became difficult to maintain product affordability without raising prices.

So, I approached M/S Swami Thread Mills (Ahmedabad) to develop yarn according to our requirements. Today, that company has grown into one of the largest yarn suppliers in India. This experience taught me the importance of inclusivity and high moral values in business.

How do you see the competition in the lace industry?

Mr. Gandhi: The Crochia (Braided/Bobbin lace) industry has become very competitive due to increased supply and decreasing garment prices. However, domestic demand has grown significantly in the past few decades. Chinese manufacturers initially had an edge due to lower labor and electricity costs, but India now holds a strong position. Despite Chinese government

subsidies, we've managed to beat their competition, even in markets like Bangladesh.

Quality, consistency, and timely delivery have been our (Rajkamal Lace Industries) strengths. We also offer price stability, ensuring that even if yarn costs rise, we try to honor our commitments.

What is your perspective on handmade Crochia lace versus mechanical lace?

Mr. Gandhi: Handmade Crochia lace continues to thrive in Narsapur, Telangana (India), despite the advent of machines. Introduced by missionaries to empower women, this craft has been passed down through generations.

Italy faced a similar situation but couldn't sustain handmade crochia lace production after mechanization. In India, handmade lace remains a significant industry. Since these practices are part of our culture, I wish that they continue to flourish as well.

How do you manage sales and distribution?

Mr. Gandhi: We don't deal directly with garment exporters and manufacturers. Instead, we work with traders in cities like Delhi, Surat, Jaipur, Bengaluru, and Tirupur. This model suits us as we prefer working with a few trusted customers rather than managing a large sales team. Our traders cater to both domestic and export markets, ensuring smooth distribution.

How do you keep up with changing market demands?

Mr. Gandhi: The variety of our designs evolves with market demand. We have 1,500 lace designs and adapt them based on customer needs. Some of these designs are even more than 20 years old. While most manufacturers produce laces as per orders, we at Rajkamal Lace Industries maintain stock for immediate sales. Our laces are mainly used in women's garments.

Laces are also used in home furnishings, but we do not cater to this segment. We use both cotton combed and carded yarn in counts like 2/10's, 3/10's, 3/20's, etc.

At one time, there were several manufacturers of lace braiding machines, but now there are only a few manufacturers. Fine Crochia lace is made from 2/40's yarn, while normal Crochia is made from 3/20's and 2/10's cotton yarn. There is also the possibility of using dyed yarn, or the lace can be dyed.

According to you, which spindle is viable in production?

Mr. Gandhi: The 64-spindle is the most effective for higher production.

What are the challenges in the industry today?

Mr. Gandhi: The major challenge I have faced to date is the low rate of production per unit time by

Bharat Expo Feeder

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR PLASTIC SEAL TAGS, GARMENT SEALERS, COTTON WAX CORDS AND HANGERS

Bharat Expo feeder was established a Decade ago with the vision to provide the **best quality products** with **latest technology.**
Our motto is to provide our customers with the **best experience** and our work is a reflection of our core values, i.e **great quality products at the best price.**

Leading manufacturers in premium Sealing Solutions

We prioritise **customer satisfaction** and **product quality.**

OUR PRODUCTS


Plastic Seal Tags

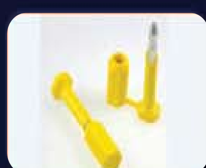

Garment Sealers


Security Seals


Oval Pins


Cotton Wax Cords


Hangers


Bolt Seals


Safety Pins

Premium Quality Products by
BHARAT EXPO FEEDER

Providing Services
Nationwide

OUR USPS

- 10+ years of Experience
- 100% Client Satisfaction
- Fully Customizable
- State of the Art Technology
- Superior Quality
- On-time Delivery

+91 98737 51269
+91 93113 69197

sales@bharatexpofeeder.org

A-33/1, Site -4, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Ghaziabad 201010 (U.P.)

Sales Office:
465-A, Bartan Market. Sadar Bazar. New Delhi. Delhi 110006

www.bharatexpofeeder.org

braiding machines in comparison to others. Also, labor availability is a significant challenge. Crochia lace production requires skilled workers, and training takes time. Unfortunately, the younger generation is unwilling to work in factories. Many manufacturers are relocating to states like UP, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, etc., to be closer to the labor pool. Initially, laborers used to search factories for employment, but now textile and garment factories are searching for laborers. Additionally, government policies have posed hurdles. The introduction of GST brought a 12% tax on lace used in exports, increasing costs. We've urged the government to remove this tax to support the industry.

What is your opinion on the lack of innovation in machinery manufacturing in India?

Mr. Gandhi: I believe the cost of a new European braiding machine is very high, so many Indian lace manufacturers cannot afford it. Hence, they are importing machines either from China or buying reconditioned machines from Europe. It is notable that the braiding machines have a longer life only because they run at very low RPM. In fact, we recently scrapped a machine that was manufactured in 1935. Thus, domestic manufacturing with modern technologies like AI (Artificial Intelligence) and IoT (Internet of Things) can act as a game changer for the economy, as the demand for such machines is very high in both the domestic and international markets. India is the largest Crochia lace manufacturer globally. Also, the demand for this type of lace is significant in the global market, yet no one is making lace braiding machines here. This is mainly due to a lack of investment and innovation in the field. Major local machinery manufacturers focus on conventional segments of the industry to maximize profits, neglecting the need for new developments. Also, I believe government support in research and development could play a crucial role in promoting machinery manufacturing in India.

What motivates you to continue leading Rajkamal Lace Industries?

Mr. Gandhi: For over 70 years, Rajkamal Lace Industries has stood for innovation, quality, and resilience. Our ability to adapt to changing times while maintaining our commitment to excellence keeps us going. As the textile industry evolves, we aim to uphold our legacy and deliver world-class lace products.

Mr. Ashok Gandhi's journey with Rajkamal Lace Industries exemplifies the spirit of innovation, adaptability, and ethical business practices. His efforts to modernize lace manufacturing and foster inclusivity in the industry are commendable. As Rajkamal Lace Industries continues to adapt to changing times, it remains a beacon of excellence in the Indian textile landscape. Communion Magazine extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Ashok Gandhi for sharing his invaluable insights and inspiring the business leaders of tomorrow.

THE Journey of Torchon Lace

(Bobbin/ Braiding/ Crochia Lace)

From Tradition to Modern

Feedback: abhilashtripathi93@gmail.com

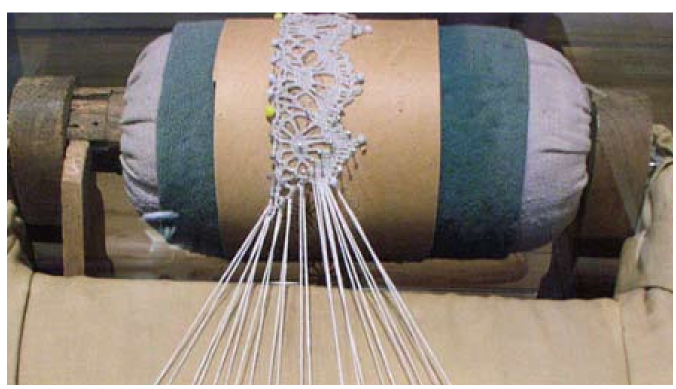
Lace is a delicate fabric made in an open, web-like pattern using yarn or thread. It can be created by hand or machine and is mainly classified into two types: needle

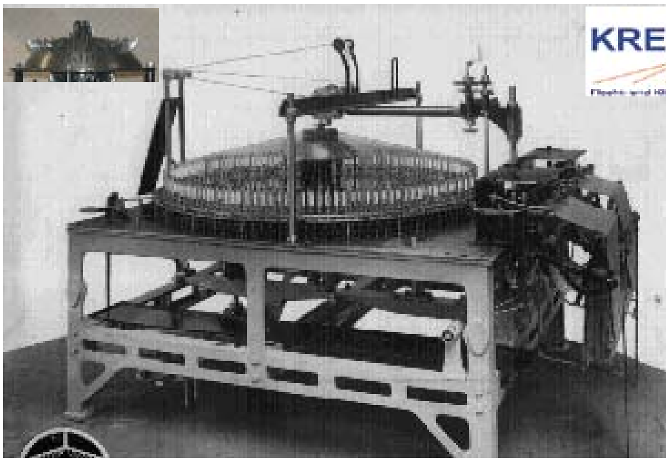
lace and bobbin lace. Other forms, such as knitted lace, are considered part of their specific crafts. Laces are often used to add value and elegance to garments and apparels.
In India, various types of lace, including Torchon(Crochia/ Bobbin) lace, have carved a niche in the apparel and textile industry. Indian lace-making hubs like Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh are renowned for handmade crochia lace, while Surat in Gujarat is famous for modern laces like embroidery or zari laces' production. These delicate fabrics are not limited to garments such as sarees and wedding gowns but are also widely used in curtains and home decor. Traditionally, laces were made with linen, silk, gold, or silver threads, but modern lace is often crafted with cotton or synthetic yarn fibers, showcasing its evolution over the centuries.

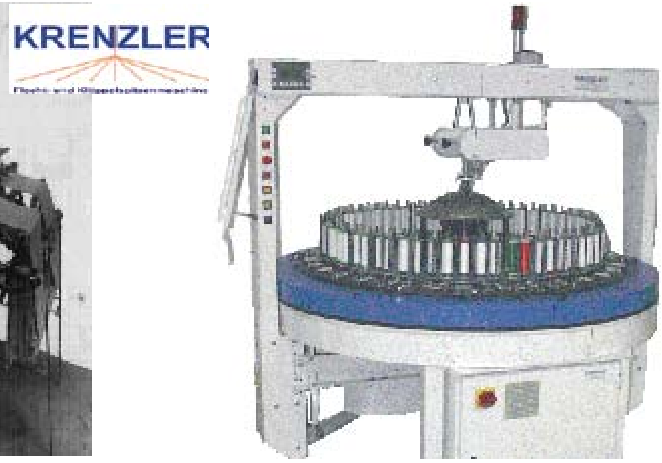
Historical Background of Torchon (Bobbin/ Crochia) Lace Machines

The history of lace making is dates back to the 16th century in Europe, where handmade lace adorned the garments of royals and the elite. Bobbin lace and needle lace were two primary types, crafted by hands. Over the time, as the demand for lace grew, technological advancements revolutionized its production and industrialization during 18th century played vital role.
One of the most significant innovations was done by John Heathcoat in 1808. He invented the bobbin net machine, which could replicate handmade lace patterns with remarkable accuracy. This invention laid the foundation for the mass production of lace, making it more affordable and accessible. Later, the Nottingham lace machine became another game-changer. It allowed the production of intricate laces on a large scale, boosting the lace industry further.
In 1865, Karl Krenzler's machinery brought more precision and efficiency to lace-making. His innovations streamlined the process, enabling faster production while maintaining high quality. These technological leaps paved the way for modern lace manufacturing techniques. Later in 1900, Emil Krenzler Company began as a machine tool manufacturer and soon developed a patented system for single-thread bobbin lace machines, which gained global recognition. Over the decades, Krenzler acquired other manufacturers, such as Gustav Krenzler in 1933 and Wilhelm Reising in

> **Did you know?**
> Bobbin lace machines produce lace that replicates the intricate artistry of hand-made designs while processing various yarns like cotton, linen, acrylic, synthetics, and even metal threads. Known for their durability and versatility, bobbin lace is used in women's clothing, home textiles, accessories, doll clothes, tube nets for meat products, and other technical applications.







1969, further cementing its expertise in braiding and lace machines. Since 1978, it has integrated electronic controls and patented innovations to enhance production. Today, Krenzler continues its legacy of crafting advanced machines for a worldwide market, combining tradition with modern technology.

In 1901, Sylvester G. Lewis revolutionized lacemaking after seeing its potential in Chicago. He founded the Torchon Co-operative Lace Co. in 1902, creating the innovative "Princess Lace Machine" to simplify traditional methods. Through advertising and instructional materials, Lewis empowered beginners and enabled them to sell their lace back to the company, modernizing production and building a thriving business.

Modern-Day Innovations:

The lace industry has continued to evolve with advancements in technology. Today, countries like China lead the way in lace manufacturing, introduced cutting-edge machinery that combines speed and precision. Torchon lace, often made of cotton or linen, is known for its geometric patterns and durability. It is widely used in trims, home textiles, and even casual apparel. Torchon(Crochia/Bobbin) lace, on the other hand, is more delicate and features intricate floral designs. It is commonly seen in bridal wear, dresses, and decorative garments. The versatility of these laces makes them valuable assets in the global textile industry.

The Revolution in Lace Making

The innovations in lace-making machinery have ransformed the industry. Today, manufacturers can produce high-quality lace in bulk without compromising on design or detail. This has made lace more accessible, not just for luxury fashion but also for everyday clothing and decor. Torchon(Crochia/Bobbin) lace hold a special place in the international market. The most unique aspect of this lace is that it does not require post production processing. Even when the production rate is low but the demand is high. These laces are often used in garments like wedding dresses, blouses, and sarees, adding a touch of elegance. The global demand for lace has also created opportunities for artisans and manufacturers in India, China and other lace-making countries. The journey of lace from handmade art to technologically advanced and mass production is a testament to human creativity and innovation. Public-private partnerships and support from the government in research and development will encourage Indian entrepreneurs to innovate and manufacture these delicate yet complex machines locally. Torchon(Crochia/Bobbin) lace continue to captivate the world with their beauty and versatility. As technology advances further, the lace industry is set to scale new heights, blending tradition with modernity in perfect harmony.

Bharat Tex 2025
Innovation Meets Responsibility

Sustainability and Circularity to dominate discussions at India's largest Textile show

India's textile industry is a vital pillar of its economic and cultural legacy, evolving from traditional handlooms in villages to advanced textile mills today. As one of the country's earliest industries, textiles account for 13% of India's total industrial production, 12% of total exports, and 2.3% of the GDP, while employing over 45 million people, including 3.5 million handloom workers. However, this rapid growth has brought significant environmental challenges and driven by a national level task force on sustainability circularity, the country's textile sector is now rapidly adopting sustainable practices. These range from recycling and upcycling efforts in micro and small textile clusters to firm level interventions by India's large and listed companies in water, energy and material use efficiency.

India, an inherently circular nation, has a deep-rooted tradition of sustainability, dating back thousands of years. From hand woven khadi to organic cotton and natural dyes, India's textile heritage is a testament to eco-friendly practices. This inherent sustainability is not just a legacy but a promising future for ethical fashion globally.

To highlight the country's vision and commitment to a circular textile economy, sustainability will be a key pillar in India's global mega textile event Bharat Tex 2025. Organised by 11 industry associations and supported by the Ministry of Textiles, Bharat Tex 2025 comprises a mega expo covering over 2.2 million square feet area, spread across two venues and showcasing the entire textile ecosystem including accessories under one roof. While the main event will be held from February 14-17, 2025, at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and will exhibit the entire value chain of textiles, exhibitions pertaining to handicrafts, garment machinery and ethnic apparel will be held from February 12-15 at the India Expo Centre and Mart Greater Noida, NCR Delhi.

However, Bharat Tex is not just a showcase, it is also a movement to redefine the textile industry through eco-friendly practices, ethical sourcing, and cutting-edge technologies. Bharat Tex 2025 has positioned itself as a transformative platform as it seeks to engage and highlight the cutting-edge issues in sustainability and the measures being taken to address them.

Driving Sustainability: The Core of Bharat Tex 2025

Sustainability is no longer an option for the textile industry, it is a necessity. This is why the twin themes of circularity and sustainability will occupy centre stage at this year's event. Bharat Tex 2025 will provide a platform to unite stakeholders across the value chain, fostering dialogue and action to embed sustainable practices into the industry's core. By focusing on eco-friendly innovations, circular economy models, and ethical sourcing, the event aims to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility.

Evolution of the Indian Textile Industry

India's textile industry has undergone significant transformation, becoming a global leader in textile and garment production. With a projected market size of US$ 350 billion by 2030, up from US$ 176 billion in 2023, the industry is growing at a CAGR of nearly 7.8%.

Despite its impressive expansion, the industry faces increasing pressure to address its environmental footprint, including challenges such as waste generation, water pollution, and reliance on synthetic fibres. A national level sustainability cum ESG task force in Ministry of Textiles is currently consulting all stakeholders to create pathways for a circular and sustainable textile ecosystem in India.

Eco-Friendly Innovations in Textile Production

The heart of Bharat Tex 2025 lies in showcasing groundbreaking innovations that prioritise sustainability at every stage of textile production and shape the future of the global textile industry. Bharat Tex highlights how sustainable practices can help overcome these issues and position India as a responsible global textile leader.

Special pavilions and Exhibitions

o Bharat Tex will showcase cutting-edge innovations in sustainable textiles from eco-friendly textiles to zero-waste design techniques.

o Exhibitors will demonstrate water-efficient dyeing processes, organic cotton farming, and other initiatives aimed at circularity and decarbonisation.

o Exhibitors will showcase initiatives to minimize textile waste, from up cycling scraps into new products to implementing closed-loop manufacturing processes.

o Winners of circular design contests, sustainability hackathons and other innovators to showcase their offerings in a special pavilion

o A showcase of Kasturi Cotton, a new standard in cotton, with a transparently traceable value chain and globally acceptable quality standards

o Showcasing of actual work done by individual industry as well as MSME textile clusters like Panipat, Tirupur and Surat

o Renewable Energy Integration: Exhibitors showcase the adoption of solar and wind power, significantly lowering carbon emissions and energy costs.

o Sustainable Fashion: Bharat Tex showcases innovations in sustainable fashion, from eco-friendly textiles to zero-waste design techniques. Designers and brands present collections that prioritize sustainability without compromising style or quality. These innovations exemplify how the Indian textile industry is embracing sustainable solutions to address its environmental challenges.

These forums empower participants to bridge the gap between sustainability goals and practical implementation.

A Vision for the Future

The Textile Sector's vision for the future aims to ensure that the industry remains competitive while meeting global sustainability standards. Bharat Tex 2025 seeks to both spotlight and amplify that vision. It stands as a transformative platform, shedding the light on India's leadership in sustainable textiles and innovation. With real-world examples of eco-friendly practices and groundbreaking solutions, the event highlights the tangible benefits of adopting sustainability as a core principle.

Multilateral conclaves on sustainability with stakeholders and development partners seek to delve into solutions for the twin challenges of cost and sustainable production while sessions on Global Sustainability Standards, debate upcoming global trends in sustainability along with India's leading innovations in textiles. Bharat Tex also candidly faces the challenges the sector faces- from finance to technology and capital to skills- even as it engages with global best practitioners and seeks solutions.

By promoting trade and investment, inspiring green innovation, and preserving cultural heritage, Bharat Tex 2025, India's largest global textile show shows us the way to a future where economic growth and environmental responsibility can coexist happily.

Year End Review 2024

The Indian Textile and Apparel Industry plays a crucial role in India's economic growth, boosting exports, creating jobs, empowering women and showcasing India's rich heritage and culture.

The industry contributes nearly 2% to the country's GDP, 10% to industrial production, and 8.21 %to India's overall exports. In terms of Global trade, India is the sixth largest exporter of textiles, with a 3.91% share in World Textile exports. The domestic textile and apparel production is approximately US$175.7 billion. Exports accounted for US $ 35.87 bn to the sector (2023-24).

The textile sector is highly labour intensive. Overall the sector provides direct employment to over 45 million people, including a large number of women and the rural population. This makes it the second largest employment generator in the country, next only to agriculture. The sector also has perfect alignment with the Government's overall objectives of Make in India, Skill India, Women's Empowerment, Rural Youth Employment and inclusive growth

COTTON SECTOR:

During the calendar year 2024, the average prices of kapas are hovering at MSP level due to subdued market condition. To support cotton farmers, Cotton corporation of India (CCI) has commenced MSP procurement operations from October 2024 and have already procured around 42.11 lakh bales, valuing Rs. 16,215 crore under MSP Operations upto 22.12.2024.The total production under Cotton is at 1st Position globally. CCI has immensely supported the cotton farmers and with the above procurement under MSP operations have benefitted about 7.75 lakh cotton farmers in all cotton growing States. CCI has taken following initiatives for the benefits of cotton and textile sector:

i. On spot Aadhar authentication (through OTP/ biometric device) based farmer's registration made mandatory.

ii. Launched SMS service for payment to farmers from Cotton Season 2024-25. Once bill generated and payment confirmed, farmers receive notification on their mobile number linked to their Aadhaar.

iii. 100% payment directly in aadhar linked Bank Accounts of cotton farmers through National Automated Clearing House (NACH) to ensure MSP benefits goes to real cotton farmers.

Branding of Cotton: Kasturi Cotton India

Kasturi Cotton India's brand has been registered as a trademark to give a unique identity to Premium Quality Indian Cotton. Further, traceability of Kasturi Cotton would promote responsible sourcing and offer supply chain visibility of Indian cotton to international brands. A separate HSN code for ELS Cotton has also been introduced.

Kasturi Cotton Bharat programme of Ministry of Textiles is a pioneering effort in traceability, certification and branding of Indian cotton. This initiative, collaboration between the Government of India, trade bodies, and industry, was formalized with a budgetary support of Rs. 30 Crore including Rs.15 crores from Trade & Industry Bodies through a MoU signed on 15.12.2022 between CCI on behalf of Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles and TEXPROCIL.

WOOL SECTOR:

For the holistic growth of the Wool Sector, the Ministry of Textiles has formulated a new integrated programme, i.e. Integrated Wool Development Programme, (IWDP) for implementation during the period >>23

<<22

of 15th Finance Commission i.e., from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26 with total financial allocation of Rs. 126 Crore IWDP scheme of MOT is Central Sector Scheme for Development of Wool Sector. Further, the Guidelines of IWDP has been approved by MoT and appointed Central Wool Development Board, Ministry of Textiles as nodal agency for implementation of this scheme in all major wool producing States.

SILK SECTOR:

The annual Raw silk production has increased to 38,913 MT during 2023-24 from 26,480 MT in 2013-14. Raw silk production in NE States increased to 7,670 MT in 2023-24 from 4,601 MT in 2013-14. The production of 3A-4A grade import substitute Bivoltine raw silk has increased to 9,675 MT (2023-24) from 2,559 MT (2013-14). The total production under Silk is at 2nd position globally. International Grade quality Silk production through ARM increased from 25 % to 35%. Raw silk yield per hectare has increased to 110 kg during 2023-24 as compared to 95.93 kg during 2013-14. Estimated employment generation increased to 94.80 lakh persons during 2023-24 from 78.50 lakh persons during 2013-14.

HANDLOOM SECTOR:

As per Handloom Census 2019-20, there are 35.22 lakh handloom workers across the country, out of which more than 72% are women. Assistance worth Rs. 46.44 Crore released for 51clusters covering 12001 beneficiaries under Small Cluster Development Programme (SCDP). Assistance worth Rs. 17.55 Crore released for 133 marketing events. 4818 beneficiaries have been provided loans under MUDRA Scheme. 34,240 beneficiaries enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan JyotiBimaYojanaandPradhanMantri Suraksha BimaYojana. Total 203.778 lakh kg of yarn supplied under Transport Subsidy & Price Subsidy under Raw Material Supply Scheme.The soft launch of the E-Commerce portal viz. indiahandmade.com on 22.04.2023 with approx. 1000 products and 556 sellers. As on 05.12.2024 the no. of products uploaded is 9,453 with 1,722 sellers.

Handicrafts Sector

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is implementing the following two schemes for promotion and development of handicraft sector through 67 Handicraft Service Centre (HSCs) segmented in 6 Regional offices.

1. National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP)- Rs. 837 Cr budget approved for >>24

<<23

the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.

2. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)- Rs. 142.50 Cr budget approved for the period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.

3. The handicrafts sector plays a significant role in the country's economy. It provides employment to a vast segment of craft persons in rural & semi urban preserving our rich cultural heritage.

4. Total 32.03 lakh artisans have been mobilized under"Pahchan" initiative by the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles,out of which 9.56 lakhs are male artisans and 20 lakhs are female artisans.

5. During the FY 2023-24, 2325 events have been sanctioned under NHDP scheme including 786 domestic& international marketing events, 674 skilling events and other different interventions benefitting 66775 artisans.

PM MITRA:

- The Government has approved setting up of 7 (Seven) PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/Brownfield sites with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4445 cr for a period of seven years upto 2027-28. The Government has finalised 7 sites viz. Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navsari), Karnataka (Kalaburagi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Maharashtra (Amravati) for setting up PM MITRA Parks.
- So far investment MoUs with expected investment potential of over Rs. 18,500/- crore have been signed. 100% land acquired and handed over to SPV. Post approval of sites by the Government, the selected States/SPVs have started activities to provide infrastructural facilities like water, power and road till the park gate. Environment Clearance is available to PM MITRA sites in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana. The foundation stone of the PM MITRA Park Amravati Maharashtra was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in September 2024.

NIFT:

The foundation stone of 19th NIFT Campus at Varanasi was laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 23rd February, 2024. NIFT, Varanasi campus initially with three UG programmes has commenced functioning w.e.f. 29th July 2024 and is the first NIFT campus to offer UG Course in Fashion Interiors. Hon'ble Minister of Textiles launched VisionjNXT, India's first ever trend insights and forecasting lab on 5th September, 2024.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION (NTTM):

- With a view to boost Technical Textiles in the country, National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) was created for a period from 2020-21 to 2025-26 with a fund outlay of Rs.1480 crore. The key pillars of NTTM include 'Research Innovation & Development', 'Promotion and Market Development', 'Education, Training and Skilling' and 'Export Promotion'. The focus of the Mission is for developing usage of technical textiles in various flagship missions, programmes of the country including strategic sectors. Achievement as on date is 168 projects of value Rs. 509 crores (approx.) have been approved in the category of Specialty fibers and Technical Textiles.
- To ensure quality for both domestic consumption as well as imports, the Ministry has issued 68 Quality Control Order (QCOs) in various segments, namely, 20 Geo-tech, 12 Protective Textiles items, 20 Agro Textiles items, 6 Medical Textiles items, 09 items under Ropes & Cordages and 01 item under Indutech textiles. More than 600 BIS standards have been developed for Technical Textiles till date including 200+ standards for Technical Textiles since the inception of NTTM.
- The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) [now MATEXIL] has been assigned the role of the Export Promotion Council for promotion of Technical Textiles.
- General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles- for Private & Public Institutes have been issued under NTTM in consultation with line Ministries. 38 such proposals worth Rs. 191 Crores are approved under the ibid guidelines for up gradation of lab facilities and training of faculty towards developing eco-system in technical textiles. Under the General Guidelines for Grant for Internship Support in Technical Textiles (GIST) incentive upto INR 20,000 per student per month is given to bachelors and master students as interns through empanelled companies. 16 companies/TRAs have been empanelled for providing Internships.

TEXTILES TRADE PROMOTION (TTP):

Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL): On 7th March 2019, Government has approved Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme to rebate all embedded State and Central taxes/levies on export of Apparel/Garments and Made-ups to enhance competitiveness of these sectors. Further, in order to make textiles products cost competitive, the Union Cabinet has given its approval for continuation of RoSCTL on exports of Apparel/Garments (Chapter-61 & 62) and Made-ups (Chapter-63) till 31st March 2026. Further, textiles products not covered under the RoSCTL are covered under Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) along with other products.

CITI Highlights Resilience of India's Textile & Apparel Sector

According to estimates released by the Department of Commerce, India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record high of US$ 37.84 billion in November 2024. The surge reflects the twin challenges of a global economic slowdown and rising imports. Amidst these headwinds, India's Textile and Apparel (T&A) sector demonstrated remarkable resilience, registering an export growth of 5.81% compared to last year.

Shri Rakesh Mehra, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), commended the sector's consistent performance despite challenging global dynamics. He said, "The T&A sector has shown encouraging progress this year, particularly with strong export growth recorded in October 2024. However, November brought challenges due to ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainties impacting global trade flows. The rising imports of textile products and apparel also call for a renewed focus on India's cost competitiveness."

While acknowledging these hurdles, Shri Mehra was optimistic about the sector's prospects in the coming months. He underscored the importance of government support in strengthening India's competitive edge, particularly as global competition intensifies.

"The upcoming expiry of the RoDTEP scheme for AA/SEZ and EoU units on 31st December 2024 is a matter of concern. A timely extension of this scheme, in alignment with DTA units, would help address cost challenges and sustain export growth momentum," he stated. CITI remains confident in the government's proactive approach and anticipates an extension of the RoDTEP scheme to support AA/SEZ and EoU units. With continued policy backing, Indian T&A products can maintain their competitive edge in global markets and foster sustained sectoral growth.

Start-Ups in the field of Technical Textiles

Secretary, Ministry of Textiles chaired the 09th Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) meeting under the National Technical Textiles Mission. The committee has approved 02 Start-Ups with a grant of approx. INR 50 Lakhs, each, under the 'Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)' scheme. The committee has also approved a grant of approx. INR 14 Cr. to 06 Education Institutes to introduce courses in Technical Textiles under the 'General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles'.

The approved Start-Up projects are focused on key strategic areas of Sustainable Textiles and Medical Textiles. The approved Education Institutes have proposed to introduce new B.Tech courses in different fields and applications of technical textiles including Medical Textile, Mobile Textiles, Geotextiles, Geosynthetics, etc.

I N D I A....

SAMARTH:

- The Government with a view to enhance the skills of the workforce in the textile sector has formulated Samarth Scheme under a broad skilling policy framework with the objective of providing opportunity for sustainable livelihood. With the recommendations of the SFC in its meeting held on 30.09.2024, and approval of the same by the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, the scheme has been extended for the period FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26 with outlay of Rs. 495 Cr. To train 3 Lakh persons.
- The scheme aims to provide demand driven and placement oriented National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organised textile sector and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles excluding spinning & weaving and in addition it also provides skilling and skill-upgradation in the traditional textile sectors.
- The skilling programme under the scheme is implemented through Implementing Partners (IPs) comprising Textile Industry/Industry Associations, State Government agencies and Sectoral Organizations of Ministry of Textiles. Under the Scheme 191 implementing partners are working in entry level training programme and upskilling training programme. As on 30.12.2024, more than 3.54 lakh beneficiaries have been trained under Samarth, out of which 2.79 lakh beneficiaries has been provided placement.

BharatTex

A Global Textile Expo, Bharat Tex 2024, was successfully organized first time during 26th – 29th February, 2024 by the consortium of Textiles Export Promotion Councils with the support of this Ministry. The Indian Global event successfully demonstrated to the world the formidable strength of the Indian Textiles Sector and highlighted the latest advancements, innovations, and trends in the Textiles and Fashion Industry. It created a platform for networking opportunities and fostering valuable business collaborations between Indian and international business houses as well as amongst Indian players of different segments of Textile value chain. After successful completion of Bharat Tex 2024, it is decided to organize second edition i.e. BHARAT TEX 2025, a global textile mega event on similar pattern by a consortium of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils (TEPCs) and supported by the Ministry of Textiles scheduled to be held from 14th to 17th February, 2025 at ITPO (Bharat Mandapam), PragatiMaidan and India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida from 12-15 February, 2025. It is planned to promote Bharat Tex as a Mega Event for textile sector and established it in the calendar of internationals events.

Key initiatives during the Government's first 100 daysf formation in 2024 include:

Handloom and Handicrafts: Launch of the Bunkar&KarigarUtthan Programme for skill development of 3,627 artisans and weavers across 100 clusters; celebration of the 10th National Handloom Day; development projects like Craft Tourism Villages and Common Facility Centers for artisans in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and J&K.

Silk Sector: Launch of the Eri Silk Project in Gujarat and Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Central Silk Board, showcasing advancements in sericulture and silk production.Jute Sector: A new pricing methodology for jute sacking bags to benefit workers and farmers, promoting modernization and environmental sustainability.

Technical Textiles: International Conference on Technical Textiles, launch of 11 Startups under NTTM, and introduction of VisioNxt, India's first AI-based fashion trend forecasting system.

Infrastructure Development: Foundation of PM MITRA Park in Maharashtra, aiming to position India as a global textile hub. Mega Events: Curtain-raiser for Bharat Tex 2025, a global textile event to attract international investments and buyers.

India's share of global trade in textiles and apparel stands at 3.9%

India is the 6th largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel in the world in 2023. The share of textile and apparel (T&A) including handicrafts in India's total exports stands at a significant 8.21% in 2023-24. Our country has a share of 3.9% of the global trade in textiles and apparel. Major textile and apparel export destinations for India are USA and EU and with around 47% share in total textile and apparel exports. India is a major textile and apparel exporting country and enjoys trade surplus. Bulk of import takes place for re-export or for industry requirement of raw material.

It is noteworthy that export is a function of demand and supply and depends on factors such as global demand, internal consumption and demand, order flow, logistics etc. Exports also gets affected by many geopolitical situations (such as red sea crisis, Bangladesh crisis etc.). Export in FY 2024 was initially low mainly due to the geopolitical crises around red sea, which affected export movement during January, February and March 2024.

Export of Textile & Apparel Including Handicrafts (Apr-Oct)(Value in USD Million)

Commodity	Oct-23	Oct-24	% Change	Apr-Oct 2023	Apr-Oct 2024	% Change
Readymade Garment	909	1227	35%	7,825	8,733	12%
Cotton Textiles	1005	1049	4%	7,014	7,082	1%
Man-made textiles	414	474	14%	2,958	3,105	5%
Wool & Woolen textiles	16	14	-11%	117	95	-19%
Silk Products	13	14	5%	70	98	40%
Handloom Products	12	13	4%	89	84	-6%
Carpets	126	147	17%	795	893	12%
Jute Products	25	36	44%	218	220	1%
Total Textile & Apparel	**2,520**	**2,974**	**18%**	**19,087**	**20,309**	**6%**

The overall export of Textiles & Apparel (incl. handicrafts) marked a growth of 7% during April-October period of FY 2024-25 ($ 21,358 Mn) compared to same period of FY 2023-24 ($ 20,007 Mn).

Ready Made Garments (RMG) category with export of $ 8,733 Mn has the largest share (41%) in the total exports ($ 21,358 Mn) during the period of April-October of FY 2024-25, followed by Cotton Textiles (33%, $ 7,082 Mn), Man- Made Textiles (15%, $ 3,105 Mn).

Growth of exports is observed in all principal commodities during the period of April-October of FY 2024-25 compared to corresponding period of FY 2023-24, except wool and handloom which decline by 19% and 6% respectively.

Import of Textile & Apparel Including Handicrafts (Apr-Oct) (Value in USD Million)

Commodity	Oct-23	Oct-24	% Change	Apr-Oct 2023	Apr-Oct 2024	% Change
Readymade Garment	162	183	13%	934	951	2%
Cotton Textiles	209	310	48%	1,529	1,721	13%
Man-made textiles	342	297	-13%	2,127	1,859	-13%
Wool & Woolen textiles	30	28	-8%	219	197	-10%
Silk Products	15	16	5%	130	102	-21%
Handloom Products	0	0	34%	1	1	56%
Carpets	4	4	0%	19	21	12%
Jute Products	20	24	20%	179	151	-16%
Total Textile & Apparel	**783**	**861**	**10%**	**5,138**	**5,004**	**-3%**
Handicrafts	34	44	29%	326	421	29%
Total T&A including Handicrafts	**817**	**905**	**11%**	**5,464**	**5,425**	**-1%**

Import of textiles and apparel products by India during FY 2023-24 ($ 8,946 Mn) has decreased by approximately 15% in comparison to FY 2022-23 ($10,481 Mn).

The overall import of Textiles & Apparel (incl. handicrafts) decline 1% during April-October period of FY 2024-25 ($ 5,425 Mn) compared to same period of FY 2023-24 ($ 5,464 Mn)Man-made Textiles category with import of $1859 Mn has the largest share (34%) in the total imports ($ 5,425 Mn) during the period of April-October of FY 2024-25, as there is demand supply gap in this sector.

Growth of imports is observed majorly in Cotton Textiles mainly on account of import of long staple cotton fibre and such trends of import indicates towards an increase in production capacity of the country amidst rising consumption and self-reliance.

Extended deadlines for implementation of Medical Textile Quality Control Order

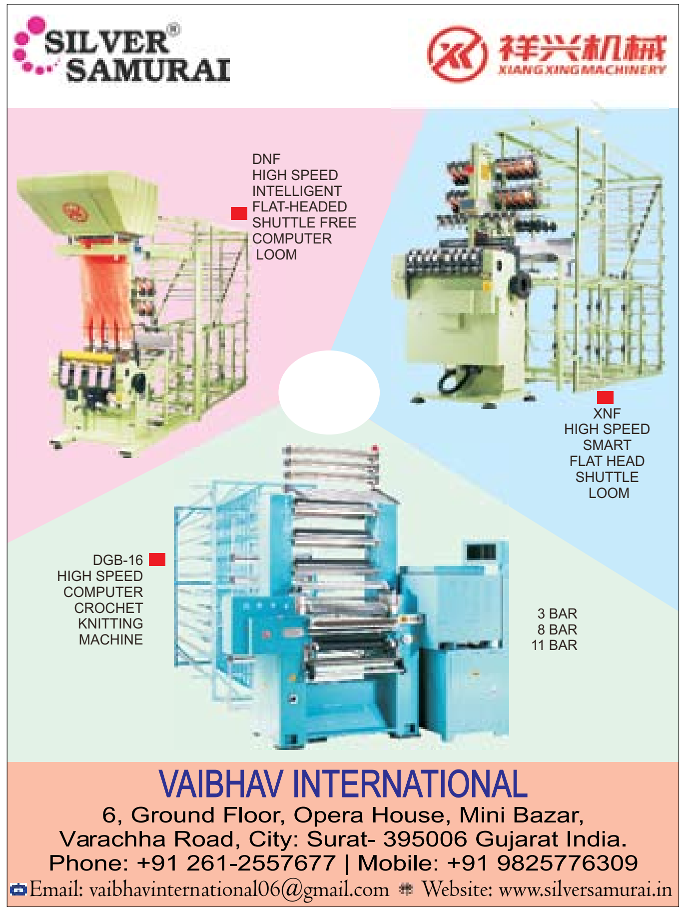
The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, had issued Quality Control Order (QCO) for medical textiles, Medical Textiles (Quality Control) Order, 2024, to ensure safety and efficacy of critical products covered under this segment. The order sets stringent quality standards, including testing protocols and labelling requirements for these products.

In recognition of the unique challenges faced by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the Ministry has granted an additional extension in the timeline to comply with the ibid QCO i.e. upto 1st April 2025 (to the SME industry), specifically for 03 items under Schedule A of the said order, namely Sanitary napkins, Baby Diaper and Reusable Sanitary Pad/Sanitary Napkin/Period Panties. This concession will enable SMEs to adapt to the new regulations without compromising their business operations.

Further to facilitate a smooth transition, manufacturers and importers have been granted a timeframe of 6-month i.e. upto 30th June 2025, as a transition period to clear their existing legacy stock. This provision will enable the industry to adjust to the new quality standards without significant disruption.

These measures aim to improve safety, enhance efficacy, and increase confidence among healthcare industry and the end consumer. The Ministry of Textiles is committed to supporting the industry's transition to the quality standards.


SILVER® SAMURAI
SHING LING.
SINCE 1989
东宏
DONGHONG
HIGH SPEED ZIPPER COIL FORMING MACHINE
SHINGLING ZIPPER SEWING MACHINE
VAIBHAV INTERNATIONAL
6, Ground Floor, Opera House, Mini Bazar,
Varachha Road, City: Surat- 395006 Gujarat India.
Phone: +91 261-2557677 | Mobile: +91 9825776309
Email: vaibhavinternational06@gmail.com
Website: www.silversamurai.in


SILVER® SAMURAI
祥兴机械
XIANG XING MACHINERY
DNF
HIGH SPEED
INTELLIGENT
FLAT-HEADED
SHUTTLE FREE
COMPUTER
LOOM
XNF
HIGH SPEED
SMART
FLAT HEAD
SHUTTLE
LOOM
DGB-16
HIGH SPEED
COMPUTER
CROCHET
KNITTING
MACHINE
3 BAR
8 BAR
11 BAR
VAIBHAV INTERNATIONAL
6, Ground Floor, Opera House, Mini Bazar,
Varachha Road, City: Surat- 395006 Gujarat India.
Phone: +91 261-2557677 | Mobile: +91 9825776309
Email: vaibhavinternational06@gmail.com
Website: www.silversamurai.in


SILVER® SAMURAI
WENLI
JIAYI
嘉益
浙江嘉益机械有限公司
ZHEJIANG JIAYI MACHINERY CO.,LTD.
High Speed without Shuttle Needle Loom Machine
JYW-8/60B
JYW-16/20B
JYF-10/30D
JYF-4/60D
JYZ-10/27
JYF-8/45D
JYW-10/45-384
Crochet Knitting Machine
Cord Knitting Machine
Braiding Machine
Rubber Warping Machine
Warping Machine
Sample Warping Machine
VAIBHAV INTERNATIONAL
6, Ground Floor, Opera House, Mini Bazar, Varachha Road, City: Surat- 395006 Gujarat India.
Phone: +91 261-2557677 | Mobile: +91 9825776309
Email: vaibhavinternational06@gmail.com
Website: www.silversamurai.in

SOME OF OUR EXHIBITORS AND BRANDS

...adding more!

C-17, 2ND FLOOR, DDA SHEDS, OKHLA INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-I, NEW DELHI - 110020, INDIA
+91 11 41601663 | info@garmenttechnologyexpo.com | www.garmenttechnologyexpo.com

Indian Textile Industry Calls for Budget Reforms to Boost Competitiveness

As the Union Budget 2025-26 approaches, the Indian textile and apparel industry has put forth significant demands, seeking reforms to bolster its competitiveness on the global stage. A central focus is on ensuring the availability of raw materials at internationally competitive prices, a point underscored in the industry's pre-budget memorandum. The disparity between domestic and international prices has been a persistent challenge.

The industry body points out that major competitors, such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, enjoy unfettered access to essential raw materials. Meanwhile, India's imposition of Quality Control Orders (QCO) on MMF fibre and yarn acts as a non-tariff barrier, constraining imports and affecting the local price landscape. The sector is urging the government to eliminate import duties on various cotton fibre varieties to ease these pressures.

Specialised cotton types like organic and contamination-free cotton, which India currently imports due to lack of domestic availability, face hurdles due to import duties ostensibly aimed at protecting local farmers but negatively impacting the cotton textile value chain. Additionally, the industry has suggested implementing a Cotton Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme, proposing measures such as interest subvention and extended credit limit periods to mitigate the challenges of price volatility, thus enabling better planning and production efficiency for textile mills.

CITI calls for DBT scheme in cotton procurement

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is expected to acquire approximately 25–35 per cent of the cotton produced this season, as it purchases between 50–70 per cent of the daily cotton arrivals. This surge in procurement is attributed to open market prices falling below the minimum support price (MSP).

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), the country's leading industry body, has urged the government to replace the current procurement system with a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme. This demand features prominently in CITI's recommendations for the Union Budget for the 2025–26 fiscal. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the budget on February 1, 2025.

CITI noted that the government annually announces an MSP for cotton. When market prices drop below the MSP, the CCI intervenes to purchase cotton directly from farmers at the MSP rate. After procurement, CCI stores the cotton in warehouses and sells it in the open market or through auctions.

However, CITI has proposed a DBT scheme where farmers can sell their cotton at prevailing market prices. If the selling price falls below the MSP, the difference would be directly transferred to the farmer's bank account.

This scheme would provide more liquidity to cotton farmers, enabling them to sell their produce without waiting for government procurement. Additionally, it would reduce the financial burden and storage costs for CCI, benefitting all stakeholders.

CCI has already purchased around 55 lakh bales of cotton this season, with total procurement expected to reach 100 lakh bales. This would account for over 35 per cent of the estimated output of 302 lakh bales (170 kg each). Mills are facing challenges in sourcing cotton from the open market due to CCI's aggressive buying and may encounter greater difficulties as arrivals decline, leaving CCI as the largest stockholder.

CITI also requested that the government, through CCI, ensure sufficient availability of cotton at globally competitive prices. Currently, domestic cotton prices are higher than international prices. If CCI incurs losses, the government should compensate it through subsidies, similar to those provided for other commodities.

CITI has also called for support through a Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme to ensure the industry has access to raw materials at reasonable prices. Currently, textile mills can secure working capital from banks for only three months. Consequently, mills typically procure three months' worth of cotton stock at the start of the season when prices are generally lower. For the remaining months, mills rely on traders and CCI, whose prices fluctuate based on market conditions. This uncertainty makes it challenging for mills to plan their production schedules effectively.

To address the issue of price volatility, the government could consider implementing a Cotton Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme. Under this scheme, mills should receive a 5 per cent interest subvention or loans at NABARD rates, recognising cotton as an agricultural commodity. Additionally, banks should extend the credit limit period for cotton procurement from three months to eight months, with a reduced margin money requirement from 25 per cent to 10 per cent.

This scheme would enable the industry to procure raw materials at competitive market rates at the beginning of the season and shield mills from price fluctuations during the off-season, facilitating better production planning and stability.

GST collection jumps 7.3% YoY to Rs 1.77 lakh crore in December

India's goods and services tax (GST) collections for December 2024 reached Rs. 1.77 trillion (US$ 20.70 billion), marking a 7.3% increase from December 2023 and the tenth consecutive month of collections exceeding Rs. 1.7 trillion (US$ 19.89 billion).

The latest numbers indicate a steady growth in GST revenues but reflect a slowdown in consumption and a rise in refunds issued during the month. Experts suggest that the subdued growth could be due to a post-festive season slump, with expectations of a rebound in the March quarter.

The total gross GST revenue for December was split across the following categories:

- Central GST (CGST): Rs 32,836 crore
- State GST (SGST): Rs 40,499 crore
- Integrated GST (IGST): Rs 47,783 crore (including Rs 18,310 crore collected on imports)
- Cess: Rs 11,471 crore (including Rs 1,258 crore collected on imports)

Domestic transactions contributed Rs. 1.32 trillion (US$ 15.44 billion), an 8.4% YoY growth, while GST from imports rose by 4% to Rs. 44,268 crore (US$ 5.18 billion). However, the December figure fell short of the Rs. 2.1 trillion (US$ 24.56 billion) peak in April 2024, and the Rs. 1.82 trillion (US$ 21.29 billion) collected in November 2024. Refunds issued in December totaled Rs. 22,490 crore (US$ 2.63 billion), a 31% YoY rise, with net GST collections increasing by 3.3% to Rs. 1.54 trillion (US$ 18.01 billion).

November 2024: GST collections stood at Rs 1.82 lakh crore, reflecting an 8.5% YoY growth.

October 2024: The mop-up reached Rs 1.87 lakh crore, marking a 9% YoY increase and the second-highest collection on record.

April 2024: The highest-ever monthly GST collection was recorded at Rs 2.10 lakh crore.

Refunds issued during December rose sharply by 31% to Rs 22,490 crore, compared to Rs 19,259 crore issued in the same month a year ago. The increase in refunds is likely to have impacted net GST collections.

The steady rise in GST revenues indicates improved economic performance despite broader challenges, as India's GDP growth slowed to 5.4% in the second quarter of the financial year, the lowest in seven quarters.

Budget 2025-26: CII calls for cut in excise duty on fuel, consumption vouchers to stir demand

Industry body CII in budget suggestions for 2025-26 has recommended lowering the excise duty on fuel to boost consumption, especially at the lower income level, arguing that fuel prices significantly drive inflation. The budget could also consider reducing marginal tax rates for personal income up to Rs 20 lakh per annum. This would help trigger the virtuous cycle of consumption, higher growth and higher tax revenue, said CII.

Asserting that the gap between the highest marginal rate for individuals at 42.74 per cent and the normal Corporate Tax Rate at 25.17 per cent, is high, it said, inflation has reduced the buying power of lower and middle-income earners.

"The central excise duty alone accounts for approximately 21 per cent of the retail price for petrol and 18 per cent for diesel. Since May 2022, these duties have not been adjusted in line with the approximately 40 per cent decrease in global crude prices. Lowering excise duty on fuel would help reduce overall inflation and increase disposable incomes," the industry body said.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, said domestic consumption has been critical to India's growth story, but inflationary pressures have somewhat eroded the purchasing power of consumers.

"Government interventions could focus on enhancing disposable incomes and stimulating spending to sustain economic momentum. Persistent food inflationary pressures particularly impinge upon low-income rural households who allocate larger share to food in their consumption basket", he added.

According to him, while recent quarters have shown promising signs of recovery in rural consumption, targeted government interventions, such as increasing per unit benefit under its key schemes like MGNREGS, PM-KISAN and PMAY, and providing consumption vouchers to low-income households, can further enhance the rural recovery. In its pre-budget proposals, CII has also recommended an increase in the daily minimum wage under the MGNREGS from Rs 267 to Rs 375 as suggested by the 'Expert Committee on Fixing National Minimum Wage' in 2017, with the industry body estimating that this will entail an additional expenditure of Rs 42,000 crore. Further, it urged the government to raise the annual payout under the PM-KISAN scheme from Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000. Assuming 10 crore beneficiaries, this will entail an additional expenditure of Rs 20,000 crore, CII said.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) also sought an increase in the unit costs under the PMAY-G and PMAY-U schemes, which have not been revised since the scheme's inception. The CII suggested the introduction of consumption vouchers, targeted at low-income groups to stimulate demand for specified goods and services over a designated period. The vouchers could be designed to be spent on designated items (specific goods and services) and could be valid for a designated time (like 6-8 months), to ensure spending. The beneficiary criteria can be defined as Jan-Dhan account holders who are not beneficiaries of other welfare schemes.

SASMIRA Launches Agro-Textile Center to Aid Indian Farmers

The Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA) launched Climate Smart Agro-Textile Demonstration Center in Navsari, Gujarat, in the presence of Shri C.R. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India. This demonstration center represents a significant step forward in promoting the adoption of Agro-Textiles as transformative solutions for India's agricultural sector. These are designed to educate and empower farmers, features live demonstrations of Agro-Textile products, their applications, and practical training modules to help integrate these innovations into daily farming practices. Spread across 15,000 sq. meters, the center will be maintained by SASMIRA for three years, covering eight crop cycles. The facility includes live applications of Agro-Textile technologies such as Shade nets (par-perfect, photo-selective, and vertical farming applications), Medicinal nurseries, Vermicomposting under shade nets, Ground covers (natural and HDPE), Pond liners and crop covers.

Shri C.R. Patil, in his inaugural address, emphasised the critical role of Agro-Textiles in improving crop productivity, conserving resources, and enabling sustainable farming. He urged farmers to visit the demonstration center and integrate Agro-Textile technologies into their practices for enhanced agricultural outcomes.This initiative aligns with the Ministry's vision of promoting technical textiles under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) and advancing India's agriculture sector towards sustainable and innovative solutions. The demonstration center is equipped with IoT-based monitoring systems to track real-time conditions, crop yield, and growth performance. Additionally, the center will host approved seminars at regular intervals to educate farmers and stakeholders.

Shri Raghavjibhai Patel, Cabinet Minister of Agriculture, assured full state support for the initiative and suggested organizing meetings with state governments to expand the adoption of Agro-Textiles. Dr. Z.P. Patel, Vice Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, expressed his enthusiasm for the demonstration center's potential to bridges the gap between academia and real-world farming, equipping farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to increase productivity while conserving resources. Shri Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textile highlighted the Ministry's commitment to encouraging the adoption of technical textiles in agriculture.

Textile Ministry hosts interaction for sustainable textile exports

An industrial interaction at Udyog Bhawan saw Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh, engaging with key industry leaders. Dr. Romesh Khajuria, Chairman of the Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC), presented the potential of alternative and allied fibers to significantly boost India's textile exports. A key focus was the blending of hemp and wool, a textile combination gaining global attention for its eco-friendliness and sustainability. Experts discussed the growing demand for these materials worldwide. Dr. Khajuria highlighted this initiative as a step toward making India a global leader in sustainable textiles.

Dr. Khajuria supported proposals to establish Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with South Korean delegates. These partnerships aim to facilitate knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and investment. The agreement includes a buy-back arrangement for hemp-based products and advanced textile technologies, offering significant opportunities for India's textile sector.

The event brought together prominent figures from the industry. Participants included Karan Sarsar, Founder & CEO of Awega Green Technologies LLP; Shripat Jagirdar, Founder & CEO of Weaving Vibes; Shridhar Jagirdar, Founder & CEO of Karishma Exports; and Kanika Sood, an agriculturist at Humans of Hemp.

MPIDC named as master developer for upcoming PM MITRA park

The central government has named the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC) as the master developer for its upcoming Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

"Our goal is to transform PM MITRA Park into a cutting-edge centre that supports the textile sector and generates employment for residents," said the MPIDC's executive director Rajesh Rathod, Apparel Resources reported. The upcoming PM MITRA Park is located in Bhainsola village on a land parcel measuring approximately 1,563 acres. Following the appointment, the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation will oversee the PM MITRA Park's master planning and design during construction as well as its management and upkeep upon completion. The creation of the facility represents a significant step in the government's plan to launch seven large scale textile hubs across the country to increase domestic textile production.

The construction of the Madhya Pradesh PM MITRA Park has already begun and road construction, water supply, and electricity supply work is currently under way. The project is being undertaken through a Special Purpose Vehicle which sees the central government control a 49% stake and the Madhya Pradesh state government control a 51% stake. The facility will be a hub for the textile and apparel industry and will also include labs, training areas, and exhibition spaces.

Loop Industries expands recycling technology to Europe and India

Loop Industries, a technology company dedicated to advancing a sustainable plastics economy, has raised €10 million through a convertible preferred security agreement with Reed Societe Generale Group, an investment entity under Societe Generale bank.

In addition to the financing, Loop has sold its first Infinite Loop technology license to Reed Societe Generale Group for an upfront payment of €10 million. Additional milestone-based payments are also included in the deal. This collaboration is part of Loop's strategy to commercialise its recycling technology in Europe and fund investments in regions with lower production costs, such as India, where it is building an Infinite Loop facility in partnership with Ester Industries. The Indian venture will focus on producing recycled rDMT and rMEG materials.

The European partnership established under this licensing agreement will be 90% owned by Reed Societe Generale Group and 10% by Loop. While Loop retains the option to increase its stake up to 50%, the current license is for a single facility, with additional licenses required for future expansions.

Loop's recycling technology, operational at its Terrebonne plant for four years, produces PET resin for packaging and polyester fiber for clothing. By licensing its technology, Loop aims to meet global demand in regions where it does not plan to establish its own facilities, driving growth without overstretching resources.

Cotecna launches advanced testing laboratory in Tirupur

Cotecna has officially opened its new Softlines Testing Laboratory in Tirupur. The inauguration was led by Amit Chopra, CEO for South Asia and the Middle East, along with Nalin Singla, Regional Director, and Sumit Singh, Director of Agriculture and Verification of Conformity (VOC).

The newly launched laboratory is equipped with modern technology and tools to provide a wide range of services to the textile and garment industries. These services include material testing, quality assurance, and certification.

Amit Chopra shared that the Tirupur facility is well-prepared to assist manufacturers in meeting both local and global quality standards. The laboratory aims to ensure top-notch quality in every product it tests.

Cotecna CPS, previously known as Geochem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., has a strong background in offering testing and inspection services across various sectors. These include toys, textiles, garments, leather, footwear, hardlines, and analytical inspections.

India launches an anti-dumping investigation into NFY imports

A recent anti-dumping inquiry against imports of nylon filament yarn (NFY) from China and Vietnam was started by India's Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

According to a DGTR letter, the decision comes after Century Enka Private Limited, Gujarat Polyfilms Private Limited, and Oriilon India Private Limited requested such an investigation, alleging that the local sector has suffered significant harm as a result of the dumping of this product from these two nations.

According to the applicants, in terms of technical specifications, physical and chemical characteristics, manufacturing process and technology, functions and uses, pricing, distribution and marketing, and tariff classification, the products exported from the two nations are identical to those produced by the domestic industry. Both technically and commercially, the two can be used interchangeably.

Uniqlo Partners with India to Enhance Textile and Cotton Sector

The Hon'ble Minister of Textiles held a pivotal meeting with senior officials from Uniqlo, facilitated through Invest India, reaffirming the shared commitment to strengthening India's textile sector. This engagement follows Uniqlo's earlier interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, highlighting their keen interest in collaborating with India's textile industry to enhance cotton production capabilities, productivity, and quality. This meeting underscores the synergy between Uniqlo's vision and India's goal of fostering a globally competitive and sustainable textile sector.

With 15 stores across the country and a retail revenue of ₹814 crore as of March 31, 2024, Uniqlo has demonstrated a robust growth rate of 30%, contributing substantially to the retail and textile ecosystem in India. Their operations, including collaboration with 18 swing factories and 6 fabric mills sourced from 9 vendors, underline their commitment to quality and innovation in textiles.

Uniqlo has expressed a keen interest in advancing cotton production capabilities, productivity, and quality within India. As the world's largest cotton producer, cultivating over 11.9 million hectares, India provides an ideal landscape for such initiatives. India already utilizing high-density quality seeds in Akola where productivity levels are up to 1,500 kg/hectare. The company's pilot project is also working on similar lines where the productivity and quality levels are yielding up to 1,000 kg/hectare. The Ministry is committed to supporting Uniqlo's request for land to scale this initiative, reflecting a shared vision of making India a global hub for high-quality cotton sourcing.

In alignment with India's textile growth targets, reaching a market size of $350 billion and $100 billion in exports by 2030, the Ministry has extended an invitation to Uniqlo to invest in the Prime Minister's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks. These parks offer a ready-to-perform ecosystem with a Build-to-Suit model, ensuring seamless integration for companies seeking sustainable and efficient operations.

Uniqlo's participation in the upcoming "Bharat Tex" Global Textile Expo in February will further underscore the shared commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and traceability in the textile sector. With global attention focused on sustainable and traceable practices, the Ministry has encouraged Uniqlo to extend its research and development efforts into new natural fibers, including milkweed fiber aligning with India's own initiatives in this critical area.

The Ministry remains confident that this partnership will bolster India's end-to-end textile value chain, strengthen the women-led economy, and elevate India's position as a global textile leader.

Doodlage launches fashion collection with plastic bottles

Sustainable fashion pioneer Doodlage has introduced an eco-friendly breakthrough by transforming plastic bottles into stylish apparel. The brand's latest collection, "Cara Top", is crafted from recycled Poly Chiffon, aligning with its commitment to environmental sustainability.

Each top in the collection utilizes approximately 10 plastic bottles, converting waste into fashionable, eco-conscious designs. According to Doodlage, 1 kilogram of recycled Poly Chiffon can produce 6.45 meters of fabric, showcasing an innovative approach to waste reduction.

Doodlage announced the launch on its social media platforms, emphasizing the stylish yet sustainable nature of the collection. Founder Kriti Tula stressed the importance of consumer education to drive awareness about the environmental impact of fashion. "Educating consumers can inspire responsible consumption and catalyze positive change," she stated in an interview with Fashion Network.

Since its inception in 2013, Doodlage has been a leader in sustainable fashion, combining style and sustainability to redefine industry norms. The brand continues to inspire consumers to make conscious fashion choices, proving that sustainability and innovation can coexist in modern design.

Indian Oil approves investment plan for Odisha yarn project

Indian Oil has approved its investment in a proposed yarn project set to be established in the state as part of a joint venture with leading chemical company MCPI.

The board of the central public sector enterprise has sanctioned an investment of Rs 6.57 billion for the yarn project in the Bhandaripokhari textile park in Bhadrak district. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs 43.82 billion.In its filing to the National Stock Exchange, IndianOil stated that the board had approved the project, which includes a 900-tonne per day continuous polymerisation plant, with downstream units for draw textured yarn, fully drawn yarn, polyester chip, and other associated facilities in Bhadrak. The project will be carried out through a joint venture with MCPI, with IndianOil contributing Rs 6.57 billion in equity.Last year, the state government had given approval for IndianOil's project to set up a polyester products manufacturing unit in the Bhandaripokhari textile park. The project is expected to create employment for approximately 4,300 people.

Mohan Majhi, Chief Minister, expressed his gratitude to IndianOil for approving the yarn project, stating that the joint venture with MCPI would significantly boost Odisha's economy and generate substantial employment opportunities. In response to the Chief Minister's post, IndianOil Chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney expressed his appreciation for the support extended by the Chief Minister in driving this transformative initiative. He noted that IndianOil's Rs 43.82 billion yarn project in Bhadrak, in collaboration with MCPI, would play a key role in accelerating Odisha's growth.

NITMA Elects New Office Bearers

The Northern India Textile Mills Association (NITMA) has announced its new office bearers following elections held during its 67th annual general meeting on December 21, 2024.Sidharth Khanna, Director of Arisudana Industries Ltd, has been elected President. Joining him are Munish Avasthi, CMD of Sportking India, as Senior Vice President, and Ujjwal Garg, Director of Garg Acrylics Ltd, as Vice President.In his inaugural address, Khanna expressed gratitude to the outgoing office bearers, Sanjay Garg and Mukesh Tyagi, for their contributions to the association. He also welcomed the new leadership team, emphasizing their diverse expertise and commitment to advancing NITMA's mission."I am deeply honored to serve as President of NITMA and look forward to working with my colleagues to support our members and drive the textile industry forward," stated Khanna.

NITMA reiterated its dedication to fostering growth in the textile sector under the guidance of its new leadership. The association expressed optimism about achieving its strategic goals in the years ahead.

INDIA....

Birla Cellulose achieves top ranking in Canopy's Hot Button Report 2024

Birla Cellulose, the sustainability-focused Man-Made Cellulosic Fibres (MMCF) business of the Aditya Birla Group, has once again demonstrated its leadership in responsible wood sourcing by securing the Number One ranking in Canopy's Hot Button Report 2024. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Birla Cellulose has received the highest rating of 'Dark Green Shirt,' cementing its position as a global leader in sustainable practices.

The Hot Button Report, released annually by Canopy, a not-for-profit environmental organisation, is a critical resource for fashion brands and retailers. The report independently assesses MMCF suppliers based on their forest fibre sourcing practices, enabling stakeholders to make informed choices that align with biodiversity conservation and deforestation-free supply chains.

Commenting on the achievement, HK Agarwal, Managing Director of Grasim Industries and Business Director of Birla Cellulose, said, "Birla Cellulose is proud to be leading the collaborative effort for scaling up Next Gen solutions. This prestigious recognition affirms Birla Cellulose's unwavering dedication to enhancing sustainable wood sourcing practices, forest conservation, and maintaining transparency in the value chain."

Nicole Rycroft, Executive Director of Canopy, also commended the company's efforts, "Hearty congratulations to Aditya Birla Group for once again securing the top spot in Canopy's 2024 Hot Button Report. We commend their hard work to remove Ancient and Endangered Forests from the MMCF supply chain and are encouraged by their consistent progress in bringing Next Gen fibres to market at scale. We look forward to their continued leadership in 2025 in driving the sector's transition to low-carbon Next Gen production."

Birla Cellulose continues to invest heavily in research and development, focusing on Next Gen Solutions. Through lab and pilot-scale trials, the company explores a diverse range of feedstocks to reduce the impact on forests. These efforts are aimed at significantly scaling up the use of Next Gen Solutions to transform the MMCF industry sustainably.

With 11 sites for pulp and fibre manufacturing, Birla Cellulose leverages environmentally efficient closed-loop technologies to minimise resource consumption and carbon emissions. Its five advanced research centres, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, further underscore its commitment to innovation and environmental conservation.

Canopy's Hot Button Report is a trusted resource for over 550 global fashion brands and retailers seeking to source sustainably. With combined annual revenues exceeding US $1 trillion, these brands play a pivotal role in promoting environmentally friendly practices within the textile industry.

The 'Dark Green Shirt' rating represents the pinnacle of compliance with Canopy's requirements for Ancient and Endangered Forest conservation, transparency, traceability, and next-generation solutions.

As a pioneer in the field of sustainable fibres, Birla Cellulose, a part of the Aditya Birla Group, sets new standards for innovation, quality, and environmental responsibility. The company is always pushing the limits of what is possible in fibre technology, developing new, cutting-edge ways to meet the changing needs of the fashion and textile industries.

The sustainable fibres offered by Birla Cellulose's extensive product line allow the company to serve various markets. Their fibres, like Viscose, Modal, and Lyocell, are known for being soft, comfortable, and easy to work with. It prioritises environmental protection and strives to leave as little carbon imprint as possible. Birla Cellulose is steadfast in its commitment to environmental governance, which extends from the ethical procurement of raw materials to using environmentally beneficial manufacturing methods.

Cotton USA unveils new benchmarking tool for spinning mills

India- Cotton Day 2024 hosted in Coimbatore, India, gathered industry leaders and experts to explore the latest advancements shaping the textile sector. Organised by Cotton Council International (CCI), the event focused on sustainability, technology, and global trade, highlighting the role of US Cotton and Indian textile Industry in the global cotton value chain. Key discussions centred on the innovations propelling the industry's growth and future success.

William Bettendorf, Director of Cotton USA Supply Chain for South Asia, provided valuable insights into the growing success of the US Cotton Trust Protocol program. "The Trust Protocol's exponential growth demonstrates a collective commitment to transparency and sustainability," he noted. "These innovations are not only fortifying supply chains but also opening new opportunities for Indian mills and brands."

A significant highlight of the event was the emphasis on Supima's contributions to the textile industry. Marc Lewkowitz, President & CEO of Supima, underscored the importance of collaboration. "Supima cotton's premium quality, alongside our innovative AQRe Project platform, enables Indian manufacturers to meet international demands with precision, responsibility, and authenticity" he said. "This partnership reflects a shared vision for a sustainable and future-focused textile industry."

The discussions also focused on the impact of removal of import duty on Extra Long Staple cotton. This policy shift has made high-quality US Pima fibre more accessible to Indian mills, enhancing their global competitiveness. Experts also noted the growing preference for US Pima cotton, India, this year accounts for more than 40 per cent of US Pima export commitment reflecting the demand for superior quality.

Peush Narang, Representative of Cotton Council International, opened the event by emphasising India's pivotal role in the textile sector. "India's textile industry remains at the forefront of innovation and sustainability, positioning it as a key player in shaping the future of global cotton trade," he remarked. He also highlighted the importance of US-India collaboration in fostering sustainable practices to meet the evolving needs of global markets. Narang further emphasised the need to remove the import duty on US Upland Cotton, >>42

India's cotton textile exports fall 29% compared to 2021-22

India's cotton textile exports in 2023-24 were valued at $12,258 million, reflecting a nearly 29 per cent decline compared to 2021-22, as per data presented in the Rajya Sabha during the on-going winter session.

In 2021-22, exports amounted to $17,166 million. The quantity of cotton fabrics and made-ups exported from India fell by 19 per cent in 2023-24, while cotton yarn exports saw a 31 per cent drop. Additionally, exports of raw cotton declined by 60 per cent. However, exports of other textile yarns and made-ups increased by 12 per cent during the same period. Minister of State Pabitra Margherita shared these details in response to a question from MP Parimal Nathwani.

India's exports, which had been as high as $17,166 million in 2021-22, dropped to $11,085 million in 2022-23. However, in the following fiscal year, the value of exports rebounded with an 11 per cent increase. Key export markets for Indian cotton textiles include the United States, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, and the UAE.

Gujarat, which accounts for nearly 30 per cent of India's cotton textile exports, saw a decline in exports from $4,760 million in 2021-22 to $3,615 million in 2023-24.

Regarding cotton production, Gujarat leads the country, surpassing a production of 90 lakh bales (170 kilograms each) between October-September 2023-24, marking a 20 per cent increase from the previous period. In contrast, Maharashtra, the second-largest producer, saw a 2 per cent decline, producing 80 lakh bales in 2023-24. Telangana, with 51 lakh bales during the same period, ranked third.

In its written reply, the government highlighted its efforts to boost exports, including implementing the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme for apparel, garments, and made-ups. Products not covered by RoSCTL are eligible for the Remissions >>46

<<41

which would provide Indian spinning mills with greater access to high-quality fibre from the US, enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of India's textile industry.Technology and innovation were central themes throughout the event. The introduction of the Mill Performance Index—a live dashboard for tracking and optimising mill productivity— demonstrated the transformative potential of data-driven tools in the industry. Additionally, advancements in traceability, including insights from US Cotton Industry, Textile Genesis and Oritain showcased how technology can enhance transparency and build consumer trust.

Cotton Day 2024 offered a comprehensive outlook on the future of textiles, retail, and spinning mills. The event featured insightful sessions, including a detailed discussion on the Indian Textile Retail Outlook and the Emerging Trends Impacting the Fashion Retail Industry. Industry experts shared their perspectives on how the retail landscape is evolving and the key factors shaping the future of fashion retail in India.

Cotton Council International (CCI) is a non-profit trade association that promotes US cotton fibre and manufactured cotton products worldwide under the Cotton USA trademark. With over 65 years of experience, CCI works to make U.S. cotton the preferred fibre for mills, manufacturers, brands, and retailers, driving export growth and ensuring sustainability.

AEPC highlights budget demands to boost Indian apparel exports

In a pivotal moment for India's apparel industry, Sudhir Sekhri, Chairman of AEPC, emphasized the sector's potential to gain a larger share in global apparel imports. He noted that India's credibility among global brands has surged due to the 'China Plus One' strategy and challenges in Bangladesh. The Union Budget, he stressed, offers a key opportunity for long-term policy support to propel export growth.Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General of AEPC, outlined strategies to capitalize on supply chain shifts, urging investment in production capacity, workforce upskilling, and labor reforms to maintain growth momentum. Key demands of the RMG sector include: Interest equalization scheme: Continuation and enhancement of the interest equalization rate to 5 per cent to reduce the high cost of capital.Tax reforms: Extension of the 15 per cent concessional tax rate under Section 115AB of the Income Tax Act for new garment units.Relaxation of Sec 43B(H): Exclusion of exporters from strict payment deadlines, addressing cash flow disruptions caused by buyers' extended payment cycles. Imports and procedures: Simplification of IGCR rules for trims and embellishments, and a 10 per cent wastage allowance for such imports. E-commerce: Increased export value caps to Rs 25 lakhs per consignment and extended realization periods of 12 months.Machinery duties: Removal of customs duties on imported garmenting machinery to boost global competitiveness. Sustainability initiatives: Introduction of a Green Transformation Scheme offering long-term soft loans for sustainability and green manufacturing upgrades.

AEPC's demands underscore the need for structural support to enable the apparel industry to meet global standards and capture emerging opportunities.

<<45

of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme. The ministry is also supporting Export Promotion Councils/Associations in organising BHARAT TEX 2025 in February 2025, a mega textile show to showcase India's textile value chain, innovations, and trends. Furthermore, India has signed 14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) to facilitate access to global markets in the cotton textile sector.

The government also mentioned that the ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, along with the AICRP on Cotton, is focused on developing improved cotton varieties and agro-technologies. Over the past decade, 333 cotton varieties have been released, including 191 non-Bt and 142 Bt cotton varieties.

Hosiery sector revenue to grow 10-12% in FY24

A Crisil Ratings analysis of 30 hosiery manufacturers, representing approximately one-third of the industry by revenue, suggests that Indian hosiery makers are set to witness a 10-12 per cent year-on-year revenue growth this fiscal. This increase is attributed to a revival in rural demand, strong volume support from the export market, and robust modern trade sales.The projected growth in volume is expected to compensate for a 1-2 per cent decline in average sales realisation due to reduced selling prices aimed at clearing year-end inventory, following weaker demand from channel partners in the previous fiscal. The industry's operating margin is anticipated to improve by 150-200 basis points (bps), driven by lower input costs and better capacity utilisation enabled by higher volumes.Argha Chanda, Director of CRISIL Ratings, explained that the anticipated revenue growth will be largely supported by rural sales, which account for nearly half of the domestic revenue. He noted that factors such as increased agricultural output due to an above-average monsoon, a rise in the minimum support price, and enhanced government spending on rural infrastructure will bolster rural spending. Additionally, higher exports to the Middle East and North Africa, along with urban demand growth fuelled by expanding modern trade, are expected to further support volume growth.
The hosiery industry typically experiences a surge in volumes towards the fiscal year-end, as channel partners stock up to meet peak summer demand. However, the previous year-end saw lower stocking levels due to falling yarn prices and expectations of reduced product realisation. This fiscal, the stabilisation of yarn prices and a marginal dip in selling prices have rekindled demand from channel partners.In response to strong demand, hosiery manufacturers are expected to limit their advertising and marketing expenses. Increased operating leverage from higher capacity utilisation is likely to boost operating margins by 150-200 bps, reaching 11.5-12 per cent this fiscal. This improvement is expected to translate into higher cash accruals.Improved cash generation and shorter inventory holding periods are anticipated to reduce working capital requirements, enhancing liquidity. With moderate capacity utilisation and no significant expansion plans, long-term borrowings and financing costs should remain under control.Vishnu Sinha, Team Leader at CRISIL Ratings, highlighted that inventory holding is expected to decline to a historical low of 90-100 days this fiscal, compared to 150 days in fiscal 2024. This reduction, coupled with limited debt-funded capital expenditure, is likely to keep debt levels stable. Furthermore, the ratio of total outside liabilities to tangible net worth is projected to remain below 1, consistent with last fiscal. Improved operational performance is expected to raise the interest coverage ratio to approximately 6.5 times this fiscal from 4.5 times previously.Nevertheless, the report underscores the need to monitor key factors such as the impact of inflation, the stability of farm incomes in the rural economy, and the performance of exports and modern trade, which are crucial for achieving sustained volume and margin growth.

Andhra Pradesh to strengthen textile value chain

To boost its economy and attract investments worth Rs 10,000 crore, the Andhra Pradesh government is prioritizing the development of textile and garment industries in the state. Leveraging abundant raw materials, the initiative aims to strengthen the textile value chain and create employment opportunities. Unlike the previous YSRCP government, which introduced a five-year textile policy but failed to implement operational guidelines, the N Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government has crafted a new textile policy with actionable guidelines to ensure smooth execution and sectoral growth. Andhra Pradesh is India's sixth-largest cotton-producing state, yielding 15.41 lakh bales in 2022-23. This presents vast opportunities for value addition within the state, says S Savita, Textiles sand Handlooms Minister. The state is equipped with 106 spinning mills, approximately 3 lakh spindles, and 12,635 power loom units, which helps attr investment to generate employment."
Emphasizing on the the state's skilled workforce, supported by educational institutions offering textile technology courses, Savitha says, the government plans to establish skilling centers in Vizag and Rayadurg to meet industry needs. She highlights, untapped opportunities in value-added activities such as weaving, knitting, processing, and technical textiles can drive large-scale employment while minimizing environmental impact. The ministry aims to convert the entire yarn produced in Andhra Pradesh into fabric, preventing value migration, she adds.
The new policy promotes key components of the textile value chain, integrated units, and technical textiles. Andhra Pradesh already hosts seven dedicated textile parks and five private parks, with Brandix India Apparel City standing out as a leading example of success in integrated textile operations.
The government is now focused on enhancing Venkatagiri Textile Park and Chirala Handloom and Textile Park while supporting emerging private industrial parks. This strategic approach aims to transform Andhra Pradesh into a hub for sustainable and value-driven textile manufacturing.

RISE for Impact advances work standards in the cotton supply chain

The RISE for Impact project is collaborating with farmers in the cotton supply chain to promote decent work by integrating Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Initiated at the request of a premium textile brand, the project was presented to over 60 global suppliers, focusing on the role of multinational enterprises (MNEs) in addressing work-related challenges. The session also highlighted the importance of brands taking proactive steps to ensure social compliance throughout their supply chain, beginning at the farmer level.To expand its reach, the project has partnered with the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI). Through its subsidiary, Cotton Development and Research Association (CDRA), two farmer meets were organized between October and November in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh. During these sessions, ILO-trained trainers from CITI-CDRA educated cotton farmers on safety and health practices. In November, a sector-level event by the Organic Cotton Accelerator facilitated a fire-side chat on decent work and a sustainable cotton supply chain. The event brought together national and international stakeholders, including representatives from the Indian government, brands, retailers, farm groups, suppliers, industry associations, and civil society organizations.

India's Exports to Surpass USD 800 Billion in FY 2023-24

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal expressed confidence that India's combined exports of goods and services will exceed USD 800 billion in the current fiscal year, setting a new record despite global economic challenges. This projection represents growth from the previous fiscal year's achievement of USD 778 billion.
Despite acknowledging stresses in the global economic system, Goyal emphasised the diversity of India's export basket as a key strength. The minister noted that exports to developing nations and least developed countries (LDCs) have faced headwinds due to foreign exchange crises in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, further compounded by the ongoing Red Sea crisis affecting shipping routes.
The projected export growth is particularly noteworthy given that it comes amid government-imposed restrictions on several items. Goyal also addressed the high import levels, characterising them as indicative of a growing economy with strong demand for equipment, machinery, and intermediate products within the country.
Looking toward future international trade relations, the minister expressed anticipation for "deep and substantive engagement" with the upcoming U.S. administration, specifically mentioning looking forward to working with the Trump administration again.

India-EU Trade Agreement Set for Implementation in 2025

India's landmark trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is on track for implementation by the end of 2025, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed on March 10, 2024, between India and the four EFTA nations – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland – represents a significant milestone in international trade relations.The agreement has already gained substantial momentum in its ratification process, with the Swiss Council of States recently approving the pact.The next crucial step involves approval from Switzerland's National Council, reflecting what Minister Goyal describes as 'overwhelming support in political circles' for the partnership.The minister indicated that the agreement is expected to enter into force by autumn 2025.

A cornerstone of the agreement is EFTA's unprecedented USD 100 billion investment commitment to India, structured over a 15-year period.

The investment will be delivered in two phases: USD 50 billion within the first decade of implementation, followed by an additional USD 50 billion in the subsequent five years.This investment is projected to create one million direct jobs in India, marking the first such commitment in India's trade agreement history.

The agreement provides significant benefits for Indian consumers, who will gain access to premium Swiss products at reduced prices. Items such as watches, chocolates, biscuits, and clocks will see their customs duties gradually eliminated over a ten-year period.Notably, the agreement includes a safeguard mechanism allowing India to suspend duty concessions if the promised investments fail to materialise. The implementation timeline reflects the complex ratification processes required across different jurisdictions. While India's approval process involves Cabinet authorisation, EFTA member states must secure parliamentary approval.

Meanwhile, Minister Goyal has maintained active engagement in trade negotiations with other partners, including recent discussions with the UK's new trade minister and the European Union's Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic. Minister Goyal emphasised India's commitment to protecting national interests in all trade negotiations, stating that agreements must be 'equitable, fair and balanced' to receive India's approval.

This stance underscores India's strategic approach to international trade partnerships while ensuring domestic interests remain protected.

Economy Set For 'Resilient Growth' In 2025

S&P Global Ratings projected that the Indian economy is poised for 'resilient growth' in 2025, with inflationary pressures expected to ease, leading to a 'modest' easing of monetary policy by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The ratings agency maintained its growth forecast for the current fiscal year at 6.8 per cent, with an anticipated 6.9 per cent growth in 2025-26.

Vishrut Rana, Economist, S&P Global Ratings, highlighted that the Indian economy's resilience in 2025 will be driven by strong urban consumption, steady growth in the service sector, and continued investment in infrastructure.

Rana also noted that as inflationary pressures recede, the central bank is expected to modestly ease monetary policy in 2025. The RBI kept the benchmark interest rate at 6.5 per cent to manage inflation but lowered the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to inject liquidity into the system. India's economy grew by 8.2 per cent in 2023-24. However, S&P observed that GDP growth for the June-September 2024 quarter was weaker than expected, at 5.4 per cent. >>50

Major Regulatory Overhaul Planned to Address Economic Slowdown

The government is conducting a comprehensive review of regulations across sectors, aiming to streamline rules and boost economic growth amid signs of slowdown, according to multiple sources with direct knowledge of the matter who requested anonymity.The initiative comes as part of broader efforts to reduce regulatory burden on businesses, with officials specifically examining the impact of existing regulations and the actions of regulatory bodies on entities under their supervision.Sources indicate that areas deemed over-regulated will be targeted for reform, though specific sectors and regulations under review have not been disclosed.The government has maintained silence on these deliberations, with queries sent to the finance ministry, NITI Aayog, and the Prime Minister's Office remaining unanswered.This regulatory overhaul is expected to feature in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's upcoming budget presentation for fiscal year 2025-26, scheduled for February 1.The timing of these reforms appears crucial, given India's recent economic indicators.

GDP growth decelerated to 5.4 per cent in the September quarter, marking its slowest pace in seven quarters, compared to 8.1 per cent in the same period last year and 6.7 per cent in the previous quarter. Urban consumption has also shown signs of weakening.

The push for deregulation gained additional momentum during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent budget consultation with economists, where improving ease of doing business emerged as a key priority.

The government aims to create a more dynamic business environment by reducing compliance requirements, with specific measures likely to be announced in the upcoming budget, according to sources familiar with the discussions.

<<49

Slower fiscal impulse, along with weaknesses in sectors like the urban middle class and manufacturing, created downside risks to the forecasted 6.8 per cent growth for the fiscal year 2025.The report also pointed out challenges such as post-pandemic weaknesses in the public sector and household balance sheets, a competitive global manufacturing environment, and sluggish growth in the agriculture sector.

To support sustained economic growth, S&P emphasised the importance of creating enough jobs to accommodate India's rising labour force participation, improving infrastructure and technology, and strengthening both public and household financial conditions.

Q2 Growth Slows to 5.4% Ahead of Union Budget 2025-26

India's economic growth decelerated to an unexpected 5.4 per cent in the second quarter of FY25, sparking discussions among economists about the need for targeted reforms in the upcoming Union Budget 2025-26.

Key drivers of this slowdown include weak capital formation, subdued consumption, and adverse weather conditions, highlighting vulnerabilities in the nation's economic framework.

This downturn has raised concerns, especially as India seeks to maintain its position as a rapidly growing economy amidst global uncertainties.

The lacklustre growth underscores the urgent need for measures that not only stabilise the economy but also reignite the momentum across critical sectors like consumption and manufacturing.

Economists, including Rumki Majumdar, emphasise the importance of prioritizing skill development and employment generation in the forthcoming budget.

"We anticipate the government will continue to prioritize and enhance efforts towards skill development and employment generation, maintaining the positive momentum. This would help harness the demographic dividend, drive economic growth from both supply and demand sides, and boost consumption through higher incomes," Majumdar stated.

Experts believe the budget should focus on policy initiatives that stimulate domestic demand while addressing structural challenges in manufacturing.

Enhancing public investment in infrastructure and creating a conducive environment for private sector participation could also play a crucial role.

Simultaneously, targeted interventions in rural development and agriculture may be necessary to mitigate the adverse effects of erratic weather patterns.

To revive consumer confidence, measures to enhance disposable incomes, such as tax reliefs or social welfare programs, could be instrumental.

Encouraging manufacturing growth through incentives, streamlined regulations, and fostering innovation are additional steps that could spur job creation and economic activity.

With the Union Budget 2025-26 approaching, all eyes are on policymakers to craft a strategy that addresses the current economic slowdown while laying a foundation for sustained, inclusive growth.

The budget represents a critical opportunity to realign priorities and set India back on its high-growth trajectory.

CARE Ratings Lowers India's FY25 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5%

CARE Ratings has revised its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for fiscal year 2025 from 6.8 percent to 6.5 percent, reflecting a nuanced economic environment characterized by multiple structural challenges.

The downward adjustment stems from a complex interplay of factors, including slower GDP growth in the second quarter, a contraction in corporate profitability, declining public capital expenditure, and softening urban consumption patterns.The rating agency, however, maintains a cautiously optimistic perspective, suggesting that the current economic slowdown is likely temporary.

Anticipated government initiatives, such as increased capital expenditure and expectations of a healthy agricultural production season, are projected to stimulate rural consumption and potentially reinvigorate economic momentum in the latter half of the fiscal year.

Sachin Gupta, Chief Rating Officer, CARE Ratings, characterised the current corporate landscape as one of measured resilience. He highlighted a prevailing hesitancy among businesses to commit to long-term investments, attributing this conservatism to the uncertain global economic climate. Nonetheless, Gupta anticipates potential improvements in private investment during 2025, contingent upon expected monetary policy adjustments.

The economic forecast aligns with recent projections by the Asian Development Bank, which similarly lowered its growth estimate to 6.5 percent.

Contributing factors include constrained industrial output resulting from stringent regulatory norms, particularly in the personal loan sector, muted public capital spending, and persistent elevated food prices.

Inflation dynamics present a relatively promising outlook. CARE Ratings projects food inflation will moderate in upcoming quarters, driven by favorable agricultural harvests.The agency anticipates an overall inflation rate of 4.8 percent for the fiscal year and expects potential policy rate reductions ranging between 50 and 75 basis points in 2025.Regarding governmental fiscal management, the rating agency predicts that potential shortfalls in corporation tax collection will be partially offset by robust income tax revenues. The Centre's capital expenditure is expected to fall short of its target by approximately 1.5 trillion rupees, with the fiscal deficit projected to marginally improve to 4.8 percent of GDP, compared to the initially budgeted 4.9 percent.These projections underscore the complex economic challenges facing India, balancing potential growth opportunities with pragmatic fiscal constraints and global economic uncertainties.

Prudent Fiscal Path in Union Budget to Sustain Economic Growth

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has proposed a cautious fiscal strategy for the upcoming Union Budget, recommending that the government maintain a fiscal deficit target of 4.9 per cent of GDP for 2024-25 and 4.5 per cent for 2025-26.The industry body warns that excessively aggressive fiscal targets could potentially hinder India's economic growth.Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, emphasised the critical role of prudent fiscal management in sustaining India's robust economic performance amid a global economic slowdown.

The organisation has outlined a comprehensive approach to fiscal planning that extends beyond immediate budgetary considerations.The CII suggests a strategic glide path for reducing the Central government's debt, proposing to bring it below 50 per cent of GDP by 2030-31 and further down to under 40 per cent in the long term.This approach is expected to have a positive impact on India's sovereign credit rating and potentially influence interest rates in the economy.To enhance fiscal transparency and forward-looking planning, the CII recommends instituting Fiscal Stability Reporting.This initiative would involve annual reports detailing fiscal risks under various scenarios and long-term forecasting spanning 10 to 25 years.The proposed reporting would account for critical factors such as economic growth, technological advancements, climate change, and demographic shifts.

The industry body has also proposed three key interventions to promote fiscal discipline among state governments.These include encouraging state-level fiscal stability reporting, creating an independent credit rating system for states, and using these ratings as a parameter for determining government transfers and financial autonomy.Banerjee highlighted the significance of fiscal prudence at both the central and state levels, noting that state governments' combined spending now exceeds that of the central government.The proposed measures aim to create a comprehensive framework for fiscal sustainability and macroeconomic stability.The CII's recommendations underscore the delicate balance between maintaining fiscal discipline and supporting economic growth, providing a nuanced approach to India's fiscal management in the coming years.

MSME Exporters Hit Hard by Liquidity Crunch, Demand Immediate Relief Measures

Indian exporters are facing significant liquidity challenges, compounded by high interest rates and a marked decline in export finance, said Sanjay Budhia, Chairman of the CII National Committee on EXIM.

These factors are undermining their competitiveness in global markets, especially for MSME exporters, who are the backbone of India's export ecosystem.

To mitigate these challenges, Budhia has urged the government and banks to collaborate on effective solutions. He emphasised the need to extend the Interest Equalisation Scheme, which expired on December 31, 2024, for another three years to benefit all manufacturing exporters, including MSMEs. The scheme's limited extension leaves Indian manufacturers at a disadvantage, he noted. Budhia proposed increasing the interest subsidy for pre- and post-shipment credit from 3 per cent to 5 per cent for key sectors like leather, engineering, apparel, and gems and jewellery.Additionally, he recommended expanding Letter of Credit facilities for large overseas projects and broadening the >>53

<<52
coverage of export credit guarantees.He suggested raising the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India's coverage from Rs 50 crore to Rs 100 crore to enhance credit accessibility. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) echoed these demands, urging the government to extend the scheme for five years in the upcoming Union Budget.

FIEO highlighted a 5 per cent decline in export credit from Rs 2,27,452 crore in March 2022 to Rs 2,17,406 crore in March 2024, with priority sector lending for exports plunging over 40 per cent during this period.Budhia also called for the streamlined implementation of the RoDTEP scheme by directly transferring benefits to exporters' bank accounts to reduce delays and inefficiencies.

Looking ahead, Budhia expressed concern over US President-elect Donald Trump's threat of reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods.While these tariffs could disrupt trade flows and reduce competitiveness in sectors like engineering and textiles, he noted potential opportunities for Indian exporters to fill supply chain gaps left by China. India's exports reached USD 778 billion in 2023-24 and are projected to surpass USD 800 billion in 2024-25. However, challenges from global policy shifts and geopolitical turbulence continue to cast uncertainty over trade prospects.

Bangladesh: 2 new RMG factories earn LEED certification for sustainable practices

Two new factories in Bangladesh have achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), as reported by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Continental Garments Ind Pvt. Ltd. and Amir Shirt's Limited have both received the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, recognising their efforts in sustainable manufacturing practices.This brings the total number of green factories in the country to an impressive 232.

The certification, awarded by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), highlights the companies' commitment to reducing environmental impact through energy-efficient technologies, water conservation, and waste reduction. This achievement aligns with Bangladesh's ongoing push for greener practices in the textile and garment sectors.

Bangladesh: Exports hit $50bn in 2024

Bangladesh's exports hit $50 billion in 2024, buoyed by a sharp December spike, providing the much-anticipated breather for an economy facing multiple headwinds, including external account pressures.

Exports grew 8.3 percent year-on-year in the past year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) released yesterday -- just a day after cheering record-high remittances of $26.9 billion in 2024.

Of the total $50 billion, exporters earned $4.62 billion in December alone, an 18 percent increase compared to the same month in the previous year.

The growth is largely attributed to the strong performance of the readymade garment (RMG) industry -- the backbone of the country's economy.

December's export receipts were the highest since March 2024, when the country earned over $5 billion.

In the first six months of the current fiscal year 2024-25, exports rose by 12.84 percent to $24.53 billion.

During the July-December period, garment shipments, the top export earner, increased by 13.28 percent to $19.88 billion.

Of the total garment exports in July-December, $10.83 billion came from knitwear exports -- a 13.01 percent year-over-year increase.

Exports from the woven segment contributed $9.05 billion -- up 13.60 percent year-over-year.

Leather and leather goods exports grew 10.44 percent to $577.29 million in the last six months. Cotton and cotton product exports increased 16.32 percent to $319.06 million.

According to EPB data, home textile exports increased 7.85 percent to $410.81 million in July-December, while non-leather footwear exports surged 39.10 percent to $273.89 million.

Frozen and live fish exports grew 13.01 percent to $245.71 million and agricultural product shipments increased 9.31 percent to $595.51 million, data showed.

Plastic goods shipments went up 29.72 percent to $157.94 million in July-December.

However, some traditional export items, such as jute and jute goods, saw a decline in merchandise shipment during the July-December period. Jute and jute goods exports fell 8.11 percent to $417.39 million.

"As you've seen, our textile and apparel sectors are enjoying positive growth despite political and financial challenges," said David Hasanat, chairman of apparel exporter Viyellatex Group.

Hasanat, also the president of Bangladesh Independent Power Producers' Association, said, "Our remittance flows are increasing significantly and I believe they will continue to grow in the coming year."

"If we can ensure political stability, businesses will see great momentum from mid-2025," he added.

Shams Mahmud, managing director of Shasha Denims Ltd, another big exporter, said that overall garment exports have increased, driven by large factories with strong financial positions and reliable energy supplies.

"However, SMEs (small and medium enterprises) are struggling. So, the export growth doesn't necessarily indicate strong performance across the industry. Smaller factories are not doing well, and this could cause problems in the long run," he said.

Faruque Hassan, a former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), termed the rebound in exports as a very positive sign.

According to Hassan, there is a bright outlook for Bangladeshi businesses in the near future as inflationary pressures in major Western markets like Europe and the US have started to ease.

Bangladesh's garment exports are poised for growth in the near future due to increased exports to new markets and higher exports of value-added garment items such as suits, lingerie, and jackets, Hassan further said.

Besides, the unit price of Bangladeshi garments has increased over the past few years.

The former BGMEA chief said the growth, achieved even amid repeated flooding, labour unrest, inflationary pressures and nationwide movements, shows the strong confidence that international clothing retailers and brands have in Bangladesh.

The leather industry has also experienced significant growth, with exports increasing by over 30 percent in the first half of the year, according to Nasir Khan, chairman and managing director of Jennys Shoes.

Exporters thanked the timely shipment of winter goods, especially in preparation for Christmas, for the growth.

Khan said exporters received bulk orders for winter leather footwear, which played a key role in driving the industry's seasonal growth.

"This growth mainly comes from Europe and Japan, where demand for quality leather products peaks during the winter season," he added.

Businesses hope that 2025 will bring stability as normalcy begins to be restored in businesses after turbulent times both domestically and internationally.

Local businesses have been severely affected by various internal and external issues over the past few years.

For them, just-past 2024 was a challenging year as firms now hope to avoid a recurrence of the adverse incidents that affected their trade.

Bangladesh: Cyclo advances denim with high-recycled content fabrics

Cyclo, a Bangladeshi textile recycling mill, is advancing closed-loop production by entering the global denim market with fabrics boasting up to 95% Cyclo recycled cotton. This move aligns with its mission to promote sustainability in one of the most cotton-rich apparel categories. At the October Kingpins Amsterdam event, Cyclo unveiled two key fabric blends, 95% Cyclo recycled cotton and 5% recycled polyester and 90% Cyclo recycled cotton and 10% Tencel lyocell. These blends cater to rigid fabrications with recycled cotton used in both warp and weft. For stretch fabrics, Cyclo incorporates spandex in the weft, maintaining over 50% recycled cotton content in the final garment.To overcome traditional challenges like fiber length, Cyclo invested in customizing machinery and processes to achieve longer fibers suitable for denim production. “It required years of trial and error and collaboration with weaving mills, laundries, and designers to fine-tune our recycling and spinning process,” Munir shared. The debut collection, developed in partnership with Dhaka-based Dreüss Worldwide, showcased innovative fabrications and finishes. Cyclo currently produces over 200 tons of fiber monthly in its Bangladesh factory and plans to expand production to Pakistan in 2025.

Bangladesh: Apparel share in US market falls

Bangladesh’s exports saw a growth of 11.76% in 5 months from Ju ly-November of FY2024-25 compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. According to the data of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladesh exported goods worth $ 19.9 billion in the July-November period of the current FY 2024-25, of which 80.97% are readymade garment products.

Bangladesh’s share of apparel exports into the US market decreased by 3.33% year-on-year in the January-October period.

The apparel export share of the Chinese decreased by 1.06% in the US market. India and Vietnam’s apparel exports in the US market grew by 2.68% and 3.93% respectively during this period.Bangladesh’s ready-made garment (RMG) exports have been growing, and the country is the second-largest exporter of RMGs in the world. Vietnam is Bangladesh’s competitor in the global market and their share rising in the US market indicates the country (Vietnam) is getting an additional advantage, said businessmen of this sector.

In the financial year 2022–2023, Bangladesh’s RMG exports reached $47 billion, up from $42.6 billion in the previous year. In the period from July 2023 to May 2024, RMG exports increased by 2.86% to $43.85 billion.

Bangladesh: RMG export increase of 33.8% in October 2024

Bangladesh experienced a substantial year-on-year increase of 33.8% in October 2024, marking the strongest growth recorded in the first 10 months of the year, according to the data.
The EU imported apparel worth €1.75 billion from Bangladesh in October, up from €1.30 billion during the same month in 2023.
Meanwhile, the EU countries' total apparel imports amounted to €71.47 billion during this period, reflecting a slight year-on-year decline of 0.16%.
Among other suppliers to the EU, major contributor China saw a slight increase in the value of apparel imports during the mentioned period, rising by 0.24% to €20.03 billion – suggesting a potential shift in the global apparel market.
Turkey, the third largest apparel exporter to the EU experiences 6.18% negative growth to €7.90 billion during the mentioned period.
Other key suppliers Vietnam and Pakistan experienced growth of 2.46% and 20.66% to €3.27 billion and €2.88 billion, respectively.

Bangladesh: RMG automation leads to 30.58% decline in workforce

Automation in Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) sector has led to a 30.58% reduction in the total workforce across production processes, with helpers being the most affected group, according to a recent study.
The report revealed that automation, despite its positive impacts on economic growth and overall productivity, has also posed significant challenges to RMG workers, particularly impacting women, older individuals, those with lower literacy, unskilled laborers, and workers with low confidence.
The study, conducted by Solidaridad Bangladesh, Labour Foundation, and BRAC University, was presented during a dissemination ceremony held at Hotel Amarillo in the capital.
As per the report, titled "Assessment of Technological Transition in the Apparel Sector of Bangladesh and Its Impact on Workers", the sweater factory sector saw the highest percentage of worker decline, with a 37.03% reduction per production line. Woven factories followed with a 27.23% decline.
Among specific production processes, automation in cutting led to a 48.34% drop in workforce, while sewing recorded a 26.57% decline.
According to the study's executive summary, the reduced need for workers due to automation raises critical concerns about the concept of "just transition".
At the ceremony, Shahidur Rahman, professor at the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University, presented the keynote address, mentioning that the research was conducted by BRAC University with the support of the Solidaridad Network Asia, between August and October 2024.
The research utilised mixed methods – surveys of 429 workers from Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj, key informant interviews (KIIs) with 26 stakeholders and four focus group discussions (FGDs) with workers, he added.
Addressing the event, BGMEA Support Committee member Miran Ali said worker efficiency in the RMG sector has been affected by external inefficiencies such as power shortages, port congestion, and road traffic.
Stating that worker efficiency will be higher than the current level, if these issues are addressed, he said, "We should work to improve these inefficiencies so that workers do not suffer as a result."
"The industry will not fully embrace automation, but there is potential to adopt partial automation, which can help improve worker productivity and health safety.," he added.
Additionally, Miran Ali suggested the government should focus on introducing automation not only in production processes but also within its own bodies, including the labour ministry, to enhance overall efficiency in the sector.
At the event, Sultan Uddin Ahmed, chairman of the Labour Reform Commission, said the automation process has already been started. "Now, it is time to think about how to cope up with the process and become competitive among peer countries."
"So, we need proper planning as a step of our preparation how many workers we can retain in this sector," he added
"It won't be fair that our workers would not be able to cope up with machines [automation]. Rather, we have to take preparation on how to utilise the existing workforce," he further said.
Speaking as the chief guest, AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary of the labour and employment ministry acknowledged that avoiding automation is not an option if the RMG sector is to remain competitive globally.
"If we don't embrace it, their country will suffer. The RMG sector will suffer," he said.
He also called upon the workers to keep with the pace of automation.
The labour secretary further mentioned that his ministry plans to establish an "Employment Department" to better align labour market demand and supply.

Pakistan: Textile exports face setback amid political instability

Pakistan's textile industry, which was once poised to achieve higher export earnings, started to lose its momentum. 2024 has been a challenging year for this crucial sector, often referred to as the backbone of the nation's industrial economy.

In the fiscal year 2023-24, textile exports saw a modest growth of 0.93 per cent, generating a substantial USD 16.7 billion in export revenues. However, during the first five months of FY25, textile exports reached USD 7.607 billion, reflecting a 10.51 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.In the first 11 months of 2024, textile exports totaled just USD 15.43 billion. Industry millers anticipate that the December figure could be approximately USD 1.5 billion, resulting in the year ending with exports falling short of USD 17 billion.Ijaz Khokhar, Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan-textile-exports, stated, "The early months of this calendar year were relatively good for the textile industry, particularly exports, as they showed a positive trend."

The positive trend started to decline after the initial months. The primary cause was ongoing political instability, which has persisted for more than two years. Khokhar remarked, "We have lost at least 40 per cent of our export orders because buyers, hesitant to trust Pakisttextile millers due to political challenges, are shifting their orders to Vietnam."

Others noted that Pakistan also missed the chance to secure orders that were diverted from Bangladesh due to its political turmoil. Waqas Hanif, a mid-sized textile miller from Lahore, said, "Textile millers in Pakistan should have fully taken advantage of the opportunity created by the political change in Bangladesh. However, our millers have been unable to meet the demand because of price differences."A significant portion of the demand was once again redirected to Vietnam, as Pakistani millers lacked product diversification. Hanif highlighted, "Vietnam is far more advanced in the textile and other sectors. They offer a wide range of products and are able to offer lower prices."

Pakistan was once the top choice for international buyers due to its competitive prices. However, the country has consistently struggled with product diversification. Over the past decade, the government, >>58

<<57

textile millers, analysts, and foreign buyers have all emphasized the need for diversification.

While a few millers are making efforts, the industry as a whole remains far from developing the new products required by European Union and American buyers. The government's support in this area has also been lackluster. Some economists caution that ongoing political tensions, along with stringent measures from the finance ministry and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), could severely harm the sector, which remains the largest source of export revenue.

"The local industry has not been growing for years, so how can we expect product diversification or an increase in export revenue?" asked Ahmad Aziz Subhani, an economist based in the UAE.

Recently, the FBR included the textile sector in the standard tax regime, requiring millers to pay a 2 per cent advance tax instead of the previous 1 per cent.

Furthermore, they are now obligated to submit all their business information to the FBR.Subhani stated that following the tax increase, many Pakistani textile companies have been relocating to Dubai. "So far, about 400 companies have set up offices in Dubai and registered with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce. This will likely lead to under-invoicing of export orders by several Pakistani millers, further reducing export revenue," he added.

"We are struggling with high energy costs, which have led to a reduction in mills and a shift of orders to Vietnam. We are uncertain about how many billions of dollars we've lost because of this," said Ashraf Ali, a textile retailer based in Faisalabad. He further mentioned that a cotton crisis is looming, as nearly half of the spinning units have shut down due to a liquidity shortage and delays in the FBR's release of sales tax refunds. "We should expect a rise in yarn prices and a shortage of the product in 2025," Ali added. The industry is also awaiting the start of Trump's second term, as many factors depend on the policies the incoming US president will implement. Many millers argue that any restrictions, whether due to political instability or other factors, would have a detrimental impact on Pakistan's textile industry. They also pointed out that the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the conflict in the Middle East could further escalate tensions and affect the global economy.In summary, textile exports for the current fiscal year are likely to decline or remain flat due to the various challenges the industry is facing. The sector has almost given up on reaching its USD 25 billion export target, as they believe that without a clear textile policy and the active involvement of key stakeholders in decision-making, achieving this goal would remain an unrealistic aspiration.

Vietnam: Garment-textile export to hit 44 bln USD in 2024

Vietnam's garment-textile export value was expected to reach 44 billion U.S. dollars in 2024, marking an 11.26 percent increase from 2023, local media reported.

The country's garment-textile import turnover was anticipated to reach 25 billion dollars, up 14.79 percent, resulting in a trade surplus of 19 billion dollars, up 6.93 percent compared to the previous year, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association.

Vu Duc Giang, the association's chairman, said many companies were experiencing growth in orders for both 2024 and 2025.Despite ongoing global complexities, fluctuating shipping costs, slow trade recovery and reduced global investment, Vietnam's garment-textile industry has managed to maintain strong growth, he said.

The industry hopes to generate over 48 billion dollars in export revenue in 2025, he said.

Pakistan: Cotton arrivals plunge by 33%, threatening textile value chain

Cotton arrivals in Pakistan have continued to dwindle as the ongoing season progresses, deepening concerns for the country's textile value chain and leaving farmers in a precarious position. With recovery prospects appearing increasingly bleak, the latest data from the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) paints a troubling picture for one of Pakistan's most critical agricultural commodities.

The PCGA's fortnightly report reveals a substantial drop in cotton arrivals compared to the previous year. Total arrivals so far this season have reached 5.367 million bales, marking a sharp decline of 2.656 million bales from last year's total of 8.023 million bales, representing a 33.11% year-on-year decrease. The most recent fortnightly flow, ending December 15, 2024, saw arrivals of just 0.176 million bales, a 34.6% drop from the same period last year when 0.27 million bales were recorded.

The provincial data highlights a more pronounced shortfall in Punjab, where arrivals have plummeted by 33.44%, compared to Sindh, which recorded a 31.8% decline. Interestingly, Punjab, traditionally the dominant cotton-producing region, has now fallen behind Sindh in total output. Punjab's production stands at 2.593 million bales, while Sindh has slightly outpaced it with 2.773 million bales.

The reasons behind this dramatic decline are multifaceted. According to media reports, low market prices have discouraged farmers from investing in cotton crops, while inconsistent and unclear government policies have further compounded the challenges. Additionally, poor agricultural practices, including early planting and subpar fertiliser application, have resulted in suboptimal yields. These issues are exacerbated by larger systemic problems such as climate change, pest infestations, and disease outbreaks. Erratic weather patterns—ranging from droughts to heavy rains—have devastated crops, while inadequate irrigation systems and insufficient pest control have further hindered production.

The ramifications of this crisis go far beyond individual farmers. The entire cotton supply chain, which underpins a significant portion of Pakistan's textile industry, faces serious risks. Reduced production threatens not only domestic supply and export volumes but also market stability and pricing. Experts warn that if these challenges persist, more farmers may abandon cotton in favour of alternative crops, further jeopardizing efforts to revitalise this crucial sector. >>60

Vietnam: e-commerce market surpasses $25 billion in 2024

According to the report released by the MoIT, the figure is higher than the forecast of $22 billion made by Google, Temasek, and Bain & Company in the 'e-Conomy SEA 2024' report. Vietnam's e-commerce market ranks third in the region, trailing behind Indonesia ($65 billion) and Thailand ($26 billion).

Notably, e-commerce has gradually become a key distribution channel, contributing to the development of the supply chain at home and aboard. E-commerce facilitates the consumption of goods and agricultural products made by farmers and businesses, especially during the harvest seasons.Several enterprises have recorded breakthrough growth by utilising e-commerce platforms. Meanwhile, cross-border retail sales have soared, attracting the participation of small-and medium-sized enterprises.

Accounting for over 60 per cent of Vietnam's digital economy in 2024, e-commerce has been one of the country's two key growth drivers, alongside online tourism. Other industries include ride hailing, food delivery, and online advertising.Vietnam's e-commerce growth ranks in the top 10 worldwide, creating a driving force for economic development and spurring businesses' digital transformation.The market has recently witnessed the arrival of cross-border platforms like Temu and Shein, sparking fierce competition with existing players like Shopee, TikTok Shop, Lazada, Tiki, and Sendo.

Despite ample potential, e-commerce models have become increasingly complex and diverse, which has posed regulatory challenges. Livestream sales are regulated under general e-commerce provisions as an advertising activity accompanying sales. However, Vietnam has yet to issue specific rules for live streamers, account identification, and information control during live sessions.

Another challenge is the rise of counterfeit and substandard goods, as violations are becoming increasingly sophisticated in the digital space.Regarding cross-border e-commerce activities, there are difficulties in management due to a lack of strong provisions. As a result, e-commerce platforms like Temu and Shein have ventured into Vietnam without completing formal legal procedures. Local products have been impacted by the entry of foreign goods into the Vietnamese market due to a lack of control.

In this context, the MoIT is studying and proposing the Law on E-commerce to form a regulatory framework. The ministry has also bolstered control and inspection of violations, especially regarding cross-border digital platforms.In Vietnam, nearly 725,000 organisations and individuals are conducting business on e-commerce platforms, with a total transaction value exceeding $2.94 billion, according to the tax authority. Tax revenue from e-commerce activities in 2024 climbed by 20 per cent on-year, reaching $4.6 billion.

<<59

To address the crisis, stakeholders are urging immediate intervention. Proposed solutions include providing direct support to farmers through subsidies, upgrading irrigation infrastructure, and ensuring access to high-quality seeds and fertilisers. Investments in agricultural research and development are also essential, particularly to develop drought-resistant and pest-resistant cotton varieties that can withstand the increasing pressures of climate change. Market reforms are equally critical. Stabilising cotton prices and creating robust market linkages will ensure fair compensation for farmers, encouraging them to continue investing in cotton cultivation. With coordinated efforts from the government, private sector, and agricultural experts, Pakistan may still be able to reverse this troubling trend and restore cotton's pivotal role in the national economy.

Vietnam: Second biggest garment exporter globally

Vietnam's garment and textiles export is projected to hit nearly 44 billion USD this year, positioning the country as the world's second biggest exporter, only behind India, said General Director of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex) Cao Huu Hieu.

At a meeting in Hanoi on December 25 to review Vinatex's business operations and outline plans for 2025, Hieu said Vinatex will pursue sustainable development across environment, society, governance and finance (ESGF) next year. Specifically, it will renew management practices through digital transformation and the adoption of best corporate governance models, including the integration of automation technology and artificial intelligence which is also meant to reduce reliance on labourers.

Deputy Chief of the Vinatex Office Hoang Manh Cam highlighted the positive growth signals emerging from major import markets like the US and EU, where economic recovery and increased consumer spending are creating a promising outlook for the textile and garment industry. He also pointed out the significant opportunity presented by the shift of orders from Bangladesh, which could greatly benefit Vietnamese textile enterprises.

While the first half of 2024 saw only modest improvements, the latter half experienced a dramatic surge in orders, fueled by unexpected political upheavals in competing nations. Despite these hurdles, Vinatex and the broader industry maintained a growth trajectory, with no units reporting losses. The group's consolidated revenue is estimated at 18.1 trillion VND (724 million USD), a 2.8% increase year on year, while consolidated profit is projected to reach 740 billion VND, up 37.5%. Additionally, the average monthly income of employees rose by 8.9%, reaching 10.3 million VND.

Hieu attributed Vinatex's successes to the exploration of new and niche markets with specialised, hi-tech products such as fire-resistant fabrics and clothing, developed in partnership with the UK's COATS Group. The group has also focused on developing new filament core yarns and blended fibers, alongside adopting an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system to optimise business resource management.

It also held conferences and seminars on sustainable development and adoption of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices. It is directing investments toward building a second wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 8,000 cu.m per day and night, complementing the existing plant with a capacity of 10,000 cu.m at Pho Noi Textile and Garment Industrial Park in Hung Yen province, toward creating a model green textile industrial park in the northern region.

Vietnam: Textile, garment, and footwear see export growth

According to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association, the textile and garment sector achieved $44 billion in exports last year, an increase of 11 per cent on-year. The US remains Vietnam's largest export market, with turnover of $16.7 billion, up over 12 per cent against 2023 and making up for 38 per cent of total export turnover. It was followed by Japan, the EU, South Korea, and China.

Garment 10 Corporation, a member of Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex), also achieved its 2024 goals with a revenue of nearly $185 million and a profit of $5.2 million, up 10 per cent and 7 per cent on-year, respectively. Another member company, Hoa Tho Textile and Garment JSC, also posted close to $195 million in revenue and more than $13 million in profit in 2024, up 10 per cent on-year and 53 per cent respectively compared to the year's plan.

Meanwhile, the footwear and leather sector fetched a revenue of $27 billion, marking a 10 per cent rise from 2023. Last year's figure stood at just $24 billion, down over 14 per cent from 2022.

According to the Vietnam Leather, Footwear, and Handbag Association, the sector has taken advantage of free trade agreements Vietnam has signed to boost exports, with activities involving China, the EU, South Korea, and ASEAN faring well over the past year.

"Large markets such as the US and the EU posted a growth rate of over 10 per cent. In particular, China remains the sector's billion-dollar export market, trailing behind the US and EU and accounting for 9 per cent of export turnover," the association said.Vietnam reaffirmed its position as the world's third-largest footwear producer (behind China and India) with a 1.4 billion-pair annual output and the second-largest footwear exporter globally (after China) with 1.3 billion pairs exported annually.

Major textile and footwear companies have so far received orders until April. However, challenges remain for businesses next year as order prices will not increase while input costs continue to rise. Companies have to adjust their production to adapt to major changes in brands' purchasing patterns, alongside regulations related to payment. This is coupled with more stringent sustainability requirements and self-sufficiency in raw materials.

Andri Meier, deputy head of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy, said, "Against the backdrop of the rapidly evolving international trade landscape, the sustainability requirements are no longer an option but an imperative. New regulations on sustainable trade from importers are pushing countries like Vietnam to accelerate the transformation of their production processes."Le Tien Truong, chairman of the board at Vinatex, said, "With new US tariffs looming, the textile and garment orders from China will be more expensive than usual. This is a good opportunity for countries like Vietnam to welcome orders shifting from China if they ensure good compliance with the rule of origin," Truong said.

The textile and garment sector is targeting an export turnover of $48-49 billion in 2025, while the footwear and leather sector set a goal of $29-30 billion in export turnover next year. The main export markets for Vietnam's textile and garment sector remain the US, the EU, China, Japan, and South Korea.John Goyer, executive director of Southeast Asia at the US Chamber of Commerce, said, "Bilateral trade between Vietnam and the US is on the rise, but businesses should pay more attention to the trade policies under the new US presidency. It is likely that tariff tools will be used more on imports."According to a report released by HSBC on December 20, Vietnam has the highest exposure to the US market in ASEAN, led by textiles and garments, footwear, wooden furniture, and machinery. However, trade and tariff policy is likely a challenge for the short-term trade growth outlook."Whether end demand for goods improves further will be key in determining the strength of Vietnam's recovery, as western markets make up close to half of the country's exports. The trajectory and pace of consumer spending in the west will therefore need to be closely watched," according to HSBC.

Guidelines for recycled polyester production

The ZDHC Foundation has released two important documents, the Recycled Polyester Guidelines V1.0 and the Industry Standard Implementation Approach V1.0, aimed at improving sustainability and transparency in recycled polyester production.

The global adoption of recycled polyester is growing rapidly, with usage rising by 3.5% in 2023 to 8.9 million tonnes. These guidelines address the need for sustainable practices, focusing on chemical management in bottle-to-textile and textile-to-textile recycling processes.ZDHC has outlined clear expectations for stakeholders in the textile industry. Brands are encouraged to integrate these guidelines into their supply chains and share them with suppliers to align with sustainability goals. Suppliers are advised to understand the requirements and adopt the necessary practices, while solution providers are encouraged to implement the specified testing methods and limits. These frameworks are expected to drive accountability and foster transparency, marking a significant step toward creating a sustainable and responsible textile industry.


WENLI
YIWU WENLI IMPORT & EXPORT CO. LTD.
Manufacturer Of High Speed Needle Looms Crochet Machine For Narrow Fabric Industries
Model JYG762A/B8 Crochet Machine Suitable for Design Laces, Elastics
A new Series JYW with extension in width and number of heads having modelsJYW 16/20, 6/75 & 4/130 etc.
Model JYP-6/155
JYZ-10/27H igh Speed Without Shuttle Needle Loom For Ribbon Cotton & Elastic Tape & Zipper Tapes
Introducing JYP 500 suitable for making 500mm width fabric (rigid/ Elastic) with electronic take up.
Launching New Economical Series High Speed Rope Braiding Machine
JACQUARD NEEDLE LOOM JYW For Elastic & Non Elastic Products
High Speed Nylon Zipper Coiling Machine
High Speed Nylon Zipper Stitching Machine
Nylon Zipper Assembly Machinery
Launching Automatic Slider Mounting M/C One M/C can mount multiple type of slider
AUTO TOP STOP MACHINE FOR METAL & NYLON
AUTO OPEN-END PUNCHING MACHINE
AUTO TAPE SEALING MACHINE
AUTO PIN & BOX FIXING MACHINE
Texzium International Pvt. Ltd
Delhi Office : Block-C2. Plot No.5 1st Floor, Pragati Market, Community Centre,Ashok Vihar, Phase-2, (Near Deep Market) New Delhi-110052 INDIA.
Ph.:+91-11-46036001, Mob.:+91-9654136001, 8860079888 Email : delhi@ywwenli.com, Contact Person : Mr. Gurjeet Nayyar
Surat Office: Flat No -112/17 Block No. 17 , Building Name Sapana Apartment Satya Nagar Third Floor, Surat-394210 (Guj) INDIA
Mob: +91 97181 47888 , Email: wenliindia@gmail.com


saitex®
SGL SAI GLOBAL LACE
SGL TEX™
Manufacturers of Knitted & Woven Elastic Tapes
With Global Presence Past 20 years...
202, Jash Infinity, Khatodara GIDC,
Surat-395 002. (Gujarat) INDIA
Customer Care/ Chat: +91 9227661123,
Info@saitex.in, Info@saigloballace.com,
www.saitex.in - www.saigloballace.com
NABCB
OEKO TEX STANDARD 100
IAF


Neelkamal Industries™
Manufacturer of:
Woven Label
All brands is subject to display, "not for sale".
A-26/24, M.G Road, Road No-12, Beside Jain Mandir
Udhna Udyog Nagar, Udhna,Surat- 394210 (Guj.) India.
Tel. : +91-261-2270040, Mob.: +91-98251 26642
Email: neelkamalind@gmail.com Contact Person: Nilesh Jariwala

China: GDP goal for '25 may stay at 5%

China's GDP growth target for 2025 could be set at around 5 percent, unchanged from this year, after a top-level meeting outlined more proactive and effective macroeconomic policies for the coming year, to tackle various challenges head-on and push the economy on an upward trajectory, said a senior economist.

"To achieve this goal, the fiscal and monetary policy toolkit should be front-loaded with great intensity and at a rapid pace, to stay ahead of market expectations and bring about better synergy," Luo Zhiheng, chief economist at Yuekai Securities, said in an interview with China Perspective.

China Perspective is an interview series presented by China Daily, characterized by insightful conversations with senior economists on significant economic issues.

Luo's comments came after policymakers set next year's agenda at the annual Central Economic Work Conference, adopting a "more proactive" fiscal policy for the first time and shifting its monetary stance to a "moderately loose" approach, marking an end to a 14-year run of prudent monetary policy.

Confronted with a complex web of economic challenges, ranging from sluggish domestic demand to external pressures stemming from global economic weakness and ongoing trade tensions with the United States, China needs a proactive, countercyclical approach to shore up growth, Luo said.

In particular, China has made it clear that it will raise its deficit ratio in 2025, Luo said, adding that a deficit target of as high as 4 percent of its GDP could be considered next year, up from the current 3 percent goal set for 2023.

"The deficit ratio is not just about the scale of fiscal support, but also about its ability to anchor market expectations, as it is widely interpreted as a barometer of the authorities' determination to prop up the economy and address persistent challenges," Luo said.

Given the uncertainties surrounding fiscal revenue and the pace of special bond issuances, policymakers should be prepared to promptly augment budgets within the year to accelerate expenditure growth and better leverage the countercyclical function of fiscal policy, Luo said.

In another move to enhance the effectiveness of the fiscal policy, Luo said that efforts should be made to expand the scope of usage of local government special-purpose bonds and promote the project-oriented allocation approach of these bonds.

The State Council, the country's Cabinet, said that local authorities will have more autonomy and flexibility in using these bonds, with a negative list management mechanism specifying the areas where they can't be used.

Complementing the fiscal policy initiatives, monetary easing measures, including cuts to the reserve requirement ratio and interest rates - which were also explicitly mentioned at annual meeting - stand as another key component of the countercyclical response, Luo said.

"The People's Bank of China has about 0.5 percentage point of room to maneuver in terms of further interest rate cuts in 2025," Luo said, noting that it must carefully calibrate such moves to support economic expansion, while also factoring in potential implications for the exchange rate and the profitability of the banking sector.

According to the central bank, the current weighted average RRR for financial institutions is around 6.6 percent. This level still leaves ample room for further reductions when compared to the policies of major central banks around the world.

These countercyclical measures should be delivered on the ground as early as possible, so as to get ahead of the curve, shape market sentiment and bolster overall domestic demand, rather than merely reacting to the evolving circumstances, Luo said.

In addition, expanding domestic demand is high on the government work agenda next year. While the shift from an investment-driven to a consumption-driven economy is a necessary and inevitable process, it is not an overnight transition, Luo added.

Investment and consumption are the yin and yang of domestic demand - it's not an either-or situation; the goal is to find the optimal mix of the two complementary forces to ensure well-rounded growth, Luo said.

China: Retail sales of textiles and garments decrease in Nov, 2024

China's retail sales value of consumer goods totaled 4.3763 trillion Yuan in Nov 2024, up 3% year on year. In Jan-Nov 2024, the cumulative retail sales of consumer goods amounted to 44.2723 trillion Yuan, up 3.5% year on year.

In Nov 2024, the retail value of apparel, shoes, hats, knitwear and textiles above designated size was 148.05 billion yuan, down 4.5% year on year. In Jan-Nov, the cumulative retail sales of apparel, shoes, hats, knitwear and textiles above designated size totaled 1307.31 billion yuan, up 0.4% year-on-year.

In Nov 2024, the retail value of apparel goods above designated size was 109.55 billion yuan, down 4.5% year-on-year. From January to November, the cumulative retail value of apparel was 949.3 billion yuan, flat from the same period last year.

Sri Lanka: Garment exports up 5.2% to $4.2 bn

Garment exports from Sri Lanka reached $4,244.3 million during the first eleven months of 2024, reflecting a 5.2 per cent increase compared to the $4,032.9 million exported during the same period the previous year, according to statistics released by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

From January to November 2024, textile exports from Sri Lanka saw a year-on-year decline of 13.6 per cent, totalling $271.5 million. During the same period, exports of other manufactured textile articles rose by 6.4 per cent, amounting to $97.6 million, as reported in the Central Bank's publication titled 'External Sector Performance – November 2024'.

The combined exports of textiles, garments, and other manufactured textile articles accounted for 50.66 per cent of all industrial exports from Sri Lanka during this period. Total textile product exports amounted to $4,613.4 million between January and November 2024, while Sri Lanka's overall industrial exports were valued at $9,105.3 million for the same period.

In November 2024, textile and garment exports rose by 0.5 per cent year- on-year, reaching $398.0 million. By category, garment exports saw a substantial increase of 0.9 per cent, totalling $367.8 million, while textile exports eased by 7.49 per cent to $22.8 million. Exports of other manufactured textile articles increased by 7.0 per cent, reaching $7.4 million.

As for the imports, textiles and textile articles saw an 18.6 per cent rise, totalling $2,594.5 million, while imports of clothing and accessories increased by 29.6 per cent, amounting to $200.8 million between January and November 2024.

In November 2024 alone, imports of textiles and textile articles rose by 18.9 per cent to $241.6 million, while imports of clothing and accessories surged by 46.4 per cent year-on-year, reaching $23.1 million.

In 2023, Sri Lanka's garment exports were valued at $4,440.6 million, a 19 per cent decrease from the $5,483.1 million exported in 2022.

Meanwhile, imports of textiles and textile articles dropped by 22.6 per cent to $2,371.2 million, and imports of clothing and accessories declined by 21.1 per cent, totalling $170 million in 2023.

Global activewear market to reach $771.8 billion by 2032

Valued at $425.5 billion in 2022, the global activeewar market to grow at a 6.2 per cent CAGR to reach $771.8 billion by 2032.Growing awareness of physical activity's benefits, such as enhanced focus and problem-solving skills, drives increased spending on activewear among youth. Educational systems worldwide have incorporated fitness programs into curricula, fostering interest in physical activities. Furthermore, government-led sports competitions at various levels have encouraged youth participation, boosting demand for fitness-related products. This heightened focus on fitness and sports has played a pivotal role in propelling the activewear market's growth.

However, the rising popularity of e-sports presents a notable challenge to the activewear market. With the proliferation of digital media, widespread internet access, and social platforms, e-sports have gained significant traction, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many young individuals are adopting sedentary lifestyles, leading to decreased engagement in traditional physical activities, which may impact the demand for activewear. The global activewear market is segmented by product type, fabric, gender, distribution channel, and region. The product type segment is dominated by ready-to-wear, fashion outerwear, sports shoes, and swimwear while the fabric category is led by Polyester followed by nylon, cotton, neoprene, etc. The women's segment leads the market, reflecting growing demand for fitness-oriented products tailored to women.Offline channels currently hold a significant market share, though online channels are rapidly growing. In 2022, North America led the market with an expected CAGR of 4.9 per cent driven by robust consumer demand and strong market leadership.

A few of the major players in the activewear market include Nike, Adidas, Puma, Lululemon Athletica, Under Armor, Columbia Sportswear, Skechers, ASICS, and Dick's Sporting Goods. These companies continue to focus on innovation, strategic partnerships, and expanding their market presence to stay competitive.

Adsorbi's alternative to activated carbon

In partnership with SmellWell and Icebug, Swedish startup Adsorbi has introduced a new generation of shoe deodorizers made from Nordic wood.

SmellWell Freshener Inserts provide a durable, low-emission alternative to traditional odour removers like activated carbon. The products will be sold through Icebug's online store and selected retailers.

Adsorbi, a greentech company rooted in research from Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg and backed by the university, Metsä Spring and Jovitech Invest, has created an alternative to activated carbon based on cellulose from Nordic forests. This material generates around 50% lower CO_2 emissions – 3.5 kg CO_2 per kilogram of material compared to activated carbon which has an emissions factor of 7.5 kg CO_2 per kilogram of material.

"We are thrilled to see our innovation contributing to a product that aligns with both sustainability and functionality," says Hanna Johansson, CEO of Adsorbi. "This collaboration demonstrates the potential of Swedish research to challenge traditional materials."

The global shoe deodorizer market is expected to increase from a size of $272 million in 2023 to US $470 million by the end of 2033.

Strong backing for FibreCoat

FibreCoat has raised nearly €20 million in a Series B funding round co-led by NewSpace Capital and Goose Capital, with participation from Nova Saint-Gobain, 212 NexT, Otto Krahn New Business, Convergent Ventures and TiE.Founded in Aachen, Germany, in 2020, FibreCoat has developed a pioneering process for coating fibres with metals and plastics during spinning. This combines the unique properties of fibres with coating materials to deliver products that are lightweight, strong, conductive and recyclable at a fraction of the cost of traditional alternatives.

The company's technology stems from its origins at RWTH Aachen University's Institute for Textile Technology where the founding team built its expertise.

Its initial products are AluCoat, metal-coated basalt fibres used for electromagnetic shielding and conducting applications, and PolyCoat, thermoplastic-coated glass fibres used for strengthening and light weighting applications.FibreCoat's materials are making waves in multiple industries, particularly in space and defence, where durability and performance are critical. Spacecraft components must endure harsh conditions, including radiation, extreme temperatures, and electromagnetic interference (EMI), while remaining lightweight for efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

"We're grateful to NewSpace Capital, Goose Capital and all our investors for backing us," said CEO Dr Robert Brull. "We're an ambitious team keen to innovate, increase production and satisfy the demand for basic building blocks for defence, space, automotive and other crucial sectors. Affordable, high-performance materials are vital for electric vehicles, while in defence, there is real demand for yarns for sensors, circuits, shielding and chaff material.

"Space is also a critically important sector, one that touches every area of the world economy. It's growing rapidly, and both launchers and satellites increasingly need the coated fibres we develop to withstand harsh conditions and EMI. NewSpace Capital will help with its extensive network and market knowledge, so we can bring our low-cost, high-performance materials to those who need them. It's an exciting time for the company."

"We see this investment as an opportunity to grow a differentiated player within the space sector," added Bogdan Gogulan, managing partner at NewSpace Capital. "FibreCoat is solving a major problem in the space industry, which is the exposure of spacecraft to radiation, heat, EMI and other conditions. The company is also a great example of how the space and non-space supply chains are converging – a trend that has been clear to see over the last decade. "There are significant synergies between space, defence, automotive and other terrestrial markets in which FibreCoat operates and there are a number of industrial partners that came into this funding round with us, highlighting the spillover from space to non-space market segments and vice versa."

Climate compensation for spinners

The contamination of cotton with synthetic fibres remains a significant concern for spinning mills and Loepfe's Prisma system for polypropylene clearing continues to evolve. Prisma P-clearing is now optimised for spinning mills facing fluctuating humidity levels in order to offer better fabric quality while maintaining the cut rate of yarns.Over the past 12 months, extensive trials have been conducted and data collected and used to upgrade the level of accuracy in polypropylene detection by the company, headquartered in Wetzikon, Switzerland.
The data was used for optimisation in signal processing and to offer an additional setting function specifically for spinning mills that must contend with pronounced climatic fluctuations.
Polypropylene contamination, typically stemming from bale packaging, can lead to a myriad of issues throughout the production process. These include broken needles in knitting applications, thread breakage during weaving and visible defects in the final product after dyeing. Effective contamination clearing substantially enhances yarn quality, but overly stringent measures can negatively impact production efficiency and increase waste.
Prisma P-clearing balances the need for quality yarns with maintaining operational efficiency. Loepfe's approach combines advanced technology, precise signal processing and tailored settings to address various production scenarios, now enhanced to account specifically for humidity fluctuations.
Prisma now features an innovative climate compensation setting and extensive testing at affected spinning mills has demonstrated several benefits, including enhanced overall classification accuracy, improved clearing performance, consistent cut rates and superior final fabric quality, with the same cuts and better clearing performance.
The new function makes it easy to counteract the changing climate in a spinning mill and then takes into account the increasing humidity and calculates an average value between the standard deviation and the peak values.
The P-Matrix allows operators to input specific parameters, starting with a pre-generated clearing curve by the Autostart function that considers the most crucial factors for optimal and efficient clearing results. By easily adjusting the settings – raising or lowering the clearing curve – operators can tailor outcomes to meet their individual production needs.
The key influences on polypropylene clearing include fibre length and short fibre content, yarn count, the amount of twist in the yarn, yarn hairiness and humidity's impact on hairiness.
The Climate Compensation value may be influenced by the yarn count and cotton variety. It is recommended to use a value of 50% as a starting point, since various trials show that the best results can be achieved between 35% and 75%.

Net zero energy at Piana nonwovens plant

Piana Technology, the 442-year-old Italian-made textile company, has offset energy consumption at its non-wovens plant in Cartersville, Georgia, by 100% via an expanded solar panel system making it possible for the plant to operate at net zero energy.

The expanded photovoltaic (PV) system became operational in December following two upgrades, enabling electricity grid consumption to be completely offset. Any solar overproduction is fed back into the city's grid, contributing to local energy supply. The two expanded systems add an extra 1,244,564 kWh per year, enabling the company to avoid generating 920 tons of CO2 emissions per year – equivalent to the carbon sequestration of 250 acres of trees.

Piana Technology collaborated with Southern View Energy, a local solar electrical design and installation company, to bring the project to fruition.

"This is an exciting milestone for our ongoing sustainability goals, and it will set a new high bar for all of our manufacturing facilities," said Andrea Piana, CEO of Piana Technology. "We know we're creating a blueprint for other companies and manufacturers to follow. This is the future. You can do it better and do it greener."

Piana can trace its roots in the textile industry back to 1582 in Biella, Italy, and opened its first American factory in Cartersville in 1995. Today, Piana Technology is a multinational company addressing common problems with unique solutions in nonwovens, digital printing and fibre treatments.

Busi Medical machine gets enhancement

Driven by its commitment to continuous innovation, Italian socks machine builder Busi Giovanni has enhanced its stitch-by-stitch toe-closing device to enable seamless sewing of open tubes.

"Among our range of models, Busi Medical stands out as the ideal machine for producing graduated compression socks and sleeves," commented Technical Director, Leonardo Busi.The innovative machine combines fully automatic, stitch-by-stitch toe-closing with the capability to knit true rib structures and intricate patterns in up to five colours.

"Driven by our commitment to continuous innovation, we've enhanced the stitch-by-stitch toe-closing device to enable seamless sewing of open tubes," Leonardo Busi adds. "This advancement eliminates the need for time-consuming manual work when finalising open-ended sleeves, significantly streamlining production and boosting efficiency."

According to the company, the distinctive sleeve structure seen in the above image is achievable exclusively through the combination of Busi Medical and Busi Rimaglio.

"Our machines are designed to enable the production of a wide variety of socks and sleeves. To explore the full potential of Busi machines, please don't hesitate to contact us," Mr Busi concludes. Since 1958 Busi Giovanni has specialised in the design and construction of single-cylinder machines with rib needles in the dial for the production of high-quality stockings, socks and tights. The company is a supplier to the most important producers of stockings, socks and tights, for the men's, women's and children's markets - classic, patterned, sports, technical-sports, as well as medical, with special solutions for graduated compression.

The family-run company sells in 63 countries around the world (90% export) through a network of partners that provide distribution and service.

MCAK Urges to protect Kenya's secondhand clothing industry

Global stakeholders are being called to combat misinformation about Kenya's secondhand clothing industry and focus on evidence-based research to shape policies.

Teresia Wairimu Njenga, chairperson of the Mitumba Consortium Association of Kenya (MCAK), highlighted the success of their 2024 advocacy campaign while warning of mounting challenges facing reuse and recycling operators. Njenga emphasized that over 95% of >>72

Kipas, Archroma, Jeanologia introduce eco-friendly denim

To address the denim production challenge, Turkish textile mill Kipas partnered with dye manufacturer Archroma and laundry innovator Jeanologia to develop Contra Colors. This innovative concept allows for high-contrast denim designs with a reduced environmental footprint, making it an ideal choice for lasering and achieving vintage effects with minimal impact.

According to Carmen Silla, marketing director at Jeanologia, and Julio Perales, technical manager for denim at Archroma, the key challenge in achieving washed-down looks on black denim lies in the extensive post-processing required. Black fabrics typically demand additional manual work and washes after laser applications, making production more resource-intensive.

Mustafa Güleken, general manager at Kipas, emphasized that the innovation eliminates the need for extra processing steps. "At Kipas, we focus on creating solutions that enhance both design and production while considering the entire product lifecycle," Güleken explained. The concept integrates TENCEL™ fibers to align with eco-friendly goals, ensuring a sustainable approach to denim production.

With Contra Colors, the collaborative efforts of Kipas, Archroma, and Jeanologia aim to revolutionize the denim industry by reducing its environmental impact while providing high-quality, fashionable options for consumers.

<<71

imported secondhand clothes are not waste, despite punitive taxes and regulations that jeopardize sustainable practices developed over decades.

Njenga represented Kenya's secondhand clothing trade in meetings across the EU, UK, Ghana, and the US. These discussions revealed a common issue: textile collectors, sorters, and recyclers face escalating costs and regulations that threaten their survival in the fight against fast fashion. With the EU leading policy reforms that set global precedents, Njenga stressed that these changes could adversely affect livelihoods in Kenya, where 2 million traders and 6.2 million households rely on secondhand clothing.

MCAK urged policymakers to rely on robust evidence rather than misleading advocacy materials that wrongfully blame secondhand clothing imports for waste management failures."Secondhand clothes are not the problem but part of the solution," Njenga said. "They exemplify the circular economy and are essential to Kenya and other nations like Ghana. By allowing our trade to be villainized, policymakers risk worsening global textile pollution."

Recycle carbon fiber into valuable products

Scientists at the University of Southern California (USC) have developed an innovative process that uses a special fungus to recycle carbon fiber materials, which often end up in landfills. The process transforms these materials into useful products, addressing a significant waste management challenge. According to USC Today, this method could reduce the environmental impact of discarded carbon fiber materials commonly found in car panels and light rail vehicles.

The study, conducted in collaboration with researchers from the University of Kansas, presents a sustainable way to repurpose carbon fiber materials. Instead of allowing these materials to decay in landfills, the fungal-based process breaks them down and converts them into valuable resources. If implemented on a larger scale, this approach could significantly cut down the volume of waste entering landfills.

The need for this solution is urgent due to the increasing volume of composite waste. USC Today highlights that by 2030, around 6,000 to 8,000 commercial planes containing composite materials will be retired. Additionally, by 2050, decommissioned wind turbines are expected to generate 483,000 tons of composite waste. The fungal process could intercept this waste before it ends up in landfills, offering a sustainable way to manage these materials.

Eco-friendly materials from nut shells

European researchers are working on creating durable and sustainable materials from tough nut shells. The goal of this research is to develop sustainable, energy-efficient, and biodegradable materials for use in packaging and textiles. The new materials aim to have a minimal carbon and environmental footprint while being resource-efficient.

Dr. Notburga Gierlinger, an Austrian expert in plant material structure and composition, is captivated by the strength of nut shells. “The shells are so hard I fear using my teeth in case I damage them,” said Gierlinger, an associate professor at BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, Austria.

BOKU researcher Paraskevi Charalambous plays a key role in the project, focusing on finding recyclable solvents. Her work has involved exploring solvents with very low melting points. “It’s been a challenge to return the chemical we use to its original form,” she noted. Despite the difficulties, the team has made significant strides since the project began in 2023.

The team has successfully created prototypes, including a nut-leather wallet. The materials they are developing are recyclable and compostable, offering a sustainable alternative to traditional composites. Unlike conventional methods that require additional chemicals to enhance functionality, this process avoids such additives. As a result, the materials can be dissolved and reused.The researchers are now focused on moving these innovative materials toward production. “The next step is to find companies interested in collaborating,” said Gierlinger. The team is optimistic about the potential applications of these “nutty” materials in the future.

3D printing for recyclable soft plastics

Princeton researchers have developed a cost-effective 3D printing method to create soft plastics with unique properties. This scalable technique allows for the production of materials that combine stretchiness, flexibility, and recyclability. The study, published in Advanced Functional Materials, details how the team utilized thermoplastic elastomers, a common class of polymers, to 3D-print structures with adjustable stiffness.

The process enables precise control over the material’s properties. By customizing the 3D printer’s print path, engineers can program the plastic to stretch and flex in one direction while remaining firm in another. This innovation opens up possibilities for various applications, including soft robotics, medical devices, prosthetics, lightweight helmets, and high-performance shoe soles.

Assistant professor Emily Davidson, who led the study, emphasized the importance of this innovation. “The elastomer forms nanostructures that we can control,” Davidson explained, noting that this gives designers significant control over the finished product. The team leveraged their understanding of block copolymer nanostructures and their response to flow to develop a printing technique that aligns these stiff nanostructures effectively.

The technique is both affordable and scalable for industrial use. Unlike traditional methods that rely on expensive materials like liquid crystal elastomers and complex multi-stage processing, this approach uses thermoplastic elastomers that cost about a cent per gram. These materials can be printed with commercially available 3D printers, making the technique accessible and practical for a wide range of industries.

Recycled polystyrene yoghurt cups

INEOS Styrolution, a global leader in styrenics, has successfully completed its first project involving mechanically recycled polystyrene in yoghurt cups. This achievement was made possible through collaboration with multiple partners along the value chain.

A key aspect of the process is INEOS Styrolution's "super clean process," a technology registered under EU regulation 2022/1616. This innovative process ensures food-grade quality recyclates, previously only achievable with PET bottle recycling.

The recycled polystyrene maintains the same physical properties as conventionally produced material, creating a seamless circular solution. Comprehensive quality checks were conducted on both the material and the yoghurt cups. The novel technology is also undergoing detailed analysis for EFSA evaluation. Additionally, the environmental impact of the recycled material is significantly lower than traditional alternatives.

In spring 2024, a consumer test was conducted in collaboration with Unternehmensgruppe Theo Müller, a leading German dairy producer. Hundreds of yoghurt cups made from recycled polystyrene were distributed to volunteers in an INEOS canteen for evaluation. The results showed that 90% of testers were willing to purchase the product. They also expressed openness to recycled cups having a different colour, moving away from the traditional plain white design.

Under Armour partners to develop microfibre release test

Sportswear brand Under Armour, in collaboration with textile testing company Hohenstein and measuring device provider PPT Group, has introduced a standardised method to measure microfibre release from textiles during simulated washing conditions.

The newly published test, titled DIN SPEC 19292, aims to assist apparel and textile companies in assessing the microfibre release of various materials throughout the product development process.

This initiative provides a reliable framework for measuring and evaluating microfibre emissions, promoting greater transparency and sustainability across the textile value chain.

Milliken & Company offers non-PFAS turnout gear fabrics

Milliken & Company, a global leader in diversified manufacturing, has announced that it is the first textile manufacturer to provide non-PFAS materials for all three layers of firefighter turnout gear: the outer shell, thermal liner, and moisture barrier. By offering all three layers from a single U.S.-based supplier, Milliken enables garment manufacturers to test the fabrics as a unified system, ensuring faster production and delivery to firefighters.

"Milliken is proud to be the only U.S. manufacturer offering non-PFAS fabric for every layer of turnout gear, but more importantly, we're proud that these fabrics exceed performance standards," said Marcio Manique, Senior Vice President of Protective Fabrics at Milliken. "Our mission is to protect first responders without compromising health, protection, or comfort, and our certification results reflect that commitment."

Milliken's fabrics have exceeded expectations under the newly issued NFPA 1970-2025 standard, which was created with reduced performance criteria anticipating lower results from non-PFAS products. However, Milliken's composites surpassed the stricter NFPA 1971-2018 standards during third-party testing conducted in November. Additionally, each layer of Milliken's composites has received UL certification. States like Massachusetts and Connecticut have already enacted bans on PFAS in firefighters' protective gear starting in 2027. Milliken's composites are currently the only high-performing, non-PFAS, non-halogenated flame-resistant options available in the market. The company eliminated PFAS from its fire service fabrics in 2021 and from its entire textile fibers and finishes portfolio by 2023.

Benin's organic cotton initiative moves into second phase

An initiative in Benin has been helping small-scale farmers transition to organic cotton farming under the Cotton made in Africa Organic (CmiA Organic) standards. These standards strictly prohibit synthetic pesticides and aim to strengthen the organic cotton sector while ensuring sustainable development for farming communities.

The initiative has made a significant impact, enabling nearly 9,000 farmers to switch to organic cotton production. Over the three years, farmers have not only adopted the CmiA Organic standards but have also seen a 65% increase in organic cotton yield and a 9% boost in farm profitability.

Training sessions and workshops provided farmers with essential knowledge on organic farming techniques, such as pest management and selecting high-quality seeds. The program also emphasized empowering women, resulting in a 30% increase in women taking leadership roles in cooperative committees by the end of the project.Alexandra Perschau, head of standards and outreach at AbTF, said, "Cotton farmers are a vital part of the Aid by Trade Foundation. We are proud to have supported them in this transition to organic cotton and look forward to continuing this collaboration with OBEPAB, which plays a crucial role in this effort. Additionally, we are glad to offer these farmers better market opportunities through our CmiA and CmiA Organic standards, which connect them to over 2,700 partners worldwide."During a visit to Benin's textile production areas and organic cotton farms, representatives from AbTF, GIZ, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), and the African Cotton Foundation (ACF) observed the country's growing prominence in organic cotton production.Alessandra Fiedler, GIZ's representative for the project in Benin, stated, "We met highly motivated farmers dedicated to producing high-quality organic cotton, which benefits both the environment and their families' well-being. The foundation is now set to expand organic production, making Benin a prime destination for sourcing and processing organic cotton. We are excited to start the next phase of collaboration with OBEPAB, Reinhart, AbTF, PAN UK, and SODECO."

Sustainable PLA fabric line

Acme Mills Co. has unveiled Natura, a new line of bio-based polylactic acid (PLA) fabrics. This innovative product range is designed to replace petroleum-based materials like PET, PP, and Nylon, offering a sustainable alternative without compromising on quality or functionality. Natura marks a significant step forward in reducing environmental impact.

The product line features different types of textiles such as spunbond nonwovens, needled felts, hydroentangled, and melt-blown materials. These fabrics cater to various sectors, including food and beverage, packaging, automotive, furniture, healthcare, and filtration.

"Natura is more than just a product; it's a reflection of our dedication to sustainability and innovation," said Matt Utley, Chief of Strategy at Acme Mills. "By providing a bio-based alternative, we are helping industries adopt eco-friendly practices without sacrificing performance."

Using materials like corn starch and sugarcane, these fabrics decompose under industrial composting conditions. With insights from sustainability leaders like NatureWorks, Natura fabrics offer a lower environmental footprint, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

Hugo Boss launches Eightyards to drive sustainability

German fashion brand Hugo Boss has strengthened its sustainability commitment by launching Eightyards, an autonomous entity dedicated to recycling and repurposing excess materials from the company's operations.

Fully owned by Hugo Boss, Eightyards aligns with the brand's focus on environmentally conscious and resource-efficient production. The venture is set to begin operations in January 2025 from Metzingen, Germany, under the leadership of Marketa Miltenberger as director and Placido Klitzke as co-director.

In a statement, Hugo Boss shared Eightyards' mission to recycle and reuse surplus materials like fabrics, extending their use to industries beyond fashion. This move is crucial to the company's goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030 and extending this across its value chain by 2045.

In partnership with HeiQ, a Swiss innovation firm, Hugo Boss is combating microplastic pollution and advancing its zero-emissions goals. The brand recently introduced two BOSS polo shirts made from AeoniQ yarn, a sustainable fiber derived from renewable cellulose

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I would like to subscribe

Communion
Publication for Textile & Apparel Industry

By Regular Mail:

Subscription Period: ❑ 1 year ❑ 2 years ❑ 3 years

INDIA / INTERNATIONAL	1 year	2 years	3 years
	1500/- | $80	2500/- | $150	4000/- | $200

By Courier:

Subscription Period: ❑ 1 year ❑ 2 years ❑ 3 years

INDIA / INTERNATIONAL	1 year	2 years	3 years
	2500/- | $90	4500/- | $175	6000/- | $250

By Digital:

Subscription Period: (by Whatsapp or Email only) ❑ 1 year ❑ 2 years ❑ 3 years

INDIA / INTERNATIONAL	1 year	2 years	3 years
	1200/- | $50	2000/- | $100	2800/- | $150

2943/13, 2nd & 3rd floor, Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi-110008 (INDIA)
Tel.:+91-11-41104740/41104741 Mob.:+91 9810036476 / 576/ 9811036576
Email : communionadvt@gmail.com | www.communiononline.com
PAYMENT TO BE MADE F/O **WORLD IMPEX INC**,
BANK:- HDFC BANK, ACCOUNT NO. 13652000000013,
IFS CODE:HDFC0001365, BRANCH EAST PATEL NAGAR, NEW DELHI (INDIA)

Name..
Designation..
Company..
Address...
....
Pin..
City...
Country..
Tel:..
Mobile:..
GST NO:..
Email:..
Website...

We are:

❑Manufacturer ❑ Exporter ❑ Importer ❑ Buying Agent
❑Designer ❑Consultant ❑ Institute ❑ other

We are Dealing in:

....
....
I am enclosing a Cheque/DD No...
For Rs............................Dated..
drawn on ....


KSE
K.S. ENTERPRISES
X/233,Gali No-0, Ram Nagar Market,
Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031(India)
Ph:011-33100532 Rahul-9013226437
Kishore Singh:9213433728 , 9953883799
kishoresingh.2505@gmail.com
Spl in:Cotton Laces, Lycra Laces, GPO Laces ,Ribbons,
Elastic, Net Fabrics & All Fashionable Garment Acc...


Tailor's Marking Chalk
GOLD
GOLD
MIX COLOUR & DOUBLE COLOUR CHALK
Sureshchandra & Brothers
H-20 Madhavpura Market, Shahibaug Road,
Ahmedabad-380004
M : +91 98240 76204, Email : asp.sureco@gmail.com

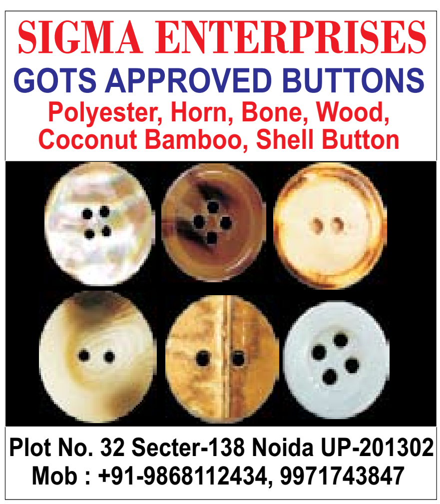

INFINITY CREATION
Mfg. of Fancy Multi, Sequins,
Dori Embroidery Lace, Neck & Blouse
20-21,1st Floor, Ranchhod Rai Nagar, Near Raktdan Kendra,
Khatodara, Udhna, Surat, India. Mobile.:+91-9376493643,
Email : jkcreationlace@gmail.com, www.jkcreationlace.com


A.G IMPEX
Manufacturer of: All Types of Buttons
(Polyester, Metal, Snap & Laser)
463/3, Mint St Chennai-600079
Telephone:+91-44-25203862 / 42052654
Mobile:+91-9840127429
Email: ca_harry@vsnl.net


AMAZING ®
Bra Cups
R.P. & SONS
Mfg. & suppliers of: - All kinds of
BRA PAD'S , SHOULDER PAD'S
& ZIPPER.
Office - 3877, Kucha Mohattar Khan, Mori Gate, Delhi-110006
Khewat No. 46, Kila No. 15/13, Bagru, Barwasni,
Near Guru Sadan, Satyanarayan Marg, Sonipat-131022
Mob.: +91 9811110325, 8586939339


S.P. ENTERPRISES
MANUFACTURER OF ZIPPER & ALL KINDS OF GARMENT ACCESSORIES
Add : No 38. B.S.S. Nagar Devangapuram, Tirupur-641602
(Tamil Nadu) India Ph: 0421-4240836, 4240926
Contact: Mr. K. Shambhu- 09344689564,
Mr. T.K. Balaji- 09994956394
Email: shambhusk04@gmail.com


Whole Saller
DEEP'S CREATION
EXCLUSIVE LACES • SAREE BORDERES
PATCHES • LATKANS • BUTTONS & MUCH MORE
Shop No, 9 Shiv Darshan Shopping Centre,
Santacruz West, Mumbai - 400054 India
+91-9167401313, 9920513224
Sareeborder_laces_trims_online
www.deepscreation.in


SIGMA ENTERPRISES
GOTS APPROVED BUTTONS
Polyester, Horn, Bone, Wood,
Coconut Bamboo, Shell Button
Plot No. 32 Secter-138 Noida UP-201302
Mob : +91-9868112434, 9971743847


Goel Weaving Factory
MANUFACTURER & TRADER:
All Kind of Niwar,Cloth & Narrow Woven Fabrics
Bhagwan Ganj Mandi, Modi Nagar-201204 (U.P)
Mb:9810410325/9219505070/9219505010
Ph & Fax: 0123-2242325,221550,243537
E-mail: services@goelweaving.com
Website: www.goelweaving.com

Exhibition Schedule 2025-2026

National & International

JANUARY 2025

YARNEX/ TEXINDIA/ DYCHEM/ HOMETEX
January 17-19
Dana Mandi, Bahadur-Ke-Road, Ludhiana
Fibers, Yarns, Fabrics, Accessories, Service

FEBRUARY 2025

F&A SHOW
February 7-9
Trade Centre, KTPO, Whitefield, Bangalore. India
Fibers, Yarns, Fabrics, Accessories, Service

GMMASA EXPO INDIA
February 7-10, 2025
Dana Mandi, Bahadur Road Near Jaladhar Bye Pass Ludhiana India.
Spinning, Weaving, Knitting, Printing, Embroidery Etc.

BHARAT TEX 2025
February 14-17
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India
Textiles, Fashion, Sustainability

VIATT
February 26-28
Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC), Vietnam
Textiles, Fashion, Sustainability

GTE'25
February 12-15
India Expo Centre & Mart
Greater Noida Expressway, Delhi-NCR India
This is a leading expo on garment textile machinery & Accessories

YARN FAIR
February 26-28, 2025
Istanbul, Turkey
Leading Trade Show for Yarn Industry.

APRIL 2025

SAIGON TEX 2025
9-12 April, 2025
Secc, Hochiminh City Vietnam
Vietnam Saigon Textile & Garment Industry Expo
(Including Textile Garment Dye And Non Wovem Industries)

MAY 2025

GARTEX TEXPROCESS INDIA
22-24 May 2025
Venue: Jio World Convention Centre Bandra Kurla Complex Mumbai, India.
(Integrated Expo On Garment) Manufacturing & Textile Technologies

JULY 2025

GFT-BANGKOK
July. 23-26, 2025
BITEC, BANGKOK, THAILAND\
This is a comprehensive tradeshow on garment textile machinery & Accessories

OCTOBER 2025

ITMA ASIA+CITME
October 28-31
Singapore Expo, Singapore. \
Showcase your technologies at the leading textile technology exhibition driving regional growth

** Above information is provided by Exhibition organizers. It is subject to change. COMMUNION is not responsible for any manner.*

Quality by kwality...

India's Largest Manufacturer Of Narrow Fabric

Elastic, Tape & Zippers

Customise

Kwality International

+91 9920947478, 8080972971

kwality.international1@gmail.com

Foctory : B5/101, Parasnath Complex Mankoli Depoli Road Bhiwandi - 421302 (MH) India.