



# Apparel INDIA

YR 23 ISSUE 12

APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL MAGAZINE | DECEMBER, 2023 | RNI NO. HARENG/2012/45083 ₹ 100



**EXCELLENCE HONOURS**  
Entrepreneurship & Business Success  
2021-22 & 2022-23  
Towards Achieving USD 40B Apparel Export by 2025

## Textiles Minister awards RMG export performers for 2021-22 and 2022-23



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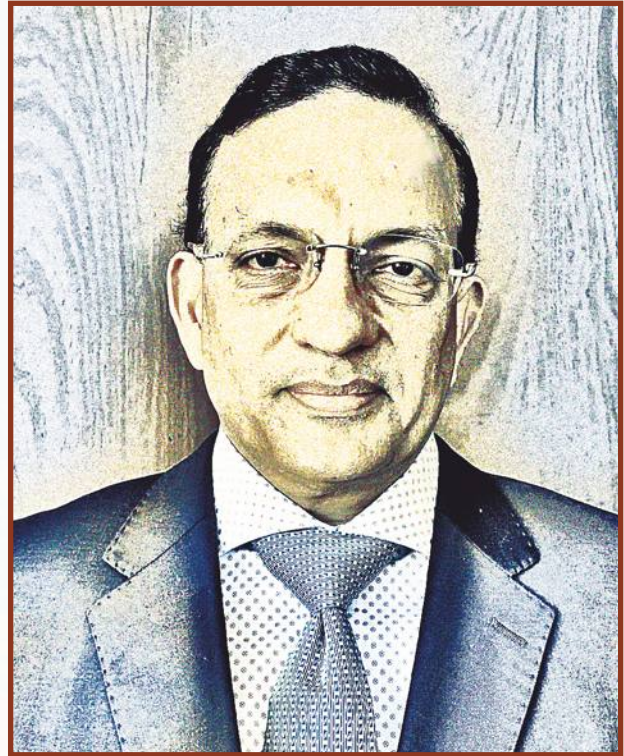
## Dear Friends,

**A**s we are in the closing month of eventful 2023, it is time for us to reflect upon the achievements and challenges which this year has thrown to the RMG industry. At the outset, I would like to place my deep gratitude and appreciation to Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Shri Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for the Textiles, Commerce and Industry for actively focusing upon the textiles industry and have far-reaching vision to take India's textiles exports to 100 billion USD, which has been oscillating between 16-18 billion USD for more than a decade, despite our inherent advantages of raw material base.

This month AEPC hosted the 23rd AEPC Excellence Honours 2021-22 and 2022-23. These exports awards recognized extraordinary contributions made by Indian Apparel exporters in building our modern export enterprises and in helping to further develop a unique Indian export culture. I once again congratulate all the winners!

Apart from adding to the growth of our international trade, these export heroes have contributed to India's image as a progressive member of the international business community and are role models for future generations of Indian exporters. I am happy that the '40 by 30' theme of the 23rd AEPC Excellence Honours 2021-22 and 2022-23 will keep inspiring trade to grow further. The Power Group Discussion has highlighted pressing issues and solutions to enhance export competitiveness.

Exports of RMG have been seeing declining trends globally, our major markets are hit by shrinking demand and two ongoing wars have further hit raw material prices due to inflationary pressure. India's RMG exports have also been impacted and are struggling to reach last year's export performance. Government has always been supporting this sector owing to its employment and exports potential.



In 2023, government encouragement came through Foreign Trade Policy 2023 (FTP 2023), extension of the Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) till 30th June 2024 and enhanced duty drawback rates for most of the items of RMG. Also there has been intensified effort from the government to allow greater market access by entering into a string of FTAs and few waiting to be inked like India- UK, India-EU, India- Peru, India- Oman, etc.

The Government had launched a National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) with an outlay of Rs. 1,480 crores, approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles with an approved outlay of Rs 10,683 crore and launched PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme to develop world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4445 crore for a period up to 2027-28. PM MITRA Parks Scheme is inspired by the 5F vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign with nearly Rs. 70,000 crore investment.

Our value proposition and product range both will grow gradually. Today most of the factories are getting compliant and following ESG norms in the drive to create a quality-based value proposition. We have started branding our cotton called Kasturi cotton, which uses traceability from the farm level.

Investment and branding in the RMG sector are the weakest links. To address this, we will be having the world's biggest Textiles Fair Bharat Tex Expo 2024 in February. This fair will showcase India's prowess across its value chain. For a long time, we did not have an international fair which matched the global standard and scale. From Farm to Fashion India will be showcasing its strength in textiles through this fair. Besides, for the first-time, the world can see the entire integrated value chain of textiles under one roof. Bharat Tex will set the tone for the realization of true potential in textiles trade. It will ensure India its due place in terms of branding and positioning which has been due since long.

AEPC is organizing roadshows domestically and abroad for promoting the Bharat Tex Expo 2024. AEPC organized roadshows in Australia, Spain and Dubai and are also being held across India in cities such as: New Delhi, Ludhiana, Bengaluru, Tirupur and Jaipur. There is huge enthusiasm and excitement from brands regarding participation for the show. It is especially important to highlight the role of Indian embassies overseas who all are promoting Bharat Tex with full strength and vigor.

There current challenge which has arisen due to the attack threat on cargo in the Red Sea on ships. Indian exporters fear that the freight cost may go up by 25% as insurance premiums may rise. This can further delay our delivery and increase our logistic cost which at the moment is a pressing concern for all of us. The solutions to this will surely be multilateral and multiparty participation, which the world should not delay any further.

With all these efforts I am sure India will be able to get its RMG exports soaring in 2024 and beyond. ■

**Please keep Sharing your valuable suggestions at [chairman@aepcindia.com](mailto:chairman@aepcindia.com)**

**Naren Goenka**  
**Chairman AEPC**



# Apparel INDIA

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YR 23 | ISSUE 12 | DECEMBER, 2023 | PAGES 60



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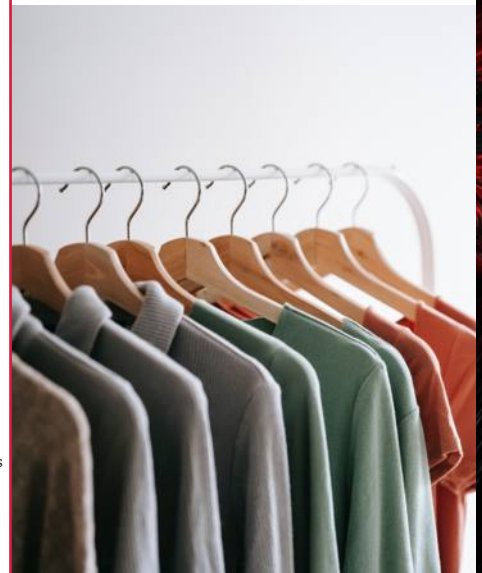
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# CALENDAR OF PROPOSED EVENTS FOR 2023-24



## OVERSEAS EVENTS

Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, USA  
*13-15 February, 2024*

## DOMESTIC EVENTS

BharatTex Expo  
*February, 2024*





# INDIA'S RESILIENCE OF EXPORTS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN POST COVID YEARS



**I**ndia's resilience of exports has increased significantly in the post COVID-19 years. The growth of exports during 2021 and 2022 at 20 per cent and 9.7 per cent, respectively was the highest among the top 20 leading exporters, said a research report.

The top 10 highly growing export commodities have shown a consistent high growth during the last five years (FY 2019-2023), including sugar and confectionary (43 per cent), mineral fuel and oils (36 per cent), electrical machinery and parts (27 per cent), aluminum and articles (18 per cent), inorganic chemicals, precious and rare- earth metals (16 per cent) miscellaneous chemical products (16 per cent), cereals (14 per cent), iron and steel (12 per cent), among others.

The research report has been prepared by PHD Research Bureau, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), on India's Emerging Export Dynamics: Vision USD 2 Trillion Exports by 2030.

The top 10 highly growing export destinations have shown a consistent growth during the last five years (FY 2019 to FY 2023 average) including Togo (73 per cent), the Netherlands (36 per cent), Brazil (28 per cent), Israel (27 per cent), Indonesia (24 per cent), Turkey (22 per cent), Australia (20 per cent), South Africa (19 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16 per cent) and Belgium (13 per cent), said the report.

"Exports to these countries have grown at a high growth rate amidst the global economic slowdown. These countries are emerging major growth destinations for India's exports though the volumes have to pick up more significantly in the coming times," said Sanjeev Agrawal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).

The PHDCCI president said the dynamic policy environment provided by the government along with efforts of the exporters to connect with global value chains have enhanced the export volumes.

Agrawal said during the past ten years, exports have accelerated significantly, rising from USD 375 billion in FY 2011 to USD 770 billion in FY 2023.

Speaking about the report, Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, Executive Director, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the emerging high growth destinations such as Togo, Netherlands, Brazil, Israel, Indonesia, Turkey, Australia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Belgium and high growth export commodities such as Sugar and confectionary, Mineral fuel and oils, aluminum and articles, inorganic chemicals, ships, boats and floating structure, rubber and articles and optical, photographic, medical apparatus would enhance India's export growth to new highs.

Elaborating further about the report, Dr. SP Sharma, Chief Economist, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the industry body had identified 75 products on the basis of six digit Harmonised system (HS code), these 75 commodities account for about 50 percent of India's total exports for the FY 2023, suggesting that these commodities have a great potential to propel India's exports.

These 75 products grew at 11 per cent in 2022-23 as compared with 6% growth of India's total merchandise exports in 2022-23, said Dr. Sharma.

"The growth of services during the last two years at 24% (average) is commendable as our services have shown a great resilience and price competitiveness in the global markets. The growth of services exports will also be a major growth driver to achieve the ambitious targets of USD 2 trillion exports by 2030," he added. ■





# INDIA'S READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG)

## INDIA'S RMG EXPORT TO WORLD

Month	(In US\$ Mn.)						YoY Growth (%)						
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24	2023-24
	Over	Over	Over	Over	Over	Over	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
April	1351.8	1408.8	126.84	1297.5	1575.5	1213.5	4.2	-91.0	922.9	21.4	856.7	-6.5	-23.0
May	1339.4	1530.1	517.02	1107.1	1415.9	1236.5	14.2	-66.2	114.1	27.9	139.2	11.7	-12.7
June	1358.8	1233.5	804.29	1003.1	1501.7	1249.7	-9.2	-34.8	24.7	49.7	55.4	24.6	-16.8
July	1275.4	1365.8	1065.7	1389.3	1381.1	1141.2	7.1	-22.0	30.4	-0.6	7.1	-17.9	-17.4
August	1293.2	1261.9	1085.61	1237.8	1233.9	1133.4	-2.4	-14.0	14.0	-0.3	4.4	-8.4	-8.1
September	1104.7	1080.6	1192.91	1301.1	1066.0	946.3	-2.2	-10.4	9.1	-18.1	-20.7	-27.3	-11.2
October	1132.1	1108.9	1180.13	1255.7	988.7	908.8	-2.0	6.4	6.4	-21.3	-23.0	-27.6	-8.1
November	1131	1058.5	1047.09	1072.9	1201.2		-6.4	-1.1	2.5	12.0			
December	1376.7	1409.5	1196.89	1466.6	1483.2		2.4	-15.1	22.5	1.1			
January	1528.2	1453.5	1296.43	1547.0	1493.0		-4.9	-10.8	19.3	-3.5			
February	1546.4	1477.9	1349.45	1600.5	1407.0		-4.4	-8.7	18.6	-12.1			
March	1718.4	1120.5	1427.33	1740.6	1448.3		-34.8	27.4	21.9	-16.8			
<b>Total</b>	<b>16156.1</b>	<b>15509.5</b>	<b>12289.7</b>	<b>16019.2</b>	<b>16195.4</b>	<b>7829.2</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>-8.9</b>	<b>-14.6</b>

Note- 1) Source: DGCI&S 2023; Data for the month of October 2023 is provisional data released on PIB by Ministry of Commerce on 15.11.2023

2) Sum of the value for (Apr-Oct) 2021-2022 is USD 8591.6 mn and (Apr-Oct) 2022-23 is USD 9162.7 mn. and (Apr-Oct) 2023-24 is USD 7829.2 mn.

Prepared by R&PA Department, AEPC

RMG exports for the month of October 2023 has declined by 8.1% as compared to October 2022, declined by 27.6 % as compared to October 2021 and has declined by 23.0 % as compared to October 2020.

Similarly, cumulative RMG exports for the period Apr-Oct 2023-24 was USD 7829.2 mn. showing a decline of 14.6% over Apr-Oct 2022-23; a decline of 8.9 % over Apr-Oct 2021-22 and a growth of 31.1% over Apr-Oct 2020-21.



# INDIA'S TEXTILE & READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG)

*Textiles & Wearing Apparel Update for India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of September in FY 2023-24*

Month	Manufacture of Textiles		Growth Rate (In %)	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel		Growth Rate (In %)
	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24 Over 2022-23	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24 Over 2022-23
April	114.1	105.6	-7.4	129.4	92.1	-28.8
May	111.5	107.9	-3.2	142.4	112.7	-20.9
June	107.8	107.7	-0.1	156.9	120.4	-23.3
July	107.2	108.2	0.9	134.4	104.2	-22.5
August	105.2	106.9	1.6	117.8	97.7	-17.1
September	103.9	107.7	3.7	125.2	102.8	-17.9
October	102.3			103.7		
November	107.7			117.0		
December	110.7			125.6		
January	107.9			120.1		
February	102.0			129.1		
March	110.2			133.1		
<b>Cumulative Index (Apr-Sep)</b>	108.3	107.3	-0.9	134.4	104.9	-21.9

Source: CSO, 2023

\* Figures for September 2023 are Quick Estimates

# The growth rates over corresponding period of previous year are to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of COVID 19 Pandemic since March 2020

Compiled by R&PA Department, AEPC



- Manufacturing of Textiles Index for the month of Sep, 2023 is 107.7 which has shown a growth of 3.7 % as compared to Sep, 2022.
- Manufacturing of Textiles Index for the financial year 2023-24 is 107.3 which has shown a decline of 0.9 % as compared to the financial year 2022-23.
- Manufacturing of Wearing Apparel Index for the month of Sep, 2023 is 102.8 which has shown a decline of 17.9 % as compared to Sep, 2022.
- Manufacturing of Wearing Apparel Index for the financial year 2023-24 is 104.9 which has shown a decline of 21.9 % as compared to the financial year 2022-23.

# MINISTRY OF TEXTILES CONDUCTS SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 3.0 FOR DISPOSAL OF PENDING MATTERS AND INSTITUTIONALIZING SWACHHATA

The Ministry of Textiles by drawing inspiration from Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision to institutionalize Swachhata and minimize pendency in Government, launched a Special Campaign 3.0 from 2nd October to 31st October 2023 with special impetus on disposal of pendency.

The drive started with the Preparatory Phase of the Special Campaign 3.0 from 15th September to 30th September 2023, wherein the Ministry identified the pending references from MPs/State Government/PMO, Public Grievances/Public Grievance Appeals, Parliament Assurances, Files, both physical and electronic, for review and finalization of the cleanliness campaign sites.

In the implementation phase of Special Campaign 3.0, a special drive was organized in the Ministry (Headquarter), O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts/Handlooms), all PSUs education institutions and field offices under Ministry of Textiles, from 2nd October, 2023 to 31st October, 2023 with a focus on Swachhata and Reducing Pendency in Government Offices. There was emphasis on field/outstation offices, manly engaged for service delivery and having public interface. The updated status of campaign regularly posted on the SCPDM Portal of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) **namely:** [www.scdpm.nic.in](http://www.scdpm.nic.in)

431 sites were successfully cleaned during the Campaign. In addition, during this Campaign period senior officers of Ministry of Textiles inspected sites

in Ministry and the field organizations and motivated them to make cleanliness as an integral part of their office working.



Furthermore, a comprehensive review of over 41,000 files (physical and electronic) was carried out and about 10,000 physical files were weeded out and closed over 1800 e-files. As a result of this diligent review process, a noteworthy 69,793 sq. ft. of space has been freed and revenue of Rs.18, 82, 995/- generated by disposal of scrap and other redundant material.

It is imperative to mention that 36 pending references received from the Members of Parliament, have been duly addressed and resolved. Moreover, in regard to the Public Grievances that were pending at the commencement of the campaign, an impressive 85 PG cases have been redressed.

As one of the best sustainable practices of recycle reuse and reduce disposal of used cloths and diverting them from landfills, a campaign was organised to donate cloth by the officials of Ministry. Bins were placed at the entrance at Gate no. 18 at Udyog Bhawan and officials participated in this drive to donate used cloth. ■



# COMMERCE MINISTRY TO COLLABORATE WITH E-COMMERCE COMPANIES TO PROMOTE EXPORTS FROM DISTRICTS

*-DGFT signs MoU with Amazon for capacity building for MSMEs in identified districts*

In a significant move to enable micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and boost e-commerce exports from the country, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India is collaborating with the various e-commerce players to leverage the Districts as Export Hubs initiative and promote e-commerce exports from the country. In first such collaboration with different e-commerce platforms, DGFT has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Amazon India.

As part of this MoU, Amazon and DGFT will co-create capacity building sessions, training and workshops for MSMEs in districts identified by the DGFT as part of the District as Exports Hub initiative outlined in the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, in a phased manner. The initiative seeks to link local producers even in rural and remote districts with global supply chains. The collaboration aims to enable exporters/MSMEs to sell their 'Made in India' products to customers internationally.



The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Santosh Sarangi (Additional Secretary and

Director General, DGFT), Chetan Krishnaswamy (Vice President, Public Policy - Amazon) and Bhupen Wakankar (Director Global Trade - Amazon India).

The core objective of this collaboration is to leverage e-commerce platforms to support local exporters, manufacturers, and MSMEs in reaching potential international buyers. The partnership aligns with the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, which identifies e-commerce as a focus area for amplifying India's exports.

Under the collaboration, Districts will be identified by various e-commerce platforms across India, to undertake various capacity-building and outreach activities in collaboration with DGFT-Regional Authorities. These activities will focus on educating MSMEs on e-commerce exports and enabling them to sell to customers across the world. In addition, the capacity building session will allow MSMEs to learn about imaging, digital cataloging of their products, tax advisory amongst others. With this, Indian entrepreneurs can build their e-commerce exports businesses and global brands. Under the MoU with Amazon India, 20 districts have been identified for such capacity building and handholding sessions.

DGFT is in discussion with various e-commerce platforms like Flipkart/Walmart, E-bay, Rivexa, Shopclues, Shiprocket, DHL Express etc. to have similar collaboration in other districts of the country under the Districts as Export Hubs initiative. This will supplement DGFT's efforts to hand hold, promote new and first-time exporters and other MSME producers to export from India, thereby making substantial strides towards the goal of \$1 trillion goods exports by year 2030.

# INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF) SUPPLY CHAIN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE 14 IPEF PARTNERS

The third Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial Meeting was held in San Francisco, California on 14 November 2023 hosted by the US. The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal participated in the Ministerial meeting.

IPEF was launched jointly by the USA and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23, 2022 at Tokyo. IPEF has 14 partner countries including Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam & USA. It seeks to strengthen economic engagement among partner countries with the goal of advancing growth, peace and prosperity in the region.

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chains (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV). India had joined Pillars II to IV of IPEF while it has an observer status in Pillar-I.



At this Ministerial Meeting, negotiations under the IPEF Pillar-III (Clean Economy), Pillar IV (Fair Economy) and the Agreement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (which seeks to establish a ministerial-level council and a

commission) were substantially concluded. Moreover, following the substantial conclusion of the negotiations on the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement in May 2023, the IPEF Ministers signed the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement during the Ministerial Meeting. Pillar-wise Press Statement was issued at the end of the San Francisco Ministerial meeting highlighting the contours and the efforts planned under each of the substantially concluded Pillars.

Under the Clean Economy (Pillar-III), IPEF partners are aiming to advance cooperation on research, development, commercialization, availability, accessibility, and deployment of clean energy and climate friendly technologies, and facilitate investment towards climate-related projects in the region. During his intervention under this Pillar, Shri Goyal emphasized the need for increased collaboration among partners on research and development of innovative and affordable climate friendly technologies. Further, Shri Goyal stressed the need to prioritize implementation of Cooperative work programmes envisaged under this pillar, including hydrogen supply chain initiative and other proposals in the pipeline such as India's proposal for biofuels and e-waste recycling.

Under the Fair Economy (Pillar-IV), IPEF partners aim to strengthen implementation of effective anti-corruption and tax measures to boost commerce, trade, and investment among IPEF economies. During his intervention under this Pillar, Shri Goyal highlighted enhancing information sharing among partners, facilitating asset recovery and strengthening cross-border investigations and prosecutions as the key benefits to emerge from the Agreement. Further, he highlighted that this will strengthen the joint resolve to fight against corruption, money laundering and terror financing. ■



## SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL PARTICIPATES IN PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT (PGII) & INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF) INVESTORS FORUM



**U**nion Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal, participated in the Investor Forum of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) & Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). The Forum, a moderated discussion, was co-hosted by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ms. Gina Raimondo and Senior Advisor to the President Mr. Amos Hochstein with the discussion centred on collaborative actions and shared priorities to increase private investment in the Indo-Pacific.

The Forum was also attended by Ministers and senior officials from IPEF partner countries including the Prime Minister of Fiji, His Excellency Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka, and Minister of Trade of Korea His Excellency Mr. Dukgeun Ahn; and corporate leaders including Co-CEO of KKR Joseph Bae; Chairman and CEO of BlackRock Larry Fink; CEO of Citi Jane Fraser; Founder and Chairman of Fortescue Andrew Forrest; Founding Partner of Global Infrastructure Partners Matthew Harris; Founding Partner, Chairman and CEO of Global Infrastructure Partners Adebayo Ogunlesi; President, CIO and CFO of Alphabet and Google Ruth Porat; Founder and CEO of RockCreek Afsaneh Beschloss; and Founding Partner and Executive Chair of TPG Jim Coulter.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo in her address to the forum highlighted the continuing partnership between India and USA through the Green Transition Fund co-created by U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) aimed at

providing climate impact benefits and accelerating the development of clean-energy transition projects in India through investments in solar, energy storage, and e-mobility.

The Minister in his address extended his appreciation to IPEF partners on the conclusion of negotiations on Pillar-III (Clean Economy) and Pillar-IV (Fair Economy) and emphasised on India's commitment to enhancing ease of doing business, ushering in transparency in business regulatory ecosystem, delivering sustainable growth and development.

Thereafter, the Minister participated at the APEC Informal Leader's Dialogue where he highlighted India's environmental leadership in successfully meeting the renewable energy target of 175 gigawatt nine years ahead of its target. Additionally, he also called upon the world leaders to join hands as a global community to construct a future where sustainability is not a distant aspiration but a way of life and where climate action is not a burden but an opportunity for innovation and growth.

As part of day's engagements, the Minister joined the world leaders at IPEF Leader's Meeting. The engagement was attended by several world leaders including His Excellency Mr. Joe Biden, President of the United States of America. Several IPEF initiatives such as Critical Minerals dialogue, Investment Accelerator, Catalytic Fund, Investor Forum, IPEF Networks etc were announced during the meeting.

Besides participating at the PGII Investor Forum, APEC engagements, including the dinner reception for APEC Leaders, and IPEF Leaders' meetings, the Minister during the day held several bilateral and one-to-one meetings with world leaders and corporate giants. He met H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Mathews, Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism of Peru, and discussed ways to enhance bilateral trade and investment linkages, reviewed progress of bilateral FTA negotiations and suggested expedited conclusion. The Minister also met Mr. Alex Rogers, President, Qualcomm Technology Licensing & Global Affairs and discussed the vast opportunities for collaboration that India's rapidly evolving semiconductor ecosystem & robust innovation landscape offers to companies like Qualcomm. ■



## TEXTILES MINISTER PRESENTS 23<sup>rd</sup> ‘AEPC EXCELLENCE HONOURS’ AWARDS FOR RMG EXPORT PERFORMANCE FOR 2021-22 & 2022-23

**S**hri Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for the Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textile, Government of India presented the AEPC prestigious exports awards to the RMG exporters on 8th December 2023 in New Delhi. The ‘AEPC Excellence Honours’ was conferred for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23. The awards recognize extraordinary contributions made by Indian Apparel exporters in building our modern export enterprises and in helping to further develop a unique Indian export culture.

The AEPC Excellence Honours are the Indian Apparel industry’s most prestigious awards.

Extending across diverse product categories and including both experienced and start up representation, the awards were a celebration of the contributions exporters at made to the industry and in turn, the national economy. AEPC have instituted these awards with an aim to encourage the Indian Apparel exporters to increase their export capacities and at the same time, enhance the competitiveness among the firms to capture the global markets.

Addressing the gathering Shri Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for the Textiles, said "40 by 30 will be a fitting tribute to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to make India a developed nation by 2047. He further urged that, let's expand textile exports to 100 billion USD through our collective efforts. If RMG exports can grow from 16 billion USD to 40 billion USD in this period, it will truly be a game changer for the future of the textiles industry and in our efforts to provide jobs to the large section of people and create a value-added proposition." He said that the government is taking every possible step to promote exports such as entering into free trade agreements and promoting brand India.

The minister also asked the apparel exporters to procure raw materials from Indian players and not depend on "opaque" foreign suppliers and suggested not to fall for "predatory practices". He said that for the long-term health of the whole textile ecosystem in the country, it is necessary to build domestic supply chain capacities by supporting each other.

The Union Minister said that every element of the industry is important and therefore, he called upon industry leaders not to fall for low-cost substandard goods to substitute domestic availability. He said that the true meaning of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat is not about closing India's doors to the world, but to open them wider through supporting domestic suppliers and developing a domestic ecosystem.

Applauding the industry, Shri Goyal said, "The encouragement we received from the industry led to 55% exports growth from 500 billion USD to 776 billion USD in both merchandise and services exports in the last two years between 2021-23."

The event began with the '40 by 30' theme Focus Group Discussion (FDG) with following topics: Making Indian Apparel more competitive; Strengthening Industry Academia Linkage, exploring new frontiers with MMF, Compliance and Sustainability- How to make it India's edge? Major issues which emerged during the FDG were picked for the Power Group Discussion (PGD) with the following discussants - Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Shri Deepak Seth, Founder and Chairman, Pearl global industries Ltd., Shri Nitin Prasad, Managing Director, PVH Supply Indian sub-continent and GOC, Dr Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO, FIEO and Shri Naren Goenka, Chairman, AEPC.



### Key Messages from Focus Group Discussion (FDG) topic wise is mentioned below;

#### **Topic-1: Making Indian Apparel More Competitive**

- Can policy framework have 10-year horizon to enable industry to plan?
- Can AEPC work with ministry to follow the NASSCOM route to pro-actively conduct campaigns globally to promote India as a sourcing destination?
- Can India develop hub and spoke model led by industry leaders and (international brands) manufacturing clusters?

#### **Topic-2: Strengthening Industry Academia Linkage**

- What role can industry association play in setting up R&D chairs in key institutes?
- How can educational institutes move from independent silos to interconnected entities working to solve problems of industry?
- How can faculty upgradation happen in association with industry?

#### **Topic-3: Exploring New Frontiers with MMF**

- What specific steps can India take to invite investments and joint ventures (domestic and

overseas) in MMF fabrics and technology transfer?

- Can MMF Fabric imports be liberalized without the onerous penalty for small infringements?
- Can AEPC encourage participation in ISPO?
- HSN Codes for MMF need to be expanded in current PLI list?

**Topic-4: Compliance and Sustainability – How to Make it India’s Edge**

- What role can AEPC play to work together across India in promoting compliance and sustainability?
- Can India develop its own globally accepted labelling standard?

**Topic-5: Product and Market Diversification for Apparel Exports**

- Can Ministry work with state Governments to develop manufacturing clusters for Fabric and Garmenting specifically for active wear/outerwear/work wear?
- How can India learn from the experience of countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in developing product capability in athleisure, lingerie, outerwear and work wear?

Later the questions from focused group discussion were taken to the Power Group Discussion. The Focused Group Discussion was monitored and managed by Shri Gautam Nair, Chairman Export Promotion AEPC.

Speaking at power group during the event Shri Naren Goenka Chairman AEPC said, “the Indian apparel industry has been able to withstand the hard and testing times during the pandemic wherein despite the global demand being stagnant, Indian apparel exports grew at a rate of 30.35% in 2021-22 over 2020-21, and 1.10% in 2022-23 over 2021-22. While we commemorate this success today, we are also vigilant of the fact that India’s apparel exports have been constant to the tune of 3-4% of global export share during the past 3-4 years.”



Further Chairman AEPC said, “I am confident that the next decade will be India’s decade in textiles exports and the target of 40 USD billion of RMG exports is achievable. There is big confidence from our international buyers towards India in wake of China exiting and neighboring countries instability. We have an abundance of raw material with the biggest raw material base after China. Because of this raw material availability, we can cater to a shorter lead time as we don’t need to import anything as our product has 98% of Indian inputs. This strength of raw material also ensures that we are least affected by price volatility and currency fluctuations or any recessionary or inflationary changes globally. We have the government support and encouragement in providing market access by doing FTAs with many countries like UAE, Australia, Japan, etc. The FTA with the UK will be a game changer for the industry, and the EU will offer a big advantage if we sign an FTA deal.”

One of the major issues regarding poor export competitiveness is of Indian Apparel are poor Economies of Scale, Apparel industry comprises 80% of exporters with around 10 cr. turnover. Average machines in Indian apparel manufacturing units are 250-400 whereas competing countries have an average of 800- 1000 machines. Also, there are hardly any vertically integrated units unlike in Vietnam and other competing countries. Both these factors limit the capacity for the industry to invest in productivity enhancement technologies.



Replying to queries of the industry on scale and infrastructure Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles said, “The global market is trillion dollar and so even when we reach 100 billion of textiles exports, we will be only 10% of total textiles trade. From that perspective the target 40 billion seems to be eminently achievable. Our PM MITRA initiative seeks to address the issues flagged by the industry such as scale, investment and infrastructure. The size of the PM MITRA Park is at least 1000 acres which are supposed to be



vertically integrated. It addresses the issue of land acquisitions as land is all acquired. It addresses issues of clearances because all clearances have been provided, it also addresses the issue of state support as SPV is being headed by state as they run the park.” We are looking at 10 billion USD of investment in the park and half billion USD of support has already been given either by infrastructure support or development support to the set-up business in the park, Shri Kansal added.

During the discussion, Shri Deepak Seth mentioned that several textile companies from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and other textile exporting countries are interested in investing in India. He suggested providing 'Plug and Play' facilities to foreign companies, noting that foreign investors are hesitant to acquire land and build factories. He argued that foreign direct investment (FDI) could be attracted by offering industrial space with 'Plug and Play' facilities on a long-term lease, which could lead to significant investment in India's textile sector.

Shri Seth also recommended to enhance focus on man-made textiles to increase India's exports. He pointed out that cotton is only available for three to four months a year, limiting the expansion of cotton-based garments. In contrast, man-made garment exports have a vast potential due to the better availability of the fibre. By focusing on man-made garments and other products, India could diversify its product range and align with the global trend of dominance in the man-made fibre-based textile industry.

Speaking on the power group discussion Shri Nitin Prasad, Managing Director, PVH Supply Indian sub-continent and GOC said, “To attain the scale we are talking about in the apparel sector we need at least 1200 factories, even if all 200 people sitting in room starts a new factory still there will be short fall of 1000 RMG manufacturing factories in India. So, we require huge investment from outside to bridge the gap.”

Gold trophy for the highest global exports 2021-22 & 2022-23 (above Rs. 500 cr. in each year) went to Shahi Exports Pvt. Ltd. Faridabad, Silver trophy goes to Richa Global Exports Pvt. Ltd. Gurugram, Arvind Limited, Ahmedabad got Bronze. Highest global exports 2021-22 & 2022-23 (less than Rs. 100 cr. in each year) gold trophy went to Jyoti Apparels, New Delhi. Highest exports in MMF garments 2021-22 & 2022-23 the gold trophy went to Loyal Textile Mills Ltd. Chennai and highest exports to FTA Countries (2021-22 & 2022-23) went to Somani Fabrics Pvt. Ltd. Jaipur and highest exports by new entrepreneur 2021-22 & 2022-23 award goes to Sri Vaari Knit Wear, Tirupur and the award for the most

dynamic women entrepreneur (2021-22 & 2022-23) to Ms Anjana Pasi from First Steps Babywear Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru. The award for environmental compliance (2021-22 & 2022-23) went to Jeyavishnu Clothing Pvt. Ltd. Tirupur and award for excellence in social compliance (2021-22 & 2022-23) to SCM Garments Pvt. Ltd., Tirupur. Gokaldas Exports Ltd., Bengaluru was awarded for highest employment (2021-22 & 2022-23).

Padma Shri Dr. A Sakthivel Chairman, Apparel, Made-Ups & Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council and President FIEO was honoured with the award for mentor of the Indian Apparel Industry and Shri Deepak Seth Founder and Group Chairman Pearl Global Industries Limited awarded as Icon of the Indian Apparel Industry.



Chairman AEPC underlined that to reach 40 billionUSD target, we will need to; focus on Innovation, expand our market and product basket, practice sustainability and responsible business practices, foster strategic partnerships and empower our people. ■





## INTERIM BUDGET 2024-25 MAY FOCUS ON DOMESTIC INNOVATION, EASE OF DOING BUSINESS



**E**ase of doing business, promoting domestic innovation and pushing up private investments could be key themes in the Interim Budget 2024-25.

According to sources, the Centre remains committed to boosting domestic manufacturing and accordingly, looking at further increasing the measures for this. While the Budget, which will be presented on February 1, will outline its plans on these themes, the actual measures can only be unveiled in the full Budget that would be presented after the General Elections by the new government.

Sources said work on a refreshed ease of doing business is being done by the government with the objective to make India amongst the top investment destinations amongst large developing economies. The NITI Aayog is understood to be working on what else can be done in this regard and consultations with other ministries are also underway.

It will also continue to work on boosting growth in

exports as well as cutting down reliance on imports. More measures to spur domestic innovations and boost local manufacturing and private sector investments are also being looked into.



While a large number of measures on these themes have already been announced in recent years, the objective is to continue with these measures, as they would help sustain economic growth in coming years and also generate employment opportunities.

However, since the interim Budget is typically a Vote on Account, concrete fiscal and policy measures on these may only be unveiled at a later date.

D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India noted that in 2019, when a similar situation had arisen, the main Budget was presented in the first week of July. “The Interim Budget, also called a Vote on Account, enables undertaking of expenditures at the beginning of the next fiscal year until the main Budget is presented. It is not used for the initiation of any major policy changes,” he said. ■



# QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA HOSTS 'III INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND STANDARDS'



Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous organization of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry hosted the International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS) in New Delhi on 2nd Nov 2023. ICSTS, a two-day event, has been organized by the India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards and hosted by QCI in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS).

The event witnessed a bilateral Agreement between QCI and African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) to strengthen trade relations and harmonize standards, enhancing the global trade landscape. Benchmarking of IndG.A.P. by the GLOBAL G.A.P. through the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) mechanism and creation of National Interpretation Guidelines (NIG) also took place at the ICSTS, which is expected to benefit around 12,000 farmers. Continuing with the engagement, India has inked agreements with Brazil, Mexico and now the African Regional Standards Organisation for cooperation on Voluntary Sustainability Standards.

The digitalization initiative of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative would align with its commitment to foster the e-commerce revolution, making trade more accessible and efficient in the digital age, support the IEC / ISO standards about material, product properties, calculation methods, formats of declarations, ensure Confidentiality and trustworthiness, facilitate Peer-to-peer

communication decentralized architecture for full data sovereignty of all partners. ONDC identified QCI to assess Digital Readiness of entities to understand their readiness to seamlessly onboard on the Seller App in the ONDC Network.

The event witnessed presence of the esteemed dignitaries including Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI; Dr Harsha Vardhana Singh, Chair, India PSS Platform & Former DDG, World Trade Organization (WTO); Shri Rajesh Maheshwari, Secretary General, QCI; Dr Virpi Stucki, Chief, Division of Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade, UNIDO; Mr Charles Gachahi, Eco Mark Africa, CACO and COCO Coordinator (ARSO); and Mr Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba, Chief, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) VSS Program among others. ■





## Pioneering partnership sets India on path to Next-Gen Textiles Leadership

**L**everaging insights from Wealth in Waste, Fashion for Good releases a toolkit designed to revalorise textile waste in India. Celebrating the closure of the Sorting for Circularity India Project, a conference in New Delhi on December 1 and 2, hosted in collaboration with Laudes Foundation, IDH, Canopy, and Reverse Resources will focus on developing a roadmap to circularity. The event marks the launch of “Re-START”, a textile recovery alliance aiming to position India as a leading Next-Gen solutions hub.

*- The Sorting for Circularity India toolkit is a milestone in our journey towards a waste-free world. We have mapped the textile waste landscape, unpacking the huge potential, as well as the roadblocks and commercial opportunities in India's textile waste industry. We are excited to move beyond rhetoric with this powerful coalition of partners and translate our findings into a roadmap for concrete actions*

*(Katrin Ley, Managing Director, Fashion for Good)*

### The journey thus far

In 2021, Fashion for Good launched the Sorting for Circularity India Project to organise the Indian textile waste market in a three-phase approach so as to streamline, strengthen and foster the Indian textile waste market to drive the transition to a more circular economy that recaptures value to its maximum potential.

The project brought together various industry players including Fashion for Good partners adidas, Levi Strauss & Co., PVH Corp., Target, Arvind Limited, Birla Cellulose, and Welspun India, as well as Fashion for Good innovators Reverse Resources, PICVISA, and Matoha; H&M, Primark, and TESCO also joined as external partners. The project is supported through catalytic funding provided by Laudes Foundation and IDH, and knowledge support from Canopy and Circle Economy Foundation.



Drawing upon the invaluable insights gained throughout the project, Fashion for Good unveils a toolkit designed to harness the untapped potential of textile waste in India. Together, these resources provide valuable insights, assessments, and practical guidance to advance recycling in India's textile industry.

#### India's post-consumer textile waste landscape



According to Fashion for Good's Wealth in Waste report, every year, 1,720 Ktons of 100% cotton post-consumer domestic (PCD) textile waste remains unvalorised in India due to the lack of proper collection and sorting systems. With the upcoming surge of legislation on textile waste management, the value of post-consumer waste is expected to rise, making it crucial for India to focus on PCD waste and develop the necessary infrastructure for collection, sorting, and pre-processing.

In the context of the Sorting for Circularity India Project Post-consumer Pilot Program, several pilots were carried out with Fashion for Good innovators Matoha, PICVISA, and Reverse Resources, as well as Greenworms, Saahas Zero Waste, Uptext, and Hasiru Dala Innovations as the sorters, and Arvind Ltd., Usha Yarns, Vardhman Textile Ltd., Kakkar

Spinning Mills, and Kay Gee Enterprises as the recyclers. In parallel, the commercial viability of sorting hubs using these sorting technologies was assessed by Sattva and Circle Economy Foundation.

The pilot worked with 33 tons of textile waste, exploring innovative sorting technologies, the nuances of post-consumer waste, and the potential for a closed-loop system in India's textile industry. The business case assessment, on the other hand, explored the infrastructure and investment requirements, the scenarios of financial success and the roadblocks, serving as a framework to enable well-informed decision-making for sorting hubs to implement these technologies.

#### A roadmap towards circularity

The "Reimagining Textile Waste" conference, took place on 1 and 2 December in New Delhi, India, was a significant event that has brought together the key stakeholders of the new textile ecosystem, as well as international innovators who valued India as a pioneering recycling destination.

In conference the toolkit and learnings were shared, as well as formally announced the creation of Re-START Alliance (Recover by Sourcing, Tracing, and Advancing Recycling Technologies), a textile recovery alliance established by Fashion for Good, Laudes Foundation, IDH and Canopy. The alliance aims to take the learnings from the project to scale by developing a formal textile waste supply chain, systems, infrastructure, stronger policy intervention, and industry appetite to enable technology commercialisation. The alliance will officially launch in Q1 2024. ■



## TEXTILE EXCHANGE LAUNCHES MATERIALS DIRECTORY TO BOOST VISIBILITY OF GREEN SUPPLIERS



*Non-profit Textile Exchange has launched the Materials Directory tool to identify raw materials suppliers alongside the unveiling of the 10th edition of its annual Materials Market Report, which offers a snapshot of global fibre and materials production trends this year.*

As discussions around COP28 take centre stage the Textile Exchange Materials Market Report aims to guide the textile industry's efforts to align raw material production to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Claire Bergkamp, CEO at Textile Exchange, underscored the urgency and said: "As global leaders come together at COP28, this report only reinforces the urgent need to double down on our collective efforts to accelerate the adoption of production practices that support our planet, its ecosystems, and its communities while focusing internal investment on strategies that decouple value creation from the extraction of new materials overall."

In addition to the report, Textile Exchange has launched the Materials Directory, providing an online repository for industry participants to access information on raw material suppliers, production units, and branded materials.

The directory features interactive maps and a filterable database for enhanced usability. The findings call for a collaborative effort among industry stakeholders to navigate challenges and foster sustainable practices in global fibre production.



### Key Insights from the Materials Market Report

#### Global fibre production:

- Increased from approximately 112 million tonnes in 2021 to a record 116 million tonnes in 2022.
- Projections suggest further growth to 147 million tonnes in 2030 under current business conditions.

#### Sustainable natural fibres:

##### Modest increase observed in sustainably produced natural fibres:

- Cotton: 25% in 2021 to 27% in 2022.
- Wool: 3% in 2021 to 4.3% in 2022.

#### Fossil-based synthetic fibres:

- Virgin fossil-based synthetic fibre production increased from 63 million tonnes to 67 million tonnes.
- Polyester dominance:
  - Polyester remains the dominant fibre, constituting 54% of global production in 2022.
  - Polyester production volumes increased from 61 million tonnes in 2021 to 63 million tonnes in 2022.

#### Recycled fibres:

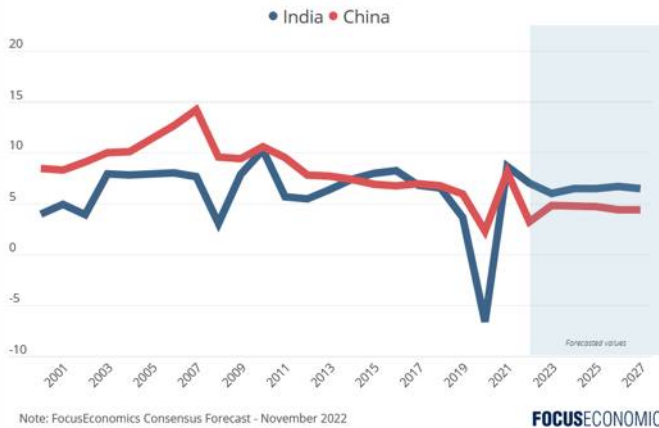
- The combined share of all recycled fibres experienced a slight decline from around 8.5% in 2021 to 7.9% in 2022.
- The recycled polyester market share decreased from 15% in 2021 to 14% in 2022, attributed to challenges in scaling textile-to-textile recycling.

#### Urgency for sustainable practices:

- The need to expedite the transition to fibres from preferred sources.
- Call to intensify efforts to reduce the use of virgin fossil-based materials.
- Emphasis on investing in strategies that detach value creation from the extraction of new materials.

# India Overtakes China in Growth: S&P Global

## Annual real GDP growth in %



According to a S&P report titled, “Credit Conditions Asia-Pacific Q1 2024: **China Slows, India Grows,**” Asia-Pacific's growth engine is expected to shift from China to South and Southeast Asia.

This clearly shows that the spotlight is on **India's robust growth**, heralding a shift in the region's economic powerhouse from China to the dynamic realms of South and Southeast Asia.

### Key Takeaways:

- **Shift in regional growth pattern:** The report expects Asia-Pacific's growth engine to shift from China to South and Southeast Asia. They project China's GDP growth to slow to 4.6% in 2024 (2023: 5.4%), edge up to 4.8% in 2025, and return to 4.6% in 2026.

The report sees India reaching 7.0% in 2026 (6.4%); Vietnam, 6.8% (4.9%); Philippines, 6.4% (5.4%); and Indonesia remaining steady at 5%.

### Why China is Slowing Down?

- **Despite Stimulus, China's Property Sector Remains Stressed:** China's recent approval of a Chinese renminbi (RMB) 1 trillion sovereign bond issue and allowance for local governments to partially frontload 2024 bond quotas, contributed to the real GDP growth forecast of 5.4% for 2023 and 4.6% for 2024. However, real estate challenges persist.

In China, the demand for new properties remains lacklustre, affecting developers' cash flows and land sales (a revenue source of local and regional governments). Amid constrained liquidity, highly indebted local government financing vehicles (LGFVs) could see credit stresses intensify and hit Chinese banks' capital positions.

- **Costlier Borrowing:** The report says regional interest rates are likely to stay high, given the U.S. Federal Reserve

will maintain tight monetary policy to rein in inflation to target. Meanwhile, gaps in policy rates between global and regional central banks could intensify capital outflows and domestic currency depreciation. For borrowers with impending or sizable refinancing needs, high borrowing costs and tighter credit availability from lenders are prominent risks.

- **Global Obstacles:** The report anticipates the U.S. and Europe will see a soft landing in 2024, the risk of a hard landing could affect business and households' propensity to spend, slowing demand and hurting revenues. Meanwhile, a sudden shift in the Bank of Japan's monetary policy could introduce capital market volatility and reversal of the yen carry trade.

- **Geopolitical Tensions:** The risk of a widening Middle East conflict is compounding geopolitical tensions. This comes alongside ongoing U.S.-China friction and the Russia-Ukraine war. While there is a likelihood of an energy shock as remote, pricier energy and potential disruption of supply chains could reignite inflationary pressures and slow trade.

### Risk Factors:

- **China's economy: Deepening property sector woes, weak confidence, and high debt levels to weaken China's growth momentum:** The report says that spreading contagion from China's real estate crisis (to local governments and real estate-related sectors) is curbing the country's economic growth momentum. Risk of financiers curtailing lending amid China's very high corporate leverage could exacerbate credit stresses for borrowers.

- **Geopolitics: Intensification of geopolitical tensions could hit business confidence, worsen trade and investment conditions.**

Risks of deepening or widening of political tensions and conflicts, such as **U.S.-China geopolitical frictions**, Russia-Ukraine war, and Israel-Hamas conflict could spill over into regional trade and investment flows. In the region, the key risk is disputes with China. A further reduction in supply chain reliance on China by Western and other importers could push up costs over the next few years, adding to inflation pressures. An escalation of international disputes over the seas and lands in the south and south-east China seas would damage economic activity. ■



# Textiles Minister Chair Bharat Tex Expo Roundtable and Brand Meet in New Delhi

**S**hri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister for Textiles Chaired an exclusive Textile Industry Roundtable held at Vanijya Bhawan at New Delhi on 28th November 2023. The event was to promote Bharat Tex 2024, a mega global textile expo. This will be the largest Global Textile Event which will be held in India between- 26th to 29th February 2024.



The event also marked the presence of Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary Textiles, Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary Ministry of Textiles, Shri Naren Goenka, Chairman AEPC & Bharat Tex, Co-Chairman Bharat Tex, Mr. Bhadrash Dodhia - Chairman - SRTEPC, etc. and large number of buyers and buying agents. The event saw support from Brands and Sourcing Leaders Association (BSL) which reaped in Indian and Global garment brands to brainstorm on the role of brands.

Speaking on the event Shri Naren Goenka, Chairman AEPC and Bharat Tex said, "Textile Industry strongly feel that the event has come at just the right time when the Indian apparel industry with a huge support of the Government of India in the form of many new trade and investment promotion schemes of Production Linked Incentive Scheme and integrated textile park via PM-MITRA scheme, is looking forward to enhancing foreign direct investments to further strengthen its production capacity while maintaining international quality standards." This event is unique since it is much more beyond just a buyer-

seller meet with focus on enhancing trade and investment with round tables, panel discussions, knowledge sessions, pavilions showcasing digitalization, technology interventions, startups, contemporary topics on sustainability, circularity, etc. Chairman added.

The brands meet deliberated upon the Brand and Sourcing companies' perspective for Bharat Tex 2024, what are the categories and HSN codes which are relevant to be the part of Bharat Tex 2024, which brand community can contribute? In terms of Design and Innovation, how and what are suggestions; What is to be done so that International CEOs of Global Brands get something unique and exciting to visit Bharat Tex 2024? Bharat Tex 2024 event should be benchmarked as one of the international shows like Premier Vision or Canton which are known for their designs and innovations in Textiles, how the community sitting in the front can contribute to make, etc.

The event witnessed participation from large number national and international brands like-Triburg, Myntra, Adidas, Fellabella, PVR Clothing, Bestseller, MGF Sourcing, H&M, Inditex - ZARA, Sourcenet Global, Al Glocal, Geniemode, Li & Fung, Reliance Industries, Waste2wear, etc. The representatives of the all the textile export promotion council were also present during the event.

The four-day event "Bharat Tex Expo" is expected to attract global CEOs, policymakers, in addition to over 3,500 exhibitors from around the world, 3,000 overseas buyers from over 40 countries, and more than 40,000 domestic buyers.

The textiles ministry, which is working with trade bodies, has reached out to global players such as Chanel, LVMH, Uniqlo, Zara and Walmart, etc. ■





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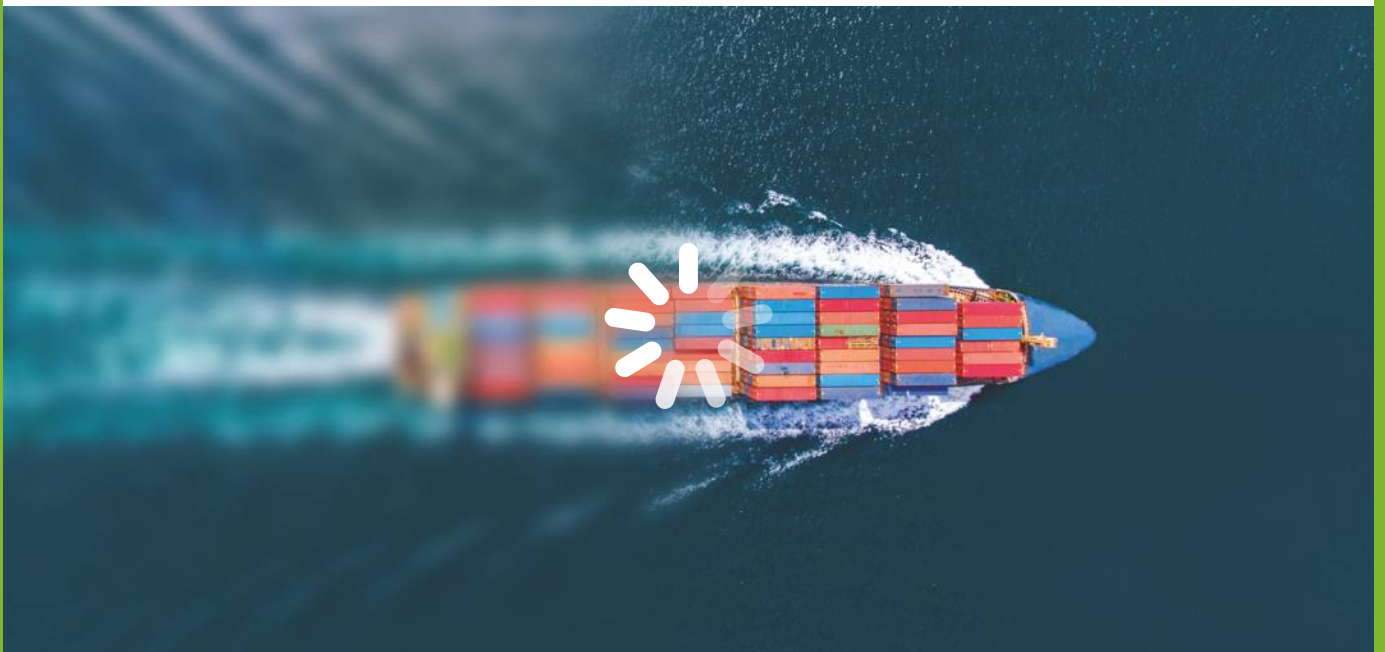
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# FOCUS COUNTRY SPAIN

*Spain is India's 6th largest trade partner in the European Union. Bilateral trade in goods in 2022 stood at 7.92 US\$ billion, growing by 17.6% over a similar period a year ago. India's exports grew by 21.3% and stood at US\$ 6.02 billion and while imports grew by 7.3% and stood at US\$1.9 billion. India's top exports to Spain are Chemical products-Iron and steel-Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof-Articles of apparel and clothing accessories (non-knitted)-Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation-Articles of apparel and clothing accessories (knitted), Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances-Marine products-Articles of iron and steel-Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons.*

### ● ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

High-income core EU economy; diversified trade portfolio; continental tourism locale; high government spending; negatively impacted by COVID-19; important port and customs infrastructure; key clothing/footwear supplier.

### ● ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

Indicators	Value (in USD)
Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity), 2021 est.	1.798 trillion
GDP (Official Exchange Rate), 2019 est.	1,393.35 Bn.
Real GDP (Per Capita), 2021 est.	37,900
Real GDP (Growth Rate), 2021 est.	5.52 %
Inflation Rate, 2021 est.	3.09 %

Source: The World Factbook – CIA 2023

### ● EXCHANGE RATE

Indicators	Value (in USD)
Indian Rupees (INR) per Euro (EUR)	91.52
Euro (EUR) per USD	0.91

### ● CLIMATE:

Temperate; clear, hot summers in interior, more moderate and cloudier along coast; cloudy, cold winters in interior, partly cloudy and cool along coast.

### ● AVERAGE TARIFF FOR INDIA:

9.4 % for HS Code 61; 9.2 % for HS Code 62

### ● SPAIN'S APPAREL TRADE:

Spain's RMG Import from World and India				
(Value In USD Mn.)	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2022 over 2021
Spain's RMG imports from World	16207.3	18545.4	22329.5	20.4
Spain's RMG imports from India	573.8	609.3	718.4	17.9
India's Share in UK's total RMG imports from World, %	3.5	3.3	3.2	-2.1

Source: UN Comtrade 2023; Prepared by R&PA Department, AEPC

The above table shows that Spain's RMG import from the World were to the tune of USD 22329.5 mn in 2022 showing a growth of 20.4 % as compared to 2021. RMG import from India has also increased to USD 718.4 mn, registering a growth of 17.9 % as compared to 2021. India's percentage share in Spain's RMG import from the World has decreased to 3.2 % in 2022. ■

● **TOP RMG SUPPLIER TO SPAIN:**

### TOP RMG SUPPLIER TO SPAIN AND INDIA'S POSITION

Position	Countries	Imported value in 2022 (in USD mn)	% Share
		<b>World</b>	<b>22329.5</b>
1	Bangladesh	4221.7	18.9
2	China	4066.8	18.2
3	Turkey	2999.6	13.4
4	<b>India</b>	<b>718.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>
5	Viet Nam	614.4	2.8

Source: UN Comtrade, 2023; Prepared by R&PA Department, AEPC

The above table shows that Bangladesh has remained a top supplier of RMG to Spain with 18.9 % share in 2022. India is the 9th largest supplier of RMG to Spain with 3.2 % share. China & Turkey have a share of 18.2 % and 13.4 % respectively.

● **SPAIN'S TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS IMPORT FROM WORLD VS INDIA'S SHARE:**

#### Top 10 RMG products imported by Spain from World

S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Imported from World in 2022 (in USD mn)	Imported from India in 2022 (in USD mn)	India's Share in %	
			<b>Total RMG</b>	<b>22329.5</b>	<b>718.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>
			<b>Sum of Top 10</b>	<b>9984.7</b>	<b>228.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
1	620462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton (excl. knitted ...	1731.3	14.9	0.9	
2	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	1634.9	91.9	5.6	
3	611030	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of man-made fibres, knitted ...	1368.6	7.5	0.5	
4	611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted ...	1218.3	17.5	1.4	
5	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted ...	1157.9	31.0	2.7	
6	620240	Women's or girls' overcoats, car-coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks, incl. ski jackets, wind-cheaters, ...	813.2	5.8	0.7	
7	620463	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibres ...	541.1	12.8	2.4	
8	610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excl. cotton)	511.9	10.6	2.1	
9	620140	Men's or boys' overcoats, car-coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks, incl. ski jackets, wind-cheaters, ...	510.0	0.4	0.1	
10	620640	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted ...	497.6	35.9	7.2	

Source: UN Comtrade 2023; Prepared by R&PA Department, AEPC

The above table shows Spain's top 10 RMG products import from the World vis-à-vis from India and India's share in those top 10 products. The top 10 products imported from the World were to the tune of USD 9984.7 mn. in 2022 and import from India of these top 10 products were to the tune of USD 228.2 mn. India has 2.3 % share in Spain's top 10 products import from the World.

The top products imported by Spain from the World includes (I) Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton; (ii) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; (iii) Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of man-made fibres, knitted. ■



● **SPAIN'S TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS IMPORT FROM INDIA:**

**Top 10 RMG Products Imported by Spain from India**

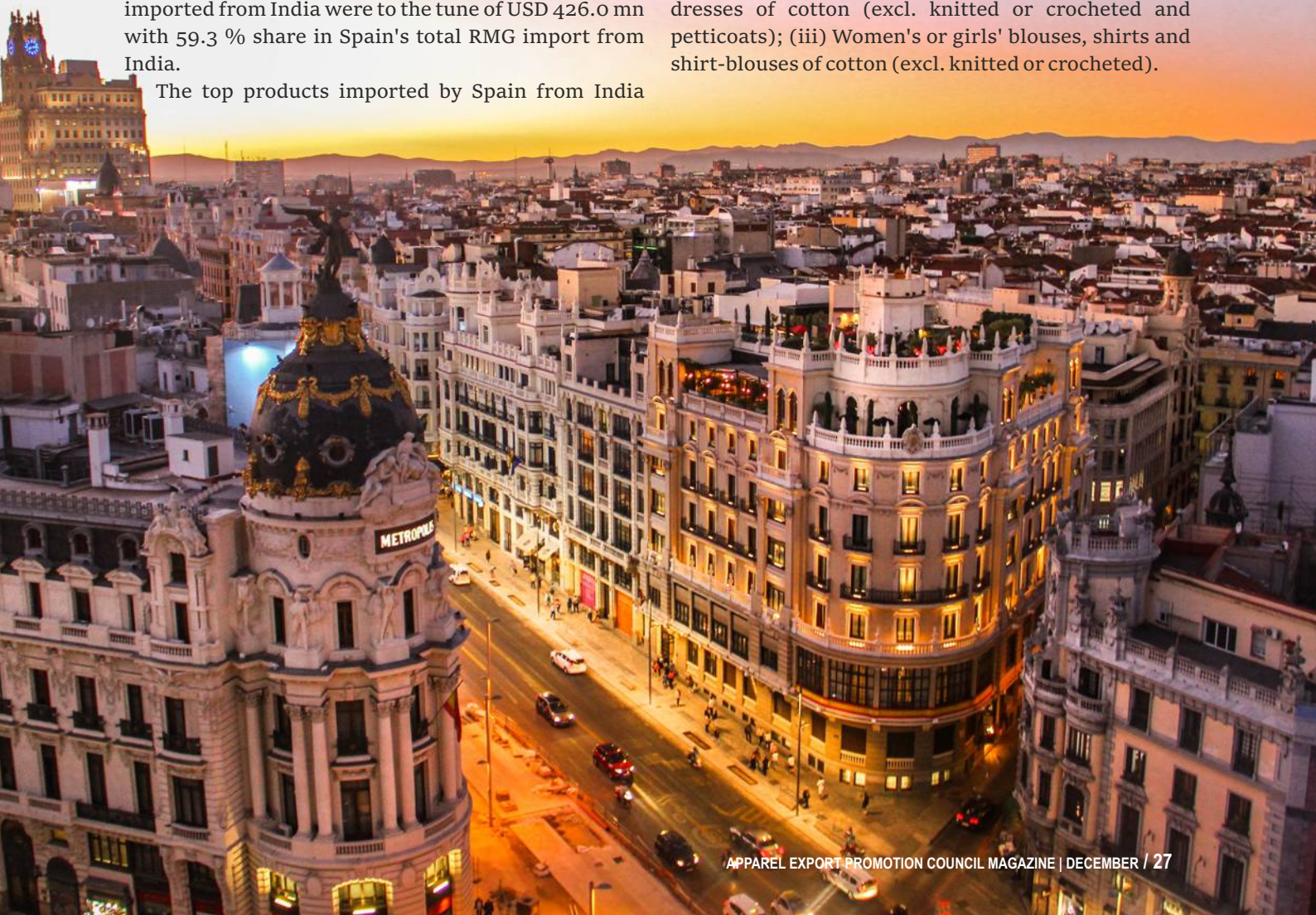
S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Import from India, 2022 (in USD mn)	% Share in 2022
		Total RMG	718.4	100.0
		Sum of Top 10	426.0	59.3
1	610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	91.9	12.8
2	620442	Women's or girls' dresses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	50.1	7.0
3	620630	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and ...)	46.7	6.5
4	610462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, knitted ...	42.7	5.9
5	620640	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted ...)	35.9	5.0
6	620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	35.4	4.9
7	611120	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excl. hats)	35.4	4.9
8	620444	Women's or girls' dresses of artificial fibres (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	34.3	4.8
9	620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excl. knitted ...)	31.0	4.3
10	620342	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and other ...)	22.6	3.1

Source: UN Comtrade 2023; Prepared by R&PA Department, AEPC

The above table shows Spain's top 10 RMG products imported from India. Spain's top 10 products imported from India were to the tune of USD 426.0 mn with 59.3 % share in Spain's total RMG import from India.

The top products imported by Spain from India

includes (i) T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; (ii) Women's or girls' dresses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted and petticoats); (iii) Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted).





# DIWALI CELEBRATION

The employees in the Head office, Apparel House, Gurgaon celebrated Diwali with enthusiasm on 10.11.2023. SG AEPC lit lamps and performed puja to seek blessings of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha.

Refreshment boxes were distributed during the event.

## *Glimpses of the event*





## AEPC PARTICIPATES WITH 50 INDIAN EXHIBITORS IN IATF, DUBAI



**A** EPC has participated with 50 Indian exhibitors at the International Apparel and Textile Fair which was held at Dubai World Trade Centre Dubai, UAE from 27th November to 29th November, 2023.



The Fair was inaugurated by H.E. Butti Saeed Al Ghandi, Vice-Chairman of the World Trade Centre on 27th Nov 2023. He visited the AEPC stall and interacted with Mr. Ashok Rajani, Chairman, F&E and also with AEPC exhibitors. The India Pavilion was inaugurated by Mr. K. Kalimuthu, Consul (Economic, Trade & Commerce), Dubai, in presence of the Chairman Fair & Exhibitions AEPC, Mr. Ashok Rajani, Chairman, WWEPC, Mr. Romesh Khajuria, Senior Officers from Handloom Export Promotion Council and Powerloom Development & Export

Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) exhibitors and buyers.

Mr. K. Kalimuthu along with Mr. Ashok Rajani, Chairman, F&E, Chairman, WWEPC and other officials visited stalls of Indian exhibitors. Chairman, F&E also had a detailed meeting with Mr. K. Kalimuthu, Consul (Economic, Trade & Commerce), Dubai relating to India-UAE trade relations and discussed the furtherance of Apparel Export from India to UAE.

Major buyers from Dubai like Day to Day, Dubai design district, Namshi, Brand-4-Less, Al-Madina Group, Nesto, Al-Futtin, Lal's Group, Regal Traders, Altmas Groups were noticed during the first day and interacted with the exhibitors. The total footfall response from the AEPC exhibitors from the first day was satisfactory.

AEPC has also organised the Road Show along with a networking meet at Hotel Novotel, World Trade Centre, Dubai for the Promotion of Bharat-Tex 2024. Mr. K. Kalimuthu, Consul (Economic, Trade & Commerce), Dubai, Chairman Fair & Exhibitions AEPC, Mr. Ashok Rajani, Chairman, WWEPC, Mr. Romesh Khajuria, Mr. Rajesh Masand, President CMAI, Mr. Rahul Mehta, Chief Mentor CMAI, DSG, AEPC, Senior Officers from Handloom Export Promotion Council and Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) and major buyers of GCC Region were present during the Road Show. The detailed information related to Bharat-Tex 2024 was given to buyers and buying agents with a request to participate in this Mega show. ■



## BHARAT TEX EXPO 2024 ROADSHOW AT NOIDA CLUSTER SEES HUGE ENTHUSIASM FOR PARTICIPATION



- *Bharat Tex to provide strong branding and positioning to Indian textiles products globally: Secretary General, AEPC*
- *RMG exports from Noida Cluster to touch Rs 60,000 Crore in next two years: President Noida Apparel Export Cluster*

**R**oadshow for the Bharat Tex Expo 2024 held in Noida on 11th December 2023, witnessed huge participation from the Noida cluster RMG exporters. More than 300 members turned up with great enthusiasm and interest to participate in Bharat Tex Expo 2024. The Roadshow was addressed by Shri Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Gautam Budh Nagar. Shri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General AEPC, Shri Anil Kumar, Director Ministry of Textiles, Shri Lalit Thukral President, Noida Apparel Export Cluster, Executive Member (AEPC), Chairman (IGFA), also shared the dais and addressed the gathering.

Bharat Tex Expo 2024 is being organized by the Consortium of all Textiles related Export Promotion Councils with the support of the Ministry of Textiles. The four-day show will be held at Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi in New Delhi between 26th to 29th February 2024.

Shri Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Gautam Budh Nagar, who was the chief guest of the event, said that, "To witness this biggest global textile show is a matter of pride and privilege for all of us. This event will help in realising the dream of the Prime Minister to make India a manufacturing hub." Noida is the show window of Uttar Pradesh and the government is always ready to provide a very conducive environment for business growth in this city of Apparels, he added.



Addressing the gathering Shri Mithileshwar Thakur said, "The Bharat Tex Expo 2024 will be the biggest textiles show on the globe with 3500 plus exhibitors cutting across the entire textiles value chain, 3000 plus reputed international buyers and 40000 plus domestic buyers. It will truly be the

best possible platform to showcase the true potential of textiles trade." Shri Thakur appealed to the exporters to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to connect with all major stakeholders of textiles from across the world.

Further Shri Thakur remarked, "India presents a unique strength in the Textiles and Garment sector having abundance of raw material being one of the top producers of cotton, silk, jute, polyester, viscose, nylon and acrylic and a complete value chain in each fibre. Despite these inherent advantages, India for a variety of reasons missed the opportunity to occupy the place of prominence in the Apparel export domain. We somehow did not capitalize upon our strength adequately and market our strength well to the rest of the world. Bharat Tex Expo 2024 will plug this gap by showcasing our strength and by projecting India as the preferred sourcing destination. It will ensure India its due place in terms of branding and positioning which has been waiting for a long time."

Shri Lalit Thukral, President, Noida Apparel Export Cluster said that the RMG exports from the Noida cluster today is to the tune of Rs.40,000 crores which will touch Rs.60,000 crores in next two years. The UP government has made Noida the city of apparel and has provided several matching facilities which has led to this business growth. Factories were allowed to work even during the Covid time." He appealed to the Noida cluster exporters to participate in huge numbers as many reputed international buyers have already registered to attend this grand show.

Shri Anil Kumar, Director, Minister of Textiles made a presentation on Bharat Tex Expo 2024. He said, "We have everything here in India from farm to fashion but it's all scattered. Bharat Tex is an endeavor to bring the entire textiles value chain under one roof and showcase to the world our strength in the textiles sector."

The roadshow closed with the question-and-answer session. ■





# AEPC PARTICIPATES IN PRE-VIBRANT GUJARAT SEMINAR ON TEXTILES AND APPAREL SECTOR



**S**hri Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General AEPC participated as a Speaker in the Panel Discussion on Knitting Gujarat's Textile Vision for Viksit Bharat at Pre- Vibrant Gujarat Seminar on Textiles and Apparel Sector at Surat.

Other panelists were Roop Rashi, Textile Commissioner, GOI, Priyavrata Mafatlal, Vice Chairman, Arvind Mafatlal group, Mr Sanjay K Jain, Managing Director, TT Limited and Mr Vivek Mehta, COO- Textiles, Reliance Industries Ltd.



Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles Smt Darshana Jardosh inaugurated the pre-vibrant seminar in the august presence of ministers of Gujarat government.

The moderator of the session was Mr Suhail Nathani, Managing Partner, Economic Law Practice

The textile eco system of Gujarat is just mind boggling. It has 37% share of India's cotton produce, 60% of Indian cotton exports, 50% of India's man-made fibre production, 30% of India's woven fabric production and 25% of India's technical textile output.

On the top of that, its industry-friendly government policies, entrepreneurship zeal of local populace, robust physical infrastructure, matchless air and maritime connectivity, uninterrupted quality power supply coupled with the advantage of a coastal state make Gujarat a dream destination for manufacturing of textiles and apparel. Various possibilities and strategies on how this dream could turn into reality were discussed and deliberated by panelists. ■

# ACTIVITY REPORT ON SWACHHATA PAKHWADA OBSERVED IN ALL THE OFFICES OF THE COUNCIL

*from 1ST November, 2023 to 15th November, 2023*

The Council had observed Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st November to 15th November, 2023 and organized the following activities during the said fortnight:

1. To encourage larger participation in the Swachhta Pakhwada, the Council had circulated a mass mail on 31st October, 2023 to its around 8000 member exporters urging them to observe Swachhata Pakhwada from November 1st to 15th, 2023 in their respective units and encourage their employees to improve hygiene conditions at their own premises. They were also asked to organize the cleanliness drive to enthuse them to keep clean and tidy the common passages and open areas in and around their factory areas.

2. Consequent to the above the Council’s officials had visited more than 50 units/organizations across various clusters, Pan India and organized the Swachhta Shapath ceremony. The activity was held to make the employees of those units and other people in the clusters aware of the initiative in addition to encouraging them to remain committed towards their duties, responsibilities and obligations associated with maintaining hygiene and sanitation in their places.

3. Swachhata Pakhwada theme Web Banner with the message to “Say No to single - use plastic and recycle your e-Waste”, was developed and displayed in

the council’s website for 15 days from 1st to 15th November, 2023.



4. Standees and Posters were prepared and displayed in all the offices of the Council.



5. Glimpses of the “Swachhta Shapath Ceremony” organized in the Council’s Head Office and all the other Regional Offices across the Country.





6. Senior officials at the head office were assigned the responsibility as a “Marshal of the Day” to supervise the cleanliness and maintain hygiene in and around the Apparel House Building, Gurgaon for the said duration. The assigned official was to examine the hygiene and sanitation position on every day basis and submit a written report to the concerned department for improvement, where required.

the Council’s to exhibit our commitment to keep environment clean.

7. Sapling plantation was organized in the offices of



**8. Pictures of the Swachhata Shapath ceremony organized in the offices and factories of the various member exporters of the Council across Pan India between 1st to 15th November, 2023 :**



M/s Baby World, Kolkata



M/s. Majestic Exports, Tirupur



M/s. Octave Apparel, Ludhiana



M/s. Magsons Exports, New Delhi



M/s. India Today Fashions, Jaipur



M/s. Opera Clothing Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai



M/s. B. K. Garments P. Ltd., Noida



M/s. Pearl Global, Khatola, Gurgaon

9. Shramdaan activity was organized during the Pakhwada by the officials of the Council.

participation in the Swachhta Pakhwada – 2023.



10. The celebration of Pakhwada ended with giving away of “Certificate of Appreciation” to all the 50 organizations for their enthusiastic and active





# AEPC Swachhata Pakhwada



Date of Posting: 1 Nov



**C**aption: Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) is celebrating “Swachhata Pakhwada” from November 1st to 15th.

We believe in actions that create a lasting impact, not just symbols that fade away.

In our commitment to intensify our focus on cleanliness and hygiene, we invite you to be a part of this transformative journey. Join hands with us as we embark on a fortnight of meaningful actions, not just empty promises.

Let's go beyond cleanliness – let's make it a way of life. From our factories to our communities, from our workplaces to our homes, we will champion the cause of a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable world.

It's time to roll up our sleeves, put on our gloves, and get to work. Are you ready to be the change?

**Hashtags:** #SwachhataPakhwada #Cleanliness #HygieneMatters #AEPC #CleanAndGreen #SustainableApparel #EcoFriendlyFashion #GreenExport #CleanIndustry #SustainabilityMatters #FashionForChange #CleanApparel #AEPCSustainability

**Tags:** Department of Commerce, GoI FIEO Ministry of Textiles, Government of India CMAI Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Piyushgoyaldarshanajardosh

**Post Link:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7125361981649207296>



**Organic impressions:** 571 Impressions



**Caption:** Cleanliness isn't just a choice; it's a fundamental necessity. In the world of apparel manufacturing, it goes beyond mere aesthetics – it's the very foundation of excellence, the backbone of our industry's success.

A clean environment isn't a luxury; it's an essential requirement for producing top-quality apparel that can stand out on the global stage. It's where innovation, precision, and dedication come to life, resulting in garments that carry the mark of perfection.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) invites you to be part of a movement that recognizes the vital link between cleanliness and industry prosperity.

Join us in promoting Swachhata, not only as a social responsibility but as a driving force for a thriving industry.

**Hashtags:** #CleanlinessForSuccess #ApparelExports #SwachhataPakhwada #AEPC #CleanAndGreen #SustainableApparel #EcoFriendlyFashion #GreenExport #CleanIndustry #SustainabilityMatters #FashionForChange #CleanApparel #AEPCSustainability

**Tags:** Department of Commerce, GoI FIEO Ministry of Textiles, Government of India CMAI Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Piyushgoyal darshanajardosh

**Post Link:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7126155511741263872>



**Organic impressions:** 271 Impressions

**Caption:** As we embark on the journey of Swachhata Pakhwada, let us recognize that cleanliness is more than just a superficial act. It is a stepping stone towards a greater responsibility that we bear for our planet and our future.

Cleanliness is not just about tidying up our surroundings; it's about instilling a sense of responsibility for the world we inhabit. It's a reminder that our actions, no matter how small, have a profound impact on the environment and the generations to come.

During this Swachhata Pakhwada, let's make a solemn pledge to go beyond the mere aesthetics of cleanliness. Let's embrace sustainability as a way of life, care for our environment as a sacred duty, and promote responsible practices that echo our commitment to a better world.

**Hashtags:** #Responsibility #Sustainability #SwachhataPakhwada #AEPCInitiative #CleanAndGreen #SustainableApparel #EcoFriendlyFashion #GreenExport #CleanIndustry #SustainabilityMatters #FashionForChange #CleanApparel #AEPCSustainability

**Tags:** Department of Commerce, GoI FIEO Ministry of Textiles, Government of India CMAI Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Piyushgoyal, darshanajardosh

**Post Link:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7127249675006455809>

**Organic impressions:** 225 Impressions



**Caption:** In the world of apparel export, Cleanliness is not just a preference; it's the very foundation on which we build our success. It's the cornerstone, the platform from which we leap into the world market. Cleanliness is not merely about tidy floors and spotless garments; it's a commitment to excellence, a dedication to quality, and a pledge to our customers that they can trust us to deliver the best. This is where our journey begins - with Cleanliness as the Apparel Export Foundation. Quality Control Begins with Cleanliness.

**Hashtags:** #CleanlinessForSuccess #ApparelExports #SwachhataPakhwada #AEPC #CleanAndGreen #SustainableApparel #EcoFriendlyFashion #GreenExport #CleanIndustry #SustainabilityMatters #FashionForChange #CleanApparel #AEPCsustainability

**Tags:** Department of Commerce, GoI FIEO Ministry of Textiles, Government of India CMAI Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Piyushgoyal darshanajardosh

**Post Link:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7128642049393737729>

**Organic impressions:** 345 Impressions



**Caption:** In the world of apparel, every piece we create isn't just fabric and thread; it's a tale of quality, a narrative of craftsmanship.

Hygiene is not a mere step in our process; it's an unspoken commitment to our customers, a pledge to uphold the highest standards. It's about instilling a sense of pride in every garment we produce, knowing that it carries the mark of quality from the very first stitch.

We invite you to be part of this journey where hygiene is woven into every aspect of our work, from factory floors to the finished product. It's not just about making clothes; it's about crafting trust, ensuring perfection, and delivering a piece of excellence to our customers.

**Hashtags:** #HygieneInTextiles #QualityApparel #SwachhataPakhwada #AEPC #CleanAndGreen #SustainableApparel #EcoFriendlyFashion #GreenExport #CleanIndustry #SustainabilityMatters #FashionForChange #CleanApparel #AEPCsustainability

**Tags:** Department of Commerce, GoI FIEO Ministry of Textiles, Government of India CMAI Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Piyushgoyal darshanajardosh

**Post Link:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7128963903316738049>



**Organic impressions:** 202 Impressions



**Caption:** Embrace the spirit of cleanliness and sustainability!

Here are 5 impactful ways to contribute to Swachhata Pakhwada, and we believe they resonate with our mission at the Apparel Export Promotion Council.

We invite you to be part of our mission. Together, we make a positive impact on the apparel export sector.

**Hashtags:** #SwachhataPakhwada #Cleanliness #HygieneMatters #AEPC #CleanAndGreen #SustainableApparel #EcoFriendlyFashion #GreenExport #CleanIndustry #SustainabilityMatters #FashionForChange #CleanApparel #AEPCSustainability

**Tags:** Department of Commerce, GoI FIEO Ministry of Textiles, Government of India CMAI Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Piyushgoyal darshanajardosh

**Post Link:**  
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7130075649196589058>

**Organic impressions:** 319 Impressions



**Caption:** AEPC, we're not just about a 15-day cleanup. We're committed to a sustainable future and are actively working on long-term programs to maintain Swachhata in the apparel industry.

Join us in making the apparel sector not just fashion-forward but also environmentally conscious and sustainable. Together, we can build a cleaner, greener, and more responsible industry.

**Hashtags:** #Sustainability #CleanForLife #AEPCCommitment #CleanAndGreen #SustainableApparel #EcoFriendlyFashion #GreenExport #CleanIndustry #SustainabilityMatters #FashionForChange #CleanApparel #AEPCSustainability

**Tags:** Department of Commerce, GoI FIEO Ministry of Textiles, Government of India CMAI Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Piyushgoyal darshanajardosh

**Post Link:**  
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7130452925486616576>

**Organic impressions:** 194 Impressions



## SUSTAINABLE GARMENT FACTORY – STEPS

An Interview

*Authored by: Dr. Mukesh Kansal, Chairman,  
CTA Apparels, NOIDA*

**M**r. Vijay Mathur, DG & CEO met and interviewed Dr. Mukesh Kansal, Chairman of CTA Apparels, Member-AEPC. The talk is aspiring to those who wish to implement sustainability in textile and apparel units. Mr. Vijay Mathur has posed questions and Dr. Mukesh Kansal has replied to his queries. Following is the excerpts from interview:

**Q1. Sustainability in Apparel Sector has been a permanent agenda in seminars but has not reached to the manufacturing units. What are the views on this?**

**Reply:** I as a Chairman of the company strongly believe in the implementation of sustainability in the entire organization. Therefore, the commitment of the highest person or entity in the organization is the first requirement which I did in CTA. The manufacturing unit must start the implementation as energy saving and climate action implementation plan. In CTA, we took our first steps for energy saving through better fuel conversion to Biomass from Coal (High Carbon Fuel), air pollution control system in Boiler & Thermopac, Process Machinery Upgradation to reduce the energy and water, Caustic Recovery Plant, savings from effluent (Hot water Recovery), Heat Recovery from stentor machine, Instalation of Economizer in FG path of Boiler / Thermopac, installation of BLDC Fans for conventional fans; install trans-vector nozzle for cleaning area.

**Q2. You decided that your unit should be sustainable. What was the process you employed at the CTA family?**

**Reply:** CTA is continuously improving towards the environmental performance and use HIGG FEM to

monitor. FEM (Facility Environmental Module) is a tool developed by SAC (Sustainable Apparels Coalition) to monitor the Environmental Performance of Textiles and Leather Industries. Development of Environmental Management System, Goals towards continual improvement, its monitoring and comparable assessment of growth of the organization towards Environmental performance.

CTA has the goal of Zero Emission by 2028 and have already installed 1 MW Rooftop solar power plant in Fabric mill and 136 KW in D-235 & 90 KW in C-32. We are Planning to install 500 KW more in Pilkhuwa Mill in 2024.

Besides this, have plan to install 6 MW Solar park to ensure "Net Zero" by 2030.

For Water Management – CTA has developed water monitoring data and has a process of water balance through water treatment facility. CTA has already installed ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) plant in mill and water recycling plant in D-235 to consume recycled Industrial Waste water into process. We have adopted a pond under the UP Government Scheme "Amrit Sarover Yozna" to conserve the rain water in Village-Lakhan, Pilkhuwa.

CTA has registered on RR (Reverse Resource) tool for waste recycling purposes and disposing off our waste fabric (katran) to recyclers only. Hazardous waste is disposed off to authorised dealer.

In the abatement process, CTA has already installed Wet Scrubber, Cyclone and to reduce the GHG, have already moved to Biomass. In Garment Manufacturing units we have already moved on PNG, a cleaner fuel in steam energy generation.

Under Chemical Management System, use of Alternative Chemicals, Traceability of Chemicals from Lot Number, Chemical Life Cycles etc. has been





implemented. For robust chemical management system, CTA is using Bhive, a ZDHC approved Chemical Inventory portal, and using 100 % ZDHC Level-3 Chemicals. We are moving towards finding out the safer and less hazardous, Green Screen Chemistry certified chemicals as an alternative for the betterment of environment, and humans.

**Q3. At apparel stage do you feel sustainability exists or it requires sustainability at back value chain?**

**Reply:** As explained, in order to be sustainable, CTA has developed its own fabric processing facilities. For environmental Sustainability, CTA has installed energy and water efficient machinery in the fabric processing mill; have installed equipment to reduce air pollutants, assessing and adopting new technologies for energy efficiency, water conservation, recycling and reusing water for resource conservation.

For Social Sustainability, CTA is committed to provide healthy work environment to our employees, where they can work with complete dedication. To reward their efficiency, productivity, knowledge, skill, employment period, educational and professional qualifications, CTA has implemented the Project "Fair Living wages". For Succession Planning and showing the path to others' we are providing technical and soft skill training for potential supervisors.

CTA has ensured and has achieved various goals including no use of abusive language, no harassment including sexual harassment in the factory premises, active participation of workers in various committees, obtaining periodically feedback from workers, quick redressal of grievance, ensuring health & safety and to aware the workers regarding the factory rules and regulations, ensuring leave and benefits. This is needed for improving the working environment and morale of the employees as well as healthy work environment. In addition to this, the goals to be completed by the year 2024-25 is in the areas are Gender Equality attaining 50:50 ratio of male versus female, Fair Living Wages, Supervisory Development Programme etc.

**Q4. Which are the Skill Gaps in the garment units to implement sustainability in a garment factory?**

**Reply:** CTA has identified broad 8 Skill Gaps which are given below. The first and foremost is writing of the governance rules and setting the targets. These targets should align the targets setting by the brands

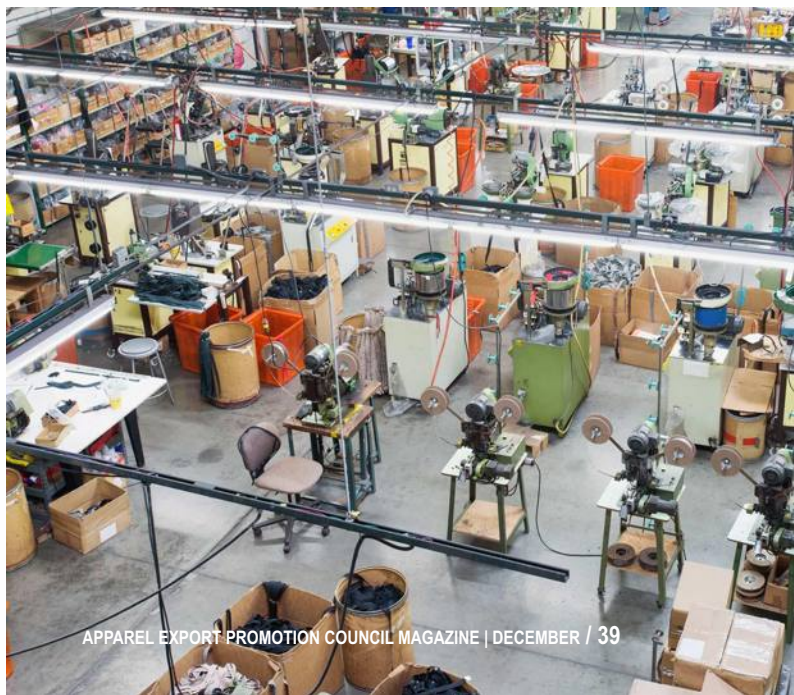
which one unit is working. CTA has trained our gatekeepers, person in the Store, cutting room Supervisor, Production Supervisor and Machine Operators, Finishing Supervisor and Packers for the identified Skill Gap areas indicated in the table. A garment manufacturers can draw their own Skill Gap analysis and can train the people for achieving overall sustainability as a team effort:

Gap S. No./ Gap Extent	Level	Skill Gap Areas
Gap 1 ****	MGT NSQF 9, 10	Governance; bye-laws Minute Book, Score Cards, Target Vs Actual
Gap 2 ****	MGT NSQF 5	Qualification Norm for Sustainability officer/ In-charge
Gap 3 **	Gate NSQF 4	Sustainable Goods Record Note at Entrance; Banned items
Gap 4 ***	Store NSQF 7	Sustainable Store; Green, Orange, Recycle, Return, & Quarry Bins
Gap 5 ***	Cutting Room Cutting Supervisor NSQF 5	Bins for segregation of 'Katran'
Gap 6 ****	Production Floor Production supervisor NSQF 5 SMO-NSQF-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Collection bins</li> <li>Air Circulation (Personal Fatigue Delay SAM) – (Society) (S) Motor, Lights (Environmental) (E)</li> </ul>
Gap 7 ****	Finishing Finishing Supervisor NSQF – 6 Finisher – NSQF-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boiler: Steam Recovery (E)</li> <li>Water Effluent (E)</li> <li>Recycle of water, Reuse (E)</li> <li>Process which was uses less water (E)</li> <li>Water analysis &amp; store the good once (E)</li> </ul>
Gap 8 **	(Packing) Packer NSQF-3	Ecofriendly packaging material (E)

**\* Low skill Gap, \*\* Low/ Medium Skill Gap, \*\*\* Medium Skill Gap, \*\*\*\* Substantial Gap, E – Environmental, S – Social; MGT = Management; NSQF = National Skill Qualification Framework; Level = as per Qualification Packs.**

**The industry has to follow these steps to reach out to the sustainability.**

**CTA's success is by sustainable efforts.**



# BHISHMA PITAMAH OF INDIA'S EXPORTS

## - Book capturing life of Dr A Sakthivel



There are few shafts of light in the gloom which we love to adore, admire and appreciate. One of those rays of hope is Dr A Sakthivel the Bhishma Pitamah of India's exports. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Piyush Goyal released the book on 'Bhishma Pitamah of India's Exports', dedicated to Dr A Sakthivel, EC member AEPC and President FIEO November 3, 2023 at New Delhi. Dignitaries from the Trade and Industry, Government and from various fields were also present on the occasion. Also present on the occasion was the curator of the book and Dr Sakthivel's life partner, Mrs Selvieaswari Sakthivel along with all the family members. The Tamil version of the book was released at Tirupur on November 29, 2023 in the presence of dignitaries and guests with great fan following behind him.

The book illustrates the life journey of Dr Sakthivel with a special focus on his rich contribution to India's exports. Dr Sakthivel's remarkable efforts in public works have an intense impact on the lives of countless people. His outstanding contribution to the development of the Indian trade community and the rise of India's exports has been inspirational for the younger generations to follow. A path breaker, industry leader, guide, mentor, nationalist, philanthropist & humanist, Dr Sakthivel has twice been the President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and six times unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Federation from Southern Region. He has also served as member of the Board and Chairman for four times in Apparel Export Promotion Council in the past 37 years.

Besides these he also served at several key positions both nationally and internationally in different organisations. With vast experience and expertise of over 5 decades in the trade and industry, his achievement towards the apparel industry and overall exports from India has been remarkable and has been applauded by everyone. Besides, his pivotal role for the growth of exports from Tirupur has been immense.

Dr Sakthivel's active involvement with the industry, both as Chairman, AEPC and President, FIEO and his deep commitment towards its betterment resulted in measures that not only protected the industry but prepared it for the future where global champions can come up. Dr A Sakthivel is widely known as a visionary, self-determined, humble and committed person with remarkable leadership qualities. In 2009, he received the prestigious 'Padma Shri' award in honour of his exceptional service to India's exports sector. During his long association with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations spanning over 20 years, the Federation has fostered the strengthening of India's trade relations globally, offering support to individuals and entities especially small, medium-sized enterprises at the forefront of country's export initiatives, which is in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Make in India for the world.

His determination and dedication towards advancing India's textile sector through various roles as Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council, Board Member of National Institute of Fashion Technology, Member of Technical Advisory Committee, Tamil Nadu amongst others has been exemplary. His pivotal role as a catalyst for various visionary projects in Tamil Nadu particularly in the city of Tirupur, including the Tirupur Export Knitwear Industrial Complex, Inland Container Depot, New Tirupur Area Development Corporation Limited and NIFT-TEA Fashion Knitwear Institute, has been instrumental in establishing Tirupur as a nationally recognized export hub. With all the accolades in his kitty,

Dr Sakthivel was rightly addressed as a "Bhishma Pitamah" during the meeting held on PM Mitra Park by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Textiles, Mr Piyush Goyal. The book would serve as a symbol of appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the growth of RMG exports. ■



## ATDC participates in the 10<sup>th</sup> International Abilympics (Olympics for Skill Competition)



**S**hri Rakesh Vaid, Vice Chairman ATDC speaking on the occasion of Inaugural Ceremony, jointly inaugurated as Guest of Honour in the 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Disability organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Sarthak Educational Trust and the National Abilympics Association of India on December 09, 2023.

The Programme is a collaborative effort of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), Sarthak Educational Trust and the National Abilympics Association of India with a view to promote an empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities in various aspects of life.

ATDC, the largest vocational training provider in India in the apparel sector, has been working painstakingly towards providing skills to the lesser privileged sections of the society. ATDC has not only trained but has also provided employment opportunities to them. Shri Naren Goenka, Chairman, AEPC and ATDC, has lead ATDC to appreciate the differently challenged by taking them under the ATDC umbrella as faculty. Under his leadership, ATDC trained and nurtured the talents of two talented faculty resources, Mr. Shamim Alam (locomotively differently abled) and Ms. Bhagyashree (hearing differently abled). At the conference, Mr. Vaid shared with pride that ATDC's Guest Faculty Mr. Shamim Alam of ATDC Patna Centre had won the Bronze Medal under Tailor Category in the 10<sup>th</sup> International Abilympics (Olympics ATDC participates in the 10th International Abilympics (Olympics for Skill Competition) for skill competition) held at Metz, France. Ms Bhagyashree, under the category 'Tailoring and Dress Making (Basic)' was also mentored by ATDC to participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> Abilympics; she is currently working in Pune. He further added that the Hon'ble

President of India, Ms. Droupadi Murmu had felicitated Mr. Shamim Alam along with Ms. Gurpreet Kaur, his mentor, at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The President of India had congratulated Mr. Shamim Alam for winning medal and making the Country proud.

During the conference, Mr. Vaid brought forth that the inclusivity and accessibility for the differently abled can only happen when as a country we provide proper infrastructure for their ease in commuting, negotiating the roads etc. He emphasized that the footpaths need to be wheelchair friendly and the walkways and roads are fully complied for visually impaired and physically challenged people. He appreciated the efforts being made so far by the Government and other organizations but also reiterated that the category of PwD should be given special focus in skill development. The Sarthak Trust thanked Mr. Vaid that under his visionary leadership, ATDC is preparing for the next Abilympics and will continue to work towards contributing to the nation building through its skill development efforts that empower the youth and women of India.

The Theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> National conference was Global Partnerships (GPS) - Paving the Way for Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable World. The two-day workshop had sessions on Focussing on Skill, Financial Empowerment & Excellence; Government and CSR efforts for Disability Inclusive India; Technology for Inclusion; Experiences of PwD Entrepreneurs; Showcasing Innovative Accessibility Solutions. This seminar included an exhibition of the success stories to inspire more people to come forward with zest.

The finding of the World Bank Report 'People with Disabilities in India: From Commitments to Outcomes' released in 2007, states that the employment rate of disabled people has declined from 42.7% in 1991 down to 37.6 % in 2002. Through the passing of Rights of PwD Act of 2016 by Government of India, 13 new disabilities have been added to the initial list of 8 disabilities which were recognized officially. With the addition of the new disabilities, this is indicative that now the number of PwDs would have increased manifold. This has further led to increase in number of unemployed PwDs. Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC) is a society under the aegis of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, and is one of India's largest vocational training providers which is operating in 22 states across India under the leadership of Shri Naren Goenka and Mr. Rakesh Vaid, strong pillars of Indian Apparel Industry. ■

# 'INDIA WILL BE THE LARGEST COTTON PRODUCER'

*Indian textile industry working towards achieving \$250 billion by 2030, including \$100 billion in exports, says Textiles Minister Shri Piyush Goyal; inaugurates global cotton producing nations' meet; also introduces 'Kasturi Cotton Bharat', a 'blockchain traceable' textile brand*

India will strive to become the largest cotton producer globally, Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, said in Mumbai while inaugurating an annual global meeting of a UN recognised body of cotton producing and consuming nations.



At the 81st plenary session of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), the Minister said India has the largest area under cotton cultivation and is the second largest producer. "We need to become the world's largest producer," Shri Goyal stressed, adding that the textile advisory group on cotton will work towards improving productivity similar to the level in countries like Australia.

## **MoU signed to promote indigenous branded cotton**



India will provide leadership in cotton textiles and technical textiles. It has two advisory groups - for cotton

and manmade fibre. These groups have representation from the entire textile value chain and take policy decisions with inputs from sector representatives. India has also launched PM MITRA - a Central government scheme to set up mega textile parks and promote the entire value chain.

Shri Goyal said the National Technical Textiles Mission promotes research and development in technical textiles. These are manmade fabric meant for a specific function and are not generally used for apparel or aesthetic appeal

The Indian textile industry is working towards achieving \$250 billion by 2030, including \$ 100 billion exports, he said.

## **Indian cotton production to be 6% lower this year**

In a fortnight, the Textile Ministry and the Department of Consumer Affairs would open state-of-the-art testing laboratories nationwide to ensure high quality textile products are manufactured and exported from India, Shri Goyal said, introducing the "Kasturi Cotton Bharat" brand, which he claimed could be traceable using blockchain technology, and that it would be "carbon positive".

The first set of textile products made using Kasturi cotton were also introduced at the event. Indian cotton farmers will benefit from drone-based pesticide spraying launched by Prime Minister Modi recently, the Minister said, adding that the use of innovation and Internet of Things will benefit Indian cotton farmers.

The four-day event on "Cotton Value Chain: Local Innovations for Global prosperity" is expected to be attended by delegates from 35 countries. ■



## SRI LANKAN APPAREL EXPORTERS WANT STRATEGIC TIES WITH INDIA, E ASIA



**S**trategic partnerships with India, Japan and other East Asian nations are needed to boost and diversify markets and face challenges posed by economic downturns in traditional export destinations, Sri Lanka Apparel Exporters Association (SLAEA) Chairman Indika Liyanahewage recently said.

“Japan, in particular, presents a significant opportunity, with an annual import of \$26 billion worth of apparel of which only \$35 million comes from Sri Lanka. There is great potential for growth in the Japanese market,” he told at the 41st annual general meeting of the SLAEA.

While 30 per cent of Sri Lanka’s garments are shipped to Europe and 40 per cent to the United States, these markets have witnessed a shrink due to economic challenges, he noted.

India’s middle-class market segment is a decent opportunity for Sri Lanka to tap into which accounts for over 300 million people, who are now getting into a high-spending mode, he was quoted as saying by a top Sri Lankan newspaper.

The free trade agreement between India and Sri Lanka has set the annual export quota to the former at 8 million garment pieces and the annual imported raw material quota from the former at a value of \$1 billion. Sri Lanka’s apparel export revenue to India is about \$40-50 million.

“We hope the cap could be lifted or extended as much as possible,” Liyanahewage said.

He also urged the government to address issues like high electricity costs and tariff duties that affect export competitiveness.

The country’s apparel exports in September this year were sharply down by 26 per cent to \$332 million, while performance in the first nine months was down by 20.5 per cent to \$3.4 billion. ■

## MSMEs SEEK REVIEW OF MDA POLICY

**G**ujarat-based MSME units, which participate in different exhibitions, are facing difficulties in getting subsidy under the market development assistance (MDA) policy.

The district industries centres (DICs) process the applications submitted by MSMEs, however the grant amounts often fall significantly short of the requested subsidies. The GCCI has also raised the issue with the state government.

In a letter to the industries department recently, the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry demanded that the assistance should be given in time.

A senior member of the GCCI said, “We have received representations from our member units regarding the subsidy allocation for exhibitions under the MDA policy.

The grant amounts often fall short. This has persisted for the past two years, causing distress among MSMEs and the DICs.”

DICs submitted requests for Rs 11.31 crore in subsidies. However, only Rs 4.37 crore has been granted. As a result, DICs have increasingly been reluctant to process claims, leading to a backlog,” he added.

Gujarat-based chemicals, textiles, plastics, engineering sector companies participate in various national and international exhibitions and get significant orders. The industry has been demanding a review of the subsidy-allocation process under the MDA policy. ■



“During the October-December 2022 quarter, various



## INDIA PLANS TO IMPOSE MORE TARIFFS ON BANGLADESHI JUTE PRODUCTS

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on Bangladeshi jute products since January 2017. The country now wants to impose a new countervailing duty (CVD) on jute products. Exporters say that if India's new initiative to impose tariffs succeeds, there will be a major blow to Bangladeshi jute exports.

However, CVD cannot be levied on a product if there is an anti-dumping duty. It is prohibited by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as Indian law.

In view of India's interest in this regard, Bangladesh held a meeting with the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) of the Commerce Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Delhi on October 30, 2023.

Md. Hafizur Rahman, former Director General of WTO Cell of Ministry of Commerce and member of Bangladesh Competition Commission, led the delegation of three members of Bangladesh in the meeting.

During the meeting, Bangladesh made a verbal request to India not to impose CVD while the imposition of anti-dumping duty on jute products remained in force. After that Bangladesh made the same request to DGTR in writing last Tuesday (November 21).

India began its push to impose CVD last August. The DGTR wrote to the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi on August 4 that they wanted to settle the issue of CVD on Bangladeshi jute products on an amicable basis.

The letter also said that the Indian Jute Mills

Association (IJMA) has requested imposition of CVD on jute products produced in Bangladesh or exported from Bangladesh in a petition.

IJMA complained DGTR that Bangladesh exports jute sacks and similar bags used in rice packaging to India. Bangladesh is providing huge subsidies on the import of capital machinery used in the jute industry and is also providing cash incentives to companies producing jute and jute products. These are affecting the Indian jute industry.

India in January 2017 imposed anti-dumping duties ranging from \$19 to \$352 per ton on Bangladeshi jute exports for a period of five years. After the expiry of the period on January 1, the country extended the period for another five years. In such a situation, if India implements the new CVD initiative, it will have a negative impact on the entire jute sector of Bangladesh. ■



## SARI WALKATHON HELD IN MUMBAI ON 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

To promote Handloom sari culture in India by inviting participation of women from various states showcasing their ways of wearing saris and thereby, presenting India as a country having “Unity in Diversity”, Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh launched the E-Registration portal of Sari Walkathon. The Sari Walkathon was held in Mumbai on December 10th, 2023 at MMRDA Ground.

Participants enrolled for sari walkathon through this dedicated website in which registration was OTP based. Smt. Jardosh was the first to register herself with the portal.

The First Sari Walkathon was organised at Surat where, over 15,000 women draped in various kinds of saris walked for fitness with an aim to promote the spirit of traditional textile and support the idea of vocal for local.



After the success of Sari Walkathon at Surat, the financial capital of India, Mumbai witnessed the country's largest-ever Sari Walkathon. Organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, the event aims to raise awareness about fitness among women and to encourage them lead healthier lives. Women residents from across the country walked draping saris in their own traditional way.

In this celebration of cultural diversity & empowerment, approx. 10,000 women from across the country to joined the event adorned in their distinctive traditional attire. The gathering was vibrant tapestry, featuring not only enthusiastic participants but also notable figures from the various fields, including Celebrities, Influential Personalities, Fashion Designers and committed Anganwadi Workers.

A series of activities are planned along with sari walkathon.



## INDIA TO PLACE ITSELF AS TEXTILE SOURCING, INVESTMENT DESTINATION

The government is aiming to position itself as a textile sourcing and investment destination through seven Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks with an investment of ₹70,000 crore in the next 5 years, said Textile Secretary Ms. Rachna Shah. The government is looking to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) through PM MITRA and several other schemes.



“We are hopeful that seven PM MITRA parks will emerge as growth centres in the textile sector, seeking the support

of global investment players to invest in India and source textile from India,” Ms. Shah said. The ministry is also focusing on increasing footprints in technical textiles, which is a growing market. Currently, India is exporting technical textiles, including medical apparels, to the tune of \$ 2.5 billion and we are working to take it to \$10 billion in the next 5 years, the secretary told. Textile ministry is organizing Bharat Tex 2024, a first of its kind mega textile show, in February to attract global players to invest in the sector and source textiles.

“We are the second largest cotton producer and a leading player in silk. Availability of raw material, skilled manpower and technological upgradation are our key strengths that we will showcase to the world for attracting foreign direct investments in the sector,” Ms. Shah said.

The global mega textile event is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 26 February to 29 February at Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi.

We are pitching Bharat Tex 2024 as a global mega textile event with a very large international participation. About 3,500 exhibitors, over 3,000 international buyers, and 40,000 business visitors are expected to participate in the show.

The government is also reaching out to every state to showcase their own unique catalogue of products for the global buyers. Foreign embassies in India have also been engaged in getting their participation. ■

## COTTON PRICES DROP IN SEVERAL MARKETS

*The price of Gujarat Shankar - 6 variety last month was ₹55, 800 a candy (356 kg of ginned cotton) as against ₹66,000 a candy a year ago.*

**W**ith the cotton prices remaining subdued due to lack of demand, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has purchased nearly two lakh bales of cotton at Minimum Support Price since the beginning of the current cotton season (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024).

Mr. Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director of the CCI, said the organisation is buying cotton at MSP price in nine States. It is active in most of the growing States, except Gujarat and Odisha (The MSP for seed cotton is ₹6,620 a quintal for medium staple and for long staple cotton it is ₹7,020 a quintal).

The current daily arrivals are over 1.5 lakh bales. Since the beginning of the season, 47 lakh bales have arrived at the market compared with 35 lakh bales for the same period last year. "We buy 8 % - 10% of the arrivals at MSP. We will not permit the prices to fall below the MSP. When we buy at MSP, the price is stimulated. Our presence in the market matters." There are uncertainties now and if the demand picks up, the market will improve, he said.

A cotton farmer in Telangana, Mr. Jaipal, said, "For the last one year, there is no international demand for

cotton. Farmers who want immediate cash are selling at less than MSP price too. Some are holding back cotton, and some others are selling to CCI at MSP," he said.

The price of Gujarat Shankar - 6 variety on Saturday was ₹55, 800 a candy (356 kg of ginned cotton) as against ₹66,000 a candy a year ago. ■



## COTTON CORP TO PROCURE PREMIUM KASTURI COTTON THIS SEASON



**S**tate-run Cotton Corp. of India (CCI) is set to procure over one million bales of premium Kasturi cotton in the current season that began in October. Union Textile Minister Shri Piyush Goyal is scheduled to unveil products crafted from this high-grade fiber on 2 December, as a part of the government's initiative to promote it in global markets.

India's cotton output for the 2023-24 season is projected at 36 million bales of 170 kg each, Mr. Lalit Kumar Gupta, chairman and managing director, CCI,

said. Last year, output stood at an estimated 34.2 million bales.

Despite a marginal decrease in area under cotton to 12.6 million hectares from 12.9 million hectare, Mr. Gupta does not expect a hit to output.

Currently, around 300 ginning and pressing factories registered with the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) are equipped to process Kasturi cotton.

Mr. Gupta highlighted that unlike India, which has only recently branded its cotton despite being a major producer with the largest area under the cash crop, Egypt has successfully positioned its Giza cotton brand internationally with an annual output of a modest one million bales.

He emphasized that Kasturi Cotton Bharat is produced to stringent standards, with a strict 2% cap on trash content to ensure its premium quality and 100% traceability.

The textile ministry, meanwhile, is slated to organize a three-day global textile event, BharatTex, from 26 February in New Delhi. ■





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# Uyghur Forced Labor Goods 'Flooding' EU Market: Report

A “substantial volume” of apparel tainted by Uyghur forced labour from China is “flooding” into the European Union, a new study says, demonstrating what it characterizes as the “failure” of voluntary corporate social responsibility initiatives and non-binding due diligence measures.

A joint effort by Uyghur Rights Monitor, Sheffield Hallam University’s Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice and the Uyghur Center for Democracy and Human Rights, the report flagged dozens of brands across fast-fashion, mid-market and luxury categories, including Adidas, Bestseller, Burberry, H&M Group, Hugo Boss, Marks & Spencer, Levi Strauss & Co., Next, Nike, Prada, Skechers and Zara owner Inditex, as being at risk of sourcing products made by persecuted Muslim minorities in state-imposed labour transfer programs.

Researchers employed publicly available information, including shipping data, corporate and media reports, state documents and maps to connect the fashion purveyors, either directly or by way of intermediaries, to four major Chinese textile and apparel manufacturers—namely, Anhui Huamao Group Co., Beijing Guanghua Textile Co., Xinjiang Zhongtai Group and Zhejiang Sunrise

Garment Group—that have reported ties to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region through sourcing, subsidiaries and manufacturing.

Anhui Huamao Group Co., for instance, advertises its relationship with Burberry and Prada, while Beijing Guanghua Textile Co.’s TopNew was still listed on H&M’s supplier list as of its November update. Shipping records, the report said, appear to confirm a relationship between Beijing Guanghua Textile Co. and Skechers in Vietnam, while air-freight bills of lading, which are usually not included in shipping records made publicly available, suggest that it supplies to Inditex. Customs records also seem to indicate that Anhui Huamao Group Co. is a major supplier to suppliers such as Vietnam’s Gain Lucky, India’s Gemini Enterprises and Shahi Exports and Sri Lanka’s Penguin Sportswear, which in turn provide goods to the likes of Adidas, Hugo Boss, Marks & Spencer, Inditex and Nike.

The report said that many of the brands named “celebrate their high ESG rankings and certification programs” as a “way of proving that they are responsible, even while engaging in labour transfers. It said that while private certifications and accreditations, like Better Cotton and the International Labour Organization and

International Finance Corporations's Better Work, are "routinely cited" as evidence of fair labour conditions, the standards can vary wildly, with most of the qualifications "largely predicated on social compliance norms that predate modern forced labour" and "typically...not account[ing] for state-imposed forced labour."

A spokesperson for Better Cotton, which suspended all licensing and assurance activities in Xinjiang in 2020, said that state-imposed forced labour is incorporated as a criterion in the sustainability standard's "enabling environment" assessment of new country startups and in the annually updated decent work risk assessment tool for all countries where Better Cotton is produced.

"Any brand in compliance with international due diligence obligations should have long since severed ties with any supplier that source from the Uyghur region," said Rushan Abbas, founder and executive director of Campaign for Uyghurs. "Any brand buying from these suppliers that claims its products are free from Uyghur forced labour should demonstrate how exactly they know that. It breaks my heart to think that my innocent sister, a retired medical doctor, may be forced to make clothing for those companies."

Shahi Exports, India's largest apparel manufacturer, said that it doesn't source from Anhui Huamao Group Co. or its subsidiaries and that "no transactions with this high-risk vendor have occurred." A representative said that despite its request for evidence from the researchers, none has been received.

More recently, the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise, Ottawa's corporate ethics watchdog, launched probes into the Canadian arms of Hugo Boss, Levi's, Nike, Ralph Lauren and Zara, among others, into whether their supply chains use or benefit from Uyghur forced labour. Among the supporting documents used was a 2021 study from the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice, which also informed the most recent report, though all brands have denied any nexus to Xinjiang.

Late last month, Anti-Slavery International, the Clean Clothes Campaign, Fashion Revolution, IndustriALL Global Union, Human Rights Watch, the International Federation for Human Rights and other human rights groups wrote to the Council of the European Union urging it to "speed up negotiations" on a proposed European Union forced labour regulation, which appears to have stalled following a lack of agreement on a common position.

"It is now of utmost importance that, during the Spanish presidency...the Council agrees on a general approach," the letter said. The organizations also made several recommendations, including lowering the proof required to initiate an investigation, shifting the burden of proof in geographies and sectors where there is a high risk of state-imposed forced labour, providing a "one-stop shop" complaints mechanism and offering remediation for forced labour victims.

The report recommends that brands conduct forensic due diligence on any products made of cotton, rayon/viscose, or PVC, including synthetic leather, to identify exposure to companies operating in Xinjiang. And as supply chains become "increasingly opaque," it said, it is essential that due diligence procedures "strengthen and evolve."

But only legislation, it noted, can result in the "sea change" needed, as in the case of the United States, which has shown a "significant" reduction in goods from Xinjiang into the country since the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act's implementation in June 2022. As of October, Customs and Border Protection has detained more than 1,000 apparel shipments, valued at \$44 million, under the law. Of these, 577 shipments worth some \$13 million were ultimately denied entry. Now, it said, it's time for an equally robust approach, not just from the European Union but everywhere in the globe.

"This research highlights the need for strong legislative responses across the globe, from Canada to South Korea," said Chloe Cranston, head of thematic advocacy programs at Anti-Slavery International. "Governments must introduce and enforce robust measures to control the import of products made with forced labour. This includes in the EU, where the proposed forced labour regulation must be meaningfully designed to prevent EU member states from becoming dumping grounds for Uyghur forced labour goods."

**Source: Sourcing Journal**



# Impacts of wage increase on FOB prices in Bangladesh



**R**ecently, the minimum monthly wage for Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) workers has been increased in 5 categories by 56.25%. Now, the minimum monthly wage for an unskilled garment worker in Bangladesh has been increased to Tk 12,500 (or \$113.6), according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Impacts of wage increase on FOB prices in Bangladesh, or any other country, can be complex and influenced by various factors. Here are some key points to consider:

## Cost of production

Labour is a significant component of the overall cost of producing garments. An increase in workers' wages will directly impact the cost of production for manufacturers. As of the Knit Manufacturer, 35% impact on salary for the Sewing Unit only. There is the big impact at the Printing Unit as well, which is about 39% impact. Overall, the impact is 4-5% on FOB Price.

## Competitive pressures

Bangladesh is a major player in the global garment industry, and its manufacturers often operate in a highly competitive market. If wages increase significantly, manufacturers may face challenges in maintaining competitive prices compared to other low-cost production countries.

## Global supply chain dynamics

The garment industry often involves complex global supply chains. If wages increase in one country, brands and retailers may explore sourcing from other countries with lower labour costs, potentially shifting production to other regions.

## Brand and consumer behavior

Some brands may absorb the increased costs to maintain a commitment to ethical and fair labour practices. Others may pass on the increased costs to consumers. The extent to which consumers are willing to pay higher prices for garments produced under fair labour conditions can influence this decision.

## Automation and efficiency

Higher wages may incentivize manufacturers to invest in automation and improved efficiency to offset increased labour costs. This, in turn, could impact the overall cost structure.

## Government policies

Government policies, including regulations related to wages and labour conditions, can play a crucial role in shaping the industry. Changes in government policies can impact how businesses respond to wage increases.

## Social and ethical considerations

There is a growing awareness and demand for ethically produced goods. Some consumers are willing to pay a premium for products made under fair labour conditions. This can influence brands to prioritize ethical practices, even if it results in higher production costs.

## Negotiations and collaboration

Collaborative efforts between manufacturers, brands, and workers' representatives can play a role in finding solutions that balance fair wages with the economic viability of the industry.

In summary, the impact of workers' wages increase on garment prices in Bangladesh depends on a combination of factors, including the response of manufacturers, global market dynamics, consumer behavior, and government policies. It's a delicate balance between ensuring fair wages for workers and maintaining the competitiveness of the industry in the global market. ■





# S&P UPS INDIA'S FY'24 GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.4%, ROBUST DOMESTIC MOMENTUM TO OFFSET HEADWINDS



investment has recovered considerably more than private consumer spending in India, it said.

In India, there was a transitory spike in food inflation in the July-September quarter, but it appears to have had little effect on underlying inflation dynamics. Still, headline inflation remains above the Reserve Bank of India's target of 4 per cent, suggesting it will be a while before the rate cycle turns, S&P said.

"In Australia, India, and the Philippines, lingering inflation risks are keeping central banks occupied. The government plans to expand fiscal policies in several countries could complicate central banks' policymaking," S&P said.

Risks remain but so also does the potential for growth in the region. In coming months, the spotlight may shine a little more brightly on emerging markets where domestic demand is strong, S&P said.

With regard to China, S&P said the outlook for the country has improved, but obstacles still remain. S&P raised its 2023 and GDP growth forecast for China to 5.4% and 4.6%. Still, with the property sector struggling and confidence subdued, the growth outlook remains moderate, it said.

"China is coping while its neighbors step up. A property downturn is still a pain point for the Chinese economy, but growth momentum has slightly improved because of policy support," said Louis Kuijs, Asia-Pacific chief economist at S&P Global Ratings.

Emerging market economies with solid domestic demand are posting the strongest growth, Kuijs added. ■

**S** &P Global Ratings on November 27 raised India's growth forecast for the current financial year to 6.4%, from 6%, saying that robust domestic momentum has offset headwinds from high food inflation and weak exports.

However, it cut the growth estimates for the next fiscal (2024-25) to 6.4%, from 6.9%, as it expects growth to slow on a higher base, subdued global growth and lagged impact of interest rate hike.

"We have revised up our projection for India's GDP growth for fiscal 2024 (ending in March 2024) to 6.4 per cent, from 6 per cent, as robust domestic momentum seems to have offset headwinds from high food inflation and weak exports," S&P said.

The estimates of S&P is a shade higher than other international agencies. The IMF, World Bank, ADB, and Fitch expects India's GDP to expand 6.3 per cent in the current fiscal.

The RBI has projected GDP growth at 6.5% for current as well as next financial year. The Indian economy grew 7.2% in the 2022-23 fiscal year ended March 2023. The country's real GDP rose 7.8% year-on-year in the June quarter, up from 6.1% in the March quarter.

To reign in inflation, the RBI had hiked benchmark interest rates by 250 basis points since May last year. The apex bank has held the repo rate steady at 6.5% since February.

In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P said growth this year and the next is on track to be the strongest in emerging market economies with solid domestic demand – India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Fixed





# TURKEY'S CLOTHING MAKERS FACE RISING COSTS FROM PUSH TO HELP TEXTILE SECTOR



**A**pparel officials say the new taxes are squeezing the industry, which is among Turkey's biggest employers, supplying heavyweight European brands such as H&M, Mango, Adidas, Puma and Inditex.

Turkish clothing manufacturers, the third-largest suppliers of apparel to Europe, face higher production costs and risk falling further behind their Asian rivals after the government hiked taxes on textile imports, sector leaders say.

Ankara raised tariffs by 30-100% on hundreds of incoming textile products last week, aiming to support local yarn and fabric manufacturers that appealed for support against a wave of cheaper imports.

Apparel officials say the new taxes are squeezing

the industry, which is among Turkey's biggest employers, supplying heavyweight European brands such as H&M, Mango, Adidas, Puma and Inditex.

Job cuts could come, sector representatives say, as import costs rise and Turkish producers shed market share to rivals like Bangladesh and Vietnam. Exporters can technically apply for exemptions from the tax, but industry sources say the exemption regime is costly and time-consuming, and in practice does not work for many companies.

The sector was already fighting soaring inflation, waning demand and lower profit margins due to what exporters see as an over-valued lira, as well as the effects of Turkey's years-long experiment with cutting interest rates as inflation rose, a policy recently revisited. ■





# UN ACCEPTS BANGLADESH'S NATURAL FIBERS RESOLUTION



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# RECENT IMPORTANT UPDATES AND CIRCULARS UNDER GST

BY CA BALKISHAN CHHABRA

**T**he gross GST revenue collected in the month of October, 2023 is ₹ 1,72,003 crore out of which ₹ 30,062 crore is CGST, ₹ 38,171 crore is SGST, ₹ 91,315 crore (including ₹ 42,127 crore collected on import of goods) is IGST and ₹ 12,456 crore (including ₹ 1,294 crore collected on import of goods) is cess. The gross GST revenue for the month of October, 2023 is 13% higher than that in the same month last year. During the month, revenue from domestic transactions (including import of services) is also 13% higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. The average gross monthly GST collection in the FY 2023-24 now stands at Rs. 1.66 lakh crore and is 11% per cent more than that in the same period in the previous financial year.

## B. Measures for facilitation of trade:

### **Amnesty Scheme for filing of appeals against demand orders in cases where appeal could not be filed within the allowable time period:**

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued Notification No. 53/2023- Central Tax on November 2, 2023, introducing special procedures for filing appeals under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. This notification is aimed at addressing cases where taxable persons couldn't file an appeal against an order passed by the proper officer within the specified time frame, specifically under sections 73 or 74 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. It provides clarity on the conditions and process for filing appeals under these circumstances. The CBIC notification lays out the following key provisions:

**Applicability of Special Procedure:** The notification applies to taxable persons who were unable to file an appeal against an order within the time frame specified in section 107 of the CGST Act. It also includes those whose appeals were rejected solely due to a failure to meet the specified time limits.

**Appeal Filing Deadline:** Taxable persons falling under this category are required to file an appeal using Form GST APL-01. The appeal must be submitted on or before January 31, 2024.

**Payment of Tax and Other Amounts:** Before filing an appeal under this notification, the appellant must have paid the part of the amount of tax, interest, fine, fee, and penalty admitted by them in full. Additionally, they are required to pay a sum equal to twelve and a half percent of the remaining disputed tax amount from the impugned order, subject to a maximum of twenty-five crore rupees. At least twenty percent of this amount should be paid by debiting from the Electronic Cash Ledger.

**No Refunds:** The notification specifies that no refunds will be granted until the appeal is disposed of. This applies to any amount paid by the appellant, either on their own or on the directions of any authority or court, exceeding the amount specified in the notification.

**(ii) Clarifications regarding taxability of personal guarantee offered by directors to the bank against the credit limits/loans being sanctioned to the company and regarding**





### **taxability of corporate guarantee provided for related persons including corporate guarantee provided by holding company to its subsidiary company:**

Circular No. 204/16/2023-GST dated 27.10.2023 regarding clarification on issues pertaining to taxability of personal guarantee and corporate guarantee in GST. The activity of providing personal guarantee by the director to the banks/ financial institutions for securing credit facilities for their companies is to be treated as a supply of service, even when made without consideration as the director and the company are to be treated as related persons as per Explanation (a) to section 15 of CGST Act. Rule 28 of Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 prescribes the method for determining the value of the supply of goods or services or both between related parties, other than where the supply is made through an agent. In terms of Rule 28 of CGST Rules, the taxable value of such supply of service shall be the open market value of such supply. The Central Government vide the said Circular has clarified that when no consideration by way of commission, brokerage fees or any other form, can be paid to its director by the company, directly or indirectly, in lieu of providing personal guarantee to the bank for borrowing credit limits as per RBI mandate, there is no question of such supply/transaction having any open market value. Accordingly, the open market value of the said transaction/ supply may be treated as zero and therefore, taxable value of such supply may be treated as zero. In such a scenario, no tax is payable on such supply of service by the director to the company. It is also clarified that, however, there may be cases where the director, who had provided the guarantee, is no longer connected with the management but continuance of his guarantee is considered essential because the new management's guarantee is either not available or is found inadequate, or there may be other exceptional cases where the promoters, existing directors, other managerial personnel, and shareholders of borrowing concerns are paid remuneration/ consideration in any manner, directly or indirectly. In all these cases, the taxable value of such supply of service shall be the remuneration/ consideration provided to such a person/ guarantor by the company, directly or indirectly. Page 10 of 20 Circular No. 203/15/2023-GST dated 27.10.2023 regarding clarification regarding determination of place of supply in various cases. It is also clarified that where the corporate guarantee is provided by a holding company, for its subsidiary company, those two entities also fall under the category of 'related

persons'. Hence the activity of providing corporate guarantee by a holding company to the bank/financial institutions for securing credit facilities for its subsidiary company, even when made without any consideration, is also to be treated as a supply of service. In respect of such supply of services by a person to another related person or by a holding company to a subsidiary company, in form of providing corporate guarantee on their behalf to a bank/ financial institution, the taxable value will be determined as per the newly inserted sub rule (2) of Rule 28 of CGST Rules.

### **GST Portal Updates**

#### **Advisory: e-Invoice JSON download functionality Live on the GST e-Invoice Portal:**

The e-Invoice JSON download functionality is now live on the GST Portal. To help to navigate and make the most of this feature, some key steps are provided in the advisory (link below). Moreover, please note that this functionality is also accessible via GSP (GST Suvidha Providers) through G2B (Government-to-Business) APIs. Regarding accessibility, you can download e-Invoice JSON files for up to 6 months from the date of IRN generation. To ensure a smoother experience for all users, It is advised that taxpayers schedule their downloads in a staggered manner during off peak hours and refrain from overwhelming the system with large requests during the initial days.

#### **GSTN Advisory on ITC Reversal before 30 November 2023 as per Rule 37A**

- 1.** Vide Rule 37A of CGST Rules, 2017 the taxpayers have to reverse the Input Tax Credit (ITC) availed on such invoice or debit note, the details of which have been furnished by their supplier in their GSTR-1/IFF but the return in FORM GSTR-3B for the said period has not been furnished by their supplier till the 30th day of September following the end of financial year in which the Input Tax Credit in respect of such invoice or debit note had been availed.
- 2.** The said amount of ITC is required to be reversed by such taxpayers, while furnishing a return in FORM GSTR-3B on or before the 30th day of November following the end of such financial year, as part of this legal obligation.
- 3.** To facilitate the taxpayers, such amount of ITC required to be reversed on account of Rule 37A of CGST Rules for the financial year 2022-23 has been computed from system and has been communicated to the concerned recipient. The email communication to this effect has been sent on the

registered email id of the taxpayer.

4. The taxpayers are advised to take note of it and to ensure that such ITC, if availed by them, is reversed as per rule 37A of CGST Rules before 30th of November, 2023 in Table 4(B)(2) of GSTR-3B while filing the concerned GSTR-3B.

**Two Factor Authentication to be mandatory from 20th November 2023 for taxpayers above Rs.20 crores.**

Two Factor Authentication is already mandatory w.e.f. 20/08/2023 for taxpayers with turnover above Rs.100 Crores. Now this limit has been reduced from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 20 Crores from **20th Nov 2023**.

Users are requested to register for 2FA immediately and also create sub-users so that EWB activities are managed without any problem.

To enhance the security of **e-Way Bill/e-Invoice System**, NIC is introducing **2 Factor Authentication** for logging in to e-Way Bill/e-Invoice system. In addition to username and password, OTP will also be authenticated for login.

**Recent important GST- Judicial Precedents  
Section 74 proceedings over ITC differences in**

**GSTR-3B and GSTR-2A quashed by HC based on Circular 183**

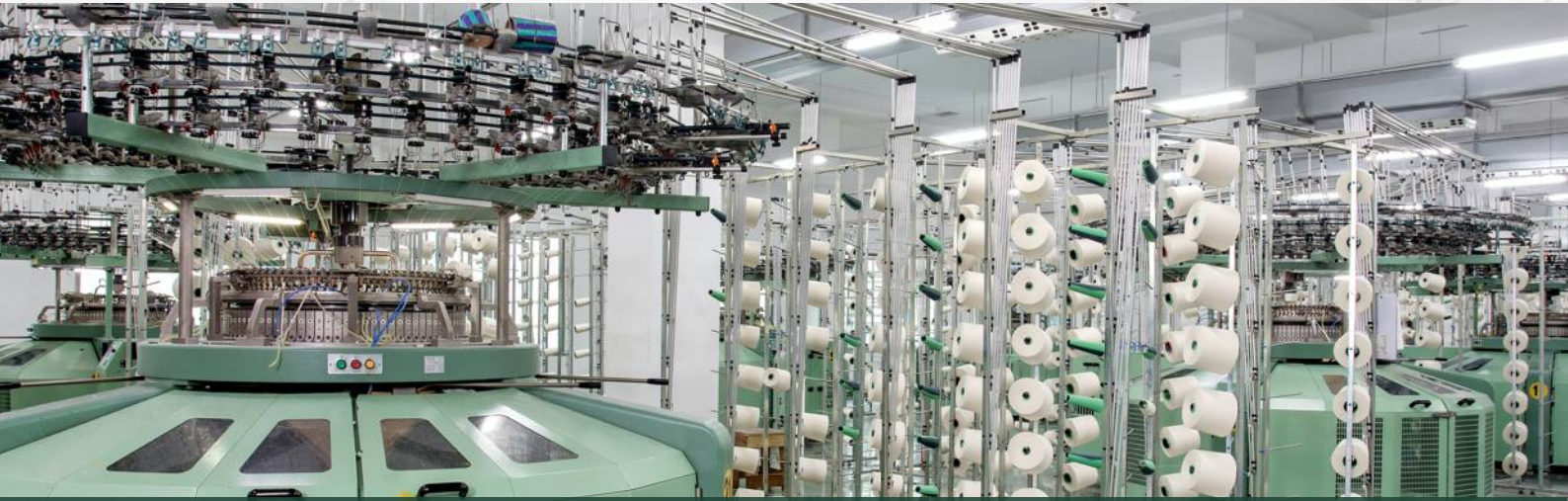
The Allahabad High Court (AHC), in the matter of M/S Shree Krishna Traders Vs. State of U.P. and Another, has quashed Section 74 proceedings over ITC differences in GSTR-3B and GSTR-2A based on Circular 183.

**Shyam Sel and Power Ltd Vs. State of U.P.**

**GST: Intent to Evade Tax a Prerequisite for Sections 129 & 130 Proceedings**

**HIGH COURT OF ALLAHABAD** - For invoking proceeding under section 129(3) and section 130, intent to evade payment of tax is mandatory; once dealer had intimated attending and mediating circumstances under which e-way bill of purchasing dealer was cancelled, it was a minor breach and, hence, proceedings under section 129 could not have been initiated. ■

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## Year-End- Review of Ministry of Textiles– 2023

*PM MITRA Parks launched in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh & Maharashtra.*

*Investment to the tune of Rs. 2119 Cr. approximately made so far under PLI Scheme*

**F**rom launching PM MITRA Parks to investment under PLI Scheme, it was an eventful year for the Ministry of Textiles. Some of the key initiatives and achievements of the Ministry in the year 2023 are:

### **PM MITRA**

The Government has launched PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme to develop world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4445 crore for a period up-to 2027-28. PM MITRA Parks Scheme is inspired by the 5F vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign. Nearly Rs. 70,000 crore investment and 20 lakhs employment generation is envisaged. Parks will offer an opportunity to create an integrated textiles value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at a single location. World-class industrial infrastructure would attract cutting edge technology and boost FDI and local investment in the sector. Centre and States to form SPVs for setting up PM MITRA Parks. These parks will be developed in PPP mode.

### **PLI Scheme**

The Government has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles with an approved outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over a five year period to promote production of MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics and products of Technical Textiles in the country to enable Textile sector to

achieve size and scale and to become competitive. The Scheme has two parts: Part-1 envisages a minimum investment of Rs.300 crore & minimum turnover of Rs.600 crore per company and Part-2 envisages a minimum investment of Rs.100 crore & minimum turnover of Rs.200 crore per company. There will be two years of gestation period under the Scheme (FY: 2022-23 and FY. 2023-- 24). The incentive will be provided to the companies under the scheme on achieving the threshold investment and threshold turnover and thereafter incremental turnover. 64 applicants were selected under the Scheme. In the approved 64 applications, the total proposed investment would be Rs.19,798 crore, projected turnover would be Rs.1,93,926 crore and proposed employment generation would be 2,45,362. As per Quarterly Review Reports (QRRs) as on 30.09.2023, the eligible investment made under the Scheme was Rs. 2,119 crore of 30 selected applicants, out of which 12 selected applicants started commercial production, turnover achieved was Rs. 520 crore including export of Rs.81 crore and employment generated was 8,214.

Ministry of Textiles has reopened the PLI portal for inviting fresh applications from interested companies under the scheme upto 31st December 2023

### **National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM)**

The Government has launched a National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) with an outlay of Rs. 1,480 crores. 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. The mission got its extension until 31st March 2026, with a subsequent sunset clause applicable until 31st March 2028. Achievement as on date is 126 projects of value 371 Crores have been approved in the category of Specialty fibers and Technical Textiles. Guidelines to support indigenous development of high end Machinery, equipment, tools and testing equipment for technical textiles in India and establish indigenous platform for domestic design, development and manufacturing has been launched. Guidelines to support Startups and Young Scientists in the application areas of technical textiles have been approved in Empowered Programme Committee (EPC). To ensure quality for both domestic consumption as well as imports, 87 items were identified to be brought under Technical Regulation/Quality Control Order (QCOs). The Ministry has issued Quality Control Order (QCOs) for 19 items of Geo-tech Textiles, 12 items of Protective Textiles items, 20 items of Agro Textiles and 06 items of Meditech Textiles. More than 100 BIS standards have been developed since 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. 26 such proposals worth Rs.151 Crores are approved under the ibid guidelines for up gradation of lab facilities and training of faculty towards developing eco-system in technical textiles.

#### **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)**



Under ATUFS, ratio of MSME: Non MSME is 89:11, while under previous versions of TUFs it was 30:70. Higher incentives of 15% (Rs 30 crore) for entities for employment potential segments viz. Technical Textiles and garment/made ups.

Employment support to more than 17 lakhs (3.9 lakhs New and 13.4 lakhs Existing) over seven years. Out of total 3.9 lakhs new employment generated, 1.12 lakh (29%) are women.

#### **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. The implementation period of the scheme is upto March 2024.

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 2,47,465 persons have been trained as on 11.12.2023.

#### **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, presided over the 9th National Handloom Day celebrations at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi and launched the e-portal 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilpa Kosh - A Repository of Textiles & Crafts' developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology.

#### **Cotton Sector**

During the calendar year 2023, the average prices of kapas are hovering at MSP level due to subdued market conditions. To support cotton farmers, CCI procured 8.37 lakh bales under MSP operations as on 18.12.2023. CCI has immensely supported the cotton farmers and with the above procurement under MSP operations have benefitted about 0.74 lakh cotton farmers in all cotton growing States. CCI has implemented QR code using BlockChain Technology from processing of cotton and warehousing till its e-auction sale to the buyers. This will create a benchmark to the textile industry and will be a milestone for development of brand image of Indian cotton.

The Ministry of Textiles hosted the 81st Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee. The theme of this Plenary Meeting is "Cotton Value Chain: Local Innovations for Global prosperity". The 81st Plenary aims to serve as a platform for sharing innovations, benchmarks, good practices and experiences across the globe on productivity, climate resilience and circularity for a vibrant cotton economy. Focus is on local innovations and cutting edge technologies for sustainability developed locally but have global implications and potential for the prosperity of the cotton value chain touching the livelihoods of millions engaged in production, processing, trade, fashion and textile industry.

#### **Jute Sector**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved



reservation norms for mandatory use of jute in packaging for the Jute Year 2023 -24 (1st July, 2023 to 30th June, 2024) on 8th December, 2023. The Mandatory packaging norms approved for Jute Year 2023-24 provide for 100% reservation of the foodgrains and 20% of sugar to be compulsorily packed in jute bags. The reservation norms under JPM Act provide for direct employment to 4 lakh workers and 40 lakh farmers in the Jute Sector. JPM Act, 1987 protects interest of Jute farmers, workers and persons engaged in jute goods' production

### **Silk Sector**



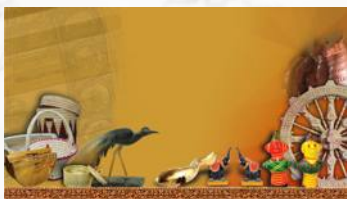
The annual Raw silk production has increased to 36,582 MT during 2022-23 from 26,480 MT in 2013-14. Raw silk production in NE States increased to 7,953 MT in

2022-23 from 4,601 MT in 2013-14. The production of 3A-4A grade import substitute Bivoltine raw silk has increased to 8,904 MT (2022-23) from 2,559 MT (2013-14). International Grade quality Silk production through ARM increased from 25 % to 35%. Raw silk yield per hectare has increased to 109.23 kg during 2022-23 as compared to 95.93 kg during 2013-14. Estimated employment generation increased to 92.13 lakh persons during 2022-23 from 78.50 lakh persons during 2013-14.

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

### **Handloom sector**



Assistance worth Rs. 16.42 Crore released for 140 marketing events, 3712 beneficiaries have been provided loans under MUDRA Scheme., 29,280 beneficiaries enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti

Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. Total 208.903 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 14.12.2023 the no. of products uploaded is 11,468 with 1536 sellers.

### **Handicrafts Sector**

The Handicraft Sector has great potential, as they hold the key for sustaining not only the existing set of millions of artisans spread over length and breadth of the country, but also for the increasingly large number of new entrants in the crafts activity. Total 28.40 lakh artisans have been registered with the Ministry, out of which 10.16 lakhs are male artisans and 18.23 lakhs are female artisans. During the year



2023-24 [up to 31.10.2023], 49 domestic and 13 International marketing events have been sanctioned under Marketing Support & Services. During the year 2023-24 [up to 30.09.2023], 684 different interventions like Design Workshops, Toolkits distributions, exhibition, Study Tour, Seminars, Craft Demonstration & Awareness Programme, Brand Promotion & Publicity etc. During the year 2023-24 [up to 30.09.2023], ₹242.00 lakhs have been sanctioned for the welfare of handicraft artisans. **Activities undertaken by EPCH for promotion, development and export growth of handicrafts during April-October 2023 includes** INDEX Dubai Fair, IMM Cologne Fair Spring Edition, Cologne, Germany, Autumn Fair International, Birmingham, United Kingdom, Who's Next 2023 at Paris and others.

### **Bharat Tex 2024**

BHARAT TEX 2024 is a global textile mega event being organised by a consortium of 11 Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the Ministry of Textiles. It is scheduled from February 26-29, 2024 in New Delhi. With a focus on sustainability and resilient supply chains, it promises to be a tapestry of tradition and technology attracting the best and the brightest from the textile world. It will have dedicated pavilions on Sustainability and Recycling, thematic discussions on resilient global supply chains and digitization, interactive fabric testing zones, product demonstrations and master-classes by crafts persons and events involving global brands and international designers. Bharat Tex 2024 will be a unique experience for knowledge, business and networking. The mega event will feature an exhibition spread across nearly 20 lakh sq. ft area showcasing Apparel, Home Furnishings, Floor Coverings, Fibres, Yarns, Threads, Fabrics, Carpets, Silk, Textiles based Handicrafts, Technical Textiles and much more. It will also feature nearly 50 different knowledge sessions providing an excellent platform for knowledge exchange, information dissemination and Government to Government and Business to Business interactions. ■



**BIZZ BUZZ HYDERABAD 4 NOVEMBER 2023**

## AEPC sets \$40-bn apparel exports target by 2030

On account of initiatives such as exploring new destinations and fostering strategic partnerships, says Naren Goenka, Chairman, AEPC

NEW DELHI



APPEL exports are expected to reach \$40 billion by 2030 on account of initiatives such as exploring new destinations and fostering strategic partnerships, AEPC said on Friday. Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC) Chairman Naren Goenka said that to achieve this target, the council will focus on innovation, expanding market and product basket, practice sustainability and responsible business practices. "We have set an ambitious goal of achieving apparel exports of \$40 billion by the year 2030. This target, aptly named '40 by 30' reflects our commitment to reaching new heights and pushing our limits in the ongoing decade," he said in a statement. He also said that Commerce and Industry and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal will present exports awards to ready-made garment exporters on December 9 here. The awards recognize contributions made by Indian apparel exporters in building modern enterprises. "Apart from adding to the growth of our international trade, these exporters have contributed to India's image as a progressive member of the international business community and are role models for future generations of Indian exporters," Goenka added.



**THE ASIAN AGE**

ASIAN AGE, NEW DELHI 04 NOVEMBER 2023

## Govt sets \$40-bn export target for apparel by 2030

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**THE ECONOMIC TIMES | Industry**

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ECONOMIC TIMES, MUMBAI 04-11-2023

## AEPC Sets \$40-b Apparel Exports Target by 2030

PTI

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**FVC FASHION VALUE CHAIN**

## Textiles Minister to present 'AEPC Excellence Honours' awards to exports for RMG export performance

AEPC announced today that, Sri Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for the Textiles, Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution will be presenting the AEPC prestigious exports awards to the RMG exporters on 9th December 2023 in New Delhi. The 'AEPC Excellence Honours' will be conferred for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23.

The award will be given in 13 categories, extending across diverse product categories and including both experienced and start up representation, the awards are a celebration of the contributions exporters have made to the industry and, in turn, the national economy. The award this year will also include awards for excellence in environmental and social compliance, highest exports in MMF, exports to FTA countries, most dynamic women entrepreneurs, etc.

Speaking on the awards Sri Naren Goenka, Chairman AEPC said, "Apart from adding to the growth of our international trade, these export heroes have contributed to India's image as a progressive member of the international business community and are role models for future generations of Indian exporters." AEPC has instituted these awards with an aim to encourage the Indian Apparel exporters to increase their export capacities and at the same time, enhance the competitiveness among the firms to capture the global markets, he added.

Further Sri Goenka remarked, "AEPC is excited to share our ambitious goal of achieving apparel exports of USD 40 billion by the year 2030. This target, aptly named '40 by 30' reflects our commitment to reaching new heights and pushing our limits in the ongoing decade. '40 by 30' is not just a financial milestone; it's a testament to our potential and our vision for the future."

The '40 by 30' theme of the 23rd AEPC Excellence Honours 2021-22 and 2022-23 will also host a 'Power Group Discussion' to bring together decision and policy makers, focused business representatives and important stakeholders for strategizing initiatives towards achieving this goal. The topic will be centered around themes like: enhancing export competitiveness through factor productivity, digitizing the industry through tech interventions, exploring new frontiers with Man Made Fibre, compliance and sustainability, etc.

**For more details go on this link :**

<https://textiles.mca.gov.in/news/awards-to-exports-for-rmg-export-performance>



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**For more details go on this link :**

<https://theeconomicstimes.com/aepec-sets-40-billion-apparel-exports-target-by-2030-04112023/>



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The award will be given in 13 categories, extending across diverse product categories and including both experienced and start up representation, the awards are a celebration of the contributions exporters have made to the industry and, in turn, the national economy. The award this year will also include awards for excellence in environmental and social compliance, highest exports in MMF, exports to FTA countries, most dynamic women entrepreneurs, etc.

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**KNN**

## AEPC Targets \$40 Bn Apparel Exports By 2030



New Delhi, Nov 4 (KNN) Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC) is expecting the apparel exports to touch USD 40 billion by 2030 with the help of exploring new destinations and fostering strategic partnerships.

The Council's Chairman Naren Goenka said on Friday that to achieve this target, the council will focus on innovation, expanding market and product basket, practice sustainability and responsible business practices.

"We have set an ambitious goal of achieving apparel exports of USD 40 billion by the year 2030. This target, aptly named '40 by 30' reflects our commitment to reaching new heights and pushing our limits in the ongoing decade," he said in a statement.

He also said that Commerce and Industry and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal will present exports awards to ready-made garment exporters on December 9. The awards recognize contributions made by Indian apparel exporters in building modern enterprises.

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**For more details go on this link :**

<https://knnnews.com/news/awards-to-exports-for-rmg-export-performance>



**INDIA SHIPPING NEWS**

## '40 by 30' AEPC sets \$40 bn export target by 2030, aims to explore new

Indian apparel exporters' national body Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has set a target of US \$ 40 billion by 2030. In a statement, the council said that this target, named '40 by 30', reflects Indian exporters' commitment to reaching new heights and pushing limits in the ongoing decade.

Naren Goenka, Chairman, AEPC said, "AEPC is excited to share our ambitious goal. '40 by 30' is not just a financial milestone; it's a testament to our potential and our vision for the future." He further added that "To reach this target, we will need to: focus on innovation, expand our market and product basket, practice sustainability and responsible business practices, foster strategic partnerships and empower our people."

It is worth mentioning here that from last almost 7 years Indian apparel exports have been stagnant and trailing around US \$ 16 billion. Though the Government's major initiatives — PUI scheme and PM MITRA Park — are expected to increase India's apparel exports.

AEPC also informed that Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industry will be presenting the AEPC prestigious exports awards to RMG exporters on 9th December 2023 in New Delhi.

The AEPC Excellence Honours will be conferred for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23. The awards recognise extraordinary contributions made by Indian Apparel exporters in building modern export enterprises and helping to further develop a unique Indian export culture. The award will be given in 13 categories, extending across diverse product categories and including both experienced and start up representation.

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**MENAFN**

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# APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Sponsored by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)

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