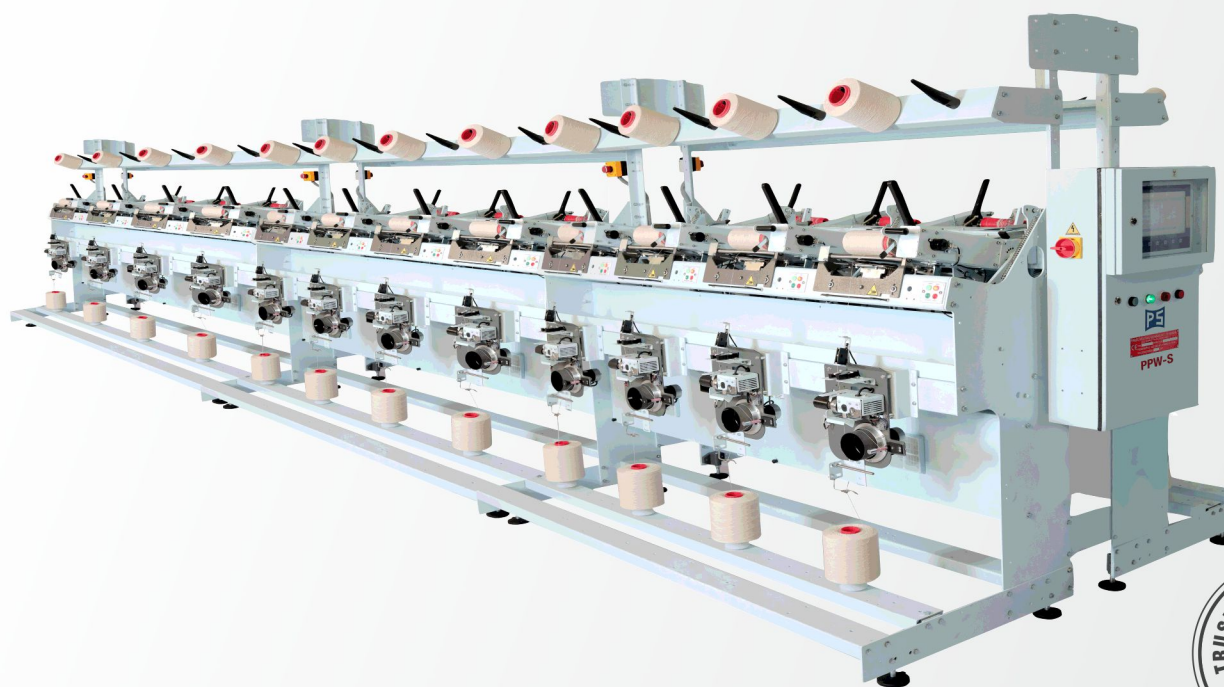




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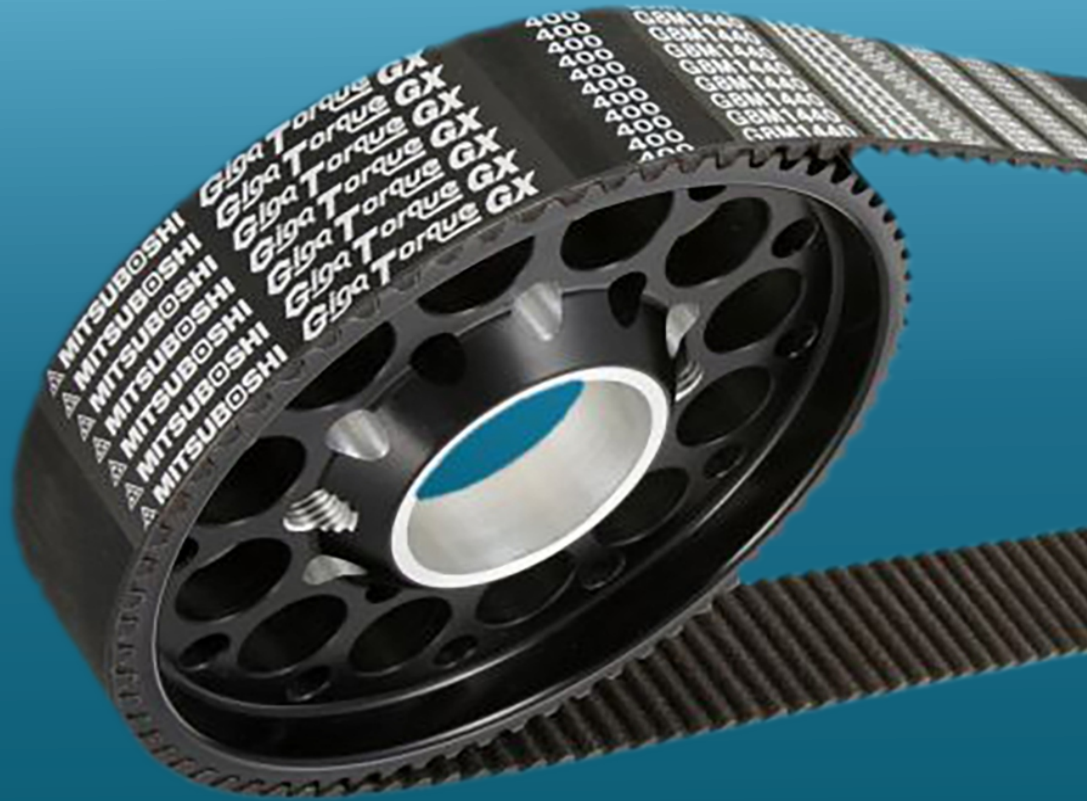
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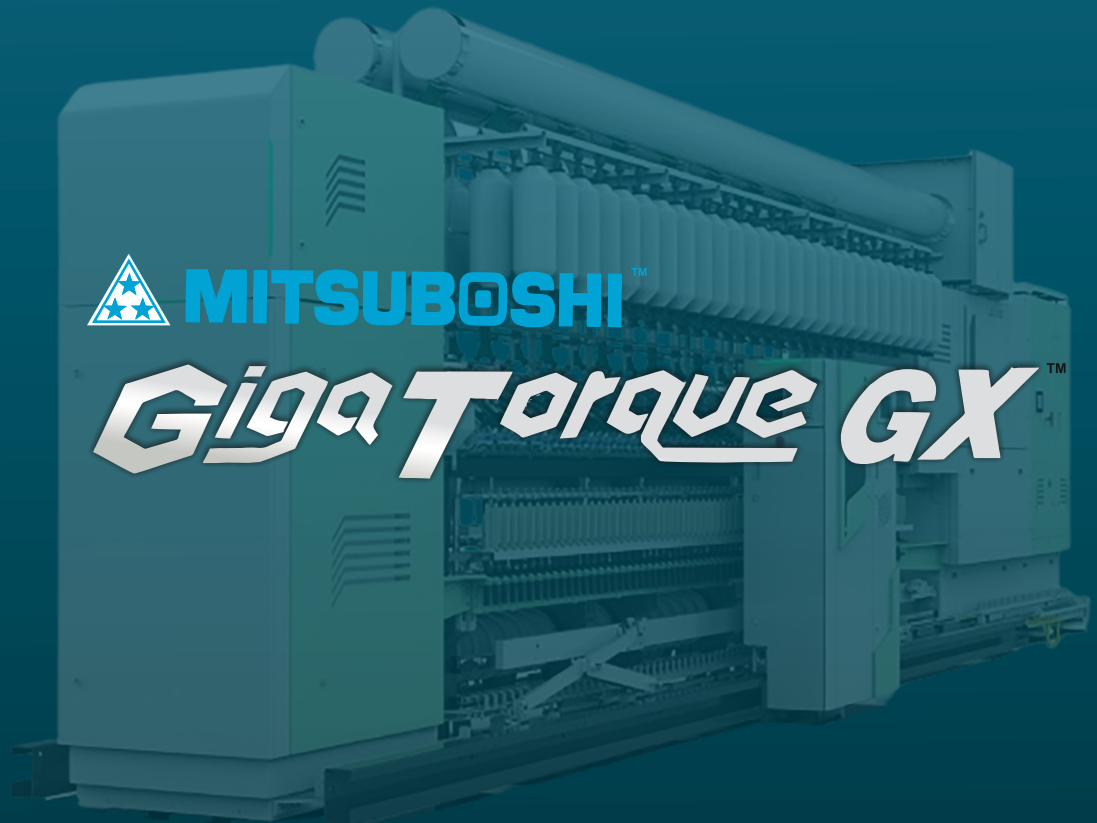
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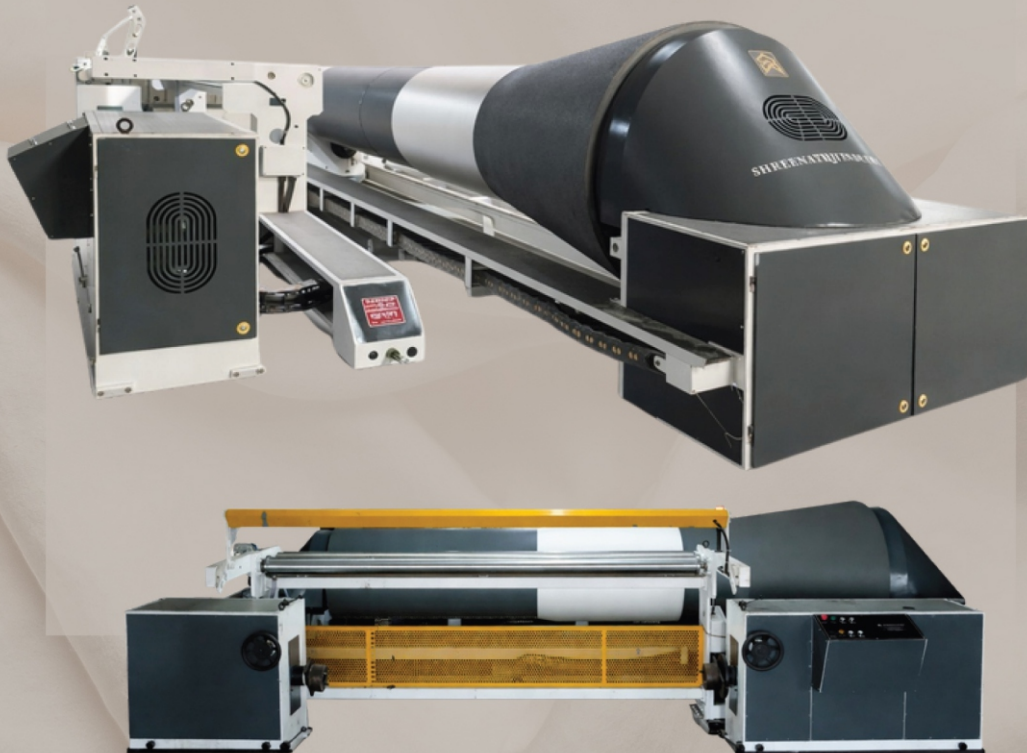


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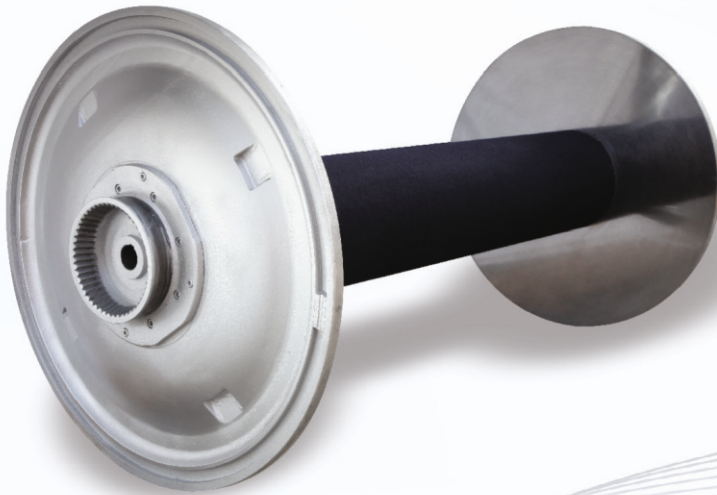


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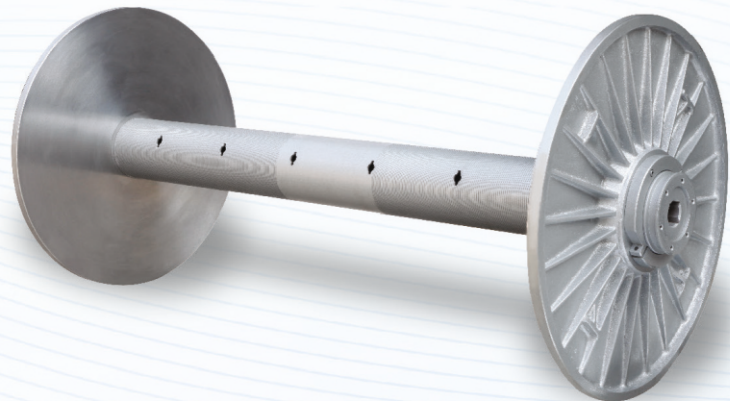
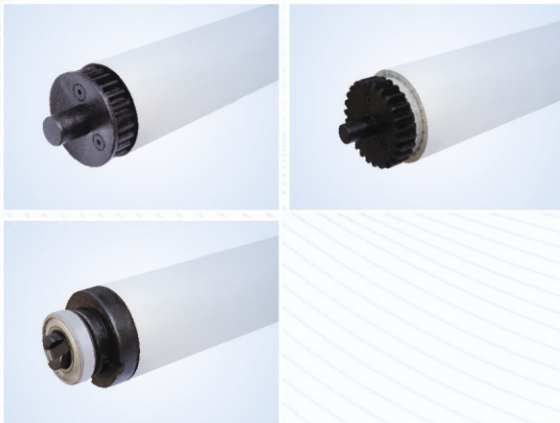
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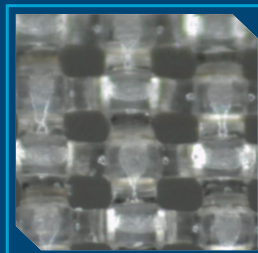
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网格圈密度与纱支对照表

Relations between apron density and spinning yarn count

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A	150	3500	> 30 [°]	70 [°] ~100 [°]
B	140	3000	20 [°] ~100 [°]	50 [°] ~80 [°]
C	120	2200	10 [°] ~80 [°]	20 [°] ~60 [°]
CD	100	1600	20 [°] ~100 [°]	30 [°] ~80 [°]
D	80	1000	Wool 毛纺	Wool 毛纺



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Fast fashion poses threat of global carbon emissions

A T-Shirt costs less than a cup of coffee. A pair of Jeans priced at half cost of a movie ticket. Over the last few years fast fashion attracts shoppers over its lowering prices. Clothes are being produced at lightning speed, mimicking runway design, sold at rock-bottom prices.

As per report of the United Nation Environment Program(UNEP) the fashion industry contributes up to 10% of global carbon emission; more than all international flights and shipping combined. Each year millions tonnes from unsold clothes are dumped or exported to developing countries making huge strain on local waste management system.

Fast fashion thrives on race to the bottom in labour cost, relying heavily on workers in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia, many of whom endure long hours, unsafe conditions and poverty wages. The tragic event happened in Bangladesh 2013 killed more than 1100 garment workers was a glaring evidence of how dangerous cheap fashion can be. In some of the western nations like France, new legislation has introduced penalties for companies producing low quality, environmentally damaging garments, and it not only hold brands accountable but also nudges the consumers to think twice before clicking 'Buy Now'. But India-story is rather complex both as a production hub for global brands and as a growing consumer market. On the one hand, Indian garment workers stitch for export giants contributing to the countries \$40 billion textile export economy, and on the other, employment in the sector provides livelihood to millions who work in uneven working conditions.

India's home-grown retails have been expanded rapidly across Indian cities, offering trendy T-Shirts for below Rs.300/- and dresses under Rs.1000/-. But there are concerns where affordability often comes at the cost of durability, and the push for volume risks adding to India's mounting textile waste problem. India generates nearly 1 million tonnes of textile waste every year; much of ending up in formal recycling hubs or landfills. Policy conversation are only just beginning, but in comparison to Europe, regulatory pressure on fast fashion remains limited.

WORLD ECONOMY AND TRADE TRENDS

⇒ EU countries opt to settle US trade deal

European Union Countries are broadly pushing for the swift implementation of the bloc's side of a trade deal struck with the United States last year to ward off the threat of higher auto tariffs, EU diplomats said recently. Representatives of the European Parliament and the Council, the body representing EU governments resumed negotiations on legislation to lower EU duties on imported US goods, with the EU assembly wanting to establish multiple safeguards. US President Donald Trump said recently he would increase tariffs on EU cars and trucks to 25% soon because the EU was not complying with the terms of the deal struck at his Tumberry golf resort in Scotland in July. Nine months later, the EU is yet to remove tariffs on imported US industrial goods, as the two sides agreed. Legislation to do so was twice paused by the European Parliament after Trump's threats to impose new tariffs on European allies who did not back his proposed acquisition of Greenland, and his new import levy. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, whose country is likely to be hit hardest by a car tariff increase, told broadcaster ARD: "The Americans have it finalised, and the Europeans haven't — and that's why I hope we can reach an agreement as quickly as possible." EU members largely want a quick agreement between Parliament and Council on implementing the bloc's side of the deal, diplomats said. Manfred Weber, the head of the centre-right European People's Party, the largest group in the EU parliament, also said there should be a swift conclusion to negotiations to allow parliament to give its final approval this month. That would be ambitious timing. Bernd Lange, who chairs the parliament's trade committee and will lead negotiations for the EU assembly, said Trump's behaviour was unacceptable and meant the various safeguards sought were even more necessary. Lange said he would host a meeting with fellow lawmakers shortly to discuss next steps. Ignacio Garcia Bercero, a senior fellow at think tank Bruegel who previously headed EU trade negotiations, said the tariff threat appeared partly a move to put pressure on EU parties to reach an agreement. "The EU should take the time it needs to reach an agreement, not give in to pressure nor move to escalation," he said, adding that applying pressure could be counter-productive. □

⇒ US GDP up 2%, supported by AI investment

United States (US) economic growth accelerated at the start of the year, bolstered by a massive AI-driven upswing in business investment. Inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) increased an annualised 2 per cent in the first quarter after the longest-ever federal government shutdown limited growth in the closing months of 2025, according to an initial estimate issued recently by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Consumer spending, which comprises about two-thirds of economic activity, increased at a better-than-expected 1.6 per cent rate, driven by demand for services including healthcare and financial services. Business outlays on equipment and structures advanced 10.4 per cent, the fastest pace in almost three years and supported by rapid investment in artificial intelligence (AI). The report points to an economy that has so far held firm and is better positioned to withstand the fallout from the West Asia conflict, which is pushing oil prices sharply higher and disrupting global supply chains. Still, the geopolitical situation risks tempering growth should inflation-weary consumers become more guarded. While higher tax refunds helped to underpin household spending, the GDP report showed inflationary pressures accelerated sharply in March as the war spurred a surge in gasoline prices. The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation — the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index — rose 0.7 per cent in April, the most since 2022. The gauge was up 3.5 per cent from the prior year, according to separate BEA data. Gas prices have since continued to climb and are now at the highest since 2022. While household demand cooled from the prior quarter, some of that may have reflected the severe winter weather in much of the US at the start of the year. Inflation-adjusted spending rose 0.2 per cent in March from a month earlier as consumers doled out for goods like cars and household furnishings. □

⇒ China to move with great openness: Xi to US CEOs

Xi Jinping signalled China is moving toward greater openness, striking an upbeat note during his meeting with US business leaders

WORLD ECONOMY AND TRADE TRENDS

accompanying Donald Trump as the two presidents wrapped up morning talks that featured more divisive issues like trade and Taiwan. "American enterprises are deeply involved in China's reform and opening up, a process from which both sides have benefited," Xi told more than 10 business representatives gathered in Beijing, *China Central Television* reported. "China's door to the outside world will only open wider." Footage released by China's state broadcaster showed executive including Tesla's Elon Musk, Apple's Tim Cook, Boeing's Kelly Ortberg and Nvidia's Jensen Huang — who joined the trip as a last-minute addition — escorted by staff into the meeting room. The message sent by Xi reiterated a pledge frequently delivered by senior Chinese officials on the world stage over the years. It also appeared to be a response to Trump's appeal to Xi "to 'open up' China," which he'd promised to make as his first request on behalf of the business leaders accompanying him to Beijing. In his remarks recently, Xi added that he believes US firms will have even broader prospects in China, CCTV reported. The American executives told Xi that they "highly value" the Chinese market and hope to further strengthen cooperation and cultivate their business presence there, according to CCTV. In the afternoon, the CEOs met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who also struck a positive tone. "Friendly cooperation remains the mainstay of China-US relations," Li said. "China and the United States are fully capable of and should continue to be friends and partners, helping each other succeed and achieving shared prosperity," Trade barriers and market access have been longstanding issues between the world's two biggest economies, especially after China joined the World Trade Organisation with America's backing more than two decades ago. Trump's trip was the first state visit by a sitting US president to China in nine years. In his opening remarks to Xi during their meeting recently morning, Trump brought up the business delegation, telling the Chinese president the executives will "pay respects to you and to China" and said "they look forward to trade and doing business." As the leaders' talks got underway, some of the US executives gave brief remarks to reporters. Musk said he wants to accomplish "many good things" during his visit and that the meetings were

"wonderful." Apple's Cook gave a thumbs-up when asked how the talks went, while Huang said "Xi and President Trump were incredible." Trump is eager to secure business deals from China in sectors ranging from agriculture and energy to aerospace, including a potential historic order of Boeing jets. The US business delegation not only includes companies with significant investments and market share in China, but also firms like Micron Technology, which saw some of its products banned from critical infrastructure by Beijing after failing a cybersecurity review. □

➡ BRICS' meeting concluded without joint statement

The BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi concluded on 15th May without a joint statement amid "differing views" on the situation in West Asia region. "There were differing views among some members as regard to the situation in the West Asia region. BRICS members expressed their respective national positions and shared a range of perspectives," per the chair's statement and outcome document issued by India on 15th May. The BRICS grouping includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. India is the current chair of the grouping. Iran and the UAE are engaged in a spat over the latter's alleged involvement in Israel's (and the US') war on Iran. On May 13, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he "secretly visited" the UAE and met its President during the war with Iran. While the UAE Foreign Ministry refuted Israel's claims as "unfounded", Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who attended the BRICS meet in New Delhi, said the UAE's "collusion" with Israel was unforgivable. Araghchi recently called on the BRICS grouping to unequivocally condemn "violations of international law" by the US and Israel. Others who attended include Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Iran's Abbas Araghchi, Brazil's Mauro Vieira, Indonesia's sugiono, and South Africa's Ronald Lamola. "Views articulated by member countries included the need for an early resolution of the current crisis, the value of dialogue and diplomacy, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, upholding international law, the importance of safe and

unimpeded flow of maritime commerce through international waterways, and the protection of civilian infrastructure and civilian lives," the statement noted. On the Palestine-Israel conflict, BRICS members managed to be on the same page. "They reaffirmed their support for the State of Palestine's full membership in the UN in the context of the unwavering commitment to the two-state solution, in accordance with international law, including relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative, that includes the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine within the internationally recognised 1967 borders, which included the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in order to achieve the vision of two States living side by side, in peace and security," the outcome document noted. However, it was noted in a footnote that "a member had reservations" about parts of sections where the Gaza Strip was recognised an inseparable part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Ministers believed BRICS countries would continue to play a pivotal role in voicing the concerns and priorities of the Global South. □

► China registered 5% Q1 growth, tops forecasts

China's economic growth rebounded more than expected in the first quarter, showing limited immediate impact from the Iran war but underscoring persistent weakness in consumer demand. Gross domestic product expanded 5% year-on-year, the fastest pace in three quarters, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed recently. On a sequential basis, GDP rose 1.3% from the previous quarter, marking the strongest quarterly growth since late 2024. The expansion was driven by strong manufacturing and exports, highlighting a widening gap between industrial strength and subdued domestic demand. Industrial output rose a better-than-expected 5.7% in March from a year earlier, while retail sales increased just 1.7%, slowing from 2.8% growth in the first two months. "The manufacturing side of the economy remains resilient and is still a key near-term growth anchor," said Hao Zhou, chief economist at Guotal Junan International. "Policy focus is likely to centre on reflection

and boosting domestic demand." The Iran war, now in its ninth week, has yet to significantly dent China's economic momentum, partly due to efforts in recent years to strengthen energy security and reduce exposure to global shocks. Persistent deflationary pressures have also muted the immediate impact of rising oil prices on consumer inflation. However, weak domestic demand continues to weigh on the outlook. Household spending growth remained subdued, while private investment declined for the first time outside the pandemic period. The surveyed urban unemployment rate rose to 5.4% in March, the highest in a year. □

► US inflation touches to highest since May 2023

United State (US) inflation accelerated in April on rising gasoline and grocery costs, exceeding wage growth in a double-whammy for already strained consumers. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 3.8 per cent from a year earlier, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data out recently, the most since 2023. After adjusting for inflation, wages fell for the first time in three years. The figures show how the impact of the Iran war is hitting the US economy as energy costs surge. The BLS report indicated gas prices rose almost 28 per cent over the past two months. Grocery prices, rents and airfares also saw large increases from a month earlier. A sustained pickup, especially in the cost of essentials, could lead consumers to cut back on spending. "Inflation, which we thought was under control, is reaccelerating, and that's a real problem," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. "The longer inflation remains elevated, the more stress that's going to place on consumers." One of the main examples in the April CPI data was airfares: They rose 2.8 per cent from a month earlier as the surging cost of jet fuel prompted airlines to raise prices and baggage fees and cut capacity. Overall services costs excluding energy and housing rose 0.5 per cent, according to data compiled by *Bloomberg*. Hotel prices rose 2.8 per cent, the most since 2024. The overall CPI advanced 0.6 per cent in April. Grocery prices rose 0.7 per cent, the most in almost four years. Meats, dairy, fresh fruits and vegetables all posted notable gains. Food prices have been a major contributor to affordability concerns in recent years. ■

INDIAN ECONOMY AND TRADE TRENDS

India able to tackle global headwinds, revenue loss will not affect stability

The Centre recently said it had sufficient fiscal headroom to manage the impact of global economic turbulence despite an estimated revenue loss of nearly ₹1 lakh crore from the recent cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel, while outlining a series of measures taken over the past two months to shield the economy from external shocks. Finance Ministry officials said the government's ability to absorb the revenue impact while continuing with relief and stabilisation measures stemmed from "prudent fiscal management and sustained reforms over the last decade." "The ability to act proactively, allocate resources and provide relief where needed is the result of prudent fiscal management and sustained reforms over the last decade," an official said, adding that the government remained committed to protecting economic stability amid global uncertainty. The officials said the reduction in central excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre on March 26, announced in response to the sharp rise in global crude oil prices, could result in a revenue loss of around ₹1 lakh crore in the current financial year. According to the government, the fuel tax cut was aimed at cushioning consumers from rising fuel prices, containing inflationary pressures, supporting transport and logistics sectors, and easing pressure on the oil marketing companies. At the same time, the Centre imposed export duties and cesses on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel to discourage overseas shipments and ensure adequate domestic availability amid volatile global energy markets. Officials said the government had introduced 16 measures over the past 72 days to reduce the economic impact of the ongoing global crisis, particularly disruptions arising from tensions in West Asia. Among the key steps was the creation of an Economic Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore to provide a fiscal buffer against supply-chain disruptions, sector-specific stress and other external shocks. The government also announced targeted relief measures for the domestic industry. A special one-time SEZ Relief Window notified on March 31 allows eligible manufacturing units in Special Economic Zones to sell goods in the domestic tariff area at concessional customs duty from April 1, enabling companies to utilise

idle capacity amid weakening global trade conditions. In another measure, customs duty exemptions on specified petrochemical inputs were granted from April 2 to June 30 to support sectors such as textiles and pharmaceuticals that depend heavily on imported raw materials. Officials also highlighted the Cabinet's approval earlier of May of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0), aimed at easing working capital stress among MSMEs, traders, suppliers and service providers affected by the West Asia crisis. The scheme is expected to facilitate additional credit flow of ₹2.55 lakh crore, including ₹5,000 crore earmarked for airlines, with 100 per cent government guarantee coverage for MSME loans. Recently, the government also raised import duties on gold, silver and platinum to curb non-essential imports and reduce pressure on foreign exchange reserves and the rupee. □

Govt increased minimum support price for kharif crops, raises paddy rate by 3%

In an apparent move to correct price distortions in certain crops as flagged by the Economic Survey, the Union government announced a ₹10/quintal hike in minimum support price (MSP) of maize and a modest 3 per cent rise in paddy MSP for kharif 2026. The MSP for pulses (except moong), oil-seeds and nutri-cereal crops has been increased by 4-9 per cent compared with a year ago. Announcing the new MSPs for the ensuing kharif season after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the price recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the MSPs had been fixed to ensure remunerative prices for farmers and are at least 50 per cent above the cost of production (A2+FL formula) across all the 14 crops. The government estimates the total payout to farmers at ₹2.6 lakh crore after the revision in MSP, he said, adding that the annual procurement is estimated to be 824 lakh tonnes. The MSP for paddy has been increased by ₹72/quintal to ₹2,461, that of maize by 0.4 per cent to ₹2,410 and moong by 0.1 per cent to ₹8,780. The common grade paddy MSP has also been raised by ₹72 to ₹2,441/quintal. On the other hand, tur (arhar) MSP has been hiked by ₹450 to ₹8,450/quintal and urad by ₹400 to ₹8,200 per quintal. Similarly, soybean has been

given a rise of ₹380 by fixing its MSP at ₹5,708/quintal, and groundnut has raised by ₹254 to ₹7,514 per quintal. Even sunflower seed MSP is up by ₹622 to ₹8,343/quintal, that of niger by ₹515 to ₹10,052/quintal and sesamum by ₹500 to ₹10,346/quintal. The Economic Survey, presented by the government in January 2026, had blamed the rise in the maize crop to the ethanol programme at the cost of oil-seeds and pulses, while the paddy area also grew. In 2025-26, the MSP of maize was raised 8 per cent; as a result, the acreage rose to 120.91 lakh hectare (lh) from 112.41 lh and its production, too, surged to 434 lakh tonnes (lt) from 377 lt. Farmers further expanded the area to 138 lh in 2025-26 despite maize prices ruling 27 per cent below MSP at an average ₹1,739/quintal between October 2025 and April 2026. The MSP for cotton (long staple), as preferred by most farmers, is up by ₹557 to ₹8,667/quintal. The MSP for medium staple cotton, too, has been increased by the same ₹557 to ₹8,267/quintal. The MSP of jowar (sorghum) has been given the maximum hike of 8.8 per cent among all the 14 crops and will now command ₹4,023/quintal. □

➡ April retail inflation climbs to 14-month high of 3.48%

Driven by a sustained rally in gold and silver prices, retail inflation accelerated for the sixth consecutive month to a 14-month high 3.48 per cent in April. Yet, the print remains comfortably below the RBI's 4 per cent target, strengthening the case for the central bank to maintain a *status quo* on interest rates. The inflation rate was 3.4 per cent in March. Food inflation, a key constituent of the Consumer Price Index, hit 4.2 per cent in April, up from 3.87 per cent in March. The inflation rate for silver jewellery, and gold/diamond/platinum jewellery was over 144 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, in April. According to Rajeev Sharan, Head of Research at Brick-work Ratings, core inflation at 3.3 per cent remains relatively contained, with categories such as housing (2.15 per cent), health (1.64 per cent), household goods (1.61 per cent), and several non-food categories showing moderate price momentum. Yet, this softness may prove fragile if higher logistics and input costs, already visible in fertilizer market, spill over into non-food segments, he said. HDFC Bank Principal Economist Sakshi Gupta said that while April's headline figure offers the RBI a favourable

starting point amid global headwinds, rising oil prices remain a critical risk. With crude hovering above \$100/barrel, Gupta warned that an increase in pump prices would exert direct and indirect pressure on inflation. Specifically, she estimated that a ₹5 hike in petrol could spark a 20bps rise in inflation through direct impact alone. Economists also see inflation inching up further. "Ind-Ra sees the headline inflation rising to 3.6 per cent in May in case of no pass-through of high energy rates to consumers as also due to gold and silver prices," said Megha Arora, Director, India Ratings & Research. All eyes are now on the Monetary Policy Committee, which will meet early of June. "We expect the RBI to remain on a wait-and-watch mode to assess the pass-through of the risks. However, the risks for early rate hikes (perhaps from October) are building up," said Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank. □

➡ Targeting \$1 trn in exports this fiscal, says Goyal

The government has set a target of \$1 trillion in exports this fiscal year, marking a 15.8% rise from \$863 billion recorded in 2025-26, Commerce and Industry Ministry Piyush Goyal said recently. "That is not impossible, we are opening the doors (through FTAs). States are supporting us to bring down logistics costs and improve infrastructure. Along with the states, the centre is working for ease of doing business in every sphere of activity," he said at the Awards Ceremony of Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025. Goyal added that the government has already reduced around 42,000 compliances. He said labour codes have been notified and most states are in the process of framing rules under the new framework. "I have told the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to start working on easing all processes, procedures, policies, forms that businesses have to fill up. Try to integrate databases and reduce the burden along with it," the minister said. "That will be our next step to further make everything as simple as possible. And in every case, take it online." The minister earlier in the day co-chaired India-Chile Business Roundtable with the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs Francisco Perez Mackenna. He also held a meeting with Maldives Foreign Minister Iruthisham Adam. The minister said FTAs with both Maldives and Chile would be finalised this year. ■

Apparel retailers witnessed rebound sale-growth in March quarter

After a muted December quarter, the apparel retail sector is witnessing a rebound in the March quarter (Q4FY26), aided by higher same-store sales growth and store expansion. While most listed players in the space have done well, the recovery has been robust for companies in the value fashion category.

Though most stocks in the sector have underperformed over the past three-month and six-month periods, they have started outperforming benchmarks significantly over the past month. Average returns of the listed apparel retail majors over the past month is 18 per cent, while the Nifty 50 delivered less than a third of that in this period.

JM Financial Research pointed out that apparel is witnessing a broad-based recovery — particularly in value fashion — following a dismal Q3 impacted by the festival shift to Q2. But the brokerage expects a weakness in the ethnic segment. Most apparel retailers had reported a fall in volumes and same store sales or reported sub-2 per cent growth in Q3. Barring Go Fashion, most players are expected to report a mid-single digit growth or higher on average in Q4. Go Fashion reported a 4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) decline in revenues in the March quarter, due to continued weakness in the large store format segment.

In the consumer retail space, analysts led by Gaurav Jogani of the brokerage highlighted that there were early signs of gains from rate cuts in the goods and services tax (GST) and income tax, lower interest rates and replenishment demand translating into demand recovery.

HDFC Securities expects the apparel sector to report a Q4 revenue growth of 16 per cent over the year ago quarter. Jay Gandhi and Vedant Mulik of the brokerage also believe that value apparel retailers are likely to outperform premium retailers, driven by recovery in same-store sales growth and retail area expansion.

The near-term trigger is the March quarter performance. Given the updates from multiple retail majors, the quarter should see the sector deliver robust growth rates.

V-Mart's Q4FY26 pre-quarter update indicated a revenue growth of 24.5 per cent Y-o-Y, with same-store sales growth of 12 per cent. Including the 23 store additions in fourth quarter, the company's FY26 count is at 80 stores, higher than the guidance of 70-75 stores. This compares to 53 stores in FY25.

Antique Stock Broking has a "buy" rating on V-Mart stock, with a target price of ₹842 per share. Analysts led by Abhijeet Kundu pointed out that V-Mart witnessed improvement in same-store sales growth and posted consistent double-digit revenue growth, against the backdrop of intensifying competition during the last three years. This has been led by store expansion, recovery in Unlimited and reduction of Limeroad losses.

Trent reported a standalone revenue growth of 20 per cent Y-o-Y, which was better than expectations and also higher than the 16-17 per cent growth in the September and December quarters of FY26. This was driven by higher store additions.

Antique Stock Broking expects the company to generate a revenue growth of 19 per cent and an operating profit increase of 24 per cent over FY25-28, on the back of a focus on organic portfolio, disciplined scaling of operations and exploring emerging categories (Burnt Toast catering to Gen Z) with large opportunities to scale up.

Other retailers which delivered a healthy growth in the quarter were V2 Retail, which saw a same-store sales growth of 7.74 per cent and standalone revenue growth of 59 per cent. Bazaar Style Retail delivered a revenue growth of 35 per cent and same-store sales growth of 8 per cent in the January-March quarter.

Brokerages are also positive on Vishal Mega Mart. Emkay Global Research has a "buy" rating on the stock with a target price of ₹170. The brokerage pointed out that value retail players have indicated encouraging growth momentum, and expect Vishal Mega Mart to post a strong 20 per cent revenue growth with 10 per cent same-store sales growth.

Analysts led by Devanshu Bansal of the brokerage remain confident of sustained double-digit same-store sales growth on an annual basis, aided by its differentiated private label strategy, GST reduction, and healthy traction in the quick commerce business.

Emkay Research expects Page Industries to deliver 10 per cent Y-o-Y revenue growth in Q4, as compared to 4 per cent in 9MFY26, led by an improvement in volume growth to 7 per cent from low single-digit growth nine months prior. The pickup in volume growth is driven by easing competitive intensity in the men's and women's inner-wear category, with Page Industries focusing on capitalising on the opportunity through product refreshes across price points, continued distribution expansion, and higher marketing spends, it added. ■

India may take moderate path, unlikely to remove import duty on cotton

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan suggested a middle path amid a demand from the Ministry of Textiles and the industry to allow cotton import at zero duty till December 2026, which was opposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers's Welfare on the ground that it would send a wrong signal to farmers as sowing has already begun.

Options under a middle path could be either zero duty import in September-October as current stock in the country is comfortable to meet domestic demand at least till August. The other option could be to reduce import duty to 6-7 per cent from the current 11, official sources said.

Chouhan, of late held a meeting with representative of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and official from the Textiles, Agriculture, Commerce and Finance Ministries to examine the demand of garment exporters.

Sources said the Minister was informed that an estimated 47 lakh bales of cotton, as of now, were available with the public sector Cotton Corporation of India, and that together with the stock held by the private sector, including processors and traders, the domestic demand of the industry till August could be easily met.

Local Prices

Since cotton is already being imported, the only issue is its domestic price, which the industry says is quite high now.

Sources said that as new harvests will start arriving from October, sufficient stock should be available in the country for the September-October period.

Officials in Punjab said that cotton sowing is nearly over, after it started from around mid-April. In major

growing States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh starts in May and in the southern States from July.

Cotton Acreage Dips

In 2025-26, cotton production dipped to 290.91 lakh bales (of 170 kg/bale) from 297.24 lakh bales in 2024-25 despite the acreage remaining stagnant at 114.8 lakh hectares in the last two years, after dropping from a high of 129.27 lakh hectares in 2022-23.

More assured returns from maize and paddy, as well as crop risk from the pink bollworm (PEW) pest, are driving cotton farmers to reduce acreage. In the past six years, cotton area has shrunk the maximum – by 20 lakh hectares – among all other crops, data show.

According to the Cotton, Association of India (CAI) estimates, in the 2025-26 season (October-September), the country's production may be 324 lakh bales, consumption 315 lakh bales, import 47 lakh bales and export 15 lakh bales. The trade body pegged the closing stock on March 31 at nearly 292 lakh bales.

As reported earlier, the Textiles Ministry had pitched for a temporary removal or reduction in import duties on raw cotton to reduce input costs for apparel exporters amid the West Asia crisis. Rising yarn and fabric prices has spiked production costs, eroding the industry's export competitiveness despite strong global demand, the AEPC had said.

While India is one of the world's largest producers of cotton, it also imports to meet demand during lean summer months and also source superior varieties not available locally. Textiles and garment exports fell 2.2 percent to \$35.8 billion in 2025-26 due to a contraction in shipments of key segments such as cotton, per an analysis of the latest trade data by research body GERI. ■

Textile industry asks for 'rethink' playbooks as Asia hub faces headwinds

The Asian textile ecosystem, which accounts for about 63 per cent of global textile and apparel exports, 89 per cent of the total spindles in the world, 92 per cent of texturising capacity, is facing several challenges.

This includes an unpredictable trade environment, sluggish economic growth, cost inflation and poor margins, changing buyer behaviour and consumption trends and significant labour 'attrition, according to Ashwin Chandran, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI).

Addressing the Asian Textiles Conference (ATEXCON 2026) here in Hyderabad recently, he said that the traditional playbook was no longer sufficient to mitigate the challenges.

"We must collectively rethink how we produce, source, innovate and collaborate to remain globally competitive and resilient," he added.

GROWTH HUB

Talking on 'Reimagining the future of global textiles', Chandrima Chatterjee, Secretary General, CITI, said that per capita consumption had risen steadily, especially post-2000.

"The bulk of the consumption growth is in Asia," she said.

Telangana Chief Minister. A Revanth Reddy appealed to investors, saying. "If you have a vision, we are your perfect partners for global success. Together, we can create an end-to-end textile ecosystem, which can be a game-changer for the world". ■

Textile Ministry moves to protect clusters from W. Asia gas supply shocks

The Textile Ministry has launched an assessment of natural gas supplies across all textile and handicraft clusters in India to identify potential shortages.

The move comes as public sector energy corporation GAIL (India) Ltd has assured the Ministry that it can source gas from the spot market to cover disruptions in supplies to the sector, though probably at a higher cost to industrial units, sources said.

"GAIL has confirmed it is currently meeting at least 80 per cent of the natural gas requirements for these clusters, which are classified as a priority sector. However, in the event of further supply shocks and disruptions, the agency is prepared to procure from the spot market to meet demand. But the higher prices would likely be borne by the units," a source tracking the matter told reporters.

There are over 500 textiles and 700 handicrafts clusters in the country. Many units in the clusters depend on natural gas for processes, such as high temperature dyeing, and running their furnaces and machinery.

Severe Disruption

Natural gas supplies in India have been constrained due to the severe disruption in global energy trade routes, primarily caused by the conflict in West Asia and the prolonged blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

"India's total natural gas consumption is about 189 mmscmd, of which 97.5 mmscmd is produced domestically and the rest imported," per government figures. About 47.4 mmscmd, or 25 per cent of India's gas supplies, have been affected due to force majeure conditions (suspension of long-term supply contracts due to the ongoing war) invoked by the major Gulf-based producers.

India's textile and handicraft sectors, in clusters such as Surat and Sanganer, have been experiencing a severe shortage in natural gas and LPG, with many units facing partial or full shutdowns and workers migrating back to their hometowns.

Huge Distress

"The glass industry in Ferozepur, in particular, has been facing huge distress because of the shortage of natural gas. The government's focus is now on meeting the shortage faced by the units there so that livelihoods are not at risk," the source said.

The Textile Ministry's assessment of all textile and handicraft clusters, being carried out by an internal monitoring group, is aimed at avoiding more Ferozepur-like situations, the source added.

The government issued a Natural Gas Control Order on March 9, under the Essential Commodities Act, to manage gas supplies and protect the priority sectors. ■

Prices of cotton rise to 8.5% in April on lower production

The price of widely-used Shankar 6 variety of cotton, grown largely in Gujarat, touched ₹60,500/candy or about 8.5% higher than a month ago.

The Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption in India estimates Indian cotton output in the current cotton marketing season ending September 30 at almost 291 lakh bales or 0.42% lower than in the 2024-2025 season.

Consumption by textile mills is on the rise and they are projected to use 312 lakh bales against 306 lakh bales last year. "There is an urgent need to review the import duty on cotton as there is a shortage of the commodity in India, affecting the textile industry, which is the largest cotton user, said Durai Palanisamy, chairman, Southern India Mills Association.

Nishanth Asher, secretary of the Indian Cotton Federation, added that globally, cotton futures prices for July are rallying.

From around 64.5 U.S. cents for a pound of cotton in December 2025 and January 2026, it has gone up to 79.8 cents. "This is significant as in the last three years it's been in the range for 64-70 cents," he said.

Lower output

Global production is expected at 1.5-2.5 million bales lower than the earlier estimates. Production is likely to drop mainly in the U.S. and Brazil, two major cotton producing countries, on lower rainfall, though it is too early to forecast, he added.

"With the rise in crude oil prices, polyester and cotton economics are playing out. Polyester is turning out to be expensive because of the U.S., Israel, Iran war.

"This is shifting some demand to cotton, pushing the prices up. Even small shifts matter," he added. Further, there is a steady rise in textile demand. ■

Better infrastructure and waste management put Tiruppur on the top of wishlist

As one exits the National Highway 544 and enters Tiruppur, widely known as the 'knitwear capital of India' and 'Dollar city', the scale of its industrial success is unmistakable. The town manufacturers garments worth nearly ₹70,000 crore annually, with exports worth about ₹45,000 crore.

Yet, beneath this economic success lies growing unease. A steady influx of international buyers notwithstanding, Tiruppur is struggling to meet basic infrastructure expectations, particularly in road quality and waste management.

Officials of companies in Tiruppur said the lack of civic development is becoming a major embarrassment. "It is very embarrassing to hear our foreign clients complain about the roads, garbage and filth," said an industry representative, expressing frustration over what they see as inaction by the State government. The problem is compounded by hygiene concerns. With a large migrant workforce, indiscriminate littering and public spitting have worsened the sanitation challenges.

Persistent Problems

Tiruppur is divided into two Assembly constituencies — Tiruppur South and Tiruppur North. The South seat is represented by K Selvaraj of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the North seat by KN Vijayakumar of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

In the current contest, N Dineshkumar of the DMK faces S Thangaraj of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Tiruppur South.

In Tiruppur North, MSM Anandan is pitted against M Ravi alias M Subramanian of the Communist Party of India, an ally of the DMK.

Industry Growth

Nearly one million people are employed across around 2,500 textile units in Tiruppur. However, infrastructure development has not kept pace with industrial expansion, said entrepreneurs.

"Good roads, a permanent solution to garbage issues, partial closure of liquor shops and, most importantly, rationalisation of the property tax, which has increased manifold in recent times, are the urgent priorities," said a textile entrepreneur.

Another industry player pointed to rising costs. "We are upset with the government over the steep increase in electricity charges."

The Tiruppur textile cluster, which employs about 35 per cent of Tamil Nadu's textile workforce and contributes nearly 20 per cent to India's apparel employment, is grappling with labour shortage of around 20 per cent.

Exporters said that the industry's heavy reliance on migrant workers makes it critical to address housing challenges. "Providing safe, affordable and decent accommodation for migrant labourers is essential for retention," said an office-bearer of the Tiruppur Exporters Association. ■

Cotton Corporation sells over half the produce procured during 2025-26 season

The state-run Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has sold over half of the natural fibre procured in the 2025-26 season at the minimum support price, driven by strong demand from mills and traders. The CCI procured 105 lakh bales (170 kg each) this season, up from 100.16 lakh bales last year.

As of 22nd April, CCI's sales had crossed 55 lakh bales, said Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director. Steady offtake over the past two months, despite a rally in global prices, under-scores robust demand from both mills and the trade.

Recently, the CCI raised its selling price by ₹200 per candy (356 kg), taking the total increase to ₹800.

Of late, prices were raised by ₹1,500 per candy. The cumulative hike this season exceeds ₹6,000. "From a low of about ₹55,000 per candy, current prices are

around ₹61,000," Gupta said. "Even after the increase, our prices remain the cheapest globally," he added.

International prices have risen over 25 per cent, while domestic prices have gained 15-20 per cent. Domestic rates are still 2-3 per cent lower than global levels, which are about ₹63,500-64,000.

The CCI's price revisions track the global uptrend. Since early March, international prices have climbed nearly 30 per cent. Cotton futures on the ICE rose from about 62 cents per pound in early March to over 80 cents, hovering around 81 cents for July delivery recently.

Despite the successive price hikes, sales remained strong, with CCI stocks dropping below 50 lakh bales. "Mill demand is firm, with yarn orders tied up for the next 3-4 months. Mills will continue to cover their requirements," Gupta said. ■

Mid-tier Saree retailers stitching up growth with PE funding and IPOs

Six yards of tradition is meeting capital. Mid-tier saree retailers such as Indian Silk House are challenging Tata's Taneira and Reliance Retail's Avantra, stitching up growth with PE funding and IPOs.

Close to ₹1,300 crores has flowed into India's organised saree retail sector between FY25 and FY 26 from private equity firms such as Lighthouse Funds, ICICI Venture and Baring Private Equity Partners, reshaping the ₹80,000 crores market and triggering a ₹20,000 crores IPO pipeline, as investors back niche retailers.

Private equity is increasingly backing established regional players looking to scale nationally. Among disclosed deals, Mumbai-based KALKI has secured about ₹200 crores from Lighthouse Funds; Delhi-based Libas has raised ₹150 crore from ICICI Venture, and Bengaluru-based Koskii has received ₹88 crores from Baring Private Equity Partners.

While these transactions total roughly ₹438 crores, Darshan Dudhuria, Chief executive of Kolkata-based Indian Silk House Agencies (ISHA), estimates overall private equity deployment in the saree and ethnic wear segment has already crossed ₹1,300 crore, with a significant portion coming through privately negotiated deals.

ISHA is preparing to tap public markets over the next 2-3 years. The company plans to raise \$20-25 million from investors, to fund expansion from 67 stores across 15 states to about 100 outlets in the near term and nearly 500 over time. "We want to build the Bata of sarees," says Dudhuria.

Looms to exchanges

It's not the only one. Hyderabad-based RSB Retail has field draft papers with SEBI for a ₹1,500 crore issue, including a fresh issue and an offer for sale. Chennai-based Pothys is in advanced stages of preparing for an IPO, while Hyderabad-based Marri Retail has already field its DRHP for a planned ₹2,000 crore offering. Chennai-based Nalli Silk Sarees, a 95-year-old retailer, is also exploring a market

debut to fund expansion and supply-chain formalisation. It operates about 35 stores across cities, including Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

The only listed benchmark, Hyderabad-based Sai Silks (Kalamandir), which raised about ₹1,200 crore through its IPO in 2023, offers a preview of what lies ahead. The company reported FY26 revenue of ₹1,653 crore, up 13 per cent year-on-year, while nine-month profit rose 50 per cent to ₹108 crore. Tata's Taneira, with around 80 stores in 40 cities, is scaling deliberately, opening 60 outlets in three years and investing ₹3 crore per new store. But it is still not profitable, contributing less than 1 per cent of Titan's ₹57,339 crore FY25 revenue, with CEO Ambuj Narayan estimating break-even in two to three years.

Reliance's Avantra, meanwhile, is approaching 118 stores and has locked in sourcing partnerships with legacy houses, including Nalli Silks and Pothys, a move that digitises their networks while binding their supply chains to a competitor. □

Urge for long-term cotton policies

The long-term policies of the government should address the fundamental constraints faced by the cotton sector to improve productivity. It should ensure economic viability of the crop for the growers and also take into account the Interests of the entire value chain, said a study taken up by the Confederation of India Textile Industry with Gherzi Textile Organization and the International Cotton Advisory Committee, as knowledge partners.

The 11% import duty imposed in 2021-22 was to address the temporary surplus of cotton due to the fall in mill use forced by the COVID pandemic. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) stepped in to procure large volume of cotton. However, the years after saw a rise in mill use, necessitating imports. The demand/supply imbalance is likely to widen in the near future. ■

Cabinet sanctions ₹5,659 crore for 5-year Cotton Productivity Mission

The Union Cabinet recently approved the much awaited Mission for Cotton Productivity with an estimated expenditure of ₹5,659.22 crores over a five year period (2020-27 to 2030-31), which is aimed at addressing the sector's bottlenecks, declining growth and quality concerns.

The Cotton Mission was proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in February 2025, and the government has formulated it after 15 months.

"The Mission envisages accomplishing the production of 498 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) of cotton by enhancing lint productivity from 440 kg/ha to 755 kg/ha by 2031. Approximately 32 lakh farmers will be benefited, leading to self-reliance. Promotion of Kasturi Cotton Bharat for Traceability and certification, targeting trash reduction less than 2 per cent and promotion of natural fibres like flax, ramie, sisal, milkweed, bamboo and banana. This is a milestone in making the country self-reliant in cotton sector," the government said in a statement.

In 2025-26, cotton production dipped to 290-91 lakh bales from 297.24 lakh bales in 2024-25 despite the acreage remaining stagnant at 114.8 lakh hectares in the past two years. More assured returns from maize and paddy, as well as crop risk from pink bollworm (PBW) pest, are driving cotton farmers to cut acreage. In the past six years, cotton area has shrunk- by a

maximum of 20 lakh hectares among all other crops, data show.

Per the Cotton Association of India estimates, in the 2025-26 season (October-September), the production may be 324 lakh bales, import 47 lakh bales and export 15 lakh bales. The trade body pegged the closing stock on March 31 at nearly 292 lakh bales.

The Mission will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Textiles, involving 10 institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, one institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and 10 centres of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Cotton operating in State Agricultural Universities of major cotton growing States.

Reporters had earlier reported about the Mission plan when it was awaiting Cabinet nod, and according to sources, from the overall outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore, the Textile Ministry will spend about ₹1,100 crores, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare over ₹4,000 crores and the ICAR less than ₹600 crore.

The mission aligns with the 5F vision (farm, fibre, factory, fashion, foreign) of the government, the statement said. The Mission will focus on enhancing cotton productivity through the development of high yielding variety seeds resistant to disease and pests, and scaling up of existing and latest crop production technologies. ■

As global cotton price tends to fall, domestic cotton sold at discounted rate

As cotton futures on the ICE ease, domestic resellers and multinationals have started selling stocks at rates lower than those set by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). This is even as the demand remains weak.

ICE cotton futures had gained around 47 per cent since early February. From around 60.52 cents per pound on February 9, cotton futures touched a recent high of 88 cents on May 11, before retreating to 76-77 cents due to factors like improving weather prospects in the US and Brazil, decline in crude oil prices, stronger US dollar index and uncertainty around global demand recovery.

Prices of Indian cotton in the physical market also corrected, but the decline remained limited due to lower arrivals, tightening spot availability and higher domestic basis levels, said Anand Popat of CorYarn Trade Link in his weekly newsletter. The Indian basis, the difference between spot prices and futures, against ICE July strengthened to 8.55 cents per pound, he said.

"The CCI still holds sizeable unsold stocks, which may continue to influence domestic market sentiment.

Overall, the market remains technically weak in the short term," Popat said.

The CCI, which began selling the 2025-26 crop procured at the minimum support price of around ₹57,200 per candy of 356 kg, reduced the prices initially to about ₹54,600 before increasing it to up to ₹68,600.

It stopped selling cotton from May 22.

The CCI, which procured 105 lakh bales of 170 kg each during the 2025-26 season, has sold around 72 lakh bales so far. Its stocks are estimated around 33 lakh bales, as per trade sources.

"There's volatility in prices. Resellers and multinationals have started selling at prices lesser by ₹2,000 per candy than the CCI list price. There are no buyers in the market. Buyers are abstaining from the market for both cotton and yarn," said Ramanuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent in Raichur.

The yarn market is also dull. Yarn prices, which moved up following the rise in crude oil prices, have come down by ₹30-35 per kg, Boob said. ■

Expand garment industry

India has a deep-rooted tradition in textiles and apparel. It employs a workforce of 45 million and contributes 2.3% to the GDP. But its share in global trade remains low (4.2%), merely \$37.8 billion out of \$897.8 billion. A closer look at the apparel segment alone (under HS codes 61 and 62) shows India's share in global trade is even lower at 3% (\$15.7 billion out of \$529.3 billion). More disturbingly, this share has remained stagnant for the past two decades.

In spite of these poor shows, India has set a target of \$40 billion in apparel exports by 2030. But in the last few years, apparel exports have declined annually on average by 2%. If we had sustained the stronger average annual growth rate (AAGR) of 8.5% (2004-2017), we would have reached \$31 billion by 2030. The numbers make it clear that without a paradigm shift in policy and strategy, the \$40-billion goal will remain a far reaching.

Our research points to a fundamental constraint: lack of scale. Put simply, we are too many, too small, and too dispersed. Over 80% of India's apparel units are micro, small, and medium enterprises; meanwhile, China and Vietnam have built large-scale, export-oriented factories backed by integrated production systems. Even Bangladesh has found a way to either scale up or have single-window "buying houses" that take large orders and get them executed from factories. This helps them attract global buyers who demand volume, besides reducing unit costs, shortening delivery timelines, and generating mass formal employment. For a country like India with a young population, the garment industry has immense opportunity to expand employment and grab a larger share of the global market.

While overall garment manufacturing remains fragmented, there is a silver lining that shows what scale can achieve. The most powerful example is that of Shahi Exports. Founded by Sarla Ahuja in 1974, the firm began a stitching unit with a team of 15 women producing 200 pieces a day. Today, it is India's largest apparel exporter, operating over 50 factories, three processing mills across eight states, and employing more than 100,000 workers — 70% of them women. With over a billion dollars in annual revenue, Shahi Exports is well known as "Sarla's garment miracle". What sets it apart is not just scale but how it got there: it evolved over decades with a focus on professionalising operations, investing in vertical integration (with 80% of fabric produced in-house), and building an enterprise that treats profits and its

people as complementary, emphasising women's employment and environmental sustainability.

India should take bold step that enable scale. First, capital must be made accessible and affordable for scale-focused investments. A structured capital subsidy of 25-30%, linked to the size of the unit, can provide the initial push. This could be targeted at enterprises meeting a minimum threshold of say 1,000 machines (as per the draft production-linked incentive [PLI] 2.0 scheme) to ensure viability and scale. Additionally, a five- to seven-year tax holiday for units would allow investments to mature and become competitive. India's cost of capital remains high, averaging 9%, compared to 3-3.5% in China and starting from 4.5% in Vietnam. In a sector with razor-thin margins (typically 4-5%), such incentives are critical to gain competitiveness. Second, India's central labour laws have created rigidities, discouraging formal hiring and scale. They need flexibility. Overtime payments are mandated at twice the hourly wage, compared to the International Labour Organisation standard of 1.25 times, adding to cost pressure. Labour accounts for around 30% of garment production costs. A bold idea could be to link Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act funds (say 25-30%) to subsidise labour costs. This could make labour-intensive units more competitive while generating productive employment on a sustainable basis. Schemes like Samarth should be significantly scaled up to provide short-cycle, demand-linked skilling, especially for women. India's low female labour force participation and high youth unemployment demand job creation, not just income transfers. Third, at least two of the seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel parks should be designated as garment-focused hubs, particularly in states like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh where labour costs are low and worker migration to southern garment hubs is high. Bringing manufacturing closer to the workforce can reduce costs, boost underdeveloped regions, and build more inclusive industrialisation. Finally, India must rethink its incentive architecture.

The garment industry deserves policy attention because it sits at the intersection of mass employment and maximum value addition. Success in the segment doesn't just lift export numbers, but also creates demand that pulls up the entire textile value chain. However, to realise this potential, India must move beyond business as usual. If we are to build 10 Shahi Exports in the next 10 years, we need bold policies and swift execution. Our policymakers must rise to this challenge. ■

Cotton prices decline 3% on import duty suspension, may slide more

India's decision to suspend the 11% import duty on cotton until October has triggered an immediate reversal in the fibre's rally, with cotton bale and yarn prices falling by up to 3% recently. The rates are expected to slide by another 1-2% shortly, curbing a surge that had lifted cotton prices by 27% over the past three months, industry insiders said.

"Cotton prices have started softening, while we have advised the spinning mills to reduce yarn prices, said K Selvraju, secretary general at Southern India Mills Association (SIMA).

Prices of 29 mm cotton had risen to ₹69,200 per candy in mid-May from ₹54,200 in February. They had cooled slightly to ₹65,000 per candy during the last 20 days as cotton futures prices on the International Cotton Exchange (ICE) softened.

Recently, government agency Cotton Corporation of India, the largest cotton buyer in the country, slashed cotton rates by ₹700 per candy ₹64,300/ candy. Yarn prices have been cut by ₹10/kg, which is about 3%.

"Many brokers have reported that a future decrease in prices is expected as sale is not happening at recently discounted prices," said Pradip Jain, founder chairman of Khandesh Ginning and Pressing Association.

Although the international prices are not cheaper than the domestic prices, the increase in availability of cotton is expected to ease prices and prevent hoarding.

Before the duty cuts, cotton prices were expected to rise as high as ₹75,000 per candy largely due to hoarding, a trend textile exporter said.

The finance ministry in a notification issued recently suspended the import duty on cotton from June 1 to October 31.

ET had earlier reported that textile industry bodies including SIMA and Tiruppur Exporters Association had written to the central government on duty removal, arguing that Indian manufacturers were losing competitiveness against rivals in Bangladesh and Vietnam that enjoy duty-free access to imported cotton.

Exporters said India has become dependent on imported, export-grade cotton after several years of stagnant domestic output. Rising raw material costs had eroded margins and weakened the competitiveness of Indian yarn and garment exports in global markets.

According to SIMA, India's share of global textile trade has remained largely unchanged at about 4% over the past two decades, while Bangladesh' share has risen to 6% from 2% and Vietnam's to 5% from 0.6%.

"Currently, the cotton inventory is not with farmers but with stockists and multinational companies, who have started increasing prices and making exports unviable," said Vijay Agarwal, chairman of Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council. "The hoarders will have to lower prices as the import duty has been removed." ■

'Too Hot to Handle' Heatwave in North India affect textile industry

Severe heatwave conditions in northern India are affecting the textile industry in Delhi-NCR and basmati rice trade in Punjab and Haryana, with productivity falling 15-20% over the last fortnight.

North India is currently experiencing record heatwaves, with temperatures touching as much as 45-47 degrees centigrade across many states. "Loading and unloading of basmati rice from rice mills to the ports for export purposes, as well as for domestic supply has taken a hit," said Dev Garg, vice president of the Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF). "The workers are not able to work during the afternoon hours due to the heatwave condition. This has impacted productivity. The loss in productivity will have an impact on our profit margin."

Extremely high summer temperatures are also impacting productivity at the Noida Apparel Export Cluster (NAEC) — home to about 2,000 manufacturing units which employ about 1 million people. NAEC records annual revenues of ₹50,000-55,000 crore.

Kapil Sadh, partner at Noida-based garment exporter SK Overseas, said prolonged exposure to heat on the shop floor is leading to worker absenteeism. "Frequent power fluctuations during peak demand hours are further disrupting production schedules and timely export deliveries," he said. "Productivity has gone down by 15-20% in the last fortnight since the heatwave began."

Garment manufacturing is highly labour-intensive, and extreme heat inside production units reduces worker stamina, concentration, and machine efficiency. Simultaneously, power consumption has surged due to cooling requirements, adding further cost pressure on exporters already struggling with rising logistics and compliance expenses, said Sadh. At a time when global competition demands speed, quality, and cost efficiency, recurring heatwaves are emerging as a serious industrial challenge for Delhi-NCR's export sector, said industry executives.

Also, the latest rise in diesel and petrol prices has emerged as one of the major challenges for the garment exporting industry, already grappling with intense global competition, rising labour costs, elevated power tariffs, volatile raw material prices, and subdued international demand.

The garment export sector operates on highly time-sensitive supply chains. Every increase in fuel prices directly inflates per-unit production costs, while overseas buyers remain unwilling to absorb higher pricing in an already competitive global market. "Container freight costs, local transportation expenses, generator operations, employee mobility, and warehousing charges have all risen sharply," said Sadh. "Simultaneously, international buyers continue to enforce strict delivery timelines, often imposing heavy penalties for delays. As a result, many manufacturers are no longer operating for profitability, but simply to preserve business continuity and retain long-standing global clients." ■

DESIGNING AND DEVELOPING HOME FURNISHING INSPIRED FROM SANTHAL ART

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Abstract

Inspiration is an unconscious burst of creativity in designing. Fashion design is the art of applying design, aesthetics and natural beauty to clothing and its accessories. It is influenced by cultural and social attitudes and has varied over time and place. Tribal art is a visual art and material culture of indigenous people. Santal or Santhal are the ethnic group native to India and Bangladesh in South Asia. The special occasions of the Santal or Santhal tribes are converted into paintings. The Santal paintings are about merry times, harvest, dancing, music and musical instruments. The present study has been attempted by incorporating Santal painting on cushions using hand painting technique.

Keywords

Design, Santal art, Painting, Saura art, Modern art, Mosaic art

Introduction

Design is the process and art of planning and making detailed drawings of something or the result of the plan in the form of a product. It often necessitates considering the aesthetic, functional, economical and socio-political dimensions of both the design objects and design process. A design is a general plan or an intention that something appears in our mind when we are doing certain work. It involves considerable research, negotiation, reflection, interactive adjustment and re-designing.

Fashion design is the art of applying design, aesthetics and natural beauty to clothing and its accessories. It is influenced by trend, colour forecasting, marketing, analysis design concepts and design documentation for manufacturing. Here, the knowledge of basic elements of fashion designing are understanding colour cycle, knowledge of fibres and different fabrics, textures, textile, trims and embellishments, garment making and personal grooming. Design seems to be quite simple superficially but the designer while designing the garment has to really keep in mind various concepts in mind like fabric, theme, measurements etc.

Home furnishing in India is one of the fastest growing markets for home textile products in Asia-Pacific regions. Rising demand for home decor products such as bed linen products, wall hangings, rugs and carpets, etc., along with growing demand

for handcrafted products is boosting the country's home furnishing market. Cushions are an important source of comfort and decoration in the home. The right cushions can add a sense of coziness or elegance to the rooms, as well as providing a comfortable surface to rest against, sit on or lie on. Cushions are often used to soften the hard surface. They can be placed on the sofas for the decorative purpose as well as for the functional purpose. Cushions are made in different sizes, different shapes.

Cotton is a soft, fluffy staple fibre that grows in a boll or protective case, around the seeds of the cotton plants of the Genus *Gossypium* in the mallow family *malvaceae*. The fibre is almost pure cellulose. Cotton fabric is one of the most commonly used types of fabrics in the world. It does not contain any synthetic compounds and it is also incredibly soft and most durable than silk and it has heat retention. Water absorbent but it also dries quickly. Cotton is the comfortable fabric for the households.

Tribal art is a visual art and material culture of indigenous people. It has historically been collected by museums. It is often ceremonial or religious in nature. Typically originating in rural area, tribal art refers to the craftsmanship of artifacts from tribal cultures. Santal or Santhal are the ethnic group native to India and Bangladesh in South Asia. Santals are the largest tribes in Jharkhand state of India in terms of population. The annual festivals are celebrated by Santal tribes in a grand manner. The rituals are connected with the agriculture cycle, along with life cycle rituals of birth, marriage and burial at death.

Here the special occasions of the Santal or Santhal tribes are converted into paintings. The Santal paintings are about merry times, harvest, dancing, music and musical instruments. The present study has been attempted by incorporating Santal painting on cushions using hand painting techniques in cotton fabric.

Cushions are developed by applying designs taken from the Indian Tribal Art with the following objectives

1. To analyze the tribal art of India
2. To identify five different occasions found in the selected tribal art.

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3. To develop various art forms to incorporate in the selected occasions of tribal art
4. To evaluate the created designs by survey.
5. To apply the selected designs on the cushions by hand painting technique.

METHODOLOGY

Tribal Art is the visual and material culture of indigenous people. It have historically been collected by private collectors and museums. Each region has it's style and conventional characters and workmanship. Santhal or Santal art is the depiction of way of life of the santhal tribe, their cultural heritage and tradition. It is believed that the origin are prehistoric thousands of year. This art emphasizes on the importance of music, dance and their musical instruments. Their painting are about merry times, whether it is harvest or finding joy in daily activities.

Selection of themes

The selected themes of Santal tribal art are:

WEDDING



HARVEST



MUSIC



DANCE



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



In this study, five themes namely wedding, harvest, music, dance and musical instruments are selected from Santhal tribal art.

Selection of Design Type

Design can be regarded as a creative art and as creative thinking. Design process are often claimed to unlock creativity by inspiring designers to undertake a wide ranging exploration of the design space. The design principles are constructed on various art forms.

Saura Art

SauraArt , also called Ikons draw upon tribal folklore and have ritualistic and religious importance for the sauratribe. People, horses, elephants, the sun, the moon, the tree are recurring motifs in these ikons. In traditional Saura art, the natural colours used are derived from sisal, neem and other herbs and flowers. Saura art is often mistaken for Warli art of Western India. There are, however subtle differences between the two. Like Warli art, Saura also features characters in geometrical shapes, but the Saura forms are larger and more elongated.

Modern Art

Modern art is one of the most commonly used types of art in homes today, as it is extremely captivating. Modern art is quite tricky to define as it is not exactly an art style but rather a period of time. Modern art embraces a wide array of strong colors, forms, and lines, and applies a fresh perspective to almost all aspects of existence. In a way modern art is a radical way of thinking by artists of that era, with no boundaries set by traditional method.

Mosaic Art

Mosaics have developed into a popular craft and art, and are not limited to professionals. Traditional mosaics are made of small, flat, roughly square, pieces of stone or glass of different colors, known as tesserae. Today's artisans and crafters work with stone, ceramics, shells, art glass, mirror, beads, and even odd items like doll parts, pearls, or photographs.

In this study, designs are created using the above three art forms incorporating the selected themes of the Santhal tribal art.

Selection of painting technique

In art, the term painting describes both the act and the result of the action. The support for paintings includes such surfaces as walls, paper,

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canvas, wood, glass, lacquer, pottery, leaf, copper and concrete, and the painting may incorporate multiple other materials including sand, clay, paper, plaster, gold leaf, as well as objects.

Indian paintings can be broadly classified as murals, miniatures and paintings on cloth. Murals are large works executed on the walls of solid structures, as in the Ajanta Caves and the Kailashnath temple. Miniature paintings are executed on a very small scale for books or albums on perishable material such as paper and cloth. Paintings on cloth were often produced in a more popular context, often as folk art, used for example by travelling reciters of epic poetry.

Hand-painting can be a joyful experience, allowing to have more space for creativity and thereby paving way to create unique works of art specific to the imagination. Hand-painting can be a rewarding experience, since it builds colour and shape recognition skills, allowing to explore the sense of touch with different textured materials. It is also great for fine-tuning motor skills.

In this study, the designs of Santhal art forms were transferred onto the home furnishing products using handpainting technique.

Selection of home furnishing

Home furnishing consists of a various range of functional as well as decorative products used mainly for decorating houses. Textile home furnishing fabrics or home textiles consist of both natural and man-made fabrics. Home textiles include products like draperies, curtains, pillows, rugs, carpets, cushions and bolsters.

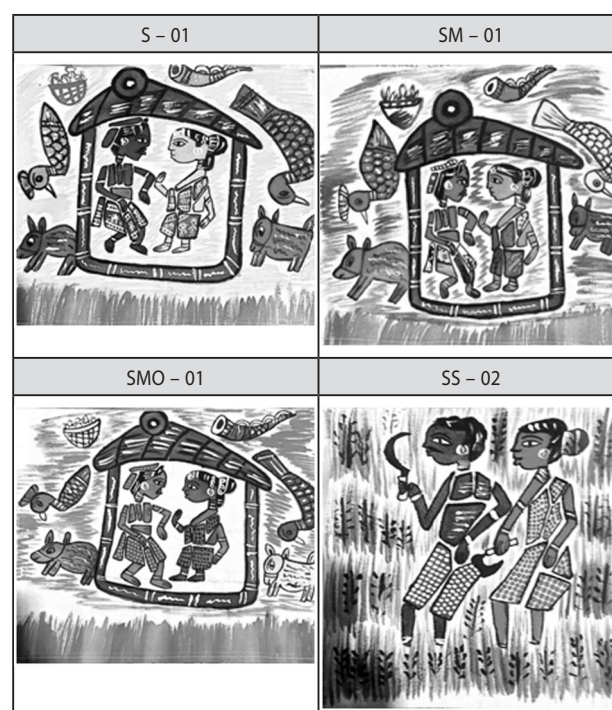
Cushions are perfect for updating the home according to mood and occasion. Stylish sofa cushions give a finishing touch to living rooms where as colourful cushions brighten up the rooms. Handmade cushions will add a charm to the living space. Cushions are just a mere piece of utility based accessory, but it has taken the place of an important home furnishing item which are fabricated by different materials. The patterns and designs of cushions covers are usually inspiration from nature, religious, symbols, traditional patterns and various floral and geometric patterns. The designs display a rich colour spectrum and skilful workmanship.

Here, cotton cushion covers with selected handpainted designs of Santhal art forms are used for the study.

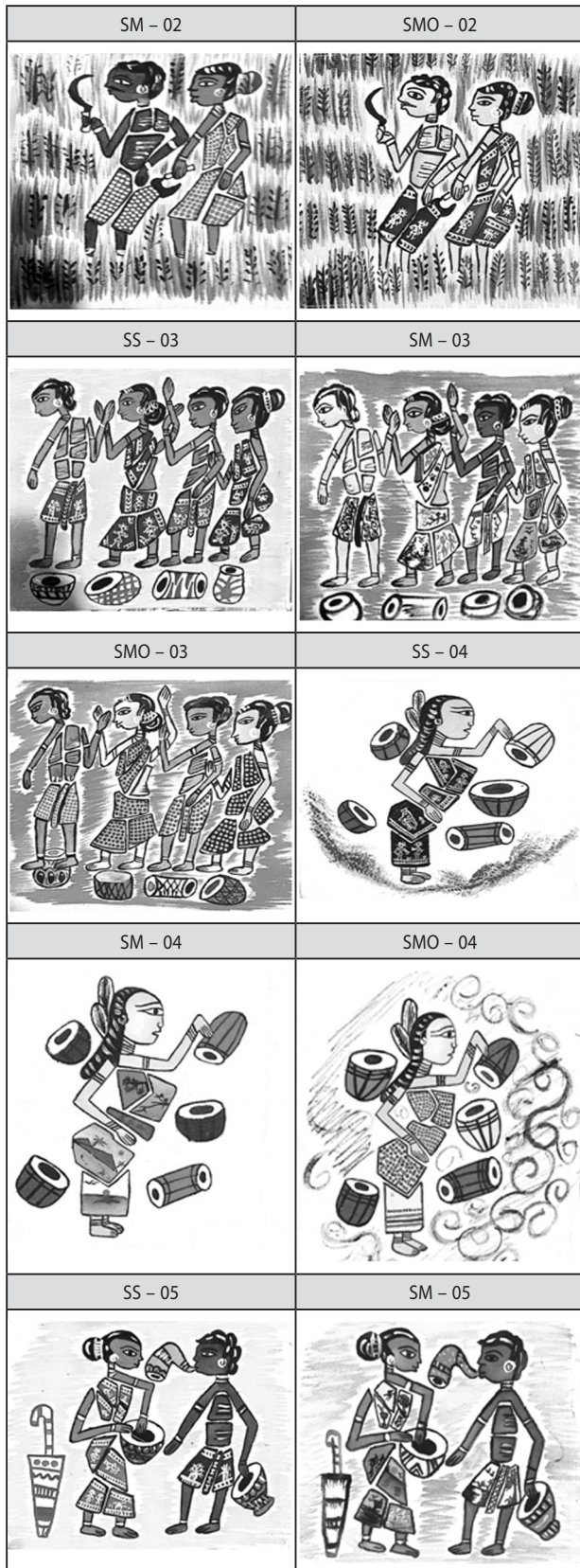
Nomenclature of the samples used for the study

S.NO	DESIGN CODE	DESCRIPTION
1	SS- 01	SanthalSaura Art with wedding theme
2	SM - 01	Santhal Modern Art with wedding theme
3	SMO - 01	Santhal Mosaic Art with wedding theme
4	SS- 02	SanthalSaura Art with harvest theme
5	SM - 02	Santhal Modern Art with harvest theme
6	SMO - 02	Santhal Mosaic Art with harvest theme
7	SS- 03	SanthalSaura Art with music theme
8	SM - 03	Santhal Modern Art with music theme
9	SMO - 03	Santhal Mosaic Art with music theme
10	SS- 04	SanthalSaura Art with dance theme
11	SM - 04	Santhal Modern Art with dance theme
12	SMO - 04	Santhal Mosaic Art with dance theme
13	SS- 05	SanthalSaura Art with musical instruments theme
14	SM - 05	Santhal Modern Art with musical instruments theme
15	SMO - 05	Santhal Mosaic Art with musical instruments theme

DESIGNS



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Conduction of Survey

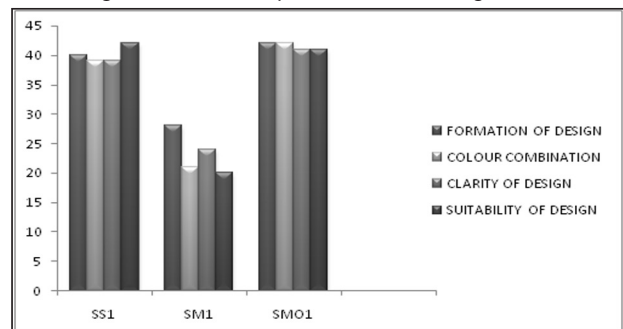
After creating the designs on samples, the investigator prepared the evaluation sheet to conduct a survey for selection of designs based on the following criteria :formation of design, colour combination, clarity of design, and suitability of design under each theme.

This designs are evaluated and the data under each category is ranked on the evaluation sheet as good, fair and poor.

Evaluation of designs

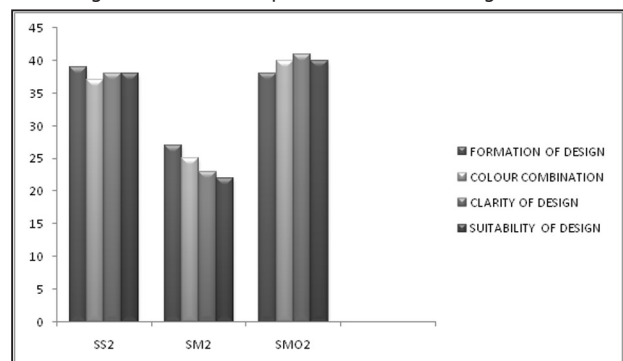
The results of the evaluation of the designs under the selected themes are presented in the following Figures.

Figure I: Consumer's preference in wedding theme



It is clear from the Figure I, the design SMO1 shows the highest rating among the respondents in all the categories.

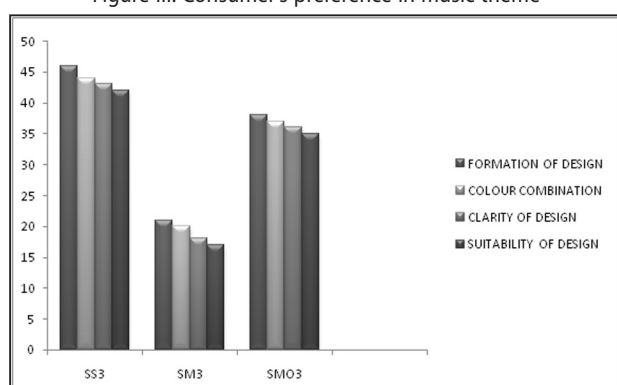
Figure II: Consumer's preference in harvesting theme



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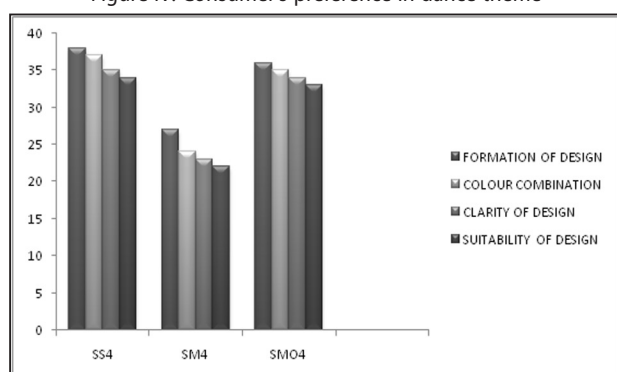
It's clear from the Figure II, the design SMO2 shows the highest rating among the respondents in all the categories.

Figure III: Consumer's preference in music theme



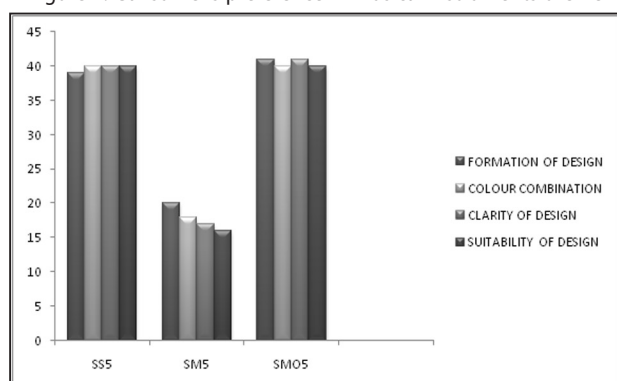
It's clear from the Figure III, the design SS3 show the highest rating among the respondents in all the categories.

Figure IV: Consumer's preference in dance theme



It's clear from the Figure IV, the design SS4 show the highest rating among the respondents in all the categories.

Figure V: Consumer's preference in musical instruments theme



It's clear from the Figure V, the design SMO5 show the highest importance level among the respondents in all the categories.

Construction of cushion covers

After selecting the designs, the material need to be constructed for cushion covers with size 11.5 inch × 11.5 inch.

Application of handpainted designs on homefurnishing

Selected designs are applied on the constructed cushion covers using hand painting techniques. The designs are painted in different ways to make the cushion covers look attractive.

Selected designs of cushion covers



Conclusion

The home furnishing and décor industry is growing at a faster pace in the global market. Nowadays consumers are available with plenty of choices to opt for home decors. It is imperative that the designers have to come up with a variety of creative products to keep in pace with the industry. In this aspect, the cushion covers designed in this study is definitely a right choice for retailers to satisfy the consumers who have a taste for different art forms of India. Santhal tribal art incorporated elegantly in home furnishing items is sure to attract the consumers of this industry.

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Trump says U.S., China find a right path to settle a lot of problems

Neither offered specifics on the deals agreed upon. Mr. Xi said the visit "once again demonstrates that it is a shared aspiration of both peoples and the expectation of people across the world for China and the United States to find a right path to get along with each other and to achieve peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation on the basis of mutual respect." "While President Trump hopes to make America great again, I am dedicated to leading the Chinese people toward national rejuvenation," he said.

Mr. Trump said China had agreed to buy 200 Boeing aircraft — a smaller number than had been anticipated — as well as step up imports of soybeans. China has also agreed to resume imports of U.S. beef. Both sides did not share details of any understanding on U.S. access to rare earths — a key issue for U.S. businesses which have called on China to relax its export controls on critical minerals. Beijing put in place restrictions after the U.S. imposed controls on the export of semi-conductors to China. U.S. officials said 10 Chinese firms had been cleared to purchase Nvidia's second-most advanced chip. ■

"KNITTING AS AN ART" AND IT'S PREVALENCE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The art of knitting is practised in diverse cultures and countries. Its traditional textures, colours vary greatly across time and distance. The earliest example of true knitting is a pair of knitting socks found in Egypt, dating back to 1100 A.D. Hand knitting has gone in and out of fashion many times in the last two centuries, and at the turn of 21st century it is enjoying a revival. In the past few years, the use of knitting for an aesthetic purpose emerged in U.S. and U.K. and spread worldwide. But in India knitting is practised only for the functional aspect of clothing, while the potential of the knitting as a serious medium for self-expression is untouched. As a result people are least aware of the use of knitting as an art. Hence a need was felt to introduce knitting as a fiber art in India to spread the awareness among people. The purpose of the study was to explore the current scenario of knitting art in India so as to document the artefacts and to explore the potential of knitting as a medium for self-expression. The present study was conducted in two steps viz a viz an interview of renowned fiber artist of India & a survey to understand the awareness level of knitting art. It was found that in India knitting is mostly practised only for the functional aspect of clothing & apparel like sweaters, pullovers, t-shirts, inners, gloves, socks, slippers etc. and very few people were aware of the use of knitting in the art forms.

Keywords : Knitting, Fiber art, Fiber & Textile artists, Artefacts

INTRODUCTION

Since the antiquity people have used textiles for all range of purposes. From blankets for warmth, to elaborate fabrics for commerce, they have been at the very centre of human life. The need for textiles, combined with our desire to embellish the world around us, has given rise to a huge range of fabric based art[1], everything from basic colored cloth to complex knitted textiles. Hand knitting has gone in and out of fashion many a times in the last two centuries, and at the turn of 21st century it is enjoying a revival. More people are finding knitting a recreation and enjoying the hobby with their family. Knitting parties are also becoming popular in small and large communities around U.S and Canada.[2] In the past few years, the use of knitting

for an aesthetic purpose emerged in U.S. and U.K and spread worldwide. But in India where the hand knitting still remains a hobby of womenfolk, is practiced only for the functional aspect of clothing, while the potential of the knitting as a serious medium for self-expression is untouched. As a result people are least aware of the use of knitting in the fiber art. Hence a need was felt to introduce knitting as an art in India to make the people aware of it, along with the following main objectives.

- » To understand the present scenario of knitting art in India so as to document the artefacts.
- » To explore the potential of knitting as a medium for self expression.

Literature Review

Fiber Art

The term fiber art refers to that style of fine art which consists of natural and synthetic fibers and other fiber based components such as yarn and fabric. It emphasises on the material and the effort made by the artist as part of the work significance, and prioritizes aesthetic value over utility.[3] Art works of this type communicate some sort of message, emotion and go beyond just the literal meaning of the materials. While contemporary fiber art is often preoccupied with materiality and technique. [4]

The term fiber art came into use by curators and art historians to describe the work of the artist-craftsman following World War II. Those years saw a sharp increase in the design and production of "art fabric." In the 1950s, as the contributions of craft artists became more recognized—not just in fiber but in clay and other media—more number of weavers began binding fibers into non-functional forms as works of art.[3]

In 1960' and 70s, an increasing number of trained artists, who were working with the fiber and fabric media, produced great works of miniature to monumental in size using a variety of techniques such as knotting, twining, plaiting, coiling, pleating, lashing, and interlacing and combinations, which explored the limitations of traditional textile forms and techniques, declared that a new art form had been developed, and that, like painting and sculpture, textiles could be used as a medium to express the emotions and ideas of individual,

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which liberated the concept of art of the twentieth century. The notable artists of that time such as Lenore Tawney, Ed Rossbachand, Claire Zeisler and Magdalena Abakanowicz "Abakan" investigated in depth the potential of the materials of textiles and constructive possibilities for those pliable, linear elements. Fiber, and the ways in which it could be constructed became content. During 1970s in United States, the Feminist Art Movement sought equal museum and art gallery exposure for women artists and for the feminine perspective, which often was expressed through the use of women's work. These events lead to an exciting climate of artistic innovation and gained recognition throughout the world. [5]

Although sharing a common tradition with tapestry, since 1980s fiber art moves beyond this historical textile form and has become more and more conceptual, influenced by postmodernist ideas. It is the work of one individual, who originates and creates after long standing experimentation with materials and techniques.

Generally the techniques and materials incorporated with fiber art are: spinning , weaving & its various types, felting, needle felting, crochet, sewing , beadwork, , various methods of dyeing and printing including batik, tie-dye, natural dyeing; embroidery, appliqué, cutwork and other needle arts; mixed media, macramé & braiding, knotting, quilting, lacework, knitting and many more[4]. Each of these techniques has its own potential and challenge to express the ideas and emotion in an interesting and unique way.

The art of knitting is the technique in which loops of yarn are interlocked with the help of two or more needles to create the fabric. Originally, knitting was done with the help of single needle made of bone or wood, and was known as "nalebinding". Later it was done using two needles, which gradually moved to three and more. The earliest example of true knitting is a pair of knit socks found in Egypt, dating back to 1100 A.D. This evolution continued and the art of knitting has evolved from hand to machine method.[6]

However originally this craft & art was entirely limited to making socks and stockings .Since 1960s, knitting has been evolving as an art form, expanding and enriching the fiber art field. In early 1960, Mary Walker Philips (1924-2007) aspired to elevate the knitting domestic craft to the professional arena and thus became the first professional art knitter

in US. The number grew slowly during 1970s and 1980 in U.S, more rapidly in Europe & U.K. and many of the artists like Janet Lipkin, Jack Lenor Larsen, Arline Fisch, Rober Hillestad had explored knitting with a variety of materials and yarns to express their idea and showcased creativity in the form of wearable art, abstract knitted pieces as wall hangings, sculptures and installations. [7]

During the past decade, in the search of burgeoning ways to make life more meaningful, knitting has been re-establishing itself in people's everyday lives. More people are finding knitting a recreation and enjoying the hobby with their family. Knitting parties are also becoming popular in small and large communities around U.S and Canada. In past few years, the use of knitting for an aesthetic purpose expanded in US and UK and spread worldwide.

Hand knitting has become popular as "yarn bombing" (guerrilla knitting), graffiti or street art, which employs colourful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn or fibre rather than paint or chalk. The practice is believed to have originated in U.S. with Texas knitters trying to find a creative way to use their leftover and unfinished knitting projects. [8]

To provide with a snapshot of the current art knitting scene, I would like to mention the name of few artists, who have explored knitting's artistic potential since 1980's. Although regretfully I cannot include everyone who is doing exciting work in knitting, here [5] [7][9-12]

Some renowned US fiber artists using hand knitting to develop the contemporary art pieces are:

Kathryn Alexander: Kathryn Alexander is an internationally acclaimed US textile & fiber artist—a spinner, weaver, dyer, and knitter whose work is characterized by an abundance of color, richly textured surfaces, and whimsical designs.

Kathryn Cobey, Sculptural Knitter: Fiber artist Kathrine Cobey is an England based fiber artist. She uses spinning and knitting techniques and creates unique knitted sculptures pieces.

Barb Hunt is from Winnipeg and currently lives in Newfoundland. Her recent art practice has focussed on the rituals of mourning, and her current work is about the devastation of war: knitting antipersonnel land mines in pink wool.

Donna Lish is a textile artist who is widely known for her innovative, energetic, knit and

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beaded sculptures. A sought after teacher and lecturer, Lish lives and works in Clinton, New Jersey.

Karen Searle is a fiber artist specializing in knit and crochets sculptural works. Her artworks have been exhibited in the United States and abroad since the late 1970s. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

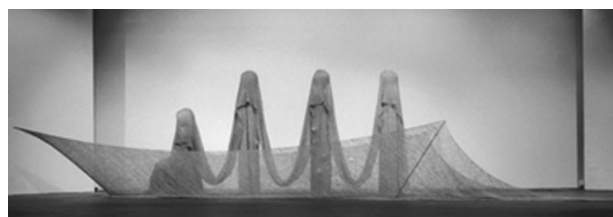
Some famous UK fiber artists using hand knitting to develop the contemporary art pieces are:

- » Fiber artist Kerry Mosley with hand knitted wire, creates both abstract and figurative wall hangings and framed pieces. His enduring interest is in the human form particularly portraiture.
- » Fiber artist Max Alexander is using hand knitting to create the sculpture form.
- » Ruth Lee is an associate lecturer at Cumbria Institute of the Arts (Carlisle, UK). She is a fibre artist, international tutor and writer and knitted textile designer. Ruth has participated in an exhibition for Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria, Australia spring 2007, and authored a book "contemporary Knitting for Textile Artists". Ruth is passionate about moving knit forward as a challenging relevant working method within contemporary fibre arts practice. Ruth's current body of work explores knit, stitch, print and off-loom techniques in a wide range of manmade and natural materials including paper yarn, wire, wool and basketry materials. Applications include small-scale wearables, knitting patterns for publications, exhibitions and site-specific fibre-arts work for exterior spaces.
- » Textile artist Patricia Bown is using knitting to create tactile contemporary art pieces for exhibition, installation and interior design. Her latest work centers on the versatility of recyclable and discarded materials.
- » Shane Waltener is a textile artist who is using the hand knitting for two and three dimensional art installation for public exhibition.
- » Sally Spinks works mainly with textiles including hand and machine knitting. Using predominately domestic materials she produces either installation works or sculptural pieces. Since graduating Sally has exhibited in UK and US and continues to develop her artistic practice in both knitting and other textile medium
- » Fine art background artist Françoise Dupré's using looping, and other techniques to makes

sculptures and installations. Françoise Dupré's textiles-based installations are conceived as portals for imagination through which artist, participants and public can articulate and engage with their multiple cultural and spatial experiences and celebrate becoming cosmopolitan subjects.

- » Steve Plummer: Steve Plummer was a maths teacher earlier for many years. Artist does mathematical knitting which is also known as illusion knitting & shadow knitting. (In illusion knitting a piece of work will look like alternate stripes of two different colors when viewed directly in front but when viewed at an angle a picture or pattern appears)
- » Inga Hamilton is driven by a life-long obsession with knit crafts. She spends her life travelling the globe, gathering textile and ceramic skills and applying them to unusual materials in order to create large installations and sculptures for galleries around the world. She has created blends for the people like late Alexander McQueen at Gucci. Joy and humour are always present in her work.
- » Houston artist Bill Davenport had created and exhibited crochet-covered objects in Houston in the 1990s. As per the Houston Press release, "Bill Davenport could be called the grand old man of Houston crocheted sculpture."

Dave is a contemporary sculpture artist who practised knitting as graffiti for a large-scale public art installation in Melbourne Australia for the Big West Arts Festival in 2009.



[Figure: 1] Katharine Cobey's knitted Boat with Four Figures
(source: <http://fiberartnow.net/kathryn-cobey-sculptural-knitter>)

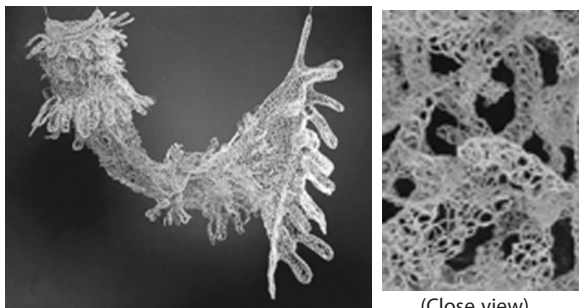


[Figure: 2] Antipersonnel – 1998 – ongoing – knitted yarn – variable dimensions (life-size replicas) by artist Barb Hunt
(source: <http://blog.sculpture.org/2015/01/28/barb-hunt-antipersonnel/>)

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[Figure: 3] How My Mother Dressed Me; Copper wire, hand knitting; 40" long x 18" wide x 20" high by artist Karen Searle (Source:<http://www.karensearle.com>)



[Figure: 4] Knitted Spirit Dress by Ruth Lee (Source:<http://www.ukhandknitting.com>)



[Figure: 5] Le Pachamama Cape (back view) 2014 by artist Inga Hamilton (Source:<http://www.ukhandknitting.com>)



[Figure: 6] Knitted portraiture by Kerry Mosley (Source:<http://www.ukhandknitting.com>)



[Figure: 7] Sally Spinks Random Acts Of Kindness (Source:<http://www.ukhandknitting.com>)



[Figure: 8] Installation Knitting Webs by Shane Waltener (Source:<http://www.ukhandknitting.com>)



[Figure: 9] Knitted Installation by Patricia Bown (Source:<http://www.ukhandknitting.com>)



(10a) Street Art Utopia Ellen (10b) Street Art Utopia by B-Arbeiten

[Figure: 10] Examples of Guerrilla Knitting (source: <http://restoremyfaithinhumanity.net>) [18]

According to an article "Threading Art" by Sandhya Bordewekar (2009) in Art & Deal

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magazine [13] and my research work, in India a major part of textile art actually deals with embroidery, weaving, painting dyeing and printing rather than actual fibers. The first person to have started using fibres (sutli, hemp /jute) to create contemporary art pieces ranging from painting to three dimensional sculptures and murals was late artist Mrinalini Mukherjee (1949–2015).[14][15] She had used natural fibers as medium with knotting and braiding techniques.

The next one was Ms. Nita Thakore who began using textiles – patchwork, stitching, embroidery, and quilting – as part of her 'paintings' in 1981 and has continued till date. Presently in addition to the above Dr. Nita is using various mix medium, quilting, tufting and relief technique stitching. In her current artwork she has incorporated flat weaving technique. When Nita made a work titled "Friends", the process led her to create one more visual dimension, making the 'painting' more of a sculpture. It reinforced her view that in textile art, one can go beyond coloured threads being colour lines and textured or printed cloth being the canvas. After having a dozen solo shows of Textile Art and participating in numerous group shows internationally, she has been more involved in the teaching of textile art, designing curriculum, being on jury panels, conducting workshops related to textiles and textile art at NID, Ahmedabad, NIFT campuses all over India, Pearl Academy of Fashion, Jaipur, Indian Institute of Craft & Design, Jaipur and so on. In 2001 she had started the Vadodara Centre for Contemporary Fibre and Textile Arts.

Artist and retired NID faculty, Errol Pires has used technique of braiding yarn which is known as ply-split braiding, since mid eighties and created many beautiful textiles.[16]

Fiber artist Parul Thacker started working with silk threads with a plain embroidery needle and created webs and interlaced patterns. Later she progressed to exploring other fibers and material like nylon monofilaments, acrylic tubes, paper yarn and created sculptures and three dimensional art pieces. Her trademark stitch is the angle stitch with which she creates a trail of triangles, sometimes knotting crystals and minerals into the fibres to create the contours of a rugged landscape.

The popular textile and fiber artist Gopika Nath is inspired to embroider, rather than paint

on canvas. She believes that Textile Art is a key element in defining the future of India's hand-crafting legacy. Working with needle and thread, exhibiting her work as an artist/ craftsperson in the environs of the Art Gallery, she hopes to be able to lend dignity to the notion of hand-crafting as 'Art', elevating it beyond mere skilled labour, as it is largely considered today.[17]

In addition to these artists, there are a number of others such as Shatrughan Thakur, Lavanya Mani, Delhi based Ranjith Raman, Manish Nai from Mumbai, Kruti Thacker Gupta from Saurashtra; Gujrat, Pravena Mahicha Soni, Ahmedabad-based senior weaver-artist R.P Rajen, artist & faculty of NIFT prof. Kripal Mathur, Smiriti Dixit, Boshudhara Mukherjee, Nilima Sheikh, Hemali Bhuta from Baroda and others who are also experimenting with textiles in an interesting way. But I did not come across anyone, who is using knitting as a technique for fiber art in India.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out with the key objectives – to explore the current scenario of knitting art in India so as to document the artefacts and to explore the potential of knitting as a medium for self expression. The following methods were adopted to achieve the above objectives.

1. Existing literature from various books, magazines and websites has been reviewed and analysed.
2. India's renowned Baroda based textile artist Dr. Nita Thakore was interviewed over the telephone.
3. A survey was conducted in NIFT Hyderabad among the students of 2nd year Knitwear Design dept. A questionnaire was structured with close and open ended questions and a judgemental sampling method was used, keeping in mind that it might be more appropriate to judge the awareness level of knitwear students as they are studying the knitting and related subject and their awareness level might be little better than others. Also it was felt that, since they have already been taught the basics of knitting and exposed to development of various structures, they might be the right people to comment on the potential of knitting technique as a medium for fiber art. However the students from 3rd year onwards are exposed to the related topics, therefore they were not included in the sample.

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A total of 30 respondents were selected and collected data was analysed using percentage method.

Findings

As per the information shared by Dr. Nita Thakore during her telephonic interview, where she has thrown some light on the present scenario of Indian contemporary art.

In India the textile and fiber art has now slowly started making its presence. The artist who is having affair with the art and wants to use fibres and textiles to create the various art forms has the endless heritage backlog to experiment, innovate and create with its strongly rooted varied traditional and cultural textiles in woven, knitted, dyed, printed, patch work, embroidered with the use of different type of thread, mirror work etc.

However in India, very few artists are following textiles and fiber art practices as a medium for self expression as compared to western artists, where its use is countless in the contemporary art scene. Here only the artists who are passionate about doing differently are following it. Since most of the artists are working independently, the recognition is very less and as such there are few formal galleries to showcase and support the work of fiber artists.

Fiber art as a style of art is not being included in the curriculum of most of the art and design colleges, therefore its movement at the institutional level is lacking as a result the art & design students are least aware of its use to express the idea & art.

According to Nita Thakore, the present scenario of textile and fiber art is not as serious and up to the mark, as it could have been in a country like India, which is very rich in terms of its diverse heritage of textiles. Although, presently artists have started exploring and working with a wide range of materials from paper to metal by incorporating various techniques of fiber art but the use of different handmade textiles of woven art, incorporating various surface ornamentation techniques such as embroidery, patchwork, dyeing and printing etc. is very less. Only very few artists, who have affair with fiber, fabric and its components, are following fiber as a medium to express art, and there is no one who is using knitting as a technique for fine art in India. Although she has stated that knitting as a technique has a vast potential to create art forms and further could be explored like western

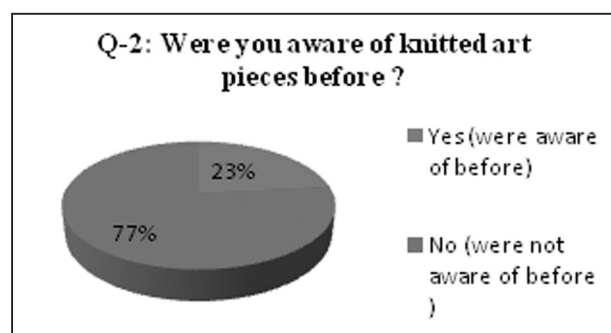
countries. She has also mentioned that this is the time when each one of us, all art lovers should take a necessary step forward to spread awareness of textile & fiber art and India should lead the fiber art movement of 21st century.

A survey was undertaken to understand the awareness level of people and also to explore the potential of knitting as a technique for fiber art. Where a questionnaire was prepared with close & open ended questions and the total of 30 students of knitwear stream were interviewed. Since the students were aware of knitting, therefore directly they were asked the following questions.



[Figure: 11]

On being asked that in what form you see the use of knitting, around 87% people said that they generally see its use in the form of functional clothing such as apparel and accessories. And very few people around 13% responded that they had seen its use in both clothing and art form and not even a single person mentioned that they had seen its use only in art form. Although it is a fact that knitting has always been seen as a technique to create the functional cloths and not the art pieces. But on the other hand this is a clear indication that its use as an art form has never been explored to the limit it could have been to bring to the notice of people as an art technique in India.



[Figure: 12]

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Majority of the people approx 77% were not aware of use of knitting in fine art pieces before. However 23% were aware of the knitted art pieces and out of which 13% have already answered in previous question that they had seen the use of knitting in art pieces. Hence the remaining 10% might have been aware of the use of knitting as a technique for art but they have not seen its use here.

On the question: what is your comment on the potential of knitting as a technique for fiber art: almost all the respondents have supported and described very positively about the potential of knitting as a technique for fiber art. However only few have been mentioned here as describing all of them is not possible.

To quote a few...

"Knitting makes the art look more aesthetically appealing and hence it shall be practised in our beautiful Indian culture".

"It is an innovative approach and I have never perceived knits in the form of an art piece, it would be great to see creativity in the use of knits".

"Knitting as a technique itself is an art and its expression as art piece has great potential to surprise the world".

Also I personally feel that compared to other fabric construction techniques, knitting is very versatile and many innovative structures, surfaces and forms can be created through it.

Conclusion

Based on this study and analysis it can be concluded that in India knitting, a practical and creative craft still remains a hobby of womenfolk and it is practised only for the functional aspect of clothing and apparel like sweaters, gloves, caps and socks. However the foreign artists, who use knitting to create contemporary art offers us a platform to think, create, grow and develop this technique in to an expression of art. Although textile and fiber art has also now started making its presence in India, but during my study I did not come across to any artist who is using knitting as an art technique for self-expression and aesthetic purpose. This shows people are least aware of the use of knitting in the art forms. Hence being a knit & art lover, with due hope my idea to choose such topic with the aim to introduce knitting as an art technique in India may widen its awareness among people.

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EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

Textiles mfg adversely impacted as West Asian conflict drives up crude, input costs

India's textile sector production frayed in March across key segments such as readymade garments, blended fabric and cotton-based goods amid increasing input costs and crude oil prices in the wake of the Iran war.

Textile manufacturing contracted 3.6% year-on-year during the month, while apparel production plunged 14.6%.

Manufacturers said raw material costs rose in the past one month, with cotton yarn prices up 20%, polymers used in packaging costlier by 50%, paper prices up 10% and dyes and chemicals prices rising 40%.

"West Asia is a big sector for India and many shipments were held up in April. Moreover, there is huge inflation in raw material, besides a shortage in gas. The whole chain has slowed down because of that," said Sanjay K Jain, chairman, ICC National Textile Committee.

Ranjan Sharma, senior director, CareEdge Ratings, said the conflict is impacting the sector through logistics disruptions, higher freight and war-risk insurance costs, and rising oil-linked input prices, all of which have increased landed costs and tightened working capital.

The textile and apparel industry contributes 2.3% to India's gross domestic product (GDP) and 13% to industrial production.

"Shipping issues because of the war impacted exports of most segments of textile and apparel industry," an official said on condition of anonymity, adding that stakeholder consultations are on to understand and deal with the impact of the crisis.

Volatile crude prices amid geopolitical tensions are likely to keep margins under pressure and constrain output.

"If the conflict persists, the sector could face a double squeeze from weaker domestic discretionary consumption and softer export demand, alongside rising input, conversion and freight costs. Accordingly, the near-term outlook remains cautious," said Sharma.

Within the textile segment, polyester/viscose blended fabric production contracted 13.1% in March. Cotton-based categories also recorded a decline. □

India will get concessional duty benefits from US; no extra benefit to Bangladesh

India will get concessional duty access for garments made using American yarn and cotton under its trade agreement with the US, similar to the benefits currently provided to Bangladesh, once the proposed interim trade agreement between New Delhi and Washington is signed, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said recently.

"Whatever Bangladesh has got, India will also get the same in the final agreement," Goyal said on the sidelines of a startup event in the capital of late. India and the US have finalised a framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement that's likely to be implemented in March.

Indian companies that procure yarn from the US to make garments and re-export these back will get duty-free access, just like Bangladeshi companies, he said. That's part of the US-Bangladesh agreement and "will be in our agreement also," Goyal said, adding that it will not have any impact on Indian cotton farmers.

The US has limited cotton production, its exports amount to \$5 billion. For India, the target is \$50 billion, he noted. "Just as Bangladesh has a facility that if raw material is purchased from American, then if you process it and make cloth and export it, then it will be available at zero reciprocal tariff, India also has the same facility and India will also get it," the minister said. "Right now, our framework agreement is being made. When the interim agreement is finalised, then you will get to see this in the fine print." □

Raw cotton import dents apparel sector's competitiveness

Import duty on cotton should be withdrawn to help Indian mills access competitively priced raw material and compete on par with textile manufacturers in other Asian economies that enjoy duty-free access to global cotton, according to a latest industry study on the cotton sector.

"A stable and predictable policy is imperative to allow the mills to sustain their operations and fulfil market demand. There is a need to withdraw the import duty on cotton and allow mills to have access to cotton at competitive prices," the study, released by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), said.

The report, jointly prepared by consulting firm Gherzi and the International Cotton Advisory

EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

Committee (ICAC), noted that India's Asian competitors import cotton duty-free. "The import duty put India at a significant disadvantage," it said.

India's textile and apparel exports fell 2.2 per cent year-on-year in dollar terms to \$35.79 billion in FY26.

Ministries Divided

The Textiles Ministry has been pushing for removal of the 11 per cent import duty on raw cotton, which was reinstated earlier this year, to support garment production and exports.

However, the Agriculture Ministry has withheld its consent and is consulting industry and farmer groups to ensure that growers' interests are protected.

The Textiles Ministry has also proposed a temporary removal of the duty during the lean domestic cotton season.

The issue is currently under discussion among the Ministries of Textiles, Finance and Agriculture.

The Gherzi-ICAC report also recommended that an institutional mechanism be set up to stabilise cotton prices and reduce speculative volatility across the value chain.

"A Cotton Price Stabilisation Fund scheme with 5 per cent interest subvention may be considered to mitigate working capital during peak season for cotton procured during November-March," it said.

Cotton Reserve

Drawing from cotton reserve policies in countries such as China, the report suggested that the Cotton Corporation of India maintain a strategic reserve equivalent to about three months of consumption to cushion market volatility. □

Tiruppur textile industry call for zero duty on cotton imports

The Apparel Export Promotion Council, on behalf of the Tiruppur textile cluster, urged the Union government to reduce cotton import duty to zero from 11 per cent, warning that a widening domestic supply gap could hurt India's textile exports and employment generation.

Recently, a team from the Tiruppur knitwear cluster, along with the council's Chairman A Sakthivel and TEA President KM Subramanian, met Commerce Ministry Piyush Goyal, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh, and urged them to reduce the import duty on cotton.

Access to cotton

The delegation stated that a reduction in import duty on cotton was essential to help the

Indian apparel industry secure greater business opportunities from free trade agreement partner countries and enhance India's competitiveness in the global market.

The industry representatives highlighted that neighbouring competing countries enjoy better access to competitively priced raw materials, enabling them to offer more competitive pricing in international markets.

The Tiruppur knitwear cluster accounts for nearly 68 per cent of India's knitwear exports.

The Council said the textile industry's cotton requirement in 2025-26 was around 337 lakh bales, while cotton arrivals were estimated at only 292.15 lakh bales, creating a shortfall of nearly 45 lakh bales. The shortage had increased pressure on spinning mills and downstream textile units due to limited availability of quality cotton and rising input costs, the Council said.

The Tiruppur cluster recorded knitwear exports of more than ₹44,747 crore in FY25 and domestic business of around ₹2.3 lakh crore.

The ecosystem includes around 2,500 exporters, 2,000 domestic players and over 20,000 standalone units spanning the entire textile value chain from fibre to garments.

Industry representatives said India's recent free trade agreements are expected to create fresh export opportunities for textile and apparel manufacturers, but sustained raw material shortages could weaken competitiveness in global markets. They argued that duty-free cotton imports would help the industry meet rising export commitments and take advantage of new trade agreements.

The industry also maintained that reducing cotton import duty would not adversely affect farmers because domestic cotton demand remains strong and the minimum support price mechanism continues to protect growers.

It noted that textile mills do not procure cotton below MSP levels. The association said lowering import duty would help safeguard employment, support the textile value chain and strengthen India's position in global apparel exports. □

National Mission aims to promote textile exports

A clutch of coordinated budget initiatives would help India build the necessary scale to tap into the textile opportunities arising from multiple free trade agreements (FTA), industry executives told reporters.

EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

These budget initiatives are: The National Fibre Mission for self-reliance in special-use fibres, Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative to promote handloom and handicrafts, National Handloom and Handicrafts Programme to integrate existing schemes, and a Textile Eco Initiative for sustainable textiles and garments. Last year, India signed trade deals with the UK, Oman and New Zealand. The FTA with the EU, for which negotiations concluded recently, is likely to come into effect this year and seen to cushion some impact of the US' 50% tariffs which have impacted the country's exports.

"The announcements related to textile and clothing industry are towards capacity building to make industry ready to capitalise the huge opportunities that are expected to open due to recent FTAs signed," said Sanjay K Jain, ICC National Textile Comm Chairn. The integrated programme to boost textiles announced in the budget has also proposed to set up Mega Textile Parks in mission mode besides the upgraded skilling programme Samarth 2.0 to modernise the textile skill ecosystem. □

Textile exports marginally increase to 2% in FY26 on weak rupee

The textile sector displayed resilience in FY26 in the backdrop of steep US tariffs and the West Asia crisis.

Exports rose 2.1 per cent to ₹3.16 lakh crore, compared with ₹3.09 lakh crore in FY25, said the Textiles Ministry.

However, in dollar terms, exports declined 2.2 per cent, indicating pressure on real earnings, according to industry sources.

Export growth was recorded across more than 120 destinations, including the UAE, the UK, Germany, Spain and Japan, underscoring sustained global demand and India's competitiveness across product segments.

The Ministry of Textiles attributed the performance to steady demand and policy support measures, such as export facilitation and remission schemes.

Ready-made garments continued to lead exports, growing 2.9 per cent to ₹1.39 lakh crore from ₹1.35 lakh crore. Cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products remained largely stable at ₹1.02 lakh crore, registering a marginal growth of 0.4 per cent.

Man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups posted a stronger increase of 3.6 per cent to ₹42,687.8 crore.

Among the value-added segments, handicrafts (excluding handmade carpets) saw the highest growth, rising 6.1 per cent to ₹15,855 crore.

Drop in \$ terms

However, Ajay Srivastava, Founder, Global Trade Research Initiative, cautioned that the growth was largely "optical".

While exports increased 2.1 per cent in rupee terms, they fell 2.2 per cent in dollar terms — from \$36.6 billion to \$35.8 billion — implying lower real earnings from global markets. Across segments, the pattern remained consistent: Cotton (-3.9 per cent), garments (-1.4 per cent), carpets (-5.3 per cent) and jute (-6.9 per cent) all declined in dollar terms, even as the rupee values showed mild gains.

Rupee Value Dips

"This gap is not a sign of strength but of currency effect — rupee depreciation inflating domestic values without improving export competitiveness," Srivastava said, warning that India is losing ground in labour-intensive sectors and that deeper structural reforms are needed.

According to Aniket Dani, Director, Crisil Intelligence, Indian garment exports managed to defy expectations despite the imposition of a 50 per cent reciprocal tariff by the US.

The sector also stepped up diversification, expanding exports into non-traditional destinations such as Malaysia, Nigeria and Brazil. Progress on India's Free Trade Agreement agenda during 2025-26 is expected to have positive implications for the sector, the government statement noted. □

India succeeds in obtaining full tariff access in NZ trade deal

India secured duty-free access under a free trade agreement (FTA) with New Zealand, signed of late, covering 100% of tariff lines, in a move set to boost exports from labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather and processed foods. New Delhi, meanwhile, opted for a calibrated liberalisation schedule, cutting tariffs immediately on about 30% of lines, phasing reductions on a further 35.6%, and shielding sensitive areas including dairy and key farm products.

The FTA is being touted as a "once-in-a-generation" and "landmark" pact.

For the second time in a trade deal, India has secured a foreign direct investment (FDI) commitment of \$20 billion over 15 years. A similar commitment of \$100 billion was made by the four-nation European bloc EFTA in its pact with India.

EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the FTA would greatly benefit farmers, youth, women, MSMEs, artisans, start-ups, students and innovators.

"The investment commitment of \$20 billion by New Zealand will further strengthen our cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, innovation and technology, paving the way for a more prosperous and dynamic future for both countries," Modi said in a social media post.

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay signed the agreement in New Delhi.

"Today, the Indian Ocean feels a little smaller... As two nations that love cricket, this FTA is our shared pitch. Today, we open a new innings together," Goyal said, adding that the negotiations were conducted without rancour, disagreement or difficult moments, and in a "good spirit of accommodation".

Describing the FTA as a "once-in-a-generation agreement", New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said it would provide exporters with unprecedented access to 1.4 billion people and to an economy set to become the world's third-largest.

Concluded in December after about nine months of talks, the pact is among India's fastest trade deals and aims to double bilateral trade in goods and services to \$5 billion in five years. It is expected to be implemented by the end of this year, subject to approval by the New Zealand Parliament. In India, trade pacts require approval from the Union Cabinet.

Total bilateral trade in goods and services stood at \$2.4 billion in 2024.

India's exports include aviation fuel, pharmaceuticals, motor vehicles, petroleum products, readymade garments and machinery, while imports comprise wood and wood products, iron and steel, raw wool, dairy products, scrap metals, coal and farm-linked inputs.

McClay, who is leading a 40-member delegation, said the pact is a high-quality FTA that reduces friction, provides certainty, sets clear rules and makes it easier for businesses to build relationships.

"Investment will flow in many ways from the areas agreed under the FTA... to help increase production and productivity in horticulture and several other sectors over time," McClay said, adding that products from New Zealand and India

could be combined and then exported to other countries in the region, reflecting how "modern trade agreements work".

Products kept in the exclusion list include dairy, animal products (other than sheep meat), agricultural goods, sugar, artificial honey, animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils, arms and ammunition, gems and jewellery and copper and aluminium articles.

India will provide duty-free access to several goods from New Zealand, including wooden logs, coking coal, metal waste and scrap, wood, sheep meat and raw hides.

On the pact's provisions for promoting bilateral cooperation in financial services, including digital payments, Goyal said: "It is a very complex process to align the two systems... but the long-term benefits, particularly lower remittance costs and reduced conversion and exchange rate losses, will be significant, providing a major boost to competitiveness and potential trade growth."

Reiterating that India has not opened its dairy sector, Goyal said: "Having said that, we are also keen to encourage exports. Under our foreign trade policy, any product meant for re-export can be brought into India, processed or value-added, and then exported, but not sold in the domestic market."

India's gains

New Zealand products that will see tariff reductions include wine, pharmaceutical products, polymers, aluminium, and iron and steel articles.

On certain products such as Manuka honey, apples, kiwifruit and albumins (including milk albumin), New Delhi has offered quota-based duty concessions with a minimum import price and other safeguards, ensuring quality imports and consumer choice while protecting domestic farmers. □

As cotton prices surge, textile industry seeks removal of 11 per cent duty on imports

As domestic cotton prices continue to rise tracking global clues, a worried textile industry has urged the government to allow duty-free imports of the fibre crop to safeguard export competitiveness and stabilise the value chain.

Cotton prices have been climbing steadily in recent weeks, putting pressure across the textile

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ecosystem — from spinning mills to garment exporters. Industry stakeholders warn that the sustained price surge is eroding margins, particularly for exporters operating on long-term contracts with limited flexibility to absorb input cost increases.

“Cotton price increase will definitely affect the whole value chain because it is rising steeply day by day,” said K Selvaraju, Secretary General of The Southern India Mills Association (SIMA), highlighting that garments, which rely on fabric inputs, are especially vulnerable due to the absence of sufficient price cushioning.

Facing Headwinds

The timing of the cotton price rally is particularly challenging as India’s textile exports are already facing headwinds due to geopolitical disruptions, including the ongoing tensions in West Asia that have affected demand in key markets. While yarn exports have remained relatively stable, supported by demand from China, the broader export segment is under strain.

Spinning mills, for now, have managed to sustain operations despite elevated cotton prices. However, if the trend continues, even this segment could face disruptions, Selvaraju said, adding that there was a dearth of quality cotton in the country. The untimely rains last year damaged more than half the cotton crop, resulting in quality issues. As a result, the mills are not only grappling with tight supplies but also limited availability of quality cotton.

Selvaraju said cotton production is around 290 lakh bales, lower than the domestic requirement of around 330 lakh bales.

To bridge the gap, the industry is calling for the removal of the 11 per cent import duty on cotton from May till October, a window that would cover the lean supply period before fresh arrivals begin. □

Textile exports decline 2.2% in 2025-26: GTRI

The country’s textiles and garment exports fell 2.2% to \$35.8 billion in 2025-26 due to contraction in shipments of key segments such as cotton, GTRI said recently.

In rupee terms too, the exports fell 2.1% during the last fiscal.

GTRI said the declining pattern is visible across major segments — cotton textiles (–3.9%), ready-made garments (–1.4%), and carpets (–5.3%). Only handicrafts grew slightly by 1.5% during the fiscal.

The contrast between rupee and dollar growth highlights a deeper structural concern, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

Its founder Ajay Srivastava said India is exporting more in value terms domestically, but earning fewer dollars globally.

For instance, man-made textiles show a 3.6% rise in rupee but a 0.8% decline in dollar terms, and garments show a 2.9% rupee increase despite a 1.4% dollar contraction, he said.

This suggests that currency depreciation and not competitiveness is behind the apparent growth, he said adding in real terms, India is losing market share of failing to expand in key global markets, particularly in labour-intensive sectors where it should be gaining ground.

He added this “raises a critical policy question: why are ongoing reforms not translating into export growth? Despite initiatives on production-linked incentives, logistics improvements, and trade facilitation, the data shows stagnation or decline in core segments. □

Govt all set to impose cotton import duty

The government is in an “advanced stage of consultation” regarding the 11% customs duty on imports of raw cotton, and examining if the levy can be removed, with a decision expected soon, a senior official said.

Ministries, including finance, textiles and agriculture, are deliberating on the duty, with the textile industry seeking its removal to mitigate cost pressures on domestic companies due to high prices.

“We are talking to finance and agriculture (ministries), both, and it is in an advanced stage of consultation. We hope that the consultation will be finalised in the near future,” the official added.

A delegation comprising apparel industry representatives and exporters met vice president CP Radhakrishnan and several ministers recently and sought the removal of the duty.

The delegation argued that the textile industry’s cotton requirement for the current year is projected at around 337 lakh bales, whereas cotton arrivals for the 2025-26 season are estimated at 292.15 lakh bales, resulting in a supply demand gap of nearly 45 lakh bales.

It said this shortage is putting pressure on spinning mills and downstream textile manufacturers due to the limited availability of high-quality raw materials and rising input costs. ■

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New Balance Celebrates Grey Days 2026 to India

The celebration included the launch of New Balance's new retail concept store alongside ambassadors Pat Cummins & Janhvi Kapoor

New Balance celebrated Grey Days 2026 with the launch of its first New Retail Concept store at DLF Mall of India, Noida, alongside ambassadors Janhvi Kapoor and Pat Cummins. A global celebration of the brand's signature colour, Grey Days honours the timeless influence of grey — from its origins as a practical choice for runners to its evolution as a defining expression of New Balance's heritage, craftsmanship, and independent spirit.



The New Retail Concept store introduces a new chapter in New Balance's retail journey in India— blending the performance and lifestyle universe together through an elevated retail environment designed around product discovery, community, and brand storytelling.



Positioned at the intersection of sports & culture, New Balance brought together its ambassadors in a neighbourhood-inspired setup which featured an engaging fireside chat & an interactive cricket session with the ambassadors—creating a moment that felt both personal and culturally relevant.

Pat Cummins, Australian cricketer and New Balance ambassador, added, "I'm delighted to be a part of the Grey Days celebrations in India. Grey has always been New Balance's signature colour and it is exciting to see the brand bringing this to life in India - creating spaces where sport, style, and community come together in a very natural way."



Stuart Henwood, Senior Director, New Balance, Middle East, Africa & India, said, "Grey Days is a celebration of everything New Balance stands for - timeless design, craftsmanship, and an independent spirit that has defined the brand for decades. As we expand across the MEAI region, our focus remains on creating authentic, meaningful experiences that connect our consumers to the essence of New Balance."

Speaking about the campaign and the store launch, actress and New Balance ambassador Janhvi Kapoor said, "Grey Days celebrates what I personally love about New Balance —its quiet confidence and its ability to stay true to itself while continuing to evolve. It feels great being a part of this celebration that honours the brand's legacy, timeless design, & brings together the entire New Balance community across the globe."



Radeshwer Davar, Country Manager, New Balance India, said, "The launch of our New Retail Concept store at DLF Mall of India, Noida marks an important milestone in New Balance's retail expansion journey in the country. As we

New Balance Celebrates Grey Days 2026 to India

continue to strengthen our retail presence, our focus remains on delivering elevated and immersive consumer experiences. Celebrating this milestone with our ambassadors during Grey Days makes it particularly special and reflects the growing momentum of the brand in India."



About New Balance

New Balance, headquartered in Boston, MA, has the following purpose: Independent

since 1906, we empower people through sport and craftsmanship to create positive change in communities around the world. New Balance employs 14,000 associates around the globe, and in 2025 reported worldwide sales of \$9.2 billion. New Balance owns five athletic footwear factories in New England and one in Flimby, U.K. New Balance MADE U.S. footwear contains a domestic value of 70% or more and makes up a limited portion of New Balance's U.S. sales. To learn more about New Balance, please visit newbalance.com; for the latest press information visit newbalance.newsmarket.com

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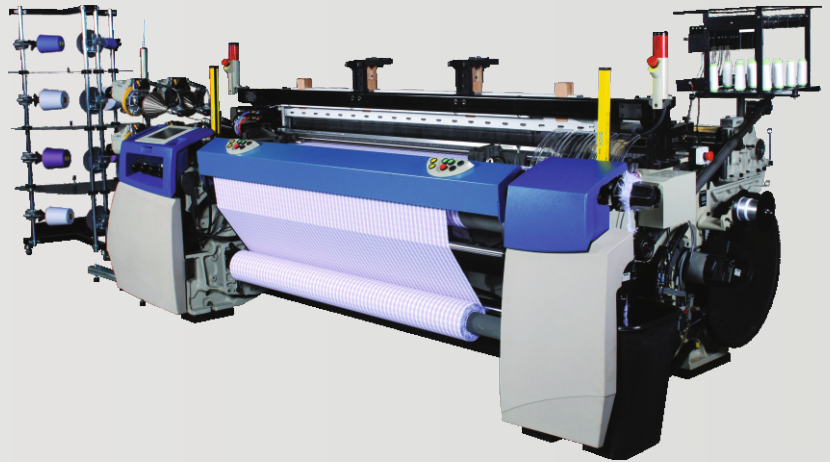
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VIRGIO Unveils its first ever boldest drop: The Devil Approved Drop

Iconic fashion moments, reimagined for a new-age sustainable wardrobe

VIRGIO, the trailblazer in sustainable fashion known for crafting high-quality, sustainable pieces with precision and purpose, unveils its boldest drop yet: Devil Approved Drop. A collection that distills the spirit of fashion's most unforgettable cinematic wardrobe from Devil Wears Prada into a modern, unapologetic edit for today's dresser.

Drawing from the sharp, transformative style arcs of iconic on-screen characters, the collection reimagines power dressing through a contemporary lens. Think razor-tailored silhouettes, commanding structures, and timeless stripe narratives that echo authority and evolution. Each piece captures that defining moment when style becomes identity, decisive, self-assured, and impossible to ignore. This is fashion that speaks before you do.

Crafted the VIRGIO way, the collection seamlessly blends statement-making design with conscious creation. The result is a wardrobe that feels exclusive, intentional, and aligned with the future of fashion.

With inclusive sizing extending up to 6XL, The Devil Wears VIRGIO expands the narrative of power dressing, ensuring it belongs to every body, every scale, and every expression of individuality. Besides pushing the boundaries of innovation, VIRGIO also integrates AI-led cataloguing to streamline design, production, and delivery, reinforcing its position as a new-age brand redefining how fashion is imagined, experienced, and owned in India.

"The Devil Approved Drop is our interpretation of power dressing for today, where iconic fashion moments are reengineered through the lens of high-fashion, sustainability, technology, and inclusivity. We are not just creating clothes; we are building a system where style is decisive, responsible, and made to belong to everyone." — Amar Nagaram, Co-Founder, VIRGIO.



Extending the experience beyond the wardrobe, VIRGIO brings the collection to life through a cinematic launch. A fashion ad film inspired by The Devil Wears Prada will premiere in theatres across seven cities, Bangalore, Delhi NCR, Pune, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Surat, starting 1st May, 2026. This immersive rollout transforms fashion into storytelling, inviting audiences to not just wear the collection, but step into its world.

Devil Approved is more than a collection. It's a declaration, bold, conscious, and designed to be seen.

Available exclusively at virgio.com starting 1st May, 2026.

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Linen Club, the house of the Aditya Birla launches campaign 'Passion for Pure'

Linen Club, the premium linen fabric & linen apparel brand from the House of the Aditya Birla Group, has announced Saif Ali Khan and Ibrahim Ali Khan as their brand ambassadors. In a landmark first, the iconic father-son duo comes together for their first-ever joint brand collaboration, a pairing as rare and refined as the pure linen fabrics they represent. This strategic coup marks a significant milestone in Linen Club's brand journey, one that builds on decades of heritage and craftsmanship while boldly stepping into a new chapter of growth with the new brand positioning 'Passion for Pure'.

The 'Passion for Pure' campaign is built on a dual-consumer strategy that reflects the evolving preferences of today's audience, with linen clothing increasingly embraced across age groups and occasions. Saif Ali Khan, a man who wears linen in real life as naturally as he carries his legacy, embodies the refined, effortless sophistication of a true connoisseur. He represents modern-day royalty: heritage worn stylishly and, and class expressed effortlessly. Ibrahim Ali Khan, the younger Khan making his own mark, brings a fresh, dynamic perspective, proving that linen clothing is desired by younger audiences equally, with rising affluence levels and aspirational living. Together, they make the case that linen belongs to every generation, every wardrobe, every moment of passionate men seeking a distinctive fashion statement.

CORPORATE NEWS

At the heart of this collaboration is a cinematic brand film that brings the 'Passion for Pure' philosophy of brand Linen Club to life. Drawing a parallel between the transformation of flax into linen and the shaping of individual identity through passion lived with purity, the film finds its emotional core in the real father-son bond between Saif and Ibrahim. The film unfolds like a candid moment captured between father and son wherein the father imparts life lessons with the spirit of a mentor and a friend invested in his son's journey, to show him that when life is lived with passion to discover its every shade, and the belief to stitch your own path, the true self comes to the fore, making everything in life effortless, much like linen fabric.



Commenting on the association, Mr. Kapil Agrawal, Business Head – Textiles, Acrylic Fibre & Overseas Spinning, said, "Linen Club has earned its leadership in the premium linen category through an unrelenting commitment to product excellence, craft integrity, and a deep reverence for the fabric itself. The association with Saif and Ibrahim Ali Khan is a statement of intent. Linen Club from the house of Aditya Birla Group is India's most trusted name in premium linen, and this campaign reflects our belief that the best stories, like the best fabrics, are built over time."

Adding to this, Mr. Jasvinder Singh Kataria, CEO – Domestic Textiles, Grasim Industries Limited, said, "Our new brand positioning 'Passion for Pure' takes forward our passionate DNA with a new dimension of purity, celebrating our craftsmanship, our integrity and our truth, to resonate deeper with the discerning linen consumer and reasserts our leadership in a rapidly evolving competitive landscape. Saif and Ibrahim Ali Khan are not just brand ambassadors; they are the embodiment of what Linen Club represents, a legacy that is classic, aspirational, and unmistakably Indian."

With this campaign, Linen Club reinforces its leadership in the Indian premium linen market, a brand with deep roots and a sharp, contemporary edge. 'Passion for Pure' is more than a tagline; it is a declaration of the brand's belief that true style is never accidental. It is earned, refined, and passed on, much like linen itself.

About Linen Club:

Linen Club from the house of Aditya Birla Group, is India's premier linen fabric and apparel brand, known for pioneering the premium linen category in the country. With a legacy rooted in craftsmanship, innovation, and quality, the brand offers an extensive range of pure linen and linen-blended fabrics, apparel, and accessories that blend timeless elegance with contemporary style. Backed by world-class manufacturing and a strong retail presence across India, Linen Club continues to redefine sophisticated living for the modern consumer through its commitment to authenticity, comfort, and refined luxury.

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Juicy Couture rolls out New Retail Destination in Hyderabad, Reinforcing India Expansion Strategy

Juicy Couture, the iconic global lifestyle brand known for its glamorous and playful take on everyday fashion, has launched its newest retail store at Lake Shore Mall, Kukatpally, Hyderabad. The new store brings the internationally renowned, Los Angeles-based fashion brand to one of South India's most vibrant and fast-evolving cities.

Located in the popular Lake Shore Mall, the store offers an immersive shopping experience that reflects Juicy Couture's signature blend of casual luxury, glamorous lifestyle, and bold fashion statements. Shoppers can explore an exclusive assortment of the brand's iconic velour suits,

trendforward tees and tanks, stylish handbags, and other lifestyle products tailored for an aspirational lifestyle. The debut in Hyderabad underscores the brand's commitment to connecting directly with the metropolitan consumer base through a meticulously curated retail environment that blends global trends with the city's evolving fashion sensibilities.



Commenting on the launch, Abhinav Kumar, Co-founder, Brand Concepts Limited, said: "Juicy Couture continues to resonate strongly with fashion-forward consumers in India who appreciate brands that blend style with individuality. Hyderabad is a vibrant and fast-evolving retail market, and we are excited to further strengthen the brand's presence while bringing Juicy Couture's distinctive aesthetic closer to customers in the city."



The debut marks a significant milestone in Juicy Couture's expansion in India, reflecting the brand's continued focus on bringing premium international fashion to key markets across the country. The launch introduces Juicy Couture's signature aesthetic and globally celebrated collections to Hyderabad's growing community of style-conscious consumers.

With this launch, Brand Concepts Limited continues to strengthen its role in expanding the presence of leading global fashion brands in India. As the official partner of Authentic Brands Group for Juicy Couture in the country, Brand Concepts Ltd. is focused on growing the brand's reach across apparel, handbags, accessories, and travel gear, making its distinctive style accessible to a wider audience of Indian consumers.

For More Information:

Juicy Couture & Brand Concepts Limited

Website: <https://www.juicycouture.in/>

Website: <https://www.brandconcepts.in/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/juicycouture.india/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/brand-concepts-ltd/?originalSubdomain=in>

About Juicy Couture

Juicy Couture is an LA lifestyle brand infused with casual glamour and an irreverent attitude, designed for fashion-forward consumers across the globe. Embracing its Los Angeles heritage, the brand discovers the couture in the everyday and delivers an element of surprise through its distinctive designs. Identified as a casual luxury label, Juicy Couture offers a versatile portfolio including apparel, iconic velour tracksuits, trend-led tees and tanks, handbags, and other lifestyle accessories. With a global presence, the brand is available in 14 freestanding stores and select department stores across approximately 94 countries.

About Brand Concepts Ltd

Founded in 2007, Brand Concepts Ltd. is a prominent Indian omnichannel retail leader specializing in the design, manufacturing, and distribution of premium fashion accessories, travel gear, and lifestyle products. With a robust portfolio of international licensed brands such as Tommy Hilfiger, Off-White, Juicy Couture, United Colors of Benetton, SuperDry, Aeropostale and its own proprietary labels like The Vertical and Sugarush. Brand Concepts Ltd. has firmly established itself as a key player in the Indian retail industry, operating through extensive retail networks and leading e-commerce platforms.

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CORPORATE NEWS

Oerlikon successfully announced placement of CHF 200 million senior unsecured bonds

OC Oerlikon Corporation AG, Pfäffikon ("Oerlikon") recently announced the successful placement of a senior unsecured bonds: CHF 200 million due in May 2031 (the "Bonds"). The proceeds of the Bonds will be used for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of outstanding debt. The Bonds has attracted broad investor demand.

The coupon has been set at 2.125% per annum for the Bonds, payable annually on May 29 with the first coupon payable on May 29, 2027.

An application for the Bonds to be admitted for listing and trading on the SIX Swiss Exchange will be filed, with provisional trading expected to commence on or around May 27, 2026. Settlement date of the Bonds is expected on May 29, 2026.

Commerzbank, Bank J. Safra Sarasin, UBS Investment Bank and Zürcher Kantonalbank acted as the Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners on the offering.

About Oerlikon

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is a global leader in surface technologies and advanced materials. With a unique portfolio spanning surface engineering, high-performance materials, coating equipment and components, we make products better by enhancing performance, efficiency and sustainability. Oerlikon serves a wide range of industries, including aerospace, automotive, energy, medical, luxury, semiconductors and tooling. Headquartered in Pfäffikon, Switzerland, Oerlikon operates in 38 countries with approximately 9,300 employees, achieving sales of CHF 1.6 billion in 2025.

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bluesign shares upgraded PFAS consumer guide for 2026 as Scrutiny Around "Forever Chemicals"

The update comes at a particularly relevant moment as brands, regulators, and manufacturers face increasing pressure around:

- ▶ bluesign's system-wide PFAS phase-out efforts across apparel, footwear, and outdoor products, impacting more than 900 global system partners
- ▶ Evolving EU and U.S. Regulations surrounding fluorinated chemistries and environmental claims
- ▶ Growing demand for substantiated sustainability messaging backed by verified data
- ▶ Increased expectations around supply chain transparency and chemical input traceability
- ▶ Ongoing consumer confusion regarding "forever chemicals," product safety, and sustainability labeling

The updated 2026 resource breaks down where PFAS are commonly found in products such as waterproof outerwear, stain-resistant finishes, membranes, and performance textiles. It also explains the technical and supply chain challenges brands face when transitioning toward safer alternatives without compromising product performance.

Importantly, the piece also connects to a broader industry shift already underway: the movement away from sustainability marketing language toward evidence-based communication backed by verified data.

As new EU regulations around environmental claims begin taking effect, including the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (ECGT), brands face increasing pressure to make transparent, substantiated claims supported by third-party verification and accessible consumer information.

This creates a larger story around:

- ▶ How brands are preparing for tighter PFAS regulations with the help of bluesign
- ▶ The future of waterproof and performance apparel without PFAS.
- ▶ The role of bluesign in chemical input management during product development
- ▶ Why verified data has become central to consumer trust

- ▶ How regulatory pressure is reshaping sustainability communication globally from marketing to hang tags

If helpful for any upcoming reporting, bluesign experts are available to discuss:

- ▶ The positive and negatives of the global progress regarding PFAS regulations and elimination
- ▶ The completion of bluesign's 10-year phase-out strategy and bluesign-approved alternatives to fluorinated chemistries
- ▶ Chemical input management in textile supply chains and the importance of verified data
- ▶ Evidence-based sustainability communication supported by verified data
- ▶ How fashion and outdoor brands are balancing performance, durability, and safer chemistry in a PFAS-free environment.

Happy to coordinate interviews with bluesign experts or provide additional background. Simply reply to this message and let me know you are interested.

The Fashion Industry's Shift to PFAS-Free Clothing

For decades, harmful PFAS chemicals have been widely used in clothing and textiles for water, oil and stain resistance. Now, regulators worldwide are stepping in to protect consumers. Multiple bans took effect in January 2026, with more on the way. But transitioning to safer PFAS-free alternatives won't happen overnight.

What Are PFAS and Why Are They Used in Textiles?

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of human-made chemicals widely used in textiles to impart water, oil and stain repellency, or soil release. In the apparel industry, they've long been valued for enhancing fabric durability and performance. Often referred to as "forever chemicals," PFAS are highly persistent in the environment, where they can contaminate drinking water, soil, and wildlife. Mounting scientific evidence has raised concerns about their potential impact on human health, prompting growing scrutiny from scientists, regulators, and consumers.

PFAS are often found in clothing and other textile products, including:

- ▶ Raincoats and outerwear
- ▶ Outdoor and performance gear
- ▶ Activewear and sportswear
- ▶ Uniforms and workwear
- ▶ Household textiles

- ▶ Lab coats
- ▶ Tents and tarps
- ▶ Firefighter turnout gear
- ▶ Shoes and footwear
- ▶ Medical textiles

PFAS are used in clothing because they can help fabrics repel moisture, oil, and dirt. But that functionality comes at a cost.

Studies link PFAS exposure to immune system suppression, hormonal disruptions, fertility issues, and increased cancer risk. As awareness grows, brands and suppliers face increasing pressure to explore safer alternatives and take a proactive role in reducing PFAS use across their supply chains.

The Lifecycle of PFAS in Textiles: From Production to Pollution

According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), PFAS enter the environment at every stage of textile production, from manufacturing to disposal. Textiles are one of the largest sources of PFAS pollution worldwide, with both polymeric and non-polymeric PFAS released during production, use, and washing.

This widespread contamination is a key reason PFAS are increasingly regulated, and why brands need to take action across their supply chains. Proactive chemical management, starting at the input stage rather than relying solely on end-product testing, is essential to reduce impact and stay ahead of tightening global standards.

Regulations Are Driving PFAS Out of Fashion

As the health and environmental risks of PFAS become more widely recognized, governments worldwide are enacting stricter regulations to limit or ban their use in textiles. In 2026 alone, new PFAS restrictions took effect across multiple U.S. states and European countries, with additional deadlines approaching throughout the year.

For the fashion and textile industry, compliance is no longer a future concern. Brands and manufacturers operating across multiple markets now face overlapping requirements with different timelines, thresholds, and exemption structures. Consumers are also more aware than ever of the risks associated with PFAS, and many are actively seeking out clothing made without these chemicals.

Staying ahead of these requirements means more than monitoring legislation. It requires supply chain visibility, verified chemical data, and the ability to demonstrate compliance with confidence.

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Key PFAS Bans Affecting the Textile Industry

As governments respond to health and environmental concerns, PFAS regulations affecting textiles are expanding rapidly. This regulatory overview highlights the key points, while also noting that many countries still apply exceptions, including allowances for essential use. Below is the current landscape as of May 2026.

United States PFAS Bans

Several U.S. states have enacted PFAS restrictions that directly affect textile and apparel companies. Federal action remains limited, but state-level legislation continues to accelerate.

- ▶ California AB 1817 bans intentionally added PFAS in textiles, effective January 2025. Outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions must carry a “Made with PFAS chemicals” disclosure label. The total organic fluorine threshold drops from 100 ppm to 50 ppm in January 2027.
- ▶ New York S.1322/A.994 prohibits apparel with intentionally added PFAS, effective January 2025. Outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions is exempt until January 2028. By January 2027, a maximum PFAS threshold will apply regardless of whether PFAS was intentionally added.
- ▶ Colorado SB24-081 Phased approach to PFAS in outdoor clothing. Disclosure labels required for products containing PFAS. Full ban on outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions and textile articles effective January 2028.
- ▶ Maine Title 38, §1614 Products containing PFAS: Sales prohibitions on most textile articles containing intentionally added PFAS took effect January 1, 2026. A statewide ban on all products with intentionally added PFAS is scheduled for January 2032.
- ▶ Connecticut SB 292 (Public Act No. 24-59) PFAS disclosure requirements for outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions took effect January 2026. Additional product bans phase in from July 2026.
- ▶ Vermont Title 9, Chapter 63, Subchapter 12A amendment H238 (Act 54): Prohibits manufacturers from making clothing and other consumer products with intentionally added PFAS, effective January 2026.
- ▶ Minnesota HF 2310 (Chapter 60, 2023): PFAS reporting requirements under the state’s PRISM system launched January 2026, with initial reports due July 2026. A statewide

ban on all products with intentionally added PFAS takes effect January 2032.

- ▶ Washington Chapter 173-337-110 WAC: Reporting requirements for apparel intended for extreme and extended use made from leather, natural textiles, synthetic textiles, or technical textiles with intentionally added PFAS took effect January 2026. First reports are due January 2027. Apparel and accessories made from leather, natural textiles, synthetic textiles, or technical textiles may not contain intentionally added PFAS after January 1, 2027.

Additional states, including New Mexico and Pennsylvania, are advancing PFAS legislation that may take effect in 2027 and beyond. The regulatory patchwork continues to grow, making centralized chemical management increasingly important for brands selling across multiple U.S. markets.

Europe PFAS Bans

Europe is advancing PFAS regulation through both EU-wide measures and national legislation.

- ▶ EU REACH Annex XVII, Entry 79: Restrictions on PFHxA and related substances take effect in April 2026, adding to existing bans on C9-C14 PFCAs. These apply across all EU member states.
- ▶ EU POPs Regulation (EU) 2019/1021: The European Union regulates PFAS also through POPs Regulation which targets persistent organic pollutants. Under this framework, several PFAS, starting with PFOS, PFOA, and later PFHxS, have been added to Annex I for elimination or strict restriction, in line with updates to the Stockholm Convention.
- ▶ EU Universal PFAS Restriction Proposal: Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden proposed a broad restriction on PFAS under REACH in January 2023. ECHA review is ongoing. In July 2025, the European Commission’s Action Plan for the Chemicals Industry signaled support for comprehensive PFAS restrictions, including a REACH revision.
- ▶ France Law No. 2025-188 with Decree no 2025-1376: Bans the manufacture, import, export, and sale of PFAS-containing textiles, footwear, and waterproofing agents for consumer use, effective January 2026. Exemptions exist for personal protective equipment, technical textiles for industrial use, and clothing and footwear textiles incorporating at least 20%

recycled material from post-consumer waste. The ban extends to all textiles by January 2030. Penalties include fines of up to €15,000 and €1,500 per day.

- ▶ Denmark BEK No. 464: Bans import and sale of clothing and footwear containing total fluorine levels at or above 50 mg F/kg, effective July 1, 2026. Also covers waterproofing agents. Exemptions include professional safety clothing, PPE, medical devices, and products regulated under REACH and POPs frameworks. Recycled and reused clothing is also exempt.

PFAS restrictions are part of a broader trend in EU chemical regulation. The EU's substances of concern framework and the upcoming ECGT Directive will further shape how brands communicate about the chemistry in their products. For more context, see *Chemical Regulation Is Accelerating: Is Your Supply Chain Ready?*

Challenges in Phasing Out PFAS in Clothing

While the shift away from PFAS is gaining momentum, the transition presents real challenges for textile manufacturers and brands. Moving away from established chemistries requires navigating technical, regulatory, and supply chain complexities simultaneously.

Key challenges include:

- ▶ Performance trade-offs: Alternative treatments must match PFAS-level wash durability, water repellency, and stain resistance, particularly in high-performance categories like outdoor gear and workwear.
- ▶ Regulatory complexity: Regulations vary by jurisdiction, with different timelines, thresholds, and definitions of "PFAS" across U.S. states and European countries. Global brands selling into multiple markets face overlapping and sometimes conflicting requirements.
- ▶ Supply chain visibility: Many manufacturers lack full visibility into the chemicals used at each stage of production. Without verified data from upstream suppliers, demonstrating compliance is difficult.
- ▶ Consumer expectations: Increasing awareness of PFAS risks means brands must back their claims with independent verification, not just marketing language.

Successfully addressing these challenges requires reliable chemical management systems, access to verified alternatives, and a clear strategy

that balances performance, compliance, and credibility.

PFAS-Free Clothing: What Are the Alternatives?

Reducing reliance on PFAS in textiles is a significant challenge for brands and manufacturers that have relied on these chemicals for decades.

However, advances in material science and chemistry are providing safer, high-performance alternatives that meet both regulatory requirements and consumer expectations.

Below are some of the most common alternatives to using PFAS in clothing:

Polyurethanes

Hyperbranched dendritic polyurethanes provide the highest water repellency performance and wash durability from all PFAS alternatives. Many commercial products offer bio-based content over 70%. With the use of additional cross-linkers, they can provide excellent spray test ratings for well over 20 laundry cycles.

Polyacrylates

Linear polyacrylate polymers are a more economical alternative to polyurethanes and many of them are also available with very high bio-based content. Because of their hydrolysis, they tend to be less wash durable than polyurethanes.

Paraffin and Plant-Based Waxes

Paraffin and plant-based waxes provide excellent initial water repellency of textiles which don't have to be laundered. They are non-durable, but when crosslinker is added, they can be semi-durable. Plant-based waxes and esters of natural fatty acids offer high bio-based content.

Silicone-Based Repellents

Reactive crosslinkable polysiloxanes don't typically meet the highest initial spray test requirements (dynamic wetting) but provide excellent wash durability in dry-cleaning. Silicone-based water repellents are also very well suitable for finishing and wet-end treatment of leather.

All these PFAS alternatives are available as water-borne products and can be applied on standard finishing equipment like stenter frames or by exhaustion in dye jet machines. The vast majority of these products is cationic. Typical added crosslinkers are blocked isocyanates and there are already available products with bio-based blocking group. Some products are fiber specific (i.e. for synthetic fibers or for cotton), while others work universally on all substrates.

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Emerging Sustainable Coatings & Innovations

The textile industry is rapidly investing in sustainable chemistry, and new solutions are constantly being introduced. One of the most technically challenging tasks is PFAS-free oil repellency.

PFAS-free oil repellency is one of the holy grails of current textile finishing, because unlike water repellency, oil wets textile surfaces much easier. There are many academic groups and chemical manufacturers working on solving this issue and there might be an available commercial solution on the market as soon as in the year 2026, based on hyperbranched polysiloxanes.

How Brands Are Transitioning to PFAS-Free Fashion

Many leading brands, including these bluesign System Partners, are actively adopting alternatives to PFAS in their products:

- ▶ Patagonia & The North Face: Transitioning to bio-based waterproof coatings.
- ▶ Deuter & Everlane: Moving toward natural and plant-based stain-resistant finishes.
- ▶ Adidas: Investing in fluorine-free DWR for athletic apparel.
- ▶ Jack Wolfskin: Replaced PFAS-based DWR with fluorine-free membranes and coatings for outdoor clothing.

As more brands make this transition, independent verification of chemical inputs and supply chain practices becomes increasingly important.

How bluesign Supports the Transition Away from PFAS

bluesign has been managing harmful chemicals in textile production since 2000. Rather than relying on endproduct testing alone, bluesign's system addresses chemistry at the input stage, working directly with manufacturers to identify and manage substances of concern before they enter finished products.

This approach gives brands verified data and supply chain visibility, helping them align with evolving PFAS regulations across markets while maintaining product performance.

bluesign's Criteria are continuously updated to reflect new scientific evidence and regulatory developments, and its PFAS phase-out has consistently moved ahead of regulatory timelines.

bluesign's PFAS Phase-Out Timeline

- ▶ 2015: bluesign restricted long-chain PFAS (C8 chemistry) in all bluesign-assessed products.

- ▶ 2022: New PFAS-containing chemicals were prohibited from registration in bluesign Finder, the database of assessed chemical products.
- ▶ 2023: All existing PFAS chemicals were removed from bluesign Finder and excluded from assessment.
- ▶ 2024: No new bluesign® PRODUCT could be registered if treated with PFAS (except essential use).
- ▶ January 2025: Full PFAS restriction in all bluesign® APPROVED materials, except essential use. All consumer products treated with PFAS were removed from bluesign Guide (with limited exemptions).
- ▶ January 2026: PFAS restricted in any bluesign® APPROVED material or bluesign® PRODUCT (now known as bluepass). Completely removed from both bluesign Finder and Guide.

This timeline reflects bluesign's science-based approach to managing harmful substances, supporting both industry compliance and long-term environmental and consumer safety.

For consumers, the bluesign® PRODUCT label indicates that a product was made with materials assessed against bluesign's Criteria, which include restrictions on PFAS. It provides a reference point for identifying products made with independently assessed inputs.

The Future of PFAS-Free Fashion

Consumer demand for products made without persistent chemicals continues to grow, and the regulatory environment is accelerating to match. Brands that invest in proactive chemical management now will be better positioned as requirements expand across markets.

By working with bluesign, manufacturers, brands, and retailers can align their supply chains with robust standards for chemical safety, transparency, and regulatory readiness.

Learn more about how bluesign's chemical management system supports the textile industry, or contact us your supply chain needs.

Frequently Asked Questions About PFAS in Clothing

Are PFAS banned in clothing?

It depends on where the product is sold. As of 2026, several U.S. states (including California, New York, Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut) and European countries (France and Denmark) have enacted bans or restrictions on PFAS in consumer textiles. Several EU-wide restrictions on specific PFAS groups are in force or will take effect in April 2026 (PFHxA). The regulatory landscape continues to evolve.

Why are PFAS used in clothing?

PFAS provide water, oil, and stain resistance that is difficult to replicate with other chemistries. They've been widely used in outdoor gear, activewear, and performance textiles for decades. However, their environmental persistence and potential health effects have driven regulators and brands to seek alternatives.

What are the alternatives to PFAS in textiles?

There is a wide range of waterborne products available on the market, including polyurethane-based, polyacrylate based, wax-based, and silicone-based repellents. They are applied using the same equipment as conventional PFAS treatments. Performance varies by chemistry, application method, and fabric construction.

How does bluesign address PFAS?

bluesign has progressively restricted PFAS across its system since 2015, beginning with long-chain PFAS (C8 chemistry) and completing a full restriction by January 2026. bluesign's approach manages chemistry at the input stage, helping manufacturers and brands reduce reliance on PFAS while maintaining product performance.

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Jeanologia to introduce "Billy" in China incorporating the AI transforming denim design

- ♦ "Billy" turns garment images into precise laser designs within minutes, directly connecting inspiration and production in the same workflow.
- ♦ The system translates the authenticity and character of vintage denim into a digital, precise and reproducible process.

The denim industry turned its attention to Hangzhou recently, where a new edition of Kingpins, the leading international trade show for the sector, held on May 21 and 22. There, the Spanish company Jeanologia, a global leader in sustainable technologies for the textile industry, introduced its latest innovation to the Chinese market: "Billy", the first artificial intelligence specifically developed for denim finishing design.

Following its recent international launch, and at a time when brands are demanding faster

development cycles and increasingly authentic vintage aesthetics, Jeanologia is showcasing in Hangzhou how artificial intelligence can simplify one of the most complex stages of denim product development: translating authentic vintage finishes into reproducible industrial designs.

From real vintage to production-ready design

More than just a design tool, "Billy" introduces a new way of developing denim by directly connecting inspiration and production. The system transforms garment images into precise laser designs within minutes, interpreting fades, contrasts and signature vintage denim details to automatically generate files optimized for industrial laser execution.

What traditionally required hours of technical work and multiple manual adjustments can now be achieved in minutes through a direct digital workflow connecting design and production.

"The industry is looking for faster and more precise ways to develop authentic vintage products," says Jean Pierre Inchauspe, Business Director Asia at Jeanologia. "With Billy, brands and manufacturers can directly connect inspiration and production, reducing complexity while maintaining authenticity."

The system has been trained using more than 9,000 laser designs developed by Jeanologia over decades of work in laser technology and denim finishing alongside some of the world's leading denim brands, designers and suppliers. This extensive knowledge base allows "Billy" to understand how vintage wear patterns are created and convert them into reproducible laser designs optimized for industrial application.

Combined with Jeanologia's laser technology, the system enables digital designs to be reproduced on garments with precision and consistency, eliminating the need for manual retouching and reducing inefficient production processes.

At Kingpins China, visitors will be able to experience live demonstrations where vintage garment images are instantly transformed into laser executions through a fully digital workflow integrating AI and laser technology.

AI, laser and automation shaping the future of denim

Introduced by Jeanologia more than 25 years ago, laser technology transformed denim finishing by replacing traditional manual techniques associated with high environmental impact and health risks for workers. Today, the combination of AI, laser and automation is accelerating a new

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generation of denim production focused on speed, digitalization and efficiency.

Inspired by decades of research into vintage denim and supported by Jeanologia's archive of laser developments, "Billy" transforms heritage into digital intelligence applied to design. Every fade, contrast and wear pattern can now be analyzed and translated into reproducible laser executions with precision and consistency.

The result is a process capable of preserving the visual authenticity and character of vintage denim while enabling a more precise, efficient and responsible approach to production.

China's role in the next generation of textile manufacturing

The arrival of "Billy" in China came at a time when the Asian textile industry was accelerating investments in automation, digitalization and more efficient production systems. As one of the world's leading textile manufacturing hubs, China is becoming a key market for the adoption of automation, AI and digital product development technologies capable of accelerating both productivity and sustainability.

Jeanologia has been operating in China for more than 18 years and currently works with more than 200 customers in the country through local teams specialized in laser design and product engineering. Today, more than 20% of jeans produced in China are manufactured using technologies developed by Jeanologia.

"What we are seeing is the beginning of a new digital workflow for denim creation, where AI helps transform inspiration into production with much greater speed, precision and consistency," adds Jean Pierre Inchauspe.

To explore the growing role of AI across the denim industry, Jessica Lau from Jeanologia's Asia Brainbox team will participate in the Denim Talks panel "Artificial Intelligence: From Cotton to Culture" at Kingpins China, discussing how artificial intelligence is transforming the denim value chain, from design and product development to manufacturing and consumer experience.

Jeanologia: more than 30 years leading the transformation of the textile industry

Since its founding, Jeanologia has been on a mission to transform the textile industry into a more ethical, sustainable and eco efficient industry. The company works closely with brands, retailers and suppliers through disruptive technologies, software solutions and new operational models that reduce

environmental impact while improving efficiency and productivity.

Its technologies, including laser, G2 ozone, eFlow, H2Zero and ColorBox, have transformed garment finishing by eliminating polluting processes and significantly reducing the use of water, energy and chemicals. Today, Jeanologia technologies are used in more than 70 countries worldwide, helping accelerate the transition toward a more sustainable and digital textile industry.

From pioneering laser technology in denim finishing to introducing AI into the creative process, Jeanologia continues pushing the boundaries of innovation with a clear objective: transforming the future of textile production through Mission Zero, its vision to dehydrate and detoxify the textile industry.

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Textile Machinery Orders intake, Q1 2026 for Italian textile machinery manufacturers

In the first quarter of 2026, order intake for Italian textile machinery manufacturers recorded a decrease of 5% compared to the same period in 2025, reflecting a still challenging start to the year. The decline affected foreign markets (-7%), while the domestic market showed growth (+21%).

Compared with the previous quarter (October–December 2025), total order intake increased by 18%. The orders index for the January–March 2026 period stood at 37.3 points (base year 2021=100). In Italy, the index reached 35.3 points, while in foreign markets it stood at 37.6 points.

In the first quarter of 2026, the order backlog guaranteed a workload of approximately 4.5 months.

From a sector perspective, weaving and other manufacturing segments showed relatively more dynamic signals.

Forecasts for the second quarter of 2026 (compared with the previous quarter) indicate pessimism for the domestic market and stability for the foreign one.

Marco Salvadè, President of ACIMIT, commented: "It is encouraging to see the first positive sign in the domestic market, but forecasts still reveal a degree of pessimism. The difficult international context and the slow actions of government institutional representatives do not allow companies to plan

investments. As an Association, we are working in close synergy with the Italian Trade Agency (ICE) to strengthen promotional activities across several strategic markets. We also look with confidence to the up coming ITMA 2027 in Hannover, which will represent an important opportunity to relaunch the sector, stimulate new investments, and strengthen the international presence of Italian manufacturers."

ACIMIT (the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers) was established in 1945 with the primary aim of promoting the Italian textile machinery industry by supporting its activities both in Italy and abroad. ACIMIT represents an industrial sector comprising around 300 companies (employing approximately 12,500 people) and producing machinery with a total value of approximately €1.9 billion, about 86% of which is exported. Creativity, sustainable technology, reliability, and quality are the key features that have made Italian textile machinery a world leader..

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Grasim Industries makes public of fresh investment of ₹3094 Crore to expand Lyocell Capacity

Post expansion, Total Cellulosic Staple Fibre (CSF) capacity would Surpass 1 million Tonnes Annually by 2030

Grasim Industries Limited, the flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group and a global leader in cellulosic fibres, recently announced an investment of ₹3,094 crore, for Phase II Lyocell capacity of 110K TPA at Harihar, Karnataka. This expansion will consist of 2 lines of 55K TPA (150 Tons per day) each. The first line is expected to be commissioned by 2028, and the second line is expected to be commissioned by 2030.

This additional capacity will complement the Phase I Lyocell plant of 55K TPA currently under construction at Harihar, which is expected to be commissioned by mid-2027. Upon completion, Grasim's total Lyocell capacity, will reach nearly 210K TPA, making it one of the largest Lyocell producers globally.

Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group, said, "The Aditya Birla Group has always demonstrated the willingness to invest

ahead of the curve in sectors that will define India's future competitiveness and economic resilience. This investment carries forward that legacy. It is a vote of confidence in the scale and promise of the Indian market, aligns closely with the aspirations of Make in India, and will help position India as a more competitive and resilient force in the global textile industry." He added, "This investment also marks another significant step in Grasim's strategic expansion of advanced fibre capabilities, catering to the growing global demand for sustainable and high-performance textile materials. This fresh expansion will catapult Grasim's overall Cellulosic Fibres capacity beyond 1 million tonnes per annum, reinforcing its position as a global leader in sustainable Man-Made Cellulosic Fibres (MMCF)."

Mr. Vadiraj Kulkarni, Business Head, Grasim Pulp & Fibre added, "This expansion strengthens our position in the evolving MMCF landscape by scaling a high-value, future-ready fibre segment. By expanding Lyocell capacity, we are accelerating the shift towards high performance fibres with a lower environmental impact. Lyocell enhances our product mix, supports premium applications, and aligns with our focus on delivering differentiated, sustainable solutions to global markets."

Lyocell is a versatile, next-generation fibre widely used across apparel, home textiles, and technical textile applications. Manufactured through a highly efficient closed-loop process, Lyocell offers a compelling combination of durability, breathability, comfort, and lower environmental impact. The expansion would strengthen the Company's Specialty product portfolio and solidify its position as a key player in the global sustainable fibre industry. Grasim's Specialty portfolio share (including Lyocell, Modal, Dope-dyed and Recycled fibres) would increase to 35% by 2030.

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ITMA 2027

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How textile start-ups move from exposure to real industry adoption

In our previous article, we explored how startups at ITMA 2023 Start-Up Valley gained visibility and early recognition within the global textile community.

Initial exposure, however, is only the starting point.

What ultimately defines success is what happens next — how quickly start-ups move from initial interest to real-world application, integration and commercial growth.

The next group of start-ups from ITMA 2023 demonstrates how early exposure can translate into meaningful industry engagement and tangible business outcomes.

Turning innovation into industry adoption

Breakthrough dyeing, AI-powered laundry automation and next-generation fibre traceability were among the innovations spotlighted at ITMA 2023's Start-Up Valley.

Companies such as COLOURizd, sewts and Haelixa demonstrate how early-stage technologies can move beyond concept, attracting industry attention, forming partnerships and progressing towards realworld application.

Their journeys reflect a critical shift: from visibility to validation, and increasingly, towards commercial adoption.

"Participating in the ITMA 2023 Start-Up Valley was definitely one of the best decisions we've made as a company," says Jennifer Thompson, CEO of COLOURizd, the developer of Quantum COLOUR™, a patent-pending technology for dyeing fabrics that eliminates harmful chemicals while significantly reducing water and energy consumption.

"For a technology like ours, a capital equipment investment that changes how mills colour yarn, being on that floor, in that room, with the right people, is irreplaceable," Thompson adds.

"You can't close those kinds of conversations over email, and we came away with over 300 meaningful contacts from mills, brands and industry partners."

Her experience highlights how ITMA's Start-Up Valley acts not just as a showcase, but as a catalyst for validation, investment and industrial adoption, bringing together innovators and decision-makers at the point where solutions are tested against real-world demands.

For start-ups seeking to move beyond early exposure, whether through partnerships, investment or industrial validation, this kind of access can be decisive.

Rethinking dyeing for industrial scale: COLOURizd

COLOURizd, with operations in North Carolina and Hong Kong, was one of 15 start-ups supported by CEMATEX to exhibit at the first Start-Up Valley. While the initial visibility was important, the longer-term impact has proved far more significant.

In the months following ITMA 2023, funding discussions accelerated, partnerships were formalised, and its technology moved decisively from prototype into industrial evaluation.

For early-stage innovators weighing different growth pathways, from private capital to small business start-up grants, such progress can significantly strengthen the case for scaling.

"Our conversations at ITMA 2023 in Milan evolved into active mill trials, inline production runs and brand evaluations across multiple fibre categories," Thompson says. "That progression simply wouldn't have happened at the same pace without that initial exposure."

This reflects a broader pattern seen across Start-Up Valley participants, where early exposure leads to industry validation and, increasingly, to commercial application.

Making automation work on the factory floor: sewts

Munich-based sewts secured a €7 million Series A round within weeks of ITMA 2023, enabling it to accelerate the rollout of its Velum system.

Velum applies artificial intelligence, computer vision and robotics to automate labour intensive handling processes in industrial laundries – an area that has long resisted automation despite broader advances across textile manufacturing.

While washing and drying processes are already highly mechanised, critical handling steps remain manual. In particular, feeding textiles into folding machines, ensuring correct alignment and wrinkle-free presentation, continues to rely heavily on human labour. By automating this stage, sewts addresses one of the last persistent inefficiencies in the system.

“Even though there is special machinery for almost every manufacturing step in a laundry, complex handling tasks between them are still predominantly manual,” explains sewts co-founder and CTO Tim Doerks. “Automation has not yet made significant headway in this area, which is what we are now effectively addressing.”

Velum has progressed rapidly from demonstration to full industrial installations, with ongoing software updates expanding its capabilities and adaptability across different textile types and operating environments.

For sewts, ITMA provided more than initial exposure. It enabled direct access to a global network of potential customers and partners, accelerating both investment and deployment.

Bringing traceability into production: Haelixa

Zurich-based Haelixa, a spin-off from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, represents a longer but equally significant scaling journey. In February 2026, the company secured a further €2 million in funding to support the global expansion of its DNA-based traceability technology.

Haelixa’s solution introduces a physical marker into textile fibres, enabling products to be traced back to their origin with certainty. As regulatory scrutiny increases and brands face growing pressure to demonstrate transparency, authenticity and compliance, such capabilities are becoming essential rather than optional.

Crucially, Haelixa’s participation in ITMA 2023 led directly to industrial adoption. Barmag, now part of the Rieter Group’s Manmade Fibres Division, announced that all products manufactured on its systems will incorporate Haelixa’s DNA markers, embedding traceability into the production process itself.

“The unique Haelixa DNA carries the ‘roots’ of the fibres into the everyday life of the end consumer,” says Barmag CTO Jochen Adler. “Once integrated, it becomes irremovable and enables a new level of traceability within existing production systems.”

This demonstrates how technologies introduced at Start-Up Valley can move beyond concept and into industry-wide application when aligned with clear market demand and supported by the right partners.

Scaling towards commercial readiness

For COLOURizd, one of the most significant outcomes of ITMA 2023 was validation by The Woolmark Company, a development that proved transformative both commercially and technically.

“Start-Up Valley put us in front of an audience that understood what we were showing them,” Thompson says. “Woolmark’s validation changed the trajectory of our company.”

Initially positioned as a solution for cellulosic yarns, QuantumCOLOUR™ has since been demonstrated across a wider range of fibre types, including wool, synthetics and blends, without requiring fibre-specific chemistry adjustments. This has significantly expanded its market potential and accelerated its path towards commercial deployment.

Further testing has also revealed strong performance in recycled yarn applications, where maintaining fibre integrity remains a key challenge. In these cases, the process not only avoids degradation but can also enhance yarn strength, supporting both sustainability and performance objectives.

“We are now fully commercialised and QuantumCOLOUR™ is an industrial-scale production system, not a lab prototype,” Thompson says. “Active mill trials are ongoing across multiple fibre categories and geographies, and we expect our first installations within the next 12 months.”

A platform for real industry progress

Beyond individual cases, these experiences reflect a broader shift across the textile industry.

As sustainability pressures intensify, labour challenges persist and traceability becomes a regulatory requirement. The demand for scalable and proven technologies is increasing rapidly.

In this context, ITMA’s Start-Up Valley serves as a critical convergence point, bringing together start-ups, manufacturers, brands and investors in a single environment, and shortening the path from concept to commercial reality.

The next phase of this journey is already taking shape.

Start-Up Valley returns at ITMA 2027

For start-ups developing technologies in advanced materials, automation, digitalisation or sustainability, the opportunity is not just to be seen — but to be evaluated, adopted and scaled within the global textile industry.

20 promising start-ups will be selected for ITMA 2027 Start-Up Valley.

Those selected will gain direct access to manufacturers, brands and technology partners actively seeking solutions.

This is supported by a fully subsidised exhibition presence, dedicated pavilion exposure and global marketing reach, the same platform that

TEXTILE EVENTS

has enabled start-ups from ITMA 2023 to secure funding, partnerships and industrial deployment.

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Visitor Registration begins for ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026

ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026 will be held from 20 to 24 November 2026 at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai).

As of 24 March, both the number of exhibiting companies and the exhibition space have surpassed all previous editions of the combined exhibition, demonstrating strong confidence in the textile machinery industry within the Chinese market and in Asia as manufacturing hubs.

ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026 will showcase the entire textile value chain, spanning spinning, man-made fibres, weaving, knitting, printing, dyeing and finishing, nonwovens, embroidery, garment, braiding, recycling, testing and packaging machinery, components and textile chemicals.

Visitors can expect to meet leading textile machinery manufacturers such as Atexco, Barmag, Beijing Chonglee, BEST, BZS, CHTC, Cixing, Dornier, Epson, Fongs, Hicorp, Hongyuan, Itema, Karl Mayer, Konica Minolta, LMW, Murata, Picanol, Rieter, Rifa, Santoni, Saurer, Shima Seiki, Staubli, Taitan, Texpro, TMT, Truetzschler, Vandewiele, Yoanton, and Yingyang. Industry leaders will showcase the latest developments in digitalisation, intelligent manufacturing and green production on-site.

Visitor Pre-registration Launches in May — Early Bird and Group Benefits Offered

To enhance the visiting experience and sourcing efficiency, the pre-registration system will officially open on 25 May 2026 and remain available until 19 November. International trade visitors can complete registration via the official exhibition websites (www.itmaasia.com or www.citme.com.cn).

Participants who complete pre-registration before 19 November will enjoy a 40% early-bird discount on admission tickets. In addition, industry

organisations arranging group visits consisting of six or more participants may apply for further preferential benefits.

Intensive Roadshows Launched

The organisers have launched an intensive visitor promotion campaign that combines online and offline strategies, focusing on key industrial clusters. A series of international roadshows will support this effort through a dual approach of attracting buyers to the event while expanding global outreach across major textile markets.

Delegation and Overseas Buyer Groups Expected to Visit at the Combined Exhibition

Leveraging the exhibition's strong industry influence, group invitations have been extended to more than 100 overseas trade associations, industry organisations and key enterprises.

Within China, promotional activities will target both established coastal textile hubs such as Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong and Guangdong, as well as emerging industrial clusters in Xinjiang, Hubei and Henan. ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026 in Shanghai will showcase leading textile machinery technologies while serving as a business platform for collaboration and industry exchange.

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The Most Comprehensive Platform assembles Global Textile Investors: ITM 2026

ITM 2026, the world's second-largest exhibition in textile technologies, is preparing to open its doors in Istanbul as the 'most comprehensive', 'most accessible', and 'most secure' international platform for global textile investors. With over 1000 companies and company representatives from 55 countries, ITM 2026 will transform into a hub for global trade, attracting thousands of professional visitors, generating machinery sales, and fostering new business collaborations.

The ITM 2026 Exhibition, which will be organized in collaboration with Tüyap Tüm Fuarcılık Yapım A.Ş. and Teknik Fuarcılık A.Ş.

and in partnership with Textile Machinery and Accessories Industrialists Association (TEMSAD), will welcome visitors at the Tüyap Fair and Congress Center from June 9–13, 2026. The ITM team continues its global promotional activities without interruption to increase the exhibition's global impact, and ITM 2026 has already taken its place among the most anticipated international events in the sector.

Breaking records in terms of both participant and visitor numbers, as well as the technological vision it offers, the ITM Exhibition continues to establish itself as one of the world's most prestigious exhibitions in its field. More than just a exhibition for industry professionals, ITM 2026 offers opportunities to open up to new markets, develop collaborations, and gain firsthand access to the latest technologies. It continues its mission of being an 'accessible global showcase' for manufacturers and investors.

Visa Facilitation will Increase International Participation in ITM 2026

Istanbul's unique location connecting Asia and Europe, along with ease of transportation and visa procedures, and Türkiye's secure business environment, makes ITM 2026 even more attractive to global visitors. Global investors, particularly those facing visa and logistical challenges in attending European exhibitions, are eagerly awaiting ITM 2026, which offers a more accessible and comprehensive international experience. The existence of visa agreements between Türkiye and numerous countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan further enhances the importance of ITM 2026. Investors from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the Turkic Republics can easily reach Istanbul to see the latest technologies firsthand, establish direct contact with manufacturers, and develop business collaborations.

High Interest from Trade Delegations in ITM 2026 Exhibition

As ITM 2026 prepares to take the pulse of international trade, official trade delegations from many countries, including Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Morocco, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, and Vietnam, are requesting invitation letters to participate in the exhibition. Turkish Consulates and Commercial Attachés are supporting professional visitors and

global investors from these countries who wish to visit ITM 2026 in the visa application process.

The Latest Technologies to be Unveiled at ITM 2026

The ITM 2026 Exhibition will bring hope, direction, and momentum to the textile industry in an environment where production power is being redefined. Innovations that are redefining the boundaries of textile technology today will be unveiled for the first time at ITM 2026. From digitalization to AI-powered production solutions, from sustainability to automation systems, many innovations will be showcased by leading global manufacturers at ITM 2026. For those who want to shape the factories of the future today, the exhibition will offer unmissable opportunities.

A Strategic Meeting Point for Global Investors

The ITM 2026 Exhibition, which will bring together the world's leading textile machinery manufacturers, industry representatives, investors, and professionals in Istanbul, will be a strategic business development platform for global investors. Company owners and professionals will be able to listen to experts explain the latest technological equipment needed to bring their facilities into the future; they will be able to experience next-generation R&D studies firsthand. Visitors, on the other hand, will be able to guide their investments by closely experiencing the solutions developed in the textile sector in the context of sustainability and digital transformation.

Billion-Dollar Business Volume Expected

The exhibition will not only be an exhibition area; it will also be a center for large-scale trade. While the high business volume achieved in past organizations is expected to increase even further this year, a strong ground will be prepared for new collaborations and strategic agreements. The exhibition, which is expected to be attended by thousands of sector representatives from different regions of the world, especially Europe, Asia, America, the Middle East and Africa, will make a significant contribution to the development of international trade and the establishment of new collaborations with billion-dollar machinery sales.

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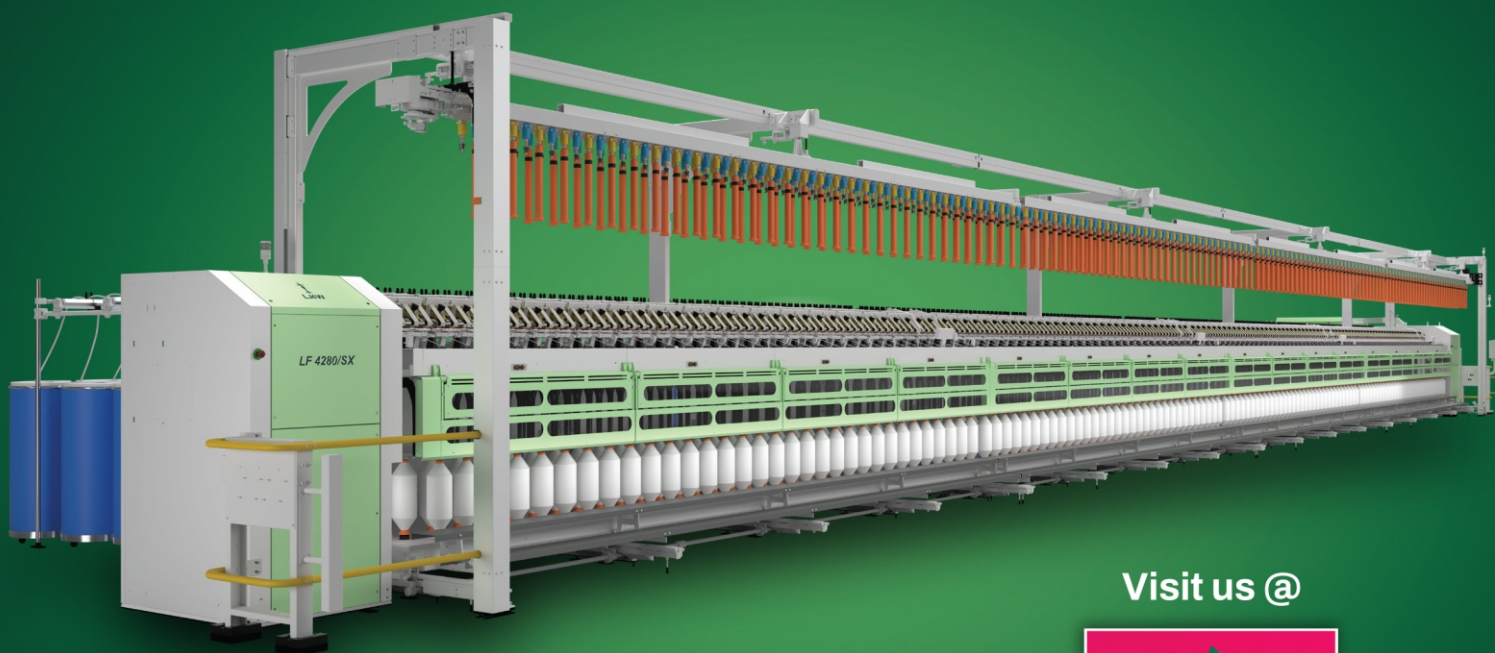
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A New Era of excellence in Melange Spinning "Maral Overseas & LMW shape a smart spinning unit"



In a market where visual appeal and material sophistication define differentiation, melange has evolved from a niche to a necessity. Melange's distinctive interplay of colours and textures offers a versatile design language and nuanced visual effects. But achieving repeatability at scale is technically demanding as variations in blend ratios, drafting behaviour, etc. can quickly translate into shade inconsistency, higher imperfections, & process inefficiencies. As a result, melange spinning requires not just versatility, but precise control across the entire value chain.

LMW Limited addresses these challenges through its integrated spinning approach engineered for process flexibility and control. LMW's spinning platforms, designed with built-in process flexibility, efficiently handle a wide range of fibres, blends, ratios, and yarn types with minimal changeover. This enables melange and speciality yarn producers to seamlessly switch between colour effects, compositions, and counts without compromising productivity while maximising value at every stage of the spinning process.

Integrated Technology, Measurable Gains

Driven by the need for quality, speed, and agility, Maral Overseas Limited partnered with LMW Limited to establish a state-of-the-art melange facility at its Sarovar plant in Madhya Pradesh, achieving significant success. The company expressed its appreciation to the entire LMW team for their contribution in delivering a highly successful project outcome.

For a vertically integrated manufacturer, the absence of melange capability represented a critical gap in an otherwise comprehensive product portfolio. The strategic collaboration with LMW Limited, renowned globally for its cutting-edge spinning technology, has effectively bridged that gap, strengthening Maral Overseas Limited's capability to serve the evolving market requirements.



Shri. Shekhar Agarwal, CMD & CEO and
Shri. Shantanu Agarwal, JMD

"We are extremely satisfied with LMW's smart spinning mill setup for our melange application. The machinery features, performance, yarn quality, and overall productivity have exceeded our expectations, supported by excellent service."

By integrating Maral Overseas Limited's deep-rooted industry expertise with LMW's end-to-end spinning solutions, the collaboration has established a strong and reliable foundation for premium melange yarn production.



At the carding stage, Maral Overseas Limited harnessed the advanced capabilities of LMW LC361 cards to deliver superior fibre individualisation and high cleaning efficiency, leading to improved yarn uniformity. This enabled Maral to sustain NEP levels in the 50–60 range, demonstrating effective control over imperfections, critical in melange yarns where visual consistency and surface uniformity define quality.

Downstream, Maral Overseas Limited effectively leveraged LMW's SPINPACT compact spinning system to optimise fibre consolidation during spinning, achieving a marked reduction in hairiness along with improved yarn strength and evenness. This enhanced yarn structure translates into superior processing performance and consistently elevated end-fabric quality, reinforcing its importance in high-precision spinning applications.

Beyond Machines: Smart Manufacturing for Maximum Benefit

LMW's advanced integrated technology has enabled Maral Overseas Limited to transition into a scalable, future-ready spinning infrastructure anchored in precision automation and deep digital integration. Electronically and servo-controlled machine architectures

A New Era of excellence in Melange Spinning "Maral Overseas & LMW shape a smart spinning unit"

from LMW eliminated manual intervention, ensuring superior process stability, high repeatability, and stringent parameter control. Advanced digital control systems further enhanced operational accuracy, minimised process deviations, and optimised overall system efficiency.

Maral Overseas Melange Plant Configuration Details:

Application	Melange
Counts Spun	Ne 24s & Ne 30s
Total Spindleage	17,712

Department	Model	Plant Configuration
Blowroom	Bale Plucker LA23/S Line	1
Card	LC361	35
Draw frame (Breaker)	LDB3 - Single Delivery	1
Draw frame (Breaker)	LDB3 - Twin Delivery	4
Lap former	LH20 S	1
Comber	LK69	5
Draw frame (Finisher)	LDF3 S	7
Speed frame	LF4280/A - 140 Spindles	6
Ring frame	LR9 SX/SXL - 672 / 720 Spindles	13
Compact Ring frame	LRJ9 SX/SXL - 720 Spindles	12

In addition, inverter-driven technologies delivered substantial energy optimisation, supporting sustainability objectives while reducing specific energy consumption.

Complementing this, LMW's focus on smart Manufacturing, enabled through integrated data analytics and end-to-end process traceability, provides Maral Overseas Limited with real-time operational visibility, predictive insights, and enhanced quality governance.

This, in turn, strengthened its ability to meet stringent sustainability targets, optimise resource utilisation, and maintain robust process transparency.

Additionally, LMW's value-added services helped Maral Overseas Limited to optimise its processes by equipping operators with a deeper understanding of system capabilities, helping them extract maximum performance, efficiency, and productivity from the installed technology platform.



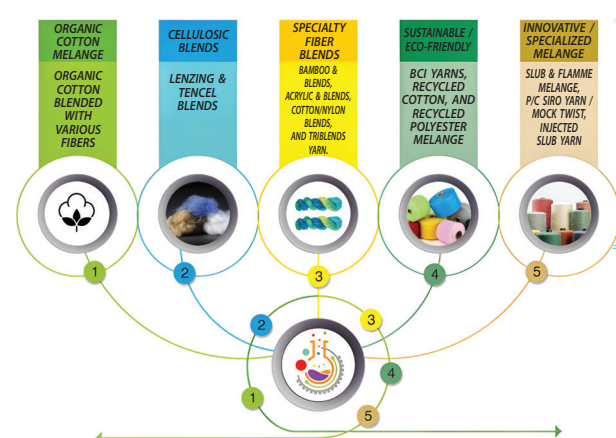
"LMW has delivered a highly reliable and efficient spinning solution for our specialty yarns production in melange application."

— Mr. Mohit Maheshwari, President

"From installation to ongoing support, their commitment to quality, productivity and performance is truly commendable."

— Mr. Kirit Wagh, Asst. Vice President (Spg.)

Strategic Alliance Driving the Next Frontier of Scalable Textile Excellence



DELIVERABLES OF SMART MELANGE PROJECT – "MEDLEY" BLEND

As this success story illustrates, collaborating with the right partner can do far more than solve operational challenges; it can fundamentally reshape the trajectory of growth and expansion. When the right technical capability is combined with shared vision and execution strength, it creates a platform where complexity becomes manageable, performance becomes repeatable, and innovation becomes scalable. The Maral-LMW collaboration stands as a strong example of how such alignment can unlock new possibilities across the value chain, enabling manufacturers to move confidently into higher-value segments and respond more effectively to the evolving market requirements.

Ultimately, it reinforces a simple but powerful truth: the right partnership is not just a support system, but a catalyst that opens new avenues of opportunity, competitiveness, and long-term industry leadership. As the textile industry continues to evolve at speed, the Maral-LMW collaboration sends out a clear signal: lasting success will belong to those who choose the right partners to push the boundaries.

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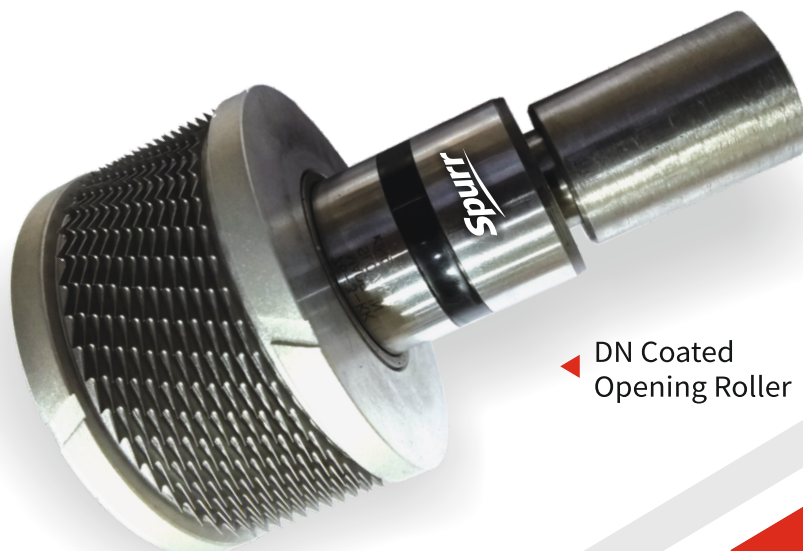
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SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Barmag

High-performance yarns for tomorrow's mobility

At this year's Techtextil in Frankfurt (April 21–24), Barmag showcased comprehensive solutions for the production of industrial filament yarns at the VDMA joint stand (Hall 12, C56). The focus was on applications that ensure greater safety, durability, and efficiency in automotive engineering.

High-performance filament yarns for maximum vehicle safety

Today's modern vehicles contain an average of 30 to 35 kilograms of industrial yarns – most of which are used for safety-related components such as airbags and seat belts. Polyamide and, increasingly, polyester filament yarns are predominantly used for airbag applications. Barmag offers particularly energy-efficient and productive technologies for this purpose, enabling stable processes and consistently high yarn quality. "Our solutions meet all the demanding standards for airbag yarns worldwide – throughout the entire service life of a vehicle, regardless of climate or operating conditions," emphasizes Dr. Jen Supra, Technology Manager for Industrial Yarns at Barmag.

Seat belts: Precision in the high-tenacity yarn process

Seat belts also rely on the performance of industrial filament yarns. A single belt consists of around 300 HT filament yarns, whose high-strength individual filaments can absorb enormous tensile forces of over 3 tons – and at the same time must stretch in a controlled manner in an emergency. Barmag's patented Single Filament Layer technology enables a gentle, high-precision process for the production of high-tenacity (HT) yarns for maximum safety.

Industrial yarns for stable roads – geotextiles in the substructure

Industrial yarns also prove their performance outside the vehicle, for example in road construction. Geotextiles – such as geogrids under asphalt – require yarns with extremely high titers of up to 24,000 denier. Barmag systems efficiently produce three filament yarns with 6,000 denier each, which can be combined cost-effectively to achieve a higher titer.

Complementing this, the Barmag product brand Neumag supplies spunbond technologies for

geotextiles made of polyester or polypropylene, which impress with their high production capacities and low energy consumption.



Today's modern vehicles contain an average of 30 to 35 kilograms of technical yarns, most of which are used for safety-related components such as airbags and seat belts.

Neumag's PP inline technology exceeds the market standard for geotextile applications

In staple fiber production, Barmag is setting new standards for geotextile applications with the Neumag PP inline concept. The improved technology is suitable for strengths higher than 6 cN/dtex with high residual elongation. The fibers thus significantly exceed the parameters previously established in this area of application. The first production plant equipped with the new spinning concept recently went into operation at a well-known staple fiber producer in Asia.

Part of the concept is the EvoDuct air ducting system introduced last year, which ensures more efficient air flow distribution, reduces energy consumption, and improves fiber homogeneity. The optimized EvE-2 monomer and hot air suction system, another Neumag development, minimizes turbulence while increasing spinning performance.

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

About Barmag

Since 2026, the Swiss Rieter Group has been operating its man-made fibers business as subsidiary under the traditional name Barmag. This includes the established product brands Barmag and Neumag. As a future-oriented company, the research and development of Barmag is driven by energy-efficiency and sustainable technologies (e-save).

Barmag is one of the leading providers of manmade fibers filament spinning systems, texturing machines, BCF systems, staple fibers systems and solutions for the production of nonwovens. Together with its range of polycondensation and extrusion systems and their key components, Barmag caters to the entire manufacturing process – from the monomer all the way through to the textured yarn – and supports it with customer-oriented engineering services. The product portfolio is rounded off with automation and digital solutions. In addition, Barmag offers high-precision gear metering pumps for the textile industry and other sectors, including the automotive, chemical and paint industries.

The main markets for the Barmag product portfolio are in Asia, particularly in China, India, Türkiye and the USA. Worldwide, Barmag – with round about 2,500 employees – has a presence in 120 countries with production, sales and distribution and service organizations. At the Research and Development centers in Remscheid, Neumünster (Germany), and Suzhou (China), highly qualified engineers, technologists and technicians develop innovative and technologically leading products for tomorrow's world.

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Uster Technologies AG

**Uster FiberQ excels for recycled raw materials;
a complete solution for raw material utilization
Denim producer in Türkiye reports improvements
from warehouse to winding room**

Uster FiberQ is a complete solution for raw material utilization, supporting spinners to achieve consistent quality and profitability every day, building further growth for the future. The Turkish company ORTA relies on FiberQ with recycled yarn for its denim production. Data-driven knowledge puts the producer in control of raw material utilization – ready to make the correct decisions for process efficiency, quality and productivity.

Uster 360Q is a complete solution for optimized raw material utilization. It combines instruments, data-enabled software, and Uster textile expertise. The FiberQ raw material management system allows spinners to monitor warehouse inventories, giving enhanced transparency in stock



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management. This is possible because all data is collected on the same platform, giving a well-planned and better-balanced utilization of raw materials. This is the key to quality consistency and process stability throughout the production stages. At ITM 2026 in Istanbul, Türkiye, Uster experts will be on hand to offer insights and share practical experience with visitors.



Data-driven decisions for recycled yarns

As a global pioneer in denim, Orta Anadolu Ticaretve Sanayi İşletmesi T.A.Ş. (ORTA) is well-equipped to meet the demands of the highly-competitive global textile markets. Sustainability is a key attribute of the company's approach, with its use of regenerative cotton, organic cotton, recycled fibers, closed-loop manufacturing and water-reducing technology.

Facing challenging market conditions and determined to maintain sustainability and profitability, ORTA decided to adopt more controlled and data-driven decision-making processes.



"Our company identified the need to focus on data-driven knowledge to take control of its raw material utilization, and make the correct decisions for process efficiency, quality

and productivity. The FiberQ system from Uster offers us a comprehensive system for fiber management from the start and throughout the mill processes," says Orhan Herdem, Spinning Group Manager at ORTA. The fact that raw materials account for a large proportion of overall costs makes the Fiber Q investment an even more appealing prospect for improvement.

Systematic approach for quality consistency

Starting from the blend preparation and continuing through to regular monitoring of average blend quality values, all critical parameters can be effectively controlled. As a result, decision-making processes have become more measurable and predictable. "FiberQ introduces a significant systematic approach to the cotton blending preparation process and makes a substantial contribution to ensuring quality consistency," says Herdem.

FiberQ has effectively influenced production for ORTA, as variations between consecutive blends are now effectively controlled, particularly in critical quality parameters such as micronaire and color. As a result, the risk of shade variation (barré) occurring in downstream processes has been significantly reduced. This is especially important with sensitive fabric constructions such as gabardine.



Quality improvement advantages already come with the entire cotton inventory, now incorporated in a systematic evaluation process, so that blend transitions are planned within defined quality limits. This approach has enabled more efficient stock utilization, while strengthening quality consistency and process stability throughout production.

Direct impact on business performance

ORTA saves time and waste with FiberQ because it prevents shade variation issues in the warping process, which previously required additional trial runs. With FiberQ, these quality fluctuations have been largely brought under control.

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Generally, unnecessary trial processes have been reduced and waste rates have decreased. The overall process flow has become more stable. All these improvements result in enhanced production efficiency, while also helping cost control.

FiberQ supports ORTA in continuing to set global standards in the industry for high-performance, sustainable denim fabrics. It achieves quality consistency and process stability throughout production at the facility in Kayseri, Türkiye, where the firm today operates 66,000 spindles with a daily output of 55,000 kg.

Uster at ITM 2026

At ITM 2026, Uster experts explained Uster 360Q and its three key elements, giving detailed information on the Uster FiberQ raw material management solution. Visitors were also invited to experience on touch-screens the Uster 360Q Platform (<https://360q.uster.com/home>). This develops into the central access point for all data, services and know-how— and hosts the Uster Statistics (access the Uster Statistics at <https://360q.uster.com/home>).

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Mimaki Europe BV

Mimaki carries forward DTF Performance to the Next Level with TxF300-75Plus

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- » Allowing for up to 8–9 hours of continuous production, the upgraded addition to Mimaki's direct-to-film (DTF) printer portfolio comes with four additional white ink cartridge slots

Mimaki Europe, a leading manufacturer of industrial inkjet printers and cutting plotters, announces the TxF300-75Plus, an upgraded model within its high-productivity direct-to-film (DTF) printing portfolio. Following on from the success of the original TxF300-75, this enhanced version reflects Mimaki's commitment to continuously evolving its solutions to meet the changing demands of the market.

Enhanced Ink Capacity for Uninterrupted DTF Printing

A key enhancement is the system's expanded white ink capacity, featuring four additional white ink cartridge slots and Mimaki's UISS (Uninterrupted Ink Supply System). This configuration enables up to 8–9 hours of continuous printing, significantly reducing the frequency of manual cartridge replacement and enabling smoother operation for high volume or overnight production environments.



The new TxF300-75Plus is equipped with four additional white ink cartridge slots and Mimaki's UISS (Uninterrupted Ink Supply System) for uninterrupted and reliable DTF printing

Mimaki's UISS automatically switches to the next available cartridge when one becomes empty, maintaining stable ink flow and uninterrupted output. Operators can also replace depleted cartridges during printing without halting production, helping to maximise uptime and workflow efficiency.

In addition, the TxF300-75Plus benefits from optimised white ink performance achieved through both hardware and software updates, delivering greater stability and more consistent output quality during extended print runs.



Built on Mimaki's Proven Core Technologies

Alongside these enhancements, the TxF300-75Plus retains Mimaki's established core technologies, designed to support reliable, high-

quality DTF production. These include the built-in ink circulation system, which helps prevent sedimentation and ensures stable ink supply during long print runs, as well as advanced monitoring and remote management capabilities such as PICT and Mimaki Remote Access (MRA) to help customers streamline daily operations.

"With the TxF300-75Plus, we are taking another step in the evolution of our DTF printing portfolio, delivering enhanced performance where it matters most to our customers," comments Arjen Evertse, Director Sales at Mimaki Europe. "By strengthening its ink capabilities and enabling longer, uninterrupted production, we are helping print providers improve efficiency, reduce operational complexity and confidently scale their DTF applications."

The TxF300-75Plus is now available across the EMEA region.

About Mimaki

Mimaki is a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutting machines for the sign/graphics, industrial, textile/apparel and 3D markets. Mimaki develops the complete product range for each group; hardware, software and the associated consumable items, such as inks and cutting blades. Mimaki excels in offering innovative, high quality and high reliability products, based upon its aqueous, latex, solvent and UV-curable inkjet technology. In order to meet a wide range of applications in the market, Mimaki pursues the development of advanced on-demand digital printing solutions. Mimaki Engineering Co. Ltd., (President: Kazuaki Ikeda) Nagano (Japan), is publicly listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Inc.

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Mayer & Cie.

Mayer & Cie. Global is set to participate at ITM 2026

Two Circular Knitting Machines and a new approach

ITM 2026 marks the beginning of a new chapter for Mayer & Cie. Global. For the first time, the company will present itself to the international textile machinery industry in its new setup: combining proven circular knitting technology engineered in Germany with a clear commitment to its Albstadt headquarters and an internationally shaped, agile management approach. Together with its Turkish partner Mayer Mümessillik, Mayer & Cie. Global will showcase two OV 3.2 QCe machines in Istanbul from June 9 to 13, 2026 – while also presenting the future direction of the brand: evolving from a pure hardware specialist into a solution provider for individual fabric requirements.



The team preparing ITM: Colleagues of Mayer Mümessillik and Mayer & Cie. Global in Albstadt-Tailfingen.

"ITM is one of the most important trade fairs in the textile machinery industry, and Türkiye is one of our key markets," says Stefan Bühler, Area Sales Manager at Mayer & Cie. Global. "We are delighted to present the new direction of Mayer & Cie. Global at such an important exhibition." Like many of his colleagues, Stefan Bühler is part of the "new old" team behind the Mayer & Cie. brand. The team continues to grow steadily, especially with experienced employees returning to production. They are currently working at full speed to ensure that circular knitting machines will once again leave the factory in Albstadt-Tailfingen this summer.

Proven German engineering from Mayer & Cie.

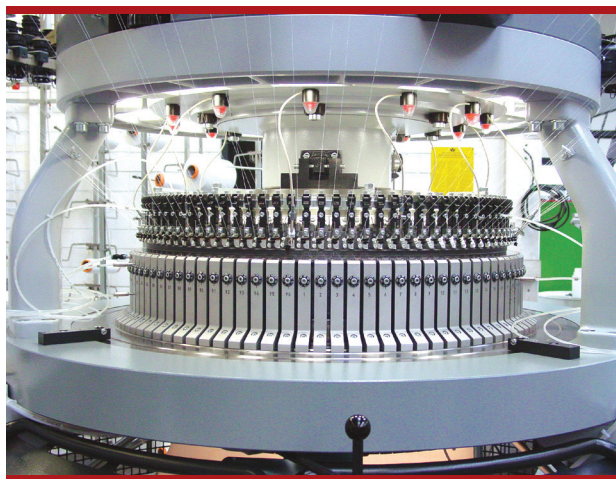
Together with Mayer Mümessillik, the Mayer & Cie. Global exhibition team will present proven Mayer & Cie. circular knitting machines at ITM.

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The exhibits include two OV 3.2 QCe models, a circular knitting machine for double jersey applications and one of Mayer & Cie.'s best-selling machine series. The OV QCe is available in diameters ranging from 30 to 36 inches. The machine is capable of producing fabrics in fine gauges up to E 40; one of the two exhibits on display at ITM features this capability. "These machines successfully address the premium interlock segment, both in Türkiye and in many other markets worldwide," says Stefan Bühler.

A new approach for a premium brand

In addition to technologically sophisticated hardware, which will continue to define every Mayer & Cie. product, Mayer & Cie. Global is placing greater focus on the added value for its customers. The company's aim is to provide the optimal knitting solution for a specific fabric requirement. "The product that allows our customer to stand out from the competition is what justifies our machine," says Xu Hongjie, the new owner and Managing Director of Mayer & Cie. Global. At the same time, the company aims to make working with a Mayer & Cie. machine as simple and user-friendly as possible.



OV 3.2 QCe knitting head.

The beating heart in Albstadt

Xu Hongjie clearly commits Mayer & Cie. to the principle of "Made in Germany." The brand will continue to target the premium segment with its well-known broad product portfolio. Albstadt remains the global center for research and development, the production site for premium machines, and the manufacturing location for key precision components. Xu Hongjie himself is working full-time on site at the company headquarters in Albstadt.

With regard to the cooperation with Huixing, the guiding principle is to leverage synergies and complement each other's portfolios. In concrete terms, this means that Huixing serves the midto lower-price market segments with its machines, while Mayer & Cie. operates in its technologically sophisticated and demanding premium market segment.

Strong network of global representatives

In addition to its experienced team of employees, Mayer & Cie. Global aims to continue working with its long-standing and highly competent representatives wherever possible – including in Türkiye. Founded in 1993 and headquartered in Istanbul, Mayer Mümessillik Tekstil Tic. Ltd. Şti. has been a trusted partner of Mayer & Cie. for more than 30 years. As the exclusive representative for circular knitting machines in Türkiye, the company has established itself as a key player in the country's textile machinery market.

A new chapter for a heritage brand

With these strategic principles, Mayer & Cie. remains true to its engineering roots while becoming significantly more agile and market-oriented. "Listen, execute, improve – and act fast," summarizes Managing Director Xu his philosophy.

To achieve this, the company relies on shorter decision-making paths, less complexity, and open communication. The goal is to combine proven German engineering expertise with greater agility, customer focus, and speed.

ITM 2026 therefore marks not only the trade fair appearance of a well-established textile machinery manufacturer, but also the beginning of a new chapter for Mayer & Cie. Global.

About Mayer & Cie. Global

Mayer & Cie. is a German manufacturer of circular knitting machines headquartered in Albstadt. Founded in 1905, the company remained family-owned for four generations and is globally recognized for its premium technologies for single jersey, double jersey, interlock, and jacquard applications. Over the course of its history, Mayer & Cie. has delivered more than 80,000 machines worldwide.

Following insolvency proceedings initiated in December 2025, the company is now being repositioned under its established brand as Mayer & Cie. Global. Owned by Xu Hongjie, a member of the family behind Huixing, a Chinese circular

knitting machine manufacturer, Mayer & Cie. Global combines its longstanding engineering expertise with an international, agile management approach. The company focuses on customer-oriented knitting solutions, less complexity, and close collaboration with partners and customers worldwide.

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Kornit Digital

Kornit Digital Announces Commercial Availability of Atlas MATRIX Following Successful Global Beta Program

Atlas MATRIX boosts up capability of Kornit's proven Atlas Maxplus platform

Breakthrough platform expands on-demand production into polyester, blends and sublimated fabrics while delivering industrial-scale efficiency and premium retail quality

Kornit Digital (NASDAQ: KRNT, "Kornit Digital", "Kornit", or the "Company"), a global leader in sustainable, on-demand digital fashion and textile production technologies, recently announced the commercial availability of the Atlas MATRIX platform following the successful completion of a global beta program across leading production environments in Europe and North America. The announcement, made ahead of FESPA 2026 in Barcelona, marks a major milestone in the evolution of digital apparel production.

Atlas MATRIX expands the capabilities of Kornit's proven Atlas MAX PLUS platform into polyester, blends and sublimated fabrics, enabling customers to produce across virtually any fabric type with one unified production system while maintaining premium retail quality, durability and industrial-scale productivity. Recently unveiled at Konnections 2026, Atlas MATRIX introduces Kornit's proprietary Karbon Shield process, enabling direct decoration on polyester and sublimated garments while eliminating the dye migration challenges that have historically limited digital production capabilities. The platform allows producers to seamlessly transition between co\ on, polyester and blended fabrics in a single

workflow, dramatically expanding application opportunities while simplifying operations and improving efficiency.

The system has already been validated through extensive production with multiple leading global customers across Europe and North America. Early adopters report exceptional print quality, superior hand feel, operational simplification and the ability to unlock entirely new categories of business that were previously difficult or impossible to address with existing digital technologies.



"The apparel industry is rapidly shifting toward agile, on-demand production models that require far greater flexibility, efficiency and responsiveness," said Ronen Samuel, Chief Executive Officer of Kornit Digital. "Atlas MATRIX represents a major step forward for the industry, enabling our customers to expand into new applications, simplify production and accelerate the transition to digital manufacturing at scale. The early feedback and production results we are seeing from customers are extremely encouraging. We have already generated a strong backlog of upgrade demand from our existing install base, alongside new system demand from both existing and new customers, further validating the market opportunity and excitement around the platform."

Among the companies participating in the global program are leading production providers spanning print-on-demand, customized apparel and large-scale fulfillment operations.

"We are already shifting meaningful polyester production volumes to Atlas MATRIX," said Frederik Huhn, Director Global Fulfillment at Spread Group. "We are particularly impressed with the possibility of direct printing on dye

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sublimated shirts, allowing us to decorate these highly visible and important but tricky items in a single step with the highest quality. The Atlas MATRIX will allow us to capture opportunities that were not accessible before."

Rodney McDonald, President of US Colorworks, added: "Atlas MATRIX significantly expands what we can offer customers while simplifying production. The quality, feel and versatility we are seeing are extremely impressive."

Atlas MATRIX further strengthens Kornit's position as the industry leader in sustainable, ondemand production by enabling more localized, agile and inventory-efficient manufacturing models across a significantly broader range of apparel applications.

Live demonstrations of Atlas MATRIX will take place during FESPA 2026 at Kornit's booth 3A95.

About Kornit Digital

Kornit Digital (NASDAQ: KRNT) is a worldwide market leader in sustainable, on-demand, digital fashion and textile production technologies. The Company offers end-to-end solutions including digital printing systems, inks, consumables, software, and fulfillment services through its global fulfillment network. Headquartered in Israel with offices in the USA, Europe, and Asia Pacific, Kornit Digital serves customers in more than 100 countries. To learn more, visit www.kornit.com.

Forward Looking Statements

Certain statements in this press release are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and other U.S. securities laws. Forward-looking statements are characterized by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "will," "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "intends," "planned," or other similar words. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements relating to: the expected capabilities of Kornit's Atlas MATRIX platform in expanding on-demand production into polyester, blends and sublimated fabrics; developments in the apparel industry; and Kornit's objectives, plans and strategies, including statements that address developments that Kornit expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future. Forwardlooking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject

to risks and uncertainties. Kornit has based these forward-looking statements on assumptions and assessments made by its management in light of their experience and their perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors they believe to be appropriate. Important factors that could cause actual results, developments and business decisions to differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements include, among other things: Kornit's degree of success in developing, introducing and selling new or improved products and product enhancements; the extent of Kornit's ability to increase sales of its systems, ink and consumables; the development of the market for digital textile printing generally; and those additional factors referred to under "Risk Factors" in Item 3.D of Kornit's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2025, filed with the SEC on March 26, 2026. Any forward-looking statements in this press release are made as of the date hereof, and will not be updated by Kornit, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

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BB Engineering GmbH

Exhibition ITM 2026, Istanbul

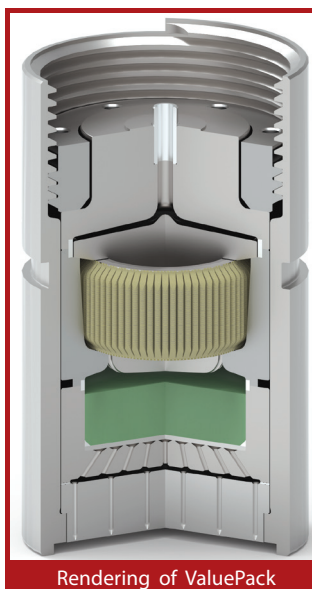
BB Engineering to present new, patented "ValuePack" spin pack at ITM

At the upcoming ITM in Istanbul, taking place June 9–13 at the Tüyap Fair Convention and Congress Center in Hall 7, Booth 702B, BB Engineering will once again be represented at a joint booth with its parent company, Barmag, and its representative, Tekstil Servis. The German machine manufacturer will showcase its expertise in man-made fiber and recycling technology,

presenting its entire product portfolio, which includes components such as extruders and filters, as well as complete systems for spinning synthetic fibers, air-texturing, and PET recycling.

ValuePack – The new generation spinpack

With its new, patented spin pack, BB Engineering underlines its expertise in synthetic fiber spinning. Until now, spin packs have been equipped with either metal powder (“sand”) or filter candles as filter media. Both variants have their place in specific applications but come with their own set of advantages and disadvantages. While sand packs score points primarily for their homogeneity and are therefore well-suited for virgin material, packs with filter candles offer an increased filter area and were originally developed specifically for recycling applications. The large filter area leads to better filter performance and service life, but at the same time is accompanied by a lower flux rate and shear. This can compromise homogeneity.



Rendering of ValuePack

The ValuePack combines both methods—metal sand and filter candle—in a two-step filtration process. The melt first passes through the filter candle, where it is optimally filtered over a large filter surface down to 15 µm. The melt then flows through the sand chamber, where homogenization and shearing are the primary processes. As simple as the concept is, it is equally innovative and advantageous. BB Engineering is a pioneer with its multi-step filtration in the spin pack. The result is significantly better homogeneity in terms of temperature and viscosity, improved spinning performance, and higher yarn quality for a wide range of applications that goes beyond pure recycling. Another advantage of the ValuePack is that it is already forced-sealed independently of pressure. This prevents leaks that can occur with self-sealing packages and offers a larger process window. Existing systems can be easily retrofitted to accommodate the ValuePack, which is slightly longer due to its design.

VarioFil® - A trusted and popular system for good reasons

Such as the popular VarioFil® compact spinning system from BB Engineering. Compact size, flexibility, and consistently high yarn quality—that’s what VarioFil® stands for, and that’s what Turkish fiber and textile producers value. “Our compact spinning system perfectly meets the needs of the Turkish textile market. Fibers and yarns from our VarioFil® customers are used, for example, in clothing, carpets, or textile automotive components such as seat covers or seat belts,” reports Ralf Morgenroth, Head of Sales and Customer Service. With over 60 systems installed since its market launch, Turkey is the largest market for VarioFil®. Accordingly, BB Engineering will once again be showcasing its compact spinning system at ITM this year for customers, prospective clients, and industry professionals. VarioFil® produces high-quality yarns (POY, FDY, HTY, LSY, HMY) from all common polymers with a production capacity of up to 450 kg/h per extruder. VarioFil® also spins recycled PET or bottle flakes directly into POY or FDY with impressive quality.



VarioFil® spinning line

COBRA® Filter sets new standards

BB Engineering first introduced the new COBRA® filter at the Plastics Recycling Show Europe and K 2025—setting new standards in the process. The company had clear goals in mind during development: The filter was designed to handle the increasing levels of contamination in recycling, simplify filter changes and cleaning through automation, and significantly reduce operating costs.

The result is a system that combines continuous, large-area filtration with automated, chemical-free intermediate cleaning. Two filter car-tridges with automatic switching ensure stable, reliable, and

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uninterrupted operation. As a result, COBRA® can handle even high levels of contamination where conventional candle filters or screen changers reach their limits. The integrated cleaning system significantly extends the service life of the filter media. At the same time, it reduces operational effort, melt loss, and energy consumption—all without the use of chemicals. This increases process reliability and significantly lowers operating costs.

As a versatile solution, COBRA® is suitable for both coarse and fine filtration. In addition to PET recycling, the system is also suitable for other applications, such as plastic spinning, where it can be used to improve efficiency or retrofitted.

About BB Engineering GmbH

BB Engineering GmbH is a German machine building company founded in 1997 as a joint venture between Barmag, nowadays a subsidiary of the Rieter group, and the Brückner group. Today, the company employs about 150 members of staff at its location in Remscheid, Germany, focusing their business on the development, engineering, design and manufacturing of extrusion, mixing and filtration technologies as well as complete spinning lines (VarioFil®), air-texturizing lines (JeTex®) and recycling technologies (VacuFil®, Visco+) for the plastics and textiles industry.

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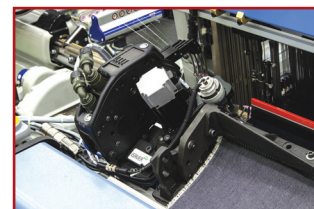
Itema Group

Itema to display its Weaving Excellence at ITM 2026

From June 9 to 13, Itema will exhibit at ITM 2026 in Istanbul (Hall 8 – Stand 806D), unveiling a distinctive exhibition concept designed to highlight the Company's expertise across the entire weaving value chain.

For this year's edition, Itema will introduce an innovative stand experience built around two core areas: advanced weaving and spare parts solutions and an immersive textile gallery featuring fabrics produced by Itema Customers worldwide.

At the heart of the stand, the textile gallery will present a curated selection of fabrics woven on Itema machines, offering visitors the opportunity to experience first-hand the versatility, quality, and textile capabilities of the Itema weaving machines, achievable across a wide range of applications and market segments. The fabrics on display come from collections that



our customers have presented to international brands, and feature particularly refined textile characteristics, such as complex constructions and the use of delicate, precious, or recycled yarns.

Alongside the fabric exhibition, the weaving solutions area will spotlight some of Itema's latest innovations, including the MEC-T mechanical tuckers and the iSAVER® waste selvage removal system available up to 6 colors. Developed to support more sustainable weaving processes, iSAVER® contributes to optimized resource usage and improved operational efficiency.

Special focus will also be dedicated to Itema's OEM spare parts offering – including components for legacy Itema brands – underlining the importance of genuine parts in ensuring long-term machine performance, reliability, and productivity.



Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore the HelloItema customer portal and discover the advantages of Itema's integrated spare parts ecosystem.

Türkiye has long represented a strategic market for Itema, with strong partnerships across key textile segments including curtains, home textiles, apparel, denim, and technical fabrics. Through continuous technological innovation and customer support, Itema remains committed to helping Turkish manufacturers achieve high-quality weaving performance and production efficiency. Supported by the strong local organization of Itema Türkiye, Customers benefit from responsive technical assistance, frequent on-site service visits, and rapid OEM spare parts availability, helping reduce unplanned downtime and support safe, reliable, and continuous mill operations.

Pamir Özaltan, Itema Türkiye Managing Director commented: "ITM represents an important opportunity to meet with our Customers and partners and strengthen the relationships we have

built over the years. The exhibition concept we are presenting reflects the close collaboration between Itema and the Turkish textile industry, as well as the weaving excellence that this partnership continues to generate."



Matteo Mutti, Itema Group Chief Sales & Service Officer and Itemalab Head of Textile Innovation added: "With this year's presence at ITM, we want to emphasize the tangible results our technology enables and the value we create throughout the weaving process – from machine performance to the final fabric."

Visitors are invited to discover Itema's textile gallery and weaving solutions at Hall 8 – Stand 806D.

About Itema

Itema is a leading global provider of advanced weaving solutions, including weaving machines, spare parts, and integrated services. Sixty percent of Itema is owned by the heirs of Gianni Radici, with the remaining 40% held by the Arizzi and Torri families.

Itema Group has expanded its business into industrial and innovation sectors, diversifying into high-growth markets through investments in companies such as Lamiflex®, Schoch®, and Itemalab®—Itema's advanced innovation hub, which offers systems engineering and business process re-engineering services to third parties. In 2023, Itema entered into a joint venture with the Asian biopharmaceutical giant Tofflon, forming Tofflonit, and establishing a new benchmark for biopharmaceutical industrial systems in Europe and Western markets.

With more than 900 employees worldwide, and world-class production sites in Italy, China, and India (the latter for Schoch products, ndr), Itema features a global presence with commercial and after-sales services in Italy, Switzerland, China, India, Japan, USA, Hong Kong, and Türkiye.

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Gayatri Textile Machines

Gayatri Textile Machines emphasizes on continuous modification and development of its product in line of customers' requirement

Our prime motto is to satisfy customer in all respects. Only customer's satisfaction is our profit margin. Considering Quality, Prompt Delivery, Price & after Sales Service, we are getting good responses from India and International Market. Gayatri Textile Machine has gained a lot of International reputation having participated at many national & international textile trade fairs like India ITME, ITM, DTG, VTG and ITMA etc.

Continuous design development / modification are being made in our range of products by studying customer's exact requirement, hence our products are successfully competing with others and exporting regularly in textile global market.

Our entire expert technicians are working under one roof—Gayatri Textile Machines.

Cot Grinding Machine

Model GCGHY-200-25-AF

This machine has been sophisticatedly designed and constructed to perform vibration free for high accuracy, high productivity, Superior operability with very less maintenance. Hydro – Pneumatically operated to grind R/F and S/F (Murata Airjet, Sussen, Rocos etc) Top rollers only on pneumatically operated Centreless Grinding Attachment with 200 min. wide emery having surface finish/accuracy as per international standards. To load 75 to 80 Top rollers of R/F or S/F at a time in adjustable magazine which will come one by one for grinding automatically with auto feeding system which is controlled by digital LCD electronic timer to set grinding time. The machine is equipped with dust extraction unit.



You can use another side to grind longer rollers like Draw Frame, Comber etc are grinded between centre by the help of MT2 Dead Centre with 25mm wide emery and hydraulically operated table traverse motion. Also we have made a provision that we have provided system for 200mm. wide emery

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

attachment with hydro pneumatically operated Centreless Grinding attachment suitable to grind all kinds of R/F & S/F top rollers as an optional.

Net/Gross weight : 1400/1800 & 250/450 kgs

Size of cage L × W × H : 180 × 150 × 165 cm

Size of cage L × W × H : 180 × 85 × 160 cm

Ultra Violet Treatment Machine

The most advanced environment friendly and world wide accepted treatment for irradiation of all types of cots like Ring Frame, Speed Frame, Draw Frame, Comber, etc. Designed totally maintenance free to reduce lapping on buffed top rollers in spinning department. During treatment ultra violet rays improve the surface finish and control roller lapping to save costly rubber cots from damage ensuring consistency of yarn quality and increased productivity, having 2KW, 1400 Volts, U.V. Lamp. For uniform treatment roller rotating system is provided. Treatment time is 6-8 minutes per batch for 35 top rollers of R/F and 20 of S/F. Loading and unloading of top roller is manual, safe and easy. Complete operation is controlled by auto reset timer.



Net/Gross weight : 450/650 kgs.

Size of cage L × W × H : 150 × 95 × 170 cm

Hydraulic Cots Mounting & De-mounting Machine

Machine is designed to mount & demount all types of longer top rollers like Comber, RSB Draw Frame "ALUCORE" cots etc. by horizontal attachment with roller guide, Stroke adjustment will be as per cots length. Separate Vertical attachment is provided for Ring Frame, Speed Frame & O/E & texturizing cots (Plane, PVC, Easyfit, Alucore) for more productivity. Hydraulic Power Pack is provided to operate both attachment at a time with 2HP, 3 Phase electric motor. Working pressure can be adjustable.



Net/Gross weight : 350/550 kgs.

Size of cage L × W × H : 195 × 105 × 120 cms

Spindle Lubricating Machine

Lubrication machine is designed with 2 separate guns — flushing & oiling guns for perfect flushing/clearing & oiling of spindle bolster for longer life of bearing, having trolley wheel to move one place to another place.

Due to zero leakage, there is no oil around the bolster which also ensures no fly and fluff accumulation, thus keeping the spindle/ring frame neat and clean.

Model	3 Tanks	2 Tanks
Flushing Tank	20 Ltrs	20 Ltrs
Oiling Tank	12 Ltrs	12 Ltrs
Topping Tank	10 Ltrs	—
Electric Motors	0.5 HP, 1440 RPM Single Phase	
Weight Net/Gross Kgs	110/230	100/220
Size of Case	125L × 60W × 110H cms.	

Flushing Gun (Clearing Gun)

Fitted with S.S. nozzle assembly, which cleans the bolster from neck bearing to footstep bearing and the dirty oil will be sucked out efficiently which will go to the flushing oil tank duly filtered twice by micro filter.

Lubricating Gun (Oiling Gun)

Equipped with adjustable S.S. dual nozzle assembly and easily adjustable auto oil level gauge system to maintain automatic oil level uniformly with no overflow or leakage at all. The same gun can be used for oil topping facility.

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A LEGACY OF CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE

Sakthi
TOP ROLLERS

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE MATTERS

The new generation preparatory machines in spinning industry demands more precision to yield maximum productivity with high quality yarn. Latest development of Draw frame toproller from Reiter and Lakshmi with non-greasing type to serve the said purpose.

'Sakthi' is the only manufacturer can supply the same in the replacement market. In addition modified greasing type also can be supplied at par quality which can be labour friendly and easy handling

Shells & End Bushes

Manufactured by CNC m/c ensuring high precision tolerance, our Top Rollers are made of High Grade Alloy Steel as per OEM recommendations.

End Bush Bearing and Grease

Bearings: To extend life and minimum wear and tear, Sakthi End bushes are being fitted with INA-Germany NTN, IKO-Japan needle/cage bearings.

Grease: Periodic lubrication is recommended for extended life of the bearings. Sakthi End bushes are packed with high speed grease during delivery.

Synthetic Rubber Cots

Imported Cots: Imported Twin layer, Press Fit cots like Accotex, Daytex, Berkal & Yamuchi etc., can be supplied with Sakthi Top roller duly mounted.

Indigenous Cots: Indian Glue on, Twin Layer, Press fit cots can be supplied with our Top roller duly mounted. Periodic buffing is recommended based on the shore hardness of the cots, count of cotton and basic raw material of the yarn.

Mounting and Buffing: Inhouse mounting facility will ensure the accurate fitment of all kind of cots.



'Sakthi' Top roller quality is taken care in every stage of operations up to final assy by QC team. As per customer choice any make and kind of cots can be duly mounted and supplied with our top roller.

SAKTHI TEXTILE ENGINEERS

Factory & Admin Office

207-A, Bharathiyar Road, Samathottam, Ganapathy,
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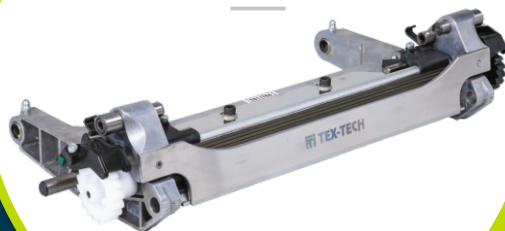
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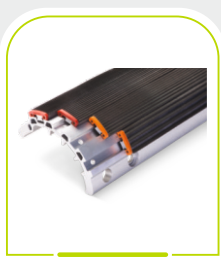
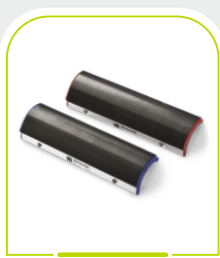
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- ◆ Top roller de - greasing machine
- ◆ Clearer roller cleaning machine
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- ◆ Cot mounting machine (Hand/Pneumatic)



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Machine



Hydraulic Cots Mounting &
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Roller Cleaning Machine



Flocked Clearer Roller
Cleaning Machine



GAYATRI TEXTILE MACHINES

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