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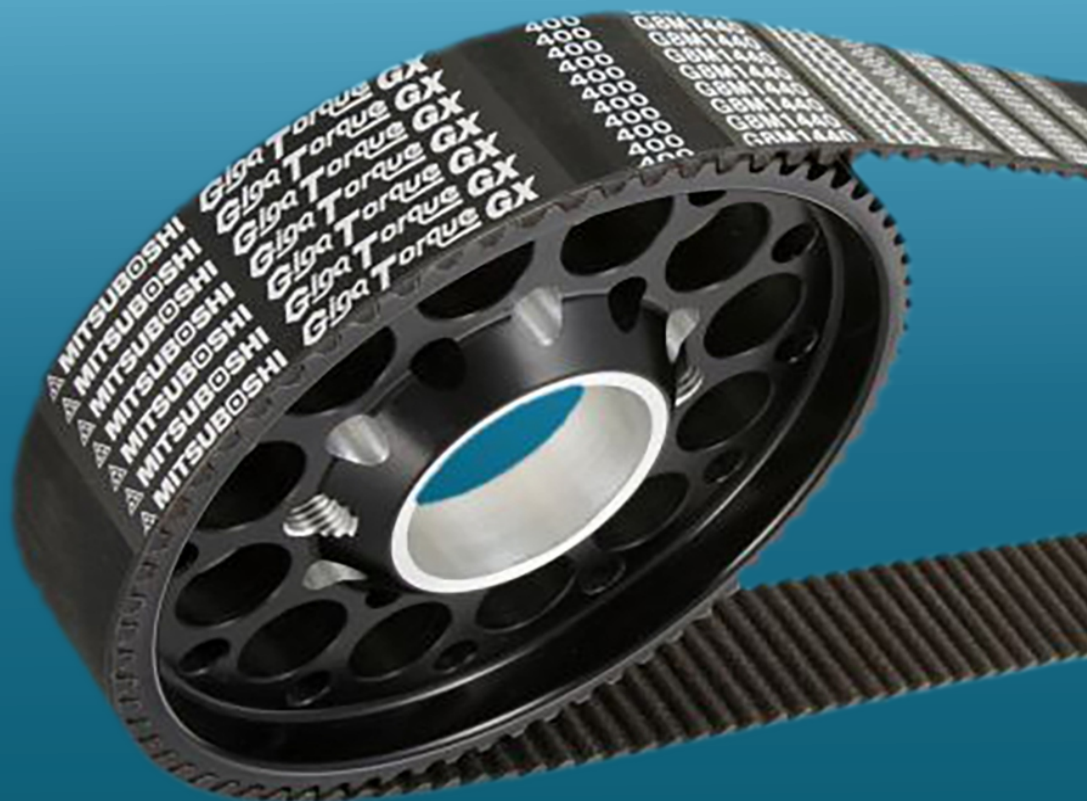


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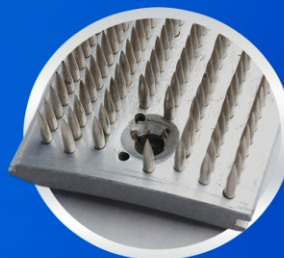
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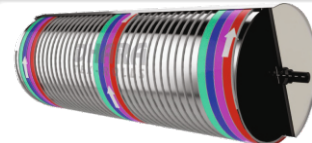
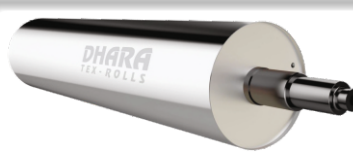
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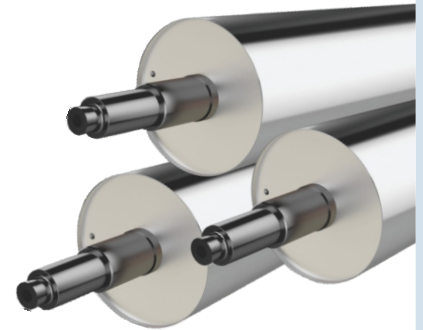
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Fluted Roller



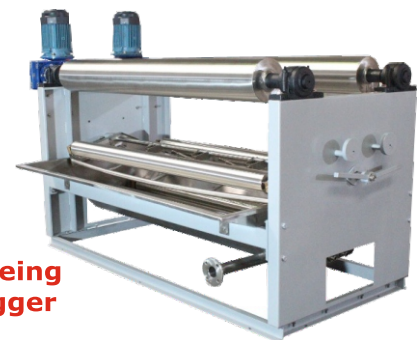
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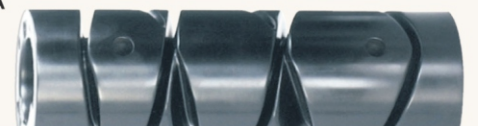
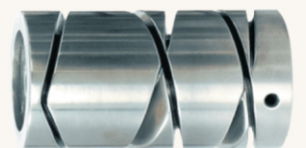
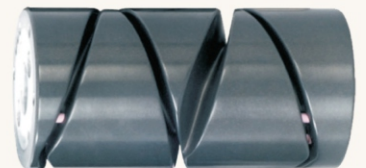
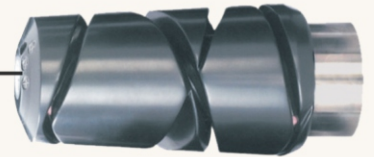
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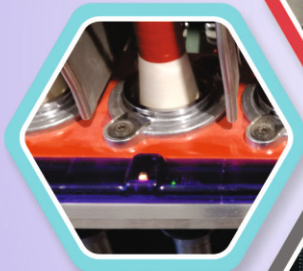
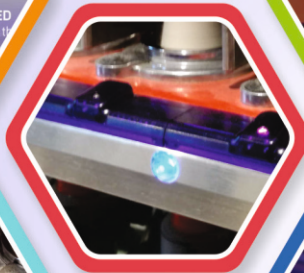
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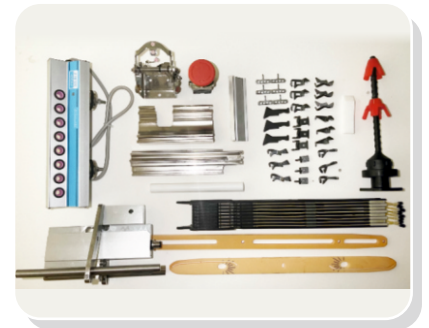
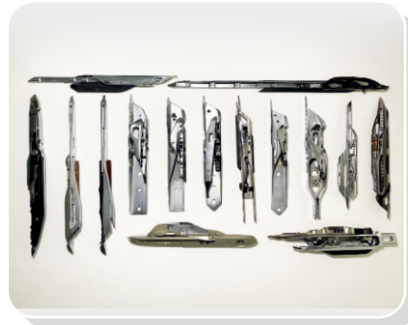
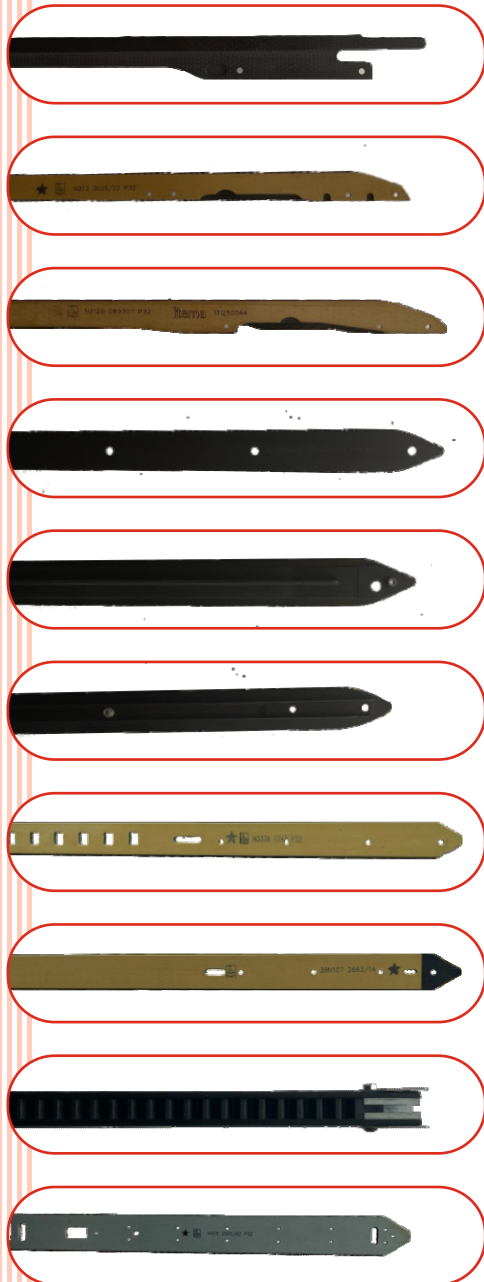
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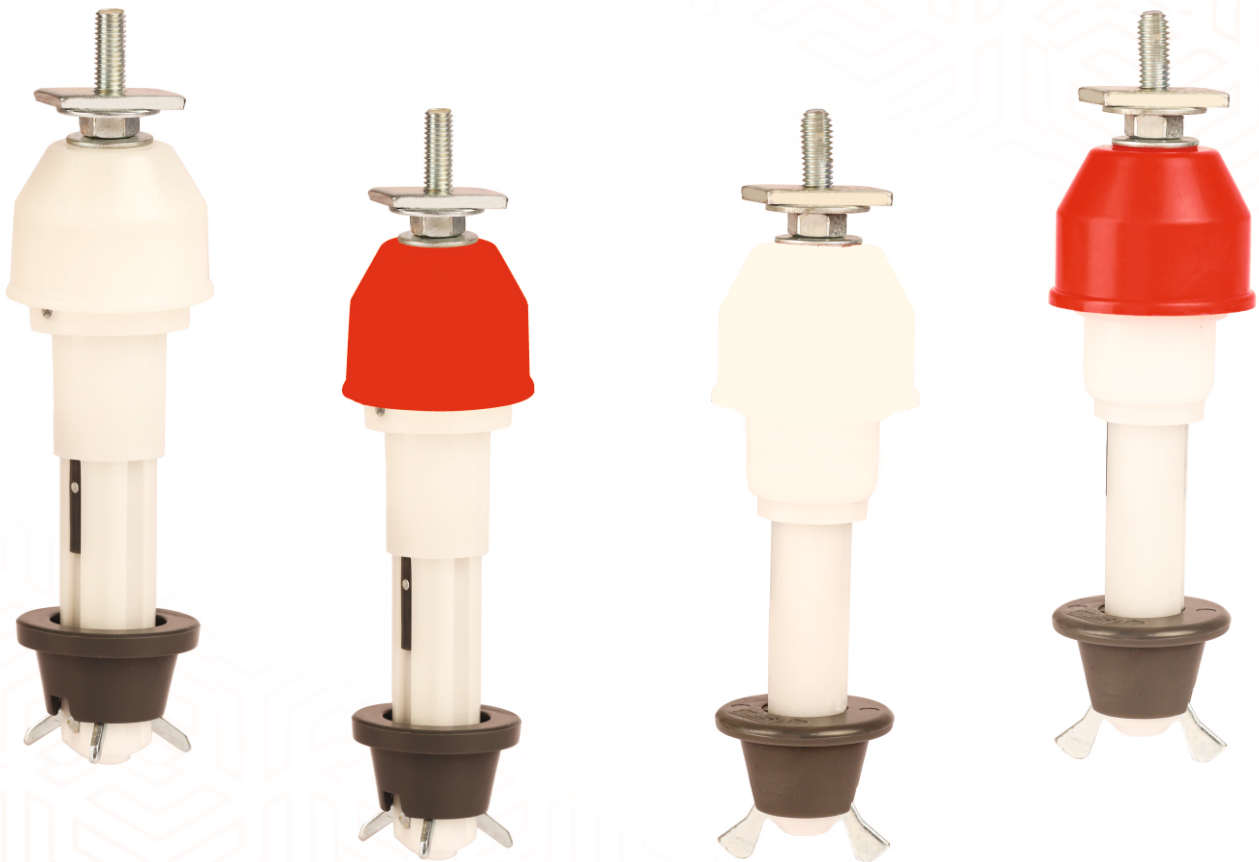




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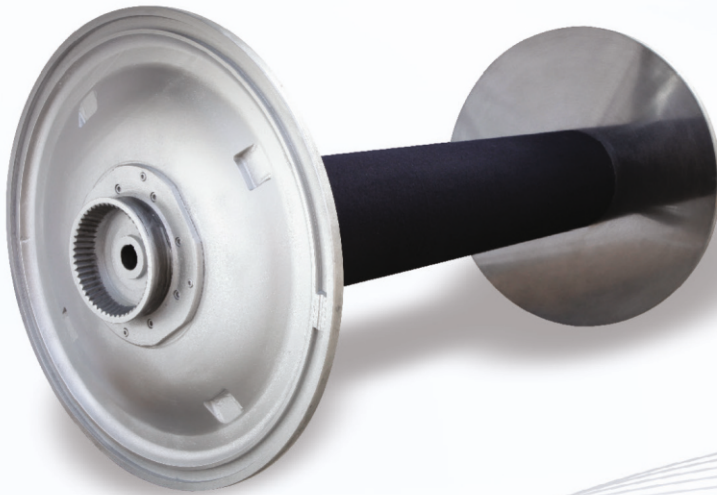


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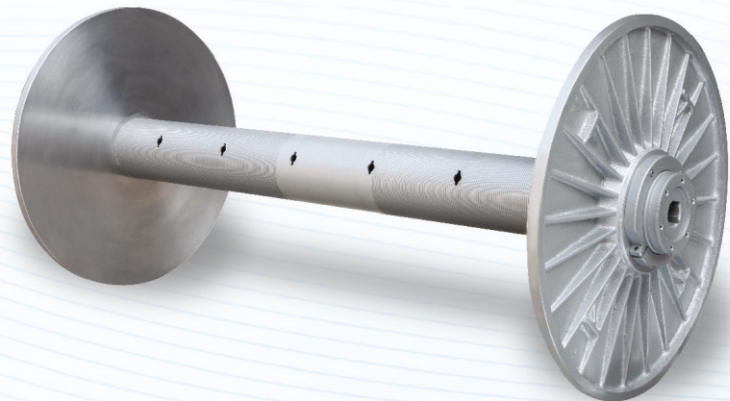
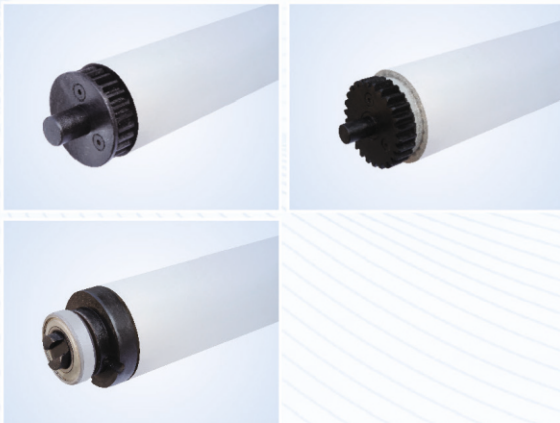
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Editorial	----	23
World Economy and Trade Trends	----	24
Indian Economy and Trade Trends	----	27
Textiles to be considered as a growth engine of Viksit Bharat	----	29
This decade will be a golden era for Indian textile	----	30
Trade deal widens U.S. textile market	----	30
Paisley to calligraphy: fashion designer redefines Kashmir's pashmina story	----	31
Cotton Corporation slashes fibre prices by up to 3% to spur sales	----	31
Textiles sector cheerful on import of US cotton	----	32
Cotton corporation sells 1.14 lakh bales procured during 2025-26 season	----	32

Consumer Insights: Men's buying behaviour toward branded shirts in Jaipur — Dr. Sulekha Ojha, Kriti Ojha	----	33
Govt launches 7 steps to boost exports	----	36
Impact of Agma Ring Frame Cradles on Cotton Yarn Quality — Sudhakar Kodela, S. Kubera Sampath Kumar, Raj Govindasamy	----	37
Effect of Digital Printing on Cotton Khadi Fabric — Sheetal Khandal Sharma, Ruby Jain	----	45
From silk looms to spam shields: AI brings about a revolutionary change in weaving	----	49
Export Prospects and Markets	----	50
Textiles 2030—Navigating Geopolitics, Technology Innovations and Global Expectations	----	56
ITAMMA receives overwhelming response for Nolkhaji extended his support for frequent such events at Bhilwara	----	64
Corporate News	----	78
Textile Events	----	86
Science in Industry	----	93
Index	----	104

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The Union Budget 2026 addresses technical textile and integrated parks as these play major role to strengthen India's manufacturing base

Union Budget 2026 put major focus on textile sector which is one of the India's oldest and most diverse, at the heart of the country's growth stories. Finance Minister turned the spotlight on handloom, building integrated textile parks and technical textiles. In the budget proposal finance minister said mega textile park has to be set up aiming to focus on technical textiles. This focus reflects a strategic attempt to address long-standing structural gaps in the textile sector.

The proposed mega textile parks aim to create integrated manufacturing eco-systems that combine infrastructure, processing, finishing, and ancillary services within unified clusters. Industry experts regard this as a necessary intervention to overcome the inefficiencies caused by fragmented production capacities, which have historically impacted turnaround times, quality consistency, and compliance with global sourcing standards.

The budget sends a positive signal for manufacturing and reinforces the broader 'Make in India Vision'. From a textile industry's point of view, it acknowledges several structural gaps that have existed for years. While India has achieved scale in apparel manufacturing, technical textiles but higher value-added segments have lagged. The renewed focus on technical textiles, along with targeted support for man-made fibers, is therefore a praise-worthy step. Emphasis on Man Made Fibers (MMF) is another notable aspect of the budget. MMF-based textiles have strong influences on the segment such as performance apparel, industrial applications, and home textiles, where consistency, durability and functionality are key.

The importance of integrated infrastructure implies that large, integrated manufacturing clusters are direly needed for India to compete globally on speed, quality, and compliance. Evidently, fragmented capacity has limited efficiency, and bringing infrastructure, processing, and value addition together can significantly enhance competitiveness.

The center's decision to move Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton to the first schedule effectively reducing custom duty to Zero, is expected to boost India's high-value textile and apparel exports which was announced in the budget FY 2027. Initiatives such as SAMARTH 2.0 focus on government's intent to align skilling with capacity expansion addressing labour productivity and work force readiness. If these measures are carried out consistently textile-industry's stake holders believe India's position in global supply chains will get more strengthened.

WORLD ECONOMY AND TRADE TRENDS

⇒ US-Supreme Court strikes down Trump tariffs

The US Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs, undercutting his signature economic policy and delivering his biggest legal defeat since he returned to the White House. Voting 6-3, the court said Trump exceeded his authority by invoking a federal emergency-powers law to impose his "reciprocal" tariffs across the globe as well as targeted import taxes the administration says address fentanyl trafficking. The justices didn't address the extent to which importers are entitled to refunds, leaving it to a lower court to sort out those issues. If fully allowed, refunds could total as much as \$170 billion-more than half the total revenue Trump's tariffs have brought in. The White House has said it will quickly replace the levies using other legal tools, though the fall-back options tend to be either more cumbersome or more limited than the wide-ranging powers Trump asserted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Trump described the SC decision against him as a "disgrace," and claimed he has a "back-up plan", reported Reuters citing sources familiar with the developments, The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The judges referred to the tariffs imposed on India for Russian oil purchases in his dissenting opinion. Trump had imposed 25% reciprocal tariffs on India and an additional 25% punitive tariff for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil. Stocks rose on news of the decision given Investors previously fretted tariffs would hurt the outlook for economic growth and company earnings. Treasuries extended declines with yields rising broadly and the rate on the benchmark 10-year note climbing to 4.10% as investors priced in the likelihood of lower tax revenues. Bloomberg gauge of the dollar fell as much as 0.2% before erasing the drop. The decision invalidates Trump's April 2 "Liberation Day" tariffs, which put levies of 10-50% on imports from most countries. It also scuttles duties he imposed on goods from Canada, Mexico and China in the name of addressing fentanyl trafficking, and it casts doubt on separate IEEPA tariffs placed on goods from Brazil and India for various reasons. □

⇒ Euro-Zone Inflation Rate declines to lowest in more than a year

Euro-area inflation fell further below the European Central Bank's 2% target, underscoring the policy dilemma facing officials as they weigh their next steps on interest rates. Consumer prices rose 1.7% in January from a year earlier, slowing from the previous month and matching the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey. It was the weakest reading since September 2024. Core inflation which strips out volatile food and energy prices unexpectedly eased to 2.2%, the lowest since October 2021. Services inflation, a key gauge for policymakers, slowed to 3.2%, according to Eurostat. The data arrive as the European Central Bank begins its first interest rate meeting of 2026. Economists widely expect borrowing costs to be kept unchanged at 2% for a fifth consecutive meeting held recently. While inflation is projected to return to the ECB's target after undershooting this year and next, a minority of policymakers remain concerned about a more persistent downside risk. The euro's recent rally could amplify those fears. At the same time, some officials continue to worry about stubborn price pressures in services. ECB President Christine Lagarde has cautioned that any moderation may be delayed if wage growth proves slow to cool. Inflation trends across the euro area's 21 member states remain uneven. German inflation came in at 2.1%, slightly above expectations, while France surprised with a five-year low of just 0.4%. Stronger economic growth could eventually push prices higher. The region expanded by 0.3% in the final quarter of 2025, slightly faster than forecast. Still, risks persist, highlighted by renewed global trade tensions after Donald Trump revived tariff threats linked to Greenland. Given the uncertainty, ECB policymakers reiterated in December the need for full flexibility in future rate decisions. □

⇒ US GDP surges 1.4% in Q4

The US economy grew less than expected at the end of last year, dragged down by a record-long government shutdown, consumer spending and trade. Inflation-adjusted gross domestic product increased an annualised 1.4% in Q4 after rising 4.4% in the prior period, according to the government's estimate out recently. Overall, the economy expanded 2.2%

WORLD ECONOMY AND TRADE TRENDS

last year, data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis showed. The weak quarterly result which was below all forecasts in a Bloomberg survey came as the US government was shut down for almost half of the three-month period. The BEA said the reduction in federal services during the shutdown subtracted about 1 percentage point from GDP, though the full impact couldn't be estimated. Less than an hour before the data were released, President Trump posted on social media that the shutdown would cost the US "at least two points in GDP." Despite the year-end slowdown, the data still cap a solid year for the US economy, which shrank in Q1 amid a monumental pre-tariff surge in imports, only to bounce back later in the year. The turnaround came after Trump backed off of his most punitive levies and the Fed lowered interest rates, helping drive the stock market to record highs and enabling Americans to keep spending. □

► EU chief asks for easing rules to take on US, China

The European Union must simplify its regulations to make the bloc more competitive against the likes of the United States and China, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said ahead of summits of EU political and business leaders. EU growth has been persistently lower than that of the United States over the past two decades, with EU productivity and innovation, particularly in fields like AI, falling short. "Let me take the US example again. One financial system, one financial capital," von der Leyen said on recently. "Here in Europe, we do not only have 27 different financial systems, each with its own supervisor. But also, more than 300 trading venues across our Union. That is fragmentation on steroids. We need one large, deep and liquid capital market." Before EU leaders gather in a Belgian castle of late to thrash out how they can compete economically with China and the US as the rules based world order frays, some leaders including France's Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Friedrich Merz will convene on soon with company chiefs for an industry summit to hear the demands of European business. Firms including Europe's largest steelmaker ArcelorMittal, building materials firm Heidelberg Materials and chemicals group Solvay will make their pitch for stronger

EU action to stem industrial decline. Among business leaders' asks are that the EU tackle Europe's high energy prices and step in to stir up demand for low-carbon products. "The good thing about European problems is that Europe could actually fix them itself if it wanted to. Because a lot is about flexibility, less bureaucracy, more flexible labour laws." Siemens Energy CEO Christian Bruch told Reuters. The EU is drafting a law to set "Made In Europe" require for goods bought through public contracts, to attempt to reduce its heavy reliance on China for key technologies. Brussels is also preparing to overhaul its main climate policy, the EU carbon market. □

► Eurozone finance chiefs want bigger role of euro

Euro-area finance chiefs are pushing to expand the single currency's global role, as US President Donald Trump roils markets and the US dollar weakens. "In light of recent geopolitical events in our current geopolitical context, there are risks that the international financial and monetary system is being used as a political tool," said Greek Finance Minister Kyriakos Pierrakakis, who chairs the meetings of his euro-area peers. "It is thus existential for us to safeguard the international role of the euro as it is quite pertinent for the EU's monetary sovereignty." The comments come just after the European Central Bank introduced its strongest move yet to promote the euro. Over the weekend, the monetary policy institution announced that it's prepared to offer euro liquidity to central banks from around the world. That proposal is one of the ideas included in a European Commission paper prepared ahead of the ministers' meeting in Brussels held recently. The document - seen by Bloomberg called for reinforcing euro diplomacy by reassuring partner countries about access to the common currency. "With the United States potentially less inclined to supply dollar liquidity during periods of stress, offering euro-denominated liquidity to partner countries could serve as a valuable complement to the EU trading strategy and boost the international role of the euro," the document said. The document explored ways to promote the use of the euro in issuance and transactions, especially in key sectors such as the energy, critical raw materials, air transport and defence sectors. "International investors

want to diversify, they are looking for contact with Europe, that's why we want to be a safe haven for the capital investments from the entire world," said German Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil, who together with his French counterpart pushed for more rapid action. □

► China's Economy surges 5% despite Trump Tariff Threat

China's economy expanded at a 5% annual pace in 2025, buoyed by strong exports despite US President Donald Trump's tariffs. However, growth slowed to a 4.5% rate in the last quarter of the year, the government said recently. That was the slowest quarterly growth since late 2022, when China was beginning to loosen stringent Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. The economy, the world's second largest, grew at a 4.8% annual pace in the previous quarter. China's leaders have been trying to spur faster growth after a slump in the property market and disruptions from the pandemic rippled through the economy. As expected, annual growth last year was in line with the government's official target for an expansion of "around 5%". In quarterly terms, the economy grew 1.2% in October to December. Strong exports helped to compensate for weak consumer spending and business investment, contributing to a record trade surplus of \$1.2 trillion. Chinese exports to the US suffered after President Donald Trump returned to office early last year and began raising tariffs. But that decline was offset by shipments to the rest of the world. Soaring imports of Chinese goods are leading some other governments to take action to protect local industries, in some cases raising import duties. "The key question is how long this engine of growth can remain the primary driver," Lynn Song, chief economist for Greater China at Dutch bank ING wrote in a recent note. "Should more economies also start ramping up tariffs on China, as Mexico has done and the EU has threatened to do, eventually, a tighter squeeze will be seen." □

► Britain, China focus on revival of 'golden era' business talks

Britain and China will aim to revive a "golden era" business dialogue when Prime Minister Keir Starmer visits Beijing, three sources familiar with the initiative said, with top company executives from both sides

invited to participate. AstraZeneca, BP, HSBC, Intercontinental Hotels Group, Jaguar Land Rover, Rolls Royce, Schroders and Standard Chartered, are among the British firms set to join a revamped "UK-China CEO Council," said the sources, who are both Chinese and British. The council was originally conceived by then Prime Minister Theresa May and then Premier Li Keqiang in 2018, during a period of ties both sides dubbed a golden era. The Chinese side should be represented by Bank of China, China Construction Bank, China Mobile, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation, China National Pharmaceutical Group and BYD, among other companies, the sources a — mixture of officials and businesspeople added.

London embassy green light clears way for visit

Negotiations have been under way for some time. But with Starmer's visit largely contingent on approval for China to build its largest embassy in Europe in London — a green light it received on 20th January talks have only just begun in earnest, they said. Details such as the group's official English-language name still need to be settled, one person said, with the British government reluctant to include "CEO" in the title, while the Chinese side plans to keep the same Chinese translation used in 2018. Premier Li Qiang, China's second-ranking official, should be Beijing's representative, if the talks go ahead, they added. The British side could announce the visit and Starmer's schedule, that same person said. All of the sources cautioned, however, that US President Donald Trump's threats to acquire Greenland could derail Starmer's trip, adding that, with the embassy decision still so recent, other elements of the visit were still being finalized. None of the people confirm which CEOs would attend, with one businessperson noting their company's chief executive had declined, unable to be sure the visit would proceed. Reuters contacted all of the companies expected to attend for comment, but none immediately responded.

Starmer working to reset ties with China

A visit by Starmer would be the first by a British leader since 2018, with his administration aiming to reset ties with the world's second-largest economy after successive conservative governments shifted the UK from being one of Beijing's strongest fiercest critics. ■

INDIAN ECONOMY AND TRADE TRENDS

⇒ Vaishnaw finds AI Investments of \$200b in 2 years

India is expected to see \$200 billion worth of investments into the artificial intelligence (AI) economy over the next two years across all five layers of the AI stack, electronics and information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said recently. Briefing the press on the second day of the India AI Impact Summit, he said a further \$17 billion has been committed towards research and development in the deeptech and application layer.. Most of the investments moving into AI have flowed into data centres, and upto \$90 billion of funds already committed to data centres are included in the government's investment outlook. But now, investments have begun moving into establishing foundational models, and ramping up energy infrastructure needed for AI, he said. Meanwhile, the government is working on a research project to develop high bandwidth memory under the second phase of the India semiconductor mission 2.0. The minister also said the government also plans to create and deploy a bouquet of trusted, security-tested AI solutions across diverse sectors such as health-care, rural, small enterprises and education. This 'UPI like model for AI' will provide services in local languages. The government is committed to quickly expanding the country's common compute capacity, and procurement orders for 20,000 graphics processing units (GPUs) will be given within a week. The added capacity will be deployed over the next 6 months, adding to the over 38,000 GPUs that India has already put out at rates of \$65/hour. Vaishnaw said India is engaged with 30 other nations to boost responsible, global AI deployment. "Global leaders recognise the need for adopting a techno-legal approach to reducing AI harm," he said. India is also aiming to build consensus to harness AI for public good, and mitigate harms, he said. Apologising for the overcrowding-related problems faced by attendees at the summit, Vaishnaw said a war room is now operating to address any problems. □

⇒ India's achieves sixth position in Asia manufacturing Index

India's needs to up the ante after ranking sixth among 11 Asian countries in the newly released Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2026, which measures the relative competitiveness of major manufacturing economies across eight key pillars and 43 sub-parameters. In its third year, the Index — released by Dezan Shira & Associates, a pan-Asian market entry advisory firm headquartered in Hong Kong — places India behind key Asian competitors in the global manufacturing race. Malaysia has moved up to second place for the first time in 2026, replacing Vietnam, which has slipped to third. Among developed economies, Singapore has climbed one rank to fourth, overtaking South Korea, which has dropped to fifth. These shifts, the study says, reflect Intensifying regional competition. India remains ahead of Indonesia (seventh), while Thailand has made a sharp climb-from 10th in 2025 to eighth in 2026. The Philippines now sits at 10th place, Japan ranks ninth, and China continues to dominate the index, holding the top position for the third consecutive year. Bangladesh ranks last among the 11 countries studied. The Index ranks countries across eight broad pillars: economy, political risk, business environment, International trade, tax policy, Infrastructure, workforce, and innovation. Each pillar is broken down into sub-parameters and scored on a scale of 100, with higher scores indicating stronger performance. In the inaugural 2024 report, India ranked fourth among eight countries. It slipped to sixth in 2025 when the study expanded to 11 countries — a position it retains in the 2026 Index. Summing up India's position, the index observes that the country "faces a unique duality: a massive market and strong policy momentum, with structural bottlenecks in infrastructure, logistics, and administrative complexity". While India's sixth-place ranking reflects strong economic fundamentals, long-standing constraints continue to weigh on manufacturing competitiveness. There is,

however, good news. India's economy is clearly bustling, ranking third overall — behind only Vietnam and China. It scores the highest on economic growth, a key sub-parameter under the economy pillar, and ranks second on the economic scale, trailing only China. This growth is supported by work-force strength. India ranks first among the 11 countries, measured across sub-parameters including labour force size and growth, demographic structure, labour costs, and educational attainment. India ranks fourth on infrastructure and fifth on innovation-areas expected to improve further with a sustained government push. Still, several weak spots stand out. India ranks ninth on tax policy, international trade, and political risk. It posts the lowest score on tax rates among the 11 countries and lags behind China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam (the top scorer), and Thailand on tax incentives. On international trade, India scored poorly on parameters such as free trade agreement integration, where China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam perform much better. It also ranks low on logistics performance, with six countries ahead of it and Singapore leading the category. Political risk remains another worry. On corruption perception, India trails six countries, with Singapore ranked the least corrupt. India also scores low on institutional stability — a key factor multinational companies consider when investing. □

➡ India to attract \$200 bn investment in data centre capacity by '30

India is set to attract \$200 billion investment in the creation of new data centre capacity by 2030, part of the larger \$800 billion investment line-up in the Asia Pacific region, according to accounting and consultancy firm Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. "This is a huge economic opportunity for the region and for India. We are expecting 8-10 Gw of data centre capacity to be built in India in the next four years, but for that to happen, India will have to ensure there is sufficient power supply, Will Symons, Asia Pacific Climate & Sustainability Leader at Deloitte, told

reporters in an interaction. The firm recently released a report on the data centre boom and stated that India's expanding renewable energy base and clean power will play a major role in supporting the next phase of data centre growth, but power generation will have to keep up, so that there is no energy-supply gap. It said grid stability limitations and constrained substation capacity in high growth corridors can be a major challenge for the plan. Also, longer development timelines for transmission upgrades and the lack of a unified national framework to support renewable integration for data centres can also pose a challenge. "All of this expected \$200 billion data centre investments in India over the next four years will come in four to five states Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh." said Anish Mandal, Partner at Deloitte. He added that data centres alone will contribute more than 10 per cent of the peak power demand in each of these states through 2030, and if they are powered through renewable energy, which is infirm by nature, the country would need significant power system reliability planning to avoid grid instability. India contributed 20 per cent of the world's data consumption but hosted less than 5 per cent of the data centres. The drivers of data centre growth in India included sovereign data, rising AI use cases, expanded digital connectivity, enterprise cloud growth, among others. □

➡ Trade deficit widens in Jan on higher gold imports

India's Merchandise Trade deficit widened to a three-month high of \$34.68 billion in January, driven by a significant jump in imports of gold and silver even as exports stagnated due to high additional US tariffs. The goods exports grew an anaemic 0.61% to \$36.56 billion during the month, as shipments to the US fell 21.7% on-year to \$6.6 billion. Exports to the US still remained in positive territory during the April-January period, growing at 6.73% to \$72.46 billion. Merchandise imports during the January were up 19.2% to \$71.24 billion. ■

Textiles to be considered as a growth engine of Viksit Bharat

The Viksit Bharat Budget 2026-27 signals confidence, conviction and clear reform orientation at a time of global uncertainty.

India today stands as the world's fourth largest and the fastest growing major economy, firmly on track to become the third largest in the near future. With an economy of \$4.5 trillion, GDP growth projected at 7.2%, FDI inflows crossing \$750 billion, and capital expenditure rising more than sixfold from ₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014 to ₹12.21 lakh crore in 2026, the Budget firmly anchors infrastructure-led growth while reinforcing macroeconomic stability and global confidence.

Beyond headline numbers, it sets out a clear strategic direction focused on inclusive growth and large-scale employment generation through labour-intensive manufacturing, with textiles at its core.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strategic leadership, the past year has marked a decisive turning point for the textiles sector. Through 18 FTAs, India now has preferential access to textile markets worth nearly \$466 billion within a global import market of \$800 billion, further boosted by renewed access to the \$110-billion US market. The recent US trade deal is expected to lift exports well beyond last year's levels.

On the domestic front, the removal of quality control orders has eased compliance burdens, while GST reforms have addressed long standing inverted duty structures.

What makes Budget 2026 consequential is continuity and scale. Initiatives such as the cotton productivity mission and broader economic reforms are now being expanded from pilots into platforms. For decades, textiles were viewed largely through a welfare lens. This Budget marks a decisive shift, repositioning textiles as a core industrial strategy for scale, competitiveness and long-term national growth.

The case for such intervention is compelling. India's textile and apparel sector contributes around 2.3% of GDP, accounts for nearly 12% of industrial production and employs over 52 million people. While India's share in global textile and apparel exports stands at about 4%, this underlines the sector's significant growth potential.

The government has set an ambitious objective: scaling the sector to \$350 billion by 2030 and expanding exports to \$100 billion. Value-chain

integration is the first pillar of reform, anchored in meeting the sector's projected raw material requirement of 23 million MT by 2030 across both natural and man-made fibres. Fibre cost volatility currently accounts for nearly 25-30% of input uncertainty, directly impacting margins, planning and export pricing, particularly for MSMEs.

The Budget addresses this challenge through the national fibre scheme, strengthening domestic availability across cotton, man-made fibres and emerging new-age fibres. By stabilising raw material supply, it improves margin visibility, enhances planning certainty and strengthens export pricing power.

Another constraint has been reliance on legacy production clusters that limits productivity and scale. Modernising these ecosystems is essential. Budget 2026 directly addresses this through the modernisation of 200 industrial clusters nation-wide. Employment generation and workforce readiness remain central to the sector's transformation. Textiles generate nearly three times more jobs per crore of investment than capital intensive industries. Backed by clustered growth, the textile expansion and employment scheme is expected to support 20-30 million additional livelihoods over the next five years.

This momentum is strengthened via SAMARTH 2.0, with an outlay of ₹2,800 crore between 2026 and 2031 to train 1.5 million industry-ready workers. Tie-ups with NIFT, IITs, IIHTS, ITIs and SVPISTM will further align skilling with production, technology and design needs.

Recognising MSMEs as the backbone of the ecosystem, the Budget addresses their most binding constraint—liquidity—through the ₹10,000-crore SME growth fund, expanded invoice financing via strengthened TReDS platforms and faster government payment cycles.

Importantly, the reform push extends beyond factories to handlooms and handicrafts, employing nearly 6.5 million people across rural India. A strengthened National Handloom and Handicraft Programme, aligned with the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative and the ODOP vision, will shift the sector from subsistence support towards skilling, branding and global market access. Sustainability is also embedded as a design principle through the Tex Eco initiative, recognising it as a driver of future competitiveness. ■

This decade will be a golden era for Indian textile

The US interim framework is a great moment for the textile industry, said A Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC). "This decade will undoubtedly usher in a golden era for the Indian textile and apparel sector," he added.

A similar sentiment was expressed by other industry officials. With an 18 per cent tariff, India will have a competitive edge over major exporting nations such as China (35 per cent), Vietnam (20 per cent), Bangladesh (20 per cent) and Indonesia (19 per cent).

The coming decade is poised to be India's in textile trade, as the country emerges as one of the most preferred sourcing destinations for global buyers, said Sakthivel.

The agreement creates immense opportunities across the entire textiles value chain and is expected to generate substantial employment, particularly for the women and MSMEs. Farmers will also benefit significantly, reinforcing inclusive and sustainable growth.

This will also address the issue of non-tariff barriers to trade and reduce the compliance burden and procedural delays leading to the faster movement of goods to the US market, he said.

The main beneficiaries will be exporters of textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, plastic and rubber products, organic chemicals, home décor and artisanal products, and certain categories of machinery, said Global Trade Research Initiative.

Edge on Competition

"The earlier 50 per cent US tariff on Indian goods was the biggest pain point for the Indian textile and

apparel sector, which counts the United States as its single biggest overseas market. With that gone, India's textile and apparel exports can once again compete effectively in the US, as at 18 per cent we will now also enjoy a slight tariff advantage over our nearest competitors, Vietnam and Bangladesh," said Ashwin Chandran, chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI).

"This highly positive development is a huge boost for India's aim of textiles and apparel exports worth \$100 billion by 2030," he added.

The CITI Chairman said the industry body is awaiting more clarity on cotton. There is great complementarity between the US and India on cotton. India's exports of textiles and apparel are primarily driven by cotton, he added.

The removal of import duty on cotton of all varieties will reduce the divergence between domestic and global prices and help restore the competitiveness of India's spinning and textile industries. Such a step would also ensure that the minimum support price (MSP) and other farmer-support mechanisms can function as intended without creating significant downstream price distortions. During the current cotton season, the MSP of 'Kapas' has increased by nearly 8 per cent, he said.

Coming close on the heels of the India-EU FTA and with 20 plus other trade agreements with large economies/trading blocs, this puts India in the pole position in the race to China +1 opportunity in global supply chains, said Nitin Jain, CEO and Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Singapore. ■

Trade deal widens U.S. textile market

The Union Ministry of Textiles said recently that the agreement between India and the U.S. opens up a \$118 billion U.S. global imports market of textiles, apparels, and made ups.

With the U.S. being India's largest export destination of around \$10.5 billion, the deal is expected to play a pivotal role in India achieving its intended target of \$100 billion exports in 2030.

The 18% reciprocal tariffs on all the textile products, including apparel and made-ups, will remove the disadvantage that Indian exporters had and also place them in a better position than Bangladesh (20%), China (30%), Pakistan (19%) and Vietnam (20%), the Ministry said.

'Compete effectively'

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry chairman Ashwin Chandran said India's textile and apparel exports can once again compete effectively in the U.S. The U.S. imports of textiles and apparel from India dropped 31.4% in November 2025 compared with November 2024. The industry is awaiting more clarity on cotton as India's exports of textiles and apparel are primarily driven by cotton.

A. Sakthivel, chairman of the AEPC, said the India-U.S. trade agreement will also address the issue of non-tariff barriers to trade and reduce the compliance burden and procedural delays leading to the faster movement of goods to the U.S. market. ■

Paisley to calligraphy: fashion designer redefines Kashmir's pashmina story

For centuries, Kashmir's pashmina story was popularised by intricate and exquisite paisley, cypress and flower bouquet imprints. Zubair Kirmani, a Srinagar-born fashion designer, has changed the format by introducing Islamic calligraphy on pashmina shawls. From a popular wearable, the pashmina is writing a new story as wall decor.

"Kashmir has always been a land of extraordinary craftsmanship. The problem is not the lack of heritage; it is repetition. When craft remains unchanged for decades, it slowly becomes predictable, and predictability weakens its global relevance," said the 46-year-old Kirmani, whose brand 'Bounipun' has already earned the spotlight on the runways of Lakme Fashion Week, Wills Lifestyle India and other platforms.

He added, "If design stagnates and value drops, incomes shrink and the younger generation loses interest in continuing the craft. Evolution is therefore not just a creative choice; it is essential for sustaining livelihoods and ensuring that this heritage remains economically viable for future generations."

Mr. Kirmani showcased his new series, 'Karahul', at the India Islamic Centre, New Delhi, recently. In this series, the delicate pashmina is embossed with Kufic calligraphy highlighting verses from the Koran. Kufic

calligraphy is a complex play of angular, vertical, horizontal and regular lines that create Arabic letters and transform them into Koranic verses.

Years of research

"It is a concept that took years of research, refinement, and technical innovation to perfect," said Mr. Kirmani.

The new series also marks a departure from his work on geometric patterns influenced by the 'Khatambandh', complex geometrical patterns carved on ceilings in Kashmir. "It's not a departure. It is an extension. Geometry was never a limitation, and calligraphy is not a departure. For me, it is a natural evolution driven by the need to innovate while staying rooted in the brand's ethos. Bounipun has always been about pushing Pashmina beyond, the expected, without disturbing its soul," Mr. Kirmani said.

Pashmina, which defines the identity of Kashmir's art heritage, has a deeper connection for the fashion designer. "Pashmina is not just fabric; it is heritage. Islamic calligraphy is not just script; it is art with meaning. Bringing the two together creates dialogue – between material and message, between tradition and innovation. For me, it is about giving form to words and giving voice to fabric," he said. ■

Cotton Corporation slashes fibre prices by up to 3% to spur sales

Amidst an easing trend in international prices, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has reduced the price for the 2025-26 crop by ₹1,400-1,700 per candy (of 356 kg) to boost sales. The State-run entity has also reduced the lifting period for buyers from 60 days to 30 days.

"The correction in prices, is in line with the international prices," said Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director, CCI.

The State-run entity had started the sale of the 2025-26 crop on January 19 and has sold about 4 lakh bales till now, amidst dull response from the industry.

Also, the CCI's procurement has touched 93 lakh bales of 170 kg each till now, Gupta said. The procurement will go on till the end of this month. CCI is carrying out procuring operations in Telangana, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Daily arrivals

Gupta said the local arrivals were continuing and the industry will continue to buy first from the market. The daily arrivals are estimated to be between 1.25 and 1.5 lakh bales. "Our sales normally pick up after March only," Gupta said.

Ramanuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent in Raichur, said the arrivals were good in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Telangana, while they were tapering in Karnataka. "The market prices are lower than the CCI price, and the trade is getting its choice of cotton from the market," Das Boob said.

Output estimate

Meanwhile, the Cotton Association of India (CAI), which recently revised upwards the crop estimate for 2025-26 by around 2.5 per cent, or 75 lakh bales of 170 kg each, to 317 lakh bales on higher than estimated production in Maharashtra and Telangana, maintained the projections recently.

CAI maintained total cotton consumption during 2025-26 till September-end at 305 lakh bales against the previous year's 314 lakh bales. Till January-end, cotton consumption is estimated at 104 lakh bales, CAI President Vinay N Kotak said in a statement.

CAI has projected a year end surplus 122.59 lakh bales for the 2025-26 season, up 56 per cent year-on-year on record imports of 50 lakh bales during the year. Imports till January-end stood higher at 35 lakh bales and exports at 6 lakh bales. The association estimated supplies for the current season at 427.59 lakh bales compared with 392.59 lakh bales. The supply includes an opening stock of 60.59 lakh bales and is being boosted by higher imports.

Cotton availability as of January-end was 315.17 lakh bales with cotton pressings estimated 220.58 lakh bales, the opening stock and the import of 35 lakh bales.

A surplus of 122.59 lakh bales is being estimated at the end of the current season in September against 78.59 lakh bales surplus at the end of the previous season.

The closing stock at the end of the season is expected at 107.59 lakh bales, up 47 lakh bales from the previous season. ■

Textiles sector cheerful on import of US cotton

The cotton textiles industry is upbeat over the Indo-US trade deal, particularly with cotton imports likely to meet the expected demand surge for the natural fibre over the next few years,

Though details of how cotton imports would be permitted are not clear, industry leaders expect the government to either follow the Australian cotton import formula or lower duty on US cotton by 50 per cent.

However, the cotton textile industry sees a need for imports of the natural fibre at a lower cost particularly when the industry is gung-ho over the trade deal with the European Union, apart from the US.

"Indian cotton production has stagnated over the past couple of years. We need quality cotton besides extra long staple to cater to the export market. Domestic cotton prices are also higher than global cotton," said K Venkatachalam, advisor, Tamilnadu Spinning Mills Association (TASMA).

"The free trade agreement with the EU in January and the deal with the US now will likely lead to demand for cotton doubling, he said.

"It is possible that India may cap the import volume for duty concession at 5-10 lakh bales (170 kg). We have to await the notification. But US cotton is the best in quality. It is contamination-free, and prices are low, too," said Atul Ganatra, former President of Cotton Association of India (CAI).

Cotton imports may be allowed duty-free from the US. "We, however, have to see the fine print," Ram Kaundinya of Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), said. He said cotton production in India is inadequate due to a continuous decline in yields and production in last 5-6 years.

Not introducing new technologies, Pink Bollworm attacks, etc have contributed to this situation.

Options before govt

"Nothing is clear now. Maybe, the government can halve the duty for US cotton from the 11 per cent it imposes generally for cotton, barring extra-long staple cotton that is duty-free. It could also permit duty-free import of US cotton up to 50,000 tonnes (about 2.95 lakh bales) as it has done for Australian cotton," said Anand Popat, a Rajkot-based trader in cotton, yarn and cotton waste.

"It looks to be a good deal with cotton textiles, It will provide an opportunity for the textile sector to flourish. Currently, Imported cotton is cheaper than domestic cotton. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) holds atleast 95 lakh bales and is offering around ₹56,500 candy (356 kg). Imported cotton landing costs are below ₹54,000, said Ramnuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent in Raichur and vice president of All India Cotton Brokers Association.

Ganatra expects cotton imports to double during the current cotton season to September. ■

Cotton corporation sells 1.14 lakh bales procured during 2025-26 season

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) recently began the sale of cotton procured during the ongoing 2025-26 season even as the prices touched a seasonal high, crossing the ₹56,000 levels per candy (356 kg).

The State-run entity sold around 1.14 lakh bales on the first day of the sale, said Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CCI. "Since mills need quality cotton, sales have commenced," Gupta said. Till the 2nd week of the CCI procured some 82 lakh bales.

The CCI's sale price for the 2025-26 season is in the range of ₹56,300-₹57,300 per candy for 29 mm cotton, almost similar to last year's levels. However, the trade feels CCI prices are slightly on the higher side compared to the market.

Unsustainable

"The rates are higher by ₹1,000-₹1,500 per candy than what the market expected. We need to see the quality of the CCI cotton. If the quality offered is good, then CCI will be able to sell slowly. If the quality is poor, then mills will buy imported cotton at ₹58,000-₹59,000 mill delivery, including import duty," said Atul Ganatra, Chairman, Crop Committee of Cotton Association of India, the apex trade body.

Recently, mills bought 61,000 bales from the 2025-26 crop from the CCI, while traders bought 51,400 bales.

Ramanuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent in Raichur, felt that the prices set by the CCI are slightly on the higher side compared to the market. "Mills, which have

immediate requirement "an buy in small quantities. I don't think these prices will sustain at these levels," he said, adding that ₹54,000-₹55,000 is the ideal range.

Crop estimate rise

Prevailing cotton prices are at their peak levels in the on-going season, inching up from early January after the government ended the duty exemption on imports on December 31. Also, the firming trend in cottonseed prices has lent support to raw cotton prices.

"Cotton prices, which were hovering in the range of ₹52,000 levels per candy at the start of the season in early October have inched up gradually and have crossed the ₹56,000 levels. Before January, the price was hovering around the ₹53,000-₹54,000 levels. This is the highest price of the season." Das Boob said.

Recently, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) revised upwards the crop estimate for 2025-26 by around 2.5 per cent or 7.5 lakh bales of 170 kg each to 317 lakh bales on higher than estimated production in Maharashtra and Telangana.

The CAI projected a year-end surplus of 122.59 lakh bales for the 2025-26 season, up 56 per cent year-on-year on record imports of 50 lakh bales during the year. Imports till December 31 stood higher at 31 lakh bales. For the current cotton year 2025-26 ending September, CAI is expecting imports at a record 50 lakh bales against 41 lakh bales a year ago. ■

CONSUMER INSIGHTS: MEN'S BUYING BEHAVIOUR TOWARD BRANDED SHIRTS IN JAIPUR

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Abstract

The study explores men's purchasing behaviour toward branded shirts in Jaipur, emphasizing the growing importance of understanding emerging consumer markets. In today's competitive retail environment, developing and sustaining strong brand equity is essential for companies seeking to maintain market share and profitability. Branding as an intangible asset alongside patents and proprietary knowledge plays a crucial role in shaping consumer perceptions and overall corporate value. The research examines how men perceive and evaluate branded shirts, focusing on their decisions across single-brand showrooms and multi-brand outlets. The findings reveal that most consumers visit showrooms with a preferred brand in mind, primarily due to perceived quality and comfort. Demographic variables and purchase-pattern factors show no significant influence on the choice of retail outlet. This underscores the need for marketers to strategically leverage brand equity and consumer perceptions to strengthen their market presence.

Keywords: branded shirts, men's buying behavior, consumer perception, single-brand showroom, multi-brand retail

Introduction

Branding has evolved from its earliest role as a means of signifying ownership through simple symbols, to a sophisticated strategic process designed to identify, position, and differentiate goods and services in competitive markets. A brand is defined as a name, term, design, symbol, or other feature that distinguishes one seller's product or service from others, and it has become a critical intangible asset in contemporary marketing (Biplab, 1998; Jayashree, 1998).

Effective brand management is particularly significant in India, where traditional clothing preferences are gradually giving way to ready-made and multinational brands due to globalization and shifting consumer lifestyles. In the context of men's apparel, particularly shirts, branding encompasses both product-related attributes (style, colour, material composition) and non-product-related attributes (price, advertising, user imagery, packaging). These attributes influence consumer evaluations and purchase decisions. Key criteria shaping the purchase of branded shirts include

perceived quality, brand image, price sensitivity, and the impact of advertising (Kazmi, 2001; Mathur, 2002).

Brand Identity and Equity

Brand identity refers to the outward expression of a brand its name, trademark, communication style, and visual appearance reflecting how the brand owner intends consumers to perceive it. This differs from brand image, which is the consumer's mental representation (Fornell, Mithas, & Morgeson, 2009). Bridging the gap between identity and image is essential for lasting recognition and differentiation. Sustainable brand names are typically memorable, relevant to the product category, and capable of transcending trends.

Brand equity, or brand value, is the financial and perceptual worth derived from a well-known brand name. Consumers often associate recognized brands with superior quality, allowing companies to command premium prices and achieve higher market share. Elements contributing to brand equity include market share, profit margins, consumer recognition of logos and symbols, and perceived quality (Fornell et al., 2006). Although difficult to quantify precisely, brand equity grows through strategic investments in communication, innovation, and market education, leading to long-term returns on marketing investments.

Understanding men's behavioral patterns in Jaipur provides valuable insight into how men evaluate, select, and remain loyal to branded shirts. This understanding is crucial for marketers seeking to enhance brand equity, tailor promotional strategies, and maintain a competitive advantage in an increasingly brand-driven apparel sector.

Review of Literature

Lalitha et al. (2008) conducted a study on brand preference for men's wear in Hyderabad and Secunderabad, finding that education, employment status, age, shop convenience, and advertising influenced the purchase behaviour of branded shirts and pants. Most respondents were highly educated, income-earning adults who valued quality and status over advertising.

Ritu Narang (2006) conducted an exploratory study in Lucknow on branded men's wear. The results of the study depicted that advertising played a key role in creating brand awareness, although

purchasing was not always impulsive. Men often visited showrooms either with or without a specific brand in mind, and advertising had the maximum impact in generating awareness.

These studies emphasize the relevance of demographic and promotional factors in shaping men's apparel preferences, but limited work has focused specifically on Jaipur City.

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

- To identify the most preferred shirt brands among respondents.
- To assess the positive attributes associated with popular shirt brands.
- To determine demographic and purchase-pattern factors influencing retail outlet selection.
- To identify showroom-specific factors influencing the choice of retail outlet.

Methodology

Locale and Sample : The study was conducted in Jaipur with a random sample of 100 male respondents, including students, office employees, and professionals aged 20 years and above.

Data Collection : Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire covering demographics, purchase frequency, sources of information, preferred brands, and reasons for purchase.

Analysis : Responses were coded and tabulated. Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage) were applied to identify trends and relationships.

Result & discussion

The data was collected with the help of questionnaire, and analysed and interpreted with the help of tables with the relevant discussions.

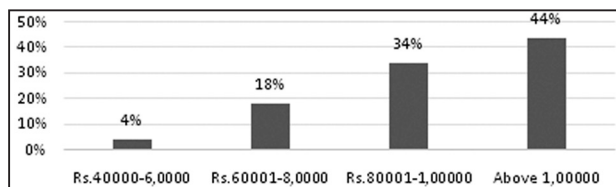


Figure1: Family income per month(n=100)

The analysis of family income among the respondents revealed that a significant portion belongs to high-income households. Specifically, 44% of respondents reported a family income

of above ₹100,000 per month, while 34% fall within the ₹80,001–100,000 range and 18% within ₹60,001–80,000. Only a small fraction, 4%, reported an income of ₹40,000–60,000. Consequently, factors such as quality, brand prestige, style, and comfort are likely more influential in their purchasing decisions than price sensitivity, highlighting the importance of targeting marketing strategies toward aspirational and high-income consumer segments.

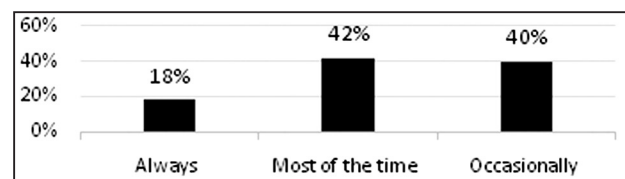


Figure 2: Frequency of Purchase(n=100)

The above data depicts that 42% of the respondents reported purchasing branded shirts "most of the time," 40% bought them occasionally, and the remaining 18% purchased them consistently on every shopping occasion. Overall, most participants can therefore be classified as frequent buyers of branded shirts.

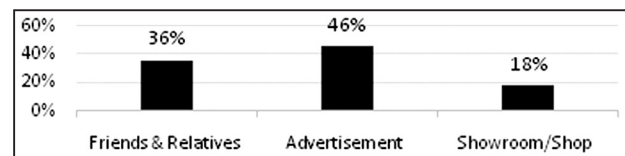


Figure 3: Source of information about brand(n=100)

The data show that 46% of respondents learned about brands through advertisements, 36% received information from friends and relatives, and the remaining 18% relied on showrooms or shops. Thus, advertisements emerged as the primary source of brand awareness among the respondents.

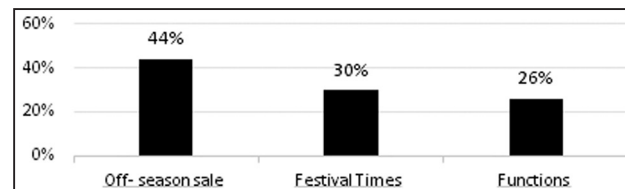


Figure 4: Occasion of Purchase(n=100)

The above data revealed that 44% of respondents purchase shirts during off-season sales, 30% buy them around festival periods, and the remaining 26% make purchases for special functions as and when needed. Thus it can be concluded that off-season sales are the most common occasion for buying shirts among the respondents.

CONSUMER INSIGHTS : MEN'S BUYING BEHAVIOUR TOWARD BRANDED SHIRTS IN JAIPUR

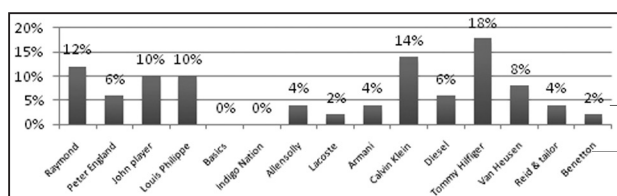


Figure 5: Most preferred brand to purchase shirts(n=100)

The data show that 18% of respondents preferred Tommy Hilfiger shirts, followed by 14% for Calvin Klein, 12% for Raymond, 10% each for John Players and Louis Philippe, 8% for Van Heusen, 6% for Peter England and Diesel, 4% each for Allen Solly, Armani, and Reid & Taylor, and 2% for Benetton and Lacoste. Tommy Hilfiger emerged as the most preferred brand, largely because respondents associated it with a wide range of colours and designs, attractive promotional offers, and frequent advertising factors that enhanced both visibility and perceived value.

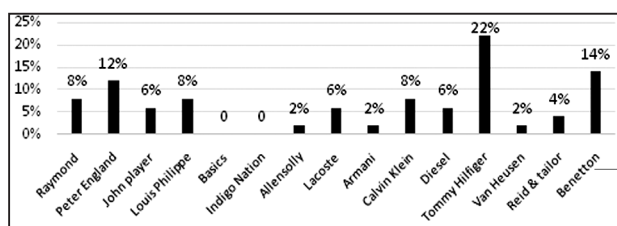


Figure 6: Most promotional strategy offered by brand(n=100)

The data depicts that 22% of respondents preferred Tommy Hilfiger shirts primarily for offers and discounts, followed by 14% for Benetton, 12% for Peter England, 8% each for Raymond, Louis Philippe, and Calvin Klein, 6% each for John Players, Lacoste, and Diesel, 4% for Reid & Taylor, and 2% each for Allen Solly, Armani, and Van Heusen. Tommy Hilfiger emerged as the most preferred brand in terms of offers and discounts, likely because its promotional strategies provide consumers with better perceived value and affordability, making it more attractive compared to other brands.

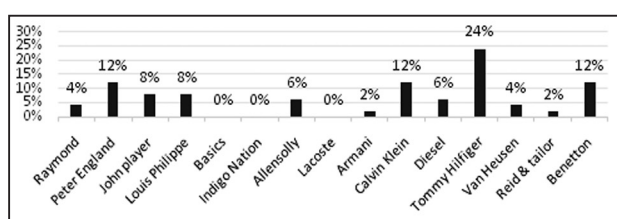


Figure 7: Most preferred brands for the range of colours and Designs(n=100)

The data revealed that 24% of respondents preferred Tommy Hilfiger shirts for their range of colours and designs they provide, followed by 12% each for Peter England, Calvin Klein, and Benetton; 8% each for John Players and Louis Philippe; 6% for Allen Solly and Diesel; 4% for Raymond and Van Heusen; and 2% each for Armani and Reid & Taylor. Tommy Hilfiger emerged as the most preferred brand in terms of colours and designs, likely because it offers a diverse and contemporary product range that caters to varying consumer tastes and fashion preferences.

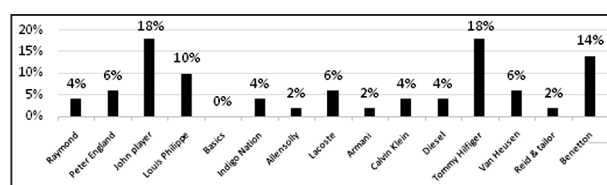
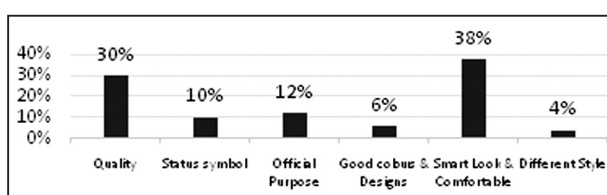


Figure 8: Most preferred Brands in terms of price(n=100)

From the above data it can be analyzed that 18% of respondent preferred most John players & Tommy Hilfiger shirt in terms of price range, followed by 14% (Benetton), 10% (Louis Philippe), 6% (Peter England, Lacoste, Van Heusen), 4% (Raymond, Indigo Nation, Calvin Klein and Diesel) 2% (Allen solly, Armani and Reid & Taylor). It can be analyzed that John Player and Tommy Hilfiger was highest preferred shirt because of price range they offer and economically it is budget friendly.



Figures 9 : Attributes in buying of branded shirts(n=100)

The analysis of the data indicates that the primary factor influencing respondents' preference for branded shirts is achieving a comfort and smart look, depicted by 38% of respondents. This is followed by quality of the shirts, which is preferred by 30% of respondents. Other variables which influences in purchasing is for official purposes (12%), as a status symbol (10%), preference for attractive colours and designs (6%), and for having a different style (4%). Overall, it can be concluded that most respondents primarily prioritize smart appearance and comfort when purchasing branded shirts.

Conclusion

Men's purchasing decisions for branded shirts in Jaipur are shaped more by perceived product quality, comfort, and style than by demographic factors. Advertising plays a pivotal role in creating awareness, but final purchase decisions depend largely on tangible product benefits. Tommy Hilfiger emerged as the most preferred brand across multiple criteria, underscoring the importance of design variety, promotional offers, and visible advertising. For marketers, these findings highlight the need to maintain high product quality and comfort, offer attractive discounts and diverse color/design options, and invest strategically in advertising to sustain top-of-mind awareness and brand loyalty. Overall, understanding these consumer insights can help apparel brands enhance brand equity and retain competitive advantage in Jaipur's evolving retail market.

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Govt launches 7 steps to boost exports

The government recently announced seven measures, including credit assistance for e-commerce exporters and support for alternative trade instruments, to promote the country's outbound shipments.

These measures are part of the ₹25,060 crore export promotion mission. Out of 10 components of the mission, three have already been rolled out in January.

Digital Push

To support exporters using digital channels, the Commerce Ministry announced credit facilities with interest subvention and partial credit guarantees.

The Direct E-Commerce Credit Facility will provide support up to ₹50 lakh with 90 per cent guarantee coverage.

The Overseas Inventory Credit Policy will extend support up to ₹5 crore with 75 per cent guarantee coverage, and an interest subvention of 2.75 per cent will be available, subject to an annual ceiling of ₹15 lakh per applicant, the commerce ministry said.

To promote export factoring as an affordable working capital solution for MSMEs, an interest subvention of 2.75 per cent will be provided on the factoring cost for eligible transactions undertaken through RBI/IFSCA-recognised entities.

Assistance is capped at ₹50 lakh per MSME annually and will be processed through a digital claim mechanism to ensure transparency and timely disbursal.

To support emerging export opportunities, the Ministry said this intervention enables exporters to access new or high-risk markets through shared-risk and credit enhancement instruments such as Letters of Credit confirmation and negotiation.

For Trade Regulations, Accreditation and Compliance Enablement (TRACE), support will be extended to exporters in meeting international testing, inspections, certifications and other conformity requirements.

Import-Export Code

Under this, partial reimbursement of 60 per cent under the Positive List and 75 per cent under the Priority Positive List will be provided for eligible testing, inspection and certification expenses, subject to an annual ceiling of ₹25 lakh per IEC (import export code).

Facilitating Logistics, Overseas Warehousing and Fulfilment (FLOW) will enable exporters to access overseas warehousing and fulfilment infrastructure, including E-Commerce Export Hubs integrated with global distribution networks, it said.

Under this, an assistance of up to 30 per cent of the approved project cost will be provided for a maximum of three years, subject to prescribed ceilings and MSME participation norms.

For exporters from north-eastern and hilly regions, Logistics Interventions for Freight and Transport (LIFT) was announced. ■

IMPACT OF AGMA RING FRAME CRADLES ON COTTON YARN QUALITY

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Abstract

The cradle is a vital part of the double apron drafting top arm system in the Ring frame. The innovation for yarn quality improvement is essential to be adapted by spinning mills to improve yarn quality and to produce at an economic level to keep the mill's profitability. Studies are conducted with Agma cradles in ring frames for processing cotton yarns in different counts. The quality improvement is observed with Agma make cradles over the other cradles available (36mm, 39mm, 43mm, 36mm active) in the market. The studies are conducted on LR6, LR60, LR9 AX and KTTM RXI 240e ring frames. Agma cradles reduce yarn imperfections over other cradles available in the market and the reduction is to the tune of 9.2% to 33.9%. The imperfection reduction with 36mm and 43mm cradles is better. 36mm cradle to 40.6mm also improved. 39mm to 40.6mm got marginal improvement. 43.0mm to 43.0mm cradles got marginal improvement. The carded counts gave more improvement in the range of 20-30%. Combed counts gave improvement in the range of 20-24%. Compact yarns gave an improvement in the range of 17-19%. With 43mm LMW and 43mm Agma, the least improvement of 9.0% is recorded. The special design of Agma cradle made it possible to improve yarn imperfections which finally improves the fabric appearance and spinning mills can get additional price realisation to improve the profit of the spinning mill.

Keywords: Ring frame, Cradle, Agma, Yarn quality, carded, Combed, Compact

1. Introduction

One technique for combining and twisting fibres to create yarn is ring spinning, apart from twisting and drafting, fibre control plays a major role in yarn engineering. In ring spinning, the drafting zone is very important since it controls the quality of the yarn that is spun, the floating fibres may cause irregularities and flaws in the yarn's quality.

Kowshik Baidya et al studied the yarn quality variation from the spinning position to the position of the ring frame. They observed that the ring frame parts are involved during the yarn process like ring and traveller, drafting components like top rollers,

top and bottom aprons, drafting load, compact elite apron, and spacer. They can affect the yarn quality like imperfections, hairiness, yarn CV%, CSP. The corrective action proposed after research is to control the +b value of the cotton and suggested minimising +b value variation to produce better quality yarn.[1]. Sujit Gulhane et al focused on the effect of the size of the space on ring frame yarn quality. They studied the yarn imperfections, yarn hairiness, yarn evenness and yarn strength. They researched 40s Ne and 60s Ne 100% cotton counts. They compared the results with different sizes of spacers ranging from 2.75mm to 4.0 mm size. In Ne 40s count, the 3.5mm spacer produced a better quality of yarn in terms of yarn evenness, imperfections, hairiness, and lea strength. In the 60s Ne count, the 3.0 mm spacer produced better yarn in terms of yarn evenness, yarn strength and imperfections [2].

Hasanuzzaman et al studied the effect of spindle speed, twist multiplier of yarn and roving TPI. 'Surface Methodology (RSM)' with Box-Behnken design is used to optimize the process parameters. The studies are conducted with a spindle speed of 15000 rpm, 17000 rpm, and 19000 rpm, and yarn TM of 3.7, 3.9, and 4.1. The roving TM is varied from 1.1, 1.3 and 1.5. The optimal quality is produced with a spindle speed of 17000 rpm, yarn TM of 4.1 and roving TM of 1.3 [3]. SM Ishtiaque et al studied the influence of ring frame process parameters like spindle speed, draft and twist multiplier. The low-stress mechanical properties of knitted and woven fabrics are also studied. The twist multiplier of yarn increase resulted in the increase of yarn flexural rigidity and also observed that the yarn imperfections increased. The yarn diameter is reduced when the draft is increased. The thickness of the fabric is reduced when the yarn thickness is reduced. The fabric handle can be altered by altering the yarn parameters. [4]. SM Ishtiaque et al studied the impact of spindle speed, top roll pressure, and traveller size to produce better yarn quality and production. They have observed that the yarn quality is better with 15000 rpm, top arm pressure of 2.5 Kgs/cm² and a traveller mass of 50ISO. However, to improve to 17000 rpm to

get moderate performance, the traveller mass is reduced to 40 ISO [5.0].

Md Redwanul Islam et al studied the importance of spindle speed in ring frames. They studied on 15 Ne, 20s Ne, 30s Ne, 40s Ne, The ring frame efficiency is studied with different spindle speeds of 12000 rpm, 13000 rpm, 14000 rpm, 16000 rpm and, 17000 rpm. They observed that the efficiency achieved at 12000 rpm for Ne15s is 95%. The efficiency of 20s Ne at a spindle speed of 13000 rpm is 96%. The efficiency of 25s Ne at a spindle speed of 14000 rpm is 95%. The efficiency of 30s Ne at a spindle speed of 16000 rpm is 98%. The efficiency of Ne 40s at a spindle speed of 17000 rpm is 95% [6.0]. SM Ishtiaque et al studied the apron slippage in the ring frame. They have used an anti-slip apron in place of a regular apron. It did not show any slippage and it controlled the floating fibres in a better way. They studied cotton carded yarns, and polyester viscose blended yarns in 20s Ne count. Normal apron gave 2.94% slippage in Cotton carded counts and that of polyester/viscose gave 4.25%. In both studies, it is observed that the anti-slip apron gave 0% slippage [7.0].

Ramesh et al studied the effect of Cradle spring setting on yarn quality. The study dealt with cradle spring tension on top apron slippage. The irregularities of yarn are observed to be increased due to ineffective control of fibres in the drafting zone. The apron rotation is observed to be an important factor in controlling the floating fibres in the drafting zone. The aprons lagging is called slippage. To reduce the slippage, the cradle spring tension is adjusted and the effect on yarn quality is studied. The study was conducted in Ne 32s. The slippage is reduced to 2.5% from 4.2% after adjusting the cradle spring tension. An improvement of 35-45% is achieved. Imperfections are reduced to 750 level from 1900 level. The thick places are reduced by 72%. Thin places are reduced by 80% [8.0]. Abdur Razzaque et al studied the influence of Pin spacer on yarn quality in ring frame. The very basic purpose of spacer usage in a ring frame cradle is to provide sufficient space for the drafted fibres to move freely. The pin spacer provides extended guidance to the floating fibres. The study is conducted in the 20s Tex count. Different pin spacer sizes are studied to observe their effect on yarn quality. 3.5mm spacer produced better yarn evenness. It is also observed that with a 4.0mm spacer, better yarn results are produced with

a lower pin position of +0.5. With 3.0mm pin spacer and a higher pin position of -0.5 gave better results [9.0]. Md Masum Reza et al studied the impact of front top roller pressure on ring yarn quality of cotton-flax blended yarn. Drafting pressure plays effective role in controlling the fibres movement in drafting zone. They studied I 20s Ne with cotton/Linen blend of 45:55. It was observed that higher top roller pressure gave lower CV%, hairiness, and yarn evenness, less imperfections, improved yarn strength and elongation CV% [10.0]. Sundaresan et al studied the system of controlling the floating fibers effectively and its impact on quality of yarn. They studied in both carded and combed counts and the counts under study are 40s Ne, 60s Ne and 100s Ne. Sankar 6 cotton is used for 40s ne, MCU5 is used for 60s count and DCH32 is used for 100s Ne count. They have used active cradle and a 39mm cradle. The Ri Q- a draft system of Rieter was used. The results of the conventional spacer and pin spacer were compared. With Pin spacer, U% improved by 22.2%, and imperfections improved by 43%. The same counts are also studied with conventional cradle and 39mm cradle. With a 39mm cradle, U% is improved by 21.7%, Imperfections are improved by 35.7% in 40s carded hosiery. In 40s combed hosiery count, it is observed that U% is improved by 16.4% and imperfections are improved by 33.8% with pin spacer. U% is improved by 14.6% and imperfections are improved by 23.1% with a 39mm cradle over conventional cradle. In the 60s count also it is observed that 14.2% improvement in U%, and a 20.5% improvement in imperfections with pin spacer. With 39mm cradle usage, U% is improved by 13.5% and 28.9% of imperfections are improved. The same improvement trend is observed in 40s and 60s compact yarns. But the improvement % is below 9% only. In some cases, the spindle speed is reduced by 5-8% with the use of a pin spacer and a 39mm cradle. However if precautions are taken in preparation of roving by reducing the little twist, the spindle speeds are maintained to achieve higher productivity. [11.0]

2. Materials and Methodology:

2.1 Materials:

The LR6, LR60, KTTM, and LRAX9 ring frames with 36mm regular and 40.6mm and 43mm Agma cradles are used in the experiments. The ring frame cradles 36.0mm, 39.0mm and 43.0mm are shown in below figure 1.0.

IMPACT ON AGMA RING FRAME CRADLES ON COTTON YARN QUALITY



Fig 1.0 Ring frame Cradles

The different sizes of agma cradles are shown in the following figure 2.0.

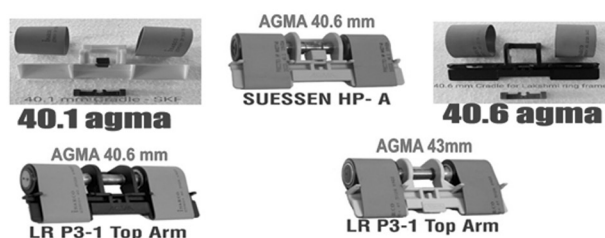


Fig 2.0 Ring frame Agma Cradles

Additionally, investigations are carried out on LMW 39mm and Agma 43mm cradles, LMW 43mm and 43mm Agma cradles, and KTTM ring frame 36mm with 40.1mm Agma cradles. With that, the yarn quality of cotton counts Ne 20s, 30s, 34s, 40s, 60s, and 76s were examined for carded, combed, and compact yarns and the experimental plan is shown in Table 1. The details of the draft zone setting with the 'Agma' 43mm cradle are shown in Figure 3.0.

2.1.1 Samples preparation:

The cotton used for the research studies is MCU5 type cotton, having 30.5 mm 2.5mm span length, 24.0 gtx and 4.2 micronaire. The carded roving bobbins are prepared by processing through Truetzschler blow-room – TC 5/3 cards – Ld2 draw frames – LRSB draw frame-Lf4200 speed frames. The combed roving bobbins are prepared through the same machines and LH15 lap former and LK 64Z combers. Care is taken that the before and after samples are from the same cotton. The research studies are carried out in carded yarns, combed yarns and combed compact yarns. The ring frame spindles allotted for regular cradles and Agma cradles are same to reduce the sampling error. For each sample 30 roving bobbins are collected and from each roving bobbins two tests are carried out as shown in table 1. The ring frame sample cops are tested in Uster evenness tester for imperfections and the method of testing is followed as per ISO16549:2021.

2.2 Methodology:

2.3 Experiment Design:

2.4 Draft zone settings with Agma cradle 43.0mm:

The following diagram illustrates the top arm settings based on ring frame bottom roller settings. For the Agma cradle, the rear top roller offset is maintained by 2.5 mm. In regular cradles, the rear top roller is centred on the rear bottom roller. The middle top roller offset is 7.5 mm with a 43 mm Agma cradle. The front top roller offset is 4.0 mm.

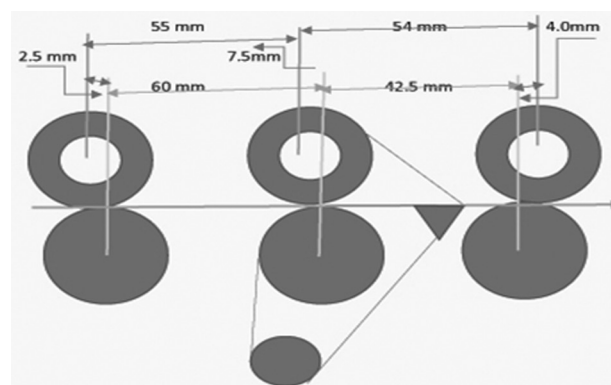


Figure 3.0 Ring frame draft zone settings with Agma 43mm cradle

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Study of 36, 39mm and Agma 43mm, 40.6 & 40.1mm cradles

The research findings exhibit noteworthy improvements across various cotton counts, showcasing substantial enhancements in imperfection rates.

For instance, in the context of cotton count 20s KW, employing a 43mm cradle yielded a commendable total improvement of imperfections by 19.8% over a 36mm regular cradle. Transitioning to 34s KW, Agma 40.1mm showcased an even greater enhancement, recording a 20.6% improvement compared to the 36mm active cradle. Furthermore, within the realm of 30s KH, the observations were particularly significant. Employing a 43.0 mm Agma cradle resulted in a remarkable improvement of 31.1% over the competitor's 39 mm cradle. In the same 30s KH count, the 43mm Agma cradle showcased an improvement of 30.7% over the competitor's 40mm cradle. Additionally, in the same Cotton count, an improvement of 22.9% was observed with the Agma 43mm cradle over the 36mm cradle, as detailed in Table 2.

IMPACT ON AGMA RING FRAME CRADLES ON COTTON YARN QUALITY

Table 1: Experiment design of cotton carded and combed yarn counts:

The experiments are conducted for each count and different model ring frames, as planned in Table 1.

		Experiment Design				
S. No.	Yarn Production process	Count	RF Model	Top arm	Specification of Cradle	Samples/Tests per study
1	Carded yarn	20	LR/6	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					36mm	30/60
		34	KTTM	Pk225	Agma 40.1mm	30/60
					36mm Cradle	30/60
		30	LR9AX	P3-1	Agma 43mm	30/60
					39mm Cradle	30/60
		30	LR9AX	P3-1	Agma 43.0 mm	30/60
					40mm Pillai	30/60
		30	LR6	P3-1	Agma 43.0 mm	30/60
					36mm Cradle	30/60
		30	LR9 AX	P3-1	Agma 40.6 mm	30/60
					36mm Cradle	30/60
		38	LR6/S	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					36mm Cradle	30/60
		40	LR6/S	P3-1	Agma 40.6 mm	30/60
					36mm Cradle	30/60
40	LR9AX	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60		
			39mm cradle	30/60		
41CKW	LR6 compact	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60		
			36mm Cradle	30/60		
62KW	LR6/S	P3-1	Agma 40.6mm	30/60		
			36mm Cradle	30/60		
2	Combed yarn	20sCH	LR6	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					36mm Cradle	30/60
		30s CW	LR9AX	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					39mm Cradle	30/60
		40s CW	LR60	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					36mm Cradle	30/60
		40s CH	KTTM	PK225	Agma 40.1mm	30/60
					36mm active Cradle	30/60
60s CW	LR6/S	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60		
			36mm pin Cradle	30/60		
3	Combed compact	20s CCW	LR60	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					39mm Cradle	30/60
		40s CCW	LR9AX	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					39mm Cradle	30/60
		40s CCW	LR6/S	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					36mm pin Cradle	30/60
		60s CCW	LR6	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60
					36mm pin Cradle	30/60
76s CCW	LR6/S	P3-1	Agma 43.0mm	30/60		
			43mm Cradle	30/60		
Test Method		Uster testing instrument is used for testing imperfections and uster evenness. The test method is followed as per international standard ISO16549:2021				

IMPACT ON AGMA RING FRAME CRADLES ON COTTON YARN QUALITY

Table 2. Quality Improvement details of 20s KW, 34s KW, 30s KH, 30KH, and 30s KH:

	Quality comparison with Agma and regular cradle									
Count	20s KW		34s KW		30s KH		30s KH		30s KH	
Rf make	LR/6 -P3-1		KTTM PK225		LR9AX P3-1		LR9AX P3-1		LR/6 P3-1	
Cradle size mm	36 LMW	43 Agma	36 active	40.1 Agma	39 LMW	43 Agma	40 Pillai	43 Agma	36 LMW	43 Agma
Spacer size mm	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Bottom roll setting mm	42.5-60		44-51		42.5-60		42.5-60		42.5-60	
Top roll setting mm	47/58	54/55	50/49.5	52.5/48	51/54	54/55	52/54	54/55	47/58	54/55
U%	12.3	11.68	12.90	12.30	11.95	11.03	13.11	12.36	12.78	12.28
Thin	10.3	7	18.0	10.0	3.30	0.3	21	16	24	18
Thick	258	211	382.0	286.0	255.80	131.40	450	304	459	314
Neps	305	242	486.8	407.3	514.30	401.1	791	555	712	589
Total	573.3	460	886.8	703.3	773.40	532.8	1262	875	1195	921
P value	< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001	
T value	7.57781		16.8481		15.9728		31.7907		17.0644	
Significance	significant		significant		significant		significant		significant	
Improvement%	19.8		20.6		31.1		30.7		22.9	

Table 3. Quality Improvement details of 30s KH, 38s KW, 40s KW, 40KW, and 41s KW compact yarns:

	Quality comparison with Agma and regular cradle									
Count	30s KH		38s KW		40s KW		40s KW		41s KW comp	
Rf make	LR9 AX P3-1		LR6/S P3-1		LR6/S P3-1		LR9 AX P3-1		LR/6 P3-1	
Cradle size mm	36	Agma 40.6	36	Agma 43	36	Agma 40.6	39	Agma 43	36	Agma 43
Spacer size mm	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Bottom roll setting mm	42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60	
Top roll setting mm	47/58	51/56	47/58	54/55	47/58	54/55	51/54	54/55	47/58	54/55
U%	12.06	10.97	14.2	13.4	14.1	13.1	13.85	12.49	12.5	11.77
Thin	4	2	25	12	18	10	23	15	13.80	4.0
Thick	243	156	734	428	605	388	531	294	347.0	186.8
Neps	374	286	924	672	859	620	742	682	694.0	598.5
Total	621	444	1683	1112	1482	1018	1296	991	1054.80	789.3
P value	< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001	
T value	13.3445		43.7889		34.56907		7.2029		23.2561	
Significance	significant		significant		significant		significant		significant	
Improvement%	28.5		33.9		31.3		23.5		25.2	

Within the context of 30s KH, the utilization of an Agma 40.6mm cradle showed a substantial improvement of 28.5% compared to the standard 36mm cradle. Similarly, in 38s KW, there was a remarkable 33.9% enhancement observed when using a 43 mm Agma cradle compared to the 36mm cradle, showcasing its potential impact on yarn quality. Moving to 40s KW, the Agma 40.6mm cradle also

displayed a noteworthy improvement of 31.3% over the standard 36mm cradle. Additionally, within this Cotton count, employing a 43mm cradle compared to the 39mm LMW cradle led to a 23.5% enhancement in yarn quality. Furthermore, in the 41s KW compact, the use of a 43mm cradle showed a significant improvement of 25.2% over the 36mm cradle. These findings and improvement details are given in Table 3.

IMPACT ON AGMA RING FRAME CRADLES ON COTTON YARN QUALITY

Table 4. Quality Improvement details of 62s KW, 20s CH, 30s CW, 40CW, and 40s CH normal yarns:

	Quality comparison with Agma and regular cradle									
Count	62s KW		20s CH		30s CW		40s CW		40s CH	
Rf make	LR6/S P3-1		LR/6 P3-1		LR9AX P3-1		LR60 P3-1		KTTM PK 2025	
Cradle size mm	36	Agma 40.6	36	Agma 43	36	Agma 43	39	Agma 43	36 active	Agma 40.1
Spacer size mm	3.25	3.25	4.5	4.5	3.75	3.75	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Bottom roll setting mm	42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60	
Top roll setting mm	47/58	51/56	47/58	54/55	51/54	54/55	47/58	54/55	48/49	54/55
U%	17.3	16.4	7.9	7.7	9.70	9.53	11.4	11.1	11.08	10.57
Thin	48	28	0	0	1	0	1	0	1.9	1.3
Thick	895	788	9	5	26	19	67	28	59	47
Neps	1059	892	23	18	31	27	113	95	99	82
Total	2002	1708	32	23	58	46	181	123	156.9	130.3
P value	< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001	
T value	21.3606		5.7654		6.9575		7.1396		7.5497	
Significance	significant		significant		significant		significant		significant	
Improvement%	14.67		28.1		20.7		32.0		26.6	

Table 5. Quality Improvement details of 20s CW, 40 CW, 60s CW compact yarn, and 60s CW Normal yarns:

	Quality comparison with Agma and regular cradle									
Count	20s CW Comp		40s CW Comp		40 CW Comp		60s CW normal		60s CW Comp	
Rf make	LR 60 P3-1		LR9AX P3-1		LR/6s suessen		LR6/S P3-1		LR/6 suessen	
Cradle size mm	39	43	39	43	36 Pin	43	36 Pin	43	36 Pin	43
Spacer size mm	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
Bottom roll setting mm	42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60		42.5/60	
Top roll setting mm	51/54	54/55	51/54	54/55	52/54	54/55	52/54	54/55	52/54	54/55
U%	8.91	8.13	9.73	9.62	9.91	9.37	11.7	10.6	11.52	10.52
Thin	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	20.5	7.5	7.0	3.0
Thick	29.5	15.3	24	17.5	39	28	90.3	58.0	63.0	42.0
Neps	49.3	38.0	59.0	51.5	83	76	138.0	125.0	106.0	98.0
Total	78.8	53.3	83.5	69	122	104	258.8	190.5	176.0	143.0
P value	< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001		< .00001	
T value	12.68535		3.62648		6.99821		10.09653		16.23114	
Significance	significant		significant		significant		significant		significant	
Improvement%	32.4		17.36		14.75		26.39		18.75	

Significant improvements in yarn quality were observed through the selected cradle, these detailed findings are given in Table T4. For instance, in 62s KW, using a 40.6mm Agma cradle showcased a commendable 14.67% enhancement compared to the standard 36mm cradle. In 20s CH, the utilization of a 43mm Agma cradle led to a substantial 28.1% improvement over the 36mm cradle. Moving to 30s

CW, the adaption of a 43mm cradle demonstrated a noteworthy 20.7% enhancement compared to the 39mm cradle. Similarly, within 40s CW, employing a 43mm Agma cradle led to a remarkable 32.0% improvement over the standard 36mm cradle. Additionally, in 40s CH, utilizing a 40.1 mm Agma cradle exhibited a notable 26.6% improvement compared to the KTTM PK2025 active cradle.

IMPACT ON AGMA RING FRAME CRADLES ON COTTON YARN QUALITY

Significant advancements in yarn quality were discerned through meticulous examination of cradle variations across distinct cotton counts and spinning techniques. For instance, within the 20s CW compact LMW category, using a 43mm Agma cradle resulted in a notable 32.4% enhancement compared to the 39mm cradle. Transitioning to the 40s CW compact LMW category, a 17.36% improvement was observed with the same 43mm Agma cradle over the 39mm cradle. Furthermore, in the 40s CW Suessen compact category, utilizing a 43mm Agma cradle exhibited a commendable 14.75% enhancement over the 36mm pin spacer. Similarly, within the 60s CW normal spinning technique, employing the 43mm Agma cradle showcased a substantial 26.39% improvement compared to the 36mm cradle with pin spacer. Moreover, in the 60s CW compact spinning technique, the adoption of the 43mm Agma cradle demonstrated an 18.75% improvement over the 36mm cradle with pin spacer.

3.2 Study of 43mm LMW and Agma 43mm Cradle:

Table T6 shows the improvement observed with Agma 43mm over LMW 43mm cradle, here 9.2 % improvement was observed with the Agma cradle than the 43mm LMW and the improvement is significant.

Table 6. Quality Improvement details of 76s CW compact yarn:

	Compact yarn test details of 76s CCW	
Count	76s CW compact	
Rf make	LR/6 suessen	
Cradle size mm	43mm LMW	43mm Agma
Spacer size mm	3.25	3.25
Bottomroll setting mm	42.5/60	42.5/60
Top roll setting mm	54/53.5	54/55
U%	12.9	12.6
Thin	24	18
Thick	129	121
Neps	204	185
Total	357	324
P value	< .00001	
T value	10.8069	
Significance	significant	
Impr. %	9.2	

3.3 Quality studies with LMW 36mm pin and AGMA 43 mm Cradle:

Table 7 shows the details of different compact yarn quality, from that 40s compact CW, employing a 43mm cradle exhibited a commendable 14.75% improvement over the standard 36mm cradle with a pin spacer. Similarly, in the context of 60s CW compact spinning, the adoption of a 43mm cradle resulted in a notable 14.1% enhancement compared to the 36mm cradle with a pin spacer. Additionally, within the 76s CW compact count, utilizing a 43mm Agma cradle showcased a significant 15.8% improvement over the 36mm cradle with a pin spacer.

Table 7. Quality Improvement details of 40s CW, 60s CW, 76s CW compact yarns:

	Compact yarn test details					
Count	40s CW compact		60s CW compact		76s CW compact	
Rf make	LR/6s suessen		LR/6 suessen		LR/6 suessen	
Cradle size mm	36 pin	Agma 43	36 pin	Agma 43	36 pin	Agma 43
U%	9.91	9.37	11.19	10.84	12.89	12.24
Thin	0	0	17	12	34	28
Thick	39	28	52	41	95	69
Neps	83	76	94	87	149	137
Total	122	104	163	140	278	234
P value	< .00001		0.00004		< .00001	
T value	6.99821		4.24499		4.85606	
Significance	significant		significant		significant	
Improvement. %	14.75		14.1		15.8	

4.0 Conclusion:

Experiments including evaluation, data collecting, and analysis regularly showed higher flaw levels with regular ring frame cradles and that the 'AGMA' trademark cradles improved the yarn quality in all the experiments conducted in different counts and different make of ring frames. The improvement is achieved by the special design of 'Agma' cradles which allows the drafted fibres to move freely and effectively controlling the free-floating fibers in the drafting zone. These tests included carded, combed, and compact yarns (LMW compact & Suessen compact). A variety of spacers, including pin type and conventional spacers, were used, as well as cradles of different sizes like 36, 39,

40, 46, and 43 mm. 'AGMA' cradles were shown to significantly reduce yarn defects when compared to other cradles available in the market; reductions ranged from 9.2% to 33.9%. The 36mm and 43mm cradles in particular demonstrated excellent flaw reduction. Furthermore, marginal improvements from 39mm to 40.6mm and improvements from 36mm to 40.6mm cradles were noteworthy. Little improvements were even detected in the 43.0mm cradle range. Improved ring frame performance was reflected in a 2-gram improvement in 40s KW count, and this was corroborated by a positive techno-economic analysis that showed that the cost of appropriate aprons and 'AGMA' cradles could be recouped in less than a month. This innovation from 'AGMA' provides a viable way to improve the quality of cotton yarn, especially helpful in these hard times for spinning mills.

4.1 Acknowledgements:

We are thankful to the management of Ms Agma Industries, Coimbatore, They are manufacturing 'Agma' make cradles suitable for ring frames for processing cotton and, synthetic fibres. Ms Agma Industries supplied the different types and sizes of 'agma cradles for conducting studies in different counts and different ring frames. We are indebted to the management and quality assurance department staff of Ms. Sri Venkata Siva Parvati Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd., Chebrolu, Guntur District, for extending their support for quality improvement studies.

4.2 Scope for further research:

The studies are conducted in cotton counts only. The same studies can be made for synthetic counts by using suitable 'Agma' cradles.

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EFFECT OF DIGITAL PRINTING ON COTTON KHADI FABRIC

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Abstract

Khadi is a feeling, attitude and symbol of freedom. Previously Khadi dyeing and printing was ecofriendly technique but now a day's amount of binders, thickeners make Khadi printing a non-ecofriendly technique hence in present paper an attempt is made to understand the suitability of digital printing for cotton Khadi fabric for high quality apparel construction in order to develop new designs and to make Khadi printing an ecofriendly approach. Another aim of study was done to see the effect of digital printing on feel of cotton Khadi fabric. Thus physical properties of nineteen varieties of cotton Khadi fabric were observed.

Introduction

Digital textile printing is an inkjet based printing method which enable printers to print high quality designs on an extensive range of fabrics. Simelteniosly this technique is time, labor and cost saving. But also there are some fabrics which are not suitable for this printing technique. Hence in present paper an attempt is done to understand the suitability of Khadi fabric for digital printing.

Factors affecting digital printing quality

There are many factors to consider when sourcing of fabrics has to be done for digital textile printing, and the smallest variables can significantly impact the outcome of the project. One should never forget that, key of best quality digital print is based on in textile testing. Hence it is important to check thread count, yarn count, various fastness, thickness, stiffness and drape.

- *Thread count*: is refers to total number of threads in every square inch of a woven fabric, it technically describe the density of fabric. A bed sheet may be made out of 50 × 50 (100 thread count), 60 × 60 (120 thread count) can be used for digital printing but when it comes to apparel, one should prefer a higher count 120 or above, also for better quality print warp 25 and weft thread count must have a balance.
- *Yarn count*: is a number which indicates the mass per unit length or the length per unit mass of yarn it ultimately tell us how fine or coarse the yarn is. Yarn sizes typically range from 10 to 80 singles but naturally a yarn

count of 50 singles or above is used to create a much higher quality substrate.

Objectives

- To check the suitability of cotton Khadi fabric for apparel designing through digital printing by means of analyzing thread count, yarn count.
- To perceive how digital printing affect the feel of fabric
- To study the printability of cotton Khadi fabric.

Methodology

Khadi is a hand spun and hand woven textile material which make it different from other mill made fabrics hence, the main purpose of the study to find out if, commercially available cotton Khadi fabric is suitable for digital printing. Also to check the printability of cotton Khadi fabric as well as how digital printing affect drape and touch of fabric. Hence nineteen (19) cotton Khadi fabrics which are always available in authorized shops were collected and tested.

Physical testing

After the procurement of cotton Khadi fabric, selection of printing method was done for better quality printing. According to studies, majorly two types of inks are used in cotton digital printing, one is reactive inks and second is pigments. But most of the studies also suggested that, reactive inks show better crock resistance and light fastness in comparison to pigment inks. Hence in present study, reactive inks were choosen for printing of cotton Khadi fabric.

"Yarn count" was conducted on Beesley yarn count tester. According to standards template 10 readings of warp & weft were drawn to check direct yarn count. *"Thread count"* after seeing the direction of yarns in fabric 1/1 inch squares were marked randomly on fabric and pick glass method was used to determine the thread count and by following similar method 10 reading were taken weft wise and 10 warp wise of all sample fabrics. *"Weight"* of samples were taken on AUW120D weighing machine. According to standards total ten specimens (5 from warp and 5 from weft) were cut with the dimension of 5 cm by 5 cm. Afterward reading were taken before printing and after printing of fabric. *"Thickness"* thickness gauge

EFFECT OF DIGITAL PRINTING ON COTTON KHADI FABRIC

EUREKA MK. II was used for testing the thickness as per the standards 10 readings were taken before the printing of fabric and after the printing of fabric.

“Crease recovery” was done on Shirley crease recovery tester on the scale of 0° to 180° before and after printing. Hence specimens were cut by using the standard template eight reading were drawn from warp and eight from weft wise direction. **“Stiffness”** EUREKA stiffness tester was used for analyzing the stiffness of fabric was randomly marked with the template. From each fabric 3 specimens were cut warp wise and weft wise. Then the specimens were placed on stiffness tester’s platform and fully covered with template and slowly moved forward. Until the sample is visible in mirror. Then 5-5 reading were noted warp and weft side of all fabric samples before printing and after print. **“Drape”** Drape meter 7130299 was used for drape estimation of each fabric before and after the print of fabric. According to standards template 4 reading were taken from both direction of fabric before and after printing.

“Crock fastness” present test was conducted on crock meter, evaluation was done with the help of SDC GREY SCALE for assessing staining. 5 reading were taken from each fabric after printing with the standard template. **“Wet crock fastness”** ISO 102 crock fastness tester’s standard method was followed on five specimen from all fabrics to check fabrics wet crock fastness. Tested fabric was rated for color loss through standard SDC GREY SCALE. **“Wash fastness”** ISO 105 laundrometer was used after that, evaluation was done with SDC GREY SCALE to test wash fastness of all sample fabrics. **“Color depth analysis”** all the printed samples were cut into 1×1 cm, an attempt was made to get a specimen from every color from print. After that, samples were dissolved in concentrated H₂SO₄. And test was conducted on visible spectrophotometer 168, with a wavelength of 400 nm to 800 nm. Base line of 0.0 was set for checking the absorbency of dye fabric samples. After finishing the experiment, data was saved on computer which showed on which peak wave lengths fabric show highest absorbency.

Result and discussion

In case of digital printing higher the thread count better the print quality and clarity in image of printed fabric but at the same time if a fabric is very compactly woven with a very high yarn count

it could not absorb ink properly hence can affect color fastness and depth.

Thread count

Table 1 : fabric thread count

S. No.	Sample	Thread count per inch warp wise	Thread count per inch weft wise	Thread count per inch
1	S1	95	59	154
2	S2	96	80	176
3	S3	124	116	240
4	S4	110	124	234
5	S5	79	63	142
6	S6	84	62	146
7	S7	84	60	144
8	S8	59	41	100
9	S9	62	62	124
10	S10	51	52	103
11	S11	65	50	115
12	S12	38	30	68
13	S13	92	73	165
14	S14	120	118	238
15	S15	63	37	100
16	S16	57	118	175
17	S17	43	27	70
18	S18	55	42	97
19	S19	59	30	89

As Shown in above table 1, thread count of 5 samples: S3, S4, S14, S9, S10 and S11 not only show good balance in warp and weft but also have a thread count above hundred which make these fabrics appropriate for constructing high quality apparel, home furnishing and accessories with digital printing therefore these fabrics studied further.

S12 and S17 show a thread count between 70-90 which is suitable for low quality accessories and low quality home furnishing. Also S18 have a thread count of 97 which is only suitable for medium quality home furnishing and accessories but can’t be used for those garments which require much better print resolution which can’t be achieved which this low thread count. Nine samples: S1, S2, S5, S6, S7, S13, S15, S16 and S19 were having imbalance fabrics hence are inappropriate for digital printing for apparel.

Yarn count

Mostly high yarn count fabrics are made up of filament yarns. Hence more yarns are used for the

EFFECT OF DIGITAL PRINTING ON COTTON KHADI FABRIC

construction of fabric as a result yarn count is high and fabric surface is smoother. In case of digital printing smooth surface increase the chances of better quality print image hence yarn count was studied of samples which has suitable thread count as seen in table 2.

Table 2 : fabric yarn count

S.No.	Sample	Yarn count warp wise	Yarn count weft wise
1	S3	60	70
2	S4	64	53
3	S9	17	23
4	S10	45	35
5	S14	58	57
6	S18	20	21

Yarn count below 30 is not preferred for quality products, hence as given in table 2 sample S9 and S18 were not studied further as it show a very low yarn count. Sample S3 with a yarn count of 60-70, sample S4 with a yarn count of 64-53, sample S10 with a yarn count of 45-35 and sample S14 with a yarn count of 58-57 showed a high yarn count therefore further studied for quality check before and after digital printing.

Crease recovery

After digital printing fabric samples show very minute improvement in crease recovery angle in comparison to before printing. However when paired t test was applied on before and after digital

printed fabrics readings there was no significant difference was found in any sample neither in warp direction nor in case of weft direction.

All the samples given in table 3, show a crease recovery on average level, in both direction warp and weft wise. After digital printing fabric samples show bit improved crease recovery angle in comparison to before printing. However difference between before and after digital printing show no significance. Three samples S3, S10 and S14 show a crease recovery angle below 50 degrees and only sample S4 show a crease recovery angle above 65 degrees. None of the samples show difference in crease recovery angle, more than 0.5 degrees in both warp and weft direction, between before and after digital printing. As no sample show a difference of five percent or more all four fabric were studied further for rest quality check.

Stiffness

In table 4, stiffness of samples also show the same genus of results, where all four samples showed decrease in bending length. Sample S3 and S14 showed a difference of 0.1 cm in warp wise stiffness between before and after digital printing. Sample S10 show a decrease of 1 cm in warp wise direction after printing, and sample S4 showed a decrease of 0.5 cm in warp wise stiffness after digital printing. Weft wise stiffness of sample S3 decreased to 0.1 cm, weft wise stiffness of S4 decreased to 0.4 cm, sample S10 showed a decrease of 1.3 cm in stiffness

Table 3 : crease recovery angle before and after digital printing

S. No.	Sample	Crease recovery angle before digital printing					Crease recovery angle after digital printing				
		Warp	Warp	Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig. (2-tailed)	Weft	Weft	Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig. (2-tailed)
1	S3	37.5	38	.50000	5.38	.929	49.5	49.75	.25000	.45316	.598
2	S4	70.6	70.8	.25000	2.10	.909	72	72.25	.25000	1.57831	.879
3	S10	42.5	42.7	.25000	5.43	.965	54.75	55	.25000	5.70009	.966
4	S14	40	40.1	.12500	5.29	.982	42	42.25	.25000	3.63883	.947

Table 4 : stiffness before and after digital printing

S. No.	Sample	Stiffness before digital printing (bending length) cm					Stiffness after digital printing (bending length) cm				
		Warp		Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig. (2-tailed)	Weft		Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig. (2-tailed)
1	S3	1.62	1.5	.12000	.24372	.648	1.74	1.64	.10000	.17321	.595
2	S4	1.8	1.3	.42000	.20347	.108	1.88	1.4	.48000	.18276	.058
3	S10	2.3	1.3	1.08000	.72069	.208	2.62	1.3	1.32000	.33377	.017
4	S14	1.8	1.7	.02000	.02000	.374	1.8	1.6	.26000	.08124	.033

EFFECT OF DIGITAL PRINTING ON COTTON KHADI FABRIC

and sample S14 showed a decrease of 0.2 cm in weft direction after digital printing. However none of the four samples showed a significant difference in stiffness of both direction warp and weft.

Drape

Table 5 : effect of digital printing on drape of cotton Khadi fabric

S. No.	Sample	Before digital printing		After digital printing	
		% Drape coefficient	Number of nodes	% Drape coefficient	Number of nodes
1	S3	52.4	7	52.6	7
2	S4	57.52	5	58	5
3	S10	83.84	6	84.4	6
4	S14	61.66	6	62.07	6

Here in table 5, no major difference were found in drape coefficient of any sample in before and after digital printing, also there was no increase were witness in number of nodes in any of four samples. Sample S3 showed an increase in drape coefficient with 0.2%, between before and after digital printing. Sample S4 showed 0.5%, increase in drape coefficient between before and after digital printing. Sample S10 showed an increase in drape coefficient with 0.6% and sample S14 showed an increase in drape coefficient with 0.4% between before and after digital printing. Although none of the sample showed a significant increase or decrease in drape coefficient %.

Thickness

According to analysis of table 6, digital printing do not increase the thickness of cotton Khadi fabric.

All four Samples S3, S4, S10 and S14 show hardly an increase in thickness which is not significant.

Weight

However at the same time weight of all four fabric samples S3, S4, S10 and S14 increase after the digital printing as given in Table 6. Sample S3, S4 and S14 show a significant difference with 3.7 gm., 3.3gm. and 1.3 gm. respectively increase in weight after printing which shows a good absorption of ink in fabrics. On the other hand S10 show an increase of weight with just 0.002gm which is not a significant increase in weight, which symbolizes that, sample S10 has less efficiency to absorb dye which can effect printability hence sample S10 is not studied further in present study.

Color fastness & Depth

In the given table 7, all three samples S3, S4, and S14 show rating of 4.5 in wet rubbing fastness in staining, color loss of 5 in wet rubbing fastness. Staining of 5 and color loss of 5 in dry rubbing fastness. Rating of 5 in stain and 5 in color lose in washing fastness. In the table 7, average color depth of each color is given, where at the wave length of 650 absorbency of ink is given, here three samples S3, S4 and S14 show an absorbency of ink above one which is a desirable depth which is another reason for better color fastness.

Conclusion

Present study was under taken to check the suitability of digital printing on cotton Khadi fabric

Table 6 : effect of digital printing on thickness

S. No.	Sample	Thickness					Weight				
		Before digital printing	After digital printing	Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig. (2-tailed)	Before digital printing	After digital printing	Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig. (2-tailed)
1	S3	0.2323	0.2302	.00210	.00046	.001	10.504	14.25	3.74600	.12430	.000
2	S4	0.2256	0.2286	.00260	.02073	.903	6.357	9.751	3.39400	.00777	.000
3	S10	0.1247	0.1255	.00080	.00135	.568	14.104	14.102	0.00210	.00046	.001
4	S14	0.1526	0.1505	.00210	.00046	.001	6.087	7.432	1.34500	.00601	.000

Table 7 : analysis of color fastness and color depth

S. No.	Sample	Fastness to rubbing				Fastness to washing		Color depth at the wave length of 650nm
		Wet sample		Dry sample		Stain	Color loss	Absorbency
		Stain	Color loss	Stain	Color loss			
1	S3	4.5	5	5	5	5	5	1.85
2	S4	4.5	5	5	5	5	5	1.458667
3	S14	4.5	5	5	5	5	5	1.990333

EFFECT OF DIGITAL PRINTING ON COTTON KHADI FABRIC

for high quality apparel construction. It was found in study that, sample S3, S4, S10 and S14 have the finest thread count which show that they are most compactly woven fabrics as well as these fabrics have a very high yarn count which is a symbol of high quality fabric. Hence these fabrics are most suitable for constructing apparel line. Sample S10 show less absorption of inks and don't show good color fastness and less color depth hence can be used for low quality apparel. Also it was found in studies that, weave density affects the quality of print. Obtained results of many studies show that weave density affected the printability of color and print quality decrease with a decrease thread and yarn count. A high thread count is preferred for digital printing because that helps in better resolution of digital printing. Hence S3, S4 and S14 is best suitable fabrics for apparel digital printing.

Also present study was done to see the effect of digital printing on feel of cotton Khadi fabric and found that digital printing do not affect the physical qualities of cotton Khadi fabric such as crease recovery, stiffness and drape. Also each fabric sample show an increase in weight after printing but not effected the thickness which means digital printing do not affect the feel of fabric but had a better absorbency that is how the weight of fabric samples were increased. Also in present study S3, S4 and S14 show excellent color fastness in comparison to other fabrics. Which is another requirement for apparels. Hence it can be concluded that, digital printing do not affect any physical property of cotton Khadi fabric also sample S3, S4 and S14 are best suitable for digital printing on cotton Khadi fabric in order to make Khadi printing an ecofriendly technique. ■

From silk looms to spam shields: AI brings about a revolutionary change in weaving

Artificial Intelligence could have a hand in the making of your next Banarasi silk saree. An AI-enabled weaving loom solution developed by Tata Consultancy Services not only helps customers design and customise their sarees, but also enables more accurate and faster weaving.

On display at the Tata Group pavilion at the India AI Impact Summit exhibition floor, the loom incorporates a string of LED lights which help the weavers weave the customised design. If a wrong thread is used, the LED lights change to indicate the error, leading to fewer defects in weaving. The solution was developed by TCS, as part of a larger group level initiatives, and is now deployed in partnership with state government to help weaver artisans deliver customised sarees in multiple states. An executive at the booth also highlighted that the solution has helped retailers move inventory faster since the products being made are specified by the customers. Earlier, the executive explained, some retailers had as much as 40% inventory go unsold on account of the design not being popular, or minor weaving defects in the final products.

Tech Mahindra's initiative around education extends AI application to augmented learning opportunities. Built on Project Indus, the IT firm's Hindi first LLM — an educational model — provides learnings assistance through interactive courses. To start with, it has been trained on Physics lessons from classes 6 to 12 and can be used to assist teachers in semi-rural and rural areas. The learning module is available in multiple dialects, facilitating learning in local languages.

The model will be distributed through partnerships with hardware manufacturers that can pre-install the model on select SKUs. Tech Mahindra will also tap into

partnerships with public educational institutions to make the model available at places where the student-teacher ratio is high. Beyond learning, Indian language applications in the form of conversational AI are helping streamline tasks through voice instructions.

CoRover.ai's Ask DISHA platform allows consumers to transact on IRCTC using voice instructions. Users can book tickets, check PNR statuses, and even make payments through voice. The service is available in 14 languages so far, and according to CoRover, is seeing significant success among user groups like the elderly. CoRover.ai is also expanding its AI-powered conversational platform for public grievance management and e-governance to Maharashtra in addition to Jammu and Kashmir where it is currently live. It acts as a 24x7 assistant, allowing citizens to interact with government departments via WhatsApp and web interfaces to submit, track, and resolve complaints.

Another application of AI with impact on consumer lives on display was Bharti Airtel's spam filter to weed out spam messages and calls. The telco has introduced an AI system that detects spam calls, scam messages and suspicious activity in real time. It also warns users if a banking OTP arrives during a suspicious call, helping them pause and verify before sharing sensitive information. Since September 2024, the system has flagged billions of spam calls and messages, blocked malicious links and stopped millions of fraud attempts daily. The prevalence of spam and scam over communication platforms has been on the rise, and other telcos are also deploying AI-based solution to tackle the scale of intrusions to improve customer experience on their networks. ■

EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

European Retailers like to boost textile sourcing

Leading European brands and supermarket chains such as Zara, Ikea, OVS, JYSK, Carrefour, LIDL, ALDI and C&A could significantly boost sourcing from India spurred by the free trade pact with the European Union, which will provide duty free access to Indian apparel and textile exports.

Exporters, currently supplying these brands from Bangladesh and Vietnam, believe that India will now level the playing field with its regional rivals.

The industry is confident of even expanding capacities within months to serve any sharp spike in demand from Europe.

Industry projections estimate a 20-25% annual surge in India's apparel exports after the FTA is implemented, doubling in three years, against the current modest growth rates of about 3%.

"With the European Union continuing to tighten requirements around ESG compliance and end-to-end traceability, we believe that India is well positioned to emerge as a stronger sourcing destination," according to Pallab Banerjee, managing director, Peari Global Industries, a supplier to brands like PVH, which is known for Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein, Walmari, Target, and Spain's Inditex which owns Zara and Berksha brands.

Historically, India's apparel exports have faced a disadvantage in the EU due to tariff-free access enjoyed by competing countries. This differential impacted India's price competitiveness in quality and compliance.

Top European brands have begun exploring and assessing Indian manufacturing capabilities in the last few months, said leading exporters. □

The tariff cut brings great relief to Textile players

The additional 50 percent tariff imposed by the US, which had been in place for three consecutive months until November, has now given the sector a new lease of life following the tariff cut. Exports of textiles and apparel to the US in 2026-27 (FY 27) are expected to grow in double digits, driven by the India-US trade deal, industry experts said.

According to data shared by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), US imports from India dipped by 5 percent, 30.1 percent, and 31.4 percent in September, October, and November, respectively. However, imports from India during January-November rose 2.3 percent. This is expected to provide momentum to India's ambitious target of achieving \$100 billion in textile and apparel exports by 2030, up from \$37.7 billion in 2024-25 (FY 25). The revised 18 percent tariff gives Indian exporters a 2 percentage point (pp) advantage over rivals such as Vietnam and Bangladesh, which face a 20 percent tariff.

India's share of the \$80 billion US apparel import market rose from about 5 percent to nearly 7 percent over the past two years, before dipping temporarily in November due to short-term disruptions rather than structural weakness. "With the new trade arrangement giving India relative advantage over competing sourcing countries, the industry expects a quick return to a 6-7 percent market share and is confident of double-digit export growth in the coming financial year," said Prabhu Dhamodharan, convenor, Indian Texpreneurs Federation.

According to industry thumb rules, every 1 pp of market share translates into roughly ₹7,000 crores in exports. From FY27, the sector is likely to see month-on-month double-digit growth in apparel and home textile exports, lifting the monthly apparel export run rate to \$1.5-1.6 billion from the current \$1.27 billion. At nearly \$11 billion, India's textile and apparel exports to the US accounted for close to 28 percent of the country's total exports in this category total exports in this category during FY 25. "This highly positive development is a major boost to India's goal of achieving \$100 billion in textile and apparel exports by 2030, the Make in India initiative, and job creation in the micro, small and medium enterprise-driven textile and apparel industry," said Ashwin Chandran, chairman, CITI.

An analysis by CITI of data from the US Office of Textiles and Apparel showed that US imports of textiles and apparel from India fell 31.4 percent in November 2025 compared with November 2024.

Cotton import duties now that swing factor

The CITI chairman said the industry is awaiting greater clarity on cotton, observing the

EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

strong complementarity between the US and India in the commodity. India's textile and apparel exports are largely cotton-driven. the US-India Joint statement on the framework for an interim agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade said India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including dried distillers grains, red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits.

"CITI believes that removing import duty on cotton of all varieties will reduce the divergence between domestic and global prices and help restore and competitiveness of India's spinning and textile industries. This would also allow the minimum support price (MSP) and other farmer-support mechanisms to function as intended, without creating significant downstream price distortions. During the current cotton season, the MSP of japes (raw cotton) has increased by nearly 8 percent."

"The tariff eliminations and enhanced market access under this agreement will greatly strengthen the global competitiveness of India's textile and apparel sector. It will also address non-tariff barriers, reduce compliance burdens, and cut procedural delays, enabling faster movement of goods to the US market," said A Sakthivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council. The 50 percent US tariff on Indian goods, effective August 27, 2025, had adversely affected several textile and apparel companies, raising concerns over job losses across the sector. Knitwear hub Tiruppur has already recorded losses of ₹15,000 crore in 2025 due to higher US tariff. □

Pact with EU may help India to achieve ambitious target of 100 bn textile exports

The proposed trade deal with the 27-nation European Union (EU) is expected to provide zero-duty access to the \$95 billion European market for Indian textile and apparel manufacturers. Currently, India's share of the European market is just 6 per cent, or \$5.5 billion. Industry experts expect this could double to \$11 billion over the next five years.

The deal could also play a crucial role in helping India achieve its ambitious target of \$100 billion in textile and apparel exports by 2030, from \$37.7 billion in FY25. This comes at a time when Indian exporters have been hit hard by increased tariffs in the US market. Knit wear hub Tiruppur alone is estimated to have suffered losses of 15,000 crore in 2025 due to higher US tariffs.

"Indian apparel exports could grow by 20-25 per cent year-on-year after the operationalisation of the FTA, against the current growth rate of 3.01 per cent in the EU market," said A Sakthivel, Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

Of the \$95 billion EU apparel market, China and Bangladesh together command more than 50 per cent. Bangladesh had an advantage in the region driven by duty-free, quota free access under the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative as a Least Developed Country (LDC). Other competitors with preferential duty access to the EU are Turkey and Vietnam.

"With duty-free access expected within a year, India's apparel exports to the EU could grow at a 15 per cent compound annual growth rate, doubling to \$1 billion over the next five years," said Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor of the Indian Texpreneurs Federation (ITF).

In the current year, India, China, and Bangladesh grew 6-8 per cent in the EU apparel market, while Vietnam and Cambodia grew faster at 11-15 per cent, highlighting clear headroom for India, according to ITF data.

"Coming at a time when India's textile and apparel sector continues to be weighed down by steep US tariffs, the announcement of the India-EU FTA is a huge confidence booster. It creates opportunities for greater market access and increased business flows from the 27-nation bloc," said Ashwin Chandran, chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI).

Once operational, Chandran said, the India-EU FTA would level the playing field for Indian exporters vis-à-vis competitors such as Vietnam and Bangladesh, against whom India currently faces a tariff disadvantage in the EU.

"By removing the duty hurdle, the FTA will make Indian textile and apparel products more competitive in the European Union, which should

potentially translate into higher revenues for our exporters," he said. However, CITI cautioned that exporters must intensify their focus on innovation and sustainability to take maximum advantage of the FTA. "Indian manufacturers are no longer operating at the 8-12 per cent tariff disadvantage that earlier constrained pricing in value and mid-market segments," said Abhishek Dua, co-founder of Showroom B2B.

In December, India signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Oman and concluded FTA negotiations with New Zealand. In July, India signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, talks on a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US are ongoing. The 50 per cent US tariff on Indian goods, effective from August 27, 2025, has adversely affected many textile and apparel companies, raising concerns that millions of workers in the sector could lose their jobs and livelihoods.

With EU FTA, textile firms hope to surpass rival B'desh in European exports

India's textile and apparel industry, and knitwear hub Tiruppur, is buoyant about the likely trade deal with the European Union (EU).

The industry hopes to surpass rival Bangladesh in European exports soon, driven by the deal.

Moreover, the United States' stance on possible removal of additional 25 per cent tariffs will also boost India's ambition of clocking \$9 trillion exports by 2030.

Tiruppur has already witnessed a loss of 15,000 crore in 2025 due to the higher US tariff. The knitwear capital of India has seen a major jolt as exporters had to resort to production cuts of up to 30 per cent across units due to the higher tariffs. Orders to Tiruppur were getting diverted to competitors like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Cambodia, which have a current tariff advantage. Bangladesh is one of the leading players in the European market.

According to a source, the EU deal, termed the mother of all deals by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, is likely to be cleared in one go at the European Parliament,

rather than getting separate clearances from each parliament of the 27 countries.

The UK trade deal, signed in July, is also expected to give impetus to the apparel industry. "The next decade will be for India's textiles industry. With EU and UK deals, we will surely get an upper hand over Bangladesh, which is enjoying dutyfree exports to that market. For India, we have the advantage of domestic raw material supply too," said A Sakthivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

Bangladesh had an advantage in the region driven by duty-free, quota-free access under the everything but arms (EBA) initiative as a Least Developed Country (LDC).

"European market share is around 40 per cent for us, while the US is only 30 per cent. Hence, this will be most advantageous," Sakthivel added.

Major brands that source from Tiruppur include Pri mark, Walmart, Marks & Spencer, Hennes & Mauritz AB (H&M), Tommy Hilfiger, Amazon, TJX Companies, Kohl's, Gap Inc., and Target.

The Tiruppur cluster currently accounts for apparel exports of around \$1.74 billion to the EU, contributing nearly 22.9 per cent of India's total textile and apparel exports to the EU. Leyen, along with president of European Council Antonio Luís Santos da Costa, will be chief guests at the Republic Day celebrations.

A deal is expected to be concluded on January 27, when the two leaders will co-chair the 16th India-EU Summit hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) has consistently advocated zero-duty access in the ongoing India-EU negotiations. As the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) moves closer to conclusion, we look towards the country's leadership securing comprehensive zero-duty market access for all apparel products. This is an outcome critical for sustaining employment and strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)-based manufacturing clusters. It would also significantly enhance India's footprint in the EU market," said KM Subramanian, president, TEA.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said recently that the additional 25 per cent tariffs on

EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

India might be removed after India's purchase of Russian oil saw a significant drop.

"TEA firmly believes that the India-EU FTA will play a pivotal role in achieving the national target of ₹9 trillion in textile and apparel exports by 2030. It would also lay a strong foundation for India Vision 2047, positioning it as a global leader in sustainable manufacturing, inclusive growth and export excellence," Subramanian added.

Out look of Textile exports set to improve; double-digit volume growth month-on-month likely

India's \$37-billion Textile and apparel export industry expects a sharp cut in US tariffs to restore its competitiveness against Vietnam, China, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Industry players say the latest trade developments could drive double-digit growth in export volumes as US-based retailers of branded textile items like Walmart, JCPenney, GAP, Target & Costco step up sourcing from India following recent trade deals with the US and the EU.

"With the reduction in US tariffs, India's textile and apparel sector is back on a level playing field in the US market. With key free trade agreements nearing closure and rising US sourcing interest, the export outlook is set to improve steadily," said Prabhu Dhamodharan, convenor of the Indian Texpreneurs Federation (ITF), Coimbatore. He said the sector could see month-on-month double-digit growth in apparel and home textile exports, lifting the monthly apparel export run rate to \$1.5-1.6 billion from the current \$1.27 billion.

India's total textile and apparel exports stood at \$36.61 billion in FY25, with the US remaining the single-largest apparel market, accounting for nearly a third of exports. The industry was among the worst hit by the steep 50% punitive tariff imposed by the US in August, which forced American buyers to cancel Indian orders and shift sourcing to countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam.

The US sharply reduced the baseline tariff on Indian exports to 18%, making the country relatively more competitive than Indonesia (19%), Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (20%) and China (40%).

"With around 60% of India's knitwear exports, Tiruppur will be the biggest beneficiary of this move," said KM Subramanian, president of the Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA). Known as India's knitwear hub, Tiruppur lost over 15,000 crore of business in 2025 due to the earlier tariff hike, leading to layoffs and shutdowns among smaller units. "The US tariff reduction, along with the India-EU FTA, will bring buyers back to India," he said.

Kumar Duraiswamy, joint secretary, TEA, said the timing of the US trade deal was critical. "If this had taken another two to three months, buyers would have permanently shifted to other destinations," he said, adding that US importers had already begun re-engaging and business could normalise within the next two to three months.

India's knitwear exports stood at \$7.7 billion in FY25, with 60% contribution from Tiruppur. Overall knitwear exports touched \$5.2 billion in the first eight months of the year, of which Tiruppur contributed nearly \$3 billion. Duraiswamy said India's apparel exports could reach \$40 billion by 2030 as the industry ramps up capacity, modernises operations and expands into newer product segments such as man-made fibres.

Downstream players across the textile value chain also expect the US-India trade deal to provide a boost. "This development is particularly positive for Sanathan Textiles, given its diversified presence across polyester yarns, cotton yarns and technical textile yarns, which have strong relevance in the US market," said Sammir Dattani, executive director, Sanathan Textiles.

At the same time, exporters remain cautiously optimistic, having diversified away from the US market amid tariff director of Pearl Global

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EXPORT PROSPECTS AND MARKETS

Industries, said uncertainty. Pallab Banerjee, managing director of Pearl Global Industries, said the US tariff deal offers a clear advantage to its India-based operations even as the company has more diversified geographic exposure than its peers.

"Most of us (trade) were offering discounts to US customers to offset the penalty tariff. That pressure has now eased. and India enjoys a 2% tariff advantage over competing countries, Banejee said. Pearl Global, which counts manufacturers brands like Zara, Tommy Hilfiger & Calvin Klein, derives nearly 50% of its group revenue from the US. Exports from India to the US were 15-16% and the company was exploring diversification to non-US markets at the peak of 50% tariffs.

"Q4 should see relief from margin pressure, while from Q2 next year we expect an improvement in topline growth from the US market," Banerjee added.

According to Motilal Oswal, Raymond Lifestyle, Indo Count, Welspun Living, Gokaldas Exports and Kitex Lifestyle, Indo Count, Welspun Living, Gokaldas Exports and Kitex are among the key beneficiaries, with 65-90% of their revenues linked to the US market. ■

Lower US tariff on Bangladesh textiles may push India to more competition

The Lower US import tariffs on textiles and apparel exports from Bangladesh could mean more competition for Indian exporters though the impact may be limited as Bangladesh has capacity constraints.

The US-Bangladesh trade pact lowers the effective tariff to 19%, compared with 18% for Indian exports. "The tariff differential between India and Bangladesh has narrowed from 2% to 1%, which is a concern in a sector with thin margins," the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) said.

Economist and former trade negotiator, Abhijit Das, pointed out that the India-US trade pact, by which reciprocal tariffs are down to 18%, would have enabled Indian exporters to increase shipments to the US whereas some competing nations such as Bangladesh, would face 19% and others, such as Vietnam, would face 20%.

However, the US -Bangladesh pact will bring down the reciprocal tariffs to zero, for a certain quota.

The size of the quota is not known, he said, but what is quite likely to happen is that the perceived tariff advantage, which India would have had over Bangladesh of about one percentage point gets reversed into a tariff disadvantage of 18%

The US and Bangladesh on recently agreed on a reciprocal trade framework under which Washington will allow a specified volume of textile and exports from apparel Bangladesh to enter the US at a zero reciprocal tariff rate.

CITI warned of short-term pressure on Indian spinning mills and cotton shipments, as Bangladesh-India's largest export market for cotton and yarn may be prompted to step up purchases of US cotton and spin domestically.

India exported \$1.47 billion worth of cotton yarn (about 570 million kg) to Bangladesh in 2024-25. About 2006 of Bangladesh's garment exports and about 26% of India's cotton apparel exports are destined for the US, Bangladesh is among the world's leading exporters of textiles and apparel to the United States.

India and the US signed an interim trade agreement recently, under which tariffs on Indian textile and apparel exports were reduced from 50% to 18%, making India relatively more competitive than Indonesia (19%), Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (20%) and China (40) Dhamodharan, convenor of the Coimbatore-based Indian Texpreneurs Federation, however, said Bangladesh has capacity constraints.

Bangladesh exports about \$44 billion worth of garments annually, nearly 80% of which are cotton-based, implying yarn and fabric demand of around \$17-18 billion. "Its domestic spinning and fabric capacity can support only \$3-4 billion, leaving a structural gap," he said.

Bangladesh's spinning sector also cannot fully pivot to US cotton due to its entrenched exposure to Europe and the UK. "At best, only 20-25% of yarn and fabric demand can be met domestically, The rest will have to be sourced from India and Vietnam, subject to rules. In such a scenario, Indian yarn and fabric exports stand to benefit," Dhamodharan added. ■

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Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit hosts an International Conference on “Textiles 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology Innovations and Global Expectations” held on Friday, 30th January 2026, ‘Hotel - The Lalit, Mumbai’

The Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit organized an International Conference on “TEXTILES 2030 - Navigating Geopolitics, Technology Innovations and Global Expectations” on Friday, 30th January 2026 at Hotel the Lalit, Mumbai. The Conference received overwhelming response with 350 delegates in attendance. The theme of Conference, topics, presentations, and speakers were highly appreciated by one and all. Some of the highlights of the conference are described as under.



Lighting the Lamp : Standing (L to R): Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, President, TAI, Mumbai Unit, Mr. R. R. Patil, Vice President, TAI, Mumbai Unit, Mr. Murugan Thenkondar, President & Head - Marketing and Business, Development (Fibre Marketing), Cellulosic Business, Grasim Industries Ltd., Mr. R. K. Vij, President, TAI, Ms. Roop Rashi, CEO, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Govt. of India, Mr. Prashant Agarwal, Co. Founder & Jt. Managing Director, Wazir Advisors Pvt. Ltd., Dr. G. V. Aras, Conference Chairman & Trustee, TAI, Mumbai Unit, Mr. V. C. Gupte, Conference Convenor & Chairman, TAI, Mumbai Unit, Dr. G. S. Nadiger, Vice Chairman, TAI, Mumbai Unit, Mr. Haresh B. Parekh, Hon. Secretary, TAI, Mumbai Unit.



Welcome Address by Mr. V. C. Gupte, Conference Convenor & Chairman, TAI, Mumbai Unit.

Mr. V. C. Gupte, Chairman, Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit and Convener of the Conference, extended a warm welcome to the Chief

Guest, Ms. Roop Rashi (IA&AS), Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Government of India; the Guest of Honour; the Keynote Speaker; awardees; speakers; sponsors; members of the press and media; and all delegates. In his address, Mr. Gupte highlighted the efforts of the TAI Mumbai Unit in consistently organizing conferences on future-oriented themes of national and global relevance, culminating in the 2026 international conference themed “TEXTILES 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology Innovations and Global Expectations.” He emphasized that the global textile and apparel industry is at a critical juncture, influenced by geopolitical shifts, rapidly evolving technologies, sustainability imperatives, and changing international trade and regulatory frameworks. He mentioned about the FTAs signed by the Government of India including the most recent FTA signed with European Union which should benefit the T & A exporters and bring back volumes & margins. He suggested to move towards value-added products where competition is less. He stressed on ESG regulations which have become quite stringent, so the awareness should be created amongst the stakeholders. The Conference included a dedicated Panel Discussion by All-Women Panel on the theme of ‘Women Leadership driving a Change in T & A Sector’ which was unique and for the first time in any Conference.



Presidential Address by Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, President, TAI, Mumbai Unit.

Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, President, Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit, in his Presidential Address, highlighted the rapidly changing global landscape facing the textile and apparel industry. He noted that geopolitics, trade realignments, sustainability expectations, and technological disruption are

Textiles 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology ... Expectations

now as influential as cost and quality in global trade. Referring to recent U.S. tariff actions, he emphasized that trade today is increasingly shaped by alignment and perception. He welcomed the signing of the India–EU Free Trade Agreement as a significant opportunity to improve market access, reduce duty disadvantages, and strengthen India's position as a reliable sourcing partner for Europe, while stressing that preparedness will be key to benefiting from it. The address underlined that while domestic demand remains strong, exports face pressures from global slowdown, intense competition, and rising compliance requirements. To remain competitive, Indian textiles must combine cost efficiency with sustainability, digital enablement, and innovation. Calling Textiles 2030 a mindset rather than a milestone, he urged the industry to embrace automation, AI, ESG, circularity, design, and branding, and stressed the need for closer collaboration between industry, academia, and government. He concluded by reaffirming India's resilience and commitment not just to adapt to the future, but to design it.



Address by Mr. R. K. Vij, President, TAI

Mr. R. K. Vij, President, Textile Association (India), in his address, emphasized the importance of a forward-looking and globally aligned approach as the textile and apparel industry moves towards the TEXTILES 2030 vision. He highlighted the need for the industry to remain resilient and responsive to changing geopolitical dynamics, evolving global trade environments, and rising international expectations. Mr. Vij underlined the role of strategic planning, policy alignment, and collective industry efforts in strengthening India's position in the global textile value chain. He appreciated the initiative of the TAI Mumbai Unit in organizing the international conference and stated that such platforms play a vital role in fostering dialogue,

knowledge exchange, and long-term vision for the sustainable growth of the industry.



Address by Conference Chairman, Dr. G. V. Aras

Mr. G. V. Aras, Conference Chairman and Trustee, Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit, briefed the delegates on the structure of the conference, including the selected topics and distinguished speakers. He stated that the programme was carefully curated to address the conference theme "TEXTILES 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology Innovations and Global Expectations" from the perspectives of the organized industry, MSMEs, and international stakeholders. He emphasized that the conference aimed to provide a comprehensive outlook on the future direction of the textile and apparel sector, keeping in view evolving global market dynamics, policy environments, and industry expectations. He further informed that the conference would feature knowledgeable and expert speakers. He informed that there would be a 'All-Women panel discussion speaking on the Women Leadership driving a change in the T&A Sector.



Key Note Speaker Mr. Prashant Agarwal, Co. Founder & Jt. Managing Director, Wazir Advisors Pvt. Ltd. addressing the gathering.

Mr. Prashant Agarwal, Co-Founder and Joint Managing Director, Wazir Advisors Pvt. Ltd., in

Textiles 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology ... Expectations

his Keynote Address, provided a comprehensive overview of the TEXTILES 2030 landscape, highlighting how geopolitical shifts, evolving global trade dynamics, regulatory frameworks, and changing consumer and market expectations are shaping the future of the textile and apparel industry. He emphasized the need for Indian textile enterprises to align their long-term strategies with global developments, emerging market opportunities, and sustainability-driven expectations to remain competitive in the decade ahead. He noted that with its strong manufacturing base and growing global relevance, the Indian textile and apparel industry is well positioned to play a pivotal role in the international value chain leading up to 2030.



Guest of Honour, Mr. Murugan Thenkondar, President & Head - Marketing and Business, Development (Fibre Marketing), Cellulosic Business, Grasim Industries Ltd. addressing the gathering.

Mr. Murugan Thenkondar, President and Global Head – Marketing and Business Development, Birla Cellulose, Grasim Industries Ltd., the Guest of Honour, addressed the gathering and appreciated the relevance and timeliness of the conference theme “TEXTILES 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology Innovations and Global Expectations.” He commended the TAI Mumbai Unit for organizing a forward-looking international conference that brought together diverse perspectives from across the textile value chain to deliberate on the future direction of the industry.

The Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit continued its long-standing tradition of recognizing distinguished personalities for their outstanding contribution to the Indian textile industry. At the present International Conference, the Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon Mr. Amrishbhai Patel, Chairman, Deesan Group of

Companies; President, SVKM; and Chancellor, NMIMS, in recognition of his exemplary leadership and enduring contribution to industry, education, and society. In his remarks, Mr. Patel expressed his gratitude to the TAI Mumbai Unit for the honour and acknowledged the role of the textile sector in nation-building and long-term socio-economic development.

The Industrial Excellence Award was jointly presented to Mr. Edward Menezes, Executive Chairman, and Mr. Sunil Chari, Managing Director, Rossari Biotech Ltd., in recognition of their significant contribution to innovation, growth, and leadership in the textile chemicals sector. The awardees thanked the TAI Mumbai Unit for the recognition and reaffirmed their commitment to contributing to the future growth of the Indian textile industry in a globally evolving environment.



Mr. Chintanbhai Patel receiving The Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of his father Mr. Amrishbhai Patel, Chairman, Deesan Group of Companies by the hands of Chief Guest Ms. Roop Rashi.

Ms. Roop Rashi (IA&AS), Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Government of India, and Chief Guest of the event, addressed the delegates and highlighted the significance of the conference theme TEXTILES 2030 in providing a holistic and forward-looking perspective for the development of the textile and apparel sector. She emphasized the need for the industry to align with evolving global expectations, policy frameworks, and market dynamics while strengthening India’s position in the international textile value chain. Ms. Roop Rashi appreciated The Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit for selecting a timely and globally relevant theme and for organizing the international conference as a meaningful platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and strategic thinking for the future of the textile industry.

Textiles 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology ... Expectations

Informative technical sessions

There were three Technical Sessions – each Session had 3 papers and a Industry First All Women's Panel Discussion.

Technical Session I

Ms. Vaishali Kamble, Assistant General Manager -Future Fibre, Birla Cellulose, Grasim Industries Ltd., delivered the opening technical presentation of the conference on behalf of Mr. Shaymlal Patnaik, Jt. President, Head – Specialty Products. In her presentation, she spoke on the innovation in the cellulose fibres which would provide advantage over present fibre, but also also meet the ever changing regulations and compliances. The presentation provided valuable insights into how the industry can align with global requirements leading up to 2030.



Mr. Mikhail Menezes receiving The Industrial Excellence Award on behalf of his father Mr. Edward Menezes, Executive Chairman, Rossari Biotech Ltd. by the hands of Chief Guest Ms. Roop Rashi.

Mr. Mikhail Menezes, Director – Technical, Rossari Biotech Ltd., delivered the second technical presentation of the conference. In his address, he dwelled on innovation in Surfactants which are treated as work horse of the chemical industry. He introduced 'Green Surfactant' which would meet sustainability and regulations. He talked on biosurfactants which are derived from vegetable oils like palm oil, coconuts etc. These are highly biodegradable with lower toxicity and there is increasing consumer demand for green labels and stricter environmental regulations. He also laid stress on their functional advantage in textile processing. The presentation offered practical insights into aligning chemical solutions with future-ready textile manufacturing practices and was well appreciated by the delegates.

Ms. Nidhi Kaushik, Senior Vice President (Treasury), Kotak Mahindra Bank, delivered the third technical presentation of the conference. She

provided an overview of the global financial and trade environment in the context of the TEXTILES 2030 vision, highlighting the impact of international market movements, currency trends, and trade dynamics on the textile and apparel sector. Her presentation offered valuable perspectives on financial planning, risk awareness, and preparedness for textile enterprises operating in an increasingly interconnected global marketplace. The session generated keen interest among the delegates and concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment.



Mr. Sunil Chari, Managing Director, Rossari Biotech Ltd. receiving The Industrial Excellence Award by the hands of Chief Guest Ms. Roop Rashi.

Technical Session II

Mr. Sudipto Mandal and **Mr. Shridhar Dhumal**, Regional Sales Directors, Oerlikon Textile India Pvt. Ltd. (now Oerlikon Barmag), jointly delivered a technical presentation on Recycling Technologies. He provided the details of waste of different types generated in India and solutions provided by Oerlikon in PET bottles waste. He also talked on R & D activities followed in Oerlikon in chemical recycling.



Release of Book of Papers

His colleague, Mr. Shridhar Dhumal presented paper on non-woven technologies offered by Oerlikon. He specially covered spunbond and Meltblown applications and their solutions provided by Oerlikon like in geotextiles. The presentation offered insights into how textile enterprises can

Textiles 2030 – Navigating Geopolitics, Technology ... Expectations

prepare for future industry requirements and both the papers were well received by the delegates.



Chief Guest Ms. Roop Rashi, CEO, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Govt. of India addressing the gathering.

Mr. B. Sankar, General Manager (Technical and Development), Perfect Engineering Corporation, delivered a technical presentation focusing on Recycling of textile waste. Perfect Engineering is providing recycling plant for the textile waste. He shared in detail information about the recycling plant and its operation. The delegates appreciated the working of recycling of textile waste. The presentation provided practical perspectives for the industry.



Vote of Thanks by Mr. Haresh B. Parekh, Hon. Secretary, TAI, Mumbai Unit.

Ms. Payal Kochar Shrimal, Channel Sales Manager, Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, delivered a technical presentation highlighting the role of sustainable energy integration in shaping the future of the textile value chain in line with the TEXTILES 2030 vision. She discussed the importance of aligning energy strategies with evolving global expectations, environmental considerations, and long-term operational resilience for textile enterprises. The presentation offered valuable insights into how the industry can prepare for future energy-related challenges and opportunities.



Technical Session I – Speakers (Sitting L to R): Mr. Mikhail Menezes, Director – Technical, Rossari Biotech Limited, Ms. Vaishali Kamble, Assistant General Manager -Future Fibre, Birla Cellulose, Grasim Industries Ltd., Ms. Nidhi Kaushik, Sr. Vice President (Treasury), Kotak Mahindra Bank

Technical Session III

Mr. Rahul Bhajekar, Managing Director, Global Standards GmbH, delivered a technical presentation addressing the evolving regulatory and compliance landscape of the textile and apparel industry. He introduced ESG Regulations to the audience. He highlighted 5 regularity pillars impacting textiles and apparel industry. He talked about the regulation more specific to the European Union. He specified Europe's headline regulations for textiles and apparel, like ESPR, Waste/Circularity, CSRD, CSDDO and Antigreenwashing. He explained all these regulations. He also briefed on very recent new levy on fast fashion by Germany. He presented on Ecomodulation specific about France, Spain and Italy. He also talked about regulations in US and Asia-Pacific. At the end, he also what Indian Textile and Apparel need to follow minimum viable compliance stack. His presentation provided clarity on ESG regulations and It was very highly appreciated by the delegates.

Mr. Navodit Babel, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Green Story Europe B.V., Netherlands, delivered a technical presentation focusing on the transition of the textile and apparel industry towards greater transparency and accountability. He showed three main points for regulatory timelines, for example Green Claims Directive by 2023, ESPR adoption by 2024 and Digital Product Passport by 2027. He explained the three regulations in detail. He also presented the consequences of non-compliance in terms of Heavy Penalty, Market Access and Brand Trust. He presented strategic roadmap for brands. The presentation highlighted the importance of credible data, traceability, and clear communication of sustainability efforts to international stakeholders. The presentation was very well appreciated.

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Dr. Leonie Vaas, General Manager – Sustainability, Hirdaramani Apparel, Sri Lanka, delivered a technical presentation highlighting how her organization has implemented ESG goals across its manufacturing campuses in six countries as part of its long-term vision. She shared practical insights into the company's approach towards embedding environmental, social, and governance principles across operations, supply chains, and workplace practices. Drawing from real-world implementation experiences, her presentation illustrated how structured ESG strategies can drive responsible growth and resilience across geographically diverse operations. She presented at the end of the presentation highlighting that ESG Readiness is Not A Cost, but it is Strategic Investment.



Technical Session II – Speakers (Sitting L to R): Mr. Sudipto Mandal, Regional Sales Director, Oerlikon Barmag, Mr. Shridhar Dhumal, Regional Sales Director, Oerlikon Barmag, Mr. B. Sankar, General Manager (Technical and Development), Perfect Engineering Corporation, Ms. Payal Kochar Shrimal, Channel Sales Manager, Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd.

The theme of the Panel Discussion was “Women Leadership Driving a Change in the Textile & Apparel Sector”, bringing together a distinguished group of women leaders from industry, technology, sustainability, heritage, and global business. The session drew an enthusiastic response from delegates and underscored the growing role of women leadership in shaping the future of the textile and apparel industry.

The Panel Discussion was moderated by Ms. **Neha Gupta**, Founder, International Fashion Business Exchange Council.

The panel discussion served as an insightful platform for industry stakeholders to understand the perspectives, experiences, and leadership journeys of women professionals who are actively driving transformation across the textile and apparel value chain. The session highlighted the increasing influence of women in decision-making roles and their contribution to innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth in the sector.

The panel included eminent women leaders from diverse segments of the industry:

1. Ms. Seema Srivastava, Executive Director, India ITME Society
2. Ms. Smita Yeole, Managing Director, Oriental Weaving & Processing Mills Pvt. Ltd.
3. Ms. Shefali Gopalka, Partner, National Dychem Industries
4. Ms. Katyayani Agarwal, Freelance Consultant, Museum Curator, Cultural Heritage Specialist
5. Ms. Anoushka Veljee, Chief Revenue Officer, Frontier.Cool Inc., California, USA
6. Mrs. Smita Joshi, Vice President – Home Textiles and Exports, Sutlej Textiles & Industries Ltd.



Technical Session II – Speakers (Standing L to R): Mr. Rahul Bhajekar, Managing Director, Global Standard gGmbH, Germany, Dr. Leonie Vaas, General Manager – Sustainability, Hirdaramani Apparel, Sri Lanka,

Mr. Navodit Babel, Co-Founder and CTO, Green Story Europe B.V., Netherlands

Ms. Neha Gupta skilfully moderated the discussion, guiding the panel through a wide range of topics covering leadership journeys, challenges faced by women in the textile and apparel industry, opportunities for growth, and the evolving role of women in shaping global business practices.

The panel discussion covered several key areas, offering valuable insights to the delegates, including:

1. Women Leadership and Industry Transformation

The panelists shared how women leaders are contributing to the transformation of the textile and apparel sector through:

- Strategic leadership and decision-making
- Driving innovation and operational excellence
- Strengthening sustainability and ethical business practices

2. Challenges and Opportunities

The discussion addressed challenges faced by women professionals, including:

- Navigating leadership roles in traditionally male-dominated segments
- Balancing professional growth with organizational and social expectations
- Creating inclusive workplaces that support talent development

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At the same time, panelists highlighted emerging opportunities for women leaders as the industry becomes more global, diverse, and innovation-driven.



Panel Discussion Session (Standing L to R): Ms. Anoushka Veljee, Chief Revenue Officer, Frontier.cool Inc., California, USA, Ms. Shefali Gopalka, Partner, National Dychem Industries, Ms. Smita Yeole, Managing Director, Oriental Weaving & Processing Mills Pvt. Ltd., Ms. Katyayani Agarwal, Freelance Consultant, Museum Curator & Cultural Heritage Specialist, Ms. Neha Gupta, Founder, International Fashion Business Exchange Council (IFBEC), Dr. Seema Srivastava, Executive Director, India ITME Society, Mrs. Smita Joshi, Vice President - Home Textiles and Exports, Sutlej Textiles & Industries Ltd.

3. Building Inclusive and Future-Ready Organizations

The panel emphasized the importance of:

- Encouraging diversity and inclusion at leadership levels
- Mentorship and capacity-building for young professionals
- Creating organizational cultures that support collaboration and long-term growth

4. The Way Forward

A recurring theme of the discussion was the need for collective efforts by industry bodies, organizations, and leadership teams to:

- Enable greater participation of women in leadership roles
- Foster inclusive growth across the textile and apparel value chain
- Prepare the industry for future global expectations under the TEXTILES 2030 vision

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, where delegates actively engaged with the panellists on leadership development, career pathways, and the evolving role of women in the textile and apparel industry. The panellists provided thoughtful and inspiring responses, further enriching the discussion.

The event was widely appreciated by the delegates, who represented a broad cross-section of the textile and apparel ecosystem, including manufacturers, exporters, designers, technology providers, academicians, and policy stakeholders. Participants commended the conference and panel discussion for offering thoughtful, balanced, and

forward-looking perspectives on the challenges and opportunities shaping the textile and apparel industry.

In concluding the session, the moderator summarized the key takeaways, emphasizing the importance of:

- Adopting a strategic and globally aligned outlook to remain competitive in international markets
- Encouraging innovation and adaptability to address evolving industry and market requirements
- Integrating sustainability and responsible practices into long-term business strategies
- Preparing organizations and professionals for changing global expectations and future industry dynamics

The conference concluded with a strong collective message that while the textile and apparel industry faces significant global challenges in the coming decade, it also holds substantial opportunities for growth, resilience, and leadership on the world stage. Delegates highlighted the need for collaborative efforts, informed decision-making, and long-term vision to successfully navigate the road to TEXTILES 2030.



The Distinguished Audience

There was active interaction between speakers and delegates during the question-and-answer sessions as well as informal discussions during tea and lunch breaks, enabling meaningful exchange of ideas and effective dissemination of insights aligned with the conference theme.

Mr. Haresh B. Parekh, Hon. Secretary, Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit, proposed the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, panelists, sponsors, delegates, and organizing committee members for contributing to the success of the International Conference, which was attended by around 300 participants.

For further information, please contact :

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ITAMMA receives overwhelming response for Bhilwara events on 31st Jan 26 whereby Modaniji expressed his satisfaction by offering his premises for next show while Nolkhaji extended his support for frequent such events at Bhilwara

On behalf of ITAMMA, I cordially invite all Stakeholders-Manufacturers /Dealers / Traders, Industrialists-Owners/Technical Staff/Technicians, Educationalists, PRESS/Journalists /Associations /Chambers and ALL those in the field of Textiles, Technical Textiles and textile engineering to please visit this show and I am sure that you will definitely enhance your information and fulfil your requirements.



Mr M K Jain, Executive Officer, Mewar Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing the Press



Mr Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA addressing the Press



PRESS Representatives

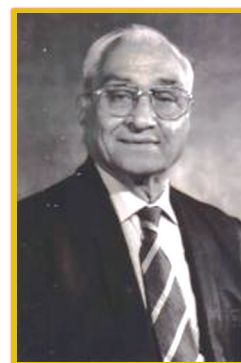
31st Jan 26

ITAMMA in association with "BK Mehta Endowment Fund" organized 6th in series

"B. K. Mehta Technology Networking Mission-2030" at Ranbanka Heritage Hotel, Bhilwara

1st session (Virtual and was open to all on-line)

Started with a documentary film of the luminary Shri B.K. Mehta highlighting his yeoman services to the cause of the textile engineering industry in general and ITAMMA in particular.



Mr. N D Mhatre, Director General (Tech), ITAMMA in his Introductory Speech, explained about the initiatives taken by B K Mehta to form this Mission with the help of Balbhai Film stated that the objective of the task force is to Engage Academia,



Mr. N. D. Mhatre, Director General (Tech) explaining about the initiatives taken by B K Mehta to form this Mission with the help of Balbhai Film

Research, Government and Industry stakeholders at National and International level, Support and highlight various key innovations in the Textile sector, Creating objectives & strategic roadmap towards engaging stakeholders and Developing pilot project initiatives in partnership with the Stakeholders. This Networking Mission will give an opportunity to Students from different Textile

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Nolkhaji extended his support for frequent such events at Bhilwara**

Institutes to interact with the Industry Experts, Industrialists and Govt. Bodies from Textile Engineering and Textile Industry and implement their Projects/innovations under various Govt. schemes.

Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA in his Welcome Address said that this Mission is helping Indian Textile Engineering Industry to develop their technological set-up and bringing on the surface the talent and the low-cost technologies available with the Students.



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA delivering Welcome Address

This Mission is helping Indian Textile Engineering Industry to develop their technological set-up and bringing on the surface the talent and the low-cost technologies available with the Students.

The Technology Development activities never ends or should not end as it helps in making the Entrepreneur self-sustained in the Challenging Global Market. And keeping in mind this aspect ITAMMA will be continuing this activity by connecting Academician, Experts, Stake Holder and Government Bodies on one platform under B K Mehta Technology Networking Mission.

I once again thank Mrs. Hansaben Mehta, for taking forward the family tradition and generously strengthening the "B K MEHTA ENDOWMENT FUND" which has helped us in organizing such useful events.

Further encouraging the student community to come out with out of box ideas & innovations which can be experimented or transformed into a production capacity at our member's factories, ITAMMA has formulated a 'ITAMMA Technology Fund' for the benefit to the Institute in order to promote such activities.

Industry Experts

Prof (Dr) R K Somani, Dean, SANGAM University, Bhilwara informed that all Institute level projects needs to be have a strong R & D concept and needed to have extensive field trials in the factories.



Felicitating of Prof (Dr) R K Somani, Dean, SANGAM University, Bhilwara by Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA

Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP., Mumbai informed ITAMMA has done commendable work with the B K Mehta Technology Mission. Based on my overall experience witnessing various demonstrations, I believe it to be a good step towards the mission. And so, to escalate the process of 'Mind...to Production...to Market', I personally would suggest starting with a good feedback session, which would be a one-to-one interactive session between the presenter and the industry expert.



Felicitating of Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP by Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA

Although I am not sure of the entire backstage process followed, I feel that going forward, we can provide the presenters/ students with dedicated topics for such a forum. Also, the current format

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of seven minutes may not be sufficient to express the concept of the topic, especially at the student level. They cannot easily explain the innovations in such a short span. So, I feel a pre-seminar meeting with them and their guide to brief on our selected topic and brainstorming the allotted ideas behind that particular topic would be beneficial. Also, their respective guides from the institution can then understand the forum vision and help students to make a short and crisp presentation. A post-session feedback mechanism on their presentation would serve the purpose of the mission.

Mr. Dayal Mehta, CEO & Business Evangelist, AiTTiS, informed that since Government is taking initiatives for start-ups especially in technical textiles field, he can extend support to the students with such type of projects right from start to implementation and also further funding.



Felicitation of Mr. Dayal Mehta, CEO & Business Evangelist, AiTTiS, by Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA

Prof (Dr) Virendra Gupta of M.L.V. Textile and Engineering College, Bhilwara,

The development of any Industry depends on Research and Development activities undertaken by the industry. The Research and Development works are highly influenced by the academic capabilities and skills of the Researchers. In Developed countries most of the R and D works and original research are done in Universities and Research Institutions under the supervision of highly talented manpower. The State Engineering Colleges and other Research institutions in India may also do same thing but there is need of very high class teaching faculties who are dedicated to teaching and research work. Generally it is observed that most of Engineering Colleges and other Research institutions are having very serious shortage of faculties who are the pillars of academic institutions. Besides that the available faculties are given several extra charges and outside administrative works either by college administration or district administration. Due to extra duties they only perform teaching the

classes and class level work. Therefore there is need of highly talented teachers who are associated with industry and do the research work required by the industries and trained the students in industry. The selection of teachers should not be done on the basis of only their Ph.D. degree instead they must have Industrial projects in their qualifications and their promotions should be based on Industrial output.

2nd Session

Students who were shortlisted from the following colleges presented their innovative projects to the Experts panel.

TEXTILE INSTITUTE NAME	STUDENT'S NAME	PROJECT TITLE
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International School of Textiles & Management, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu	Yazhini B and Sreelakshmi C, II BSc Technical Textiles,	Comfort Evaluation of a Newly Developed Knitted Fabric
	Mirsha Varthini A & Suriya Prakash N, II BSc Textile and Apparel Design	Textiles and Illusion: A New Design Approach
	Sakthi Dharshini M & Dharshini P, II BSc Textile and Apparel Design, Sardar	Natural Dyes: Sustainable Colorants for a Healthier Future
	Chinmayee R and Swathi S, II BSc Technical Textiles	ECO-FRIENDLY OIL SORBENTS FOR OIL SPILL REMEDIATION
DKTEs Textile and Engineering Institute, Maharashtra	Rutuja V. Mete, Ketan K. Bhosale, Snehal D. Tapke, Sayali R. Khairnar	Design and Development of textile products with dual acoustic and thermal functionality
	Md Arif iqbal	UPCYCLING OF TEXTILE WASTE IN NONWOVENS FOR ACOUSTIC APPLICATIONS
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat	Ms Poonam Purohit (Guide Dr. Aadhar Mandot Asst. Professor, Dept. of Textile Engg., Faculty of Technology and Engineering)	A Multilayered Coolant fabric using Superfine Merino wool
	Dr Sanjay Bambhaniya (Guide Dr. Aadhar Mandot Asst. Professor, Dept. of Textile Engg., Faculty of Technology and Engineering)	A Pilot Knife Coating Machine for Textile Substrates

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M. L. V. Textile & Engineering College, Bhilwara	Ms Rumana Parveen, final year Mtech student	"Development of Protective Medical Textile (Bed sheet) Through Textile Chemical Processing Using Natural Dyes and Eco-friendly Finishing Material"
	Anuradha Ajmera, Ph.D Scholar, Deepti Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Textile Engineering	Use of Light Emitting Materials for Textile Applications

Felicitation of Experts

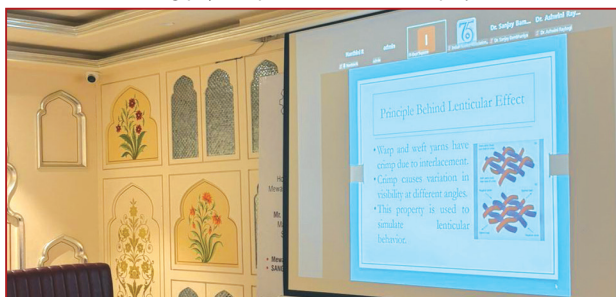
Recognizing the work of Students for their Project work by offering Certificate of Appreciation and a Token of Love



Session-2 - Students MLV Textile and Engineering College, Bhilwara making physical presentations of their projects



Session-2 - Students MLV Textile and Engineering College, Bhilwara making physical presentations of their projects



Session-2 - Students of DKTEs Textile and Engineering Institute, Maharashtra attending ON-LINE the even interacting with Experts



Session-2 - Students of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat attending ON-LINE the even interacting with Experts



Session-2 - Students of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International School of Textiles & Management, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu attending ON-LINE the even interacting with Experts



Session-1 Expert - Prof (Dr) Virendra Gupta of M.L.V. Textile and Engineering College, Bhilwara, addressing the participants



Recognizing the work of Students for their Project work by offering Certificate of Appreciation & Encouraging Students for their Project work by a token of love

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Recognizing the work of Students for their Project work by offering Certificate of Appreciation & Encouraging Students for their Project work by a token of love

31st Jan 26

**Seminar on "Special Session on
Technical Textiles Turnkey Projects"
at Ranbanka Heritage Hotel, Bhilwara**



All Guest Speakers on Dias

Mr. N D Mhatre, Director General (Tech), ITAMMA in his opening remarks mentioned that the global trend is towards man-made fibre (MMF) textiles and is increasing rapidly. Considering the base of Bhilwara textile industry as man-made textiles, the scope of going further in the production of technical textiles shall be possible by continuing the present business/set-up by enhancing the manufacturing of the product as per specifications of engineered textiles. Thus a need of developing a road map for the production of technical textiles with appropriate handling the project by a competent agency/consultant for taking it to its final stage of marketing.

Thus an attempt has been made to bring on platform Experts from field of Technical Textile Product knowledge, machine development, marketing and project handling on same platform.



Mr. N D Mhatre, Director General (Tech), ITAMMA delivering Opening Remarks

Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA in his Welcome Speech said that taking forward the activities of ITAMMA Technology Cell after the initiative of Revamping/updating the "ITAMMA Expert Panel" and "ITAMMA MoU Partners from Textile Research Institutes and Associations," – to be ready to help our members in the Technical Textile field; we are pleased to organize the above event to create a platform to our members for scouting the technology and business development in the field of Engineered Textiles especially for Bhilwara Textile Industry.



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA delivering Welcome Address

Today, Technical textiles is considered as the sunrise industry whereby India is the 5th largest market in the world, as the Exports for 247 technical textile items stood at Rs. 5,946 crore (US\$ 715.48 million) between April-June (2023-24); and so Govt. of India has also extended its support through various dynamic schemes.

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Mr. Dayal Mehta, CEO & Business Evangelist, AiTTiS, and renowned Technical Textile Coach & Funding facilitator spoke at on real questions of Bhilwara industry community in regard with Technical Textiles.



Mr. Dayal Mehta, CEO & Business Evangelist, AiTTiS, making presentations

He also raised the voice of new investors & start-ups who wish to make fresh investments in Technical Textiles in Bhilwara. He addressed on various products which can be made by Bhilwara Textile Community and he can help them further to sale or can be explored its market globally.



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Memento & appreciation certificate to Mr Dayal Mehta, CEO & Business Evangelist, AiTTiS, during the Seminar

Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP Bhilwara is an industry that has nurtured

itself and come out with many good things, especially they have introduced wide varieties in the domestic market, from value-added fabrics, synthetic fabrics, to blended fabrics. Bhilwara has been growing consistently for the past 3 -4 years, and the void no longer exists, making it a very serious concern for their future. They must plan for new installations, but the product basket needs to be unique, and alternative options need to be focused on.

My entire presentation was divided into two phases. The first phase was about the market study done for the vision of the Indian textile engineering industry, linking how the success of the textile industry depends on the indigenous development of textile engineering machines, in similar terms to how yarns from India dominate the global horizon, since maximum spinning machinery is being manufactured in India.



M Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP, Mumbai making presentations

So, in spite of having capabilities and installations for weaving, processing, and garmenting, we do not have our own machines on a global scale, and so the share is not quite high in value-added competitive textiles. And our imports of machinery are more than 75% of our total requirement. Hence, our capital costs are very high as all machinery is imported and costlier. So, if at all we focus on the manufacturing of these machines within India, then that will help our Indian manufacturers to get technology at a reasonable and affordable price. India has done remarkable work in certain segments like spinning machinery and weaving preparatory; however, there are still huge gaps that need to be covered if we aim for Atmanirbhar Bharat in textile engineering and the textile ecosystem. The second

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phase covered the rising demand and the ultimate time to invest in technical textile technology that will not only provide value-added product baskets but will also provide optimized production efficiency with the latest technology adoption and premium quality of products to cater to the global market, having a high CAGR in the coming future.



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Memento to Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP during the Seminar

Mr Laxmikant Rathi, President, ICC During the session, he emphasized the importance of being a value provider rather than merely a volume provider. In today's rapidly changing world, adaptation is essential. The Western economies have shifted their focus toward high-value products, moving beyond traditional textile clothing segments.



Mr Laxmikant Rathi, President, ICC making presentations

Currently, the West contributes to more than 50% of global technical textiles, with dominance in sectors such as Meditech, Defence, and Autotech. For instance, a typical automobile requires at least 25 different types of technical textiles. Similarly, the defence sector, driven by ongoing geopolitical crises, depends heavily on advanced textile solutions.



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Memento & appreciation certificate to Mr Laxmikant Rathi, President, ICC during the Seminar

The medical field also illustrates this transformation. Technical textiles are integral to healthcare innovations, ranging from super absorbents and implants (such as sutures and artificial veins) to non-implantable like bandages and wound dressings. Given these trends, the Indian textile industry must seize the opportunities created by rapid industrialisation, infrastructure development, medical tourism, and defence expansion. By focusing on innovation and value creation, India can position itself as a global leader in technical textiles.

Mr Rohit Parmar, Group of Companies (KHS TECH TEX Pvt Ltd) informed that he is involved and has experience in various machine and spare part developments and also retrofitting jobs. He also mentioned that along with Mr N D Mhatre, Director General (Tech) during his industry visit last month we have explored the possibilities of innovations on the existing looms for running technical textile products.

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Mr. Rohit Parmar, Group of Companies (KHS TECH TEX Pvt Ltd) making presentations



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Memento & appreciation certificate to Mr Rohit Parmar, Group of Companies (KHS TECH TEX Pvt Ltd) during the Seminar



All Special Guest on the Dias for MooU Signing Ceremony



Prof (Dr) Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Pro Vice Chancellor, SANGAM University addressing the delegates as a Special Guest



Mr. R. K. Jain, Hon' Secretary General, Mewar Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing the delegates as a Special Guest



Dr. Arvind Vashishtha, Principal, MLV Textile & Engineering College addressing the delegates as a Special Guest

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Nolkhaji extended his support for frequent such events at Bhilwara**



Exchange of signed MoU by Mr. R. K. Jain, Hon' Secretary General, Mewar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA



Exchange of signed MoU by Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP and Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA



Exchange of signed MoU by Dr. Arvind Vashishtha, Principal, MLV Textile & Engineering College and Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA



Exchange of signed MoU by Mr. Dayal Mehta, CEO & Business Evangelist, AiTTiS and Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA



Exchange of signed MoU by Prof. (Dr.) Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Pro Vice Chancellor, SANGAM University and Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA



Exchange of signed MoU by Mr. Ashish Inani, Chief Secretary TEAM (Thriving Engineers Alumni of MLVTEC) and Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA

**ITAMMA receives overwhelming response for Bhilwara events on 31st Jan 26
Nolkhaji extended his support for frequent such events at Bhilwara**



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & appreciation certificate to Prof (Dr) Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Pro Vice Chancellor, SANGAM University, during MoU signing ceremony



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & appreciation certificate to Dr. Arvind Vashishtha, Principal, MLV Textile & Engineering College, during MoU signing ceremony



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & appreciation certificate to Mr. Ashish Inani, Chief Secretary TEAM (Thriving Engineers Alumni of MLVTEC) during MoU signing ceremony



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & appreciation certificate to Mr. Dayal Mehta, CEO & Business Evangelist, AITIS, during MoU signing ceremony



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & appreciation certificate to Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP during MoU signing ceremony



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & appreciation certificate to Mr. R. K. Jain, Hon' Secretary General, Mewar Chamber of Commerce and Industry during MoU signing ceremony



Launching of ITAMMA VOICE Issue No. 18



**ITAMMA receives overwhelming response for Bhilwara events on 31st Jan 26
Nolkhaji extended his support for frequent such events at Bhilwara**



Audience at Seminar 29th Product-cum-catalogue show

“29th Product-cum-catalogue show” on the lush lawns of ‘Bhilwara Ranbanka Heritage Resort’ on 31st Jan 26 (Sat) (Connected 548 decision makers, technicians, manufacturers & traders of textile supply & user industries with 61 exhibitors)



Esteemed Guests Dr. S N Modaniji, Vice-Chairman & CEO Sangam India Ltd. and Mr Dinesh Nolkhaji, Chairman & Managing Director, Nitin Spinners Ltd. inaugurated the Catalogue show jointly



Esteemed Guests Dr. S N Modaniji, Vice-Chairman & CEO Sangam India Ltd. addressing the PRESS interview



Esteemed Guests Mr Dinesh Nolkhaji, Chairman & Managing Director, Nitin Spinners Ltd addressing the PRESS interview



Visitors



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & Memento to Mr Dinesh Nolkhaji, Chairman & Managing Director, Nitin Spinners Ltd. In appreciation of being our Esteemed Guest for 29th Product cum catalogue show



Mr. Omprakash Mantry, President, ITAMMA offering Shawl, CTB & Memento to Dr. S N Modaniji, Vice-Chairman & CEO Sangam India Ltd. In appreciation of being our Esteemed Guest for 29th Product cum catalogue show

ITAMMA receives overwhelming response for Bhilwara events on 31st Jan 26 Nolkhaji extended his support for frequent such events at Bhilwara

Our Esteemed Guests Dr. S N Modaniji, Vice-Chairman & CEO Sangam India Ltd. and Mr Dinesh Nolkhaji, Chairman & Managing Director, Nitin Spinners Ltd. inaugurated the Catalogue show jointly and spent their valuable time in visiting each stalls and having fruitful interaction with each ITAMMA member exhibitor. Dr. S N Modaniji, in his interview to the PRESS during the show appreciated the arrangements made and the type and quality of the exhibitors and their products. He also mentioned that SANGAM group marketing team is already available at SANGAM University stall and will be interacting with each exhibitor to know their products. As a gesture of appreciation, he came forward in inviting ITAMMA at SANGAM premises for the next such excellent show.



Participation of India ITME Society as the Sponsor of Networking Dinner

Mr Dinesh Nolkhaji also was impressed by the initiatives taken by ITAMMA's Marketing and Social media team in branding this show by reaching to each individual of Bhilwara textile industry which has resulted in such encouraging footfalls. He also acknowledge the efforts taken by ITAMMA in inviting the exhibitors from all fields' right from spinning to fashion as well as OEMs, thus gave knowledge enriching platform to the visitors about the new products and processes. He appreciated the professionalism in organizing all 3 events viz B K Mehta Technology Networking Mission in first half and followed by Seminar on Technical Textiles in 2nd half and connected with the catalogue show as the evening session. Whereby connectivity right from Acadia to stakeholder of both the textile industries was established.

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All Things Textiles for the Apparel Industry

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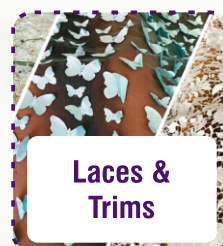
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BUSBAR AND CHAIN DRIVE SYSTEM:

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- Travelling speed possible upto 22 mtrs/min.
- Conveniently suits upto 2400 Spindles/Ringframe and 280 Spindles/Speedframe.
- Achieve power saving through VFD for both traverse and blowing (optional).
- Improved blowing and suction.
- In house design and manufacturing of complete OHTC.

BELT DRIVE:

- Travelling speed possible upto 12 mtrs/min
- Patented design of self discharging (waste) unit
- Proven upto 1824 Spindles/Ringframe.
- In house design and manufacturing of complete OHTC.

LAKSHMI PRECISION TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

(Formerly known as Lakshmi Precision Tools Limited)

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Email: mktg_textile@lptindia.com | Website: www.lptindia.com



Kornit Digital announced the appointment of Andrew G. Backman Chief Capital Markets Officer

Kornit Digital Ltd. ("Kornit" or the "Company") (NASDAQ: KRNT), a worldwide market leader



Andrew G. Backman
Chief Capital Markets Officer

in sustainable, on demand digital fashion and textile production technologies, today announced the appointment of Andrew G. Backman as Chief Capital Markets Officer, effective January 13, 2026. In this role, Mr. Backman will support Kornit's capital markets activities, investor relations, and

corporate and business development initiatives.

Mr. Backman, who will be based at the Company's U.S. Headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey, has extensive capital markets and investor relations experience, participating in more than \$30 billion in capital markets transactions, and maintaining long-standing relationships with institutional investors, sell-side analysts, and global investment banking partners. He previously served as Kornit's Global Head of Investor Relations from 2021 to 2023.

"We are pleased to welcome Andy back to Kornit," said Ronen Samuel, Chief Executive Officer of Kornit Digital. "His deep understanding of Kornit and strong relationships across the global capital markets community will help support the disciplined execution of our strategy."

"I am excited to return to Kornit at a pivotal time in the Company's evolution," said Andrew G. Backman. "Kornit has a distinctive role in the digital transformation of textile and apparel production. I look forward to supporting the company's engagement with our investment community and business partners."

Mr. Backman recently served as Global Head of Investor Relations at EMCOR Group, Inc. (NYSE: EME), with prior experiences including

senior capital markets and investor relations roles across more than 14 industries. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Boston College and is a graduate of AT&T / Lucent Technologies' Financial Leadership Program.

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 Company's objectives, plans and strategies, including with respect to the Company's authorized share repurchase program, statements regarding the Company's results of operations and financial condition and all statements that address developments that the Company 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. The Company 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: potential objection to the share repurchase program by the Company's creditors and/or failure to receive Israeli court approval after any such objection; the Company's degree of success in developing, introducing and selling new or improved products and product

CORPORATE NEWS

enhancements including specifically the Company's Poly Pro and Presto products, and the Company's Apollo direct-to-garment platform; the extent of the Company's ability to increase sales of its systems, ink and consumables; the development of the market for digital textile printing; securities class action litigation expenses; and those additional factors referred to under "Risk Factors" in Item 3.D of the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2024, filed with the SEC on March 28, 2025. Any forward-looking statements in this press release are made as of the date hereof, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

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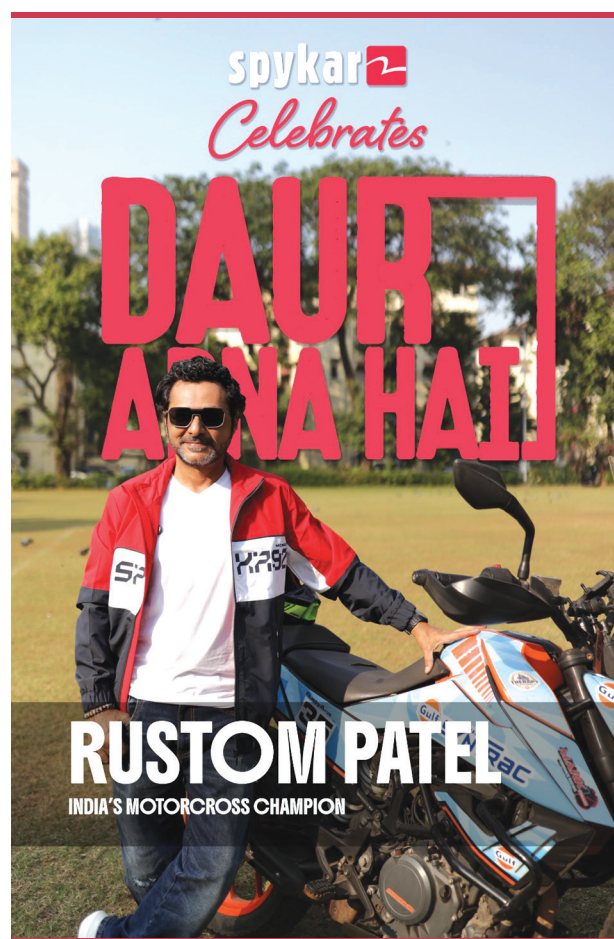
Spykar announces unique Republic Day campaign recognizing India's game changer

A part of their DaurApna Hai initiative, the campaign celebrates Indians who placed the country on the global map through their endeavour and achievements

On occasion of Republic Day, Spykar brings alive the journey of three Indians who represent modern India's spirit of ambition, grit and self-made identity through a unique social media campaign. Motocross champion Rustom Kersi Patel, Parapistol shooter Srishti Arora, and International performer and choreographer Mohan Pandey, share their stories in this three-film series. This is a part of Spykar's nationwide campaign, Daur Apna Hai, that celebrates individuality, courage and Indians who are making a mark globally.

The campaign celebrates India's journey and the people who believed in the country even before the world did. It draws a clear parallel between how India has grown tall globally, and how Spykar, as a proud homegrown denim brand, has followed a similar path. Through real stories, the campaign brings out pride, victory, and the feeling that today, this era truly belongs to India.

The first film showcases Rustom Kersi Patel talking about his journey from starting as a six-year-old who was the youngest Indian to race at an official motocross event in 1985, to coaching Team India today. He talks about the hurdles and challenges he faced and how he plowed through. Rustom is an eight-time national champion, with over 275 trophies to his name.



Para-athlete Srishti Arora's film traces her journey as a parapistol shooter rising through India's competitive shooting circuit, from district and national championships to representing the country internationally. She reflects on the discipline and mental resilience required in a

sport where precision defines success, and recalls a defining milestone in March 2024 when she first wore the India jersey at the New Delhi World Cup, followed by medal winning performances on global stages, including in Korea.

The third film features Mohan Pandey, a dancer and choreographer who helped bring Indian street dance into the global spotlight. Speaking about a time when street dance had limited platforms in India, Mohan shares how he built opportunities from the ground up and evolved alongside the country's growing dance ecosystem. His journey includes representing India at global competitions such as World of Dance and the Hip Hop International World Championships, marking a breakthrough moment for Indian street dance internationally.

Sanjay Vakharia, CEO and Co-Founder, Spykar, said, "The campaign is not just about excellence, it is about India's evolution, India's rise, and Indians who came from a time when the odds were stacked against them, yet went on to put India on the global map. It is about how they resonate with Daur Apna Hai as a mindset and with Spykar."

DaurApna Hai celebrates the confidence, self-expression and pride of the Indian spirit, echoing Spykar's own journey as India's finest denim brand that has always stood for authenticity and the perfect fit for Indian bodies.

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Mayer & Cie happy to inform its customers partners and stakeholder of its progressive operation to restart

Mayer & Cie. is pleased to inform its customers, partners, and stakeholders that the company is preparing to progressively restart operations, with activities expected to stabilise over the coming

weeks and production planned to resume in phases from spring.

Following the public announcement by Huixing, it is confirmed that Xu Hongjie, owner of the Chinese



circular knitting machine manufacturer Huixing, has acquired Mayer & Cie.'s circular knitting business, including its international subsidiaries. This marks a strategic brand collaboration between two globally recognised knitting-machine manufacturers aimed at serving the entire spectrum of customer

requirements worldwide.

Mayer & Cie. will continue to operate as a German premium brand, retaining its engineering heritage, product philosophy, quality standards, and long-standing customer relationships. Development and manufacturing will remain anchored in Albstadt, Germany, underscoring the company's 120-year legacy of innovation and reliability.

The collaboration brings together Mayer & Cie.'s decades-long expertise in premium circular knitting technology with Huixing's global manufacturing scale and agility. Both brands will work closely to create operational, manufacturing, and supply-chain synergies.

The new ownership has expressed strong appreciation for the Mayer & Cie. team and is working closely with management to ensure a structured and sustainable restart. The shared objective is clear: to provide customers worldwide with intelligent, reliable knitting technologies—developed in Germany, powered by skilled people, and designed for long-term performance.

About Mayer & Cie.

Mayer & Cie. is a German manufacturer of circular knitting machines headquartered in Albstadt, Germany. Founded in 1905, the company has been family-owned for four generations and is recognized worldwide 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 to customers around the globe.

CORPORATE NEWS

In December 2025, Mayer & Cie. entered insolvency proceedings following challenging market conditions and a significant decline in demand. The company was facing a complete shutdown before securing a new owner. Mayer & Cie. is now being relaunched as an independent company under its established brand, with development and production remaining in Albstadt.

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Bluesign is far ahead of the system, fashion industry aligning with now

As fashion brands invest heavily in traceability tools, PLM systems, and sustainability data infrastructure, a quiet realization is setting in across the industry: technology alone doesn't solve the problem if the data behind it isn't trustworthy.

That's where bluesign finds itself in an unusual position.

For more than 25 years, bluesign has operated a system built around something the industry is only now being asked to deliver at scale: verified, primary data on how products are actually made, not just how they look at the finished stage.



Long before regulatory pressure, digital product passports, or traceability platforms became industry priorities, bluesign chose a different model. Instead of certifying finished products in isolation, it built a system that works with manufacturers to assess

and guide manufacturing processes over time, grounded in verified, primary data. This approach tracks everything from chemical inputs and materials to energy use, water impact, and worker safety, validating each stage along the way.

Now, as regulations begin requiring brands to report on exactly those process-level details, the industry is realizing that you can't reverse-engineer impact by testing the final product alone.

At the same time, fashion brands are facing a new challenge: data overload. Manufacturers are being asked to submit different declarations to different customers, every week, in different formats. According to Mark Eldridge on bluesign's product management team, what brands are really asking for now is "one version of the truth": a single, credible data foundation they can rely on across markets, partners, and technologies.



That's why bluesign's system is increasingly being seen not as a compliance tool, but as infrastructure: the data backbone that allows carbon platforms, traceability tools, and future digital product passports to actually function.

Or as Eldridge puts it: "All of these new platforms are beautiful engines, but without high-quality data, they have no fuel."

What's striking is that bluesign didn't pivot into this space because of regulation. It was designed this way from the start. Today, regulators are catching up to the logic the system was built on decades ago: you can't understand impact without understanding the process.

We'd love to offer you a conversation with bluesign's commercial leadership on:

- ▶ Why brands are reassessing what "credible data" really means
- ▶ How the 25-year-old bluesign system is aligned with the future of fashion regulation
- ▶ Why "progress over perfection" is the only scalable path forward for the industry

If helpful, we can also share real-world perspectives from brands across global markets on how expectations are shifting as regulatory timelines become clearer. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how systems like bluesign's are being used in practice to stabilize supply-chain data, reduce reporting friction, and support more consistent regulatory and transparency efforts across global markets.

For further information, please contact:

Kenneth Loo

Co-Founder, CEO, bluesign

Chapter 2

New York, Los Angeles



Jeanologia urges industry to accelerate PP Spray phase-out following ZDHC Watchlist update, PP Spray is environment and health concerning

Since 2015, Jeanologia has set the standard with laser, Light Bright and G2 Ozone technologies, achieving authentic vintage effects in denim without chemical spraying.

Potassium permanganate has officially entered the Chemical Watchlist of the ZDHC Foundation, signaling increased scrutiny and potential phase-out of one of the most hazardous chemicals still used in denim finishing. The inclusion confirms an industry shift that Jeanologia anticipated more than a decade ago.

For years, Jeanologia has called for the elimination of PP spray, warning about its impact on worker health, operational safety and the environment. Now, the industry is formally acknowledging what has been evident on factory floors worldwide.

PP spray is commonly used to create localized vintage effects in denim, but it exposes operators to chemical micro-particles and presents serious occupational risks. Despite growing awareness

and available alternatives, this practice continues to be used in parts of the industry. According to Jeanologia, millions of workers globally are still affected by this process.

Jeanologia eliminated the need for PP spray in 2015, becoming the first technology provider to offer a scalable industrial alternative through laser-based finishing. Today, the company replaces PP spray through its laser technology with Light Bright tool and combined with G2 Ozone technology, delivering authentic vintage effects without chemical spraying. The solution offers full digital control, safer working conditions and reliable industrial performance.



This approach is reinforced by Jeanologia's Environmental Impact Measuring (EIM) platform. In its Innovations and Challenges in Denim Finishing 2024 Report, EIM identifies potassium permanganate as one of the remaining high-risk processes in garment finishing and highlights the urgent need for safer technologies, reinforcing laser-based solutions as a low-impact alternative.

"PP spray belongs to the past. This is not about compliance; it's about protecting people and transforming the way denim is made. The tools to eliminate PP already exist and are fully scalable. What the industry needs now is courage to move forward. It's time to BAN PP SPRAY and embrace a cleaner, safer future for denim," claims Jeanologia's Global Marketing Director Carmen Silla.

Over the past decade, Jeanologia has progressively replaced the most hazardous denim finishing processes with eco-efficient technologies, becoming the first company to eliminate sandblasting and to advance alternatives to stone washing, manual scraping and PP spray. Today, its laser and G2 Ozone technologies are implemented worldwide, enabling denim brands to achieve the same aesthetic results while improving worker safety, reducing chemical use and lowering water consumption, with measurable impact across global production.

As transparency requirements, ESG reporting frameworks and chemical management standards continue to evolve, early adoption of safer technologies is increasingly becoming a competitive

CORPORATE NEWS

advantage. Jeanologia calls on brands, laundries and manufacturers to accelerate the transition toward chemical-free finishing. The technology exists. The transition is achievable. The time to act is now. BAN PP SPRAY is no longer a vision. It is already an industrial reality.

Jeanologia: 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 efficient model. The company works closely with brands, retailers, and suppliers on this transformative journey, offering disruptive technologies, innovative software, and a new operational model. Their groundbreaking solutions, including laser technology, G2 ozone, Dancing Box, e-flow, H2Zero, and ColorBox, have redefined garment design and finishing standards, eliminating polluting processes and significantly reducing the use of water, energy, and chemicals. Thanks to these advancements, Jeanologia has saved millions of liters of water and eliminated harmful substances, turning its vision of a truly sustainable textile industry into reality.

From the introduction of its laser technology in 1999, which revolutionized denim finishing, to its current challenge of implementing a revolutionary sustainable garment dyeing process, the Spanish company has pioneered solutions that not only benefit the environment but also optimize operational costs. Looking ahead, Jeanologia remains committed to creating an eco-efficient and ethical textile future, encouraging all industry stakeholders to join its Mission Zero initiative: dehydrate and detoxify the textile industry. No more water and toxic chemicals used in garment finishing around the world.

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Innovative products of Bea Electronics, it serving textile industry for more than four decades

- » Products- Slub-O-Generator (Slub/ Fancy yarn making equipments)
- » Electromagnetic Clutches and Brakes
- » Carbon Brush, Castor Wheel FOR ALL Industries

BEA Electronics is a Kaushik Group of Industries, manufacturer of fancy yarn making attachments, Carbon brushes, Electromagnetic Clutches & Brakes. Industrial Castor Wheels. Basically we are Electronics & Mechanical engineering service provider. We are serving textile industry for more than four decades. Special consultancy services are available regarding automation in textile machine.

BEA Electronics is having industry owned 3000 Sq. Meter factory at Gwalior. M.P.

OUR MISSION AND BELIEF

Mission of our company is to meet out the demands and expectations of our valued customers, vendors and employees by adopting ethical business practices and using of our all available resources.

Core beliefs of company are Honesty, Discipline and Criticism. Honesty brings transparency in our business and develops trust in each other. It directly transforms into our business growth and strong relationship. Discipline helps us to manage business easy and improve efficiency. Criticism brings us closer to perfection.

OUR STRENGTH

Our Core Strength is motivated manpower, vendors and suppliers. We always recognizes their sincere efforts and hard work to encourage them. Our driving forces are customers who trust and believe in our products and services. It inspires us to move forward.

OUR COMMITMENT

Company is committed to deliver best of available technology, products and services to the customers. We are also committed to grow and fulfill the expectations of our vendors & workforce.

SERVICE

- » Free servicing visits of our Technicians, under warranty period.
- » Up-gradation - our research and development department is always improving performance including new technology to our unit to cope with the new fashion world.
- » Free training to the buyer's technician.

Relationship

CUSTOMER

BEA Electronics is a customer focused organization whose policies are framed out in benefit of our users. Our existence is due to

customers hence we listen their problems and suggestions carefully. Company is providing continuous technical training to the employees to improve customer relationship. Our goal is to achieve 100% customer satisfaction. We welcome to submit your feedback about our products and services always. This will help/support us to improve and meet out your needs.

VENDOR

Good vendor and suppliers are our strength. BEA electronics is continuously looking out such companies and people who are ready to accept challenges. Company helps vendors by providing them finance, technical knowhow and knowledge to build long lasting relationship. If you are interested, please send your details now.

EMPLOYEE

BEA Electronics is an equal opportunity employer and HR policies of company are framed out in benefit of employees. Company is continuously organizing training programs to enhance skills and knowledge of employees. It helps them to perform well resulted in job satisfaction.

SOCIETY

BEA Electronics is a socially responsible company and offering employment without any discrimination of gender, race, community and caste. Company is also giving employment to physically handicapped people and woman to empower them. Company is also taking care to save environment and natural resources by making environment friendly policies and developing good habits in employees. To send your comments and suggestions please feel free to contact us.

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Elteksmak Textile Machinery, observes its 32 years of success in the sector with its employees

Elteksmak Machinery Inc., one of the leading companies in the Turkish Textile Machinery Sector, celebrated its 32nd anniversary at the Denizli

Anemon Grand Hotel with all its employees and managers. The Poslu Family, who laid the foundations of Elteksmak Machinery in Denizli 32 years ago with a long history in the textile industry, celebrated its 32nd anniversary with a dinner for all its employees. After the dinner, veteran employees received awards and plaques from Chairman of the Board Mehmet Poslu and Board Members Emrah Poslu, Ekrem Poslu and Polo Chairman of the Board Oral Sertbulut. They crowned their celebration by cutting a cake specially made for this magnificent evening.

Founded in 1994 under the leadership of Mehmet Poslu, Elteksmak Makine has become one of the trend-setting companies in the sector with over 32 years of experience in textile drying and finishing technologies. Since its establishment, it has continued its journey with even more confident steps by combining its high level of knowledge in the field of textile drying and finishing technologies with its R&D culture and modern technological systems.

With the participation of the second generation, Elteksmak, which has established its technical advancements within a corporate structure, has become a reliable brand in textile machinery production not only in Türkiye but also worldwide with its innovation-centered approach and ability to quickly adapt to changing sector needs. Our machines, designed with the principles of energy efficiency, environmental awareness and production quality, are equipped with user-friendly systems that increase the productivity of textile manufacturers. In Denizli, a city considered the heart of the towel and home textile industry in Türkiye, our modern facility with 30,000 m² of indoor space provides sales, service, and technical support to both domestic and international customers with our experienced and expert engineers and technical personnel, and our production lines equipped with advanced technology.

Today, Elteksmak, with its mission to carry the concept of "Turkish Machinery" to more distant geographies, has expanded beyond Türkiye to European, Asian, African, and American markets, and has become more than just a manufacturing company; it has transformed into a solution partner that adapts to changing global conditions, transforms technology into functionality, and leads the sector.

Elteksmak continues its operations with the vision of creating a Great Elteksmak Family

CORPORATE NEWS

together with all its customers, rather than just building an ordinary customer portfolio, without ever compromising on the principles of customer satisfaction, trust, sustainability, and innovation.

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Textile Machinery Orders decline in Q4 2025

In the fourth quarter of 2025, orders for Italian textile machinery manufacturers decreased by 36% compared to the same period in 2024, reflecting a still challenging global market environment. The downturn affected both the domestic market (- 50%) and foreign markets (-34%).

Compared to the previous quarter (July – September 2025), total orders were down 25%. The orders index for October –December 2025 stood at 31.5 points (base year 2021=100). The index reached 28.4 points in the domestic market and 31.9 points abroad.

Overall, in 2025 order intake declined by 22% compared to the previous year (-28% domestically and -21% in foreign markets). At the end of 2025, the order backlog ensured approximately 2.9 months of production.

From a sector perspective, the spinning sector is showing signs of greater dynamism . Forecasts for the first quarter of 2026 still indicate caution, although a number of companies expect stability or improvement compared to the previous quarter.

Marco Salvadè, president of ACIMIT , commented: "the environment remains challenging for our manufacturers, but data relating to Italian exports for the first ten months of 2025 also show encouraging signs . In particular, the 46.7% growth recorded in India, now our leading destination market, confirms that Italian technology continues to be highly valued in high - potential countries. Innovation, quality and a strong presence in strategic markets will be the foundations of the sector's recovery".

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Statement about Ownership and other Particulars about Newspaper

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I, D. J. Dutta, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/- D. J. Dutta

31.3.2026

Signature of Publisher

TEXTILE EVENTS

BHARAT PRINT EXPO – 2026:

TAMIL NADU PRINTING INDUSTRY ROAD SHOW!

As part of efforts to strengthen South India's printing industry, the All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP), in association with ReEnvision Events Private Limited, proudly announces the Tamil Nadu Printing Industry Roadshow titled "AchchuPayanam" ("Print Journey") as a promotional initiative for Bharat Print Expo 2026.

Scheduled to take place from April 27–29, 2026 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Bharat Print Expo 2026 will be preceded by this statewide held Road Show.

Supported by the Tamil Nadu Master Printers' Federation (TMPF) and The Madras Printers & Lithographers' Association (MPLA), the Road Show will run from March 25 to April 5, 2026, covering major printing hubs across Tamil Nadu.

The objective of this initiative is to build anticipation for the Expo while encouraging dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among printers across the state.

MPLA President Mr. Jolly Peterstated:

"Bharat Print Expo 2026 and the Tamil Nadu Road Show are significant initiatives that celebrate the strength and innovation of our industry. With MPLA's support, these events will foster collaboration and knowledge exchange, highlighting the future of printing and packaging."

TMPF President Mr. M. Senthil Kumar added:

"Tamil Nadu has long been a cornerstone of India's printing industry. This Road Show is a meaningful initiative that takes the vision of Bharat Print Expo 2026 directly to printers across the state."

The campaign will commence on March 1, 2026, at the COROMANDAL CONCLAVE (Printers' Day Celebration) organised by The MPLA at Hotel Savera, Chennai. Over 500 printers and industry professionals from across Tamil Nadu are expected to participate. The conclave will serve as a strong platform to initiate awareness and industry engagement for the upcoming Expo.

Industry Significance

Bharat Print Expo 2026 is positioned as South India's largest exhibition for printing and packaging converting industries, reinforcing its role as the premier event for the region.

Statewide Reach

The roadshow will cover 30+ cities and towns, including Kanchipuram, Arcot, Vellore, Chittoor,

Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Karur, Coimbatore, Pollachi, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivakasi, Thoothukudi, Kanyakumari, Nagercoil, Ramanathapuram, Trichy, Thanjavur, Pattukkottai, Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Puducherry, Villupuram, Tindivanam, and Chengalpattu.

Knowledge & Networking

At each stop, curated interactions, Q&A sessions, and networking opportunities will be organised. Printers will gain insights into new technologies and market trends. With the support of leading industry associations and media partners, the Expo will strengthen a unified vision of innovation and growth for India's printing industry.

National-Level Highlights in Chennai

Coinciding with Bharat Print Expo 2026, Chennai will also host:

- National Awards for Excellence in Print (NAEP)
- AIFMP General Council (GC) Meeting

Together, Bharat Print Expo 2026, NAEP Awards, and the AIFMP GC Meeting mark a historic milestone for India's printing industry, with three major national-level events taking place simultaneously in Chennai.

About Bharat Print Expo – 2026

Returning for its second edition, Bharat Print Expo 2026 will showcase cutting-edge printing technologies, packaging solutions, and innovations on a global scale.

With participation from industry leaders, associations, and technology providers, the Expo is set to become a landmark event in India's printing industry.

For further information, please contact :

info@reenvision.in or

visit www.BharatPrintExpo.com



Global Exhibitor's gathering confirmed for FESPA Global Print Expo 2026 and Co-located Events

FESPA Global Print Expo 2026, European Sign Expo, Personalisation Experience, WrapFest and two new additions, Corrugated and Textile, will welcome over 500 new and returning exhibitors from over 40 countries, bringing together the global speciality print community to experience innovation, insight and practical solutions across print, signage, personalisation, corrugated packaging and textile

TEXTILE EVENTS

production and wrapping (19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain).

Visitors will be able to see new product launches, live demonstrations and practical solutions from a strong international mix of brands and suppliers. Exhibited technologies and solutions will cover everything from print production and finishing, to software and automation, as well as sustainability aspects including low-impact inks and materials.

At FESPA Global Print Expo, visitors will be able to explore solutions for wide format printing, production and industrial applications, textile and garment decoration and finishing. Confirmed exhibitors include: Agfa, Brother, Durst, EFI, HP, Mutoh, Roland DG and swissQprint and, among others. The event will also showcase cutting and finishing technology from providers such as Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems, Summa and Zünd, and finishing specialists like Morgana Systems.

Software and workflow suppliers will demonstrate end-to-end solutions that support production efficiency and scalable output for workflow automation, colour management, job onboarding and RIP solutions. Exhibitors will include: Caldera, Dataline, Enfocus, PrintFactory, GelatoConnect SA International and XMPie, as well as web-to-print and personalisation platforms such as Design Huddle and OnPrintShop.

A host of companies will also present the latest consumables and media, spanning inks, papers, self-adhesives and specialist films and substrates for a wide range of applications. Exhibiting companies include: 3M, Ahlstrom, Antalis, Arlon Graphics, Coldenhove, Hexis, Lintec, LX Hausys, Nazdar, Neschen, Sun Chemical, and UPM Raflatac.

European Sign Expo will highlight suppliers in the signage and visual communications sector. Exhibiting companies include: Bakker Magnetics, Bermaq, Chiplite, Dama3d, Domino Sign, GOQLED, NSELED Europe and TPS, will showcase solutions supporting illuminated signage, displays, fabrication and visual communications applications.

Personalisation Experience will highlight software and solutions for customisation, design and production automation. Exhibitors will demonstrate how businesses can deliver personalised products efficiently and at scale, and will include: Design Huddle, OnPrintShop, Makeblock, Mercury Flooring, Orange Tree Garments and Photo USA Electronic.

Textile will spotlight the latest technologies and materials that support textile and garment production, with exhibitors including: Brother, DGI/d.gen, Durst, Kornit Digital, Klieverik, Monti Antonio, Polyprint,

ROQ and Transmatic. These brands and suppliers will present solutions for printing, fixation, finishing and production workflows. Visitors will also be able to attend sessions in the 'Personalisation and Textile Conference' and 'WrapTalks' programmes.

Corrugated will provide a dedicated platform for corrugated packaging and point-of-sale display production, and solutions on display will cover machinery and print technologies, workflow and software, consumables, converting and finishing, and plant logistics. A 'Corrugated Conference' programme, led by experts in the sector, will also be available. Corrugated exhibitors will include: Barberan, Baysek Solutions, Bobst, BW Papersystems Frankfurt, Canon, Cuir, Dücker Prefeeder, Freidheim International, HP, Hybrid Software Development, JD Engineers, Kento Digital Printing, Scodix, Sun Automation Group, TCY Machinery and Wonderjet.

Head of FESPA Global Print Expo, Michael Ryan comments: "It's a real pleasure to be back in Barcelona for the first time since 2012! This year, European Sign Expo is truly set to be 'The place for experts' – the ideal meeting point for the speciality print community. Visitors will have the chance to see a multitude of exhibitors, covering all aspects of print and signage, in one place. They will also be able to have inspiring conversations, compare solutions and ideas, and leave with knowledge that they can put into practice in their businesses."

"We're also excited to introduce our two new events, Corrugated and Textile, which will enable our visitors to connect with even more experts and suppliers, learn about sector trends, and help them identify opportunities for their businesses."

All members of a FESPA national Association or FESPA Direct can gain free access to European Sign Expo and the co-located events. Non-members can purchase super early bird tickets for €30 until 23 March, using the code FESM603.

About FESPA

Founded in 1962, FESPA is a global federation of Associations for the screen printing, digital printing and textile printing community. FESPA's dual aim is to promote screen printing and digital imaging and to share knowledge about screen and digital printing with its members across the world, helping them to grow their businesses and learn about the latest developments in their fast-growing industries.

FESPA Profit for Purpose

Profit for Purpose is FESPA's international reinvestment programme, which uses revenue from FESPA events to support the global speciality print community to achieve sustainable and

profitable growth through four key pillars - education, inspiration, expansion and connection. The programme delivers high quality products and services for printers worldwide, including market research, seminars, summits, congresses, educational guides and features, in addition to supporting grassroots projects in developing markets. For more information visit, www.fespa.com/profit-for-purpose

Forthcoming FESPA events include:

- FESPA Global Print Expo 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- European Sign Expo 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- Personalisation Experience 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- WrapFest 2026, 19-22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- Corrugated 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- Textile 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain

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For a full list of exhibitors

<https://europe.fespa.com/event-hub>

For more information on Corrugated,

visit: <https://europe.fespa.com/corrugated>,

and to learn more about Textile,

visit: <https://europe.fespa.com/textile> ❑

ITMA 2027

16-22 September 2027

MesseGelaende Hannover

Germany

Start-Up Valley: Where the Future of Textiles is carried out

From ambitious start-ups to proven technology trailblazers, ITMA 2027 propels your innovation onto the global stage.

Start-Up Valley (SUV) returns to ITMA 2027 as a high-visibility collaborative platform for independent

start-ups to showcase transformative solutions and meet the global textile technology ecosystem for innovations to be discovered and commercialised.

Up to 20 selected start-ups will receive a CEMATEX Start-Up Grant that lowers the barrier to exhibiting at ITMA 2027 while accelerating visibility, credibility and growth.

The grant includes a purpose-designed stand within the SUV, onsite services, and exposure to global manufacturers, brands, investors, and industry leaders. Selected start-ups will also be featured across ITMA's international marketing channels and may apply to present at the Innovator Xchange, a flagship knowledge platform showcasing insights on automation, digitalisation and sustainability.

ITMA 2023 SUV exhibitors included: Apparel 4.0 Technologies, ColorKiM, COLOURizd, dimpora, Haelixa, HEMP-ACT, Myth.AI, Nano-Dye Technologies, NOOSA, PaperTale Technologies, sewts, Tailr, TretoTextile, Weffan and Xiphoo.

If your solution drives innovation, impact, and scalability within the ITMA 2027 Index of Products, this is your opportunity to position your brand on a global platform. Applications close on 22 May 2026.

"We met serious buyers and potential collaborators, translating into quality leads, candid feedback and a lasting momentum. At Start-Up Valley, we gained visibility and credibility to accelerate. Meeting decision-makers had validated our proposition."

Graysha Audren, Founder, Weffan (ITMA 2023 SUV's participant)

Exhibiting at ITMA 2027

Looking to showcase your technologies at ITMA 2027? Companies can apply for stand space at EUR 250 per sqm (minimum of 15sqm).

ITMA 2027 brings together manufacturers, brands and decision-makers from across the global textile and garment technology value chain, offering a focused platform to present solutions, launch new products, and build long-term business relationships.

Become a Supporting Partner at ITMA 2027

ITMA 2027 welcomes industry associations, institutions and government bodies committed to advancing the global textile and garment ecosystem. Join our network of supporting partners to strengthen industry engagement, facilitate knowledge exchange and support your members participation in a globally recognised textile and garment technology platform.

TEXTILE EVENTS

Book Your Accommodation Early

Hanover offers a wide range of accommodation options, from hotels to inns and private apartments, that are located within 30 to 90 minutes of the fairground. Secure your accommodation conveniently through the online booking platform managed by bnetwork, ITMA 2027's official travel agent.

For further information, please contact :
info@itma.com



Personalisation Experience 2026 to focus on Exhibitors and Trends Shaping the Future of Customised Print

FESPA reveals confirmed exhibitor line-up for Personalisation Experience 2026

Personalisation Experience, taking place from 19 – 22 May 2026 at the Fira de Barcelona, Spain, will highlight a growing number of exhibitors from around the globe, who will display the latest technologies, software platforms and production solutions for personalised print, customisation and on-demand manufacturing.

Running alongside the FESPA 2026 co-located events – Global Print Expo, European Sign Expo, WrapFest and the brand-new Corrugated and Textile–Personalisation Experience (taking place in Hall 3) will bring together experts from across the personalisation supply chain to offer them access to the systems, technologies and expertise shaping the landscape of customisation.

Personalisation Experience will serve as a hub for brands, retailers, printers, manufacturers and technology providers to explore how customers place significant value on personalised products. They will learn about how to leverage commercial opportunities in this field – from implementing variable data print and scaling up customisation production, to intelligent automation and connected workflows.

Visitors to the event will also be able to experience free-to-attend, expert-led Conference sessions, taking place on the show floor and covering topics including: personalisation, printing textile and signage.

The growing line-up of confirmed exhibitors, who will showcase personalisation and custom production solutions, include: Antigro Designer, Design Huddle, Mercury Flooring, Makeblock Europe, Photo USA Electronic Graphic, OnPrintShop Software and Orange Tree Garments.

A single ticket to Personalisation Experience will provide visitors with access to all FESPA 2026 co-located exhibitions and conference programmes. This, in turn, will give exhibitors exposure to a broad, international audience who wish to explore personalisation, print, packaging, signage, textiles and corrugated – all under one roof.

Duncan MacOwan, Head of Marketing and Events, FESPA, comments: "Personalisation is now fundamental to how brands connect with their customers. It has also shifted from being a specialist feature to a more widely available offering – and for printers, this presents huge commercial opportunities.

"Visitors to the show can explore creative solutions to capitalise on the customer demand for customised products and learn how they can make it central to their offering. I also encourage visitors to explore the co-located events, as there will be a number of suppliers displaying customisation-enabling solutions."

For more information on Personalisation Experience, visit: <https://europe.fespa.com/personalisation-experience>

All members of a FESPA national Association or FESPA Direct can gain free access to Personalisation Experience and the co-located events. Non-members can purchase super early bird tickets for €30 until 23 March, using the code FESM603.

About FESPA

Founded in 1962, FESPA is a global federation of Associations for the screen printing, digital printing and textile printing community. FESPA's dual aim is to promote screen printing and digital imaging and to share knowledge about screen and digital printing with its members across the world, helping them to grow their businesses and learn about the latest developments in their fast-growing industries

FESPA Profit for Purpose

Profit for Purpose is FESPA's international reinvestment programme, which uses revenue from FESPA events to support the global speciality print community to achieve sustainable and profitable growth through four key pillars – education, inspiration, expansion and connection. The programme delivers high quality products and services for printers worldwide, including market research, seminars, summits, congresses, educational guides and features, in addition to supporting grassroots projects in developing markets. For more information visit, www.fespa.com/profit-for-purpose

Forthcoming FESPA events include:

- FESPA Global Print Expo 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- European Sign Expo 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- Personalisation Experience 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- WrapFest 2026, 19-22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- Corrugated 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain
- Textile 2026, 19 – 22 May 2026, Fira de Barcelona, Spain

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ITM 2026
Istanbul
International Textile Machinery Exhibition
9-13 June
The Hub of Smart and Sustainable Transformation in Yarn Technologies: ITM 2026

With global fiber production projected to reach 169 million tons by 2030, yarn manufacturing is becoming one of the most strategic fields within the textile machinery industry. Located in Halls 6, 7, and 10, the Yarn Hall at ITM 2026 is set to bring together industry professionals with innovative solutions developed around automation, energy efficiency, digitalization, and circular production.

Taking place from 9–13 June 2026 at the Istanbul Tüyap Fair and Congress Center, ITM 2026 will bring together leading manufacturers of yarn technologies under one roof. Located in Halls 6, 7, and 10, the Yarn Hall will serve as a strong showcase for exhibitors with its advanced spinning technologies, smart manufacturing systems, and sustainable solutions, while offering visitors a comprehensive guide to technology and investment opportunities. Global manufacturers, technology developers, and decision-

makers will have the opportunity to experience firsthand the innovations shaping the future of yarn production at the ITM 2026 Yarn Hall.

Advanced Spinning Technologies for Sustainable Textile Production

Spinning processes, which form the backbone of textile manufacturing, are being redefined with advanced technological solutions at the ITM 2026 Yarn Hall. While advanced extrusion systems for filament production form the basis of high-performance and consistent yarn manufacturing, smart spinning technologies that enable automation and energy efficiency define the hall's overall vision. Digitized production infrastructures make processes more transparent, controlled, and sustainable, setting a new standard in yarn production.

Smart Spinning Lines with Fully Automated Systems

Fully automated winding systems integrated into ring and rotor spinning lines simplify workflows, reduce operator dependency, and ensure consistent quality. Thanks to connected production lines, all processes from bale handling to packaging can be managed within a single, seamless flow.

Modular and Energy-Efficient Spinning Solutions

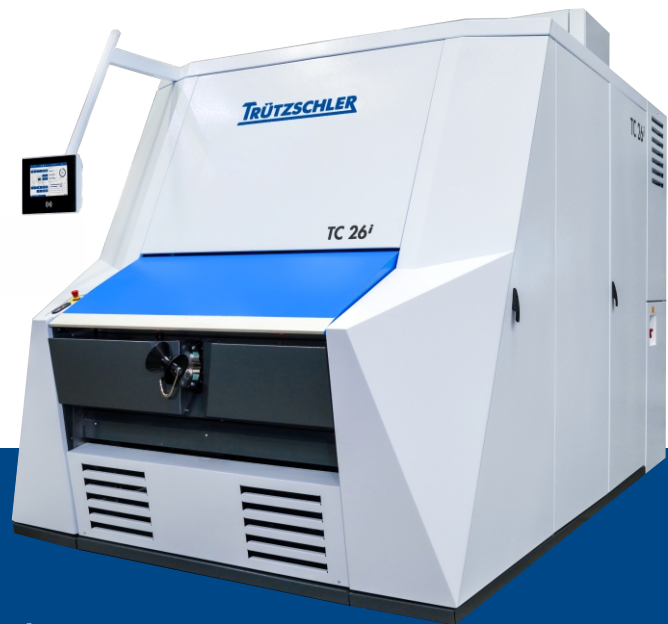
Modular spinning systems optimize material flow through integrated logistics structures while significantly reducing energy consumption. With flexible configuration options, manufacturers gain major advantages in capacity planning, investment costs, and production scalability. These next-generation production concepts pave the way for agile facilities capable of rapidly adapting to changing market conditions.

New Standards with Circular Production and Recycled Fibers

One of the key themes of the ITM 2026 Yarn Hall will be the production of high-quality yarns from recycled fibers. Circular spinning systems developed in line with mechanical recycling processes enable waste materials to be reintegrated into production. By increasing resource efficiency and reducing environmental impact, these solutions make a strong contribution to the industrial transformation of sustainable textile manufacturing.

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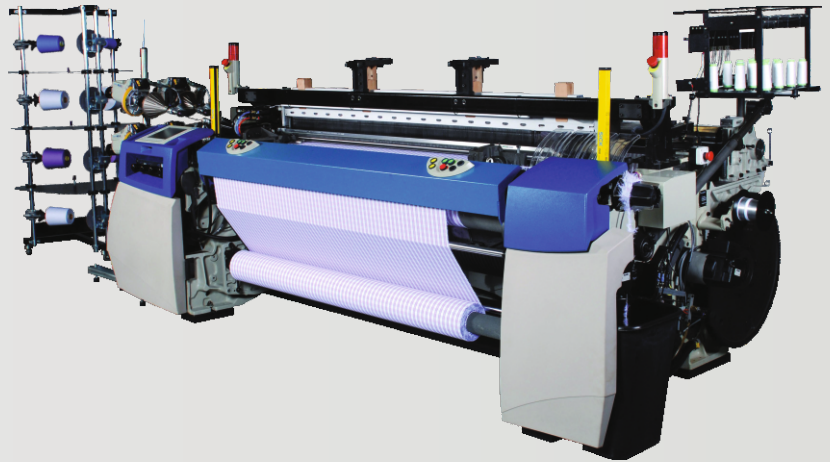
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SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Trützschler Group SE

Zirve Tekstil upgrades its technical expertise with the machinery supplied from Trützschler, Toyota and Murata

Perfect quality through collaboration: Machinery from Trützschler, Toyota and Murata at Zirve Tekstil

In today's textile industry, excellence is not achieved by chance – it's the result of deliberate decisions, technical expertise, and the courage to go beyond conventional paths. The Turkish company Zirve Tekstil has done just that: by combining the best technologies from Trützschler, Toyota and Murata, they've created a production setup that delivers outstanding yarn quality – recognized worldwide.

A strategic choice for excellence

"We knew a one-brand setup might be easier," says Erhan Tenekeci, the company's General Manager. "But our goal was to stay competitive, which meant choosing the best in every category, Trützschler for fiber and spinning preparation, Toyota for roving and ring spinning frames and Murata for winding."

Perfect quality from the start

Excellent quality in yarn manufacturing starts with spinning preparation. The Trützschler bale opener BO-P, for example, gently opens the fibers and ensures best possible blending from the start. The Pre-Cleaner CL-X outperforms the competition with its outstanding cleaning efficiency while significantly reducing the loss of good fibers. All in all, Trützschler's blow room solutions lay the foundation for consistent quality and economy in yarn manufacture.



From left to right: Erhan Tenekeci (General Manager Zirve Tekstil) and Ahmet Öztürkmen (Trützschler Türkiye Sales Engineer).



The intelligent Trützschler card TC 19i, equipped with SUPERTIP wires from Trützschler Card Clothing, ensures that every fiber is perfectly aligned, maximizing both quality and efficiency

The intelligent card TC 19i, equipped with SUPERTIP wires from Trützschler Card Clothing, contributes further to unmatched sliver quality through the automatic gap optimizer T-GO, which is only available from Trützschler. The card also features WASTECONTROL, which prevents any unnecessary fiber loss. In the combing stage, the TCO 21 Comber stands out with its dual-drive technology and automatic piecing optimization, delivering uniform quality across all eight heads – even at high speeds. It also enables top quality at low noil levels. Together with the high performance draw frames TD 9T and TD 10, these Trützschler spinning preparation machines form a tightly integrated system that transforms raw cotton into a perfectly prepared sliver, thus creating the basis for further processing.



Trützschler's spinning preparation machinery transform raw cotton into a perfectly prepared sliver.

In the roving stage, four Toyota FL200 Roving Frames ensure high-quality rovings even at low twist levels – a key factor for downstream performance. Twelve Toyota RX300 Ring Spinning Frames provide exceptional stability and precise spinning geometry. As Erhan Tenekeci, General Manager of Zirve Tekstil, explains: "Despite

being limited to 1824 spindles, Toyota's compact ring machines produce more and higher-quality yarn than even the longest machines of competitors. Their performance, combined with low maintenance and high adaptability, gives us a clear edge."



Collaboration at its finest: three leading technologies working hand in hand for one shared goal – perfect yarn quality.

The final step is handled by the Muratec FPRO EX Automatic Winder, seamlessly connected via Coner Link. This setup ensures smooth yarn transfer, minimal contamination, and consistently high winding quality – completing a process chain where every detail is aligned for excellence.

Quality that speaks for itself

The mill produces 18.5 tons of premium combed ring yarn daily in counts of Ne 20, 24, and 30, primarily for knitting applications. Although the focus lies on utilizing locally grown cotton – which typically comes with greater variability in fiber properties – the mill successfully produces yarns that are in high demand both in local markets with stringent quality requirements and on international export markets.



Toyota and Zirve experts exchanging insights on roving technology for superior quality at low twist levels.

This commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed: Pinter, the provider of the OptiFil system, has recognized the mill for achieving the highest

efficiency among its Turkish benchmarking network with lowest yarn breakages – a clear indicator of the outstanding fiber preparation. This achievement is a testament to the effectiveness of combining top-tier machinery from Trützschler, Toyota, and Murata.



Strategic choice for excellence: Erhan Tenekeci, General Manager of Zirve, combines the best technologies from Trützschler, Toyota, and Murata to achieve outstanding yarn quality.

Collaboration without compromise – The best of all worlds

This project proves that integrating machines from different manufacturers can be done – and done well. The planning phase was smooth and collaborative, with all partners working hand in hand. The result: a production line that is more than the sum of its parts, with each machine contributing to one shared goal: perfect yarn quality.

It's a powerful example of what's possible when openness, technical excellence, and strategic thinking come together. By selecting the best solution for each step – regardless of brand – the mill has set a benchmark for modern spinning. "The best from every machine, for the best from every fiber."

About the Trützschler Group

The Trützschler Group SE is a German textile machinery manufacturer headquartered in Mönchengladbach, Germany. The company is divided into three business units: Spinning, Nonwovens and Card Clothing. Trützschler Spinning is the global technology and market leader in spinning preparation in the cotton and man-made fiber sector. With TRUECYCLED, Trützschler Spinning offers a complete solution for state-of-the-art recycling of textile waste – from cutting and tearing textile waste through to carding and drawing secondary fibers, resulting in high-quality, sustainable yarns. Trützschler Card Clothing is the global market leader in the production of high-performance card clothing for

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

cards and roller cards. Trützschler Nonwovens is a leading supplier of complete production lines and machinery for needle-punched, hydroentangled (spunlaced), through-air and chemical bonded nonwovens. Trützschler machines, installations and accessories are produced and developed in nine locations worldwide. This includes four factories in Germany (Dülmen, Egelsbach, Mönchengladbach, Neubulach), as well as sites in China (Jiaxing and Shanghai), India (Sanand), the USA (Charlotte) and Brazil (Curitiba). Local service companies in Türkiye, Mexico, Uzbekistan and Vietnam and local service teams in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia provide customer proximity in key regions for the textile processing industry. For more information visit: www.truetzschler.com

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Barmag

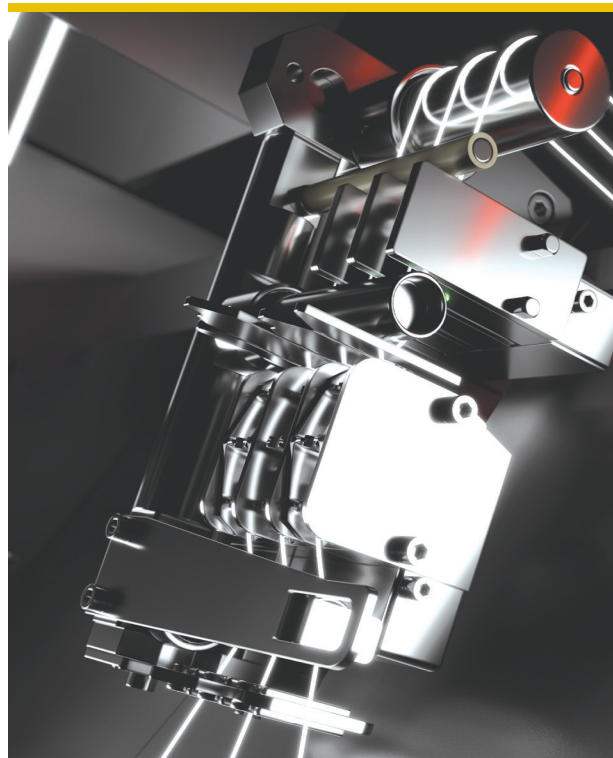
Barmag, major leader in innovation and technology showcased its innovation at ITMA Asia + CITME in Singapore

**New FiberGuard BCF yarn tension sensor
 Monitor, adjust, perfect**

FiberGuard BCF is the name of the new system for real-time monitoring of yarn tension in all Neumag BCF production processes. Barmag, the innovation and technology leader for filament spinning systems, presented this innovation of its Neumag product line at ITMA Asia + CITME in Singapore last November. The new BCF yarn tension sensor is compatible with all current Neumag BCF machines and can be easily retrofitted to existing Neumag BCF S8 machines.

In FiberGuard BCF, sensors and software ensure that process stability and product quality are sustainably improved. The intelligent system continuously measures the yarn tension between twisting and winding in real time. If there are deviations in the yarn tension, FiberGuard BCF automatically intervenes and adjusts the process independently. The result is less waste, higher efficiency, and greater sustainability.

Operators can use the HMI to call up live data, define individual reporting thresholds, and activate automatic adjustments. In addition, the system enables the creation of customer-specific reference curves for yarn tension during the doffing process.



FiberGuard BCF uses sensors and software to ensure that process stability and product quality are improved in the long term

The solution has been well received by customers, says Jan Pauer, Head of Service Products in Neumünster and responsible for the new system: "Our discussions with interested BCF producers at ITMA Asia have shown that we have listened to our customers. FiberGuard is the next step in all Neumag BCF processes. The combination of hardware and intelligent software opens the door to a new production possibility characterized by reliable thread tension measurement and automated process adjustment."

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.

For further information, please visit: www.barmag.com

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Itema S.p.A.

Itema showcases at SITEX 2026: on show the two best-selling high-end rapier weaving machines of the Region, R9500EVO and Galileo-RX

Following the opening of its new Surat Service Center in November, Itema exhibited at SITEX held from February 21st to 23rd at the Surat

International Exhibition and Convention Centre (SIECC).

Surat has long been one of Itema's most strategic markets, a role further reinforced by the inauguration of the Surat Service Center last November. Equipped with an advanced electronic repair center, a weaving machine behavior simulator, and a local spare parts warehouse, the new facility strengthens Itema's presence in the region while bringing the company even closer to its Customers.

Sameer Kulkarni, Managing Director of Itema Weaving India, commented: "Since 2021, Itema has registered unprecedented growth in Surat, with a remarkable number of Itema weaving machines installed in the region's textile mills. We are proud to contribute to the creation of some of the most beautiful fabrics in India and to support the talent of Surat's weavers with our advanced weaving technology."

"Itema's weaving technology is one-of-a-kind in the weaving machinery landscape due to our patented rapier weft insertion system and to our unique shed geometry. These technological weaving solutions were originally designed to ensure the best possible treatment of yarns by reducing stress on warp and weft yarns, thus leading to a double advantage: superior fabric hand-feel and minimized stop marks. The Itema success in the Surat market demonstrates how Itema's unique features are not just a choice, but a necessity for those weavers who want to weave specific fabrics with defined performance and quality standards, and this is the case with the precious fabrics for Sarees produced in Surat" added Matteo Mutti, Itema Group Chief Sales and Service Officer.

At Sitex 2026, Itema exhibits two weaving machines equipped with different rapier weft transfers, aiming to demonstrate how Itema weaving technology can effectively address the diverse textile and production requirements of this specific fabric segment:

➡ **The Itema Rapier R9500EVO on display at Stäubli Stand (Stand 242)**

Displayed at our partner booth, the Itema Rapier R9500EVO in 3800 mm weaving width is equipped with the Stäubli Jacquard LX PRO with more than 12,000 hooks. The machine configuration is designed to achieve the highest textile performances, thanks to the Itema FPA EVO Free Positive Approach Weft Transfer, featuring a

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

race board with no guiding elements in the shed, and to the IteMa MiCUT Motorized Weft Cutter.

► **The IteMa Rapier Galileo-RX on display at IteMa Stand (Stand 286)**

On show at the IteMa stand was the IteMa Rapier Galileo-RX in 3200 mm weaving width, equipped with the JKD CSL-16-5376 Jacquard.

Over the past years, the IteMa Rapier Galileo-RX has established itself as a market success, earning the trust of Surat weavers thanks to its reliability and excellent price-quality ratio.

Configured with the IteMa SK Weft Transfer System with guided hooks in combination with the Mechanical Weft Cutter, the machine is equipped with the new IteMa Latest Generation Console with touch, full glass, capacitive display, offering wi-fi and Bluetooth connectivity and ready for data analysis and IoT functionalities.

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 1,000 employees worldwide, and world-class production sites in Italy, Switzerland, 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.

For more information, visit www.itemagroup.com

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Kornit Digital

Hybris production adopted Kornit's Digital technology to ramp up licensed apparel manufacturing

Enabling on-demand licensed merchandise production to support retail and e-commerce growth, faster design releases, and scalable short-run fulfillment

Kornit Digital, a global pioneer in sustainable, on-demand digital fashion and textile production technologies, today announced that Hybris Productions has adopted Kornit's direct-to-garment (DTG) digital production technology to scale licensed apparel manufacturing with greater speed, design flexibility, and on-demand production capabilities supporting retail and e-commerce growth.

Founded more than 22 years ago and based in southern Sweden outside Malmö, Hybris Productions specializes in officially licensed apparel

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merchandise including T-shirts, sweatshirts, and caps. The company serves brands, retailers, and direct-to-consumer e-commerce channels across Europe.



Over the years, the company has built one of the largest licensed artwork collections in Europe, with access to more than 15,000 logos, images, and designs from movies, entertainment brands, and popular culture.

Transitioning from Screen Printing to Digital Production

As Hybris' licensed portfolio expanded, traditional screen printing limited speed to market and design release volume. "With screen printing, we were restricted in how many designs we could release," said Peel Olson, Founder of Hybris Productions. "Going digital meant we could release hundreds of designs instead of just ten."



Kornit Digital Enables Industrial-Scale Digital Production

Hybris was among the first companies in Sweden to experiment with DTG technology nearly two decades ago. While early digital systems offered promise, they also introduced operational challenges, including complex pretreatment processes.

Kornit's DTG production platform enables high-quality output at industrial speeds while

simplifying production workflows. "Kornit Digital removed the part I disliked the most about DTG: the pretreatment," Olson explained. "What I saw was a machine that could print at the speed we needed, around 100 T-shirts per hour, while delivering the quality our licensed brands demand."

Following installation, production ramped faster than planned, reaching stable daily output within months. By mid-summer, the system was running 6–7 hours daily, with plans to extend to 10–12-hour shifts during peak seasons.

Powering On-Demand Retail and Creative Scale

Hybris operates a dual business model, combining direct-to-consumer e-commerce with short-run wholesale production for online and physical retailers throughout Europe. Through its direct-to-consumer platform, customers can order individual garments printed on demand. At the same time, retailers rely on Hybris for licensed merchandise produced in runs of 25 to 100 pieces, enabling fast replenishment without overproduction.



"The speed is fantastic, the quality is fantastic," Olson added. "And the reliability allows us to serve both private customers and retail partners with confidence." As a designer-led company, creativity sits at the heart of Hybris' offering. "I'm a designer from the start," said Olson. "With Kornit Digital, we're not limited by colors or small details anymore. We can let creativity flow."

Today, Hybris releases approximately 100 new designs every week, supported by its extensive licensed artwork library. This positions the company for sustained growth while maintaining an agile, on-demand production model.

By integrating Kornit's digital textile production into its manufacturing ecosystem, Hybris has built

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a flexible production environment supporting mass customization, short-run retail production, and on-demand e-commerce growth.

"Hybris Productions is a strong example of how licensed merchandise producers can expand design offerings and on-demand capabilities while operating in a more responsible and efficient production environment," said Guy Yaniv, President of Europe at Kornit Digital. "By integrating digital textile printing into their production ecosystem, Hybris has created a flexible model that supports creativity, responsiveness to market demand, and more sustainable manufacturing practices. We wish them continued success as they grow their business and design portfolio across Europe."



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 and states worldwide. To learn more about how Kornit Digital is boldly transforming the world of fashion and textiles, visit www.kornit.com.

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Uster Technologies AG

Measure and control the fiber – optimize yarn quality

Uster shares insights to avoid claims, from the start of the process

Producing consistent yarn quality is an everyday challenge – and a very difficult one. Detailed knowledge and understanding of the fiber raw material is absolutely critical to achieving the best possible quality in the yarn. To help spinners, Uster experts have put together guidelines for avoiding yarn irregularity claims, in a special edition of the Uster News Bulletin.

Uster can say with greater certainty that the reasons for claims received by spinners have remained quite similar, at least in the past 20 to 30 years. Although the severity and distribution of the reasons may vary depending on the final use of the yarn, the most common factors can be identified. Analyzing these factors and providing insights into the quest for operational excellence in spinning mills, the latest Uster News Bulletin No. 52 becomes a valuable tool to reduce yarn quality claims.



Laydown consistency – usedata correctly

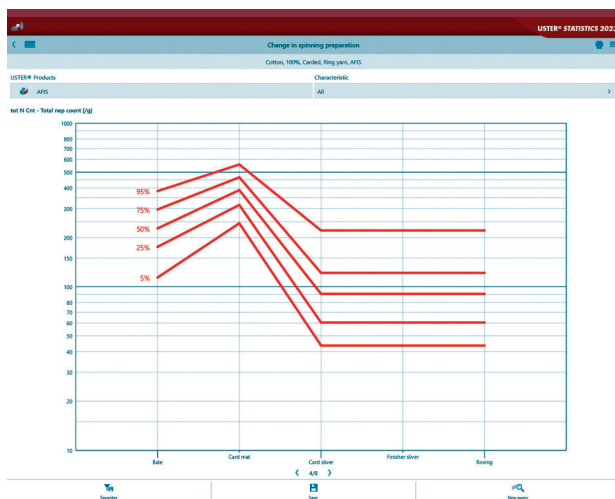
One factor which greatly impacts on the spinnability of cotton fibers, as well as the yarn quality, is fiber fineness. Cotton has inherent natural variations, so fiber fineness (micronaire) is therefore the most important parameter to be controlled within required limits.

Optimal bale mixing aims at a consistently narrow micronaire range. Minimizing variation in micronaire values, both across and within laydowns, is critical. Fluctuating micronaire values can lead to barré or inconsistencies in

yarn strength, causing quality claims. To reduce the risk, spinners use data from Uster HVI for laydown management. Taking it further, many mills have integrated automated solutions such as Uster FiberQ, with algorithms that control not only micronaire but also multiple other fiber characteristics. This reduces manual work, but more importantly improves long-term quality from fiber to yarn by refining raw material selection.

Fiber process control –look closely at the blowroom

Uster's experience shows that the reduction of neps is another of the most frequent challenges for spinning mills. Here, it's better to avoid creating neps at the beginning of the process, instead of trying to reduce them in spinning. Many spinners take steps in the blowroom and carding processes to tackle this issue.



In the blowroom it's about managing trash reduction, and preventing the increase of short fiber content and neps. During cotton processing, the material is opened into tufts, with several stages of opening and cleaning aimed at removing impurities. But a side effect of these processes can be an increase in neps and short fiber content, due to the mechanical stresses. Some spinning mills adjust card settings or try to remove broken fibers during combing, but a more effective and economical solution is thorough testing and blowroom optimization.

To control blowroom and carding performance, measurements with Uster AFIS are part of the routine test plan, as well as also being applied after machine maintenance or changes in cotton laydown recipes. These tests ensure optimal opening and cleaning at an appropriate waste

level. Close monitoring of potential fiber damage is essential.

Processing statistics –track fiber characteristics

The processing charts in Uster Statistics track the fiber quality characteristics. Key parameters for neps, short fibers, and impurities are plotted through each processing stage. The accompanying graphic shows the typical increase in neps in the blowroom from bale to card mat, followed by a decrease after carding as neps are removed. Spinning mills can compare their own levels against the global standard. This allows a quick assessment of the situation, identifying areas of overperformance or potential improvements.

Various raw materials – one common goal

Process control is also important, and even more so when processing mechanically recycled cotton. Depending on the source of the recycled material and its opening method, the short fiber content might already be at a naturally higher level when entering the blowroom.



Similarly, fiber damage can apply to man-made fibers which initially have uniform cut lengths. Uster AFIS 6 is able to measure cotton as well as synthetic materials. With thorough quality management, spinners can identify fiber deterioration at source, before it results in yarn irregularity.

It's clear that fiber characteristics significantly affect both spinnability and yarn quality consistency. Therefore, understanding fiber quality and how fibers are treated during the spinning process is essential right from the start. What is not measured, cannot be controlled! However, this is only one element to be managed to avoid quality claims.

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Uster has the technology, the experience and the knowledge to foster a new level of consistency in yarn production. The company's know-how is freely shared in Uster News Bulletin No. 52, which includes more chapters offering 'best practice' advice – from spinners for spinners – on how to take control of quality claims. Also free of charge is a wide range of application literature on <https://360q.uster.com> as well as the new Uster Statistics.

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Mimaki Europe BV

Minimum ink usage retaining same level of output Maximising Print Efficiency Exploring Ink Saving Features for Modern Print Production

In today's print industry, balancing quality, efficiency, and environmental responsibility is a growing priority. With increasing pressure on margins and sustainability, solutions that streamline production without sacrificing results are more relevant than ever.

Optimising Ink Usage Without Compromising Output

Ink represents a significant ongoing cost in most printing operations. And so, technologies that reduce ink consumption while maintaining visual quality certainly has measurable benefits over time. The Ink Saving functionality, available on select Mimaki models, does just this by adjusting colour profiles and ink densities in a controlled, automated way. Users can choose from five Ink Saving levels, ranging



THE R&D HOUSE OF SPINNING

Bottom Roll setting Gauge
(for Drawing, Roving & Ring Frame)



For Setting in Ring Frame



For Setting in Speed Frame

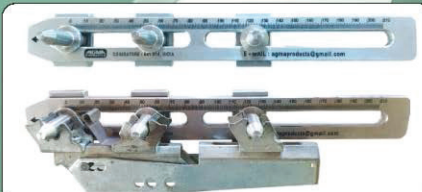


For Setting in Draw Frame

Agma Saddle Setting Gauge
(With 4 Pins for Rieter / LMW P3-1 Top Arm with Suesen Compact)



(With 3 Pins for Rieter / LMW P3-1 Top Arm without Compact)



SINGLE SPACER - RIETER & LR TYPE		
SPACER	Size (MM)	COLOR
	2.50	CHOCOLATE
	2.75	GREY
	3.00	WHITE
	3.25	YELLOW
	3.50	BLACK
	3.75	SANDAL
	4.00	RED

SPACER	Size (MM)	COLOR
	4.25	PEACH
	4.50	PALE GREEN
	4.75	VIOLET
	5.00	BRIGHT BLUE
	5.25	MAGENTA
	5.50	INDIGO GREY
	5.75	BRIGHT GREEN
	6.00	PARACHUTE BLUE

TWIN SPACER FOR AGMA 40.1 MM & 40.6 MM CRADLES		
SPACER	Size (MM)	COLOR
	2.5 / 2.75	CHOCOLATE
	3.00 / 3.25	YELLOW
	3.5 / 3.75	BLACK
	4.00 / 4.25	RED

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from approximately 10% ink reduction at Level 1 up to around 50% at Level 5, depending on the application and desired output quality. This approach helps reduce overall ink use while preserving colour fidelity, which is crucial for maintaining print quality and meeting client expectations.

Markus Jürgensen, owner of Germany-based Print and More, operates a Mimaki CJV200-130 and utilises the ink saving functionality to up the efficiency of the company's print process. "We make good use of the ink-saving option, usually at level 3," Markus comments. "At around 30% ink reduction, it works very well for us without any compromise to the quality."

A Streamlined Workflow

Designed to integrate into RasterLink7 (Mimaki's RIP software), the Ink Saving tool allows users to select from different levels of ink reduction, depending on the job requirements. Once selected, the setting can be applied without adding complexity to the production process – no extra steps or reconfigurations are required.



This level of integration supports day-to-day efficiency, particularly in environments with high print volumes or tight turnaround times, like Print and More where they often contend with producing a lot at short notice.

Sustainability as a Practical Outcome

Beyond the economic benefits, reducing ink consumption also contributes to more environmentally conscious printing. Using less ink leads to fewer ink cartridges being consumed and discarded, reducing both material waste and associated emissions. While not a complete sustainability solution on its own, it's a step in the right direction for companies looking to make incremental changes.

As regulations around environmental impact become more stringent, especially in Europe, and customer pressure for more sustainable operations

grow, technologies like Mimaki's Ink Saving provide meaningful ways for companies to respond and align with broader industry expectations.



In an increasingly competitive and environmentally conscious market, Mimaki's Ink Saving functionality offers a powerful advantage. Whether it's about cutting ink costs, boosting sustainability, or delivering consistent high-quality prints, this feature helps print providers stay ahead of the curve. It proves that efficiency and quality can go hand in hand.

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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SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Benninger Group**Benninger's Horizontal jet dyeing machine designed to meet multi purpose needs****Leading technologies in continuous wet processing and jet dyeing****Benninger's must-see dyeing and finishing solution at Knit-Tech 2026**

Benninger, a complete system supplier with leading technologies for continuous wet processing and discontinuous dyeing, as well as technical textiles, reinforces its commitment to sustainable textile production with resource-efficient machinery that increases both top and bottom line performance. At Knit-Tech 2026, scheduled from 6 – 9 March 2026 in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, India, Benninger will showcase SynthMaster. Its innovative horizontal jet dyeing machine combines unmatched fabric quality, low resource consumption, and compact, versatile design.



Benninger places sustainability and responsibility at the heart of SynthMaster's operations. Benninger's solutions can process today's and tomorrow's fibers and blends with the highest first-time-right rates. Visitors to the upcoming Knit-Tech are invited to engage with experts on sustainable dyeing and finishing. Visit Benninger at booth A22!

The versatile solution for compression-free precision dyeing

The SynthMaster sets a new benchmark in horizontal jet dyeing, combining harmonic, unique, and Swiss-made design with unparalleled fabric care. Its smooth, tension-free fabric transport guarantees no compression creases, ensuring perfect quality every time. Built on the same innovative principles as Benninger's well-known FabricMaster, it features a smart nozzle, lowest lift, and an elbow plaiter running the full length of the machine. The SynthMaster delivers consistent performance and fabric integrity.

Thanks to its advanced dewatering and chamber design, the SynthMaster operates at lower liquor ratios, optimizing resource efficiency. At approximately 4.5 meters in length, it is the only machine that can be seamlessly combined with dyers' round machines, drastically saving valuable factory space. The SynthMaster is the ideal complement to the FabricMaster, sharing key components and offering unmatched compatibility.

**Swiss precision, global standards**

Benninger aims – always did and always will – to set new standards for efficiency, quality and precision in textile dyeing processes. The FabricMaster, the dyeing machine for discontinuous dyeing and the SingeRay flame singeing machine are other good examples, defining new benchmarks for efficiency, sustainability, and process reliability thanks to cutting-edge technology. These innovations often become references for best practices worldwide.

By integrating energy-saving designs, water and chemical reduction technologies, and waste heat recovery (e.g., through the BEN-Eco systems), Benninger advances global environmental standards. Their machines help customers meet or exceed international sustainability targets.

The long history of Benninger – including the long list of achievements – as well as the number of years of experience and the flexibility makes the company one of the most reliable providers for high-performance solutions in the textile industry. In a nutshell: You can feel it's Benninger!

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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

MARCH 2026

Name	Page	Name	Page
Agma Products	101	OM Corporation	92
Associated Autotex Ancillaries Pvt. Ltd.	3	Paras Healds & Reeds Pvt. Ltd.	*
Aspire Grand Excel Automation	*	Peass Industrial Engineers Pvt. Ltd.	C-III
Basant Fibertex Pvt. Ltd.	105	Pinter Fa Ni Asia Private Limited	11
Bea Electronics	97	Precision Rubber Industries Pvt. Ltd.	63
Bharat Beams Pvt. Ltd.	18	Puja Textile Industries	*
BTKG 2026	16	Rimtex Industries	*
Chiven Spinning	21	Sakthi Textile Engineers	*
Dhara Engineering Works	8	Sakthi Associates	15
DH Textile Engineering	*	Sagotharen	*
Elgi Electrics Industries Ltd.	55	S. B. Dye Springs (India) Pvt. Ltd.	C-II
Gayatri Textile Machines	20	Sheeba Enterprise	13
Indian Dye Springs Co.	*	Shree Ram Textile	*
Inspiron Engineering Pvt. Ltd.	*	ShreeTex Corporation	12
INDIA-ITME 2026	22	Simta Group of Companies	7
Intex 2026	76	Sri Kumaran Textile Systems	*
ITMA ASIA+CITME 2026	10	Srinivasa Tex Spares	6
Krsna Engineering Works	*	SRM Technologies	15
Kubershwar Machine Products	*	Sumanlal J. Shah & Co.	*
Lakhmi Machine Works Ltd	*	Sunrise Industries	*
Laxmi Precision Technologies Limited	77	Sumanlal J. Shah Sons (P) Ltd	*
Lakshmi Ring Travellers (CBE) Ltd.	C-I	Tech Mech Engineers	*
Mag Solvics Private Limited	*	Techno Electronics & Instruments	14
Mangal Singh Brothers Pvt. Ltd.	5	Technocraft Texmach Pvt. Ltd.	*
Manoj Engineers	C-IV	Tex-Tech Industries Pvt. Ltd.	106
Mayur Reeds and Healds Pvt. Ltd.	*	Texlab Industries	*
M.K. Spindle Manufacturers Pvt. Ltd	*	Tirupati Technik	*
Mohler Machine Works Pvt.Ltd.	*	Trutzschler India Pvt. Ltd.	91
Mylon Metalics Pvt. Ltd.	4	Varjilal Hirjibhai Trivedi & Sons	*
New Make Industries	*	Vetri Engineers	17
NIF Mechanical Works Pvt. Ltd.	9	Vishwaa Engineering	*
		Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion Pvt. Ltd.	76



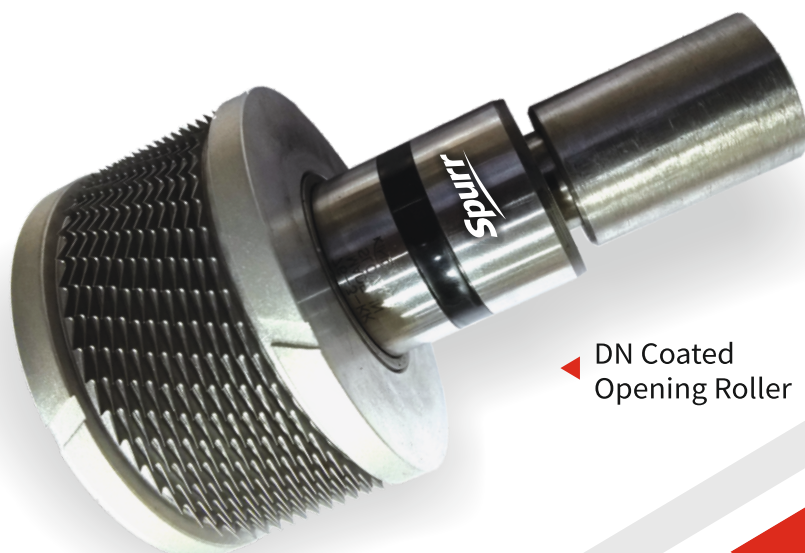
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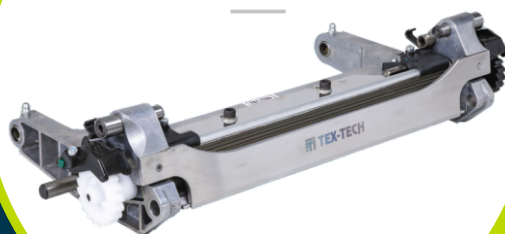
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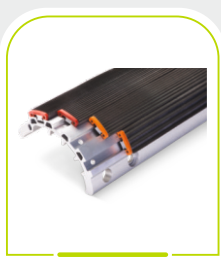
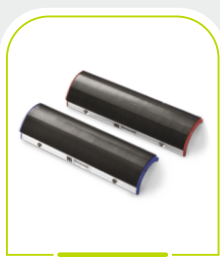
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Manoj Engineering is a leading Manufacturer of HT/HP Package Dyeing Machines up to 2000 KG certified with ISO 9001:2015. with over 30 years of experience and with a commitment to quality, sustainability and customer satisfaction. We are also engaged in manufacturing and supplying of Hydro Extractor, Hot Air Dryer, Beaker Dyeing, Pneumatic Press Trolley Auto Claves Heating Machines, Winding Machines and SS Springs and Tubes.



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