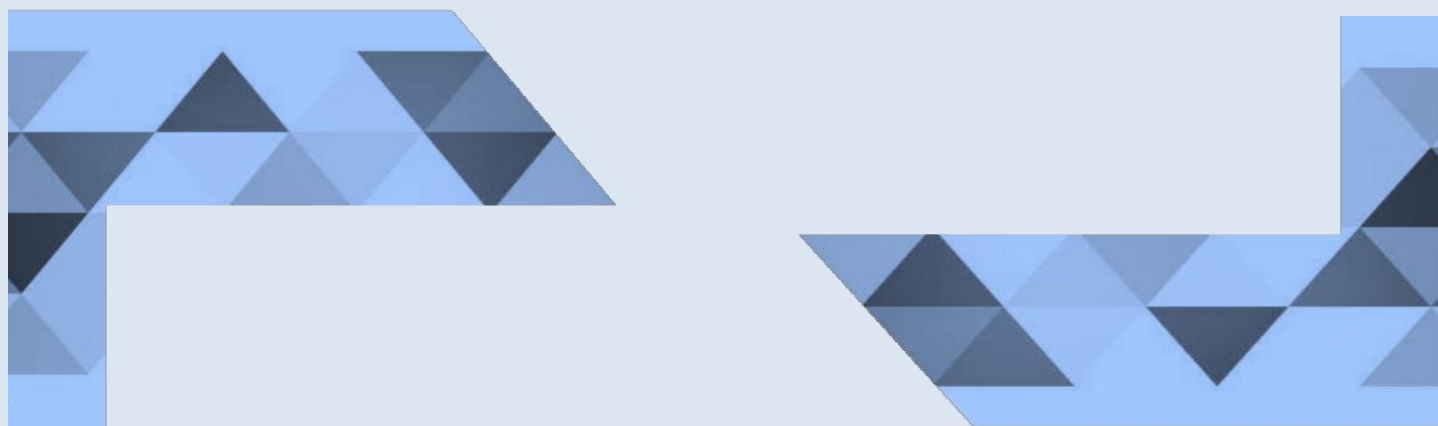


SASMA



JULY' 25

NEWS LETTER



ABOUT SASMA



Shri. Mihir R. Mehta - Chairman



Smt. Smita A. Yeole – Vice-Chairperson

- Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Association Ltd. (SASMA) is the oldest organization in the Country representing Man-made Textile Industry.
- SASMA was established in 1939-40 and is registered under the Companies Act.
- It has been providing yeoman service to the Man-made Textile Industry for Eight and half decades.
- SASMA is the parent organization in the man-made Textile Industry and is instrumental in establishing The Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), The Rayon Mills Commercial Corporation Ltd. (RMCC), Rayex (India)Ltd. (RAYEX), and Federation of Indian Art Silk Weaving Industry (FIASWI).

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India-UK CETA Transforms Textile Export Landscape

Date: 24/07/2025

The landmark India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)—signed on **July 24, 2025**—is widely seen as a watershed moment for the Indian textile industry. The agreement ensures **99% duty-free access** to the UK market for Indian exports, eliminating the prior **8–12% UK tariffs** on over 1,143 textile and apparel product lines. This trade liberalization is expected to elevate India's share in the UK's \$27 billion textile import market, where India currently accounts for only around \$1.8 billion (6.6%)—opening a path for significant market share gains. Key clusters like **Tiruppur (knitwear), Surat (sarees and fabrics), Ludhiana (woolens)**, and the Gujarat textile belt are positioned to benefit the most. Tiruppur's knitwear exports alone are projected to jump nearly **62%**, from ₹8,000 crore to ₹13,000 crore, according to regional exporter data. Meanwhile, India's technical textile exports to the UK—currently valued at \$240 million—could rise to **\$1 billion by 2030**, supported by differential duty-free access under the deal.

Stock markets responded swiftly, with leading textile firms like **Trident** rallying up to **6%** on FTA news, followed by companies such as **SP Apparels**, **Red Tape**, and **TCNS Clothing**—indicating investor optimism about doubling export volumes to the UK over the next 5–6 years. Industry leaders and trade bodies have welcomed the FTA, highlighting its potential to strengthen MSME participation, boost sustainability credentials, and unlock new opportunities in fashion, technical textiles, and home fabrics.

Duty Structure	UK duties (8–12 %) removed; 99 % of Indian goods duty-free
Export Potential	Access to a \$27 billion market; India currently ~6.6 % share
Competitive Edge	Level playing field with Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan
MSME Benefit	Greater access for textile clusters and export SMEs
State Impact	Tiruppur, Surat, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Gujarat among top gainer

Source: textilevaluechain.in / The Times of India / The Economic Times / Fibre2Fashion

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Surat Textile Industry Disrupted by U.S. 25% Tariff Shock

Date: 31/07/2025

On **July 31, 2025 (IST)**, *The Times of India* reported a sudden **25% tariff and penalty imposed by the U.S.** on Indian exports—sending shockwaves through Surat’s textile and jewellery sectors, both heavily export-oriented. Exporters have been advised to **pause textile and garment shipments destined for the U.S.**, even as production for orders from the June 2025 JCK Las Vegas exhibition was already underway. With this abrupt move, the competitiveness of Indian home textiles has been sharply reduced, especially in comparison to countries with lower U.S. tariff rates. Industry insiders expressed concerns that many contracts may now be **blocked or renegotiated, leading to halted production and potential job losses across the value chain**, from MSMEs to large exporters

❖ **Industry Reactions & Recommendations**

- **Dhirubhai Shah**, a Surat-based textile exporter, told *TOI*,

“Buyers in the U.S. have already begun pausing shipments and revisiting pricing. This will severely impact SME manufacturers who rely on festive-season orders.”

- **Textile Export Promotion Council (TEPC)** officials expressed that

“The 25% U.S. duty is not only unexpected but also misaligned with global trade fairness norms. Immediate bilateral talks are needed to restore order flow and tariff parity.”

- **Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)** stated in a press release:

“We urge the government to intervene diplomatically and extend short-term relief to impacted textile exporters, including freight support and working capital easing.”

Sources: times of India / India times

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Export Trends: Brands Shift Sourcing Away from China

Date: 29/07/2025



The declining trend of China's garment exports is in line with the view of many observers that the reliance on Chinese garment and footwear production is shrinking, according to a research brief by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

On July 29, 2025, Arvind Ltd. - a leading textile manufacturer - reported a **35% rise in first-quarter net profit**, driven by increased demand from international apparel brands moving production away from China. Revenue grew by 14% in its core textile division, signaling broad global interest in India as a sourcing hub.

This shift reflects a larger trend: **Western buyers are actively reducing reliance on Chinese and Bangladeshi suppliers**, citing geopolitical tensions, tariffs, and supply chain disruptions. India emerged as the top alternative sourcing base in 2024, leading to an **11.3% year-on-year jump in apparel exports** in May, according to CITI data. U.S. buyers, including Walmart and Amazon, have boosted orders to take advantage of India's tariff profile and quality standards.

Implications for India's Textile Ecosystem:

- **Clusters such as Tiruppur, Ludhiana, and Surat** are seeing significant upticks in orders, with elevated capacity utilization.
- **Small and medium exporters** across knitwear and woven segments are increasingly engaged in global supply chains.

- Despite advantages, labor and production scale constraints remain critical challenges, especially in Tiruppur, where firms face high turnover and rising labor costs compared to competitors like Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Sources: reuters.com / ecotextile.com /times of India / indiatimes.com

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Milkweed Fibre: India's Next Innovation in Sustainable Textiles

Date: 28/07/2025



Milkweed Plant



Milkweed Pod



Nonwoven Fabric Comprising (30% Milkweed Fibre)

Ludhiana, July 28, 2025 – The **Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA)** has unveiled a breakthrough natural fibre made from **milkweed**, locally known as *Akk* or *Buddhi Mai*, marking a potential paradigm shift in eco-textile raw materials. After over **20 years of research** led by Director-General **Dr. M. S. Parmar**, NITRA demonstrated that milkweed fibre is **warmer than wool, lighter**, and offers superior thermal insulation, positioning it as a compelling alternative for apparel and insulation uses.

Innovation & Sustainable Farming

Milkweed's advantages begin on the farm: it thrives as a **perennial crop for up to 10 years** without replanting, resists pests naturally, and requires **minimal chemical input**, making it a sustainable alternative to cotton and wool production. Farmers in **Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan** participating in pilot schemes have reported positive yields and reduced input costs. The **Ministry of Agriculture** is supporting the initiative by deploying **converted cotton ginning machinery** to streamline milkweed fibre harvesting and processing.

Industry Partnerships & Applications

To move toward commercialization, NITRA has signed **MoUs with leading textile firms** such as **Ganga Acrowools** and **Vardhaman**. Ganga has already launched pilot products with **wool blended with 20% milkweed fibre**, including **jackets, quilts, and insulation apparel**. Vardhaman and other manufacturers are preparing for larger-scale trials, with the goal of integrating milkweed fibre into their mass-produced lines.

Technical Attributes & Bio-Physical Insights

Milkweed fibre offers unique performance properties: it provides **up to double the warmth** of 100% wool, retains moisture effectively ($\approx 11\%$ moisture regain), and its **mechanical strength and fibre length** are comparable to cotton and polyester. A wool–milkweed blend (80:20) recently developed in collaboration with NITRA demonstrated successful industrial implementation with thermal resilience down to -50°C in prototype trials — indicating applications in extreme-weather and technical textiles.

Strategic Sustainability & Economic Impact

This innovation aligns with national sustainability and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat goals**, offering a domestic, eco-friendly sourcing route. The NITRA–CSIR-NBRI collaboration, formalized in April, includes **genome-level studies of the Asclepias plant** to optimize fibre yield, standardize cultivation, and improve textile-grade performance. Agriculture and industry stakeholders expect milkweed fibre yields to **exceed cotton by up to 2× per acre**, with significantly lower water and chemical input requirements.

MSME Clusters & Regional Synergies

For textile manufacturing clusters in **Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan**, milkweed offers a new raw material that is regionally cultivable and suited to local processing systems. Training initiatives—such as those led with

groups like the **Ruma Devi Foundation**—are equipping rural women entrepreneurs with skills in cultivation and fibre processing, enabling local value addition through fibre-to-fabric models.

Outlook & Industry Relevance

- **Product Applications:** Early prototypes include jackets, quilts, thermal wear, and insulation materials—demonstrating suitability across **fashion, home textiles, and technical textiles**.
- **Sustainability Credentials:** Biodegradability, pest resistance, and lower environmental input enhance industry's ESG profile.
- **Cluster Benefits:** MSME units can leverage blends (30–40% milkweed) to differentiate products and reduce cotton dependency.
- **Value Chain Opportunities:** Demand incentives exist for domestic R&D, machinery adaptations, and potential export positioning for sustainable textiles.

Fibre Physical Properties Comparison

Test Parameters	Milkweed	Cotton	Polyester	Wool
Thermal Value (Clo)	6.28	–	3.35	1.17
Moisture Regain (%)	11 to 12	6.8 to 7.5	1.4 to 1.5	–
Density (g/cm³)	0.89 to 0.90	0.3 to 0.4	1.2 to 1.3	–

Sources: Apparel Resources /Textile Insights / the Times of India / Apparel Resources

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Industry 4.0 Empowers Sustainability and Performance in Textiles

Date: 27/07/2025



On **July 27, 2025**, Textile School published a comprehensive report detailing how Industry 4.0 technologies such as the **Internet of Things (IoT)**, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, and **blockchain** are reshaping textile production across the globe, with direct implications for India. These digital technologies enable **smart manufacturing**, **real-time monitoring**, **predictive maintenance**, and **full supply chain traceability**, significantly reducing resource use and environmental impact within textile operations.

Key Textile Use-Cases & Sustainability Benefits

- **IoT and AI integration:** Embedded sensors track parameters like temperature, humidity, and energy consumption. AI systems analyze data to trigger predictive maintenance, reducing machine downtime by up to 22% and cutting energy use by around 15–18% as shown in industrial trial.
- **Waterless dyeing and digital printing:** Techniques like supercritical CO₂ dyeing and digital printers now use IoT-driven feedback loops to optimize inputs, reducing dye and water wastage by over 50% Textile School.

- **Block chain and RFID traceability:** These technologies ensure fiber origins are verifiable and lifecycle data is recorded—key to circularity and recycling programs. Brands such as Patagonia and startups like Textile Genesis are leveraging such systems for material tracking and return flows.

India's Textile Clusters Going Digital

- **Emerging cluster adoption:** Textile hubs like **Tiruppur, Ludhiana, Surat, and Panipat** are piloting Industry 4.0 systems to improve batch tracking, reduce waste, and meet global compliance standards, particularly under the **National Technical Textiles Mission** and the PM MITRA initiative.
- The **C-Readiness analysis** of India's textile sector identified nine categories and 34 barriers to circular economy adoption. However, it also proposed **digital-enablement as a roadmap** to overcome logistics inefficiencies, lack of consumer traceability, and fragmented operations in MSME.
- Pilot trials show major gains: factories using IoT-enabled systems achieve **18% energy savings, 22% lower machine downtime, and 15% improved resource use**—enabling cost-effective scale-up of sustainable textile manufacturing.

Sources: The Times of India/ voguebusiness.com / The Times of India

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Clothing Made of Cheap Polyester is Driving up Fashion's Emissions

July 23, 2025



Virgin polyester, a material made from fossil fuel-created plastic, is the latest industry trend.

Greenhouse gas emissions from clothing companies are mounting, according to a report published on Wednesday by the Apparel Impact Institute, which gathers data on carbon emissions for clothes and footwear.

The jump in greenhouse gas emissions—a 7.5% increase in 2023—is the first year-over-year increase since the institute began issuing its annual report in 2019. In 2023, apparel sector emissions hit 944 million metric tons, encompassing 2% of emissions globally, the report said. The findings were based on textile material data that was released earlier this year.

The emissions spike was fueled by supercharged apparel production, as well as a mounting reliance on virgin polyester, the report said. Environmental concerns about apparel have proliferated since the arrival of ultrafast fashion companies, which churn out low-cost clothes direct-to-consumer to satiate lightning-quick trend cycles.

The report analyzed emissions in the apparel industry spanning the supply chain from securing the raw materials to processing and assembly.

Polyester now makes up 57% of total global fiber production, the report said. The market share of recycled polyester used in clothing dropped from 2022 to 2023, according to Aii, which pointed out that the material costs more than its virgin counterpart. Recycling clothing can be especially tricky when fibers are woven together, for example cotton and polyester, which are often blended to lower costs and provide stretch in fabric.

But consumers are growing worried about clothing shedding micro plastics that could harm human health and the environment. There's also been concern about "forever chemicals" in textiles used to make workout gear, for example.

The apparel industry hasn't done a good job of putting its financial might behind more innovative, sustainable materials or processes that have high price points now, but could ultimately become more affordable later on, said Lewis Perkins, president of Aii.

"One of my pet peeves in the sector is when people say 'it's not scale ready, or it's not scalable,'" said Perkins.

Some innovations are gaining traction, however. Tapestry, which owns brands including Coach and Kate Spade, recently invested further in recycled leather from Generation Phoenix, which breaks down leather scraps that would otherwise end up in landfills.

Another report published earlier this month from Bain & Co. said new technologies including artificial intelligence are helping brands to get a better handle on their clothing stock, piloting made-to-order methods "that significantly reduce waste by producing only what is needed."

Patrik Frisk, who was previously Under Armour's chief executive, said it's essential to use less of a finite resource—such as oil that's used to make polyester—and instead to recycle waste. "If not, we all have to realize we will run out of resources at some point," he said. Frisk is now CEO of a textile regeneration company called Reju, which helps separate textile waste to break down and recycle polyester into yarn.

Some countries are taking swift action to try and blunt the harms of fast fashion. France recently adopted a bill to tax each fast fashion item €5—equivalent to \$5.87—which will increase to €10 by 2030.

In the U.S., a bipartisan group of lawmakers recently launched a caucus aiming to boost secondhand shopping platforms such as eBay and Depop, in part to cut down on landfill waste.

Long-term contracts with manufacturers could provide an incentive for them to transition to cleaner methods. The Bain report highlighted that regions such as Southeast Asia still use coal for industrial energy.

Matteo Capellini, a partner from the sustainability and responsibility practice at Bain, highlighted the need to treat “decarbonization not as a stand-alone initiative, but as a business discipline embedded in sourcing, supply chain, inventory management and product strategy.”

Clothing manufacturers are particularly attuned to climate impacts, said Michael Sadowski, who compiled the Aii report—in part because they operate in countries such as Pakistan where extreme weather is especially striking.

Some manufacturers “see the impacts of climate more accurately perhaps than brands do,” Sadowski said.

Sources: (Wall Street Journal)

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Geeta Nagar women stitching a greener future with discarded clothes



Guwahati: In a step toward sustainability, a group of women from the Geeta Nagar locality has come together to tackle textile waste by repurposing discarded fabrics into reusable, redecorated items. What began as a personal concern for environmental impact has evolved —under the guidance of resident Jubee Baruwa into a full-fledged community initiative focused on creative up cycling.

Each evening, the women gather at Baruwa's residence, where the hum of sewing machines fills the air. Together, they transform worn-out clothes and leftover fabric scraps into practical products saving them from landfills and giving them new life.

"We have been collecting old clothing from family and friends. Once the items arrive, we clean, sanitize, and up cycle them into things like handbags, cushion covers, table mats, and accessories. Eventually, we plan to introduce a phone number so people can easily reach out to us and donate clothes," Baruwa said.

She began her journey during the pandemic but admits the road hasn't been easy.

"One major hurdle is the cost of production. Although most fabrics come from donations or personal collections, we still need to buy packaging supplies, labels, and other materials out-of-pocket. With no formal financial support, maintaining consistent output is tough," she added.

Fabric segregation adds create another challenge. Sorting textiles by quality and usability takes time and effort. Many donated items are either damaged or unsuitable for reuse - meaning only portions can be salvaged.

A city native, Baruwa has long been passionate about sustainability and the idea of repurposing materials. She believes this initiative represents more than recycling -it's about transforming mindset.

"This isn't just about reusing fabric. It's about rethinking how we approach waste and consumption. We plan to distribute these upcycled items to cafes and malls, and we hope to bring this idea into schools and housing societies to reach more people - especially younger generations, she added.

Source: The Times of India

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GST Overhaul on the Horizon: Uniform 12% Rate Proposed for Textile Sector

Date: 30/07/2025

In a significant policy development that could reshape the cost dynamics of the textile industry, the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** is actively considering a proposal to implement a **uniform 12% GST rate** across the entire textile value chain.

Currently, the Indian textile sector faces an **inverted duty structure**, where **raw materials such as man-made fibres and yarns attract higher GST rates (12%–18%)** compared to **finished textile products (5%)**. This structure has led to **accumulated input tax credit**, blocked working capital, and cascading tax burdens—especially for SMEs and synthetic textile manufacturers.

The uniform rate, if implemented, would address long-standing industry concerns by:

- ✓ Eliminating **input-output tax mismatches**
- ✓ Ensuring smoother **input credit flow**
- ✓ Enhancing **cost competitiveness**, especially in export markets
- ✓ Simplifying compliance for manufacturers and traders

According to government officials, the proposal is currently under discussion with various stakeholders, including textile associations, state governments, and GST technical committees. A **final decision is expected before the September GST Council meeting**, as part of a broader **GST rate rationalization effort** aimed at reducing classification disputes and simplifying the tax structure.

Industry Response:

The proposal has received mixed responses. While many in the **synthetic and man-made textile segment** have welcomed the move, some stakeholders in the **cotton-based and small-scale apparel sector** have expressed concerns about possible cost escalation for final consumers.

However, experts suggest that the long-term benefits of a unified GST rate—including better transparency, reduced compliance complexity, and global tax alignment—may outweigh short-term disruptions.

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Boosting Sustainability: New Credit Rating System and Green Fund for Textile MSMEs

Date: 25/07/2025

In a progressive move to strengthen India's textile MSMEs and accelerate the sector's green transition, the **Ministry of Textiles** is working on a comprehensive framework to improve financial accessibility for small-scale units. Key components of this initiative include:

- A **CIBIL-style credit rating system** specifically for the textile sector
- A **common Green Fund** to finance sustainable practices and technologies

This dual-pronged strategy is designed to **bridge the credit gap** for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), particularly those embracing **eco-friendly production, cleaner technologies, and circularity**.

Key Features of the Scheme:

Tailored Credit Scores:

Inspired by the CIBIL model used by banks for individual credit assessment, the new system will consider **sector-specific risks, production capabilities, sustainability parameters, and repayment history** to assign ratings to textile units. This will help lending institutions evaluate borrower profiles more accurately and reduce credit risk.

Green Fund Mobilization:

The proposed Green Fund will be made available to MSMEs that adopt energy-efficient machinery, water-saving dyeing systems, waste management solutions, or green certifications like **GOTS, OEKOTEX, ZDHC, and ISO 14001**. The fund will be jointly developed with public sector banks and multilateral institutions, and may include **interest subvention, soft loans, and capital subsidies**.

Focus on Tier II & III Clusters:

Textile clusters in regions like **Surat, Erode, Bhilwara, Panipat, Tiruppur, and Bhiwandi**—known for high SME concentration—will be prioritized. Training and capacity-building programs will accompany financial support to ensure effective implementation.

Source: The Economic Times

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Strategic Shift: Tiruppur Bets Big on Man-Made Fibres

Date: 27/07/2025



Tiruppur, India’s renowned “Knitwear Capital,” is undergoing a major transformation as it pivots from its traditional cotton dominance toward man-made fibres (MMF). At present, MMF accounts for only **10%** of the region’s total knitwear production, but industry leaders have set an ambitious goal to raise this share to **30% by 2030**.

The move is driven by rising global demand for **sportswear, athleisure, and technical textiles**—segments where MMF outperforms cotton in durability, performance, and versatility. By diversifying into MMF, Tiruppur aims to double its annual turnover from **\$4.5 billion to \$10 billion** over the next five years.

Government & Industry Push

To facilitate this transition, the government has introduced **R&D funding, production subsidies**, and initiatives under the **Tamil Nadu Tech Textile Mission**. These measures aim to strengthen the domestic MMF value chain and reduce heavy dependence on imported polyester and nylon—particularly from China.

Already, over **5,000 manufacturing units in Tiruppur** have initiated MMF production on a small scale. Plans are underway to ramp up raw material availability within India, ensuring that the entire MMF supply chain—from fibre production to finished garments—can be developed domestically.

Global Collaboration

In a landmark step, Tamil Nadu hosted the **Tamil Nadu–Taiwan Technical Textile Partnership Summit** on **July 21–22, 2025**. The event showcased MMF-based garments and fostered B2B interactions with Taiwanese companies, leveraging Taiwan’s advanced technology and expertise in synthetic textiles. The collaboration is expected to accelerate innovation, product diversification, and market access for Tiruppur’s exporters.

The Road Ahead

This strategic shift is not just about adapting to global market trends—it’s about **future-proofing Tiruppur’s textile ecosystem**. With strong policy support, international partnerships, and an industry-wide commitment to change, Tiruppur is well-positioned to emerge as a leading hub for man-made fibre apparel and technical textiles in the coming decade

Sources: Times of India / The Economic Times

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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL- EXHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES

SNo.	Name of the Fairs	Country	City	Date/Month
1.	Keynote Session by Dr. R. Indu Shekar (DEBEL) DRDO, Ministry of Defence, Bengaluru	India	SASMIRA, Worli, Mumbai	1 st August 2025
2.	National Handloom Day 2025 Conference	India	Textile Committee, Mumbai	07 th August 2025
3.	Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – autumn Edition : A World Renowned Exhibition	Shanghai	National Exhibition and Convention Center.	2 nd Sept, 2025 to 4 th Sept 2025
4.	Functional Textiles Shanghai By Performance Days	China	Shanghai World Expo Exhibition & Convention Center, No.1099 Guo Zhan Road, Pudong New Area,	6 th Aug, 2025 to 7 th Aug, 2025
5.	11th Non-Woven Tech Asia	India	India International Convention & Expo Centre, Sector 25, Dwarka, New Delhi	6 th Nov, 2025 to 8 th Nov, 2025
6.	Techtextil India	India	Bombay Exhibition Centre , Goregaon, Mumbai	19 th Nov to 21 st Nov, 2025
7.	YARNEX, F&A Show	India	Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai	27 to 29 November 2025

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