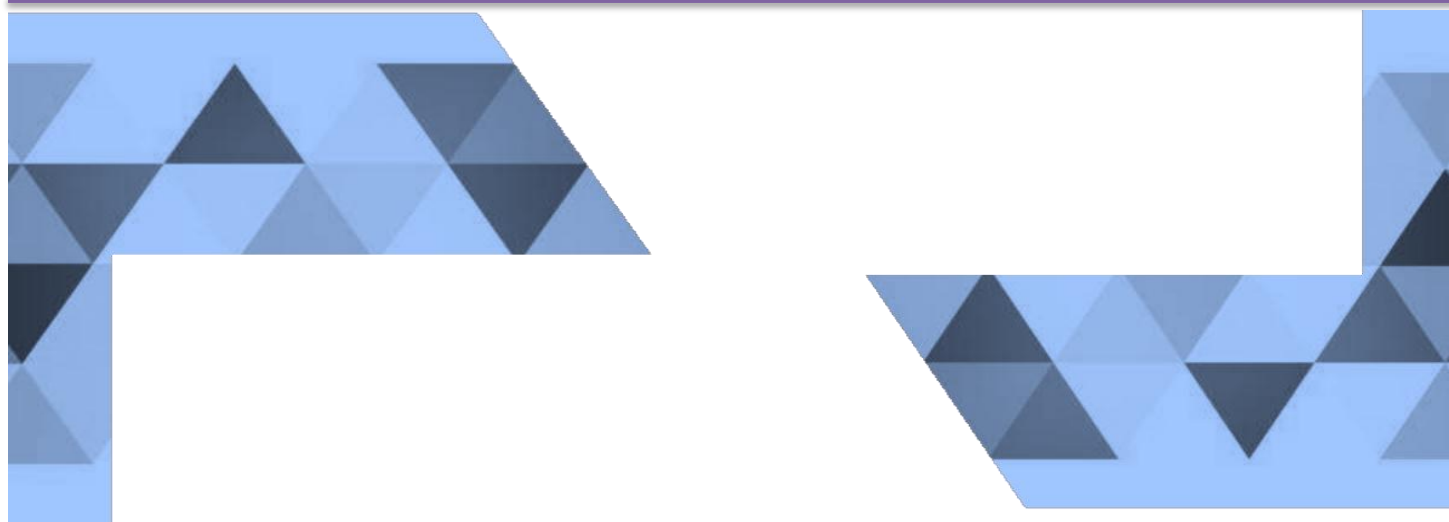


# SASMA



JANUARY' 26

## 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).

SASMA Board Members	
1. Shri Mihir R. Mehta	7.Shri Kapil A. Shorewala
2. Mrs. Smita A. Yeole	8. Smt. Darshana Doshi
3. Shri. Bharat S. Parekh	9. Shri Bharat Gandhi
4. Shri. Gokul K. Mehta	10. Shri Rohit C Patel
5. Shri S.S. Khetan	11. Shri Dinesh S Zaveri
6. Shri Viresh Kamdar	

## **Blood Donation Drive and Free Eye Check-up Camp at SASMIRA Campus**

*Date: 7 January 2026*

*Source: sasmira campus*



SASMA and SASMIRA, in association with Vision Foundation of India, jointly organized a Blood Donation Drive and Free Eye Check-up Camp on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the SASMIRA Campus, Worli, Mumbai.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Kulin Kothari, Chief Guest, *Bombay City Eye Institute & Research Centre*, and was graced by Mrs. Smita Yeole, Vice President - SASMIRA. The event was further honoured by the presence of the Guests of Honour - Shri Sanjay Khemani (CA), Shri Virendra Yagnik (Speaker & Writer), and Shri Narendra Hirawat (Film Producer & Distributor).

The programme was organized under the leadership and guidance of Shri Mihir R. Mehta, President - SASMIRA; Mrs. Smita Yeole, Vice President - SASMIRA; Shri S. S. Khetan, Council Member/Director; and Dr. Ashok Kumar Tiwari, Director General - SASMIRA.



The initiative received an encouraging response from students, faculty, and staff members. While the blood donation drive aimed to support patients in urgent need, the eye check-up camp focused on preventive healthcare and early detection of eye-related issues.

Qualified medical professionals and trained volunteers ensured that all medical and safety protocols were strictly followed throughout the programme.

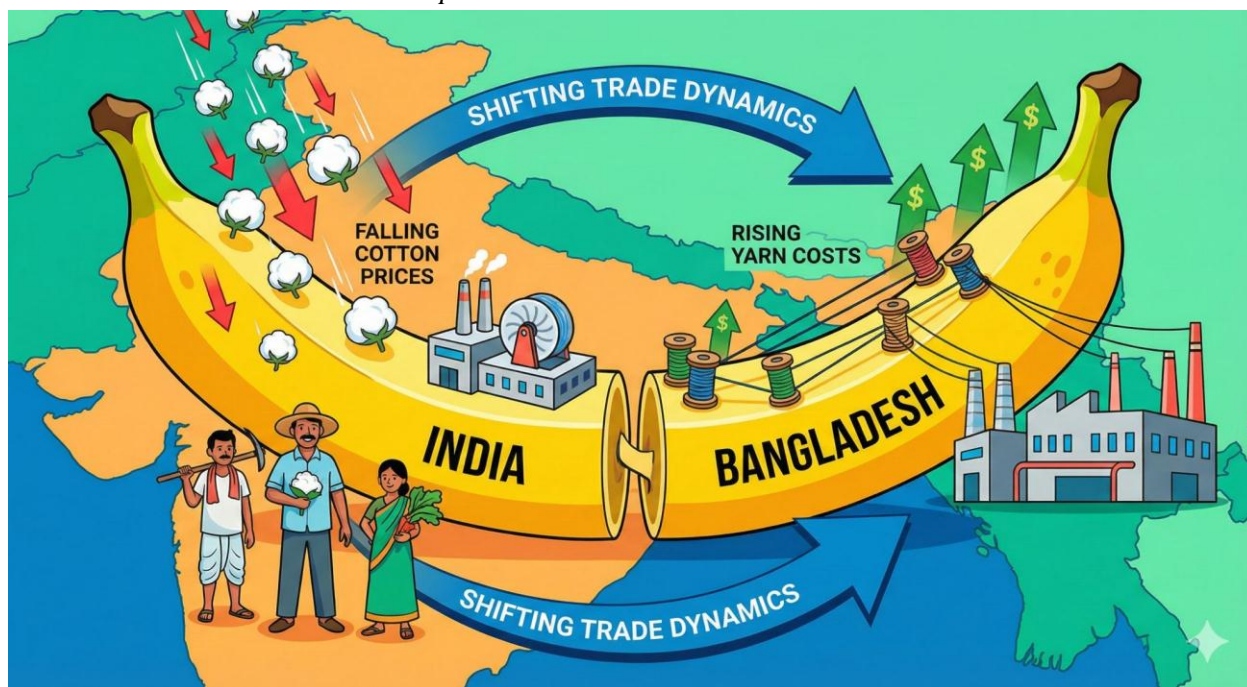
SASMA and SASMIRA extend their heartfelt gratitude to all donors, volunteers, medical teams, and coordinators whose cooperation made this humanitarian initiative a great success, reaffirming the institutions' commitment to community welfare and social responsibility.

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## **Bangladesh Weighs Customs Duties on Indian Cotton & Yarn Imports**

*Date: 5 January 2026*

*Source: Hindustan Times and DNA India reports*



In a significant development affecting South Asian textile trade, Bangladesh is considering the imposition of customs duties and safeguard tariffs on cotton yarn and related products imported from India, one of its major suppliers of textile raw materials. This move comes amid growing concerns from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and other industry stakeholders that cheap imports from India are undermining local production and profitability.

Bangladesh's textile sector, which is pivotal to its economy as the world's second-largest garment exporter, relies heavily on imported cotton and yarn, with India traditionally supplying a large share due to competitive pricing and geographic proximity. However, a surge in yarn imports - reportedly up by more than 100% in recent periods - has intensified pressure on local spinning mills, leaving them with inventory surpluses and shrinking margins.

In response, industry leaders have formally lobbied the government to introduce a safeguard duty - potentially around 20% - on cotton yarn and blended yarn imports, seeking protection for domestic producers who argue that the current import pattern threatens the long-term viability of Bangladesh's backward linkage industries. The proposal has gained traction and is being actively reviewed by trade authorities, though an official duty notification is still awaited.

The proposed tariffs have drawn mixed reactions:

- Bangladesh's local spinners and textile mill owners believe that tariffs could help reduce the adverse impact of low-priced imports and encourage the use of locally produced yarn, strengthening the overall industry ecosystem.
- Garment exporters and downstream users, however, are concerned that higher raw material costs will erode competitiveness, increase production costs, and potentially weaken export performance.

This policy debate is occurring against the backdrop of wider shifts in India-Bangladesh trade relations. Earlier moves by Bangladesh to curb Indian yarn imports through land ports and India's reciprocal adjustments on trade routes have already begun reshaping cross-border textile flows, pushing many shipments to alternate channels and raising logistical costs for both countries.

If implemented, the customs duties on Indian cotton and yarn may not only impact bilateral trade volumes but also influence regional supply chains and pricing dynamics across the South Asian textile industry — a sector that remains a cornerstone of both Bangladesh's export economy and India's spinning and yarn manufacturing clusters.

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## **Gujarat on Its Way to Become a Textile Superpower: PM MITRA Park at Navsari**

Source: Fibre2Fashion / Textile Insights reporting on PM MITRA Park construction and PM Modi's announcement  
Date: 22 February 2024



Gujarat is steadily moving towards becoming a major global textile hub with the development of the PM MITRA (Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Park at Navsari. The mega project aims to create an integrated, world-class textile ecosystem covering the entire value chain from fibre to fashion.

The total project cost is estimated at Rs.2,069.79 crore, while external infrastructure works worth Rs.481.40 crore are currently under execution, including road connectivity, power supply, water systems, and other essential utilities to support industrial operations. The project has also received environmental clearance, paving the way for faster implementation and industrial development.

Spread over a large area in the Navsari district, the PM MITRA Park will provide plug-and-play facilities, common processing infrastructure, and sustainable utilities such as common effluent treatment systems. The park is expected to attract major domestic and foreign investments, promote large-scale manufacturing, boost exports, and generate substantial employment in the region.

This initiative aligns with the Government of India's 5F Vision - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, strengthening India's competitiveness in global textile markets and reinforcing Gujarat's position as a key textile growth engine of the country.

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## **PM Modi: India-Germany Trade Nears \$50 Billion, Tech & MSME Collaboration Gaining Pace**

*Source:* The South Asian Times / Ministry of External Affairs reporting

*Date:* 15 January 2026



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted a major milestone in India's global economic engagements, announcing that bilateral trade with Germany has surpassed the US \$50 billion mark - the highest in the history of the partnership. This surge in trade reflects deepening ties across multiple sectors and growing technological and MSME collaboration between the two nations.

Addressing the India-Germany CEOs Forum in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, alongside visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, PM Modi emphasized the strength of the two countries' relationship - rooted in shared values, mutual trust, and a commitment to innovation-driven growth. Leaders from both sides underscored how strategic collaborations in manufacturing, IT and services, automotive, energy, machinery, chemicals, semiconductors and digital technologies have not only enhanced economic ties but also driven technological advancement and research cooperation.

Modi pointed out that more than 2,000 German companies operate in India, demonstrating strong confidence in India's business environment and vast market potential. He invited German firms to further expand investment and technology partnerships in India, especially in emerging fields such as AI, Industry 4.0, renewable energy and critical minerals.

As part of the strengthened cooperation, a series of 19 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and joint declarations were signed - covering defence, technology, critical minerals, energy and more - signalling a broadening of the bilateral agenda beyond traditional trade. These include initiatives to co-develop defence capabilities, boost MSME linkages, and foster sustainable industrial growth.

In his remarks, Chancellor Merz emphasized the importance of open, trusted and resilient supply chains in a volatile global landscape, noting that deeper economic integration benefits both nations. Both leaders reaffirmed support for concluding the long-pending India-EU free trade agreement, which they believe will unlock further economic potential and broaden opportunities for businesses on both sides.

The India-Germany partnership - now a key pillar of India's relations with Europe - is poised to grow further with expanded cooperation in technology, defence, education and people-to-people exchanges, reflecting a shared commitment to innovation, sustainability and inclusive growth in the years ahead.

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## **India–EU FTA: Hopes of Conclusion in Next 15 Days**

Source: The Financial Express (reporting comments by the Foreign Secretary)

Date: January 14, 2026





India and the European Union (EU) are edging closer to finalizing their long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with strong hopes that the deal could be concluded within the next 15 days. This optimism was expressed by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri at a press conference on January 12.

The planned breakthrough comes as top EU leaders - European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa - prepare to visit New Delhi. Both leaders will be chief guests at India's Republic Day celebrations, and will then participate in the India-EU Summit on January 27. It is during these high-level engagements that India and the EU hope to advance discussions toward a favourable conclusion of the FTA negotiations.

The FTA talks between India and the EU formally began in July 2022, and since then both sides have held 14 rounds of negotiations. The proposed agreement spans 23 policy areas, carefully arranged into chapters covering goods, services, investment, and other key aspects of economic cooperation.

The EU is currently India's largest trading partner and a major investor. In the 2024-25 period, bilateral merchandise trade reached \$90.7 billion, with India's exports at \$51.0 billion and imports at \$39.7 billion.

The impending summit - and the expected conclusion of the FTA - could be a significant milestone in India-EU relations. A joint statement issued after summit-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz reaffirmed this shared priority. Both leaders "reiterated their support for the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement as a key outcome of the upcoming EU-India Summit", noting that its conclusion would facilitate trade flows and inject further momentum into German-Indian economic relations.

Successfully finalizing the FTA would not only deepen economic ties between India and the European Union but also pave the way for expanded market access and stronger investment linkages across sectors.

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## **Government Withdraws Textile Machinery Safety QCO - What It Means for the Industry?**

Source: Technical Textiles Today

Date: 23 January 2026



In January 2026, the Government of India formally withdrew the Quality Control Order (QCO) on textile machinery imports, a major regulatory relief for manufacturers and importers in the textile sector. The decision was communicated through a gazette notification dated 16 January 2026 issued by the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries, which rescinded the Machinery and Electrical Equipment Safety (Omnibus Technical Regulation) Order, 2024 that had been notified in August 2024.

The withdrawn QCO had been scheduled to take effect on 1 October 2026 after multiple postponements, and would have required mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for a wide range of imported machines including high-speed weaving looms, embroidery machines, knitting systems and processing equipment.

## Concrete Industry Implications

- **Import Compliance Removed:** Textile producers and importers will no longer need BIS safety certification for imported machinery, preserving access to advanced technologies from global suppliers.
- **Unrestricted Flow of Critical Equipment:** Specialized machines used for weaving, processing, spinning and embroidery will continue to enter India without regulatory bottlenecks.
- **Investment and Modernisation Ease:** The rollback eliminates anticipated compliance costs and extended lead times, thereby supporting capital expenditure plans, capacity expansion, and technology upgrades.

Industry bodies, especially in Gujarat's textile hubs such as Surat - where up to 95% of advanced machinery is imported - welcomed the move, noting that rigid certification requirements could have hindered productivity and competitiveness.

## Why It Matters

India's textile sector is currently valued at around US\$165 billion, and is projected to grow to about US\$350 billion by 2030, requiring investments in nearly 450,000 high-speed weaving machines - equipment that is largely not manufactured domestically. The QCO withdrawal thus removes a significant policy uncertainty that had clouded long-term planning in capital goods procurement.

Overall, the January 2026 rescission of the textile machinery safety QCO is seen as a pragmatic policy move that improves regulatory clarity, supports ongoing modernization drives, and reinforces India's ability to attract foreign technology and investment in the textile value chain.

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## **India's Cotton Harvest Set to Slip to Decade Low in 2026**

Source: Fibre2Fashion, based on ICRA estimates

Date: 5 January 2026



India's cotton production is projected to decline to a decade-low of 29.2 million bales in the 2026 cotton year (CYi), according to first advance estimates released by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and analyzed by credit rating agency ICRA. This represents an approximate 1.7 % year-on-year drop from the previous season and marks the lowest output level in the past ten years.

The anticipated contraction in the cotton harvest is attributed largely to a reduction in cultivated acreage, with sown area about 20 % below peak levels seen in 2021, despite a modest 1.8 % improvement in yield per hectare. A shift by farmers towards more remunerative crops and challenges such as uneven monsoons and water shortages in key growing regions have contributed to this acreage decline.

This raw material shortfall has already begun to impact cotton prices and spinning margins across major textile clusters, with regional markets such as Ludhiana reporting cotton price increases of Rs.2–Rs.5 per kg in early 2026 as mills compete for limited supplies. With domestic demand remaining broadly stable, Indian textile manufacturers are also scaling up import reliance, with inbound cotton volumes up by an estimated 85 % in the first five months of FY26 to bridge the supply deficit.



The projected 29.2 million bales output - on a base where one bale equals 170 kg - signals a period of heightened raw material pressure for the Indian textile value chain, particularly for cotton-intensive spinning and garmenting segments, and underscores the need for enhanced crop support mechanisms and diversified fibre strategies.

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## **Tamil Nadu Announces 20% Capital Subsidy for Weaving & Knitting Machines**

Date: 29 January 2026  
Source : Times of India



In a significant boost to the textile manufacturing ecosystem, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a 20 % capital subsidy for textile firms purchasing state-of-the-art weaving and knitting machinery. The announcement came during the International Textile Summit-360 held at the CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex in Coimbatore.

Under the scheme, which has an annual allocation of Rs.30 crore, eligible textile units - especially those investing in modern, automated machines - will be able to offset a substantial part of their capital expenditure. The incentive forms a key part of the Tamil Nadu New Integrated Textile Policy 2025–26, aimed at enhancing competitiveness, encouraging modernization, and strengthening the full textile value chain within the state.

Chief Minister Stalin highlighted that Tamil Nadu remains India's largest exporter of ready-made garments, accounting for about 33 % of the nation's total textile trade and directly employing over 31 lakh workers, more than 60 % of whom are women. He underlined that the subsidy initiative is a proactive response to

global trade challenges - including high tariffs in key export markets - and is designed to attract international investments and foster advanced manufacturing capabilities.

The announcement at the Summit also coincided with the release of the state's integrated textile policy and the signing of 55 MoUs worth Rs.915 crore, further underscoring Tamil Nadu's ambition to solidify its position as a leading textile and apparel hub in India.

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## **SASMIRA Amrit Mahotsav Culmination Ceremony: Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence**

Date : 12 January 2026



The Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA) marked the grand culmination of its Amrit Mahotsav celebrations with a distinguished ceremony held on 12 January 2026 at the Auditorium, SASMIRA Campus, Worli, Mumbai, commemorating 75 years of dedicated service to the textile and allied industries.

The ceremony was graced by Padma Shri Emeritus Professor Ganapati Dadasaheb Yadav as the Chief Guest, whose presence added immense academic and intellectual stature to the occasion. The esteemed dignitaries on the dais included Shri Amogh Shyamkant Kaloti, Hon'ble Charity Commissioner, and Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Maharashtra.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, symbolizing knowledge, progress, and innovation. This was followed by the welcome address delivered by Dr. Ashok Kumar Tiwari, Director General, SASMIRA, who reflected on SASMIRA's journey over the past seven and a half decades and its pivotal role in strengthening India's textile ecosystem through research, innovation, testing, and industry collaboration.

In his keynote address, Prof. Ganapati D. Yadav highlighted the critical advancements in textile chemicals, the growing importance of zero-carbon initiatives, and the urgent need for sustainability-driven innovation in the textile value chain. He emphasized the role of research institutions like SASMIRA in guiding the industry towards environmentally responsible and globally competitive practices.

Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, in his inspiring address, motivated students and young professionals to pursue excellence, innovation, and entrepreneurship, underscoring the importance of skill development and industry-academia collaboration in shaping the future of India's textile sector.

Adding a note of encouragement, SASMIRA President Shri Mihir Mehta extended his best wishes to the students and young researchers, urging them to build successful and meaningful careers while contributing to the sustainable growth of the textile industry.

The Amrit Mahotsav Culmination Ceremony stood as a proud milestone in SASMIRA's legacy, celebrating its 75-year commitment to research, technology, sustainability, and industry service, while reaffirming its vision to remain a trusted partner in India's textile progress for decades to come.

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NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL- EXHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES				
SNo.	Name of the Fairs	Country	City	Date/Month
1.	The National Textiles Ministers' Conference under the theme "India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation", the meet will bring together national and state leaders to shape India's textile future.	India	Guwahati, Assam, India.	Jan 8–9, 2026.
2.	International Conference on Textiles 2030 Navigating Geopolitics, Technology Innovations and Global Expectations	India	Hotel The Lalit, Mumbai , Sahar Airport Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai – 400 059, India.	Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
3.	Caspian Textile Expo 2026	Baku, Azerbaijan	Baku Expo Center, Baku, Azerbaijan	11 – 14 March 2026
4.	6 <sup>th</sup> Edition The FAB CMAI Show – India's largest Fabrics and Accessories Sourcing Show	India	Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai.	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026
5.	Indo Intertex 2026	Indonesia	Jakarta International Expo, Jakarta, Indonesia	15 – 18 April 2026
6.	Techtextil Frankfurt 2026	Germany	Messe Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany	21 – 24 April 2026
7.	ITMA Asia + CITME 2026	Shanghai, China	National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC), Shanghai, China	20 – 24 November 2026
8.	Heimtextil	Germany	Germany	13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 to 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026
9.	Dhaka International Yarn & Fabric Show (Winter)	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2026
10.	Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics / Yarn Expo	China	China	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 to 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026



## SASMA MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

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