

# Apparel

## INDIA

### INDIA-UAE CEPA

## TRADE PACT TO BENEFIT LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES



KEY  
HIGHLIGHTS  
OF BUDGET  
FOR APPAREL  
SECTOR



## AEPC's

Dedicated Virtual Platform for  
SHOWCASING and Exhibiting Garments throughout the year



SCAN QR FOR  
BUYER /EXHIBITOR  
REGISTRATION

For Details / Clarifications, Please Contact :  
**Abhinandan Rajpal**, General Manager-IT

Ph. – 0124-2708110, Mob – 9313429666 • E-mail : [gmit@aepcindia.com](mailto:gmit@aepcindia.com)

## Dear Friends,

**W**e celebrated the Council's 44th Foundation Day on 22 February 2022 with Textiles Secretary Shri Upendra Prasad Singh and Trade Advisor Ms Shubhra.

It has been a fascinating journey from a quota monitoring and export promotion body to the Council that today offers services such as skilling, assessment, advocacy, capacity building, IPR, AI, innovations, market intelligence, circularity and sustainability.

Shri Singh said that India's textile exports could increase to \$100 billion in the next five years riding on PLI and PM MITRA schemes. He said the apparel industry should focus on vertical integration to increase its scale. This is true as at current capacity, we may not be able to pick up orders as much as buyers want to ship away from China.

I heartily congratulate the government for signing trade pact CEPA between India and the UAE – first of the many to come FTAs with other countries – as it will strengthen India's dominant position in the UAE, where our share is already 43 per cent.

I believe similar free trade deals with countries and regions such as the UK, the EU, Israel, Canada and Australia will also be finalized by the end of this year, and textiles will be one of India's top priority areas in these. Australia is a focus area for apparel exports since similar products are manufactured in India at similar price points.

To sort out the issues related to RoSCTL, I have requested the Hon'ble Commerce and Textiles Minister and also Textiles Secretary for deletion of the provision that makes transferees liable from the RoSCTL conditions. I have also requested the PMO to provide RoSCTL through a cash transfer mechanism rather than scrip based mechanism, which does not result in the exporter getting the full refund of the taxes paid. I am extremely thankful to Dr TV Somanathan, Finance Secretary and Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance, for sparing time and listening to the challenges faced by exporters on account of procedural implementation of RoSCTL.

On the PLI scheme front, I have requested the Textiles Secretary to include 10 high potential MMF



garment products under the scheme. Further, we have suggested that PLI applicants should also be allowed to avail all the benefits of TUF scheme in case they are not meeting criteria under the PLI scheme.

We have been doing a great job in organizing virtual B2B meetings with apparel buyers from various countries. To make it more effective, we are collecting details of products (HS Codes at 6 digit level) that our members specialize in for better matchmaking. We will soon be meeting with buyers from Italy, Israel, Serbia and Belgium.

While there are significant concerns related to the EU and the UK markets due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis and about payments from Russia due to the sanctions, sourcing and apparel shows are back in business after a gap of two years of pandemic.

The AEPC participated physically in Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, USA during 13-16 February 2022 with 17 participants. We will also be participating in India Tex Trend Fair (ITTF), Tokyo, Japan in physical mode during 29-31 March 2022. Members are invited to join in these shows.

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

Wish you all an excellent year of scaling up and new orders!

**Mr Narendra Goenka**  
**Chairman, AEPC**

# EVENTS CALENDAR

*DETAILS OF EVENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22*

29-31 March 2022



**THE INDIA TEX TREND FAIR 'ITTF'  
TOKYO, JAPAN**

# Apparel INDIA

INSPIRE.  
INFORM.  
CONNECT.

YR 22 | ISSUE 03 | MARCH 2022 | Pages 60



**CHAIRMAN AEPC**  
Mr Narendra Goenka

**CHAIRMAN EP**  
Mr Gautam Nair

**Secretary General, AEPC**  
Dr LB Singhal

**ADVISOR AEPC**  
Mrs Chandrima Chatterjee

**PUBLISHER**  
Apparel Export Promotion Council  
Apparel House, Sector-44,  
Institutional Area, Gurugram,  
HARYANA – 122003.  
Phone: 0124-2708000  
www.aepcindia.com



**VANMAN COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Content & Design**  
Vanman Communications Pvt Ltd  
Email: vanmancommunications@gmail.com

**Printing Press**  
Royal Press, New Delhi  
Email: royalpress2014@gmail.com

- 01 | CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**
- 02 | EVENTS CALENDAR**
- 04 | KEY STATISTICS**
  - RMG Exports Grow 19% in January 2022
  - Textile Manufacturing up 8% in December 2021
- 06 | UPFRONT**
  - 'Apparel industry should go for backward integration'
- 08 | COVER STORY**
  - India-UAE CEPA: Trade pact to benefit labour intensive industries
- 14 | SPECIAL FEATURE**
  - Comeback of fashion weeks... in a new avatar
- 16 | BUDGET SPECIAL**
  - Key highlights of Budget 2022-23 for apparel sector
- 19 | COUNCIL AFFAIRS**
  - AEPC participates in sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas
  - AEPC Chairman writes to Finance Secretary on RoSCTL
  - AEPC bids farewell to Dr Sakthivel
  - TSGCCI conducts road show
  - AEPC to participate in preview in Daegu-2022
  - FKCCI holds programme on MSMEs
  - ROTXC holds Webex meeting
- 25 | ATDC DIGEST**
  - ATDC signs MoU to train 180 students in Jharkhand
  - ATDC partners with Creative Group
- 26 | FOCUS COUNTRY**
  - Spain to grow at 5.8% in 2022
- 32 | INDIA NEWS**
  - ABFRL to create D2C business platform
  - India, Japan review progress of JITs
  - MSME units capable of constituting complete supply chain
  - Race to reach \$1 trillion in exports: Shri Goyal
  - India, Australia to finalize interim trade agreement

- Textile minister meets fashion designers
- Union budget 2022-23 aims to make India future ready
- 2.78 lakh youths trained under ESDP
- 3.46 lakh beneficiaries to be trained under Samarth scheme
- Proposals for PM MITRA parks to be sent by 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Van Heusen opens outlet at Padrauna
- Peter England launches its 400<sup>th</sup> outlet
- Work to improve weavers, artisans' income: Shri Goyal
- 42 | GLOBAL NEWS**
  - M&S urges customers to donate used clothing
  - Abercrombie & Fitch earns perfect score in CEI
  - AEO raises 2023 fiscal targets
  - ASOS, ASI sign new partnership
  - H&M studio unveils SS22 collection
  - Ralph Lauren unveils RLX Clarus Polo Shirt
  - BGMEA, BKMEA form committee to benchmark prices
  - Burberry recognized in Bloomberg GEI
  - Burberry reveals spring/summer 2022 collections
  - H&M Man launches essentials
  - Levi Strauss reports net revenue of \$1.7 billion in Q4
  - Uniqlo renews title sponsorship for tennis tour
  - Alison Loehnis joins Lululemon BoD
  - Bestseller to make its online business climate-friendly
- 52 | NOTIFICATIONS**
- 54 | ADVANTAGES OF AEPC MEMBERSHIP**
- 56 | GST UPDATE**
- 60 | MEDIA COVERAGE**

# RMG EXPORTS GROW 19% IN JANUARY 2022

## India's Ready-Made Garment (RMG) Export Update for the month of January of the FY 2021-22

RMG exports were to the tune of USD 1546.4 million in January, 2022 showing a positive growth of 19.3% against the corresponding month of January, 2021 and a growth of 6.4% against January, 2020. Cumulative RMG exports for the period Apr-Jan, 2021-22 is USD 12677.8 mn. showing a positive growth of 33.3% against the period Apr-Jan, 2020-21.

In Rupee terms, RMG exports were to the tune of INR 11511.6 crore in January, 2022 showing a positive growth of 21.5% against the corresponding month of January, 2021 and a positive growth of 11.2% percent against January, 2020.

India's RMG Export to World							
Month	(In US\$ Mn.)			MoM Growth (%)			
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22
				Over	Over	Over	Over
				2018-19	2019-20	2019-20	2020-21
April	1408.8	126.8	1297.8	4.2	-91.0	-7.9	923.2
May	1530.1	517.0	1107.3	14.2	-66.2	-27.6	114.2
June	1233.5	804.3	1003.3	-9.2	-34.8	-18.7	24.7
July	1365.8	1065.7	1389.3	7.1	-22.0	1.7	30.4
August	1261.9	1085.6	1238.0	-2.4	-14.0	-1.9	14.0
September	1080.6	1192.9	1301.2	-2.2	10.4	20.4	9.1
October	1108.9	1180.1	1255.7	-2.0	6.4	13.2	6.4
November	1058.5	1047.1	1072.2	-6.4	-1.1	1.3	2.4
December	1409.5	1195.8	1466.4	2.4	-15.2	4.0	22.6
January	1453.5	1295.9	1546.4	-4.9	-10.8	6.4	19.3
February	1477.9	1349.5		-4.4	-8.7		
March	1120.5	1427.3		-34.8	27.4		
Total	15509.5	12288.1	12677.8	-4.0	-20.8	-1.8	33.3

**Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata, 2022**

**Note- 1) Data for the month of January, 2022 is Provisional data released by Ministry of Commerce on 15.02.2022. 2) Sum of the value from (Apr-Jan) 2019-2020 is USD 12911.1 mn and (Apr-Jan) 2020-21 is USD 9511.3 mn and (Apr-Jan) 2021-22 is USD 12677.8 mn**

For more Details on India's RMG Exports data, please visit AEPC's website>Resource Section>Export Statistics

# TEXTILE MANUFACTURING UP 8% IN DECEMBER 2021

India's Textile & Ready-Made Garment (RMG) Update for Index for Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of December of the FY 2021-22

Month	Manufacture of Textiles		MoM Growth Rate (In %)	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel		MoM Growth Rate (In %)
	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22/2020-21	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22/2020-21
April	11	113.2	#	9.7	136.1	#
May	40.2	106.6	165.2	62.6	120.4	92.3
June	63.1	110.7	75.4	105.9	132.7	25.3
July	93.9	117.5	25.1	112.5	115.1	2.3
August	96.6	118.9	23.1	113.8	117.1	2.9
September	105.4	119.4	13.3	121.4	121.1	-0.2
October	110.7	122.2	10.4	119.9	122.6	2.3
November	108.9	117.6	8.0	101.7	135.7	33.4
December	114.9	124.2*	8.1#	140.0	148.5*	6.1#
Cumulative Index (Apr-Dec)	82.7	117.3	41.8	98.6	127.0	28.8

Source: CSO, 2022

\* Figures for Dec 2021 are Quick Estimates

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



- Manufacturing of Textiles Index for the month of Dec, 2021 is 124.2 which has shown a positive growth of 8.1% as compared to Dec, 2020.
- Manufacturing of Textiles Index for the financial year Apr-Dec, 2021-22 is 117.3 which has shown a positive growth of 41.8 % as compared to the financial year Apr-Dec, 2020-21.
- Manufacturing of Wearing Apparel Index for the month of Dec, 2021 is 148.5 which has shown a growth of 6.1 % as compared to Dec, 2020.
- Manufacturing of Wearing Apparel Index for the financial year Apr- Dec, 2021-22 is 127.0 which has shown a positive growth of 28.8 % as compared to the financial year Apr- Dec, 2020-21.

# ‘APPAREL INDUSTRY SHOULD GO FOR BACKWARD INTEGRATION’

## 44<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

- *AEPC celebrates its 44<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day*
- *Apparel exports likely to breach \$20 bn next fiscal or year after that*
- *Textile exports likely to cross \$100 bn from current \$40 bn in 5 years*



**T**extiles Secretary Mr Upendra Prasad Singh suggested that the Indian apparel industry must focus on vertical integration to increase its scale and size and to benefit from the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

Speaking at the 44th Foundation Day of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on 22 Feb 2022, Mr Singh said, “I understand apparel and garmenting is not very investment centric but it is very important from an employment point of view. Perhaps, there is a need for backward integration and more of you can get into integrated value-chain like spinning and weaving.”

Virtually addressing the Foundation Day, the Textiles Secretary said that along with the PLI scheme, the

government is committed to make the Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme a success. Idea is not to just have a world class infrastructure but also a thriving industry there, he said.

Stating that textile has always been among the top priorities of the government, he said, “There are a lot of big opportunities. The demand continues to be robust and the China plus one sourcing strategy by the west is certainly a great opportunity for us.”

Mr Singh said that it all depended on how good, efficient and integrated the Indian apparel industry is and how it increases its size and scale. “AEPC has a big role to play. Let us not get into just the macro figure, let us get into the micro level. Let us go product by product





and country by country,” he said.


“We should be in a position to breach \$20 billion apparel exports by next fiscal or the year after that,” Mr Singh said, adding that the country’s textile exports can increase from the current \$40 billion to \$100 billion in the next five years. Ms Shubhra, Trade Adviser in the Ministry of Textiles, also attended the Foundation Day.

AEPC Chairman Mr Narendra Goenka shared the journey of the AEPC since its establishment in 1978 from a quota monitoring and export promotion body to the Council that today offers services ranging from skilling, assessment, market intelligence, advocacy, capacity building programs on financial risks, compliance management, IPR issues, AI and technology driven production innovations, lean and six sigma, circularity, sustainability, among others.

Mr Goenka listed down the key priorities for the

apparel sector namely leverage policy support for improving scales, product diversification, leverage the upcoming FTAs, create new USPs based on sustainability and responsible business, use technology and AI for leaner supply chain, and better branding.

AEPC Vice Chairman Mr Sudhir Sekhri spoke about the initiatives taken by AEPC for the holistic growth of the apparel sector. Delivering the vote of thanks, Past Chairman Mr Premal Udani said that India needs to build its size to be able to consume the raw materials produced in the country. While India may be behind Bangladesh and Vietnam in terms of apparel exports, the country is ahead of them in net exports, he said.

AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India, under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles, which provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/ international buyers. 



# INDIA-UAE CEPA TRADE PACT TO BENEFIT LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES



India -UAE CEPA, aimed at boosting goods trade to \$100 billion over next five years, marks a new era of economic cooperation. It is a win-win situation as the deal is likely to generate 10 lakh jobs across labour intensive sectors like textiles in India and help the UAE further consolidate its global position as a gateway for trade and investment.

**O**n 18 February 2022, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a historic trade and investment deal – Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). It is aimed at boosting the merchandise trade between the two countries to \$100 billion over the next five years – nearly double from the current levels.

The pact was signed and exchanged by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister of Economy of UAE His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri in the virtual presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

“The (CEPA) agreement will provide significant benefits to Indian and UAE businesses, including enhanced market access and reduced tariffs. It is expected that the CEPA will lead to increase in bilateral trade from the current \$60 billion to \$100 billion in the next five years,” the Indian Prime Minister’s Office said in a statement.

With the CEPA, around 90 per cent of the products exported from India to the UAE will attract zero duty. Maximum benefit will go to labour intensive industries, MSMEs and startups. The trade pact will generate 10 lakh jobs across sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, footwear, furniture, pharma, agriculture and food products, medical devices, engineering goods, plastics, sports goods and automobiles, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

#### VIRTUAL SUMMIT

The deal was the major highlight of the virtual summit between Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Both the leaders issued a joint vision statement “Advancing the India and UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New Milestone”.

The statement establishes a roadmap for a future-oriented partnership between India and UAE, and identifies focus areas and outcomes. The shared objective is to promote new trade, investment and innovation dynamic in diverse sectors, including economy, energy, climate action, emerging technologies, skills and education, food security, healthcare and defence and security.

Two MoUs signed between Indian and UAE entities were also announced during the summit. These are



MoU between APEDA (India) and DP World & Al Dahra (UAE) on 'Food Security Corridor Initiative' and MoU between India's Gift City and Abu Dhabi Global Market on cooperation in financial projects and services. Under the former agreement, India will play an important role in food security of the UAE. Two other MoUs – one on cooperation in climate action and the other on education have also been signed.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "I am happy at the signing of the CEPA between our two nations today. It is noteworthy that such an important agreement has been concluded in a record time of less than three months. Such agreements generally take years for conclusion. The agreement demonstrates the deep friendship, shared vision and the trust between the two countries."

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said, "The UAE, under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, continues to consolidate its global position as a gateway for trade and investment. India is one of our most important strategic partners, and this deal brings us closer than ever before."

At the virtual summit, both the leaders laid out their future vision of the historic and friendly relations between the two countries, at a time when India is celebrating 75 years of independence as 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' and the UAE is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

#### COMPREHENSIVE, FAIR AND SAFE

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said, "The historic economic agreement demonstrates the commitment of our leaders to the bold Projects of the 50, launched in our pursuit of the next 50 years of progress and prosperity. Future generations will benefit from this forward-looking vision aimed at stimulating growth and doubling our trade with the world and to strengthen the UAE's knowledge and innovation-driven economy.

"This deal promises to provide significant benefits to the UAE and Indian businesses, including reduced tariffs and enhanced market access, while also breathing new life into trading corridors from Africa to Asia and

laying the foundations for growth and prosperity that will benefit the entire region."

The CEPA is the first bilateral trade accord concluded by the UAE, and it is India's first in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It will transform bilateral economic and investment ties, open up emerging trade routes between Africa and Asia, promote global trade liberalization and propel economic growth in a post-Covid world.

Bilateral relations between India and the UAE have strengthened in all areas of mutual interest in the past few years; both sides had embarked upon a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2017. Ministerial visits between the two sides have continued. This strategic partnership laid the foundations for the CEPA signed between the two nations.

The UAE is India's third largest trade partner and bilateral trade is expected to surpass \$60 billion mark in the current financial year. India ranks as the UAE's number one trading partner for non-oil exports, accounting for nearly 14 per cent of the UAE's total non-oil exports globally. CEPA may increase the total value of bilateral trade to over \$100 billion within five years.

Bilateral trade, investment and energy relations between India and the UAE have remained robust. Signing of the CEPA is a testament to these longstanding bilateral trade and investment linkages. Both sides are also strengthening their cooperation in new areas of renewable energy like green hydrogen, climate action, start-ups, skilling, fintech and healthtech, the official statement said.

The agreement covers the widest possible array of subjects from free trade to digital economy to government procurement and several other strategic areas of mutual interest in a most balanced, fair and equitable terms understanding each other's sensitivities.

There are many firsts in the CEPA agreement. The UAE has agreed to automatic registration and market authorization for Indian medicines in case of their regulatory approval in developed countries such as USA, EU, UK and Japan. The deal also has a permanent safeguard mechanism which can be resorted to in a



situation of sudden surge in imports along with strict rules of origin, which will prevent products from other countries through the CEPA route.

Shri Goyal said that the CEPA provides for a permanent bilateral safeguard mechanism to deal with sudden surge in imports of any product. It also has stringent 'rules of origin' reflecting requirements for substantial processing of up to 40 per cent value addition.

He observed that both India and the UAE are natural partners with several complementarities and hardly any elements of competitions. He said that both nations believed in rules based fair trade, in engaging with each other in a spirit of reciprocity and were determined that people and businesses of both countries must mutually benefit from the deepening engagement.

#### CEPA BENEFITS

Indian jewellery exporters will get duty-free access to the UAE, which currently imposes a 5 per cent customs duty on such products. This will substantially raise its jewellery exports, since Indian designed jewellery enjoy a great market reputation. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of India International Jewellery Show (IJS) Signature 2022, organised by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Shri Goyal said that the sector is a strong pillar of the Indian economy. He said that the sector is expected to achieve export target of \$40 billion this year. He said the sector is expected to register growth of 6.5 per cent over the pre-Covid levels.

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, a day after the signing of the trade deal, the Hon'ble Minister said that the pact is extremely beneficial for MSMEs, startups, farmers, traders and all sections of businesses. He informed that the partnership will open doors especially to labour intensive Indian products, which are exported to the UAE.

The UAE has offered immediate market access at zero duty from day one of the entry into force of the agreement, to products accounting for 90 per cent of India's exports to UAE in value terms. Around 90 per cent of products exported from India to UAE will attract

zero duty with implementation of the agreement. About 80 per cent lines of trade will attract zero duty, remaining 20 per cent does not affect Indian exports much, so this is a win-win agreement.

Throwing light on the benefits to various sectors, Shri Goyal said, "The CEPA brings the two nations closer. It will open many new opportunities for Indians to work in the UAE, including in fintech, edtech, green tech, automation and artificial intelligence. Technology, digital trade and sustainability have a big focus in the partnership."

#### INDUSTRY INTERACTION

Interacting with industry representatives on India-UAE CEPA in Mumbai on 21 February 2022, Shri Goyal personally briefed the industry stakeholders about the agreement so that the industry could look at these engagements seriously and gain the maximum from the development. He said the hallmark of the CEPA is the 100 per cent inter-ministerial and stakeholder concurrence.

"India and UAE are natural partners due to the complementary nature of economies and increasing trade will increase synergy across all domains such as MSMEs, startups, exporters, companies and people. Indian industry can explore avenues for startups in the UAE while the startups may find investors in the Emirates," he said.

Plastics industry is likely to witness a significant jump in exports with the signing of the deal as plastic raw materials will become cheaper. The preferential access to the UAE market will induce increase in exports projected at \$1.3 billion. During 2020-21, India exported plastics worth \$418 million to the UAE.

Shri Goyal also assured that the farmers have been fully protected in the India-UAE pact and that the food processing sector in the country will get a boost.

#### FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF INDIA

- 1 Geographical diversification is desired by partner country UAE, and hence opening up market for India



2. With five more countries coming on board, access to middle east will be enhanced
3. Number of countries from African continent will also be opened through UAE markets
4. European countries close to UAE would also be accessible
5. Increased trade opportunities with UAE not will benefit Indian population in UAE but also through remittances to India

### GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

Shri Goyal also informed that the government is looking forward to conclude a similar economic partnership agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries during 2022 itself.

He said that the Secretary General of the GCC has expressed the desire to fast track the negotiations and added, “We are also confident in our negotiating ability. We have conducted negotiations in a rapid manner with UAE, and we believe that a similar agreement on trade would be concluded with the GCC in this year itself.”

GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region namely Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain with a combined nominal GDP of \$1.6 trillion. India is also negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with other countries such as the UK, Australia, EU and Israel.

### APPAREL EXPORTERS

Welcoming the trade deal between India and the UAE, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Mr Narendra Goenka said that it will further strengthen

India’s dominant position in the UAE.

“With India supplying \$1,515 million of apparel to the UAE as against its total imports of \$3,517 million, Indian apparel exports contribute a decent share of 43%. The agreement would result in a drop of 5% import duty for Indian readymade garments (RMG). This will further strengthen the dominant position of Indian apparels in the UAE.

“The government has been taking several initiatives to boost exports from the country and generate employment. This trade pact will benefit the Indian apparels particularly the knitted garments and increase significant employment opportunities in clusters pan India,” Mr Goenka said on Saturday, a day after the signing of CEPA.

The textiles and apparel industry in India is the second largest employer in the country providing direct employment to 45 million people and 60 million people in the allied industries.

The Chairman thanked the government for signing the biggest trade agreement in the past seven years and expressed hope that other FTAs with important countries and regions are also concluded at the earliest.

“Tracing the export chain, we find that our apparel exports to the UAE also cater to the apparel needs of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the UK. The UAE is a large retail market with players across the value chain including big western fashion chains, wholesale buyers from North Africa and the Middle East,” Mr Goenka said.

The CEPA is likely to generate additional demand for several apparel items from India. In the knitted garment



# Imports of RMG into UAE (Global versus India)										
		India's exports to United Arab Emirates			United Arab Emirates's imports from world			% Share of India		
		2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
	Apparel	1900.3	1859.4	1515.3	4604.3	4438.9	3517.4	41.3	41.9	43.1
'61	Knitted garments	1099.4	1126.1	889.9	2431.3	2344.3	1868.6	45.2	48.0	47.6
'62	Woven garments	800.9	733.4	625.4	2173.0	2094.6	1648.8	36.9	35.0	37.9

# Percentage share of India versus competing countries in UAE garment imports			
Apparel suppliers (USD in mn)	2018	2019	2020
China	31.57	30.42	30.90
India	41.27	41.89	43.08
Bangladesh	9.38	9.39	9.59
Italy	6.27	6.47	6.75
Turkey	5.45	5.55	5.44
Vietnam	4.52	4.77	4.90
Cambodia	3.46	3.23	3.59

segment, there will be a hike in exports of t-shirts, shirts, babies' garments, trousers and briefs. In the woven garment segment, women's dresses, tracksuits, babies' garments, trousers, shorts, shawls, scarves and veils will get the maximum benefit.

However, in order to analyse the actual advantage India could possibly have from the CEPA would depend on various factors, he said.

“Not all products that are high on import demand in the UAE are core export strengths of India. The key factors that would determine the extent of benefit from CEPA are the import demand of specific RMG products in UAE, production strength/ export capability of Indian companies in these products, and acceptance of Indian products into UAE,” Mr Goenka said. ■



# COMEBACK OF FASHION WEEKS... IN A NEW AVATAR



**T**he Big Four fashion weeks – Paris, Milan, London and New York – got back in full swing this February 2022 after spending about two years in virtual space. While this marks the return of normal business for many in the fashion industry, the fashion shows have undergone a major transformation and this is going to stay.

As more and more notable fashion shows return to the pre-pandemic physical form, the future of fashion events became evident during New York Fashion Week (11-16 February), London Fashion Week (18-22 February), Milan Fashion Week (22-28 February) and Paris Fashion Week (28 February to 8 March).

After indulging and engaging in the virtual world for two years, the Big Four shows have returned to the runway of glitz and glamour but in a phygital format. While physical catwalks continue to be exclusive for industry insiders, the digital versions of high fashion are engaging a much

larger global audience.

Big brands and haute couture designers have roped in A-list celebrities for films, livestreaming of shows is on, cautious brands have opted for less formal events with a select audience, and young designers are setting social media abuzz. All this along with packed live shows, some of which are also entering the metaverse.

New York Fashion Week, which returned to physical shows in September 2021, has embraced the ‘new normal’ with a mix of in-person and digital presentations. Same in February 2022, some parts of the show were held in physical mode and some virtually. Covid-19 protocols including masks and tests were mandatory for show-goers.

London Fashion Week, which was the first to go online from physical format at the outbreak of pandemic, returned to a packed physical schedule with few people wearing masks this February. More than 50 labels preferred the





runway as journalists, influencers and celebrities braved high wind speeds in the UK capital to witness in-person.

Milan Fashion Week, too, has returned to the pre-pandemic physical form with hectic schedules featuring catwalks, photoshoots and celebrities like Kim Kardashian and Bella Hadid. Prada paid tribute to the feminine group and Giorgio Armani hosted a silent show to pay tribute to the people suffering in the Ukrainian crisis.

Paris Fashion Week is also back in a phygital format with 37 presentations and 13 digital events running side by side 45 houses and brands on live catwalks. However, pandemic did leave its impact on some of the designs. Louis Vuitton presented the last collection of Virgil Abloh, who died in November at the age of 41.

While Michael Kors, Christian Siriano and Carolina Herrera presented in New York, some have cancelled their shows due to the recent surge in Covid cases. Victoria Beckham, Burberry and JW Anderson did not showcase in London. Asian buyers and editors remained absent in Milan due to pandemic restrictions in their countries.

The return of fashion shows has injected life, action and business for many engaged in the sector like models, makeup artists, photographers and staff apart from brands and designers. Absence of some of the big names actually helped young designers with more space and

attention to showcase their talent.

Canadian fashion designer Tanya Taylor said she was happy that fashion weeks are back. She said that emerging designers feel excited about the space to be creative. American designer Michael Halpern shared his experience of coming back to the runway. He said he tried to convey his message through his designs.

Youngest Indian designer Binal Patel, who presented her designs in Paris, said that the opportunity has given wings to her entire team who supported her through the highs and lows. She said that it was a dream come true moment for her and the team whose efforts have paid off. It was an India proud moment, she said.

While all the fashion shows have taken on the phygital format in varying degrees, Paris Fashion Week has led the Big Four in the digitalisation and virtualisation process of its platform and the shows. It has tied up with French tech startup Stage 11 for integrating with metaverse and next generation of internet Web 3.0.

Students of French Fashion Institute are showcasing their digital fashion collection in the metaverse. Digital fashion allows gaining experience without the expense of making real clothes. Parisian newcomer label Egonlab has lined up non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and metaverse digital clothing. NFTs are the couture of the metaverse. 

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET 2022-23 FOR APPAREL SECTOR



## a. Changes in facility of import of Trimmings and Embellishments

Facility of import of Trimmings and Embellishments under Serial No 311 of Principal Notification No 50/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017 had been deleted in last budget, 2021-22 vide Notification No 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021. AEPC had made a number of representations on this issue. Chairman, AEPC had a meeting with Chairman, CBIC on the same as recently as on 14.01.2022. In the Union Budget 2022-23, the facility of import of trimmings and embellishments has now

been allowed. Trimmings and Embellishments, as given under S. No 311 has been allowed now under S.No 257B of notification no. 02/2022-Customs dated 01.02.2022.

Earlier, when these items under S. No. 311 were allowed, they were subjected to an overall limit of 5% of FOB value of the garments exported and value realized during the previous year and this included import of lining and interlining material of 2% of FOB of FOB value of the garments exported and value realized during the previous year. However, with the inclusion of these items under S. No 257B, there is no value cap so long as

imports are being made by the bonafide exporter for use in the manufacture of textile garments for exports. Such import will be subject to condition, as given under Serial No 9 and 108.

**b. Changes in facility of import of Tags, labels, stickers, belts, buttons, hangers or printed bags**

For import of items under Serial No 257, under Notification No 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021 the condition no 9 has been added. As per Notification No 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021, items allowed for import under Serial No 257 comprises Tags, labels, stickers, belts, buttons, hangers or printed bags (whether made of polythene, polypropylene, PVC, high molecular or high density polyethylene), imported by bonafide exporters.

Earlier, import under S. No 257 was governed by condition no 108 only. Vide notification no. 02/2022-Customs dated 01.02.2022, these imports will be

governed under condition no. 9 and 108.

Condition no. 9 under notification no. 50/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017 states “If the importer follows the procedure set out in the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017”. The Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty Rules, 2017 requires one time continuity bond, quarterly returns and maintenance of accounts, intimation before the import and other conditions, as detailed at Para 4 of the Circular.

While condition number 9 has been added, the condition no 108, as per notified vide notification no 02/2022-Customs dated 01.02.2022 has been simplified considerably as compared to condition earlier provided vide notification no. 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021. It now requires that “if the items manufactured using the imported goods are exported by the importer within six months of the date of the import of the said imported goods”





“I am extremely grateful to the Hon’ble Finance Minister for taking care of our liquidity requirements by extending credit linked guarantee scheme ECLGS by one year till March 2023 and by increasing the coverage by Rs 50,000 crore. Most of the apparel exporters are in the MSME category and many are still struggling with the impact of disruptions caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Trimmings and embellishments like fasteners, inlay cards, linings and interlinings, laces, etc that are used for branding and are nominated by the buyers were allowed duty free earlier. Most of the exporters import these items because of the buyers’ nomination and need to be sourced from defined sources within sharp timelines. Resumption of the facility will help apparel exporters make their products more internationally competitive. This is a big relief for small exporters”

**AEPC Chairman Mr Narendra Goenka**

- (c) buckles, eyelets, hooks and eyes, rivets
- (d) collar stays, collar patties, butterfly and other garment stays including plastic stays
- (e) embroidery motifs or prints
- (f) laces
- (g) badges including embroidered badges
- (h) sequins
- (i) toggles
- (j) studs
- (k) printed bags
- (l) anti-theft devices like labels, tags and sensors
- (m) poly pouch, high density sticker, heat transfer sticker
- (n) anglets on draw strings-hooded jacket
- (o) pin bullets for packing, plastic tag bullets, metal tabs, bows, ring and slider and rings;
- (p) lining and inter-lining materials
- (q) wet blue chrome tanned leather

**These have been made effective from 02.02.2022 and are valid till 31.03.2024**

**c. Changes in facility of import of lining and interlining material**

Lining and interlining material which was earlier under serial no 288 of Notification No 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021 was allowed upto 2% of FOB value of the garments exported and value realized during the previous year, as per condition no 28.

Now, import of lining and interlining material been allowed under S.No 257B vide notification no 02/2022-Customs dated 01.02.2022. The imports are allowed now without any limit.

**d. With the above changes, the new entries under Serial No 257 B of the new notification reads as under:-**

The following goods, when imported by bonafide exporters for use in the manufacture of textile or leather garments for export, namely: -


- (a) fasteners including buttons and snap fasteners, zip fasteners
- (b) inlay cards

**CHANGES IN THE ECLGS SCHEME**

Liquidity requirements of ECLGS have been extended by one year till March 2023. The Government announced the extension of guarantee cover by another Rs.50,000 Crore taking the total cover under the scheme to Rs.5 lakh Crore. CGTMSE scheme will be revamped with the required infusion of funds. This will facilitate additional credit of Rs 2 lakh crore for micro and small enterprises and expand employment opportunities.

**TAX BENEFITS FOR NEW UNITS**

The corporate tax rate has been kept at the same level. However, a concessional corporate tax rate of 15 percent would be available for one more year till March 2024 for newly incorporated manufacturing companies.

The extension of the benefit of 15 per cent tax for the newly incorporated manufacturing units by one more year to March 2024 will be instrumental in bringing in fresh investments. This would specifically help in bringing in new investment in the new units under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for MMF garments, MMF fabrics and technical textiles. 

# AEPC PARTICIPATES IN SOURCING AT MAGIC, LAS VEGAS



**A**pparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) participated in its flagship overseas event of Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, from 13-16 February 2022.

During this edition, more than 5,000 buyers visited the show which was equally supported by two fairs—Project at Magic and WWD Show (American Retailers Show)—at the same venue. More than 350 exhibitors from 23 countries took part in this mega event.

Seventeen exhibitors mostly from MSME with different production capacity and price tags participated in the event. Their collections were kids wear, women's wear, men's wear, t-shirts, scarfs, natural dyes and sustainable products, baby's garments, winter jackets, blouse, trousers, jewellery, bags and accessories, children night wear, embroidered woven ladies and kids garments.

On the first day of the fair on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Consul General Dr TV Nagendra Prasad and Deputy Consul General, Embassy of India, San Francisco Mr Rajesh N

Naik visited the fair and inaugurated the Indian Pavilion comprising 50 exhibitors through AEPC, PDEXCIL and CLE.

The Consul General interacted with exhibitors and appreciated their collections. He assured Consulate's co-operations and assistance for organising India's participation in the August edition of the Sourcing at Magic in a very big level.

Keeping the importance and consumers' demand of the sustainability in mind, the Fair Authority dedicated a theme area 'Sustainable Alternatives Gallery' in this edition.

They selected some of the exhibitors to display their garments in this Gallery on basis of their social responsibility, responsible production, ethical practices, and eco/ animal friendly practices and products.

AEPC participants namely M/s Aameeva Fabrics Pvt Ltd, M/s Cocoon Kapas and Rhythm Knit India (P) Ltd displayed their sustainable garments during the fair.



All through four days, the Fair Authority organized various seminars for the benefit of the visitors and exhibitors. They were WGSN Sourcing Live Digital Presentation on A/W 22/23, Global Colour Forecast with S/S 23 Colour Evolution and the Politics of Trade etc.

Some of the major buyers who visited the show were Hagger Clothing, VC/ Vans, Macy's, Karman, Jockey, Forever 21 Barco Uniforms, TJ Maxx, Stussy, Coppel,

H&M, UGG, Carberry Intl, NemcorInc and Fila USA.

It is expected that with continuous patronage of Government of India and AEPC, and active participation of MSME exporters, India's apparel exports to USA will flourish more. The next edition of the Sourcing at Magic is scheduled from 8-11 August 2022 at Convention Centre, Las Vegas, USA. 🇺🇸



AEPC has been awarded with a Certificate of Merit for “Excellence as Business Support Partner” by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin during their award function for Excellence in Traffic Performance 2020-21. The award function was held at Tuticorin on 26 January 2022 besides the 73rd Republic Day celebration.

# AEPC CHAIRMAN WRITES TO FINANCE SECRETARY ON RoSCTL



**A**pparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Mr Narendra Goenka wrote a letter to Union Finance Secretary and Secretary (Expenditure) Dr TV Somanathan on 17 February 2022, requesting him for deletion of provision of making the transferee liable from the RoSCTL conditions.

The Chairman in his letter said that before introduction of GST, exporters were entitled to RoSL (Rebate of State Levies), DBK (Duty Drawback) and MEIS (Merchandise Export from India Scheme).

GST was introduced in 2017. However, it did not cover many taxes, duties and levies which remained outside GST and those were embedded in the cost of export products. Government decided to reimburse all such embedded taxes and duties through RoSCTL.


RoSL used to reimburse only state taxes and levies. RoSCTL covers state and central embedded taxes, duties and levies. RoSCTL should have been given as was RoSL through bank along with DBK. However, Government decided to give it in scrip form rather than through bank transfer, the letter said.

Embedded input taxes are paid by exporters in cash during the value chain of export product. It is, therefore,

necessary to refund it in cash rather than in scrips, it said.

Earlier, exporters did not resent as these scrips were traded at a normal discount of 1-2%. However, now RoSCTL scrips are traded at a heavy discount of 25-30% due to low demand. Demand for scrips has gone down particularly when import duties on palm oil and gold, the major items of import, have been slashed to 0% and 4% respectively.

The result is that exporters are getting penalized and importers/ brokers getting subsidized because of the discount on the scrips. "This is against the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and also acts as an obstacle to achieving the ambitious export targets fixed by our Hon'ble Prime Minister," the letter said.

The Chairman urged to transfer RoSCTL amount along with DBK to the exporter's bank account. "And, if this is not possible for any reason, kindly allow RoSCTL scrips to be used for payment of GST. This will help exporters to get full value of the scrips as they will be in a position to use it for their own transactions to pay GST on inputs required for making export products. This will be a win-win situation for the government and exporters," he mentioned in the letter. 



# AEPC BIDS FAREWELL TO DR SAKTHIVEL



**T**he Executive Committee of the AEPC hosted a meeting on 14 February 2022 at New Delhi for the farewell of Dr A Sakthivel, outgoing chairman of AEPC, and welcoming Mr Narendra Goenka as the new AEPC Chairman.

Union Textile Secretary Mr Upendra Prasad Singh joined the occasion as chief guest along with Additional Secretary Mr Vijoy Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary Mr Sanjay Sharan, Trade Advisor Smt Shubhra and Economic Advisor (Secretary) Mr Gaurav Kumar.

Senior Executive Members and industry association heads also graced the occasion. Textile Secretary expressed optimism on the growth prospects of Textiles and Apparel sector in the coming months due to good global demand, Foreign Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the various schemes initiated for the sector. He invited industry to participate in the schemes like Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks scheme. **A**



# TSGCCI CONDUCTS ROAD SHOW



Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (TSGCCI), Surat, organised a road show at Tirupur on 17 February 2022 to promote textile expo titled as 'Global Textile Trade Fair- GTTF, 2022' to be held in Atlanta (USA) in June- 2022. An exhibition will also be conducted in association with Ministry of Textiles and Octavia Exposium LLP.

Former AEPC Chairman Dr A Sakthivel attended the programme as chief guest, while Executive Committee (EC) Member V Elangovan was the guest of honour. Other trade association presidents and exporters also attended the event.

GTTF Office Bearers including Chairman Amith Shah and CEO Sandip Patel welcomed the gathering. A power

point presentation was screened during the programme which discloses the significance, scope, focus on US market etc.

Dr Sakthivel mentioned about the importance of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and the exhibition. He shared to the audience that this initiative has been taken by none other than Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles Smt Darshana Jordosh.

EC Member V Elangovan said that towards India many of the buyers want to replace China and it is the right time this exhibition is taking place and took a right step and wished success for this venture and requested the exporters from Tirupur to make use of this fair.

## AEPC TO PARTICIPATE IN PREVIEW IN DAEGU-2022

In order to promote India's diverse textile products among Korean audience, AEPC will participate in 'Preview in Daegu-2022' to be organized by Daegu Gyeongbuk Textile Industries Association (DGTIA) and Korea Federation of Textile Industries (KOFOTI) from March 2-4, 2022.

AEPC will be showcasing the Indian products such as t-shirts, singlets, other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted, men's or boy's trousers, breeches and shorts of cotton, women's or girl's trousers, bib and brace overalls, jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of cotton, potential home textile products in this year's exhibition through the support from the Embassy of India in Korea.

Apart from this, AEPC will also be participating in India Tex Trend Fair to be organized in Tokyo, Japan, in physical mode under MAI Scheme of Ministry of Commerce and industry. The Japan India Industry Promotion Association (JIIPA) has scheduled to organize the India Tex Trend Fair from 14-16 March 2022.

The Fair is an exclusive business matching event which gives an opportunity to exporters to showcase their products and supply capabilities of value added products with special emphasis on the products designed to suit Japanese fashion trends and requirements.

## FKCCI HOLDS PROGRAMME ON MSMEs



Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), Bengaluru, organized a program on export opportunities for MSMEs. The programme was conducted in hybrid mode.

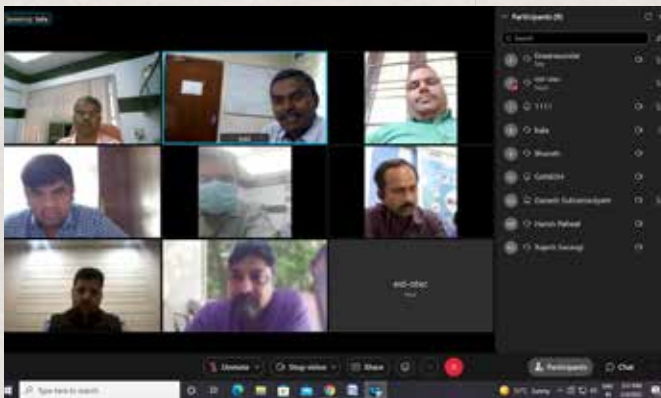
AEPC, EEPC and VTPC were invited in the programme to share experience and expertise on export opportunities for MSMEs and they also took part in a panel discussion.

The panelists were Director of SNAM Abrasives Pvt

Ltd and FKCCI Past President Mr D Muralidhar, EEPC India Joint Director Mr JV Raja Gopal Rao, VTPC Advisor Mr Bhaskar and AEPC Bengaluru Assistant Director Mr P Dorababu.

Chief Commissioner of Customs, Karnataka, Mr M Srinivas attended the programme as chief guest, while FKCCI President Dr IS Prasad delivered welcome address. The introductory remarks were presented by Ms Uma Reddy.

## ROTXC HOLDS WEBEX MEETING



Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner (ROTXC), Coimbatore, convened a Webex meeting on 4 February 2022 to sort out issues related to Year of Manufacturing (YOM) and Certificate of Origin (COO) under A-TUFS.

As requested by ROTXC, AEPC Tirupur office coordinated with the Indian representatives of the sewing machine manufacturers in Tirupur to participate in the said meeting.

Deputy Director and Office In-Charge of ROTXC, Coimbatore, Mr M Balasubramanian presided over the virtual meeting. From AEPC Tirupur, Joint Director Mr C Eswarasundar and Assistant Director Mr S Ganesh participated in the interaction.

Mr Balasubramanian briefed about the issues and requirements under TUFS. He urged the machinery manufacturers to mention YOM in all the machines. He advised them to provide the YOM for the machines sold so far so that the same can be verified and decoding the year of manufacture from the machine.

Mr Balasubramanian said that many of the sewing machine suppliers submitted COO certificates duly signed by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) themselves. "Our Indian Government is accepting the Chamber of Commerce issuing certificates only. No other COO will be entertained as per our exim policy," he said.

# ATDC SIGNS MoU TO TRAIN 180 STUDENTS IN JHARKHAND

Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the training of 180 candidates in Jharkhand through Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) under the stewardship of JV Narayan Rao, Director of Directorate of Municipal Administration, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand.

The MoU is a culmination of proactive presentation and meeting during July 2021 by Roopali Shukla, Director, with Kumar Bam, State Mission Manager (Skill & Livelihood) and Amit Kumar, City Mission Manager.

During the meeting State Mission Manager was apprised about the state of art infrastructure and presence of ATDC in Jharkhand. This was followed by active follow-up of Abhijeet Mohanty, Project In-charge, ATDC Ranchi.

Through this MoU, ATDC will be providing an opportunity to the youth and women of Jharkhand to gain skill knowledge and will make them employable in apparel industry.

The programme, which will be completed by December 2022, to be undertaken in three courses as below:-

- Production Supervisor Sewing (720 hrs.)
- Sewing Machine Operator (285 hrs.)
- Self Employed Tailor (360 hrs.) and Project Director CATS.



## ATDC PARTNERS WITH CREATIVE GROUP



Vijay Kumar Agarwal

Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC) expands its horizon into Vapi by signing Pro-Up program with Creative Group at Vapi, Daman.

This initiative is an outcome of the presentation made by ATDC Director Roopali Shukla under the guidance of ATDC Vice Chairman Mr Rakesh Vaid at AEPC's

Executive Committee meeting at Jaipur on 10 November 2021 and further proceedings at factory level Zoom meeting during December 2021.

The Creative Group, founded by Vijay Agarwal in 1974, has become one of the India's largest garment manufacturers and exporters. Creative's ability to innovate and reputation as a reliable supplier of premium products is well-known by its associates and is largely responsible for the company's ability to consistently stay ahead of the curve. The group strongly believes in constant upgradation of skills at various levels.

ATDC Pro-Up with Creative Group will provide a specially designed customized upskilling program for all supervisors at Vapi factory. The first phase of training will be conducted at the factory site in Vapi, Daman during January/ February 2022 through ATDC experts.

The intensive program will include:-

- Diagnostic Study of the Skill Gaps of Supervisors
- Customized Content Development
- Training Delivery which will comprise of theory, practical, assignments and assessments.
- DUPRO (During Pro-Up) review will be conducted.
- Post-training analysis will be provided to the organization.

# SPAIN TO GROW AT 5.8% IN 2022

Spain's economic activity will grow at 5.8% in 2022 from 4.6% in 2021, according to a projection of International Monetary Fund (IMF). Investment is expected to strengthen in 2022, reflecting robust demand, continued favorable financing conditions, a gradual easing of global supply bottlenecks, and a higher pace of deployment of Next Generation EU (NGEU) funds, IMF said.

## ■ ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

After a prolonged recession that began in 2008 in the wake of the global financial crisis, Spain marked the fourth full year of positive economic growth in 2017, with economic activity surpassing its pre-crisis peak, largely because of increased private consumption. The financial crisis of 2008 broke 16 consecutive years of economic growth for Spain, leading to an economic contraction that lasted until late 2013. In that year, the government successfully shored up its struggling banking sector - heavily exposed to the collapse of Spain's real estate boom - with the help of an EU-funded restructuring and recapitalization program.

Strong export growth helped bring Spain's current account into surplus in 2013 for the first time since 1986 and sustain Spain's economic growth.

Increasing labor productivity and an internal devaluation resulting from moderating labor costs and lower inflation have improved Spain's export competitiveness and generated foreign investor interest in the economy, restoring FDI flows.

In 2017, the Spanish Government's minority status constrained its ability to implement controversial labor, pension, health care, tax, and education reforms. The European Commission expects the government to meet its 2017 budget deficit target and anticipates that expected economic growth in 2018 will help the government meet its deficit target. Spain's borrowing costs are dramatically lower since their peak in mid-2012, and increased economic activity has generated a modest level of inflation, at 2% in 2017.



■ ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

INDICATORS	VALUE (IN USD)
Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity), 2020 est.	1,714.86 Bn.
GDP (Official Exchange Rate), 2019 est.	1,393.35 Bn.
Real GDP (Per Capita), 2020 est.	36,200 note
Real GDP (Growth Rate), 2019 est.	1.95 %
Inflation Rate, 2019 est.	0.7 %
Exchange Rate - Reals (EUR) per US Dollar, 2020 est.	0.828
Industries	Textiles and apparel (including footwear), food and beverages, metals and metal manufactures, chemicals, shipbuilding, automobiles, machine tools, tourism, clay and refractory products, footwear, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment
Source: The World Factbook - CIA	

■ **LOCATION:** Southwestern Europe, Bordering The Mediterranean Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, Bay Of Biscay, And Pyrenees Mountains; Southwest Of France

■ **CLIMATE:** Temperate; clear, hot summers in interior, more moderate and cloudy along coast; cloudy, cold winters in interior, partly cloudy and cool along coast

■ **AGE STRUCTURE:**

**0-14 years:** 15.02% (male 3,861,522/female 3,650,085)

**15-24 years:** 9.9% (male 2,557,504/female 2,392,498)

**25-54 years:** 43.61% (male 11,134,006/female 10,675,873)

**55-64 years:** 12.99% (male 3,177,080/female 3,319,823)

**65 years and over:** 18.49% (male 3,970,417/female 5,276,984) (2020 est.)

■ **SOME OF SPAIN'S TOP APPAREL BUYERS:** TOKI TOK SL, HHG SA, NATURA INVICTA LDA, BENS I DRETS SM SL

■ SPAIN’S APPAREL TRADE:

SPAIN’S RMG IMPORT FROM WORLD AND INDIA				
	2018	2019	2020	% Change
Spain’s RMG imports from World, (In USD Mn.)	19273.4	19456.4	16207.3	-16.7
Spain’s RMG imports from India, (In USD Mn.)	846.1	817.6	573.8	-29.8
India’s Share in Spain’s RMG imports from world, %	4.4	4.2	3.5	-15.7

Source: UN Comtrade, 2022

The above table shows that Spain’s RMG import from the World were to the tune of USD 16207.3 mn in 2020 showing a decline of 16.7 % as compared to 2019. RMG import from India has remained USD 573.8 mn. Registering a decline of 29.8% as compared to 2019. India’s percentage share in Spain’s RMG import from the World has remained 3.5 % in 2020.

■ TOP RMG SUPPLIER TO SPAIN:

Top RMG Supplier to Spain and India’s Position			
S. No.	Countries	Imported value in 2020 (in USD mn)	% Share
	<b>World</b>	<b>16207.3</b>	<b>100</b>
1	China	3058.6	18.9
2	Bangladesh	2764.6	17.1
3	Turkey	2293.9	14.2
4	Morocco	1476.2	9.1
5	Italy	854.4	5.3
6	Myanmar	663.3	4.1
7	Cambodia	633.5	3.9
8	Portugal	630.3	3.9
<b>9</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>573.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>
10	Pakistan	571.7	3.5

Source: UN Comtrade, 2022

The above table shows that China has remained a top supplier of RMG to Spain with 18.9 % share in 2020. India is the 9th largest supplier of RMG to Spain with 3.5 % share. Bangladesh and Turkey has a share of 17.1% and 14.2% respectively.



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

Top 10 RMG products imported by Spain from World					
S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Imported from World in 2020 (in USD mn)	Imported from India in 2020 (in USD mn)	India's Share in %
		Total RMG	16207.3	573.8	3.5
		Sum of Top 10	6993.0	221.7	3.2
1	'620462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton (excluding ...	1256.5	10.3	0.8
2	'610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	1139.2	79.1	6.9
3	'611030	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of man-made fibres, knitted ...	979.0	3.0	0.3
4	'611020	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of cotton, knitted or crocheted ...	824.9	9.9	1.2
5	'620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excluding ...	780.9	41.2	5.3
6	'610990	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excluding cotton)	448.2	15.0	3.4
7	'621010	Garments made up of felt or nonwovens, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated ...	417.9	0.2	0.0
8	'620640	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres (excluding knitted or ...	417.0	26.6	6.4
9	'620293	Women's or girls' anoraks, windcheaters, wind jackets and similar articles, of man-made fibres ...	376.0	7.5	2.0
10	'620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excluding knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	353.4	28.9	8.2

Source: UN Comtrade, 2022

The above table shows Spain's top 10 RMG products imported from the World vis-à-vis from India and India's % share in those top 10 products. The top 10 products imported from the World were to the tune of USD 6993.0 mn. in 2020 and import from India of these top 10 products were to the tune of USD 221.7 mn. India has 3.2% share in Spain's top 10 products import from the World.

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



■ SPAIN'S TOP 10 RMG PRODUCTS IMPORT FROM INDIA:

Top 10 RMG Products Imported by Spain from India				
S. No.	HS Code	Product label	Spain's Import from India, 2020 (in USD mn)	% Share in 2020
		Total RMG	573.8	100.0
		Sum of Top 10	338.9	59.1
1	'610910	T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted	79.1	13.8
2	'620342	Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton (excluding ...	41.2	7.2
3	'620630	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton (excluding knitted or crocheted ...	36.1	6.3
4	'610462	Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, knitted ...	32.2	5.6
5	'620442	Women's or girls' dresses of cotton (excluding knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	30.2	5.3
6	'620443	Women's or girls' dresses of synthetic fibres (excluding knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	28.9	5.0
7	'620640	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of man-made fibres (excluding knitted or ...	26.6	4.6
8	'611120	Babies' garments and clothing accessories of cotton, knitted or crocheted (excluding hats)	22.6	3.9
9	'620520	Men's or boys' shirts of cotton (excluding knitted or crocheted, nightshirts, singlets and ...	22.4	3.9
10	'620444	Women's or girls' dresses of artificial fibres (excluding knitted or crocheted and petticoats)	19.7	3.4

Source: UN Comtrade, 2022

The above table shows Spain's top 10 RMG products imported from India. Spain's top 10 products imported from India were to the tune of USD 338.9 mn with 59.1 % share in Spain's total RMG import from India.

The top products imported by Spain from India includes T-shirts, singlets and other vests of cotton, knitted or crocheted; Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts, of cotton; Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses of cotton; Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton, knitted; Women's or girls' dresses of cotton.



## ABFRL TO CREATE D2C BUSINESS PLATFORM

**I**ndian fashion brand Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited (ABFRL) announced its plans to set up a platform for foraying into the direct to consumer (D2C) business.

The board of directors of the company in their meeting on 4 February 2022 provided an omnibus approval to set up a new subsidiary towards building a portfolio of distinct, new-age, digital brands across categories in fashion, beauty and other allied lifestyle segments, the company said in a press release.


The D2C portfolio will be built through organic and inorganic means. This venture will initially be funded through ABFRL's internal accruals. At an appropriate time, the company will look to bring in external capital to accelerate the growth journey. The D2C market opportunity in India is expected to be \$100bn by 2025, the brand said.

The newly incorporated entity will organically incubate and also acquire promising and scalable D2C brands. Other than providing growth capital, ABFRL's proposition is built around its strong operational expertise where it will utilize its rich experience and capabilities to scale up this portfolio.

ABFRL Managing Director Ashish Dikshit said, "We are excited about the D2C opportunity in India. At ABFRL, we want to build the next set of iconic brands in the digital space as we evolve with our changing consumers."

"Leveraging our core capabilities around design, product creation, sourcing and brand building that have enabled us to create some of India's most loved fashion brands in the offline space, we now wish to craft a blockbuster portfolio in the digital space as well. We are confident that this foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native customers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders."

The company will now accelerate the process of building the D2C framework and identifying key talent for this play. ABFRL will look to tap into the broader tech ecosystem and collaborate effectively with its ecommerce partners, tech service providers and digital marketing agencies to scale this business rapidly.

ABFRL is part of a leading Indian conglomerate, the Aditya Birla Group. The Company has a network of 3,370 stores across approximately 26,744 multi-brand outlets with over 6,751 point of sales in department stores across India. 



## INDIA, JAPAN REVIEW PROGRESS OF JITs

India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) held a joint meeting virtually to review progress under Japanese Industrial Townships (JITs) in India on 14 February 2022.

DPIIT and the States presented the developed land and infrastructure readily available for Japanese investors in these townships. Japanese companies were invited for field visits to the JITs to attract investments.

Embassy of Japan in India and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) also participated from Japanese side. From Indian side, officers from Union Ministry of External Affairs, Embassy of India in Tokyo and representatives of state governments and Invest India participated in the meeting.

JITs were set up pursuant to the 'Action Agenda for the India-Japan Investment and Trade Promotion and Asia-Pacific Economic Integration' signed between METI and DPIIT in April 2015 to take steps to develop 'Japan Industrial Townships' in India especially in Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) regions in order to facilitate Japanese investment to India, according to a press release of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

JITs offer facilities such as, special Japan desks for translation and facilitation support, world class

infrastructure facilities, plug and play facilities, residential clusters, and special incentives for Japanese companies. There are ready to move in facilities and fully developed land available for allotment in these townships.

Currently, there are 114 Japanese companies working across the JITs. The Neemrana and Sri City industrial townships host majority of the Japanese companies. Companies such as Daikin, Isuzu, Kobelco, Yamaha Music, Hitachi Automotive etc. are the marque Japanese investors which have set up manufacturing in these townships.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that Government of India has announced various schemes to attract investments and improve the ease of doing business in India. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme announced for 14 sectors received numerous applications.

Japanese companies have also applied for these PLI schemes and have received approval. The National Single Window System – an initiative by the Government was also showcased to the Japan side. This one-stop digital platform – currently has 20 Central Ministries and 14 states/ UTs that have been onboarded.

The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) encapsulates infrastructure development across key sectors (such as energy, railways, roads, irrigation etc.) in India with investments of US\$ 1.4 trillion planned between 2019 and 2025. ■

# MSME UNITS CAPABLE OF CONSTITUTING COMPLETE SUPPLY CHAIN

**M** SME Ministry Secretary Mr BB Swain said that MSME units are together capable of constituting a complete supply chain and being globally competitive because of their diverse products ranging from intermediate to final products.

Addressing MSME conclave organized by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), Mr Swain said that for the MSMEs to achieve high growth, the two most significant interventions required are related to credit assistance and technology upgradation.

He noted that the Ministry of MSME has been working closely with other Ministries and Departments to facilitate the ease of doing business for MSMEs.

“The Aatmannirbhar announcements have focused on easing access to registering as MSMEs, easing their access to credit and providing them the much needed protection as far as global tenders are concerned,” he said.


He said that MSMEs engaged in manufacturing of engineering products are about 29% of the 67 lakh MSMEs which have registered since 1 July 2020 on the Udyam registration portal.

EEPC India Chairman Mr Mahesh Desai said that

MSMEs need to catch up a lot on the technological front as this is crucial to increase India’s share in the global value chain.

“Make in India initiative has brought ample scope for the Indian MSMEs to work with the large scale global manufacturing firms and get access to their upgraded technology and efficient marketing techniques. Following the onset of the pandemic, large corporations in the developed world have been looking at India as an alternative destination for manufacturing,” Mr Desai said.

He noted the crucial role of MSMEs in the economy saying that the sector contributes around 30% to India’s GDP and has 50% share in the country’s exports. “The significance of the MSME sector in India has long been recognized and its potential has also been identified. In the National Manufacturing Policy, manufacturing output has been targeted to increase to 25% of GDP,” he stated.

“We promise our best endeavor towards higher integration of this sector in the global value chain through continuation of our strategic activities for the upgradation of engineering MSMEs and we believe that such summits fully dedicated for MSMEs will help us to achieve our goal,” said Mr Desai. 



## RACE TO REACH \$1 TRILLION IN EXPORTS: SHRI GOYAL

**H**on'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal exhorted the merchandise sector and services sector to go for a race to the top.

“The merchandise exports target which stands at \$400 billion and service exports which stands at \$240 billion should each aim to reach \$1 trillion,” he said.

The Hon'ble Minister said that despite the pandemic, India's services export this year will cross \$240 billion, the highest ever in India's history.

Shri Goyal recalled that to determine India's export target, PM did a first-of-its-kind bottom-up approach in consultation with industry and foreign missions in 180 countries. He informed that as of 31 January, India has already achieved \$336 billion of exports, thanks to 10 months of continuous \$30 billion plus exports.

Shri Goyal was speaking at an industry interaction on the Union Budget, at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai on 5 February 2022.

He said that the Union Budget 2022-23 has laid a focus on demand stimulus and that the enhanced capital spending would lead to greater demand and job opportunities.


“Capital expenditure has been raised by 35%, to more

than Rs 7.5 lakh crore. Rs 1 lakh crore is being given to states as interest-free 50-year loan to support funding of infra projects. Centre and states together, we are looking at Rs 10.5 lakh crore of public spending,” he said.

The Hon'ble Minister added that the enhanced capital spending of Rs 10.5 lakh crore provided in the Budget 2022 is expected to have at least a 3-4 times multiplier effect in economic activity.

He noted that import figures were rising, indicating revival of demand. He added, together with capex thrust provided by government, this opens up huge opportunities to businesses to expand and look at new business avenues.

Shri Goyal said India was showing rapid recovery in terms of tax collections, industrial output and consumer demand. In the Budget 2022-23, there are no new taxes, no new revenue generation measures. The government has forecast conservative revenue estimates. “We don't over-commit, while ensuring needs of every department's expenditure needs,” he added.

Hon'ble Minister further said Budget 2022 has provided sufficient funding so that economic growth continues to be above 8% in next year and hope to look at least two decades of growth, ensuring prosperity can flow to everyone. 

# INDIA, AUSTRALIA TO FINALIZE INTERIM TRADE AGREEMENT



**H**on'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon'ble Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment of Government of Australia Shri Dan Tehan MP have announced reaching an understanding on the interim trade agreement and finalizing it in the next 30 days.

The India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is expected to be concluded in 12 months thereafter. Shri Goyal and Shri Tehan said this during a joint press conference after conclusion of the 3-day talks in New Delhi on 11 February 2022.

Shri Goyal said that he had very fruitful discussions with his Australian counterpart and significant progress has been made in advancing the FTA between the two nations. He said that CECA FTA is like a 'Dil Chahta Hai FTA', which represents the hope, aspiration and ambition of the people of two great nations.

The two nations are expected to sign the interim agreement in March 2022. The areas covered under the interim agreement should include goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, Customs procedure, and legal and institutional issues, according to a press release of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Terming the negotiations as a watershed moment in India-Australia bilateral relationship, Shri Goyal expressed his gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Ministers of both the nations.

He also complimented officers from both sides who worked proactively to build a comprehensive economic partnership which will be a win-win for both, opening up huge opportunities for people of India and Australia.

Both Ministers agreed on need for a balanced trade agreement that encourages expanded trade and investment flows to the benefit of both of the economies, and reflects a shared commitment to the rules-based international trading system. They also agreed to expeditiously resolve tax-related issues faced by Indian software firms in Australia.

Shri Dan Tehan also announced that on 21st February, Australia would be open to travelers from all over the world and extended his invitation to Indians to visit Australia. He opined that as a result of MoU, the tourism flows between the two countries will continue to grow and that the education relationship between the two nations would also flourish. "We are looking at mutual recognition of qualifications in Australia so that students can now study in both nations," he said. 🇮🇳

# TEXTILE MINISTER MEETS FASHION DESIGNERS



**H**on'ble Minister for Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal chaired a meeting with eminent designers of the country to brainstorm ideas on making India the fashion capital of the world and empowering country's artisans and weavers.

The meeting, held on 11 February 2022, was attended by 27 designers and alumni of NIFT including Sunita Shanker, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Tanveen Ratti, Suket Dhir, Uma Prajapati, Parminder Pal Singh, Karishma Acharya, Anavila Misra, NidhiYasha, and Nivedita Saboo.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration of designer's crafts people and how interventions of technology and marketing strategies can increase the scalability of the craft. Protection of craft and craft people, sustenance of craft were some of the views put forth by the designers. Craft should be given the status of luxury, they said.


Shri Goyal assured the designers that all the points raised or discussed are well noted and will be taken into account in the way forward. The idea of wearing khadi/handloom one day a week and the sense of designers having pride in the nation was appreciated. "It opens up a

lot of possibilities and that the designers have a huge role to play," he said.

Hon'ble Minister urged the designers to work in synergy towards one goal of ensuring that each of the 75 lakhs identified craft people earns over Rs 1,000 every month. He said next step is identification and protection of India's craft and heritage.

Shri Goyal also called upon the entire ecosystem of NIFT with over 30,000 alumni to get together to bring in a change in the craft ecosystem. "Each alumnus should adopt a craft person and devote time to educate the non-privileged section of the society on various aspects of design, management and technology," he added.

He also stated that India should ultimately become the fashion capital of the world. India should mark its presence globally by having its products displayed alongside the prominent fashion houses of the world.

"Taking pride is important and without prejudice one needs to take the ideas forward for the sake of the progress of the nation. Collaboration is the key point and all together can make Indian Craft presence felt globally and all will benefit," he said. 

# UNION BUDGET 2022-23 AIMS TO MAKE INDIA FUTURE READY



**H**on'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal termed the Union Budget 2022-23 as a direction setting budget, addressing both macro-economic and micro-economic concerns, looking at inclusive development.

Speaking at a Public Function to explain the nuances of the Union Budget in Mumbai 5 February 2022, the Hon'ble Minister said, "The Budget should be seen as an exercise in continuity to make India future ready."

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of converting crisis into opportunity, Shri Goyal said the Government has been pro-actively announcing new projects and schemes throughout the year and Union Budget has attempted to show the way ahead for the next 25 years.

Shri Goyal said the budget has laid a big thrust on infrastructure development and highlighted the importance of the PM Gati Shakti National Plan. He said the plan will leverage data and inter-connected national maps to better align infrastructure projects.


Explaining how the nation adopted to the Covid 19 pandemic by swiftly moving to remote working mode, Shri Goyal asserted that India did not let down a single

international obligation, thanks to digital India and thrust given on expansion of broadband connectivity. He said despite the pandemic, India's services export remained robust and would achieve \$240 bn target.

He said that India produces second highest number of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) graduates and this should encourage us to become not only the start-up capital but also the research and development, and innovation hub.

Shri Goyal further added that India has been working on a number of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Citing the India-UAE FTA, He said the entire process was completed in just 88 days. He informed that India-Australia FTA is also in advanced stage of finalization. FTAs with UK, Canada are also in the pipeline, even as GCC also wants to sign an FTA with India.

"The world wants to work with us, we have to seize the initiative," he added.

The Minister also spoke about the enhanced capital spending of Rs 10.5 lakh crores provided by the Budget 2022-23 to have a multiplier effect of 3-4 times, leading to enhanced demand and increased job opportunities benefitting all people. 



## 2.78 LAKH YOUTHS TRAINED UNDER ESDP



As many as 2,78,780 young women and SCs/ STs were trained under the entrepreneurship skill development programme (ESDP) from 2018-19 to 2020-21, according to a press release of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

ESDP scheme focuses on nurturing the talent of youth by making them aware of various aspects required for setting up an enterprise. It aims to motivate the youth to consider self-employment or entrepreneurship, promote new enterprises, build capacity of existing MSMEs and inculcate entrepreneurial culture in the country.

For the next financial cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the scheme has been restructured with a budget outlay of Rs 495 crores which will cover—entrepreneurship awareness programme (EAP), entrepreneurship-cum-skill development programme (E-SDP), advanced E-SDP, management development programme (MDP) and advanced MDP.

Ministry of MSMEs has been conducting various entrepreneurial training programmes for the youths for running small business.

Some important entrepreneurial training/ skill development programmes of the Ministry are national SC-ST hub scheme, coir development scheme, assistance to training institution (ATI) scheme and prime minister employment generation programme (PMEGP) scheme.



## 3.46 LAKH BENEFICIARIES TO BE TRAINED UNDER SAMARTH SCHEME

Ministry of Textiles has partnered with 13 state government agencies, 92 textile industries, 10 industry associations and councils, and four sectoral organizations for training under Samarth, a scheme for capacity building in textile sector.

As many as 3.46 lakh beneficiaries will receive training for capacity building under the scheme, according to a press release of Ministry of Textile. Proposals had been invited from state government agencies and industry associations for undertaking training programmes under the Samarth scheme.

Fresh proposal for empanelment under the scheme was invited in September 2021. In response, 72 proposals have been received upto closing date of receipt of the proposal. The details of funds released to the implementing partners under Samarth during last 2 years were Rs 72.06 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 90.70 crore in 2020-21 respectively.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles Smt Darshana Jardosh gave this information in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 4 February 2022.

## PROPOSALS FOR PM MITRA PARKS TO BE SENT BY 15 MARCH

The Centre has urged the state government to send their proposals with relevant documents for Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks by 15 March 2022.

The PM MITRA Parks scheme will be implemented on pan-India basis and is intended for holistic development of the textile sector. Selection of the location of PM MITRA parks will be on the basis of challenge method, once the proposal is received from interested state governments.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles Smt Darshana Jardosh gave this information in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on 2 February 2022.

The Centre has also approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles with a budgetary outlay of Rs 10,683 crore for promotion of man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics and products of technical textiles. Benefits of PLI will be available to eligible companies in PM MITRA parks also, according to a press communiqué of Ministry of Textiles.

However the, competitive incentive support (CIS) under PM MITRA Parks scheme will only be available to those manufacturing companies who are not availing benefits of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for textile scheme, the Ministry said.



## VAN HEUSEN OPENS OUTLET AT PADRAUNA

Indian clothing brand Van Heusen brings international fashion to Padrauna in Uttar Pradesh with its first brand outlet in the city. During a video conference on 21 December 2021, the Ministers appreciated the progress made in various rounds of talks between the chief negotiators of both sides and discussed the way forward for an early conclusion of interim agreement.

The Padrauna outlet is a one-stop shop for fashion-savvy consumers of the town. The store collection features a broad range of exciting designs and fresh styles in casual wear ranging from t-shirts, casual shirts, shorts, and denims along with, ceremonial and festive wear range of formal shirts, trousers,

suits and blazers, the brand said in a press release.

While the brand has a presence in over 170 cities across the country, with this outlet the brand has taken a step forward in expanding its offering to its customers in tier-3 and 4 cities.

Abhay Bahugune, COO at Van Heusen said, "We have led the fashion revolution and democratization of international fashion across the country. Our store in Padrauna will help expand our footprint in the state. There is a great demand in small towns, and we have received a promising response. We plan to make the brand more accessible at sharper prices in such cities."

## PETER ENGLAND LAUNCHES ITS 400TH OUTLET

India's menswear brand Peter England launched its 400th exclusive outlet at Himachal Pradesh's Paonta Sahib on 7 February 2022, strengthening its network in small towns of India.

Manish Singhai, COO at Peter England, said, "We are pleased to announce the launch of our 400th store in Paonta Sahib. Three years ago, this format was launched in small towns of India to make premium quality menswear accessible in Tier 3 and Tier 4 markets. This is an important milestone. It is our 11th store in Himachal Pradesh, which is a significant market for the brand." Peter England now has footprint of overall 1,050 stores across the country.

Spread across 1,288 sqft, the new store at Paonta Sahib promises to be a shopping extravaganza with premium quality stylish products. The exclusive brand outlet features over 600 styles that include Hello 22 winter window, shirts, t-shirts, trousers, denims, masks, loungewear, winter wear, accessories and occasion wear like suits, blazers and traditional wear.



## WORK TO IMPROVE WEAVERS, ARTISANS' INCOME: SHRI GOYAL

Hon'ble Minister for Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal said that National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) should strive to work towards a larger vision of improving the incomes of weavers and artisans in the country.

The Hon'ble Minister said this on 10 February 2022 while reviewing key consultancy and developmental projects being implemented by NIFT.

Talking about the new possibilities opened in the post-covid world, he asked NIFT to come up with initiatives to introduce hybrid courses, short-term and skill development courses to

expand its reach. Shri Goyal said that the projects like national sizing survey of India and VisionXT- trend insight and forecasting lab could provide a big boost to apparel exports.

Appreciating the craft cluster initiative, as part of which student undertake projects with artisans at the grassroots level, the Hon'ble Minister said that each NIFT student could adopt an artisan, which would go a long way in diversifying the products and improving both the quality and the processes of artisans. He also asked for exploring the possibility of converging some of the projects with similar existing projects.

# M&S URGES CUSTOMERS TO DONATE USED CLOTHING



**B**ritish multinational retailer Marks & Spencer (M&S) has urged its customers to donate their pre-loved clothing to Oxfam via its long standing scheme Shwopping.

Oxfam, a global movement to end to the injustice of poverty, will sell the donated items to raise money for fighting poverty all around the world.

Carmel McQuaid, Head of Sustainable Business for M&S, said, "We know our customers are busy and we're passionate about helping them live lower carbon lives by offering simple solutions that make it easy. Reselling, reusing, and recycling clothing is a simple way that we can all make a difference and our long-standing shwopping scheme with Oxfam is a brilliant programme that rewards customers for doing their bit."

A recent M&S survey has found that 65% of its customers are planning to sort out their wardrobe this January and in response the retailer is calling on them to donate their used clothing to Oxfam through its Shwopping scheme.


Following a refresh of Shwopping in September, this

New Year is the first time customers have been rewarded with a treat for donating items from their post-Christmas clear-out.

M&S informed in a press release that when they asked their customers on what they are planning to do with the clothes they clear out; most customers' responses were donating to charity shops and recycling.

Additionally, around a quarter of customers think they will sell some, and one in five are thinking about passing them on to family and friends.

One in five of those planning to have a New Year's clear-out said they might put garments in the bin, so M&S is encouraging customers to donate to its shwopping boxes good quality, clean clothes that Oxfam can sell to raise money for its work fighting poverty around the world.

Lorna Fallon, Retail Director for Oxfam, said, "If you're thinking about having a clear-out after Christmas, drop clothes off in the Shwop bins in M&S. Not only is it better for the environment, but Oxfam can sell good quality, clean donations to raise vital funds for our work around the world." 

# ABERCROMBIE & FITCH EARNS PERFECT SCORE IN CEI



**A**merican lifestyle retailer Abercrombie & Fitch announced that it has received a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's 2022 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) for the sixteenth year in a row.

The CEI is the US's foremost benchmarking survey and report measuring corporate policies and practices related to LGBTQ+ workplace equality. It evaluates corporations' non-discrimination policies across business entities, equitable benefits for LGBTQ+ workers and their families, inclusive workplace cultures, and corporate social responsibility programs.

Abercrombie & Fitch's efforts in satisfying all of the CEI's criteria resulted in its 100 per cent ranking and the designation as one of the best places to work for LGBTQ+ equality, the brand said in a press communiqué.


Chief Executive Officer of Abercrombie & Fitch Fran Horowitz said, "We are thrilled to achieve a perfect score on the CEI for the sixteenth consecutive year. This rating is a testament to the values that guide our company and to our corporate purpose, which is to be here for you on the journey to being and becoming who you are."

"We strive to weave this purpose, as well as our support of the LGBTQ+ community, throughout our company's policies, benefits, culture, brand partnerships,

marketing, product collections and more. We look forward to continuing these efforts throughout 2022 and beyond," he said.

Abercrombie & Fitch has several internal initiatives in place to uplift its LGBTQ+ associates and allies, including a pride associate resource group aimed at providing a greater sense of belonging and ongoing educational resources, training materials and programming to foster workplace equity and inclusion of all gender expressions.

"When the Human Rights Campaign Foundation created the Corporate Equality Index 20 years ago, we dreamed that LGBTQ+ workers—from the factory floor to corporate headquarters, in big cities and small towns—could have access to the policies and benefits needed to thrive and live life authentically," said Jay Brown, Human Rights Campaign Senior Vice President of Programs, Research and Training.

"We are proud that the Corporate Equality Index paved the way to that reality for countless LGBTQ+ workers in America and abroad. But there is still more to do, which is why we are raising the bar yet again to create more equitable workplaces and a better tomorrow for LGBTQ+ workers everywhere." 



## AEO RAISES 2023 FISCAL TARGETS

**A**merican Eagle Outfitters (AEO) sets target of \$5.8 billion revenue and operating income of \$800 million in fiscal 2023, with the operating margin expanding to 13.5%, the company said in a press release.

AEO is on track to achieve \$600 million in operating income for fiscal 2021 after strong holiday sales.

The American lifestyle and clothing company said that the plan will continue to focus on pursuing growth opportunities for Aerie's powerful brand platform through innovation, expanding deeper into key markets and growing its customer base.

Having successfully driven significant and structural improvement in profitability at American Eagle, the brand will now pursue a dual agenda of modest growth and maintaining healthy profit flow-through.


AEO's Executive Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Jay Schottenstein said, "I am extremely proud of the team's outstanding execution throughout the past year, which has instilled real structural improvements within our company. Inventory and real-estate optimization combined with strong demand fueled by product improvements have reignited profitability at the American Eagle brand. Aerie cemented another year of industry-leading growth and achieved a substantial

inflection in profitability as its powerful brand platform continued to scale.

"Operational excellence drove solid results amidst external disruptions. We closed out a milestone year for our supply chain, anchored by two key acquisitions, which secured cost efficiencies, locked in key strategic advantages and created a new platform for future growth."

He added, "As I look forward, I see tremendous growth potential and opportunities across the organization. I am excited to see us build on our successes as we strive to reach greater heights and create lasting value for our shareholders."

Fueled by strong demand and positive pricing, AEO expects record fourth quarter revenue with growth in the mid-to-high teens compared to fourth quarter 2020, and up in the mid-teens from the fourth quarter of 2019.

Operating income is expected to be in the range of \$90 to \$100 million including approximately \$80 million in higher freight costs, due to supply chain disruptions. The fourth quarter profit outlook reflects significant progress and meaningful growth compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, the brand said. 



## ASOS, ASI SIGN NEW PARTNERSHIP

**B**ritish online fashion retailer ASOS and world's oldest human rights organisation Anti-Slavery International (ASI) have signed a new three-year partnership to 2025 to support ASOS in delivering its ambitious fashion with integrity programme.

ASI has acted as ASOS' critical friend since 2017, providing advice, guidance and critique on ethical trade and tackling modern slavery.

Responsible Sourcing Director at ASOS Simon Platts said, "Our new, three-year partnership with Anti-Slavery International builds on the solid foundation of collaboration and 'critical friendship' that we've established in our work together since 2017. With dedicated resource and the opportunity to work together to drive change at scale, this new agreement takes things to the next level – and we're so excited to be hitting the ground running in 2022."

Under the new agreement, ASI will advise ASOS on the development of the next phase of its modern slavery strategy. This will form a core part of its forthcoming human rights strategy, due to be announced by the end of next year as part of its 2030 programme for fashion with integrity, the brand said in a press release.

The launch of ASOS' new fashion with integrity programme in September 2021 followed the rollout of

ASI's five-year strategy, focused on ending child slavery, responsible business, migration and trafficking, and modern slavery and climate change, the brand said.

Leading up to 2025, a core priority within ASI's focus on responsible business is to bring about stronger legal frameworks to address the global systems that enable forced labour in supply chains. This entails ensuring people have rights to decent work and companies are obliged to take meaningful action to eliminate slavery in supply chains, and strengthening access to remedy and justice for workers, in particular people in situations of slavery and forced labour.

ASI and ASOS' partnership over the next three years will underpin these dual objectives. The best practice and learning from ASOS will be used as an evidence base in ASI's advocacy and campaigning, helping drive legislative improvements that protect people in, or vulnerable to, modern slavery.

ASI CEO Jasmine O'Connor said, "Our 'critical friendship' with ASOS means that we can continue our work together to push for a fairer, more sustainable fashion industry that no longer relies on forced labour. We know that the fashion industry has a huge impact on people and planet, and we are looking forward to working with ASOS for much-needed industry wide change." 

# H&M STUDIO UNVEILS SS22 COLLECTION



**C**elebrating fashion's bright new era, Swedish fashion brand H&M Studio unveiled SS22 collection titled Press Play.

Inspired by musical Gen-Z muses with exhilarating style and sparkling personalities, the collection hit the selected stores and hm.com from 24 February 2022. The collection draws on the outré fashion of the 1980s and 1990s.


With a potent colour palette, an electrifying fusion of prints, as well as statement accessories, the collection is a dressing-up box fuelled by a daring mix-and-match mentality, the company said in a press statement.

Key pieces radiate a 'see-and-be-seen' attitude. From avant-garde takes on laced-up denim and one-size-up suiting, to lime-green satin co-ords and a wear-anywhere leopard-print swimsuit, these are looks that command attention.

"There's a new mood of exuberance in the air making us all want to dress up in fabulous clothes again. It's reminiscent of the va-va-voom spirit that defined fashion in the 1980s up to the early 2000s. For the SS22 collection, we wanted to bring powerful, big-personality fashion back into the spotlight, offering versatile pieces that will inspire joy," said Ann-Sofie Johansson, Creative Advisor at H&M.

A studded denim mini skirt, a ruffle-adorned mesh top and a rhinestone-trimmed little black dress recall a late 1990s mood for excess. Meanwhile, an organic cotton T-shirt features a distinctive image of Pop Art-inflected lips by Berlin-based illustrator Stefan Fähler. And in accessories, the focus is on seriously statement pieces, from screen-green snake earrings and chain-link necklaces to studded platform clogs and red western boots. In line with H&M's sustainability goals, every item in the collection is made from more sustainably sourced materials including recycled polyester, recycled polyamide and recycled wool.

"For SS22 we had boundary-breaking musical muses on the mood board. We were inspired by their commitment to swerving clichés and expectations, both in their clothes and their attitudes. The collection is all about no-holds-barred fun, intended to help our customers build their very own optimistic new look," said Linda Wikell, Concept Designer for H&M Studio.

H&M Studio's SS22 collection campaign was directed and photographed by Reto Schmid, styled by Georgia Pendlebury and stars the break-out model of the season Devon Ross. 





# RALPH LAUREN UNVEILS RLX CLARUS POLO SHIRT

American fashion brand Ralph Lauren announced the launch of RLX Clarus Polo Shirt exclusively at the 2022 Australian open tennis tournament, showcasing company's latest work in groundbreaking product innovation and sustainability. ASI has acted as ASOS' critical friend since 2017, providing advice, guidance and critique on ethical trade and tackling modern slavery.

"With the introduction of the RLX Clarus Polo Shirt, we are using our most iconic product as a canvas to launch an industry-changing and scalable textile technology—a high-performance apparel product that is created with natural fibers for the first time. We're proud to build on the brand's legacy of signature and authentic style, reinvented for the future," said David Lauren, Company's Chief Branding and Innovation Officer.


Made with high-performance cotton fabric, the RLX Clarus Polo Shirt utilizes a first-to-market patented platform to transform virgin and recycled cotton in ways that were never before possible.

The technology creates enhanced cotton fibers with high-performance attributes, like quick-drying and moisture management, while still retaining the comfort and breathability of cotton. The resulting material performs similarly to plastic-based synthetic fabrics like polyester and nylon that use petroleum-based fossil fuels

to achieve performance benefits. The textile innovation was developed by Natural Fiber Welding (NFW), a leading sustainable material science startup.

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Ralph Lauren. Through this collaboration, we are paving the way for complete circularity with resulting materials that perform similarly to plastic based synthetic fabrics," said Luke Haverhals, CEO at NFW. "We are pioneering an entirely new system that simultaneously enables all-natural performance fabrics while reducing waste and eliminating the need for synthetic plastics."

Ralph Lauren is committed to investing in the infrastructure and technologies to develop and scale a circular apparel economy—helping to ensure that clothes and materials can live on, the brand said in a press release.

In August 2020, Ralph Lauren announced a minority investment in NFW to help scale their patented process and develop first-of-its-kind performance apparel made from natural, sustainable materials. Through this investment, Ralph Lauren looks to expand its use of recycled cotton, helping to advance the company's progress toward sustainably sourcing 100 per cent of its key materials, including cotton, by 2025 and integrating zero-waste principles across its business. 

## BGMEA, BKMEA FORM COMMITTEE TO BENCHMARK PRICES



**B**angladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA) have jointly formed a committee to benchmark the minimum price and manufacturing cost of readymade garment (RMG) products.

The move aims to ensure ethical price from international retailers and brands, and bring an end to unhealthy price competition locally, BGMEA said in a press statement.

The 15-member committee headed by BKMEA Vice President Fazlee Shamim Ehsan will conduct thorough analysis of the manufacturing cost, cost of inputs and the export price of the finished goods.

The Committee will also work to find empirical facts by consulting with wider stakeholders including yarn, fabric, and dyeing, processing, embroidery / embellishment and accessories manufacturers to understand associated costs and their dynamics including the lead-time and its impact on the overall cost of making a garment.

Exercises of the committee will also include approach like analysis of product specific Standard Minute Value (SMV) along with production processes and techniques, efficiency and other relevant factors that would help the body in determining minimum price and manufacturing cost of RMG products.

## BURBERRY RECOGNISED IN BLOOMBERG GEI

**B**ritish fashion house Burberry has been included in the Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index (GEI) for the second consecutive year.

The 2022 GEI aims to track the performance of public companies committed to transparency in gender-data reporting. This reference index measures gender equality across five pillars: female leadership and talent pipeline, equal pay and gender pay parity, inclusive culture, anti-sexual harassment policies, and pro-women brand.

Burberry's Chief People Officer Erica Bourne said, "We are delighted to be included in the Bloomberg GEI for the second consecutive year. Gender equality is critical to creating a more inclusive workplace and is a key pillar of our global D&I strategy. We are committed to holding ourselves and our industry to account to ensure we create an environment where everyone feels they belong, has a voice, and can reach their full potential."

Peter T Grauer, Chairman of Bloomberg and Founding Chairman of the US 30% Club, said, "We are proud to recognise Burberry and the other 417 companies included in the 2022 GEI for their commitment to transparency and setting a new standard in gender-related data reporting."



## BURBERRY REVEALS SPRING/SUMMER 2022 COLLECTIONS



**B**ritish luxury fashion house Burberry has unveiled its spring/ summer 2022 collections, exploring the power of self-expression. The collections by Riccardo Tisci, explores the idea of identity with narratives around femininity and masculinity, emphasising fluidity and the power of self-expression.

The collections challenge the traditional, iconic silhouettes that are deconstructed and rebuilt in strong and striking silhouettes and the collections brim with a sense of youthful and sensual energy. Embodying the house's code of duality, the menswear and womenswear collections are captured from multiple perspectives.

"The Spring/Summer 2022 menswear and womenswear shows had this visceral energy that was contrasted with really beautiful soundscapes. I wanted to continue this dialogue in the campaign, a flicking between realities, contrasting Mert and Marcus' pure youthful energy with Chris Rhodes' raw youthful spirit. As we come out of lockdowns around the world, I wanted this campaign to make people feel something, free to dream, free to feel youthful and alive again. It is a beautiful dance, a very raw energy that's powerful and full of life. Like an awakening," Riccardo Tisci, Burberry's Chief Creative Officer.

## H&M MAN LAUNCHES ESSENTIALS

**H**&M Man launched Essentials, a new curation of best-selling designs that achieve the perfect look.

The first H&M Essentials release features: overshirt, jeans, hoodie, oxford shirt, sweatshirt, sneakers and t-shirt, the brand said in a press release.

The enduring popularity of each of the Essentials means significant advances have been made in terms of functionality, durability and sustainability—all without compromising the original design.

The Essentials hoodie, for example, is H&M Man's best-selling hoodie ever, having sold over two million pieces worldwide since its inception in 2015. As well as an increased percentage of recycled material in the Essentials hoodie, subtle detailed changes have kept this garment continuously relevant, the brand said.

This is the first time H&M's most perfect and sought-after products have been brought together under the concept Essentials in one easy-to-identify, easy-to-wear range but it is just the beginning of the journey to increase quality, fit and consistency in men's wardrobe, the brand further added.





## LEVI STRAUSS REPORTS NET REVENUE OF \$1.7 BILLION IN Q4

American clothing brand Levi Strauss has reported net revenues of \$1.7 billion in fourth quarter of the fiscal 2021, which is up 22% compared to Q4 of 2020 and up 7% against Q4 of 2019. The company also reported net revenues of \$5.8 billion up 29% versus financial year 2020 and flat to financial year 2019.

President and Chief Executive Officer of Levi Strauss Chip Bergh said, “We had a strong finish to 2021 and I can confidently say that we are a stronger company than ever before. The results reflect robust financial performance, marked by sequential improvement through the year, despite navigating ongoing business disruption from the pandemic. Through it all, we have stayed focused on our future and our momentum continues to accelerate into 2022.”

“We are well positioned for long-term, sustainable growth—our strong brand equity is driving pricing power, we’re boldly diversifying our business and continuing to expand our high margin DTC business. As good as this past year has been, I am confident the future will be even better,” he said.



## UNIQLO RENEWS TITLE SPONSORSHIP FOR TENNIS TOUR

Japanese clothing brand Uniqlo will continue supporting wheelchair tennis through its close partnership with the International Tennis Federation (ITF), committing to a renewal of its title sponsorship agreement for the Uniqlo wheelchair tennis tour for a further three years.

Under the agreement, the brand will continue to sponsor the ITF wheelchair tennis masters and the wheelchair tennis world team cup. It will also remain official apparel supplier to tournament personnel.

The Uniqlo wheelchair tennis tour calendar encompasses at least 160 events in more than 40 countries each year. It

has been tour title sponsor since 2014, with the original sponsorship agreement extended twice since 2017.

ITF President David Haggerty said, “On behalf of the ITF and the whole wheelchair tennis community, I would like to thank Uniqlo for their ongoing commitment to the sport.”

Chairman, President and CEO of Fast Retailing Tadashi Yanai, said, “We are delighted to have the continued honor of being title sponsor of the Uniqlo wheelchair tennis tour. Uniqlo will continue to collaborate with those outstanding athletes and the ITF to help foster the development of para sport.”



## ALISON LOEHNIS JOINS LULULEMON BoD

Canadian American apparel retailer lululemon appointed Alison Loehnis, President of Luxury and Fashion at Yoox Net-a-Porter, to serve on its Board of Directors (BoD).

“Alison Loehnis is a dynamic leader with a remarkable track record of consistently driving growth through her knowledge of consumer and product trends,” said Glenn Murphy, Chairman of the Board. “We look forward to benefiting from Alison’s valuable insights and expertise as lululemon continues to grow around the world.”

At Yoox Net-a-Porter, a global leader in online luxury and fashion, Loehnis was responsible for Net-a-Porter, Mr Porter and The Outnet businesses. She held several leadership roles with expanding responsibility since she joined the company in 2007.

“I have been a loyal lululemon customer for a long time and have always admired their ability to drive product innovation that combines both performance and style. I am excited to join the Board of Directors and support the organization as it continues to expand globally while building connected communities across different platforms,” said Loehnis.

## BESTSELLER TO MAKE ITS ONLINE BUSINESS CLIMATE-FRIENDLY

Denmark based clothing company Bestseller signed an agreement with transport and logistics company Freja to make its online business more climate-friendly.

The agreement will see biodiesel trucks transporting Bestseller’s clothing to the Nordic countries and other parts of Europe. The agreement will significantly reduce CO2 emissions and represents an important step in Bestseller’s climate strategy, the brand said in a press release.

“At Bestseller, we are working to reduce our total CO2 emissions as part of our sustainability strategy Fashion FWD. While transportation doesn’t pose the biggest problem, it is an area where we can invest and improve relatively quickly. That is why we are also happy to join forces with Freja and, with this more climate-friendly transport, take another step in the right direction,” said Anders Frost Nygård, who is responsible for Bestseller’s online deliveries.

In 2021, Bestseller entered into an agreement with Maersk, which ensures that the fashion company’s overseas transport becomes climate neutral. This has already meant a total reduction of 7,684 tonnes of CO2, the company said.



# NOTIFICATIONS



**SUB – Further amend notification No. 50/2017-Customs dated 30th June, 2017 so as to prescribe effective rate of Basic Customs Duty (BCD)**

- Department of Revenue vide Notification No 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021 has added the condition no 9 for import of items under Serial No 257. Items allowed for import under Serial No 257 comprises Tags, labels, stickers, belts, buttons, hangers or printed bags (whether made of polythene, polypropylene, PVC, high molecular or high density polyethylene), imported by bonafide exporters.

- The condition no 108, as per notified vide notification no 02/2022-Customs dated 01.02.2022 has been simplified considerably as compared to condition earlier provided vide notification no. 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021. It may be noted that condition no 108 has been simplified now. Condition no 108 as per notification no. 02/2022-Customs dated 01.02.2022 provides “if the items manufactured using the imported goods are exported by the importer within six months of the date of the import of the said imported goods”.

- The import of lining and interlining material under S.No 288 has been discontinued now under vide Notification No 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021, Now, it has been allowed under S.No 257B vide notification no 02/2022-Customs dated 01.02.2022. Now, import of lining and interlining material are allowed without any limit.

- Earlier vide Notification No 2/2021-Customs dated 01.02.2021, items under S.No 311 were deleted (Trimmings and Embellishments). Trimmings and Embellishments, as given under S. No 311 have been allowed now.

However, these have been incorporated under S.No 257B. With the inclusion of these items under S. No 257B, there is no value cap so long as imports are being made by the bonafide exporter for use in the manufacture of textile garments for exports. Such import will be subject to condition, as given under Serial No 9 and 108.

- These will be effective from 02.02.2022 and valid till 31.03.2024.

**SUB – Extension of Last Date for Submitting applications for Scrip based FTP Schemes**

DGFT vide their Notification No. 53/2015-2022 dated 01/02/2022 has informed that the last date of submitting applications under MEIS, SEIS, ROSCTL, ROSL and 2% additional ad hoc incentive (under para 3.25 of FTP) which was earlier notified to be 31.01.2022 has been extended to 28.02.2022.

After 28.02.2022, no further applications would be allowed to be submitted and they would become time-barred. Late cut provisions shall also not be available for submitting claims at a later date.

**SUB – Extension in date of filing of application under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles**

Ministry of Textiles vide Circular dated 03.01.2022 had invited applications under PLI Scheme for Textiles. Ministry of Textiles has finalised the Operational Guidelines of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme on 28.12.2021. As per the said operational guidelines, application window for registration under the Scheme

was opened for the period from 1st January, 2022 to 31st January, 2022 (inclusive) on on-line portal and was extended till 14.01.2022

Now Ministry of Textiles' Notice No. 12015/03/2020-IT dated 14.02.2022 has extended the last date for filing application under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles till 28.02.2022.

Incentives under the scheme will be available for 5 years period from 24.09.2021 (Date of Notification) to 31.03.2030 and the incentive under the Scheme will be payable for a period of 5 years only.

**SUB – Extension of Date for Mandatory electronic filing of Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO) through the Common Digital Platform to 31st March 2022**

DGFT vide their Trade Notice No. 32/2021-22 dated 24.01.2022 has extended the date for Mandatory electronic filing of Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO) through the Common Digital Platform to 31st March 2022. The electronic platform for Certificate of Origin (CoO) (URL:<https://coo.dgft.gov.in>) has been

implemented to facilitate electronic filing and issuance for Non-Preferential Certificates of Origin (CoO) besides Preferential CoOs. The objective of this platform is to provide an electronic, contact-less single window for the CoO related processes.

The transition period for mandatory filing of applications for Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin through the e-CoO Platform has been extended till 31st March 2022. The existing systems for submitting and processing non-preferential CoO applications in manual/ paper mode is permitted for the stated time period and the electronic system is not being made mandatory.

**SUB – Modifications in Revised Resolution on ATUFS dated 15.02.2022**

The Revised Guidelines of ATUFS i.e. financial and operational parameters and implementation mechanism during its implementation period from 13.01.2016 to 31.03.2022 was notified vide Revised Resolution No. 6/5/2015-TUFS dated 02.08.2018. Now Ministry of Textiles has notified the modifications in the said Revised Resolution vide Order No. 16021/2/2021-TUFS Section dated 15.02.2022.





# ADVANTAGES OF AEPC MEMBERSHIP

**A** EPC is doing its best for its members in these difficult times of pandemic by taking various initiatives with central and state governments. Our team of professionals is working hard to provide all necessary support to the members in running their apparel export units smoothly and thereby enhancing apparel exports from India.

AEPC is giving support in all verticals of apparel exports domain and we would like to inform you to understand about the advantages of taking/ continuing AEPC's membership.

**TRADE FACILITATION** – AEPC actively takes up exporters issues, stuck up at customs, Icegate, DGFT, ECGC and other export related organisations and facilitates in resolving the exporters issues related to risky exporters tagging, pending ROSL & RoSCTL, pending drawback etc.

**AEPC'S FACILITATION FOR RISKY EXPORTERS:** Since 2019, a lot of exporters were being put on Risky exporter's tag, which led to stoppage of IGST, drawback and other refunds. To address the issue of long delays in resolution of these cases, AEPC has been working closely with DGARM to understand the concerns, advice exporters on the required protocols for resolution, follow up with DGARM and get the NoCs. A dedicated facilitation desk at HO & regional offices of AEPC have been working on compiling the cases, taking them up with DGARM and getting them resolved. As on 11 June, 2021 AEPC has taken 94 Risky exporters cases with DGARM out of which NOC for 67 cases have been received.

**AEPC'S FACILITATION FOR ATUFS:** With the aim to facilitate faster resolution of the pending TUF cases, AEPC has been compiling the TUFs pendencies and is taking them up from time to time with the Textile Commissioner's office and Ministry of Textiles with regard to changes in scheme guidelines, technical issues, documentation issues and other clarifications and about their resolutions. Some of the major issues like In-Principle Bank Sanction Letter,

Year of Manufacture issue, revision in repayment period of non-MSME applicable for existing cases also and issuance of Corrigendum for inclusion / modification of machines specification have been taken up by AEPC for resolution. During FY. 2020-21, 203 cases have been received and have been followed-up.

**CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PPE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS:** Badly hit by Covid-19, the Indian Apparel exporters found a good alternative in production of Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) to help fight the pandemic and also make India a hub for sourcing PPE kits over the next few years. Since April 2020, Council has been constantly working with the Government at all levels on how to ramp up the production and supplies of PPE & Medical Textiles, interaction with the testing Laboratories and the certification agencies towards export promotion of these products. Council conducted several seminars, webinars for awareness creation on technology, inputs needed for PPE production, standards and accreditation. As a result of the above, India is today the second largest supplier of PPE from not having a single manufacturing unit for PPE in March, 2020.

**APPAREL INDIA MAGAZINE** – AEPC publishes Apparel India magazine along with e-copy of it, which is uploaded on AEPC's website in which details of latest updates (national and global) related to textile & apparel industry, government notifications / circulars, GST updates and the important activities performed by AEPC for the benefit of industry are published. AEPC's Apparel India Magazine is widely circulated online as well as offline and is reachable to all the stakeholders such as exporters, buyers, buying agents, government officials and all other concerned.

**APPAREL DOSSIER** – Updating the members through weekly Apparel dossier for weekly news, notifications and the issues that AEPC has taken up, for AEPC Members



**UPDATE ON NOTIFICATIONS** – AEPC updates its members about the recent notifications/circulars/Public notices related to DGFT, CBIC, Textile Commissioner, GST, MSME etc.

**MARKET ACCESS INITIATIVE** - The council gets MAI subsidy for organizing Mega shows, participation in international renowned apparel fairs and for organizing Buyer Seller Meets international. The subsidy is passed-on to the members of the council in subsidizing the cost of stall in Buyer Seller Meets and Mega shows / international fairs in overseas events. Guiding and facilitating Apparel exporters to showcase their best products at domestic fairs as well as international fairs. This also helps in Identifying opportunities for collaborations with overseas partners for up-scaling and technology upgradation with providing market intelligence for Textile and Apparel Industry.

**VIRTUAL EXHIBITION PLATFORM** - AEPC has recently launched a Virtual Platform for organizing Export Promotion activities, in order to bridge the gap between buyer & seller during these trying times due to the worst pandemic of the century. The platform is a virtual exhibition platform to showcase products of AEPC members on 24x7x365 days format. Key features include exhibitors booths in the virtual exhibition landscape, free-flowing two-way communication between attendees/buyers and exhibitors through video / audio call and Whatsapp chat facilities, live presentation auditorium, high security features and knowledge management. Buyers can navigate through options and ensure a near-physical fair experience through high resolution exhibitor's avatars.

**DATA BANK** – AEPC provides RMG export statistics regularly in the Apparel India magazine for the benefit of the members. Country-wise export statistics and top HS Codes selling in important countries along-with the description of the garments are also provided for the benefit of the exporters.

**GST FACILITATION** - AEPC is facilitating GST related issues of the exporters.

**SEMINARS/WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS** - AEPC Organizes seminars/webinars & workshops related to the apparel industry

**COMPILATION OF DBK / RODTEP DATA** -Compilation and submission of datas/documents for fixation of DBK/ RODTEP rates exercise is done by AEPC every year so that these benefits could be decided by the Govt., and these could be availed by the exporters.

#### **SUBMISSION OF SUGGESTIONS OF FTP POLICY AND OTHER POLICY RELATED MATTERS**

- Submission of suggestions for improvement in FTP Policy and other related policies are submitted by AEPC every year for the benefit of the exporters.

#### **SKILL ASSESSMENT CELL**

- The Skill Assessment Cell (SAC) was established with the prime objective to drive the skill assessment initiatives in Apparel / Garment, Khadi and Carpet sectors for employment generation, economic growth and social development. The cell helps in boosting the morale, uplifting the social status of the candidates and makes the workforce a certified skill pool. Council has been associated with Director General of Employment and Training (DGE&T) under the SDI Scheme for MES Courses, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship assess in Apparel, Textile, Khadi and Carpet sectors, under the ISD Scheme of Ministry of Textiles for Non-MES courses to assess in Apparel & Textile sectors and then with the Resource Support Agency (RSA), Textiles Committee.

The current affiliations are with Apparel, Made-Ups & Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMHSSC) for assessing the candidates under PMKVY and Non-PMKVY schemes under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and with the Karnataka Commissionerate of Industrial Training & Employment (KVIT), Skill Mission at Karnataka state. Since its inception i.e. from September 2009 till date Council's Skill Assessment Cell has assessed over 1.66 lakhs candidates.

**MMF CELL** - AEPC has set up a MMF Cell to enhance the export of MMF garments and to explore the possibilities for Joint Ventures or 100% investment / technology collaboration for manufacturing of man-made fabrics in India. The Council has come up with a Compendium on MMF garments which contains the details of HS codes identified for proposed PLI scheme of Govt., of India of Rs 10,683 crores to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities of MMF segment and Technical textiles. The compendium contains the product description, images of identified garments falling under PLI HS codes, factsheet and contact details of domestic as well as overseas fabric suppliers.

The Embassy of India (EOI), Washington, and AEPC has carried out a study on **Market for Indian Apparel in the United States – Trends, Potential, and Expansion Strategy** through M/s. KPMG services. AEPC also established contact with M/s SERAI, a business-to-business platform founded by HSBC on improving reach of AEPC members to overseas buyers.

The membership of AEPC is surely helping our members to achieve their professional goals & having expert knowledge of the domain. The Membership Subscription costs just Rs 8,000+GST per year & can be paid online on our official Website <https://www.aepcindia.com>

#### **SUMIT GUPTA**

Secretary and Membership Department  
Email: [sumit.gupta@aepcindia.com](mailto:sumit.gupta@aepcindia.com)

# ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT CHANGES IN GST AS PROPOSED IN BUDGET AND OTHER CHANGES IN GST

BY CA BALKISHAN CHHABRA

**T**he Gross GST revenue collected in the month of January 2022 as on 31.01.2022 is Rs.138394 Crore. The highest monthly GST collection has been Rs. 139708 Crore in the month of April 2021. This is for the fourth time GST collection has crossed Rs. 1.30 lakh crore marks. Coupled with economic recovery, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers have been contributing to the enhanced GST. The Hon'ble finance minister in her budget speech has proposed various changes related to GST which have been analysed hereunder.

## GST CHANGES PROPOSED IN BUDGET 2022

### Two-way communication process for claiming ITC

Clause 99 seeks to amend section 16 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 by inserting

a new clause (ba) in sub-section (2) thereof, so as to provide that input tax credit with respect to a supply may be availed only when such credit has not been restricted in the details communicated to the registered person under section 38.

### The Amendment as per Finance Bill is as follows:

“38. (1) The details of outward supplies furnished by the registered persons under sub-section (1) of section 37 and of such other supplies as may be prescribed, and an auto-generated statement containing the details of input tax credit shall be made available electronically to the recipients of such supplies in such form and manner, within such time, and subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed.

(2) The auto-generated statement under sub-section (1) shall consist of—

(a) details of inward supplies in respect of which credit of input tax

may be available to the recipient; and (b) details of supplies in respect of which such credit cannot be availed, whether wholly or partly, by the recipient, on account of the details of the said supplies being furnished under sub-section (1) of section 37,—

(i) by any registered person within such period of taking registration as may be prescribed; or

(ii) by any registered person, who has defaulted in payment of tax and where such default has continued for such period as may be prescribed; or

(iii) by any registered person, the output tax payable by whom in accordance with the statement of outward supplies furnished by him under the said sub-section during such period, as may be prescribed, exceeds the output tax paid by him during the said period by such limit as may be prescribed; or

(iv) by any registered person who, during such period as may be prescribed, has availed credit of

input tax of an amount that exceeds the credit that can be availed by him in accordance with clause (a), by such limit as may be prescribed; or

(v) by any registered person, who has defaulted in discharging his tax liability in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (12) of section 49 subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed; or

(vi) by such other class of persons as may be prescribed.”.

**Due Date of taking ITC for a Financial Year extended to 30th Nov of the following financial year**

by such other class of persons as may be prescribed.”.

It further seeks to amend sub-section (4) so as to provide that a registered person shall not be entitled to take input tax credit in respect of any invoice or debit note after the thirtieth day of November

following the end of the financial year to which such invoice or debit note pertains, or furnishing of the relevant annual return, whichever is earlier.

**The Amendment as per Finance Bill is as follows:**

Amendment of section 16:

In the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the Central Goods and Services Tax Act), in section 16, –

(b) in sub-section (4), for the words and figures “due date of furnishing of the return under section 39 for the month of September”, the words “thirtieth day of November” shall be substituted.

**Cancellation of GSTN of composition supplier not filing return beyond 3 months**

Clause 100 seeks to amend clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 29 of the

Central Goods and Services Tax Act so as to provide that the registration of a person paying tax under section 10 is liable to be cancelled if the return for a financial year has not been furnished beyond three months from the due date of furnishing of the said return.

Budget 2022 has proposed a Cancellation of GST Number of the composition supplier who has not filed a GST return for a financial year beyond three months. As of now, the period is three consecutive tax periods.

**The Amendment as per Finance Bill is as follows:**

Amendment of section 29 [Cancellation or suspension of registration]

In section 29 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, in sub-section (2), –

(a) in clause (b), for the words “returns for three consecutive tax



periods”, the words “the return for a financial year beyond three months from the due date of furnishing the said return” shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (c), for the words “a continuous period of six months”, the words “such continuous tax period as may be prescribed” shall be substituted.

#### **Date for Issuance of Credit/Debit Note Extended up to 30th November of the following financial year**

Clause 101 seeks to amend sub-section (2) of section 34 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act so as to provide for thirtieth day of November following the end of the financial year, or the date of furnishing of the relevant annual return, whichever is earlier, as the last date for issuance of credit notes in respect of any supply made in a financial year.

#### **Date for Rectification of Errors or omissions of Invoice Extended up**

#### **to 30th November of the following financial year**

Clause 102 seeks to amend sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act so as to provide for prescribing conditions and restrictions for furnishing the details of outward supply and the conditions and restrictions as well as manner and time for communication of the details of such outward supplies to concerned recipients.

It further seeks to omit sub-section (2) and first proviso to sub-section (1) so as to do away with two-way communication process in return filing.

It also seeks to amend sub-section (3) so as to remove reference to unmatched details under section 42 or section 43, as the said sections are proposed to be omitted, and to provide for thirtieth day of November following the end of the financial year or furnishing of the relevant annual return, whichever is earlier, as the

last date for rectification of errors or omission in respect of details of outward supplies furnished under sub-section (1).

#### **Claim of input tax credit and provisional acceptance thereof**

Clause 105 seeks to substitute a new section for section 41 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act so as to do away with the concept of “claim” of eligible input tax credit on a “provisional” basis and to provide for availment of self-assessed input tax credit subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed.

#### **OTHER IMPORTANT GST UPDATES**

##### **Deployment of Interest Calculator in GSTR-3B**

The new functionality of interest calculator in GSTR-3B is now live on the GST Portal. This functionality will facilitate & assist the taxpayers in doing self-assessment. This

functionality will arrive at the system computed interest on the basis of the tax liability values declared by the taxpayers, along with the details about the period to which it pertains.

The interest applicable, if any, will be computed after the filing of the said GSTR-3B and will be auto-populated in the Table-5.1 of the GSTR-3B of the next tax-period. The facility would be similar to the collection of Late fees for GSTR-3B, filed after the Due date, posted in the next period's GSTR-3B.

#### Upcoming GSTR-1 Enhancement & Improvements

The previous phase of GSTR-1/IFF enhancement was deployed on the GST Portal in November 2021. In that phase, new features like the revamped dashboard, enhanced B2B tables, and information regarding table/tile documents count were provided. In continuation to the same, the next Phase of the GSTR-1/IFF improvements would be implemented shortly on the Portal.

The following changes are being done in this phase of the GSTR-1/IFF enhancement-

- Removal of 'Submit' button before filing:- The present two-step filing of GSTR-1/IFF involving 'Submit' and 'File' buttons will be replaced with a simpler single-step

filing process. The upcoming 'File Statement' button will replace the present two-step filing process and will provide taxpayers with the flexibility to add or modify records till the filing is completed by pressing the 'File Statement' button.

- Consolidated Summary:- Taxpayers will now be shown a table-wise consolidated summary before actual filing of GSTR-1/IFF. This consolidated summary will have a detailed & table-wise summary of the records added by the taxpayers. This will provide a complete overview of the records added in GSTR-1/IFF before actual filing.

- Recipient wise summary:- The consolidated summary page will also provide recipient-wise summary, containing the total value of the supplies & the total tax involved in such supplies for each recipient. The recipient-wise summary will be made available with respect to the following tables of GSTR-1/IFF, which have counter-party recipients :

- Table 4A : B2B supplies
- Table 4B : Supplies attracting reverse charge
- Table 6B : SEZ supplies
- Table 6C : Deemed exports
- Table 9B : Credit/Debit notes

**GSTN enabled feature to withdraw GST registration cancellation application**

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has enabled the feature to withdraw application for cancellation of GST registration on the GST portal. If the application for cancellation of GST registration is made by mistake and the applicant wishes to withdraw the application, then that may be withdrawn so now by following below mentioned steps:

- Go to the Common Portal and post login navigate through Services → User Services → View My Submissions
- Click on the "Withdraw" button available beside your Application for Cancellation of Registration
- Click on Confirm and your application will be withdrawn.

#### GSTN enabled window to opt in for composition scheme for the FY 2022-23

The Goods and Services Tax Network ("GSTN") has enabled window to opt in for composition scheme for the FY 2022-23 on GST Portal for the taxpayers. The eligible taxpayers, who wish to avail the composition scheme, may opt in for composition before March 31, 2022.

[The author is Senior Partner in M/s. CHHABRA B K & ASSOCIATES (Delhi / NCR). He can be reached at [bkchhabra1@gmail.com](mailto:bkchhabra1@gmail.com) and # 9810380489 / 9871630858]





**Apparel industry must focus on vertical integration to increase its scale and size and to benefit from PLI scheme : Shri Upendra Prasad Singh**

**Apparel exports likely to breach \$20 bn next fiscal or year after that**

**Textile exports likely to cross \$100 bn from current \$40 bn in 5 years**

**AEPC celebrates its 44th Foundation Day**

Photo: AEPC/2022-07-29/09-09-2022

Shri Upendra Prasad Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles has said that the Indian apparel industry must focus on vertical integration to increase its scale and size and to benefit from the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

Speaking at the 44th Foundation Day of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEP) today, Shri Singh said, "support and government is not any administrator control but in a very organized form employment post of work. Package, there is a need for technical upgradation and soon of use can get into unorganized situation like spinning and weaving."



**crisis biting apparel exporters amidst boom in global orders: AEPC Chairman Narendra Goenka**

Expected to reach \$20 billion in FY21, apparel exports are poised for historic growth, Goenka says. Completion of critical free trade agreements, currently under negotiations, is expected to supplement this.

SUBHANYA CHAKRAVORTY | JANUARY 26, 2022 | 12:11:54:17



**FINANCIAL EXPRESS**  
Read in Hindi

HOME / ECONOMY / Relentless rise in cotton prices & hurdle to textile exports revival

**Relentless rise in cotton prices a hurdle to textile exports revival**

*In fact, an up to 80% spurt in cotton prices in the past one year has pressured margins of textile and garment firms. Most firms are struggling to pass on the rise in raw material costs to consumers.*

Written by [Sandeep Gera](#), [Sandeep Kaur](#), [Ranjit Kumar Bhatnagar](#)

February 24, 2022 2:45:00 AM



**Business Standard**

STAY SAFE AND BANK SAFE

**Union Budget 2022-23: Exporters call for a PLI scheme for containers**

Exporters are also hoping for an extension of the National Export Incentive (NEI) for 2022-23.

Topics: PLI Scheme | Budget 2022 | Exporters

Share: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [WhatsApp](#) [Telegram](#) [Email](#)

**BUDGET 2022 TRENDS**

Union Budget 2022 | Airtel's 5G launch | Amazon's 1st budget | Budget 2022 | India's 75th Independence Day

**LATEST NEWS**

**ANI**

**Relentless rise in cotton prices a hurdle to textile exports revival**

In fact, an up to 80% spurt in cotton prices in the past one year has pressured margins of textile and garment firms. Most firms are struggling to pass on the rise in raw material costs to consumers.

Written by [Sandeep Gera](#), [Sandeep Kaur](#), [Ranjit Kumar Bhatnagar](#)

February 24, 2022 2:45:00 AM

**THE HINDU**

**In Delhi and Haryana, garment firms are hanging by a thread**

In Delhi and Haryana, small businesses and job-seekers in the garment sector have been severely impacted by the pandemic, with many businesses and workers facing financial difficulties. The industry is struggling to survive in the current economic environment.

**R**elentless rise in cotton prices a hurdle to textile exports revival. In fact, an up to 80% spurt in cotton prices in the past one year has pressured margins of textile and garment firms. Most firms are struggling to pass on the rise in raw material costs to consumers.

**BusinessLine**

**Economy**

**India-UAE CEPA: Import duties on 90 per cent of Indian products to be immediately eliminated**

Amal Sach | New Delhi, February 23 | Updated On Feb. 23, 2022



Expenses of textiles, engineering goods, gems and jewellery optimistic about increasing their market shares

The UAE will extend zero-duty access to 90 per cent of goods imported from India from the day of implementation of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), possibly in April or May this year, widening market opportunities for a large number of Indian exporters across including garments &

**TOI**

**ECLGS extension, duty free trimmings big boon for apparel industry: AEPC**

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has welcomed the extension of the Export Credit Linked Grant Subsidy (ECLGS) scheme and the duty-free import of textile trimmings. This is a significant boost for the apparel industry.

**brother**  
of your life



# APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Sponsored by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)

**Apparel House, Institutional Area, Sector - 44,  
Gurugram - 122003 (Haryana)  
Tel - 0124-2708000**

**Website: [www.aepcindia.com](http://www.aepcindia.com)  
Facebook: [/apparelexportpromotioncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/apparelexportpromotioncouncil)  
Linkedin: [/apparelexportpromotioncouncil](https://www.linkedin.com/company/apparelexportpromotioncouncil)  
Twitter: [/ApparelCouncil](https://twitter.com/ApparelCouncil)  
Instagram: [/apparelexportpromotion](https://www.instagram.com/apparelexportpromotion)**