

Textile Insights

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T&A Industry Seeks Financial Relief And Export Incentives To Surmount Challenging Conditions

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Faced with headwinds, the domestic textiles and apparel (T&A) sector has demanded an urgent financial relief package as also export incentives in order to bail the industry out of the current difficult situation, which has aggravated following the imposition of 50 per cent tariff by the US. The industry firmly believes that failing to do so will lead to bank loans of large number of T&A units in various parts of the country becoming NPAs.

As part of the financial relief measures, a joint memorandum submitted recently by the textile industry associations and export promotion councils to the Union Finance Minister has urged for extending two years moratorium for the repayment of principal amount. Moreover, the industry is also demanding extending 30 per cent collateral free loan under ECLGS with 5 per cent interest subvention, similar to the one extended during Covid, both for MSMEs and larger companies.

“The stagnation in the export growth during the last 12 years has already led around 25 per



Photo Credit: nippon

cent of the new capacities, created under various state and Central Government policies/schemes, becoming excess, thereby causing financial stress. The high US tariff has only aggravated the situation. As the stocks have started piling and new orders are hard to come by, the textile industry is finding it extremely difficult to service debts. Extending two years of moratorium and policy initiatives

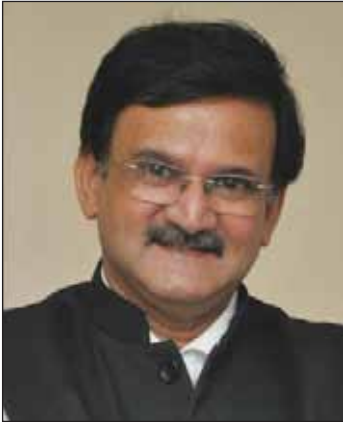
of Central government will prevent the units becoming NPAs and help manage the grave crisis,” says Durai Palanisamy, Chairman, Southern India Mills Association (SIMA).

The industry believes that a credit infusion of 30 per cent under ECLGS should be immediately considered for the exporters hit hard by the new US tariffs. The higher import duty

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Exclusive Tete-e-tete

‘India's Textile Value Chain Requires Additional Reforms Focusing On Technology, Infrastructure, Sustainability And Market Agility’



FTAs serve as critical levers for the Indian T&A industry, particularly in offsetting market disruptions caused by protectionist measures, such as the Trump administration's tariffs, says **Gurudas Aras**

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T&A Industry Seeks Financial Relief And Export ...

Continued From Page 1

erodes export margins significantly, especially for MSMEs and mid-size players with tight working capital cycles. The collateral free financial help from banks and financial institutions will go a long way in helping the exporters in their market diversification process, which will reduce dependency on the US market.

As part of export incentives, the industry has urged the ministry for extending the 20 per cent Focus Market Incentive Scheme for the US exports. The India textile goods now suffer a distinct tariff disadvantage of 30-31 per cent in the US market vis-à-vis its major competing countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Indonesia.

"Though in the long run, India will certainly explore other export markets, immediate direct fiscal support is essential to retain the existing customers and prevent several lakhs of workers becoming jobless. There is an urgent need to reintroduce the erstwhile Focus Market Scheme Trade Policy of the Department of Commerce and incentives given at the rate 20 per cent of the FOB value of exports made from 27th August 2025 (date of the US Tariff implementation). This incentive can be in the form of transferable duty credit scrip so that there is no impact for the exchequer as the duty credit utilisation will be spread over a reasonable period," says an industry representative.

Moreover the industry has sought extension of the period of RoDTEP and RoSCTL schemes. The existing RoDTEP scheme was valid till September 30, 2025 and RoSCTL scheme is valid till March 31, 2026. These schemes were introduced to refund the blocked/embedded duties and taxes as per the recommendations of the committee constituted for the purpose. "It is essential to extend both the schemes till 2030 to avoid export taxes and sustain global competitiveness," states an industry player.



Extending two years of moratorium and policy initiatives of Central government will prevent the units becoming NPAs and help manage the grave crisis.

**Durai Palanisamy,
Chairman, Southern
India Mills
Association**

Moreover, the industry has also asked for enhancing the value cap for duty drawback, RoDTEP and RoSCTL, since most of the goods need higher value cap to enhance global competitiveness. The enhanced value cap would encourage and support the value added exports. Further, it has also been urged to increase the RoDTEP rates by 2-3 per cent for all products. The Annual RoDTEP Returns (ARR) and data submitted by the industry indicate that there is a scope for increasing the rates. This would also rectify the anomaly in fashion bedding falling under HSN 9404 and other items.

While seeking export incentives, industry associations and export promotion councils have demanded the re-introduction of the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit as also extension of 5 per cent benefit for all categories of exports without cap. Justifying the demand, the industry says that the cost of capital in India is abnormally



The GST reforms were just the sort of impetus the textile and apparel sector needed at a time when the industry is grappling with a grave crisis in the form of the high US tariff.

**Ashwin Chandran,
Chairman, CITI**

high. Interest rates range from 8 to 12 per cent, depending upon the risk profile of borrowers.

In order to ensure global competitiveness, the interest equalisation scheme was introduced, but the scheme expired on December 31, 2024. In this changed scenario, there is an urgent need to reintroduce the IES on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit for the next five years and the rates under IES needs to be increased to 5 per cent without value cap for all categories of exporters to fully serve the purpose of the scheme, explains an expert.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has said the country's textile and apparel sector will put its best foot forward to ensure that the benefits of the recently announced GST reforms reach the end customer.

"At the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, we have always believed that businesses must imbibe the spirit of an economic reform and not merely fol-

low the letter. The same holds true regarding the landmark GST reforms," said Ashwin Chandran, Chairman, CITI, while commenting on the GST reforms which came into effect on September 22, 2025.

"CITI members and the entire textile sector stand committed to ensuring that the GST benefits reach the end customer as for us the interests of the customer always come first," Chandran added.

The CITI chairman said that the textile and apparel items priced up to Rs 2,500 being charged a 5 per cent GST, starting September 22, would make these products more affordable for common people and drive consumption upward. Earlier, only textile and apparel products priced up to Rs 1,000 were charged 5 per cent GST rate.

"We have no doubt that our industry will benefit in a major way from the game-changing GST reforms, for which we would like to reiterate our heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Textiles Minister, GST Council, and all concerned officials," stated Chandran.

To benefit the textile and apparel sector, the GST changes announced have eliminated duty inversion to ease cash flow and working capital, ensured fibre neutrality with man-made fibre having the same GST rate as cotton, and eased registration and compliance procedures to benefit small businesses.

Chandran said the improvement in the ease of doing business, courtesy the GST reforms, could play a vital role in making India's textile and apparel companies becoming more productive and competitive. "The GST reforms were just the sort of impetus the textile and apparel sector needed at a time when the industry is grappling with a grave crisis in the form of the high US tariff which has put at considerable risk our exports to the world's no.1 economy," the CITI Chairman added. □

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Gurudas Aras, Independent Director at Rossari Biotech, Ruby Mills and Indian Card Clothing and Strategic Advisor at Yamuna Machine Works, ITA GmbH, APS GmbH

'India's Textile Value Chain Requires Additional Reforms Focusing On Technology, Infrastructure, Sustainability And Market Agility'

The time for incremental change has passed; a coordinated, mission-mode effort is required to navigate current headwinds and build a truly resilient, globally competitive sector, says **Gurudas Aras** in an exclusive interview with **Textile Insights**.

How is the domestic T&A industry preparing itself to surmount the fallout of Trump's tariff imposition? What could be the impact in the short to medium term for such a sanction that has almost disrupted the textile value chain?

The 50% tariff by the US has severely disrupted the Indian textile value chain, forcing the Indian exporters into a significantly weaker competitive position. There have been major impacts, such as reduced export volumes and order cancellations, as Ameri-

can retailers have reacted immediately, putting a hold on new orders and, in some cases, outright cancelling shipments. This has led to a steep decline in India's exports to the U.S. in recent months.

The higher tariff has led to loss of competitiveness as 50% tariff gives major competitors like Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Indonesia a massive cost advantage. These countries face significantly lower or zero-duty access to the U.S. market, making Indian goods 30-35% more expensive.

Moreover, the higher tariff has squeezed profit margins and increased potential losses. With margins already thin (5-7% for some garment exporters), the tariffs are nearly impossible for Indian exporters to absorb. Many will face losses if they cannot pass on the increased costs to U.S. buyers.

Also, the tariff pose threat to employment, especially in the SMEs. The downturn is directly impacting employment, especially in labour-intensive hubs like Tirupur, Ludhiana, Surat, Noida and Panipat. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which form the backbone of the industry, are facing the most financial stress and could be forced to lay off workers or shut down.

Lastly, the higher tariff poses the risk of losing long-term market share. One of the most critical long-term consequences is the potential for buyers to permanently shift their sourcing to other countries. If the U.S. market share is lost, it will be extremely difficult for India to recover.

It seems world trade is going forward to embrace more bilateral trade agreements away from the WTO's emphasis on multi-lateral trade practices. In this backdrop, how pivotal will be the role of FTAs with various nations like the UK and other upcoming ones with the EU and other countries?

In a global trade environment, shifting away from the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) multilateral framework, India's strategic embrace of bilateral and regional Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) is more pivotal than ever. These agreements serve as critical levers for

the Indian textile and apparel (T&A) industry, particularly in offsetting market disruptions caused by protectionist measures, such as the Trump administration's tariffs.

FTAs are offering the Indian T&A exporters preferential or duty-free access to partner markets, directly addressing the disadvantage created by punitive tariffs elsewhere. This is particularly vital for sectors such as textiles and apparel, which are highly sensitive to price competition.

The UK FTA is expected to give tariff elimination for 99% of the products. With duties removed, Indian garments become significantly more price competitive against rivals, such as China and Bangladesh, whose products still face tariffs. The deal is expected to spur investment and job creation in India's textile manufacturing hubs.

A potential FTA with the European Union (EU) would be transformative, providing preferential access to one of the world's largest consumer markets. Navigating non-tariff barriers (NTBs) related to standards, sustainability and labour rights will ensure long-term, resilient market access. EU FTA is also essential for deeper integration into European value chains, promoting cooperation on technology and sustainable production.

How do you see the recent GST reforms carried out by the Union government? What will be their impact on the domestic T&A sector?

The recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms implemented by the Indian government, effective September 22, 2025, are seen as a mixed bag for the domestic T&A sector, offering both significant relief and some continued challenges. Simplification of tax slabs, correction of Inverted Duty Structure (the reduction of GST on man-made fibres (MMF) from 18% to 5% and on man-made yarns from 12% to 5%), the 5% GST threshold for apparel raised from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500 per piece, the lowered logistics costs due to the GST on commercial goods vehicles reduced from 28% to 18%, all

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'India's Textile Value Chain Requires Additional Reforms...

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these measures are going to help the T&A industry in lowering the costs and increasing the consumption.

The direct positive impact will be seen soon in terms of increased competitiveness, boost to domestic consumption, increased affordability for consumers, relief for MSMEs and a boost to job creation.

What are the other reforms that are called for to make our textile value chain more robust and resilient?

While GST reforms are a significant step, India's textile value chain requires additional reforms focusing on technology, infrastructure, sustainability and market agility to become robust and resilient against global shocks.

The reforms necessary for the industry are: development of textile-specific infrastructure, encourage technology adoption, investments in AI and IoT, leverage investments in technical textiles, encourage product innovation and research, develop sustainable raw material sourcing, implement a robust sustainability framework & promote circular economy models, reforming age-old labour laws, strengthening the skill develop-

FTAs serve as critical levers for the Indian textile and apparel (T&A) industry, particularly in offsetting market disruptions caused by protectionist measures, such as the Trump administration's tariffs.

ment efforts, expanding through market diversification and leveraging the FTAs, and encourage brand building.

Some of the government schemes, like PLI and PM Mitra Park, as well as other infrastructure boosting schemes, have yet to take off. In today's challenging situation, the industry needs them the most. Your comment.

Government schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) and PM Mitra Parks are crucial for the Indian textile industry, particularly during challenging times exacerbated by international trade issues. The slow implementation of these programmes is a critical concern, as they are designed to provide the very support the industry currently needs most. In the face of headwinds like the Trump administration's tariffs and

shifting global trade dynamics, a swift and successful rollout of these schemes is vital for India's textile and apparel sector.

The delayed progress of these well-intentioned schemes can be attributed to several factors, such as stringent and complex criteria, high investment hurdles and risk aversion, delayed capital disbursement and challenges in terms of infrastructural bottlenecks and high logistics costs.

In the face of headwinds like the Trump administration's tariffs and shifting global trade dynamics, a swift and successful rollout of these schemes is vital for India's textile and apparel sector. Successful implementation of these schemes is expected to allow the industry to invest in world-class capacity creation, resulting in enhanced competitiveness, product diversification and mitigating mar-

ket disruption.

What will be your message to the industry and policymakers in this difficult scenario?

In a difficult and volatile global trade scenario, the message to both the Indian textile and apparel sector and its policymakers must be one of urgent, strategic collaboration. The time for incremental change has passed; a coordinated, mission-mode effort is required to navigate current headwinds and build a truly resilient, globally competitive sector.

My message to the industry is: Be agile and diversify relentlessly, pivot from over-reliance (like on the US market), expand the product portfolio, invest in modernisation, embrace sustainability, and focus on value, not just cost.

My message to the policy-makers is: Accelerate and de-risk strategic schemes, execute important schemes and initiatives with urgency, prioritise infrastructure completion (including land acquisition), revamp the present PLI scheme to include MSMEs, strengthen raw material security, finalise FTAs strategically, invest in skills for the future, and establish a robust monitoring mechanism. □

India's Textile Ministry Pushes MSME Exporters Toward Global Market Diversification

India's Ministry of Textiles on September 8, convened a high-level consultation with micro, small and medium (MSME) textile exporters, focusing on expanding global market reach and enhancing domestic competitiveness. The meeting, chaired by Textile Minister Giriraj Singh, follows a similar national-level consultation with top exporters on 13 August 2025.

The minister emphasised strategic diversification into 40 key global markets alongside domestic demand expansion and highlighted the 56th GST Council's reforms, which rationalised the textile value chain under second-generation GST measures to reduce cost distortions, boost demand and strengthen export competitiveness.



MSME exporters urged continued fiscal support, simplified compliance and stronger branding for handlooms, handicrafts and GI-tagged products. Valued at US\$ 179 billion, India's textile sector contributes nearly 2% to GDP,

with exports of US\$ 37.75 billion, ranking as the sixth-largest global exporter with a 4.1% share of world trade. Its products reach over 220 countries, spanning more than 520 districts.

Despite global volatility and rising tariffs from certain partners, the sector remains resilient. July 2025 exports rose 5.37% to US\$ 3.10 billion, while cumulative exports for April–July 2025 reached US\$ 12.18 billion, up 3.87% year-on-year. Readymade garments (+7.87%), carpets (+3.57%), and jute products (+15.78%) led segment growth, while handicrafts and man-made fibre textiles maintained steady performance. Key export markets such as Japan (+17.9%), the UK (+7.39%), UAE (+9.62%), and Australia (+1.74%) demonstrated India's

potential to capture a larger share of the US\$ 590 billion global textile market.

To strengthen market reach, the minister recommended establishing warehouses in key international markets and promoting direct-to-consumer e-commerce sales. Government measures include import duty exemptions on cotton until 31 December 2025, extension of export obligations under Advance Authorisation from six to 18 months, and expansion of the PLI scheme application window.

Additionally, four industry-led committees have been constituted to advise on market diversification, fiscal support, structural reforms and innovation. □

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China's Cotton Exports Hit 7-Year High Despite U.S. Tariffs

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China's cotton consumption and exports are defying global trade headwinds, even as higher U.S. tariffs and restrictions under the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) were expected to weigh on shipments. According to the latest World Markets and Trade report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), China's cotton product exports in marketing year (MY) 2024/25 (Aug–July) touched a seven-year high, supported by competitive pricing, robust domestic demand and fiscal stimulus measures.

China's cotton consumption is estimated at 39 million bales in MY 2024/25, unchanged from last year and above earlier forecasts. A record 1.09 trillion yuan in annual domestic apparel sales, backed by government-led demand stimulus, further bolstered mill use. The IMF recently revised China's GDP growth forecast for 2025 upwards to 4.8%, citing improving consumer demand.

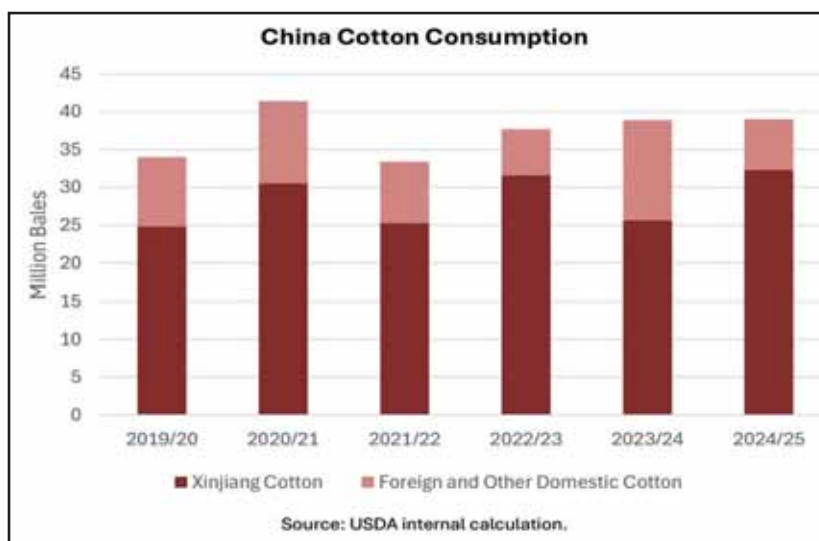
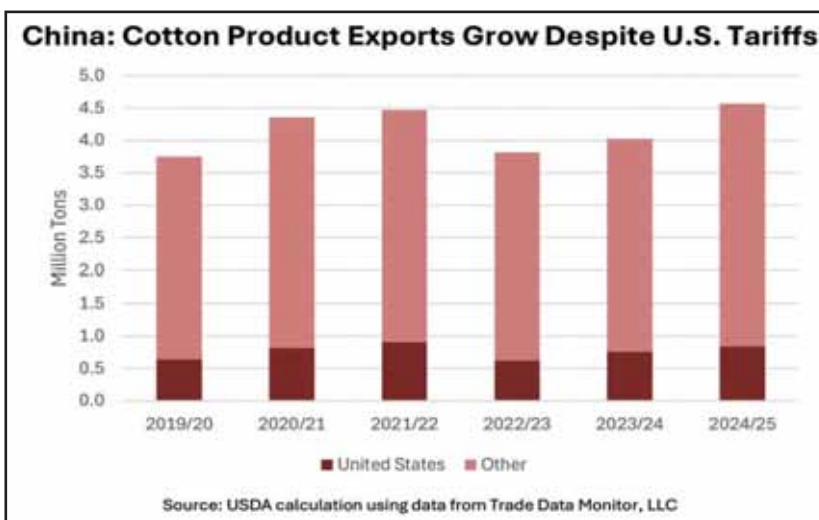
Interestingly, exports to the U.S., China's largest market for cotton products, surged despite tariff hikes. Frontloading of U.S. imports and lower comparative prices gave China an edge, with July prices for women's woven trousers, its top category, about 30% lower than eight years ago.

However, the UFLPA continued to impact Xinjiang-origin fibre, forcing China to divert that cotton away from the U.S. market. Imports fell to the lowest in nearly a decade as the government refrained from auctioning reserves, while Xinjiang production reached record highs.

Global Cotton Outlook: Production, Trade and Prices

The USDA raised global cotton production for MY 2025/26 by 1.0 million bales to 117.7 million bales, with larger crops in China, India and Australia offsetting declines in Turkey, Mexico and Mali. China alone is expected to produce 32.5 million bales, its biggest crop in 12 years.

Global trade is forecast at 43.7 million bales, marginally higher than last month's estimate. India and Australia are expected to raise exports by 300,000 bales and 100,000 bales, respectively, while Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali will see lower ship-



ments. On the import side, Vietnam, Turkey and Mexico are projected to buy more, offsetting reduced demand from India and China.

Consumption is projected at 118.8 million bales, led by a 1.0-million-bale increase in China, even as Turkey's use moderates. Global ending stocks are now forecast at 73.1 million bales, nearly 800,000 bales lower, driven by stronger consumption.

Price Trends

Cotton futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) held steady at 66 cents per pound, while the global benchmark A-Index was quoted at 77.9 cents per pound in September, nearly unchanged from August. Country-wise, spot prices diverged — rising in China to 97.4 cents/lb, while easing sharply in India, Brazil and Pakistan.

The USDA retained its forecast for the U.S. season-average farm price at 64 cents/lb for MY 2025/26.

India: Higher Output, Stronger Exports

India's cotton production for MY

2025/26 has been revised upwards to 24 million bales, with exports projected at 1.3 million bales, a 30% jump from the earlier estimate. This follows improved crop conditions, though domestic use is steady at 25 million bales. Imports are forecast slightly lower at 2.8 million bales due to better local availability.

The Bottom Line

The cotton market is entering MY 2025/26 on a stronger footing, with China driving both consumption and exports despite geopolitical headwinds. Record Xinjiang output, resilient domestic demand and competitive pricing are supporting trade flows, while higher global production from major growers like China, India and Australia is expected to keep supplies ample.

With futures and spot prices relatively stable, the market's trajectory will now hinge on the pace of global demand recovery, evolving U.S.-China trade relations, and weather developments across key growing regions. □

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A Story About Fibre Links



Murugan Santhanam, Managing Director, Texdoc Online Solution Pvt. Ltd.

“Ring Spinning-pur!”

The name of the island sounded peculiar: Ring Spinning-pur. I glanced at my tour guide, who anticipated my curiosity and said, “This is the land of legendary Yarn Academies.”

“Yarn Academy? Never heard of it. Tell me more!” I asked, intrigued.

“Here, textile fibres are stretched, trained and twisted through sacred rituals to become elite, strong yarn.”

“Oh, I see...”

As we walked, I noticed a row of fibres lined up outside a grand hall labeled Drafting Dojo. They were mostly short and stout, with uneven heights. Some looked like fluffy round balls—more comic than cohesive.

“Who are you? And where are you from?” I asked one of them.

“We’re the Cardo Team, from the town of Carding,” he replied proudly.

I pointed to a mischievous greenish dwarf clinging to his back. “And who’s that fellow?”

“Ugh... that’s my cousin Flynn Nep. He refuses to let go,” sighed the Cardo member.

Nearby, another group stood tall and graceful under a polished sign-board: Comba Team. These fibres were long, silky and aligned like dancers in formation.

Before I could ask them anything, a booming voice echoed through the halls.

A wise old roller with a voice like a calibrated motor introduced himself as Professor Draftwell and addressed the crowd:

“Welcome, fibres! Today, you’ll learn the sacred art of cohesion. Only

those who master the Link Technique shall graduate as Elite Yarn!”

“First, align yourselves in the Drafting Dojo. Then, prepare to face the Twist of Destiny in the Twisting Dojo!”

Inside the Drafting Dojo, chaos and contrast unfolded.

The Cardo Team struggled. Some fibres slipped out of line, others lagged behind. The formation bulged and thinned like a poorly wound bobbin. Flynn Nep tangled with everyone, turning alignment into a circus.

Meanwhile, the Comba Team moved with precision. Each fibre aligned smoothly, guided by an invisible rhythm. Their line was uniform, their purpose clear.

Then came the Twisting Dojo, ruled by a muscular spindle named Lord Hercules. A sign at the entrance warned:

“Only those who survive the Twist of Destiny shall become yarn! But beware—too much twist, and you’ll snap like a noodle in a blender!”

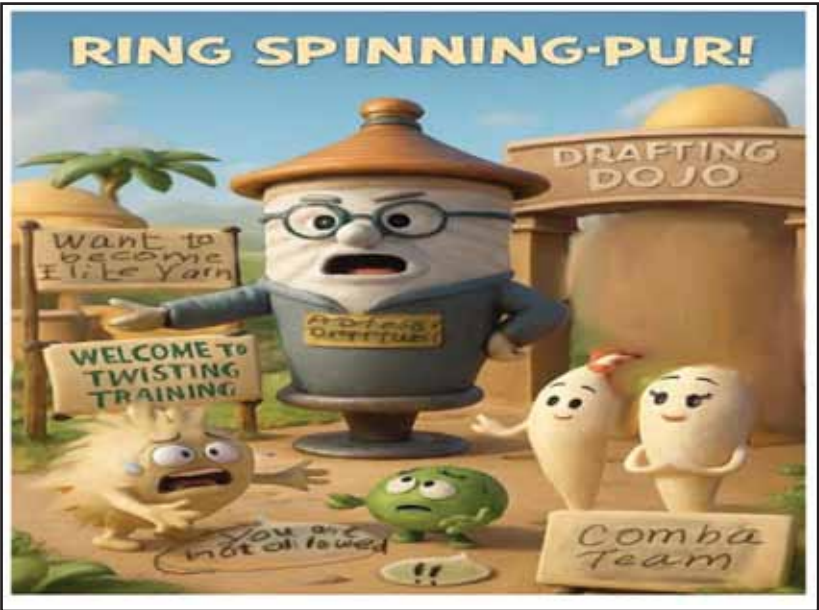
Inside, the fibres gripped each other tightly. But it wasn’t just hugging—it was about Fibre Links, the frictional handholds that determine team strength.

The Cardo Team tried valiantly, but their short arms and slippery cousins made linking difficult. Their handgrips turned into sweaty handshakes.

Some screamed:

“I have too many handshakes! My hands ache—I can’t breathe!”

Their links barely held—just about 3 mm between each member.



Meanwhile, Comba floated through the twist like a yogi in a tornado, whispering:

“Twist is not force—it is harmony.”

Their team maintained elegant 6 mm handgrips, forming strong, stable links. No neps, no drama—just cohesion.

Graduation Day

Both teams emerged from the chamber and entered the Testing Centre.

The Comba Team passed with flying colours, earning the coveted Elite Yarn Certificate. The Cardo Team, despite their effort, fell short. Their hearts sank.

I felt sorry for them...

...Until I woke up.

“Oh! What a dream! Now I finally understand why fibre links range from 3 mm to 6 mm. That question had been haunting me for a week,” I said to myself!

My question was: What are fibre links in the yarn, and why are the fibre links in the yarns just 3 mm to 6 mm,

despite the minimum fibre length being 3 to 4 times higher than that?

Now, I could answer some more questions:

What Is a Fibre Link?

A fibre link is the portion of fibres in the cross-section of a yarn that overlaps and grips adjacent fibres due to twist-induced friction.

It’s not a physical bond, but a frictional and geometric interlock of a bunch of fibres in the cross-section of a yarn.

Each fibre can form multiple links along its length, depending on how long it is and how tightly the yarn is twisted.

Why the fibre links are important?

They decide the uniformity and more of the strength of the yarn.

Higher link density generally means better strength and cohesion.

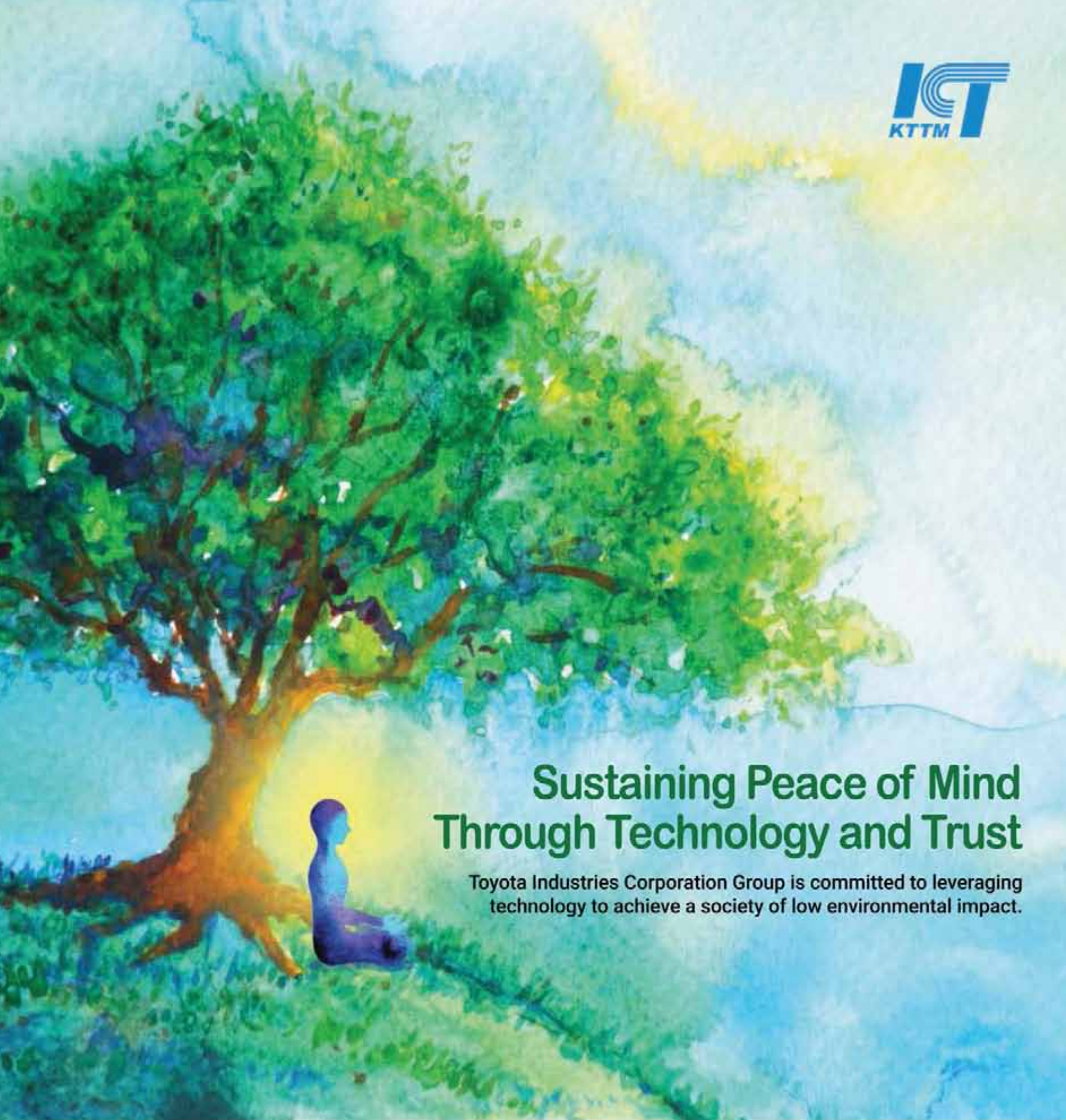
Will the length of the fibre link be affected due to improper drafting, despite longer fibres?

Yes, and exactly. Studies show that yarn strength scales with the number of effective fibre overlaps. So, the poorly prepared fibres fail to form effective fibre links. With good preparation, the twist is more uniformly distributed, maximizing the self-locking effect and thereby yarn strength.

Do the lengths of the fibre links vary for the same kind of fibres? What is their effect?

Yes. The 3 mm and 6 mm lengths mentioned above are just average. Depending upon their preparation, if the yarn irregularity is greater, the fibre link lengths will vary greatly. It is the strength of these fibre links that results in end breaks at spinning. If the traveller tension is more than that of the fibre link, an end break occurs. □

Why Carded Yarn Has Lower Strength?			
Factor	Carded Yarn	Combed Yarn	Impact on Strength
Fibre Length	Shorter, more variable	Longer, more uniform	Short fibres slip more easily; fewer full-length overlaps
Alignment	Less parallel	Highly parallel	Misaligned fibres reduce cohesive force
Impurities & Neps	More	Fewer	Interrupt smooth twist and reduce frictional grip
Link Quality	Weak	Strong	Short links may not transmit tension effectively
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Reliance Unveils R|Elan GreenGold

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Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has introduced R|Elan GreenGold, a 100% recycled polyester fabric designed to provide verified sustainability and full traceability, addressing growing concerns of greenwashing in the textile industry. The fabric, made entirely from post-consumer PET bottles, combines responsible sourcing, independent scientific validation and circularity-led initiatives, positioning it as a credible alternative for global brands.

Unlike conventional recycled polyester, GreenGold is built on a closed-loop, brand-controlled ecosystem. Every bottle collected and processed into fibre is tracked via reverse vending machines and compliant vendor networks, ensuring end-to-end transparency from waste collection to fabric production.

The authenticity of the recycled content is further validated using Isophthalic Acid (IPA) test-



ing, a chemistry-based method that confirms the PET-bottle origin of the fibre. Independent tests consistently show ~1.8% IPA content, giving brands measurable proof of the material's recycled credentials.

RIL has extended GreenGold beyond fabric into a platform promoting circularity and sustainability. Initiatives include the Circular Design Challenge (CDC), supporting designers and entrepreneurs to embed recycling in fashion, and the Earth Tee campaign, where limited-edition GreenGold tees are sold via NGOs, with proceeds dedicated to tree plantation.

"With R|Elan GreenGold, we are not just offering a sustainable fabric but a science-backed, traceable solution that builds trust across the value chain," said a Reliance spokesperson. □

Spinnova And Rieter Publish Industrial Yarn Spinning Guideline For Spinnova Fibre

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Spinnova and Rieter have released a comprehensive yarn spinning guideline for industrial partners, detailing the production of compact yarn from Spinnova fibre using Rieter's advanced machinery. The step-by-step guide highlights key considerations at every stage of the spinning process and is available upon request to industrial users.

The collaboration between Spinnova and Rieter, which reached a milestone in 2023 when Rieter equipped Spinnova's R&D spinning line with its state-of-the-art machinery, including the ring spinning machine G 38 with COMPACTdrum and the rotor spinning machine R 70, has been pivotal in developing yarns for Spinnova blends. The guideline represents a significant step toward industrial scal-



ability and efficient handling of Spinnova fibre.

Franziska Häfeli, Head of Sales and Marketing, Machines and Systems Division at Rieter, said, "We

are proud to support the industrialisation of Spinnova fibre with our proven spinning technology. This guideline reflects our shared commitment to innovation and sustainability in the textile industry."

Shahriar Mahmood, Chief Product and Sustainability Officer at Spinnova, added, "Having clear, written instructions on spinning yarn with our fibres not only eases our partners' workflow but also demonstrates valuable endorsement from the leading name in yarn spinning systems. We are pleased to offer this guideline with Rieter and support our partners' success."

By combining Spinnova's fibre innovation with Rieter's spinning expertise, the partnership aims to lower the barrier for industrial adoption of sustainable Spinnova fibre in commercial production. □

Phifer Expands Specialty Fabrics With Sunbrella Licensing Partnership

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Collaboration to debut Sunbrella Sling collection in early 2026

Phifer Incorporated has entered into a licensing agreement with Glen Raven Materials Solutions Group to produce Sunbrella-branded Sling fabrics for outdoor furniture, further strengthening its specialty textile portfolio.

The partnership combines Phifer's 70 years of expertise in performance fabrics with Sunbrella's industry-leading design and durability. The first collection, launching in January 2026, will feature approximately 50 stock fabrics alongside custom-

made options, developed collaboratively by Phifer and Sunbrella design teams.

Manufactured across Phifer's U.S. and Asian facilities, the Sunbrella Sling fabrics integrate Sunbrella's signature acrylic yarns with Phifer's proprietary sling technology. The resulting textiles offer a balance of strength, softness, stain resistance and ease of maintenance, aimed at elevating both comfort and aesthetic appeal in the casual outdoor furniture market.

Hugo Benitez, National Market Manager of Designed Fabrics at Phifer, said the collaboration complements Phifertex and strengthens their design-forward, performance-driven offerings. Sunbrella Vice President Suzie Roberts added that the partnership addresses evolving customer demands by combining durability with style.

This strategic alliance highlights Phifer's ongoing commitment to innovation and positions both brands to set a new benchmark for high-performance, design-led outdoor fabrics. □



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China's US\$ 300 Bn Textile Sector Turns To Green Growth

China's textile and apparel sector, long regarded as the "workshop of the world," is entering a pivotal phase where economic pragmatism collides with sustainability imperatives and shifting global trade dynamics. The China Country Report 2025 by Cascale offers a detailed account of how the sector, which directly employs nearly 8 million people and contributes almost 9% of national export revenue, is recalibrating for the next decade.

Macroeconomic Stability, But Slower Growth

China's economy, valued at roughly US\$ 19 trillion in 2024, is transitioning from decades of double-digit growth to what policy-makers call 'high-quality growth.' Authorities remain confident of maintaining a 5% GDP growth rate in 2025. The textile and apparel industry, deeply woven into this economic fabric, reflects the same pivot: moving from high-volume, low-cost production toward technology-driven, sustainable and value-added manufacturing.

Sustainability Becomes Strategy

Decarbonization is now a central mandate. The sector emits about 230 million metric tonnes of CO₂ annually, nearly 3% of China's industrial emissions. Beijing's dual-carbon pledge (peak emissions by 2030, neutrality by 2060) is reshaping industry practices. Leading players are investing heavily:

- ANTA Sports is targeting carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Advance Denim has pioneered plant-based dyes and recycled fibres.
- Jiangsu Dasheng unveiled China's first carbon-neutral spinning facility in 2025.

At the policy level, China is rolling out nationwide waste textile recycling systems and tightening enforcement of water pollution controls in dyeing hubs. Together, these measures aim to align production with both domestic sustainability goals and the rising compliance demands of Western markets.



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Export Performance: Resilient but Rebalancing

China remains the world's top apparel exporter with a commanding 31.6% market share in 2023. Yet, export dynamics are evolving. After a slowdown in 2023, when apparel exports dipped 7.8% due to inflationary pressures abroad, the industry rebounded in 2024, recording US\$ 301.4 billion in combined textile and apparel exports, up 2.7% year-on-year.

The geographic spread of exports is diversifying. Traditional markets like the U.S., and EU now account for under 45% of China's clothing exports, down from over 50% previously, while Africa, Belt and Road countries, and Asian neighbours under RCEP have grown in significance. However, looming regulatory shifts such as EU due diligence laws and carbon border adjustments may challenge China's cost advantages.

Domestic Market: Urban, Digital and Premium

Domestically, the consumer story is robust. By 2023, two-thirds of China's population lived in urban areas, a share projected to rise to 70% by 2028. Rising middle-class incomes, coupled with digital-first shopping behaviours, have made China the world's largest e-commerce market for 12 consecutive years.

Over 35% of apparel sales now occur online, with platforms like Alibaba's Tmall, JD.com, Pinduoduo, and Douyin (TikTok) driving real-time, influencer-led sales. Events such as Singles' Day and 6.18 generate "new seasons" of demand, reshaping manufacturing cycles.

Meanwhile, consumers are "trading up." Premiumization is evident not only in luxury but also in mass-market segments, where demand for functional fabrics, eco-

friendly apparel and authentic brand storytelling is on the rise. Surveys show nearly half of Chinese consumers are willing to pay more for sustainable products, reinforcing industry shifts toward organic cotton, recycled fibres and transparent sourcing.

Competitive Pressures and Opportunities

China faces intensifying competition from Bangladesh, Vietnam, and other low-cost hubs, particularly in basics like cotton T-shirts and footwear. Its response has been to double down on comparative advantages: automation, vertical integration, speed, and increasingly, innovation.

The country already leads globally in industrial robotics adoption, with 392 robots per 10,000 workers in 2023—more than double the global average. This technological edge, combined with scale and an expansive domestic supply chain, underpins its continuing dominance in higher-value or quick-turnaround orders.

Outlook: From "Made in China" to "Designed in China"

Looking ahead, analysts expect China to remain indispensable but transformed. The workforce may shrink in numbers as automation scales, yet become more productive and skilled. Domestic brands like Li-Ning and Bosideng are already gaining traction globally, hinting at a future where "Designed in China" rivals "Made in China."

The industry's trajectory toward sustainability and innovation could also position China as a global rule-maker, not just a rule-taker, in fashion's climate and labour standards.

China's textile and apparel sector stands at crossroads. Its next chapter is less about sheer output and more about quality of product, environmental stewardship and labour conditions. With robust fundamentals and a vast home market, the sector is poised to remain a global powerhouse, provided it successfully balances growth with responsibility in a changing world. □

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EU Textile Waste Rules Introduce Extended Producer Responsibility, Reshape Industry Practices



The European Parliament has adopted new rules aimed at cutting textile waste, placing the responsibility for collection, sorting and recycling squarely on producers. The measures, framed under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), signal a major shift in how textile brands, manufacturers and suppliers must approach product design, materials and end-of-life management.

Under the directive, producers selling textiles into the EU must finance waste management across a wide range of product categories, including clothing, footwear, accessories, bed and kitchen linens, curtains, blankets and potentially mattresses. EU member states may also impose higher fees on ultra-fast fashion products. National laws implementing the directive must be in place within 20 months of adoption.

Industry Implications

The new rules will impact every segment of the textile supply chain. Brands will face accountability for end-of-life costs, increased pressure to design durable and recyclable products, and potential fees for items that hinder circularity. Manufacturers will need to provide transparent evidence of waste reduction and recyclable processes. Chemical suppliers will see growing demand for verified, recycling-compatible materials, emphasizing the need for transparency and safer chemistry.

Compliance Risks and Opportunities

Non-compliance could result in fines, market access restrictions and reputational damage. At the same time, companies that have invested in circular product design, safer chemistry and transparent supply chains can gain a competitive edge with regulators, retailers and consumers.

How Bluesign Supports the Industry

While not a substitute for regulatory compliance, Bluesign provides a framework to help companies navigate EPR obligations through verified chemistry to enable textile-to-textile recycling, supply chain transparency and measurable data to support compliance reporting, global consistency across EU, U.S., and Asian regulations, tools to reduce recycling costs and prepare for future circularity demands.

With more than 25 years of experience and over 900 partners worldwide, Bluesign helps companies align sustainability strategies with practical operational solutions. Early preparation auditing chemical inputs, engaging suppliers, budgeting for EPR fees and monitoring evolving rules can reduce costs, enhance resilience and position companies ahead of enforcement deadlines.

The EU's textile waste directive marks a turning point, creating both regulatory challenges and opportunities for companies to lead in circularity. □

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H&M Foundation Commits SEK 53 Million To Build Net-Zero Factories

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The H&M Foundation has pledged SEK 53 million (approx. EUR 5 million) to Future Forward Factories, a five-year initiative led by Fashion for Good to transform the fashion industry's most polluting stage, tier 2 textile processing.

Launched earlier this year with anchor support from Laudes Foundation, Apparel Impact Institute and IDH, the initiative now gains momentum with H&M Foundation stepping in as main funder. Its investment will support the creation of open-source, regionally tailored blueprints for near net-zero manufacturing at scale. These will combine physical demonstration sites with digital toolkits, giving brands, suppliers and investors practical roadmaps for environmentally responsible, socially just and commercially viable transformation.

"Too many good solutions end up in the pilot trap. By co-developing solutions with manufacturers and taking on the early risk, philanthropy can help break that cycle," said Christiane Dolva, Head of Innovation, Research and Demonstration at H&M Foundation. "This initiative gives suppliers

real tools, real examples and a real business case for change, making transformation both possible and replicable."

Tier 2 textile processes contribute some of fashion's highest emissions, yet suppliers often face prohibitive costs, fragmented standards and uncertain technology pathways. Future Forward Factories addresses these barriers by co-developing and validating solutions directly with manufacturers, while ensuring that outcomes also improve worker conditions and community well-being. The first demonstrator facility, developed with anchor partner Arvind Ltd in Gujarat, India, will focus on cotton fabrics and is projected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 93% and cut water use by 60 litres per kilo of fabric.

"As manufacturers, we are often told what needs to change, but rarely engaged as true partners," said Punit Lalbhai, Vice Chairman of Arvind Ltd. "At our Gujarat facility, we are proving that near net-zero processes are achievable while remaining commercially viable, a blueprint for others to follow."



Deliverables and Impact

Future Forward Factories aims to scale real-world results across the global fashion supply chain, with expected outcomes including:

- 7 open-source blueprints for near net-zero factories
- 7 demonstrator facilities with major emission and water savings
- 60+ supplier transformations adopting the blueprints
- 100+ low-impact technology installations in tier 2 facilities

The initiative also embeds a just transition framework, ensuring climate action goes hand-in-hand with improved working conditions and local community benefits.

The H&M Foundation's commitment underlines the catalytic role phi-

lanthropy can play in bridging the gap between early-stage innovation and wide-scale adoption. The foundation is urging other philanthropies and financial actors to join in accelerating systemic transformation.

"Future Forward Factories goes beyond pilots to deliver replicable blueprints for the entire industry," said Katrin Ley, Managing Director of Fashion for Good. "With H&M Foundation's support, we are laying the foundation for a more resilient, regenerative and socially just future for fashion."

Over the course of the project, seven regional blueprints will be released as open resources, enabling manufacturers worldwide to adopt sustainable solutions at scale. □

CHT Group Exceeds Sustainability Targets For 2025

The CHT Group has published its Sustainability Report 2024, showcasing significant progress in the ecological transformation of its business activities. With total sales of EUR 619 million and sustainable chemical solutions accounting for 84% of revenue, the company has already surpassed its 2025 targets.

"Sustainability is and remains our overarching corporate goal. We invest resources where they have the greatest impact for our customers, for the society and for the environment. Sustainability is the future of our company," said Dr. Lorenza Sartorelli, COO of the CHT Group.

Key achievements in 2024 include confirmation of science-based climate targets by the SBTi, aiming for a 42% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions and 25% in Scope 3 emissions by 2030, with climate neutrality targeted by 2045.

The company increased the use of renewable energy and implemented resource-saving measures in production, while launching innova-



tive products such as Cool Dye for recyclable fibres and Pigmentura, a binder-free pigment dyeing process. Supply chain sustainability also progressed, with 100% of suppliers signing the CHT Code of Conduct, supported by risk analyses and sustainability assessments.

On the social front, 95% of employees worldwide earn more than a living wage, complemented by programmes for occupational safety, further training and diversity initiatives.

The CHT Group maintained its EcoVadis Gold rating in 2024, cementing its position as

a sustainability leader in the chemical industry. For the first time, the latest report applies stricter reporting standards based on the principle of double materiality, evaluating both environmental and societal impacts alongside financial risks and opportunities.

Beyond its own operations, the company develops chemical solutions to help customers achieve sustainability goals, enabling products to carry clear sustainability labels through resource-efficient and innovative processes.

"Sustainability is not a trend but an integral part of our strategy and business model. With smart chemistry, we contribute measurably to climate protection and resource conservation, for our customers and future generations," said Dr. Annegret Vester, Chief Sustainability Officer of the CHT Group.

The 2024 report demonstrates that responsible action and economic success go hand-in-hand, positioning the CHT Group as a pioneering force in the sustainable transformation of the chemical industry. □

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Denim Deal Launches India Hub To Boost Circularity In Denim

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In a move that could reshape denim's global sustainability journey, Denim Deal has launched its India hub in partnership with the Global Alliance for Textile Sustainability (GATS) and global venture builder Enviu.

The collaboration is designed to scale the use of post-consumer recycled (PCR) cotton in denim manufacturing, tapping into India's position as both a denim powerhouse and a market with a vast textile waste stream.

The launch follows a memorandum of understanding signed between the partners earlier this year and marks the first major expansion of the Denim Deal beyond Europe. In its original setting, the initiative created a common platform for brands, mills and recyclers to commit to measurable recycled content goals.

The India hub builds on that foundation, seeking to align global expertise with local infrastructure under the Denim Deal Certified Recycled Fiber framework.

For India, the opportunity is both urgent and unique. Despite being one of the largest producers



of denim garments, the country's recycling ecosystem remains fragmented. By offering standards, operational pathway and brand engagement under a unified umbrella, the hub aims to turn waste into a reliable feedstock for international markets.

Denim Deal will act as the knowledge bridge, while GATS will serve as the operational lead with its network of collectors, sorters, recyclers and manufacturers. Enviu will run pilot projects, measure impact and help shape scalable business models.

"India offers a unique opportu-

nity to lead the way in fashion circularity, with its large market, advanced recycling technology and strong denim industry," said Nicolas Prophte, Board Member, Denim Deal.

Parvinder Singh, Founder of GATS, noted that members across India are already recovering and processing textile waste, and the hub provides the structure needed to scale those efforts into trusted, certified recycled materials.

Enviu's Regional Programme Manager, Devansh Peshin, highlighted that making post-consumer waste viable requires both

demand activation and greater alignment across the value chain, and the Denim Deal provides that missing bridge.

The India Hub will give brands access to verified recycled fibres and impact-tracking tools, while recyclers and mills gain certification pathways and entry to premium markets. Retailers and manufacturers will be able to participate in pilots, develop capsule collections and set up take-back programmes.

Technology providers in traceability, digital IDs and lifecycle assessments will also have the chance to integrate with the hub, creating an end-to-end framework for transparency.

The first wave of activity includes a joint awareness campaign, a learning session on PCR cotton for Indian supply chain actors, and an open call for pilot projects involving brands and suppliers. An annual report on progress and impact will be released in mid-2026, with the hope that India can set a global benchmark for denim circularity and inspire other countries to follow. □

Greenful's Stake In €100M Sillamäe Textile Waste Project Shrinks To 2.3%

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Greenful Holding B.V., once the largest shareholder in the €100 million textile waste plant project in Sillamäe, Estonia, has seen its stake drop to just 2.3%, according to business daily Äripäev.

The project, backed by €39 million in Just Transition Fund support, aims to build a textile waste sorting and shredding centre, a facility to produce fibre-based construction panels and a panel manufacturing plant. The venture is led by three companies — Greenful Sillamäe, Greenful SIP, and Tekstiili Taaskasutuse OÜ.

Greenful's reduced role follows shareholder moves in July to raise



capital from €10,000 to €210,000 across the companies, excluding Greenful Holding from preemptive rights to new shares. Sources attribute the dilution to dissatisfac-

tion with Greenful head Toomas Allikas, citing unpaid costs, failure to secure promised investors and concerns linked to his past bankruptcy.

Allikas dismissed the claims as "gossip," insisting the project remains on track with EIS guarantees active and financing commitments from Finnish and Central European banks. "Funding is not a concern, and customer interest is strong," he told Äripäev.

The Sillamäe project expects 80% of financing from bank loans. Under Just Transition Fund rules, no single company may apply for more than €13 million, but the consortium secured €39 million as three linked firms. No disbursements have been made yet, with projects required to be completed by August 31, 2029. Operations are targeted to begin by end-2026, creating 150 jobs. □

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Borealis Turns Parking Lots Into Solar Farms In Partnership With ENGIE

Borealis has launched a 3.3 MWp solar project at its Belgian manufacturing sites in Kallo and Beringen, installing nearly 4,800 bifacial solar panels on parking canopies. The new system is expected to generate 3,250 MWh of renewable energy annually, reducing CO2 emissions by 550 tonnes each year.

The solar canopies, installed by ENGIE Sun4Business, provide covered parking for almost 500 cars and include electric vehicle charging points, enhancing convenience for staff and visitors. Under a 15-year "solar power as a service" agreement, Borealis purchases 100% of the renewable energy generated. After this period, Borealis will fully own the canopies, benefiting from free

electricity for an additional 10–15 years.

"This project marks a major step in our sustainability journey," said Craig Arnold, Borealis Executive Vice President, Polyolefins, Circular Economy Solutions and Base Chemicals. "By turning our parking lots into solar farms, we reduce our carbon footprint while supporting the EU's goal of 42.5% renewable energy consumption by 2030."

Vincent Verbeke, CEO of ENGIE Belgium, added: "Helping our clients transition to Net Zero is central to our strategy. Collaborating with industrial leaders like Borealis allows us to provide solutions that meet technical, site and local energy requirements while cutting CO2 emissions." □

DITF Invests In Solar To Cut Emissions, Boost Sustainability

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The German Institutes of Textile and Fibre Research (DITF) has commissioned a new photovoltaic system at its Denkendorf site, marking a key step in its sustainability roadmap. With an installed capacity of 840 kWp, the solar units have been set up on building rooftops and covered parking areas. The project involved an investment of €1.6 million, of which €1.4 million came as state support from Baden-Württemberg.

The system was officially inaugurated on September 17, 2025, in the presence of DITF Chairman Prof. Michael R. Buchmeiser, Denkendorf Mayor Ralf Barth, and Michael Kleiner, Permanent Secretary at the state's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism.

"The coalition agreement for Baden-Württemberg envisions climate-neutral research facilities, setting a national benchmark. With €1.4 million in funding for this system, we

aim to make a decisive contribution," said Kleiner. Mayor Barth added that DITF's efforts dovetail with the municipality's energy transition initiatives, combining sustainability with cost efficiency. The initiative is part of DITF's transformation concept launched in 2024 aimed at reducing its ecological footprint through renewable energy, improved thermal insulation and employee mobility solutions. Charging stations, e-bike facilities and leasing options have already been introduced.

Beyond infrastructure, sustainability is also shaping DITF's research agenda. The institute is leading two projects worth €4.2 million on recycling high-performance fibres like carbon and glass and converting conventional textile waste into high-quality yarns. Researchers are also exploring lignin, a paper industry by-product, for applications in carbon fibres, coatings and composites. □



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Kushal Motiani
General Manager – Marketing, Brandix India Apparel City (BIAC).

‘BIAC Provides Future-Ready, Highly Efficient Industrial Ecosystem’

In this exclusive interview with **Textile Insights**, **Kushal Motiani** shares insights into how BIAC has emerged as a world-class, sustainability-driven apparel and textiles hub. With over 20,000 employees, state-of-the-art infrastructure and strong ESG credentials, BIAC combines scale, speed and efficiency to serve global brands like Uniqlo, Victoria's Secret and PVH. Motiani discusses workforce development, plug-and-play operations, government incentives, sustainability initiatives, and the park's vision for the next decade as a leading global manufacturing destination.

What makes BIAC stand out compared to other industrial parks in India and Asia?

Over the past decade, India has made significant strides in industrial park development, with several world-class, sector-specific parks attracting substantial manufacturing investments.

BIAC was conceived as a green-field, integrated textiles and apparel park, designed to set a global benchmark. Leveraging the group's

international experience and understanding of operational challenges worldwide, BIAC was developed to combine scale, efficiency and sustainability, creating a standard few others could match.

A key differentiator of BIAC is its focus on people, water and waste management, which are critical to textiles and apparel manufacturing. Attracting and supporting a skilled workforce is central to the park's design. To facilitate manpower, BIAC

operates nearly 200 buses daily, through transport agencies, to bring workers from nearby villages.

In partnership with the Akshaya Patra Foundation, a full-fledged central kitchen serves over 10,000 meals per day. Plans are also underway to develop on-site worker housing in collaboration with institutional operators, further enhancing the park's appeal to talent.

Reliable water supply and sustainable management are another cornerstones. The park ensures uninterrupted water through government agreements and on-site infrastructure, including a 60-million-litre-per-day water treatment plant and two rainwater harvesting ponds with a combined 500-million-litre capacity, meeting nearly half of the park's needs. The stormwater network is designed on natural slopes to reduce pumping, lowering energy consumption and operational costs.

BIAC also leads in waste management. Its Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is capable of treating 56 million litres of effluent per day, treating all discharge from manufacturing units. Process solids are repurposed for cement production or dried with solar energy for fuel, eliminating landfill dependency. An on-site compliance team manages all permits, testing and reporting, allowing manufacturers to focus entirely on production.

By combining world-class infrastructure, sustainable water and waste management, and comprehensive workforce support, BIAC provides a future-ready, highly efficient industrial ecosystem that sets it apart from other industrial parks in India and Asia.

How does BIAC's proximity to Vizag Port and Airport give it a strategic edge for global exports?

Historically, manufacturing operations have thrived in locations close to ports, as proximity facilitates both imports and exports. BIAC enjoys a distinct logistical advantage from its nearness to Visakhapatnam Port and Airport, strengthening trade flows in both directions. Being located near a major port enables companies within the Park to move goods swiftly to global markets, resulting in cost savings and faster turnaround times.

Export operations are primarily centred on Full Container Load (FCL) sea shipments, depending on customer approvals and lead times. While international air cargo operations from Vizag remain limited due to connectivity and customs infrastructure, companies leverage nearby hubs such as Hyderabad and Chennai, which are fully equipped for freight and customs clearance.

With the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport, expected to begin passenger operations by mid-2026 and freight services by late 2026, air connectivity is set to improve significantly, further strengthening BIAC's global export capabilities in the near future.

BIAC claims to be among the lowest-cost, highest-efficiency operations in Asia. What makes this possible?

BIAC embodies the Prime Minister's vision of developing integrated textile parks under PM MITRA, aligned with the '5F' formula: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, by housing the entire value chain from raw materials to finished exports in one location. Situated just 50 km from Visakhapatnam Port, the Park's design eliminates hand-offs, reduces transit time and converts efficiency directly into margin.

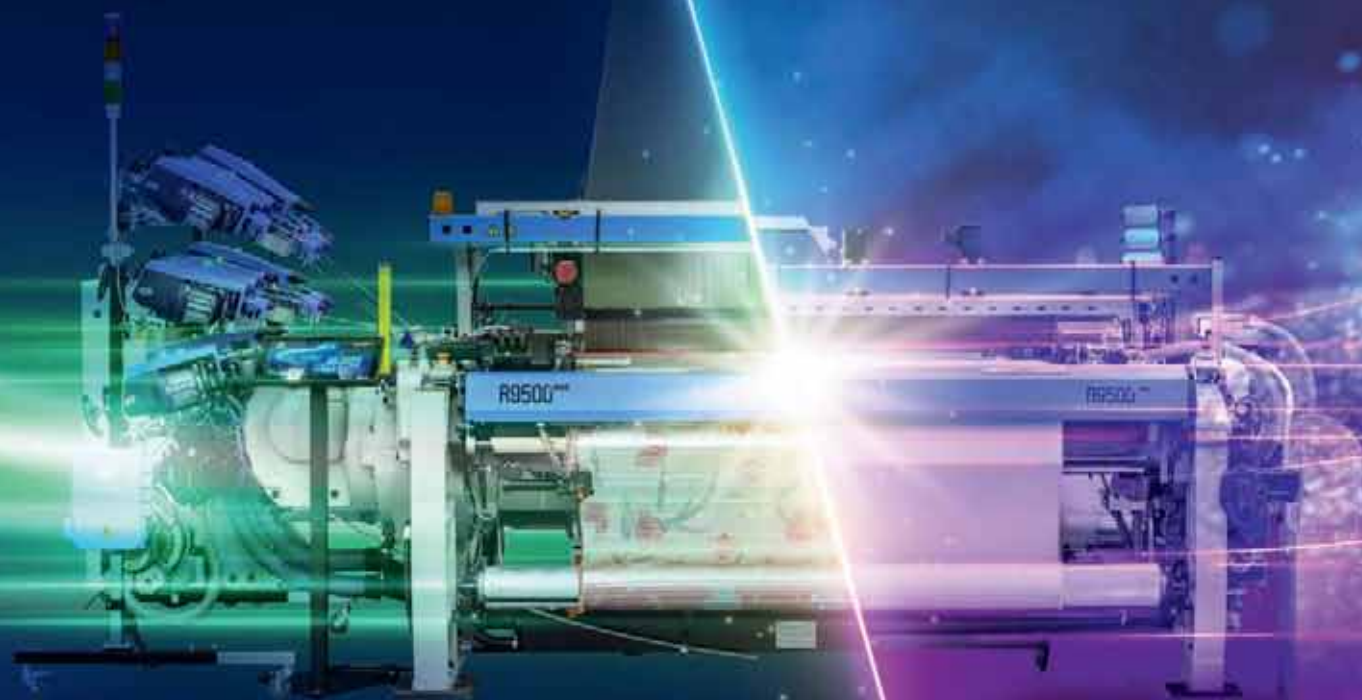
With suppliers and manufacturers co-located from fabric mills and trims to printing, packaging and logistics, programmes that once took weeks can now move in hours. Plug-and-play infrastructure further lowers capital risk, enabling new units to begin production in interim space within three months and transition to permanent facilities in about a year.

All units connect seamlessly to shared systems for water, effluent treatment, power and compliance with BIAC managing permits, testing and reporting so manufacturers can focus solely on production.

Speed is another advantage: a customs office inside the Park and proximity to the port ensure predictable despatch, with some U.S. programmes shipped in as little as eleven days from purchase order to warehouse delivery. The Park also provides dual-market flexibility, enabling domestic and export operations from the same site to maximize asset utilization.

Continued on Page 22

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‘BIAC Provides Future-Ready, Highly Efficient...

Continued from Page 20

A deep talent pool underpins this ecosystem. Initially seeded with experienced Sri Lankan leaders, BIAC has since localized talent, training over 100,000 people and employing more than 20,000 on-site today, the majority being women.

Safe transport, on-site training and a stable workforce ensure reliable productivity. Sustainability is equally embedded, with shared environmental infrastructure, rainwater harvesting, common effluent treatment with marine outfall, and solar sludge drying, standardizing compliance while reducing duplication of costs.

Put simply, co-location saves time, shared services cut costs, and a trained workforce drives consistency. This powerful combination allows brands to achieve both lower landed costs and faster, more reliable lead times at BIAC.

What government incentives and fiscal concessions are available for investors setting up units in the park?

In addition to the wide-ranging fiscal benefits available under the SEZ scheme, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, through its Industrial Policy 2024, extends highly attractive incentives for investors at BIAC. These include capital subsidies, interest subsidies, stamp duty exemptions and electricity duty exemptions, among others. As BIAC is a partner project with the state government, all such benefits are directly applicable to units setting up operations within the Park.

Andhra Pradesh has consistently ranked among the top states for ease of doing business and is known for offering customized, case-specific incentives for large-scale or strategically important investments. This ensures that businesses at BIAC not only gain from a strong policy framework but also from a state ecosystem committed to supporting long-term industrial growth.

How does the plug-and-play infrastructure model reduce set-up time for new companies?

Traditionally, setting up a new manufacturing unit could take 18–24 months from site finalization to oper-

Companies receive end-to-end assistance across their lifecycle, as shown below:	
Stage	Support from BIAC
Pre-production / construction	SEZ related approvals (LOA, etc.), Building Plan & Site Plan, PCB NoC, Fire NoC, Bond cum Legal Undertaking, etc.
Production	Employee transport, Food & Lodging, Training & Development, etc.
Postproduction	Professional Operations & Maintenance services



ations. At BIAC, this timeline is significantly reduced through streamlined approvals, staged customer support and plug-and-play infrastructure.

A major differentiator is BIAC’s Plug-and-Play Staging Units (Standard Design Factories), which allow companies to begin operations immediately while their permanent facilities are under construction.

These interim units provide a base for early hiring, training and pilot production, ensuring a smooth transition once the main factory is ready. Many customers affirm that this model has saved them both time and cost, accelerating their journey to market readiness.

With over 20,000 employees, mostly women, how is BIAC addressing workforce availability and skill development?

Leveraging Brandix Group’s 50+ years of global experience, BIAC has adopted a holistic approach to workforce development, employee welfare and community engagement. A state-of-the-art skills training centre supports employee upskilling, complemented by programmes that attract

and retain talent. Benefits include marriage and first-baby support, along with scholarships for employees’ children from school through postgraduate studies.

Workplace policies ensure safety and inclusivity, evolving from the 2016 POSH policy to the 2021 gender-neutral Abuse & Harassment-Free Workplace policy. Occupational health services, launched in 2019, enhance employee wellbeing. Daily meals are served to 10,000 employees via the central kitchen in collaboration with the Akshaya Patra Foundation, while 200 buses cover 600 villages, improving accessibility.

Associate wellness initiatives include in-house counselling, legal aid clinics, AI-Anon family support, and tele-counselling during COVID-19. The P.A.C.E. programme (2021) promotes women’s skill-building and career growth, while the RISE Respect programme (2023) strengthens leadership, confidence, and workplace empowerment.

Talent development extends to academic engagement through internships, project-based learning, and the Dual System Training programme.

BILD Academy (2020) builds a pipeline of skilled professionals with behavioural and leadership training.

Community initiatives include school infrastructure improvements benefiting 1,200 students, 142 free eye camps providing 38,000 glasses, women and adolescent health programmes reaching 22,000 participants, distribution of 3,100 Shakti kits for maternal nutrition, and ongoing village drinking water projects.

BIAC takes pride in long-serving employees, many with 14–15 years at the park, and in second-generation staff returning to white-collar roles, reflecting a culture of skill development, empowerment and opportunity that spans families and communities.

What sustainability initiatives, such as net-zero targets, CETP and zero-landfill practices, make BIAC appealing to ESG-focused investors?

BIAC is a sustainability-driven industrial park with initiatives that strongly resonate with ESG-focused investors. The park is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, backed by ongoing investments in clean energy and energy-efficient technologies. Its pioneering zero-landfill approach ensures that all solid waste is recycled, repurposed or used as fuel, supported by innovations like solar sludge dryers and biocatalyst treatments that significantly reduce waste volumes.

Water sustainability is another core focus, with nearly half of annual consumption met through large-scale rainwater harvesting. BIAC also maintains strict compliance with environmental regulations and governance standards, enhancing operational resilience and long-term viability.

Being part of the Brandix ecosystem further strengthens BIAC’s ESG credentials. The group has set ambitious science-based climate targets, achieved globally recognized certifications and embedded circularity and resource efficiency throughout its operations. Collectively, these measures minimize environmental and regulatory risks while aligning with global ESG benchmarks, making BIAC a highly attractive destination for responsible and sustainability-minded investors.

Continued on Page 24

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India Apparel Exports May Shrink 6-9% In FY26 Due To US Tariff Hike: ICRA

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India's apparel exports are set to decline by 6-9% in FY26, with credit rating agency ICRA revising the industry outlook to Negative from Stable, citing the steep hike in US tariffs and pricing pressures.

ICRA expects exporters' operating profit margins to contract by 200-300 basis points, slipping to around 7.5% in FY26 from 10% in FY25, as order inflows slow and volume-led efficiencies weaken. Entities with higher US exposure are likely to be the hardest hit.

US, which accounts for a third of India's apparel exports, raised tariff rates by 50% from Au-



gust 27, 2025. While a pre-shipment rush lifted exports in recent months, ICRA warned of weaker

performance in H2 FY26 if the tariff regime continues.

"The imposition of steep tariffs is a material setback for domestic apparel exporters," said Srikumar K, Senior VP, ICRA. "New order inflows are likely to be hit and margin pressures are imminent."

India's share in US apparel imports is modest at 6%, making market recovery difficult if share is lost. While the FTA with the UK and diversion to alternative geographies may cushion some impact in FY27, ICRA sees margins and credit metrics under pressure in the near term. □

CITI: T&A Exports Dip In August, Apr-Aug Trend Positive

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India's textile and apparel (T&A) exports slipped in August even as cumulative shipments for April-August 2025 stayed in positive territory, latest trade analysis by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) shows.

Exports of textiles fell 2.79% year-on-year to US\$ 1.70 billion in August, while apparel exports dropped 2.65% to US\$ 1.23 billion. Overall T&A exports declined 2.73% to US\$ 2.93 billion, compared to US\$ 3.01 billion a year ago.

For the April-August period, however, apparel exports rose 5.78% to US\$ 6.77 billion, while textiles remained almost flat at US\$ 8.35 billion. Cumulative T&A exports reached US\$ 15.11 billion, registering a modest 2.52% growth over the same period



in 2024.

Within segments, jute products grew 9.65% in Apr-Aug, while carpets and handicrafts posted marginal gains. Cotton yarns and fabrics slipped

slightly, and man-made fibres showed a negligible uptick.

On the import side, raw cotton and waste surged 48.75% to US\$ 510 million in Apr-Aug, reflecting strong domestic demand. Imports of textile yarn, fabric, and made-ups also rose 8.67% to US\$ 1.08 billion.

T&A exports accounted for 8.35% of total exports in August, down from 9.16% last year, highlighting the pressure from subdued global demand and tariff headwinds in key markets.

Industry executives say apparel demand is cushioning the sector, but sustaining growth will require policy push, competitive raw material access, and faster market diversification. □

'BIAC Provides Future-Ready, Highly Efficient...

Continued from Page 22

Leading global brands like Uniqlo, Victoria's Secret, and PVH are already present at BIAC. How has their experience influenced the park's growth?

The presence of leading global brands has been pivotal in BIAC's evolution. Until recently, India lacked the capability to meet the exacting standards these brands demand. To bridge this gap, Brandix Apparel, the group's manufacturing arm, invested heavily in workforce training, raw material quality, process upgrades and finishing techniques.

A key step was relocating experienced personnel from Sri Lanka and other established hubs to transfer technology and mentor the local workforce. Over the years, these ini-

tiatives have created a skilled local talent pool capable of independently meeting global quality standards, allowing many migrant experts to return home.

Speed and reliability of execution are additional strengths. BIAC's integrated apparel park model enables streamlined operations and record-time deliveries, enhancing efficiency for all brands.

Together, these measures—world-class quality, a skilled workforce, and rapid execution—have cemented BIAC's reputation as a preferred destination for global apparel brands, driving growth, capability development and long-term sustainability in India's apparel manufacturing sector.

Looking 5-10 years ahead, what is

your vision for BIAC as a global manufacturing hub?

When BIAC was established in Atchutapuram, Andhra Pradesh, the area was considered a hinterland. Today, through sustained development and the creation of over 100,000 jobs, it has emerged as a sought-after industrial destination, attracting global companies across sectors, including Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Saint-Gobain Glass, Uniparts, Yokohama, Asian Paints, Nerolac, and Laurus Labs.

While apparel and textiles remain a core focus, recent government approvals to expand into related sectors such as toys, accessories, and footwear offer additional growth avenues. These industries complement textiles and apparel, creating operational synergies that accelerate park

development. [>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)

Government initiatives promoting textiles and apparel to new markets, alongside FTAs with the UK, Australia, and other regions, as well as PLI incentives, further strengthen India's global manufacturing prospects. BIAC is strategically aligning its outreach initiatives over the next 12-18 months to leverage these opportunities.

Our vision is to position BIAC as a world-class, diversified manufacturing hub combining scale, speed and quality to serve global markets. By fostering a skilled workforce, supporting allied industries and maintaining a strong focus on innovation and efficiency, BIAC aims to remain at the forefront of India's industrial and economic growth. □

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(L-R) Pratik Patni, Kishorekumar Mundra, Sanjay Patni, Chogalal Vadera, Sachin Zanvar, Sandeep Patani, Yash Zanvar And Aakash Mundra of Microtex Processors Pvt. Ltd.

Microtex Processors: Bridging The Gap Between Raw Fabric And World-Class Finishing

By **Henry Dsouza**
Mumbai

Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra has long been a hub for greige fabric manufacturing. For decades, however, manufacturers in this textile-rich belt had to depend on processors in Mumbai or Ahmedabad for advanced dyeing, printing and finishing. Spotting this gap, Microtex Processors Pvt. Ltd., entered the market with a forward-integration vision, to bring world-class processing capabilities closer to the country's weaving heartland.

"Microtex was built to bridge the gap between raw fabric and world-class finishing, bringing advanced textile processing closer to India's greige hub," says Kishorekumar Mundra, Managing Director of Microtex Processors.

Microtex's journey is rooted in the ambition to transform Ichalkaranji's textile ecosystem. What began as a response to the absence of local processing facilities has evolved into a large-scale operation with an installed capacity of 1,00,000 metres per day, scalable to 2.5 lakh metres. One of its earliest milestones was the commissioning of state-of-the-art infrastructure equipped with continuous bleaching, mercerization and pre-

treatment ranges, alongside advanced dyeing and printing capabilities.

Unlike many traditional family-run enterprises, Microtex has built its business on corporate governance and professional management. This approach has enabled it to compete with established players while strengthening its reputation for transparency, quality and timely delivery.

"Our strength lies not just in technology, but consistency in quality that speaks louder than price," stated Sanjay Patni, Director of Microtex Processors.

Microtex's processing plant reflects its commitment to scale and precision. The facility houses rotary screen-printing machines capable of 12-colour outputs, jet and soft-flow dyeing machines for polyester and viscose and advanced finishing equipment from leading international suppliers. Two high-end stenters, a sanforizer and aero finishers provide customers with versatile finishing options, ranging from peaching and calendaring to specialized performance treatments.

What sets Microtex apart, however, is its focus on automation. The company has integrated SCADA-based systems that monitor chemical usage, utilities and production parameters in real time. This not only enhances operational efficiency but also ensures pre-

cise cost management and sustainability tracking. Plans are also underway to establish full digital integration, enabling remote monitoring and better production transparency.

Microtex has carved a niche in shirting and suiting fabrics across cotton, polyester-cotton blends, viscose, linen, and lycra-based fabrics. The company has also expanded into technical fabrics such as nylon, broadening its reach. On the finishing front, peaching, aero and calendaring remain key strengths.

While the international market has seen volatility in recent years, Microtex has prioritized the Indian market, which alone provides sufficient demand to absorb its current capacity. A dedicated design and R&D team ensures that the company stays ahead of market trends with fresh prints, innovative blends, and contemporary finishes tailored to consumer preferences.

"Our customers are our partners, their growth fuels our growth and we ensure every delivery strengthens that trust," noted Sachin Zanvar, Director of Microtex Processors.

In an industry increasingly defined by compliance and sustainability, Microtex has moved early to establish credibility. The company is OEKO-TEX and BCI certified and is in the process of obtaining ISO certification. Its 100% Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) plant underscores its commitment to environmental responsibility, while its use of eco-friendly fuels such as briquettes, palm shells and nut shells in the boiler house reflects a shift toward greener energy.

"Profitability and responsibility go hand in hand at Microtex, every metre we process carries both quality and care for the environment," says Sandeep Patani, Director of Microtex Processors.

Microtex has also invested in pollution control systems, including wet scrubbers and air preheaters, ensuring adherence to environmental norms. On the risk front, the company focuses on consistent quality and diversified distribution through its nationwide network of agents, allowing it to remain competitive even in volatile market conditions.

At the core of Microtex's strength is its people. The company has successfully built a culture where skilled manpower is nurtured through training and mentorship. Many employees have remained with Microtex for over a decade and leadership plays a direct role in encouraging innovation and accountability. The result is an organizational structure that balances discipline with flexibility, crucial for meeting customer timelines without compromising on quality.

"Innovation at Microtex is not about chasing trends, but about anticipating the future

Continued on Page 27

Microtex Processors: Bridging The Gap ...

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needs of fabric and fashion.”, said Chogalal Vadera, Director of Microtex Processors.

Microtex positions itself as a differentiated player in India's textile processing sector through its combination of scale, technology and sustainability. Its ZLD plant, extensive finishing capabilities and 25+ years of experience in greige fabric manufacturing give it a strong competitive edge. Rather than engaging in price wars, the company has built its brand on quality-driven, sustainable solutions that justify premium pricing.

Looking ahead, Microtex envisions becoming one of India's finest integrated textile processors. The roadmap includes expanding its processing capacity, exploring composite solutions across grey fabric, finished fabric and yarn and eventually taking the company public. The management also intends to integrate renewable energy sources



such as wind and solar to further strengthen its sustainability footprint.

Like its peers, Microtex faces challenges in rising energy costs, raw material fluctuations and tightening global environmental regulations. However, the company views these pressures as opportunities to differentiate itself. By aligning investments in

renewable energy, advanced machinery and sustainable fabrics like hemp, Microtex positions itself at the forefront of innovation while catering to the growing demand for eco-friendly textiles.

As India's domestic textile market continues to grow, Microtex Processors is well placed to capitalize on the demand for high-quality processed fabrics.

Its forward-integration strategy, technological strengths and focus on sustainability give it both resilience and scalability. With clear plans for capacity expansion, digital integration, and eventual public listing, Microtex is not just processing fabrics, it is weaving a future-ready business model for India's textile industry. □

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Online Marketplace Loopholes Pose Economic Risks In The EU

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The rapid expansion of e-commerce has generated significant efficiency gains and consumer benefits across Europe, but it has also exposed structural weaknesses in the EU's regulatory framework.

A coalition of 64 organisations, ranging from NGOs to industry associations has warned that persistent loopholes in online trade are undermining the integrity of the single market, creating market distortions, and eroding the EU's capacity to enforce safety and sustainability standards.

At the heart of the problem lies the treatment of online marketplaces under EU law. Platforms that facilitate cross-border trade are not classified as "economic operators" and thus bear limited legal responsibility for verifying product compliance. This exemption allows third-country sellers to place goods directly on the EU market without the checks required of domestic producers or importers.

The result is an uneven playing field: compliant European businesses shoulder the costs of product safety, environmental standards and extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, while non-EU sellers gain price advantages by sidestepping these obligations.

The economic implications are far-reaching. According to the European Commission, 4.6 billion low-value parcels valued under €150 entered the EU in a single year, representing a surge in direct-to-consumer imports. Many of these products are non-compliant, distorting competition in sectors such as electronics, toys and household goods.

Mystery shopper exercises have revealed failure rates as high as 80–100% for certain categories purchased from third-party sellers. Such figures indicate not only consumer safety risks but also a systemic regulatory gap that undermines legitimate businesses investing in compliance.

The coalition's proposals are designed to rebalance incentives and restore market fairness. Chief among them is the establishment of a mandatory EU-based operator responsible for every product sold within the Union, including packaging compliance. Recognising online marketplaces as economic operators would align their obligations with those of importers and distributors, ensuring that no product enters the EU market without a responsible entity. This would also internalise the compliance costs currently avoided by non-EU sellers, addressing the problem of "free-riding" in EPR systems. Studies estimate that free riders account for 5–10% of the online electronics market, representing up to 920,000 tonnes of goods annually that escape producer responsibility schemes.

The coalition further calls for customs reform, particularly the abolition of the de minimis rule for parcels under €150. This threshold, originally intended to streamline low-value trade, has become a major loophole exploited by overseas sellers. It encourages the fragmentation of shipments to avoid duties and oversight, thereby inflating parcel volumes and overwhelming customs capacity. Eliminating this exemption and implementing the "deemed importer" concept in the Union Customs Code would reassign accountability for compliance, reinforcing the principle that all market participants must adhere to the same standards.

The economic rationale extends beyond consumer protection. By tightening rules and enforcement, the EU can level the playing field for compliant businesses, safeguard jobs in regulated industries and ensure that investment in sustainable and safe production is not undercut by cheaper, non-compliant imports.



Germany's recent example demonstrates the potential impact: when verification requirements were introduced for electronic goods under WEEE regulations, the number of registrations more than doubled in a single year, proving that stronger obligations can rapidly improve compliance.

For policymakers, the stakes are high. If loopholes remain, the EU risks not only consumer harm but also significant fiscal losses in customs revenues and EPR contributions. Moreover, the credibility of the internal market as a regulatory space, where standards are uniform and enforced would be weakened. As peak shopping seasons approach, with surges in imports from third countries, the coalition's warning underscores the need for timely legislative action.

From an economic standpoint, closing the loopholes is not a regulatory burden but a corrective measure to restore market equilibrium. By ensuring that all sellers, regardless of location, face the same compliance obligations, the EU can strengthen consumer trust, uphold environmental commitments and prevent unfair competition.

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Nonwoven Geotextiles Market To Reach US\$ 13.07 Billion By 2033

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The global nonwoven geotextiles market, valued at US\$ 7.58 billion in 2024, is set to grow steadily to US\$ 13.07 billion by 2033, according to the latest research. This represents a CAGR of 6.3% from 2025 to 2033, fueled by the expansion of infrastructure projects, stricter environmental regulations, and growing demand for sustainable construction materials.

Geotextiles are increasingly being adopted across civil engineering applications for their ability to support soil stabilization, drainage, erosion control and waste management. Advances in functional treatments and manufacturing technologies

are expanding their role in green infrastructure, while evolving regulatory frameworks are encouraging wider adoption.

Key growth drivers include the push for sustainable urban design, where geotextiles enable vegetation growth, slope stabilization and eco-restoration of degraded land. In water management, treated textiles improve flood control, stormwater interception and landfill leachate containment. Rising regulatory pressure is also shaping demand, with agencies requiring materials that deliver both structural performance and ecological benefits.

However, challenges persist. Advanced coatings

and additives raise production costs, while maintaining the long-term effectiveness of active agents remains a technical hurdle. Standardized testing protocols for active geotextiles are still under development, creating regulatory uncertainty across markets.

Innovation is rapidly reshaping the industry. Controlled-release geotextiles with microencapsulated fertilizers, biologically active fabrics with microbial inoculants, and sensor-integrated textiles for real-time monitoring are advancing adoption in critical infrastructure and urban greening projects.

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(L-R) Directors Sanket Sunilkumar Bangad, Sunilkumar Rameshwarlal Bangad, Ashish Vasudev Bangad and Amit Jaythalia of Bangad Group

Bangad Group: Weaving Not Just Fabrics But Also Legacy Of Tomorrow!

By **Henry Dsouza**
Mumbai

Ichalkaranji, often referred to as the 'Manchester of Maharashtra,' has long been known for its weaving heritage. Among its pioneering names, Bangad Group of Industries stands tall as a company that has not only embraced modern weaving technologies but also redefined the art of sari-making in the town.

Founded in 1971 by visionaries Rameshwarlalji Bangad and Vasudevji Bangad, the group began its journey when weaving in the town was still largely traditional. By embracing mechanization early and later investing in high-speed looms, Bangad Group became one of the first to blend scale with precision. Today, more than five decades later, the group is not only a leader in grey and shirting fabrics but also the only company in Ichalkaranji manufacturing saris on Jacquard weaving looms, making it a true pioneer.

The company's journey reflects both adaptation and foresight. From introducing power looms in 1971 to steadily upgrading with Sulzer, Picanol Rapier and Tsudakoma airjet looms, Bangad Group has kept pace with global technology. The 2010s marked a transformative phase with the adoption of Toyota e-shade airjets and other advanced high-speed airjets, which significantly improved productivity and efficiency.

A landmark milestone came in 2023 when Bangad Group set up its first Jacquard unit with Vamatex Leonardo looms (3072 hooks), entering sari production. Just a year later, the company expanded to 6100 hooks, enabling it to weave even more intricate sari designs, upholstery and fashion fabrics. This step not only diversified the company's portfolio but positioned it as a trendsetter



in Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra.

"Our philosophy has always been to stay one step ahead," says Sunilkumar Rameshwarlal Bangad, Director, adding, "We began with the belief that quality products will speak for themselves and today, every milestone, from looms to Jacquards, proves the power of that belief."

The sari division is the centrepiece of Bangad Group's growth story. Using advanced jacquard and airjet technologies, the company crafts saris that capture both tradition and modernity. Each piece reflects precision from dobby designs to full-body jacquard patterns, resulting in saris that are luxurious, fashion-forward and rooted in cultural heritage. The group is now preparing to take this journey a step further with the launch of its own sari brand, SIYORA, which will offer exclusive collections under the Bangad legacy.

"Being the only sari manufacturer in Ichalkaranji is both an honour and a responsibility," remarks Ashish Vasudev Bangad, Director. "For us, every sari is more than fabric, it's a canvas of culture, artistry and innovation. We want our saris to be as relevant to an urban millennial as they are to someone who cherishes tradition."

Customization plays a major role in this division. Clients can choose tailored designs, colours and textures. The company also collaborates with designers and boutiques to launch limited-edition collections. With exports gaining traction, Bangad group is actively working to showcase the richness of Indian saree weaving on a global scale.

"Our aim is to take the Ichalkaranji sari beyond borders," adds Amit Jaythalia, Director. "The combination of advanced looms and in-house design allows us to deliver unique products that can stand on par with international luxury textiles."

Bangad Group operates around 200 looms, producing 1 to 2 million metres of fabric every month, over 15 million metres annually. Its advanced Jacquard units, supported by Staubli systems up to 6100 hooks, enable high-volume production of intricate designs without compromising speed or consistency.

The group's R&D centre plays a crucial role in driving innovation. The team experiments with blends of cotton, polyester, hemp, bamboo, linen and Tencel to create fabrics that are both functional and sustainable. Prototyping and sampling are streamlined, reducing lead time for new products and ensuring market responsiveness.

"Innovation is not a choice anymore, it is a necessity," explains Sanket Sunilkumar Bangad, Director, who represents the third generation of leadership. "My focus is to integrate sustainability with branding so that Bangad Group becomes synonymous with responsible, future-ready textiles."

The company's operations are ISO 9001:2015, OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certified and very soon, Bangad Group will also become a proud member of BCI (Better Cotton Initiative). Quality checks are carried out at every stage, from raw

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Bangad Group: Weaving Not Just...

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material procurement to final dispatch. Continuous training ensures that technicians and workers remain adept at handling high-speed machinery. This disciplined approach ensures consistency across every batch, reinforcing client trust in both domestic and export markets.

Bangad Group's sustainability initiative, Pravaha, signals its entry into eco-conscious textiles. The brand offers fabrics made from hemp, bamboo, banana fibre, recycled polyester, organic cotton, vegan silk, and more. Though currently a smaller share of total production, the company is steadily scaling this vertical to meet rising demand.

"Our vision is to make sustainable fabrics accessible without compromising performance," notes Sanket Bangad. "With Pravaha, we are positioning ourselves as partners to brands that want to embrace eco-friendly fashion."

The company also practices waste recycling, repurposing scraps, and is actively exploring renewable energy through solar integration.

With a workforce of about 200 employees, Bangad Group balances human expertise with technological infrastructure. Its customer-first approach has enabled collaborations with fashion designers, garment manufacturers and home décor brands, often involving customized developments with flexible order quantities.

The group acknowledges challenges such as volatile raw material prices and fluctuating market demand. However, the leadership views these hurdles as opportunities for reinvention.

"The textile industry is cyclical, but resilience comes from consistent innovation," says Sunilkumar Bangad. "Our investments in R&D and sustainability are the shields against these uncertainties."

Looking ahead, Bangad Group sees its biggest opportunities in



sustainable textiles, sari exports and collaborations with global brands.

The roadmap for the next five years includes launching linen blends and coloured variants of bestselling fabrics, expanding sari exports to premium fashion houses and boutiques abroad, strengthening Pravaha to capture the growing eco-fashion segment.

"In the coming years, we want Bangad Group to be recognized as much for its saris as for its sustainable fabrics," says Sanket Bangad. "Our goal is to weave not just cloth, but stories that inspire trust, innovation and responsibility."

From powerlooms in the 1970s to state-of-the-art Jacquards in the 2020s, Bangad Group's journey echoes vision, adaptability and a deep commitment to excellence. By being the first and only company in Ichalkaranji to produce saris on Jacquard looms, it has placed the town on the global textile map in a new light. With a strong foundation and a future driven by sustainability and innovation, Bangad Group is not merely weaving fabrics, it is weaving the legacy of tomorrow. □

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(L-R) **V.C. Gupte**, Head – Colour Business and **Rajesh Shah**, Sr. VP – Sales of Advanced Graphic Systems

The Fashion Industry Now Drives Colour Preferences In Textiles

In an exclusive Interview with **Textile Insights**, **V.C. Gupte** and **Rajesh Shah** of **Advanced Graphic Systems**, speak about how the textile and colour industries have transformed over the last few decades and the latest trends driving the growth in these industries.

How have you seen the textile and colour industries transform over the decades, and what is the current status of your dream project to establish a Colour Museum in India?

Gupte: The transformation in the industry has been remarkable. Initially, very few mills could afford colour matching systems due to high costs and import duties. Today, no textile or colour industry can function without them. I was fortunate to work with Asian Paints when they became the first paint company to adopt colour matching systems, and later helped with shade matching and dispenser integration after 1995.

However, there is a shortage of technical professionals capable of handling these systems effectively. Few institutes teach colour science at the graduate level, and even fewer have qualified faculty. Unless this gap is addressed, the availability of technology alone may not yield the desired results.

My dream project is to establish a Colour Museum, a true Colour Science Park. There is currently no science centre in the world dedicated exclusively to colour and colour science. I am working to secure 1–2 acres of accessible land, ideally supported by a municipal corporation or state government, mod-

eled on international science centres. I am optimistic that this vision will soon become a reality.

Shah: Over four decades in the textile industry, I've seen a shift from entirely manual operations to fully automated process houses. Lab automation and production systems now allow precision, efficiency, and consistency that were unimaginable in the past. Processes that once required hours of manual intervention are now real-time and computer-monitored.

How are current trends in textile colour preferences shaping demand, and which segments drive the highest need for colour matching solutions?

Gupte: Fashion is the primary driver of colour trends, especially with fast fashion introducing new shades at short intervals. E-commerce further amplifies these trends among younger consumers. Home textiles also show innovative colour options influenced by interior designers, while technical textiles evolve more slowly but are no longer confined to conventional colours.

Shah: Colour remains critical across fashion, home and technical textiles, with precision and consistency increasingly demanded by brands and consumers. Dyeing and processing technologies continue to evolve to meet these requirements, particularly in segments where exact shade matching is essential.

How are sustainability and eco-compliance requirements influencing colour matching and dye/print choices?

Gupte: Regulations across countries restrict banned chemicals, encouraging sustainable practices. Colour matching systems are designed to incorporate these constraints automatically while delivering accurate results.

Shah: Environmental awareness has led to ETP plants, tertiary treatment and zero-discharge systems in most processing houses. Sustainability guided by the principles of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, now drives dyeing, printing and colour-matching decisions.

What challenges do manufacturers face in maintaining colour consistency for global brands, and how does AGS help?

Gupte: Maintaining a set of compatible dyes makes consistency easier and ensures right-first-time performance. AGS supports clients in selecting compatible combinations and provides modern lab equipment and dyeing/printing machinery to sustain accuracy.

Shah: Challenges include climate variations, environmental regulations and older machinery in smaller process houses. AGS addresses these by providing advanced colour-matching solutions, automated systems and technical guidance to ensure repeatable, precise results that meet international and sustainability standards.

How does AGS support exporters and mills in meeting international standards?

Gupte: International brands select shades from Pantone and other shade cards, which often require careful reproduction to avoid metamerism. AGS ensures compliance with sustainability and regulatory requirements while providing solutions for accurate shade replication.

Shah: AGS helps mills and exporters meet standards such as Pantone, ISO, and brand-specific requirements through right-first-time dyeing, improved shade consistency, reduced costs and productivity gains.

With digital printing and AI-driven colour prediction on the rise, how is the market evolving?

Gupte: Digital printing uses inks but follows the same principles as conventional printing. AI-driven colour matching is still in early stages but holds promise, and I am exploring its applications.

Shah: Digital printing has grown for small-lot production with minimal environmental impact, but mass adoption is still developing. Wider penetration of AI-driven colour prediction may take another decade.

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The Fashion Industry Now Drives Colour...

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Which geographies or markets are currently the strongest drivers of growth?

Gupte: Our primary focus is India, with some support extended to customers in the Middle East and Africa, mainly linked to parent companies based in India.

Shah: India is a key driver due to its large, young and fashion-conscious population, shaping both domestic and global textile trends.

What role do technology partnerships play in the future of textile colour management?

Gupte: Colour management is crucial for meeting short-interval shade demands and frequent regulatory changes.

Shah: Partnerships with dyeing technology providers, spectrophotometers and colour-matching software are essential to achieve consistent shades, optimize recipes and improve supply chain efficiency.

How does AGS differentiate itself in a competitive market?

Gupte: AGS provides end-to-end colour solutions across industries with skilled professionals and technical support, unlike agents who primarily trade. Our systems deliver results from day one.

Shah: AGS combines expert technologists with global technology partners, serving over 3,000 clients across sectors. This enables us to meet strict multinational standards, while delivering speed, precision and sustainability.

Looking ahead, which industry

shifts will impact colour matching over the next five years?

Gupte: All the shifts, such as fast fashion, retail expansion and the rise of circular textiles, will have a lasting impact on colour management, but outcomes will depend on effective handling of equipment.

Shah: These shifts will drive evolution from traditional visual shade matching to advanced, real-time, online colour platforms, ensuring manufacturers meet stringent consistency requirements efficiently. □

V. C. Gupte: India's Colour Visionary

V. C. Gupte began his career in 1971 at the Wool Research Association, working on computerised colour matching at a time when almost no literature or tools were available. Along with colleagues, they developed their own algorithms and presented India's first international paper on colour matching, which drew wide attention.

Soon after, Gupte joined the Mafatlal Group, where he developed and implemented colour matching systems across multiple process houses and dyestuff units. For over a decade at Mafatlal, he gained hands-on experience with cotton, polyester and nylon, while also supporting marketing, costing and inventory functions with data-driven tools.

A stint in system marketing followed, before Gupte moved to Belgium with Milton Roy, USA, providing technical support for colour



matching systems across Europe, South Asia and North Africa. This expanded his expertise beyond textiles into paints, plastics, automobiles, packaging and cosmetics.

On returning to India, Gupte joined hands with Ravi Goyal, founder of Advanced Graphic Systems (AGS). Gupte helped in building up colour business with Gretag-Macbeth and Fast & Fluid Management businesses. Over the past three decades, AGS has grown into a leading solutions provider in colour matching and paint dispensing technologies. Parallely, Gupte has remained engaged with academia, teaching at ICT, SNTD, SASMIRA and DKTE, guiding postgraduate and doctoral students, and donating to set up a Colour Science Laboratory at ICT. He has also authored books on colour technology to bridge the gap between academia and industry. □

Durst Integrates GMG Spectral Colour Management into Workflow and Smart Factory

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Durst Group, a leading manufacturer of digital printing and production technologies, has announced the full integration of GMG's spectral colour management technology into its proprietary Durst Workflow software and the open Smart Factory portfolio under the Open Software Initiative. The solution will be officially launched at Printing United 2025.

This integration establishes a new benchmark for automated, colour-consistent production across all printing systems and substrates. Durst Workflow will now include GMG's spectral colour

management as a standard feature, with existing customers receiving the update at no additional cost. The solution spans all Durst market segments: labels & packaging, corrugated, and sign & display. It also serves as a key component of the modular Smart Factory architecture, central to Durst's vision of an open, fully connected production ecosystem.

"By integrating GMG into our Durst Workflow and Smart Factory platform, we are delivering a new level of colour consistency – fully automated and highly scalable," said Michael Deflorian, Di-

rector Business Unit Software & Solutions at Durst Group. "This is a real-world example of best-of-breed integration in line with our Open Software Initiative, demonstrating our commitment to offering the best software solutions for the entire print industry."

Darrian Young, Global Partnership Manager at GMG, added, "This partnership enables a consistent, media-neutral production process – a true gamechanger for the market, bringing together innovation and quality from both companies." □



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Bangladesh RMG Exports To EU Surge, Compliance Challenges Ahead

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Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) exports to the European Union (EU) rose 48.34% between 2020 and 2024, reaching €18.79 billion, consolidating its position as the bloc's second-largest apparel supplier.

Data from Eurostat shows exports climbed from €12.32 billion in 2020 to €18.28 billion in 2024, outpacing the EU's overall apparel import growth of 24.92% during the same period. The EU imported €85.55 billion worth of apparel in 2024, up from €68.48 billion in 2020, reflecting resilient demand despite global economic uncertainties.

China remained the EU's top apparel source, followed by Bangladesh, Turkey, India and Vietnam.

While Bangladesh's market share has strengthened, sustaining the growth will be increasingly challenging as EU buyers push for stricter sustainability and transparency in supply chains. The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), adopted in April 2024, along with the Green Deal and Digital Product Passport requirements, will make compliance mandatory for suppliers.



Bangladesh's RMG sector, which accounts for nearly half of its total apparel exports to the EU, has begun preparing for these changes. Industry initiatives include labour law amendments, national action plans, skill development programmes supported by the ILO, factory safety im-

provements, certifications, and digital systems for traceability. Currently, Bangladesh has 263 USGBC LEED-certified factories, the highest in the world, including 111 platinum-rated and 133 gold-rated units.

Global market dynamics are also shifting. With the US imposing steep tariffs on China and India, both countries are increasing their focus on the EU market, raising competitive pressures for Bangladesh. At the same time, eurozone inflation held steady at 2% in July 2025, supporting consumer spending capacity on fashion.

To maintain momentum, Bangladesh's apparel industry will need to scale up sustainable production, diversify into higher-value and design-driven products, and strengthen backward linkages and logistics. Policy incentives, tax reforms and green investments will be crucial to sustaining its competitiveness in the evolving EU market. □

Chinese Investment In Bangladesh Jumps 300%; Dhaka Eyes Deeper Economic Ties

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Chinese investment in Bangladesh has surged 300%, underscoring Beijing's growing role in the country's economic landscape, Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin said on Friday. Speaking at the 'Belt and Road Initiative in Bangladesh Exhibition' at the Bashundhara Convention Centre, he stressed that enhanced collaboration with China could further accelerate Bangladesh's growth trajectory.

"The joint experience and collaboration with China can propel Bangladesh forward," Sheikh Bashir said, adding that Bangladesh must address its



structural weaknesses while leveraging China's expertise in production and packaging to strengthen its industrial base.

Despite being the world's second-largest exporter of ready-made garments (RMG), Bangladesh continues to lag in broader industrial growth. The adviser flagged road safety and transport infrastructure as critical challenges, noting that the high incidence of accidents reflects an urgent need for upgrades. He called for increased cooperation with China to modernise the country's transport systems. □

BGMEA Seeks Faster Customs Services To Boost Garment Exports

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The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has urged the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to ensure faster, hassle-free Customs, VAT, and bond-related services to support the country's US\$ 47-billion readymade garment (RMG) sector.

The appeal was made at a meeting on Wednesday between BGMEA leaders, led by first Vice President Syed Nazrul Islam, and NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan at the Chattogram Custom House.

Industry leaders flagged delays in clearing im-

ported raw materials, machinery and equipment as major hurdles that increase production costs and disrupt supply chains. They warned that Bangladesh risks losing competitiveness at a time when export markets have shrunk, including in its two largest destinations, and political instability has already disrupted production since July.

"Unless the situation improves, there could be a reduction in purchase orders for the upcoming season," Nazrul said.

BGMEA Vice President Rakibul Alam Chowdhury

added that modernisation and simplification of Customs processes are critical to maintaining global competitiveness as international buyers demand shorter lead times. "If we face delays due to Customs-related issues, we risk losing our competitive edge," he said.

NBR Chairman Khan assured industry leaders that the tax authority would work to resolve the issues. Senior BGMEA directors and former vice presidents, along with top officials from the Chattogram Custom House, were present at the meeting. □



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How GST 2.0 Rate Cuts Will Strengthen India's Textile And Apparel Value Chain

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By **Rajeev Gupta**

Jt. Managing Director, RSWM Ltd

For the economy and the textile industry, GST 2.0 reforms are undoubtedly a landmark step. The reduction in manmade fibres from 18% to 5% and synthetic yarn from 12% to 5% will substantially strengthen the country's textile industry while enhancing its competitiveness and stimulating consumption. Handloom, handicraft goods, yarns and carpets have also been shifted to the uniform 5% GST slab.

This will improve working capital cycles and increase affordability. Enhancing the apparel slab from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,500 with uniform 5% GST will provide a big fillip to the demand for garments and apparel. In turn, it will create new opportunities across the entire textile value chain. As a result, GST 2.0 reforms represent a truly transformative step for the textile industry.

However, harmonising GST on recycled polyester fibre (that is now 5%) and its raw material, PET bottles (18%), is a crucial area needed to uncover the full potential of circular textiles. This will support sustainable innovation, boost domestic production and facilitate the country's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047, considering the key role of textiles in the economic ecosystem.

Current Challenges and Some Solutions

To support the textile industry's growth, it's important to remove the Rs 2,500 ceiling on textile and apparel and ensure higher-priced items are taxed uniformly at 5%. A higher GST slab will burden consumers since textiles and apparel are basic needs for Indian families that should not be classified as luxury products. Whether it is festivals, celebratory occasions like weddings or seasonal needs, good clothing is essential. The higher GST will impact not just wedding apparel but eth-



Rationalising GST rates under the 5% slab can help curb costs while stimulating greater demand, as apparel will become more competitive and affordable.

nic wear and woollens too.

Clothing must be kept affordable for the masses since this means stability for traders. It will also help protect the livelihood of millions of workers dependent on textiles. Rationalising GST rates under the 5% slab can help curb costs while stimulating greater demand, as apparel will become more competitive and affordable. Rationalised GST slabs will also benefit the 'Make in India' mission, creating more employment opportunities, especially for women workers.

But since apparel priced more than Rs 2,500 now attracts 18% GST – compared to 12% earlier for garments above Rs 1,000 – the above benefits won't be available in this range. Therefore, the implications for apparel in the mid to higher segment range are clear de-

mand is bound to fall. It must be noted that the domestic textile segment is India's second-largest employment generator after agriculture. Millions of weavers, artisans, tailors, traders and other workers rely on the industry for their livelihood. Any sales slowdown due to a drop in demand caused by the higher tax burden will jeopardise millions of jobs.

Reasons for Rate Rationalisation

Further, frequent revisions together with multiple rates create confusion for both vendors and customers, while increasing the compliance burden and hindering business operations. Accordingly, a simplified, standard and minimal GST rate will benefit the entire textile industry. One must emphasise that this rate rationalisation must be seen against the backdrop of the textile sector's social and eco-

nomic importance, rather than in isolation.

Another aspect that should be looked into is the inverted duty structure, which poses its own challenges for the textile sector. The issue arises when a manufacturer has bought goods or raw material at a higher GST slab, such as 18%, but then has to sell the finished products at a lower rate, e.g., 12%. This leads to a 6% shortfall in GST. Earlier, this difference was reimbursed by the government in some sectors, which included textiles. Now, this practice has been restricted.

Keeping this anomaly in mind, it would be most helpful if the GST rates were rationalised so that input and output slabs are aligned, for example, 12% on both sides. This will eliminate any build-up of input tax credits. Rate rationalisations with a uniform tax slab across the value chain will help the textile sector by lowering the financial burden on manufacturers.

Given the overall role of the textile industry in the economy and its steady transition towards sustainability in keeping with the government's objective to meet its commitment for the 2030 UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) as well as net zero by 2070, GST rates should be rationalised. By supporting the sustainability shift, the government would also be enabling a circular economy in textiles, which remains critical to curbing waste in the textile industry.

There is no denying that the Central Government has done a lot for the textile industry and the economy at large. Nonetheless, some anomalies have crept in that can slow the overall momentum of reforms. As highlighted above, if these anomalies are addressed at the earliest, it will benefit both the textile industry and the economy. Rationalised GST rates would then allow all stakeholders to put in their best efforts as the nation moves steadily forward towards the Viksit Bharat by 2047 vision. □

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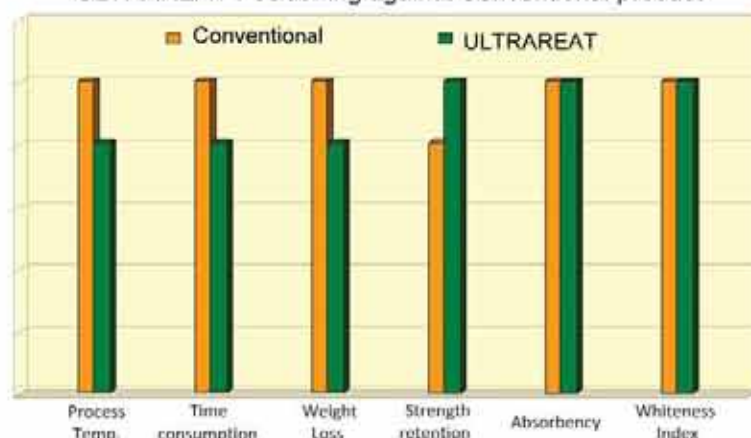
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Aayush Rathi, Director of Orange O Tec Pvt. Ltd.

‘Digital Printing Provides A More Resource-Efficient Alternative’

In this exclusive interview, **Aayush Rathi** tells **Henry Dsouza, Associate Editor of Textile Insights**, how Orange O Tec is driving the change with Rocket for established process houses and with FabPro for traders, enabling high-quality, efficient and sustainable digital printing.

What industry gaps and global trends are driving the shift from traditional to digital textile printing and how do Rocket and FabPro address these opportunities in line with Orange O Tec's growth strategy?

The global textile industry is undergoing a significant shift from traditional to digital printing, driven by efficiency, flexibility and the need for greater control over production and design. Major textile-producing countries like India, China, and Bangladesh account for approximately 65–70% of the current digital adoption.

In these markets, conventional process houses are exploring digital solutions to improve productivity, while traders seek in-house digital capabilities to manage quality, maintain design confidentiality, and reduce reliance on external process houses.

Orange O Tec has partnered with

Homer to bring the Rocket printer from China and is also assembling in India under the brand name of Colorex, FabPro printers to meet the evolving needs of the market. The Rocket printer is designed for established process houses transitioning to digital printing. It combines rotary and digital printing in a compact and efficient setup, allowing process houses to adopt digital technology without the need for additional labour, excessive space, or disruption to their existing high-volume operations.

In contrast, FabPro is designed for entry-level users, traders, and job workers. With configurations ranging from 8 to 32 print heads, it offers a cost-effective and flexible solution that empowers smaller players to take control of their production, design, and quality-enabling them to meet market demand independently.

Together, Rocket and FabPro allow

Orange O Tec to serve both large process houses and traders, supporting their digital journeys and strengthening the company's position for sustainable growth in a rapidly digitizing global textile industry.

How do Rocket's ink flexibility and FabPro's scalable design enable growth across diverse textile segments such as apparel, home textiles and technical fabrics?

Multi-ink compatibility is a standard feature in digital printing, but Rocket adds value by enabling process houses to transition smoothly from conventional to digital, while adapting to regional market needs. For instance, Ahmedabad favours pigments, Surat leans toward polyester and reactivities, while Domivali remains strong in reactivities, Rocket can cater to all these segments.

FabPro, with its scalable design from 8 to 32 heads, empowers traders to start modestly and expand as demand grows. Together, Rocket and FabPro open opportunities across apparel, home textiles and technical fabrics by offering flexibility in inks and scalability in production.

What measurable sustainability benefits such as reductions in water, energy or waste are being achieved through real-world production with your platform?

Sustainability has become a central priority across the textile industry, and digital printing delivers measurable benefits on this front. With pigments, digital technology eliminates the need for water entirely. In conventional methods, significant waste was generated not only from screen preparation but also from washing and storing screens, which consumed both water and energy. Digital printing removes these steps altogether.

In reactive printing, the sustainability gains are equally clear. While conventional processes are water-intensive and rely on pressing, digital uses a precise spray technology that significantly reduces consumption. Conventional printing often requires two to three times more dye because it lacks controlled application, leading to excess usage and waste. Digital printing, by contrast, applies dyes with accuracy through software control, resulting in lower water usage, re-

duced chemical consumption, and minimized waste.

Overall, digital printing provides a more resource-efficient alternative by conserving water, lowering energy demand and cutting material waste, delivering tangible sustainability benefits for textile manufacturers.

Which textile hubs or product categories are showing the strongest adoption of digital printing in India and in global markets such as China and Bangladesh?

In India, digital adoption is no longer limited to the major hubs, it is spreading rapidly across both established and emerging textile clusters. Traditional strongholds such as Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Delhi/Faridabad and Surat, which alone accounts for 40-45% of India's textile printing, have already embraced digital printing in a significant way. Export-focused hubs like Delhi are accelerating adoption, while Surat continues to lead in volume.

At the same time, new regions such as parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are beginning to explore digital printing, as the technology allows them to set up operations without the need for large, resource-intensive infrastructure. In southern India, where water scarcity is a major issue, adoption has been slower so far, but the market is expected to shift aggressively toward pigment-based digital printing over the next three years.

Globally, China and Bangladesh are already well advanced on this journey. China has installed more than 120 single-pass printers, while Bangladesh has over 15-18 running units. Both countries demonstrate how quickly large-scale adoption can transform production ecosystems. India is now poised to follow a similar trajectory, with aggressive growth expected in the coming years.

You mentioned that new hubs do not require large investments to adopt digital printing. What is the approximate investment and space requirement to get started?

The entry barriers for digital printing are significantly lower compared to setting up a conventional printing mill. For instance, a sublimation setup can be started with an investment of around Rs 40-50 lakh, while a stand-alone reactive setup typically requires

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'Digital Printing Provides A More Resource...

Continued from Page 40

Rs 60-80 lakh. A complete digital printing setup can be established with an investment of Rs 2-2.5 crore, and up to Rs 3 crore depending on the scale and production capacity.

By comparison, setting up a conventional printing mill requires a minimum investment of Rs 20-25 crore, along with substantial infrastructure, a land parcel of 5,000 square metres and a factory size of 30,000-40,000 square feet.

Digital printing, on the other hand, requires far less space. A basic setup can start in as little as 1,000-1,500 square feet, while 5,000 square feet is generally sufficient for a well-rounded operation. This flexibility allows businesses to even rent space, making digital printing far more accessible and attractive for emerging hubs.

How are global sustainability standards and evolving consumer trends such as fast fashion, customization and home décor driving demand for your solutions?

Sustainability and fast fashion are two of the strongest forces accelerating the adoption of digital printing. Fashion cycles are becoming shorter with design runs getting smaller and trends changing rapidly. Global brands like Zara and H&M have already embraced digital printing to meet these demands and leading Indian brands, including publicly listed players, are also shifting in the same direction.

Digital printing is uniquely suited to this transformation. It enables faster turnaround, shorter production runs, and greater flexibility in design, key requirements for fast fashion and customization. At the same time, it delivers significant sustainability benefits by reducing water, energy, and chemical consumption compared to conventional methods.

Together, these factors make digital printing not just an option, but a necessity for brands and manufacturers looking to stay competitive in apparel, home décor, and other evolving consumer categories.

With India's digital printing market projected to grow in double digits, how is Orange O Tec positioning it-

Sustainability and fast fashion are two of the strongest forces accelerating the adoption of digital printing.

self against global competitors and what is the current market outlook?

Orange O Tec continues to grow steadily, expecting 25-30% growth this year. A key differentiator is our 'Make in India' strategy, we have already started manufacturing both printers and inks domestically. This not only reduces dependence on imports, but also provides a strong cost and supply-chain advantage. Given India's strength in dyes and inks, we are well-positioned to compete globally.

The broader market is facing short-term challenges, including weaker US export demand, floods in northern India and currency fluctuations raising equipment costs. Despite this, digital printing remains at an early stage, just 10-15% of the market if we include sublimation and below 6% if we don't.

These very challenges are accelerating digital adoption. Unlike conventional mills that require large volumes and face high fixed costs, digital offers flexibility, brands can now produce 100-500 metres instead of 10,000, without incurring heavy overheads. In times of global uncertainty, this agility makes digital printing not just resilient, but the future of the industry.

Can you share a client success story where Rocket or FabPro has delivered measurable gains in productivity, ROI or sustainability?

Rocket and FabPro serve different customer segments, but both are already delivering strong results. Our very first Rocket customer is installing their machine this month and has already committed to a second unit, while their sister concern has also ordered another. What's remarkable is their ability to produce at the same cost as conventional printing, something previously thought impossible in digital. Achieving conventional pricing with digital flexibility marks a real breakthrough in ROI and market com-

petitiveness.

On the FabPro side, we see traders and brands achieving independence and control. One example is T, a customer that installed five FabPro printers. Earlier, they relied entirely on external process houses, but now they handle all production in-house. This not only improves turnaround time and quality consistency but also eliminates dependency on third parties, directly translating into better margins and stronger market positioning.

What support model training or service network or spare readiness ensures smooth adoption, reliability and uptime for customers?

From the outset, we've been very clear that service and spare availability are non-negotiable. In digital printing, downtime is not an option, unlike conventional set-ups where one idle machine can be absorbed, a digital line must run seamlessly. That's why we've invested heavily in both spare readiness and service response.

We are also in the execution phase of deploying a comprehensive CRM-driven service platform. This system will allow customers to track engineer response times, anticipate maintenance needs, and benefit from AI-driven service alerts. By making the entire service process more transparent and predictive, we're ensuring faster support, higher uptime, and smoother adoption of our solutions.

Looking ahead, what upgrades, hybrid features, or technology roadmap will Rocket and FabPro follow to stay ahead of industry trends?

Rocket gains a strategic advantage as a hybrid solution combining rotary and digital printing. Geelong, a leading rotary manufacturer, and Homeward, a digital specialist, have collaborated to create a system that outperforms single-pass alternatives. FabPro, manufactured in India, cur-

rently offers a 24-head machine producing 5,500 metres per day, approximately 20% more cost-effective than Chinese alternatives, while integrating superior international components. Local production ensures faster support, quicker spare-part turnaround, and reduced reliance on imports, giving customers both performance and peace of mind.

How does Rocket and FabPro ensure industry-leading technology, reliability and service, and what is their roadmap for future products?

Rocket and FabPro combine cutting-edge technology, local manufacturing and robust service to stay ahead in digital textile printing. Rocket is a hybrid system developed through the collaboration of Geelong, a leading rotary manufacturer, and Homeward, a digital printing specialist. It integrates the latest print heads, precise feeding systems and inline rotary technology, delivering the same precision, colour accuracy and durability as European alternatives, but at a significantly lower cost. Mechanical components are optimized and standardized print heads ensure a level playing field globally.

FabPro, manufactured in India, currently offers 24-head machines producing 5,500 metres per day, about 20% cheaper than comparable Chinese systems while using superior international components. Local production enables faster support, spare part availability, and reduced reliance on imports. Service and uptime are further enhanced by a tech-enabled CRM system with AI-assisted predictive maintenance, ensuring quick response times and reliability for digital operations, where downtime is not an option.

The product roadmap includes FabPro 3, a 32-head printer launching in Surat in January, followed by a 64-head model, completing a four-model range for the next year. Additionally, the Position Pro system will enable precise, camera-guided printing onto embroidery or specific fabric areas, offering a locally developed solution against imported alternatives. Together, these initiatives provide customers with high-performance, reliable and future-ready digital printing solutions. □



adv: dandco.it — photo: Alessandro Venier

INNOVATION BEHIND EXCELLENCE



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How much technology is hidden behind the creation of a textile product? What can become of a thread produced on a Savio machine? The excellence of the yarns is born thanks to innovation, research, technology, creativity. Ours and that of our customers.



**COME TO DISCOVER OUR INNOVATIONS AT
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HALL 4, BOOTH A302, 28–31 October 2025



Epson Launches Monna Lisa ML-18000 Textile Printer With 90% Water Savings

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Epson has unveiled its latest innovation in textile printing, the Monna Lisa ML-18000, an industrial printer that combines high productivity with significant environmental benefits. The new model, available from autumn 2025, is designed to reduce water consumption by up to 90 per cent, while delivering premium-quality prints at industrial scale.

The ML-18000 features a built-in water recycling unit that filters and reuses water from the belt-cleaning process. Equipped with an advanced sensor system, the unit continuously monitors water quality, ensuring compliance with local wastewater regulations while maximising efficiency.

Powered by 18 Epson Precision-Core Micro TFP printheads, the Monna Lisa ML-18000 achieves print speeds of up to 450 m² per hour, enabling rapid production without com-



promising print quality. Epson's Precision Dot technology further ensures smooth gradations, reduced banding, and accurate colour reproduction even at high speeds.

A key highlight is the printer's Double Black Ink Technology, which delivers richer, denser blacks—particularly valued in high-end fashion and

interior applications. In addition, Epson's GESTA reactive inks, certified by ECO PASSPORT and approved by GOTS (ECOCERT), guarantee environmentally friendly textile printing free from harmful substances.

Designed for reliability and ease of use, the ML-18000 integrates high-capacity ink cartridges, automated

cleaning systems, and remote monitoring via the Epson Cloud Solution PORT, helping businesses streamline operations and minimise downtime.

"With the Monna Lisa ML-18000, Epson sets a new benchmark in textile printing by combining efficiency, sustainability and uncompromising quality," said Achim Bukmakowski, Head of Commercial & Industrial Printing DACH & CEE. "Thanks to its integrated water recycling system, the printer significantly reduces water usage while supporting high-speed, resource-saving textile production. This is a strong step forward in sustainable innovation for the industry."

The Monna Lisa ML-18000 supports a print width of up to 185 cm and resolutions of up to 1,200 dpi, making it suitable for a wide range of textile applications—from haute couture to home interiors. □

Papergraphics Launches Tissaro Fabrics: Engineered For Dye-Sublimation Fabric Printing

Papergraphics has introduced Tissaro Fabrics, a new range of dye-sublimation textiles developed to deliver superior print performance, vibrant colour reproduction, and enhanced production efficiency. The launch marks a strategic expansion of the company's textile portfolio, aimed at addressing the growing demand for high-quality fabric printing solutions.

Dye-sublimation is widely recognised as the benchmark for fabric printing, celebrated for its deep colour saturation, sharp detail and durable results. However, industry experts note that many fabrics currently available are designed to support multiple printing technologies, which often leads to compromises in both image quality and production consistency. Papergraphics said this challenge was central to the development of the Tissaro range.

"Unlike UV and Latex inks that sit on the surface of the material, dye-sublimation inks chemically bond with fabric fibres," the company explained. "This distinction means that not all fabrics are truly suited for dye-sub printing. By creating materials specifically engineered for this process, we eliminate the compromises that slow production and undermine quality."



The Tissaro range has been designed with versatility in mind, with each fabric engineered for a particular application. Among the flagship offerings is Tissaro Jack, a flag-knit fabric that combines vivid image reproduction with excellent weather resistance, making it suitable for outdoor branding and promotional displays. Tissaro Luxe offers a smooth, soft-touch finish for premium display graphics where presentation matters most. For backlit applications, Tissaro Aura has been formulated to maximise vibrancy and brilliance in lightbox displays, while Tissaro Nero provides complete blackout capability with rich, deep blacks for flawless graphic impact. Completing the portfolio, Tissaro Flex

offers one-way stretch properties designed to deliver distortion-free prints in tension frame applications.

By tailoring each fabric to a specific purpose, Papergraphics aims to simplify the decision-making process for print service providers while ensuring predictable, high-quality results. The company highlighted that this "fit-for-purpose" approach eliminates guesswork and helps businesses reduce waste, streamline production and deliver consistently superior graphics to their customers.

"With Tissaro, there are no compromises, just fabrics that perform precisely as they should," Papergraphics said. "Our goal is to make fabric printing smarter, easier and more reliable for the industry, enabling customers to focus on creativity and growth rather than production challenges."

With the introduction of Tissaro Fabrics, Papergraphics positions itself as not only a supplier of print solutions but also a developer of advanced materials engineered for modern textile printing needs. The launch reinforces the company's reputation for innovation and its commitment to supporting customers with products that combine performance, reliability and market relevance. □

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Heimtextil 2026 To Emerge As Global Trade Hub For Carpets And Flooring

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Heimtextil is set to strengthen its position as the world's most important trade hub for the carpet and flooring industry. At the 2026 edition, the Carpets & Rugs segment will expand significantly, moving into the larger Halls 11.0 and 12.0, with Hall 11.1 added due to high demand. Together with Hall 3.0, carpets will now cover four levels for the first time in the fair's history. Complementing the offer, Flooring & Equipment in Hall 12.0 will showcase non-textile floor coverings, further broadening the scope.

"Carpets & Rugs at Heimtextil is more extensive than ever," said Bettina Bär, Director, Heimtextil. "We are now taking a step further by also providing a platform for Flooring & Equipment. This reflects the holistic approach of Heimtextil 2026 and aligns with industry trends, as many companies now present mixed collections."

Global Industry Leaders on Board

The world's top carpet producers have confirmed their participa-



tion. In Hall 12.0, leading names from the machine-woven carpet sector will exhibit, including Balta (Belgium), Hanse Home Collection (Germany), Lalee (Germany), Merinos (Turkey), Oriental Weavers Group (Egypt), Ragolle Rugs (Belgium) and Universal XXI (Spain). A key highlight will be the Belgian Textiles by Fedustria showcase, featuring high-end Belgian carpet products. For the first time, exhibitors will also present non-textile flooring solutions alongside carpets.

Strong Indian and Asian Presence

Hall 11.0 will be dedicated to high-quality hand-woven carpets, with major Indian participants such as Hafizia Arts & Craft, Heritage Overseas, Himalaya Concepts, Javi Home, Looms & Knots, Maurya International, Nirmal International, Rugs INC., Teppiche de Orienta and The Rug Republic. Hall 11.1 will feature joint pavilions from China and India, including the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) and the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC).

DecoTeam and Design Focus

In Hall 3.0, carpet collections will be presented within the DecoTeam concept and the adjacent Design Lounge powered by DecoTeam, featuring Paulig Teppichweberei (Haro), Infloor-Girloon, Otto Golze & Söhne, Theko (Sansibar Sylt, Tom Tailor, Natur Pur), and Tisca (Germany).

New: Future Floor Area

For the first time, Hall 12.0 will host the Future Floor area, a knowledge and networking hub for the carpet and flooring industry. It will showcase sustainable materials, innovative designs and forward-looking trends. The area will also include the Talk Spot with expert insights, alongside curated guided tours highlighting must-see innovations.

With its expanded halls, strong exhibitor line-up and dedicated focus on both textile and non-textile floor coverings, Heimtextil 2026 is on track to become the world's most comprehensive platform for the carpet and flooring industry. □

Heimtextil Trends 26/27 – Where AI And Craftsmanship Merge

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Frankfurt am Main, 10 September 2025 – Artificial intelligence has become a central part of the design process – precise, efficient and omnipresent. At the same time, demand for the handmade, intuitive and imperfect is on the rise. The Heimtextil Trends 26/27 unfold within this field of tension under the guiding theme "Craft is a verb", showcasing how high-tech and craftsmanship are not contradictions but rather open new creative horizons.

In collaboration with Alcovia, Heimtextil will present a trend landscape where digital design methods and craft traditions converge. Generative patterns meet tactile textures, natural structures encounter algorithmic precision. This interplay is embodied by the "techno-craftsman" – a designer who treats AI not as compe-

titution but as an extension of his creative toolkit.

The trends highlight pressing questions for the creative industry: AI accelerates processes but also challenges concepts of authorship and creative identity. Heimtextil responds by emphasizing the enduring role of craftsmanship, demonstrating how AI can complement and expand human creativity.

"The Heimtextil Trends 26/27 illustrate how artificial intelligence will change the textile industry and, in combination with craftsmanship, open up new perspectives. They provide impulses for sustainable production, innovative collaborations and future-proof business strategies," says Olaf Schmidt, Vice President Textiles & Textile Technologies, Messe Frankfurt.

For Alcovia, the focus lies on mind-



ful use of AI – as inspiration and relief for designers, not a replacement. "We are drawn to objects that are unexpected, experimental, even unruly – yet they somehow find their place in our homes," notes Valentina Ciuffi. "Our projects aim to anticipate trends rather than chase them," adds Joseph Grima.

Six Key Trends for 26/27

● **Re: media** – Digital renderings rein-

terpreted into hand-embroidered or jacquard textiles, embracing glitches, pixel gradients and digitally altered hand drawings.

● **Visible co-work** – AI generates designs, artisans complete them. Think digitally embroidered linen, 3D knitted patchworks, and generative motifs on traditional fabrics.

● **Sensing nature** – Natural struc-

Continued on Page 46

US Tariffs To Dent Home Textile Sector; Revenue May Slip 5–10%

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Profitability, credit metrics under pressure as 50% duty kicks in

India's home textile industry is starting at a 5–10% drop in revenue this fiscal after the US imposed a 50% tariff on imports from August 27, 2025. The US accounts for nearly three-fourths of the sector's export earnings.

CRISIL Ratings said the impact will be cushioned partly by front-loaded shipments, capacity constraints in rival markets like China, Pakistan and Turkey, and ongoing efforts by Indian players to diversify exports. "Home textiles are discretionary products. The US exports grew only 2–3% in Q1 as retailers

stayed cautious amid inflation. Orders surged ahead of the tariff deadline, but India's competitive edge should keep the revenue decline to 5–10%," said Manish Gupta, Deputy Chief Rating Officer, CRISIL Ratings.

Companies with higher US exposure will be worst hit. Exporters are expected to sharpen focus on the EU and UK, which together made up about 13% of exports last year. The UK market, in particular, is opening up following a recent free trade agreement.

But diversification will take time. "Operating profitability could drop by



200–250 bps this fiscal as exporters absorb part of the tariff and face weaker demand from the US. Over-supply risks may also hit margins in other geographies and the domestic market," said Gautam Shahi, Director, CRISIL Ratings.

As a result, cash accruals are likely to fall, weakening credit metrics. In-

terest coverage could slip to around 4x from 5.4x last fiscal, while the debt-to-EBITDA ratio is expected to deteriorate to 2.4–2.6x from 1.9x.

The industry's trajectory will depend on whether US tariffs stay elevated, policy support from the Centre, demand trends in the US and cotton prices, CRISIL said. □

WestPoint Home Expands Bahrain Operations, Adds Towel Production Line

U.S.-based textile major WestPoint Home has launched Phase 1 of its new towel production line at its Bahrain manufacturing complex, reinforcing the Kingdom's role as a strategic base for global growth.

The facility, inaugurated by Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, represents an additional US\$ 5 million investment, taking the company's total investment in Bahrain to over US\$ 170 million since 2006.

With the new line, WestPoint Home becomes the only single-site producer of both linens and towels in the Middle East, adding capacity for 4 million towels annually alongside premium bed linen and home textiles.



The expansion is designed with sustainability features to reduce environmental impact.

The event was attended by senior officials, including Noor bint Ali Alkhu-laif, Minister of Sustainable Development, and Elizabeth Litchfield, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy Manama,

along with industry representatives and key regional customers.

From Bahrain, the company supplies the GCC, U.S., U.K., and European markets, exporting more than US\$ 1 billion worth of products to the U.S. since its establishment. Its client list includes Ralph Lauren, Marriott,

Hilton, Westin, and Amazon.

The expansion is also set to boost local employment, with WestPoint Home Bahrain currently employing about 1,300 people, including 101 Bahraini nationals across engineering, quality assurance, HR and corporate functions.

"Bahrain's business-friendly environment and modern infrastructure make it an ideal foundation for growth," said Jonathan Storie, President & CEO of WestPoint Home, adding that sustainability remains central to its manufacturing.

The company hinted at Phase 2 expansion tied to the ongoing GCC–UK free trade talks, which would allow significant export growth into the U.K. □

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Heimtextil Trends 26/27 – Where AI And...

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)

Continued from Page 45

tures decoded and translated through digital tools: ocean surfaces become grids, lichen morphs into decorative motifs.

● **A playful touch** – Small, whimsical details break minimalism: ruffles, neon accents, tassels – reminders that joy and humour

belong in design.

● **Crafted irregularity** – Irregular dyeing, visible seams and asymmetrical finishes celebrate imperfection as a counterpoint to digital precision.

● **The uncanny valley** – Exposed wires, coils and connectors become deliberate design elements, em-

bracing the strange and mechanical.

The Colour Palette

The palette moves between grounded, natural tones and digital vibrancy. Sand, clay, soot, olive and bark suggest stability, while sharp accents of acidic green, digital lilac and bright screen blue act as deliberate

"glitches," injecting energy into the scheme.

Presentation at Heimtextil 2026

The Heimtextil Trends 26/27 will be presented from 13–16 January 2026 in the interactive Trend Arena, Hall 6.1, offering visitors an immersive exploration of the fusion between AI and craftsmanship. □

Tajima Embroidery Machine Seminar 2025 Showcases World-Class Embroidery Solutions

Universal MEP Projects and Engineering Services Ltd. (UMPESL), leaders in textile machinery and exclusive representatives of Tajima Embroidery Machines in India, hosted the Tajima Embroidery Machine Seminar 2025 at the Taj Ambassador Hotel, New Delhi. The event highlighted the latest innovations from Tajima, the Japanese pioneer in embroidery technology, and reinforced its commitment to empowering Indian manufacturers with world-class solutions.

The seminar aimed to bridge the gap between India's rich embroidery traditions and modern automation, drawing a strong response from industry participants. Manufacturers, designers, production heads and embroidery professionals gathered to explore the evolving landscape of textile embellishment and witness cutting-edge embroidery innovations firsthand.

The session opened with a welcome address by Pradip Roy, Head – Textile Machinery Division, UMPESL, followed by a keynote from Pradeep Bakshi, former MD & CEO of Voltas Ltd. Karmaveer Singh Rathore, Head – Regional Operations and Tajima Product Head, traced the journey of UMPESL's Textile Machinery Division, while Nobumasa Asai, Department Head, Tajima Japan and Hiroki Washimi, Sales Department, Tajima Japan, shared insights into Tajima's legacy and its latest embroidery technologies. Nizar Ali, Head – Post Spinning Division, introduced the Tajima team and outlined future business strategies for India.

Showcasing Smart Embroidery Innovations

The spotlight of the seminar was Tajima's TMBR and TMEZ-SC series, equipped with proprietary technologies such as:

- i-TM (Intelligent Thread Management) for automatic thread tension adjustment
- DCP (Digitally Controlled



The session opened with a Welcome Address by Mr. Pradip Roy, Head – Textile Machinery Division



Nizar Ali Head- Post Spinning Division introduced the entire Tajima Team and briefed the future Plan for Tajima Business



Presser Foot) for superior fabric adaptability

- Multi-cording devices for creative expression
- Smart bobbin changer and birds nest reducer
- Advanced touchscreen interfaces for intuitive operation
- ESQ-C sequins system compatible with 3mm–9mm sequins
- Support for innovative TPU threads, melted by heat pressing

Live demonstrations allowed participants to experience these machines in action, showcasing how Tajima combines precision, productivity and creative flexibility.

Knowledge Exchange and Networking

Beyond machine demonstrations, the seminar featured interactive technical sessions covering:

- Design digitization and software integration
- Maintenance best practices
- Cost-efficient embroidery production strategies

Industry Impact and Outlook

With India's textile and apparel sector rapidly embracing automation, the seminar underlined the importance of upskilling and adopting smart technologies to stay competitive globally. Attendees appreciated Tajima's strong focus on localized support, training programmes and after-sales service tailored for the Indian market.

Closing with a networking dinner, the seminar left participants with a strong impression of Tajima not only as a machine manufacturer but also as a forward-thinking partner in textile innovation.

"Tajima machines are not just tools, they're enablers of creativity and precision," one participant noted, adding that the seminar has opened new doors for Indian manufacturers to compete on the global stage. [CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)

Trützschler To Unveil Smart Automation At ITMA Asia 2025

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)
TRÜTZSCHLER

Hall No: 4
Booth No: D302

Trützschler Group, a global leader in textile machinery solutions, will present its latest technologies across spinning, card clothing, and nonwovens at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025, taking place from October 28–31 at the Singapore Expo. Visitors can meet the Trützschler team at Booth D302 in Hall 4, where the company will showcase a combination of proven systems and cutting-edge new developments designed to redefine productivity, sustainability and efficiency.

A key highlight will be the world premiere of T-CAN, an intelligent automation system created to address two of the textile industry's most pressing challenges – rising labour costs and labour shortages. This solution, exclusively revealed at ITMA Asia, promises to revolutionize sliver transport in spinning preparation by simplifying operations, reducing reliance on manual handling and enabling higher efficiency across mills.

Innovations in Spinning

At the core of the Trützschler booth will be the TC 30i card, the company's next-generation machine designed to deliver up to 40% higher productivity in man-made fibres while maintaining or even improving yarn quality. Equipped with a sophisticated waste suction system, the TC 30i enables the separate collection of different waste types, making it possible to reuse more than 50% of card waste for high-quality applications. Integrated with WASTECONTROL, the system ensures efficient material usage by minimizing unnecessary fibre loss.

Complementing the TC 30i is the IDF 3 integrated draw frame, which streamlines the spinning preparation process for rotor and airjet applications. The IDF 3 improves yarn quality when working with raw materials that have high short-fibre content, and a new can-changing system enhances



T-CAN is Trützschler's new automation solution designed to revolutionize sliver transport in spinning preparation.



The TC 30i card and the integrated draw frame IDF 3.



Trützschler Nonwovens' X-series cards combine consistent quality, high output and scalable solutions, making them uniquely versatile for nonwoven production.

card efficiency by up to 3%. Its user-friendly operation, advanced measuring technology and energy-saving compact design make it an ideal companion for high-speed spinning setups.

Precision in Card Clothing

Trützschler Card Clothing (TCC) will highlight its broad portfolio of engineered card clothings that ensure maximum performance, consistency

and quality in every application. From standard components to customer-specific solutions, TCC delivers precision and versatility, ensuring seamless integration with Trützschler machines.

Nonwovens Expertise on Display

Trützschler Nonwovens will present its expertise in hydroentanglement, needle-punching, and Air-Through Bonding (ATB).



- In hydroentanglement, the company will spotlight the Carded Pulp (CP) line, which blends paper-grade pulp and viscose to create 100% biodegradable nonwovens for sustainable wipes.
- For technical applications such as automotive, geotextiles and acoustics, Trützschler will showcase the T-SUPREMA needle-punching line, known for flexibility, stability and high productivity.
- In ATB, Trützschler will introduce a world-first industrial-scale solution for processing 0.6 denier ultra-fine bicomponent fibres. This breakthrough enables the production of ultra-soft, high-performance nonwovens for premium baby diapers, ensuring superior comfort, absorbency and skin-friendliness.

Supporting these applications, the X-Series carding machines (NCT-X, NC-X, and NC-Xe) combine robust performance with consistent output. The NC-Xe additionally offers a scalable entry-level option for manufacturers seeking cost-effective growth.

Shaping the Future of Textile Manufacturing

"With the introduction of T-CAN and our continued innovations in fibre processing, Trützschler is reaffirming its mission to help textile manufacturers achieve higher efficiency, better quality and more sustainable production," the company said in a statement.

ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 will be the first opportunity for the global textile industry to experience T-CAN in action. Trützschler experts from across spinning, nonwovens, and card clothing will be on-site to provide insights, live demonstrations and guidance on how to address current and future industry challenges. □

Rieter At ITMA Asia 2025: The Fully Automated Spinning Mill

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)
RIETER
**Hall No: 3
Booth No: A201b**

Precision, speed and cost efficiency are all indispensable, especially in challenging times. Rieter has put together a powerful portfolio for ITMA ASIA + CITME 2025 that gives spinning mills the opportunity to actively shape the future through intelligent automation. By applying smart machine networking, process optimization and increased production efficiency, the portfolio enables comprehensive transformation of spinning mills while reinforcing their competitiveness. In turn, this allows customers to further consolidate their leading market positions. At the same time, the portfolio marks a key milestone on the way to achieving Rieter's Vision 2027 – the fully automated spinning mill.

Automation and Digitization – the Smart Gateway to the Future

Rieter will present solutions that enable the step-by-step implementation of the fully automatic spinning mill for the production of ring and compact yarn. Highlights include efficient bale transport, automated can transport and fully automatic packaging solutions, such as steaming, palletizing and labeling. In the field of digitization, Rieter offers various essential modules to meet different requirements. These provide spinning mill employees – from management to machine operators – with a solid basis for making decisions on how to optimize yarn production.

Leading the Way in Combing Preparation – the OMEGAlap E 40

The new combing preparation machine OMEGAlap E 40 produces 800 kg/h, 33% more than its predecessor, thanks to rapid lap changing. At the same time, it delivers 30% lower energy consumption and 63% lower compressed air consumption. Maintenance and cleaning are especially easy, representing a clear ad-



Automation and digitization – the smart gateway to the future



Leading the way in combing preparation – the OMEGAlap E 40



The precision winding machine NEO-BD – faster and better

vantage for operating personnel.

The Precision Winding Machine NEO-BD – Faster and Better

The new precision winding machine NEO-BD produces packages twice as fast as the previous model – and at higher quality. Absolute precision is guaranteed, from the optimally adjustable package density and yarn length that can be defined and repro-

duced with maximum accuracy, to the exact weight of each individual package.

Efficient Air-Jet Spinning of Carded Cotton

The air-jet spinning machine J 70 is designed for cost-effective carded fibre spinning – a unique feature made possible by a newly developed twist element. It takes



production speed to a new level and ensures maximum returns when it comes to raw material utilization. Spinning mills also benefit from using this innovation in other raw material applications.

The Spindle that Saves Energy – eNASA

The new Novibra spindle eNASA reduces a spinning machine's power consumption by 2% to 4% compared to conventional spindles. The high-precision technology is particularly effective at high speeds. The new spindle is compatible with all Novibra clamping crowns.

Technological Expertise in Recycled Yarn

Rieter works closely with partners and fibre manufacturers on the topic of recycled yarn. Various projects and end products will be presented. One new way to significantly increase the recycled content of ring yarn involves the use of sustainable synthetic cellulosic fibres – described in detail in a new technology publication.

New Rieter Webshop – the Smarter, Faster Way to Source Spare Parts

The state-of-the-art platform is a smart solution that enables customers to procure spare parts for spinning and winding machines, as well as upgrades and retrofit solutions. The one-stop-shop experience simplifies and optimizes ordering for every spinning mill.

Rieter will present its latest products and solutions at ITMA ASIA + CITME 2025 in Singapore from October 28 to 31, 2025, in Hall 3, Stand A201b. With sophisticated technologies, products and services that guarantee the highest quality and enable economical, flexible production, the company positions itself as a reliable partner for spinning mills. □

Itema To Showcase Breakthrough Weaving Technologies At ITMA Asia 2025

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)


Hall No: 2
Booth No: B101

Itema has announced its participation at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 taking place in Singapore, where it will unveil a new generation of weaving innovations tailored for Asian markets. The company will be present in Hall 2 – Stand B101.

Global Launch of Galileo-AX Airjet Machine

The exhibition will mark the world debut of the Galileo-AX airjet weaving machine, designed to make the renowned Itema weaving experience more accessible by combining textile excellence with energy efficiency and cost competitiveness.

New Galileo-RX Rapier for Technical Fabrics

Itema will also present the Galileo-RX rapier machine in its widest weaving width of 540 cm, equipped with the advanced FPA free flight weft transfer system. This model is specif-



ically engineered for the production of demanding technical fabrics.

R9500EVO with New MEC-T Tuckers

The R9500EVO rapier weaving machine will feature the newly developed MEC-T mechanical tuckers, offering maximum performance and reliability, and further enriching Itema's range of tucking devices.

Denim Innovation with R9500EVO-denim

With denim production being strategically vital across Asia-Pacific, Itema will showcase the R9500EVO-denim equipped with the iSAVER eco system, which eliminates waste

selfedge, while ensuring superior fabric quality, reduced stop marks and significant raw material savings.

Digital and Service Solutions

Visitors will also discover:

- HelloItema, the customer portal delivering smart digital functionalities to simplify mill operations.
- A full range of OEM spare parts, upgrade solutions for Itema and legacy brands (Sulzer, Somet, Vamatex).
- New digital tools for mill data management and machine power consumption monitoring.

Partner Booth Displays

Beyond the Itema booth, addi-



tional rapier weaving machines will be showcased at partner stands:

- **Vandewiele (Hall 2 – C301):** Itema R9500EVO (320 cm) with Bonas Jacquard, producing decorative fabrics.
- **Huzhou Hyundai (Julibao, Hall 2 – A301a):** Itema R9500EVO for label weaving and Galileo-RX for Jacquard Leno fabrics.

Commitment to Innovation and Sustainability

With this strong line-up, Itema reaffirms its mission to deliver weaving technologies that merge performance, textile excellence and sustainability.

Visit Itema at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025, Hall 2 – Stand B101. □

Savio Unveils AI-Driven Winding And Spinning Solutions At ITMA Asia 2025

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)


Hall No: 4
Booth No: A302

Savio, the Italian textile machinery manufacturer, will showcase its latest winding and spinning innovations at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 in Singapore, highlighting AI, automation and digital integration for modern textile production.

The company's spotlight will be on three flagship machines: Proxima Smartconer, Lybra Smartspinner, and the Phoenix Assembly Winder. The Proxima Smartconer offers multiple configurations including fully automatic, Duo Lot, and large bobbin feed-



ing for the carded wool sector. The platform integrates AI-driven tension control, smart metering, and optimized bobbin flow, alongside Savio Insight, a web-based system for real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making. Upgrades such as a patented suction nozzle enhance yarn-end capture efficiency and re-

duce energy consumption, making the system both high-performing and cost-efficient.

The Phoenix Assembly Winder returns with improved digital features for precision winding of discontinuous fibre yarns, including cotton, wool, silk, linen and blends. With yarn take-up speeds up to 1,000 m/min and the

digital Multicone thread guide, Phoenix reduces setup time and optimizes package formation for downstream twisting applications, combining productivity with lower operating costs.

Savio's Lybra Smartspinner is a versatile air-jet spinning machine designed for applications in knitting, home textiles and sunshades. □



Saurer Unveils Next-Gen Spinning & Twisting Solutions At ITMA Asia 2025

SAURER.

Hall No: 3
Stall No: C301

Saurer, a global leader in textile machinery, will showcase its latest innovations at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 in Singapore, at Booth C301 in Hall 3. Highlighting spinning, twisting and automation solutions, Saurer's presentation emphasizes efficiency, sustainability and digitalization, shaping the "yarns of tomorrow."

Innovation Highlights at the Booth

Key innovations on display include the high-performance Autocard SC 8 coupled with the Can-AGV Hunter S1 for automated sliver can transport, the Zinser 51 ring-spinning machine with the compact Zpact FX drafting system, and the Autocoro 11 rotor spinning station with the new Duo Sliver Feeding concept and the CompactTwister. These technologies aim to optimize production, improve flexibility and conserve resources in spinning and twisting mills worldwide.

Spinning Preparation: Foundation for Yarn Excellence

The Autocard SC 8 delivers superior yarn quality, higher productivity and optimized energy efficiency for modern spinning mills. The Can-AGV Hunter S1 automates sliver can transportation, reducing manual handling, improving workforce utilization and increasing operational efficiency.

Spinning with Flexibility and Precision

The Zinser 51 combines precision engineering and smart automation to ensure maximum productivity and consistent yarn quality with significant energy savings. Its Zpact FX drafting device guarantees precise fibre control at high speeds.

The Autocoro 11 rotor spinning station introduces the Duo Sliver



High-performance Autocard SC 8 is designed to deliver superior yarn quality.



Autocoro 11 rotor spinning station will show the new concept for Duo Sliver Feeding.



CompactTwister – Two-for-one twisting machine for superior quality and efficiency.



Hailin Xu, Saurer's CEO



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Feeding concept, allowing two different slivers to be blended directly on the machine in adjustable 1% increments. This innovation facilitates the production of coloured mélange yarns in smaller batches, reduces pre-spinning costs and maximizes reproducibility, opening up new possibilities for yarn design.

Saurer will also present the Autotairo air spinning station, the BD 8 semi-automated rotor spinning machine with 1,200 positions, and Texparts components for ring and rotor spinning, ensuring the highest yarn quality across applications.

Twisting: Adding Strength and Versatility

The CompactTwister will be showcased for the first time, demonstrating Saurer's advanced portfolio of twisting and cabling machines. These solutions cater to industrial yarns, carpet, tyre cord, glass filament and recycled staple fibre yarns. Saurer's machinery supports the production of short recycled fibres, combining high productivity with exceptional yarn quality from bale to finished yarn.

A Commitment to the Yarns of Tomorrow

"Leading technology for the yarns of tomorrow drives our innovation at Saurer," said Hailin Xu, CEO of Saurer. "Our solutions empower textile manufacturers to stay competitive in a fast-evolving global market, improving efficiency, sustainability and product versatility."

Visitors are invited to experience Saurer's full range of spinning, twisting and automation innovations at Booth C301, Hall 3, ITMA Asia + CITME 2025. □

Mesdan Showcases Textile Lab Innovations At ITMA Asia 2025

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)
MESDAN

Hall No: 4
Stall No: A302

Mesdan, a leading provider of textile testing and laboratory equipment, will participate in ITMA Asia + CITME 2025 in Singapore from October 28–31, 2025. The company will share a 286 m² booth with Vandewiele in Hall 4, booth A302, highlighting its latest solutions for cotton and yarn testing.

The company will feature four key lab equipment offerings:

- **Contest-S:** Fully automatic high-volume cotton stickiness tester that grades honeydew/sugar content, predicts processing risks and provides actionable insights for spinners, ginnerers, traders and R&D labs. The method is recognized by ITMF–ICCTM.
- **Autofil:** Automatic yarn tensile strength tester with a 24-position cop changer, compatible with a wide range of yarns including spun, filaments, POY, spandex and sewing threads. Comes with integrated software supporting major global testing standards.
- **Nati Advanced:** Neps and trash in-



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dicator for cotton and synthetic fibres, improving yarn quality, carding and combing efficiency and reducing maintenance costs.

- **Burstmatic 2:** Pneumatic bursting strength tester for fabrics, non-wovens, leather and other materials, measuring pressure and distension height using laser technology.

Additionally, Mesdan will display the Savio Proxima winder equipped with the latest splicer upgrades to enhance mechanical durability and ensure consistent splice quality. □

Karl Mayer Brings Customer-Centric Innovation To ITMA Asia 2025

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)
KARL MAYER

Hall No: 5
Stall No: A301

Under the motto 'WE WARP. WE KNIT. WE CARE.', Karl Mayer will present its latest innovations at ITMA Asia + CITME 2025, showcasing a 360 m² booth (Hall 5 – A301) dedicated to advancing warp knitting and warp preparation technologies.

With a strong focus on customer-driven innovation, Karl Mayer aims to help textile producers increase efficiency, boost productivity and explore new business opportunities.

"We are putting the customer at the centre of all our decisions. We have to listen very carefully,



take a close look and understand how we can help our customers," said Karl J. Mayer, representative of the Karl Mayer Advisory Board and the Mayer family.

We Knit Fashion: Inspiring Textile Showcase

Visitors can explore exclusive fashion collections and new tex-

tile solutions at the We Knit Fashion zone, featuring:

- Cosy faux fur – a key trend for the coming winter.
- Classic and new corduroy variations.
- Versatile Rascheltronic fabrics for everyday comfort.
- Fresh seersucker styles with in-



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novative textures.

- Casual businesswear, activewear, sportswear, swimwear and underwear produced on advanced tricot machines, combining elasticity, easy-care and style.

With this showcase, Karl Mayer reinforces its role as a solution provider from textiles to machines, driving both performance and creativity in the textile industry. □

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Mayer & Cie. To Showcase New Jacquard And Smart Solutions At ITMA Asia 2025

[>> CLICK HERE TO READ ONLINE](#)


Hall No: 5
Stall No: D301

Mayer & Cie., a leading manufacturer of circular knitting and braiding machines, will participate in ITMA Asia + CITME 2025, taking place in Singapore from October 28 to 31, 2025. Visitors will find the company in Hall 5, Stand D301, where it will present its latest innovations, including the OVJA 2.4 EC II jacquard machine, new smart digital solutions, and highlights from its "Performance Line" – a range of highly efficient circular knitting machines.

Industry's Leading Stage

ITMA Asia + CITME is the most important trade fair for textile machinery in Asia and a key global platform for innovation, sustainability and digitalization. "For us, ITMA Asia is both an opportunity to strengthen customer relationships and a door opener for new business in one of the most dynamic textile regions in the world," said Benjamin Mayer, Managing Partner of Mayer & Cie. **OVJA 2.4 EC II: New Jacquard Machine**

The OVJA 2.4 EC II will be the centerpiece of Mayer & Cie.'s exhibit. Designed in Germany and manufactured at the company's facility in China, the machine is primarily aimed at customers in China and Southeast Asia. Featuring a new single-needle selection system, it comes with reduced cylinder height and fewer knitting elements, leading to lower energy consumption.

The machine produces fabrics for sportswear, leisurewear and home textiles such as mattress covers – delivering high performance at a competitive price point. **Circular Knitting Machines That Set Standards**

Mayer & Cie.'s Performance Line comprises machines that



The OVJA 2.4 EC II is equipped with a new system for electronic single needle selection; one of the advantages is a significantly lower knitting head.



Combines German engineering and production in the Mayer works in China: OVJA 2.4 EC II.



knithawk is a tool for optical defect detection. He sits directly at the knitting point.

are benchmarks in their categories:

- D4 4.4 HPI – The world's most productive circular knitting machine for interlock fabrics, capable of producing up to 600 kg/day.
- OV 3.2 QCe – A top choice for double jersey structures, deliv-

ering up to 650 kg/day of fine rib 1:1 with elastomer plating.

- Relanit 3.2 HS II & Relanit 4.0 – Leaders in single jersey production. The Relanit 4.0 delivers up to 1,700 kg/day, while the Relanit 3.2 HS II specializes in elastomeric plating with up



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to 970 kg/day output. Both models are renowned for energy efficiency and gentle yarn handling.

Smart Digital Solutions

Mayer & Cie. will also showcase its Control 5.0 machine control system, launched in mid-2025. Internet-ready, it is the foundation of the company's knitlink digital platform. Available for all machines built since 2001 as an upgrade, Control 5.0 now comes as standard on every new Mayer & Cie. machine.

Another innovation is knithawk, an optical defect detection system installed directly at the knitting point. Using infrared scanning, it identifies serious or recurring errors and stops the machine, preventing waste of fabric and resources. Knithawk is available for new single jersey machines or as an upgrade kit.

120 Years of Innovation

The year 2025 marks a milestone for Mayer & Cie., which celebrated its 120th anniversary on July 8, 2025. The company's green MCT emblem has long stood for precision, durability and reliability in circular knitting and braiding machines.

Reflecting on the anniversary, Benjamin Mayer said, "We are proud of the path we have taken – and we will continue it with innovative strength and reliability. However, the global market remains challenging, and a turnaround is not yet in sight. We are well positioned with modern processes and solutions, but no one can predict how the world situation and the economy will develop." □



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Graf Hypertop: Superior Fibre Savings For Sustainable Carding At Glle Entegre Tekstil

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The innovative Graf Hypertop flexible flats have significantly enhanced card production and efficiency at Glle Entegre Tekstil Isletmeleri AS, a leading Turkish textile manufacturer with a strong international presence. Hypertop, with its Swiss engineered tooth shape, has proven to be a powerful tool to optimize fibre processing. Glle not only improved fibre retention but also enhanced yarn quality and reduced waste across its operations. This, in turn, resulted in a more sustainable spinning process.

Yarn manufacturers face the challenge of maximizing fibre yield and ensuring consistent yarn quality while maintaining operational efficiency. Glle aimed to increase fibre efficiency, reduce waste and maintain high yarn quality standards, without making major changes to their machinery. Graf's Hypertop flexible flats, with their specialized multi-zone design, were the ideal solution to meet these demands, enabling Glle to achieve up to +0.5% good fibre savings. This improvement directly translated into higher production yields and a more cost efficient process.

Glle's Mill Manager, Timur Atik, highlighted their benefits: "The implementation of Hypertop flexible flats has transformed our production



Graf HYPERTOP flexible flats achieve unparalleled good fiber savings.



HYPERTOP has been a game changer for Glle.

process. We have achieved unparalleled good fibre savings while maintaining optimal, consistent yarn imperfections, and increasing efficiency. Hypertop has been a game changer for our production goals."

Swiss engineered precision for superior results

Hypertop's sophisticated tooth geometry, featuring its multi-zone setting pattern, enhances fibre reten-

tion and alignment during the carding process, substantially reducing fibre waste and consistently maintaining low yarn imperfections. As a result, Glle now consistently meets the high-quality yarn standards its customers, both at home and abroad, expect. These advancements align seamlessly with Glle's ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmentally responsible manufacturing practices, significantly minimizing resource usage and aligning with long-term sustainability goals, including enhanced card throughput.

Accelerated return on investment

Implementing Hypertop flexible flats has resulted in accelerated pay-back for Glle, thanks to substantial savings in raw materials, reduced waste and enhanced production efficiency. The ongoing fibre savings and efficiency gains deliver substantial returns, delivering solid long-term value. Moreover, Hypertop's compatibility with all card types provides unmatched flexibility, enabling Glle to optimize fiber retention and production efficiency.

Graf's Hypertop solution demonstrates how innovative technology can generate significant economic benefits and enhance sustainability in spinning. □

Ortiz Expands With Fourth Monforts Montex Stenter

Spain's Textil A. Ortiz, Europe's leading supplier of premium quality lining fabrics, has further expanded its finishing capabilities with the successful commissioning of a fourth Monforts Montex stenter at its Santa Perptua de Mogoda plant, near Barcelona.

The move is part of the company's long-term strategy of continuous expansion, resource efficiency and environmental excellence. Founded in 1954 and celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2024, Textil A. Ortiz operates three production sites, two in Catalonia and one in Valencia and has partnered with Monforts and local representative Aguilar & Pineda since the 1970s.

The new nine-chamber Montex 8500-9F (200 cm nominal width) is equipped with direct gas heating, a Hercules needle chain, a Matex finishing padder, two heat exchangers and the Monformatic Professional control system, which ensures reproducible quality while cutting energy use. Com-



bined with heat recovery, the stenter is already delivering substantial cost savings.

"Our customers demand fast service, superior quality and competitive prices," says plant manager Xavier Mundet. "To stay competitive, we must continually innovate, and Monforts has always been a trusted partner."

Textil A. Ortiz stocks over 1,000 lining colours, along with special finishes such as softeners, water repellents, and flame retardants, backed by an extensive library of designs and prints. Environmental excellence is central to the company's operations. A zero-discharge water treatment plant based on evaporation and condensation, makes Ortiz the first dyeing and finishing company in Spain not to discharge water into public sewers.

Recent investments also include new circular knitting machines and fabrics made with recycled polyester, while 15,000 sq. metres of solar panels and two wind turbines now supply the Santa Perptua facility with 100% renewable energy.

"Our customer is delighted with the energy savings achieved on the new stenter compared to older models," notes Aguilar & Pineda sales manager Oriol Canet, adding that the latest Montexlines can cut energy consumption by up to 40% compared to conventional stenters. □

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Pre-Cleaner CL-X: The Future Of Cotton Cleaning

What if the future of cotton cleaning was already here – setting a new standard for cleaning efficiency, productivity and energy savings? That future has a name: CL-X. Since its market launch in 2022, the Pre-Cleaner CL-X has become a true bestseller, proving its value in several hundred customer applications worldwide. Now, new results from Türkiye demonstrate again how the Pre-Cleaner CL-X outperforms the competition.

Benchmarking the best

Compared to a Swiss competitor, the CL-X reduced waste from raw material by up to 2.5% across both ring-spun (100% local Turkish cotton, combed compact, Ne 30/1) and rotor-spun (70% Australian cotton, 30% cotton waste, Ne 16/1) applications, while also enhancing yarn quality. This achievement was made possible through the proven WASTECONTROL system. The improved cleaning efficiency was also reflected in the darker colour of the waste, demonstrating a more effective removal of impurities. Smoother downstream processes, ultimately leading to higher yarn quality with fewer IPIs are another confirmed benefit of these trials. Impressed by these results, the Turkish customer placed an order for more CL-X machines to upgrade their blowroom line.

Maximized throughput, minimized energy use

The CL-X does not stop at superior cleaning. It also sets new benchmarks in energy efficiency and a higher production capacity. Where previously two machines were needed to effectively clean cotton, the CL-X now handles the task alone. Thanks to its optimized material and air flow, it processes up to 2,000 kg per hour while consuming over 30% less energy than the current benchmark. That's not just efficient, it's transformative.

Smart design that goes the extra mile

Looking closer at the details, it becomes clear that achieving such efficiency requires a precision engineered system at every stage. Key improvements include a redesigned grid bar profile offering 20% more cleaning surface and the industry's longest cleaning section at 2.60 metres. This extended zone enables a precise two-



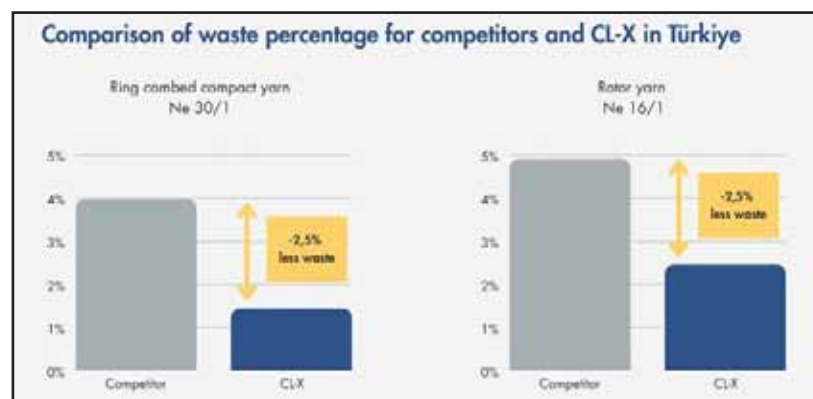
The CL-X sets a new standard for cleaning efficiency, productivity and energy savings.



(L-R) K.K. Sivakumar, Field Manager Technology at Trützschler India, R. Balamuragan, Functional Head Service at Trützschler India, G. Thiruvadi, General Manager, Shri Santhosh Meenakshi Textiles and Christian Freitag, Division Manager R&D Air Technology at Trützschler Group.



The dark color of the waste shows the difference in cleaning efficiency.



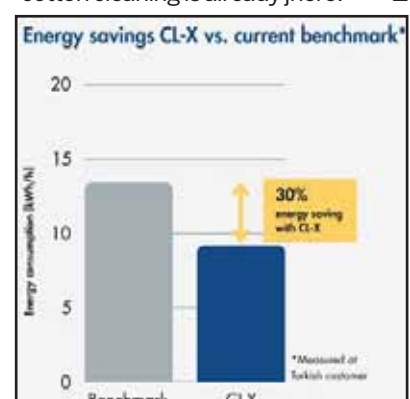
step cleaning process: cotton tufts move at different speeds along the grid bars, while individually adjustable devices at each opening roller separate trash according to its size. Additionally, the WASTECONTROL sensor continuously monitors trash content and raw material quality, using real-time data to optimize machine settings. When too many good fibres are detected in the waste, the system automatically suggests an optimized setting for the knives and deflector blades to minimize fibre loss. This ensures consistently high cleaning performance and maximum fibre yield.

Designed with operators in mind

The CL-X also eases the workload for operators – a major advantage in times of labour shortages and rising personnel costs. Working in tandem with the BO-P bale opener, it automatically adjusts settings such as grid bar positioning, opening roller speed, and inlet airflow to match the current lot. Material flow is continuously monitored to prevent disruptions, while the T-LED remote display provides an overview of all operations. Easy to clean and maintain, the CL-X ensures smooth and reliable operation – even with less experienced personnel.

Worldwide satisfaction

The CL-X continues capturing the attention of spinning mills worldwide. For example, G. Thiruvadi, General Manager at Shri Santhosh Meenakshi Textiles, a leading Indian mill, says: "Facing rising costs and tightening environmental standards, adopting the CL-X has been the best decision for our blowroom operations. We're seeing cleaner cotton with less waste and higher-quality yarn, which proves that smart technology can tackle real-world challenges head-on". This customer quote is representative of the excellent market feedback that the CL-X has achieved. With the CL-X, the future of cotton cleaning is already here!



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Groz-Beckert: Stability, Precision And Variety – The Needle Quality Makes The Difference

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Optimizing embroidery processes with advanced machine needles

Industrial embroidery is synonymous with high-quality textile finishing, yet it is increasingly defined by the need for greater precision, higher speeds and uncompromising process stability. Groz-Beckert meets these challenges with a comprehensive range of embroidery machine needles designed for both single- and multi-head embroidery machines. The DBxK5 needle system represents a well-structured portfolio of solutions that deliver measurable improvements in embroidery performance.

As the world's leading supplier of industrial machine needles, Groz-Beckert enhances both efficiency and quality in embroidery processes. The DBxK5 system is distinguished by its technical refinements and broad range of variants. Its latest innovation, the DBxK5 LGR, provides a reliable solution for demanding applications such as 3D embroidery.

Technically refined for demanding embroidery

The DBxK5 system has been engineered specifically for industrial embroidery. It ensures stable stitch formation even at high operating speeds. The enlarged eye enables embroidery threads—including thick or effect threads, to glide smoothly, reducing the risk of breakage or skipped stitches. The standard RG point allows excellent penetration across a wide range of textiles without material damage.

Another key feature is the needle's high resistance to deflection, achieved through optimized geometry. This stability secures reliable loop formation and prevents skipped stitches, contributing to greater process reliability. A specially designed scarf further minimizes contact with the hook, protecting machine components, extending needle life, and enhancing embroidery quality.

Application-specific variants for maximum flexibility

Groz-Beckert offers specialized



DBxK5 variants tailored to distinct embroidery requirements:

- **DBxK5 KK** – Features a shortened shank for machines with raised needle plates or integrated sequin devices. The reduced shank length prevents collisions and avoids fabric damage when embroidering thicker materials.
- **DBxK5 SS** – Designed for sequin embroidery, this variant has an even shorter shank to prevent sequins and delicate appliqués from being damaged during stitching.

Developed for very fine sequins

When working with very small and delicate sequins, the risk of damage during embroidery is high. To address this, Groz-Beckert developed the DBxK5 SAN 15. With an even shorter shank than the KK and SS versions and a cylindrical blade design, it provides a maximized cylindrical working area that is slim enough to apply the smallest sequins reliably and without damage. Even when stitching sequins onto thicker embroidery bases, the slim geometry ensures appliqués remain intact throughout the process.

Robust and precise – for resilient materials

For demanding applications

such as embroidering caps, felt or leather, Groz-Beckert offers the DBxK5 SAN 1. Its reinforced blade provides enhanced stability, reducing deflection and effectively preventing breakage and skipped stitches. Optimized geometry between the scarf and eye further improves loop formation, minimizes skipped stitches and protects the hook.

The SAN 1 is also available with GEBEDUR titanium-nitride coating, delivering greater wear resistance in highly stressed areas such as the needle eye and point. An enlarged eye facilitates easier threading and enables the use of thicker embroidery threads.

A new solution for 3D embroidery

3D embroidery presents unique challenges, as thick foam ("puffy") materials are used to create raised, dimensional effects. Deep needle penetration through foam places considerable stress on embroidery threads, increasing the risk of breakage and skipped stitches.

The newly developed DBxK5 LGR addresses this need. Featuring an extended long groove that runs into the shank, it provides ample space for the thread, even during deep penetration. This

keeps the thread securely positioned and protected throughout the process. The result is a significantly more reliable embroidery process, producing clean, high-quality results with distinct three-dimensional effects.

Wide range of point styles and needle sizes

The DBxK5 system is available in sizes from Nm 60/8 to Nm 110/18 and offers a variety of point styles to match different materials:

- **R and RG** – Suitable for woven fabrics and leather; RG is also effective on knits.
- **SES/FFG** – Ideal for fine knits such as T-shirts and polo shirts.
- **SUK/FG** – Designed for coarser knitwear.
- **TR** – Best suited for open fabrics such as tulle.

When extremely fine needles below Nm 60/8 or point styles outside the DBxK5 range are required, the DBx1 system provides a suitable alternative. Conversely, for technical embroidery applications requiring thicker needles (Nm 120/19 and above), the 1738A system is recommended.

Quality makes the difference

With its DBxK5 system and specialized variants, Groz-Beckert offers a complete portfolio for both single- and multi-head embroidery machines. The extensive range of point styles, sizes and application-specific designs allows for precise adaptation to different materials, machine configurations and embroidery requirements.

Whether in standard embroidery, sequin applications, work on robust materials or advanced 3D embroidery, Groz-Beckert provides precise solutions that reduce downtime, minimize thread and needle breakage, and consistently improve results. Selecting the right needle is not a minor detail, it is a decisive factor for efficiency, reliability, and embroidery quality. □

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Organizations Remain Committed To Sustainability Despite Global Uncertainty

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The fourth edition of the Capgemini Research Institute's report, "A world in balance 2025: Unlocking resilience and long-term value through environmental action," released recently, finds that organizations remain committed to sustainability despite global uncertainty. In fact, three quarters of them say it is a core future-proofing strategy for their organizations to drive long-term competitiveness, innovation and resilience. However, the report reveals a gap between perceived preparedness and actual resilience, suggesting organizations are confusing planning with concrete climate adaptation.

More than 4 in 5 organizations are planning to increase investment in environmental sustainability, up 8 percentage points since last year. Compliance with regulations remains the lead factor driving sustainability initiatives, followed by business value – such as profitability, cost savings and operational efficiency. Despite the business case, two thirds of executives say they are under increasing pressure to demonstrate credible, science-based progress. Yet only 21 per cent of organizations have developed detailed transition plans with interim targets and capital allocation. Internally, progress is hindered by budget constraints, inadequate data and measurement systems and operational silos. Externally, nearly two thirds of executives agree that geopolitics is currently slowing down sustainability investments and projects, a share that is stable since last year.

The report says that climate strategies are in place, but execution remains limited across organizations. In today's global environment characterized by global warming and climate disasters, organizations are feeling the strain of climate impacts, with more than seven in ten executives reporting disruptions to



supply chains, noting further disruptions to production, and suffering from raw material shortages. Additionally, two-thirds foresee difficulties in managing insurance or financial risks. While the majority say they prioritize climate adaptation, more than half consider their organization underprepared for the impacts of climate change. The disconnect between perceived readiness and actual resilience suggests that few organizations are taking ad-

equate tangible action, with only 38 per cent upgrading infrastructure, 31 per cent shifting production to less climate-vulnerable regions and only 26 per cent redesigning products.

"Although sustainability regulations are putting less pressure on organizations, business leaders still see sustainability as a core driver of business value. However, with global uncertainty and constrained budgets, many companies are facing a reality

check," says Cyril Garcia, Head of Global Sustainability Services and Corporate Responsibility, and Group Executive Board Member at Capgemini. "With climate risks increasingly high on the corporate agenda, business leaders need to adopt a pragmatic, operational approach and urgently implement concrete, financed transition and adaptation measures. This will not only build true resilience, but also fuel innovation and competitiveness," adds Garcia.

AI is playing a significant role in advancing sustainability, with nearly two thirds of executives reporting that their organizations use AI to achieve their sustainability agenda. However, despite its ability to process data, reduce resource consumption and create efficiencies to help drive sustainability, AI has its own environmental impact. Around 57 per cent of executives acknowledge that generative AI's (Gen AI) environmental impact is being discussed in boardrooms, but less than a third report having taken steps to mitigate it. The research indicates that there is a growing caution around its environmental footprint, with the number of executives believing that the benefits of Gen AI outweigh its environmental costs dropping from 67 per cent in 2024 to 57 per cent in 2025.

On the consumer front, skepticism is rising sharply – more than six in ten (62 per cent) consumers believe companies are engaging in greenwashing, up from a third in 2023 and over half in 2024. Further, more than three quarters believe corporations should do more to reduce GHG emissions. This highlights the need for transparent and evidence-backed sustainability communication. In addition, only a quarter of consumers consider sustainable products affordable, and just 16 per cent feel they have access to sufficient sustainability information. □

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