



Handloom Export

E-Newsletter



February 2025

Calendar of Events

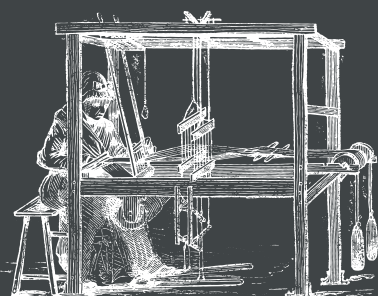
| Sl.No | Name of Event | Country | Date | Status |
|-------|---|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Home Instyle Fair | Hong Kong | 20-23 April 2024 | Completed |
| 2 | Special Sourcing Show (Guwahati) | India | 20-22 June 2024 | Completed |
| 3 | Texworld | France | 1-3 July 2024 | Completed |
| 4 | HGH India | India | 2-5, July 2024 | Completed |
| 5 | Pure London | United Kingdom | 14-16 July 2024 | Completed |
| 6 | Hometextiles Sourcing | U.S.A. | 16-18 July 2024 | Completed |
| 7 | Special Sourcing Show (Varanasi) | India | 7-9 Aug 2024 | Completed |
| 8 | Hometextile & Design | Russia | 3-5 September 2024 | Completed |
| 9 | WHOs NEXT, September | France | 8-10 September 2024 | Completed |
| 10 | Special Sourcing Show (B2B & B2C) | USA | 12-15 September 2024 | Completed |
| 11 | Hong Kong Mega Show | Hong Kong | 27-30, October 2024 | Completed |
| 12 | International Apparel & Textile Show | Dubai | 12-14, November 2024 | Completed |
| 13 | Global Sourcing Expo | Australia | 19-21, November 2024 | Completed |
| 14 | J&K Textile Sourcing Fair | India | 28-29 November 2024 | Completed |
| 15 | AFL Artigiano(B2C) | Italy | 30 Nov - 8 Dec 2024 | Completed |
| 16 | HEIMTEXTIL | Germany | 14-17 January 2025 | Completed |
| 17 | WHOs NEXT, January | France | 18-20 January 2025 | Completed |
| 18 | Spring Fair (Source Home & Gift) | United Kingdom | 2-5, February 2025 | Completed |
| 19 | Ambiente | Germany | 7-11 February 2025 | Completed |
| 20 | Bharat Tex / India Textile Sourcing Fair (RBSM) | India | 14-17 February 2025 | Registration Closed |
| 21 | Special Sourcing Show Cochin | India | 2-3 March 2025 | Registration Open |



The Handloom Export Promotion Council

HANDLOOM EXPORT

E-Newsletter of Handloom Export Promotion Council, February 2025



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Chairman's Column

As per DGCIS data the handloom export during April-November 2024 recorded INR 776.58 cr. (USD 92.73 mn.) endorsing reduced declining trend by 4.05% in dollar terms when compared with 6.41% during April-Oct 2024. This slowdown in negative trend in export figures indicates a potential for positive growth and it is an encouraging factor for all our members. I urge the member exporters to share their suggestions to augment the handloom export.

HEPC facilitated the participation of 75 member exporters in Heimtextil held at Frankfurt, Germany during 14-17 January 2025. Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, inaugurated the Indian Pavilion at the event. The Hon'ble Minister also attended "Meet and Greet" event with selected Indian and overseas textile leaders organised by the Consulate General of India, Frankfurt. The spot orders worth Rs. 53.21 crore and business inquiries worth Rs. 147.18 crore were generated. The event was organised under Market Access Initiative Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India.

Similarly, HEPC organized participation of 19 member exporters in WHO's NEXT held at Paris, France during 18-20 January 2025. The HEPC pavilion was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Sanjeev Singla, Ambassador of India, in the presence of Shri Asit Gopal, AS&FA, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. The spot orders worth Rs. 3.95 crore and business inquiries worth Rs. 3.12 crore were generated. The event was organised under National Handloom Development Programme of O/o. Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. The Union Budget announced an outlay of Rs. 5272 crores (Budget Estimates) for the Ministry of Textiles for 2025-26 with an increase of 19 percent over budget estimates of 2024-25 (Rs. 4417.03 crore). A special cotton initiative, designed with a mission-mode approach, aims to promote high-yielding seeds aligned with the 5F Vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This initiative will ensure a steady supply of quality cotton, reduce import dependence, and enhance global competitiveness. The budget emphasis on exports, enhanced credit access and extended coverage that will support MSMEs. The key measures such as creation of Export Promotion Mission to facilitate easy credit, creating the Bharat Trade Net unified platform for documentation, duty free import of textile machineries, measures for labour intensive sectors, revision in classification criteria for MSMEs and others will help to promote employment, entrepreneurship and overall sectoral growth.

The Council is taking part in Bharat Tex 2025, New Delhi with over 100 member exporters, in an area of around 3000 sq. meters, including state participations such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam, Mizoram, etc.

I extend my best wishes to all the participants of Bharat Tex 2025 for a successful event.

With warm regards,

Lalit Kumar Goel
Chairman

heimtextil

14-17 January, 2025 at Frankfurt, Germany

At a Glance

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of the fair | : Heimtextil 2025 |
| Organizer | : Messe Frankfurt |
| Venue | : Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH, Ludwig-Erhard-Anlage 1, 60327, Frankfurt am Main, Germany |
| Duration | : 4 days (14-17 January 2025) |
| No. of exhibitors through HEPC | : 75 |
| Exhibiting Halls for HEPC's participants | : 5.0, 6.2, 8.0 and 9.1 |
| Scheme | : MAI (Market Access Initiative scheme), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India |

Highlights of the Fair

| | |
|---|---|
| Visitors from | : 50,000 Visitors from around 142 nations |
| Exhibitors from | : 3,000 exhibitors from 65 countries |
| No. of business visitors to Council's participants | : 1588 |
| Spot orders | : 53.21 crores |
| Enquiries generated | : 147.18 crores |
| Total business generated | : 200.39 crores |

About Heimtextil 2025

Heimtextil is the industry's most important global event for interior textiles, interior design and interior trends. With its new products and trends, it kicks off the upcoming season and gives important impulses to both exhibiting companies and the professional visitors from all over the world. Heimtextil offers a wide range of home textiles from bath, bed, and table textiles products for windows, floors, walls, sun protection and upholstery.

Heimtextil 2025 ended with full exhibition halls, 142 participating nations, another increase in exhibitors and visitors as well as with top satisfaction ratings. Over four days, more than 50,000 buyers experienced the latest collections, materials and textile solutions for the entire interior design at first hand from over 3,000 exhibitors. The Heimtextil Trends 25/26 by Alcova Milano and the installation 'among-us' by star designer Patricia Urquiola set new standards for interior design, retail and hospitality. The content programme centered on AI-driven design, sustainable production processes and future interiors.

Export of handloom products to Germany

Hometextile and made-ups constitute around 90% of the total handwoven products being exported from India. Germany is one of the main trade partners of Indian handwoven products in EU region and it is positioned at 8th place in the list of top export destinations. The total handloom export to Germany was USD 4.32 mn. during 2023-24 with 3.12% share of total exports of handloom products from India. The major items of export to Germany are Carpet and Floor coverings including mats & mattings, other furnishing articles, fabrics, cushion covers.

HEPC's Participation in Heimtextil 2025

HEPC's presence in Heimtextil spanning a period of more than two decades signifies the importance of this event in meeting the Council's objectives to cater to the members' demand who largely export hometextiles which constitutes over 85% of total export of handwoven products. This association with Heimtextil continued in the winter edition of Heimtextil held at Frankfurt, Germany during 14-17, January 2025.

For Heimtextil 2025, there was a change in hall allocation and the exhibitors of Hall 10 moved to new Hall 8.0 & 9.1 and Hall 5.1 moved to Hall 6.2. The event participation was organised by the council availing financial assistance under Market Access Initiative Scheme of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India. This winter edition participation had the record number of 75 participants under the aegis of the Council. Based on the profile of member participants, space was acquired in Hall- 5.0 (392 sq.mtrs), Hall- 6.2 (266 sq.mtrs), Hall- 8.0 (504 sq.mtrs) and Hall- 9.1 (502 sq.mtrs) for a total area of 1644 sq.mtrs.

Inauguration of Indian pavilion:

The Indian pavilion was inaugurated by Shri.Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, in the presence of Shri.B.S.Mubarak, Consul General, Consulate General of India in Frankfurt, Shri.Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Shri.Lalit Kumar Goel, Chairman, Shri.V.Lakshmi Narasimhan, Vice Chairman, HEPC and Shri.N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, Chairmen, Executive Directors of other EPC and member participants and followed by Lighting of Lamp.



During the visit, Hon'ble Union Minister and Consul General also visited the HEPC pavilion and released the exhibitors catalogue brought out exclusively by the Council for the event. Subsequently, the dignitaries also visited the exhibitor stalls under HEPC pavilion and interacted with them.



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Shri.Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India along with officials from the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India visited the facility of "Engelbert Strauss GMBH & Co" a workwear manufacturing company in Frankfurt, Germany. The visit was organised by Consulate General of India, Frankfurt and Mr.N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC accompanied for this visit. The officials from the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India and Mr.N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC visited the facility of Trutzschler Non wovens at Frankfurt, Germany during Heimtextil event 2025.

Council had also put up a central promotion stall, wherein, a wide publicity on Bharat Tex 2025 was undertaken through installation of posters, AV presentation, and distribution of publicity brochures and promotional bags brought out by the Council exclusively on Bhrrarat Tex 2025.

Event Outcome:

The spot order confirmation returned to the business in Heimtextil with many exhibitors reportedly had confirmed business and good amount of trade enquiries. The participants under HEPC reported that they had spot order worth Rs.53.21 crores and trade enquiries worth Rs.147.18 crores during the event from a total of 1588 business visitors who visited our exhibitor's pavilion. Most of the exhibitors wanted to rebook their space for Heimtextil 2026 with a larger size booth.



The Council was represented by Shri.Lalit Goel, Chairman, HEPC, Mr.N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, Mr.P.Rangasamy, Joint Director and Mr.S.Ramesh, Senior Executive, to coordinate the onsite activities relating to the various meetings organised during the visit of high-level delegation and also members' participation in the event. This summer edition of Heimtextil delivered to the expectation of many exhibitors and in some cases even surpassed in fulfilling the expectation of its exhibitors in terms of business generation. The next edition of Heimtextil will take place from 13-16 January 2026.

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Who's Next

18-20 January, 2025 at Porte de Versailles, Paris, France

About WHO's NEXT

WHO'S NEXT 2025 was held from 18th - 20th January 2025 at Paris expo Porte de Versailles in Paris, France. This is the professional trade fair and exhibition for beauty, lifestyle, fashion, and accessories. It introduces the latest offers within three main sectors: Ready-To-Wear, Accessories, Young Designers, and more as well as guarantee excellent prospects for the participants in B2B and B2C networking events and the ones dedicated to discovering new practices and innovations in the industry.

In all, 1,550 brands, wholesalers and suppliers presented their collections in the two halls (Hall 1 & 3), with over 38,000 people visiting the event. All of them are driven by common challenges: sustaining their business, understanding their markets and plan ahead with confidence.

Hall 1 – WHO's NEXT and Bijorhca - had a total of 1150 brands with a participation of 40 nationalities outside France

WHO'S NEXT- Break up of exhibitors

- 1000 brands, 30% new.
- 55% Accessories, 40% Ready-to-wear, 5% providers and institutions.
- France had 45% exhibitors and International exhibitors were 55.

BIJORHCA- Exhibitors break up

- 150 brands, 25% new
- 114 Bijorhca brands (collections), 36 wholesalers/suppliers Elements
- France had 48% exhibitors and International exhibitors were 52%

Top 5 foreign countries

1. Italy: 17
2. Spain: 10%
3. India: 4% of GDP
4. Turkey: 3%
5. Netherlands: 3%

Top 5 foreign countries

1. Spain: 14
2. Germany: 10%
3. Greece: 10%.
4. Italy: 5%.
5. India: 4% of GDP

Hall 3 - Salon International de La Lingerie and Interfilier Paris - had a total of 400 brands.

INTERFILIERE PARIS Breakdown by Universe 180 wholesalers and suppliers, 21% new ; 26% Fabric Suppliers - +10% Vs January 24 19% Accessories suppliers 19% Lace Supplier 16% Manufacturer - +37% Vs January24 15% of embroiderers - +25% Vs January24 4% Innovation – Not applicable last year 1% Textile Designers.

SALON INTERNATIONAL DE LA LINGERIE Breakdown of the 220 brands, 37% new Focus : 20 brands on Exposed 15 brands on Wellness 8 Ulule brands. Top 5 foreign countries : Italy: 12%. Germany: 9%. USA: 9%. UK: 5% Turkey: 4%.

HEPC's participation in WHO'S Next Fair

France occupies 5th position in import of Indian handwoven products as per the following break up with import of made up having major share. The share clothing accessories is although insignificant but there is an increase in trend Year on Year.

Trend of Handloom Products Export to France

| FY Year | April 2021 to March 2022 | | | April 2022 to March 2023 | | | April 2023 to March 2024 | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Category | QTY | INR in Crore | USD in Million | QTY | INR in Crore | USD in Million | QTY | INR in Crore | USD in Million |
| Clothing Accessories | 1,644 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 7,071 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 8,475 | 0.28 | 0.03 |
| Fabrics | 89,105 | 6.94 | 0.93 | 69,218 | 3.2 | 0.4 | 33,581 | 3.3 | 0.4 |
| Floor Coverings | 8,88,514 | 34.05 | 4.58 | 5,15,083 | 17.97 | 2.25 | 3,54,505 | 12.93 | 1.56 |
| Made ups | 25,55,798 | 47.07 | 6.32 | 10,75,012 | 36.19 | 4.52 | 10,18,708 | 34.91 | 4.21 |
| Total | 35,35,061 | 88.11 | 11.83 | 16,66,384 | 57.58 | 7.2 | 14,15,269 | 51.42 | 6.21 |

HEPC's continued participation in WHO's Next since 2010 provides significant opportunity for its member exporters to showcase Indian handloom products of clothing accessories segment on a global stage. As the event attracts trade visitors from across the globe, the participation in the event has many interests from the export community. HEPC organized participation in January edition of the event availing financial assistance under National Handloom Development Programme of O/o. Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. The 179 square meters of space at the event in Hall 1 for 19 participants, along with a central promotional stall for the Council, provided a well-planned setup to maximize visibility and engagement.

Council's participants were placed in the area segmented as FROM and Textile Accessories. Other than HEPC's member participants, few Indian exhibitors also participated directly, and exhibited in the same hall. Council had put up a central promotion booth, wherein, promotional posters pertaining to Bharat Tex & GI products were placed. During the event, distribution of brochures and flyers of Bharat Tex 2025 to the visitors was undertaken by the Council.

H.E Shri Sanjeev Singla, The Ambassador of India to France and The Principality of Monaco visited the event and inaugurated the Indian pavilion on 18th January 2025, in the presence of Shri Asit Gopal, Additional Secretary & Finance Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India. The Ambassador also released the exhibitor's catalogue brought out exclusively for the event by the Council. The dignitaries interacted with the exhibitors under the aegis of the Council visiting their stall and ascertaining their views on the market trend and demand for their products, innovation in their products etc.



Inauguration of Indian Pavilion



Release of Catalogue



Interaction with Exporters

On conclusion of the visit, the Ambassador of India remarked “It is gratifying to see Indian exhibitors’ enthusiasm and expressed his happiness to know that many of them have been participating in the event regularly and increasing their business in the process”. Earlier on arrival, His Excellency The Ambassador was welcomed by Mr. Frederic Maus, CEO of WSN Group and briefed by Ms. Sandrine MEZIANE International Development and Promotion Director and Ms. Sylvie POURRAT, Direction de l’OFFRE Mode et Accessoires of WSN.

Event Outcome

The event was a great success, with notable participation and positive feedback from exhibitors and attendees. The variety of products showcased by our exhibitors, including Banarasi handwoven bags, Kullu shawls, and woven and printed accessories, seems to have created a strong impact. The spot orders worth Rs. 3.95 crore and business inquiries worth Rs. 3.12 crore generated by our exhibitors from about 391 visitors highlight the commercial success of the event.

Conclusion

Who’s Next is one of the most prestigious and resolutely business oriented events for fashion accessories in Paris, France. It is clear that Who’s Next is a key event for those in the fashion and accessories industry, offering a prominent platform to display both heritage and cutting-edge collections. The fact that beauty is now included alongside ready-to-wear, accessories, and home décor reflects the evolving trends in the market, making the event even more dynamic and inclusive. The feedback from participants expressing their desire to participate in both the winter and summer editions indicates the value they place on this platform for reaching global markets. If the Council continues to facilitate participation in both editions, it could provide more opportunities for exhibitors to expand their presence and connections. Shri P.Rangasamy, Joint Director (Export Promotion) represented the Council and coordinated the participation of member participants and visit of the dignitaries during the event.



AF-L'Artigiano in Fiera

28th International Crafts Selling Exhibition

Fiera Milano, Milan (Italy), November 30 to December 8, 2024

About the Event

Artigiano in Fiera is one of the most important business-to-consumer (B2C) event in the world dedicated to crafts and small businesses. This event represents for companies a unique occasion to communicate and introduce themselves to a responsive market; doing a market test only at the cost of the exhibition and promoting and selling their products to the general public and developing their reference market. Artigiano in Fiera is considered the most popular fair in Italy and South Europe, and takes place just before Christmas and New Year, which created a very good potential for Indian handloom textile products, handicrafts, home furnishing, carpets, leather & leather products and gifts items, etc.

Artigiano in Fiera 2024, a 9-day event featured 2,800 exhibitors from 90 countries across 8 halls, more than 15,000 exhibitors at the stands and registered over one million visitors, which included a total of around 180 exhibitors from India participated in the event through various organisation viz. HEPC, ITPO, PDEXCIL, EPCH, NJB, MSME and other direct participation.

Product Profile of Event

- > Furnishings and fittings: Curtains, Carpets and Rugs, Household linen, Tableware.
- > Giftware and fancy goods: Ceramics, Wood, Iron, Copper, Textiles, Paper and card.
- > Marble and semi-precious stones, Glass, Silver.
- > Clothing and accessories: Leather, Woven, Other materials, bags etc.
- > Kitchenware, Lamps and lighting, Frames, Pictures, Sculptures.
- > Gold and Jewellery: Gold and silver, Semi-precious stones, Costume jewellery etc.
- > Leather and Leather Products.

Economic and Commercial Relations between India & Italy

Italy is India's 4th largest trading partner in EU, after Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands. The bilateral trade between India and Italy has been growing strongly in the last three years following the economic recovery post Covid-19 pandemic. The bilateral trade in 2021 had jumped to € 10.49 billion with an increase of +44.41% from previous year. Total trade in the year 2022 reached an all-time high of € 14.88 billion and in 2023 reached €14.34 bn

Export of handloom products to Italy

As export of Handloom products to Italy has been registering a decreasing trend since 2021, hence more strategic marketing channels like participation in international events need to be organised to pave way for more opportunities to the highly potential Italian textile import market, which was one of the top importers of handlooms from India.

In order to improve the market share of Indian handlooms to Italian market, HEPC organised for the 1st time the participation of 18 exhibitors from across India, availing financial assistance from Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP).

HEPC's participation in AF-L'Artigiano in Fiera 2024

For the current edition, Council hired a total space of 171 Sq.mtr. through India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) for participation of 18 Member Exporters and a central promotion stall in Hall No.10 was set-up to disburse promotional materials for Bharat Tex 2025 and also publicize India Handloom Brand by means of posters and flyers.

HEPC's participants were accommodated at Hall No.10 with the member exporters and weaver artisans. Member Exporters displayed a variety of products like cushions covers, home textiles, accessories, rugs, stoles, scarves, woolen caps, mufflers, shawls, home furnishings, bags, puffs covers, apparel, jackets, fashion accessories, etc. at the fair.



Meeting with Consul General, Consulate General of India, Milan, Italy

Shri N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, called on Mr. Lavanya Kumar, Consul General of India, Milan at the O/o Consulate General of India, and held a detailed discussion about the effective involvement of CGI, Milan, in improving exports from India to Italy in collaboration with HEPC, and also about HEPC's participation in AF-L'Artigiano, Fiera Milano, Italy.



Meeting with the fair organisers

Shri N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, held a meeting with the fair organisers Mr. Gabriele Alberti, CEO, Ge.Fi. S.p.A. and Ms. Vandana Yadav, South Asia Consultant, AF-L'Artigiano in Fiera and discussed HEPC's future participation in AF-L'Artigiano, Fiera Milano, Italy.



Inauguration of Indian Pavilion

The India Pavilion at AF-L'Artigiano in Fiera – International Crafts Selling Exhibition, was officially inaugurated by Mr. Lavanya Kumar, Consul General of India, Milan, in the presence Mr. Antonio Intiglietta, President and Mr. Gabriele Alberti CEO, Ge.Fi. S.p.A., Mr. N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, Mr. Mahesh N. Sanil, Executive Director, PDEXCIL, Lt.Col. Harsh Kondilya, OSD(Admin), ITPO, Ms. Vandana Yadav, South Asia Consultant, AF-L'Artigiano in Fiera & Ms. Ruchika, Asst. Manager, EPCH, on 02.12.24.



Post inauguration Mr. Lavanya Kumar, Consul General of India, Milan accompanied by Mr. N.Sreedhar, Executive Director, HEPC, and other dignitaries released HEPC's exhibitor catalogue. The Consul General visited the stands of HEPC's member exhibitors, interacted with their representatives, and conveyed his best wishes for successful participation in the event. He appreciated the efforts taken by HEPC by putting up the handloom pavilion from India and for the wide range of products showcased at the event.

Visitors' attendance

The footfall of the buyers was found to be good during the entire event, it was observed that all Member Exporters had considerable customer visits to their stands, and were satisfied with the outcome of this event. Exhibitors were satisfied on the location of HEPC booths, and suggested that a more prominent location will have more visibility of their stalls to customers, and requested HEPC to explore the possibility of the same.

Since the event was primarily a B2C event, spot sales to the tune of Rs.1.46 crore and enquiries to the tune of Rs.88.74 lakhs were generated by HEPC member participants from 18,474 visitors who visited their booth. The fair authority has indicated that the next edition of Artigiano in Fiera is scheduled, for the first time in spring, from 29 May to 2 June 2025 at Fieramilano (Rho). The traditional winter edition will be held from 6 to 14 December 2025. The event participation was coordinated by Shri N. Sreedhar, Executive Director and Shri. William Desmond Jude, Senior Executive, HEPC

Seminar

Report on

Export Awareness and Facilitation

07.01.2025 at Bhagalpur, Bihar

Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) has organized a Seminar on 07.01.2025 at Hotel Rajhans International, Bhagalpur, Bihar on “Export Awareness and Facilitation” to create awareness among the Master weavers, Exporters, aspirant exporters & Co-operative Societies about export procedure, facilities, and assistance available from various departments of Government of India for benefit of all the concerned in Bhagalpur and nearby areas. The seminar has been organized with financial assistance under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) of Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles.

The Seminar was Co-chaired by Shri Rakesh Chatterjee, Deputy Director, Weavers Service Centre, Bhagalpur, Shri Chandan Mani Tripathi, Manager, National Handloom Development Corporation, Shri Tripurari Choudhary, Scientist-C, Central Silk Board and Dr. M.Sundar, Joint Director, HEPC.



The Seminar began with welcome address by Dr. M.Sundar, Joint Director, Handloom Export Promotion Council. In his welcome address the Joint Director assured to extend full support of the Handloom Export Promotion Council to trade. All the speakers and key dignitaries were felicitated with a Yoga Mat. About 65 exporters/aspirant exporters and weavers have participated in the Seminar.

The technical session started with presentation by Shri Chandan Mani Tripathi, Manager, National Handloom Development Corporation. He highlighted various yarn schemes available for Handloom Cooperative Societies and weavers. He stated the NHDC is always available for entrepreneurs. Shri Rakesh Chatterjee, Deputy Director Weavers Service Centre, Bhagalpur briefed about India Handloom Brand-Benefits and registration process, Handloom Mark. Shri Tripurari Choudhary, Scientist-C, Central Silk Board, Bhagalpur detailed about various schemes and support to industry by Central Silk Board and the Government.

Dr. M.Sundar, Joint Director, HEPC has made power point presentation on export benefits. He has also briefed about the Export Trends, Council’s activities & Procedure to obtain membership of the Council and its benefits to members. He also requested the entrepreneurs to come forward to participate in events organized by HEPC to explore the export market and avail the benefits with HEPC registration and explained the importance of taking HEPC membership to the prospective exporters, master weavers and cooperative societies present.

The seminar concluded with vote of thanks by Shri Lakshmi Narayan, Assistant Director, HEPC. All the participants were satisfied and requested HEPC to organize such events in future.

HEPC visit to Andhra Pradesh



Smt. K. Sunitha, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government (Handlooms and Textiles), invited the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) to visit the state and provide valuable suggestions for enhancing the export potential of Andhra Pradesh's handloom products. Accordingly, the visit was conducted on the 23rd and 24th of January 2025 by the Shri. N. Sreedhar, Executive Director and Dr. M Sundar Joint Director of HEPC.

Day 1 - Meeting with Principal Secretary to Govt (Handlooms and Textiles), AP (23/01/2025)

The office of Principal Secretary extended a warm welcome to the HEPC officials and initiated the discussion by providing insights into the current marketing scenario of Andhra Pradesh's handloom products. She highlighted key areas that required attention for boosting exports, including specific products with export potential and the government's ongoing initiatives to secure Geographical Indication (GI) tags for new handloom products.

The Executive Director emphasized the opportunities available for diversifying handloom products and strategies for entering international markets. Also, he extended the service to obtaining new GI approvals for handloom product of AP subject to the feasibility study funded by the Ministry of Textiles, if the state government provided a detailed list of products. The Joint Director elaborated on HEPC's activities in promoting Indian handloom exports and provided detailed insights into the export market, including the market value of various handloom product categories and their potential for the growth of handloom industry in India.

The Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Limited (APCO) organized a product display showcasing the diverse range of handloom products from Andhra Pradesh at the Secretariat building, Amaravathi. The Principal Secretary, HEPC officials, Managing Director of APCO, and officials from the Commissionerate are visited the pavilion and expressed their valuable comments about the products and its specifications. The display provided an opportunity to identify and evaluate the product range and unique designs of Andhra Pradesh's handloom products, which could be further explored for international markets.



Afternoon session council officials visited Smt. Rekha Rani I.A.S, Commissioner of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Andhra Pradesh, The Executive Director and Joint Director of HEPC addressed the gathering and provided a detailed explanation of the benefits of HEPC membership and export opportunities of handloom goods. Smt. Rekha Rani, I.A.S., Commissioner of Handlooms, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, was present during the interactive meeting. it was noted that none of the weavers possessed the Importer Exporter Code (IEC), which is a mandatory requirement for any export as per FTP and obtaining Registration cum Membership Certificate (RCMC) with EPCs. Around 75 participants of societies and weavers assembled at the commissioner's office with their products for an interactive meeting.



Day 2 - Field visit to the various handloom clusters of Andhra Pradesh (24/01/2025)

The office of The Commissioner of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Andhra Pradesh, arranged a field visit to the following cluster in Krishna District known for their authentic Kalamkari craft (hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile) and cotton sarees weaving.

Pedana - Hand Block Printing



Polavaram Cotton Sarees



Weavers Shala Shed-NGO

Followed by, Council official have visited weavers shala shed, an NGO company manufacturing Mangalagiri handloom saree using cotton fibre and functioning with 50 handloom units.

Summary

During the visit, it has been witnessed interest from the significant numbers from the weaver community for direct export. With targeted support and follow-up actions, the weavers can be significantly enhanced and empowering them with greater access to export opportunities in the global markets. The visit will provide valuable insights into the future scenario of Andhra Pradesh's handloom sector and will lay the groundwork for collaborative efforts between HEPC and the state government that may lead to enhanced export opportunities, with a structured action plan and follow-up, Andhra Pradesh's handloom products have significant potential to make a strong impact in international markets.

Circular

Dear Members,

Sub: Using Handloom HS codes in Shipping Bills

This is to inform that the export performance of the handloom products (as per 32 HS codes allotted to the Council) witnessed degrowth over the past five years. The enclosed data provides a comprehensive view of the handloom export statistics for the last decade. This concerning development requires urgent attention and coordinated action from all HEPC member exporters. In view of the above, it is requested to use the 32 HS codes allotted to the Council for the appropriate products in the shipping bills as it is crucial to address the declining trend.

List of 32 Handloom HS Codes

| Chapter – 50 - Silk | | | Chapter – 58 - Special woven fabrics; tufted textile fabrics; lace; tapestries; trimmings; embroidery | | |
|---|-------------|---|---|------------|--|
| Sl.no | Tariff Item | Description | 16 | 5802 10 60 | Terry toweling and similar woven terry fabrics of cotton: Of handloom |
| 1 | 5007 90 10 | Woven fabrics of silk or of silk waste; Of Handloom | Chapter – 62 - Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted | | |
| Chapter – 51 - Wool, finer coarse animal hair; horsehair yarn and woven fabric | | | 17 | 6214 10 30 | Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like; of silk and silk waste: Of handloom |
| 2 | 5112 90 50 | Woven fabrics of combed wool or of combed fine animal hair; Of Handloom | 18 | 6216 00 20 | Gloves, mittens, and mitts; Of handloom |
| Chapter – 52 - Cotton | | | Chapter – 63 - Other made-up textile articles: sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags | | |
| 3 | 5208 31 21 | Sarees, of Handloom | 19 | 6302 21 10 | Other bed linen, printed: of cotton: Handloom |
| 4 | 5208 41 21 | Sarees, of Handloom | 20 | 6302 51 10 | Other table linen Of cotton Handloom |
| 5 | 5208 49 21 | Real Madras Handkerchiefs, of Handloom | 21 | 6302 60 10 | Toilet linen and kitchen linen, of terry toweling or similar terry fabrics, of cotton Handloom |
| 6 | 5208 59 20 | Zari bordered Sarees, handloom | 22 | 6302 91 10 | Other: Of cotton : Handloom |
| 7 | 5209 11 11 | Dhoti of handloom | 23 | 6304 19 40 | Bed sheets and bed covers, of cotton, Handloom |
| 8 | 5209 11 12 | Saree of handloom | 24 | 6304 92 11 | Counterpanes, of Handloom |
| 9 | 5209 11 13 | Casement of handloom | 25 | 6304 92 21 | Napkins, of Handloom |
| 10 | 5209 11 14 | Sheeting (Takia, leopard cloth and other than furnishing) of handloom | 26 | 6304 92 31 | Pillow cases and pillow slips, of handloom |
| 11 | 5209 11 19 | Other fabrics, Handloom | 27 | 6304 92 41 | Table cloth and table covers, of handloom |
| 12 | 5209 51 11 | Lungi, of Handloom | 28 | 6304 92 81 | Cushion covers, of handloom |
| Chapter – 57 - Carpets and other Textile floor coverings | | | 29 | 6304 92 91 | Other furnishing articles, of handloom |
| 13 | 5702 42 30 | Carpets, rugs and mats of handloom | 30 | 6304 99 91 | Furnishing articles of silk, Handloom |
| 14 | 5705 00 24 | Cotton durries of handloom (including chindi durries, cotton chenille durries, Rag Rug durries, printed durries, druggets); | 31 | 6304 99 92 | Furnishing articles of wool, Handloom |
| 15 | 5705 00 42 | Mats and matting including bath mats, where cotton predominates by weight, of handloom, cotton rugs of handloom | 32 | 6307 10 30 | Floor-cloths, dish cloths, dusters and similar cleaning cloths: Of cotton, Handloom |

If in case of member exporters producing handloom products but could not use the above listed HS codes may kindly intimate the same to the Council. Any suggestions on improving/scaling up the exports and reason for drop in exports may be suggested to take up appropriately with the ministry. For any further clarification, you may write to jd@hepcindia.com / policy@hepcindia.com or contact the following officials of the Council.

Dr. M. Sundar, Joint Director (+91-9444810066/044-28276043/28278879)

Policy Section - 044-28276043/28278879

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(N. Sreedhar)

Executive Director

Entering the European market for sustainable materials

Many buyers in Europe are increasing their requirements for socially responsible and sustainable production. This shift is driven by growing consumer awareness of the negative social and environmental impacts of fashion, as well as stricter regulations.

1. Brand commitments

Major apparel brands and retailers across all price/value segments are stepping up their commitments to use more sustainable materials. In the sustainable cotton ranking, for instance, Adidas, IKEA, H&M, C&A and OTTO Group lead the way. European fashion companies are also providing more information to end consumers about the materials used in their products (e.g. in manufacturing location, fabric composition, finishing and production methods).

Industry-wide initiatives

Fashion brands and retailers, pressure groups, solution providers and individuals throughout the industry have come together in several platforms, programmes and pledges to implement solutions to fashion's most pressing issues.

Few Examples include:

- Cascale (formerly known as the Sustainable Apparel Coalition): a multi-stakeholder non-profit alliance that promotes social justice and works to reduce environmental impact.
- ACT: an agreement between unions, brands and global retailers to improve working conditions and wages in garment-producing countries.
- ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals): a multi-stakeholder organisation dedicated to reducing the industry's chemical footprint.
- Fashion For Good (FFG): an innovation platform that connects sustainable innovators with brands, retailers, manufacturers and funders.
- H&M Global Change Award: an accelerator for early-stage sustainable innovation.

EU legislation pushing for more sustainable fashion

The European Union's 'Green Deal' aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This collection of new laws and regulations includes legislation on:

- Ecodesign for Sustainable (textile) Products.
- A 'right to repair' for consumers.
- Due diligence regarding human rights and environmental protection (CSDDD).
- Traceability and reporting (CSRD).
- Deforestation-free products (EUDR). Currently, this only applies to the import of leather (skins).
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR), an initiative to make companies financially responsible for the environmental costs of textiles during their life cycle.
- A 'Green claims' directive to stop companies from using vague or misleading claims about the sustainability of their products.

Why are sustainable materials important?

Materials can have a direct negative impact at each stage of the garment lifecycle, from the cultivation and production of fibres to the garment's end of life phase. Garments that are not recycled, upcycled or repaired often end up in landfill or are incinerated. Many materials are not biodegradable. Fabric composition is also a big part of recyclability because many blended fabrics are harder to recycle. The production of petroleum-based materials creates a lot of greenhouse gases. These materials include polyester, nylon and acrylic. When washed, clothing made from these fibres also releases microplastics. Some fibres and materials (e.g. cotton) require a lot of water, land, energy and chemicals to produce. Animal-derived natural fibres and materials (e.g. down feathers and wool) are often obtained from animals that have been subjected to unnecessary suffering (e.g. live plucking, force feeding or mulesing).

What makes a material sustainable?

A material can be considered more sustainable if it is produced and can be maintained or disposed of in a way that is considerate of humans, social justice and the environment. These materials may be:

- Manufactured using inputs and materials that cause less harm to the environment during production.
- Manufactured from materials that are already in circulation (non-virgin materials, waste materials and manufacturing by-products).
- Manufactured from inputs and materials that cause less harm to the environment during disposal (e.g. biodegradable).
- Manufactured using sustainable processes that use less water, energy, pesticides, fertilisers and/or harmful chemicals.
- Obtained from animals that have been treated in an animal-friendly manner.
- Of decent quality and durability to lengthen the product lifecycle.
- Manufactured by organisations that employ socially-compliant practices, including:
 - a) Workplace health and safety
 - b) Payment of a living wage/fair wage
 - c) Lack of child or forced labour
 - d) Decent working conditions

2. What requirements and certifications must sustainable materials meet to be allowed on the European market?

All apparel exported to the EU, made with sustainable materials or not, must comply with several legal requirements, including ones that concern product safety, the use of chemicals (REACH), quality and labelling. Apparel for children has special consumer safety requirements.

What are mandatory requirements?

Follow these steps to ensure that your product complies with the relevant legal requirements to export apparel to the EU:

1. Make sure your product complies with the EU's General Product Safety Directive (GPSD: 2001/95/EC).

2. Make sure you comply with the EU's REACH Regulation. This restricts the use of chemicals in apparel and trims, including certain Azo-dyes, flame retardants, waterproofing and stain-repelling chemicals and nickel.

3. Pay special attention to the following safety standard that applies to apparel for children: EN 14682.

4. Specify the material composition of every apparel item that you export to the EU in line with Regulation (EU) 1007/2011.

5. Do not violate any Intellectual Property (IP) rights and do not copy or share designs with other buyers.

Additional regulations for the use of chemicals

Some EU countries have extra regulations for specific chemicals. For example, Austria, Finland, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands have specific regulations for formaldehyde in textiles.

Austria, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands also have specific regulations for PCP, while Germany has regulations for dispersing dyes in textiles. Switzerland has its own regulation for chemicals: the ORR Chem.

The UK's REACH regulation came into force on 1 January 2021 after it left the EU.

Non-legal mandatory requirements

Buyers may have additional, company-specific terms and conditions. These requirements can usually be found in a buyer manual. By signing a contract with your buyer, you confirm that you will comply with all the requirements listed in the manual. If there is a problem at your or one of your suppliers' facilities or with the product, you will be held accountable.

- Brands and retailers may need social and environmental audits of raw materials production facilities to be conducted, either by the brand/retailer itself or by an independent third party. These audits can be announced or unannounced. Factories and mills that do not allow full access will often be blacklisted and will not receive orders in future.

- As well as REACH, many brands have created their own Restricted Substances Lists (RSLs), based on industry and regulatory standards, which suppliers of both materials and garments need to follow.
- Many buyers have a supplier Code of Conduct in their supplier manual. This Code of Conduct outlines the buyer's values and policies regarding key topics. It is intended to ensure that suppliers understand and comply with required ethical standards. It may cover the following aspects:
 - a) Child labour
 - b) Forced labour and overtime
 - c) Health and safety
 - d) Discrimination
 - e) Fair remuneration
 - f) Environment
 - g) Business integrity and conflicts of interest
 - h) Intellectual property









What additional requirements do buyers often have?

European buyers are always looking for special materials or production methods that will help them stand out in the market in terms of sustainability. Suppliers should be active in finding, developing and implementing new solutions that facilitate the development and marketing of more sustainable products.

Certifications

Ever more European buyers require facilities, products and/or materials to be independently certified for social responsibility, environmental impact and use of harmful substances. The certification process can be timeconsuming and costly. However, getting certification shows a commitment to sustainable practices throughout your supply chain. The most popular standards and certifications for base materials in the European apparel market can be found in the table below.



| Name | Logo | Description |
|----------------|--|--|
| OEKO-TEX® 100 |  | Tests fabrics and accessories for substances considered harmful to human health. Most European brands require products to carry the Oeko-Tex quality mark. |
| OEKO-TEX® STeP |  | Social and environmental certification system for brands, retailers and manufacturers in the textile and leather industry. Certification is suitable for production facilities at all processing stages. |
| EU Ecolabel |  | The EU Ecolabel is a voluntary label for products and services with a reduced environmental impact. It is only awarded to products with the lowest environmental impact in a particular product range. |
| BCI |  | The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is a non-profit, multi stakeholder governance group that promotes better standards in cotton farming. It is active in 21 countries. |
| GOTS |  | The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is the leading standard for organic textiles. It applies to the harvesting of raw materials, environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing, and labelling. |
| C2C |  | Cradle to Cradle Certified® is a third party certification programme and a standard for materials and products considered to be safe, circular and responsibly made. |
| Bluesign® |  | The use of Bluesign®- approved chemical products and materials increases the safety of products and minimises risks for companies throughout the value chain. Bluesign® approved textiles are sustainably produced and assessed according to the Bluesign® criteria. |
| ZDHC |  | A multi-stakeholder programme that leads the apparel industry in eliminating harmful chemicals from supply chains. |

| Name | Logo | Description |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Sedex |  | An online platform for companies to manage and improve working conditions and environmental protection in global supply chains, from raw material production to garment manufacturing. |
| Fair Wear Foundation |  | This certification is for brands committed to improving labour conditions in their supply chains. FWF works with brands, factories, trade unions, NGOs and sometimes governments. |
| Fair Trade |  | Fair Trade is a non-profit organisation that focuses on smallholder farmers and workers in developing countries. It is a movement to reduce poverty and promote fair and equal opportunities. |
| regenagri |  | regenagri is a regenerative agriculture programme supporting farms and organisations transitioning to holistic farming, increasing soil health, encouraging biodiversity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon dioxide. |

Supply Chain Transparency

Supply chain transparency is key for the European apparel industry. It is motivated by ever stricter laws at EU and national levels. New EU legislation, including CSDDD, CSRD and the Green Claim Directive (GCD), requires companies to investigate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) risks, report on abuses, mitigate risks and communicate truthfully with end consumers. Transparency means you should disclose information about your operations to buyers and help them gain as much insight into their supply chain as possible.

The GCD is a particularly interesting piece of new legislation, because European end consumers still lack clear information about sustainable fashion and materials. This is not surprising given that only 44% of the industry's leading 250 brands define what they mean by 'sustainable materials'. The GCD aims to prevent brands and retailers from making false sustainability claims to consumers, and it requires companies to back up their environmental claims with data.

This kind of legislation is particularly relevant to claims about recycled polyester, viscose, deforestation-free leather, 'responsible' or 'eco' materials, and 'vegan' leather.

Innovation in sustainable materials

The industry is constantly innovating so fibres, other raw materials and wet-processing techniques are becoming more sustainable. Next-generation eco-fibres can be used alone or blended with other types of fibres to make new materials. Many of these are branded or patented, and some offer interesting additional features and properties.

To help buyers, product developers and designers choose more sustainable fibres, the Dutch industry association Modint has developed a helpful benchmark called the Modint Fibre Matrix. The MFM focuses on the most-used and commercially available fibre materials and ranks them as conventional, preferred, better and best options. Other tools that can help you assess materials include the Modint bAwear Score, the Higg Materials Sustainability Index and Preferred Fiber & Materials (PFM) Benchmark.

The MFM only covers raw material extraction and primary processing. The materials have been assessed using five parameters: climate change, energy use, water use, land use and circularity.

To be continued in next edition

Trade Notification

Amendments to Para 2.91 & 2.93 of HBP, inline with the Implementation of the eCertificate of origin System

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued a public notice regarding Amendments to Para 2.91 & 2.93 of HBP, inline with the Implementation of the e-certificate of origin System ([Click Here](#))

EPCG Scheme – Relief in Average EO in terms of the para 5.17(a) of Hand Book of Procedures (HBP) of FTP, 2023

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued a policy circular regarding EPCG Scheme – Relief in Average EO in terms of the para 5.17 (a) of Hand Book of Procedures (HBP) of FTP, 2023 ([Click Here](#))

Introduction of online module for filing Annual RoDTEP Return(ARR)-reg

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued a Trade Notice regarding introducing an online module for filing Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) on its portal for exporters who claimed RoDTEP benefits exceeding Rs. 1 crore in FY 2023-24 ([Click Here](#))

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Press Release

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal sets a target of 10000 GI tags by 2030; committee to be formed to oversee implementation

22 January, 2025

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal set a target of reaching 10,000 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by 2030, at the GI Samagam today in New Delhi, organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and India Today Group. This target will be achieved through a whole of government approach, and the government will constitute a committee to oversee this, added the Minister. The number of GI tags issued by the department till date stands at 605.

Shri Goyal highlighted the efforts of the government under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to give a thrust to the Intellectual Property Ecosystem (IPR) ecosystem. The number of authorized users for GI tags increased from 365 to 29000 and the number of patents granted increased from 6000 to 100000, in the last 10 years. Stressing on the idea of 'Vikas bhi aur Virasat bhi' given by the Prime Minister, Shri Goyal highlighted the constant efforts of the Prime Minister including mentioning of various products in his 'Mann ki Baat' radio programme.

Speaking on the efforts of the government to strengthen the IPR ecosystem, Shri Goyal highlighted the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Fund and One District One Product (ODOP) scheme. Shri Goyal also lauded the efforts of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra state governments in promoting GI products. The Government also increased the manpower strength of the department and the whole process has been made online in a time-bound manner, added the Minister.

Shri Goyal stressed on the need for better branding of GI products. He mentioned the need for collaboration with FSSAI and BIS for ensuring better quality standards. This will also help to address the issue of counterfeit products, he added.

While speaking about promotion and marketing efforts, the Minister talked about the potential collaboration with private sector and government organisations like railways, airports. Shri Goyal suggested the possibility of having GI tagged products listed on GeM platform, ONDC portal and even e-commerce platforms. E-commerce platforms are increasingly looking at Indian handloom, handicrafts, speciality food products etc, added the Minister. Shri Goyal also pointed out that GI products can be showcased by Indian embassies abroad, similar to ODOP products and can unlock the export potential for this sector.

DPIIT signs MoU with a private firm to promote startup ecosystem in manufacturing sector

24 January, 2025

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed a MoU with the Bhaane Group, a subsidiary of Shahi Exports Pvt Ltd, the largest manufacturer of apparel. This collaboration will launch incubation programs for startups specialising in manufacturing, along with other production areas and foster relationships with international startup ecosystems. This is part of government's thrust on promoting new manufacturing entrepreneurs in the country.

Through its extensive experience, the private firm will support upcoming startups by providing access to market insights. The firm will facilitate them to create a holistic understanding of the workings of foreign markets, along with guidance on operational knowledge throughout the startup lifecycle.

Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT said, “This collaboration serves a greater good – to nurture a thriving entrepreneurial spirit and strengthen India's manufacturing landscape. By facilitating connections between startups and established players like Bhaane Group, we foster a mutually beneficial environment where innovation flourishes and Indian businesses achieve global success.”

Anand Ahuja, CEO and Co-Founder of Bhaane Group said, “Global brands are eyeing investing in Indian startups, as it is one of the leading players in the South Asian market. DPIIT's mission with Start Up India aligns with our outlook to foster innovation and global competitiveness among Indian startups.”

DGFT Launches Enhanced eCoO 2.0 System with Provisions for Back-to-Back Certificates of Origin

27 January, 2025

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has launched the enhanced Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 System, a significant upgrade designed to simplify the certification process for exporters and enhance trade efficiency. This upgraded platform offers several user-friendly features, such as multi-user access, which enables exporters to authorize multiple users under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC). Additionally, the system now supports Aadhaar-based e-signing alongside digital signature tokens, providing greater flexibility. An integrated dashboard offers exporters seamless access to eCoO services, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) information, trade events, and other resources. The platform also introduces an in-lieu Certificate of Origin feature, allowing exporters to request corrections to previously issued certificates through an easy online application process.

As of 1st January 2025, the electronic filing of Non-Preferential Certificates of Origin has become mandatory via the eCoO 2.0 platform, and is available to exporters at [https:// trade.gov.in](https://trade.gov.in) under the “Get Certificate of Origin” section. This trade facilitation initiative has been streamlining the certification process, and improving turnaround times for exporters, marking a significant advancement in enhancing the Ease of Doing Business. The platform processes over 7,000 eCoOs daily, including both preferential and non-preferential certificates, connecting 125 issuing agencies which includes 110 national and regional chambers of commerce & industry, over 650 issuing officers and all Indian exporters under one unified system.

Reference Public Notice 43/2024-25 dated 27.01.2025, DGFT has introduced the procedure for availing online Back-to-Back Certificates of Origin (Non-Preferential). These certificates cater to goods not of Indian origin, intended for re-export, trans-shipment, or merchanting trade. Issued based on documentary evidence from the foreign country of origin, the Back-to-Back CoO ensures transparency and accuracy by explicitly mentioning details of the origin and supporting documents. This initiative not only simplifies the certification process but also accelerates processing times, making it particularly beneficial for global supply chains involving intermediary trade through India. The enhanced eCoO 2.0 system underscores DGFT's commitment to facilitating trade and improving the Ease of Doing Business for Indian exporters.

Source





Union Budget

Indian FM's Budget Speech – Highlights for textile sector

The Union Budget 2025-26 has put a strong focus on strengthening India's textile, MSME, and manufacturing sectors through strategic policy interventions. With key measures like the Mission for Cotton Productivity, enhanced credit support for MSMEs, duty restructuring on textiles and leather, and a renewed push for domestic manufacturing, the government aims to drive growth, sustainability, and global competitiveness. The introduction of an Export Promotion Mission and targeted incentives for technical textiles, footwear, and leather further reinforce India's vision for a self-reliant and future-ready industrial ecosystem. These reforms are expected to boost employment, increase value addition, and position India as a leading global manufacturing hub.

Below are the excerpts from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget presented in the Parliament

Mission for Cotton Productivity

For the benefit of lakhs of cotton growing farmers, I am pleased to announce a 'Mission for Cotton Productivity'. This 5-year mission will facilitate significant improvements in productivity and sustainability of cotton farming, and promote extra-long staple cotton varieties. The best of science & technology support will be provided to farmers. Aligned with our integrated 5F vision for the textile sector, this will help in increasing incomes of the farmers, and ensure a steady supply of quality cotton for rejuvenating India's traditional textile sector.

Revision in classification criteria for MSMEs

Currently, over 1 crore registered MSMEs, employing 7.5 crore people, and generating 36 per cent of our manufacturing, have come together to position India as a global manufacturing hub. With their quality products, these MSMEs are responsible for 45 per cent of our exports. To help them achieve higher efficiencies of scale, technological upgradation and better access to capital, the investment and turnover limits for classification of all MSMEs will be enhanced to 2.5 and 2 times respectively. This will give them the confidence to grow and generate employment for our youth. The details are in Annexure D.

Annexure D

| Rs. in Crore | Investment | | Turnover | |
|--------------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Current | Revised | Current | Revised |
| Micro Enterprises | 1 | 2.5 | 5 | 10 |
| Small Enterprises | 10 | 25 | 50 | 100 |
| Medium Enterprises | 50 | 125 | 250 | 500 |

Significant enhancement of credit availability with guarantee cover

To improve access to credit, the credit guarantee cover will be enhanced:

- For Micro and Small Enterprises, from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore, leading to additional credit of ₹1.5 lakh crore in the next 5 years.
- For Startups, from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore, with the guarantee fee being moderated to 1 per cent for loans in 27 focus sectors important for Atmanirbhar Bharat; and
- For well-run exporter MSMEs, for term loans up to ₹20 crore.

Credit Cards for Micro Enterprises

We will introduce customized Credit Cards with a ₹5 lakh limit for micro enterprises registered on Udyam portal. In the first year, 10 lakh such cards will be issued.

Focus Product Scheme for Footwear & Leather Sectors

To enhance the productivity, quality and competitiveness of India's footwear and leather sector, a focus product scheme will be implemented. The scheme will support design capacity, component manufacturing, and machinery required for production of non-leather quality footwear, besides the support for leather footwear and products. The scheme is expected to facilitate employment for 22 lakh persons, generate turnover of ₹4 lakh crore and exports of over ₹1.1 lakh crore.

Manufacturing Mission - Furthering "Make in India"

Our Government will set up a National Manufacturing Mission covering small, medium and large industries for furthering "Make in India" by providing policy support, execution roadmaps, governance and monitoring framework for central ministries and states. Details are in Annexure E.

Annexure E

The Mission's mandate will include 5 focus areas:

1. ease and cost of doing business;
2. future ready workforce for in-demand jobs;
3. a vibrant and dynamic MSME sector;
4. availability of technology; and
5. quality products.

National Centres of Excellence for Skilling

Building on the initiative announced in the July 2024 Budget, five National Centres of Excellence for skilling will be set up with global expertise and partnerships to equip our youth with the skills required for "Make for India, Make for the World" manufacturing. The partnerships will cover curriculum design, training of trainers, a skills certification framework, and periodic reviews.

Support to Domestic Manufacturing and Value addition - Textiles

To promote domestic production of technical textile products such as agro-textiles, medical textiles and geo textiles at competitive prices, I propose to add two more types of shuttle-less looms to the list of fully exempted textile machinery. I also propose to revise the BCD rate on knitted fabrics covered by nine tariff lines from "10% or 20%" to "20% or ₹115 per kg, whichever is higher".

Customs Duty Rate Changes

1.Reduction in customs duty to reduce input costs, deepen value addition, promote export competitiveness, correct inverted duty structure, boost domestic manufacturing etc.

| S. No. | Commodity | From (per cent) | To (per cent) |
|--------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| VI. | Textile Handicraft and Leather, Sector | | |
| 1 | Wet blue leather | 10 | Nil |
| 2 | Shuttle less loom Repler Looms (below 650 meters per minute) and Shuttle less loom Air jet Looms (below 1000 meters per minute) for use in textile Industry | 7.5 | Nil |
| 3. | Certain additional items for duty free Import by bonefide exporters for manufacture of handicrafts | As applicable | Nil |

2. Increase in Customs duty

| S No | Commodity | Rate of duties | |
|------|---|-----------------|---|
| | | From (per cent) | To (per cent) |
| I. | Textiles | | |
| 1 | Knitted Fabrica covered under teriff items 6004 10 00 6004 90 00 6006 22 00 6006 31 00 6006 32 00 6006 33 00 6006 34 00 6006 42.00 and 6006 90.00 | 10/20 | 20 or Rs 115 per kg whichever is higher |

Source: Fibre2Fashion

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With regards,
N.Sreedhar
Executive Director



India
handmade
Gateway to Indian Heritage



IndiaHandmade is an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles to showcase the work of rural Artisans & Weavers. The main motive behind this online e-commerce portal is to showcase some of the worlds oldest and most traditional crafts of India. We aim to provide a platform for Handloom Weavers in India and Handicraft Artisans to sell their handloom and handicraft items online in India, paving the way for their financial and social empowerment. This helps in promoting the Artisans & Weavers skills while eliminating the intermediaries.

Objectives of IndiaHandmade include taking tangible steps in order to improve the dwindling of our artisans. To develop an Indian handloom store virtually over the internet where Indian handloom and handicrafts items can be sold & bought. To envisage to provide artisans and weavers with the required impetus by providing them a digital platform, so that they can interact with buyers Directly eliminate middlemen entirely. Make sure the artists get remunerated fairly with no middlemen to manipulate prices. To ensure City Dwelling urban Indians get access to 100% authentic & best handicrafts products emerging straight from the heart of India.

Visit the website here to know more [India Handmade](https://www.indiahandmade.com)



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Handloom Export Promotion Council

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