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The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles
Export Promotion Council

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SHRI RONAK RUGHANI TAKES CHARGE AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF SRTEPC



Shri Ronak Rughani, present Chairman, SRTEPC welcomed by Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, immediate past Chairman, SRTEPC at the Meeting of the Committee of Members in Surat. Shri S. Balaraju, Executive Director, SRTEPC (left) and Shri Anil Rajvanshi, former Chairman (right) look on

Shri Ronak Rughani, Joint Managing Partner, M/S Rughani Brothers, Mumbai has taken over charge as the Chairman of The Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) on 7th March 2019. His company M/S Rughani Brothers has been a member of SRTEPC since 1994. Shri Ronak Rughani has been serving on the Board of the Council as an active Member in the Committee of Administration for last 9 years.

He was the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the last two years and actively involved in the various activities of the Council including export promotional programmes. During his tenure as Vice Chairman Shri Rughani led a Delegation to Panama. He also led Roadshows to Egypt and Morocco for "Source India 2018" and to Turkey for "Textiles India 2017". Shri Rughani was also a part of High Level Delegations to Russia and Japan which was led by the Secretary Textiles.

Shri Ronak Rughani was instrumental in making the Government to include the Merchant Exporters under the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES). The demand of the textile industry to extend the benefits of the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) to Merchant Exporters was a long pending issue which Shri Rughani could effectively resolve. Shri Rughani's role was also crucial in increasing the MEIS rates on exports of fabrics, upward revision of DBK rates, etc. He also efficiently convinced the Hon'ble Textile Minister to recommend to the Ministry of Finance for extension of RoSL benefits to Manmade fibre, yarn and fabrics.

Shri Ronak Rughani, a charismatic and visionary leader, at 40 is the youngest Chairman of an Export Promotion Council in India. He is a commerce graduate with a post-graduate Diploma in Family Business (FMBA) from NMIMS, Mumbai.

Shri Ronak Rughani has ably led his company, M/S Rughani Brothers, established in 1977, to become a Government of India Recognized Star Export House. M/S Rughani Brothers, a leading company in exports of Men's wear Fabrics and Garments is a 100% Export Oriented Firm. Under his competent leadership, the company won the SRTEPC Gold Trophy 2017-18 in the Category of Merchant Exports – Fabrics.

Shri Ronak Rughani brings to table 25 years of experience and expertise in the Textile Industry and has extensively travelled across the globe. A popular and well known personality among leading importers, buyers and manufacturers in many countries, Shri Ronak Rughani has deep knowledge and insight of production processes spanning the entire textile value chain right from fiber to fashion and aggressive marketing.



VISIT OF A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO JAPAN LED BY SECRETARY (TEXTILES)



Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, Chairman (eighth from left) and Shri Ronak Rughani, Vice Chairman, SRTEPC (Fourth from left) along with the other members of the High Level Delegation to Japan.

A High-level Delegation to Japan led by Shri Raghvendra Singh, Secretary (Textiles), visited Japan from 14th-18th February 2019. The other members of the Delegation included 5 Govt. Officers and 13 Industry representatives from various textile segments. Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, Chairman, SRTEPC and Shri Ronak Rughani, Vice-Chairman, SRTEPC represented –this Council at the Delegation.

The **objective of the Delegation** was to discuss a **Road-map for enhancing exports** from India, and collaborations in the textiles sector with Japan in the following 3 broad areas:

1. Promotion and enhancement of -exports of Textile & Clothing products from India to Japan.
2. Collaboration, Investment and Joint venture in Textile Machinery Manufacturing and Technical Textiles.
3. Collaboration -in Quality and standard.

IMPORTANT ISSUES DISCUSSED

1. Promotion of exports of Indian Textile & Clothing products to Japan, and intensifying their sourcing from India.
2. Collaboration in Technical Textiles.
3. Collaboration, Investment and Joint Venture in Textile Machinery manufacturing with Japanese companies.
4. Collaboration with Japanese Testing Laboratories for setting up their Accredited **Testing Laboratories** and mutual acceptance of Textile & Clothing products between the two countries. .

The Delegation had fruitful meetings with the various stakeholders and decision makers in the Japanese textile industry. Meetings were held with Mr. Yasujiro Miyake, Director South Asia Trade Policy Bureau of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI);

Mr. Mikiro Yoshioka, Deputy General Manager, Lifestyle Division Marubeni Corporation and his team; Mr. Tadashi Yanai, Chairman, President and CEO of UNIQLO Co Ltd.; Mr. Kazuhiko Obama, Senior Director of Global Strategy, South West Asia, Planning Department, Japanese External Trade Organisation (JETRO); Mr. Moriguchi, Ex-MD of Stylem India and Mr. Tsunehiro Ogawa, Teijin Group Executive Officer, Teijin Limited. During the meetings, points relating to strengthening of textile trade between the two countries, exchange of technology, joint venture investment in textile machinery manufacturing in India by Japan and other issues of mutual benefit for both the countries in the field of textiles were discussed.

Seminar on “Textile Industry in India”

A Seminar on “the potential of the Indian Textile Industry and possible opportunities for both the countries” was conducted to sensitize the Japanese Government Officials and textile Industry stake holders of Japan., **H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma**, Ambassador of India to Japan, Eol, Tokyo set the tone for the seminar by providing a glimpse of the potential of textile & clothing trade between India and Japan. The Secretary, Textiles indicated the purpose of the Delegation which was aimed at understanding the issues related to the promotion and growth of exports of the Indian textile and clothing products to Japan. This was followed by a **detailed presentation** on the status of the Indian textile industry and the potential of collaboration with the Japanese importers, machine manufacturers and regulatory authorities.

Importers from Japan highlighted the issues related to the Indian Textile Industry, which are as follows:

- Exporters need to ensure that the quality of the products sent as per the requirements of the Japanese customers are of high quality/standards. Necessary institutional mechanisms for inspection and testing of quality may be put in place.
- Exporters may adhere to the timelines agreed upon as Japanese Fashion Market is fast-moving, and any delay would result in monetary loss. This has been one of the reasons for reluctance to engage Indian manufacturers/traders.
- The details of Indian traders and manufacturers need to be consolidated and details to be made available on public domain, as the Japanese buyers face difficulties while placing large orders.
- The issues related to shortage of skilled weavers and the remuneration provided to them need to be addressed.
- The cost of shipping to Japan is high, as there are no regular maritime services between the countries and shipping by air cargo is costly.

Continued on page 24



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

It is indeed a privilege for me to take over charge as the Chairman of the Council. I thank each Member of the Committee of Administration of the Council individually for reposing their trust in me.

Friends, the MMF textile industry has come a long way and despite all odds survived a lot of turmoil in the domestic as well as overseas markets. There have indeed been substantial challenges that the MMF textile industry is sailing through and I am confident that with the active support of the Ministry and concerted efforts of my fellow member exporters, we shall be able to face them dauntlessly. It has been the Council's endeavour to widen our exports by reaching out to various new markets through Export Promotional Programmes. For the next few years too our aim will be to target markets that have potential for our products. Towards this goal, I seek the constant support and whole hearted co-operation of the Members of the Committee of Administration as well as the active and involved participation of members of the Council to make these Programmes a success. Our Council has been considered among the best EPCs and I would like to maintain that reputation earned by it.

It will be my earnest effort to put forth the problems of the Members from all sections and voice their concerns on all fronts with the various authorities at the appropriate level for solutions.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, the outgoing Chairman and recall his unstinting support with deep gratitude. It is to his credit that the Council could put up representations regarding GST issues and other policy matters concerning the exports of MMF textiles. His ingenuity went a long way in resolving many a issues which were hindering the MMF textile exports. Shri Aggarwal was responsible for convincing the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles to sanction the Milestone Study - "To Promote Growth of Man Made Fibre Textile Industry in India – Roadmap to Identify Gaps and Suggest Measures". In his two year stint as the Chairman Shri Aggarwal has raised the bar of Chairman of SRTEPC. He has indeed been a role model for all of us. The Council has undoubtedly benefited from his foresighted actions and hard work during his tenure. I also seek his active and continued support and association in all our future endeavours to take exports of MMF textiles to newer heights.

I would also like to seek suggestions and views from the Members so that the activities of the Council can be further improved for their benefits.

RONAK RUGHANI

CHAIRMAN



MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

My tenure as the Chairman of SRTEPC has completed and I am deeply thankful to each one of you for your valuable co-operation and support during the past two years.

It is heartening to note that the export scenario is looking up with exports of MMF textiles improving. As per the latest data received from DGCI&S exports of MMF textiles for the period April-January 2018-19 was recorded at US\$4616 million registering a growth of 3.61% compared to the same period last year. This indeed is encouraging. Let us hope that this upward trend continues.

I am glad to inform that the Ministry of Textiles recently notified a new scheme to rebate all embedded state and central taxes and levies on apparels and made-ups exports from India. This step has been taken by the Ministry to enhance the competitiveness of exports of garments and made-ups in the overseas market. This indeed is good news for our members who export made-ups. I am confident that in the months to come the Ministry will come up with more such notifications which will benefit the MMF textile exporters. Exports of MMF textiles saw some difficult times in the last couple of years due to the GST issues and cheap imports from China which was hindering the domestic industry. However, things have been improving with the support of the Government and I am sure that in the years to come MMF textile industry will see a better future. Friends, we too have to put in concerted efforts to take MMF textile exports to greater heights.

I would once again like to express my gratitude for all your wholehearted support and assure that I will be with SRTEPC for all its concerns.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Shri Ronak Rughani and other Members of the Committee of Administration for their constant support and guidance, which helped me in discharging my duties in all arena of issues concerned with SRTEPC as the Chairman of the Council.

My congratulations to Shri Ronak Rughani on his being elected unanimously as the Chairman of the Council and I sincerely wish him all success in his tenure ahead and assure my support at all times in the future.

With warm regards,

SRI NARAIN AGGARWAL
CHAIRMAN

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Contents

- 1 Shri Ronak Rughani takes charge as the New Chairman of SRTEPC
- 2 Visit of High Level Delegation to Japan
- 3 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN
- 4 Message from outgoing Chairman
- 6 Market Reports
- 8 In the News
- 10 The Green MMF World : r pet need of sustainable India
- 13 Trade Notifications
- 19 Glimpses from the Past
- 20 Stalwarts Speak
- 21 Success Stories from SRTEPC
- 22 FAQs on 'Turant Customs' – Next generation reform for ease of doing business
- 26 Market Access Initiative (MAI)
- 28 Government E-Marketplace (GeM)
- 30 Export Review
- 35 Free Trade Agreements & Preferential Trade Agreements



Chile

Tariffs on Chinese textile and clothing items abolished

The Latin American country of Chile has abolished tariffs on Chinese textiles and clothing items, with the coming into force of China-Chile upgraded free trade agreement (FTA) with effect from March 1. The China-Chile Free Trade Zone has become China's free trade zone with the highest level of open trade, according to China's ministry of commerce.

The 'Revised China-Chile Free Trade Agreement and Supplementary Agreement on Trade in Services of the Free Trade Agreement' is China's second FTA upgrading agreement after the upgraded China-ASEAN FTA. It is also China's first FTA upgrading agreement with a Latin American country.

"The agreement further explores the potential of bilateral economic and trade cooperation, enhances the level of trade liberalisation and facilitation between the two countries, and enriches the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, which is of great significance for further deepening the economic and trade cooperation between China and Latin America," Chinese ministry of commerce said on its website.

With the coming into force of the upgraded FTA, 98 per cent of the products under bilateral trade would enjoy zero tariff.

The agreement has also revised and supplemented the chapters including the rules of origin and economic and technical cooperation, and added new rules on topics including e-commerce, competition, environment and trade.

The China-Chile FTA was signed in 2005 and was implemented in 2006. To promote the cooperation in services and investment areas, both sides signed and implemented the supplementary agreements concerning trade in services and investment that were signed in April 2008 and September 2012 respectively. In November 2016, China and Chile launched the FTA upgrading negotiations and signed the same in November 2017.

In 2018, China-Chile bilateral trade stood at \$42.8 billion, registering an increase of 24 per cent year-on-year, according to official data of the Chinese government. China now accounts for almost one-third of Chile's total foreign trade.

While Chile mainly exports mineral and forestry products to China, it mainly imports textiles, light industrial products, electronic and machinery products from China.

Source : Fibre2fashion

Turkey

Establishes as European textile centre

Turkey consolidates its role in the European fashion sourcing while its economy weakens. The country, which has entered a

technical recession, shot up last year its exports of textile and fashion goods to Europe, relying mainly on the devaluation of the local currency. Now, in this new period of recession, everything indicates that the situation will persist.

Turkey's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) registered a 2.4% fall in the fourth quarter of 2018 compared to the previous quarter, entering technical recession for the first time since 2009, according to the data, the country's GDP recorded a 3% drop.

Despite the setbacks of the Turkish economy in the last two quarters of the year, 2018 as a whole had a positive performance, with an annual increase of 2.6% compared to 2017. However, the rise was well below that registered one year ago, when it stood at 7.4%.

In the specific case of Spain, in 2017 Turkey had already overtaken Bangladesh as the second supplier of textiles, clothing, accessories and footwear, and in 2018, it even increased the gap between them. Two years ago, the Spanish market rocketed by 16% its Turkish textile purchases while imports from Bangladesh only grew by 8%.

Also in the case of the fashion industry in Spain, Turkey has distorted the sourcing map of the sector in proximity. Thus, while the Eurasian country has increased its sales of fashion items to the Spanish market at a double digit rate between 2017 and 2018, Portugal's textile industry has registered drops of 23.5% in 2017 and 13.9% in 2018.

As for Italy, Spanish purchases also shank in the last year, with a decrease of 4.2%, while those of Morocco moderated the growth rate, going from 23.3% in 2016 to 8% in 2017 and 5.9% in 2018.

Source : www.themds.com

Ghana

Dubai Business Chamber keen to help Ghana's textile and fashion industry

The Accra office of the Dubai Business Chamber is keen to offer guidance and assistance to companies in Ghana's textiles and fashion industry that are keen to penetrate the Dubai market. The office is now working on improving investment in the textile industry in the country.

It is learnt that the Chamber will help the manufacturers, designers and retailers secure funds from Dubai for expansion and export to Dubai.

Ghana is quickly emerging as a prime market for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with several UAE firms investing in the country in infrastructure, communication and tourism.

Ghanaian manufacturers can take advantage of Dubai's US\$4-billion textile market.

Source : Fibre2fashion



Vietnam

Textile and export turnover witnesses growth in the first two months of 2019

Vietnamese textile-garment export turnover reached US\$4.89 billion in the first two months of this year, up 19 per cent year-on-year. Products witnessing significant export growth included fabrics made from natural fibres at 14 per cent, fabrics from synthetic fibres at 14 per cent and apparel at 11 per cent.

The positive performance was attributed to many firms receiving orders for the first six months of this year or even the entire year.

It is believed that the prospects of the domestic textile and garment industry seemed quite positive this year because of adequate external orders.

The industry is projected to generate US\$40 billion from exports by the end of this year, up 10.8 per cent year-on-year, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS). It is learnt that the industry's trade surplus was expected to reach US\$20 billion this year.

In 2018, export turnover of garments and textile products reached more than US\$36 billion, marking a year-on-year rise of 16 per cent.

Source : Fibre2fashion

Pakistan

Exports of textile and apparel up 2% in the first eight months of the current fiscal year

Pakistan's textile and clothing exports rose by two per cent year-on-year to US\$8.9 billion in the first eight months of current fiscal year.

One of the reasons for the partial revival in exports is a result of cash subsidy offered under the Prime Minister's Exports Enhancement Package. Moreover, the government has also released the pending refunds to taxpayers.

The government believes that better energy supplies coupled with more than 33pc depreciation of rupee has played its role in promoting exports. In rupee terms, the growth in exports of textile and clothing was reported at nearly 25pc in the period under review.

The government has also announced to clear outstanding refunds and rebate through issuance of bonds. In the first phase, government will issue bonds worth Rs80bn against outstanding refunds.

The primary growth driver was the value-added textile sector as ready-made garments' exports went up 2.72pc during the eight months in value and 27pc in quantity. Similarly, exports of knitwear edged up 11.4pc in value and 18.3pc in quantity during the period under review.

Among primary commodities, cotton yarn exports declined by 13.53pc, yarn other than cotton by 0.79pc whereas made-up articles — excluding towels — increased by 2.12pc, tents, canvas and tarpaulin up by 5.2pc with proceeds from raw cotton dipping by 72.49pc during the period under review.

Contrary to this, exports of non-textile products went up by 3.15pc to \$6.21bn in the first eight months of this fiscal year as against \$6.02bn over the corresponding months last year.

Exports of carpets and rugs witnessed a negative growth of 12.03pc during July-February from a year ago whereas sports' goods exports dipped by 7.85pc YoY and foreign sales of footballs dipped by 5pc.

Source : www.dawn.com

Government urged to resolve anti dumping barriers imposed by Turkey

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) recently urged the government to resolve all anti-dumping barriers imposed by Turkey on Pakistani textile and other items before signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with the country. These measures have reportedly reduced Pakistan's exports to Turkey to US\$327 million from US\$850 million in 2011.

Both the governments are expected to enter into a strategic economic framework (SEF) for enhancement of bilateral trade relations. It is believed that the primary purpose of SEF is to enhance bilateral trade by five fold from current US\$ 800 million and for achieving that, the FTA should be signed this year.

Textile is one of the main exportable items of Pakistan facing high tariff rates in Turkey.

Source : Just-style.com

US may end preferential trade treatment for India

USA has notified that they plan to end key trade preferences for India and Turkey. The US President Trump notified Congress in letters of his “intent to terminate” trade benefits for both countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). The notification starts a 60-day countdown before the President can take the action on his own authority, the U.S. Trade Representative's Office said in a statement.

Their designation under the program allows duty-free entry of about 2,000 products including auto components, industrial valves, and textile materials. The President can still walk back his notice to terminate the preference programs if the two countries satisfy the concerns of his administration.

India was the largest beneficiary of the program in 2017 with US\$5.7 billion in imports to the U.S. given duty-free status and Turkey the fifth largest with US\$1.7 billion in covered imports.

US President Trump said in a notification letter that India “has not assured the United States that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets of India.” He said in a separate letter that Turkey is no longer a “developing country based on its level of economic development.”

Source : The Economic Times

Exports to reach US\$ 330 billion in 2018-19

The country's goods export will touch US\$ 330 billion in 2018-19, which will be the highest ever, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu.

He said the country's merchandise exports have seen high growth in the past six years through sector-specific interventions, focused export promotion initiatives, and quick resolution of issues.

With the structural reforms that have been put in place over the past five years by the Ministry and action-oriented plans for major sectors, the Hon'ble Minister said India is on the path to become the fifth-largest economy this year.

India's goods export will peak at US\$ 330 billion in 2018-19 which will be the highest Ever..

Shri Prabhu also said the Department of Commerce has identified nine sectors in which among others textiles also was one of the products, to achieve at least 16 per cent growth in exports in 2018-19.

Source : The Economic Times

Ministry to have a new scheme to rebate all state and central taxes

The Ministry of Textiles has notified a new scheme to rebate all embedded state and central taxes and levies to enhance the

competitiveness of apparels and made-ups exports from India. The Secretary Textiles, Shri Raghvendra Singh has said that the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies on Export of Garments and Made-ups (RoSCTL) scheme will see the Centre forego a tax revenue of approximately Rs 6,300 crore every year.

The rebate of state taxes and levies will include value added tax (VAT) on fuel used in transportation, captive power, farm sector, mandi tax, duty of electricity, stamp duty on export documents, embedded SGST paid on inputs such as pesticides, fertilisers etc. used in production of raw cotton, purchases from unregistered dealers, coal used in production of electricity and inputs for transport sector. Similarly, the rebate of central taxes and levies comprise central excise duty on fuel used in transportation, embedded CGST paid on inputs such as pesticides, fertilisers etc. used in production of raw cotton, purchases from unregistered dealers, inputs for transport sector and embedded CGST and compensation cess on coal used in the production of electricity.

The maximum rate of rebate for apparel will now be 6.05 per cent. In the case of made-ups, this goes up to 8.2 per cent.

The decision is expected to help the textile industry that is readying to see the phase out of support schemes like merchandise export from India scheme (MEIS) that are not compatible with World Trade Organisation (WTO) stipulations. The centre had last year itself announced a rebate on all embedded state taxes and levies. The current decision extends this support by adding the central tax component also to the scheme in accordance with the recognised international economic principle of zero rating of export products. Apparels and made-ups account for about 56 per cent of India's US\$39.2 billion worth of textile exports.

The Textiles Secretary said that a similar rebate on all embedded state and central taxes and levies is being discussed for other textile segments (fibre, yarn, fabric etc) also. He informed that a new committee will look into this matter.

The new scheme came into effect on March 7, 2019 and will remain in force up to March 31, 2020.

Source : www.businessstoday.in

Plans for a Trade Agreement with Africa

India has proposed to Africa that both sides should work towards entering into a free trade agreement (FTA) or a preferential trade agreement (PTA) to enhance and strengthen their economic relationship in a new global trading order.

This suggestion came from the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Shri Suresh Prabhu.

Shri Prabhu said the proposed FTA should look to first benefit Africa and help increase its share in the global market place.

He said that both India and Africa have a common future and don't want to do anything at the expense of Africa. He further stated that India wants Africa to get into an FTA that will benefit them.

Shri Prabhu said that both India and Africa have to work together to take advantage of the new global trading order. He also said both the countries need to become economically self-reliant and work for economic freedom. Economic freedom can be realised through industrialisation and creation of jobs.

The Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said the Commerce Ministry was working on a "comprehensive strategy" to boost India-Africa trade. In 2017-18, India-Africa bilateral trade was about \$63 billion, higher than \$52 billion in the previous fiscal. The Commerce Secretary said that the potential for trade and investment ties is much more and there is also need to diversify the bilateral trade basket.

Source : Business Line

Exports buoyant at US\$ 26.67 billion during February 2019

Exports in February 2019 were US\$ 26.67 billion as compared to US\$ 26.03 billion in February 2018, exhibiting a positive growth of 2.44 per cent. In rupee terms, exports were Rs 1,89,931.49 crore in February 2019 as compared to Rs 1,67,583.64 crore in February 2018, registering a positive growth of 13.34 per cent.

According to Commerce Secretary, Mr Anup Wadhawan, India is projected to achieve record exports of about \$ 325-330 billion in 2018-19, surpassing the earlier peak of \$ 314 billion in 2013-14.

In February 2019, the major commodity groups of export showing positive growth over the corresponding month of last year were among others garments of all textiles (7.17 per cent).

The cumulative value of exports for the period April-February 2018-19 was \$ 298.47 billion (Rs 20,88,290.32 crore) as against \$ 274.21 billion (Rs 17,65,895.27 crore) during the period April-February 2017-18, registering a positive growth of 8.85 per cent in dollar terms (18.26 per cent in rupee terms).

Imports in February 2019 were US\$ 36.26 billion (Rs 2,58,271.75 crore), which was 5.41 per cent lower in dollar terms and 4.66 per cent higher in rupee terms over imports of US\$ 38.34 billion (Rs 2,46,779.79 crore) in February 2018. Cumulative value of imports for the period April-February 2018-19 was US\$ 464 billion (Rs 32,46,190.43 crore) as against US\$ 422.76 billion (Rs 27,22,592.19 crore) during the period April-February 2017-18, registering a positive growth of 9.75 per cent in dollar terms (19.23 per cent in rupee terms).

Source : www.eximin.net

Tariff on Indian textile products to EU and US high

The average tariff on Indian textile products in the EU and the US is higher compared to competing countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan. The US and the EU are top textile export destinations for India with share of 17 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

Indian textile exports to the US attract average tariff of 6.2 per cent, compared to 3.9 per cent for Bangladesh, 5.5 per cent for Vietnam, and 5.3 per cent for Pakistan.

Likewise, Indian textile exports need to pay average tariff of 5.9 per cent in the EU, while textiles from Bangladesh and Pakistan enjoy zero-duty, the minister added.

Bangladesh (with 10 per cent share), and China (6 per cent) are the third- and fourth-largest export markets for Indian textiles. Pakistan, UAE, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Brazil and South Korea are among the top 10 destinations for Indian textiles, according to data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S).

In 2017-18, India's overall merchandise exports stood at US\$303.38 billion, of which textile and apparel exports including handicrafts were valued at US\$39.22 billion, thus comprising 13 per cent of overall exports.

To enhance exports of textile and apparel products, the Indian government announced the Special Package for garments and made-ups sectors. The package offers Rebate of State Levies (RoSL), labour law reforms, additional incentives under Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) and relaxation of Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act.

Further, the rates under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) have been enhanced from 2 per cent to 4 per cent for apparel, 5 per cent to 7 per cent for made-ups, handloom and handicrafts w.e.f. November 1, 2017.

In addition, products such as fibre, yarn and fabric in the textile value chain are being strengthened and made competitive through various schemes, inter alia, Powertex for fabric segment, ATUFS for all segments except spinning, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) for all segments, etc. Assistance is provided to exporters under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. Further, Government has enhanced interest equalisation rate for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector from 3 per cent to 5 per cent w.e.f. November 2, 2018.

Source : Fibre2fashion



The Green MMF world: r-PET- Need of the sustainable India

by

Mamta Dhanshetty, *Consultant Engineer, Gherzi Organization*

Worldwide, more than 350 Million tonnes of plastic waste is generated annually. 12 Million tonnes of plastic waste is being dumped into oceans each year. Out of this, only 9% of plastic is recycled today. This creates an immense opportunity for recycling.

Polyester (PET) contains 10% share in the global polymer production which dominates the market in the form of beverage bottles and textile fibres. Around 55 Million tons of polyester filament and fibre are consumed in textiles and technical textiles production.

PET decomposition normally needs more than 450 years. Plastic waste disposed in the ocean continues to cause irrevocable harm to marine life. One tonne of Polyester (PET) waste requires 5.6 cubic meters of landfill. Recycling would not only help in reducing landfill but also help in reduction of carbon emissions. Almost 1.5 Tonnes of CO₂ can be saved by recycling PET to produce one tonne of recycled PSF. Global per capita PET consumption is around 3Kgs, whereas, India consumes 0.55 Kgs of PET per capita. With India lagging in per capita PET consumption, it is projected that a marginal surge in consumption will boost the PET demand, generating more PET waste for recycling.

Today, Polyester has become an inextricable part of our day-to-day lives. China has created a big edge in MMF production and alone counts for around 70% of global market share.

The recycling rate for PET in Japan is 72%, 48% in Europe and 31% in the US. Labour availability, low wages, easy availability of raw materials and growing demand has helped the Asian drive of the new investments in the textiles sector in Asia.

India consumes 13 Million tonnes of plastic per year, according to NCL, the organized sector collectively recycles 60%-70% of PET-bottle waste generated in India. India's capacity of r-PET PSF production is 1000 KT and many new r-PET recycling projects are in the pipeline. (Source: World Economic Forum, Gherzi Research & Analysis)

Brand leaders continue to set big recycling goals

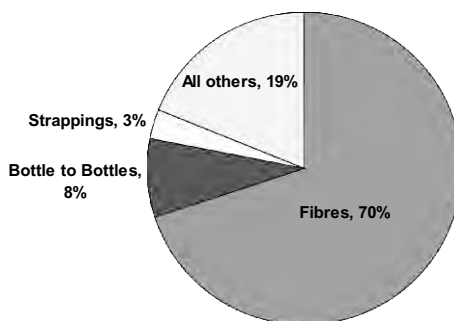
A growing number of the consumer groups who demand the assurance of sustainability on popular apparel labels are the major growth drivers behind the sustainable fashion brands. In turn, these major fashion brands have ramped up the use of sustainable solutions as a raw material.

Giant brands like H&M, Addidas, Eileen Fisher, Under Armour, IKEA, Gap have already initiated this green journey by adding sustainable polyester products in to their product basket. These 59 renowned textile, apparel and retail companies have committed or are supporting an increase in their use of Recycled Polyester (rPET) by at least 25% by 2020.

- Armani (Italy) have been incorporating eco fabrics and design since the mid 90's. Since then, the company launched garments in materials such as hemp, r-PET, etc.
- In April 2015, Adidas announced a partnership with Parley for the Oceans (Parley – an organisation works for ocean protection). The Adidas shoe upper is made using waste plastic filtered out of the oceans and a 3D-printed midsole created from recycled fishing nets.
- In line with Adidas, Under Armour also launched limited additions of 3D printed midsole shoes (96 pairs at \$300 each).
- The IKEA ambition is to not use any virgin oil-based polyester in textiles by 2030.
- Diverse brands such as Recover and Patagonia (USA) have created an exclusive outdoor collection with r-PET.
- EcoSimple is another company whose fabrics are a blend of recycled cotton and RPET, which is made from plastic bottles.
- Rekoop and Cirkularity are the new brands of bedding products made from recycled plastic (rPET) recently launched by GHCL (India).

World r-PET (PSF) industry

Out of total recycling volume, About 70% of recycled bottles are converted into fibres (for spinning and nonwovens)



Source : Gherzi Research & Analysis

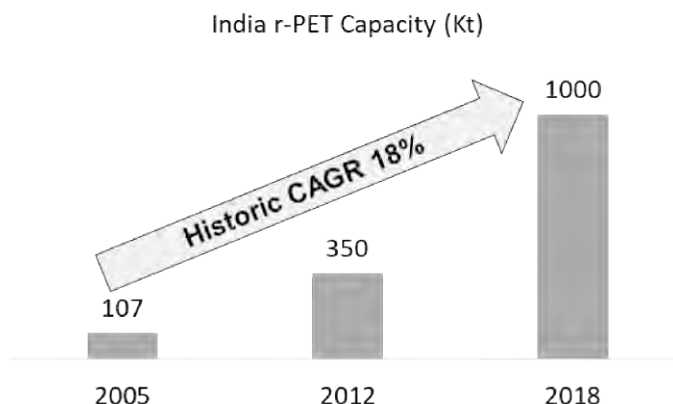
Government initiatives for boosting the PET recycling

Governments in more than 60 countries have introduced fines, with some even implementing bans, to reduce the amount of plastic wastes. The recycling industry in Western Europe is dominated by countries such as Germany, U.K., Belgium, Sweden etc. Environmental awareness among consumers and stringent government regulations imposed are responsible for high recycling rates in the region. Various countries have implemented PET bottles returning policy including Germany, Austria, Estonia, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

- China has banned imports of plastic waste, following its announcement to ban imports of 24 categories of recyclables and solid waste. this may force industrialized countries to recycle more of their own waste
- Currently Europe recycles 30% of its plastics, compared to just 9% in the United States, The European Union said it's mulling a tax on plastics usage and has also designed a strategy for circular plastics. The new strategy aims to increase demand for recycled plastics, improve and standardize waste product collection and sorting, and improve recycling facilities
- U.S. and Europe have banned single-use plastic bags

Indian r-PET (PSF) industry

According to National Chemical Laboratory, nearly 70% of PET bottles are recycled in India. r-PET staple fibre producing capacity of India is growing at a rate of 18% CAGR . Production capacity has surged over 1000KT from 107 kT in year 2005. Some of the leading r-PET producers in India are, Ganesha Ecosphere, Pashupati Polytex, Shiva tex, JB Ecotex, Reliance, etc.



Source:Gherzi Research & Analysis



Textiles and Technical textile applications of r-PET

- Textiles : Yarn production, fashion apparel and accessories, corporate uniforms, school uniforms, medical wear, bedding, carpets, hospitality products, bags, fibrefill, packaging, etc.
- Technical Textiles: Nonwoven manufacturing, composites manufacturing, outdoors and performance fabrics, coated textiles, etc.

Growth Drivers

- MMF is a key raw material used by the textile and apparel industry
- High demand of recycled PET bottles
- Green initiatives taken from the major brands
- Rising awareness among the end consumers
- Growth in the technical textiles industry which invents and includes newer end applications

ATTENTION : MEMBERS

Renewal of Membership for the year 2019 - 20

All Members are requested to send the Membership Subscription Fee for the year 2019-20 immediately. The last date for renewal of membership is 30th April, 2019.

The annual membership fee is as follows :

- For SSI units : Rs.8201/- (inclusive of GST)
- For others : Rs.12,331/- (Inclusive of GST)

Members may note that non-payment of Membership Subscription will lead to discontinuation of Membership as well as cancellation of the Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) issued..

We also take this opportunity to inform you that online renewal of membership as well as online issuance of RCMC w.e.f. 1st April 2019 can be done by members. Members may renew their membership online through Council's website membership.srtepc.in



MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

DGFT

| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------|---|--|---|
| 1) | Public Notice No.78/2015-20 | 11.3.2019 | Onetime condonation under EPCG Scheme | DGFT further extends the time of receipt of such requests till 30th September, 2019. | https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Public%20Notice%20%28English%29.pdf |
| 2) | Policy Circular No. 21/2015-20 | 11.3.2019 | Discontinuation of physical copy of Advanced/EPCG Authorisation- Procurement from SEZs | O/o DGFT has noticed that procurement from SEZs has been adversely affected due to the discontinuation of TRA facility for authorizations from EDI to non EDI ports vide Policy Circular 19 dt 14.2.2019. The process of integration of SEZ online with ICEGate might take some time. Therefore, for trade facilitation, it has been decided that, in partial modification of Policy circular 19 dt 14.2.2019, the process to be followed is given in Policy Circular No.21 dated 11.3.2019. | https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Policy%20Circular%2021.pdf |
| 3) | Policy Circular No. 20/ 2015-20 | 22.2.2019 | Clarification on eligibility of Exports made from SEZ/EOU units on behalf of the DTA units, but not through DTA units | Exporters have been seeking clarification from DGFT regarding eligibility of Exports made from SEZ / EOU units on behalf of DTA units under MEIS, in context to Para 3.06 of FTP where under the heading - Ineligible categories of MEIS, sub para(v), states that SEZ/EOU/EHTP/BTP/FTWZ products exported through DTA units are ineligible for MEIS rewards. | https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Policy%20Circular%2020.pdf |

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CBIC – CUSTOMS

| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|--|---|
| 1) | Notification No. 21/2019-Cus (NT) | 7.3.2019 | Exchange Rates Notification No.21/2019-Custom (NT) dated 7.03.2019. | CBIC notifies the exchange rate conversion of foreign currencies into Indian currency relating to import and export of goods. w.e.f. 8.3.2019. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-nt2019/csnt21-2019.pdf |
| 2) | Notification No. 20/2019-Cus (NT) | 6.3.2019 | Amendment made in the India-Singapore CECA. | CBIC makes further amendments in the Customs Tariff Determination of Origin of Goods under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between Republic of India & Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Rules, 2019. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-nt2019/csnt20-2019.pdf |
| 3) | Notification No. 17/2019-Cus (NT) | 27.2.2019 | Postponing date of coming into force of Sea cargo & Manifest and Transhipment Regulations, 2018 from 1.3.2019 to 1.8.2019 | The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs makes regulations further to amend the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment Regulations, 2018 | http://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-nt2019/csnt17-2019.pdf;jsessionid=1677672A71F2488FEE17B5318C37C227 |



| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|---|---|
| 4) | Notification No. 16/2019-Cus (NT) | 27.2.2019 | Substitution of Courier Shipping Bill - Form V in Courier Regulations, 1998 | The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs hereby makes the following regulations further to amend the Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Regulations, 1998. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/hdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-nt2019/csnt16-2019.pdf;jsessionid=98B0B047143A074D71239F546A105608 |
| 5) | Notification No. 15/2019-Cus (NT) | 27.2.2019 | Substitution of Bill of Entry & Shipping Bill format in Courier 2010 | The regulations may be called the Courier Imports and Exports (Electronic Declaration and Processing), Amendment, Regulations, 2019. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/hdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-nt2019/csnt15-2019.pdf;jsessionid=63FFF6C12DCF97B9C3DB171A30AA72BD |
| 6) | Notification No. 13/2019-Cus (NT) | 21.2.2019 | Exchange rates notification No.13/2019 dated 21.02.2019 | CBIC notifies the exchange rate conversion of foreign currencies into Indian currency relating to import and export of goods. w.e.f. 22.2.2019. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/hdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-nt2019/csnt13-2019.pdf;jsessionid=5E6AB6CCA448AA7AC9D79BC09852DA64 |
| 7) | Notification No. 06/2019-Cus | 26.2.2019 | Further amends notification No. 50/2017-customs dated 30 th June 2017 to postpone the implementation of increased customs duty on specified imports originating in USA from 2nd March, 2019 to 1st April, 2019. | CBIC further amends notification No. 50/2017-customs dated 30 th June 2017 to postpone the implementation of increased customs duty on specified imports originating in USA from 2nd March, 2019 to 1st April, 2019. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/hdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-tarr2019/cs06-2019.pdf |
| 8) | Notification No. 05/2019-Cus | 16.2.2019 | To insert tariff item 9806 00 00 in chapter 98 of the First schedule to Customs tariff act, 1975 to impose basic customs duty of 200% on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan. | In the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, in Section XXI, in Chapter 98, after tariff item 9805 90 00 and the entries relating thereto, the tariff item 9806 00 00 shall be inserted, | http://www.cbic.gov.in/hdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2019/cs-tarr2019/cs05-2019.pdf |
| 9) | Circular No. 10/2019-Customs | 12.3.2019 | Scheme for Rebate of State and Central taxes and Levies on export of garments and made-ups (RoSCTL) | Ministry of Textiles (MoT) has notified a new scheme called Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies on export of garments and made-ups known as RoSCTL vide notification No. 14/26/2016-IT (Vol II) dated 7.3.2019. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/hdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2019/Circular-No-10-12032019.pdf |
| 10) | Circular No. 9/2019-Customs | 28.2.2019 | Turant Customs-Next generation reform for Ease of Doing Business(EODB) | To enter the top 50 ranking in World Bank's EoDB Index, Indian Customs Department has announced various reforms, one such reform being "Turant Customs" for speedy clearance of goods at air & sea ports. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/hdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2019/Circular-09-2019-Customs.pdf |



| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| 11) | Circular No. 8/2019- Customs | 26.2.2019 | Issues of carriage of coastal cargo from one Indian port to another port in foreign going vessels/coastal vessels through foreign territory | CBIC has clarified issues pertaining to coastal movement such as movement of coastal goods through foreign territory, use of EXIM containers for carrying coastal goods, use of local or domesticated containers for transportation of EXIM cargo. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2019/Circular-08-2019-Customs.pdf;jsessionid=A7B8CADA2A90F6680163557F9C837352 |
| 12) | Circular No. 7/2019- Customs | 21.2.2019 | Discontinuation of printing of Advance/ EPCG Authorisations on security paper for authorisations issued with EDI ports as port of registration | DGFT has discontinued the printing of the physical copy of Advance / EPCG Authorisations issued on or after 1st March, 2019 by RAs, in respect of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) ports to improve ease of doing business and online transactions. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2019/Circular-07-2019-Customs.pdf |
| 13) | Circular No. 5/2019- Customs | 20.2.2019 | Amendment to All Industry Rates of duty drawback | New tariff items under Chapter 54 have been added in the DBK Schedule to allow better differentiation of export product. These changes are effective from 20.02.2019. | http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2019/Circular-05-2019-Customs.pdf |

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CUSTOM HOUSE

| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|---|---|---|
| 1) | Public Notice No. 27/2019 | 15.03.2019 | The Deferred Payment of Import Duty (Amendment) Rules, 2017 | As per the notification published in the Gazette of India, rules have been issued to amend the Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules, 2016. | http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2019/PN%2027-2019.pdf |
| 2) | Public Notice No. 26/2019 | 14.03.2019 | Introduction of online facility for scanning selection status of containers– reg. | Customs have received representations from members of trade requesting for a facility wherein trade can view status of their container (whether selected for Scanning or not) in advance so that arrangement for movement of container can be done in advance. following the procedure prescribed under Public Notice 04/2019 amended vide Public Notice vide 12/2019 dated 06.02.2019. It is informed that JNCH Customs has taken further steps to provide the scan status of containers selected for scanning online on DPD JNCH website (www.dpdjnch.com). | http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2019/PN%2026_2019.pdf |
| 3) | Public Notice No. 23/2019 | 1.3.2019 | Entity Registration & Approval under new Sea Manifest Regulations | The master applicant entity will have to submit the application through their login on the ICEGATE web portal. | http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2019/PN.%2023-2019%20reg.%20Entity%20Registration.pdf |



| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| 4) | Facility Notice No. 22/2019 | 28.2.2019 | Working of Sections & Groups on all Saturdays in March, 2019 | All Sections and Groups at JNCH will work on all Saturdays in March, 2019. This decision will help to obviate the situation of cargo accumulation at Port's/CFS's. | http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2019/Facility%20Notice%20no.%2022-2019.pdf |
| 5) | Public Notice No. 19/2019 | 25.2.2019 | Procedure for disposal of un-claimed / un-cleared cargo under section 48 of Customs Act, 1962, lying with the custodiansformat in Courier 2010 | Procedures with regards to expeditious disposal of un-claimed/un-cleared cargo lying with custodians, whether in the private or public sector, under Section 48 of Customs Act, 1962 have been prescribed in this Public Notice. | http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2019/new_PN_1_.pdf |
| 6) | Public Notice No. 17/2019 | 19.2.2019 | Late fee charge | Late fee charge is leviable under section 46(3) of Customs Act, 1962 for filing of Bills of entry beyond the specified time. | http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2019/Public%20notice%20no.%2017.2019.pdf |

MUMBAI CUSTOMS

| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------|--|---|---|
| 1) | Public Notice No. 14/2019 | 27.2.2019 | Implementation of eSANCHIT in Exports on mandatory basis | The procedure for uploading supporting documents in exports is similar to the one prescribed for eSANCHIT in imports. | http://www.mumbaicustomszone1.gov.in/writereaddata/images/publicnotice/1_(4).pdf |

SAHAR AIR CARGO CUSTOMS

| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| 1) | Public Notice No. 04/2019 | 14.3.2019 | Implementation of eSANCHIT in Exports on mandatory basis | Customs has invited attention of exporters and other members of trade to processing of Bill of Entry (BE)/ Shipping Bill (SB) in ICES and taking print of First Copy/OOC copy of BEs and LEO copy of SBs. 2. CBIC has announced two new initiatives, one for electronic communication/transmission of Customs documents to the trade under the name 'iCODE' and the other, ICEDASH- an EODB dashboard to monitor daily clearance at each port. | http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2019/Public-notice-04-2019.pdf |

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|---|---|---|
| 1) | RBI/2018-2019/140 | 13.3.2019 | Trade Credit Policy – Revised framework | RBI reduced the all-inclusive cost (all-in-cost) for overseas loans to benchmark rate plus 250 basis points from the earlier 350 bps. | https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11499&Mode=0 |



| S.No. | Heading No. | Date | Subject | Description | Download the Link |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| 2) | RBI/2018-19/129 No. 22/2019 | 22.2.2019 | Interest Subvention Scheme for MSMEs | The Government of India on 2.11.2018 announced the Interest Subvention Scheme for MSMEs 2018. The salient features and operational guidelines for implementation of the Scheme, released by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, is given in the Notification. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the single national level nodal implementation agency for the scheme. | https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11482&Mode=0 |
| 3) | RBI/2018-19/127 | 22.2.2019 | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector- Restructuring of Advances | It is clarified that the eligibility for restructuring without GST-registration, as per the circular under reference, should be determined on the basis of exemption limit obtaining as on the date of the aforesaid circular, i.e. January 1, 2019. | https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11480&Mode=0 |

GST RELATED NOTIFICATIONS

CENTRAL TAX NOTIFICATIONS

(<http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/central-tax-notfns-2017>)

| Notification No./ Date | Subject |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 14/2019-Central Tax ,dt. 07-03-2019 | Seeks to supersede notification No. 08/2017 - Central Tax dated 27.06.2017 in order to extend the limit of threshold of aggregate turnover for availing Composition Scheme u/s 10 of the CGST Act, 2017 to Rs. 1.5 crores. |
| 13/2019-Central Tax ,dt. 07-03-2019 | Seeks to prescribe the due dates for furnishing of FORM GSTR-3B for the months of April, May and June, 2019. |
| 12/2019-Central Tax ,dt. 07-03-2019 | Seeks to prescribe the due dates for furnishing of FORM GSTR-1 for those taxpayers with aggregate turnover of more than Rs. 1.5 crores for the months of April, May and June, 2019. |
| 11/2019-Central Tax ,dt. 07-03-2019 | Seeks to prescribe the due dates for furnishing of FORM GSTR-1 for those taxpayers with aggregate turnover upto Rs. 1.5 crores for the months of April, May and June, 2019. |
| 10/2019-Central Tax, dt. 07-03-2019 | To give exemption from registration for any person engaged in exclusive supply of goods and whose aggregate turnover in the financial year does not exceed Rs 40 lakhs. |
| 09/2019-Central Tax, dt. 20-02-2019 | Seeks to extend the due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-3B for the month of January, 2019 to 28.02.2019 for registered persons having principal place of business in the state of J&K; and 22.02.2019 for the rest of the States. |

CENTRAL TAX (RATE) NOTIFICATIONS

(<http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/central-tax-rate-notfns-2017>)

| Notification No./ Date | Subject |
|--|--|
| 02/2019-Central Tax (Rate), dt. 7-3-2019 | To give composition scheme for supplier of services with a tax rate of 6% having annual turnover in preceding year upto Rs 50 lakhs. |

UNION TERRITORY TAX NOTIFICATIONS

(<http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/union-territory-tax-notfns-2017>)

| Notification No./ Date | Subject |
|---|---|
| 02/2019-Union Territory Tax, dt. 7-3-2019 | To give exemption from registration for any person engaged in exclusive supply of goods and whose aggregate turnover in the financial year does not exceed Rs 40 lakhs. |

UNION TERRITORY TAX (RATE) NOTIFICATIONS

(<http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/union-territory-tax-rate-2017>)

| Notification No./ Date | Subject |
|--|--|
| 02/2019-Union Territory Tax (Rate), dt. 7-3-2019 | To give composition scheme for supplier of services with a tax rate of 6% having annual turn over in preceding year upto Rs 50 lakhs |

GST RELATED CIRCULARS/ ORDERS

(<http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/cgst-circ-idx-2017>)

| Circular/ Order No. | Date | Subject |
|---------------------------|----------|---|
| Circular No. 93/2019-CGST | 7.3.2019 | Circular clarifying various doubts related to treatment of sales promotion scheme under GST |

PRESS RELEASES

| Ministry | Date | Subject |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Cabinet | 7.3.2019 | Cabinet approves Scheme to Rebate State and Central Embedded Taxes to Support the Textile Sector |
| Ministry of Commerce & Industry. | 19.2.2019 | Launch of 'SWAYATT' and 'Start-up Runway' by the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation |

**STATEMENT ABOUT OWNERSHIP AND OTHER PARTICULARS OF INFO SRTEPC
FORM IV RULE 8**

1. Place of Publication : The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council
Resham Bhavan, 78 Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020
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5. Editor's Name Nationality & Address : MR. S. BALARAJU
Indian
The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council
Resham Bhavan, 78 Veer Nariman Road
Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020
6. Name and addresses of the individuals who own the newspaper and partner or shareholders holding more than one percent of the local capital : The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council
Resham Bhavan, 78 Veer Nariman Road
Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020

I, S. BALARAJU, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

20th March 2019

(MR. S. BALARAJU)
PUBLISHER



A tribute to Late Shri Vishwanath Shankar Chalke, long standing Member of the Committee of Administration

Late Shri Vishwanath Shankar Chalke was born on 4th March 1931. Belonging to a middle class family Shri Chalke had to study for his matriculation and technical studies while working. After completing his matriculation from the University of Mumbai in 1948, he passed the Lower Grade Cotton Weaving course in 1952. His textile career began with M/s. Ambica Silk Mills, a reputed textile mill in those days, as an apprentice in weaving department along with his studies. He was working as a warper, sizer, weaver and jobber and on completion of it, he was appointed as supervisor in the same mill.

Shri Chalke worked in various textile mills till the year 1969. The experience and knowledge gained while working with textile units in these years helped him take his first step towards starting his own manufacturing and trading unit and dream big. He started a trading concern in the name of M/s. Oriental Trading Co., in partnership with Shri L. K. Patel. Initially they were involved in yarn trading. Thereafter they started dealing with grey fabrics, woven through job work from other parties and then did the dyeing on it by themselves and then selling the fabrics in the market which fetched them good economic gain and prompted them to set forth into manufacturing units. Gradually, he set up several firms with Shri I.P. Patel.

In 1974 he started the company Oriental Synthetic and Rayon Mills Pvt. Ltd. having 48 weaving looms in the backward area at Umbergoan of Maharashtra. The company started production since June 1982 with Shri Chalke at the helm of the company as the Chairman.

During his long and outstanding tenure he played a number of roles such as the Founder Chairman of Common Effluent Treatment Plant for TTC area in Navi Mumbai and as the Chairman of Synthetic and Art Silk Mills Association (SASMA) for twelve years.

Shri Chalke has played a pioneering role in developing the Technical Textiles which today is considered to be the “Sunrise Sector” and has a great future not only in the domestic arena but in the world market as well.

He was a long time member –in the Committee of Administration of The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council during which he had been wholeheartedly co-operating in the various activities of the Council. His guidance and assistance has played an important role in shaping of the Council.

Shri Chalke was conferred with the Life Time achievement Award by SRTEPC for the year 2009-10 for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of exports of Indian man-made fibre textile industry at its Export Award Function on 3rd March 2012 in Mumbai and he will remain as a source of inspiration to the Council always.. He passed away on 28th August 2012 in Mumbai and the Council has lost a mentor and guide. On his birthday this month, the Council pays homage to him.

For any details about the company kindly visit their website www.orientalmills.in



Innovative Fabrics: Key to growth of Indian Exports
By Mr. Shailendra Pandey – Joint President (Sales and Marketing)
Grasim Industries Limited (Unit: Indian Rayon)

Textiles has, from time immemorial, been one of the basic necessities of mankind. Historically, India, has enjoyed a very dominant position when it came to fashion and textiles in the global arena. Be it in exploring the finest cotton or silk on one hand or the highest levels of innovative craftsmanship on the other, Indian dynasties and communities have provided patronage towards the growth of fashion and its resultant showcasing across the world.

Over the years, Indian fashion canvas evolved to create more unique, crafted and contemporary textiles. India is today a matured fashion destination; interestingly drawing inspiration from the West, but with a strong influence of traditions and culture. Thus, there is a lot of experimentation in fabrics and garments today. India is increasingly becoming a focal point for the fashion industry, reflecting a rapidly growing middle-class and increasingly powerful manufacturing sector. These, together with strong economic fundamentals and growing tech-savvy attitude, make India too important for international brands to ignore. Likewise, international buying houses and brands cannot ignore sourcing from India.

This is a country that is home to all textile raw material both of natural and manmade origin. The spinning and weaving sector is evolving and modernizing. While unorganized and fragmented, Indian textile hubs are almost like one single factory providing diverse options for weaves and garments. The Indian brands and retail also challenging the textile value chain constantly to catapult to the next level. Indian designers today are a force to reckon with on any red carpet. Needless to say, the Indian textile industry is poised for growth and maturing to take on the world.

However, I would take this opportunity to highlight the impact of global changes on the fashion canvas and how Indian textile fraternity can grow to the next level. Fashion, globally, is '**Fast Paced**'. Trends while predicted twice a year – Spring Summer and Autumn Winter is actually layered with requirements and options consumers seek daily. Consumers are '**Experts**' today. With the availability of fashion sensibilities and trends available at finger tips, consumers now look for '**The New**' almost every day across the world. They are also aware of fabrics, types of prints, finishes and love to explore innovative products in fashion. This is posing significant challenges to the global textile industry. Earlier fashion was the interplay of prints, colors, styles and designs marginally intercepting the path of textures and weaves. Today the circle of influence is much significant – the **innovative textile raw materials** are also desired regularly. Were we to juxtapose these trends on the expertise and need gaps of the Indian textile industry to make it relevant globally on a sustainable basis, we have a few aspects to highlight.

The most important is having **Innovative Fabrics**.

Today, exports from India is largely of fibers and yarns and basic products. The country needs to emerge as a preferred hub for innovative fabrics and garments. Across the globe, we witness a trend where exports focus more on value added and downstream products like fabrics, apparel and made-ups. In India, most value is being derived from upstream products. While there is substantial experimentation upstream, it is required for all to invest in innovation and technology at fabric and processing levels.

Even now, the Indian textile industry, by and large, focus on production, machine utilization and volumes. Creation of innovative fabrics can catapult growth to the next level. Innovation fabrics needs to be created not only by a weaver, but by a co-creation process of the yarn manufacturer and raw material supplier as well. The execution of innovative fabrics is only possible when there is a seamless working as a value chain so that end consumer preferences and knowledge can be percolated with speed across the entire textile chain till fiber or filament level.

This will also enable India to supply large volumes of quality products consistently. While we may be fragmented as profit centers, this would uphold our position as a single entity for 'Made in India'. To innovate is also to welcome new '**technology**' and focus on consistent quality across value chain. This would require association with machine manufacturers, partnership with fiber and yarn suppliers and integrating knowledge of weaving and processing all together. Innovation today thus needs seamlessness and agility to be ready for the upcoming trends internationally.

As the Indian textile industry has no dearth of talent and motivation to take it to the next level in the global market, understanding the changing trends and adapting to the same will ensure success. Needless to say, the eco-system needs to be provided for this surge in Indian exports. While the industry comes together, support from the Government to stabilize policies and create a conducive fabric and garment hub is of utmost importance.

The present lies wherein '**India Innovates for Global Fashion**' and the future is where **Innovations from India Fuels Global Fashion!**



YARN TO BRIDGES – STRATA TAKES ANOTHER GIANT LEAP IN TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Strata Geosystems, a global leader in the soil reinforcement industry, opened doors to its newest state-of-the-art manufacturing facility on February 11th, 2019 aimed at meeting the growing demand for geosynthetic products in India and around the globe.

“We buy yarn and deliver bridges” said Ashok Bhawnani, Founding Director – Strata Geosystems, a global leader in the soil reinforcement industry. “Geogrids reinforcing soil is analogous to steel reinforcing concrete and this technology is not only being used for ramp construction for flyover crossings but even for landfills, mining dykes and several other engineered structures” adds Narendra Dalmia, CEO & Director, Strata Geosystems. Strata started in India with a small idea for manufacturing technical textiles back in 2004 and within a decade evolved from being a manufacturer to the largest developer for reinforced soil structures having built more than 400 bridge ramps on National Highways across the country. Today reinforced soil technology has found acceptance in every corner of the country and facilitated the requirement for a large scale manufacturing plant to cater to the growing infrastructure needs in India.

Strata had the honour of welcoming its esteemed partners from Glen Raven, Inc., a global performance-textile company headquartered in the USA. Among Glen Raven's attendees were Leib Oehmig, CEO and Harold Hill, President of the Technical Fabrics division. "This is a tremendous milestone for the entire Strata global organization," said Harold Hill. "It's an occasion that has been many years in the making, and it's only been possible through the hard work and steadfast dedication of our team here in India. We, at Glen Raven, could not be more proud of our partners in India - they are top-notch professionals, and even better people. We couldn't ask for better partners," said Leib Oehmig.

Further reiterating its commitment to India and Prime Minister Modi's Make in India vision, this new facility will be the largest for geogrid manufacturing and will not only provide sufficient capacity to cater to India's demand but also strengthen existing export capabilities across the world. Apart from capacity, the plant will provide the widest geogrid, made on 245" knitting machines, very high strength products and will improve on technical parameters like enhanced stress strain values. The facility, located over 10 acres, houses proprietary coating machines, efficient material handling capabilities, and an advanced laboratory which will be accredited with global standards.

The plant has been built using technical textiles for the factory flooring, internal roads, water-proofing, slopes and embankments, parking lots, and several other engineered applications as a testament to their benefits and showcasing for all visitors.

The inauguration of this plant is a milestone for the country's technical textile sector and a key step towards global expansion not only for Strata but also for India in the geosynthetics arena. This plant is dedicated to the pioneering efforts by Ministry of Textiles for their encouragement to technical textiles and lending support in mandating them in various user ministries.



FAQs on “Turant Customs”- Next generation reform for Ease of Doing Business

Introduction

With the hope to reduce the time and cost of clearance of goods at various Customs ports, government has been initiating several schemes from time to time to bring reformation at Customs.



- **What are the different reform measures implemented by the government for the purpose of EODB?**
 - Till date, various reform measures implemented by the government for the purpose of Ease of Doing Business (EODB) includes SWIFT, E-Sanchit, DPD, AEO programme, RFID e-seal programme etc.
- **What is Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) under Customs ?**
 - The 'India Customs Single Window' allow importers and exporters, the facility to lodge their clearance documents online at a single point only.
- **What is e-Storage and Computerized Handling of Indirect Tax documents (e-Sanchit) under Customs ?**
 - It is used for paperless processing, uploading of supporting documents, to facilitate the trading across the borders.
- **What is Direct Port Delivery (DPD) under Customs?**
 - Through this reform, import containers are delivered directly to pre-approved clients at the port itself instead of waiting in a Container Freight Station (CFS) located outside for clearance, which reduces the cargo dwell time and cost for shippers.



- **What is Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme under Customs ?**
 - This programme aims to enhance international supply chain security and facilitate movement of legitimate goods.
 - It enables Customs to enhance and streamline cargo security through close cooperation with the principle stakeholders of the international supply chain viz. importers, exporters, logistics providers, custodians or terminal operators, custom brokers and warehouse operators.
- **What is Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) e-seal under Customs ?**
 - RFID refers to a technology whereby digital data encoded in RFID tags or smart labels (defined below) are captured by a reader via radio waves.
 - In order to enhance the export facilitation post-GST, by dispensing the need for exporters seeking the presence of the jurisdictional officer for the purposes of supervising stuffing of the cargo at approved premises, the government has introduced self-sealing through an application of technology in the form of exporters using RFID e-seals.
- **When was Turant Customs introduced by the government?**
 - Recently, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs announced further reforms under the name of “Turant Customs” for speedy clearance of goods at air and sea ports vide its Circular No. 09/2019- Customs dated 28th February, 2019.
- **What is the aim of the government for implementing Turant Customs?**
 - This reform has been initiated with an aim to enter the top 50 ranking in The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index.
- **What is “Turant Customs”?**
 - A comprehensive package of various elements that would be implemented from time to time to facilitate the Ease of Doing Business.
- **What are the significant changes that have been made under Turant Customs?**
 - Following are the significant changes that have been made by the government under Turant Customs:
 - ✓ Change in Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange System (ICES) 1.5 for clearance of imported goods after assessment and duty payment.
 - ✓ The officer concerned will now have access to a fully automated queue of Bill of Entry (BoE) ready for granting clearance in ICES 1.5. This obviates the necessity of importers having to present the BoE number and date to the officer for clearance.
 - ✓ The officer will be able to immediately provide clearance on the system.
 - ✓ Reduce the dwell-time of the goods that are pending only for the grant of such clearance.
 - ✓ Lessen the interface of the trade with the departmental personnel.

Source:

CBIC

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com>

Participate in Duqm Forum 4 – Smart Cities Economy

Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry is organizing “Duqm Forum 4-Smart Cities Economy” on 8th April, 2019 at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC), Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The Event will include a number of Seminars and workshops and will be attended by decision makers, business people, academics involved in smart city initiatives and international investors. Detailed information is available at www.4dmedia.com. For more information, you may contact

Mr.Zahir (E-mail : Zahir.tagedeen@4dmedia.om ; Tel : +968-98027212 ; Fax : +968-96523839.



Continued From page 2

Secretary, Textiles elaborated on the various measures being taken by the Indian government for the skilling of the weavers, artisans and for ensuring that they get a fair share of the profit obtained from selling of items manufactured by them. Industry Representatives of the Delegation responded to the issues highlighted by the Japanese importers and assured them that necessary measures for improvement of the existing situation will be taken, so as to increase exports to Japan.

India-Japan Trade Under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) : Need For Optimising :

- India – Japan CEPA has been in operation from 1st August, 2011
- During this period, India's textile and apparel exports to Japan has decreased from US\$ 504.5 mn. in 2011 to US\$ 420.4 mn. in 2017
- MMF yarn is the largest item in Japan's exports to India, comprising 62 %
- Despite having duty-free access in the Japanese market, exports of Indian MMF textiles to Japan is only US\$ 38 mn., and it remained stagnant.
- All segments of Indian MMF and blended textiles including fibre, yarns, fabrics and made-ups have got duty-free access in Japanese market.
- Main reasons for not being able to penetrate the Japanese market by Indian exporters are that the standards and the quality parameters preferred by the Japanese buyers / traders are of very high level, which most of the Indian companies are not able to comply with. Another important reason is that the Japanese importing companies do seek for reference for booking orders from a new company.

How are Japanese textiles viewed globally?

Japanese textiles are highly regarded in European and American high-end Fashion Business Circles. Luxury Fashion Houses use Japanese cloths, and they say they couldn't make their pieces without them. Moreover, with regard to the high-function “**quality synthetic fibers**” created by using high technology, Japan's expertise is first-class globally -- receiving exceptional critical acclaim. At the core of this image of reputable and high-quality Japanese textiles is a unique “**culture of artisanship**”. Japan's Textile Industry, craftspeople and engineers are “**custodians**” of a rich variety of cloths with roots in Japan's distinctive climate, which is characterized by extremely hot, humid summers and winters that get relatively cold.

To cope with these conditions and provide comfort, they created a diverse range of textile materials -- ranging from “**traditional textiles**” to “**synthetic fabrics**”, and continue to produce “**revolutionary technologies**”. Orders from the Fashion Industry—which is always on the cutting edge—can sometimes

be tricky, and craftspeople in Western countries often refuse these orders, because they call for expertise that deviates from their skillsets.

India-Japan collaborate in textile & clothing sector for better trade :

Japan is a highly potential market for exports of Textile and Clothing products from India. In order to penetrate the Japanese Textile market, the government of India is trying to help the Indian Textile Trade & Industry **for better understanding the market and its quality/standard issues**. With this objective, Indian Govt. is proposing to sign a MoU with Japan Textile Products **Quality and Technology Centre (QTEC)** to establish and encourage both quality compliance activities jointly and organize collaborative '**Industry Capacity Building Programme**'.

Japan's top 10 exports :

The following export product-groups represent the highest dollar value in Japanese global shipments during 2018. The percentage is the share of the segment in Japan's total merchandise exports..

1. Vehicles: US\$154.1 billion (20.9% of total exports)
2. Machinery including computers: \$148 billion (20.1%)
3. Electrical machinery, equipment: \$109.4 billion (14.8%)
4. Optical, technical, medical apparatus: \$41.3 billion (5.6%)
5. Iron, steel: \$29.9 billion (4.1%)
6. Plastics, plastic articles: \$26.1 billion (3.5%)
7. Organic chemicals: \$18.9 billion (2.6%)
8. Mineral fuels including oil: \$13.3 billion (1.8%)
9. Ships, boats: \$12.6 billion (1.7%)
10. Gems, precious metals: \$12 billion (1.6%)

Japan's above-mentioned top 10 exports accounted for over three-quarters (76.6%) of the overall value of its global shipments.

Japan's top 10 imports :

The following product-groups represent the highest dollar value in Japan's import purchases during 2018. Also shown is the percentage share each product category represents in terms of overall imports into Japan.

1. Mineral fuels including oil: US\$174.6 billion (23.3% of total imports)
2. Electrical machinery, equipment: \$101 billion (13.5%)
3. Machinery including computers: \$72.9 billion (9.7%)
4. Optical, technical, medical apparatus: \$27.6 billion (3.7%)
5. Pharmaceuticals: \$25.5 billion (3.4%)
6. Vehicles: \$24.6 billion (3.3%)

7. Ores, slag, ash: \$22.4 billion (3%)
8. Organic chemicals: \$18.2 billion (2.4%)
9. Plastics, plastic articles: \$16.9 billion (2.3%)
10. Clothing, accessories (not knit or crochet): \$14.7 billion (2%)

Japan's top 10 imports accounted for two-thirds (66.6%) of the overall value of its product purchases from other countries.

The key actionable points for the sector based on the visit of the delegation to take advantage of the concessions provided under the CEPA are:

- a) There is a need to diversify the portfolio of textile exports to Japan by promoting autumn wear, winter wear and technical textiles.
- b) A helpdesk to promote communication in Japanese language by prospective exporters may be set up by the industry.
- c) The Textiles Committee should publicize the JIS amongst the textile industry in local languages.
- d) The Textiles Committee may enter into necessary collaborations with test houses like Nissenken to enable testing of export material as per JIS so that they conform to the quality standards prescribed by the Japanese importers.
- e) ITTA may pursue with the Japanese firms to explore possible technical collaborations at this stage.
- f) Indian exporters to continuously pursue the Japanese market to gain the trust of the importers. All possible incentives may be made available to them.
- g) A strong supply chain industry needs to be cultivated at each stage of value addition to ensure that both domestic and export markets benefit.
- h) Improvement of logistics would help in the development of a competitive supply chain.
- l) Promotional activities to be taken up in the Japanese market through the Embassy, JETRO and the local Indian Businessmen. All the industry bodies to provide the necessary inputs.

Participate in China International Import Expo, Shanghai, China 5th-10th November 2019

India Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is organizing participation in China International Import Expo at Shanghai, China from 5 to 10 November 2019. In case, any member is interested in participation, they may directly contact ICC (Dr.Rajeev Singh ; Director General ; T: +91 33 2253 4218 | +91 22 6127 7443 | E:subhajit.roy@indianchamber.net) for more details about the Event with a copy forwarded to the Council.

SPECIAL FOREX RATES

As part of the basket of services offered to its members SRTEPC has tied up with Thomas Cook (I) Ltd, Forex division to provide foreign exchange for our member exporters travelling overseas to participate in exhibitions through the Council. Given below are the 'special rates' being offered by Thomas Cook to SRTEPC members which you can avail of to source your requirements for Foreign Exchange.

| Currency/Product – INR Sale | Cash Rate Proposed* | Forex Card Rate Proposed* |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| USD | IBR + .25 paisa | IBR + .20 paisa |
| GBP/EUR | IBR + .35 paisa | IBR + .25 paisa |
| SGD/AUD/CAD/CHF | IBR + .40 paisa | IBR + .30 paisa |
| All other Misc currencies | IBR + 1% | IBR + 1% |

- *IBR – Interbank Rate
- *GST Applicable

Members who wish to take benefit of this service may kindly contact Mr. Vishal Chhabria of Thomas Cook at Mobile : 9821232266, E-mail : Vishal.Chhabria@in.thomascook.com

Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme 2018

Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme is an Export Promotion Scheme envisaged to play catalytic role for promoting exports and exploring new markets required by India.

Scope: It provides financial support for undertaking various market access initiatives defined in the Scheme including direct/indirect activities for marketing, market research, capacity building, branding and statutory compliances in importing markets.

Criteria for Sanction:

- Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme is based on Market – Products / Services approach and the eligible agencies should submit a comprehensive product for market access on the basis of scientific analysis for gaining market access under the various provisions of the Scheme.
- To maximize the benefits of participation in international fairs and exhibitions, it should be linked with effective Publicity campaign, Seminars, Buyer-Seller Meets, etc.

Scrutiny and Sanction :

There is an Empowered Committee (E.C.), which considers and approves the proposals. The E.C. also monitors the implementation of the sanctioned proposals. The proposals approved by the EC shall be individually processed for financial sanction in accordance with approval for sanction of funds as per laid down procedure in the Government of India.

The EC, from time to time, issues instructions/guidelines for administration of the Scheme, which are as follows:

- The company should have completed 12 months membership in the Council and is regularly filing returns. A statement of the export-figures for the last financial year needs to be submitted.
- Exports of the company should be upto F.O.B. value of Rs 30 crores in preceding financial year.
- Assistance shall be permissible only to the regular Director / Partner / Proprietor of the Company. This facility is, however, not admissible to a foreign national.
- The Company should not be under investigation / charged / prosecuted / debarred / blacklisted under the Foreign Trade Policy of India or any other law relating to export and import business.
- A maximum of 3 participations in a particular trade fair/exhibition would be eligible for MAI Assistance i.e. members, who have availed assistance three times (including past cases) for a particular fair/exhibition, thereafter they have to participate in that Fair on their own.
- MAI funding support is only provided to a member for a maximum of two MAI Events/Fairs in a year.
- Exporters, who want to receive MAI grant, will submit an “Intimation Application” as per prescribed format with a minimum of 14 days clear advance notice excluding the date of receipt of application in the office of the concerned organization and the date of departure from the country.

MAI assistance shall be admissible for the following components:

| S.No. | Component | Eligible items of expenditure |
|-------|--|---|
| 1) | Opening of Showrooms, Warehouses and Marketing Offices abroad and display in International Departmental Stores | (I) Lease/ rental charges of property for setting up of showrooms/ warehouses/ marketing offices abroad for specific markets; (ii) Cost of setting up of showrooms/warehouses (iii) Rental charges of display space at international Departmental Stores or local distribution networks |
| 2) | Publicity Campaign and Cataloguing | (I) Publicity campaigns for Commodities / Services in identified markets through various means (ii) Catalogues of global standards for identified Commodities/ Services for use in the markets of focus |



| S.No. | Component | Eligible items of expenditure |
|-------|--|--|
| 3) | Research and Product Development | (I) Modernizing and upgrading facilities for developing commodities of high technology value as per evolving trends in the global markets (ii) Fees/ hiring charges for Technical Experts / Consultants / Designers associated for such a project (The consultation/ coordination charges not to exceed 2% of the project cost.). |
| 4) | Capacity building for upgradation of quality | Support for setting up of Quality Certification Labs, Common Facility Centre, Design Centres in existing or upcoming hubs of Commodity/ Services sectors |
| 5) | Capacity building of exporters | (I) Developing Study material (ii) Organising training programmes for the trainers and exporters, including seminars/ workshops, etc. (i) Hiring consultants/ designers/ technical experts in the export market for facilitating negotiations/ product modifications as per local requirements. |
| 6) | Anti-Dumping, Anti-Money laundering and other investigations/compliances | Cost on contesting litigation (s) in the exporting market concerning restrictions / Anti-dumping duties/ CVD/ SG duty cases, as also Anti Money laundering Law compliances etc. on particular product(s) of Indian origin |
| 7) | Developing Foreign Trade Facilitation Portals | Creation of Trade Facilitation Portals for gathering market specific, product/ Services Portals specific trade information |
| 8) | Market Studies | (I) Market/ Product related studies aimed at facilitating greater market access (ii) Export potential surveys for State (iii) Studies relevant to JSG/ FTA/RTA/ WTO along with other studies relevant for bilateral or multiateral foreign trade (iv) Any other study to further objective of the Scheme |

Monitoring and Review

- To guide the Department/Implementing Agencies for optimal utilisation of available resources, monitoring and evaluation of sanctioned projects would be undertaken. M&E would be designed and implemented in collaboration with reputed institutions, such as IIFT, NCAER, ICRIER, IIMS, IITs, etc.
- The Empowered Committee (EC) shall periodically review the progress of the Scheme, to ensure achievements of the objectives of the scheme and may lay down guidelines for administering the Scheme from time to time. The Committee may authorize an outside Agency to undertake physical verification of projects as may be decided on annual basis, to ensure that the principles of canons of financial discipline are maintained and assets created are duly maintained.



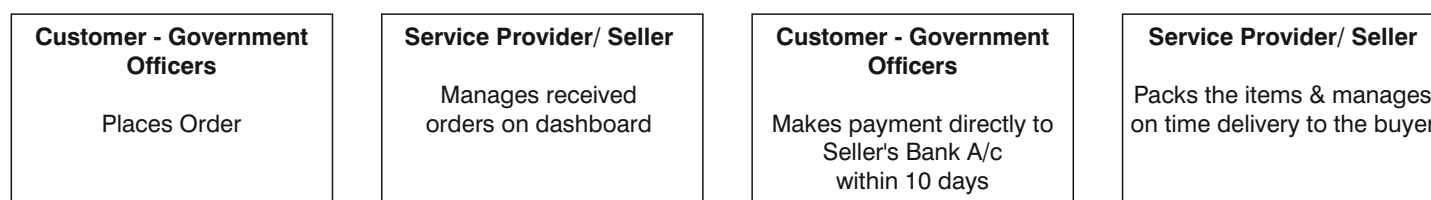
A national public procurement platform in India - Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

Introduction

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal was launched on 9th August 2016 by the then, Commerce & Industry Minister. GeM is dynamic, self-sustaining and user friendly portal. It is completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that enables procurement of common use goods and services with minimal human interface. It is a one stop portal to facilitate online procurement of commonly used Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organizations / PSUs. GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money. Procurement on GeM has been authorized by General Financial Rules by making necessary changes in government rules.

Many businesses; especially the MSMEs, manufacturers & service providers, believe that selling to the Government is a safer place than searching for buyers themselves to avoid cut-throat competition. The Government E-Marketplace commonly known as GeM was initiated with a similar premise. The marketplace helps sellers get good prices for their goods and services, and the government departments to get a one-stop-solution to all their needs. This has become the National Procurement Portal of India. Further, GeM helps in taking a step closer to the Digital India vision.

How Does GeM Work?



BENEFITS OF REGISTERING ON GeM

Registering on GeM has many benefits. We have listed the most important ones here:

- 1) You get a direct door to supply goods and services to Government departments and officers.
- 2) Minimum marketing efforts needed.
- 3) Long waits and manpower to materialize government tenders will be eliminated as you will be directly contacted once you register and display your products.
- 4) Minimum compliance procedures.
- 5) Pricing can seasonally or occasionally be changed based on the market conditions with no interferences based on competition.
- 6) Stay updated about government requirements and purchase plans.
- 7) Timely payment.

To encourage and promote more startups to join the Government eMarketplace (GeM), the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu launched a Start-up Runway called 'SWAYATT' (Startups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions) on government e-marketplace in February 2019.

SWAYATT is an initiative of GeM in association with Start-up India to help Start-ups that are registered with Start-up India to access the public procurement market of GeM and sell innovative products and services to government buyers.

SWAYATT will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to Government e-Marketplace the national procurement portal.

OBJECTIVES OF SWAYATT

- To promote inclusiveness by catapulting various categories of sellers and service providers.
- Take proactive steps to facilitate the training and registrations of such specific category of manufacturers and sellers.
- Develop women entrepreneurship and encourage participation of the MSME sector and Start-ups in public procurement.

CURRENT POSITION

| START-UPS | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|--------------------------------|
| No. of Start-ups | 1,516 | Services to Offer | 5,197 |
| Products to offer | 12,915 | Products to Offer | 801,956 |
| Orders received till date | 5,000 | No. of registered sellers, service providers | 199,654 |
| | | No. government buyers | 33,536 |
| | | No. of Orders processed and its worth | 1,386,030 (Rs.19,214 crore) |

CONCLUSION

The various initiatives promoted by the Government will help to boost the prospects of various categories of sellers and service providers. Further, it would take proactive steps to facilitate the training and registration of specific categories of manufacturers and sellers, develop women entrepreneurship, and encourage participation of MSMEs in public procurement.

Source:

- https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/two-groups-of-secretaries-present-ideas-and-suggestions-to-pm-3/
- <https://pib.nic.in>
- <https://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157610>
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/newsbuzz/commerce-ministry-working-to-get-startups-sell-their-goods-on-govt-portal/articleshow/67075856.cms?from=mdr>
- <https://gem.gov.in/aboutus>
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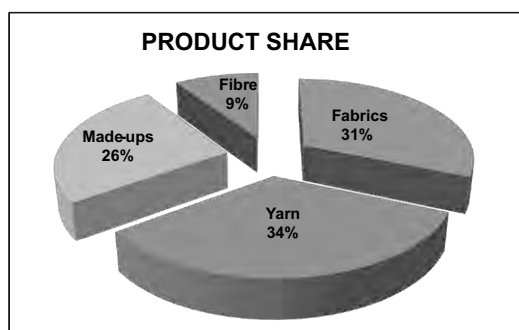
REVIEW OF INDIA'S MAN-MADE FIBRE TEXTILES EXPORTS FROM APRIL – JANUARY 2018 -19

Exports of Indian MMF textiles during April - January 2018 - 19 were US\$ 5077.29 million against US\$ 4981.08 million during the same period of the previous year showing a growth of nearly 1.93% (Source: MOC).

| Product | Unit | in Quantity (Thousand) | | % Change Apr - Jan 2018 -19 | In Value USD Mn | | % Change Apr - Jan 2018 -19 |
|---------------|------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Apr -Jan 2018 -19 | Apr - Jan 2017 -18 | | Apr -Jan 2018 -19 | Apr -Jan 2017 -18 | |
| Fabrics | Kgs | 72301.74 | 65050.72 | 11.15 | 1597.70 | 1667.32 | -4.18 |
| | Sqm | 1458843.61 | 1361976.92 | 7.11 | | | |
| Yarn | Kgs. | 812152.57 | 823816.49 | -1.42 | 1701.64 | 1583.78 | 7.44 |
| Made - ups | Kgs. | 297713 | 254022.64 | 17.20 | 1301.71 | 1234.20 | 5.47 |
| | Nos. | 80430.21 | 89620.61 | -10.25 | | | |
| | Sqm | 200.16 | 155.49 | 28.73 | | | |
| Fibre | Kgs. | 306514.31 | 321149.66 | -4.56 | 476.24 | 495.78 | -3.94 |
| Total | | | | | 5077.29 | 4981.08 | 1.93 |

PRODUCT SHARE

During April - January 2018 - 19, dominated products in the Indian MMF textiles export basket was yarn accounting for a share of 34% followed by fabrics 31%, Made-ups 26% and Fibre 9%.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Overall exports in April - January 2018 -19 in value terms were US\$ 5077.29 million against US\$ 4981.08 million, witnessing a growth around 1.93% as compared to the same period of the previous year.
- Exports of Indian MMF Fabrics and fibre witnessed a 4.18% and 3.94 decline respectively during April-January 2018 as compared to the same period of the previous year
- Exports of yarn dominated with 34% share followed by fabrics 31%, made-ups 26% and fibre 9% in the Indian MMF textile exports.
- Share of the value-added segments like fabrics and Made-ups have increased around 57% of total exports.
- Other segments witnessed positive growth in exports like yarn 7.44% and made-ups 5.47%.
- In the fabrics segment Synthetic Filament Fabrics (US\$ 538.80Mn) was the top exported product in India's MMF textile exports followed by Polyester Filament Fabrics (US\$ 315.26 Mn) during April-January 2018-19.

- Viscose Filament Fabrics exports have been excellent with 51.74% growth.
- In case of MMF yarn exports, Polyester Filament Yarn was the leading item with exports worth US\$ 1003.22 Mn followed by Polyester Cotton Yarn (US\$ 158.47 Mn), Polyester Spun Yarn (US\$ 133.54 Mn).
- In Made-ups, exports of Bulk Containers were the leading item with exports worth US\$ 615.46 Mn followed by Shawls/Scarves US\$ 101.62 Mn, Motifs US\$ 59.65, Muffler and fishing net worth US\$ 52.26 Mn and US\$ 50.29 Mn respectively.
- Polyester Staple Fibre (US\$ 271.40 Mn) was the leading item in the MMF category followed by Viscose Staple Fibre (US\$ 142.36 Mn).
- USA was the leading market for Indian MMF textiles during April-January2018-19 with 11% share in total exports followed by Turkey 8% and Bangladesh 6%.
- Leading markets with positive growth are Egypt (11.79%), UK (8.77%), USA (3.61%), and Germany (2.59%).
- Bangladesh, USA, and UAE were the leading markets for Indian MMF Fabrics, but Bangladesh has witnessed a decline of 19.32% during April-January2018-19 as compared to the same period of last year.
- USA was also leading market for Indian MMF Made - ups and fibre during the period.
- Major markets for Indian MMF yarn were Turkey and Brazil.
- Made - ups exports to Bangladesh showed an impressive growth rate (104.11%)

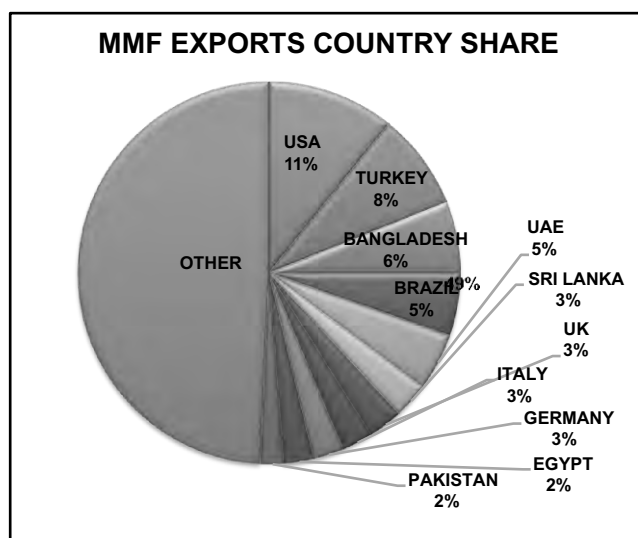
PRODUCT - WISE EXPORT PERFORMANCE APRIL - JANUARY 2018-19

| Product Description | Apr - Jan 2018 -19 | Apr - Jan 2017 -18 | % Grw/Decline |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Fabrics (woven, knitted) | | | |
| Synthetic Filament | 538.80 | 457.32 | 17.82 |
| Polyester Filament | 315.26 | 384.25 | -17.95 |
| Polyester Viscose | 243.93 | 267.87 | -8.94 |
| Polyester Blended | 72.22 | 110.29 | -34.52 |
| Synthetic Cotton | 39.81 | 36.32 | 9.61 |
| Polyester Cotton | 34.43 | 33.12 | 3.96 |
| Polyester Wool | 32.86 | 35.74 | -8.06 |
| Nylon Filament | 25.08 | 18.36 | 36.60 |
| Viscose Spun | 23.46 | 74.03 | -68.31 |
| Viscose Blended | 21.34 | 36.75 | -41.93 |
| Viscose Filament | 20.94 | 13.80 | 51.74 |
| Synthetic Blended | 13.32 | 13.93 | -4.38 |
| Other Fabrics | 216.25 | 185.52 | 16.56 |
| Total | 1597.70 | 1667.30 | -4.17 |
| YARN | | | |
| Polyester Filament | 1003.22 | 910.86 | 10.14 |
| Polyester Cotton | 158.47 | 139.75 | 13.40 |
| Polyester Spun | 133.54 | 132.42 | 0.85 |
| Polyester Viscose | 110.05 | 117.13 | -6.04 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Viscose Spun | 54.79 | 63.92 | -14.28 |
| Viscose Filament | 42.37 | 44.30 | -4.36 |
| Synthetic Spun | 40.48 | 32.00 | 26.50 |
| Acrylic Spun | 36.03 | 37.81 | -4.71 |
| Nylon Filament | 22.39 | 15.58 | 43.71 |
| Polyester Wool | 16.90 | 22.25 | -24.04 |
| Viscose Cotton | 9.15 | 9.51 | -3.79 |
| Other Yarn | 74.25 | 58.25 | 27.47 |
| Total | 1701.64 | 1583.78 | 7.44 |
| MADE - UPS | | | |
| Bulk Containers | 615.46 | 489.09 | 25.84 |
| Shawls/Scarves | 101.62 | 101.79 | -0.17 |
| Motifs | 59.65 | 65.70 | -9.21 |
| Muffler | 52.26 | 98.45 | -46.92 |
| Fishing Net | 50.29 | 43.30 | 16.14 |
| Bedsheet | 31.42 | 15.02 | 109.19 |
| Blanket | 26.17 | 27.53 | -4.94 |
| Rope | 22.90 | 20.70 | 10.63 |
| Sacks and Bags | 19.24 | 13.08 | 47.09 |
| Bed Linen | 14.21 | 17.84 | -20.35 |
| Other Made-ups | 308.49 | 341.70 | -9.72 |
| Total | 1301.71 | 1234.20 | 5.47 |
| FIBRE | | | |
| Polyester Staple | 271.40 | 208.38 | 30.24 |
| Viscose Staple | 142.36 | 239.60 | -40.58 |
| Acrylic Staple | 35.55 | 27.87 | 27.56 |
| Other Fibre | 26.93 | 19.93 | 35.12 |
| Total Fibre | 476.24 | 495.78 | -3.94 |

*Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container (HS Code 63053200)/ big bag/bulk bag or Super Sack is a standardized container in large dimensions for storing and transporting dry, flow able products, for example sand, fertilizers, and granules of M, plastics most often made of thick woven polyethylene or polypropylene, either coated or uncoated. **Other Made-ups include Tents, Sails, Rags, Embroidery (without visible ground) & Accessories.

Synthetic Filament: HS Codes 54077200, 54072090, 56031200, 54077400, 54079400, 54079200

LEADING MARKETS

LEADING MARKETS

Value in US \$ Mn

| Sr. No. | Markets | April - Jan 2018-19 | April - Jan 2017-18 | Net Change | % Change |
|---------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|
| 1 | USA | 548.44 | 529.31 | 19.13 | 3.61 |
| 2 | TURKEY | 416.43 | 475.98 | -59.55 | -12.51 |
| 3 | BANGLADESH | 309.33 | 312.42 | -3.09 | 0.99 |
| 4 | BRAZIL | 270.27 | 278.88 | -8.61 | -3.09 |
| 5 | UAE | 247.84 | 325.14 | -77.30 | -23.77 |
| 6 | UK | 149.07 | 137.05 | 12.02 | 8.77 |
| 7 | SRI LANKA | 134.67 | 134.83 | -0.16 | -0.12 |
| 8 | ITALY | 131.77 | 132.30 | -0.53 | -0.40 |
| 9 | GERMANY | 130.97 | 127.66 | 3.31 | 2.59 |
| 10 | EGYPT | 127.87 | 114.38 | 13.49 | 11.79 |
| 11 | PAKISTAN | 101.47 | 118.31 | -16.84 | -14.23 |

MAJOR MARKETS FOR MMF FABRICS

Value in US \$ Mn

| Markets | April - Jan 2018-19 | April - Jan 2017-18 | Net Change | % Change |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|
| BANGLADESH | 150.16 | 186.12 | -35.96 | -19.32 |
| USA | 141.94 | 138.72 | 3.22 | 2.32 |
| UAE | 141.32 | 181.03 | -39.71 | -21.94 |
| UK | 58.97 | 51.73 | 7.24 | 14.00 |
| PAKISTAN | 46.29 | 58.75 | -12.46 | -21.21 |
| EGYPT | 32.41 | 27.18 | 5.23 | 19.24 |
| ITALY | 21.59 | 20.94 | 0.65 | 3.10 |
| SRI LANKA | 21.59 | 20.94 | 0.65 | 3.10 |
| TURKEY | 10.5 | 10.67 | -0.17 | -1.59 |
| GERMANY | 10.44 | 12.16 | -1.72 | -14.14 |
| BRAZIL | 5.94 | 4.92 | 1.02 | 20.73 |



MAJOR MARKETS FOR MMF YARN

Value in US \$ Mn

| Markets | April - Jan 2018-19 | April - Jan 2017-18 | Net Change | % Change |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| TURKEY | 370.72 | 397.48 | -26.76 | -6.73 |
| BRAZIL | 247.02 | 259.92 | -12.90 | -4.96 |
| BANGLADESH | 105.51 | 79.81 | 25.70 | 32.20 |
| EGYPT | 80.35 | 72.34 | 8.01 | 11.07 |
| USA | 72.99 | 52.23 | 20.76 | 39.75 |
| PAKISTAN | 34.29 | 25.6 | 8.69 | 33.95 |
| ITALY | 23.48 | 21.12 | 2.36 | 11.17 |
| SRI LANKA | 23.48 | 21.12 | 2.36 | 11.17 |
| GERMANY | 21.82 | 18.55 | 3.27 | 17.63 |
| UAE | 12.09 | 14.39 | -2.30 | -15.98 |
| UK | 10.85 | 11.55 | -0.70 | -6.06 |

MAJOR MARKETS FOR MMF MADE-UPS

Value in US \$ Mn

| Markets | April - Jan 2018-19 | April - Jan 2017-18 | Net Change | % Change |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| USA | 267.31 | 262.81 | 4.50 | 1.71 |
| UAE | 91.73 | 128.96 | -37.23 | -28.87 |
| GERMANY | 86.78 | 84.64 | 2.14 | 2.53 |
| ITALY | 78.18 | 76.62 | 1.56 | 2.04 |
| UK | 77.64 | 71.10 | 6.54 | 9.20 |
| SRI LANKA | 75.28 | 74.09 | 1.19 | 1.61 |
| SAUDI ARABIA | 32.60 | 24.64 | 7.96 | 32.31 |
| BELGIUM | 28.15 | 24.95 | 3.20 | 12.83 |
| BANGLADESH | 13.92 | 6.82 | 7.10 | 104.11 |
| PAKISTAN | 13.07 | 18.97 | -5.90 | -31.10 |
| TURKEY | 5.79 | 6.94 | -1.15 | -16.57 |

MAJOR MARKETS FOR MMF FIBRE

Value in US \$ Mn

| Markets | April - Jan 2018-19 | April - Jan 2017-18 | Net Change | % Change |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| USA | 66.20 | 75.55 | -9.35 | -12.38 |
| BANGLADESH | 39.74 | 39.67 | 0.07 | 0.18 |
| TURKEY | 29.42 | 60.89 | -31.47 | -51.68 |
| BELGIUM | 19.40 | 15.07 | 4.33 | 28.73 |
| BRAZIL | 13.65 | 9.68 | 3.97 | 41.01 |
| GERMANY | 11.93 | 12.31 | -0.38 | -3.09 |
| ITALY | 11.42 | 16.15 | -4.73 | -29.29 |
| SRI LANKA | 11.42 | 16.15 | -4.73 | -29.29 |
| EGYPT | 10.42 | 10.84 | -0.42 | -3.87 |
| PAKISTAN | 7.82 | 14.99 | -7.17 | -47.83 |
| UAE | 2.70 | 0.76 | 1.94 | 255.26 |

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) signed by India

FTAs already signed and operational

| Sr. No. | Name of the Agreement and the participating countries | Date of Signing | Date of Implementation | Details |
|---------|---|-----------------|---|---|
| 1) | India - Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit | 11.3.2019 | 11.3.2019 | DGFT further extends the time of receipt of such requests till 30th September, 2019. |
| 2) | India- Sri Lanka FTA (ISLFTA) | 28.12.1998 | 01.03.2000 | Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Sri Lanka was signed on 20.12.1998 and was operationalised in March, 2000 following notification of required Customs tariff concessions by Government of Sri Lanka and India. Procedure for import of certain listed items under ISLFTA is at Annexure-I |
| 3) | Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan Maldives and Afghanistan) | 04.01. 2004 | 01.01.2006 | Afghanistan became Eighth Member of SAARC from April, 2007 and the provisions of Trade Liberalization Programme (TLP) are applicable to Afghanistan w.e.f. 07.08.2011). |
| 4) | India - Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) | 9.10.2003 | 01.09.2004 | India and Thailand have signed protocol to implement Early Harvest Scheme under India Thailand Free Trade Agreement on 01.09.2004. Tariff preferences for imports on items of Early Harvest Scheme would be available only to those products, which satisfy Rules of Origin Criteria, notified by Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, vide notification No.101/2004-Customs dated 31.08.2004. |
| 5) | India - Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) | 29.06.2005 | 01.08.2005 | India-Singapore CECA was the first comprehensive FTA India signed with any country. MMF textiles enjoy duty free market access in Singapore. |
| 6) | India - South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) | 07.08. 2009 | 01.01.2010 | MMF textiles enjoy duty free market access in Singapore. |
| 7) | India – ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) | 13.08.2009 | 1st January 2010 in respect of India and Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand. 1st June 2010 in respect of India and Vietnam. 1st September 2010 in respect of India and Myanmar. 1st October 2010 in respect of India and Indonesia. 1st November in respect of India and Brunei. 24 January 2011 in respect of India and Laos. 1st June 2011 in respect of India and the Philippines. 1st August, 2011 in respect of India and Cambodia. | All the 10 ASEAN countries have separate tariff Schedule for India whereas India has a common tariff schedule for nine ASEAN countries and a separate tariff Schedule for Philippines. |



| Sr. No. | Name of the Agreement and the participating countries | Date of Signing | Date of Implementation | Details |
|---------|---|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| 8) | India - Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement | 16.02.2011 | 01.08.2011 | MMF textiles enjoy duty free market access in Singapore. |
| 9) | India - Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement | 18.02.2011 | 01.07.2011 | Under the CECA, India and Malaysia have offered commitments over and above the commitments offered by them under ASEAN -India Trade in Goods Agreement. Key items on which Malaysia has offered market access to India are basmati rice, mangoes, eggs, trucks, motorcycles and cotton garments which are all items of considerable export interest to India. |

Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) already signed and operational

| Sr. No. | Name of the Agreement and the participating countries | Date of Signing | Date of Implementation | Details |
|---------|---|---|------------------------|---|
| 1) | Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka) | July, 1975 (revised Agreement signed on 02.11.2005) | 01.11.1976 | APTA is a preferential trading arrangement designed to liberalise and expand trade in goods progressively in Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) region through liberalization of tariff and nontariff barriers. At present, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Korea, India and China are exchanging tariff concessions under APTA. The 43rd Standing Session in May, 2014 saw the accession of Mongolia into APTA. |
| 2) | Global System of Trade Preferences (G S T P)(Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe) | April, 1988 | 1 April, 1989 | Under agreement establishing GSTP, tariff concessions are exchanged among developing countries, who have signed agreement. Presently, 46 countries are members of GSTP and India has exchanged tariff concessions with 12 countries on a limited number of products. EIC is sole agency authorised to issue CoO under GSTP. The Sao Paulo Round of the GSTP was concluded among 8 countries but only Cuba, India and Malaysia have ratified the Protocol as of October, 2014. |
| 3) | India - Afghanistan | 06.03.2003 | 1 May, 2003 | A Preferential Trade Agreement between Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan and Republic of India was signed on 6.3.2003 and was operationalised with issuance of Customs Notification No 76/2003 dated 13.5.2003. EIC is sole agency to issue CoO under India Afghanistan Preferential Trade Agreement. |



| Sr. No. | Name of the Agreement and the participating countries | Date of Signing | Date of Implementation | Details |
|---------|--|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| 4) | India - MERCOSUR | 25.01.2004 | 01.06.2009 | Through this PTA, India and MERCOSUR have agreed to give tariff concessions, ranging from 10% to 100% to each other on 450 and 452 tariff lines respectively. |
| 5) | India - Chile | 08.03. 2006 | 1 August, 2007 | Under this PTA , India has offered tariff preferences on 202 tariff lines (as per 2007 HS) at the 8 digit level to Chile with the margin of preference (MoP) ranging from 10%- 50% and Chile has offered tariff preferences on 296 tariff lines to India at the 8 digit level with MoP ranging from 10%- 100%. |
| 6) | SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement or SAPTA (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives) | 1993 | 1995 | SAPTA was signed by seven SAARC members namely India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives in 1993 and came into operation in 1995. Four rounds of trade negotiations have been completed and more than 3000 tariff lines are under tariff concessions among SAARC countries. |

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