ASIA'S No. 1 APPAREL MAGAZINE
MOST READ
MOST SOLD

# The Apparel Times

Vol.22 No.3, May-June 2026
Reg. No. MAHENG/2005/15579

International Magazine for Apparel Trade & Technology
Rs. 100.00 / US $ 10.00

Organised By
BHARAT TEX
TRADE FEDERATION

SUPPORTED BY
MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES
Government of India

INSPIRED BY THE
5F VISION
FARM TO
FIBRE TO
FACTORY TO
FASHION TO
FOREIGN

Bharat TEX 2026
TEXTILES | FASHION | SUSTAINABILITY
Global Textile Expo

INDIA'S LARGEST GLOBAL
TEXTILE EVENT IS BACK!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
JULY 14th – 17th
BHARAT MANDAPAM, NEW DELHI

5,500+ EXHIBITORS | 7,000+ OVERSEAS BUYERS | 1,20,000+ TRADE VISITORS | 1,60,000+ SQ. METER AREA

20,000+ PRODUCTS | 400+ SPEAKERS | 130+ COUNTRIES | 40+ KNOWLEDGE SESSIONS

Scan to know more
REGISTER NOW!
www.bharat-tex.com

Follow us on: /bharat_tex /bharat_tex/ /bharattexbttf /showcase/bharattex/ /@BharatTex

ADITYA BIRLA
GRASIM

100% NATURAL ORIGIN



*Draping celebrations with soft, fluid moments.*

Discover the timeless beauty of luxurious fabrics created with **Raysil®, Viscose Filament Yarn of 100% Natural Origin.** Raysil®, yarns made from premium wood pulp, gives fabrics rich lustre, vivid colour, superior drape and a feather-light feel.



Scan to visit our website

Grasim Industries Limited (VFY - Fashion Yarn Business)
www.raysil.co.in | raysil@adityabirla.com
For trade inquiries, please contact: (Mumbai): +91 22 22027570,
(Surat): +91 261 4003361/62/66

Raysil®
The fashion yarn



# Groz-Beckert is your everyday companion

Our precision tools serve the textile world. With the help of our around 70,000 products and comprehensive services that support the knitting, weaving, nonwovens, tufting, sewing and spinning industries, textiles are created that are indispensable for our daily life: from clothing or carpets to technical textiles for vehicles or the medical sector.

170 years after its founding, Groz-Beckert is based on the Swabian Alb and yet at home everywhere in the world.

Sharing challenges and making progress together.

**www.groz-beckert.com**

Customer Portal

groz-beckert.com

GROZ-BECKERT


83rd National Garment Fair 26 Mumbai
KIDSWEAR
22nd - 24th June
BOMBAY EXHIBITION CENTRE,
GOREGAON EAST, MUMBAI

ORGANISED BY

CMAI®

THE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

## ON VISITOR REGISTRATION

# SAVE 50% PER PERSON

## BY REGISTERING ONLINE*

**Register Online**
1 PERSON @ ₹200
2 PEOPLE @ ₹300
(FROM THE SAME COMPANY)

**Register at Venue**
1 PERSON @ ₹400
2 PEOPLE @ ₹600
(FROM THE SAME COMPANY)

SCAN FOR VISITOR REGISTRATION

NOT VALID ON SHOW DAYS*

# HydroGel



## THE NEW SHAPE OF WATER

+

Redefine the washing process by protecting fibers in a bubble of gel, with the lowest water consumption ever.

more info

Soko

INNOVATION MAKER

Kornit Digital

# Digital production goes mainstream with Kornit

Experience live demos of Kornit solutions and discover our latest innovations at events worldwide.







**Konnections Powered by Kornit**
Miami, FL.
April 12-14, 2026

**Texprocess Messe Frankfurt**
Booth 8/A20 | Germany
April 21-24, 2026

**FESPA Fira Barcelona**
Booth 3/A95 | Spain
May 19-22, 2026

**Kornit. The Agility you need to win.**

kornit.com

# Machines to Masterpieces

## The Ultimate Business Platform for Textile and Textile Engineering Industry

**4TH → 9TH DEC 2026**

India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, India

### The Destination – INDIA

- Fastest Growing Market & Economy
- A Nation Powered by Global Trade Partnerships
- 1.46 Billion Aspirations Fuelling the Textile Industry
- Dynamic Business Destination

### The Event - India ITME 2026

- Where Destiny meets opportunity
- Where customer connect multiples exponentially
- Where innovation transforms businesses
- Where technology defines success



Machines To Masterpieces

NEXT INDIA ITME 2026

12th India International Textile Machinery Exhibition

### Chapters

- Spinning Machinery
- Technical Textile Machinery
- Weaving Machinery
- Knitting / Hosiery Machinery
- Embroidery Machinery
- Printing & Digital Printing Machinery
- Garment Machinery
- Software
- Dyestuff and Chemical Machinery

### Unparalleled platform for **Textile Industry Leaders, Technocrats, Entrepreneurs**

- High-impact business negotiations
- Insightful panel discussions & expert forums
- Exploration of transformative global trends
- Direct technology benchmarking & cost comparisons
- Strategic alliances that redefine markets

**REGISTER. PARTICIPATE. LEAD.**

SCAN LINK TO WEBSITE

**Nitin Pachpande : +91 8010823774 | Tushar Jaywant : +91 9820507570**

itme@india-itme.com | projects@india-itme.com www.corporate.india-itme.com

# Go pigmented and save

Switch to digital pigment printing and cut costs compared to reactive.

itaca INSPIRED BY SCIENCE



Save water, energy and $CO_2$ without compromising color, detail or versatility.

**Itaca digital pigment inks,** the smart alternative to reactive printing.

87% less water

50% less energy

47% less $CO_2$

Data compared with acid/reactive digital printing.

itaca-digital.com

ITMA ASIA | CITME

# 中国国际纺织机械展览会
# 暨ITMA亚洲展览会
# ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026

## 20 to 24 November 2026

National Exhibition and Convention Center
Shanghai, China

www.itmaasia.com | www.citme.com.cn

# ASIA'S LEADING BUSINESS PLATFORM FOR TEXTILE MACHINERY

**Join leading textile machinery manufacturers and build quality connections with buyers exploring advanced manufacturing technologies.**

**Space Application Now Open**

**Visit the official website for information.**



Owners

CEMATEX

纺织贸促会 CCPIT TEX

CTMA

CIEC

Organiser

BJITME

Co-Organiser

ITMA SERVICES

In Partnership With

# The Apparel Times


- Editorial 10
- From Promising Start-Ups to Thriving Businesses: The ITMA 2023 Story 11
- India's Retail Industry Ends FY2026 with Renewed Confidence and Consumer Momentum 13
- Source Fashion Welcomes First Vietnamese Pavilion, Marking Next Phase of Global Expansion 14
- Jeanologia's AI Revolution Redefines the Future of Vintage Denim 15
- PDS Charts a resilient Growth Path 16
- Mission Cotton Productivity 16
- FAB Show 2026 Reinforces India's Rising Strength as a Global Apparel Sourcing Powerhouse 17
- Beverly Hills Polo Club Expands India Story; Drives EBO Expansion with RJ Corp and SIS Roll Out with Shoppers Stop 19
- bluesign Leads Textile Industry Toward a PFAS-Free Future 20
- FESPA Textile 2026 Set to Redefine the Future of Global Textile Printing and Garment Decoration 21
- Raysileco Drives Next Phase of Growth Through Global Brand Association and Market Expansion 22
- Linen Club's Strategic Coup: Bridging Demographics with the First Joint Brand Appearance by Saif and Ibrahim Ali Khan 23
- Century Enka Limited Unveils NUENYL – India's First Recycled Nylon Yarn at Fibers & Yarns Exhibition 2026 24
- The New Fabric Revolution: Rise of MMF and Smart Blended Textiles 25
- India's Textile Renaissance Gains Global Momentum 27
- 5th Hyderabad Retail Summit by RAI Discusses the Next Phase of Retail Growth 28
- Americhem Launches nDryve™: PFAS-Free In-Melt Technology Platform for Functional Fibers 30
- "nDryve™ and the Shift to Integrated Performance Engineering" 30
- CMAI & SU.RE ECO-STITCH Sustainability Conclave Drives Textile & Apparel Industry's Shift from Intent to Action 32
- Groz-Beckert: Driving precision and innovation across the textile value chain 33
- Sorona® by CovationBio: Where Performance Meets Sustainability 35

# Textile & Apparel Industry: India's Sustainable Transformation

India's textile and apparel industry is evolving into a global example of sustainable manufacturing, where growth is increasingly linked with environmental responsibility and innovation. Leading textile clusters such as Tirupur and Panipat are demonstrating how large-scale production can successfully integrate water recycling, waste management, and circular manufacturing practices.

Tirupur's advanced Zero Liquid Discharge systems have strengthened sustainable dyeing operations, while Panipat has emerged as a major hub for textile recycling and value-added products created from discarded garments. These initiatives are helping Indian manufacturers meet the rising expectations of global buyers seeking transparency, traceability, and eco-friendly sourcing solutions.

Government support, international collaborations, and technology-driven investments are further accelerating the industry's green transition. Platforms like Bharat Tex 2026 are expected to showcase India's progress in sustainable textiles and apparel manufacturing.

The future competitiveness of India's textile sector will depend not only on production scale, but also on credibility, sustainability, and responsible business practices.

*editor-in-chief*
Prakash kinny

*contributor*
Thomas Chang

*circulation*
Pamela Jones

*administration*
Joe Pereira

*accounts*
Ramesh Jain

*photography*
Tony Fernandes

Retail Price : Rs. 100.00

**Inside India**
Annual Subscription (6 issues) : Rs. 600.00

**Outside India**
Annual Subscription (6 issues) : US $ 100.00

***Editorial Office***

**THE APPAREL TIMES**
*House No. 157, Satpala, Bhandra Lee*
*Post: Agashi,*
*Tal: Vasai*
*Dist: Palghar (401 301)*
*State: Maharashtra, INDIA*
*Mobile: +91 09892723562 / 07798189485*

prakashkinny@outlook.com
prakashkinny@yahoo.com
theappareltimes@gmail.com
www.timesinternational.in

Edited, Printed and Published by Times International

# From Promising Start-Ups to Thriving Businesses: The ITMA 2023 Story




## How emerging innovators are turning industry exposure into real-world impact

At ITMA 2023, 15 start-ups were selected for the CEMATEX Start-Up Grant to showcase their technologies at Start-Up Valley, a dedicated platform connecting emerging innovators with the global textile and garment manufacturing industry.

For many of these young companies, participation went far beyond exhibition visibility. It provided direct access to manufacturers, brands, investors and technology partners across the textile value chain, accelerating their journey from innovation to industry adoption.

One standout example shows how quickly that journey can translate into real-world impact.

From Start-Up Valley to global brand collaboration

As part of its Spring 2026 collection, Paris-headquartered Balenciaga, one of the most influential luxury fashion houses, unveiled the world's first 3D woven tailored suit, a breakthrough application of software-driven textile manufacturing.

The technology behind this innovation was developed by Balenciaga, in collaboration with WEFFAN, a Start-Up Valley participant at ITMA 2023.

This milestone demonstrates how early-stage technologies, when given the right platform, visibility and industry access, can progress rapidly towards real-world adoption, even at the highest levels of fashion.

For start-ups seeking to translate innovation into commercial reality, it is a powerful example of what can happen when they engage directly with the global textile ecosystem.

**From exposure to commercialisation: TreeToTextile**

Among the companies gaining strong traction after ITMA 2023 is TreeToTextile, a Sweden-based innovator developing next-generation regenerated cellulose fibres.

"ITMA's Start-Up Valley was the perfect place to begin our commercialisation journey," says Nina Ekstrand, Head of Marketing and Communication at TreeToTextile. "We were overwhelmed by the strong interest in our fibres from brands and partners across the value chain. We continue to reap the benefits from the experience as we scale the production of our next-generation cellulose fibre."

Progress for this Stockholm-headquartered company has

subsequently been rapid and its ITMA debut coincided with the start up of a €35 million regenerated cellulose fibre demonstration plant at Stora Enso's Nymölla mill in southern Sweden, with an initial production capacity of 1,500 tons of fibre per year.




Momentum has continued to build. In early 2026, leading fibre producer, Lenzing acquired a controlling stake in TreeToTextile, signalling strong industry confidence in its technology and future scalability.

Lenzing is now planning a significant increase in production output at the existing demonstration plant in Nymölla, as well as the preparation of a first industrial-scale facility.

"Innovation at industrial scale requires time, expertise and strong partnerships," says TreeToTextile CEO Roxana Barbieru. "Lenzing's increased ownership is a clear endorsement of our ambition to become a major player in the global fibre market."

**Scaling innovation across new applications: Noosa**

Another Start-Up Valley participant, Noosa, is advancing bio-based circular PLA (polylactic acid) fibres through its patented recycling process.




"We had an amazing first experience at ITMA 2023 and were very impressed by the number of visitors from across the globe," says Noosa CEO Luna Aslan. "It created opportunities with a lot of companies in different sectors and different parts of the world. I definitely consider it as the rendezvous for the textile industry and am looking forward to being at the 2027 exhibition."

Since its participation, Noosa has significantly scaled its production capacity to 6,000 tonnes per year and expanded its product portfolio to include staple fibres, filaments and spun yarns, as well as fabrics and end-products made from them.

The company is now developing new applications such as performance wear and alternatives to oil-based materials, further demonstrating how early exposure to industry stakeholders can support product development and market expansion.

**From industry validation to global reach: WEFFAN**

For many start-ups, the most immediate value of Start-Up Valley lies in direct engagement with industry players.

For WEFFAN, this translated into conversations with potential investors and manufacturing partners from around the world.



"We met many potential investors and manufacturing partners at Start-Up Valley, which led to a memorable sourcing trip to Japan," says founder Graysha Audren. "Taking part gave us the international reach and recognition that we wouldn't have had otherwise. The conversations are still ongoing."

These interactions, from technical discussions with manufacturers to strategic conversations with brands, play a critical role in helping start-ups validate their technologies, refine their solutions and identify pathways to commercialisation.

WEFFAN's 3D weaving manufacturing process has now been validated at commercial scale with the support of Kering's Material Innovation Lab and the Balenciaga 3D woven jacket and trousers are available in select Balenciaga stores worldwide.

**A platform for industry connection and growth**

"For many of the companies selected for Start-Up Valley in Milan, the showcase proved far more than just an exhibition platform," says CEMATEX President Alex Zucchi. "It provided a catalyst for partnerships, investment and industrial development that continues to shape their trajectories.

"This ongoing momentum highlights the role of ITMA not only as a marketplace for machinery, but also as a launchpad for emerging technologies and materials that will define the future of textiles."

**Looking ahead to ITMA 2027**

Building on the success of ITMA 2023, the next edition of Start-Up Valley at ITMA 2027 will offer a new cohort of innovators the opportunity to engage directly with the global textile manufacturing ecosystem.

Only 20 start-ups will be selected to receive the CEMATEX Start-Up Grant, which includes:

- A fully subsidised special design exhibition stand
- Dedicated pavilion exposure
- Global marketing visibility
- Access to industry leaders across the value chain

For start-ups developing technologies in advanced materials, automation, digitalisation or sustainability, the platform provides a unique opportunity to gain industry validation, form partnerships and accelerate growth.

Don't miss your chance to present your game-changing solutions on the world's largest textile and garment technology platform.

**Apply for Start-Up Valley at ITMA 2027**

# India's Retail Industry Ends FY2026 with Renewed Confidence and Consumer Momentum

India's retail sector has once again demonstrated its resilience and adaptability, closing FY2026 on a stable and encouraging growth trajectory. According to Round 69 of the Retailers Association of India (RAI) Business Survey, retail sales recorded a robust 10% year-on-year growth in March 2026, reflecting sustained consumer demand and the sector's ability to navigate evolving economic conditions.

The survey indicates that the retail industry has consistently maintained growth levels between 9% and 10% over the past six months, underlining stable consumption patterns across urban and regional markets. Region-wise, North and West India emerged as the strongest performers with 11% growth each, while South India reported 10% growth and East India followed closely with 9% growth.

Among retail categories, food and grocery led the market with an impressive 14% growth, highlighting the continued strength of essential consumption. Apparel and clothing followed with 13% growth, indicating renewed consumer spending in fashion and lifestyle segments. Jewellery registered 12% growth, while Quick Service Restaurants (QSRs) maintained strong momentum with 11% growth throughout the year.

However, the retail landscape also reflects changing consumer priorities. Consumer durables and electronics experienced slower growth as customers remained cautious about high-value purchases. Rising operational costs, including energy, logistics, and real estate rentals, are placing pressure on retailer margins despite healthy topline performance.

An important shift highlighted in the survey is the evolving nature of consumer behavior. Physical store footfalls may have moderated, but conversion rates have improved significantly, suggesting that shoppers are now more purposeful and value-conscious. Retailers are responding strategically by focusing on localized assortments, sharper pricing, and enhanced value propositions tailored to specific customer preferences.

Commenting on the market outlook, Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO of RAI, emphasized that the retail industry's future growth will depend on "precision over scale," where understanding customer intent and delivering the right product at the right value will define success.

As India's retail ecosystem evolves through smarter strategies and changing consumer expectations, FY2027 is expected to reward innovation, agility, and customer-centric growth.

# Source Fashion Welcomes First Vietnamese Pavilion, Marking Next Phase of Global Expansion



Source Fashion, the UK's leading responsible sourcing show, has announced the launch of its first-ever Vietnamese Pavilion at its July 2026 edition, taking place from 7–9 July at Excel London. Marking a significant milestone in the show's continued international expansion, the pavilion will introduce a curated group of Vietnamese manufacturers to the UK market, reflecting growing demand from buyers to diversify their supply chains with transparent, ethically produced and commercially competitive sourcing partners. As with all exhibitors at Source Fashion, participating manufacturers will be fully audited and vetted to meet strict sustainability and compliance criteria, ensuring buyers can source with confidence.

Organised in partnership with the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), the pavilion will showcase the country's evolving manufacturing capabilities, as it continues to transition from a high-volume production base to a high-value, innovation-led sourcing partner. Bringing together manufacturers focused on ethical production, technical expertise and scalable capacity, the pavilion will provide UK and European buyers with direct access to a rapidly growing sourcing destination. Exhibitors confirmed for the Vietnamese Pavilion include; Thai Son S. P Co. Ltd, Babeeni Co. Ltd, An Hung JSC, Sinnika Vietnam JSC, FP Vietnam Co. Ltd, Gen Viet Fashion JSC, Phuong Dong Garment JSC, Lewave Co. Ltd, Hoang Phat Co. Ltd and Bao Minh Textile JSC.

A spokesperson from the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) said, "For Vietnamese garment enterprises, Source Fashion is more than a trade show; it is a gateway to the UK's $83 billion fashion market. As responsible sourcing becomes the industry's new currency, the event provides a platform for Vietnam to demonstrate its transition from a high-volume processor to a high-value partner, combining ethical craftsmanship, technical innovation and duty-free competitiveness through the UK-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

Participation in Source Fashion 2026 also supports our strategic shift towards higher-value models, enabling manufacturers to showcase sustainable production through green factory certifications and full traceability. By engaging directly with leading British brands, Vietnamese enterprises can align with evolving design

trends while meeting the technical and regulatory standards of the UK market."

Suzanne Ellingham, Event Director Source Fashion added, "The introduction of a Vietnamese Pavilion is an important moment for Source Fashion, and a clear reflection of how the show continues to evolve. We are seeing new sourcing destinations come to Source Fashion, reflecting their desire to work with UK and European brands and retailers. As buyers actively look to diversify their supply chains, Vietnam is a fashion production powerhouse, and represents a significant opportunity to reach that goal.

Increasing the geographic diversity of the show will always be a key priority. Bringing in new regions not only broadens the sourcing landscape for our visitors, but also ensures we are reflecting the changing dynamics of global manufacturing. The addition of Vietnam strengthens our international offering and underlines the expanding global reach of Source Fashion.

What makes this particularly relevant for our audience is the ability to access these manufacturers with full confidence. Every exhibitor at Source Fashion is audited and vetted, ensuring buyers can build responsible, resilient supply chains, all under one roof."

Taking place at its new home, Excel London, Source Fashion July 2026 will bring together audited manufacturers from key sourcing regions across the globe, alongside a growing number of international pavilions. As the show continues to scale, it remains focused on delivering a commercially relevant, responsibly sourced product offering, connecting buyers with trusted partners who can support both immediate production needs and long-term supply chain strategies.

## Jeanologia's AI Revolution Redefines the Future of Vintage Denim

The global denim industry is entering a transformative new era where creativity, artificial intelligence, and sustainability are converging to reshape the future of fashion manufacturing. At Kingpins Amsterdam 2026, Jeanologia unveiled one of its most advanced innovations yet — "Billy," an AI-powered design system that is redefining how authentic vintage denim is created, interpreted, and produced.

Presented as the centerpiece of Jeanologia's participation at the international denim show, "Billy" introduces a completely new creative workflow by transforming garment images into production-ready laser designs within minutes. The AI technology accurately captures vintage effects, wear patterns, fades, and fabric character from real garments and converts them into precise laser applications ready for manufacturing.

Traditionally, reproducing authentic vintage denim required extensive manual interpretation, technical adjustments, and multiple production trials. With "Billy," designers can now move directly from inspiration to execution through a seamless digital process that preserves the authenticity of vintage garments while significantly improving efficiency and consistency.

Jeanologia's "Future Vintage" collection further demonstrates this breakthrough approach by combining AI-powered design with laser technology, the ATMOS process, and G2 ozone technology to create denim garments with authentic aesthetics and reduced environmental impact. The integration of these technologies eliminates many traditional manual processes while minimizing water usage, chemicals, and production variability.

The company also showcased "From Essentials to Specials," a collaborative collection developed with Sartex that explores digital printing and laser finishing as creative design languages, allowing garments to evolve from minimalist styles into highly expressive fashion statements.

Beyond product innovation, Jeanologia emphasized a broader industry vision where AI enhances rather than replaces creativity. During the event, CEO Enrique Silla discussed how technologies like "Billy" are reshaping the entire denim value chain by connecting design, production, and sustainability more intelligently.

With more than three decades of innovation leadership, Jeanologia continues to pioneer eco-efficient textile solutions aimed at eliminating water waste and toxic chemicals from garment finishing. Through "Billy" and its "Future Vintage" vision, the company is demonstrating how technology can preserve the soul of vintage denim while building a smarter, cleaner, and more sustainable future for the global fashion industry.

# PDS Charts a Resilient Growth Path Amid Global Uncertainty

Global supply chains may be navigating one of their most challenging phases in recent years, but PDS Limited has demonstrated that resilience, agility, and strategic execution can still deliver strong business momentum. The company's Q4FY26 and FY26 financial results reflect a determined focus on operational efficiency, customer expansion, and technology-led transformation, reinforcing its position as a leading global fashion infrastructure platform.

For FY26, PDS reported a consolidated topline of ₹13,110 crore, registering a 4% year-on-year growth, while Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) touched ₹19,666 crore, up 5% compared to the previous year. The fourth quarter performance was particularly encouraging, with revenue increasing 11% quarter-on-quarter to ₹3,519 crore and Profit After Tax surging 95% to ₹72 crore.

What makes these numbers especially noteworthy is the backdrop against which they were achieved. The global retail and sourcing ecosystem continues to face disruptions arising from evolving U.S. tariff structures, geopolitical tensions, and fluctuating consumer sentiment. Yet, PDS has managed to strengthen its operational fundamentals while simultaneously improving profitability and cash generation. The company generated an impressive ₹781 crore in operating cash flow during FY26 and significantly reduced its net debt from ₹374 crore in March 2025 to ₹105 crore in March 2026.

Another major highlight has been the improvement in working capital efficiency, with net working capital days reducing from nearly 17 days to just around 4 days. This reflects disciplined financial management and sharper supply chain execution - both critical capabilities in today's dynamic sourcing environment.

PDS is also strategically positioning itself for future growth by deepening its presence in the United States and expanding sourcing-as-a-service partnerships with global customers. The company's growing integration of AI and technology across its value chain further underlines its commitment to building a smarter, faster, and more responsive sourcing ecosystem.

With a diversified sourcing network spanning 22 countries and a strong customer-centric approach, PDS continues to evolve from a traditional sourcing company into a future-ready global fashion solutions powerhouse.

# Mission Cotton Productivity: Powering a New Era for India's Textile Industry

India's textile and apparel sector is set for a major transformation with the launch of the Government's ambitious "Mission for Cotton Productivity." With an investment of ₹5,660 crore, the initiative is expected to strengthen the country's cotton ecosystem and secure the future of India's textile value chain.

The Mission comes at a crucial time when the industry has been facing supply shortages, rising raw material costs, and growing dependence on imported Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton. By targeting a 71% increase in cotton production and nearly doubling lint productivity by 2030–31, the programme aims to improve both quantity and quality of Indian cotton.

A key strength of the Mission lies in its comprehensive approach. From climate-resilient seed technology and high-density planting systems to modernization of 2,000 ginning factories, every stage of the cotton value chain is being addressed. The emphasis on reducing contamination and improving fibre quality will enhance India's competitiveness in premium global textile markets.

The initiative also promotes traceability through "Kasturi Cotton Bharat," helping Indian exporters meet evolving global sustainability standards.

If executed successfully, Mission Cotton Productivity could become a turning point for India's textile industry - creating stronger farmer incomes, stable raw material supply, improved exports, and a globally competitive cotton ecosystem for the future.

# FAB Show 2026 Reinforces India's Rising Strength as a Global Apparel Sourcing Powerhouse




The 6th edition of the FAB Show 2026, organised by the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), has once again demonstrated the growing confidence, resilience, and transformation of India's textile and apparel industry. Held at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, from April 2 to 4, 2026, the event emerged as one of the country's most influential B2B sourcing platforms, bringing together the entire textile and garment value chain under one roof.

Spanning nearly 2 lakh sq. ft. of exhibition space, FAB Show 2026 showcased over 250 exhibitors presenting the latest innovations in fabrics, trims, accessories, machinery, sustainable solutions, and advanced technologies. The event witnessed remarkable participation from garment manufacturers, exporters, retailers, sourcing heads, private labels, e-commerce companies, and international buyers, highlighting the industry's strong optimism toward future growth.

One of the most significant highlights of this year's edition was the debut of the International Pavilion, alongside strong representation from leading Indian textile hubs such as Surat, Ahmedabad, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Ludhiana, Tiruppur, Bengaluru, and Mumbai. The participation of buyers and exhibitors from countries including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UAE, US, Egypt, Mauritius, China, UK, Canada, Australia, South Korea, and several African nations further reinforced India's expanding role in the global sourcing ecosystem.

The exhibition reflected a strong industry shift toward innovation-led and sustainable manufacturing practices. Dedicated sustainability pavilions showcased eco-conscious textiles, responsible production processes, certifications, and resource-efficient solutions, underlining the growing importance of ESG-driven manufacturing in the apparel sector. Industry leaders emphasised that sustainability is no longer a niche concept but a key business growth driver shaping the future of domestic and international apparel manufacturing.



Another major attraction at FAB Show 2026 was the integration of Artificial Intelligence and smart manufacturing technologies. Select AI solution










providers introduced advanced tools for design development, production planning, inventory management, and retail operations, while the "Future Factory/Green Factories" segment showcased next-generation sustainable manufacturing infrastructure. These developments highlighted the industry's growing commitment toward digital transformation, operational efficiency, and responsible production.

The show also served as a dynamic networking and business development platform through curated interactions between brands, exporters, manufacturers, sourcing teams, and overseas buyers. The strong response from participants and exhibitors reflected the industry's positive outlook and increasing demand for high-quality, innovative, and sustainable sourcing solutions. According to estimates, the overall business generated through the exhibition reached nearly ₹2,600 crore - the highest ever recorded in the history of the FAB Show.

Industry leaders from CMAI highlighted that rising disposable incomes, increasing fashion awareness, expanding organised retail, and the rapid growth of e-commerce are creating strong momentum for the Indian apparel sector, particularly across Tier II and Tier III cities. These factors are enabling India to emerge as one of the world's most dynamic and resilient apparel markets.

With its strong focus on innovation, sustainability, technology integration, and collaborative sourcing, FAB Show 2026 has further strengthened its reputation as a future-ready platform driving the growth and transformation of India's textile and apparel industry. The successful conclusion of the event reflects not only the confidence of the domestic market but also India's growing stature as a preferred global sourcing destination for the textile and fashion ecosystem.

# Beverly Hills Polo Club Expands India Story; Drives EBO Expansion with RJ Corp and SIS Roll Out with Shoppers Stop




**Beverly Hills Polo Club - Exclusive Brand Outlet**

Beverly Hills Polo Club has announced a strategic shift in its operating model in India, establishing its own subsidiary to reinforce its long-term commitment to one of its most important global growth markets.

This transition marks a decisive move from a licensing-led structure to a fully owned subsidiary with a franchise-operated platform.

The new model will enable BHPC to exercise greater control over brand positioning, consumer experience, and market execution. It is designed to drive consistency, strengthen brand equity, and accelerate scalable growth across channels.

At the core of this transformation is a multi-partner, multi-channel, and multi-category strategy aimed at enhancing distribution agility, optimizing operational efficiency, and building a future-ready retail ecosystem.

Mr. Ajay Bindroo, Managing Partner, Beverly Hills Polo Club said, “India is not just a growth market, it is a strategic global priority for us. Moving to a franchise model allows us to take mutual ownership of our brand narrative, deepen market engagement, and execute with precision. With a strong partner ecosystem and a clear roadmap, we are confident of building a high-quality, scalable platform that delivers sustained long-term value.”

**Key Strategic Initiatives:**

- BHPC has partnered with RJ Corp to drive the rollout of Exclusive Brand Outlets (EBOs), leveraging their strong retail execution capabilities.
- The brand is strengthening its presence in department store retail through Shoppers Stop, expanding its Shop-in-Shop footprint across key cities.
- A wider multi-brand outlet (MBO) partner network will further extend reach into high-potential emerging cities.

This integrated approach positions BHPC to capture India’s evolving consumption landscape with greater speed, sharper execution, and enhanced control, while building a resilient and premium retail presence across formats.

While retail remains a key driver of expansion in the near term, we see digital as an essential pillar for the future, one that will enable deeper consumer engagement and more direct relationships over time. E-commerce and D2C are important strategic priorities for us, and we are actively working towards strengthening our capabilities in this space.

Mr. Eli Haddad, Founder, Beverly Hills Polo Club said, "India represents one of the most compelling growth markets for the Beverly Hills Polo Club brand. With its scale, evolving consumer landscape, and strong affinity for global lifestyle brands, the opportunity is both immediate and long term. Our India partnership allows us to build the brand in a structured and meaningful way, with the right foundation to scale across key markets while staying true to our heritage and positioning."

Mr. Varun Jaipuria, Director, RJ Corp, said, “Adding Beverly Hills Polo Club to our portfolio marks an exciting new chapter in our retail journey. India's appetite for premium lifestyle brands has never been stronger and Beverly Hills Polo Club resonates deeply with the Indian consumer. With our deep retail expertise, we are committed building a retail footprint where all our consumers connect with the brand's complete portfolio, making BHPC a leader in India’s premium casualwear segment.”

Mr. Kavindra Mishra, Customer Care Associate, Managing Director and CEO, Shoppers Stop, said, “At Shoppers Stop, we are committed to bringing the best of global brands to Indian consumers. Our partnership with BHPC strengthens our premium lifestyle portfolio and allows us to offer customers a compelling brand experience within our stores.”

# bluesign Leads Textile Industry Toward a PFAS-Free Future




Global sustainability solutions provider bluesign is accelerating the textile and apparel industry's transition toward PFAS-free manufacturing as governments across the world tighten regulations on "forever chemicals" used in clothing and performance textiles.

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) have long been used in rainwear, sportswear, outdoor gear, footwear, workwear, and technical textiles because of their ability to provide water, oil, and stain resistance. However, growing scientific evidence linking PFAS exposure to environmental contamination and serious health concerns has triggered major regulatory changes in the United States and Europe.

As of 2026, several U.S. states including California, New York, Maine, Vermont, and Washington have introduced strict PFAS restrictions in textiles, while Europe is also implementing wide-ranging regulations under REACH and POPs frameworks. France and Denmark have already announced major bans affecting consumer textiles and footwear.

Amid this changing regulatory landscape, bluesign has emerged as a leading force in chemical input management and supply chain transparency. The company has completed a decade-long PFAS phase-out strategy, culminating in a full PFAS restriction across all bluesign® APPROVED materials and products from January 2026 onward.

The transition away from PFAS presents significant challenges for textile manufacturers, especially in maintaining water repellency, durability, and product performance. To address this, the industry is increasingly adopting innovative alternatives such as polyurethane-based coatings, silicone repellents, polyacrylates, and plant-based wax technologies.

Leading global brands including Patagonia, Adidas, The North Face, and Jack Wolfskin are already transitioning toward fluorine-free solutions with the support of bluesign's verified chemical management systems.

The industry-wide movement reflects a broader shift from sustainability marketing claims toward evidence-based communication backed by verified data, transparency, and responsible chemistry management. As consumer awareness and regulatory pressure continue to rise, PFAS-free innovation is expected to redefine the future of fashion, technical textiles, and outdoor performance apparel worldwide.

# FESPA Textile 2026 Set to Redefine the Future of Global Textile Printing and Garment Decoration






FESPA is strengthening its global leadership in speciality printing with the launch of Textile 2026, a dedicated international event focused exclusively on printed textiles, garment decoration, sportswear, and interior décor applications. Scheduled to take place from 19–22 May 2026 at Fira de Barcelona, Spain, the inaugural event reflects the growing importance of textile printing technologies and sustainable production solutions in the evolving global apparel and décor industries.

Building on more than 60 years of expertise in screen and digital printing, FESPA has designed Textile 2026 as a comprehensive exhibition and knowledge-sharing platform. The event will run alongside FESPA Global Print Expo, European Sign Expo, Personalisation Experience, WrapFest, and the newly introduced Corrugated exhibition, creating a powerful international networking and business environment for the printing and textile industries.

The exhibition will showcase advanced textile technologies including roll-to-roll machinery, direct-to-garment (DTG) systems, direct-to-fabric (DTF) equipment, transfer printing, dye sublimation, embroidery solutions, workflow software, finishing technologies, textile inks, coatings, and apparel materials. The platform is expected to attract printers, garment manufacturers, designers, brands, and textile specialists seeking innovative and sustainable production solutions.

FESPA has already confirmed participation from several leading global suppliers and technology providers. Prominent exhibitors include Brother, Kornit Digital, Mimaki, Epson, STAHLS', Tajima Europe, ROQ International, Polyprint, KYOCERA, M&R Printing Equipment, Hotronix, Melco International, and many others. These companies will present the latest advancements in print-on-demand manufacturing, digital textile printing, garment decoration, workflow automation, and sustainable textile production systems.

A major highlight of Textile 2026 will be its dedicated conference programme, where industry experts, technology providers, designers, garment manufacturers, and sustainability specialists will discuss emerging trends shaping the future of textile production. Sessions will focus on intelligent production systems, operational efficiency, workflow automation, waste reduction, circular textile models, responsible material selection, and on-demand manufacturing.

Key conference themes will include "The Digital Switch: Textile Technologies and Key Market Insights," "Décor on Demand: Design to Dispatch and the Printed Interior," and "Added Value Apparel: Surface Effects and Embellishment for Garment Decoration." These sessions will provide valuable insights into how digital transformation and sustainability are reshaping fashion, sportswear, interiors, and promotional textile applications worldwide.

FESPA officials have emphasized that Textile 2026 is designed to support businesses navigating changing market dynamics while embracing environmentally responsible manufacturing practices.

# Raysileco Drives Next Phase of Growth Through Global Brand Association and Market Expansion




**Mr. Ajit Rajagopalan, CEO, Viscose Filament Yarn Business & Mr. Shailendra Pandey, Joint President Marketing, Viscose Filament Yarn Business.**

Building on the successful launch of Raysileco at Yarn Expo Surat 2025, Grasim Industries' Viscose Filament Yarn (VFY) business continues to strengthen its leadership. Within nine months of its introduction across domestic and global markets, Raysileco has achieved strong market adoption, driven by rising global demand for transparency and responsible sourcing.

Raysileco participated at the recent 19th edition of Fibers & Yarns Expo 2026 in Mumbai, highlighting its growing market presence through strategic partnerships and business momentum, which received positive appreciation from the textile fraternity.

Speaking on this progress, Mr. Ajit Rajagopalan, CEO, Viscose Filament Yarn business, said: "Raysileco reflects our strategic focus on advancing traceability across the textile value chain. As global expectations shift towards greater transparency, our growing associations with global brands in the value chain across Europe and the USA validate our direction and reinforce our position as a trusted partner for responsible yarn solutions."

He further added: "These engagements are enabling access to premium markets and accelerating our integration into preferred supplier networks. As a result, we are seeing more consistent demand and building towards sustainability and traceability in the value chain, which is where we see the future of industry."

Amid rising regulatory focus, Raysileco with key certifications including Canopy Green Shirt, EU BREF, ZDHC, Higg Index, and LCA-ensuring compliance with evolving standards and driving transparency and operational excellence across the value chain, has built strong integrations with garment exporters, fabric manufacturers and processors, creating a demand-led ecosystem aligned with global brand requirements.

Mr. Shailendra Pandey, Joint President Marketing, Viscose Filament Yarn business, informed "With a combination of physical (molecular tracer) and digital traceability, Raysileco offers clear differentiation over conventional VFY and competing offerings, creating a strong edge in the marketplace and enabling a future-ready business model."

Raysil remains the only player globally offering three distinct technologies in Viscose Filament Yarn: Pot Spun Yarn (PSY), Continuous Spun Yarn (CSY), and Spool Spun Yarn (SSY). With the launch of Raysileco, Grasim's Cellulosic Fashion Yarn business is setting a new benchmark in transparency and responsible manufacturing in the global fashion landscape.

# Linen Club's Strategic Coup: Bridging Demographics with the First Joint Brand Appearance by Saif and Ibrahim Ali Khan




Linen Club, the premium linen fabric & linen apparel brand from the House of the Aditya Birla Group, has announced Saif Ali Khan and Ibrahim Ali Khan as their brand ambassadors. In a landmark first, the iconic father-son duo comes together for their first-ever joint brand collaboration, a pairing as rare and refined as the pure linen fabrics they represent. This strategic coup marks a significant milestone in Linen Club's brand journey, one that builds on decades of heritage and craftsmanship while boldly stepping into a new chapter of growth with the new brand positioning 'Passion for Pure'.

The 'Passion for Pure' campaign is built on a dual-consumer strategy that reflects the evolving preferences of today's audience, with linen clothing increasingly embraced across age groups and occasions. Saif Ali Khan, a man who wears linen in real life as naturally as he carries his legacy, embodies the refined, effortless sophistication of a true connoisseur. He represents modern-day royalty: heritage worn stylishly and, and class expressed effortlessly. Ibrahim Ali Khan, the younger Khan making his own mark, brings a fresh, dynamic perspective, proving that linen clothing is desired by younger audiences equally, with rising affluence levels and aspirational living. Together, they make the case that linen belongs to every generation, every wardrobe, every moment of passionate men seeking a distinctive fashion statement.

At the heart of this collaboration is a cinematic brand film that brings the 'Passion for Pure' philosophy of brand Linen Club to life. Drawing a parallel between the transformation of flax into linen and the shaping of individual identity through passion lived with purity, the film finds its emotional core in the real father-son bond between Saif and Ibrahim. The film unfolds like a candid moment captured between father and son wherein the father imparts life lessons with the spirit of a mentor and a friend invested in his son's journey, to show him that when life is lived with passion to discover its every shade, and the belief to stitch your own path, the true self comes to the fore, making everything in life effortless, much like linen fabric.

Commenting on the association, Mr. Kapil Agrawal, Business Head – Textiles, Acrylic Fibre & Overseas Spinning, said, "Linen Club has earned its leadership in the premium linen category through an unrelenting commitment to product excellence, craft integrity, and a deep reverence for the fabric itself. The association with Saif and Ibrahim Ali Khan is a statement of intent. Linen Club from the house of Aditya Birla Group is India's most trusted name in premium linen, and this campaign reflects our belief that the best stories, like the best fabrics, are built over time."

Adding to this, Mr. Jasvinder Singh Kataria, CEO – Domestic Textiles, Grasim Industries Limited, said, "Our new brand positioning 'Passion for Pure' takes forward our passionate DNA with a new dimension of purity, celebrating our craftsmanship, our integrity and our truth, to resonate deeper with the discerning linen consumer and reasserts our leadership in a rapidly evolving competitive landscape. Saif and Ibrahim Ali Khan are not just brand ambassadors; they are the embodiment of what Linen Club represents, a legacy that is classic, aspirational, and unmistakably Indian."

With this campaign, Linen Club reinforces its leadership in the Indian premium linen market, a brand with deep roots and a sharp, contemporary edge. 'Passion for Pure' is more than a tagline; it is a declaration of the brand's belief that true style is never accidental. It is earned, refined, and passed on, much like linen itself.

# Century Enka Limited Unveils NUENYL – India's First Recycled Nylon Yarn at Fibers & Yarns Exhibition 2026



**Mr. Suresh Sodani,**
Managing Director & CEO,
Century Enka Limited

Mumbai, India – Marking a significant milestone in India's textile innovation journey, Century Enka Limited proudly announced the launch of NUENYL, India's first recycled nylon yarn, at the prestigious Fibers & Yarns Exhibition 2026 (Tecoya).

The unveiling of NUENYL represents a bold step forward in redefining sustainability within the textile industry, reinforcing Century Enka's commitment to innovation, circularity, and responsible manufacturing.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Suresh Sodani, Managing Director & CEO, Century Enka Limited, stated: "NUENYL is not just a product innovation, it is a strategic shift towards the future of textiles. As global demand accelerates for sustainable alternatives, we are proud to introduce India's first recycled nylon yarn that aligns with evolving environmental standards while delivering uncompromised performance and quality. This launch reinforces our vision to lead the transition towards a circular textile economy."



Inaugration

The product received strong interest and appreciation from industry stakeholders, brands, and value chain partners at the exhibition, highlighting the growing demand for environmentally responsible materials.

Mr. Sanjay Mehrotra, Joint President, Head – Sales & Marketing, Textiles, added "With NUENYL, we are addressing a critical gap in the market. Today, brands are actively seeking recycled solutions that are credible, scalable, and deliver consistent quality and high performance. NUENYL delivers on all these expectations - seamlessly combining sustainability with reliability-making it a future-ready choice for both domestic and global customers.

Produced using advanced chemical recycling technology, NUENYL offers quality that is very close to virgin material, without compromising on performance. This makes it ideally suited for high-end functional wear and athleisure applications, where durability, consistency, and comfort are essential.

This launch marks just the beginning of a larger transformation journey for us as we continue to innovate and drive meaningful change in sustainable textiles".

A Step towards Circular Fashion

NUENYL is designed to support the textile industry's transition towards circularity and reduced environmental impact, offering:

- Reduced dependence on virgin raw materials
- Lower environmental footprint
- Alignment with global sustainability goals and compliance standards
- High-quality performance suitable for diverse textile applications

The launch, positions Century Enka Limited at the forefront of sustainable yarn innovation in India, strengthening its role as a trusted partner for brands committed to responsible sourcing.

Industry Impact & Future Outlook

As regulatory pressures and consumer awareness around sustainability continue to rise globally, NUENYL is expected to play a pivotal role in enabling brands to meet their ESG commitments and sustainability targets.

The successful showcase at Fibers & Yarns Exhibition 2026 underscores the industry's readiness to embrace next-generation materials that balance performance, scalability, and sustainability.



Group PHOTO

# The New Fabric Revolution: Rise of MMF and Smart Blended Textiles



**Spokesperson: Mr. Suketu Shah, CEO, Vishal Fabrics Ltd.,**

**With over four decades of transformative leadership in the textile and denim industry, Shri Suketu Shah takes charge as the Chief Executive Officer of Vishal Fabrics Ltd. A visionary leader known for driving innovation, operational excellence, and sustainable growth, his appointment marks a new chapter of progress and global expansion for the company. Backed by rich experience across leading textile organizations, Shri Shah is set to strengthen Vishal Fabrics' strategic vision and reinforce its position in the evolving denim and textile landscape**

1. India's textile industry is witnessing a clear shift towards MMF and blended textiles. From your perspective, what are the key demand-side and supply-side drivers accelerating this transition?

   The textile industry is undergoing a clear shift, driven by evolving consumer expectations. This transition is most visible in the evolution of denim itself. Traditionally cotton-led, denim is now being re-engineered with blends to meet modern expectations of comfort, flexibility, and durability. From a demand perspective, consumers today expect denim to deliver stretch, a lightweight feel, and all-day comfort. On the supply side, factors such as cotton price volatility and the growing need for efficient, performance-driven fabrics are accelerating the shift towards cotton-based blends in denim manufacturing.

2. How do you see the cotton vs MMF balance evolving over the next 5–10 years?

   Over the next 5–10 years, we anticipate a more integrated fibre ecosystem, with a complementary relationship between cotton and Man-Made Fibres (MMF) continuing to evolve. In the denim segment, cotton will remain essential for its authenticity and comfort, while MMF will play a key role in enhancing performance, durability, and flexibility. The future of denim lies in thoughtfully engineered blends that combine the best of both worlds.

3. With MMF and blended textiles now contributing over 52% of the market, what role do blended fabrics play in addressing evolving consumer expectations?

   With MMF and blended textiles now accounting for over 52% of the market, they play a critical role in addressing evolving consumer expectations by bridging functional performance, affordability, and aesthetic versatility. These blends are transforming denim into a multi-functional wardrobe essential, offering enhanced comfort, improved shape retention, and greater adaptability to modern lifestyle needs.

4. What innovations in fibre blends are gaining traction globally, and how is VFL adapting to these trends?

   Globally, denim innovation is being driven by advanced fibre blends, including recycled polyester, cellulosic fibres such as modal and Tencel, and high-performance stretch yarns. These developments are enabling brands to create denim that is both sustainable and high-performing.

   At Vishal Fabrics, we stay aligned with evolving global trends through a strong focus on denim product development and innovation. The

company offers a wide range of denim fabrics, including cotton-based blends such as cotton-poly, cotton spandex, and cotton modal, with a clear emphasis on stretch denim to meet changing consumer preferences.

With a dedicated product development team focused on creating new denim fabrics aligned with market trends, VFL continues to expand its capabilities across a range of fabric weights, blends, and finishes, ensuring relevance in both domestic and global markets.

5. Denim has traditionally been cotton-centric. How is the shift towards blends and performance fabrics redefining denim products today?

   The traditional, cotton-centric nature of denim is being redefined by a shift toward blends and performance fabrics that prioritise comfort, functionality, and sustainability. Modern denim is now "engineered," using materials like elastane, polyester, and regenerated fibres to create garments that are lighter, more flexible, and better suited to active, everyday use. This shift is expanding denim's relevance beyond casual wear into workwear, travel wear, and daily fashion, making it a more versatile category driven by innovation.

6. What are the key trends shaping the future of denim particularly in terms of sustainability, comfort, and functionality?

   The future of the denim industry is being shaped by a "dual-track" strategy that merges authentic heritage aesthetics with high-tech innovation, with a strong focus on sustainability, advanced comfort, and purposeful functionality. The industry is moving eco-friendly practices from a premium offering to a baseline requirement, driven by rising demand for responsible fashion. Sustainable practices such as responsible fibre sourcing and efficient processing are becoming increasingly prominent.

   At the same time, consumers are gravitating towards stretch denim, softer, lightweight denims to enhance comfort. Functionality is also gaining importance, with denim designed for multi-seasonal use and active lifestyles.

7. Vishal Fabrics has built a strong scale with over 100 million meters of annual capacity. How critical is scale in remaining competitive in today's textile landscape?

   In today's landscape, building scale is critically important to enable consistent quality, efficiency, and reliability, especially in denim manufacturing. Scale also supports continuous innovation in denim blends and finishes, allowing us to respond quickly to market trends while maintaining cost competitiveness. It is critical for tapping global markets, where demand requires not only high-quality products but also consistent supply chain capabilities.

8. What operational or technological upgrades are essential for Indian manufacturers to stay globally relevant?

   As the industry is rapidly changing, manufacturers must adopt advanced technologies and sustainable processes in manufacturing. Investments in modern dyeing, finishing, and processing technologies are helping improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

   Additionally, automation and digitalisation are enabling better quality control and faster turnaround times. These upgrades are essential for producing globally competitive denim fabrics at scale.

9. How is VFL enhancing value addition in its product portfolio to meet both domestic and export market requirements?

   Vishal Fabrics is enhancing value in its product portfolio through a strategic focus on premiumisation, sustainable production, and increased product customisation to meet the high standards of both domestic and export markets.

   This allows us to cater to a wide range of customer requirements across domestic and export markets, while moving up the value chain with differentiated, high-quality denim products.

10. Could you elaborate on your approach to design, R&D, and product differentiation?

    Vishal Fabrics focuses on innovation-driven sustainability, premiumisation, and high-tech manufacturing to meet evolving global denim trends.

    Approach to Design and Product Development:-

- Specialised Development Team: VFL has a dedicated product development team comprising specialists for different denim manufacturing segments. They work on designing new fabrics based on market trends and client input.
- Integrated Design Infrastructure: The company features an in-house laundry facility and 25 stitching machines, allowing for rapid sampling, specialised washes, and tailored finishes.
- Wider Width Innovations: VFL is a pioneer in

producing wider-width fabrics, which helps clients improve utilisation and reduce wastage in garment manufacturing.

- Trend-Focused Collections: They develop collections like "Innova Blues" (innovative yarns) and "Revival Blues" (deep ocean colours) that cater to varied fashion preferences.

11. What steps should Indian textile players take to strengthen their positioning in global markets, especially against competitors like China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh?

    India has a strong foundation in manufacturing, and there is a significant opportunity to further strengthen its global positioning. Manufacturers must focus on achieving economies of scale, vertical integration, and rapid technological adoption. Key strategies include investing in MMF and technical textiles through the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, improving sustainability through eco-friendly practices, enhancing speed-to-market with better logistics, and leveraging trade pacts to boost cost competitiveness.

12. How important are FTAs, compliance standards, and sustainability certifications in driving export growth?

    Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), compliance standards, and sustainability certifications play a critical role in driving export growth, acting together to lower trade barriers, improve market access, and enhance product credibility in the global market. Strong adherence to environmental and social standards is helping Indian denim manufacturers build long-term partnerships with international brands.

13. How is the shift towards MMF and blended fabrics aligning with sustainability goals?

    The shift towards Man-Made Fibres and blended fabrics is aligning with sustainability goals primarily by enhancing product durability, reducing reliance on natural resources like water and land, and enabling the integration of recycled materials. While traditionally viewed as less sustainable, modern MMF production and blending techniques now allow for lower-impact manufacturing, improved circularity, and higher performance, addressing both environmental goals and consumer demand for durable products. Blended denim also supports longer product life cycles and reduced environmental impact, aligning well with the industry's sustainability goals.

14. What is your outlook for the Indian textile industry over the next decade, particularly in terms of innovation, investments, and global positioning?

    In the coming years, the textile industry is projected to grow to over $350 billion by 2030, with exports targeted to reach $100 billion. Over the next decade, the industry will shift from commodity to high-value goods, focusing on sustainable production, smart manufacturing, and technical textiles to lead global supply chains. Increasing investments in innovation, sustainability, and blended fabrics are strengthening India's global positioning. We see strong potential for India to emerge as a leading hub for advanced and value-added denim solutions, supported by scale, capability, and a growing focus on future-ready manufacturing.

# India's Textile Renaissance Gains Global Momentum

India's textile and apparel industry is entering one of the most transformative phases in its history. Backed by strategic Free Trade Agreements, rising global demand, and mega-scale infrastructure investments, the sector is rapidly evolving into a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse. Leading companies are aggressively expanding exports, strengthening international sourcing networks, and investing in advanced manufacturing capabilities to capture emerging opportunities worldwide.

The development of PM MITRA Mega Textile Parks marks a defining milestone in this journey. Massive investments, integrated supply chains, and employment generation are creating a strong foundation for sustainable industrial growth. At the same time, India's 5F vision — Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign — is reinforcing the nation's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and value-added production.

As global buyers increasingly look toward India for reliability, scale, and quality, the country is steadily positioning itself as a future-ready textile leader on the world stage — powered by ambition, resilience, and visionary growth.

# 5th Hyderabad Retail Summit by RAI Discusses the Next Phase of Retail Growth




The Retailers Association of India (RAI) hosted the fifth edition of the Hyderabad Retail Summit (HRS) on April 29, 2026, at Trident, Hyderabad. The summit serves as a content-driven platform that brings together industry stakeholders across categories to learn, connect, and engage in meaningful discussions on key retail trends and challenges in the region. Built on RAI's cornerstone of 'Connect - Converse - Collaborate - Catalyse', the platform aims to help retailers identify the right partners and opportunities to take their businesses to the next level.

Speaking about the developments in the retail industry, **Kumar Rajagopalan, Executive Director and CEO, Retailers Association of India (RAI),** said, "Telangana is one of the few states where retail policy and retail reality are actually aligned. The state has made it easier to open stores, hire, and invest, and the market is responding. Hyderabad has become a national benchmark for how a city can build a modern retail ecosystem. What we are seeing here –the convergence of physical expansion, digital adoption, and rising consumer aspiration - is the template other cities will follow. The retailers who will lead the next decade are those who treat technology not as a cost centre, but as the engine of customer relationships."

Highlights of the **Hyderabad Retail Summit (HRS) 2026** were the in-depth panel discussions on topics such as The Regional Champion's Advantage: Building Brands That Outlast Trends, Quick Commerce, Connected Commerce: Where Does the Store Fit Now? and The Expansion Playbook: What Works Beyond the Metros.

Sharing valuable insights on these panels were some prominent faces of the retail industry in the region, namely - P Jayakumar, CEO, Apollo Pharmacy; Kiran Shinde, CEO, PMJ Jewels; Avnish Kumar, Managing Director, Neeru's; Priyanka Vemuluri, Founder & CEO, Goyaz Silver Jewellery; Ashim Ashok Patil, MD & CEO, i-TEK RFID; Kavitha Mantha, Founding Partner, Green Organics & Akshara Ananda among others.

**Avnish Kumar, Managing Director, Neeru's | Chairman, RAI Hyderabad Chapter,** speaking on the retail landscape in Hyderabad, said, "The Hyderabad consumer has changed faster than most retailers anticipated. Disposable incomes are up, aspirations are higher, and people are no longer willing to compromise on experience. But here is what is often missed — this is not just a Hyderabad phenomenon. What is happening in this city is a preview of what will happen in Warangal, Nizamabad, and Karimnagar in the next five years. Regional retailers who build the right capabilities today - in product, in experience, in technology - will have a

significant head start when those markets mature. The window to build that advantage is right now."

**P Jayakumar, CEO Apollo Pharmacy, Vice Chairman, Hyderabad** Retail Council, said, “As pharmacy retail has evolved into an omni-channel ecosystem, the difference between a transaction and a relationship comes down to context - a one-time purchase is a sale, but understanding a customer’s needs over time is a relationship. This shift from transactional to relational engagement, powered by data, is defining this decade across industries.

With a vast network serving millions of users, the omni-channel platform enables high-frequency interactions across the healthcare retail ecosystem - from medicine deliveries and doctor consultations to diagnostic bookings at scale - creating a true continuum of care. As a single destination for all health needs, it seamlessly brings everything together in one place.




These touchpoints build a dynamic, evolving view of the consumer, enabling a shift from fulfilling needs to anticipating them - from a service people use, to a health partner that truly knows them.”

**Priyanka Vemuluri, Founder & CEO, Goyaz Silver Jewellery,** added, "Building a regional brand today is genuinely harder and genuinely more exciting than it has ever been. Harder, because consumers are better informed and have more choices than ever. More exciting, because a small brand with the right product and the right use of digital tools can build a loyal customer base at a speed that simply was not possible ten years ago. What I would tell any regional retailer is this: do not wait to be big before you invest in understanding your customer. The data you collect in your first thousand transactions is more valuable than any consultant's report. Start with that, and build from there."

**Sridevi Jasti, Founder, Vibrant Living | Holistic Nutritionist & Wellness Coach,** expressed, "Wellness retail in India has stopped being a niche - it is now a primary category. But the consumers driving that growth are not buying products; they are buying outcomes. They want a brand that understands their health goals, not just their purchase history. Regional wellness retailers actually have an edge here - you know your customer's context in a way no national chain can replicate. The ones who combine that closeness with smart use of data and content will build loyalty that is very hard to compete with."

**Aishwarya Gupta, Founder, Wondr Diamonds,** said, "There is a perception that fine jewellery retail is about trust built over generations and that technology is somehow at odds with that. The opposite is true. The new consumer - and increasingly, this means younger buyers in Tier 1 cities who are the growth engine of the category - wants transparency, personalisation, and a seamless experience across digital and physical touchpoints. The brands that will win in jewellery retail are not the oldest or the largest; they are the ones that combine authentic craftsmanship with the kind of customer intelligence that modern technology makes possible. That is not a threat to heritage - it shows heritage stays relevant."

**Prasad Chalavadi, Founder & Managing Director, Kalamandir,** said, “The Hyderabad consumer is more discerning than ever, but they haven’t abandoned their roots if anything, their pride in regional identity is stronger. What has changed is their expectation of the experience around it. They want the warmth and authenticity of a brand that understands their culture, delivered with the convenience and personalisation they get from any world-class retailer. That is the challenge and the opportunity for regional fashion retail today. The brands that will endure are those that use data and technology not to become generic, but to become more precisely themselves - sharper on product, smarter on customer engagement, and deeper in community trust.” HRS 2026 is presented by Ratnadeep Retail and Powered by National Mart. Platinum Partners included Neeru’s Indian Ethnic and Vara Mahalakshmi; Gold Partners included PMJ Jeweller; Associate Partners include Apollo Pharmacy, Apollo 24/7, Café Niloufer; Urban Casa, Newland AIDC, and 2CQR; i-TEKRFID as RFID Partner; Keka as HR Tech Partner Event Partners include Radiwalla.in, Kumar (shirts and trousers), Sen Security Solutions; TRRAIN as Charity Partner, STOrai as the Magazine Partner, Digital Magazine Partner - Replenish and RAI Global Linker as Networking Partner.

# Americhem Launches nDryve™: PFAS-Free In-Melt Technology Platform for Functional Fibers

Americhem, Inc., a global polymer solutions provider, today announced the launch of nDryve™, a PFAS-free, in-melt surface-modifying technology platform designed to deliver durable multi-fluid repellency against alcohol and other low-surface-energy fluids in fiber systems.

As global regulations accelerate the phase-out of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), manufacturers are under increasing pressure to maintain barrier performance without fluorinated chemistries. nDryve™ was developed to address this shift, offering a PFAS-free, in-melt alternative to conventional surface applied treatments.

**Engineered for Performance Without PFAS**

Often referred to as "forever chemicals," PFAS have come under heightened regulatory scrutiny due to their persistence and potential environmental and health impacts. nDryve™ integrates directly into the polymer during melt processing, embedding surface-modifying functionality within the fiber matrix rather than relying on removable finishes.

By engineering performance at the material level, the technology:

- Reduces wash-off risk
- Eliminates reliance on secondary finishing steps
- Supports consistent performance across the product lifecycle
- The result is durable multi-fluid repellency and stain resistance engineered in the fiber structure.

"Evolving global PFAS regulations are reshaping how manufacturers evaluate barrier and surface performance technologies," said Matt Miklos, Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Marketing at Americhem. "nDryve™ provides a PFAS-free pathway that aligns performance with emerging regulatory expectations."

**Designed for High-Performance Fiber Applications**

nDryve™ is implemented through application-specific formulations optimized for polyolefin and engineering fiber systems, including PP, PET and PA6. It is suited for demanding applications such as medical fibers, apparel, face masks, hygiene materials, textiles, carpet and industrial protective fabrics - where durability, safety and regulatory longevity are critical.



By integrating functionality during melt processing, manufacturers can streamline production while reducing dependence on post-treatment chemistries.

The industry is moving toward integrated, material-level performance solutions," Miklos added. "With nDryve™, we support that transition by combining functional performance with PFAS-free design."

**"nDryve™ and the Shift to Integrated Performance Engineering"**

Manik Pavan K. Maheswaram, Ph.D., MBA, is Global Market Manager – Fibers at Americhem, where he brings more than a decade of experience across analytical R&D, product development, and global market strategy. His work bridges polymer chemistry and commercial application, supporting sustainable innovation in fibers and nonwovens. Pavan's expertise includes bio-based formulations, PFAS-free systems, antimicrobial technologies, color masterbatches, and functional additives. He partners closely with manufacturers worldwide to deliver high-performance fiber solutions that align performance, regulatory, and sustainability demands. Pavan is passionate about advancing polymer science to support the industry's transition toward a more circular future. He can be reached at MMaheswaram@americhem.com.



**1) With global regulatory pressure intensifying on PFAS, how do you see the transition toward PFAS-free technologies reshaping the competitive landscape of technical textiles and nonwovens?**

The competitive landscape is shifting from chemistry

access to design capability. Historically, PFAS could compensate for performance limitations; but as regulations tighten, that option is disappearing. Companies that can engineer durability, processability, and compliance into the material itself will have a clear advantage. As customer scrutiny increases, we expect the leadership to be those that offer PFAS-free performance without forcing major tradeoffs in manufacturing or end-use function.

**2) How does nDryve™ position Americhem strategically in this evolving regulatory and sustainability-driven market?**

nDryve™ positions Americhem at the intersection of regulatory readiness and material innovation. It reflects our view that PFAS replacement is not a simple drop-in substitution problem; but a design challenge that requires application-specific, in-melt design strategies that align performance with evolving compliance expectations. Strategically, it extends Americhem's additive expertise into a high-priority area where customers need both technical performance and regulatory confidence.

**3) What are the key market segments medical, hygiene, industrial textiles, etc. - where you foresee the fastest adoption of in-melt technologies like nDryve™?**

The fastest adoption in applications where fluid interaction is critical and regulatory expectations are rising simultaneously. Medical and hygiene are obvious early movers because barrier performance, safety, and compliance are all tightly linked. We are also seeing strong momentum in industrial, technical textile, carpet, and turf-related fiber systems where durability, repeated exposure, and processing simplicity are critical.

**4) From a growth standpoint, how important is material-integrated functionality compared to traditional surface treatments in driving long-term value for manufacturers?**

Material-integrated functionality is becoming increasingly important because it changes the value equation. Embedding performance at the material level can reduce dependence on secondary finishing steps, improve consistency across runs, and support more durable performance through use and cleaning. Over time, this creates value not just through improved products, but also through simpler manufacturing and lower risk of rework or reformulation.

**5) How is Americhem aligning its innovation roadmap with global sustainability mandates and circular economy principles?**

Our innovation roadmap is increasingly focused on designing performance with the full lifecycle in mind. That means reducing dependence on persistent chemistries where possible, engineering function directly into the polymer, and improving compatibility with existing processing infrastructure. We are also aligning innovation with the reality that sustainability is no longer separate from performance or compliance; it is now integral to how materials are selected, qualified and scaled globally.

**6) What role do collaborations with OEMs, fiber producers, and brands play in accelerating the adoption of PFAS-free solutions?**

Collaboration is essential. PFAS-free adoption moves fastest when the value chain engages early—especially because performance requirements, process windows, and regulatory expectations can vary significantly by application. The most successful projects are typically collaborative efforts where the material suppliers, fiber producers, converters, and brand or OEM align on performance targets and validation strategies from the start.

**7) Are there specific geographic markets - Europe, North America, Asia - where regulatory changes are creating stronger demand for solutions like nDryve™?**

Europe remains the strongest regulatory signal because of the breadth of the PFAS restriction discussion under REACH. North America is also a major driver, particularly as EPA reporting requirements and state-level actions increase compliance complexity. In Asia, the landscape is more varied, but demand is growing there as export-oriented manufacturers prepare to meet customer requirements and global market access expectations.

**8) How do you assess the cost-performance balance of in-melt technologies versus conventional finishing methods?**

The more meaningful comparison is not just formulation cost, but total system value. While in-melt technologies may be evaluated differently up front, they can reduce downstream finishing steps, lower chemical handling, and improve repeatability at scale. For many manufacturers, the cost-performance conversation increasingly includes durability, operational simplicity, and regulatory longevity, not just the initial treatment cost.

**9) What are the key barriers to adoption for PFAS-free alternatives, and how is Americhem addressing them?**

The most common barriers are usually performance expectations, process compatibility, and the assumption

that PFAS-free should behave identically to legacy chemistry in every application. Americhem addresses this through application-specific formulation, fiber-level testing, and early development collaboration. The goal is not to oversimplify the transition, but to make it technically credible, scalable and reliable.

**10) Looking ahead, how do you envision the future of functional fibers in a PFAS-free world over the next 5–10 years?**

Functional fibers will become more application-specific, integrated, and performance-driven at the material level. The industry will move away from relying on a single legacy chemistry to solve multiple problems and toward tailored design strategies for different polymer type, fluid interaction, and end-use demands. In that environment, the companies that can engineer durable performance without fluorinated chemistry will be best positioned to lead.

# CMAI & SU.RE ECO-STITCH Sustainability Conclave Drives Textile & Apparel Industry's Shift from Intent to Action




The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), in collaboration with SU.RE, successfully hosted the first edition of the ECO-STITCH Sustainability Conclave on April 3, 2026, at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, alongside FAB Show 2026.

The conclave was inaugurated by Smt. Vrunda Desai, Textile Commissioner – Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. Speaking at the inauguration, she expressed, "I am really very happy that we have a day -long conclave, where all industry leaders and stakeholders would be putting in ideas of how to make strides for a more sustainable and ecological environment and how to make India more Atmanirbhar. Internationally – circularity and sustainability are the buzzwords and if we have to make good use of the FTAs and promote our exports, we will have to integrate sustainability as a core business strategy."

The by-invitation conclave brought together over 250+ key decision makers from the textile and apparel value chain, including leading brands, manufacturers, exporters, policymakers, international buying houses, Startups and Innovators. ECO-STITCH Sustainability Conclave was supported by Global Alliance For Textile Sustainability Council (GATS), Brands & Sourcing Leaders Association, and UNIDO. The event marked a significant step forward in advancing industry-wide alignment on embedding sustainability into core business strategies.

# Groz-Beckert: Driving Precision and Innovation Across the Textile Value Chain

In an era where efficiency, sustainability and performance define competitiveness in the global textile industry, Groz-Beckert stands out as a cornerstone of technological excellence. As a global leader in industrial machine needles, precision components, fine tools and systems for textile production and joining, the company has built a formidable presence across more than 150 countries.

What truly distinguishes Groz-Beckert is its comprehensive coverage of the textile production spectrum – spanning knitting, weaving, nonwovens, tufting, spinning and sewing. Each of these product areas is not only supported by decades of expertise but continually enhanced through innovation, ensuring relevance in a rapidly evolving industry.

**Knitting: Precision meets energy efficiency**

With more than 160 years of expertise and a portfolio exceeding 50,000 products, Groz-Beckert's Knitting product area remains a benchmark for reliability and innovation. Its offerings support a wide range of machines, including circular and flat knitting machines as well as machines for the legwear and warp knitting sectors, complemented by technical consultation and testing services.

A standout innovation is the LCmax™ needle, designed for circular knitting applications. Its wave-shaped shank geometry reduces friction and energy consumption while enhancing machine efficiency. This innovation aligns with manufacturers' growing focus on lowering energy costs and improving sustainability without compromising output.

**Weaving: Total solutions for complex requirements**

With its Weaving product area, Groz-Beckert positions itself as a holistic solutions provider rather than a component supplier. From heald frames, healds, drop wires, warp stop motions and products for leno weaving to sophisticated preparation systems, the company supports the entire value chain – enabling reduced downtime, improved flexibility and consistent quality.

Recent innovations include high-performance reeds portfolio designed to support both conventional and technical textile applications, including demanding fabrics with high mesh counts in metallic and synthetic materials. Additionally, the KnotMaster tying machine enhances efficiency during warp changes, significantly reducing idle time and boosting productivity in modern weaving mills.

**Nonwovens: Driving performance across diverse industrial applications**

The nonwovens segment highlights Groz-Beckert's ability to serve both traditional textile and highly specialized industrial markets, including automotive, hygiene, and medical sectors. Its product range covers card clothing, felting and structuring needles as well as jet strips and is supported by services such as the wire mounting service, application advice and customer projects.

Among its notable innovations is the Litespeed™ felting needle, engineered to reduce insertion and removal time while extending needle board life and minimizing bending risks.

**Tufting: Integrated systems for high-performance surfaces**

With over two decades of expertise, Groz-Beckert's Tufting division addresses the growing demand for durable textile surfaces, from carpets and bath mats to artificial turf for sports and landscaping. Its product range encompasses tufting knives and needles as well as loopers and reed finger modules, which can be purchased as individual parts, as modules or as a perfectly integrated complete system to produce high-quality textile surfaces. The Gauge Part System exemplifies this integrated approach, ensuring precision alignment and consistent quality across all components.

**Spinning Components: Efficiency at the fiber stage**

At the beginning of the textile value chain, Groz-Beckert's Spinning Components division delivers advanced solutions for the carding process. Its comprehensive range includes metallic card clothing for every stage, from the blowroom to the revolving flat card, as well as revolving tops, stationary flats and cleaning fillets supporting optimal fiber processing. An important innovation here is the introduction of a maintenance-free cylinder wire – CMF, designed for extended service life and reduced operational costs. By minimizing maintenance requirements while maintaining consistent quality, this development directly addresses the industry's demand for higher productivity and cost efficiency.

**Sewing: Digitalization and Performance Enhancement**

The Sewing segment underscores Groz-Beckert's



commitment to both product excellence and digital transformation. With around 2,500 needle variants, the company caters to applications ranging from apparel to automotive interiors.

Special application needles SAN™ 10 and SAN™ 10 XS stand out for the gentle processing of finest fabrics. Equally transformative is INH 2.0 (Ideal Needle Handling), a fully digital quality management system that enables end-to-end lifecycle tracking of sewing needles and improves transparency, compliance and operational control.

**A Partner for the Future**

Across all product areas, Groz-Beckert's strategy is clear: combine precision engineering with digital innovation and customer-centric services. Whether through energy-efficient knitting needles, innovative nonwoven solutions or digitally integrated sewing management systems, the company continually pushes the boundaries of what textile production can achieve.

In a highly competitive global landscape, where manufacturers face pressure to optimize costs, improve quality and adopt sustainable practices, Groz-Beckert emerges not just as a supplier, but as a strategic partner. Its holistic approach – spanning the entire textile value chain – ensures that innovation is not isolated but interconnected, creating lasting value for the industry.

# Sorona® by CovationBio: Where Performance Meets Sustainability




**Meeting with Sorona® Fibers Team, CovationBio at Fibers & Yarn Expo, Mumbai**
**An Exclusive Interview on Sustainability, Stretchability & the Future of Smart Fibers in India**

The Fibers & Yarn Expo,Mumbai emerged as a dynamic convergence point for innovation, sustainability, and next-generation textile materials. Among the standout highlights was the presence of the Sorona® fibers team from CovationBio, showcasing a compelling vision for the future of performance textiles rooted in bio-based science.

In an engaging and insightful interaction, Times International connected with the Sorona® team to explore how this revolutionary fiber is reshaping global textile narratives - especially within the rapidly evolving Indian market.

**Interview: Sorona® Fibers - The Future of Smart & Sustainable Textiles**

**Q1. Could you introduce Sorona® fibers and what makes them unique?**

**Sorona® Team:**

Sorona® is a next-generation biobased polymer fiber, partially derived from renewable plant-based ingredients. What truly distinguishes Sorona® is its ability to combine performance, sustainability, and versatility - something the industry has long sought but rarely achieved in one material.

Unlike conventional synthetic fibers, Sorona® delivers inherent stretch without elastane, exceptional softness, and long-lasting shape retention, making it ideal across apparel categories from activewear to formal wear.

**Q2. Sustainability is a major focus today. How does Sorona® contribute to this?**

**Sorona® Team:**

Sustainability is at the core of Sorona®. The fiber is produced using bio-based PDO (1,3-propanediol), significantly reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Compared to conventional nylon, Sorona®:

- Uses less energy in production
- Emits lower greenhouse gases
- Incorporates renewable raw materials

Additionally, its durability extends garment life cycles, contributing to a circular and responsible textile ecosystem.

**Q3. Stretchability without elastane sounds transformative. How does it work?**

**Sorona® Team:**

That's one of our most exciting innovations. Sorona® has a molecular spring-like structure, which provides natural stretch and recovery without the need for elastane.

This means:

- Improved comfort and mobility
- Better fabric recyclability (since elastane complicates recycling)
- Enhanced shape retention over time

It's a game-changer, especially for brands looking to move toward monomaterial sustainability solutions.

**Q4. How do you position Sorona® as a "fully sustainable" fiber?**

**Sorona® Team:**

While "fully sustainable" is an evolving benchmark, Sorona® comes remarkably close by addressing multiple sustainability pillars:

- Bio-based content
- Reduced carbon footprint
- Durability and longevity
- Compatibility with eco-friendly dyeing processes

Moreover, it aligns well with global sustainability certifications and brand commitments toward ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) goals.

**Q5. What opportunities do you see for Sorona® in the Indian textile market?**

**Sorona® Team:**

India is an incredibly strategic market for us. The country is:

- A global textile manufacturing hub
- Rapidly adopting sustainable practices
- Home to innovative mills and forward-thinking brands

We see strong potential in:

- Activewear & athleisure
- Denim blends with comfort stretch
- Formalwear with wrinkle resistance
- Technical textiles

Indian consumers are also becoming more conscious, which creates a fertile ground for bio - based, high - performance fibers like Sorona®.

**Q6. What is the long-term vision for Sorona® fibers globally and in India?**

**Sorona® Team:**

Our vision is to make Sorona® a mainstream sustainable fiber choice across categories. In India, we aim to:

- Build strong partnerships with mills and brands
- Promote localized innovation and application development
- Support the industry's transition toward greener alternatives

We believe Sorona® can play a pivotal role in redefining how India balances performance textiles with sustainability mandates.

The interaction with CovationBio's Sorona® team underscores a critical industry shift - from performance vs sustainability to performance through sustainability.

Sorona® is not just another fiber innovation; it represents a material revolution aligned with future textile demands. For India, where scale meets innovation, the adoption of such fibers could redefine manufacturing benchmarks and global competitiveness.

**Conclusion**

As sustainability moves from optional to essential, fibers like Sorona® stand at the forefront of transformation. With its unique combination of eco-conscious chemistry and high-performance functionality, Sorona® is poised to become a cornerstone in the next generation of textiles - particularly in a market as dynamic and influential as India.


83rd National Garment Fair 26 Mumbai
ORGANISED BY
CMAi
THE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
INDIA'S LARGEST
APPAREL TRADE SHOW
SAVE 50%
PER PERSON
BY REGISTERING ONLINE
13TH–15TH JULY 2026
MENSWEAR
MMRDA Grounds, Mumbai
WOMENSWEAR
Bombay Exhibition Center, Mumbai
OFFER NOT VALID DURING SHOW DAYS*
REGISTRATION
(VALID FOR BOTH THE SHOWS)
VISITOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

ITMA 2027

**16–22 SEPTEMBER 2027**
MESSEGELAENDE HANNOVER
GERMANY
www.itma.com

# Co-creating the future **of garment making & textile processing**

## Where integrated technologies connect fibre, fabric and garment production.

Showcase your cutting, sewing, finishing and digital solutions within the complete textile manufacturing ecosystem at ITMA 2027.

111,000 visitorship from 143 countries at the last edition.



**Apply for stand space**
at your product sector.

**Show Owner**

CEMATEX

**CEMATEX Associations**

ACIMIT
AMEC AMTEX
BTMA
GTM
SWISSMEM
SYMATEX
TMAS
UCMTF
VDMA

**Show Organiser**

ITMA SERVICES

**Connect with Us**

**Find Out More**