



REVIEW >>

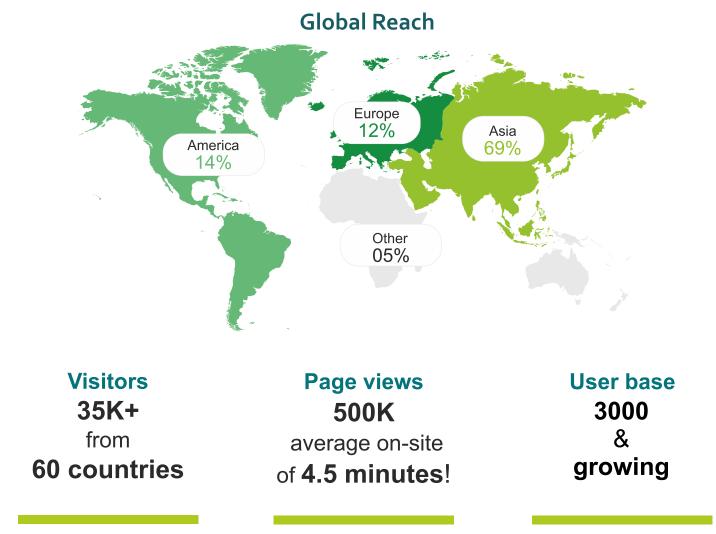
KOLKATA 15, 16 and 17 November 2024



India's textile industry rides global trends with a focus on sustainability & innovation



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Innovation is the route to competitiveness for the Indian textile and apparel industry. This was the theme that distinctly emerged at the three highly curated trade shows -Yarnex, TexIndia, and DyChem Texprocess, held on 15, 16, and 17 November 2024 at the Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan in Kolkata.

Across the spectrum, companies who are into the manufacturing of fibres, yarns, apparel fabrics and accessories, textile process houses, manufacturers and suppliers of textile chemicals, dyes, and services, are focusing their attention on finding new ways of augmenting competitiveness to garner a attention on finding new larger share of the emerging markets, both domestic as well as international. The fruits of their labour are now increasingly becoming visible in the sphere of product development, innovative ways of enhancing efficiency in production and aligning with the supply chain, and most importantly the ability to spot and take advantage of emerging market opportunities.

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Mr. Ramesh Agarwal, Director of Rupa & Co., inaugurating the show along with industry stalwarts



Speaking to a cross-section of senior industry professionals who were showcasing their products and services at the recently concluded shows, one fact that came out strongly was the willingness and determination to overcome industry and market challenges and constraints with innovative thinking and devising solutions that match speed and scale. Moreover, the macro trends in the textile and apparel sector seem to be aligning with the government's ambitious vision of achieving an export target of \$100 billion by 2030. The Indian textile industry is also expected to grow to \$350 billion by 2030, creating 3.5-6 crore jobs.

The triple shows have produced extremely positive trends that portend well for all stakeholders of the textile value chain. The shows featured 139 companies that showcased a wide range of products from across India. The response elicited from buyers over the three days was very encouraging and a majority of them responded with enthusiasm about the fact that they were able to source appropriate products and also were exposed to the innovations and product developments that was showcased across the product categories.

Likewise, the companies exhibiting at the shows were more than satisfied with the number of highquality visitors which enabled them to grow their business network and also be in a strong position to conclude firm inquiries.

This is perhaps the reason why a majority of the exhibiting companies have expressed their desire to return for the next edition in November 2026.

The 2024 edition of the Kolkata show brought in 4,216 high-quality visitors from West Bengal and adjoining regions. These buyers represented domestic brands and garment labels, retailers with in-house brands, weavers, and knitters. amongst others.

Functional Textiles & Sustainability Strong Themes

These and many other companies like them are in the vanguard of the change sweeping through India's textile industry, ranging from yarn and fibre to fabrics and clothing.



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Buyers showed keen interest in the wide range of fabrics displayed at the Thukral Fabrics booth



The house of knitted fabrics, C Mohan International, showcased its range of knits for discerning buyers.

The generation that dumps the clothes they ordered online last month is also ecologically conscious. Textile companies are riding this contradictory trend with great success, picking up tailoring waste (for now, only from the organised sector) and processing it back as fibre. This recycled fibre is mixed with other fibre and woven or knit into cloth.

The November 2024 show brought together exhibitors who showed that they were on top of the trends in the textile world, be it the focus on sustainability, new types of yarn that are durable, yarn that is spun from unusual sources, or just technical fabrics for work wear.

After all, India's textile industry is the second-largest employer after agriculture and a strong contributor to export earnings.

With the Western markets diversifying away from Chinese suppliers and the political uncertainty in Bangladesh, a big player in textile exports, India's textile industry can only see better days.

According to an industry report, India has also become the second-largest producer of PPE in the world.



Shri Vardhaman Palace generated considerable buyer curiosity with its innovative products.



S. Dinakaran, joint managing director, Sambandam: the company launched the fabric using fibre from banana stems just six months ago.

The report by Wright Research that India's textile and apparel industry has a large raw material base and manufacturing units all across the value chain.

The government's programmes like Make in India and Skill India are ideal for the textiles and apparel industry.

Especially as many large players, whether new units barely a few decades old or new avatars of historic names are riding the wave of sustainability and new fibres. Worried about textile waste at tailoring hubs, or plastic bottles littering the landscape? Quite a few yarn and textile companies are recycling the tailoring waste generated by suppliers of big clothing brands into fibre that can be used again. They also handle PET waste and turn it into fibre. Like millions of Indians, who love bananas (India is the second-highest consumer of bananas in the world). Ever wondered where the stem of the tree goes? Sambandam Spinning Mills Ltd., of Salem, Tamil Nadu, adds the fibre to cotton to spin a composite yarn.

Sambandam is not content grabbing waste from banana cultivators



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Angel Fabrics displayed its wide and varied range of fabrics.

but is even importing bamboo from China to process into fibre and then fabric. Mr. S. Dinakaran, Joint Managing Director of Sambandam, said "the company launched the fabric using fibre from banana stems just six months ago and the response was good. We can blend up to 20% banana fibre with cotton. The fabric can be used to make shirts and Tshirts". The company, which turned 50 years old in October 2024. began by making hank yarn.

But, Dinakaran says, the government has to fix at least three things to help the textile industry. First, very little government support. Second, there is a duty on cotton imports. Cotton is cheap in world markets, but the import duty hurts textile manufacturers. Third, a plethora of quality control measures that hurt the industry. "Lots of quality control systems, QCO, imposed on cellulose and manmade fibres," says Sambandam, pointing out that bamboo fibre is cheap, but too many quality control steps on the imports hurt Indian manufacturers.

To Recycle. Or Not?

Mr Ramesh Agarwal, Director of Rupa & Co, who inaugurated the show, had a pertinent worry. Mr Agarwal said Rupa is also trying to make a range using recycled fabrics. But while the young approve of the recycling of textile waste, the older generation thinks of such fabrics as secondhand clothes!

Companies Showcased Innovative Products

Novel products such as recycled fibres and new avatars of common items like denim and buttons were the highlights of the show. Here are some manufacturers and their products.

Siyaram's DenKnit

Siyaram Silk Mills, a relatively young company in India's textiles landscape (it was set up in 1978), has launched a knitted denim branded DenKnit that is soft, stretchable and versatile.

Denim, a woven fabric traditionally used to make jeans, can also be made by weaving, as Siyaram has shown. brands such as Oxemburg, supplies its newage fabric DenKnit to major fashion brands such as Benetton. DenKnit can be used to make shirts, tops, skirts, and bottom wear.

Siyaram guides clothing brands on how to stitch knitted denim, as the fabric requires specialised handling. Stitching knitted denim fabric requires finer needles with smaller, rounded tips that push the fibre aside instead of making holes in the cloth.

Siyaram says the manufacture of DenKnit consumes much less water than woven denim does.



Siyaram Denknit supplies its new-age fabric DenKnit to major fashion brands.

Siyaram says DenKnit combines the "appearance of woven denim with the knitted structures, made by inner loops that can be stretched 360 degrees in 4 ways". DenKnit shrinks less than woven denim and is wrinklefree, but it needs some specialised stitching techniques.

Siyaram, known for a clutch of suiting brands such as Siyaram and J. Hampstead to apparel DenKnit comes in the indigodyed versions associated with jeans, but the process uses liquid indigo instead of powder indigo.

Siyaram, which began manufacturing DenKnit five years ago, also exports to Bangladesh.

Arvind Mills, which brought denim to India, is the only rival that Siyaram has in knitted denim.



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Sulochana has ensured its recycled textiles have the highest certifications and traceability.

Sulochana's high standards

Sulochana Cotton Spinning Mills has ensured its recycled textiles have the highest certifications and traceability. Sulochana also follows the ringspun compact system, against the open-ended system of most textile recyclers.

"There are now thousands of people who speak about recycling," says a senior Sulochana official. "What makes us different is that we recycle with proper traceability, and we also give the environmental values for every product we manufacture."

Sulochana uses the ringspun compact system, which is harder to use than the open-end system. The product is 5-6% more expensive than the open fibre system. But the cost falls by the time the fabric is made.

Sulochana works mainly with pre-industrial waste, or the waste generated by garment manufacturers, and has a very small role in postconsumer use or the waste generated by fast fashion. Garment manufacturers usually junk 13-15% of fabric waste and use only 82-87% of the fabric. Sulochana works with garment brands to get their supply chain to segregate the waste by colour and brand.

"We also work with other raw materials, but these supply chains are certified by Green Canopy," he says. Sulochana does not work with the unorganised sector because it cannot ensure that it segregates the textile waste. Sulochana's manufacturing units are all around Tirupur in Tamil Nadu with traceable supply chains. Sulochana Polyester recycles 7 million PET bottles a day.

Sruti and its Kota

Sruti Filatex Pvt Ltd, which brands itself as a "Nexgen textile business", is a polyester fibre manufacturer that has carved a niche with a "Kota yarn" incorporating synthetic fibre.

Although traditional Kota sarees are made from pure cotton and are known for their sheer and delicate texture, they are stiffer than usual cotton weaves but lighter. The name comes from Rajasthan's Kota district.

Kota sarees also come in other varieties, such as Kota Doria (a blend of cotton and silk), Kota silk (pure silk) and Zari Kota, which are Kota silk saris with zari work.

Sruti has upped the game by incorporating synthetic fibres in the Kota yarn. Mr. Piyush Agarwal, Managing Director, says, "Our USP is Kota yarn... we have the highest production of Kota yarn in the world, producing 35-40 tonnes a day." Its closest rival does not have even half its size.

Sruti manufactures polyester Kota yarn and nylon Kota yarn. Agarwal says Sruti has good markets where women need stiff, fine cloth.



Sruti Filatex Pvt Ltd, a "Nexgen textile business", has carved a niche with "Kota yarn" incorporating synthetic fibre.

This could be sarees or burkhas, so it exports Kota yarn to Singapore, Thailand and Pakistan.

Sruti, which has four manufacturing units, also makes POY or partially oriented yarn, DTY or drawtexturized yarn and ATY or air-texturized yarn, and speciality yarns or polyester and nylon yarn in all colours.

Agarwal says Sruti is certified by the GRS or Global Recycled Standard for all the fibre it extracts by recycling plastic or PET bottles.

Talco's collars

Talco, the brand for cotton fusible interlinings, brand for Talreja Textile Industries Pvt Ltd.

Talco supplies the collar interlinings to shirt manufacturers, which use them either by fusing or stitching. Hyphen Garments is a big Talco customer in eastern India. Turtle has also sent out feelers. A Talco official said its linings are used by the garment industry in a wide range of products, from collars of men's shirts to thobes, the long, anklelength robe worn by men in the Middle East and North Africa. Among other exhibitors were leading brands making buttons, heat transfer stickers and other accessories.

Fabtech spins a recycled yarn

Fabtech, which claims to be the first to offer a fully integrated recycling facility, has a manufacturing capacity of 10,000kg of recycled yarn a day, and 300,000 pieces of garments made from recycled fabric. It gets its entire power need from solar plant and windmills and also recycles all the water it uses.





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