

Policy Support and Technology Upgradation Key to Stronger Powerloom Sector: PDEXCIL Chief

By Our Special Correspondent

MUMBAI, SEPT. 27—

Reducing input costs and accelerating technology modernisation have emerged as key priorities for strengthening the competitiveness of India's powerloom sector, with the Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) seeking removal of import duty on cotton, lower electricity tariffs, greater marketing support for MSMEs and a new capital subsidy scheme for technology upgradation.

Addressing the 31st Annual General Meeting of PDEXCIL in city, Chairman Mr. K. Sakthivel highlighted the need for renewed investment in modernisation, pointing to the impact of the earlier Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, which helped transform around two lakh looms across the country.

"I am hopeful that a fresh technology upgradation initiative will soon be announced, giving a decisive boost to our sector," Mr. Sakthivel stated.

The PDEXCIL chief also welcomed the continuation of the RoSCTL and RoDTEP schemes beyond March 31, 2026. "The



Government's extension of the RoSCTL and RoDTEP schemes beyond 31st March 2026 has also provided continued cost competitiveness to our exporters, and we place on record our appreciation for this support," he noted.

The powerloom industry remains a major pillar of India's textile manufacturing base, accounting for around 60 per cent of the country's total fabric production and providing an important part of the fabric base supporting textile and apparel exports.

India's overall exports of goods and services reached a record

USD 863.1 billion during 2025-26, growing by more than 4 per cent year-on-year, while merchandise exports stood at USD 441.8 billion. Textile and apparel exports, including handicrafts, were approximately USD 35.5 billion during the year.

"Powerloom fabrics and made-ups remain the backbone of this performance," Mr. Sakthivel observed.

Elaborating on the sector's performance in a challenging global environment, he added, "Even amid subdued global demand and currency headwinds, our members resilience and adaptability have kept powerloom products competitive across our traditional markets and helped us

Continued on Page 3

COOLMAX CloakFX and Lycra FiT400 Target Sweat Visibility, Comfort & Freedom of Movement

By Our Special Correspondent

BENGALURU, SEPT. 27—

Visible sweat and the growing consumer demand for clothing that combines comfort, appearance and freedom of movement are opening new areas for fibre innovation, with The Lycra Company introducing technologies designed to address these everyday performance requirements.

Speaking at The Lycra India Summit organised recently in Bengaluru, Mr. N. Ananth Kumar, Market Development Consultant, The Lycra Company, highlighted COOLMAX CloakFX fiber, which is designed to mask the appearance of sweat on garments, and Lycra FiT400 fiber, a mechanical-stretch technology developed to provide durable

stretch and recovery without spandex.

Mr. Kumar identified visible sweat as a significant consumer concern, particularly as lifestyles increasingly move between activities, workplaces and social settings. He noted that consumers may change clothes or alter their choice of garments simply to avoid visible sweat, even if it means compromising on styling or fabric preference.

"People lose confidence because of the way sweat appears on the garment. What consumers are looking for is the look and feel, styling and comfort, all in one product," Mr. Kumar observed.

The response to this requirement is COOLMAX

Continued on Page 3

Therapeutic patterns and mythology as design inspiration: New Talent Area curated by Trendease at Heimtextil grows

MUMBAI, SEPT. 27—

Even more young design talent and creative ideas: at the upcoming Heimtextil, the New Talent Area returns for its second edition with stronger presence. From 12 to 15 January 2027, the curated area welcomes more than 30 participants, many of whom are presenting on the international stage for the first time. In Frankfurt, they showcase exciting textile designs, surprising materials and market-ready products.

The New Talent Area curated by Jennifer Castoldi, Trendease International, was newly established at Heimtextil 2026 – and met with an immediate and highly positive response. The second edition reflects the success of its debut in a growing number of participants. At the same time, institutions and sponsors are stepping up their involvement and actively supporting the newcomers as they enter the market. For this reason, too, visitors to the special area in Hall 4.2 can look forward to numerous new faces and fresh ideas. The projects on display cover a wide range of stages of development – from experimental material and design approaches to finished products that can move directly into retail or practical application. Visitors also benefit from the broad range of topics addressed by the New Talents' designs, including bio-based solutions, circularity, sustainability, neurodiversity, heritage and craftsmanship.



In 2027, the more than 30 participants registered so far come from Canada, China, Denmark, England, Germany, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland and Wales. While the majority of the newcomers is presenting in Frankfurt for the first time, two participants are returning: Elis Blackwood, with her studio e.L.s designs for contemporary textile art and surface design, and artist, designer and

Continued on Page 3

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