



Tex-Connect

An initiative by the Textiles Department, Government of Maharashtra



I am pleased to highlight Maharashtra's dedication to skill development in the textile sector which employs over 45 million people and contributes significantly to India's economy. The industry is key to providing livelihoods, particularly for women and rural communities. To address the growing demand for skilled workers, the Maharashtra government has launched the Integrated and Sustainable Textile Policy 2023-2028.

This policy focuses on enhancing skills across the textile industry from traditional to technical textiles thus improving employability and productivity. The state is also upgrading and setting up new training centers to offer specialized courses in areas like garmenting and apparel production. With up to 50% state funding for these centers, and collaborations with institutions like MSSU, VJTI, DKTE, IIT Bombay, SASMIRA etc., we are promoting innovation, research, and entrepreneurship. This will help build a skilled workforce and strengthen Maharashtra's position in the textile industry.

Shri. Sanjay Sushila Waman Savkare
Hon'ble Minister Textiles
Government of Maharashtra

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SECTOR IN FOCUS: SKILLING IN TEXTILES

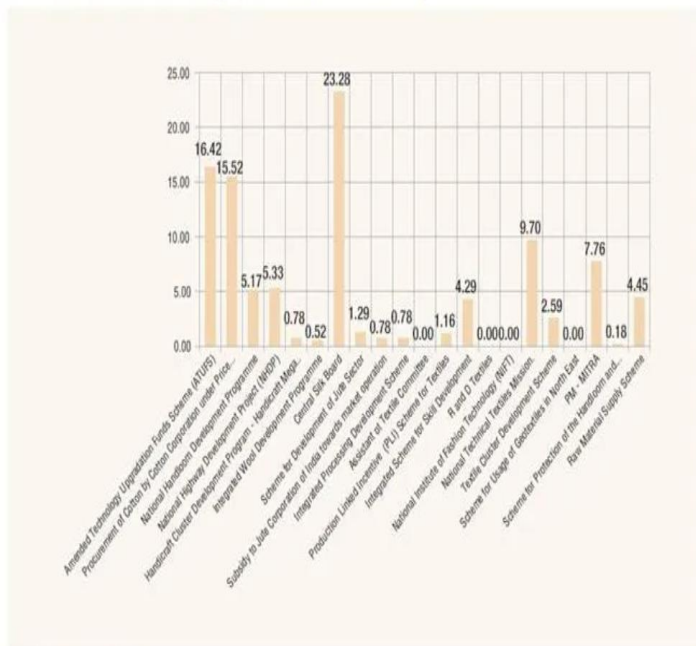
Introduction

India is one of the world’s largest textile producers and a key contributor to the economy and job creation. The industry spans traditional handlooms to modern technical textiles, making India a global leader. To meet the growing demands of domestic and international markets, there is a critical need for skilled workers across all sectors.

Focusing on skill development will improve productivity, ensure high-quality standards, and drive innovation. With the right training, India’s textile industry can continue to grow, create more jobs, and stay competitive on the global stage.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has been a strong advocate for skill development in the textile sector recognizing its potential to empower individuals and drive economic growth. Under his leadership the government has introduced various initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills of workers ensuring that India’s textile industry remains at the forefront of global advancements.

GRAPH 1 BUDGET 2024-25 ALLOCATIONS (CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEMES/PROJECTS) IN PER CENT



SOURCE: Union Budget 2024-25

Allocation of Textiles Sector in Budget 2024-2025

Maharashtra’s Skilling Landscape

From the vibrant Paithani sarees to the intricate Himroo fabric, Maharashtra's textile traditions tell stories that span centuries. Through planned development, the textile industry in India has become the largest source of livelihood after agriculture, with Maharashtra contributing 10.4% of the country's total textile and apparel production and 10.2% of employment in the sector¹.

According to the 4th Handloom Census conducted by the Government of India in 2018, Maharashtra boasts 3,354 handlooms operated by 3,509 artisans, each preserving unique techniques passed down through generations. Yet, despite this rich legacy, many artisans struggle to sustain their livelihoods in the face of modern production demands. *(source: Integrated & Sustainable Textile Policy 2023-2028, Government of Maharashtra)*

The traditional textile sector in Maharashtra faces significant challenges due to globalization and the rise of fast fashion, which has led to a decline in demand for handloom products over the past decade. This shift threatens not only the livelihoods of artisans but also the preservation of our rich cultural heritage. With an estimated 70% of the workforce lacking formal training, there exists a pressing need to bridge this skill gap, ensuring that our artisans can adapt and innovate while preserving their time-honored techniques.

1. <https://interlinkcapital.in/maharashtra-state-textile-policy.php>

SUCCESS STORY: Skilling in Textiles

From the Policy: Maharashtra's focus on Skill Development

The Integrated and Sustainable Textile Policy 2023-2028 places a strong emphasis on skill development and capacity building to address the growing demand for skilled manpower within the textile industry. A key objective of the policy is to ensure a skilled workforce, thereby increasing employability in the sector. To achieve this, various initiatives have been put in place to provide training and enhance the skills of workers across different segments of the industry, from traditional textiles to technical textiles.

In the traditional textile sector, certified weavers have been encouraged to become Master Trainers under the Skill Development Program. These trainers provide practical training, with remuneration set according to the policies of the Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Department. Additionally, the wool sector benefits from a scheme focused on onsite visits and skill development training. For technical textiles, the policy mandates that each Technical Textile Park must have a skill development center capable of training at least 30 individuals, ensuring continuous development of the workforce.

To further strengthen skill development, the policy outlines the establishment of new training centers and the upgrading of existing ones. These centers focus on various textile courses such as garmenting and apparel production. The state government provides up to 50% assistance for the creation of these centers, subject to specific financial limits. Furthermore, short-term courses and vocational training programs are being conducted through partnerships with prominent associations and training institutes, including the D.K.T.E. Society's Textile and Engineering Institute and the Maharashtra State Skill Development Society. Collaborations with leading institutions like MSSU, VJTI, DKTE, BTRA, ICT, IIT Bombay, NIFT Mumbai, SASMIRA etc. have also been established to drive research and innovation, promoting entrepreneurship in modern textile technology and design.



Indian Textile Landscape and Skill Development

Growth of Indian Textiles:

India stands as a powerhouse in the textile industry, producing vast quantities of cotton, jute, and silk, with 95% of the world's handwoven fabric originating here. Its textile and apparel sector directly employs 45 million people, with 100 million in related industries, making it the nation's second-largest employer. The domestic apparel & textile industry in India contributes approx. 2.3 % to the country's GDP, 13% to industrial production and 12% to exports. India has a 4% share of the global trade in textiles and apparel.

On the export front, India is among the world's leading textile exporters, with products ranging from traditional garments to high-tech fabrics. India's textile export industry is a well-established, dynamic, and contemporary business. It is projected that India's overall textile exports will reach \$65 billion by FY26 and grow at a 10% CAGR from 2019 to \$190 billion in 2026.

The textile industry in India contributes over 10% to the country's GDP and provides approximately 8% of total employment, making it a key sector for both economic growth and job creation

The textile industry in India stands out as the sole sector that offers substantial employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled laborers. However, as the industry undergoes rapid transformation due to technology, evolving market demands, and sustainability concerns, there is a pressing need for skilled workers who can adapt to new processes, techniques, and innovations.

Technology plays a pivotal role in the Indian textile industry, driving efficiency and innovation across various segments. Advanced machinery, automation, and digital solutions enhance production processes, ensuring high-quality output and reducing turnaround times.

Textiles and apparel exports from India (US\$ billion)



Source: Ministry of textiles

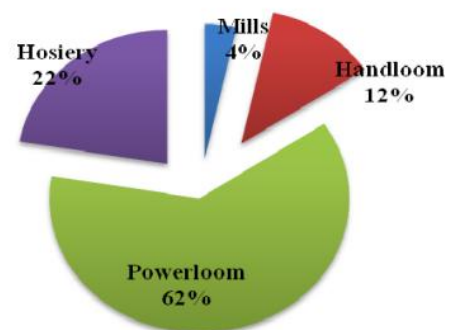
Graph Depicting Global Indian Textiles Exports till 2030

Source: Ministry of Textiles

Skill Development in Textiles:

The textile sector has long been a cornerstone of India's economy, contributing significantly to employment and exports.

In terms of hiring, the industry increasingly seeks skilled professionals with expertise in textile engineering, design, and information technology. This shift towards modernization necessitates a workforce that is adaptable and proficient in leveraging technology to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving market landscape.



Contribution of sectors in total cloth production

Source: Ministry of Textiles, IMaCS Analysis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lifecycle Assessment Summit under National Technical Textile Mission



On 9th January 2025, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Sanjay Savkare graced the Lifecycle Assessment Summit (ICAS-2025) under the National Technical Textiles Mission organized by the SASMIRA Institute as a Chief Guest.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of SASMIRA's Circular Weaving Technology by the Hon'ble Minister. He also felicitated industry leaders for their contributions to the technical textiles sector. Hon'ble Minister expressed his concern about enhancing skilling in the technical textiles landscape to make the upcoming workforce more industry-ready.

Esteemed dignitaries present at the summit included Shri Rajeev Saxena Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Smt. Roop Rashi Textile Commissioner, Smt. Anshu Sinha, I.A.S. Principal Secretary of Textiles, Maharashtra, and Shri Mihir R. Mehta President, SASMIRA. The summit marks a significant step toward a sustainable future for technical textiles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Launch of Commissionerate of Textiles Website



On January 7 2025, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Sanjay Savkare launched the newly revamped website of the Commissionerate of Textiles. Developed by NIC on the Swaas platform, the website boasts an intuitive interface and offers a wealth of information, including details on various schemes, subsidies, policies, and industry updates. With a user-friendly design, the website ensures seamless navigation and is fully optimized for mobile and tablet devices, making it accessible across multiple platforms. Hon'ble Minister also launched 'Tex-Connect,' department's quarterly magazine themed on 'Sericulture.'

Meeting on Skill Development with Partner Institutes

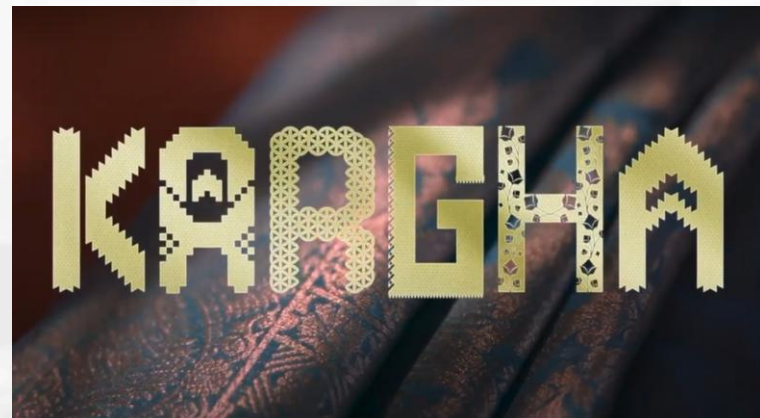


Department of Textiles, Government of Maharashtra has signed MoUs with several institutes across the state including VJTI, DKTE, BTRA, SASMIRA, ICT, MSSU, MSSDS, IIT-BOMBAY, etc. This partnership aims to reimagine the education and skilling ecosystem within the state with focus on textile as a sector. The goal is to bring all stakeholders, industry, research institutions together and constitute a 'Textile Skill Committee' and 'Advisory Council' for fulfilling this objective. Recently, the department conducted an all-stakeholder meeting in which several objectives were discussed towards the enhancement of existing textile skill landscape for students and people in the workforce from organized and unorganized sectors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcoming Hon'ble Textiles Minister, Shri Sanjay Savkare and Smt. Anshu Sinha (IAS) Principal Secretary, Textiles Department, Government of Maharashtra



Successful Teaser Launch of web series on Traditional Textiles of Maharashtra, 'Kargha' in partnership with Prasar Bharti

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