LETTER

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

6th August 2026

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CITI signs MoU with ICAC and Merago to scale carbon credit generation in India's cotton sector

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has signed an MoU with the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and technology company Merago Inc. to develop carbon credit projects based on regenerative agricultural practices. The initiative is designed to advance sustainable cotton production in India while enabling cotton farmers to earn additional income through carbon credit generation.

The MoU was exchanged during the 56th Foundation Day celebrations of the Cotton Corporation of India on August 1, in the presence of Union Textiles Minister Shri Giriraj Singh and senior Maharashtra government ministers Shri Sanjay Shirsat, Shri Sanjay Savkare, and Shri Atul Save. Union Textiles Ministry Joint Secretary (Fibre) Ms Padmini Singla, Textile Commissioner Ms Vrunda Manohar Desai and Cotton Corporation of India CMD Shri Lalit Kumar Gupta were also present at the occasion.

CITI Chairman Shri Ashwin Chandran said, "At CITI, it has always been about industry plus farmer. Our collaboration with the International Cotton Advisory Committee and Merago reflects that philosophy by strengthening sustainability in the Indian textile and apparel ecosystem and creating additional income opportunities for farmers."

"Given the increasing focus on sustainability worldwide, the CITI-ICAC-Merago tie-up will also increase the global competitiveness of India's textile and apparel industry by lowering the carbon footprint of India's cotton arena," Shri Chandran pointed out.

Under the partnership, ICAC will serve as the principal technical knowledge partner, providing agricultural expertise, technology, training, and technical support. Cotton farmers associated with CITI-Cotton Development Research Association (CITI CDRA) and its affiliated partners will adopt regenerative practices to improve soil health and increase carbon sequestration. These practices will include producing biochar and compost from agricultural biomass and applying them to cotton fields. Merago will provide the digital technology platform for project implementation and oversee carbon asset management, while CITI CDRA will lead project execution and farmer engagement.

Carbon credits generated under the project will be developed, verified and transferred in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, India's applicable laws and carbon market regulations. Verified emission reductions and removals will be recorded in the national carbon registry before their issuance, transfer or commercialisation.

Subject to regulatory approvals, a designated share of the verified carbon removals will be certified as transferable carbon credits for sale in domestic and international carbon markets. Merago will manage the commercialisation of carbon credits and distribute the proceeds among CITI, ICAC and participating farmers in line with the agreed revenue-sharing framework.

India's textile and apparel sector is the country's second-largest livelihood generator after agriculture. India aims to create a $350 billion textile and apparel industry by 2030, including $100 billion in exports.

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Global retailers are increasing textile sourcing from India in 2026.

The global retail industry is undergoing a significant transformation, and one trend is becoming increasingly clear—more international brands are choosing India as their preferred sourcing destination. As businesses look for reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective supply chains, partnering with a Home Textile Sourcing Agency in India or an experienced Textile Buying House India has become a strategic advantage.

In 2026, sourcing is no longer driven by cost alone. Retailers are seeking partners that can deliver consistent quality, ethical manufacturing, product innovation, and complete supply chain transparency. India has emerged as one of the few countries capable of meeting all these expectations while offering unmatched manufacturing diversity.

A Complete Textile Sourcing Ecosystem

India is home to one of the world's largest textile industries, offering everything from bed linen, bath linen, kitchen textiles, rugs, cushions, curtains, apparel, tote bags, and fashion accessories. Instead of working with multiple suppliers across different countries, buyers can simplify procurement by partnering with a trusted Textile Sourcing India expert that manages the entire sourcing process—from product development to final shipment. For international retailers, this means faster communication, better quality control, lower sourcing risks, and improved operational efficiency.

Sustainability Is Driving Purchasing Decisions

Today's consumers expect brands to source responsibly, and retailers are responding by partnering with suppliers that prioritize sustainability.

A reputable Home Textile Supplier India offers products manufactured using organic cotton, recycled materials, renewable energy, water-efficient dyeing technologies, and globally recognized certifications such as GOTS, OEKO-TEX®, Sedex, and BSCI.

Quality, Transparency, and Reliability Matter More Than Ever

One of India's greatest strengths is its well-established network of experienced manufacturers supported by professional sourcing agencies. A trusted Apparel Sourcing Company India or Textile Buying House India provides end-to-end services including:

- Supplier identification and factory evaluation
- Product development and sampling
- Fabric sourcing
- Quality assurance and inspections
- Compliance monitoring
- Production management
- Shipping and logistics coordination

This comprehensive approach significantly reduces sourcing risks while ensuring consistent product quality and on-time deliveries.

Innovation Is Transforming Textile Sourcing

Technology is also reshaping how global retailers source products. Many Indian manufacturers are adopting AI-assisted quality inspections, digital sampling, automated production systems, and real-time production tracking.

Why Global Brands Continue to Choose India

Beyond competitive pricing, India offers what modern retailers value most: flexibility, scalability, craftsmanship, compliance, and innovation. Companies like Concept Clothing Textiles, a leading Home Textile Sourcing Agency in India, help international buyers build reliable supply chains through supplier development, product innovation, quality assurance, and transparent production management. By working closely with trusted manufacturers across India, they enable retailers to source premium-quality home textiles, apparel, and accessories with confidence.

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CMAI In Collaboration With Leading Organisations Launches Nationwide Independence Day Garment Collection Drive To Advance India's Circular Fashion Movement.

Reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and circular fashion, the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) is supporting a nationwide Unused Garments Collection Drive ahead of Independence Day, encouraging citizens to donate clothing they no longer use. The initiative aims to reduce textile waste, promote responsible consumption, and ensure that discarded garments are transformed into useful products instead of ending up in landfills.

Commenting on the initiative, **Santosh Katariya, President, CMAI** said *"As one of the world's largest apparel markets, India has both the opportunity and the responsibility to embrace more sustainable consumption practices. Every unused garment represents a valuable resource that can be reused, recycled or repurposed instead of being discarded. Through this initiative, we invite every household to become a part of the circular economy by giving their unused clothes a new life. Collective action, even through small individual contributions, can create a significant impact on our environment."*

The initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), ReFiber, OteriRi, Tisser, World Trade Center Mumbai** and **Lions International**.

A key implementation partner is **ReFiber,** a digital platform and initiative that turns post-consumer textile waste into verified circular outcomes through household collections, digital traceability, and upcycling. It operates via mobile apps and partnerships with **Tisser**, an organisation working with over 20,000 women artisans across India. The campaign aims to collect 20,000 kilograms of unused garments and textile waste, which will be carefully sorted, repurposed and upcycled into value-added products. In addition to reducing the environmental impact of textile waste, the initiative is expected to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for women artisans engaged in the upcycling value chain. Through the **ReFiber** mobile application, consumers can conveniently schedule a doorstep pickup of their unused garments facilitating participation in the circular fashion movement simple and accessible.

Naveen Sainani, Hon. General Secretary and Chairman – ESG Committee, CMAI added *"Circularity can only succeed when industry, communities and consumers come together with a shared purpose. This initiative not only diverts textile waste from landfills but also strengthens an ecosystem that creates meaningful livelihood opportunities through reuse and upcycling. It demonstrates how sustainability can simultaneously deliver environmental, economic and social value."*

The unused Garments Collection Drive represents another important milestone in CMAI's ongoing sustainability journey and supports India's transition towards a circular textile economy. By bringing together industry, international development organisations, civil society and consumers, the initiative seeks to reduce textile waste, encourage responsible consumption, and accelerate the adoption of circular practices across the apparel value chain.

As the nation celebrates Independence Day, CMAI calls upon every citizen to participate in the campaign by donating unused garments and contributing towards a cleaner environment, empowered communities, and a more sustainable future for India's textile and apparel industry.

About CMAI

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) is the most representative association of the Indian apparel industry having over 7,000 members and serving more than 50,000 Retailers. Its Membership consists of Manufacturers, Exporters, Brands, and ancillary industry. CMAI advocates regarding policies and also guides and encourages its members on ESG related matters and initiatives. In 2019, CMAI launched the SU.RE initiative to encourage members to embrace sustainability.

Established over sixty-three years ago, CMAI has contributed immensely towards development of the industry. In 1978, CMAI had led the creation of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC). CMAI is also authorised by the Government of India to issue Certificate of Origin (Non-Preferential) to Exporters. CMAI is the only Indian Association that represents the entire Indian Apparel Industry & Trade on prestigious international forums such as International Apparel Federation (IAF) headquartered in Netherlands.

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India Uzbekistan Free Trade Agreement Floated as Tashkent Courts Minerals Investment

Read more at : https://timesca.com/india-uzbekistan-free-trade-agreement/

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Govt drafts customs playbook for 100 imports to streamline FTA benefits

Read more at: https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-drafts-customs-playbook-for-100-imports-to-streamline-fta-benefits/articleshow/132967139.cms

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Niti Aayog proposes national caregiving policy, regulator to build India's care economy

Niti Aayog has called for a National Policy on Caregiving to formalize and professionalize the sector in India, recommending the creation of a regulatory body, a professional caregiver cadre and a national digital platform to support caregivers and care seekers. Among its key recommendations to improve care for the elderly and those with disabilities, among others, the government think-tank proposed the establishment of a National Caregiver Council to accredit caregivers, standardize training, regulate the sector, develop courses, promote global mobility and establish regional centres to strengthen the caregiving ecosystem.

In a report released on Wednesday, Niti Aayog recommended granting professional recognition to caregivers through a dedicated cadre. It proposed a National Digital Caregiving Portal to connect caregivers with care seekers and improve access to services.

In addition, Niti Aayog suggested expanding social security, welfare benefits and entrepreneurship support for caregivers to improve their working conditions and build a more organized, skilled and sustainable care economy.

The recommendations come as India prepares for a sharp rise in demand for long-term care. In its report, *Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in* Viksit Bharat@2047, Niti Aayog said India's elderly population is projected to more than double from 149 million in 2022 to 347 million by 2050, increasing their share in the population from 10.5% to 20.8%.

The report noted that 26.8 million Indians live with disabilities, underscoring the need for an organized caregiving ecosystem.

According to a government official, the proposed National Caregiver Council is likely to function under the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship, which would serve as the nodal ministry. The ministries of health and family welfare and external affairs are expected to play supporting roles in areas related to healthcare standards, caregiver training and certification and facilitating overseas employment and global mobility of Indian caregivers.

Expanding market

Experts urged policymakers to integrate flexible staffing models and nationwide skill benchmarks under the new council to capitalize on India's expanding $20 billion home healthcare market.

“Structured caregiving frameworks are vital for expanding formal employment and also elevating female workforce participation. Millions engaged in paid care services, including eldercare, childcare and home healthcare remain in the unorganized sector without social security or standardized wages," said Suchita Dutta, executive director of the Indian Staffing Federation.

The report highlights the economic opportunity arising from a global shortage of caregivers. It estimated that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, a group of 38 member-countries, will require 60% more care workers by 2040, which translates into the equivalent to 13.5 million additional workers, to maintain current caregiver-to-elderly ratios.

The World Health Organization has projected a global shortage of 11 million health and care workers by 2030, creating opportunities for India to emerge as a supplier of trained caregiving professionals, as per the report.

Social care values

"As we formalize and professionalize the sector, we must remain grounded in India's deep social care values. Formal caregiving does not replace the traditional family unit; rather, it complements and strengthens it by providing structured training, respite care, counselling and social support to informal family caregivers," Niti Aayog vice chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri said.

Lahiri said the report is intended to initiate a sustained national conversation and serve as an actionable policy document for decision-makers.

"We never claim that we have the last word. People should comment on it and have a discussion. I call upon partner ministries, state governments, industry leaders, training institutions and international development partners to carry these recommendations forward into concrete policy action," Lahiri added.

According to the report, India's care services market, estimated at $29.62 billion in 2023, is projected to reach $72.31 billion by 2030, reflecting rising demand for organized care services.

The report added that professionalizing caregiving would improve care for older people, those with disabilities and others requiring long-term support while generating skilled employment, increasing women's labour force participation and positioning India as a trusted global provider of trained caregivers.

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RBI Revises FY27 GDP Growth Forecast Up To 6.7%; Sees Indian Economy Staying Resilient

Read more at : https://www.news18.com/business/economy/rbi-revises-fy27-gdp-growth-forecast-up-to-6-7-sees-indian-economy-staying-resilient-ws-l-10253238.html

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India-Israel Business Hub launched to strengthen investment, innovation

The Indian mission in Israel on Wednesday launched a dedicated one-stop facilitation platform, India-Israel Business Hub, to boost bilateral trade, investments and collaborations.

India’s Ambassador to Israel, JP Singh, said that the launch of the India-Israel Business Hub marks an important step in strengthening bilateral economic engagement.

"India and Israel are natural economic partners with complementary strengths -- India's scale, talent, and manufacturing capabilities complement Israel's innovation and advanced technologies, creating significant opportunities for trade, investment, and innovation," Singh said at an event here.

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GLOBAL

The UK-UAE trade corridor is open for business

Centuries before trade agreements were ever drafted on paper, the waters off Ras Al Khaimah were already busy with vessels transiting global commerce.

During the Middle Ages, the historic port of Julfar – located in modern-day Ras Al Khaimah – served as a vital hub for the pearl trade, connecting Arabian merchants with markets as far afield as Europe and China. When British ships first began navigating these waters in the 17th century, they were participating in an ancient tradition of exchange, laying the groundwork for a relationship that has been centuries in the making.

That long history is worth recalling now, because the UK and the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) free trade agreement (FTA) carries the potential to open one of its most significant chapters yet. As the first deal of its kind between the GCC and a G7 nation, the FTA formalises a deepening of ties that businesses on both sides have long pursued. And while its provisions span the GCC as a whole, the clearest opportunity lies between the UK and the UAE.

Already Britain's largest trading partner in the region, the UAE is the market where this agreement is likely to translate into tangible activity the fastest. This is likely to take place most notably in Ras Al Khaimah, which already hosts close to 4,000 British companies in the dedicated Ras Al Khaimah Economic Free Zone (RAKEZ).

What the deal makes possible

The headline figures are considerable. Annual bilateral trade between the UK and the GCC stands at around £53 billion, with the agreement projected to grow that figure by nearly 20%. Tariffs worth an estimated £580 million per year are set to be removed on UK exports once the deal is fully implemented. The UAE accounts for the largest share of that trade, which is why there is so much of the conversation among British exporters on the new opportunities this deal presents.

For the first time, UK companies based in the GCC will be allowed to store and process data outside of Gulf countries, removing a barrier that has long deterred tech firms and fintechs from committing fully. The agreement also secures some of the most ambitious business-mobility commitments the GCC has ever granted a trading partner – giving lawyers, engineers, consultants, and other professionals far greater certainty when working across borders.

Together, these measures deliver what lower tariffs alone cannot: the confidence to invest and plan for the long term. For a relationship with so much history, that kind of confidence is what turns intent into investment.

What stronger ties mean for growth

The value of that confidence is something witnessed at RAKEZ every day, as one of the UK's most significant destinations for outbound investment into the region. 4,000 businesses from the UK have already expanded in RAKEZ, reflecting what stronger trade ties will mean in practice.

For example, Spatial Composite Solutions, a British-owned manufacturer of aircraft cabin crew training simulators, has called RAKEZ home since 2009 and now serves clients from Asia to the Americas. Hampshire-born Ahmad Tea produces 22 million tea bags daily from its regional facility in RAKEZ, supplying more than 80 countries. Circular Computing, a UK-based used laptop remanufacturer, has expanded its RAKEZ facility's operation to 50,000 units monthly.

Businesses such as Polar Manufacturing and Green Rock Manufacturing Group further showcase the breadth of British industrial ingenuity that has found Ras Al Khaimah a cost-effective base for international reach.

These companies share a straightforward lesson: a welcoming environment delivers most when matched by tangible commercial advantage. Operating costs at RAKEZ run up to 40% lower than comparable regional markets, with setup packages available from AED 6,000 (£1,219) and incorporation complete in days. Many of RAKEZ's 40,000-plus businesses are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), precisely the agile, high-growth enterprises that the agreement sets out to champion.

By lowering the cost of entry and removing everyday friction, growth tends to follow, and the agreement extends that logic across an entire trading relationship. This approach aligns closely with the UAE's national ambition to diversify its economy and become a global hub for trade and enterprise.

The work that keeps trade flowing

While a trade agreement can lower tariffs and open markets, goods and services must still move reliably and affordably, without getting stuck at a border. If the disruption of recent years has taught exporters anything, it is that a trading relationship is only ever as strong as the supply chains and logistics that underpin it. Signing a deal kickstarts that effort, and the lasting value will come from continuing to strengthen those supply chains, improving connectivity, and making cross-border trade simpler and more efficient with each passing year.

This is precisely where Ras Al Khaimah has chosen to invest. The Emirate is less than an hour's drive from Dubai, has its own international airport, four major ports (including Saqr Port, the largest bulk-handling port in the region), and connectivity is growing through the national Etihad Rail network.

Businesses that establish here gain proximity not only to the wider region but to the world. The Emirate works as somewhere companies establish to build resilient, far-reaching supply chains, while using it as a launch point into several markets at once.

Under this new agreement, that geographic advantage is reinforced by a formal commercial framework, and the sectors best positioned to benefit play directly to these strengths. Advanced manufacturing and agri-food businesses stand to gain from tariff reductions – a meaningful advantage given that the GCC imports over 80% of its food and British quality carries genuine brand equity.

Financial and professional services, which account for around 11% of the UK's economic output and half of its exports to the GCC, will benefit from guaranteed market access and the new data-flow commitments. During a recent roadshow in London, the same point came up repeatedly with the British business leaders. The question was rarely whether to pursue growth in this part of the world, but how to do so with the right infrastructure, legal framework, and support in place.

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The relationship between the UK and the UAE has flourished for centuries because it has always been built on mutual respect and shared commercial ambition. The vessels that once sailed in and out of Julfar sought what today's exporters still seek: reliable routes, trusted partners, and open markets. The new agreement gives that ambition a modern framework, yet realising its full potential will depend on the essential, often unglamorous work of keeping trade moving.

As we enter this new chapter, the infrastructure is in place and the British business community in RAKEZ is already thriving. For forward-thinking British businesses looking to secure their global supply chains and capture new markets, there has rarely been a more opportune moment for collaboration.

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Iran, Pakistan Agree To Finalize Free Trade Deal

Iran and Pakistan have agreed to finalize a Free Trade Agreement at the earliest, reaffirming their commitment to increase bilateral trade to $10 billion during the 10th Joint Trade Committee meeting in Islamabad.

Why it matters:

The finalization of the FTA—following three days of intensive negotiations—represents a major breakthrough in Iran-Pakistan economic relations, institutionalizing trade ties that directly challenge U.S. sanctions and create a resilient economic corridor between West Asia and South Asia.

As the U.S. and its allies escalate economic warfare against Iran, Pakistan's commitment to a formal Free Trade Agreement signals a strategic realignment in the region. The agreement will not only boost bilateral trade but also strengthen the axis of resistance through economic self-reliance, reducing dependence on Western-dominated financial systems and creating new opportunities for regional integration.

What they're saying:

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, and Iran's Minister for Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, signed the agreed minutes of the Joint Trade Committee, marking the successful conclusion of three days of negotiations. The two sides agreed to accelerate practical measures aimed at boosting trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

Significant progress was made on the rules of origin and tariff reduction mechanisms for the proposed Free Trade Agreement. Both countries agreed to strengthen business-to-business ties and expand the barter trade mechanism to facilitate cross-border commerce.

Key points:

· The 10th Pakistan-Iran Joint Trade Committee meeting concluded successfully in Islamabad.

· Both nations agreed on rules of origin and tariff reduction mechanisms for the FTA.

· The Cheedigi-Kohak Border Market will be expedited to promote border trade.

· Joint committees will be established for effective management of border markets.

· Technical committees will ensure timely implementation of agreed decisions.

· Trade in agricultural and horticultural products will be enhanced.

Go deeper:

The Iran-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement represents more than an economic milestone—it is a geopolitical statement. As Washington continues its sanctions regime against Tehran, Islamabad's decision to formalize trade relations through an FTA sends a clear message: Pakistan will not subordinate its national interests to U.S. foreign policy objectives. The agreement's emphasis on border markets, barter mechanisms, and agricultural trade reflects a pragmatic approach to economic cooperation that bypasses Western financial intermediaries. The $10 billion target, while ambitious, is achievable given the complementary nature of the two economies—Iran's energy and industrial base coupled with Pakistan's agricultural output and strategic location.

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