

1. CENTRE ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF 2 QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS FOR 31 ITEMS
2. CM LAUNCHES E-DIRECTORY OF TEXTILE INDUSTRIES AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES
3. TEXTILE SECTOR MAY GET SCHEME TO REPLACE TUF, SAYS JARDOSH
4. INDIA, RUSSIA OPTING TO ROUTE GOODS OPERATIONS THROUGH THE UAE AS RUPEE TRADE ACCEPTANCE SLOW

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#### 1. CENTRE ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF 2 QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS FOR 31 ITEMS

Ministry of Textiles announced the launch of 02 Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for 31 items consisting of 19 Geo Textiles and 12 Protective Textiles in the Phase-I, following due process of notification of Technical Regulations. These QCOs mark the first technical regulation from India for the Technical Textiles industry informed the Joint Secretary, Shri Rajeev Saxena in a press conference. The Centre is of the opinion that it is necessary so to do in the public interest to increase the standard and quality of Geo Textiles and Protective Textiles, for the protection of the environment, human health, and animal & plant life & health. Geo-textiles are used for infrastructure projects and environmental applications while Protective Textiles are used to protect human life from hazardous and adverse working conditions. QCOs will strive to provide best value to the users and end consumers, thereby fostering Indian product quality that is comparable to global standards. Out of the 31 items, 19 items belong to the Geo Textiles category, including Laminated High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Woven Geomembrane for Waterproof lining, PVC Geomembranes, Needle punched non-woven geobags, Polypropylene Multifilament woven geobags, Jute Geotextiles, Open Weave Coir Bhoovastra Geotextiles used in sub-grade separation in pavement structures, Geotextiles used in Subsurface Drainage Application, Geotextiles used in Sub-grade Stabilization in pavement structures, High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Geomembranes for lining, Geotextiles used as protection (or cushioning) materials, Geotextiles for permanent erosion control in hard armor systems, Geogrids for flexible pavements, Polymeric strip/geostrip used as soil reinforcement in retaining structures, Geogrids used in reinforced soil retaining structures, Reinforced HDPE membrane for effluents and chemical resistance lining, and Geocells. The remaining 12 items are of Protective Textiles, including Curtains and Drapes, Upholstered composites used for non-domestic furniture, Protective clothing for firefighters, Protective gloves for firefighters, Protective clothing for industrial workers exposed to heat, Clothing made of limited flame spread materials and material assemblies affording protection against heat and flame, High visibility Warning Clothes, Protective Clothing for use in welding and allied processes, Tactical 3 point sling, Pouch for ammunition and grenades made of disruptive pattern nylon-66, Bullet resistant jackets, and Water-proof multipurpose rain poncho. These two Geo Textiles and Protective Textiles QCOs shall come into force immediately after 180 days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. The conformity assessment requirements specified in these QCOs are equally applicable to domestic manufacturers as well as foreign manufacturers who intend to export their products to India. Ministry of Textiles is planning to issue 02 more QCOs for 28 items in Phase-II, including 22 items of Agro Textiles and 06 items of Medical Textiles. In Phase-III, 30+ more Technical Textiles items may be considered for QCO issuance. QCOs will ensure the standard and quality of Technical Textiles and encourage the growth of this industry in India in producing quality products at competitive pricing.

(Source: [pib.gov.in](http://pib.gov.in))

## 2. CM LAUNCHES E-DIRECTORY OF TEXTILE INDUSTRIES AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES

CM Attend 'Textile Leadership Conclave 2023' The Textile Leadership Conclave organised by the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce (GCCCI). On this occasion CM also launched an E-Directory providing details of textile industries and allied industries across the state on a single platform. Chief Minister expressed to keep the entire textile industry of Gujarat as a leader in contribution to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's determination to make India a global textile hub. In this regard, CM said that 30% of the total cotton production of the country is produced in Gujarat. Not only this, Gujarat contributes more than 25% percent in technical textiles. He lauded this approach where the list and contacts of around eight thousand such industries are available on a single platform. During his address CM said, "Under the direction of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Gujarat has become the state of first choice of investment for investors from home and abroad with the success of Vibrant Summit along with its reputation as a Policy Driven State". He also added that as a result of such encouraging policies and business friendly environment, Gujarat contributes more than 8% to the country's GDP and more than 18% to the industrial output. The Chief Minister also said on this occasion that the state government will be with the textile industries for the favourable environment and advanced facilities of the PM Mitra Textile Park. Expressing his confidence that this Textile Leadership Conclave will be a catalyst for the immortality of the textile industry, the CM gave a motivational call to the business-industry-society-government to work together in building a Self-Reliant Gujarat for a Self-Reliant India. On this occasion Additional Chief Secretary of Industries Department Shri S.J. Haider, GCCCI Chairman Shri Pathik Patwari, Vice Chairman Shri Yogesh Parikh, Assocham, representatives of Textile Task Force, Chairman of Maskti Mahajan Market Shri Chintan Thacker and 78 representatives of 40 associations from states including Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu had joined.

*(Source: CMO Gujarat)*

## 3. TEXTILE SECTOR MAY GET SCHEME TO REPLACE TUF, SAYS JARDOSH

The Technological Upgradation Fund (TUF) programme may be replaced with a new programme for the textile industry after careful evaluation, according to Union Minister of State for Textiles Darshana Jardosh. At the GCCCI Textile Leadership Colloquium, Jardosh spoke with 76 associations of the textile industry and stated that the government is taking steps to increase cotton yield. She added that the PM Mitra parks will assist India in becoming a global leader in the textile sector. The central government is taking steps to strengthen the textile industry, which is the second largest employer after agriculture, according to Jardosh. The previous TUF programme, which went into force before 2014, had a lot of flaws. Many old lawsuits have been addressed by our administration. TUF scheme, but there are still roughly 1,500 cases outstanding. Once these disputes are decided, the TUF system cannot be reinstated. It expired in March 2022. Industry should make recommendations for a new plan, and we will consider them. She continued by saying that seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA) are being established in various states, including Gujarat, and that the federal government offered production-linked incentives (PLI) for the textile industry. "Our goal is to boost cotton yield. We will see growth in the technical textiles market since there is a great possibility there, she predicted.

*(Source: Textile Value Chain)*

#### 4. INDIA, RUSSIA OPTING TO ROUTE GOODS OPERATIONS THROUGH THE UAE AS RUPEE TRADE ACCEPTANCE SLOW

India and Russia are increasingly opting to route goods operations through third countries such as the UAE as the nation's currency – the dirham – is pegged to the dollar and enjoys global stability. The countries are facilitating transactions in currencies other than rupees, roubles and dollars. "There is not that much interest at present in the rupee transactions," said one of the persons cited above. "While the interest is picking up slowly, there are complex invoicing arrangements to be carried out as the existing systems are heavily dominated by the euro and the US dollar. Hence, the push for routing it through third countries." In July 2022, the Union government had said it will be setting up of a mechanism to settle international trade in rupees. The Reserve Bank of India in March granted approvals to foreign banks in 18 countries to open Vostro accounts to settle international trade in rupees. According to news reports, the central bank has allowed Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and the UK to open Vostro accounts as of now. The move came as the domestic currency was under tremendous pressure in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine since February 2022. Moreover, with the US sanctions on Russia hampering trade, several countries made efforts to move away from the dominance of the dollar in global trade.

*(Source: The Wire)*