

India-UAE free trade pact will boost exports of garment sector: AEPC

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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said that over 20 domestic exporters are participating in the [International](#) Apparel and Textile Fair (IATF) in Dubai to showcase their products.

Chairman Fair and Exhibitions [AEPC](#) Ashok Rajani said India is the second largest supplier of ready-made [garments](#) to the UAE after China.

"The UAE has traditionally been the topmost trading partner for Indian garment exports. With signing of the UAE-India CEPA agreement giving duty free access to Indian garment exports, this share is expected to increase further," he said.

CEPA stands for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Talking about the exhibition, he said exporters are aiming to showcase the best of India's apparel designs and styles in line with the latest fashion trends in a wide range of traditional cotton and MMF (man made fibres) [garments](#).

He added that the Fair opens huge business opportunities for the UAE clothing brands to source from India considering the strengths of the Indian garment industry in terms of variety of raw material availability and other things.

Elaborating on the strengths of the garment industry, Rajani said, after having established itself in traditional garments, the Indian apparel industry has now moved on to diversifying itself into newer areas of MMF [garments](#) with a technical textiles segment worth USD 16 billion with 6 per cent share of the global market.