

**Consulate General of India
Manchester**

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Press Release

Visit of High-Level Indian Textile Delegation to Manchester

A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, led by Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), visited Manchester on 24 September 2025. The visit took place in the backdrop of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which is expected to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in textiles.

India is among the world's leading producers and exporters of textiles, and one of the top four suppliers to the UK. The UK, as a global hub for design, technology and fashion, presents significant opportunities for deeper collaboration with India in technical, sustainable and fashion textiles.

The 14-member delegation included both senior government officials and representatives of the textile industry. On the government side, members comprised Smt. Shubhra, Trade Advisor, Additional DGFT & Senior Development Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles; Shri Amit Kumar, Director (Trade), Ministry of Textiles; Shri Kartikya Dhanda, Secretary, Textiles Committee; Dr Patricia Sumod, Head of Domestic and International Linkages, NIFT; and Ms R. Latitha, Director of Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The programme commenced with a visit to the Digital Manufacturing Laboratories at the University of Manchester. Professor Charlie C.L. Wang, Director of the Smart Manufacturing Laboratory, briefed the delegation on research in digital manufacturing, computational design and smart materials, with particular emphasis on sustainability and renewable inputs. The delegation noted opportunities for collaboration in automation, composites and sustainable fibres.

A Roadshow on Technical Textiles was held in Manchester, organised by the Consulate General of India in partnership with MATEXIL. It showcased India's strengths and government policies in this sector, attracting participants from government, industry, academia and potential investors. The Roadshow featured interventions by Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles); Smt. Shubhra, Trade Advisor; Mrs. Vishakha Yaduvanshi, Consul General of India in Manchester; and Shri Anil Rajvanshi, Vice Chairman, MATEXIL.

The programme also included a visit to the Manchester Metropolitan University's Fashion Institute, where discussions focused on collaboration with India's National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in design, fashion and sustainability. The delegation further visited major UK retailers such as John Lewis, observing the strong presence of Indian textile products in the market.

The visit underlined India's role as a reliable and innovative partner in the UK textile sector, with opportunities for enhanced cooperation in trade, research, technology and sustainability.

Manchester
29th September 2025