

CAI welcomes relief for ELS cotton at nil duty

By Our Staff Reporter

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One of the important changes in the Customs Schedule in the Union Budget 2026-27, presented by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, is aimed at providing relief to enable manufacturing is to move Extra Long Staple Cotton to First Schedule (zero Customs Duty).

This will boost exports of our finished textile products and increase India's share in the world textile markets. Also commission earned from a foreign party for facilitating import of goods into India will be treated as an export of services, and no GST will be charged on the same, informed Mr. Vinay N. Kotak, President, Cotton Association of India (CAI).

The Budget provides a clear roadmap to move towards a \$5 trillion economy within a few years and a developed economy status (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, CAI President said.

This Budget also lays a strong emphasis on strengthening the labour-oriented textile sector. Integrated Programme for textile sector included in the Budget aims to boost demand, enhance competitiveness and support over all development through skill development, ease of doing business and various other measures such as development of Coastal Infrastructure, Mega Textile Parks, Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj initiative to strengthen khadi, handloom and handicraft, Technical Textiles, etc. These measures will help in creating global market linkage and branding, bolster demand and enhance our export-competitiveness.

Overall, Union Budget 2026-27 focuses on reforms and stability to make India future ready, Mr. Kotak added.