

Giriraj Singh briefs LS on new research projects

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A total of 16 new research projects focusing on areas such as, indigenous development of advanced technical textile products, high-performance fibres, smart and functional textiles, protective gear, textile machinery, and composite systems for infrastructure and industrial applications etc. have been approved under National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) in February, 2026.

This above information was provided by Minister for Textiles, Mr. Giriraj Singh, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.

Textile Minister informed that one of the key objectives of Component-I of NTTM is to support fundamental research for the development of specialty fibres such as carbon fibre, aramid fibre, nylon fibre and Ultra High Molecular Weight Poly Ethylene (UHMWPE), etc. Under this component, a project for indigenous development of intermediate modulus grade carbon fibre has been approved to CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL).

Under NTTM, a dedicated intervention titled “Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)” has been implemented with an objective to support start-up ecosystem of Technical Textiles in the country by assisting young innovators, scientists/technologists, and start-up ventures in the field of Technical Textiles to translate their ideas into commercial technologies/products. Under the GREAT guidelines, a maximum support of Rs. 50 lakh is provided to each approved start-up. A total of 31 Start-ups have been approved under NTTM at a cost of Rs. 15.40 crore.

The Ministry of Textiles is promoting the mandatory use of indigenous geotextiles in infrastructure development, including road construction in hilly and difficult terrains, through coordinated efforts among various Ministries / Departments such as the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, etc. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and the Ministry of Jal Shakti have issued guidelines and codal provisions encouraging the use of various geosynthetic products such as Geocell, Geocomposites, Geogrid, etc. in highway construction and maintenance.

As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) trade data, during the current financial year (till December 2025), total export of technical textiles from the country stands at Rs. 21,970 crore as against the import of Rs. 18,953 crore. The details of export and import of Technical Textiles in the last three financial years and current financial year as per the DGCIS data are given below:

F.Y.	Exports (INR Cr)	Imports (INR Cr)	Trade Balance (INR Cr)
2022-23	23,050	21,809	+1,241
2023-24	24,724	21,132	+3,592
2024-25	28,392	22,865	+5,527
2025-26	21,970	18,953	+3,017

(April - Dec 2025)

Source: DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce.