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POLICY IMPLEMENTATION VERSUS GROUND REALITY OF TEXTILE INDUSTRIES IN INDIA: AN EVIDENCE-BASED ASSESSMENT OF POLICY DELIVERY, INDUSTRIAL OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION GAPS

A secondary-data-based research paper using latest available official and government-reported evidence

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Abstract: India's textile sector occupies a strategically important position in employment, manufacturing, exports and regional industrial development. Over the last decade, public policy has increasingly shifted from broad support schemes towards targeted interventions such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles, PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks, the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), and skill-development initiatives. Yet an important research question remains: to what extent is policy ambition being translated into measurable ground-level outcomes? This paper evaluates the implementation–outcome gap using the latest available secondary evidence from the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Press Information Bureau, NIRYAT-linked trade data and related government documents. The analysis shows a mixed picture. India's textile exports increased from US\$34.4 billion in 2023–24 to approximately US\$36.61 billion in 2024–25, while Gujarat recorded approximately US\$5.65 billion of textile exports in 2024–25. The Annual Survey of Industries 2023–24 identifies textiles as accounting for 7.06% of factories, 6.61% of operating factories and 8.75% of persons engaged in the organised factory sector. However, implementation indicators reveal that policy outcomes are still developing. Under the PLI Scheme, 91 selected companies had, by 30 September 2025, generated ₹7,731 crore investment, 30,838 jobs, ₹733 crore exports and ₹7,290 crore turnover; by July 2026, 170 companies had been approved, with projected investment of ₹41,533 crore and projected employment of 367,427. PM MITRA shows substantial investment interest, rising from ₹42,491 crore in December 2025 to ₹63,177 crore by March 2026, but infrastructure expenditure remained much smaller than the value of investment interest. The evidence therefore suggests that India has moved from policy announcement towards institutional implementation, but the conversion of announced incentives, proposed investments and projected employment into durable factory-level production, exports, decent employment and broad-based MSME participation remains incomplete. The paper argues that the central policy challenge is no longer only policy formulation but execution quality, accessibility, monitoring, state-level coordination, infrastructure readiness and outcome-based evaluation.

KEYWORDS

textile industry; policy implementation; ground reality; PLI Scheme; PM MITRA; technical textiles; employment; exports; industrial policy; India; implementation gap; MSMEs

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

India's textile and apparel industry combines economic importance with unusually high policy sensitivity. It is labour-intensive, geographically concentrated, export-oriented and deeply connected with cotton, man-made fibres, rural employment, women's work, small enterprises and large integrated manufacturers. Government estimates continue to place direct employment in the textile sector at more than 45 million people, while recent government communication describes textiles as the second-largest employment generator after agriculture. The Economic Survey 2026–27 material cited by the Government gives textiles a 9% share of employment across eight major industry groups. □cite□turn2search9□turn2search24□

The policy architecture has also expanded. The PLI Scheme for Textiles was approved in 2021 with an outlay of ₹10,683 crore to promote MMF apparel, MMF fabrics and technical textiles. PM MITRA was designed to create integrated textile parks with modern infrastructure, plug-and-play facilities and an integrated value chain. The National Technical Textiles Mission has focused on research, innovation, applications, skills and market development. Samarth has sought to address skill gaps through placement-oriented training. These interventions reflect a shift from generic assistance towards competitiveness, scale, technology and value addition. □cite□turn0search45□turn2search0□turn1search13□

The policy narrative is encouraging, but policy announcements and ground outcomes are not the same thing. A scheme can be formally approved while firms face delays in land, utilities, approvals, finance, technology, skilled labour, market access or compliance. Similarly, investment interest, memoranda of understanding and projected employment should not be interpreted as realised investment, actual jobs or completed production. This distinction is central to the present study.

The latest evidence illustrates this implementation challenge. Under PLI Textiles, the number of approved companies reached 170 by July 2026. The official portal reports projected investment of ₹41,533 crore, projected turnover of ₹2,75,053 crore and projected employment of 3,67,427. Yet an earlier government assessment of 91 selected companies as of 30 September 2025 reported actual investment of ₹7,731 crore, employment of 30,838, exports of ₹733 crore and turnover of ₹7,290 crore. The gap between projected and realised indicators cannot be read simply as policy failure because the scheme has different performance periods and cohorts; nevertheless, it demonstrates why implementation needs to be evaluated using realised outcomes rather than commitments alone. □cite□turn0search1□turn2search5□

PM MITRA provides another illustration. Seven parks have been approved, including Navsari in Gujarat. By March 2026, total investment interest across the parks had reached ₹63,177 crore, while external infrastructure works worth ₹2,160.17 crore had been initiated and ₹564.72 crore had been spent. In December 2025, investment interest was ₹42,491 crore. These figures show rapid mobilisation of investor interest, but also demonstrate that the transition from investor interest to physical infrastructure and operational production is still underway. □cite□turn2search7□turn2search1□

Against this background, the present study evaluates the distance between what textile policy promises and what available evidence shows on the ground. Rather than treating government targets as outcomes, it distinguishes between policy intent, implementation activity, realised indicators and structural constraints.

2. Research Problem

The central research problem is the implementation gap between textile-sector policy design and industry-level outcomes. India has introduced multiple schemes intended to improve scale, technology, employment, exports and competitiveness. However, the evidence remains fragmented across administrative datasets and policy reports. A systematic secondary-data assessment is therefore required to determine whether policy implementation is progressing at the same speed as policy ambition.

3. Research Questions

RQ1: What are the major policy interventions currently shaping India's textile industry?

RQ2: What measurable implementation outcomes have emerged under PLI Textiles and PM MITRA?

RQ3: How do recent export, employment and industrial-structure indicators compare with policy ambitions?

RQ4: What evidence exists of an implementation gap between announced/proposed outcomes and realised outcomes?

RQ5: What institutional, infrastructural, financial, technological and skill-related factors explain the persistence of implementation gaps?

4. Objectives of the Study

To map the major contemporary policy interventions affecting India's textile industry.

To assess the implementation status of PLI Textiles, PM MITRA and technical-textile initiatives.

To examine recent trends in textile exports, employment and organised manufacturing.

To compare policy targets, investment commitments and available realised outcomes.

To identify the major implementation constraints affecting textile firms.

To recommend an outcome-oriented framework for improving policy delivery and industrial competitiveness.

5. Hypotheses

H1: Greater implementation intensity of textile-sector policies is positively associated with measurable industrial outcomes such as investment, employment and exports.

H2: The realised outcomes of major textile policies remain significantly below their announced or projected potential during the implementation phase.

H3: Infrastructure readiness, access to technology, skills and institutional coordination significantly influence the conversion of policy support into industrial outcomes.

H4: Policy benefits are unevenly distributed across firms and regions, with larger and better-capitalised firms more capable of accessing targeted incentives.

H5: Outcome-based monitoring provides a more accurate assessment of textile policy effectiveness than counting approvals, MoUs or projected investments.

Because the study relies on secondary and administrative data rather than a firm-level survey, these hypotheses are assessed through evidence triangulation and comparative indicators rather than causal econometric estimation.

6. Literature Review

Table 1. Literature synthesis

Author/Source	Year	Theme	Key finding	Relevance
A. Aldrich & Cliff	2003	Family embeddedness / institutional context	Shows how economic outcomes are embedded in social and institutional relationships.	Supports an embedded view of industry-policy implementation.
Rana	2018	Textile sustainability challenges	Identifies government policy and infrastructure as critical barriers to sustainable textile development.	Supports policy-ground reality gap analysis.
Kanupriya	2021	Digitalisation in Indian textiles	Shows that digitalisation creates opportunities but also skills and infrastructure challenges.	Highlights technology-readiness constraints.
A. Kumar et al.	2021	Technical efficiency	Finds substantial scope to improve the ecosystem of Indian textile-garment value chains.	Supports competitiveness and efficiency analysis.

Industry barriers study 4.0	2021	Implementation barriers	Identifies trained staff, management commitment, government support and R&D as key driving barriers.	Directly informs implementation-gap analysis.
Verma & Kakkar	2022	MMF/PLI and MITRA	Discusses the mismatch between India's fibre mix and global MMF demand and the potential of PLI/MITRA.	Provides policy-specific rationale.
Tiruppur skills study	2023	Skills and employment	Shows that garment workers often acquire skills informally through employment rather than formal training.	Challenges linear assumptions about training-to-employment outcomes.
Government PLI evidence	2023	PLI implementation	Shows early selected applications, proposed investment, projected turnover and employment.	Provides baseline for comparing policy commitments with later realised outcomes.
Technical Textiles Baseline Survey	2022	Technical textiles	Projects employment growth and identifies skills and capability requirements.	Supports technical-textile policy assessment.
Aggarwal & Naraparaju	2026	Indian industrial policy	Finds uneven uptake of PLI schemes across sectors and stresses institutional design and embedded implementation.	Provides a contemporary industrial-policy lens.

The literature converges on a central point: policy design is necessary but not sufficient for industrial transformation. Technology adoption requires skills and infrastructure; textile competitiveness depends on ecosystem efficiency; and industrial incentives are mediated by institutional capacity. Research on Tiruppur also shows that policy assumptions about training and employment can diverge from actual worker pathways. Recent research on India's PLI architecture similarly points to uneven uptake across sectors.

7. Conceptual Framework

The paper conceptualises policy implementation as a chain rather than a single event:

Policy Design → Eligibility & Access → Administrative Processing → Infrastructure & Finance → Firm-Level Investment → Production → Employment & Skills → Exports/Value Addition → Long-Term Competitiveness

An implementation gap can emerge at any stage. Therefore, the study distinguishes four layers: (1) announced policy; (2) implementation activity; (3) realised output; and (4) final industrial outcome.

8. Methodology

Research design. The study uses a descriptive, analytical and comparative secondary-data design. The unit of analysis is the Indian textile-policy ecosystem, with particular attention to PLI Textiles and PM MITRA.

Data sources. The principal sources are the Ministry of Textiles Annual Report 2024–25, Ministry of Textiles PLI portal, PIB parliamentary replies and releases, MoSPI Annual Survey of Industries 2023–24, NIRYAT-linked trade information, and government technical-textile documents. The ASI 2023–24 reference period is FY 2023–24 and the survey covered 83,620 units in the frame/sample design described by MoSPI. □ cite □ turn0search46 □ turn0search47 □

Analytical approach. The analysis uses trend comparison, policy-target versus implementation-status comparison, indicator triangulation and gap interpretation. Where official data distinguish projected/committed figures from realised figures, they are reported separately. No projected investment, MoU or employment figure is treated as a realised outcome.

Reliability and validity. The use of multiple official sources reduces dependence on a single administrative dataset. However, administrative definitions differ across schemes, and some indicators are stock measures while others are flow measures. Consequently, the paper uses cautious interpretation and avoids causal claims.

9. Policy Landscape

Table 2. Major textile policies and implementation status

Policy intervention	Primary objective	Key policy signal	Ground-status signal
PLI Textiles	MMF apparel, MMF fabrics, technical textiles; scale and competitiveness	₹10,683 crore approved outlay	170 approved companies by July 2026; realised indicators still developing
PM MITRA	Integrated textile parks and full value-chain infrastructure	₹4,445 crore scheme outlay; 7 parks	7 sites finalised; infrastructure and investor mobilisation underway
National Technical Textiles Mission	Research, innovation, applications, skills and market development in technical textiles	₹1,480 crore mission outlay for 2020-21 to 2025-26	168 research projects approved; 68 of 116 identified products have mandatory-use notifications
Samarth	Demand-driven, placement-oriented textile skilling	Training and placement orientation	Implementation depends on placement tracking and industry demand
SITP/TCDS	Integrated textile parks / completion of legacy projects	50 parks sanctioned; 30 completed, 20 under implementation	30/50 parks completed; 20 ongoing

The policy landscape demonstrates that implementation is no longer limited to scheme notification. There are active beneficiaries, infrastructure works, research projects and completed parks. At the same time, the evidence indicates that several interventions are still in the transition from institutional rollout to mature industrial impact. □ cite □ turn1search13 □ turn2search11 □

10. Data Analysis and Interpretation

10.1 Textile Industry's Structural Importance

Table 3. Textiles in ASI 2023–24

Indicator	Textiles (%)
Share of all factories	7.06
Share of operating factories	6.61
Share of persons engaged	8.75

ASI 2023–24 places textiles third among major two-digit industries by number of factories and second by persons engaged. Textiles accounted for 7.06% of all factories, 6.61% of operating factories and 8.75% of persons engaged in the factory sector. This confirms the labour-intensive character of the industry within organised manufacturing. [□cite□turn0search46□](#)

10.2 Export Performance

Table 4. India's Textile Exports

Year	India textile exports (US\$ bn)
2023-24	34.4
2024-25	36.61

India's textile exports increased from US\$34.4 billion in 2023–24 to US\$36.61 billion in 2024–25, an increase of approximately 6.4%. The improvement is encouraging but should be interpreted against the sector's earlier peak and changing international demand. Government data indicate that textile and apparel exports had fallen from the 2021–22 high before recovering. [□cite□turn1search2□turn1news21□](#)



Figure 1. India's textile exports, 2023–24 and 2024–25.

10.3 State-Level Export Reality

Table 5. Selected State Textile Exports, FY2024–25

State	Textile exports FY2024-25 (US\$ mn)
Tamil Nadu	7997.17
Gujarat	5646.01
Maharashtra	3831.28

Tamil Nadu led the selected states with approximately US\$7.997 billion in textile exports, followed by Gujarat at US\$5.646 billion and Maharashtra at US\$3.831 billion. Gujarat therefore represents a major national textile-export centre, but it does not occupy the leading position. This is important for policy implementation because the performance of a state-level textile ecosystem depends not only on national incentives but also on state infrastructure, logistics, labour, cluster institutions and firm capabilities. [□cite□turn1news22□](#)

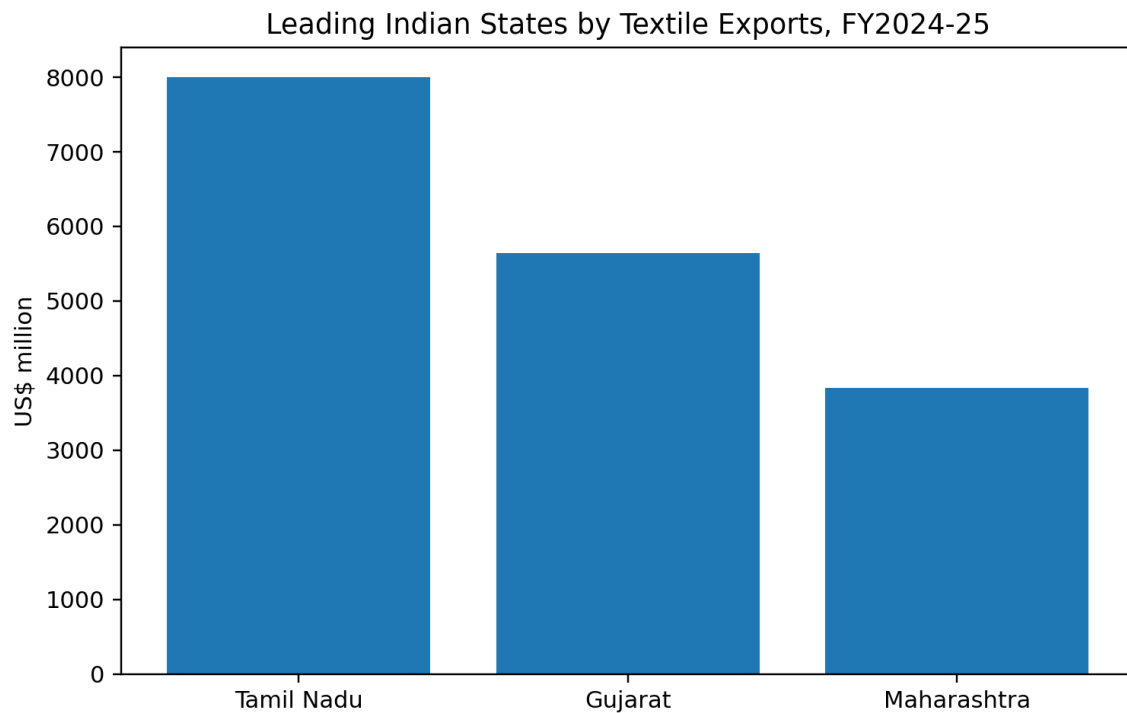


Figure 2. Selected state textile exports, FY2024–25.

10.4 PLI Textiles: Policy Ambition Versus Observed Implementation

Table 6. PLI Textiles: Observed Performance as of 30 September 2025

Indicator	Observed (30 Sep 2025)	Unit
Investment	7731	₹ crore
Employment	30838	jobs
Exports	733	₹ crore
Turnover	7290	₹ crore

The PLI scheme provides one of the clearest examples of why policy implementation should be measured through realised indicators. As of 30 September 2025, 91 selected companies had reported ₹7,731 crore investment, 30,838 jobs, ₹733 crore exports and ₹7,290 crore turnover. These are realised scheme-performance indicators reported by the Government, not original projections. □cite□turn2search5□

Table 7. PLI Textiles: Projected Scale of Approved Companies by July 2026

Segment	Companies	Projected Investment (₹ cr)	Projected Turnover (₹ cr)	Projected Employment
MMF Fabrics	38	6087	40865	32557
MMF Apparel	43	7613	64435	214665
Technical Textiles	89	27832	169753	120205

By July 2026, the official PLI portal reported 170 approved companies and projected aggregate investment of ₹41,533 crore, projected turnover of ₹2,75,053 crore and projected employment of 3,67,427. The difference between these projections and the September 2025 realised figures should not be interpreted as a simple percentage 'failure' because the number of approved firms and implementation periods changed. Instead, the comparison demonstrates that a substantial share of the policy story remains forward-looking. □cite□turn0search1□turn3search0□

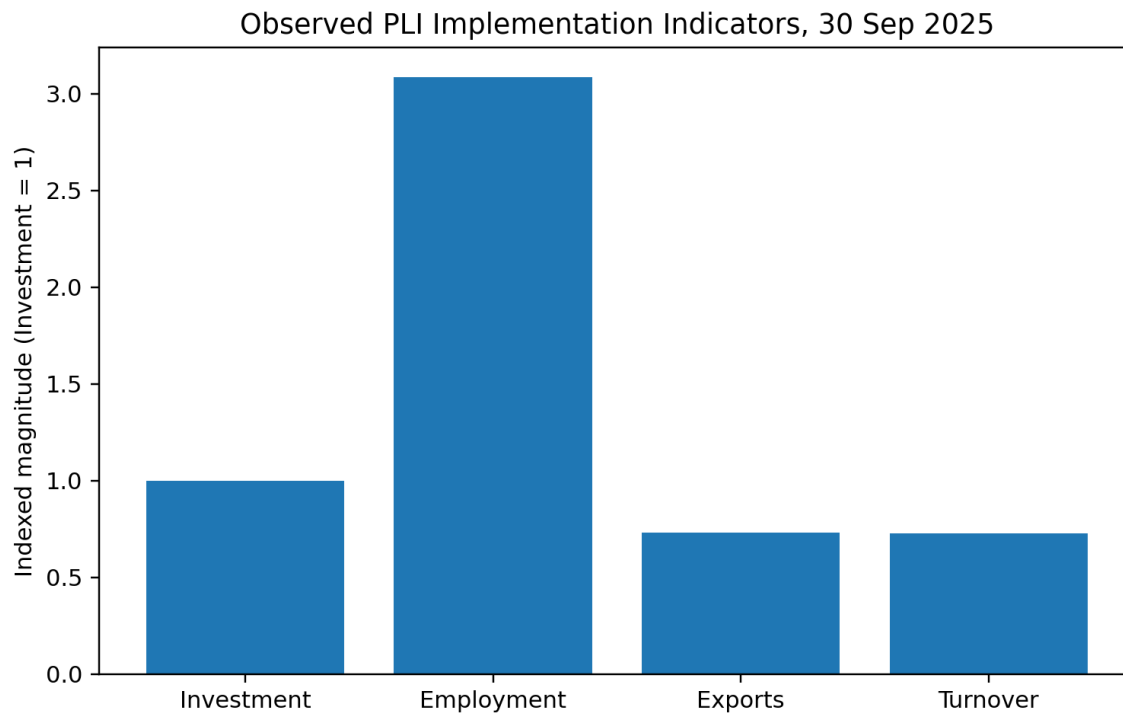


Figure 3. Observed PLI implementation indicators shown as an index for visual comparison; units are not directly comparable.

10.5 PLI Policy Modification as an Implementation Response

A significant ground-reality signal is the modification of the PLI scheme. In October 2025, the Government expanded the notified product basket by adding 17 HSN codes, reduced the minimum investment threshold by 50%, lowered the incremental turnover criterion from 25% to 10%, and relaxed the requirement to establish a new company. These modifications can be interpreted as evidence that policy design is being adjusted in response to participation and implementation constraints, particularly to widen access. [□ cite □ turn3search0 □ turn3search17 □](#)

This is an important policy lesson: when the original design is difficult for the intended business population to access, implementation may require adaptive policy rather than rigid adherence to the initial architecture.

10.6 PM MITRA: From Investment Interest to Physical Infrastructure

Table 8. PM MITRA Implementation Indicators

Indicator	Value	Unit
Scheme outlay (2021-22 to 2027-28)	4445.0	₹ crore
Investment interest received (Dec 2025)	42491.0	₹ crore
Investment interest received (Mar 2026)	63177.0	₹ crore
External infrastructure works started (Mar 2026)	2160.17	₹ crore
External infrastructure expenditure (Mar 2026)	564.72	₹ crore

PM MITRA demonstrates substantial investor interest. Seven parks were finalised with a central scheme outlay of ₹4,445 crore. Investment interest rose from ₹42,491 crore in December 2025 to ₹63,177 crore by March 2026. However, by March 2026 external infrastructure works worth ₹2,160.17 crore had been started and ₹564.72 crore had been spent. This distinction is crucial: investment interest is not equivalent to operational investment, and infrastructure work started is not equivalent to completed industrial capacity. [□ cite □ turn2search1 □ turn2search7 □](#)

The Gujarat PM MITRA site at Navsari is particularly significant because Gujarat is already one of India's largest textile-exporting states. Its success will therefore depend on whether the park adds new integrated capacity and value addition rather than merely relocating existing activities.

10.7 Technical Textiles

Technical textiles represent one area where policy and industry outcomes show relatively strong movement. The Ministry reported 168 research projects with cumulative approved cost of approximately ₹509 crore under the National Technical Textiles Mission. Of 116 products identified for mandatory use, notifications had been issued for 68. The Ministry also reported technical-textile exports of ₹24,732.68 crore in FY2024–25, up from ₹16,100.51 crore in FY2020–21. These developments suggest that targeted policy can generate measurable sectoral momentum, although technology diffusion and domestic capability remain important implementation questions. □cite□turn1search13□turn1news17□

11. Policy Implementation Gap Analysis

Table 9. Policy-to-Ground-Reality Assessment

Policy layer	Evidence	Ground-reality assessment
Policy announcement	Strong	High policy ambition
Administrative implementation	Strong	Schemes active and revised
Investment mobilisation	Strong and rising	High MoUs/investment interest
Physical implementation	Underway	Infrastructure still being built
Operational production	Developing	Not yet fully mature
Employment	Developing	Outcomes emerging
Export/value addition	Mixed but improving	Recovery visible but competitiveness remains

The evidence indicates that the implementation gap is not uniform. India performs relatively strongly at the policy and administrative stages. Investor mobilisation is also substantial. The larger gap appears later in the implementation chain, where investment must become operating factories, productive employment, exports and sustained value addition. This suggests that the critical policy challenge has shifted from 'announcing schemes' to ensuring execution quality.

12. Results

India's textile policy architecture has become more targeted, particularly toward MMF, technical textiles, integrated parks, skills and technology.

Textiles remain structurally important in organised manufacturing, accounting for 8.75% of persons engaged in the ASI 2023–24 factory sector.

Textile exports recovered from US\$34.4 billion in 2023–24 to approximately US\$36.61 billion in 2024–25. Gujarat is a major textile-exporting state, recording approximately US\$5.646 billion in textile exports in FY2024–25.

PLI Textiles has expanded from 91 selected companies in September 2025 to 170 approved companies by July 2026.

Realised PLI indicators reported for September 2025 were ₹7,731 crore investment, 30,838 jobs, ₹733 crore exports and ₹7,290 crore turnover.

PLI's latest aggregate projections—₹41,533 crore investment, ₹2,75,053 crore turnover and 367,427 jobs—remain forward-looking and should not be presented as realised outcomes.

PM MITRA has generated substantial investor interest, but infrastructure and operationalisation remain in progress.

Policy revisions to PLI in 2025 indicate adaptive policy implementation in response to participation barriers. Technical textiles show a comparatively strong combination of policy activity, research investment, mandatory-use initiatives and export growth.

13. Discussion

The central finding is that India does not suffer primarily from a lack of textile policy. Rather, the evidence points towards an execution and conversion problem. The country has created multiple policy instruments, allocated substantial public resources and generated considerable investor interest. Yet the time required to translate these interventions into factories, technology adoption, skilled jobs and export competitiveness remains substantial.

The PLI experience is particularly revealing. The scheme has expanded its beneficiary base and its eligibility architecture has been revised. This suggests that policy learning is occurring. At the same time,

the gap between projected and realised outcomes shows why monitoring systems should track actual investment, commissioned capacity, production, employment retention and exports.

PM MITRA reveals a similar pattern. The increase in investment interest is significant, but investor interest is an input rather than an outcome. The real test will be whether parks become operational ecosystems in which spinning, weaving, processing, garmenting, technical textiles and related services are physically and commercially integrated.

The evidence also indicates that the ground reality is highly heterogeneous. Large firms with capital, managerial capacity and export networks may find it easier to access targeted schemes than smaller firms. This makes MSME accessibility an important dimension of implementation. The 2025 PLI amendments—particularly the reduction in investment thresholds—can be interpreted as an attempt to reduce this accessibility gap. □cite□turn3search0□

The skills dimension further complicates implementation. Research from Tiruppur shows that workers frequently develop skills through employment and self-directed learning rather than through formal training alone. Therefore, a policy that measures success only through the number of trainees may overestimate labour-market impact. Skill policies need to track job placement, wage progression, retention, skill utilisation and productivity. □cite□turn3search6□

14. Findings

Policy formulation has moved faster than full ground-level industrial transformation.

Investment mobilisation is stronger than operationalisation in several major schemes.

Textile exports show recovery, but export growth alone does not establish that policy objectives have been fully achieved.

India continues to have a strong employment rationale for textile policy because of the sector's labour intensity.

PLI has demonstrated adaptive governance through subsequent eligibility and product-basket revisions.

PM MITRA is progressing through land, infrastructure and investor-allocation stages, but the final test will be operational cluster performance.

Technical textiles show stronger evidence of targeted policy-to-output movement than several traditional segments.

Skills, infrastructure, access to finance and institutional coordination remain critical implementation bottlenecks.

The policy–industry relationship is heterogeneous: firms with greater capital and organisational capacity are better positioned to absorb incentives.

Future evaluation should shift from counting approvals and MoUs to measuring realised investment, production, productivity, employment quality and export value addition.

15. Suggestions

Create a single Textile Policy Implementation Dashboard integrating PLI, PM MITRA, TCDS, Samarth and technical-textile indicators.

Report announced, approved, grounded and realised investment as separate categories.

Track employment by jobs created, jobs retained, wages, gender and skill level rather than using a single employment number.

Link PLI incentives to commissioned production capacity and verified export/value-addition outcomes.

Strengthen last-mile infrastructure around PM MITRA parks before aggressive investor mobilisation.

Create dedicated MSME facilitation cells to reduce documentation, financing and compliance barriers.

Integrate skilling with actual vacancies and plant-level technology requirements.

Expand common testing, R&D, design and digitalisation facilities at textile clusters.

Use state-level implementation scorecards to compare land readiness, utilities, approvals, investment conversion and employment.

Conduct independent third-party evaluations every two years rather than relying exclusively on administrative self-reporting.

16. Recommendations

First, policy evaluation should adopt an implementation-chain framework. Every scheme should report its status at each stage from approval to operational output.

Second, the Government should distinguish between 'interest', 'MoU', 'investment grounded', 'investment commissioned' and 'production achieved'. This would substantially improve policy transparency.

Third, textile parks should be judged by occupancy, production, employment, export value and value addition after commissioning rather than by land allotment alone.

Fourth, PLI should continue to evolve in response to evidence, especially for MSMEs and segments where minimum investment requirements exclude otherwise competitive firms.

Fifth, skills programmes should move from trainee-count targets towards employment, retention, wage and productivity outcomes.

Sixth, state governments should be integrated more deeply into textile-policy monitoring because electricity, water, land, roads, logistics, labour administration and local approvals often determine actual implementation.

Seventh, future research should combine secondary data with firm-level primary surveys in major clusters such as Ahmedabad, Surat, Tiruppur, Ludhiana, Panipat and Bengaluru. Such research would allow direct measurement of whether firms actually receive, use and benefit from policy incentives.

17. Conclusion

The evidence supports a balanced conclusion. India's textile policy framework is substantial, increasingly targeted and increasingly adaptive. The sector continues to be economically and socially important, with more than 45 million people directly employed according to government estimates, strong industrial presence and recovering exports. At the same time, the distance between policy promise and ground reality remains visible.

The strongest implementation signals are found in institutional activity, investor interest, scheme expansion, policy revision, research projects and infrastructure development. The weaker or still-developing signals are found in the conversion of these activities into operational production, durable employment, MSME participation and sustained export competitiveness.

Therefore, the central policy issue for Indian textiles is no longer simply 'What policy should the Government announce?' The more important question is 'How effectively does the policy travel from Delhi and state capitals to the factory floor?' The answer from the latest evidence is: substantially, but incompletely.

The next phase of textile policy should consequently prioritise implementation quality, infrastructure readiness, outcome measurement, MSME accessibility, skill utilisation and independent evaluation. India's textile ambition will ultimately be judged not by the number of schemes announced, but by the number of productive factories created, workers retained in decent employment, firms becoming globally competitive and value added within India.

18. Limitations

The study is based entirely on secondary and administrative data. Some indicators are projected while others are realised; they cannot be treated as directly interchangeable. Official data also use different reference periods and definitions. The study does not conduct firm-level causal estimation and therefore cannot attribute observed export or employment changes solely to government policies. Further, some recent data are provisional or reported at different dates. These limitations should be considered when interpreting the implementation gap.

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Appendix A. Key Secondary Indicators Used

Table A1. Selected Latest Indicators

Indicator	Value
India textile exports 2023–24	US\$34.4 bn
India textile exports 2024–25	US\$36.61 bn
Gujarat textile exports 2024–25	US\$5,646.01 mn
PLI selected companies, Sep 2025	91
PLI observed investment, Sep 2025	₹7,731 cr
PLI observed employment, Sep 2025	30,838
PLI approved companies, Jul 2026	170
PLI projected investment, Jul 2026	₹41,533 cr
PM MITRA investment interest, Mar 2026	₹63,177 cr
PM MITRA external infrastructure expenditure, Mar 2026	₹564.72 cr