

# Exporters upbeat amid uncertainty over tariffs

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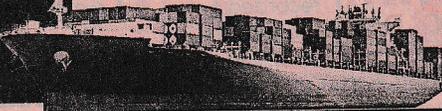
## IN A NUTSHELL

■ Exporters await clarity on the start date of the

**15%**  
global tariff announced by Trump

■ HKL Magu, former chief of Apparel Export Promotion Council, said summer orders fell 50%

■ Buyers kept placing orders even at the interim 18% duty, said Damodaran of Indian Textpreneurs Federation



**UNCERTAINTY PERSISTS AMONG** exporters on when the additional global tariff of 15% announced by US president Donald Trump will take effect. However, they remain positive about the situation. Whatever the tariff level, it will be the same for all countries, enabling them to regain customers who moved to other geographies.

The last season saw US orders for the summer supply drop 50% but as the additional tariff for India drop from the high of 50%, the next season should see good recovery, chairman of Jyoti Apparels and former president of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) H K L Magu said. The orders that are shipped between May to July are booked in January-February and buyers have moved to other locations. In the September-March season the apparel exporters see buyers returning in a big way, he said.

"Buyers have been placing

orders even after the 18% tariff (under the interim deal) was announced. Anything lower than that is only favourable for them," convenor of the Indian Textpreneurs Federation based in Coimbatore Prabhu Damodaran said. "There is no confusion among buyers in the United States." Exporters say that 15% additional duty is better than 18% that were negotiated with the US as part of the interim trade deal announced on February 7. That deal removed 25% Russian oil tariffs and reduced reciprocal tariffs to 18% from 25%. The 18% tariffs were never notified and in between announcements of

15% global tariffs came after the US Supreme Court judgement scrapping country-specific tariffs. "Since the announcement of reducing tariffs to 18%, there have been a lot of positive responses from the US. With further reduction of additional tariffs to 15% we are still analysing the implication," secretary general of Sea Food Exporters Association of India KN Raghvan said.

Apparel and seafood exports were most impacted by the 50% duties. The 15% tariffs will be charged on goods entering the US from February 24.