

Tiruppur Makes Knits. Where Do You Go for Wovens?



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Tiruppur makes knitwear, and Indian makers tell foreign buyers so themselves. For woven tops, shirts and dresses, start in the Delhi region (Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad), add Jaipur for hand-printed wovens and Bengaluru for volume woven work, and treat Mumbai quotes as export houses until you know where the goods are sewn. Ludhiana is a winter knitwear town, not a woven alternative. India is a bigger woven supplier than many buyers think, ranking fourth for woven apparel in US imports in 2025.

The Short Version

- Tiruppur is officially and practically a knit town. Route woven RFQs elsewhere, but ask, because some units do both.
- In US data, India ranked 4th for woven apparel in 2025 with 7.7%, against 6th for knitted apparel.
- 98.2% of named-shipper US bills for women's woven blouses come from seven cities, led by the Delhi region.
- Ludhiana's hosiery units describe themselves as winter-only, so it is no route to summer wovens.
- A mixed knit and woven range usually means two cities and two sets of export papers. Plan for it.

For woven shirts, tops and dresses, start in the Delhi region (Noida, Gurugram and Faridabad), which is India's main woven-fashion belt. Add Jaipur for hand-printed wovens and Bengaluru for volume woven work. Treat a Mumbai quote as an export house until you know where the garment is sewn, and don't look to Ludhiana, which is a winter knitwear town.

The question comes up because Tiruppur is so dominant in T-shirts that buyers assume it does everything. It doesn't, and Indian makers are refreshingly direct about it. This post is the routing map for wovens across India: which city for which product, what the data says about India as a woven supplier, and what to do when your range mixes knits and wovens. It uses our analysis of US shipping records and UN Comtrade data, and maker voices from our forum research. The caveat is that the shipping records cover US-bound cargo only, so read them as a map of who exports, not a census.

SourcingFrom Intelligence

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01 India is a stronger woven supplier than knit supplier in the US. In 2025 India ranked 4th for woven apparel (HS 62) with 7.7% of US imports, and 6th for knitted apparel (HS 61) with 5.4%. *(UN Comtrade, importer-reported, our analysis · Verified data, Indicative reading)*

02 Women's woven blouses come from seven cities. 98.2% of named-shipper US sea bills for HS 6206 come from addresses in Bengaluru, Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram, Jaipur, Mumbai and Noida, with the Delhi-region towns the largest group. *(US import bill-of-lading records, our analysis, read 23 Sep 2026)*

03 Ludhiana's hosiery units call themselves winter-only. "We do winter only like sweatshirts, cardigans etc." *(Ludhiana hosiery unit, r/ludhiana, Jul 2026)*

What we don't know yet

- Where men's woven shirts and denim are made for export. Our shipping-record study didn't cover those tariff lines.

1. Is Tiruppur Really Knit-Only?

For practical purposes, yes. The government lists Tiruppur as a Town of Export Excellence for hosiery and knitwear, while the towns the same list names for apparel are Noida, Gurugram and Faridabad in the Delhi region ([DGFT, Appendix 1B, 6 Apr 2023, Verified](#)). Indian makers say the same. One told a foreign buyer in 2023 that the town is "great if you need massive quantities. They specialize in knits, and thats it" ([r/streetwearstartup, Reported](#)), and another pointed buyers needing wovens or more complex garments towards Bangalore or Delhi.

"Knit-only" is still a rule of thumb, not a law. In August 2026 a vendor on the Tiruppur forum offered "check shirts with premium finishes", though the post didn't say where they're made ([r/Tiruppur, Reported](#)). Some exporters place woven work with units in other cities and sell it under one name, which is a normal model. So if a Tiruppur exporter quotes you wovens, don't refuse it. Ask which unit, in which city, sews them.

2. Is India Actually Good at Wovens?

Better than its T-shirt reputation suggests. Across the markets we analysed, India's share of woven apparel imports in 2025 was 7.7% in the US (4th), 7.3% in the UK (3rd), 5.3% in Australia (4th), 5.1% in the EU (5th) and 4.3% in New Zealand (5th), and in the UAE's 2023 figures 14.0% (2nd) (UN Comtrade, importer-reported, our analysis). In the US the woven rank beats India's knit rank, where it sits 6th.

That matches what Indian apparel does well. Embroidery, prints, hand finishing and garment washes are where Indian makers win, and those are mostly woven-fashion skills. The Delhi belt's page explains the pattern in more depth on [the NCR apparel hub](#).

3. Which City for Which Woven?

Here's the routing as our evidence supports it. Start with the first city on the row, then widen.

What you're making	Start in	Why
Woven tops, blouses, dresses, embroidered or embellished pieces	Delhi region: Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad	Largest group of named US shippers of woven blouses, and listed by DGFT as apparel towns
Hand-block-printed or hand-dyed wovens, often in smaller runs	Jaipur	The block-print workshops of Sanganer and Bagru sit around the city
Volume woven basics for large retailers	Bengaluru	Appears in the record as a woven maker's address, and makers point buyers there
Anything quoted from a Mumbai address	Treat as an export house first	Mumbai addresses in the blouse data are mostly export houses, buying offices and forwarders
Sarees, kurtis and dress fabric	Surat	A fabric and saree market worked through commission agents

Sources: US bill-of-lading records (our analysis, 2026), DGFT Appendix 1B, and maker and buyer voices in our forum research (2023 to 2026, Reported).

Two cautions on that table. Surat is a fabric market, not a garment-export town, and people who have bought there say to visit and stay while the order is packed, because remote orders go wrong (forum buyers, Reported). And a Mumbai address doesn't mean a problem. An export house that places your order with a sewing unit elsewhere is a normal

business model. Just know who makes it and who answers for quality. Product-level detail on tops is on [women's woven tops from India](#), and on block print at [hand block print textiles](#).

4. What About Ludhiana?

It's the other knit town, and not a woven alternative. DGFT lists Ludhiana for woollen knitwear, and its hosiery units describe themselves as winter-only. "We do winter only like sweatshirts, cardigans etc," one family unit wrote in July 2026, and another local said the cluster has "lost at fashion game" (r/ludhiana, Reported).

So Ludhiana belongs on a sweater or sweatshirt RFQ, not a woven one. There's one angle worth testing if you buy for Australia or New Zealand. Your winter is India's summer, so a winter-only cluster may have room off its own peak. Nobody in our research said so, so treat it as a question to ask, not a fact. The cluster is on [Ludhiana knitwear](#).

5. Can One Supplier Do a Mixed Knit and Woven Range?

Sometimes, through an export house that places work in several cities. More often you'll end up with a knit maker in Tiruppur and a woven maker in the north. That's fine, but it changes three things.

Samples and quality. Two makers means two sample rounds and two sets of fit comments. Run inspection where each style is sewn, not where the invoice comes from.

Shipping. Tiruppur cargo usually leaves from the south, often via Colombo, and Delhi-region cargo from Mundra or Nhava Sheva. Combining them means moving goods across India or shipping twice. Each supplier also files its own export papers, which is why combining loads costs more than

buyers expect, as [LCL vs FCL](#) explains. How northern goods reach the port is on [how ICD cargo reaches the port](#).

Contracts. Two makers means two sets of terms, two deposits and two people to chase. Keep the size charts, labels and packing instructions identical across both.

Coordinating two cities, two makers and one delivery date is execution work. [SourcingSync](#) shortlists woven makers in the north, runs the inspections where the goods are sewn and pulls the shipments together for foreign buyers.

Questions Buyers Ask

Does Tiruppur make woven shirts? ^

It's a knit town, and its makers say so. Some exporters place woven work with other units, so ask which unit sews yours.

Where are woven blouses and dresses made in India? v

Is Ludhiana good for wovens? v

Is a Mumbai supplier a manufacturer? v

Is India competitive in woven apparel? v