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MARKET FOCUS

Chennai has been renowned as a cultural centre since its early days, but its emergence as a manufacturing and IT hub is a recent phenomenon.

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CASE STUDY

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Weaving Opportunities in Chennai

Chennai, the fourth largest city in India and home to a population of six million people, has long been a key textile centre for the region.

Many of the country's garment manufacturers are located in the Ambattur-Padi industrial zone in the northern suburbs of Chennai. Aside from fabric, the city is also known for its leather apparel and automotive industries.

Singapore was the third-largest exporter to India from 2006 to 2007, with bilateral trade growing by 31 per cent from US\$8.7 billion in 2005 to US\$11.49 billion in 2006.

The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) signed between India and Singapore in 2005 has further strengthened economic cooperation between the two nations. CECA comprises a free trade agreement, an improved Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and a bilateral agreement on investment promotion and protection.

Clearing Indian Customs

Singapore businesses should exercise caution when trading with Indian companies. Indian partners must receive goods with a valid import/export code (IEC) number, and their own IEC numbers should be clearly stated on the purchase orders. Without the IEC numbers, local customs will not clear the goods for commercial use.

Shipping invoices should also indicate the shipment's value or Customs will make their own valuation for duty purposes. The recipient will have to appeal to Customs, if they do not agree to the duty amount, thus causing delays.

Shipments valued over US\$2,200 will require a formal entry and Power of Attorney (POA) document prior to customs clearance.

Indian Customs places a 30-day time limit for shipment clearance. If shipments are held back and not cleared within that period, they will be abandoned. Reasons for customs to hold back shipments include the Indian consignee not having an IEC number, inaccurate description or value of the shipment, and old or used goods without a proper import license.

Need further information? UPS can advise you on any restrictions or special requirements for shipping to Chennai.

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UPS in Chennai, India

UPS operates five flights from Singapore to Mumbai weekly. All formal entry shipments valued above US\$2,200 are trans-shipped from Mumbai to Chennai customs for clearance.

UPS handles the customs clearance of import and export shipments from the Chennai port and the Madras Export Processing Zone.

UPS serves the Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkatta, and Cochin airports. Brokerage services at 10 different locations across Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Cochin, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune and Ahmedabad are also provided

Goods subject to Customs control include:

- All films and videos
- Medical products, devices and supplies
- Medicine and nutritional supplements
- Radios, including radio and satellite equipment
- Old and used goods

Contact the UPS iadvisor for more information on the Customs requirements of the goods you are planning to import into Chennai and India.

FEATURED IADVISOR



Name: Sunny Chia
Company: UPS
Expertise: Import/Export
Market: ASEAN, China, India

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State government has also contributed immensely in effecting the turnaround of Chennai from a conservative city to a cosmopolitan metropolis bubbling with industrial activity. The government's proactive approach is reflected in the structured incentive package offered to investors and the single-window facilitation process to ensure that in-principle composite approval is granted for projects within 30 days.

While Chennai continues to attract investments in the electronic hardware, automobile manufacture and software development industries, the city's textiles, furnishings and leather industries draw investors as well.

There is great potential in the agriculture and food processing industry, as Tamil Nadu produces large quantities of fruits, vegetables, poultry and dairy products. The rich bio diversity of the state also provides opportunities in the fields of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

For more information, please visit [IE Singapore website](#).

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