TEXTILE INTELLIGENCE CENTRE
iBtex.
INFORMATION BUREAU
TEXPROCIL

TEXPROCIL
NEWS CLIPPINGS

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council [TEXPROCIL]
Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai - 400 004. Maharashtra State. INDIA
W. www.texprocil.org E. enews@texprocil.org T. +91-22-2363 2910 to 12 F. +91-22-2363 2914

# IBTEX No. 246 of 2017 December 09, 2017

USD 64.48 | EUR 75.92 | GBP 87.03 | JPY 0.57

## Cotton Market (8/12/17)

**Spot Price ( Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm**

| Rs./Bale | Rs./Candy | USD Cent/lb |
|---|---|---|
| 18047 | 37750 | **74.63** |

**Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), December**

| Rs./Bale | Rs./Candy | USD Cent/lb |
|---|---|---|
| 18900 | 39534 | **78.16** |

**International Futures Price**

| | |
|---|---|
| NY ICE USD Cents/lb ( March 2018) | 74.23 |
| ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT ( Jan 2018) | 15,110 |
| ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb | **88.07** |
| **Cotlook A Index – Physical** | **83.65** |

**Cotton & currency guide:** Cotton market in the US was initially stable. The March ICE future was trading around 72.50 cents as an average price. However post the weekly export sales data were released the entire market was volatile but eventually it shot up to move above 5 months high.

The aforementioned contract posted a day close near the high at 74.23 cents per pound. Market has come out of the recent consolidation phase. Earlier this week market talk was export cancellation order to notice for US cotton because of which market was holding steady.

However with the export sales figure holding at 186+K bales for the week ending 30th November supported the market.

Increases were reported for Pakistan (50,400), Vietnam (42,700, including 600 switched from South Korea and a decrease of 5,500), Turkey (31,200) and Japan (20,200, including a decrease of 800). A reduction was reported for China (39,700).

Net sales of 50,400 running bales for 2018/19 were reported for China (24,200), Indonesia (6,600), Thailand (5,300), Pakistan (4,400) and Japan (4,200). Meanwhile, net American Pima sales for 2017/18 were reduced by 12,800 running bales. Increases were reported mainly for China (3,400, including a decrease of 100), Pakistan (2,200), Peru (1,900) and Egypt (900). A reduction of 22,800 was reported for India.

With the price gain above 74 cents and cleared the intermittent resistance believe market may now head towards 75 cents. We now need to keep a close watch 75 as next key resistance level; upon breakout would give a base Chang effect on cotton price and the short term target could shift to 77cents.

On the domestic front spot market for S6 traded steady near Rs. 38600 per candy and Punjab J34 was mixed near Rs.3960 per maund. On the supply front arrivals were around 186K lint equivalent bales which includes 48K from MH, 42K GJ and 35K from AP& TG.

Lastly on the futures front in India the December future settled a tad lower at Rs. 18830 per bale down by Rs. 70 from previous close. With the rise in ICE futures the domestic market may open with a gap and the fresh trading range for the day would be Rs. 18970 to Rs. 19150 per bale.

**Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us : mailto:research@kotakcommodities.com, Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source**

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## USA: Textile and Apparel Imports Up; Shipments Surge from India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Canada

The Department of Commerce's Office of Textiles and Apparel reports that monthly imports of cotton, wool, manmade fiber, silk blend, and non-cotton vegetable fiber textile and apparel products totaled 6.02 billion square meter equivalents in October, up 1.5 percent from September and 6.0 percent from October 2016.

Textile imports totaled 3.52 billion SME, up 5.1 percent for the month and 10.0 percent from the previous year, while apparel imports of 2.5 billion SME were down 3.1 percent from October but up 0.9 percent from a year before.

**Overall Imports**. Total year-to-date imports were 54.5 billion SME, up 3.1 percent from the previous year, as textile imports gained 4.6 percent to 31.4 billion SME and apparel imports rose 1.0 percent to 23.1 billion SME.

For the year ending in September imports were 64.5 billion SME, up 3.4 percent from a year earlier, as textile imports increased 5.2 percent to 37.3 billion SME and apparel imports gained 1.0 percent to 27.1 billion SME.

| | SME | Monthly change % | Annual change % | $ Value | Monthly change % | Annual change % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| China | 3.12 billion | -1.6 | +5.5 | $3.88 billion | -3.5 | +5.7 |
| India | 484.4 million | +12.1 | +19.7 | $643.4 million | +13.3 | +11.1 |
| Vietnam | 453.5 million | +9.4 | +5.1 | $1.2 billion | +10.1 | +11.8 |
| Mexico | 224.2 million | +6.9 | +9.8 | $438.6 million | +4.3 | +10.2 |
| Pakistan | 195.6 million | -9.2 | +3.9 | $231.5 million | -5.6 | +3.2 |
| Bangladesh | 168.3 million | -5.6 | +12.7 | $430.0 million | -3.7 | +2.7 |
| Indonesia | 141.8 million | +13.5 | -1.8 | $456.2 million | +14.9 | +7.5 |
| Canada | 104.6 million | +13.9 | +16.6 | $128.5 million | +10.5 | +16.6 |
| Cambodia | 95.8 million | -14.9 | +3.2 | $218.6 million | -4.5 | -0.8 |
| Honduras | 82.7 million | -7.4 | -6.1 | $195.1 million | -6.7 | +1.7 |
| Turkey | 77.0 million | +15.6 | +12.3 | $146.6 million | +11.5 | +21.3 |
| Taiwan | 71.3 million | -8.7 | +1.9 | $59.8 million | -12.3 | +1.2 |
| El Salvador | 66.0 million | +8.4 | -1.0 | $168.1 million | +10.1 | +6.5 |

**Source Countries**. OTEXA has reported the following statistics on textile and apparel imports from major source countries for October 2017.

OTEXA has also reported the following statistics on textile and apparel imports from major source countries for the year to date.

| | SME | Change from 2016 | $ value | Change from 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| China | 26.6 billion | +5.1 | $32.9 billion | -0.6 |
| India | 4.4 billion | +8.5 | $6.4 billion | +3.4 |
| Vietnam | 4.1 billion | +7.8 | $10.4 billion | +7.1 |
| Mexico | 2.1 billion | +3.4 | $4.0 billion | +7.6 |
| Pakistan | 2.1 billion | +2.0 | $2.3 billion | +1.7 |
| Bangladesh | 1.9 billion | +2.8 | $4.5 billion | -4.3 |
| Indonesia | 1.4 billion | -5.4 | $4.1 billion | -2.9 |
| Korea | 1.3 billion | +2.1 | $733 million | -3.7 |
| Honduras | 905 million | -1.5 | $2.1 billion | -1.4 |
| Canada | 901 million | -0.6 | $1.1 billion | -0.5 |

Source: strtrade.com - Dec 09, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Pakistan: Separating garments from textile

There has been strong contention between the value-added segment of ready-made garments and their suppliers lower down the value chain. The weaving and spinning sectors have been able to have policies that benefit the mostly large scale manufacturing units (LMUs), much to the detriment of small and medium enterprises operating in the garments industry.

Most of the garment sector players BR Research have spoken to have called for separating garments and textiles since the issues faced by both are different.

This was also confirmed at the policy talk held by the Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) on spurring growth in garments manufacturing.

According to Sajid Saleem, CEO of Delta Garments Limited, there is a dearth of quality fabric in the local market where the weaving and spinning sectors have been only been able to supply cotton based fabric. At the same time global preferences have shifted towards garments made of man-made fibre apparel.

Talking about the innovations achieved globally in fabric production, Sajid highlighted the intensely competitive global garments industry where cotton products fetch paltry margins. The preference has shifted towards synthetic apparel globally. Currently, oil-based synthetic fibers have the lion's share of 60 Percent of the world fibre market whereas cotton's share is about 25 percent.

Taking the US as an example the share of manmade fibres as a percentage of US apparel imports increased from 36 percent in 2006 to 54 percent in 2016.

Companies like Adidas are using fourth-generation fabrics using innovative digital weaving processes. These allow garments with enhanced strength and stretchiness to be manufactured.

However, in Pakistan garment manufacturers have had limited options due to the dominance of cotton-based fabrics. The majority of participants including economists, industry stakeholders and academics advocated the need to ease imports of synthetic fibers so that garment manufacturing can become internationally competitive.'

Being responsible for the end consumer product, readymade-garments manufacturers have the onus of keeping in touch with global fashion preferences. In order to claim being the choice supplier of international brands, they can only vie for market share if they can produce garments according to the ever-evolving world of haute couture.

Sajid emphasised the time bound nature of the garment industry where new choice of fabrics and trends necessitates a reliable means of procuring man-mad fibers.

However, most manufacturers have complained to this column of the difficult procedures and time delays that still continue to cripple moving to global standard readymade garments. Given the highest value addition segment, the government would do well to facilitate garment exporters.

Source: brecorder.com - Dec 08, 2017

HOME

*****************

# Call to promote Pakistan-Nigeria bilateral trade

Ambassador of Nigeria to Pakistan Maj Gen (r) Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi said that Pakistan and Nigeria have many commonalities that should be leveraged for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

He said Nigeria had excellent cooperation with Pakistan in defence field, but the bilateral trade was not encouraging. He said both countries have big consumer markets and huge potential to cooperate with each other in many fields including agriculture, minerals, pharmaceuticals, oil & gas, energy and others. He said Pakistani pharmaceuticals, tractors and many other products have great potential in Nigeria.

This, he said while addressing business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The Nigerian envoy said that Pakistan and Nigeria should develop strong cooperation between their SMEs that would help in upscaling the two-way trade. He said Pakistan International Airlines should consider launching direct flights between Pakistan and Nigeria that would help in improving trade volume.

He said Nigeria had made same liberal investment policy for foreign investors as that of Pakistan and urged that Pakistani investors should explore Nigeria for investment opportunities. He said an international trade fair would be held in Abuja, Nigeria in February 2018 and added that it was a good opportunity for Pakistani businessmen to take part in it and explore business prospects in Nigeria.

Speaking at the occasion, ICCI President Sheikh Amir Waheed Chamber said that Pakistan and Nigeria were doing trade in limited items due to which the bilateral trade was not up to the mark and stressed that both countries should focus on diversification of trade to achieve better results.

He said both countries have good potential to get better access to bigger markets by enhancing cooperation as Nigeria was a gateway for Africa and Pakistan was a gateway for South Asia.

He said both countries could help each other in manufacturing, agriculture, energy, natural resources and many other sectors for which direct connectivity between their private sectors was key requirement. He said many Pakistani products including agriculture machinery, electrical products, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, textiles & garments, sports goods, surgical instruments could find good market in Nigeria.

ICCI Senior Vice President Muhammad Naveed and Vice President Nisar Mirza said that Nigerian investors should explore joint ventures and investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project. They said that Pakistan could help Nigeria in setting up sugar, cement, fertiliser, engineering and other industrial plants. They said frequent exchange of trade delegations and holding single country exhibitions would help in identifying all untapped areas of potential cooperation.

Source: dailytimes.com.pl - Dec 09, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Bangladesh exporters push for higher growth

Bangladesh's apparel manufacturers feel infrastructural limitations are the major obstacles that stand in the way of more aggressive progress. They say Bangladesh's export target of $50 billion by 2021 is possible only if infrastructural limitations are out of the way.

Garments account for over 80 per cent of the country's net exports and are the country's biggest export sector.

The issues of gas and electricity, are major hindrances, and have been a constant complaint from Bangladeshi apparel makers, especially with a fear about a rise in the bulk tariff of electricity following the recent hike in retail power tariff. Apparel exporters are pushing for a clearer plan and strategy on energy sources.

In November 2017, Bangladesh's apparel exports stood at $2.52 billion, up from $2.29 billion dollars in October.

On the basis of the strategic apparel export target for the July-November period, net earnings (knitwear and woven garments combined) were 2.87 per cent higher than what was expected.

But apparel exporters say this increase is very low and that an increase of ten per cent is possible but concentrated efforts must be focused on eliminating such hurdles.

India's garment sector is fast becoming a formidable opponent for Bangladesh on the global stage.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Dec 08, 2017

HOME

*****************

## South East Asia gaining muscle in textile manufacturing

Recognised as a highly labour-intensive industry, textile industry has been gaining ground in Southeast Asian countries. Partly being mostly agrarian adds to the advantage as textile requires immense amount of raw materials such as cotton and jute. Coupled with this, high crop subsidies augurs well for growth in the region.

China has been sustaining the prime spot for decades now but sheen is slowly getting lost due to ever increasing labour cost, which is favouring other countries such as India, Bangladesh and Vietnam to spot the opportunity and ride growth. Average labour cost in Bangladesh was $68 per month as against $321 per month in China.

The labour costs in India and Vietnam are much cheaper as compared to China. Globally, China is the leader in textiles exports, while India progressively became the 3rd largest exporter of textiles in the world and 5th largest exporter of clothing.

Advantage India

The textile industry in India is pegged at $120 billion and expected to surpass $230 billion by 2020. Inherent advantages include: a strong multi-fibre base (cotton, jute, silk, wool and synthetic), excessive investments, rising disposable incomes and governmental initiatives.

In Budget 2016-17, customs duty on raw materials for technical textiles was reduced to as low as 2.5 per cent, this decreased production cost for textile manufacturers. Moreover, initiatives like tax incentives, job security and EPF schemes will make the textile sector more robust. In addition, India also received an FDI of $620 million in 2016-17, this is triple the size of the FDI in 2013-14.

India is also in the danger of losing opportunities to Vietnam and Bangladesh, which are quickly establishing themselves with cheap labour. Stats reveal while India saw negative growth of 1 per cent (2015-16), Bangladesh accomplished a growth of 6 per cent owing to the accessibility of cheap labour and its capability in form of big garment factories to process large orders.

Garment factories can employ merely 150 people, while garment units in Bangladesh staff around 600 workers. Indian garment factories are not in a position to handle exceptionally large orders due to the size constraints and are losing their business to the counterparts in neighbouring nations.

**What works for Bangladesh**

The Bangladeshi government does not want to leave any stone unturned to boost growth for clothing manufacturers.

The nation's textile policy 2017 says, the administration will ensure access to duty-free markets, and aid private firms for development of infrastructure and encourage the use of IT in textiles. It will also establish colleges and training institutes to promote local brands in fashion and textiles.

However, the government will have to enforce compliance of international standards in manufacturing units, especially in the wake of a recent industrial catastrophe of an outbreak of fire and collapse of the garment factory building.

This is required to ensure that cheap manufacturing should not be provided at the cost of the safety and security of workers and good working conditions should not be compromised upon.

## Vietnam ventures

Vietnam's apparel sector also saw an export growth of 10 per cent (2015-16). New foreign investments spurred in the spinning and weaving sectors after the elimination of non-tariff barriers and implementation of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP).

Although the USA, which is the biggest importer of Vietnamese textiles and garments has withdrawn from the TPP, the other 11 nations with a combined GDP of $12.4 trillion have agreed to sign the deal. The agreement will help Vietnam to get deep access to the global supply chain, improve its exports and will also reform its labour market.

Texhong Textiles (China), Itochu (Japan) and Kyung Bang (South Korea) have all invested in Vietnam to set up spinning and spindle factories. The young labour force in the nation is willing to work at low wages besides a small capital investment is required to set up a factory, this has made Vietnam the hub for setting up of manufacturing factories. Thus, big brands such as Nike and Samsung moved their production from China to Vietnam in the recent years due to the above reason.

## Gauging their potential

The future of apparel in Vietnam and Bangladesh looks promising as governments are continuously making attempts to reduce costs and improve sale efforts and are also promoting small and medium-sized firms to grow bigger through various tax incentives and schemes.

However, time will tell if they can improve their operational efficiencies to the extent where these nations will be in a position to supersede India in the overall textile market and not only the garment industry.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Dec 08, 2017

HOME

*****************

# EU and Japan conclude 'gigantic' free trade deal

The EU and Japan announced on Friday (Dec 8) they have concluded negotiations for a giant free trade deal while "fighting the temptation of protectionism," in an apparent message to US President Donald Trump.

The trade deal, which the European Union called its biggest ever, must still be signed and ratified by both sides who first agreed to its broad outlines in July.

Once completed it will forge an economic zone of 600 million people with 30 per cent of global GDP.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hailed the imminent birth of what he called a "gigantic economic zone" when he confirmed the conclusion of the negotiations for the Economic Partnership Agreement.

"Japan and the EU will join hands and build an economic zone based on free and fair rules," Abe told reporters in Tokyo.

Abe and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker earlier said the agreement, which had been four years in the making, has "strategic importance" beyond its economic value.

"It sends a clear signal to the world that the EU and Japan are committed to keeping the world economy working on the basis of free, open and fair markets with clear and transparent rules fully respecting and enhancing our values, fighting the temptation of protectionism," the pair said in a statement released in Brussels.

With the deal, the EU is seeking access to one of the world's richest markets, while Japan hopes to jump-start an economy that has struggled to find solid growth for more than a decade.

Japan is also hoping to seize an opportunity after the failure of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal, torpedoed in January by Trump.

Under the deal, the EU will open its market to the world-leading Japanese auto industry, with Tokyo in return scrapping barriers to EU farming products, especially dairy.

EU officials insist that the deal will be a major boon for European farmers who would gain access to a huge market that appreciates European products.

Hailing the opening of markets, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem told a press conference "this is actually the biggest trade deal we have ever negotiated from the European Union".

**'CATCH UP LATER'**

The lobby BusinessEurope hailed the agreement as "very good news" for both companies and citizens on both sides and predicted it will lead to "global standards" in new business areas.

"The agreement should remove long standing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade," BusinessEurope's director general Markus Beyrer said in a statement.

"It should generate new business opportunities and closer economic ties between two like-minded economies and is of high strategic importance."

Malmstroem said negotiations for trade deals with Mexico and South America's Mercosur states were also at "advanced" stages.

The deals follow in the footsteps of last year's major EU-Canada trade deal, that was completed even as EU-US trade talks stumbled.

The finalisation of the EU-Japan trade terms now paves the way for the signature, ratification and full implementation of the deal, which EU officials hope could be as soon as January 2019.

But anti-trade activists who say such deals favour multinationals at the expense of democracy and the environment may influence events when the deal comes up for ratification in the bloc's more than 30 regional and national parliaments.

Last year, the EU's CETA trade deal with Canada nearly sank on such concerns when the small Belgian region of Wallonia threatened to veto it, before eventually relenting.

Left unsolved for now is the issue of controversial investment courts, which have stoked opposition to trade deals in EU nations, including Germany and France.

Malmstroem told a press conference the EU was holding out for its own courts to settle commercial disputes, while Japan supported an older system.

"We can catch up with this at a later stage," she said.

Source: channelnewsasia.com- Dec 09, 2017

HOME

*****************

# NATIONAL NEWS

## India losing comparative advantage in leading export sectors

In a massive relief to Indian exporters, the government announced liberal incentives of Rs 8,450 crore ($1.3 billion) in its mid-term review of the five-year foreign trade policy (FTP) that was rolled out in 2015 and aimed at increasing the export of goods and services to $900 billion by 2020.

Exports, meanwhile, declined from $468 billion to $437 billion between 2014-15 and 2016-17. In fact, India's external trade performance has grown to be so acute that the current account deficit in the first quarter of the current fiscal year reached a four-year high of 2.6 percent.

What is more worrisome is that this trend is continuing despite favourable trade conditions in the global markets. Only domestic factors can explain the widening trade deficit. Clearly, the uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the Goods and Services tax (GST) has had a major role to play. Data due this month will show whether the situation has improved in the second quarter.

However, the chances of any significant improvement remain bleak as issues in processing of refunds to exporters under GST has been affecting trading activities. Therefore, the sops given in the mid-term review should help in pumping up exports to an extent.

Basically, labour-intensive sectors under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme and Services Export from India Scheme, which were introduced in the FTP, were given an incentive raise of two percent each. Under the scheme, exporters are granted credit scrips based on the said percentage of the total value of their exports. These scrips can be used for payment of duties on procurement of further inputs.

Additional incentives of two percent are expected to boost the subdued export activity of the last few quarters. However, even though such an incentive was crucial in the short run given the circumstances, it always remains pertinent to ask if we are doing enough.

After all, no country in history has sustained a growth rate of seven per cent without an export growth of 15 per cent or more and, according to World Bank data, Indian export growth of goods and services has not even crossed 10 per cent since 2011. Therefore, there seem to be larger structural issues at work that are impeding the growth of India's external sector.

In order to further reinforce this fact, we can look into the long-term trends of India's leading export sectors — gems and jewellery, leather and textile. It is quite disconcerting to realise that India's comparative advantage in all of these sectors is nowhere close to that at the turn of the century.

Moreover, all of these sectors are highly labour-intensive and losing comparative advantage in them is quite inimical to the economy's employment-generating capacity.

A common argument made to improve India's trade competitiveness is that the rupee is strong and needs to be depreciated to make exports competitive in the world markets. However, this argument falls flat in the face of recent trends in both the exchange rate and the real effective exchange rate over the last few months.

Both of these indices have remained stable in the last fiscal and, in fact, fell slightly in August while exports continued to show a downward trend. There was not much strength in the argument anyway, since export competitiveness is not defined by currency but by productivity of the workforce.

Indian policymakers need to recognise that the trade challenge for India is structural in nature and cannot be done away with quick-fix solutions. Cost incentives are an acceptable approach to deal with immediate challenges like the impact of GST, but they need to be supplemented with more long-term solutions. An effective measure could be to identify sectors where India has a comparative advantage and work towards making it competitive.

This implies helping them with action research for market development and providing R&D support. Such an approach will allow producers to innovate and beget productivity gains.

Second, India's poor logistical network is also a factor of concern. Since India is over-dependent on its road networks, the logistics cost as a percentage of GDP amount to almost 13-14 per cent as compared to 7-8 per cent in developed countries.

Third, India's trade agreements with other nations are largely deficient in nature. The country's top exports face tariff and non-tariff barriers in developing economies and various kinds of non-tariff barriers in developed ones. Moreover, most of its free trade and preferential trade agreements are ill-conceived in nature.

The India-Japan CEPA is a case in point. India has failed to make any gains out of it simply because it is too cumbersome.

For instance, Japan allows duty-free import of Indian apparels only if the sourcing of raw materials is done from either of the two countries with an exception of seven per cent content by weight that can be sourced from a third country.

The South Asian Free Trade Agreement, which was signed for geo-political reasons rather than commercial ones, is another example. Multiple issues ail the export sector of the Indian economy, a lot of which go beyond the scope of the FTP.

The government should now delve into these structural aspects of trade policy before India loses any more of its comparative advantage to world markets. Now that China is slowly losing its status as the world's manufacturing hub, the time has never been so ripe.

Source: financialexpress.com- Dec 09, 2017

HOME

*****************

# New fabric-based battery to power smart clothes

Scientists have developed an entirely textile-based, bacteria-powered battery that could pave the way for smart clothes and could be integrated into flexible wearable electronics. Researchers from Binghamton University in the US created an entirely textile-based bio battery that can produce maximum power similar to that produced by their previous paper-based microbial fuel cells.

The bio batteries exhibit stable electricity-generating capability when tested under repeated stretching and twisting cycles, researchers said. This stretchable, twistable power device could establish a standardised platform for textile-based bio batteries and will be potentially integrated into wearable electronics in the future, said Seokheun Choi, assistant professor at Binghamton University.

"There is a clear and pressing need for flexible and stretchable electronics that can be easily integrated with a wide range of surroundings to collect real-time information," said Choi, who led the study published in the journal Advanced Energy Materials. "Those electronics must perform reliably even while intimately used on substrates with complex and curvilinear shapes, like moving body parts or organs," said Choi.

"We considered a flexible, stretchable, miniaturised bio battery as a truly useful energy technology because of their sustainable, renewable and eco-friendly capabilities," he said. Compared to traditional batteries and other enzymatic fuel cells, microbial fuel cells can be the most suitable power source for wearable electronics because the whole microbial cells as a biocatalyst provide stable enzymatic reactions and a long lifetime, said Choi.

Sweat generated from the human body can be a potential fuel to support bacterial viability, providing the long-term operation of the microbial fuel cells. "If we consider that humans possess more bacterial cells than human cells in their bodies, the direct use of bacterial cells as a power resource interdependently with the human body is conceivable for wearable electronics," said Choi.

Source: financialexpress.com- Dec 08, 2017

HOME

*****************

# Vizag a potential zone for medical textiles: official

## *'AP MedTech Zone will attract many units in this segment'*

Handlooms and Textiles Secretary I. Srinivas Srinaresh on Friday said the State government had identified Visakhapatnam as a potential zone for technical textiles with special emphasis on medical textiles due to warehousing and port facilities.

He was speaking at a day-long workshop on investment opportunities in technical textiles in general and medical textiles in particular. The programme was organised by the Department of Handlooms and Textiles in association with AP Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation.

Medical textiles are textiles used in hygiene, health and private care as well as surgical end use. These are obtainable in woven, knitted and non-woven structure based on the area of application. Medical technical segment includes textile products for hygiene, hospitals, personal care and surgical applications. Products like diapers, sanitary napkins, disposables, contact lenses and artificial implants come under this.

Mr. Srinaresh said once medical textiles were promoted in a big way in Visakhapatnam, it would give scope for investment in ancillary units. He said technical textiles would have multiple applications in defence, agriculture, construction, aviation industry and environmental protection.

He said the textile policy of Andhra Pradesh (2015-20) was offering a slew of incentives to investors, adding that establishment of AP MedTech Zone-a medical devices manufacturing park on the suburbs of Visakhapatnam would attract lot of medical textile units.

Head of Department, South India Textile Research Association (SITRA)-Coimbatore Ketan Kumar Vadodaria specialised fibre used in technical textiles was eco-friendly and clothes could be made under this to withstand various climatic conditions and temperatures using embedded electronics.

Source: thehindu.com- Dec 09, 2017

HOME

*****************

# Tax revenues need to stabilise before relook at GST rates, says Sushil Modi

GST Council member Sushil Kumar Modi today said he is in favour of letting the tax revenues stabilise before the panel considers merger or further rationalising of slabs. "Let revenue stabilise and tax buoyancy come, then the Council will look into rationalising or merging tax slabs of 12 and 18 per cent," Modi, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, said in his address to Bharat Chamber of Commerce members here.

He said after the Council's previous meeting at Guwahati last month, 90 per cent of the tax slab-related issues have been resolved and the rest too will be sorted soon. He said only 50 items remained in the top 28 per cent tax slab now. However, he remained bullish that revenue for both the Centre and states will grow and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime will stabilise.

He acknowledged that most of the problems are being faced now by the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and the textiles sector as they were exempted from paying taxes in the past under the value-added tax (VAT) regime. Once the system stabilises, the Council will look into bringing petroleum products, electricity duty and property stamp duty into the GST fold, he said.

Speaking about GST return filing, he said despite teething problems, the GST Network issues are reducing. "Network issues are reducing. 13 lakh returns are being filed and in one hour, the network is capable of handling one lakh returns," he said.

He urged the industry to pass the benefits of tax reduction and also said the anti-profiteering committee has already been formed. Bharat Chamber President Sitaram Sharma said there are still a lot of network and credit-related issues that need to be sorted out.

Source: financialexpress.com- Dec 09, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Telangana online payments to cotton farmers has made a mark

Telangana Governmen's introduction to online payment mechanism for cotton farmers this season has made a mark. So far, the Cotton Corporation of India has paid Rs. 556 crore for the produce bought from farmers in the State.

The software introduced by the market department at the collection centres urged the farmers to register their names, providing their banking account details and personal identities.

As many as 44 market yards in the State were brought under the e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) umbrella, which would help farmers find better price for their produce, the department said.

The government through this online payment transaction between traders and commission agents this year is expecting a total turnover of Rs. 30,000 crore .

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- Dec 08, 2017

HOME

*****************

## Future Group to be among top 10 fashion firms globally: CEO

Indian retail conglomerate Future Group will be among the top 10 global fashion companies selling about 35 crore garments by fiscal 2018-19, according to group CEO Kishore Biyani, who said the fashion units alone will bring in a revenue of $3-3.5 billion by the next fiscal. Its operations are only in India, while other companies have global presence, he said.

The largest player in the world has a capacity of about 120 crore garments per year and the Future Group would be at 35 crore, Biyani told a news agency recently.

Nike, Zara, Massimo Dutti, Pull & Bear, H&M and Oysho are among the top 10 global fashion retailers.

The Future Group's fashion outlets, including Fashion at Big Bazaar (FBB), are run by two companies, Future Retail and Future Lifestyle Fashions Ltd. The company, which owns fashion chains like Big Bazaar, Brand Factory and Central, has constructed an integrated warehouse in Nagpur with a capacity of over 30 crore garments.

It sells other brands along with its own and its portfolio covers formal menswear, casual wear, active or sportswear, ethnic wear, denim wear, footwear and accessories for men and women. The group has developed many of the brands over a decade and also has exclusive licensees and joint ventures with global brands.

The group recently unveiled a 30-year vision, Retail 3.0, planning to become Asia's largest integrated consumer retailer by 2047 with a revenue exceeding $1 trillion

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Dec 08, 2017

HOME

*****************