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October 27, 2017

USD 65.02 | EUR 75.65 | GBP 85.37 | JPY 0.57

Cotton Market		
Spot Price (Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm		
Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
18262	38200	75.17
Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), October		
Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
18180	38028	74.83
International Futures Price		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb (Dec 2017)		68.19
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (Jan 2018)		15,055
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb		87.38
Cotlook A Index - Physical		80.1
<p>Cotton & currency guide: Market is though moving in a thin band for the past three sessions but making high volatile trading patterns. On Thursday the ICE December future plunged over 112 points to close the session at 68.19 cents per pound.</p> <p>Similar kind of movement was observed in March 18 contract that closed at 6806 cents keeping the spread in a very narrow range. With heavy fall in the futures contract on Thursday the week continues to be on positive tone. Today's close would determine the weekly performance.</p> <p>Market participants continues to be worried about the uncertainty pertaining to US Texas supply and Gujarat incentivization to cotton farmers. However, looks like market is gradually digesting the facts and slowly pulling the price down. In fact the weekly export sales figure though came better yesterday did have negligible impact.</p>		

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From the trading perspective the volumes were around 24K contracts near the average level while open interest continues to hold steady but slowly declining in December future near 0.11 million contracts.

We expect cotton price to remain sideways while the broad understanding of bearish perspective continues to weigh on market. The broad trading band is 68 to 70.50 cents. For the day we expect it to trade in the range 68 to 69 cents per pound.

Weekly exports report: USDA Weekly Export Report was impressive. Total sales for the week ended October 19th were 352,100 bales (upland 335,900/pima 16,200). 2017-18 sales are 2.24 million bales ahead of last year. However, shipments were 99,700 bales (upland 94,700/pima 5,000). Shipments are 334,500 bales behind last year, but they will likely catch up once more new crop is available.

On the domestic front cotton spot price of S6 softened a bit below Rs. 39K per Candy and the effect was seen on the futures contract. For reference November future ended at Rs. 18320 per bale. The trading range for the day would be Rs. 18150 to Rs. 18440 per bale with slight bearish tone.

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

NEWS CLIPPINGS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS	
No	Topics
1	China: Has the Trump factor boosted Pyongyang's textile trade?
2	Pakistan: Cotton price hits two-month high
3	Pakistan: Hike in power tariff to hamper textile production
4	US firm Komar opens garment innovation centre in Sri Lanka
5	Bangladesh govt permits Accord to operate beyond May 2018
6	Karl Mayer supports Vietnamese warp knitting sector
NATIONAL NEWS	
1	Maharashtra govt asks Centre to denotify poor pest-resistant Bt cotton seeds
2	Textile exporters to tap UAE market
3	Sell your cotton crop only at CCI Centres: Boora Narsaiah Goud
4	Garment body seeks uniform GST slab for apparel
5	Arunachal Pradesh's biggest apparel factory to open in Nov
6	Myntra to promote Indian handloom sector
7	IGKV Raipur scientists develop linen yarn from flax plant

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China: Has the Trump factor boosted Pyongyang's textile trade?

Pyongyang (CNN) Step inside North Korea's largest textile factory and it's not long before you're confronted with a banner emblazoned with the slogan "Kill and tear apart the lunatic Trump."

The less-than-subtle banner was just one of a number devoted to US President Donald Trump, whose threats of "fire and fury" over the region's nuclear crisis have earned him few friends in Pyongyang.

But while the nuclear missile saga and Trump's feud with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un continue to play out, those on the factory floor are getting on with life.

This poster refers to US President Donald Trump and says: "Kill and tear apart the lunatic Trump."

Following a series of nuclear tests carried out by North Korea, the United Nations imposed fresh sanctions on Pyongyang, banning countries from importing its garments or textiles.

It was a move that was supposed to crush spirits and yet the workers are seemingly galvanized by a foreign enemy.

"Didn't that lunatic of the US Trump make absurd remarks, absurd remarks that he would do something to our country?" Mun Gang Sun, a loom operator, asked CNN.

"So with this burning hatred to destroy him and get rid of him under this sky, or rather in order to destroy him, we are working harder and harder to reply with the production output."

Read: North Korean official: Take hydrogen bomb threat 'literally' Mun's rhetoric matches the language used on the inflammatory poster, which also features a longer propaganda message in smaller letters.

"All the fighters at work achieve the everyday goal by over 200% with hearts to kill dotard Trump by cutting and tearing apart his body and cutting his head off! We storm ahead."

Mun Gang Sun operates a loom inside the Kim Jong Suk textile mill.

Mun is just one of 8,000 workers inside the country's largest textile mill in the east of Pyongyang and was carefully chosen by government guides to speak with CNN.

Chief engineer Ri Yong Gun, who has been working there for four years, also selected to speak with CNN, says the factory mainly produces goods for domestic consumption, providing fabric to local garment and bag manufacturers.

He said that in the past, exports were a big business, with around 20 to 25% of its output bought up by clients from Russia, China and Japan.

With sanctions bringing an end to exports, the focus has shifted, but Ri says production is continuing at a similar pace.

Read: Why Trump's Korean war talk should be taken seriously Most of the raw materials such as yarn and dyes, which had previously been imported, are now sourced domestically.

While Ri said the lack of foreign currency from exports was an inconvenience, he claimed sanctions were making staff work even harder.

North Korea's textile trade was estimated to be worth some \$700 million to the economy last year, and was one of the few remaining legal sources of foreign income following sanctions on the sale of coal and iron.

Mun Gang Sun, 30, met her husband at the factory and has two children. While it's too early to decipher just how much damage the loss of business in the textile sector will have on the economy, previous sanctions appear not to have prevented economic growth over the past few years, according to estimates provided by the Bank of South Korea.

In fact, within the factory, there appears to be an almost defiant attitude or perhaps one of absolute denial, when it comes to the effect of sanctions.

Mun, who has worked at the factory since she left school, was recently awarded the title of "meritorious worker" for her performance on the

factory floor, where she operates a weaving loom that makes polyester fabric.

But Mun is also a ranking member of the ruling Worker's Party of Korea and was even a delegate at leader Kim Jong Un's party congress, a position afforded to only the most loyal of members.

She is determined to serve the state -- just as her parents did before they passed away.

Now, as a wife and a mother to two young children, she says she is focused on helping her country move forward and resist international interference. Asked whether she feared the impact of sanctions or a military attack by the US, she insisted that the threats from Washington don't register on North Korean workers and that they aren't motivated by financial gain.

"We are only working so that our people can live a better life, to wear prettier cloth and live in a better house," she said. "It's nothing related to missiles and such at all.

"As long as we have our leader, as long as there's the military as well as the power coming from our unified people, what is there to be scared and afraid of?"

Source Will Ripley and Tim Schwarz, CNN- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Pakistan: Cotton price hits two-month high

KARACHI: Cotton price soared to two-month high of Rs6,550 per maund on Thursday on panic buying by millers fearing shortage of quality lint in coming weeks.

However, market talks suggest of imminent rupee devaluation as another factor behind the buying rush.

Phutti (seed-cotton) arrivals remained robust meeting demand for quality cotton from spinners.

According to official figures, around 50,000 bales were transacted in a single day, but actual physical volume was much higher as many private deals also took place.

Phutti prices rose to Rs2,800-3,100 per 40kg for Sindh variety and Rs2,950-3,250 for Punjab quality.

The intense demand for cotton from spinners could well be judged for the fact that they purchased around 1.1 to 1.2 million bales more over the same period last year.

Normally, higher phutti arrivals continue up to mid-November, but current buying pattern suggests that the textile industry is not ready to take risks or compromise over lint quality.

The following are Thursday's Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) official spot rates for the crop (2016-17) local dealings in Pak rupees for base grade 3 staple length 1-1/16" micronair value between 3.8 to 4.9 NCL.

Rate for	Ex-Gin Price	Upcountry Expenses	Spot rate Ex-Karachi
37.324kg	6,300	145	6,445
Equivalent 40kg	6,752	155	6,907

The world leading cotton markets gave mixed trend with New York and India closed easy while China's stayed firm.

The Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) kept its spot rates steady at the overnight level.

The following major deals were reported to have changed hands on the ready counter: 1,000 bales, Daharki, at Rs6,500 to Rs6,550; 1,000 bales, Ghotki, at Rs6,500; 2,000 bales, Saleh Pat, at Rs6,300 to Rs6,400; 1,600 bales, Rohri, at Rs6,300 to Rs6,400; 8,000 bales, Khairpur, at Rs6,350 to Rs6,400; 1,200 bales, Rajanpur, at Rs6,450 to Rs6,500; 1,600 bales, Liaquat Pur, at Rs6,450 to Rs6,475; 4,200 bales, Rahimyar Khan, at Rs6,450 to Rs6,475; 1,000 bales, Muzaffargarh, at Rs6,450; 1,000 bales,

Alipur, at Rs6,400; 1,200 bales, Mianwali, at Rs6,300 to Rs6,400; 1,000 bales, Bahawalpur, at Rs6,375; 1,000 bales, Khanewal, at Rs6,350; 3,800 bales, Haroonabad, at Rs6,250 to Rs6,275; 1,000 bales, Hasilpur, at Rs6,225 to Rs6,300; and 1,200 bales, Fort Abbas, at Rs6,200 to Rs6,250.

Source: dawn.com- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Pakistan: Hike in power tariff to hamper textile production

The latest surge in electricity prices would further increase the cost of doing business for textile sector and may further hamper the production capacity of export-oriented sector, observed a parliamentary panel. The concerns were also admitted by Federal Minister for Commerce and Textile Pervaiz Malik. He said that second LNG terminal will be operational within the next two months, which would help decrease power rates.

The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile which met with Shibli Faraz in the chair on Wednesday called upon the government to take tangible steps and formulate policies aimed at boosting the textile sector of the country.

The federal minister said that industry is demanding reduction in electricity prices, but Ministry of Water and Power has its own issues and limits. Furthermore, the industry is demanding uniform gas prices across all provinces, he added.

Pervaiz Malik said that the Prime Minister has given a task to the Ministry for framing recommendations in consultation with all the stakeholders for reducing the cost of doing business and boost country exports. The committee would also consider whether the Rs 3.10 tariff rationalization surcharge should go away or not. After finalization of recommendations, these would be shared with the PM, he added.

Members of the committee expressed concern over the decreasing trend of the cotton crop and urged for immediate intervention from the government to incentivise the cotton growing sector and introduce modern seeds with better results. The committee observed that Exim Bank is limited to documentations only.

The chairman of the committee remarked that level playing field needs to be provided to the textile sector as it is being considered the backbone of the country's economy and contributing the exports.

Shibli Faraz said that there is huge scope for research and development and a clear cut vision needs to be adopted to make with proper mechanisms to produce results and achieve goals.

Senator Usman Khan Kakar observed that excessive use of pesticides and reliance on low quality seeds have affected the crop production and compromised quality of the product. "Quality seeds should be introduced for better results," he remarked.

The Textile Division apprised the committee of the overall situation of textile sector. It was informed that Pakistan is the 4th largest producer of cotton. They informed that a major slump was witnessed in production of cotton crop during the last two years. However, the government has taken initiatives to address this challenge and during this year production of 12.6 million bales is expected.

The Committee decided to further deliberate on the issues relating to textile sector. The committee also recommended to the textile division to improve infrastructure of the sector and bring dynamism for competing in the international markets.

The committee was further informed that Rs 10 billion have so far been released against the claims of Rs 18 billion of textile sector under the Prime Minister Package of incentives for exporters. An amount of Rs 14.43 billion has been paid to the textile sector by FBR against RPOs issued up to April 30, 2017. Other competitors like Bangladesh, India, China and Turkey are subsidising their textile exports.

From July 2016, five export-oriented sectors including textiles have been made part of zero rated tax regimes. The zero rating facility is available on purchase of raw materials, intermediate goods and energy. Duty free import of textile machinery is continued. Further the government has reduced the Export Finance Scheme (EFS) mark-up rate from 9.4 percent in June 2014 to 3.0 percent in July 2016.

Textile Division recommended short term plans including implementation of the PM package, payment of sales tax refunds, Rs 30 billion as on June 30, 2017, payment of customs duty draw backs, Rs 7.5 billion, relief on electricity and gas tariffs and relief on sales tax on electricity bills for power-looms.

Source: fp.brecorder.com- Oct 26 2017

[HOME](#)

US firm Komar opens garment innovation centre in Sri Lanka

US-based sleep and intimate apparel company Komar recently opened an innovation centre at Sri Lanka's Star Garments, which it acquired in January 2016. US ambassador to Sri Lanka Atul Keshap and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe attended the inauguration. The Star Garments Group operates seven manufacturing facilities with a staff of over 6,500.

The company converted an existing factory into an innovation centre, which hosts a library, sample room, pattern-making facilities and design capabilities, according to Sri Lankan media reports.

“American companies bring the best and highest standards of ethics, of design, of innovation, of technology, of responsible management, and absolutely cutting edge environmental responsibility,” said Keshap.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Bangladesh govt permits Accord to operate beyond May 2018

The Government of Bangladesh has agreed that the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh (the Accord) will continue to operate in Bangladesh beyond May 2018. The Accord will depart Bangladesh when a set of rigorous readiness conditions—full capacity to inspect factories, compel remedies and protect workers—are met by local regulatory bodies.

The agreement was reached at meetings on October 19 between brand and trade union signatories to the Accord, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the ILO and the Bangladesh ministers of commerce and labour.

“The Accord is ready to continue operations beyond May 2018 as all parties recognise, substantial additional capacity-building is necessary before responsibility to protect workers in factories producing for Accord signatory brands can be responsibly handed over to a national regulatory body,” the Accord said in a statement.

As per the statement, the Government of Bangladesh confirmed it will extend the permission of the Accord to continue beyond May 2018 until a joint monitoring committee (comprised of Accord brand signatories, Accord trade union signatories, BGMEA, ILO and the Bangladesh government) agrees that the stated conditions for a handover are met.

This joint monitoring body will review the progress towards meeting these conditions on a bi-annual basis. These rigorous readiness conditions include: demonstrated proficiency in inspection capacity, remediation of hazards, enforcement of the law against non-compliant factories, full transparency of governance and remediation progress, and investigation and fair resolution of workers' safety complaints.

When the joint monitoring committee agrees the conditions for handover have been met, there will be a further transition period of six months, after which the local body would assume responsibility for factories now covered by the Accord, the statement said.

Pascal Brun, H&M head of Sustainability Global Production, says: “H&M is confident that the remarkable achievements of the 2013 Accord will be

sustained through the ‘Transition Accord’ until it is demonstrated that a credible regulatory body with the rigorous oversight mechanisms can take over all Accord functions.”

“We have always aimed for the Accord functions to transition to a national regulatory body provided that the full capacity, transparency, and governance are in place and that we can be assured that the worker protections under the Accord continue to be safeguarded,” says Jenny Holdcroft, IndustriALL Global Union assistant general secretary and Accord board member.

The continuation of the Accord safety programme in Bangladesh until May 2021 was first agreed upon by a group of global apparel brands and retailers and two global unions in June 2017. As of today, 47 brands and retailers have signed, covering almost 1200 of the current factories. The signatory brands and trade unions committed to engage with the Government of Bangladesh, BGMEA, IndustriAll Bangladesh affiliated unions, and the ILO to implement the conditions under which the Accord would be able to transfer its functions to a national regulatory body. (RKS)

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Karl Mayer supports Vietnamese warp knitting sector

Karl Mayer, a technology and market leader as well as driving force for innovations in textile machinery building, is supporting the Vietnamese warp knitting sector along its path towards modernisation and refurbishment. Karl Mayer is assisting Vietnamese companies with the installation of more up-to-date machines and equipment in the warp knitting sector.

Vietnam’s textile and clothing companies are currently being upgraded. Last year, the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) presented the government with a general restructuring plan for the period covering 2016 to 2020. The document cites numerous objectives, which relate to the geographic relocation of companies, as well as the closure of fibre- and textile-producing companies working with out-dated technology, and

increasing the productivity of the Vietnamese textile industry by for example using fewer highly efficient machines.

Karl Mayer, among others, has detected this increasing demand from the state of its order books. Many domestic manufacturers are currently modernising and extending their plants. Companies have specialised in the production of mosquito nets and are now looking for new applications. Italian, Korean, Taiwanese, and Chinese companies are also investing in Vietnamese subsidiaries.

The company will host a workshop named “Karl Mayer Workshop Vietnam” in November 2017 to support the modernisation and expansion process, not only by supplying high-tech machines, but also by providing the necessary know-how. The event will be presented by the sole agent of Karl Mayer in Vietnam, ILLIES Engineering Vietnam Co., Ltd. The topic of the workshop will be the introduction to the principles of warp knitting on tricot machines with focus on HKS 3-M.

The workshop will display Karl Mayer’s machinery, explanation of Karl Mayer’s machinery functions based on the Karl Mayer’s guidelines, guidance for installation services of Karl Mayer’s machinery, and guidance for exchanging spare parts of Karl Mayer’s machinery.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 26, 2017

[HOME](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Maharashtra govt asks Centre to denotify poor pest-resistant Bt cotton seeds

The Maharashtra government has asked the Centre to denotify the Bt cotton seed strain Bollgard II (BG II) as the genetically-modified seed has lost its resistance to pink bollworm, the main pest that affects cotton plants, reported Times of India. 27 October, 2017

The Maharashtra government has asked the Centre to denotify the Bt cotton seed strain Bollgard II (BG II) as the genetically-modified seed has lost its resistance to pink bollworm, the main pest that affects cotton plants, reported Times of India.

The Union agriculture ministry had invited state officials for a consultation on this issue on Wednesday. Farmers are also seen to be unaware of consequences of spraying insecticides on Bt cotton seeds. The state has earlier raised concerns about Bt cotton seeds as several farmers died due to the increased pesticides spraying following a major infestation of the pink bollworm.

In July, the state had earlier written to the Centre asking for help regarding the vulnerable condition of Bt cotton. "We have written to the Centre to denotify BG II from the Bt cotton category due to loss of its efficacy against the pink bollworm," said state agriculture secretary Bijay Kumar.

Ads by ZINC

Around 96 percent of cotton farmers in Maharashtra use Bollgard-II seeds, a Bt cotton variant introduced in 2010. Since it is losing its resistance against pink bollworm, the farmers have complained to state's agriculture ministry regarding the crop failure for the second year.

A large amount of cotton production was destroyed in Jalna last year, where farmers had asked the state government to compensate them for losses.

To avoid similar losses this year, the state has suggested the Centre to downgraded the seed to a hybrid, which will lead to a drop in its price.

"If BG II is denotified, it may result in a reduction in price from the present around Rs 800 a packet to Rs 400 a packet. Farmers can use the money saved in meeting the additional cost of plant protection," said Kumar.

Maharashtra is one of the leading cotton producers in the country, where a majority of farmers use Bt cotton seed because of its resistance to pesticides. However, a report by Central Institute of Cotton Research had confirmed last year that the seed was susceptible to the pink bollworm.

"Farmers opt for BG II seed thinking crops will be protected from pink bollworm, but they need to be aware this is no longer the case," said agriculture minister Pandurang Fundkar.

However, a spokesperson of Monsanto (India), the company which develops BG II technology seeds, claimed that "incidents of pink bollworm infestation have been reported in limited pockets of the state."

The Bt cotton seeds, which are marketed in India through the joint venture firm Mahyco Monsanto Biotech India, are costlier than the traditional varieties.

Thus, the decline in their resistance towards pests has increased the farmers' cost of production, which has pushed the government to take the move of denotifying these seeds, a move not welcomed by Monsanto.

"The recommendation to denotify transgenic seeds and treat them as conventional seeds seems incredulous and may be in violation of applicable laws including the Environment Protection Act 1986," Monsanto spokesperson told the paper.

Stating that the seeds have resistance towards pest as promised earlier, the spokesperson said that resistance management in pests was a joint responsibility. And it included the efforts of all the stakeholders such as farmers, seed companies, technology providers, trade, end-user industry, regulatory bodies, state agricultural universities and government departments.

Source: cottonyarnmarket.net- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Textile exporters to tap UAE market

CHENNAI: A 100-member delegation from textile and garment industry would be visiting the United Arab Emirates next month.

Federation of Indian Export Organisation Chairman A Sakthivel would be leading the business delegation to take part in the International Apparel and Textile Fair to be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre between November 1 and 3, a press release said.

During the visit, the traders would be displaying fashion readymade and fashion garments at the Indian pavilion.

Currently, India's textile and garment export is focused to Europe and United States markets. By the participation in the trade fair, "FIEO envisages to serve major GCC countries directly", it said.

The United Arab Emirates ranks third in the world in terms of textile exports. It is also the fourth largest trading centre for fashion and apparel, it said.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Sell your cotton crop only at CCI Centres: Boora Narsaiah Goud

MP Narsaiah Goud reminded that CCI has already opened cotton purchasing centres at Alair, Bhongir and Choutuppal. 27 October, 2017
Yadadri-Bhongir: Bhongir MP Boora Narsaiah Goud on Thursday urged the farmers to sell their cotton crop only at CCI Purchasing Centres that would facilitate them to get Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Along with the district Collector Anitha Ramachandran, Bhongir MP held a review meeting with the officials in the district Collectorate and discussed on the CCI Purchasing Centres and Paddy Purchasing centres.

Speaking at the review meeting, Narsaiah Goud reminded that CCI has already opened cotton purchasing centres at Alair, Bhongir and

Choutuppal. In addition to them, cotton purchasing centres would be opened at Valigonda and Mothkur in two days. Stating that cultivation of cotton was taken up in large extension of area in this season, he felt that it might be difficult to get good price for cotton crop in the open market. Hence, the farmers must sell the cotton at CCI Centre that would help them to get MSP.

Referring to the condition of the cotton having eight to 12 percent of moisture would be accepted at the CCI Centre, he asked the officials of CCI to act flexible on the condition. Some farmers might bring the cotton with more than 12 percent of moisture due to various reasons, they should also get proper price at CCI Centres, he felt.

Asking the agriculture officers to see that the farmers must shift their cotton crop to CCI Centres for sale, the district Collector underlined the need to see that the farmers should not sell cotton to private persons and brokers that would leave them in financial losses. She expressed displeasure over farmers in some areas still being unaware of the opening of CCI Cotton Purchasing Centres. She has directed the officials to publicize the setting up of Cotton Purchasing Centres by CCI. So far, 12,700 metric tons of cotton was purchased from the farmers in this season, she added.

“Out of planned 110 paddy purchasing centres, 80 centres have already been opened and remaining would be opened in two or three days,” the Collector said.

She has also instructed the officials to make required arrangements at IKP and PACS Paddy Purchasing Centre to avoid any inconvenience to the farmers, who would bring their crop for sale there.

Joint Collector G ravi, District Rural Development Officer S Venkat Rao, District Civil Supplies Officer Sandhya Rani, District Marketing Officer Surekha and others also attended the review meeting.

Source: cottonyarnmarket.net- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Garment body seeks uniform GST slab for apparel

Bengaluru based South India Garment Association has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting the government to consider and remove 12 per cent GST slab on apparel priced more than Rs 1,000, and bring them under the 5 per cent rate. Discrimination in transaction value of apparel priced above and below Rs 1,000 is negatively impacting the industry.

The association has also requested removal of GSTR-1 and GSTR-2 to reduce complication of forms. "Only one form GSTR-3 submission is enough to declare details of GST collected and paid and the final monthly or quarterly return must be made for easing to do business," the association president Murli Lakhanpal, and Anurag Singhla, chairman of the body's taxation committee, said in the letter.

In addition, the association has requested placing of textile/fabric under zero per cent slab to increase all-round manufacturing activities to generate more employment.

The garment body has also asked the government to consider scrapping of e-way bill as the required information is being submitted in GSTR-3, which is enough to track transactions.

Source: Fibre2fashion.com - Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Arunachal Pradesh's biggest apparel factory to open in Nov

Arunachal Pradesh's biggest apparel factory will be inaugurated in November first week by the northeast Indian state's chief minister Pema Khandu. Set up by ELAM Industries owned by Group Captain (retired) Mohonto Panging, who established the first mechanised textile factory in the state in 2015 at Pasighat, the unit will employ about 250 people.

The new factory, to be inaugurated on November 3, can produce about 1,000 shirts or 2,000 T-shirts per day.

"Setting up of manufacturing industries in northeast India will reduce this dependence on other states in addition to providing employment to large number of local people and contribute to development of the region, a top English-language newspaper quoted Panging as saying.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

Myntra to promote Indian handloom sector

Indian fashion e-tailer Myntra has teamed up with the union ministry of textiles to directly work with weavers to promote the handloom sector. The Flipkart-owned company along with some of its partner brands will offer artisans and their products access to new customers and opportunities via a dedicated online store for handloom products.

About 49 Myntra-associated brands, including W, Biba, Peter England, Raymond, Welspun, Chennai Silks and Metro have committed to be a part of the initiative and source handloom products from the weaver community.

A new handloom brand will also be launched by Myntra at its upcoming annual brand summit, The Tech Threads, on November 2 in Bengaluru, a news agency reported quoting a Myntra statement.

The company aims to achieve a ten-fold growth in sales of handloom ethnic wear for women, over the next one year, said company CEO Ananth Narayanan.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)

IGKV Raipur scientists develop linen yarn from flax plant

Scientists at the Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (IGKV) in Raipur claim to have developed yarn of linen cloth from the almost useless stem of flax, or linseed, plant for the first time in India. Indian linen fabric manufacturers have been importing yarn due to its unavailability in the country. The yarn can be used to make decorative handicraft items.

The stems were soaked in water for four days to soften them and dried till they were hard and brittle. These were then ground to extract the inner soft tissue, which is in the form of fibre and given to weavers who then process the yarn.

The yarn is expected to boost the handloom sector, according to a report in a top English-language daily.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 27, 2017

[HOME](#)
