

**IBTEX No. 95 of 2017**

**May 12, 2017**

USD 64.33 | EUR 69.89 | GBP 82.89 | JPY 0.57

<b>Cotton Market</b>		
<b>Spot Price ( Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm</b>		
<b>Rs./Bale</b>	<b>Rs./Candy</b>	<b>USD Cent/lb</b>
19648	41100	<b>81.15</b>
<b>Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), May</b>		
<b>Rs./Bale</b>	<b>Rs./Candy</b>	<b>USD Cent/lb</b>
20900	43718	<b>86.70</b>
<b>International Futures Price</b>		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb ( May 2017)		79.76
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT ( July 2017)		15,995
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb		<b>85.44</b>
<b>Cotlook A Index - Physical</b>		<b>86.4</b>
<p><b>Cotton guide:</b>The entire equation has just over night. Cotton price surged over 3+% in a single trading session. Market rebounded sharply from 76.17 to end the session at 79.18 and this morning the same is trading at 79.64 cents per pound.</p> <p>The cotton export sales rose in the US from 249.6K to 307K bales a minimal increase but the effect has pushed the price robustly higher. We believe more than the export sales figure increasing in the US making the supply bottle neck much tighter the mills fixation near lower price band of 76 has shown a dramatic rise in the price. It's excessive and believe the unfixed on call sale data releasing today would make a justification for so much price rise witnessed on Thursday.</p>		
<p><b>Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us :</b>  <a href="mailto:research@kotakcommodities.com">mailto:research@kotakcommodities.com</a>,  <b>Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source</b></p>		

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **Beijing should be wary of Indian competition: Chinese media**

*In an article titled 'China should take competition from India seriously', the Global Times said India will pose a challenge for China if New Delhi intentionally creates a competitive situation in front of global investors.*



Beijing: Expressing concerns over the competition being faced by China from India, an article in the state-run Global Times said the country should be wary of Indian competition and must be 'serious' about the growing signs that New Delhi is succeeding in attracting more and more investment.

In an article titled 'China should take competition from India seriously', the Global Times said India will pose a challenge for China if New Delhi intentionally creates a competitive situation in front of global investors.

"India does have the conditions to copy China's economic growth model thanks to its vast size and market, low labor costs and large population, which are all similar to China's conditions. In fact, based on the Ernest and Young report, global investors are currently undecided," the article said. "Moreover, there are growing signs that India is succeeding in attracting more and more investment, which China should take seriously," it added.

Emphasizing that China has not conducted enough studies on India, the article said China cannot wait until India grows into an apparently promising competitor before discussing how to deal with the situation from the perspective of think tanks.

"The Indian government appears confident about attracting investment. At present, India is committed to solar energy development, which attracts a large number of foreign investors.

"Prime Minister Modi hopes to boost the usage of clean energy over fossil fuels by building massive solar parks and is targeting \$100 billion in investment in solar energy in the next five years, with the backing of loans from the World Bank.

No other country could compete with India in supporting investors in the solar economy," the article said.

China and India are two neighboring countries with the largest populations in the world. India's GDP for the fiscal 2016-17 was at 7.1 percent in comparison to China's 6.7 percent.

The article said, however that India remains a potential emerging market that has high attractiveness for global capital.

"A survey by Ernst & Young (EY) ranked India as the most attractive investment destination in the world. Among 500 executives from multinational companies involved in the survey, 60 percent considered India one of the top three investment destinations in 2015.

"The country's vast domestic market, low labor costs and skilled labor market are its most attractive features.

"As China's demographic dividend diminishes, India, with half of its population below the age of 25, is poised to take advantage," it said.

The Global Times stated that India with half of its population below the age of 25, is poised to take advantage as China's demographic dividend diminishes.

"Just as what happened with China in the past, the changes that are taking place in India may also point to great potential for development. With a large population of young people, which is not only the labor force but also a potential consumer group, India has the possibility of seeing explosive economic growth in the future.

"Therefore, we must pay close attention to the development of this unfamiliar neighbor," it added.

Citing one of its researcher, the daily questioned as If India decided to copy China, what impact would it have and what should China do? Asserting that India may also develop an Internet economy and boost its infrastructure construction, along with investment-driven growth, the article said that New Delhi may turn itself into China 2.0, and let global investors decide whether to invest in China or India.

The article suggested that China should develop a more effective growth strategy for the new era or it may become an unfortunate bystander watching India`s success.

"China needs to ponder and study the rise of the Indian economy carefully. With a young population, it is entirely possible for the emerging market economy to become China 2.0 to gain the attention of world capital," it said.

Source: business-standard.com- May 11, 2017

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## **Textile Industry Comments On Causes Of Significant U.S. Trade Deficits; Urges Trump Administration To Take Remedial Action To Boost U.S. Production & Jobs**

WASHINGTON, DC — May 11, 2017 — Four U.S. textile trade associations – the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), American Fiber Manufacturers Association (AFMA), Narrow Fabrics Institute (NFI), and United States Industrial Fabrics Institute (USIFI) – outlined causes of the \$95 billion U.S. trade deficit in textiles and apparel and suggested remedial actions for the Trump administration to boost U.S. production and jobs in joint comments submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) on May 10, 2017.

In addition, NCTO's Upholstery Fabrics Committee (UFC) submitted a separate statement detailing the reasons for the U.S. trade deficit in upholstery fabrics, focusing on the imbalance with China particular.

“A trade deficit study like this should have been initiated years ago,” said NCTO President and CEO Auggie Tantillo as he praised President Trump for ordering the review.

“If America is to reverse its trade-related red ink and create more jobs, policymakers must have a better understanding of the policies and economic factors responsible for driving production offshore,” Tantillo added.

The joint NCTO, AFMA, NFI, and USIFI comments as well as the separate UFC statement were submitted in response a notice for public comments issued by the DOC and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) pursuant to Executive Order 13786 signed by President Trump on March 31, 2017. The order directed those agencies to prepare an omnibus report on significant trade deficits. The Federal Register notice for public comments is at 82 FR 16721 and is dated April 5, 2017 (DOC 2017-0003).

NCTO, AFMA, NFI, and USIFI also were signatories to comments submitted by the Manufacturers for Trade Enforcement (MTE) to DOC urging the United States to continue to treat the People’s Republic of China (PRC) as a nonmarket economy (NME) country under U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty law.

“China’s widespread use of nonmarket economic activities is one of the biggest drivers of America’s trade deficit,” Tantillo said.

DOC’s notice for the NME comments (ITA-2017-0002) was issued as part of the its less-than-fair-value investigation of certain aluminum foil imports from the PRC.

For more information about the U.S. textile industry, please consult the 2017 State of the U.S. Textile Industry address delivered by 2016 NCTO Chairman Robert “Rob” H. Chapman, III at NCTO’s 14th Annual Meeting on March 23, 2017 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. Chapman’s speech outlined (1) U.S. textile supply chain economic, employment and trade data as well as (2) the 2017 policy priorities of NCTO members.

NCTO is a Washington, DC-based trade association that represents domestic textile manufacturers.

U.S. employment in the textile supply chain was 565,000 in 2016. The value of shipments for U.S. textiles and apparel was \$74.4 billion last year, a nearly 11% increase since 2009.

U.S. exports of fiber, textiles and apparel were \$26.3 billion in 2016. Capital expenditures for textile and apparel production totaled \$2 billion in 2015, the last year for which data is available.

Source: *textileworld.com*- May 11, 2017

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## **Apparel Importers Not Making Good Use of Free Trade Agreements**

*Under 17 Percent Use FTAs and Pay the Highest Import Duties Going*

Apparel and textile importers ought to expect a thank-you card from the United States government. That's because they pay 42 percent of all import customs duties collected by Customs and Border Protection.

Twenty-one percent of all US importers trade in textiles and apparel, not necessarily exclusively, and pay the highest average rate of duty, at 16 percent, versus an average of two percent outside of the apparel and textile sectors.

“When you're paying the highest rate of import duties, it's in your interest to explore how to reduce those payments,” said Mary Jo Muoio, senior vice president of Geodis USA, at a program held last week at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, part of a series of events under the umbrella of the city's World Trade Month.

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**U.S. West Coast Port Labor Dispute Resolved!**

Taking advantage of free trade agreements is one way to reduce import duties, yet under 17 percent textile and apparel imports come under the umbrella of FTAs, according to Muoio.

Of those that do come in under FTAs, CAFTA-DR and NAFTA are the most used, while agreements with Jordan and South Korea are used to a lesser extent.

For those imports that do enter under FTAs and are examined by CBP, the passing rate in 2016 was 34 percent. “That goes to show that there is enough homework to be done by the companies using these programs now,” said Muoio.

The Trump administration’s plans to renegotiate trade agreements like NAFTA could present some opportunities for apparel and textile importers, according to Muoio. “Some of the provisions of these agreements are not necessarily advantageous to US importers,” she said.

Examples include drawback—the possibility of receiving a duty refund if the imported products are ultimately exported, where current agreement restrict that practice. Another is the possibility of duty refunds after the fact, if the importer realizes that the shipments could have enjoyed the benefits of an FTA. “The way the agreements are written they can’t do that,” said Muoio.

Another opportunity to save money is to pay duty on a first-sale basis rather than on transaction value. Transaction value refers to the price actually paid by the importer. CBP rules allow importers, under certain specific circumstances, to declare the customs value as the first price paid by a middleman in a series of transactions. Ninety percent of apparel and textile imports into the US come in under transaction value.

Muoio has found that many of her clients pay more attention to customs classification of projects than to the declared value of the imports against which the import duties are paid.

“First sale takes a level of investment, perseverance, and record keeping,” said Muoio. “It also provides one more opportunity for CBP to look into your business.”



The same can be said of FTAs. Said Muoio: “Free trade is not free of work.”

Source: globaltrademag.com- May 11, 2017

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## **African fashion designers take centre stage in India**

The tremendous opportunity for Africa’s fashion industry will attract global attention at the 2017 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in India.

An estimated 3000 Annual Meetings attendees will get a feel of the flavor of the work of these creative stylists. Beautifully dressed models will walk the catwalk to show how African fabrics are inspiring more and more famous designers.

“Fashion is not just about design or inspiration. It’s also a multi-million dollar industry that creates millions of jobs, including in textile and clothing manufacturing,” says Emanuela Gregorio, gender specialist at the AfDB.

Through its Fashionomics initiative, AfDB is supporting the development of creative industries that utilize products, especially cotton, in Africa. Through this initiative, AfDB is promoting investments in the fashion sector, increasing access to finance for entrepreneurs and incubating and accelerating starts-ups.

At a session on Creating Wealth through Fashionomics, experts and practitioners will discuss methods of promoting textile manufacturing in Africa -where many of the textile and clothing firms are small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It will also set agenda for how the involvement of African countries in the global textile industry could look like (from conception and design).

Drawing on its High-5 Agenda, the Bank is investing in high-growth sectors that have the potential to promote economic empowerment and create 25 million jobs over the next decade.

The Bank considers the creative industries as offering massive potential for continent-wide job and gross domestic product (GDP) growth. For instance, instead of exporting raw cotton, Africa needs to move to the top of

the global value chain and produce garments targeted at the growing African and global consumer class.

The textile/clothing market is already worth more than US\$31 billion in Sub-Saharan Africa and accounts for the second largest number of jobs in developing countries after agriculture, many of whom are women and young people.

In Côte d'Ivoire, women own 80 percent of businesses in the industry and close to half of the entrepreneurs are under the age of 35. These are also mostly SMEs. Only 33 percent work with local suppliers.

In Ethiopia, a pioneer in the textile industry in the region with more than 40,000 employees, salaries are three times lower than in Côte d'Ivoire and the cost of electricity remains low due to availability of hydropower, and inputs are affordably priced.

It is expected that the textile clothing industry could generate 400,000 jobs in Sub-Saharan Africa alone and exports could double in the next 10 years. By combining a fashion show and panel discussion, the India Fashionomics session will use the global value chains in textiles to illustrate possibilities for African agriculture-related industrialization which are typically debated in the abstract.

The 2017 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group will be held on May 22-26, 2017 in Ahmedabad, India. This year's Annual Meetings are focusing on Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa.

Source: worldstagegroup.com- May 11, 2017

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## US: AATCC launches new tools for testing UV-protective fabrics



Fabrics can protect the skin from sunburn, cancer, and other effects of ultraviolet (UV) light exposure. Knowing how much protection a fabric provides can be tricky. To simplify the evaluation procedure for Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF), AATCC, the Association of Textile, Apparel & Materials Professionals, has launched two

new products.

‘ASTM and AATCC Technical Information and Standards for UV Protective Textiles’ has been jointly published by AATCC and ASTM D13. It provides guidance for the complete UPF verification process in one convenient, downloadable publication. The compilation includes ASTM D6544, AATCC TM183, and ASTM D6603 standards, plus an introduction and flowchart.

The second product, ‘Light Transmission Verification Fabric’ gives labs confidence in their transmission and UPF evaluations. The standard fabric provides a consistent result when measured according to AATCC Test Method 183, Transmittance or Blocking of UV Radiation through Fabric. Each order includes 12 pre-cut specimens for monthly verification of instrument and operator performance.

AATCC, headquartered in North Carolina, US, is the world’s leading not-for-profit association serving textile professionals since 1921. It provides test method development, quality control materials, and professional networking for members in about 50 countries throughout the world.

Source: [fibre2fashion.com](http://fibre2fashion.com)- May 12, 2017

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## Switzerland: Uster to make one millionth Uster Quantum 3 yarn clearer



The Uster Group, the leading high-technology instrument manufacturer of products for quality measurement and certification for the textile industry, is set to produce its one millionth world-leading Uster Quantum 3 generation of yarn clearers. The Group provides testing and monitoring

instruments, systems, and services for textile production.

The latest version of the Uster Quantum 3, which offers new features targeting intelligent quality management at specific, fashion-oriented applications. Pioneering concepts such as Smart Limits and the Yarn Body, have made the clearer an attractive choice for more than thousand mills worldwide, and the introduction of the Uster Quantum 3 anniversary edition in 2015 has increased that appeal significantly.

Spinning mills need to act fast to take advantage of important fashion trends. But yarns which hit the spot in terms of aesthetic appeal must also meet the exacting quality standards required in certain of these specialised applications. The latest edition of the successful Uster Quantum 3 yarn clearer addresses both these demands, thanks to new features which allow spinners to deliver yarns which are on-trend and also on-quality.

Core Yarn Clearing and Colour/Shade Variation are unique innovations which put spinners in control of quality and avoid claims and complaints in important applications such as stretch denim and sportswear, and in the newly-fashionable market for mélange and subtly-coloured yarns.

The Core Yarn Clearing feature with Uster Quantum 3 is the first-ever automated solution to monitoring and assuring the quality of yarns with an elastane centre encased by a cotton or synthetic outer. Fabrics with stretch and fancy slub effects created in this way continue to be extremely popular in both fashion items such as denim jeans and in functional garments and sports clothing.

Common problems when producing these yarns can occur when the inner elastane component is either missing or positioned off-centre within the wrapper element. The Core Yarn Clearing feature uses powerful sensors and algorithms to detect any such problems and ensures that downstream customers receive a stretch yarn which perfectly meets their specifications. Using the built-in Smart Limits facility, the correct tolerances can be set quickly and easily, so that any bobbins containing core defects are blocked and removed.

The new Shade Variation feature of the Uster Quantum 3 overcomes several potential problems which can lead to unacceptable colour and shade differences. This is particularly important for spinners operating in the growing market for mélangé and colour-effect yarns. Here, human error can cause bobbins of differing colours or shades to be accidentally mixed in a single yarn lot. Today, latest technology in the Uster Quantum 3 and its Shade Variation (SV) facility provides a separated clearing channel which deals specifically with colour deviations.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - May 12, 2017

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## **China: Shandong Ruyi to invest \$410 mn at its facility in Forrest City**

China's largest cotton textile manufacturer, Shandong Ruyi Technology Group, to make investment to the tune of \$410 million in a manufacturing facility in Forrest City. Ruyi has agreed to renovate the former Sanyo facility in Forrest City for its plant, where Arkansas cotton will be spun into yarn for textile use. The Sanyo plant has been vacant since it shut down in 2007. The plant will be Ruyi's first cotton-spinning facility in North America.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson and Ruyi's chairman, Yafu Qiu, signed a memorandum of understanding in a ceremony at the state Capitol. Arkansas has agreed to provide cash incentives of up to \$4 million and payroll rebates of about \$11 million for the project. Forrest City and St. Francis County have agreed to provide close to \$1 million in incentives.

Hutchinson said that it is something that's going to have a tremendous impact on a county and on a region that has lagged behind the national employment statistics. In St. Francis County they have a 4.8 percent unemployment rate, whereas statewide it's 3.6 percent. It's going to give an economic boost to a region that much deserves it and has worked very hard for it.

Qiu said that through an interpreter the plant will use cutting-edge technology to produce a superior product.

The renovations are expected to begin late this year, and production is expected to begin in mid-2018. Ruyi plans to process more than 200,000 tons of Arkansas cotton annually at the facility.

Arkansas is the fifth largest cotton producer in the nation, turning out more than 840,000 bales in 2016.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- May 11, 2017

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Road shows abroad planned for textile council's expo

Surat: Textile entrepreneurs and yarn manufacturers from south Gujarat will be participating in the four-day-long 'Textile India-2017' being organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India in support of Synthetic and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) in Gandhinagar from June 30. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the Textile India-2017 on June 29.

Over 1,000 exhibitors covering the entire gamut of Indian textile industry comprising man-made fibre and textiles, yarn, fabric, apparel, made-up as well as silk, wool, handloom, cotton will be showcasing their latest products, designs and innovations to more than 2,500 international buyers.

SRTEPC chairman Narain Agarwal said, "Over 100 exhibitors from the man-made textile industry, majority from Surat, will be participating in the event. Textiles India 2017 is recognized as a "must visit" international event for key stakeholders globally comprising international buying houses, importers, fashion houses, luxury and retail brands and reputed fashion designers." Agarwal informed that the event will host pavilions of focus countries such as the UK, the USA, Germany, Japan, China, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Australia. The Ministry of Textiles has planned road shows in many of these countries as well as in Russia and UAE to promote the event.

"We are organizing road shows in Malaysia, Bangladesh, Turkey, Indonesia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka wherein we will meet members of leading trade bodies related to textile sector with the support of the Embassy of India in those countries. The council will also be organizing road shows in the leading textile clusters of the man-made fibre and textile industry in the country to promote the event," Agarwal said.

Source: timesofindia.com- May 12, 2017

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## **Cotton production rise with a 3 year high**

With favourable weather and market conditions for the production of cotton, India is likely to witness a rise in the planting of this fibre by 15 percent in the 2017/18 marketing season to a three-year high as farmers switch away from other crops, likely boosting cotton production and exports.

Domestic cotton prices rose 19 percent from a year ago to 41,300 rupees (\$639) per 356 kg candy, following the rally in overseas prices. A candy is a traditional measure of mass in India. A 15 percent rise in crop area would lift India's cotton planting to around 12.08 million hectares (29.9 million acres) in the marketing year starting on Oct. 1, highest since the 2014/15 year. That compares to 10.5 million hectares in the current marketing year, the lowest in seven years.

Mekala Chockalingam, chairman of the state-run Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the biggest cotton buyer in the country said that this year farmers received higher prices, so they are going to raise the area under cotton. They are expecting around a 15 percent increase. Higher output in India could kill a rally that pushed global cotton prices to their highest in three years this month.

Nayan Mirani, president of Cotton Association of India said that they have lost area in the last few years. They will recover that lost area as long as the monsoon is normal. Most Indian farmers start planting cotton - a crop that requires lots of moisture - with the onset of monsoon rains in June, although some with irrigated fields start as early as May.

The chief of India's weather office said India looks likely to receive above average monsoon rainfall as concern over the El Nino weather condition has eased.

Chirag Patel, chief executive officer at Jaydeep Cotton Fibers Pvt Ltd, a leading exporter said that oilseeds and pulses compete with cotton in key producing areas like the western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Prices of oilseeds and pulses plunged as much as 60 percent due to bumper production this year, which will force many of them to switch to cotton.



According to the state-run Cotton Advisory Board, India, which competes with Brazil, the United States and African countries in the world market, is estimated to have produced 35.1 million bales in 2016/17, up 3.8 percent from the previous year.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- May 11, 2017

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## **Indian firms eye strengthened textile and garment links with Vietnam**

*Textile and garment companies of India are looking to promote trade cooperation with Vietnamese enterprises, said Indian Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City Smita Pant at a press conference in HCM City on May 10 to introduce the Textiles India 2017, which is slated for the Vietnamese city from June 30-July 2.*

According to Smita Pant, textile and garment is one of the leading important industries that the two nations need to foster cooperation through promoting trade, attracting investment and increasing export turnover.



Ronak Roughani, Vice President of the Synthetic and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) of India said apparel occupies a large proportion in India's exports.

India's textile and garment industry has developed a complete product supply chain and the country is also one of suppliers of high-quality materials and fabric with competitive price in the world. The country's export turnover of textile and garment materials to Vietnam in recent years averagely increases about 20 percent a year.

This is a good time for Vietnamese and Indian textile and garment firms to enhance links in investing, exporting materials and technical assistance for mutual benefit, he said.

Dang Thi Tuyet Mai, Vice General Secretary of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), said Vietnam is one of the five largest textile and garment exporters in the world, with its textile and garment export turnover hitting about 28.5 billion USD in 2016.

However, the country is also one of the world's leading importers of fabric and materials. The shortage of high-quality materials for production is the biggest barrier to Vietnam's textile and garment industry, hindering the country from taking advantages of free trade agreements.

Pham Xuan Hong, Chairman of the HCM City Association of Garment Textile Embroidery and Knitting (AGTEK) said Vietnamese textile and garment firms appreciate the quality and competitive price of materials from India, stressing that cooperating with India businesses is an effective measure to diversify material supply resources for Vietnam.

Vietnamese firms should intensify trade promotion programmes and participate in exhibitions and trade promotion events, he suggested, saying that these will offer opportunities for them to seek more material suppliers, and learning from effective business and production models.

The programmes will also help Indian businesses make deeper inroad into Vietnamese market, he said.

Source: en.qdnd.vn- May 11, 2017

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## **Impressed Japan keen to tap Tamil Nadu's textile sector**

CHENNAI: Japan is looking to tap the textiles sector in Tamil Nadu and experts from the country are evaluating the two textile labs in the State to ensure they comply with the quality requirement and various compliances for Japanese markets.

On the sidelines of the Capacity Building Programme (CBP), Kei Funaki, regional manager of Japan Textile Products Quality and Technology Centre (QTEC) told Express, on Thursday, that the island nation is looking at alternatives since the import of Chinese textile goods has become more expensive due to the high cost of labour.

Japan imports 97% of textiles (worth \$38 billion), of which China accounts for 67%, and is focusing on nine of 19 laboratories, of which two are in Tamil Nadu, said K Phanindra Reddy, Principal Secretary, State Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department.

KS Muraleedhara, Joint Director (laboratories), Textiles Committee, Union Ministry of Textiles, said the prime focus under the CBP is to make Indian exporters and manufacturers understand the quality requirement for Japanese markets.

He said India's share, in comparison to Japanese import, is only 1%. "Our country's overall export is worth \$40 billion while the Japanese market alone is worth \$38 billion," said Muraleedhara while stressing on the need to tap the Japanese market. "Of the 1.2% export to Japan, Tamil Nadu alone accounts for more than half."

Funaki said he is impressed by the garment sector in Tamil Nadu. "We did not have any information about the textiles sector in India prior to this visit," he said. The visit by Funaki and Toshiki Tasaka, Director, Overseas Coordination Department of QTEC comes in the wake of the Textiles Committee entering into a memorandum of understanding with Japan Textile Products Quality and Technology Centre.

**Factfile**

Indian textile industry contributes 5% to India's GDP

The textile industry employs about 45 million people directly and 60 million indirectly

India's overall textile export stands at \$40 billion

Japan imports only 1.2% of textiles from India

Japan's textile import is worth \$38 billion

Source: newindianexpress.com- May 12, 2017

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**Telangana govt supports growth of handloom industry**

Supporting the growth of Telangana handloom industry, minister for handlooms, industries and information technology, K Taraka Rama Rao has sought set up of a separate corporation for wide marketing and increase in sales of handloom items. Further, the handloom industry will also receive incentives from the state and Centre for its development.

According to the state's requirement of yarn worth Rs 206 crore a year, the state government will support the handloom industry with 40 per cent input subsidy of 82 crore apart from the 10 per cent subsidy assured by the Centre, said minister, according to media reports. Further, the minister stated that with the financial assistance from the government, it is the duty of authorities to support the handloom weavers and increase demand for their items.

Earlier, the minister had also appealed government officials, party leaders and students of all state-run educational institutions to wear handloom clothes at least once in a week.

Geo-tagging and Aadhaar-linking of all the 16,776 handlooms functioning in Telangana under 5,505 weavers' societies was completed in a recent survey of the handloom industry. These linkages will help the government implement welfare schemes for the handloom weavers.

The officials of the handlooms department have also carried out a study of the Cooptex of Tamil Nadu in order to work on the same model in Telangana.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- May 10, 2017

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## **Gap products now available on Amazon India**

Gap, one of the world's most iconic apparel and accessories brand and an authority on American casual style, has announced that its products would now be available on Amazon Fashion in India through a partnership between Amazon India and Arvind Lifestyle Brand Limited, a subsidiary of Arvind Limited, which is one of India's largest textile companies.

Available through a dedicated brand store, the partnership will kick off by offering Gap's Summer 2017 collection. Included in Gap's broad assortment available on Amazon.in are seasonal favorites such as denim, logo, shorts, and dresses as well as comfortable and lightweight GapKids and babyGap styles.

"We are very excited to provide India-wide access to Gap merchandise for customers with Amazon Fashion. As a front runner in the online retail space, Amazon Fashion is the perfect partner for an iconic brand such as Gap to reach customers in India markets where Gap doesn't currently have physical stores. We see tremendous support from our shoppers around the exclusive Gap store on Amazon and we look forward to creating new Gap fans in the Indian market," said J Suresh, managing director and CEO at Arvind Lifestyle Brands Ltd.

Gap brand entered the India market through franchise-operated stores in 2015, in partnership with Arvind Lifestyle Brand Limited.

"The addition of this classic brand is a testament to our commitment towards providing the world's most popular fashion brands that customers absolutely love to shop for. With this association, Amazon.in becomes the first e-commerce player to make Gap available across India's 19,000 postcodes," said Arun Sirdeshmukh, head, Amazon Fashion India.

With over two million fashion products, Amazon Fashion is amongst the largest fashion stores in India with selection across apparel, shoes, handbags, fashion and more. Since the start of 2017, Amazon Fashion launched iconic brands like Under Armour, Marks & Spencer, Mothercare, Michael Kors among others and its growing selection includes Aeropostale, Emporio Armani, Versus by Versace, Calvin Klein, Levi's, Replay and many more.

Amazon is constantly exploring new innovations in technology to enhance the customer experience online. In addition to providing customers with an intuitive search and browse experience, Amazon Fashion has further elevated the experience by allowing customers to shop seamlessly for their favourite brands using the 'Top Brands' filter and also recently launched 'auto-exchange' feature.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- May 11, 2017

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