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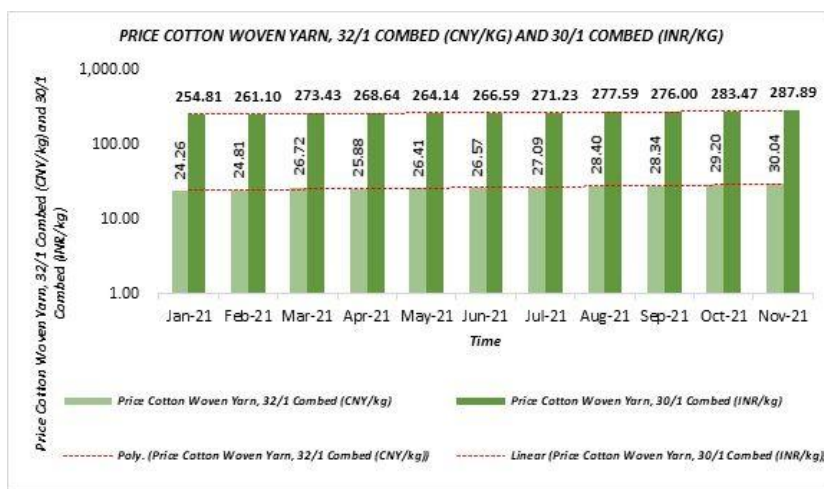


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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cotton woven yarn prices in India & China to rise this winter: TexPro

Prices of China's 32/1 combed cotton yarn and India's 30/1 combed cotton yarn are expected to rise during the peak season for textiles and clothing as the demand for winter clothing is expected to increase in the coming months. The demand for new cotton is also expected to move up in China and will likely be procured immediately by the country's spinners.



The rising demand from western countries will also strengthen the price of the cotton yarn.

The 32/1 combed cotton yarn price went up from 24.26 CNY/kg in January 2021 to 26.57 CNY/kg in June 2021. It further increased by 6.89 per cent to 28.40 CNY/kg

in August 2021, according to Fibre2Fashion's market analysis tool TexPro.

The price is expected to touch 30.04 CNY/kg in November 2021, recording a rise of 5.77 per cent.

The price of 30/1 combed cotton yarn was ₹254.81 per kg in January 2021, which increased by 4.62 per cent to ₹266.59 per kg in June 2021. It further grew by 4.13 per cent to reach ₹277.59 per kg in August 2021.

The price is now likely to record a 3.71 per cent increase to reach ₹287.89 per kg in November 2021.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Sep 09, 2021

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\$5.1-bn export target to be tough: Sri Lanka's apparel industry

Sri Lanka's apparel industry representatives recently expressed apprehension about achieving the export target of \$5.1 billion this year, saying that would be a tough task due to the latest wave of COVID-19 in the country and companies operating at 15 per cent below capacity. They are hopeful still, with key export markets showing signs of bouncing back.

Keeping up with customer expectations, however, will be a mounting challenge, they feel.

“The real benchmark we set ourselves as an industry is 2019. Considering the year-to-date (YTD) performance, we will end up with around \$4.7-\$4.8 billion [worth] exports by the end [of] 2021, which is still an improvement of about 30 per cent compared to 2020, and leaves us 10 per cent short of our \$5.3 billion in 2019,” MAS Holdings executive director Shirendra Lawrence told a webinar recently.

The event, ‘Be inspired by the pandemic: Resilient corporate success of Sri Lanka's apparel industry,’ was organised by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM).

According to the country's central bank, textiles and garments exports in the first half of 2021 rose by 28 per cent to \$2.48 billion, while in June, it improved by only 3 per cent to \$ 415.5 million. Of that, garments exports grew by 31 per cent to \$2.26 billion in the first half and by 17 per cent to \$376.6 million in June.

The webinar was told apparel exports declined by 50 per cent in the second quarter of last year compared to the same period in 2019 due to the pandemic.

The industry recovered partially by 20 per cent by the fourth quarter and ended 2020 with \$4.1 billion exports compared to \$ 5.3 billion in 2019.

The net decline in apparel exports last year was 22 per cent, a lot less than industry expectations in June 2020 after the first lockdown. The apparel sector's contribution to the gross domestic product was 16 per cent and its input to the total exports was 43 per cent.

“We are operating 10-15 per cent below capacity because of COVID disruption that keeps coming on a regular basis. It is about how we control the surge at that point.

There is hope, as our customer markets are open but meeting their expectations is challenging,” Star Garments Group senior manager for business analysis Jeevith Senaratne said.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Sep 09, 2021

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Iran: Global Industry Ministry defines 36 programs to support strategic industries

Niaraki said the Industry Ministry's programs for supporting the productive sector focus on three major axes including the facilitation of supplying raw materials required by industries including equipment, machinery, components, and parts as well as planning to provide the working capital needed by the production units.

He described the development of a roadmap for strategic industries as another major ax of the Industry Ministry planning and said: "36 programs have been defined in the industry, mining, and trade sectors for supporting strategic industries such as automotive, home appliances, textiles, and clothing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment."

"Last year, three operational programs for the home appliance, food, and precious metals industries were put on the agenda, and these programs have been implemented this year with the participation of organizations and pioneering industries," he said. In addition to the above-mentioned three programs, a support package has also been prepared and finalized for the development of the automobile and auto parts industries and will be sent to the industry minister for approval, Niaraki added.

The official went on to say that there are currently 85,000 production units across the country of which 13,000 are inactive, underlining that assessment of the conditions of the mentioned units is also among the most important programs of the Industry Ministry.

According to Niaraki, in a short period of time, the status of the inactive units in each province will be reviewed with the priority of investment, employment, and production capacity, and then reasons for the closure of these units will be determined and solutions will be provided to revive them.

Referring to the ministry's planning for reviving 2,000 idle industrial units in the current year, the official said: "In addition to the assessment and evaluation of the said 13,000 units, Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization also has it on the agenda to revive 2,000 industrial units across the country."

Source: tehrantimes.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Egypt's clothing trade improves as imports decline

Egypt's clothing trade has improved significantly and exceeds EGP 300 billion annually. Mohamed Abdel Salem, Chairperson, Ready-Made Garments Chamber, Federation of Egyptian Industries attributes this to the decline in imports due to decree No. 42 which obligated importers to register with the General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC). Also, a protocol of cooperation has been signed recently between the Ready-Made Garments Chamber and Gahez Digital Marketing

These factors helped local companies to improve their products and manufacture high-quality clothing to cater to the needs of the market, Salem adds.

The Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) is one of the country's largest employers' associations, with 20 industrial chambers as members, representing over 60,000 industrial enterprises out of which more than 90 per cent belong to the private sector accounting for more than 7 million workers and 20 per cent of the national economy.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Sep 07, 2021

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Egypt, South Korea seek to boost bilateral trade

Egypt is keen on benefiting from Korean expertise to boost its industrial sector, said Nevin Gamea, Egypt's trade and industry minister.

She held a meeting with her South Korean counterpart Yeo Han-koo on Wednesday during which the ministers discussed ways to enhance bilateral economic ties.

Gamea said the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and South Korea amounted to \$1.051 billion during the first half of this year, an increase of 32.2 percent year-on-year.

She said the Egyptian exports to the Korean market increased by 11.3 percent during the first half of this year, reaching \$247 million, compared to \$222 million during the same period last year.

The minister said Korean investments in Egypt amounted to about \$570 million in 181 projects.

Source: arabnews.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Vietnam: Garment-textile, footwear may take long time to recover: insiders

Vietnam's garment-textile and footwear have borne the brunt of COVID-19 and firms in the sectors may take a long time to recover, experts said.

The sectors greatly contribute to the country's exports as well as generate jobs for a large number of workers. However, many factories remain closed due to difficulties triggered by the ravaging pandemic.

Estimates showed that a footwear firm with about 9,000 workhands needs to spend approximately 1 million USD on preventive measures, while the costs of input materials have risen 5-10 percent.

Some businesses said they are facing fines for late delivery and risks of losing orders for the next season.

To maintain orders for the following year, Phan Thi Thanh Xuan, General Secretary of the Vietnam Leather and Footwear Association (Lefaso), said the association has proposed easing the restrictions in three phases.

Prospects of this year and even of 2022 have become gloomy, she added.

Chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas) Vu Duc Giang said if the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, firms may not be able to maintain and stabilise operations as well as retain customers.

It is important to keep the workforce amid uncertainties of production plans, COVID-19 vaccine shortages and unpredictable developments of the pandemic, according to Vitas.

To restore production of the sectors, the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) will work to remove bottlenecks and provide the most possible support to help factories resume operation and take advantage of orders at year's end in the European and US markets.

In addition, the MoIT will step up the implementation of a development strategy for garment-textile and footwear to 2030, with a vision to 2035, and the building of a programme on sustainable development of the sectors until 2030.

It will also strive to expand export markets, capitalise on advantages of existing free trade agreements, diversify export items and improve the competitive edge of products and brands.

Source: en.vietnamplus.vn– Sep 08, 2021

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Pakistan: Textile exports continue to surge during current fiscal year

The textile sector continues to show buoyant growth as exports of textile products stood at a whopping \$1.47 billion in August with an increase of 46 percent as compared to \$1.01 billion exports in August 2020-21. With the onset of the current fiscal year, there seems to be a booming trend in textile exports as the first month of current fiscal year also witnessed a 15pc growth amounting to \$1.471 billion.

The average increase in the exports of textile products for the current fiscal year -- comprising two months recorded as 29 percent to \$2.949 billion as compared to the \$2.289 billion exports of corresponding period of the last financial year.

“If the prevalent momentum of growth in textile exports continues, Pakistan’s textile sector will surpass \$21 billion mark,” Shahid Sattar, Executive Director of All Pakistan Textiles Mills Association, maintained.

According to the latest data available with The News, the exports of textile apparel, clothing accessories, knitted and crocheted in the month of August increased by 47 percent to \$366.38 million as against the \$248.82 million of exports during the same period of the last financial year. Likewise, the exports of textile apparel and clothing accessories showed 41pc growth in August to \$285.67 million.

In addition, the exports of clothing, textile articles and rags jacked up by 47 percent to \$469.67 million in August as compared to \$319.29 million of the last fiscal year.

The data also shows that exports of man-made filaments, strip and textile materials went up by 180pc to \$5.53 million during the second month of current fiscal year.

The growth in staple fibers recorded as 63 percent to \$37.75 million, carpets and textile floor coverings, 15 percent to \$5.87 million, knitted or crocheted fabrics, 35 percent to \$4.40 million and cotton products, 46 percent to \$297.78 million during August 2021.

Source: thenews.com.pk– Sep 09, 2021

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Bangladesh: Prospects brighten for cotton import from Uzbekistan

The prospects to resume buying cotton from Uzbekistan have improved for Bangladesh after the United States lifted the ban on sourcing the key textile raw material from the country following significant progress in ending forced labour.

Until 2007, when a boycott campaign was launched against Uzbek cotton, the central Asian country was the single largest sourcing destination for Bangladesh, accounting for about 45 per cent of cotton imported.

But the import started depleting after international clothing retailers and brands, especially the European and American ones, imposed the ban on using Uzbek cotton for employing child and forced labour in cultivating and harvesting the textile raw material.

The ban led western retailers and brands to instruct garment-supplying nations, including Bangladesh, not to use cotton from the country.

They also threatened that they would not purchase the garment items if they were made from the yarn produced from Uzbek cotton.

As a result, Bangladeshi mill users and spinners stopped importing cotton from the country.

But the door to buy cotton from the country is set to reopen after the US, in March 2019, removed Uzbek cotton from a list of products that are produced with forced child labour.

"So, an opportunity for us has been created in sourcing cotton at competitive prices," said Mohammad Ali Khokon, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

He is now visiting Uzbekistan and has discussed cotton issues with the Uzbek government and other stakeholders.

"The quality of Uzbek cotton is good, and it is expected that the country can supply the cotton at competitive prices," Khokon said.

The boycott campaign was launched in an attempt to force Uzbekistan to abandon a long-running practice of sending students and public sector employees, including teachers and doctors, to pick cotton for meagre pay, said Reuters in a report recently.

It has been supported by the likes of Amazon, Calvin Klein, Adidas and Inditex, and today the nation of 34 million people mostly sells cotton and textiles on Asian markets, which it says means lower prices and limited growth opportunities.

Some 330 global apparel brands and retailers have pledged since 2007 to work to ensure that forced labour does not find its way into their products under an initiative launched by the Cotton Campaign, which aimed to end the state-sponsored forced labour system.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has gradually dismantled the forced labour system, explicitly barring provincial authorities from mobilising students and public sector workers for cotton harvesting, according to Reuters.

In a press release last year, the Cotton Campaign acknowledged and applauded progress made on reforms yet also registered serious concerns over a lack of progress on civil society freedoms.

"Together with brands and other local and international stakeholders, the Cotton Campaign is developing a robust framework to monitor and remediate forced labour, empower workers and farmers, and encourage sourcing from Uzbekistan," it said.

In the same press release, Nate Herman, senior vice-president for policy at the American Apparel & Footwear Association, said: "We recognise and are heartened by the progress that Uzbekistan has made toward ending forced labour, and members look forward to considering sourcing from Uzbekistan."

Uzbekistan produces nearly two million bales of cotton a year. Most of them are used by the local spinners.

Khorshed Alam, chairman of Little Group, a local spinner, says Uzbekistan may be a good source for cotton. But Uzbekistan needs to use the Port of Tehran to ship the product that might be expensive now.

Moreover, over the last 15 years, Uzbek entrepreneurs have set up many local spinning mills, so cotton in bulk quantities might not be available, he said.

In the absence of cotton from Uzbekistan, Bangladesh has diversified sources.

African countries are now the biggest source of cotton, accounting for around 40 per cent of the raw material imported.

Currently, 26 per cent of cotton is imported from India.

Over the years, Bangladesh has cut its reliance on Indian cotton as the neighbouring country frequently stops the supply of the raw material without prior notice, creating uncertainty for the \$10-billion primary textile sector and the \$41-billion garment industry.

The US and Australia are major sources for finer cotton, preferred by international retailers and brands.

Some 11.15 per cent of cotton is imported from the US, 4.65 per cent from Australia, and 11 per cent from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Bangladesh depends entirely on imports for the vital raw material of the garment industry.

In 2020, the country imported 8.2 million bales of cotton at the cost of \$3 billion, according to the BTMA.

Source: thedailystar.net– Sep 09, 2021

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NATIONAL NEWS

Government has approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles. With this, India is poised to regain its dominance in Global Textiles Trade

Taking steps forward towards the vision of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the PLI Scheme for Textiles for MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics and 10 segments/ products of Technical Textiles with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 10,683 crore. PLI for Textiles along with RoSCTL, RoDTEP and other measures of Government in sector e.g. providing raw material at competitive prices, skill development etc will herald a new age in textiles manufacturing.

PLI scheme for Textiles is part of the overall announcement of PLI Schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore. With the announcement of PLI Schemes for 13 sectors, minimum production in India is expected to be around Rs. 37.5 lakh crore over 5 years and minimum expected employment over 5 years is nearly 1 crore.

PLI scheme for Textiles will promote production of high value MMF Fabric, Garments and Technical Textiles in country. The incentive structure has been so formulated that industry will be encouraged to invest in fresh capacities in these segments.

This will give a major push to growing high value MMF segment which will complement the efforts of cotton and other natural fibre-based textiles industry in generating new opportunities for employment and trade, resultantly helping India regain its historical dominant status in global textiles trade.

The Technical Textiles segment is a new age textile, whose application in several sectors of economy, including infrastructure, water, health and hygiene, defense, security, automobiles, aviation, etc. will improve the efficiencies in those sectors of economy. Government has also launched a National Technical Textiles Mission in the past for promoting R&D efforts in that sector. PLI will help further, in attracting investment in this segment.

There are two types of investment possible with different set of incentive structure. Any person, (which includes firm / company) willing to invest minimum ₹300 Crore in Plant, Machinery, Equipment and Civil Works (excluding land and administrative building cost) to produce products of Notified lines (MMF Fabrics, Garment) and products of Technical Textiles, shall be eligible to apply for participation in first part of the scheme.

In the second part any person, (which includes firm / company) willing to invest minimum ₹100 Crore shall be eligible to apply for participation in this part of the scheme. In addition, priority will be given for investment in Aspirational Districts, Tier 3, Tier 4 towns, and rural areas and due to this priority Industry will be incentivized to move to backward area. This scheme will positively impact especially States like Gujarat, UP, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Punjab, AP, Telangana, Odisha etc.

It is estimated that over the period of five years, the PLI Scheme for Textiles will lead to fresh investment of more than Rs.19,000 crore, cumulative turnover of over Rs.3 lakh crore will be achieved under this scheme and, will create additional employment opportunities of more than 7.5 lakh jobs in this sector and several lakhs more for supporting activities. The textiles industry predominantly employs women, therefore, the scheme will empower women and increase their participation in formal economy.

Source: pib.gov.in– Sep 08, 2021

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PLI scheme will boost textile exports, Chairman, TEXPROCIL

The Union Cabinet, headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, PMO India has on Wednesday approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for notified products of Man-made fibre apparel and 10 segments of technical textiles with a financial outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over five years.

Welcoming the PLI scheme, Shri Manoj Patodia, Chairman of The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) said, "The PLI scheme, which is a huge initiative taken by the Government, will boost the overall textile & clothing exports and also give a fillip to domestic manufacturing".

The incentives under the scheme are based on the fulfilment of the prescribed minimum investment and turnover limits. The broad objectives of the scheme is to help Indian textile companies to become Global Champions and to regain India's dominance in Global Textiles Trade.

The PLI scheme will encourage setting up of new domestic textiles companies or expand existing manufacturing companies which in turn will generate additional employment especially for women, according to the Chairman, TEXPROCIL.

Under the scheme, priority will be given for investment in Tier 3, Tier 4 towns and in rural areas . The Chairman, TEXPROCIL stated that PLI scheme will create a strong eco system for the development of textiles sector in different states such as UP, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha etc which will ensure development of the textile sector throughout the country.

The PLI scheme covers only those manufacturing companies that are registered in India. Shri Patodia pointed out that the scheme will reduce dependence on imports and will make the textile sector AtmaNirbhar #AtmanirbharBharat as per the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The Chairman, TEXPROCIL extended his thanks to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal Piyush Goyal and the Hon'ble Minister of State for textiles Smt Darshana Jardosh Darshana Jardosh and the Ministry of Textiles for getting the Cabinet approval for the PLI scheme for textiles.

Source: Texprocil Intelligence– Sep 08, 2021

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‘PLI scheme eligibility targets tough but achievable’

Textile Secretary Upendra Prasad Singh speaks on the nitty-gritty of the scheme

The window for applications from investors for the much-awaited Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, cleared by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday, is expected to open in less than two months, once all required notifications and guidelines are in place, said Textile Secretary Upendra Prasad Singh. In an interview with BusinessLine, Singh explained the nitty-gritty of the scheme. Excerpts:

Why has there been a delay in the scheme and have industry demands been accommodated?

When we discussed the initial proposal at length with industry, we found that this scheme needed modifications. Changes were needed both in terms of product lines as well as in terms of minimum investment and minimum turnover requirements. If the industry said the given parameters were not achievable, it needed to be considered as we would not like to have a scheme which would become a non-starter. We now have a scheme where targets are tough, but still achievable.

What are the changes that were brought about in coverage under the scheme?

Initially, we had only 40 MMF apparel lines. The weakest link in India is fabrics, especially MMF fabrics. So now 14 HS lines of fabrics, which are top traded lines in the world, have been included. We now expect that some of the people who are into spinning will perhaps graduate to fabrics. Intermediate products of fabrics have been taken care of.

Were the threshold investment levels and other criteria for eligibility also tweaked?

There is no separate threshold for technical textiles, MMF garments and fabrics. It is all put together. If someone wants to do apparel, garments and technical textiles, one can do all. We have two parts of scheme. First part of scheme requires minimum investment of ₹300 crore. Part two requires minimum investment of ₹100 crore. Since it is PLI, it is not just investment.

We will allow investors two years to make the investment. This should result in minimum turnover of ₹600 crore (for ₹300 crore investment) or ₹200 crore (for ₹100 crore investment) as the case may be, for company to become eligible for incentive. Both conditions for investment and turnover have to be satisfied.

Incentive for part 1 would start from 15 per cent of minimum turnover achieved. Thereafter, every year, they have to achieve 25 per cent growth, over and above minimum of ₹600 crore. From second year onwards, incentive will be paid on the incremental turnover. This will go down by 1 per cent every year for the next four years.

Similarly, in case of ₹ 100 crore investment, first year incentive will be 11 per cent of minimum turnover. There, incentive is less because investment is less. Subsequent four years, the incentives will go down by 1 per cent. These levels were lowered after discussion with industry as some initial proposals for incremental turnover were as high as 40 per cent.

How will the scheme be implemented?

We will notify the scheme in a few days' time. We have already framed the draft guidelines. The draft was also part of the Cabinet submission. The draft guidelines will be finalised in consultation with other Ministries and Departments like DPIIT, Commerce, Finance and NITI Aayog. We will share this copy of draft guidelines with them immediately and after getting their inputs we will come out with the guidelines, along with an FAQ.

What will these guidelines include?

They will include details such as definitions of subsidiary, turnover, etc. They will also specify what kind of investment would be eligible and the documents to be submitted along with applications. Other necessary information like what kind of audit will be required to get the incentive will also be provided. We plan to have a window to invite applications from November 1 to December 31.

If there are too many eligible applicants, will you have some criteria for selection?

Since this is a scheme with limited funds of ₹10,683 crore, if there are more takers, we will have to select companies based on certain pre-determined criteria, which will be part of guidelines. Preference may be given on the

basis of location. We will give preference to industry located in backward area or tribal or smaller cities. We will also give weightage to industry that generates more employment per unit of investment made. Financial and technical capacities will also be taken into account.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Festive season: What Covid-hardened MSMEs, small retailers expect this year vis-a-vis last year

Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs: This year's festive season would be the moment of truth for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across multiple offline consumer-facing sectors after the dampened show last year. That's also because the online channel or e-commerce had seized the opportunity last year to pull shoppers onto the digital medium for both recreational and essential shopping, thanks to the Covid-induced tailwinds.

Now having battled the two waves of the pandemic and understood the buying behaviour of consumers in the new normal, small businesses including retailers are hoping to get their mojo back to some extent this festive season as the rate of vaccination continues to go up even as the fear of third-wave lingers on in the background.

“There is definitely some sense of optimism for this year's festive season. While the third wave's fear is there but it seems the vaccination programme is well on its way to take care of the situation. So, the big silver lining is clearly the vaccination programme. If this continues, most of the retailers will plan for a big festive season while many are expecting growth over 2019 levels. This season would be of cheerful shopping from last year's,” Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India (RAI) told Financial Express Online.

While consumers had planned shopping during last year's festive season as well, 75 per cent were inclined towards making online purchases in comparison to 66 per cent who had planned to opt for standalone shops, according to RAI's festive shopping index 2020. Apparel shopping and eating out have always been the top indicators of how well the consumer sentiment has been during the festive season.

“Electronics and food segments are already doing good. The real indicator is garments after food. The second-largest category of consumption in India is garments or textiles which hasn't been as successful yet. Here the feeling of enjoyment during the season to go out and meet friends and relatives is important as the office wear segment is still impacted. So, growth would come if casual clothing and festive clothing recover. That will be the big cheer,” added Rajagopalan.

The domestic textiles and apparel market was around worth \$100 billion in FY19 and is likely to grow to \$190 billion by FY26, according to India Brand Equity Foundation. According to a recent ICRA report, textile exporters in India would be seeing a 20-25 per cent during the current financial year.

Moreover, the government on Wednesday had approved the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for man-made fiber-based apparel and 10 segments of technical textiles with a budgetary outlay of Rs 10,683 crore. Also, export-incentive schemes such as Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) and Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) are expected to boost the textiles sector.

“Textile sector is doing good while the growth in exports is also looking to pick up. The sector majorly has MSMEs. As far as expectations from the festive season is concerned, textile and apparel businesses are definitely expecting it to be better than last year’ season. While one won’t expect the markets to be crowded like before Covid, but it won’t be sombre like the previous year. The trend is towards improvement in sales while reaching 2019 levels will take some time. Businesses have now been used to the Covid environment and they know how much goods to stock,” Ashok Juneja, President, The Textile Association (India) told Financial Express Online.

“The government’s initiatives like RoSCTL, RoDTEP, PLI scheme, etc., will help MSMEs do better during the festive season. The demand is likely to go up from last year,” VD Zope, Chairman, The Textile Association (India) told Financial Express Online.

Delhi-based RK Vij of Indorama Synthetics, which is into the polyester fabric, said businesses are expecting improved sales from this month onwards, coming out of the second wave’s impact. “We have already been running our plant and the growth this season is expected to be around 15-20 per cent in the production and subsequent sales. We are more prepared this time amid a possible third wave and expect less impact on sales,” Vij told Financial Express Online.

Likewise, Viva Hospitality, which owns the quick-service restaurant brand Imly, sees the confidence coming back to a fair extent this year in comparison to last year as consumers have returned to eating out with families and friends post second wave. Hospitality was among the sectors that witnessed maximum disruption last year as lockdown-related restrictions forced eateries to shut temporarily and consumers to stay inside their homes.

“Restaurants this year started opening up in June itself after the second wave. So, the relaxation post-Covid is there now while a lot of people have already been vaccinated. The situation would be much better this season. We have recovered around 60 per cent while our bar concept called Duty Free has got 80 per cent recovery done in comparison to just 30 per cent last year from pre-covid levels,” Varun Puri, Co-founder, Viva Hospitality told Financial Express Online. Puri added that he had to shut four outlets during the Covid period as landlords were not ready to negotiate with the rentals. However, they were also able to open three new outlets amid Covid itself.

“Festive season gains will nowhere be close to what we have lost but it will help regain some confidence. If there is a third wave, it would definitely hit the confidence but restaurants are better prepared this time,” Puri said. However, according to Rajagopalan, the purchasing pattern might take a dip during the festive season if there is a third wave as people won’t celebrate the time with a sense of optimism and would prefer again not to move out to shop or meet relatives or friends.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Free trade agreements cannot be signed in haste, says Piyush Goyal

Even as India is gearing up to ink trade pacts with some countries over the next few months, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said that free trade agreements (FTAs) cannot be signed in haste.

“Under the guidance of Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi Ji, we go deep into FTAs so that they do not harm any established sector of India, India should also get benefits and there should be reciprocity. We should not reach a point where only our market is open (for other nations) and not the other way around,” Goyal told reporters on Wednesday.

“In the past, we have faced the consequences of signing an FTA in haste...that is the reason India opted out of RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership),” he said.

Currently, India is in a positive momentum with respect to signing trade deals with the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Bangladesh, the European Union (EU), and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations.

The minister also said that FTAs will also help the textile sector in getting a level playing field as it faces unequal duties in some of these markets.

Source: business-standard.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Textile industry looks at ₹3000 crore additional investment in TN

The textile and clothing industry in Tamil Nadu hopes to attract ₹3000 crore additional investment in man-made fibre (MMF) and technical textile segments with several schemes announced by the Central and State governments.

S.K. Sundararaman, chairman of the Indian Technical Textile Association and vice-chairman of Southern India Mills' Association, said the Production Linked Incentive Scheme approved on Wednesday by the Union government for the textile sector will make the MMF sector in the country more competitive and will the other incentives now made available, it is expected to attract investments. "People will expand more in their current area of operation," he said.

The technical textiles segment is a new age textiles with huge potentials in the infrastructure, water, health and hygiene, defence, etc. The PLI Scheme and the National Technical Textile Mission already launched by the Government with the budget outlay of ₹1,480 crores will give enormous opportunity for this segment.

According to the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, through the PLI Scheme, the Union government wants to scale up the capacity of the textile and clothing industry 10 times. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council said the incentives under the scheme are based on the fulfilment of the prescribed minimum investment and turnover limits. The broad objectives of the scheme is to help Indian textile companies to become global champions and to regain India's dominance in global textiles trade.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council said with the scheme, Indian apparel exports are likely to double in three years. The PLI scheme will strengthen the Indian manufacturing capacity of MMF fabric and will thus increase the share of MMF-based garments. It is currently 20 % of the total apparels produced in India.

According to the Indian Texpreneurs Federation, the PLI scheme will help India build a strong fabric manufacturing eco system for the growth of apparel exports. Apart from apparel, the MMF fabrics included in the scheme will help the industry invest in this sector.

The Tiruppur Exporters' Association said the scheme will promote production of high value MMF fabrics, garments, and technical textiles. Larger companies will get into production of these products, promoting exports and employment.

Source: thehindu.com– Sep 09, 2021

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UK, India in ‘sweet spot’ as trade negotiations begin, says Britain’s trade minister

The trade minister also laid out some developing trends that hold out great promise for the India-UK relationship, including the growing digitisation of global trade.

Liz Truss, UK Secretary of State for International Trade, revealed that the public consultation process ahead of the trade negotiations attracted "huge interest from businesses across the UK and its completion last month means that FTA negotiations can now begin.

The UK and India are in a “sweet spot” of global trade dynamics as negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) begin in the coming weeks, according to Britain’s trade minister in charge of the bilateral talks.

Liz Truss, UK Secretary of State for International Trade, revealed that the public consultation process ahead of the trade negotiations attracted “huge interest from businesses across the UK and its completion last month means that FTA negotiations can now begin.

Addressing a special reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of London to celebrate the UK-India Economic Partnership on Tuesday evening, the minister confirmed that both sides will hammer out the details during the upcoming visit of Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal to the UK and Europe next week.

“We just completed our consultation on an Indian trade deal, which saw huge interest from businesses across the country. We are now going to begin negotiating a free trade agreement, said Truss.

I see the UK and India in a sweet spot of the trade dynamics that are building up We are looking at a comprehensive trade agreement that covers everything, from financial services to legal services to digital and data, as well as goods and agriculture. We think there is strong possibility for us to get an early agreement, where we lower tariffs on both sides and start to see more goods flowing between our two countries, she said.

Pointing to the post-Brexit scenario as the UK’s chance to set out an independent trade policy outside the European Union (EU), the senior

Cabinet minister flagged India as the big, major opportunity ahead following 68 trade deals clinched by Britain since leaving the economic bloc. She also referenced her visit to India earlier in the year, including a tour of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune which is in a UK tie-up to produce the Oxford University and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, as she highlighted collaboration in the field of science and tech as a sign of things to come as that trade route between the UK and India is deepened.

“Like the UK, India is a science and tech superpower the Serum Institute of India provides two-thirds of the vaccines that inoculate children around the world. That is truly a tremendous achievement, said Truss.

Working with India will help enhance the UK’s position as a global hub for digital and services. But for me it’s about more than that: it’s about two democracies who share values, share an approach to working together to the benefit of both of our populations, she said.

“In every possible way, we have a hugely strong relationship between our two nations and all I can see is things moving in the right direction. It’s vitally important that as we want to recover from the COVID crisis across the world, we see more free enterprise and free trade, she noted.

The trade minister also laid out some developing trends that hold out great promise for the India-UK relationship, including the growing digitisation of global trade.

“The other big trend we are seeing is the growth in the Indo-Pacific region, where a lot of our trade negotiations are oriented towards. India is expected to have more middle-class consumers than the US by 2030, and they would want to buy the finer things that Britain supplies whether that’s financial services, insurance, computer technology, high-value food and drink or indeed our advanced manufacturing products, she pointed out.

Both the minister and the Lord Mayor, William Russell, underlined the Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) agreed between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Boris Johnson at their virtual summit in May as setting out an ambitious roadmap to at least double bilateral trade by 2030.

“The most innovative and dynamic part of our relationship is in the financial professional services and we at the City of London have done a lot to support that part of the relationship, said the Lord Mayor the leader of the financial hub of the UK capital.

“This relationship is only getting stronger, whether that’s through the India-UK 2030 Roadmap announced earlier this year by our Prime Ministers or the work of individual businesses like Barclays Bank, who have invested nearly GBP 300 million to expand their operations in India, he said.

Describing the bilateral ties as the investment opportunity of a generation, the Lord Mayor highlighted the key priorities for the UK-India relationship as enhanced mobility and resumption of business travel between both countries, doubling of financial professional services trade in the next decade and increased green investments to support India’s sustainability and decarbonisation agenda.

Source: [financialexpress.com](https://www.financialexpress.com)– Sep 08, 2021

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Cabinet clears ₹10,683-cr PLI scheme for man-made textiles

Incentives for eligible units will be given over 5 years to create 'global champions'

The Union Cabinet has cleared the much-awaited ₹10,683 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile industry, which covers items from the MMF (man-made fibre) and the technical textiles sectors.

The approved incentive will be provided to eligible units over a period of five years.

PLI scheme for textiles will promote the production of high-value MMF fabrics, garments, and technical textiles in the country, according to Commerce & Industry and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal. The incentive structure has been so formulated that industry will be encouraged to invest in fresh capacities in these segments.

"So far, we have primarily focused on cotton textile. But two-thirds share of the international textile market is of man-made and technical textile. This PLI scheme has been approved so that India can also contribute to the production of man-made fibers. We hope that this decision will produce some global champions," Goyal said at a media briefing following the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

MMF, such as polyester, viscose, are made from various chemicals, or are regenerated from plant fibres. Technical textiles include new age functional fabrics that have applications across industries such as automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety and personal protection.

Eligibility

For eligibility under the scheme, two types of investments are possible. Any person, (which includes firm / company) willing to invest a minimum of ₹ 300 crore in plant, machinery, equipment and civil works (excluding land and administrative building cost) to produce products of the notified MMF fabrics, garment and products of technical textiles, shall be eligible to apply for participation in first part of the scheme, per an official release.

In the second part, any person, firm or company, willing to invest minimum ₹100 crore shall be eligible to apply.

The factories based around aspirational districts or Tier-3 & Tier-4 cities will be given priority, Goyal said. "It will especially benefit Gujarat, UP, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana etc," the Minister added.

It is estimated that over the period of five years, the PLI Scheme for textiles will lead to fresh investment of more than ₹19,000 crore and cumulative turnover of over ₹ 3 lakh crore, the release pointed out. It is also expected to generate an additional direct employment of 7.5 lakh and indirect employment of several lakhs more.

The PLI scheme for textiles is part of the overall announcement of PLI schemes for 13 sectors made earlier during the Union Budget 2021-22, with an outlay of ₹ 1.97 lakh crore

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Production Linked Incentive scheme to be a game changer for India's textiles sector, says AEPC

Will result in fresh investment, expand manufacturing capacities, enhance exports multifold, said its Chairman

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on Wednesday welcomed the Union Cabinet's approval of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for manmade fibre (MMF) segment and technical textiles, saying that it will transform India's growth story.

"The investment-oriented scheme of ₹10,683 crore for MMF and technical textiles will be a game changer for the sector," A Sakthivel, Chairman of AEPC said in a statement.

The Chairman said that the scheme will result in fresh investment of gigantic proportions, expand manufacturing capacities and enhance exports multifold. "It will make India a key player in the global textile value chain with focus on high value MMF products. Besides, it will promote industrial development in backward regions of the country," he added.

State of MMF sector

India has an abundant supply of MMF fibre and yarn, but we do not have enough production of quality MMF fabric. The PLI scheme will strengthen the Indian manufacturing capacity of MMF fabric and will thus increase the share of MMF based garments year after year. It is currently 20 per cent of the total apparels produced in India. With increase in MMF segment, the Indian apparel exports are expected to double in next three years.

"The efforts to promote the apparel industry has a much wider socio-economic impact as it is a labour-intensive sector and 70 per cent of its workforce are women. The industry, which is predominantly in the MSME segment, gives huge employment opportunities to the society's most vulnerable sections," said Sakthivel.

"PLI along with other decisive schemes like RoSCTL, RoDTEP, Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (MITRA) Parks and National Technical Textiles Mission initiated by our Prime Minister will prove to be a game changer for the Indian textiles sector," he added.

With PLI and other initiatives, the apparel industry is expected to contribute significantly in achieving both the merchandise export target of \$400 billion for this financial year and the Prime Minister’s vision of making India ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

“PLI scheme for the textile sector will help the industry to build scale, competitiveness and specialisation. India needs to build a strong fabric manufacturing ecosystem to grow our apparel exports. Apart from apparel, MMF fabrics are also added as part of the PLI scheme, and this move will help the industry to invest and build large-scale capacities,” said Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor of Coimbatore-based Indian Texpreneurs Federation.

India is the sixth largest exporter of textiles and apparels in the world. The share of textile and apparel exports in India’s overall exports was 11 per cent in the year 2019-20.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 08, 2021

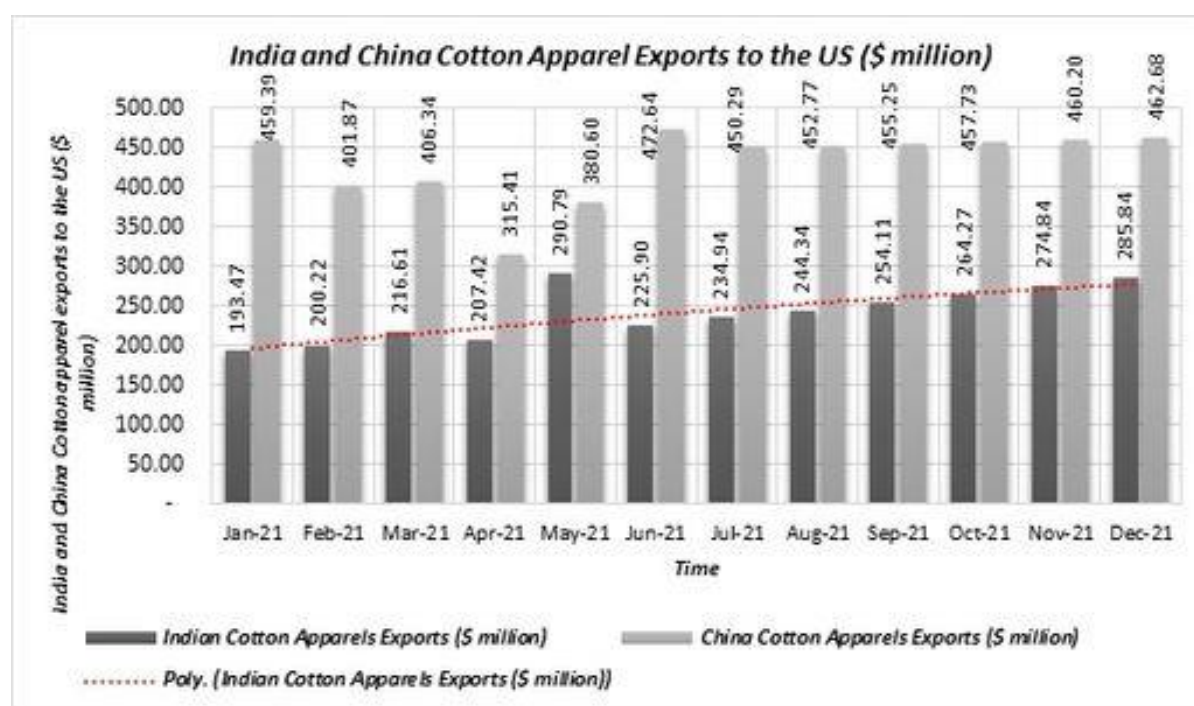
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Why India's apparel exports to US will rise & China's will decline?

Cotton apparel exports from India to the US are expected to rise by the end of 2021, while Chinese cotton apparel exports to the US may decline. The US has already banned imports of cotton and cotton products from China's Xinjiang region. Meanwhile, India is trying to benefit from China's reducing share with new FTA strategies, duty structures, trade policies and freight management.

Additionally, China's sea trade with neighbouring Asian countries has been affected due to high freight costs. The country is also facing the new wave of the pandemic due to the spread of the Delta variant.

According to the chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), the textiles ministry must take policy initiatives such as incentives for value-added exports and discourage exports of raw materials. He also recommended reducing or eliminating duty imposed on apparel exported from India to the US as is the case with countries like Turkey, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Pakistan.



Indian cotton apparel exports were \$193.47 million in January 2021, which increased by 11.96 per cent to \$216.61 million in March 2021. It further rose by 4.29 per cent to \$225.90 million in June 2021, according to Fibre2Fashion's market analysis tool TexPro.

India's apparel exports are now expected to increase by 26.53 per cent to reach \$285.84 million in December 2021.

On the other hand, Chinese cotton apparel exports were \$459.39 million in January 2021, which dropped by 11.55 per cent to \$406.34 million in March 2021. It shot up again by 16.32 per cent to \$472.64 million in June 2021. It is now expected to diminish again by 2.11 per cent to reach \$462.68 million in December 2021.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Logistics and supply chain trends for 2021

The sector is now a frontrunner and major driver of not just national and international trade but also the lifeline of smaller businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs

The Prime Minister has announced around ₹100 crore for the 'Gati Shakti' master plan to accelerate development of transportation and logistics infrastructure in the country. This will help faster 'reach to market' for Indian manufacturing sector, which is gearing up to expand, thanks to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

In addition, the National Logistics Policy introduced by the government, is further designed to promote seamless movement of goods through focus on digitisation, process re-engineering, multi-modal transport, EXIM trade, etc., which will further provide an impetus to trade and enhance the Logistics Performance Index of the country.

In the backdrop of the global pandemic, the Indian logistics and supply chain sector evolved from being a support sector to a high impact sector, growing at 10.7 per cent CAGR. While the pandemic and the massive vaccination drive have already led the sector to evolve rapidly so as to meet the numerous challenges, it is now ready to take a giant leap in the coming years, driven by the following trends:

Digitisation and tech adoption: This is one of the most evident developments that has been accelerated largely due to the pandemic. From advancement in warehouse management systems, use of robotics, AI, ML and IoT for inventory management, tracking and order placements, routing schedules etc., have all drastically altered the logistics and supply chain operations, across the country.

The rise of third party logistic service providers have further raised the bar, with introduction of value-driven services that are backed with strong technology-driven innovations, are also redefining the sector.

While e-commerce and online grocery shopping with contactless deliveries and cashless payments are changing the face of 'direct to home' and consumer facing logistic operations, the vaccination drives and rise of e-pharmacies, are transforming the pharma and healthcare cold supply chains.

Rise of organised players: With the rise of value-added services, faster digital adoption, cashless and contactless deliveries, and the massive surge in online retail, there was a consolidation of the sector, driven by an increased demand for integrated supply chain services.

The once isolated network of transporters, freight forwarders, warehouse owners and managers and air and ocean freight carriers, now joined hands or merged with larger organised players to enhance market reach, and in turn, enjoy better returns. The sector also witnessed a steep and accelerated rise of start-up entrepreneurs who introduced tech-enabled service platforms, further aiding consolidation of the sector.

Capital influx by external investors: The growth potential of the sector and the massive cumulative impact of supportive government policies have led to a keen interest from private investors and equity funding groups. The wave of technology based logistic start-ups, consolidation of the sector and government decision to allow FDI in the sector have resulted in a massive influx of funds from private players.

In 2020 alone, the Indian logistics and supply chain sector witnessed a total funding of \$454.2 million, with early stage start-up's claiming 45 per cent of the funding. With the consistent and fast-paced growth, this investment is but the starting of a long and steady rise of the sector.

Greener operations: In line with national and international business protocols and rising demand for adopting greener business solutions, a lot of players in the sector are turning to eco-friendly and sustainable operations, that are also smarter, technology driven and cost effective.

From use of electric vehicles and building smarter warehouses with energy-efficient systems, to creating greener cold-supply chains and solar-powered temperature-controlled units, the logistics and supply chain sector is transforming rapidly from a high energy consumer and Co2 emitter to a more conscious and responsible sector with smart and earth-friendly operational preferences. Although not wide spread yet, but an increasing number of both large and small players, are adopting greener solutions.

In line with the above mentioned key growth drivers, a major trend in the Indian logistics and supply chain sector is the strong impetus and focus on developing infrastructure for transport, such that is can offer valuable and customised support to key industries, like agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing — sectors earmarked by the government to drive the robust

growth of the Indian economy. From being the backbone of a developing economy, the sector is now a frontrunner and major driver of not just national and international trade but also the lifeline of smaller businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 08, 2021

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A silent revolution in border trade

It is widely presumed and perhaps accepted that South Asian countries sharing geographical borders face special problems and challenges in a regional economy that is heavily fragmented by trade and transportation barriers. Freedom of movement of trade and transportation purposes is still limited in the region.

In other words, crossing the borders is a costly affair. However, to our utter surprise, change happened.

A colonial hangover did not change till 2012 when India came out of the status quo and opted for a reform by setting up the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) through an Act in Parliament in 2010 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This is the first time the concept of land port was officially acknowledged in India this way: ‘Land port’ means an area on the international borders of India including portions of national, State highways and other roads, notified as land Customs station or immigration check-post under the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) or the Foreigners’ Act, 1946 (31 of 1946), and includes railways, with facilities for clearance and transport of passengers and goods across the borders of India.

The entire ecosystem of India’s border management for the trade transaction purpose is now transformed into an improved frontier, which is very much in sync with the obligations of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement being implemented by India.

The history

Set up in 2012, LPAI has developed till date a total of nine ICPs, which are located across India’s international land border. These are Attari — handling India’s trade with Pakistan; Agartala, Petrapole, Srimantapur and Sutarkandi — all handling India’s trade with Bangladesh; Raxaul and Jogbani — both handling India’s trade with Nepal; and Moreh — handling India’s trade with Myanmar. Several new ICPs are coming up and their total number is likely to touch 24 by 2030.

Barring managing the ICP properties, what exactly is the role of a LPAI? LPAI has a wide mandate. It develops, sanitises and manages the facilities

for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India. LPAI puts in place systems, which address security imperatives at the integrated check posts on India's border. Theory suggests that trade and infrastructure have a self-reinforcing relationship, in that higher infrastructure spurs a larger volume of trade flows.

This is well-captured in the accompanying statistical table. As India continues to strengthen its border infrastructure, the share of ICPs in India's trade with her immediate neighbours (BBMNP countries) sharing borders has gone up from 41.87 per cent in 2012-13 to 63.59 per cent in 2020-21. In value terms, ICPs trade increased from ₹327 billion in 2012-13 to ₹954.89 billion. The output shift is exceptionally high: ₹6.55 crore per vehicle in 2012-13 to ₹23.57 crore per vehicle in 2020-21.

The achievements

While speaking to Aditya Mishra, Chairman, LPAI, about the achievements of the Authority since establishment in 2012, he said, "Since the inception of the first ICP in Attari in 2012, LPAI has facilitated cross-border trade worth nearly ₹4.7-lakh crore across all its operational ICPs.

"Not just in terms of trade, given the importance of close, historical and ethnic ties that bordering States in India have with their neighbouring countries, LPAI has played an instrumental role in creating a truly seamless passenger experience by facilitating cross-border passenger movement of over 1.26 crore people."

To strike a balance between security and trade facilitation, LPAI provides a wide range of security equipment like handheld metal detectors, door frame metal detectors, barriers and rotary mirrors which discourage manual frisking and verification by security forces at Land Ports.

Trade infra upgrade

Additionally, LPAI is in the process of enhancing and upgrading cross-border trade infrastructure at land borders by providing Access and Surveillance Control Systems, Full Body Truck Scanners for non-intrusive scanning and Radiation Detection Equipment at its ICPs which shall considerably reduce dwell time at ports. However, once some of India's connectivity corridors such as the Trilateral Highway become operational,

ICPs, particularly serving in our eastern neighbourhood, require further capacity expansion.

LPAI's ICP model has been replicated by India's neighbours like Nepal and Bangladesh, and offers many important lessons to African countries. ICPs in India have proven to be instrumental in channelising informal trade to formal trade. This model can be replicated at several African land ports which experience large informal trading activities having severe implications on the functioning of its economies.

For instance, in the case of trade between Benin and Togo, recorded formal trade is low whereas there is heavy incidence of unofficial third-country imports transiting through Togo and Benin and smuggled into Nigeria. These practices can be curbed if Integrated Check Posts with new-age surveillance technologies are built across the land borders.

As India ramps up border infrastructure to cope with the ongoing pandemic related challenges, reducing the costs of crossing borders in a timely manner has become a top priority. Safe and secure border is sine qua non for enhanced trade and integration.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 08, 2021

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Welspun becomes first Indian company to receive stringent FDA approval on surgical masks

Welspun India Limited's three-ply surgical masks are now poised for broader international distribution.

The manufacturer recently received the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's 510 (k) clearance, one of the most stringent and widely recognized quality approvals. The masks had already received BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) certification as well as CE certification from the European Safety Federation.

"This is a remarkable validation of our philosophy of keeping 'people ahead of everything' and we will channelize the momentum to further take the quality of healthcare products a notch higher at the global stage," said Dipali Goenka, joint managing director and CEO of Welspun.

Welspun's three-ply surgical masks are made with 100% polypropylene and offer 98% protection against bacterial load. The latter is one of the requirements to demonstrate that the medical device may be marketed as safe and effective.

Simultaneously, Welspun's 95 FFP 2 respiratory masks have been CE-certified, enabling exports to global markets including Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa, among others. . The msk offer optimal viral barrier performance and have previously received IS 9473 accreditation along with the ISI symbol.

The company had earlier gained CE certification for a half face respirator with valve for increased Covid-19 protection, which was also tested and verified by an international agency. Welspun's health manufacturing facility is certified for medical devices ISO: 13485 by British Standards Institution.

Welspun noted that the U.S. market for PPE (including medical PPE) is expected to grow to \$24.3 billion by 2024, with the respiratory protection products such as face masks as the fastest growing product.

Home Textiles Today is the market-leading brand covering the home and textiles markets, offering a comprehensive package of print and online products. Home Textiles Today provides industry news, product trends and introductions, exclusive industry research, consumer data, store operations solutions, trade show news and much more.

Source: hometextilestoday.com– Sep 08, 2021

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