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SAYING NO TO CHILD LABOUR

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

What USTR's Tariff Ruling Means for Fashion and Textiles

Are Trump tariffs going anywhere? Not so fast, according to the nation's top trade agency.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) confirmed on Friday that representatives of domestic industries benefiting from the tariff actions in the Section 301 investigation of "China's Acts, Policies and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property and Innovation" want to keep the punitive duties in place.

USTR said accordingly, as required by statute, the tariffs did not expire on their four-year anniversary dates and the office will proceed with the next steps as provided in the statute. Details on the next steps in the four-year review process will be outlined in subsequent notices.

In May, USTR commenced the statutory four-year process by notifying representatives of domestic industries benefitting from the tariff actions that the duties might expire and giving them the opportunity to support their continuation. Since requests for continuation were received, the tariff actions have not terminated and USTR will conduct a review of the tariff actions.

One of those representatives of domestic industries–the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)–explained its stance before a U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) hearing in July that Section 301 penalty tariffs on finished Chinese textile and apparel imports give American manufacturers a chance to compete and provide trade officials with an essential trade negotiation tool.

Removing them, NCTO said, would reward China, put U.S. manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage and do nothing to reduce inflation. Those were among the key points outlined by NCTO president and CEO Kim Glas in written testimony submitted to the USITC during three days of hearings on the economic impact of Section 301 China tariffs and Section 232 steel tariffs on U.S. industries.

Countering that argument was the U.S. Fashion Industry Association (USIA), which said it was joining other retail and fashion industry groups to speak out about "the pernicious impact of the Section 301 tariffs on both the American fashion industry and American consumers."

NCTO argued that the 301 penalty tariffs should remain in place "absent substantive improvements in China's pervasive, predatory trade practices," Glas said in her testimony. China's illegal actions "have put U.S. companies at a serious disadvantage and tariffs give American manufacturers a chance to compete."

Glas noted that U.S. trade officials have stressed that the penalty tariffs also create leverage and are a "significant tool" in ongoing negotiations with China. While some advocates for lifting the tariffs point to concerns about inflation, "canceling these penalty duties would do little to ease Americans' inflationary pains," Glas said.

U.S. companies have paid more than $150 billion in Trump tariffs on China-made goods since the Section 301 duties first went into effect four years ago, according to trade statistics from U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Trade groups such as the American Apparel & Footwear Association have said the tariffs add to inflation and result in a tax on consumers.

The tariffs were one of the few policies President Biden continued from the Trump administration after he took office. Biden said he wanted to use them as "leverage" against China in negotiations over bilateral trade.

Source: sourcingjournal.com - Sep 06, 2022

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Shanghai's new empty container centre to boost shipping capability

China's Shanghai port's empty container transportation centre, which recently began operations, is anticipated to increase domestic and foreign trade, enhance the port's handling capacity, and reinforce the city's position as an international shipping hub. The centre boasts of an annual throughput of 3 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

The centre is situated in the Yangshan Special Comprehensive Bonded Zone and was built by the Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG) in collaboration with the shipping lines of Maersk, CMA CGM, MSC, and Evergreen. The construction of the facility began in August 2021 and continued for more than a year. Built to resolve seasonal container deficits due to trade imbalances, the centre covers 450,000 square meters, processes 3 million TEUs per year, and has around 12,000 TEUs container slots.

“As the world's largest container port, the Shanghai port is speeding up the construction of a global shipping network together with ports around the Yangtze River Delta region. The centre will further raise the resource allocation efficiency of the Shanghai port and contribute to the port's global competitiveness and international influence,” deputy director of Lin-gang Special Area Administration Zhao Yihuai was quoted as saying by Chinese media reports.

Ranked as the world's biggest container port for 12 years in a row, the Shanghai port's container throughput volume had crossed 47 million TEUs in 2021. The port's quantity of imported empty containers increased by 8.7 per cent year-on-year during the January-August period.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Sep 06, 2022

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China's road logistics price index surges by 3% in August 2022

The road logistics price index in China showed a 3 per cent increase in August 2022 from last year while the national economy stabilised recovery momentum and market demand recovered. The index stood at 103, which was a 0.16 per cent dip on a monthly basis, as per a survey jointly carried out by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing and the Guangdong Lin'an Logistics Group.

The country's sub-index for full truckload logistics prices, which assesses bulk commodity and regional transportation, showed a figure of 103.1 at the time — a jump of 2.6 per cent year-on-year.

The growth of China's road logistics price index is credited to macro policies that develop domestic demand, stabilise progress, and assist businesses in dealing with issues, according to Chinese media reports.

The stability or growth of price index is dependent on the positive development of the market situation and business confidence. The nation's road logistics price index is calculated using the average price in the last week of December 2012 along with the monthly index starting point at 100.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Sep 06, 2022

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Turkiye's inflation crosses 80% in August 2022, highest since 1998

Turkiye's inflation rate has broken records after its consumer price index (CPI) touched 80.21 per cent on an annual rate in August 2022. This is the first time since the country's official inflation rate crossed 80 per cent since 1998.

A change in general index was realised in CPI (2003=100) on the previous month by 1.46 per cent, on December of the previous year by 47.85 per cent, on same month of the previous year by 80.21 per cent, and on the twelve months moving averages basis by 54.69 per cent in August 2022, according to a press release by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

The CPI for clothing and footwear stood at 38.03 per cent for the period. Communication with 27.05 per cent was the main group that indicated the lowest annual increase. On the other hand, transportation with 116.87 per cent was the main group where the highest annual increase realised.

In August 2022, transportation with -1.78 per cent was the main group that indicated the lowest monthly increase, added the release.

In August 2022, within indices of 144 basic headings (Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose-COICOP 5 Digit Level) in the index, the index of 16 basic headings decreased and the index of five basic headings remained unchanged while the index of 123 basic headings increased.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Sep 06, 2022

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TexSnips Offers Outreach to Cotton and Textile Sectors

Outreach to the entire spectrum of the fiber to fashion supply chain and advanced textiles sector is essential.

This month marks a milestone in the publication of the outreach newsletter TexSnips from the Nonwovens & Advanced Materials Laboratory at Texas Tech University. I started writing the TexSnips column just as a hobby to put thoughts to pen in the research areas I work. "Why don't I provide visibility on what others in the field are doing and write snippets on interesting happenings in the field so that global readers would benefit?" I asked myself. The answer to this thought resulted in the arrival of TexSnips.

In September 2010, the TexSnips newsletter began. Today, it has about 3,500 subscribers located around the world – and still growing.

TexSnips is undertaken as a service to the textiles and materials fraternity. Articles are archived online and can be accessed at this link.

The need to connect students, researchers, and industry people in the field of fiber to fashion, advanced materials, and even broader fields arose after the International Cotton Advisory Committee's Plenary meeting in Lubbock in September 2010.

While in Lubbock, industry veterans from India such as Suresh Kotak, Dhiren Sheth, and others visited my laboratory which is 10 miles away from the main campus.

A thought to inform readers in India and elsewhere on timely information on cotton and textile matters – all from Lubbock, the epicenter of cotton production – sparked the initiation of TexSnips.

Over the past 12 years, we have reported on the cotton scenario, views of Nobel laureate and colleagues such as Dr. Srinivasan Narasimhan of Asthagiri Herbal Foundation on concepts such as functional finishes, the importance of fiber quality, and timely developments and advancements in textiles.

United States cotton industry leaders such as Dr. Kater Hake of Cotton Incorporated and leaders of Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers have presented their views on different cotton situations. Indian textile industry people representing the ginning sector, spinning such as Jayalakshmi Textiles, and machinery such as Lakshmi Card Clothing have opined on matters of importance.

The goal of this newsletter is to connect the global audience in fiber to advanced textile sectors as a way of advancing the industry and knowledge base. Over the years, the publication has attracted students from India, Bangladesh, and other countries, plus leaders of multinational corporations representing cotton fiber, nonwovens, and advanced textiles.

To join the TexSnips distribution list, contact the publisher Seshadri Ramkumar (s.ramkumar@ttu.edu). There is no charge for subscriptions.

Source: cottongrower.com- Sep 05, 2022

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Pakistan may allow its industry to import cotton from India

Pakistan may allow its industry to import from India as Pakistan's textile exporters have demanded 2.5 million bales to meet the shortfall caused by the calamitous floods that have washed away about half the country's total crop.

Miftah Ismail, Pakistan's Finance Minister, reportedly, hinted this.

As per media reports from Pakistan, the proposal to allow the import of cotton from India was discussed during a meeting between Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and a delegation from the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA).

The Minister said that the country will allow the import of cotton to ensure its mills are able to fulfil their export orders. However, the import destination was yet to be decided.

In Pakistan, the floods, having washed away all the standing cotton crops, deemed the Ministry of Finance's initial projections of 11 million cotton bales being produced improbable.

Revised estimates suggest that the production may remain around 5.5 million bales only.

The textile exporters, however, are keen to import cotton – their basic raw material – from India via land to save time and logistics cost.

Source: apparelresources.com - Sep 06, 2022

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NATIONAL NEWS

India, Bangladesh to start negotiating free trade pact this year

India and Bangladesh have decided to start negotiations this year on a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement—a free trade agreement in goods, services, investments and other related areas—aiming to implement the pact by the time Bangladesh graduates out of its LDC status in 2026.

In their bilateral meeting on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, who is on a four-day visit to India, also discussed further enhancement of the development partnership, including upgrading railway infrastructure projects, building resilient supply chains between the two countries and across the region, and continuing the close security cooperation, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said in a media briefing.

MoUs signed

The two countries signed seven MoUs in areas such as water sharing, including sharing of waters of the Kushiyara river; railway infrastructure; training for judicial officers; and science and technology cooperation.

"Our bilateral trade is growing rapidly. Today, India is the largest market in Asia for Bangladesh's exports. To further accelerate this growth, we will soon start discussions on the Bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)," Modi said in his press statement in the presence of Hasina and delegations from both countries.

Despite the pandemic, bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh has reached an all-time high of 18 billion in the last financial year, Kwatra said.

Economic partnership agreement

"To sustain the momentum, both leaders have directed concerned ministries to commence negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement this year and complete it in time for Bangladesh's final graduation from LDC status," Kwatra pointed out.

Once Bangladesh graduates out of its LDC status, which is estimated to happen in November 2026, it will stand to lose LDC concessions such as the duty-free, quota-free access for goods it enjoys in India under the SAFTA. Dhaka will try to retain the benefits under the India-Bangladesh FTA.

Both leaders also underscored the importance of continuing close security cooperation in the fields of counter terrorism and border management, further enhancing development partnerships, including upgrading railway infrastructure projects and building resilient supply chains.

“We also decided to increase cooperation in sectors such as IT, space, and nuclear energy, which are of interest to our younger generations. We will also continue to cooperate on climate change and on preserving a common heritage like the Sundarbans,” Modi said.

Hasina also met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhawan on Tuesday.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com – Sep 06, 2022

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India provides the best investment opportunity to the investors across the world- Shri Goyal

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has said that India today provides the best investment opportunity to the investors across the world and called upon investors in the US to avail the opportunities that India offers stressing that the next 25 years, the golden period of Amrit Kaal is the appropriate time to invest in India. He said this while addressing the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) in San Francisco.

Speaking on India-US relations, Shri Goyal said partnership between India-US partnership is a 'Partnership of Trust', which rests on 3Ts of Trade, Technology and Talent. He noted that India-US relations are based on strong government to government engagement, people to people ties, large Indian diaspora, business to business relations, increasing bilateral trade, deep engagement in geopolitically relevant vibrant Quad, Ministerial Dialogue, IPEF and robust trade policy forum. Reaffirming India's commitment to working closely in areas of mutual interest, Shri Goyal said focus is on further expanding the India-US relationship.

Recognizing that India and the US are natural partners in terms of competitive advantages and opportunities they offer to each other, Shri Goyal spoke about the talent that India has provided to the US and investment that the US has provided to India. He asked US investors to share newer ideas, suggestions on taking the India-US relations to the next level. Noting that both countries share tremendous interest in the world which is peaceful, open to business, and believes in democracy, transparency, Shri Goyal asserted that the two countries can work collectively to promote global security, stability and resilient supply chains and a growing economy.

Stating that India's credibility has strengthened across the world in last few years, Shri Goyal

mentioned that we have taken transformative reforms and structurally prepared the economy for higher degree of honest business, recognizing and respecting integrity in business processes, reducing compliance burden, decriminalisation of laws, respecting and trusting and honesty of business persons.

Highlighting that India is a much more open economy now, Shri Goyal pointed out that India is opening up discussions with countries on subjects that were never taken up before such as gender, environment, small and medium enterprises, labour and anti-corruption laws. We are committed to providing growth opportunities both for domestic and foreign investors, he added.

In his speech, Shri Goyal highlighted the fact that lots of innovation is taking place in different fields and new areas are opening up in India such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, E Commerce, Edutech, Fintech, Agritech and Healthtech. He sought suggestions and ideas to explore the engagement further in areas around textiles, geotextiles, technology for testing labs.

Source: pib.gov.in– Sep 06, 2022

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New trade routes to India's NE States through Bangladesh underway

The move is expected to reduce the travel time by almost half, and the costs by nearly one-fifth

India is exploring new routes of cargo shipment to its North-Eastern States using Bangladesh's ports as trans-shipment hubs. Attempts are being made to bring in Bangladeshi cargo into Indian ports – particularly Kolkata – and then shipped out to export markets from there.

Two ports in Bangladesh — Mongla & Chattogram (Chittagong) — are being tapped as possible transit hubs. This means that goods will be shipped from the Kolkata port (Syama Prasad Mookerjee port) to these two ports and from there, they will be shipped via road to the Indian States, Assam (the lower Assam region), Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

The move is expected to reduce the travel time by almost half, and the costs by nearly one-fifth. Transporters say, travel to the North-Eastern States via the 'Chicken's Neck' region — also called the Siliguri Corridor — takes at least 9 to 12 days; and this includes a 10 - 15 per cent damage of goods because of road conditions.

On the other hand, cargo movement, partly through waterways and partly via roads, is a six-to-eight day process (three days from Kolkata to a port in Bangladesh and another 3-to-4 days for movement to the NE).

A trial run for such trans-shipment was done pre-pandemic, and four more — Mongla to Tamabil, Tamabil to Chittagong, Chittagong to Sheola and Mongla to Bibirbazar (all in Bangladesh) — are being done right now, sources in the Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry said.

A problem that had then cropped up was getting return cargo from the North-East or from Bangladesh, as vessels were returning empty. According to Vinit Kumar, Chairman, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust, discussions have also been initiated to bring in Bangaldeshi cargo to Kolkata and then export the same from here.

Trial Runs

“The Syama Prasad Mookerjee port in Kolkata partnered with Maersk Line India for the trial runs from Mongla to Tamabil and Mongla to Bibirbazar. For the trial runs from Chittagong to Sheola and another from Tamabil to Chittagong, we have partnered with CJ Darcl Logistics. The trials are underway,” he told BusinessLine.

According to Kumar, Tata Steel is sending TMT bars, of 25 MT, from Kolkata to Silchar at Assam using Chittagong Port and then through the Sheola-Sutarkhandi LCS border points. The container, Trans Samudera — VSTU2031090 —during the return will move tea from Tamabil to Chittagong. The Dawki (in India) – Tamabil LCS route will be used to bring the shipment to Chittagong port and then from there to Kolkata.

Final report by Sep-end

A final report on the feasibility of the routes, including the tweaking of systems and software at the level of customs, is expected from the Kolkata port authorities to the MEA by september-end. This will then be followed up with the neighbouring country.

“These are duty free goods that are moving from one place in India to another through Bangladesh. So, there needs to be some changes to the software at Customs end, both in India and Bangladesh. All these will be looked into once the route feasibility report comes,” an official said. If given clearances, it would take nearly two more years for the routes to materialise.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 06, 2022

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Amid global headwinds, Indian exporters hope to tide over slowdown

India's merchandise exports witnessed a 1.15 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in August, following a slowdown in external demand for engineering goods, textiles, gems and jewellery, as well as plastic products, preliminary trade data from the commerce department showed.

Industry officials and experts said geopolitical risks triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict are weighing on India's exports, which recovered from the Covid pandemic shock and consistently remained robust for over a year.

Weak demand from India's some of the biggest export markets, such as China, the European Union, and the United States, due to a slowdown in these regions and high inflation, as well as export restrictions on some commodities, resulted in the deceleration of goods exports. Barring the gems and jewellery segment, the decline in the value of exports was driven by a fall in prices of steel, cotton yarns, and plastic, they said.

"The trend that we are witnessing is that we are receiving orders for low-value products because of high inflation. Going ahead, we may see a little impact on the value of these products but volumes exported will remain intact. Stable volumes will have a positive impact on employment and job creation," said Ajay Sahay, director-general (DG) and chief executive officer (CEO), Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Vipul Shah, chairman, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), said the slight decline in gem and jewellery exports in the past two months is due to Covid restrictions in Hong Kong. Gems and jewellery exports fell 4 per cent in August to $3.29 billion.

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and exports of plain gold jewellery to the Middle Eastern markets increased by 29 per cent in July. We keenly look forward to the free-trade agreement with the UK; industry will also get to reap the benefits of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. We expect growth in the coming months, especially from the Western markets, due to festive demands and the upcoming holiday season," Shah said.

Engineering exports, which comprise a fourth of the value of total goods exported from India, witnessed the sharpest deceleration in August, falling 14.59 per cent YoY to $8.25 billion.

Outbound shipments declined to a 13-month low of $33 billion in August, against $33.38 billion last year. On a sequential basis, exports fell 9 per cent from $36.27 billion in July but grew 17.1 per cent YoY during April-August to $192 billion on a cumulative basis.

Commerce Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam on Saturday said that given the current global scenario, India is not in an uncomfortable position. However, there are headwinds related to what can happen to developed nations and the Christmas orders. “Exporters’ order books are full but the orders are getting delayed in terms of execution. They have not been asked to ship. That uncertainty is there,” he said.

While there is a moderation in demand for textile products because of recessionary trends in major developed nations, an industry official said India may be able to make up for this amid the challenging situation in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- India’s biggest competitors in this space. Disruption in these competitor nations has also affected external demand for raw materials, such as cotton yarns, the official said.

“There’s an economic crisis going on in Sri Lanka; Bangladesh has a fuel crisis, while Pakistan is facing massive floods. India has its own raw material, which is still intact. We will make up for the loss by the end of the year,” said Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Narendra Goenka.

India exported apparel worth $1.32 billion in August, down 0.42 per cent YoY. On a cumulative basis (April-August), outbound shipments witnessed a growth of nearly 18 per cent. Exports of raw materials, such as cotton yarns and fabrics, declined by nearly a third to $881.86 million in August over the year-ago period.

Source: business-standard.com– Sep 06, 2022

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FinMin releases Revenue Deficit Grant of ₹7,183 crore to 14 States

The Finance Ministry has released the sixth monthly instalment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) grant of ₹7,183.42 crore to 14 States.

The instalment, which was released by the Department of Expenditure on Tuesday as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

The Finance Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that with the release of the sixth instalment for the month of September, 2022, the total amount of Revenue Deficit Grants released to the States in 2022–23 has gone up to ₹43,100.50 crore.

West Bengal has received the highest amount of ₹1,132.25 crore in the sixth instalment, followed by Kerala, which has got ₹1,097.83 crore. Andhra Pradesh has received ₹879.08 crore, Himachal Pradesh has received ₹781.42 crore, Punjab has got ₹689.5 crore, and Uttarakhand has got ₹594.75 crore.

"The eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant for the period 2020-21 to 2025-26 was decided by the Fifteenth Finance Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State after taking into account the assessed devolution during this period," said the Ministry.

In all, a PDPR Grant of ₹86,201 crore has to be released to 14 States, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal for this fiscal in 12 equated monthly instalments.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 06, 2022

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Would be happy to discuss trade pact with US: Piyush Goyal

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal has said India would be "happy and willing" to negotiate a trade agreement with the US, its largest export destination, to further deepen bilateral commerce should the Biden administration look for a new free trade partner.

However, as a matter of policy, the US is not looking to firm up a new FTA with any country now, he added.

Speaking to reporters here, Goyal said: "Should they change their mind, India would be happy and willing to discuss. Without that also, we are engaged in attracting investment, technology, and trade between the two countries."

"I am sharing this with you to just tickle and excite your imagination (so that) the American government (can) have a rethink on their new FTA policy. So that they do not miss the bus," he added. India's exports to the US jumped almost 48% on year in FY22 (albeit on a favourable base) to $76 billion, while its imports surged 50% to $43 billion.

Both the countries had almost finalised a trade deal just before Donald Trump lost the re-election bid. The "limited" deal was negotiated for months and was expected to cover an annual trade of over $13 billion, or roughly 15% of bilateral shipments. However, following the election of Joe Biden as President, the new US administration dragged its feet on any new trade deal.

At a meeting of the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), Goyal said talks for a trade deal with Canada are progressing well and an early-harvest deal could be hammered out as early as December.

"Canada (Minister of International Trade Mary Ng) and I are very confident that we would be done with our early progress trade agreement by December," he said. The second round of talks with the EU (after formal negotiations resumed in June after a gap of almost nine years) will take place soon. "(But) There are 27 countries (in the EU bloc), so it will take longer...," he said.

Commenting on an India-Israel agreement, the minister said: “I still do not think we have got a good enough deal or a proposition that is attractive because of the small population size (of Israel) and their unwillingness to open up on services…”.

Separately, Goyal said the political churnings in the UK may have slowed the pace of negotiations a bit from the desired level but it can be made up in the coming days. Both the sides are still eyeing the Diwali deadline to clinch the deal, he added.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 06, 2022

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16 states onboard National Single Window System

As many as 16 states, including Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Bihar have integrated with National Single Window System (NSWS) so far with an aim to promote ease of doing business, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The government in September last year soft-launched NSWS for businesses. It was aimed at providing support to investors, including pre-investment advisory, information related to land banks, and facilitation of clearances at the Centre and state levels.

The NSWS portal is envisioned as a one-stop shop for investors for taking all the regulatory approvals and services related to investments.

It allows online filing and tracking of all applications and clearances, thereby helping investors to obtain clearances from different stakeholders without visiting different government offices.

"Currently, 24 of the 32 ministries and departments have onboarded the system and others are in the process. 181 out of total 368 services identified as relevant, have been onboarded.

At the same time, 16 states/ UTs out of 36 have also onboarded the system," Additional Secretary in Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Sumita Dawra told reporters here.

States and UT which are yet to integrate with the portal include Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh, among others.

Dawra said the scope of the system has also been expanded to include special schemes such as vehicle scrapping, Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme, ethanol- blending programme, and sugar mill exporters registration by bundling both central and state government approvals.

A common registration form has been in-built into the system which enables the investor to apply in a user-friendly format for investor-related clearances.

"There is hence no need to fill in multiple forms for various clearances relevant to the investor's proposal," she added.

The form is integrated with the payment gateway (PayGov) and is also integrated with 'Bharat Kosh', thereby integrating all ministries/ departments with public financial management system of accounting of the government, along with reconciliation of accounts.

Source: economictimes.com– Sep 06, 2022

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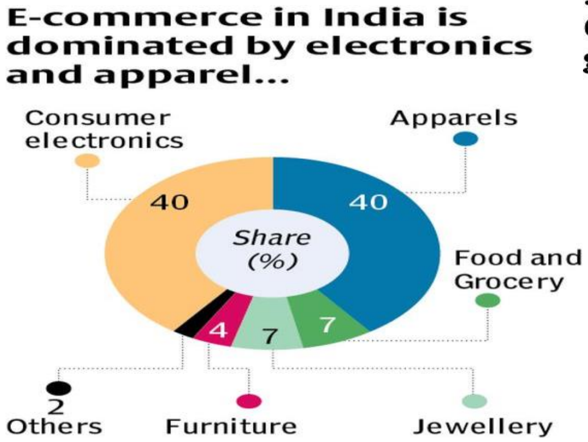
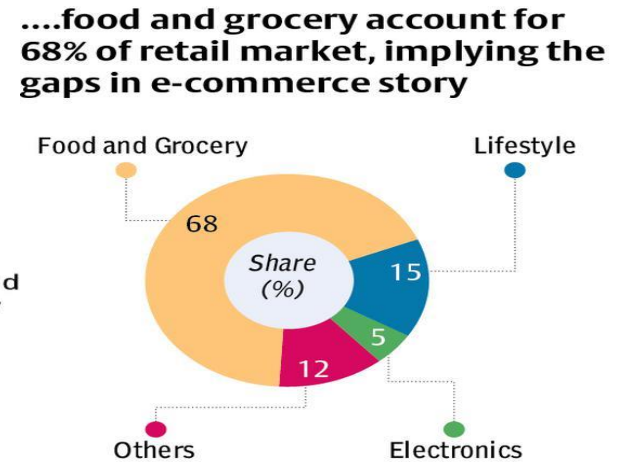
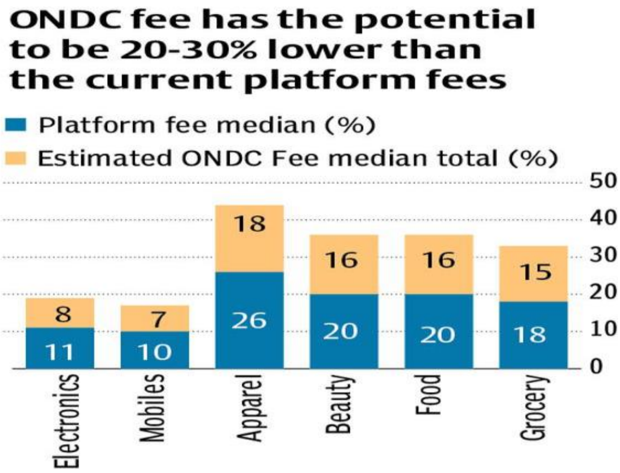
ONDC: Taking e-commerce revolution to 'Bharat'

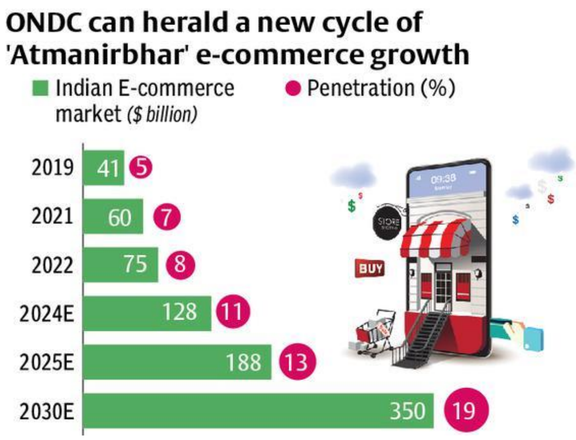
The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has been incubated with the primary purpose of supporting grassroots-level entrepreneurship and digitising small, local retailers by making them a participant in India's e-commerce revolution.

ONDC is expected to play major role in driving India's digital penetration in retail, just as UPI democratised the digital payments space in India. Here is a look at the potential of ONDC and how it can be a gamechanger.

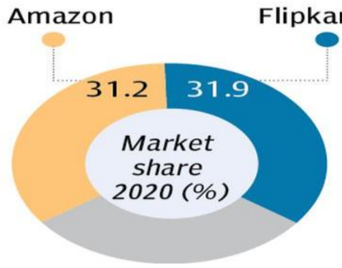








Currently, Amazon and Flipkart account for 60%+ market share of Indian e-commerce



Grocery business dynamics: Room for improvement for ONDC

Particulars	ONDC	Swiggy Instamart	Dunzo
Brooke Bond Red Label - 500gm	370	300	315
Daawat Pulav Basmati Rice 1kg	175	155	155
Dabur Honey Squeezy - 225gm	250	204	207
Sensodyne Toothpaste- 70gm	235	191	150
Parle Hide & Seek - 100gm	70	55	55
Id fresh Idli & Dosa Batter - 1kg	119	92	104
Aashirvaad Multigrain Atta - 1kg	111	90	96
Del monte Extra virgin Olive oil - 1 Ltr	940	896	890

Pilot phase has listed groceries at MRP along with a delivery fee on top

Source: JM Financial Institutional Securites report

Graphic: **Visveswaran V**

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 06, 2022

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Explained: What Is Trade Deficit And How Does It Impact A Country's GDP

According to the official data of the commerce and industry ministry, trade deficit of India widened to $28.68 bn during August as imports mounted sharply by 37 per cent to $61.68 bn with a marginal decline of $33 billion in exports.

According to the Livemint report, the increase in imports and a high rise in import values is dominated by crude and coal in August 2022 and has also been witnessed in major commodity groups including Coal, Coke & Briquettes, etc.(133.64%), Petroleum, Crude & products (86.44%), Organic & Inorganic Chemicals (42.73%), Vegetable Oil (41.55%).

The ministry informed that the exports of Electronic goods (50.68%), Rice (42.32%), and Organic and Inorganic chemicals (13.35%) registered remarkable growth during August 2022.

What is trade deficit?

In simple words, trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its export and lead to a negative balance of trade. It also represents an outflow of domestic currency to foreign markets. Trade plus is the opposite of trade deficit in which export exceeds imports in a country.

According to the Indian Express, a trade deficit can be defined as the total value of goods imported by a country is more than the total value of goods exported by that country. The calculation of trade deficit includes different goods and services and international transactions as well.

What leads to trade deficit?

There are many factors that result in trade deficit including the countries not producing goods (some) domestically and thus they have to import them. This situation creates a trade imbalance. A country with a weak currency often suffers trade deficit as it makes the trade very expensive.

Further, the other cause of trade deficit includes an imbalance between savings and investment rates of a country.

How does it impact a country's economy?

Trade deficit signifies the domestic demand is not fulfilled by the domestic producers and also a lack of competitiveness in the domestic industry.

If it increases, the GDP of the country decreases and a higher deficit results in decreasing the value of the local currency. It also impacts the job market and creates unemployment.

Significantly, a trade deficit is not always bad for countries because all countries have their strengths and weaknesses. We can understand it as the outcome of trade agreements on consumers instead of producers. For instance, cheaper goods benefit the importer country and they can use their efficiency in producing other goods which can be exported.

Source: indiatimes.com– Sep 06, 2022

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Cotton prices start downward trend

With early sown cotton-selling commencing in mandis in cotton-growing states including Gujarat, prices of the fibre in the domestic market have slipped below Rs 90,000 per candy (356 kg per candy) from over Rs1 lakh per candy in a span of a fortnight.

Market experts are expecting a further decline in cotton prices in anticipation of higher production of the crop as well as low demand from the textile industry. Over the past 3-4 days cotton was sold in the range of Rs 80,000 to Rs 85000 per candy.

"At present, crop condition across cotton-growing states is excellent and if everything goes well, we are expecting more than 350,00,000 bales (170 kg per bale) production in the upcoming 2022-23 season as against 315,00,000 bales in the current season.

If October does not witness severe rains, production may further increase by 25,00,000 bales," said Atul Ganatra, president of Cotton Association of India (CAI).

Cotton prices are going down internationally, said Ganatra, adding that the arrival of fresh cotton would increase by the beginning of October and there would be a gradual downtrend in the domestic cotton market, too. Till the beginning of September, cotton sowing in India completed 12.6 million hectare against previous year's 11.7 million hectare.

Avdhesh Sejpal, president of All India Cotton, Cotton Seeds and Cotton Cake Brokers Association, claimed prices of cotton will not go below Rs70,000 per candy in the Indian market even after peak arrival of fresh cotton. Cotton crop in neighbouring Pakistan was damaged due to flood and in the case of the US and China, there would be lower production in wake of unfavourable weather conditions, said Sejpal, adding that due to these reasons, there would be huge export demand of cotton in the next 2-3 months.

Moreover, demand from the textile industry would also increase as the festive season is coming closer, he added. Just a couple of months ago, cotton prices soared as high as Rs1.10 lakh per candy due to overall demand from the textile sector.

However, over the past one month prices continuously declined. Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu are the major cotton producing states in India apart from Gujarat.

Acreage under cotton sowing in Gujarat has increased by almost 0.3 million hectare to 2.55 million hectare compared to last year's 2.25 million hectares. Gujarat has a lion's share of around 30 percent in the country's total cotton production.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 07, 2022

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India Techtexil to be held in Mumbai in 2023

Techtextil will be held in Mumbai, India in September 12 to 14, 2023.

A series of live sessions will spark debates on important industry topics and high-growth application areas. This is the leading business event for the Indian technical textile industry and aims at connecting international and domestic players with buyers from various segments under diverse application areas and creating a one-stop sourcing platform to highlight latest product innovations in technical textiles.

Leading Indian players such as Alok Master batches, Khosla Profil, Park Nonwoven, Sarex Chemicals, Suntech Geo, Weavetech will showcase innovations in high-growth application areas of Geotech, Packtech, Agrotech and Indutech with a focus on products such as specialty fibers, filtration fabrics, functional textiles and advance technology.

Mobiltech, Indutech, Meditech, Packtech and Sportech constitute a major share value in the global market for technical textiles. Major players in the Indian market are Oekotech, Protech, Mobiltech, Geotech, Indutech, Agrotech, Buildtech and Packtech.

The technical textile sector's growth is being accelerated. Theaim is to place India as one of the leaders in the global technical textile market.

Key applications of this sector are in areas like agriculture, roads and railways, water resources, hygiene and healthcare, and personal protection. Strong efforts are being made to encourage the use and adoption of technical textiles.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Sep 06, 2022

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