

IBTEX
 INFORMATION BUREAU
TEXPROCIL

TEXPROCIL
 NEWS CLIPPINGS

An ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED COMPANY
 TÜVRheinland
 CERTIFIED
 ISO 9001:2015
 www.tuv.com
 ID 3105579408

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)
 Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai 400004. Maharashtra State. INDIA
 W. www.texprocil.org E. ibtex@texprocil.org T. +91-22-23632910 to 12 F. +91-22-23632914

IBTEX No. 202 of 2022

October 21, 2022

CLICK HERE

 To Watch Currency Outlook
 by CR Forex Advisors

**NEWS
CLIPPINGS**

| Currency Watch | |
|----------------|-------|
| USD | 82.82 |
| EUR | 80.93 |
| GBP | 92.62 |
| JPY | 0.55 |

| INTERNATIONAL NEWS | |
|---------------------------|--|
| No | Topics |
| 1 | Euro area annual inflation rate rises to 9.9% in Sep, EU rate to 10.9% |
| 2 | Annual rates of producer input, output inflation rise in UK in Sept |
| 3 | Mauritius keen to enhance trade |
| 4 | Lanka September exports up 4%, outlook grim |
| 5 | Cambodia's apparel exports up 23.09% to \$7.174 bn in Jan-Sept 2022 |

DISCLAIMER: The information in this message be privileged. If you have received it by mistake please notify "the sender" by return e-mail and delete the message from "your system". Any unauthorized use or dissemination of this message in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. Any "information" in this message that does not relate to "official business" shall be understood to be neither given nor endorsed by TEXPROCIL - The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

| NATIONAL NEWS | |
|----------------------|--|
| No | Topics |
| 1 | World today is looking at India with great confidence, says Minister Piyush Goyal |
| 2 | Govt considering raising interest equalisation rates for exporters to make finance cheaper |
| 3 | India-UK trade pact talks moving in right direction: Commerce Secretary |
| 4 | Coherent trade strategy needed to achieve export target of \$2 trillion by 2030 |
| 5 | CBIC, Finance Ministry working together to ensure faster release of export cargoes |
| 6 | Slow GST portal: CBIC mulls extending Sept returns filing due date |
| 7 | UCO Bank, Yes Bank in talks with Russia to finalise trade mechanism: Official |
| 8 | Gujarat, Maharashtra to push up India's cotton production in 2022-23 |
| 9 | Second-hand and sustainable: Will India learn to love old clothes? |
| 10 | Surat: Workshop held to strengthen cooperation between Industries and Textiles Ministry |
| 11 | EPFO payroll data: 9.87 lakh new workers joined in August |



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Euro area annual inflation rate rises to 9.9% in Sep, EU rate to 10.9%

The euro area annual inflation rate was 9.9 per cent this September, up from 9.1 per cent in August, according to the European Union (EU) statistical office Eurostat.

A year earlier, the rate was 3.4 per cent. Annual inflation rate in the EU was 10.9 per cent in September, up from 10.1 per cent in August. A year earlier, the EU rate was 3.6 per cent.

The lowest annual rates were registered in France (6.2 per cent), Malta (7.4 per cent) and Finland (8.4 per cent).

The highest annual rates were recorded in Estonia (24.1 per cent), Lithuania (22.5 per cent) and Latvia (22 per cent).

Compared with August, annual inflation fell in six EU member states, remained stable in one and rose in 20.

In September, the highest contribution to the annual euro area inflation rate came from energy (4.19 percentage points).

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 21, 2022

[HOME](#)

Annual rates of producer input, output inflation rise in UK in Sept

UK producer input prices rose by 20 per cent in the year to September 2022, down from 20.9 per cent in the year to August—its third consecutive monthly fall. Producer output (factory gate) prices rose by 15.9 per cent during the period, down from 16.4 per cent in the year to August.

Monthly input and output prices rose by 0.4 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively in September.

Crude oil and petroleum products contributed the most to the change in the annual rates of input and output inflation respectively, according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

The annual rate of input producer price index (PPI) has now been positive for 22 consecutive months. However, it has slowed for the third consecutive month and is down by 4.1 percentage points from the record high of 24.1 per cent in June this year.

The annual rate of output PPI has now been positive for 21 consecutive months, but has slowed for the second consecutive month.

The monthly rate of growth of producer output prices for apparel, textile and leather in September was 0.6, while the annual rate was 8.6.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 21, 2022

[HOME](#)

Mauritius keen to enhance trade

Mauritius is keen on developing economic relations with Pakistan and would like to tap into the bilateral trade potential in many areas, the High Commissioner of Mauritius Rashidally Soobadar informed businesspeople during his visit to the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) Capital Office in Islamabad on Thursday.

Mauritius imports many products from India and China and Pakistan could get a piece of that pie by boosting trade, exporting high quality products and skilled human resources, Soobadar said. He also highlighted the mutual benefits of increased cooperation in the tourism sector.

“Mauritius can be a stepping-stone for Pakistan to enter into the markets of Southern and Eastern Africa. Pakistan should further strengthen its cooperation with Mauritius to get better access to African markets,” he remarked. Similar views were echoed by the FPCCI business leaders who welcomed the envoy.

The Pakistan Business Council (PBC), a business policy advocacy platform, however, recalled that despite a preferential trade agreement (PTA) being signed with Mauritius in 2007, none of the objectives were met.

Speaking to the Express Tribune, Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) President Farazur Rehman explained that African economies are based mostly on imports.

“Pakistan can target their agricultural, textile, medicine and other sectors,” he said adding that, “Pakistani businesspeople, who only target the European market, should focus simultaneously on the African markets as immense opportunities lie there. Besides, we need to diversify to avoid any potential blackmailing.”

“Today, investors from all around the world are focusing on the African market instead of the European markets. Not only that, India is also putting great efforts into promoting diplomatic relations and trade ties with African countries,” he added.

Addressing the businesspeople, the envoy lamented that “While a PTA was signed between the two countries in 2007, no efforts were made to enhance bilateral trade relations, and unfortunately, it was dumped.” He assured the facilitation of Pakistan’s private sector in further enhancing two-way trade and economic relations with Mauritius.

“Mauritius wants to enhance trade relations with Pakistan and the business communities of both sides must interact with each other to boost trade volume. We would like to share our knowledge and expertise with the Pakistani business community,” he added.

Arif Habib Commodities CEO Ahsan Mehanti told the Express Tribune that, “Mauritius is an emerging economy that has now planned to boost trade relations with Pakistan. Their ambassadors have been coming to encourage trade and this is indeed an opportunity for the business community to trade in common currencies or export items that brings foreign exchange to Pakistan.”

Trade, at present, is at minimum level while investments can pour in once ties improves in the fields of IT, agricultural products and other products, which the country is currently trading in with India and China, he maintained.

In his speech, FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheik said, “Bilateral trade between the two countries is still far less than their actual potential.”

He encouraged the private sectors of both sides to explore new avenues to improve trade volume.

“Pakistani products including meat, fruits, food, textiles products, and many others could find good markets in Mauritius at competitive prices,” he said, urging Mauritius to enhance imports from Pakistan.

“Both countries should put extra efforts to establish direct air links that would help in improving people-to-people contacts and bilateral trade as well,” he suggested.

He stressed that, “Mauritius is a gateway to African countries with a huge scope for Pakistani products, especially textiles, cosmetics, cotton, cereals, pharmaceuticals, and plastic. The businesspeople must explore these marvelous opportunities.”

Arif Habib Limited (AHL) Head of Research Tahir Abbas suggested that “Pakistan should find new export avenues, particularly competitive ones that don’t call for sophisticated value addition. The focus should remain on locating new markets, products and value addition to earn maximum foreign exchange for the country.”

Hoping for growth in bilateral relations between the two countries, FPCCI Vice President Umar Masoodur Rehman observed, “Mauritius and Pakistan have longstanding historical relations while sharing almost the same tradition, culture and roots.”

“There is a huge scope for trade expansion and the private sector must step forward to become front-runners in creating new avenues for better trade and investment relations,” urged Rehman.

FPCCI member Sohail Altaf highlighted that Pakistani products were one of the best in the world and have the potential to get a suitable share in the Mauritian market.

Source: tribune.com.pk- Oct 21, 2022

[HOME](#)

Lanka September exports up 4%, outlook grim

Sri Lanka's apparel exports in September 2022 were up by four per cent compared to September 2021.

This year on year growth was the lowest in six months. Prior to September, apparel exports had grown year on year by a high of 39 per cent (June) and a low of 19 per cent (August). In March export growth was flat.

Exports to the US in September 2022 were down by four per cent while shipments to the EU were up by 15 per cent. Exports to the UK were up three per cent and other markets up 13 per cent. Apparel exports in the first nine months of 2022 were up 18 per cent year on year.

Despite impressive exports so far in 2022 the industry envisages a 30 per cent decline in the remainder of the year. This is because the economic downturn is impacting future orders from the US and EU while the war in Ukraine has pushed up logistics and energy costs. The US, EU and the UK comprise about 86 per cent of Sri Lanka's total apparel exports.

For the period of January 2022 to August 2022, merchandise exports increased by 12 per cent. Apparel and textile exports increased by 19 per cent.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

Cambodia's apparel exports up 23.09% to \$7.174 bn in Jan-Sept 2022

The exports of apparel from Cambodia increased by 23.09 per cent year-on-year to \$7.174 billion during January-September 2022. This constituted 41.60 per cent of Cambodia's total foreign income of \$17.258 billion during the period under review, according to data from the general department of customs and excise under the ministry of economy and finance.

Cambodia's exports of apparel and clothing accessories (knitted) earned \$5.110 billion in the first nine months of this year, which was 21.1 per cent higher than the exports worth \$4.220 billion during the corresponding period of last year.

The country's exports of apparel and clothing accessories (not knitted) rose by 28.4 per cent to \$2.064 billion in the period under review. Last year, in this category, the country had exported apparel worth \$1.608 billion.

As for the imports, the country's knitted or crocheted fabric imports during January-September 2022 were valued at \$2.380 billion, which was 10 per cent higher than the imports worth \$2.164 billion in the same period last year.

Likewise, man-made fibre imports grew by 16.9 per cent to \$916.897 million, against \$784.628 million in January-September 2021. Cotton imports rose by 1.3 per cent to reach \$392.064 million during the period under review, compared to \$387.153 million in the same period of 2021.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 21, 2022

[HOME](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

World today is looking at India with great confidence, says Minister Piyush Goyal

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has said that the world today is looking at India with great confidence. This trust has developed after 8 years of painstakingly building up India's story. Structural reforms have been the core agenda of the government, helping us to lay the building blocks for the future. He was addressing CII's 3rd Edition of Exports Summit today.

Shri Goyal noted that India's billion plus population is the boon for the country as it attracts a lot of companies, brings economies of scale and opportunities for the country. Shri Goyal said India must make quality our brand and must strive to ensure that India is associated with High Quality products. Making quality our brand will truly revolutionize the future of India and the possibilities for our export sector to grow much faster, he added.

The Minister said that Indian Missions abroad have been asked to provide support to our exporters, help them get new opportunities, new business into those countries. He asked them to start engaging with India missions and seek assistance if they face any difficulty.

He said CII acts as a bridge between government and exporters and provides a platform to understand each other better. He urged CII to flag the issues faced by industry and share suggestions with the government to properly address these issues.

Minister appealed to large industry players to support and handhold small players so that they can understand the benefits of Quality control orders and focus on meeting quality requirements.

He further added that it is also economically prudent to provide good quality goods and services. Emphasizing that reciprocity is the way forward in international trade, Shri Goyal said India must strive for trade practices with other countries on an equal footing.

Shri Goyal said Industry must draw learnings from phenomenal success achieved by the IT Sector. He opined that when any sector is allowed to be on their own and succeed based on their competitiveness, the quality of service improves. This coupled with the Indian ecosystem which includes trust, rule of law, decisive, strong government will help capture larger markets.

He said that Industry must not look for protectionism as it will not help it evolve to be able to meet the requirements of consumers. It must strive to focus on sectors where it has a competitive advantage. With the spirit of grasping the competitive advantage, we will be able to expand our businesses, scale up, and improve quality, he added.

Shri Goyal referred to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his 15th august address this year, wherein he articulated his vision of a developed India by 2047 and getting out of the colonial mindset and getting back to our roots, and focussing on our core strength areas, Shri Goyal said we must go ahead with confidence and a spirit of enterprise, must become entrepreneurs, job creators and not job seekers.

Shri Goyal called upon exporters to focus on 'SPICE' - sustainability, productivity, innovation, collaboration and excellence. He added that the world is looking at sustainability, productivity in whatever is being produced. He noted that countries successful today are those which focussed on innovation. He urged the industry to imbibe the spirit of competition and yet collaborate with each other, and strive towards excellence.

Source: pib.gov.in - Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

Govt considering raising interest equalisation rates for exporters to make finance cheaper

To help Indian exporters retain competitiveness amidst growing global uncertainties and rising costs, the Centre is considering raising the rates of the interest equalisation scheme so that credit is available at a cheaper interest rate to MSME exporters and other select sectors.

“The Commerce and Industry Ministry is considering increasing interest equalisation rates from existing 3 per cent for MSME manufacturers exporting any product and 2 per cent for others exporting 410 identified products to 5 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively. The additional expenditure will need to be calculated before seeking the nod of the Expenditure Finance Committee and a team is working on it,” an official tracking the matter told businessline.

Lower interest rate

Under the interest equalisation scheme, banks provide credit at a lower interest rate to exporters (the interest subsidy is equivalent to the equalisation rates determined by the government) and are later reimbursed by the government for the same.

In March this year, the RBI brought out a notification stating that the government had approved the extension of interest equalisation scheme for pre and post shipment rupee export credit, taking effect from October 1, 2021 up to March 31, 2024.

The rates under the interest equalisation scheme were, however, revised downwards to 3 per cent for MSMEs from 5 per cent offered under the earlier edition of the scheme that had lapsed. For non-MSME exporters, the list of labour-intensive items covered under the interest equalisation scheme was pruned to 410 items from the earlier list of 416 items and the rate was brought down to 2 per cent from the earlier 3 per cent. The excluded items were all telecom-related products.

“There has been a strong demand from exporters for restoration of the interest equalisation rates to the levels that were offered prior to when the government decided to pare the rates. They have been arguing that not only has the global demand position worsened leading to increased competition, but also the higher cost of borrowing was making the situation grimmer for them,” the source said.

This fiscal, the RBI has already increased repo rate four times in a row in an attempt to check inflation. The last increase was on September 30 when the repo rate was pushed up by 50 basis points to 5.9 per cent with immediate effect. Since May this year, the benchmark rate has been increased by 1.90 per cent.

While Indian exports have shown marginal increase since July this year, the world trade outlook, too, appears to be grim. The WTO has forecast a slowdown in growth in world trade to 1 per cent in 2023, down from the previous estimate of 3.4 per cent, due to global uncertainties.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

India-UK trade pact talks moving in right direction: Commerce Secretary

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal on Thursday said that negotiations for the proposed trade pact between India and the UK are moving in the right direction, and both sides are expected to reach an agreement soon. At an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry, he said that negotiators have finalised many things and many aspects are yet to be finalised.

“We are moving in the right direction...Negotiations are on. We are on track,” he said at the sidelines of the CII National Exports Summit.

India and the UK are negotiating the pact to boost trade and investments between the countries. While the aim was to conclude the talks by Diwali, the deadline is unlikely to be met.

When asked about the fresh target, the secretary said that it depends on the movement of negotiation. “We are moving forward very well and expect that soon we will be able to reach an agreement,” he said.

In January, the two sides formally launched the talks for a free trade agreement to boost bilateral trade and investments. Barthwal also said that there is a huge scope for India to move in the global value chain systems and have high-value addition in global exports.

Noting that India’s share in global exports is less than 2%, he said there is a huge potential is there to boost the shipments despite global headwinds and low trade growth predictions.

“We can easily aim for doubling our exports and increasing our exports (share) to 10 per cent over a period of time and these opportunities exist even if somebody is saying that global trade scenario is looking bleak,” he said and asked the domestic exporters to not be pessimistic about this scenario.

Source: economictimes.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

Coherent trade strategy needed to achieve export target of \$2 trillion by 2030

India's export target of \$2 trillion for goods and services by 2030 can be achieved through a coherent trade strategy focusing on greater integration and participation in global value chains, strengthening of data and analytics, and setting sector-specific targets, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said.

The government's aim is to make districts manufacturing hubs through enhanced export promotion, Barthwal said, speaking at the National Exports Summit, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Thursday.

Sounding out a note of caution, Brussels-based global business association Amfori's chief Linda Kromjong pointed out that the EU was increasingly focusing on environmental, human and social due diligence to encourage sourcing from sustainable supply chains.

"She further added that the traditional sourcing companies from India may consider if improvements in administration, enforcement and capacity building are needed for the businesses' continued success and for them to remain attractive," per a press statement issued by the CII.

Barthwal stressed on the need for India to leverage its strength in the services sector to integrate in the value chains. India should reap the benefits of the e-commerce in strengthening the capabilities of MSMEs to join the supply chains, he added.

"Affirming the government's aim to increase exports, the Secretary mentioned that the strategy for export promotion going forward will be more specific which shall include strengthening the data and analytical exercise; increased interaction with exporters; and developing country & sector related strategies as well as targets, among others," the statement noted.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com - Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

CBIC, Finance Ministry working together to ensure faster release of export cargoes

Sitharaman with Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj

India's finance ministry is reportedly working with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to integrate Customs systems to ensure faster clearance. CBIC Chairman Vivek Johri said the department is working on web registration of exports, which would reduce the average release time of consignments/cargoes from ports and airports.

"You are familiar with single window in import side. We are trying to introduce something similar in the export side. There are export consignments that require regulatory intervention, say drug controller, other agencies," Johri said. In essence, the departments are attempting to reduce the time between shipments landing in India's ports and reaching their final destination.

"We are trying to integrate Customs ICEGATE with these agencies. This will further compress time taken to release export consignments," he added. He said the average release time, which is measured by the time of arrival of goods to the port and their actual departure, of export cargo has been halved.

The Trade Facilitation Action Plan, which ends in 2023, has set a target of average release time of 24 hours and 12 hours for exports through sea port and airport, respectively. "There is need for further compression in release time taken by regulatory agencies... The target is quite steep... We are very consciously working on reducing the average release time," Johri said while addressing the CII National Exports Summit.

Johri said there is a need to share real time information with exporters, such as the time when the vessel is docking at port for taking the consignment, which will also help cut down on the time to release export consignments.

Source: economictimes.com - Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

Slow GST portal: CBIC mulls extending Sept returns filing due date

With taxpayers facing slow functioning of the GSTN portal, CBIC on Thursday said it is examining the proposal of extending the deadline for filing GST returns for September.

GSTR-3B is filed in a staggered manner between the 20th, 22nd, and 24th of each month by taxpayers in different states.

Thursday being the last day for filing returns for some category of taxpayers, many reported slowness in the portal while filing their monthly GSTR 3B returns.

In a tweet, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said it has received "an Incident Report" from GSTN regarding slowness in the system along with a proposal for extending the due date.

"We continue to monitor the matter closely and the proposal for extension is being examined in consultation with the GST Council so that there is no burden of late fees or interest on the taxpayer," the CBIC said.

The GST Network (GSTN) provides the technology backend for the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Infosys is the service provider for GSTN.

The GSTN too acknowledged the issue and said it is working to resolve it.

"Taxpayers have reported slowness in portal while filing GSTR 3B return today. The persistence of the issue is acknowledged. Technical teams are working to resolve the issue. An incident report has been sent to CBIC for considering extension in the return filing dates," the GSTN tweeted.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said technical glitches in GSTN have once again soured the festive season for tax professionals and corporates.

"Small extension of a day or two is inevitable forcing the corporates to work on the weekend," Mohan added.

Abhishek Jain, Tax Partner, KPMG, said: "20th of every month is the due date for filing GSTR 3B, and the GSTN has done a good job in handling the traffic so far."

"However, for the month of October, the portal displayed some slowness which has been acknowledged by GSTN. As such, CBIC should consider granting the requisite extension to avoid any interest implications for the taxpayers who were not able to file returns due to the glitch," Jain added.

Source: business-standard.com - Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

UCO Bank, Yes Bank in talks with Russia to finalise trade mechanism: Official

Indian lenders UCO Bank and Yes Bank are in talks with their Russian counterparts over a payment mechanism for trade between the two countries, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Reuters had reported large lenders are reluctant to process direct rupee trade transactions with Russia for fear of becoming the target of sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine, and New Delhi is counting on smaller banks like UCO and Yes.

Banks are discussing the currency pair for the payment mechanism and the options include the Indian rupee paired with the Russian rouble or Saudi Arabia's riyal, the official said.

"Few of the Russian banks are joining hands with UCO Bank and Yes Bank. It will be primarily rupee-basis trade, could be rupee-rouble or could be rupee-riyal," the official, who did not want to be named, told reporters in New Delhi.

The official did not explain how the rupee-riyal mechanism will be designed to settle trade between New Delhi and Moscow.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

Gujarat, Maharashtra to push up India's cotton production in 2022-23

Cotton production is expected to rise in the western/central Indian states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The output may rise by 16 per cent in these states which will improve the country's overall production by 12.05 per cent to 344 lakh bales of 170 kg in 2022-23, as per the industry estimates. However, the recent rains may dent this production estimate.

In its recent estimate, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) has projected India's cotton production at 344 lakhs in the current marketing year that began on October 1.

As per state-wise estimate, the production may improve from 76.30 lakh bales to 91 lakh bales in Gujarat. Maharashtra's output may increase from 75 lakh bales to 84.50 lakh bales. The production in Central zone (including Madhya Pradesh where production will be stable at 20 lakh bales) will increase to 195.50 lakh bales from 171.30 lakh bales of last season.

However, north India's cotton production may remain stagnant at 50 lakh bales. State-wise analysis shows that the production may decrease from 8.50 lakh bales to 5 lakh bales in Punjab. But higher production in upper and lower Rajasthan will offset the deficiency.

Earlier, Bathinda based Indian Cotton Association Limited (ICAL) had lowered north India's cotton projection from 58 lakh bales to 51 lakh bales due to poor growth of cotton plant. Its latest production projection is little higher than the production of last year. ICAL had estimated last season's production at 48 lakh bales.

However, there should be no surprise if India's cotton production declines further because of the recent rains, which may disrupt crop growth. Even if the production is low, it may not support price as the demand scenario is not so good. CAI has increased domestic consumption projection from 318 lakh bales to 320 lakh bales.

However, sluggish demand in yarn market and slower exports does not reflect positivity.

Moreover, indications of recession in global economy is dampening sentiments in the textile sector.

Recently, the US department of agriculture (USDA) said that global cotton consumption may reduce to 115.6 million 480-pound bales. Global production is down slightly to 118.1 million bales, but this change is more than offset by larger beginning stocks.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

Second-hand and sustainable: Will India learn to love old clothes?

Every Diwali, my wardrobe and I exchange an uncomfortable and guilty glance. There are clothes on which I have spent good money but hardly made any use of. Some even have the price tags on.

To lessen the guilt, one ends up blaming everything — consumerism, capitalism, and even algorithms promoting fast fashion every time you are on the Internet.

There was a time in the past when clothes, old and new, would be passed around within the family. I usually trade clothes with my sister and often donate them, but this time, I thought I could take a look at the second-hand fashion platforms and what their growth has been in India.

Old clothes are one of the largest waste categories in the world. It can take almost 10-12 months for denim to fully biodegrade. It would make sense then to get people to buy used clothes rather than let them make their way into some landfill.

A bunch of organisations are trying to sell used clothes and convince Indians that there is no stigma in buying them. Platforms such as Poshmark, Etashee, CoutLoot, OldZari and Instagram-based businesses such as Revival Pile among others are becoming popular for shoppers looking for used clothes. Meanwhile, several social media influencers are raking up hundreds of followers for advocating sustainability in fashion.

While there seems to be no analyst data on the used clothes segment in India per se, a good proxy is a social commerce, which also includes community and peer-to-peer buying. In a 2020 report, Bain & Company and Sequoia Capital India had projected the social-commerce sector, which they had pegged at USD1.5 billion to USD2 billion at the time, to grow to as much as USD20 billion by 2025. A reasonable chunk of this market could be used clothes.

Something to prelove

Last year, US-based Poshmark, which offers a platform for community-driven second-hand products, launched in India. It is actively substituting the term ‘used’ or ‘second hand’ with a more affable ‘preloved’.

“Indians’ perceptions about preloved styles are changing,” says Anuradha Balasubramanian, director and head of Poshmark India. “All generations, led by younger consumers, are growing increasingly aware of the costs of fast fashion and want to do their part to promote a more sustainable way to shop,” she adds.

About 73% of Poshmark’s users in India fall between the age group of 25-34 years and 90% are women.

But the uptick is still low. While Poshmark did not share numbers, industry members and fashion influencers say there is still only a small section of consumers in India who go for pre-used clothing.

This is one of the reasons why Delhi-based Ishita Bajaj and Yashna Malik, two law students who started the Revival Pile page on Instagram during the pandemic two years ago to promote used clothing, also decided to add export and factory rejects. In fact, the latter business has already become about 60% of the overall sales since it was introduced last year.

“We realised that consumers wanted new clothing. And despite the minor defects in some apparel items rejected from factories, many shoppers prefer that over buying something which may be in a good condition but was pre-used,” Bajaj, 24, says.

The two entrepreneurs, who conceptualised Revival Pile while decluttering their closets, currently only sell through their Instagram page which has about 17,000 followers.

Bengaluru-based fashion designer Arpitha Rai has started a YouTube channel to promote sustainable fashion and a minimal wardrobe. But the engagement is also still low on such topics, she says.

There is a need for creating awareness among consumers on second-hand fashion. Poshmark’s Balasubramanian says the company’s focus is on education and awareness about selling used clothing through the platform, especially since there are no other major players in the segment.

This will need spending big bucks. Poshmark has been marketing in India through channels such as Instagram, Spotify, Disney+Hotstar, and other platforms which are popular with the youth.

These influencers and platforms are betting on Gen Z consumers, who they say are more conscious about sustainability while looking for value purchases. Used clothing, especially branded ones, is easy on the pocket for them, Rai says.

On Revival Pile, most items are priced under INR1,500. On Poshmark, which sees pre-used items of high-end brands such as Zara and Mango, the products are priced much higher with some items carrying a price tag of over INR10,000.

The platform charges a 20% commission on products sold above INR500 and a flat INR 99 for items sold below INR 500.

Wrinkles in the fabric

While the second-hand and rental-fashion business has seen many players emerge over the last several years, it is yet to take off. Bengaluru-based Elanic, which was started in 2014 as a platform for buying and selling used clothes, shoes, accessories, jewellery, etc, is now no longer active, almost three years after it was acquired by social media company ShareChat.

Online apparel rental startup Klozee had shut operations in 2016.

Making money off the price points of used clothes is difficult. It all starts with product returns. The apparel category has a return rate of 20%-30% which can completely undermine the profit margins.

Poshmark gives buyers a three-day window to return products, but only if they are defective or do not match the description. There are no returns allowed if the item does not fit, or if the buyer has changed her mind. Revival Pile does not allow product returns given the thin margins.

There are two problems with this approach. Indian consumers are used to the 10 to 30-day return window on e-commerce platforms. The second problem is the rise of social commerce companies such as Meesho which sell really low-priced clothes, usually between INR300-INR500. Used clothing companies are caught between better customer experience (longer return window) and really low-priced new clothes.

“While we have kept the return window short, what is working for us is that there is community engagement and constant communication between the buyer and seller on the platform throughout the selling process,” says Balasubramanian of Poshmark.

“In fact, buyers ask for a lot of details and pictures about the product before buying, and sellers are very responsive, with many even suggesting what height and body shape the product would look best on,” she adds. “This helps bring down the returns.”

Several platforms also include quality checks of the products (Poshmark does it for items priced over INR10,000).

Poshmark is seeing growth in tier-II cities where it is aspirational to own affordable branded clothes, especially among those who may not have easy offline access to, say a Zara store.

That brings me back to the clothes in my wardrobe. For now, I think I will go ahead and list some of them on these platforms.

Source: economictimes.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

Surat: Workshop held to strengthen cooperation between Industries and Textiles Ministry

The need for a special renewable energy policy for the textile industry in collaboration with MNRE, this policy should be common for all the states of India : Ashish Gujrathi, former president of the then chamber

An offline/online workshop on “Strengthening the Cooperation between Industry and the Ministry of Textiles” was organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India on Webex on Thursday. In which the president of South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry Himanshu Bodawala and fiasco president Bharat Gandhi participated online. While the then former President of the Chamber Ashish Gujrathi, Chairman of the Government Schemes Committee of the Chamber Rajeev Kapasiawala and representatives of Textile Industrialists and Industrial Textile Associations from various states were present and joined online.

Installed 1.25 Lakh Automatic Modern Looms in South Gujarat

Chamber of Commerce President Himanshu Bodawala said that the government’s help will also be needed to increase textile exports from India. In order to increase the export of cloth, 1.25 lakh automatic modern looms have been installed in South Gujarat including Surat. So he submitted that the tuff scheme should be restarted by the government and implemented from 1st April- 2022 i.e. retrospectively. In future the Tuff scheme should be converted into TTDS and this scheme should be given to the textile industry. He also demanded to start the regional office of Textile Commissioner in Surat.

30 percent capital incentive required for weaving and knitting industry

Ashish Gujrathi, the then former president of the chamber, said that there is a need to provide 30 percent capital incentive for weaving and knitting industry under the Technology Mission Scheme. There is a requirement of 40 percent capital incentive for the dyeing and printing and processing industry for processing technical textile fabrics. Today there are high speed machines worth lakhs of rupees across the country. In which 95 percent investment is coming from MSME units under the TUFF scheme. South Gujarat and Surat Group Now Home

Contributing to Textiles, Luggage Textiles and Sport-Textiles.

The entire South Gujarat group, including Surat, has the potential to become the world's largest in MMF textiles and technical textiles. The textile industry needs a special renewable energy policy in collaboration with MNRE. This policy should be same for all the states of India. Renewable plants should be allowed outside the premises of existing textile manufacturing units. This policy should be discussed with the textile stakeholders.

Textile industrialists get loans up to Rs 2 crore without collateral

Fiasvi President Bharat Gandhi said that a provision should be made that textile industrialists get loans up to Rs 2 crore without collateral. Anti-dumping duty will not be levied on major raw material used for making apparel. Tough scheme should be continued.

Rajeev Kapasia, chairman of the Chamber's Government Planning Committee, said that laboratory facilities should be made available in Surat for testing of raw materials and fabrics. Mantra or other private company should be developed for that.

In this workshop, Textiles Secretary of India Upendra Prasad Singh (IAS), Secretary Praveen Singh Pardeshi (IAS), Joint Secretary Textiles Prajakta Verma (IAS) and Textiles Commissioner Roop Rashi were presented various suggestions by representatives of textile industrialists and textile organizations for capacity building. lamps. Textiles Commissioner Roop Rashi said that all the suggestions for the textile industry would be compiled and presented to the Ministry of Textiles. The portal will be developed in such a way that it is easily understood by the entrepreneurs.

Source: youthistaan.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)

EPFO payroll data: 9.87 lakh new workers joined in August

The number of first time members joining the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) declined marginally in August to 9.87 lakh from 10.58 lakh in July.

The number of new members joining the EPFO have been increasing every month since April this year and August marks the first month when there was a decline although the figures still remain buoyant.

“Out of 9.87 lakh new members added, approximately 58.32 per cent are from the age-group of 18 to 25 years of age,” said the Ministry of Labour and Employment in a statement while releasing the provisional EPFO payroll data.

Potential age group

“This age-group signifies a crucial stage for an individual's potential in terms of earning capacity and joining organised workforce in large numbers following their education,” it further said.

Overall, the EPFO added 16.94 lakh net members in the month of August, 2022, which is a 14.4 per cent increase from a year ago.

During August, 7.07 lakh net members exited but re-joined EPFO by changing their jobs within the establishments covered by EPFO and opted to transfer their funds from previous PF account to the current account instead of submitting claims for final settlement.

Payroll data

Gender-wise analysis of the payroll data indicates that enrolment of net female members has been 3.63 lakh in August, 2022, which is a 22.6 per cent growth year on year. Amongst States, month-on-month growing trend in net member addition was seen in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi continued to lead by adding approximately 11.25 lakh net members during August, which was 66.44 per cent of the total net payroll addition across all age groups.

The classification of industry-wise payroll data indicates that mainly two categories – expert services (consisting of manpower agencies, private security agencies and small contractors) and trading-commercial establishments constitute 47.03 per cent of total member addition during the month.

Compared to July 2022, higher enrolments in August were seen in industries including electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, electronic media companies in private sector, university and financing establishment.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Oct 20, 2022

[HOME](#)
