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NEWS CLIPPINGS

Currency Watch	
USD	82.27
EUR	86.45
GBP	100.32
JPY	0.60

NATIONAL NEWS	
No	**Topics**
1	Commerce Ministry shares with exporters Russia's list of goods for import from India
2	Under National Technical Textiles Mission, 74 research projects of value of Rs.232 cr. approved
3	Digital currency like cash, no need for lack of privacy fears: RBI Gov
4	Indian trade body seeks duty-free imports of cotton
5	One District One Product (ODOP) initiative operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative
6	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognizes 59,787 entities as startups in the last 5 years
7	Centre's reforms result in consistent increase of FDI inflow; FDI grows from US $ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 to US$ 84.84 billion in 2021-22
8	Will we ever be able to recycle our clothes like an aluminum can?
9	'Govt's duty cuts to impact customs; GST to help achieve FY23 tax target'
10	Mixed waste salt becoming challenge for Tirupur's textile processing sector

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US manufacturing activity shrinks in Nov

The November manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index registered 49 percent, 1.2 percentage points lower than the 50.2 percent recorded in October 2022. Six manufacturing industries reported growth in November, led by apparel, leather and allied products, while among the 12 industries reporting contraction were textile mills, furniture and related products.

The past relationship between the manufacturing PMI and the overall economy indicates that the manufacturing PMI for November corresponds to a 0.1 percent increase in real gross domestic product on an annualized basis. The US manufacturing sector dipped into contraction, with the manufacturing PMI at its lowest level since the coronavirus pandemic recovery began.

Of the 18 manufacturing industries, only one reported growth in new orders in November–apparel, leather and allied products, while 14 industries reported a decline.The production index registered 51.5 percent in November, down 0.8 percent from October, but indicating growth for the 30th consecutive month.

The ISM prices index declined 3.6 percent in November to 43 percent, indicating raw materials prices decreased for the second time in 29 months. This was the index's lowest level since a reading of 40.8 percent in May 2020.Over the past eight months, the index has decreased 44.1 percent, including a combined 26 percent plunge in July and August.

Price declines continue to be driven by relaxation in energy markets, copper, steel, aluminum, plastics and corrugate, as well as volatility in freight costs.

The ten industries which paid decreased prices for raw materials in November were topped by textile mills and included furniture and related products. Seven industries, including apparel, leather and allied products, reported no change in prices for the month.

Employment

A number of companies reduced employment levels through hiring freezes, attrition and now layoffs. Turnover rates remained consistentand retirement issues generally the same rate since September 2022. Apparel, leather and allied products led the list of seven of the 18 manufacturing industries reporting employment growth in November.

The five industries reporting a decrease in employment in November were topped by textile mills, while furniture and related products were among the six industries reporting no change in employment month to month.

Supplier deliveries

The delivery performance of suppliers to manufacturing organizations was faster for a second straight month in November. The Supplier Deliveries Index registered 47.2 percent, 0.4 percent higher than October. Prior to October, the last reading under 50 percent was in February 2016.

Six of 18 manufacturing industries reported slower supplier deliveries in November, topped by apparel, leather and allied products and textile mills. The 11 industries reporting faster supplier deliveries in November compared to October included furniture and related products.

Companies continue their efforts to reduce their total supply chain inventories, indicated by the contraction in new orders, slow expansion in manufacturing inventories and the right level of customers' inventories.

Of 18 manufacturing industries, the eight reporting contracting inventories in November included textile mills, and apparel, leather and allied products.

Six industries reported customers' inventories as too high in November, led by textile mills.

Order backlog

Only two industries reported growth in order backlogs in November– apparel, leather and allied products, and machinery. Twelve industries reported lower backlogs in November, including textile mills and furniture and related products.

Weakness in European economies and China's economic sluggishness, as well as the strong dollar, continued to constrain new export order activity and negatively impact new order rates.

Apparel, textiles and furniture were among the ten industries reporting no change in new export orders for the month.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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USA: Apparel Imports: Winners and Losers in Shipment Slowdown

As companies look to trim inventories and deal with lukewarm consumer demand, U.S. apparel imports rose a tepid 12.27 percent year to date through October compared to the same period in 2021 to 27.45 billion square meter equivalents (SME), down from a 16.89 percent year-to-date increase the prior month, the Commerce Department's Office of Textiles & Apparel (OTEXA) reported on Tuesday.

Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger owner PVH Corp. said last week that inventory in the third quarter had increased 32 percent compared to a year earlier due to a combination of abnormally low inventory levels in the prior-year period, a planned increase in core product to mitigate supply chain and logistics disruptions, and elevated inventory levels in the North America wholesale business due to lower-than-expected demand.

Apparel imports from top supplier China were up just 4.94 percent to 9.61 billion SME in the 10-month period compared to an 11.52 percent year-to-date rise in September, according to OTEXA. This comes amid geopolitical pressure over the country's forced labor and Covid policy, as well as continued tariffs on Chinese imports into the United States.

Following a customary four-year review, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) said in October that it would keep Section 301 tariffs in place to the dismay of critics seeking relief from the additional tax burden. USTR Katherine Tai said the agency will continue to consider their efficacy, noting that the government won't roll back tariffs until Beijing adopts market-oriented trade and economic principles.

Shipments from No. 2 supplier Vietnam increased 15.99 percent in the period to 4.35 billion SME, dipping from an 18.84 percent nine-month gain. Imports from Bangladesh continued to see major gains over last year, posting a 31.39 percent rise for the year through October to 2.76 billion SME.

Among the rest of the Top 10 Asian producers, India saw its shipments climb 25.73 percent to 1.33 billion SME, while Indonesia's increased 33.9 percent to 1.23 billion SME, Cambodia's rose 15.66 percent to 1.22 billion SME and imports from Pakistan rose 9.36 percent to 789.71 billion SME.

Shipments from Western Hemisphere suppliers rounded out the Top 10. Imports from Honduras were up 9.43 percent in the first 10 months of 2022 to 787.67 million SME, as shipments from Mexico fell 3.75 percent to 672.66 million SME and imports from Nicaragua rose 12.6 percent to 563.9 million SME.

Overall imports from the Western Hemisphere inched up 2.13 percent in the period to 3.59 billion SME. Within that, imports from Central American Free Trade Agreement countries increased 5.44 percent to 2.42 billion SME.

Source: sourcingjournal.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Rate of monthly rise in Turkiye's textiles D-PPI 0.76% in Nov 2022

Turkiye's domestic producer price index (D-PPI) increased by 136.02 per cent on annual basis, and by 0.74 per cent on a monthly basis in November this year. D-PPI increased by 2.01 per cent for manufacturing on a monthly basis. The rate of monthly increase in D-PPI for leather and related products was 4.92 per cent, and for textiles, it was 0.76 per cent.

D-PPI increased by 98.2 per cent on December 2021, and by 128.94 per cent on the twelve months moving averages basis in November this year, a release from the Turkish Statistical Institute said.

In November, clothing and footwear—with minus 1.42 per cent—was the main group that indicated the lowest monthly increase in consumer price index (CPI).

A 2.88 per cent change in the general CPI index was seen on the previous month; the change was 62.35 per cent on December 2021 and 84.39 per cent on November 2021. On the twelve months moving averages basis, it was 70.36 per cent in November this year.

The annual rate change for Turkiye's CPI for clothing and footwear in November was 36.96 per cent.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Dec 08, 2022

HOME

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OECD inflation rate soars to 10.7% YoY in October 2022

In October 2022, the inflation rate in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased to 10.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY), from 10.5 per cent in September 2022. Eighteen out of 38 countries in OECD recorded double-digit inflation rate in October, similar to the previous month.

The highest inflation rates in OECD were observed win Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Turkiye (all above 20 per cent).

Energy inflation continued to fall in the OECD as a whole (to 28.1 per cent, from 28.8 per cent). It remained above 10 per cent in 35 OECD countries, and above 30 per cent in 13 of them. Excluding food and energy, year-on-year inflation in the OECD was stable, at 7.6 per cent in October.

Year-on-year inflation in the G7 rose slightly to 7.8 per cent in October, from 7.7 per cent in September. Among G7 economies, inflation continued to decrease in the US, while it was stable in Canada and increased in the remaining countries. The greatest increase (by 3 percentage points) was recorded in Italy, reflecting a very strong rise in energy inflation. Energy inflation continued to be the main contributor to headline inflation in France, Germany, Italy, and Japan, while inflation excluding food and energy was the main driver of inflation in Canada, the UK, and the US.

In the euro area, year-on-year inflation as measured by the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) rose to 10.6 per cent in October 2022, from 9.9 per cent in September 2022, with energy price inflation and inflation excluding food and energy increasing in October. Eurostat's flash estimate for the euro area in November 2022 points to a decrease in year-on-year inflation to 10 per cent, with energy price inflation estimated to have fallen to 34.9 per cent from 41.5 per cent in October, while inflation excluding food and energy is estimated to have been stable at 5 per cent.

In the G20, year-on-year inflation was stable at 9.5 per cent in October 2022. Outside the OECD, year-on-year inflation rose in Argentina, but decreased in China, Brazil, India, and Indonesia, while remaining broadly stable in Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Dec 08, 2022

HOME

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USA: Rail Chief Sees 'Mixed Bag' Economy, Signs of Slowing

The CEO of Union Pacific warned of the impact to shipping as the U.S. consumer continues the march away from goods and over to services.

The slowdown is being felt in different parts of the economy, according to what UP president and CEO Lantz Fritz said he's seeing.

"We can see things like the housing market has clearly slowed. Parcel packaging has clearly slowed," the CEO told CNBC Tuesday. "We're seeing that in both paper as well as parcel shipments. But there's parts of the economy that are still percolating pretty good. Some of the reshoring, onshoring is creating opportunities for us in metals. In infrastructure construction we're seeing it in things like rock and cement and steel. So it's a mixed bag. Clearly, the economy is slowing and clearly the consumer side of the economy is slowing."

Fritz addressed the Federal Reserve's push to tamp down on inflation with interest rate increases and what impact that holds for Union Pacific and other businesses.

"I think there's no doubt that some demand is going to be destroyed as the Fed raises rates. That's economics," he said. "Just how much, and how much is needed, that's really their call. What we're going to do is we're going to ship what we can when it's made available. This transition from the goods economy to the service economy, that's real as well and that's impacting our demand as well."

That transition has created new implications for the supply chain. The pullback in imports partially allowed West Coast ports, such as Los Angeles and Long Beach, to catch up on a glut of containers that had been wreaking havoc on the global movement of goods. While that's viewed as progress from the height of the pandemic, the CEO said there are other wrinkles still remaining in the flow of goods.

"Parts of the supply chain are pretty well recovered," he said. "Let's go to the ports. In L.A. and Long Beach, there are essentially just a handful of ships, if any, waiting to get on dock. That's pretty well normal."

Fritz acknowledged part of that clear-up has to do with shippers diverting cargo to alternative ports along the East and Gulf coasts as they await an outcome to the ongoing West Coast dockworkers contract negotiations. Workers have been laboring without a contract since July 1, when the previous one expired.

The issue now, Fritz said, is inventory.

"We're also seeing a stack-up in containers still trying to get into warehouses for distribution," he said. "So, I think we've got on the back end of the supply chain, we've got to work through inventory through this season and into next year so that that part of the supply chain can get back to normal."

Union Pacific, along with the country's other Class 1 railroads, last week saw the end to a nearly three-year collective bargaining process after lawmakers passed legislation forcing workers to take up a tentative deal based around framework backed by the Biden administration.

The recently ended contract talks involved over 100,000 workers and a dozen unions. Four of those 12 groups had rejected the tentative deals as they pushed for contracts to include sick paid time off. Carriers, meanwhile, repeatedly said they would not strike agreements beyond anything outside the scope of what was recommended in August by Biden's Presidential Emergency Board, leading to fears the country was headed toward a national rail shutdown this week.

Those concerns were put to rest after Congress quickly passed legislation to thwart a strike, with Biden signing off on the bill last Friday. Two other measures, one to give workers seven days of sick pay and another offering labor and employers 60 more days to continue negotiations, were unable to clear a Senate supermajority. The current labor contract runs through 2024.

Source: sourcingjournal.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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China's textile, apparel exports log steady growth in Jan-Oct

China's exports of textile and apparel products registered a steady expansion in the first 10 months of this year, official data showed.

The country's textile exports stood at $125.7 billion during the period, up 6.9 percent year-on-year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

China's exports of apparel and accessories rose 6.4 percent year-on-year to $147.6 billion, within which apparel exports hit $130.4 billion, up 10.3 percent year-on-year.

China's major textile enterprises saw their combined operating revenue climb 1.6 percent year-on-year to top 4.28 trillion yuan ($611.65 billion) in the Jan-Oct period.

The data also showed that the country's online retail sales of garment products went up 5.3 percent in the same period over one year earlier.

Source: chinadaily.com.cn- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Germany's Heimtextil 2023 to exhibit fibres, yarns in hall 4.0

At the upcoming Heimtextil 2023, which will be held from January 10–13, 2023 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, manufacturers and weavers will be offered a global range of fibres and yarns for decorative and upholstery fabrics, from the preliminary stage to textile finishing, for the first time in a compact and centrally located separate area—hall 4.0.

Already established suppliers from the fibre and yarn segment will be bundled with new exhibitors in hall 4.0. "With this compact product range, we are responding to an increasing need among manufacturers and retailers: being enabled to shape product development as early as the preliminary stage. A holistic view in the design process is becoming increasingly important—especially for upholstered furniture, which is subject to ever more sustainable as well as functional demands, starting with the fibre," Bettina Bar, director Heimtextil for the home textiles sector, said in a press release by organiser Messe Frankfurt.

One highlight of hall 4.0 is the Trevira CS joint stand. "We are pleased that we will once again be present with a large Trevira CS joint stand featuring 16 Trevira CS customers. Here we will show the wide range of possibilities that Trevira CS fabrics offer in the textile design of interiors.

The focus will be on the functions and properties that Trevira CS fabrics offer in addition to their flame retardancy. These will be addressed in our special show Textile Talents by Trevira CS. Aspects of sustainability will be another theme of our stand," said Anke Vollenbroker, director marketing and business development Trevira CS.

Other leading suppliers in the area include Korteks and Reliance, as well as new exhibitors such as Turkish manufacturer Bulut Tekstil. Also in hall 4.0, architects, hotel decisionmakers and designers will find a high-quality range of outdoor fabrics, technical textiles for the contract sector, and imitation leather, including a large number of Spanish outdoor and contract specialists such as Atenzza Outdoor, Cabanes & Ortuno, Citel, Fernando Cerda Blanes e Hijos, Exit Fabrics, Pyton, and Recasens.

Italian manufacturer Tendaggi Paradiso, as well as leather and imitation leather suppliers such as Turkish brand Flokser and German companies mah-ATN and Vowalon, will also showcase their new products. The range will be rounded off by exhibitors Ambienta, Futura Leathers, Gebruder Munzert, Gruppo Mastrotto, and Indetex, who will be presenting their high-quality fabrics for contract business directly on the boulevard in the form of selected complete stands.

“We are looking forward to taking off in new markets at Heimtextil. We have completely changed the finishing of our fabrics to reduce the environmental impact and are presenting new designs with thicker textures that the market is demanding.

The next Heimtextil is the right platform to show these novelties to a large number of professionals from different parts of the world in just four days. At the same time, through face-to-face exchanges, we get a direct feel for what customers want and receive immediate feedback,” said Citel’s marketing department, delighted to be taking part in Heimtextil 2023.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Cambodia unveils sustainable development roadmap in garment sector

Cambodia's environment ministry recently unveiled the roadmap for sustainable development in the garment sector as part of the government's focus on sustainable development. In the green industry scenario with a focus on sustainable consumption and production (SCP), the garment sector could raise real gross domestic product (GDP) by $2.7 billion between 2015 and 2030.

This growth would be decoupled from negative environmental impacts, resulting in a 46 per cent rise in the garment sector's contribution to GDP and at the same time reducing negative environmental impact.

Environment minister Say Samal, who also chairs the National Council for Sustainable Development, said guided by the council's Strategic Plan 2018-23, SCP of goods and services is one of the priorities of the green economy.

The ministry has integrated SCP into its policies and initiatives to enable green and inclusive growth, he was quoted as saying by a Cambodian media outlet.

To improve SCP practices in the textile and garment sector, he stressed the formulation of the SCP national road map and delivery of a demonstration project focused on SCP and the circular economy in the sector.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Dec 08, 2022

HOME

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Japan October imports up eight per cent

Japan's imports of textile and apparel in October 2022 increased by eight per cent year on year and four per cent month on month.

Among Japan's imports of textile and apparel in October 2022 the volume from China rose two per cent year on year and six per cent month on month. From January 2022 to October 2022, Japan's total textile and apparel imports were up four per cent year on year while down 0.7 per cent from the same period in 2019.

In October 2022 the textile import value grew by 42 per cent and the apparel import value grew by 41 per cent. Imports of clothing and accessories by Japan increased by 40 per cent year on year in October 2022.They were three per cent of Japan's total imports during the period.

The country's imports of textile yarn and fabrics in October 2022 were 45 per cent higher than the same period of last year. Yarn and fabric imports were one per cent of the total imports by Japan.

The country's exports of textile yarn and fabrics during October 2022 increased by 17 per cent year on year. The country's exports of textile machinery were 38 per cent higher than exports in October 2021.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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APAC to remain dominant supplier of industrial textiles for US

Asia Pacific is likely to remain the dominant supplier of industrial textiles for the US. The imports from the region remained steady during the last 2 quarters, but imports from Europe witnessed fluctuations as the continent is facing an upheaval on the economic front due to the Ukraine war. US imported industrial textiles worth $158.742 million in Q3 2022.

The US' imports of industrial textiles were almost stable in the last two quarters. Trade stood at $408.493 million in Q3 2022 and $408.712 million in Q2 2022. Imports increased in Q2 2022 from $381.332 million in Q1 2022. The inbound shipment amounted to $392.947 million in Q4 2021, $401.474 million in Q3 2021 and $384.238 million in Q2 2021, according to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro.

US' imports of the products from Europe declined to $158.743 million in July-September 2022 from $172.482 million in April-June quarter of the current year. However, the imports rose compared to January-March 2022 quarter when the inbound shipment was recorded at $127.830 million. The imports were at $140.364 million in Q4 2021, $143.011 million in Q3 2021 and $148.083 million in Q2 2021. The trade kept declining until the first quarter of this year and improved in Q2 only to slip again in Q3 2022, as per data obtained from TexPro.

Within Asia-Pacific, China, Australia, and India are the major suppliers of industrial textiles. A few European countries are also important suppliers of the products, but a steep hike in crude oil and other energy derivatives has negatively affected industrial activities in Europe.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Dec 08, 2022

HOME

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Lanka export earnings fall by 11 per cent

Sri Lanka's earnings from merchandise exports declined by 11 percent in October 2022 compared to a year ago.

The last time Sri Lanka saw a decline in the year on year export was in March 2022. Cumulative export earnings in the first ten months of 2022, however, increased by eight percent over the same period in the last year.

A looming recession in Sri Lanka's main export markets has threatened the island nation's top export garment sector as orders have slowed down significantly.

The main export markets, the United States and the European Union, gripped by inflationary pressures, are plunging into a recession stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These global headwinds are expected to impact Sri Lanka's apparel exports in the coming six months.

In addition, the removal of the dual corporate tax rate structure, which is set to increase corporate income taxes on exports to 30 percent up from the earlier 14 percent, also threatens the competitiveness of the country's exports, in particular when competing with countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam.

The proposed changes to the personal income tax structure could also fuel brain drain from the country, further impacting the industry.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Pakistan: Textile exports left to wither

It increasingly appears as if nothing is going right in Pakistan. At the time when every dollar inflow matters, textile exports that comprise nearly 60 percent of Pakistan's exports of goods are falling. They are down by 5 percent to $7.35 billion in Jul-Nov and the fall is steeper in the last two months — down by 15 percent and 25 percent in October and November, respectively.

It's an alarming trend and in case this trend persists it would exacerbate our problems on the external account. Some of the reasons cited for the decline are global, such as the recession in the West –- mainly in the US — that is curbing demand.

There are inventories building up at the buyers' end and, consequently, new orders are dwindling. While this may well be true but it does not necessarily mean there are no more opportunities. One low obvious option is to nibble the Chinese share of the US market in textiles and other products. With the ongoing US-China economic tensions, there is an increasing shift in US imports towards emerging markets — away from China. Pakistan definitely has the potential to expand its share in global textile market.

The trend is there for a couple of years and that is one reason Pakistan's textile players expanded in the last 2-3 years with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) allocating majority of TERF (temporary economic refinance facility) and LTTF (long term financing facility) concessionary long-term loans to textile sector. Unfortunately, however, exports are still falling.

On the other hand, however, apparel exports from Bangladesh are still on the rise. Reportedly, Bangladesh textile exports were up by 36 percent in last month.The country's apparel exports to the EU soared 45 percent in Jan-Aug. This is mainly due to the shift of businesses away from China. Lately, the zero-Covid policy in China is giving more room for other economies to grab its export share.

Bangladesh has grabbed this opportunity with both hands. In Pakistan, however, the domestic economic issues are coming into play and not allowing companies to exploit this opportunity to their advantage. The energy supply is not smooth at all. There is a case of moving from captive to grid; but the grid supply is not consistent. And if it is, the rates are higher than what Bangladesh's exporters pay. Then, due to falling margins, the Bangladesh's government, unlike Pakistan's, has increased the rebate on exports.

Another issue is of the turnaround time of exports. Raw material is being imported, processed and re-exported. The turnaround time in Pakistan is 5 to 6 months while in Bangladesh it is 1 to 2 months. That saves cost and time both. Another impediment to exports is the raw material supply that is restricted in Pakistan.

In the aftermath of the floods, cotton supply is short as a good chunk of cotton crop has been destroyed. And, imports too, have nosedived. The supply of other raw materials is short due to SBP's self-imposed restrictions, according to market players. This import disruption is also having a deleterious effect on the performance and maintenance of factories. In the absence of spare parts, some mills are partially closed.

Working capital for which bank finance is lifeblood is expensive in view of the high policy rates as limits on export refinance schemes remain unenhanced to cater to the increasing costs of textile firms. The export refinance scheme limits are requiring significant enhancement in PKR due to currency depreciation. That even banks are reluctant to increase the exposure at market rates is a disheartening experience. That too is hurting export growth's prospects. Finally, it is the rupee-dollar parity. Interestingly, the interbank rate is at a discount (not always) against the open market rate.

There is no rebate for the textile players, and their competitiveness suffers due to administrative impediments to payment systems in foreign currency at certain levels. All these factors are strongly contributing to the decline (or lack of growth) in textile exports. SBP or government or both should look into these matters without any further loss of time with a view to reviving export growth.

Last but not least, it is also SBP's mandate or duty to worm out and expose to brutal light of the sun everything that is bogus, boastful, ungenuine and untrue.

Source: brecorder.com - Dec 08, 2022

HOME

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NATIONAL NEWS

Commerce Ministry shares with exporters Russia's list of goods for import from India

The commerce ministry has shared with exporters a list of hundreds of goods such as auto parts and textile that Russia has provided to India for imports, an official said. Russia, on which sanctions have been imposed by western countries due to its invasion of Ukraine, has shared a list of hundreds of items from sectors including pharmaceuticals, textiles, auto components, and chemicals.

"Russia wants to import these goods from India. The list has been shared by the ministry with the concerned export promotion councils and exporters to look into whether they can ship those products to Russia," the official said.

According to industry experts, it would not be easy for Indian exporters to ship these goods to Russia as they are facing problems with regard to availability of containers for Russia.

"Indian exporters may be in a position to supply these materials but currently the availability of ships and containers forRussia is quite depleted. There are very limited agencies which are taking orders for Russia, so Indian exporters are not in a position to supply even if they have materials," one of the experts said.

The apparel industry has shown interest in shipping the goods but the auto industry looks apprehensive. Some exporters have reverted to the Indian embassy in Moscow about the list.

Commenting on the issue, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said Russian buyers are enquiring about a wide range of products from India.

"Indian exporters are evaluating the proposal as they have to be careful with the sanctions, with their diversified exports basket covering the US and the European Union.

With payment mechanisms all set to take off in a couple of days and logistics options opening up, we are hopeful that shipments will start under this mechanism from the current month," Sahai said.

The list of goods includes axles, crankshafts, fasteners, pistons, power steering pump drive shafts, oil pumps, valve springs, turbochargers, oil filters, spark plugs, ignition coils, seat belts, bumpers, welding materials, bearings, breaks, sterilization equipment, number of active pharma ingredients (APIs), and fruit and vegetable concentrates.

Russia has become a major oil supplier to India. India's appetite for Russian oil swelled ever since it started trading on discount as the West shunned it to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has emerged as India's fifth largest trading partner during April-September this fiscal year with a bilateral trade of USD 22.7 billion during the six-month period.

Exports stood at USD 1.3 billion, while imports aggregated at USD 21.4 billion in the same period.

In 2021-22, Russia was 25th largest trading partner of India with a bilateral trade of USD 13.12 billion. Exports stood at USD 3.25 billion, while imports aggregated at USD 9.9 billion in the same period.

Source: economictimes.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Under National Technical Textiles Mission, 74 research projects of value of Rs.232 cr. approved

The Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Smt. Darshana Jardosh in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today informed that under the National Technical Textiles Mission, so far 74 research projects of value of Rs.232 cr. in the areas of speciality fibres and technical textiles by premier Research Institutes and Research Organisations of the country in association with industry as partners undertaking research projects have been approved.

Amongst them, 32 projects of specialty fibres and 9 projects of geotextiles worth Rs.111.92 crore and Rs.19.09 crore respectively are being undertaken under National Technical Textiles Mission.

Smart Textiles are a new generation niche product. Smart Textiles products are a combination of varieties of wearable materials embedded with electronics.

To encourage the industry to produce smart textile for the world market, Ministry of Textiles has introduced the Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme which includes the Smart Textiles.

Source: pib.gov.in- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

****

Digital currency like cash, no need for lack of privacy fears: RBI Gov

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to enhance the mandates of United Payment Interface (UPI), expand the scope of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) and ensure privacy of people in the case of digital currency transactions, said Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday.

He also said the newly launched digital currency was similar to cash and there need not be any fear about lack of privacy.

Announcing the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision to increase the repo rate by 35 basis points to contain inflation, Das said the UPI has turned out to be the most popular retail payments system in India.

It currently includes functionality to process payment mandates for recurring as well as single-block-and-single-debit transactions.

Over 70 lakh autopay mandates are handled every month and more than half of Initial Public Offer (IPO) applications are processed using the block feature of UPI.

Going forward, the capabilities in UPI will be further enhanced by introducing single-block-and-multiple-debits functionality.

This facility will enable a customer to block funds in his/her account for specific purposes, which can be debited whenever needed. This will significantly enhance the ease of making payments for investments in securities including through the Retail Direct platform as well as e-commerce transactions, Das said.

Similarly, the BBPS has been expanding since its launch in 2017 and now handles recurring bill payments for merchants and utilities and does not cater to non-recurring bills, Das said.

It also does not cater to bill payments or collections such as payment of fees for professional services, education fees, tax payments, rent collections and others for individuals even if those are recurring in nature.

Therefore, the scope of BBPS is being enhanced to include all categories of payments and collections, both recurring and non-recurring, and for all categories of billers (businesses and individuals).

This will make the BBPS platform accessible to a wider set of individuals and businesses who can benefit from the transparent payments experience, faster access to funds and improved efficiency.

Explaining the difference between the UPI and newly launched Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or e-rupee Das said in the case of the former, a bank will be there for intermediation.

On the other hand, in the case of CBDC, it is like cash on hand or cash on the phone, he said.

"The digital currency will be kept on the wallet in the phone. It will be transferred from one person's wallet to another," Das said.

Queried on the privacy offered by the digital currency as against the hard cash, Das said the central bank does not track the transactions.

He said, these are early days for the CBDC and the pilot in retail payments has begun now.

Das said let there be no fear as regards privacy.

Source: business-standard.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Indian trade body seeks duty-free imports of cotton

India needs to allow duty-free imports of cotton as higher raw material prices have reduced textile mills' capacity use, a leading trade body told the government on Wednesday.

Cotton imports into India, the world's biggest producer of the fibre, attract 11% duty, which makes the imports financially unviable, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) said in a letter to Textile Minister Piyush Goyal.

India cotton is nearly 15% more expensive than cotton of other origins, and the higher price has eroded the competitiveness of textile industry and reduced capacity utilization to 50%, the letter said.

"This (scrapping of duty) will help our textile industry to perform with optimum capacity," it said.

Indian traders are struggling to export cotton despite higher production as farmers are delaying the sale of their harvest hoping for higher prices in coming months, industry officials told Reuters.

Source: reuters.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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One District One Product (ODOP) initiative operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative

ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative of the DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash said in reply to a parliament question today.

Central Government has initiated One District One Product (ODOP) in all States/UTs of the country, as a transformational step towards realizing the true potential of a district, fueling economic growth, generating employment and rural entrepreneurship, taking us to the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The ODOP Initiative is aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country, enabling holistic socio-economic growth across all regions. The objective is to focus on District of the country as unit for converting into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the District. The Department is engaging with State and Central Government agencies to promote the initiative of ODOP, which is an on-going process.

In this context, Districts Export Action Plans include specific actions required to support local exporters / manufacturers in producing / manufacturing identified products in adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, for reaching potential buyers outside India, thereby creating economic value. These plans also include identifying and addressing challenges for exports of such identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports, paving way for employment generation.

The following are some of the achievements of ODOP:-

The ODOP GeM Bazaar was launched on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on 29th August 2022 with over 200 product categories created on the platform to promote sales and procurement of ODOP products across the country.

ODOP products are showcased in various International forums such as World Economic Forum, DAVOS in May 2022, at International Yoga day (IYD) in New York, US in June 2022 etc.

The ODOP initiative has been identified for the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in Holistic Development through One District One Product (ODOP) category in April, 2022.

Under DEH (a) State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC) and District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC) has been constituted in all the 36, States/UTs. (b) products/services with export potential have been identified in 734 Districts across the country (Including Agricultural & Toy clusters and GI products in these Districts); (c) State Export Strategy has been prepared in 28 States/UTs; (d) Under DEH, State Nodal officers are nominated in 34 States/UTs; (e) DEPC meetings has already been conducted in 681 Districts; (f) Draft District Action Plan has been prepared for 570 Districts; (g) a web portal to monitor the progress of District Export Action Plan in all the Districts has been developed by DGFT, to mention a few.

Andhra Pradesh has a total of 26 districts and about 13 of them have been covered in the DEH initiative. State-wise/district-wise list of products identified under 'District as Export Hub' initiative, including products from various districts of Andhra Pradesh is available on the following link:

https://exporthubs.gov.in/images/pdf/Final%20Product%20List.pdf

Source: pib.gov.in- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognizes 59,787 entities as startups in the last 5 years

In the last five years (years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021) 59,787 entities were recognised as startups by the DPIIT, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash said in reply to a parliament question.

Under Startup India Initiative, entities are recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as startups as per eligibility conditions prescribed under G.S.R. notification 127 (E) dated 19th February, 2019. As on 30th November 2022, 84,102 entities have been recognised as startups by the DPIIT.

Recognized startups are spread across 56 sectors. The State/ UT wise number of entities recognised as startups by the DPIIT in the last five years (years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021) is as under:

Click here for more details

Source: pib.gov.in- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Centre's reforms result in consistent increase of FDI inflow; FDI grows from US $ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 to US$ 84.84 billion in 2021-22

The reforms taken by Government have resulted in increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the country. FDI inflows in India stood at US $ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 and have continuously increased since then, and India registered its highest ever annual FDI inflow of US$ 84.84 billion (provisional figures) in the financial year 2021-22, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash said in reply to a parliament question today.

'Make in India' is an initiative which was launched on 25th September, 2014 to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best in class infrastructure, and make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation. It is one of the unique 'Vocal for Local' initiatives that promoted India's manufacturing domain to the world. The 'Make in India' initiative is not a state/district/city/area specific initiative, rather it is being implemented all over the country.

'Make in India' initiative has significant achievements and presently focuses on 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) coordinates action plans for 15 manufacturing sectors, while Department of Commerce coordinates 12 service sector plans.

Investment outreach activities are done through Ministries, State Governments and Indian Missions abroad for enhancing International co-operation and promoting both domestic and foreign investment in the country.

In addition to ongoing schemes of various Departments and Ministries, Government has taken various steps to boost domestic and foreign investments in India. These include the introduction of Goods and Services Tax, reduction in Corporate tax rate, interventions to improve ease of doing business, FDI policy reforms, measures for reduction in compliance burden, policy measures to boost domestic manufacturing through public procurement orders, Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP), to name a few.

The series of measures taken by the Government to improve the economic situation and convert the disruption caused by COVID 19 into an opportunity for growth includes Atmanirbhar packages, introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in various Ministries, investment opportunities under National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) and National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS), soft launch of the National Single Window System (NSWS), etc. An institutional mechanism to fast-track investments has been put in place, in the form of Project Development Cells (PDCs) in all concerned Ministries/ Departments of Government of India along with an Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS).

Keeping in view India's vision of becoming 'Atmanirbhar' and to enhance India's Manufacturing capabilities and Exports, an outlay of INR 1.97 lakh crore (over US$ 26 billion) has been announced in Union Budget 2021-22 for PLI schemes for 14 key sectors of manufacturing, starting from fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.

As per Economic Survey 2021-22, inspite of Covid related disruptions there is trend of positive overall growth of Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing sector. The total employment in this sector has increased from 57 million in the year 2017-18 to 62.4 million in the year 2019-20.

The activities under the Make in India initiative are also being undertaken by several Central Government Ministries/ Departments and various State and UTs Governments. Ministries formulate action plans, programmes, schemes and policies for the sectors being dealt by them, while States also have their own Schemes for attracting investments.

This information was provided by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash in reply to a parliament question today.

Source: pib.gov.in- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Will we ever be able to recycle our clothes like an aluminum can?

A new textile recycling plant opened by the company Renewcell in the small coastal city of Sundsvall, Sweden, is so big that employees use bikes to get from one end of the production line to the other.

Large bales of cotton waste are dumped on conveyor belts, shredded, and then broken down into a wet slurry, with the help of chemicals. That slurry, known as dissolving pulp, is then bleached, dried, stamped into sheets of what looks like recycled craft paper, given the brand name Circulose, and shipped off to manufacturers to be made into textiles like viscose for clothes.

Up until now, most clothes marketed as made from recycled materials only contained a small percentage of recycled cotton or were made from water bottles, fishing nets and old carpets. (Technology exists to recycle polyester into polyester but is prohibitively expensive and rarely used.)

Renewcell's factory is one of the first steps toward a system that turns old clothes into new high-quality clothes made entirely with recycled fabric. It also helps to address the mountains of textile waste accumulating worldwide and may help reduce the number of trees that are harvested from ecologically sensitive forests to produce fabrics for fashion. (More than 200 million trees are cut down every year to produce dissolving pulp for man-made cellulosic fabrics, including rayon, viscose, modal, and lyocell, according to Canopy, a Canadian nonprofit that works with the paper and fashion industries to reduce deforestation.)

About a half-dozen startups around the world are aimed at commercial textile recycling, and Renewcell is the first to open.

Many consumers seem to be increasingly uneasy about what happens to their old clothes, and fashion companies are searching for ways to continue expanding while simultaneously fulfilling promises to reduce their negative environmental impact and achieve a circular system in which clothes are looped back through instead of being sent to a landfill. The European Union has mandated expanded textile collection for all member states by 2025, which is expected to significantly increase the flow of fashion waste in need of a destination.

"It's exciting," Ashley Holding, a sustainable textile consultant and founder of Circuvate, said of the factory's opening. "It's great to see them get to such a stage."

The Rise of Unwanted Goods

Fashion circularity wasn't always this complicated. Before industrialization, most people made their own clothing from all-natural materials. The wealthy repurposed and passed their clothes down to servants, and then on to people in rural communities, who patched them until the garments were no longer wearable and then bartered them to rag collectors, according to a 2018 study from the University of Brighton. In Europe, these rags were collected in warehouses and then finally sent to be made into paper or wool shoddy for affordable blankets and coats.

With the industrialization of fashion at the end of the 19th century, people who previously sewed their clothes at home began to buy some of their garments, Adam Minter, the author of "Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale," wrote in an email.

"As garments fell in value, and women entered the industrial workforce, consumers had fewer incentives and less time to mend and repair," according to Minter.

There was an expanded flow of unwanted goods, and the Salvation Army, which opened in New York in the late 19th century, started raising money for charitable projects by taking in, repairing and reselling clothing and housewares, according to Minter. Goodwill was founded around the same time as a Boston church's charitable program.

"By the 1910s, the volume of unwanted clothing and other consumer goods was so great that charities transitioned away from mending," Minter said. Today, most of our clothing ends up in the trash, said Maxine Bédat, the author of the 2021 book "Unraveled: The Life and Death of a Garment." It is hard to get a reliable figure of how much is discarded, especially in the United States. But, she said, "We're still primarily throwing it out."

More data is available for Europe. On average, 62% of clothing that comes to market each year in six Western European countries ends up in landfills or incinerators, according to a recent study by Fashion for Good.

What isn't thrown out mostly still flows to organizations like Goodwill, which pass on what can't be sold to for-profit sorting companies, according to Bédat. Wearable clothes are sold to resale markets in developing countries, and unwearable textiles are turned into rags and lower-quality fibers for things like insulation. Clothes given to farmers' market collections and fast fashion brands through take-back programs usually also end up with these for-profit sorting companies, Bédat said.

About 40% of what the Western world ships to one of the largest resale markets in Accra, Ghana, is considered trash, according to the Or Foundation, which advocates better clothing waste management. Mountains of old clothing have been photographed on beaches, in

"The resale market is being crushed under the weight of the amount of trash, basically, they're receiving," said Rachel Kibbe, the chief executive of the fashion consultancy Circular Services Group. "We have these businesses that are becoming de facto waste managers."

Currently, very little textile waste becomes new clothing. In Western Europe, according to Fashion for Good, just 2% of collected textiles — pure wool, pure cotton and acrylic — are mechanically recycled into new textiles, mostly mud-colored wool shoddy blankets for disaster relief work, and low-quality cotton that must be mixed in with virgin cotton for new textiles. Combined with the low collection rates, that means less than 1% of clothing sold in Western Europe is recycled into new fibers.

"We have to wrap our heads around the fact that your clothes, if you should part with them, may land in someone's desert, in someone's waterways, in someone's field, burning," Kibbe said.

The Race to Recycle Textiles

The new Renewcell factory accepts only pure cotton textile waste, and many clothes are made from synthetic blends. But it will be able to take in a lot of it — more than 120,000 metric tons a year. Around 163,000 metric tons of low-value cotton waste, ripe for chemical recycling, flows annually out of six Western European countries, according to a recent study by Fashion for Good.

Using fabric sourced globally from denim factories and secondhand retailers, the factory produces sheets of dried dissolving pulp, called Circulose, which it sells as the main ingredient for man-made cellulosic fabrics like viscose, rayon and modal.

“We are creating circularity within the fashion industry,” Renewcell CEO Patrik Lundström said. “Today circularity in the fashion industry doesn’t really exist. We have been talking about this environmental impact for the last 20 years. We have very, very little progress so far.”

Renewcell’s founding researchers, Mikael Lindstrom and Gunnar Henriksson at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, first developed the technology to process cotton waste in 2012.

The company produced enough recycled fabric for a dress in 2014 and built a demonstration plant in 2017. It attracted the interest of brands like Stella McCartney, which funded a life cycle analysis showing Circulose had the lowest climate impact of 10 different synthetic cellulosic fibers. H&M became a minority shareholder in the company in 2017.

The company went public and was listed in Sweden on the Nasdaq First North Premier Growth Market in 2020. H&M, Levi Strauss and Bestseller, an international clothing chain based in Denmark, have committed to incorporating Circulose into their clothes. (In 2021, Levi’s debuted a capsule collection of jeans that were 16% Circulose.)

“The Circulose that comes out is very valuable because it’s a recycled fabric, but it behaves like virgin,” said Paul Foulkes-Arellano, the founder of Circuthon, a circular economy management consultancy.

A handful of other companies are also racing to produce recycled fabrics on a commercial scale. Two Finnish startups, Spinnova and Infinited Fiber Company, have patented technologies to turn plant-based waste into fabrics that mimic the feel of cotton.

Spinnova said its commercial-scale plant will be operating by 2024. Infinited hopes to open in 2026. The U.S. startup Evrnu has raised $31 million for its recycling technology, the company said, and expects to be open by 2024.

The technology to process polyester-cotton blends is a little further behind, and those blends make up a large chunk of the old clothing that is discarded. An Australian startup, BlockTexx, said it is building the first commercial-scale recycling plant that can process poly-cotton blends and hopes to open in 2023.

The British startup Worn Again Technologies said in October that it had received more than $30 million in funding and is constructing a plant in Switzerland to separate and recycle blended textiles. The U.S. startup Circ announced in July that it had received more than $30 million, through a funding round led by Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy Ventures, and which included investment from Inditex, the parent company of Zara.

"All of a sudden, there's been a sweep," said Kathleen Rademan, director of the innovation platform at Fashion for Good, an accelerator for sustainable fashion technology. "But I think we're still at the beginning. They're still fighting for money at this stage."

The consulting firm McKinsey estimated in a 2022 report that 6 to 7 billion euros would need to be invested by 2030 to handle at least 18% of the textile waste generated in Europe.

Critics point out that the most sustainable thing to do would be to rewear, repair and upcycle fabrics into new clothing, like people did in the 19th century.

Even Renewcell, which runs on hydropower, is not quite closing the loop, because it is not turning cotton into cotton. (Though some brands like Levi's have used Circulose to partially replace cotton in some products, and lab tests show it can be run through this process up to seven times, similar to paper recycling.)

"Recycling stuff is energy-intensive," Foulkes-Arellano said. "If we were sensible, we would just cut all the denim up, all the T-shirts up, and just upcycle them into new garments. I mean, there's a lot of really good upcycled denim companies out there. But big business wants new fabric." Rademan estimates it will be at least another decade before anyone will be able to recycle a worn-out sweatshirt the way they can recycle a soda can.

She said there is a need for more capital investment in building recycling plants, more commitment from brands to buy recycled fibers, and a commitment from clothing manufacturers to integrate recycled products into the supply chain.

Rademan said in the next 10 years she "would feel comfortable that when I put this sweater in that recycling bin, it is not going to some bad place." But in the United States, she said, progress depends on the political landscape: "It's driven by whoever's in charge."

Holding predicts it will be 2050 before we have a global textile-to-textile recycling infrastructure.

Although Renewcell is an important development, "it's still a drop in the bucket," he said, "compared to the amount of textile feedstock that exists and the amount of materials which are produced every year."

Source: indianexpress.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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'Govt's duty cuts to impact customs; GST to help achieve FY23 tax target'

Robust GST collections will help achieve the FY23 revenue growth target on the indirect taxes front, despite the impact of duty cuts on central excise and customs mop-up, a top official said on Wednesday.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs Chairman Vivek Johri said the government's cuts in duties will make collections on customs and central excise challenging for the fiscal.

"If you look at indirect taxes as a whole, then I am pretty confident that we will meet the target. We are on track," he told reporters on the sidelines of an event here to mark the 60th anniversary of the Customs Act, 1962.

Johri said most of the growth has been coming from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where revenues have been doing very well for the last two months.

"Given the very robust growth in GST, I think overall.. we will be able to meet the revenue targets," he said.

"There might be a bit of challenge in central excise revenue because of the scaling down of duties by the government earlier this year to curb inflation and there may be some challenge on the customs side also again because of reduction in duties on edible oils and some other items," he added.

Without mentioning the 3,000 kg haul at Mundra Port, Johri said the customs department has been able to pull off very big drug hauls because of data mining.

Source: business-standard.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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Mixed waste salt becoming challenge for Tirupur's textile processing sector

India's top knitted garment manufacturing hub Tirupur's textile processing sector is facing problem of accumulated mixed waste salt and bio sludge that are generated from effluent treatment of textile processing units. As per media reports, nearly 60,000 tonnes of mixed waste salt and about 50,000 tonnes of bio sludge lie piled up at the common and individual effluent treatment plants in Tirupur.

Recently Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) has also raised this issue to the state CM. As per industry insiders, about 300 operating textile processing units are connected to 18 common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) and these units recover 80 per cent of water used for processing. The CETPs reuse the water.

The remaining 20 per cent of treated water go through reverse osmosis membranes and evaporators and waste mixed salt, bio sludge and chemical sludge are recovered. While the chemical sludge is sent to cement factories for use as co-processing material, bio sludge and waste salt are piled up at the units. Over the last 10 years, with the textile processing units at Tirupur going in for zero liquid discharge (ZLD), the salt and sludge that are generated in this process have turned out to be major challenges.

B. Murugabhoopathi, CEO, Dyers' Association of Tirupur says, "We need to look at cost effective methods and the Government should support with initial investments." It has been said that the CETPs are trying out different technologies to process the salt for reuse. They have partnered with various institutions to develop and try the solutions.

There is a ray of hope as recently, the South India Textile Research Association partnered with MAK India and released salt-free dyeing technology. The Tamil Nadu Government has signed an MoU with Incompressible Fluid Control System (IFCS) to reduce and reuse the salts from the waste. A technical team is expected to visit Tirupur next week to study the technology implemented by IFCS at Rayapuram CETP.

Source: apparelresources.com- Dec 07, 2022

HOME

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