

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. 79 of 2023

April 29, 2023

CLICK HERE

 To Watch Currency Outlook
 by CR Forex Advisors
AMIT PABARI
 Founder & Managing Director

**NEWS
CLIPPINGS**

Currency Watch	
USD	81.75
EUR	90.97
GBP	102.75
JPY	0.60

INTERNATIONAL NEWS	
No	Topics
1	USTR's Special 301 Review Report Calls Out Global Counterfeiters
2	Demand for Supply Chain Intelligence Remains Elevated in Post-Pandemic Landscape
3	Peru's textile could double exports with sector-specific promotion regulation – trade group
4	Exploring Cotton's Role in a Sustainable Future
5	Tunisia's textile & apparel exports rise 16.78% in Q1 2023
6	Serbia's apparel imports & exports witness impressive growth in 2022
7	Cambodia's textile exports to Indonesia register consistent growth
8	Pakistan: Punjab sets 5 million-acre cotton-sowing target

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	Invest India ambit may include trade promotion
2	Core sector growth slows to 5-month low of 3.6% in March
3	US team in India to discuss dual-use export control ahead of strategic trade dialogue
4	India's Major Ports achieve Record-Breaking Milestones in FY 2022-23, Boosting Trade and Economic Growth – Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
5	SC backs clause that allowed exporters to claim credit
6	Trade body seeks fast-track desk for project clearance in Rajasthan
7	Telangana textiles minister KT Rama Rao proposes handloom museum in Hyderabad



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

USTR's Special 301 Review Report Calls Out Global Counterfeiters

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has released its annual Special 301 Review report, adding new countries to its intellectual property watch list and elevating others to high-priority-threat status.

The agency's report identifies countries that deny adequate or effective protections of IP rights, or deny fair and equitable access to U.S. entities that rely on those protections. Belarus, added to the watch list this week, recently passed legislation legalizing unauthorized use of copyrighted material from nations that are currently sanctioning the country for its support of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Meanwhile, USTR found that Bulgaria did not adequately address concerns about online piracy, making it No. 29 in a list that includes Algeria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela have been placed on the priority watch list. "China (together with Hong Kong) continues to be the largest origin economy for counterfeit and pirated goods, accounting for more than 85 percent of global seizures of counterfeit goods from 2017 to 2019," USTR wrote.

On Wednesday, The American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) spoke out in support of the report's findings. "As we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day, AAFA appreciates the constructive dialogue between USTR, AAFA, and our members to ensure that we protect the creative and innovative contributions of our members and other entrepreneurs around the world while simultaneously supporting American jobs," president and CEO Steve Lamar said. The trade group champions "American innovation and brand protection, consumer safety, worker safety, and responsible product manufacturing," he added. The release of the report "aligns with those important drivers of success and the process offers an opportunity to raise vital issues for our industry."

The group in January submitted written comments to USTR, nominating Bangladesh, China, and the European Union to the priority watch list. AAFA cited trends in behavior, including “bad-faith trademarks” as causes for concern. Calling Bangladesh “an important legitimate sourcing country for the industry,” the organization said that the country has nonetheless engaged in promoting the sale of fake goods, which are “being seized at an increasing rate globally as counterfeit production is growing.” “AAFA member products—apparel, footwear, and related goods—continually remain at the top of the counterfeit items seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) year after year,” AAFA director of brand protection Jennifer Hanks said. The sale of counterfeit apparel, footwear and travel goods are harming U.S. companies, their employees and consumers, she said.

“In many cases these goods are unsafe, causing harm to American consumers and their families,” she explained. “Further, counterfeit goods are also produced in potentially unsafe and environmentally unfriendly conditions, hurting the workers and communities that make them.” Hanks stressed the importance of policy in helping to “incentivize best practices for vetting sellers and goods, addressing repeat counterfeiter sellers, and ensuring that shoppers have access to relevant information at the time of purchase.”

“USTR’s report is key” to holding bad actors accountable when their actions go against policy, she said.

While the trade group praised the release of the list, Hanks urged the passage of other proposed legislation that AAFA believes would stem the flow of illicit or fake products. “We need Congress to pass the SHOP Safe Act, which will hold those responsible for promoting and selling counterfeit products accountable.” The law would introduce new regulations for online marketplaces like Amazon and eBay, which traffic in goods sold by loosely-regulated third-party vendors. These channels are rife with counterfeits, and have thus far allowed sellers to operate with relative anonymity and impunity, the group has alleged.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Demand for Supply Chain Intelligence Remains Elevated in Post-Pandemic Landscape

Container demand—and prices along with it—may be plummeting, but the demand for supply chain visibility is only climbing.

Nearly two-thirds (60 percent) of BCOs (beneficial cargo owners, which are the importers of the shipment) and freight forwarders said they expect to be more engaged with market intelligence data after the supply chain stabilizes, according to a survey from Freightos Data.

Almost all (92 percent) of the more than 200 respondents surveyed indicated that they expect to remain at least as engaged with the data as they are currently, while 64 percent called supply chain intelligence “very important” to the future of their business.

The numbers illustrate a reality that there is a drastic need for data regardless of where a business fits and operates in the supply chain.

The firm’s analysis of visitor traffic level to its container rate data appear to reflect this need, which ramped up during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic. By July 2021, Asia to U.S. West Coast container rates increased more than 8X compared to January 2020, with rates on their way to a 13X peak in September. During this time, monthly visitors to the Freightos Baltic Index (FBX), which calculates the weighted average container spot rate of 12 underlying regional route indexes, spiked 50X.

By the end of 2022, ocean prices had plummeted back to normal and FBX visitors decreased by more than 50 percent from their 2021 peak. But, the fact that the number of FBX visitors still remained 23 times higher than in January 2020 suggests that businesses appreciate the value of freight market intelligence much more than they did in 2019, Freightos says. This further suggests that the logistics intelligence that was generated during the pandemic will carry over even as supply chains normalize.

According to 76 percent of the respondents, operational updates are the most important type of intelligence, which can help inform on the necessary mode of transportation, and assist in making timing and routing decisions.

Coming right behind operational updates are ocean spot rates and economic data/demand levels and protection, which 72 percent classify as crucial forms of intelligence. Another 61 percent look to ocean contract rates, while 40 percent think air spot rates are important.

Among the shippers that were surveyed, 70 percent said they use freight intelligence as a basis to explain the level of freight costs incurred by their business or justify their logistics budget to company executives.

For most shippers (62 percent), market data is also used in rate negotiations with carriers and forwarders, while 61 percent use it to inform operational decisions.

Among forwarders, freight data is relied upon most often as a basis to explain the current rate climate to shipper customers (63 percent), with roughly half also using pricing data in negotiations with carriers or operational updates to make shipment decisions.

Freightos Data produces two freight pricing indices: the Freightos Baltic Index (FBX) and transaction-backed air cargo rate index monitor Freightos Air Index (FAX). Combined between the two, both cover more than 60 major airports and dozens of trade lanes.

New technologies have entered the fray in recent years in an effort to bring more knowledge to an industry that is often plagued with outdated, manual systems and tends to keep data in separate silos. And they're still attracting some investors even amid the current unfriendly economic climate.

A supply chain report from PitchBook said that 2022 fourth-quarter venture capital activity in supply chain tech plummeted 71.4 percent year over year to \$4 billion. But on a sequential basis, funding rose 28.2 percent, showing that spending was once again ready for a rebound. For example, AI-based supply chain management platform Altana raised \$100 million in October, while supply chain visibility platform Project44 raised another \$80 million.

To kick off 2023, funding rounds have already been raised at supply chain risk management platform Everstream Analytics, logistics and container visibility platforms Bluecargo and Slync.io, drayage transportation management software PortPro, supply chain visibility platform Craft and supply chain risk management software Overhaul.

Despite the obvious need for visibility and the money being funneled into it, sophisticated visibility technologies remain widely under-deployed, with 47 percent of supply chain and logistics executives saying they have implemented this tech within their truckload transportation and air freight operations, according to a January study from Descartes. Another 46 percent have introduced these capabilities into their rail transportation, while the same amount brought the technology to ocean freight.

The Freightos report indicated that in deploying more of these visibility technologies, companies can be entering into more sensible contracts, which the Covid-19 pandemic upended when freight rates skyrocketed.

According to Freightos, nearly 50 percent of BCOs had forwarders ask to renegotiate a contract in 2020, up significantly from the almost 30 percent that did so in 2018.

“Shippers pushed to sign new—more expensive—contracts for 2022 in the hopes of ensuring better reliability, but as spot rates plummeted well-below contract levels in the second half of that year, the cycle restarted in reverse with shippers either abandoning contracts for the spot market or pushing for renegotiations with carriers,” said the report.

To stave off the ongoing volatility, BCOs can link ocean contracts to benchmarks like the FBX, Freightos says, because index-linked contracts remove the incentives for price-based disruptions like rolled containers in times when contract levels become out of sync with the market.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Peru's textile could double exports with sector-specific promotion regulation – trade group

Peru's petrochemicals-intensive textile sector requires a specific law emulating that of the agricultural sector to allow it to multiply its exports, according to the head for textiles at trade group Sociedad Nacional de Industrias (SNI) on Friday.

Martin Reaño said the law should also increase protection for Peruvian textile producers, which face fierce “unfair” competition from lower-cost product coming from Asia, mostly China.

Protecting the textile sector in Peru does matter: in a country of 34m residents, around 400,000 workers are employed in textile.

5,000 YEARS OF TEXTILE PROWESS

Peru has always been a textile powerhouse in the region, daring back as long as 5,000 years, according to Reaño.

That textile prowess came from the world-famous alpaca fibres, but not only: Peru's blessed natural environment has also made the country a large producer of the “best cotton” in the world, according to Reaño, as well as of other animal-based fibres.

Adding to that, hydrocarbons allowed the country to consolidate its textile production, and it has some of the best-known fibres producers in the region, such as Sudamericana de Fibras.

But Peru's textile industry could further advance, said Reaño, if the state passed specific regulation to prop up the sector, emulating the Law for the Promotion of the Agricultural Sector (LPA, in its Spanish acronym) passed in 2001.

According to official figures cited by Reaño, Peru's agricultural exports shot up from \$400m in 2001 to \$8.0bn in 2022, thanks to the tax breaks and other incentives implemented by the LPA.

Agricultural exports would thus represent 3.5% of Peru's GDP, which stood in 2021 – the latest data available – at \$223.0bn.

For comparison, the country’s textile exports stood in 2001 at \$600m; in 2022, they totalled \$1.86bn.

“We estimate that with an LPA-type regulation, textile exports could increase by \$2.0bn in a few years’ time. The big opportunity for us is the US market, for its proximity. Textile was bigger than agro in 2001: now, agro is four times bigger than textile,” said Reaño.

“That is a good example of how the right regulation can help an economic sector which would also help the Peruvian state through higher tax receipts and by employing more people in the formal economy.”

It is estimated that around 65% of Peruvian workers are still employed in the informal economy.

Reaño added that he is hopeful the new cabinet led by Dina Boluarte – following the failed coup by the previous President in December – could promote that regulation as they have been more receptive to the textile sector’s pleas in past months.

Earlier this week, the CEO at Sudamericana de Fibras said in an interview with ICIS the US’ willingness to reduce its dependence on manufactured goods.

Source: icis.com– April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Exploring Cotton's Role in a Sustainable Future

“We have to look at solutions that we can achieve in the time we have to achieve them,” said Dr. Jesse Daystar, chief sustainability officer and vice president, sustainability, Cotton Incorporated.

In a moment when too many players in the industry are setting unattainable sustainability goals, the planet's dire climate status should force companies to replace lofty ambitions with realistic actions.

The panel “Rerouting for a More Sustainable Future in Time” at Sourcing Journal's April 25 Sustainability Summit: The Road to 2030 explored the resilient role cotton can play in this context.

As it celebrates the 50th year of its famed Seal of Cotton trademark, Cotton Incorporated's video touted the company's commitments to reduce U.S. cotton production greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 39 percent by 2025, while acknowledging that just reducing cotton production impact at the field level will not achieve shared climate goals. Even bringing field level cotton production to zero GHG emissions would only reduce overall garment impact by approximately 10 to 20 percent.

In order to assess overall impact, Daystar said, the industry must look beyond just cotton production and also consider things like energy choices and dyeing processes.

“Cotton impacts alone won't get us to our goals,” he said. “Cotton represents just 13 percent of the impact of a T-shirt, so even if you cut that in half, it's still only 7 percent. What can we do to pull down carbon emissions even further?”

According to Cotton Incorporated's LCA, replacing fossil fuel energy in the apparel manufacturing process with renewable energy technology could reduce a garment's impact by 30 to 50 percent, and indeed, many brands have made commitments to sourcing renewable energy, or getting purchasing agreements with renewable energy sources.

However, without solid supplier partnerships, visibility into energy usage or dyeing and finishing processes is trickier. “It's really hard when you have supply chains all across the world and you might not have long-term

relationships,” said Daystar, citing the Sustainable Apparel Coalition as helpful for quantifying environmental impacts of products.

Cotton’s contribution to a garment’s overall impact might be relatively minor, but Cotton Incorporated is still looking at ways to bring the number down. Going “one layer down” brings you face to face with cotton’s growing process, and that means fertilizers. Cotton is a plant that needs food, and about 60 percent of the climate change impacts occur as a result of using nitrogen and other fertilizers, he said.

In 2020, Cotton Incorporated created the sustainability initiative known as the U.S. Cotton Trust Protocol and today partners with the U.S. Climate Smart Cotton Program—a five-year, collaborative pilot to provide technical and financial assistance to 1,650 U.S. cotton farmers. By sharing the risk, and getting \$90 million investment, Cotton Incorporated is helping growers get to programs and implement new practices.

“It’s a risky situation when a grower has to put in hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy seed and plant and maybe not see a return on their investment, [yet] realizing this is what probably needs to happen to pull down these greenhouse gas emissions,” Daystar said. “It’s going to take some time for that to become economically viable in many situations.”

Regarding circularity, Cotton Incorporated is working with composting facilities to take pre-consumer and post-consumer cotton waste garments and turn that back into soil. “This could go on our farms, which would capture carbon in the ground,” said Daystar. “This is very beneficial to reduce the waste issue, and also help with that nutrient issue and reduce the fertilizer needs of the plant.”

Bioenergy is another area ripe for exploration. After a cotton garment is used, recycled and re-used according to its durability, why not burn it for energy? “Right now we’re cutting down trees to create bio energy, why are we not using our old clothing for bio energy?”

Finally, reducing carbon is key. As Cotton Incorporated looks to the Climate Smart Cotton Program, it’s going to be reducing impacts on the field, as well as pulling carbon into the ground. “A ‘carbon inset’ is sort of like a ‘carbon offset,’ but the inset is a benefit or verified outcome that is going to be sold to somebody in the value chain or somebody sourcing from that area, in this case, the United States,” Daystar said.

Technology is a solution for many of these challenges, and in fact, technology over the past 40 years has improved water use efficiency by roughly 81 percent, made possible by innovation technologies such as waterless and foam dyeing, plus high-efficiency/low-energy irrigation systems.

“The tipping point is here,” said Daystar. “Now, it’s [more] ‘Can we just make the impact, less bad?’”

Source: sourcingjournal.com– April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Tunisia's textile & apparel exports rise 16.78% in Q1 2023

Tunisia's textile and apparel exports grew by 16.78 per cent during the first quarter (Q1) of 2023, reaching TND 2,626.6 million, as per the country's ministry of industry, mines, and energy. The sector also experienced a 14.61 per cent growth in euro terms compared to the same period in 2022, totalling €788.3 million, indicating an estimated coverage rate of 145 per cent.

The growth in Tunisia's textile and apparel sector has surpassed the exports' value achieved during the same period of 2019 by 22.11 per cent in dinars (TND 2,151.1 million) and 26.64 per cent in euros (€622.5 million), according to a report by a Tunisian press agency.

In March 2023, exports went up by 16.72 per cent to 926.4 million dinars, while the increase in euros reached 14.38 per cent, amounting to €278.2 million.

The export of trousers, which represent 29 per cent of total ready-to-wear clothing exports, showed a growth of 16.99 per cent during Q1 2023, equivalent to TND 646.2 million or €193.9 million, an increase of 14.82 per cent compared to the same period of 2022.

The French, Italian, German, Belgian, Portuguese, and Dutch markets in the European Union (EU) countries are the primary destinations for Tunisian ready-to-wear clothing exports. Exports to these regions totalled nearly €640.4 million in Q1 2023, a surge of 19.80 per cent compared to the previous year, accounting for 81 per cent of the sector's total exports.

Meanwhile, Tunisia's ready-to-wear clothing imports decreased in value by 51.11 per cent to 58.1 MD and in quantity by 26.26 per cent to 0.8 thousand tonnes, compared to the same period of 2022.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Serbia's apparel imports & exports witness impressive growth in 2022

In 2022, both Serbia's imports and exports experienced impressive growth. Interestingly, the country's inbound and outbound trade of apparel were almost equal, with apparel exports increasing by \$696 million and imports reaching \$700.623 million in the same year. Trousers and shorts dominated the country's import basket, while socks were the most important apparel products in its export basket.

Serbia's apparel imports grew to \$700.623 million in 2022 from \$625.580 million in 2021. In 2018, the inbound shipment was \$456.530 million, which increased to \$483.595 million in 2019 and \$490.836 million in 2020, according to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro.

Meanwhile, Serbia's apparel exports increased to \$696.402 million in 2022 from \$615.018 million in 2021. The exports remained almost steady during the last couple of years, making Serbia a net importer country from an exporter country. The exports were recorded at \$566.437 million in 2020, \$637.215 million in 2019, and \$674.422 million in 2018.

Socks were the largest apparel product exported at \$228.064 million in 2022, constituting 33.09 per cent of Serbia's total exports of garments. Trousers and shorts, innerwear, T-shirts, Jerseys and Jackets and blazers were the other major apparel products exported by the country, as per TexPro.

In Serbia's basket of imported garments, trousers and shorts dominated with 21.41 per cent of the total imports, valued at \$137.452 million. Other items such as jerseys, T-shirts, socks, shirts, dresses, innerwear, jackets, and blazers were also imported.

Overall, the trade data indicates that Serbia has the capacity and skills to develop its textile industry. While it presently imports apparel according to its regular needs, it is capable of competing with well-established apparel exporting countries.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – April 29, 2023

[HOME](#)

Cambodia's textile exports to Indonesia register consistent growth

The general trade between Cambodia and Indonesia increased by 43.2 per cent to \$304 million in the first quarter of 2023. In terms of textile trade, Cambodia is a net exporter to Indonesia, supplying garments and fabric. The exports have consistently grown in previous years. In 2022, Cambodia exported fabric worth \$11.607 million and apparel worth \$20.504 million. However, there has been a downward trend in fabric imports from Indonesia in previous years.

As both countries are major exporters of textile products, they are competitors in the textile sector. There is limited scope for bilateral trade in the textile industry between both countries. However, Indonesia's imports of garments and fabric were need based and in limited quantities.

Cambodia's fabric exports to Indonesia showed impressive growth in 2022, reaching \$11.607 million from \$0.397 million in 2018. The trade data shows a consistent increase as it grew to \$0.707 million in 2019, \$2.575 million in 2020, \$7.329 million in 2021. The outbound trade was recorded at \$1.061 million in January-February 2023, according to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro.

Cambodia imported fabric from Indonesia worth \$4.541 million in 2022. The inbound trade has seen a downward trend in previous years. The import was recorded at \$11.308 million in 2020, which decreased to \$7.864 million in 2021 and \$4.541 million in 2022. It was noted at \$0.645 million in the first two months of 2023.

Cambodia's apparel exports to Indonesia increased consistently after COVID-related disruptions in 2020. The exports rose to \$20.504 million in 2022 from \$16.144 million in 2021. It bounced back after a steep fall during 2020 when the trade was registered at \$14.560 million against \$22.292 million in 2019. Cambodia had exported apparel worth \$18.360 million in 2018. During the first two months of the current year, Cambodia exported apparel worth \$2.381 million. Cambodia's import of apparel from Indonesia was noted at \$1.840 million in 2022, according to TexPro.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – April 29, 2023

[HOME](#)

Pakistan: Punjab sets 5 million-acre cotton-sowing target

The Punjab province has set sowing target of cotton at 5 million acres of land this year with production target of 8.226 million bales.

Major contributor to this sowing target will be Bahawalpur division where the crop will be cultivated over an area of 2.314 million acres of land. This was disclosed at a meeting convened by Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo to finalize the implementation strategy for Cotton Action Plan 2023.

During a briefing to the Secretary, it was said that 50,000 tons of approved varieties of seeds is required for cotton cultivation in Punjab. So far, cotton cultivation has been completed on 58,2000 acres. Out of this, 21 per cent land has been cultivated with the approved variety “CKC3” and 11.7 per cent with “CKCo6”.

On this occasion, the Director Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department said that the 20,000 tons of seed of approved varieties was available with the 60,800 seed dealers and certified seed is being supplied to the farmers. The Secretary directed launching of an effective campaign against fake pesticides and said that through this campaign, availability of quality agricultural inputs to the farmers will be ensured.

Apart from this, subsidy is also being provided to the farmers on the seeds of the approved types of cotton. He gave a clear target to the departments related to cotton campaign and assigned special responsibilities to the agricultural extension staff. He said further that the local administration will also monitor the cotton action plan on the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab so that this year cotton is cultivated on maximum area.

Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil, Director General Agriculture (Extension) Dr Anjum Ali, Director General Agriculture (Pest Warning) Rana Faqir Ahmed, Managing Director Punjab Seed Corporation Shanul Haque, Director Agriculture Information Punjab Muhammad Rafiq Akhtar and Director Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department attended the meeting.

Source: breccorder.com– April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Invest India ambit may include trade promotion

The government is looking to revamp Invest India, the country's investment promotion and facilitation agency, and could expand its mandate to include trade promotion.

The revamp plan comes after the resignation of its chief executive officer and managing director Deepak Bagla last month. Invest India is under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).



“There was a plan to set up a trade promotion body but its incorporation and Cabinet approval would have taken time. So, talks are on to merge the investment and trade functions into one,” said an official. As per the official, the department of commerce and DPIIT are brainstorming on ways to create synergy between trade and investment.

India's goods and services exports in FY23 were at a record high of \$770 billion while FDI inflows were at \$36.75 billion during April-December FY23, 15% lower than the corresponding period in 2021-22. The commerce department was earlier working to create a dedicated trade promotion body to drive strategy, strengthen 'Brand India' and India's negotiations besides exploring international trade opportunities in untapped markets.

“Like trade and investment go hand in hand, the agency also needs to promote domestic investments along with FDI,” said another person aware of the development. Invest India, according to its official website, is the advisor, guide and facilitator to every investor looking to make a home in India, offers a one-stop solution to global and domestic investors and works with every major country around the world, and across all Indian states.

Higher focus on domestic investment is crucial as India has introduced production-linked incentive schemes in 14 sectors with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

Source: economictimes.com- April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Core sector growth slows to 5-month low of 3.6% in March

Growth in core infrastructure industries moderated to a five-month low in March at 3.6% year-on-year, partly due to the base effect but also because of unseasonal rains. Only two sectors — coal and crude petroleum — registered sequential improvement.

The data comes at a time when there is expectation of a slowdown in economic activities, but is at odds with other high frequency indicators such as the PMI and revenue from the Goods and Services Tax registering robust expansion in the month.

This is the slowest growth in core sector industries since October 2022 when it registered a mere 0.7% expansion. March's core sector growth was also the second-lowest in FY23. The eight core industries grew by 4.8% in March, 2022 and by 7.2% in February, 2023.

On a cumulative basis, the core sector industries grew by 7.6% in FY23 as against 10.4% growth in FY22. Significantly, December's provisional core sector data has been revised upwards to 8.3% from 7% with sharp revision in steel production.

Given that these core sectors have a combined weight of 40.3% in the index of industrial production (IIP), analysts expect IIP growth to also taper in the month to about 3-4% from 5.6% in February this year.

“Output of some of the sectors is likely to have been dampened by the unseasonal rainfall, such as electricity and cement, which displayed a year-on-year contraction in March 2023, along with crude oil. At the same time, coal, fertilisers and steel displayed a healthy expansion in excess of 8% in March 2023, which is encouraging,” said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head — Research & Outreach, Icra.

However, higher inflation, rising interest and easing of pent-up demand are also seen to be factors along with increased economic uncertainty that have hit domestic demand. The Reserve Bank of India left the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% in the last policy review earlier this month.

“The March data was weighed down by the base effect. Also, it seems that manufacturing activity was on the lower side in the month as electricity generation was negative. Usually, manufacturing tends to see an

acceleration in the year end. However, across industries such as consumer goods, there is not too much traction in demand and there has been an overhang of inventory from the festival season,” said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda.

In March 2023, the highest growth was registered in coal production at 12.2%, followed by fertiliser at 9.7% and steel at 8.8%. However, the growth in both fertiliser and steel production in March was lower compared to the 22.2% and 11.6% expansion, respectively in February this year.

The growth in fertiliser production is heartening and it indicates that stock have been exhausted and preparations are on for kharif season, Sabnavis noted.

Three sectors, including crude oil (-2.8%), cement (-0.8%) and electricity generation (-1.8%) registered negative growth in March. However, on a sequential basis, the de-growth in crude oil production eased from February’s -4.9% although March was the tenth consecutive month of contraction in the sector.

Natural gas production registered a growth of 2.8% last month while refinery products grew by 1.5%.

“While the growth of the core industries’ output rose moderately by 3.6% year-on-year in March 2023, the index rose to an all-time high due to the seasonal uptick in year-end activity with a strong sequential growth of 11.3% over February 2023.

Cumulatively, the growth in core sector output stands at 7.6% for FY23 which is fairly healthy considering the dilution of the base factor after the pandemic,” said Suman Chowdhury, Chief Economist and Head-Research, Acuité Ratings & Research. “With the weakening global and domestic demand, Ind-Ra believes that the growth in infrastructure industries would be under pressure in the ongoing fiscal year. As a result, the agency expects the core sector annual growth in FY24 at around 5%,” said India Ratings economists Paras Jasrai and Sunil K Sinha.

Source: financialexpress.com- April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

US team in India to discuss dual-use export control ahead of strategic trade dialogue

A team from the US Commerce Department is in Delhi to discuss dual use export control issues, for boosting high tech commerce between the two countries, ahead of the first meeting of the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue (IUSTD) in Washington DC next month.

“We are here this week meeting with Indian government officials and the Indian industry to discuss dual use export control issues. We’re also engaged in the final planning for the IUSTD, which provides a building block for our initiative on critical and emerging technology,” said Thea Rozman Kendler, US Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, at a briefing on Friday.

Last month, the US Department of Commerce and India’s Ministry of External Affairs agreed to launch an India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue to address export controls, explore ways of enhancing high technology commerce, and facilitate technology transfer between the two countries. The dialogue will be led by the Foreign Secretary on the Indian side and by the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, on the US side.

“I think we’re at a new stage in our relationship where we see tremendous opportunity, and a closer relationship and hope that through our new dialogue we can explore ways of enhancing high tech commerce,” she added.

Dual-use items are goods, software and technology that can be used for both civilian and military applications. The visiting US team also held roundtable discussions with Indian industry including representatives of the Indian Electronics Semiconductor Association, the US India Business Council, Nasscom and the American Chamber of Commerce, Kendler said.

“The purpose of having these industry meetings was to learn about the tech ecosystem that India is fostering and the challenges that Indian companies face with respect to strategic trade. We talked about mechanisms under the US strategic trade control system under our export control system available to Indian industry that are designed to facilitate faster and more efficient trade.

In my meetings, we also stressed the importance of protecting India's trusted strategic trade controls environment," she said.

On Russia

Pointing out that sanctions against Russia, which continued to be in war with Ukraine, were being breached, Kendler said that Moscow was illegally using third countries to obtain items, that the US and 38 economies had restricted, so that these could be used in their war machine. "We're actively following the trade diversion and back filling data very closely and taking responsive measures," she said.

In response to a question on whether there were concerns in the US about the possibility of technology supplied by the US to India inadvertently reaching Russia, Kendler said that the US was working with partners all over the world to make sure that Russia isn't using them to backfill technology.

The India-US partnership in strategic trade control has been long and progress has been steady, Kendler pointed out. "If you compare 25 years ago, in 1998, one quarter of US exports to India required a export license from the US government.

Now, 25 years later, only 0.5 per cent of US exports to India require a license. We're here today because India has established strategic trade laws and effective implementing regulations. Robust strategic trade controls enable us to share technology that we can't share with others," she said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

India's Major Ports achieve Record-Breaking Milestones in FY 2022-23, Boosting Trade and Economic Growth – Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said FY23 saw India's major ports reach unprecedented heights, setting new records across various key performance indicators.

Speaking at the 2nd Edition of FICCI's Port Infrastructure Conclave in New Delhi Shri Sonowal noted that major ports collectively handled a record-breaking 795 million tonnes of cargo, registering a 10.4% growth over the previous year. Furthermore, they achieved the highest-ever output per day of 17,239 tonnes, marking a 6% increase compared to last year.

Another significant accomplishment was the best-ever operating ratio of 48.54%. He said the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) set a new benchmark by handling over 6 million TEUs, reflecting the highest container throughput. He said the major ports recorded their highest-ever number of vessels handled, reaching a total of 21,846 vessels in the year.

Shri Sonowal noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the Indian shipping industry has witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of ships, gross tonnage, and seafarers employed. He said the fleet of ships sailing under the Indian flag has expanded from 1,205 in 2014 to 1,526 by 2023, showcasing the country's commitment to strengthening its maritime presence.

This growth has been accompanied by a significant rise in gross tonnage, increasing from 10.3 million in 2014 to 13.7 million in 2023, reflecting the enhanced capacity and scale of operations. The Union Minister said furthermore, the number of Indian seafarers has grown from 1,17,090 in 2014 to a remarkable 2,50,071 in 2022, registering an increase of almost 114% in just nine years.

Shri Sonowal emphasised that these historic achievements underscore India's dedication to developing and modernising its port infrastructure to boost trade and support economic growth.

The Union Minister said India's progress in developing state-of-the-art port infrastructure and outlined future plans for the maritime sector. He pointed out, "95% of India's trading by volume and 70% by value is done through maritime transportation. For smooth and efficient trading, most-modern and advanced port infrastructure is of paramount importance."

Shri Sonowal emphasised the importance of incorporating technology into port operations, stating that "smart ports are the future, and we are already making significant strides towards this goal." By leveraging data analytics and artificial intelligence, India aims to optimise port operations and boost efficiency.

He alluded to recent digital initiatives such as the NLP-Marine and Sagar-Setu app, geared towards bringing all stakeholders onto a single platform, reducing logistical costs and time, and improving overall efficiency. Additionally, major ports are embracing automation, with the installation of gate automation, enterprise business solutions, and container scanners, he added.

Shri Sonowal said that major ports are under development to become hydrogen hubs for handling, storage, and transportation of green hydrogen. Deendayal, Paradip, and V.O. Chidambaranar ports have already begun developing the necessary infrastructure for hydrogen bunkering, he said.

Mr Dhruv Kotak, Chairman, Ports & Shipping, FICCI Committee for Transport Infrastructure, lauded the government for its commitment to sustainability and green port initiatives. Mr Kotak noted that the Green Port Policy aims to transform the port ecosystem by focusing on emission management across scope one, scope two, and scope three emissions.

Shri Sonowal also launched the FICCI - CRISIL Knowledge Paper on 'Smart, Safe & Sustainable Ports.' The Knowledge Paper delves into the key elements that contribute to the creation of smart, safe, and sustainable ports. It offers a comprehensive overview of the latest technological advancements, operational best practices, and sustainability initiatives that port operators can adopt to optimize port efficiency and minimize environmental impact.

Source: pib.gov.in- April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

SC backs clause that allowed exporters to claim credit

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the validity of mandatory fulfilment of a "pre-import condition" that allowed exporters to claim credit of raw materials bought before actually exporting the product.

It set aside the Gujarat High Court's ruling that held that such fulfilment in order to claim exemption of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and GST compensation cess on input imported for the production of goods to be exported on the strength of an advance authorisation (AA) was arbitrary and unreasonable. The scheme was incorporated in the Foreign Trade Policy of 2015-2020 (FTP), Handbook of Procedures (HBP) and various 2017 notifications.

A bench led by Justice S Ravindra Bhatt, however, directed the revenue to permit exporters, who enjoyed interim orders till the high court gave the final ruling, to claim refund or input credit (whichever applicable and/or wherever customs duty was paid).

For doing so, the court asked exporters to approach the jurisdictional commissioner and apply with documentary evidence within six weeks. "The claim for refund/credit, shall be examined on their merits, on a case-by-case basis. For the sake of convenience, the revenue shall direct the appropriate procedure to be followed, conveniently, through a circular, in this regard," said the Supreme Court judgement.

Abhishek A Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers, who argued on behalf of Indian exporters, said the upholding of constitutional aspect of the condition does not necessarily mean demand and recovery. "Notices will have to be responded with proper facts/ figures along with relevant import data to show how pre-import condition has been fulfilled. There may be cases where some of the bills of entry might have complied with pre-import condition," he said.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Trade body seeks fast-track desk for project clearance in Rajasthan

A Jaipur-based trade body has called for a fast-track desk for the successful execution of all pacts and letters of intent (LoIs) signed during the Invest Rajasthan Summit held in October last year.

The summit saw around 4,190 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) and LoIs worth Rs 10.44 trillion. The sectors where the pacts were signed included mining and minerals, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, textiles, engineering, chemicals and petrochemicals, health and medical, logistics, energy, and handicrafts.

According to an official of the industries department, 46 to 48 per cent of the pacts have been implemented or are in the advanced stage of implementation.

All Rajasthan Trade and Industry Association (ARTIA) Chief Consultant Kamal Kandoi said CM Ashok Gehlot had said about creating flexible infrastructure for industries and promoting industrialisation. “It would be possible only if the execution of all MoUs and LoIs signed during Invest Rajasthan is done at a faster pace.”

ARTIA’s Executive President Prem Biyani said the investors had asked the government for land as per the rules, but their files are moving from one office to another. The ARTIA officials have asked Gehlot to intervene and set up a fast-track desk at the office of the district industry officer and the district collector should come to this desk once a week. It has also demanded that the progress of all LoIs should be reviewed and the chief minister’s office be informed.

The association’s chief patron, Ashish Saraf, said the industries have a big contribution to Rajasthan’s economy. Its contribution is calculated from Gross State Value Addition (GSVA), which is constantly increasing. In 2018-19, GSVA stood at Rs 2.25 trillion, which increased to Rs 3.58 trillion in 2022-23. The government should ensure a good investment atmosphere so that the GSVA reaches Rs 8-10 trillion by 2030, Saraf said.

Source: [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com)- April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)

Telangana textiles minister KT Rama Rao proposes handloom museum in Hyderabad

Telangana textiles minister KT Rama Rao on Friday asked the officials to prepare proposals for development of handloom clusters at Narayanpet, Gadwal , Dubbaka, Kodakandla, Mahadevpur and Kothakota etc.

He also asked the officials to submit proposals for establishing a handloom museum in Hyderabad.

He advised the textile officials to visit Tirupur to study the Tirupur model and develop such clusters in Telangana so that fibre to fashion linkage might develop and help backward and forward linkages.

The minister directed the officials to improve the ongoing schemes, especially Chenetha Mitra Scheme, by simplifying them and making them user-friendly.

The minister reviewed all the development activities and programmes being implemented in the handlooms and textiles department on Friday. He asked the officials to submit a proposal on implementation of block-level clusters in the state and asked them to take up all remaining works in the existing mini textile parks, textiles parks and apparel parks.

KTR also discussed encouragement for private and public parks like White Gold and asked the department to come up with a report on Gundlapochampally apparel park and complete the works of Gadwal Handloom Park.

He advised to make the handloom weaving profession lucrative so that migrated handloom weavers may come back to the profession.

The minister asked the officials to celebrate National Handloom Day (Aug 7) in a big way.

Source: timesofindia.com- April 28, 2023

[HOME](#)
