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Currency Watch			
USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
81.99	89.80	104.41	0.57

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Eurozone faces recession threat in 2023-2024: Report

The risk of recession in eurozone is still significant, according to S&P Global's third quarter (Q3) 2023 economic outlook. The expected impact of rising interest rates on demand and the potential for employment downturn due to economic slowdown could trigger a recession.

Other tailwinds that boosted recovery from the pandemic are also subsiding. The manufacturing sector, in particular, has taken a hit, with the sector's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) slipping into contraction territory at 43.6 in June. This downturn is attributed to the return of inventories to pre-pandemic levels and the absorption of most of the backlog in production, as per S&P Global's Economic Outlook Eurozone Q3 2023.

Meanwhile, energy-intensive sectors are still struggling to recover. Despite a significant drop in gas prices, their output in April remained 11 per cent lower than before the energy crisis. The permanence of the loss of energy-intensive production in Europe is still uncertain, though if it proves to be transitory, a recovery could positively impact the economic outlook.

The fading post-pandemic recovery is also likely to leave a significant mark on the labour market. Employment rose by 0.6 per cent in Q1 2023, but S&P Global anticipates much smaller increases in the upcoming quarters. This prediction aligns with falling productivity, rising unit labour costs, and a reduction in still-high job vacancies over the past two quarters.

As per the analysis, online job vacancies suggest that the downward trend is likely to continue throughout Q2.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – June 28, 2023

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China ready to implement upgraded protocol of FTA

China is ready to further balanced trade growth with New Zealand and implement the upgraded protocol of their free trade agreement (FTA), said commerce minister Wang Wentao while meeting New Zealand minister for trade and export growth Damien O'Connor in Beijing.

China is eager to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with New Zealand under frameworks like the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the World Trade Organisation, Wang said.

New Zealand has maintained a long-standing and positive economic and trade cooperation with China. The trade structures of the two countries are highly complementary, and the bilateral free trade agreement has facilitated rapid growth in both export and import activities, O'Connor was quoted as saying by official Chinese media outlets.

New Zealand seeks to enhance communication and coordination with China in multilateral and regional mechanisms, he added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – June 27, 2023

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2022 global primary energy demand growth 1.1% compared to 5.5% in 2021

Primary energy demand growth slowed last year, increasing by 1.1 per cent compared to 5.5 per cent in 2021, and taking it to around 3 per cent above the 2019 pre-COVID level, according to the 72nd annual edition of the Statistical Review of World Energy jointly released by London-based The Energy Institute (EI) and partners KPMG and Kearney.

Global primary energy consumption grew by around 1 per cent last year, taking it to nearly 3 per cent above the 2019 pre-COVID level. Within this, gas fell by 3 per cent and renewables (excluding hydro) increased by 13 per cent. The dominance of fossil fuels was largely unchanged at almost 82 per cent of total consumption.

Global energy-related emissions continued to grow, up 0.8 per cent, despite strong growth in renewables.

The strong pace of deployment of renewables in the power sector continued, driven by solar and wind. Last year saw the largest ever increase in wind and solar new build capacity.

Together they reached a record 12 per cent share of power generation, with solar up by 25 per cent and wind up by 13.5 per cent. Renewables (excluding hydro) met 84 per cent of net electricity demand growth in 2022.

The Ukraine conflict and curtailment of Russian supplies to Europe precipitated record international gas prices in Europe (a three-fold increase) and Asia (two-fold), and unprecedented shifts in global oil and gas trade flows.

“Despite further strong growth in wind and solar in the power sector, overall global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions increased again. We are still heading in the opposite direction to that required by the Paris Agreement,” EI President Juliet Davenport said in a release.

Primary energy consumption increased in all regions apart from Europe (minus 3.8 per cent) and the CIS area (minus 5.8 per cent).

Renewables' (excluding hydro) share of primary energy consumption reached 7.5 per cent, an increase of nearly 1 per cent over the previous year. Fossil fuel consumption as a percentage of primary energy remained steady at 82 per cent.

Carbon dioxide emissions from energy use, industrial processes, flaring and methane (in carbon dioxide equivalent terms) continued to rise to a new high growing 0.8 per cent in 2022 to 39.3 GtCO2e, with emissions from energy use rising 0.9 per cent to 34.4 GtCO2.

In contrast, carbon dioxide emissions from flaring decreased by 3.8 per cent and emissions from methane and industrial processes decreased by 0.2 per cent.

Global oil production increased by 3.8 million b/d in 2022. Saudi Arabia (1,182,000 b/d) and the United States (1,091,000 b/d), saw the largest increases. Nigeria reported the largest decline in production (184,000 b/d) with production in Libya declining by 181,000 b/d.

Natural gas prices reached record levels in Europe and Asia in 2022, rising nearly three-fold in Europe and doubling in the Asian LNG spot market.

Global natural gas demand declined by 3 per cent in 2022, dropping just below the 4 Tcm mark achieved for the first time in 2021. Its share in primary energy in 2022 decreased slightly to 24 per cent (from 25 per cent in 2021).

Global gas production remained relatively constant compared to 2021.

Japan replaced China as the world's largest LNG importer and accounted for close to 60 per cent of global LNG demand growth in 2022. The Asia Pacific region accounted for around 65 per cent of global LNG demand but fell 6.5 per cent compared to 2021 whilst Europe increased its LNG imports by 57 per cent.

Coal consumption continued to increase in 2022, rising 0.6 per cent on 2021 to 161 EJ; the highest level of coal consumption since 2014.

The growth in demand was largely driven by China (1 per cent) and India (4 per cent).

Coal consumption in both North America and Europe declined by 6.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively. In 2022, OECD coal consumption was around 10 per cent less than its 2019 pre-COVID level and non-OECD coal consumption over 6 per cent higher.

Global coal production increased by over 7 per cent last year compared to 2021, reaching a record high of 175 EJ. China, India, and Indonesia accounted for over 95 per cent of the increase in global production.

Renewable power (excluding hydro) rose by 14 per cent in 2022 to reach 40.9 EJ—slightly below the previous year's growth rate of 16 per cent.

Solar and wind capacity continued to grow rapidly in 2022 recording a record increase of 266 GW. Solar accounted for 72 per cent (192 GW) of the capacity additions.

The largest portion of solar and wind growth was in China, which accounted for about 37 per cent and 41 per cent of global capacity additions respectively.

Hydroelectricity generation increased by 1.1 per cent in 2022.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – June 27, 2023

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EU wants all textile waste rules in place by 2028, commissioner says

The European Commission wants all planned regulations requiring fashion companies to produce clothes in a more sustainable way to be in place by 2028, the EU environment commissioner said on Tuesday.

The Commission is looking to tackle textile consumption in Europe, which has the fourth highest impact on the environment and climate change after food, housing and transport.

Europe's biggest fast fashion firms Inditex (ITX.MC) and H&M (HMb.ST) show no signs of slowing down production, but are looking to use less water and energy and more recycled textiles.

"The fashion industry has kind of escaped regulation, but we see that they are a big pressure for natural resources and with regard to pollution. We have to react," Virginijus Sinkevičius said in an interview at the Global Fashion Summit in Copenhagen.

The Commission is drafting at least 16 pieces of legislation that will make fashion companies take responsibility for the environmental impacts of the clothes they produce.

'CHALLENGE' FOR FAST FASHION

Sinkevičius said the measures, which will be in place in the next 5 years, will be a "challenge" for fast fashion brands.

The Commission will require fashion companies to either collect an amount of textile waste that is equivalent to a certain percentage of their production, or pay a fee towards local authorities' waste collection work.

The amount will gradually increase every few years.

The Commission is still working on an initial percentage that fashion companies will have to collect.

"It definitely will be higher than 5%" of production, Sinkevičius said.

The European Union's goal is that, by 2030, fashion companies will produce more durable pieces that can be reused and more easily recycled.

Around 5.8 million tonnes of textile products are discarded every year in the EU, equivalent to 11 kg (24 lb) per person. A truckload of textile products is land-filled or incinerated somewhere in the world every second, according to EU figures.

The Commission is also working on regulations that would restrict brands' use of sustainable claims to advertise clothing. It estimates that half of these claims, or "eco-labels" are misleading.

The eco-label regulation on textiles will come into force at the beginning of next year, the commissioner said.

EU governments agreed last month that the bloc should also ban the destruction of unsold textiles as part of the EU's green strategy to encourage more reuse and recycling.

Source: reuters.com – June 27, 2023

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Mexico's booming exports provide more evidence of nearshoring

Mexico's exports were the second largest on record in May, providing additional evidence that the country is benefiting from a reorganization of global supply chains that's attracting companies closer to the US consumer market.

Total Mexican exports rose 5.8% from a year ago, reaching $52.9 billion, while imports grew 1.4% to $52.9 billion, the country's statistics institute reported on Tuesday. The value of non-oil shipments to the US increased 11.4% in annual terms, while sales to the rest of the world fell 3.5%.

The country posted a trade deficit of $74 million in May, significantly less than April's $1.5 billion and the $2.3 billion from a year ago, driven by a growing surplus of non-oil products and a lower deficit in the balance of oil-related products.

Latin America's second-largest economy continues to benefit from a boost in sales of manufactured goods, which made up 88.6% of all exports so far in 2023. Much of that corresponds to automotive shipments to the US, which jumped 31% in value from a year ago.

Mexico, particularly its northern states, is a favorite destination for companies that aim to relocate operations from China closer to the US, a process known as nearshoring. In March, Mexico's exports reached a record $53.6 billion, leading to an unexpected trade surplus.

Yet the positive number, particularly the performance of the automotive sector, may not be sustained considering the risk of a US recession, according to Andres Abadia, chief Latin America economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

"If this recovery is confirmed in the data for the next two months, we could begin to talk about a less negative external scenario for the Mexican economy," Abadia said. "But for now the short-term risks are biased downwards due to a potential recession in the US economy."

Source: economictimes.com – June 28, 2023

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Vietnam & Myanmar's apparel exports to Japan up in Jan-Apr 2023

During the first four months of 2023, China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Cambodia were the top five countries supplying Japan's apparel imports, accounting for 83.87 per cent of the total $7.883 billion worth of imports. Notably, while imports from China and Bangladesh decreased, those from Vietnam and Myanmar rose, with Cambodia also remaining in the positive.

The value of imports from China was $4.056 billion, or 51.45 per cent of total imports from January to April 2023. This represents a decrease of 2.91 per cent compared to the $4.178 billion worth of imports for the same period in 2022. Furthermore, this follows a 7.41 per cent decline that occurred between the corresponding periods of 2021 and 2022, according to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro.

Japan's apparel imports from Bangladesh also fell by 2.28 per cent, dropping from $471.090 million during January-April 2022 to $460.368 million in the same period in 2023. However, Bangladesh remained the third-largest supplier, accounting for 5.84 per cent of the trade.

Vietnam was the second-largest supplier, accounting for 15.77 per cent of the total imports from January to April 2023. Imports from Vietnam surged by 15.45 per cent, rising to $1,243.629 million from $1,077.170 million in the same period of 2022. Previously, the import value was registered at $1,185.232 million during the same period in 2021.

Meanwhile, Myanmar saw an impressive 37.32 per cent growth in its exports to Japan, contributing $448.794 million to Japan's apparel imports in the first four months of 2023. This figure is a significant increase from the $326.829 million worth of imports in the same period in 2022, which in turn had grown by 23.09 per cent from $265.524 million in January-April 2021.

Myanmar accounted for 5.69 per cent of Japan's total apparel imports from January to April 2023, holding the fourth position among suppliers. The value of inbound shipments from Cambodia in the first four months of this year was $403.998 million, making up 5.12 per cent of the total.

Cambodia was the fifth largest supplier of apparel imports to Japan. The supply edged up 1.5 per cent from $398.021 million in the same period last year. The trade was recorded at $396.705 million in January-April 2021, as per TexPro.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – June 28, 2023

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Vietnam's export revenue may hit $618 bn by 2030: Standard Chartered

Vietnam's role as a crucial driver of global trade is set to amplify, with projected export revenue reaching a remarkable $618 billion by 2030. A global trade figure of $32.6 trillion by 2030, growing at an annual rate of 5 per cent, is expected. Vietnam could eclipse the global average with a high growth rate of 7 per cent.

Textile and apparel exports from Vietnam are also set to surge, with an annual growth rate of 7.3 per cent, comprising 22 per cent of the export forecast in 2030. The US, Japan, and South Korea will remain the primary importers of these products, as per a report titled 'Future of Trade: New Opportunities in High-Growth Corridors' by Standard Chartered.

Asia, Africa, and the Middle East are anticipated to be the powerhouses of global trade, with Asia at the forefront. These regions' trade corridors are predicted to outstrip the global growth rate by up to four percentage points, fuelling a combined trade volume of $14.4 trillion, equivalent to 44 per cent of global trade by 2030.

Standard Chartered, in its 2021 report, had predicted Vietnam's exports to reach $535 billion by 2030. However, this projection has been revised significantly upwards in the latest report, reflecting an additional $83 billion in Vietnam's export forecast.

Key trading partners in the coming decade will include China, South Korea, and the US, while trade relations with India, Singapore, and Indonesia are projected to flourish.

By 2030, Vietnam's export landscape will be dominated by categories including machinery, accounting for 50 per cent of total exports, with a predicted annual growth rate of 6.6 per cent. The top export destination for this sector is likely to be China, followed by the US and South Korea. Meanwhile, exports to India are slated for significant expansion.

On the import front, Vietnam's imports are estimated to reach $578 billion by 2030, marking an annual growth of 6.9 per cent.

Maintaining its trade surplus, Vietnam will see China, South Korea, and Singapore as the leading importers of its commodities by 2030, with foreign-invested firms playing a pivotal role.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – June 27, 2023

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ASEAN members attract over 10% of FDI since 2018, US leading investor

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have attracted more than 10 per cent of global direct investment flows since 2018, according to France's central bank. They have benefitted enormously from the globalisation of value chains as the global economy's centre of gravity shifts towards the Asia-Pacific region, it noted.

The United States continues to be the leading investor country in the region, accounting for 19 per cent of the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) in ASEAN countries, compared with just 3 per cent for China (8 per cent if Hong Kong is included), the central bank said.

To continue to attract FDI and boost trade integration, ASEAN countries need to work together to maintain an investment-friendly environment for foreign investors. However, these countries differ widely in terms of their political, institutional and regulatory frameworks, it noted.

Reducing internal political risk is also a prerequisite for more effective integration. Moreover, while it is possible to ease the restrictions on FDI, governments need to act together to make environmental, social and corporate governance standards more effective, it commented.

The boom in socially responsible investment is also a key issue in which FDI has a specific role to play, especially in terms of greening the economy and financing the climate transition. As such, data do not yet provide any tangible proof of such a boom, it said.

The pandemic resulted in a 30 per cent decline in FDI flows in 2020, followed by a return to 2019 levels in 2021. RCEP signatory countries accounted for 30-40 per cent of FDI received by the ASEAN community when flows between signatory countries are included, a significant proportion but still a minority when compared with flows from third (mainly non-Asian) countries, which continue to provide the bulk of all flows. FDI flows include both greenfield investments and mergers and acquisitions.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – June 27, 2023

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Bangladesh bankers hike dollar purchase rate for exporters to Tk 107.5

Bankers in Bangladesh yesterday hiked dollar purchase rate for exporters to arrive at a unified rate for the greenback by September. Exporters will receive Tk 107.5 for a US dollar from July 2—up from Tk 107, the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (BAFEDA) said in a circular.

Other rates for the US dollar will remain unchanged.

The aim is to reduce the gap among dollar rates, said Selim RF Hussain, chairman of Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB), after a joint meeting with BAFEDA.

Remitters will receive Tk 108.5 for a US dollar apart from the 2.5 per cent incentive offered by the government.

The rate of dollar for inter-bank transaction is as much as Tk 109 for a dollar, a Bangladesh newspaper reported.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 27, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

Sh. Goyal praises all stakeholders of GeM for being a catalyst of change

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal highlighted the "10x" growth in procurement from Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in the last three years. The Minister praised all the stakeholders of GeM for being a catalyst of change during his address at the 'Kreta-Vikreta Gaurav Samman Samaroh 2023' organized by GeM in New Delhi yesterday.

Shri Piyush Goyal lauded the efforts of the awardees, whose contribution has brought about the transformational change in the public procurement landscape of the country. The Minister noted that GeM is endeavouring to achieve the vision of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi of a unified, transparent and efficient procurement system through leveraging technology and analytics. He emphasised how GeM has enabled benefits of scale and achieved multidimensional growth in the last 7 years.

Shri Piyush Goyal said that the saving of taxpayers' money due to increased use of GeM by Central and State Departments for procurement of goods and services has resulted in its better utilisation for public welfare projects. The Minister expressed hope that overall procurement of goods and services from the government portal GeM would cross Rs 3 lakh Crore in FY 2022-23 as it has already crossed Rs 2 lakh crore in 2022-23.

The Minister said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is continuously trying to improvise the system. Shri Goyal said that a new system is being developed at GeM, which will be more contemporary and modern with more elements for ease of operations. He said that data analytics will be offered in the new system to help the buyers and sellers in making decisions related to procurement. Shri Goyal said that India's largest software exporter TCS has won the contract for running and maintaining the government procurement portal GeM.

The award ceremony was also graced by the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Smt. Anupriya Patel, CEO, GeM, Sh. P.K. Singh, senior officials from the Government and dignitaries from the industry. During the ceremony, the winners were felicitated by Sh. Piyush Goyal and Smt. Anupriya Patel.

GeM organized the 'क्रेता-विक्रेता गौरव सम्मान समारोह 2023' to recognize the outstanding performance of government buyers and sellers in the public procurement process through GeM. The buyer-seller award ceremony is an initiative by GeM to acknowledge the efforts of government buyers and sellers who have performed exceptionally well in using the platform for the procurement process in FY 22-23.

GeM has been instrumental in transforming the way government procurement is done in India. Established in 2016, GeM was set up with a vision to bring about a paradigm shift in the country's public procurement landscape. The platform has enabled transparency, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in the procurement process, making it easier for buyers to procure goods and services from sellers across the country.

As on 31st March 2023, GeM had recorded a staggering ₹ 2 lakh crore of Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) in FY 2022-23. Cumulatively, GeM has surpassed the ₹ 4.29 lakh crore GMV since its inception, with the overwhelming support of its stakeholders. The total number of transactions on GeM has also crossed 1.54 crore. GeM is catering to the diverse procurement needs of over 69,000 government buyer organisations. The portal features over 11,800+ product categories as well as over 280+ service categories. Based on various studies, the minimum savings on the platform are about 10%, which translates into a savings of ~ ₹ 40,000 crore worth of public money.

The Government e-Market (GeM) portal was launched on August 9, 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for online purchases of goods and services by all the Central Government Ministries and Departments. GeM has over 63,000 government buyer organisations and over 62 lakh sellers and service providers offering a wide range of products and services.

Source: pib.gov.in– June 27, 2023

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India's PLI scheme is up for review: What's the status of mega manufacturing plan?

The government is reviewing its Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme today to address structural problems as well as snags. The government might consider reopening the window for several sectors and also extending it to more sectors. The PLI scheme was first introduced in 2020 for three sectors and more were added to it later.

Today, the PLI scheme is available in 14 manufacturing sectors: mobiles, medical devices, telecom & networking products, automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals, drugs, white goods, specialty steel, electronic products, food products, textile products, solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell battery and drones and drone components.

The PLI schemes are the cornerstone of the government's push to domestic manufacturing. By subsiding production, the government aims to boost exports, curb cheap imports and generate jobs by creating global manufacturing champions.

How has the PLI scheme performed so far?

In its three years, the PLI scheme has been launched for different sectors at different times. The government has allocated Rs 1.97 lakh crore for the PLI schemes for the 14 sectors.

Till March 2023, 733 applications were approved in 14 sectors with expected investment of Rs 3.65 lakh crore. Actual investment of Rs 62,500 crore has been realized till March 2023 which has resulted in incremental production/ sales of over Rs 6.75 lakh crore and employment generation of around 3,25,000.

Incentive claims of over Rs 3,420 crore have been received under the scheme for eight sectors – large-scale electronics manufacturing; electronics and technology products; bulk drugs; medical devices; pharmaceuticals; telecom and networking products; food items; and drones, of which over Rs 2,800 crore have already been disbursed. The highest disbursal of Rs 1,649 crore was made in large-scale electronics manufacturing, followed by pharmaceuticals at Rs 652 crore, and food products at Rs 486 crore.

"We expect the disbursement to pick up...Projects are on the ground, and investments and employment are happening. The disbursement will follow...But yes, there is a lag," Rajesh Kumar Singh, the Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) siad recently.

There was an increase of 76 per cent in foreign direct investment in the manufacturing sector in 2021-22 ($21.34 billion) compared to 2020-21 ($12.09 billion).

Mobile phone sector is a PLI success story

India is set to cross Rs 1,20,000 crore in mobile phone exports in the current financial year compared to Rs 90,000 crore in the previous financial year, driven by tech giant Apple, on the back of the PLI scheme, says India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). It says that mobile phone exports have already registered a massive 128 per cent growth in the months of April-May this year.

The government’s production-linked incentive scheme for mobile phones may drive Apple to shift at least 18% of its global iPhone production to India by FY2025, a recent report by Bank of America has said. Currently, India contributes 7% to Apple's total smartphone production.

The PLI scheme helped improve the export mix in local production from 16% on-year to 25%, says the report, adding that this can enable India to become a “credible global supply chain alternative” for mobile phones and electronics.

India's electronics imports stood at $77 billion in FY23, which is the second-largest import bill representing a fifth of the country’s trade deficit. However, the PLI scheme, the report says, will help in India’s efforts to cut imports and step up exports which can improve its macroeconomic outlook, and reduce the current account deficit by $112 billion over five years, provide stability in foreign exchange, and accelerate growth for capex, credit, and logistics sector.

Accoridng to a govenrment official, India has been able to increase the value addition in mobile manufacturing to 20 per cent within a period of three years whereas Vietnam achieved 18 per cent value addition over 15 years and China achieved 49 per cent value addition in over 25 years. Import substitution of 60 per cent has been achieved in the telecom sector and India has become almost self–reliant in Antennae, GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) and CPE (Customer Premises Equipment).

Where PLI scheme doesn't meet expectations

The eight sectors where PLI performance is healthy include large-scale electronics manufacturing, pharma, food processing, telecom, white goods, auto and auto components. Sectors which are not picking up well include high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries, textile products and speciality steel.

One reason for the PLI scheme not resulting in desired level of investment is a very short window for the cheme. Now the government is reportedly considering reopening the PLI window for some sectors. For example, large global players have given the PLI scheme a miss in the battery sector. which is likely due to a short window as investment decisions take time to firm up.

Apart from electronics (mobile phones and IT hardware), the other schemes have not seen large-scale participation by global majors. The solar PLI has seen only First Solar show interest. Sector majors are missing in the PLI scheme for semiconductor manufacturing too, though the government is reportedly reopening the scheme for this sector. The process to claim incentives is also a challenge for beneficiaries and the government is likely to make it smoother.

A Credit Suisse report said in December last year that the scheme has turned out to be a mixed bag as many of the schemes seem to be very generic (food processing, pharma and textiles) and incentivise regular business activity.

Some of the schemes have been designed to accommodate as many players as possible (over 50 in many cases), rather than a few champions, said the credit Suisse report. The industry has also complained about low incentives, high investment requirements and high sales threshold in many cases.

PLI for more sectors

The government is also planning to add more sectors to the PLI scheme. A govenrment official had recently informed that proposals for extending fiscal benefits under the PLI scheme for toys, leather and footwear and components for new-age bicycles are in advanced stages.

"PLI scheme is showing significant dividends across many sectors. The intention is to also roll out this PLI scheme for more labour-intensive sectors such as toys, leather and footwear and other such sectors where employment benefits will be more significant," he said.

Source: economictimes.com– June 27, 2023

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India watchful as EU works on human rights, environment directives for industry

India is bracing for yet another EU sustainability regulation, this time in the form of proposed due diligence obligations with respect to human rights and the environment, and is studying its possible impact and ways of mitigation, sources tracking the matter have said.

"In addition to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the "Deforestation-Free" regulations, a proposed EU legislation on due diligence obligations with respect to human rights and the environment is set to make things difficult for Indian exporters to the bloc. The draft circulated by the EU provides for an enforcement mechanism with possible sanctions for violations," the source said.

Target sectors

As the proposed legislation, called the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (DD), targetting "high impact" sectors such as textiles, agriculture, and mining, has still not been formalised, Indian officials are studying its possible implications and weighing various options for dealing with it. Some EU countries, such as Germany, have already come up with their own legislation on due diligence, and New Delhi is studying those as well.

"India will start talking to the EU once the draft legislation is adopted, but officials want to be well prepared as it could have serious implications for exporters. It is especially true for MSME suppliers. They may not be in a position to submit all the information asked for by the EU importers to complete their due diligence process for possible human rights abuse, including the use of child labour, and environmental degradation," the source said.

As the burden of proof is on EU importers, who may face various penalties in case there is a breach in obligations from their suppliers side, they would be very careful in their sourcing, the source added.

"There is a risk that many Indian exporters to the EU would lose business if the importers are not satisfied with the response to the information that they seek," the source said.

The EU is one of India's largest trading partners, accounting for 16.6 per cent of the country's total exports in 2022–23 at $74.83 billion. India exports a wide variety of products to the EU, including engineering goods, textiles, leather, agricultural produce, and gems and jewellery.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– June 27, 2023

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Very optimistic about FTA with India, says UK Investment Minister

An India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) is really important for both nations and it is for businesses on both sides to help drive that agenda, UK Minister for Investment Lord Dominic Johnson said in London on Tuesday.

Addressing a UK-India Infrastructure Summit hosted by the City of London Corporation as part of the India Global Forum UK-India Week, Johnson said he is very optimistic about an FTA even as he declined to put a timeframe to it.

India and the UK recently concluded their tenth round of FTA negotiations and an 11th round is set to begin in the next few weeks towards a comprehensive agreement expected to significantly enhance the bilateral trading relationship worth an estimated 34 billion pounds in 2022.

I'm very optimistic about a free trade deal with India, said Johnson.

It is hugely important for India if it wants to get the capital flows it needs to take itself to the next step, which is to become a global hyperpower economically. And it's very good for the UK if we're going to ensure that we've got the investment coming from India, he said.

The minister went on to make a clarion call for representatives of business and industry gathered at the summit to be more vocal about voicing their support for such an FTA.

It's really important for businesses to express their support for such a deal because it's about allowing businesses to function more effectively with greater profits, wealth and security for the world, he said.

Describing the India-UK relationship as the most symbiotic partnership, the minister also backed a City of London suggestion for a new UK-India Green Finance Partnership to promote greater two-way green investment flows.

I truly believe India has reached escape velocity as an economy. And, I truly believe that the UK is literally India's best friend, and the best placed country to take advantage of what is such a mutually beneficial long-term financial partnership, he added.

Under the theme of Financing a Sustainable Future, the summit highlighted the immense scope and potential for investment in sustainable infrastructure development in India, and London's expertise in meeting India's growing demand for green finance.

The UK, particularly the City of London, has excellent capabilities in structuring and funnelling finance where it is needed. The UK has demonstrated technological capabilities while India is at the frontiers of innovation. Combining technology with financing would enhance the cooperation, said BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog.

I would argue that your interests are best served in aligning with us in making sure that the transformation of India happens in a way that does not replicate any of the faults of the past, noted Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

The summit, which forms part of a six-day series of events running until Friday as part of UK-India Week, opened with a keynote address by the Lord Mayor of the City of London Nicholas Lyon.

Sustainable infrastructure is critical for India's economic trajectory and to meet the needs of its fast-growing population, while fulfilling its ambition to reach net zero by 2070. With strong government backing and unparalleled global expertise in sustainable finance and infrastructure financing solutions, the City of London and the UK can help India to access one of the largest and diversified global capital pools on the best possible terms, he said.

"As the fastest growing major economy in the world, and the most populous, India has huge aspirations and equally huge responsibilities. The rapid building of high quality sustainable physical and digital infrastructure will be critical to achieving India's growth trajectory, as well as balancing its net zero commitments," added Manoj Ladwa of India Global Forum, organisers of UK-India Week.

Source: business-standard.com– June 27, 2023

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Policy for e-commerce exports

India's e-commerce exports are only $2 billion, which is less than half per cent of $447.46 billion exports in 2022-23.

Global e-commerce exports are estimated to touch $2 trillion by 2025. To explore the potential of e-commerce in the range of $200 billion to $ 250 billion by 2030, India needs to solve the SME exporter's problems by formulating an e-Commerce Export policy.

However, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 took several initiatives to increase the value limit of exports through couriers by increasing e-commerce exports from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh per shipment. Yet, the current export regulations place a heavy burden on exporters and tend to hamper the SMEs' exports.

Ninety per cent of e-commerce exporters are small and medium-sized businesses. To this end, FISME (Indian Small and Medium Enterprises Federation) has conducted detailed studies on the e-commerce export policies of some major countries. The e-commerce export policies of China, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, and other countries have helped many small and medium-sized businesses to sell worldwide.

The e-commerce policy has to align with the amendments proposed in the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Law of 2020 by the Department of Consumer Affairs. In addition to the Direct Foreign Trade Law and the Consumer Protection Law, e-commerce is also regulated by the Information Technology Act and the Competition Act.

The e-commerce export policy should be jointly formulated by the customs and the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) and the RBI after necessary changes in their regulations, including redefining the responsibilities of sellers and simplifying payment facilitation, accounts and procedures.

A National Trade Ecosystem should bring together the RBI, Customs, DGFT, GSTN, India Post, couriers, e-commerce companies and the user to form a centralised technology platform as a single green channel for e-commerce exports, simple documentation and customs clearance for shipments to ensure delivery on time.

Anyone entering the e-commerce business should be familiar with e-payment, e-signature, e-shipping and other digital solutions.

SMEs rely on online platforms for value-added services such as international expansion and on-time payment guarantees. However, it is said this is against FEMA (Exchange Administration Act) regulations as the platform is responsible for collecting payments while ownership of the product remains with the seller. Refunds are a major issue for third-party e-commerce exporters, and RBI guidelines for business-to-business (B2B) exporters need to be revised accordingly.

The 25 per cent discount cap on is limited to e-commerce sales, discounts and returns. These exporters can be facilitated with separate customs clearance regimes for their goods, waiver of import duties on rejected goods, and treatment of returned goods as non-commercial goods, reducing costs and expediting the delivery of goods worldwide. It is the norm and permits these exporters to refund.

The way forward

Educating SMEs about the global value chain and applying best practices will help them grow their business by strengthening their e-commerce platform.

It also needs to protect small businesses from cyber scams. States can work with Districts Industries Centres (DICs) to establish Export Facilitation Cells (EFCs) to identify products and markets and meet export compliances. Cross-border e-trade can play a major role in helping India to achieve the $1 trillion export milestone.

The e-commerce domestic market size of $22 billion in 2019, grew to $49 billion in 2022 and is expected to grow to $60 billion in 2023. No stone should be left unturned as Indian SMEs are poised to become the global market leaders.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– June 26, 2023

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Market size of India's online retail sector likely to touch $325-bn by 2030: Deloitte India report

The country's online retail market size may touch $325 billion by 2030 against $70 billion in 2022, mainly due to rapid growth of e-commerce in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, according to a Deloitte India report released on Tuesday.

It also said that online retail penetration is projected to grow at an extraordinary rate, and it would outpace offline retail by 2.5 times in the next decade.

As India ascends to become the world's third-largest consumer market, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP's (Deloitte India's) 'Future of Retail' report "foresees the online retail sector, which stood at $70 billion in 2022, to surge to $325 billion by 2030".

The report attributes these projections to the rapid growth of e-commerce in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, which have surpassed tier-1 markets in terms of total orders.

In 2022, these cities accounted for over 60 per cent of all orders, with tier-3 cities experiencing a remarkable 65 per cent growth in order volume and tier-2 cities witnessing a substantial 50 per cent growth, it said.

"The surge in online retail can be attributed to various factors. The convenience of ordering and returns, bolstered by a robust logistics infrastructure spanning over 19,000 pin codes, has played a pivotal role," it added.

Additionally, the report said that India boasts a digitally savvy consumer base of 220 million online shoppers, further driving the growth of e-commerce.

Furthermore, the sector has witnessed significant investments from private equity and venture capital firms, totalling $23 billion over the past five years, the report said.

Online sales are poised to surpass organised retail, with a growing emphasis on omnichannel retail strategies where retailers seamlessly integrate their offline and online channels to provide consumers with the best of both worlds, it added.

"I am optimistic about the exponential growth potential of India's retail sector, driven by rising incomes, the expanding middle-class and rapid digitalisation.

"By harnessing the power of technology, sustainability and forward-thinking strategies, retailers can create an ecosystem that not only meets evolving consumer demands but also sets new benchmarks for value, engagement and unforgettable shopping experiences," Anand Ramanathan, Partner, and Consumer Industry Leader - Consulting, Deloitte India, said.

Further, it suggested that the new commerce channels driven by factors like increased internet use in tier 2 cities, ease of starting online businesses, government support, convenience, personalisation, easy discovery and payment and trust in influencers are set to redefine the retail landscape in the country.

"Augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), the Metaverse and experiential retail are transforming customer interactions. Retailers can enhance customer engagement, satisfaction and sales by creating captivating and interactive shopping environments," the report said.

Integrating kiranas into the larger retail ecosystem opens up new markets, expands product range and strengthens their business presence, it added.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– June 27, 2023

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Indian cotton prices decline on slack demand, slow yarn movement

Cotton prices have declined nearly 7.5 per cent over the past month due to its lack of movement and slack demand for yarn. However, industry experts say once the natural fibre's prices stabilise, the industry might turn confident and return to buy.

"Currently, the situation is bad. There is no movement in cotton bales and yarn due to low demand. Mills are curtailing the production due to low yarn prices and lower demand," said Ramanuj Das Boob, a sourcing agent for multinationals based in Raichur, Karnataka.

"Ginning mills (which process raw cotton into lint or cotton bale) have orders for a month. After that, they are yet to get orders. The demand is slack and yarn exports have slowed," said Anand Popat, a Rajkot-based trader in cotton, yarn and cotton waste.

Impact of exports

"Global demand is down and it has affected exports. The domestic market is unable to absorb the material diverted from the export market to the domestic market," said Ravi Sam, Chairman, Southern India Mills Association (SIMA).

"Reports are indicating lower cotton yarn inventories in all major markets including China on a year-on-year and historical average basis," said Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor, Indian Texpreneurs Federation (ITF).

Cotton prices are currently ruling at ₹55,500-56,000 a candy (356 kg), down from ₹60,000 a month ago. The modal price (the rate at which most trades take place) of kapas (raw cotton) is ruling at ₹7,100 a quintal at Rajkot agricultural produce marketing committee yard — down ₹200 since the beginning of this month.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, August cotton contracts were quoted at ₹55,720 a candy. On the InterContinental Exchange, New York, July contracts were quoting at 79.63 US cents (about ₹53,000 a candy).

Discount for yarn

According to SIMA's Sam, textile exports declined 14 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal with shipments of textiles dropping 23 per cent. Exports of yarn, fabric and made-ups slipped 26.7 per cent.

In May, the downtrend continued with textile exports sliding 12 per cent overall, he said.

"There is no yarn movement despite spinning mills providing ₹30/kg discount to particularly hosiery manufacturers. Mills have to incur ₹15-20 a kg loss," the SIMA Chairman said. The Ukraine war and the economic situation in the US and Europe have compounded the situation.

"Spinning mills in North India have yarn stocks for 2 months. The yarn movement is very slow," said Popat.

Upswing from July?

"Current market rates will force every player to incur losses. No one is willing to sell cotton or yarn at lower prices," Das Boob said.

ITF's Dhamodharan, however, sounded optimistic. "The current bottoming out of yarn prices will lead to some steady buying from international buyers. We hope that, with stability in cotton prices, our monthly export numbers will improve further from July," he said.

Sam said relief measures such as allowing imports sans duty and conclusion of free trade pact with the European Union and United Kingdom will help the sector rebound.

"Cotton arrivals continue to be 65,000-70,000 bales daily and prices are slipping to the new MSP rate (₹6,620 a quintal)," said Das Boob.

Cotton arrivals are unusually high since April this year — a lean arrival season — as farmers had held back their produce expecting higher prices.
A matter of time

"Arrivals will continue till September, though they are a tad lower now due to monsoon rains," said Popat.

Dhamodharan said yarn inventories with domestic buyers are low level and they are realising that current prices are attractive and evincing interest in usual buying.

"Cotton price stability at a particular range for two more weeks will create further confidence and normalcy may return to the trade soon" he said.

Export bookings are brisk but price is the key factor. The only issue is prices need to be consistent. "That's the factor we need to watch," the ITF Convenor said.

"It is just a matter of time before demand picks up, provided the Centre has the right policies in place," the chairman of SIMA said.
Sowing hit

Das Boob said the delay in monsoon has affected cotton cultivation as sowing is yet to begin in southern states. However, the area has increased in Saurashtra, Gujarat, besides Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, cotton cultivation is 14.2 per cent lower as of June 23 at 28.02 lakh hectares.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– June 28, 2023

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North India's cotton yarn market remains bearish, but Delhi shows hope

The cotton yarn trade in north India began the week on a subdued note, with prices easing in the Ludhiana and Delhi markets. Despite this, there's hope for a recovery in buying interest in Delhi due to increased enquiries, making the lower prices more appealing for prospective buyers. Mills have decreased their prices to attract more customers, in response to a decline in cotton fibre costs. However, the market for recycled yarn in Panipat remained stagnant, with weaker consumer demand for home furnishings at the retail level impeding buying momentum.

In Ludhiana, cotton yarn prices continued to trend lower, reflecting a persistently bearish market sentiment. The lack of improved buying interest from consumer industries and exporters contributed to the weak trend. A Trader from Ludhiana market told Fibre2Fashion, “The market has not yet seen the end of the bearish tone. Buyers remain reluctant to make new deals as they do not anticipate an improvement in fabric purchasing.”

In Ludhiana, the price for 30 count cotton combed yarn was between ₹260-270 per kg (GST inclusive), while 20 and 25 count combed yarns traded between ₹250-255 per kg and ₹255-260 per kg respectively. Carded yarn of 30 count traded at ₹240-250 per kg, according to Fibre2Fashion’s TexPro market insight tool.

Meanwhile, in Delhi, although the cotton yarn prices also weakened, traders remained hopeful of better buying at the lower prices. A trader from the Delhi market told F2F, "The market is experiencing stable demand due to increased trade enquiries, which could potentially boost market demand. The current prices are more attractive for buyers." The prices of cotton yarn fell by ₹3-5 per kg over the last couple of days. The 30 count combed yarn was traded at ₹260-265 per kg (GST extra), 40 count combed at ₹285-290 per kg, 30 count carded at ₹232-237 per kg and 40 count carded at ₹262-267 per kg, according to TexPro.

The market for recycled yarn in Panipat was quiet, with buyers acting cautiously when making new purchases. The market for recycled yarn has been facing sluggish demand from both domestic and international markets. Traders are uncertain about the level of demand during the upcoming festival season, which is set to begin next month.

In Panipat, 10s recycled PC yarn (grey) was traded at ₹77-82 per kg (GST paid). Other varieties and counts were noted at 10s recycled PC yarn (black) ₹48-52 per kg, 20s recycled PC yarn (grey) at ₹92-97 per kg and 30s recycled PC yarn (grey) at ₹135-140 per kg. Comber prices was hovering at ₹120-122 per kg. Recycled polyester fibre (PET bottle fibre) noted at ₹69-72 per kg.

Despite the reduced cotton supply and stocks held by ginning mills, cotton prices in north India continued to decline. Reduced buying from spinning mills has resulted in losses for the natural fibre. Traders indicated that cotton yarn prices fell by a further ₹50-75 per maund of 37.2 kg. Cotton arrivals dropped to just one thousand bales of 170 kg. Market estimates suggest that ginners have a stock of 150,000 bales, which is lower than the average for this time in the cotton marketing season. Cotton traded at ₹5,800-5,900 per maund in Punjab, ₹5,550-5,600 per maund in Haryana, and ₹5,900-6,000 per maund in upper Rajasthan. Lower Rajasthan saw the natural fibre being sold at ₹54,500-56,000 per candy (356 kg).

Source: fibre2fashion.com– June 26, 2023

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Kitex manufacturing units to be opened in Kakatiya Mega Textiles Park soon

HYDERABAD: Less than two years after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State government, Kerala-based garments major Kitex Group is gearing up to start operations for a fibre-to-apparel manufacturing cluster in Kakatiya Mega Textiles Park (KMTP), Warangal.

This facility would be inaugurated by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao soon. Through its units in KMTP, Kitex would do cotton spinning, knitting, bleaching, dyeing, printing, cutting, and sewing. As many as 22,000 people would be employed directly and 18,000 indirectly. On Tuesday, IT & Industries Minister KT Rama Rao tweeted, "Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, Warangal spread over 1,350 acres is the largest textile park in India. The Kitex units are gearing up for inauguration by CM KCR in a couple of months (sic)."

A few days back, the foundation stone was laid for Youngone and Evertop Textile and Apparel Complex Pvt Ltd in KMTP. The Korean-based company intends to establish 11 units within the KMTP, creating approximately 21,000 jobs for the locals. Though Kitex exporters initially signed an agreement with the Telangana government for investment to the tune of `2,400 crore in the State, it has increased its investment proposal to `3,200 crore to set up two garment units in Warangal and Sitarampur Industrial Park, Rangareddy.

Two years ago, Kitex had scrapped its `3,500-crore investment project in Kerala after various government departments conducted 11 surprise inspections on its premises within a month. The company had received invitations from nine States in the country and countries such as Sri Lanka, the UAE, Bahrain, Mauritius and Bangladesh after it announced the decision. This apart, UAE and Oman offered the opportunity to start a unit in the free zones with tax benefits.

The Kitex Group initially made aluminium products such as kitchen utensils and cookware in the 1970s before venturing into production of spices, textiles and bags, going on to become one of the largest infant clothing manufacturers in the country.

Source: newindianexpress.com – June 28, 2023

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Seven products from Uttar Pradesh get Geographical Indication tag

The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has given tags to seven different products from Uttar Pradesh. 'Amroha Dholak', 'Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip', 'Mainpuri Tarkashi', 'Sambhal Horn Craft', 'Baghpat Home Furnishings', 'Barabanki Handloom Product' and 'Kalpi Handmade Paper' are the products that been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

The Amroha Dholak is a musical instrument made of natural wood. Mango, jackfruit and teakwood is preferred for making the dholak's. Wood from mango and sheesham trees are used to carve the multiple sized and shaped hollow blocks, which are later fitted with animal skin, mostly goatskin, to create the instrument. It is learnt that there are around 300 small units producing wood-based drum instruments (dholak), which provide employment to over 1,000 artisans. The application for the Amroha Dholak was filed by Artisans Welfare Society, Mohalla - Danishmandan, Amroha, Uttar Pradesh.

The application for Baghpat Home Furnishings was filed by the Directorate of Handloom and Textile Industries, Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Master Weavers Cooperative Society Limited. Baghpat and Meerut are famous for their exclusive handloom home furnishing product and running fabrics in cotton yarn since generations, and only cotton yarn are used in the handloom weaving process. Baghpat is famous for weaving on the frame loom instead of the pit loom since generations.

The Barabanki Handloom Product has also being bestowed with a GI tag. The Directorate of Handloom and Textile Industries, Government of Uttar Pradesh, along with Bhartiya Bunkar Sahkari Samiti Limited had filed the application for this product. According to details available in the filing, there are around 50,000 weavers and 20,000 looms at Barabanki and adjoining area. The annual turnover of the Barabanki cluster is projected to be ₹150 crore.

For Kalpi Handmade Paper, the application was filed by Hasht Nirmit Kagaj Samiti, Industrial Estate, Kalpi, Uttar Pradesh. Kalpi has historically been a centre of handmade paper manufacturing. Historical details available in the filing show that Munnalal 'Khaddari', a Gandhian, formally introduced the craft here in the 1940s, though many locals say that Kalpi's association with paper-making dates further back into history. The handmade paper-making cluster at Kalpi is a huge cluster, engaging more than 5,000 craftsmen and approximately 200 units.

The Mahoba Gaura Patthar Hastashlip is a stone craft. It is a very unique and soft stone with scientific name, the 'Pyro Flight Stone'. Gaura stone craft is made of radiant white-coloured stone that is predominantly found in this region. It is cut into several pieces, which are then used for making various craft items.

Mainpuri Tarkash and Sambhal Horn Craft are the other two products that clinched the GI tag.

Tarkashi, a popular art form from Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, is primarily brass wire inlay work on wood. It was mainly used for khadaous (wooden sandals), a necessity for every household, since leather was considered unclean. And for the Sambhal Horn Craft, the raw material is procured from dead animals. They are completely hand-made.

A Geographical Indication is a label that is applied to products that have a specific geographical origin and that have characteristics related to a particular location.

Source: thehindu.com – June 27, 2023

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MoUs for ₹1,723 cr investment signed in Tamil Nadu, expected to generate 30,000 jobs

Investments worth ₹1,723.05 crore were confirmed at the International Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day function held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday, while a special government scheme for SC/ST entrepreneurs was also launched.

The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding), signed in the presence of the Chief Minister, would help in creating employment for about 30,000 people.

An MoU between FaMe TN (Facilitating MSMEs in Tamil Nadu) and SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) was inked to attract investments worth ₹1,510 crore to provide jobs for 7,400 people.

The Chief Minister inaugurated three new industrial estates at Kodur in Chengalpattu district, Manapparai in Tiruchirappalli, and Sakkimangalam in Madurai district at an estimated cost of ₹153.22 crore providing employment to 21,500 people and also a cashew processing cluster at Kadampuliyur in Cuddalore district under the MSME cluster development scheme for ₹2.16 crore including a government subsidy of ₹1.81 crore.

A virtual business-to-business (B2B) pavilion aimed at creating a market opportunity was also launched on the occasion, an official release said. The first Common Facility Centre under the Micro Cluster Development programme and sectoral trade exhibition was also inaugurated.

Stalin launched the Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme (AABSC) to empower SC/ST entrepreneurs and issued sanction orders for extending subsidies to the tune of ₹18.94 crore to 100 beneficiaries to mark the birth centenary of former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi. He handed over the key of an earthmover to a beneficiary. MSME minister T M Anbarasan and officials participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Stalin said the State government was giving special attention to the development of MSME sector that contributes greatly to the economic development of Tamil Nadu.

As announced by the government, efforts were on to establish four major clusters -- one each in Tindivanam for pharmaceutical products, and Thirumudivakkam for precision engineering -- and steps are underway to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) for setting up aerospace and defence macro cluster and Smart Mobility automobile cluster, the Chief Minister said.

A total of 6,257 startups have registered in Tamil Nadu on the Startup India platform and the number of enterprises registered in the last two years since the DMK came to power is more than double the registrations from 2016 to 2021, indicating a positive growth graph, he said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com – June 27, 2023

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