



**IBTEX No. 179 of 2023**

**October 12, 2023**

<b>Currency Watch</b>			
<b>USD</b>	<b>EUR</b>	<b>GBP</b>	<b>JPY</b>
<b>83.16</b>	<b>88.39</b>	<b>102.40</b>	<b>0.56</b>

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **China's improved cotton variety boosts yields, promotes environmental sustainability**

China has developed a higher-yielding cotton variety, with better quality and more resistance to pests. The China Cotton Association says growing this new cotton requires less human interference and use of pesticide.

This enables the crop to maintain a naturally soft texture and better breathability. Under upgraded standards, cotton growing should minimize its impact on water resources, soil and biodiversity, while reducing carbon emissions. Many experimental fields have been established across Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the leading producer of cotton in China.

Source: news.cgtn.com – Oct 11, 2023

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## **Bangladesh's exports to Spain rise by 37pc in 5yrs**

Bangladesh's exports to Spain grew by 37 per cent in the past five years due mainly to increased shipments of readymade garments.

Spain is the 4th largest export destination for Bangladesh and local businesses see huge potential for Bangladesh to grow in the market with diversified products beyond apparel.

The bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Spain also increased by nearly 36 per cent in the period to \$4.64 billion in 2022 from \$3.42 billion in 2018, according to the statistics of the International Trade Centre, a joint subsidiary organ of the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations. The data showed that Bangladesh's exports to Spain in 2022 increased to \$4.42 billion from \$3.23 billion in 2018.

Businesses said that Bangladesh's exports to Spain were heavily concentrated to readymade garment, but the country (Bangladesh) could gain more market share with exporting leather products, home textiles, pharmaceuticals, agro products and handicrafts to the market.

Apparel exporters, however, said that they have scope for gaining significant market share in Spain, but the local industry must have to develop its capacity to maintain export orders with a shorter lead time. The ITC data showed that Bangladesh's apparel exports to Spain in 2022 stood at \$4.22 billion against Spain's total apparel imports of \$22.33 billion from different countries.

Of the \$4.22 billion, the exports earnings from knitwear stood at \$2.46 billion while the earnings from woven garments were at \$1.76 billion.

'Spain is one of the largest trading partners for Bangladesh. We have scope to grow the both way business through strengthening engagements in both in public and private sectors,' Kabir Ahmed, secretary general of the Spain-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told New Age on Tuesday.

He said that Bangladesh needed to adopt a strategy to tap the full potential of the Spain market.

‘Beyond apparel, we have scope to exports leather goods, pharmaceuticals, agro products and handicrafts. And to do so, we need branding Bangladesh,’ Kabir, also the chairman of Conveyor Logistics Ltd, said. The SBCCI wants to hold an exhibition in Spain next year with the aim of increasing trade and investment between the two countries, he said.

‘We have already proposed the Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh to approve the exhibition in Spain for marketing our products,’ Kabir said. To gain more market share, Bangladesh should explore the need of Spanish, he added.

Apart from apparel, Bangladesh exports frozen fish, home textiles, jute goods, leather products and handicrafts to Spain in negligible quantities. The yearly imports by Bangladesh from Spain were \$214 million in 2022, the ITC data showed. The major import items from Spain were chemicals, including tanning or dyeing extracts, soap, organic surf-active agents, lubricating, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical machinery and equipment and parts and olive oil.

Fazlul Hoque, a former president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said that there was immense potential for Bangladesh to increase its apparel exports to Spain in significant amount, but speed was the key challenge. He said that the Spanish brands and buyers have adopted the real ‘Fast Fashion’ business model with 30-35 days shipment time of their import orders.

Despite having potential for gaining more market share in Spain, many Bangladeshi exporters cannot maintain the shorter lead time, Fazlul Hoque said. Fazlul, also one of the largest apparel exporters to the European Union, said that Bangladesh’s knitwear exports to Spain was much higher than woven garments as woven subsector lagged behind in maintaining orders for fast fashion due to its weak backward linkage.

Spanish Inditex Group is the biggest fast fashion group in the world, operates over 7,200 stores in 93 markets worldwide, but the group is not the biggest importer of Bangladesh as manufacturers are not capable to supply the company, he said.

Source: newagebd.net – Oct 11, 2023

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## **Canada: Fine Cotton Factory Enters Dye Sublimation Segment With New Private Label Apparel Line**

Fine Cotton Factory, a textile manufacturer specializing in eco-friendly knits for the North American market, is entering the apparel manufacturing space for the first time with a focus on dye sublimation, one of the fastest growing printing processes in the textile industry. In this next step of the company's evolution in becoming a full-service fashion house, Fine Cotton Factory will start manufacturing a private label line of garments with the new technology.

Dye sublimation is a printing process that allows for the transfer of high-resolution graphics onto a variety of fabrics, ensuring vibrant colors, durability, and a soft touch that is second-to-none. What sets Fine Cotton Factory apart is their unique and innovative approach to dye sublimation, which involves printing on fine gauge jersey fabrics, resulting in exceptional print quality and feel.

“As dye sublimation continues to gain traction in the industry, we predict it will overtake a lot of the other fabric printing methods out there,” said Skip Kann, executive vice president of sales and marketing for Fine Cotton Factory. “By turning an everyday jersey fabric to fine gauge, the fabric feels better and the picture or design prints better with little to no risk of the image distorting over time with wear. Dye sublimation is just another tool in our toolbox on the road to becoming a full-service fashion house.”

Fine Cotton Factory's private label dye sublimation line features an array of clothing items including men's business shirts, men's casual dress shirts, and women's dresses, all available in ten different fabric weights to cater to a variety of preferences. This is the first time the fabric and textile manufacturer has made clothing items in its nearly three decades of operation.

“This innovation allows us to deliver unparalleled print quality and a luxurious feel to our customers. Whether it's men's business shirts or women's dresses, our products combine comfort, and customization. Our fine gauge jersey can also be antimicrobial, something that very few manufacturers in the North American market are doing,” added Kann. The men's dress shirt utilizes the fine gauge jersey offering one way stretch, allowing for stretch in the width of the shirt but not the length. This gives comfort of movement without risk of the shirt riding up.

As Fine Cotton Factory is part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), they are uniquely positioned as they can service both the U.S. and Canada. “The only other option for dye sublimation fabric is California, but seeing as they’re not NAFTA approved, they can only import, and customers would pay a much higher tax. Because we’re already involved in NAFTA, we’re uniquely positioned to serve customers in Canada, the Mid-West, and the East-Coast with no extra taxes,” finished Kann.

Headquartered in Toronto, Fine Cotton Factory serves leading apparel brands and manufacturers in Canada and the U.S. The company introduces major fashion collections twice each year, and all are displayed for buyers inside its 5,000-foot-showroom incorporating a sample room, design studio and future lab adjacent to the factory. For more information, visit [www.finecottonfactory.com](http://www.finecottonfactory.com).

Source: [textileworld.com](http://textileworld.com) – Oct 11, 2023

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## **ITME Africa to be held in Nairobi in November**

The ITME Society will organise the second edition of ITME Africa in Nairobi from November 30 to December 2.

Ketan Sanghvi, chairman of ITME, said the event will have 120 to 130 exhibitors from 25 countries and at least 50% of them will be from India. There will be exhibitors from European and other Asian countries, too, and almost 10,000 visitors are expected.

Spinning will be the main segment of machinery and there will be machinery, processes and solutions related to weaving, processing, and garmenting too. “We are trying to look at products such as yarn and fabrics also,” he said.

Some Indian companies have made a foray into Kenya and East Africa and established facilities there. Kenya is also taking steps to revive the textile industry. The ITME Society, which organises India ITME once in four years, launched ITME Africa in 2020 and the first event was held in Ethiopia. “The aim is to introduce textile engineering and textile components to the textile industry in Africa, which is going to be the next major destination for textile and apparel production,” he said.

The India ITME exhibition was held in Noida last year, he added.

Source: thehindu.com – Oct 11, 2023

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Ministry of Textiles team inspects Pulagurthi fabric products to promote under One District One Product**

Union Ministry of Textiles team led by Invest India Project Coordinator Harpreet Singh on October 11 inspected cotton fabric products, woven by handloom weavers of Pulagurthi Handloom Cooperative Society (PHCS), to promote it under the One District One Product (ODOP). The village is Anaparthi Mandal in the East Godavari district.

The ODOP initiative aims at promoting a unique product of each district in the country for better marketing facilities.

The central team has interacted with the handloom weavers on procurement of cotton, range of fabric varieties and production.

A.P. State Commissioner of Textiles K. Srikanth Prabhakar, East Godavari Joint Collector N. Tej Bharat and other officials were present.

Source: thehindu.com– Oct 12, 2023

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## **India-EU Trade and Technology Council Working Group 2 Holds Two-Day International Workshop on Green & Clean Energy Technologies**

The India-European Union (EU) Trade & Technology Council (TTC) Working Group 2 (WG2) convened a two-day international workshop on “Green & Clean Energy Technologies” during October 10-11, 2023. The workshop was organized by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in hybrid mode.

India-EU-TTC is strategic coordination and engagement on trade and technology between India and Europe. It was formally announced on 25 April 2022 after the bilateral cooperation meeting between the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. Within the framework of the TTC, three working groups have been set up. The Working Group 2 on Green & Clean Energy Technologies is chaired by Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India from the Indian side and Mr. Marc Lemaître, Director-General, Directorate General for 'Research and innovation', European Commission, Brussels from the European side.

Professor Sood, in his inaugural address at the workshop, emphasized on the role of the India-EU TTC partnership in fostering India-Europe trade and technology ties. He outlined the workshop's objectives, which included exchanging insights on policy and regulatory frameworks, identifying cutting-edge green technologies, pinpointing collaboration opportunities and gaps, fostering co-development of technologies, and establishing institutional collaboration initiatives.

Mr. Lemaître, who joined the workshop via video conferencing, highlighted the pivotal role of research and regulation in accelerating the growth of green and clean energy technologies. He further emphasized the importance of India-EU collaboration towards a shared vision for a sustainable future and also highlighted e-vehicles as a key solution, paving the way to achieve future targets.

The workshop comprised of four insightful sessions:

The first session ‘Waste to Green Hydrogen’ was chaired by Dr. Arun Tripathi, (Advisor, MNRE, India) and co-chaired by Ms. Helene Chraye

(Head of Unit, DG R&I Directorate C1 - Unit on Clean Energy Transition, EU). The session witnessed multiple presentations on possible ways of collaboration between India and EU on Hydrogen Storage, transportation, Safety Standards, and regulatory framework. Technologies, solutions, and opportunities to convert Waste into Green Hydrogen were discussed.

The second session 'Marine Plastic litter and Wastewater' was chaired by Ms. Szilvia Nemeth (Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate B4 on Healthy Oceans and Seas, EU) and co-chaired by Mr. M.V. Ramana Murthy (Mission Director, Deep Ocean Mission, Ministry of Earth Sciences, India). Topics discussed included marine plastic pollution mitigation and wastewater treatment strategies to combat the ocean plastic crisis and urban water challenges.

The third session was divided into two sub-sessions. Session 3(a) on 'E-mobility: Circulatory Aspects of Batteries' was chaired by Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha (Adviser, Infrastructure, Connectivity & E-mobility, NITI Aayog) and co-chaired by Philippe Froissard (DG R&I - Head of Unit, Directorate C2 on Future Urban & Mobility Systems). Insights into battery circulatory considerations and the potential of the EV & battery recycling sector were presented.

Session 3(b) on 'Interoperability of Charging Infrastructure' chaired by Ashok Rajput, (Member (Power System), Central Electricity Authority (CEA)) and co-chaired by Harald Scholz, (Head of Mobility Lab in JRC-ISPRA) discussed the possibilities of co-development of charging infrastructure technologies between India and EU. Further, the session explored the collaboration between Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and Joint Research Center (JRC), EU in applicability of standards, testing methodology, and optimization.

The fourth session 'Standards' was chaired by Ms. Kirsi Haavisto (DG R&I - Head of Unit in Directorate C1 on Valorisation policies & IPR) and co-chaired by Mr. Pramod Kr. Tiwari (DG- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)). The session witnessed intense discussions on the importance of harnessing data and scientific insights to form standards and initiate R&I and standards early in new technology research phases. A potential Code of Practice on Standardisation was also discussed.

Mr. Hervé Delphin, Ambassador-designate of the EU to India underscored the vital need for ongoing dialogue & technological cooperation between India & the EU.

Dr. Parvinder Maini (Scientific Secretary, Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India) shared key takeaways on Sessions I and III, which included R&D on Lithium ion batteries and recycling technologies, formalization of uniform waste collection system, and development of a business model for complete value chain.

Ms.Cristina Russo (Director, Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I, EU) shared key takeaways on Sessions II and IV. She stressed on the need for a harmonized method to address plastic litter. As next steps, she proposed developing standards for specific technologies under each of the thematic topics.

Dr. Maini concluded the workshop by thanking the chairs, co-chairs and rapporteurs in each of the sessions. She also thanked each of the stakeholder Ministries which included MNRE, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Earth Sciences, BIS, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for their support in making the workshop a resounding success.

Source: pib.gov.in – Oct 11, 2023

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## India Remakes its Model for Handling Textile Waste

India's positioning as the world's textile recycling hub rests heavily upon the small town of Panipat, an approximate two-hour drive from country's capital city of New Delhi.

Many of the textile recycling units in Panipat are small and medium enterprises, engaged in this process for more than 50 years, and now moving on to the second and third generation of factory owners. A variety of recycling takes place—with textile waste, both domestic pre-consumer and post-consumer, as well as imported.

Pre-consumer textile waste consists mostly of post-industrial waste from textile factories, while post-consumer comes from used garments and household textiles, etc. Imported textile waste makes its way to Panipat from the Indian port city of Kandla.

The global push toward circularity, and the need for adaptation and change, has been permeating the city and bringing in a sense of unity with other manufacturers and stakeholders across India.

Of late, upgrading technology has been a focus.

“A lot of capacity building has been happening in terms of recycling, at least five to six times growth in the last 10 years,” said Gagan Kansal, director, Kay Gee Enterprises. “In the last 10 years garment production has increased substantially all over the world, and recycling has naturally stepped up as well. We have doubled in size in last few years and now do 20 tons a day, which is approximately 50,000 to 60,000 garments every day. An approximate 10 tons of this is post-consumer, or end-of-use garments.”

“It doesn't hinge only on the European Union changing focus, nor on new brand sustainability orders—although those are fostering change, too. Mostly, entrepreneurs in Panipat are self-evolving. The new generations are also bringing in change,” he added.

In this case, his son Archish Kansal, who is also a co-director at the company, is taking the concept further, meshing technology with an understanding of the process and the market.

Representing the changing business approach, Archish Kansal is quick to point out that the Indian recycling industry “has never received its due for the kind of work we have been able to establish here,” but that the long-deserved recognition for the industry had started coming in with the growing focus on sustainability and circularity. “We are trying to see how we can internationalize more, bring in more stakeholders, talk to governments, talk about the policies and legislation needed,” Archish Kansal explained.

“Panipat has always been a textile and recycling hub, but now a lot of machinery has been added in a lot of factories. Many of the companies here are small and medium enterprises and don’t have the funds to make a bigger set up. That also becomes a strength in one way, because recycling needs a lot of careful monitoring and attention which is easier in a smaller company.”

Meanwhile, the local knowledge, forged over decades, remains as well. For example, sorting and separation continues to be done manually at most of the factories in Panipat. “The people who are sorters in Panipat can just touch the material and tell whether it is cotton or polyester, it is the traditional skill they have learned from their ancestors,” Archish Kansal said.

Panipat, however, is not the only textile recycling cluster in India.

Tirupur, in Southern India, and a hub of knitwear production, has been growing into an efficient and modern cluster for recycling, with a focus on pre-consumer waste. Amroha, a city in the state of Uttar Pradesh, is largely working with the downcycling of textiles, where discarded inputs are recycled and repurposed into something of lower value.

While each of these areas have different focuses, each is seeing growth. Entrepreneurs in the different regions agree that the recycling sector has barely touched the tip of the iceberg. If the largely informal sector is able to come together to create synergies and efficiencies of scale, India’s potential for both global and domestic recycling is huge.

India’s potential in this space is best encapsulated in a first-of-its-kind study by Fashion for Good, the platform for sustainable fashion innovation, released in July 2022.

The report, “Wealth in Waste: India’s potential to bring textile waste back into the supply chain” shared insights, numbers, and ways to better grow, citing that of the 7,793 kilotons of textile waste handles annually in India, an estimated 51 percent is post-consumer waste, originating from local consumers. Another 42 percent is pre-consumer wastes. Seven percent is imported waste.

Produced by a joint team from Fashion for Good, Sattva Consulting, Reverse Resources and Saahas Zero Waste, the report noted that India’s “decades-old embedded culture and history of reusing, remaking and redesigning garments has enabled informal trade routes for textile waste and infrastructure to flourish.”

Stakeholders involved in the creation of the report told Sourcing Journal that India stood at the cusp of a huge opportunity to emerge in a leading circular sourcing position.

“Over the years, despite the absence of technology, the Indian textile recycling ecosystem has established a strong hold in mechanical recycling by way of manual sorting, combining specific colors and fibers to reach desired quality. By doing so, they have been able to extract economic value even from nonrecyclable waste. However, this infrastructure and expertise has been handled by informal channels. Value chains can be formalized to establish circularity of textile waste in India if this infrastructure and technical know-how is supported by brands, governments and investors,” the study noted.

It also highlighted relevant details: most notably that more than 60 percent of waste is made of cotton and cotton rich materials.

As for an overall breakdown of India’s total textile waste of 7,793 KTons—3,265 KTons are pre-consumer waste; 3,944 KTons are post-consumer domestic waste and 584 KTons are imported waste.

Anjali Krishnan, program manager, IDH, a Netherland-based organization which works in countries around the world to catalyze positive change for the environment and gender equality, has been actively connecting the dots. “There is a lot to be done,” she said. “We have to find more solutions. How do we aggregate the textile waste, segregate it and ensure it reaches the correct recycler or manufacturer or brands so that it comes back into production? These are some of the big challenges.”

Much of the waste is sorted by hand at small enterprises.

“A lot of our focus is to use the post-industrial waste more efficiently, so that the correct quantity of waste reaches the right locations. There are capacity training issues as well—If the value chain is not properly activated, a lot of good waste won’t reach the correct source. For example, it may be downcycled instead of getting recycled, because either they didn’t get the right quantity, or they did not have the knowledge,” she said. She said an ideal scenario would be a closed loop. “For example, if a company like H&M were to generate post industrial waste and it comes back into their system. But right now, a company will buy waste—not just theirs—but post industrial waste from others as well,” Krishnan explained, citing the growing need for traceability.

“Everyone is seeing the potential of textile waste,” Krishnan observed. “But down the line India may not be the largest importer of textile waste, as the European Union policies don’t allow much of export. Bangladesh has been a major exporter of textile waste, but as they are trying to grow in this space, that may stop. India has an established system, we are pushing innovation, but how are we going to get the raw material?” she queried.

It is clearly time for better road maps and the report from Fashion for Good has ignited more conversations around that idea.

“The industry stands to gain with a clear map of the textile waste value chain in India, armed with a robust set of recommendations for action. This now forms a strong basis to move forward collaboratively to scale the investments, infrastructure and innovation needed to make circularity in fashion a reality in India,” Anita Chester, managing director, Laudes India LLP noted in the report.

Meanwhile, the competition continues to grow, not only between countries, but within the recycling units themselves. It is not all adversarial, however.

“We are learning from each other,” Archish Kansal pointed out gamely. “The best learning comes from the competition.”

Source: yahoo.com – Oct 11, 2023

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## **IMF expects slow global growth at 3% in '23 amid inflationary concerns**

Global growth is expected to slow from 3.5 per cent in 2022 to 3 per cent in 2023, further dwindling to 2.9 per cent in 2024, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook for October 2023. This is a stark deviation from the historical average of 3.8 per cent recorded between 2000 and 2019.

For advanced economies, growth rates are set to decelerate from 2.6 per cent in 2022 to 1.5 per cent in 2023, tapering to 1.4 per cent in 2024, as the onset of policy tightening takes effect.

On the inflation front, global figures are predicted to show a decline, moving from 8.7 per cent in 2022 to 6.9 per cent in 2023, reaching 5.8 per cent by 2024. These changes are attributed to stricter monetary policies coupled with reduced international commodity prices. However, core inflation is set to decrease more slowly, with most targets only expected to be achieved by 2025, as per the IMF.

The risks, though more balanced compared to six months prior due to resolutions such as the US debt ceiling tensions and actions by Swiss and US authorities, still persist. A significant concern remains the potential deepening of China's property sector crisis and its consequent global implications.

Additionally, mounting near-term inflation expectations, coupled with tight labour markets, could perpetuate core inflation pressures, demanding even higher policy rates than projected. External factors such as climate changes, geopolitical shocks, and intensified geoeconomic fragmentation could further jeopardise the situation by causing additional price spikes and hampering the green transition.

The IMF's report also highlighted concerns for low-income developing countries, with over half either in or at high risk of debt distress.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – Oct 12, 2023

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## **Surat textile trader cheated of ₹67 lakh**

A city-based textile trader lost Rs 67 lakh to three Ahmedabad-based buyers who did not make payment for goods purchased from him. The trader Umesh Khunt (40) lodged a complaint against Lalji Gajera, Mahesh Patel, and Vishal Miyani for cheating.

Khunt sent goods worth Rs. 69.44 lakh between May and July in different parcels to the three traders. However, they paid him only Rs 2.5 lakh. Varachha police said that Khunt owns an embroidery job work unit. He buys fabric and does embroidery work. Surat-based broker Dinesh Kevadiya introduced Khunt to the Ahmedabad men in April 2023. They told Khunt that they owned a trading firm and sold Mataji's chunari (sacred cloth offered to deities). They asked for the cloth and promised timely payment.

Gajera and Miyani chose the cloth sent by Khunt. Gajera made two payments of Rs one lakh and Rs 1.50 lakh in two installments. He gave a cheque of Rs 4 lakh which was returned by the bank due to insufficient funds. As they failed to make payment and did not respond, Khunt along with Kevadiya went to Ahmedabad on August 9 and found the shop of Gajera in the Rakhial area closed. They also checked their workshop in the Odhav area.

*We also published the following articles recently*

### **Surat-based startup leads the way in access control tech**

Surat-based startup PARK360 gained recognition for its access control system used during the G20 Leaders Summit in New Delhi. The company partnered with an event management firm to manage access control for the summit, impressing attendees and security agencies with their efficient solutions. PARK360's CEO, Sanchit Gaurav, highlighted their important role at the summit and their ability to meet last-minute requirements with innovative solutions. The company's system facilitated authorization for arrivals through the main gate at Pragati Maidan.

### **Ahmedabad doctor accuses domestic help of stealing Rs 7 lakh**

A doctor in Ahmedabad filed a complaint with the police, accusing his domestic help of stealing Rs 7.50 lakh from his house. The doctor,

Sukumar Mehta, had employed the domestic help on a monthly salary of Rs 5,000. The help, named Ramesh, had requested leave to attend to his ailing father in Rajasthan and never returned. Mehta discovered the theft when he checked his cupboard and found his money missing. The police have registered an FIR and are investigating the case.

### **Couple booked for cheating investors of Rs 75 lakh**

A 42-year-old man from Gujarat, claiming to be the director of a vegetable and fruit trading company, has been arrested for duping a businessman out of Rs 75 lakh. The man and his wife persuaded the businessman to invest in their business by promising high returns. The businessman initially received some profit but later realized that the couple had no office in the building they claimed to operate from. The businessman filed a complaint and an FIR was lodged against the couple.

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com – Oct 11, 2023

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