



**IBTEX No. 222 of 2023**

**December 21, 2023**

<b>Currency Watch</b>			
<b>USD</b>	<b>EUR</b>	<b>GBP</b>	<b>JPY</b>
<b>83.28</b>	<b>91.15</b>	<b>105.24</b>	<b>0.58</b>

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Turning point for European textiles and clothing

From 6-9 June 2024, European citizens will vote for a new European Parliament and based on the results, a new European Commission will be formed. In view of the important election, EURATEX, the voice of the European textile and clothing industry, has published a Manifesto, presenting 15 requests which will help to ensure a competitive European textiles and clothing industry.

The textile and apparel industry makes a substantial contribution to European wealth, jobs and growth. Europe counts 192,000 companies employing 1.3 million workers with a turnover of €167 billion and over €67 billion in exports. Entrepreneurship should be recognised as the foundation for a competitive textiles industry, offering high quality and sustainable products, based on innovation, creativity and design, EURATEX says. European policy makers should recognise such a role for textiles and apparel companies and have an open dialogue to create better framework conditions to operate in internal and global markets.

While some regions of the world are already taking measures to support their industry, Europe has been lagging behind. We need now a clear vision which brings us towards a greener and wealthy future

To realise that vision, the industry and policy makers need to work together on a mix of policy measures and initiatives, which are coherent and offer a transparent and predictable framework for our companies and make them more resilient and competitive, EURATEX says.

These policies should focus around four points:

Develop and implement a smart EU industrial policy

Europe should create policies which enhance competitiveness, instead of creating administrative burdens. To EURATEX, each new piece of legislation should undergo a 'competitiveness test' to critically look at the impact of the new rules. Europe should also create a favourable environment to promote education and jobs in the industry. The EU textiles industry currently employs 1.3 million people, 30% of whom are over 50 years old.

A critical bottleneck for the textiles industry is to attract (young) people and make sure these people have the right set of skills, to operate in a changing textile ecosystem.

EURATEX also asks the EU to invest in innovation and digitalisation as they are key to the European competitive advantage. Not only, as recent years have proved, Europe should provide companies with access to sustainable energy at lower prices.

#### No sustainability without competitiveness

The EU Strategy for Sustainable Textiles is pushing our sector towards new business models with a lower environmental footprint, EURATEX adds. To realise that ambition, no less than 16 regulatory proposals are on the table, each of them with a different timetable, managed by different departments of the European Commission.

EURATEX is committed to sustainability but asks for economic realism. This set of new regulations needs to be coherent, enforceable, feasible and applicable for SMEs, and not push textile companies out of the market. Moreover, some member states are moving forward faster, and some legislations will be decided at national level, creating fragmentation of the market. Such scenarios will hamper Europe and its possibilities to grow.

#### Ensure free and fair trade

With \$224 billion in sold goods, Europe is the second major world exporter of textiles and clothing after China (\$321 billion). It is therefore important that the global market should be open, free and fair for our industry to continue to thrive, the organisation explains. Besides the support to FTAs in general, EURATEX wants to emphasise that all trade agreements should offer effective market access for EU companies and a level playing field in these markets.

A free and open market should go hand in hand also with protection against free riders. The EU must always consider enforcement and enforceability when making new laws; it should also take action together with the member states for a better coordination with harmonised criteria for action among Customs Authorities.

## Incentivise the demand for sustainable textiles

Sustainable textile products typically come at a premium price, making it difficult for many consumers and buyers to purchase such products. Many surveys across Europe confirm that around 50% of interviewees do not purchase sustainable fashion products and the main reason is price. EURATEX believes that, to create a demand and help consumers to buy a (genuine) sustainable textile product, there should be standard requirements and fiscal incentives. Public authorities should also implement green public procurements, by increasing the importance of sustainability criteria in their evaluation grids.

According to Alberto Paccanelli, EURATEX President: “These elections are a turning point for the future of Europe and its industrial base. While some regions of the world are already taking measures to support their industry, Europe has been lagging behind. We need now a clear vision which bring us towards a greener and wealthy future. We need to reconcile these two objectives and bring with us major global partners, because this transformation cannot be done by one Region only.”

Source: knittingindustry.com– Dec 20, 2023

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## **Cotton trading center key step to establish textile clusters in Xinjiang**

While Western media outlets claim China has been hit by sanctions from the US-led West over so-called "forced labor," the country is actually working in the opposite direction to break the blockade.

China is promoting the development of Xinjiang's cotton industry, and further opening up to consolidate and enhance its position in global supply chains. A new national-level cotton and yarn trading center in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is expected to be a crucial step in this effort.

The unveiling ceremony of the center was held on Monday in Urumqi, Xinjiang. As reported, Xinjiang will make use of policy dividends offered by its pilot free trade zone and the new trading center as a foundation to strengthen trade with China's neighboring countries, striving to become a globally influential cotton and yarn production and sales center.

Xinjiang is the largest cotton-producing region in China. A total of 5.98 million tons of cotton were produced nationwide in China in 2022, with more than 90 percent produced in Xinjiang. This reflects the fact that Xinjiang holds a key position in China's cotton industry chain.

One important reason why Western politicians repeatedly hype the outrageous lie about so-called forced labor in Xinjiang is to suppress Xinjiang's cotton industry and the broader Chinese textile industry. This is part of their efforts to contain China's development, particularly its manufacturing sector. We must break down the industry barriers set up by the US-led West.

China's textile manufacturing industry ranks first in the world in terms of capacity and trade. From 2013 to 2022, China's total fiber processing volume increased from 48.5 million tons to over 60 million tons, accounting for more than 50 percent of the world's fiber processing volume, data from the China National Textile and Apparel Council showed.

Textile and clothing exports have remained above \$300 billion a year in recent years; however, Western media outlets are keen to hype the transfer of the industry and supply chain from China to other developing countries,

claiming that China has lost its comparative advantage in labor-intensive manufacturing, including the textile industry. Their petty trick is crystal clear and should be condemned.

The cost of labor in China has indeed risen and this poses challenges to China's labor-intensive industries, including textiles. But this is not the whole story.

The new cotton trading center in Xinjiang offers a window to observe the migration of industries within China. While the West is trying to hamstring Chinese economic power, Xinjiang's economy has been rapidly developing. China's textile manufacturing and cotton production, which were once concentrated on the coast and in river valleys with easy access to urban markets and ports, are shifting to western inland areas such as Xinjiang. These areas have relatively low labor costs and other industrial advantages.

The new trading center will help Xinjiang establish world-class industry clusters for cotton and textiles, which are among the eight industry clusters emphasized by the local government in Xinjiang.

Along with the trend of industrial transfer, Xinjiang's opening-up to and cooperation with the outside world have ushered in new opportunities. The Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ), the first in China's northwestern border regions, officially started operations on November 1. The FTZ is expected to make a great contribution to Xinjiang's integration into the "dual circulation" of domestic and international markets, and play a significant role in building a bridgehead for China's westward opening-up.

Efforts to push forward a new pattern of all-round opening-up will bring new opportunities to industries, including the textile sector. Although facing challenges, China's cotton and textile industries will further develop. We must strengthen and consolidate the position of Xinjiang cotton in the global industry chains, so that its development can adapt to the needs of the global market, and deeply embed Xinjiang cotton into global supply chains.

Source: [globaltimes.cn](http://globaltimes.cn)– Dec 20, 2023

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## **China maintains loan prime rates steady at 3.5%**

China's one-year Loan Prime Rate (LPR) has been maintained at 3.45 per cent, unchanged from previous month, according to the National Interbank Funding Center.

Similarly, the over-five-year LPR, a crucial benchmark that influences numerous mortgage rates across the country, also remains unchanged at 4.2 per cent.

The People's Bank of China, on November 15, infused a substantial amount of liquidity into the market. An injection of 1.45 trillion yuan (approximately \$202 billion) was made through the one-year medium-term lending facility (MLF).

Notably, this infusion retained the interest rate at 2.5 per cent, consistent with rates from prior operations, as per Chinese media reports.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 20, 2023

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## **Mango Sees 500 Store Openings Through 2026**

Mango, the Barcelona-based fashion brand, plans to open about 500 stores through 2026 and close out fiscal 2023 with sales in excess of 3 billion euros.

Last year, Mango generated 2.68 billion euros in revenue.

Mango celebrates its 40th anniversary next year and in March will present a new strategic plan for the 2024-2026 period.

“The new roadmap will focus on strengthening its differentiated value proposal, commitment to innovation and sustainability, and driving sales through the major expansion of its store network and the growth of all its channels,” the company indicated in a statement on Wednesday. “Consequently, until 2026 the company will implement an ambitious expansion plan, with close to 500 new store openings, focusing its efforts on key markets such as the United States, Spain, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, India and Canada.”

The company also reported that during 2023, online sales extended to an additional 20 countries. This year, Mango had more than 130 net store openings and 80 store refurbishments, bringing the total to about 2,700 stores in more than 115 markets worldwide.

In the U.S. this year, Mango launched stores in Texas, Georgia and California, bringing the total store count to 20. Mango expects to have 40 stores in the U.S. by the end of 2024. The vision is for the U.S. to be one of the brand’s top five markets eventually. Mango targets 20-to-40-year-old urban-oriented men and women, with its spirited, colorful collection and relatively moderate prices.

The company did not provide any profit projections.

Mango also disclosed that it will enlarge its board of directors next March, from four to nine members. The four individuals continuing on the board are Isak Andic, Mango’s founder and non-executive chairman; Toni Ruiz, chief executive officer; Jonathan Andic and Daniel López as executive board members.

The five individuals joining the board are Margarita Salvans, Mango's chief financial officer, as well as four independent directors including Jordi Canals, professor and chairman of the Centre for Corporate Governance of the IESE Business School; Jorge Lucaya, a founding partner of AZ Capital; Jordi Constans, director and former director of various national and international companies; and Marc Puig, chairman and chief executive officer of Puig.

“It is a historic moment for our company,” said Andic. “The transformation of the board of directors and the contribution of new independent board members, who enjoy great recognition and experience and a global vision, will drive the strategy and business of Mango, while strengthening the institutionalization of our organization.”

CEO Ruiz has been given a 5 percent stake in the company, as approved by the Mango board. Said Andic: “His entry in the share capital of Mango is a recognition for his outstanding management of the company in recent years, which has translated into excellent results, but, above all, represents my strong belief that his vision will contribute to the continuance, solidity and growth of Mango in the future.”

Ruiz said in his statement: “We will continue to drive this project in the future, with solidity, stability and ambition, in order to leave a bigger and better company for the coming generations.” In an interview last November, Ruiz said, “Our market share is not as big as what we think we can do,” he said, citing only a 3 percent market share in its home country of Spain, where rival Inditex is by far the bigger player. “So imagine the opportunities we have.”

Among his initiatives at Mango: establishing new teen and home lines and advocating sustainability. He led a refinancing of the company's debt to reduce costs by linking it to environmental, social and governmental goals, as well as initiating an investment in Recovero, a waste fabric repurposing company.

Mango's 2024-2026 strategic plan, the company stated, “is aimed to promote its differentiated value proposal, its international expansion plan and the sales of its online channel, among other objectives.”

Source: [sourcingjournal.com](https://sourcingjournal.com)– Dec 20, 2023

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## **US Lawmakers Demand Living Wages for Bangladeshi Garment Workers**

A coalition of U.S. representatives has written to one of the fashion industry's foremost trade groups in support of Bangladeshi garment workers' demands for fairer wages.

Led by Democrats Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Jim McGovern of Massachusetts and Jan Schakowsky of Illinois, the lawmakers urged members of the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA) to wield their influence and “stand together with workers by immediately demanding better wages and rights for Bangladeshi working families.”

“Due to their significant presence and operational leverage in Bangladesh, we believe that AAFA member companies are strongly positioned to support workers' petitions for livable wages and to vocally champion their labor rights in a key country for the global apparel industry,” Omar et. al. wrote in the letter, dated Dec. 15, to AAFA president and CEO Steve Lamar. “The escalating repression that Bangladeshi workers are enduring underscores the urgent need for transformative, systemic reform—a call to action that U.S. corporations must heed.”

While the lawmakers were “encouraged” by the support of several U.S. brands for both a wage increase and a fair and transparent wage-setting process, as detailed in a letter that American Eagle Outfitters, Gap Inc., Levi Strauss & Co. and others wrote to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in October, they found the “reluctance” of those same companies to back the unions' call for 23,000 Bangladeshi taka (\$210) “not only disheartening but shameful.”

“As you know, the recent wage increases announced by Bangladesh's wage board, which would not even meet the rising cost of living, have led to extended mass protests,” the letter said. “Police have responded with violence against protesters and trade union leaders, resulting in at least four deaths, numerous injuries and a wave of unjust arrests, detentions, and indefinite factory shutdowns. We echo the Biden administration's call for the government of Bangladesh to respect and protect workers' rights to organize, protest peacefully, and collectively bargain without fear of retaliation, violence or intimidation.”

Nate Herman, senior vice president of policy at AAFA, said the organization is pleased to see members of Congress “join our efforts” to “seek improvements in working conditions in Bangladesh” and that AAFA and its members have been at the forefront of efforts to secure “real increases” to wages and reforms to the wage review process, which it recommends gets updated annually rather than every five years so that workers aren’t “disadvantaged by changing macroeconomic conditions.” “As we and our members have continuously reiterated, we are committed to responsible purchasing practices to support the wage increases,” Herman said. “Moreover, we continue to urge that the government of Bangladesh continue to partner with all parties to ensure an environment that fosters workers’ rights, worker welfare and inclusive and peaceful multistakeholder dialogue.”

Herman said that the group is “particularly distressed” by the violence that ensued during the wage negotiations and protests, condemning the deaths, injuries and arrests of “many innocent workers” in the “strongest terms.”

“We have continued to appeal to the government of Bangladesh, through its words and actions, including releasing anybody unlawfully detained, to set a tone that facilitates only peaceful discourse as wage and related issues are addressed and resolved,” he added. “A responsible and competitive Bangladeshi apparel industry—one that involves peaceful and good faith participation from all stakeholders and that supports economic opportunity—continues to remain an important part of the global fashion industry.”

But lawmakers want the AAFA to go further, including pressuring the government of Bangladesh to accept workers’ minimum demand of 23,000 taka per month. They also asked the organization to call on Bangladeshi authorities to stop their wage protest-related arrests and release innocent detained individuals without delay; warn suppliers to stop filing criminal cases against workers and make evident that dismissing, blacklisting or otherwise harassing workers and union leaders is unacceptable and will influence its sourcing decisions; and use its “considerable leverage” with individual factory owners and industry associations to ensure that workers are paid despite production stoppages. “We believe that our actions abroad should always reflect our values at home,” the representatives wrote.

“The historic challenges faced by garment workers in Bangladesh are part of a shared global struggle for good-paying jobs, safe working conditions and the right to organize. When we support workers’ rights in one part of the world, we bolster the fight for those rights everywhere.

We urge you to help stop the exploitation against the Bangladeshi workers who have fueled the growth and profit of your businesses, and in support of the democratic, inclusive values that we cherish as a nation.”

Source: [sourcingjournal.com](http://sourcingjournal.com)– Dec 20, 2023

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## European road freight market forecast to contract in 2023

European road freight market is projected to contract 0.4 per cent in 2023, according to Transport Intelligence (Ti), a leading firm in market analysis. This decline is attributed to decreasing real income, tight financial conditions, and diminished external demand affecting the sector.

However, the outlook for 2024 appears more optimistic, with the European road freight market projected to expand by 1.7 per cent. This growth trend is expected to continue through to 2027, with an average annual increase of 1.7 per cent in the total European road freight market.

International road freight market is poised for more rapid growth than its domestic counterpart in the coming years. This prediction is backed by robust trade forecasts, suggesting a dynamic change in the industry's landscape, as per Ti.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 21, 2023

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## **Vietnam sees trade surplus for 8th year in row with \$26 bn in Jan-Nov**

Vietnam saw a trade surplus for the eighth consecutive year, with a \$26-billion figure over the past 11 months—three times higher than the figure recorded during the corresponding period last year.

The nation's total import-export turnover stood at an estimated \$683 billion this year, of which exports and imports hit \$354.5 billion and \$328.5 billion respectively.

Despite declining global trade and weak consumer demand in major export markets, the country has successfully seized opportunities from the recovery of traditional markets to boost exports, a recent conference in Hanoi to review the industry and trade sector learned.

The consecutive trade surplus status has maintained the overall balance of payments, by raising foreign exchange reserves and stabilising the exchange rate, a Vietnamese media outlet reported citing experts.

Deputy minister of industry and trade Phan Thi Thang said export decline has narrowed from 12 per cent in the first half of the year to about 4.6 per cent for the entire year.

Thang attributed the shrinkage to the export market diversification to African, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe and West Asian countries.

However, the domestic economy is yet to fully recover compared to the same period last year.

The reason is a high level of dependence on foreign-invested firms, with their export turnover accounting for roughly 73 per cent of total export turnover. Further, domestic producers depend heavily on imported raw materials, with imports for key product groups dropping sharply.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 21, 2023

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## **Bank of Japan's ultra-loose monetary policy amid uncertainty concerns**

Maintaining an ultra-loose monetary policy, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) yesterday kept its short-term rate target at minus 0.1 per cent and that for the 10-year government bond yield around nil. It also did not alter a vow to ramp up stimulus 'without hesitation', if needed.

Wages and prices seem to be directed in the right path, with labour unions and big firms signalling the chance of sustained wage gains in 2024, BOJ governor Kazuo Ueda said, cautioning about uncertain conditions.

"The chance of trend inflation accelerating towards our price target is gradually heightening," Ueda said in a press conference after a two-day meeting meeting. "But we still need to scrutinise whether a positive wage-inflation cycle will fall in place."

Ueda offered no clear indication on how soon the central bank could exit negative rates, but said there 'won't be much data coming in' between now and the next policy meeting on January 22-23.

The country has witnessed inflation above 2 per cent for over a year and some firms have indicated their preparedness to continue raising wages, increasing the probability of the central bank finally abandoning its dovish outlier image.

The central bank won't rush into raising rates just because the US Federal Reserve could start cutting them soon, he said.

"But uncertainty over the outlook is extremely high and we have yet to foresee inflation sustainably and stably achieving our target. As such, it's hard to show now with a high degree of certainty how we can exit," he added.

The bank will aim to achieve the price stability target of 2 per cent in a sustainable and stable manner, accompanied by wage increases, the bank's statement on monetary policy noted.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 20, 2023

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## **Pakistan's cotton imports decline to record low in FY 23-24**

Pakistan achieved a remarkable feat by reducing its cotton imports bill to \$2.4 billion in FY23-24, as the domestic production revived. According to annual projections for 2023-24, cotton imports may not even secure a spot in the country's top 10 import categories.

However, this remarkable feat was achieved amidst challenging economic circumstances, including strict central bank restrictions imposed due to a foreign exchange liquidity crisis. The average borrowing cost for the entire year is expected to remain significantly above 15 per cent, says Muhammad Sualeh Ahmad Faruqi, Secretary of Commerce.

The industry also suffers from the discontinuation of concessionary financing schemes and tightening of subsidised energy tariffs, he adds. Over the past three fiscal years, Pakistan's cotton import bill averaged \$2.25 billion annually, making it the fifth-largest imported component by the country.

However, despite this, Pakistan is unlikely to meet cotton output target in this marketing year as production is likely to remain a million bales below the average production from FY18 to FY22, adds Faruqi.

Contrasting global economic trends, with plummeting cotton prices and a potential recession in key export destinations also make the future of Pakistan's spinning industry uncertain.

However, if Pakistan's cotton production in the current year reaches the same level as that in FY21-22, its imports will remain restricted to 4.5 million bales. This will enhance the total domestic supply to 13 million bales, adds Faruqi

Demand for imported cotton in the local market has declined, avers Faruqi. Though the frequent shortfalls in domestic production necessitate imported cotton, a surge in demand in recent years, have boosted industry prospects, he adds.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Dec 20, 2023

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal holds bilateral meeting with Minister for Trade of New Zealand Hon. Todd McClay**

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal held a bilateral meeting yesterday at New Delhi with the esteemed Minister for Trade of New Zealand, Hon. Todd McClay. The meeting was aimed at strengthening the trade relations between India and New Zealand and exploring opportunities for mutual growth and cooperation.

Minister Goyal and Minister McClay recognized the importance of trade facilitation and discussed measures to streamline trade processes, reduce trade barriers, and promote a more conducive environment for businesses and investors from both nations. In this context, the Trade Minister of New Zealand appreciated the efforts made by India to sort out the issue related to export of wooden logs to India. He also commended India's Presidency of G20 and the outcomes thereof, which are significant milestones as it seeks to find practical global solutions for the benefit of all.

Both the Ministers acknowledged the longstanding friendly relations between the two countries built on the foundation of mutual trust and respect and expressed their commitment to further enhancing bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation. They highlighted the need to deepen engagement in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, pharma, connectivity, education and tourism.

Ministers acknowledged the strong step-up in engagement between businesses in the two countries, and the desirability of ensuring this provides impetus to the Government-to-Government dialogue.

The importance of the annual meeting of the Joint Trade Committee (JTC), established under the 1986 India-New Zealand Trade Agreement, and regular engagement at a senior level was also acknowledged. Ministers agreed that both sides should meet on a regular basis, as convenient, for bilateral discussions on trade and investment issues and co-operative activities.

In committing to strengthen the trade and economic relationship, Ministers expressed the need to increase engagement between both the countries under a collaborative approach that engages officials from across relevant departments and the private sector, wherever appropriate. The broad and informal engagements by creating working groups on specific areas of mutual interest are aimed at fresh ideas for new, innovative and productive approaches for economic partnership between both the countries. They emphasized that new initiatives should also focus on encouraging, facilitating and coordinating collaboration of technology and expertise for genuine mutual benefit and that the opportunities in each other's markets, which is of interest to businesses of both the countries should be explored.

Furthermore, the Ministers exchanged views on global trade dynamics and reaffirmed their support for a rules-based, transparent, and inclusive multilateral trading system. They also briefly discussed issues related to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC) and assured each other of co-operation and mutual understanding for a positive approach to reach a decision on the long standing issue of Public Stock Holding (PSH) during MC13.

Both Ministers expressed optimism about the potential for deeper cooperation and reiterated their commitment to continuing constructive dialogue to further strengthen the bilateral relationship. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with a mutual understanding to continue working closely towards expanding the economic partnership for the benefit of both countries.

Source: pib.gov.in – Dec 20, 2023

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**Government takes various export promotion initiatives like New Foreign Trade Policy, extension of Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit, etc.**

Government has taken the following export promotion initiatives:-

i New Foreign Trade Policy was launched on 31st March, 2023 and it came into effect from 1st April, 2023.

ii Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has also been extended upto 30-06-2024 with additional allocation of Rs. 2500 crores.

iii Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.

iv Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote labour oriented sector export has been implemented since 07.03.2019.

v Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since 01.01.2021. With effect from 15.12.2022, uncovered sectors like pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic chemicals and article of iron and steel has been covered under RoDTEP. Similarly, anomalies in 432 tariff lines have been addressed and the corrected rates have been implemented with effect from 16.01.2023.

vi Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.

vii Districts as Export Hubs initiative has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.

viii Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India's trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.

ix Regular monitoring of export performance with Commercial Missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards/ Authorities and Industry Associations and taking corrective measures from time to time.

Following measures have been taken by the Government to maximize the growth of domestic markets and to expand its reach globally;-

- i. Pradhan MantriGati Shakti
- ii. National Logistics Policy
- iii. National Industrial Corridor Development Programme
- iv. GIS enabled Land Bank- India Industrial Land Bank (IILB)
- v. Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS)
- vi. Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI)
- vii. Make In India
- viii. Startup India
- ix. One District One Product
- x. National Single Window System

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Source: pib.gov.in – Dec 20, 2023

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## **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan to provide multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones**

Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) on 13th October 2021 for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan provides a comprehensive database of the trunk & utility infrastructure, ongoing & future projects of various Infra structure and Economic Ministries/Departments of Central Government and States/UTs. This data is integrated with the GIS-enabled PM Gati Shakti platform, there by facilitating the integrated planning, designing, and monitoring of the Next Generation infrastructure projects on a single portal.

Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones etc. are being mapped for integrated infrastructure planning and make Indian businesses more cost-competitive. This will boost economic growth, attract foreign investments while de-risking investments by visualizing the connectivity, and enhance the country's global competitiveness in export markets.

While the development of integrated infrastructure development is addressed through the PM Gati Shakti NMP, efficiency in services (like processes, digital systems, and regulatory frame work) and human resources is addressed by the National Logistics Policy, 2022 through its Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan (CLAP). NMP and National Logistics Policy together provide a framework for creating a data-driven decision support mechanism for an efficient logistics ecosystem aimed at reducing logistics costs and enhancing logistics efficiency in the country.

PM Gati Shakti is a Whole-of-Government approach adopted to facilitate integrated planning of multimodal infrastructure through collaboration among the concerned Ministries. So far, the Logistics Division of DPIIT has conducted 62 Network Planning Group (NPG) meetings to assess the comprehensive area-based socio-economic development of infrastructure projects.

The feedback from various Ministries has been received; inter-alia Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is using PM Gati Shakti for ground surveys, land records, and highway alignments resulting insaving time and costs in the planning of projects; Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas utilizes NMP's electronic Detail Route Survey (eDRS) to generate reports in a shorter span of time; Ministry of Railways has finalised Final Location Survey (FLS) in FY2021-22 at a much faster rate as compared toFY2020-21,to cite a few examples.

Further, the PM Gati Shakti institutional mechanism has been adopted by States/UTs and NPG meetings are also being organized at State/UT level to assess last and first-mile connectivity gaps and ensure seamless movement of people, goods & services.

This information has been provided by the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Source: pib.gov.in – Dec 20, 2023

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## **Under PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks, 18 proposals from 13 states received**

The Government approved setting up of 7 (Seven) PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/Brownfield sites with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 cr.

The Scheme aims to strengthen the Indian textile industry by way of enabling scale of operations, reduce logistics cost by housing entire value chain at one location, attract investment, generate employment and augment export potential.

The scheme envisages to develop integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility for total value-chain of the textile industry for example, spinning, weaving, processing, garmenting, textile manufacturing, processing & printing machinery industry. Nearly Rs. 70,000 crore of investment is expected in these Mega Parks.

18 proposals from 13 States were received including one from Rajasthan. The Government has finalised 7 sites viz. Tamil Nadu (Virudhnagar), Telangana (Warangal), Gujarat (Navsari), Karnataka (Kalaburagi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Maharashtra (Amravati) for setting up PM MITRA Parks.

So far, SPV has been incorporated in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, while the process of SPV formation in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu is at an advanced stage of incorporation. Process for SPV formation in other states has been initiated.

This information was given by the Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh in a written reply today in the Lok Sabha.

Source: pib.gov.in – Dec 20, 2023

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## **Indian apparel industry aims to show wares in Australia, UK, US after Dubai**

Indian apparel manufacturers are looking to hold exhibitions in world markets like Australia, the US and the UK which have strong diaspora to expand into new geographies, an industry official said.

Speaking with PTI after holding the inaugural edition of the annual exhibition in the city, Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) chief mentor Rahul Mehta said domestic brands are becoming stronger and more capable with their successes within India and it is necessary to take these brands to newer geographies.

"It is time to expose to the international and global market and we felt we should begin with the international market, where the Indian diaspora is in large numbers," Mehta said.

At the recently held "Brands of India" in Dubai, there were a total of 350 domestic brands from India exhibiting their wares, Mehta said, terming the response as "tremendous".

"Our plan is to have three cycles, at least in Dubai. then, we will go to other markets such as Australia, US, New Zealand, UK etc," Mehta said.

He underlined that Indian brands are not just about ethnic wear, but also include other alternatives which make them as powerful as western wear brands.

Dubai was the "obvious choice" to hold such a show, he said, adding that being the second largest export market for Indian goods, it has an established potential for Indian products.

The CMAI tied up with The Dubai Textile Merchants Association, The Dubai Textile Merchants Association (TEXMAS), Dubai International Chamber and Readymade Garments Merchants Group Dubai for the exhibition which was held in November-end.

Leading wholesalers, retailers, distributors, e-commerce platforms and departmental chains showed interest in the exhibition, the CMAI said.

Rajesh Masand, president of CMAI said the apparel industry will play a crucial role in augmenting India's Ready-made Garment exports to the region.

About 1,500 retailers and importers from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen, Egypt, Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya Cameroon, Somalia, Algeria, Sudan, Russia and had pre-registered to visit the event.

Jagdish Amarnani, the chairman of Texmas said, "India is amongst the world's largest producers of apparel." The fair had fashion collections by leading brands from Kolkata, Mumbai, Tirupur, Surat, Ahmedabad, Ludhiana, Indore, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerged as the largest importer of Indian ready-made garments with imports totalling USD 1.21 billion in FY23. In the first seven months of 2023-24, UAE's imports of Indian ready-made garments reached USD 368.78 million.

Source: business-standard.com– Dec 20, 2023

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## **Bharat Tex 2024 roadshows draw positive response across India**

Roadshows are being held across India to promote Bharat Tex 2024, a flagship textile event, scheduled to be held from February 26-29 at Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi in New Delhi. Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhilwara and Indore are some of the cities that recently hosted Bharat Tex roadshows.

The Ahmedabad roadshow was conducted by Texprocil on December 18 with the support of Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL), Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI), Gujarat Garments Manufacturers Association (GGMA), Maskati Mahajan Association and Fabexa.

Prajakta Verma, joint secretary, ministry of textiles, said at the Ahmedabad roadshow that over 3,000 international buyers are expected to attend the event. “It will be a mega textile event of a global scale, international character showcasing the entire textile value chain weaving the theme of sustainability,” Verma said in a tweet.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) organised a roadshow at the ITC Windsor in Bengaluru on December 15. Rachna Shah, secretary of the ministry of textiles, Rohit Kansal, additional secretary of the ministry of textiles, Dr. Richard Vincent D’Souza, principal secretary of the commerce and industries department (MSME and Mines) for the government of Karnataka, and C N Sreedhara, commissioner for textile development and director of handlooms and textiles, attended the roadshow.

The roadshow in Indore was organised on December 13 by Texprocil with the support of Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madhya Pradesh Textiles Mills Association and the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation. Dr. Siddharth Rajgopal, executive director of Texprocil, was the chief guest. Rajeev Saxena, joint secretary, ministry of textiles, government of India, and Navneet Mohan Kothari, managing director, MP Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC) Ltd attended the roadshow.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 20, 2023

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## Roadshow for Bharat Tex held

Ahmedabad: A consortium of Textile Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) will organise Bharat Tex 2024, a global textile expo, from February 26-29 at New Delhi. The ministry of textiles is supporting the event, which will bring entire textile value chain under one roof.

The Textiles Export Promotion Council and the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council on Monday jointly organised a roadshow for Bharat Tex in Ahmedabad.

Prajakta Verma, joint secretary, Ministry of Textiles said, “We are organising such a huge event for the first time where the Indian textile industry will get a new opportunity. More than 3,000 international buyers are expected to visit the expo.”

Bharat Chhajer, coordinator, Bharat Tex 2024 said, “The event will be organised at Bharat Mandapam where more than 22 lakh sq feet of exhibition will be held. More than 3,500 exhibitors from across the country will participate and more than 40,000 buyers will visit the expo. In the textile segment, around 50% participants will be from Gujarat. This event will improve the sentiments of the textile industry of India.”

Source: timesofindia.com– Dec 19, 2023

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## **Maharashtra textiles department forms study group on power looms**

MUMBAI: The state government on Tuesday set up a committee headed by Public Works(Public Undertakings) Minister Dada Bhuse to study the issues of the power loom industry in the state. As per the Government Resolution (GR), the committee is expected to visit power loom centres in the state such as Bhiwandi, Malegaon, and Ichalkaranji and will submit a report in a month.

MLAs Rais Shaikh, Anil Babar, Pravin Datke, Subhash Deshmukh and Prakash Awade have been included in the study group as members.

The Textile Department's move comes a week after Shaikh, through a calling attention motion in the Legislative Assembly, had raised the issues faced by the power loom industry, seeking government intervention to address them.

State Textile Minister Chandrakant Patil, replying to the motion, had announced the setting up of a study group to understand and resolve the difficulties faced by the industry.

Shaikh, a Samajwadi Party legislator from Bhiwandi, welcomed the government's swift move in setting up the committee. "The government has fulfilled its promise given on the floor of the House. It is a welcome move. For the first time, a dedicated committee has been set up to study the issues faced by the powerloom industry. I certainly hope the powerloom industry will get justice," said Shaikh.

Shaikh further appealed to all the stakeholders to come forward with their issues and difficulties that can be taken up by the committee. "I appeal to all the stakeholders to come forward with their suggestions or their long pending issues.

The committee will visit power loom centres such as Bhiwandi, Malegaon, and Ichalkaranji. A comprehensive report will be prepared on the issues and measures to be taken to strengthen the powerloom industry in the state. It will help change the face of the powerloom industry," he added.

As per the GR, the scope of work of the committee is to study the various memorandums given by the organisation from power loom centres highlighting their issues, to hold consultations with the various associations/federations, identify the problems and submit a plan for their redressal, recommend measures for problems faced in online registration under power subsidy scheme for textile projects, with others.

Source: timesofindia.com– Dec 20, 2023

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## **Ahmedabad textile industry embraces sustainability at Lenzing Conclave**

The Lenzing Group, world leading provider of wood-based specialty fibers, hosted the 'The Lenzing Conclave' in Ahmedabad. Renowned as a significant textile base with some of the leading fabric mills and traders, Ahmedabad has been a stronghold for Lenzing fibers, extensively utilized across various applications for several years now.

The conclave served as a pivotal platform for industry stakeholders in Ahmedabad to convene and exchange ideas on new developments and future opportunities with sustainable textiles, showcasing Lenzing's enduring commitment to innovation & responsible manufacturing.

Guests engaged with Lenzing's commercial and technical teams to explore the latest industry innovations under TENCEL and LENZING ECOVERO fiber brands, including the recently launched LENZING ECOVERO black fibers. There was a good focus on developing products which are a blend of TENCEL fibers and cotton, suitable for Indian domestic consumption.

Ahmedabad's fabric mills and traders, long-standing consumers of Lenzing fibers, have played a vital role in shaping end fabrics with applications spanning fashion, denim, home textiles, and intimate wear products. These fabrics, made from Lenzing fibers, have gained prominence in both export markets and domestic retail.

The conclave delved into global fiber and material consumption trends, providing insights into the anticipated changes in the immediate future. Attendees gained valuable perspectives on the evolving landscape of the textile industry and the role sustainable practices play in shaping its future.

The exhibition at the conclave featured an extensive display of Lenzing's latest innovations across major segments, including denim, home linens, intimate & loungewear, general outerwear, and traditional wear.

This hands-on experience allowed participants to explore the versatility and quality of Lenzing fibers, reinforcing their position as industry leaders.

Talking about the event, Avinash Mane – senior commercial director of AMEA & NEA region, Textiles Business, Lenzing Group, said, “The Lenzing Conclave in Ahmedabad has been a great success, bringing together our key partners from mills and fabric trading in this vital textile hub. It was good to see an increasing number of new partners joining us to collaborate on new innovations.

Our commitment to value driven sustainability and innovation is reflected in the showcased products and discussions on global trends. We are proud to be a trusted partner for Ahmedabad's textile industry, contributing to the creation of high-quality, sustainable fabrics for both local and global markets."

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 20, 2023

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