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Currency Watch			
USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Jun 2024 US goods & services deficit $73.1 bn, goods deficit $97.4 bn

US goods and services deficit was revised up to $73.1 billion in June this year, down by $1.9 billion from the May figure, according to the US Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Goods deficit decreased by $2.5 billion to $97.4 billion in the month.

June exports were worth $265.9 billion—$3.9 billion more than the May figure, and imports in the month were worth $339 billion—$2 billion more than in the preceding month. Year to date, the goods and services deficit increased by $22.7 billion, or 5.6 per cent, year on year (YoY). Exports increased by $58.0 billion, or 3.8 per cent YoY, while imports increased by $80.7 billion, or 4.2 per cent YoY.

The average goods and services deficit increased $1.5 billion to $74.2 billion for the three months ending in June, a BEA release said. The real goods deficit decreased by $2.5 billion, or 2.6 per cent, to $91.4 billion in June, compared to a 2.5-per cent decrease in the nominal deficit.

Real exports of goods increased by $4.6 billion, or 3.2 per cent, to $146.2 billion in June, compared to a 2.7-per cent increase in nominal exports. Real imports of goods increased by $2.1 billion, or 0.9 per cent in the month to $237.6 billion, compared to a 0.8-per cent increase in nominal imports.

The June figures show surpluses with Netherlands ($4.8 billion), South and Central America ($3.6 billion), Hong Kong ($2.1 billion), Australia ($1.9 billion), the United Kingdom ($0.9 billion), Brazil ($0.8 billion), Belgium ($0.7 billion) and Saudi Arabia ($0.1 billion).

Deficits were recorded with China ($22.3 billion), the European Union ($18 billion), Mexico ($13.7 billion), Vietnam ($10.9 billion), Germany ($7.4 billion), Taiwan ($6.4 billion), Ireland ($5.8 billion), South Korea ($5.7 billion), Japan ($4.9 billion), Canada ($4.6 billion), India ($3.7 billion), Italy ($3.1 billion), Switzerland ($2.9 billion), Malaysia ($1.8 billion), France ($1.3 billion), Israel ($0.9 billion) and Singapore ($0.4 billion).

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Aug 08, 2024

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ASEAN on track to turn world's 4th largest economy by 2030: AEC

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is on track to turn the world’s fourth-largest economy by 2030 from the fifth now, with the bloc’s gross domestic product (GDP) rising by 51 per cent to $3.8 trillion in 2023 compared to $2.5 trillion in 2015, according to ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) deputy secretary general Satvinder Singh.

The projection was reinforced by regional trade, which rose to $3.5 trillion in 2023 from $2.3 trillion in 2015, he told a conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The ‘Vision 2024: Age of ASEAN” conference was jointly organised by Malaysia’s ministry of investment, trade and industry (MITI), the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and the Boston Consulting Group.

ASEAN is one of the few regions in the world where the bloc’s trade is almost as large as its GDP, he noted. The biggest component of trade is not its trade with China or the United States, but intra-Asian trade worth around $800 trillion.

In the Global South, ASEAN is the largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI), totalling about $230 billion now, he was cited as saying by regional media reports.
Global supply chain of companies with low carbon footprints and high-value activities is more likely to be in ASEAN countries in future, he said.

But a marginal rise in ageing workers and a fall in the number of young workers in the bloc is a concern, he added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Aug 08, 2024

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ICE cotton falls as dollar strengthens & global demand wavers

ICE cotton continued its downward trend for the second consecutive day yesterday. A stronger dollar index and geopolitical conditions contributed to weakness across commodities, including cotton. Concerns about cotton demand in Bangladesh and China also dampened market sentiment.

Yesterday, the ICE cotton December contract settled at 67.30 cents per pound (0.453 kg), down 0.48 cent. It remained under pressure due to pessimistic conditions. US cotton has seen a loss of 225 points in the last five trading sessions.

Yesterday, the dollar recovered against most major currencies from lower levels. The reversal in the dollar brought stability to financial markets but exerted pressure on agricultural commodities.

The trading volume yesterday was 26,764 contracts, with 38,580 contracts cleared, indicating active market participation. Open interest, which had seen 21 consecutive increases adding 22,664 contracts, dropped by 4,496 contracts over the past three sessions, bringing it to 226,861 contracts, down by 2,876 yesterday. The drop in open interest might be due to some profit-taking from record short positions.

Certified cotton stocks remained unchanged at 18,991 bales, providing stability in available inventory.

On the weather front, Hurricane Debby poses a concern for cotton growers in Georgia and the Carolinas, though only minor damage is expected. The highest risk from the hurricane is flooding in low-lying areas, but growers remain optimistic due to generally favourable weather conditions and healthy-looking crops.

Traders expressed concerns about the situation in Bangladesh, which could impact cotton prices. Bangladesh is a significant market for cotton. While political unrest may affect demand, it is too early to confirm this.

Markets are waiting for stability around the world, with a major focus on economic issues. Demand remains weak, and traders are awaiting the US Cotton export sales report due tomorrow.

On Wednesday, ICE cotton for December 2024 was traded at 67.18 cents per pound, down 0.12 cent. Cash cotton settled at 61.70 cents (down 0.35 cent), the October contract at 66.20 cents (down 0.35 cent), the March 2025 contract at 68.94 cents per pound (down 0.01 cent), the May 2025 contract at 70.14 cents (down 0.03 cent), and the July 2025 contract at 71.05 cents (down 0.03 cent). A few contracts remained at the same level as the last closing, with no trading noted today.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Aug 07, 2024

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Italian Fashion Associations Urge Government for Support and Long-term Action

As inflation, geopolitical tensions, wars and an export slowdown affect the Italian fashion industry, especially small and medium-sized companies and the manufacturing pipeline, the sector's associations are rallying together seeking more government support.

Following the fifth meeting of the so-called Table of Fashion held in the presence of the country's Minister of Enterprises and of Made in Italy Adolfo Urso on Tuesday, Camera della Moda, associations Confindustria Moda and Sistema Moda Italia acknowledged the government's interest in the fashion industry, but underscored the challenges impacting its future.

The government has announced it would support the rescheduling of debt, a tax break on research and development, promotion outside the country and more social welfare measures. Urso also reiterated his ministry's goal is to implement a Made in Italy law, which would emphasize and add value to the natural and recycled fibers supply chain and provide incentives to the sector.

Carlo Capasa, chairman of Italy's Chamber of Fashion, reporting a 5 percent decrease in revenues in the first six months of the year compared to the same period in 2023, said it was "necessary to provide the correct support to the Italian industry and especially to small and medium-sized companies," touting the importance of ongoing conversations with the government.

Confindustria Moda, which represents Assocalzaturifici (footwear), Assopellettieri (leather goods), AIP Associazione Italiana Pellicceria (fur) and UNIC (tanneries), issued a statement on Wednesday saying that, while the attention paid to emergencies in the short-term was commendable and important, the government needs to realize that "immediate measures and medium to long-term interventions" are necessary.

The Table of Fashion was established to discuss the government's potential solutions to the industry's crises. The Ministers of Work, Economy, Culture, Foreign Affairs, Environment and Energetic Safety were also present at the event on Tuesday.

Claudia Sequi, president of Assopellettieri representing Confindustria Moda, said “the crisis has reached unexplored peaks. We appreciate the government’s attention to the short-term emergencies but more needs to be done to support the companies and protect know-how and jobs.”

Sequi said the sector comprises around 11,500 companies for a total of around 33 billion euros per year and that it is going through “a complex moment that leads us to face situations that are in a sense unexplored,” citing inflation, rising interest rates, financial dues that have become for many companies “unsustainable” and a crisis that has caused a deterioration of capital.

An Italian artisan at work.

“This situation is choking the companies, and combined with a difficult geopolitcal context difficult with two wars at Europe’s door with repercussions also in Italy could cause a loss of the manufacturing pipeline we are rightly so proud of. Companies can’t survive and risk closure,” said Sequi.

In the first four months of the year, the fashion accessories segment registered a 7.9 percent decrease in exports compared to the same period last year, according to Confindustria Moda, which was not confident in a restart in the short term. Based on forecasts from the country’s National Institute for Statistics ISTAT, the leather segment in May showed a 10 percent decrease in exports, which would lead to a decrease of around 8.5 percent in the January-May period compared with last year.

The association also observed that this has also led to more hours under the government-funded redundancy pay CIG, up 138.5 percent in the first six months of the year.

The association touted the value of the districts as part of the supply chain and said that “without the intervention of the government the system is at risk” as is Made in Italy production, expertise, quality and thousands of jobs.

Sistema Moda Italia also issued a statement about its own requests to the government, estimating a 6.2 percent sales decrease for the textile and fashion sector in the first nine months of 2024, compared to the same period last year.

The slowdown accelerated in 2023, with 75 percent of companies reporting a drop in revenues, many reporting a contraction of between 20 and 33 percent, and a further worsening in the third quarter.

Sergio Tamborini, president of Sistema Moda Italia, said that "beyond the emergency measures," the sector needs "an industrial strategy that will work on a 10-15 years perspective and protect all the central fundamentals of the industry" including creativity and technological and industrial skills, urging "the acceleration of fundamental regulations to promote the creation of a new and sustainable production model" similar to that of the industry's main European partners.

SMI also requires more flexibility on the government-funded redundancy pay, new credit policies especially for mid-market brands, a tax break on net profits and on the creation of prototypes. The need to recreate some supply chains in Italy, for silk for example, and more attention to recycling were also cited.

"Moments such as the table of fashion are fundamental" said Tamborini, not only to underscore the needs of the sector, but also to develop "a common objective" in a market that continuously evolves with new challenges.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Aug 07, 2024

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Bangladesh: Apparel exports to US plunge over 10pc

The country's apparel exports to the United States -- its largest single market -- plummeted more than 10 per cent in the first half of 2024, reaching $3.40 billion.

Data from the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) under the US Department of Commerce showed a 10.97 per cent year-over-year decline for Bangladesh compared to the same period in 2023.

The drop is evident in both the value and volume of exports.

Bangladesh shipped 5.0 per cent fewer garments, totalling 1.11 billion square metres, during January-June 2024 compared to 1.17 billion square metres in the corresponding period of the previous year.

US import figures show that Bangladesh's key ready-made garment competitors, China and Vietnam, outperformed the country.

Exporters attribute the loss of export share in the US market to several domestic issues, including extended lead times, inconsistent energy supplies and a generally high cost of doing business.

They argue that these same factors give Vietnam a competitive advantage in the US market.

Meanwhile, a study by the US Fashion Industry Association (USFIA) found that American fashion companies are diversifying their apparel sourcing and exploring opportunities in emerging destinations, especially India, amid growing risks and market uncertainty in Bangladesh.

This year, more respondents reported sourcing from India (89 per cent utilisation rate) than from Bangladesh (86 per cent utilisation rate) for the first time since the survey began in 2014.

Besides, nearly 60 per cent of respondents plan to expand apparel sourcing from India over the next two years, surpassing planned expansion from any other Asian country.

In contrast, about 48 per cent of respondents expressed interest in expanding apparel sourcing from Bangladesh over the next two years, down from 52 per cent in 2023 and 58 per cent in 2022.

The study cites shipping delays, supply-chain disruptions, and 'managing geopolitics and other political instability' related to sourcing as the top five concerns among US brands and retailers in 2024.

They consider India to be more competitive than most other Asian suppliers regarding vertical integration capability, manufacturing flexibility and agility.

Despite still being in the red, India's fashion exports to the US showed improved performance over the months.

India's RMG exports to the US market declined by 2.64 per cent to $2.44 billion, while Indonesia saw a 9.75 per cent drop to $1.91 billion during the January-June period of the current year.

US apparel imports from Vietnam totalled $6.58 billion in January-June 2024, marking a 2.31 per cent year-over-year decrease, according to OTEXA data released on August 6.

During the same period, China's apparel exports to the US declined by 6.37 per cent to $6.81 billion.

OTEXA data shows that overall US apparel imports fell by 6.04 per cent to $35.74 billion in the first six months of 2024, down from $38.04 billion in the same period of 2023.

While talking to The Financial Express, several exporters said buyers are now expressing concern over the country's energy security, as reliable labour and energy supplies were previously major strengths that fueled local apparel growth.

Exporters said they are facing gas and electricity issues, with factories unable to operate at full capacity. Besides, unrest in the last two weeks has taken a heavy toll on the sector.

They also said that increased Chinese investment in Vietnam has positioned the country to capitalise on China's shifting focus, leading to rising Vietnamese exports to the US market.

Mohammad Hatem, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said buyers are now placing orders with shorter lead times due to various factors. This situation puts China and Vietnam, with their shorter lead times and more consistent energy supplies, in a stronger position.

The current gas crisis is making it difficult to meet existing lead times, he said, adding that meeting production timelines is difficult as securing fabric can take 15-20 days due to gas and electricity shortages.

Further compounding the problems, Bangladesh does not have a deep-sea port, causing delays in both import and export activities. On top of this, rising gas prices and recent wage hikes are eroding production cost competitiveness, Mr Hatem added.

"In many instances, we are forced to decline work orders because the offered prices fall below our production costs," Mr Hatem said, adding that non-cooperation from banks also causes difficulties for the exporters.

Bangladesh is also falling behind Vietnam in capturing redirected orders from China. Vietnam benefits from several advantages, including shorter lead times, lower tariffs for the US market, strong connectivity with China and numerous Chinese investments in Vietnamese manufacturing, he said.

He said the recent unrest amid anti-quota movements has also set back the industry.

"With the proposed interim government led by Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, we expect a new era to usher in and business with the US will increase in the coming days," he believes.

OTEXA data shows that US RMG imports from Cambodia grew by 4.45 per cent to $1.52 billion in January-June 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

Source: thefinancialexpress.com.bd– Aug 08, 2024

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Pakistani textile investors express concerns over current turmoil in Bangladesh

Pakistani entrepreneurs investing in Bangladesh's textile sector have expressed increased concerns about the recent turmoil and unrest in the country, fearing instability similar to that in Pakistan. The prospect of martial law in Bangladesh heightens these concerns, potentially jeopardising the stability that attracted these investors in the first place.

In recent years, several Pakistani textile entrepreneurs relocated their operations to Bangladesh. The move was motivated by lower production costs, preferential trade agreements, and superior infrastructure. The world's second-largest apparel exporter after China, Bangladesh has been steadily gaining market share as Western sanctions have hit Chinese exports. Many Pakistani firms, particularly in home textiles and readymade garments, have capitalised on Bangladesh's strategic advantages, reducing production costs by nearly 50 per cent.

Among the notable companies that set up operations in Bangladesh includeSoorty Enterprises, which invested $35 million in a garment factory employing around 6,000 Bangladeshis, and Interloop. Other significant names include Pak Denim, Crescent Textile Mills, Gul Ahmed Textile Mills, Kohinoor Textile Mills, Al-Karam Textile Mills, Nishat Mills (part of the Nishat Group), Artistic Milliners, and Masood Textile Mills.

These companies benefited from Bangladesh's lower labor costs and favorable trade agreements with the European Union and the United States, which offer better market access and lower tariffs compared to Pakistan. Despite Pakistan being granted GSP+ status by the EU in 2013, Bangladesh's economic incentives made it a more attractive destination for Pakistani firms seeking to maximise profits.

However, Muhammad Jawed Balwani, Chairman, Pakistan Apparel Forum, notes, while prominent companies like Soorty and Interloopcontinue to operate successfully in Bangladesh, the political climate under former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was not always welcoming, as her policies were seen as pro-India. The new military government would be more favorable toward Pakistani investors, he hopes.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Aug 07, 2024

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Pakistan: World cotton demand: recession beckons

The verdict is in. After the great tumble of equities across the global earlier this week, commentators and pundits seem to be speaking in unison: Central banks across the world seem to have done too little, too late to curb pressures on global spending, and a global recession seems to be less than a quarter away, at least in developed, high income markets.

Whether it is the Sahm rule indicating labor market softening, or the 10-2-year Treasury yield spread, the alarm bells are ringing on recessionary headwinds gaining hold across the board. Meanwhile, the further heating up of conflict across the Middle East theatre certainly isn't helping things either.

That can only mean terrible things for global cotton demand that has undergone a downward tailspin for the last 28 months. World cotton prices have crashed by at least half over the last 27 months, without so much as recording a nascent recovery in mill consumption across the world.

World consumption is still 3 percent below post-pandemic rally of 2021-22, and only 5 percent higher the pandemic year. At 80 cents per lb, prices are now flirting with the psychological, long-term bottom, and a further slippage could only mean scarier things for most cotton producers. Remember, at 72 percent stock-to-use ratio, global cotton stocks are now at a decade high level (minus the pandemic year).

And things could not have taken a turn for the worse in a more difficult year. Pakistani textile exporters – already battling cost-side pressures on energy tariffs and high finance cost, are now beset with an even drearier outcome in the form of minimum tax regime on income. Although the tax rationalization on export incomes may have long been in waiting, there is much to be said about timing. Yes, in a cutthroat world – only the most efficient shall survive, but maybe a country perpetually facing balance of payment crises should learn to test the patience of its export industries a little less often.

Nevertheless, many still seem hopeful that the political turmoil in Bangladesh may open up fresh opportunities. It is certainly possible, but let's not count on Bengali brothers sacrificing profit motive for political freedom far too long. And lest we forget, several major exporters from

Pakistan have stitching (and other value-add) operations set up in Bangladesh, which means that slower business in the erstwhile East Wing could lead to even slower yarn and fabric from this side of the subcontinent.

All in all, leading indicators point in only one direction: if exports are to be saved in the short run, then its time for SBP to give exporters a break on markup costs, even if re-emerging inflationary pressures mean that correction in exchange rate becomes overdue. Layout forward guidance for a path to lowering financing cost over the remainder fiscal year for private sector, subject to inflation projections being met. Go for it, and go for it now.

Source: brecorder.com– Aug 08, 2024

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Bangladesh: Violence Breaks Out Over BGMEA Leadership

A fight broke out outside the headquarters of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association in Dhaka on Wednesday after a 100-strong group of members and other individuals led by former vice president Faisal Samad questioned the fitness of the trade group's leadership and demanded the resignation of its board of directors.

The altercation is a microcosm of the fierce and sometimes deadly backlash that has been mounting against members of the South Asian nation's once-ruling Awami League, whose increasingly authoritative regime collapsed in spectacular fashion in the wake of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's abrupt flight from office. It took place as Bangladesh's garment factories resumed operations following the announcement of an interim government advised by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus.

At the center of the schism is SM Mannan Kochi, the Seha Design managing director who succeeded Faruque Hassan in April as president of the BGMEA. Kochi, whose Sammilito Parishad faction swept the organization's biennial elections by winning all 35 directorship posts, was until recently general secretary of the Awami League's Dhaka City North arm.

Samad and other members of his Forum faction, which ran against Kochi in March, handed BGMEA employees a memorandum expressing "no confidence" in the current board, a sentiment that they said came to a head after what they allege was Kochi's involvement in the violent suppression of recent student protests. They said they want to see the formation of an interim board with "honest, efficient and non-political" members.

"We are all aware that the current BGMEA president, SM Mannan Kochi, is the general secretary of the Dhaka City North Awami League. It is very sad that on August 4, Kochi opened fire on students at Mirpur-10," the missive said. "As the current president and board played a completely opposite role in this historic student movement and mass uprising, they have lost the moral right to continue fulfilling their board responsibilities."

Kochi did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

But the memorandum's grouses expand beyond Kochi's political affiliation. Samad and his fellow dissenters said that Sammilito Parishad wrested power through vote rigging and accused it and the board before it of corruption, cronyism and self-interest. The BGMEA did not offer condolences for the 400-plus deaths that have taken place since the protests began a few weeks ago, they said. Nor has it offered sufficient direction during the multiple production, banking and logistical disruptions that have sapped international buyers' confidence in the sector's ability to deliver, potentially shunting business to other sourcing nations such as India, Cambodia or Vietnam.

The BGMEA's critics also expressed frustration that Kochi appears to have taken off, a signal, they say, that the garment industry is less of a priority to him. He's currently overseas—one source suggested Singapore, while another said he was in Bangkok—seeking medical treatment for his son. While he's gone, vice president Khandokar Rafiqul Islam is serving as acting president.

Islam, on behalf of the BGMEA, immediately denounced what he described as a "hostile takeover" during the "most vulnerable period of the country." Writing in a statement that charged Samad and his Forum faction with causing further unrest at a time when peace and order were being counseled by authorities, Islam hit out at their "unlawful" behavior, which he said included thrown fists and the toppling of a security gate.

"Staff and board members who witnessed this violence are in a state of shock. Moreover, there are videos circulating on WhatsApp, which [have] aggrieved multiple general members of BGMEA," he said. "We request the concerned bodies to initiate an immediate investigation and set an exemplary punishment for the perpetrators to restore law and order in the society."

But Miran Ali, vice president of the BGMEA and managing director of the Bitopi Group and Tarasima Apparels, took a more conciliatory view of the proceedings.

"We had an amicable discussion, and we are hoping…we are certain of an amicable understanding," he told Sourcing Journal. "And ultimately, all parties, regardless of which side they support, only want the benefit of the industry. So, we are all working together in this."

Still, a shakeup of the BGMEA's top ranks is perhaps inevitable, said Md. Rafiqul Islam Rana, an assistant professor of retailing at the University of South Carolina, noting that most Awami League leaders are either trying to leave the country or are in hiding. The hacked or charred bodies of nearly 30 Awami League executives and their family members have been found across Bangladesh since Monday, according to local media.

"There are high risks of potential retaliation from law enforcement, people from the opposition party or even from the general population," Rana said. "There might be more changes in leadership in BGMEA. In particular, officials who have strong Awami League affiliations will leave or be made to leave."

All institutions, regardless of scale and importance, could see significant changes in the coming months, if not weeks, said a Bangladeshi industry insider, who asked to remain anonymous for safety reasons. Many positions across the country were filled using the Awami League's influence, sometimes by breaking the rules.

"We have a large presence of factory owners who belong to non-Awami League backgrounds [who have been] living with major grievances for…years," the person said.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Aug 07, 2024

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NATIONAL NEWS

Shri Piyush Goyal calls for faster negotiations of BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement

BIMSTEC members should re-examine the priorities of member nations with regards to trade negotiations so that the delayed Free Trade Agreement can be finalized. This was stated by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal while delivering his speech at the inaugural edition of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Business Summit organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India here today.

In his address, Shri Goyal said that there is a need to reassess the reasons behind the delay in the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement. He said that the members need to come up with a set of cogent recommendations that are acceptable to all seven countries.

He called for the Trade Negotiating Committee and the business community to consider a preferential trade agreement to begin with to foster intra-regional trade and investment and enhance regional competitiveness.

Shri Goyal called upon the BIMSTEC members to introspect on the current trading relations noting that trade among the BIMSTEC countries is small. There's a long way to go before we can achieve its full potential, he said. The Union Minister called for deeper integration amongst the member nations to provide honest feedback and help strengthen trade facilitation and cross-border movement of goods.

He further said that there should be a focus on reducing trade deficit, strengthening of trade facilitation measures to strengthen partnership in e-commerce, digital public infrastructure and better integration of custom borders with the aid of technology.

The Minister noted that there is a need for computerisation of border controls, faster clearances of the import-export online application processes which will help in Ease of Doing Business.

The Minister said that there should be a focus on strengthening supply chains, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, strengthening of trade facilitation measures by adopting international norms and seamless transport connectivity, essential to unleashing the full potential of trade and investment cooperation among the BIMSTEC Member States.

Shri Goyal expressed hope in greater integration of startups and entrepreneurs of the seven member countries to provide assistance in investment, trade and tourism. He also urged the member nations need to encourage technology and foster agricultural cooperation to secure food security, healthcare and human resource development among each other.

On Blue Economy, the Union Minister said the member states have a thriving blue economy or demand of ocean products enhancing livelihoods and job creation while preserving marine and coastal ecosystems. He further said that regional value chains can add to agricultural and mineral produce to become a developed region.

Speaking on the situation in Bangladesh, the Union Minister expressed deep concern over the developments and wished for a bright future and a smooth transition of governance for the nation. In conclusion, Shri Goyal quoted poet Rabindranath Tagore - “If I can’t make it through one door, I will go through another or I will make a door”, urging the BIMSTEC countries to collaborate with India’s business community to create new alternatives for a prosperous region.

BIMSTEC, or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is a grouping of countries in South Asia and South East Asia – Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

Source: pib.gov.in – Aug 07, 2024

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Vice President of India inaugurates the 10th National Handloom Day celebrations

The 10th National Handloom was celebrated here today with Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar as the chief guest. Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh and Minister of State Shri Pabitra Margherita also attended the event.

Shri Dhankhar during his address emphasised that handloom products are the core component of Prime Minister's "Be Vocal for Local" campaign. Promoting handlooms is the need of the hour, need of the country, and need of the planet due to the threat of climate change, he said. The Vice President said economic nationalism is fundamental to our economic growth and economic independence.

Shri Singh during his speech said that India has the largest handloom community in the world focused around sustainability and energy efficiency. The world is moving towards usage of sustainable products and handloom industry produces zero-carbon footprint and does not consume any energy, he said adding that Handloom industry is also a zero-water footprint sector.

The Union Minister noted that guided by PM Narendra Modi, the Government started celebrating National Handloom Day from August 7, 2015. He mentioned that the date was chosen to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement launched on the same day in 1905 to encourage weavers and indigenous industries.

Shri Singh highlighted PM Narendra Modi's efforts to bring technology, marketing, design and fashion under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) and said that his government is working towards providing fair remuneration to the weavers. The Government is trying to improve the textile value chain for better income opportunities for the weavers and their families, he added.

70% of handloom weavers in the country are women as Handloom sector is women-led, the Minister said. The Union Minister also highlighted the importance of traditional weaving and urged the weavers to impart the same tradition to their children. He urged them to fully utilize the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) to raise their skills.

Emphasising the need for faster adoption of handloom products, the Union Minister expressed hope that handloom products will soon be widely used by the citizens. He asked the officials to work hard help India expand the handlooms market worldwide and boost employment opportunities for weavers and their families.

Source: pib.gov.in– Aug 07, 2024

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Bangladesh crisis: India's garment export orders likely to increase 10-20%

New Delhi: India's garment industry could reap a 10-20% boost in export orders over the next 18 months following the political turmoil in Bangladesh, said executives and industry bodies.

In value terms, India's apparel exports could surge by $2-3 billion annually. Exports stood at $14.5 billion last fiscal.

The domestic textile industry is in a wait-and-watch mode, but exporters say New Delhi needs to be ready for a potential trade diversion triggered by the political unrest in the eastern neighbour, one of the world's top garment exporters.

"India can benefit from garment exports. We expect a 10-15% gain in the short to medium term on garment exports," said Sanjay Jain, chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce, National Expert Committee on Textiles.
Many global brands are already mulling shifting their sourcing once Bangladesh graduates from its least developed country status by 2027 as it would garment exports from Bangladesh costlier. India's biggest garment export cluster at Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu is expecting about a 10% rise in orders compared to last year.

Cotton yarn and fabric exports could benefit more than synthetic and manmade fibres, experts said. "We expect 10-20% orders to come to India in the next two years, especially as Bangladesh loses its LDC status in 2027. We need to set up factories and expand production," said a representative of the cotton textile industry, adding that it is an opportune time to operationalise the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) scheme aimed at setting up seven mega textile parks in the country.

Mithileshwar Thakur, secretary general of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said, "India has no intention or inclination to exploit this unfortunate situation in our friendly neighbouring country." "The Indian garment industry is making serious efforts to grow RMG exports on its own, based on its merit," he said.

He, however, added that it is quite likely that in the short-term, garment orders may shift to India and the Indian apparel industry may be asked to meet the gap caused by this severe disruption.

"Some diversion will happen and if factories in Bangladesh don't open in the next 5-6 days, then Diwali and Christmas supplies will have to be met from here," said the cotton textile industry representative cited above. The official added that India has to be ready for this Bangladesh plus one strategy as it will be factored in by buyers around the world.

Sharad Kumar Saraf, founder chairman of Technocraft Industries India, a textile exporter, said garment exports from Bangladesh enjoy duty free access in the European Union, leaving India to compete solely on price.

Source: economictimes.com– Aug 08, 2024

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Over 400 people to attend cotton conference in Coimbatore

The Indian Cotton Federation (ICF) and Punjab-based Indian Cotton Association Ltd (ICAL) will jointly host the sixth bi-annual cotton conference in Coimbatore on August 9 and 10.

J. Thulasidaran, president of the ICF, told the media here on Wednesday that, "All issues related to cotton will be discussed at the conference. Experts from various cotton-related sectors including reputed industry leaders, office bearers from various associations and research organisations will speak about the national and global scenario of cotton, the changing trends, expectations from the markets, environmental-aspects, and sustainability."

Nearly 400 delegates across India and also from Egypt, Malaysia, and other foreign countries are expected to attend the event. The participants will discuss and compile their views to submit to the government for necessary policy initiatives both, at the Centre and State levels.

Mr. Thulasidharan added that 30% of textile sector exports have been affected due to various reasons. The low cotton yield and holding of cotton by a few stakeholders were affecting the market. The import duty on cotton should be removed for Indian textile and garment industry to be internationally competitive, he added.

Roop Rashi, Textile Commissioner, Union Ministry of Textiles, will inaugurate the conference on August 9, and Selvendaran, Agriculture Secretary, Madhya Pradesh, will be the guest of honour.

K.G. Baalakrishnan, chairman of KG Group and S. Manivannan, chairman and managing director of LS Mills, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. Business Leader Award will be presented to Atul P. Asher, partner at RS Asher & Co; Ashok D. Daga, partner at Damji Velji & Co, and Gopal Bhuradia, Mr. Thulasidharan added.

Source: thehindu.com– Aug 07, 2024

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India Budget 2024-25: Impact on the Textile and Apparel Sector

The Indian economy has observed an average growth rate in the range of 5 to 7 per cent since the initiation of economic reforms in 1991-92, except for few years. The reforms also integrated the Indian economy into the global economy, increasing trade and investment flows, with India's share in global trade rising from 0.5 per cent in 1991 to around 2 per cent in 2023. The Indian economy performed well in FY24, maintaining its strong momentum from the previous year despite global challenges, demonstrating resilience and continued economic growth. Real GDP growth reached 8.2 per cent, exceeding 7 per cent for the third consecutive year, driven by stable consumption and improving investment demand. The economic growth attained by India in the last few years is one of the highest in the world, surpassing the growth rate of China, despite global challenges. As per the Economic Survey 2023-24, the projection for the country's real GDP growth stands between 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent. These estimates are projected by taking a conservative approach, however, according to some experts India's GDP growth will surpass the projections.

Retail inflation was maintained at 5.4 per cent, the lowest since the pandemic, due to effective policy interventions and RBI measures. Inflation is expected to decline further to 4.5 per cent in FY25 and 4.1 per cent in FY26, assuming normal monsoon and no external shocks.

To avoid the low-middle income trap, India needs to focus on economic reforms and active and dynamic policy interventions across sectors of the economy. The budget of a country reflects the fiscal policy of the nation in general. On July 23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget for fiscal 2024-25 showing continuity as well as needful deviation from the previous years.

The focus of the present budget was on the empowerment of youth, farmers, the poor, and women by generating new employment, skilling of labour and supporting MSMEs. The textile and apparel sector is directly linked to the budget focus and themes. The budget has significant implications for the textiles and apparel sector as it addresses various aspects like production incentives, export growth, and sustainability.

The textile and apparel industry contributes nearly 2.3 per cent of India's GDP and 10.5 per cent of the country's export earnings. The export income elasticity of textile products varies from 0.428 to 0.943 to various export destinations (Arora, 2015, ISEC WP-338).

GDP expansion of India's major trading partners will have a positive spillover effect on the exports of the sector. The sector caters to a vast and growing domestic market and is a major player in the global textiles market, exporting to key markets such as the United States, Europe, and other regions. Textiles and apparel are among the top export categories for India.

The sector contributes significantly to the country's foreign exchange earnings, with products like garments, fabrics, and home textiles being exported worldwide. The growth of the textiles and apparel sector stimulates investment in industrial infrastructure, including textile parks, manufacturing units, and logistics facilities. The sector also supports various ancillary industries such as dyeing, printing, and textile machinery manufacturing, hence contributing to broader industrial development. The sector also contributes to value addition in the supply chain, from raw materials to finished garments, enhancing overall economic productivity.

As per the National Accounts published by the Central Statistics Office, the textiles and wearing apparel sector generated a gross value added (GVA) of ₹3.77 lakh crore ($45.24 billion) in FY23, which was about 10.6 per cent of the manufacturing GVA at current prices.

The sector also accounted for 29.3 per cent of the total non-corporate manufacturing GVA and 7.9 per cent of the corporate manufacturing GVA in FY23. Available statistics also indicate that the textiles and apparel sector is one of the largest employers in India.

In terms of the sectoral share of factory employment (total persons engaged), textiles (10 per cent) remained the second largest employer after agriculture, followed by wearing apparel (7 per cent) in 2022 (ASI, MoSI). It provides direct employment to millions of people, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, including workers in spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing, and garment manufacturing. This sector has strong forward and backward linkages thereby having a strong employment multiplier effect on the economy.

Despite fundamental differences in unemployment data reported by CMIE and Annual PLFS reports, unemployment is a critical issue that continues to challenge the economic landscape and public discourse in India, particularly youth unemployment. As one of the world's most populous nations with a diverse workforce, fluctuations in the unemployment rate have far-reaching implications for the country's growth and development.

This is a major concern among youth, policymakers, and the political class as well. From an employment perspective, the textile and apparel industry has contributed significantly to employment generation and poverty alleviation. For millions of people, many of whom are women who reside in rural areas, it offers both direct and indirect employment along with a source of livelihood. The textile and apparel industry is completely in line with the government's major empowerment programmes such as Make in India, Skill India, Women Empowerment, and Rural Youth Employment (Annual report 2022-23, Ministry of Textiles).

The textile and apparel sector is one of the key sectors supporting India's growth story. The government has given priority to including world-class textile infrastructure along with plug-and-play know-how, particularly emphasising technical advancement, the promotion of handloom and handcraft items, quality, and standards.

India has a robust end-to-end value chain in the textile industry, spanning raw materials like natural and MMF fibre to the final product and covering apparel, home textiles, and technical textiles. India is one of the world's largest clothing manufacturing and exporting nations. In FY24, the export of textiles and apparel, including handicrafts, increased by 1 per cent, reaching ₹2.97 lakh crore ($35.64 billion).

The readymade garments contributed around 41 per cent of total exports worth ₹1.2 lakh crore ($14.4 billion), followed by cotton textiles (34 per cent), and man-made textiles (14 per cent) during the financial year 2023-24.

When it comes to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), their contribution is more than 80 per cent of India's textile and apparel manufacturing capacity. However, their operation size is small, hence this reduces the efficiency and economies of scale in large-scale production.

Until 2030, the Indian economy needs to create an average of about 78.5 lakh non-farm employment each year through Production Linked Incentive (PLI), PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks, and Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) schemes. To satisfy this need, out of 78.5 lakh jobs in the non-farm sector, 60 lakh employment would be created through PLI schemes within five years, 20 lakh jobs through PM MITRA and PMMY schemes, and some employment through the route of other schemes.

Seven PM MITRA Parks, with a budget of ₹4,445 crore ($533 million), will be established from FY22 to FY28 in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The parks will feature 1,000-acre industrial infrastructure and ‘plug-and-play’ facilities and will have ‘technology-driven’ ecosystems with R&D, start-up incubation, forward and backward linkages with logistics parks, and market access systems.

The Indian government approved a PLI scheme with ₹10,683 crore ($1.28 billion) over five years for man-made fibre apparel and fabrics and technical textiles. The government also has taken good steps towards linking skill development to the PLI scheme and employment-linked incentive schemes in high-growth potential industries including textile and clothing industries, which will help to upgrade skills as manufacturing advances up the value chain. Textiles and apparel’s average annual growth rate in manufacturing GVA at constant prices is 3 per cent from FY14 to FY23.

In the Budget for 2024-25, the government increased its allocation for the textile industry to ₹4,417 crore ($530 million) from the revised budget projection of ₹3,443 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24, indicating a vigorous commitment to expanding the industry. This is a significant increase of 28.29 per cent over the previous year.

The gross budget allocation of ₹4,417 crore has been distributed into three heads, i.e., ₹375.41 crore is proposed to be spent on establishment expenditure of the Centre, ₹3866.17 crore on central sector schemes/projects and ₹175.41 crore on other central sector expenditure. The expenditure on central sector schemes/projects is a significant 45.63 per cent increase over the previous year.

The top 5 centrally sponsored schemes under budget allocation for the textile sector are the programmes of the Central Silk Board (23.28 per cent), the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (16.42 per cent), Procurement of Cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India under the Price Support Scheme (15.52 per cent), National Technical Textiles Mission (9.70 per cent) and PM MITRA (7.76 per cent) (see Graph 1).

In the Budget 2024-25, the PLI and PM MITRA schemes have been given substantial funding, which will boost investment in the country. In other words, one of the budget's primary features is a considerable increase in financing for the Textile PLI programme. The budget for PLI has been increased to ₹45 crore ($5.4 million) from ₹5 crore, which is 800 per cent higher than the previous year. The funding has also been enhanced from ₹0.01 crore to ₹600 crore for CCI's cotton purchase under the price support scheme. Furthermore, funding for the Integrated Scheme for Skill Development has increased from ₹115 to ₹166 crore, while the budget for the Development of the Jute Sector and the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) has fallen from ₹75 to 50 crore, and ₹675 to ₹635 crore respectively.

The textiles ministry anticipates this significant increase in the budget allocation to spur greater investment and strengthen the sector's global competitiveness. For expanding technical garment exports, the budget towards the National Technical Textiles Mission has gone up from ₹170 crore to ₹375 crore, an increase of more than 100 per cent.

The allocation to the National Handicraft Development Programme has been increased from ₹155 crore to ₹206 crore, an increase of 32.48 per cent. Likewise, the allocation of National Handloom Development Programme has been raised from ₹190 crore to ₹200 crore. Also, the budget allocation for the Handicraft Cluster Development Program (Handicraft Mega Cluster) has increased from ₹15.7 crore to ₹30 crore, an increase of 91 per cent, to derive investment, encourage innovation, and catalyse growth within the textile and apparel industry.

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Source: fibre2fashion.com– Aug 06, 2024

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India's lifestyle market to reach $210 bn by 2028 with 18%–22% online penetration: Report

India's burgeoning lifestyle market is set to witness significant growth, reaching $210 billion by 2028, largely led by the organized segment, according to a report by Bain & Company and Myntra.

The lifestyle market, currently valued at $130 billion, is set to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10 per cent–12 per cent, according to the report titled 'E-Styling India: Decoding India's Online Fashion and Lifestyle Shopping Trends'.

The report highlights that fashion constitutes approximately 80 per cent of the current market, with beauty and personal care (BPC) making up the remaining.

Notably, the e-lifestyle segment, dominated by fashion, comprising 75 per cent of the market, and accessories and women's apparel are expected to grow faster than other fashion segments.

The e-lifestyle market in India is poised to grow from $16–$17 billion in 2023 to $40–$45 billion by 2028; enabled by the easing of short-term inflationary pressures, combined with structural and favourable demand shifts, such as a rise in income, growth of fashion-forward, digital native Gen-Z shopper base as well as increase in demand for organized/ branded products.

Beauty and personal care (BPC) has become more mainstream with 16 per cent penetration in 2023 and is expected to grow slightly faster over the next five years.

Despite this rapid growth, India's online lifestyle market still has considerable room for penetration. Currently, only about 13 per cent of the lifestyle market is online, compared to 35 per cent+ in more mature markets like the US, China, and Germany. By 2028, this figure is projected to increase to 18 per cent–22 per cent.

"India's e-lifestyle market has come of age in the last few years, with a diverse shopper base – 2 in 3 online shoppers are from beyond top 50 cities, 1 in 2 are from non-affluent segments, and 1 in 3 are Gen-Z. There still exists massive penetration headroom. 1 in 5 dollars spent on lifestyle will be online", said Shyam Unnikrishnan, Partner at Bain & Company.

The report sheds light on the evolving demographics of online shoppers in India. Two-thirds of these shoppers hail from beyond the top 50 cities, with half belonging to non-affluent segments.

Furthermore, one-third of online shoppers are Gen Z, a group known for their fashion-forward and digital-native behaviour. This demographic alone accounts for 25 per cent of the e-lifestyle market, contributing $4 billion in gross merchandise value (GMV).

One of the standout trends identified is the rapid rise of the trend-first fashion market. This segment, characterized by a large assortment and faster refresh cycles, is expected to grow eightfold, reaching $4–$5 billion by 2028. Consequently, the online share of trend-first fashion is projected to increase from the current 30 per cent–35 per cent to 50 per cent–55 per cent.

The report also emphasizes the pivotal role of lifestyle products as a gateway category for first-time e-commerce shoppers. In 2023, over 175 million customers shopped for lifestyle products online, with an average of 6–7 transactions per year. Notably, 40 per cent–45 per cent of these shoppers made lifestyle products their initial online purchase.

India has been a core market for top global brands—90 per cent of the top 50 global brands are already present in India, and half of these brands have over $30 million in revenue from India operations. Over the past year, more than 60 global brands have launched or planned launches, spanning scale, niche, luxury, and new-age segments.

"Three in five global brands have entered India via the online channel in the past year and we are proud to have contributed to the launch of some of these global brands in the country. A well-rounded and high-decibel launch, facilitating easier discovery, access to intel about the needs of Indian fashion-forward consumers and Myntra's reach to 99 per cent of serviceable pin codes are among the key factors enabling the scale-up of the global brands in the sub-continent", said Nandita Sinha, CEO, Myntra.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Aug 07, 2024

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Indo-Bangla trade resumes from Petrapole land port amid tight security

Trade between India and Bangladesh through Petrapole land port in West Bengal, resumed Thursday morning amid tight security, officials said. The two South Asian neighbours' trade came to a halt on August 5 following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh and it partially resumed on Wednesday through several land ports in West Bengal, except Petrapole.

Bilateral trade via Petrapole is the highest among all land ports shared with Bangladesh. "Trade began from Petrapole since morning. There was a meeting yesterday with stakeholders from both countries to resolve the stalemate," an official said, declining to be quoted.

Sajedur Rahman, general secretary of the Benapole C&F Staff Association, had said after the meeting on Wednesday evening that trade is expected to resume in the morning on Thursday. Benapole is located on the Bangladesh side of the Petrapole border in West Bengal. Trade, mostly of perishable goods, partially resumed at land ports such as Hili, Changrabandha, Mahadipur, Fulbari, and Gojadanga on Wednesday.

Officials said that in the wake of the Hasina government's fall following large-scale violent protests against her government, India heightened security on the border. The Director General of the Border Security Force visited Petrapole on Tuesday to review the situation along the international boundary amid the crisis in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia, and India is the second-largest trade partner of Bangladesh in Asia. India's exports to Bangladesh dipped to USD 11 billion in 2023-24 from USD 12.21 billion in 2022-23. Imports also declined to USD 1.84 billion in the last fiscal year from USD 2 billion in 2022-23.

India's main exports to Bangladesh include vegetables, coffee, tea, spices, sugar, confectionery, refined petroleum oil, chemicals, cotton, iron and steel, and vehicles. In contrast, Bangladesh's exports to India are concentrated in a few categories, with textiles and garments comprising 56 per cent of their shipments.

Source: economictimes.com– Aug 08, 2024

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Bangladesh crisis: Yarn makers stare at losses, textile units sniff opportunity

Even as the ongoing turmoil in Bangladesh has left the yarn exporters from Punjab and other parts of the country worried over their stuck consignments and payments, the textile industry is eyeing an opportunity. Exporters believe that due to the crisis, global textile orders could shift partly to India.

In a month, India exports around 40,000 tonnes of different type of yarns, including cotton, acrylic and woollen, to Bangladesh. Punjab's share in the exports is around 35 per cent.

According to yarn makers, the state has huge stakes in Bangladesh as the net exports generate over Rs 4,000 crore each year. The largest share is of cotton yarn, followed by acrylic wool. As the border with Bangladesh has been shut, the export consignments are stuck.

"Goods worth more than Rs 200 crore are stuck at the border and orders worth Rs 1,000 crore will be immediately effected," said Amit Thapar, president, Ganga Acrowools Ltd, who also heads Northern Region-CII export committee. His own goods (woollen yarns), worth Rs 2 crore were stuck and orders worth Rs 4 crore would be impacted if the situation did not improve, he added.

Sanjiv Dutt, vice-president of Punjab-based Winsome Textiles, said the crisis in Bangladesh would have a severe impact on the industry in Punjab, as payments would be halted or delayed. "High-quality cotton had been imported before the crisis. The payment circle will be hit as Bangladesh is a crucial market for Indian textiles," he added.

Bajrang Lal Sharma, member of the management committee of All-India Motor Transport Congress, said: "More than 700 trucks laden with yarn, chemical fabric and cycle parts are stranded on the Indian side of the border, while 1,300 trucks are stuck on the other side. Of these, roughly 200 are were of Punjab-based exporters."

Meanwhile, stakeholders of the garment industry anticipate that due to the crisis, global buyers may shift short-term orders to India, benefitting the garment clusters in Ludhiana, Noida, Tiruppur and Gurugram. They also hope that Indian corporate houses like Reliance, Tata, Madura Coats, Arvind and brands like Marks and Spencer, Canterbury, Polo, etc., who were earlier getting outsourcing done from Bangladesh, can come up with orders for the local industry.

Talking to The Tribune, Sudershan Jain of Oner Knitwear said: “India now has a good opportunity to make a comeback. If governments support the garment industry, this could be a golden opportunity for manufacturers to get orders in bulk. Countries like China, Cambodia and Vietnam are also in the race, but India too can catch up,” said Jain.

“Some of our members have already received queries from foreign buyers. As India exported a significant amount of yarns and fabric to Bangladesh, if everything goes well, you might see a lot of export orders being catered from India in the near future,” said Lalit Thukral, president, Noida Apparel Exporters Cluster. Thukral is also the regional head, northern region, for Apparel Export Promotion Council.

As per estimates, there are approximately 10,000 garment/textile units in Ludhiana, half of which are associated with the corporate sector in one way or the other.

Currently, of $44 billion earned due to textile exports from India, $14 billion is generated by exports in the apparel segment alone. Bangladesh earns $47 billion in a year from apparel exports.

Source: tribuneindia.com– Aug 08, 2024

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India's Telangana state allows shops to stay open for extended hours

Indian state of Telangana has permitted all shops and establishments in the state to remain open till 1:00 AM as an ease of doing business (EoDB)-enabling measure. This move will create additional jobs, besides providing flexibility and convenience to customers.

Speaking about this development, Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India (RAI), said, “Extended hours of operation are a win-win situation for consumers, businesses and the government. This step allows the consumers the flexibility to shop at their convenience. It will also give a boost to tourism in the state and will help create jobs. A vibrant retail environment is critical to the economic growth. We hope the government will soon allow all establishments to remain open 24x7 throughout the year.”

RAI delegation had a series of meeting with the Telangana Government to implement the notification issued by the state government for 24x7 store opening last year. It was highlighted that while the 24x7 notification was effective, the local police authorities did not recognise the notification and ask the business to shut operations early.

RAI has been working with various state governments for enabling Ease of Doing Business and has been pursuing various departments to adopt the State Retail Trade Policy and allow retailers to operate 24x7, in line with the state governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, RAI said in a press release.

Retail in India, which is expected to touch $2 trillion by 2032, continues to be one of the country’s largest industries that makes up for over 10 per cent of the GDP.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Aug 07, 2024

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