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The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council [TEXPROCIL]
Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai - 400 004. Maharashtra State. INDIA
W. www.texprocil.org E. enews@texprocil.org T. +91-22-2363 2910 to 12 F. +91-22-2363 2914

IBTEX No. 116 of 2018 June 05, 2018

USD 67.22| EUR 78.54 | GBP 89.43 | JPY 0.61

Cotton Market

Spot Price (Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
21226	44400	**84.38**

Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), June

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
22450	46960	**89.25**

International Futures Price

NY ICE USD Cents/lb (July 2018)	92.10
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (Jan 2019)	18,730
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**112.69**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**99.95**

Cotton guide: On the start of the week cotton price at ICE slipped from its intraday high and ended the session lower. The most active July future settled at 92.10 cents and the December at 90.94 cents per pound. Both the counters are trading lower this morning by around half to 1% and trading at 91.49 and 90.01 cents respectively.

We are seeing good profit booking from the highs while there is no fresh update on the market though the weather concern in the US related to dryness and excessive rainfall in China is causing supply issues making the broad trend to remain positive. However, there has been slight rain in US over the weekend in West Texas. Meanwhile, China continues to be the focal point in the market. A recent rumor that the Chinese government would only allow spinners to purchase cotton at the Chinese State Reserve Auction turned into fact over the weekend. Merchants are now restricted from participating for the rest of the auction which ends August 31st.

Additionally, the cotton bought by spinners may not be resold and must be used by the spinners who purchased the cotton. Also the Chinese government announced more import quotas may be issued; and that the State Reserve Auction may be extended through September. State Reserve cotton on Monday's auction had a turnover rate of 99.32 percent, spinners only. That followed 2 full weeks at 100 percent of the offers sold. Offered Monday were 30,010.449 tons (137,838 bales); and sold were 29,806.38 tons (136,901 bales). The cumulative turnover rate is 65.16 percent (offered versus sold). This auction series started at 24.1 million bales and by Monday there were 18.84 million bales remaining.

Currency Guide:

Indian rupee trades little changed near 67.1 levels against the US dollar. Supporting rupee is sharp correction in crude oil price. Crude oil has corrected over 11% from recent highs on prospect of higher output from OPEC. The US dollar index is also choppy as optimism about US economy is countered by easing political tensions in Italy.

However, weighing on rupee is concerns about US-led global trade war and increasing expectations of RBI's interest rate hike. An Indian finance ministry official flagged the possibility of an increase in interest rates to curb inflation. Rupee may witness choppy trade as market players position for RBI decision on June 6 but some appreciation is likely due to weaker outlook for crude. USDINR may trade in a range of 66.85-67.25 and bias may be on the downside.

Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us : mailto:research@kotakcommodities.com, Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source

NEWS CLIPPINGS

	INTERNATIONAL NEWS
No	**Topics**
1	China supplies one third of EU's apparel and textiles
2	China cotton group says 'no shortage', more import quotas on way
3	ICAC Sees Troubled Waters for Global Cotton Production
4	US: Consultants Say This Is Where The Apparel Industry Has Gone Wrong
5	Taiwan's manufacturing and textile sector show growth
6	USA: Trade War: Textiles in the cross-hairs
7	US unemployment rate is now lowest since April 2000
8	Pakistan textile exports up 12 per cent
9	Vietnamese garment sector maintains growth in traditional markets
10	Used clothing spells business in South Africa
11	Bellegprom companies increase exports to non-CIS countries
	NATIONAL NEWS
1	India's textile exporters expect easing of working capital
2	Textiles sector has only ups and few downs: Irani
3	Indian woven fabric exports up 17 per cent
4	India seeks to fast-track pact with MERCOSUR
5	Here's what Suresh Prabhu is doing to boost India's exports
6	How to tackle the cotton bollworm

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China supplies one third of EU's apparel and textiles

Imports of apparel and textile products to the European Union member countries, with a population exceeding 510 million, reached EUR 110.9 billion in 2017. Of these, EUR 92.6 billion were apparel products and EUR 18.3 billion were imports of textile products.

The country where the EU imports from the most is China. Of the approximately EUR 110.9 billion imported in 2017, EUR 37 billion worth of products came from China, which is 33.3% of all of the EU's apparel and textile imports.

Import of clothing

According to the European Statistical Office (Eurostat), China's clothing exports to the European Union ranked first, at about 34%. The EU imported apparel worth EUR 31.4 billion from China in 2017. Bangladesh ranked second, with around EUR 15.8 billion (17%), Turkey ranked third, with EUR 10.8 billion (11.7%). India ranked fourth, with EUR 6.2 billion, while Pakistan came fifth, with EUR 4.4 billion.

The share of EU clothing imports made in 10 countries is 89%. There are three countries exporting over EUR 10 billion worth of products to the EU. These are China, Bangladesh, and Turkey. The share of these three countries in total clothing exports to the EU is 62.6%.
Import of textile products

The textile products, including yarn, fibre, fabric, and home textile, imported by the European Union countries from all over the world in 2017 increased by 3%, compared to the previous year, and amounted to EUR 18.3 billion. Over EUR 1 billion worth of textiles were imported from four countries. The share of these four countries in imports constituted 61.3%.

The most important textiles supplier of the European Union is China. In 2017, it exported textile products worth EUR 5.5 billion, followed by Turkey. According to Eurostat, the EU's imports of textile products from Turkey last year increased by 0.7%, compared to the previous year, and were valued at EUR 3.3 billion.

The third largest textiles supplier of the EU is India. Approximately EUR 1.3 billion worth of textile products were imported in 2017. The fourth largest textiles supplier of the EU is South Korea, where textile imports of EUR 1 billion 58 million were imported in 2017.

Source: knittingindustry.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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China cotton group says 'no shortage', more import quotas on way

The China Cotton Association sought to calm market volatility on Monday, telling investors supplies were sufficient and revealing government plans to allow for more imports in the near future.

The comments from the association, which lobbies the government on behalf of cotton farmers and processors, follow a rally that has driven domestic cotton futures up nearly 18 percent since early April.

Concerns about hailstorms and heavy rain in top producing region Xinjiang drove prices higher, even as some traders warned the weather would have a relatively small impact.

"There is no shortage of supplies," said the cotton association in a statement published on its website.

Volatile fluctuations in prices had led to a "tense" market, despite the "absence of significant changes in market supply and demand," the association said.

While demand for cotton has been steadily rising this year, the association said there is limited room for growth.

"The supply of cotton is basically sufficient, and the abnormal fluctuations in the current market are influenced by speculation and other factors," it said.

China's cotton output this year is expected to remain stable, with weather disasters about the same as in previous years, the association said. Bad weather came "relatively early" as well, reducing any impact on yield, it said.

Supply is also sufficient, it said. Commercial inventories were about 2.87 million tonnes at end-April, about 1 million tonnes higher than the same time last year.

Still, it said the government had decided to issue a certain amount of sliding tariff import quotas to textile companies in light of the current market.

China allocates 894,000 tonnes in tariff-rate quotas each year as part of its commitments to the World Trade Organization.

Until 2014, it also issued additional quotas with sliding tariff rates. Since 2015, though, it has not issued additional quotas in order to get rid of huge state stocks.

The comments came after the China National Cotton Reserves Corporation said it would restrict purchasing at its daily auctions to textile manufacturers from Monday, according to a statement from the company posted on industry website www.cottonchina.org.

Companies not using cotton to make textiles will be disqualified from buying from state reserves for the rest of the year, and textile companies will be banned from reselling any purchases, said the statement from the reserves company, which manages China's state cotton stockpiles.

The China Cotton Association said the state sales could be extended to end-September if market supplies were insufficient.

The association also urged the government to strengthen supervision of the futures market and prevent speculation from impacting the sector.

Source: agriculture.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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ICAC Sees Troubled Waters for Global Cotton Production

The International Cotton Advisory Council is warning that a continued decrease in world cotton production combined with depilatory weather conditions in the U.S. and China could lead to “quality gaps” in next season’s cotton supply.

The ICAC said in a new report that world cotton production is estimated at 26.6 million tons for the current 2017-18 crop season, while world mill use is projected at 25.5 million tons, which represents the third consecutive season of growth in demand for cotton.

As a result, ICAC projected world ending stocks to decrease to 18.3 million tons, representing the fourth consecutive season of diminishing global reserves.

Much of the decline occurs in China, where stocks at the end the 2017-18 season were projected to be down to 8 million tons. ICAC forecasts stocks held outside of China to increase to 10.3 million tons, the fourth consecutive season for higher stocks outside of China.

However, ICAC said, “Along with weather issues in the Xinjiang region, which represents 75 percent of China’s cotton area, and potential drought conditions in West Texas affecting 25 percent of the U.S. crop, there may be concern of quality supply gaps which may affect next seasons supply.”

ICAC projected world cotton consumption to increase to 26.7 million tons in 2018-19, while it estimated world cotton production at 25.7 million tons in the season.

Production in China is projected to decrease to 5.6 million tons next season based on reduced planting area, while consumption is forecasted to increase to 8.4 million tons.

ICAC forecasts U.S. production to decline to 4.2 million tons, with exports projected to increase 3 percent to 3.3 million tons in 2018-19. Reduced yields in 2017-18 in India are contributing to lowered planted area for next season, with exports projected at 840,000 tons, representing a 24 percent falloff from the previous season.

Production in Brazil for the current season was estimated to be 1.9 million tons, a 26 percent increase from 2016-17, with 900,000 tons projected for export. Production for the West Africa region in this season was projected at 1.2 million tons, representing a 13 percent growth from the previous season, with exports for the region expected at 1.04 million tons.

All this leads to a projection of 83 cents per pound for Cotlook A index for the current season, staying flat on average with last season. For 2018-19, ICAC forecasts a decline to 81 cents a pound for the global index. Spot prices in the U.S. averaged 87.17 cents per pound for the week ending May 31, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is the highest weekly average since week May 2014 when the average was 86.53 cents. The weekly average was up from 82.94 cents per pound the prior week and from 74.56 cents a year earlier.

Source: sourcingjournal.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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US: Consultants Say This Is Where The Apparel Industry Has Gone Wrong

If your company has assembled an innovations team to discuss ways to modernize the supply chain, it still may not be enough to stave off irrelevance as it creeps closer to staid companies with a quickening pace.

The reason for that, according to a panel of consultants who spoke at the Sourcing Journal Summit in Hong Kong last month, is because the industry has been more focused on discussing than doing. And all that talk hasn't served to help many know which foot to set forward first.

Retail's disruption has been apparent for some years as consumers shop differently and seek more interesting offerings from the places where they spend their money, but what the sector didn't seem prepared for was the disruption that's now plaguing the back office.

"We're now discussing about digitalization, automization [sic], personalization, and we've seen all of that happening on the front end," said McKinsey & Company senior partner Dr. Achim Berg. "We've seen e-commerce disrupting the whole retail industry and we're kind of surprised now that the back end is affected, and I think that's where the industry got it wrong. Not having the foresight that that wave would hit the back end."

It's a misstep that's marked major turnover, with companies filing bankruptcy left and right and quarter after quarter blaming the demands of a transition period designed to dig them out of the ditch.

Though there have been improvements as companies come to terms with the realities and apparel technology catches up to accommodate the modern supply chain, companies either aren't embracing the technology or they're using it as a Band-Aid in an attempt to patch a problem that's bigger than that. And it's a problem start-ups—which are increasingly encroaching on market share—aren't facing, as many are approaching supply chains more simply than many traditional players can even wrap their heads around.

"We apply technology pretty much into traditional patterns of working and that makes it terribly difficult for traditional players to compete with those new players," PwC Strategy& Principal Dr. Axel Nitschke, said. "There's a lot of incremental improvement within existing goals, but the real fix to that is asking yourselves, 'how can the same technology help us to do things simpler again, to focus more on the product, to focus more on the customer?' And that's somewhere I think the industry is in a little bit of a transition."

Approaching the supply chain's problems from a slightly different perspective, AlixPartners managing director Murali Gokki thinks the chase for cheaper product has been the biggest culprit.

"If you're asking how the industry went wrong, it's not necessarily the industry, it is the shift in manufacturing from the developed countries to the underdeveloped countries, which started way back in the 80s and 90s," Gokki said.

As demand ramped up for cheaper and cheaper products, the industry found ways to deliver by moving to cheaper and cheaper areas of production, but that model is just about exhausted.

"That has caused the industry to not really step up in terms of strengthening their populations, strengthening the efficiencies in the factory or strengthening the way that they work across brands and retailers and supply chains," Gokki explained, adding however, "There's no more cheaper countries to migrate to or areas to manufacture."

The current call for transparency has been one force driving companies away from this outmoded M.O., but the main hurdle to overcome is the mindset that still exists among brands and buyers.

"If you go into a company today, despite the appreciating recognition of transparency in the supply chain, the day to day struggle of the managers are around cost, quality failures, on-time delivery, compliance—not social compliance violations, not necessarily contributing to compliance," Gokki said. "I think it's a macro condition that has driven us to where we are right now."

In the midst of all of the supply chain challenges, the desperate need to make changes fast and the flurry to adopt new technologies they can't fully yet grasp to speed the whole process up, another problem entered the fray: companies are falling out of touch with themselves and what they offer.

"They tend to overdo it a little bit and they focus on the new stuff and lose sight of the core strengths," Nitschke said.

Many companies have also overestimated speed and what delivering it can do for the business, while underestimating the people side and what changing responsibilities and capabilities can do for the business, Nitschke explained.

Whichever problem pains an organization the most, it's been clear among consultants that companies are well aware of their ills and errs and far less aware of how to turn talk into action.

"It's less a problem of understanding or a realization of what the problem is. It's much more a problem of execution and getting those things done," Berg said.

"There's plenty of conceptual work out there on how to become faster, how to become more responsive, how to become more customer-centric…I think really the question is: how do you do that?"

To begin answering that question, Berg explained, companies need to aim their attention at implementation, considering, “How do you implement change in a good way and to receive benefits that are not too far away. That’s the big challenge.”

Source: sourcingjournal.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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Taiwan’s manufacturing and textile sector show growth

According to the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER), Taiwan’s composite index for the manufacturing sector increased by 1.25 from a month earlier to 11.70 to enter the yellow-blue light category, which ranges from 10.5 to 13 points.

The textile industry too was boosted by rising demand for functional textile products and improved from a blue light to a yellow-blue light in April.

TIER uses a five-color light system to describe economic activity, with red indicating overheating, yellow-red showing fast growth, green representing stable growth, yellow-blue signaling sluggish growth and blue reflecting a contraction.

According to TIER, three of the five factors that make up the composite index for the manufacturing sector moved higher in April. The sub-indexes for the general business climate, pricing and demand all rose from a month earlier in April.

The growth in the three factors echoed Taiwan's strong export performance in April, when the country's outbound sales rose 10 percent from a year earlier to US$26.73 billion.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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USA: Trade War: Textiles in the cross-hairs

China may be up in the air, but some U.S. textiles exports are now facing retaliatory tariffs from Canada and the European Union.

Last week, President Donald Trump announced that he was removing the exemptions from additional tariffs on steel and aluminum from EU member countries, Canada and Mexico.

HFPA counsel Robert Leo reminded home textiles members in a June 1 letter that the EU has threatened additional tariffs on U.S. products including cotton bedlinen, various fabrics, cotton blankets and traveling rugs, and down or feather-filled bedding.

Canada has also issued a list of threatened retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports to go into effect on July 1, added Leo, a principal at Meeks, Sheppard, Leo & Pillsbury. That list includes the follow home textiles items (with Canadian HS numbers):

Tablecloths and serviettes/napkins: 4818.30
Sleeping bags: 9404.30
Other bedding and similar articles: 9404.90

Regarding potential U.S. tariff s on Chinese imports, Leo noted: "Textiles and textile products were not on the earlier list, and there is no indication that they will be on this 'final' list. However, there have been plenty of surprises, so stay tuned."

The U.S. government is scheduled to publish its list on Chinese imports that will be subject to tariffs on June 15.

Mexico announced it will also issue a list that includes several agricultural, steel and aluminum products, although there has been no mention of textile or home fashion products, wrote Leo.

Canada is also proposing to respond to the Trump administration's imposition of tariffs on Canadian products by targeting U.S. mattresses sent to Canada, according to a report from HTT sister publication Furniture Today.

In an alert, the International Sleep Products Assn. told its members Canada plans to retaliate by imposing its own countermeasures against imports of selected U.S. products equal to the value of Canadian goods affected by the U.S. tariffs. Included on the list of proposed retaliatory actions that Canada released is a 10% surtax on imports of U.S.-manufactured mattresses.

"We also have not seen mattresses mentioned in press reports concerning Mexico's planned response to the U.S. action," it added.

Source: hometextilestoday.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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US unemployment rate is now lowest since April 2000

The unemployment rate in the US has reached its lowest since April 2000, as many industries including retail continue to hire. According to the National Retail Federation, the retail industry employment was up by 28,800 jobs seasonally adjusted in May over April and 100,200 jobs unadjusted year-over-year. Overall, US businesses added 223,000 jobs in May.

"May's rebound in jobs together with the report of solid income growth and the rise in consumer confidence points to the economy functioning very well," NRF chief economist Jack Kleinhenz said.

"Solid fundamentals in the job market are encouraging for retail spending, as employment gains generate additional income for consumers and consequently increase spending."

"With the unemployment rate of 3.8 percent at its lowest since April 2000, shows that many industries including retail are hiring and creating jobs at a steady pace. We expect this rate to continue to decline as the fiscal stimulus and tax cuts are further absorbed in the economy," Kleinhenz said.

May's numbers followed an upwardly revised combined increase of 19,300 jobs for March and April. The three-month moving average in May showed an increase of 19,000 jobs, NRF said in a press release.

Retail registered monthly gains nearly in all segments with the most robust increases concentrated in three sectors: general merchandise stores, which were up 13,400; clothing and clothing accessory stores, up 6,500; and building and garden supplies, up 6,000. Losses were concentrated in two sectors: health and personal care stores, down 800 jobs; and non-store which includes online, down 1,100 jobs.

Economy-wide, average hourly earnings in May increased by 8 cents – 2.7 per cent – year-over-year.

Kleinhenz noted that retail job numbers reported by the department of labour do not provide an accurate picture of the industry because they count only employees who work in stores while excluding retail workers in other parts of the business such as corporate headquarters, distribution centres, call centres and innovation labs.

The labour department numbers also exclude automobile dealers, gasoline stations and restaurants.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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Pakistan textile exports up 12 per cent

Pakistan's exports of textile products grew 12.8 per cent year on year.The value of total textile sector exports grew 7.18 per cent in July-January 2018 versus the corresponding period of last year.

The textile industry in Pakistan is the largest manufacturing industry in the country.

For years, the sector has been the country's backbone as it provides employment and export revenues. The sector contributes 57 per cent to the country's exports, 8.5 per cent to GDP and is the second largest employment sector in Pakistan.

Pakistan is the eighth largest exporter of textile commodities in Asia.

Between 1947 and 2000, the number of textile mills in Pakistan increased from 3 to 600. In the same time spindles increased from 1,77,000 to 805 million.

Cotton spinning is perhaps the most important segment in the Pakistan textile industry with 521 units installed and operational.

Synthetic fibers prepared with nylon, polyester, acrylic, and polyolefin dominate the market.

Three types of filament yarn are also produced in Pakistan. These are acetate rayon yarn, polyester filament yarn, and nylon filament yarn. Textile products manufactured from wool are also famous across the country and they include woolen yarn, acrylic yarn, fabrics, shawls, blankets, and carpets.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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Vietnamese garment sector maintains growth in traditional markets

Many Vietnamese garment firms have maintained high growth in traditional markets this year, including the US, the Republic of Korea, the European Union and member states of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Vice President and General Secretary of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) Truong Van Cam said a series of recently-signed free trade agreements (FTAs) is expected to boost the sector.

Since 2001, Vietnam has signed bilateral trade agreements with the US, Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India, and joined the World Trade Organisation.

However, global demand for textiles and apparels only grows by 1-2 percent each year, resulting in fierce competition, he said.

According to him, most FTAs have rules on product origin for fibre and fabrics while Vietnam imports up to 80 percent of materials.

At present, Bangladesh cuts corporate tax to 20 percent from 35 percent andlinen fiber and spandex import tax from 10 percent to 5 percent. Pakistan waives material and energy taxes for exported apparel while India reduces fibre import tax to 2.5 percent from 5 percent.

The EU offers zero percent tax to apparel from Cambodia and Myanmar while the US waives tax for several Cambodia goods. Vietnamese apparels are still subject to 17.7 percent and 9.6 percent tax when exporting to the US and the EU, respectively.

VITAS called on the State to devise planning and grant licences to major garment industrial areas to attract investment in weaving and dyeing. It also urged supporting wastewater treatment in industrial zones and discouraging foreign firmsfrom investing in fiber and sewing.

Source: en.vietnamplus.vn- June 04, 2018

HOME

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Used clothing spells business in South Africa

Secondhand clothing imports dominate African markets. They accounted for half the fall in employment engaged in making apparel in Africa between 1981 and 2000.

African manufacturing is weak for many reasons, from clumsy privatizations to crumbling infrastructure.

The secondhand clothing industry dramatically helps close the loop on post-consumer textile waste, and provides many people around the world the only affordable access to quality apparel.

But cast-offs undercut Africa’s fledgling clothing industries. This is a trade that knits together charity and business, gift and profit. The share from China and South Korea is growing, but 70 per cent of used clothing flowing into Africa comes from Europe and North America.

In most rich countries the supply of used clothing far outstrips demand. Less than half of donations are sold locally. Most of the rest are sold to exporters.

In Africa, these motley bundles are a valuable commodity. Men's clothes are pricier, since fewer arrive. American pieces are often too large and have to be resized by tailors.

But still a person would rather buy second-hand from America instead of buying a new Chinese product.

The complaint is that new Asian clothes damage easily and look like uniforms, without variety.

There is a suspicion high-quality, unworn clothes are smuggled into bales as a way for the rich world's clothing industry to offload samples and unsold items.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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Bellegprom companies increase exports to non-CIS countries

Companies of the Belarusian state light industry concern Bellegprom have considerably increased supplies to the non-CIS countries, Chairman of Bellegprom Concern Nikolai Yefimchik told the media on 4 June, BelTA has learned.

"In general, the export dynamics are good. Today, we are up more than 10%. I think the dynamics will keep up. The growth of supplies to the non-CIS countries is evident. This shows that our products and assortment have become more popular," Nikolai Yefimchik said.

The supply of products to Belgium increased 4.5 times, to France - 3.6 times, to India - 2.2 times. The growth rate of exports to Germany made up 34%. A significant growth in exports was posted to the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and Brazil.

At the same time, there has been a decline in exports to Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan. "These countries have their own raw material bases," the chairman of the concern said. In general, Bellegprom products are exported to 49 countries.

Nikolai Yefimchik also noted that Kamvol can significantly affect the growth of Bellegprom's export supplies.

“We have very serious intentions to work with companies from Turkey and other foreign countries who are interested in purchasing new worsted fabrics,” he added.

Bellegprom includes 96 organizations, including 76 industrial companies. Industrial enterprises are divided into branches: textile, clothing, knitwear and leather and footwear.

The concern also includes 16 other organizations and trade enterprises.

Source: eng.belta.by- June 04, 2018

HOME

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NATIONAL NEWS

India's textile exporters expect easing of working capital

This is major relief for the textile industry, said Ujwal Lahoti

The country's textile industry is pleased at the news that the central government would, in a fortnight, release 60 per cent of the estimated Rs 25 billion of dues under the Refund on State Levies (ROSL), held by it since the goods and services tax (GST) was implemented last year.

"This is major relief for the textile industry. Exporters were facing a working capital squeeze due to blockage of such a large fund under ROSL. Also, exporters were paying interest to lenders on the blocked amounts. Textile exporters would now get relief from this double blow," said Ujwal Lahoti, chairman, Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council.

"ROSL was a major issue facing the the entire industry for long. While the government's intention was clear in favour of releasing the fund, actual disbursal was an issue until now.

With the government's fresh commitment for speedy release, textile exporters would get easy refund of state taxes. This would improve their liquidity," said R K Dalmia, president, Century Textile and Industries.

Lahoti added: "Some policy measures like refund of embedded taxes (also recognised by the Economic Survey for 2017-18), extending the ROSL scheme which refunds state levies like value added tax and generation of captive power, mandi tax, duty on electricity, stamp duties on export documents, etc, and to expedite the refund of pending GST and IGST claims, and ROSL of exporters need to be considered on priority basis."

Source: business-standard.com- June 05, 2018

HOME

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Textiles sector has only ups and few downs: Irani

Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani today appealed to NIFT students to explore opportunities in emerging technological advances in the textiles sector.

She said the sector only has "ups and ups, and very few downs".

"It is very easy to be honourable, but not easy when times are tough. I hope you will remember the pledge (taken as graduating students) to be honourable and dutiful, especially when times are tough. Because that will be a true reflection of your character," the minister said while delivering her address as the chief guest at the annual convocation of Gandhinagar-based National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

Irani said the textiles sector is the "second largest employer" in the country.

"This sector talks about the capacity of the nation not only as a manufacturing base, but also as a nation which has the legacy of cultural magnitude that the world is yet to experience. While you bid your child bon voyage, be assured that this is a journey on a path which has ups and ups and very few downs," the BJP leader said.

Irani also called for students to look for fusion of disciplines like design, fashion communication etc, which she said matters in "real world."

The minister also asked the students to explore opportunities in emerging technological advances in the textiles sector to add value to their endeavours.

"How many amongst you have attempted an understanding of emerging technical textile capacities, especially in design? How many of you have studied the light emitting textiles which are shown on many catwalks, and imagine a concept for upcoming Navratri (festival).

"So today begins the process of imagining the future for not only for yourself but also your consumers. How many of you have studied those elements in technical textile which helps shape memory of the fabric that you wear?" she questionned.

A total of 243 students graduated at the convocation of the NIFT-Gandhinagar held today.

Source: business-standard.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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Indian woven fabric exports up 17 per cent

India's woven fabric exports rose 17 per cent in April. During April, 134 countries imported woven fabrics from India, topped by Bangladesh and followed by UAE and Sri Lanka. The three together accounted for 30 per cent of total woven fabric shipped during the month.

Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Ethiopia, Nepal and Philippines were the fastest growing markets for woven fabrics, and accounted for close to two per cent of total export value in April.

Cotton fabrics were 51 per cent of woven fabric exports in April. Plain fabric exports accounted for 64 per cent of all types of woven fabrics exports in April 2018, up 14 per cent in volume year on year. Bangladesh, UAE and Senegal were the top markets for plain fabrics.

Denim fabric was the second largest woven fabric exported in April, with volumes increasing 18 per cent year on year and value up 9.5 per cent. Denim fabric was mainly imported by Bangladesh, followed by Egypt and Colombia. Denim exports to Bangladesh declined 44 per cent in value as against a year ago.

Shirting/suiting volumes surged 33 per cent while lungi and dhoti exports fell four per cent after a recovery in the previous two months.

Furnishing fabric exports doubled in April with the UK on the top followed by the US and UAE.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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India seeks to fast-track pact with MERCOSUR

Sources said the countries that are part of the India-MERCOSUR PTA have been in discussions to increase the tariff lines in order to boost the trade volumes.

India has asked the MERCOSUR countries to fast-track negotiations for the expansion of the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), which is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strategy of expanding India's trade basket.

Sources said the countries that are part of the India-MERCOSUR PTA have been in discussions to increase the tariff lines in order to boost the trade volumes. The expansion of the agreement will enhance trade relations between the countries involved, and the trade volume target is set at $30 billion in 2030.

Talking to FE on condition of anonymity, a senior officer said: "The commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu who is keen about expanding trade ties with the countries in the region has reached out personally to some of the leaders of the group requesting them to fast track the expansion talks."

Currently, Paraguay is holding the presidency of the MERCOSUR grouping.

"Both sides have agreed that there is an urgent need to significantly increase the number of tariff lines in the existing India-MERCOSUR PTA so that the agreement could cover a sizeable proportion of bilateral trade. However, due to differences amongst the members of the groupings, the expansion of the India-MERCOSUR PTA is getting delayed," a senior officer said.

Last year, as reported by FE, during a meeting in New Delhi, a list of 484 tariff lines was handed over to Brazil which was holding the presidency of the grouping at the time.

They had offered the same number of lines to India. India is keen on fast tracking the process on the expansion of the PTA and negotiations on Margin of Preference (MoP) on the tariff lines to be offered by each side.

All South American countries are linked to MERCOSUR (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), either as member state or associate member. Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador are associate members of MERCOSUR, in addition to Guyana and Suriname that acquired this status in July 2013.

Both sides have already exchanged lists of items where each side is seeking greater market — India has exchanged a wish list of 4,836 tariff lines mentioning 8-digit HS codes with MERCOSUR in July 2016 and the MERCOSUR grouping has exchanged their wish list of 3,358 tariff lines.

Source: financialexpress.com- June 05, 2018

HOME

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Here's what Suresh Prabhu is doing to boost India's exports

As many as 16 projects, including setting up of a cold chain in Madhya Pradesh, were approved under by a commerce ministry scheme to develop infrastructure for promoting exports, a senior official said.

Last year, the commerce ministry launched the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) to create appropriate infrastructure for development and growth of exports through engagement of central or state agencies.

Of the total scheme outlay of Rs 600 crore, Rs 80 crore was provided in 2017-18 and the same amount will be provided during the current fiscal also, the ministry official said.

The scheme has been launched for three years to 2020.

The approved projects include setting up of an integrated cargo terminal at Imphal international airport; establishment of trade promotion centre in Bhopal; solid waste management system at Noida SEZ; and construction of office cum laboratory complex of export inspection agency at Vishakhapatnam.

The implementing agencies of these projects include Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd; Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre, Bengaluru; Cochin SEZ; Airport Authority of India, Coffee Board, Exports Inspection Council and Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ).

Unlike Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme, which was funded by the Centre, the cost of projects under TIES are equally shared between the Centre and the states.

The central and state agencies, including Export Promotion Councils, Commodities Boards, SEZ authorities and apex trade bodies are eligible for financial support under the scheme.

The Central government funding will be in the form of grant-in-aid, normally not more than the equity being put in by the implementing agency or 50 per cent of the total equity in the project.

The proposals of the implementing agencies for funding is being considered by an empowered committee, chaired by the commerce secretary.

The scheme helps involve states in promoting export activities in the country. The commerce ministry is taking several steps to promote the countrys exports including improving export related infrastructure.

In 2017-18, exports recorded a growth of about 10 per cent to USD 303 billion. Higher growth in outbound shipments helps create employment opportunities, earn foreign exchange and boost economic activities.

Source: economictimes.com- June 04, 2018

HOME

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How to tackle the cotton bollworm

The farm varsity here has recommended to cotton growers on measures to tackle pink bollworm infestation which has been causing havoc to the crop.

In a note issued here today, the University has advised growers to remove the cotton crop and dispose the crop residue soon after harvest, adopt proper crop rotation and also avoid ratoon cotton crop.

“Summer ploughing is a good agronomic practice for removal of pupal stage pests from the soil. Weeds which are the alternate source of insect pests in cotton field should be removed at right time,” the note said.

Cotton researchers have urged growers to collect the remaining crop residues from last harvested field and destroy the same.

Pink bollworm should not be allowed to complete its life cycle, crop researchers said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com - June 05, 2018

HOME

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