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The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)
Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai 400004. Maharashtra State. INDIA
W. www.texprocil.org E. ibtex@texprocil.org T. +91-22-23632910 to 12 F. +91-22-23632914

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Trump or Biden? Possible outcomes for textiles and apparel

What does the outcome of the U.S. Presidential election hold for the textile and apparel industry? Industry trade and policy analysts Sara Beatty of White Haven Trade and Auggie Tantillo of SRG & Associates offered their views at their Washington Policy Update presentation at the IFAI Virtual EXPO 2020 today. Without making any prediction on the election outcome, the duo offered their seasoned Washington insights into what US global trade might look like under each of the candidates.

2020 Election: Trump

The Trump administration policies have been clear in supporting buy-American procurement rules, using tariffs to seek more favourable trading terms for US brands and manufacturers. China in particular has been targeted, US participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been withdrawn and NAFTA renegotiated as the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) just a few months before the election. The Financial Times quotes IMF estimates that the impact of USMCA on US GDP will be negligible, while the US International Trade Commission predicts a 0.35% boost over six years. Still on the table are Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the EU, Japan and Kenya.

2020 Election: Biden

In his role as Vice-President during the Obama administration, Biden was a supporter of NAFTA. He is seen to be in agreement with Trump on being tough on China and supportive of buy-American procurement. More broadly, his commitment to addressing climate change and pollution both environmentally and in their social impact, would mark a significant difference when it comes to developing future trade policy.

Tantillo does not see any significant FTA targets directed at textiles and apparel coming from the candidate, and so is less clear on what to expect in terms of world trade policy. For Tantillo, the big question however is whether a Biden administration would look to rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership which was brought in during the candidate's time with the Obama administration.

I put the question to the speakers on what they anticipate as a main point of difference between the two presidential candidates in terms of EU and UK trade policy over the next four years. "President Trump has already stipulated that he will negotiate a free trade agreement both with UK and then with EU," Auggie Tantillo responded, before going on to say: "Biden may not be as likely or as anxious to do a deal with the UK. He has not said that. But President Trump has been a supporter of Brexit……Biden has not been as expressive on that." Time alone will tell.

Source: innovationintextiles.com.– Nov 04, 2020

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USA: Air Cargo Recovery Picked Up in September, Led by North America and Africa

Air cargo demand, while strengthening, remains depressed compared to 2019 levels, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in releasing September data for global markets.

Global demand was 8 percent below prior-year levels in September, an improvement from the 12.1 percent year-on-year drop recorded in August. Month-on-month demand grew 3.7 percent in September.

Global capacity declined 25.2 percent in September compared to the previous year. That is nearly three times larger than the contraction in demand, indicating a severe lack of capacity in the market, IATA noted.
Strong regional variations are emerging, the IATA reported, with North American and African carriers reporting year-on-year gains in demand, while all other regions remained in negative territory compared to a year earlier.

"Air cargo volumes are down on 2019, but they are a world apart from the extreme difficulties in the passenger business," Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director general and CEO, said. "For air cargo, 92 percent of the business is still there, whereas about 90 percnt of international passenger traffic has disappeared. Favorable indicators for the peak year-end season will support the continued recovery in demand. Already, North American and African carriers are reporting demand gains on 2019.

The challenge continues to be on capacity. As carriers adjust schedules to reflect falling passenger demand amid the resurgence of COVID-19, valuable belly capacity will be lost when it is needed the most."

Asia-Pacific airlines saw demand for international air cargo fall 14.6 percent in September compared to the same month a year earlier. This was an improvement from the 16.4 percent fall in August. Demand on routes between Asia-North America and Asia-Africa were strongest.

North American carriers returned to pre-crisis levels, posting a 1.5 percent increase in international demand compared to the previous year–the first growth in 10 months.

"This strong performance was driven by the Asia-North America routes, reflecting e-commerce demand for products manufactured in Asia," IATA said.

European carriers reported a decrease in demand of 15.7 percent compared to the previous year. Improvements have been slight but consistent amid recovering economic activity and increasing exports, however, all major routes remained in contractionary territory.

Middle Eastern carriers reported a 2.5 percent decline in cargo volume year-on-year in September, a significant improvement from the 6.7 percent fall in August.

Latin American carriers reported a decline of 22.2 percent compared to the previous year. The region's weak performance is owing to a severe slowdown in economic activity including trade, rather than insufficient cargo capacity, IATA said.
African airlines saw demand increase 9.7 percent year-on-year in September. This was the fifth consecutive month in which the region posted the strongest increase in international demand.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Nov 04, 2020

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Primark Owner Reports 12% Revenue Drop

Primark owner Associated British Foods plc posted its 2020 annual report that reflect declines due to the impact from the coronavirus pandemic.

In a Nutshell: "To say that this has been an extraordinary year would be something of an understatement. The rapid spread of Covid-19 across the globe has affected everyone in ways which we could not have imagined a year ago. When we first heard of Covid-19 our business concerns were around the disruption to the supply chain of goods coming from China. However, as the virus rapidly spread around the world it was clear that its effect would be more profound," Michael McLintock, chairman, said.

"For our group, we were required to close all Primark stores in Europe and the US in just 12 days in March. This was not something that we had ever envisaged. Unable to sell anything, Primark moved from profit to loss in a few short days, with no visibility as to how long these conditions would persist," McLintock added. "Closure for six months seemed plausible, with the possibility of it being significantly longer. These monthly operating losses, together with the need to pay for goods in transit, would place a severe strain on the group's cash reserves and necessitated immediate management action."

The chairman said measures to mitigate cash outflow, such as stopping further factory orders and accessing government job retention schemes, helped the company to preserve the jobs of 68,000 employees. It also faced other operating challenges in its food business, whether it was meeting the consumer shift to eating at home or adapting workplace and production requirements for social distancing.

McLintock cited the Primark team's ability to rapidly reopen stores, opening as many as 153 stores in one day in England. While Primark returned to profitability once the stores were allowed to reopen, which "allowed us to sell down the majority of our spring/summer stock on hand with minimal markdown," the operation still suffered a cash outflow of 800 million pounds ($1.05 billion) while stores were closed after making supplier payments and incurring the net operating losses, he said. McLintock also said the company declined to participate in the U.K. Government job retention bonus in July since the stores had reopened and the business was profitable again.

“Paul Marchant, CEO of Primark, and his leadership team deserve a special mention. They demonstrated tremendous energy and professionalism throughout a succession of challenges,” the chairman said. He also added that the impact on Primark from the increasing number of government restrictions in the markets that it operates is “significant.”

Parts of the U.K., mostly in its northern region, began issuing stricter policies on movement over the past few weeks, and on Saturday U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the U.K. could be on its second national lockdown beginning on Thursday as coronavirus infection rates have started to climb. The Parliament is expected to vote on the planned measure on Wednesday.

ABF on Monday said if the measure passes, Primark stores could lose an estimated 375 million pounds ($490.1 million) as a result of new shutdowns. Already, Primark stores in the Republic of Ireland, France, Belgium, Wales, Catalonia in Spain and Slovenia are temporarily closed, representing 19 percent of total retail selling space. If stores in the U.K temporarily close on Thursday, then 57 percent of Primark’s total selling space would go dark.

Net Sales: Group revenues fell 12 percent to 13.94 billion pounds ($18.21 billion) for the year ended Sept. 12.

CEO George Weston said that most of the reduction in sales occurred in the third quarter, driven by the total loss in sales for the three months in which Primark’s stores were closed. Before the pandemic, the Primark business performed well in the first half of the year, achieving growth in U.K. market share and making further progress in the German market. He added that the business received an “overwhelming response” when it reopened its doors, with “queues outside most of the our stores on reopening days.... We also opened nine new stores in the second half, including our first store in Poland.”

Primark sales were ahead of pre-Covid-19 levels in children’s, leisure and nightwear and weak in formal men’s wear and travel accessories, reflecting the shift in customers spending more time at home. “Sales at our stores in retail parks are higher than a year ago, shopping [centers] and regional high street stores are broadly in line with last year, and large destination city centre stores which are heavily reliant on tourism and commuters have, not surprisingly, seen a significant decline in footfall,” Weston said.

Weston added that all of ABF's businesses "have completed all practical preparations should the U.K. exit the Brexit transition period with or without a trade deal. Primark operates largely discrete supply chains for its stores in each of the U.K., U.S. and Europe [operations] and the group's food production is largely aligned with the end market. As a result, there is relatively little group cross-border trading between the U.K. and the [European Union]. Contingency plans are in place should some of our businesses experience disruption."

Earnings: Profits before taxes fell 40 percent to 686 million pounds ($896.2 million), while earnings per share fell 47 percent to 57.6 pence ($0.76). On an adjusted basis, profit before taxes were down 35 percent to 914 million pounds ($1.19 billion), reflecting a 41 percent drop in adjusted earnings per share to 81.1 pence ($1.06).

The company is not providing any projections for 2021, given the uncertainty around Covid-19.

CEO's Take: "I am proud of how our people have responded to the many challenges presented by Covd-19…. "Following a three-month closure, Primark delivered a robust performance, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response when it safely welcomed customers back to its stores…. We have the people and the cash resources to meet the challenges ahead and we are investing for the future," Weston said.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Nov 04, 2020

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NRF: Retail Sales Rebound, But Covid Spike Still a Threat

While coronavirus spikes in Europe have led to new shutdowns in several major countries—including the U.K., where retail footfall is now estimated to drop 62 percent from last year's holiday shopping season—large-scale lockdowns in the U.S. have not yet been announced in response to the latest wave of cases.

Consequently, remarks by the National Retail Federation chief economist Jack Kleinhenz in the association's Monthly Economic Review November issue were generally positive.

Retail sales have largely recovered from the pandemic heading into the holiday season, he said. Still, he cautioned that the growing number of coronavirus cases remain a threat. According to Johns Hopkins University, daily recorded cases in the U.S. hit a new high on Oct. 30 and the percentage of tests returning positive continues to rise, though still below the first and second peaks in the spring and summer.

"Strong growth in retail sales during the last few months points to the resiliency of consumers even in this disruptive pandemic environment," Kleinhenz said. "Taking in all the evidence available, the U.S. economic recovery has progressed more quickly than generally expected."

According to the November issue of NRF's Monthly Economic Review, retail sales have been up both month-over-month and year-over-year each month since June. According to data from Harvard University's Opportunity Insights research project, retail sales have finished a V-shaped recovery and are up 8.6 percent since January.

An additional federal stimulus could help keep the economy on track, Kleinhenz noted. He agreed with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's recent call for additional federal stimulus, which the chairman said "will not go to waste" even if it is more than necessary.

"While there might be sufficient momentum and resiliency to propel the economy in the months ahead, additional fiscal policy support is critical to ensure that the recovery doesn't stall," Kleinhenz said.

Household spending on retail goods has helped bring back overall consumer spending, which was down 16.1 percent year-over-year in April but only 1.9 percent as of August, according to the Commerce Department.

In NRF's September data, the association found U.S. retail sales to be up 1.9 percent, led by apparel and accessories stores, which rose a seasonally adjusted 11 percent from August. Department store sales were up 9.7 percent from August. September's data, however, also represented a seasonally adjusted 12.5 percent decline year-over-year for apparel and accessories specialty stores and a 7.3 percent decline for department stores.

NRF is awaiting additional economic data before releasing its annual holiday spending forecast. Consumers surveyed for NRF by Prosper Insights & Analytics plan to spend an average $997.79, down about $50 from last year as they focus more on gifts for others rather than purchases for themselves, the association said.

Last month, NRF launched a New Holiday Traditions campaign encouraging consumers to shop safe and shop early to avoid overcrowding stores and to take advantage of early holiday discounts.

Source: sourcingjournal.com - Nov 04, 2020

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Retail in UK faces a 'nightmare before Christmas': BRC

Retail faces a nightmare before Christmas as the UK government proposes to close thousands of retail premises under this new national lockdown, denying customers access to many of their favourites shops and brands, Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium (BRC) recently said responding to the announcement of a national lockdown.

"It will cause untold damage to the high street in the run up to Christmas, cost countless jobs, and permanently set back the recovery of the wider economy, with only a minimal effect on the transmission of the virus," Dickinson said in a statement.

"A recent Sage paper reported that closing 'non-essential' retail would have minimal impact on the transmission of Covid. This is thanks to the hundreds of millions of pounds retailers have spent making their stores Covid-secure and safe for customers and colleagues," he said.

"The announced closure will have a significant economic impact on the viability of thousands of shops and hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country. The previous lockdown cost 'non-essential' shops £1.6 billion a week in lost sales; now that we are entering the all-important Christmas shopping period, these losses are certain to be much bigger," he added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Nov 04, 2020

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Global trade of fibres drops significantly

The global export of fibres marginally grew 1.49 per cent to $31,247.03 million in 2019 compared to the exports of $30,789.47 million in 2017. Total exports moved down 8.70 per cent in 2019 over the previous year, according to data from TexPro. However, the export is expected to move up to $31,595.43 million in 2022 with a rate of 1.12 per cent from 2019.

The global import value of fibres was $33,953.87 million in 2017, which declined 1.82 per cent to $33,337.22 million in 2019. Total imports dropped 11.72 per cent in 2019 over the previous year and is expected to decrease to $33,005.04 million in 2022 with a rate of 1.00 per cent from 2019, according to Fibre2Fashion's market analysis tool TexPro.

US ($6,609.16 million), Australia ($3,319.21 million), China ($3,119.66 million), Brazil ($2,735.07 million) and India ($1,997.87 million) were the key exporters of fibres across the globe in 2019, together comprising 56.90 per cent of total export. These were followed by South Korea ($1,249.88 million), Belgium ($919.71 million) and Indonesia ($883.04 million).

From 2016 to 2019, the most notable rate of growth in terms of export value, amongst the main exporting countries, was attained by Brazil (94.44 per cent), US (49.84 per cent) and China (11.12 per cent).

China ($8,617.00 million), Turkey ($2,809.67 million), Vietnam ($2,728.08 million), Italy ($2,684.40 million) and India ($2,351.46 million) were the key importers of fibres in the globe in 2019, together comprising

57.57 per cent of total import. These were followed by Indonesia ($1,624.12 million), US ($1,199.62 million) and Germany ($1,071.47 million).

From 2016 to 2019, the most notable rate of growth in terms of import value, amongst the main importing countries, was attained by India (82.27 per cent), Italy (78.93 per cent) and Vietnam (65.87 per cent).

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Nov 03, 2020

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Bangladesh: Textile mills evaded taxes worth nearly 39 crore

In a report published by The Daily Star on Wednesday, it was revealed that 36 textile mills located in Narsingdi had evaded tax duties and VAT of nearly Tk 39 crore in the last five years. According to sources at the National Board of Revenue (NBR), these textile mills imported 30,350 power looms to make clothes under a one-percent concessionary duty benefit for capital machinery import. However, the owners of the mills neither set up the factories nor used the looms for production—around 84 percent of the machinery is suspected to have been sold in the local market, depriving the state from getting its due revenues.

At a time when Bangladesh is struggling with the after-effects of an unprecedented economic downturn as a result of the global coronavirus crisis, with the government spending billions of taka in the form of stimulus packages in efforts to keep our economy afloat, it is extremely disheartening to see this level of corruption at our local textile mills. This is not just revenue that is going into private pockets instead of government coffers.

These duty benefits are in place to support local production and give Bangladeshi workers much-needed employment. Yet while the pandemic pushes the poor and extreme poor further into property, certain unscrupulous business owners continue to find ways to abuse the system and make a quick profit, even at the expense of others.

The pandemic has shown how crucial it is for the government to provide social safety nets to the most marginalised workers and communities in the country. However, this is only possible if the government has enough revenue to invest in social protections. Data suggests that Bangladesh's tax/GDP ratio is still extremely low and has actually fallen, from 11 percent in 2010 to 8.9 percent in 2019. If this lamentable ratio is to be improved, the authorities must bring legal proceedings against tax-evading businesses and hold them to account. There must also be a long-term commitment to dismantling the ties between corrupt businessmen and corrupt government officials, and to holding all tax evaders and their enablers to account, if we are to ever have a proper tax regime and fiscal revenue stream in Bangladesh.

Source: thedailystar.net– Nov 05, 2020

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Bangladesh: New orders make Bangladesh RMG immune to second COVID 19 wave

Bangladesh readymade garment export to the European Union is likely to remain unaffected even if the second COVID-19 wave takes a more serious turn, reports The Business Standard. Work orders for the next spring/summer season in the country are pouring in with enquiries for next winter season also increasing. Apparel makers have shipped their Christmas and winter orders, to be sold from mid-November, says BGMEA.

Experts demand quick release of raw materials

To continue positive developments, Bangladeshi government and entrepreneurs need to adopt new strategies, says, Sayema Haque Bidisha, Research Director-South Asian Network, Economic Modelling (Sanem). Moreover apparel businesses need to enhance their manufacturing efficiency and curtail lead times to 30-45 days. And the government should ensure a quick release of imported raw materials for RMG manufacturers, she adds. It should also persuade apparel buyers and retailers against cancelling orders or stopping new placements till next January at least.

Partial lockdowns to curb second COVID-19 wave

As new COVID-19 cases continue to surge, governments across Europe are introducing new measures to deal with it. France has introduced a night-time curfew while Spain, the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland have gone for partial local lockdowns. Germany, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Portugal and Greece have also introduced measures to control the second wave. The only country that has not introduced any lockdown measures is Sweden. Yet, many of its citizens are voluntarily maintaining social distancing and have started working from home where possible.

Economic constraints are forcing countries to opt for partial lockdowns instead of complete shutdown, opines Ashikur Rahman Tuhin, Former Director, BGMEA. Shutting down of economic activities during the first wave hardly resulted in any positive outcome. Hence, WHO has recommended continuance of economic activities with compliance to its health safety protocols, says Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Center for Policy Dialogue.

No impact on new orders

The second COVID-19 wave has not impacted orders from European buyers as their online sales have increased significantly and physical shops remain open. Buyers continue to place new orders with Bangladeshi suppliers as they get more profits from suppliers.

Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, CEO, Fatullah Apparels said, Bangladeshi apparel exporters have been receiving new orders for the next summer season though the quantity of these orders has reduced. However, he calls this more a seasonal issue than the pandemic effect.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Nov 03, 2020

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Pakistan: Cotton arrivals plunge 43pc as crop failure looms

Phutti (seed-cotton) arrivals into ginneries declined by a whopping 43 per cent to 3.4 million bales till Nov 1 compared to 6.1m bales in the same period last year due to monsoon rains and pest attacks, showed fortnightly data released by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners' Association (PCGA) on Tuesday.

During the period, Punjab produced 1.72m bales while Sindh generated identical quantity of 1.72m bales. Of the total production, textile mills bought 2.57m bales while 17,600 bales were picked up by exporters.

Total 528 ginning factories were operational in the country including 193 in Sindh and 335 in Punjab.

"Cotton output is expec-ted to fall as low as 5m bales," PCGA Chairman Dr Jassu Mal told Dawn. "Production in Sindh has fallen mainly due to monsoon rains whereas Punjab's output plunged due to pest attacks."

The government projects cotton production to reach 10.98m bales for this season while the country produced over 8.5m bales in the last season.

Dr Mal said that the poor quality of seeds, lack of awareness among growers on fertiliser use and the failure of the governments — federal and provincial — in managing pest attacks are the reasons behind the consistent decline in cotton production over the last few years.

Subsequently, he said textile millers will have to import the raw material to meet the gap.

The decline in cotton output is a worrying sign for the textile industry particularly spinners as it will also have a partial impact on cotton prices, said JS Global's Ahmed Lakhani.

Textile companies will have to rely more on imports, which carry duties and taxes at the import stage. This will naturally make them less competitive than regional peers, he added.

As per the official statistics, Pakistan's annual cotton production has fallen from 11.9m bales in FY18 to 9.17m bales in FY20. With annual demand hovering above 15m bales, the textile sector will have to import the raw material.

"We will have to import at least 10m bales in the current year which will increase the country's import bill. We could have easily saved this foreign exchange, had the government taken required action," said Dr Mal.

"The cotton production is declining rapidly and prompt action should be taken," said Syed Zeeshan Kazmi of IGI Finex Securities. "Due to the drop in production it will not be possible to meet the needs of textile mills and for that we have to import cotton which will have a negative impact on textile exports," he added.

Earlier, the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) said that cotton crop failure is costing Pakistan over $8bn per annum in lower GDP per million bales of cotton and $2bn for this year in additional imports, while the country needs to revive cotton crop to meet domestic demand.

"Millers will meet their immediate shortage from the local market, but the rest will be sourced from the international markets," said Aptma Member Naveed Ahmed.

Meanwhile, Dr Mal said that phutti prices have gone up from Rs3,500 to Rs5,000 whereas the cotton prices have risen from Rs8,400 to Rs10,000 per maund over the last few months. In October, cotton prices hit a 10-year high of Rs10,500 per maund in line with the international -markets.

Between July-September, the country imported cotton worth $382.6 million, the State Bank of Pakistan data showed. Meanwhile, cotton imports in the FY20 amounted to $1.71 billion, up 6pc from FY19.

However, Dr Mal warned that cotton growers stand to lose the most. As per the PCGA estimates, growers have lost more than Rs50,000 per acre against an investment of Rs80,000 in the ongoing season. Rains and pest attacks have wreaked havoc on the cotton crop.

Source: dawn.com– Nov 04, 2020

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Pakistan: Cotton market: Trading volume remains low due to cautious buying by mills

The local cotton market remained stable on Wednesday. Market sources told that mills were involved in cautious buying due to which the trading volume remained low.

Cotton Analyst Naseem Usman told that cotton stockpiling fell a massive 43 percent to 3.45 million bales till October 31, raising concerns that the country would have to import at least 7.0 million bales worth $3 billion to fulfil domestic demand, industry officials said on Tuesday.

Cotton arrivals declined 43.38 percent to 3.45 million bales against 6.09 million bales in the same month last year, as heavy monsoon along with sowing substandard seeds took a toll on total yields, said the last report released by Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA).

Punjab and Sindh showed declines of 45 percent and 41 percent respectively in cotton production during the period under review. Both provinces had stocked 1.7 million bales each till the end of October. Last year, Punjab and Sindh stocked 3.16 million and 2.92 million bales, respectively.

Karachi Cotton Brokers Association Chairman Naseem Usman said that a decline of 2.6 million bales in cotton arrivals was a point of concern. “Total expected cotton arrivals are around 5.5 million bales, and there would be need to import at least 7.0 million bales, as consumption demand of local mills was around 14 million bales.” An import of 7.0 million bales would cost nearly $3 billion to the country.

Fortnightly flows (October 15-31) remained down by 54 percent at 763,997 bales against flows of 1.65 million bales during the same period last year.

Till October 2020, textile companies bought 2.5 million bales while exporters bought 17,600 bales (down 58 percent from 41,960 bales last year). Mills have acquired 2.57 million bales, which showed a decline of 42 percent from last year’s 4.42 million bales.

Stakeholders said the major reason behind steep fall in production of cotton was unavailability of good quality seeds, absence of new seed technology, heat waves, climate change, and pest attacks.

Mirpurkhas and Sanghar districts in Sindh incurred huge losses on account of heavy monsoon rains. As a result, the province suffered 25 percent crop loss. In Punjab, the affected districts were DG Khan, Muzzafar Garh, Rajanpur and Multan.

Despite the fact that cotton is an important cash crop, which contributes significantly to the national economy by providing raw material to the local textile industry, as well as cotton lint for export, policy makers failed to introduce quality seeds in the country.

Currently, 864,245 bales are in stocks with ginners, down 47 percent, compared to 1.62 million bales last year.

On the other hand The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) have locked horns over the duty-free import of cotton yarn.

The PHMA has demanded the government abolish customs and regulatory duties on import of cotton yarn, claiming that the basic raw material was unavailable for apparel and home textile sectors in local markets which may lead to a decline in textile exports.

Former PHMA chairman Shahzad Azam said that the spinning sector was allowed to import cotton free of duty, but the apparel and home textile sector were not allowed the same, which, according to him, was a discriminatory practice.

When asked about the reason why government should allow duty-free import of cotton yarn when it could damage the local spinning industry which already produces the material with more than 13.4 million spindles in use, Azam replied, “Why should we buy expensive cotton yarn from them when we can import it at cheaper rates?”

The former PHMA chairman alleged that spinning millers have formed a cartel and were blackmailing them by selling cotton yarn at higher rates.

“It is our right to import the material at duty-free prices just like spinning mills are allowed to import duty-free cotton,” he added, reiterating that the government must concede to their demand if it wished to control a decline in exports.

Meanwhile, APTMA Punjab Chairman Abdul Rahim Nasir said that there was no shortage of cotton yarn in the country. “In fact, the import of cotton yarn during the first quarter of FY20 was 11,047 tonnes, while it rose to 13,976 tonnes in Q1FY21, showing an increase of 27pc,” Nasir shared.

In addition, he maintained, yarn exports have also reduced significantly, signifying an enhanced supply to further processing and value addition in the country.

Nasir said that the apparent ‘shortage’ being touted was based on commercial considerations that have affected the price of yarn worldwide; exporters have booked orders at an exchange rate of Rs168-170 to a US dollar while the current exchange rate was Rs161.5, leading to a hike in the cost of pre-booked export orders.

He added that similarly, cotton which was being traded at 63.8 cents/lb just three months ago was currently at 76 cents/lb, increasing the cost of yarn proportionately.

The APTMA official stated that Pakistani exports would miss Christmas orders due to a “shortage of yarn” was false as manufacturing and shipping procedures require at least 3 to 4 months, a timeframe which has long passed.

“The real issue is rooted in incorrect export pricing and misplaced expectations on the exchange rate,” he said. It may be noted here that duty-free import of yarn for re-export after further processing has always been readily available to registered exporters through Duty and Tax Remission for Exports (DTRE).

“APTMA has and always will support the import and simplification of procedures for duty-free raw materials or other inputs for export purposes,” Nasir said.

Further, he said that the argument that a reduction in taxes would increase supply or reduce costs for exporters was illogical, as exporters were already entitled to the duty-free import of yarn through DTRE or bond. APTMA emphasises that any blanket approval for import of duty-free cotton yarn would lead to dumping of the material and would also result in the facility’s misuse.

“This will result in the closure of many of units and the stopping in the track of many expansions and new projects which are planned or are underway, thereby hampering the progress made by the economy in recent months owing to export-led growth,” the APTMA Punjab chairman said.

He said that the government must take yarn exporters’ concerns into account and note the real values of yarn’s import and export to prevent misinformation and rectify the root cause of the problem. “A shortage certainly does not seem to be the problem here,” he added.

Naseem told that as a silver lining among all the economic volatility amid the coronavirus pandemic, a number of the world’s renowned apparel brands are shifting their orders to Pakistan.

The development was shared by Advisor to Prime Minister on Trade and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood, who said that more and more brands are shifting to Pakistan. “We just heard that Hanes, Guess, Hugo Boss & Target have shifted orders from China to Pakistan,” said Dawood in a tweet post.

“This is a good trend and I am very hopeful that this will continue. I hope that the exporters will capitalize on this opportunity,” he added.

Back in July, the luxury brand Hugo Boss considered a fashion giant placed its first sportswear order to Sialkot based leading firm. The achievement was due to the effort of the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) which hold the 35th IAF Fashion Convention in November last year.

On the other hand, addressing the concerns of apparel manufacturers, the Ministry of Commerce held a meeting of stakeholders of spinners and apparel manufacturers to discuss the availability of yarns and their prices. In light of rising prices, MOC is considering reducing duties on various yarns and preparing a summary for the ECC.

“Apparel is the engine of growth in the textile sector and the availability of yarn at competitive prices is the pillar of strength. All sectors have to play their respective roles to maximize overall exports,” said Dawood.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, along with federal ministers unveiled another incentive package (reduction in the industrial power tariff) yesterday to spur economic growth, boost industrialization and increase exports of the country

As per the prime minister, with the current tariff structure, our power tariff was on average 25% expensive to our regional peers resulting in our cost of production to be comparatively higher thus making our exports uncompetitive. The package announced is to incentivize the local small, medium and large size industries to lower cost of production and make them competitive locally as well as internationally. It is also believed that the package will help businesses to grow and create numerous employment opportunities as well.

It is pertinent to note that the package is a proposal currently and is being sent to the industries and will be approved through cabinet in due course.

Naseem told that 2000 bales of Khairpur were sold in between Rs 8950 to Rs 9200 per maund, 1800 bales of Rohri were sold in between Rs 9000 to Rs 9300 per maund, 200 bales of Haroonabad, were sold at Rs 10050 per maund, 600 bales of Khanpur were sold at Rs 10,000 per maund, 400 bales of Rahim Yar Khan were sold at RS 9900 per maund, 800 bales of Mianwali, 1600 bales of Sadiqabad were sold at Rs 9800, 400 bales of Layyah and 400 bales of Alipur were sold at Rs 9500 per maund.

He told that rate of cotton in Sindh was in between Rs 8500 to Rs 10,000 per maund. The rate of cotton in Punjab is in between Rs 9800 to Rs 10,200. He also told that Phutti of Sindh was sold in between Rs 3200 to Rs 4800 per 40 kg. The rate of Phutti in Punjab is in between Rs 3500 to Rs 5000 per 40 Kg.

The rate of Banola in Sindh was in between Rs 1450 to Rs 1900 while the price of Banola in Punjab was in between Rs 1850 to Rs 2100. The rate of cotton in Balochistan is in between Rs 9600 to Rs 9700 while the rate of Phutti is in between Rs 4700 to Rs 5100.

The Spot Rate remained unchanged at Rs 9700 per maund. The Polyester Fiber was available at Rs 158 per Kg.

Source: brecorder.com– Nov 05, 2020

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Exports to improve in the coming months due to collaborative efforts of all stakeholders: DGFT

While October data looked promising for exports, the situation will improve further in the coming months due to collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders, a top official of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said on Wednesday. Since April, when there was a huge downfall in exports, it has made good progress and is going to rise in the coming months, Director General of Foreign Trade Amit Yadav said while speaking to exporters through a virtual session.

The countrywide lockdown was imposed on March 25 to contain the spread of coronavirus infection.

"COVID still continues. In the earlier part, times were challenging for exporters and importers. But the October data looks promising. With collaborative efforts, there will be better results," Yadav said.

After recording positive growth in September, India's exports declined 5.4 per cent to USD 24.82 billion in October on account of dip in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather, and engineering goods, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Tuesday.

Yadav said that presently, availability of containers for exports is the biggest challenge the EXIM fraternity is facing.

He said that trade facilitators like ports are making their best efforts to make containers available to exporters.

According to Yadav, the government has plans to create district export hubs for which a draft report has been prepared.

He said that this will require district-level data and export potential of products and the various bottlenecks that are being faced.

Yadav said that the new Foreign Trade Policy will be implemented from April 2021 as the current one has been extended by one year.

Regarding the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Yadav said although it is blocked at the moment, it will probably open shortly keeping in view the overall fiscal position of the country.

The MIES is a scheme designed to provide rewards to exporters to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry has blocked the online system for exporters to apply for availing tax incentives under the MEIS from July 23, as the Department of Revenue decided to limit the benefits under the plan at Rs 9,000 crore for April-December 2020.

Source: economictimes.com– Nov 04, 2020

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India's cotton production to touch 29.3 billion in 2020 21 USDA

A 'Cotton and Products Update' report by USDA estimates heavy rains in Central and Southern India will impact the quality of the cotton yield this year. India's cotton production is expected to reach 29.3 million 480-lb bales in marketing year (MY) 2020/21. The First advance estimates for 2020-21, published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's (MOAFW), estimate national average yields to be around 491 kg per hectare.

On September 21, the Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC), published revised estimates for MY 2018/19 and MY 2019/20. And as per revised estimates, cotton production in MY 2019/20 is estimated at 27.9 million 480 lb. bales. As of October 22, new crop arrivals of long staple variety cotton in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan reached 1.5 million 170 kg bales. The Cotton Corporation of India is procuring supplies in these states at 5-6 percent higher prices than current market rates. It has commenced procurement under the MSP program from the northern Indian states of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

Cotton consumption to reach 22.7 million bales

Under the MSP program, the Indian government aims to procure 12.5 million 170-kg bales of seed cotton in MY 2020-21. Cotton consumption in MY 2020/21 is likely to reach around 22.7 million 480-lb bales, claims

USDA. In October, cotton yarn prices increased by 2.3 per cent, while fiber prices rose by eight per cent. Though mill buying and mill consumption has improved due to new export orders, domestic retail demand remains subdued. For August 2020 IIP estimates textile manufacturing to have declined by 16 per cent as compared to August 2019. Cumulatively, textile manufacturing declined by 49 per cent during fiscal year 2020-21 (April/August) as compared to 2019-20.

Raw cotton exports increase 54 per cent

Highest cotton exports since MY 2011-12 were recorded in the months of August and September 2020. As per FAS analysis, exports of raw cotton increased by 54 per cent in September as against the previous month. Top export destinations were Bangladesh, China and Vietnam. Of these, shipments to Bangladesh constituted 40 per cent of the total volume. Cotton fabrics export grew 25 per cent in volume terms in September. Top destinations were: Australia, Korea, Sri Lanka and the United States.

Cotton yarn/fabrics exports increase 15 per cent

Ministry of Commerce estimates, exports of cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, handloom products to have increased by 15 per cent in value in September 2020 as compared to the same period last year. However, the cumulative value of these exports between April-September declined 20 per cent, compared to same period last year. Similarly, exports of readymade garments increased 10 per cent in September. The cumulative value of exports from April – August fell by 40 per cent compared to the same period last year.

An opportunity to tap the Australian market

Freight rates for October have risen sharply from $300 to $800, particularly for Middle Eastern, European, North and South American ports. Availability of containers has worsened even at major ports like Mundra and Nhava Sheva (Mumbai), while the situation at inland container depots is worse.

The USDA report says, United States, Egypt, and Mali are top cotton suppliers in 2020. Almost 57 per cent of their cotton has been shipped to Tuticorin port for mills in Southern India. Meanwhile Chinese mills have either lowered or ended their use of Australian cotton, presenting India with an opportunity to increase its share in the Australian cotton market.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Nov 03, 2020

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India faces container shortage due to export-import mismatch

A sudden improvement in exports and a slump in imports, especially from China, have created a shortage of containers for exports, said industry experts and company executives.

The waiting time for an access to a container for exporters is now two-three weeks, compared with a maximum of four days earlier, said industry executives. With the Indian festive season on and the Chinese New Year holidays imminent, the cycle is unlikely to be regularised until February, said industry executives.

During July-September, India's exports in terms of volume grew 24% from a year earlier, even as imports reduced 28%. In October, exports fell by 5.4% and imports by 11.26%.

Usually, the same set of containers that come in as import shipments are shipped out for exports. During the peak of the lockdown when all trades were down, shipping lines had cut capacity and allied transportation systems like trucks were largely unavailable. Also, clearances, especially of Chinese shipments, took longer because of worsening trade relations between the countries. When exports rebounded and imports fell, it led to a pileup of containers in some ports and a scarcity in others.

“As a result, the shipping lines which until July 2020 used to ship out empty containers from India, had to start repositioning empty boxes into the country and move them inland to demand locations at a huge cost for the shipping lines,” Container Shipping Lines Association (CSLA) executive director Sunil Vaswani told ET.

“While India has a fairly balanced import-export container ratio, the availability and positioning of empty containers for exports is based on analysing historic trends and future projections across ports and customer catchments. The paralysis caused by the lockdown resulted in a pileup of export-import container operations compounded by disruption of shipping schedules and domestic manufacturing and distribution schedules," said Prahlad Tanwar, a partner at consultancy firm KPMG.

It doesn't help that there is a cascading effect of a global disruption in shipping lines, said Vaswani and Dhruv Kotak, managing director of JM Baxi, one of India's oldest providers of shipping services.

"It's absolutely wrong to attribute it to one party or segment or treat this like a problem unique to India. Containers are part of a wider global network," said Kotak.

Congestion at transhipment ports like Colombo for instance adds further to the lead time. The rail-road system in the US too is currently congested, causing delays of up to two days per container. The impact on turnaround affects the eventual availability of boxes in other countries, including India.

"The pandemic led to widespread fears which arrested capacity. Shipping lines cut capacity by about 25%. Containers that came took time to get cleared. Almost no clearance happened between March 23 and April 15. Both affected the availability of containers," said Prakash Tulsiani, the chief executive of the container freight station and inland container depot business at Allcargo Logistics.

"The entire thing snowballed into a big issue. Exports started improving in May itself but the non-availability of containers impacted numbers later," he added.

Other factors included a ban on imports of certain Chinese goods, additional checks on Chinese shipments, a 14-day quarantine on vessels arriving from China, an overall negative sentiment among businessmen regarding trade with China, and new regulations like the implementation of the "Carotar Rules", which allow customs to check the antecedents of the importers, have caused delays of 7-10 days in the assessment of the bills of entry and technical glitches in the clearance procedure implemented by customs officials.

The CSLA has given a number of suggestions to the government to resolve the issue.

"Currently there are about 50,000 long standing containers waiting to be cleared across the country, some of them for years together. These need to be cleared by customs on priority so that they can be made available by the shipping lines for exports," said Vaswani.

The cargo should be destuffed in container freight stations/warehouses and auctioned thereafter, he said, adding: "Meanwhile, the boxes should be delivered to the shipping lines so that they can be made available for export shipments. This drive needs to be a consistent one and not just a one off knee-jerk reaction."

The CSLA has suggested that the 14-day quarantine on Chinese shipments be reduced to seven days and that railways move containers from ports to inland container depots free of cost so as to reduce exporters costs of repositioning them. It has suggested that in the long term, the government encourage local manufacturing of containers.

The situation, meanwhile, is improving gradually.

Tulsiani said blank, or cancelled, sailing that had increased to 2-3 times a week in May was three time for all of September. The import-export cycle has started improving and ports and container freight stations are getting decongested. Also, a change in priorities on the part of big global players could change things more rapidly, said Kotak

"If a player such as Maersk were to reroute 50,000 containers from other hubs to India, the situation would improve much faster," he said.

Source: economictimes.com– Nov 04, 2020

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Biden or Trump, India-US ties will stay on course

Both Democrats and Republicans have given India opportunities and their share of trouble

As the results of the most divisive of US Presidential elections are coming in, they are being keenly watched across India, too. While it may even take a few days for the winner to become known, with the incumbent President Donald Trump, threatening to go to the Supreme Court to stop all counting, what will be the impact of the result on India-US economic relations?

According to experts, India is too big a market to be ignored either by the Democrats or the Republicans and both would favour greater trade ties. At the same time, both are capable of acting against India's interest to serve their own. So, India needs to watch its steps irrespective of who comes to power.
Indeed, Trump had started on a belligerent note soon after assuming office in January 2017 by identifying India as one of the countries to be investigated for having a trade surplus with the US.

Trade-related consequences

India tried hard to explain that its trade surplus with the US, which was around $24 billion at that time (declining somewhat since then), was due to export of items used as inputs by the American industry. But the Trump administration wouldn't be placated.

Trump's actions against India have been mostly unilateral and outside the multilateral WTO process. He also withdrew the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) scheme. But this can partly be attributed to the President's mode of operating as he has treated many other countries in the same arbitrary manner.

Tightening H-1B norms

A point against the Trump administration could be the tightening of H-1B visas used extensively by the Indian IT industry operating in the country. But here, one must recall the steep increases in H-1B and L1 visa fees by the Obama government for funding the healthcare programme. Despite several pleas from India, they weren't revised.

Targeting Indian skilled workers in the US when it suits the country's interest is something that both the Republicans and Democrats engage in, and it is India which needs to handle the situation adeptly.

The Indian IT industry, in fact, has been handling the visa issue with maturity. "We expect the H-1B visa programme to continue whatever might be the outcome of the US presidential elections. Some of the decisions are political in nature....and we have to learn to live with it," said UB Pravin Rao, COO, Infosys. Rao said the company had de-risked itself with more hirings in the US and about 63 per cent of the workforce in the US comprised locals.

So, when Indians evaluate whether a Democratic or a Republican regime in the US would be better for the country, political, social and humanitarian considerations may be of greater consequence than economic.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Nov 04, 2020

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India to be the next global e commerce market

Proving to be the black swan event, COVID-19 has given a massive fillip to the e-commerce sector in India. Reports suggest, the Indian e-commerce market contributes roughly about 4 per cent to the GDP.

It is a fast evolving trend that has encouraged many foreign businesses to expand operations in India.

The sector has also created job opportunities in the process, SMEs, agricultural enterprises, finance, banking, fashion, beauty, marketing and advertising, FMCGs, general merchandise, trade, health and education segments. It has revealed decades worth digitization trends in a short span of time.

E-commerce giants eye rural India, small towns

India’s e-com ambitions are depicted through prominent collaborative initiatives like the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the NITI Aayog joining CGI India and Tata Group talks with Big Basket for a 20 per cent stake. To enhance earnings for the festive season, both online and offline retail businesses have started collaborating with each other. They plan to make offline purchases more cost-effective, time-bound and disciplined.

To explore these opportunities, e-commerce giants have started eyeing rural India and small towns.

The Indian banking sector has started using emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for corporate loans, for productive lending. Lending to MSMEs remained stagnant for the last so many years but now, banks are likely to develop models to actively support MSMEs, thereby also improving their own balance-sheets.

A multi-crore business opportunity

India’s craze for online gaming has transformed into a multi-crore business with Indians of all ages turning into gamers. The Indian gaming industry is flourishing with celebrity endorsements, regional language interfaces and sponsorship money.

However the industry faces a few formidable challenges like the constant fear of cyberwarfare and issues related to data privacy. Another challenge is the massive power outage in India's financial capital which impacts many businesses across sectors like information technology, banking and financial services and fin-tech sectors.

The industry also needs to meet divergent views brewing over a spectrum band between Telcos and tech companies. The government recently reprimanded Amazon and Flipkart for not displaying the country of origin of some of the products sold on their platforms, threatening action if they did not explain themselves within 15 days.

Regulatory hurdles

Other challenges include complying to regulatory hurdles with different digital platforms requiring distinct regulations; a group of Indian startups planning to move the Competition Commission of India against the company; global digital tax war metamorphosing into a trade war that could potentially slash global GDP every year.

OECD’s postponment of a common tax framework may lead to Google, Facebook, Amazon, LinkedIn and Netflix facing a larger domestic tax liability, a move that will allow countries like India to have their own plans of taxing the digital giants.

Indian e-commerce advantage

Thus, India can be global data and investment hub for the e-commerce sector. The country offers many benefits for e-commerce businesses like a growing demand, attractive opportunities, policy support, increasing investments and the competitive advantage of developing special skill sets for this sector.

Therefore, the government, industry and research bodies need to create a strong network and sustainable bandwidth. The success of e-commerce is dependent on many variables, like adequate customer support, multi-channel marketing and user-friendly platforms. Users should have appropriate devices, uninterrupted power supply and strong network connectivity.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Nov 03, 2020

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Readymade garments second ODOP of Gorakhpur

Readymade garments has been added as the second one district one product (ODOP) of Gorakhpur after terracotta, the district information department informed on Wednesday.

“The area has huge potential in the sphere of readymade garment and 3,000 people will be directly benefited by this decision. The industrialists are very happy. We will provide the needed training to unskilled and semiskilled workers besides funds to encourage self-employment and enterprise,” said deputy commissioner, industries, R K Sharma.

Former chairman of the Chamber of Industries S K Agarwal praised the decision of the state government.

“A large number of people in the industry will be benefited. Around 100 readymade garments units are functional and the 15,000 workers of the industry who came during lockdown will also get employment. I think more than 500 crore will be invested in the industry in the next two years and more than 20,000 people will get employment.

People will get loans easily without guarantee,” he added. “Terracotta is limited to few villages, but readymade garment business is in the whole district and will affect more than 7 crore people. I hope the dream of a textile park at Purvanchal Expressway also becomes a reality,” he said.

Businessman Amar Tulsiyan said, “Gorakhpur has a lot of potential. I am very happy that readymade garments are now in the ODOP list. This decision will be a game changer for UP.” “We will meet CM Yogi to thank him. Right now, the readymade garment business is scattered in Gorakhpur.

If we get infrastructure under the proposed textile park, many people with even small capital will be able to start business easily in an organized way and earn a good name for Gorakhpur readymade garment market," said chairman of Chamber of Industries, Vishnu Ajit Saria.

Source: timesofindia.com – Nov 05, 2020

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Apparel market hopes to ride the winter wave

With the onset of winter, the apparel market is expecting a revival now during Diwali season, much in the same way as the automobile market.

"Winter is the season when garments sell the most. People not only buy the clothes for festivals, but also shop for woollens during this season. There had been a lull in the sale of ready-made garments ever since the lockdown began, but we are expecting a revival with shopping for winters and festivals picking up", said the owner of an apparel showroom in Bittan Market.

Peeyush Sharma, an entrepreneur, said, "I buy winter clothes for everyone in the family, each winter. Since Diwali was late in 2019, we bought clothes for winter before Diwali shopping, but this year we shall club it together.'

Sharma felt that fall in sales of various things, following Coronavirus outbreak was not so much due to financial crisis gripping people, but as a psychic reaction to the situation. "People were staying indoors, avoiding going to market. There were curbs on timings as well. The mood was melancholic, therefore expecting markets to be buoyant in such a situation was not realistic but the mood is now changing. The pandemic, too, appears to be largely under control and I can tell you, people will celebrate Diwali this year with greater fervour than the previous years," he said.

Steps taken by the government including payment of advance or arrears is also likely to help the sizeable population of government servants in Bhopal to make purchases for winter and of course the Festival of Lights ahead.

"Rs 10,000 advance announced by the government for class 3 and class 4 employees and payment of 25 per cent arrears of the seventh pay commission has definitely added up to buying capacity of government employees; it's likely to boost the apparel market the most as clothes are commonly bought in this season both for the winter and the festivals," said B K Sharma, an officer in the Mantralaya.

President of Rajdhani Vastra Vyapari Sangh, Shyambabu Agrawal, said "The market lull is gone with people purchasing clothes for winter, festivals and also marriages. We expect this season to be as fruitful as 2019."

Ashok Mata, president of Wholesale Hosiery Vyavasai Sangh, said, "There is movement in the market for the last one week. Warm clothes and other apparels are showing good sales but it was largely limited to the wholesale sector till now, but now after the salaries have been disbursed, retail markets will pick up."

Source: timesofindia.com – Nov 05, 2020

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Uttar Pradesh among Top 5 in MSME employment generators amid Covid-19

Uttar Pradesh has found place among top five states of the country for providing employment under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during Corona pandemic.

In a recent report of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Uttar Pradesh has secured a place ahead of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Telangana in the list of top 10 states.

The states ahead of Uttar Pradesh are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

"The Uttar Pradesh government not only managed the return of about 40 lakh migrants from all over the country but also took up the onerous task of providing them employment," the government spokesman said.

"In a first, the state government did skill mapping of about 20 lakh migrant labourers/workers to enable them get job as per their skill set," he added.

The state government also signed MoUs with various industries for creation of 11 Lakh jobs within a year. While FICCI and IIA will account for three lakh jobs each, realtors' body NARDCO and the Laghu Udyog Bharti have agreed to provide jobs to 2.5 each to migrant labourers.

The state government set up new MSME units and is facilitating the distribution of loans to entrepreneurs for this. A new portal 'Sathi' was also launched to help entrepreneurs set up new units.

The government also plans to set up 1000 new units across the state in its efforts to generate more employment and also help people learn entrepreneurial skills, the spokesman said.

As many as 90 lakh MSMs are functional in the state and the sector has been projected as the new growth engine for economic development of the state.

The ambitious scheme of One District One Product (ODOP) under MSME in UP has emerged as a game changer in the times of the pandemic.

Under ODOP, the products of 75 districts are being promoted and sold nationally and internationally on online platforms like Amazon and Flipkart.

As a result, the small districts like Jaunpur, Etah, Pilibhit, Mirzapur and Pratapgarh have become centres for employment due to successful implementation of ODOP.

Source: business-standard.com – Nov 04, 2020

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