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IBTEX No. 238 of 2019 December 07, 2019

US 71.30 | EUR 78.85 | GBP 93.68| JPY 0.66

Cotton Market (05.12.2019)		
Spot Price - Shankar 6 (Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm		
Rs./Bale	**Rs./Candy**	**USD Cent/lb**
18900	39500	**70.40**
Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Warehouse Rajkot), December		
Rs./Bale	**Rs./Candy**	**USD Cent/lb**
19120	39961	**71.22**
International Futures Price		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb (March 2020)	64.70	
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (January 2020)	12,930	
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	83.18	
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**73.50**	

Cotton Guide- The prices have rushed back to positivity. The Major reason attributed to this upward movement is a sudden increase in crude oil prices. WTI Crude yesterday was trading in the 55 $ per Barrel figure and suddenly has increased to 58.50 $ per Barrel.

We need to note the correlation between Crude Oil and Cotton. Both have a positive correlation. A large rise or fall in Crude oil prices is [not equally but to certain extent] proportional to the rise or fall in Cotton prices. Furthermore, both crude Oil and Cotton were seen to show positivity at the same time period starting 9:30 am IST yesterday.

The ICE contracts emanated positivity almost above 50 points. The ICE March contract settled at 64.70 cents per pound with a change of +65 points. The ICE May contract settled at 65.61 cents per pound with a change of +46 points. Volumes were however, decent with figures of 26,279 contracts.

Another, correlation to be looked out for is between ICE and MCX. MCX followed the path of ICE. The MCX December contract settled at 19,120 Rs per Bale with a change of +60 Rs. The MCX January contract settled at 19,250 Rs per Bale with a change of +30 Rs. The volumes were seen at 1,002 Lots which is considerable figure.

While speaking about ZCE cotton contract, the May contract has now emerged to be the most active contract dethroning the January Contract. The ZCE May contract settled at 12,930 Yuan per tonne with a change of -125 Yuan. Currently while we write this report the price of the ZCE May is trading positive with a change of +70 Yuan.

The Cotlook Index A has been updated at 73.50 cents per pound with a change of -0.65 cents per pound. The prices of Shankar 6 headed lower by -100 Rs at 39,500 Rs per Candy. Whereas the spot price remains steady at 38,600 Rs per Candy.

On the fundamental front, we are of the view that prices will still remain consolidated with a negative bias for ICE contracts. On the MCX front, we expect a negative turn of around -50 Rs.

On the technical front, in daily chart, ICE Cotton March has completed its pullback towards the upward sloping channel & resumed its bearish bias. However, price made a bullish engulfing pattern near the support of 63.51, which is 38.2% Fibonacci retracement level of an intermediate up move. Meanwhile, price is below the daily EMA (5, 9) at 64.76, 64.95 with a negative crossover, along with the momentum indicator RSI is at 46.77, suggesting sideways to negative bias for the price. The immediate resistance for the price would be at 65.60 falling trend line)and the support is at 64. Thus for the day we expect price to trade in the range of 64-65.60 with sideways to negative bias. In MCX Dec Cotton, we expect the price to trade within the range of 18950-19200 with a sideways to negative bias.

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

USA: Tariffs in 2019: As the Trade War Turns

One of the largest newsmakers of 2019 was neither a person nor a company but rather a largely impactful issue faced by the apparel industry. In a rocky 2018, the United States implemented 25 percent tariffs on $50 billion in imports from China, and the latter responded with its own reciprocal duties on products from the U.S. The 2018 chapter of the trade war hit the apparel industry through inclusions of China's tariffs on cotton from the U.S. and the former's implementation of duties on Chinese fabric and handbags.

As 2019 progressed, the tariff issue was shrouded in confusion as businesses attempted to read between the lines of President Trump's Twitter account, eventually facing any ultimate decisions that would be announced by the U.S. Trade Representative's office. With June approaching, the apparel industry braced for an additional 10 percent tariff to be implemented on textile imports from China. Known for its specialty textiles including hemp and silk, China had become a trusted resource for certain fabrics used by California-based businesses.

"There is no place we can purchase hemp fabric," Jungmaven's Robert Jungmann told California Apparel News at the time. "We can't purchase it from Europe, Vietnam or the United States. Only China does what we purchase. There is no option."

By the end of summer, additional tariffs were announced to be implemented by the United States on Sept. 1 with subsequent rounds scheduled for October—which were canceled—and Dec. 15. While many businesses in the United States scrambled to import their goods ahead of the tariffs, resulting in record August cargo numbers at the Port of Los Angeles, the founder of Tianello by Steve Barraza, a made-in-the-USA brand that relies on Chinese silk, was disappointed yet optimistic.

"The good news is that the price of silk has fallen approximately $3 per meter since 2018," said Barraza. "There is no doubt that the tariffs have slowed consumption there."

A recent shift in focus by the White House toward duties on imports from France, Brazil and Argentina, in addition to a nonchalant update from the president regarding tariffs on Chinese goods, has left many wondering where the United States stands regarding the proposed Dec. 15 tariffs and exemptions on certain products.

On Dec. 2, during the NATO Summit in London, Trump commented on the current status of the United States–China trade negotiations, revealing that there might be a stall in progress.

“The China trade deal is dependent on one thing—do I want to make it,” he said. “I have no deadline, no. In some ways, I think it’s better to wait until after the election if you want to know the truth. I think in some ways I think it’s better to wait until after the election.”

Source: apparelnews.net - Dec 05, 2019

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Port Everglades & Dominican Republic Port Authority Sign MOU

Broward County's Port Everglades Department and the Dominican Republic Port Authority have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as part of a joint Sister Seaports agreement.

The MOU will promote bilateral trade. The two parties want to establish an alliance of cooperation aimed at facilitating international trade and generating new business by promoting the sea trade routes between the two countries. The MOU outlines joint initiatives, including marketing activities and market studies, training, and sharing of information on technology, modernization and improvements.

“International trade promotion is a priority for our Port and Broward County for generating economic prosperity in our region,“ said Broward County Mayor Dale V.C. Holness, who signed the MOU document along with the Acting Chief Executive and Port Director Glenn Wiltshire on behalf of Port Everglades. “Our port’s trade with the Dominican Republic alone in 2018 reached a record $2.69 billion.”

During Fiscal Year 2019 (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019), Port Everglades handled 52,027 TEUs (a standard maritime measurement of 20-foot equivalent units) in trade with the Dominican Republic. Top import commodities included clothing, electric machinery, medical instruments, plastics, fruits, cosmetics, cotton, iron and steel. Top export commodities included clothing, cotton, machinery, cars, plastics, medical instruments, and textiles.

Under the agreement, the two parties may also embark on initiatives related to the cruise industry.

Source: maritimeprofessional.com - Dec 06, 2019

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The Future Of Textiles Introduced In The Presidential Palace Of Finland

Finland celebrates today its 102 years of independence and Maria Ohisalo, Interior Minister of Finland, will be walking the red carpet tonight wearing the future material for Finland's No 1 annual reception at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki. The stunning evening dress material is made by Finnish Infinited Fiber Company (IFC), which is said to be the rescuer of the world's fashion and textile industries.

Interior Minister Ohisalo wanted to wear a dress that underlines our future direction for sustainable consumption of textiles. The Finnish circular economy top innovation, awarded by WWF, solves one of the worst environmental problems in the world.

"I am proud to wear a Finnish circular economy innovation. We need solutions to cope with the escalating textile waste problem caused by fast fashion. The problem can be solved by increasing the life cycle of garments, developing repair and rental services and innovations for recycling the textile waste," says Maria Ohisalo, Interior Minister of Finland.
The dress is made from post-consumer cotton-based textile waste that would have been either burned or sent to landfills. Now the fibers got a new and enhanced life ahead. And the best part is when the dress has come to the end of its new life it can be put through the same process again. And again, and again. Endlessly.

The fabric, born as a result of Finnish engineering, has the same appearance, touch and feel as cotton but the fiber as enhanced qualities that beat conventional cotton both technically and ecologically. The material preserves it dyes better and it needs less rounds in the washer
[1].

Several global fashion brands, like Lee, Wrangler and Tommy Hilfiger, have tested the IFC fiber in their production with success. Last week Swedish Weekday brand announced their stunning denim garment designed together with the Game of Thrones star Maisie Williams.

Designer of Minister Ohisalo's beautiful long evening dress Anne-Mari Pahkala has always been interested in technology and new innovations in fashion industry. "I find it important that industry and science seek for new solutions for the drastic problems of the textile industry. My interest towards IFC awaked when I was visiting their mill together with Maria Ohisalo. Soon after the visit we began our common project that aimed to design and make a luxurious evening dress from the basis of this material of the future," says fashion designer Anne-Mari Pahkala.

New and better man-made cotton made in IFC's revolutionary process excludes huge amount of carbon and methane emissions not to mention fertilizers, fresh water and chemicals used by cotton farming. Still, the end result is not a compromise in quality, nor in appearance.

Solution for the ever-growing waste problem

The emissions caused by the textile industry already exceed the amount generated by the international flights and maritime shipping together[2].
The technological breakthrough in IFC's process is that it can separate the synthetic fibers from cotton. The remaining pure biodegrading natural cellulose can be recycled through the same process endlessly without weakening the fiber quality.

"Waste generated by textile industry is one of the heaviest burdens to our planet. We have the technology that can be easily scaled up to industrial level, solve the problem and make a true climate action. The future of fashion industry is based on circular economy," says Petri Alava, CEO of IFC.

IFC's fiber is born in nearly carbon neutral process. Besides cotton-rich used garments the genius technology can also digest other cellulose based materials, like cardboard and paper waste but also agricultural waste like rice straws that are burned vast amounts in Asia.

IFC is manufacturing fiber from post-consumer textile waste at its pilot plant in Finland 50 tons per year and is building another 500-ton mill to provide more fiber for global fashion brand's tests and capsule collections.

Source: textileworld.com- Dec 06, 2019

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PM Mamin gives start to textile factory in Shymkent

Prime Minister Askar Mamin in the framework of ensuring the implementation of the SPIID programs, the Economics of Simple Things, initiated by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan- Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, as well as the instructions of the Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on the socio-economic development of Shymkent and Turkestan region, made a working trip to the region, MIA Kazinform reports with reference to primeminister.kz.

Related news Kazakhstan-Belarus oil deal likely to be signed in early 2020 President meets External Relations Director of Fraunhofer Society President Tokayev took part in 28th meeting of Berlin Eurasian Club Head of State held number of meetings with representatives of German business In Shymkent the Head of Government attended the opening ceremony of a spinning factory of Alliance Trade and Industrial Company LLP, a joint venture of Kazakhstan Investment Fund JSC and the Alliance Textile Uzbek Association of Light Industry Enterprises.

The project was implemented in the framework of the agreements reached in June the current year between the governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the creation of a joint textile cluster. Askar Mamin expressed confidence that the launch of the factory will give a great impetus to the development of the textile cluster in Kazakhstan.

«The Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has repeatedly noted the importance of attracting foreign investment in non-resource sectors of the economy. Considering the positive experience of Uzbekistan in textile industry development an agreement was signed on joint launch of a textile cluster in Shymkent. The agreement was concluded on June 22 at the XVIII meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan», A. Mamin emphasized. At the first stage the enterprise created 120 new jobs. The factory's volume of cotton fiber processing will be 6 thousand tons per year. Investments of the Uzbek side in the project are about KZT4.6 billion. Within the framework of the Road Map for the restoration of the textile cluster in Shymkent, it is planned to additionally launch two factories. In total the factories will ensure a 2-fold increase in cotton consumption and create 800 new jobs.

In Maylyoshak village of Turkestan region A. Mamin attended an opening ceremony of the factory for the production of fast food products. CG Foods Central Asia is the world's largest producer of instant noodles. The company has invested KZT5.7 billion in the project. About 300 local people will be employed.

The volume of products will exceed 4.5 thousand tons per year. It was informed that the company will use domestic raw materials in the production process. The products are planned to be delivered both to domestic and foreign markets.

Source: inform.kz- Dec 05, 2019

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NATIONAL NEWS

CII calls for GST cut, expansionary policy to pull economy out of slowdown

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Friday pitched for an expansionary fiscal policy to pull the economy out of slowdown.

In a pre-Budget interaction with Revenue Secretary A B Pandey, a CII delegation recommended widening the fiscal deficit by 0.5-0.75 percentage points from the target, which will give the government additional fiscal space of about Rs 1.1 trillion to Rs 1.6 trillion.

Birla said at another event: “The best way to get out of it (slowdown) is only through a fiscal stimulus. If the GST (goods and services tax) rate is brought down to 15 per cent, that would be a huge stimulus We can’t come out of this through a consumption story because as of now, people don’t want to spend more (as) incomes are low. You have unemployment happening.”

The fiscal deficit target for the year is 3.3 per cent. This additional fiscal space should be used for investing in capex, particularly in infrastructure, the CII said.

There should be a glide path to return to the targets given by the fiscal responsibility and budget management (FRBM) panel over a period of two-three years, the CII said. Birla said fiscal prudence should be shown in business but a fiscal policy was required in the year of slowdown.

“I think we are nearing the bottom … I don’t see credit growth to large companies picking up anytime soon. Most are still getting large debts on their balance sheets, which I think they need to lop off. I also think there is a case for the government to give greater fiscal stimulus to the economy. Anyway the FRBM Act provides half a per cent deviation,” Birla said.

The Centre’s fiscal deficit has crossed the Budget FY20 projection of Rs 7.04 trillion by October itself. The fiscal framework papers, laid along with the Budget, estimated the deficit at 3 per cent of GDP in FY21 and FY22.
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday cut the growth projection for the fiscal year to 5 per cent from 6.1 per cent earlier, on the back of weak

domestic and external demand. The government on September 20 had announced lowering the corporation tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent for companies that did not seek exemption, and reduced the rate for some new manufacturing companies to 15 per cent from 25 per cent.

Including surcharges and cess (levies to raise funds for specific purposes), the effective corporate tax rate will drop by nearly 10 percentage points to 25.2 per cent.

The corporation tax rate cuts followed other measures by the government to prop up growth. These include efforts to reduce red tape and boost foreign direct investment (FDI), and consolidating state-owned banks.

"Tax cuts are always welcome. If the government decides to give us more tax breaks, that will be most welcome. They increase our cash flows; give us more elbow room to grow. The government has done a lot. I am not taking that away," Birla said.

He said some companies would like to use the package to repay debt and some would like to use it for capacity expansion. Birla did not make much of the view that the push to consumer spending by way of cuts in income tax rates would help the economy.

Source: business-standard.com– Dec 07, 2019

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RCEP countries must pay heed to India's concerns

India's doubts on issues like exports and its economic relations with China are genuine and crucial for growth. Only when these are resolved, should India consider joining the agreement again.

India's withdrawal from the the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement (RCEP) was not entirely unexpected, given that key stakeholders had not been in favour of it. India put forward genuine reasons for its decision to withdraw, for the time being, from the negotiations undertaken by 16 countries of the RCEP grouping, which make eminent sense from the economic perspective. The decision brings relief to industry as well as farmers, who were rightly apprehensive about the wide-ranging impact it was likely to have on their livelihood.

Following the adverse experience with the Japan and Korea FTAs, the goods segment was concerned with possible impact of the RCEP, since it would effectively mean a FTA with China. For most of the merchandise trade, China accounts for a significant share of the global capacity — in sectors like steel its nearly 50 per cent. Even the slightest variation in demand and supply in China has severe repercussions on global markets and prices. For example, when the Chinese economy slowed down in 2016, steel imports to India from China increased by more than 200 per cent, while prices crashed. The Indian steel industry's concerns with the RCEP related to trade diversion and regional accumulation for value addition.

Services sector

Work on the RCEP, which was proposed to further lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers on goods as well as expand trade in services and investment arrangements, commenced in 2012. However, it was obvious from the beginning that services and investments were taking a back seat in the negotiation process, with goods trade accorded primacy. Given that the other 15 countries already have very low or zero tariffs for goods traded amongst themselves under the alphabet soup of FTAs in place, India is the only country which would have been bound to cut its tariffs for the other members under the RCEP.

However, with its service interests not adequately factored into the discussions over the years, the benefits to India from the RCEP were questionable. India's services trade has continued to grow robustly, even while the goods trade has been impacted by the global trade slowdown. Exports of services expanded from $16 billion in 2001-02 to $106 billion in 2008-09 and $208 billion in 2018-19. India's share in global services exports increased from 1.1 per cent in 2000 to 3.5 per cent in 2018, as compared to its share in global merchandise exports, which has remained at 1.7 per cent. Clearly, the importance of the services sector for growth and employment generation in India cannot be overstated, and the short shrift given to it in the RCEP was a disappointment.

Economic stance

One of the key points put forward initially as a rationale to enter and continue in the RCEP initially was that open trade with competitive countries would force India's hand in undertaking economic reforms. The pace of reforms has indeed been rapid, with introduction of the GST, opening up of FDI, facilitative ease of doing business and numerous sectoral reforms. However, India needs to take up reforms at its own pace and in a manner that is suitably calibrated to meet the interests of diverse sections of the economy, such as farmers and small businesses.

While announcing its exit from the arrangement, India highlighted that the rising trade deficit from China was unsustainable and would be further exacerbated as a result of the RCEP. This position has been taken up continuously by India during the discussions as well as in bilateral platforms. It is, for example, difficult to understand why Indian drug exports to China are worth only $46 million. India's exports of pharmaceuticals to the world stands at over $14 billion in 2018 — including $5 billion to the US — after meeting stringent approval processes, and China itself imports drugs worth $28 billion from the rest of the world.

Reciprocity is also crucial. For example, in the steel sector, imports from Japan and Korea after signing the FTAs doubled while exports to these countries continued to remain negligible.

Ties with China

It is unlikely that the unrelenting attitude of China regarding India's market access interests over a long period of time would have been altered once the RCEP was in force. The possibility of industry sectors in India suffering from import surge would thus have been very real. In addition, Chinese products are already being routed through ASEAN countries, with which India has an FTA. With lax rules of origin proposed in the RCEP, even the longer time period given to reducing tariffs with respect to goods made in China would have been ineffective.

It is indeed unfortunate that China could not provide India with a way out of its apprehensions relating to Chinese goods swamping Indian markets, either bilaterally or through the RCEP. This situation extends to the services sector as well. China has seen huge appetite for Indian movies, yet only 3-4

Indian films are allowed entry into its market each year. Our IT sector is similarly disadvantaged in China.

India's competitiveness vis-à-vis China is unlikely to benefit from economic reforms that India may undertake in the future. To assuage India's concerns, China must bilaterally work with us and resolve our market access issues in areas across pharmaceuticals, agriculture and manufactured goods. Only when we see a real improvement in our exports to China will the Indian industry become confident about lower tariffs for Chinese products and can accede to regional arrangements like the RCEP.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Dec 06, 2019

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Cotton research bodies in India, Uganda to develop new seed variety

Countries aim to boost income of farmers in African nation

The Cotton Development and Research Association (CDRA) of Southern India Mills' Association has signed an agreement with Cotton Development Organisation and National Agricultural Research Organisation of Uganda to develop a cotton seed variety that will help increase the income of farmers in both the countries.

B. Lakshminarayana, former chairman of the SIMDACDRA, and R. Elango, its chairman, said the 18-month project will look at technology exchange between the two countries to develop a cotton seed variety that will give higher yield and ginning out turn.

Uganda grows 100% organic cotton and cotton grown by the farmers in Uganda gives higher ginning out turn compared with Indian cotton. However, the yield from the varieties developed by the CDRA are higher compared with the Ugandan cotton seed. Scientists in the three organisations will work together and seed varieties will be tested in both India and Uganda. The aim is to develop a long-staple cotton seed variety that will increase the income for cotton farmers in Uganda.

"With similar climatic conditions between the two countries, the new variety of seed developed will benefit farmers in India and Uganda," Mr. Elango said.
"The agreement was signed on November 21 and a detailed plan of action will be finalised soon," added Mr. Lakshminarayana.

India imports about 10 lakh bales from African countries. Industry sources say transport cost of cotton from west African countries is less compared to shipping from Gujarat.

Uganda produces 1.5 lakh bales of cotton a year and 90 % of it is exported. It has 20 active ginners, according to the International Trade Centre, which facilitated the partnership. By March the SITA (Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa) will also facilitate the next steps, including technical exposure visits, preparation of a detailed multi-year workplan etc.

Source: thehindu.com– Dec 07, 2019

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At investor summit, call for Ludhiana textile industry to learn from Tamil Nadu

Textile giants in Punjab admit to the need to adopt the work culture of textile industry in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, and work together.

Instead of spending on luxury cars and farmhouses, they said they needed to come together in clusters by shunning their ego and spend on technology. Though Ludhiana was the first to emerge as a textile hub in India, textile industry of Tirupur has over time left Ludhiana far behind in terms of production and exports.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) chairman H K L Maggu decribed work culture in South India as the best. "In Tirupur, textile industries got together in cluster and made it happen by dedicating themselves to business growth," he said. "We in north prefer to spend on Mercs and farmhouses if we earn something," he added.

Sharing his experience, Maggu said Tirupur textile industry had upgraded their units with latest technology. He was speaking at one of the sessions on the last day of the two-day Progressive Punjab Investors Summit 2019 on Friday.

Amit Jain, MD of Shingora Textiles Limited, said in a lighter vein: “I will request the state government to help Punjabi people shed their ego and work together.”

He was moderating the session on ‘Punjab: New Destination for Garmenting and Technical Textiles’. It was the need of the hour that Ludhiana textile industries work in clusters if they want to grow, said Million Exporter Private Limited MD Narinder Chugh. “Punjabis carry both tags of entrepreneurs as well as improvisers,” said Rajinder Gupta, chairman of Trident Group. He opined that information technology could play a very big role and this needed to be from end-to-end. Gupta added that wih the advent of e-commerce and digital marketing, value of money had become more important than building a brand. “Days are gone when the government wanted to subsidise capitalists. Industry cannot ask seek subsidy labour for profits,” Gupta said.

Textile industry captains were also of the view Punjab government could help them in upgrading technology and by opening skill development centres in and around Ludhiana to train local manpower, so that they need not to remain dependent on migratory workforce. In response to this, Punjab industry and commerce minister Sunder Sham Arora said Punjab government had set up skill development centres in many districts. Recently, the industry department had sought suggestions from industrialists about their need regarding the type of workforce. Thereafter, the department had started several courses in ITIs to prepare a skilled workforce locally, he said.

Quotes:

Kamal Oswal | Vice-chairman and MD of Nahar Group of Companies

While there is a trade war going on between the US and China, India can use this opportunity to replace China. You have to create a brand if you have to go out with commodity.

Rajinder Gupta | chairman of Trident Group

The state govt should focus on textile industry as it has ripple effects on rural economy by creation of jobs. It is the highest employer in agriculture sector and the textile industry can be described as a corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity."

Narinder Chugh | MD of Million Exporters Pvt Ltd

Labour is the biggest problem in Punjab. We depend on migrant workforce from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Key figures in textile industry

Indian textile industry is expected to grow to US$223 billion (Rs 15.6 lakh crore) by 2021

Punjab textile industry is worth $ 4.28 bn (Rs 30,000 crore). It employs 3.4 lakh people, of which 45,000 are women

Textile industry accounts for 19% of industrial output of Punjab

Share of cotton yarn and readymade garments export from Punjab stood at $ 927 million (Rs 6,489 crore) in 2018.

Punjab is among the largest producers of cotton, blended yarn and mill made fabrics in India

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com- Dec 07, 2019

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Industrialists urge Punjab CM to fast track growth in Textile, Agro, Steel, Automotive sectors

Leading industrialists on Friday urged Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh to put growth in the of Textile & Garments, Agro & Food Processing, Steel, Automobile & Auto Parts on fast track in view of the immense potential in these sectors.

A special session on the concluding day of the Progressive Punjab Investors Summit-2019 projected consensus on this count, in view of the state's strong industrial base coupled with peaceful and skilled workforce. The participants exhorted the Chief Minister, in whose presence the session was held, to accelerate the pace of development in these key sectors.

The session was moderated by MD Vardhman Special Steel, Sachit Jain, and the panelists were Vice Chairman of International Tractor A S Mittal, Chairman Trident Group Rajinder Gupta, MD Nahar Group Kamal Oswal, Chairman Bunge India Samir Jain and Air Asia's CEO Sunil Bhaskaran.

The majority of panelists, being sons of the soil, pledged their full support and cooperation to the state government in its endeavour to make Punjab the frontrunner on the country's industrial map.

Initiating the discussion, Sachit Jain said that Punjab had a strong industrial eco-system, which could play a vanguard role in promoting industry, especially in the manufacturing sector. He noted that the state had wide scope for the growth of IT and ITeS, especially in the light of the new industrial policy, which had been finalized on the personal initiative of the Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh after due deliberations and consultations with the Industrialists so as to make it industry-friendly.
Citing his personal experience about the pro-investor approach of the State Government, Jain said that Invest Punjab had gone a step forward in motivating industrialists to set up their ventures after removing the bottlenecks in the existing policy.

Taking part in the deliberations, Rajinder Gupta said that he owed his company's success to the Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation as had it facilitated his venture by advancing loan, and now it was his turn to pay back to the state. Gupta said he had made massive investments in his textile units in Barnala district, besides investing nearly Rs. 10 crores on the education of children and women welfare in the rural sector as part his Corporate Social Responsibility. He advocated the concept of 'Dasvandh' and urged fellow industrialists to generously contribute for the social cause in the state.

AS Mittal shared his experience with the Japanese company Yanmar, which had led to marked quality improvement in the manufacturing facility at Hoshiarpur. He also emphasized the need to encourage Japan-based suppliers and vendors to invest in the local MSMEs dealing with auto parts, in order to enhance the quality of their products in line with international standards.

Sunil Bhaskaran said that his group was exploring all possibilities to ensure maximum air connectivity so as to facilitate the trade and commercial activities in the region.

Kamal Oswal said that the Nahar Group was setting up a Logistics Park over an area of 45 acres at a cost of Rs. 300 crore in Ludhiana, besides another Industrial Park over an area of 100 acres at a cost of Rs. 2000 crore to house green industry i.e. IT & ITeS, with facilities of housing, malls and retail.

Samir Jain said that Punjab had a congenial investment climate and the concerted efforts of Invest Punjab to organize the summit were a step in the right direction to attract major investments in the state.

Earlier, the COO, Verbio Global from Germany, Oliver Ludtke shared his experience with the Punjab Government in setting up biofuel from paddy straw. He said that the project will utilize paddy straw, thereby creating a local supply chain, which will in turn generate employment resources in rural areas, as well as resolve the problem of crop residue burning to make the state free from pollution.

Source: ptcnews.tv- Dec 07, 2019

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Kerala targets Rs 1,000 crore from coir geotextiles

Kerala has targeted a business of Rs 1000 crore from coir geotextiles through its aggressive marketing across the country in the next few years.

Kerala finance minister Thomas Issac said he hopes to train around 100 engineering graduates in the dynamics of geo textiles and send them across the country as brand ambassadors to market the product. ``They will act as startups for geotextiles and the government will provide all support to them," he said on the side lines of international coir meet called Coir Kerala being held in Alappuzha

The government is banking on coir geotextiles to pull the flagging coir industry in the state out of the woods and to regain its lost glory. `` We expect to get Rs 100 crore order for geotextiles from together from all the local panchayats under Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGS)," he said.

Geo textile as an eco-friendly product finds wide use in road construction, soil and water conservation, sloping landscape and coastline erosion control, river bank protection and in mining sites. `` The union transport minister wants 40,000 tonnes of geo textiles annually, which we are not in a position to supply at present. I will be calling a meeting of coir ministers of southern states next year to collectively lobby for geotextiles," he said.

Apart from geotextiles, the state will promote coir pith, coir acoustics, mulching sheets, coir composites and binderless boards, the minister said. It has set up a pilot plant for coir composites with Western India Plywoods in Kannur. It is also expecting significant domestic sales by partnering with big retail chains like Reliance and Shoppers StopNSE 2.26 %.

Kerala has to make yarn, despite a plunge in its export, to protect the employment of about 1 lakh coir workers, majority of whom are women. `` While increasingly going for automation in the industry we also have to bear a cost of transition by subsidising the traditional coir workers," he said.

Kerala which was dependent on Tamil Nadu for 50% of its fibre requirement now is self-reliant to the extent of 50% and hopes to triple the yarn production to 60,000 tonnes in two years. Around 300 fibre automated extraction mills are also planned.

An investment of Rs 1400 crore is planned in the 13th five year plan for coir industry which includes 1106 crore plan allocation and Rs 204.83 crore national cooperative development corporation (NCDC) loan.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- Dec 06, 2019

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Textile outlet asked to pay Rs 21k to consumer

The district consumer disputes redressal forum in Tirunelveli has ordered a textile outlet to pay Rs 21,000 to a consumer for deficiency in service and for harassment for a purchase made during Diwali season in 2017.

According to the consumer, N Gomathi, 45, a resident of Tirunelveli town, she went to Abirami Sarees and Readymades in Tirunelveli on October 16, 2017, to make a purchase for her daughters. She purchased two churidar sets for Rs 1,700. Since there was no trial room in the shop she purchased them by checking the girls' shoulder size. "On Diwali day, we found that the churidar of my elder daughter was smaller due to which she could not wear it. We went to the shop the same day but it was closed. We went again the next day (October 19) and asked them to exchange but personnel there humiliated us," she told TOI.

Instead of offering an an exchange, they asked us to buy an extra pant. "They asked me to donate the churidar for a charitable cause by placing it on the wall of kindness at the district collectorate," she said. Gomathi added that left no other option they approached the consumer disputes redressal forum. Their counsel A Brammanayagam said that on completion of trial the forum recently passed the order, asking the textile showroom to pay a compensation of Rs 15,000 to the consumer for deficiency in service, Rs 5,000 towards the legal expenses and to refund the Rs 1,000 as the material cost.

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com- Dec 07, 2019

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Exporters await new policy, clarity on levies

India's first time exporters and those from the micro, small, medium enterprises (MSME) sector have demanded new measures to boost exports.

They are awaiting clarity on the new export policy of the government and Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP), which will replace Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) in 2020 as announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in September 2019.

Exporters said RoDTEP will more than adequately incentivise exports than the existing schemes put together and they were awaiting the fine print.

Plastic exporters from MSME sector have also demanded clarity on MEIS for certain categories of products that overlap between plastics and textile sectors.

Since MEIS on textile sector has been stopped, exporters who deal in both plastics/chemicals and textiles (which are inter-connected) are facing problems in terms of getting refunds and incentives, said Ravish Kamath, chairman, PLEXCONCIL, on the sidelines of CAPINDIA 2019, one of India's largest export sourcing expositions that concluded on Wednesday in Mumbai.

"MSME exporters are concerned about existing export incentives and recent trade remedy measures initiated on import of basic inputs. They also seek clarity on the proposed RoDTEP scheme and forthcoming foreign trade policy which will auger well for exports," said Ajay Kadakia, Chairman, CHEMEXCIL, at the expo.

R. Veeramani, President, CAPEXIL said, "Exporters have also asked the government to focus on the development of infrastructure and basic materials of construction industry and policies such as open FDI norms, large budget allocation to infrastructure sector and smart cities mission."

Sribash Dasmohapatra, executive director, PLEXCONCIL, the lead organiser of the expo which was organised under aegis of the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said this year Tamil Nadu was the only State that took advantage of the Union Government's promotional initiatives and sponsored a pavilion for all its MSMEs and first-time exporters who showcased their products before over 400 international buyers from 48 countries who were all sponsored by government agencies in a bid to push exports.

"There was substantial representation from Africa, which is the sunrise destination for plastics. Cambodia sent a delegation to India for the first time ever. Chemicals witnessed action in beauty and cosmetics segment. United Nations SDG goals of housing-for-all will give a fillip to construction and building materials from India. Forest products from India will now be sourced directly rather than through other intermediaries," he said.

Source: thehindu.com- Dec 07, 2019

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