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IBTEX No. 205 of 2017 October 11, 2017

USD 65.25 | EUR 77.16 | GBP 86.13 | JPY 0.58

Cotton Market

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

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
18429	38550	**75.32**

Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), October

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
18180	38028	**74.30**

International Futures Price

NY ICE USD Cents/lb (Dec 2017)	68.95
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (Jan 2018)	15,125
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**88.70**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**78.8**

Cotton & currency guide: The daily momentum tried breaking 70 cents on Tuesday which failed and ended the session lower or almost unchanged at 68.95 cents per pound for December future ICE. The market taken again good resistance to break above 70 cents. We still believe unless 70 is broken the market would continue to trade sideways however traders across globe are waiting for the Thursdays USDA report.

Looking at the weekly crop planting report indicates that most likely the monthly USDA report would reveal less than 21 million bales of crop in the US factoring the effect of hurricane that took place severely in the month of September. Therefore the price actions seem adjusting accordingly with speculative positions may have tried breaking the mentioned key resistance level of 70 cents. Ahead of data and unless makes a confirmation some are still reluctant to build heavy long position. Instead there is selling of positions witnessed near the Tuesday's high of 69.80 cents.

This morning the same contract is seen trading positive at 69.22 cents up by more than a quarter per cent. We expect though market may trade sideways but the bias could be on the positive side. From chart we peg 70 as key resistance for today while on the lower side 68.70 could be a strong support level.

Besides more action is seen at the Indian front. The old and new crop cotton price both have aligned near Rs. 39500 per candy. The tightness in the old crop and moisture content arrivals of new few crops has created supply tightness in the market. Although broad spectrum continues to be a higher side story for Cotton in India.

The effect is clearly visible on the futures contract at MCX. First of all the October contract has moved sharply higher to Rs. 19200 per bales (more than 40K per candy). Likewise, subsequent contracts November and December have also moved higher to close the session at Rs. 18430 and 18320 per bale. The November and December continues to trade in invert (backwardation) which has moved from Rs. 70 to 120. We believe the spread should further widen to around Rs. 200.

From the price perspective the trading range for November today would be Rs. 18700 to Rs. 18320 per bale.

Currency Guide:

Indian rupee appreciated by 0.1% today to trade near 65.2 levels against the US dollar. Rupee has benefitted from improved risk sentiment as is evident from gains in global equity market. Also supporting rupee is general correction in US dollar amid concerns about Trump administration. However, weighing on rupee are concerns about Indian economy and increased expectations of Fed's interest rate hike. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday lowered India's growth forecast for 2017 to 6.7% from its earlier estimate of 7.2%. USDINR may trade in a range of 65.1-65.35 but bias may be on the upside on concerns about Indian economy.

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China: Largest Yarn Expo Autumn ever opens this week with more quality products on offer

The long-awaited Yarn Expo Autumn will be held again in Shanghai from 11-13 October, welcoming thousands of industry players who are looking for quality yarn and fibre products from China, Asia and elsewhere. As an effective and highly praised platform for reflecting the latest industry trends and attracting worldwide buyers, Yarn Expo has been growing in popularity every year, with the number of exhibitors increasing to around 493 this edition, up from 319 last year.

The exhibition space will also expand by 115%, allowing suppliers to showcase more of their products to visitors. "Given the reputation of Yarn Expo as the best trade platform in the Asian region, suppliers are keen on joining to meet their potential customers here," Senior General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, Ms Wendy Wen said. Suppliers from 13 countries and regions including Bangladesh, Mainland China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam will participate in this year's autumn edition.

Foreign yarn suppliers in attendance to enter the Asian market Being held in one of Asia's major transport hubs, Yarn Expo gathers leading yarn and fibre suppliers from throughout the region. This year, the India Pavilion is once again a highlight of the fair, bringing around 40 of the leading Indian names to Shanghai. In addition, Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) as an international organisation which promotes sustainable cotton production, will join the fair for the first time with five spinners demonstrating their cotton yarn made from eco-friendly cotton. Another show highlight includes the returning Birla Planet Pavilion. Birla Group benefited from its participation in the previous Yarn Expo where it succeeded in increasing its brand awareness in China. This edition, they will form the pavilion with 16 companies to present a wide range of products, including Birla Modal and Birla Spun shades. The world's largest rayon spun yarn producer, PT Elegant Textile Industry will also join as one of their important members.

In addition to the aforementioned pavilions, Uzbekistan and Pakistan exhibitors will also return to the fair to cater to the growing demand for their high quality and competitive cotton yarn. What's more, the positive feedback from existing exhibitors along with the show's growing influence has further attracted new exhibitors who are interested to develop in the Asian market. Rubberflex Sdn Bhd from Malaysia, the world's largest manufacturer of advanced latex threads is one of the newcomers, and they are ready to showcase their renowned products with features of heat-resistance, high elasticity and durability. Last but not least, Indonesian companies are showing much enthusiasm towards the fair that more of them choose to participate in this week's Yarn Expo Autumn. PT Indo-Rama Synthetics Tbk, for instance, will display viscose, polyester spun, melange yarn and other specialty yarns.

Domestic exhibitors provide innovative products in five distinct display zones

In order to stand out from the competition, domestic yarn and fibre suppliers have been working hard to upgrade their products, such that they are catching the eyeballs of visitors from around the world. Buyers can expect to see their latest innovative products from five highlighted display zones including Fancy Yarn Zone, Natural Cotton Yarn Zone, Colourful Chemical Zone, Quality Wool Zone and Green Linen Zone. Amongst the five highlighted zones, the Fancy Yarn Zone, which places an emphasis on innovation, will double in size and accommodate around 50 companies this year. Fibre products under the theme of trend, innovation, green and comfort will also be presented by some 200 exhibitors in the Colourful Chemical Zone. Furthermore, there is still a wide range of products such as nylon, viscose filament, renewable & recycled fibres and more for visitors to discover in these zones.

Together with Yarn Expo Autumn 2017, three other textile trade fairs are held concurrently from 11 – 13 October in the same venue: Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Autumn Edition, PH Value and the China International Fashion Fair (CHIC). Yarn Expo Autumn is organised by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd; The Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT; China Cotton Textile Association; China Wool Textile Association; China Chemical Fiber Association; China Bast & Leaf Fibres Textiles Association; and China Textile Information Centre.

Messe Frankfurt is the world's largest trade fair, congress and event organiser with its own exhibition grounds. With more than 2,300 employees at some 30 locations, the company generates annual sales of around €647 million. Thanks to its far-reaching ties with the relevant sectors and to its international sales network, the Group looks after the business interests of its customers effectively.

A comprehensive range of services – both onsite and online ensures that customers worldwide enjoy consistently high quality and flexibility when planning, organising and running their events. The wide range of services includes renting exhibition grounds, trade fair construction and marketing, personnel and food services. With its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, the company is owned by the City of Frankfurt (60 percent) and the State of Hesse (40 percent).

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Cambodia hikes minimum wage for garment workers to $170

Cambodia recently raised the monthly minimum wage of workers in the garment and footwear sector from $153 to $170, the highest hike in the past two years. The decision came after Prime Minister Hun Sen raised the wage by $5 after a committee, comprising representatives from the government, unions and employers, met on October 5 and agreed on a $165 value.

The hike, to be effective starting January 1 next year, is an year-on-year increase of 11 per cent, with the minimum wage increasing by less than 10 per cent in the two preceding years. Only in 2014, the first year of the tripartite negotiations, did wages increase more, rising 28 percent following the nationwide wage protests of 2013.

Workers would also receive additional bonuses, including payments for accommodation and travel, as well as 'seniority' payments if they continue in the same job for more than two years, labour minister Ith Sam Heng said.

The government would also try to pass, at the earliest possible, a contentious universal minimum wage law under which other sectors would start receiving a base wage in an incremental fashion, Cambodian media reports quoted the labour minister as saying. The draft law has come under criticism for provisions to restrict independent research on wages and enact penalties for wage protests.

Ath Thorn, president of the Cambodian Labour Confederation, said that the significant wage hike was likely made with an eye on next year's election.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Pakistan: Cotton prices up on strong arrivals of Phutti

Prices moved higher on the cotton market on Monday despite strong pace of seed cotton arrivals, dealers said. The official spot rate gained Rs 50 to Rs 6050, they said. In the ready session, around 14,000 bales of cotton changed hands between Rs 6150-6250, they said. In Sindh seed cotton prices gained modestly at Rs 2800-3050, in the Punjab rates were up by 100 at Rs 2900-3200, as per 40 kg, they said.

Commenting on surging trend, cotton analyst, Naseem Usman said that in fact prices went up as the ginners raised asking rates. During the last sessions, the mills and ginners lay hands over the fine quality to replenish their stock, experts said but on the other hand, the ginners started pushing the rates up to gain profits, they added. It was surprising to note that instead of falling trend in rates, prices of best quality are gaining momentum, they observed. They said that volume of business improved in yarn trading, besides, some leading exporters were also showing interest in fresh buying.

Other analysts said that speculations about the rupee's devaluation versus the dollar were also playing a role in persistent buying of the local cotton. The following deals were reported to have hanged hands on the ready counter: 1600 bales of cotton from Saleh Pat at Rs 6200/6250, 1200 bales from Rohri at Rs 6175/6200, 2000 bales from Khairpur at Rs 6150/6200, 600 bales from Layyah at Rs 6200, 800 bales from Muhammadpur Dewan at Rs 6175/6225, 600 bales from Rajanpur at Rs 6250, 2000 bales from

Mianwali at Rs 6150/6200, 400 bales from Bahawalpur at Rs 6175, 200 bales from Jalalpur at Rs 6200, 1000 bales from Khanewal at Rs 6250, 600 bales from Burewala at Rs 6150, 400 bales from Alipur at Rs 6175, 600 bales from Chistian at Rs 6125, 400 bales from Bahawal Nagar at Rs 6150, 200 bales from Tonsa Sharif at Rs 6200 and 200 bales from Mian Channu at Rs 6225, they said.

Source: fp.brecorder.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Textile industry in Zimbabwe requests govt for forex

The Zimbabwe Textile Manufacturers' Association (ZCMA) has appealed to the government to timely disburse foreign currency to its members to ensure they meet their obligations and remain in business in times of liquidity crisis. ZCMA secretary-general Raymond Huni recently said the textile industry needed urgent intervention to avoid a total collapse.

As the current liquidity crisis continues, the government assisted a few struggling companies to easily access foreign currency. People have resorted to buying foreign currency in the black market at exorbitant rates, thereby distorting market prices. Some are hoarding cash, according to a report in a newspaper in Zimbabwe.

ZCMA appealed to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, and the ministries of finance and industry to consider allocating forex to genuine manufacturers for raw materials that are not available locally.

Zimbabwe's biggest blanket and linen manufacturer that supplies to the army, hospitals, hotels and schools, and hosiery manufacturers are struggling to get foreign currency to continue in business. This will lead to thousands losing jobs, said Huni.

The government should also consider raising the export incentive from 5 per cent to 25 per cent, according to ZCMA.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Russia proposes 'green corridor' for Uzbek textiles

Visiting Russian minister of industry and trade Denis Manturov recently proposed Uzbek foreign trade Minister Eler Ganiev creating a 'green corridor' for the supply of textile products from Uzbekistan. Both nations aim to expand cooperation in textiles as Uzbekistan is the world's sixth-largest cotton-growing country producing 1.1 million tonnes annually.

The 'green corridor' concept was launched by the European Union in 2007 wherein goods do not have to undergo customs inspection while crossing borders. In 2017, the supply of textiles from Uzbekistan to Russia increased by 22 per cent.

Ganiev feels the potential is vast as the proposal covers production cooperation, the use of Uzbek yarn for production at Russian enterprises, the supply of finished textile products, knitted fabrics and cotton fabrics. "We expect that by the next year, the volume of trade in textile products could reach about $700 million," he was quoted as saying by Uzbek media reports.

By 2017 end, the republic intends to reach the $5-billion trade turnover level with Russia. Moreover, this year Russia has come out on top among Uzbekistan's foreign trade partners.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Turkish apparel brand LCW makes Iran production hub

Turkish firm LC Waikiki (LCW) is the first major foreign apparel manufacturer to officially start cooperation with Iranian garment players. LCW negotiated with Iranian authorities for eight months and surveyed over 70 units. The first phase will see LCW place orders with select Iranian apparel makers worth around 20 million euros in the next year and a half.

Shortlisted Iranian company Ronak Jean has received LCW orders and has been making clothes for the Turkish brand labeled 'Made in Iran' for the past few months, according to a report in an Iranian English-language business daily. The initiative is expected to create about 5,000 jobs in Iran.

Most of the apparel ordered are produced in Iran for export and only a small share is for domestic sale, director general of textile and clothing department at the ministry of industries, mining and trade Afsaneh Mehrabi said.

Mehrabi added that planning and implementation of next phases depend on the result and success of the first phase, but the ultimate goal is the establishment of an independent apparel factory in Iran by LC Waikiki.

LC Waikiki was launched in France in 1988. After 1997, it operated as a Turkish brand.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Bangladesh: Garment exporters hit by shrinking profits

The garment exporters' profitability has hit a rock-bottom thanks to the continued downward price pressure by the international retailers amid rising production costs.

“In fact we are just keeping our businesses afloat,” said a garment manufacturer who exports apparel items worth nearly $500 million a year.

The price of garment items has been falling 5-8 percent every year whereas the cost of production is increasing 15-18 percent, he said.

For instance, in 2015, a pair of denim trousers fetched him $8; the same pair is now bringing him $7.75.

The production cost and the buying price of a pair of denim trousers are almost the same, the exporter added.

Although the export of garment items grew 10 percent in volume in fiscal 2016-17, the value remained almost the same as in the previous year, according to commerce ministry data.

In fiscal 2016-17, the growth of garment exports, which account for 82 percent of the total national exports, was also the lowest in the past 15 years.

Garment exports increased 0.20 percent year-on-year to $28.14 billion in last fiscal year, 7.34 percent below the target of $30.37 billion for the year.
The sector witnessed on average 16 percent year-on-year growth since 1990 up to fiscal 2015-16, according to the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

Industry insiders identified some major reasons that are affecting the price levels of apparel items in Bangladesh.

Primarily, the demand for apparel items is declining in the Western world as customers progressively become more environment-minded. They are making more conscientious buying decisions: purchasing less and focusing on quality.
In 2015, the demand for apparel items worldwide declined 8 percent to $445 billion, according to data from the World Trade Organisation.

Too many products for too few consumers are the greatest challenge facing the fashion industry, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Centre for Collective Intelligence and Materials System Laboratory.

The global garment industry manufactures more than 150 billion pieces of garments each year, but there are roughly 7.5 billion people on Earth, it said.

The garment industry is producing 50 garments for each of the roughly three billion people who have the means to consume them.

Moreover, the profitability from the sales of basic garment items that Bangladesh specialises in is also low.

Since more than 70 percent of the exported garment items from Bangladesh are basic items, the manufacturers also receive low price offers from retailers.

Mostafiz Uddin, managing director of Denim Expert, a Chittagong-based denim exporter, echoed the same as the MIT study. “Too many countries are producing too many apparel items for customers.”

The existing companies in the countries like India, Vietnam and China are increasing their capacity every year to grab more market share, Mostafiz said.

“We are in a fierce competition now. There are too many manufacturers in Bangladesh.”

As a result, the small and medium scale factories have the threat of closure looming over them, Mostafiz said.

Garment exporters are surviving thanks to value-added items, lower bank interest rate, and higher efficiency in the use of water, power and workforce, said Siddiqur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. “The bigger factories are automating their whole production to reduce costs and cope with the falling prices,” Rahman said.

The government's stimulus package for exporting to new markets has also been of great assistance, he said.

Source: thedailystar.net- Oct 11, 2017

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NATIONAL NEWS

Textile industry expects growth with GST rate revision

The Indian textile industry is hopeful of growth with revision in the GST rate announced at the 22nd meeting of the GST Council. The change in GST rate will strengthen the entire textile value chain and make textile industry globally more competitive while boosting electronic payment of taxes, according to various textile industry associations.

"By announcing reduction of GST rates for MMF yarns and its products from 18 per cent to 12 per cent, the GST Council has met a long pending demand of the textile industry. The announcement has sorted out a big issue of inverted duty for the MMF products as it was causing serious issue of escalation of the cost of synthetic products which was further leading to cheaper imports from the competing countries like China and Indonesia," said Sanjay K Jain, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) chairman.

With better GST rates for cotton, MMF and blended sector, Indian Texpreneurs Federation (ITF) is also expecting a boost in volumes. "With growing domestic demand, Indian textile industry can expect improvement in utilisation levels in the short term and also more investments in weaving and processing sectors in the medium term. By this change, credit blockage will be very minimal to weaving sector, and cost difference will be absorbed throughout the value chain in a uniform manner without impacting the financials of any sector," said ITF convenor Prabhu Damodaran.

The government has tried to resolve the liquidity issues faced by the exporters. "The announcement of dates for processing the refund cheques for July and August exports and also the decision for refunding a notional amount for the remaining months and later adjust the amount in the e-wallet April 1, 2018, would resolve the problem of working capital blockage and benefit the exporters," P Nataraj, chairman of The Southern India Mills Association.

Measures like exempting export promotion schemes like advance authorisation scheme; EPCG from the payment of GST up to March 31, 2018 will lead to a spurt in investments, according to Ujwal Lahoti, chairman, The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

"We have requested for higher rate of duty drawback rate after including the embedded taxes like transportation of raw materials and input, usage of petro products, for generation of electricity etc., which were not taken into account earlier mainly to enhance the competitiveness and also to protect SME exporters. As the exporters have to commit the future orders only based on the availability of duty drawback and other measurers, an immediate announcement of increase in duty drawback would be much helpful to restore the confidence of exporters and reinvigorate the growth trajectory," said Raja M Shanmugham, Tiruppur Exporters' Association president.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Techtextil India gives impetus to India's technical textile revolution

A high level of energy, business networking and dynamic synergy was seen at the 6th edition of Techtextil India where 173 exhibitors from 11 countries showcased a gamut of technical textile solutions to 5,436 visitors from across the country. Smart future textiles, recycled fibers, sustainable alternatives, welding, wearables, functional solutions were among some of the highlights on the showfloor.

Closing its three-day run with positive impressions, the 6th edition hosted a series of business and knowledge-oriented features as well as the successful launch of Texprocess in India. The co-location of the Texprocess pavilion with Techtextil India resulted in intense synergy and has created the foundation of what is to become independent co-located platforms for technical textiles and garment machinery in the coming years for India.

Pleased with the fair's expansion into garment machinery segment and resultant visitor footfall, Mr Martin Legner, Head of Technical Textile Product Management, Stoll said:" The number of meetings we have had are far beyond my expectations and the quality of people coming in is much better and diverse. We have met many well-established companies as well as spinning companies who are interested in change overs, recieved positive response from the medical industry and in the next edition we hope to see more participation from automotive and sports sectors. We are definitely waiting to come back the next time Texprocess takes place in India."

Director of the renowned Killer Jeans brand (Kewal Kiran Clothing Ltd), Mr. Dinesh P. Jain, who was visiting the fair said: "Visiting Texprocess has been insightful and gave me a chance to see the new technologies on display by our regular vendors. I am looking at initiating new orders soon with exhibitors here."

Techtextil India symposium highlights industry growth vision
Led by industry visionaries, the symposium hosted 18 sessions covering a wide range of topics from global trends to domestic market focused subjects like protective agrotextiles, aerospace applications, advanced composites, fibre innovations and smart textiles.

The full-packed hall saw 130 high-profile speakers and delegates from Garware Wall Ropes Ltd, Ginni Filaments Ltd, Grasim Industries Ltd-Birla Cellulose, Reliance, SRF Ltd, Strata Geosystems (India) Pvt Ltd etc who took advantage of the platform to gain insights on new applications and market outlook. Sharing his experience, Mr Manoj John, Vice President – Strategic Initiatives, Sutlej Textiles and Industries Ltd said: "We were here to see if there are any high-tech technologies that we can invest in and the topic which discuses about Carbon Composites seemed very interesting. We also liked the topic that discussed about coatings and finishing in fabrics. They are good value adds for our business."

Presenting a new concept for smart wearable textiles at the symposium, Mr Saumil Shah, Co-founder & VP - Institution Sales, Broadcast Wearables Pvt Ltd who was one of the speakers at the last session explained: "We chose Techtextil India to publicise the launch of our wearable LED shirts and the response has been encouraging.

Delegates have shown interest in this new concept and we have acquired good leads with whom we can initiate trade in the coming months." Having met potential partners at the fair even in previous editions, he added: "We were also here last edition and had some very good discussions and are in the advanced stage of closing deals with a few renowned brands whose contacts we acquired from the fair. It works both ways for my business as I not only acquired leads but could also use this platform to source fabrics and raw materials for my product."

In conjunction with the symposium, the special telecast of Dornbirn MFC was another first and was highly appreciated by sector players for providing access to the plenary lectures that the industry looks forward to every year. While several exhibitors could not attend this due to the busy schedule at stands, visitors were seen taking advantage of this new feature at the fair.

Partner State Telangana explores long-term global co-operation As the Official Partner State for Techtextil India 2017, Telangana highlighted its policies, potential and textile park at the fair and concurrent symposium. The positive prospects and leads acquired during the three days has ensued a close co-operation with a proposed MoU to be signed between the state of Telangana and Messe Frankfurt for global outreach and promotion of state policies.

Mr Mihir Parekh, Director, Department of Handloom and Textiles, Government of Telangana said: "The Telangana state is developing Kakatiya Integrated Mega Textile Park in Warangal over an area of 1,200 acres with full complement of high quality trunk infrastructure. Through this partnership with Techtextil India and Messe Frankfurt India, we want to reach out to this niche sector and invite them to explore the immense growth opportunities that Telangana has to offer. We have acquired good leads and look forward to partnering with them to create a roadmap for technical textiles in Telangana."

State representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand also visited the fair to explore the investment potential in technical textile industry. Organisers bring together Centres of Excellence to foster R&D within the sector Standing as the true representation of the industry, Techtextil India also brought together the Centres of Excellence to steer research, ongoing developments and exchange of ideas within the sector. Among the stakeholders represented at the fair were:

1. SITRA: The South India Textile Research Association dedicated to Medical textiles applications
2. BTRA: The Bombay Textile Research Association dedicated to Geotextiles applications
3. ATIRA: The Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association dedicated to Geotextiles applications
4. DKTE: DKTE Society's Textile & Engineering Institute dedicated to Nonwoven applications

5. SASMIRA: The Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association dedicated to Agrotextile applications
6. PSGTECH: PSG College of Technology dedicated to Indutech applications

Dr U K Gangopadhyay, Executive Director, SASMIRA said: “Techtextil India has given a platform to the eight Center for Excellence units to foster research and development within the sector through networking. Market creation is the biggest challenge since technical textiles are an important element at every walk of life. There has to be national level awareness on seamless movement between government and the industry where Techtextil India can play a major role.”

Held biennially in India, the next edition of Techtextil India will take place from 10 – 12 October 2019 in Mumbai and continue its focus on the 10 product groups and 12 application areas of technical textiles.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- Oct 10, 2017

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Cotton trading peaceful in Adilabad

Private traders offered more than MSP

Cotton trading in Adilabad on Tuesday, day two of opening of agriculture market, was peaceful with farmers agreeing to lose money over undesirable moisture content.

The produce was traded at Rs. 4,550 per quintal but farmers lost at least Rs. 200 of that for extra content of moisture (by weight) than the Cotton Corporation of India’s parameter.

Though the CCI was present in the market, private traders quoted higher price than the minimum support price of Rs. 4,320. They, however, agreed to purchase only if deductions were made in the price in accordance with the CCI conditions.

The conditions stipulate that for each percentage point of moisture content above 8, one per cent of the MSP will be deducted. The traders however, relaxed the lower limit of moisture content to 12% instead of 8.

A farmer whose produce showed moisture content of 16% stood to lose Rs. 172.80 for the 4% moisture above the lower limit. Many farmers nevertheless lost more as their produce displayed moisture content of nearly 20%.

Below MSP on Day 1

The State government's advance preparations in asking the Cotton Corporation of India to purchase cotton at minimum support price of Rs. 4,350 per quintal came a cropper in Adilabad agriculture market yard as trading opened on Monday.

Centre opened

Khammam MLA Puvvada Ajay Kumar formally inaugurated the centre in Khammam on Tuesday. The CCI made all arrangements to purchase cotton through the centre at the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs. 4,320 per quintal as per the stipulated norms pertaining to moisture content.

The procurement is expected to commence in a day or two and pick up after the ensuing Deepavali festival, KAMC sources said.

Meanwhile, around 5000 bags of cotton had arrived at the cotton market yard on Tuesday.

According to sources, the procurement of cotton by the private traders began on a dull note but gained

Source: thehindu.com- Oct 11, 2017

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Khadi faces dark days: Handloom's GST blow

India is a land of rich textiles. Each state of India has its own hand-woven, hand-embroidered, traditional handloom textiles and sarees that have won the admiration of millions across the globe. In post-Independent India, successive governments have taken special measures to protect and promote India's rich handloom textile industry through legislative and institutional mechanisms, tax incentives and other financial measures; by setting up cooperatives and linkages for marketing the products, by reserving products within handloom categories to eliminate competition with mass-produced textiles and through various other methods. However, in the past one year, the double jolt of demonetisation and a hastily-implemented and complicated Goods and Services Tax that did not give a tax exemption to handloom, at least in the first round, has dealt a severe blow to the handloom industry.

According to the data from the ministry of textiles, there are 43.31 lakh weavers in India, out of which 77 per cent are women. Out of these 43.31 lakhs, as many as 36.33 lakh are in rural areas. Large sections of the weaver community belong to the minorities, and other socially and economically marginalised sections of society. Many of them live below the poverty line. By a rough estimate, 61 per cent of weavers work independently, 34 per cent work under master weavers, and only five per cent work through cooperatives and clusters.

The handloom industry is totally decentralised, and is spread across India. It operates within the informal sector, and creates around 14 per cent of total textile production in India.

The Indian textile industry is one of the world's oldest. There is evidence of cotton production in the Indus Valley Civilisation. Indian cotton and silk were prized items for export in ancient India to other ancient civilisations. Super-fine cotton fabric called muslin, known in ancient Rome as ventus textilis (the woven wind), was a highly-coveted item. It's said that it was so fine that Roman emperor Augustus banned its use as a dress material by the women of his court through an imperial decree stating it's bad for the morals of his people. Ibn Batuta, the 14th century traveller, noted that among the presents sent by Delhi's Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq to the Yuan emperor in China were 100 pieces each of five varieties of cloth, each category named differently.

When the East India Company ventured into India, one of its main items of export was Indian textiles. This changed only after the Industrial Revolution in England. Along with new technologies, England adopted a protectionist policy towards its own nascent textile industry by banning the import and sale of finished pure cotton products from India. In India, the colonial administration not only discouraged the indigenous textile industry, but flooded the Indian market with cheap mill-produced Lancashire textiles. At one stroke, a millennia-old tradition was reversed. From being the world's largest textile exporter, India began to import British textiles. During the freedom movement, Mahatma Gandhi began the practice of spinning and weaving homegrown textiles — khadi.

The symbolism of khadi in India's Independence movement is immense. Khadi symbolised India's pride, entrepreneurship, a move towards self-sufficiency, and a spirit of resistance to the mighty colonial power. Khadi remains one of the most potent symbols of India's independence from "political slavery, economic bondage and cultural stagnation". It's an intrinsically embedded imagery of the freedom struggle with Mahatma Gandhi. It's shameful to see the Mahatma's image replaced by the current Prime Minister's photograph in khadi calendars, with a minister of the ruling party from a state saying that Mr Modi is a bigger brand than Mahatma Gandhi.

For the first time in Independent India, khadi has been taxed under GST. Though the khadi yarn, Gandhi cap and the national flag remain exempt, other items made of khadi, including apparels, are being taxed. The handloom textile industry operates within a framework of cash and credit flow. The weavers are given credit by middlemen and/or traders for the purchase of raw materials like yarn, threads or zari. With demonetisation, the cash disappeared and credit stopped.

Demonetisation hit all small and medium-scale industries in the informal sector, but the handloom sector suffered an even bigger blow. It already had to compete with large-scale mass production of textiles. With the withdrawal of cash from the market, not just production suffered due to lack of availability of credit and cash in hand to purchase raw materials, but also demand dipped due to the reduced purchasing power, leading to a vicious circle of low-demand, low-production and stagnation in the market. The government's refusal to grant a tax exemption to handlooms while introducing GST has led to even more miseries for weavers. Thanks to the lack of technical knowhow and the absence of an efficient machinery to help implement GST, the utter confusion in the informal sector, including the handloom sector, continues. The weavers are not given credit as they can't raise invoices due to the lack of digital as well as financial literacy. The tax on sarees and apparels above `1,000 has made competition far tougher for the handloom sector.

According to a media report, in Varanasi, the Prime Minister's constituency, which is one of the earliest textile centres in India, traditional weavers have been rendered jobless and are being forced to look for other jobs. Over 70 weavers are said to have committed suicide in Varanasi due to the vicious cycle of debt and poverty.

Handloom is not merely an economic activity. It's an art that its practitioners dedicate their lives to learn. The master weavers produce masterpieces that not only exemplify an individual's superb skills but contain centuries-old traditions in a single piece of cloth. In many weaving communities, skills are imparted by home training and continue through generations. It's the State's responsibility to create a conducive environment for such craft to survive and thrive.

Mr Modi's government talks about skilling India, but seems to be doing its best to destroy one of the most ancient and precious talent-pool of skills the country has.

Source: deccanchronicle.com- Oct 11, 2017

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Soft cloth, bright colours, distinct dots… it's Sungudi

The signature sari of Madurai allures discerning buyers against many odds over its very existence

For ardent lovers of sari, the famous Sungudi cotton is a geographical indicator of Madurai in the world of Indian textiles. The cloth is soft; the dyes are bright and the dots distinct, thus enticing several takers. With the onset of festival season, buyers of Sungudi saris have sharply risen, says textile businessmen in Madurai.

T.N. Venkatesh, Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society, popularly known as Co-optex, says handwoven saris are particularly in demand. "We get many orders for this range. The traditional dots are largely preferred, though it costs time, effort and money. The hand-painted wax-resistant designs and motifs are more in demand," he says.

The price of handwoven six yard saris range from ₹800 to ₹1,500 as pure cotton combed yarn is used. Powerlooms sell saris for far cheaper rates. These saris usually range from ₹300 to ₹500. The units also make eight, nine-and-a-half and 10.5 yard saris. To appeal to younger buyers, there are salwar materials, stoles and dupattas too.

A total of 15 designs have been introduced in the Sungudi range to provide variety to customers as there is year-round demand, says a senior executive at the Madurai division of Co-optex. Co-optex's target this season for all varieties, including cotton and silk saris, has increased from ₹14.28 crore in 2016 to ₹16 crore this year for six districts - Madurai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Dindigul and Virudhunagar.

Despite this rise, there are far more takers for the cheaper powerloom Sungudis, says R.S.J. Sivakumar, owner of Ranee Saris RVS Tex. "There are people who place bulk orders for a single pattern. Many walk in and buy this variety as there is value for money," he says. The sales volume triples during Deepavali season and this producer sells about 2,000 saris a quarter.

"People fail to see the quality and longevity of the handwoven Sungudi," says K. R. Ramkumar, manager of Madurai's Thiruvalluvar Weavers' Co-op Production and Sales Society. Each dot of Madurai Sungudi sari is hours of labour for those who weave and others who dye the cloth. Weavers from Valluvar Colony barely make ends meet as they get only ₹420 per sari. The process takes two days and the weavers are more than 70 years old.

The younger generation has left this tradition due to lack of belief in the future of Sungudi sari and fund crunch. The number of society weaving looms has come down to about 25 in Madurai. "There were 50 units in and around Madurai. Now we have only about five," says T. M. Kumaran.

"The next five to 10 years maybe the last of this tradition. We will only learn about Sungudi in history books," he says. He fears all weavers will be replaced by machines and originals will cease to exist. Both weavers and dyers appeal for more funds and hope that tables will turn for them. "Place our weaving units in prominent parts of the city near Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple or Tirumalai Nayak Palace as it will attract foreigners and tourists who would not mind spending on original saris. It would also be a tourist attraction," says Mr. Ramkumar.

Source: thehindu.com- Oct 10, 2017

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6 sustainable textile innovations that will change the fashion industry

Bananas, coffee, pineapple, lotus, stinging nettles and hemp - what sounds like the ingredients on an exotic shopping list are actually all natural resources that can be turned into sustainable textiles. 'How' will be explained below; 'why' should be obvious: In view of dwindling resources, especially through resource-intensive natural fibres like cotton and the environmental impact of petroleum-based fibres like acrylic, polyester, nylon and spandex, it is about time for the textile and apparel industry to look for sustainable alternatives and to prove that the production of textiles and clothing does not have to pollute the environment. On the contrary. FashionUnited has found six interesting alternatives.

1. Hemp fibres

One of the most versatile natural fibers can be obtained from hemp - hemp fibers, which are antibacterial, durable and resilient, and work as a natural air-conditioning system. In addition, hemp is a fast-growing plant that consumes very little water and does not require herbicides, pesticides, synthetic fertilizers or GMO seeds. 'What's not to love?' one could ask, and also why this super plant has not already become the standard in textile processing.

The reason is the connection of the Cannabis Sativa plant with recreational drugs. Even though the only high that the production and use of industrial hemp generates is the knowledge of doing something for the environment, cultivation has been severely hampered, especially in the western world.

The situation is different in China, where the industrial use of the cannabis plant was never prohibited. Thus, China currently accounts for more than 50 percent of the global hemp production and holds more than half of the more than 600 international patents on hemp fibers and textile production. This needs to change.

2. Stinging nettle fibres

The common stinging nettle, Urtica dioica, is a widely used plant that is easy to grow. For the production of the fibers, the nettles are harvested in the summer and the stalks dried well. This removes the sting. After drying, the stalks are broken to separate the woody parts. Then, the plant is hackled to separate the fibers and to remove the leaf attachments. After that, the fibers are spun wet and then dried. Twisting them increases tear resistance.

Similar to hemp fibres, stinging nettle fibres are versatile, keep the wearer warm in winter and cool in summer, and can be grown with far less water and pesticides than cotton. Thanks to new spinning techniques and hybrid plant species, nettle plants with super high fiber content are obtained, which are strong and flexible and have a good spinning length. Unlike hemp, there is no legal problem with the cultivation of nettles, which has made the plant a viable and legal market fruit.

3. Coffee ground fibres

Most coffee drinkers simply throw away coffee ground after making their coffee. But it is an important raw material that can be used to make coffee ground fibres. Taiwanese textile company Singtex's technology combines the post-patented processed coffee ground with polymer to create master batches before spinning it into yarn. The resulting coffee yarn is multi-functional and can be used in a variety of products, from outdoor and sports performance wear to household items used every day.

Fabrics made out of coffee ground fibres like S.Café by Singtex shown here offer excellent natural anti-odour qualities, in addition to UV ray protection and a quick drying time. The coffee grounds used to create the yarn are taken and recycled from some of the world's largest coffee vendors, like Starbucks. In this way, the company gives a second life to coffee grounds which would have otherwise ended up in the trash. As we have seen, coffee ground fibres have many advantages. Now, the challenge remains in taking the fibre global and ensuring more apparel brands incorporate it into their collections in lieu of conventional fabrics and that it extends its reach to outside of the fashion industry.

4. Pineapple fabric Piñatex

Although the idea may sound unbelievable, there is a vegan alternative to leather, which is made from pineapple leaves. London-based Ananas Anam has developed a natural and non-woven textile out of pineapple leaves, known as Piñatex which is remarkably similar to leather. The revolutionäre pineapple fabric is made from pineapple leaf fibres, a by-product from the pineapple harvest in the Philippines. During a process called decortication, the fibres are extracted from the leaves. The fibres then undergo an industrial process to become a nonwoven textile, which is the base of Piñatex. A by-product derived from the manufacturing process is biomass, which is converted into organic fertilizer or bio-gas and used by the farming communities, thereby closing the loop of the material's production.

Piñatex is the result of years of work and the search for an alternative to leather; a new type of natural tissue, which is 100 percent vegan and sustainable. In addition, it is also a strong, yet versatile, breathable, soft and flexible, material which can be easily printed on, stitched and cut, making it suitable for a number of fashion products. It has also won a number of awards. The next big step is to popularise Piñatex further and to continue developing and stabilizing its supply chain to meet the growing demand for its pineapple leaf, in a way that does not compromise its mission and fundamental values concerning environmental, ethical, social and economic sustainability.

5. Banana fibres

Banana fibre is one of the world’s strongest natural fibres. It is made from the stem of the banana tree and is incredibly durable and biodegradable. The fibre consists of thick-walled cell tissue, bonded together by natural gums and is mainly composed of cellulose, hemicelluloses and lignin. Banana fibre is similar to natural bamboo fibre, but its spin ability, fineness and tensile strength are said to be better. Banana fibre can be used to make a number of different textiles with different weights and thicknesses, based on what part of the banana stem the fibre was extracted from.

Similar to coffee ground fibres and pineapple leaves, the material cycle is closed when producing banana fibres as they are made from waster products: from recycled banana stems, which the farmers would throw away otherwise. Banana fibres can be used to make ropes, mats, woven fabrics as well as handmade papers. Green Banana Paper, a company based on the island of Kosrae in Micronesia, is using banana fibre to make vegan wallets, purses, beads and paper. However, extracting the banana fibre from the banana stems is not an easy, or simple, process but a labourintensive one. Banana yarn or cloth is made by boiling strips of the sheath in an alkaline solution to soften and separate them. Once this is done, the fibres are joined together to create long threads which are then spun wet, in order to prevent them from breaking. Afterwards, the threads can be dyed or weaved.

6. Lotus fibres

Using lotus fabrics and textiles may sound exotic to western ears, but in countries like Thailand and Myanmar, for example, lotus fibers have been used for special garments for centuries. Not surprisingly because the manufacturing process produces a luxurious fabric that feels like a mixture of silk and raw linen that is also stain-resistant, light weight, soft, silky and extremely breathable. 'What's not to love?' one may ask again. In this case, it is the complicated and lengthy manufacturing process that is the biggest hurdle when using lotus stems.

After harvesting the lotus stems, they are cut open at the end to extract the long, thin fibers. This must be done within three days of harvesting to achieve optimal results. The fibres thus obtained are washed and hung to dry before hand-woven on traditional looms. The quality of the lotus fabric is so superior that there have been attempts at commercial use; Jaipur-based Hero's Fashion Pvt Ltd from India, for example, has already found many followers with its white NoMark Lotus shirt.

It remains to be seen how commercially viable and suitable for large scale production each of the six sustainable fibres - hemp, nettles, coffee, pineapples, banana and lotus - portrayed here is. Specifically hemp, nettles and coffee have huge potential for the mass market, whereas fabrics made out of lotus stems and pineapple should be interesting for the luxury market.

Source: fashionunited.in - Oct 09, 2017

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