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NEWS CLIPPINGS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

USA: Pricing Power: Why Raw Material Costs Are Turning in Fashion's Favor

After months of low demand and high supply, the tide looks like it's slowly turning along the apparel and textile supply chain, from fiber and fabric manufacturers to brand wholesalers and retailers.

The result is finally some pricing power that could lead to profitability following devastating losses throughout the fashion world.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Prices Index for August registered 59.5 percent, a jump of 6.3 percent compared with the July reading of 53.2 percent, indicating raw materials prices increased for the third consecutive month. The 17 industries reporting paying higher prices for raw materials in August were led by textile mills, and apparel, leather and allied products.

"Price growth reflects a power shift toward sellers, as increased costs to produce input materials are being passed on to…companies," Timothy R. Fiore, chair of the ISM manufacturing business survey committee, said.

U.S. spot cotton prices averaged 58.37 cents per pound for the week ended Sept. 10, according to the Department of Agriculture (DOA). This was down from 58.92 per pound the prior week, but up from 55.97 cents a year earlier, DOA reported.

There is still plenty of volatility and uncertainty surrounding the economy and a jittery consumer. This comes along with global issues that affect production in myriad ways. For example, Cotton Incorporated said Monday that a U.S. ban on Xinjiang cotton may require traceability for fiber-based inputs passing through China. The sourcing cost increases associated with that process, as well as those relating to the movement of supply chains and general uncertainty, can be expected to weigh on order volumes and to have some effect on cotton consumption, Cotton Inc. said.

The synthetic fiber Producer Price Index (PPI) dropped 0.5 percent in August from July, when it had risen 0.6 percent, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data showed. The synthetic fiber PPI was down 3.9 percent from August 2019, according to BLS.

While these key indicators seem to signal some stability and a shift in the right direction, executives feel it could take some time to get there.
Fiber makers pinched

Craig Creaturo, executive vice president and chief financial officer at yarn and fiber spinner Unifi Inc., said the polyester segment experienced a revenue decline of 46.2 percent in is fourth quarter ended June 28, with the primary factor being lower volume, including a price and sales mix decline of 16 percent.

“The average selling price decline primarily follows the year-over-year decline in polyester raw material costs,” Creaturo said.

However, CEO Edmund Ingle said, “We have actually not had a lot of pricing pressure right now.”

“People have been really, really supportive of each other in this environment,” Ingle said. “Everybody’s focused on making sure that they get the product they need, when they need it more than anything else. And we’ve been there to support them. But the pricing pressure has not been an issue right now.”

The Lenzing Group, makers of such fibers as Tencel and Modal, said last month that it faced a “historically difficult market environment” in the first half of the year, with increased pressure on prices and volumes resulting from the pandemic.

“The Covid-19 crisis has an impact on the entire textile and apparel industry and further increased the price and volume pressure on the global fiber market,” said Stefan Doboczky, CEO of the Lenzing Group.

As a countermeasure, the company said it intensified its cooperation with supply-chain partners and adjusted its production volume and sale prices to be in line with market realities. The focus on specialty fibers continued to have a positive impact.

Managing margins

For brands often caught in the middle of price crunches, the recent second quarter found them benefiting somewhat from the first-quarter chaos after the onset of Covid-19. That’s because after they canceled or curtailed production orders, they were able sit on inventory that was now available to be sold as consumers returned to stores and pumped up online sales.

"Our gross margin for the second quarter benefited from the favorable mix of business, as our international businesses were a larger portion of our total revenue versus the prior year and generally carry higher gross margins in our North American businesses," Mike Shaffer, chief operating officer and CFO for PVH Corp, said. "Additionally, earnings in the second quarter had the benefit of expense reduction initiatives, including salary reductions, temporary furloughs and lower discretionary spending, including marketing travel, consultant and creative and design costs, as well as one-time benefits from Covid-related government payroll subsidy programs in our international jurisdictions and renovating and slowly negotiating with certain of our landlords."

For PVH, there are still problems to encounter and overcome.

"When we think about gross margin, we expect that our second-half gross margin will be relatively flat compared to the first half as we project heavy promotional activity across the industry in order to clear inventory, particularly in the United States," he said. "When we think about second-half expenses and when you compare it to the second quarter, we expect our expenses as a percentage of revenue to be slightly higher in the second half than in the second quarter."

Carlos Alberini, CEO of Guess Inc., said this month that the company has been "very strategic with our pricing and in some cases if we felt that the perceived value of either the [garment] or the accessory or any product that we may be looking at, if we felt that it deserved to be at a higher price, we increased prices."

"Frankly, we haven't seen deceleration in demand as we did this," Alberini said. "So, we are being careful and it all starts with the perceived values, not about 'OK, let's go and try to get more margin,' it's not like that. It's more about how much is this worth based on what we are doing and the quality, and then based on that we set the price."

Sourcing's effect

Morris Goldfarb, chairman and CEO of G-III Apparel Group, said last week that raw materials prices have not been a problem, mainly due to shifting production.

“We’ve done a great job of moving a good deal of our production from China to other countries,” Goldfarb said. “Vietnam has become incredibly important. Indonesia is important. Jordan is very important for our athleisure and our denim areas of business…Our focus became the countries that were most competitive and most appropriate for producing these products. Jordan is duty free. That helped us a good deal.

The CEO said G-III has moved handbag production from China to Vietnam and the company now produces “an incredible amount of coats in Vietnam, and that was a key solution for Chinese production.”

While many companies shifted production out of China during the U.S.-China trade war to avert high import punitive tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, rising prices in China over the longer term had begun the process of sourcing diversification, particularly to low-cost Asian suppliers, but also to closer-to-market and duty-free options in the Western Hemisphere.

Wages and prices

Last week, Cambodia’s Ministry of Labor announced that garment workers will be receiving two extra dollars per month beginning Jan. 1, bumping up the minimum wage by 1.05 percent to $192, after negotiations between the ministry, factory owners and trade unions came to an impasse. The extra $2, the ministry said, amounted to an annual “gift” from the government. Depending on their seniority in the workplace, workers may also receive compensation for rent, transportation and food that could tip their monthly earnings to between $209 and $220 a month, it added.

In September 2019, Cambodia has increased its minimum wage for textile workers by 4.4 percent to $190 per month.

Similar incremental wage increases have came to bear in recent years in countries such as Bangladesh, up 51 percent in 2019, but still make production costs relatively cheap compared to key production spots like Italy or Mexico, where wages were raised 20 percent to $6.53. This comes on the heels of a 16 percent hike that took effect in 2019.

In May, Bangladesh’s minimum wage board filed recommendations that could raise the minimum monthly wage for leather and footwear workers to $84. Last year, Vietnam raised its minimum monthly wage 5.3 percent to $125 to $180, depending on the region.

The myriad of factors led retail apparel prices to tick up a seasonally adjusted 0.6 percent in August–the third consecutive monthly increase–but were down an unadjusted 5.9 percent compared to a year earlier, the BLS reported last week in its Consumer Price Index.

Leading the price hike was men's apparel, which was up 2 percent last month, with seasonal and lifestyle demands seeming to have an impact on category price swings. The same pattern followed in women's wear, which posted a 0.5 percent increase in August.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Asia's economy will shrink for first time since 1960s, ADB says

The region's GDP would fall by 0.7%, down from June's projection of a rise of 0.1%; India's GDP is estimated to fall 9%

Developing Asia's coronavirus-battered economy will shrink for the first time since the early 1960s, with the level of output next year still seen below pre-pandemic projections even as growth recovers, according to the Asian Development Bank.

The region's gross domestic product (GDP) will decline by 0.7 per cent in 2020, down from June's projection of an increase of 0.1 per cent, the Manila-based bank said in a report on Tuesday. "A contraction this year would be the first since 1962," Yasuyuki Sawada, the ADBs chief economist, said in a live-streamed briefing.

The economic threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic remains potent, as extended first waves or recurring outbreaks could prompt further containment measures, Sawada said. Downturns across developing Asia are more widespread than previous crises, with three-quarters of economies in the region tipped to shrink this year, he said.

China will buck the trend and is forecast to expand 1.8 per cent this year — unchanged from June's projection — as successful public health measures provide a springboard for growth, according to the ADB.

Growth is forecast to accelerate to 7.7 per cent in 2021, up from a previous forecast of 7.4 per cent. In India, where lockdowns have stalled private spending, GDP will shrink by 9 per cent this year, sharply down from June's forecast of -4 per cent, the ADB said. There were also big downgrades for the Philippines and Thailand, which are now projected to contract 7.3 per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

Growth in Developing Asia — a region that excludes advanced nations like Japan, Australia and New Zealand — will rebound to 6.8 per cent in 2021, in part because it will be measured against a weak 2020, Sawada said. That will still leave next year's level of GDP below pre-coronavirus projections, implying that the recovery is only partial and not full.

Virus containment seems to be translated into growth performance, and a prolonged pandemic remains the biggest downside risk this year and the next, he said. US-China trade tensions and technology conflicts and financial vulnerabilities amid the pandemic also weigh on growth, Sawada said.

Policies focused on protecting lives and livelihoods, and ensuring a safe return to work and restart of businesses, are crucial to ensuring a sustained recovery for the region, he said.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Sep 14, 2020

HOME

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Players in Europe's Denim Industry Reacquaint in Milan and Munich

As U.S. trade shows turn to digital events, a number of physical events began to take place in Europe in recent weeks.

Around 3,600 national and international visitors from 30 countries gathered at Fabric Days from Sept. 1-3 to view and showcase new concepts for Fall/Winter 21-22.

The consolidated version of Munich Fabric Start and Bluezone was a first look at the season for many as previously scheduled trade events like Premiere Vision and Kingpins have been canceled and supplemented by digital shows.

Among the 1,300 visiting companies at the trade fair were brands such as Drykorn, Alberto, Hugo Boss, Vetements and Mustang. Organizers took special precautions to keep guests safe by widening aisles and digitizing the check-in process.

"Due to the pandemic, no one could tell what the visitor frequency would be like at the fair," said Frank Junker, Munich Fabric Start creative director. "So, we are all the happier that an unexpectedly large number of designers, product managers and buyers travelled to Munich to explore over 700 collections from 300 international suppliers."

Under the show's theme "Hopetimism," the condensed group of exhibitors was spread out across six areas: fabrics, additionals, denim and sportswear, innovation, design studios and sourcing. Bossa, Europa, Evlox, Prosperity Textile, Sharabati Denim, Tejidos Royo, Velcorex, Van Delden and the new entry Bartateks Tekstil as well as accessories suppliers like Altero and Piovese, were among the denim-focused exhibitors.

In line with current events, Bluezone curator Panos Sofianos said textile brands presented denim developments with a focus on protection, health care and sustainability.

Evlox, for example, presented a bacteria-free denim. Bossa introduced a new generation of sustainable denims with the D-Chronicles concept, a collaboration between Bossa and Fibretrace that promotes transparency, trust and traceability within the supply chain.

Prosperity Textile showed hemp denims as material innovation. And Tejidos Royo presented its latest innovation Dry Black, a black denim based on the Dry Indigo technology that uses a unique foam dyeing process to color yarns using zero water.

"Besides this, our trend forum featured various new concepts and innovations dedicated to our 'hopetimistic' future," Sofianos said.

Although the ongoing developments of Covid-19 continue to challenge the denim and trade show industry in Europe and on a global scale, Sofianos described the mood at the show as positive and optimistic.

"Exhibitors and fashion brands alike were very happy and enthusiastic to finally meet in person again," he said. "Our efforts to bring the industry together again at a real physical event were greatly appreciated—especially because of the product novelties."

Noting the tactility of denim and other fabrics, Sofianos said players in the industry were eager to touch and see new fabric innovation in real life versus on a screen.

Munich Fabric Start is moving forward with planning its next shows View Premium Selection Dec. 8-9, 2020 and Munich Fabric Start Jan. 26-28, 2021.

"We been approached by many exhibitors and visitors who thanked us for the opportunity and taking the courageous decision to make a real event happen again," Sofianos said. "Likewise, we want to thank all participants of the show for their great contribution and their discipline in following and considering the safety and hygiene measures. This joint effort made Fabric Days possible after all."

The following week at the apparel trade show Milano Unica, The Women In Denim, the global industry group that represents women across the denim supply chain, hosted nine women from Italy's denim sector for a roundtable conversation.

The Women In Denim president Lucie Germser and Barbara Gnutti, CEO of EFFE-BI SRL, opened the conversation by presenting data that showed the wage gap between women and men.

During the roundtable, Alice Tonello of Tonello shared her journey from working as a switchboard operator to leading the technology firm's marketing and R&D departments. Pepe Jeans London head men's designer Daria Martelli urged companies to invest in education and cultural training as ways to break cliches about women's place in industries such as denim. Cadica Group chief operating officer Martina Caselli shared how having a female mentor at the company positively affected her career.

The panel concluded with speakers sharing how they hope The Women In Denim association will help women become aware and build a better future for the next generations.

"In my opinion, The Women In Denim association gives us the opportunity to create a powerful and dynamic network that will redeem the belief that women struggle to collaborate in a constructive way," Martelli said.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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EFTA study aims to increase trade with Philippines

To strengthen the Philippines' trade with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), particularly Switzerland, the Department of Industry's Export Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB) and the Swiss Import Promotion Program (Sippo) will conduct a market study on three key export products.

In a statement on Tuesday, the DTI said Swisscontact, the Swiss nongovernmental organization implementing Sippo; the EMB; and the Swiss embassy in Manila signed a tripartite agreement on conducting the study, which was expected to be completed in December. It identified the products as processed food, natural ingredients, and natural fiber and textiles.

Sippo is an initiative of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs that aims to integrate developing and transition countries into world trade.

The study aims to learn EFTA markets' trade regulation, market access requirements and market demand. It also aims to determine the unique selling position of Philippine products in their market and acquire information on potential importers.

"The results of this study will guide our exporters, especially MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) in the sectors of processed food, natural ingredients and natural fibers on how to effectively promote their products in these markets thus enabling them to maximize the benefits of our bilateral free trade agreement with EFTA," EMB Director Senen Perlada said.

Since June 2018, the EFTA-Philippines Free Trade Agreement has given the country preferential treatment for trade in goods and services. EFTA is composed of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It was established during the Stockholm Convention in 1960.

Philippine exports to EFTA in 2019 were valued at $433.81 million and imports at $384.19 million.

Among EFTA members, Switzerland is the largest export market of the Philippines. Exports to that country were worth $417 million and imports, $351.79 million.

EFTA is the ninth largest trader in the world in merchandise and the fifth largest in services.

Source: manilatimes.net– Sep 16, 2020

HOME

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Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles attracts 25000 buyers

The 26th edition of Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles has concluded successfully on August 26. This year, the fair welcomed a total of 643 exhibitors and attracted over 25,000 trade buyers. Despite the challenging times we are all facing, the fair continued to be the ideal platform to connect global suppliers and buyers from the home textile industry.

In view of the current international travel restrictions, the fair launched a brand new online business matching platform to facilitate business exchanges between suppliers and buyers from around the world. 60 exhibitors were connected to about 200 buyers from over 50 countries and regions through live-stream product presentations and real-time chats on the platform.

"Yesterday we had a live-stream product presentation, which attracted a lot of buyers. The online platform is useful for us as we could showcase our new products and design concepts to overseas buyers, and let them know that we are still here to serve them," Yu Qian Ru, business manager, Suzhou Roufang Textile Technology Co Ltd, China, said in a press release.

"I am glad that the fair provided the online business matching service where I have seen a lot of quality furniture and decorative fabric exhibitors. I'm interested in connecting with them," Azam Osman, manager, the Factory Depot (Pty) Ltd, South Africa, said.

"We decided to exhibit at Intertextile because we depend on this fair to promote our new products. This fair provided a much-needed business platform for the industry as many trade shows were cancelled in the first half of the year.

The pandemic has brought great changes to the market trends as well. For instance, customers are now focusing more on their health and safety, so products with anti-bacterial properties are becoming increasingly popular," Gerry Xue, head of Home Segment, China Textile, Lenzing Fibers (Shanghai) Co Ltd, Austria, said in the release.

"I came to this fair to find new developments, new marketing ideas, interesting filling and fabric composition blends. It's quite promising for the bedding segment in general, and I was able to find a couple of really good and useful suppliers. This year I was pleased to see some trends at Intertextile. I'm happy to see quite a number of Chinese companies cooperating with the inventors, and becoming innovation leaders," Elena Salsera, quality director and China Branch general manager, Togas Group, US, said.

"I have been visiting Intertextile for nearly 20 years, and I decided to come this year because I am interested in seeing new upholstery and curtain fabrics. I managed to find a few potential suppliers and requested them to send me some samples.

The worldwide pandemic has affected millions of people and a lot of companies across the world including us. I think this year's fair is important for my company and the entire industry as many trade shows were cancelled in the first half of the year. At this fair, I was able to meet many companies in one place which saved me a lot of time," Abhishek Agrawal, director, Rikatex International Limited, Hong Kong, said.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Bangladesh develops 500 new eco-friendly garment factories

Bangladesh is developing 500 new eco-friendly garment factories. The country certified 19 new units as eco-friendly in the first eight months of this year. This has increased the number of eco-friendly apparel and textile units in Bangladesh by around 125.

There has been a spurt in green manufacturing units in Bangladesh following the infamous Rana Plaza building collapse, which highlighted the importance of a safe and secure working environment.

As per BGMEA, there 144 facilities Bangladesh received the LEED certificate, of which 125 are garment and textile factories.

Among the factories that received LEED certificate this year included Avitex Dress Shirt, EMS Apparels, Mayble and Frank Fashions, Anwara Fashions, Nippon Garments Industries, Pacific Casual, Karooni Knit Composite Ltd. and Karupannya Rangpur.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Bangladesh: Covid-19: Textile mills in Narsingdi bounce back after recession

After a couple of months' recession brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, thousands of local industries including textiles and dying in Narsingdi have started doing brisk business after reopening.

The district especially Sadar and Raipura upazila are famous for producing different artistic sarees such as Jamdani, Katan and Bruket. Different lungi, sarees, bed sheets, napkins, towels and mosquito nets are also produced here.

The main areas where production takes places include Rasulpur, Karimpur, Jitrampur, Algi, Chawla, Hajipur, Satirpara, Bhagdi, Patchdona, and Madobdee. A total of 5,000 small, medium, and large scale industries in the district that produce yarn and fabrics for the local market were declared closed at the onset of Covid-19 outbreak in March.

Around 80% of the mills reopened in July and are currently running at full capacity. The demand for products has been increasing as the invasion of cheaper ones from India, Pakistan and China has been stopped due to the sealing of the borders with the neighbouring country due to Covid-19, said the local businessmen.

This correspondent recently visited the district’s Sheikhchar (Baburhat), locally known as 'Manchester of the East' for the weaving industry and spoke to several people involved in their ancestral profession. Meanwhile, traders and businessmen alleged they were deprived of governments' bailout packages.

Rasidul Hasan Mintu, director of Molla Spinning Mills, said: “Activity in small, medium, and large scale mills including textiles, dyeing, printing, finishing and weaving mills has returned. Many mills have gone into production at full capacity. Moreover, the demand for yarn has also increased.” Narsingdi Dying and Printing Association’s President Aftab Uddin Bhuiyan said: “The demand for different kinds of fabrics including poline, voile, and printing has increased. We did not get any incentives from the government despite the fact that we cover almost 70% of the demand for the country's fabrics.”

“Around 60% of the country’s textile industries have reopened. But it will take time to reopen the rest. Many banks are reluctant while many industries’ owners do not have proper documents. For this reason, some problems have erupted in getting the government's bailout,” said Ali Hossain Shishir, president of Narsingdi Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Abdullah Al Mamun, vice president of Bangladesh Textiles Mills Association (BTMA) and the president of Narsingdi Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said: “The local textile industries were going through recession due to coronavirus. They are now trying to bounce back. Besides, demands for local cloths have increased as the smuggling of fabrics and cloths from different neighbouring countries including China and India has come to halt due to Covid-19. I am urging the government to ensure that these are not smuggled in future.”

Source: dhakatribune.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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NATIONAL NEWS

India's exports plunge in August 2020; trade deficit touches five-month high due to these reasons

After continuously rising since May, India's exports fell for the first time in the month of August. Exports in August 2020 were $22.70 billion, which was $23.6 billion in July 2020 and $25.9 billion in August 2019, according to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The exports of cashew (-47.61 per cent), gems & jewellery (-43.28 per cent), and petroleum products (-39.91 per cent), took the maximum hit in August. The fall in exports and the rise in imports in comparison to July 2020, have contributed to expanding the fiscal deficit to a five-month high in the month of August.

The trade deficit for August 2020 was estimated at $6.77 billion, which was $4.8 billion in July 2020 and $13.86 billion in August 2019. The trade deficit in August is in line with the street estimates of $6.75 billion. Considering April to August, the trade gap narrowed to $20.72 billion from $77.25 billion a year earlier. While the exports fell 26.65 per cent, imports plunged 43.73 per cent.

India observed a fall in exports when the trade was expected to improve as the country steps out of the nationwide lockdown. However, many other economic indicators have also indicated a rollback in India's economy due to the rising number of coronavirus cases and the supply disruptions due to the regional lockdowns.

Meanwhile, commerce minister Piyush Goyal recently said that other countries must give India equal access to their markets as trade relations between two countries rest on the pedestal of high reciprocity and equilibrium, and more countries are moving towards balanced trade.

Piyush Goyal had added that businesses will not only get a large Indian market but can also leverage the market to get economies of scale. Speaking about global trade relations, the minister had underlined that India is not going to be a patient receiver of unfair trade practices, according to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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US restrictions on textile imports from China may benefit India: Icra

The US restrictions on some textile imports from Xinjiang in China is likely to augur well for the Indian textile exporters, according to a report. On September 14, the US imposed restrictions on the import of certain products originating from the Xinjiang Autonomous Region in China, citing concerns on illegal and inhumane forced labour in the region, rating agency Icra said in a report.

The agency said it expects this development to benefit domestic textile exporters. While there were speculations of a more broad-based ban on the products originating from the region, the restrictions have been limited to a few entities, for now, it said.

Besides banning imports of other product categories, including hair products and computer parts, it also includes restrictions on some entities from the region involved in manufacturing apparels and producing and processing cotton.

Xinjiang is a major cotton-producing belt, which accounts for an estimated 80-85 per cent of China's cotton output.

"While the immediate impact, in terms of the market catered to by the identified entities, is not quantifiable, this development could have major repercussions for the global textile trade.

"With China being the leading apparel exporter, accounting for more than 35 per cent of the global trade and more than three-fourths of China's cotton originating from the Xinjiang region, any extension of the ban to a wider base in China could trigger a material shift in global apparel trade in coming years," Icra Ratings Senior VP and Group Head Jayanta Roy said.

Amid concerns on origination of the coronavirus from China, there have already been reports of several international buyers looking at diversifying their sourcing base across countries, the report opined. Several major apparel exporters from India have either already started receiving increased orders or are in active discussions with large international buyers, looking at increasing their sourcing from India. The shift, which was previously expected to take place gradually over the medium term, could be expedited in the light of this recent development, the report added.

"While over the past few years, Vietnam and Bangladesh have been the key beneficiaries for a shift away from China, India also stands to gain from any such market opportunity which may arise, given its strong presence in the cotton-based apparels," Roy added.

Widening of the scope of the ban could, however, be practically challenging as the existing systems are not adequate to track the origin of the raw material. Accordingly, cotton originating in the Xinjiang region could end up as yarn or fabric in another region/ country, which could be processed further to manufacture apparels.

Further, there could be likely retaliatory actions by China, as seen over the past couple of years amid the ongoing US-China trade war, which could prevent widening of the scope of the ban, Icra report added.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Govt reforms will unleash growth wave for India: CEA

GDP fall is temporary, the nation will bounce back post pandemic, says KV Subramanian

The GDP decline is temporary and India will resume its high growth trajectory supported by a series of reforms and other measures, said Chief Economic Advisor KV Subramanian on Tuesday.

"The GDP fall in Q1 was due to the intensity of the lockdown. This pandemic will go away soon. The combination of Indian's entrepreneurs' abilities and various reforms initiated by the government will unleash the growth wave again. We have done it in the past and we will do it again," he said in a virtual address at CII Connect 2020.

Highlighting a similar low growth phase during 2000-01 on account of the Asian economic crisis, he said India responded with three key moves then — fiscal spending (particularly the infra push of Golden Quadrilateral project), unleashing of reforms and disinvestment.

"The above measures helped the country achieve 8 per cent plus economic growth in the following five years. Similarly, the government is now boosting infra spend, focussing export growth through measures such as

PLI scheme and a series of reforms in agriculture, commodities and MSMEs, among others. There are three labour bills tabled in Parliament. These measures will collectively drive high economic growth in the coming years," he added.

Global supply chain

Referring to the opportunities arising out of the rebalancing of the global supply chain due to geopolitical events, Ramesh Mangaleswaran, Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company, said India could reverse the situation of being a large importer of electronics to an exporter by playing a more significant role in the global value chain.

Calling for improvements in India's process technology, he said the country should become the best in operational excellence — in cost, quality and delivery. "We are not there as there are some gaps that need to be addressed. We need international business development capabilities, too," he added.

Also, there should be a strong focus on building skills needed to fulfil the requirement of the electronics hardware industry, said Mangaleswaran. The setting up of dedicated zones and specialised research parks will also help in this, he added.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Pent-Up Demand Supports Textile & Apparel Recovery in 2QFY21: Ind-Ra

In a report, the ratings agency says, "We expect both the segments' volumes to have corrected to 50%-80% in August 2020 and reach 70%-80% of normal over September 2020, led by pent-up demand and strong export order build up in all the segments. Both man-made fibres and cotton segments should start benefitting from the low raw material prices in 3QFY21. We expect raw material prices to remain moderate in 2HFY21."

Ind-Ra says it will continue monitoring the domestic demand recovery along with export markets in the US, Europe and China, which are the major hubs for Indian textile products.

According to the ratings agency, textile players' weak profitability over the first half (1H) of FY21, along with supply chain disruptions, has impacted cash flows; while the moratorium announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the COVID-19 relief package has provided the inevitable liquidity support. However, the lifting of moratorium from 1 September 2020 without the full recovery in cash flows would require additional caution and monitoring of cash flows, it added.

Ind-Ra says, "Some of such stressed issuers, mostly in the sub-investment grade rating category, may opt for the RBI announced one-time loan restructuring to survive the imminent liquidity challenges. We expect textile players to record 15%-35% decline (year-on-year- yoy) in their top line and 20%-50% yoy drop in operating profits over FY21."

During August 2020, prices of textile products have recovered broadly from the lows of April-May 2020. International cotton prices (US) continued to recover in August 2020 by 4% month-on-month (mom), after dipping in April 2020. Indian cotton prices increased about 5% mom in August last week, following a partial correction in the international prices over July 2020. Cotton arrival is almost complete in the current season while Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) continues to procure to support cotton prices.

According to the ratings agency, plant utilisation of pure man-made fibres and yarn manufacturers was severely impacted over 1QFY21 amid the COVID-19-led lockdown. However, it says, volume recovery of pure man-made fibres and yarn should be quick but has started relatively late from August 2020, while the cotton and blended spinners' volumes have started recovering from June 2020.

Fibre and yarn prices have been steady in August 2020 while discounts are also offered in few segments to boost sales. Cotton yarn and blended yarn prices largely remained flat in August 2020, despite demand recovery as the supplies also increased steadily. Moreover, margins of large spinners could remain under pressure as their cotton season procurement was at about 10% higher prices and operating utilisations are still below optimum levels.

Ind-Ra says it expects fabric and apparel prices to have declined in August 2020, led by a quick supply restoration than demand recovery. During July-August 2020, most players have resorted to discounts to boost sales and also generated the much-required internal liquidity. Disbursement of COVID-19 bank loans and promoter-led infusions also supported liquidity and the ability of fabric and apparel players to ramp up operations quickly in these segments. Ind-Ra expects apparel prices to remain modest in 2HFY21 to push sales.

Readymade garments exports recovered significantly starting June-July 2020, the ratings agency says, adding, that order book build up in August 2020 was strong, supported by restocking at global retailers and global sector consolidation. "Large Indian players are benefitting from the shift in market share to India from China. Large apparel and readymade garment manufacturers have largely been able to resolve labour mobility and availability concerns," it added.

According to Ind-Ra, demand for home textiles has been only moderately impacted as they are necessary products for day-to-day life. However, it says, US-China trade war has impacted imports from China into the US, thus giving a strong push to exports from India.

"We expect the demand for home textile exports to sustain in 2HFY21 at healthy levels achieved over August-September 2020. We also expect Indian players to increase their already strong market share in terry towels and bed linens, led by supply chain diversification away from China," the ratings agency concludes.

Source: moneylife.in– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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How US-China trade war can help spin in India's textile industry's favour

While the demand for textile in the country has taken a moderate hit, the export market like the United States (US) maybe driving demand for home textile. According to Ind-Ra, the face-off between the US and China has allowed the Indian textile industry to increase its supply to the US market.

The agency stated, "Demand for home textiles has been only moderately impacted as they are necessary products for day-to-day life. However, the US-China trade war has impacted imports from China into the US, thus giving a strong push to exports from India." It added, the agency "expects the demand for home textile exports to sustain in 2HFY21 at healthy levels achieved over August-September 2020."

Ind-Ra expects the Indian players to increase their already strong market share in terry towels and bed linens, led by supply chain diversification away from China.

The report on textile highlights the trends in the sub-segments of the textile sector, including cotton, man-made fibers, yarns and fabric with a focus on commodity prices, imports/exports, production, and recent rating actions.

Meanwhile, even though the domestic demand is moderate, Indian textile companies have significantly increased their plant capacity use in August 2020, after the lockdown was gradually lifted in the country.

"Textile players' weak profitability over 1HFY21, along with supply chain disruptions has impacted cash flows; while the moratorium announced by the Reserve Bank of India under the COVID-19 relief package has provided the inevitable liquidity support," stated the agency. However, the lifting of the moratorium from 1 September 2020 without the full recovery in cash flows would require additional caution and monitoring of cash flows.

The agency expects textile players to record 15-35 per cent year on year (yoy) decline in their top line and 20-50 per cent yoy drop in operating profits over FY21. "The prices of textile products have recovered broadly in August 2020 from the lows of April-May 2020."

The prices of international cotton (US) are recovering steadily month on month — in August 2020 it witnessed 4 per cent rise, after dipping in April 2020.

Indian cotton prices increased about 5 per cent month on month in August last week, following a partial correction in the international prices over July 2020. "Cotton arrival is almost complete in the current season while Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) continues to procure to support cotton prices," stated the agency.

Source: freepressjournal.in– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Over 1,600 Indian cos received $1 bn FDI from China during April 2016-March 2020: Govt data

More than 1,600 Indian companies have received foreign direct investments worth USD 1 billion from China during the April 2016 to March 2020 period, according to government data.

The data was provided in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday to a question on whether it is a fact that large scale investments have been made by Chinese agencies in Indian companies, specially the start-ups.

Over 1,600 companies received USD 1,020.25 million (USD 1.02 billion) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows from China for the April 2016 to March 2020 period, as per the data.

These companies were in 46 sectors. Out of them, the automobile industry, printing of books (including litho printing industry), electronics, services and electrical equipment received more than USD 100 million FDI each from China during the said period.

The automobile industry received the maximum FDI from China at USD 172 million. The services sector attracted such funds worth USD 139.65 million, the data showed.

In the written reply, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said the corporate affairs ministry does not maintain information regarding the investment made by Chinese agencies.

He said the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has informed that FDI Data Cell compiles and maintains the data of FDI reported through equity inflow in the country.

The relevant data for the April 2016 to March 2020 period was provided along with the written reply.

Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Curbing FTA abuse: Govt to tighten scrutiny of imports from September 21

A broad range of imports, including of mobile phones, set-top boxes, camera and various white goods, will come under stricter scrutiny from September 21, as the government will enforce tougher customs rules to curb abuse of its free trade agreements (FTAs) with trading partners by unscrupulous elements.

Customs officials have long suspected that China may be diverting its supplies to India through Asean nations, abusing rules of origin, to illegally take advantage of duty-free market access under the FTA. Given the latest Indo-China border skirmish, the diversion may surge, they fear.

In fact, after Singapore and Hong Kong, Vietnam has emerged as the third Asian trade partner, which counts on massive Chinese investments, to turn its usual trade deficit with India into a decent surplus in a span of just three years. Between FY18 and FY20, India's trade balance with Vietnam swang from a surplus of $2.8 billion to a deficit of $2.2 billion, according to official data.

The budget earlier this year had introduced a change in Section 28DA of Customs Act that pertains to procedures regarding claim of preferential rate of duty.

To tighten the rules of origin of imported products, the revenue department last month stipulated that the importer or his agent, at the time of filing bill of entry, has to make a declaration that the purchased items qualify for preferential duty, and also produce certificates of origin. The claims can be rejected if the certificate of origin is incomplete or has any alteration not authenticated by the issuing authority or the certificate is produced after its validity period has expired, it said.

Finance ministry sources say investigations have revealed that items, including TVs, mobile phones, set-top boxes, telecom network products and metals, coming from FTA countries did not meet the prescribed origin criterion.

Also, various FTAs have only caused India's trade deficit to soar.

For instance, in Asean case, the trade gap has risen from $5 billion in 2010, when the FTA with Asean was implemented, to over $22 billion now. Apart from Singapore and Vietnam, it has widened with Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia as well. A part of supplies from these countries may have actually originated from other non-FTA destinations like China, customs officials suspect. The Customs have detected fraudulent claims under FTA of Rs 1,200 crore, while "irregular imports" have caused serious injury to local industry.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 16, 2020

HOME

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India open to importing more Scotch whisky as part of proposed India-UK trade agreement: Goyal

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Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 16, 2020

HOME

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Key GST tasks and implications in September 2020

The government has recently made some changes in the GST return filing system. The return forms proposed earlier called the RET forms with ANX (annexures) have been shelved.

The existing GST returns in forms GSTR-1, GSTR- 2A and GSTR-3B are getting a complete makeover. GSTR-1 relates to returns filed by suppliers for all outward supplies. GSTR-2A relates to purchases of a business.

While GSTR-3B is a return for payment of GST taxes. Let's understand some key tasks that taxpayers must attend to during the month of September and also look at the new forms for taxpayers.

New Return form GSTR-2B

A new statement called GSTR-2B, which is applicable for all normal taxpayers has been launched. The information in GSTR-2B is being auto-populated from GSTR-1. Further, GSTR-1 details will be auto populated into GSTR-3B, to pay GST dues. GSTR-2B and auto-linking of GSTR-1 with GSTR-3B are being implemented from July and August 2020 return period onward.

Shifting from GSTR-2A to GSTR-2B - The benefits and road ahead

There is a shift in the need to reconcile purchase registers from GSTR-2A to GSTR-2B from July 2020 return period onwards. In this statement, taxpayers can view the summary of eligible and ineligible ITC with a further invoice-wise break up of purchases as well as imports.

For instance, ITC for August 2020 return period will be taken based on the documents reported by their respective suppliers between 12th August and 11th September 2020.
On comparing GSTR-2B with the existing GSTR-2A, details reported in GSTR-2B for a month will remain constant once reported by the respective suppliers. On the other hand, GSTR-2A is a dynamic statement. If a user checks his GSTR-2A for August 2020 on 19th September 2020, the details of supplies in it may not be the same as 12th September 2020.

The move can aid registered buyers in avoiding ITC reconciliation hassles and inconsistencies in GSTR-2A. It is because GSTR-2A changes every time their suppliers make changes to the invoices reported. The taxpayers and government can also easily compare and be sure of the total ITC that the taxpayer must avail for a month, reducing the scope for litigation.

The department will be verifying the ITC claims in GSTR-3B on a future date, it need not lean upon taxpayers' contention that the dynamic GSTR-2A as on a particular date was referred for ITC claims in GSTR-3B.

There is also a need to automate the ITC claims in GSTR-3B via introducing a facility to accept and reject the eligible ITC found in GSTR-2B. An additional window to choose and track the 10% provisional ITC claims will be an icing on the cake.

Deadline to reconcile GST data of FY 2019-20 for September

Also, note that the deadline to reconcile FY 2019-20 GST data is here, i.e. September 2020. To recap, the September return period of a year following a financial year is significant as per the GST law. The government provides time to rectify mistakes made in regular returns during a relevant financial year in the September returns of the next financial year which is filed subsequently.

Return for September of a year is the last return period during which taxpayers can rectify any omitted or incorrect details in the returns filed during the previous financial year. These corrections are crucial for an accurate closure of that financial year. They will also form an important checkpoint during the GST audit.

To make sure ITC is accurately claimed for a financial year, registered taxpayers need to reconcile GSTR-1 with GSTR-3B from 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2020, for invoices raised in FY 2019-20 and associated debit-credit notes. After that, they can report missed invoices or make amendments in GSTR-1 of September 2020 to be filed on or by 11th October. Similarly, they must reconcile Input Tax Credit (ITC) for FY 2019-20 claimed in GSTR-3B with GSTR-2A and purchase records for the same period given above. Accordingly, they can claim any missed out ITC or reverse the excess claims before filing GSTR-3B on or by 20th October (22nd or 24th for small taxpayers).

Complexities in Annual Reconciliation this year

For FY 2019-20, taxpayers may face complexities in ITC reconciliation due to the inclusion of CGST Rule 36(4). Let's understand this rule a bit more. Between 1st April 2019 to 8th October 2019, taxpayers were allowed to claim ITC in their GSTR-3B on a provisional basis without restricting the upper limit. From 9th October 2019 to 31st December 2019, a 20% restriction was imposed on provisional credits every month based on eligible ITC in GSTR-2A. It was reduced to 10% from 1st January 2020 onwards.

As a relief from the pandemic, the restriction was suspended between February 2020 to August 2020. However, taxpayers must claim ITC as per GSTR-2A cumulatively from February to August from September 2020 onwards. There can be overlap or spillover in the ITC claims due to these developments over the past year, leading to complications while reconciling for September 2020 returns. To top it, the tax professionals must parallelly guide their clients for all the changes introduced via GSTR-2B.

More compliances in September 2020

Apart from the above ITC reconciliation, taxpayers must also complete filing of GSTR-9 and 9C for FY 2018-19 by 30th September 2020 to avoid a late fee. Tax professionals may find it difficult to meet various deadlines lined up in September 2020 for small taxpayers.

As a relief measure, small taxpayers can file their GSTR-3B from May to August 2020 within specified dates of September 2020 without late fee. Hence, the number of returns to be filed may be tasking for professionals.

Hence, from all the compliance listed above, it can be understood that September 2020 is likely to be a busy month, especially for tax professionals.

Further, the yearly ITC reconciliation for FY 2019-20 done during September-October 2020 requires additional attention to Rule 36(4) as well as shifting to GSTR-2B from GSTR-2A from July 2020 onwards.

Implications of not completing GST Reconciliation timely

Suppose the taxpayer has missed completing yearly reconciliation before filing September 2020 returns. In that case, he will face discrepancies while preparing the annual returns for FY 2019-20. Unfortunately, by then, the window to claim any eligible ITC and make necessary amendments to invoices would have been missed, leading to excess tax outflow.

Source: livemint.com– Sep 16, 2020

HOME

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Indian Jute Mills Association launches e-market place to boost exports

The Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) has launched an e-market place to create a global demand for jute products that have very limited market access compared to those from Bangladesh.

Indian jute products have nearly no market demand at present. The domestic industry is surviving on the government orders of sacks, which is mainly governed by the Jute Packaging Material Act -1987. Without this Act the jute industry would have ceased to exist, an IJMA official said, adding that there is a need to transform the demand from that of government orders to market driven orders and hence IJMA has created this integrated e-commerce platform.

The e- commerce platform includes four portals — jutekart, fibreofindia, juteflash and juteindex. All of them together will facilitate the supply chain from procuring raw jute for mills, fabric for jute product manufacturers to showcasing jute products in both domestic and overseas markets. The integrated platform will provide end-to-end solution.

Although there are 92 jute mills and more than 5 lakh jute product manufacturers across the country, IJMA initiative has just roped in 3 jute mills and 200 manufacturers into its platform.

“We seek to have all the jute mills and jute product manufacturers under this platform,” IJMA chairman Raghavendra Gupta said. IJMA has roped in a lean management consultant, who is working closely with the ministry of textiles to convert the government dependent jute industry to a market driven industry.

According to Debashish Roy, director general, IJMA, since most jute product manufacturers are in the small or micro category, most of them have very limited market access.

Tanmay Bera, managing director of Ladlo Jute and Specialities, said, the demand for jute products is mainly coming up from the US, Europe and Japan and there already exists around $ 80 million market. This has been registering an annual compounded growth rate of 10% per annum. But these markets has more potential, which requires to be fully realised.

Besides, in India a ban has already been imposed on single use plastic, which has opened up new possibilities for jute packaging, though paper packaging is poised to give a stiff competition to it. The jute mill owners have already urged the Centre to make use of jute bags mandatory in all malls and departmental stores. Although this would cost higher than plastic or paper packaging, it will give better return at a later stage.

According to Hemant Bangur, chairman of Glaster, in Europe people initially spend a little money in buying RFID tagged jute bags but at a later stage it fetches returns by way of protecting environmental and health hazards. This can be implemented in India, if use of jute bags are made mandatory in departmental stores and malls.

But Debabrata Choudhury, an industry expert, expressed doubt over the success of the e-market place because sourcing jute fabric would pose a major problem. Most jute mill owners use 80% of their capacity in manufacturing jute sacks and the rest 20% is utilised for manufacturing other products. The limited share of market, which India has for jute products overseas, is mostly enjoyed by the 67 jute mills of West Bengal and so they would all likely thwart on the entry of other players.

Besides, there have been increasing problems in raw jute production since many farmers are shifting from jute cultivation to other crops as cost of producing raw jute has increased more than double and farmers are not getting the desired price. The quality of raw jute that is produced in India mostly in West Bengal, fits only for sack manufacturing and it is difficult to make quality jute fabric that are used in making other products, Choudhury said.

The textile ministry has taken keen interest on development of the e-market place and have expressed willingness to extend financial support to this initiative once it crystallises, an IJMA official said.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 16, 2020

HOME

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43k MSEs benefitted from govt's public procurement policy in FY21 so far; sold goods worth over Rs 8k cr

Trade, import and export for MSMEs: 90 central public sector enterprises (CPSE) have made 32.70 per cent of their overall procurement so far in FY21 from micro and small enterprises (MSEs) as on September 12, 2020, according to MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari. The CPSEs have bought goods and services worth Rs 27,120.58 crore from companies out of which Rs 8,869.75 crore worth of procurement has been made from 43,399 MSEs, Gadkari said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Monday citing data from public procurement monitoring portal MSME Samadhaan.

Moreover, out of the total procurement from MSEs, the government enterprises have bought goods and services worth Rs 237.07 crore from 1,744 MSEs owned by scheduled caste and scheduled tribe entrepreneurs. On the other hand, procurement from women-led 1,045 MSEs as on September 12 stood at Rs 198.52 crore. The government had earmarked 25 per cent annual MSE procurement target for CPSEs from April 1, 2015, onwards up from 20 per cent earlier, according to the MSME Ministry's website. Out of the 25 per cent target, a sub-target of 4 per cent from SC/ST owned MSEs and 3 per cent from women-owned MSEs were earmarked.

Meanwhile, the online public procurement marketplace GeM, launched in August 2016 to enhance efficiency and transparency in the government buying process, has 1,23,251 MSE sellers out of overall 5,16,790 sellers. Currently, MSE sellers on GeM have a 57.91 per cent share in the total order value on the platform. So far, 46,16,716 orders have been placed on the portal even as transaction value stood at Rs 62,811 crore.

As transactions and number of sellers on the GeM portal continues to increase, the government had taken cognizance of the possibility of fake or poor quality products being sold on the platform. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had last month cautioned sellers against selling goods of inferior quality or charging high prices. The minister had warned that such sellers will be blacklisted not only from the GeM portal but from the "entire government ecosystem," he had said during the e-National Public Procurement Conclave organised by GeM.

Source: financialexpress.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Arvind inks ₹100 million deal with ACT Grants to produce N95 masks

Arvind Limited, one of India's largest textile-to-retail conglomerate and ACT Grants have partnered to produce 30 million N95 masks in the next 12 months.

Arvind Limited has received ₹100 million from ACT Grants, the non-profit coalition of VC funds and start-up founders, and will employ its manufacturing expertise on Medical Products and Working Capital to create a large, integrated facility for N95 mask production and distribution.

Through this partnership, Arvind and ACT Grants will jointly donate 9 million masks over the next year to charitable institutions, government bodies, and other organisations, focusing on medical and non-medical professionals with the highest risk of contracting the virus.

Upon complete scale-up, the daily N95 mask production capacity will be approximately 2 lakh units which would be operated, owned and managed by Arvind.

The N95 masks will be available through Arvind Advanced Material Distribution partners, direct sales channels to Government, hospitals, and other corporates.

"Arvind has been manufacturing PPEs for various industries for over a decade and we believe we can use this expertise to produce N95 masks," Punit Lalbhai, Executive Director, Arvind Limited, said.

"A detailed Quality Management System including product and process has been implemented, to ensure quality and consistent manufacturing. ACT upfront supported Arvind in setting up this project in record time and Arvind appreciates having a like minded partner in this journey," Lalbhai added.

Arvind Advanced Materials is a large, pioneering manufacturer of PPE Coveralls and Face Masks which are certified by BIS and Global agencies.
"ACT and its partners have already provided over 3 lakh PPE and over 15 lakh masks to hospitals, police and frontline workers across 20 states of India. This partnership with Arvind will allow us to make 10x the impact in protecting our front-lines and provide high quality, locally manufactured

BIS certified N95 masks in India. ACT will work with partner NGOs & Foundations to make these N95 masks available free of cost," said Apurv Bansal, Spokesperson from ACT Grants.

ACT Grants is a ₹100 crore grant created by India's VC and start-up community to provide stimulus to ideas that could combat Covid-19 with immediate impact. ACT, which stands for 'Action Covid-19 Team', supports start-ups working towards containing covid-19 spread, scaling testing, disease management at home, enhanced support for healthcare workers and hospitals, management of critically-ill patients and support for mental health.

ACT Grants is seeking capital-efficient, scalable solutions from NGOs and innovative start-ups which need an initial seed grant to fight the spread of the pandemic. Its mission is to seed and empower teams that are harnessing technology to create large-scale impact in the detection, prevention, and eradication of covid-19.

Source: livemint.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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Gujarat signs MoU with SIDBI to help MSMEs amid outbreak downturn

The Gujarat government on Tuesday signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to increase self-reliance and provide capacity building and market support to the state's 35 lakh micro-small-medium enterprises (MSMEs).

State Additional Chief Secretary of Industries and Mines MK Das and SIDBI Deputy Managing Director Vasantharao Satya Venkata Rao signed the MoU in the presence of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in Gandhinagar, a release said. The aim is to "accelerate technology transfer and innovation in state MSMEs through training and capacity building programmes," it said.

SIDBI will help the small scale industries in the state to come out of the current COVID-19 situation effectively, and also evaluate the feasibility of infrastructure projects and common facility centres for MSME clusters in the state, the release added.

SIDBI will handhold the MSME units to create digital platforms to keep pace with world trends, it said.

"Under the Centre's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), so far, Rs 10,56,268 lakh loans have been approved for 2,11,532 MSME units in the state to get over financial difficulties. The state government also announced a package of Rs 768 crore to assist MSMEs in the COVID-19 situation," it stated.

"The Chief Minister has been aiming to enable such MSME industries to survive global market competition with incentives like a capital subsidy, interest subsidy, patent assistance, technology acquisition," it said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Sep 15, 2020

HOME

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