



IBTEX No. 236 of 2018

November 17, 2018

USD 71.79 | EUR 81.98 | GBP 92.17 | JPY 0.64

NEWS CLIPPINGS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS	
No	Topics
1	Government Subsidies for the Cotton Sector Swelled 33 Percent in 2017-18
2	Apparel Industry Groups Weight Pros and Cons of USMCA at ITC Trade Hearing
3	UK retail sales fell to six-month low in October
4	China is "Must-Win Territory" for Global Luxury Retailers, Study Says
5	US women's apparel prices fall in October
6	Apparel show Texworld USA to be held in January 2019
7	Textile trade shows in Japan to address sustainability issues
8	Italian textile machinery orders stable in Q3 2018
9	Yoga pants conquer closets in the US, boosts fabric innovations
10	With a revival in manufacturing, jobs go a begging in the US
11	Pakistan: Textile group exports posts 0.41pc growth in four months, reached to US\$4.407bn
12	Pakistan: Commodities: Sluggish trading on cotton market

DISCLAIMER: The information in this message be privileged. If you have received it by mistake please notify "the sender" by return e-mail and delete the message from "your system". Any unauthorized use or dissemination of this message in whole or in part is strictly prohibited. Any "information" in this message that does not relate to "official business" shall be understood to be neither given nor endorsed by TEXPROCIL - The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

NATIONAL NEWS	
1	Two agencies to be appointed for template on FTA negotiations in future: Suresh Prabhu
2	9th Session of India-Kyrgyz IGC held in New Delhi, concludes with signing of Protocol
3	Smriti Irani bats for rise in women entrepreneurs
4	Textile & apparel exports soar 38% in October: CITI
5	SMEs floundering even as Gujarat prepares for global investor summit
6	Odisha to set up three textile parks
7	Government to soon unveil new industrial policy: DIPP Secretary
8	Vibrant Gujarat 2019 to focus on trade, exports from Gujarat
9	2 cotton purchasing centres to come up in Srikakulam
10	Walmart likely to kill brand Jabong
11	Kochi port gets digital container tracking solution
12	Surat weavers get support from South Gujarat clusters
13	Fall in crude oil prices to revive ailing power loom sector

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Government Subsidies for the Cotton Sector Swelled 33 Percent in 2017-18

Government subsidies to the global cotton sector, including direct support to production, border protection, crop insurance subsidies and minimum support price mechanisms, rose significantly in the 2017-18 season.

These supports are intended to create stability in prices, acting as a buffer against swings in supply and demand. They also act as a competitive agent in a sector that is subject to global trade swings and natural elements.

Ten countries' governments provided a combined \$5.9 billion in subsidies to their domestic cotton industries, an increase of 33 percent over the 2016-2017 total of \$4.4 billion, according to the 2018 "Production and Trade Subsidies Affecting the Cotton Industry" report from the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).

Those subsidies averaged 18 cents per pound, up from 17 cents per pound the year before, ICAC said. The report noted that the 2017-2018 season broke the long-term trend of subsidies decreasing when prices are strong.

Since the ICAC began tracking government support in cotton in 1997-1998, trends have shown that subsidies decline when prices are high and increase when prices are low. When cotton prices increased from 70 cents per pound in 2015-2016 to 83 cents per pound in 2016-2017, for example, subsidies decreased. When prices jumped again to 88 cents per pound in 2017-2018, however, subsidies continued to increase.

The share of world cotton production receiving direct government assistance, including direct payments and border protection, increased from an average of 55 percent between 1997-98 and 2007-08 to an estimated peak of 83 percent in 2008-09.

In between, it wavered. From 2009-2010 through 2013-2014, this share declined and averaged 48 percent. In 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, the average percentage of production receiving direct assistance increased to 75 percent. That number then declined to 47 percent in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

In some countries, including major growers Brazil, Pakistan and India, minimum support price programs were not triggered last season because market prices were above the government intervention price levels during most of the season, the report noted.

The Chinese government supports cotton production by controlling cotton import volumes and values, and by applying border protection measures based on quotas and sliding scale duties, with an effective tariff of 40 percent on cotton imported without a quota, ICAC noted. China also maintains a strategic reserve of cotton, serving as a national buffer stock.

When there is a shortage of cotton, China releases some from the reserve, and replenishes the reserve in times of abundance, and this method supports prices. Since 2014-2015 there have been no purchases by the government into the reserve. Instead, China paid direct subsidies to cotton growers on top of the border protection benefits.

China also pays growers a subsidy of roughly \$150 million a year for using high-quality seeds. During the past several seasons, China provided subsidies estimated at about \$150 million per year for the transportation of cotton from Xinjiang to mills in eastern and southern China. The sum of all subsidies provided by the Chinese government are estimated at \$4.3 billion, or 33 cents per pound, in 2017-2018, up from \$3.3 billion, or 30 cents per pound, the prior year.

In the U.S., 2017-2018 was the last season of the five-year farm bill, under which Direct Payment, Countercyclical Payment and Average Crop Revenue Election programs were repealed. Upland cotton was eligible for the Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX). A new farm bill is now being negotiated.

Total subsidies provided under STAX in 2016-2017 were estimated at \$74 million, while 2017-2018 STAX subsidies were estimated at \$105 million. In addition, the U.S. government provides support to cotton production through subsidized crop insurance to protect producers against crop yield and revenue losses caused by natural disasters.

During the previous season, cotton insurance subsidies were estimated at \$560 million, or 5.6 cents per pound, compared with \$396 million, or 4.8 cents per pound the prior year.

Adding in other government assistance programs, the sum of all types of support provided to U.S. cotton producers was estimated at \$890 million, or 9 cents per pound, this past season compared to \$469 million, or 6 cents per pound, the prior year.

Among other countries, total payments to cotton producers in Turkey increased to \$398 million, or 22 cents per pound in 2017-2018 from \$349 million, or 23 cents per pound in 2016-2017, while several countries in West Africa provided subsidies for cotton inputs, especially for fertilizers and planting seeds. In 2017-2018, Mali provided an estimated \$35 million, Burkina Faso \$30 million, Côte d'Ivoire \$15 million and Senegal \$1 million.

Source: sourcingjournal.com - Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Apparel Industry Groups Weight Pros and Cons of USMCA at ITC Trade Hearing

Three major U.S. apparel and textile industry associations, speaking at a U.S. International Trade Commission hearing this week as part of its investigation of the economic impact of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), generally expressed favor for the recently negotiated pact, but with several key caveats.

For the most part, the associations' executives all agreed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which USMCA aims to replace, has been a positive for companies in the supply chain, from domestic yarn producers to garment importers. And as NAFTA is so ingrained in the fabric of that supply chain and many companies' sourcing strategies, to substantially change it or get rid of it altogether would have been harmful.

"NAFTA serves as an important anchor for the U.S. textile, apparel and footwear industry. Much of the textile manufacturing in the United States is tied directly to NAFTA through U.S. exports to NAFTA partners," Rick Helfenbein, president and CEO of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) said during testimony.

“Many of the fabrics and yarns we export to Mexico end up in garments that are imported back into the United States. Without the tariff preferences afforded by NAFTA, many of these garments would be made in other locations that do not use U.S. textiles.”

Helfenbein said AAFA also welcomed the opportunity to modernize the 25-year-old NAFTA pact, while noting that any effort to examine the USMCA needs to be looked at in relation to the underlying NAFTA. The three lenses AAFA used to guide its advice to the Trump administration as it pursued NAFTA modernization negotiations were, “do no harm, keep it trilateral and make it seamless.”

In the do no harm realm, Helfenbein said, “The USMCA appears to have largely met this goal. USMCA retains market access schedules and makes no changes to the travel goods or footwear rules-of-origin provisions. While it does make some changes to the rules of origin for textiles and apparel, these appear to be largely cosmetic and we are hopeful the industry will be able to quickly adjust to the changes that have been made.”

TPLs and Rules of Origin

When it comes to rules of origin however, the changes struck a less positive chord, as according to Helfenbein, “the changes made to the rules of origin were to introduce more restrictive approaches.”

For one, he said, several tariff preference levels (TPLs) were lowered, and the new USMCA now includes a requirement that sewing thread, elastic strips and pocketing originate in the U.S., Mexico or Canada.

“While we understand U.S. negotiators were attempting to legislate more U.S. content into North American textile and apparel supply chains, the result unfortunately may be the opposite,” Helfenbein said.

“Each of these new provisions, individually and collectively, will make it harder to use the agreement, which may lead to less—not more—U.S. content being used in North American supply chains. Such an outcome would come at the expense of the U.S. textile firms these provisions are designed, on paper, to help.”

Auggie Tantillo, president and CEO of the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), said the group has not yet adopted a formal position on the USMCA, but is pleased that the textile origin rules originally adopted in NAFTA were basically reaffirmed in the updated agreement.

NCTO is supportive of revisions that will require the use of USMCA-origin sewing thread, pocketing, narrow elastics and coated fabrics, which, he said, “will offer a boost for U.S. producers formerly left out of the origin rules in the original NAFTA.” However, Tantillo said there is one key area of disappointment with USMCA, and that’s pertaining to the major exemption to the yarn-forward origin requirement through the TPLs.

“While NAFTA TPLs have annual limits that cap their impact to a degree, more than \$641 million in textile and apparel TPL shipments entered the U.S. last year,” Tantillo explained. “While USMCA did reduce the size of some specific TPLs, the reductions will not cut into existing trade levels. This outcome is frustrating given the president’s stated goals of increasing benefits for U.S. manufacturers and eliminating provisions that have helped non-signatory countries, such as China, take advantage of tariff preferences intended for North American producers.”

Julia K. Hughes, president of the U.S. Fashion Industry Association (USFIA), said in her testimony, that trade with Mexico and Canada is critically important for sourcing and retail, and NAFTA “has been one of the most important trade agreements for the fashion industry.” She said USFIA reviewed the details of the USMCA and that the organization was “pleased to find much we can support in it.”

Hughes said USFIA’s take on maintaining the TPLs for apparel to and from all three countries is based on it being among the key elements of the agreement for the industry and, according to some of USFIA’s members, it’s the only way they can source textiles and apparel with these trading partners.

“We also applaud the elimination of the requirement that visible linings for tailored clothing come from the NAFTA region. This was a barrier to more trade in our sector under NAFTA,” she added. “Both of these provisions—the maintenance of the TPLs and the elimination of the visible linings requirement—will help companies continue and expand business with our trading partners Canada and Mexico.”

However, Hughes said USFIA is concerned the addition of more regulatory requirements to qualify for duty-free market access could hold back the ability of some companies to expand their sourcing with Mexico and Canada.

“In this time of uncertainty and cost concerns, the addition of regulatory requirements to qualify for duty-free market access will deter this expansion of business,” Hughes said. “The yarn-forward rule of origin already discourages trade in our sector, and some companies have told us that they don’t claim the duty savings on eligible products from the region because the compliance requirements are simply too onerous and expensive.

In addition, the USMCA creates new technical requirements, for example, the addition of requirements for originating sewing thread, pocketing and narrow elastic bands, which will result in higher costs for inputs and higher costs for brands and retailers to administer the agreement.”

This could also lead to some companies to shift operations out of the Western Hemisphere or decide not to move new orders to Canada or Mexico because of these cost increases, Hughes said. “The new regulations will make it more expensive and complicated for American brands and retailers to use the agreement,” she added. “Let’s be honest, if the administration wants to encourage companies to move their sourcing out of China, it would make sense to make it easier to do business with America’s closest neighbors.”

Footwear and Travel Goods

On another point, Helfenbein said the USMCA represented a “lost opportunity” to bring more flexibility to the footwear and travel goods provisions outlined in NAFTA. The current rules, he said, “are so restrictive, in an ostensive effort to keep all benefits in North America, that very little travel goods and footwear trade exists under NAFTA.”

And they’re might have been another way to go about it.

“The best way to encourage more U.S. content is to weave in more flexibility into the rules,” Helfenbein said, noting that, for example, the USMCA dramatically increases the TPLs that will allow more U.S. apparel and made up goods to be exported to Canada. While such articles don’t have to be made with U.S. textiles, “the mere presence of their production in the U.S. will mean more customers for U.S. textile firms,” Helfenbein explained.

Source: sourcingjournal.com- Nov 16, 2018

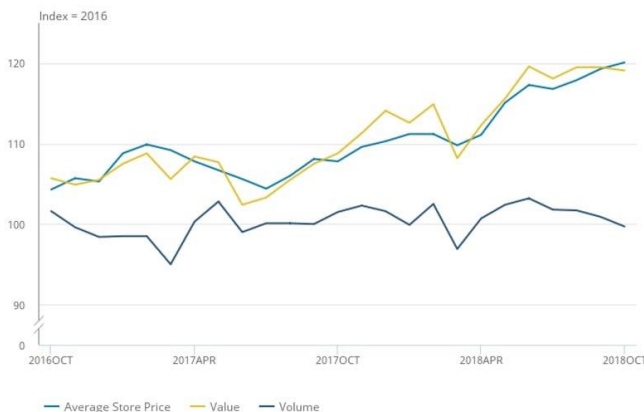
[HOME](#)

UK retail sales fell to six-month low in October

The run-up to Christmas has to date not spurred a boost in sales, with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) reporting retail sales fell to a six-month low in October.

Accord to the ONS a buoyant summer of sales has prompted a spending ease in October. While sales slid 0.5 percent compared to September despite an annual growth it is the slowest growth rate since April.

Figure 4: The amount spent and quantity bought for fuel along with the average store price
Great Britain, October 2016 to October 2018, amount spent and quantity bought seasonally adjusted; average store price non-seasonally adjusted



Source: Monthly Business Survey - Retail Sales Inquiry - Office for National Statistics

“Retail sales slowed after a buoyant summer with the mild autumn hitting winter clothes sales,” ONS head of retail sales Rhian Murphy said.

Mild October weather meant slow sales of winter ranges

Sales of clothing and textiles were down 1 percent, with feedback from clothing retailers suggesting the monthly fall could be attributed to the mild October weather, which had seen consumers reluctant to purchase

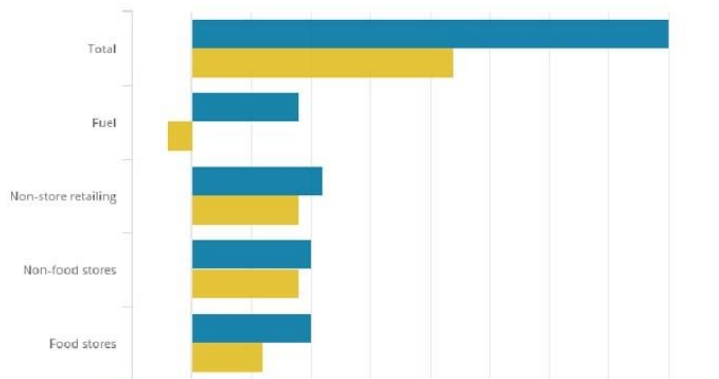
winter ranges, according to the ONS.

Separate figures the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and Barclaycard showed households reining in their spending as the summer ended, suggesting that some shoppers were either being more cautious or waiting for Black Friday bargains or Christmas shopping.

Deloitte head of retail Ian Geddes said: “These figures are not surprising and reflect a clear slowdown in consumer momentum since the summer.

Consumers, concerned about their levels of disposable income and debt, are being cautious about how they spend their money.

Figure 3: Contributions to year-on-year growth in the quantity bought and amount spent in the four main retail sectors
Great Britain, October 2018 compared with October 2017



This is creating a highly competitive environment for retailers, who are faced with what looks set to be a very tough final quarter of 2018. While notwithstanding the fact that consumers have a history of surprising the market at Christmas, there is

little reason to feel overly positive about the short-term outlook.”

BRC head of insights Rachel Lund said: “After a summer of spending, consumers moderated their purchasing behaviour ahead of the festive period. With little growth in real incomes over the past year discretionary spending has remained under considerable pressure.

Brighter weather and the anticipation of Black Friday gave shoppers little cause to splash out the month. Retailers will be hoping that October is not the bell-weather for the golden quarter.”

Online sales as a total of all retailing increased to 18.0 percent from the 17.7 percent reported in September 2018, with all sectors reporting increases in their proportion of online sales in October.

Textile, clothing and footwear stores continued with a record proportion of online retailing at 18.2 percent in October. While total retail spending in this sector reported a fall in October, consumers increased their online spending for the goods that they did purchase in clothing stores.

Source: fashionunited.uk- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

China is “Must-Win Territory” for Global Luxury Retailers, Study Says

Luxury department stores will thrive in Asia and the Middle East over the next five years, led by gains in China.

says Global Data in a study commissioned by department store architect and designer, Sybarite.

In a report titled “The Future of the Luxury Department Store,” commissioned by luxury retail architecture firm Sybarite in cooperation with GlobalData, forecasts for the department store sector in China point to 97.3 percent growth between 2017 and 2022.

Asia, as a whole, could see a 58.4 percent increase in annual department store spending, reaching \$342.9 billion by 2022, according to the study. China is expected to make up 53.7 percent of that total market, driven by middle-class spending on beauty, leather goods and luxury fashion.

“The story of shops closing and the decline of retail has become a familiar one across the Western world,” Chris Sanderson, co-founder of The Future Laboratory said. “There’s no such quandary 8,000 miles away in China, where the ‘either-or’ retail equation is being pushed aside in favor of a holistic model that melds the best of both the in-shop and online experience.”

In China, many tech companies have started to push for a greater connection between retail and online sales and many of those same companies have looked to luxury to accomplish this.

Researchers point to examples like Alibaba’s new Luxury Pavilion, which looks to digitize the luxury space with an invitation-only online marketplace, as proof positive that luxury can be successfully molded for online experiences—despite the high expectations of its customer base.

This online luxury revolution is made possible in China thanks to the “markedly different” tastes of the upcoming generation, according to the report. The youth of China, sometimes referred to as the “Moonlight Clan,” are described as “existential consumers” in the study, signaling their willingness to part with the traditions of the past, i.e. heritage luxury brands, for new experiences and products that might help define them. And, as it

turns out, there are some stark differences between Chinese millennials and Generation Z when it comes to luxury brands.

For one, both groups find their cultural heritage important, as they have only ever experienced a global China. As the world has opened up, the value of a brand helping to create a more localized identity has increased. Millennials increasingly prefer to purchase domestic luxury brands, and a majority (61.5 percent) say financial accomplishment is no longer the main signifier of success. When they do purchase luxury brands internationally, these shoppers prefer to buy from enduring brands, like Louis Vuitton and Gucci.

On the other hand, Gen Z shoppers are more likely to purchase collaborations and try out new brands as they come up. Even less emphasis is placed on international heritage, but they are willing to support legacy collaborations like those seen recently by Off-White and Supreme x Louis Vuitton. For both generations of shoppers, “mall culture” still remains an important factor and is something that department stores can capitalize on.

“While nearly all Chinese youngsters shop online to some extent, mall culture is still an important, and much used, means of socializing,” researchers noted.

Department stores in China have noticed the demographic shifts, increasing their efforts to attract millennial and Gen Z shoppers, and GlobalData and Sybarite predict they could be the driving force behind China’s department store dominance. Over the past two years, digital marketing aimed at millennials has become a larger focus for advertisers. As much as 50 percent of the total marketing budget in China, industry-wide, went to millennial-centric marketing in 2017, compared to 35 percent in 2015.

These same stores have begun to use virtual and augmented reality and artificial intelligence to create the “holistic models” of retail that Sanderson mentioned and create a truly integrated digital-to-physical experience, which consumers have been shown to prefer to digital-only. Data shows this retail model could become even more valuable in China than it is in the West. Fifty-three percent of Chinese consumers spent more on experiences than the year before, compared to 26 percent of Americans.

Luxury department stores outside of China might also be able to capitalize on the influx of Chinese international travelers, which have tripled in number over the past decade with 130 million trips in 2017. These travelers are typically affluent and accounted for 32 percent of global sales for personal luxury goods in 2017. Luring in this “moving target” will become a prime directive for luxury department stores in the future, no matter where they are.

Source: sourcingjournal.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

US women’s apparel prices fall in October

Women’s apparel prices in the US fell 1.7 per cent in October after rising 1.6 per cent in September. Pushing the decline was the women’s outerwear category, where prices declined 6.4 per cent. But all women’s apparel categories saw price decline in October, potentially owing to the sector’s more competitive nature and buying habits.

Prices of dresses were down 4.3 per cent, suits and separates prices fell 0.5 per cent and the underwear, nightwear, sportswear and accessories group dipped 0.1 per cent. Girls’ apparel prices were up 1.1 per cent month over month.

Men’s wear pricing power proved much stronger, with prices rising 1.5 per cent. The suits, sport coats and outerwear group posted a price gain of 3.9 per cent, as prices for pants and shorts rose 2.3 per cent. Smaller increases of 0.9 per cent for furnishings and 0.6 per cent for shirts and sweaters rounded out the men’s story for the month.

Boys’ apparel prices were up 0.9 per cent, while infants’ and toddlers’ apparel prices rose 0.8 per cent. The critical fourth-quarter holiday selling has kicked in and promotions have begun. A tariff war with China is on but retailers in the US are continuing to import merchandise in order to meet consumer demand.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Apparel show Texworld USA to be held in January 2019

Texworld USA, a leading sourcing show and an international business platform, will be held at the Javits convention centre, New York, from January 21-23, 2019. Texworld USA has positioned itself as a must attend industry event and business platform bringing together best global apparel fabric, trims, and accessory suppliers in the heart of New York City.

The event continues to provide industry experts, designers, fabric buyers, merchandisers, and sourcing professionals a unique opportunity to meet directly with a wide range of manufacturers and global suppliers, according to a press release on the show.

Texworld USA provides a stage for the industry to explore high quality apparel fabrics, trims and accessories at a reasonable price. The show features over 16 product categories, ranging from knits and functional fabrics to cotton, denim and more.

Attendees will also find the most cutting edge information on trends in textiles, the opportunity to network with manufacturers and suppliers, as well as gain new knowledge from an assortment of complimentary educational sessions that cover chemical free dyeing processes, effects from tariffs, China's take on sustainable solutions, and more.

Local Loft will also return for the winter 2019 edition featuring domestic and local suppliers focusing on low minimums. Attendees will also benefit from a new line-up of textile talks and explore the floor featuring discussions relevant to technology, fabric innovation, and more - all on the show floor.

Visitors can also gather inspiration through Texworld USA's trend showcase that will feature exhibitor textiles that are trending for the season.

Texworld's educational seminar series, organised by Lenzing Fibers, will return for Winter 2019, featuring sessions hosted by industry experts.

Apparel Sourcing USA Winter 2019, co-located with Texworld USA, will welcome exhibitors specialising in over 21 product groups as well as a focus on sustainability as the spotlight.

As one of the only events in North American to focus on sourcing finished apparel, contract manufacturing and private label development, Apparel Sourcing USA is a long-term joint venture partnership between Messe Frankfurt and CCPIT-TEX (China Sub-Council of Textile Industry) and provides attendees direct access to suppliers all over the globe.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Textile trade shows in Japan to address sustainability issues

Japan Fashion Week Organisation will organise two of Japan's biggest textile shows; 'JFW Japan Creation 2019' (JFW-JC) and the 'Premium Textile Japan 2019 A/W' (PTJ) salon, concurrently from Nov. 21-22, 2018 at the Tokyo International Forum. Exhibitors at both these trade shows will address the growing global fashion trend toward 'sustainability.' Some of the major exhibitors at the shows will include:

Hataoka Co./Asuwa Kogyosyo

Hataoka Co will showcase Tactus a two-way stretch eco-friendly fabric comprising triacetate and a processed compound yarn that uses Japan-made polyurethane alongwith Tactus BIS to expand sales for athleisure applications.

The range will also include Super Heritage; a compound textile combining triacetate and specific polyester.

The company merges its previously reputed fabric and newly developed functional polyester fabric using the present thread axis. It will also introduce a fresh range of fabrics using recycled polyester yarns.

The company's uses raw yarns made in Japan for manufacturing its products. Its twisting yarns and weaving are managed inTextile trade shows in Japan to address sustainability issues 002 in-house factories, while dyeing and finishing are managed in two other cooperative factories. The company manages its factories through the adaptation of SDGs.

Koyaguchi Pile Fabric

Aono Pile Co., Ltd., a Koyaguchi Pile Fabric Group company will showcase Float Velour, an eco-fur as a 3D velour comprising pile and plain stitch for animal welfare and conservation and a fabric fusing fashion and high technicity

Nishino Leather Co., Ltd.

Nishino Leather Co., Ltd., representing the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, will showcase eco-leather products including Textile trade shows in Japan to address sustainability issues 003 tanned pigskin, pig suede (in pure white) and pigskin nappa (unfinished leather).

The company recently acquired the 'Japan Eco-Leather Standard' certificate for its pigskin; enacted by the Japanese Association of Leather Technology (JALT) and the Tanners' Council of Japan. This certification is awarded to companies that use factory-made genuine leather that handles wastewater and solid waste, and excludes substances harmful to health and the environment

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Italian textile machinery orders stable in Q3 2018

The orders index for textile machinery compiled by ACIMIT, the association of Italian textile machinery manufacturers comprising of 300 companies, for the period between July-September 2018, has remained stable compared to the same period for 2017. While machinery orders received by ACIMIT members increased in Italy, there was a fall in export markets.

In domestic market, the index stood at an absolute value of 121.9 basis points, a 30 per cent increase compared to the period from July to September 2017. On the other hand, in terms of foreign markets, the index actually fell by 2 per cent, with an absolute value of 107.4 basis points, said a press release from ACIMIT.

“In many primary foreign markets, our manufacturers have experienced a slowdown for the first nine months of the year. In China, above all, our main export destination, trade tensions with the US have in fact halted investment plans for many textile manufacturers. Despite the uncertainty that characterises many markets, I believe that for our industry 2018 will close at levels in line with those of the previous year,” said ACIMIT president Alessandro Zucchi.

ACIMIT represents an industrial sector that employ roughly 12,000 people, manufacturing machinery for an overall value of about €2.9 billion, of which fully 84 per cent is exported.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Yoga pants conquer closets in the US, boosts fabric innovations

The first pair of yoga pants for women were sold by Lululemon in 1998. A mix of nylon and Lycra, these pants were synthetic elastic fibers that provided the stretch and softness needed to manage all those sweat-inducing contortions during a lengthy session on the mat.

Twenty years later, yoga pants have conquered the closet of even those people who never see the inside of a yoga studio.

This evolution began in 2014, when teenagers started wearing leggings instead of jeans. Today, yoga pants form a part of their daily officewear in the US. The popularity of yoga pants has, predictably, led to the evolution of new fabrics.

Lululemon Athletica , largely credited with bringing stretchy pants to the masses, is developing new fabrics to fend off rivals — a pack that now includes the world’s biggest athletics companies.

Evolution of new fabrics

Lululemon’s original fabric, Luon, with a high proportion of nylon microfibre as opposed to a more typical polyester blend, Yoga pants conquer closets in

the US boosts fabric innovations 001 was trademarked in the US in 2005. Many of its newer fabrics are branded and geared toward specific uses. Luxtreme is a moisture-wicking, four-way stretch fabric that's meant to fit like a second skin. Nulux is a compression fabric meant for sweatier workouts. Silverescent is sold as Lululemon's "stink-conquering technology," using silver bonded to the surface of fibers to stop bacteria from reproducing. A T-shirt made from the material costs \$68.

Leggings from market competitors use a similar strategy, promoting the versatile pants through branded fabric combinations. For Adidas, pants boast fabrics like its sweat-wicking Climalite material or the thermal-regulating Climacool and Climawarm to accommodate training conditions. Likewise, Nike's Dri-Fit material keeps sweat at bay and trainers dry. Even Target's C9-branded fitness collection flexes high-functioning fabrics: Freedom Fabric is a soft blend of polyester and spandex for lifestyle or fitness, while its Embrace Fabric hugs tight to the body for a cozy feel.

Tucked away in the basement of its Vancouver headquarters is a lab called Whitespace, the retailer's research and development skunkworks. It made yoga pants with repurposed yarn combinations normally used in lingerie.

Brands invest in women's wear lines

The biggest businesses now in the athletic wear space have invested heavily in growing their women's wear lines — especially in developing new fabrics and features for the once-simple yoga pant. That same year, Adidas AG began directing its youth brand, Neo, toward younger women. The German sports giant even brought on former Lululemon Chief Executive Officer Christine Day as a strategic adviser.

Adidas quickly became a formidable threat to Lululemon's dominance. Early steps turned into exclusive designs for women through the PureBoost X line, leading to an even larger emphasis on active tops and bottoms, using technology called Climachill and Techfit, both focused on women's training. Last year, women's sales for Adidas grew by 28 percent, making it one of the company's strongest segments.

Active bottoms and leggings are now a \$1 billion industry, according to NPD Group analyst Marshal Cohen. Their appeal to consumers has yielded rapid sales growth that shows no sign of going. Where Lululemon found success

with women consumers by providing a niche product that could satisfy casual and active uses, major brands such as Adidas and Nike completed the picture, confirming just how strong the athleisure trend could be.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

With a revival in manufacturing, jobs go a begging in the US

Manufacturers in the United States are experiencing some of the highest levels of growth seen in decades, yet the industry seems unable to keep up with the resulting rebound in job growth. Five out of 10 open manufacturing positions in US are staying unoccupied thanks to the skills gap.

Jobs requiring digital talent, supply chain talent, skilled production, or roles for operational managers will be three times as hard to fill in the next three years. Nearly two million vacant new jobs are expected by 2028, compounded by 2.69 million vacancies from retiring workers. So the number of open positions could be greater than ever.

The problem is threefold: a negative perception of manufacturing, a shift in desired skill sets owed to the intro of advanced technologies, and baby boomers retiring. Despite renewed interest in domestic manufacturing, and an uptick in some areas, the workforce crisis is casting a bleak pallor over the industry's future.

Over the next three years, the inability to fill open positions is expected to have the greatest impact on manufacturing companies that are maintaining or increasing production levels to satisfy growing customer demand. Thanks to technological change, the industry overall is trending toward jobs—including entry-level jobs—that are high-skilled and require irreplaceable human skills, such as creativity, critical thinking, design and innovation.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Pakistan: Textile group exports posts 0.41pc growth in four months, reached to US\$4.407bn

Textile group exports from the country during first four months of current financial year grew by 0.41 percent as compared the exports of the corresponding period of last year and textile products worth US\$ 4.407 billion exported as compared the exports of US\$ 4.389 billion of same period last year.

During the period from July-October, 2018-19, exports of raw cotton decreased by 71.54 percent, cotton yarn by 11.19 percent and cotton cloth by 0.25 percent, according to the latest data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, the exports of knitwear increased by 10.41 percent, bed wear by 2.10 percent and readymade garments by 0.63 percent respectively.

During the period under review about 7,225 metric tons of raw cotton worth US\$ 12.116 million as compared the 25,669 metric tons valuing of US\$ 42.566 million of same period of last financial year.

In first four months of current financial year, exports of cotton yarn came down from 171,141 metric tons worth US\$ 422.252 million to 140,286 metric tons of US\$ 392.752 million during the period under review.

Whereas the exports of cotton cloth was recorded at 732,426 thousand square meters worth US\$ 713.289 million as compared the 690,613 thousand square meters valuing US\$ 715.083 million of same period of last year.

However, in last four months country earned US\$ 962.819 million by exporting about 39,880 thousand dozen of knitwear as compared the exports of 34,061 thousand dozen valuing US\$ 872.015 million of same period of last year.

During the period from July-October, about 133,370 metric tons of bed were costing US\$ 771.204 million exported as compared exports of 126,324 metric tons worth US\$ 755.307 million of same period of last year.

About 8,456 metric tons of tents, canvas and tarpulin worth US\$ 24.632 million exported as compared the exports of 8,467 metric tons valuing US\$ 23.591 million of same period of last year.

On month on month basis, the textile group exports decreased by 0.12 percent in October, 2018 as compared the same month of last year as textile products worth US\$ 1.130 billion exported as compared the exports of US\$ 1.132 billion of same month of last financial year.

It may be recalled that overall exports from the country during first four months of current financial year grew by 3.48 percent, where as it was up by 1.17 percent in month of October, 2018 as compared the same month of last year.

Source: breccorder.com - Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Pakistan: Commodities: Sluggish trading on cotton market

Sluggish conditions prevailed on the cotton market on Thursday as spinners were eager to buy quality lots only.

According to brokers, most commodity markets have slowed down throughout the country, undertaking only daily dealings on a short-term basis.

The cotton market has also resorted to such short-term planning as the textile industry is currently faced with huge unsold stocks of cotton yarn, they added.

Failure on part of the government to fulfil its commitments such as lower gas tariff for export-oriented industries and Rs8 billion allocations for export refund payments continues to shatter the confidence of trade and industry, brokers maintained.

However, strong interest in quality cotton from some spinners was a positive development because most of the deals were finalised above Rs9,000 per maund.

However, the world's leading markets maintained bullish trend with New York cotton closing higher for all future contracts and Chinese market standing firm.

The Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) kept its spot rates unchanged at Rs8,800 per maund.

The following deals were reported to have transpired on the ready counter: 600 bales, Khairpur Mirus, at Rs8,600; 1,200 bales, Rohri, at Rs8,700; 600 bales, Saleh Pat, at Rs8,625 to Rs8,700; 400 bales, Mirpur Mathilo, at Rs9,000; 600 bales, Ghotki, at Rs9,050; 1,400 bales, Rahimyar Khan, at Rs8,975 to Rs9,025; 400 bales, Sadiqabad, at Rs9,025; 600 bales, Khanewal, at Rs9,000; 1,800 bales, Rajanpur, at Rs8,750; 400 bales, Ahmedpur East, at Rs8,750; 1,200 bales, Haroonabad, at Rs9,700; 800 bales, Fort Abbas, at Rs8,625 and 400 bales from Hasilpur were done at Rs8,500.

Source: dawn.com - Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Two agencies to be appointed for template on FTA negotiations in future: Suresh Prabhu

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Friday said that two independent agencies would be appointed for preparing a template to negotiate free trade agreements (FTAs) in future.

He said that the country would now have a completely new approach towards negotiating these agreements.

"We are appointing two independent agencies, who will talk to all the stakeholders...it is a first major change. This will be a new template which will emerge for all future negotiations and we are working on it," he said here at a function.

The announcement assumes significance as concerns have been raised by industry, exporters and trade experts on FTAs being implemented by India.

They say that these pacts have significantly benefited India's trading partners but not Indian industry. Several sectors, including steel, have demanded that they be removed from the purview of such agreements as these lead to dumping and significant jump in imports.

Under an FTA, two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate import duties on majority of the goods traded between them. Besides, both countries liberalise norms to promote services trade and attract investments.

India has, so far, implemented such agreements with ASEAN and countries including Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia. Several such pacts are also under negotiations with Australia, New Zealand, European Union, Israel, and proposed 16-member Regional Economic Cooperation Partnership (RCEP).

Serious concerns have been raised on RCEP negotiations with China as one of the member nations. Several ministries, including steel and food processing, have said that the pact would result in flooding of goods from China.

The trade gap with China has increased to USD 63.12 billion in 2017-18, against USD 51.11 billion in the previous financial year. India has trade deficit with 10 RCEP member countries including with South Korea and Australia.

Prabhu said, "while we need FTAs, we make FTAs in a way that it will benefit India to begin with and also other countries. We cannot grow at the expense of India losing and, therefore, we are working on this strategy."

This would also help in promoting the country's outbound shipments, he added. Talking about trade with the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the minister said despite the closeness of the member countries, "our export in SAARC region itself is sub-optimal".

Huge potential exists to boost exports in this region, he said, adding India is trying to work with the neighbouring countries to increase trade.

He said India is focussing on several markets, including Africa and Latin America, to boost exports.

Source: economictimes.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

9th Session of India-Kyrgyz IGC held in New Delhi, concludes with signing of Protocol

The 9th Session of the India-Kyrgyz Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IK-IGC) was held on 15-16 November 2018 in New Delhi and concluded today with the signing of Protocol.

The IK-IGC was co-chaired by The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, and Mr Kosmosbek Cholponbaev, Minister of Health, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

India and Kyrgyzstan have identified potential sectors where both sides may engage in areas like healthcare and pharmaceutical, environmental and technical safety, agriculture, information, tourism and culture, textiles and clothing, banking, labour and social development, mines and standards, metrology and certification sector.

Both sides agreed to hold business to business forums between Kyrgyz and Indian companies as well as the exchange of business and commercial information and search for partners.

Kyrgyz side proposed to consider the creation of joint food and food processing ventures for agriculture and meat production for export to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) markets.

It requested India to assist in incubation methods and breeding of freshwater fish, fish disease prophylactic treatment, primary processing and storage of fish and fish products, the creation of an electronic database for the pastures, monitoring, assessment and conducting of remote sensing of mountainous pastures including geo-information system.

The parties agreed to hold the tenth meeting of the Kyrgyz-Indian inter-governmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Source: devdiscourse.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Smriti Irani bats for rise in women entrepreneurs

Union Minister Smriti Irani has pitched for the need to further empower and encourage women to come forward and work as entrepreneurs, adding that the total number of women entrepreneurs in the country is still less.

Attending a women awareness programme organised by FICCI here, Irani said, "As per the sixth economic census, the total number of women entrepreneurs was pegged at 13 per cent, of which only five per cent of women were engaged in non-farm enterprises with the remaining working in the agricultural sector."

The Union Textiles Minister observed that there was a time when a nation's success was measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

However, when a woman is empowered financially, measurement of success of the society go up in terms of human development index (HDI), she added.

"When you empower a woman financially you actually, in terms of measurement of success of your society, go up in the human development index. Why is this important today? There was a time when we were measuring the success of a nation on basis of only the GDP."

She continued, "Today, we measure the success of a nation on the basis of the human development index.

If that is the measure of a nation's success, then it is imperative that we invest in women as entrepreneurs, invest in women as leaders."

Irani noted that difficulty in not understanding English was becoming a hurdle in the growth of rural entrepreneurs, and urged the removal of such barriers "As they do not speak and understand English, it becomes a hurdle in their growth.

The women of the country have to face defeat when it comes to language. They have talent.

For their success, we have to remove their language barrier and make them more comfortable," she added.

Citing an example of the Indian entertainment industry, Irani, who is also a former TV actress, said that women should engage in more technical roles beyond just acting on screen.

"One would notice there is a shortage of women in the technical aspects of films such as editing, cinematography, animation etc. The need is to position our girls to groom for such technical roles as well beyond acting and creative direction," she said.

Source: business-standard.com- Nov 17, 2018

[HOME](#)

Textile & apparel exports soar 38% in October: CITI

It is interesting to note that during the month, the apparel exports have grown at a whopping 54%, said Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) on Friday.

The exports of textile and apparel for October grew 38% to Rs 20,353 crore as against Rs 14,779 crore reported in the same month of 2017. It is interesting to note that during the month, the apparel exports have grown at a whopping 54%, said Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) on Friday.

Quoting the union ministry of commerce & industry, Sanjay K Jain, chairman, CITI, said the positive trend in exports for the entire textile value chain has been the result of CITI's continuous persuasion with the government and pragmatic approach shown by the union minister of finance, union minister of commerce & industry and union minister of textiles on T&C industry issues especially post GST implementation.

The concerned ministries have also come forward with timely policy support and intervention to boost the industry which was under major stress, especially after the implementation of GST, he added.

According to the data, CITI said that the exports of cotton yarn/fabs/made-ups and handloom products during the period grew 25% to Rs 6,704 crore as compared to Rs 5,376 crore in October 2017.

The export of man-made fabs/yarn and made-ups during the month grew 31% to Rs 3,037 crore as compared to Rs 2,312 crore in October 2017.

Similarly, carpet and handicrafts export grew 52% and 24%, respectively to Rs 1,013 crore (Rs 668 crore) and Rs 1,078 crore (Rs 870 crore), respectively during the month, Jain said quoting the data.

While the whole of textiles saw 28% growth to R12,025 crore as compared to Rs 9,377 crore in October 2017, that of apparel exports stood higher at Rs 8,327 crore (Rs 5,402 crore), reporting a growth of 54%.

According to Jain, the confederation is delighted to see the positive IIP data.

“It is pertinent to mention here that the IIP production data for T&C also witnessed robust year on year growth during September 2018 as compared September 2017,” he said.

Textiles and apparel industry saw a growth of 5.4% and 20.9%, respectively during September 2018.

He further said that the growing positive trend shows visible signs of recovery after a difficult period.

Industry is hopeful that government would take suggested measures to boost exports and limit imports.

“Gauging the current scenario, CITI is confident that in the coming months, with the government support, the industry would be in a much more comfortable position.

Continuous growth in exports and IIP index would result in boosting employment, scaling up production and most importantly making ‘Make in India’ initiative a reality for T&C industry,” he added.

Source: financialexpress.com- Nov 17, 2018

[HOME](#)

SMEs floundering even as Gujarat prepares for global investor summit

Apex industry body fears mass shutdown of units and massive job losses in State

Even as Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani is set to conduct a roadshow in New Delhi on Friday for the upcoming investment extravaganza Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS), industries in the State are reeling under cost escalations and improper policy implementation.

Raising concern over the deteriorating business atmosphere in the State, the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has claimed that industrial production in the State has fallen by about 40 per cent in the past 1.5 years and more units may shut down amid the dismal economic scenario.

Uncertain economy

“This has come as a fallout of multiple factors, including uncertainty on the economic front, improper implementation of GST and the demonetisation. We don’t want such a situation to cloud the Vibrant Gujarat Summit. So we are raising the issue with the government for remedial measures,” said Jaimin Vasa, President, GCCI.

The VGS is scheduled to take place in Gandhinagar in later part of January 2019.

A representation will be made to the State government with suggestions for resolving the issues hurting the businesses — mainly the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Shutdowns feared

Vasa said the industrial crisis worsened in the State over the past four to five years. Urgent measures are required for MSME units, which are at the incipient sickness level. “There is a need to make timely resolutions to avoid the closure of units,” Vasa added.

The overall economic slackness is visible in the elongated payment cycles by about 45-60 days.

“All sectors, including textiles, plastics, engineering, chemicals and dyes, are facing tough times. The domestic business is badly hurt, while due to escalation in overall costs, they are losing competitiveness in the international market also.

This way they are unable to take advantage of a weak rupee in the exports,” he said, expressing concern large-scale job losses in the State.

The textile industry, which is the backbone of multiple sectors, including yarn and dyes, is awaiting announcement of new textile policy in sync with the GST.

Delay in funds disbursal

GCCI also expressed displeasure over the State's indifferent approach to disbursal of funds to MSMEs under various schemes since April 2017.

“There is inordinate delay even in the release of refunds under GST also. The red-tapism continues despite GST being an online system. Sectors such as textiles are left with no incentive under GST,” said Nayan Sheth, Chairman of the GST Committee of GCCI. For the plastics industry in the State, environmental restrictions are posing a threat on over 2,000 units, which may result in unemployment for about 50,000 workers, they said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Odisha to set up three textile parks

Around 17 firms have expressed interest to invest to the tune of ₹589 crore in the handlooms and textile sector in Odisha during the recent Make in Odisha Conclave 2018 in Bhubaneswar.

Three textile parks will come up in the state at Dhamnagar, Chhatabar and Ramdaspur, according to state minister for handlooms, textiles and handicrafts Snehangini Chhuria.

Shahi exports, which has a ₹50-crore stitching unit in the state, will invest another ₹51 crore to expand its unit. While 2,500 workers are already engaged by the firm, the fresh investment will create jobs for another 2,500, media reports from the state quoted the minister as saying.

Aditya Birla Fashion (Pantaloons) will invest ₹66 crore in the state's apparel sector, while World Lotus Fashion will invest ₹20 crore to set up its stitching unit.

International fashion designer Bibhu Mohapatra also showed interest to work for the state's handlooms sector. The state has received around 180 design reference collections on Sambalpuri sarees from Mohapatra, she added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Nov 17, 2018

[HOME](#)

Government to soon unveil new industrial policy: DIPP Secretary

The government will soon unveil a new industrial policy which may include a dedicated chapter on the importance of design, a top official said Friday. Highlighting the significance of design and innovation in India's economic progress, Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Ramesh Abhishek also extended his "full support" to the setting up of a National Design Centre as early as possible.

"We are also bringing out a new industrial policy soon and we are proposing to include a substantial chapter and paragraphs on the importance of design, and how it should be taken forward," he said at a CII event here.

DIPP, in August last year, floated a draft industrial policy with the aim to create jobs for the next two decades, promote foreign technology transfer and attract USD 100 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) annually.

The proposed policy will completely revamp the Industrial Policy of 1991.

Among other things, the policy would endeavour to reduce regulations and bring new industries in focus.

The DIPP Secretary also said that enforcement of intellectual property rights was being improved through better training of police officers and judiciary.

"In principle the department (DIPP) would like to fully support the setting up of a National Design Centre. We can see how it can be done, it can be done through the mechanism of the India Design Council," Abhishek said.

Source: economictimes.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Vibrant Gujarat 2019 to focus on trade, exports from Gujarat

The ninth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat summit would focus more on trade and commerce, along with investments, Manoj Kumar Das, Principal Secretary to the Gujarat Chief Minister, said on Friday.

The biennial investment promotion event will be held at state capital Gandhinagar during January 18-20, 2019 with the theme "Shaping the New India".

"We have changed our focus a little bit. As we are growing now we are not only focusing at investment in Gujarat, we are also talking about trade ... exports from Gujarat," Das said at the curtain raiser event here.

The focus areas for the upcoming summit would be "Industry 4.0", trade, commerce and exports, youth empowerment among others, Das added.

Inviting more investors and businesses to the state, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said: "Whoever has started a business in Gujarat has been successful...it is a state with a guarantee of successful business."

Addressing the event, Rupani further noted that the investment summit has turned global in the past few years as discussions during the summit now also include "global issues and opportunities".

During the summit in January, the Chief Minister would present his vision for the state's development by 2022.

Regarding the steps taken for ease of doing business, Chief Secretary of the state, J.N. Singh said: "Under the GST regime, we are among the first states to roll out a well defined, transparent structure for incentives."

The last Vibrant Gujarat Summit in 2017 had 12 partner countries, along with 100 participating countries and 2,700 international delegates.

Source: theweekendleader.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

2 cotton purchasing centres to come up in Srikakulam

The district administration and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) have jointly planned to arrange two cotton purchasing centres (CPC) in the district soon. Cotton crop is being cultivated in the district in Bhamini, Sitampeta, Sarubujjili, Palakonda, Santhakaviti, Ranastalam, Rajam, Regidi and Vangara mandals in an extent of 30,000 acres.

Due to lack of proper purchasing centres, middlemen are exploiting cotton farmers every year.

Previously only one centre had been arranged every year December last week at Rajam in the district by that time middlemen used to procure cotton from farmers at cheaper price and in turn they sold the same produce for high price.

As per government fixed price for per quintal is Rs 4,100 but middlemen are procuring it from farmers for Rs 3,100 as a result, farmers are losing Rs 1,000 on one quintal cotton.

“For cultivation of cotton crop in one acre, Rs 20,000 investment is required and we are receiving six quintals per one acre. If we sold the produce to middlemen, we are unable to get even investment,” said cotton farmers, B Minna Rao, V Jagannadham, K Shanmukha Rao of Bhamini mandal.

To prevent middlemen role and to provide remunerative price to farmers, the district administration intervened and directed the market committee officials to start two purchasing centres.

Joint Collector KVN Chakradhara Babu directed the officials concerned for arrangement of two purchasing centres at Rajam and Sitampeta by November-end for early procurement of cotton from farmers. “We are going to arrange two centres soon at Rajam and Sitampeta,” said assistant director (AD) for marketing B Srinivasa Rao.

Source: thehansindia.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)

Walmart likely to kill brand Jabong

To lay off 60% of Jabong employees, accounting for less than 10% of Myntra-Jabong headcount of 3,500

Announcing Binny Bansal's exit as Chairman and CEO of the Flipkart Group on Tuesday, Flipkart's parent, Walmart, in its statement also said Myntra and Jabong would continue to operate as separate platforms within the Flipkart business. However, sources privy to the development told BusinessLine that Walmart is seriously contemplating killing brand Jabong after merging it completely with Myntra.

The rationale for doing so is that Flipkart Fashion, including its five private label brands, which garnered 50 per cent market share during the festive season, combined with Myntra, including its 17 private label brands, which enjoys a strong brand following, will suffice to dominate the online fashion market in India. The Flipkart-Myntra-Jabong combine holds nearly 80 per cent of the online fashion market share in the country at present.

On reaching out to Myntra, the company sent out the following statement: "Since Myntra's purchase of Jabong in mid-2016, the two brands have been steadily integrating key business functions and streamlining processes. This has resulted in revenue growth and a significant improvement in the customer experience. As the next step in this process, Myntra and Jabong will now fully integrate all the remaining functions, including technology, marketing, category, revenue, finance and the creative teams."

The statement further added that the "closer integration of Myntra and Jabong is a necessary step in its continuing development. Myntra's independence as a business will be preserved. From the consumer perspective, the well-loved Jabong brand will remain."

"Walmart will lay off up to 60 per cent of Jabong's 400-odd full-time employees, while it remains to be seen what whether they will retain the 50 contractual employees.

They are planning to eventually kill brand Jabong, as they are of the opinion that it can comfortably be merged with the Myntra business without losing out on market share," said the same sources.

Myntra and Jabong together employ 3,500 employees, of which Jabong employs 450. Overall, the lay-offs will account for less than 10 per cent of Myntra-Jabong's overall headcount, which is business as usual, when two organisations merge, say analysts and head-hunters.

Ananth Narayanan will continue as CEO of Myntra and will report to CEO of Flipkart, Kalyan Krishnamurthy. Myntra insiders said Narayanan will continue at the helm, as he enjoys a good working relationship with the Walmart top management, especially with the CEO of Walmart's International Division, Judith McKenna.

Other top management executives, including Gunjan Soni – Chief Marketing Officer of Myntra and Head of Jabong; Ananya Tripathi – Chief Strategy Officer of Myntra & Head of Categories; and Dipanjan Basu, CFO Myntra are on their way out.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Nov 17, 2018

[HOME](#)

Kochi port gets digital container tracking solution

The digital container tracking solution of DMICDC Logistics Data Services (DLDS) has brought in its ambit Cochin Port, an initiative that will streamline the container logistics operations at one of the busiest ports of on the Arabian Sea.

Logistics Data Bank (LDB), the single-window tracking solution that has hugely improved operations in Indian container logistics, launched its services at the ports of Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam this month.

Better visibility

With today's inclusion of Cochin Port, LDB's ICT-based services have become operational at seven ports of India at 15 port terminals. The launch of LDB operations at the Cochin Port will create visibility and transparency in the container operations. All the stakeholders will benefit, Alkesh Sharma, CEO and Managing Director, DMICDC, said, adding that the company is going to make it operational in all other major ports.

LDB, which currently handles 70 per cent of India's container volume, began its operations in the western corridor, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), and extended its container tracking services to Hazira and Mundra ports of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone. The extension of LDB's services to India's southern corridor follows a milestone of 10 million EXIM containers tracked by its single-window interface.

'Efficiency booster'

M Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust, said the container tracking services would greatly boost efficiency among supply chain operations through advanced ICT technologies. Cochin Port is one of the busiest ports in the country and the introduction of LDB operations will bring in more efficiency within the process of exporting or importing shipment of goods and would thus benefit the stakeholders in the supply chain logistics down the line.

Widely known as a game-changer technology for the Indian logistics sector, LDB's container tracking solution has helped reduced the port dwell time and the overall transportation time for export and import shipments.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Nov 17, 2018

[HOME](#)

Surat weavers get support from South Gujarat clusters

Power loom weaving clusters in south Gujarat including Valsad, Vapi and Umbergaon have supported the power loom weavers in and around Surat demanding reduction in electricity tariff on the lines of Maharashtra.

The Valsad and Umbergaon power loom clusters have submitted a representation to the state government for granting of subsidy for electricity tariff on the lines of Maharashtra.

Industry leaders said that the Umbergaon GIDC has 100 units of textile weaving industry employing 15,000 workers directly producing shirting and suiting fabrics. Majority of the units have been set up by the Mumbai-based industrialists and now they are facing stiff competition due to low power tariff in Bhiwandi and Tarapur in Maharashtra.

According to the industry association, the average per unit electricity tariff for industries in Gujarat comes at Rs 7.10, whereas it is Rs 3.54 per unit in Maharashtra.

The Federation of Gujarat Weavers Association (FOGWA) has been representing the Gujarat government from the last two months for the reduction of power tariff in the new textile policy. The prime reason for the reduction in power tariff is to stop the power loom weavers from shifting base from Surat and south Gujarat to neighbouring Maharashtra.

FOGWA office-bearers stated that the new textile policy under formulation needs a better understanding of the textile policy framed by the Maharashtra government and the benefits provided to the textile entrepreneurs including the reduced power tariff.

Two days ago, the FOGWA had written a letter to Gujarat's chief secretary, JN Singh for organising joint study tour to the industrial clusters of Navapur and Tarapur in Maharashtra. Also, the copies of the electricity bills of the unit owners in Maharashtra have been sent to the chief secretary to know the exact amount of tariff reduction enjoyed by the weavers in Maharashtra.

Source: timesofindia.com- Nov 17, 2018

[HOME](#)

Fall in crude oil prices to revive ailing power loom sector

Fall in international crude oil prices has given a reason to ailing power loom weaving sector to cheer. In the last fortnight, yarn manufacturers have reduced polyester yarn prices by almost Rs15 per kilogram giving a major relief to weaving sector.

Industry sources said reduction in polyester yarn prices has been witnessed for the first time post-Goods and Services Tax's implementation. In the last 14 months, yarn spinners were on the spree of increasing yarn prices, giving a tough time to power loom weavers struggling with market recession and the issue of lapse of input tax credit (ITC) to the tune of Rs600 crore.

Due to increase in yarn prices, weavers were facing loss of Rs2 per metre on unfinished polyester fabric.

For the first time, power loom weaving industry is observing a month-long vacation. Power loom units started shutting from October 25 and will reopen only after November 25.

Leader of powerloom weaving sector, Mayur Golwala said, “The crude oil prices in international market have slid below \$65 per barrel.

In the last fortnight, yarn manufacturers have reduced polyester yarn prices by Rs15 per kilogram. We believe that the industry will get real benefit when spinners will further reduce prices of yarn by Rs25 per kg.”

Golwala added, “The reduction in yarn prices will provide a new lease of life to the city’s textile business in the upcoming marriage season. Most of the power loom units will reopen on November 25.”

South Gujarat Yarn Dealers Association president Lalit Chandak said, “It is a positive sign for textile sector.

There is four-month long marriage season when the textile trade will rebound due to decrease in the yarn prices. It is believed that the yarn prices will further reduce due to fall in international crude oil prices.”

Source: timesofindia.com- Nov 16, 2018

[HOME](#)
