



**IBTEX No. 237 of 2018**

**November 19, 2018**

**USD 72.02 | EUR 82.08 | GBP 92.34 | JPY 0.64**

**Indicative Prices of Overseas Ring Spun Cotton Yarn in Chinese market:**

Indicative Prices of Cotton Yarn in China		
Date: 18/11/2018		<b>Prices in US\$ FOB</b>
Country	20s Carded	30s Carded
India	2.75	3.05
Indonesia	2.56	2.85
Pakistan	2.26	2.65
Turkey	3.20	3.45

**China yarn**

Yarn market moved down all around upon overall weak market environment. Operating rate of rayon yarn changed little. Price of rayon yarn moved down further around 300-500yuan/mt in line with decreasing VSF. Cotton yarn market remained weak with improvement in some regions. Polyester yarn price slid quickly, but sales pressure was still large due to weak downstream demand. Polyester/cotton yarn price was dragged down by feedstock and the sales were slow.

**International yarn**

The cotton yarn market has been subdued in Pakistan. Stocks have continued to mount and downstream demand was sluggish. India's exports of cotton products have grown by almost 27 percent in the first half of the fiscal year. In Bangladesh, cumulative garment export earnings in the first four months of the fiscal year are 20 percent ahead of the previous period. Egypt's clothing exports during the year to September were nine percent ahead of the same period in 2017.

**Source: CCF Group**

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **Massive Manufacturing Talent Shortage is Leaving Millions of Jobs Unfilled, Deloitte Says**

President Trump's tactical tariffs may be designed to improve the prospects for American manufacturing, but if there are no workers to fill the roles, there's little new duties can do about that.

Over the next decade, as many as 2.4 million manufacturing jobs will go unfilled, which will jeopardize more than \$2.5 trillion in economic output over the same period, Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute said in a new study released Wednesday.

Five out of 10 open manufacturing positions in U.S. manufacturing are staying unoccupied today thanks to the skills gap. More specifically, 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.

And things are only expected to worsen from there.

“Manufacturers in the United States are experiencing some of the highest levels of growth we’ve seen in decades, yet the industry seems unable to keep up with the resulting rebound in job growth,” said Paul Wellener, vice chairman, Deloitte LLP, and U.S. industrial products and construction leader.

“With nearly 2 million vacant new jobs expected by 2028, compounded by 2.69 million vacancies from retiring workers, the number of open positions could be greater than ever and might pose not only a major challenge for manufacturers but may threaten the vitality of the industry and our economy.”

The problem, according to Deloitte, is threefold: a negative perception of manufacturing, a shift in desired skillsets owed to the intro of advanced technologies, and baby boomers retiring.

To negate that negative perception of manufacturing, companies are considering new perks and workarounds.

“Some manufacturers are shifting their own policies to be more adaptive and flexible, such as allowing nonproduction work to be done from remote locations, while others are implementing new technology like automation to supplement the existing workforce,” the report noted.

In line with the topic of automation, while the generally held belief has been that these types of advanced technologies would eliminate human jobs, Deloitte said it’s actually the reverse.

“Thanks to technological change, the industry overall is trending quickly towards jobs—including entry-level jobs—that are high-skilled and require irreplaceable human skills, such as creativity, critical thinking, design and innovation,” the report noted. “When it comes to more production-focused positions, however, automation is becoming increasingly important in light of the skills gap challenge. Currently, 1 in 4 (26 percent) manufacturers are investing in productivity-enhancing technologies and nearly 60 percent said that they also plan to rely more on automation over the next three years.”

As the baby boomer population looks to call it quits on work, 39 percent of manufacturing companies surveyed said they’re adopting learning and development programs that allow for the transfer of knowledge from retirees to new workers.

Eighty-three percent of companies also said they’re prepared to pay more to attract and keep skilled talent, and 8 percent have even offered signing bonuses.

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 (51 percent),” Deloitte said. “This will likely pose a challenge for nearly half of manufacturers responding to new market opportunities and those increasing growth as measured by revenue (47 percent each).”

Source: [sourcingjournal.com](http://sourcingjournal.com) - Nov 16, 2018

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## **ASEAN ministers sign agreement on e-commerce**

Member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recently agreed to a cooperation framework to support the development of a digital economy through e-commerce schemes. The agreement was signed by ASEAN trade ministers at the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore after nine rounds of negotiations involving ASEAN member country representatives.

It is the region's first agreement to facilitate cross-border e-commerce transactions, according to Singaporean trade and industry minister Chan Chun Sing.

Discussions on the agreement had begun in June last year, according to an Indonesian newspaper report.

The agreement aims to facilitate cross-border e-commerce transactions, create an environment of trust and confidence in the use of e-commerce and to deepen cooperation among ASEAN member states to further develop and intensify the use of e-commerce to drive regional economic growth.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Nov 17, 2018

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## **US imports \$3,088.98 million worth apparels till Sept 2018**

The USA imported \$3,088.98 million worth of apparels from Canada and Mexico during January to September 2018 period; the countries USA has been doing business with, under NAFTA, since 1994.

The USA noted marginal decline of 0.30 per cent in its apparel import under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The import value, during the corresponding period of 2017, stood at \$3,098.25 million.

Mexico's apparel shipments plunged 2.77 per cent to clock in \$2,593.53 million, while the figures were \$2,667.29 million in the corresponding period last year. On the other hand, Canada got a considerable boost of 14.96 per cent in apparel export to USA with \$495.45 million in the review period of 2018.

Mexico's probably lost out due to the new United States-Mexico Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA 2.0, which came into force in late August this year. It has said to hamper US apparel import in September from Mexico.

Source: fashionatingworld.com - Nov 17, 2018

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## **Bangladesh apparel exports up 20 per cent in October**

Bangladesh's apparel exports grew 20 per cent from July to October 2018. Earnings from knitwear exports grew 17.8 per cent in this period. Exports in this segment crossed the strategic target by nearly 17 per cent.

Earnings from woven garment exports grew 22.6 per cent in this period. Exports crossed the strategic export target by over six per cent.

On the whole, apparel exports was over 84 per cent of Bangladesh's export volume in October. Export performance for October 2018 was a huge 30.5 per cent leap on a year-to-year basis. Export items in October were winter garments in majority.

In November too there are lots of orders for winter garments. Growth is coming from two factors: a rise in export of Bangladesh's apparel items due to winter and buyers seeking out a China plus sourcing strategy due to ongoing trade war.

Buyers are gradually moving away from China. The void this is creating is huge. But Bangladesh which is next to China still doesn't have the capacity to fill that void.

In the year ending June, Bangladesh's garment exports were up 8.8 per cent. The country increased its share of global clothing exports to 6.3 per cent in 2016 from four per cent in 2010.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Nov 17, 2018

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## **Vietnam: New FTAs to bring benefits for garment-textile sector**

The upcoming signing of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), have special significance for the textile and garment industry because they will help to diversify the market and export products.

### **Multi-dimensional impacts**

Appreciating the significance of the CPTPP for the textile and garment industry, Cao Huu Hieu, Managing Director of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex), said that the CPTPP was approved by the National Assembly and the implementation of the CPTPP is a good opportunity for businesses. However, due to the absence of US involvement, the market size is not as large. With the agreement, Vietnam's textile and garment industry is growing but not changing at a high level.

In fact, the market size of the participating countries is not large. Certain new markets such as Canada are small in size, but Vietnamese textiles are gaining strength in these markets. Therefore, the expectation from the CPTPP for the textile and garment sector is helping businesses explore new markets, and diversify the markets and export products of Vietnam.

Although China's plan on joining the CPTPP is unofficial, Managing Director of the Vinatex, Cao Huu Hieu, also said that, if China participates in the CPTPP, Vietnam and the rest of the CPTPP also faces fierce competition because China was the top ranked global textile exporter in both quantity and value. The products of the country are also very diverse, from garments to yarn and textile products. Therefore, if China joins the CPTPP, it will be difficult for domestic garment enterprises.

With the EVFTA, Managing Director of the Vinatex Cao Huu Hieu said that the European Union (EU) is the second largest market of Vietnamese textiles and garments after the US and always has a relatively high growth rate (from 7-10% every year). Therefore, when joining the EVFTA, Vietnam's textile and garment sector will enjoy a lot of tax incentives.

The EVFTA is expected to provide the same effect as the Vietnam-Korea Free Trade Agreement (VKFTA). Specifically, in 2018, Vietnam's textile and garment industry has enjoyed spectacular growth in the Korean market with more than a 20% increase. Currently, in the market, Vietnam is prepared to catch up with China with the rate of Vietnamese products at 34.46% and Chinese products at 36.45%. However, with the current growth rate, it is likely that Vietnam can overtake China in the Korean market this year.

"Hopefully, after the EVFTA comes into effect, Vietnamese businesses will make good use of the opportunities offered by the agreement so that we can dominate the EU market in return for other markets, especially in the case of China National participation in the CPTPP ", Managing Director of the Vinatex Cao Huu Hieu said.

### **Humans – An important factor**

In order to take advantage of the upcoming FTAs, many enterprises under Vinatex have invested in modern machinery and technology to increase labour productivity and improve the competitiveness of export products. Meanwhile, they have also invested in human resources through the plan on upgrading Hanoi College for Textile, Garment and Fashion into the University for Textile, Garment and Fashion, which was submitted to the Government and has been approved.

The university is expected to become a training channel for human resources of the textile and garment industry. In the development orientation of the school, Vinatex also requires the training of students to approach the thinking of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, with the school subjects on enterprise management, factory management, and corporate governance in the Fourth Industrial Revolution period.

With the workers directly operating machinery and equipment, the group also suggested that businesses regularly organise short training sessions to improve the skills of workers in operating the modern equipment, according to Managing Director of the Vinatex Cao Huu Hieu.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is the inevitable rule, forcing businesses to participate, invest in machinery and equipment, and thus have a redundant labour force.



The issue will not be solved by only the textile and garment industry, it is necessary to have coordination between the Government and ministries and sectors to guide vocational training for local workers. T

herefore, together with Vinatex, Pham Xuan Hong, President of the Ho Chi Minh City Association of Garment and Textile (AGTEK), said that AGTEK, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Trade Promotion Centre of Ho Chi Minh City have coordinated with Singapore's Training Centre to open training courses for management and technical staff on applying and operating new technologies, including training workers to improve their skills in the field of investment.

Source: nhandan.org.vn- Nov 17, 2018

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### **Bangladesh: BIMSTEC not to be visible unless FTA in place: Tofail**

Mentioning that BIMSTEC will not be much visible to the people of the member countries unless a free trade agreement (FTA) is implemented, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has urged the bloc to find ways to increase the intra-region trade.

“BIMSTEC would not be much visible to people to the member countries unless and until an FTA is implemented,” he said while inaugurating the Bimstec 21st trade negotiation committee (TNC) meeting at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital yesterday.

Nineteen officials of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) member countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand - participated in the meeting.

The function was also addressed by Commerce Secretary Shubhashish

Bose. BIMSTEC officials believe if the free trade agreement is implemented, it will help the intra-BIMSTEC trade grow up to US\$ 240 billion from the current US\$ 40 billion.

Tofail Ahmed said although the framework agreement of the BIMSTEC was signed long ago in 2004, the countries have failed to end the deal process through signing several required constituent agreements.

“If the Asean FTA can run very well and successful, why the BIMSTEC won’t be successful? We need to just put our sincere efforts in running the negotiation with utmost sincerity, devotion and consideration of others’ interest in order to make it a win-win for all partner countries,” he said.

The minister said globalisation and regional integration have been a reality of today’s politico-economic scenario across the globe. He mentioned that the Asian countries are actually the front-runners in the regional economic integration initiatives.

Tofail said the BIMSTEC member countries need to prepare and put hands together to harness the full potentials of the region.

He said Bangladesh has been very much interested about sub-regional and bilateral FTA with different countries as it will

graduate from the group of least developed countries (LDCs) in 2024 and there will be no existing market facilities for Bangladesh after its graduation.

Source: theindependentbd.com- Nov 19, 2018

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## **Pakistan: Despite dip in textile sector, knitted garment exports soar 16%**

Despite a slight dip in overall textile exports, the knitwear garment sector has maintained a steady pace of growth in its shipments and led the sector with an increase of 16.13% in its exports for October 2018.

Pakistan’s overall textile exports were recorded at \$1.13 billion in October, down 0.12% compared with \$1.132 billion in the same month last year.

However, the knitwear garment sector stood on top with the highest exports in the textile chain as well as in total national exports with a growth of 16% compared with October 2017.

Knitwear garment exports grew 10.41% in July-October 2018 against the corresponding period of previous year. With cut in input cost, textile sector vows to double exports

“Knitted garments have a great potential for expansion,” commented Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) Central Chairman Muhammad Jawed Bilwani.

“The knitwear garment sector can achieve new milestones and its export can be enhanced by 25% every year, provided the government gives serious consideration to the proposals sought from the sector,” he said.

The sector alone earned \$2.719 billion for the country in fiscal year 2017-18, which included knitted products like hoodies, shirts, t-shirts, jerseys, pullovers, trousers, jackets, etc. The sector has ranked high in the textile group over the past three years. Textile exports drop 16% after rebate reduction

Bilwani termed it appreciable that the government was giving priority to five zero-rated export sectors – textile (including jute), carpet, leather, sports and surgical goods – and was also prioritising the export industry for the provision of uninterrupted gas supply with special tariffs, which was a longstanding demand of the PHMA.

He was of the view that if the government considered the exporters’ proposals and resolved all their problems and issues, a breakthrough in exports could be easily achieved.

He called exports the lifeline that would support and strengthen the national economy. He also demanded that the government consider and set separate electricity tariffs for the five zero-rated industries and introduce uniform tariffs for water consumption as well. Currently, water tariffs for the industries in Karachi were the highest when compared with other regions and provinces.

Meanwhile, the PHMA has written a letter to the finance minister, requesting him to register all export-oriented textile manufacturers as zero-rated industries so that they could avail themselves of the facilities.

“Many small and medium export-oriented industries are not registered as zero-rated in utility bills due to cumbersome tax payment procedures as they first pay sales tax and then apply for tax refund,” he said.

Source: [tribune.com.pk](http://tribune.com.pk) - Nov 18, 2018

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### **Pakistan: Zero-rated status sought for textiles**

Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association (PHMA) has asked the finance ministry to register all textile export oriented industry as zero-rated for the purpose of utility bills, an industry official said on Saturday.

“Many small and medium export oriented industries are not registered as zero rated industries in utilities bills due to cumbersome procedure of FBR and they pay Sales Tax and then apply for Sales Tax refunds,” Jawaid Bilwani, President PHMA, said in a statement.

He said recently, the government revised its gas allocation and management policy, whereby the priority of allocation of system gas has been revised and the five zero-rated sectors had been categorised as second priority.

“Since the FBR Portal contains the detailed information of exporters like their NTN, STRN etc. and is refunding the sales tax in such cases to the zero-rated export industries.” Bilwani said it meant the export industries were unlikely to get the refund.

Source: [thenews.com.pk](http://thenews.com.pk) - Nov 18, 2018

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Textile & apparel exports jump 33% in October on higher overseas demand

India's textile and apparel exports stood at Rs 1,986 billion for October 2018 as against Rs 1,489 billion in the corresponding month last year

Textiles and apparel exports jumped by a staggering 33 per cent in October because of higher overseas demand. Led by the US, the largest importer of India's clothing, the boom has been triggered by recovery in the global economy. Depreciating rupee helped boost realisations of textile, apparel exporters.

India's textiles and apparel exports (₹ bn)

	Oct'17	Oct'18	(% Chg)
Cotton yarn, made up, handloom products etc	53.76	67.04	25.0
Man made yarn/fabric/made ups etc	23.12	30.37	31.0
Jute mfg, including floor covering	1.51	1.92	28.0
Carpet	6.68	10.13	52.0
Handicrafts and handmade carpet	8.70	10.78	24.0
Textiles	93.77	120.25	28.0
Apparels	54.02	83.27	54.0
<b>All commodities</b>	<b>1,489.63</b>	<b>1,986.35</b>	<b>33.0</b>

Source: DGCI&S

According to data compiled by the Ministry of Commerce, the country's textile and apparel exports stood at Rs 1,986 billion for October 2018 as against Rs 1,489 billion in the corresponding month last year. While overall textiles exports posted a jump of 28 per cent, shipment of apparel from the country

shot up by 54 per cent in the month under consideration.

Being closely linked with the country's economy and employment generation, the increase in exports indicates recovery in the global economy. The export figures have rebounded after a decline in shipment last year.

“The positive trend in exports for the entire textiles value chain has been the result of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry's (CITI's) continuous persuasion with the government, and the pragmatic approach shown by the ministries concerned. Timely policy intervention supported growth in such exports. The textiles industry was under severe stress especially after the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST),” said Sanjay K Jain, Chairman, CITI.

The positive trend implies visible signs of recovery after a difficult period. Industry experts hope that the Centre would continue to take progressive measures to boost exports and limit imports. Continuous growth in exports and index of industrial production index would result in boosting employment, scaling up production and, most importantly, making “Make in India” initiative a reality for the sector.

“September 2017 saw an unusual growth in garment exports with Indian exporters booking orders to take advantage of the old method of duty drawback. During the month, exporters booked orders accepting advance payments as well. So, overall export figure showed a sharp increase in September 2017.

Comparing that with September 2018, however, there was around 27 per cent de-growth in garments exports. In October, therefore, the export figure for textiles and apparel is not an appropriate indicator of actual growth,” said Rahul Mehta, president, Clothing Manufacturers’ Association of India (CMAI).

He said the rupee depreciation really helped India's growth in exports in the segment. "But, it remains to be seen whether the current growth continues. This is possible only when the rupee continues to depreciate against the dollar, but currencies from other competing countries, including China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, remain steady, which is highly unlikely," said Mehta.

The Center has offered several sops, including Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), a package of Rs 60 billion last year, to boost exports.

The domestic textile industry is projected to reach \$250 billion by 2019 from an estimated \$150 billion in November 2017.

India's textile and apparel export stood at \$39.2 billion in FY18 and is expected to increase to \$ 82 billion by 2021.

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

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## Cotton output may decline 11% this year on drought in major growing states

Gujarat and Maharashtra impacted most, second and third pickings may take a get impacted; cotton price may swing in coming weeks

The country's cotton output is likely to decline 11 per cent this year due to crop damage in major producing states like Maharashtra and Gujarat.

### SOUTHWARD BOUND

Million bales of 170 kgs



\*Provisional, E-estimates  
 Compiled by BS Research Bureau  
 Source: Ministry of Textile, Trade industry

The two states contribute nearly half of the cotton output in India.

Analysts estimate total cotton output at 32.5-33 million bales (of 170 kgs each) for the crop year October 2018-September 2019, down from 36.5 million bales reported in the previous year. The premier industry body, the Cotton Association of India (CAI), in its October estimates, forecast cotton output at 34.3 million bales for the season 2018-19.

The November rainfall, known as northeast rainfall season in trade parlance, however, is still awaited. This keeps the hopes of cotton consumers alive.

Deficient and erratic southwest monsoon followed by a long dry spell this winter season has impacted the standing crop.

While the first cycle of cotton picking is over, the second and third cycles are likely to get impacted badly due to spoilage of flower buds.

“The Marathwada region in Maharashtra received extremely below average rainfall this monsoon (June-September 2018). The entire Gujarat received 40 per cent lower rainfall than the long-term average (LPA). While the southern parts eventually received too much of rain, the northern region saw extremely low rainfall. Since Saurashtra contributes 55-60 per cent cotton output in Gujarat, the drought in this region hit cotton crop badly. We, therefore, estimate cotton output at 32.5-33 million bales this year,” said Biren Vakil, an analyst with Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

In the case of normal November rainfall, cotton flowers can recover some lost yield in the third cycle which may result in a marginal decline in cotton output this year, Vakil added.

Noticing the dry spell, CAI has revised the cotton crop estimate for Gujarat by 200,000 bales, Maharashtra and Karnataka by 100,000 bales each and Odisha 75,000 bales.

“Big cracks have developed in land across Saurashtra region due to lack of soil moisture following heat waves in the region. Therefore, second and third picking of cotton flowers looks impossible. Farmers have started uprooting plants and clearing the field for rabi crop sowing. Thus, sudden spike in cotton prices looks possible any time soon,” said Atul Ganatra, president, CAI.

Meanwhile, the benchmark variety of cotton i.e. Shankar 6 has been trading in a narrow range of around Rs 13,000 a bale for quite some time now.

According to the Second Advanced Estimate of CAI, total cotton output in Gujarat would stand at 8.8 million bales this year compared to 10.5 million bales during the previous year.

Similarly, cotton output in Maharashtra is estimated at 8 million bales this year versus 8.3 million bales last year. Cotton output in Andhra Pradesh is forecast to decline 1.6 million bales this year against 1.85 million bales last year.

Interestingly, the cotton season started with a marginal 1.5 million bales this year compared to 2.3 million bales last year. Amid rising demand from major consuming countries like China due to high import duty levied by the United States under the ongoing trade war, demand from China is set to turn towards India. This means that India’s cotton exports are likely to remain firm this year.

“Rising demand and lower output of cotton may trigger a sharp price rise this year which may dent textile mills’ profit margins in the coming quarters,” said an industry expert.

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

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## **TEA urges union govt to expedite FTA with Russia**

Tirupur Exporters Association Saturday urged the union government to negotiate and enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Russia to reap the benefit of the potential market there as that country had given the green signal to Bangladesh for duty free imports.

The green signal from Russia to Bangladesh, a competing country, would increase their exports, TEA President Raja M Shanmugham, said in a release.

In 2017-18, Russia imported Rs 241 crore worth knitwear garments and Rs 295 crore worth woven garments from India, he said, adding that as Russia is importing more winter based garments, there was a need to concentrate on manufacturing synthetic garments.

He pointed out that India has already negotiated with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia without any progress.

Raja Shanugam said that he has sent a requisition letter to the Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu on the need to expedite the FTA with Russia.

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

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## **Rupee fall boosts apparel exports**

*Total textile and apparel exports grew 38% in October*

The textile and apparel sector seems to have seen a revival, going by export performance in October this year.

Apparel exports grew 54% in rupee terms in October compared with the same month last year; in dollar terms it was 36% for the same period.

Total textile and apparel exports grew 38% in rupee terms and 22% in dollar terms for the same period.

An industry source, who did not want to be named, said one big reason for this was that last year exports had dropped due to the impact of GST introduction. Rupee depreciation also seems to have encouraged exports now.

According to Sanjay K. Jain, chairman of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, the IIP data for textiles and clothing saw a year-on-year growth during September this year from a year earlier.

Manufacture of textiles grew 5.4% this September year-on-year and manufacturing of wearing apparel saw a 20.9% growth for the same period. "The growing, positive trend shows visible signs of recovery after a difficult period," he said.

Chandrima Chatterjee, adviser to the Apparel Export Promotion Council, said market sentiment was good and that demand had picked up in the U.S. and the European Union.

Source: thehindu.com- Nov 17, 2018

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## **Meghalaya operationalises largest apparel manufacturing unit**

Meghalaya recently operationalised its largest apparel manufacturing unit owned by the School of Livelihood and Rural Development (SLRD), the unit was originally set up in 2017 by the Union Ministry of Textiles, , and has remained idle since then.

Covering an area of 45,000 sq. ft, the unit has three divisions. Two of them accommodate 105 sewing machines each, while the third division is equipped with 70 machines. It is expected that the unit will create 1,500 jobs in the region.

The unit was set up at South West Garo Hills district under the North East Region Textiles Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), an umbrella scheme for the development of various segments of textiles such as silk, handloom, handicrafts and apparels. Production at the unit has begun and will be ramped up in stages to meet the market demand in India and Bangladesh.

Source: fashionatingworld.com- Nov 17, 2018

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## **Proposal for India's Arvind Mills unit in Andhra cleared**

A proposal by India's Arvind Mills to set up its first plant outside Gujarat in Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district was recently cleared by chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu at a state investment promotion board meeting in Amaravati. Likely to start production in early 2020, the mill will offer jobs to 20,000. Some other proposals were also cleared.

The plant will have a capacity to manufacture 24 million garments, primarily will produce denim jeans, annually, according to media reports from the state. Naidu is likely to lay the foundation for the mill on December 13. Japanese company THK will set up the plant.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Nov 17, 2018

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