TEXPROCIL NEWS CLIPPINGS
An ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED COMPANY

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL)
Engineering Centre, 5th Floor, 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai 400004. Maharashtra State. INDIA
W. www.texprocil.org E. ibtex@texprocil.org T. +91-22-23632910 to 12 F. +91-22-23632914

# IBTEX No. 230 of 2020 October 26, 2020

US 73.70| EUR 87.23| GBP 96.01| JPY 0.70

## NEWS CLIPPINGS

| INTERNATIONAL NEWS | |
|---|---|
| **No** | **Topics** |
| 1 | Global trade shows frail recovery in Q3, but outlook remains uncertain |
| 2 | Japan, Britain ink post-Brexit free trade deal |
| 3 | USA: Port of Los Angeles Nabs $9.9M Infrastructure Grant after Busiest September on Record |
| 4 | USA: Cotton's Roller Coaster Recovery Continues |
| 5 | China's luxury online purchases increase by 30%: Report |
| 6 | China is reconsidering its global strategy for yuan, says official |
| 7 | Nigerian importers interested in Vietnamese fashion products |
| 8 | S Korean envoy discusses investment opportunities in Bangladesh |
| 9 | Pakistan: Govt urged to allow duty-free cotton yarn to reduce production cost |

| | NATIONAL NEWS |
|---|---|
| 1 | World Textile Day on October 24: Effects of COVID-19 on Indian Textile industry |
| 2 | Freight train carries cars from Mumbai to Bangladesh |
| 3 | Spin a cotton comeback |
| 4 | India, Bangladesh collectively target 35% share in global textile and apparel trade |
| 5 | Indian MSMEs may use Ghana as gateway to Africa |
| 6 | Odisha govt planning new industrial policy to attract investment |
| 7 | The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) likely to be attached with department of commerce |
| 8 | PM Modi tells people to remember Vocal for Local while shopping; highlights khadi's growth outside India |
| 9 | Income tax return filing deadline extended till December 31 |
| 10 | Centre transfers ₹6,000 crore to 16 States |
| 11 | Excessive production will be eliminated: Amit Aggarwal on future of fashion |
| 12 | IHGF Delhi Fair’s 50th edition to go virtual from November 4-9, 2020 |
| 13 | Aditya Birla Fashion to raise ₹1,500 cr from Flipkart; shares surge over 6% |
| 14 | After pandemic woes, Noida’s apparel industry banks on Spring-Summer ’21 collection orders |

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Global trade shows frail recovery in Q3, but outlook remains uncertain

Global trade recorded a 5% drop in the third quarter of 2020 compared with the same period last year, according to UNCTAD's new Global Trade Update published on 21 October.

This marks an improvement on the 19% year-on-year plunge recorded in the second quarter, and UNCTAD expects the frail recovery to continue in the fourth quarter, with a preliminary forecast of -3% compared with the last quarter of 2019.Depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in the winter months, the UN trade and development body expects the value of global trade to contract by 7% to 9% with respect to 2019.

The uncertain course of the pandemic will continue aggravating trade prospects in the coming months," UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi said.

"Despite some 'green shoots' we can't rule out a slowdown in production in certain regions or sudden increases in restrictive policies."

Although a 7% to 9% decrease would be a negative finish for the year, Dr. Kituyi highlighted that it's a much more positive result than was expected in June, when UNCTAD had projected a 20% year-on-year drop for 2020.

Since then, trade trends have improved primarily thanks in to the earlier than expected resumption of economic activities in Europe and East Asia.

### China's notable recovery

China has in particular restarted its economy much earlier than initially expected, and the report highlights the country's notable trade recovery.

Chinese exports, after falling in the early months of the pandemic, stabilized in the second quarter of 2020 and rebounded strongly in the third quarter, with year-over-year growth rates of almost 10%.

"Overall, the level of Chinese exports for the first nine months of 2020 was comparable to that of 2019 over the same period," the report says.

Chinese demand for goods and services has recovered from the decline in the second quarter. Contrary to other major economies, its imports stabilized in July and August and then grew by a substantial 13% in September.

Export growth in September was also recorded in India (4%) and South Korea (8%).As of July, the fall in trade was significant in most regions except East Asia. But the sharpest decline was felt by the west and south Asian regions, where imports dropped by 23% and exports by 29%. The figures for July were, however, an improvement on the 35% fall in imports and a 41% decline in exports recorded in the second quarter.

South-South trade shows more resilience

The sharp and widespread decline in international trade in Q2 2020 was similar for developing and developed countries. But exports from developing economies appear to be recovering faster.

Year-on-year growth of developing nations' exports improved from -17% in the second quarter to -6% in July, while those from developed nations increased from -22% to -14%.

And South-South trade – commerce among developing countries – has shown some resilience, with the year-on-year decline sitting at 8% in July, up from 16% in the second quarter.

The report's assessment of trade in different sectors finds that the pandemic has hit the energy and automotive industries the hardest, while mitigation responses including teleworking and personal protection measures have led to strong growth in sectors such as communication equipment, office machinery, and textiles and apparel.

But UNCTAD's analysis gives special attention to COVID-19 medical supplies, which include personal protective equipment, disinfectants, diagnostic kits, oxygen respirators and other related hospital equipment.

According to the report, exports of COVID-19 medical supplies from China, the European Union and the United States rose from about $25 billion to $45 billion per month between January and May 2020. And since April, trade in such products has increased by an average of more than 50%.

The increase in such trade, however, has primarily benefited wealthier nations, with middle- and low-income countries largely priced out from access to COVID-19 supplies, the report says.

Since the outset of the pandemic, each resident of high-income countries has benefited on average from an additional $10 per month of imports of COVID-19 related products, compared with just $1 for people living in middle-income countries and a mere $0.10 for those in low-income countries.

This means that per capita imports of medical goods essential to mitigate the pandemic have been about 100 times higher for wealthy countries than for poor nations.

Click here for more details

Source: naija247news.com– Oct 25, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Japan, Britain ink post-Brexit free trade deal

Japan and Britain on Friday formally signed a bilateral free trade agreement that is set to kick in when the Brexit transition period — and the UK's economic relationship with the European Union — comes to an end.

British International Trade Secretary Liz Truss hailed the "landmark" deal as the UK's first major trade agreement as it once again becomes "an independent trading nation."

The UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) covers a range of sectors, from food and car parts to textiles and technology. London has said the pact will boost trade with Japan by 15 billion pounds ($19.5 billion; €16.5 billion) annually and make it easier for British companies to do business in Japan

"How fitting it is to be in the land of the rising sun to welcome in the dawn of a new era of free trade," Truss told reporters at a signing ceremony alongside Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in Tokyo.
Deal still subject to lawmakers' approval

The CEPA, broadly agreed to last month, comes into force on January 1. It is largely a copy of the existing EU-Japan trade arrangement, which only applies to Britain until the end of 2020. After that, at least as currently scheduled, the UK will no longer be part of the bloc's customs union and single market.

Japan currently exports goods worth about 1.5 trillion yen ($14 billion; €11.8 billion) to Britain each year, mostly cars, auto parts and other machinery. At the same time, it imports items worth nearly 1 trillion yen from Britain, mainly pharmaceuticals, medical products and cars, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Motegi said CEPA ensures continuity with the EU deal, and adds new areas of cooperation, such as e-commerce and financial services.

Britain said the new deal meant 99% of its exports to Japan would be tariff-free. CEPA also cuts tariffs on Japanese cars gradually until 2026, when they'll be eliminated altogether. That arrangement also stands in the current Japan-EU trade agreement.

The deal must still be approved by the parliaments of both countries.
Japan hopes for smooth Brexit transition

Britain formally left the EU as a political institution on January 31, four years after a referendum that saw voters decide to withdraw from the now-27-nation bloc. London is still haggling with Brussels to try and reach an agreement on what their new trade relationship will look like after the Brexit transition period ends at the close of the year. During the transition period, Britain is still trading with Europe, and internationally, as if it were an EU member.

Motegi on Friday raised concerns about the impact of the UK withdrawal on Japanese businesses, saying a smooth transition was important for companies that see the UK as a "gateway to continental Europe."

"It is of paramount importance that the supply chains between the UK and EU are maintained even after the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Japan has high hopes that an agreement is reached soon," he said.

Source: indianexpress.com– Oct 23, 2020

HOME

*****************

# USA: Port of Los Angeles Nabs $9.9M Infrastructure Grant after Busiest September on Record

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded the Port of Los Angeles a $9.88 million Port Infrastructure Development Program grant as part of $220 million in discretionary grant funding to improve port facilities in 15 states and territories through the Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program.

The Port of Los Angeles said the funding will help pay for construction improvements at the heavily traveled Harbor Boulevard-Front Street interchange and the Vincent Thomas Bridge in San Pedro.

"Support for this federal grant came from all levels of government," Port of Los Angeles executive director Gene Seroka said. "We are grateful to the U.S. Department of Transportation, including its Maritime Administration, the members of Congress who represent the port, and state and local leaders for recognizing the urgent need to modernize this critical junction of the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN)."

News of the grant comes as the Port of Los Angeles manages an influx of imports. The port processed 883,625 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in September, a 13.3 year-over-year bump marking the busiest September and the best single three-month quarter—2,701,847 TEUs—in the port's 114-year history.

"Despite unresolved questions about our nation's health, economy and export strength, imports have improved significantly after a difficult spring," Seroka said in September of the spike in TEUs. "I commend our longshore labor force, Los Angeles marine terminal operators, truckers and supply chain stakeholders who continue to rise to the challenge throughout this pandemic."

The port improvements call for new and improved on-ramps and off-ramps, in addition to enhancing access to and from Interstate Highway 110 and the Vincent Thomas Bridge. They will also eliminate a congested weaving section on the existing eastbound off-ramp, and ameliorate the intersections on Harbor Boulevard and Front Street, including adding a new signal at the new westbound ramp terminus.

The port said the project will significantly reduce delays, accidents and emissions at the largest port complex in the Western Hemisphere and in state-designated “disadvantaged/low income communities.” The Port of Los Angeles is designing the project and will construct it in collaboration with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7. Construction advertising is expected in December 2021.

The interchange directly serves two marine terminals that handle approximately 5 percent of all containerized goods to and from the U.S. It is also an essential link in the larger infrastructure network of the L.A.-Long Beach trade gateway  that handles nearly 40 percent of all imports to the U.S. and 25 percent of all U.S. exports.

This project is also supported and funded by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) via a request for funding through the South Bay Cities Council of Governments. LA Metro is providing $41.2 million, of which $37.4 million is for the construction phase.

North America’s leading seaport by container volume and cargo value, the Port of Los Angeles facilitated $276 billion in trade during 2019 and is considered the top port of entry for imports of apparel and footwear. San Pedro Bay port complex operations and commerce facilitate one in nine jobs across the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura.

“This $220 million in federal grants will improve America’s ports with nearly half the projects are located in Opportunity Zones, which were established to revitalize economically distressed communities,” U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao said.

In addition to the Los Angeles Port complex, grants were awarded to 17 other facilities. The Port Infrastructure Development Program aims to support efforts by ports and industry stakeholders to improve facility and freight infrastructure to ensure the nation’s freight transportation needs are met, DOT said. The program provides planning, operational and capital financing, and project management assistance to improve their capacity and efficiency.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Oct 25, 2020

HOME

*****************

## USA: Cotton's Roller Coaster Recovery Continues

Cotton prices (nearby December futures) have now trekked into territory that no one thought possible a few months ago. Not now, not this soon. December futures now approaches 72 cents and has thus far gained 2.02 cents for the week, 6.15 cents for the month of October, and 21.53 cents since the horrible low back on April 1. Talk is now already circulating of 80 cents.

Particularly in recent weeks, prices have moved higher due to several factors including:

- The increasing likelihood that the U.S. crop is going to get smaller
- Delays in harvesting and the impact on yield and quality
- Signs and confidence that use/demand is on the rebound
- "Technical considerations" and speculative buying
- A weaker dollar that makes U.S. exports cheaper
- Expectations and news circulating that production may also decline in other key countries.

The market will continue to watch USDA's weekly crop condition and progress report and weekly export figures. USDA's next monthly crop production and supply/demand projections will be out on November 10.

Since the April low, this market has had seven short-lived "uptrends," and each one of those was followed by some amount of "correction" down. It's been a choppy, roller coaster trend from April until now. On earlier trends and improvements in price, it was noted that the 65 to 67 cents area and later the 68 to 70 acre were both good price risk management opportunities worth considering at the time.

The current uptrend from roughly 67 to almost 72 cents now has been swift (too swift?) and has yet to be challenged by any efforts to adjust or correct downward. But this uptrend could now face strong resistance at 72 to 73 cents. This is a major, major hurdle that will have to be negotiated. Does the market have enough bullishness left to push through 72-73?

The advance in futures prices is being met with a weak basis. So, that takes some of the shine off this glittering recovery. To me, the weak basis is a signal that buyers are not fully comfortable with these higher prices and finding a home for the crop at these prices. According to USDA-AMS, the basis in the Southeast, for example, is -275 December for 41-4/34 and -50 for 31-3/35. I can't remember the last time we had a negative basis for a 31 grade.

The recent good export report provided support for the trend in prices and confidence in use. Shipments were down slightly from the prior week but 48% of shipments were to China. Total sales were the second highest so far this marketing year, and sales with destinations to China were the highest in three weeks. Pakistan was a big buyer along with China, Mexico and Vietnam.

This advance beyond 70 cents shouldn't be ignored. The market should have support at 68, but that's almost 4 cents below where we are now. Do you want to risk that in hopes that price keeps going higher? What's your strategy? You should consider how to take advantage of this run but also leave opportunity to do better if prices move higher and also limit losses if a "correction" happens.

Source: cottongrower.com– Oct 25, 2020

HOME

*****************

## China's luxury online purchases increase by 30%: Report

As the Digital Luxury Report 2020 recently released by the Boston Consulting Group and Tencent Marketing Insight pointed out, the share of online purchases in the Chinese luxury market — which has benefitted from successful domestic pandemic control — is up 20 to 30 percent year over year. Conversely, the American and European markets are down 25 to 45 percent over that same period.

The main reason for that growth may be attributable to the decline of global travel, making Chinese customers with strong purchasing power shift back to domestic shopping, said Judy Liu, Managing Director-Greater China, Farfetch. In addition, shopping, to some extent, helps people find psychological comfort and relief. The digital channel for luxury brands is no longer a 'nice to have' but a 'must have. Another takeaway from this year's Shanghai Fashion Week is 2020 will be a good year for independent Chinese designers and domestic brick-and-mortar stores due to lack of foreign competition.

More than 20 select shops have opened in Shanghai alone over the past few months, while new boutique shops in Hangzhou are as big as 600 square meters. More domestic growth is predicted to take place in China's smaller cities. According to the China Luxury Forecast — a report from Ruder Finn & Consumer Search Group, luxury consumers in lower-tier Chinese cities have shown strong purchasing power, and are poised to become the engine for future growth – outstripping consumers in first- and second-tier cities.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## China is reconsidering its global strategy for yuan, says official

China is reconsidering its strategy for the internationalisation of the yuan and planning for more policy support after completing a comprehensive review recently, according to a senior central bank official.

"As everybody knows in the past, the internationalization of the RMB (yuan) sticks to the market principles," Zhu Jun, director general of the People's Bank of China's international division, said at the Bund Summit in Shanghai on Saturday. "The role of the authorities was mainly focused on removing the policy obstacles for the free use of the currency. At this moment, we think there are some kinds of complications in the domestic and overseas situations."

Zhu said the government can be more proactive with policy support to facilitate the role of the markets. For instance, the central bank can improve bilateral currency swap agreements to better promote trade and investments, and try to coordinate various means of yuan cross-border settlements and payments infrastructure.

Yuan rallied to the strongest in more than two years earlier this week, aided by dollar weakness and China's economic recovery from the virus pandemic. The prospects of a victory by Joe Biden over US President Donald Trump in the upcoming election are also supporting the currency. Trump's trade war with China last year sent the currency to its lowest since 2008.

The authorities will remove existing obstacles for the yuan's internationalisation, with a steady liberalization of the capital account, increasing the yuan exchange-rate flexibility and improving liquidity in the bond market, Zhu said. While China over the years has made some progress — promoting offshore yuan trading, winning official reserve-currency status from the International Monetary Fund and introducing commodity contracts priced in yuan —the yuan, also called the renminbi, is a small player on the global stage.

Source: business-standard.com– Oct 26, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Nigerian importers interested in Vietnamese fashion products

According to the Director of the Trade Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Industry and Trade Vu Ba Phu, industries in the fashion sector, including textiles, footwear, and handbags have grown rapidly over the years and play an increasingly important role in the national economy.

Vietnam has made it onto the list of the three biggest textile exporters and producers in the world (only behind China and India), while in the footwear industry it is also among the world's top exporting countries.

During the webinar, Vietnamese enterprises introduced to their Nigerian partners a wide range of high-quality fashion products, including: shoes, backpacks, handbags, belts, hats, umbrellas, clothing, gloves, masks and fashion accessories, among others.

Many Nigerian businesses expressed a deep interest in Vietnamese products and exchanged details about materials, designs and procedures for ordering and delivering products.

Source: en.nhandan.org.vn– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

# S Korean envoy discusses investment opportunities in Bangladesh

South Korean ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-keun on Sunday met Bangladesh Investment Development Authority executive chairman Md Sirazul Islam and discussed investment opportunities in Bangladesh including strengthening business and investment cooperation between the two countries.

Appreciating the active business relations between the two countries, both sides agreed to work closely to explore cooperation and investment opportunities beyond the traditional textile and garment sector, in new areas such as ICT, infrastructure, health, and electronics automobiles, banking, and services.

According to the recent statistics of Bangladesh Bank, Korea is the 6th major FDI investment partner for Bangladesh with the accumulated investment of US$ 1.44 billion as of the end of March 2020, after the USA, UK, the Netherlands, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

For the first quarter of 2020, Korea's FDI to Bangladesh recorded $ 65.6 million.

Korea has played a meaningful role in developing Bangladesh's RMG industry by being the first and largest investor in the field from the late 1970s, said the Korean embassy in Dhaka.

Close to 90 per cent of Korea's investment in Bangladesh is in the textile and leather industries.

Source: newagebd.net– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

# Pakistan: Govt urged to allow duty-free cotton yarn to reduce production cost

Textile value-added sector has urged the government to allow duty-free cotton yarn to reduce cost of production and increase the country's exports.

Talking to Business Recorder, Muhammad Jawed Bilwani, Chairman, Pakistan Apparel Forum, said that the government's lack of priority and attention to increase cotton yield to support the entire value-added textile chain was highly shocking and deplorable.

He further said that Pakistan was an agriculture country but no concrete steps and measures along with productive policy had been witnessed from successive governments during the last several decades to uplift per hectare yield of the agriculture produce particularly of cotton.

Bilwani, in a joint statement with Mohammad Riaz Ahmed, Central Chairman, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association, stated that it was alarming that as per USDA Cotton Statistics, during last decade, Pakistan's cotton production decreased by approximately 35.42 percent from 9.60 million 480 lb bales in 2009-2010 to 6.20 million 480 lb bales in 2019-2020, cotton cultivation area per million hectare has decreased by approximately 18.33 percent from three in 2009-2010 to 2.45 in 2019-2020, cotton yield decreased by approximately 20.95 percent from 697 per kg/hectare in 2009-2010 to 551 per kg/hectare in 2019-2020, purportedly due to supply of substandard cotton seeds to farmers, which has caused colossal losses to the nation in terms of water loss, land loss, labour loss, yield loss, electricity loss beside financial losses to farmers.

They further stated that as per USDA Cotton Statistics, India has increased its cotton production by 28.26 percent from 23 million 480 lb bales in 2009-10 to 29.50 million 480 lb bales in 2019-20, cotton cultivation area million hectare has increased by around 29 percent from 10.31 in 2009-10 to 13.30 in 2019-20 and cotton yield decreased by around 0.62 percent from 486 per kg/hectare in 2009-10 to 483 per kg/hectare in 2019-20.

Further, cotton yield kg per hectare during 2019-20 in Australia is 2268, Brazil is 1759, Turkey is 1318 and USA is 922.

Huge export orders are available with the value-added textile but exporters are unable to take orders due to unavailability of cotton yarn in the country on competitive prices.

The government must immediately take notice of providing substandard cotton seeds to farmers by the suppliers and strict action must be taken against them as exporters see that supplying substandard seeds to farmers is an act against the interest of Pakistan.

Such state of affairs demands the government to allow import of 32 single yarn and below without any duties and taxes and the exporters, manufacturers and importers, will be given full liberty to import yarn from any country till the scarcity of cotton yarn is controlled and required quantity of yarn is available in abundance in all Pakistani markets to complete the export order smoothly.

The government should also allow import of cotton from neighbouring countries.

It is also crucial that the government should take all practical moves and steps to increase the national cotton produce aligned with the targets set for enhancement of textile exports in the Strategic Trade Policy Framework.

Pakistan should expand cultivation area and improve its cotton yield to meet the requirement of the value-added textile export industry which contribute around 54 percent in total exports, provide highest urban employment particularly to female workforce and supports around 40 allied industries.

The government should also give subsidy to those growers who will increase the yield as well as cultivation area per hectare on yearly basis. They said that our value-added textile sector is reeling under immense pressure of high costs of doing business, rising utility rates and several other problems.

Further, huge number of weaving industries has already closed down and this spiralling prices and unavailability of cotton yarn will crucify exports of value-added textile, which will lead to further closures of large number of export-oriented units.

Source: brecorder.com– Oct 25, 2020

**HOME**

*****************

# NATIONAL NEWS

## World Textile Day on October 24: Effects of COVID-19 on Indian Textile industry

A virus which started from Wuhan, China, took the world by surprise. It is being considered as the world's worst experience in human history. Almost every nation has been affected and has faced partial or full lockdown. On 24th march, when lock down was announced in India, it left everybody shocked and surprised. Initially Citizens took it as responsibility in the first phase but as it was extended, people started facing heat from all sides- rents, medical expenses, school fees, general expenses continued but incoming funds suddenly stopped.

Demand for Textile goods and products was suddenly NIL domestically and internationally. COVID-19 has not spared any industry, so in the case of Textiles, it is no exception. Textile Industry in India is the second largest employer after agriculture, direct and indirect both, hence it is one of the worst hits. Textile sector is a major contributor in Export in India e.g. 11.4% in total export earnings in 2018-19, valuing USD 37.5 Billion. India had a global share of 6% in export before the pandemic.

Textile industry in India, once projected to grow approx. CAGR 10-12%, to reach USD 220 Billion in 2025-26 but now things are not certain as industry has shrunk approx. 30% domestically in the first quarter and impact on export is also very huge. The International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) has found in a survey that 8% avg. orders have dropped worldwide and are expected 10% down from 2019.

The workforce is the worst of all to be hit by pandemic. People were left high and dry and the future was uncertain. While many NGOs and individuals took responsibility for the migrant workers, not every worker could have been reached and hence most of them with unknown future were forced to leave for their native places.

Now as things are gradually opening, the industry is facing workforce crunch, broken supply chain, lack of funds and loss of confidence. Workers are returning to the cities as they could not find work opportunities back home. Employers are also extending a helping hand to them to boost their business.

In recent times, hygiene has become the most important factor. Textile industry will be benefited with this new opportunity. PPE kits, masks, disposable towels, disposable bed sheets etc. are new areas where Indian manufacturers can take the lead. There is a big export market for these products. India has become the second largest manufacturer for PPE kits with more than 600 certified companies for its manufacturing.

The Central government has announced many schemes to boost the economy, especially for small-scale sectors including textile industry. Government has allowed 100% FDI by automatic route in the textile sector, it is supposed to attract USD 140 Billion foreign investment in the coming years. Government is also moving with Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) and Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF). According to India Brand Equity Foundation, Twenty-one readymade garments manufacturing units in seven states were announced for modernization and boosting the economy of the textile sector.

As textile is a consumer driven industry, it largely depends on the overall health of the economy and we should be optimistic for growth of industry in coming years. Though growth will lag in the coming months, is still expected, since India has potential to reach USD 70 Billion approx. in export by 2024 and will have much more global share.

Source: financialexpress.com– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Freight train carries cars from Mumbai to Bangladesh

In a first, freight cross-country trains started plying from Mumbai and Bangladesh from Sunday with a target of exports across the border. An official said that Kalamboli station of the Mumbai division transported for the first time about 23 wagons carrying 87 Mahindra Bolero pick-up vans to Benapole in Bangladesh fetching revenue of R21.29 lakh.

Central Railway (CR) has set up a siding at Kalamboli exclusively to transport automobiles. These Mahindra Bolero pick-up vans were loaded by National Carrier Corporation – a logistics partner for Railways and Mahindra & Mahindra company.

Similar facilities were also provided for automobile transportation at Chinchwad station on Pune Division, Nashik station on Bhusaval Division, Butibori and Ajni stations on Nagpur Division and Bale station on Solapur division CR has set up Business Development Units (BDU) at zonal and divisional levels recently. The BDU takes into consideration new proposals, schemes and suggestions submitted by the different freight aggregators, new customers, trade bodies and logistics companies.

"The railways' Business Development Units have been aggressively marketing to boost the freight and parcel loading. The automobile industry gets quick and economic transportation of their goods through railways," CR's chief public relations officer Shivaji Sutar said. Western Railway said since March 21 to October 21, 2020, commodities weighing above 1.54 lakh tonnes have been transported by them through 621 parcel special trains generating around Rs 52.08 crore.

Source: mid-day.com– Oct 26, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Spin a cotton comeback

India held a global monopoly over the manufacturing of cotton textiles for about 3,000 years — from 1500 BC to 1500 AD. It served as an ideal medium of exchange in the barter economy during the ancient period. During the middle ages, it was exported to Eastern and European markets. This was followed by the establishment of cotton mills by imperial powers in the modern period.

The first cotton mill in India was established in 1818 at Fort Gloster near Calcutta. It was a commercial failure. The second was set up by KGN Daber in 1854 and was named Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company. This mill is said to mark the true foundation of the modern cotton industry in India.

In Ahmedabad — also referred to as the ‘Manchester of India’ — the opening of Shahpur mill in 1861 and Calico mill in 1863 marked the city’s spectacular rise as one of the world’s prime cotton manufacturing locales. The muslin of Dhaka, Calicos of Calicut and embroidered cotton work of Surat and Vadodara were famous in the world for their fine quality, design and pattern.

*Major Contributor*

The Indian Textiles and Apparels (T&A) industry accounts for approximately 4% of the global T&A market. The T&A industry is one of the largest and most important sectors for the Indian economy in terms of output, foreign exchange earnings and employment. It contributes approximately 7% to industrial output in terms of value, 2% to the GDP and 15% to the export earnings. The industry is the second largest employer in India, next only to agriculture, employing 45 million people. Besides, another 60 million are engaged in allied activities. India is the largest exporter of yarn and has a share of 25% in the world cotton yarn export market.

Cotton production in India increased from 33.36 lakh bales in 1947-48 to 354.91 lakh bales in 2019-20. Nearly two-thirds of production comes from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab, collectively known as the Cotton Basket of India. In 2019-20, India contributed 36.56% to the total global harvested cotton area with a production of 35.49 million bales of 170 kg (29.3% to world production). Cotton is being grown traditionally in Telangana and its production increased from 35.83 lakh bales in 2014-15 to 68.58 lakh bales in 2019-20.

But, the sector is now going through its worst crisis in centuries. The nationwide lockdown led to a temporary closure of factories and lay-offs, mostly low wage workers. The pandemic has affected majority of India's export market (the US and EU together account for approximately 60% of total apparel exports from India in value terms), causing order cancellations/deferral resulting in inventory build-up and expectation of slower realisation of export receivables leading to higher working capital requirements. Domestic consumption too is impacted.

*Declining Production*

Cotton is freely exportable to Bangladesh, China, Vietnam, Pakistan, Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand. Bangladesh has been the largest importer of Indian cotton since FY15. However, restricted international trade due to the pandemic has increased the world and Indian stocks to the extent of 132.93 million bales and 27.4 million bales, respectively for 2020-21.

According to the Confederation of Indian Industry, due to Covid-19, the slowdown in yarn exports has reached 50%, severely impacting spinning mills. Textile units are unable able to repay annual interest to financial institutions. This, in turn, is affecting farmers' revenue.

The cascading effect of external demand shock, along with slack in the domestic market, has resulted in lower production. A Business Standard report projected that textile units will see a spike in unit costs by around 25% even if the lockdown is lifted immediately. The retail prices will see a jump because sanitisation and social distancing will add to the costs of the products, which will eventually be transferred to the consumers. This will make the deficient demand a perennial phenomenon for the industry.

Shattered Supply Chain

The virus has also shattered the supply chain. The weak links in the supply chain can pose a great threat to the entire ecosystem on which the textile business rests. The industry across its supply chain needs reorientation and restructuring for a more sustainable and resistant web. Robert Antoshak, a textile consultant, in his blog argues that, "the pre-virus apparel industry was not sustainable. It was only a matter of time before the ailments in the sector caused the industry to either falter or, worse, collapse. It doesn't matter: Covid-19 has elected the latter."

Global consulting firm McKinsey is of the view that once the dust settles on immediate crisis, the fashion industry will face a recessionary market and the industrial landscape will undergo rapid structural transformation. It argues that the T&A industry will see a period of recovery, which will be characterised by a lull in spending and slack in demand across channels.

Enrique Silla, the founder of Jeanologia, which develops sustainable and eco-efficient technologies for the finishing industry, says 'the psychological damage brought by the virus will make people less likely to spend as nobody will like to fill their wardrobe just to feel better when they cannot enjoy wearing those clothes.' If social distancing becomes a norm, people will stay out of retail stores. It also connotes long queues outside shopping malls, an implicit tax on consumers. If the textile industry has to sustain in the post-pandemic era, it has to regain consumer trust.

During the pandemic, the demand for masks and other health textiles increased beyond their supply and the Ministry of Textiles encouraged production of these products. However, this shift in demand is not enough to compensate for the havoc the virus has created on the industry. There will also be a shift from purchasing lifestyle needs towards basic commodities. The apparel industry has already lost the summer cycle of sale and given the current situation, it is almost certain that the winter collections will be hit as well.

Both the Central and State governments are implementing support schemes and relief packages for the resumption of the T&A industry to normalcy. These reforms, though necessary, are not sufficient to push the textile sector to its potential level. The anti-Chinese sentiment has brought in fresh opportunities for the producers. They need to improve their productivity and quality to replace China as the 'supplier of choice' in international markets. China is also fast losing markets on account of rising unit labour costs, and Bangladesh and Vietnam are filling the lacuna. India's textile units need technology upgradation, export promotion and tax incentives to survive. This will not only bring foreign exchange but also help India in its fight against poverty and unemployment.

Source: telanganatoday.com– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## India, Bangladesh collectively target 35% share in global textile and apparel trade

In a recent virtual meeting, textile ministers, senior bureaucrats and industry stalwarts, from India and Bangladesh unanimously agreed that both the countries should collectively target to achieve a 35 per cent share of global textile and apparel trade in the next 5 years.

As of now, India's overall textile and apparel export is around $ 39 billion (FY19), and before the coronavirus pandemic, it is expected to reach $82 billion in 2021. While on the other hand, Bangladesh apparel export was $27.95 billion in FY20 compared to $34.13 billion in the previous fiscal year. Earlier, its target for 2020-21 was $ 50 billion, while looking at the current conditions, it has now changed and is set at $ 33.78 billion.

Together, both the countries have textile and apparel exports of $66.95 billion, and together they have to achieve at least $350 billion in the next 5 years. They have to grow collectively with the rate of 5.22 times.

Dr Rubana Huq, President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), insists on collective efforts and urges to focus on 'go regional, go green'. While Dr A. Sakthivel, Chairman, Apparel

Export Promotion Council (AEPC), suggests having a joint expo of Indian and Bangladeshi companies where they can approach buyers together and get better value and more business collectively.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Indian MSMEs may use Ghana as gateway to Africa

To enhance India-Ghana bilateral trade and investment opportunities, World Trade Center Mumbai and World Trade Center Accra has jointly organised India-Ghana Trade & Investment Opportunities Virtual Summit'.

Indian MSMEs can take advantage of opportunities in rural development, agriculture technologies, agriculture cultivation, irrigation, agro-processing, sanitation and renewable energy projects in Ghana, H.E. Sugandh Rajaram, High Commissioner, The High Commission of India in Ghana said while addressing the summit.

"The Republic of Ghana is the headquarter of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and can serve as a gateway to the 1.2 billion-strong African population having a combined GDP of USD 3.4 trillion", said H.E. Dr. Michael Aaron N. N. Oquaye Esq (Jnr), High Commissioner, The High Commission of the Republic of Ghana in India at the summit.

He remarked that India is one of the largest foreign investors in Ghana in terms of projects registered as well FDI inflows. Bilateral trade has also jumped 48% over the last two years. India can help Ghana become a manufacturing hub and explore its linkages with the African market.

He said that the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report 2019 remarked Ghana as the best place for doing business in West Africa. Indian companies can explore investment opportunities in sectors such as gold, bauxite and iron ore mining, agro-processing, healthcare and other sectors.

T.V Ganesan, Second Secretary, High Commission of India in Ghana remarked that India is among the top three exporters of textile products to Ghana. Further, Indian companies can supply raw materials and transfer knowledge to Ghana businesses in the pharmaceutical sector. The Tree Crop Development Authority has been recently established in Ghana.

Vijay Kalantri, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai highlighted that WTC Mumbai is launching a Virtual Trade and Exhibition Platform, worldtradeexpo.org, and invites companies in Ghana to participate in its month-long Handloom Festival.

The inaugural session was followed by simultaneous Breakout sessions comprising discussions among representatives from the Textile, Pharmaceutical, Agro-Processing, Health care & Health IT, Mining & Mineral Exploration, Petroleum and Chemical sectors.

The event was attended by representatives from trade and industry, consular corps, academicians, MSMEs and students.

Source: knnindia.co.in– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Odisha govt planning new industrial policy to attract investment

The state government is planning a new, attractive and progressive industrial policy that will replace the one revised in 2015. The move aims to attract investors in various sectors. Besides the industrial policy, several sector-based policies are also in the pipeline, said a source in the industries department.

Even though the government had kept provision of incentives in the Industrial Policy Resolution, 2015, many states have since revised their policies by offering attractive incentives to lure investors.

“We are reviewing policies and the incentives (both fiscal and non-fiscal) of various states before coming up with a revised policy. Our proposal is at the discussion stage. Odisha remains one of the favoured destinations of investors. With a revised policy, we will be able to draw more investment. The new policy is likely to be unveiled ahead of the third edition of Make in Odisha conclave,” said a senior official.

Official sources in the state industries department said the government has received 286 business intents worth Rs 6.26 lakh crore in the last five years, of which the single window system has cleared 212 proposals worth Rs 5.28 crore. These projects are under various stages of implementation.

The revised policy is likely to offer incentives in power tariff and water supply and may allow more tax relief, especially to non-mineral industries. It is also likely to focus on easy availability of land through land bank and industrial infrastructure facilities like dedicated industrial clusters being developed at various places like the petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals investment region (PCPIR) in Paradip, steel hub in Kalinganagar, aluminium park in Angul, Infovalley near the state capital, food park near Khurda and textile park in Bhadrak.

The new industrial policy is likely to focus on growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups in the state. The official said the state government wants to offer the best incentives to investors in the revised policy.

Even as the government has nine sector-specific policies to draw investments in apparel, handloom, textiles, biotechnology, food processing, tourism, pharmaceutical and renewable energy, it has planned to bring about three more sector-specific policies. These include the BPO policy, the Odisha State Data Policy and IT and electronics policy, said an official source.

Source: timesofindia.com– Oct 25, 2020

HOME

*****************

## The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) likely to be attached with department of commerce

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which is increasingly being involved in prescribing quality norms for imports, may be shifted to the ministry of commerce and industry from the department of consumer affairs, official sources said.

Officials are preparing a note for the Committee of Secretaries to take the proposal forward, they said.

“BIS is likely to be attached with department of commerce as the national standard body has to function in close coordination with commerce ministry specially for making standards and quality norms for imported items,” said a senior consumer affairs ministry official.

The commerce and industry ministry had proposed such a move earlier also. “But former consumer affairs minister late Ram Vilas Paswan never showed interest in it. Now that both the ministries are under cabinet minister Piyush Goyal, the proposal is likely to take shape fast,” the official said.

The commerce ministry argues that since BIS is related to framing quality standards for goods services and items which broadly deal with commerce ministry, the department should be attached with commerce ministry.

“We have assigned BIS for framing mandatory quality standards for 371imported items to imports of inferior quality. It will be better if BIS works closely with our ministry,” said an official.

The consumer affairs ministry had earlier argued that BIS should not be shifted because it deals with general consumers and looks into related issues. “BIS has to deal with consumer complains. So it will be appropriate if it is attached with consumer affairs,” a consumer affairs official argued.

Source: economictimes.com– Oct 26, 2020

**HOME**

*****************

## PM Modi tells people to remember Vocal for Local while shopping; highlights khadi's growth outside India

Even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday continued to urge people to “exercise patience, observe constraint” amid Covid, he also requested them to give priority to Made in India goods while shopping this festive season. In his monthly radio programme Mann ki Baat, Modi said “when you go shopping, do remember our resolve of ‘Vocal for Local’. While purchasing items from the market, we have to accord priority to local products.” He also highlighted the rising prominence of khadi outside India. “Not only is the popularity of khadi rising it is also being produced in many places of the world.,” he added.

For instance, villages in the Mexican city Oaxaca where the local villagers weave khadi. Modi narrated how a local resident Mark Brown visited India watching a movie on Mahatma Gandhi and learned about khadi and the way it is intertwined with rural economy and self-sufficiency. “He introduced the villagers of Oaxaca in Mexico to khadi and trained them. And now Oaxaca khadi has become a brand,” Modi said.

The Prime Minister informed that on Gandhi Jayanti this year, the khadi store in Delhi's Connaught Place saw purchases of more than Rs 1 crore. The fabric also gained popularity amid Corona with "self-help groups and other such institutions are making khadi masks in many places of the country."

KVIC had last week introduced khadi fabric footwear, launched by MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari, underscoring its potential to capture the international market, generate additional employment, and higher income for khadi artisans. "By developing and marketing such products overseas, Khadi India can capture a market worth Rs 5,000 crore," Gadkari had said urging KVIC to develop alternatives to leather accessories including ladies' handbags, purse, wallet in handcrafted Khadi fabric.

Modi also touched upon the significance of technology adoption in enabling self-help groups and farmer producer organisations to sell directly to consumers. For example, a Jharkhand based self-help group of women, which was able to deliver vegetables and fruits to households directly from farmers, through an app called Ajivika Farm Fresh. Goods worth over Rs 50 lakh have been delivered by the group during the lockdown.

Source: financialexpress.com– Oct 22, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Income tax return filing deadline extended till December 31

The income tax return (ITR) filing deadline for FY 2019-20 has been extended to December 31, 2020, for most individual taxpayers, from the earlier deadline of November 30, 2020. This the second time the tax filing deadline for FY20 has been extended.

As per the government's press release issued on October 24, 2020, "In order to provide more time to taxpayers for furnishing of their ITR, it has been decided to further extend the due date for furnishing of Income-Tax Returns as under:

The due date for furnishing of income tax returns for these individual taxpayers [for whom the due date (i.e. before the extension by the said notification dated June 24, 2020 as per the Act was 31st July, 2020] has been extended to 31st December, 2020.

The due date for furnishing of Income Tax Returns for the taxpayers (including their partners) who are required to get their accounts audited [for whom the due date (i.e. before the extension by the said notification dated June 24, 2020) as per the Act is 31st October, 2020] has been extended to 31st January, 2021.

The due date for furnishing of Income Tax Returns for the taxpayers who are required to furnish report in respect of international/specified domestic transactions [for whom the due date (i.e. before the extension by the said notification dated June 24, 2020) as per the Act is 30th November, 2020] has been extended to 31st January, 2021.

Consequently, the date for furnishing of various audit reports under the Act including tax audit report and report in respect of international/specified domestic transaction has also been extended to 31st December, 2020, said the government press release issued today.

Further, relief is provided to small and middle class taxpayers in the matter of payment of self-assessment tax, the due date for payment of self-assessment tax date is hereby again being extended. Accordingly, the due date for payment of self-assessment tax for taxpayers whose self-assessment tax liability is up to Rs. 1 lakh has been extended to 31st January, 2021 for the taxpayers whose accounts are required to be audited and o 31st December, 2020 for the taxpayers whose accounts are not required to be audited."

Source: economictimes.com– Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Centre transfers ₹6,000 crore to 16 States

The Finance Ministry said that out of the 16 States, five did not have any shortfall on account of GST compensation -

Borrowing done at 5.19 per cent interest; tenor to be in the range of 3-5 years The Centre on Friday announced that 16 States have received ₹6,000 crore as the first tranche of borrowing to meet GST compensation shortfall.

The borrowing is at an interest rate of 5.19 per cent. It aims to make weekly releases of ₹6,000 crore to the States and the tenor of borrowing is expected to be in the range of 3-5 years.

**Borrowing scheme**

The scheme of borrowing involves a special window, where the Centre borrows and then lends back-to-back to States and Union Territories. The scheme is available to all 28 States and three UTs with legislature, but since only 21 States and two UTs with legislature have opted the borrowing scheme, they will get money out of new mechanism

In a statement, Finance Ministry said that out of these, five States did not have any shortfall on account of GST compensation. So, money was borrowed and transferred to 16 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and 2 Union Territories: Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.

**Better interest rates**

On October 15, the Centre unveiled a new borrowing mechanism on the lines of the model adopted for funding 'externally aided projects.' After the Centre borrows the amounts, it will on-lend them to the States as a back-to-back loan in lieu of GST compensation cess releases.

This administratively easier borrowing arrangement will be done through a special window and has many benefits for the States including better interest rates (avoid differential rates) and need to borrow lesser amounts for funding the Aatma Nirbhar package.

Officials said, "It is just like what Centre does for externally-aided projects - by borrowing from World Bank, ADB kind of institutions and then lend to States. It will not be on the book of Central government, which means no impact on Centre's fiscal deficit. Also, if each of the State goes to borrow separately, then there will be too much fluctuation in the yield rates (on SDL Loans). But if Centre borrows for all of them together, the rate will be much lower."

It may be recalled that Under Option-I, States were to be provided a special window of borrowing of ₹1.1 lakh crore, and over and above that, an authorisation for additional open market borrowings of 0.5 per cent of their GSDP.

The authorisation for increased OMBs of 0.5 per cent of GSDP has been issued by Ministry of Finance on October 13 in relaxation of the reform conditions that were stipulated for eligibility. Additionally, under Option-I, the States are also eligible to carry forward their unutilised borrowing space to the next financial year.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Oct 23, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Excessive production will be eliminated: Amit Aggarwal on future of fashion

Ace fashion designer Amit Aggarwal believes coronavirus pandemic has pushed everyone in the fashion industry to adapt to "newer workmanship" and focus on quality rather than quantity.

The Delhi-based couturier, who is known for his use of recycled material to create modern silhouettes adorned with traditional Indian craftsmanship, said the pandemic-induced lockdown was an opportunity for him to rediscover the ethos of his label.

"The future of fashion will be built on rightfully taking care of the craftsman, inventing and training them to produce meticulously made pieces and eliminating excessive production inthe post pandemic era," Aggarwal told PTI in an interview.

Growing up in a family of engineers, science was always a huge influence on the designer's work and after graduating from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in 1999 when he launched his eponymous label, technology played a huge part.

The designer usedexperimental textiles as well as techniques to create garments from recycled material with sustainability as the central idea.

The couturier believes his time at home helped him in finding out new ways to promote sustainability in fashion.

"Over the years, our understanding of up-cycling textiles and using sustainable practices has deepened and we continue to envision progressing towards a more sustainable way of running a fashion house."

"In past few months, fashion for me has becomecloser and more honest to the brands' core beliefs, values and aesthetics. Playing by our strengths, looking back and rediscovering our roots. I definitely see a shift towards more modern and newer workmanship," he added.

Amid the pandemic, Aggarwal also created his latest festive fashion edit "First Light". He unveiled the collection on Friday at the first-ever season-fluid and virtual edition of Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) in Mumbai, in a show presented by TRESEMME.

The collection, inspired by cosmos, symbolises blazing human spirit, said the designer, adding that his aim was to give the costumers something out-worldly.

"The aim was to transport the audience into an escape from the lives we live. It is a celebration of our collective yearning for freedom."

For the collection, Aggarwal combined chanderi and matka silk with industrial hand-weaving techniques inspired by traditional basket weaves.

He also mixed traditional lehariya and temple motifs with polymer in interesting collages.

"The effort was to be conscious of the world at large. We have relied on techniques and materials that we often use, but updated with contemporary silhouettes and an array of cosmos inspired colours," he said.

Source: business-standard.com – Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

# IHGF Delhi Fair's 50th edition to go virtual from November 4-9, 2020

Considering all circumstantial challenges owing to present travel restrictions, yet driven by its pressing objective of bringing exhibitors and buyers together, organisers of IHGF Delhi Fair – Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), conceptualised taking the virtual route to organise its fairs - the most viable option at this juncture.

The upcoming edition scheduled from 4th to 9th November 2020 will go live with 25 virtual halls featuring 12 well spread product segments. Over 1500 exhibitors from these categories will present optimum collections in home, lifestyle, fashion, textiles and furniture. A choice of 2000+ products and 300+ trend specific design developments complete the supply chain of home fashion and utility, collectibles, gifting and fashion accessories in the virtual space with engaging onsite experiences.

The fair offers plenty to choose from for domestic volume retail sourcing. The show is an excellent sourcing opportunity for Indian retail brands that strive to step-up their offer for top-end consumers, besides the global home & lifestyle retail brands/chains which have a growing interest in India-both for sourcing as well as retailing. Many of the Indian stores/wholesale buyers and leading e-Commerce chains keen to source international quality products within India , as you are aware, the Indian retail industry has emerged as one of the most dynamic and fast-paced industries due to the entry of several new players.

Mainly catering to the international buying community, on persistent demand, this show is now selectively open to domestic volume buyers in India, including wholesalers, distributors, retail chains, merchandisers, interior designers and hoteliers. IHGF Delhi Fair Virtual Autumn 2020 would be an exemplary exhibition with focus on product origins and inspirations that are popular worldwide for their exclusive character and quality. The collections, varied in inspiration, processes and materials offer an entire range to source from.

Theme Pavilions at the fair will bring in regional craft nuances. Visitors can see original craft making processes at live craft demonstrations on the virtual platform – a rare opportunity to see National Awardees and Internationally recognized master crafts persons share their handcrafting skills. The fair's Trend Area will feature forecasts and colour theories for seasons ahead as well as fashion shows displaying the latest collections in apparel accessories, fashion jewellery and adornments. The organisers have also lined up insightful and informative knowledge webinars as well as web panel discussions throughout the show.

An iconic international connect to India's leading manufacturers for home, lifestyle, fashion, textile & furniture segments and duly recognised as the world's largest congregation of handicrafts exporters, this six days trade appointment in India has been a sustained, proven and continued resource for importers, wholesalers, retail chains and design professionals. Domestic volume buyers and e-Commerce groups already patronizing the show include Furniturewalla, Fab India, The Good Earth Pvt. Ltd., Pepperfry, Archies, Jagdish Stores, Westside, Reliance retail, The Home Shoppe, Amazon, eBay, DLF Brands Pvt. Ltd., Ezmall; Tommy Hilfiger; Sleepwell; @Home; The Bombay Stores; Fab n Rugs; Trendsbee; Nicobar; Arvind Lifestyle Brands Ltd.; Flipkart; Hindware (EVOK ), Tana Bana Designs, Metros, The Purple Turtles, Ishanya Retail and Godrej and Boyce. From the hospitality and aviation sector, Oberoi Hotels, Taj Hotels and Resorts, and many others pre-register to visit and source.

IHGF Delhi Fair is organized twice every year in Spring and Autumn, by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), the apex organization representing handicraft manufacturers & exporters in India. EPCH facilitates its 11,000+ members to customize and offer unique styles and quality products to the global sourcing community. Beyond providing unparalleled business platforms to buyers & sellers, EPCH also provides comprehensive information about the sector to international buyers and ensures optimal interface between the Indian handicrafts industry and international buyers, facilitating harmonious business.

Source: businessworld.in – Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## Aditya Birla Fashion to raise ₹1,500 cr from Flipkart; shares surge over 6%

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited (ABFRL) has on Friday approved raising of ₹1,500 crore by way of the preferential issue to Flipkart Group. The equity capital will be raised at ₹205 per share. With this infusion, Flipkart Group will own 7.8% equity stake in ABFRL on a fully diluted basis. The promoter and promoter group companies of ABFRL will hold about 55.13% upon completion of the issuance.

The partnership is likely to transform apparel commerce in India and enable ABFRL to emerge as a robust omnichannel player, the company said in a statement.

Shares of the company are up for the third straight day and are currently trading 6.26 per cent higher at ₹163.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com – Oct 24, 2020

HOME

*****************

## After pandemic woes, Noida's apparel industry banks on Spring-Summer '21 collection orders

Noida's apparel industry is high on expectation with a revival in overseas markets.

The Spring-Summer collections 2021 -- between February and June --- is expected to fetch the industry at least ₹15,000 crore, according to industry analysts, higher than the ₹10,000 crore of a usual year, considering the lag throughout the year.

Around 600 garment export units had closed and the units in Noida suffered a collective loss of over ₹3,000 crore after the outbreak.

The industry has been seeing green shoots of late, recording a rise in exports in September after several months of continuous fall on the back of the coronavirus disease Covid-19 pandemic that hit many clients, and the domestic industry itself with a 68-day national lockdown that started in the last week of March.

Lalit Thukral, the president of Noida Apparel Export Cluster (NAEC), said that there was a 90% fall in orders in April this year, which gradually reduced over the last six months. “It eventually recorded a 10% rise last month over the same period last year, which indicates that the apparel sector is now on a growth-recovery path. Apparel exports in September this year was $1.19 billion, compared to $1.07 billion in 2019,” he said. “For the Spring-Summer collections ’21, we expect to bag orders of at least ₹15,000 crore. Till the date, against this expectation, we have received orders of around ₹5,000 crore. But, it will certainly get a big momentum from November as most of the overseas buyers are finalising the orders.”

Thukral, who is also the vice-chairman of bi-annual India International Garment Fair (IIGF), said that 65th edition of IIGF is virtual and was inaugurated by union textile minister Smriti Irani on October 15. “This month-long fair is aimed to help Indian apparel and accessories exporters, who will showcase their latest designs and apparel for Spring-Summer 2021 here. It is expected that 10,000 buyers will be connecting and networking with over 200 participants in the entire span of the fair this time. The one district one product (ODOP) program of Uttar Pradesh is also associated with this virtual garment fair. Total participants from UP are around 70, of which 66 are from Gautam Budh Nagar district, whose district product is apparel,” he said.

He said that more than 1,500 buyers registered themselves at this fair. “It’s just beginning and we hope that more than 4,000 buyers would visit the fair. We expect to get more orders as compared to last edition’s physical fair, where participants get around $200 million orders,” he said.

Another exporter, Manoj Sahu, who runs a garment export company in Noida, also said that the exporters have high hopes from the upcoming Spring-Summer Collections season. “The apparel sector witnessed a major setback of over ₹10,000 crore in the last six months owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, but now there seems to be some optimism as apparel exporters are looking forward to the international festive season to bounce back.

Several positive steps taken by the state and Centre, have resulted in this growth last month. Also, the pandemic has indirectly encouraged apparel exporters, to venture into a new area and diversify into medical textiles,” he said.

Sahu further said that among the major commodities of export, which have recorded positive growth during September 2020 with respect to September 2019 are carpet (42.89%), handicrafts excluding handmade carpet (21.40%), jute manufacturing including floor covering (18.62%), cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups and handloom products (14.82%), and readymade garment of all textiles (10.21%).

Source: hindustantimes.com – Oct 25, 2020

HOME

*****************