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The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council [TEXPROCIL]
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IBTEX No. 22 of 2018 January 31, 2018

USD 63.69 | EUR 79.23 | GBP 90.41 | JPY 0.59

Cotton Market

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

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
19218	40200	**80.61**

Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), January

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20110	42065	**84.35**

International Futures Price

NY ICE USD Cents/lb (March 2018)	71.03
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (Jan 2018)	15,085
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**91.97**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**92.85**

Cotton guide: The story is all about cut in positions. Precisely cut in positions by the speculative funds withdrawing their longs or rolling their part positions from front month contract to next. The total open interest which made multi-year high of 0.321 million contracts have declined in last few days to 0.312 million contracts. This is a clear indication of withdrawal of long position pulling cotton price lower. Ever since it made high of 84.65 cents/lb on 12th January there has been gradual decline in the price. Cotton for March contract has decelerated to 77 cents/lb.

With the recent price fall millers are aggressively booking their unfixed positions however, there isn't much surety that price would quickly turn back higher. In fact market has breached technically few critical support levels and currently hovering near 77 cents. By any means a break down below 77 cents convincingly may pull the price further down towards 75.70 cents. In technical study we see it as 50% retracement correction of the recent price rally that started from 66 cents to almost 85 cents.

In line with the global market the Indian cotton prices are also trading lower due to rise in arrivals. Prices for Shankar-6 have declined to 40,000 per candy, ex-gin (80.05 US cents per lb at the prevailing exchange rate). Rates for Punjab J-34 are also down at Rs. 4,183 per maund (about 79.75 cents per lb). The estimated daily seed cotton arrivals is about 199,000 lint equivalent bales (170 kgs); the figure includes 51,000 registered in Maharashtra, 50,000 in Gujarat, and 49,000 in Andhra Pradesh/Telangana.

Therefore, futures price have also declined. The most active February future ended the session lower at Rs. 20110 down by Rs. 60 from previous close and we believe market may remain sideways to lower on today's trading session.

This morning ICE cotton for the said contract is seen trading marginally higher by half per cent while believe later during the session the trend may continue to remain weak.
The trading range for MCX cotton for the day would be Rs. 20000 to Rs. 20240 per bale for February future at MCX.

Currency Guide: Indian rupee depreciated by 0.09% to trade near 63.66 levels against the US dollar. Weighing on rupee is general correction in US and global equity markets which shows weaker risk sentiment. Also weighing on rupee are concerns that Indian government may raise fiscal deficit target for next year. However, supporting rupee is general weakness in US dollar amid uncertainty about Fed's monetary policy. Rupee may witness choppy trade on mixed cues but some depreciation is likely given the weakness in equity market. USDINR may trade in a range of 63.5-63.75 and bias may be on the upside.

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

NEWS CLIPPINGS

	INTERNATIONAL NEWS
No	**Topics**
1	Europe's economy grew faster than the U.S. last year
2	Pakistan: No trading on cotton market
3	Pakistan: Cotton prices fall
4	German-Dutch partnership focuses on sustainable textiles
5	Uzbekistan introduces modern forms in cotton and textile production
6	Pakistani exporters look to benefit as ‘currency war’ gains traction
7	13th Dhaka Int’l Yarn & Fabric Show 2018 all set to draw huge visitors
	NATIONAL NEWS
1	Budget 2018: Buoyant exports mask problems at home for exporters
2	Marketing strategy, support from IIFT to boost khadi exports
3	Continuous fall in exports worries garment makers in Tirupur
4	Picking up the threads
5	Maharashtra's Solapur set to turn uniform manufacturing hub

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Europe's economy grew faster than the U.S. last year

Sure, the United States is growing at a nice clip. But Europe's economy is expanding at an even faster rate.

Economic growth in the 19 countries that use the euro currency was 2.5% in 2017, according to official data published Tuesday. Growth in the 28-member European Union also reached 2.5% last year.

It's the best period of growth for both groupings since 2007, putting Europe just ahead of the 2.3% expansion posted by the U.S. in 2017.

Europe, which has suffered years of anemic growth caused by a series of debt crises, is part of a global economic resurgence that could continue in 2018.
"Anything the U.S. economy can do the eurozone economy can do, slightly better it seems," said Jacob Deppe, head of trading at online currency broker Infinox Capital.
"With both the U.S. and eurozone growing in tandem and with Asian economies on a roll, the hope is that 2018 delivers continued growth, further confidence and economic stability for the first time in a decade," he added.
The improving economic picture in Europe helped boost the euro to $1.25 this month, an increase of 21% from its low of $1.03 at the start of 2017.
Related: Trump hints as trade fight with Europe
Things in Europe aren't perfect, however.
Unemployment is falling but remains high among young workers, and that's still holding back some countries.

Integrating migrants remains an economic and political challenge. And the region's aging population presents numerous challenges for health care systems and national pensions.

Investors got a look at some data for specific countries on Tuesday.
France's economy grew by 1.9% last year, according to its national statistics agency. That's up from 1.1% in 2016.
Growth in Poland hit 4.6%, a major improvement on the 2.8% rate posted in 2016.
Source: money.cnn.com- Jan 30, 2018

HOME

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Pakistan: No trading on cotton market

KARACHI: Dreary conditions prevailed on the cotton market on Monday as buyers stayed away due to slow off take of yarn and falling cotton prices in the world markets.

Trading activity resumed on an extremely slow tone as the week opened. Although the SRO for waiver of duty and taxes on lint imports was issued by the government last week, spinners are now facing a new quandary as cotton yarn prices started to decline due to lack of buying from the value-added textile sector.

While the spinners have huge cotton inventories, the yarn market has suddenly become depressed and slow, observed cotton broker Naseem Usman.

Meanwhile, polyester yarn prices moved up by Rs2 per kg on the back of rising petroleum prices in the world market. Polyester yarn prices are expected increase in local market next month.

The world leading cotton markets also remained easy on Monday, mostly due to low US dollar value against other leading currencies of the world. The Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) spot rates were firm at week-end level and no transactions were reported to have changed hands on ready counter till late evening.

Source: dawn.com- Jan 30, 2018

HOME

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Pakistan: Cotton prices fall

KARACHI: A day after listless trading conditions on the cotton market, the prices moved further lower on Tuesday in line with world markets where fresh decline was recorded owing to weaker dollar against other currencies. However, some buying interest was noted at the lower level as many spinners preferred to cover up their positions amid falling cotton prices.

However, activity remained restricted and uncertainty prevailed in the market.

Another factor which discouraged buyers from covering up their position was slow demand for cotton yarn in the domestic market.

There were reports in the market that the value-added textile sector is demanding removal of duty on imported cotton yarn.

The textile spinning sector is currently in distress as it faces the challenge of high cotton inventory and slow cotton yarn off-take in local market.

Falling cotton prices also impacted phutti (seed cotton) negatively, with Punjab quality being quoted between Rs2,700-2,900 and Sindh variety in the range of Rs2,700-3,300 per 40kg. Previously phutti prices were being quoted between Rs2,900-3,500 per 40kg.

The following are Tuesday's Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) official spot rates for the crop (2016-17) local dealings in Pak rupees for base grade 3 staple length 1-1/16" micronair value between 3.8 to 4.9 NCL.

Rate for	Ex-Gin Price	Upcountry Expenses	Spot rate Ex-Karachi
37.324kg	7,400	145	7,545
Equivalent 40kg	7,931	155	8,086

The KCA spot rates were lowered by Rs100 to Rs7,400 per maund.

The following deals were reported to have changed hands on ready counter: 400 bales, Gambat, at Rs6,700; 400 bales, Hingorja, at Rs6,800; 1,100 bales, Hyderabad, at Rs6,500; 600 bales, Shahdadpur, at Rs6,250; 4,000 bales, Mianwali, at Rs6,400 to Rs7,100; 1,000 bales, Bakhar, at Rs7,000; 600 bales, Liaquatpur, at Rs6,900; and 400 bales, Kachiwala, at Rs6,700.

Source: dawn.com- Jan 31, 2018

HOME

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German-Dutch partnership focuses on sustainable textiles

The German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles and the Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile have signed a cooperation agreement to support companies in implementing due diligence by harmonising sustainability requirements. The cooperation will increase the influence on labour rights and the environment in producing countries.

The German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles is a multi-actor partnership made up of companies, unions, non-governmental organisations, and standards organisations, as well as the Federal Government. The Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile Sector is a new instrument to work on the transition to sustainable, responsible international production and supply chains. The association was announced at the OECD forum in Paris demonstrating the importance of the diligence approach of the United Nations and the OECD for both initiatives. "With the challenges in global textile supply chains in mind, the cooperation between Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile and the Textiles Partnership is the proper approach in order to achieve permanent systemic change. On the way to joint European and international action, the alignment of sustainability requirements and tools is an important milestone," Dr Juergen Janssen, head of the secretariat of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles.

"The cooperation of the two existing national multi-stakeholder initiatives in the textile sector operating on the European market is an important step towards strengthening our impact. It leads us on the path to create, at least on the European level, a level playing field. This is an important aspect in making sure that Due Diligence is not an issue of competition, but rather a common denominator," Pierre Hupperts, chairman of the Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile.

"Major European textile companies have pressed for alignment of national textile initiatives within the EU. The Dutch and German agreement will contribute to clear guidance for business and better results for the working conditions and lives of millions of people in the garment industry," Sigrid Kaag, Dutch minister of foreign trade and development cooperation.

"This cooperation contributes to implement due diligence that is in line with the OECD guidelines throughout the EU market. It is a continuation upon the trustful collaboration between the German and the Dutch governments that exist for years with regard to this topic," Dr Bernhard Felmberg, German federal ministry on economic cooperation and development and moderator of the steering committee of the Textiles Partnership.

"C&A, as a member of both initiatives, warmly welcomes the cooperation between them. We believe that this partnership will create further synergies for member companies in implementing supply chain due diligence. It is important that fashion brands and retailers collaborate to address industry-wide sustainability issues together. We are happy to see that both initiatives have made strong commitment towards this new partnership," Aleix Busquets Gonzalez, global head of external stakeholder engagement at C&A.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Jan 31, 2018 HOME

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Uzbekistan introduces modern forms in cotton and textile production

The government of Uzbekistan issued a resolution "On measures to introduce modern forms of organization of cotton and textile production." Starting with the raw cotton crop of 2018, an experiment is being conducted. Domestic textile enterprises can order and pay in advance for the production of raw cotton directly from farms and other agricultural producers.

The government approved a list of 13 enterprises - organizers of cotton-textile production – which are direct participants in this experiment, Norma.uz reported.

According to the decree, these enterprises promote efficient and rational use of land, water and other resources, increase in yields and timely harvesting of raw cotton, and also ensure its further in-depth processing and production of products with high added value.

They are subject to the conditions and the procedure for the acquisition of agricultural machinery in leasing, the supply of mineral fertilizers, seeds, fuel and lubricants, chemical protection products and other material resources for farming.

Cotton fiber, produced for own needs within the cotton-textile production, is certified on a voluntary basis. In general, cotton fiber is subject to mandatory certification.

The volume of cotton fiber, exceeding the need for own production capacity, the organizer of cotton-textile production can sell to other domestic consumers under direct contracts or through exchange trades.

The document noted that the banks will lend the organizers of cotton and textile production in 2018 at the expense of the Fund for Targeted Financing of Government Procurement of Agricultural Products and Equipping with Agricultural Technology under the Cabinet of Ministers.

The amount of loans is not less than 60 percent of the estimated need for financing the cultivation and supply of raw cotton (calculated taking into account the existing conditions for farms that sell raw cotton in the framework of state contracts) at a rate of no more than 3 percent per annum and on terms stipulated for financing farms that sell raw cotton within state order.

Currently, Uzbekistan is the world’s sixth-largest cotton producer among 90 cotton-growing countries. It produces about 1.1 million tons of cotton fiber annually, which accounts for about 6 percent of global cotton production. The country exports cotton mainly to China, Bangladesh, Korea and Russia. One of the policy priorities of Uzbekistan is further development of its textile industry. Uzbekistan takes consistent steps to increase the volume of cotton fiber processing.

In the period 2010-2014, the textile industry of Uzbekistan received and spent foreign investments worth $785 million while 147 new textile enterprises with participation of investors from Germany, Switzerland, Japan, South Korea, the USA, Turkey and other countries were commissioned. Export potential of these enterprises amounted to $670 millions.

Source: azernews.az- Jan 30, 2018

HOME

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Pakistani exporters look to benefit as 'currency war' gains traction

As the rupee loses its value against major currencies, Pakistani exporters are trying to cash in on the opportunity.

Given rupee's fall against the US dollar as well as the pound and Euro, exporters stand to benefit as a cheaper currency makes their products less expensive, helping them gain competitiveness. While the Pakistani currency shed over 5% versus the dollar, its fall against the euro and pound was much heavier given the greenback's weakness in the international market.

The rupee has depreciated more than 6.5% against the euro in the last one month compared to just 2% against the US dollar. Against the pound, the rupee has lost over 10% in the last two months.

We will definitely benefit with the sharp appreciation of the euro against the rupee," Multinational Export Bureau CEO Babar Khan told The Express Tribune.

However, not all exporters have deals in euro.

Fawad Anwar, managing director of Al Karam Textile Mills – one of the country's leading composite units, said that they had stopped finalising business deals in euro due to its sharp fluctuations in recent years.

"Most of the business deals in recent years have been finalised in dollars mainly because of its stability," he added.

He, however, said that the rupee devaluation against the dollar is a positive for all Pakistani textile exporters.

The PML-N government has remained a staunch supporter of a stronger rupee. However, after keeping the rupee artificially stronger for over four years, it finally allowed the rupee to lose its value last month. The rupee lost over 5% against the dollar in the second week of December 2017.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Pakistan's textile exports in July-December 2017 touched $6.64 billion, up 8% compared with $6.15 billion in the same period of the previous year. With the help of government's incentives and low base effect, textile exports are expected to rebound in coming months. One major incentive for textile exporters will be a weaker rupee.

Currency war

Since US President Donald Trump took charge more than a year ago, the US dollar is fast losing its value against major currencies. In the last one year, the dollar has lost over 16% and 14% against the euro and British pound, respectively.

The trade war debate got further credence last week when top officials of the Trump administration at Davos, Switzerland, strongly supported the case of a weaker dollar to support the US exports.

Khan, who runs two textile factories in Karachi that export most of their knitwear to the EU and the US, said that the threat of a 'currency war' between major economic powers will hurt global exporters.

"Currency war is not good for any economy, including Pakistan," said Khan, "In response to the US move of weakening the dollar, other countries will also do the same and this will hit every other economy."

Prioritising trade: Enhancing the country's export competitiveness

But some believe the US administration will not be able to weaken the dollar after a certain limit.

“It’s easier said than done. I do not think Trump administration can go further with a weaker dollar,” said Anwar.

The stock markets in the US have been performing well and the Trump administration may have to increase the interest rates soon after which the dollar will gain value anyway, he added.

Source: tribune.com.pk- Jan 30, 2018

HOME

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13th Dhaka Int’l Yarn & Fabric Show 2018 all set to draw huge visitors

The 13th Dhaka International Yarn & Fabric Show 2018 - Winter Edition’ organized by CEMS Global-Conference & Exhibition Management Services Ltd and the Sub-Council of Textile Industry (CCPIT), China is starting tomorrow after successful achievements of the previous editions.

This year’s expo will be taking place along with two concurrent exhibitions titled the ‘2nd Dhaka Int’l Denim Show 2018-Winter Edition’ and '30th Dye+Chem Bangladesh 2018 International Expo-Winter Edition’ from January 31 to February 3 at International Convention City (ICCB) in Kuril of Dhaka, according to a press release.

After 12 highly successful editions in Bangladesh, the ‘13th Dhaka International Yarn & Fabric Show 2018-Winter Edition’ is all set to draw huge visitors from the Textile and Apparel industry of Bangladesh.

The expos will play an important role by showcasing the latest yarn & fibre, fleece, knitted fabrics, coated artificial fur, artificial leather, denim accessories, embroidery/digital printer, adhesives, dyestuff, catalysts, dyes and dye stuffs, dye and fine & specialty chemicals.

The manufacturers showcase will be fully equipped with all ranges of textile products enhanced with the latest technology, will set a new definition of smart fabrics in order to satisfy the growing demand of the buyers, the press release adds.

It will enable the Textile/Apparel Industry buyers to meet local and overseas textile & yarn manufacturers face to face for excellent qualities and reasonable prices.

These three international exhibitions will cater to 350 Int'l exhibitors from over 21 countries around the world, who will present their up-to-date fabrics, which are ready-to-use for garment, accessories, industrial use and other various applications.

The expo is one-stop biggest marketplace of Bangladesh for textile business, which will be open for trade and public visitors every day from January 31 to February 3 at International Convention City, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- Jan 30, 2018

HOME

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NATIONAL NEWS

Budget 2018: Buoyant exports mask problems at home for exporters

Indian exports, particularly from the month of August, have been increasing with the first nine months of 2017-18 clocking around 12% growth. With exports of about $224 billion during the same period India is on course to achieve $300 billion of exports. However, the numbers hide the fact that exports in the country are passing through tough times, mostly because of the domestic factors.

"The major problem which is faced by the sector is on the GST front because even if you talk about a very efficient refund system, the refund entails a time lag because you will be importing or procuring the product, producing a product and exporting it, and the refund will float to you. And since the cost of credit is pretty high in India, that is blunting the competitive edge of Indian export depending on sector to sector and the production cycle. But, on a rough estimate we feel that in most of the cases the competitive edge is blunted by 1-1.5% and since in global business profit comes from volume, even this little margin is making a huge difference which is affecting Indian exports," Ajay Sahai, DG and CEO, Federation of Indian Exports Organisation (FIEO) says.

What can also be worrying is that because of the perceived benefits of GST, there are talks of doing away with export promotion schemes.

"In fact, I would like the Finance Minister to provide continued exemption on any inputs required for exports because in many countries where GST or VAT system is in place, including EU, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa or Australia, they have carved out a separate exemption for exports. Because they know even an efficient system will entail some delay in refunds.

Secondly, for Micro and small sector, I would like him to come back with a comprehensive drawback scheme which not only refunds the basic custom duty, but which also refunds the input tax credit for the small exporter. Let him forego GST claim and he gets all the benefits at the time of export itself. So I would like him to announce a comprehensive drawback scheme which takes care of most of the problems of micro and small units," says Sahai.

For Rajiv Chawla, the President of Faridabad Small Industries Association, most of the procedural difficulties can be taken care of by the Ministry of

Commerce in a routine manner. "From this Budget, I have different expectations. I am looking for direct financial incentives and would request our Finance Minister to look at providing direct tax benefits to exporters in the MSME sector at least. For example, approved startups have such exemption, so why can export oriented MSMEs be provided something similar," says Chawla.

Chawla adds that the government should look at reintroduction or perhaps an enhancement of schemes for capital subsidy where MSME sector can invest in better technology, better machinery, and more productivity.
The Government last week notified the All Industry Rates (AIRs) of Duty Drawback effective from October, 2017. "As a step towards more efficient Input Tax Neutralization on the exports, after considering various representations from the trade and industry, the Government of India has enhanced the All Industry Rates of duty drawback for 102 tariff items. The Export Items mainly include Marine and Seafood Products, Automobile Tyres and Bicycle Tyres/Tubes, Leather and Articles of Leather, Yarn and Fabric of Wool, Glass Handicrafts and Bicycles, etc," said a government statement.

The thorn for most SMEs have been refunds under the GST and exporters have long complained that capital is being locked up for months, rendering most businesses uncompetitive and in certain cases putting the very survival of the business at risk.

According to Priyajit Ghosh, Partner, KPMG India, the upfront exemption for a reasonable period of time, maybe about two years should be provided. "Because we will get to know the real impact of GST only two to three years of time from now, this makes sense. Second is that e-wallet kind of a scheme where anyone gets upfront credit which you can use for the payment or duty. These are going to be useful. The credit refund provision is already there in the law and we have to wait and see if they implement it or not," says Ghosh.

However, according to MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India, there has to be a lot of simplification done for exporters and simplification would include the compliance, the processes that are embedded to get an incentive script or do anything else.

"There has to be focus on a lot of export simplification so that exporters are able to concentrate on their core competence. And their core competence is able to get an order from a buyer abroad, execute that order and deliver on time. That is their core competence. So all the other hassles that exporters face relating to tax, scripts and compliance should be taken away and that should be minimised to the extent possible," says Mani.

Mani adds that if it is possible to do that through an exemption, that would be good, but if not possible, then other processes to do with refund should be made very simple. "In fact, in the GST law, it was proposed that within seven days of the refund application being submitted, 90% of the account would automatically get credited, which means in my mind that the intention is already there. It is only now that the implementation has to be much better," says Mani.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- Jan 29, 2018

HOME

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Marketing strategy, support from IIFT to boost khadi exports'

Proper marketing strategy and support from trading houses and academic institutes like Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is the need of the hour to boost exports of khadi products, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu today said. He said that there is a huge scope to push exports of khadi products in the global markets as the world is moving towards natural and eco-friendly items. Wile textile sector contributes about 15 per cent in the country's total shipments, share of khadi sector is "very low," an official statement said quoting the minister. "Hence focus on exports of this sector becomes important.

End to end marketing strategy with support from trading houses and academic institutes like IIFT is the need of the hour," he added. Prabhu was addressing a round table discussion on taking 'KHADI: local to global' here. He informed that due to increasing demand for eco- friendly items, the ministry extended incentives to eco- friendly textile goods. IIFT Director Manoj Pant said that with a strong research capability, the institute can contribute towards establishing a market intelligence, give inputs on appropriate policy instruments and contribute towards cluster development. Lack of product diversification is quite visible through limited export basket of khadi, which currently includes silk and muslin, ready-made garments, textile-based Khadi and charkha.

Source: business-standard.com- Jan 30, 2018

HOME

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Continuous fall in exports worries garment makers in Tirupur

Tirupur: With exports falling for the third consecutive month in December, industrialists in the knitwear city are worried about downward business trend in the readymade garments (RMG) segment. RMG exports from the country plunged 40% year-on-year (y-o-y) in October and by 10%-13% y-o-y in November and December respectively.

Exporters believe that the central government was yet to realise the importance of providing incentives or the need for FTAs (Free Trade Agreements) for RMG with US and European countries to boost growth. "While the central government is making macro-economic corrections including demonetisation and GST, it has failed to realise the importance of hand-holding support like providing the right rate of duty drawback and other incentives," said Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA) president Raja M Shanmugam.

Earlier, the government stated that if firms pay GST, they would be able to get input credits. But the government did not bother about the effect of reduction in incentives ranging from duty drawback, rebate of state levies (RoSL) and merchandise exports from India scheme (MEIS), Raja Shanmugam said.

After constant requests from the industrialists, the government came forward to increase MEIS—that too till June, from 2% to 4%. Still overall deficit of the incentives stands at 2.7% compared to the pre-GST period.

So, Tirupur knitwear exporters, who operate on thin profit margins due to stiff competition, were not able to quote attractive rates to international buyers, said A Sakthivel Regional Chairman Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Southern Region).

"Once exporters lose buyers, it would not be easy to regain the business relationship. The knitwear industry has already been weakened due to multiple reasons including depreciation in the US dollar. The implementation of GST has become a death knell blow to the industry," Raja Shanmugam stated.

"There was a notion that in developing countries providing sops to the export firms was not necessary. But it is wrong. The government should provide sops and adequate infrastructure to ensure the sustainability of the industries," he said.

Referring to a recent tour of TEA office-bearers to Vietnam, Raja Shanmugam said, "We are self-certifying our nation as a traditional textile-oriented business hub but many new competitors like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia have overtaken India in the RMG exports and made-ups."

For instance, Vietnam, which had entered into the business only two decades ago, is exporting textile products to the tune of Rs. 2.2 lakh crore annually despite being an importer of cotton, he pointed out. India's business stands at only Rs.1.6 lakh crore, he said. "Their government's incredible support and Free Trade Agreements with the largest garment importing countries were major reasons for Vietnam's success," he said.

"There is a vast gap between the policy makers and the industry. The government should bring in knitwear welfare board, a dedicated research institute, and labour oriented measures, apart from restoring all the incentives," senior industry officials said.

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com- Jan 31, 2018

HOME

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Picking up the threads

Design talent and textiles from the northeastern states will find representation at Lakme Fashion Week, with a dedicated show and panel discussion.

WHEN it comes to sartorial distinction and creative chutzpah, people of the Northeastern states have them in spades. As evidenced by a growing tribe of designers and their textile explorations, and the popularity of street-style stars and bloggers from the region, fashionable folk from the states could teach the rest of the fraternity a thing or two about inventiveness, originality and sustainability.

It was with this sentiment in mind that the Lakme-IMG Reliance combine — organisers of Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) — decided to train their lenses on the northeastern states in 2016 in a bid to mine modelling and design talent from the area. And while the last few seasons have seen runway models, master-weavers and textile experts from the region step into the spotlight, the Summer/Resort 2018 edition (Jan 31-Feb 4), which will be unveiled in Mumbai today, will see the “Action Northeast” initiative swing into action.

Starting with a “Catalyzing Sustainable Fashion” dialogue on the region, in collaboration with the United Nations in India, Sustainable Fashion Day on February 1 will see a panel comprising Yuri Afanasiev, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in India; Orsola De Castro of UK-based Fashion Revolution; and Siva DeviReddy, founder of Gocoop, among others, debate ways and means to boost local crafts and grow the sustainable economy of the region.

Taking the dialogue further will be #NortheastMojo, a conceptual runway presentation featuring six designers from the sister states showcasing their design chops and highlighting their traditional fabrics and weaving techniques.

Even as Daniel Syiem will present his ongoing work with Ryndia, a heritage fabric woven by the weavers of Meghalaya, in a collection of gender-fluid and androgynous pieces, Karma Sonam Minister’s label Kuzu will use nettle, cotton and Merino wool fabrics woven with Sikkim’s Lepcha weaving technique that employs an extra warp.

Richana Khumanthem of the label Khumanthem will use Wangkhei Phee handloom textile made out of white cotton of the Meitei community of Manipur, woven on shuttle looms. The Riahs, the traditional breast-cloth woven on loinlooms worn by all 19 tribes of Tripura, will find reinterpretation in Aratrik Dev Varman of Tilla’s Tripuri Collection.

Meanwhile, senior designer Sonam Dubal returns to the Mumbai runway after almost a decade and will present a collection employing Eri or Ahimsa silk and muga silk woven by the Sualkuchi Handloom cluster from Assam.

Even as these designers attempt to reprise and give contemporary renditions to age-old traditions and tribal textiles, the show will attempt to acquaint the fashion fraternity with weaving practices of these states and hope that more creative minds pick up the threads of this unique Indian narrative.

While Kuzu's collection derives inspiration from the Lepcha and Bhutia tribes, Naga designer Jenjum Gadi will incorporate tribal weaves and patterns in his collaboration with Dimapur-based Sonnie Kath's Exotic Echo Society, using the traditional Naga backstrap weaving method, also known as a loinloom.

Source: indianexpress.com- Jan 31, 2018

HOME

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Maharashtra's Solapur set to turn uniform manufacturing hub

India's Maharashtra state will set up a garment park and a textile training centre with an investment of Rs 500 crore in Solapur, state textile minister Subhash Deshmukh said recently while inaugurating the second International Uniform and Garment Exhibition in the city, which is set to become a major hub for uniforms for the armed forces and police, he said.

The uniforms industry, including those of school, companies, military and paramilitary, is worth over Rs 18,000 crore, of which nearly Rs 10,000 crore is in the organised sector. Of the rest, Solapur contributes nearly Rs 1,200 crore with uniforms churned out from more than 1,000 manufacturing units in the city, employing over 60,000 workers, according to a news agency report.

The Bank of Maharashtra has also announced a special credit scheme which would help the manufacturers and traders in the park.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Jan 31, 2018

HOME

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