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1. Air audit can help textile mills save on energy cost

Energy conservation has become a focus for textile mills given the rising energy cost. Interestingly, the most expensive component in the total cost of compressed air is energy, says Anvar Jay Varadaraj, Head (Marketing and Corporate Communications), Elgi Equipments. To demonstrate the real savings on energy, the Coimbatore-based air compressor manufacturing major Elgi Equipments Ltd has joined hands with Indian Textpreneurs Federation (ITF) and designed a comprehensive programme on air audit. The programme includes information session for owners and managers on the compressed air best practices, practical training sessions for maintenance engineers and air audit programmes that helps recognise cost savings. Varadaraj said under the Elgi-ITF programme, air audits were conducted across 130 textile mills in the South over the past 12 months. The annual savings worked out to Rs. 14 crore with an average compressed air energy cost reduction of 43 per cent. Elgi will look at such partnership with machinery manufacturers across different sectors such as pharmaceutical and automobile among others. The company has invested significant sums over the last two years designing sustainable solutions that can help companies achieve their productivity goals, he said, without quantifying the investment. The company has recently launched a service Air Alert, a free of cost, sim-based data transmission service that will monitor the compressor's critical parameters to ensure optimum energy consumption and compressor failure prevention. Varadaraj said Elgi is committed to 500 air-alert equipped machines by the end of this calendar year. "We have to date, inserted the air-alert sim in the (Elgi) compressors owned by 21 members of the Federation. Explaining the term, Varadaraj said it is a review of an operation's use of compressed air, taking into account both - generation and distribution. While review of generation is a comparison of energy consumption, current condition and application to original specification, distribution is evaluating the use of compressed air in the plant, which could include leak in the air lines and general consumption. Commenting on the tie-up, Prabhu Damodaran, Secretary, ITF said the relationship is focussed on intelligent energy monitoring and optimising air consumption levels. "In our estimate, a spinning mill with 20,000 spindles would be able to achieve Rs. 1 crore savings on energy cost," he said, citing the savings potential.

(Source: Business Line)

2. Arvind signs MOU with Guj to set up mega apparel park

Arvind Limited, one of India's largest integrated textile and apparel major has signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to set up a mega apparel park with an investment of Rs 300-crore in Dahegam in Ahmedabad district. The MoU was signed after the state government announced its garments and apparel policy, 2017. The MoU was signed in presence of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Arvind Limiteds Executive Directors--Kulin Lalbhai and Punit Lalbhai. The governments policy envisages achieving textile-to-garment value chain of 5 Fs - farm, fibre, fabric, fashion, and foreign markets, said the release. The "mega apparel facility" will be a "first-of-its-kind" which will employ more than 10,000 people. The park is expected to commence commercial production in the fourth quarter of 2018-19 financial year and will produce over 24 million garments once it is fully operational. Arvind plans to commence commercial production in the fourth quarter of 2018 and they plan to create 10,000 jobs, a majority of which will be women. Kulin Lalbhai said that they are excited to support the Gujarat Apparel Policy which aims to create 1 lakh jobs in the state.

(Source: Business Line)

3. GST to make Chinese imports costlier at Jauljibi this year

With only a few days left for the centuries old trade fair to begin at Jauljibi, sellers said that trading under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime is likely to make Chinese imports costlier this year since they have to pay an international GST (IGST) on imports, which is to the tune of 10 to 28%. Goods from the neighbouring country were imported in the annual India-China border trade that ended on October 31, through the Lipulekha pass in Pithoragarh district. A trader who had participated in it said they will be forced to raise the prices of Chinese goods "by at least 10-15%." According to officials, Indian traders have imported goods worth Rs 7 crore to be sold at the fair that will begin on November 14. "It is the first time that we are trading under the GST regime. Until last year, we had to pay only one custom duty of 10% at the mandi in Gunji here. Now, we have to pay a whole set of different taxes under the IGST. We had to pay taxes differently for various items bought from China. To make up for these taxes and earn profit, we have to increase prices of goods," said Dinesh Garbiyal, a trader. Another trader, Chakar Singh, voiced similar concerns. "There is a difference between GST and IGST rates on readymade garments. While GST is 5%, the IGST is 18%. So, we will be forced to increase the costs of imported items by at least 10% to 15%. People prefer Chinese readymade garments such as jackets and blankets. They wait for a whole year to buy these at the Jauljibi fair," he said. "It is likely that prices of imported goods will be costlier this year than in 2016 after the implementation of IGST," said R K Pandey, trade officer, Dharchula. Jauljibi, located at the confluence of Gori and Kali rivers, almost 60 km from Pithoragarh, has had a rich trading history. The mela was a point of confluence for merchants from India, Nepal and Tibet, even drawing in traders from as far away as Kolkata. The present version of the fair, though, have Tibetan-Chinese products like jackets and shoes brought in by local and Nepalese traders.

(Source: The Times of India)

4. Odisha comes up with apparel rules

In an attempt to improve investment opportunity and create more employment in Odisha, the state government has come up with an operational guideline for effective implementation of the Odisha Apparel Policy, 2016. Under the policy, the state government will facilitate opening up of apparel units, parks, skill development centres and more. The guideline will be applicable to industrial bodies as well as young entrepreneurs who wanted to start their business in the state as per the policy. As per the guideline, entrepreneurs, who want to set up a textile unit, will have to obtain an identification number through the micro, small and medium enterprises department of the government whereas bigger industrial bodies will have to do same through department of industrial policy and promotion of the government. Besides, to set up apparel park, the promoters will have to obtain permission from the Odisha State Co-operative Spinning Mill Federation Limited (Spinfed), which monitor the physical and financial activities of member spinning mills and power loom industries in the state. The Spinfed will examine the preliminary report submitted by the promoter of the park and then accord approval. The land for the park will be obtained by the promoter itself. But, it will get assistance from the government for the land acquisition mainly for private ones. The state government has aimed to give a boost to the textile sector through this policy by setting up apparel units, parks and more in a range of Rs 10 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. "We have come up with six different policies under the ease of doing business based on the potential of the state. Textile is a focus sector," said an official of the textile department. The state has already proposed to set up two apparel parks in Bhadrak and Cuttack respectively, five integrated textile parks in Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Bargarh, Cuttack, Ganjam and one of the Kalahandi-Balangir-Koraput (KBK) districts, and another centre of excellence in Bhubaneswar for skills development. "We have showcased the projects in the previous Make in Odisha Conclave where we got overwhelming response from the investors. We are hopeful that by enforcing a feasible operational guideline, we will be able to get the investors with ease, which will provide a major boost to the ever-growing textile sector of the state," said the official.

(Source: The Telegraph India)

5. 43 cotton procurement centres to be opened in AP

The government has announced Rs.4, 320 minimum support price (MSP) per quintal of cotton, but the farmers are failing to get MSP as the purchaser is offering low price. At the review meeting held by Civil Supplies Minister P Pulla Rao with the officials, directed them to take necessary steps to ensure MSP to farmers in Guntur district. The Minister also instructed the officials to open purchase centres to procure cotton from farmers at MSP. He said that the agriculture department officials are expecting 4.66 lakh tonnes of cotton, out of 1.82 lakh hectares of farm lands in the district. The Minister said that the officials would collect photostat copies of pattadar passbook and aadhaar during the purchase. The officials will deposit the amount in the bank accounts of farmers. Marketing Department Commissioner S Anand Kumar said that the department would open 43 purchase centres across the State. The department will install CC cameras at the purchase centres to curb the menace of middlemen and take all steps for the welfare of farmers. The government has taken all steps to purchase cotton directly from farmers. Cotton Corporation of India officials would start 11 purchase centres in the district to purchase cotton produce from the farmers at MSP.

(Source: YarnandFibres.com)