

**IBTEX No. 92 of 2017**

**May 08, 2017**

USD 64.20 | EUR 70.57 | GBP 83.33 | JPY 0.57

<b>Cotton Market</b>		
<b>Spot Price ( Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm</b>		
<b>Rs./Bale</b>	<b>Rs./Candy</b>	<b>USD Cent/lb</b>
19696	41200	<b>81.89</b>
<b>Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), May</b>		
<b>Rs./Bale</b>	<b>Rs./Candy</b>	<b>USD Cent/lb</b>
20710	43320	<b>86.10</b>
<b>International Futures Price</b>		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb ( May 2017)		79.32
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT ( July 2017)		16,105
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb		<b>85.54</b>
<b>Cotlook A Index - Physical</b>		<b>89.1</b>
<b>Cotton guide:</b>		
<p>In the week gone by cotton fell over 1 cent to end at 77.77 cents per pound. During the week market was almost stable however major fall witnessed on Friday with follow through hefty profit booking and Chinese funds liquidation. The market continued to respect the 80 cents mark. This could be also a technical sell off which has pulled the price down.</p> <p>However, the overall perspective remains dubious with three major factors still looming in the market. A) Heavy unfixed on call sales, B) Non- commercial net long positions and C) robust US export sales drying the US Cotton inventory. We believe market would be watchful of these factors. Price may correct further downside in the near term as</p>		

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part of profit booking however hovering near the key levels where the aforementioned factors could play a vital role.

This morning ICE cotton for July is seen trading at 77.53 cents down by quarter per cent and believe the fall could be extend in early this week. Also from the technical perspective we are seeing market trading outside of the range with a double top chart formation indicating ICE cotton could prolong its correction towards 100-day Simple Moving average (SMA) levels of 76.37 cents. We see another 1 cent drop is in the room for cotton price to correct.

The detailed analysis shall be commented in our weekly report releasing today.

From the domestic front the cotton price for S-6 variety has been declining since past one fortnight and hovering around Rs. 20300 per bale. The price in the given period has shed over Rs. 300 per bale. We believe with steady demand and no major improvement in the flow of supply is keeping the domestic cotton price steady to slightly lower. Also the local cotton is taking strong cues from the global cotton price.

Therefore, the most active May contract at MCX ended the week at Rs. 20710 down by Rs. 110 from the previous week's close. We believe market may remain weak today and the possible trading range would be Rs. 20450 to Rs. 20750 per bale and recommend selling from higher levels.

**Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us :**

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**Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source**

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### China: Smart Textiles Alliance readies for COMPUTEX



By Willis Ke -- Inspired by bright global market prospects for smart textile products, the Taiwan Textile Research Institute has helped establish the Taiwan Smart Textiles Alliance, bringing together related manufacturers as well as government and academic research units to develop innovative products, set up

industrial standards and explore markets.

A study released by the U.S.-based Grand View Research predicted that smart textiles will enjoy compound annual sales growth of over 35 percent in the global market between 2016 and 2024, with the market scale to reach US\$9.3 billion by 2014. The report also found that Asia will be the fastest growth market in the world, with a compound annual increase of 38 percent during the period.

The textiles alliance is seeking to cash in on the great sales potential for smart textiles. Launched in June 2016, the group now comprises around 40 member firms in different fields, including upstream materials suppliers, textile makers, electronics and systems suppliers, accreditation organizations, designers and marketing channels.

The alliance is also aiming to build a sound ecosystem for the development of smart textiles in Taiwan. It is cooperating with related industrial associations, including the Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association, to set up Chinese National Standards for smart textiles and is collaborating with accreditation institutes to establish relevant accreditation regulations and criteria.

With the help of the Taiwan Textile Research Institute, six alliance members will showcase a variety of smart textile products at a special pavilion at the COMPUTEX 2017, which will run May 30-June 3 at Taipei

Nangang Exhibition Center and Taipei World Trade Center. The exhibits will include power-saving wireless physical sensing transmission modules, interactive textile fabrics and other smart textiles embedded with electronics components, from Ruentex, Everest Textile, AiQ/Tex-Ray Industrial, Sunstar Taiwan, Nine Million Tech and Maxtek Go-Go.

Source: chinapost.com.tw- May 08, 2017

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## **Pakistan: Country set to miss 14.1m bales cotton output target**

ISLAMABAD - The country is going to miss the cotton production target this year as well and that too by a huge margin, which would further push the agriculture growth of the country into negative zone.

According to Ministry of Textiles data, a target of 14.1 million bales was set for the year 2016-17. However, cotton sowing fell short by 20.82 percent in Punjab, leading to overall 15.78 less sowing at the national level.

Since 2009, cotton production is on the decline while other competing crops outputs are increasing. In 2009-10, the cotton production was 12914 thousand bales, in 2010-11 it reduced to 11460000 bales, next year it was 13595000, and after gradually decreasing every year the cotton production decreased to 10074000 bales in year 2015-16.

In the meanwhile, the farmers started shifting to other crops from cotton as the production of competitive crops like sugarcane, rice and maize increased during last five years. During 2009-10 sugarcane production was merely 49373 tonnes which grew to 65475 tonnes in 2015-16, while rice production in 2009-10 was 6883 tonnes which increased to 6811 in 2015-16. Maize production in 2009-10 was 3261 tonnes which increased to 4920 tonnes in 2015-16.

In year 2004-05 cotton production was 14.265 million bales which reduced to 13.019m bales in 2005-06. In 2006-07, the production was 12.856 million bales and next year in 2007-08 it reduced to 11.655 million bales. In 2008-09, cotton production fell to 11.89m bales and in 2009-10 it recovered a bit, reaching 12.914 million bales. Since 2010 cotton production

is on a continuous decline except year 2014-15. In 2010-11, production was 11.460 million bales, in 2011-12 it was 13.595 million bales, in 2012-13 13.031 million bales and in 2013-14 it shrank to 12.769 million bales. In year 2014-15, cotton production again improved to 13.960 million bales but next year in 2015-16 it again fell drastically. In 2015-16, cotton output could only touch 10.074 million bales.

The decrease in cotton production adversely effected the agriculture growth. In year 2004-05, the agriculture growth was 6.5 percent, which gradually reduced to negative in 2015-16. Year-wise, the growth was 6.3 percent in 2005-06, 3.4 percent in 2006-07, 1.8pc in 2007-08, and in 2008-09, the growth remained 3.5 percent.

After 2008-09, there was a sharp decline in agri growth and it reduced to 0.2 percent. In 2010-11, the growth was 2.0 percent, in year 2011-12 it touched 3.6 percent, in 2012-13 the growth was 2.7 percent while in 2013-14 and 2014-15 it remained 2.5 percent. In 2015-16, as the cotton production fell to 10.074 million bales the agriculture growth of the country plunged into negative zone of 0.2 percent. This year too, the agriculture growth is likely to remain negative.

“The major reason for the less cotton sowing was low cotton prices during previous year (2015-16), said Dr Khalid Abdullah, Cotton Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles. Highlighting efforts of government to support farmers in improving cotton production, Dr Abdulllah said measures have been taken for ample supply of quality cotton seed and loans.

Quoting State Bank, he said an amount of Rs 700 billion has been allocated for agricultural loans to be disbursed by commercial banks and micro finance institutions. Out of this target, Rs 10 billion have so far been disbursed among 35000 cotton farmers of Punjab and Sindh.

The SBP has also launched mandatory crop insurance policy for five major crops, including wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton and maize, he said. He said ZaraiTaraqiati Bank’s target for cotton crop-specific loans have been target at 60 percent of total loans.

Source: nation.com.pk- May 08, 2017

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## **Africa: Burkina Faso's cotton output may cross 800,000 tons**



Cotton production in Burkina Faso, one of Africa's top growers, is likely to cross 800,000 tons in 2017-18 season, according to the country's cotton association. In 2016-17, farmers in Burkina Faso produced 683,000 tons of cotton, around 17 per cent more than the 586,000 tons harvested in 2015-2016. Cotton is the

second largest export item for Burkina Faso.

For the new season, the government has set cotton price at 245 CFA francs (\$0.40) per kilogram, which is slightly higher than 235 francs in the 2016-17 season.

In 2003, Burkina Faso became the first country in Western Africa to allow cultivation of Bt cotton on an experimental basis. By 2007-08, genetically modified cotton became popular in the country. In 2009-10, farmers planted Bt cotton seeds on 120,000 hectares of land.

However, last season, the country returned to sowing conventional seeds. This has eliminated almost all short fibres, a Bloomberg report said quoting Georges Yameogo, general secretary of the nation's cotton association.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - May 07, 2017

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## Germany: PFAFF to showcase textile solutions at Texprocess



Enterprises Dürkopp Adler AG, PFAFF Industriesysteme und Maschinen GmbH, Beisler and KSL will present state-of-the-art industry 4.0 solutions at a joint booth at the Texprocess fair to be held in Frankfurt, Germany from May 9-12. The companies will exhibit silk, leather materials, high-speed sewing machines and robotic sewing

unit among other things.

On the joint booth, visitors can gain a live impression of the advantages offered by the networking of up to 1,500 sewing machines and the real-time analysis of all machine and production data – and see how simple and user-friendly such a system is structured. Also the replacement of the operator by a robot will become reality within the near future. A study shows how several working places are linked by a robot gripping arm so that sewing is done fully automatically.

At this year's Texprocess Dürkopp Adler AG will demonstrate its strengths with regard to the automation and digitisation of industrial sewing technology by the novelties to be shown and underlines its leading position in the world of sewing technology.

The latest Premium generation of the flagship M-Type makes it possible to network sewing places, e.g. in the automotive or home upholstery production, and machines can be adapted to different requirements via a central server. Thus, the individualised production in the Industry 4.0 era is as easy as never before. These digitally controlled machines are now available in all types of construction as flat bed, cylinder arm and post bed machines.

At the Texprocess, PFAFF Industrial will show flexible and high-performance sewing and welding solutions to process technical and non-technical textiles and leather. The presentation of the latest jeans solutions that offer the customer a real increase in quality and output will be one of the focal points.

Texprocess 2017 is also the perfect platform for KSL (Lorsch) to demonstrate the range of products of automated sewing systems to an international audience with an increasing demand for automation solutions in a growing number of segments.

As a trade show highlight PFAFF Industrial and KSL will show a joint 'robotics' innovation. The system accomplishes a fully automated bobbin change on the PFAFF Plusline 2481 using a handling robot

Source: fibre2fashion.com - May 08, 2017

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## **Bangladesh: Ten more RMG factories completed CAPs: Alliance**



The Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety (Alliance) has announced that during the months of March and April, ten additional Alliance-affiliated readymade garment (RMG) factories completed all material components outlined in their Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). The total number of factories in Bangladesh that have completed their CAPs has now risen to 76.

The Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety (Alliance) has announced that during the months of March and April, ten additional Alliance-affiliated readymade garment (RMG) factories completed all material components outlined in their Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). The total number of

The factories that have completed their CAPs are Alif Print & EM (Embroidery Village), Brandix Apparel Bangladesh Ltd., Envoy Textiles Ltd, Hop Yick Bangladesh Ltd, Karnaphuli Shoes Industries Limited, Lam Min Associates (Unit-2), Savar Dyeing and Finishing Ind, World Ye Apparels (BD) Ltd., Youngone (CEPZ) Ltd and Youngone Sports Shoe Industries Ltd Unit-2.

“We commend these factories for making concrete commitments to worker safety by achieving substantial completion of their Corrective Action Plans,” said Alliance country director Jim Moriarty. “Their laser focus on remediation is reflective of a broader push that has transformed safety in Bangladesh’s RMG industry and directly translated into lives saved.”

Meanwhile, the Alliance also continues to enforce accountability measures for factories that fail to prioritise remediation. In March and April, it suspended nine factories from the Alliance compliant factory list, bringing the total number of suspended factories to 146.

The Alliance was formed by North American retailers including Walmart and Gap after the Rana Plaza building collapse in April, 2013, that killed more than 1,100 people, mostly garments workers. Under a five-year plan, the Alliance has set timeframes and accountability for inspections and training and workers empowerment programmes.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - May 07, 2017

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### **Paris:Futuristic fashion: 'Smart' denim promises touchscreen tech clothes**



PARIS: A young man in a white t-shirt pulls on a dark blue denim trucker jacket, tucks his smartphone in an inside pocket and puts in-ear headphones in his right ear. He mounts a fixed-gear bike with flat, slightly curved wide handlebars. Riding through the streets of San Francisco, he occasionally taps or swipes his right hand over the left cuff of his jacket, as the directions he's listening to continually pop up on the screen of this advertisement.

It's an ad from iconic US jeans maker Levi Strauss for Project Jacquard, an initiative with Google that the companies started two years ago for so-called "smart" denim.

The future of the popular fabric was the focus at a recent international fashion fair in Paris -- after all most believe the word denim derives from the French "serge de Nimes", a serge from the city of Nimes.

The fair featured many wearable innovations such as a waterproof jacket with sunscreen bands and a cable in the pocket to recharge a cellphone, or jeans that keep your body temperature stable.

Once mainly the purview of athletic gear -- with moisture-wicking shirts and trousers and then clothing that can track motion, heart rate, and body temperature -- the new trend for fashion designers is to take everyday wear and transform it using new technologies.

This is clothing made from specially woven fabric with touch-screen control capabilities that can be designed in such a way to visually stand out or go unnoticed depending on designers' wishes.

French-based fashion company Spinali Design, for example, has created jeans that can give wearers directions without having to whip out the mobile at every single intersection.

Through blue tooth sensors stitched into the jeans' waistband, the smart phone stays out of sight.

"You put a destination into the pap (and) sensors will vibrate right if you need to turn right, left if you need to turn left," Spinali innovation director Romain Spinali told AFP.

In 2015, the company from the eastern French town of Mulhouse designed a bikini that tells women when it's time to apply more sun screen.

The two-piece retails for 149 euros (\$163) and comes with a small detachable ultraviolet sensor that, through a smart phone or tablet, sends a "sun screen alert" when the sunbather's skin needs more protective cream.

The detector is calibrated to the wearer's skin type and how much of a tan she wants to get, and is "virtually devoid of any radiation," Spinali said.

On their end, Google and Levi expect to release their denim jacket sometime this year, but it will come with a hefty \$350 price tag due in part to its special interactive fabric that allows the jacket's wearer to order various products online.

Other international etch and fashion companies have also jumped on the "smart" denim bandwagon.

Using thermo-regulated fabric and microfiber cloth popular in athletic wear, Brazilian textile maker Vicugna Tex til has designed denims that will keep the wearer's core temperature stable.

American designer Cone Denim for its part has blended its denims with technical textile fibres from equipment used on motorcycles -- this to better tout the sturdiness of its clothes.

But these companies recognise that there has to be more to "smart" jeans than just fashion sense and connected capabilities and that means making sure they are environmentally friendly.

"The consumer demands greater traceability and ecology, especially when it comes to denim because it is a product that is a bit controversial," said Marion Foret, fashion products chief for Premiere Vision Paris, which organises trade shows for the textile and clothing sector, including the denim show.

Denim is a product "that doesn't always carry the best reputation, so textile makers are forced to use more ecological processes," Foret added, such as making denims with organic or traceable cotton, cleaning denims without water, and using dyes that won't pollute the land.

In keeping with that trend, Dutch fashion designer Pauline van Wongen makes denims using fabrics from used and already worn jeans.

Others seek to keep consumers better informed like Pakistani manufacturer Artistic Fabric Mills which developed an application to retrace the history of the jeans.

But for some young fashion students the future of jeans is not all about technology.

"Connecting jeans to a smartphone is not necessarily what we want to have," said Aurelia Martin, who studies fashion in Brussels.

"There are problems that are a little more essential in terms of production, the dye, the cotton, the (jeans') pretty weak longevity, and the quality.

Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com)- May 06, 2017

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## **Pakistan Warned of Falling Exports**

The Pakistan Economy Watch on Sunday said exports, investment and remittances continue to fall hitting forex reserves which will result in another IMF loan.

Continued fall in exports since three years despite efforts of the government and private sector will result in lost export markets, it said, APP reported.

Exports are falling while imports have gone out of control due to liberal import regime which is creating serious problems for the economy, said Murtaza Mughal, president of PEW. The export officials waste time and money and later blame energy crisis to absolve themselves of all the responsibility, he added.

With ever-increasing imports, the trade deficit in the first nine months of the current fiscal year reached \$23 billion. Exporters have been demanding that the rupee should be depreciated to boost exports but government was not convinced of the exporters' argument.

It may be mentioned that textile is a vital part of our economy which comprises 55% of total exports. Pakistan's total export used to be \$25 billion out of which \$13 billion plus was textiles share. Now exports have been reduced to \$20 billion with textiles export reduced to \$11 billion.

In the past, the government depreciated the local currency to support exporters, but the move did not yield desired results therefore policymakers are not ready to repeat the mistake which is laudable.

Situation can be changed by ending adhocism, promoting SME sector, appointment of professionals to key posts and taking some unpopular decisions.

Source:financialtribune.com- May 08, 2017

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## **Pakistan: Govt to ensure 100pc certified cotton seed supply for farmers**

In order to achieve the maximum cotton crop output during the current sowing season, arrangements have been finalized to ensure supply of 100 percent certified cotton seeds to farmers during the current Kharif season.

During the current sowing season, about 38,000 metric tons of certified and approved seeds of cotton would be available for growers across the country.

The total requirement of cotton seeds were recorded at 40,000 metric tons for the sowing season 2017-18, said an official in the Ministry of Textile Industry.

He said that in order to ensure the availability of certified seeds, all the seed dealers had been directed to market cotton seeds as per standard germination of 75 percent.

The seeds dealers have also been asked to ensure the quality and quantity of the seeds as there should be no compromise on set standards, he added. He further said that a campaign would be launched for sowing of only certified seed to enhance per acre crop output in the country, he added.

During the current Kharif season, cotton crop to be cultivated over 3.118 million hectares of land across the country to fulfill the domestic requirements as well as to exports, he added. Cotton crop production targets during the season were fixed at 14.40 million bales as against the production targets of 14.1 million bales of last year.

Cotton crop to be cultivated over 2.429 million hectares of land in Punjab, where as in Sindh it would be sown over 0.650 million hectares of land during, he added. the current season.

Meanwhile, the cotton crop would be cultivated over 0.038 million hectares of land in Balochistan Province and about 0.001 million hectares in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province respectively, he added.

The cotton production targets for Punjab Province was set at 10.00 million bales and 4 million bales in Sindh, he added.

About 0.038 million cotton bales production were fixed for the Balochistan and 0.002 million bales in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the current crop sowing season.

The crop production targets were fixed at 14.1 million bales during year 2016-17, however, cotton sowing reduced by 20.82 percent in Punjab leading to overall 15.78 percent less sowing at national level, he added.

Source: pakobserver.net- May 08, 2017

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Mid-term foreign trade policy to be out before GST roll out: Sitharaman**

NEW DELHI: Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the revised mid-term foreign trade policy (FTP) is to be announced few days ahead of July 1, the scheduled date for the Goods and Services Tax roll out.

After holding a meeting with various stakeholders, including exporters as part mid-term review of FTP (2015-20) here, the minister also said that no suggestions were made to scale down the 2020 export target of \$900 billion, including services.

Given the current economic and geopolitical situations globally there are concerns that international trade may be impacted.

Sitharaman said suggestions were made that the review should be concluded by July 1 so that it is aligned with the GST implementation.

"We found merit in the suggestion that the review of the policy should be well in time to go along with the roll out of the GST. It means I have to announce it well in time for July 1," she said.

She further said that there were certain specific suggestions and questions for the GST Council comprising state finance ministers, and headed by the Union Finance Minister.

A team including the Commerce Secretary to seek time from GST Council on the specific issue, including one related to duty refunds of exporters.

Exporters, especially from the SME sector, have expressed concerns that their funds would be locked up for several months

As per the GST norms, 90 per cent of the refund will be given in 7 days and remaining 10 percent will be given in 4-5 months. SME exporters expressed concerns that their funds could remain locked for long time.

During the meeting suggestions were also made to explore rupee denominated trade especially in the south east Asian nations and those in the middle east.

Suggestions were also made that the FTP should not focus only on exports but on imports as well.

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com- May 06, 2017

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### **Powerloom Service Centre in bad shape**

More than six years after the Public Works Department rated the building housing the Powerloom Service Centre at Surampatti in the city as “not fit” for occupation, the structure is still being utilised since efforts to shift the facility have not yielded results.

The only hope now in the minds of the staff is that the genuineness of their prolonged desire to move out for safety reasons was determined by none other than the Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani during her visit last week.

The ceiling has been tapering off continuously, and there is a grave danger of the roof getting weakened, according to the staff.

In a petition submitted to the Minister, M. Rajesh, Member, All India Powerloom Board, said that the lives of 10 staff members, customers and a number of students who are trained at the centre were at risk if the building was not shifted at the earliest.

The Union Textile Ministry must act promptly on the observations made in writing by the State’s Public Works Department and Director of Handlooms that the Powerloom Service Centre has to be shifted due to weakness of the structure, Mr. Rajesh said.

Source:thehindu.com - May 06, 2017

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## **House panel slams Commerce, Textiles ministries over “lackadaisical approach” on facilitating trade**

HIGHLIGHTING SPECIFIC lapses in the implementation of trade facilitation measures for imports and exports, a Parliamentary panel has slammed the “lackadaisical approach” of the Commerce and Textile ministries in addressing the issue. In a report, the panel also noted that the lack of last-mile connectivity has adversely affected India’s trade facilitation efforts.

“The Committee (is) dismayed to note the lackadaisical approach of Department of Commerce and Ministry of Textiles in initiating/implementing trade facilitation measures. The committee desire(s) the Cabinet Secretary to convene meetings of the various ministries/departments regularly besides the meetings of the NCTF (National Committee on Trade Facilitation) to monitor their progress and contribution,” the report said.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report, which was finalised by a sub-committee headed by BJP member Nishikant Dubey, has also advocated “stringent steps” against those who have not adhered to timelines.

The report, on the performance of import and export trade facilitation through Customs ports, was submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on April 29 by the then PAC chairman K V Thomas of the Congress. Thomas was replaced as PAC chief by Mallikarjun Kharge, also of the Congress, on May 1.

“The Committee (is) dismayed to note that lack of infrastructure facilities like port to road connectivity, rail infrastructure to move containers to inland containers depots (ICD) and non-coordination among all the stakeholders for improving the infrastructure are adversely affecting the trade facilitation measures initiated by the government,” the report said.

The panel recorded its remarks after examining a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the implementation of trade policy, circulars, instructions and data gathered from 2010-11 to 2013-14 from various stakeholders.

In the report, the panel stated that it was imperative to ensure smooth movement and clearance of goods across borders within the shortest time and with minimum costs. It expressed concern over the CAG audit having revealed “complex and arduous documentations process leading to inordinate delays in the various stages of export and import clearances, delays in allotment of berths by port authorities and bottlenecks in reduction of transaction costs”.

It recommended that a regulator be appointed to control operations of all shipping lines, and observed that railway freight charges should not be increased to subsidise other segments as this made Indian products non-competitive in the world market.

Before finalising the report, the panel had accepted submissions from senior officials of Ministry of Textiles, Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Railway Board, FIEO and FICCI.

In the report, the panel recommended that Department of Commerce or DGFT should also analyse the impact of measures taken for trade facilitation and prepare a plan for the next five years to reduce transaction costs further.

Referring to two key infrastructure projects in Chennai, the panel said, “In view of the delays in executing Chennai-Ennore Port Connectivity Project and Four Lane Elevated Link Road from Chennai to Maduravoyal due to differences with the state government of Tamil Nadu, the Committee (is) of the considered opinion that an agreement with state governments for such projects be signed first before taking up projects to avoid such cases of backtracking by the state governments at the later stages.”

In March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reviewed the progress of several infrastructure projects in south India, including the Chennai-Ennore port road connectivity project, which was conceived nearly 20 years ago.

Source: indianexpress.com- May 08, 2017

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## Products from across the country



Hastashilpi – Artisans and weavers welfare association is organising a 10-day ‘Silk India Expo-2017’ at Sri Satya Sai Nigamagmam, Sri Nagar Colony, Hyderabad.

Tollywood upcoming actor Ashwini (Hora Hori movie fame) and city socialite Sudha Jain formally inaugurated the expo.

“It’s good to see various apparel, and designer wear products to be showcased in the city under one roof,” said the actor.

“Various silk sari weavers, handloom clusters and silk co-operative societies showcasing products, it is a way to make accessible and attain the products directly to the customers, without the mediators to the weavers and artisans” said, the organiser Abhinand.

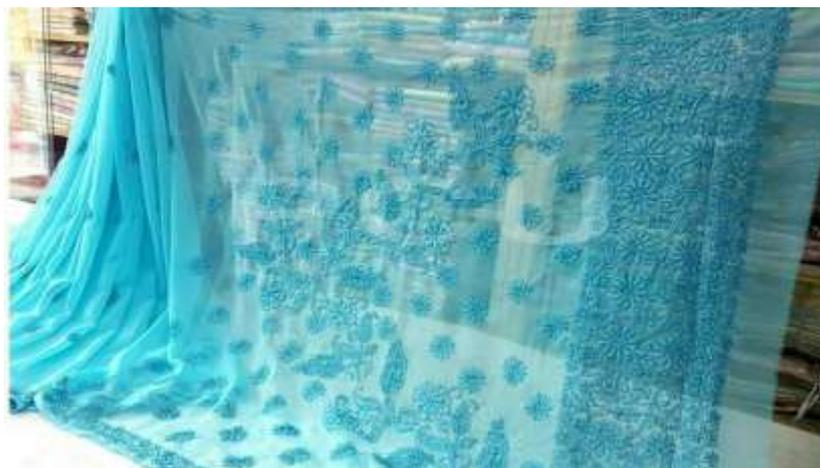
The expo will be on till May 14, 2017.

Source: telanganatoday.news - May 08, 2017

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## Lucknowi saree: Swirl in summer elegance



The heat is on, and so is the demand for cotton sarees among Indian women. One of the most talked about is crisp Lucknowi chikankari saree that magically accentuate a woman’s femininity. The traditional embroidery work -

chikankari, which origin is found in the times of Mughals and nawabs, makes pretty unique patterns.

With time and the ever-changing fashion trends, saree has evolved with varied styles and designs, including hand embroideries. Today there are over 36 kinds of different chikankari stitches. These traditional embroidery techniques are often combined with the adornments of mukaish, mirrors and pearls. Originally it was done on a white muslin cloth with a white thread. Today, the colour palate varies from whites and pastels to bright and fuchsias. Embroidered with patterns and motifs with florals, paisleys, leaves and booties all over or on parts of it, these chikankari cotton sarees are the best for the hot climate of North India.

Every summer, Lucknowi chikankari sarees dominate saree shops in North India, thanks to the artisans who keep creating new designs and patterns. Due to its unique simplicity, lightness, comfort and elegance, this Lucknowi saree has become a fashion trend globally.

Today's woman love traditional charisma with a modern touch. Certainly, Lucknowi sarees are just perfect for her. They are delicately seethrough and the neat embroidery design will make her stand apart in the crowd. Warding off all discomforts of the hot weather, these sarees can be worn daily, anywhere, everywhere. If you have to flaunt them at a party, accentuate it with simple diamond sleek pendant set and set the party on fire.

The streets of Lucknow are the best place to buy original ones at the most reasonable price. Hit for the 'Chowk'. You can get a complete range at wholesale price from the finest Chikan artisans who have been passing on their art through generations. Or check out Janpath, a famous market in Lucknow where there are line of Chikan showrooms. If you want to contribute for a social cause, you may buy these sarees from SEWA (self-employed women association). The rates here are reasonable.

Tips on how to check for original chikankari work.

Look at the underside. It will have loose threads, knots and will not be as neat as machine embroidery.

Know the price of the saree: The prices depend on the fineness of the fabric and intricacy of the embroidery. The cost may range from Rs.2,000 to Rs.20,000.

Source: thestatesman.com - May 08, 2017

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