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USD 64.47 | EUR 70.01 | GBP 82.55 | JPY 0.59

Cotton Market		
Spot Price (Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm		
Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20174	42200	83.43
Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), May		
Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
21340	44638	88.25
International Futures Price		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb (May 2017)		78.99
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (July 2017)		16,030
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb		85.66
Cotlook A Index - Physical		88.55
<p>Cotton guide:</p> <p>Cotton moved erratic in the last week. The rolls from May to July and subsequent contracts have created volatility in the market. The OI of May has reached almost to Zero level while July OI is at record high of 0.129 million contract. The effect is visible on the price also. The week gone by July future ended at 79.33 up by 280+ points from the previous week's close. The market advanced amid roll over of positions and positive cues in the market. Another positive export sales figure for both upland and Pima cotton from US supported prices to trade higher while lower USD index pushed commodity price higher.</p> <p>Further on the market, given the price level and fast depleting stock position in the US and a likely near completely sold out position the potential supply and demand balance overshadows the 2010/11 period. Unlike that period there is no worry and prices remain below 80 cents.</p> <p>Spinners, despite not being extensively covered, appear unworried about supply; however, the available supply before the movement of the US new crop is very limited. The great unknown is the real stock level of India. Without Indian supplies Australian and Brazilian will be the main suppliers until the US crop moves.</p>		

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From domestic front in the last week local cotton price for S-6 variety traded positive and ended the week around Rs. 43,900 per candy ex-gin. At the prevailing exchange rate, equivalent value is approximately 86.60 US cents per lb. Punjab J-34 has ruled steady, at Rs.4, 760 per maund (89.60 cents per lb). Nationwide, daily seed cotton arrivals are estimated at roughly 66,300 lint equivalent bales, including 18,000 from Gujarat and 27,000 from Maharashtra.

This morning cotton for July is seen trading steady at 79.48 cents per pound and believes market may remain sideways while 80 cents is a very critical level to watch out. For the day we expect cotton price to remain in the range of 80.30 to 79 cents per pound. At the domestic front the April future may move in the range of Rs. 20900 to Rs. 21200 per bale.

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

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

Indicative Prices of Cotton Yarn in China Date: 23/04/2017 Prices in US\$ FOB		
Country	20s Carded	30s Carded
India	2.50	2.80
Indonesia	2.56	2.85
Pakistan	2.44	2.82
Turkey	2.90	3.10
Source: CCF Group		

China yarn

Price of cotton yarn inched down weakly this week on slacker demand and some plants started seeing slack-season features.

Trading price of rayon yarn did not change apparently. Price of polyester yarn changed little this week and stocks piled up slightly.

Price of polyester/cotton yarn and polyester/rayon yarn remained flat.

International yarn

The cotton yarn market has been relatively dull. In Pakistan, local demand remains lackluster and some spinners have sold below replacement levels.

Spinners have struggled to make volume export sales. Local yarn rates in Bangladesh have appreciated modestly.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pakistan: Cotton yarn, cloth production grow by 0.67 percent , 0.43 percent in 8 months

ISLAMABAD, April 21 (APP): Domestic production of cotton yarn and cotton cloth during first eight months of current financial year grew by 0.67 percent and 0.43 percent respectively as compared the production of the corresponding period of last year.

According the computation of Quantum Index Numbers of large scale manufacturing industries released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics about 2.285 million tons of cotton yarn produced during the period from July-February, 2016-17 as compared the production of 2.269 million tons of same period of last year.

Cotton yarn production during the month of February, 2017 was recorded at 287,100 tones as against the production of 281,185 tons of same month of last year.

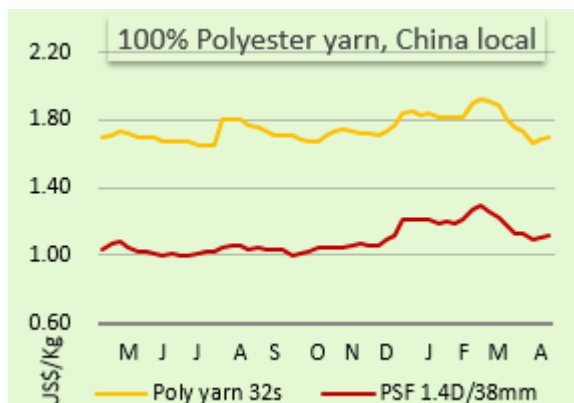
Meanwhile, cotton cloth production in the country during the period under review was registered at 696,750 thousand square meter as compared the production of 693,733 square meters of same period of last year. On month on month basis, cotton cloth production was recorded at 87,300 square meters in month of February, 2017, as compared the production of 86,100 square meters of same month of last year.

However, in last 8 months jute goods production decreased by 18.76 percent in last eight months as about 43,709 tons of jute goods were produced as against the 42,721 tons of same period of last year.

Source: app.com.pk- Apr 21, 2017

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Polyester yarn becomes cheaper in India, China



In China, offers for 32s polyester yarn in Shengze dropped US cents 2 a kg in the first week of April. In Qiangqing, 32s weaving yarn price fell US cent 1 a kg on the week.

Polyester spun yarn market in China warmed-up slightly, and offers partially surged indicating some improvement in demand that week.

However, spun polyester yarn industry will not remain in a busy season in coming future, market participants will mostly produce rationally and maintain adequate inventories following a huge purchase after the Tomb-sweeping Day holiday. In case, PSF market rises in future, downstream fabric producers will actively buy yarn.

In India, while PSF prices were stable, polyester yarn prices were subdued giving the edging down of cotton yarn values. Polyester yarn 30 knit yarn was INR2 a kg cheaper (down US cents 2) in Ludhiana market.

In Pakistan, polyester spun yarns prices have however stayed unchanged for more than 6 weeks although PSF prices continued to slide losing more than 3% in last one month.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- Apr 21, 2017

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Vietnam Yarn Export Rises 13% In March

Vietnam cotton import marginally decreased 6 percent in the month of March while yarn exports increased 13 percent.

Vietnam customs latest data revealed that the country's March cotton import totaled at 111,520 tonnes (656,000 bales of 170 kg each), down 6 percent from last month.

While, yarn imports increased 25 percent at 82,612 tonnes (82.61 million kg) compared to previous month.

On the export side, cotton yarn increased 13 percent at 114,933 tonnes (114.93 million kg) compared to previous month.

Major, yarn was exported to China at 63,466 tonnes (63.46 million kg) which is higher 16 percent compared to 54,877 tonnes (54.87 million kg) in February.

VIETNAM STATISTICS								
MAIN IMPORTS	March-17		February-17		% Change M/M		Year To Date	
	Tons	Value (USD)	Tons	Value (USD)	Tons	Value (USD)	Tons	Value (USD)
Cotton	111,520	200.65	118,446	207.92	-6	-3	323,854	571.28
Yarn	82,612	169.13	66,161	135.44	25	25	202,829	418.44
Fabrics		995.57		692.10		44		234.68
Textile, leather and foot-wear materials and auxiliaries		518.39		400.88		29		1,239.33
MAIN EXPORTS	March-17		February-17		% Change M/M		Year To Date	
	Tons	Value (USD)	Tons	Value (USD)	Tons	Value (USD)	Tons	Value (USD)
Yarn	114,933	307.17	101,466	268.62	13	14	295,232	779.93
Textiles and Garments		2,102.97		1,387.17		52		5,623.52
NOTE: Value in Million USD								

Source: commoditiescontrol.com- Apr 20, 2017

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Bangladesh Denim Expo to take off this May in Dhaka

The sixth edition of Bangladesh Denim Expo of its kind, to fulfill the needs of the international Denim community through close networking will begin in May at Dhaka. The expo will also help promote the importance of sustainability, addressing environmental and ecological issues that affect business apart from promoting ways to improve and develop best working practices.

The theme of the expo is 'Denim Networks' that will highlight the importance of developing understanding and relationships in the Denim industry.

The Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo Mostafiz Uddin said that this season's expo will deliver a dynamic environment to welcome all Denim lovers offering the perfect platform to develop new business relationships.

They are expecting a large number of visitors in the expo that will exceed previous editions' presence.

Mostafiz announced a platform – Sustainable Apparel Forum, the first-ever forum in Bangladesh investing in the future potential, sustainability and competitiveness of the apparel industry in the country.

A daylong conference of the forum will be held on May 17 on the sidelines of the expo that will feature speakers from globally recognised organisations.

Organisers said Bangladesh Denim Expo is an international platform showcasing the wealth of opportunities available in Bangladesh covering all aspects of the Denim supply chain with exhibitors displaying fabrics, garments, threads, machineries, finishing equipments and accessories – a true top to toe representation of the Denim industry.

Meanwhile, the first Bangladeshi magazine – Bangladesh Denim Times - dedicated to denim products is already in the local market which is highlighting the rising of denim industry.

The annual global denim sales amount to more than \$56 billion which is expected to reach \$64 billion by the end of 2020, industry insiders say.

The two-day Bangladesh Denim Expo to be held on 17 and 18th May at Bashundhara International Convention City, Dhaka.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com - Apr 22, 2017

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Pakistan: Textile exporters fail to rise to the challenge despite incentives

Without producing even a single cotton flower, Bangladesh has left Pakistan far behind on the list of textile-exporting countries.

Pakistan is the fourth largest cotton producer in the world while Bangladesh is one of the biggest textile exporters globally.

Incentive-hungry textile exporters in Pakistan failed to fully utilise even the most favourable trade package offered by the European Union. In contrast, their Bangladeshi counterparts availed a similar package by the EU to the fullest.

In July-December of the current fiscal year, Pakistan exported textile products worth \$1.365 billion while Bangladesh fetched \$8.041bn during the same period. Pakistan's exports were just 17 per cent of the exports by Bangladesh.

Bangladesh left behind other textile-exporting countries in the region, including India and Vietnam. India exported textile products worth \$2.4bn to the EU while Vietnamese exports amounted to \$1.78bn in the same period.

Exports by the textile sector of Pakistan, which is able to buy cheap cotton produced within the country, have been in decline, although they still constitute about 58pc of the country's total exports.

Despite the sector's overall poor performance, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) recently appreciated its slight improvement, which was a result of higher prices of cotton products in the global market.

Pakistan's exports have been declining for several years. The Ministry of Commerce failed to bring any improvement in the situation. Neither any incentive nor the commerce minister's frequent visits to world capitals could bring any positive change in this regard.

The SBP report said Pakistan mainly exports readymade garments, knitwear and bed-wear to the EU, which has the highest share in the country's textile exports.

Pakistan successfully increased exports to the EU despite a decline in the imports of the European bloc. Only Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam increased exports while India and China registered a decline in exports.

Surprisingly, the SBP said Pakistani exporters are effectively using the duty-free access to the EU that Pakistan enjoys under the current GSP+ scheme.

Data shows that five countries, including China, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and Pakistan, collectively exported textile products worth \$46.5bn to the EU in July-Dec. Pakistan's share in these exports was just 2.8pc.

Textile exports of Bangladesh constitute 82pc of its exports and 20pc of its GDP. Textiles made it the fastest-growing developing country, which achieved GDP growth rate of more than 6.5pc. Bangladesh has set a target of \$50bn exports for 2021. Its exports are expected to surpass \$40bn in 2020.

Data shows Pakistan's overall exports of textile products registered a decline in July-Feb, which fell \$377m to \$8.244bn.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in January announced the Rs180bn incentive package to boost exports. Easygoing textile exporters like to export cotton, cotton yarn and gray cloth, which are considered semi raw materials.

Data shows Pakistan exported cotton worth \$2.289bn in July-Feb, which is slightly lower than last year.

Source: dawn.com - Apr 24, 2017

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Bangladesh: Demand for better price of RMG products

'The country's garment sector operates in a deeply unjust global value chain where a \$5 shirt made in Bangladesh is sold at \$25 at Wal Mart stores or at much higher prices in countries such as Sweden'

Bangladesh economists and manufacturers urged the international buyers to deconstruct the current value chain of Bangladeshi apparel products to ensure better price.

"The country's garment sector operates in a deeply unjust global value chain where a \$5 shirt made in Bangladesh is sold at \$25 at Wal Mart stores or at much higher prices in countries such as Sweden," said eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan.

"Where exactly does the \$20 go? Is this a natural working of the market mechanism or a manifestation of an unjust global order?," he questioned while addressing a seminar styled as "Catalysing social dialogue in the RMG sector of Bangladesh" held at hotel in Dhaka on Sunday.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) jointly organised the event marking the fourth anniversary of Rana Plaza tragedy.

Distinguished Fellow of CPD Debapriya Bhattacharya moderated the discussion while Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) Mikail Shipar, Vice-President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, President of National Garments Workers Federation (NGWF) Amirul Haque Amin and Secretary General of Bangladesh Trade Union Shangha (BTUS) Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam spoke, among others.

Rehman Sobhan said the current business model forces suppliers to squeeze their workers as much as they can as they would have to produce the shirt within \$5.

“Unless there is a major investigation of professional nature, political nature and in the end of the day international nature, the Oxfam and Action Aid, and everyone has to join together to deconstruct the value chain,” he added.

Former President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Fazlul Haque said: “Selling a product by \$5, we, the manufacturers have to give all the detail information how the price comes at \$4.95 not \$4.75, what is the costing of factory, what is the costing of labour, what is my profit; each and everything, that buyers called, ‘open costing’.”

“I would like to request the international buyers only one thing: just mention in your products tag that the selling price of the product is \$25, while the buying price was \$3 or \$4 or \$5. I think, if you (buyers) can do this, all the problems will be solved regarding unjust value chain,” he said.

BGMEA Vice President Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu said the buyers threatened Bangladeshi manufacturers to shift their sourcing in other competitor countries, while they demanded a just value chain.

According to a study on “Prices and Development in the Global Apparel Industry: Bangladesh in Comparative Perspective”, prices of men and boys cotton trousers exported to the US market declined by 40.89% in the last 14 years.

Mark Anner, associate professor at the Penn State University, conducted the study.

Source: dhakatribune.com- Apr 23, 2017

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Burkina Faso cotton output to rise in 2017-18 season- Industry official

Africa's top cotton grower sees output rising by as much as 20 percent in the 2017-18 season.

An industry official in Burkina Faso said cotton output will surge to 820,000 metric tons and added that the target is realistic and achievable if rains are favorable and well distributed over the season.

According to Bloomberg, Georges Yameogo, general secretary of the country's cotton association, told reporters this on Saturday in the capital, Ouagadougou.

Burkina Faso harvested 683,000 tons of cotton in the 2016-17 season, which was below the target of 700,000 tons due due lack of rains in September.

This is still 17 percent higher than the 586,000 tons harvested in the 2015-16 season, Georges revealed.

The price for the new season was set at 245 CFA Francs (\$0.40) a kilogram up from 235 Francs the previous season.

Source: africanews.com - Apr 22, 2017

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US' textile manufacturers applaud Buy American order

US' National Council of Textile Organisations has favoured President Donald Trump's recent executive order which directs the federal government to maximise "buy American" opportunities and review compliance with existing "buy American" laws and regulations saying buying American is good for the country, for jobs, and its textile industry.

The order was issued on April 18, 2017.

"Thank you to President Trump for making Buy American a priority," said NCTO president and CEO Auggie Tantillo on behalf of the US textile industry.

"Buying American is good for the country, good for American jobs, and good for the U.S. textile industry," Tantillo continued.

"NCTO has had a longstanding policy of supporting Buy American laws. We intend to work with the Trump administration to help it improve implementation and enforcement of these job creating statutes and regulations," Tantillo added.

"Since 1941, a Buy American law applying to the Department of Defense known as the Berry Amendment has supported American troops, strengthened national security, and incentivised US textile industry investment and innovation.

This is a concrete example of how Buy American laws benefit the US economy and its workers," Tantillo said, noting that DOD sourced roughly \$1.5 billion in textiles and clothing last year under the Berry Amendment.

The Berry Amendment requires the Department of Defense to buy textiles and clothing made with 100 per cent US content and labour.

Another Buy American law, the Kissell Amendment, requires the Department of Homeland Security to buy US made textiles and clothing, but currently is only applied within DHS to the US Coast Guard and, with some exceptions, the Transportation Security Administration.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Apr 24, 2017

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NATIONAL NEWS

Kazakhstan, India cooperation in textiles acquires clear outline

The fourth meeting of the Kazakh-Indian Joint Working Group (JWG) for cooperation in the field of textiles was held on April 20 and April 21 in the southern Kazakhstan city of Shymkent.

The talks were organised with the support of the Embassy of Kazakhstan in India and the Mayor's office of the South Kazakhstan region.

Both sides discussed the status and prospects of further development of cooperation between the two countries in textiles. They exchanged views on the possibility of Indian capital's participation in strengthening and development of light industry in the region, as well as export of raw cotton produced in South Kazakhstan for processing at Indian enterprises.

The Indian delegation also called on the Akim (Governor) of the South Kazakhstan region Zhanseit Tuimebayev and visited the "Ontustik" FEZ, the carpet factory "Bal Textile" LLP, the hosiery production plant "Alem BT" LLP, the garment factory "AGF-Group" LLP And "Cotton enterprise-cellulose" LLP.

The Indian delegation also interacted with businessmen of the South Kazakhstan region was organized in the "Atameken" regional chamber of entrepreneurs.

The 11-member Kazakh side was led by B. Jamalov - Deputy Akim (Governor) of the South Kazakhstan region, and Co-Chairman of the JWG, while the five-member Indian delegation was led by Subrata Gupta, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles and Co-Chair of the JWG.

Source: business-standard.com- Apr 22, 2017

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H&M India to expand to 20-plus stores

International fashion retailer H&M (Hennes & Mauritz AB) is set to increase its strength in India to 20-plus stores by opening half a dozen new ones by December 2017, according to its Country Manager Janne Einola.

At present, the Swedish multinational clothing retail company with headquarters in Stockholm has 15 stores in nine cities. It is opening the 16th and first store in Hyderabad on Saturday. The company-owned outlet will occupy two floors spread over 33,000 sq ft in InOrbit Mall.

H&M, which entered India 18 months ago, has been doing well. “We earned ₹194 crore with a modest profit of ₹1.4 crore in 2015-16 through Indian operations,” Janne told *BusinessLine* here today.

“Our strategy for growth will be to locate stores in malls in tier-I & II cities and to run own outlets. Known for fashion and quality at the best price in a sustainable way, we offer casual to formal wear,” he said.

The company is set to launch its second store in Bengaluru at 1 MG Lido Mall soon.

H&M entered the country through a 100 per cent FDI approval for Single Brand Trade route. It has a long-term plan to grow to 50 stores and invest over €100 million in India.

It has production offices in Delhi and Bengaluru and employs 1,200, of whom 40 per cent are women. there are no plans for any joint venture, Janne said.

He felt India offers huge potential going by the performance of H&M in the past 18 months and the market feedback.

The implementation of GST and the saturation in Chinese textile market along with the problems facing Bangladesh should hold out big promise for the Indian textile sector growth, Janne opined.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Apr 22, 2017

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Textile exporters worried about RBI's 'caution list'

With expiry of the deadline set by the Reserve Bank of India for updating of shipping bills by banks, textile exporters are worried that their names might figure in the "caution list" to be issued by the bank regulator for no fault of theirs since many banks have not updated the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System. This will hit their exports.

The textile exporters have sought an update in the centralised banking system before the caution list for the pending shipping bills is issued, according to a report in a leading Indian daily.

The deadline set for updating the shipping bills by banks was April 20, 2017. The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, a textiles exporters' body, has also urged the banking sector regulator to remove the names of companies with a good track record in a letter to the Reserve Bank of India.

RBI has introduced Export Data Processing and Monitoring System or EDPMS to monitor payments against export bills. It requires all banks to report the details of the export proceeds realisation regarding the shipping bills filed after February 28, 2014, the report said.

"There are many shipping bills against which payments have already been realised and the electronic bank realisation certificates (e-BRCs) have been issued by the concerned banks. But, the EDPMS is yet to be updated by the banks.

It is likely that many of the textiles exporters will find their names appearing in the caution list after the deadline of April 20, 2017, for no fault on their part," Ujwal Lahoti, chairman, Texprocil was quoted as saying in the report.

"Texprocil has taken up this matter with RBI and we hope that some decision will be taken on the matter at the earliest. Otherwise, it may have an adverse impact on textiles exports," Lahoti said.

Many textiles exporters have found that EDPMS updation of the shipping bills has not been carried out by some banks.

RBI had granted temporary exemption up to April 20, 2017 to exporters whose importer-exporter code appeared in the caution list in the EDPMS and whose outstanding shipping bills in value terms were less than 30 per cent of the total value of shipping bills for the period from March 1, 2014, to March 1, 2016.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Apr 22, 2017

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Ikea to double sourcing from India

Swedish furniture major Ikea is looking to double sourcing from India by 2020 as it opens its first store in the country later this year.

The company sourced euro 318 million worth of goods from India in fiscal 2016, about 70% of which was textiles.

It has about 50 suppliers in India and is looking at adding suppliers, raw materials and categories.

Jesper Brodin, range and supply manager, Ikea of Sweden, told *DNA Money*, "In Ikea, today we have more than 12 years of average relationship with our suppliers, and if you see it we have been growing. There are two suppliers who have been with us for 40-plus years."

The company has nine suppliers in Uttar Pradesh, seven each in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, six each in Gujarat and Karnataka, five in Haryana, three each in Rajasthan, Kerala and Punjab, and one in Madhya Pradesh.

Henrik Gunnerling, purchase development manager, Ikea Range & Supply, said, "A year ago, we had around 35 suppliers in India; so we are growing in India both in terms of volumes and the number of suppliers."

Its existing suppliers are ramping up, too.

"The number of suppliers is increasing but our existing suppliers are also expanding capacities and adding the number of categories as well," said Sandeep Sanan, new business head, Ikea purchasing operations.

The company said its first distribution centre in India will come up in Pune and the work on Navi Mumbai store will start in May 2017.

It will initially focus on six states – Delhi NCR, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

The retailer plans to open 25 stores in India by 2025 and employ 14,000 co-workers by the same time.

The retailer said its planned Rs 10,500 crore investment in India may translate into a big opportunity for local manufacturers as well, it said.

"The home furnishing industry is still in the early stages. We are inspiring companies which are into different areas to come into furniture production. So, for certain products we are going to the home furnishing and white good industry and collaborating with them.

As of now we are working with a lot of companies which were producing automobile components, and they are producing for us. One of the chairs made by us is being produced by Savera, which used to be a sub-supplier to Bajaj in Aurangabad," Sanan told *DNA Money*.

Maharashtra may benefit a lot as it is 'key prioritised state and has a potential of 5-6 stores in a multi-channel environment, an Ikea presentation said. The company is also exploring new formats to reach customers keeping in mind distances, land price and availability.

Ikea sources textiles, carbon steel and plastic main products from the state.

Ike has around 978 home furnishing suppliers in 50 countries and does 35% sourcing from Asia.

The company spends around euro 16 billion annually on purchases.

Source: dnaindia.com - Apr 24, 2017

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Birla eyeing global carbon fibre market

Indian billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla is exploring entry into the production of carbon fibre, a high-strength and light-weight composite material expected to be a \$4.7-billion global business by 2022, according to a person familiar with his plans.

The Aditya Birla Group, the \$40-billion mining-to-mobile phone carrier conglomerate, may buy the technology to manufacture carbon fibre at one of its existing overseas manufacturing facilities, said the person, asking not to be identified because the plan is private. Another option is to buy a carbon fibre plant from another company if the technology is too complex to be adapted at Birla plants, the person said.

Carbon fibre is finding increasing traction among defence manufacturers and automobiles makers that seek strong, high-tensile, heat-resistant and light materials. The market for carbon fibre — dubbed the ‘wonder material’ by The Guardian newspaper last month — is estimated to more than double to about \$4.7 billion by 2022 from \$2.2 billion in 2015, according to an Allied Market Research report.

“The main positive is that it’s a much lighter material versus competitors such as steel or aluminium — but is just as strong,” said Johnson Imode, a London-based analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence. “This makes for energy and efficiency savings for customers.”

The group’s consideration is still at an exploratory stage and there’s no timeline for entering this business, the person said. The demand from the automobile sector is particularly high as designers aim to make cars lighter, stronger and less polluting, according to this person. A company spokeswoman didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Carbon fibre is a thin long strand, far thinner than even a human hair, in which carbon atoms are bonded together in a crystal alignment that makes the fibre incredibly strong for its size. Thousands of these strands are entwined together to form a yarn, which can be then woven into a fabric or used as it is.

The applications for the material range from aircraft and spacecrafts to racing cars, sailboat masts, wind turbines and even golf clubs. The market could grow as much as 10 per cent annually, Imode estimates.

Nearly half of the airframe of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner is comprised of carbon-fibre-reinforced plastic and other composites, according to the airline manufacturer.

Japan, US and Europe are home to the bulk of the world's carbon fibre manufacturers, making it one of the likely corporate hunting grounds for Birla to scout for a target. The biggest players include Toray Industries Inc, Hexcel Corporation, Mitsubishi Rayon Co, Teijin Ltd, SGL Group, Cytec Industries Inc, Nippon Graphite Fiber Corp and Zoltek Companies, Inc.

The conglomerate, if it takes the plunge, would be the first large Indian player in the carbon fiber market.

Birla, 49, known for his penchant for dealmaking, has sealed two dozen mergers and acquisitions in the past two decades.

He's in the process of combining his mobile-phone unit Idea Cellular Ltd. with Vodafone Group Plc's Indian business to form the nation's largest wireless carrier. UltraTech Cement Ltd. had bought cement units from debt-laden Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. last year.

This month he received a nod from shareholders to merge two listed group firms, Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd. and Grasim Industries Ltd., to create a behemoth with \$9 billion in combined revenues.

Source: business-standard.com - Apr 22, 2017

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Farmers return to BT cotton after experiment with desi variety fails

After the experiment with the desi cotton failed to bear fruits, farmers are returning to the BT cotton in the next kharif season.

While there is no taker for the desi cotton seed available with the government agencies, the BT cotton seed is being sold at a premium in the open market, as the seed is not available with the Haryana Seeds Development Corporation.

The farmers say due to high demand, BT cotton varieties were being sold at premium rate by the private seed sellers in the open market. On the other hand, they said, there were no takers for the desi varieties.

“The farmers prefer three varieties of BT cotton— 773, 776 and US 21. Due to high demand, the seed traders have been manipulating the market to create a shortage.

Though some unscrupulous elements succeeded in selling these varieties at a premium of Rs 200 per packet above the MRP, the market has stabilised now and these varieties are also available at the MRP of Rs 800,” says a seed trader in Hisar.

Anil Kumar, assistant marketing officer of the Haryana Seeds Development Corporation, says the desi varieties are in low demand this time. “Just 120 packets have been sold till.

Last year, I had sold 1,400 packets,” he says, maintaining that the corporation will make some varieties of BT cotton available to the farmers soon.

Farmers say good BT cotton crop in the last kharif season had turned the farmers back to these varieties, as desi cotton was not even able to recover the input cost.

Zile Singh, a farmer from Bir Babran village who sowed desi cotton last time after he lost the BT cotton to the whitefly two years ago, said he was returning to BT cotton this time again.

Source: tribuneindia.com - Apr 23, 2017

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Kids' fashion takes big steps in e-sales

As children are online from a very early age, fashion brands for children are increasingly turning to ecommerce platforms. And for the latter, kids' fashion has become one of the fastest growing categories within fashion.

When women fashion brand Chemistry launched a brand for girls aged between 7 and 15 two years ago, they launched exclusively on Amazon. It has since launched on other e-commerce platforms, including Myntra and Jabong.

The brand, Chemistry Girls, wanted to reach a wider audience and test the market before setting up physical stores. Amazon India said the number of units of kids' fashion sold and the number of customers buying kids' fashion in the first quarter of 2017 were both twice that in the same period last year.

Children are getting influenced by what they see online. They have access to the internet and they want newer styles. While the children in this age group might not all be online, their parents would all be in their 30-40 age bracket and more comfortable shopping online. So it made sense for us to launch online first.

Also, there is no capital cost," said Sunil Jhangiani, owner of the Mumbai-based brand. The girls, he says, have a mind of their own, and they want to look hip and can convince their parents on what to buy for them online. Denims and T-shirts with cool graphics on them are particularly strong, he says.

"With 35% of our customers buying kids' fashion new to apparel purchases on Amazon, it is expanding the overall fashion business of the company," Arun Sirdeshmukh, head of Amazon's fashion business, told TOI.

Flipkart says kids' fashion has been the highest growing segment in the fashion category in the past few years.

Rishi Vasudev, head of Flipkart Fashion, said the space grew at more than twice the growth of the overall lifestyle segment for Flipkart last year and currently contributes close to 10% of apparel sales.

"We have a lot of labels brands that are exclusively on Flipkart and are doing extremely well. Izod kids is exclusive with us.

We have special lines of collection from Disney, Chemistry, 612 League and other character merchandise (Marvel, Avengers, Shiva, Jungle Book) which are only available on Flipkart," Vasudev said.

For kids' brand Mothercare, which has a significant presence offline, the online space now contributes to more than 10% of revenue."We have seen a 50% jump in online sales in 2016-17 and in a couple of years, online revenue should contribute to 20% of overall revenue," said Timmy Sarna, MD of DLF brands, which runs Mothercare.

Mothercare sells on platforms like Amazon, Jabong, and has 95 stores across 20 cities.

Kids' wear brand Gini & Jony saw a 100% growth in online revenue in 2016-17. Online contributed 3.5% of revenue in 2015-16, this rose to 10% last fiscal.

"Customers were very price conscious earlier. But now, the brand has become important for the customer, the price doesn't matter.

If a pair of jeans was priced at Rs 2,000, they would hope to get it online for Rs 1,000. Now, the average ticket size is equal in both online and offline," said Prakash Lakhani, CMD of Gini & Jony.

Source: timesofindia.com- Apr 24, 2017

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Commerce Ministry officials to hold Twitter chat sessions with public

Officials of the commerce and industry ministry will soon hold Twitter chats with public and take their suggestions on policy making.

The ministry plans to capitalise its #mociseva on the social networking site to interact with the general public.

"In coming days, #mociseva would take a huge leap forward and would act as an interactive platform to provide information about the ministry's work. For this, various divisions of the ministry would organize Twitter chat sessions to engage with people and take suggestions from them in policy making process," said a person in the know.

One such periscope live video sessions on Twitter and Facebook chat session would be held on April 28 by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to take suggestions and provide clarifications on the mid-term review of Foreign Trade Policy.

The expansion of the ministry's Twitter Seva from a grievance redressal mechanism for startups and traders to an interactive platform comes on its first anniversary. The seva was launched on April 21, 2016.

Of the 6,563 tickets raised till now, 6,565 have been closed. An average of 500 tickets have been raised per month.

As per the ministry, none of the tickets are pending beyond two working days. Moreover, the response time has come down to 1-2 days from 4-5 days in last one year.

"We have not only responded to queries that pertain to our ministry, in fact #mociseva has responded to almost a thousand queries that belonged to other ministries," the person said.

Most of queries belong to DGFT, Startup India, Make in India and intellectual property rights.

Source: economictimes.com- Apr 22, 2017

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Gujarat govt supports development of garment industry'

Supporting the growth and development of the garment industry in Gujarat, Rohit Patel, state minister for industries, mines and finance highlighted the requirement to strengthen and improve the value addition chain of the garment industry, during the inauguration of the Association of Apparel Manufacturers and Exporters of Gujarat (AAMEG).

"The aim of AAMEG is to address issues of the apparel industry, and develop an ecosystem that helps for the growth and to strengthen this sector as a whole, availing maximum benefits from the government.

Textile has a strong base in Gujarat. Now, we need to focus towards developing the apparel industry in the state. We should organise more trade shows to create awareness about fairs and incentives available from the government.

As an organisation, we plan to attract international brands and buyers to develop functioning with the apparel industries in Gujarat," said Meena Kavya, director of AAMEG during the inaugural address.

"The formation of AAMEG is a step towards the development of the apparel industries in the state. We expect AAMEG to identify the specific needs of the industry and develop a plan of action.

The government is also prepared to make special policies for the garment industry if required. This is a buyer's market and the industries are required to be well-equipped to fight the cut-throat competition," added Patel.

Speaking of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry's outlook for the garment industry, president Bipin Patel said, "We need to enhance the growth by building a brand for the garment industry.

Creating a brand will enable to make profit for a longer term. Such provisions should be made where profits are re-invested for innovation and infrastructural development.

"The biggest challenge of the garment industry is of re-invention. We can overcome these by adopting new methods and by aggressively promoting our products," said managing director of Sweet Dreams, Hitesh Ruparelia while sharing his professional journey with the participants.

The first official television commercial of Sweet Dreams was also launched during the programme.

Speakers from various segments of the garment industry shared their experience and views on the development of garment industry in Gujarat. The event also recognised industries for their remarkable contribution in the garment industry.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Apr 21, 2017

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