

IBTEX No. 58 of 2017

Mar 21, 2017

USD 65.41 | EUR 70.35 | GBP 80.85 | JPY 0.58

Cotton Market		
Spot Price (Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm		
Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20318	42500	82.89
Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), March		
Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
21740	45475	88.69
International Futures Price		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb (March 2017)		77.33
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (May 2017)		15,740
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb		84.11
Cotlook A Index - Physical		87.70
<p>Cotton guide: Indian cotton price advanced on Monday's trading session by Rs. 250 per candy to settle at Rs. 43,900. The local continues to trade higher amid tight supply and steady demand. Nationwide daily seed arrivals were estimated at 135,000 bales including around 37K from Gujarat and 49K from Maharashtra. With the prevailing exchange rate the domestic cotton was quoted further higher in the global parity term at 85.65 cents per pound. Likewise, J-34 variety quoted at Rs. 4830 per maund equivalent 89.80 cents.</p> <p>The effect was visible on the futures contract. March and April contract closed the session higher at Rs. 21550 and Rs. 21740 per bale up by Rs. 130 consecutively.</p> <p>Coming onto the global front initially ICE future traded steady however during the course of trading the cotton price for all across contracts fell sharply to end the session lower. For reference the May contract ended the session at 77.33 cents per pound down by almost 100 points and the similar effect was seen at the corresponding contracts. Looking at the trading volume and open interest we understand that a bit of long liquidation has pulled the price down. The same could be understood with the decline in the open interest. For reference the May contract OI declined marginally from 0.164 million to 0.160 million.</p> <p>Also as per the latest CFTC report released last week the speculative long positions in the aggregate contracts have declined marginally to 141,400 down by 1% from the previous week's figure while unfixed on call sale data has increased by 3%. In the total it is understood that cotton price has corrected due to long liquidation.</p>		

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May contract at ICE platform is trading lower by around 0.50% at 77 cents per pound on today's trading session. There has been a clear break down in the price however need to watch critically the outflow of long positions may continue to weigh on the price. From the price perspective the near term trend line in the daily chart is breached indicating price to remain under stress. We see market to head towards 50-day moving average near 76 cents. On the higher side unless cotton continues to trade below 77.60 price may trade down. Likewise, ZCE Chinese cotton for May contract has also declined sharply and currently trading at 15,060 Yuan/MT. We believe overall view to remain bearish for the day. At the domestic front we may witness a gap down in the price and for reference the April contract that ended at Rs. 21740 may open around Rs. 21550. For the day the trading range would be Rs. 21400 to Rs. 21700 per bale and recommend selling on rise.

**Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us :
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Forward cotton yarn price still hard to slump in short term

Shanghai Yarn Expo ended last week and trading of forward cotton yarn was very scarce during the Expo with high offers. Current forward cotton yarn price under RMB basis is largely around 1,000yuan/mt higher than the spot goods in China, and the disparity is around 2,500yuan/mt for Indian carded 32S. Marker players pay much attention to Xinjiang-origin cotton yarn, and some imported cotton yarn traders intend to turn to do Chinese cotton yarn business. How cotton and cotton yarn price will fare arouse much concern both overseas and domestically. The following will have a short analysis on it:

Indian cotton and cotton yarn price forecast:

Price of Indian cotton is hard to decline in short run with slow arrivals of seed cotton, moderate local demand and high international cotton price, more likely to be hemmed into a tight range. It is reported that daily seed cotton arrivals have slowed recently in India. With weaker influence of demonetization, local trading of Indian cotton is tolerable with more cash. Besides, good export shipment of US cotton is supportive to international cotton price, which further supports Indian cotton price.

Indian cotton yarn price is expected to remain high if cotton price does not weaken. Actually, moderate local demand and high cotton price is supportive to current Indian cotton yarn price, but spinners may witness inventory burden if export of cotton yarn to China keeps lackluster as local demand is limited after all, and spinners may be forced to cut price. Therefore, eyes are suggested to Indian cotton price change.

Chinese cotton and cotton yarn price trend:

Price of Chinese cotton is largely stable recently despite of falling trading price and trading volume of reserved cotton, hard to surge with huge cotton stocks. With more reserved cotton delivered to spinners, cotton yarn plants that produce low-count cotton yarn will see lower cotton cost, which may weigh on new cotton with corresponding quality on the market. Therefore, price of cotton with inferior quality is expected to dip weakly by that time, while that of quality cotton is anticipated to be steady. In addition, international cotton price including US and Indian cotton is high with moderate demand, which will support Chinese cotton price indirectly.

Price of Chinese cotton yarn is likely to be in range bound on the whole and current cotton yarn market is mixed with bears and bulls. Downstream buyers show stronger looking-on mindset with decreasing trading of reserved cotton, and try to dampen cotton yarn price as cotton cost will decline when spinners gradually increase consumption of reserved cotton. But cotton yarn stocks remain low although it has increased recently. Downstream weavers witness moderate orders now, which can last for around 1-2 months, needing to restock. Therefore, demand for cotton yarn is expected to improve in traditional peak season (Mar and Apr). Besides, high ordering cost for imported cotton yarn is supportive to Chinese cotton yarn price too.

Vietnamese and Pakistani cotton yarn price trend:

Price of Vietnamese cotton yarn is also hard to decline in short run with high US cotton price, more likely to be largely consistent with Indian cotton yarn price. Transactions of Vietnamese open-end cotton yarn and cotton ply yarn are relatively better than other varieties. Price of Pakistani siro-spun cotton yarn is supposed to be weak in short run with decreasing demand from Chinese market, and that of Pakistani ring-spun cotton yarn may be moderate, enjoying certain price advantage compared with Indian ring-spun ones. Downside potential of Pakistani cotton yarn will be limited under losses. Stable cotton price in Pakistan supports cotton yarn price too.

In summary, forward cotton yarn price may be hard to slump in short run, and cotton price is critical to later cotton yarn price trend.

Source: CCF Group

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Brazilian cotton buyers active in fortnight ended March 15

In the fortnight ended March 15, following declines in international prices, Brazilian cotton buyers seemed active in the market, trying to purchase new stocks at lower quotes and thereby replenish stocks. However, sellers held their ground and remained firm, expecting cotton prices to bounce back before the beginning of the next cotton season.

The CEPEA/ESALQ Index for cotton type 41-4, delivered in São Paulo for payment in eight days, closed at BRL 2.7388 or \$0.8795 per pound on March 15, up 0.94 per cent compared to February 24.

The CEPEA report also added that CONAB has upwardly revised the 2016-17 cotton harvest forecast at 1.443 million tons, an increase of 11.9 per cent over the previous crop. CONAB attributed the increase to a 15.5 per cent higher yield, at 1,559 kilos per hectare.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Mar 21, 2017

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Switzerland: Washable heartbeat sensor is ideal for textiles

Researchers have successfully developed polymer optic fibres for sensors that are particularly flexible and can be sewn onto textiles. These fibres were used in a sensor that was woven on a material, enabling researchers to measure the heart rate of patients. The sensor has been produced using a melting technique and can be washed in a machine.

"Normally, these fibers, which are usually associated with communication technology, aren't flexible enough," says Maike Quandt, the first author on the study conducted by Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Dübendorf (EMPA).

The researchers' wanted to create a sensor that can be integrated in textiles, that is, a fibre that can also be sewn and does not break when knotted. The

new sensor can easily be produced industrially and can withstand wash cycles. It can be used in the healthcare sector to prevent bedsores and it will also be beneficial for making sports clothing.

The study conducted by a team headed by Luciano Boesel from EMPA, was published in the Journal of the Royal Society. It was conducted in collaboration with Zurich University Hospital, the research institute CSEM and the Swiss Paraplegic Center in Nottwil.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Mar 20, 2017

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Vietnam's textile - garment exports expected to grow without TPP

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam’s garment and textile sector is still enjoying good growth in exports to the US market even without the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), according to Le Tien Truong, Director General of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment group (Vinatex).

While the sector is forecasted to benefit greatly from the TPP, it has so far thrived without TPP with Vietnam holding the second-biggest market share in the US and Japan. Those two countries are also the two main export markets of Vietnam’s garment and textile.

Enterprises in the sector have continuously made investment in machines and technology to improve their productivity, reduce cost, thus increasing their competitiveness in the two markets.

Truong said TPP only provides one more favourable condition for exports.

Truong Van Cam, Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) highlighted potential for Vietnam’s garment and textile export in other markets, including the US. Apart from TPP, Vietnam has signed and will sign a dozen of free trade agreements (FTAs), Cam said, adding that therefore, the US’s withdrawal from the TPP will not affect the sector.

He dismissed opinions that foreign investors are pouring into Vietnam's garment-textile sector in anticipation of the TPP, saying that the agreement is only one of the reasons behind the investment. According to Cam, Vietnam also attracts investors with an open economy, a favourable business climate and tax incentives from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and FTAs with EU, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Echoing Cam's view on the role of the US in TPP, Nguyen Xuan Duong, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hung Yen Garment Joint Stock Company, said Vietnam's exports of garment and textile to the US will not change much without TPP.

At the same time, the Vinatex General Director Le Tien Truong was of the opinion that when the TPP may not be realised, there are possibilities that investors will suspend their investment decision. Therefore, the investment flow in the sector will slow down during 2017-2018 in comparison with the 2013-2014 period.

In 2017, Vietnam's textile-garment sector aims for a growth rate of 7-8 percent, and 30 billion USD in export earnings.

Source: vietnamplus.vn- Mar 21, 2017

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Pakistan cotton production reaches 10.72mln bales by mid March

Pakistan's cotton production has increased 9.99 percent reached 10.722 million bales until March 15, 2017, over the same period last year. According to report from Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), out of the total arrivals, cottonseed (Phutti) to the tune of 10,722,328 bales has undergone the ginning process.

Arrivals in Punjab ginneries were recorded at 6.9 million or 6,935,370 bales, growing by 15.92 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

Arrivals at ginneries in Sindh was as much as 3.787 million or 3,787,111 bales reached the ginning factories in Sindh, showing a tad increase of 0.56 percent over the same period last year.

The textile mills purchased 10.048 million or 10,048,592 bales, leaving exactly 471,297 bales unsold with the ginneries.

The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan), the Agriculture Extension Department (AED), Government of Sindh, and Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) have signed a Commitment of Cooperation (CoC) to undertake agriculture specific activities focused on widespread dissemination and promotion of the Better Cotton Standard System (BCSS) in Sindh.

Source yarnsandfibers.com- Mar 20, 2017

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Pakistani lawn most sought summer wear in apparel market

Lawn remains the most sought summer-wear and also a major source of top-line earnings for textile brands operating in the domestic market. With summer just around the corner, a long and crazy lawn war is about to ensue with top brands scrambling to boost their share through an aggressive and expensive media campaign in an estimated Rs50bn lawn market.

Major players spend significantly large sums of money on publicity campaigns to stay on top of the cutthroat competition. Others smaller brands will count more on their low prices, and some on their 'stolen designs', to maintain their presence in the highly competitive market.

Pakistan's domestic fashion and apparel market has experienced a rapid growth, driven by a rise in household incomes and growth in young population. Falling textile exports because of the high cost of doing business has also compelled several major textile manufacturers to launch their own fabric and apparel brands in the local market.

Fashion designers and factory owners are collaborating with each other to produce designer lawns. In most cases, the brands hire top fashion designers to design their range of lawn.

In other cases, designers get their stocks produced by mills and sell in the market under their own brands. In certain cases, both the mill owners and designers partner to share profits.

Kashif Ashfaque, chief executive of the ChenOne stores said that it's a tough market with almost 100 designer lawn brands competing with one another as well as with more than 200 smaller players and cheaper replicas to grab a share in it. Need to have deep pockets to establish their brand in such a competitive and price-conscious market.

The competition is becoming more intense each year. But the demand for lawn is also increasing rapidly because of protracted hot weather, he said, adding more than two-thirds of the lawn market comprised sales of unstitched suits.

The credit for introducing lawn goes to Gul Ahmed in the 1960s before others caught up. No doubt lawn has always remained the most sought-after summer textile for women — housewives or working women — young and old both.

Since its launch more than half a century back, the market size has multiplied rapidly during the last decade and a half or so on the rising disposable income of middle-class households, said Kashif who launched his own premium lawn brand 'Pareesa' just a few years back.

A growing middle class, rapid urbanisation, a rising number of young women in the job market and rapid expansion of the informal economy over the years have significantly pushed consumer spending in the country, boosting the lawn market size.

The price of different lawn brands varies widely from several thousand rupees to just a few hundred rupees a suit, depending on the exclusivity of the designs and quality of fabric used.

The wide price range helps the industry meet clientele demand from low to high income groups in the domestic market, said Ilyas Mahmood, a major Faisalabad-based textile exporter who also deals in wholesale supply of Classic lawn in the local market.

A major concern of the industry is weak implementation of copyrights. This is because of the huge gap in the prices of designer lawns and cheaper brands.

Cheaper imitations sell more because if a designer lawn suit is available for Rs8,000, its copy is available in the market for just Rs1,200-Rs1,500. While designer brands cater to the taste of the high end market, their imitations meet the needs of the low to middle income groups, Ilyas said, admitting Faisalabad was the main supplier of imitations in the market.

However, the industry appears to have found a solution to this ‘design theft’ by releasing several editions of their lawn brands after regular intervals with each brand launching 50 or more designs each year. This practice has to some extent helped them reduce losses due to copyright violations, according to some manufacturers.

Kashif pointed out that the intense competition among major players and with imitators has resulted in decrease in prices and improvement in designs and quality. Still, he agreed, “everyone in the lawn business is making money because of its popularity.

Lawn is not only in huge demand in the domestic market. Several brands like Khaadi, Nishat, Bareeze etc and designers have already opened their outlets in the Middle East, the UK and the US to cater to the demand of affluent Pakistanis and other south Asians, particularly Indians, living there.

But the overseas sales of lawn contribute just a small portion to the textile firms’ revenues owing to their limited access to prospective customers.

Lawn fabric can be developed as a major export product on the back of strong domestic consumption. Potential markets include the Gulf countries due to the large number of Pakistanis living there, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, etc. By exporting this popular product, textile manufacturers can also grow markets for their other products.

Lawn is a specialized Pakistani product and is not produced anywhere else. If China is recognized for its silk, Pakistan is known in the world for its print-based lawns. It has a lot of export potential in the Indian market. But they have not been able to enter India because of non-tariff barriers against them.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com– Mar 20, 2017

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Bangladesh to set up a weaving village in Madaripur and Sharjupur

Bangladesh governments working to set up a "Jamdani Village" and "Benarasi Village", while plots are being allocated for small weavers in Narayanganj in addition to taking a project to set up a "Weaving Village" at Shibchar in Madaripur and Janjira in Shariutpur said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the National Council 2017 of Bangladesh Tanti League in the capital's Krishibid Institution Auditorium.

Hasina urged the successors of the weaving industry to carry on the rich tradition and called for modernizing and enriching the country's weaving industry, assuring that her government will continue all-out support for the industry.

She added that they have already got the patent for Jamdani, now they will have to develop it further and publicize it worldwide. Their silk, Benarasi and cotton sarees will surely develop, if all pay due attention.

Urging the people, especially the males, to wear clothes made by local weavers, she said that she also buys clothes made of Khaddar which are also very beautiful.

The clothes made of Khaddar are very comfortable and suitable to their weather. ... they want that their traditions (muslin, Khaddar) get back the lost glory and stressed the need for improving training of weavers.

Highlighting various steps taken for the welfare of the weaving and the handloom industries in January 2017, Hasina said that Tk 49,26,000 were distributed among some 142 weavers, while a project worth Tk 41.55 crore was taken to set up a fashion design and a textile institute, and a basic centre.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com – Mar 20, 2017

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NATIONAL NEWS

GST Council meet: No e-wallets for exporters, but tax refunds in 7 days

Instead of an e-wallet facility — a virtual payment system — for manufacture-exporters to get tax refunds in the upcoming Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the GST Council has agreed to process the refunds much quicker than earlier promised.



The council had earlier said 90% of the tax credits (refunds) will be paid in 30 days after shipment and the balance 10% (which are scrutinised) in 180 days.

Instead of an e-wallet facility — a virtual payment system — for manufacture-exporters to get tax refunds in the upcoming Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the GST Council has agreed to process the refunds much quicker than earlier promised. “They (the GST Council) have not agreed to the idea of an e-wallet for exporters but have assured us that tax refunds would be arranged in a maximum of seven days after the shipments instead of about 12-18 months now,” an official source said.

The council had earlier said 90% of the tax credits (refunds) will be paid in 30 days after shipment and the balance 10% (which are scrutinised) in 180 days. Exporters have been sceptical of this, given that VAT refunds currently take much longer in practice. There were concerns that exporters' working capital would get blocked due to delayed refunds.

In the GST regime, a pay-first-and-get-refund system is preferred over tax exemption because an uninterrupted chain of value addition with tax at each stage is integral to the proposed tax on consumption. The DGFT had raised concerns that the provision for no-exemption-and-only-refund would lead to a blockage of about R1,85,000 crore annually for manufactured goods exporters.

For manufacturing a product, a firm buys locally or imports raw material and machinery. The current export schemes allow firms to buy these without payment of applicable duties through ab-initio exemption or subsequent refund of duties.

The GST system mandates that all duties must be paid at the time of a transaction while refund for these can be obtained after exports.

The GST Council which comprises of the central and state governments is committed to the principle that exports should be tax-free. It reckons that exporters should be made to pay taxes at the time of a transaction so that the GST chain is intact.

“One of the state finance ministers was of the opinion that even if the money is blocked, it would be for just one year. After that the process would be smooth,” the official said.

On Thursday, the council approved the remaining two of the five Bills related to the tax regime. GST, likely to be rolled out by July 1, will replace nearly a dozen central and state levies into a single national sales tax.

Source: financialexpress.com- Mar 21, 2017

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Textile sector majorly contributes to total Indian exports

Textile and apparel exports from India contributed majorly to its total exports in the last three years. The share of textile and apparel exports in total Indian exports in 2015 was \$40 billion, that is, 15.3 per cent of the total exports of amounting to \$262.3 billion. The contribution of the sector in 2014 and 2013 was 13.1 per cent and 12.8 per cent of the total exports, respectively.

"In order to give boost to the textile industry, Government has introduced special packages for apparel and made-ups sector in June 2016 and December 2016, respectively," said Ajay Tamta, minister of state, textiles, in a written reply to a Rajya Sabha question.

"The government is also implementing schemes like Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojna (PMPRPY), Scheme of Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) on export of garments, Schemes for Technical textiles, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Integrated Skill Development Scheme etc. to modernize textile industry, increase production and global competitiveness," he added.

He also said that the government has taken a number of initiatives to augment textile exports, which include merchandise export from India Scheme (MEIS) under new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, restoring interest rate subvention for pre and post shipment credit for the textile sector, expanding the scope of MEIS since 2015 to 110 new tariff lines and increase rates or country coverage or both for 2,228 existing tariff lines, increased duty drawback rates for some textile articles and more.

The exports of textile items during 2016-17 (Apr-Dec) were \$26 billion as compared to \$27.2 billion during 2015-16 (Apr-Dec), said the minister as a reply to another question.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Mar 20, 2017

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Indian cotton trade may have uniform unit of weight

A committee set up by the Office of the Textiles Commissioner has proposed uniform weight measurement norms across the raw cotton value chain in India.

The committee, which is made up of 7-8 stake holders from the raw cotton industry, which includes CCI, has recommended that cotton trading in India should be conducted either in kilos or tons.

"The Indian cotton trade has different units of weight measurement at different levels of the value chain and is different even among various cotton growing states. In some places it is quoted in maund, in some in quintals and kilos in others," a leading daily reported.

For instance, farmers get the price based on quintals, the procurement in the market is quoted in bales and ginned cotton is quoted in candy, while exports take place in terms of tons.

According to the daily, a decision on the same is likely to be taken at the next board meeting of the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB).

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com- Mar 20, 2017

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India negotiating bilateral trade agreement with EU

India is negotiating a broad based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (India-EU BTIA) with the European Union.

The negotiations started in 2007 and 16 rounds of negotiations have been held so far, however, there has been no agreement on it. Ministry of textiles is in constant touch with ministry of commerce & industry in this regard.

Ajay Tamta, minister of state, textiles, informed about the trade agreement in a written reply to a Lok Sabha question.

In another reply, he said, "The ministry of textiles is implementing Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) with effect from January 13, 2016, for a period of 7 years. Under ATUFS, there is a provision of one-time capital subsidy for eligible benchmarked machinery at the rate of 15 per cent for garmenting and technical textiles segments with a cap of Rs 30 crore and at the rate of 10 per cent for weaving, processing, jute, silk and handloom segments with a cap of Rs 20 crore."

"An outlay of Rs 17,822 crore has been approved for 7 years to meet the committed liabilities of Rs 12,671 crore and Rs 5,151 crore for new cases under ATUFS. While ATUFS covers Capital Investment Subsidy (CIS), earlier schemes of TUFS had provisions both for interest reimbursement as well as Capital Subsidy," he added.

ATUFS is targeted towards focused segments like garmenting and made-ups with additional 10 per cent subsidy. The segments which have achieved desired level of modernisation, i.e. spinning etc., have been excluded under ATUFS.

So far 2,036 UIDs have been issued under ATUFS with expected employment generation of 45,659 against investments reported of Rs 5225.86 crore.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Mar 20, 2017

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Jharkhand to promote livelihoods of textile craftspersons

Jharkhand is mulling aggressive initiatives to promote and market its ethnic textile and handloom products in a bid to help its large indigenous community of craftspersons grab a major pie of the rapidly growing national and global textile market. An event called 'Opportunities in the Textiles, Apparel, Footwear & Fashion' was recently held in the state.

The state government's efforts, led by Jharkhand Silk Textile and Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd (Jharcraft), were discussed along with emerging opportunities in the textile, apparel, footwear and fashion sector at the event. The seminar brought together various stakeholders and reputed dignitaries in the fashion, textiles, footwear and apparel sector, during the India Fashion Week 2017, to discuss insightful propositions on finding newer markets for products handcrafted by the state's tribals.

Jharcraft is a government of Jharkhand undertaking formed to initiate steps to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities in the rural areas, based on sericulture, handloom, handicraft and other allied activities. The seminar held at the venue of India Fashion Week showed the way forward for diverse sectors such as fashion garments, textile and footwear.

Subsequently, a first-of-its-kind Business to Government (B2G) meeting was also held at Jharkhand Bhavan, New Delhi at the second half with senior officials from Jharkhand, where government bureaucrats interacted on a one-and-one basis with prospective investors in the state to discuss the way forward for a golden investment opportunity in the state of Jharkhand, focusing on the key pillars of flexible policymaking and enhancing ease of doing business.

During the meeting, Pavel Sukoybeda, first secretary, Embassy of Republic of Belarus, exclusively met the secretariat team of government of Jharkhand and expressed their interest in investing in Jharkhand. On the other hand, various other investors also showed interest in endorsing in various public projects such as techno parks, upcoming skyway project, metro projects, and so on.

"The major benefits of policies for Jharkhand in the textile industry are that the state is offering major incentives for the investors and providing 50 per cent of the rebate for land acquisition tax," said Raj Bala Verma, chief secretary, government of Jharkhand at the meeting.

"Jharcraft hopes to provide a platform to the artisans and weavers to merchandise their own products, through the maximum utilisation of resources and manpower of Jharkhand. The artisans producing the silk are largely poor tribals from Jharkhand state who have no means to promote or market their incredible works. At Jharcraft, we are driven by a quest to improve sources of livelihood for these artisans by providing them platforms to showcase their wondrous works and find market opportunities in the international arena," said K Ravi Kumar, managing director, Jharcraft, while delivering his welcome address at the seminar.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Mar 20, 2017

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SJM urges ministry to reduce trait value of BT cotton seeds

In a letter to union agriculture minister, Radha Mohan Singh, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) urged him to provide relief to farmers suffering from low cotton crop yields, by reducing trait value of BT cotton seeds to Rs 25. According to SJM, efficacy of the BT trait has come down vastly in the last two years, so its trait value should also be reduced.

"SJM requests you to kindly reduce the trait value for BT cotton seeds from Rs 49 to Rs 25 for giving relief to the farmers, who are suffering from its low yield," a news agency quoted SJM's national co-convener, Ashwani Mahajan as saying in the letter.

"We think there is a lapse in fixing trait value. Request you to examine facts and reduce trait value to Rs 25 and thereby fix MSP of BT cotton seeds price at Rs 775," Mahajan added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Mar 21, 2017

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To celebrate Mumbai's textile mill legacy, BMC to develop textile museum

More than eight years after it was proposed, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is going ahead with planning of a textile museum at Kalachowkie. BMC has appointed JJ School of Arts to prepare a vision document for the museum.

The plan includes a live, functioning mini-textile mill, a representation of the past chawl life and a museum celebrating the city's mill legacy. "My note to the planning committee is to make the museum interactive for public, accessible which is enjoyed by all the citizens of the city," said Ajoy Mehta, municipal commissioner.

State government just before the civic election approved the BMCs plan to retain the land under the heritage structures for the textile museum as part of the recreation ground of the civic body.

The museum will come up in India United Mills that is spread over an area of 10 acres. India United Mills 2 and 3 have the tag of a heritage precinct, the area has three ring and spinning structures, a chimney, a semi-automatic loom and a pond. All the individual structures in the compound have varying heritage status. “All the heritage structures will be restored to its past glory. I have asked the committee to restore the mills, the water body in the compound,” added Mehta.

Restoration work of some of the structures in the mill has already begun. The museum will also have a dedicated space for new graduate students to showcase their arts at nominal rate. “The space will allocated to new graduates, from painters to sculptors, who will be rent the space for six months to one year, showcase their art and also sell it. After a year their place will be taken by new graduates. The space will not be given to boutique stores,” said Mehta. A separate exhibition area will be also carved out.

The plot has been mired into controversy for past eight years, from funding of the museum to the non-approval of the plan by Maharashtra Heritage Conservation Committee (MHCC).

Source: hindustantimes.com - Mar 21, 2017

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Priority for textile industry: Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala

Minister for Industries A.C. Moideen has said that the government will adopt all possible measures to rejuvenate the textile industry in the State.

Speaking after visiting the Wayanad Handloom and Powerloom Multi purpose Industrial Cooperative society at Thrissilery in the district on Monday, Mr. Moideen said the industry in the State was in a crisis and it cast a shadow over the lives of thousands of families depending on the sector.

Hence the government had decided to give special focus to rejuvenate the sector, the Minister said.

The Minister directed the concerned department officials to complete the construction works for the district stadium at Maravayal here.

“All steps would be adopted to upgrade the Archery training centre at Pulpally to an archery academy on par with international standards,” Mr.Moideen said.

The Minister also inaugurated the construction works for the Rajiv Gandhi mini bypass at Sulthan Bathery.

Source: thehindu.com- Mar 21, 2017

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