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TEXPROCIL NEWS CLIPPINGS

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council [TEXPROCIL]
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USD 67.84 | EUR 70.91 | GBP 84.72 | JPY 0.58

Cotton Market Update (16-12-2016)

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

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
18453	38600	**72.56**

Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), December

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
19220	40204	**75.58**

International Futures Price

NY ICE USD Cents/lb (March 2017)	71.92
ZCE Yuan/MT (January 2017)	15,585
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**86.66**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**80.20**

Cotton & currency guide: Cotton traded steady on Thursday's trading session. The most active December contract ended the session at Rs. 19050 down by Rs.20 from the previous close. Market is moderately steady this entire week while in the global front ICE March has been moving in the range of 71 to 72 cents.

We believe overall trend for cotton is steady for now. As we approach to next week fresh arrivals may continue to weigh on the local markets amid steady demand. We believe cotton price to remain sideways to lower on today's trading session. This morning ICE cotton is seen trading at 71.67 cents/lb and believe to see it coming down to 71.30 cents. Also the ZCE cotton is seen trading steady around 15580 Yuan/MT

Interior asking rates for Shankar-6 have advanced by Rs.150 since yesterday, to be placed at ₹39,150 per candy, ex-gin. At the prevailing exchange rate, today's equivalent value is approximately 73.90 US cents per lb. Punjab J-34 has also moved higher, to Rs. 4,150 per maund (74.65 cents per lb).Nationwide, daily seed cotton arrivals are estimated at over 160,000 lint equivalent bales (170 kgs), including 60,000 from Maharashtra and 43,000 from Gujarat.

Overall we expect cotton price to trade sideways on today's trading session. The trading range would be Rs. 18900 to Rs. 19200 per bale.

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UK Official Predicts a Protracted Brexit Trade Negotiation

Once it's officially initiated, Brexit will two years to complete. Coming to an agreement on a new trade deal between Britain and the European Union, however, could take up to a decade.

This according to Sir Ivan Rogers, British ambassador to the E.U. His is the longest predicted timeframe on record, though others have said realistically a deal will take at least five years.

One main outstanding question is what the new arrangement will look like. Whether the new agreement will be a free trade arrangement or a single market membership, remains unclear.

No matter which route is decided, the deal is still vulnerable, since in order to be ratified, it must pass the parliaments of all 27 member countries. In other words, years of negotiations could get them nowhere.

There is no official word from the British government on Rogers' predicted 10-year timeline. For her part, British Prime Minister Theresa May is pushing for a smooth Brexit and subsequent trade talks.

No matter how much time elapses until a new deal is in place, the question remains: What happens in the mean time? Will Britain continue to enjoy a single market membership while the new deal is hammered out?

Some of these questions may begin to become clearer after today's meeting of EU leaders, during which they will have preliminary discussions about the Brexit negotiation.

It may prove to be a difficult knot to unravel since no country has ever left the trade bloc. Therefore, there's no precedent for separating the intertwined legal, trade and immigration laws.

Talks will start in earnest once the UK formerly invokes Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. Prime Minister May has indicated that Britain will do so in March.

Source: sourcingjournalonline.com– Dec 16, 2016

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Moody's: US Apparel, Footwear Headed for a Better 2017

There could be good news ahead for apparel and retail after a bleak 2016: Moody's Investors Service says prospects will be bright (read: more profitable) in the coming year.

A strong dollar, weak traffic, too much-inventory—which led to too many promotions—and conditions that were tougher than expected, set retailers up for a lackluster 2016, Moody's said in a report out Thursday. Analysts said apparel sector performance will likely swing to a 5.5% decline, far below projections earlier in the year for 1 percent to 3 percent growth.

On a more positive note, analysts said, "We expect prospects to brighten next year, when constant currency operating profit growth resumes on the back of easier comparisons to this year."

Operating profit growth is expected to accelerate to between 5 percent and 7 percent in 2017, though slightly lower than the 6 percent to 8 percent Moody's initially projected.

International growth will lead the profit uptick, especially in emerging markets where stronger GDP growth has translated to more branded apparel buys. Nike, PVH, Levi's and Under Armour are all expected to benefit from international growth opportunities.

Direct-to-consumer will also be big in 2017.

"Many apparel companies, such as Nike, Ralph Lauren, VF and PVH, have been directing more resources into direct-to-consumer (DTC) channels such as new stores, websites and mobile applications," Moody's said. "This not only positions them where the shoppers are, it helps them better control the brand."

Nike's DTC revenue grew 22 percent in the first quarter ended August 2016, driven by 8 percent comparable store growth and 49 percent growth in e-commerce sales and new store expansion, according to Moody's.

As has been the trend for 2016 with companies filing bankruptcy left and right, consolidation in the industry will continue in the coming year.

Hanesbrands recently acquired Australian intimates company Pacific Brands Limited and Champion Europe, which owns the trademark for the Champion brand in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. This month, G-III Apparel Group completed its acquisition of Donna Haram International and VF Corp and Wolverine Worldwide, according to Moody's, are looking to "actively" manage their portfolios with acquisitions or selling off subsidiaries.

"We expect that U.S. apparel and footwear companies will continue to pursue acquisitions to expand both geographically and into lifestyle categories," Moody's said.

Though input costs for labor and raw materials like cotton and oil are rising, Moody's said the increases won't shake things up too much.

"We think these costs are manageable, particularly in light of company efforts to reduce costs and improve manufacturing and supply chain efficiencies," Moody's said. "Price increases taken in late 2015/early 2016 provide some offset, but further increases will remain challenging."

Sales in the apparel sector are expected to grow 6 percent to 8 percent in the next 12 to 18 months, double the projections for sales growth in the overall U.S. retail sector.

"Companies will continue to introduce innovative new products, cut costs and realize acquisition synergies, while they're also seeing growth from investments in direct-to-consumer and international channels," Moody's said.

"We also assume companies will maintain a steady hand on inventory coming out of the 2016 holiday season, and that cotton and FX pressures will remain manageable."

Source: sourcingjournalonline.com– Dec 16, 2016

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Pakistan: Cotton inches up as strong US exports offset soaring dollar

ICE cotton futures edged higher for the third time in four sessions on Thursday, supported by strong US exports sales data amid a surging dollar. "Cotton has held up relatively well considering the selloff in some commodities following the US Federal Reserve rate hike announcement," said Peter Egli, director of risk management at British merchant Plexus Cotton.

"I think that has to do with strong export sales ... compared to what we need to sell, we have sold a lot more at the moment." Export data from the US Department of Agriculture showed net upland sales of 311,700 running bales of cotton for the week ended December 8, up 16 percent from the prior four-week average.

The US dollar surged to its highest level in 14 years against a basket of major currencies on Thursday in anticipation of a more hawkish Federal Reserve and a boost in US economic growth under President-elect Donald Trump. March cotton contract on ICE Futures US settled up 0.2 cent, or 0.28 percent, at 71.67 cents per lb. It traded within a range of 71.1 cents and 71.77 cents a lb.

Total futures market volume fell by 1,132 lots to 14,412 lots. Data showed total open interest gained 93 to 252,832 contracts in the previous session. The dollar index was up 1.33 percent.

The Thomson Reuters CoreCommodity CRB Index, which tracks 19 commodities, was down 0.68 percent.

Source: brecorder.com– Dec 17, 2016

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Europe to be largest market for Pakistan's textiles

In encouraging remarks for the perturbed exporters, Honorary Consul General of Pakistan for Finland Wille Eerola has emphasised that the European bloc will remain the biggest export market for the country's textile sector in coming years despite a huge influx of Chinese investment in the South Asian nation.

Referring to ongoing developments under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said the project would definitely change the country's landscape and bring both countries (China and Pakistan) more closer.

However, textile lobbies should be aware that China itself was a big exporter of raw textile products.

"Europe will be the biggest market for Pakistan's textile products in the future, however, Pakistan should also focus on other export products to increase its share in the European market and reduce dependence on textiles," Eerola said in an interview with *The Express Tribune*.

For him, Pakistan is full of opportunities, especially for Nordic companies, but the country needs to improve its image at the international level.

"There is a lot of negative news being aired on international media and this is the biggest hurdle in the way of motivating Nordic companies to look for opportunities in Pakistan," he said, adding to encourage investors they had to be brought to Pakistan so they could see true picture of the country.

Eerola, who also chairs the Nordic-Pakistan Business Summit, said he had already managed to bring many Nordic investors to Pakistan and around 80 companies were interested in pouring capital into the country.

Bilateral trade between the EU and Pakistan stood at €10.5 billion in 2015. However, trade between Pakistan and the seven Nordic countries remained at around €150 million. "The first target should be to at least triple the trade figure in coming years," he said.

"Pakistan should focus on other products like surgical and food-related items in order to ramp up its export revenue in the Nordic region; it is time that Pakistan's exporters look out of the box," he suggested.

Talking about CPEC, he said though Chinese companies were dominating the project, Nordic companies still had several opportunities to tap. "CPEC is bringing China and Pakistan closer but there is always room for European companies to play their role," he said.

"However, Nordic companies are not in a position to execute any project alone in Pakistan as it is hard for any foreign company to understand the exact ground realities." He believed that such projects could only be undertaken via joint ventures with local counterparts, as foreign companies would help in bringing investments, technology and expertise. However, Pakistani companies right now were more inclined towards China.

Source: tribune.com.pk– Dec 17, 2016

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UK: Clothing prices in UK rise by 1.6% in November

Prices of clothing and footwear increased by 1.6 per cent between October and November 2016 in the UK, compared to a fall of 0.1 per cent between the same months last year, says a recent report. This segment mainly caused the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to rise by 1.2 per cent in the year to November 2016, compared with a 0.9 per cent rise in October.

Prices of women's and men's outerwear rose particularly in the period between October and November 2016, according to the UK consumer price inflation: Nov 2016 report by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

This is the largest October to November rise since 2010 and continues the rather volatile movements observed during 2016, especially over the latest 3 months. The rise follows a relatively small increase in prices in October 2016, which resulted in a downward contribution to the change in the rate of a similar magnitude to the upward effect seen in November.

The CPI rate in November was the highest since October 2014, when it was 1.3 per cent

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 16, 2016

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Vietnam likely to miss export target this year

The country's export values totalled US$159.5 billion in the first 11 months of this year, up 7.5 per cent over the same period last year.

No sudden fluctuation is expected in December's export value, compared to November's level of around $15.6 billion. This means the 10 per cent goal is almost unachievable.

Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Tuan Anh told government portal chinhphu.vn that the country faced significant obstacles in export activities this year because political instability caused demand and price declines in its major export markets.

Agricultural and aquatic products especially suffered from low world prices, with rice exports falling 20 per cent in quantity and 18 per cent in value this year.

A slump of around $1 billion in mineral exports, though in line with a national policy to reduce mineral exports, hindered the general growth.

Fossil coal export was down 45 per cent in quantity and 47 per cent in value, and the rates of decline were 20 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, for crude oil, in 2016.

Viet Nam Textile and Apparel Association Chairman Vu Duc Giang said 2016 was the toughest year for the garment and textile sector over the last decade. The sector posted growth of roughly 5 per cent this year, half of the rate recorded in several previous years.

"Garment and textile firms say they have 'lived from hand to mouth' in 2016," he told chinhphu.vn.

Telephone and component exports hit $32 billion this year, after reaching $30.6 billion in 2015 and $23.6 billion in 2014.

However, growth of these exports, which accounted for nearly one-fifth of all export values of the nation, fell to some 10 per cent this year from a peak of 30 per cent recorded some years ago.

Pham Tat Thang, a senior advisor from the ministry's Viet Nam Institute for Trade, said there were bright points in the dim situation.

Some traditional exports witnessed significant growth this year, such as coffee (up 26 per cent), cashew nuts (up 16 per cent) and pepper (up 16 per cent).

Vegetables also increased 30 per cent, confectionery was up 17 per cent, and animal feed rose by 17 per cent.

Tran Thanh Hai, deputy head of the ministry's Import-Export Department, said while major exporting countries also suffered declines, Viet Nam's export growth reaching nearly 8 per cent was worth acknowledgement.

"Current export values show that farm produce is consumed well and is benefiting farmers, and more jobs are generated by enterprises involved in industrial production. This is a valuable issue behind the 8 per cent figure," he told chinhphu.vn.

Hai said Viet Nam could better the export situation next year, taking advantage of its free trade agreement with the European Union, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

He said the country was to restructure export products to promote its competitive edges while trying to expand markets.

"An example, five years ago, no one thought Viet Nam would be a bright point in the technology world or a mobile phone production base. But now we have a reputation in these areas," he said.

Hai said the country needed to decide which link of the global value chain to take part in to maximise benefits, and this would require the rationalisation of economic sectors and trade policies.

Imports were to be reasonably balanced to meet demand of the economy, support exports, and help processing enterprises better join the global value chain, he added.

Source: vietnamnet.vn – Dec 17, 2016

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Ghana: Government must support local textile industries

Mr Samuel Hemans-Arday, Deputy Marketing Manager Akosombo Textiles Limited (ATL), has called on the in-coming government of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to create an enabling environment for local industries especially the textile industries to grow.

Mr Hemans-Arday said: “The in-coming government should take some measures to revive conditions crippling the local textile industries, citing the 17.5 per cent VAT rate as an example”.

He also noted that, smuggled goods into the country, unstable exchange rates, influx of Chinese products, high utility tariffs as other conditions that were hindering business growth.

Mr. Hemans-Arday who said this in an interview with the Ghana News Agency, cautioned that if the current economic situation continues, ATL would be pushed to lay workers off.

He said in order to prevent fabrics smuggling into the country, the government should consider allowing only one border for importing fabrics, preferably the Tema Harbor.

He added that this would help curb the problem of smuggled goods and the government could earn some revenue from the tax or import duty paid.

“Besides avoiding duty payments, these smuggled goods usually copy our logo, design and brand and they sell it cheaper on the market. So we have fake ATL fabrics smuggled into the country.

“The custom officers and authorities at the various borders should be able to identify these fake goods and take the appropriate action against smugglers,” he added.

He said, “If the conditions persist ATL will eventually have to lay off some workers or close down the spinning and weaving sector which employs about 500 people and resort to importing gray cloths for production.

“We have moved from employing about 3,000 people to 1,100 currently.”

He also said that because of the challenges, the local textiles industries such as Printex, GTP and ATL inclusive run their machines three times a week instead of five times a week.

“For you to achieve 50 per cent production capacity a textile company must run five times in a week on three shifts: morning, afternoon and night,” he said. Mr. Hemans-Arday recommended a reconsideration of the VAT rate for the local industries. “The government can decide that the Textile industries pay VAT rate of 5 per cent to help the local industries compete with the Asia Products.

“Because Asian textile companies, for instance China, get 13 per cent rebate on any export they do. So they can decide to sell their products at the cost price and then keep the rebate as their profit.

“The cost of production has been very high for local industries. Besides paying high duties for the importation of raw material, high utility tariff, paying Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) contribution for each staff and high cost of raw materials has made production very expensive.

“We use black oil for our production, which is petroleum by product but it is more expensive than even petrol which should not be the case. Chinese companies use steam which is free to run their machines. Energy cost is also crippling the textile industry,” he said.

He iterated: “The local textile industry do dread competition, but it is the unfair competition we detest.”

He suggested that the government should give a concessionary tariff for local industries in terms of energy and water for all industries, reduce interest rates and also ensure the cedi stability.

“The interest rate is too high for companies. 30-32 per cent is too high for companies. It makes it difficult for companies to invest, reap profits and pay back loans. Some banks even have rates as high as 40 per cent. The exchange rate is also not too stable.

“For instance; you import raw materials at a particular price, then you produce and fix prices based on the cost of production.

After less than three months we get to the market only to find that the currency has devalued by a certain percentage.

“The company needs to either increase the products price or absorb the costs. Most often, the company absorbs the cost.”

Despite all these challenges, Mr. Hemans-Arday says ATL remains the only vertically integrated manufacturing company and noted for its quality cotton fabrics.

It is part of the “CHA Textile Group of companies, a leading textile multinational conglomerate.

Source: ghanabusinessnews.com – Dec 16, 2016

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Economic recovery spurs increase in cotton imports by Thailand

Spinning mills in Thailand are expected to recover from the economic downturn of the past few years.

Therefore, cotton imports 2016-17 are expected to increase to around 1.4 million bales, up approximately 6 per cent from2015-16.

Imports of US cotton in 2016-17 are expected to increase to 450,000 bales, up 6 per cent from 2015-16. Large-scale spinning mills which account for approximately 60 per cent of total cotton yarn production still maintain their competitive edge in domestic and export markets as they have invested in new machinery and improved their production efficiency.

However, competition from cheaper yarn imports from Vietnam and India will likely remain a challenge to domestic yarn producers, particularly for small-scale spinning mills.

Cotton imports in 2015-16 were lower than expected at around 1.3 million bales, down 13 percent from 14-15. This reflected a reduction in cotton and cotton-blended yarn production which declined approximately 5 percent as spinning mills were forced to hold large inventories of yarn.

Imports of cotton yarn increased 44 per cent from 2014-15 with cotton yarn imports from Vietnam and India doubling. Additionally, exports of cotton yarn declined 28 per cent, particularly to China and Japan due to an economic slowdown and competition from Vietnam.

Imports of US cotton in 2015-16 declined to 424,113 bales, down 15 per cent from 2014-15. However, US cotton still maintained its market share accounting for approximately one third of total cotton import demand.

Meanwhile, medium-scale spinners who limited their purchases to cheap cotton to maintain their operations imported more Brazilian cotton.

Source: fashionatingworld.com – Dec 16, 2016

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NATIONAL NEWS

Textile industry extends support for cashless economy

The textile industry has expressed solidarity with the Centre's goal to promote India as a cashless economy. Supporting the decision, representatives of the textile industry across the country are encouraging the workers to open bank accounts. As a result, salary payment will be done either through cheque or directly into their bank account.

A majority of the workforce has already opened bank accounts, while others are in the process, said the representatives of the textile industry.

"The move to go digital is a good initiative by the government. However, it will take time for the workers to get accustomed to the new process. In Tamil Nadu, more than 60 per cent of the workers associated with the spinning industry already have bank account," Prabhu Damodaran, secretary of Indian Texpreneurs Federation told Fibre2Fashion.

Welcoming the move, he added, "The workers are putting in efforts to understand and learn the functioning of banking and digital system. We have also been organising demonstration programmes for the workers."

"It will not be feasible for the workers to travel far to withdraw cash as majority of the textile industries are located on the outskirts, so we will be urging the government to install ATM kiosks in the premises itself," said Damodaran.

"Digitisation of payments will help in maintaining transparency. We are still in the course of opening bank accounts of the textile workers. Since many workers do not have a valid identity proof, the process is getting delayed.

We are also helping the workers to download digital payment transfer applications on their cell phones," said Jitendra Vakharia, president of Federation of South Gujarat Textile Processing Association.

"This measure by the government will not only help in curbing corruption but will also ensure that the workers are getting their dues.

It will also increase the scope of investment. They can withdraw money directly from the bank or from ATM," said Dilip Patel, president of All Gujarat Ginners' Association.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Dec 16, 2016

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Century Textiles organizes five-day cashless transaction workshop with SBI, HDFC

Century Textiles and Industries Ltd. organized a five-day Digital India workshop on cashless transaction from December 13 to 17 at Birla Century Plant, Jhagadia, Bharuch in Gujarat.

The workshop has been organized in collaboration with the State Bank of India and the HDFC Bank

This Digital India Workshop is to empower workers to make cashless money transactions using electronic devices and channels. This workshop is the first of its kind organized in Indian textile industry.

R.K. Dalmia, President - Century Textiles and Industries Ltd. inaugurated the workshop. Upendra Dalwadi - Regional Manager and S.B. Shukla, Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Jhagadia, graced the occasion with his colleagues.

In addition, Khurshed Mistry, Cluster Head and Ahmendra Kansal, Asst. Vice President, Branch Head of HDFC Bank also graced the occasion with their colleagues.

Demonetization and cashless transactions are the initiatives of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Smriti Irani, Union Textile Minister, have encouraged digital payments in textile industry.

Century Textiles had taken initiatives in 2011 for their Bharuch Plant and have opened bank account for all of their workers and their wages are being deposited to their individual account.

To take this initiative step ahead, R.K. Dalmia, President CTIL, stated that the one week workshop would train and educate each employee in the use of cashless transactions.

Plans also include a training syllabus for new and old employees through a refresher course. He also said that within six months, all 1500 workmen and 230 staff will be tech savvy and will do cashless transactions with the digitalization initiative.

In the year 1988, Century Mills at Mumbai had 10,000 workers at their Worli unit in Mumbai. The mills took initiative to change the workers habit of thumb impression to signature for receipt of wages within three months period and it make the workers proud for being educated. Century Mills is known for progressive initiatives.

Birla Century, a modern vertically integrated composite plant considered an architectural marvel, was set up in 2008 at Jhagadia, Bharuch in Gujarat.

With an investment of about USD 200 million, this factory became an icon leading the textile industry in India & abroad. Spread over 100 acres, the mill covers 45 acres of land and another 50 acres have been landscaped to perfection.

Birla Century is equipped with the latest compact technology capable of manufacturing all kinds of premium fabrics from suiting and shirting to fine fabrics and household linen.

Birla Century at Bharuch has over one lakh spindles, 300 air jet looms and modern processing facilities to produce 1 lakh meters per day. It is made ups unit for home textile products has capacity to produce 3 lakh pieces per month of bed sets.

Source: business-standard.com- Dec 16, 2016

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Efforts to promote Make in Manipur in India and abroad

Continuing its effort to make Manipur one of the best state in India and abroad in the field of handloom and textiles, State government is setting up 9 Indudustrial Estates in 9 districts under the financial assistance of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and the NEC. The Takyel Industrial Estate, Construction of Kuraopokpi and Tera Urak Industrial Estates is being upgraded at a total cost of Rs 5859.72.

Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh on 24th November 2016, inaugurated the Industrial Estate at Tera Urak. And on 25th November 2016, Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh inaugurated newly constructed industrial estate at Kuraopokpi, Thoubal district. On 8th April 2016 Union MSME Minister Kalraj Mishra laid foundation stones for construction of one industrial estate each at Ukhrul, Chura-chandpur and Chandel.

The industrial estates has been financed by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The ministry has sanctioned Rs 949.19 lakh for construction of Industrial Estates in Churachandpur, Rs 906.55 lakh in Chandel and Rs 949.19 lakh in Ukhrul district.

The foundation stones were laid together at the Expo Hall, Lamboi Khongnang- khong. During the function foundation stone for one Livelihood Business Incu-bation (LBI) Centre in nine districts was also laid. The 9 LBIs is going to play a crucial role in Make in Manipur initiative. Under ASPIRE Scheme launched by the Centre,22 Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) has been sanctioned.

The Department of Commerce and Industries is continuing its effort to provide welfare schemes for the Craft Artisans. Incentives/State awards were given to 200 outstanding handicrafts Artisans and 680 Individual ex-trainee handicrafts artisans were provided financial assistance in 2016.

On 26th November 2015 Panthoibi Arcade was inaugurated by Chief Minister, Shri O. Ibobi Singh. The arcade covers area of 1451.60 Sqm with 20 shops, one exhibition and training hall.

Encouraging the weavers for their talent and dedication 11 weavers received different awards namely, National Award, Merit Award and Sant Kabir Award.

Acknowledging that Handloom and Textile sector needs upgra-dation, in 2014 Poweloom and Allied Service centre was inaugurated at Industrail Estate, Takyelpat by Chief Minister and in 2015 Apparel and Garment making Centre along with a Powerloom Estate was set up under NERTPS at lamboi Khong-nangkhong, Imphal West.

Handloom is one of the most important and fast growing cottage industry in Manipur. The State government has been giving emphasis for the promotion of socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers and working for the harmonious growth of Handloom industry.

Manipur has 2.04 lakh handloom workers which is 5.30 per cent share in India. There are 1.90 lakh looms which is 8.02 percent share in India which is the highest concentration of weavers and highest concentration on all possession of loom in the country.

During the past 15 years, State Government has taken up many schemes for the weavers and handloom sector. Between 2002-2007 under Deen Dayal Hathkar- gha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) 18,272 weavers were given training and 14,497 weavers were given Skill Upgradation (Training). In 2014, under Integrated Skill Development Scheme, 11,550 weavers were given training.

To empower the weavers of the State between 2002-2014 Equipment grant of Loom, jacquard, Dobby and acessiories under DDHPY & IHDS to the tune of Rs 866.88 lakh were given to 28,412 weavers. 17,042 Handloom workshed under Workshed Scheme, IHDS and North Eastern Region Textile Promotion Scheme were given between 2003-2016. To give the weavers easy access of yarn, 117 yarn depots were opened under IHDS and NERTPS between 2007-2015.

Under IHDS and NERTPS, 166 unemployed youths were given employment between 2007-2016. Financing has always been an issue for the weavers of the State. To facilitate weavers easy access to finance, 1641 cooperative societies and 4 banks were opened between 2012-2014 under RRRP.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com - Dec 16, 2016

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Bombay Dyeing's makeover - Can it revive its dying textile biz?

Nusli Wadia's public jousting with old friend Ratan Tata is making headlines these days, but away from the glare, his 137-year-old flagship company, Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Co, is fighting another battle. One of the oldest textile businesses in India, Bombay Dyeing is slowly putting in place the building blocks to revive its bread-and-butter home textile business.

We are reinventing," Nagesh Rajanna, its CEO for the retail segment, told ET in an interview, in one of the few media interactions he has had until now. "Investments are being lined up."

To be sure, the road to the reinvention started more than a decade ago, when the company decided to exit textile manufacturing. Competition from cheap imports from China and the unorganised sector had rendered its factories unviable. The company also dabbled in apparel, before exiting the segment.

What Bombay Dyeing aims to do now is to rev-up the loss making flagship textile business by investing in the brand, expanding store network, growing product portfolio and tying up with international designers. Manufacturing will be outsourced.

From now till 2020, the Wadia group owned company plans to invest more than Rs 100 crore in the brand, double its multibrand outlets to 10,000, more than double its franchise stores to 500 and introduce three to four new products every year, Rajanna said.

These measures, he said, will help the segment more than treble its revenue to Rs 1,000 crore by fiscal 2020 from Rs 305 crore last year. The retail or textile segment currently contributes 17% to the company's overall revenue. That chunk, Rajanna said, will expand to 33% by fiscal 2020.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com - Dec 17, 2016

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New schemes to give fillip to textile sector: Smriti Irani at Express Devi Awards

Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani in conversation with the Editorial Director of the New Indian Express Prabhu Chawla at Devi awards 2016 in Delhi. She talks about steps taken to improve conditions of weavers in country and new initiatives for textiles industry.

Your journey from TV actor to an able administrator?

One needs to recognize that it is very difficult to find women who are very blunt about their success. I see nowadays people try to gently put in words which might not be very patriarchly offensive. I am proud to be housewife but people say that to for it to be more acceptable we make the term homemaker. I am proud to say that I am part of administration. Honestly, ask any women she's doing close quarter battles every day, the difficulty is that you are not battling enemies but your own people not strangers. There is a confidence that whatever may be the challenge, we will succeed.

Whom are you having close battles with?

When are we trying to ridicule, when I say that women are fighting certain battles at close quarters it is to define stories of successful women, it is far easier to do it in a family where almost every member is educated, I am talking today as women and not talking as a minister.

If this is a stage to celebrate female achiever, I celebrate very women who is fighting that battle but not getting award for it. I think today amongst us those women who are fighting these battles and yet keeping their families together, keeping their dreams alive are genuinely big heroes.

Margret Thatcher (former British PM) had said any women who understand the challenge of running a home is very close to understanding the challenges of running either a business or for that matter administration.

I think if it resonates with Thatcher all the way upto India, they say that there are certain battles you fight only because of your gender.

What you think Indian women can do to make our Indian brands famous?

If I talk about textile as an economic sector then 70-75 percent of people employed in the sector are women. As a market the handcrafted legacy of India is something which actually cannot be measured in term of how rich its' value will be pepped at an international arena. So we are quite blessed that we have a textile legacy, craft legacy in the country which many of us enjoy.

You ask any lady who is part of textile sector or a man for that matter, when it comes to clothing, let's say in France today there will be colour forecast for the year 2017-18 but no one would dare forecast a colour for this country because we enjoy our colours on our own; we enjoy the weaves and we enjoy the choices we make.

What can you do for the sector?

There is a much we have done from ensuring that yarn our weavers get the supply was only retained to certain offices. Nobody in this age of technology could actually empower the weaver to know that how the subsidized yarn supply will reach them.

I am launching e-dhaga Monday (December 19) , which put the entire yarn supply for all weavers through an app in three languages in next two-three weeks. One of the major challenges weavers face is that they cannot afford new looms. For the first time 90 percent of the cost of loom will be borne by the government.

Given the vibrancy of the sector, I not only have the challenge but also the opportunity to set lot of historical wrongs right.

What is the difference between two ministries you handled HRD before and Textile now?

I think that I never started wanting to prove anything to anybody. But I was just there to do my job which I did and when you do your job to proving anything then you do great disservice to responsibility that is being given to you.

I remember walking into an IIT Council meeting and I asked why it doesn't have a single women. I told them that I am here as virtue of my office and they told me there are not many women in technology who are part of IIT Council. I told them we have Tessy Thomas and then I inducted two women in the IIT Council.

As a woman, what broke my heart was when I called Tessy Thomas and I said ma'am would you accept the position and she said you thought of me and I said why not you have done so much for the country.

Why women are not trusted with important posts?

Textile is an economic portfolios, commerce minister is also an important minister and equally the minister of external affairs minister, and these ministries are handled by women too.

Source: newindianexpress.com- Dec 16 2016

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Govt approves Amended TUFS for textile industry

The Government has approved the "Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS)" in place of Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RRTUFS) for technology up-gradation of the textile industry with one time capital subsidy for eligible bench-marked machinery for a period of seven years from 2015-16 to 2021-22.

This was informed by the Union Textiles Minister, Smriti Zubin Irani in a written reply to a Rajya Sabha Question on Friday.

Ministry has also notified the Scheme for Production and Employment Linked Support for Garmenting Units (SPELSGU) under ATUFS to incentivise production and employment generation in the garment sector vide Resolution dated 25.07.2016.

The additional incentive of 10% will be provided to the garmenting units which would be availing the 15% Capital In1vestment Subsidy (CIS) under ATUFS for the installation of eligible benchmarked machinery after a period of 3 years.

The cap on capital investment subsidy for the eligible machinery in the garmenting units has therefore been enhanced from Rs. 30 crore which was the cap under ATUFS, to Rs. 50 crore. This additional subsidy of 10% will be on achievement of the projected production and employment generation, as stated by the unit in its Detailed Project Report (DPR).

An allocation of Rs. 17,822 crore has been approved for seven years to meet the committed liabilities of Rs. 12,671 crore and Rs. 5151 crore for new cases under ATUFS. Budget provision for the financial year 2016-17 is Rs. 1830 crore.

However, there is no specific budget provision for any particular segment, including Handloom sector since the scheme is demand driven.

In another reply the minister informed about the measures taken by the government to provide relief to powerloom industry.

Immediately after the demonetisation initiative, a quick survey of Powerloom units was undertaken in major Powerloom clusters to assess the impact on the decentralised Powerloom Sector.

To address the issues of shortage of new currency, Government has initiated immediate action to enable cashless transactions for payment of wages in the textile sector.

A mission-mode campaign has been launched to promote digital payments and opening of bank accounts for workers by organising a large number of camps in various textile clusters.

Senior Officers were deputed to clusters to oversee the holding of camps in association with the banking sector.

Industry Associations and Councils have also been advised to promote digital payments for enabling cashless transactions.

Source: smetimes.in– Dec 17, 2016

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Overseas buyers look for something special from India

Buyers from the US and various European nations are looking for something special from India as they value handwork, fabric texturing, a soft feel, organic fibres, embroideries, metallic threads and foil printing that are difficult to find outside the country, according to Shades of India. However, price has become a major constraint on what can be done.

Cotton and voile are the most preferred fabrics in the US, while silk, tussar, velvet and linen sell the most in Europe and East Asia, Mandeep Nagi, design director of Shades of India told Fibre2Fashion.

When asked about how she plans to deal with rising prices, Nagi said that one method is to use a relatively less expensive fabric like linen-cotton and compensate with surface treatment that looks rich, but is less expensive.

Shades of India sources all its fabrics from various regions in India to make authentic pieces for its national as well as international clientele. “We source cotton from the south, silk from Bangalore, tussar silk from Baghalpore. We are always looking for new sources like hand weaves from Bengal or fine wool from Ladakh,” added Nagi.

Talking about her latest collection, she said, “Nazraana is a story based on the traditions of Awadh – the region rich in culture with its capital in Lucknow. Nazraana reflects the princely life of the court in the early 19th century, the beauty and independence of its women, the traditions of dance and music and the exquisite work found in its textiles. It was a centre of Indo-Persian culture that also absorbed influences from Europe.”

Besides fashion, Shades of India also deals in home furnishings and Nagi has found that Indians have become more conscious about their homes with changing times.

“Indians follow contemporary trends. They also want something that is brighter in colour than the naturals beloved in Europe and the US. But they are still uncertain how to combine colours, fabrics and textures. We specialise in providing that help. Interiors are now an important part of our business,” continued Nagi.

“There has been lots of growth reflected in both, the new apartments and homes that have come up and in people making changes in their apartments. This growth will continue – though on a bit of a roller coaster depending on the state of the economy and the money people feel they can spend,” added Nagi while talking about the growth of the home furnishings market of India.

The company recently launched a new brand called Neem by Shades of India in the US, which has received positive response in the country so far.

Speaking about the expansion plans, she said, “Our major markets in India are the metropolis. We want to expand into three or four more. We are also looking at strengthening our online presence. Abroad our major market is the US where we mainly pin our hopes on Neem by Shades of India. But we also have substantial private label work in the US – much of it in garments.”

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 16, 2016

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Manufacturers, govt unsure of when benefits of textile package will kick in

The government's ambitious textile package, aimed at boosting employment and improving investment flows is expected to reap benefits later than earlier expected.

The Rs 6,000-crore package, announced by the government in July and notified in September, is now expected to kickstart production and employment much later than earlier estimated, manufacturers say.

On the other hand, senior officials from the Textile Ministry said, under conditions of anonymity, that they did not have any time estimates for the same. At the same time, the recent Cabinet decision to widen the package beyond apparel manufacturing to cover 'made ups' or home furnishings has its root in the uncertainty.

Arguing that it's too early to look for benefits accorded by the package, Development Commissioner (Handlooms) said, "We need to wait for a few months more for the results to become clearer."

Originally envisaged for the apparel manufacturing sector, the package has been slow to hit the ground with manufacturers blaming anaemic global demand as well as low investment in the sector.

The bulk of the planned capital outlay, an estimated Rs 5,500 crore is expected to be spent on an additional five per cent duty drawback given for garments. Duty drawback is refund of duties on imported inputs for export items. The government hopes it will lead to a cumulative increase of exports up to $30 billion.

However, one of the major factors expected to boost hiring - increased government funding for provident funds of new employees - has not started. The government currently bears 8.33 per cent of the employer's contribution. The textile ministry will provide an additional 3.67 per cent amounting to Rs 1,170 crore for first three years for every employee.

"Investments will pick in only when global conditions become conducive and demand picks up in both the domestic as well as the major foreign markets - the US and Europe," Chairman of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry Naisadh Parikh said.

The manufacturing cycles in the garment sector are also out of sync with the new package. For apparel manufacturers, the festive season beginning August is the biggest draw for which manufacturing has ended by July.

On the other hand, hiring by firms, originally expected to pick up by October-January, when exporters aimed to meet demand from the North American and European markets have been stopped by sluggish demand in global markets.

Crucially, industry bodies predict low demand plaguing the sector over the next few months due to global uncertainties such as Brexit and the ascendancy of Donald Trump to the US Presidency.

The estimates are in tune with multilateral agencies like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund cutting projected rates of global trade growth. Export of readymade textile goods of all categories fell by more than 2 per cent in November.

While India's domestic textile market is large, the export business exceeds that. But on the international front, key competitor nations like Bangladesh and Vietnam continue to corner a greater share of key markets.

Made ups, especially products such as curtain, cushions and towels are being bet on that note as they command a larger share of the import market in developed nations as compared to apparels. The market share is nearly 50 per cent for the United States.

"We are waiting for the notification to come within the next few days for the made ups sub sector." Texprocil Executive Director Siddhartha Rajagopal said.

However, industry insiders said that no additional funds being allocated remains a problem

Source: business-standard.com– Dec 17, 2016

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Cotton edges up on export demand

Cotton prices marginally increased on the back of fresh export demand. Though, improvement in arrival limited the uptrend. Traders said that demand was good mainly from exporters. However, price may not gain much as arrival of cotton is increasing.

Kapas or raw cotton was traded down by ₹5 to ₹1,000-1,025 per 20 kg. Gin delivery *kapas* stood at ₹1,030-1,055 per 20 kg. Cottonseed was traded unchanged at ₹460-470 per 20 kg.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was up ₹100 to ₹38,900-39,300 per candy of 356 kg. About 52,000 bales of 170 kg arrived in Gujarat and 1.50 lakh bales arrived in India.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Dec 17, 2016

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Maharashtra farmers to get hybrid varieties of Bt cotton seeds at R350 per pack

Farmers in Maharashtra may soon be able to purchase hybrid varieties of Bt Cotton seeds at just R350 per packet.

Maharashtra agriculture minister Pandurang Fundkar made an announcement to this effect at the ongoing lesiglative assembly session in Nagpur.

These seeds are currently being developed by state agricultural universities and contain Bt cotton under licence from Monsanto, industry observers said.

According to the minister, the seeds will be made available to farmers for R350 per pack of 450 grams.

According to industry observers, these seeds may be made available to farmers through government agency Mahabeej and state agriculture universities. Monsanto has a joint agreement with Mahabeej along with universities in the state.

This project is part of an all India integrated research project including Rahuri Agricultural University, Vasantrao Naik Agricultural University, among others.

According to R V Game, MD, Mahabeej, his agency is one of the organisations that would supply the seed to farmers. The minister said that Bt cotton is planted on 98% of the area in the state and this season cotton has been planted on 38 lakh hectares. Significantly, the government has fixed price of Bt cotton seed at R800 per packet (of 450 grams), which include R49 as royalty fee to technology providers, for the 2016-17 season.

Farmers bought Bt cotton seeds in the price range of R830-1,000 per packet across the country in 2015-16 season. The Agriculture Ministry in December last issued an order to control cotton seed prices including trait or royalty value and a committee was set up to recommend the seed price.

Source: financialexpress.com– Dec 17, 2016

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Seven imperatives for job creation in India

Job creation should be the top priority of central and State governments. They should be judged principally on this parameter

Four critically important 'what to dos' for policy emerge from an analysis of India's jobs ecosystem. Equally important are three 'how to dos' to accelerate the generation of more jobs and enterprises.

They have been distilled from a systems analysis of India's jobs ecosystem, supported by CII, in which over 150 diverse experts and stakeholders and young professionals participated over the past six months.

What to Dos

Promote the growth of stronger clusters and networks of small enterprises: India has a surfeit of small and micro enterprises. Small and micro enterprises are desirable because they create more employment per unit of capital, they enable citizens to create jobs for themselves and earn incomes with less state expenditure, and their growth can be widespread in all regions and in many sectors thereby making growth more inclusive.

Small and micro enterprises can overcome limitations in accessing markets, in obtaining resources, and in developing their capabilities by organising into effective clusters (geographic and virtual), and also by connecting on technology enabled platforms.

The quality of clusters and cooperative associations of enterprises in India is much weaker than in other countries where small enterprises have provided the backbone of their faster industrial growth. Digital technology platforms and communication networks are becoming further accelerators for the empowerment of small and micro enterprises.

In addition to 'easing conditions for doing business', government policies must promote the formation of strong clusters and networks. In many cases, large firms can be strong catalytic nodes in the networks.

Promote the growth of a 'life-long learning' system: The content of work is changing dynamically in many industries with new technologies and new forms of enterprises.

The numbers of jobs of any type that will be available in the future are very difficult to predict. It is also difficult to reform formal education quickly (which is a challenge for all countries).

Even mass skilling systems to produce large numbers of skilled persons risk turning out skilled yet unemployed people. (Such gaps are emerging in India).

The formal education system must be supplemented with affordable and accessible, ‘just-in-time, needs aligned’ learning modules. Such modules can be developed and offered by private enterprises. Government assistance should be directed towards enterprises that prove their capabilities to dynamically offer learning and skills that result in sustained employment, rather than payments for numbers of ‘skilled’ persons produced who may not be employed.

Develop better social security systems: Enterprises need flexibility to adjust their workforce to remain competitive in a dynamic environment. They must be given flexibility so that they can grow and create more employment in the long run. On the other hand, the government has the responsibility to ensure the social and economic welfare of citizens, and insufficiency of stable jobs is already creating social problems.

These two requirements—flexibility for enterprises and an adequate safety net for citizens—can be met with better social security systems. The design of the systems should also facilitate citizens to learn new skills so that they remain employable when jobs change.

Promote the rapid use of technology as an enabler: Digital technologies can provide more reach to small enterprises and increase their productivity, too.

They can enable the formation of platforms of enterprises including large ones; they can facilitate the development and delivery of ‘just-in-time, needs aligned’ learning modules; they can enable micro enterprises to access the formal financial system; and they can also enable delivery of better social security services.

How to Dos

A 'whole of government' approach is necessary to create jobs: Jobs cannot be sprinkled into the economy by the government. Jobs will emerge from interactions of many drivers in the economy — the growth of enterprises, life-long learning systems and social security, as well as the quality of physical infrastructure and the ease of doing business.

Silo approaches will not produce the rapid change necessary in the jobs ecosystem. They can also back-fire, e.g. turning out many skill-certified persons who cannot find jobs; or concessions for flexibility to enterprises without providing social security which will lead to social and political complications.

Therefore job creation policies must be coordinated at the top of the system, at the level of the PMO at the centre and chief ministers in the States.

Job creation must be a principal goal, if not the #1 goal for governments at all levels: Jobs are created in towns, in rural districts, in States, and in the country, by the improvement of ecosystems with many drivers. A test of the quality of governance at all levels of the system — at the centre, in States, in towns and in districts — must be the ability to generate more jobs within their jurisdictions.

Since job creation is the #1 priority for the country, job creation must be a principal metric in performance score-cards for governments at all levels. Governments at all levels should manage systems' improvements to enable the growth of more enterprises, jobs, and livelihoods.

Apply best methods for consultative policy development and implementation: Many government ministries and departments must cooperate to improve the jobs ecosystem. Many stakeholders must also support the changes in policies required so that they can be implemented faster. Speed is now of the essence in reforming and implementing the requisite policies for faster creation of jobs in India. Contentions amongst stakeholders impede policy formulation, and confusion amongst agencies delays their implementation.

Systematic methods must be applied by governments at all levels for consultative policy formulation and implementation.

Systematic methods for multi-stakeholder policy formation, such as ‘regulatory impact analysis’ and the German ‘capacity works’, will speed up the production of outcomes. They will be the turbo-chargers for India’s jobs growth engines.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Dec 17, 2016

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