

**IBTEX No. 1 of 2017**

**Jan 02, 2017**

USD 67.99 | EUR 71.50 | GBP 83.98 | JPY 0.58

<b>Cotton Market Update</b>		
<b>Spot Price ( Ex. Gin), 28.50-29 mm</b>		
<b>Rs./Bale</b>	<b>Rs./Candy</b>	<b>USD Cent/lb</b>
18860	39450	<b>74.08</b>
<b>Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), December</b>		
<b>Rs./Bale</b>	<b>Rs./Candy</b>	<b>USD Cent/lb</b>
19630	41061	<b>77.11</b>
<b>International Futures Price</b>		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb ( March 2017)		70.65
ZCE Yuan/MT ( January 2017)		14,850
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb		<b>82.87</b>
<b>Cotlook A Index - Physical</b>		<b>79.40</b>
<p><b>Cotton &amp; currency guide:</b> U.S cotton futures edged higher on Friday supported by robust weekly U.S. export sales data amid a weaker dollar, and ended 2016 by marking their best year since 2013. Strong weekly export sales data prompted speculators to cover short positions. Benchmark cotton prices have surged nearly 12 percent in 2016, their best performance since 2013. March cotton contract on ICE Futures settled up 0.15 cent, or 0.21 percent, at 70.65 cents/lb</p>		
<p><b>Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us :            research@kotakcommodities.com, Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source</b></p>		

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **Vietnam cotton Industry likely to see growth on demand from China**

With the recent growth in the Chinese garment industry there is a demand for yarn due to which Vietnam's cotton industry likely to see uptick. Vietnam's cotton imports to increase in the first few months of 2016-17. It is estimated that imports will experience an increase of 18 percent.

The Chinese garment industry has thrived on the demand from the US and Europe for cheaply manufactured clothes. In China this industry focuses on produces finished textile goods, which explains the demand for the yarn from Vietnam.

Some experts and industry watchers are worried that China's internal cotton production has increased to the point where its prices will be low enough to render Vietnam's cotton unproductive. However as many in China increasingly turn to the cities for employment and the urban lifestyle the Chinese Communist Party is having a harder time meeting its agricultural labor needs.

It remains to be seen what the future holds for the garment industry. One thing that could have an outsized effect is US production. The USDA recently released a report that said that US cotton consumption is down while US production is on the rise. The resulting surplus could be enough to drive prices down to the point where textile heavy economies start feeling real impacts.

Many are also worried that trade policies will be altered by President-Elect Trump. Such a move could introduce volatility into an already fragile market. This would be another way the US could influence the East Asian cotton industry.

The situation in East Asian garment industries is particularly interesting because spinning prices are so low right now. As a result many expected demand for spun yarn to take a hit. However the industry beat expectations and returns in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and other places have been higher than expected.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com– Dec 31, 2016

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## **Pakistan: Grim year for textile exports**

All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) Chairman Aamir Fayyaz has said that overall textile exports continued to present a dismal picture for another year.

The industry has been rendered unviable by the high cost of doing business as a consequence of which textile exports fell further by \$600 million, said the official.

Total exports are understood to have fallen by \$1.2 billion in the current year as per the present trend.

Foreign exchange receipts on trade account are important to be revived and given a new impetus to arrest the country's trade deficit that has swelled to an alarming and unmanageable level of \$28.3 billion, added Fayyaz. "This gap cannot be bridged until export-led growth policy initiatives are undertaken," said Fayyaz.

He said the textile industry continued to face the handicap of being 10% more expensive against international competitors owing to unrealistically high energy costs. "Since 2013, the price of energy has been higher than that of competing countries by 4 cents per kilowatt hour," he added.

According to Fayyaz due to unrealistically high energy prices in the province – where 70% of the country's textile industry is located – the Punjab-based textile industry was exposed to a severe disparity in energy prices.

"Resultantly, a bulk of the textile manufacturing capacity lies underutilised and over 70 textile mills have shut down in the last six months."

The two basic raw materials of textile industry, cotton and man-made fibres – to which the textile industry adds value for export – have to be imported as their domestic availability falls far short of the industry's requirement.

“The completely oblivious approach of the government to this scenario and its subjection of raw materials to increased import duty besides other levies such as sales tax and withholding tax is indeed regrettable and denies the textile industry raw material availability at competitive and viable prices.”

Besides, he added, the presumptive and innovative tax regime in the country is an additional burden on the organised segment of the textile industry, said Fayyaz.

Aptma chairman concluded that time has come that the government should revisit its policies towards the textile industry and should take concrete steps in reviving the ailing sector in 2017.

Source: tribune.com.pk– Jan 01, 2017

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### **Korean textile sector may end 2016 with trade deficit**

The textile sector of South Korea may suffer trade deficit for the second time in row in 2016 due to the cheap Chinese products flooding the market. The industry witnessed a decrease of 4.8 per cent year-on-year in the first 11 months of the year to make \$12.4 billion, according to industry data. Imports of clothing and textiles increased 1 per cent.

Data compiled by the Korean International Trade Association (KITA) shows that imports in the country reached \$13.52 billion over the January-November period. If the scenario continues to remain the same in the last month of 2016, imports may exceed the previous record of \$14.65 billion in 2014, according to a leading South Korean daily.

The textile industry of Asian country has already logged a trade deficit of \$1.09 billion, exceeding last year’s deficit of \$157 million for a huge margin. The South Korean textile sector witnessed a trade deficit for the first time in 2015. High labour costs and competition from foreign countries like China affected the industry’s profitability.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 31, 2016

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## **Dhaka Apparel Summit to focus on \$50 bn RMG exports**

The second edition of Dhaka Apparel Summit will plan out a roadmap to accomplish the target of exporting readymade garments (RMG) worth \$50 billion by 2021. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association will organise the summit on February 25, 2017. The event will also focus on improving safety measures of the workers in the RMG sector.

The one-day summit will provide a platform for the stakeholders to enhance their business. The event will witness participation of representatives from buyers, brands, universities and workers. These representatives will discuss about various possibilities to achieve the target of exporting apparels worth \$50 billion when Bangladesh celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Independence in 2021.

The summit is likely to be inaugurated by Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The first summit held in December 2014 highlighted various points including dynamics of global sourcing in Bangladesh, product and market diversification, strategic plans to overcome the existing challenges, supportive government policies, importance of physical infrastructure, power, gas and energy to attain the milestone set for 2021.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 31, 2016

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## **Myanmar CMP system apparel exports rise 83.7%**

As of middle of December 2016, exports from Myanmar garments firms employing the cutting, making and packaging (CMP) system soared to \$1.157 billion, up 83.7 per cent as against \$629.709 million in the same period of the prior fiscal. Exports to Japan, the largest apparel importer from Myanmar accounted for 33 per cent of all clothing exports.

Quoting statistics from the Myanmar ministry of commerce, Myanmar media reported that Japan was followed by South Korea and Germany with 25 per cent share each in exports, in addition to shipments to China and the American markets.

A majority of the investments permitted by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) in the current fiscal has streamed into the clothing production industry.

There are over 400 apparel manufacturing units in Myanmar, employing over 300,000 people.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Jan 22, 2017

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### **China's e-commerce market to nearly double by 2020**

Transactions in China's e-commerce market will double to more than 40 trillion yuan (\$5.76 trillion) by 2020 compared to 21.8 trillion yuan in 2015, according to a plan released by the ministry of commerce and other government departments. The expansion of e-commerce market and its integration with other sectors will boost economic growth and development.

China's e-commerce market, which is already the world's largest and fastest-growing, will employ more than 50 million people, as per the 2016-2020 E-commerce Development Plan.

The growth of e-commerce will help drive innovation in several sectors including education, tourism and medical care. It will also become the main force behind the country's economic transition, the plan mentions.

China's online population is growing at 7.8 per cent a year from 2015 and is expected to cross 1 billion mark by 2020. This could take online retail sales to 10 trillion yuan.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 31, 2016

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## **Vietnamese garment firms should cut logistics cost: Expert**

At a Vietnamese seminar, experts suggested that textile raw material importers should club their imports to reduce logistics costs, since logistics cost currently accounts for nearly one third of the cost of each textile product that is exported. In their opinion, the Vietnamese apparel industry could save more than \$1 billion per year by pooling imports.

Vietnamese media reports quoted Nguyen Tuong, vice chairman of the Vietnam Logistics Association as saying that a majority of textile raw materials are imported while garment products are exported.

“By working together, these importers should purchase textile raw materials by combining their orders; thereby create a large shipment, which could offer benefits of reducing logistics costs,” Tuong added.

“High logistics costs are weakening competitiveness of Vietnamese apparel products in global markets, so it is utmost necessary to reduce these costs,” Truong Van Cam, vice chairman of Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association observed

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Dec 30, 2016

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Higher cotton prices to hurt Indian spinner's profitability**

In its latest report, credit rating investment agency ICRA is projecting that weak export demand and higher cotton prices will hurt profitability of Indian cotton spinners. ICRA has forecast this trend, as Indian cotton prices are 17 per cent higher from a season ago period, although this is just the beginning of the Indian cotton season.

“Normally cotton prices soften at the beginning of the season, but prices have firmed following slower cotton arrivals, due to demonetisation and also due to ambiguity in data of expansion in raw cotton output, despite lower acreage,” the report observed.

According to the report, additionally, lower export demand for cotton yarn, driven by decline in yarn exports, particularly to China, also poses a challenge.

Media reports quoted the ICRA report as adding that during the first seven months of fiscal 2017, cotton yarn export volumes were down 23 per cent over the same period of earlier fiscal.

On the other hand, Chinese yarn import volumes too dropped 20 per cent year over year in the first seven months of fiscal 2017, with China's yarn imports from India plunging 54 per cent from a fiscal ago period.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Jan 02, 2017

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### **6000 retailers to participate in 1st Solapur garment fair**

The first global Uniform and Garment Manufacturer's fair 2017 in Solapur is expected to be attended by over 6,000 retailers from India. It will take place from January 5 – 7 to help promote and facilitate the expansion of the garment manufacturing industry of Solapur.

The event will also be promoted overseas to attract international buyers.

The fair is being organised by the Shri Solapur Readymade Kapad Utpadak Sangh in association with the textile ministry of Maharashtra and Mafatlal Fabrics. The organisers have planned door-to-door visits to invite retailers from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Maharashtra, and will be carrying out fashion shows at the event.

The main purpose of the fair is to attract national and international investments in the garment sector of Solapur, said the organisers.

Solapur has more than 1,200 garment manufacturing factories. There are a number of medium and small scale industries in the district and the textile sector is an important aspect of the economy. During the last decade, Solapur has witnessed major revamp with the growth of garments manufacturing sector.

The industry in Solapur already caters to the requirements of many institutions located in India and has direct garment export houses as well. It manufactures uniform wear, mens wear and kids wear, and offers good quality products at competitive prices.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Dec 31, 2016

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### **Handloom fabrics stall in TS-Secretariat**

In a bid to promote the use of handloom fabrics, the Telangana State Cooperative Society of Handloom Weavers (TSCO) opened a stall in the ground floor D-Block in the Secretariat on Tuesday.

The stall has been set up to enable the employees of the Telangana Secretariat purchase handloom fabrics. Cotton shirts and sarees and other textiles have been put up for sale at the stall that would be open for one week.

Minister for Industries and Commerce K. Taraka Rama Rao has recently suggested that all State Government employees, particularly those working in the Secretariat, wear handloom fabrics at least for one day in a week so that the livelihood of weavers could improve.

Principal Secretary (Industries and Commerce) Arvind Kumar visited the counter.

Source: thehindu.com- Dec 31, 2016

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## **Textile industry thanks Union Minister for unique initiative on cotton**

The predominantly cotton based Indian textile industry has been facing repeated recessions since 2008 due to high volatility in cotton prices. This was caused by the large traders and multinational cotton traders taking advantage of hedging facility and cheaper funds while the mills could not build adequate inventory and have been paying higher price for the cotton during the off season.

More than 75% of the cotton arrives in the market during December to March and around Rs.60,000 crores is required to procure the seed cotton during this period. Since the ginning and spinning mills do not have such funds, the farmers invariably get lower price.

The cotton textile industry has been demanding the government to ensure cotton fibre security and stability in cotton prices so that both the farmers and the industry get benefited and remain competitive in the global market. Almost after eight years, now the new Union Textile Minister has intervened and directed Cotton Corporation of India that normally procures cotton only when the prices crash below the minimum support price level to procure cotton on a commercial basis and supply to the mills.

26 textile associations representing the entire textile value chain in the country joined together and led a delegation under the leadership of Ms. Vanathi Srinivasan, State General Secretary, BJP, Tamil Nadu and submitted a memorandum to the Union Textile Minister on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at New Delhi making a single demand of cotton fibre security by implementing CCI cotton supply scheme.

After several meetings, now the Cotton Corporation of India has announced unique terms & conditions to benefit the MSME textile units.

In a joint letter sent to the Union Textile Minister recently by the 26 textile associations, the industry has thanked the Minister for announcing the unique scheme in the history of Indian textile industry. On behalf of the industry, Mr.M.Senthilkumar, Chairman, The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) has stated that the new terms and conditions of fully pressed bales of CCI facilitates the registered MSME textile units to procure cotton by paying only 10% deposit money as against 20% which is applicable only for the sale quantity of 30,000 bales and above. He has stated that the deposit money upto 2999 bales is only 15%. He has stated that this would greatly help the MSME units that are starving for working capital fund in the post-demonetization regime.

Mr.Senthilkumar has stated that earlier there was a difference in the free period ranging from 30 to 75 days and 75 days free period was available for the procurement of 15000 bales and above and therefore, the MSME textile units could not derive much benefit out of CCI. He has said that now the free period has been made uniform and fixed at 45 days which would again help the actual users and the MSME units.

SIMA chief has stated that CCI might procure around 15 lakh bales and maintain an inventory of 4 to 5 lakh bales so that stability in cotton price is maintained. He has added that CCI would also consider storing the bales in different spinning clusters and supply the same to the mills on a need basis.

He has said that the industry has also requested CCI to opt for coastal movement of bales between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu that would again yield considerable saving for the mills. He has said that SIMA has finalized the rates with M/s. Shreyas Relay Systems P Ltd for the entire cotton season 2016-17 that is cheaper by 10 to 25% when compared to lorry freight.

Source: indiantextilemagazine.in- Dec 30, 2016

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## High freight charges hit trade at Indo-Pak border

First, it was demonetisation and now the arbitrarily high freight charges on the international cargo by the truck union have adversely hit the cross-border trade, bringing it to a virtual 'standstill'.

Traders and the truck union at the ICP have come face to face over the arbitrary increase in freight charges. The traders are peeved over the "high-handedness" of the truck union. The frequent disruption by the 'unauthorised' truck union at Integrated Check Post as come under severe criticism by the business community involved in the import and export with Pakistan based traders.

Members of the Confederation of International Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CICCI) have condemned the attitude of the so called truck unions and its management of dictating their terms. "At a time when the demonetisation has adversely affected the cross border trade, the truck union was demanding higher freight charges. Earlier, it has disallowed the entry of trucks from other operators to ferry goods. This is totally against the government orders," said a trader wishing not to be named.

Earlier too the union had disrupted trade and it was after the intervention of the District Administration and Police that the matter was resolved. This time too, the traders have appealed the administrative and police authorities to press upon the union to stop their arbitrary dictates and allow the smooth function of trade.

Anil Mehra, president of Federation of Dry Fruit and Karyana Commercial Association said that they were trying to resolve the matter over the table and don't want any confrontation with the union. However, he added that the interests of traders would be kept in mind and if the need be the agitation would also be launched.

Following demonetisation, only 25 per cent of the trader remained at that International border, said another trader. At present only 25 trucks of cement, 25 trucks of gypsum and around seven trucks of dry fruit is being imported from Pakistan while only seven to 10 trucks of cotton yarn and plastic granules are being export to the neighbouring nation, he added.

A custom official confirming this said that the trade has reduced to just few truck after scrapping of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 notes as apparently the traders were finding it difficult to make payments. Earlier, the porters at the ICP had held an agitation as they were not getting payment in cash.

Source: tribuneindia.com- Dec 31, 2016

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## **The next big thing: Style trends that will rock 2017**

Make in India is the buzz word and Indian fashion designers are going all out to bring traditional weaves to mainstream, make them hip again. It started with Ritu Kumar using Indian weaves like Ajrakh prints, Ikat, Lucknowi; for a fashionista trying to have best of tradition and western fusion, her latest Kutchi collection drool worthy. What followed was Sabyasachi's Banarsi wedding collection (in picture alongside) and Anita Dongre's Grassroot collection of fusion cuts. So raid your nani's closet for that fuschia Banarsi sari, or loosen up the pocket for designer picks. If heavy duty weaves aren't your thing, a modest Chanderi or elegant Maheshwari cotton with the right accessories should do wonders.

### **Capes**

This style is not yet done having fun with the Indian consumers. Sonam Kapoor, Deepika Padukone and Jacqueline Fernandez have already made it a red carpet staple. Expect the style to trickle down to retail stores this new year and watch girls be part of the ever-so-fascinating superhero trend. Time to ignore

Edna Mode for a couple of months.

### **Metallics**

If Manish Malhotra's recent party was anything to hold as a standard, stock your wardrobe with metallics. The best feature of metallic dresses is that you can choose to not accessorise and still look like a royal. Don't believe us? Let us rejig your memory with this Alia Bhatt image in which the actress of 2016 set the style bar high in a Manish Malhotra outfit and smokey eyes.

## Flares

Gone are the days of skinny stretched jeans. Legs demand room. Palazzos are here to stay, but also keep an eye out for a good pair of bootcut pants. Lust after Kenjo's high-waisted khaki pants (in left picture). Or for more leg room, take inspiration from the '50s and shop for tea skirts or dresses. Simply alter the accessories for an apt transition from day to night attire. Men's kurtas make a comeback

Mid-length kurtas will be the trend for men. Select from woolen, chikankari or ones with Kashmiri embroidery. Tie-die aspects from Ajay Kumar's collection Ekam (in picture alongside) at Lakme Fashion Week will add boho-vibes or go nuts choosing the fabric weave.

## Sleek cuts

Sharp and sleek silhouettes of shirts and jackets shall be the trend for 2017. The patterns will get bolder and wider with tartan. Pair these with fine linen trousers.

Source: dnaindia.com- Jan 01, 2017

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## **CII wants corporate tax rate slashed to 18% in budget**

With more economic activity entering the tax net post demonetisation, government should lower the corporate tax rate to 18 per cent, said CII in its pre-Budget memorandum to the Finance Ministry.

"With a larger share of the economy captured in tax net, the government has greater space to lower corporate income tax rates.

"In our recommendations for Budget 2017-18, CII has called for reducing the corporate income tax rate to 18 per cent, including all surcharges and cess, along with removal of all tax incentives and concessions," CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said.

The current corporate tax rate works out to be 30 per cent plus cess and surcharge.



The industry body suggested creation of a National Innovation Fund of Rs 10,000 crore. The chamber observed that demonetisation has set the stage for reducing the corporate income tax rate and introducing efficient implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.

CII noted that there are 32 incentives applicable on corporate profits before calculating tax. The effective tax rate works out to about 19.8 per cent.

"Going by experience, it is found that a lower tax rate encourages higher compliance; hence, we believe that lowering the tax rate to 18 per cent and removing all tax exemptions will not negatively impact government revenues on this head," Banerjee said, adding that the 18 per cent rate will bring India in line with attractive international investment destinations such as Singapore and the UK.

CII suggested that no grandfathering of exemptions is required and implementation can be undertaken at one go. Roll-out of GST would be similarly facilitated if more transactions are through formal channels such as banks and digital payments.

"Less-cash use implies higher tracking of transactions, which feeds into better and more efficient implementation of GST," noted the CII Director General.

In its suggestions submitted to the ministry, CII requested a four-pronged strategy for strengthening economic activity in the short term.

Apart from reducing corporate income tax rate, CII also recommended revival of investments, creation of better quality jobs in the formal sector and a national technology strategy with ten-fold increase in public investment in research in higher education institutions.

"CII has called for revival of infrastructure investments by raising funds through asset recycling, PSU disinvestment and accelerated public-private partnerships.

Government can encourage creation of good quality jobs through introduction of fixed-term employment and contributions to employee provident fund as in the national textile policy," said Banerjee.

A National Innovation Fund with a corpus of at least Rs 10,000 crore should be set up, using Rs 8,000 crore collected through cess on technology imports.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced in his 2015 Budget speech that the rate of corporate tax will be reduced from 30 per cent to 25 per cent over the next four years along with corresponding phasing out of exemptions and deductions.

Source: [economictimes.com](http://economictimes.com)- Jan 02, 2017

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## **Smart clothing stitches new tech frontiers**

MARTY McFLY became a cult name when he was portrayed by Canadian-American actor Michael J Fox in the Back to The Future movie trilogy. In the series' second installment, McFly travelled to the year 2015 from 1985. On arriving in the future, McFly looked for a change of clothes to mix in with the crowd. He ended up finding a jacket that was not only auto-fitting but also auto-drying. The jacket had a button that auto-adjusted to the wearer's size and dried itself when wet. Not only that, the jacket even spoke out the function it was performing. Once a fantasy, smart clothing is now a reality.

And, be it an athlete or a common customer, the smart clothing market is stitching new frontiers for everyone.

Take any simple piece of clothing. A pair of socks even. Now imagine if your socks could tell you more about your style of running? Smart socks developed by smart clothing company Sensoria do just that. They are infused with comfortable, textile pressure sensors, which inform the user in real time when they are striking with the heel or the ball of their foot. Through the Sensoria Fitness smartphone app, one can monitor their foot-landing technique as they run and improve their running style.

Samsung's Smart Suit showcased at the IFA Berlin in 2015 had an NFC tag embedded in the sleeve button and an exclusive app allowed wearers to use various NFC functions when wearing the suit. Dubbed the Smart Suit 4.0, it is not available in India yet, but a similar product in the Indian market is the Arrow Smart Shirt.

The Arrow Smart Shirt might look like any other crisp garment, but it is no ordinary shirt, coming with an NFC tag that fits in the left cuff.

Users who wear the shirt need to install the Arrow Smart Shirt app, which lets them connect to their LinkedIn and Facebook accounts. After this they can use their favourite app and music playlist simply by tapping their smartphone on the shirt's cuff.

Users wearing the shirt can also share their business card or send their LinkedIn profile to an acquaintance during business meetings by tapping their phone on the cuff. A possible stumbling block could be the fact this shirt is only bound to work with NFC-enabled phones, but at a price of R2,999, the Arrow Smart Shirt looks like a piece of smart clothing that is hard to turn down.

“We had to put in a lot research and had to experiment with various options before launching the final product. We had to ensure that the shirt was easy to use and comfortable to wear at the same time. One of the key parameters for us was also to ensure that maintenance of the shirt was easy. This is a shirt that was tested for multiple washes,” says a spokesperson for Arvind Lifestyle Brand, the company behind the Arrow Smart Shirt. Launched in August 2016, the smart shirt has garnered positive reviews so far. The product is available for sale both online and offline.

Another recent innovation comes from the combined efforts of Project Jacquard by Google and clothing company Levi's. The result is the Levi's Commuter Trucker Jacket, which weaves interactive fibres into denim to create a fashionable yet functional jacket.

According to the Project Jacquard website, the jacket is designed specifically for urban bike commuters and allows cyclists to control their mobile experience and connect to a variety of services, such as music or maps, directly from the jacket sleeve. The digital connectivity is possible through a smart tag. Apart from the tag, the whole interactive garment is washable and durable just like regular denim.

The future of smart clothing only gets better. Imagine this situation: You are running late for a meeting and your smartphone decides to run out of juice.

The obvious solution that comes to your mind is a portable powerbank. But what if you were wearing your powerbank? As per a study published in the scientific journal ACS Nano, Chinese researchers have created new smart fibers that could store solar energy.

The scientists created two different types of fibres or threads. “The fibre supercapacitor with merits of tailorability, ultrafast charging capability, and ultrahigh bending-resistance is used as the energy storage module, while an all-solid dye-sensitised solar cell textile is used as the solar energy harvesting module,” the study says. Once combined, the two materials formed a flexible textile that can be cut and tailored into a ‘smart garment’ that can be fully charged by sunlight. This could possibly charge smartphones and tablets.

While this clothing is not yet available in the market, it presents a fascinating future where wearables could well and truly become a part of our body. We could soon power wearable devices using just our body heat, thanks to a new flexible supercapacitor that can charge itself using heat from the surroundings — without any external power supply or battery.

Reports also say researchers have developed a new concept of electrical energy storage—thermally chargeable solid-state supercapacitors, which allows charging to be completed using heat energy in addition to the traditional electrical charging method for capacitors. “This is the first time that it has been discovered that a solid-state polymer electrolyte can produce large thermally induced voltage,” Choongho Yu, professor at Texas A&M University in the US, was quoted saying in a news report. “The voltage can then be used to initiate an electrochemical reaction in electrodes for charging,” Yu added.

The supercapacitor works by converting thermal energy into electrical energy and then storing it in the device at the same time. Human body heat, or any heat dissipating objects that create temperature differences from their surroundings, can be used to charge the capacitor without any external power source.

Source: [financialexpress.com](http://financialexpress.com)- Jan 01, 2017

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## **The chilling effect of demonetisation**

The row of Tibetan hawkers selling sweaters and jackets across the road from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus is hard to miss. Each year, a few hundred Tibetan exiles — mainly from Mundgod in Karnataka, one of the biggest settlements of this refugee community in India — make a trip to the city to spend a few months selling winter-wear.

Their winter earnings are a substantial part of the community's annual income; the rest of the year, they sustain themselves with labour and farming work. Their vendors source their merchandise from Ludhiana, Punjab, the hub of the woollen garment industry in India, and sell it in markets around the country. In Mumbai, they usually rent rooms in the Parel area, where most of the local community is based. To help with their trade, they also bring with them non-Tibetan residents of Mundgod, with whom the community has built strong relationships over the decades of their exile.

Despite Mumbai's mild winters, the selling skills and warm smiles of the Tibetans see them do steady business on the city, and their coming is something Mumbai office-goers look forward to. That iconic city chronicler, Behram Contractor a.k.a. Busybee, would refer to them as a sign of approaching winter in the city.

“My family has been in this business since 1965 when we migrated to India from Tibet,” says Phurbu Dolma, is as at home in Mumbai as she is in Mundgod. “I myself have been coming to Mumbai since around 3 decades every year.” This year, however, the Tibetans have to overcome problem no one could have anticipated. Just as they had settled into the city, the Prime Minister's demonetisation announcement brought a chill to street vendors nation-wide.

Like those in the informal sector everywhere, the Tibetans aren't equipped to handle card payments or bank transfers. Many of them have been relying on old relationships with their suppliers in Ludhiana, who have helped them by taking demonetised notes from them as payment.

“The business was obviously hit,” says Annu Kamar, of the Mumbai Tibetan Sweater Sellers association. “People naturally stopped spending money on the goods we sell because of the cash crunch. Business in the Parel market has gone down by 50 per cent as of now.”

“While last year I had recorded an earning of Rs. 60,000 to 70,000, this year I expect to earn around Rs. 30,000 if things improve,” says Tsering Ngodup (46). Thinlay Gyatso takes a break from shouting orders to his helpers to say, “People don’t have money to buy vegetables and rations. Plus, there isn’t much of a winter in the city.”

The Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, has advised the community to support the demonetisation decision of the Indian government, Karma Yeshi, its Finance Minister, told *The Hindu*. “By and large, the Tibetan community in exile are extremely grateful to the Government and people of India for their support. The Tibetan Charter in Exile Article 6 says, ‘Tibetans will follow international rules and regulations of the Government of the land where they live.’ We respect the decision taken by the Government of India which is taken at the larger interest of the nation. As of now I do not think or do not have knowledge of how much the decision of demonetisation has affected the community. Just like Indians face temporary hardship, we in exile too face similar hardship.”

In their daily effort to make ends meet, the community’s long-term hopes for their homeland still live. As Mr. Ngodup says, “I struggle every day with the hopes that my children get good education and one day become leaders in the political movement of our community.”

Source: thehindu.com- Jan 02, 2017

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## **Ministry move on dry ports will boost biz, feel experts**

With the Shipping Ministry pushing for dry ports across the country, experts feel that such facilities will not only aid ‘Just in Time’ manufacturing but also provide a cushion for business operations.

The Ministry under Nitin Gadkari is keen to set up three dry ports in Maharashtra and two for the landlocked Telangana.

Dry ports in other States are also being explored. The groundwork for a dry port in Jalna, Central Maharashtra, has already commenced.

Director (Transport), CRISIL Infrastructure Advisory, Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, said that companies rather than shipping out their goods



immediately from the dry port, could hold the goods in the port warehouse and Custom-clear the goods only when they require it for the manufacturing operations. It will help them in the 'Just in Time' manufacturing processes.

If a power company is setting up a power plant and has ordered for expensive equipment from an overseas destination, then the equipment could remain at the warehouse and get Customs cleared and transported to the plant site only when it is required.

It will provide a cushion to the cash flows of the company as Customs duty will only have to be paid when the equipment leaves the port, he said.

The dry port could also be used by manufacturing companies for assembling goods in a semi-knocked down format in the warehouse and Customs-clear the goods only when it is required.

Companies could get more elbow room while operating through such ports, Padmanabhan said.

### **Other developments**

A senior Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) official said that along with the dry port, developing Free Trade and Warehousing Zones in the vicinity of the ports and industrial areas is also on the Ministry's radar.

Such a facilities cluster will help speed up faster processing of cargo and the customer will have more control over the cargo. If a customer is closer to the dry port, then, in the event of a problem, the customer, rather than depending on a Customs agent at JNPT or any other coastal port, could solve the problem himself, the official said.

The CEO of Krishnapatnam Port, Anil Yendluri, said that dry ports alone will not be sufficient for the development of the port sector.

All other parts of the logistics chain need to be integrated. Hinterland industrial activity along with road and rail connectivity is a must for operating dry ports. Faster Customs Department clearance is a must, he said.



## Manpower training

Stressing on the need for well-trained officers for Customs clearances, Yendluri said that many times, lesser number of Customs officers are stationed at ports, who may not be well-versed with all the Department's formalities. Due to shortage of staff, sometimes, personnel from the Central Excise Department are stationed at the port.

However, the approach of both the departments is very different. The Central Excise Officers orientation is of carrying out policing while that of the Customs is of facilitation plus policing, he said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com- Jan 01, 2017

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