

**IBTEX No. 27 of 2017**

**Feb 06, 2017**

USD 67.19 | EUR 72.36 | GBP 83.90 | JPY 0.60

<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>
20198	42250	<b>79.99</b>
<b>Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), March</b>		
<b>Rs./Bale</b>	<b>Rs./Candy</b>	<b>USD Cent/lb</b>
21150	44241	<b>84.00</b>
<b>International Futures Price</b>		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb ( March 2017)		76.41
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT ( January 2017)		16,220
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb		<b>88.20</b>
<b>Cotlook A Index - Physical</b>		<b>86.25</b>
<p><b>Cotton &amp; currency guide:</b> Cotton price traded positive in both India and global markets in the last week. The spot price of cotton for Shankar-6 variety ended the week at Rs. 42,750 per candy. Overall in the gone by week spot price traded positive vis-à-vis previous week's close. The other variety also traded positive. The J-34 variety ended the week at Rs. 4630 per maund.</p> <p>The effect was visible at the futures contract. The most active February future ended at Rs. 20790 up by Rs. 270 from the previous week's close. On an average the daily arrivals stood at 165 to 170,000 bales in the past week slightly higher from the previous week's average arrivals. However, the effect on the price was not noticed instead the counter ended on a positive note.</p> <p>From the global front the spot month future contract March settled the week at 76.41 cents/lb up by around 160 points from the previous close. In the meanwhile, Chinese market which was shut for the entire week due to Lunar holiday reopened higher and this morning trading positive by almost 1 per cent at 15,885 Yuan/MT for the front month contract.</p> <p>The scenario has turned positive in the near term. The exportable interests of US cotton suggested by higher export sales figure, good quality crop and imports from India has pushed the ICE cotton price higher. In the meanwhile, record speculative long positions have kept the price on elevated levels. Overall we expect cotton price to trade higher and profit booking would be noticed only if the speculative longs cut their positions as part of profit booking.</p> <p>The US has sold more than 3 million bales of cotton since December 1st, a pace which has not occurred since China reduced imports to WTO mandated levels. Sales during the week ending January 26th reached another hefty level of 328,700 running bales of upland and 6,700 of Pima for 2016/17 delivery and 89,000 for 2017-18 shipment. The most amazing part of the export drive is who are among the major buyers; India 52,500 bales, Pakistan 41,300, Indonesia 40,500, Bangladesh 17,500 and Brazil 1,100 bales. India was a major buyer which is quite unusual for them to be a buyer of US cotton at the height of the movement of their crop. India always buys some upland for use in certain high-end products but the past several months the buying has been more general with season to date purchases of 367,200 running bales of upland compared to only 59,300 running bales of upland at the same time last year. On Thursday Indian spot prices posted sharp gains reaching 81.30 cents ex gin for a Shankar-6 1 1/8 which compares to a US MOT Middling 1 1/8 landed the southern mills at near 86 cents. After freight the US cotton is cheaper than Indian.</p> <p><b>Currency Guide:</b> Indian rupee appreciated by 0.15% to trade near 67.22 levels against the US dollar. Rupee remains supported by positive market reaction to Annual Budget. Market players are also positioning for RBI's interest rate meeting this week when the central bank is expected to lower rates. The US dollar remains choppy amid mixed economic data and uncertainty about Trump's policies and its impact on the economy. Rupee may trade in a range of 67.05-67.35 and some appreciation is likely on improved risk sentiment</p>		
<p><b>Compiled By Kotak Commodities Research Desk , contact us :</b> <b><a href="mailto:research@kotakcommodities.com">research@kotakcommodities.com</a>, Source: Reuters, MCX, Market source</b></p>		

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The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Mexico Mulls Retaliatory Textile Tariffs To Counter Trump

*The Mexican textile and apparel industry is under threat from Trump's possible 20 percent tariff, and is eyeing other overseas markets to replace potential lost orders from the U.S.*

*If the proposed 20 percent tariff is levied (among other options) to pay for Trump's border wall and Mexico hits back, "we could grow below zero," Mercado said, adding that exports could plunge 10 percent, despite a record-low peso.*



MEXICO CITY — Mexico could slap “mirror” tariffs against U.S. fabric and apparel imports if U.S. President Trump imposes a 20 percent or other duty on Mexican imports, something textile executives say would severely harm cross-border manufacturers and retailers alike.

“It would be a good idea if the government did something to compensate against this [the Trump tariff],” said Sixto Mercado, vice president of top trade lobby Canaive’s branch in Jalisco State, home to Guadajara. “We have many apparel exporters here who would be affected.”

His comments come as Mexico is set to begin negotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement by May to meet Trump’s calls for a rewrite. That said, economy minister Ildefonso Guajardo said in mid-January that if Trump imposes a tariff or a border adjustment tax, Mexico would pursue “mirror actions.”

The statement is an indication of the growing tensions between the two neighboring countries, longtime allies, as Trump pursues his plan to build a wall along the border and claims that Mexico will pay for it. The 20 percent tariff or other duty proposal forms part of the plan to fund the wall.

Source: Ivan Castano, WWD,— Feb 05, 2017

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## Chinese textile firm fined for toxic waste in northern Vietnam

*Part of the Lai Vu Industrial Park in Hai Duong Province where the Pacific Crystal textile plant is located.*



Pollution and natural disasters could cost the country about 0.6 percent of its annual gross domestic product between now and 2020.

A Hong Kong-based textile firm in Vietnam's northern province of Hai Duong has been fined for discharging wastewater that exceeded permitted levels of toxic waste. Mayor Nguyen Duong Thai issued a fine of VND672 million (\$29,372) to Pacific Crystal Textiles Limited in the Lai Vu Industrial Park in Kim Thanh District, VietnamPlus reported on Sunday.

The company was also asked to ensure any wastewater discharged in the future meets local government standards. Pacific Crystal began commercial operations at its \$425-million plant in Hai Duong in December 2015.

Following a similar incident in June last year, Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment inspected the Lee&Man Paper Manufacturing Company, a Chinese paper manufacturing plant in the southern province of Hau Giang, following media reports about possible environmental damage to the Mekong River.

In another large-scale environmental disaster, Formosa Ha Tinh Steel, which runs an \$11 billion steel plant in the central province of Ha Tinh, polluted a 200km stretch of coastline in April last year, killing more than 100 tons of fish and devastating the environment, jobs and economies of four provinces in the central region.

According to the General Statistics Office (GSO), violations of the country's environmental regulations in 2016 were recorded at some 80 percent of industrial parks. Foreign-invested firms accounted for 60 percent of 50

companies caught discharging waste that exceeds the allowable standards, according to the GSO.

The National Center for Socio-Economic Information and Forecast recently declared that environmental pollution has severely impeded Vietnam's economic growth. The center warned that pollution and natural disasters could cost the country about 0.6 percent of its annual gross domestic product between now and 2020.

Source: VnExpress International – Feb 05, 2017

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### **Karachi: Cotton prices pushed higher with steady flow of buying orders**

Cotton prices pushed higher on Friday with steady flow of buying orders. But no pick up seen in the trading activity as ginners held stocks anticipating higher prices in the coming days. Deal was reported to be conditional.

The Karachi cotton Association raised its spot rates by Rs50, to Rs6,700 per maund on Friday.

Nevertheless, trading was marked by a single big deal of 5,801 bales which was quoted at a high price of Rs7,200 per maund (around 37 kilograms). A similar deal of 3,434 bales was quoted in previous trading session at a seasonal high price of Rs7,300 per maund.

The improvement in cotton yarn price was encouraging spinners to replenish their cotton stocks, but faced difficulty in getting quality cotton which was running in short supply.

Major deals that changed hands on the ready counter were: 400 bales from Shahdadpur at Rs5,700, 5,801 bales from Ghotki at Rs7,200 (conditional), 1,400 bales from Mianwali at Rs6,100 to Rs7,100, 1,400 bales from Shujabad at Rs6,700 to Rs7,000, 600 bales from Ahmedpur at Rs6,975 and 3,434 bales from Muridwala at Rs7,300 (conditional).

The limited stocks of around 900,000 bales held by ginnerers are a cause of worry for spinners who have to wait for about six to seven months before next crop's arrival.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com– Feb 04, 2017

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## **Pakistan: Danish envoy sees opportunities in Pak textile sector**



During a visit to the Pakistan [Textile Exporters Association \(PTEA\)](#) office, deputy head of the Denmark embassy Jakob Rogild Jakobsen said Pakistan offers very good opportunities to Danish businessmen in various sectors, particularly in the textile industry. He also said that [trade](#) volume between the two countries was

less and can be expanded further.

According to Jakobsen, there must be efforts from both sides to strengthen relations through exchange of trade delegations, holding B2B meetings and various other initiatives

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Feb 04, 2017

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## **Bangladesh : BGMEA asks for a single inspection agency**



Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) wants a single agency rather than the three at present to inspect and monitor progress in remediation of garment factories.

The BGMEA has prepared a new guideline for the next phase of inspection of the apparel production units in a bid to reduce hassles and set a unified code of inspection.

All three inspection agencies apply different codes in inspection, and as a result, many owners face challenges in remedying their factories.

Currently, the Accord and the Alliance -- the inspection agencies of European and North American retailers and brands -- and the National Initiative backed by the government are inspecting and suggesting remediation to boost workplace safety. The agencies are now trying to extend their tenure.

The tenure of the legally binding Accord and Alliance will come to an end in June 2018. This is why the BGMEA has prepared a draft guideline, which will be placed in a meeting on February 9 for finalisation.

“We are ready to place the draft with the inspection agencies,” said Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, vice-president of BGMEA. In the new guideline, the association also wants the inclusion of the government, BGMEA, International Labour Organisation, trade unions and global retailers in the agency's core committee.

Babu said the BGMEA has already discussed the matter with Alliance, and negotiations are ongoing with the Accord for the finalisation of the draft.

The new guideline will remain effective till 2021, and after that, the Remediation Coordination Cell, a body of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, will monitor the processes, he added. BGMEA wants the terminology 'legally binding' from the present article of the Accord and Alliance to be removed, when the new guideline comes into force, he said.

The BGMEA formed a five-member committee in October last year to develop a strategy to cope with the situation following the expiry of the Accord and Alliance.

Under the new initiative, factory assessment would be done on an individual basis and failure in the remediation in any particular unit would not impact other production units belonging to the same group. Laws of the land will be applicable regarding closure of factories, compensation for workers and penalty for the factory owners, according to the draft strategy. In the draft guideline, BGMEA proposed that signatory buyers continue their contributions for the initial period (June 2018–June 2020), but at

half of the rates that they have been paying to the Accord and Alliance since 2013.

The BGMEA proposed that third-party auditors, having prior experience in audit and certification with the Accord and Alliance, will be hired for conducting all structural, fire and electrical audit. The new factories will have to pay for their inspections. Accord has so far conducted initial inspections at 1,600 factories while Alliance inspected 759 factories. At the same time, under the National Action Plan, the Bangladesh government, in collaboration with the ILO, inspected around 1,500 factories.

Source: Refayet Ullah Mirdha, The Daily Star– Feb 06, 2017

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### **Nigeria : Why textile industry is moribund, by minister**

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah has blamed the moribund state of the textile industry on lack of cotton and critical infrastructure, such as electricity supply. He lamented that these factors had been frustrating the government’s attempt to revive the sector. Enelamah, who spoke with reporters in Abuja at the weekend, said the situation in the textile sector was very complex.

He said: “On the textile industry, it is a very complex situation, it has a problem of value chain, we don’t have enough cotton for them to produce so we are engaging the Ministry of Agriculture. We are also hoping to get some seeds for farmers to plant. “The government is working on ensuring people patronise made-in-Nigeria and wear them at least once a week officially, that way, we can raise patronage for the textile industry. Resolving these issues takes a while but we are working on it.

“The Vice President’s visit to Aba is to interact with the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises(MSMEs) is called the MSMEs clinic; it is a new initiative that with time will spread to all states of the federation. We had to take the service to the people rather than waiting for them to come. Another reason is that in most cases, access is not always easy for them, what it means is that they now have the contact to follow up, and know the government’s policy direction on ease of doing business.



“We are very delighted that the clinic kicked off in Aba, the clinic will move from there to all the zones. The idea of the clinic is to have all the relevant key agencies to render services to those people located where the MSMEs are. In Aba, we had a stand where the people came asked questions bordering on issues concerning their trading activities, and these issues were addressed.

“On trade policy, we review our trade policy every five years; there is one going on right now, the trade policy review involves engaging multiple stakeholders in the economy and their input on how the trade policy works. It involves trade experts to advise you, you engage the world agency of trade, trade department with the trade adviser and negotiator, then they help to prepare a good material, that is where we are, the process will be finished this year, we started last year, where we are now is that the consultation is ongoing and should be wrapped up before the end of 2017.”

On the sugar policy, he said:

“The sugar policy has been ongoing for years now; the backward integration policy is one of the most successful, it is like the cement success story, the same policy was adopted for sugar, when we talked sugar, we look at sugarcane which is grown widely in Nigeria; we also have other sources of sugar like ethanol. In producing our own sugar there should be enough production capacity in the country either in terms of the basic raw materials or the processing.

“The government, with time, will involve stakeholders to go into massive production of sugarcane. Nigeria consumes 1.4million tons of sugar in a year, almost all of that sugar was imported until 2013-2014 when the National Sugar Master Plan was put in place, and that master plan gave some importers concessions over a time period while we monitor the ability to produce the sugar locally.” Enalemah said the target right is to produce 4000,00 metric tons of sugar locally over a 10-year period so that players, such as Dangote, Flourmill and Bua, could produce without any difficulty. He said the production of sugar is capital intensive.

Source: Franca Ochigboon, The Nation– Feb 06, 2017

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## Tekstil Trans opens \$9.5mn textile factory in Kyrgyzstan



Tekstil Trans Ltd. has opened a new [textile](#) factory worth \$9.5 million, in the northern Chui province of Kyrgyzstan. The Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund has provided close to \$7.5 million for the factory. The factory is likely to reduce the company's dependency on imports of textile products like fabrics and prove beneficial for the domestic sewing

industry.

The establishment of this factory is likely to lower the production cost of the [country](#)'s sewing industry, said Sooronbai Jeenbekov, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan's textile products are in high demand in foreign markets and owing to the country's accession of the Eurasian Economic Union, Kyrgyz companies can now enter larger markets, Kyrgyzstan government's press service said quoting Jeenbekov.

The fabric-producing factory has been operational in the pilot mode since November last year. It will create 150 jobs and produce 9-10 tonnes of products per day initially. The capacity will be increased to up to 30 tonnes per day, said Almazbek Abdrayev, the general director of Tekstil Trans.

Abdrayev also said that factory has been set up owing to the growth potential of the country's sewing industry. The new unit uses advanced equipment and high-quality raw materials sourced from China, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Feb 04, 2017

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## **Imprima SpA to promote innovation in textile printing and finishing in Italy**

Wise Sgr, an Italian private equity fund management firm, has opened Imprima SpA a new holding company, dedicated entirely to development and innovation in the textile printing and finishing sector in Italy .

It is first action Imprima S.p.a has acquired 100 percent of the German finishing and textile printing company KBC and Guarisco, Italian printed-fabric firm and said it is preparing for new acquisitions in Italy and abroad.. According to the firm, the company's business model will be centred on the concept of sustainability understood as financial, industrial, social, and environmental sustainability.

Thanks to the creative heritage of the brands acquired through new holding Imprima, clean and smart manufacturing, proximity to markets, high quality, and sustainability, Imprima aims to establish itself as a preferred partner for brands and retailers in the world of fashion.

Imprima, based in Milan, is funded by a pool of financial investors led by Italian private equity fund Wisequity IV, managed by Wise Sgr, a company that has already supported the development of other successful companies in the textile supply chain.

Co-CEO of Imprima, Paolo Gramaglia said that they started with two milestones in the industry: KBC, a company with more than two and a half centuries of history that is characterized by a refined and distinctive design and creative heritage and positioning, and Guarisco, an Italian family company, dynamic, young, known for design that rapidly transposes the fashion factor to bring it to the world of fast fashion.

Over EUR 30 million are planned for investments in technology and an acquisitions programme that continues to this day. They are working to finalise other top level acquisitions in Italy and abroad, added co-CEO of Imprima Chiaretto Calò.

There are industrial solutions but their adoption on a global scale requires volumes, capital, human resources and management that is in an advanced stage of the necessary learning curve: all elements that they have collected at Imprima and its subsidiaries.

Leading the new company will be Paolo Gramaglia and Chiaretto Calò, who share the role of co-CEO of the Imprima group, assisted by Vice President Gianluca Boni and CFO Giovanni Lorato. The management will act in coordination with Valentina Franceschini, Partner of Wise SGR and President of IMPRIMA, and Luca Boni, Director Wise SGR.

The entrepreneur Marco Guarisco and associate Andrea Moretti will remain in all operational effects in their current positions. The CEO of KBC Henri Rowiński will also continue to lead the German company.

The textile printing industry today is worth about 20 billion linear metres, and is growing at a compound annual rate of 2.5%. The digital component of this sector, which today represents only 3-4%, continues to grow at a rate of 20% per year and is expected to reach 2 billion metres by 2020.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com– Feb 04, 2017

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## **IKEA to launch new line of rugs and textiles made by Syrian refugees**

IKEA plans to introduce its a new line of rugs and textiles made by Syrian refugees under the new IKEA initiative where Syrian refugees in Jordan will be employed to make rugs and textiles. The project is expected to create 200 jobs for refugees in Jordan, most of them women.

IKEA is currently working with local women's organizations to kick off the initiative. The retailer said that hours will be flexible to accommodate women caring for family members.

The rugs and textiles will be part of a limited-edition line and will be sold starting 2019 locally and mostly in the Middle East, both in Jordan and in other countries that trade with them. The company might also consider selling to other countries at a later date. The design is expected to be a mix between traditional Jordanian style and IKEA's Scandinavian look.

This is just the latest move from IKEA to help refugees around the world. They have created flat-pack shelters for refugees around the world, which can be assembled on site without any additional tools.

On Monday, IKEA country manager Lars Petersson wrote in a letter to employees stating that they are committed to continuing to stand for the dignity and rights of everyone.

The company would be offering free legal advice and mental health counseling to co-workers potentially affected by the President Trump's immigration ban.

Jordan currently hosts over 650,000 Syrian refugees – 10 percent of the entire displaced population, said Amnesty International.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com - Feb 04, 2017

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Textile infrastructure gets Budget push by increasing allocation for building textile parks**

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to increase output and jobs in the textile sector, the Budget has given a major boost to textile infrastructure by increasing the allocation for building textile parks, incubation facilities, processing and development centres by almost three times.

The provision for textile infrastructure has been increased to Rs 1,860 crore in 2017-18 from Rs 506 crore in FY17.

These increased funds will also be used for the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana to promote employment in the sector.

Infrastructure is the only segment of the total textile industry which has got higher funds. Allocation for the ministry is similar to last year.

“Though there are no new schemes or programmes specifically for the textiles or garment industry, the Budget has several provisions that will help the sector to grow faster,” said Rahul Mehta, President, Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India.

However, the government has cut down the support to the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) which is used to promote technical textiles and generate employment in the apparel and garment sectors. The budgetary allocation is down from Rs 2,610 crore in FY17 to Rs 2,013 crore now.

“The allocation for the textile industry used to go for TUFS but the industry felt that besides modernization, more is needed in infrastructure such as plug and play facilities. So, the allocation is in the right direction as will improve the investment climate in textile parks,” said an industry expert.

The largest chunk of the spend, Rs 1600 crore is expected from the remission of state taxes which will make garment exports competitive.

By creating more incubation centres, the government has encouraged

domestic textile manufacturing which has lost market share to Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Higher infra spend will help create the logistics required for the Rs 6,006 crore package for apparels announced last year.

Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com)- Feb 04, 2017

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### **Gandhigram researcher's 'super cotton' can keep soldiers cosy**

MADURAI: A researcher at the Gandhigram Rural Institute has developed a cotton-based technical textile, which can be a boon to those on the battlefield as well as in the medical field. The fabric can repel liquids, dry fast and has anti-bacterial properties, research scholar T Surya Prabha of the department of Chemistry told TOI.

She had been working on 'superhydrophobic coating with special properties for fabrics' under the guidance of MG Sethuraman, professor of Chemistry at the university. "The breakthrough came in December last year. When cellulose fabric is dipped in copper acetate solution, the fibers get coated with a thin layer of copper. It is reduced with ascorbic acid and then treated with stearic acid. The treated fabric has a water contact angle of 159 degrees, which is similar to that of lotus leaves, and hence repels water and liquids like blood," she said.

As it contains copper, the fabric has anti-microbial properties, said Sethuraman. "It was tested using both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. It has also been found to have a UV filtering property and quick-drying property, making it suitable for people who have to work in wet or cold conditions, like soldiers. Wet clothes can lead to infections. Use of clothe made from this fabric avoids such situations," he said, adding that the cloth could also be used to filter oil from water.

The finding has been published in Cellulose, a quarterly international journal and has also been sent to the Defence Research and Development Organisation for funding for large-scale development.

As the cloth will have lesser breathability than the normal cotton, it is more suitable for use in higher altitudes. The production cost would only be slightly higher than the ordinary cotton if it is mass produced, the researcher added.

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com- Feb 04, 2017

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## **ITMACH India to take place in Dec; host 45000 visitors**



The second edition of ITMACH India, the International Textile Machinery and Accessories exhibition, is likely to have over 750 exhibitors from around the world and over 45,000 business visitors. It will be held from December 7-10, 2017, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Indian Textile Sourcing Exhibition (ITSE) will also take place concurrently

with ITMACH India.

Jointly organised by K and D ITMACH Expositions LLP and Spinners Association (Gujarat), the fair will cover 40,000 square meters of exhibition space. It will host entire ranges of textile machinery and technology including spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing, printing, processing, digital printing, nonwoven and technical textiles, garmenting, quality control, utility machinery and so on. Several well-known machinery companies have already confirmed their participation in ITMACH India, according to the organisers.

As for the ITSE fair, it would cover the entire textile value chain with the aim to promote sourcing of made in India textiles and apparels.

Indian textile industry's growing need of textile machinery and technology backed by continued investment and modernisation of production capacities is expected to grow in the next three years. The prime drivers of the upbeat investment mood are government's enhanced allocation of funds towards technology up-gradation subsidy schemes, infrastructure building approach, export incentives and more IMPORTANTLY the fastest growing economy of the country. lucrative state government textile policies



are also wooing investors to create employment and additional revenue sources. The state of Gujarat is leading the investment in textile sector for past few years. With investment worth \$1.2 billion announced by a couple of large textile players at the recently concluded Vibrant Gujarat Business Summit, the total investment plans in textile sector could easily exceed \$10 billion.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Feb 04, 2017

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## The 24th International Guwahati Trade Fair begins



The 24th International Guwahati Trade Fair 2017 the biggest international trade fair of North East India kicks off on 2nd February. The fair is organised by Industries and Trade Fair Associations of Assam (ITFAA) in association with National Small

Industries Corporation Limited ( NSIC)

The people in Guwahati gets the opportunity to witness products from United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Dubai along with Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, Afghanistan and Bangladesh for the first time.

Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Transport, Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Assam will officially inaugurate the fair at 4pm on February 4. Pallab Lochan Das, Minister for Labour and Employment, Tea Tribes Welfare, Revenue and Power, Government of Assam will be the Guest of Honour.

The other dignitaries who will be present in the inaugural ceremony are Chief General Manager ( North Eastern Circle) of State Bank of India PVSLN Murty, J.K.Mahanta, Chief General Manager of NSIC and Managing Director, Purabi.

For the first time, people in Guwahati will be able to witness a life size replica of famous Petronas Tower of Malaysia at the middle of the trade fair venue. The 88-storey twin structure is Kuala Lumpur's crown jewel.

The trade fair will be the first fair in North East India to be free wi-fi zone for the visitors and participants. This service is provided by Siges Net Pvt. Ltd of Guwahati.

Joining hands with Government of India's initiative of cash less transaction, the organising committee has made arrangements for online payment at the fair with an exclusive stall providing swipe machine facility. State Bank of India (SBI), the official Banker of IGTF will provide an ATM counter at the fair venue along with online transactions facilities.

The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC) pavilions in Hall number 1 and Hall number 2 with more than 130 stalls will be a great attraction this time.

The National Jute Board ( NJB) pavilion sponsored by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India will showcase rich jute products from across India. Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh is also participating in a big way in Hall 3 at the fair.

The 24th IGTF will witness some of the most reputed national and multi-national companies. Some of the big names are Purabi, Mahindra 2 Wheelers, Hero Moto Corp Ltd, Renault, Kutchina, Honda, Telebrands, Hafele, APPL, Pran Foods, RFL and many others.

Every day beginning from Feb 5 there will be a lottery on entry tickets and the lucky winner will win dinner voucher for two persons at Vivanta by Taj, Guwahati. There will also be a lottery on complementary one day passes on February 18 and the lucky winner will win a gift voucher worth fifteen thousand rupees of free shopping in the trade fair.

The IGTF will run from February 2 to February 20, 2017 at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- Feb 04, 2017

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## **Mega silk cluster to be set up in Belavadi village**

A mega silk cluster will soon be set up in 10 acres of land in Belavadi village, on the outskirts of Mysuru, at an approximate cost of ₹50 crores. This is one of the six silk clusters to be set up across the country under the revised National Handloom Development Programme.

The Union government has appointed the Karnataka State Textile Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (KSTIDCL) as cluster management and technical agency. Efforts are on to register a Special Purpose Vehicle for the implementation and funding of the silk cluster. G. Thippesh, chairman, KSTIDCL and G.P. Srinivasmurthy, Managing Director, told The Hindu that twisting, yarn dyeing, warping, fabric dyeing and printing, and calendaring were among many functions that would be provided at the cluster. They said that 25 silk traders had been identified and each one of them has agreed to invest around ₹40 lakhs in the cluster.

**Project report** A detailed project report for the cluster is being prepared with the assistance of Infrastructure Development Corporation Karnataka Limited (IDECK). Roads, drainage systems, water, power and solid waste management systems, a training hall, a bank and an ATM would be set up, Mr. Srinivasmurthy said. He added that the project may come up in another eight months.

**Employment opportunities** He further said that the proposed silk cluster, being a labour-intensive industry, would open up huge employment opportunities besides fuelling local economy by spanning ancillary industries. Mysuru and its surrounding regions are known for sericulture, and the famed Mysore Silk has been accorded the Geographic Indication tag in view of its uniqueness. It is proposed to name the cluster Mysore Sri Chamundeshwari mega silk cluster. Mr. Thippesh said that the cluster would be set up under a public-private partnership. He noted that the Union government would bear 60% of the total cost while the State government would bear 30% and remaining 10% would be borne by the entrepreneurs. The cluster would enable the weavers to produce quality silk saris in an abundant quantity, he said.

Source: H.S. Narasimha Kumar, The Hindu - Feb 06, 2017

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