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IBTEX No. 14 of 2017 Jan 18, 2017

USD 67.94 | EUR 72.65 | GBP 83.84 | JPY 0.60

Cotton Market Update

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

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
19481	40750	**76.53**

Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), March

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20290	42442	**79.70**

International Futures Price

NY ICE USD Cents/lb (March 2017)	72.11
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (January 2017)	14,990
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**84.35**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**81.60**

Cotton & currency guide: Cotton price in India traded marginally higher on Tuesday after three days of snap in the price. The spot price of cotton for S-6 variety ended the session at Rs. 41250 per candy, ex-gin up by Rs. 100 from the previous close. Punjab J-34 has also edged higher, to Rs. 4,385 per maund (78.30 cents per lb). The overall arrivals in the country were estimated to be lower at 135,000 bales including 55,000- bales from Maharastra and 28,000 bales from Gujarat. Looking at the spot performance the future price advanced a tad. The most active January future trades at MCX ended the session higher at Rs. 19950 up by Rs. 170 from the previous close.

Coming to the global cotton, the most traded cotton futures at ICE for March delivery ended the session lower at 72.11 cents/lb. There has been steady decline in the price since cotton topped near 75 cents earlier in the last week. There has been good amount of profit booking in the counter because marginal reduction in the speculative long positions is being noticed with slight decline in the open interest and steady trading volume

This morning ICE cotton is seen trading down further to trade at 72.06 cents and the ZCE cotton has declined close to 1% at 14,950 Yuan/MT. We believe overall cotton price trend on today's trading session may remain steady to lower. However, we need to understand in detail how the domestic cotton performs. With the reduction in arrivals of new cotton in India is probably now creating a doubt in the market about the earlier estimated production for the current season. We believe if the daily arrivals continues to hold around 140-150,000 bales a day and notice no major improvement in the supply then the overall India's production figure might have to be revised lower. The earlier production estimation was around 340-345 lakh bales and need to wait and watch the rest of January to check the performance of arrivals coming to market.

Overall we expect cotton price to trade sideways to lower. The trading range for the day would be 72.50 to 71.80 cents/lb. At the domestic front the January future is expected to move in the range of 20100 to Rs. 19800 per bale.

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

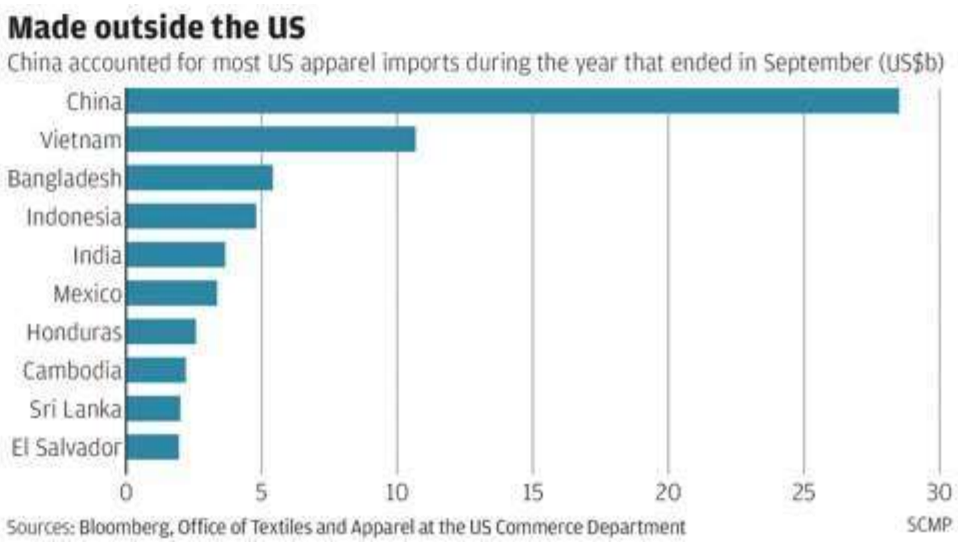
Fashion brands fear Trump's trade policies will disrupt global production chains, with risk of tariffs squeezing profits

Clothing manufacturers await Trump presidency with bated breath, worried he could spark a trade war with China and other countries and force them to choose between producing more in the US or paying import penalties

When LVMH's chief executive officer was seen in Trump Tower's lobby last week, the fashion industry held its breath.

Bernard Arnault runs the world's largest luxury goods company – a sprawling empire that includes Louis Vuitton, Fendi and Dior – and here he was, meeting with a president-elect who has threatened to roil the industry with trade restrictions.

Following Arnault's sit-down with Trump, LVMH said the French company was considering expanding its production in the US.



The encounter underscores a challenging moment for apparel makers, most of which had written off America as a major source of production. Other countries manufacture 97 per cent of the clothes sold in the US, but Trump has threatened to rip up trade agreements and impose tariffs in a bid to bring domestic jobs back.

That's led many clothing giants to freeze their overseas expansion plans – and to pay lip service at least to the idea of making more of their wares in America.

"You're not going to have a big expansion until you know what's going to happen," says Julia Hughes, president of the Fashion Industry Association, which represents names such as Ralph Lauren and Under Armour.

LVMH already has a factory in San Dimas, California, where it has made Louis Vuitton products for 25 years. The company is considering expanding that plant, as well as opening another facility in the South or Texas. But the decision has more to do with meeting local demand, says Sonia Fellmann, a Paris-based spokeswoman.

"The success of Louis Vuitton in the American market makes it necessary to increase production capacity," she says. "The location has not been decided."

Source: scmp.com– Jan 17, 2017

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El Salvador: A Unique Option for Sourcing Quick to Market Athleisure

In El Salvador, one link in the synthetics supply chain is scarcely more than a 30-minute drive from the next—sometimes less. It's a synthetic textile and apparel cluster, a supply chain city of sorts, and its helping athleisure make it to market faster than most other sources can manage.

From the yarn suppliers to the narrow elastics manufacturer, the fabric mill and the textile factories, it's all nearby and the individual entities function, for the most part, as one virtually vertically integrated organization.

In an effort to differentiate the country and its capabilities, moving away from its previous maquila (solely sewing) operations, and to take advantage of the CAFTA-DR trade agreement, the Salvadorian government invested in the synthetic cluster, and now greater interest in nearshoring—and athleisure—has even more eyes on El Salvador.

"El Salvador is the only country in Central America that has been able to develop a full synthetic cluster," said Carolina Vides de Palomo, investment promotion manager for PROESA, the Salvadorian government's agency for investment promotion. "El Salvador is ideally suited for high tariff rate exports."

And synthetic products face some of the highest tariff rates in trade. The yarn forward rule under CAFTA-DR allows for duty free access for qualifying textile and apparel products made using U.S. and/or Central America-DR yarns and fabrics, like nylon, polyester, micro fiber—products subject to a 32 percent tariff when imported from Asia to the U.S.

What's also key, apart from saving on those duties, is that lead times can run as short as three weeks from order to shipping when materials are already on hand.

The synthetic cluster includes polyester and nylon yarn producers, a narrow elastics manufacturer, circular and warp knit stretch fabric suppliers and apparel manufacturers, specializing in athletic wear, sportswear, performance wear, and swimwear products.

Brands like Nike, Under Armour, Patagonia, The North Face and Lululemon are already tapping the market to make their goods.

"It's a cluster, you have it all here," Unifi general manager Jaime Campos said.

Unifi, the leading multi-filament polyester and nylon textured yarn producer, has been in El Salvador for six years supplying the cluster, and growth has been steady since.

"After CAFTA was ratified, the El Salvador government looked at strategic investment for growth because we wanted El Salvador to stop being looked at only as a cut and sew transformation country. Instead of just making underwear, we started making jackets—a higher grade garment driven by the synthetic cluster," Campos explained. "The synthetic revolution started."

In the last five years, El Salvador's exports of synthetics have jumped 83 percent to $451 million, according to PROESA.

For CS Central America, which also supplies yarn to the cluster, the activewear trend has done a lot for business.

"If you look at the textile industry in El Salvador, it's the only industry that has been growing for the past eight years," Jorge Salazar, sales and administration director for CS Central America, said. "But if you look in more details at which sector of the textile industry has been growing more, what you're going to find is that the synthetic sector has been growing every year for the past eight years."

CS Central America produces continuous filament yarns, including yarns with moisture management, fire retardant yarns, cationic yarns, yarns that retain heat in the cold and release heat in warmer climes. And because the transformation into yarn is done in El Salvador, the resin to make it can be imported from anywhere and still meet the duty free requirements.

"You can find any type of yarn here that you would find in Japan," Salazar said.

And high-quality, highly designed narrow elastics aren't hard to find in El Salvador either.

George C. Moore, a 107-year-old company founded in Massachusetts, has been in El Salvador since 2006 making elastics for yoga and performance apparel, as well as for innerwear, swimwear and medical gear. As a weaving and knitting operation, the company can source yarn from anywhere in the world and still meet origin requirements for duty free benefits under CAFTA-DR.

Since CAFTA, George C. Moore general manager Carlo Melara explained, the business has been growing slowly, but steadily.

"The businesses that come, they don't want to leave," Melara said. "Under Armour has come back to the region for several years now. They're very dedicated to trying to strengthen the capabilities of all their trim suppliers and fabric suppliers."

The synthetic cluster's key fabric supplier, Pettenati, is among the elite when it comes to fabric manufacturers. The vertically integrated company handles knitting, dyeing, stamping and finishing to guarantee quality control, agility and lower cost—three vital things for meeting the demands of the current market. What's more, with three shifts running, there's a three-day turnaround for the entire production process.

Since it landed in El Salvador seven years ago, growth has been in the double digits each year and the company is now the largest circular knitter for sports apparel and outdoor wear in the Americas.

For Francesco Pilenga, Pettenati's director of operations, an out-of-order Trans-Pacific Partnership spells an advantage for Central America if the region can increase its capacity and bring more big players in.

"The entire region is getting more sophisticated," Pilenga said. "At least there is a lot of attention here. After the [U.S. presidential] election, everybody is traveling down to this region. They are freaking out."

Pettanati, which produces goods for companies like Nike, Under Armour, Lululemon and Adidas, has its sights set on 15 percent growth over the next three years and has investments underway to incorporate new finishing capabilities and technologies that are novel for the region.

TexOps, a high-quality, high-tech apparel manufacturer in the cluster, has been steadily successful, but more so of late as demand for quicker turn production picks up.

"What we feel—and it's happening as we speak—is that at the C-suite level, with the pressure of the stock, Wall St. is not tolerating these inefficiencies in inventory," TexOps director Juan Zighelboim said. "The pyramid is upside down because the CEO's money is based on the stock price of the company. Now that it's hitting them in the pocket where it hurts, they're going to their sourcing guys and saying 'I don't care what you have to do, get it to me fast and quick.'"

TexOps, which counts Lululemon, Castelli, REI and Dick's Sporting Goods among its customers, built its company based on speed.

"We have lead times as low as three days. It all depends on what the customer is comfortable managing," Zighelboim said.

Source: sourcingjournalonline.com– Jan 16, 2017

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Vietnam: Vinatex signs strategic cooperation agreement with Japanese firm Itochu

Vietnam Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex) signed a strategic co-operation agreement with Itochu, a Japanese firm, where Itochu is expected to help Vinatex make a change in textiles and garment production and business method from Cut—Make—Trim to Free on Board, developing a sustainable retail distribution network to enjoy long-term benefit.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Ha Noi.

Itochu, one of the leading economic groups in Japan operating in various areas, including textiles and garment, has co-operated with some 100 textiles and garment companies of Viet Nam.

Under the agreement, trading firm Itochu will assume the role of a consulting partner for Vinatex and its member companies in developing the textiles and garment supply chain from fibre to thread, fabric and sewing, retail distribution, co-operation and introducing domestic and foreign partners.

Shuichi Koseki, senior managing executive officer, manager of CP•CITIC Strategy Office, president of Textile Company and representative director, said that Vietnam's textiles and garment were an important part of Itochu, therefore it wanted to develop this area with Vietnam, so that Vinatex could become its number one partner.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Le Tien Truong, general director of Vinatex, said that the two sides would discuss in detail the co-operation plan and implement actions immediately to make a change in Vinatex's textiles and garment production and business method from Cut—Make—Trim to Free on Board, developing a sustainable retail distribution network to enjoy long-term benefits.

Itochu signed a framework agreement to support several projects in dyeing and materials production in Vietnam, training in the country's dyeing sector and utilizing the capacity of Vinatex's dyeing factories in the central region in 2015. At that time, Itochu owned five per cent stake in Vinatex through a subsidiary company.

In the near future, Itochu would boost co-operation between the two sides to develop textiles and garment products and supply them globally.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com – Jan 17, 2017

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Bangladesh to host three textile fairs from January 18

The Garmentech Bangladesh 2017 will commence in Dhaka on January 18 with a view to provide a new momentum to the textile sector of the country. Three events – 16th Garment and Allied Machinery trade show, 8th Yarn and Fabrics Sourcing Fair 2017 and 8th Garments Accessories and Packaging Exposition (GAP Expo 2017) - will simultaneously take place in the city.

The four-day Garmentech fair on readymade garments, accessories, yarn and fabrics is jointly being organised by ASK Trade and Exhibitions Pvt Limited, Zakaria Trade and Fair International and Bangladesh Garments Accessories and Packaging Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGAPMEA).

Abdul Kader Khan, president of BGAPMEA said at a press conference that the trade shows will help the country's apparel manufacturers to achieve the industry's target of exporting textile worth $50 billion by 2021. He also said that manufacturers of apparel accessories will need to earn $18 billion from exports to achieve the target.

Close to 400 companies belonging to over 24 countries including China, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Germany, Italy, US, UK, Canada, Sweden, Spain, France, Thailand and more will display their textiles, readymade garments, yarn and other products at the Garmentech textile fair.

Tofail Ahmed, commerce minister of Bangladesh will inaugurate the fair as the chief guest, while Annisul Huq, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) will be a special guest at the opening ceremony.

Source: fibre2fashion.com – Jan 17, 2017

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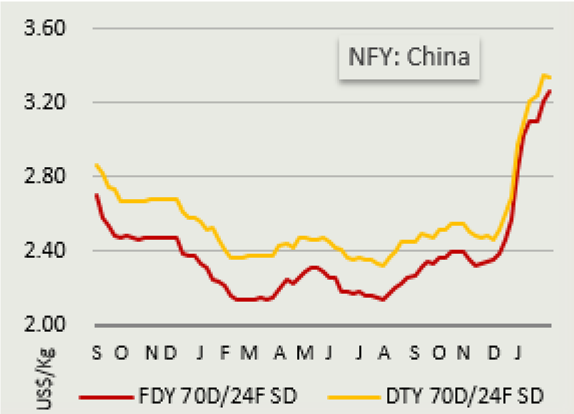
Nylon yarn price soars in Asia

In China, FDY70D/24F SD prices surged US cents 10 a kg in the first week of January while FDY40D soared US cents 10 a kg on the week. DTY 70D/24F prices were up US cents 11 a kg while 30D/10F rose US cents 14 a kg on the week.



Monofilament 30D prices were up US cents 7 a kg, while nylon staple fiber 1.5D prices were stable on the week.

Nylon filament yarn producers hiked offers further to relieve cost pressure as nylon chip and caprolactum prices picked up on the week. For demand, as it was opening of the New Year, converters adopted cautious attitude towards operation.

Warp knitting, weaving and AJ covering sectors witnessed smooth sales and operated at 80% capacity. Meanwhile, circular knitting mills and lacing mills trimmed operations to 40%.

In non-textile sectors, fishing net yarn, monofilament, staple fiber and cord fabric makers bought hand to mouth volume amid mute trading.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com – Jan 17, 2017

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Why 2017 is Africa's year to shine

Africa is home to seven of the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world, and despite the pre-conceived ideas of a continent forever plagued by disease, war and turmoil, it is rapidly becoming one of the most desirable investment destinations.

The past two years have, however, not been easy for the continent. In 2015, GDP growth slowed to 3.0 per cent, down from 4.5 per cent in 2014 due to an economic slump, while low commodity prices continued to impede growth last year, and expansion decelerated to lows not seen since the 2009 global financial crisis.

However, I believe the continent will bounce back this year. Here's why.

While the headlines might be all about falling commodity prices, here on the ground I'm seeing something different: an environment where private sector-led investment is starting to flourish, thanks to economic and political reforms by governments.

Indeed, the business landscape has been rapidly changing, due to increased regional mobility, rapid urbanisation and population growth, all of which has boosted demand for African-made products and services. This, coupled with strong interconnectedness and a sense of pan-Africanism, has brought much optimism for businesses operating in the region. With the public sector facilitating the establishment of Africa's biggest economic bloc, which could culminate in a Free Trade Area, spanning Cape to Cairo, the next great investment destination for 2017 may very well be Africa.

Take the example of agri-business, which has and always will be at the centre of growth in the continent.

Recently, the continent has seen a surge of innovations that are accelerating agricultural productivity.

For instance, new platforms are providing farmers data on commodity prices, the availability of buyers and sellers, and guidance on best practices in harvesting and disease management.

Four signs that things are looking up in Africa

The rise of these innovations speaks to the progress and potential of Africa's economy more broadly, its people and their ability to identify localised solutions for growth. But this isn't the only clue as to Africa's potential. In fact, I see four key trends driving large-scale private sector growth on the continent. These trends are, not only shaping the strategies for existing companies, but have also influenced the nature and appetite for joint venture projects across the continent.

Processing and value-addition

For a long time, development practitioners have emphasised need to give more attention to the processing of raw agricultural produce rather than exporting unprocessed agricultural commodities. Indeed, African governments have been promoting value-addition for economic development for years, and yet there are still plenty of investment opportunities.

Over 80 per cent of value in the global food industry is in value-added components such as sorting, cleaning and packaging fruits and vegetables. The various forms of value-addition provide opportunities for the private sector to expand their commercial activities and access higher-value markets, either for domestic consumers or exports.

Not only do they provide employment at all levels, but they have proven time and time again to drastically change the economic landscape of countries. A good example of this is Kenya; the export value of fresh vegetables grew by as much as 250 per cent after it stopped simply exporting raw material and started incorporating value-added tasks such as cleaning, packaging and freezing products.

Similar to the fruit and vegetables sub-sectors, Africa's cotton and apparel value chain have joined forces to integrate the global textile supply chain. In South Africa, the Aid by Trade Foundation entered into a partnership with the African Cotton and Textiles Industries Federation to promote the sustainable cotton and textile industry in sub-Saharan Africa. The objective of this partnership was to increase productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of cotton production, and thus strengthen textile production in Africa.

In Tanzania, the MeTL Group started out with cotton ginning operations for export. We then opened four textile factories for spinning and weaving of cotton in Tanzania and Mozambique. Today, we have launched our first ever garmenting factory which manufactures school uniforms, T-shirts and several cotton-apparel by-products. With its growing population and increasingly skilled labour force, Africa is ideally placed to benefit from processing and value-addition across the agro-processing sub-sector.

Fast-moving consumer goods for Africa by Africa

Africa is home to one of the world's fastest growing populations and an exploding middle-class with more disposable income than ever before. As a result, there is high demand for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), such as apparel, hygiene products, food and electronics. Currently, almost all these products are still being imported.

FMCG retailers tend to operate in low-margin environments and, as a result, large markets are crucial to their growth and success. With a rapidly growing continent and changing livelihoods, the potential for private sector actors in the FMCG space is promising for 2017 and beyond. McKinsey projects the growth of these consumer-facing industries will surpass $400 billion by 2020.

Over the past few years, several African entrepreneurs have started local production using locally-available material in manufacturing soaps, edible oils, household cleaning products, and even school uniforms.

From local companies like Del Monte Kenya Limited, Tongaat Hulett, to foreign conglomerates like Unilever and Procter and Gamble, Africa's FMCG sector has provided plenty of business opportunities, and there are some who say this could be the next "gold rush". US retail giant Wal-Mart's recent $2.5 billion dollar investment into South African retailer Massmart points that way.

McKinsey have described this sector as the "single-largest business opportunity in Africa". If figures from the A.T. Kearney 2015 African Retail Development Index (ARDI) are anything to go by, that prediction is accurate.

‘Bottom of the pyramid’ consumers

Despite rapid socio-political advancements in Africa, only around half of people there earn more than $4 a day. While in Africa this might be categorised as “middle class”, manufacturers locally and globally would still label them as low-income consumers, or the bottom of the pyramid (BOP) market.

The competitive advantage of African owned and run businesses is that, unlike their foreign counterparts, they understand the purchasing decisions of the world’s more than five billion low-income consumers, which gives them a competitive edge.

When CK Prahalad’s published The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid, he was speaking directly to the many African entrepreneurs that understood the world’s poor and their untapped buying power. Companies on the continent are learning how to serve these consumers while making money in the process.

Single-use and/or low-cost products have been experiencing solid demand. Products like SC Johnson’s individual mosquito coils for $0.01 and returnable 200ml bottles of Coca-Cola continue to be profitable because these companies have invested heavily in the logistics needed to reach BOP consumers, and have carried out market research on the packaging and disposable income required for poorer consumers to be able to buy their products.

African export market

Export-led growth has been a successful strategy for several developing economies. Through incentive programmes and policies, African governments and multilateral donors have encouraged exports, which have allowed companies to further diversity their operations and reap the financial benefits.

For a long time, the continent was not able to meet global export requirements. However, with the multiplicity of opportunities today – increased market linkages, partnership support, consultation, information sharing and tailored training for export trading – we’ve been able to take advantage of the global demand for African exports.

With a growing world population and an imminent danger of global food shortages, Africa is well poised to become the breadbasket of the world. Africa's exports will be critical to our development as a global society. The continent's exports will become extremely important in the growth of Africa's private sector this year and beyond.

These four trends have been a long time in the making, but after a slow 2016, it looks like 2017 could be a good year for all those doing business in what is now one of the most exciting and dynamic regions in the world.

Source: newtimes.co.rw- Jan 17, 2017

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Burkina Faso cotton output to rise after discontinuing Monsanto variety

The west African country's growers after blaming a genetically modified (GM) variety supplied by U.S. seed maker Monsanto for a decline in cotton quality reverted entirely to conventional cotton for the new crop.

The country's agriculture minister Jacob Quedragon on Monday said that due to favorable rainfall to boost cotton output. The 2016-17 harvest, which is expected to total 750,000 tonnes, was showing improved quality as well as production.

Burkina Faso estimates its production of raw cotton for the 2016-17 harvest will rise by 25 percent compared to the previous harvest.

Burkina Faso's cotton producers had complained that increased levels of short fibers in their GM cotton had impacted its market value, and last April announced they were seeking 48.3 billion CFA francs ($78 million) in compensation from Monsanto.

Monsanto has acknowledged changes in cotton fiber length, but argued that fiber quality is also influenced by environmental conditions and that other cotton varieties have shown length variations.

The talks between Burkina's producers and Monsanto were continuing.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com - Jan 17, 2017

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Pakistan: 'Textile units are relocating to other countries'

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on the Textile Industry was informed on Tuesday that a large number of textile units have either shut down or relocated to regional countries due to a high cost of utilities.

Representatives of the value-added textile sector informed committee members about a number of factors that have put the country's exports at risk.

The members expressed surprise that the K-Electric CEO failed to show up at the meeting being held at Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) House despite being invited.

The committee members, led by Haji Muhammed Akram Ansari, passed a resolution that asked all heads of utility companies and the secretary of the Ministry of Water and Power to attend the next meeting, which will take place within a month in Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Apparel Forum (PAF) Chairman Jawed Bilwani said the textile industry has been struggling due to a high cost of doing business. Pakistan's textile exports in the last three years dropped 9.22 per cent to $12.4 billion.

In contrast, Bangladesh's textile exports have increased 14.5pc to $30.3bn since 2013-14. The corresponding increase in the textile exports of Vietnam was 26.1pc to $25.3bn.

The industry representatives said electricity tariffs in Pakistan stand at $0.11 per kWh as opposed to $0.09 in Bangladesh, $0.09 in India and $0.08 in Vietnam. They said Pakistan's industrial gas tariff is 173pc, 44pc and 12pc higher than those in Bangladesh, India and Vietnam, respectively.

They said that even the minimum wage in Pakistan is 98pc, 17pc and 19pc higher than those in Bangladesh, India and Vietnam, respectively.

The textile sector representatives informed the committee members about the disparities in tariffs of gas, power and water within provinces. If Punjab is paying high gas tariffs, the Karachi-based industry is also bearing a high cost of water, they said. The industrial water tariff in Karachi is 357pc and 507pc higher than those in Punjab and Balochistan.

There was a jump in exports after the announcement of the textile policy in 2009, they said. For unknown reasons, the policy was discontinued within three years, they added.

With regard to the latest relief package announced by the prime minister, the industry leaders said it may not fully produce the desired results. Some of it will be absorbed by the high cost of doing business while another portion of it will end up being shared with foreign buyers, the representatives of the textile sector told the committee members.

They said there should be no cash rebate and the government should ensure level playing field with regional countries to grow exports.

Source: dawn.com - Jan 18, 2017

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Walmart to create 10,000 jobs, invest $6.8 bn in US

Walmart announced on Tuesday it will invest $6.8 billion in the United States and create 10,000 jobs in stores and e-commerce, a move for which President-elect Donald Trump quickly took credit.

The investment in 59 new, expanded or relocated Walmart and Sam's Club stores also will create an estimated 24,000 construction jobs, the company said in a statement.

"With a presence in thousands of communities and a vast supplier network, we know we play an important role in supporting and creating American jobs," said Dan Bartlett, Walmart executive vice president for corporate affairs said.

"Our 2017 plans to grow our business -– and our support for innovation in the textile industry –- will have a meaningful impact across the county."

The company, which is known for inexpensive and frequently imported products, said it plans to purchase an additional $250 billion in American-made, grown, assembled and sourced products through 2023, estimated to help create one million jobs.

Walmart and GM each announced investment and job creation plans on Tuesday, the latest in a series of companies to announce plans to do so -- including Ford and Amazon -- amid continued pressure, mostly via Twitter, from US President-elect Donald Trump who has threatened stiff penalties on companies that import products manufactured overseas.

Shortly after the GM and Walmart announcements, Trump used two tweets to claim the jobs were a direct result of his own efforts.

"With all of the jobs I am bringing back into the U.S. (even before taking office), with all of the new auto plants coming back into our..... country and with the massive cost reductions I have negotiated on military purchases and more, I believe the people are seeing 'big stuff,'" he said.

Walmart's Bartlett, who is attending the US Conference of Mayors in Washington, also will announce that Walmart Foundation will provide $3 million in grants through the US Manufacturing Innovation Fund to six universities "working to advance sustainability and innovations in textile manufacturing, which has proven to be one of the most challenging industries to reshore to the US."

The projects include commercial textile dyeing method that does not use salt or alkali, does not produce effluent, and produces more than 95 percent savings of both energy and water, and research to develop sustainable polyester fibers.

The company also said it will open 160 new training academies by July, bringing to 200 the total number of facilities to train associates.

Source: yahoo.com - Jan 17, 2017

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IMF projects advanced economies to grow at 1.9% in 2017

Advanced economies are projected to grow by 1.9 per cent in 2017 and 2.0 per cent in 2018, 0.1 and 0.2 percentage points more than in the October forecast, respectively, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said in its January 2017 update to World Economic Outlook. Growth projections have been revised upward for Germany, Japan, Spain, and the UK.

In line with its October 2016 forecast, the IMF estimates global growth for 2016 at 3.1 per cent. However, economic activity in both advanced economies and emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) is forecast to accelerate in 2017-18, with global growth projected to be 3.4 per cent and 3.6 per cent, respectively, again unchanged from the October forecasts.

For the US, the IMF notes that its forecast is particularly uncertain in light of potential changes in the policy stance under the incoming administration. “The projection for the US is the one with the highest likelihood among a wide range of possible scenarios. It assumes a fiscal stimulus that leads growth to rise to 2.3 per cent in 2017 and 2.5 per cent in 2018, a cumulative increase in GDP of ½ percentage point relative to the October forecast.”

Growth projects for 2017 have been revised upward for countries like Japan, Germany, Spain and the UK, mostly on account of a stronger-than-expected performance during the latter part of 2016. These upward revisions more than offset the downward revisions to the outlook for Italy and Korea. However, the primary factor underlying the strengthening global outlook over 2017-18 is the projected pickup in EMDEs’ growth.

Notably, the growth forecast for 2017 has been revised up for China (to 6.5 per cent, 0.3 percentage point above the October forecast) on expectations of continued policy support.

“However, continued reliance on policy stimulus measures, with rapid expansion of credit and slow progress in addressing corporate debt, especially in hardening the budget constraints of state-owned enterprises, raises the risk of a sharper slowdown or a disruptive adjustment. These risks can be exacerbated by capital outflow pressures, especially in a more unsettled external environment.”

In India, the growth forecast for 2016-17 and next fiscal year have been trimmed by one percentage point and 0.4 percentage point, respectively, primarily due to the temporary negative consumption shock induced by cash shortages and payment disruptions associated with the recent currency note withdrawal and exchange initiative.

Growth has also been revised down in Indonesia, reflecting weaker-than-projected private investment, and in Thailand, in light of a slowdown in consumption and tourism.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Jan 17, 2017

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USA: Where the Clothes Do Most of the Work

I do not think that I was prepared for the mannequins.

Earlier this month, I did a crawl of recently opened flagship spaces for the two largest athletic-wear companies in the world, beginning with the new Adidas Midtown location and ending at Nike's SoHo outpost. It was a symphony of stretchable, moisture-wicking fabrics and complicated looking footwear, items designed for maximum visual impact and, one imagines, some function, too.

These two constantly warring titans have different approaches to expressing their bona fides: Nike is brash and attitudinal, Adidas is relaxed and slightly cozy. The stores captured that to a degree but, more intriguing, also highlighted the ways in which athletic performance is sold to those of us who sweat just by watching others work out.

Which brings me back to the mannequins. After some time spent in both stores, I had come to the conclusion that the nature of athletic apparel isn't particularly athletic. It's about connotation, not denotation.

Wearing the clothes does much of the work — actual fitness is a bonus. Athletic wear was the original athleisure.

On one of the building's middle floors — there are five total — was an array of lower-half mannequins that were, I would have to guess, based on Odell Beckham Jr., or maybe Adrian Peterson. Mannequins where the muscles on the front of the thigh and the ones in the back were so far apart that they probably couldn't hear each other speak in a crowded room, and so big that if they did speak, they would undoubtedly get into a fight.

There were sections of both stores dedicated to those concerned with performance, like enclosed patches of fake turf on which you could boot around a soccer ball. Nike also had a basketball half-court (or almost half) on which employees were attempting (and missing) three-point shots; and at Adidas, I was handed a basketball to dribble as I tried on a pair of low-top D Lillard 2.0s ($105). There were military-grade treadmills at both stores, though I didn't witness anyone — or aspire to become someone — brave enough to try them out.

They felt like exhibits you might see at the U.S.S. Intrepid, tools of a war you've heard about but not been called upon to fight in. For the most part, people were not in either of these stores to sweat. The Adidas flagship is on a meh stretch of Fifth Avenue in Midtown, right where the luxury strip turns midmarket. It was filled with tourists. On bustling Lower Broadway — a better-heeled tourist strip, yes, but also close enough to places where the creative classes might live — the crowd was younger, more diverse, more interestingly dressed. The evening I stopped in, I saw the stylish rapper ASAP Nast buying some Air Jordan XVs ($190).

Nike's style swings are bolder and brighter. You could identify the floors there by use of color: red and black in the Jordan section, rich teal and purple in soccer cleats, stoic gray and black in leisure wear. Its attempts at casual fashion were more thoughtful, like the deep green water-repellent zip-up windbreaker with angled zipper ($375), like something you might see on a Tim Coppens runway. Adidas, by contrast, offered a shrug-worthy mesh zip-up hoodie made in partnership with Reigning Champ ($225).

Source: nytimes.com - Jan 17, 2017

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NATIONAL NEWS

Suggestions sought on foreign trade policy

The Union Commerce Ministry has taken up the midterm review of foreign trade policy 2015-20 and exporters may share their areas of concerns, suggestions, on its website, according to Vijay Kumar, Additional Director-General of Foreign Trade, Bengaluru.

Speaking at the 'Niryat Bandhu' export workshop at the Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Monday, he asked exporters to make use of the dashboard on the Ministry's website, an analytical tool that gives them an insight in to export trends and markets available for them. Exporters too can make use of the videos tutoring upcoming exporters and available on the Ministry's website, he said.

Mr. Kumar said that the trade satisfaction survey carried out by his office randomly with exporters walking in has shown positive results. "While 98 per cent have expressed their satisfaction with our work, we are focusing on the two per cent who have their reservations," he said.

The exporters may reach him directly on the office's twitter handle@dgftbangalore, he said adding they could also do so by logging on towww.jdgft-bangalore.kar. nic.in.

Referring to delays in issuing export obligation discharge certificate (EODC), which in some cases was delayed up to a year he said:

"We have now started pre-scrutiny of EODC and if the documents are in order, issue the same within 10-days, which was not heard of in the recent past."

Source: thehindu.com – Jan 17, 2017

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Need to address issue of lack of manpower in technical textiles sector: Smriti Irani ahead of Technotex-2017 expo

Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Textiles, Government of India, on Tuesday underlined the need to address the issue of lack of manpower in the technical textiles for which industry needed to first define the requisite skills. After defining the skills, the task would be to bridge the gap in which the industry would be supported adequately by the Government of India.

Addressing a curtain raiser of Technotex-2017, Irani assured that the government would consistently and constantly engage with the industry to create standards for the technical textiles sector. She added, "The industry needs to come forward and utilise platforms such as Technotex for convergence of efforts."

Technotex-2017 is India's premier show on technical textiles which will be organised by FICCI jointly with the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. The sixth edition of the international exhibition, conference and seminars will be held from April 12 to 14, 2017 in Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai.

The event will showcase products from various sub-sectors of technical textiles such as Indutech, Meditech, Mobiltech, Ecotech, Geotech, Packtech, Protech, Sportetch, Agrotech, Clothtech, technical textiles equipment and machinery, raw materials and textile manufacturing services.

Technotex is expected to draw in more than 200 exhibitors, looking to showcase a varied collection of technical textiles from the various sub-sectors of the technical textiles industry.

With participation from countries like Korea, Switzerland, Japan, U.S.A., Germany, Sweden, Belgium, the U.K., Luxembourg, Austria, Italy and more, the event will also have country pavilions of Taiwan and China. A gateway to the technical textile arena, the event bridges the gap between the buyer and seller by facilitating B2B (Business-to-Business) and G2B (Government-to-Business) meetings.

Irani said, "Agrotech and Geo textiles must be represented at Technotex as the sectors have great untapped potential.

Technotex stakeholders should engage with agri-institutes and urban local bodies to create awareness among them regarding the advantages of agrotech such as less consumption of water and better productivity and of geo textiles such as environment-friendly sustainable growth, respectively."

On the occasion, Irani released the Standards on Technical Textiles and brochure of the event. The release of the standards marks a vital step towards the ministry's efforts of standardisation of the technical textile products in India.

Alka Panda, Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), said, "BIS has constituted specialised committees to expedite the process of developing standards.

She urged the industry to actively participate with BIS and help in developing standards. BIS was looking forward to industry's suggestions on standardisation as this would spur innovations."

Dr. Kavita Gupta, Textile Commissioner, Office of the Textile Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in her presentation said, "There was a need for increased involvement of user institutions; development of indigenous specially fibers; development of standards; focus on research and development and encouragement of JVs and attracting investment in manufacturing technical textiles machinery."

Mr. Shishir Jaipuria, Chairman, FICCI Technical Textiles Committee and Managing Director, Ginni Filaments, briefed the industry about the various initiatives of FICCI for the technical textile industry and the progress of TECHNOTEX 2017.

He spoke about the future and development of technical textile industry in India and emphasised on the importance of accelerating usage and promoting investments pertaining to the growth of the technical textile industry, which is referred to as the sunrise sector.

He said, "The sector was in need of skilled manpower, standards and regulations for transparent growth."

In his theme perspective, Mohan Kavrie, Managing Director, Supreme Group, said, "While the government was trying to promote this sector, the industry was lagging behind. There was a need for entrepreneurs to step forward and look for innovative fabrics to promote use of technical textiles for daily use."

A short film on Indian Technical Textile Industry and Technotex-2016 was screened for the benefit of the stakeholders.

Also present were Puneet Agrawal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Vinay Mathur, Deputy Secretary General, FICCI.

Source: business-standard.com- Jan 17, 2017

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India International Garment Fair 2017 begins from today

The 58th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) catering primarily to Autumn-Winter 2017/18 being organized by Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) India to be held in New Delhi from today.

Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani will be inaugurating the IIGF, one of the largest and most popular platforms in Asia, from which overseas garment buyers can source products and forge business relationships with India's finest players in the apparel and fashion accessories domain.

Irani will also unveil the Fair Guide as well. Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta, and Textiles Secretary, Rashmi Verma will also be present on the occasion.

A total of 312 participants from 14 states of the country are participating in the Fair; the major participating states are Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka. The sellers would be showcasing womenswear, accessories, kids wear and menswear.

The IIFG will have two fashion shows a day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) on all three days, for exhibiting the collections and developing business. A theme pavilion and best display awards are some other attractions of the event.

Ashok Rajani, Chairman AEPC, informed that 58th IIGF is India's largest garment show in South Asia, covering Apparel and Fashion Accessories, organized over a vast exhibition area. The objective of IIGF is to showcase the latest trends in garment and fashion accessories, and to leverage brand India across the globe.

The India International Garment Fair was started in 1988. It is a B2B fair and is meant for conducting meaningful and quality business.

India International Garment Fair (IIGF) 2017 to be held from January 18 - 20, 2017 at Pragati Maiden, New Delhi.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com- Jan 18, 2017

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Cotton set to make comeback as pulses disappoint growers

After losing out about 20 per cent area to pulses, cotton is set to regain the lost ground in the upcoming kharif season.

With prices of pulses crashing, farmers are expected to go back for cotton next season. The seed industry expects a growth of 20 per cent in sales next season over the 3.6 crore packets it sold last year, or an increase of 60-65 lakh packets.

Dramatic increase in cotton prices this year too is likely to make farmers to come back to the crop. After a disastrous season the previous year, cotton prices touched ₹6,100 a quintal at the peak in September 2016, as against ₹1,500-2,000 in September 2015. Those grew cotton this season reaped good returns.

However, farmers found pulses hard to be remunerative. "We expect a big shift in North India. Cotton will make a return in those areas. Those farmers who shifted to pulses over the last three years because of higher prices of those commodities, will come back to cotton as prices have fallen," P Satheesh Kumar, former president of Seedsmen Association of Andhra Pradesh, told *BusinessLine*.

Cotton acreage (in lakh ha)

	This year*	Last Year*
Andhra Pradesh	4.36	6.12
Gujarat	24.05	27.61
Haryana	5.16	5.81
Karnataka	4.38	5.79
Madhya Pradesh	5.99	5.47
Maharashtra	38.11	38.24
Punjab	2.56	4.50
Tamil Nadu	0.44	0.46
Telangana	12.36	16.89
All India	**102.79**	**116.41**

Source: Agriculture Ministry

Though the industry pegged sales of 4.40 crore packets in the beginning of the season in 2016, actual numbers showed that farmers consumed only 3.60 crore packets because of increased interest among farmers in pulses. In the Telangana, it was redgram that made a dent into cotton area, along with pulses in some areas.

The north consumed 50-55 lakh packets as against the normal acreage of 80 lakh packets. The industry expects a consumption level of 75 lakh packets in the region. Cotton acreage fell down to about 103 lakh hectares in 2016-17 from 116 lakh ha in 2015-16, resulting in a drop of production to 351 lakh bales from 338 lakh bales during the period.

The area saw a peak in 15 years in 2014-15 as farmers grew cotton in a record 128.46 lakh ha that year. This resulted in a bounty for the cottonseed industry. It registered sales of over 5 crore packets that year. We have been seeing a decline ever since.

This time, however, the industry foresees a re-bound of interest in cotton. This is despite huge number of deaths reported in cotton-growing areas in seven States. With pink bollworm developing resistance to Bollgard-II technology and attractive prices in other crops resulted in a drop of area in the last two years.

“Though we don’t expect it to grow to the highest level, the acreage would certainly grow by at least 20 per cent,” Satheesh said.

Inventory

The industry sees no problem in the availability of seeds. "There are no issues on (seed) production front. There were good rains and irrigation facilities. The industry has good inventories too to back up," Satheesh said. Jaipal, a farmer from Warangal, said favourable weather in 2016 and a good market helped farmers get good prices.

"The Centre had asked the farmers not to grow cotton keeping in view a very bad season in the previous year. Fear of poor performance of Bt cotton too, made some farmers keep off from cotton. But favourable weather has changed it all. We got good prices this time and we hope the trend will continue next year as well," he said.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com – Jan 17, 2017

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Lingerie brands Blush, Elegant Moments make India foray

Canada-based lingerie brand Blush and American brand Elegant Moments have made an entry into the Indian market through The Lingerie Store (TLS), a lingerie aggregator.

The online lingerie boutique offers exquisitely designed and wide range of lingerie. The announcement of the brands making their India debut via the online portal was made on Monday.

"Our portal will empower women to effortlessly buy lingerie from various leading brands, anytime and anywhere," said Rosmin Kunnathottathil, Co-Founder at TLS, in a statement.

She added: "At TLS, we believe in pampering our customers with an exclusively curated range of lingerie that represents the best of us and are appropriate for special occasions, romantic getaways, honeymoons and weddings."

Source: economictimes.com- Jan 17, 2017

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