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USD 67.38 | EUR 72.10 | GBP 83.96 | JPY 0.60

Cotton Market Update

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

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20103	42050	**79.64**

Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), March

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20920	43760	**82.87**

International Futures Price

NY ICE USD Cents/lb (March 2017)	75.63
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (January 2017)	16,115
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**89.28**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**85.75**

Cotton & currency guide: Cotton price drifted lower on Monday's trading session both at domestic and global markets. The spot price corrected over Rs. 600 from a recent high of Rs. 43,000 per candy. On Monday the counter traded at Rs. 42350 or equivalent 80.40 US cents per lb, at the prevailing exchange rate. Punjab J-34 has also moved lower, to Rs. 4,630 per maund (83.75 cents per lb). The effect was seen on the futures contract as well. The February future at MCX ended the session lower at Rs. 20,600 per bale down by Rs. 190 from the previous day's close. The domestic price in last two days has come off the highs amid higher arrivals. On Monday the all India arrivals were around 180,000 bales higher than the last one week's average daily arrivals. Also profit booking or less demand at such high price has pulled the price lower. Out of the total arrivals 68,000 from Maharashtra and 44,000 from Gujarat were noticed. According to the Cotton Corporation, cumulative new crop arrivals by February 3 were estimated at 16,318,100 lint equivalent bales, including over 3.7 million from Gujarat and over 4.4 million from Maharashtra. The volume of arrivals by the same date in 2016 was 16,653,200 bales, representing a deficit in the current season of roughly 335,000.The lag in Telangana, where protracted disruptions have interrupted supply, stands at 1.43 million bales, representing a decrease from the previous season of almost 43 percent.

We believe the cotton price in the near term may remain sideways however huge selling may not be observed unless arrivals continue to rise near or above 200,000 bales a day. From the price perspective the spot price is expected to remain around Rs. 42,000 per bale. The domestic future contract for February is expected to trade in the range of Rs. 20400 to Rs. 20700 per bale.

From the global front, the ICE future corrected from recent high of 78 cents and this morning the March ICE future is quoting at 75.81 cents per pound. The counter fell sharply on Monday's trading session. Looking at the trading volume and open interests we believe profit booking has happened from higher levels. Overall we expect cotton price to trade sideways while for the day there may be more profit booking. The trading range would be 75.20 to 76.30 cents per pound.

Currency Guide: Indian rupee depreciated by 0.1% to trade near 67.3 levels against the US dollar. Rupee shed some of the recent gains as US dollar stabilized against major currencies. Also weighing on rupee is choppiness in equity market amid weaker risk sentiment. Market players are also positioning ahead of RBI's interest rate decision tomorrow. Rupee may trade in a range of 67.1-67.5 and choppiness in equity market could weigh on the currency.

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Karachi: Cotton prices move higher on short supply of quality cotton

Slow trading activity witness on Saturday at cotton market due to short supply of quality cotton. However, prices tended to move higher and most deals were also finalised on high rates.

Due to strong demand, cotton prices touched a record level of Rs7,300 per maund (around 37 kilograms). Phutti prices also rose to a seasonal high of Rs3,850 per 40kg. Limited stocks of around 900,000 bales held by ginners were insufficient to see the season through because the next crop is not expected before June or July.

The Karachi Cotton Association left its spot rates unchanged.

The following major deals reported to have changed hands on the ready counter were: 400 bales from Shahdadpur at Rs6,500, 2,000 bales from Sadiqabad at Rs6,900, 1,000 bales from Fort Abbas at Rs7,025 (conditional), 1,000 bales from Lodhran at Rs7,050 and 1,000 bales from Alipur at Rs7,050.

According to the latest ginners' body report on cotton production sent shock waves as fortnightly arrivals of phutti (seed cotton) declined further which strongly indicated the crop size would not be more than 10.08 million bales. The widening gap between production and consumption of cotton was a cause of concern for spinners as they will have to meet the demand through huge imports, brokers said.

According to recent US Department of Agriculture (USDA) export figures, leading cotton producing countries, including Pakis¬tan, are currently importing cotton from the United States. The textile industry has so far entered into import contracts of around 2.2m bales, but cotton prices have now moved higher in the world market which was another major cause of concern for the industry.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com– Feb 06, 2017

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By 2020 all cotton fiber to be processed inside Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's cotton fiber processing volume has reached 40 percent in 2016, while in 1991 it was seven percent only, according to the Ministry of economy of Uzbekistan. By 2020 all available capacities of cotton fiber are to be processed inside Uzbekistan.

The President's decree of 21 December 2016 "on measures for further development of the textile, garment and knitwear industry in 2017-2019", has open even more possibilities for improvement of the sector.

Today, cotton yarn accounts for nearly 50 percent of the cotton export. Currently, the share of finished products in the total volume of production amounts to 47%, in the future it is planned to increase this figure to 65.5%, as well as to increase the share of finished products in the export from 41 to 70%. The task is to increase the export of products with high added value by a gradual reduction of yarn exports.

Uzbekistan plans to attract some US $2.2 billion of investments (nearly half of foreign investments) to the textile industry in 2017-2020. A special textile complexes will be launched on the basis of a four-phase system that includes all processes, starting from processing and ending with the production of finished products. More than 27 thousand new jobs will be created. It is also planned to organize 120 new and upgrade more than 10 enterprises.

The allocation of credits for projects will be implemented based on a completely new mechanism. Commercial banks will co-Finance the projects and to open a credit line for the purchase of modern spinning, weaving and painting equipment. In projects implemented at the expense of attracted funds of commercial banks, the banks or investment companies can participate with a share up to 100 percent in the share capital of the company.
Banks have the right to engage in loans capitalization of interest accrued in the investment period, and not to apply restrictions on equity participation in the authorized capitals of the enterprises.

One of the key features of the program is the development and implementation of new industry standards for design and construction of textile enterprises on the basis of foreign experience. These standards will ensure lower costs of construction and installation works and pre-emptive use of local building materials. The terms for tax and customs incentives provided to encourage the processing of raw cotton, have been extended until January 1, 2020.

Today, Uzbekistan exports textile products to more than 50 countries. In recent years, the export has been expanded to Brazil, Chile, Croatia, and Nigeria.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com– Feb 06, 2017

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Turkish duty on US cotton to hit competiveness of its own textile exports

Turkey's plan to impose 3 percent anti-dumping duties on U.S. cotton imports saying that imports were hurting domestic cotton production. But this will drive up costs for its own textile producers, hurting the competitiveness of their exports, said the head of an industry group.
The spat is likely to put strain on trade relations between one of the world's top fiber growers and one of its biggest customers at a time of weak global prices and demand.

This is a decision that will increase raw material costs of textile producers by 2-3 percent and will somewhat affect price competitiveness of Turkish exports, İsmail Gülle, head of the Istanbul Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Union, whose members account for 70 percent of Turkish textile exports.

U.S. cotton has specialty uses, it is not something they could give up using, the industry will shoulder the costs.

Turkey is the second-biggest buyer of U.S. cotton, with shipments ranging from 1.5 million to 2 million bales per year. According to industry data, Turkey exported $17 billion worth of garments and ready-to-wear clothing last year, and $8 billion of textiles and raw materials.

The government in its official gazette announcing the move said that it was determined that the material damage to local production branch has been the result of dumping in imports. The move had been widely expected since

February, when Turkey's economy ministry said U.S. cotton was hurting the domestic cotton industry.

However, U.S. cotton farmers have said that they will fight the decision through the World Trade Organization and Turkish courts.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com – Feb 06, 2017

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Why You Should Care About the Bangladesh Garment Industry

The United States has been a bit preoccupied lately. Between our new administration's extraordinarily rocky start and the nation's general feelings of impending doom and uncertainty, it can be easy to forget that the rest of the world continues to spin. World news (unless it involves a wall or Russian hacking) has been largely put to the side as we continue to write stories about Trump's Latest Twitter Tirade. It's true that we have a lot of domestic problem's big ones. The refugee and Muslim ban has prompted protests nationwide, the EPA was put on radio silence and millions are in danger of losing their healthcare, to say nothing of Trump's impending supreme court pick. It can be all too easy to overlook the wildfires raging through Chile, Gambia's new president or the controversial West Bank construction. One international story that seems to have slipped through the Trump-spackled cracks involves the Bangladesh ready-made-garment industry.

You have more in common with the Bangladesh garment industry than you think. If you've bought clothes from H&M, Walmart or Gap in the past few years, chances are they were made in Bangladesh. Sharing a border with India and Myanmar, Bangladesh has a multi-billion dollar textile industry that produces ready-made garments at a pace second only to China. The reasons behind this lightning-fast efficiency, sometimes known as "fast fashion," should be of no surprise: overcrowded buildings, a massive workforce and a government that at best suppresses workers rights and at worst imprisons labor activists indefinitely.

Recently, protests in Bangladesh have erupted over low wages in the face of inflation and the rising cost of living. Currently, the minimum wage in

Bangladesh is 32 cents an hour, with a monthly minimum wages of about 68 dollars. In late Dec., an organized walkout led to the firing of almost 1500 workers and the indefinite detainment of at least 14 protest leaders and workers. Labor rights group say the mounting arrests and tensions are the worst setback for workers rights since the 2013 collapse of Rana Plaza.

If you don′t remember the Rana Plaza, then it′s definitely time for a recap. In the spring of 2013, the Rana Plaza, an eight-story building that housed several Western and European clothing factories, began to show signs of deterioration. Large cracks appeared on the sides of the building, and the shops on the lower levels were evacuated. The garment factories on the top floors remained opened, and insisted their employees return to work the following day. The building collapsed and more than 1100 people were killed. It is considered to be the largest garment-factory disaster in history, and it exposed the working conditions of the Bangladesh textile industry and the true cost of fast fashion. Following the tragedy, the executive director of the Worker Rights Consortium Scott Nova directly called out western manufacturers in The New York Times:

The front-line responsibility is the government's, but the real power lies with Western brands and retailers, beginning with the biggest players: Walmart, H&M, Inditex, Gap and others. The price pressure these buyers put on factories undermines any prospect that factories will undertake the costly repairs and renovations that are necessary to make these buildings safe.

Local and international outcry quickly prompted some of the brands to campaign for better conditions. Coalitions quickly formed to address the issues, including the Accord for Fire and Building accord on fire and building safety in bangladesh pdf safety headed by H&M and The Alliance For Bangladesh Worker Safety. The Alliance includes brands and corporations that many will recognize, such as Gap, J.C. Penny, L.L. Bean, Target, Walmart and Nordstrom. Their mission statement is clear and brief:

Our vision is that the Alliance will substantially improve worker safety in the ready-made-garment (RMG) industry by upgrading factories, educating workers and management, empowering workers, and building institutions that can enforce and maintain safe working conditions throughout Bangladesh

According to the brands, there has been some progress, such as regular safety inspections and fire safety training though human rights groups say there is still a lot of work to be done to improve working conditions. Still, people have been paying more attention to factory conditions, whether out of guilt for their 10 dollar maxi-dress, genuine concern or a little of both. The documentary The True Cost brought the price of fast fashion to Netflix, detailing the effects of poor factory conditions on both the workers and the environment. The influence of public interest and the massive monetary power of Western companies seemed to genuinely make a difference for working conditions in Bangladesh.

However, as the years go by since the collapse of the Rana Plaza and the western world turns its attention increasingly inward, some labor activists fear conditions may begin to revert to the way things were before. The recent arrests and unlawful detainment of workers rights leaders is a bad sign. Some of the Western brands have expressed concerns over the arrests, though many such as American Eagle Outfitters and Abercrombie & Fitch have yet to comment. These companies have the power to tell the factories to drop charges and instate a regular wage review system, but four years after the Rana Plaza disaster, their commitment to tolerable working conditions and wages is waning. Our love of cheap, convenient clothing and our disinterest in international news is directly affecting workers in Bangladesh. While it's true the United States has a lot on its mind, we need to ask what costs were cut in order for us to buy that five dollar crop top. Turning a blind eye to fast fashion is something we are all guilty of doing, but that can change. Ask yourself If the companies have the power to improve working conditions but are hesitant to engage in real, lasting plans, then who has power over the companies? You, the consumer, have more power than you think.

Source: cottonyarnmarket.net – Feb 07, 2017

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Child Labour & Low Wages: The Real Cost of Producing Fashion in Myanmar

London - As Myanmar continues to invest in becoming one of the leading garment-producing and exporting countries, a new report shines a light on the growing number of issues emerging in its fashion sector - which includes children as young as 14 working for as little as 13 pence an hour to produce apparel for high street retailers.

Fast-fashion retailers such as H&M, New Look, and Sports Direct's Lonsdale label were all found to have worked with factories which employed 14 year old children in Myanmar, according to the new report "The Myanmar Dilemma" from the Amsterdam-based organisation the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (also known as Somo). Together with the Observer and local NGOs Action Labor Rights and Labour Rights Defenders and Promoters, Some interviewed over 400 workers in 12 factories which supplied garments for international fashion brands and found workers were being paid half of the full legal minimum wage, in addition to a number of children workers as young as 14 working over-time.

Garment factories in Myanmar which supply H&M and New Look found to employ workers as young as 14

Over the recent years Myanmar has become a popular destination for the fashion industry, for Western brands in particular, as its offers low wages and favourable import and export tariffs. Myanmar is currently seen as a cheaper production hub to neighbour countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, China and Indonesia, which has led to a number Asian apparel suppliers moving their production hubs to the country. At the moment nearly half of the garment factories in Myanmar are owned by foreigners, or joint ventured between Myanmar and overseas companies.

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, which employ approximately 350,000 workers - 90 percent of which are women.

The legal minimum wage in Myanmar is 3,600 kyat per an eight hour working day (2.12 pounds), which is equal to 26 pence per hour. However, researchers also found garment workers were paid as little as 13 pence an hour at factories in Myanmar supplying clothing to Sports Direct, H&M, New Look and Muji, earning a total of 1.06 pounds a day. According to the report, these factories paid newer workers a reduced rate, which is permitted by Myanmar's labour laws, but sees workers struggling to live a normal life on such low wages and working up to 11 hours a day, 6 days a week. In addition, workers in factories suppling New Look, Sports Direct, Karrimor, Henri Lloyd and New Look were also found to work more than 60 hours a week, which breached Myanmar's factories act that workers should not be work more than 60 hours a week including overtime.

The report also found workers under the age of 18 were employed in all 12 investigated factories. At half of the factories, researchers found strong indications that current workers were younger than 15 years old when they first started working. Although it is legal for children as young as 14 to work for up to 4 hours a day in Myanmar, many workers lie about their age in order to work and earn more. However, they are still expected to do the same work as their adult counter-parts which is in violation of both Myanmar legislation and international labour standards, added the report. Close to half of the workers interviewed also did not have a signed contract at their factory of employment, which meant they lacked rights to bonuses and benefits.

This ‘race to the bottom’ led by fashion retailers forever in search for the lowest production hub causes unhealthy competition between garment producing countries in the region, argues Some in the report. “The rule of law in Myanmar is not adequately upheld. The army still has a lot of influence. Civil society organisations and trade unions have only been allowed to operate since 2012,” said Martje Theuws, researched at Somo. “The garment industry’s operations go largely unchecked. The question is justified if the time is ripe for foreign companies to invest in Myanmar. Garment brands should think twice before they start production in Myanmar. The risk of labour rights violations is very high. Companies should make a thorough analysis of all potential problems. They must ensure that they, together with their suppliers, identify and tackle these risks before placing any orders. Our research shows that companies are not doing this adequately.”

In response to the report, H&M issued a statement its Group website, noting the report raised “industry-wide challenges” which they have been addressing for many years. “It is of utmost importance to us that all our products are made under good working conditions and with consideration to environment, health and safety. We want people to be treated with respect and that our suppliers offer all their workers good, fair and safe working conditions,” added the Swedish fashion company. “A collaborative approach is key to achieve long-lasting improvements and that is why we work close to other brands, organizations, trade unions and workers representatives.”

It in not the first time H&M has been accused of working with factories that employ workers as young as 14 in Myanmar. Last August saw the publication of the book 'Modeslavar' by Moa Kärnstrand and Tobias Andersson Akerblom, who stress factories in the region regularly hire young workers. FashionUnited reached out to New Look for their response to the Somo report and a spokeperson said: “We recognise the issues highlighted in this report. We are working with our suppliers and local partners in Myanmar to address the findings and to support the development of an ethical garment industry in the area.”

Source: Vivian Hendriksz fashionunited.com– Feb 06, 2017

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NATIONAL NEWS

Budgetary push for textile infrastructure as purse trebles

NEW DELHI: In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to increase output and jobs in the textile sector, the Budget has given a boost to textile infrastructure by increasing the allocation for building textile parks, incubation facilities, processing and development centres by almost three times to Rs 1,860 crore 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 textile industry that 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 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 Rs2,610 crore in FY17 to Rs2,013 crore. "The allocation for the textile industry used to go for TUFS but the industry felt that besides modernisation, 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, Rs1,600 crore, is expected from the remission of state taxes that 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 infrastructure spending will help create the logistics required for the Rs6,006 crore package for apparel announced last year.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com- Feb 06, 2017

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India initiates anti-dumping investigation on PSF imports

The Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), under the commerce ministry, Government of India, has initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of polyester staple fibre (PSF) from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The period of investigation shall be 18 months from April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

The investigation has been initiated following an application filed by Alok Industry Limited, Indo Rama Synthetics (India) Limited and The Bombay Dyeing & Mfg. Co. Ltd. for imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of non-dyed PSF ranging from 0.6 to 6 Deniers, excluding recycled PSF and specialty fibres namely, cationic dyeable, fire/flame retardant, low melt and bi-component fibres from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, a DGAD notification said.

Non-dyed PSF ranging from 0.6 to 6 Deniers are predominantly used to spin yarn of 100% PSF or in blends with natural, artificial and/or synthetic staple fibres for manufacture of textiles, sewing thread, other industrial textiles, non-woven applications, etc.

Though the period of investigation shall be from April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, the injury investigation period will cover the data of previous three years, i.e. April 2012 to March 2013, April 2013 to March 2014, April 2014 to March 2015, and the current period of investigation, the notification said.

The probe will determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping and after that, DGAD may recommend the quantum of anti-dumping duty, which if levied, will be 'adequate' to remove the injury to the domestic industry. (RKS)

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Feb 06, 2017

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Surge in cotton rates puts smiles back on Malwa farmers' faces

BATHINDA: When the whole of Punjab was gripped in poll fever, cotton prices were increasing steadily adding to the profits of Malwa's farmers.

Raw cotton, which fetched Rs 5,100-5,300 per quintal in the last week of December 2016, rose to Rs 6,000 per quintal in first week of February when polls were held.

Punjab's cotton belt, which faced the worst-ever crisis due to the widespread whitefly attack in 2015, is back to normal in crop output and rates. Till February 3, cotton arrivals in the state were recorded at 5.72 lakh bales (one bale = 170 kg).

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a central regulatory body, expects the arrivals at 8.90 lakh bales in Punjab despite the fact that fibre crop was sown over only 2.56 lakh hectares in 2016, down by 40% in 2015 — the lowest acreage in 61 years.

In 2015, cotton was sown in over 4.5 lakh hectares and nearly 4 lakh bales had arrived till January 31, 2016. Total arrivals for the season were recorded at 6.65 lakh bales till June 30, 2016. Last year, cotton rates were in the range of Rs 4,200-4,300 per quintal.

The Union government had announced the minimum support price (MSP) for the medium staple (27.5mm) cotton, which is grown widely in Punjab, at Rs 4,060 per quintal.

Nearly 4,000 bales are arriving in the mandis daily on an average these days. Trade analysts said the arrivals would continue till April-end or early May.

The CCI is expected not to enter the market this season as the crop is fetching nearly Rs 2,000 per quintal higher than the MSP. In late October 2016, when the cotton had just started arriving in the mandis, it fetched Rs 4,700-4,900 per quintal.

By mid-November 2016, raw cotton rates had increased to Rs 4,800-5,000 per quintal. In the beginning of December, cotton was trading in the range of Rs 5,000-5,100 per quintal. From the last week of December, prices started increasing sharply.

Apart from the price, the cotton yield too has gone up to 20-22.5 quintals per hectare in the current season from the nearly 12.5 quintals per hectare in the 2015-16 season marred by the pest attack.

CCI's Bathinda branch manager Brajesh Kasana said, "Nearly 9 lakh bales of cotton are expected in Punjab in the current season, which is much more than the previous year when nearly 60% cotton was damaged due to the pest attack. Apart from the yield, the crop is fetching a handsome price of Rs 6,000 per quintal. In such a scenario, CCI has to remain idle with no purchases."

Trade body Indian Cotton Association Limited (ICAL) also expects the total raw cotton arrivals at nearly 9 lakh bales in Punjab. "Higher rates and more yield could encourage more farmers to sow cotton in the coming kharif season. Many farmers had gone shifted to other crops after suffering huge losses in the 2015-16 season due to the pest attack," said ICAL president Rakesh Rathi.

"Cotton crop has put back some smiles on the otherwise dry faces of farmers. Rate of Rs 6000 per quintal has ensured that we may reap profits after suffering losses in the previous season. Farmers who opted out of cotton are repenting their decision," said farmer Gurdial Singh of Sangat village in Bathinda.

Textile manufacture Vardhman Textiles' director (raw materials) I J Dhuria said, "We see a better future for the cotton farmers in Punjab as crop scenario is very encouraging this year. Despite cotton sown in 11% less area, the production is expected to register a 7% growth as compared to previous year in north India."

In north India, the farmers had sown crop over 11.4 lakh hectares in the current season down from 13.9 lakh hectares in 2015-16. The acreage in Haryana and Rajasthan was 4.98 lakh hectares and 3.85 lakh hectares respectively.

Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com – Feb 07, 2017

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Varanasi weavers get trade centre to promote handlooms

The Trade Facilitation Centre and Crafts Museum (TFC&CM) is being set up at Varanasi to develop and promote handloom products and carry forward the rich tradition of handlooms of Varanasi. The first phase of the centre consisting of crafts museum, entrance plaza and shopping arcade was inaugurated in December, said Union textiles minister Smriti Irani.

The Rs 300-crore project was announced in the Budget 2014-15 by the government as a welfare scheme for weavers from Varanasi. Ten block level clusters have been sanctioned in different blocks/urban areas of Varanasi at a total project cost of Rs 7.89 crore with Central share of Rs 7.7 crore and first instalment of Rs 5.12 crore released, covering 4,129 weavers, said Irani in a written reply to a Rajya Sabha question.

About nine common facility centres (CFCs) along with common service centres (CSCs) have been set up in different areas to provide facilities like training, yarn, dyeing, warping, IT-enabled services etc. CSC provides services like banking, Aadhaar card, e-commerce, e-ticketing, mobile charging and more. So far, more than 21,000 persons have benefitted from them.

The government has taken several steps to help weavers in opening bank accounts and taking benefits of digital payment modes. The CFCs have taken banking services to the door step of handloom weavers. Several camps have been held in Varanasi to train the handloom weavers in accessing digital payment modes. Close to 307 such camps were organised in Varanasi in which 12,502 persons participated, said Irani.

She added that micro-ATM/banking correspondent (BC) facility was extended in association with various banks for easy withdrawal of money. National Handloom Development Corporation has also implemented e-Dhaga mobile app, which has facility of making online payment for purchase of yarn. E-commerce players have been facilitated to work with handloom weavers of Varanasi with the arrangements that the sale proceeds are transferred into their bank accounts.

Replying to another question in Rajya Sabha, Irani said, "Under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), 4.33 lakh handloom weavers from North Eastern States availed benefits in the last five years. During the period of 2012-13 to 2016-17, 25.93 lakh weavers have been covered till now. Besides this, the implementing agency, i.e. Life Insurance Corporation of India, will submit final enrolment figures for 2016-17 after March 31, 2017."

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Feb 06, 2017

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CRTDH in IITGN to boost dye and dyestuff clusters in Gujarat

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) to help the Dye and Dyestuff clusters in Gujarat plans to set up a Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) on Chemical Processes at its campus that will help dye-industries meet the pollution norms and take an environmentally safer growth path.

The CRTDH will develop a Chemical Process Technology Lab along with a pilot plant facility which will demonstrate the process intensification, waste reduction and enhanced effluent treatment technologies developed at IITGN.

The center will also help to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the dye sector for research, training and testing of the raw materials and products to give them an advantage in the competitive market.

The project has received a sanction of Rs 4 crores from Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR). In addition, IITGN will put in about 2 crores.

Principal Investigator of the project Prof Chinmay Ghoroi of IITGN said that the CRTDH will help chemical industries to improve their existing chemical processes and waste treatment. The initiative will be helpful to dye MSMEs in and around Gujarat who do not have proper lab and technical expertise.

Several IITGN faculties from Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Biological and Materials Science and Engineering will be jointly working in the project. Prof Ghoroi said that the CRTDH will be an opportunity for IITGN faculty to work together to solve industrial problem which are truly interdisciplinary.

This will also be a good opportunity for their students who will work on real life problems.

Gujarat have about 1050 dyestuff units in Ahmedabad, Vatva, Naroda, Odahv, Vododara, Ankeleshwar, Surat, Valsad and Vapi. The sector is performing very badly in terms of waste generation and its treatment.

The environmental issue has prevented manufacturer to produce new products as per market demand. CRTDH in IITGN will be a great help to industry.

Dyes and dye intermediates is one of the core chemical industries in India and mostly located in Gujarat. It is also the second highest export segment in chemical industry and share about 7% in the global market. Nearly 80% of the total dye production capacity of India is in Gujarat due to availability of raw materials and dominance of textile industry in the regions.

Source: yarnsandfibers.com - Feb 06, 2017

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