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1. Apparel & Textile Park to come up near Patna: Sushil modi

Apparel and Textiles Park will be set up on the outskirts of the state capital for which a land tract spread over more than 100 acres has been earmarked, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said. Speaking after the inauguration of a three-day fair organized by the Bihar Readymade Garments Association, Sushil Modi said 115 acres of land have been earmarked in Bihta for the proposed park. The park will be set up as part of the state government's policy to promote textiles, leather, Information Technology and food processing, he said. The Deputy CM, who also holds the finance portfolio, said a number of incentives were being offered to those willing to invest in the state which include exemption from land registration and conversion fees and a 10 per cent grant on interest payable on bank loans. "Also on offer are 100 per cent refund on SGST (state goods and services tax), 50 per cent assistance on the amount payable towards EPF and ESI and a skill development subsidy of Rs 20,000 per employee from Bihar", he said. The Deputy CM appealed to readymade garment producers to invest in Bihar, stating that the sector had immense potential for job creation and pointing out that 90 per cent workers employed in the sector at places like Mumbai and Bengaluru hail from the state. "Patna, too, can be developed as a readymade garments hub", Modi observed.

(Source: The Times of India)

2. Mumbai to get its first textile museum

Mumbai is ready to get its first textile museum to document, archive and showcase Mumbai's textile legacy. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will start constructing the textile museum in February this year. The building will include a live, functioning mini-textile mill and a representation of the old world chawl life. In addition, landscaping is planned around a lake inside the compound, an amphitheatre and a musical fountain. The entire complex will be spread across 16.3 acres of land at the shuttered United Mill compound in the Kalachowki area in Mumbai's Eastern suburbs, of which 14 acres will be used for construction and the remaining for beautification. Mumbai's Municipal commissioner, Ajoy Mehta said the planning committee is to make the museum interactive for the public and accessible to all. Mehta said he has asked the committee to restore the mills, the water body in the compound. The BMC has also appointed JJ School of Arts, Mumbai's premier art institute established in 1857, to prepare a vision document for the museum and to design its architecture. Part of the United Mills compound are three ring and spinning structures, a chimney, a semi-automatic loom and a pond, all of which are protected by varying heritage status levels. Restoration work on some of the structures has already begun. All the heritage structures will be restored to its past glory. The new museum will include fashion galleries that display traditional Indian textiles as well as the life and culture of the mill worker communities over the ages and education about India's and specifically Mumbai's once thriving textile industry.

(Source: Fashionating World)

3. Exporter jittery as Dubai opts for VAT from January 1

With Dubai and Saudi Arabia going to impose 5% VAT on a large number of goods including garments, electronics and engineering products from January 1, 2018, Ludhiana businessmen exporting their products to these countries are feeling jittery over its possible impact on their trade. The businessmen

especially garment exporters are nervous as their clients have put export orders on hold for time being due to the confusion prevailing over the new system. Harish Kairpal, finance secretary, Knitwear Club, who owns a garment company in Dubai, said, "This is really a very tricky situation. On the one hand, we have been forced to increase prices of our garments due to GST; on the other the garments will become dearer for the end consumers in Dubai and Saudi Arabia after they impose VAT." "Though the businessmen in Dubai have started applying for GST numbers, there is still a lot of confusion on what will be the impact of 5% VAT on our businesses. Therefore as of now, all importers in Dubai have put their purchase orders on hold till the picture is clear as everyone is busy in disposing of their remaining stocks before January 1," he added. Narinder Chugh, a leading garment exporter, said, "Export to Dubai has come to a standstill due to the proposed VAT on host of items from January 1. With export orders being cancelled and put on hold by our buyers in Dubai, we are forced to adopt wait and watch policy. Considering the fact that this is first time that tax is being imposed on so many products, this recession may continue for at least a month." However, some exporters are hopeful that the situation in long term will ease out and imposition of VAT will turn out to be good for them. Vishal Garg, a city-based exporter, said, "This is just a temporary situation. In long term, the VAT imposition in Dubai and Saudi Arabia will help genuine businessmen and the business of city exporters will flourish in the coming days. In fact it will be difficult for the fly-by-night kind of operators who misuse tax-free status of these countries." "The city has a huge number of traders who export their products to Dubai, which is a tax free nation and the largest market for buyers from Africa, Gulf and other neighbouring countries. As per information collected from various industry associations, more than 100 city businessmen have their offices or warehouses in Dubai. The major products being exported from Ludhiana to Dubai include garments, auto parts, hand tools, sewing machines and parts, bicycle and parts. Garment is the largest exported commodity from Ludhiana to Dubai.

(Source: The Times of India)

4. Indian cotton arrivals jumps over 30% on higher realisation rates

As per Cotton Association of India (CAI), the arrival of cotton in India up to 31st December, 2017, had crossed 147.75 lakh bales in this season. During the same period last year arrivals were about 108 lakh bales. Since cotton rates have gone up in India by 10 per cent in the last one month, the earlier set target of cotton export of 63 lakh bales looks difficult now, hence cotton export figures have been reduced and revised from the earlier 63 lakh bales to 55 lakh bales.

(Source: India Infoline)

5. Cotton corporation to focus on commercial operations this season

Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has procured around 5 lakh bales this season of which 4 lakh bales have been procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the remaining 1 lakh bales as part of its commercial operations, senior officials at the CCI said. With cotton prices firming up to around Rs 5,300 per quintal, farmers are finding it more lucrative to sell cotton in the open market. Officials at CCI therefore feel that the intervention of the corporation may not be required for a better part of the season unless arrivals increase and prices fall below MSP. CCI, however, is likely to continue with its commercial operations during the ongoing season for some of its existing buyers. With CCI having already procured around 5 lakh bales, the target is to procure another 5 lakh bales, officials said. CCI already has some buyers on its list with whom it has reached agreements to sell cotton. Cotton prices have firmed up on lesser availability of the commodity owing to the pink bollworm attack. According to Cotton Association of India (CAI), the crop arrivals in the country up to December 31 have crossed 147.75 lakh bales in this season. By the same time last year, arrivals were about 108 lakh bales. Since cotton rates have gone up in the country by 10% in the last one month, the earlier set target of cotton export of 63 lakh bales looks difficult now. Hence, cotton export figures have been reduced and revised from the earlier 63 lakh bales to 55 lakh bales, said CAI president Atul Ganatra. Since cotton price has increased in India, parity to import of cotton has increased so CAI has revised import figures from 17 lakh bales to 20 lakh bales this season. CAI has estimated the total consumption of cotton during

October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 of around 320 lakh bales. Due to reduction in export and increase in import, CCI's carry forward has increased from 39 lakh bales to 50 lakh bales on September 30, 2018, which is a very comfortable position for Indian spinning mills, he said. Officials at CCI said some one-third of the arrivals have been completed and another two-thirds remain. Farmers are holding on to their crop in anticipation of a better price. Mills are also stocking up on cotton in anticipation of shortage, industry people said. The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) has estimated the fibre's output to increase by 9% to 377 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) despite lower production in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The output in the northern region is expected to increase 28% to 59 lakh bales from 46 lakh bales earlier on the back of a bumper crop in Rajasthan and Punjab, which is pegged at 22 lakh bales from 16 lakh bales previously and 12 lakh bales from 9 lakh bales earlier. On the demand side, mill consumption is estimated to be higher at 288 lakh bales from 263 lakh bales earlier consumption by the small-scale and non-textile industry may increase to 27 lakh bales from 26 lakh bales previously and 19 lakh bales from 17 lakh bales earlier. Exports are slated to increase to 67 lakh (58 lb) as Pakistan is expected to import from India, Textile Commissioner Kavita Gupta had said. Maharashtra suffered the worst pest attack of Pink Bollworm, especially in Yavatmal and Jalgaon. Other States that were hit are Karnataka, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh During the current cotton season, CCI has opened 348 procurement centres to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.

(Source: Financial Express)