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NEWS CLIPPINGS

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IBTEX No. 31 of 2017 Feb 10, 2017

USD 66.92 | EUR 71.27 | GBP 83.58 | JPY 0.59

Cotton Market Update

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

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20055	41950	80.04

Domestic Futures Price (Ex. Gin), March

Rs./Bale	Rs./Candy	USD Cent/lb
20790	43488	82.98

International Futures Price

NY ICE USD Cents/lb (March 2017)	75.58
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (May 2017)	16,240
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb	**88.18**
Cotlook A Index – Physical	**84.90**

Cotton & currency guide:

Cotton witnessed a steady to firm trend on Thursday to average Rs 41,900-43,500/candy across major markets on renewed demand from domestic mills and firm global cues. Exporters are also active on the market.

The latest report of WASDE has come out very interesting for Cotton market. Post the report was released witnessed no major change in the price while the bias was slightly on the positive trajectory. This is probably having taken cues from the better exports data and the slight lower ending stocks.

As per the report the February ending stock for the US, India and Global markets are relatively lower at 4.8, 11.6 and 89.9 million bales respectively vs. January. We believe market has mostly taken cues on this data hence the price continues to remain higher.

In the other hand the production numbers were relatively stable or slightly higher. As per the report the US production for February stood unchanged at 16.96 million bales. However, world cotton production estimation for February increased to 105.3 up by 0.90 million bales from the last month. Also while we compare the data for the same period last year the world production number is high.

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Trump, trade and the future of the global textile industry

In view of Brexit, the change in the US presidency, the US withdrawal from TPP and other events, the global textile and garment industry has had its fair share of politics influencing day-to-day operations lately.

This is why Kingpins, the international boutique denim sourcing show, broadcast an expert panel discussion titled "Live: Kingpins Goes to DC: Trump, Trade and the Future of the Global Textile Industry" to explore the intersection between government and the textile and fashion industries.

The first episode in a planned series of discussions on the challenges and opportunies facing the textile and apparel industries was streamed live from Washington, DC in partnership with just-style at 10 am EST on 9th February 2017 and focused on what the current political climate has in store for the global and US denim and apparel industry.

Panelists were Julia K. Hughes, president of the United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA), and Augustine Tantillo, president and chief executive of the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO). Robert Antoshak, managing director of Olah Inc., hosted the discussion.

While speaking about the recent changes in the US textile and fashion industry and President Donald Trump's support of manufacturing in the United States, Hughes pointed out that jobs are created by trade and that offshore manufacturing supports jobs in the US as well. Tantillo countered by stating that 60-65 billion US dollars of the industry's output are produced in the US. "It is good to have an administration that acknowledges a baseline interest in nurturing it," he said, confirming that "our commitment is here."

Yarn forward rule: boon or bane?

Asked about trade agreements like NAFTA and if updates were needed, Hughes considered updates in general a good idea but cautioned against certain points, for example taxes on goods for Mexico or changing things that work in the international supply chain. Tantillo pointed to the 'yarn forward rule of origin' (which determines that the yarn used to form the fabric must originate in a NAFTA country) as a "great success" but cautioned that its benefits should go to signatory countries and not to non-signatories like China for example.

Hughes added a different perspective: "While there are US companies that are successful because of the yarn forward rule...it also holds back the western hemisphere supply chain because it is not nimble", pointing to those products outside of Mexico and Canada that are currently not available in the supply chain, thus holding back US manufacturers.

Asked if trade relations would suffer in terms of possible re-negotiations between Mexico, Canada and the US and a potentially tough policy towards China, Hughes pointed to the fact that currently 41 percent of industry imports come from China. "China is important and it is interesting that the current administration has not taken any action against China yet", Hughes stated.

Tantillo countered by pointing to the many problems when doing business with China, from intellectual property issues to subsidies, an undervaluation of the currency and production techniques that are unacceptable in the western hemisphere in terms of workers' lives and environmental protection. "It is refreshing to have finally have someone say that China has made a tremendous impact but question if they got their fairly or if they are maintaining that market share through fair and balanced practices," he said.

Is TPP dead?

In terms of the TPP, both panelists agreed that though the TPP may not be dead yet, it "is in a very deep hibernation at this point and may not come out of it"; a "Friday-the-13th kind of existence" as Tantillo put it.

He pointed out that most countries already have a bi-lateral trade agreement with the US, while TPP members like Japan, Vietnam and Malaysia do not and may not make good candidates, as on the other hand Japan and possibly Great Britain would. According to Hughes, the US needs to be engaged and be aware of so many trade agreements that are already there. "We don't want to be left behind; we need to stay a global country," she said.

Last but not least, managing editor of just-style, Leonie Barrie, submitted the question how companies in the industry should deal with the current uncertainty. "My advice right now: be calm," said Hughes. "What can we do with our sourcing strategy? Store closings are affecting us, what's the impact of e-commerce? ... We need to stay calm, don't jump on behalf of a tweet," she advised. "Be as good as you can be in terms of innovation and product quality," added Tantillo.

Source: fashionunited.in– Feb 09, 2017

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USA: Counting the Costs of Anti-Immigration Policies on US Apparel

As Trump's immigration policies continue to roil the nation, it is unclear where non-citizens stand in the fashion sector.

A panel at the Brooklyn Fashion + Design Accelerator (BF+DA) in Brooklyn Tuesday discussed how immigration could affect apparel manufacturing in the U.S. and what the greater community can do to help undocumented garment workers.

“This is a period of extraordinary rapid change and change is never easy,” Pratt Center for Community Development executive director and panel moderator Adam Friedman said. “Our objective is to peel away some of that confusion so we can make good judgment calls and our policy can really be grounded in facts.”

Although Trump's recent immigration ban raises concerns, clothing companies and designers across the U.S. are faced with a hard reality about their workforces, as many apparel factories are still employing immigrants. According to 2013 reports, immigrant labor makes up approximately 64 percent of garment workers in New York City.

With limited resources, the fashion industry is left with a choice to either continue operations or comply with the law and risk profit loss. Should Trump pursue stricter immigrant legislation, the fashion industry's current model may no longer be applicable.

Apparel businesses and designers would have to fill the gaps for their current workforce, which would dynamically impact all levels of the supply chain from material sourcing to the consumer. What's more, immigration restrictions would halt global creative talent from coming to the U.S., which could strip the fashion industry of its diversity.

To remedy the industry's immigration dilemma, panelists called for better citizenship laws, the establishment of a common dialogue and more consumer involvement.

"In the U.S. immigration system, we don't have a pathway for entrepreneurs to start their business," said Deirdre Shannon, deputy national organizing director of immigration reform group FWD. "What other countries have done in response to our restrictions is to open their doors."

Shannon said immigrants in the U.S. don't have a clear pathway to citizenship either. The nation's current immigration policies make renewing visas complicated and don't protect immigrants that fall under undocumented status. Apparel businesses and designers should speak with their local Congress representatives about implementing better citizenship laws, Shannon said. Once better citizenship laws are in place, immigrants can establish their own career paths and contribute to the U.S. economy.

"Common sense immigration reform makes it easier for the next DVF [Diane von Furstenberg] to come to this country," Shannon said. "We are working on a piece of bi-partisan legislation called the Bridge Act." The Bridge Act, according to Shannon, would help immigrants' children get their footing in the U.S., but the future of the program is currently in limbo with the new Trump Administration in place.

Even though the U.S. may have differing opinions on immigration, Industrial and Technology Assistance Corporation (ITAC) executive director and panelist Kinda Younes urged fashion industry members to welcome perspectives and ignite conversation about solutions for undocumented workers.

"We have to listen to the other side and get to a dialogue where we can no longer be polarized in this country," Younes said.

Despite the immigration turmoil, the fashion industry is not alone. The life of a garment doesn't end at a distribution center; consumers are also at the heart of the conflict and could contribute to immigration reform as well. By collaborating with other popular brands, fashion industry members could reach out to consumers to inform them about the issues they are facing.

"We all have the power to shift this," Forum for the Future U.S. director Sandra Seru said. "Telling consumer facing brands what to do can have an impact."

The fashion industry and American community can propose solutions and work with other nations to preserve the country's democratic foundations, and the success of sectors like apparel and retail.

"The role that immigration plays in establishing the U.S. is a beacon to the world," Shannon said. "If we turn that light off and shut the door to immigration, that cost is immeasurable."

Source: sourcingjournalonline.com– Feb 09, 2017

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Global Labor Standard Could Cut Compliance Costs as Soon as Next Year

New apparel sector players have signed on to get an industry-wide, standardized method for assessing social and labor compliance in place. With the standard, compliance costs could come down considerably.

The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) launched its Social and Labor Convergence Project (SLCP) in late 2015 to help streamline the processes for compliance testing—making the overall industry more efficient—and to eliminate at least some of the excessive costs that come with it.

Now, more than 100 brands and organizations, including newly joined Lululemon and the American Apparel and Footwear Association, have signed onto the initiative and the framework will be piloted this month.

The idea behind the framework is that it will replace individual solutions to compliance testing, which force factories serving multiple clients to do test after test to meet each unique set of compliance requirements. With the SLCP there would be one standard-agnostic tool and method for collecting data on issues like child and forced labor, occupational health and safety, and wages.

Organizations that participate would be able to avoid testing duplication and be able to improve overall supply chain transparency and measure continuous improvement. What's more, according to SAC, the framework would allow companies to put their freed-up compliance spend toward improving social and labor conditions in the places where they source.

"Leading apparel, textile and footwear companies recognize the need for greater efficiency when it comes to creating standard measures around key labor issues," said Janet Mensink, director of the Social and Labor Convergence Project. "By aligning around a shared framework, we're able to collectively accelerate the social impacts and sustained improvements to working conditions in the apparel and footwear industries."

Companies like H&M, Gap, VF Corp, G-Star, Arvind Mills, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Intertek, SGS and WRAP have already signed on to the initiative.

"We are on track with our aggressive two-year timeline and I am extremely optimistic about the direction of the SLCP," said Colleen Vien, sustainability director at VF Corp/Timberland, and member of the SLCP Steering Committee. "Our progress is a clear demonstration of what's possible when all the stakeholders involved share a common vision, and don't get distracted by individual agendas."

The first version of the framework has already been developed and is currently under review by the signatories, and the pilot is expected to be up this month. SAC said the tool and verification methodology will be finalized and ready for use by the first quarter of 2018.

Source: sourcingjournalonline.com – Feb 09, 2017

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For Primark, Sustainable Cotton Farming Can Cut Input Costs

Primark's Sustainable Cotton Programme continues to impact the lives of female farmers in India with its eco-friendly farming initiatives.

The programme's third year results reported that women smallholders experienced an average profit increase of 247 percent due to the programme's sustainable agriculture efforts. Female farmers used the additional income to invest in home improvements, child education and healthcare.

Established in 2013, Primark's Sustainable Cotton Programme is a collaboration between the retailer, farming organization CottonConnect and the Self Employed Women's Assoication (SEWA).

Over the past four years, 1,251 farmers have participated in the program, which trains women smallholders in greener farming processes, including furrow watering and organic pesticide application. Last year, Primark announced that the program will be extended until 2019 and the retailer aims to reach an additional 10,000 farmers in the next three years.

The program's third year results demonstrated how sustainable agriculture methods contributed to female farmers' profits and the wellbeing of their communities. By minimizing chemical fertilizer use, purchasing seeds collectively with other farmers and reducing additional labor costs, female farmers achieved a reduction of input costs by 19.2%.

Adopting additional sustainable farming methods, including soil testing and micro irrigation systems, also resulted in a 40 percent reduction in harmful pesticide use and a 10 percent decrease in water use. Incorporating the program's greener harvesting methods helped female farmers boost their individual incomes and minimize the impact of pollution in their villages.

Women currently play a crucial role in India's cotton cultivation. As the world's second largest producer of cotton, the nation heavily relies on the work of female farmers.

According to the International Trade Centre, women account for 90 percent of cotton hand-picking and 70 percent of cotton planting. Despite the importance of female cotton farmers, women in rural India earn an average income that is only 78 percent of men's. Primark's Sustainable Cotton Programme is working to remedy this inequality with its ongoing support and education in eco-friendly farming.

"We've seen what's possible with a small group of just over 1,000 farmers, but it's clear that this approach holds great potential," CottonConnect CEO Alison Ward said. "We're looking forward to seeing the impact of the programme on our next intake of female smallholders."

Source: sourcingjournalonline.com– Feb 09, 2017

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Bangladesh Apparel Export Increases Miss Projected Growth

Bangladesh export earnings continue to be fueled by the country's ready-made garment industry, which typically accounts for 80 percent of its export receipts.

Garment exports reached $2.7 billion, up 3.05% in January, year on year, and 4.65% month on month, according to RMG Bangladesh. Overall Bangladesh exports (including garments) rose 4 percent to $3.31 billion dollars last month, compared to January 2016, and exports increased 6.43% from December to January though earnings missed the $3.40 billion target.

For the first seven months of the fiscal year, garment exports hit $16.41 billion, which was a 4.12% year on year increase. However, the number fell short of the $17.28 billion earnings target. For the same period, total exports (including garments) reached $20.11 billion, a 4.36% increase over the same period the previous year.

Garment exports to the U.S., the country's largest importer, slid 1.49% to $5.11 billion from January to November 2016. The sector saw a 5.19% drop in exports to the U.K., it's third largest importer, in the first six months of the fiscal year.

To achieve the sector's export target of $50 billion by 2021, more than 12.25% export growth is needed every year.

Also to reach those earnings goals, the country will need address recent labor concerns, which could threaten its trade status with key players like Europe.

Recently, the IndustriALL Global Union, UNI Global Union and the International Trade Union Confederation labor unions have urged the EU to reconsider Bangladesh's free trade status following government and factory actions in retaliation for workers' minimum wage demands.

In December, workers went on strike to demand higher wages. Instead, more than 1,500 were fired, 600 were met with criminal charges and 11 workers and labor union representatives were jailed.

The labor unions say this treatment along with the slow progress in improving working conditions violates Bangladesh's eligibility under the EU's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

The response to the strike also prompted the American Apparel and Footwear Association to issue an official plea for Bangladesh to institute a regular and transparent wage review system in order for the country to continue to enjoy a healthy relationship with its member brands.

Source: sourcingjournalonline.com– Feb 09, 2017

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WTO tackles Nigeria over market restrictions

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has asked Nigeria to remove trade prohibitions and market restrictions in line with global free market policy that facilitates free trade across borders.

This formed the crux of media interaction held yesterday in Abuja with a delegation from the WTO which is in Nigeria for the country's 5th Trade Policy Review.

The Counsellor, Head - African and Management on Trade Policies Review Division of the WTO, Jacques Degbelo, said the goal of WTO is to ensure that all countries promote exports but in doing so, no country should restrict imports.

"Trade means you have access to my market and I have access to your market," Degbelo said on the need to obliterate all trade restrictions, including import restriction list for accessing foreign exchange and import bans on land borders.

The WTF'S Trade Policy Analyst of the Trade Policies Review Division, Xinyi Li, said the on-going review of Nigeria's Trade Policy would enable dialogue among Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the country in coordinating trade related issues.

Li said the review will bring Nigeria into coherence with trade policies of other countries in the world to open up more markets to it for exports.

The Trade Advisor to the Trade Minister and the Nigeria's Chief Trade Negotiator, Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, disclosed that the review would help question some existing trade policies in Nigeria as they affect export and import promotion.

Osakwe said there would be need to interrogate the existence of a 0.5 per cent levy on export in line with Nigeria's aspiration to grow export and earn foreign exchange.

The Trade Advisor wondered why a country that is trying to promote export would impose a levy on export no matter how negligible the percentage of the levy is.

He also called into question the import per shipment levy of $600 per container which the country does not even benefit from and wondered if it is necessary.

He said the review would also try to consider the 1 per cent charge which goes into import supervision and the necessity which the charge serves in the economy.

Source: dailytrust.com.ng– Feb 09, 2017

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Belarus welcomes EU Council's decision to scrap Belarusian textile quotas

The decision of the Council of the European Union to scrap the autonomous quotas on imports of the Belarusian textiles is a positive signal for businessmen of Belarus and the European Union, spokesman for the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dmitry Mironchik told a press briefing on 9 February.

“We welcome the EU Council's decision to abolish the autonomous quotas on imports of textiles and clothing originating in Belarus. The decision is in sync with the agreements between Belarus and the EU to improve bilateral relations. This unilateral measure was introduced by the European Union in 1993. We do not overestimate the economic effect from the abolition of the abovementioned quotas.

However, the decision seems to be a positive signal for businessmen of Belarus and the EU encouraging European companies to cooperate with the companies of the Belarusian light industry, including in the field of investment,” Dmitry Mironchik said.

The barriers in the export of Belarusian finished goods to the EU were in the way of European technologies and investment to the Belarusian light industry, Dmitry Mironchik said.

“On the whole, I would like to hail the recent progress in the trading relations between Belarus and the European Union.

This is evidenced by the intensified bilateral dialogue and constructive negotiations on Belarus' accession to the World Trade Organization," the spokesman of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

It was reported earlier that the Council of the European Union decided to repeal the autonomous quotas on imports of the Belarusian textiles on 7 February. Prior to that, the draft resolution was approved by the European Parliament and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Source: eng.belta.by– Feb 09, 2017

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Yarns and Viscose Rayon Fibers Get Tangled in EU-U.S. Tariff Fight

A trade war over Europe limiting U.S. beef imports led the Obama administration last year to propose a set of retaliatory tariffs on mostly food-related goods coming from Europe.

But two items that fell under the retaliatory tariff proposal were textiles: viscose rayon staple fibers as well as **Modal** fibers, not carded or combed or otherwise processed for spinning, and single yarns containing 85 percent or more by weight of artificial staple fibers coming from Europe.

The proposed 100 percent retaliatory tariffs have left U.S. textile makers worried that new measures could increase their raw-material costs and push up the price of fabrics made from rayon and Modal. Lyocell fiber, also known as **Tencel**, is not included under the proposed tariffs.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office, which was taking comments on the tariffs until Jan. 30, is now holding a hearing on the issue in Washington, D.C., Feb. 15–16 and then will take post-hearing rebuttal comments until Feb. 22.

The tariffs have plenty of people worried because 41 percent of the viscose rayon fiber imported into the United States in 2015 came from Europe, translating into $72 million of fiber. Currently, the tariff on viscose rayon staple fiber is 4.3 percent and for yarn it is 9 percent.

“Imposition of an additional 100 percent tariff would be highly disruptive to the supply chain and harm U.S. competitiveness of rayon fiber-containing products,” said Auggie Tantillo, president and chief executive of the **National Council of Textile Organizations**, which wrote a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative opposing the tariffs.

“Production of rayon fiber is nonexistent in the United States because it is very environmentally difficult to produce. It is still made in Europe and in Asia—mainly China. We are totally dependent on off-shore sources for rayon fiber, and therefore we deem any penalty tariff on that product to have adverse ramifications for U.S. manufacturers,” Tantillo added.

In his letter to the government, the head of NCTO pointed out that at least 10 U.S. companies belonging to his textile group import viscose rayon staple fiber from the European Union. They said that additional tariffs would place an undue burden on their businesses and potentially lead to lost sales and hurt employment.

One company that would be affected by the tariff is **Lenzing Fibers Inc.** in Mobile, Ala. The company already produces Tencel fibers, the brand name for lyocell, at its Alabama factory. But it has plans to invest $293 million in a new fiber plant capable of producing 90,000 tons of Tencel fiber a year.

For that new fiber plant, the company was planning to import viscose rayon staple fibers from its plant in Austria to blend with its lyocell staple fibers made in the United States to make nonwoven products such as baby wipes.

“An increase in duties on viscose would have a material negative effect on the business case for this new announced investment,” wrote John Patterson, the chief financial officer for Lenzing Fibers Inc.

China is a major producer of viscose rayon staple fiber. In 2015, about 50 percent of the viscose rayon staple fiber imported into the United States came from China. “Should penalty tariffs be levied on imports from the EU, the clear winner would be China,” the NCTO pointed out in its letter to the U.S. Trade Representative.

Another company that would be impacted is **Buhler Quality Yarns Corp.**, a Swiss company with U.S. headquarters in Georgia. In its U.S. factory, it manufactures yarns from **Supima** extra-long staple cotton, **MicroModal Edelweiss** and **MicroTencel**.

“We are going to have to look at other fibers we can sustain if this goes forward,” said David Sasso, vice president of international sales at Buhler. “The biggest fiber we buy is Supima, and our second-largest fiber consumption is in Modal. We need to provide yarns at a garment price point that people are looking for.”

If the proposed tariffs go into effect, the price of Tencel yarns would become more attractive because its fiber content wouldn’t be subject to added tariffs.

At **Texollini**, a knitting mill that makes stretch fabrics at its Long Beach, Calif., factory, there would be added costs that could not be avoided. “There are no rayon fiber factories or rayon yarn factories used in the textile industry in this country,” said Dmitry Konstantinovsky, the chief information officer and purchasing manager at Texollini. “So we are basically forced to use imported products. All these tariffs just increase the cost of our inputs and make our products more expensive and less competitive with our competitors in Europe and Asia.”

This trade dispute started in 1998 when the EU lost a case at the **World Trade Organization** for banning American beef. In 2009, the U.S. negotiated an agreement to allow a small degree of market access for specially produced beef that meets the EU’s standards, but that agreement did not work as intended, said the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, which resulted in this retaliatory proposal.

Source: apparelnews.net – Feb 09, 2017

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Xinjiang railway operation in 2017 the first "East set fast" cotton train

Asian Heart Network (reporter correspondent Shao Zhentong Chen Huan) 17 pm on February 8th, the first year of cotton "East set fast train slowly out of the Aksu Railway Station in Xinjiang, this article set up by the Ministry of railway logistics transportation channel of new things will continue to be effective, narrow East-West distance, promote regional economic development.

"The Spring Festival holiday is over, we have to pay close attention to the shipment of cotton yarn container classes, to the mainland cotton demand customers sent to 'timely rain'!" Urumqi Railway Bureau Freight Center in Kashi market three minister Wang Baoan told reporters that in February the freight center will organize the 3 column to Shanghai cotton "East set fast train. Akesu Shengda Textile Co., Ltd. is a subsidiary of Shengda Group, located in the south of Akesu City Industrial Park, textile industrial city, the company was established in 2015, a total investment of 500 million yuan, has the international first-class spinning equipment, the existing 100 thousand ingot production scale, with an annual output of about 20 thousand tons of cotton yarn.

That will be 1600 tons of cotton column railway backlog in succession to Shanghai Xiaoshan Railway Station news through the container class, Shengda textile transportation deputy general manager Yan Qingming said happily: "or when the key is to help us reliable railway, to solve the problem of the backlog of goods trains, one-time large volume, and less wear, safe and reliable, with railway cooperation, so we have the confidence to further expand the scale of production".

"Last year our company with 5 rows of cotton yarn line railway cooperation" East set fast "trains, established the transport organization mode of rail transport, has been widely praised and downstream customers, as the third party logistics company, with the railway cooperation to avoid the risk of long distance highway transportation, also played a short distance highway transportation distribution the advantages, achieve a" win-win "in 2017, we will continue to deepen cooperation with the railway, Xinjiang boost spinning enterprise development", Zhejiang new Wuxi Fu Logistics Co. Ltd. General Manager Zhou Fengwei said.

It is understood that the new year will increase the container freight center in Kashi train service organization efforts to arrange door-to-door packing according to customer demand, and arrange the entire control from the factory to the customer at the container receiving each link, railway traffic is expected this year will exceed 60 thousand tons of cotton yarn.

Source: 48hnews.com– Feb 09, 2017

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Colombo to host International Summit on Textile Coloration

The International Summit on Textile Coloration 2017: Colouring the ‘Emperors New Clothes’ will tackle some of the difficult questions around technical innovation and environmental sustainability within the textile colouration industry. It will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on March 8, 2017. Multiple sessions will also be carried out during the summit.

The summit to be organised by the SDC International Limited will give participants a chance to meet the people who are driving the change and get to know the people who have used new innovations. Sessions on compliance in fashion, compliance in colouration of textiles and compliance in colour management will be held during the summit.

Colourists face a lot of challenges which include retailers and brand owners demanding the best performance at ever decreasing prices and frequent eco norm changes that place them under tremendous pressure and may introduce perceived trade barriers.

The cost of natural resources and labour are increasing worldwide with consequential impacts on margins in static or decreasing prices markets and challenges also include unsold retail inventories. Global markets are increasingly turbulent with the emergence of online selling channels and colourists find it difficult to leverage higher prices from purchasers for eco-friendly products.

The SDC is the world’s leading independent, educational charity dedicated to advancing the science and technology of colour worldwide.

This conference will bring together textile colourists, buyers, retailers, garment manufacturers, academicians and researchers from around the world to discuss technical innovations & ‘green’ initiatives in the textile colouration industry.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Feb 09, 2017

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Pakistan: Collaboration: Trade with Azerbaijan needs to be stepped up

Azerbaijan Ambassador Ali Alizada has said that bilateral trade with Pakistan spiked three times in 2016, but a lot more potential still existed for making improvements.

He said this while accompanying a 16-company delegation of Azerbaijan, led by Export and Investment Promotion Foundation Vice Chairman Yousif Abdullah, which visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to discuss and explore opportunities of business collaboration.

Alizada emphasised that the leadership of both countries was determined to forge strong trade and economic relations, which was reaffirmed during the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir to Azerbaijan last year.

He voiced hope that the Azerbaijan delegation’s trip to Pakistan would help in exploring new areas of mutual cooperation.

The delegation represented varying sectors including oil and gas, steel, transport, food processing, farming, trade, packaging and paper, fruits and vegetables, milk and dairy products, chocolate, hospitality, furniture, cosmetics, mineral water, cotton and others.

Yousif Abdullah declared that many companies of Azerbaijan were interested in doing business with Pakistan.

“The purpose of their sojourn is to study Pakistan’s market and explore opportunities of business collaboration in agriculture and other fields,” he said.

Azerbaijan offers incentives to foreign investors and provides a seven-year tax holiday for investment in the Industrial and Technology Park.

Earlier, ICCI Senior Vice President Khalid Malik said bilateral trade was not up to the desired level and Pakistan could export readymade garments, cotton products, engineering and consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, rice, textile fabrics and other products.

Source: tribune.com.pk– Feb 10, 2017

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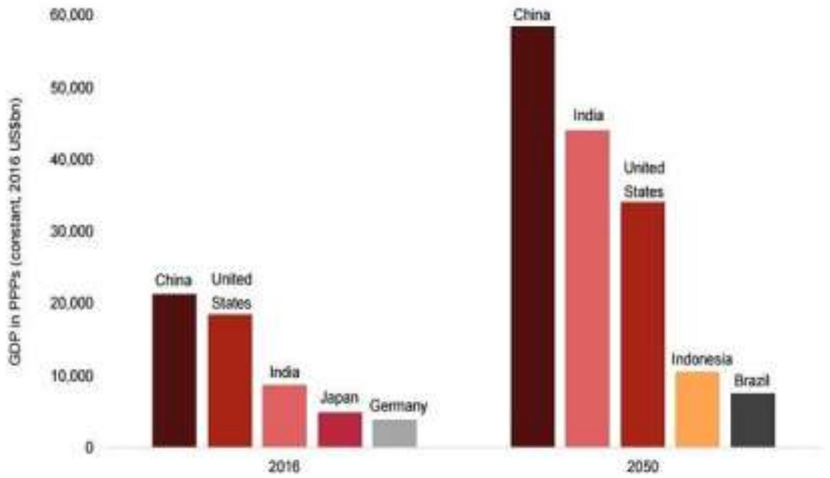
NATIONAL NEWS

Indian economy to overtake US in PPP terms by 2040: PwC

India would be at No. 2 in global GDP ranking at purchasing power parity (PPP) terms by 2040, behind China but ahead of the US, says a latest report. With cumulative global GDP growth of 130 per cent between 2016 and 2050, the world economy could more than double in size by 2050 due to continued technology-driven productivity improvements, the report adds.



Emerging markets (E7) could grow around twice as fast as advanced economies (G7) on average, and as a result, six of the seven largest economies in the world are projected to be emerging economies in 2050, says the PricewaterhouseCoopers(PwC) report 'The World in 2050'.

E7 economies comprising Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia and Turkey would grow at an annual average rate of almost 3.5 per cent over the next 34 years, compared to just 1.6 per cent for the advanced G7 nations of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US, according to the report.

"In fact, China has already overtaken the US to become the world's largest economy in PPP terms, while India currently stands in third place and is projected to overtake the US by 2040 in PPP terms," PwC said.

The report predicts Vietnam, India and Bangladesh to be three of the world's fastest growing economies during 2016-2050. "The US could be down to third place in the global GDP rankings while the EU27's share of world GDP could fall below 10 per cent by 2050."

"UK could be down to 10th place by 2050, France out of the top 10 and Italy out of the top 20 as they are overtaken by faster growing emerging economies like Mexico, Turkey and Vietnam respectively," states the report.

However, emerging economies would need to enhance their institutions and their infrastructure significantly if they are to realise their long-term growth potential.

"From a business perspective, there is also a need to look beyond short-term economic volatility in both advanced and emerging economies and develop strategies that have the right balance of flexibility and patience," says John Hawksworth, chief economist, PwC UK.

Source: fibre2fashion.com- Feb 09, 2017

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Union Textiles Minister to chair Stakeholders' Meeting of Silk Industry

The Ministry of Textiles is organizing a Silk Industry Stakeholders Meet on 10th February, 2017 in New Delhi, to discuss various issues related to the development of Indian silk industry.

The Union Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani will preside over the meeting. Minister of State, Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta; Secretary, Textiles, Smt. Rashmi Verma and Chairman, Central Silk Board, Shri K.M. Hanumantharayappa will grace the occasion.

The Union Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley; Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh; Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan; Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Drinking Water & Sanitation, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar; and Union Minister of State (I/C), Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Shri Anil Madhav Dave have been invited to grace the occasion.

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Bhagalpur, Bihar, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey; Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Gorantla, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Nimmala Kristappa; Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Mysuru, Shri Pratap Simha; Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Akola, Maharashtra, Shri Sanjay Dattray; and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Mangaldoi, Assam, Shri Ramen Deka, are also expected to participate.

The meet is being held at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, and will be attended by nearly 150 delegates including seri-farmers, seed cocoon growers, Chawki rearing centres, reelers, Automatic Reeling Machine entrepreneurs, retailers and exporters (both form Mulberry and Vanya sectors), besides senior officers from various union ministries, State Sericulture Departments, Bankers, CSB, NABARD, NIFT & NID.

The meet is being organized by the Central Silk Board and will deliberate on the present status, plans, programmes and challenges ahead in the silk sector, and inter-ministerial issues, in order to bring about better synergy to ensure sustained development of the Indian silk industry. It is expected that the outcome of the Stakeholders' meet will provide useful inputs for the National Textile Policy, which is under finalization

Source: pib.nic.in - Feb 08, 2017

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Scheme for Textile Parks failed to realise objectives: Report

The Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) failed to achieve its objectives due to factors like small size of the parks and lack of marketing support from the government, a report commissioned by Textiles Ministry has said.

The report has recommended that a new scheme -- Mega Textile Parks -- be launched with parks having minimum land size of 1,000 acres, and infrastructure support in the form of readymade factory sheds, warehouse, incubation centres and testing labs, with express connectivity to seaports and airports.

The implementing agencies for the new scheme should be entrepreneurs led SPV (special purpose vehicle), industry associations or state government either through their institutions or in PPP mode, says the report on review of the SITP scheme.

"The intended objective of SITP to foster the development of supply chain linkages and reduction in the cost of production by leveraging backward and forward integration in the value chain is yet to be realised as most of the operational parks are partially functional.

"The other reasons are lack of coordination among the units in the park, inability to attract the right investors, failure to achieve economies of scale and lack of collective approach in raw material sourcing and marketing," said the report by Wazir Advisors, submitted to the Textiles Ministry.

The report cited high rentals in some parks, changes in other government schemes or regulations, lack of marketing efforts, no special benefits available for investors in parks, poor accessibility and challenges for units in SEZ Parks as some of the factors responsible for the scheme failing to attain its objectives.

The scheme has so far achieved limited clusterization, the report found.

"Due to lower occupancy rates, parks have not yet attained their planned investment levels. The current investment in 30 functional parks is around Rs 7,628 crore against their planned investment of Rs 16,628 crore.

"As most of the parks are of the size from 25 to 75 acres hence the Scheme has had limited impact in bringing scale to the textile industry," according to the report.

It suggested that the mega textile parks should be established in Industrial Corridors and/or areas with proximity to seaports, and the financial support must be linked with 'extent of area developed, without any ceiling on financial assistance".

The cost of manufacturing inside the park was found to be only marginally higher than an industrial zone in vicinity due to higher cost of land and maintenance inside the park.

The current employment level in 30 functional parks is around 68,000 people, 57 per cent of their planned employment.

There are 74 parks sanctioned till date. Out of these 30 parks are functional, while eight have applied for cancellation and others are at various stages of implementation.

The functional parks are involved in production of spun yarn, fabric weaving and knitting, fabric processing, garmenting, made-up manufacturing, and technical textiles.

Source: dnaindia.com – Feb 09, 2017

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Expect Cotton futures to trade sideways to higher: Angel

According to Angel Commodities, expect cotton and kapas futures to trade sideways to higher on good demand from the ginners and textile industries as arrivals in the physical market is slow due to need based selling by the farmers this season.

Angel Commodities' report on Cotton

Cotton on MCX traded steady while kapas prices on NCDEX closed higher on Wednesday due to lower level buying by the market participants.

The cotton arrivals in the physical markets have seen improving during last week compared to previous weeks but still the normal arrivals have not seen Gujarat and Maharashtra this season.

Outlook

We expect cotton and kapas futures to trade sideways to higher on good demand from the ginners and textile industries as arrivals in the physical market is slow due to need based selling by the farmers this season.

Moreover, reports of lower domestic production and procurement by CCI may support prices.

Source: moneycontrol.com - Feb 09, 2017

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Artisans, designers walk hand-in-hand to fashion revival of heritage textiles

To revive and promote heritage textiles, a fashion show, 'Walking Hand-in-Hand' was held at Cept University on Thursday. Organized as part of Archiprix 2017, the show, conceptualized by Crafts+Design+Society (CDS) Art Foundation, presented a line of couture which were co-created by textile craftsmen and fashion designers.

"The idea of walking hand-in-hand is to let craftsmen and designers collaborate and co-create the line of garments and make both of them walk the ramp so that the textile craftsmen get their due credit.

The line of garments were created using traditional heritage textile crafts such as ajrakh, bandhani, ikat, Maheshwari weaves, Banarasi weaves, Kashmiri weaves and embroidery, among others.

Before presenting each collection, the craft was explained in brief, with details of its origin. "Fabrics are an integral part of architecture and therefore, Archiprix 2017 is a good platform to showcase traditional Indian textile crafts before world renowned architects," shared Gauri Wagenaar, committee member, CDS Art Foundation.

Engaging local communities from Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh to create a line of garments, designer Padmaja Krishnan collaborated with Sally Holkar, the founder of WomenWeave Charitable Trust, and presented her collection at Walking Hand in Hand. "The philosophy of walking hand-in-hand goes with ours because at WomenWeave, we've engaged women from marginalized sections right from harvesting cotton crop to processing, spinning, weaving and turning it into fabric," said Holkar.

Padmaja, whose collection, 'Light of the Sun' was presented, said, "I've been working with WomenWeave for a long time now and the idea is not just to support these communities but also to come up with a contemporary line of garments."

Source: timesofindia.com - Feb 10, 2017

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Welspun to market Egyptian Cotton products worldwide

Welspun India Ltd has entered into a cooperation agreement with Cotton Egypt Association to promote and market Egyptian Cotton products worldwide. The agreement will help enhance the complete supply chain of the Egyptian Cotton starting from cultivation to the final product, which will also benefit the Egyptian farmer and the industry as a whole.

After verifying Welspun's quality and supply chain reliability processes, the Cotton Egypt Association has granted the company the right to use the Egyptian Cotton logo for five years until 2022. The two organisations will now work together to create programmes for promotion of Egyptian Cotton logo in the retail markets across the globe.

Welspun will invest a sum of $3 million in a stage wise manner over the next few years to support the joint initiatives.

"The sheer nature of Egyptian Cotton makes it a luxury to be cherished by all. Welspun wants the world to know about Egyptian cotton and we want to help promote it among the consumers and the makers alike. Welspun will help create marketing programmes and execute them using its extensive global network," explained Dipali Goenka, CEO and joint MD, Welspun India.

Welspun is also exploring options for expansion of its Egypt operations to include a manufacturing facility for Egyptian Cotton home textile products.

"We foresee an increase in demand for Egyptian Cotton and find an ideal condition for making Egypt one of our hubs for sourcing and manufacturing Egyptian Cotton products. We're looking at the best option to utilise this opportunity," added Goenka.

Widely regarded as an innovations driven company, Welspun India Ltd has filed for 27 global patents of which nine have already been granted. Apart from revamping its Christy brand to make it youth-friendly, Welspun is also increasing its global footprint with new stores in the US, China, Middle East and in the UK and working on increasing its associations similar to Wimbledon and Rugby World Cup.

The Cotton Egypt Association, established by the Egyptian ministry of industry and foreign trade and Alexandria Cotton Exporters Association, is mandated to manage, promote and protect the Egyptian Cotton and the Egyptian Cotton Logo worldwide.

Source: fibre2fashion.com - Feb 09, 2017

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As cotton prices soar, Maharashtra farmers have a reason to thank Pakistan, Bangladesh

With cotton prices hovering in the R5,700-5,800 per quintal range and good demand in the market, farmers in Maharashtra are smiling their way to the bank this season.

This time around 125 quintals have been purchased by traders in the state with little or almost no cotton being purchased by the procurement centres established by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Federation (MSCCGF), top officials of the organisation said. Industry experts do not rule out prices touching the R6,000 per quintal mark soon.

According to N P Hirani, chairman, MSCCGF, there has been no purchase at the procurement centres for obvious reasons. “These centres are offering a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of R4,160 while farmers are getting better prices outside. This is a very good situation for the farmers and both the CCI and federation are only meant to intervene in the market for the benefit of the farmer,” he said.

For years, the federation has been purchasing from farmers but this time the procurement centres are deserted as farmers prefer open market where private traders offer much more than the MSP at which federation purchases. This time the farmers are playing the waiting game. Arrivals are to the tune of some 1.25 lakh quintals on a daily basis, he said and large farmers are holding onto stocks, he said.

Hirani said that international prices are also higher at R44,956 per candy while the domestic rates are in the range of R41,700-42,300 per candy.

Cotton seed prices are high and in the range of R2,500-2,850 per quintal while cottonseed oil cakes are in the range of R2,200-2,450 per quintal, he said. “As per CCI expectations, Maharashtra is expected to produce some 90 lakh bales which translates into 450 lakh quintals. Of this, around 125 lakh quintals have reached the market and another 50 lakh quintals may have been sold outside. So there is plenty of cotton still available with farmers who are holding onto their produce this time in anticipation of good prices,” he said.

According to Hirani, there is good demand for Indian cotton from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and China. As per unconfirmed reports, Pakistan has purchased some 20 lakh bales, Bangladesh has purchased around 10-12 lakh bales, China some 15-20 lakh bales and 5-6 lakh bales have reached other markets.

Moreover, traders are coming from Gujarat in large numbers and are purchasing cotton from farmers’ doorsteps resulting in high prices, he said,adding that there is no way to quantify the amount that has been purchased.

According to a report by Angel Commodities, cotton and kapas prices continue to trade higher this week on good physical demand. The cotton arrivals in the physical markets have been improving during last week compared to previous weeks but still the normal arrivals have not seen Gujarat and Maharashtra this season.

As on Jan 30, 2017 about 146.5 lakh bales have arrived in the market. Maharashtra is leading the arrivals figures at 40.7 lakh bales followed by Gujarat at 31.8 lakh bales.

While, the Cotton Advisory Board has pegged the output at 351 lakh bales for the 2016-17 season starting October. Similarly, the International Cotton Advisory Committee expects the cotton output in India this year to remain unchanged at 58 lakh tonnes from 2015-16. The production and consumption of cotton as predicted by the Cotton Advisory Board for this season (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017) are 351 lakh bales and 313 lakh bales (of 170 kgs each), respectively.

Source: financialexpress.com- Feb 10, 2017

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World Trade Organisation hails India's proposal on services trade facilitation pact

World Trade Organisation (WTO) director general Roberto Azevedo on Thursday welcomed India's proposal to move forward with a trade-facilitation agreement in services (TFS), saying New Delhi — being one of the largest exporters of commercial services — could take a leading role in further liberalisation of such trade.

Separately, commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman said: "Within a few days a legally-vetted document will be submitted to the WTO (by India). An Indian team is going to Geneva, and along with our ambassador there, it will take up the matter with various groups. I want the TFS to be part of the next WTO ministerial at Buenos Aires."

India had last year submitted a concept note on TFS, taking the first decisive step towards gathering global consensus on a framework to boost worldwide trade in services.

It had told the WTO that just like the TFA in goods, which is aimed at relaxing customs rules for smoother trade flow, there is a need for a "counterpart agreement" in services, and that the proposed pact must also ensure special and differential treatment for developing and poor nations.

The TFA in goods was adopted by the WTO in 2014 to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods as well as to improve co-operation on customs compliance issues to boost trade.

It could cut the cost of trade by an average of 14.5% and the impact could be greater than elimination of all remaining tariffs. While any such estimate of likely benefits of a similar agreement in services is yet to be firmed up, analysts believe the TFS has the potential to give similar dividends, going forward.

'Boost efforts to find food security solution'

Azevedo asked member nations to "redouble efforts" to meet the deadline for finding a permanent solution for the food security issue — which is an area of immense interest for India.

The WTO director-general, who is on a visit to India, said the multilateral body has a deadline for finding solution by the next ministerial, scheduled for December 2017.

He said the issue is important as this decision protects developing countries from legal challenges at the WTO in connection with governmental support for stock piling of staple food at guaranteed prices.

He, however, said "there is a lot of work to do".

"So, now what we are trying to do is whether by December, we can come up with a permanent solution for that," Azevedo told reporters in New Delhi.
The G-33 group of countries, including India, has submitted a proposal to the WTO for this purpose, he said.

Sitharaman said: "I insisted that he (Azevedo) makes use of his good offices and ensures the meetings take place for discussing food security."

Source: financialexpress.com - Feb 10, 2017

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India can save $30 bn by moving part of trade closer to ports by 2020: EY

India can save up to $ 28 billion in infrastructure investment and another $ 3.3 billion in transportation cost if 50 percent of overall trade moves closer to ports by 2020, according to a report prepared by the professional advisory services firm EY (formerly Ernst and Young).

India ranked as low as 126 out of 189 countries on total cost of trade while China and Germany are ranked at 98 and 18 respectively, the report said.

The EY report "Knowledge Paper on Port Sector", which was released by Andhra Pradesh Chamber of Commerce, maintained that the non-major ports on the eastern and western coasts can play a pivotal role in port centric industrial development thereby achieving cost competitiveness through optimsation of network and logistics.

Emergence of industrial clusters near the port, consolidations of distribution centers and warehouses post GST and directional distribution of cargo can address the infrastructural bottlenecks and can reduce the average in-land logistics cost by as much as 68 percent, it said.

While major ports are facing increased congestion owing to constraints in their ability to expand any further, non-major ports in India have a bigger scope for development, according to the report.

"For example, Mundra port and SEZ on the west coast is spread of 23,000 acres whereas Krishnapatnam on the east coast has a land bank of around 6,800 acres for the primary port area and another 13,000 acres was earmarked for industrial development. These ports also have drafts in excess of 18 meters on part with international standards, it said.

An important shift that has been observed over the last 10 years is the emergence of non-major ports, in FY16 their share increased to 43 percent, according to the report. Non-major ports have come up at strategic locations and are expected to emerge as better choices compared to major ports on the back of modernisation, efficiency and better infrastructure, the report suggests.

Potential transhipment hubs in India

Cabotage law hindered transhipment volumes at many terminals which are otherwise strategically located and benefited foreign ports such as Colombo which commands the largest share of India's transhipment volume in FY15 accounting for 48 percent of traffic whereas Singapore commands 22 percent traffic.

It has suggested further modification of the regulatory framework to facilitate the creation of additional transhipment hubs on both the east coast and the west coast.

Source: business-standard.com - Feb 10, 2017

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