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from the editor...

Textile industry plays a significant role in the economy contributing to over 13 percent of the industrial output, over 2 percent to the GDP of India. The industry employed more than 4.5 crore citizens and contributed ~15 percent to the export earnings of India in FY 19. In addition to this, the support from the government has aided the industries effort to grow and contribute further. Government has been taking measures like reshuffling of GST rates, allowing refund to accumulated taxes in case of textiles etc. With the bold reforms taken by government in the recent past including tax reforms, Skill India mission, RoSCTL Scheme for textile sector to defray / rebate the embedded taxes, etc. has helped the industry.

The budget presented recently by Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman is a pro-consumption budget. Government's thrust on creating better infrastructure, building strategic highways like Chennai - Bangalore, Delhi - Mumbai will boost the sector and further create more demand and employment. Creating National logistics policy will be beneficial as it will bring in efficiency and reduce the turnaround time of the vehicle.

Further, she announced a National Technical Textiles Mission, which is expected to give thrust to production of a wide variety of textiles used in sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure, automobiles, defence, and agriculture. The ₹1,480 cr mission, to be implemented from 2020-2021 to 2023-2024, aims at positioning India as a global leader in technical textiles.

In the budget, Government has provided stimulus to the economy in form of liquidity and consumption related interventions in the backdrop of visibly slowing global economic growth, including India. It is very encouraging to note that the budget clearly laid out the government's roadmap to position the economy for future sustainable growth. It is a well-balanced budget addressing many challenges and opportunities across sectors to give fillip to economic revival. Overall, in this budget, the government is trying to simplify the existing complicated processes like GST, income tax filing and bring in efficiency and growth.

Arvind Kumar, Editor & Publisher

Contents



■ Globe trotter	4
■ Domestic update	18
■ Textile Industry hail Union Budget 2020	30
■ With no incentives, refunds Yarn production, exports down	36
■ SRTEPC Export Award 2018-19 for synthetic textile exporters for their outstanding export performance	38
■ Rabatex joins hands with Alexander & Giovannelli Group	41
■ Fashion on Demand by Lectra - Bridging the Gap between the Empowered Consumer and Smarter Factory	44
■ CMAI reports increase in Apparel IIP and decrease in exports	48
■ Première Vision Paris Spring / Summer 2021	52
■ Munich Fabric Start - Spring / Summer 2021	62
■ Forthcoming trade events	70



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Africa, the new hub for apparel manufacturing



Abundant young talent, simple trade agreements, income tax breaks, cheap labour and power, friendly tax laws, strategic geographical position and the announcement of African Continental free trade area (AfCFTA) makes Africa the preferable destination for apparel manufacturing industry. The easy availability of land also favours industry growth in Africa.

Tapping the global market is on the radar for several African Governments, and they are implementing policies for helping the garment and textile industries flourish. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) also helps boost the industry as it allows African countries to export apparel to US in a duty-free mode. Countries like Kenya and Ethiopia are becoming prominent garment manufacturing hubs in Africa, followed by Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania to a great extent.

India-based Raymond is one of the companies to have recently signed an MoU with the Ethiopian Government to set up a garmenting facility. "Countries like Ethiopia are wooing global and Indian textile players by doling out sops and benefits for shifting or partially relocating manufacturing capacities in textile. This has potential of shifting value addition and job creation abroad with implications for India's manufacturing growth and Make-in-India campaign," Sudhir Soundalgekar, Director – Projects, Raymond, told.

Ethiopia has duty-free access to the US under AGOA for 10 years till 2025, and also duty-free access to EU under GSP. Another Indian company to set up a garment unit in Ethiopia is KPR Mill Ltd, which has opened its factory in Mekelle Industrial Park under a collaborative partnership with ITC's Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA) programme. The textile and apparel industry in Africa has grown rapidly in past couple of years, and is estimated to grow at a CAGR of ~5 percent over the next five years. The industry can grow even faster if the countries focus on improving some of the grey areas like infrastructure, strategic supply chain, and skill management ■

Turkey's apparel sector seeks to increase its exports to \$19 bn in 2020

Turkey's apparel sector, which sold goods worth \$17.7 bn to foreign countries in 2019, seeks to increase its exports to \$19 bn this year, according to Head of Istanbul Apparel Exporters Association (IHKIB) Mustafa Gultepe, who recently said the sector's share in the country's overall exports of \$14.8 bn in January 2020 was 10.1 percent.



The apparel sector had made a 'flying start' by reaching an export figure of \$1.5 bn in January, up by 5.8 percent over the figures in the same month last year, Gultepe told. Highlighting that the increase in exports was a success amid narrowing markets worldwide, he said raising exports by 7.7 percent to the European Union (EU), Turkey's biggest market, raises hopes. Gultepe said out of the country's total apparel exports in January, 73.4 percent was to EU countries, with Germany and Spain being the main destinations.

The apparel sector also exports goods valued around \$700 mn to the United States every year, which, he said, could reach \$5 bn. Turkey's garment exports are projected to rise by 10 percent due to the corona virus outbreak in China, which has delayed shipments from the mainland. However, if the crisis prolongs and global markets shrink, our exports could have a negative impact, the association said ■

USTR removes India and others from list of developing nations

The office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) recently removed India and several other countries from the list of beneficiaries of trade subsidy preference under the US countervailing duty (CVD) laws. This is expected to put an end to all chances of India reclaiming its benefits under the US' generalized system of preferences (GSP) scheme.

The subsidy preference is a World Trade Organisation (WTO) regulation, which allows self-declared developing countries to get preferential trade treatment in developed countries, to boost weaker economies. Twelve countries and the European Union are offer GSP benefits at present. The move comes six months after US President Donald Trump asked his administration to change the GSP regulations to 'safeguard' US interests and to ensure that no country is harming the United States using these incentives. The USTR said that its last update on rules regarding trade preference was released in 1998 and the criterion of eligible countries has now turned obsolete. The United States considers the per capita gross national income (GNI) and the world trade share of a country to determine whether a country is developing and eligible for the subsidy.



The United States has set the global trade share cut-off at 0.5 per cent. Keeping this in view, India crossed the threshold years ago, as its world trade share in 2017 was 2.1 percent for exports and 2.6 percent for imports. Because of this and India being a member of the G-20, the United States said it will be considered as a developed country, even if its per capita GNI is below \$12,375 or ₹8.82 lakh.

The CVD laws also allow the United States to investigate the trade policies of other countries to find out whether they are harming US trade interests. With India no longer in the list of beneficiaries, the United States can now hold a probe. If the investigation finds that India's policies do allow exporters to sell their products in the US market at a lower rate and consequently harm the domestic traders there, the United States can impose countervailing duty, a form of import tax, to make the Indian goods more expensive in the US markets ■

Wages survey conducted by garment industry in Myanmar

Garment manufacturers in Myanmar have completed collecting data to help them decide on a new minimum wage for workers, according to Daw Nwe Nwe Oo, who led the team that conducted the survey. The survey results would be submitted next month to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, which would tabulate and interpret the findings, she said. Data was collected from 100 of the more than 160 factories, she said. Some have not responded yet, as their owners have not returned from the Chinese New year holiday.



The survey focused on garment manufacturers' performance and difficulties in the past year. It looked at owners' investments, number of employees, workers' wages, holidays and production, operating and miscellaneous costs. The results will also be submitted to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and labour groups on the National Minimum Wage Committee, according to a report.

The daily minimum wage of K4,800 (\$3.30) is up for review in May. Some labour groups say they want the wage raised to K9,800 a day due to a higher cost of living. Under the minimum wage law enacted in 2013, Myanmar's minimum wage must be reviewed every two years, but the government has submitted a proposal to the Amyotha Hluttaw (upper house) to amend the law to remove the requirement. Under the amendment, Ministries would continue to review the minimum wage and change it if the country's economic performance warrants. Other proposals include revising the composition of the minimum wage committee to include labour and employment experts. At present the committee is comprised of representatives from the government, labour and employers ■

2.5 mn tonnes yarn produced by Vietnam in 2019

Vietnam produced over 2.5 mn tonnes of yarn in 2019, of which over 1.5 mn tonnes valued at \$4 bn were exported, according to Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) Vice President Truong Van Cam, who said fabric output also rose six times and export value was worth \$2.1 bn. The sector is expected to make breakthroughs this year, he said.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, free trade agreements (FTA) that will take effect in 2020 and the penetration of international brands like Zara, H&M and Mango will also favour the industry's growth, according to a report. The sector has made significant progress, especially in yarn and dyeing, through IT applications, as reflected in improved productivity, accelerated production and reduced labour force.

Duc Quan Investment and Development JSC in the Northern Province of Thai Binh have doubled its yarn output to 17,000 tonnes per year through the application of big data in production and management. Garment 10 Corporation JSC has also used online business management software DIP BMS.NET to better monitor transactions of distribution chains.

Members of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex) such as Hoa Tho Textile-Garment Joint Stock Corporation, Viettien General Garment JSC and Nha Be Joint Stock Corporation have joined the trend as well. Optimising the achievements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution has become an inevitable trend. However, this has met with a range of difficulties, especially a severe shortage of labourers who can use the new equipment. The Prime Minister has also agreed to upgrade the Hanoi Industrial College for Textile, Garment and Fashion to the Hanoi Industrial Textile Garment University, creating a major personnel training channel for the sector ■



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BCI reports 40 percent production hike in 'better cotton'



The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) has revealed that its 150 retailer and brand members collectively sourced more than 1.5 mn metric tonnes of 'better cotton' last year - a 40 percent increase on 2018. The volume of 'better cotton' - produced by licensed BCI farmers in line with the BCI principles - was enough to make 1.5 bn pairs of jeans and represented six per cent of global cotton production. The BCI has also revealed that its suppliers and manufacturers actually produced more than two million metric tonne of 'better cotton' ensuring there was more than enough available to meet retailers' needs.

A BCI statement said: "By increasing sourcing commitments year-on-year and integrating better cotton into their sustainable sourcing strategies, BCI retailer and brand members are driving demand for more sustainable cotton production worldwide." Under the BCI's mass balance system, brands and retailers pay for 'better cotton' to be produced - contributing towards the cost of farmer training and expanding the network of sustainable cotton farmers. Due to difficulties in tracing the cotton through the ginning and spinning processes, there is no guarantee that the cotton they collect has been grown under BCI criteria - however the scheme does result in more cotton being grown through sustainable practices.

Nagy Bensid, Director of yarns and fibres for Decathlon, a long-standing BCI member, said: "While physical better cotton is not traceable to the end-product, what matters is that the funds raised through BCI end up contributing to farmer training and expanding the network of cotton farmers doing better for themselves, their communities, the environment and planet.

"Decathlon has a target to source 100 percent more sustainable cotton by 2020 - this is a combination of Better Cotton together with organic and recycled cotton. "This commitment has generated a high level of motivation internally at Decathlon. The BCI Team has also always been supportive of our journey, listening to our needs and quickly responding to any challenges we met." BCI brand and retailer members contributed more than 11 mn euro to field-level projects in the 2018-19 cotton season, enabling more than 1.3 mn cotton farmers in China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Tajikistan and Mozambique to receive support and training.

The BCI has also revealed that it welcomed more than 210 new members across its membership categories in the second half of 2019. They included 32 retailers and brands from 13 countries, 179 suppliers and manufacturers, and three civil society organisations. BCI had been criticised for refusing to pull out of the Xinjiang region of China, where cotton suppliers - including a member of its own council - have been accused of using forced labour ■

Vietnamese firms to get raw materials from India, Malaysia instead of China

Pham Xuan Hong, President of Ho Chi Minh City's Textile Association, recently urged Vietnam's textile industry to source raw materials from Malaysia and India while the corona virus storm gets over in China. Textile firms there may witness raw material shortage by the second quarter as there would be no outgoing shipments from China before the end of February. This solution, however, is temporary as it will be extremely difficult to replace China as Vietnam's main supplier of raw materials, Hong said. As Vietnamese firms rely on China for 30-40 per cent of input materials, production would likely be hampered, according to a report. Experts have warned that though some firms may still have stocked up before the Lunar New Year holidays, the situation could get tricky soon.



The rubber and plastic industries too will face severe shortages as some 80 per cent of Vietnam's raw materials are imported from China, said President of HCM City's rubber and plastic association, Nguyen Quoc Anh. If China's industries cannot resume operations by the end of February, firms must start looking to alternative sources, possibly South Korea and the European Union. Longer transport distances and higher prices, however, would likely result in higher costs and massive disruption to operations ■

Italian Textile Machinery: orders index closes in decline for 2019



The orders index for textile machinery drawn up by ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, for the period from October to December 2019, showed an 8 percent drop compared to the same period for 2018. The index value stood at 92.9 points (basis: 2015=100).

Orders compiled by Italian machinery manufacturers were in negative figures both abroad and on domestic markets in Italy. An 8 percent slide was recorded abroad, with the absolute value of the index standing at 89.4 points. On the other hand, the drop in order collection on the domestic market stood at 7 percent, compared to the fourth quarter 2018. The absolute value of the index stood at 138.1 points.

After a difficult year, the Italian textile machinery sector is looking to 2020 with some degree of concern. "For the current year, explains Zucchi, there are many unknown factors, both at an economic and political level, that do not appear in the short term to point to a recovery in demand for textile machinery in major markets; China, Turkey and India. Our machinery manufacturers need to be ready to seize opportunities that originate from the request for sustainability and digitalization of production processes" ■

Sri Lankan apparel exporters seek their access to the domestic market

Sri Lankan apparel exporters recently requested the government to review policies restricting their access to the domestic market to cultivate their own brands, which can be later carried into the international market. The Sri Lanka Apparel Exporters Association (SLAEA) feels the idea of the domestic market being only for rejects or excess should be done away with. The aim is not to flood the market but to see the possibility of creating strong domestic apparel brands that have the potential to penetrate international market, SLAEA Chairman Rehan Lakhany told the annual general meeting of the association in Colombo recently.



At present, Sri Lankan firms operating under the purview of the Board of Investment (BOI) are required to pay ₹100 per garment or ₹100 for six packs of garments to supply their products to the domestic market. However, the government earlier permitted apparel firms under BOI purview to sell 40 per cent of the production in the domestic market. Lakhany pointed out that access to domestic market is crucial to gradually develop international brands, according to a report. Domestic consumers deserve to enjoy quality garments, he added ■



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Bangladesh 500 RMG units get listed as green factories

More than 500 garment factories in the country have registered themselves for opting green or environment-friendly production facilities, and these units are proceeding towards ensuring long-term sustainability. At present, Bangladesh has a total of 108 LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green factories, certified by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), with the highest of 26 platinum-ranked units. The number of green factories has been increasing considerably in the country since 2014, although the unit prices of locally-made apparel items are declining.



The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) disclosed these statistics in a meeting, held at its Gulshan office in the city. The BGMEA President Dr Rubana Huq presided over the meeting. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Bangladesh Country Director Tuomo Poutiainen was present in it. Representatives from the government, buyers, experts, the European Union (EU), the International Finance Corporation (IFC)

and other donor agencies also attended the meeting. Unit price of the locally made apparel items, exported to the US, declined to \$ 2.79 per sq mtr in 2018, which was \$ 3.0 in 2014, according to a presentation made by the BGMEA in the meeting.

On the other hand, the unit price dropped to \$ 1,515.46 per 100 kg in the EU market in 2018 from \$ 1,573.20 in 2014, it showed. The trade-body also identified lack of skills in assessing investment in green technology, inability to internalise environmental externalities, trade-off between risks and return, operational risk and high initial investment, lack of awareness, and shared ownership among stakeholders as the major challenges in mainstreaming green growth. Terming access to finance one of the major barriers, the speakers in the meeting said large factories are investing in setting up green units, as they have little or no problems with funds.

But the small and medium ones are facing hurdles, as they need guarantee to get loans from financial institutions, like – banks. They suggested that the government or donor agencies should come forward as guarantors in this regard. Other recommendations included capacity development of factories, community development for factory workers, matching fund for sustainability initiatives, and incentivising sustainable production process ■

ZDHC welcomes new contributors to replace hazardous chemicals

Another two companies have signed up to the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero initiative to replace hazardous chemicals with safer ones in textiles and clothing production. Solution provider Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre and textile manufacturer PT Kewalram Indonesia are the new ZDHC contributors. UK fitness brand Gymshark is also supporting the programme by becoming an official friend of ZDHC.

A ZDHC Roadmap to Zero statement said: "The new contributors are quite diverse, each one comes from a different part of the industry and a different part of the world." This diversity highlights the success of our efforts to deepen ZDHC's impact throughout the global industry. We are delighted to have them on board and look forward to working together in the coming years. "A very warm welcome is also extended to our newest Friend of ZDHC.

We are delighted that UK-based brand, Gymshark has joined our community. By doing so, Gymshark can support the transformation of its chemical management programmes."

Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre is an advanced textile institute which analyses hazardous chemicals in Japan. Its Oeko-Tex laboratory has, for 20 years, been certifying Standard 100 of Oeko-Tex. It has also been Eco Passport certified for four years. PT Kewalram Indonesia is one of the largest integrated textile manufacturers in Indonesia, having spinning, embroidery and dye house under one umbrella ■



PFAS chemicals have devastating impact on textile workers



Research from Norwegian NGO Future in Our Hands claims that exposure to high levels of PFAS chemicals is having a devastating impact on the health of factory workers in China who produce textiles for western markets. PFAS, which are often used to make outerwear water resistant, build up in the human body over time and have been linked to various cancers, reduced birth weights and damaged immune systems. The Future in Our Hands report says that communities working in and living near manufacturing sites across Asia face serious health risks as a result of exposure to PFAS.

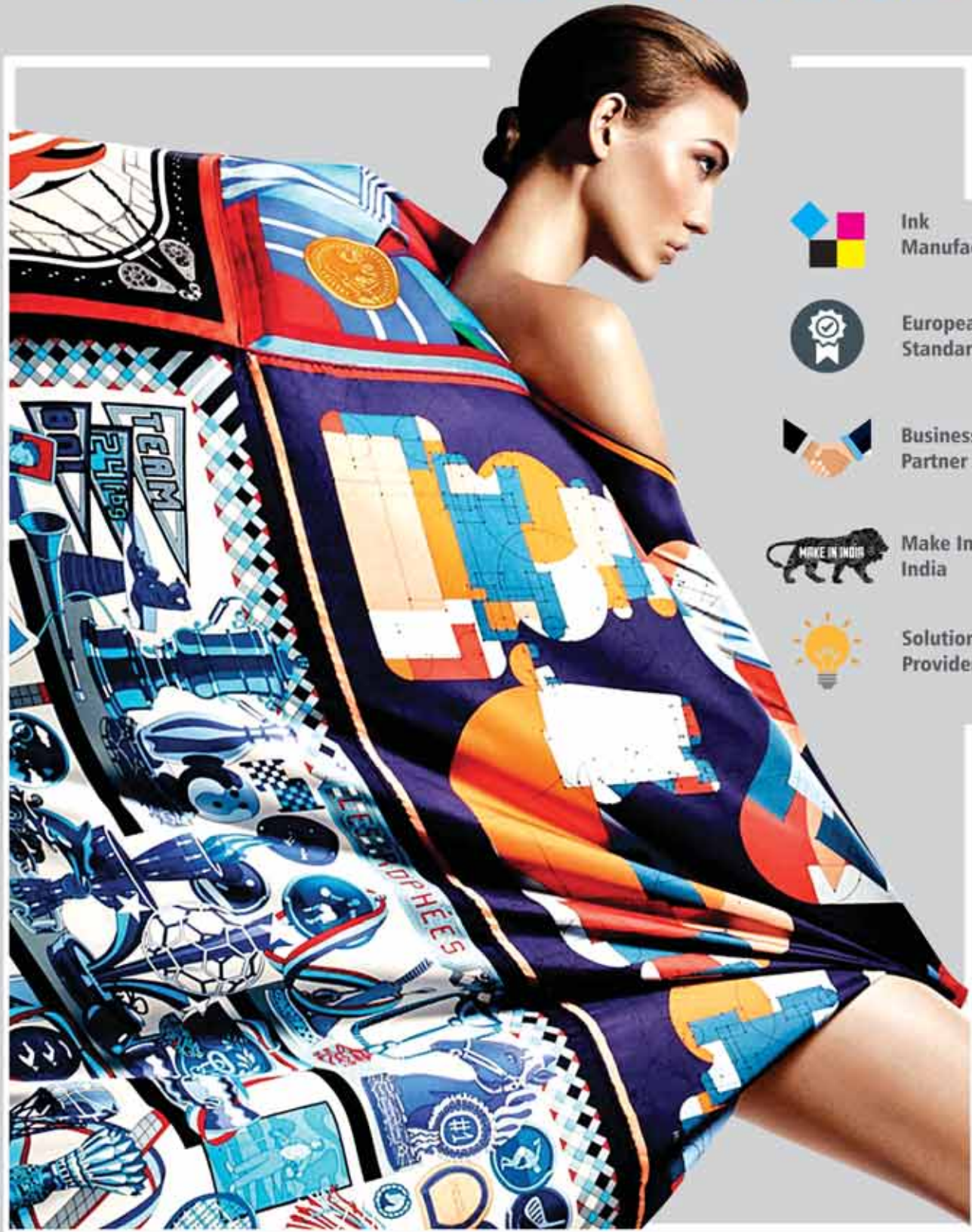
It says the "world's highest levels" of PFOA, which is set to be banned in the EU by July 2020, were found in groundwater at a Chinese factory which supplies PFAS substances for textile production. Agricultural products and drinking water in the area surrounding the factory were also investigated, and levels of PFOA which pose an unacceptable health risk - especially for children - were found. Anja Bakken Riise, from Future in Our Hands, said retailers and brands should take "responsibility for workers in the factories where they produce their goods". She added: "While they are benefiting from countries in the South with inadequate environmental regulations and low salaries, factory workers and local communities are left paying the cost of health and environmental pollution. "We think the entire group of environmentally toxic PFAS should be banned from consumer products in the EU. Rather than regulating these substances one by one, so that manufacturers merely substitute one harmful substance with a similar substance that we have even less knowledge about, the whole group of similar substances should be banned."

An updated risk assessment of two PFAS chemicals - PFOS and PFOA - setting new temporary and markedly lower tolerances was published in November 2018 by The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). PFOS and PFOA have been linked to lower birth weight in children, vaccine resistance, and decreased liver function, increased risk of infections, impaired immune system and increased cholesterol levels. They may also testicular and kidney cancer, experts say. In Europe, some 100,000 sites are thought to create PFAS pollution but many are not registered, meaning European authorities are unaware of who is using what, where and how toxic it is. In June last year, environment ministers asked the European Commission to phase out all non-essential uses of PFAS. The Netherlands is currently drafting a comprehensive restriction.

But the release into the environment of PFAS - which may or may not be detectable in the final product - outside of the EU's borders remains a huge challenge. There are very few studies focusing on the health of factory workers who produce textiles for Western markets and who are exposed to chemicals in the production process. The same applies for those who live near factories. Fashion brand H&M this week backed a campaign by the ChemSec NGO to end the use of PFAS chemicals in apparel and supply chains, and replace them with safer alternatives ■

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Coronavirus outbreak pressurizes Chinese textiles and Polyester industries



The Chinese economy and the country's polyester and textile industries could be under pressure due to the new corona virus outbreak, according to Wood Mackenzie, a UK-based research and consultancy group dealing with energy, chemicals, renewables, metals and mining. Polyester demand may weaken as business activities stall, the consultancy said recently.

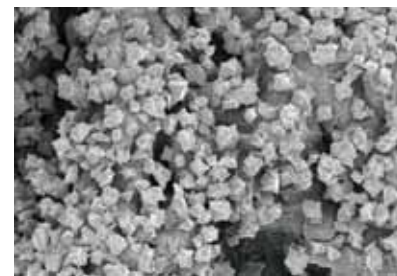
Central China, where Hubei is at the core, is in a virtual standstill and all transport links have been cut amid the lockdown. Passing through the Yangtze River—stretching from one end of China to the other—has become impossible and land transport is limited, Wood Mackenzie principal consultant Salmon Lee said in a statement. If the virus spreads further, more cities and provinces in China could see a similar lockdown and that would be a logistical catastrophe and disruption to the polyester and textile industries would be disastrous, he cautioned.

"Hubei, and much of central China, is an important manufacturing base for the textile industry - with many textile, print and dyeing businesses clustered there. A prolonged transport paralysis will mean no fibres or fabrics produced in the major production bases in coastal provinces of China will be sent inland - whether by road, rail or along the Yangtze. Similarly, the delivery of apparels and other finished textile products to other parts of China, as well as exports, could also stall," his statement said. Many workers of polyester producers, spinners, weavers and garment manufacturers, who had returned to their hometowns earlier in January ahead of the Lunar New Year holidays, may not return to work, he said. A repeat of the dip in polyester production in 2003, amid the SARS outbreak, could be seen this year, he said.

A spike in demand for medical supplies is not going to help the polyester chain. Even if the daily demand for protective gear rockets to the hundreds of millions, it is still not going to change the gloomy picture ahead. The amount of polyester fibres in one mask has been estimated to be no more than 1-2 grams, situated mainly in the elastic band. This is miniscule when talking about a demand spike and will not help to mitigate the economic impact on the polyester chain, Lee said. A silver lining, however is that this time, the post-corona virus markets in the polyester chain may see a quick and strong recovery by the middle of the year, he concluded ■

Zirconium-based coating neutralises chemical agents

A research team at Northwestern University in the US has developed a method of coating textiles with zirconium-based metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) that are able to capture and neutralise potentially harmful chemical agents faster than existing technologies. The composite material has therefore been tipped for a host of applications, namely for integration within the PPE donned by military professionals.



MOFs are periodic nanoporous crystalline frameworks made from metal ions or clusters coordinated to organic ligands. The porosity of these structures enables a high degree of absorption and adsorption, making them ideal for this concept of capturing chemical agents. Research, led by Omar Farha, has established that the MOFs are able to continuously degrade chemicals when absorbed through the catalysis reaction.

Although the chemical degradation reaction requires water, the researchers say the nanopores in the MOFs can supply the needed water by absorbing it from ambient humidity. This makes it easier to deploy filters and other anti-nerve agent equipment based on this material, the researcher explains.

During testing it was a chemical formula based on zirconium (Zr) that proved to show the greatest efficacy. The team, after first applying the textile coating and allowing it to dry overnight, exposed the material to the nerve agent DMNP to assess how it reacted. Results are said to have shown that the composite material is effective in degrading the potency of the chemical, in turn reducing the potential threat it would pose to human health.

The coating's durability is also said to have stood up during testing. It's reported that the coating securely adheres to the cotton even when immersed in water and agitated. The composite's catalytic activity also remains high after being exposed to ambient air for 100 days. In a final series of tests, the team found the material retains its catalytic activity when exposed to atmospheric carbon dioxide and sweat – lending itself to apparel applications ■

Nanotech textile to beat coronavirus claims Israeli firm

Israeli anti-bacterial fabric firm Sonovia Ltd has claimed to have developed a technology to create virus-resistant textiles and masks to help fight coronavirus. The start-up uses nanotechnology to infuse textiles with anti-



fungal and anti-bacterial chemicals. This technology has been sent to labs in China for testing, according to a report. The nanotechnology process, developed at Israel's Bar-Ilan University, is reportedly effective in sealing the penetration of bacteria and fungus. An ultrasonic-assisted impregnation process infuses metal oxide nanoparticles onto textiles. These particles are a specialised chemical compound that converts the textiles into a highly powerful barrier against fungi, bacteria and viruses.

In a report, Sonovia's Co-Founder Shay Herscovich said several fabrics have been sent to a medical lab in Chengdu, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing had officially received it. However, it will take some days to colonise the coronavirus on the fabric and analyse if the technology effectively works. The technology can be used on masks, gowns, hospital bedding, protective clothing and other apparel to protect against infection. The nanotechnology-enhanced textile is reportedly so powerful that it can maintain its anti-pathogen activity at up to 100 washes when washed at 75° Celsius and 65 washes when washed at 92° Celsius ■

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“Move to Zero” introduced by Nike

Sportswear giant Nike has developed a capsule collection of garments which integrate sustainable cotton and recycled polyester, can be manufactured using less chemicals and that boasts pattern efficiency of more than 90 per cent, mitigating waste material. The collection has been introduced as part of Nike’s Move to Zero journey, through which the brand is striving towards a zero carbon and zero waste future. Nike publish its Impact Report for the fiscal year 2019, which highlighted the firm’s progress in mitigating resource consumption, increasing its use of ‘sustainable’ materials and supporting those in its supply chain.

Nike’s new capsule collection represents Nike’s commitment to circular design principles, as it creates an array of garment types leveraging more sustainable materials and manufacturing processes. The credentials of each item are different in that Nike has looked to reinvent each respective garment type based on its features. The brand’s windrunner jacket, for example, not only is 100 percent recyclable but it integrates drawcords and zippers made from Nike Grind – a palette of materials such as rubbers and foams that are recaptured from footwear manufacturing operations. According to Nike’s Impact Report, 99.9 per cent of its footwear manufacturing waste is now either recycled or converted into energy.

The company has also made a conscious effort to be more pattern efficient – exemplified with the launch of its Atsuma footwear – and carries progress to this end through to the designs in its capsule. It’s said that all items in the collection meet a 90 per cent or better pattern efficiency, meaning they’re produced in a fashion that makes the greatest use of the lowest possible quantities of material. The brand says it prevents two mn kilograms of textile waste going to landfill each year due to the installation of more than 1,000 cutting machines across sites in its supply chain. With regards to the materials, a Nike full-zip hoodie, crew, t-shirt, joggers, shorts and dress are all produced with a blend that comprises at least 60 per cent organic cotton and recycled polyester. “The organic cotton in the Move to Zero collection uses less water and fewer chemicals, improves farming practices and provides quality that is the same or better compared to conventionally grown cotton,” the company notes ■



Salalah project by ShriVallabh Pittie Group to set up in Oman

After setting up a textile enterprise in Oman’s Sohar Freezone, India’s ShriVallabh Pittie Group is preparing to invest in a fabrics manufacturing complex in the Salalah Free Zone in the Southern Region. The project will involve upstream elements, encompassing large-scale cotton cultivation, garment manufacturing and other value-add opportunities. In the Sohar Freezone, the company’s yarn manufacturing complex has been in operation for over a year, according to company Chairman Vinod Pittie. The Salalah project will focus on the manufacture of home furnishings like bed sheets, curtains, drapes, towels, pillow covers. Initial investment is planned at around \$200 mn, but this will increase as the company develops the Salalah complex into a fully-integrated yarn manufacturing and textile hub over the long term, Pittie was quoted as saying by a report. As most of the company’s output from Salalah is destined for the US market, it makes good business sense to set up operations there, he said.

SV Pittie Sohar Textiles FZC, representing Phase 1 of the Group’s investments in Sohar Freezone, already features two yarn manufacturing units in operation with a further two units under construction. Total investment in the Sohar project, which will include a fifth unit as well, is projected at \$450 mn.

The Salalah fabrics manufacturing complex is expected to be operational within 18 months, Pittie said. While yarn for the new project will initially be sourced from Sohar Freezone, investments in dedicated yarn manufacturing capacity are also envisioned in Salalah to support the establishment of an independent, integrated set-up close to the transshipment port, he added ■

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■ Beluga denim world's first to receive platinum cradle to cradle certification

An off-white denim, created by a partnership of retailer C&A, Pakistani textile mill Rajby Textiles and circular economy consultants Eco Intelligent Growth (EIG), has become the world's first to receive platinum Cradle to Cradle certification. Beluga denim is made with 100 per cent Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)-certified organic cotton fibre, is fully recyclable and is produced using a specially-designed closed-loop water system. It also claims to be 100 per cent carbon neutral in the final manufacturing stage - although this is achieved through offsetting, rather than emissions reductions, which is not officially recognised by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Jeffrey Hogue, C&A's chief sustainability officer, said: "C&A is proud to be the first fashion brand to achieve the highest certification level within the Cradle to Cradle certified products programme, but as with our other circular innovations, we aim to share our knowledge open source to create a pathway towards circularity for the industry."

Dr Christina Raab, vice president of strategy and development with the Cradle to Cradle Products



Innovation Institute, said: "The supply chain partnership between C&A and Rajby is a groundbreaking demonstration of how the Cradle to Cradle certified product standard can be used to power innovations that ultimately have the potential to transform the fashion industry."

To achieve the highest level Cradle to Cradle certification, Rajby, chemicals and dyes supplier Archroma, and C&A worked together to research and identify the most suitable materials and chemicals for the ecru fabric which was unveiled at the C2C

Congress 2020 in Berlin. The denim had to be made entirely of safe and rapidly renewable ingredients, both fibres and chemicals, which meant that no oil-based dyes, auxiliaries or other chemicals could be used.

Rajby and C&A also worked closely together to ensure that Beluga would be actively cycled into new product after its usable lifetime, instead of becoming waste. The fabric had to be rigorously tested to ensure it met the highest-level requirements for all five Cradle to Cradle categories: material health, material reutilisation, renewable energy and carbon management, water stewardship and social fairness.

C&A is expected to launch the first garments made with Beluga denim in about four months. It will be interesting to see whether the company can manage to meet the same standards in other components, such as trims, buttons and thread, used in the resulting garments. The retailer previously became the first worldwide to launch Cradle to Cradle certified gold t-shirts in 2017, and in 2018 it launched the first Cradle to Cradle certified gold jeans ■

■ Lyons and Gerber update Lyons Quality Audit Tracking System with YuniquePLM



Leading information technology firm, Lyons, along with Gerber, has announced the report of a major update to LQATS (Lyons Quality Audit Tracking System), with the YuniquePLM REST API integration, to support apparel manufacturers. Speed is the new normal in fashion, as apparel manufacturers try to stay ahead of trends and meet consumer expectations.

YuniquePLM Cloud is a key tool for product development teams. LQATS latest integrations to the YuniquePLM and the new UI are a combined element of continually responding to customer input to create an optimal user experience with LQATS for garment

PDM specifications, according to a report by Lyons.

A deep understanding of the apparel manufacturers and development process drives Lyons's customer focused innovation process. For LQATS and other Lyons software applications, this approach includes an open philosophy leveraging APIs for integration with key applications in their customers' end-to-end processes. With technology making substantial inroads in our day-to-day business activities, virtually every organisation now uses multiple software applications and integration between these multiple applications is essential ■

■ Lee Jeans to launch fully biodegradable denim jeans

Denim brand Lee Jeans is set to launch a range of fully biodegradable jeans which can be put in the compost bin when the user no longer wants to keep them. Lee's 'Back to Nature' collection is made of compostable linen-cotton yarns, with no rivets. When they are no longer needed, the buttons can be unscrewed to be reused and the rest thrown into the compost, where it will biodegrade and return to the Earth. The collection comprises the brand's Rider jacket and jeans, with a version of each for men and women. The fabric mix is 85 per cent cotton and 15 per cent flax (linen).

Unlike much modern denim it includes no plastic (polyester) which has often been added to denim in recent years to enhance performance, stretch and thermoregulation, in response to consumer demand for comfort and mobility. "The most critical emerging environmental problem that our industry is going to face is pollution due to the increased amount of synthetics in denim products and the creation therefore of microplastics," said Roian Atwood, Director of sustainability for Lee Jeans and Wrangler. To make the new garments biodegradable, all rivets, historically

made of brass or metal, were removed and the leather patch on the waistband was replaced with Jacron, a leather-look paper material made from cellulose, also used by Swedish brand Nudie Jeans. Lee Jeans says its biodegradable jeans will be the first to hit shops when they are launched.

The launch forms part of Lee Jeans' wider sustainability initiative, called 'For a World That Works', which was recently launched at the Copenhagen International Fashion Fair (CIFF). As well as 'Back to Nature', it focuses on sustainable production and finishing processes, like using naturally derived dyes, dyes created from agricultural waste, lasering to distress jeans, rather than environmentally damaging chemicals, and a foam dyeing process. "As one of the most iconic denim brands in the world, the Lee brand understands its responsibility to help lead our industry toward a better future," said Chris Waldeck, Lee's EVP and Global Brand President. "Our new sustainability platform is the roadmap that will guide our actions and help drive meaningful progress toward more positive environmental and social impacts" ■



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BIG Innovation Award 2020 given to Dow's coloring tech



Dow's new colouring technology, Ecofast Pure Sustainable Textile Treatment, has got the 2020 BIG Innovation Awards, presented by the Business Intelligence Group. The technology enables unique, brighter colours on cotton textiles while helping address sustainability challenges. The annual awards recognise the organisations, products and people for new ideas.

Ecofast Pure Sustainable Textile Treatment is a breakthrough technology that enables unique, brighter colours on cotton textiles while helping address sustainability challenges in the industry, including water quality and water consumption. This patented technology decreases the process chemicals needed to dye cotton fabric by up to 90 percent, which can help reduce the likelihood of pollution in wastewater streams. Ecofast Pure also reduces the use of water, dye, and energy in the dyeing process and meets the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Roadmap to Zero Programme standards.

"We innovate to create products and services that surpass customer expectations on performance and that are simultaneously sustainable. These innovations deliver solutions across the entire value chain and bring value to our shareholders," said A N Sreeram, Senior Vice President, Research and Development, and Chief Technology Officer for Dow. "We appreciate the Business Intelligence Group recognising the creativity of our talented Dow teams responsible for these innovations – innovations offering better performance with clear sustainability benefits."

Another technology from Dow, DowSil TC-3015 Reworkable Thermal Gel, has also got the award. It is the world's first thermal conductive silicone gel designed for smartphone re-workability. It enables more sustainable assembly and recycling of consumer and communications electronics while addressing the critical thermal management needs of these devices. Re-workability allows for easy device disassembly to limit discarding of flawed units during manufacturing, to facilitate device repair and to enable better end-of-life separation of components for recycling.

"Innovation has become a major theme for organisations across virtually all industries and this year's winners are a testament to the creativity, passion and perseverance of individuals worldwide," said Maria Jimenez, Chief Operating Officer of the Business Intelligence Group. "We are thrilled to be honouring Dow as they are leading by example and making real progress on improving the daily lives of so many." Organisations from across the globe submitted their recent innovations for consideration in the Big Innovation Awards. Nominations were then judged by a select group of business leaders and executives who volunteer their time and expertise to score submissions ■

Isbjörn to add natural fibers to making garments even more environmentally-friendly

As part of its Green at Heart sustainable mission, Isbjörn of Sweden will add natural bamboo fibres to its popular Husky Base Layer range for Autumn/Winter 2020. "Isbjörn is a strong believer in 'slow fashion' and combating the effects over-production of clothing has on the environment. Committed to making garments even more environmentally-friendly every season, natural bamboo fibres will be added to the inside of its Husky Base Layer range, which is also made with mulesing-free Merino wool as an outer material," the company said in a report.

"The natural blend of materials, including 49 percent Merino and 46 percent Bamboo, used in the Husky range offer the perfect balance of sustainable durability, function and softness. The Merino wool keeps children warm in cold weather and the natural bamboo fibre effectively wicks moisture from the skin for effective vapour transmission. The range is natural anti-odour and anti-bacterial. Isbjörn is certainly the master of moisture management."



The Husky range comprises a Husky Jumpsuit Base Layer for babies, Husky Sweater Base Layer and Husky Long John Base Layer for kids and teens. All quick-drying garments can be washed on a 40° cycle with no effect on performance and without pilling, the company reports. "The Husky range is designed for comfort, not only from the materials used, but also the cut for a perfect fit. Husky Long Johns have a soft elastic in the waistline and extended height at the back for comfort perfection," Isbjörn adds. The Husky range is OEKO-TEX Standard 100 approved. A globally uniform testing and certification system for textile raw materials, the standard oversees intermediate and end products at all stages of production with the aim of completely eliminating harmful substances.

Green at Heart right from the start, Isbjörn of Sweden was founded in 2005 by Maria Frykman Forsberg and Camilla Schmidt, after they became mothers for the first time and discovered a gap in the market for high quality and comfortable outdoor garments for children. The brand believes that all children are 'Multisporters by Nature' and should be allowed to enjoy outdoor activities in all weather conditions, while remaining warm, dry and comfortable. Isbjörn of Sweden garments use recycled, sustainable materials and the company continuously strives to be as environmentally friendly as possible, while still producing long lasting, tough and premium quality garments which emulate adult styles and materials. The brand is symbolised by the Polar Bear – 'the toughest animal on the planet' ■

Gildan once again part of the SAM Sustainability Yearbook

Gildan Activewear has been included in the 2020 SAM Sustainability Yearbook for the eighth-consecutive year. This year, Gildan received a Bronze Class distinction signifying that Gildan achieved a mark between 5 percent to 10 percent of the top scores in the Textiles, Apparel and Luxury Goods industry. Gildan is the only North American company to be included amongst the 2020 Sustainability Leaders in this sector.



"We are proud to be part of the SAM Sustainability Yearbook once again and be recognized for our dedication to operating ethically and our emphasis on sustainability across all levels of our operations," said Claudia Sandoval, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship at Gildan. The Yearbook, one of the world's most comprehensive publications on corporate sustainability, showcases the sustainability performance of the world's largest companies

in each industry as determined by their score in the annual SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA). S&P Global, which acquired the ESG Ratings business from RobecoSAM in 2019, assessed over 4,700 companies across 61 industries this year with the goal of identifying those that exemplify leading corporate sustainability practices and a focus on long-term growth drivers.

"We congratulate Gildan on its Bronze Award in The Sustainability Yearbook 2020, which showcases the best performing companies among industry peers and in terms of financially material ESG metrics. As the Corporate Sustainability Assessment constantly raises the bar, so the Yearbook remains a highly credible source of corporate sustainability insights. This year it is launched under the S&P Global brand, and with increased public access to the SAM ESG Scores of all companies," said Manjit Jus, Global Head of ESG Research and Data at S&P Global ■

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Tencel Luxe opens new market for Lenzing with help of second pilot production plant



Lenzing completed second pilot production plant for its filament yarn Tencel Luxe. Construction of the facility involving investments of 30 mn euro could be concluded after 20 months. The new production line, put into operation in middle of December 2019, will give Lenzing sufficient capacity for commercial programmes and further application development.

Thanks to Tencel Luxe, Lenzing is able to embed the issue of sustainability in the premium luxury market in combination with superior aesthetics. The properties of the fine filament yarn can be compared to those of silk due to its airy feeling on the skin and

the matte finish. At the same time, Tencel Luxe also stands out because of its extensive strength and high level of environmental compatibility. It is perfectly suited for very fine fabrics and as a blending partner for silk, cashmere and wool. For example, the yarn is used for making blouses and shirts, dresses, scarves, ties and the inner lining of suits.

“Tencel Luxe opens up new markets for Lenzing and thus contributes to the successful implementation of our sCore TEN corporate strategy. At the same time, we are setting new standards in the luxury segment of the fashion industry with respect to sustainability,” said Stefan Doboczky, Chief Executive Officer of the Lenzing Group. “Many luxury brands have already realised what opportunities they would have by using this yarn made of the renewable raw material wood. The second pilot plant enables us to further press ahead with opening up new areas of application in collaboration with our customers.”

The new pilot production line will build upon the knowledge gained from operating the predecessor

facility and leverage completely new and innovative automation models. The pilot plant developed by Lenzing and the know-how acquired during the construction phase will comprise the basis for the company’s further expansion in the field of sustainable filament yarns. This will also comprise the starting point for the planned construction of a large commercial production plant at the Lenzing site.

The Lenzing Group stands for ecologically responsible production of specialty fibres made from the renewable raw material wood. As an innovation leader, Lenzing is a partner of global textile and nonwoven manufacturers and drives many new technological developments.

The Lenzing Group’s high-quality fibres form the basis for a variety of textile applications ranging from elegant ladies clothing to versatile denims and high-performance sports clothing. Due to their consistent high quality, their biodegradability and compostability Lenzing fibres are also highly suitable for hygiene products and agricultural applications ■

Polartec unveils Polartec Power Air fabric technology

Polartec, a provider of innovative and sustainable textile solutions, has announced the latest advancement of award-winning Polartec Power Air fabric technology. The knit construction that encapsulates air to retain warmth and reduce fibre shedding is now made to be 100 percent recyclable and circular, and also 25 percent lighter than the initial product.

Polartec Power Air, launched last year with brands like Houdini, Adidas, Burton, and Nobull, is an innovative platform offering advanced thermal efficiency by encapsulating lofted fibres within a multilayer, continuous yarn fabric construction. Insulation that effectively regulates core body temperature has traditionally been achieved via lofted or high-pile knit structures that hold warm air. As the first fabric construction to encase air with a continuous yarn, initial versions of Polartec Power Air are proven to shed at least five times less than other premium ‘mid-layer’ weight fabrics. The foundational technology platform will eventually provide shedding reduction to all existing apparel categories (including insulation,



lightweight next to skin, and extreme weather protection), according to Polartec.

“Polartec Power Air is a step forward in reducing the environmental impact of what we make and wear. It’s a whole new experience with its distinctive aesthetics and drag-free, lively performance. We continue to tap into the potential of this new fabric construction, and we’re now able to make it fully recyclable and circular, while simultaneously making it lighter weight,” Steve Layton, President of Polartec said.

The culmination of a multi-year development consisting of thousands of work hours and countless iteration, Power Air is a product of Polartec Eco-Engineering. Polartec invented the process of knitting technical fleece from post-consumer plastic bottles in 1993, upcycling over one and a half billion bottles to date, and continues to lead the industry in offering durable fabric technologies made of recycled and recyclable content. Polartec introduced its 100 percent recycled. Polartec Power Fill insulation in 2018, which eliminates the need for wasteful and non-recycled carrying agents used in other insulation options. Now fully recyclable and circular Power Air is the latest product of the Polartec Eco-Engineering mission to create fabrics that further reduce environmental impact. Crafted from recycled polyester and elastereil-polyester, 100 percent recyclable Polartec Power Air fabric will become available to consumers in Fall 2020, when Swedish sportswear brand Houdini releases its Houdini Mono Air Half-Zip and Houdi products ■

Messe Frankfurt’s upcoming textile exhibition postponed

The upcoming textile fairs organised by Messe Frankfurt in China, which were due to take place in March, have been postponed until later in the year because of the coronavirus outbreak. The events - Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics Spring Edition, Yarn Expo Spring and Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles – were due to be held from 11–13 March at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre. All three fairs are held concurrently with the PH Value and CHIC textile fairs, which will also be postponed. Messe Frankfurt said they would be rescheduled for later in the year but so far no date has been announced.

“Messe Frankfurt has been an active player in the China market for over 30 years now, so we stand fully behind the government’s efforts to control the outbreak,” said Wendy Wen, Senior General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd.

“This includes the recent suspension of large-scale trade and economic events in a number of cities, so with this and the wellbeing of all our stakeholders in mind, we have made the decision to reschedule our upcoming textile fairs in Shanghai to a later date.” Our teams are making every effort to find suitable alternatives, but we will only make the decision to go ahead with these fairs when it is deemed safe to do so” ■



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Maharashtra State Cabinet to loan ₹1800-cr to its Cotton federation

The Maharashtra State Cabinet recently agreed to guarantee a ₹1,800-cr loan required by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation (MSCCGMF). The guarantee will be for the loan the federation will take from Bank of India at an annual interest rate of 7.75 percent for ensuring timely payments to farmers on purchase of cotton in the 2019-20 seasons. Between 60,000 quintals and 80,000 quintals of cotton is being purchased daily on an average in the state, a leading producer of the commodity, an official statement said. At this rate, the federation is expected to purchase 30 lakh to 35 lakh quintals of cotton from farmers in the current season and for this a sum of ₹1,800 is required, a reported citing the statement ■

Tamil Nadu to diversify into the polyester segment to boost exports



Indian Textiles Secretary Ravi Capoor recently urged the textile industry in Tamil Nadu to diversify into the polyester segment to boost exports. He was addressing a meeting with the office bearers of 48 textile associations of South India organised by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) in Coimbatore. He also advised the Tiruppur knitwear cluster to brand its products in a sustainable manner to fetch more margins globally. Appreciating the sustainable initiatives taken at Tiruppur and Coimbatore by implementing zero liquid discharge to protect the environment—predominantly using non-conventional energy to avoid carbon food print—and compliance of various labour and social statutes, Capoor assured all necessary government support to promote the brands from the Tiruppur cluster.

The government would address all structural issues in its new National Textile Policy that might be announced in a couple of months by making the basic raw materials available at global prices, encouraging scale of operation by developing 10 mega textile parks closer to ports, giving plug and play facilities, including the necessary safeguard measures in the labour laws, a CITI quoted him as saying ■

Indian Government may 'restrict' clothing imports from Bangladesh

Indian Government is exploring avenue to contain the imports of textile and clothing from Bangladesh. The persistent rise in exports of Bangladeshi ready-made garment (RMG) products to India provoked the Indian textile lobbies to push the government restrain the flow.



The latest Indian budget, placed in the parliament recently, decided to review the provisions of 'rules of origin' under the Customs Act to 'check misuse of FTA route and strengthening provisions relating to safeguard duty,' according to a report. It "may check rising flow of textile (readymade garments) imports from Bangladesh," the report observed. It said that India offers Bangladesh duty-free, quota-free market access under SAARC Free Trade Area (FTA) or SAFTA in 2011.

"Textiles played a crucial role in pushing Bangladeshi exports to India from \$672 mn in 2016-17 to \$1.04 bn during April-November period of 2018-19," said the report. "During April-November this fiscal, total import from Bangladesh stood at \$781 mn (annualised \$1.17 bn)," it added. Bangladesh is the world's second-largest exporter of RMG and its "exports to India got a significant boost following the implementation of GST – which subsumed 12 per cent countervailing duty (CVD) – in July 2017." "Countries like Sri Lanka, Vietnam also enjoyed the benefits of the introduction of GST. But, Bangladesh made the most of it," according to a report.

"What particularly drew the attention of the Indian textile industry was the absence of the minimum value addition criteria in SAFTA," the report pointed out. "Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) was apprehensive that the loophole might be used for diversion of Chinese man-made fibre-based garments through Bangladesh," it continued. As amending of SAFTA is not possible now, the report, quoting Sanjay Jain, Managing Director of TT Ltd, said that India might consider 'imposing safeguard duty' as per budget provisions ■

Surat increase polyester fabric makers production

The coronavirus outbreak in China has in a way proved beneficial for India's largest man-made fabric (MMF) sector in Surat, where power loom weavers are targeting to ramp up polyester fabric production, which is likely to increase by about 20 percent as the import of cheap fabric from China has stopped, according to industry insiders in the city. The weavers are also expecting a reduction in cheaper import of fabrics from Vietnam and Bangladesh after the government announced stringent checks on such imports under free trade agreements (FTA) and the revision of 'rules of origin' to protect the domestic industry, according to a report.



The orders for fabric in Surat have increased and this is expected to raise production from 3 cr mtr per day to more than 3.5 cr mtr, said Federation of Indian Art Silk Weaving Industry (FIASWI) Chairman Bharat Gandhi. China was dumping cheap silk, viscose, polyester and nylon fabrics worth ₹200 cr per month, he added.

Surat's MMF sector consumes about one lakh metric tonnes of yarn per month. The industry has an installed capacity of 7.5 lakh power loom machines, which includes highly sophisticated water jet, rapier and air jet looms. The import of fabric from China, Vietnam and Bangladesh into India increased from 207 mn metric tonnes in 2015-2016 to 1,300 MMT in 2018-19, which severely affected the local industry. The Chinese fabrics are cheaper by ₹46 per square metre compared to the fabric manufactured in Surat and other places, said Dinesh Zaveri, Secretary of the Surat Art Silk Cloth Manufacturers Association (SASCMA) ■

West Bengal signed a MoU with the IIFT to boost MSME exports

The West Bengal state micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) under which the latter will provide expert training in ten identified sectors with sound export potential. The department plans to impart the IIFT expert training to 100 entrepreneurs in a year. That will be followed by six-month handholding support, according to a report. The sectors identified include jute, foundry, zari and leather. The MoU was signed at the Digha Business Conclave held in December last year.



District-wise training is being provided to entrepreneurs in association with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) for value addition to products according to changing market demand. Twenty five entrepreneurs will be selected out of them in batches for a three-day residential training programme to be conducted by IIFT. The first batch of 25 has already undergone the training, according to the department.

The department is in talks with the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), which will offer training twice a month to those associated with manufacturing handicraft items, terracotta, etc. It is also discussing with the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur for technical intervention to boost export potential of various products.

The state believes that products like Purulia mask, Sitalpati of Cooch Behar, the mats of Sabang and the different handicrafts of Junglemahal will have a much greater export potential, with some technological intervention and better packaging ■

FIEO seeks intervention to resolve exports benefits deadlock

Highlighting the acute liquidity problem faced by Apparel and Made ups exporters, particularly those in MSME, Sharad Kumar Saraf, President, FIEO said that the RoSCTL scheme was not implemented in entire 2019 and MEIS also stopped from 1/8/2019 for apparel and made-ups sectors. This is a fatal blow to the apparels and made-ups industry, which is one of the largest employment generation industries particularly supporting the women workers. Huge funds of exporters are now blocked under this scheme for no fault of theirs.

President FIEO said that no funds have been disbursed since the announcement of RoSCTL scheme from 7/3/2019 and MEIS from 1/8/2019. This amount itself is nearly ₹6000 cr. Most of the apparel exporters are from MSME sector and some of them are already in the process of closure and default. Exporters of these products were surprised to see the gazette notification from MoT dated 14/1/2020 announcing one time additional ad-hoc incentive of 1 percent to offset difference between RoSL & MEIS and RoSCTL from 7/3/2019 to 31/12/2019. This is completely contradictory to what was already announced by the Government and factored by the industry to maintain their competitiveness in view of fierce competition. Many of them have paid statutory taxes also on RoSTL and MEIS benefits said President, FIEO.

We are now informed that apparel exporters will not get 2 percent MEIS even though the announced earlier. It is very unfortunate that the commitments are being ignored. To make the matter worst, Saraf said, DGFT is now demanding the refund of MEIS paid between 7/3/2019 and 31/7/2019. This is not only unfair but also legally untenable because the policy once announced cannot be changed retrospectively.

President FIEO added that the apparel industry has been subjected to tremendous hardship. In all fairness the government must honour the commitment made to the exporters. We are already fast losing our business to other countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Bangladesh etc. The industry would have grown atleast by 15 percent due to China – US trade war and now due to deadly virus in China observed FIEO Chief. He requested Textile Minister to intervene to address the plight of exporters ■

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Coronavirus's mixed impact on Indian textile sector



China's coronavirus outbreak would affect Indian exporters and importers of readymade garments, cotton yarn, fibres and fabric, with both pros and cons. As the outbreak has done away with the Chinese option for garment importers, mainly in the West, Indian exporters can now target these markets. However, growing yarn exports to China would be badly affected. With several businesses said to be affected in China due to the coronavirus, the Indian textile and apparel sector should seize the opportunity in global trade, T Rajkumar, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, said recently in Coimbatore.

If China doesn't produce for 30 days, he said, its main clients in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea and the European Union could possibly turn to India for buying finished goods, clothing and fabrics, according to a report. With India's textile exports falling in the past couple of years, this surge would help the industry become buoyant, he added. Chinese buyers generally begin their annual sourcing from Indian exporters in January every year and that has not happened this year. The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) feels India's exports of cotton, viscose, polyester yarn and fibre to China will be hit. According to the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), India exports 90 mn kg of yarn a month and China alone imports 30 per cent from India every month.

European buyers, who normally begin negotiating with the garment exporters of India, Bangladesh and Indonesia for their annual requirements in January at Hong Kong, have cancelled their visit due to the outbreak there as well, said the Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA). The exporters have been asked to trade through video conferencing, and many exporters in India find it difficult to bargain for a better price of their products through that mode, a TEA spokesperson said.

Indian readymade garment exporters also import over ₹1,000 cr worth accessories like buttons, metal buttons, zips, hangers and needles from China as these are nearly 40 per cent cheaper. Though these exporters don't see any immediate impact, but if the outbreak continues for some time, they need to look at an alternate sourcing of these accessories, which in turn may increase the finished goods cost by 3-5 per cent, according to TEA.

With China further extending its Lunar Year holidays for a week or 10 days, the trade negotiations between China traders and Indian exporters is expected to be further delayed, SIMA feels. According to the Cotton Association of India, there is no panic now as far as cotton exports to China are concerned ■

CAI retained cotton projections at 354.5 lakh bales for 2019-20

The Cotton Association of India (CAI), in its January estimate, has retained its cotton crop projection for 2019-20 season beginning October 1, 2019, at 354.50 lakh bales of 170 kg each, i.e. at the same level as in the previous estimate. However, opening stock at the beginning of the current season has been revised from 23.50 lakh bales to 32 lakh bales.

The total cotton supply estimated by the CAI during the months of October 2019 to January 2020 is 234.89 lakh bales, which consists of the arrivals of 192.89 lakh bales up to January 31 (equivalent to 205 lakh running bales of 160 kg each), imports of 10.00 lakh bales up to January 31, and the opening stock of 32 lakh bales at the beginning of the season.

Further, the CAI has estimated cotton consumption during the months of October 2019 to January 2020 at 106 lakh bales (equivalent to 113 lakh running bales), while the export shipment of cotton estimated by the CAI up to January 31 is 20 lakh bales. Stock at the end of January 2020 is estimated by the CAI at 108.89 lakh bales (equivalent to 115.70 lakh running bales) including 38 lakh bales (equivalent to 40 lakh running bales) with textile mills and remaining 70.89 lakh bales with CCI and others (MNCs, traders, ginners, etc). Kapas has not been considered in the stock figures, CAI said in a report.

The yearly Balance Sheet projected by the CAI estimated total cotton supply till end of the cotton season i.e. up to September 30, 2020 at 411.50



lakh bales. Total cotton supply consists of the Opening Stock of 32 lakh bales at the beginning of the season, crop for the season estimated at 354.50 lakh bales and imports estimated by the CAI at 25.00 lakh bales, which are lower by 7.00 lakh bales compared to the previous year's estimate at 32.00 lakh bales.

Domestic consumption estimated by the CAI for the entire crop year i.e. up to September 30, 2020 is 331 lakh bales i.e. at the same level as estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board at their meeting held on November 28, 2019. The CAI has estimated exports for the season at 42 lakh bales i.e. at the same level as estimated in the previous year. The carryover stock estimated at the end of the season is 38.50 lakh bales i.e. higher by 8.50 lakh bales compared to that estimated earlier ■

Removal of duty on PTA an important step for the textile industry



The removal of anti-dumping duty on purified terephthalic acid (PTA), announced in Union Budget 2020-21, is the most important for the textile industry, according to The Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India (CMAI). PTA is a crucial input for polyester production and the decision will benefit sarees, dress materials, and technical textiles.

"The removal of anti-dumping duty on PTA was a long-standing demand of textile manufacturing value chain. This will potentially open up the man-made fibre (MMF) value chain, and give a fillip to the entire MMF industry and enhance its global competitiveness," former CMAI President Rahul Mehta said. In addition to sarees and

dress materials, home furnishing, sportswear industry, and other segments where polyester is used will greatly benefit from this move.

"Kudos to the Textiles Ministry and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this very bold step," Mehta said. "Other than this, there are several other measures which could benefit the textile industry, but they appear to be work in progress at this point of time – such as the National Technical Textiles Mission, a review of the Rules of Origin especially in our FTAs, a review of cheap imports of goods being made by the MSME sector, refund of all the taxes and levies for exports, and the targeting of making every district an export hub."

The proposed financing of Invoices of the MSME sector could again be a huge benefit to the textile and apparel industry, which is largely comprised of MSME units, according to Mehta. "If indeed all these plans fructify as per the stated goals and objectives, this could be a landmark budget for the industry. By and large, a round of applause to Textiles Minister Smriti Irani" ■

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Indian designers to use nature-based dyes with sustainable fashion

The use of natural dyes is gaining momentum in India with designers shifting to sustainable fashion. Root, stem, flowers, and leaves, bark of various plants, minerals and vegetables are all sources of natural dyes, which are considered safe for the environment. Beetroot for purple, turmeric for mustard, and marigold for golden hue are good examples. "We use nature-based dyes in our products. We source our primary colours like white from limestone, black from iron oxide, yellow from turmeric, blue from indigo, and green from spinach," Neha Kabra, Founder of contemporary womenswear label Maati by Neha Kabra, told.

Aranya Natural, a Munnar-based company surrounded by greenery and forests all around, also uses all the resplendent natural elements for its dyeing process. The company creates dyes from natural resources like eucalyptus, nilgiri kozha (also called eupatorium, is a kind of plant found in Munnar), tea waste, and pinecones harvested from the forest.

The use of natural dyes helps in preventing pollution, and the water after usage can be used in gardening. "Natural dyes are also essential for workers' well-being. The Caring Cotton has been working with natural dyes that use bio mordant alum and iron. The dyeing process is done using Jigger machines, so the quality is homogeneous," said Rubina Ansari, Founder and director of The Caring Cotton, which specialises in sourcing sustainable fabrics with special focus on organic cotton and natural dyes.



Talking about the methodology involved in adoption of natural dyes, Mansi Gupta, CEO & Founder, Tjori said, "Following the technique of natural dyes is one of the few preliminary steps we have adopted into our designs and apparel production. Once our special dyeing units receive fabric, dyeing or block printing is done according to the requirements. These fabrics need to be curated with a certain solution so that they don't shed their colours and stay as vibrant as always." Kabra agrees, "Though natural dyes are better option for fabrics and apparel, these dyes bleed. In our label we use a plant gum as fixer and hence these natural colours

do not bleed and are safe for the environment." Fashion connoisseurs are slowly adopting organic clothing too, according to Tjori's Gupta. "The eco-conscious generation has become a huge consumer base. The slow process of making the dye is the only factor that creates a time gap in fulfilling the demands of the people, barring which the technique is actually very environment-friendly." "The buyers are very happy as they get to wear an Indian art technique made by authentic craftsmen. Natural dyes are slightly towards the paler side of the colour palette and more and more people are opting for them," added Gupta.

However, cost factor is still a hindrance in making natural dyes. Kabra feels that the cost is slightly high, but far outweighs the advantages it accrues to the environment. The price difference is not substantial, and natural dyes fall in the category of affordable dyes. Ansari argues that the cost is on the higher side because of the manual process involved in making natural dyes. She rues that very few people/artisans are working in this sector. "If natural dyes can be organised in an industrial manner, the cost factor can be resolved and if natural dyers get potential orders all around the year there would be a huge cut down in costs." With the increasing usage of natural dyes by designers, it is time the Indian textile and fabric industry gives a momentum to natural dyeing techniques and adaptation ■

Nanollose signed a collaboration agreement with Grasm Industries



Nanollose (NC6) has signed a collaboration agreement with global fibre maker, Grasm Industries. The agreement is to develop and commercialise Nanollose's tree-free fibres, including nullarbor and nufolium. Grasm belongs to an Indian company, Aditya Birla Group, worth \$48.3 bn (AUD\$71.8 bn), which is one of the world's largest man-made cellulosic fibre producers. Aditya is a leading global producer of man-made cellulosic fibres for textiles, apparel and non-woven applications. Nanollose uses an eco-friendly fermentation process to grow fibres that could become a sustainable alternative to the common plant-derived cellulose fibres. It uses streams from various large-scale industries like sugar, wine and food, to create plant-free cellulose. Cellulose is the hidden polymer building block most consumers know nothing about but forms a huge part of items used in their everyday life such as clothing, paper and hygiene products.

The collaboration will provide Nanollose with a world-class and globally recognised industrial partner, who will help accelerate development and commercialisation.

Grasm will also help the company with a manufacturing foundation for future textile and clothing brands that uptake its tree-free fibres. Currently, Grasm creates its fibres from managed forest trees and its new sustainable processes and technology to safeguard the environment.

Under the agreement, Nanollose and Grasm will work together exclusively to further refine and develop the process to allow fibre production on Grasm's pilot spinning line at the tonne scale. The combination of Nanollose's Tree-Free cellulose fibre technology and Grasm's sustainability initiatives, has the potential to make this union one of the most eco-friendly and sustainable fibre offerings on the market. Nanollose Managing Director Alfie Germano is thrilled to have Grasm as an industrial partner.

"This collaboration will allow Nanollose to scale with a globally recognised fibre maker and create a number of commercially ready sustainable fibre products that will meet the growing demand from brands seeking eco-friendly alternatives," Alfie said. "Grasm will also bring a high level of credibility when Nanollose begins offering textile and clothing brands with our breakthrough products," he added. Both companies aim to work together to optimise the entire end-to-end process for optimum commercial uptake of Nanollose's Tree-Free fibres. "We feel this is a natural joining of forces that creates an alliance that will pioneer a new bio-material supply chain along with ticking many large sustainability boxes and increasing market demands," Alfie told the market. On market close, Nanollose is up 7.25 percent and trading at 7.4¢ a piece ■

India released ₹6,700 cr released under ATUFS between 2015-16 & 2019-20



India has released ₹6,717.18 cr under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) between fiscals 2015-16 and 2019-20, Textiles Minister Smriti Irani informed parliament upper house recently. "A total of 9,641 applications, covering employment of 2.86 lakh persons and investment of ₹40,026.5 cr submitted by textile units, have been issued till January 2020," she said. ATUFS, implemented with effect from January 13, 2016, has a provision to meet the committed liabilities of its previous scheme versions in addition to the new sanctions. Irani said the Indian textile sector faces competition from Bangladesh and Vietnam, which enjoy duty free access to key markets like the European Union, while India's exports face a duty disadvantage, according to a report. Besides, Bangladesh and Vietnam have the benefit of economies of scale in textile manufacturing and a large and productive labour force, she added ■

Dr. A Sakthivel thanks Govt. on steps for promoting investment and innovation in textile sector

On behalf of apparel industry I would like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles & Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry for announcing a positive, progressive, growth oriented and forward looking budget and also for fulfilling a long standing demand of industry of abolishing the Anti-dumping duty on PTA. This will give the much needed boost to the entire textile & apparel value chain.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council congratulates the Finance Minister on effectively addressing some of the key issues of the sector especially in the areas of Ease of Doing Business. A dedicated Investment Clearance Cell proposed to be set up will provide "end to end" facilitation and support, 9000 Km of economic corridors, quality standard orders as per PM's vision of "Zero Defect-Zero Effect" manufacturing, National Logistics Policy with single window e-logistics market with focus on generation of employment, National Logistics policy for making MSMEs competitive, ₹1.7 lakh cr for transport infrastructure in 2020-21, simplified return with features like SMS based filing for nil return and improved input tax credit flow, enhancing digital connectivity, support for working capital, financing for MSMEs, 5 year exemption from audit for MSMEs & easing of tax filing for startups are some import steps towards easing the day to day functioning of MSMEs as also providing a conducive ground for investors.



The new NIRVIK scheme for higher export credit disbursements with greater coverage, reduced premium and simplified procedures for claiming settlements is a welcome step given the increased uncertainties in the global market. We look forward to further details of the scheme.

For the Textile & apparel sector the National Technical Textiles Mission to be set up with four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1480 cr can position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles (Development of rainwear, sportswear, retarded Apparel, fire resistance garment). The proposed strengthening of the Indian standards & ₹3000 cr for skill development in 2020- 21 are complimentary steps in overall encouragement toward higher value & innovative products which can significantly contribute toward value added growth in exports.

The council is studying the proposed Scheme for Revision of duties and taxes on exported products in which Exporters to be digitally refunded duties and taxes levied at the Central, State and local levels, which are otherwise not exempted or refunded. This is an important area where there has been significant shrinkage in policy support in last few months. The council is keenly looking forward to an effective substitution of MEIS scheme that has been withdrawn for the sector. The apparel sector presently has the ROSCTL scheme for refund of embedded taxes. However, the same is not adequate to provide a level playing field with other countries with preferential market access and to mitigate the still prevalent relatively high transaction cost.

Taxpayer Charter to be enshrined in the Statute will bring fairness and efficiency in tax administration which is laudable. The DDT removal will make India a more attractive investment destination. The personal Income tax benefits will boost purchase power and boost consumption. Demand growth will increase GST tax collection. We would also to thank Hon'ble Finance Minister for the proposed review of the Rules of Origin criteria for FTA countries as we can see huge surge in import of garment from Bangladesh. However, a complimentary step in this direction would be expediting the FTAs with EU, Australia, Canada & initiating FTA with UK ■

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7 workers die in denim factory fire in Ahmedabad

This time, a blaze burned through the two-story Nandan Denim factory in Ahmedabad, India recently. The death toll at the factory operated by the Chiripal Group, which counts a host of global brands among its clients, has so far reached seven workers, according to a report. A lack of fire safety in the building is largely to blame for the incident. Zara, Target, VF Corp., Ralph Lauren and Primark are among the brands and retailers Nandan Denim—which claims to be India’s largest and the world’s fourth largest integrated denim fabric maker—listed as clients in its annual report for 2018-19. Since the report broke, however, Zara has confirmed it does not have a relationship with the factory. “Nandan Denim Ltd. has never produced any items for Zara,” a company spokesperson told.

Target issued a similar denial, telling, “We are deeply saddened by the tragic news of this fire and our thoughts are with those affected at this time. Target does not have a relationship with this supplier. We understand that we are listed on their website and in their annual report and we are taking appropriate steps to have Target removed.”

A spokesperson for Ralph Lauren said, “The incident in the Nandan Denim factory in India was a horrible tragedy, and our thoughts are with the victims’ families. While we had no production in this factory, we take very seriously our responsibility to ensure a safe, healthy and respectful environment for the



people who make our products, and these requirements extend to all of our business partners.”

Though the cause of the fire has not yet been reported, The report said the blaze began in the shirting department of the factory where more than 60 workers were present without ventilation and unable to escape quickly enough through the single door for entry and exit.

“More than 55 fire tenders reached the spot and it took us around 22 hours to douse the fire. The factory premises were filled with denim, other fabrics and machinery, all of which caught fire,” Ahmedabad Chief Fire Officer Rajesh Bhatt told. “The victims were present on the first floor of the factory.”

The deceased workers, whose bodies were uncovered over the course of the weekend, ranged in age from 22 to 47, according to report. Nandan Denim has

promised to pay 1 mn Indian rupees (\$14,000) to the surviving families of the workers, and provide a job to one family member of each of the deceased.

An early survey of the factory revealed that the facility wasn’t adequately equipped with exit doors, and had “no fire safety measures in place,” The reported local police as saying. As such, the factory’s Managing Director, CEO, fire safety officer and others, have been taken into custody on charges of culpable homicide and negligence. In its annual report, however, Nandan Denim calls out “creating a better world” as one of the company’s key objectives, and lists a water treatment plant, Oeko Tex 100 certification, GOTS 5.0 certification and BCI certification, among its assets and accolades.

The Director of Industrial Safety and Health, a branch of India’s labor and employment department, has issued a closure notice to the factory as a result of the fire. “We will review the safety aspects before allowing resumption of manufacturing operations,” Labour and Employment Department Chief Secretary Vipul Mittra, told.

This is the second deadly factory fire in India in the last two months. In December, a fire broke out at a Delhi handbag factory, killing as many as 43 workers. According to reports, the factory was operating illegally and without fire safety clearance, and as many as 100 workers had been sleeping in the facility when the blaze broke out ■

Indian Govt. clarifies on sourcing of goods from SEZs

Goods procured from units in special economic zones (SEZs) by single-brand retailers owned by foreign firms would qualify for meeting the mandatory 30 percent local sourcing conditions, according to a clarification by the Indian government. However, goods proposed to be sourced by a single-brand retailer from SEZ units would have to be manufactured in India.



As per the current foreign direct investment (FDI) policy on single-brand retail trading, cent per cent overseas investments are allowed in the sector. But sourcing of 30 per cent of the value of goods procured is mandatory from India for such companies having FDI beyond 51 percent. The government had received representations from various business entities seeking clarification whether sourcing of goods from units located in SEZs would qualify as

sourcing from India, as per FDI policy. “As regards, sourcing of goods from units located in SEZs in India, it may be clarified that sourcing of goods from such units would qualify as sourcing from India for the purpose of 30 per cent mandatory sourcing from India for proposals involving FDI beyond 51 percent, subject to SEZ Act, 2005,” according to the clarification.

It added that compliance with all the conditions enumerated in the FDI policy and as notified under the Foreign Exchange Management Act would continue to be the responsibility of manufacturing entity. SEZs, developed as export hubs, are treated as a foreign territory in terms of customs laws. Procurement of goods and services from units in these zones are treated as imports.

In February 2006, the government opened the sector for foreign players for the first time by allowing 51 percent FDI. In January 2012, the cap was raised to 100 percent—up to 49 percent through automatic route and beyond that with the government approval. In January 2018, the government allowed 100 percent FDI in the sector, permitting foreign players in single-brand retail trade to set up their own shops in India without government approval. FDI into India grew by 15 percent to \$26 bon (about ₹1,85,000 cr) during April-September 2019-20 ■

MSME loans to get restructured by 15th March



Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has reportedly said out of 5.53 lakh MSME accounts, 5.28 lakh loans have been restructured. Further, the restructuring of the remaining of the MSME accounts will be done by March 15. In fact, the Reserve Bank of India had earlier extended the loan restructuring timeline for MSME accounts from earlier March 31, 2020, to December 31, 2020, without downgrading the asset classification to standard accounts. In the budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had quoted that over 5 lakh MSMEs have benefited from the restructuring of debt permitted by the RBI in the last year. The minister further stated that the one-time restructuring exercise is likely to give relief to MSMEs as it would help them improve their balance sheets in order to raise more capital given the challenges small businesses face in securing affordable credit. The finance minister also proposed a subordinate debt scheme for MSMEs wherein the debt will be provided by banks. This debt would be counted as quasi-equity and would be fully guaranteed through the 27 Credit Guarantee Trust for Medium and Small Entrepreneurs ■

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A

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Side Seaming

D

HFO08
-02064P/FB0/C



Belt-loop Forming

B

FO07K
-W722-388/FY

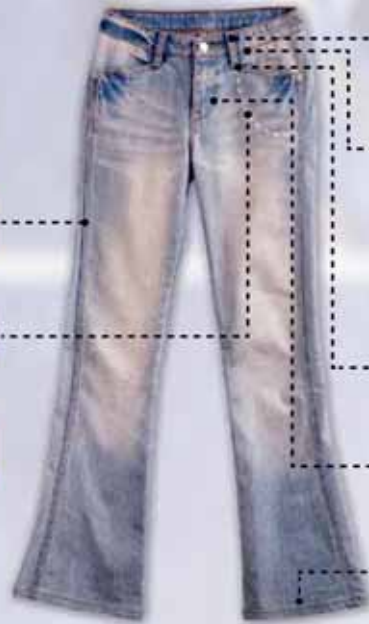


Pocket Top Stitch

A

B

C



D

E

F

G

H

I

E

HFO08
-0664P-254P/HPR



Waist band Attaching

C

DL7200
-BX2-16



Lockstitch (Big Hook)

F

LKS-1900AN
-HS



Bartacking

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GTE Bengaluru 2020 – South India’s largest garment machinery show announced

Apparel industry plays a pivotal role in Indian economy through its significant contribution to country’s industrial output, employment generation and exports earnings. Though domestic apparel exports are expected to remain in the positive zone during rest of the year, there are multiple threats looming which could slow down the pace and make it challenging for the industry.

GTE (Garment Technology Expo) is India’s largest and most comprehensive International exhibition on apparel and knitting technology. It is one of the most trusted brands as far as Exhibitions related to Garment technology are concerned. The biggest Industry show in South Asia, it aims to offer a complete sourcing platform to apparel manufacturers. This exhibition focuses on a wide range of garment machinery, accessories and support services from India and different parts of the world. GTE provides a unique world class B2B platform to its participants

30th edition of Garment Technology Expo (GTE Delhi 2020) was held recently at NSIC Okhla, New Delhi.



Prominent manufacturers and suppliers of garment machineries and accessories from various countries participated in the show. Not only the edition had better and improvised infrastructure but also had many direct participations with large independent booths from foreign companies. The response received from decision makers from leading companies, visitors and participants was very positive and motivating. GTE Bengaluru and Ahmedabad are held once in every two years where as GTE Delhi show is held once in every year.

31st edition for Bengaluru GTE 2020, 07-09 August, and next edition of Delhi GTE 2021, 15th– 18th January, has been already launched. The basic format for the editions remains the same. Both the editions have received very encouraging response from their new and old participants. In spite of sluggish market conditions and suspension of work in more than half of Chinese provinces, 80 percent of space is already sold out for both Bengaluru 2020 show. The response received from the industry is tremendous. Bookings for GTE 2021 New Delhi are also very encouraging. The participants are vying for best locations.

Garment Technology Expo (GTE) is the most sought-after show where every aspect of garment making is show cased. Therefore, it’s the best launch pad for introducing new technologies, services and processes. Also, for forging new ties and business alliances where buyers and sellers interact directly. It is the best place to position and promote your brand ■

Analysts expect RBI to cut rates on growth concerns and coronavirus scare

Despite the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the October–December quarter of the financial year 2019-20 coming in line with expectations at 4.7 per cent, most analysts expect the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut key rates to prop-up growth.

While the data does not talk of the impact of coronavirus and has retained the economic projection in FY20 at 5 per cent in the second advance estimates, analysts expect an impact on India due to raw material shortages likely to disrupt supplies for key industries. The significantly weaker global growth is likely to be a headwind from February for at least three months.

Analysts at Nomura, for instance, expect growth to slow again in the January-March 2020 quarter to 4.5 per cent. While high-frequency indicators have shown some signs of bottoming out on aggregate in January, weakness persists across many sectors, suggesting no material improvement, analysts believe.

“We continue to expect a 25 bps rate repo cut in Q2 with a chance that this could be delivered as early as

April. While the RBI has gone down the unconventional route to enable faster transmission, we remain skeptical that more liquidity will lead to higher credit growth. As such, we expect the RBI to follow up with more LTROs in the coming quarters, possibly opting for a more targeted programme in the future,” wrote Sonal Varma, Managing Director, and Chief India Economist at Nomura in a co-authored report with Aurodeep Nandi.

ICRA, too, supports this argument and expects the RBI to slash rates going ahead. Albeit, they expect the central bank to do so once the inflation is under check. “The continued slowdown in economic growth in Q3 FY20 suggests that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) may well undertake another rate cut, but only when the CPI inflation retraces considerably towards the 4 percent mark,” said Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist at ICRA.

“With fiscal policy facing limited space, monetary policy will continue to heavy lift. As inflation eases and heads to the 4 per cent midpoint of the target,

markets will price in cuts in the second half of 2020. Whether this cooling off in inflation opens the door for rate cuts will also hinge on growth prospects,” suggests Radhika Rao, Senior Vice-President, economist (Group Research) at DBS Bank.

Meanwhile, the core sector data growth of 2.2 percent in the right core sectors of the economy in January 2020 does not lend much confidence. During the April-January period, core industries growth in fact slowed down to 0.6 percent against 4.4 percent in the year-ago period.

“The continued contraction in the manufacturing sector is a cause for concern. With the government spending likely to be constrained in the fourth quarter due to constraints on fiscal space and in the absence of strong green shoots, we expect not much improvement in the fourth quarter of 2019-20. Hopefully, this subdued performance will push some policy action from the government to accelerate growth in the economy in the coming fiscal, though the recovery is not likely to be strong,” said Dr. M Govinda Rao, Chief Economic Advisor at Brickwork Ratings ■



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Man-made textiles get huge respite after ADD withdrawal on PTA

The withdrawal of anti-dumping duty (ADD) on purified terephthalic acid (PTA) would further improve the affordability of man-made textiles, giving it an advantage over cotton, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), which believes the PTA spread of ₹7-8 per kg (import landed price over domestic) will reduce over the near term, with landed PTA being cheaper by ₹4-6 per kg. This would lead to the prices of finished products falling by ₹3-5 per kg, which would give a boost to demand. In addition, the removal of the duty would lead to higher imports, thereby reducing supplier concentration and improving the bargaining power of downstream producers, Ind-Ra said in a report.

Consequently, there would be an improvement in the profitability and credit metrics of sector companies. However, the abolition of ADD would adversely impact the profitability of PTA players. There are only four suppliers of PTA in India: Reliance Industries Limited, MCPI Private Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and JBF Industries Limited.

India had imposed ADD of \$85-160 per tonne in 2014, and had extended the same in 2016. However, despite ADD being in place, the country witnessed imports of 0.5 mn tonnes annually during FY16-FY19 to support domestic consumption, with the landed cost being 10-15 percent higher than domestic prices, from countries like Thailand, South Korea, China and Taiwan. During February 2020, PTA prices fell by 10 per cent on account of a fall in crude prices, resulting from a decline



in demand for the same. Prices are likely to fall further in fiscal 2020-21.

PTA, along with mono ethylene glycol (MEG), accounts for 70-80 percent of the total raw material cost involved in for the manufacturing of chips and granules in the man-made fibre (MMF) sector. In fiscal 2018-19, India had a PTA production capacity of around 7 mn tonnes, of which RIL accounted for 5 mn tonnes (including 0.6 mn tonnes in Malaysia). Players in the industry typically operate at 75-80 percent capacity. RIL has captive consumption of around 60 percent of its total PTA production for downstream products of polyester-oriented yarn (POY) and polyester staple fibre (PSF). The balance is sold in the market. Between fiscals 2010-11 and 2018-19, domestic PTA sales were fairly stable at around 3.4 mn tonnes, with no major capacity expansion.

The agency believes that the removal of ADD will exert pressure on the realisations of domestic PTA

manufacturers and lead to increased imports from countries like China. However, the coronavirus outbreak in China would remain a key factor, as that same has led to uncertainties regarding supply in the short term. China has a PTA production capacity of 45 mn tonnes, of which 35 mn tonnes is consumed locally, and the remaining is exported.

While there would be a one-time inventory loss with downward correction in inventory, the removal of the duty would lead to the easing of working capital requirements for MMF players. The benefits would cascade to the entire MMF value chain, including technical textiles, home textiles, dress materials, sarees and other sportswear industry. The agency expects recycled PSF (RPSF) manufacturers to witness margin pressures in the near term, as virgin PSF manufacturers are likely to partially pass on the decrease in input costs post the removed of ADD on PTA. However, RPSF producers have decent bargaining power with their suppliers, and might be able to negotiate reduced prices for PET waste with a lag of about two-to-three months.

While the removal of the ADD is credit positive for the man-made textiles sub-sector, the overall textile sector, which has witnessed a slowdown in demand over the past two years, might continue to record weak demand growth owing to negative consumer sentiments. Considering the threat of cheap imports, dwindling export incentives, and subdued exports demand, Ind-Ra has revised the textile sector's outlook for 2020-21 to negative from stable ■

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Indian Textiles Ministry to back small-scale firms



The Indian Textiles Ministry will contact small-scale manufacturers meeting export requirements and delivery schedules to support them with finance, legislation, certification and quality control to make them lead in their respective sphere, Textiles Minister Smriti Irani told a symposium on emerging opportunities for Indian textiles and crafts in New Delhi.

Irani said there is a need to diversify India's established opportunities instead of leaving the space for one export promotion council (EPC) or one segment. She stressed on augmenting domestic capabilities, according to an official report. She urged the industry to meet the requirements of Jal Jivan Mission and farmers, apart from focusing on exports. Textiles Secretary Ravi Capoor called on the industry to add up to its capacity and occupy the space vacated by China. China has vacated \$20 bn worth apparel space in the last three years and most of this has been in the man-made fibre sector, he added ■

CCI launches Indian cotton brand Hira



The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) launched Indian cotton brand Hira in Mumbai. CCI Chairman Ali Rani said she has worked hard to change Indian quality parameters under CCI procurement and currently it is the best quality at par with global standards. The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) hailed the launch of the cotton brand. CCI, established in 1974, started its MSP operation in 1985 and is helping cotton farmers and the cotton textile industry. The industry has been pleading the Ministry of Textiles to standardise and brand Indian cotton, SIMA said. Cotton Association of India president Atul Ganatra said government agencies like CCI and the Maharashtra Federation are likely to procure more than 100 lakh bales under minimum support price (MSP) operations this season, according to a report.

SIMA Chairman Ashwin Chandran said CCI started enforcing the fair average quality norms from cotton season 2018-19 and was successful in its venture. Chandran has also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch the Technology Mission on Cotton in a revised format to increase productivity, which is only around 460 to 500 kgs per hectare now as against 1,500 to 2,200 kgs per hectare in over 20 countries ■

4.7 percent growth in India's GDP on Q3 marginal improvement over

India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 4.7 percent in the October-December (third) quarter of fiscal 2019-20, a marginal improvement over the six-year-low of 4.5 percent in its previous quarter, according to data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Projections for economic growth in this fiscal have been retained at 5 percent in the second advance estimates. The rate of the country's economic growth was 6.6 per cent in the same quarter a year earlier. India's GDP growth in 2018-19 was 6.8 per cent.



The GDP growth rate for the first quarter of 2019-20 was revised to 5.6 percent, and for the second quarter to 5.1 percent. During the first nine months of this fiscal (April-December 2019), the Indian economy grew by 5.1 percent against 6.3 percent in the same period of 2018-19, according to a report.

The country's fiscal deficit in the first 10 months of fiscal 2019-20 was ₹9.85 trillion, 128.5 percent of the government's revised full-year target of ₹7.66 trillion, another set of data released showed. The low rate of expansion in the economy seen in the December quarter was mostly an extension of the weak manufacturing, falling exports and weak consumer demand and private investment witnessed in the previous quarter against the backdrop of a global slowdown. Gross value added growth during the third quarter stood at 4.5 percent, against 4.3 percent in July-September quarter this year and 6.3 percent in the December quarter of 2018-19 ■

Phenomenal response for Screentex India 2020

Only months after announcing the dates for Screentex India 2020 show – the first international tradeshow to bring together screen, digital, textile, sublimation, and industrial printing industry, the organisers Screen Printers Association of India (SPAI) and SJ Exposition Pvt Ltd. are happy to inform an encouraging response from the leading brands of the printing industry. The three-day show, which will be held from 1 till 3 August 2020 at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi) will witness over 100 exhibitors showcasing a range of machines, solutions and consumables such as Grafica Flextronica, Fujifilm Sericol, Photokina Chemicals, Unitech, JN Arora, Huber Group, Zibo Group, AND Global Sales Corporation, Indian Dye Sales, Omkar Engineering, Ratan Industrial Engineering, Omega Marketing, Beautyflex Textile Printing Inks and SEIKO Advance.

India is a thriving print economy and is also a high growth market for various neighbouring countries including Bangladesh. Despite global economic slowdown, the printing industry has shown remarkable resilience and it continues to grow at a healthy rate. India has witnessed several shows for the printing industry; however, there has not been any show that covers the whole segment of screen, textile, digital and industrial printing.

Highlight of the event will be The SPAI FESPA Awards powered and presented by leading UV ink manufacturer, Colors to be held concurrent with the show. It is anticipated to be a large gathering of the stakeholders under one roof from different parts of the country with good networking opportunities.



Besides, the show has also received warm response from international associations such as FESPA, Printing Industry Association of Bangladesh, and national associations such as IPAMA, TEKPA, MPLA and OPA.

Commenting on the show, Jignesh Lapasiya, Secretary, SPAI said, "When we committed to the industry that we will bring a show that will cater to screen, digital, textile, sublimation and industrial printing segments, we weren't expecting the industry to shower us with such humbling response. We are happy that months before the event, we have the leading players coming on board as sponsors showing their faith in this focused & comprehensive event. This encourages us to provide Screentex India 2020 as a platform for the industry to up skill, learn and grow together. We are committed to our cause of making print prosper."

ScreenTex magazine is the official media partner of the show and Design4Web is the social media marketing partner. Other leading industry publications to extend support include Sign & Graphics, Apparel Views, and Printing Technology ■



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Textile Industry hail Union Budget 2020



Textile industry plays a significant role in the economy contributing to over 13% of the industrial output, over 2% to the GDP of India. The industry employed more than 4.5 cr citizens

and contributed 15% to the export earnings of India in FY 19. In addition to this, the support from the government has aided the industries effort to grow and contribute further. Government has been taking measures like reshuffling of GST rates, allowing refund accumulated taxes in case of textiles etc. With the bold reforms taken by government in the recent past including tax reforms, Skill India mission, RoSCTL Scheme for textile sector to defray / rebate the embedded taxes, etc. has helped the industry.

In this budget, Government has provided stimulus to the economy in form of liquidity and consumption related interventions in the backdrop of visibly slowing global economic growth, including India. It is very encouraging to note that the budget clearly laid out the government's roadmap to position the economy for future sustainable growth. It is a well-balanced budget addressing many challenges and opportunities across sectors to give fillip to economic revival. All in all, through this budget, the government is trying to simplify the existing complicated processes like GST, Income tax filing and bring in efficiency and growth.

In next few pages, we are covering reactions from the industry...



KV Srinivasan, Chairman
The Cotton Textiles Export
Promotion Council

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) has welcomed the Union Budget 2020-21 terming it to be positive, growth-oriented and in the right direction. It has hailed the Scheme for Remission of Duties & Taxes on Exported products, abolition of anti-dumping duty on PTA, review of rules of origin, and various initiatives for MSME sector. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the budget in Parliament recently.

"The budget has stated that the Scheme for Remission of Duties & Taxes on Exported products will be launched this year, which will refund the duties and taxes levied at the Central, State and local levels, such as electricity duties and VAT on fuel used for transportation, which are currently

not getting exempted or refunded under any other existing mechanism. The implementation of this scheme will certainly go a long way in improving the competitiveness of the textiles products in the export markets," said KV Srinivasan.

On abolition of anti-dumping duty on PTA, he said, "This is an important decision as PTA is a critical input for the textile fibres and yarns and removal of the duty will make its availability to the industry at competitive prices and give a boost to downstream value added product." The proposed National Technical Textiles Mission with a four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1,480 cr will give the much needed

encouragement to the technical textiles sector and provide the much needed breakthrough in product development, according to Srinivasan.

He also welcomed the various initiatives in the budget for the MSME sector such as increasing the threshold for audit of books of account from ₹1 cr to ₹5 cr. "Provision to enable NBFCs to extend invoice financing to the MSMEs etc will also lead to ease of doing business for these units." On imports, he said the decision to review the Rules of Origin under all FTAs, strengthening the safeguard measures to deal with surge in imports, and the review of all customs duty exemptions will protect the domestic manufacturers, which in turn will encourage "Make in India" initiative.



Rahul Mehta, President
The Clothing Manufacturers'
Association of India

The removal of anti-dumping duty on purified terephthalic acid (PTA), announced in Union Budget 2020-21 recently, is the most important for the textile industry, according to The Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India (CMAI). PTA is a crucial input for polyester production and the decision will benefit sarees, dress materials, and technical textiles.

"The removal of anti-dumping duty on PTA was a long-standing demand of textile manufacturing value chain. This will potentially open up the man-made fibre (MMF) value chain, and give a fillip to the entire MMF industry and enhance its global

competitiveness," Rahul Mehta said. In addition to sarees and dress materials, home furnishing, sportswear industry, and other segments where polyester is used will greatly benefit from this move.

"Kudos to the Textiles Ministry and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this very bold step," Mehta said. "Other than this, there are several other measures which could benefit the textile industry, but they appear to be work in progress at this point of time – such as the National Technical Textiles Mission, a review of the Rules of Origin especially in our FTAs,

a review of cheap imports of goods being made by the MSME sector, refund of all the taxes and levies for exports, and the targeting of making every district an export hub."

The proposed financing of Invoices of the MSME sector could again be a huge benefit to the textile and apparel industry, which is largely comprised of MSME units, according to Mehta. "If indeed all these plans fructify as per the stated goals and objectives, this could be a landmark budget for the industry. By and large, a round of applause to Textiles Minister Smriti Irani."



Ashwin Chandran, Chairman
The Southern India Mills
Association

The Southern India Mills Association has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for favourably considering the long pending demand of the industry and abolishing the anti-dumping duty being levied on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) imported from different

countries including China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Iran, Malaysia, in Union Budget 2020-21.

PTA attracts anti-dumping duty from \$27 to \$160 per metric tonne depending upon the country of origin and India often faces shortage of PTA that curtails capacity utilisation of the polyester segment industry. "The announcement has come as a boost for PTA users and the entire man-made fibre textiles and clothing segment. This would greatly help the country to enhance its global competitiveness, boost exports and also enable domestic manufacturers to compete with cheaper imports," he said. He also welcomed the proposal of curbing cheaper imports by imposing Rule of Origin and other safeguard measures on the FTA countries.

Welcoming the announcement of National Technical Textiles Mission

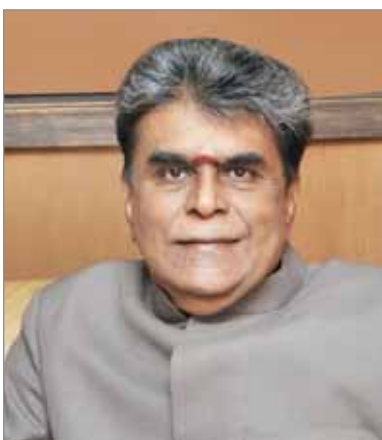
by allocating ₹1,480 cr for the next four years, he said that as the country has been importing technical textiles to the tune of \$16 bn per year, the Mission would help the industry to strengthen the technical textile segment by taking advantage of benefits already extended under different state textile policies and also the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS). He also appreciated the enhanced allocation of ₹761.90 cr for ATUFS as against ₹700 cr allotted during the previous year.

Chandran also hailed the announcement of the Schemes for Remission of Duties & Taxes levied on export products, NIRVIK for extending competitive credit facilities and higher insurance coverage with lesser premium, and simplified procedure for claim settlements. He also welcomed the

announcement of addressing inverted duty structure in the GST as textile industry has been suffering with huge accumulation of inverted duty of capital goods and certain services.

The various announcements made including the abolition of dividend distribution tax paid by the companies, significant reduction in the personal income tax rate, Vivad Se Vishwas scheme enabling dispute settlement without any interest and penalty, and simplification of appeal provisions, GST returns, income tax returns, etc are also welcome features of the budget, said Chandran.

While appreciating the various benefits and schemes announced for the farmers to double the income by 2022, Chandran appealed to the government to announce a special scheme for cotton development.



Dr. A Sakthivel, Chairman
Apparel Export Promotion Council

On behalf of apparel industry I would like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles & Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry for announcing a positive, progressive, growth oriented and forward looking budget and also for fulfilling a long standing demand of industry of abolishing the Anti-dumping duty on PTA. This will give the much needed boost to the entire textile & apparel value chain.

AEPC congratulates the Finance Minister on effectively addressing

some of the key issues of the sector especially in the areas of Ease of Doing Business. A dedicated Investment Clearance Cell proposed to be set up will provide "end to end" facilitation and support, 9000 Km of economic corridors, quality standard orders as per PM's vision of "Zero Defect-Zero Effect" manufacturing, National Logistics Policy with single window e-logistics market with focus on generation of employment, National Logistics policy for making MSMEs competitive, ₹1.7 lakh cr for transport infrastructure in 2020-21, simplified return with features like SMS based filing for nil return and improved input tax credit flow, enhancing digital connectivity, support for working capital, financing for MSMEs, 5 year exemption from audit for MSMEs & easing of tax filing for startups are some import steps towards easing the day to day functioning of MSMEs as also providing a conducive ground for investors.

The new NIRVIK scheme for higher export credit disbursements with greater coverage, reduced premium and simplified procedures for claiming settlements is a welcome

step given the increased uncertainties in the global market. We look forward to further details of the scheme. For the Textile & apparel sector the National Technical Textiles Mission to be set up with four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1480 cr can position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles (Development of rainwear, sportswear, retarded Apparel, fire resistance garment). The proposed strengthening of the Indian standards & ₹3000 cr for skill development in 2020-21 are complimentary steps in overall encouragement toward higher value & innovative products which can significantly contribute toward value added growth in exports.

The council is studying the proposed Scheme for Revision of duties and taxes on exported products in which Exporters to be digitally refunded duties and taxes levied at the Central, State and local levels, which are otherwise not exempted or refunded. This is an important area where there has been significant shrinkage in policy support in last few months. The council is keenly looking forward to

an effective substitution of MEIS scheme that has been withdrawn for the sector. The apparel sector presently has the ROSCTL scheme for refund of embedded taxes. However, the same is not adequate to provide a level playing field with other countries with preferential market access and to mitigate the still prevalent relatively high transaction cost.

Taxpayer Charter to be enshrined in the Statute will bring fairness and efficiency in tax administration which is laudable. The DDT removal will make India a more attractive investment destination. The personal Income tax benefits will boost purchase power and boost consumption. Demand growth will increase GST tax collection.

We would also to thank Hon'ble Finance Minister for the proposed review of the Rules of Origin criteria for FTA countries as we can see huge surge in import of garment from Bangladesh. However, a complimentary step in this direction would be expediting the FTAs with EU, Australia, Canada & initiating FTA with UK.



T Rajkumar, Chairman
Confederation of Indian
Textile Industry

CITI welcoming the abolition of anti-dumping duty on purified terephthalic acid (PTA) in the budget, Rajkumar has said the sector can only achieve a market size of \$350 bn by 2025 if raw materials are made available at a globally-competitive price. It also hailed the proposed

National Technical Textiles Mission. The mission is important as India imports a significant quantity of technical textiles - worth \$16 bn - every year, he said in a statement.

He said the decision to digitally refund duties and taxes levied at the central, state and local levels under the Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) scheme to exporters, such as electricity duties and value-added tax on fuel used for transportation, which are not getting exempted or refunded under any other existing mechanism at the earliest will help the exporters resurrect their position in the international market. He also thanked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for considering extension of the debt restructuring window by another one year for more than 5 lakh micro, small and medium enterprises.



Raja M Shanmugham
President, Tiruppur Exporters'
Association

He has welcomed the Union Budget 2020-21 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament. Stating that the budget is a people-oriented one, he appreciated the government's focus on three aspects - agriculture and farmer welfare, wellness, and education and skills.

He said the measures announced in the budget will help for overall development of economy. "The allocation of ₹100 lakh cr for investment in infrastructure will help to reduce the logistics cost as of now the poor logistics is one of the hindrance factors for attaining the export competitiveness by our units," he added.

Welcoming the announcement on proposal of setting up National Technical Textile mission with an out lay of ₹1,480 cr, he said it will boost the manufacturing of technical textiles in our country. He also welcomed the launching of a new scheme NIRVIK to achieve higher export credit disbursement, mainly to support small exporters. He further said that the step to give invoice-based loan from NBFCs will benefit MSMEs.

"The government's decision to ask RBI to consider for extension of MSME restructuring till March 31, 2020 is the need of hour to bail out the struggling MSMEs in Tiruppur," he said. Moreover, the digital refund of duties and taxes of centre, states and local bodies to exporters from this year will help to reduce time taken to refund the amount. Further, the removal of dividend distribution tax and rationalisation of personal income tax are bold steps and will help across the board.

Overall, the budget has allocated ₹3,514.79 cr to the Ministry of textiles against allocation of ₹4,831.48 cr in 2019-20 budget. Of this, the fund allocation for Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) is only ₹761.90 cr, while the pending claims to the industry is ₹8,500 cr.



Ashok Juneja, President
The Textile Association (India)

The Budget 2020-21 has some important changes that is bound to have significant impacts on textile, apparel and fashion industry. Anti-Dumping Duty on PTA abolished: The budget proposed to abolish anti-dumping duty on PTA (Purified Terephthalic Acid). PTA being a critical input for textile fibres and yarns, it is easy availability at competitive prices is desirable to unlock the immense potential in textile sector which is a significant

employment generator. The textile industry has been demanding abolition of anti-dumping duty levied on PTA for a long time, to remain globally competitive.

All industry leaders across board have applauded the removal of anti-dumping duty on PTA. This will potentially open up the MMF value chain, and give a fillip to the entire MMF industry and enhance its global competitiveness. India often faces shortage of PTA that curtails capacity utilization of polyester segment industry.

Abolishment of anti-dumping duty shall greatly help the country to enhance its global competitiveness, boost exports and enable domestic manufacturers to compete with cheaper imports.

National Technical Textiles Mission: The budget proposed setting up of a National Technical Textile Mission with four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1,480 cr.



Rajiv Dewan, President
Garment Exporters Association
of Rajasthan

All industry leaders across board have applauded the removal of anti-dumping duty on PTA. "This will give a major boost to Indian textile industry and will go a long way in helping downstream industry staying competitive.

"The mission on technical textiles is welcome. This will help and encourage Technical textiles as a lot of fabrics we use in the sector are being imported. It will help in starting production of specialised input in our country and will encourage Investments and boost employment in the sector. The intent to review the

rules of origin in FTAs is appreciated. Efforts should be put in to sign FTAs with USA, EU & South America countries to make exports competitive with other neighboring competitor's countries.

Industry hails RODTEP, NIRVIK & other schemes which will make the availability of higher export credit disbursements, reduced premium and simplified procedures for claiming settlements. Scheme for Revision of duties and taxes on exported products where exporter to be digitally refunded duties and taxes levied at the Central, State and local levels, which are otherwise not exempted or refunded is an important area which has seen significant shrinkage in policy support in last few months. However, the sector has been experiencing a pressure on exports across segments in the past few years resulting into fall in exports.

Apart from global slowdown witnessed recently, there are few other factors affecting Indian Textile / Garment industry which renders exports from India un-competitive vis-à-vis other countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, China which need to be addressed on priority.

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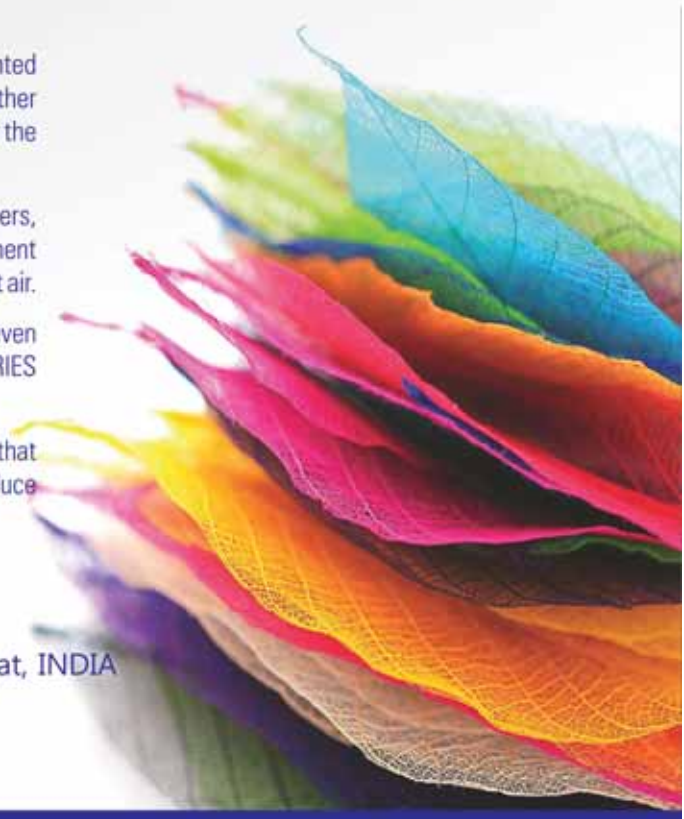
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Ronak Rughani, Chairman
Synthetic and Rayon Textiles
Export Promotion Council

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has presented Union Budget 2020-21 in the parliament. Through the Budget 2020-21 Government is intending to boost income and enhance purchasing power among people. This budget is woven around three prominent things - aspirational India to boost the standard of living; economic development for all; and building a humane and compassionate society. Ronak Rughani, termed the Union Budget 2020-21 as an inclusive and progressive budget and congratulated Nirmala Sitharaman Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance for encouraging industry and commerce of the country through the Union Budget presentation. One of the prime focuses of the Budget 2020-21 is to extend restructuring MSME NPAs for one more year. The Budget has also increased the MSMEs turnover threshold for audit to ₹5 cr from existing ₹1 cr. Ronak Rughani lauded

the initiatives for the MSMEs in the Budget and informed that the various announcements and deliverables announced by the Government in the Budget for the MSMEs will substantially empower the segment wherein most of the textile units operate. Another milestone of the Budget 2020-21 is the National Technical Textiles Mission with a four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1480 cr. The Technical Textiles segment is the Sunrise sector in the entire textile industry in which nearly 90 percent of fibres used is of Manmade fibres. I am confident that with the commencement of this National Technical Textiles Mission, the Indian Manmade fibre textiles segment will be lifted to a greater height and per capita consumption of Manmade fibres in India will grow substantially. At the same time, this initiative will help in generating more employment in the country, he stated.

The investor-friendly initiatives taken in the Budget by abolishing the Dividend distribution tax is also likely to promote more FDI in the MMF segment including processing, textile machinery manufacturing, etc. in the country, Ronak Rughani, informed. Steps initiated towards boosting infrastructure will suitably address the existing infrastructural gap for export and structural issues in the country. The Budget has also taken steps for encouraging "Make in India" initiatives by protecting domestic manufacturing units. Moreover, digital refund of State & Central taxes to exporters will help the entire textile industry, he said.



K.S. Sundararaman, Chairman
Indian Technical Textiles
Association

The size of the technical textile industry in the country is approximately ₹12,000 cr, excluding the hygiene industry. The last time the sector received focus was a few years ago to set up six centres of excellence across the country. With the need to create a domestic base for raw material production, push for manufacture of high end technical textile products, boost investments, and increase per capita consumption, there is a need for a Mission. National Technical Textile Mission with an outlay of ₹1,480 cr is a great move by Finance Minister. The bigger chunk of this investment must be utilised for skill development, tech and automation to get higher efficiency for faster and cost-effective.



Vinod Kumar Gupta
Managing Director
Dollar Industries Ltd.

The budget for – aspirational India, economic development and caring India, gives a long-term vision of the present government. The increase in taxpayer base in the last 4 years and thereafter, shall boost in revenue growth – so this budget foresees long term spending more on strengthening rural, agricultural, horticulture and service industry. The Vivad par Viswas Scheme to reduce pending litigations of more than 5 lac cases across India to settle the cases

before 31st March 2020, without any interest or penalty is a thoughtful step. Besides, the waiving off of DDT (Dividend Distribution Tax) is a relief for corporates, as it will help in increasing liquidity. Similarly, Nirvik scheme to allow benefits to small-time exporters will push forex. Support to the start-ups and MSMEs is an additional push towards uplifting the economy. Taxpayers Charter too is a big step to instil confidence to the taxpayers. However, reduction in personal tax rates is below expectations, especially after big cut in tax rates of corporates in Sept 2019. But overall, it is a visionary and practical budget. Hope it gives a new lease of life to the morally down market.



Gautam Hari Singhania
Chairman and Managing Director
Raymond Ltd.

In this budget, Government has provided stimulus to the economy in form of liquidity and consumption related interventions in the backdrop of visibly slowing global economic growth, including India. It is very encouraging to note that the budget clearly laid out the government's roadmap to position the economy for future sustainable growth—which will resonate well with both domestic and international stakeholders. We welcome setting up of the National Technical Textiles Mission with an estimated outlay of ₹1480 cr. While the overall outlay and incentives for Textile and Garmenting sector, which is one of the highest formal employment generation industry, could have been significantly more - it is a well balanced budget addressing many challenges and opportunities across sectors to give fillip to economic revival.



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With no incentives, refunds Yarn production, exports down



S.VENKITACHALAM is a senior economic journalist with more than 40 years of experience, covering Industry, Commerce & Textile Ministries. In this article the author discusses the downfall of Indian yarn market, India's competition in the yarn export, and the remedies to sort out the yarn export downfall.

The spinning sector, considered one of the important segments of the textile industry value chain, is left to fend for itself. What else can one say about the segment which has been struggling with surplus stock due to subdued demand at home and falling exports. The industry has no option but to cut back on production by about 15-30 percent to help keep inventory at a safe level.

The government is not coming to the aid of the industry despite several representations. There is no refund of Central and State taxes and levies under the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL) scheme. Cotton yarn is ineligible, while garments and made-ups receive refunds. This has only raised the cost of yarn exports eroding their competitiveness. The Merchandise Exports India Scheme (MEIS), introduced in 2014-15 is also not available to cotton yarn. The scheme should be extended to all types of spun yarn, cotton yarn banded yarn and 100 percent non cotton at 5 percent.

Besides, the sector is dogged by costly raw materials, cheaper imports of yarns and garments, inverted duty structure in the man-made fibre (MMF) textile industry value chain, exorbitant power cost due to cross subsidisation, interest rate etc., Raw materials, as in known, account for a major portion of the cost of production of any type of yarn. The raw materials include cotton and MMFs such as polyester staple fibre, viscose staple fibre and acrylic staple fibre.

The prevailing situation is aptly summed up by S.K. Khandelia, President and CEO, Sutlej Textiles and Industries Ltd thus "The spinning sector is pushed now to a non-performing one. It is caught in a web of heavy fall in yarn exports and subdued demand at home April – June 2019 exports fell by 34.5 percent to dollar 96 mn from dollar 1063 mn in the same period of 2018, leading to heavy job losses as well as financial losses.

Khandelia has pinpointed cotton as the root cause of high fibre prices, which are costlier than international ones. Global cotton prices have plunged 28.3 percent in the past one year. In contrast, domestic prices have ruled firm in the same period on the back of a 28 percent increase in the minimum support price (MSP) for seed cotton (Kapas)

Then the domestic prices of MMFs PSF, VSF etc are fixed on import parity basis. This means the landed cost of imported fibre carries customs duty, anti-dumping duty, ocean freight and these are included in the domestic prices, making it out of reach of textile mills. As a result, there has been on ever increasing imports of polyester yarn, viscose yarn etc., adversely affecting the spinning industry and with costly raw materials, Indian textile products have been rendered uncompetitive in the global market.

In spite of excess capacity, States have been encouraging establishment of new spinning units in their areas by offering attractive incentives. This has

created problems for the existing units to compete with these domestic as well as export markets, further driving them into bankruptcy.

Under the present dispensation, MMF attracts GST at 18 percent, yarn made out of that at 12 percent and fabrics at the rate of 5 percent. Refunds are allowed due to the inverted duty structures but it is cumbersome and time taking and results in blockage of funds.

As has been reported in these columns earlier, there has been on increase in cheaper imports of garments from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka because of lower cost of their raw materials and other components. Apparel imports from Bangladesh grew 40.47 per cent in April – June 2019 over the same period of the preceding year. The 30 percent local value addition norm is being abused for import from third countries and routed via Bangladesh to take advantage of zero import duty.

What with the sharp fall in demand and for yarn in China, our yarn exports have suffered due to disadvantage created by Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) of our competitors with big buying nations. Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan and Cambodia enjoy duty free access in China in different segments of cotton textiles, while Indian products bear 3.5 percent, 10 percent and 14 percent duty on yarn, fabrics and made-ups respectively.

Demand for yarn can increase only if garments exports increase. Look at last years apparel exports. China exported \$ 45 bn, Bangladesh \$ 36 bn, Vietnam \$ 33 bn and India a mere \$ 17 bn. India is far behind China is steadily losing to smaller countries. Yarn is an intermediate product and therefore depends on the growth in consumption in down stream value chain like fabrics which has been very low. Indian textile and clothing exports have remained stagnant since the last few years at \$ 37-50 bn against \$ 37.65 bn in 2014-15.

Spinning mills are power intensive. The power cost works out to about 13 percent of the total production cost. State Governments have made open access of power prohibitive by levying very heavy cross subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge. On top is the heavy electricity duty.

Khandelia also says that most spinning mills are cotton based. Only about 75 percent is of non-cotton yarn. The world trade has a share of more than 70 percent synthetic textiles and clothing and is increasing year after year. In India, however the share is only 28.30 percent. This is also one of the reasons for the stagnant T and C exports. Moreover the interest rate in India is high in general and for spinning mills in particular. Compared to other countries, this makes our textiles products uncompetitive in the global market.

To make yarn exports competitive, all types of raw materials should be made available to the domestic

textile industry at international prices. Besides MMF should be customs duty free and anti-dumping duty free. This measure will help stop imports of unwanted MMF yarn like viscose yarn, polyester yarn etc., and also enable the spinning sector - which is cotton dominates - to diversify into the synthetics and emerge competitive at home and abroad. It will also ease the pressure on cotton yarn. In addition, the country will be able to export garments during all four seasons and garments units will be able to run to their full capacity throughout the year as globally cotton dominates spring and summer sales season and synthetics and blends dominate autumn and winter season. India will also be able to export sports wear fashion wear and such other garments which are synthetic based.

To get cotton for the spinning units at world prices, determined by market forces of demand and supply, the government should pay the difference of MSP and market prices of seed cotton (kapas) to farmers by direct bank transfer.

To remove the inverted structure and to have a fibre neutral duty structure, it is strongly felt that the entire textile value chain, from fibre to garments, and for all types of fibres and blends thereof, should have the same rate of GST to avoid unnecessary complications and blockage of funds at different stages. This will also remove complications of getting refund on account of inverted duty structure. Refund is allowed for inverted duty so there will be no revenue loss to the government if the same GST rate is applied to the entire textile value chain ■

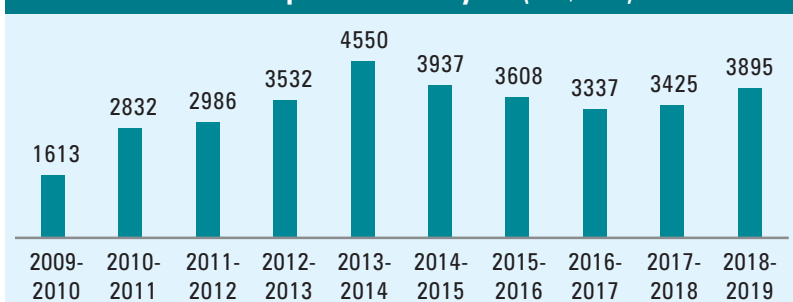


Production of Spun Yarn (Mn. Kg)

Particular	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (P)	% Change
Cotton Yarn	4,138	4055	4,064	4,184	3 percent
Blended & Non-Cotton Yarn	1,527	1,604	1,616	1,680	4 percent
Total Spun Yarn	5,665	5,659	5,680	5,864	3 percent

Source: Office of Textile Commissioner

India's export of cotton yarn (US\$ Mn)



Source: DGCIS

Export of Cotton Yarn – Value in (April-June) Export of Cotton Yarn - Value

	2018	2019	% Change
Month	Mn US\$	Mn US\$	2019/2018
April	337	266	-21.0 percent
May	349	241	-30.8 percent
June	378	188	-50.1 percent
(April-June)	1063	696	-34.6 percent

Source: DGCIS



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SRTEPC Export Award 2018-19 for synthetic textile exporters for their outstanding export performance



Smriti ZubinIrani, Hon'ble Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Textiles gave away the awards to exporters of synthetic textiles for their outstanding export performance for the year 2018-19 at a glittering function of The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) held on 8th February 2020 at Hriday Lawns, Hotel Sofitel, Mumbai.

The SRTEPC Special Award for the Best Overall Export Performance (Gold Trophy) was won by Reliance Industries Ltd. Grasim Industries Limited got the Silver Trophy for Second Best Overall Export Performance and Wellknown Polyesters Limited received the Bronze Trophy for Third Best Overall Export Performance. RSWM Ltd. was also awarded a trophy of appreciation in this category.

The other companies who were honoured in various categories for best export performance were: D'décor Home Fabrics Pvt. Ltd., D'décor Exports Pvt. Ltd., Sutlej Textiles and Industries Ltd., SAAM Textiles Pvt. Ltd., Rughani Brothers, Le Merit Exports Ltd, Banswara Syntex Limited, Dicitex Furnishings Pvt. Ltd., PNR Industries Ltd., Grasim Industries Limited Unit : Indian Rayon, Filatex India Limited, Madura Coats Pvt. Ltd. SKAPS Industries India Pvt. Ltd., Pee Vee Textiles Limited, Daman Polythread Ltd., Vardhman Textiles Limited, Goyal Knitfab Pvt. Ltd., Kishorilal Shyamsunder, Shriram Rayons, Siddhachal Textile Private Limited, Reagan Fashions Pvt. Ltd, Duratex Exports, Atlas Exports (India), Shreekrishna Dyeing & Printing Works and BSL Ltd. Certificates of Merit were presented to Tulip Garment Accessories and Vineet Polyfab Pvt. Ltd.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Textiles, Smriti ZubinIrani said that despite global slowdown and other insurmountable difficulties faced by the textile industry, exports of MMF textiles during 2018-19 was to the tune of \$6.13 bn. Lauding the efforts of the exporters, she said that this was possible due to the concerted efforts of the Council and its member exporters. She also informed that the Council has vision of achieving \$ 7 bn by the end of financial year 2020-21. She remarked that the recognition of the outstanding performance by exporters will motivate the industry to excel in the coming year and spur them to imbibe international best practices.

In his speech, the SRTEPC Chairman Ronak Rughani mentioned about the milestone announcement by the Government made in the recent Budget 2020-21 for setting up of the National Technical Textiles Mission with a four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1,480 cr. He said that this will be a great lease of life for the MMF textile segment because more than 90 percent of fibres used in the Technical Textiles segment come from manmade fibres. The SRTEPC Chairman said that its Council's tradition to recognise the untiring efforts made by our Members in export front and celebrate together the outstanding achievements and enterprising skills.

Addressing the audience, Anil Rajvanshi, Convener of the Export Award Committee and former Chairman, SRTEPC said that the Export Award Function is not just an event but a celebration of the hard work put in by the award winning companies.

On the occasion of the SRTEPC Export Award Function the Hon'ble Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Textiles release a Study Report by M/s. Gherzi Textil Organization AG, Zurich on "Promoting Growth of Man-made Fiber Textile Industry in India – A Roadmap to identify gaps and suggest measures". She said that this report would help in addressing the issues pertaining to both production and export of man-made fibre textiles. The Vote of thanks for proposed by the Vice Chairman, Dhiraj Shah ■

756

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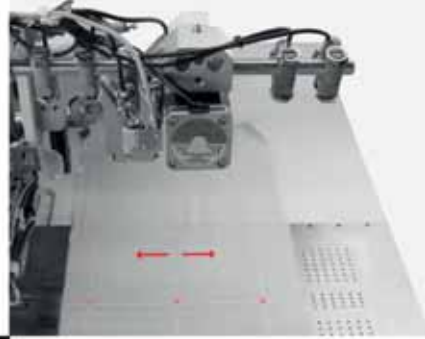


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Adidas takes top place in Cotton Ranking 2020

Adidas has taken the top slot in the Cotton Ranking 2020 published by three non-governmental organisations (NGOs)—UK-based Pesticide Action Network (PAN), the Netherlands-based Solidaridad Network and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). It has become a global leader in sourcing sustainable cotton from the 6th place it held in the last ranking.

The brand now sources all its cotton from sustainable sources. IKEA ranks second, followed by the H&M Group in the third place. The ranking is based on research conducted and compiled by independent consultancy Aidenvironment.

The latest ranking reveals significant progress by big brands toward more sustainable cotton and the growing divide between companies that take their responsibilities seriously and the many laggard companies that do not, according to a report from Solidaridad.

While 21 per cent of global cotton production is now more sustainable, only 5 per cent of global production is actively bought as sustainable by retailers and brands. The rest has to be sold as conventional cotton because not enough of the big brands explicitly shop for more sustainable cotton.

Isabelle Roger, Global Cotton Programme Manager of Solidaridad Network says: “Shockingly, three quarters of sustainable cotton is still sold as conventional cotton. Farmer groups end up selling the majority of their more sustainable produce as conventional cotton due to lack of demand. If the failing brands took their responsibilities seriously, this wouldn’t be an issue.”

Progress has been exemplified by companies like Bestseller (Jack&Jones, Vera Moda, ONLY) and Decathlon, which in 2017 were ranked as ‘starting the journey’ but are now ‘leading the way’, thanks to the sharp increase in their uptake of sustainable cotton. Almost all companies who made public commitments have made substantial improvements.

The number of companies lagging behind is largely unchanged since 2017. Around one-third of companies, including global names like Amazon, Footlocker, Giorgio Armani and Forever 21, scored zero in the ranking, despite



increasing global concerns about worsening water scarcity, pollution, land degradation and loss of biodiversity.

“The ranking reveals that there is a small but growing group of frontrunners who are leading the way toward a more sustainable cotton sector, with their commitment over the last few years paying off. The report gives plenty of evidence that public commitments lead to results, however many companies have still not taken the necessary steps. CEOs of these laggard companies must change course and make time-bound commitments to use more sustainable cotton” said Alexis Morgan, WWF Global Water Stewardship Lead.

The report also reveals that for the first time more than half of ranked companies now have commitments to use sustainable cotton, but the three NGOs express concern that overall companies are not achieving as much as they should. Eleven big brands, including Nike, H&M and C&A Group, have committed to sourcing cent per cent of their cotton from more sustainable sources by the end of this year ■

Archroma joins ‘The Denim Window’ to support inspired, sustainable denim creation



Archroma, a global leader in colour and specialty chemicals towards sustainable solutions, announced that it has joined ‘The Denim Window’ as its showcase company for color and effect technologies.

The Denim Window is a showroom located in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and dedicated to providing apparel brands with inspiration, sustainability and innovation for their denim collections. Created and curated by Silvia Rancani, a passionate denim consultant with a unique flair for fashion and technology, The Denim Window connects carefully selected companies with brands through exclusive events and showcases at The Denim Window location.

The Denim Window allows its visitors to find in one single place fabric mills, garment makers, chemical suppliers, fiber and trim producers, where designers, product developers, fashion students, denim lovers & emerging talents are invited to review and learn more about the products, aiming to stimulate creativity and innovation through collaborations.

The Denim Window and Archroma will regularly organize workshops to support brands and retailers with systems and inspiration to create denim colors and effects in “The Archroma Way: safe, efficient and enhanced. Because it’s our nature!”.

The company, which made the headlines with innovations such as its aniline-free* Denisol® Pure Indigo or its EarthColors® range of dyes based on non-edible biomass waste from the herbal and agricultural industries, participated to the recent exhibition organised at The Denim Window in Amsterdam on 23 January to celebrate Chinese New Year with the new Denim Window 2020 member companies.

“Amsterdam has developed as one of the world’s denim cities with global meet-ups and events, and now the conferences, workshops and permanent showroom of The Denim Window”, explains Umberto Devita, Business Development Manager for Denim & Casual Wear at Archroma. “The Denim Window, Archroma and the other member companies share the same passion for creativity, innovation and denim with a soul, and that makes us a match made in heaven. We are very excited to have been given this opportunity to collaborate the Denim Window dream team!” ■

Rabatex joins hands with Alexander & Giovanelli Group

Rabatex Industries Pvt Ltd is one of India's most prominent textile machinery manufacturers. The group was established in 1962 with the vision and mission to develop cutting edge technology in the textile machinery sector. Through its passionate R&D team, the company has stood firm on its goals, which has led to its success in 28 countries across the globe.



D B Patel (Design Head), Haresh Panchal (MD), Luca Giovanelli, Sandip Panchal (Director), Vikram Shah (VP) from Rabatex Industries Pvt. Ltd. (L-R)

Rabatex is on a growth streak and recently, strengthened its capacities with full technical support and know-how from Alexander & Giovanelli Group, an Italian textile machinery systems provider. The group is has made its mark in developing and producing equipment with quality materials from Europe. Combining technology and tradition, they have grown in this industry in a seamlessly progressive way.

The teal strength of this group is the centenary family's experience in this sector and the constant commitment, dedication, respect and care for details that make their work unique. The group also specialises in design and installation of advanced material handling and storage equipment. With its technical support and cutting-edge technology, Rabatex aims to produce state-of-the-art weaving transportation trolleys in India.

This joint venture agreement of Rabatex with the Alexander & Giovanelli Group will bring unique expertise in manufacturing and sales of advanced, electric operated, handling equipment to the Indian market. The A&G Group currently has an extensive range of electric trolleys for weaving room, which it will now manufacture on Indian grounds instead of exporting them from Italy. However, throughout the production, quality and production standards of the Group will be maintained. Luca Giovanelli, Director at Alexander & Giovanelli Group, said "The main reason for tying up with Rabatex is to use their world-class manufacturing facilities and proficiency. It will reduce our production costs and we will be able to offer products with the most competitive prices in the world market. The supply from India will surely shorten the delivery time to supply to India and other Asian countries as well. We hope to have progressive association and partnership with the Rabatex Group".

This joint venture will also complement Rabatex in offering a complete range of material handling equipment for the textile industry, including the mechanical trolleys and electric operated trolleys. The company is well established in the Indian and global market with more than 5000 trolleys working successfully in leading textile mills. With the industry moving towards automated technologies, Rabatex foresees a good demand for the electric operated trolleys. And, due to increased capacities with this tie-up, their market share for trolleys is all set to increase in India and 28 other countries as well.

Additionally, the company's customers will have several advantages. According to Sandeep Panchal of Rabatex Group, "Rabatex produces mechanical trolleys but is looking forward to catering to the demands of automated equipment. This may ease the functioning of any unit with a lesser operational cost to the weaving department, by enhancing productivity and reducing downtime. Also, the electrical trolleys are equipped with several safety features, so the chances of accidents will be minimized".

Luca Giovanelli also wants to explore a new concept of renting trolleys to mills. The company would be the first to start such a service. It plans to, rent the trolleys to the mills and provide the service of regular upkeep of these trolleys. This will ensure that the trolleys are always maintained as per the strict European safety standards and will also be cost-effective for the mills.

After this amalgamation of resources and expertise, the Rabatex Group is looking to diversify manufacturing by focusing on Material Handling and Storage Solution Equipment as well. Rabatex is also aiming for more technical tie-ups in this field in the coming years. Another addition to its list of joint ventures is a tie-up with world-renowned Karl Mayer for manufacturing of warp preparation machinery in India. These companies are known for their innovation and ability to produce futuristic technology for the industry. With several such contributions, Rabatex has set benchmarks in the industry and will continue to move further with the same spirit and dedication ■

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Drupa 2020 reflects the rising significance of digital textile printing

Drupa 2020, leading trade fair for printing technologies, will have a new special show for digital textile printing - Touchpoint textile. The show reflects the rising significance of digital textile printing and its importance as a driver of innovation and growth for the printing industry. A special attraction of the show will be a microfactory. Drupa 2020 is to be held from June 16 to 26, in Düsseldorf. Touchpoint textile is backed by two main partners - the German Institutes for Textile and Fibre Research (DITF) as Europe's largest textile research centre, and the non-profit European Specialist Printing Manufacturers Association (ESMA).

Together with cross-industry partners, DITF is setting up a Digital Textile Micro Factory at drupa, a fully networked, integrated production chain from customer specifications and design to fabric finishing. Demonstrating new possibilities for digitalisation and direct customer interaction, such as 3D garment simulations with direct data transfer to virtual and augmented reality applications, the micro factory shows how digital textile printing, cutting and colour management can be integrated in a fully connected production environment. A variety of products, such as flags, t-shirts and bags, will be fabricated "hot off the press" each day. Networked



production chains of this kind, fuelled by a combination of agility, creativity, flexibility and productivity, empower the textile industry to respond ever more promptly and specifically to customer demands and trends, even in small quantities.

With the textile industry spawning technologies for numerous industries, touchpoint textile connects these various sectors, offering them a platform for cross-industry collaboration, new projects, as well as product and manufacturing ideas. The special show is an indicator of how Drupa is gaining ground in new markets, which apart from textile printing include packaging, large format printing, industrial and functional printing. All of these segments are going through the same transformation processes, offering tremendous potential for growth.

ESMA, in charge of the conference programme, has invited speakers from research, development and industry to discuss printing and finishing technologies, workflows, market developments and sustainability. "Textile printing is expanding rapidly thanks to innovations in printing processes. Both, digital and conventional technologies, can contribute to this change," says ESMA General Manager Peter Buttiens. "We're looking forward to demonstrating our expertise and know-how in textile applications to visitors at drupa's touchpoint textile."

"Continued digitalisation and cross-sectional technologies are accelerating innovation," comments Sabine Geldermann, Director of Drupa and Global Head of Print Technologies at Messe Düsseldorf. "Drupa's role is to be a source of momentum for our industry, fostering and shaping change. We're committed to identifying all relevant issues and integrating them in our forums. The growth potential in textile printing is phenomenal. It's against this backdrop that we are dedicating a special platform to these applications." Even beyond the touchpoint textile special show, digital textile printing will be an important focus of many exhibitors ■

Lenzing Group opens its first supply chain solutions hub in India

The Lenzing Group - world market leader in wood based cellulosic fibres, has opened its first supply chain solution hub in Mumbai which is designed to provide supply chain and product solutions as per the requirements of Indian customers. Lenzing, being the pioneer in the industry for sustainable fashion and innovations, the hub becomes a centre of innovation and excellence by building accessibility across its customers in India, bringing together Lenzing's global expertise and network connections in the industry. The launch of this hub will build connections between the supply chain and brands looking to adapt sustainable practices that are need of the hour.

For Lenzing, India serves as a key market for exports as well as a huge domestic consumption. Lenzing has been present across all major apparel categories in India such as ethnic wear, intimate wear, general outerwear, denims and home furnishings. The company has been associated with ace designers such as Anita Dongre, Rajesh Pratap Singh and Abraham & Thakore to leading brands such as AND, Global Desi, Marks & Spencers, H&M, D'décor, Levi's, to name a few. With a huge response garnered by their flagship fibre brand - TENCEL™ and sustainable viscose fibre brand- LENZING™ ECOVERO™, Lenzing Group has recently introduced its nonwoven specialty fibre - VEOCEL™ and LENZING™ Industrial solutions diversifying the reach among the beauty and industrial application segments.

A prominent trend observed in the textile and fashion industry over the past few years is to incorporate sustainable solutions in close conjunction with end-consumers through brand and designer associations. To build on the growing needs and requirements put forth before by the consumers, this hub will give access to global solutions and innovations across the country.

Along with the specialty fibers solutions, the hub will house the products and innovations created using TENCEL™ and LENZING™ ECOVERO™ fibers to attract both buyers and supply chain experts in India. The hub would also display products that have been made in collaboration with top designers and brands across India and the globe, seen at key fashion events, on a regular basis. This platform will bring forward global innovation capabilities to help to build on the sustainable fashion conversation among the Indian Textile Industry. Additionally, the hub would cater to an information center for textile suppliers, garment makers, designers and traders to enable quick solutions.

S Jayaraman - Commercial Director - Asia Pacific & South Asia with Lenzing AG, said, "Since its inception in India in 2007, Lenzing India has seen a massive growth in India. With the warm response we have received towards various associations initiated by us, this hub will be another step for our expansion in the country. We aim to build Lenzing's global legacy through the launch of the hub. As part of the company's country



developments, Lenzing plans to increase its footprint by launching multiple hubs across key textile centres in India in the next couple of years. We hope these strategic hub launches will help our partners offer sustainable solutions with an ecologically responsible footprint to ease out the supply chain process.

Commenting on the launch, Avinash Mane, Commercial Head - South Asia, Lenzing Group said, "Lenzing Group is pleased to have launched its first hub in India. Through this step, we aim to provide the right raw material to the brands in order to strengthen their sustainable resolution, making the supply chain viable. Our vision is to provide sustainable lifestyle solutions to consumers and sensitizing them on sustainable and ethical fashion is the need of the hour. Through this launch, we hope to build a direct connection with people driving the supply chain, further creating a ripple of change in the textile industry" ■



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Fashion on Demand by Lectra

Bridging the Gap between the Empowered Consumer and Smarter Factory

Lectra has more than 40 years of experience innovating in the fashion industry. They are working together with major fashion and apparel players in over 100 countries. Drawing from their experience and expertise, company is continuously reinventing the value chain so that businesses can become more profitable, sustainable and agile. Personalization is set to be an industry-wide phenomenon. With dedicated turnkey solution and in-depth industry knowledge, Lectra is perfect partner to help you tap into its potential.

Consumers are now driving trends

In today's digitally connected world, consumers are making faster, more informed purchasing decisions. Not only are they defining the value proposition of products and services, but they are also empowered to impose their demands on the market. Brands, retailers and manufacturers wanting to succeed in this new business environment will have to change their focus to be more customer-centric, adopt industry 4.0 best practices and invest in smart technology to keep up with consumer trends.

Conventional supply chains can no longer meet consumer demand

The conventional fashion supply chain model is too opaque, fragmented and slow to respond to diversified consumer demands quickly enough to satisfy customers. As a result, consumers will look to the nearest competitor to get the personalized products and exceptional customer experiences they want. This inability of the conventional supply chain to meet new expectations puts established fashion companies at risk.

The On-Demand business model

The on-demand model is a way to make factories smarter and bring business closer to the consumer. The key to meeting the needs of the new consumer is learning how to integrate state-of-the-art digital technology and real-time consumer data into daily business operations. Brands, retailers and manufacturers with the flexibility to produce quickly and on demand are successfully winning consumer loyalty.

On-Demand Business Benefits

- Generate positive cash flow: Take pre-paid orders, optimize operational overhead, gain material savings and minimize excess stock
- Achieve operational agility: Respond and react quickly to new market opportunities around on-demand production and personalization—small series, customization and made-to-measure orders—without disrupting existing revenue models
- Acquire competitive advantage: Integration of innovative technologies at each step of the product lifecycle lets you build and manage a powerful, efficient on-demand supply chain to speed your products to market and strengthen your position
- Think globally and act locally: Create, develop and produce more sustainably for specific regions, adapting your production to business models and/or individual consumers by taking advantage of nearshoring

74% OF MILLENNIALS & GENERATION Z EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PURCHASING PERSONALIZED CLOTHING



Lectra provides complete solution for Fashion on Demand

Fashion on Demand by Lectra—the industry’s first end-to-end solution to develop individualized products and automate production—is designed to help the fashion industry overcome the challenges of scaling or implementing made-to-order and personalized offers.

- Lectra Digital Cutting Platform: a powerful cloud-based solution including business applications
- Virga smart and connected single-ply cutting line
- 3 packages for a modular and scalable offer:
 - Made to Order for sampling, small series, quick assortment
 - Made to Customize for customization orders
 - Made to Measure for made-to-measure clothing
- Powerful automatons that automatically process the various activities from preparation up to cutting
- Seamless automatic synchronization between cutting line, digital platform, ERP and Lectra CAD

Prerequisite of Product Development Software

Develop products: Create graded patterns, define variants and add alterations.

Manage materials and their cutting parameters: Set attributes for individual fabrics using material library management and prepare cutting ahead of time using automatic parameter set-up.

Create your personalized products: Store your personalized product offers along with related components, materials and size range. Alterations can also be managed.

Prepare production: Set up production rules and nesting constraints

Automate Pre-Production & Cutting Processes: Automatically generate cutting orders and cutting jobs as of order reception.

Receive Orders for Personalized Products: Track your customers’ orders and automatically assign product IDs.

Virga Cutting Line

Cut orders for personalized products: Cut your patterned materials at the same speed as plain fabrics.

What you will gain with Fashion on Demand by Lectra

Fashion On Demand by Lectra is a game-changer in this space because it automates the go-to-market processes to expedite development while concurrently enabling manufacturers to expertly manage fabric cutting, even for complex, patterned designs. By shortening the cycle, fashion companies will be able to produce the high-quality personalized garments consumers want faster.

“Fashion on Demand by Lectra is a dream come true for us. Thanks to this solution, we managed to increase production output, achieve the perfect fit, reduce consumables, save time on preparing orders and minimize human errors.”

Charline Fasquel, Director of Production, Balsan

Improved time to market

- Simultaneous management of multiple individual orders
- Automation of production rules
- Identical cutting speed for both patterned and plain fabrics

Cost savings at every stage

- Material savings: powerful nesting and high productivity per square meter
- No plastic and paper consumables
- Multi-line and multi-site management

Operational efficiency

- Streamlined production processes
- Pre-set cutting instructions
- Configurable workflow with rules you can change at any time

Full operational control and 360° visibility

- Supervision controls
- Vertical IT system and horizontal process integration
- Data monitoring integrated into dashboard

Flexible and secure management of personalization offers

- Management of any variant or component
- Automatic matching of orders to product catalog
- Line-item product monitoring made possible by unique product ID numbers

Optimized management of a broad range of fabrics and patterns

- Powerful scanner with fabric pattern positioning
- Material library management: set attributes for individual fabrics
- Automatic parameter set-up for cutting

Consistent fit and sizing across products and markets

- 2D patternmaking
- 2D industrialization (including special grading)
- Reliable alterations system with automatic consistency controls

Enhanced user experience thanks to an easy-to-use solution

- Intuitive touch-screen interfaces
- Controlled sequencing of cutting jobs
- Visual loading and off-loading assistance



Mimaki Europe to announce new hybrid digital textile printer at FESPA

Mimaki Europe has announced that its brand-new hybrid digital textile printer, the Tx300P-1800 MkII, will headline their product line-up at FESPA 2020, in stand 7-C20. The Europe's international speciality print exhibition will be held from March 24-27, 2020, in Madrid, Spain. Mimaki is a manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutting machines.

Uniquely designed with versatility at its core, the new printer enables both direct-to-textile and transfer printing, with interchangeable platens and three different ink combinations – providing unrivalled flexibility within a single system and opening new doors for print service providers.

With Mimaki's Tx300P-1800 digital textile printer having previously led the way for high-quality, cost-effective printing, the evolved Mimaki Tx300P-1800 MkII now adds sublimation transfer printing to its capabilities, opening up a host of possible new materials and applications. The capability to fulfil diverse applications from fashion textiles to interior fabrics and wallpaper within one system makes the printer an ideal entry-level solution. It affords both smaller print service providers and large volume production houses all of the well-known benefits of digital print technology not attainable with analogue print methods still prevalent in the modern textile printing industry, including more cost-effective short runs and faster turnarounds, benefits that make this technology ideal for sampling, according to Mimaki report.

The new hybrid digital textile printer will form part of an impressive exhibition line-up from Mimaki of more than 15 products at FESPA this year, including the brand-new SWJ-320EA large format solvent printer, JFX200-2513 EX large flatbed UV inkjet printer and two models of the recently launched plus series in the large format sector alone. Visitors can also explore Mimaki's 3D print technology through full-colour samples created on the 3DUJ-553 3D printer, capable of faithfully replicating more than 10 million colours. Focused on providing inspiration and encouraging visitors to 'experience print', Mimaki will also be celebrating real-life customer, partner and collaborator examples and success stories, with a host of creative applications for visitors to delve into on the stand.

The ability of the Mimaki Tx300P-1800 MkII to switch between direct-to-textile and transfer printing is enabled by its interchangeable platens. When printing direct-to-textile, excess ink penetrated through the fabric is drained by a platen with an ink-receiving channel. When printing on heat transfer paper however, this platen can be quickly and easily exchanged for a vacuum platen needed for paper printing – without the need for service engineers. The hybrid printer is also able to facilitate either a traditional one-way ink set, configured with any one of five ink types, as well as various combinations of inks, providing unparalleled flexibility. Users are able to select from three different ink combinations – textile pigment/direct sublimation, textile pigment/sublimation transfer, or direct sublimation/



sublimation transfer – to provide the best results across various applications.

"We are delighted to be bringing the Tx300P-1800 MkII to FESPA, this year to show customers exactly how game-changing it can be for their businesses. With the introduction of this new hybrid printer, we are not only delivering an affordable, streamlined single-system solution for printing on both paper and textile, but we are also providing print service providers with the versatility to continue exploring different substrates and applications as they grow their businesses into the future. We anticipate a very bright future for digital printing in the textile industry and have no doubt that our new printer, at the cutting edge of this sector, will have a role in realising this transition," Danna Drion, Senior Marketing Manager at Mimaki EMEA said ■

Lenzing introduces TENCEL™ Modal Fibers with Eco Pure Technology

Lenzing Group announced the introduction of Eco Pure technology which enhances the production of environmentally responsible modal fibres for the textile industry. TENCEL™ Modal fibers with Eco Pure technology are considered as the most environmentally responsible option among existing modal fibres in the industry. Total chlorine-free bleaching in pulp and fibre delivers the industry's new standard of clean modal fibre production. With the gentle bleaching process, textiles made predominantly of such fibres tend to be softer than conventionally bleached TENCEL™ Modal fibers, and are very suitable for undergarments, loungewear, bedding and more. The Eco Pure technology features an eco-responsible production process guided by the EU Ecolabel, a label of environmental excellence that is awarded to products and services that meet high environmental standards throughout their life-cycle.

TENCEL™ Modal fibers with Eco Pure technology are produced exclusively in Austria mainly from beech wood sourced from sustainably managed forests across Central and Eastern Europe.

"The ongoing innovation in cellulosic fibre technologies and eco-responsible production



processes has witnessed more sustainable fibre alternatives across the textile value chain. This has provided businesses and brands with new opportunities and perspectives to enhance product quality and improve sustainable practices. The introduction of Eco Pure technology for TENCEL™ Modal fibers is providing brands and consumers with great comfort and more responsible environmental options. With sustainability in our DNA, we will continue to review customers' feedback to develop

and produce high-quality fibres that suits their needs and preferences." said Florian Heubrandner, Vice President of Global Business Management Textiles of Lenzing.

Over the few past years, brands have made conscious decisions to better understand their supply chain with a core focus on sustainability and transparency in clothing production. In light of this, the TENCEL™ Modal fibers with Eco Pure technology are identifiable through a special identification technology, making the eco-fibres identifiable throughout all stages of the textile manufacturing process.

"For the TENCEL™ brand, ensuring a sustainable supply chain has become very important, with a focus not only on ethical production, but also the actual fibre production process. In 2020, one of our main goals and a core business strategy will be to continue production of high-quality fibres that strive to set higher standards for industry sustainability and comfort. It is encouraging to see that the industry and consumers are paying more attention to sustainability. We believe that the popularity of sustainable fibers will continue to grow," added Heubrandner ■

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Creating is the closest we can get to shaping the future. At Resil, we're using science to create solutions to ensure your comfort & happiness. Through our formalised solutions, your garments and fabrics are always taken care of, creating a better future for you.

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-  Research
-  Innovation
-  Sustainability

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Silicones

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Finishing

Technical
Textile
Treatments

Textile
Pre-treatment

Thread &
Yarn Finishing

Specialty
Materials

Enzymes

Resins

Antimicrobials

CMAI reports increase in Apparel IIP and decrease in exports

CMAI's Apparel Index aims to set a benchmark for the entire domestic apparel industry and helps brands in taking informed business decisions. For investors, industry players, stakeholders and policy makers, the index is a useful tool offering concrete and credible information and is an excellent source for assessing the performance of the industry. The Index is analysed on assessing the performance on four parameters: Sales turnover, sell through (percentage of fresh stocks sold), number of days of inventory holding, and investments (signifying future confidence) in brand development and brand building.

The apparel IIP was valued at 139 in November 2019, recording an increase of 3 percent as compared to that in November 2018 and an increase of 1 percent as compared to that in October 2019. The apparel CPI has remained constant at a value of 150 in December 2019, while it recorded a minute increase of 1 percent as compared to that in December 2018. The apparel exports in November 2019 stood at \$1,059 mn, showing a 5 percent decrease from that in October 2019 and 6 percent decrease from that in November 2018.

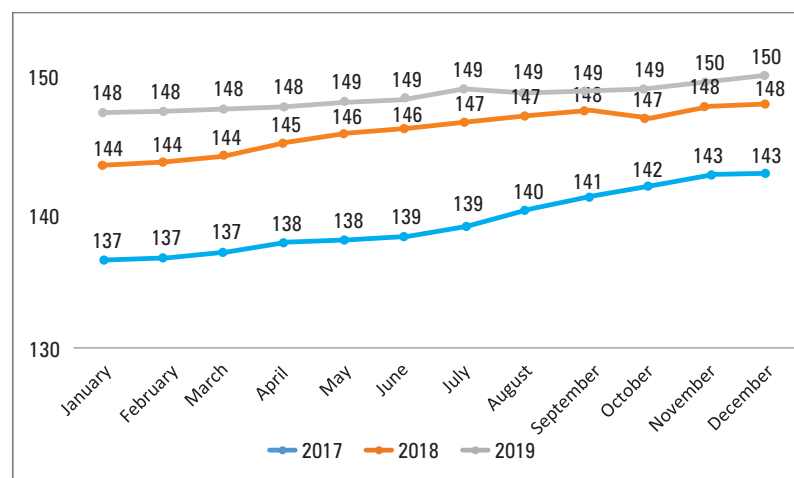
The apparel exports to the largest market USA increased by 6 percent in Apr-Nov 2019 as compared to that in Apr-Nov 2018, while those to Saudi Arab and Nigeria increased by 47 percent and 68 percent, respectively. However, the apparel exports to other major markets declined. The apparel imports in November 2019 stood at \$104 mn, showing a 7 percent decrease from that in October 2019 and 11 percent increase from that in November 2018.

Apparel imports from Bangladesh, the largest apparel exporter to India, has increased by 13 percent in Apr-Nov 2019 as compared to that in Apr-Nov 2018. India's imports from China have also increased by 11 percent. Analysis of financial filings of select apparel manufacturers and fashion brands & retailers for Q2 FY 2020 over Q2 FY 2019 highlights the following:

- Most of the companies have shown an increase in their operating revenue
- The fashion brands & retailers have shown an improvement in their Operating Profit Margin (OPM) with V2 Retail's OPM showing a significant improvement from -18.1 percent in Q2 FY 2019 to 2.5 percent in Q2 FY 2020
- Majority of the apparel manufacturers have shown a decline in their OPM. However, Celebrity Fashion has shown a significant improvement in its OPM from 4.5 percent in Q2 FY 2019 to 32.4 percent in Q2 FY 2020

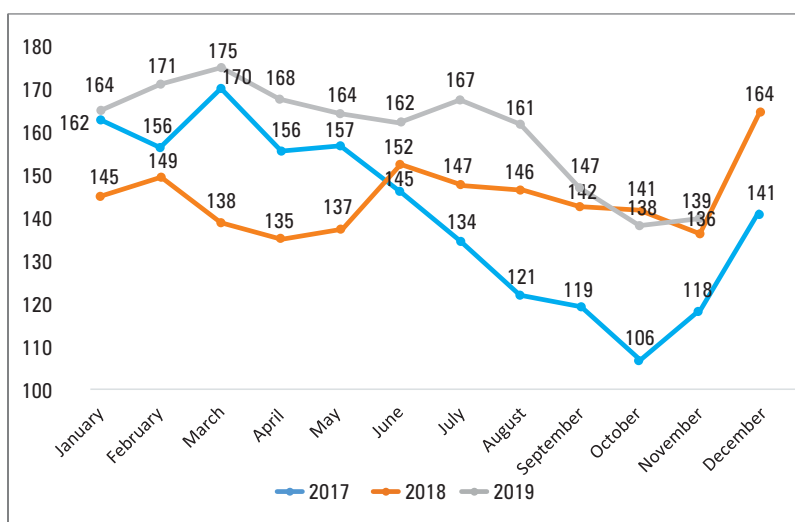


Apparel Consumer Price Index (CPI) Update



Data Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Apparel Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Update



Data Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Apparel Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Update

- The apparel IIP was valued at 139 in November 2019, recording an increase of 3 percent as compared to that in November 2018
- As compared to October 2019, the apparel IIP showed a minute increase of 1 percent in November 2019

Apparel Consumer Price Index (CPI) Update

- The apparel CPI has remained constant at a value of 150 in December 2019
- As compared to December 2018, the apparel CPI showed a minute increase of 1 percent in December 2019

Monthly Apparel Exports Update

- The apparel exports in November 2019 stood at \$1,059 mn, showing a decrease of 5 percent from that in October 2019
- As compared to November 2018, the apparel exports decreased by 6 percent in November 2019
- The provisional data for December 2019 indicates a significant increase of 33 percent on MoM basis and an increase of 2 percent on YoY basis

Country wise Apparel Exports Update

- The apparel exports to the largest market USA increased by 6 percent in Apr-Nov 2019 as compared to that in Apr-Nov 2018
- The apparel exports to Saudi Arab and Nigeria also increased by 47 percent and 68 percent, respectively during the same period
- However, the apparel exports to other major markets declined, especially to Germany

Monthly Apparel Imports Update

- The apparel imports in November 2019 stood at \$104 mn, showing a decrease of 7 percent from that in October 2019
- As compared to November 2018, the apparel imports increased by 11 percent in November 2019
- The provisional data for December indicates a growth of 12 percent on YoY basis and a decline of 8 percent on MoM basis

Country wise Apparel Imports Update

- Apparel imports from Bangladesh, the largest apparel exporter to India, has increased by 13 percent in Apr-Nov 2019 as compared to that in Apr-Nov 2018
- India has also reported an increase of 11 percent in its apparel imports from China
- India's apparel imports from Sri Lanka has shown a significant decline of 38 percent

MONTHLY APPAREL EXPORTS UPDATE

In US\$ Million	FY 2019	FY 2020	YoY Change	MoM Change
Apr	1,352	1,409	4%	-18%
May	1,339	1,530	14%	9%
June	1,359	1,233	-9%	-19%
July	1,275	1,366	7%	11%
August	1,293	1,262	-2%	-8%
September	1,105	1,081	-2%	-14%
October	1,132	1,109	-2%	3%
November	1,131	1,059	-6%	-5%
YTD	9,987	10,048	1%	
Provisional Data for Latest Month				
December	1,377	1,409	2%	33%

COUNTRY WISE APPAREL EXPORTS UPDATE

In US\$ Million	FY19 (Apr-Nov)	FY20 (Apr-Nov)	Change	% Growth
USA	2,565	2,719	154	6%
UAE	1,253	1,102	-151	-12%
UK	1,009	999	-10	-1%
Germany	710	590	-120	-17%
Spain	483	471	-12	-2%
France	447	416	-31	-7%
Saudi Arab	234	345	111	47%
Netherland	289	268	-21	-7%
Italy	239	207	-32	-13%
Nigeria	115	193	78	68%
Others	2,643	2,738	95	4%
Total	9,987	10,048	61	1%

MONTHLY APPAREL IMPORTS UPDATE

In US\$ Million	FY 2019	FY 2020	YoY Change	MoM Change
Apr	56	68	21%	-22%
May	67	85	27%	25%
June	73	78	7%	-9%
July	101	109	8%	40%
August	131	127	-3%	16%
September	113	117	4%	-7%
October	110	112	2%	-4%
November	94	104	11%	-7%
YTD	745	802	8%	
Provisional Data for Latest Month				
December	86	96	12%	-8%

COUNTRY WISE APPAREL IMPORTS UPDATE

In US\$ Million	FY19 (Apr-Nov)	FY20 (Apr-Nov)	Change	% Growth
Bangladesh	240	271	31	13%
China	220	245	25	11%
Spain	65	63	-2	-3%
Hong Kong	31	49	18	58%
Sri Lanka	55	34	-21	-38%
Vietnam	19	27	8	42%
Italy	14	12	-2	-14%
Cambodia	12	12	0	0%
Turkey	11	10	-1	-9%
Indonesia	7	9	2	29%
Others	71	70	-1	-1%
Total	745	802	57	8%

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF SELECT BRANDS, RETAILERS AND MANUFACTURERS

Company	FY	Revenue from Operations (Rs. Crores)						Operating Profit Margin					
		FY 2019	Q2 FY2019	Q1 FY 2020	Q2 FY 2020	Q3 FY 2020	Q4 FY 2020	FY 2019	Q2 2019	Q1 FY 2020	Q2 FY 2020	Q3 FY 2020	Q4 FY 2020
Fashion & Lifestyle Brands and Retailers	Aditya Birla Fashion & Lifestyle	8,118	2,007	2,065	2,297			5.3%	5.6%	11.5%	11.2%		
	Future Lifestyle Fashions	5,377	1,222	1,496	1,458			7.4%	6.9%	12.9%	12.1%		
	Shoppers Stop	3,481	864	832	845			7.4%	6.2%	11.1%	12.8%		
	Trent	2,532	616	767	818			9.3%	9.9%	18.3%	14.2%		
	V-Mart Retail	1,434	262	453	314			8.9%	-1.1%	0.6%	-0.2%		
	V2 Retail	748	156	202	151	219		3.9%	-18.1%	10.1%	2.5%	8.4%	
Apparel Manufacturers	Page Industries	2,852	691	835	775			22.3%	21.6%	22.0%	18.9%		
	Gokaldas Export	1,173	294	341	362			3.8%	1.8%	14.1%	4.6%		
	Pearl Global	840	215	191	229			5.3%	2.2%	5.5%	2.7%		
	SP Apparels	778	177	205	233			16.4%	14.3%	8.2%	12.7%		
	Kitex Garments	607	168	146	196			26.0%	28.7%	20.6%	25.6%		
	Kamadgiri Fashion Ltd.	319	83	69	87			3.7%	3.8%	1.8%	2.3%		
	Celebrity Fashion	231	58	52	61			3.9%	4.5%	2.9%	32.4%		
Bang Overseas	154	48	22	25			2.7%	6.6%	38.2%	-0.4%			

Data Source: Bombay Stock Exchange

Note: Only major listed exclusive fashion & lifestyle retailers and apparel manufacturers are considered

Organisers affirm growing interest in Mumbai edition of Gartex Texprocess India

The renowned tradeshow on garment textile machinery 'Gartex Texprocess India', which is held annually in New Delhi, is all set to mark its launch in Mumbai in March 2020 owing to the demand generated by garment and textile manufacturing industry in Indian and overseas markets.

As per India Brand Equity Foundation's latest report, exports in the textiles and apparel industry are expected to reach \$300 bn by 2024-25, resulting in a tripling of Indian market share from 5 percent to 15 percent. Also with government's efforts in developing a competitive textile sector in India through its latest Textiles Policy 2020, the demand is expected to rise even further. Keeping in mind the new developments, the organisers of Gartex Texprocess India - MEX Exhibitions Pvt Ltd and Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India - added the new location 'Mumbai' this year with the primary objective of reaching out to major textile hubs of West and South India. This edition will complement the existing New Delhi edition while also increasing the expanse of the show by reaching out to smaller-sized companies and start-ups in the region.

Gaurav Juneja, Director, MEX Exhibitions Pvt Ltd said: "Gartex Texprocess India is a great platform that has been instrumental in unifying various stakeholders within the garment and textile manufacturing supply



chain. Now the show is being held for the first time in Mumbai and we are immensely hopeful that this edition will diversify the reach and expanse of this highly popular trade event. Our association with Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India has been especially fruitful in taking the show towards the desired direction. It is our combined endeavour to provide a lot more opportunities for the garment and textile manufacturing industry, and we will strive to work towards that."

Echoing the stance, Raj Manek, Executive Director & Board Member, Messe Frankfurt Asia Holdings Ltd said: "Even as the domestic consumption is surging, India's textile and apparel exports are expected to lead to a tripling of the country's market share globally. Witnessing the tremendous opportunities at the first unified Gartex Texprocess India, the industry strongly hinted at the show's potential as an instrumental venue for collaborations. As organisers, it is our

combined endeavour to strengthen our exhibitors' reach in their target markets or potential areas of their business interest, and therefore we decided to bring the platform to Mumbai so as to provide stakeholders greater accessibility to their buyers in the Western and Southern regions."

Exhibitors, who have signed up for the event, are all geared-up to present the latest innovations, machines, plants, processes and services to various stakeholders in the industry, including manufacturers and suppliers. The Mumbai edition of the show is scheduled to be held from 19 – 21 March 2020 at Bombay Exhibition and Convention Centre. The highlights of the show include 'Garmenting & Apparel Machinery' that will provide insights on technological developments in the garment & apparel manufacturing sector. Besides this, innovative products and technologies, defining latest trends in the industry, will be showcased to the visitors at the four concurrent shows - Denim Show, India Laundry Show, Fabrics & Trims Show and Digitex Show during the three-day event.

The event is also aimed at providing business opportunities to the international and national suppliers as well as trade visitors through networking sessions with industry experts and engaging in investment opportunities during the show ■

New tagline for Tiruppur T-Shirts is "Sustainability"

Tiruppur as a cluster has invested in 1,600 MW of wind and solar energy, recycles waste water in processing units, and has zero liquid discharge systems. Use of recycled fibres and fabrics and green initiatives are now being discussed to a great extent among garment exporters in Tiruppur, as overseas brands talk about sustainable product ranges.

Sulochana Cotton Spinning Mills in Tiruppur got into PET bottle recycling almost a decade ago. Used and thrown away PET bottles were collected and processed for fibre and this was spun into yarn. The company, which has knitting and garmenting facilities too, is now in the process of adopting a technology that will enable its overseas buyers and customers to trace the raw materials and processes involved in bringing out the product and an assurance that the synthetic yarn is from recycled fibre. Sulochana is getting ready to launch on a commercial scale 'Polycycle', a branded process to trace the entire supply chain, from picking the bottles to making of garments from the recycled fibre yarn, through block chain.

Kaushik Krishnakumar, Joint Managing Director of Sulochana, says that garment brands in the United States and the European Union are showing increasing interest in sustainable products, especially for the last two years. The traceability feature that the company will offer its buyers is a value addition to the sustainable garments that they will source. "We have been in touch with buyers and there are all for it. What they want to know is



when we will go commercial with the product," he says. And, on the sustainability part, the company speaks of use of zero water for processing, complete use of renewable energy, etc. Syndicate Impex, another garment manufacturing firm in Tiruppur, has launched Ecohike, a range of knitwear collections made entirely of fibre from recycled PET bottles and recycled textile fabrics.

A. Kathiresan, one of the Directors at Syndicate, says the company launched sustainable garments six months ago and plans to take it to the Scandinavian countries by the end of this year. "There are several factors in the process of making a garment and in the materials used that make it sustainable. We plan to buy back the used garments of our brand so that we can recycle it. This will ensure that the t-shirts do not go to the landfills," he says. The uniqueness of Ecohike t-shirts is that each one is made from 12 recycled PET bottles, saves water, emits 70 percent less carbon dioxide during the manufacture process, and 250 grams of landfill is saved, according to the company.

Sulochana and Syndicate are not the only companies in Tiruppur that are investing in sustainability. As apparel brands in the European Union and the US announce plans for sustainable product ranges, suppliers are looking at ways to make their products meet the buyer demand.

The world market is talking of sustainable manufacturing process and products. "Knowingly or unknowingly, Tiruppur has scaled high on this front," says Raja Shanmugham, president of Tiruppur Exporters' Association.

Tiruppur as a cluster has invested in 1,600 MW of wind and solar energy, recycles waste water in processing units, and has zero liquid discharge systems. Hence, the cluster itself has sustainability advantage and individual companies are taking it forward through separate initiatives. The Association is trying to bring sustainability brand to the entire cluster. This will also ensure continuous flow of orders to the cluster, he says ■

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Together worldwide visitors for Inspiration and Innovations

The world's leading trade show for the upstream creative fashion industry succeeded in mobilizing industry professionals from 124 countries around more than 1,700 exhibitors for a distinctly particular edition due to the corona virus health crisis. With nearly 45,000 visitors, Première Vision welcomed more than 80 percent of its usual audience to Paris this past 11-13 February to imagine, design and produce the Spring/Summer 2021 collections.

This quite particular edition, dedicated to materials for the Spring-Summer 2021 season, presented a selective and creative offer from 1,710 international exhibitors in yarns and fibres, fabrics, leathers, surface designs, accessories and fashion

manufacturing - with 48 countries represented. This was a solid showing, despite the loss of 45 Chinese companies initially registered that were neither able to attend the show nor be represented by their European teams.

In this disrupted environment, Première Vision Paris fulfilled its role as catalyst for the global creative fashion industry by welcoming more than 80 percent of its customary visitors. In all, 44,414 visitors and international buyers came to meet their creative and industrial partners. Attendees voiced their approval for an event rich in inspirations, experiences and expert and strategic talks on the sector's key issues, including eco-responsibility, technologies, societal changes, unique know-hows and more.



An edition driven by eco-responsibility and a top-notch program

The February 2020 edition of *Première Vision Paris* put the spotlight on responsible creation, engaging visitors with a Smart Creation area that welcomed 58 exhibitors presenting their latest eco-responsible innovations and fashion tech, in addition to hosting a full range of conferences in the Innovation Talks Area to explore the fashion of tomorrow, all of which were particularly well attended. The fashion information prepared by the *Première Vision* fashion team for spring-summer 2021 was also highly acclaimed, with forums and seminars filled to capacity, notably that dedicated to the dynamic Sport & Tech sector.

The experience offered to visitors at the show was also impressive, with the «Mutations» exhibition exploring the link between technology and nature, the private evening organised at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs for the «Marche et démarche» exhibit, and an exhibition dedicated to lace at *Maisond' Exceptions*.

The smart creation area, a harmonious mix of sustain ability and technology

For the first time, exhibitors presenting eco-responsible materials and services and exhibitors who were experts in fashion technology were gathered together one space in Hall 3: The Smart Creation Area. This space was now a permanent feature of the *Première Vision Paris* show.

Sustain ability and technology are two key subjects around which the *Première Vision* group had been positioning itself for several years now, to support the creative fashion industry as it evolved. As early as 2015, it launched the Smart Creation study and information platform to promote its exhibitors' responsible approaches and showcase a new generation of values. This platform can be found online on the *Première Vision* website, and has long had a dedicated space, the Smart Creation Area, at the September editions of *Première Vision Paris*.

At the same time, the Wearable Lab, launched in 2017 at the February editions, explored innovations driven by the advent of new technologies and digitalization to promote connected and intelligent fashions.

Merging these two spaces created a new universe designed to introduce each edition of *Première Vision Paris* to the eco-responsible and technological innovations that were already industrially developed and ready to be used in the fashions of today and tomorrow. This was a strong and fundamental development to meet the needs of the international fashion sector's players - industrial exhibitors and fashion and accessory brands.

The smart creation area: the news for February 2020

Within the Smart Creation Area, *Première Vision* presented the most committed, inspiring and even visionary companies in the sector: 54 exhibitors including 43 featuring responsible products (36 Smart

Materials and 7 Smart Services - 1/3 being newcomers) and 11 fashion tech exhibitors (including 3 new ones).

Discover here: Eco-friendly materials: organic & responsible (Bananatex, Circular Systems, Varvaressos) and recycled (Komatsu), Responsible dyes: waterless & tech (Debs, Taylor) and natural (Komatsu, Toyoshima), Innovative materials – whether in terms of eco-responsibility (Spiber) or materials/products with exceptional thermal/bacterial, hydrophobic or breathable properties (Tannerie Pechdo, Pyrates, Induo, Polygiene), Innovative creative processes (Browzwear, Daumet), Connected products (Satab, De Rigueur, KC Textil, Ciliarish Shanghai Apparel), Technologies serving traceability (Haelixa, Id Factory, Verisium), Global circular approaches (Greenbiz par Komatsu).

An exhibition that explored the link between technology and nature

The Smart Creation Area hosted the Mutations exhibit dedicated to the theme of biomimicry. In this immersive experience, visitors were able to discover and handle artworks in which life and technology were harmoniously intermingled, inspired by the imagination of the creative duos: Scenocosme and Maria Castellanos & Alberto Valverde. The Mutations exhibition explored our ability to transform reality and create a new and hybrid relationship with our surroundings.

Alongside these works, *Première Vision* was also renewing its collaboration with MaterIO', a unique and novel monitoring center specialized in identifying innovative materials. The show displayed around 30 selected materials with a high creative potential that were currently only rarely or never used in textile manufacturing.

Innovation infusing all the various sectors of *Première Vision Paris*

This responsible-creation approach started right from the so-called creation phase, as 80% of a product's environmental impact was determined in its design stage. All the upstream sectors of creative fashion were thus concerned. And because innovative players were also located in other areas of the show, *Première Vision Paris* was offering an index of 160 exhibitors identified as having an exemplary responsible approach by the *Première Vision* teams – the result of in-depth analysis over the last few years.

The exhibitors in the index were selected according to three criteria (all validated by certifications): The company: Social and environmental responsibility (energy, water, waste management, as well as HR and corporate ethics), Its product transformation processes: Traceability, dyeing and finishing, Raw material sourcing: Fabric, Leather, Accessories: Recycled / Regenerated / Organic, Alternative materials: Biopolymers / New fibres and yarns. Visitors were able to discover these exhibitors via a digital tour exploring most of the *Première Vision Paris* universes: yarns, fabrics, leathers and accessories.



PREMIEREVISION
FABRICS

Fancies Selection for spring-summer 21

The season's decoration highlights, illustrated in prints, jacquards, yarn-dyeds, lace and embroidery. Key decorations for everyday and dressy fashions. Highlights for eco-friendly product.

Spring-Summer 21 decorations kick off a light-hearted season that is both calm and expressive. Delicacy and refinement are combined with eloquent know-hows and artful double-readings to portray blooming, predominantly vegetal decorations, with backgrounds playing a real role of their own. The ecological offer is growing and strengthens the idea of responsible and fantasy-rich fashions.





ALPHA

Drawing with space

Decoration is imbued with a serene modesty: patterns are spaced out, allowing backgrounds – elaborated, fancy-woven, enlivened with subtle texture – to fully express themselves. Prints with airy, peaceful flowers, scattered throughout the space. A breath of summer, with purified visuals playing on fullness and emptiness. Transparencies and semi-opacities in silkies, wide-open cut-yarn jacquards. In embroidery, delicate filigree flowers accentuate the importance of something missing yet valued, set off by colourful yarns.



Broche Estar Tekstil



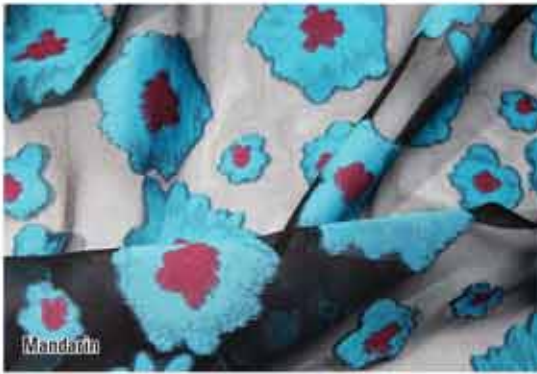
Cavalleri



Mantero Seta



Malfroy Million



Mandarin



Donglong Lace



Jakob Schlaepfer

Eloquent extravagance

Techniques and skills combine and add up, layered together for a joyous and festive extravagance: re-printed multi-coloured embroideries and sequins, random prints magnified by metallic yarns that blur readings, jacquards with multiple reflections on moving and bumpy grounds. Exaggerated relief with extra-large sequined petals; undulating, liquid and fleeting shines in silk.



Bella Tela



Girani



APC Almodo Print Collection



Dentelle Mery



Jakob Schlaepfer



Laurent Garigue



Ventures



Nuances

Expressive mark making

The lines and strokes of patterns celebrate a hand-drawn sensibility. We can see the trace of a brushstroke, the marking of a committed sketch, the passage of a watercolour ink. Graphics are fluid, easy, free and sincere. Textured flat tints, colours infusing each other, shapes with more rounded contours, vague, soft geometries, as if painted on silk. Graphics are outlined in both printing and embroidery, with a tangible, almost artisanal contouring in corneley lace. Stylised floral and graphic designs like paper cut-outs, skilfully conceived. Lace with full compositions, where patterns grow opaque.



Guarisco Class



Erica Industria Tessile



Mackent



Adalberto Estampados



Guarisco Class



Darquer

Precious rusticity

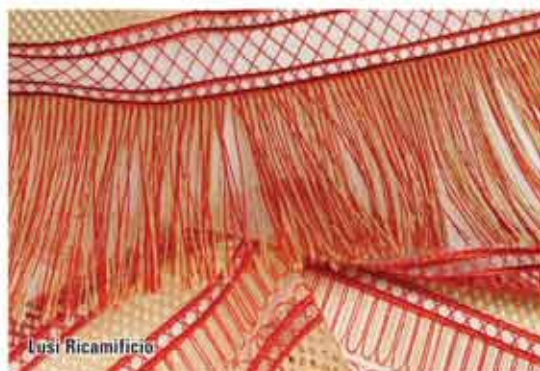
The influence of a rawer, yet extremely sophisticated, craftsmanship infuses the most luxurious products: substantial embroidery, with Arte Povera accents, enhances a spirit of recuperation, leavers lace with climbing flowers is refined with cottony accents, cord guipure and raffia jacquards are refined with softened handles. Subtly frayed yarns, braids and jacquards illuminated with glittering nuggets. Surfaces with marked irregularities playing deceptive games with visuals and handles.



Junior by Adalo Zibetti



Darquer



Lusi Ricamificio



Silk-co



Mantero Seta



Bischoff Group

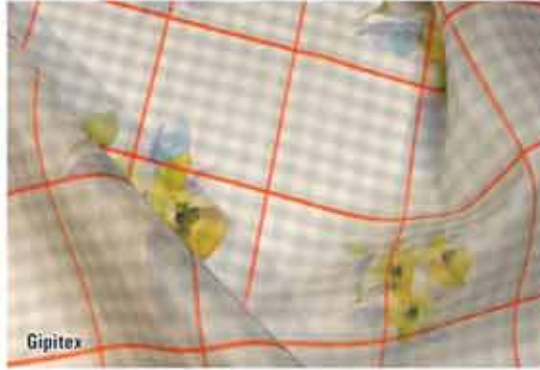


Ricamificio Trevisan Leopoldo



Summery freshness

Summer brings its share of freshness, with decorations in softer colours. Flowers bloom and express themselves in candid graphic styles. Rounded and printed on shivering irregular grounds, they have an almost old-fashioned look, and grow evanescent on organzas and organdis. Delicate tone-on-tones jacquards seem infused by a summer breeze. Water-coloured, slightly blurred, genuine ikats in silkies, while flowers also play games of hide and seek. Naive gardens and springtime landscapes drawn from sketchbooks, charming re-printed eyelet embroideries. The foliage evokes a kindly, colourful jungle, expressed in a big way, like comics.



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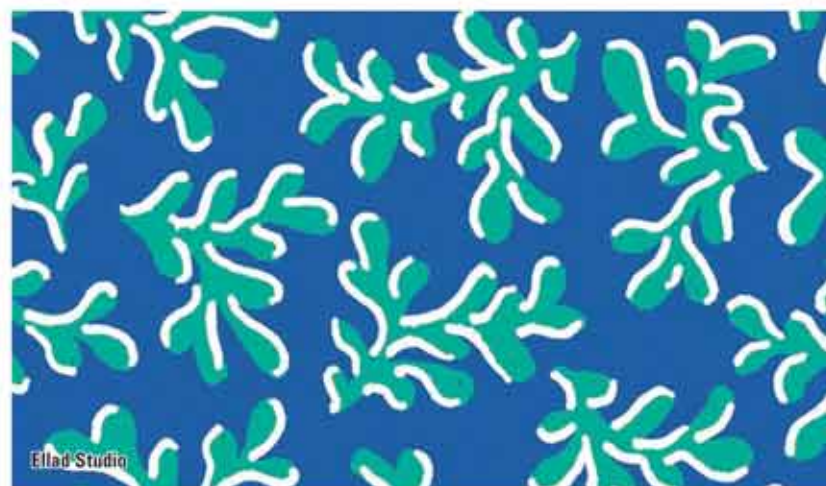
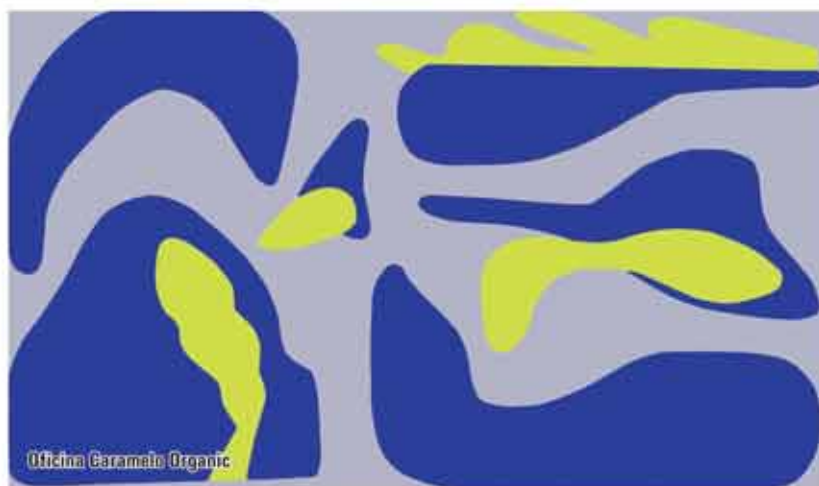
PREMIEREVISION
DESIGNS

Designs selection for
spring-summer 21

The Designs area presents a selection of patterns from the collections of Première Vision Designs exhibitors, presented each season through a dedicated theme. Discover the full information for prints and decoration illustrated in the Designs document.

Spring summer 2021 is a season in motion, committed to responsible, renewable, rich and appealing fashions. A season that proposes a change in perspectives, offering new outlooks and a 360° vision.

This season, patterns are expressed through a variety of media, from painting to drawing and photography. Graphic expressions convey the season's powerful cravings: to appropriate motion, to highlight the artistic gestures and movements behind an execution, to explore new graphic and geometric forms, a desire to purify surfaces and get to the essence.



Simplified Geometries

Graphics are simplified, geometries grow softer, corners are rounded and wavy lines cut the backgrounds up into colourful flat tints. Narrative and appetizing natures or abstract forms create generous, full compositions, interlocked like skilful modular units, with full, covering colours.



Kunjut

Nourishing nature
 Nature blooms in lively and harmonious colours, in slices of summer that encourage you to play with overlays and transparency. Richly colourful arrangements like a fresh, summery fruit salad, or appealing compositions of nature worked in X-rays style. Solarised colours playing with light and bewitching shades.



Design39



Constance Desanti



Jack Jones Design



Epluche



Constance Desanti Desanti



Jack Jones Design



Sophie Augustin Viguier Itstiri



Stampa Studio



Sarah Sander Print Design Studio



lepointille

Ethnic collage
 Collages portray a spontaneity that mixes ethnic and narrative styles. An expressivity communicated in experiments around quirky, offbeat portraits in cut-out paper.



Atelier Natanski Paris



La Fabrique Design Textile



Alto Design



Pil Pil Studio



Dash Studio



Cocotka



Atelier Du Motif / Bleu Cobalt

Invasive flowers

Surfaces are filled up, and backgrounds disappear, giving way to a flowering that populates the space. Flowers are jostling, overlapping and spread out their colourful, shimmering petals.



Clare Maha



DMD Amsterdam



Karina York



Studio Estampa



Saltbox Printhouse



Season Design Textile

Pictorial strokes

An expressive motion that plays with assemblies, strokes somewhere between paint, pastel and pencil, and anchors the style of the chosen medium. Shapes imprinted with geometry and expressive lines to lend character to the design.



Hue & Mi



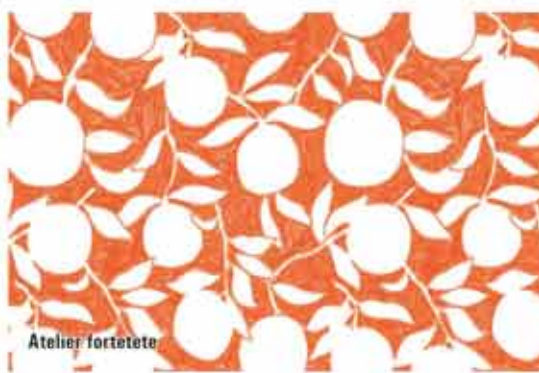
Camille Piane Motifs



Surface Print Source

Shaping absent space

Purified visuals that free themselves of any surplus, to pare down to the essential. The idea of positive reduction emerges in designs, to make use of blank space and give a new freedom to backgrounds. Pared-down lines and meticulously elaborated empty space create visuals evoking the disappearance of a motif, a line, a memory.



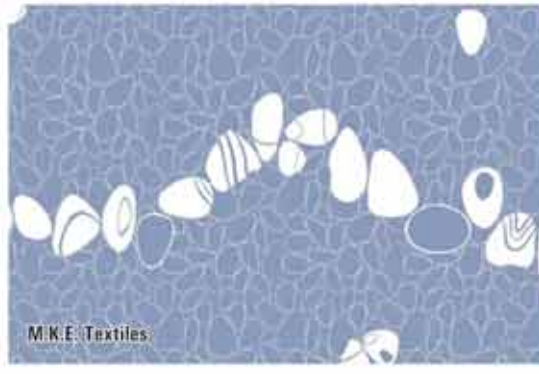
Atelier fortetete



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A new level of sustainability, digitalisation, transparency, a growing need for information and the desire to inspire

The Munich Fabric Start with Bluezone, Keyhouse and the individual showcases presented by around 1,000 international suppliers of fabrics and additional successfully introduced the Spring.Summer 21 season from 04 - 06 February in Munich. The approximately 18,400 international trade visitors were offered a broad spectrum of strongly positioned collections with innovative product and trend statements that demonstrated a new awareness of ecology and the increasing relevance of natural looks and resource-saving materials.

For the first time, the Munich Fabric Start closed with a slightly declining number of visitors, due to the worrying news about the rapidly spreading corona virus in China and because of the overlapping trade fair days with Milano Unica. Nevertheless, the three days of the fair were fully used in a professional business atmosphere. The number of visitors could be kept at a high level despite the difficult general conditions resulting in Munich Fabric Start to close with a minus of 7 percent compared to the previous year for the very first time.

'The Munich Fabric Start has shown very clearly that this fair format is convincing as a strong industry platform in times of changes and major challenges. Thanks to the professionalism and sovereignty of all those involved, the necessary responsibility to approach the reorientation of the market constructively and in a solution-oriented manner has been

created. We have experienced this willingness in numerous discussions with exhibitors and visitors during the three intensively used days of the fair. We therefore feel confirmed in our current and future orientation' said by Sebastian Klinder, Managing Director of Munich Fabric Start.

The design team of Boss Women emphasizes not only the good atmosphere but also the high-quality and quantitative offer: 'We enjoy the relaxed atmosphere here in Munich. All the important suppliers are on-site, so we can work excellently. The main topic is of course sustainability and the correspondingly wide range of natural materials such as linen as one of the favourites for summer 21. There are also very innovative jerseys, bondings and neoprene knittings as new and exciting materials.'

This was also confirmed by Theresa Austin, Advisor Akojo Market, Co-Founder Paris UIUX, LVMH Group Digital: 'I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Munich Fabric Start. The Bluezone and Keyhouse, in particular, were eye-opening for me and I was very impressed at the number of suppliers working with innovative new technologies and methods to produce in more sustainable ways. It was a great showcase of sustainable innovation and it was very inspirational to speak with so many experts on such a key topic. I left both motivated and educated, with a lot to share back into my work.'

Focus on Thrivability

The guiding theme Thrivability met the current mood of the industry, in which future-oriented entrepreneurial spirit meets enthusiasm and a changing understanding of values. In Munich, it became very clear that the era of sustainability is currently determining all talks and discussions in the textile industry. The tenor seems unanimous: The industry is on the right track and now it is time to take responsibility, turn information into action and create transparency.

Claudia Lanius, Lanius, highlighted the positive approach to a new form of open-mindedness: 'The largest portfolio of sustainable products is on display here in Munich. Such a broad spectrum in this density cannot be found anywhere else. All major suppliers are on-site. In addition, there is an excellently staffed accompanying program of panels and discussion rounds. The acceptance of sustainable topics is increasing all the time, which is a very positive development overall. This is also reflected in the competent awards for articles in the ReSOURCE Area.'

The increasing interest in sustainability, certifications and future-relevant topics is also confirmed by Franziska Dohrmann, GOTS: 'Our contact to major brands is clearly increasing and the interest in certified articles is growing. Already on the first day of the fair, we recorded a strong visitor frequency with very good discussions. The increasing acceptance is also reflected in the highly attended lectures of the ReSOURCE Forum.'

Information, Responsibility and Transparency in Discussion

The different aspects, innovations, collaborations and communication concepts were also the focus of the numerous well-attended side events at KEYHOUSE, the ReSOURCE Area and BLUEZONE.

'As a trade fair organiser, we also see ourselves in the role of an impulse generator with a potentially corresponding reach. Therefore, we attach particular importance to a qualitative and varied supporting programme which, thanks to international experts, offers an insight into current innovation topics, problems and solutions and thus forms the basis for transparent knowledge transfer.' Frank Junker, Creative Director Munich Fabric Start.

Right at the start, trend forecaster David Shah addressed precisely these challenges in his enthusiastic keynote "The 10 Design Pillars of Design". The publisher and CEO of View Publications drew scenarios of new retreat possibilities and the search for structures and simplicity in times of digitalisation and diversification.

The panel discussion on the subject of "Future Textile Supply Chain" with international experts also provided new thought-provoking impulses on how the textile chain can be transformed through sustainable solutions and networking. In addition to transparency, intensive communication with consumers and the development of technologies, product development, quality and aesthetics should not be forgotten as indispensable criteria.

'The textile value chain is currently being radically rethought. Every company has to deal with these impulses and develop individual concepts. One thing is certain: in the future, too, only those companies will be successful whose fashion fascinates and who act in an economically sensible manner. Digital processes, decentralized production, smaller batches, shorter lead times, comprehensive transparency and new circular business models – it remains exciting to see which of these developments are scalable and when. One thing is certain: now is the right time to develop principles for dealing with the new perspectives for your own company. In view of these fascinating prospects, a 90-minute expert panel on "Future Textile Supply Chain" is



just enough to scratch the surface of the new possibilities.' Alexander Vogt, Kern. Consulting

Innovations, Future Materials & New Trends

Knowledge, transparency, quality, responsibility and communication influence the current multitude of product and process innovations. Linen, both pure and blended with cotton, is the big favourite for the season Spring/Summer 21. Other material innovations were super-stretch silk, recycled polyester, Ecovero-Tencel linen, Naia and Cuprofibre blends or hemp textiles – the constant reference to natural fibres and surfaces was clearly visible.

The theme of Li Edelkoort's exclusive trend seminar underlined this statement. In her two-hour "Green Wave" lecture, the internationally renowned trend expert presented her interpretations of Spring/Summer 21. Here, a rethinking of natural materials and looks was clearly evident as well. In her outlook on Autumn/Winter 21/22, she favours White as a global colour, on which new structures, styles and designs are based.

BLUEZONE – Reject egoism. Create ECOISM. Rewrite your future.

The denim industry is facing new challenges, which the Blue Community faced as an optimistic and international community at BLUEZONE under the ECOISM theme. The strong network of over 100 major international brands and numerous denim experts was looking for answers to a conscious consumer approach and a growing interest in ready-made solutions that offer future-oriented products, state-of-the-art technological processes and complex functionalities.

Current topics that determine the denim market were discussed in depth in lectures and international panel discussions. The Rivet 50 Talk on the topic of "2020 Vision" on the first morning of the fair gave an outlook on companies, technologies and fashion in the next decade. One of the key statements highlighted the changing demands of consumers – stationary retail can only survive with new concepts, such as offering sustainable fashion, vintage, and repair stores under one roof. This is precisely why the denim community must move closer together.

Alberto Candiani from Candiani Denim confirms that the community spirit of the ECOISM guiding theme determines the future: 'ECOISM – I love the concept, the slogan, the theme of this year's BLUEZONE. It's about green innovations, which must be visible and tangible, and about consumers who are better informed than ever before and are looking for a new way of consuming. We, as the Blue Community, are responsible for a massive change that will transform what is considered a "polluting" industry into a green model based on sustainable innovation and circularity. Denim can be seen as the most popular, "democratic" and perhaps "invasive" fabric ever made on the planet – and we, the Ecoists, want to change denim to become the representative flag for this revolution.'

MUNICH FABRIC START

SPRING.SUMMER 21

trendbook

thrivability

thrivability brings enthusiasm, creates excitement, lets blossom and flourish. thrivability deconstructs our understanding of fashion and plants a new, positive way of thinking: aesthetics and people meet at eye level; resources and nature are respected. The result is a higher level of quality and a transparency never known before that makes the new, inherent product features shine.

The season Spring.Summer 21 is marked by dynamism, waves and radiance. It represents a new understanding of holistic sustainability and future oriented entrepreneurial spirit. It responds to contemporary market needs and reflects a changing understanding of values. Knowledge, transparency, responsibility and communication are the coordinates that provoke the current multitude of product and process innovations. thrivability combines this new zeitgeist with a classic trend terminology and cultivates an inspiring and progressive reorientation of materials, fashion and design.



coral banks



pixie cut



2nd blue



memphis



affogato

THE OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE OF THE 60S IS EXPERIENCING A RENAISSANCE.

On the one hand with a positive, politically motivated view of the possibilities that lie ahead, on the other hand with the minimalistic-futuristic language of form, which despite all reduction plays with innovative forms and materials.



design. Etudes SIXTIES PASTELS

cielo drive



design. Maryam Nassir Zadeh MINIMAL RETRO DESIGN



photo. Ralph Crane RETRO SUPER FUTURE



not so concretely



gmo-free



lilac wig



mirror, mirror on the wall



blind date



design. Juun J RANDOM IDENTITIES



source. Instagram @mrfores FOLLOWING INNER AESTHETICS

homme fatal

design. Acne Studios UNISEX DESIGN



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, TRANSSEXUAL, QUEER, QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL, ALLY, PANSEXUAL OR IN SHORT LGBTTQQAAP.

The longer this initial chain becomes, the closer we get to the total dissolution and insignificance of gender and sexual orientation. It becomes evident in ambivalent looks and provoking stylings that trans-gress common gender classification.



terra lova

EMPATHIC COMMUNITIES FULFIL OUR LONGING FOR AN EASY ROMANTICISM THAT ALLOWS US TO ESCAPE EVERYDAY LIFE.

Spiritual experiences let us enjoy nature and daydream and fade out reality: sensual pleasures are only truly celebrated through intensive, meditative experience within a group of kindred spirits.



rosewood roller



design, Verdura
RECYCLED FISHING NETS

so



sprouting spirit

romantic



jade spring fields



design, Mistra Future Fashion x Filippa K
COMPOSTABLE PAPER FABRIC DRESS



sedimental clash

photo, Patricia Corcoran; design, Toni Packham
PLASTIC SEDIMENT FUSION



laser swoosh



design, Balmain
POWER DRESSING

FASHION IS EXPERIENCED ENTHUSIASTICALLY. A GENDERLESS, STRONG COMMUNITY RISES FROM EXPRESSIVE POWER SILHOUETTES, AS A STRONG SHIELD AGAINST THE REST OF THE WORLD.

A boom of feudal disco looks, dyed with a luxurious vintage feeling, drives this trend story forward.

saturday



frisky negligee



deep purple

night



jungle boogie

pleasure



photo, Eissa Brunato
BIODEGRADABLE GLITTER



art, Ariana Papademetropoulos
PSYCHEDELIC COLOURINGS



leather skirt



straw composite



kosbah



pimento



thrive my fire
not printable



macho



photo. Viviane Sassen
NATURAL DYESTUFF

WE WATCH THE EXCITING CREATIONS ARISE IN A MIX OF MUSIC, FASHION AND ART FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES WITH INTERCULTURAL CURIOSITY.

At the same time, we focus more and more on historical cultural connection.

cross culture



source. instagram @playaplogging
BEACH PLOGGING



design. DriesVanNoten
MULTINATIONAL



papier mâché



chipboard



Pantoneronutrient



orange peel



pistil pollen

FUNCTIONALITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND NEW TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS ARE ARRANGED INTO A MINIMALISTIC

AESTHETIC. Hemp and cork mutate into highperformance materials, while traditional embroidery is abstracted and modernised. Classic silhouettes are redesigned with modular elements and combined with modern accessories.



design. Fragments Garments
MODULAR CLOTHING

re-originate



photo. Special Projects
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



design. Carlo Ratti Associati design. Elise Esser
REUSING ORANGE WASTE

skydiver

green wave

powder room

tartan walk

tennis socks



photo. Daniel Regan
BRAND LOVERS

WE SHOW OUR TRUE ENSIGN OR OUR BRAND AGAIN. ONLY ACT OUT OF INNER CONVICTION? MUCH TOO MODEST.

Fashion disciples display their attitude in the shape of logos and branding, united in elaborate street-style looks. "Of course, I'm vegan. You can tell by my Stella McCartney scarf."

supreme gods



design. Lacoste
PERFORMANCE GOES LUXURY



design. adidas
TRACEABILITY

adaptive spores

cell division

bolshy truth

white monday

civil disobedience

design. A Cold Wall
ALGORITHMIC COUTURE



source. PA Images
EXTINCTIVE REBELS

paradigm shift

photo. Rasmus Hjørtshøj
HEDONISTIC SUSTAINABILITY

SOME THINGS DEVELOP SLOWLY, FOR OTHERS YOU HAVE TO FLIP A SWITCH AND RADICALLY RETHINK COMMON DEMEANOURS.

That is the only way to reinvent basic concepts and in experiment completely revise them. For example, when a waste incineration plant becomes an urban ski slope or when flexible circuits open up new applications for textiles. Technical sustainability becomes a new form of hedonism.



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Forthcoming trade events

INTERNATIONAL

▶▶ INTL ISTANBUL YARN FAIR

27 – 29, February 2020
Venue: Tuyap Exhibition and Convention Center, Büyükcçekmece, Turkey
Organizer: Tuyap Fairs & Exhibitions Organization Inc.
Tel: +90 (212) 867 11 00

▶▶ KOREA INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MACHINERY EXHIBITION

04 – 06, March 2020
Venue: Exco (Daegu Exhibition & Convention Center)
Organizer: Kofoti (Korea Federation of Textile Industries)
Tel: +82 (0)2 528 4017

▶▶ ALLTEX - THE WORLD OF TEXTILE 2020

04 – 07, March 2020
Venue: Kiev Intl. Exhibition Center, Ukraine
Organizer: PC "Ukrainian podium"
Tel: +380 (44) 567-60-06

▶▶ DYE + CHEM SRI LANKA EXPO 20

05 – 07, March 2020
Venue: Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre, Sri Lanka
Organizer: CEMS USA/CEMS Bangladesh
Tel: +1 (646) 416 – 7902, +880 2-55040848

▶▶ INTERTEXTILE SHANGHAI APPAREL FABRICS

Date postpone
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt Ltd. Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2802 7728

▶▶ YARN EXPO AUTUMN

Date postpone
Venue: National Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt Ltd. Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2802 7728

▶▶ BANGLADESH INTL GARMENT & TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPO - CHITTAGONG EDITION

02 – 04, April 2020
Venue: GEC Convention Centre, Chittagong, Bangladesh
Organizer: RedCarpet365 Limited Bangladesh
Tel: +88 02 8871412, +8801715175552

▶▶ BANGLADESH DENIM EXPO

06 – 07, April 2020
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: Denim Expert Ltd Bangladesh
Tel: +880177774696

▶▶ INTERNATIONAL APPAREL & TEXTILE FAIR

07 – 09, April 2020
Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE
Organizer: Nihalani Events UAE
Tel: +971 55 884 6186

▶▶ JIAM 2020 OSAKA

20 – 23, May 2020
Venue: Intex Osaka, Japan
Organizer: JIAM Desk Messe Frankfurt Japan Ltd.
Tel: +81-3-6380-880

▶▶ SCREEN PRINT UZBEK 2020

Date postpone
Venue: KargazmaSavdoMarkazi Exhibition Centre, Uzbekistan
Organizer: Aditya Exposition (P) Ltd. India
Tel: +91 22 2614 9984, 98211 62820

▶▶ CHINA CLOTHING TEXTILE ACCESSORIES EXPO 2020

11 – 13 June, 2020
Venue: International Convention Centre, Sydney
Organizer: Minstar (Australia) Enterprises P. Ltd
Tel: 61-2-92353588

▶▶ DHAKA INT'L TEXTILE & GARMENT MACHINERY EXHIBITION

11 – 14, June 2020
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: Chan Chao Intl. Co. Ltd. Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-2659-6000

▶▶ MOROCCO FASHION & TEX FAIR

25 – 28, June 2020
Venue: La Foire De Casablanca, Morocco
Organizer: Pyramids Fair Group Turkey
Tel: +90 216 575 28 28

▶▶ SPINEXPO PARIS

29 – 30, June 2020
Venue: Carrousel du Louvre, Paris
Organizer: Well Link Consultants Hong Kong
Tel: +86 138 1750 2652

▶▶ THE GARTEX SHOW

02 – 04, July 2020
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: Limra Trade Fairs & Exhibitions P. Ltd
Tel: + 88 02 9121405

▶▶ DHAKA INTL. DENIM SHOW

13 – 16, July 2020
Venue: Intl. Convention City, Bashundhara, Dhaka
Organizer: CEMS Bangladesh Bangladesh
Tel: +1-646-416-7902

▶▶ DHAKA INTERNATIONAL YARN & FABRIC SHOW - WINTER EDITION

13 – 16, July 2020
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: CEMS Bangladesh Bangladesh
Tel: +88 02 48810267 ~ 81

▶▶ SPINEXPO NEW YORK

14 – 16, July 2020
Venue: Brooklyn Expo Center, New York
Organizer: Well Link Consultants Hong Kong
Tel: +86 138 1750 2652

▶▶ FUNCTIONAL FABRIC FAIR (USA)

20 – 21 July, 2020
Venue: Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York, USA
Organizer: Reed Exhibitions Australia
Tel: +61 2 9422 2500

▶▶ GARMENT MANUFACTURERS SOURCING EXPO

22 – 25, July 2020
Venue: Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
Organizer: Reed Tradex Thailand
Tel: +66 2686 7222

▶▶ DHAKA INTL. YARN & FABRIC SHOW

02 – 05, September 2020
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Organizer: CEMS Bangladesh
Tel: +88 02 48810267 - 81

▶▶ TAIPEI INNOVATIVE TEXTILE APPLICATION SHOW

06 – 08, October 2020
Venue: Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Hall 1, Taipei, Taiwan
Organizer: TAITRA Taiwan
Tel: +886(2)2341-7251

DOMESTIC

▶▶ FABRICS & ACCESSORIES TRADE SHOW

28 February – 01 March 2020
Venue: Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation, Bengaluru
Organizer: SS Textile Media P. LTD.
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ FASHION CONNECT

28 Feb – 01 Mar, 2020
Venue: KPTO Convention Centre, Whitefield, Bengaluru
Organizer: SS Textile Media Private Ltd
Tel: +91 93425 66532, 98451 19893

▶▶ THE LOTUS MAKE-UP INDIA FASHION WEEK

11 – 15, March 2020
Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
Organizer: FDCI
Tel: 011 2684 2179

▶▶ GARTEX TEXPROCESS INDIA

19 – 21, March 2020
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre Mumbai
Organizer: Mex Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd./ Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India P. Ltd.
Tel: +91-11-46464848, 67575990

▶▶ INTERIOR LIFESTYLE INDIA

19 – 22, March 2020
Venue: Mumbai, India
Organizer: Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs (I) P. Ltd
Tel.: +91 22 6144 5987

▶▶ FIBERS & YARNS EXHIBITION

09 – 11, April 2020
Venue: World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai
Organizer: Tecoyalinfotech
Tel: 91-22-66978533, 9821434749

▶▶ FABTEX EXPO

23 – 25, April 2020
Venue: World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai
Organizer: Tecoyalinfotech
Tel: 91-22-66978533, 9821434749

▶▶ GARFAB – TX

29 – 31, May 2020
Venue: Surat International Exhibition and Conventional Center, Surat
Organizer: Vardaan Events Pvt Ltd
Tel: 80235 35859, 99161 72310

▶▶ TEXMA SURAT 2020

29 – 31, May 2020
Venue: Surat International Exhibition and Convention Center
Organizer: Vardaan Events Pvt Ltd
Tel: 080 23535859, 080 23654858, 99161 72310, 93414 44727

▶▶ SUPER JUNIORZ

15 – 17, June 2020
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: Peppermint Communications P. Ltd.
Tel.: 022-4095 6666

▶▶ INMAC 2020: MUMBAI TEXTILE GARMENT MACHINERY EXPO

25 – 27, June 2020
Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion P. Ltd.
Tel.: + (91)-(22) 40376700

▶▶ DENIMSANDJEANS INDIA

08 – 09, July 2020
Venue: The Lalit Ashok Bangalore, Bengaluru
Organizer: DenimsandJeans India
Tel: +91 11 42828050

▶▶ F&A SHOW & YARNEX

23 – 25, July 2020
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: SS Textile Media P. Ltd.
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ KNIT SHOW 2020

26 – 28, July 2020
Venue: Velan Hotel Fair Ground, Tirupur
Organizer: Knit Show Trade Exposition
Tel: +91 9443792612, 9443906810

▶▶ INDIA INTL. GARMENT FAIR

29 – 31, July 2020
Venue: India Expo Mart, Greater Noida
Organizer: International Garment Fair Association
Tel.: +91-11-45859013

▶▶ SCREENTEX INDIA 2020

1 – 3, August 2020
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: ASK Trade & Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91 9500128471, 044-43856156

▶▶ GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO (GTE)

7 – 9, August 2020
Venue: Gayatri Vihar, Palace Ground, Near Mekhri Circle, Bengaluru
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91 9810143711, 9310029439

▶▶ GARTEX TEXPROCESS INDIA

21 – 23, August 2020
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: Mex Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd./ Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India P. Ltd.
Tel: +91-11-46464848, 67575990

▶▶ YARN FABRIC & ACCESSORIES TRADE SHOW

27 – 29, August 2020
Venue: Dana Mandi, Ludhiana
Organizer: Vision Communications
Tel: 9810872914, 9212707924

▶▶ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPAREL & HOME TEXTILES

12, September 2020
Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Organizer: Okhla Garment & Textile Cluster
Tel: 011-41609550

▶▶ TEXINDIA

17 – 19, September 2020
Venue: India Knit Fair Complex, Tirupur
Organizer: SS Textile Media P. Ltd.
Tel: +91 98454 46570, 93425 66532

▶▶ YARNEX

17 – 19, September, 2020
Venue: India Knit Fair Complex, Tirupur
Organizer: SS Textile Media Private Limited
Tel: +91 9845446570, 9342566532

▶▶ INTEX SOUTH ASIA

10 – 12, December 2020
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organizer: Worldex India Exhibition & Promotion P. Ltd.
Tel: +91 (0)22 40376700

▶▶ INDIA ITME

10 – 15, December 2020
Venue: India Exposition Center, Greater Noida
Organizer: India ITME Society
Tel: +91 (0)22 22020032

▶▶ GARMENT TECHNOLOGY EXPO (GTE)

15 – 18, January 2021
Venue: NSIC Exhibition Complex, Okhla Indl. Estate, New Delhi
Organizer: Garment Technology Expo Pvt. Ltd.
Tel: +91 9810143711, 9310029439

(You are requested to reconfirm dates and other information from respective organisers prior to making your travel arrangements)

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