

# City VIBES

KNIT VISION SPECIAL

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## KNIT VISION 2018

### 2nd Hosiery Machinery Expo of the year Begins at Dana Mandi



Showman, the biggest player in exhibition industry has just after the completion of his mega multi dimensional 5 day event has come up with 19th knit-wear exhibition under the series of Knit-vision Garment Machinery Technology Exhibition 2018. The show began on Saturday the 3rd of February 2018 and will continue till February 6 at Dana Mandi, Bahadurke

Road, Ludhiana. On display is the latest machinery in Garment knitting, Textile, Sewing, Embroidery, Printing, Processing, Dyeing, Allied Machinery & Accessories manufactured by leading companies from all over the world. Leading hosiery industrialists of Ludhiana have started to grace the event.

While speaking to CITY VIBES, the organizer, Satish Sharma, Showman, told that for him an exhibition is an opportunity to acquaint the local industry with the latest technology available in India and all over the world. He told that it takes one full year of hard core effort to search the industrialists all over globe who

have invented something new and make them display their technology Ludhiana. He added that just displaying same old machinery and technology year after year does not do any good to the industry.

The showman opines that Ludhiana industry is now coming out of the shocks of demonetization and GST procedural hindrances. Market has already seen slump of 3 years and the future is bright. This is the right time to invest in new technology to be ready for the upcoming boom. The hosiery sector of Ludhiana provides basic necessities of life to people and there is no way the industry remains in doldrums for so many years.

He says, "Come with an open heart, take decisions that can bring change, go back with a new dream that can build your image as a business par excellence." This makes Knit Vision an ideal platform to build contact, develop business prospects, work on major tie-ups and partnerships."

Knit Vision is organised with the objective to develop a cosmic outlook for the benefits of a City, State, Nation and the World as a whole, to meet the existing and potential customers, to publicize the company's name and products to assist further long-term business for the company, to aid market research and long-term

## लुधियाना में चुनाव आचार संहिता लागू

### जिले के 95 वार्डों में 24 फरवरी को होंगे चुनाव

नामांकन भरने की तिथियां फरवरी 8 -13

परिणाम 27 को

चुनाव आयोग ने लुधियाना के जिले के 95 वार्डों में 24 फरवरी को चुनाव आचार संहिता लागू करने का फैसला किया है। जिला चुनाव आधिकारिक व डिप्टी कमिश्नर प्रदीप कुमार अग्रवाल ने बताया है कि इन चुनावों के लिए नामांकन भरने की प्रक्रिया 8 फरवरी से शुरू होगी तथा 13 फरवरी तक चलेगी। 15 फरवरी को नामांकन पत्रों की जांच

होगी, 16 फरवरी को नामांकन वापिस लेने की अंतिम तिथि होगी तथा उसी दिन उम्मीदवारों को चुनाव चिन्ह भी दे दिए जाएंगे।

24 फरवरी को चुनाव होगा तथा 27 फरवरी को चुनावों के परिणामों की घोषणा कर दी जाएगी।

लुधियाना नगरपालिका के मताधिकार का प्रयोग करने वालों में 5.67 लाख पुरुष तथा 10.5 लाख वोटर अपने

(Contd. on Page 4)

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**19th KNIT VISION**

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C M Sharma

## EDITORIAL

Textile associations in India had initially welcomed the raised allocation for the sector in this year's budget, saying it will help firms in many ways, including clearing pending rebate of state levies (RoSL) dues, however, slowly the budget is seen by many as just an eyewash and the allocations are inadequate as per the requirements of industry. The drop in corporate tax rate for units with an annual turnover of up to Rs 250 crore will benefit most textile units, industry feels, with some scepticism.

The associations, which include the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), Coimbatore-based Indian Textpreneurs Federation (ITF), the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), the Tiruppur Exporters Association (TEA), the cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) and the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), also welcomed the increased allocation for infrastructure development and the focus on agriculture, and saw a lot of incentives for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The National Livelihood Scheme of Rs 5750 crore will benefit the textile sector in rural areas, according to CITI chairman Sanjay Jain.

The budgetary allocation for the textile sector has been increased to Rs 7,148 crore, which includes Rs 2,300 crore for the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) of the textiles ministry, over Rs 6,251 crore last year. ATUFS was introduced in 2015 specifically targeting employment generation and export, promotion of technical textiles, technologically upgrading existing looms and encouraging quality in the processing industry.

It is felt that a large part of the increase in allocation has gone to the state-owned Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for performing minimum support price (MSP) operations and hence, won't help the industry.

Not much has been said in the budget about concrete correctional measures to boost India's export competitiveness in textiles or policies favouring a revival of textile special economic zones.

Nataraj and TEA president Raja M Shanmugham, however, feel the allocation of Rs 2,164 crore for RoSL compared Rs 1,855 crore last year for the export of garments and made-ups is still inadequate as there is a huge backlog for 2017.

The RoSL scheme for apparel exporters came into effect from September 20, 2016, and the actual requirement for the apparel sector alone till March 31 this year is in the range of Rs 5,000 crore, industry hopes that the increased funds will cover fabrics as well under the RoSL scheme.

The 20 per cent higher allocation for infrastructure development shows the government's thrust on renewing spurt in economic activity. Infrastructural bottlenecks have been hindering apparel manufacturing, which involves significant domestic transportation of raw materials and finished goods.

Referring to the reduction of women employees' contribution towards the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to 8 per cent for the first three years, apparel sector workers will be among the primary beneficiaries of this provision as the sector extensively employs women.

Although the rise in basic customs duty (BCD) on silk fabric to 20 per cent from 10 per cent would save the industry from dumping from China, the industry aspired for an increase in BCD across both yarn and fabric and therefore, is disappointed with this partial measure.

The step to make the MSP of all crops 1.5 times that of the production cost will benefit cotton farmers, but will result in high inflation for consumers and the downstream segments and make the industry uncompetitive internationally. CITI urged the government to change from MSP to the direct subsidy system, so that the profit protection measure of farmers doesn't impact the textile consumer and the value added industry.

- C M Sharma

## Breaking Low Margin-Low Cost Cycle In Apparel Industry

A recent report by Kurt Salmon Associates - From Cost Focus To True Value Creation - reiterates the need for retailers to focus on product development, differentiation and value addition, to break the cycle of low margins and costs, and the associated problems with it. The report, as many others underline the need for product innovation, time to market, reliability and execution excellence and superior technical capabilities and quality.

Heavy discounts, markdowns plague the retail industry today, and the industry needs to focus on product, supply chain, quality, instead of always looking for the lowest cost producer.

### Product Innovation

In markets with an abundance of brands and less and less differentiating products, product development and sourcing capabilities move back into the strategic focus of fashion retailers. It's the key enabler for differentiation in the competitive environment. Access to deep technical expertise and unique handwriting of product groups that are critical for brand building as well as curated supplier portfolios with the true ability to drive innovation, evolve to an indispensable asset to drive top line as well as markdown and margin

performance.

### Time to Market

It is obvious that the speed of trends and innovation has tremendously increased over the recent years and consumers are adopting market impulses from option leaders, celebrities, and bloggers at high pace. This requires being closer to consumer needs with critical seasonal milestones on concept, design, and development for adoption of trend impulses as well as buying decisions to ensure market right products and quantities. Sourcing plays a critical role in enabling differentiated seasonal calendars based on individual product needs and a balanced mix of near shore and far east sourcing destinations.

### Demand and Supply Responsiveness

A significant part of end-of-seasons stock and related markdowns stems from buying and production volumes being insufficiently aligned with actual consumer demand on the shop floor and online during full price selling period.

Leading retailers and brands currently make significant investments to drive end-to-end planning integration along the value chain across retail, product merchandising, material management, a n d

sourcing/production. Returns from mismatch of expectations with Main objective is to act regard to quality, size, and fit are a significant vertical while typically cost position which is difficult to effectively not owning the different avoid without aiming for these root causes.

### Reliability and Execution Excellence

With shorter in-store markdowms and ultimately improving gross product lifecycles, margin. This certainly compensates for higher delivery reliability is production cost, and this does not even account more critical than ever for the top line sales potential from brand before. A delivery delay uniqueness and better differentiation vs. of 1 or 2 weeks will competitive offerings. strongly diminish sell-through performance if year's Global Sourcing Leadership Survey the overall planned clearly shows that cost does not lead the list of lifecycle is only 8 weeks future priorities anymore. Instead, speed to market is stated to be the #1 sourcing priority.

### Product Quality and Sustainability

Not many words have to be made about the critical importance of social and environmental responsibility in production - a factor which cannot be deprioritised versus cost anymore without risking the future of any apparel company.

At the same time, also product quality compliance and unified standards - e.g. with regards to fit and construction - are gaining significantly in importance with online growth being unbroken.

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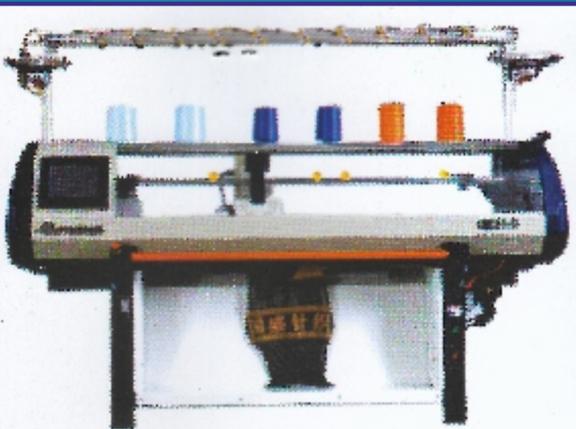
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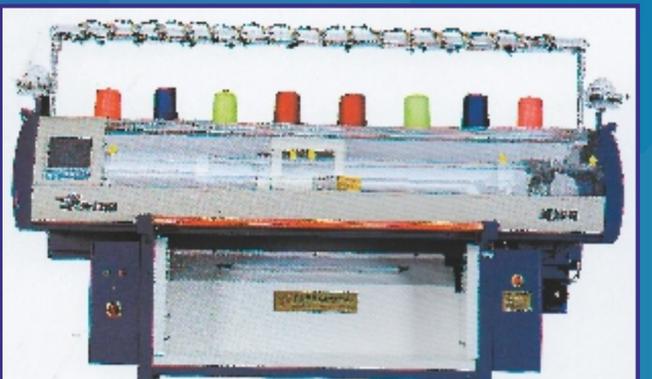
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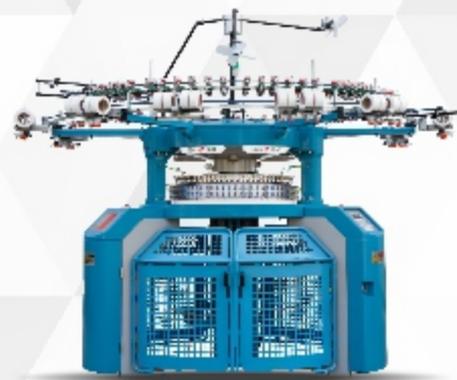
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# SIMA की केन्द्र सरकार से उम्मीदें

साउथ इंडियन मिल्स एसोसिएशन (SIMA) ने बजट से पहले सरकार को कुछ महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर सलाह देते हुए मांग की थी कि कच्ची कपास पर लगाया गया 5 प्रतिशत GST हटाना चाहिए तथा मानव निर्मित फाइबर पर लगा 18 प्रतिशत GST घटा कर 12 प्रतिशत तथा रिसाइकल्ड पोलिस्टर स्टेपल फाइबर पर GST घटा कर का 5 प्रतिशत कर देना चाहिए। इसके इलावा पैटोलियम उत्पादों को GST के दायरे में लाना चाहिए।

(मिनिंग) हो जाने के बाद ही लगनी चाहिए। SIMA का विचार है कि मानव निर्मित फाइबर उद्योग में रोजगार के काफी अवसर हैं तथा इस में वैल्यू एडिशन भी पर ज्यादा है इसलिए इस पर GST कम होना अति आवश्यक है तथा पैटोलियम उत्पादों को GST के दायरे में लाने से उत्पादन लागत में कमी आएगी क्योंकि इससे इनपुट टैक्स क्रेडिट का फलो निर्विरोध रहेगा। हालांकि GST का कानून उत्पादों और सेवाओं पर इनवर्टेड इयूटी सटकर की वजह से संचित क्रेडिट पर धन वापसी की सुविधा प्रदान करता है पर कपड़े पर बंधन की वजह से वैल्यू एडिशन के समय उत्पाद की कीमत में वृद्धि हो जाती है और चूँकि कपड़ा और इसके वैल्यू ऐडिड पदार्थ आम जनता के प्रयोग में आते हैं इस पर क्रेडिट मिलने से इस उत्पाद पर क्रेडिट मिलने से इस उत्पाद

पर हो रहे नकारात्मक असर को कम किया जा सकेगा, SIMA के अध्यक्ष पी नटराज का ऐसा मानना है। एसोसिएशन का ऐसा भी मानना है कि सरकार को धीरे धीरे कारपोरेट टैक्स को 34.6 प्रतिशत से कम कर के 25 प्रतिशत तक लाना चाहिए। कपास के धागे के निर्यात में आ रही गिरावट पर लगाने के लिए जरूरी है कि कपास के धागे को मरैडाइस एक्सपोर्ट फ्राम इंडिया स्कीम (MEIS) तथा इंटरस्ट इकुएलाइजेशन स्कीम (IES) में शामिल जाए और स्पिनिंग सैक्टर के छोटे तथा मध्यम उद्यमियों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए एक पैकेज दिया जाना चाहिए ताकि वह नोटबंदी तथा लैज लागू होने के बुरे असर से उपर उठ सकें। वैल्यूट के कपड़े पर GST कम कर के 5 प्रतिशत तक लाना चाहिए।

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# Taiwan's NFY export to India plummets

Taiwan used to be a large supplier of nylon filament yarn to India with a 12 per cent market share in 2012, but last year its share fell to 7.18 per cent. India has recommended withdrawing anti-dumping duties on imports of nylon filament yarns from Taiwan and five other nations. The Indian government has since 2006 imposed an anti-dumping tax ranging from US\$0.31 per kilogram to US\$0.54 per kilogram on Taiwanese companies' nylon filament yarn exports. India has also imposed similar tariffs on the yarn — which is used in a wide range of clothing and textiles — from China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea. Taiwan last year was the fifth-largest nylon filament yarn supplier to India, after China, Vietnam, South Korea and Malaysia, ministry data

showed. China remained the largest exporter of the product to India with a 28.29 per cent market share, while Vietnam and South Korea held 21.34 per cent and 9.24 per cent respectively. Taiwan last year sold only \$28,097 worth of nylon filament yarn to India for a 7.18 per cent market share, compared with exports of \$43,956 with a 12 per cent share in 2012, ministry data shows. In light of India's withdrawal of the anti-dumping duties, Taiwanese nylon filament suppliers could expand their presence in the Indian market, the ministry says. In the first 11 months of last year, Taiwanese companies sold synthetic fibre valued at \$1.06 billion to overseas customers, with a total shipment of 404,417 tonnes, according to data compiled by the Taiwan Textile Federation.

# Egypt to build biggest textile city

Egypt's Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Tarek Kabil announced the start of the building procedures of the biggest city for textiles and clothing in Egypt on a land space of 3.1 million cubic meters in Al-Sadat city. "The city will contain 568 factories with \$2 billion as a paid capital to be invested during seven years with 87 percent of foreign investment and 13 percent of national investment," Kabil added in a speech delivered in the presence of President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi during his visit to Al-Sadat city. Kabil further clarified that the textile and clothing city

will offer 160,000 job opportunities, with an annual production estimated at \$9 billion. "This project will be implemented by the Chinese company Man Kay for investment that has been working in the textile manufacturing field for more than 10 decades; the company owns 25 affiliated Chinese companies," the minister explained. "The project will contain five phases, where the first phase is set to be finished in 2020 with 57 factories and investments worth \$230 million, while the last phase is scheduled to be completed in 2024," Kabil stated.

# Contd. from Page 1 KNIT VISION 2018...

planning, to procure orders and to backup the company's agents and distributors. The exhibitors over the years have praised the professionalism and hospitality at Showman's

events which is unmatched. Besides, his quest for variety and innovation makes his events unique and stand apart from the crowd.

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4.82 लाख महिला वोटर पंजीकृत हैं। 23 वोटर अन्य हैं। जिलाध्यक्ष ने साथ ही यह भी स्पष्ट कर दिया कि इस घोषणा के साथ ही चुनाव आचार संहिता की शुरुआत

होती है जो कि चुनाव संपन्न होने तक लागू रहेगी। इस घोषणा के साथ ही लुधियाना में चुनावी सरगमियों ने एकदम से जोर पकड़ लिया है।

# Patanjali to roll out Textile Portfolio

Baba Ramdev-promoted Patanjali Group is planning to roll out its textile portfolio in the Indian market by November 2018 — around Diwali. "We have started working on the textile front — Patanjali Paridhan — on a larger scale. We will launch the products either this year around Diwali or positively by January 2019," Ramdev said. Ramdev said the textile portfolio will have around 3,000 products ranging from kidswear to

yoga wear and sportswear. It will have ladieswear and gents wear, and along with that will also come accessories and footwear. The company has also announced its partnership with leading e-retailers and aggregators to authorise online sales of its products. Launching the e-commerce platform, Ramdev added that online sales have that helped the company's sales cross the Rs 10 crore.

# As imports flood the market, India's textile industry is getting hammered

After persistent calls from various industry groups, the government recently announced the enhancement of duty drawback rates to be effective from January 25, 2018. The enhancement of rates for 102 tariff items must come as a relief to all the companies dealing in the mentioned items. However, representatives of textile industry have come forward to register their "disappointment" with the government for ignoring the calls of an industry which has been "one of the most impacted by GST."

garments was not considered, despite the industry being in a very difficult position post-GST," says Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), president, Sanjay K Jain. The domestic textile industry, inform its representatives, is getting flooded by imported material and it has become a concern for the SMEs operating in the sector. "Export incentives have come down and at the same time import barriers have gone down, which has resulted in imports going up by 20% already, and in some cases like in Bangladesh garments have increased by 50%. Exports are coming down every month," says Sinha. A decline of 3% in CAGR in textiles and apparels in the month of December last year compared to the corresponding period in 2016 has been

reported. The exports came to \$2996 million during December 2017 as against \$3075 million in December 2016. "The effective GST duty on fabric is 5% officially, but because of the non-refund of excess input tax credit under inverted duty structure, it actually adds up to 8-9%. This is making us lose to imports because they only pay 5% IGST," remarked Jain. His concern is echoed by another industry association - The Textile Association of India. "We need genuine duty exemption in exports because money is getting stuck for manufacturers," says the national president of the Textile Association, Arvind Sinha. The textile industry, both maintain, is under depression and Sinha says the "main issue is GST,

GST and GST". "Textile industry is not an industry where people can make a lot of money because the margins are very small," adds Sinha. With days to go for the budget, both the associations have called for the government to take initiatives which can help the exports get a boost. "The drawback rates or ROSL rates (Rebate of State Levies) for exports need to be increased to get them back to pre-GST level. The drawback rates have reduced considerably and the net which the industry was getting has come down. Import duty should also be restored to pre-GST level. It was much higher earlier and is disrupting the export to import ratio," says Jain. The import duty, says Jain, has come down to 10% as compared to an average of 29%. "Basic duty plus countervailing .. plus special additional duty (SAD) used to add up to 29% and now countervailing and SAD has been reduced after GST," says Jain. Jain asserts that the impact has been worst on the SMEs in the textile industry. "Those guys are extraordinarily hit and they do not know where to go and whom to ask for redressal because they are not well organized," says Jain.

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**Gujarat's GCCI explores textiles alliance with Bangladesh**

Representatives of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) recently met Bangladesh deputy high commissioner to India Mohammad Lutfur Rahman to explore a business collaboration in the textile sector with the country. GCCI is organizing a global textile summit in Ahmedabad in March and has invited Bangladesh to become a partner nation at the event.

India's exports to Bangladesh stood at \$5,452.90 million in 2015-16 and trade between the two countries grew at 17 per cent in the last five years.

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# 30 To 40% Capacity Shut Since GST Rollout: Denim Manufacturers

Representatives of the Rs 15,000-crore Indian denim industry have stated that 30% to 40% of its operating capacity has been shut since the goods and services tax (GST) was implemented, due to weak domestic demand and reduced potential for export.

The government has levied 12% GST on branded garments beyond the maximum retail price of Rs 1,000 and five per cent below this threshold. Denim demand from local consumers and importers has fallen, with manufacturers either having to shut down or operate at reduced capacity.

"Since the GST implementation from July 1, the denim

industry has temporarily closed down 30% to 40% of its operating capacity across the board. If this continues, there can be more production cuts," said Denim Manufacturers Association Chairman Sharad Jaipuria.

Over the past decade, the denim fabric manufacturing industry had been growing at a 15% compounded annual rate. Installed capacity is 1.5 billion metres a year, which is the second largest in the world, after China. With annual sale of Rs 15,000 crore, this industry employs around 400,000 workers directly, besides the indirect spinoff.

Denim manufacturing hubs have gone under a massive slow-

down due to the liquidity crunch after demonetisation and slow acceptance of GST by small players to become part of the formal economy. As 85% of the fabric is sold in the domestic market, denim fabric mills are badly hit, according to Bhaskar Denim's Director Akhilesh Rathi.

The number of denim fabric mills was 30 in 2012, but now it is 46. Denim fabric production capacity was 800 million metres in 2012 and is now 1,500 million metres, with another 150 million metres of new capacity in the pipeline for expansion.

According to Amit Dalmia of R&B Denims, upstream activities of garment sewing and washing in small scale industry hubs

will take a while before they begin to work smoothly with the formal banking system. He said that he did not foresee any short-term recovery of the market.

India exports denim fabric of 200 million metres annually. The value of export was US\$ 316 million in 2016-17, down by 11 per cent from US\$ 335 million in 2014-15.

Ashima Group Director Atul Singh said that the government needs to immediately announce some enhancement in duty drawback rates and extend some more benefits under the Returns of State Levies scheme, the Merchandise Export from India Scheme, the focus product and focus market schemes.

# IGST Exemption Sought On Import Of Zips, Accessories

India's largest knitwear and readymade garment exporters organisation, Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA), has sought exemption of the IGST levy on imports of accessories, early clearance of accumulated input tax credits, permanent deletion of Reverse Charge Mechanism under Section 9(4) of GST and incentives for investments made in labour accommodation infrastructure.

A TEA delegation which met Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley recently with a memorandum, pointed out that till June 30, 2017, apparel exporters were importing accessories such as zips and tags without payment of customs duty, using the Export Promotion Certificate (EPC). But after implementation of GST, imports using EPC is being subjected to IGST.

Since most accessories are being taxed at 18%, this is causing huge working capital blockade, resulting in significant hard-

ship to the industry.

Explaining the issues in detail, the memo said that similar problems were faced by exporters in import of capital goods under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and raw materials through the Advance Authorisation Scheme, and the government had redressed these issues by issuing a notification, dated October 13, which exempted imports under the two schemes from levy of IGST.

However, the EPC scheme was omitted, and should also be included, argued TEA. It has requested for a separate notification to be issued in line with the notification exempting imports of accessories using Export Promotion Certificate from the purview of IGST levy, the TEA memorandum stated.

Expeditionary release of refunds which are due to exporters is another issue before the union finance ministry. The original plan under the GST compliance framework was fil-

ing of GSTR 1, 2 and 3 by all taxpayers resulting in matching of tax credits, thereby facilitating release of refunds due to exporters expeditiously within seven days of the claim.

Also, due to various reasons, filing of GSTR-2 and 3 have been dispensed with till March 2018 and substituted by a self-declaration in Form GSTR 3B, but there is no possibility of matching of credits till March 2018.

In this scenario, a manual procedure for claim of refund by exporters was prescribed through a notification dated November 15, followed by a detailed circular dated November 15, prescribing the procedure to be followed for release of manually processed refunds.

Hence, in order to avoid inordinate delay in release of refunds, a request has been made that a clear-cut procedure may be prescribed listing out evidences required to be furnished to authorities along with the RFD-01A form, the TEA memorandum stated.

# ASEAN urged to leverage India's strengths in textiles

Partnership between India and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is crucial for improving the standard of textile manufacturing and generating employment opportunities in both the regions, Indian textiles minister Smriti Irani said recently addressing the 'India-ASEAN: Weaving Textile Relations' show in New Delhi.

Enterprises from ASEAN nations could take advantage of India as a one-stop sourcing destination for a diverse range of products by setting up manufacturing bases here to cater to the domestic

market and exports, said Irani.

The show was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with the ministries of textiles and commerce and industry to celebrate 25

an abundant supply of raw materials like cotton, wool, silk, jute and man-made fibres, India enjoyed a distinct advantage of backward integration which many countries do not possess, textiles secretary Anant Kumar Singh said.

chain, its most exported items to ASEAN consisting of cotton fibre, cotton yarn and fabrics have not grown to the desired extent.

This makes it evident that we have not been able to explore and leverage the strengths of our textiles industry to the fullest,"

Singh noted.

The minister also released a coffee table book, 'India ASEAN Textiles: Weaving Relationships'. (DS)



years of India-ASEAN relations, according to a FICCI press release.

With a strong multi-fibre base with

"Though India has the unique advantage of having the presence of the entire textile value

# Textiles sector seeks a leg up from the government 'Stagnant exports, technology upgradation need attention'

A couple of major issues have impacted the country's textile and clothing sector in the past year. Expectedly, the industry's aspirations for the Union Budget are related to the revival of exports and the GST.

According to data available with the industry and the export promotion councils, readymade garment exports grew less than 1% between April and November 2016 in dollar terms and dropped 3.03% in rupee terms. Fabric exports were to the tune of \$230.37 million in April 2017 and slumped to \$113 million in October. Yarn exports fared better in value terms at \$267.33 million in April and \$354.05 million in October last year. However, in terms of volume, yarn exports stayed almost flat. Apparel exports dropped 8% in December alone compared with a year earlier.

"Between 2009 and 2015, the domestic market grew 10% every year for the Indian textile and clothing sector, and exports rose almost 8% year-on-year," said P. Nataraj, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association. "For the last three years, exports have almost stagnated. Countries such as Vietnam have overtaken India in yarn exports to China."

When the global economic slowdown hit the industry seven years ago, the Centre had come out with a time-bound stimulus package. The two major policy decisions of the government in the recent past, demonetisation and GST, have impacted the industry more than the economic slowdown, he said. "What the industry needs now is a stimulus package." The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) pointed out that according to a study of 600 SME units, the number of units under the SME 2 category rose from 54 to 191 between March and September and the number of NPA units went up from 18 to 32 during the same period.

A stimulus package will give relief to the units, said Sanjay K. Jain, chairman, CITI. Rebate of State levies (ROSL) is critical for revival of exports. Towards this, the government should sanction adequate funds for ROSL and extend it to all products instead of just garments and made-ups, said Mr. Jain.

According to data available with the ministry, the allocation for ROSL for 2017-2018 was Rs.1,555 crore and it has been exhausted. How-

will be notified nationwide for interstate movement with effect from February 1, 2018 and for intra-state movement with effect from a date to be announced separately by each state but not later than June 1, 2018.

The Council also accepted the report and recommendations submitted by the Committee on Handicrafts.

ever, according to the industry, garment exporters got ROSL only for April and May and made-up exporters received rebates till July this financial year. India exports garments and made-ups worth \$23 billion annually. The average tax rate after GST for garments and made-ups is 1.8%; it was 3.7% before GST.

'Allocations must rise'

The industry estimates it needs about Rs. 2,100 crore to clear pending ROSL reimbursements and another Rs. 2,500 crore for the next fiscal. So, allocations need to go up substantially, sources said. The Centre should announce the drawback rates, restore the pre-GST level of incentives for

exports and increase the import duty, said representatives of industry associations.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council has said that under schemes such as Advance Authorisation and EPCG, applicants should get early approvals. This will lead to higher investments.



Officials in the ministry said thrust areas now were going to be powerlooms, technology and export promotion.

# Committee to look into concerns of apparel sector: Ajay Tamta



The Indian government has formed a committee to look into the issues raised by the apparel industry, which is going through a challenging phase, minister of state for textiles Ajay Tamta has said.

"Garment sector is one of the largest employment providers and is helping a large number of people to earn their livelihood... The textile package announced by the Prime Minister is benefitting the sector, immensely," Tamta said.

"This is the time when the industry is facing lot of challenges both domestically and globally.

These are challenging times for the industry with global headwinds blowing over us.

The post GST transformation for the industry has been challenging, but I am sure the industry will show the resilience it has shown in the past, and emerge stronger," said Apparel Exports Promotion Council (AEPC) chairman HKL Magu.

# Gst council meet on textiles

Union Minister for finance Arun Jaitley chairing the 25th GST Council meeting, flanked by minister of state for finance Shiv Pratap Shukla (right) and finance secretary Dr Hasmukh Adhia. Courtesy: PIB



The 25th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting, held under the chairmanship of finance minister Arun Jaitley, has recommended reduction of GST rate on velvet fabric (code 5801 37 20) from 12 per cent to 5 per cent with no refund of unutilised input tax credit. The recommendation of the Council became effective from 00 hours on January 25, 2018.

The Council, at its meeting in New Delhi, also decided that the late fee payable by any registered person for failure to furnish form GSTR-1 (supply details), form

GSTR-5 (non-resident taxable person) or form GSTR-5A (OIDAR) will be reduced to fifty rupees per day and shall be twenty rupees per day for 'nil' filers. The late fee payable for failure to furnish form GSTR-6 (Input Service Distributor) shall be fifty rupees per day.

Taxable persons who have obtained voluntary registration will now be permitted to apply for cancellation of registration even before the expiry of one year from the effective date of registration.

For migrated taxpayers, the last date

for filing form GST REG-29 for cancellation of registration has been extended by further three months till March 31, 2018.

On e-way bills, the GST Council said that the facility for generation, modification and cancellation of e-way bills is being provided on trial basis on the portal [ewaybill.nic.in](http://ewaybill.nic.in). Once fully operational, the e-way bill system will start functioning on the portal [www.ewaybillgst.gov.in](http://www.ewaybillgst.gov.in).

In addition, certain modifications are being made to the e-way bill rules which

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