

HOMETEX TECH EXPO RETURNS TO PANIPAT

16 मार्च से 18 मार्च, 2018 तक अनाज मंडी में



**Rajesh Sinha
Organizer**

Haryana Day, the 5th edition of Home Tex Tech Expo will begin at Anaj Mandi from March 16 and will continue till March 18, 2018. The three days of the event will showcase to the people of Panipat and nearby towns the latest in

Home Furnishing industry. Leading manufacturers and Importers of Textile machinery and accessories from all over India and abroad are participating in this exhibition. Latest technology that will boost production, reduce wastage, increase employment opportunities, increase quality of produce and prove eco friendly as well be on display for the entrepreneurs of Panipat and nearby towns.

Talking to CITY VIBES, Mr. Rajesh Sinha, organizer of the show

revealed that the event will be inaugurated at 11:00 am on March 16, 2018. The exhibition will remain open from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm on all three days of the event.

Rajesh Sinha added that, "The show covering 1500 sq. metres has more than 50 exhibits from all over India and abroad. Around 2500-3000 trade visitors are expected in this show and we are expecting this exhibition to generate business in excess of Rs. 50 crore for the exhibitors."

He also provided CITY VIBES a list of participants that includes names like, Narinder International, Ramana International Pvt. Ltd., Rotech International,

Sigma Auto Tex, Yarn Plus, Raunaq Fabrics, B K International, etc.

Amarjeet Singh from B K International, India's leading manufacturers of fancy yarns told City Vibes that Hometex Expo provides them an opportunity to meet all their customers in Panipat and showcase their latest creations in fancy yarns.

Some leading names from Panipat industry like, Shrutex Overseas, Aryan Enterprises, Star Boilers, Ansul Automation, SPJ Commercial are also present there to showcase the latest what they have to present. The home textile industry in the city of Panipat is expecting to gain a lot with this expo.

पिछले पांच वर्षों की तरह इस वर्ष भी तीन दिवसीय होमटेक्स टेक एक्सपो पानीपत की होम फर्निशिंग इंडस्ट्री के लिए

कंबल, पर्दे, दरियां, बनाने की अति आधुनिक मशीनरी तथा एक्सपोर्ट के निमाता तथा आयातकों को देश विदेश से

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AWI organises 'Wool Lounge' at ISPO

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) organised a 'Wool Lounge' at the ISPO trade show - the largest trade show targeting activewear and sports apparel. Wool is not only making its presence known in performance clothing, there has been a rise of wool footwear - shoes that enhance the fibre's natural properties whilst constructed in a way which aids performance.

The trade show in Munich, Germany was the biggest one yet, with ISPO welcoming 2,801 exhibitors and more than 84,000 visitors from 120 countries.

The 'Wool Lounge' featured leading brands including H Dawson, Südwole Group, Shepherd, Italfil, Lavalan, Australian, Diyang, Marbäck Tricot, Engel, Utenos, Xinao, Schoeller, Blum Textil, Davifil and the Woolmark Company.

At the Woolmark Company's stand, the latest innovations co-developed by AWI's in-house technical team were on display, including wool footwear, seamless apparel and wool filling - which provides a natural alternative to traditional synthetic wadding. Also on show was the latest edition of The Wool Lab Sport, featuring a collection of the world's best technical fabrics and yarns.

Lars Ulvesund, AWI's sports and outdoor advi-

tor, said: "our stand recorded the most number of visitors compared to previous years."

"While many outdoor brands already have wool in their collection, we have seen a number of brands introduce wool into their high-intensity categories, with pieces suited towards cycling and running. We are also experiencing a higher number of lightweight Merino wool pieces being introduced for Spring/Summer collections," Ulvesund said.

Devold, a Norwegian outdoor clothing retailer and long-term partner of the Woolmark Company won an ISPO Award 2018 for its Tuvegga Sport Air base-layer. The reversible two-sided functional base-layer is designed for high-performance activities and is made from 100 per cent Merino wool.

Another outdoor brand that has taken wool to the next level is XTM Performance - one of the largest skiwear brands in the Southern Hemisphere. XTM Performance supplies the whole Australian Winter Olympic team with wool performance clothing.

At the Pyeong Chang Winter Olympic games in Korea, the Australian Winter Olympic team was kitted out with XTM Performance Australian Merino gear. As part of the uniform the team had a Merino base-

layer set of top, pants, a Merino neck warmer, three types of technical Merino ski and snowboard socks and in case of extreme cold a Woolzy (full Merino one piece).

Not only is wool making its presence known in performance clothing, the latest innovations in wool have also led to the rise of wool footwear - shoes that enhance the fibre's natural properties whilst constructed in a way which aids performance. The Woolmark Company's technical team has been working to create shoes that are not only comfortable and allow foot to breathe, but are also resistant to odour and wick away moisture.

"Thanks to our more active lifestyle and casual approach, runners are undoubtedly one of the most popular items in today's global market," explains the Woolmark Company's general manager, Processing Innovation and Education Extension, Julie Davies.

"The natural properties of wool - such as odour resistance, breathability, comfort and shape retention - allow for the ultimate in footwear. By working closely with our supply chain partners, we have been able to develop technically advanced yarns to be incorporated into the upper, inner and liner for a range of machine washable footwear."

Courtesy:AWI

होमटेक्स टेक प्रदर्शनी

(पेज 1 से आगे) मशीनों से अपने उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता, उत्पादन क्षमता, धागे और कपड़े की बचत, पर्यावरण संरक्षण तथा अन्य कई लाभ उठा सकते हैं। नयी अत्याधुनिक मशीनों के उपयोग से रोजगार के नये अवसर भी बढ़ते हैं जिससे व्यापारी तथा कारीगर दोनों की प्रगति होती है तथा प्रदेश भी तरक्की की राह पर आगे बढ़ता है।

प्रदर्शनी के आयोजक राजेश सिन्हा ने हमारे अखबार - सिटी वाईस - के संवाददाता को बताया कि यह प्रदर्शनी 16 से 18 मार्च तक रोज सुबह 11 बजे से शाम के 6 बजे तक खुलेगी। इस दौरान किसी व्यापारी को जो भी जानकारी चाहिए, प्रदान की जाएगी। सम्पूर्ण शहर के व्यापारी इसमें सादर आमंत्रित हैं। इस प्रदर्शनी में प्रवेश निशुल्क है।

राजेश सिन्हा ने आगे बताया कि इस प्रदर्शनी में 100 से ज्यादा देशी तथा विदेशी उत्पाद दर्शकों को देखने को मिलेंगे। इन सभी उत्पादों से होने वाले लाभ कैसे लिए जा सकते हैं इसके बारे में भी विस्तृत जानकारी दी जाएगी।

"50 से ज्यादा अलग अलग कंपनियों के उत्पाद देखने को मिलेंगे। नरिदर इंटरनेशनल, जमाना इंटरनेशनल, सिगमा आटोटेक्स, आर एस सैनी, महन्त मकैनिकल, गुरुसन इंटरनेशनल, यार्न प्लस, रौनक फैब्रिक्स, निट एंड सियू एंटरप्राइसिस, बी के इंटरनेशनल आदि पूरे भारत में प्रसिद्ध नाम इस प्रदर्शनी का हिस्सा हैं।", राजेश सिन्हा ने कहा।

पानीपत के भी कई मशहूर औद्योगिक घराने इस प्रदर्शनी में अपने नये उत्पाद प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं जैसे शरुटेक्स ओवरसीस, एस-टैक्स, एम एम इंजिनियरिंग, आर्चन एण्टरप्राइसिस, स्टार बाएलर्स, नीलकंठ एंटरनेशनल, एस पी जे कमरेशियलस, आदि। इसके इलावा देश-विदेश से कई अन्य कंपनियों के उत्पाद यहां देखने को मिलेंगे।

Delivering high quality in Fancy Yarns Requires Competence & Commitment - Amarjeet

B K International is a leading Fancy yarn manufacturers based in Ludhiana, manufacturing more than 1000 articles in fancy yarns customised according to buyer requirements.

B k international currently manufactures yarns for use in Knitting & Hosiery industry, Home furnishings export articles like Throws, Rugs, Cushion covers & multi effect yarns for use in hand knitting & Machine Knitting. It manufactures all types of yarns like ombre effects, knot yarns, slub yarns, loop yarns, crinkle yarns, brushed yarns, multi effect yarns in counts ranging from 0.1 nm to 25 nm in manmade fibers like Acrylic, Nylon, Polyester, Artificial Silk or Viscose Rayon & Natural Fibers like Wool, Alpaca, Mohair, Cotton & Their blends accord-



Ramesh Verma, President HEMA (Handloom Exporters & Mfrs. Assn.), Panipat meeting Amarjeet Singh & Gurpreet Singh from B K International

ing to customers request.

B K international can supply all types of yarn in Fiber dyed, hank dyed, multi colour space dyed with exact shade matchings in required International standard light sources like D-65, TL-84, CWF and any other as requested.

Amarjeet Singh, partner of B K International told, "We use Azo free & Oekotex standards of Dyes & Chemicals as our main clients are mainly exporters &

buying houses based in Ludhiana, Panipat, Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida & they require very high standards of quality parameters according to European countries compliance which we fulfils accordingly."

Gurpreet Singh told that, "We have installed latest machines from Germany, France & Taiwan to insure quality standards & Exact replications of effects from sampling till repeated productions.

ITM 2018 gets procurement support from 15 countries

The Turkish ministry of economy has announced the list of the procurement committee support from 15 countries for ITM 2018, the global textile machinery expo, beginning April 14. The event in Istanbul, Turkey, will become a textile technology feast with the participation of the leaders of the textile world, who serve in all the sub-sectors of the industry.

The four-day expo is preparing to host procurement committees from many countries, especially from Iran, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Russia, Egypt, Turkmenistan, Morocco, Algeria, Indonesia, Tunisia, Vietnam, Ethiopia, and Kenya. The procurement committees from these countries will be able to meet with producers of all kinds of yarn, woven and knitted fabrics, with integrated facilities that make dyeing, printing and finishing on woven and knitted fabrics and with technical textile and non-woven fabric pro-



ducers.

The firms, which offer services in all the sub-branches of the sector ranging from cotton to yarn, from weaving to knitting, from digital printing to dye and finishing, will present their state-of-the-art technological products to tastes of visitors," ITM press release said.

The innovations, which will be introduced at ITM 2018, are expected to invest in Turkey, one of the world's most significant textile countries. The authorities of the Turkish textile producing companies plan to make the investments for both capacity increase and

technology renewal after examining technologies in the ITM 2018.

The exhibition organised by the partnership between TEKNİK fair and TÜYAP in collaboration with TEMSAD is the biggest exhibition of Turkey and the Middle East in its field. Additionally, it will be one of the most important organisations in the sector on a global scale. Many companies will announce world launches of their products in the exhibition, into which the pioneering machinery producers of the textile industry, global investors, and commercial delegations will participate.

Panel suggests GST revision to protect domestic textiles

The overall structure of Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the textiles sector should be reconsidered to protect India's domestic industry, a Parliamentary Committee has suggested. The Standing Committee on Labour chaired by Kirit Somaiya has also suggested imposition of higher anti-dumping duty on import of certain textile and clothing items.

The ministry of textiles has taken up issues such as inverted duties structure on man-made fibre, imposition of GST on job work, non-

refund of input tax credit (ITC), GST for weaving industry, lowering of GST rates for machinery used by MSME textile units, etc, the committee said in its report tabled in Parliament.

The ministry of finance has approved an outlay of Rs 7,147.73 crore for 2018-19, against the textiles ministry proposal of Rs 10,109.05 crore, the panel pointed out.

"The secretary, ministry of textiles has deposed that though it appears that Budgeted Expenditure (B.E) 2018-

19 which includes Cotton Corporation of India's loss of Rs 921.23 crore is

more than the B.E 2017-18 by Rs 921.23 crore, in reality B.E 2018-19 is Rs 3 crore less than the B.E of 2017-18," the Committee said in its report.

The reduction in



B.E would adversely impact implementation of current schemes, especially the ones meant for the benefit of unorgan-

ised sectors like handloom, handicrafts, wool, sericulture and powerloom, the report mentions.

UK retailers launch 'Better Retail Better World'

Over 25 leading UK retailers have signed up to a series of pledges to tackle some of the biggest global challenges of the coming decades, as highlighted by the United Nations (UN). Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework, 'Better Retail Better World' includes a series of stretching targets for the retail industry to achieve by 2020. Retail is one of the first industries to take collective action in this way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and waste; support all people to enter and progress in employment; and lead the fight to

eradicate modern slavery, British Retail Consortium said on its website.

The action plan to advance sustainability, development and equality consists of three main points. First, embedding a policy that no worker in the supply chain should pay for a job, to provide a safeguard against modern slavery. This is to tackle situations where low-wage workers borrow large sums of money to cover recruitment fees, putting them at risk of exploitation, including debt bondage. Second, publicly disclosing how retailers are supporting people from

underrepresented demographics to progress in employment. And finally, reducing waste, greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation.

More than 25 of the UK's best-known retailers including Debenhams, House of Fraser, Ikea, John Lewis Partnership, M&S and Next are among the first companies to sign the 'Better Retail Better World' pledges. As part of the project, retailers will share knowledge and best practice, and publicly disclose progress on the goals.

"This (the launch of Better Retail Better World) is part of a growing movement for change. It is

time for the retail industry to show what it can do for the common good. We are taking collective action to build a better, more prosperous and sustainable world, and demonstrating how we are making a positive contribution to society, in terms of the supply chain, food packaging, and waste," said Richard Pennycook, chairman of the British Retail Consortium.

"Through our Industrial Strategy and the Good Work Plan, we have made steps to create a stronger, fairer society, and it's encouraging to see retailers



coming together to fulfil these ambitions through the Better Retail,

Better World initiative," said retail minister Andrew Griffiths.

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Panipat, The Global Centre For Recycling Textiles, is Fading

Panipat is called the city of weavers, as it produces textiles and carpets. It is the biggest center for quality blankets and carpets in India and has a handloom weaving industry. Panipat city is the biggest centre of "shoddy yarn" in the World. Blankets prepared through hand looms and power looms are sent to soldiers. In Panipat 30,000 industries provided 5 lakh people work.

The Samalkha subdivision of this district is famous for foundry of agriculture instruments. In this way, this district, which is continuously developing on the industrial base, has an unlimited employment capacity. Businessmen and engineers and unemployed worker artist weavers and labour from other states of India visit here in search of employment and settle here permanently. The industry's decline is a missed opportunity for India.

When the doors open to the warehouse at Ambey Spinning Mills in Panipat, a city 90km from Delhi, it seems as if its contents might tumble out like those of an overstuffed cupboard. Heaps of clothes are piled to the ceiling. Ten women meticulously extract zips, chains and buttons from T-shirts, winter jackets and denims using long blades usually used to chop vegetables. Outside, a teenage boy wields a

knife to bash synthetic fibre against a tree stump.

In another workshop clothes are shredded, spun into yarn and woven by power looms into blankets.

Bullock carts take them for further processing; they are then sent off for sale in India and beyond.

Known as the "cast-off capital", Panipat is home to 150-200 such mills, which take in discarded clothes from Western countries and turn them into recycled cloth. The industry employs around 20,000 people and brings in annual revenues of \$62m, according to Pawan Garg of All India Woollen and Shoddy Mills Association, a trade body ("shoddy" was originally a non-pejorative word for reclaimed fibre).

Panipat's history in textiles began after the Indian subcontinent's bloody partition in 1947, when weavers from the province of Sindh and the districts of Jhang and Multan in Punjab, finding themselves suddenly located in Pakistan, were uprooted and moved to the ancient city. They set up looms to knit coarse, hand-



spun cotton carpets, wall hangings and sofa covers (from new wool) that were an instant hit abroad (and qualified as a dowry in marriages in northern India). The city's later emergence as a recycling hub coincided with a slump in Prato, a small industrial town in Italy with a 1,000-year-old tradition in textiles. In the 1990s Panipat mill owners bought discarded Italian machinery from Prato designed to make cheap shoddy yarn from recycled wool. The industry took off; its annual revenues rose to over \$300m.

Times have since changed. Cheaper and lighter polyester substitutes are increasingly preferred by wholesale buyers such as aid agencies, railways and hospitals, whether Indian or foreign. Such materials need expensive machines that many Panipat mills cannot afford. Rising labour costs have squeezed margins. An erratic electricity sup-

ply and frequent machinery breakdowns are more of a scourge than ever. Indian winters are shorter, complains one mill owner, which affects domestic demand for woollen clothing. Most factories in Panipat are working at half capacity.

The business is fragmented, poorly organised and almost wholly unregulated. Had there been basic oversight by the government, some in the business say, standards might have risen.

Whatever the reasons, the mills did not invest much of their formerly fat profits into upgrading machinery or workers' skills. That could have helped them find more customers willing to pay a premium for high-quality fabric from recycled yarn, which appeals to environmentally conscious companies.

Panipat may help the planet but also exhibits the least attractive features of the textile business in

developing countries: sweatshop conditions for workers, rock-bottom pay, use of child labour and so on.

Almost all workers there are contract labourers who earn a tenth of what those in the formal sector are paid. Women receive 120 rupees (\$1.80) a day for manually ripping up around 100kg of garments. Workers manage to sell off baubles and trinkets scavenged from the cast-off clothes but must often share the proceeds with mill owners. Despite this arrangement, "there is no money in it anymore," says Mr Garg.

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GOTS certified facilities cross 5,000-mark in 2017

INDIA TOPS THE LIST



The number of facilities certified to Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) has crossed the 5,000-mark in 2017. GOTS certified facilities increased 8.2 per cent from 4,642 in 2016 to 5,024 last year. At present, GOTS certified facilities are located in 62 countries around the world with continuous growth in both production as well as consuming regions. Bangladesh (+40%), North America (+39%), Portugal (+39%), Europe (+29%) were the countries/regions that saw the largest increase in GOTS certification in 2017, GOTS said in a press release.

GOTS certification covers the processing of certified organic fibres along the entire supply chain from field to finished product.

"The growing number of GOTS certifications shows that GOTS is taken as a solution for managing risks, reputa-

tion and market differentiation. We are very pleased with the development in North America. It will have the same pull effect as also seen in Europe by creating increasing capacities in the producing countries," said GOTS director Claudia Kersten at the GOTS Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

India has the largest number of GOTS certified facilities at 1,658, followed by Bangladesh (534), Germany (480), Turkey (445), Italy (307), China (292), Pakistan (194), Portugal (180), the US (99) and South Korea (69).

India has consistently maintained its position at the top of the chart since year 2008. "India is the largest exporter of organic textiles, but I shall also be focusing on domestic consumption of certified organic clothing this year," said Sumit Gupta, GOTS representative in India & Bangla-

desh. Bangladesh has touched the number two spot for the first time, leaving behind Turkey and Germany. "The textile industry in the country has enhanced focus on sustainability now and more companies are able to comply with GOTS criteria for environment and social compliance."

In 2017, the 19 GOTS accredited independent Certification Bodies reported more than 1.74 million people working in GOTS certified facilities.

The number of chemicals on the GOTS Positive List also shows an increase of 14 per cent to more than 17,900 from 720 manufacturers. The GOTS Positive List contains trade names of approved chemicals that must be used by all the textile processors for their GOTS certified production.

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Indian govt forms committee to investigate HT cotton

Department of Biotechnology in the ministry of science and technology, Government of India, has constituted a Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) to investigate the matter of illegal cultivation of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) or BG-III cotton in the country. FISEC will investigate cul-

tivation of HT cotton in four states.

The Government has received several representations for ban of illegal cultivation of HT cotton in the country, minister of state for textiles, Ajay Tamta, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. "There are several media reports and complaints regarding the illegal or

unauthorised cultivation of HT cotton in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra," Tamta said.

The minister also said that the cultivation of BG-III or HT cotton has not been approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of ministry of environment, Govern-

ment of India.

In a separate reply, Tamta said that the ministry of finance has been requested for allocation of appropriate funds under Rebate for State Levies (RoSL) scheme for one-time settlement of exporters' claim and faster and complete refund of Input Tax Credit (ITC).

UP to set up Bareilly textile park with 50 industrial units

India's Uttar Pradesh state will set up a textile park at Raipur Jagir village of Meeranjan tehsil in Bareilly district at a cost of Rs 84 crore, Rama Raman, director and commissioner of the state's handloom and textile department, announced recently. He said 5,000 jobs are expected to be created when 50 industries are set up in the park covering 39 acres.

During the recent UP Investors' Summit 2018, agreements were signed with 38 companies eager to set up units at the textile park in Bareilly. A nodal officer will assist companies in

getting required approvals, a top Indian newspaper quoted Raman as saying.

Thirty six handloom and textile industries and 14 other units to provide raw material to the manufacturing companies will be set up.

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MP raises knitwear industry issues with FM

Member of Parliament representing Tiruppur Lok Sabha constituency V Sathyabama has raised the issues facing the MSME knitwear garment exporting units with finance minister Arun Jaitley. She has urged Jaitley for expediting clearing pending claims of MSMEs, and also to take measures for ease of filing GST returns online and system-based refund process.

"The money flow to the MSME units have been totally struck up due to non-refund of ROSL since June 2017, GST and also Duty Drawback rate, which ultimately lead to working capital crunch to these units. With these negative factors, the MSMEs are not in a position to take fresh export orders at a

competitive rate and execute it within a delivery schedule," Sathyabama said in a letter to Jaitley. "What is more disturbing is that the banks are rushing to classify them (MSMEs) as SMA-1/SMA-2/NPAs depending on the period of non-payment. The concern is that the non-repayment is not the fault of MSMEs. Had they received the pending receivables like ROSL, GST refund and Duty Drawback in time, these units would have compiled and met the demands of banks," she added. The MP said that the banks should consider to the extent of government receivables and avoid the classification of

MSME in terms of non-repayment period. She also pointed out that the Rs 6,000 crore package allotted to the garment sector has not actually percolated to MSMEs, as intended. Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA) president Raja M Shanmugham thanked the MP for making representation to the finance minister.



Tiruppur MP V Sathyabama (standing) handing over representation to finance minister Arun Jaitley.

GST Council extends return filing system for 3 months

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has extended the present system of filing of GSTR 3B and GSTR 1 for another three months i.e., April to June 2018 till the new return system is finalised. The Council has also deferred the liability to pay tax on reverse charge basis till June 30, 2018. "In the meantime, a Group of Ministers will look into the modalities of its implementation to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the trade and industry," the statement said. The Council has also recommended suspension of the provisions for deduction of tax at source (TDS) under section 51 of the CGST Act and collection of tax at source (TCS) under section 52 of the CGST Act till June 30, 2018. "In the meantime, the modalities of

linking State and Central Governments accounting system with GSTN will be worked out so that seamless credit is available to the registered traders whose tax is deducted or collected at source," the release said. Further, a GST Implementation Committee (GIC) has been tasked with the work of redressing the grievances caused to the taxpayers arising out of IT glitches. The electronic way or e-way bill for movement of goods from one state to another (inter-state) will be implemented from April 1, 2018. For intra-state movement, the e-way bill would be rolled out in a phased manner beginning April 15. States would be divided into 4 lots for this phased rollout which would cover all the states by June 1.

Drastic decline in apparel production post GST: AEPC



India's apparel production has shown a decline of 10.4 per cent for the ten-month period Apr-Jan 2017-18 due to the consistent decline since May 2017, as per the latest IIP figures. Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has indicated earlier about the gradual decline in the production on account of the issues that arose after the implementation of GST. IIP figures show that there has been a month to month decline in apparel productivity. From a positive growth of 1.3 per cent in April 2017, May saw a fall of 5 per cent. In June, the decline was 3.2 per cent while in July, it was 5.1 per cent. August, September, October, November and December recorded 6.4 per cent, 7.2 per cent, 11 per cent, 13.1 per cent and 13.5 per cent dip respectively.

"For the period Apr-Jan 2017-18, there has been a drastic decline of 10.4 per cent in apparel production. This has come at a time when exports are already registering a decline. Exports registered a decline of 14 per cent in January," AEPC chairman HKL Magu said in a statement.

"The industry is suffering as its funds are blocked and manufacturers are unable to pay suppliers on time. Suppliers don't give advance, since they can't carry them forward for an indefinite period. This has resulted in the decline in apparel production. The biggest deterrent to the Industry's sentiments has been the severe capital blockage due to the dual constraint of delays in RoSL disbursements and IGST refunds. Until the refunds start flowing, things will not improve.

The dip in production will not allow us to meet our export target of \$20 billion," he added.

AEPC had indicated earlier about the gradual decline in the production on account of the issues that arose after the implementation of GST. It has been engaging with the policymakers for an early resolution of the issues hampering the apparel industry post GST roll out, and has made several presentations to the ministry of textiles, ministry of commerce Drawback Committee, NITI Aayog, Parliamentary Standing Committee etc.

In its last meeting with minister of state for MSMEs, Giriraj Singh, an AEPC delegation led by Magu informed the minister that if the capital blockage continues and the cost competitiveness of the industry is not restored, the slippage in exports will continue, with long term adverse impact on India's positioning in this sector.

Prior to that, AEPC had made a request to the ministry of commerce and industry to urgently release the total ITC Credit and IGST of Rs 4,097 crore which is blocked till date. AEPC had also informed the ministry of commerce that on account of new taxes there is a shortfall of around 5 per cent under GST and therefore several blocked and embedded taxes may be refunded through higher drawback and RoSL rates, along with refund of GST input tax credit (ITC).

AEPC has requested for an early resolution of the issues troubling the industry, so that it can regain the lost opportunities in becoming a world leader in apparel exports.

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