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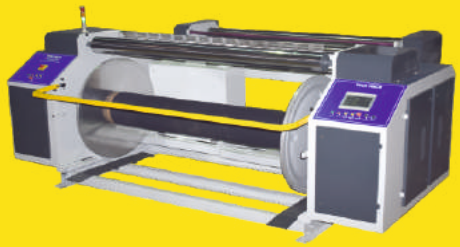

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EDITORIAL

With most workplaces re-opening, comfort and functionality have become the new norm

Over the last two years employees of IT sector were working from home in casual attire. Professionals wearing lacy white shirt, knee-length weave jacket paired with denim look good as well as appreciable. As work from anywhere, home or office has become the new normal for most professionals, comfort-first and functionality with compromising with style is now a pre-requisite in work-wear. This means nothing is conventional, there is stretch, drape and softness that builds confidence, freedom to play with colour and print.

The concept of work attire has not been challenged nearly as much as other types of fashion throughout history. The pandemic brought about another re-evaluation of what constitutes appropriate office attire, and accelerated changes that were underway. People now look for clothes that are relaxed, relevant and versatile. Corporate environment has become more relaxed with the athleisure boom in the past 2 years, but there is still a resurgence of 'Zoom' Shirts and 'Bleisure' outfits. Ties are being worn much less, but the classic suit and tie combination will never go out of style for corporate menswear.

The concept of work-wear has been fundamentally changing, fashion brands and experts are incorporating conscious designs, patterns and colours to bring variety. In fact, psychology behind work-wear has changed drastically post-Covid. People who never met or were behind the scenes are now expected to attend adhoc virtual meetings. For certain sectors, it is a choice of comfort at home and quick presentation simultaneously online. Therefore, greater choice of multipurpose anti-wrinkle textiles and comfort clothing is in great demand. Oppositely, for those working offline,work-wear has seen a surge in greater style and effort to look presentable.

Work-wear has evolved from 'One style suits all' to include personal choices. Bold coloured dresses, a chic black blazer paired with classy cowl neck top, now find place in what is termed as the 'business casuals' wardrobe. However, a lot of work-wear depends on context — Industry, location, function, role, social norms, time of the day and even season of the year. Organizations have realized that allowing employees to be more flexible in their dressing does not hinder performance but increases it. Despite a visible shift to comfort clothing, it is important to keep the identity of the organization intact. One should be respectful of the office environment.

US faces highest inflation in 40 years, an appropriate budgetary stance needed : Yellen tells senators

The United States faces "unacceptable levels of inflation" and an appropriate budgetary stance is needed to help dampen inflationary pressures without undermining the economy, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told senators recently. At a Senate Finance Committee hearing, Yellen pushed back against Republican assertions that the highest inflation in 40 years was caused by Democratic President Joe Biden's $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) Covid-19 spending legislation last year. "We're seeing high inflation in almost all of the developed countries around the world. And they have very different fiscal policies," Yellen said. "So It can't be the case that the bulk of the inflation that we're experiencing reflects the impact of the ARP." Yellen said she saw the bulk of inflation being caused by supply and demand mismatches, including excessive demand for goods over services during the pandemic and severe supply chain disruptions. High enengy and food prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine also have pushed inflation higher, she said. She insisted the addressing inflation was Biden's top priority and said that elements of the president's proposed social and climate legislation could help lower costs for Americans, including for prescription drugs and clean energy initiatives. "We currently face macroeonomic challenges, including unaceptable levels of inflation as well as the headwinds associated with the disruptions caused by the pandemic's effect on supply chains, and the effects of supply side disturbances to all and food markets resulting from Russia's war in Ukraine," Yellen said in prepared remarks. Yellen said it is "virtually impossible" for the US to insulate itself from oil market shocks such as those caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, so it is important to shift toward renewable energy sources. ❐

US trade gap shrinks most on record on muted China imports

The US trade deficit shrunk in April by the most on record in dollar terms, reflecting a drop in the value of imports amid Covid lockdowns in China while exports climbed. The gap in goods and services trade narrowed $20.6 billion, or 19.1%, to $87.1 billion, Commerce Department data showed recently. The median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists called for an $89.5 billion deficit. The figures aren't adjusted for inflation. Imports dropped in April as factory activity in China fell to the lowest level since February 2020 amid strict lockdowns to curb the spread of Covid-19. While manufacturing in the country has improved somewhat since, the measures are still straining already-tenuous global supply chians. ❐

Euro declining toward dollar parity first time in 20 years

The euro is on the verge of US dollar parity for the first time in two decades. Europe's common currency has already slumped to a five-year low near $1.03, buckling from a rush into the greenback as a haven from market turmoil and on the war in Ukraine. That's led the likes of HSBC Holdings Plc and RBC Capital Markets to predict the two will hit parity in 2022. Hedge funds are already betting on it. They've piled on $7 billion in notional value into options wagers on parity in the April trade among those looking for a further drop in the common currency. "The euro itself is not an attractive currency at the moment," said Francesco Pesole, a currency strategist at ING Groep NV. While the Dutch bank is keeping its official euro forecast for the next six months at $1.05, Pesole admits the dollar's strength and market volatility means parity is likely. To a large extent the euro's plight is a function of dollar strength, which has been supercharged as the Federal Reserve presses on with bigger interest-rate hikes than its peers. A fresh bout of global risk aversion that has taken the wind out of equity and credit markets is only adding momentum to the move into haven currencies. There's also darkening outlook for the European economy. A continuing standoff with Moscow over the supply of natural gas to the continent has raised the prospect of a pronounced slowdown. The International Monetary Fund has slashed its 2022 growth forecast for the currency bloc to 2.8%. That's left the European Central Bank walking a tightrope. It has to balance the need for tighter policy to tame record inflation

against the prospect of the eonomic damage that could cause — especially in some of the region's most indebted members states such as Italy. While officials may raise rates above zero before the end of the year, there are doubts over further hikes beyond that. Investors will be watching speeches from the likes of ECB President Christine Lagarde in coming days, as well as the minutes of the bank's April meeting, for further clues on thinking. Lagarde has joined a crowd of policy makers signaling a hike as soon as July. "I think it's politically difficult for many in the ECB to sound too dovish, considering that inflation has likely not yet peaked," said Peter McCallum, a rates strategist at Mizuho International Pic. " Unless we get 50 basis-point hikes being talked about, it's tough for many of the hawks to surprise the market now." With the region's bonds also being dumped, the currency market may start to factor it debt risks in the euro zone, according to HSBC Holdings Plc strategists including Dominic Bunning. The spread between Italian and German yields – seen as a risk gauge – topped 200 basis points this month for the first time since the early days of the pandemic. Not everyone is negative. Roberto Mialich, a currency strategist at UniCredit SpA, expects the euro to climb back above $1.10 in the course of next years as the Fed's hiking cycle tails off. He sees a lasting below parity scenario as just a tail risk, and only likely if euro-zone growth slumps far more than feared. ❐

China trade growth turns around in May

China's trade growth rebounded in May after anti-virus restrictions that shut down Shanghai and other industrial centres began to ease. Exports surged 16.9% over a year ago to $308.3 billion, up from April's 3.7% growth, a customs agency statement said recenty. Imports rose gained 4.1% to $229.5 billion, accelerating from the previous month's 0.7%. China's trade has been dampened this year by weak export demand and curbs imposed to fight outbreaks in Shanghai, site of the world's busiest port, and other cities. Consumer demand for imports was crushed by rules that confined millions of families to their homes. Forecasters have cut estimates for China's economic growth to as low as two per cent this year due to the Shanghai shutdown, well below the rulling Communist Party's target of 5.5%. Some expect activity to shrink in the quarter ending the June before a gradual recovery begins. Most factories, shops and other businesses in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities have been allowed to reopen but are expected to need weeks or months to return to normal activity levels. "Exports showed considerable resilience in May despite the impact of the protracted lockdown in Shanghai,'' said Rajiv Biswas of S and P Global Market Intelligence in a report. ❐

China vehemently opposes US-Taiwan Trade Talks

China recently said it "firmly opposes" trade talks between the United States and Taiwan after Taipei and Washington announced the launch of a new initiative to deepen economic ties. Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and tries to keep it isolated on the world stage, bristling at any attempt to treat the self-governing democracy as an independent nation. "China always opposes any form of official exchanges between any country and the Taiwan region of China, including negotiating and signing any economic and trade agreements with sovereign connotations and an official nature," commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said. Washington is vying to bolster its influence in the region to counter Beijing and US President Joe Biden is coming under bipartisan pressure from US lawmakers to deepen ties with Taiwan. The talks announced recently —the "US-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade"—come on the heels of a trade agreement announced late May between the United States and 12 Asian economies, which excluded Taiwan. Like the earlier trade agreement the discussions with Taiwan will not involve tariffs or market access-items that would require congressional approval, US officials said. In a statement, the US Trade Representative said that "both sides will work at pace ... to develop an ambitious roadmap for negotiations for reaching agreements with high-standard commitments and economically meaningful outcomes." Taiwan's lead trade negotiator John Deng said the talks would "open up more room for economic cooperation." "We can say this is historic breakthrough," he addes, speaking at a press conference in Taipei. Deputy USTR Sarah Bianchi and Deng met of late to launch the new initiative. ■

US surpassed China to become India's biggest trading partner at $119 billion.

The U.S. surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries. According to the data of the Commerce Ministry, in 2021-22, the bilateral trade between the U.S. and India stood at $119.42 billion as against $80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the U.S. increased to $76.11 billion in 2021-22 from $51-62 billion in the previous fiscal year, while imports rose to $43.31 billion as compared to about $29 billion in 2020-21. During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at $115.42 billion as compared to $86.4 billion in 2020-21, the data showed. Exports to China marginally increased to $21.25 billion last fiscal year from $21.18 billion in 2020-21, while imports jumped to $94.16 billion from about $65.21 billion in 2020-21. Trade gap rose to $72.91 billion in 2021-22 from $44 billion in previous fiscal year. Trade experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the U.S. will continue in the coming years also as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in further strengthening the economic ties. Federation of Indian Export Organisations vice-president Khalid Khan said India is emerging as a trusted trading partner and global firms are reducing their dependence only on China for their supplies and are diversifying business into other countries like India. "India has joined a U.S. led initiative to set up an Indo-Pacific Economic Frame work (IPEF) and this move would help boost economic ties further," Mr. Khan said. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director of the Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bangalore, too said that India is the fastest growing market economy with unparalleled demographic dividend and provides enormous opportunities for the U.S. and Indian firms for technology transfer, manufacturing, trade and investment. ❐

Export restrictions may widen tade deficit in FY 23

A combination of factors like the export curbs imposed by the government on agricultural commodities and metals, and a continued rise in the prices of crude oil, natural gas and coal is likely to worsen the country's trade deficit in the current fiscal (FY23). The country's trade deficit hit a record high $190.7 billion in the last fiscal year (FY22), up 85.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) from $102.6 billion, surpassing the previous high of $190.3 billion in FY13. The country's imports were up 55.3 per cent YoY to $612.6 billion last fiacal. "While the prices of India's key imports such as crude oil, natural gas, thermal coal and fertiliser remain high, the export of agriculture commodities and industrial metals could decline due to a mix of export restrictions and lower prices," says Dhananjay Sinha, managing director (MD) and chief strategist, JM Institutional Equity. In May, the government banned the export of wheat, and put severe restrictions on sugar export. The Government followed it up by imposing an export duty of 15 per cent on steel in a bid to discourage its exports and lower prices in the domestic market. The buzz in the market is that the government may put export restrictions on rice and cotton as well in the coming weeks if inflation remains high. Restricted commodities such as wheat, sugar and iron were the key drivers of merchandise exports in FY22. According to India Ratings & Research India, merchandise imports are expected to grow to $182.9 billion in first quarter of the fiscal year from $168.1 billion in the last quarter of the last fiscal (Q4FY22). In the same period, exports are expected to inch up to $112.5 billion from $11.3 billion in Q4Y22. As a result, the trade deficit is expected to grow to $70.4 billion in Q1FY23 from $65.8 billion in the fourth quarter of FY 22. "This is due to normalisation of domestic economic activities, steep levels of commodity prices and inflated freight and transportation costs," writes Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist at India Ratings & Research. Iron and steel were India's third-biggest export commodity in FY22 at nearly $23 billion, up 88.9 per cent YoY. It accounted for 5.4 per cent of the total merchandise exports in FY22 and 8.3 per cent India's overall mechandise exports last fiscal. India's total exports were up 44.6 per cent YoY last fiscal year. The exports of petroleum products ($68.6 billion) and gems & jewellery ($39.3 billion) exceeded the exports of iron & steel, but India remains a net import of both crude oil and precious stones and precious metals. In contrast, India is a net exporter of steel. ❐

Per capita income remains lower than pre-Covid level

India's annual per capita income at constant prices remained below the pre-Covid level at ₹91,481 in 2021-22, the official data showed recently. However, the per capita income based on Net National Income (NNI) at constant price grew by 7.5 per cent in FY22 over the previous year. The per capita income at constant price was ₹94,270 in 2019-20 before it dipped to ₹85,110 in 2020-21 on account of the disruption in economic activities caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. At current prices, the per capita income rose by 18.3 per cent to ₹1.5 lakh during fiscal year 2021-22. The per capita income at current prices had dipped to ₹1.27 lakh in 2020-21 from ₹1.32 lakh in 2019-20. The per-capita income is a crude indicator of the prosperity of a country. ❐

India to emerge as a $5-trillion economy by FY27, says CEA

India would emerge as a $5-trillion economy by FY27 and a $10-trillion one by FY34, chief economic adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said recently. "We are now at $3.3 trillion, it is not such a difficult target to reach. Then if you simply assume 10% nominal GDP growth in dollar terms, then you get to $10 trillion by FY34 and another doubling with the same rate," the CEA said at an event by the UNDP India. In 2019, before the pandemic hit the nation and the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had envisioned to make India a $5-trillion economy by FY25. With its strong fundamentals, the Indian economy is much better placed now than many others, Nageswaran added. Recently, the CEA had said India had displayed remarkable resilience in recovery after a Covid-induced slump in growth. ❐

FDI touched a 'highest ever' at $83.57 bn, says Centre

The foreign direct investment (FDI) in the financial year 2021-22 has touched a "highest -ever" figure of $83.57 billion. Announcing this 'landmark' figure, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said this constituted an "endorsement" of India's status among global investors. "The government reviewes the FDI policy on an ongoing basis and makes significant changes from time to time, to ensure that India remains an attractive investor-friendly destination. The government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for FDI, wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route,'' an official release said. The government had undertaken reforms in sectors such as coal mining, contract manufacturing, digital media, single brand retail trading, civil aviation, defence, insurance and telecom. During 2021-'22, under the domain of "computer software and hardware", the major recipient States of FDI equity inflow were Karnataka 53%, Delhi 17%, and Maharashtra 17%, the release stated. The official statement noted that the FDI inflow had intensified since 2014 as the FDI had been "ever increasing" from that date. Singapore, the U.S. and Mauritius are among the top investor countries of FDI equity inflow. ❐

Industrial output growth soared to 8-month high of 7.1% in April

Industrial output expanded 7.1% in April, the fastest pace in eight months, on the back of improved performance by the power and mining sectors, as per government data released of late. The manufacturing sector recorded growth of 6.3% in the first month of the current financial year, data on Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the National Statistical office (NSO) showed. The earlier high for IIP growth was 13% recorded in August 2021. However, the NSO added that growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous year were to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. "The low base of the second wave of COVID-19 bumped up the IIP growth to an 8-month high of 7.1% in April 2022, although it trailed our expectation (9.2%), led by a weaker-than-anticipated performance of mining,'' said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA. The power and mining sectors grew 11.8% and 7.8%, respectively, in April. As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment recorded a growth of 14.7%, while consumer durables output expanded 8.5%. Still, the weak showing of capital goods output relative to the pre-COVID level confirmed the view that the uptick in capacity utilisation in the fourth quarter of FY22 would not trigger a rapid private sector capacity expansion in light of the uncertainties generated by geopolitical developments, Ms. Nayar added. ■

The crisis in West Bengal's jute industry worsening

The large iron gates at the entrance of the century-old jute mills on both banks of the river Hooghly are forbidding. They tend to reflect the mood of the area : during elections, posters of competing political parties are affixed to these gates; every autumn, banners and advertisements on Durga Puja adorn them; during general strikes, messages from trade unions cover them; and occasionally, small notices on white paper, announcing suspension of work, are stuck on them. The people of this region, which has witnessed terrible riots and intense political battles during the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly polls, fear these white notices the most.

Mill workers saw the notice waiting for them on January 1, 2022 on the large yellow painted gate of the Gondolpara Jute Mill. This sprawling mill is located near Chandannagar, on the western bank of the river, not far from the erstwhile French settlement. On March 31, the gate of the mill bore a rather unusual notice, which said that the "majdoor lines will get two more hours of electricity" — a small relief for those living there. Ever since the mill closed, power supply at the quarters had been irregular, totalling 12-14 hours a day.

Without power on a hot day, a young couple, Kanai Shaw and Renu Shaw, sat inside their small cubicle-like quarters. Renu rocked her five-month-old son, lying on the hammock, to sleep, while her four-year-old daughter ate a frugal lunch. An emaciated Renu said her husband had been out of work for the past few months. The family was hungry and helpless.

Though suspension of work is no new phenomenon, recent months have been especially difficult. Between November 2021 and April 2022, at least 12 mills along both the banks of the river downed their shutters, putting 60,000 workers out of jobs in one fell swoop. The workers out of jobs in one fell swoop. The workers of Reliance Jute Mill on the eastern bank and Gondolpara Jute Mill on the western bank all lost their jobs when this decision was taken.

According to the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), there are about 93 jute mills in India, of which 70 are in West Bengal. Of the 70, 54 are located in the three districts of North 24 Parganas (25), Howrah (15) and Hooghly (14). The IJMA, which dates back to 1884, estimates the number of workers at 3.5 lakh. It says about 40 lakh farmers are associated with the production and trade of the golden fibre. About 80% of the finished product - or B. Twill jute bag — is bought by the government for packaging food grains and agriculture produce like sugar.

According to industry experts, the recent crisis began last September, when the Office of the Jute Commissioner, which comes under the Ministry of Textiles, fixed the maximum price of raw jute at ₹6,500 per quintal. This decision to cap the price at ₹6,500 led to a all in procurement (as raw jute sells in the market at a price higher than ₹6,500 per quintal) and mills decided to suspend work. A mill owner and a prominent person in the West Bengal jute industry explained the losses mill owners are incurring. At this Kolkata office, he did a quick back of the-envelope calculation and pegged it at ₹12 lakh a day. "The capacity of my mill is 100 tonnes a day," he said. "The market price of raw jute has climbed to ₹7,200 per quintal which is ₹700 more than the ₹6,500 cap by the government. For buying 100 quintals, I have to spend ₹7 lakh more."

Another issue which the jute mill managements of the State stress on is non-implementation of the Tariff Commission's report for fair price of B. Twill jute bags, which has led to a loss of ₹1,500 crore to the industry, according to jute mill owners. Since September 2016, the jute industry is being reimbursed for the jute bags on a provisional temporary price. In March 2021, the Tariff Commission submitted its final report ; it is still to be implemented. "Apart from spending ₹7 lakh more, we are losing ₹5 lakh because the Tariff Commission's report on B. Twill jute bags has not been implemented. How can I keep the mill open if I have to shell out ₹12 lakh a day," the mill owner asked.

While there have been no reports in the public domain about the steps taken against hoarders, the jute Commissioner, Moloy Chandan Chakraborty, said in a statement that farmers generally dispose of their stock of raw jute by October/November every year. "Thus, there is hardly any raw jute left with the farmers," the statement said. "At present no jute of the current season is being held by farmers and jute lies with middlemen/traders and even with mills in their own name or in the name of third parties at various places. Relaxation in the upper price cap will only accrue illegitimate gains by these parties and no benefit will accrue to the farmers."

In an order on May 11, the Calcutta High Court directed the Jute Commissioner to "review and re-

fix the rate" of raw jute if the notified rate cannot be adhered to. Justice Amrita Sinha's 16-page order explained the supply-related bottlenecks. It pointed out that since jute mills are legally bound to supply jute bags to the government for which they are reimbursed at the notified rate, they have no other alternative but to sell the finished products at a loss. With sustained losses, the mills are destined to close down and the already dying industry will perish in no time.

"On the other hand, if the notified rate is increased, the government may not agree to pay more for the jute bags and the idea of switching over to cheaper alternatives may be a viable option. If that be so, then the jute mills, because of exorbitant rates, may not find any takers of their products. Large scale joblessness and economic crisis is bound to follow," the order said.

Of the many issues raised by the court, one was why the price of raw jute was hiked despite a bumper growth. "There must be some loopholes which are required to be plugged. But who will bell the cat is possibly the next relevant question," Justice Sinha said.

On the mill floor

Production is an elaborate exercise. Hastings Jute Mill, one of the oldest jute mills in the country, was once the weekend retreat of the first Governor General of Bengal, Warren Hastings. The mill is located at Rishra, in Hooghly district, and was launched by the Birkmyre Brothers in 1875, with 230 looms. It is one of the mills that is still open and sees hectic activity. Bales of jute are first treated with oil and then turned into fibre through mechanised looms. The set-up is like an elaborate car assembly unit. By the time the fibres are turned into threads, they have passed over a dozen machines. Sunlight seeps through the skylight and thousands of people on the factory floor do back-breaking work on old looms. After fibres are turned into threads, they are put on a spool and woven into large bales of jute cloth to be cut and stitched into jute bags. At the end of the assembly line, there is a small set-up where jute imported from Bangladesh is processed. The fibre from Bangladesh looks, and is also considered, superior to Indian jute.

On May 5, the IJMA issued a statement that the Government of India (GoI) is considering continuing anti-dumping duties against imports of jute products from Bangladesh. "Despite the current anti-dumping duty, jute exports from Bangladesh to India, as per Government of Bangladesh statistics, have been increasing. IJMA has contended that the industry would have been completely wiped off by now, had the GoI not imposed an anti-dumping duty," the statement said. The industry body stated that Bangladesh provides cash subsidies for jute production.

According to a report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), 2022-2023, India's jute production has been declining during the last decade. The main reason for this is the decrease in acreage, which is mostly due to cultivation of crops such as paddy, maize, groundunt and sesame. The availability of various types of synthetic substitutes is also reducing the demand for jute. According to the CACP, while the average area annually under jute cultivation was 8.2 lakh hectares from 2000-01 to 2009-10, it dropped to 7.3 lakh hectares from 2010-11 to 2019-20. In 2021-22 it was 6.3 lakh hectares. However, jute production has increased this year compared to the previous year.

Jute farmers switching to other crops

About 50 km from the historical Hastings Jute Mill, at Astara villa in West Bengal's Tarakeshwar block, farmers expressed concern about extreme climate conditions. Ganesh Khanra and Tapan Kumar Khanra, who used to cultivate six bighas (one acre is 1.6 bigha) of jute about five years ago, now cultivate four.

Ganesh, Tapan and other farmers claimed that every bigha of jute cultivation costs ₹16,000 to ₹18,000 and the yield is about four tonnes per bigha. Based on the recommendations of the CACP, the minimum support price of jute for 2022-23 has been fixed at ₹4,750 per quintal. If one farmer produces four quintals of jute per bigha and sells it at the MSP, he barely breaks even.

The jute crop is sown in early April and harvested in July. The crop is about 6-7 ft high at the time of harvest. But as tedious as the cultivation of the golden fibre is the process of extracting the fibre from the harvest. The jute crop is left to rot in water bodies for almost 15 days. Every jute farmer in the village has a small water body. In order to extract the jute, a person has to stand in waist-deep water in these ditches in the stench and pull out the fibres. The agricultural labourers who do the hard work are not from Hooghly; they come from Gosaba and

other interior areas of the Sundarbans. Their daily wage is ₹400-500, a substantial expense for farmers. In this picturesque village which was known for quality, jute farmers are slowly switching to other crops like groundnut and sesame.

No demands or protests

The issue has also turned political. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, voters of Barrackpore on the eastern bank and Hooghly on the western bank voted for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and sent two MPs to Parliament. The region has migrant workers from Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh who have worked in the mills for two-three generations.

By 2021, the voters once again turned to the Trinamool Congress. With mills closing and the policies of the Centre being largely blamed for the crisis, Barrackpore the then BJP MP Arjun Singh started criticising the Jute Commissioner. The change in the party's fortunes in Barrackpore created ripples not only locally, but in the entire BJP establishment. The State BJP vice-president, who vowed to protect the interests of jute workers and farmers, was summoned to Delhi and a meeting was arranged with Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal. The development has also sparked speculation on whether Singh is using the crisis to warm up to the Trinamool Congress, the part he left in 2019 to join the BJP.

Curiously, there have hardly been any protests by trade unions in a State that has seen militant trade unionism in the past. There have been no demands that the mills open, nor have there been strikes. An administrator of a century-old jute mill in Hooghly said that there is no trade union left : "The older leaders are past their prime and a new leadership has not come up. This is an advantage as there is no interference in running the mills, but also poses problems as there is no one to take the issues relating to the mills to the people."

West Bengal Labour Minister Becharam Manna publicly priased the labourers of the jute industry. "They do not strike even though they are suffering," he said. The last incident of trade union-related violence in the State was reported in the Hooghly North Brook Jute Mill in July 2014 when workers killed the CEO over a dispute of wage cuts and Provident Fund (PF) cuts.

Hopes at ebb

As he stood a few metres away from the Weaverly Jute Mill, Rajkumar Yadav, one of the representatives of a national trade union, said he had high hopes from the tripartite meeting held of Central and State officials and stakeholders of the jute industry on May 9. A layer of dust on the mill gates made it difficult to read the notices pasted on it. The mill closed in November 2020. Yadav said the days of trade unionism were over. He claimed that several retired employees had not got their PF dues because the management did not deposit its share. "Hundreds of workers in each mill have not got their PF. But you will not see even a handful of complaints at the office of the Labour Commissioner," he said. In almost all the mills, the workers and retired employees do not know who to approach if their PF is denied. "Sometimes they do not want to vacate the quarters," the union leader said. The closed jute mills are also witnessing reverse migration, with workers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh going back to their homes after the mills closed.

Every closed jute mill is a unique story of despair. Gauripur Jute Mill has been closed since 1997. The workers remember that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had visited the area in 2010 and given assurances to the workers. Hanuman Jute Mill in Howrah closed in December 2021, New Central Jute Mill closed in 2015 in Bidge Bidge (South 24 Parganas) and Kolkata Jute Mill in January 2021 in the city.

Even the jute mills that are open hardly present a picture of hope. Not far from Reliance Jute Mill is Nadia Jute Mills which, according to the workers, is "operational somehow". The mill workers' quarters, which extend till the bank of the river, are in a dilapidated state. Last October, the roof of the workers' quarters came crashing down and five people had to be rescued by firefighters. Arjun Majhi, a mill worker, said his cow died in the incident. "We do not know who owns and runs the mill. Who do we ask for repairs," Arjun asked. The roofs of the quarters are hanging at several places, the pillars have tilted, and one water tap that was meant for over 20 families has dried up. The only object that stands as a reminder of the present is a large cut-out of Lord Ram with his bow and photographs of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee wishing people on Ram Navami. Everything else, including the fate of the workers and the industry they belong to, appears to be hanging by a thread. ■

Panel to examine the options of unviable NTC mills

The Centre has constituted a committee to examine various options regarding the unviable textile mills under the public sector National Textiles Corporation, a source tracking the matter has said.

"A committee has been formed under the NITI Aayog to propose a plan for the NTC mills that have proved to be unviable despite attempts by the government to revive them. All options will be explored including their closure and sale, their disinvestment on a 'as-is-where-is' basis or disinvestment of some select mills while closure and sale of the others," the source said.

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and the Textile Ministry will give their inputs to the committee, the source added. "Earlier, some attempts were made to make investments, and technically upgrade some of the mills to put them back on their feet. But it is clear now that NTC can't run these mills. That is for sure. The government doesn't want to put any more money into it," he said.

In March this year, the Minister of State for Textiles Darshana Jardosh, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha stated that production in 23 working mills of NTC was suspended due to Covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown imposed by the various States from March, 2020. "From January, 2021 onwards, normal operations were resumed in some of the NTC mills but could not be continued due to unavailability of working capital and other financial constraints," she had said.

In light of continued poor economic viability of NTC mills, Ministry of Textiles is preparing an action plan for way forward in this matter in consultation with NITI Aayog and Department of Public Enterprises under Ministry of Finance, the Minister added.

"In order to protect the interest and welfare of employees, they are being paid wages and statutory dues as per mutual agreement between management and representing workers of the mills," the Minister said.

There are over 6,900 workers at the 23 working mills of the NTC per figures provided by the Textiles Ministry.

Trade Unions representing the mill workers had earlier proposed that surplus land with the mills could be monetised to plough in resources to revive the mills.

"Whatever the NITI Aayog committee decides will be placed before the Union Cabinet for its consideration. A final call will have to be taken by the Cabinet," the source said. ■

Govt eyeing 2nd Edition of Textiles PLI

The Government is eyeing the second edition of production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles and has begun consultations with the industry.

Industry wants inclusion of knitted fabrics in the scheme, besides manmade fibre and technical textiles and a lower investment threshold of ₹25 crores instead ₹100 crores now. It also wants the government not to impose any condition to set up a new company for the purposed of investment.

"This was the preliminary round of consultations and it is an evolving situation. Many ideas will come in and we will consider them." said an official, who did not wish to be identified.

PLI 2.0 for the textile sector is being considered as the ministry has an unutilised budget of about ₹4,000 crore after it approved 64 applications with an investment potential of ₹19,798 crore and projected turnover of $1.93 lakh crores in the next five years under the first phase of the scheme in April.

"We have suggesed an expansion of the list of items that are eligible for incentives under PLI such as home textile and madeups," an industry representative who participated in the consultation held recently on condition of anonymity.

A lower investment threshold is a key demand. In part-1 of the PLI schemes, the minimum investment required to be achieved for incentive is ₹600 crore while in part-2, the minimum investment should be ₹100 crore and the minimum turnover is ₹200 crore.

"They can't cover the same products with revised norms as that will not be fair." said another person who attended the meeting, adding that the labour-intensive cut and sew segment is keen on incentives.

As part of the consultation, industry also pushed for the incremental growth criteria to be eased to 10% from 25% now and a proper mechanism for tracking real-time data.

In the extant PLI, the companies which invest ₹300 crores, are expected to achieve a required turnover of ₹600 crores after a gestation period of two years and a 15% incentive will be provided on attaining it. Incentive in the subsequent years will be provided on achieving a minimum additional incremental turnover of 25% over the immediate preceding year's turnover but that would be reduced by 1% every year from the second year onward till the final year and become 11% in the fifth year. ■

Gujarat textile units may have to shut down due to high raw cotton yarn rates

The textile value chain in Gujarat is cutting production by nearly half and facing the possibility of shutting down units as raw cotton and cotton yarn prices keep rising, despite the Centre's step to remove import duty.

Prices of raw cotton are hovering around ₹1 lakh to ₹1.15 lakh per candy. For the several weeks, yarn makers have not been getting fresh orders due to unprecedented prices, according to Saurin Parikh, president of the Spinners Association of Gujarat.

"If prices don't go down, most spinning units will be forced to shut operations. Already, many spinning mills are incurring losses to fulfil customers commitments. Nearly 120 spinning mills in Gujarat are running at a little over 50% capacity at present. We have no option but no hope for the best and prepare for the worst," he said.

Parikh, who is the founder of Pashupati Cotspin, said since weavers and international buyers are not willing to pay the higher prices of cotton yarn, most spinning units are unable to increase prices of end product in proportion with raw cotton rates.

Garment manufacturers in the state, too, are witnessing production cuts of up to 45%. One of the top three garment clusters in the country, situated in Ahmedabad, is witnessing dismal demand.

"It is extremely difficult to run a garment manufacturing unit as prices of fabric have skyrocketed. Most garment makers haven't yet recovered from the pandemic's adverse impact. Now they are facing another huge challenge, of alltime high cotton prices," said Vijay Purohit, president of the Gujarat Garment Manufacturers Association.

More than 90% of the 25,000-odd garment manufacturers across Gujarat are MSMEs, and employ over 20 lakh people. Nearly 15,000 garment makers are in Ahmedabad alone. Some have tie-ups with global brands and export garments all across the world.

According to Purohit, if cotton prices don't come down, many units will close down in a couple of months, causing large-scale loss of employment.

Chintan Thaker, president of Welspun Group, said a ban on raw cotton exports is the need of the hour to put a brake on the bullish run. "Welspun's two units in Gujarat are operating at 60% capacity. Our international buyers are not willing to absorb increased prices of raw materials. In some cases, we are supplying textile products despite making losses to fulfil prior commitments."

Ahmedabad-based Chiripal Group has cut production up to 20%, according to senior executive PK Sharma. "Compared to other textile players, we are managing price hikes slightly better due to our diverse business portfolio. However, inflated cotton prices are a cuase of concern considering the fact that it is the most important raw material for most our finished product," Sharma said.

Chiripal Group makes fabric, terry towels, denim and other textile products. ■

Art struggling for survival due to curbs on black jaggery

The woodblock-printed Kalamkari textile art is struggling for its survival in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh owing to the absence of black jaggery in the market in the wake of enforcement on its sale and trade by the State government.

Black jaggery is the prime ingredient for extraction of black dye by fermenting it for 21 days with iron and salt water. In Kalamkari art, black is considered as the 'mother of all natural dyes' as it is used to extract other colours by adding various natural ingredients.

In the recent years, mushrooming of Kalamkari units, that replaced natural dyes with chemical ones, have paralysed the domestic market. However, at least a dozen of Kalamkari units are keeping the art alive by using natural ingredients in Pedana and Machilipatnam towns in Krishna district.

In the last few months, a few black jaggery merchants have been sent to jail by the Special Enforcement Bureau on the charges of selling it to those involved in the manufacturing the illicitly distilled liquor.

In May, black jaggery merchants in Pedana and Machilipatnam towns have declared that they would not sell black jaggery anymore.

"We cannot be blamed for the rise in the ID liquor brewing. It is the government's job to check the liquor mafias. The Kalamkari art will have no altermative to black jaggery," said Ms. Jaya Sudha from Pedana.

"For over two months, the merchants have not been selling black jaggery, fearing legal issues. If such issues are not addressed properly, it will deliver a death blow on the Kalamkari art," said P. Srinivas, a trader.

In 2013, the Kalamkari art was registered as 'Machilipatnam Kalamkari' in the Geographical Indications Registry. At least 1,000 people are involved in the art in the region. ■

In Surat textile hub bigger players manage to survive but small units fail

For 37-year old Monty Manghani, the year 2017 was a milestone. After years of struggle, the annual revenues from his trading unit in Surat, which houses the country's largest cluster of synthetic textiles, was about to touch ₹1 crore.

But Manghani's success proved to be short-lived. The government implemented the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July that year and the new tax structure became a challenge for his small unit. Eventually, he was forced to shut shop and team up with his merchant manufacturer father. The duo are now posting a business turnover of nearly ₹2 crore.

The Manghanis say that Surat's synthetic textile value chain comprises various verticals, from spinning polyester yarn to weaving grey cloth, which is then dyed and processed before being sold to wholesalers across the country.

Textile traders like the Manghanis, also known as merchant manufacturers, buy grey cloth woven at the power looms and then get work done on it such as dyeing, processing, embroidery and so on, before selling it to the wholesalers.

"Hence, it is the merchant manufacturers who have to pay taxes and account for the same at each stage. This cannot be done by a sole entrepreneur working in an informal manner, unlike in the pre-GST era," say the father-son duo.

While not much may have changed for Surat's textile industry in terms of rates, the last five years have seen considerable consolidation, with the bigger players managing to survive and smaller players either exiting the business or joining the larger ones like the Manghanis.

"Overall, GST has been good for the industry by formalising the operations across the value chain. It is now easy to apply for loans or schemes because GST has brought legitimacy to businesses. The only drawback is that not many small and sole entrepreneurs could survive the GST implementation," Monty Manghani says.

In the first year of GST, the textile cluster in Surat was hit both in terms of tax rates and structure since the entire value chain, from raw material to finished product, went through multiple stages, each attracting a different tax rate.

For instance, raw materials like polyester partially oriented yarn (POY) has continued to attract 18 per cent GST since 2017, but when turned into texturised yarn, the same saw a change in the rate, from 18 per cent to 12 per cent, in the first year of the new tax regime.

A big blow to the industry in the first year was that even though the conversion of texturised yarn into grey fabric attracted 5 per cent GST, the weavers could not avail of the input tax credit refund. This was allowed in 2018. However, even today, refund applications take 6-8 months to be processed, which is why industry players prefer not to apply for refunds.

"It is far more convenient to do business by letting the accumualted credit with the government be carried forward to the next year and then adjust it against the tax liability, than to apply for a refund, which takes months to process. Also, the accumulated credit can be set off against payment of taxes for the purchase of new machinery, which reduces our capital burden," says Kamlesh Kotadiya of Renny Fashion, which runs a power loom unit at Pipodara on the outskirts of Surat.

In the five years that GST has been in operation, Surat's textile industry has witnessed consolidation at two major levels of the value chain—weavers and merchant manufacturers, popularity known as textile traders.

According to Devkishan Manghani, former president of the Federation of Surat Textile Traders Association and current advisor to the textile trade committee of South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the correct term is 'merchant manufacturers'.

"This is because we buy grey cloth from weavers and then send it for processing and other work such as embroidery, lacing and bleaching before selling the finished goods as sarees, dress materials, top wear and bottom wear garments to wholesalers," he says.

Pramod Bothra, a leading tax consultant for the Surat textile trading community, says that prior to GST, there used to be around 70,000 merchant manufacturers. However, GST, coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic, led to the consolidation of the merchant manufacturers, bringing down their number to around 45,000-50,000.

"Most of the existing merchant manufacturers are those with a turnover of anywhere between ₹25 crore and ₹100 crore. The ones with lesser turnover failed to survive," he adds. ■

MARKETING OF MULTI FORMING TECHNOLOGY OF COMPOSITE NONWOVEN FABRIC MANUFACTURING

Prof. (Dr.) N. B. Timble, PhD(USA)NCSU, Associate Professor of Textile Technology, DKTE

Abstract

In this paper initially the various composite nonwoven manufacturing processes are listed. Then the photograph of multi card is presented. Then the applications of multicard are listed. Then the photograph of multi forming box air lay and wet lay are presented. Then the Photograph of multibeam spunbonding process to manufacture composite nonwovens(SSS) is presented. Then Applications of composite nonwovens made by multi beam spunbond process(SS, SSS, SSSS) are listed. Then the photograph of SMS production process of Zimmer AG(to be added) is presented. Then the Photograph of SMS production process from same spinning line is presented. Then the applications of composite nonwovens made by SMS, SMMS and SSMMMSS are listed. Then thephotograph of coform process of making composite nonwovens is presented. Then the applications of composite nonwovens made by coform process are listed. Then the applications of composite nonwovens made by other processes(PWS)(pulp-wet laidspunbond) are listed. Finally the usefulness of the paper is stated.

The various composite nonwoven manufacturing processes under Multi forming technology are multi card, multi forming box airlay or wet lay, multi beam spunbond and combination of different web formation methods(SMS, Coform, Other processes)

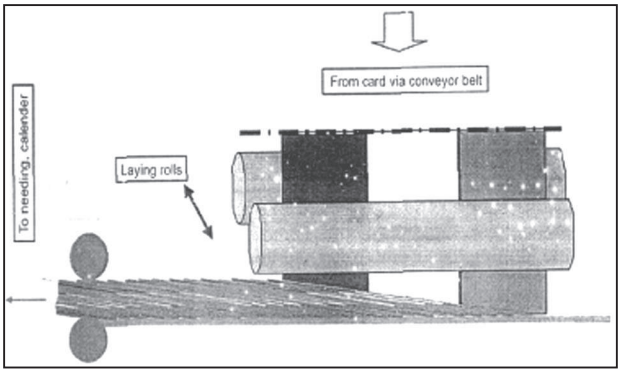

Figure : Sandwich web-laying using multi card
(Source : http://www.emsgriltech.com/)

Photograph of multicard process to manufacture composite nonwovens

Applications of composite nonwovens made by multi card process

- Particle filtration
- Liquid absorption

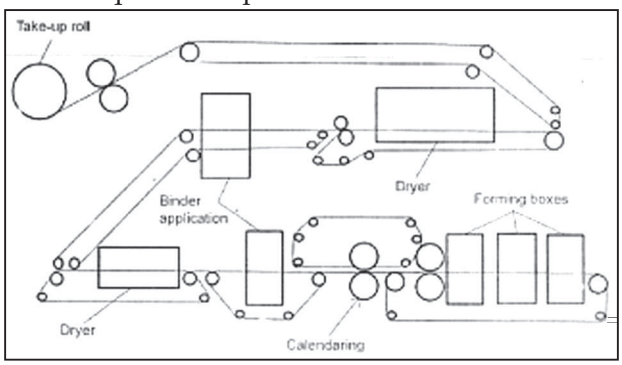

Figure : Multi forming air-laid process (Zhang et al. 2011)

Photograph of Multi Forming air laid process

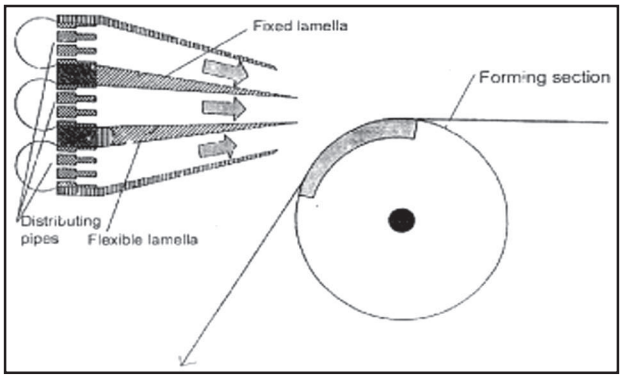

Figure : Three-layer headbox in wet-laid (Dahi 2000)

Photograph of multi forming wet lai

Applications of composite nonwovens made by multi forming box airlay or wet lay application

- Dispersible Moist Wipes

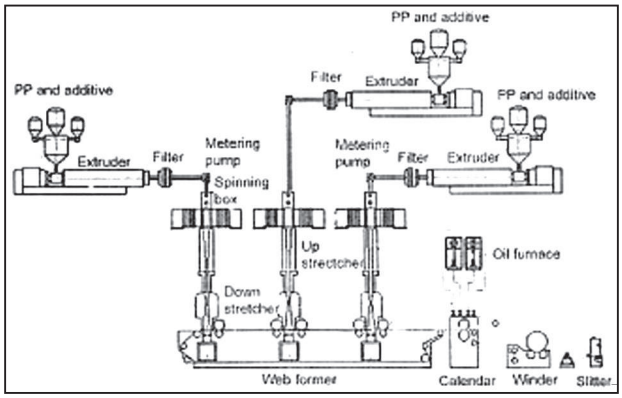

Figure : Spunbond-spunbond-spunbond production process and fabric
(Source : http://www.lynonwoven.net/sss-machine)

Photograph of multibeam spunbonding process to manufacture composite nonwovens (SSS)

Applications of composite nonwovens made by multi beam spunbond process(SS, SSS, SSSS)

- Garment
- Operation suit
- Face Mask
- Diaper
- Sanitary napkins
- Disposable Hygiene
- Shopping bag
- Wall Covering
- Table Cloth
- Bed Sheet
- Bed Spread
- Lining
- Adhesive Inter Lining
- Shoe Lining
- Protection cover
- Nursery cover

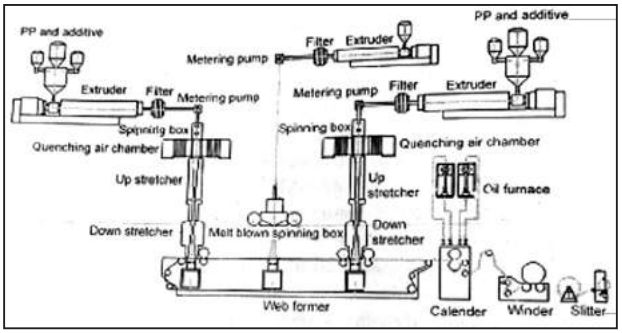

Figure : SMS production process of Zimmer AG
(Wilhelm et al. 2002)

Photograph of SMS production process of Zimmer AG

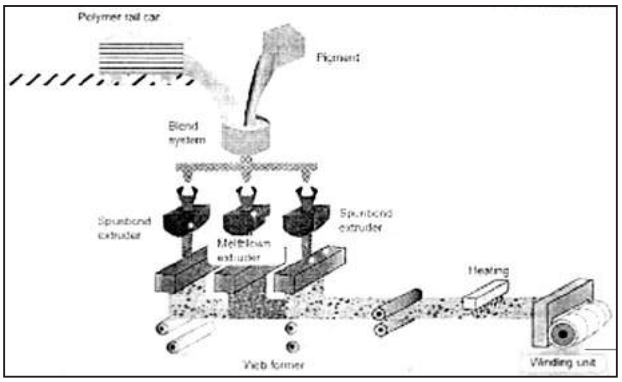

Figure : SMS production process from same spinning line
(Source : Kimberly-Clark)

Photograph of SMS production process from same spinning line

Applications of composite nonwovens made by SMS, SMMS and SSMMMSS

- Face masks
- Barrier fabrics
- Coverstock
- Sanitary products
- Packaging
- Filter media
- Protective covers
- Acoustic facings

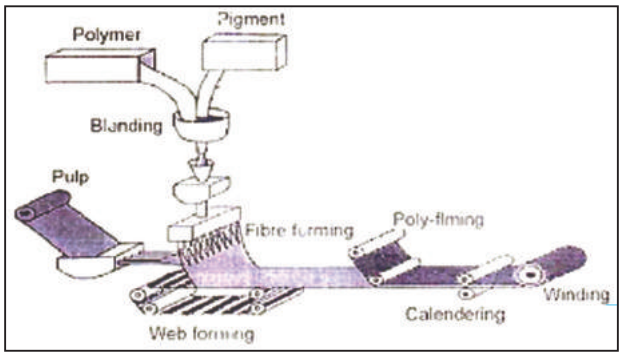

Figure : CoForm layered composite nonwoven, process
(Das & Pourdeyhimi 2014)

Photograph of Coform process of making composite nonwovens

Applications of composite nonwovens made by Coform process

- Wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers
- Adult continence

Applications of composite nonwovens made by other processes (PWS)(pulp-wet laid-spunbond)

- Absorbent nonwovens

Conclusions

In this paper the reader is made aware of the potential of the various multi forming technologies of composite nonwoven manufacturing processes by stating the photographs of the machines and their applications

Reference

1. Nonwovens by karthik

APPLICATIONS OF ULTRA-HIGH SPEED BEARING IN TEXTILE MACHINERY

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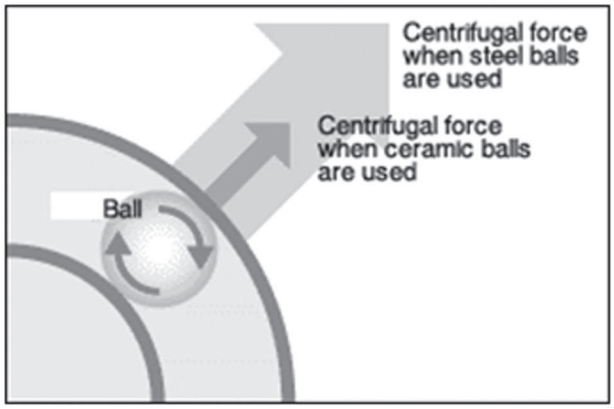
Abstract

There is a large trend toward increasing the speed and functionality of the machine tools that support manufacturing. In keeping with this trend, bearings that are stable even at high rotation speeds are needed. However, as the rotation speed of bearings increases, several problems arise.

Introduction

As a bearing rotates at high speed, there is a large centrifugal force acting on the ball. Because of this centrifugal force, there is a large load on the outer race of the bearing that interferes with high-speed rotation.Also, a sufficient oil film cannot be maintained with conventional lubricating oil, so heat cannot disperse and the temperature of the bearing rises.



Effect of higher speed on balls of Ball Bearing.

By using ceramic for the balls and two lubrication methods at the same time, solution for this problem can be achieved by using a bearing that can be used at ultra-high speed.

With ceramic balls, not only reduction in the rotational centrifugal force, but also increase the lubrication properties observed. To lubricate bearings to achieve ultra-high-speed revolution, combined air-oil lubricationadopted, in which air is used with a small amount of oil.

Using the minimum necessary oil along with air and accurately supplying it to the boundary between the ball and the race provides sufficient lubrication while preventing the temperature from rising.

As ceramics are having more hardness, applying the counter measure of raising the hardness of the bearing while preventing slipping of the balls, which is one cause of heat generation.

Angular contact ball bearing with ultra-high-speed ceramic balls achieves a dmn of 2.6 million for ultra-high-speed revolution with air-oil lubrication (dm: bearing pitch circle diameter in mm, n: rotation speed min-1).

Eco Friendly Air Oil Lubricated Angular Contact Ball Bearings of the HSL type

High-Speed Angular Contact Ball Bearing of the HSE type

High Speed Applications in Textiles

Speed of the ring frame spindles has a big say on the yarn production rate. With the spindle reaching speeds of 22,000 RPM, several components like the needle bearing, phosphor bronze bush, metal thrust pad bearings, coil springs and so on need to be lubricated continuously. Constant movement causes residues to develop and decomposition of oil hindering lubrication and eventually seizure of the spindle. It's a gruelling test for any lubricant that needs to perform ceaselessly under different material pairings and intense pressure, without deterioration. Regular oils have low oxidation stability and need to be changed at short durations for effective lubrication. Frequent re-lubrication of the spindle results in unnecessary machine down time and man power cost, not to mention the consequences of production stoppage. Product description: LZ3224 Bearing support frame Ring Frame Spinning Machine.

The precision lower roller bearing is made of high quality steel, with the characteristics of long life and high precision. The inner and outer rings of the bearing and needle roller components are interchangeable.

The durable nylon 1010 cage is adopted, and the reliable four-point positioning plate is adopted. The bearing has a beautiful appearance, which reaches the advanced level in China and wins the trust of the major spinning machines.

APPLICATIONS OF ULTRA-HIGH SPEED BEARING IN TEXTILE MACHINERY

Bottom Roller Bearings

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Govt. withdrew price limit on raw jute

Around six months after the price of raw jute was capped at ₹6,500 per quintal, which allegedly led to a crisis in the industry, the government recently decided to withdraw it from May 20, according to a notification.

The move followed pressure from various quarters including Arjun Singh who was a BJP MP of West Bengal where the majority of the jute mills of the country are located.

"After careful analysis and considering the current market scenario of raw jute availability, the September 30 notification stands withdrawn from May 20," the Jute Commissioner's Office (JCO), a central government agency that looks after orderly development and promotion of the industry, said in the notification.

The Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), which had claimed that millers were not getting raw jute below ₹7,000 a quintal leading to he crisis, and Arjun Singh welcomed the step. About a dozen-odd jute mills had to shut operations due to raw jute availability at the government price, rendering job loss for thousands of workers.

The price cap removal is expected to help farmers, mills and the jute MSME sector. There are around 2.5 lakh jute mill workers and 40 lakh jute farmers.

In the recent past, raw jute prices have corrected to ₹6,700 per quintal, down from ₹7,2000 a quintal, over bumper crop projection. "It is a very welcome step. Any regulation in commodities is unwarranted," IJMA chairman Raghavendra Gupta told of late.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union textiles minister Piyush Goyal for the move, Singh tweeted that it is a "big victory" for lakhs farmers and workers and the jute industry. ■

COMPRESSOR IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Prof. Anil U. Awasare, Prof. Rahul R. Joshi and Prof. Irshad M. Momin
DKTE's Textile and Engineering Institute, Ichalkaranji

Abstract

Compressed air is an important utility of the textile industry. Consumption of electric charges are much affected by the compressor's power requirement. Selection of the compressor, care for quality compressed air supply are important basic things to be known for a textile technologist. The paper deals with the basics of the compressors.

Introduction

Textile industry is the second largest sector after agriculture in India. Industry is further classified in different categories as per the method of manufacture, raw material used, finished product produced, sector, region etc. The domestic apparel & textile industry in India contributes 5% to the country's GDP, 7% of industry output in value terms, and 12% of the country's export earnings. India is the 6th largest exporter of textiles and apparel in the world. India is one of the largest producers of cotton and jute in the world.

Compressor is a mechanical device used for creating pressured air or gas. Since the childhood we know the compressor in one or other form of application. A very common man who uses the bicycle is come across the application of compressor in the form of hand pump or foot pump to put the air in the tires of the bicycle. It is also a one type of compressor. Many improved versions of these types of compressors are available in the market as well as available on the petrol pumps and the tire shops.

Application of Compressed Air in Textile Manufacturing

One of the significant utilities used in textile industry is the compressor. It is used in various sectors of the textile industry. The main purposes of the compressed air in the textiles are

1. Automatic doffing in carding, draw frame, comber, speed frame, ring frame and winding
2. Automatic doffing in warping and sizing
3. Loading the drafting rollers in draw frame, comber, speed frame and ring frame
4. Pneumatic systems used in various machines for the automation
5. For squeeze rollers pressure at sizing, wet processing machines
6. Splicing of yarns at automatic winding machine
7. Weft insertion in air jet weaving machine
8. Shedding, weft selection at sample weaving machines
9. Pneumatic brake systems in winding, warping and sizing
10. Automatic lubricating systems on various textile machines
11. Threading of yarn at knitting machine
12. Automatic drawing in operation
13. Cleaning of the machine.

In some machines the role of the compressed air is minor and in some machines its role is a major. Some machines are used with compressed air as a major and therefore named like air jet spinning machine, Air texturing and Air jet weaving machines.

Basic Principles of Compressors

There are two basic principles of the compression like

a. Positive Displacement compression and
b. Dynamic compression

A bicycle pump is the simplest form of a positive displacement compression, where air is drawn into a cylinder and is compressed by a moving piston. The piston compressor has the same operating principle and uses a piston whose forward and backward movement is accomplished by a connecting rod and a rotating crankshaft. If only one side of the piston is used for compression this is called a single-acting compressor. If both the piston's top and undersides are used, the compressor is double acting. The pressure ratio is the relationship between absolute pressure on the inlet and outlet sides.

In a dynamic compressor, the pressure increase takes place while the gas flows. The flowing gas accelerates to a high velocity by means of the rotating blades on an impeller. The velocity of the gas is subsequently transformed into static pressure when it is forced to decelerate under expansion in a diffuser. Depending on the main direction of the gas flow used, these compressors are called radial or axial compressors.

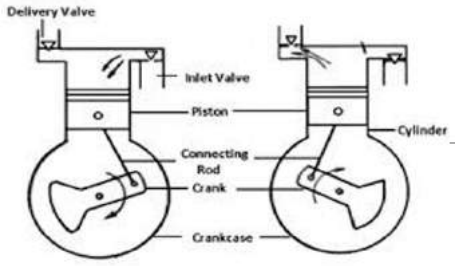
Types of Air Compressors

There are mainly following types of air compressors

1. Reciprocating
2. Rotary
3. Centrifugal
4. Axial

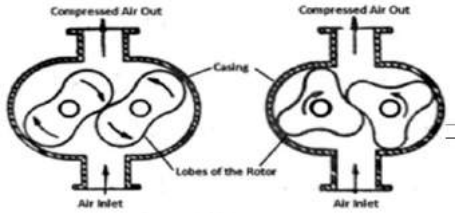
In reciprocating compressor, the piston is reciprocated from a crank shaft to transfer high pressure gas or air into the cylinder. These compressors are used in automotive industry which are able to create 5 to 30 HP. They are

used in chemical industry, air conditioners, and refrigeration plants.



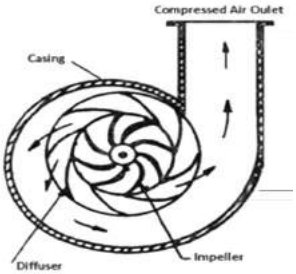
Reciprocating Air Compressor

In rotary air compressor, two rotors with lobes rotating in an air-tight casing that has an inlet and outlet ports. Its action resembles that of a gear pump. As the rotors rotate, the air at atmospheric pressure is trapped in the pockets formed between the lobes and casing.



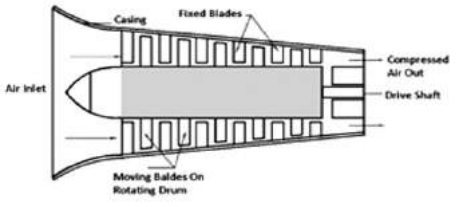
Rotary Air Compressor

In Centrifugal compressor, a rotor revolves in the specially designed air-tight casing with inlet and outlet points. This converts kinetic energy into pressure energy. In this air enters the impeller radially and discharges axially.



Centrifugal Air Compressor

In Axial flow compressor, a drum with blades rotates inside an air-tight casing in which fixed blades rows are placed. Air comes from one side of drum and air flows from one set of stators and rotors to another, it gets compressed.



Axial Flow Air Compressor

All the above compressors are used in different industries. In textile industry reciprocating and rotary type rotary screw type compressors. Depending upon the air quality and quantity requirements and the cost the type and capacity of the compressors are selected.

Conclusions

As the compressed air is an important utility in textile manufacturing, one has to select proper compressor depending upon the quantity of air required and the quality of the air. The wrong decision may cause to create problems of defective yarn and fabric and may also affect the efficiency and production of the machines.

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Trade deficit surged to record $25.6 bn

India's merchandise trade deficit surged to a new high of $25.6 billion in June amid slowing demand for Indian exports and rising imports of gold, coal and crude oil. Exports grew 16.8 per cent year-on-year to $38 billion in June while imports jumped 51 per cent to $63.6 billion, according to the preliminary data released by the commerce ministry recently.

India's traditional high dependence on crude oil led to its imports soaring 94.2 per cent in June to $20.7 billion. Continuing fetish of Indians for gold amid a downward spiral of the equity market meant gold imports rose 169 per cent to $2.6 billion during the month. Amid a slow increase in domestic coal production, the government's directive to power generation companies to blend domestically produced coal with 10 per cent imported coal led to a 248 per cent jump in coal imports to $6.4 billion.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA Ltd, said the widening merchandise trade deficit was worrying with a sequential dip in exports and a rise in the non-gold imports relative to May. "With a steady uptick in the size of the merchandise trade deficit over the course of the quarter, we expect the current account deficit (CAD) to more than double to $30 billion in Q1 FY23 from the modest $13 billion in the previous quarter. However, robust services surpluses will partly absorb the shock. We expect the CAD to print in the range of $100-105 billion in FY23," she said. ■

UNCONVENTIONAL NATURAL FIBRE — BHIMAL FIBRE

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Abstract

Bhimal fibre is one of the unconventional cellulosic bast fibres available in India. This fibre is available in most of the cold climatic conditions in India. Bhimal fibre can be procured from the bast of the plant. To get good fibre quality, the plant is cultivated by using a normal plantation which involves the steps such as treatment of seeds, sowing, preparation of pits, planting, aftercare and lopping of trees respectively. Water retting is carried out to get the fibre proper and extraction processes are followed. Chemically fibre is cellulosic in nature, but along with cellulose, it consists of hemicellulose and lignin in high percentages. The fibre has good physical, as well as chemical properties such as it, got good resistance to acids, as well as alkalis. As far as applications are concerned this fibre is not individually used but it is used with others in the blend. Fibre is most commonly used for technical textiles applications such as Agrotech, and Meditech rather than apparel wear. It is observed that fibre has great potential in the composite manufacturing industry.

1. Introduction

Grewiaoptivais a member of the Tiliaceae family and is also known in India as Bhimal, Bihul, and Bheeku fibre. It's worth noting that there's not a lot of information about Grewia optiva's use.[1] These trees can be found in the Western Himalayas between Jammu and Kashmir and Nepal, at elevations ranging from 500 to 2500 metres above sea level.[2] It is a deciduous tree with a small to medium estimated height of 9 to 12 m, a spreading crown, and a clear bole about 1 m in diameter.[3] These are bast filaments separated from the bark of the Bhimal tree using the most common retting method. Residents in Uttarakhand's neighbourhoods carefully gather, dry, plunge, and beat Bhimal strands. This is an intriguing fibre that should be studied further as an engineering material. Because it has only been used infrequently by researchers in their studies. It has high tensile strength as well as a high level of flexibility. Furthermore, a literature review revealed that there is little information on using these fibres as reinforcing material in polymer composites.[5]

2. Cultivation of Fibre

2.1 Treatment of Seeds

The rate of germination of Bhimal planting is relatively low. As a result, it is suggested that hot water treatment be used. It is simple to grasp. A container of water is filled with seeds and brought to a boil before being set aside for 5 minutes to cool. After that, the seeds are immersed in water and thoroughly mixed before being left to soak overnight while the boiling water cools to room temperature. Before sowing, the seeds are placed in a gunny cloth bag and allowed to drain for 1-2 hours in the shade.

2.2 Sowing

Rows of seeds should be planted and watered regularly. Healthy seedlings emerge in 30-35 days and grow quickly, reaching 15-20 cm in 50-60 days. Plants can grow to be 100-150 cm tall in a year.

2.3 Preparation of Pits

Planting should take place in the summer or shortly before the monsoon, with 45 × 45 × 45 cm ditches dug. For aeration, the dirt should be kept to one side, and trenches should be left open for 15-20 days. Fill the pits with decomposing 5 kg FYM [Farm Yard Manure] and soil, starting with the highest layer, which is rich in humus, and working your way down. Allow for 15-20 days.

2.4 Planting

During the monsoon season, after removing the polythene cover and without disturbing the soil around the roots, one-year-old healthy saplings (1m height) should be planted in the pit. Scoop 15 cm of earth into a small hollow, place the sapling in the cavity, and level it with soil while keeping the sapling straight.

2.5 Aftercare

Frost kills 20% to 25% of Bhimal seedlings. Frost protection can be obtained by sparingly watering plants or smoking the area on frosty days in January and February. The dead plants should be replaced with healthy, vigorous plants during the following rainy season. The development of Bhimal plants is rapid for the first 2-3 years, then begins to slow. Browsing animals cause damage. Basins with a diameter of 45 cm should be built in September and weed-free for at least three years. To ensure healthy plant development, plantation hygiene should be maintained in subsequent years.

2.6 Lopping of trees

After five years of planting, 50% lopping from December to January can be done to allow the plants to thrive until they are 6-7 years old.[6]

3. Extraction procedure of fibre from plant

Bhimal contains a lot of fibre. Villagers use the retting procedure to remove the fibre. The tree's branches are clipped and immersed in water for a month during the winter. The fibre is extracted by hammering the wet branches. The dried branches are left out in the sun during April. The branches are then gathered and weighted down in rushing water with large stones. This is known as retting. Depending on the thickness of the branches and the temperature of the water, retting can take anywhere from thirty to forty days. Water penetrates the branches and dissolves the cells, deteriorating the outer layer. As a result of the bacterial activity, the branches deteriorate. Bacteria feed on pectin or gum.

If the branches are retted too many times, the fibres will deteriorate, resulting in low-quality ropes. The branches are thrashed against stones after retting to remove the wood's bark and phloem. The fibres are then washed, sun-dried, and sorted. Sel refers to the dried fibres. Because the moisture in the air makes twisting the fibres easier during the rainy season, the sel is hand-twisted to form ropes and strings. If the branches are retted too many times, the fibres will deteriorate, resulting in low-quality ropes. The branches are thrashed against stones after retting to remove the wood's bark and phloem. The fibres are then washed, sun-dried, and sorted. Sel refers to the dried fibres. Because the moisture in the air facilitates twisting the fibres, the sel is hand-twisted to form ropes and strings during the rainy season. If you ret the branches too many times, the fibres will deteriorate, resulting in low-quality ropes. After retting, the branches are thrashed against stones to remove the wood's bark and phloem. The fibres are then cleaned, sun-dried, and sorted. The dried fibres are referred to as sel. Because the moisture in the air facilitates twisting the fibres, the sel is hand-twisted to form ropes and strings during the rainy season.

When retting is carried out for an extended period, the fibres weaken, resulting in low-quality ropes. After retting, the branches are thrashed against stones to remove the bark and phloem from the wood. After that, the fibres are washed, sun-dried, and sorted. The dried fibres are known as sel. During the rainy season, the sel is hand-twisted to make ropes and strings because the moisture in the air encourages the twisting of the fibres. Bhimal fibres must be softened, carded, and spun to produce textile-quality yarn. This has yet to be done because the sel is too dry and weak to be spun into yarn.[7]

Grewia optiva is a medium-sized deciduous tree that can grow to be 20 metres tall in India. It sheds its leaves in March and April, and blossoms appear with the new flush of leaves. Depending on local climatic conditions, fruits mature between October and December. During the first week of November, locals harvest the GrewiaOptiva, cutting the branches and using the green leaves as animal feed.

The sticks are dried in the shade under a tree. During the spring season, in the first week of April, all of the dried sticks are collected and sun-dried. After that, bundles of 15-20 kg sticks are bundled together and transported to a brook (in this case, Ghadhera) for retting. Khall, a man-made water pool, is getting ready to stop the flow of water by erecting stone walls around it, where these bundles of sticks will later be placed for retting. Each bundle is covered with a stone and buried in water for three months. The retting procedure will be completed in June.

To obtain the inner bark, the bark of each stick is scraped in narrow strips and thoroughly washed in running water, while the outside pulp is cleaned by continuous water washing. Finally, the extracted fibres are sun-dried to remove any moisture. The entire process of extracting fibres from Grewiaoptiva can be broken down into four steps: (a) Plant preparation for Grewiaoptiva, (b) Khall preparation, (c) Khall retting process, (d) Bark separation for fibre extraction, and (e) Sun drying of extracted fibre.[6]

4. Chemical Composition of Bhimal fibre

Table.1 Chemical composition of Bhimalfibre

Component	Quantity (%)
Cellulose	58-75%
Hemicellulose	10-12%
Lignin	7-12%
Oil, Fat, waxes and others	2%

Genetic characteristics, plant age, soil quality, the section of the plant used and growth, harvesting, extraction conditions, and chemical composition analysis methods all influence chemical content. The primary chemical components of lignocellulosic fibre cell walls are cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin in the ratio 4:3:3.[4]

4.1 Cellulose

Cellulose is the most abundant component of plant cells. It is a high-degree polymer molecule made up of glucose residues, with cellobiose acting as the primary coupling unit. Plant cell walls are composed of 35-50% cellulose, which accounts for

35-50% of the total dry weight. Cotton is nearly entirely made up of cellulose. In most cases, cellulose is surrounded by hemicellulose and lignin. The majority of the final cell walls are made of cellulose, which has molecular chains that run parallel to the fibre axis. 1,4- glycosidic bonds hold cellulose molecules together.

Crystal properties are exhibited by cellulose molecules because they are arranged in an ordered fashion in some areas of the microfibrils. It's a 1,4-glycosidic homopolymer made up of D-glucopyranose units connected by 1,4-glycosidic links. The chemical formula for cellulose ($C_6H_{10}O_5$) is n, where n represents the degree of polymerization (DP). The number of glucose groups in cellulose, which can range from hundreds to tens of thousands, is represented by DP.[4]

4.2 Hemicellulose

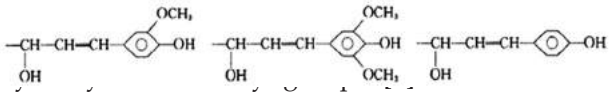
In general, cellulose is known as pure cellulose. -cellulose and -cellulose is referred to as hemicellulose in the industry.[2] Polysaccharides can easily separate from plant tissues because they are semi-finished cellulose molecules. However, it was later discovered that this concept was hazy. Hemicellulose was derived from plant polysaccharides and consisted of a basic chain with D-xylose, D-mannose, D-glucose, or D-galactose residues and branched chains connected to this basic chain. It is also known as alkali-soluble polysaccharides.

In contrast to cellulose, it is a copolymer composed of varying amounts of various saccharide molecules. It requires 20 to 35% of the dry weight of plant cell walls. Hemicelluloses fill the space between cellulose and lignin. It degrades faster in acidic environments because it has a lower degree of polymerization and orientation than cellulose.

4.3 Lignin

Lignin is the cell wall's second most abundant large-molecule polymer. Within the bundle cells, wood fibres and sclerenchyma cells are embedded. The major monomers of lignin are phenylpropanoid derivatives coumaryl alcohol, coniferyl alcohol, and sinapyl alcohol. Lignin is a stiff material that increases the toughness of the cell wall due to its physical properties. It is chemically resistant to a high degree. It requires 5-30% of the dry weight of plant cell walls.

The concentration of lignin in woody plants ranges from 27 to 32%, whereas it ranges from 14 to 25% in herbaceous plants. Lignin is a three-dimensional polyphenolic polymer made up of long-chain, high-molecular-weight monomers. Lignin has an amorphous, heavily crosslinked structure and is found in the primary wall and the outer half of the secondary wall. It acts as glue between the cell wall's fibrils. Lignin reduces fibre divisibility into separate components while also protecting carbohydrates from chemical



coniferyl alcohol coumaryl alcohol sinapyl alcohol

4.4 Other Components

Small components such as lipids and waxes, inorganic elements, nitrogenous substances, and traces of colour may also be present in bast fibres, but they should not account for more than 2% of the total composition.[4]

5. Physical Properties

The density of fibre is 1.52 g/cm^3.[1]

The Colour of fibre is yellow Hue.

The crystalline region is around 59.31%

6. Chemical Properties

6.1 Effect of acids

Bhimal is attacked by hot dilute acids or cold concentrated acids, in which it disintegrates. It is not affected by cold weak acids.

6.2 Effect of alkali

Bhimal has excellent resistance to alkalis.It swells in caustic alkalis but is not damaged. It can be washed repeatedly with soap solution without harm.[7]

6.3 Effect of oxidizing agent

Bhimal is attacked by a variety of oxidizing agents, including hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite, and others. It deteriorates in strength. Oxycellulose formation. The use of a high dose of H_2O_2 at 20 gpl hurt the fibres, as they appear to be dismantled in the SEM image, and crystallinity also decreased.[9]

6.4 Effect of reducing agents

Bhimal is not affected by reducing agents.

6.5 Effect of microorganisms

It is attacked by micro-organisms.

7. Applications

This fibre is not used as an individual fibre, and there is no literature on the use of individual Bhimal fibre, but there are useful applications of Bhimal fibre blends with other fibres. These are from various textile sectors, and they are as follows:

7.1 Agrotech

In agriculture, Grewiaoptiva composite with phenol-formaldehyde reinforcement is used. It is

used in the manufacture of agricultural tools such as spade handles, axes, pickaxes, bird scarring glueing, and wooden oars. A strong rope made of the Bhimal tree is used to bind animals such as yoke bullocks, while tiny ropes known as saw and jao are used to tie produce sacks.

7.2 Meditech

Bhimal fibre blends well with other fibres and is useful as a health fibre, used by doctors for patients in dressing supplies such as bandages and gauze, sleeves, garments, and masks for the medical industry.

7.3 Hometech

Area rugs, carpets, yardage, lampshades, upholstery, shoe uppers, Sleepers, jackets, coats, caps, spectacle cases, pouches, bags, baskets, table linen, kitchen linen, and bedspreads are all made with Grewiaoptiva fibres.

7.4 Indutech

It is utilised in the paper industry as well as in polymer composite reinforcement.[6]

8. Useful Composites

8.1 Bhimal – Reinforced Epoxy Bio-Composite –

Bhimal fibres are lighter than other fibres, and a Bhimal fibre reinforced epoxy biocomposite has a higher strength-to-weight ratio than other natural fibre-based composites. As a result, Bhimal can be used to fortify biocomposites that are much lighter in weight.

The composition with the highest flexural modulus contains 5% Bhimal fibre by weight and has a magnitude of 3.428 Gpa. The combination of Bhimal fibre and epoxy resin produced excellent results in terms of increased mechanical properties. The addition of Bhimal fibre to an epoxy resin matrix significantly increased tensile, compression, and flexural strength.[11]

8.2 GrewiaOptivafibre reinforced Phenol-Formaldehyde matrix

When phenol-formaldehyde samples of ratio (1:1:5) are compared to samples of other ratios, samples of ratio (1:1:5) withstand more load at a given applied load and have the best mechanical properties. As a result, the mechanical qualities of phenol and formaldehyde (1:2:5) were chosen for the fabrication of Grewiaoptiva fibre reinforced Phenol-formaldehyde matrix-based polymer composites.

The composite with 30% weight loading had the highest tensile modulus (740.27 N/mm2) in a tensile strength test. When Grewiaoptiva fibres are introduced into the Phenol-formaldehyde matrix, the wear rate decreases dramatically. It gives composite materials the most mechanical strength. These properties suggest that Bhimal fibre could be used to create a new type of composite.

8.3 Formaldehyde-resorcinol matrix reinforced with Grewiaoptiva fibre composite

The matrix in thermosetting polymer biocomposites was resorcinol formaldehyde resin, and the filler was Grewiaoptiva fibres. The filler was set at 10% of the total weight. In a variety of industrial fields, Bhimal reinforced polymer composites are gradually replacing materials such as metal, ceramics, glass, and so on. Due to environmental and sustainability concerns, natural fibre polymer composites have been a key breakthrough in green technology in the field of material science this century.[5]

9. Conclusion

Based on the information provided above about the Bhimal fibre, we can conclude that fibres can be manufactured using a standard cultivation process in India's cold climatic atmospheric conditions. The following retting and extraction process are mostly required for bast fibre. In the market, fibre has a lot of potential for producing composites. Because it is cellulosic and biodegradable, this fibre can be used to make biodegradable and sustainable composite materials. This fibre has a great deal of potential in the technical textile industry as well.

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Textile, garment players need to ban the futures trading of Cotton

Textiles and Garment firms have approached the government to ban the futures trading of cotton, as they allege it's adding to market speculations and further driving up prices of the fibre.

Reiterating their demand for prohibiting cotton exports immediately to tame the soaring prices, some players are also pushing for a long-term raw material strategy for the sector under which they want the government to impose an export duty on the fibre to keep local supplies steady.

Similarly, they have also suggested that the government follow the Chinese model and set up, through the state-run Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a strategic reserve of about 10 million bales. This will enable it to resort to meaningful intervention in the market whenever there is a spike in raw material prices. These are part of a raft of suggestions submitted by these players to address the issue of raw material shortage in the country, official and industry sources told FE.

"Textiles minister Piyush Goyal is expected to take a decision, after considering these and other possible options, once he is back from Davos" said one of the sources.

Domestic cotton prices have more than doubled to breach ₹ 1,00,000-mark per candy of 356 kg in the past one year. Consequently, cotton yarn prices, too, have jumped substantially.

In December 2021, stock and commodity markets regulator Sebi had suspended futures and options trading for one year in seven farm commodities, such as chana, mustard seed, crude palm oil, moong, paddy (Basmati), wheat and soyabean and its derivatives. However, trading in cotton wasn't curbed.

"We have requested the government to ban futures trading of cotton. Similarly the government should have a long-term strategy to ensure adequate availability of cotton to consuming industries, which are making value addition here and creating jobs, instead of allowing traders to have a free run," said Raja Shanmugham, president of the Tirupur Exporters Association that represents the country's largest garment cluster.

In a letter to Goyal, Apparel Export Promotion Council chairman Narendra Goenka pointed out that the price of cotton yarn has jumped by about 20% fro ₹376 per kg in March to ₹446 in May.

India is already losing out to competitors like Bangladesh, due to their dutyfree acces to markets like the EU. "This continuous price increase will further make us uncompetitive," Goenka said.

Making a case for promoting exports of finished products, Goenka and while the outbound shipment of raw cotton fetches about ₹275 per kg, when converted to yarn, it touches ₹400 a kilo. In contrast, a value added product like garment, when exported, could fetch between ₹1,000 to ₹1,200 rupee a kilo.

Goenka added that,"We have suggested to the government quantitative restriction on export of raw cotton and cotton yarn, reducing the export benefit on export of cotton and cotton yarn along with declaring cotton as essential commodity (which will make it easy for the government to regulate its supply)."

According to T Rajkumar, director of Sakthi Group and chiarman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, the imposition of curbs won't hurt farmers.

Sanjay Jain, former CITI chairman, said India cotton prices have moved up at a much faster pace than the Chinese cotton, further eroding India's competitiveness vis-á-vis the world's largest textiles and garment player. ❐

Govt mulls cotton export ban to curb price rise

After Wheat, The government is considering a proposal to ban exports of cotton, at least until the end of this marketing year, on September 30, as the relentless rise in prices of the fibre and its by-products has severely hurt firms in the textiles-garments value chain.

"The proposal (to ban exports) is on the table, along with other possible options. A decision will be made soon, after considering the pros and cons of all these options," an official source told recently. However, any such ban, if finally approved, will likely be reviewed before the arrivals of fresh octton crop in the mandis in October.

Several industry executives, including from the biggest garment hub of Tirupur, recently met commerce, industry & textiles minister Piyush Goyal, who asked them to come up with specific solutions within a week for further consideration, while asking exporters to reduce cotton despatches voluntarily.

The government, on April 13, removed an import duty on cotton (effectively at 11%, including a 5% basic customs duty, agriculture infrastructure development cess and surcharges) to shore up domestic supplies. However, the prices still continued to rise. India's cotton exports jumped 48% in FY 22 from a year before to $2.8 billion.

Local prices of several cotton varieties have more than doubled in the past one year. For instance, the price of the ICS-105 variety (fine 28 mm) in the key producing state of Gujarat hit ₹1,01,000 per candy of 356 kg each, compared with just ₹45,300 a year before.

As per earlier reported, scores of export orders have either been cancelled by Western buyers of been diverted to India's competitors like Bangladesh, Vietnam, China and Pakistan in recent months, after the steady spurt in cotton prices forced domestic players to try and renegotiate deals.

Cashing in on a resurgence of demand from advanced economies, India had shipped out textiles, garments and allied products worth almost $40 billion in FY 22, up 67% from a year before (albeit aided by a lower base). ❐

Weavers first ever import cotton yarn owing to high domestic prices

For the First time in its history, the country's textile industry is witnessing import of cotton yarn to ensure seamless supply of the raw material to weavers and textile mills.

The imported cotton yarn is nearly ₹30 (per kg) cheaper than the year being sold by local spinners.

Speaking to a reporter, Atul Ganatra, president, Cotton Association of India, claimed, "Although India has imported cotton many times in the past, this is the first time that cotton yarn traders and brokers have decided to import cotton yarn. This is unprecedented."

"Nearly 200 containers (4,000 tonne) of 40 counts of combed-carded compact cotton yarn have arrived at Indian ports from Vietnam, Indonesia and Taiwan," Ganatra said.

Not only that, some of the weavers and textile mills in the country have purchased imported cotton yarn from traders in smaller quantities for testing purposes and if they finnd it suitable they are likely to give bigger orders for the imported cotton yarn.

After China, India has the world's second largest spinning capacity. The nation is producing 4.7 mt of spun yarn of which 3.4 mt is cotton yarn. According to the CAI president, weavers and textile mills consume nearly 60 to 65% of the total cotton yarn being produced in domestic spinning mills and the rest is exported.

"Considering the huge installed capacity of spinning units in the country, Indian weavers never had to import cotton yarn in the past. However, for the first time they are forced to buy imported cotton yarn this year as it is nearly ₹30 (per kg) cheaper than the yarn being sold by the local spinners," he said. Unlike cotton, the Government of India (GoI) has not removed import duty on cotton yarn. However, there is no import duty on cotton yarn being imported from Vietnam and hence importers are taking advantage of this.

Price of cotton in the domestic market are much higher than international prices and hence production cost if spinning units in India remains high, said Jayesh Patel, executive committee member of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI). Patel claimed that the spinning industry in India is currently operating at half of its installed capacity due to lower demand. In the wake of import of cotton yarn, spinning units across the country will have more challenges to sell their end products, he added.

Bigger companies like Welspun have already started importing cotton. "We have a huge installed capacity to make cotton yarn and hence the Welspun group is importing cotton from Egypt. Despite imports of cotton, we are able to make cheaper yarns for our weaving units," said Chintan Thaker, president, Welspun Group.

Similarly, Ahmedabad based Chiripal Group company Nandan Terry has decided to import 100 mt of cotton from Nigeria. Ronak Chiripal, CEO of the company, said, "Rising cotton prices have increased the volatility in the business projections with respect to profits as margins have come under pressure. We had anticipated this possibility and taken precautionary measures like cotton hedging. We have not cut down on production and are operating at full capacity.

" Except bigger spinning units which have purchased cotton at relatively lower cost, most of the spinning units are struggling to continue

operations," said Gautam Dhamsania owner of Rajkot-based Narmada Spinning, adding,"There is a dearth of quality cotton in the domestic market. Most of the spinners will have to wait till fresh arrival of cotton from October this year."

Cotton stock of textile mills is exhausting fast and hence there would be further import of cotton yarn for next 3-4 months which could take the tally of imported cotton yarn up to nearly 1,000 containers. Simultaneously, composite textile units like Welspun would continue importing raw cotton till the fresh arrival of cotton in the domestic market. ❐

Shanghai setback leaves Ludhiana's apparel industry in deep distress

Go to the narrow lanes of Ludhiana's bustling Shahpur Road, and you will find them crammed with customers, salesmen and traders. But the seeming sense of normalcy in this crowded market for fabrics and garments belies the deep distress that the city's textile industry finds itself in. Repeated supply shocks, the latest being the closure of the Shanghai port in China, has all but brought the industry to its knees.

Ludhiana, Punjab's ₹20,000-crore textile hub, accounts for more than 90 per cent of India's apparel production for the domestic market. But for the last six years. It has been repeatedly hit by one setback after another. In 2016, demonetisation crippled the city's hosiery industry, which mostly comprised micro and small businesses. Then, just as it started finding its feet again, the Covid-19 pandemic piled more misery on it.

The latest supply shock has come from the closure of the Shanghai port for the last three months, owing to a resurgence of Covid-19 in that city. Shanghai handles a fifth of China's cargo and the country holds a virtual monopoly on the supply of garment accessories such as buttons, chains, embellishments, and so on. Even though the port opened for business recently industry insiders say that it will take over a month for the supply chain to return to normal. "We're tired now," sighs Rehman, a small retailer who also owns are getting costlier by the day, and we have not had a steady supply of accessories for months. There are overhead expenses to be paid and we also have to pay the workers. It's very difficult."

"The supply of garment accessories has been slow and unreliable for over three-four months now," says Vinod Thapar, president of knitwear Club, an apparel industry association. Many retailers add that their products would not sell for even half the price without the accessories that are mostly imported from China.

Thapar and others say that though the Shanghai port has reopened, manufacturers in Ludhiana have curtailed or delayed their production plans, at the risk of not having ready stock by the time the peak season arrives in winter.

Factory owners say that earlier, basic raw materials would take 15-20 days to be shipped and specialised orders would take 60 days. These supply cycles have now extended multi-fold. Consequently, input costs for manufacturers have also gone up.

Many factory owners have been forced to source their accessories locally. However, the local products lack competitiveness, both in terms of quality and cost, says Thapar.

Another problem is the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar. Says Harinder Tahpar, a textile manufacturer and retailer, "Even if the basic cost of our material doesn't rise, we end up paying more for imports."

The industry is also concerned about small manufacturers, who sell handmade fibre, facing a doubled-whammy. In addition to the cost inflation in basic raw materials, the high price of crude is impacting business, since fabrics like nylon and polyester are petroleum- based products.

"While medium and larger manufacturers have learned to compromise and work through the supply shocks, the distress of the micro industry has been much bigger. Their survival is on the line," says Sudarshan Jain, president, Knitwear and Apparel Manufacturers Association of Ludhiana.

"The industry expects the prices fo winter apparel to increase by 15-20 per cent this season. While it could change with the supply situation, we can't test the market too much. We have to be

careful in raising prices, or our sals volumes could be low," says. Jain.

In fact, the issue of price makes many retailers anxious. Most of them were banking on this season to make good the losses they had incurred over the last two years due to the pandemic. They point out that fashion in a space where trends change quickly, and if the increased prices are not accepted by consumers, they will end up with unsold stock which will not be of any use next year, as trends would likely have changed by then. ❐

Hopes getting dashed in Tirupur as cotton yarn prices go up

On the streets of Tirupur, the air is full of the odour of chemicals and dyes used in fabrics. At least one person in almost every family is connected with the textile and garment industry that makes the hosiery, knitwear, casual wear and sportswear sold all over the country.

These days, the acrid odour is still around but the town, in Tamil Nadu, has lost its mojo. The prices of cotton and yarn have gone up, for forcing factories to work at reduced capacity while wholesale shops look deserted with hardly any takers for clothes.

"Tiruppur was never like this. These streets were always active with thousands of people visiting our shops during the current months," said Zakir Ahmed, who runs a wholesale shop, K C Apparels, at Khaderpet.

Located opposite the railways station, Khaderpet is the largest wholesale market in the town. Tirupur contributed around 54.2 per cent of India's textile exports in the last fiscal.

Despite the pandemic, the hub posted exports of around ₹33,525 crore in 2021-2022, contributing to around 1 per cent of the country's exports revenue. If domestic markets are also added, the total sales of Tiruppur per annum used to be nearly ₹75,000 crore.

Holding up some sportswear, Ahmed said : "Even two months ago, this used to cost around ₹100 per unit, which has increased to ₹130 now. That itself shows how much prices have increased. But the hikes is still only a fraction of what cotton and yarn prices have increased by. We have a limit in how much of the burden can be passed to the consumer."

Sheikh J, a 30-year-old wholesaler who runs a shop in the Kariya Gounder area of Khaderpet, believes that every small-scale business and indeed the entire economy of the region is dependent on the textile industry.

"At the wholesale market, we are seeing a dip of 30 per cent in our sales. The price rise of cotton and yarn is making life difficult for people like us, who are dependent on it right down the value chain," said Shelkh.

According to the data shared by industry sources, yarn prices increased by 112 per cent from around ₹210 per kg in June 2021 to ₹446 per kg now.

"Work in most of the garment units has come down. We want the government to ensure that there is a dip in yarn prices, else our margins will get severely hit as we will not be able to fully pass it on to the buyers," said Ravi Chandran, secretary of the Domestic Garment Manufacturers' Association.

Based on estimates, a ₹50 increase in yarn prices may normally lead to an increase of around ₹18-19. "A major roadblock for us is fixing prices for advance purchase orders. When we take orders three to six months in advance, the unprecedented price hike affects us badly," said R Senthil Kumar of Premier Agencies, a small and medium enterprise garment manufacturer.

For people like Kumar, the loss of business occurs because medium to small enterprises do contracts for raw materials on a monthly basis. The hike has come as a shock for an industry that was expecting recovery after the pandemic.

According to the Tirupur Exporter's Association, the price of cotton per candy increased from Rs. 37,000 in June 2020 to ₹97,500 currently.

The association wanted a special scheme for micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. In this, 10-20 per cent of the existing credit would be given immediately, mainly to bail out the knitwear garment sector that comprises 95 per cent of MSMEs.

"As an immediate step, we were also demanding the delisting of cotton from the MCX, a ban on cotton exports and steps to ensure that cotton hoarding is nor allowed," said Raja M Shanmugham, president, Tiruppur exporters' Association.

The industry also wants the creation of a buffer stock by the Cotton Corporation of India, similar to that of China. Despite being the largest cotton

producing country in the world. India stands only sixth in garment exports - behind China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

Several garment manufacturers and spinning mills in Tiruppur have cut down on production, leading to a labour surplus.

"The industry is facing a working capital shortage. Some of the units have reduced production by 30 per cent because of this. We may not be able to stop production though as that may lead to a labour shortage in the longer run," said Kumar.

Spinning mills, on the other hand, have already started production cuts. Machine speeds have been reduced by 5-10 per cent.

"Right from spinning mills to garment manufacturers, no one is making money. For the past month we have started reducing the speed of the machine. We are suffering losses to the tune of around Rs 20-25 per kg of yarn. If we completely stop production, the number of skilled labourers may fall," said Siva Balan, director of S. P. Spinning Mills. ❐

Garment Cos approach to India as Lockdown hit China output

New garment buyers from the Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Maxico, Spain, Turkey, Panama, and South Africa among others have started negotiating with Indian companies to replace purchases from China. The extended Covid lockdowns in China have restricted supplies, forcing buyers to look for other options to diversify risks.

"Sotoreves SL, a Spanish germent company wants 1 lakh pieces of tie and dye and printed shirts. Negotiations have started with them," said Lalit Thukral, president of Noida Apparel Export Cluster.

Another buyer from South Africa, Lizzard Pty, which has 180 stores, wants to buy women's clothing, he said, while a buyer from Greece wants men's garments.

The Noida Apparel Export Cluster has 3000 units with an annual turnover of Rs. 35,000 crore and employs around 9,00,000 lakh people.

China has eased Covid restrictions in Shanghai after two months of lockdown recently, but the country's "zero Covid" policy continuous and nearly 650,000 will remain confined to their homes.

"The buyers still see uncertainty in China," Thukral said.

The entry of new buyers at Noida Export cluster has also raised hopes for the Tirupur garment manufacturers.

"We are the largest manufacturer of knitwear apparel in India. If they come to Noida, they will also come to us," said Raja Shanmugam, President, Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA).

"The only concern to us is the rising cotton prices, which may impact the delivery of goods within the stipulated time frame."

India recorded its highest-ever textiles and apparel exports in FY22 at $44.4 billion, a rise of 41% compared to FY21.

The USA was the top export destination for the country's textiles and apparel shipments accounting for 27% share, followed by the European Union (18%), Bangladesh (12%), and UAE (6%).

Export of ready-made garments stood at $16 billion showing a growth of 31% over FY21.

However, the high cotton prices are dampening the export opportunity that has opened up for Indian manufacturers.

Narendra Goenka, chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council said, "China plus one strategy would have worked much better had the cotton and yarn prices would have been less,"

A candy (356 kg) of cotton is now fetching a price of Rs. 1 lakh compared with about Rs. 37,000 a year ago. ❐

Not necessary to ban cotton export now : Textile Secretary

A Ban On cotton exports at this juncture is unlikely to serve any purpose, textile secretary Upendra Prasad Singh told recently. Outbound shipments of cotton are unviable now, as domestic prices of the fibre have exceeded the global levels, he said.

"On top of the high domestic prices, there are logistics costs for exports, So, exports in any case are not happening now," Singh said of late.

The textile and garment industry has been seeking an immediate ban on cotton exports on the assumption that such a move would shore up domestic supplies and curb the exorbitant rise in prices of the fibre and its by-products. Cotton prices

have more than doubled in the past one year to breach the ₹1,00,000-mark for a cancy of 356 kg.

Singh said, unlike cotton, there is adequate availability of cotton yarn in the domestic market. However, yarn prices, too, have skyrocketed, reflecting the jump in the primary raw material (cotton) prices. Garment companies, especially exporters who had firmed up contracts well in advanced when yarn prices were somewhat cheaper, are finding it difficult now to renegotiate the deal and pass on the rise in input costs to the buyers, he added.

Acknowledging the crisis the entire textile and garment value chain is facing. Singh said the government is working with industry players to find out ways to improve domestic supplies in the short term. Some cotton import deals have been firmed up after an effective duty of 11% was scrapped recently. However, even supply from over seas against these contracts will reach only by July-August, while the new crop will start hitting the market from mid-September, he said, adding that there is a shortage now.

The government is also counting on arrivals of a variety of cotton that is harvested in summer. But the supply from this harvest is limited—about 5-10 lakh bales.

Senior industry executives have already blamed the misleading cotton production estimates firmed up by the agriculture ministry for their plight. The domestic cotton output is now estimated to be just about 314 lakh bales, of 170 kg each, in the current marketing year through September, way below the agriculture ministry's initial projection of 362 lakh bales. Domestic consumption, meanwhile, has been estimated to be about 340 lakh bales. A more realistic projection in the beginning of the year would have prepared them better for any potential shortage, they have stressed.

An informal cotton advisory group, led by industry veteran Suresh Kotak, held its first meeting on May 29 to discuss how to deal with the current situation and how to draw a long-term strategy to improve cotton output and productivity in the country, among others.

The group, set up earlier in May, has representation from the ministries of textiles, agriculture, commerce and finance, along with Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Research Institute. ❐

Slowing exports, High cotton prices to hit margins of textile exporters

Operating profitability of home textile makers is seen moderating 150-200 basis points to 13% this fiscal, hemmed in by lower export demand and a sharp increase in raw material and transportation costs, but the credit outlook for the sector will remain stable, according to the credit rating agency CRISIL Ratings analysis of 60 companies that account for over 60% of the sector revenue.

The rating agency said that the balance sheets, strengthened by healthy cash accrual and debt reduction over the past two fiscals, will lend support. Exports account for 60-70% of the Indian home textile industry's revenue.

The US, the world's largest market, accounts for a sizeable 58% of these exports. Global demand for home textiles is expected to be impacted in the near-term by inflationary headwinds, with big-box retailers pruning inventory and consumers cutting discretionary spends.

A slowdown in the sales of key US retailers in the past 3-6 months triggered an on-year decline of 5-6% in overall home textile exports from India between January and April 2022. Adding to the deamnd challenge is the price of raw cotton, a key input in home textiles. Its price more-than-doubled year-on-year in May to Rs. 100,000 per candy (356 kg). This will remain a challenge for exporters till the new cotton crop arrives starting October.

The supply chain disruptions that sparked volatility in ocean freight rates will also impact profitability. With domestic cotton prices soaring past international levels, exports have become less competitive. Consequently, India's share in the US import basket moderated 700 bps in the four months ended April 2022, on-year.

"Slowing exports growth and high cotton prices will hit operating margins of home textile exporters by 150-200 bps this fiscal. The rupee's depreciation against the dollar and sustenance of the China+1 policy by global buyers will cushion the hit on profitability to some extent. H2 of this fiscal should gradually restore demand momentum and market share for Indian home textile exporters as freight and raw cotton costs moderate," said Mohit Makhija, senior director, CRISIL. ■

Trützschler celebrates with 100+ Card Members Club in India

Technology and trust go hand in hand. That's the Trützschler philosophy for serving customers around the globe – and it has won our company some incredibly loyal partners in India who have more than 100 Trützschler cards operating in their mills. To celebrate these trustful relationships, representatives from Trützschler's top management team recently visited every customer that runs more than 100 Trützschler cards.

Together, this group of leaders from Trützschler presented special certificates and trophies to 22 companies in the Indian textile market. The delegation included Dr. Michael Schürenkrämer, Shareholder of Trützschler Group SE, Dr. Dirk Burger, Co-CEO of Trützschler Group SE, Dr. Roland Münch, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Alexander Stampfer, CSO of Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Benjamin Mund, Regional Sales Manager at Trützschler Group SE, as well as Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO of Trützschler India, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing at Trützschler India, and Mr. Anuj Bhagwati, Managing Director of A.T.E.

These are the companies that received this special honor :

- Arvind Limited – Mr. Punit Lalbhai, Executive Director.
- Chiripal Group – Mr. Jyotiprasad Chiripal, Managing Director.
- Eveready Spinning Mills – Mr. M. Saravanakumar, Executive Director.
- GSM Cotspin – Mr. Siyaram Garg, Chairman.
- KPR Mill Limited – Mr. C. R. Anandakrishnan, Director.
- Loyal Textile Mill – Mrs. Valli M. Ramaswamy, Chairperson.
- Mothi Spinner Private Limited – Mr. G. Rajamanickam, Executive Director.
- Nahar Industrial Enterprises Limited – Mr. Kamal Oswal, Managing Director.
- Nahar Spinning Mills Limited – Mr. S. K. Sharma, Director.
- Nitin Spinners Limited – Mr. Dinesh Nolkha, Managing Director.
- Pallavaa Group – Mr. Durai Palanisamy, Managing Director.
- Premier Mills – Dr. K. V. Srinivasan, Managing Director.
- Ramco Spinners – Mr. N. Mohana Rengan, President.
- RSWM Ltd – Mr. Brij Mohan Sharma, Managing Director.
- Sagar Manufacturers Private Limited – Mr. Siddharth Agrawal, Managing Director.
- Sintex Industries Limited – Mr Rajeev Gupta, COO.
- Sri Matha Mills Limited – Mr. K. Shanmugavel, Managing Director.
- SSM Group – Mr. P. S. Veluswamy, Chairman.
- SV Group – Mr. R. T. Sivakumar, Managing Director.
- Trident Group – Mr. Rajinder Gupta, Chairman.
- Vardhman Textiles Limited – Mr. S. P. Oswal, Chairman and Managing Director.
- Welspun India Limited – Mr. B. K. Goenka, Chairman.

Vardhman Textiles has more cards than any other company, with over 700 Trützschler cards operating at its factories in India. Sagar Group is the only customer in India that has 100 percent Trützschler blow room and cards in all of its units. And GSM Cotspin installed 100+ Trützschler cards in the shortest space of time.

The outstanding trust that these Indian companies have placed in Trützschler is a direct result of the outstanding innovations that have been provided over a long period of time – from the first DK 1 card that ran at 10 kg/hour back in 1967 through to the modern TC 12 and TC 19i cards that run at over 200 kg/hour. For almost 50 years, textile companies in India have been able to rely on solid engineering and dependable quality from Trützschler machines.

"We continue to ensure that customers are at the center of our business," says CEO of Trützschler India, Mr. Thomson Joseph. "We stay ahead of their needs and expectations by finding ways to surpass our levels of technology and service, even in evolving markets."

"Now it's a continuous journey and we will be celebrating with more customers as they complete the milestone of having 100+ Trützschler cards!", adds Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Trützschler India.

Trützschler celebrates with 100+ Card Members Club in India

L to R : Dr. Michael Schürenkrämer, Shareholder of Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Punit Lalbhai, Executive Director, Arvind Limited, Dr. Roland Münch, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Trützschler Group SE

L to R : Mr. Anuj Bhagwati, Managing Director A.T.E., Dr. Michael Schürenkrämer, Shareholder of Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Jyoti Prasad Chiripal, Managing Director, Chiripal Group, Mr. Suresh Maheshwari, Corporate Head, Chiripal Group

L to R : Mr. S. Senthilnathan Deputy General Manager, A.T.E., Mr. A. Suresh, Vice President (Strategy), A.T.E., Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr. M. Saravanakumar, Executive Director, Eveready Spinning Mills, Mr. S. K. Joshi Deputy General Manager, Trützschler India, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India

L to R : Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. Vikas Garg, Managing Director, GSM Cotspin, Mr. Vishal Garg, Managing Director, GSM Cotspin, Mr. Siyaram Garg, Chairman, GSM Cotspin, Dr. Dirk Burger, Co-CEO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Anil Sharma Branch Head, A.T.E., Mr. Kiran Hanchate, Vice President (Spinning), A.T.E., Mr. Alexander Stampfer, CSO, Trützschler Group SE

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Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. M. E. Manivannan, Senior Vice President (Operations), Loyal Textile Mill, Ms. Valli M. Ramaswami, Chairperson, Loyal Textile Mill, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr. A, Velliangiri, CEO, Loyal Textile Mill, Mr. D. Deavadas, CTO, Loyal Textile Mill

Mr. S. Senthilnathan, Deputy General Manager, A.T.E., Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. R. Arunkumar, Director, Lucky Group, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr. G Rajamanickam, Executive Director, Mothi Spinner Private Limited, Mr. R. Sarvana Prabhu, Director, Lucky Group, Mr. P. Viswanathan, Director, Lucky Group, Mr. A. Suresh, Vice President (Strategy), A.T.E., Mr. S. K. Joshi, Deputy General Manager, Trützschler India, Mr. N Shanmugavel, Senior Sales Manager, A.T.E.

Trützschler celebrates with 100+ Card Members Club in India

L to R : Dr. Dirk Burger, Co-CEO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. Kamal Oswal, Managing Director, NIEL, Mr. Abhinav Oswal, Executive Director, NIEL, Mr. Alexander Stampfer, CSO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. S. L. Garg, Vice President (Corporate Technical), NIEL, Mr. Dipanjan Ghosh, Deputy General Manager, A.T.E., Mr. Kiran Hanchate, Vice President (Spinning), A.T.E.

L to R : Mr. Alexander Stampfer, CSO Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Dipanjan Ghosh, Deputy General Manager, A.T.E., Dr. Dirk Burger, Co-CEO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. S. K. Sharma, Director, Nahar Spinning Mills Ltd, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing Trützschler India, Mr. Kiran Hanchate, Vice President (Spinning), A.T.E.

L to R : Mr. Kiran Hanchate, Vice President (Spinning), A.T.E., Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr. Dinesh Nolkha, Managing Director, Nitin Spinners Limited, Mr. Nitin Nolakha, Joint Managing Director, Nitin Spinners Limited, Mr Sandeep Garg, President, Nitin Spinners Limited

L to R : Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. R. Murali, Director, Pallavaa Group, Mr. D Naveen, Director, Pallavaa Group, Mr. Durai Palanisamy, Managing Director, Pallavaa Group, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India

L to R : Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Dr. K. V. Srinivasan, Managing Director, Premier Mills, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India

L to R : Mr. Ashish Sharma, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India and Mr. N. Mohana Rengan, President, Ramco Spinners

L to R : Mr. Sanjai Sharma, General Manager Corporate Commercial, RSWM Limited, Mr. R.C. Dugar, General Manager Corporate Commercial, RSWM Limited, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing ,Trützschler India, Mr. Kiran Hanchate, Vice President (Spinning) A.T.E., Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr. Brij Mohan Sharma, Joint Managing Director, RSWM Limited, Mr. Vinod Mehta, Senior Vice President Corporate Commercial, RSWM Limited, Mr. Naresh Kumar Bahedia, COO, RSWM Limited; Mr. Sukesh Sharma, Business Head Operations, RSWM Limited; Mr. Sanjay Kumar Tiwari, Asst. Vice President, RSWM Limited

Trützschler celebrates with 100+ Card Members Club in India

L to R : Mr. Benjamin Mund, Regional Sales Manager, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. V. K. Jain, Executive Director, SMPL, Mr. Kapil Agrawal, CEO, SMPL, Mr. Siddharth Agrawal, Managing Director, SMPL, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India

L to R : Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr, Shailesh Mittal, President, Technical and Operations, Sintex Industries Limited, Mr. Rajeev Gupta, COO, Sintex Industries Limited, Mr. Pinakin Shah, IRP, Sintex Industries Limited, Mr. S K Joshi, Deputy General Manager, Trützschler India, Mr. Dinesh Verma, Deputy General Manager, Projects, Sintex Industries Limited

L to R : Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. K. Shanmugavel, Managing Director, SSM Group, Mr. P. S. Veluswamy, Chairman, SSM Group, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India, Mr. A. Suresh, Vice President (Strategy), A.T.E.

L to R : Mr. S. Senthilnathan, Deputy General Manager, A.T.E., Mr. K. Shanmugavel, Managing Director, Sri Matha Mills Limited, Mr. A. Suresh, Vice President (Strategy), A.T.E.

L to R : Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. S. Senthilnathan, Deputy General Manager, A.T.E., Mr. R. T. Sivakumar, Managing Director, S V Group, Mr. Joseph Thomson, CEO, Trützschler India

L to R : Mr Kavish Dhanda, Group CEO (Yarns) Trident Group, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Dr. Dirk Burger, Co-CEO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Rajinder Gupta, Chairperson, Trident Group, Mr. Alexander Stampfer, CSO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Dipanjan Ghosh, Deputy General Manager, A.T.E., Mr. Kiran Hanchate, Vice President (Spinning), A.T.E., Mr. Gurmukh Singh Chawla, CTO, Trident Group

L to R : Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India, Mr. Neeraj Jain, Joint Managing Director, Vardhman Textiles Limited, Mr. Alexander Stampfer, CSO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. S. P. Oswal, Chairperson and Managing Director, Vardhman Textiles Limited, Ms. Suchita Oswal Jain, Vice Chairman and Joint Managing Director, Vardhman Textiles Limited, Dr. Dirk Burger, Co-CEO, Trützschler Group SE

L to R : Mr. Amit Bhandari, President (Projects), Welspun India Limited, Dr. Dirk Burger, Co-CEO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. B. K. Goenka, Chairperson, Welspun India Limited, Mr. Alexander Stampfer, CSO, Trützschler Group SE, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Trützschler India

9th Intex South Asia—Bangladesh Edition in physical format concludes with resounding success by way of exploring opportunities of textile industry

Reviving and revitalizing face-to-face business meetings through the physical format, the 9th Intex South Asia – Bangladesh Edition concluded on a positive note in Dhaka. Intex South Asia, the biggest international textiles sourcing show for fibers, yarns, fabrics, trims and more for the apparel industry was held from16-18 June 2022, at the International Convention City Bashundhara, Dhaka.The show was the 1st post-pandemic international textile sourcing platform and was attended by 4,860 trade visitors from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Malaysia, Brazil, Italy, Germany and more.

Today, Bangladesh is considered a trusted sourcing partner across the world due to its perseverance in maintaining supplies even during difficult times. With the increase in purchase orders in 2021, many entrepreneurs have made new investments to cope with the rise in demand by increasing factory capacity. These capacity building measures have in turn, seenan increase in demand for raw materials and Intex South Asia – through its international sourcing platform – aims to fulfil these industry demands.

The 3rd Edition of Intex South Asia Bangladesh was inaugurated in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Textiles & Jute, Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi, Ministry of Textiles, Government of Bangladesh. Present on the occasion was Mr. Upendra Prasad Singh, the Secretary of the Ministry of Textiles of the Government of India. Also present were Mr. Faruque Hassan, President of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA); Mr. K.I. Hossain, President of the Bangladesh Buying House Association; Mr. Mohammed Hatem, Executive President of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA) and Mr. Manoj Kumar Patodia, Chairman of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL).

On this occasion, Hon'ble Minister for Textiles & Jute, Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of Bangladesh said, "Intex South Asia is a very important show in South Asia. We are delighted that this expo was held in Dhaka. I proudly recall the first edition of Intex South Asia, which was held in Dhaka in 2019 with an excellent participation from different nations. We believe Intex South Asia platform will boost the economy and create opportunities for textile and apparel industry of Bangladesh and other participating countries. We extend our all-out support for organizing this fruitful and meaningful trade exhibition in Bangladesh."

9th Intex South Asia—Bangladesh Edition in physical format concludes with resounding success by the way of exploring opportunities of textile industry

The show saw the participation of 120+companies from India, Bangladesh, Korea, China, Thailand, Singapore, UAE, Italy, USA

and more, who showcased their latest offerings for the Bangladesh textile and apparel industry. Arise Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP) was Africa Investment Partner and MGH Singapore was the Supply Chain, Logistics & Express partner of Intex South Asia Bangladesh.

Keeping in mind Bangladesh's huge demand for innovative and trendy textiles, country pavilions from India, Bangladesh, China, Korea & Thailand were formed at the show. This year, the India Pavilion saw the biggest ever participation in Bangladesh. More than 75 Indian companies joined the exhibition to showcase their latest collections of Cotton and MMF textiles (fibers,yarns & fabrics) for export as well as domestic markets and connected with potential buyers from Bangladesh and other international marketsthat visited this show over 3 days. The hybrid textile showcase from China, Thailand and Korea receive good response from the visitors where buyers previewed the innovative and trendy textiles and made enquiries for their interested products as well as showed interest to organise B2B meetings after the show. In all 329 enquiries were generated at the show.

Looking at building closer ties between India and Bangladesh, Mr. Upendra Prasad Singh the Secretary of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, said, "To become global players India and Bangladesh have to support each other to

increase MMF capacity. We have to go past bottlenecks to create positive business situations for both countries. India and Bangladesh have a lot of synergies and should look to build on our strengths as the canvas is big enough for both countries. I wish Intex South Asia all the success."

During the course of the expo, Intex South Asia once again presented the globally renowned Interactive Business Forum Seminar Series (IBF), hosting trailblazing industry seminars and

9th Intex South Asia—Bangladesh Edition in physical format concludes with resounding success by the way of exploring opportunities of textile industry

workshops by global industry experts on India-Bangladesh business ties, green manufacturing, textile business and investment opportunities in Africa, latest digital technology to support RMG industry and logistics and supply chain with industry leaders and experts from the textile and apparel industry of South Asia.

The trends showcase at Intex South Asia had representations from Italtex, an Italian Trends Studio thatshowcased Fabric Trends for Fall Winter 23/24 & Spring Summer 2024 Collection; PANTONE Connect with Live Colour Swatches on display for visitors and Fashion Snoops USA with their trends forecast. Also present were the

Bangladesh Handloom Board showcased "Dhaka Muslin" with other traditional textiles and the BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT)whose students presented innovative and sustainable fashion "Made in Bangladesh".

Ms. Arti Bhagat, Director of Worldex India and organiser of Intex South Asia said, "We can confidently say that Intex South Asia is truly the industry's strongest business and market intelligence platform, bridging the gap between India, Bangladesh, South Asia and the world."

Some of the leading buyers that visited the show were Bitopi Group, Akij Group, Epyllion Group, H & M, Marks & Spencer, Next Sourcing, Uniqlo, PDS International, Asmara, Fakir Fashions, Synergies Sourcing, ALPINE PRO, A.S., Signet, LC Waikiki, Noman Group, Ha-meem Group, Groupe Beaumanoir, Hirdaramani Bangladesh, Square Fashions, Babylon Group, Masco Group, Nassa Group and more.

Intex South Asia Bangladesh is endorsed and supported by International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), Korea Textile Center (KTC), Thailand Textile Institute (THTI), The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCOCIL), Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Malaysian Knitting Manufacturers Association (MKMA),Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA), Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA) and others.

For more information, please visit bd.intexsouthasia.com

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Erode's Texvalley appears as South India's First Destination Mall, Opening New Vistas for Trade, Shopping and Entertainment

- Texvalley's new avatar will generate over 2,000 new direct jobs and about 15,000 in-direct jobs in the region
- The footfall to increase from about 60,000 visitors a month to over 5,00,000 in the next two years. The number of brands present in the mall will go up from 500 to 1500 during the same period

Texvalley, a trailblazing B2B hub for the textile industry, located at a sprawling 20 lakh sq.ft area in Erode, Tamil Nadu, is all set to metamorphose into South India's first 'destination mall' of its kind, housing both B2B as well as B2C business across segments, besides food, entertainment, and other lifestyle outlets.

Fully exploiting the growing demand for a destination mall in this region that comprises Karur, Erode, Tirupur, Coimbatore and Salem, Texvalley, in its new avatar, is dedicating over 4,00,000sq.ftfor B2C business and lifestyle outlets. There-imagined Texvalleywill house a hypermarket, a 5-screen multiplex, a 500-seater food court, 100+ 'outlet' vanilla shops, and 5 fine dine options, and a family entertainment center. The formats of these facilities would be completely new to the region andare designed keeping today's youth in mind.

Currently, the textile market has 500 odd brands, representing textile and allied industries, and is making a turnover of about Rs 750 crore. However, the new mall will take the presence of differentiated local and global brands to 1500 within the next two years. As per a research report by ACNielsen,a global marketing research firm, the turnover of Texvalley may cross Rs. 5,000 crore by 2024. The report points out thatadding the "Outlet Mall" to Texvalley, shall further give impetus to the footfalls, thereby making Texvalley the most sought after destination in the entire region.

Talking about Texvalley'stransformation, **Mr Devarajan C, Vice Chairman, Erode Textile Mall (PVT) ltd (Texvalley),** said, "The grand makeover is in alignment with our unwavering vision of promoting the business of our customers and boosting the experience of our visitors. Since inception, we have set several new benchmarks in the textile industry in India - one of them being, our undisputed position as South India's largest textile market. We keep growing and evolving with the changing needs of our customers. The new Texvalley as South India's only B2B and B2C integrated destination mall is in line with global retail trends. We expect that there will be a symbiotic relationship between B2B and B2C segments thus boosting business, enhancing customer experience and future proofing the asset."

Commenting on the growth of Texvalley post transformation, **Mr P Raajashekar, Managing Director, Erode Textile Mall (PVT) ltd (Texvalley),** said, "the footfall of Texvalley is expected to grow multifold- from about 60,000 visitors a month during the pre-Covid years to over 5,00,000 businesspeople, consumers, and tourists every month in the next two years post the large-scale infrastructure enhancementswhich are nearing completion. It is projected to provide direct and indirect employment to about 15,000 skilled people".

Briefing the media, **Mr. Susil S Dungarwal, Chief Mall Mechanic, Beyond Squarefeet,** emphasized that "Change is the priority number one for growth post Covid. This means, evolving to match with the new expectations of the stakeholders. At Texvalley, we have reinvented the entire business strategy in such a manner that it would be the most sought after destination marketplace in the entire southern region. We have been known in the sector to drive challenging projects to success. The new positioning and mix of the trades will attract customers from all over the country and beyond, thus converting Texvalley into a world class destination."

Texvalley is owned by Erode Textile Mall Pvt ltd., a special purpose vehicle promoted by two prominent business groups: Lotus group, and URC group, a leading construction company in South India.

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First Hybrid Lecture on "Increasing Manufacturing Capacity Utilization in the Textile Sector through Global Visibility to Indian Manufacturers for Business Growth"

19th May 2022 at TAI, Mumbai Unit Office

The Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit organized the first Hybrid Lecture on "Increasing Manufacturing Capacity Utilization in the Textile Sector through Global Visibility to Indian Manufacturers for Business Growth" in the Conference Room of TAI, Mumbai Unit Office.

Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, President, The Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit welcomed the speaker and participants to the lecture.

Mr. Haresh B. Parekh was the Convenor of this first Hybrid Lecture.

The lecture was addressed by Mr. Avinash Bapat, Founder and Concept Creator of Capximize India who have created global technology platform for manufacturing sector www.capximize.com.

Lecture focused on creating awareness about the unused manufacturing capacities in textile sector in India. Mr. Bapat said Capximize platform helps MSMEs and SMEs in textile sector to get global visibility and global business opportunity using the platform.

Today many companies are involved in contact manufacturing and manufacturing outsourcing, but they do not have a repository of information where they can access to the data available about capacity available for the same. Capximize platform is providing this curated data to worldwide companies by digitising the manufacturing capacity available with Indian manufacturers. He also added, Capximize with help of sector experts has deeped dived into all

the five sectors they are covering, leading to creating a user friendly UI/UX for both capacity providers and seeker. Capximize today is into five sectors. Apart from Textile, we are covering the sectors like Auto Components, Electronics, Pharmaceuticals and Specialties Chemicals. He added, "Capximize is on the mission of making Indian manufacturing sector globally competitive". We are offering free registration to all the members of The Textile Association of India.

Mr. A. V. Mantri, Hon. Secretary, The Textile Association (India), Mumbai Unit proposed the Vote of Thanks.

This event was very successful with the presence of the participation both physically and virtually. There was good interaction between the speaker and participants who asked many questions and the same were promptly answered by the speaker.

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Lenzing AG brings to an end 'The Lenzing Conclave' at Salem: Receives Applause from the region's Traditional Wear Industry

- First ever initiative aimed at empowering Indian textile industry on global best practices across value-chain
- Featured focused discussions and rich ideas exchange on new-age solutions with industry as well as international experts
- Apart from Salem, Conclave previously held across Rajapalayam and Solapur; witnessed participation from over 200 leading players

The Lenzing Group, market leader in wood-based specialty fibres, hosted the 'The Lenzing Conclave' at Salem. The conclave is an India-first initiative by Lenzing group, aimed at empowering the textile industry with best global practices in sustainable textile. The conclave featured insightful discussions with industry experts and leaders with a focus on the regional traditional wear market. India is among the top markets for Lenzing Group and 'The Lenzing Conclave' represents commitment to partner with all stakeholders in achieving its overall Sustainable Development Goals.

Speaking on the initiative, Mr. S. Jayaraman, Senior Commercial Director, Lenzing Group, AMEA and NEA shared, "At Lenzing AG, we have been developing solutions for tomorrow's challenges with single-minded focus on balancing three 'Ps" - People, Planet and Profit. We understand that the textile industry is a key revenue generator for the Indian economy, unfortunately, it is also one of the most polluting. Mitigating the environmental impact of the industry requires joint efforts from all stake holders, and with that in mind we intended to connect with the Salem traditional wear industry which plays a significant role in the traditional wear category for the region. 'The Lenzing Conclave' is representative of our efforts in steering the country's textile industry towards more responsible practices."

"We are truly encouraged by the heartening response at Salem for the 'The Lenzing Conclave' and will take the initiative to more textile hubs across the country in the coming months. We would also like to thank our partners for being part of this initiative and contributing to making the initiative was very engaging, educative and positive." Said Mr. Avinash Mane, Commercial Director, Lenzing Group, South Asia.

The conclave witnessed participation from Indian traditional wear manufacturers, traders and spinners who utilized the opportunity to absorb from the experiences of some early adaptors of sustainable traditional wear products in India. Insightful panel discussion on adoption of new age fibers in traditional wear and its overall scope featuring experts from design, retail and supply chain received much appreciation from attendees. Lenzing also displayed their latest range of product innovations which included sarees, dhotis and shirts made from TENCEL™ fibers. The new innovations incorporate the globally sought after attributes of TENCEL™ fibers, like superior softness, comfort, elegant aesthetics and high environmental standards, into the traditional wear outfits.

Prior to hosting the conclave in Salem, Lenzing also hosted a conclave at Solapur in Maharashtra in collaboration with Textile Development Foundation and Rajapalayam in collaboration with the Rajapalayam Spinners Forum. The initiative offered the industry players an opportunity to interact and learn on best practices in sustainable textile solutions through industry leaders as well as international experts like Uster Technologies, textile testing and equipment manufacturing firm

as well as textile consultancy SWTS Consultants. The conclave helped develop stronger relationships and expanded network of partners within the region with shared commitment towards adopting sustainable practices across the production chain right to the end customer.

With a presence of over two-decades in the Indian market, Lenzing has taken the lead in empowering India's textile industry across the textile value chain to adopt more eco-friendly practices with the introduction of its flagship textile brand TENCEL™. 2022 marked three decades of TENCEL™, Lenzing's flagship textile brand which has empowered global brands across the textile value chain to adopt more eco-friendly practices. In India, Lenzing has evolved from one-product brand into a growing-basket of offerings as consumers demand for sustainable clothing continue to grow. These include TENCEL™ and LENZING™ ECOVERO™ branded specialty fibers,

Lenzing Group recently introduced Carbon-zero TENCEL™ branded fibers that are certified as CarbonNeutral® and group's key initiative towards its goal of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Lenzing today is present across all major textile categories in India such as ethnic wear, intimate wear, general outerwear, denims and home furnishings. In 2020, Lenzing launched its first 'The Lenzing Hub' in Mumbai, and in 2022, it opened its second Supply Chain Solutions Hub in Surat, both of which are effectively meeting the demands of local businesses.

About TENCEL™

TENCEL™ is the flagship brand under The Lenzing Group that covers textile specialty product fiber offerings. Since 1992, the TENCEL™ brand has been driving the evolution of fiber solutions for the apparel and home textile segments through several industry-first innovations and environmentally responsible production processes. Product brands under TENCEL™ include TENCEL™ Active, TENCEL™ Denim, TENCEL™ Home, TENCEL™ Intimate, TENCEL™ Luxe and TENCEL™ for Footwear.

Featuring botanic origin and biodegradable quality, TENCEL™ branded modal and lyocell fibers are also gentle on skin with smooth, longlasting softness, color vibrancy and color retention features. TENCEL™ Lyocell fibers are versatile and can be combined with a wide range of textile fibers to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of fabrics. Through moisture management, TENCEL™ Lyocell fibers can also absorb moisture efficiently. Offering endless design possibilities, TENCEL™ Modal fibers can be blended with other fibers and processed using conventional machinery, significantly improving the softness and comfort of fabrics.

Fibers and filaments used under the TENCEL™ brand are derived from certified and controlled sources following the stringent guidelines of the Lenzing Wood and Pulp Policy. They are produced via environmentally responsible production processes and are compostable and biodegradable, thus can fully revert back to nature. They are designated by the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) BioPreferred® Program. TENCEL™ Luxe is registered by The Vegan Society.

About the Lenzing Group

The Lenzing Group stands for ecologically responsible production of specialty fibers 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 fibers form the basis for a variety of textile applications ranging from elegant clothing to versatile denims and high-performance sports clothing. Due to their consistent high quality, their biodegradability and compostability Lenzing fibers are also highly suitable for hygiene products and agricultural applications.

The business model of the Lenzing Group goes far beyond that of a traditional fiber producer. Together with its customers and partners, Lenzing develops innovative products along the value chain, creating added value for consumers. The Lenzing Group strives for the efficient utilization and processing of all raw materials and offers solutions to help redirect the textile sector towards a closed-loop economy. In order to reduce the speed of global warming and to accomplish the targets of the Paris Climate Agreement and the "Green Deal" of the EU Commission, Lenzing has a clear vision: namely to make a zero-carbon future come true.

Key Facts & Figures Lenzing Group 2021

Revenue : EUR 2.19 bn

Nominal capacity : 1,145,000 tonnes

Number of employees (headcount) : 7,958

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Sustainability on the pitch together with Liverpool and Chelsea

RadiciGroup's sustainable Repetable yarn took to the field alongside Liverpool and Chelsea during the Emirates FA Cup final, which took place on 14 May at Wembley Stadium.

Over 47,000 plastic bottles were collected from previous events at Wembley stadium and transformed into Repetable, the innovative RadiciGroup yarn made from PET flakes, which was then used to make the red banner 105 meters long and 68 meters wide, unveiled during the opening ceremony of the event and decorated with the logos of the two teams (see the video here).

Compared to virgin polyester, Repetable® allows lower CO2 emissions (-45%), lower water consumption (-90%) and lower energy consumption (-60%), guaranteeing high performance.

Finally, the red banner will be recycled again to make backpacks and sports bibs that the FA will donate to the local community to inspire the eco-players of the future: an initiative in the name of circularity!

For more information, please contact :
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Italian Textile Machinery : orders decline for first quarter 2022

The orders index for textile machinery for the first quarter of 2022, processed by ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, shows a slight decrease (–4%) compared to the same period from January to March 2021. In absolute value, the index stood at 117 points (basis : 2015 = 100).

On the domestic front orders shrank by fully 22%, whereas abroad the decline was more contained (–2%). The absolute value of the index in Italy was set at 136 points. On foreign markets, the index scored a value of 114.9 points.

ACIMIT President Alessandro Zucchi commented that : "The global pandemic and Russian-Ukrainian conflict have accentuated the climate of uncertainty for the whole of the textile industry. Criticalities already present in the past year (such as a sharp rise in prices of raw materials and their scarce availability, as well as increased transport costs) are now accentuated more than ever. While orders appear to have settled on foreign markets, domestically, following a strong recovery in 2021, we now have to deal with a general negativity permeating the Italian economy."

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine, together with successive pandemic lockdowns in the main market for textile machinery manufacturers, namely China, have undermined the confidence of Italian companies in the sector. "I believe 2022 will be a transition year for the industry, as we await a calming international economic scenario. In the meantime," adds Zucchi, "our association continues to work to strengthen the positioning of Italy's textile machinery industry worldwide through promotional initiatives in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Italian Trade Agency."

The latest of these initiatives was carried out at the end of April, with the opening of an Italian technology training center for textile machinery in Mongolia, a Country that ranks among the world's leading producers of raw cashmere. ACIMIT's president concludes that, "With the training center starting its operations, our sector is laying the foundations for further business opportunities in an emerging market. I'm certain the initiative will bear a return in terms of image not only for individual Italian companies who are participating by supplying machinery, but on the entire Italian textile machinery sector as a whole."

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SIMA Texfair 2022 — successful expo organised at the right time

The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), the single largest employers' organization representing the entire textile value chain in the country, located at Coimbatore organized the 13th edition of SIMA Texfair 2022 – largest expo of textile machinery, spares, accessories and other supporting services during June 24-27, 2022 at CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore.

The Expo was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal on 25th June 2022. Dr.L.Murugan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Thiru.R.Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister of Handlooms & Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.R.Sakkarapani, Hon'ble Minister of Food & Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu were also graced the inaugural function as Guests of Honour.

SIMA Chairman Shri Ravi Sam welcomed the Chief Guest, Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, Dr L Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, Thiru R Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru R Sakkarapani, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu, Shri K Annamalai, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Tamil Nadu and the Exhibitors to the inaugural function. During his Welcome Address, SIMA Chairman briefed about Texfair 2022.

In his Chief Guest address, Shri Piyush Goyal has highly appreciated the innovative capabilities and entrepreneurial skills of the people of Tamil Nadu especially the twin cities viz., Coimbatore and Tiruppur. He stated that Tamil Nadu would become the largest hub for textiles, pumps, wet grinders, critical components manufacturing, etc., in the world and boost the economic growth of the Nation.

Shri Piyush Goyal highly appreciated the efforts taken by SIMA in organizing the Texfair event with world-class standards and providing opportunities for several hundreds of MSME manufacturers to develop import substitution and enhance the competitiveness of the Indian textile industry. He advised the textile machinery and spares manufacturers to achieve 100% self-sufficiency by manufacturing all the machinery from ginning to garmenting indigenously.

Dr L Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, highlighted the numerous policy initiatives taken by the NDA Government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. He stated that when the entire world was reeling under grave recession due to the ill-effects of COVID pandemic, the unique policy measures taken by the Union Government not only enabled the country to fight the war against Corona, but also to achieve a record export of 440 billion USD.

Shri R Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms & Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu in his Guest of Honour address appreciated the support extended

SIMA Texfair 2022 — successful expo organised at the right time

by the Union Government, especially Hon'ble Minister of Textiles for the growth of the handlooms and textile industry in Tamil Nadu, particularly the

removal of 11% import duty on cotton. He requested to allocate more funds for the growth of the industry in Tamil Nadu. He highlighted the various policy initiatives taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri.M.K.Stalin for the growth of textile industry in Tamil Nadu.

Shri T Rajkumar, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, briefed about the continuous efforts made by the Hon'ble Union Textile Minister for making Indian textiles & clothing industry to achieve 44.2 billion dollars exports during the year 2021-22, despite unprecedented challenges, a record growth in the history of textile industry.

At the Texfair expo, machinery, spares manufacturers / suppliers and other supporting service providers from China, Japan, Switzerland, Italy and USA apart from domestic players across the country catering to various segments of the textile industry showcased their products and services.

The expos provided an opportunity for various clusters of the industry to know the latest improvements in technology and availability of domestic as well as import substitution spares. 235 exhibitors showcased their products and services in 310 stalls. Out of 235 exhibitors, 145 exhibitors have participated in more than five Texfair Expos. The Expo attracted about one lakh visitors and created business worth around Rs.1000 crores. Business visitors from countries like China, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka visited the Expo and derived the benefit, besides the visitors from all over the country.

We thank all the exhibitors for showcasing their products and services, the CEOs of mills for visiting and deputing their technical personnel and

also visitors from various textile clusters across the country for making the Expo yet another successful event by the Association.

For further information, please contact :
The Southern India Mills' Association
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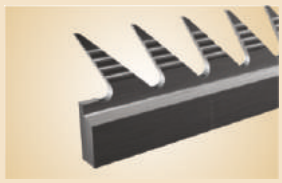
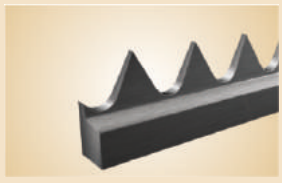
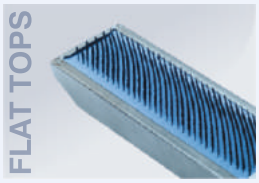
CYLINDER Wires

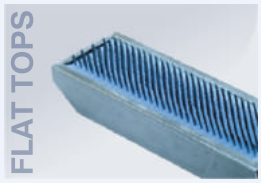

DOFFER Wires


LICKER-IN Wires

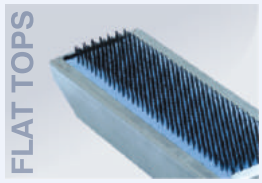

STRIPPER Wires



PG Series



RECTO Series



UNO Series

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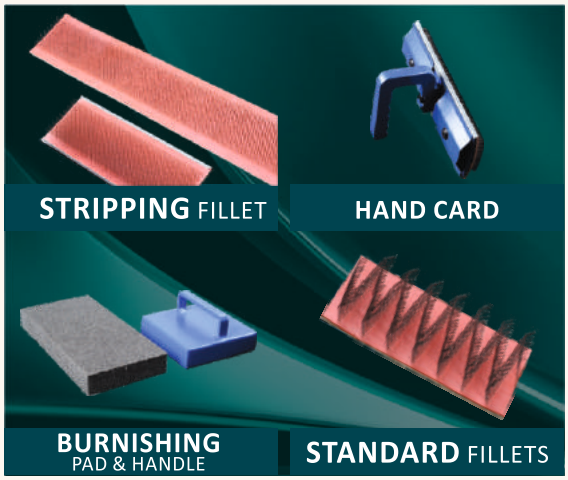
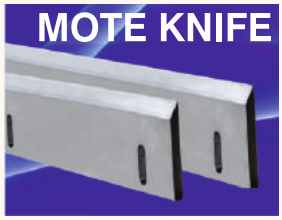
FILLETS & ACCESSORIES





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SOME DAZZLING MOMENTS AT TEXFAIR, COIMBATORE

Marketing Team of Trutzschler India Pvt. Ltd. in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Lakshmi Ring Travellers (Coimbatore) Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Elgi Electric and Industries Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Tex Tech Industries (I) Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Tiny Top Engineering India Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(From right) Mr. L. Nachimuthu, Director, Mr. K. Ravichandran, General Manager – Marketing & other dignataries of Unispin Card Clothing India Pvt. Ltd. in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

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SOME DAZZLING MOMENTS AT TEXFAIR, COIMBATORE

View of the stall of of Associated Autotex Ancillaries Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Lakshmi Machine Works Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Rimtex Industries. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Mohler Machine Works Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Moksha Thermoplastics Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Super Machine Works Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

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Tube Condition - Old flyer with inside surface damage

Tube Condition – New flyer

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Maharashtra, Vapi & Daman in Gujarat: M/s. Shivam Texmech Pvt Ltd - Kolhapur, Mr. Mahesh Murtule (M-+91-9145616050) , E: info@shivam.in, Mr. Madan Wajpe (M-09821216996), E: madan@shivam.in, Mr. Sambhaji Pandhare (M-09326193047), E: services@shivam.in.
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Gujarat: M/s. Maskara Enterprises – Ahmedabad, Mr. Vikas Maskara (M-9327000653) : E:maskarabn@gmail.com

SOME DAZZLING MOMENTS AT TEXFAIR, COIMBATORE

View of the stall of of VXL Group at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Precision Rubber Industries Pvt. Ltd.. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of of Vetri Engineers at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Techno Qualicon Solutions (P) Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Essr Electronic Jacquard Manufacturing Company at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Unirols Airtex at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

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SOME DAZZLING MOMENTS AT TEXFAIR, COIMBATORE

View of the stall of Mag Solvics Private Limited at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

Mr. Bhavesh Patel of Om Corporation in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Jumac Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

Mr. G. Radhakrishnan, Managing Director of Skaat Machine Works India Pvt. Ltd. in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(From left) Mr. Kishore Khaitan, Managing Director of Basant Fibertek Pvt. Ltd. with others in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(From Rright) Mr. R. C. Yadav & Shamsher Singh Yadav of Bea Electronics in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

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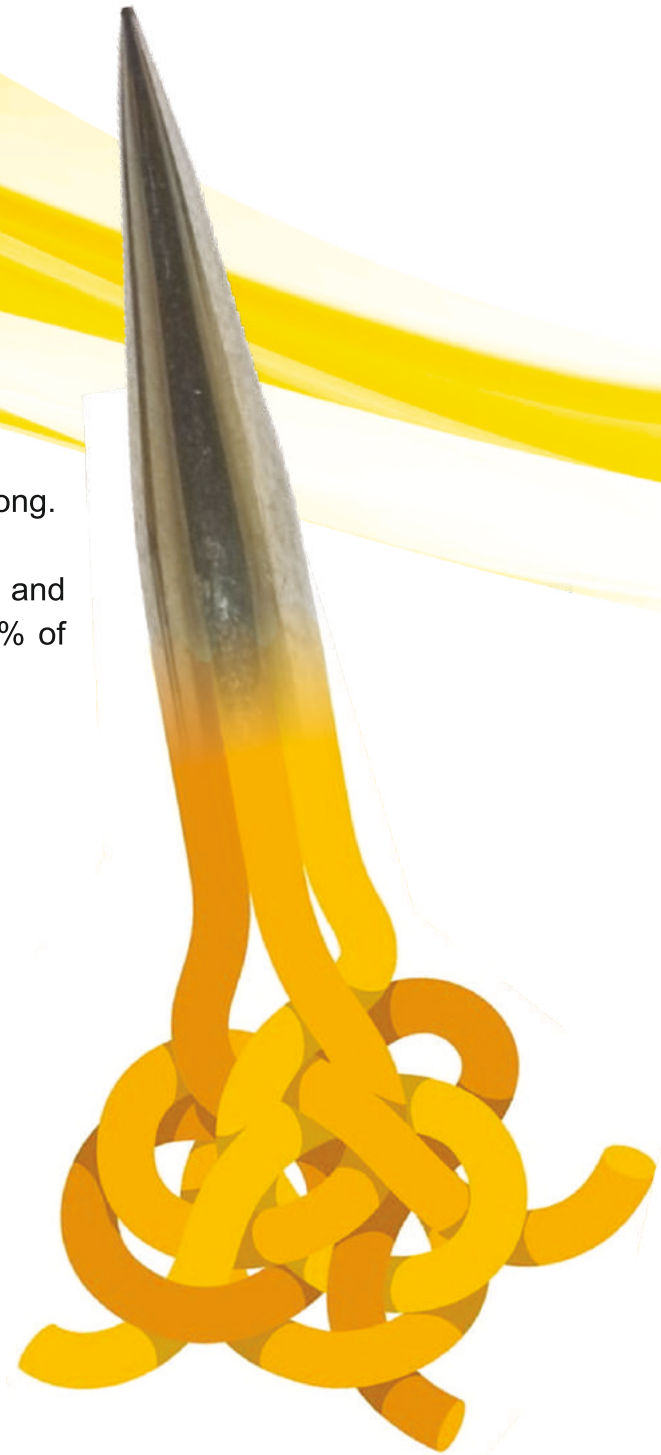

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SOME DAZZLING MOMENTS AT TEXFAIR, COIMBATORE

(From left) Mr. S. Thiyagu, Vice President & Mr. K. Subramaniam, Managing Director, of Statex Electronics in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Adwaith Lakshmi Industries Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(From right) Mr. A. Sundararajan, Managing Partner with others of Sakthi Textile Engineers in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(Third from right) Mr. D. Srinivasan, Director,, of Mylon Metallics Pvt. Ltd. & other officials in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Excel Traders at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(Second from right) Mr. A. Karthikeyan, of Cleentex, Mr. S. Vaidyanathan, Managing Partner of Compact Textile Services & other officials in the stall at of Cleentex at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

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SOME DAZZLING MOMENTS AT TEXFAIR, COIMBATORE

View of the stall of Premier Evolvics Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Lakshmi Electrical Drives Pvt. Ltd. & Lakshmi Precision Technologies Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(Second from left) Mr. R. Sundararajan, Director, Pinter Group & other officials in their stall TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

View of the stall of Vetal Hitech Machines Pvt. Ltd. at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

Mr. Nimesh Tibrrewala, CEO of Global Texparts Company in their stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

(From left) Mr. Siddharth S. Kinariwala, Director, N. P. Kinariwala Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. K. L. Sasikumar, of Shreethikaa Enterprises in the stall at TEXFAIR 2022, in Coimbatore, India.

Gartex Texprocess India makes a spectacular debut in Mumbai drawing large number of visitors

Inaugurated by Smt Darshana Jardosh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles and Railways, Government of India, Gartex Texprocess India's first-ever Mumbai edition succeeded in drawing 9,328 visitors under its roof. Along with the showcasing of manufacturing machineries and innovative textile products by 120 exhibitors, the trade fair hosted insightful knowledge sessions on the most unique and intriguing topics in the denim industry.

With Denim Show, Screen Print India, Fabrics and Trims Show held under its umbrella, the Mumbai launch of Gartex Texprocess India 2022 registered a strong footfall of 9,328 visitors from 27 countries and 253 Indian cities during its business proceedings at Jio World Convention Centre in BKC, Mumbai.

After witnessing an incredible response during all three days of the fair, Mr Raj Manek, Executive Director and Board Member, Messe Frankfurt Asia Holdings Ltd, commented: The feedback from the industry has been excellent. Gartex Texprocess India through its many editions has built a reputation as one of the leading and comprehensive exhibitions and by making its presence in Mumbai for the very first time, it has further enhanced its high reputation. We really appreciate the response and trust from the industry, the supporting associations and the collective efforts of all those who have made this debut a resounding success."

Organised by Messe Frankfurt India and MEX Exhibitions Pvt Ltd, the trade fair displayed more than 500 innovative, efficient and competitively-priced technologies in textile and garment manufacturing, denim production, trimmings and screen-printing value added solutions for the industry from over 250 brands.

Mr Gaurav Juneja, Director, MEX Exhibitions Pvt Ltd,also shared his sentiments: "It was wonderful to see businesses converge here at the financial capital of India. The Mumbai edition did not only serve as a brand-new business platform, but most importantly it gave easy access for businesses in the south where there is a good chunk of textile and garment market to be explored. The signature edition witnessed massive success in terms of reviving and re-establishing the industry post challenging times. We are really proud to have a successful conclusion to this edition of Gartex Texprocess India."

Addressing the industry during a press meet after inauguration, Smt Darshana Jardosh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles &Railways, Government of India, stated: "I congratulate MEX Exhibitions and Messe Frankfurt India for expanding this exhibition concept from Delhi to Mumbai and creating an international level show in India, which endeavours to bring the fabric to fashion solutions onto a single platform. Shows such as Gartex Texprocess India are excellent initiatives and are much-needed to fill the technology gap and promote 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' missions."

Mr S Bharath, Director, of one of the top companies on the showfloor,Mehala Machines India Ltd, conveyed his sentiments about the brand new edition : "We are very happy to have participated in the Mumbai version of Gartex Texprocess India. This year, we showcased many innovative products including Retrofit IoT systems that can be combined with existing machines along with automated manufacturing systems and several other products."

Also making its debut in Mumbai –the Denim Show drew visitors to witness innovative, fashionable and sustainable denim products from several leading brands, such as Hyosung India, Jindal Worldwide, Arvind, Ginni International, Raymond UCO Denim, Bhaskar Denim, LNJ Denim, Oswal Denims, KG Denim, Nandan Denim, and Ashima Group.

Impressed by the visitor footfalls, one of the chief exhibitors, Dr Yamuna Dutt Agarwal, CMD, Jindal Worldwide Ltd, commented: "The response and quality of buyers were both amazing. This exhibition seems to be taking the denim industry and the garment and textile manufacturing industry in a new direction. We were glad to see the fabulous response in the fashion capital, it will certainly help in achieving greater heights in terms of innovation and upgrading our buyers' profile."

After exploring products on the showfloor, Mr Narendra Goenka, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council, (AEPC), elaborated on the importance of Gartex Texprocess India and his experience as a business visitor: "There are lots of successes and growth to come in the garment and textile industry. India needs automation and efficiency to meet international standards. Gartex Texprocess India will help us to identify right technology and give us the opportunity to expand our business and capacity."

Denim Talks discussed unique and ingenious techniques for sustainable denim production

Held on 13th May, the Denim Talks united denim industry stakeholders to discuss a series of topics on efficient and sustainable denim processing techniques.

Leading one of the sessions, Mr Jaydeep Umalkar Head, Operations – Takshvi Vogue Pvt Ltd introduced a new dyeing technology that can execute flash dyeing of indigo in milliseconds. Notably, the process does not only consume a minimum volume of water, but also executes denim dyeing with zero

effluent discharge. Apart from being exceptionally eco-friendly, this process is also way more efficient as it avoids shrinkage of fabric material and provides output equal to the input. Such a technology is unique and is being introduced for the very first time in India.

Furthermore, discussing digital and bio-dyeing techniques – Mr Andrew Filarowski, Technical Director, Society of Dyers and Colourists, talked about use of local agricultural waste to create clean dyes, and micro-organisms to synthesise colours of nature and using advanced technologies to optimise automaton across processes and machinery as well as the need to reduce volumes of water, energy and dyestuffs required in processes.

The maiden Mumbai edition of Fabric & Trims Show also attracted a significant amount of visitors with its trendy displays. The section curated fashionable and apparel enhancing elements like fabrics, trimmings, embellishments and accessories from top companies, such as Royal Threads, Future Textiles, Cotton Council USA, MM Fabrics, Grasim Industries, Maharaja Shree Umaid Mills and KK Hangers.

Screen Print India delivers with back-to-back successful editions

Continuing the success of its previous edition, Screen Print India once again drew businesses back to its show in Mumbai through new technological showcases in digital textile and screen-printing, digital sublimation, heat transfer and textile printing, from brands like DhavalColorChem Pvt Ltd, Konica Minolta, Skyscreen International Pvt Ltd, Stovec Industries, Epson India Pvt Ltd and many more.

The trade fair succeeded in drawing businesses from all parts of India including major states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Taking the positive momentum forward, Gartex Texprocess India together with Denim Show, Fabrics and Trims Show and Screen Print India will once again welcome businesses back at its base in New Delhi from 4 – 6 August 2022 at PragatiMaidan.

For further information, please contact :
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Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India Pvt Ltd
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Tentative Day-wise Program Schedule

DAY 1
8-12-2022
Thursday

- Exhibition & B2B Meetings
- Global Press Conference

DAY 2
9-12-2022
Friday

- Exhibition & B2B Meetings

DAY 3
10-12-2022
Saturday

- Exhibition & B2B Meetings
- CEO Meet
- Training cum Workshop
- DKTE Technical Seminar & Alumni Meet

DAY 4
11-12-2022
Sunday

- Exhibition & B2B Meetings
- Training cum Workshop
- Award Function

DAY 5
12-12-2022
Monday

- Exhibition & B2B Meetings
- Farewell & Valedictory Function

DAY 6
13-12-2022
Tuesday

- Conclusion of Exhibition

RSVP : itme@india-itme.com

Oerlikon

Oerlikon Polymer Processing Solutions exhibited at the ITM 2022

Energy-saving manmade fiber systems for the Turkish market

The ITM in Istanbul, repeatedly postponed due to the pandemic, take place at the Tuyap Fair and Congress Center with around 1,000 international exhibitors between June 14 and 18. The Oerlikon Polymer Processing Solutions division exhibited its solutions and technologies at the Tekstil Servis stand in Hall 3, Stand 313.

The focus for the machine and systems builder had been on total solutions – from melt to yarn, fibers through to nonwovens. "Turkey is an extremely active market", comments Sales Director Oliver Lemke, talking about the current mood in the country. "Our customers are hugely interested in factory projects that comprise everything – from the in-house polycondensation system through to the textured yarn, the accompanying automation and corresponding digital solutions. Basically, From Melt to Yarn and beyond." The unbeatable benefit of such concepts is that procuring all process steps from a single source promises harmonized technology, whose design guarantees that the produced yarn is high quality.

A further information focus was on the topic of sustainability. There are currently many developments taking place in manmade fiber yarn manufacturing: mechanical and chemical technologies for recycling of bottles, but also of textiles and biopolymers as well as the circular economy – all these are already possible. With partners and subsidiaries, including Oerlikon Barmag Huitong Engineering (OBHE) and Barmag Brückner Engineering (BBE), Oerlikon Polymer Processing Solutions will be unveiling concrete concepts at the trade fair.

BCF technology: tangling 6,800-dtex yarns with the RoTac³

High-pile carpets and carpets for outdoor use are currently on trend, with demand for these high-margin yarns noticeably rising. The thick BCF yarns made from PP, PET and PA6 required can now be tangled using the RoTac³. In so-called plying, all three filaments are jointly fed through a tangling opening in the RoTac³ and then tangled. "BCF yarn manufacturers can now also use the RoTac³ for yarns of up to 6,800 dtex. They not only benefit from energy savings due to lower compressed air consumption and considerably more even tangling knots, manufacturers can also respond more flexibly to market requirements and hence expand their product portfolio", explains Arnd Luppold, BCF Sales Director, talking about the advantages of plying using the RoTac³.

Even at high production speeds, tangling knots can be set much more evenly with the RoTac³ than in the case of other conventional tangling units.

Even at high production speeds, tangling knots can be set much more evenly with the RoTac³ than in the case of other conventional tangling units. Frequent tangling glitches are now a thing of the past. This ensures better yarn quality and has a positive impact on further processing. The result: the carpet has a visibly more even appearance. Furthermore, compressed air consumption is reduced by up to 50 percent, depending on yarn type.

The 3-in-1 plying package is optionally available for the BCF S+ and BCF S8 with RoTac³ systems and can also be retrofitted on request.

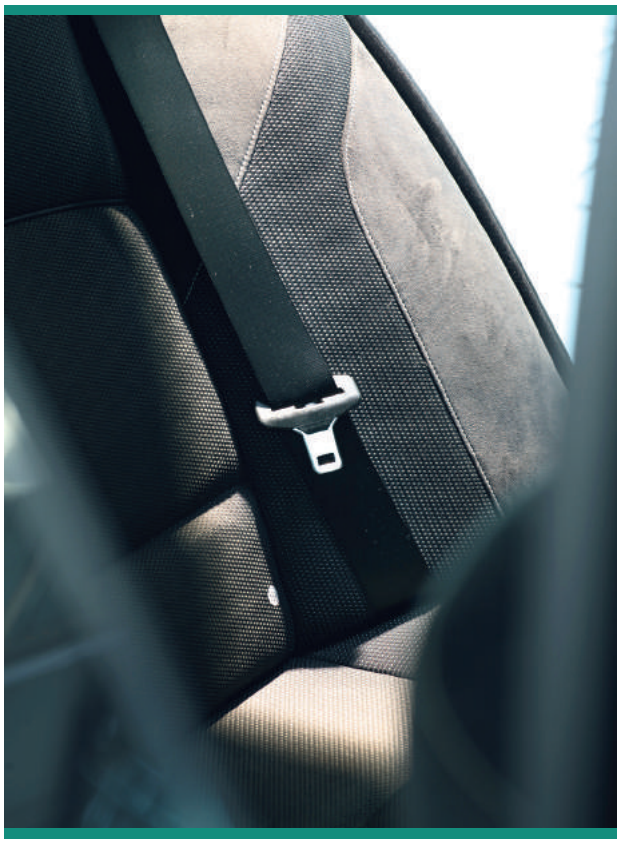
Oerlikon Polymer Processing Solutions displayed its technologies at the Techtextil 2022

Sustainable infrastructure solutions, road safety and health protection

At this year's Techtextil, Oerlikon Polymer Processing Solutions presented the trade audience with new applications, special processes and sustainable solutions focusing on the production of industrial textiles. Among other things, the company showcased new technology for charging nonwovens that sets new standards with regards to quality and efficiency. Between June 21 and 24, the discussions in Hall 12.0, Stand C60 was concentrated on airbags, seat belts, tire cord, geotextiles, filter nonwovens and their diverse applications.

More polyester for airbags

Airbags have become an integral part of our everyday automotive lives. The yarns used in them are made predominantly from polyamide.



In accidents, the number one lifesaver is not the vehicle's body work or the airbag, but the seat belt. It holds the vehicle occupants firmly in position and thus enables other protective technologies to unfold their full function.

As a result of increasingly diverse airbag applications and also the increasing size of the systems used, polyester is today used as well, depending on the application requirements and cost-benefit considerations. Against this background, the Oerlikon Barmag technologies make an invaluable contribution. In addition to high productivity and low energy consumption, they particularly excel in terms of their stable production processes. Furthermore, they comply with every high quality standard for airbags, which – as in the case of virtually all other textile products used in vehicle construction – must provide the highest level of safety for vehicle occupants. And all this without any loss of function in any climate and anywhere in the world for the lifetime of the vehicle.

Buckle up!

Seat belts play a decisive role in protecting vehicle occupants. They have to withstand tensile forces in excess of three tons and simultaneously stretch in a controlled manner in emergencies in order to reduce the load in the event of impact. A seat belt comprises approximately 300 filament yarns, whose individual, high-tenacity yarn threads are spun from around 100 individual filaments.

"With our unique, patented Single Filament Layer Technology, we offer a sophisticated and simultaneously gentle high-tenacity (HT) yarn process for manufacturing these lifesavers and other applications made from industrial yarn", explains Dr. Roy Dolmans, Technology Manager IDY and R&D Filament Processing.

Invisible, but essential – road reinforcement using geotextiles

But it not just inside vehicles, but also under them, that industrial yarns reveal their strengths. Low stretch, ultra-high tenacity, high rigidity – industrial yarns offer outstanding properties for the demanding tasks carried out by geotextiles; for instance, as geogrids in the base course system under asphalt. Normally, geotextiles have extremely high yarn titers of up to 24,000 denier. Oerlikon Barmag system concepts simultaneously manufacture three filament yarns of 6,000 denier each. Due to the high spinning titers, fewer yarns can be plied together to the required geo-yarn titer in a more cost- and energy efficient manner.

hycuTEC – technological quantum leap for filter media

In the case of its hycuTEC hydro-charging solution, Oerlikon Neumag offers a new technology for charging nonwovens that increases filter efficiency to more than 99.99%. For meltblown producers, this means material savings of 30% with significantly superior filter performance. For end users, the consequence is noticeably improved comfort resulting from significantly reduced breathing resistance. With its considerably lower water and energy consumption, this new development is also a futureproof, sustainable technology.

The hycuTEC process easily achieves filtration efficiencies in excess of 99.99% in the case of typical filter media.

New high-tech Staple Fiber Technology Center

Extending to around 2,100 m^2, Oerlikon Neumag in Neumünster is home to one of the world's largest staple fiber technology centers. As of now, these state-of-the-art staple fiber technologies are also available for customer-specific trials.

The new Staple Fiber Technology Center in Neumünster - with around 2,100 m^2 one of the largest in the world.

The focus during the planning and the design of the Technology Center was on optimizing components and processes. Here, special attention was paid to ensuring the process and production parameters in the Technology Center system could be simply and reliably transferred to production systems. "We are not only able to run all standard products available on the market at our Technology Center, it also offers us the perfect prerequisites for the development of new processes and products", explains Tilman Reutter, Technology Manager - Head of Staple Fiber Process. Here, the fiber tape processing line is modular in design. All components can be combined with each other as required. And comprehensive set-up options supply detailed findings for the respective process for various fiber products.

The Technology Center is also equipped with two spinning positions for mono- and bi-component processes. The same round spin packs are used for both processes, characterized by excellent fiber quality and properties and meanwhile very successfully deployed in all Oerlikon Neumag production systems. Furthermore, the spinning plant is complemented by automation solutions such as spin pack scraper robots, for example. "In future, we will be able to focus more strongly on the special requirements of our customers in the development of our product lines", comments Tilman Reutter.

About Oerlikon

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is a global innovation powerhouse for surface engineering, polymer processing and additive manufacturing. Its solutions and comprehensive services, together with its advanced materials, improve and optimize the performance, function, design and sustainability of its customers' products and manufacturing processes in key industries. Oerlikon has been a technology pioneer for decades. All developments and activities have their origins in the passion for supporting customers in achieving their objectives and increasing sustainability. Headquartered in Pfäffikon, Switzerland, the group has two divisions: Surface Solutions and Polymer Processing Solutions. The group has a global footprint of more than 11,800 employees at 207 locations in 38 countries and generated sales of CHF 2.65 billion in 2021.

For further information: www.oerlikon.com

About the Oerlikon Polymer Processing Solutions division

With its Oerlikon Barmag, Oerlikon Neumag, Oerlikon Nonwoven and Oerlikon HRSflow brands, the Oerlikon Polymer Processing division focuses on manmade fibers plant engineering and flow control equipment solutions. Oerlikon is one of the leading providers of manmade fiber filament spinning systems, texturing machines, BCF systems, staple fiber systems and solutions for the production of nonwovens and – as a service provider – offers engineering solutions for the entire textile value added chain. Furthermore, Oerlikon offers a range of a high-precision flow control solutions. This currently includes a large selection of gear metering pumps for the textile and other sectors such as automobile construction, the chemical industry and the dyes and lacquers industry. With Oerlikon HRSflow, the division develops innovative hot runner systems for the polymer processing industry. In collaboration with Oerlikon Balzers, it offers highly-efficient, effective coating solutions from a single source.

As a future-oriented company, the research and development at this division of the Oerlikon Group is driven by energy efficiency and sustainable technologies (e-save). With its range of polycondensation and extrusion systems and their key components, the company caters to the entire manufacturing process – from the monomer all the way through to the textured yarn and other innovative polymer materials and applications. The product portfolio is rounded off with automation and Industrie 4.0 solutions.

The primary markets for the product portfolio of Oerlikon Barmag are in Asia, especially in China, India and Turkey, and – for those of Oerlikon Neumag and Oerlikon Nonwoven – in the USA, Asia, Turkey and Europe. Oerlikon HRSflow is, above all, active in the key automotive markets. These include Germany, China, Korea and Brazil. Worldwide, the division – with more than 4,500 employees – has a presence in 120 countries with production, sales and distribution and service organizations. At the research and development centers in Remscheid, Neumünster (both Germany), San Polo di Piave / Treviso (Italy) and Suzhou (China), highly-qualified engineers, technologists and technicians develop innovative and technologically-leading products for tomorrow's world.

For further information: www.oerlikon.com/polymer-processing

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Itema S.p.A.

Itema exhibited cutting-edge innovations and a complete range of weaving solutions at ITM 2022

Itema, the leading provider of advanced weaving solutions including weaving machines, spare parts and integrated services, that recently announced the establishment of a new company in Turkey, exhibited at ITM 2022 at the Istanbul TÜYAP Fair Convention and Congress Center in Hall 2, Booth 218A.

Turkey represents for Itema one of the most strategically important markets in the world and the Itema technology is very well represented and loved by Turkish weavers as confirmed by the excellent 2021 sales results. The set-up of the new company in Turkey reaffirms the Itema commitment of being closer than ever to its valuable customers in the country.

For ITM 2022, Itema prepared a product line-up specifically designed to meet and exceed its visitors needs and desires, including an absolute new market launch and interesting new applications of key innovations.

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Weaving Machines on Show

◆ The brand-new Itema Rapier R9500-2terry

The most reliable, popular and guaranteed technology on the market to boost the production of terry fabrics comes at ITM 2022 in its Second Generation. The rapier terry machine preferred by worldwide terry weavers, with an impressive number of machines installed in more than 35 countries, and the absolute protagonist of terry fabrics production in Turkey, is now back in a new version that further increases textile mastery, eco-efficiency and performances.

Textile mastery is a core competitive advantage of the R9500-2terry. The unique Itema Pile Formation Unit has been completely redesigned to ensure increased productivity, maximum ease of use and excellent terry quality. The system provides an optimal pile warp tension guaranteeing – unique in the market - both positive and negative control, hence ensuring excellent terry fabric quality.

Key improvements – such as the main motor with oil cooling and the optimization of the machine lubrication system – ensure reduced energy consumption and improved heat management, achieving peerless eco-efficiency standards. Moreover, the optimized Pile Formation Unit features a reduced number of cylinders compared to the previous machine version thus leading to increased operational weaving space and user-friendliness and reduced style change time.

Performance is achieved through tangible advancements. Monitoring the machines efficiency and performances has never been so easy: thanks to the Itema plant management software iMANAGER, it is possible to effortlessly control and access machines data and statistics. In addition, the Itema in-depth knowledge of terry segment allowed the development of dedicated solutions to further improve fabric quality and weaving efficiency.

The R9500-2terry on show at ITM 2022 is a courtesy of the Itema Customer Ceylan Havlu based in Denizli. In weaving width 3800mm, the machine will weave fashion hand towels.

◆ **The best-seller Itema Rapier R9500-2 with iSAVER® for new applications**

The most versatile rapier machine in the market, the Itema R9500-2, comes at ITM 2022 loaded with an absolute innovation: iSAVER® for apparel applications. iSAVER®, the device that revolutionized the denim weaving providing tangible benefits in terms of sustainability and money saving thanks to the left side waste selvedge elimination, has been further developed to successfully weave a wider range of yarns. The device is now available also for the benefit of apparel weavers and it can successfully process cotton, Lycra, Tencel and Poliester yarns.

Another innovative feature on display on the R9500-2 is iCARE™, a future oriented system – based on an advanced sensors mechanism able to monitor real-time the state of health of the Itema tapes and sprocket wheels, suggesting possible adjustments or interventions through the machine latest generation console. iCARE™ brings significant benefits to weavers, including the possibility to run the machine at the highest speeds without compromising components reliability, thanks to its breakthrough preventive maintenance function.

Courtesy of the Itema customer Erka, based in Bursa, the R9500-2 on show in weaving width 2200mm will weave a stretch apparel style.

◆ **The effective Itema Airjet A9500-2**

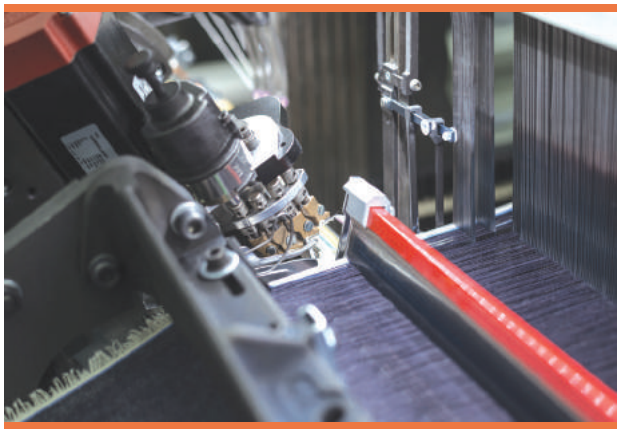
The A9500-2 is designed for high productivity, whilst ensuring reduced levels of energy and air consumption as well as top machine reliability.

The A9500-2 on display features the Itema heald frames SKYFRAME®, combining the highest machine speeds with maximum reliability. In addition, the machine textile mastery will be demonstrated by the weaving of double pick insertion.

Courtesy of the Itema customer Erka, the A9500-2 in weaving width 2200mm will run a typical Turkish apparel style.

◆ **The most versatile Itema Rapier R9500-2 Wide Version for Curtain Fabrics**

The last machine on show at ITM is the wide version of the most successful rapier machine in recent history, the Itema R9500-2. Traditionally renowned as the preferred supplier for furnishing and upholstery fabrics weaving machines, Itema does not miss the opportunity to demonstrate the superior versatility of the R9500-2 by weaving sophisticated curtain fabrics. The R9500-2 in weaving width 3600mm and fully loaded with best-in-class Itema devices comes directly from Berteks Tekstil, leading producer of high-quality curtain fabrics.



The Full Range of Weaving Solutions on Show

◆ **Itema OEM Spare Parts**

At Itema, our mission is to be close to our customers providing them not only advanced weaving machines but a complete range of services to guarantee a comprehensive and attentive support for the entire lifetime of the Itema weaving machines, including upgrade and conversion kits, and replacement of damaged or broken parts with original spare parts.

Choosing original spare parts represents the best way to protect the investment long-term, in fact rectifying problems due to non-original parts and non-original service can have dire and expensive consequences.

Designed by professionals with a longstanding experience in the textile machinery sector, Itema original spare parts ensure maximum performances and increased durability, while maximizing the return on investment and the value retention.

At ITM 2022 the latest solutions to upgrade the existing Itema – and previous brands Sulzer, Somet and Vamatex – looms will be exhibited.

◆ **Advanced Weaving Accessories: Lamiflex and Schoch**

The Itema Group companies Lamiflex and Schoch will be present at ITM in Itema booth with their advanced weaving accessories offering.

The Lamiflex branded portfolio of rapier tapes and sprocket wheels and the Schoch wide range of weaving reeds for airjet and rapier weaving machines and drop-wires will be on display.

About Itema

Itema is a leading global provider of advanced weaving solutions, including weaving machines, spare parts and integrated services. The Company is the only manufacturer in the world to provide the top three weft insertion technologies : rapier, air jet and projectile, with an ample product portfolio and a commitment to continuous innovation and technological advancement of its weaving machines.

Itema is the sole shareholder of Lamiflex, leading producer of advanced composite products and owns majority stakes of Schoch, manufacturer of textile industry accessories.

Sixty per cent of Itema is held by Gianni Radici's family heirs (the siblings Angelo, Maurizio, Paolo, Maria Grazia and Bruna). The remaining shares belong to the Arizzi and Torri families.

More information about Itema can be found on the website www.itemagroup.com.

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Mayer & Cie.

Mayer & Cie. launches more advanced kits

Rejuvenating existing circular knitting machines with a lean budget

In April, the circular knitting machine manufacturer Mayer & Cie. is launching its upgrade kits for circular knitting machines that are already successfully in use by customers. With tailor-made packages, the company wants to give its users the opportunity to take advantage of technological progress in their existing machines. The aim is to improve the performance of the existing machines and to extend their service life. In addition to the machine-specific upgrade kits, the company now starts offering tailormade spare parts packages. They are intended to ensure machine availability and equip customers with spare parts for standard situations. In addition, they offer a degree of independence from possible failures in the supply chain and rising transport costs.

Frank Stuhrmann heads the spare parts department at Mayer & Cie.

Longevity, a popular product property

"Longevity of our circular knitting machines is definitely a property that our satisfied customers mention regularly", Mayer & Cie. sales director

Wolfgang Müller says. The company estimates that up to 50 percent of all the circular knitting machines it has ever made are still around in the market somewhere.

At Mayer & Cie.'s R & D department, colleagues are working towards improving existing technologies. Using the new upgrades kits customers can benefit from these enhancements

Upgrades boost performance and value

Value retention, maintenance and upgrades for existing machines are a key issue for the company – and for the customers who successfully use existing Mayer & Cie equipment. That's why the company recently launched customised upgrade kits to improve the long-term performance of machines. Frank Stuhrmann, head of the spare parts, Mayer & Cie, adds: "In our development department, we are constantly working on improving existing machines and their components, and we would not want to withhold this progress from our existing customers."

Stuhrmann and his team have found that existing machines have a firm place in the machine park and that operators do not wish to replace them anytime soon. He says: "This means it makes much more sense to help our customers to enhance the properties of their existing machines, rather than to offer them a completely new machine."

Low budget, clear benefit

Compared to a new machine, upgrade kits are a low-cost investment that deliver clearly defined benefits. For example, an improved yarn guide ensures a significant increase in the plating reliability and output of the machine in question.

Most of the upgrade kits is machine-specific; the aforementioned yarn guide ensures a boost in productivity for the Relanit 3.2 II and Relanit 3.2 S. For S4 machines an optimised fluff blowing device can be the solution. It ensures that less fluff is knitted in and thereby improves the fabric quality. It also reduces downtimes that would otherwise be required for cleaning. Upgrade kits suitable for most Mayer & Cie. machines are the edge trimmer to open a fabric hose before the fabric's rolling-up and the laying facility for high-quality hose fabric.

General benefits of the upgrade packages also include a perfect fit for individual machines, a longterm security investment and upgrade warranties.

Spare part packages: Inside is what is required

In addition to individual upgrade kits Mayer & Cie. now offers spare parts packages. They too are customised for individual machines. When purchasing a machine, the customer can also order a small or a large spare parts package. Selected specially for the machine in question, it contains the most important consumables and spare parts. "We are all familiar with the situation," Frank Stuhrmann says. "You are in a tight corner and urgently need a spare part that is then not available. The best-case consequence is unnecessary stress, and the worst case is missed delivery dates."

Central warehouse at Mayer & Cie. in Albstadt-Tailfingen : Spare parts at the ready

The new spare parts packages are designed to reduce these situations to a minimum and to ensure instead that the customer is equipped to deal with at least the standard cases. They also increase customers' independence of supply chain failures and rising transport costs.

About Mayer & Cie.

Mayer & Cie. (MCT) is a leading international manufacturer of circular knitting machines. The company offers the entire range of machines required for making modern textiles. Fabrics for home textiles, sportswear, nightwear and

swimwear, seat covers, underwear and technical uses are made on MCT knitting machines. Furthermore, Mayer & Cie. regularly develops new approaches underlining its leadership in technology.

Mayer & Cie. headquarters in Albstadt-Tailfingen, Germany.

Since 2019, Mayer & Cie. has augmented its portfolio by braiding machines which produce sheathings for hydraulic tubes used in aviation, automotive industry as well as in further, very specific fields of applications.

Founded in 1905, Mayer & Cie. generated sales of EUR 103 million in 2021 with about 450 employees worldwide, according to preliminary figures. In addition to its headquarters in Albstadt, Germany, where around 350 people work, and subsidiaries in China and the Czech Republic, sales partners for circular knitting and braiding machines in around 80 countries represent Mayer & Cie.

www.mayercie.com

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Trützschler Group SE

The TCO 21 : Boost your high-speed combing; Balancing between quality and economy a great challenge for producers

Life isn't easy for yarn producers. They need to improve raw material utilization. They need to boost productivity while balancing between quality and economy. They need to increase yarn quality to fulfill customer requirements. And they need to do it in combed applications where high-quality standards are essential. Those are some big challenges. The TCO 21 combing machine from Trützschler offers an innovative solution.

Since it was first launched in 2021, the TCO 21 has been delighting customers around the globe with its innovative features and enormous optimization potential. The first large-scale installations are now up and running in the world's most important combing markets. And the results are extremely positive!

The TCO 21 offers automatic optimization functions and is the first ever comber to feature 100 % Trützschler technology. That powerful combination is now improving efficiency, productivity and quality in yarn-producing markets worldwide.

The state-of-the-art combing machine TCO 21

Optimized for high-speed combing

The TCO 21 is unique because it features the PIECING OPTIMIZER technology, which reduces fiber stress, especially during high-speed combing. And it works at the push of a single button. This is valuable for yarn producers because the pilger step movement – and the overall acceleration behavior of the detaching rollers – often acts as a bottleneck when operating at high speeds of up to 600 nips/min. A simple comparison: A detaching roller (48 g) in a high-speed comber accelerates roughly 8 times faster than a formular one car (6 g).

Testing data: High-speed combing

Tests clearly show the potential value offered by the PIECING OPTIMIZER technology for high-speed combing. Technologists examined the level of performance that customers can achieve with a yarn count of Ne 30 made from US cotton. The number of yarn imperfections remained constant even when increasing the combing speed from 500 to 600 nips/min – which is a 20% higher production rate. Most important, the amount of noil also remained in the same range for all three trials. In fact, the total number of imperfections in the yarn (measured as IPI) was slightly lower because of fewer thick spots and neps.

Overall, the TCO 21 has demonstrated its capacity to deliver optimal yarn results even when increasing the production rate by up to 20 %.

Testing data: Production increase with a yarn count of Ne 20

Trials have shown that the TCO 21 can achieve a 20% increase in production output compared to the current combing machine from a competitor for yarn counts of Ne 20 – while also generating less noil.

Operating at a rate of 600 nips/min instead of 500 increases yarn production per comber set by around two metric tons per day (depending on the specific settings). Importantly, the TCO 21 is able to provide this production increase while delivering similar yarn quality in terms of IPI and uniformity – and also reducing noil. The tests show that the TCO 21 can reduce the comber noil by 0.43% compared to the competitor's machine.

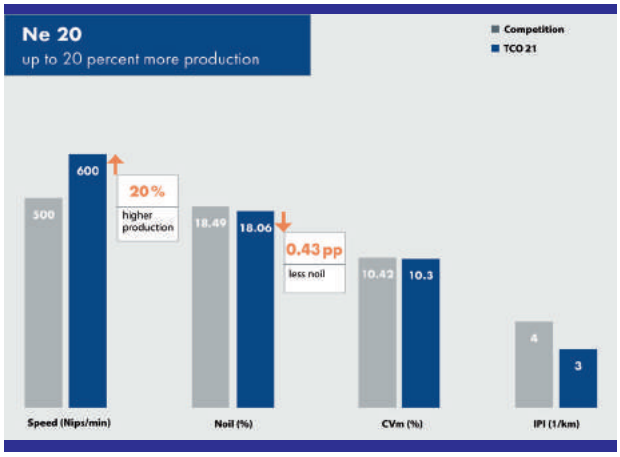
Testing data: Production increase with a yarn count of Ne 40

The TCO 21 also demonstrated a 20% production increase and similar yarn quality compared to a competitor's machine for yarn counts of Ne 40. With a production increase of 10% – e.g. producing 550 nips/min instead of 500 nips/min – the yarn results improved with the TCO 21. Furthermore, the number of faults per kilometer only very slightly worsened with a 20% increase in production. In addition, yarn uniformity remained at the same level in all trials, even when the production rate increased. The comber noils were at the same level too.

SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Testing data: Production increase with a yarn count of Ne 60

In the final trial, which involved a yarn count of Ne 60, the TCO 21 proved its capacity to achieve a 5% or 10% higher production rate with up to 26% better results for yarn quality. Of course, it is more difficult to improve production rates and maintain quality when working with finer yarns. But also in this comparison the TCO 21 demonstrated its excellent performance and advantage compared to the competitor product. Remarkably, yarn results improved in this test when the production rate for the TCO 21 was increased by 5% and 10%. The overall IPI was 21% and 26% lower compared to the competition. Despite higher production rates, yarn evenness also remained slightly better than the competitor machine's level. And the noil was constant across all three production rates that were tested.



Tapping into the full potential of the TCO 21

The results from these tests are extremely positive and we are confident that the unique machine concept has additional potential. Trützschler's experts are now working side-by-side with our customers to open up new ways of further optimizing the performance of this machine in various application areas. However, the TCO 21, our first comber with 100% Trützschler technology, will help our customers improve their competitive position in the global yarn market.

About Trützschler

The Trützschler Group SE is a German textile machinery manufacturer headquartered in Mönchengladbach, Germany. The company is divided into four business units: Spinning, Nonwovens, Man-Made Fibers, and Card Clothing. Trützschler machines, installations and accessories are produced and developed in ten locations worldwide. This includes four factories in Germany (Dülmen, Egelsbach, Mönchengladbach, Neubulach), as well as sites in China (Jiaxing and Shanghai), India (Ahmedabad), the USA (Charlotte), Brazil (Curitiba) and Switzerland (Winterthur). Service companies in Turkey, Mexico, Uzbekistan and Vietnam and service centers in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia provide customer proximity in key regions for the textile processing industry. For more information visit: www.truetzschler.com.

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Dhara Engineering Works

Few words about Dhara Engineering Works

Dhara Engineering Works (DEW) is one of the leading Stainless Steel Fabricator and mainly an OEM supplier to global textile machinery manufacturers. With more than 35 years of industry presence, the company is now a reputed player in this field. Based in Ahmedabad, the company has been at the forefront of offering a wide range of value-for-money products. The stringent quality control measures employed by the company ensure quality products that adhere to specifications. The modern process technology and professional expertise enable the company to cater to the precise demand of its customers. Further, the strategic location of Dhara Tex Rolls in Ahmedabad makes it easily approachable through all modes of transportation. Moreover, this also facilitates timely delivery and prompt post-sales service to its customers. A team of experts along with sophisticated infrastructure equipped with all necessary amenities help in boosting the production capacity of the company.

Dhara Tex Rolls considers customer satisfaction of paramount importance. The company strives hard to offer superior quality products of international standards by exploiting all its technological and instrumental expertise. Established in the year 1991, the company now features high on the priority list of its customers.

Founder and Promoter

Mr. Karsandasbhai Panchal, the Founder of Dhara Engineering Works has 45 years of experience in textile engineering industry. The success and position of Dhara Tex Rolls is due to his continuous efforts and vast experience.

Vision

Stainless Steel Fabrication for various Textile Machinery for such valued clients who want better than best quality.

Mission

Dhara Engineering Works is committed to superior level of satisfaction for their valued clients in obtaining repeat orders by providing reliable quality products, user friendly communication and prompt delivery.

Products

1. Drying Cylinders/Cans
2. Jacketed Cooling/Heating Cylinders
3. Storage Vessels
4. Premixing Vessels
5. Cooking Vessels
6. Vertical/Horizontal Drying Range
7. Guide Rollers

Cylinder Drying Range Machine

Cylinder dryers are an efficient & cheapest system for fabric drying with energy saving due to its direct contact drying.

Cylinder dryers are used in continuous operation with wet processing finishing lines or as separate drying machine as well.

Technical Details

► Cylinder Width :	1200-mm to 4000-mm
► Cylinder Dia :	570-mm, 760-mm, 800-mm
► Operating Pressure :	Up to 6 Bar./higher on request
► Design Temp :	165°C
► Cooling Cylinder :	Single shell type or double Shell Jacketed & Spiral Flow Type Cooling Cylinder
► Speed :	10 to 150 Mtrs/min
► Stacks :	Fabricated from MS/ SS Plates

Optionals

- ► Teflon-coating on Drying Cylinder
- ► Temp. Controller Per Stack or Per Group of Cylinder

- In Synchronisation with Finishing Machine or Individual
- Cooling Cylinder Located in Last Stack or on Seperate Frame.
- Exhaust Hood with Axial Fan
- Chain / Flat Belt Drive, Individual or Alternate Gear Box Motor Drive
- Feeding in Scaffold or Batching/Plating Devise
- 2 Bowl/3 Bowl Padding Mangle.

Drying Cylinder/Can

Specially developed manufacturing process and more than 35 years of experience in the production of the walled cylinders ensure products of highest quality. The cylinders are characterized by particularly low radial run-out and perfect welding workmanship.

The thin-walled steam cylinders are designed and constructed as pressure vessles, in-line with customer's requirement and specifications. These cylinders are used in sizing, non-woven ranges as well as in textile and technical fabric finishing machines.

Annual Production Capacity	–	3000
Diameter	–	400mm to 800mm
Working Width	–	1000 to 4000mm
Hydraulic Test Pressure	–	3 Bar to 12 Bar
Working Pressure	–	1 Bar to 6 Bar
Shell Thickness	–	2mm to 4mm
Surface Finish	–	SS304/SS316 Polished/Teflon coated

Jacketed Cooling / Heating Cylinder

The defined re-cooling of the web after thermal processing is of special significance. If the web temperature is too high in relation to the next stage of processing e.g. cold pad batch dyeing or in chemical web impregnation, it would make the dye/chemical bath temperature increase within a short time, causing a considerable product quality loss. At Dhara, our scope of production basically includes two types of cooling cylinders with water-spraying system without controlled water circulation or with guide spiral double shell cooling cylinders. The even cooling and the temperature tolerance of less than ± 2°C across the whole width is guaranteed through the precise execution of the water guidance system.

Similarly Oil heating spiral circulation cylinders are offered for Textile & Non Textile industries.

Diameter	– 400 mm to 800 mm
Working Width	– 1000 to 4000 mm
Hydraulic Test Pressure	– 3 Bar to 5 Bar
Working Pressure	– 1 Bar to 3 Bar
Inner Shell Thickness	– 5mm to 12mm (SS/MS)
Outer Shell Thicknes	– 2 mm to 4 mm
Surface Finish	– Polished/Teflon Coated/Hard Chrome Plated
Outer Shell	– SS304/SS316/Mild Steel

Size Cooking Vessel

Size Cooker is compatible to any grade or size and ensures low viscosity even with starch sizes. It is designed to ensure easy operation and low maintenance. The stainless steel 304/316 pressure vessel has glass wool insulation and is jacketed outside to prevent heat loss.

The Stainless Steel Multilayer Blade Stirrer is positively driven by high torque AC geared motor. Direct Steam inlet thro perforated stainless steel pipe. Size Material loading thro manhole on the top that has hinged door and eyebolts. An indirect heating facilitate the cooker to be used as a storage vessel if required.

Capacity – 1000 to 5000 Liters

Type – Open/ Pressurized

Heating – Direct/ Indirect

Size Storage Vessel

Stainless steel 304/316 storage Tank is provided with insulation from outside to prevent heat loss. SS stirrer work at a low speed and is driven by high torque AC Geared Motor on top of the vessel.

Capacity – 1000 to 5000 Liters

Heating – Direct / Indirect

Size Premixing Vessell

SS 304/316 mixing vessel is mainly used for homogenous mixture of size chemicals at ambient temperature. This stainless steel open vessel is provided with a high speed propeller stirrer which can be either clamped on to the rim of the kettle with swiveling arrangement or mounted vertically on the top of vessel. The position of propeller stirrer can be fixed high or low position to achieve best stirring results.

Capacity – 1000 to 2500 Litres

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