



The Southern India Mills' Association

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NEWS CLIPPINGS –10-02-2018

Apex cotton body lowers crop estimate by 2% to 367 lakh bales	Business Line http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/apex-cotton-body-noai-nolowers-nocotton-nocrop-estimate-by-2-to-367-lakh-bales/article22707356.ece
<p>Pest attacks on crop in Telangana, Maharashtra pulls down acreage</p> <p>The Cotton Association of India (CAI) has, in its latest estimate, lowered the crop size by 8 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) to 367 lakh bales against the earlier estimate of 375 lakh bales.</p> <p>For the 2017-18 season, beginning from October 1, 2017, the CAI reduced the crop estimate to 367 lakh bales citing severe infestation of cotton with pink bollworm.</p> <p>“In accordance with the advice of the scientists, farmers in several areas, particularly in Maharashtra and Telangana, have uprooted their cotton crop without waiting for further pickings,” the CAI said in a statement issued on Friday.</p> <p>The projected balance sheet drawn by the CAI estimated total cotton supply for the season at 417 lakh bales including an opening stock (or carryover stock) of 30 lakh bales at the beginning of the season and the imports, which the CAI estimated, at 20 lakh bales.</p> <p>The domestic consumption is pegged at 320 lakh bales, while exports for the season are seen at 55 lakh bales.</p> <p>The carryover stock at the end of this season on September 30, 2018 is estimated to be 42 lakh bales.</p> <p>Data from each cotton growing local State association put arrivals up to January 31, 2018 at 211 lakh bales (157.75 lakh bales).</p> <p>In December 2017, the CAI had estimated the cotton crop size at 375 lakh bales.</p>	

<p>New textile policy soon</p>	<p>The Hindu http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/new-textile-policy-soon/article22709979.ece</p>
<p>Ideas from stakeholders to be incorporated, says Principal Secretary</p> <p>A comprehensive road map on research activities will be a feature in the textile policy to be unveiled by the State Government soon, according to K. Phanindra Reddy, Principal Secretary (Textiles, Handlooms, Handicrafts and Khadi). “All ideas that came from various stakeholders will definitely be incorporated into the textile policy,” he told The Hindu on Friday. He was here to inaugurate the ‘Textile Research Conclave,’ organised by Tirupur Exporters Association, Indian Texpreneurs Federation, and NIFT-TEA Knitwear Institute with the support of Union Textiles Ministry.</p> <p>Mr. Reddy said that the government had started promoting technical textiles production in the State through a series of programmes. “The department is planning to hold a workshop on technical textiles to encourage young entrepreneurs take up technical textiles. The participants will be taken for visits,” he added.</p> <p>Tirupur Exporters Association president Raja Shanmugam said that the bringing together of research organisations and industrialists on a single platform would help in product diversification</p>	

<p>Dyeing units demolished</p>	<p>The Hindu http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/dyeing-units-demolished/article22710121.ece</p>
<p>A team of officials from various government departments demolished 50 dyeing units functioning illegally in Kumarapalayam on Thursday. These dyeing units were discharging untreated effluents into River Cauvey. Two special teams led by T. Jayalakshmi, District Environment Engineer, TNEB, Kumarapalayam, and Malaiyandi, flying squad engineer, TNEB, Erode, conducted surprise checks and demolished the units. Baskaran, RDO, Tiruchengode, and S. Shanmugam, DSP, monitored the operation.</p>	

Small spinners welcome RBI notification	The Hindu http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/small-spinners-welcome-rbi-notification/article22709958.ece
<p>Small-scale spinning mills have got relaxation in NPA classification from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following its recent circular that micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) registered under Goods and Services Tax will be classified as standard asset and not as Non-Performing Asset provided the unit meets specific stipulations. The RBI has said that banks and non-banking financial companies generally classify a loan account as NPA based on 90 days to 120 days delinquency norms. With implementation of GST, small entities have faced problems related to cash flow during the transition phase and were unable to meet the loan repayment obligations. To support these entities, the RBI has decided that MSMEs will be classified as standard asset and not NPA if they have registered with GST, the borrower account was standard as on August 31 last year, the aggregate exposure to the borrower does not exceed Rs. 25 crore, etc. S.K. Ranagarajan, president of the South India Spinners' Association, said in a release that the association had been seeking relaxation in NPA norms. Its representatives had met Ministers and RBI officials to seek moratorium to the small spinners. "This is a much-needed relief to the business units operating under the MSME category," he said.</p>	

Relief for knitwear entrepreneurs	The Hindu http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/relief-for-knitwear-entrepreneurs/article22709973.ece
<p>Loan borrowers in the knitwear sector here will get a huge relief as the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the non-performing assets (NPA) delinquency norms for those micro, small and medium enterprises registered under Goods and Services Tax. According to the new norms, the amount from the borrower overdue as on September 1, 2017, and payments from the borrower due between September 1, 2017 and January 31, 2018 are paid not later than 180 days from their respective original due dates, would be treated as standard assets in the books of the banks.</p> <p>"Even though the condition says that only those MSMEs registered under GST having an aggregate credit facility of less than Rs. 25 crore gets this relief, it is a big breather for many of the units in Tirupur knitwear cluster," said S. Dhananjayan, a chartered accountant. M. Velusami, vice-president of Tirupur Exporters Association, said that the apex bank's decision would help units in capital intensive clusters like Tirupur as the sector was going through a transition phase under GST and facing difficulties to meet repayment obligations to the banks.</p>	

India continues to remain towards the bottom of the Intellectual Property Index, ranking 44th among 50 nations and it needs more reforms to complement its policy, says a report

India has increased “substantially” its score in the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, ranking 44th among 50 nations, but it needs to take additional and meaningful reforms to complement its policy, the US Chambers of Commerce said in a report.

Despite improvement in the score, India continues to remain towards the bottom of the ladder. It now ranks 44 out of 50 countries. Last year, India ranked 43rd out of 45 countries in the Index.

“India’s overall score has increased substantially from 25% (8.75 out of 35) in the 5th edition of the Index to 30% (12.03 out of 40) in the 6th edition,” according to the annual report prepared by the Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce. India’s ranking, the report said, reflects a relatively strong performance in the new indicators as well as positive reform efforts on patentability of computer-implemented inventions (CIIs) and registration procedures for well-known marks.

The US tops the list with 37.98 points, followed by United Kingdom (37.97) and Sweden (37.03). The annual report notes that India in July 2017 issued ‘Guidelines on the Examination of Computer-Related Inventions’ which significantly improved the patentability environment for technological innovations. Additionally, the government created IP awareness workshops and technical training, programmes for enforcement agencies, implementing key deliverables of the National Intellectual Property (IP) Rights Policy.

“However, India’s score continues to suggest that additional, meaningful reforms are needed to complement the policy,” he report said. In what is otherwise a very challenging environment for IP rights holders, India has demonstrated a long-standing and clear commitment to increasing awareness of the importance of IP rights and respect for creators and innovators, it said. However, India has a long way to go, the report noted. Among key areas of weaknesses are limited framework for protection of life sciences IP; patentability requirements outside international standards; lengthy pre-grant opposition proceedings; previously used compulsory licensing for commercial and nonemergency situations; limited participation in international IP treaties and no participation in international PPH (Patent Prosecution Highway) tracks.

“For the first time, India has broken free of the bottom 10% of economies measured, and its score represents the largest percentage improvement of any country measured. This is further evidence of a country on the move,” said Patrick Kilbride, vice president of GIPC. “Several factors figure into the improved score. India passed

guidelines to strengthen the patentability environment for technological innovations, improved the protection of well-known marks, and initiated IP awareness and coordination programmes, thereby implementing some tenets of the 2016 National IPR Policy,” he said.

“However, additional, meaningful reforms are still needed to incentivize domestic innovation, attract foreign investors, and improve access to innovation,” Kilbride said. The report analyses the intellectual property (IP) climate in 50 world economies based on 40 unique indicators that benchmark activity critical to innovation development surrounding patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secrets protection.

Drop in yields, cotton output estimates lowered in region	Times of India https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/drop-in-yields-cotton-output-estimates-lowered-in-region/articleshow/62842559.cms
<p>The state agriculture department and trade bodies expect the cotton production to be lowered further by nearly 60,000 bales from the previous estimates of 10.97 lakh bales (1 bale=170kg) in Punjab for the 2017-18 crop year (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018). The latest estimation of production of cotton, which is Punjab's second biggest kharif (summer sown) crop after paddy including basmati, has been put at 10.37 lakh bales as on January 31.</p> <p>At the start of cotton procurement season in September 2017, cotton output estimates in Punjab were 12 lakh bales, which were revised in December to 10.97 lakh bales. Cotton had been sown over 3.82 lakh hectares in Punjab this season whereas in 2016, area under the fibre crop was 2.57 lakh hectares.</p> <p>In the 2016-17 crop year, Punjab had an output of 8.57 lakh bales of raw cotton with an average yield of 655 kg per acre. In the current season, the yield is expected to decrease to 550kg per acre. Till January 31, 2018, arrivals of 6.92 lakh bales of cotton were recorded in the markets of Punjab whereas in the corresponding period last year, arrivals were 5.91 lakh bales. Cotton output target has also been lowered in neighbouring Haryana and Rajasthan. Farm department and experts are citing deficient rainfall in July-August 2017 and less availability of canal water as the reasons for the drop in yield of cotton this season. Apart from getting lower yields, farmers are also impacted by weak rates of raw cotton. Currently, raw cotton is selling at Rs 5,100-5,200 per quintal, down from Rs 5,600-5,700 in the corresponding period last year.</p> <p>We were expecting the yield to remain around 650kg per acre. However, it's likely to drop to about 550kg per acre due to deficient rain and hot and humid weather conditions in July," said Sukhdev Singh, joint director of Punjab agriculture department. Union government agency Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has also lowered the estimates of cotton output in the region. CCI's Bathinda branch manager Brajesh Kasana said, "Earlier it was</p>	

expected that over 11 lakh bales will be produced in Punjab. However, going by the drop in yields, we expect arrivals at nearly 10.4 lakh bales." I J Dhuria, director (raw material) of leading textile manufacture Vardhman Textiles, said though cotton scene at the national level seemed good, the yield had come down in Punjab which might lower the total output. Farmer Krishan Singh of Bhagi Wander village in Bathinda, who has sown cotton in six acres, said "We are expected good yield like the previous year but it has gone down." Another farmer Gurdev Singh from Kot Shamir village said lower yields would lead to dip in their returns from the crop.