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NEWS CLIPPINGS –25-04-2018

Cotton prices likely to remain steady during June-October	**Money Control** https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/cotton-prices-likely-to-remain-steady-during-june-october-2556113.html

A review of cotton crop situation for the current year 2017-2018 (till September 2018), carried out by ICF directors here suggested that the monsoon would be a major deciding factor for cotton prices during the period.

Cotton prices are likely to remain steady during June-October 2018 due to very tight financial situation prevailing in the spinning sector and comfortable availability of quality cotton, according to the Indian Cotton Federation here.

A review of cotton crop situation for the current year 2017-2018 (till September 2018), carried out by ICF directors here suggested that the monsoon would be a major deciding factor for cotton prices during the period.

There was total supply of 433 lakh bales as on October one last year, including opening stock of 40 lakh bales, production of 375 lakh bales and imports of 18 lakh bales, ICF president J Thulasidharan said in a release today.

With mill and non-mill consumption estimated at 320 lakh bales and export of 69 bales, the total demand was 389 lakh bales, leaving a closing stock of 44 lakh bales, he said.

Weaving technology with tradition	**The Hindu** http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/weaving-technology-with-tradition/article23665266.ece

France-based scenographer makes carpets made of e-waste and natural materials

Computer circuits weaved together with wires interspersed with carpets made of natural materials hung inside the conference hall of the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP). Sophie Chandoutis, a scenographer from Lyon in France, who deftly prepared these installations made of e-waste collected in India, is now displaying her works at the 'E-Waste Weaving Exhibition' organised at the IFP in Puducherry.

Through her work, Ms.Chandoutis questions the technological obsolescence and the digital globalisation, bringing out the paradox of cultures.

During the inauguration of the exhibition, she said, "From th designing of software to the manufacture of our computers or mobile phones, Asia is the main exporter to Europe and the U.S. All the e-waste from Europe are dumped in India, China and Ghana. These countries are turning into computer cemeteries. This is one of the reasons why I chose to work in India, which is becoming a leader in software technology at the same time fiercely defending its local crafts and traditions."

She added that she wanted to weave a link between digital culture and the memory of these ancestral crafts based on natural fibre. She used threads of silk, straw and copper to weave natural fibres and interspersed them with punch-cards of Jacquard and printed circuit boards of IBM.

"I began this work a year ago. I planned to weave electronic waste found in India. This journey brought me to Puducherry. I met several craftsmen and discovered almost all the workshops that used the Jacquard looms from Lyon," she said.

IFP Director Fredric Landy stated that this artistic work was connected with the research work carried out at the institute. "We have programme on handicrafts which are part of heritage that needs to be protected. This exhibition is a reflection of the knowledge exchange that takes place between France and India," he said.

The exhibition will be held till May 2.

Textile exports dip 4% in FY18 to Rs 2.28 lakh cr	**Financial Express** https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/textile-exports-dip-4-in-fy18-to-rs-2-28-lakh-cr/1144481/

According to data provided by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (Citi), of the total commodities exports from India, the textile and apparel exports share has come down by a percentage point to 12% in fiscal 2018 from 13% in the previous fiscal.

New taxation regime, intense competitive pressures in the global market and uncertainty in the neighbouring markets, particularly in the Gulf region, have cast a shadow in the exports of textile and apparel, which saw a marked decline of 4% to Rs 2,27,902 crore in the just ended fiscal 2018 as compared to Rs 2,38,168 crore reported in the previous fiscal.

According to data provided by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (Citi), of the total commodities exports from India, the textile and apparel exports share has come down by a percentage point to 12% in fiscal 2018 from 13% in the previous fiscal.

While the textile exports declined marginally by 1% to end the fiscal 2018 at Rs 1,20,223 crore as compared to Rs 1,21,709 crore, and that of apparel exports saw a sharp drop of 8% to Rs 1,07,679 crore as against Rs 1,16,459 crore in the fiscal 2017, the Citi data said. In March 2018 alone, the apparel exports was down 19% to Rs 9,695 crore Rs 11,946 crore in the corresponding period.

Similarly, exports of cotton yarn, fabs, made-ups, handloom products together declined marginally to Rs 65,969 crore as against Rs 66,160 crore in fiscal 2017. Made-made yarn, fabs, made-ups grew 2% to Rs 31,089 crore (Rs 30,559 crore earlier) and that of handicrafts (excluding handmade carpet) declined by 9% to Rs crore in fiscal 2018 as Rs 12,917 crore in the fiscal 2017, the Citi data said further.

In US dollar terms, the textile and apparel exports for fiscal 2018 almost saw a flat growth or 0.4% decline to $35.364

billion as compared to $35.514 billion in fiscal 2017. Here too, the textile exports grew 3% to $18.65 billion ($18.146 billion earlier) and that of apparel exports declined by 4% to $16.714 billion ($17.368 billion), the data said.

During the fiscal 2018, imports of textile yarn, fabric, made-ups grew 17% to Rs 11,838 crore (Rs 10,079 crore earlier) and in dollar terms imports grew 22% to $1.836 billion ($1.502 billion). Some of the reasons for decline in exports were owing to transition to the new taxation regime and intense competition from neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Taiwan, Indonesia as well lack of FTAs with major importers.

The decline has been primarily driven by the sharp fall in exports to the UAE market, which had emerged as one of the prominent apparel export destinations for India, with its share increasing to 23% in FY17 from 12% in FY14.

Particularly for the ten-month period ending June 2017, India's apparel exports to UAE had grown at a sharp pace (56% year-on-year). Thereafter, apparel exports to the UAE have fallen at an equally fast pace, by as much as 45% since June 2017. Excluding the trade with the UAE, India's apparel exports are estimated to have stood 3-4% higher in the ten months to FY18, the Icra analysis pointed out.

Samarth scheme launched to train 10L youths in textile sector	**Times of India** https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/samarth-scheme-launched-to-train-10l-youths-in-textile-sector/articleshow/63902216.cms

With an objective to develop skills in the youths to help them get gainful and sustainable employment in textile sector, the ministry of textiles launched 'Samarth' scheme for them in the organized and traditional textile clusters on Tuesday.

The scheme was launched following the approval of cabinet committee on economic affairs which recently met under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Synthetic and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) chairman Narain Agarwal said, "The Samarth scheme aims at skilling nearly 10 lakh young Indians in organized plus traditional textile sectors over a period of three years from 2017 to 2020."

Agarwal stated that the Centre has earmarked an outlay of Rs 1,300 crore covering the entire textile value chain, except spinning and weaving. The objective of achieving $300 billion exports in the textile sector by 2025 will be realized once 10 lakh skilled youths will be employed in the textile sector.

The scheme will have National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant training courses with funding norms as per the common norms notified by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

According to Agarwal, the textile committee as resource support agency (RSE) will perform various functions to identify and finalize skill development needs, standardize and develop the course content, specify the training centre's infrastructure, standardize the admission assessment certification and accreditation processes, empanel assessment agencies, conduct training of trainers and training of assessors etc. The scheme also will ensure 70 per cent placement of successful trainees.

“The scheme will be using biometric processes in selection of candidates to be trained, thus mandating the necessity of having an ‘Aadhaar card’ and an attendance system that will be integrated with a centralized MIS to ensure real-time attendance of all involved,” Agarwal added.

Finance Ministry To Move To Cash Basis Accounting For GST Collection	**Bloomber Quint** https://www.bloombergquint.com/gst/2018/04/24/finance-ministry-to-move-to-cash-basis-accounting-for-gst-collection

In a bid to bridge the lag in actual revenue accrual, the finance ministry will from this fiscal shift to cash basis accounting for the Goods and Services Tax where monthly collections will be reported on the first working day of the following month.

So far, monthly tax returns under GST, which has amalgamated 17 central and state taxes into one, were allowed to be filed by the 20th of the following month and revenues collected were reported on 26th – almost a month-long lag between collections and their reporting. This had led to a situation wherein the government was able to collect tax revenue for only 11 months in the first year of GST rollout.

To overcome this, GST collections for the month of April will be reported on actual basis on May 1, officials said.

Technically, GST collections for March should have been reported this week. But to enable a switchover to the cash-basis accounting, only the Integrated-GST – which is levied on inter-state movement of goods as well as imports – will be shown in the March tax collection. This amount is about Rs 20,000 crore, an official said.

The March collection of Central GST and State GST would be reflected in April data which would be made public on May 1, he said.

So, the April numbers, which will be released on May 1, would be highly inflated as it would contain the collections made in April as well as CGST and SGST collections of March. From May onwards, the monthly collections of CGST, IGST and SGST would be reported on June 1.

"Moving to cash basis accounting and reporting the amount of tax received in a particular month immediately after the month end will reflect better accounting position for the GST collections," the official told PTI.

The official said the finance ministry will in a day or two come out with the month-wise GST collection data for the entire 2017-18 fiscal and for the month of March it will only account for IGST revenues of about Rs 20,000 crore collected during the month.

Currently, summary returns GSTR-3B for a particular month is filed by the 20th day of the subsequent month.

"The April GST collections could see a spike over the previous months as along with IGST collections for the same month, and CGST and SGST collections for March, there would be some returns which would filed in the month well in time. The GST proceeds would stabilise from the second month onwards," the official said.

Since the government had in 2017-18 Budget accounted for only eight months (July-February) revenue, shifting to cash basis accounting will be easier for computing government revenues.

As per official data, GST collection for February was Rs 85,174 crore, while the collection in January was Rs 86,318 crore. In December and November, GST collections were Rs 88,929 crore and Rs 83,716 crore respectively.

TS tops in GST collection	**The Hindu** http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/ts-tops-in-gst-collection/article23662164.ece

The State has achieved another distinction as number one in the country in terms of tax collection under the Goods and Services Tax regime.

The State had successfully brought down the revenue gap in GST collections to 2.4% by the end of the financial year 2018 from 27.8% witnessed during July 2017, the month when the GST regime was put in place.

Union Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia addressed a letter to the State government, congratulating it on the achievement. The Union official hoped that the State would soon become revenue-surplus from the present revenue-deficit status.

Mr. Adhia said the performance of GST collection was improving with some ups and downs. The overall revenue gap in the country which was 28.3% in July came down to 17.9% in March. There have been spikes in the revenue gaps in November, December and February. It was important to bring down the revenue gap figure steadily with better compliance and supervision, he said.

Seed testing facilities in India are fairly good: ISTA secretary-general	**The Hindu** http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/seed-testing-facilities-in-india-are-fairly-good-ista-secretary-general/article23665812.ece

‘Agency did not cancel any seed testing lab’s licence’

The seed testing facilities in India are by and large fair and following the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) guidelines and the agency did not cancel any seed testing lab's licence in the country in the recent past, secretary general of ISTA Andreas Wais said here on Tuesday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* after an interaction with the Telangana government officials and seed companies representatives on the arrangements for the International Seed Congress slated here in June-July next year, Mr. Wais said there was need to bring uniformity in seed testing by standardising the methods of seed sampling and application of procedures following the ISTA guidelines.

“Uniformity in seed testing can be brought about by standardising methodologies, assessing the member laboratories' performance, exchange of scientific research and standardisation of reporting of seed testing results”, the ISTA secretary general said adding that the international congress scheduled for the next year here would help in that direction. On being asked whether the ISTA has an established system to test the genetically modified organisms (GMO), particularly in the backdrop of proliferation of unapproved genetically modified (GM) traits in cotton crop in India during the last few years, Mr. Wais said they had no mechanism but have plans to widely discuss the issue of testing prevalence of GM traits in non-GM varieties of seed at the next year's congress.

Earlier, Mr. Wais and ISTA in-charge for events, membership and documentation, Olga Stoeckli, interacted with the State government officials including Principal Secretary (Agriculture) C. Parthasarathi, Commissioner of Agriculture M. Jaganmohan and Director of Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority K. Keshavulu, who is also a member of the executive committee of ISTA, on the issue of venue, participation fee and other preparations for the next year's congress.

Representatives of the seed industry including M. Prabhkar Rao (Nuziveedu Seeds), G.V. Bhaskar Rao (Kaveri Seeds), R. Rajendran (Rasi Seeds) stressed the need for developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for seed testing in India since the results of testing of same seed lots by different labs were varying. They also suggested developing the advanced seed testing methods to identify GMOs in non-GM seed.

The ISTA team is likely to meet Union Agriculture Secretary S.K. Pattanayak and other officials in the Ministry in Delhi on April 26.

India may impose anti-dumping duty of up to $92 a tonne on chemical import from 4 nations	**Hindustan Times** https://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/india-may-impose-anti-dumping-duty-of-up-to-92-a-tonne-on-chemical-import-from-4-nations/story-eoOi2nnubsPMnIZwZD6QZK.html

The duty, if imposed, will protect domestic players from cheap imports of ‘saturated fatty alcohols’ from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

India is likely to impose anti-dumping duty of up to $ 92.23 per tonne, on import of a chemical used in pharmaceutical and agriculture sectors from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia, following a DGAD probe.

The duty, if imposed, will protect domestic players from cheap imports of ‘saturated fatty alcohols’ from these four nations.

The chemical is mainly used in sectors like personal care, home care, pharmaceutical, agriculture related end applications. It is also used in processing of articles of leather, textile, fur, paper, petroleum products and rubber items.

The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) - the investigating arm of the commerce ministry - initiated a probe into the alleged dumping of the chemical on a complaint from the domestic industry.

The probe concluded that the product was exported to India from these nations “below its associated normal value, thus, resulting in dumping of the product,” DGAD said in a notification. It also said some of the imports were causing material injury to the domestic industry.

“The authority recommends imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty equal to the lesser of the margin of dumping and the margin of injury, so as to remove the injury to the domestic industry," it said.

Anti-dumping duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

Imposing such a duty is permissible under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime. Both India and China are members of the Geneva-based trade body.

VVF (India) Ltd had filed the application for initiating the anti-dumping investigation, concerning imports of saturated fatty alcohols.

The DGAD has recommended the duty in the range of $92.23-7.10 per tonne.The ministry of finance takes the final call to impose these duties.

Certain companies from the four countries are entering the Indian market at dumped prices, and such imports are causing injury to the similar product being produced by the domestic industry.

Reinvent India's trade pattern	**Millennium Post** http://www.millenniumpost.in/opinion/reinvent-indias-trade-pattern-296121

The US-China trade war has taken a new shape after Trump administration evinced interests for re-joining the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership). Seemed to have been flattened by Chinese bellicose and domestic lobby by US farmers, Trump administration is likely to shift pressure on China by joining TPP. Joining TPP will help USA unleash bigger pressure on China, jointly with other member countries of the region, who are incidentally the major trading partners of China.

Originally, TPP was a 12 nations Pacific Rim trade block, comprising USA, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. Together the block accounts for 40 per cent of global trade. China is an export-based economy. Trade accounts for 37 per cent of its GDP. China depends substantially on TPP for its exports, which account for 49 per cent of China's global trade. The Trump's administration warning by imposing high tariffs on steel and aluminum and bringing US $100 billion worth of goods in the high tariff net seemed to have little impact on China's dumping goods in USA. China fumed to retaliate on the same velocity, arguing that its steel export accounted for barely 1.1 percent of USA's total steel import in 2017.

To sully the Chinese obstinacy, Trump asked his administration to reinvent the scope for re-joining TPP, if the terms are renegotiated. Seemingly, he thought that 8 member countries of TPP (out of 12 members), who are largely dependent on imports from China and bear the brunt of large trade deficit with China, will vie for USA's support to dampen the Chinese exports.

The 8 member countries of TPP, accounting for the concentration of China's exports, are USA, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Mexico, and Canada. They accounted for 97 per cent of China's exports to TPP in 2015. China's substantial exports to these countries created big trade deficits of these countries.

Against these backdrops, can USA bring a major jolt to China after rejoining TPP? Can it play a lead role for trade diversion? Presumably, it can dampen China's exports to these countries by supplanting after reaping the benefits of tariff concessions within the trade block.

It was observed that the major component of China's basket of exports to these 8 member countries were electric and mechanical machinery and equipment. Nearly one-fourth of Chinese exports to Japan relate to electrical machineries and equipment. In case of Vietnam, the share was 35 percent in 2015.

This means that to wean away the Chinese predominance in these countries, USA has to supplant Chinese exports of electrical and mechanical machinery by offering competitive pricing after reaping the benefits of low or no tariff in the region.

Besides tariff advantages, TPP provides exemption from non-tariff barriers to its member countries, which are imposed in case of imports from China. USA and Canada imposed TBT (technical barriers to trade) to several home electrical appliances imported from China. USA also imposes TBTs on children products (such as toys) imported from China. Textile products from China are subject to TBT by Canada. Japan imposes technical barriers on imports of furniture and construction machineries from China.

TPP, without USA, would have unleashed more space for China to flex its muscle. Now, with USA rejoining, TPP will impart a big burden on China's exports. This is because USA is the main export destination for some TPP member countries, which are diagonally major importers of Chinese goods. For example, USA is the main export destination for Japan, Vietnam and Singapore, accounting for 20, 19 and 6 percent of their exports respectively. And USA, Japan, Vietnam and Singapore are among the top ten importers of Chinese goods. Together, they accounted for 29.5 percent of Chinese exports in 2016. This means that in the export-import balancing, USA has much power to influence these countries to buy more from USA.

Against this backdrop, it is likely that USA will exert more pressures on these four nations in TPP region to reduce their imports from China and buy American goods.

India is not a member of TPP. Threats of adverse impact loomed large as four TPP members, viz, USA, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam, are the major trading partners of India. They account for one-fifth of India's global export. Given this, analysts raised an alarm on trade diversion. They feared that the rise in intra-regional trade in TPP due to tariff preferential and curbing the non-tariff barriers would squeeze India's exports to these countries.

The biggest trade diversion feared for India's exports was textile products. Textile is the single major item of India's export in its total exports to the world. It accounts for 10-11 percent of India's world export. USA alone accounts for 40 percent of India's total export of textiles. With the duty preferences granted by USA to TPP members, concerns were raised on India's export of textiles to USA. Vietnam would have been the main obstacle to India's export of textile to USA. Vietnam is the second biggest exporter of readymade garments to USA (after China). It accounts for 12 percent of USA imports of garment. The surge in Vietnam competitiveness due to duty preference will deter India's export of garments to USA, trade analysts feared.

But, there is a catch. In TPP, the duty preference for textile trade is governed by yarn forward rule. Under the rule, it is mandatory for the TPP members exporting textiles to procure yarn, fabric and other inputs from any or combination of TPP partner countries. At present, Vietnam procures yarn and fabrics mainly from China. Given the existing structure of logistics and low-cost procurement of yarn and fabrics from China versus TPP rules, it will not be an easy task for the Vietnamese exporters to divert procurement from China to domestic market or to any other TPP member countries. Further, none of the TPP members is globally known for manufacturers of yarn and fabrics.

Nevertheless, in the cross-fire of US-China trade war and USA returning to TPP, India should have a relook at its trade pattern. India is already under US lens for its trade surplus with USA. It has already alleged that India's export subsidies as non-compliant to WTO after achieving the threshold of per capita income of US $ 1000 per annum.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 25, 1968 **Textile mills to curtail output**	**The Hindu** http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/textile-mills-to-curtail-output/article23662145.ece

With the crisis in the textile industry becoming more acute on account of the heavy accumulation of stocks, the Southern India Mill-owners' Association to-day [April 24] directed its 175 member-mills in Madras, Kerala, Mysore, Andhra and Pondicherry to curtail their production by 33-1/3 per cent "until the position improves". The member-mills will forthwith suspend production for two days in a week but will pay lay-off wages to their workers for the period of closure. The general body of the Association which met here [Coimbatore] to-day [April 24] under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. Sundaram, resolved also to close the mills for a day on April 27 as a token of protest against the high incidence of taxation imposed by the Union Government. The Association requested the Indian Cotton Mills Federation to press the Government of India to enact legislation for curtailment of yarn and cloth production on an all India basis to avoid regional imbalance. It decided to request the Reserve Bank of India to liberalise credit facilities for textile mills as well as yarn trade. The Association urged the Madras Government to license immediately the installation of 12,000 power looms allotted to this State to facilitate the consumption of yarn in the State to a great extent. The Association requested the Union Government to ban the installation of additional spindles for the present. Mr. K. Sundaram, Chairman of the SIMA, told Pressmen that the object of the two-day closure in a week was to keep the level of production at 60,000 bales a month which was considered "normal stocking". The unsold and physical stocks with the member-mills which were of the order of 35,000 bales and 55,500 bales respectively at the end of February this year had mounted to 51,500 bales and 75,800 bales of 180 kg. each respectively on April 15. The value of the physical stock on hand to-day [April 24] was estimated at 12.3 crores. Asked how long he expected the two-day-a-week closure to last, Mr. Sundaram replied: "It all depends on how the market reacts."

Beedi, apparel-making are top activities of women-run units in informal sector	**Business Line** https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/macro-economy/beedi-apparel-making-are-top-activities-of-women-run-units-in-informal-sector/article23661414.ece

Tina Edwin

Women owned a little over 1.23 crore units in India's informal sector but three-quarters of such units were engaged in retail trade or in making either garments, tobacco products or textiles.

Almost all these units were tiny enterprises and were more likely to be run from home and did not hire any workers. A significant number of these units depended on work given out on contract basis.

Women-run enterprises accounted for about one-fifth of the estimated 6.3 crore units in the informal sector, a detailed report of the National Sample Survey Organisation on India's informal sectors, excluding agriculture and construction units titled Operational Characteristics of Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises (Excluding Construction) in India released recently show. The survey was carried out between July 2015 and June 2016.

Manufacturing units

Significantly, businesses run by women were mostly concentrated in the manufacturing sector and their presence in services other than trade was tiny. Women owned 45 per cent of the units in manufacturing but just 8.7 per cent of the units engaged in trade and 7.4 per cent of the units in services. In all, there were 1.97 crore units in manufacturing, 2.3 crore units in trade and 2.07 crore units in services in the informal sector.

Of the 1.23 crore units owned by women, 33.32 lakh or 27 per cent were engaged in manufacturing garments, which essentially means they were running small tailoring units.

Another 28.56 lakh units or 23.1 per cent were engaged in making tobacco products and 13.49 lakh units or 10.9 per cent units were engaged in making textiles. Retail trade accounted for 19.62 lakh units or 16 per cent of the units owned by women. Women-run enterprises also had significant presence in education, manufacture of food products and wood-based products as well as in food service, NSSO data showed.

The NSSO report also revealed women-run enterprises dominated certain activities. For instance, manufacture of tobacco products. Of the 32.75 lakh units making tobacco products, 87.2 per cent were owned by women. This is so because tobacco making comprise beedi rolling, an activity that is mostly done by women in the few States.

Chemicals-making

Another activity with significant presence of women-run enterprise include the relatively small category manufacturing chemicals and chemical products. Of the 1.73 lakh units, 68 per cent were owned by women.

Similarly, in manufacture of paper and paper products, women-run enterprises accounted for 62.9 per cent of the 1.07 lakh units. In manufacture of apparels, women-run enterprise accounted for 59.4 per cent of the 56.10 lakh units and in manufacture of textiles, women accounted for 51.8 per cent of the 26.03 lakh units.

Retail trade

In trade, women presence was mostly seen in retail trade but proportion of enterprises run by them was less than a tenth of all such enterprises — only 9.8 per cent of the two crore units. Retail trade is the largest activity category in the informal sector — almost every third enterprise was engaged in retail trade, which includes small kirana stores selling daily necessities.

The report also showed that States such as Telangana and West Bengal had relatively higher proportion of women-run enterprises compared to many other States. Over 37 per cent of the enterprise in Telangana and early 33 per cent of those in West Bengal were run by women.

IFAI Announces Agreement With BCH In India	Textile World http://www.textileworld.com/textile-world/nonwovens-technical-textiles/2018/04/ifai-announces-agreement-with-bch-in-india/

The Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI) is pleased to announce an agreement with Business Co-ordination House (BCH) to provide representation of IFAI in India.

"We believe BCH is uniquely positioned to help IFAI expand the opportunities for our organization with the emerging Indian market for technical textiles." Said Mary Hennessy, President and CEO of IFAI. "One of the primary benefits IFAI members seek is the opportunity to network and collaborate with others in the industry. This strategic relationship will expand those possibilities for our members."

"IFAI can not only provide an open door to the Indian companies who are reciprocally seeking active partnerships overseas in the field of technical textiles but can also be an active answer to the information and knowledge seeking pattern of the Indian industry." Said Samir Gupta, Managing Director of BCH.

Bangladesh: Garment makers seek full waiver of source tax	The Daily Star https://www.thedailystar.net/business/garment-makers-seek-full-waiver-source-tax-1567387

Garment makers, the country's main export earners, yesterday sought full waiver of source tax on export receipts for three years as a helping hand as they look to hit $50 billion in shipments by 2021.

At present, the tax authority collects 0.70 percent tax on total export proceeds from major export items, including garment.

The amount of source tax collection from apparel shipment would not be more than Tk 2,000-2,500 crore on export receipts of $30 billion, said Siddiqur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

"This is not a big amount," he said in a meeting with high officials of the National Board of Revenue ahead of formulation of tax measures for fiscal 2018-19.

The government plans to frame a budget of more than Tk 400,000 crore for the next fiscal year. There would be no big impact if the source tax is not collected from garment exporters considering the sector's contribution to direct and indirect job creation, he added.

o, please waive the tax," he added.

The plea from garment exporters comes at a time when apparel shipments are on the rise.

Garment shipments rose 9 percent year-on-year to $22.83 billion in the first nine months of the fiscal year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.

The tax collector does not maintain sector-wise corporate tax collection data.

Yet, three taxmen said source tax collected from export proceeds of garments is roughly the amount of income tax the government gets from the apparel sector.

The apparel makers enjoy a reduced corporate tax rate of 12 percent.

“And many firms submit income tax returns in a way that their total tax does not exceed the source tax collected from export proceeds,” said a senior official of the NBR seeking to remain unnamed. The BGMEA president also demanded a reduction of corporate tax to 10 percent for all exporters. At the meeting, cloth merchants and some apparel makers got into an argument on the misuse of the bonded warehouse privilege.

The cloth merchants said a section of garment exporters, including non-existent firms, are importing fabrics duty-free and are selling them in the domestic market. “This hurts importers and producers who make cloth for the domestic market,” said Md Shamsul Alam of the Bangladesh Cloth Merchant Association.

But the BGMEA president said the leaked items are bought by cloth merchants. The domestic weaving industry is suffering for the leakage of goods from bonded warehouses and the smuggling through borders, said the Bangladesh Specialised Textiles Mills and Powerloom Industries Association. In response, Rahman said the BGMEA would examine the status of bonded warehouse licence-holding firms in the apparel sector and requested the revenue board to cancel the licences of non-existent firms to prevent misuse. The Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association demanded fixation of tax at 0.50 percent only on cutting and making instead of the source tax on export proceeds.

The Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh called for a reduction of tax on technical assistance and royalty fees. It also demanded duty-free benefit for importing fire and electrical items to ensure fire safety at factories. NBR Chairman Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the board would try to provide the same benefit to all exporters to encourage shipment in both volume and value.