



The Southern India Mills' Association

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NEWS CLIPPINGS –05-05-2018

**SIMA to come out with code of conduct
for employment of migrant workers**

The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/sima-to-come-out-with-code-of-conduct-for-employment-of-migrant-workers/article23778840.ece>

The Southern India Mills' Association, with textile mills in south India as its members, plans to come out with a code of conduct shortly on employment of migrant workers.

The association chairman P. Nataraj has said in a press release that textile mills in Coimbatore, Tirupur, and Dindigul have 30 % to 90 % of their workforce from other States.

The numbers are increasing steadily. However, the mills face challenges in terms of getting the right workers, training, and retaining them. The code of conduct will give broad guidelines on employing migrant workers and is a pro-active measure to make the system successful.

The association proposes to sign an agreement shortly with the British Standard Institute for this.

Further, the placement cell of the association decided to go in for direct recruitment of workers from various States for its member mills.

It had written to many States and the Government of Tripura responded. It came forward to support the association for organising a job fair and recruiting workers.

A job camp was held at Agartala on April 25 and 26 and 4,000 unemployed youth from different parts of Tripura took part.

This included women and the disabled too. Seven textile mills from Tamil Nadu took part and recruited 1,635 workers. Of these, 264 are women.

These candidates will be trained for at least 300 to 400 hours at the mills and when they are employed as apprentices they will be paid the minimum wages prescribed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

GST Council approves single form for filing of returns

The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/gst-council-approves-single-form-for-filing-of-returns/article23778466.ece>

GST Network to become 100% govt. enterprise; Ministers to study cess on sugar

The Goods and Services Tax Council on Friday decided to convert the GST Network into a 100% government enterprise, and implement a single form for GST filing from the current three.

At its 27th meeting, the Council also decided to create a Group of Ministers to review the plan for imposition of a cess on sugar. The cess was meant to subsidise sugarcane farmers as their production cost is much higher than the selling price.

Returns filing reconciled

The Council has also decided to create another GoM to consider implementation of a 2% incentive for digital transactions. "There has been a discussion over the last several months on one method of return filing that Nandan Nilekani had suggested and another that the officials from the State governments had suggested," Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said at a press conference after the video-conference meeting. "The Sushil Modi Group of Ministers has found a reconciliation between the two."

Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said the Council approved a single, monthly return form that would become applicable in six months. The current system of filing the GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B forms would continue till then. "After six months, there will be a single monthly return for everybody, except composition dealers and those who file returns with zero transactions," he said. "They can file quarterly returns." After this, for six more months, businesses will be able to avail provisional credit in the new form, even if their sellers have not uploaded their sales invoices.

"During these six months, the GST Network will continuously feed the dealer data about what is the gap between what he is claiming as provisional credit and what is the actual amount he should be getting based on sellers' invoices," he said.

Suresh Prabhu bats for textile sector to boost manufacturing growth

Money Control

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/suresh-prabhu-bats-for-textile-sector-to-boost-manufacturing-growth-2563147.html>

Prabhu said he is holding talks with various countries to explore new markets for Indian fabrics, garments and apparels in order to boost exports, as he said the industry is working in 'sub-optimal' level for its over-dependence on the European Union and the US for exports.

Union commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu today stressed on the need to promote the textile industry to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, as he claimed that the sector contributes only 16 percent to the country's GDP at present.

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apparels in order to boost exports, as he said the industry is working in 'sub-optimal' level for its over-dependence on the European Union and the US for exports.

"Contribution of manufacturing sector is only 16 percent to our economy. It is also a fact that the textile sector is a major player in that contribution. But, when only 16 percent of our GDP comes from manufacturing, it is not enough for a sustainable economy. Thus, it is necessary to scale up that contribution," said Prabhu.

He was speaking here today at the inaugural ceremony of the three-day 'Farm to Fashion - Indian Textile Global Summit 2018', organised by the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) as well as Maskati Cloth Market Mahajan.

GST Council: New returns system, fully state-run GSTN get nod

Financial Express

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/gst-council-new-returns-system-fully-state-run-gstn-get-nod/1156415/>

Current system to stay for six months, the next half-year will see system of provisional credits.

The Goods and Services Tax Council on Friday approved a new comprehensive return-generation system and full government ownership of GST Network (GSTN) — the IT backbone for GST — while referring a proposal to impose a cess on sugar and an incentive scheme for digital transactions to two separate groups of ministers (GoMs) for further deliberations.

As reported by FE earlier, despite the council's nod, the new returns system can be implemented fully only after a year. The system will allow taxpayers to just upload invoice-wise details of sales while the system will generate the returns. The IT system will also calculate the tax liability and input tax credit (ITC) availability on behalf of the assessee and provide for a semi-automatic reversal of credits.

For the next six months, finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia said, taxpayers will continue to file summary return GSTR-3B and GSTR-1 (outward supply details). After that, he said, the new system will be put in place but assesseees will be allowed to claim provisional input tax credit for a period six months, which means a taxpayer can seek the credit even when the supporting invoices aren't uploaded by the seller.

During this (provisional credit) phase, a dealer will be constantly fed with information about the gap between credit available to him as per invoices uploaded by the sellers and the provisional credit claimed. In the next phase, the system will not allow provisional credit claim as ITC would be available only on the basis of invoices uploaded by the sellers, Adhia added.

However, the buyer will be made responsible for credit claimed on purchases for which the supplier has defaulted in tax payments. "We will use legal methods to recover tax from the seller but in circumstance where its not possible, reversal of credit from the buyer will also be an option," the finance secretary said.

Earlier, a group of ministers headed by Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Modi had recommended the returns model, by combining the features of two other models, including one mooted by Infosys non-executive chairman Nandan Nilekani.

Separately, citing the 'state functions' performed by GSTN, the council approved a proposal for the Centre and states to jointly (and equally) acquire the entire 51% of equity held by the non-governmental institutions in GSTN amounting to Rs 5.1 crore. The GSTN board will initiate the process for acquisition soon. Currently, the Centre and states jointly own 49% in GSTN (24.5% each), while the rest is held by five other entities, including LIC Housing Finance, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank. Finance minister Arun Jaitley said that the state governments have GSTN stakes on a pro rata basis depending on their GST revenue profile.

However, to ensure that GSTN continues to be nimble-footed like a private company, the council allowed it to continue with the existing staff at existing terms and conditions for a period of up to five years. The GSTN board will also retain the flexibility of hiring people through contract on the terms and conditions similar to those used by GSTN till now while hiring regular employees, the minister said.

Sachin Menon, partner and head, indirect tax, KPMG in India, said: "Converting GSTN into a 100% government company is welcome. I hope it will not affect its functional efficiency and ability to take quick and proactive decisions to address the tax payers' concerns."

On the issue of promoting digital transactions, Jaitley said that majority of the council members supported the proposal but some members suggested that a negative list of items should be created for the same. Subsequently, the council decided to defer the matter to a GoM (of state ministers) for recommending solutions.

The proposal in its current form would provide concession of 2% (1% each from central GST and state GST) on the GST rate — where the rate is more than 3% on business-to-consumers supplies if the payment is made through cheque or other digital mode. However, the concession would have a ceiling of Rs 100 per transaction.

The council constituted a second GoM on the issue of imposition of cess on sugar to help mills clear cane dues owed to farmers. The proposal was to create a fund from the cess proceeds to finance the gap between the cane price mills can pay to farmers in accordance with a revenue-sharing formula recommended by the Rangarajan committee and the benchmark rate — fair and remunerative price (FRP) — fixed by the central government. Jaitley said that council discussed whether such contingencies could be addressed through such imposts, tax rate hikes or alternative systems of revenue generation. Only Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were in favour of the cess move as the it wouldn't benefit other states, West Bengal finance minister Amit Mitra said. "The decision of sugar cess has been deferred for now, it would be ideal if it is not introduced given it was abolished when GST came in and GST was expected to subsume all such levies. If there is need for revenue augmentation, it can be done by increasing the GST rate rather than distorting the overall structure," said Pratik Jain, partner and leader, indirect tax, PwC India. MS Mani, senior director, Deloitte India, said: "The staggered introduction of the new returns would enable businesses to prepare for the same and make changes to their systems; businesses are relieved that they would no longer be penalised for their vendors omissions. Simplicity of the new returns would be key to its successful adoption by businesses as past experience with complicated forms and processes indicates that complexity reduces compliance."

<p>Uttam demands financial assistance for rain-hit farmers</p>	<p>The Hans India http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Telangana/2018-05-04/Uttam-demands-financial-assistance-for-rain-hit-farmers/378827</p>
<p>Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday demanded that the State Government extend immediate financial assistance to farmers who were hit due to unseasonal rains that lashed various parts of Telangana.</p> <p>Uttam Kumar Reddy said lakhs of quintals of paddy, maize and other farm produce which were brought to market yards for sale has been damaged causing heavy loss of crores of rupees. Similarly, farmers have suffered extensive damage due to loss of standing crops in many parts of the State. Besides paddy, maize, cotton and chilli, mango crop suffered the most. Vegetable crops were also damaged due to sudden heavy downpour. He demanded that the State Government conduct enumeration of losses by sending teams of officials to affected regions so as to seek Central relief. However, he said the State Government should pay immediate compensation to the affected farmers.</p> <p>The TPCC Chief pointed out that this was the third time this summer that farmers in many parts of Telangana had suffered crop losses due to unseasonal rains. Stating that at least 10 people have been killed in rain-related incidents so far, he demanded that ex-gratia be paid to the families of victims.</p> <p>Uttam Kumar Reddy also directed the Congress cadre to visit the affected areas and meet the victims to extend all necessary help.</p>	

<p>TS hailed for blocking entry of unapproved cotton into markets</p>	<p>Telangana Today https://telanganatoday.com/ts-hailed-for-blocking-entry-of-unapproved-cotton-into-markets</p>
<p>The Central Committee on assessment and investigation of spread of unapproved BG-3 cotton trait hailed Telangana government's efforts to curb its entry into the market through various methods, including constitution of a special task force.</p> <p>Speaking to Telangana Today from New Delhi, Seed Certification Agency Director Dr K Keshavulu said the committee highlighted the importance of taking action against widespread cultivation of unapproved BG-3 cotton in the country. He said the State government identified the entry of the unapproved trait and alerted the Central government and other States.</p> <p>Keshavulu said the committee directed all States to take stringent measures to destroy BG-3 in fields, stock points and in other places. He said based on the directions of Principal Secretary (Agriculture) C Parthasarathi, a detailed report on BG-3 cotton and its ecological impact was submitted to the Central government, which became a guiding factor for the committee to take decisions.</p> <p>He said the task force constituted by Telangana was conducting raids on stock points, fields and shops across the State and seized BG-3 cotton, apart from registering cases.</p>	

Tanzania: Cotton Indicative Price Slightly Down	All Africa http://allafrica.com/stories/201805040215.html
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INDICATIVE prices for cotton for the 2018/19 harvest season will be 1,100/- per kilogramme, slightly down from 1,200/- of the previous season due to global decline of cotton price, the government has announced.

Launching the new cotton harvest season in Igunga District, Tabora Region yesterday, the Minister for Agriculture, Dr Charles Tizeba, said there would be a slight decline in prices this season due to low prices of the crop in the world market.

"Cotton prices in the global market are low and thus in the 2018/19 season the price will be 1,100/- per kilogramme," he said, adding that most of the cotton sold to the world market was raw, thus fetching very low prices. "It is from this backdrop that the government is emphasizing industrial development to ensure that all the cotton produced in the country is consumed locally.

" The minister said the government would pay 30bn/- debt owed by farmers from purchase of insecticides and announced in the 2019/20 cotton season, farmers will be given for free cotton seeds, insecticides and ropes for planting cotton.

Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) Director General, Marco Mtunga, said cotton production in this season has increased by 400 per cent to 600,000 tonnes compared to 132,000 tonnes last year. "Due to increased cotton production, it

should be ensured that farmers get reliable markets to sell all the cotton produced," he said.

He said also that land used for cotton production increased to 3 million hectares from 650,000 hectares with 26,500 tonnes of cotton seeds used.

He said all the cotton this season will be bought through the Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS). All the regional commissioners, district commissioners, co-operative societies and registrar of cooperatives should ensure that farmers are paid accordingly.

He said all the farmers' payments should be paid through bank accounts within three days after selling their cotton to the cooperative societies and all buyers are supposed to buy from cooperative societies only.

Cotton is being produced in 17 regions including Mwanza, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Geita, Mara, Kagera, Tabora, Singida, Kigoma, Katavi, Dodoma, Morogoro, Coast, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Iringa.

New Alliance seeks global Chinese textile engagement

Eco Textile

<https://www.ecotextile.com/2018050423462/materials-production-news/new-alliance-seeks-global-chinese-textile-engagement.html>

BEIJING – A recently-established Chinese non-profit organisation has set out its ambitious goals which include the inception of a China Fashion Sustainability Alliance, a move it hopes can open the nation's fashion and textile industries up to engagement on the world stage.

The initiative's founder has spoken exclusively to Ecotextile News to discuss what lies ahead for the movement, including the announcement that it will host its first event in 2019 and perhaps most significantly, confirming support for the organisation from both central and local government.