



## The Southern India Mills' Association

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### NEWS CLIPPINGS –28-06-2018

**RBI Financial Stability Report FY18: 5 sectors pose credit risk for banks**

**Zeebiz**

[http://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-rbi-financial-stability-report-fy18-5-sectors-  
pose-credit-risk-for-banks-52910](http://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-rbi-financial-stability-report-fy18-5-sectors-pose-credit-risk-for-banks-52910)

GNPA of SCBs rose to 11.6% in FY18 compared to previous 10.2% in September 2017. This would be be 140 basis points increase in GNPA in just seven months of FY18.

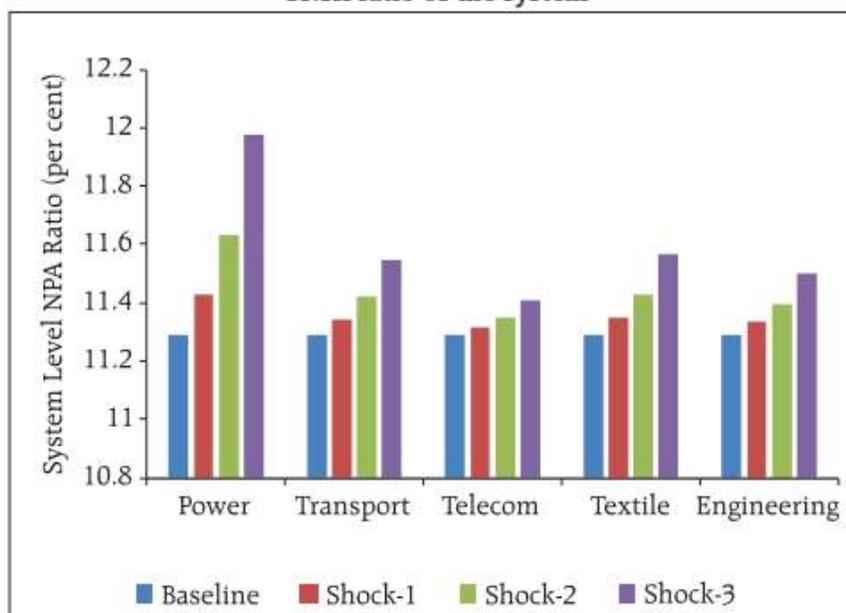
The Reserve Bank of India has released the 17th series of Financial Stability Report (FSR), and looking at the trend mapped by the central bank it is clear that the problem of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) is not over yet and that revival is not nigh. The FSR reflects the overall assessment of the stability of India's financial system and its resilience to risks emanating from global and domestic factors. The Report also discusses issues relating to developments in and regulation of the financial sector. The major issue of SCBs especially public sector banks (PSBs) have been the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) which clearly is not ready to come down as shown in the report.

GNPA of SCBs rose to 11.6% in FY18 compared to previous 10.2% in September 2017. This would be be 140 basis points increase in GNPA in just seven months of FY18. Interestingly, net NPA registered only a smaller increase during the period due to increase in provisioning.

According to RBI, credit risk arising from exposure to the infrastructure sector (specifically power, transport and telecommunication) as well as textiles and engineering was examined through a sectoral credit stress test where the GNPA ratio of the specific sector was assumed to increase by a fixed percentage point.

RBI said, "The resulting impact on the GNPA ratio of the entire banking system was examined."

**Chart 2.17: Sectoral credit risks: Impact on the GNPA ratio of the system**



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PSBs had the maximum exposure to these sectors and also account for the highest GNPA, particularly in the power and the telecom sector. The results of the stress tests show that among the considered sectors, the most severe shock to the power sector will cause the banking system GNPA to rise by about 68 bps.

The textile and the engineering sectors, though small in terms of total advances to that sector as compared to the infrastructure sector, also exhibited considerable transmission of stress to the banking sector.

The central bank believes the GNPA ratio of all SCBs may increase from 11.6% in March 2018 to 12.2% by March 2019.

**Boon in disguise: Lack of migrant workers creates opening for locals**

**Tribune India**

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/boon-in-disguise-lack-of-migrant-workers-creates-opening-for-locals/611585.html>

The city's textile and garment industry prefers to hire women over the unreliable migrant workforce that abruptly quits their jobs during the harvesting and sowing seasons.

The Vardhman Group, which employs more than 5,000 women in their units across Punjab, provides the whole package — from training to accommodation and transport facilities.

Companies take local communities into confidence before recruiting women from a particular region. It is not easy to convince the locals to send their womenfolk to work, Vardhman Yarns & Threads Managing Director DL Sharma said.

"We rope in social organisations, panchayats and gurdwaras and take their help to convince the locals about the safety of the women," he added.

Leading garment manufacturer Sportking prefers women over migrant labourers though women need transport facility. The company has hired buses for transporting women workers from villages. "They are trained for a couple of

weeks before they are absorbed in the unit. We encourage women to join the industry," Sportking Founder-Chairman Raj Avasthi said.

Companies prefer women as they turn out to be more committed and better skilled. Starting from cutting to sewing and packing, Punjabi women are much better, said Superfine Industries Managing Director Ajit Lakra. He is also the president of Ludhiana Knitters Association.

"Migrant labourers return to their villages April onwards for harvesting and sowing. Women, especially Punjabis, are doing much better than their male counterparts in the garment industry," he said.

He said that his company did not face labour crisis this season after it hired local womenfolk. The industry has been forced to rely on migrant labour because local youth are not interested to work in factories.

Due to the labour crunch, the industry suffers from cost escalation, quality deterioration and breach of delivery commitment. "In this scenario, it is better to hire women, who prove to be better suited for the garment and textile industry," Lakra said.

The industry has zeroed in on local women also because Punjabi men are obsessed with overseas jobs. "Some men are engaged in agriculture, while some are hooked to drugs," Akash Bansal, Managing Director, Rage Knitwear, said.

In contrast, other industries, including bicycle, auto-parts and hand-tools, are hit hard and their output has plummeted due to non-availability of both skilled and unskilled labourers during harvesting period. With production hit, many exporters are unable to meet commitments.

According to a bicycle manufacturer Bhogalsons, labourers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar start leaving Ludhiana in April. "While some inform us, others don't. Although they promise to return 15-20 days after harvesting, they take 3-4 months to return and some choose not to come back," Avtar Singh Bhogal of the company said.

<b>Yarn Expo Autumn Moves To Mid-October; Held Concurrently With ITMA ASIA + CITME</b>	<b>Textile World</b> <a href="http://www.textileworld.com/textile-world/2018/06/yarn-expo-autumn-moves-to-mid-october-held-concurrently-with-itma-asia-citme/">http://www.textileworld.com/textile-world/2018/06/yarn-expo-autumn-moves-to-mid-october-held-concurrently-with-itma-asia-citme/</a>
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HONG KONG — June 27, 2018 — The new national government-organised China International Import Expo (CIIE), to be held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in November, has necessitated the need for long-term renovation of halls at the fairground, requiring Yarn Expo Autumn 2018 to be held one month later, and concurrent with ITMA ASIA + CITME, from 15 – 17 October.

The scale and importance of CIIE – an initiative launched personally by Chinese President Xi Jinping at a Belt & Road Forum in 2017, and hosted by the country's Ministry of Commerce – has necessitated the renovation of three halls at the National Exhibition and Convention Center for a period of two months starting in early September. This unavailability of the full fairground has led to the decision to move Yarn Expo Autumn two weeks later to 15 – 17 October, still taking place at the National Exhibition and Convention Center. Therefore, Yarn Expo Autumn will not be held at the same time as Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics – Autumn Edition this year, but instead will take place

concurrently with the biennial ITMA ASIA + CITME which runs for two extra days until 19 October.

“This unavailability of the halls was unforeseen,” Ms Wendy Wen, Senior General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd explained, “but upon notice from the fairground, we immediately assessed all possible alternatives for hosting the fair. While it is unfortunate that for this edition it will not be taking place concurrently with Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics, we are confident that the same strong business results can still be achieved alongside ITMA ASIA + CITME. With over 1,600 textile machinery manufacturers and some 100,000 trade buyers from different textile sectors taking part in ITMA ASIA + CITME, Yarn Expo exhibitors will have abundant opportunities to meet buyers of apparel fabrics and home textiles as well as garment manufacturers.”

Yarn Expo Autumn is Asia’s leading trade platform for the yarn and fibre industry, with quality suppliers from around the world showcasing natural and blended yarns including cotton, wool, flax, and man-made fibres and yarns, as well as specialty products including elastic, fancy and blended yarns. Last year’s Autumn Edition attracted 493 exhibitors from 13 countries and regions, and 17,185 trade buyers from 84 countries and regions.

**Suresh Prabhu reviews strategy for revitalizing India’s exports**

**Zeebiz**

<http://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-suresh-prabhu-reviews-strategy-for-revitalizing-india-s-exports-52861>

In a meeting of Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu said that trade events are being organised in African, Central and South American countries to find new markets for exports and to introduce new products. Because of these measures, exports are continuously registering growth.

Prabhu took stock of the latest export trends and expressed confidence over robust growth of total exports by 12.9% in 2017-18.

The minister also reviewed the development of USD 100 Billion Additional Export Strategy focussing on Champion & Promising products and market retention. This is envisaged as a multipronged sector wise strategy focussing on traditional and new products & markets.

"Commodity Specific Strategy includes products like Gems & Jewellery, Leather, Textile & Apparel, Pharmaceuticals, Electronics, Engineering Sector, Chemical & Petrochemicals, Marine Products and Agriculture & Allied Products," the ministry said.

The ministry also stated that the Territory Specific Strategy include regions like NAFTA, Europe, North East Asia, ASEAN, South Asia, Latin America, Africa & WANA, CIS, Australia and New Zealand.

A statement released by the ministry stated that that commodity-specific strategy includes products like gems and jewellery, leather, textile, pharmaceuticals, electronics, engineering, chemical, marine products and agriculture goods. India's exports grew by 9.78 per cent to USD 302.84 billion in 2017-18.

The war against Pink Bollworm is getting stronger in Maharashtra. The year 2017 had seen pink bollworm (PBW) attacks on cotton, especially in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The war against Pink Bollworm is getting stronger in Maharashtra. The year 2017 had seen pink bollworm (PBW) attacks on cotton, especially in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The infestation of this insect pest — whose larvae bore into cotton bolls through the lint fibre to feed on the seeds — happened during October, just when the crop was maturing and almost ready for its first-flush pickings, and further aggravated by unseasonal rains.

To overcome this problem, the union government has recommended a unique RIB (Refugia In Bag) concept, wherein 25 grams of non-Bt Cotton seed is mixed with 450 grams of Bt Cotton seeds.

‘Refuge’ plots are non-transgenic plants. However, these packs were separate and usually ignored by farmers who put them aside during sowing operations. As a result, the Pink Bollworm attacks became stronger. To combat and weaken the proliferation of Pink Bollworm, the government of Maharashtra may decide to stop the process of separate non-BT packs and instead provide these along with BT Cotton so that the farmers end up sowing these seeds along with BT cotton seeds. CB Mayee, president, South Asian Biotechnology Centre, had earlier pointed out that one way to reduce pest susceptibility is to plant non-Bt cotton as “refugia” in the vicinity of the main Bt crop. But farmers, especially with small holdings, don’t want to lose land in growing non-Bt plants that can act as hosts for the bollworm insects. It is important to note here that PBW exclusively feed on cotton, unlike other bollworm insect species that also attack other crops such as pigeon-pea, sorghum and sunflower.

Without cultivating non-Bt cotton as refugia, PBW is bound to develop resistance to Bt toxins over time, as has happened in Maharashtra. Over the years, Bt Cotton’s resistance to PBW has reduced and during the last season alone the pest has caused 20-25% loss to the crop across the state. The strategy of growing ‘refuge’ plants around the GM plants is to prevent or delay the development of Bt-resistant insects. This enables planting non-BT cotton which can host PBW wild insects and prevent resistance build-up in PBW, industry experts pointed out.

Last season onwards, the National Seeds Association of India (NSAI) has taken up the issue on a war footing and revived the RIB concept. Several seed and pesticide companies have also begun to distribute pheromone traps as part of their CSR projects.

Recommending the RIB concept, MG Shembekar, vice president, NSAI, said that this would help weaken the proliferation of PBW on BT Cotton.

He pointed out that since PBW exclusively feed on cotton, unlike other bollworm insect species that also attack other crops such as pigeon-pea, sorghum and sunflower.

Due to RIB, the PBW will not get adequate nutrition and weaken over time, he said. Without cultivating non-Bt cotton as refugia, PBW is bound to develop resistance to Bt toxins over time, as has happened in Maharashtra, he pointed out. The Centre has granted permission for 5-10% of non-BT Cotton along with the BT Cotton seeds and

should the farmers follow these methods for sowing along with other preventive measures, PBW will weaken over the season, he said. According to him, the cotton sowing is in full swing. More than 20-30% sowing operations have been completed in Yavatmal, Wardha, Amravati and Nagpur regions. However, the dry spell in between may see the need for resowing operations in some regions, he pointed out.

This year, the Met department has been careful in its warning and had also issued an advisory that farmers should start Kharif sowing only by June end after regular spell of rains. Most farmers in the region seem to have heeded the advice. But in the last one week, districts like Yavatmal in the cotton belt, which received scattered rainfall, saw sowing operations picking up.

Nationally, annual seed market for the legally approved varieties is estimated at around 4.5-4.8 crore packets (of 450 gram each) and the area under the fibre crop hovers around 120 lakh hectares. This season, Maharashtra is preparing 40 lakh hectares for cotton sowing and normally some 1.6 crore packets of seeds are required for a season. A major portion of the crop is in Vidarbha, Marathwada and Khandesh pockets of the state.

### Hosiery products turn costlier

The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/hosiery-products-turn-costlier/article24275245.ece>

The hosiery products that are supplied from Tirupur cluster to the domestic markets have cumulatively become costlier by 123 %, since the first collective decision of entire hosiery manufacturers to increase the prices happened in 2005.

A glance through the cost trend graph accessed by The Hindu shows that the prices of the hosiery products from Tirupur cluster were raised on as many as 14 occasions since December 5, 2005.

Interestingly, the prices were scaled down only once between December 5, 2005 and the latest decision taken a few days back by the South India Hosiery Manufacturers Association (SIHMA) to increase the costs.

“The resolution to bring down the prices on July 11, 2011, by 5 % has been made only because of a significant reduction in the cotton yarn prices during that period, even though the other costs like transportation and labour charges were going higher”, SIHMA sources told The Hindu . The most numbers of price escalations occurred in 2010.

The year saw the hosiery products from Tirupur cluster become dearer on a total of four occasions with the prices collectively going up by 32 %.

“In 2010, the prices of end products have to be raised by 10, 7, 10 and 5 % within a gap of few months due to periodical hikes in input costs”, said the hosiery manufacturers.

**₹1000 cr. handloom corporation**

**The Hindu**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/1000-cr-handloom-corporation-promised/article24273643.ece>

Uniforms for children, staff to be sourced by the corporation

The BJP will establish a Handlooms Corporation at a cost of ₹ 1000 crore to come to the aid of weavers and promote their products if it is voted to power in Telangana, said state president K. Laxman on Wednesday.

The corporation would ensure that uniforms for school children, RTC staff and other government undertakings are purchased directly from the corporation.

After addressing public meetings at Marikyal and other places on the fifth day of his ongoing 'Jana Chaitanya Yatra' Mr. Laxman told presspersons that the party aimed to improve the lives of the poor and downtrodden especially those belonging to the SC/STs and BCs.

Most of the weaving community had lost out in the four years of TRS rule and instead of making provision for loans, the government had sourced Bathukamma sarees from Surat and Coimbatore, he charged.

The Centre had been providing training to scores of weavers under the 'Kausal Vikas Yojana' programme but the government had failed to provide any employment potential. He demanded that the government immediately procure handloom material for uniforms to RTC staff and others.

The BJP leader said the TRS party will end up like the JD (S) party in Karnataka and ridiculed the effort of political parties in coming together irrespective of ideological differences to fight against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**On World MSME Day, what does the sector want from the government?**

**Economic Times**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/on-world-msme-day-what-does-the-sector-want-from-the-government/articleshow/64759346.cms>

As countries across the world come together to honour, acknowledge and celebrate World MSME Day, the crucial sector of the economy has its own list of demands that it wants fulfilled.

As the country surges holding the baton of social progress, economic growth and digitisation, the MSME sector which contributes up to 45% of the GDP can no longer be ignored. Earlier this year, Minister of Commerce, Suresh Prabhu had said, "Ideas are born in human minds, and not necessarily in the boardrooms of large corporate," emphasising how the new industrial policy 2018 will highlight the "M" in SMEs. Prabhu also claimed recently that not only will this new policy, which will be unveiled soon, pay immense attention to MSMEs, but it will also result in manufacturing to make up for \$1 trillion of the India's economy by 2025-2026. However, reeling from the impact of demonetisation and the haphazard implementation of the Goods and Services tax, the MSME sector is looking for succor and have some key demands.

## Finance

For long, the unavailability of credit for SMEs has been a major stumbling block for small businesses. As the sector is largely informal, banks have hesitated to lend to SMEs for their unreliability to repay loans. With the influx of NFBs, fintech firms and other alternatives for finances, this problem today has more solutions than it ever did. However, that may still not be the answer. Rajnish Goenka, Chairman, MSME Development Forum says, "NFBs are gaining popularity in India but they charge 24% interest which is a figure for a small businessman. This year the RBI also said for the first time that SMEs are as relevant as the agriculture sector in the country." Rajiv Chawla, Chairman, IamSME of India adds, "Out of the 21 public sector undertaking (PSUs), 11 are not funding because of issues related to NPA crises. Sources for credit are an issue that to be immediately addressed."

## Marketing

The Union Cabinet had claimed earlier this year that the definition of SMEs will be changed. Yet, this decision which was taken in February is yet to be notified. SMEs need to have clarity on their definition and then be marketed well.

The government needs to provide marketing support to MSMEs and also the trading companies to help the SMEs to market their products. While there have been marketing initiatives centered around SMEs, they have failed to live up to the expectation.

For example the scheme for providing financial assistance on marketing support under Marketing Assistance Scheme, provides assistance in organising exhibitions abroad and participation in international exhibitions/trade fairs. It is also meant to co-sponsor exhibitions organized by other organisations/ industry associations/agencies and organizing buyer-seller meets, intensive campaigns and marketing promotion events. There are then schemes like the Marketing Assistance & Technological Upgradation (MATU) that aim to help tap and develop domestic/overseas markets. However, MSMEs argue they would want more from these schemes and in fact many do not know how to avail the benefits.

Beyond marketing, Chawla says there are other schemes that need a serious relook. For example, the lean manufacturing programme. "The scheme was supposed to assist MSMEs in reducing their manufacturing costs, through proper personnel management, better space utilisation, scientific inventory management, improved processed flows, reduced engineering time and so on. This has been stopped for a year now."

**Indian envoys, Rajasthan govt discuss investment opportunities**

**Business Standard**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/indian-envoys-rajasthan-govt-discuss-investment-opportunities-118062800034\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/indian-envoys-rajasthan-govt-discuss-investment-opportunities-118062800034_1.html)

Indian diplomats posted in various countries engaged in dialogues with Rajasthan government officials here today to discuss opportunities of investment and export and for enhancing ties of the desert state with other countries.

Ambassadors/High commissioners posted in nine countries held a meeting with Chief Secretary D B Gupta and other officers to discuss the potential of the state in the areas of export and investment.

The diplomats suggested the officials to promote Rajasthan, which is known for tourism, as a destination of medical

tourism and education hub.

They said the state has huge potential of export in sectors like marble, granite, pharmaceutical, jewellery, textile and yarn among other.

Gupta said Rajasthan is a leading state in areas of textile, gems and jewellery, minerals and grains production and now the state is emerging as a leader in solar energy production, according to a release.

Additional Chief Secretary Industries Rajeeva Swarup informed the envoys that Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) has developed 3,044 industrial areas in the state.

He said 52 Japanese companies are successfully running their operations in the dedicated Japanese zone (in Alwar) and second Japanese zone is also being developed.

Swarup said factors like availability of manpower and resources, law and order condition have made Rajasthan a preferred destination for investment.

Officials from other departments informed about the schemes and programme of the state government.

Indian Ambassador Monika Kapil Mohta (Sweden), Rahul Kulshreshth (Turkey), Vijay Thakur Singh (Ireland), Narinder Chauhan (Serbia), Satibir Singh (Algeria), Sanjay Rana (Azerbaijan), Rajesh Agrawal (Niger), Pradeep Rajpurohit (Iraq) and Indian high commissioner to Malta Rajesh Vaishnaw also discussed possibilities for enhancing ties and cooperation of Rajasthan with these countries.

**A denied patent stands between farmers and GM cotton**

**Indian Express**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/a-denied-patent-stands-between-farmers-and-gm-cotton-5236310/>

The more immediate consequence of the resultant uncertainty on the intellectual property rights (IPR) protection regime for GM technology, though, would be felt on herbicide-tolerant or HT cotton.

A strange situation prevails in cotton today. On the one hand, there is a Delhi High Court judgment of April 11, which invalidates Monsanto's patent on its Bollgard II Bt cotton technology granted by the Indian Patent Office in February 2008. The patent was for a 'cry2Ab' gene isolated from a soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) — more specifically, for a method of synthesising its nucleic acid sequence and inserting the same into cotton plant cells.

The High Court held that this man-made Bt gene sequence had no "intrinsic worth"; it was inert, inanimate and without utility, unless incorporated into a plant variety. But since plants themselves are not patentable under the Indian Patents Act — they are covered under a separate Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights law — the patent on the nucleic acid sequence had no meaning once the gene was introgressed into and became part of a plant.

But the judgment comes even as India has farmers wanting to plant genetically modified (GM) cotton hybrids, incorporating not just 'cry1Ac' and 'cry2Ab' Bt genes (which code for proteins toxic to *Heliothis* bollworm insect

pests), but also those that enable spraying of herbicides. The technology supplier in this case, too, is Monsanto: the US life sciences major's Roundup Ready Flex (RRF) cotton contains a 'cp4-epsps' gene from another soil bacterium *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, which produces a modified protein that allows the plant to tolerate application of glyphosate herbicide. Thus, while farmers cannot spray glyphosate in normal cotton — the chemical cannot distinguish between weeds and the crop itself — they can do it in RRF cotton.

Monsanto had, in March 2013, sought approval from the Union Environment Ministry's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for the commercial release of Bollgard II-RRF cotton, harbouring both insect-resistance (from Bt genes) and glyphosate-tolerance (cp4-epsps gene) traits. However, in July 2016, Monsanto withdrew the application, along with the dossiers containing the results of all the bio-safety research and open field trials that it had submitted in respect of this GM cotton.

The provocation for the move was the Agriculture Ministry issuing, in December 2015, a Cotton Seeds Price (Control) order, followed by a draft notification on compulsory licensing of GM technologies in May 2016. The first order empowered the Centre to "fix and regulate" the royalty/trait value charged by a GM technology supplier from seed companies that have incorporated it into their cotton hybrids. The second notification obliged technology developers to licence their proprietary GM traits on demand and not charge royalty exceeding 10 per cent of the maximum retail price of the seeds being marketed by the licensees.

Now, with the Delhi High Court invalidating the patent on Bollgard II Bt cotton, any prospect of Monsanto reconsidering withdrawal of its application for commercialisation of RRF technology — which gives farmers the option of spraying glyphosate, rather than relying on manual labour, for removal of weeds — has been rendered remote.

The court's ruling, moreover, can extend to any man-made nucleic acid sequence of a gene and its introgression into a host plant genome using GM/biotechnological tools. According to one estimate, there are currently at least 107 patents in India, relating to such non-naturally occurring genetic material and production of transgenic plants. All of them — granted not only to the likes of Monsanto, Bayer CropScience, BASF Plant Science and DuPont, but even the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Science and other publicly-funded institutions — stand to be invalidated in the wake of the judgment.

The more immediate consequence of the resultant uncertainty on the intellectual property rights (IPR) protection regime for GM technology, though, would be felt on herbicide-tolerant or HT cotton.

It is an open secret that many farmers, especially in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Maharashtra, have been planting Bollgard II-RRF cotton — despite the technology being "unapproved" by the GEAC and Monsanto officially withdrawing its application for commercialisation of the same. If the trade is to be believed, up to a tenth of the cotton seeds in the market now have HT genes — which farmers are illegally sowing.

The AP government, in January, even issued show cause notices to two leading seed companies. This, after leaf samples collected from their hybrids allegedly planted by farmers were found to contain the "illegal and unapproved" cp4-epsps HT gene. On February 9, the state's agriculture department went a step further. It banned the application of glyphosate formulations "in any of the crops from June to November"! It is obvious that the real

target here was HT cotton.

Two things are clear from all this. First, farmers are hungry for technology and will go to great lengths to plant GM crops, whether or not the government and green NGOs like it. Reports suggest that they are even prepared to pay a premium of 50 per cent or more for cotton seeds harbouring HT trait, in addition to just Bt genes. The reason is simple: they know the cost of manual weeding and how unpredictable it is to find labour in the peak agricultural season.

Second, the suppliers of technology — this applies equally to proprietary new-generation pesticide molecules like Dupont's Rynaxypyr ('Coragen') and Bayer's Flubendiamide ('Fame') — are mostly multinationals. For them, IPR protection is a major concern. The government can ensure that these companies do not engage in price gouging, while simultaneously promoting domestic breeding and R&D efforts. But invalidating patents is something they aren't going to take lightly.

We are seeing this in cotton, where nearly a million Indian farmers last year grew GM hybrids without approval either from the official regulator or the technology developer. They may do so this season as well.

**MSME Sampark will act as a bridge between talent pool and enterprises seeking trained man power: President Kovind**

**Knn India**

<http://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/economy/msme-sampark-will-act-as-a-bridge-between-talent-pool-and-enterprises-seeking-trained-man-power-president-kovind>

On the occasion of World MSME Day, President of India, Ram Nath Kovind launched Solar Charkha Mission and Sampark Portal for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

In a bid to encourage dialogue and partnership among various stakeholders of MSME ecosystem and discuss various issues and challenges of this sector, the Ministry of MSME today organized National Conclave "Udyam Sangam" to celebrate United Nation MSME day. The conclave was inaugurated by President Kovind in the presence of MSME Minister Giriraj Singh and MSME Secretary Arun Kumar Panda, along with various MSME linked delegates.

Addressing the gathering, President Ram Nath Kovind said that the MSME plays crucial role in the growth and development of country and the world." Appreciating the initiatives of the Ministry he said for MSMEs, event like this is first of its kind in which more than 6,000 entrepreneurs from across the country participated.

On this special occasion, President launched a job portal called 'MSME Sampark' and said this portal will help the skilled youth in getting employment and also act as a bridge between the talent pool and those enterprises seeking trained man power. Besides, the Solar Charkha Mission of the Ministry was also launched by the President.

The Mission will cover 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans. The Mission has been approved by the Government of India for which the MSME Ministry will disburse subsidy of Rs. 550 crores to the artisans.

This mission will help in generating employment for women in rural areas as well as support in the development of green economy, president added. Speaking on the occasion, Union MSME Minister Giriraj Singh said that in this 4

years tenure, the ministry has achieved the aim of generating 4 crore employment for the people.

Talking about the initiatives taken in promoting MSMEs, he said that our ministry disbursed collateral free loans to around 16 lakh entrepreneurs. Ministry has opened every door to facilitate MSME sector in every possible way and has been taking so many initiatives to promote and support MSME.

Calling MSMEs itself a sngam, MSME secretary Arun Kumar Panda said that this event is a collaboration of various enterprises from different states of India including various verticals like pharma, textile, defence, leather, handicrafts and many more. For the growth and prosperity of nation, the government has taken so many initiatives and in future also will take measures to make the MSME sector much stronger.

**Andhra Pradesh to utilise Singapore's expertise in developing construction industry**

**Connected to India**

<https://www.connectedtoindia.com/andhra-pradesh-to-utilise-singapores-expertise-in-developing-construction-industry-4242.html>

The Indian State of Andhra Pradesh will now utilise the expertise of Singapore in building a vibrant and productive real estate and construction industry. In this connection, Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (APRERA). A consortium of Singapore construction firms is finalising a textile park design and construction project with the Andhra Pradesh developers worth SGD60 million. In addition to this, construction companies of Singapore like Tiong Seng and CKR are in talks with developers in Andhra Pradesh to provide precast solutions.

“Our collaboration with APRERA is an important step in sharing knowledge and deepening our engagement with India. We will continue to develop this strong partnership to help them address areas of needs and introduce Singapore firms that can contribute towards the development in Andhra Pradesh,” said Hugh Lim, chief executive officer of BCA.

“With APRERA driving quality and on-time delivery of real estate projects in Andhra Pradesh, Singapore firms will be able to value-add to these efforts as they have built up expertise and experience in these knowledge areas,” he added.

Notably, APRERA is the authority overseeing the orderly development of the real estate sector (especially residential properties) in Andhra Pradesh.

Around 30 companies are joining the delegation with BCA on the mission trip to Andhra Pradesh. These companies include contractors, consultants, material suppliers, IT firms and trading and investment firms.

These companies have expressed interest in venturing into the market in Andhra Pradesh. Construction companies like Tiong Seng and CKR are in talks with developers there to provide precast solutions.

In addition to this, One Singapore Town, a consortium of A Alliance Architect, Pacific Prince Investment and Eyota Engineering, is in the advanced stage of finalising a textile park design and construction project worth SGD60 million

Further, an Andhra Pradesh developer also met with Singapore firms recently to explore opportunities to develop economic cities in the State. .

“There are ample opportunities in Andhra Pradesh for Singapore enterprises at this phase of city building. Our Indian counterparts can leverage on Singapore expertise and experience in building not just the city infrastructure or ‘hardware’ but also on growing the soft elements of a nurturing and gathering of human capital from all over the world,” said Pek Lian Guan, executive director and chief executive officer of Tiong Seng Holdings Limited.

#### Highlights of Memorandum of Understanding

Under the MOU, BCA and APRERA will collaborate to enhance the capabilities of APRERA to promote and create a safe, high quality, environment-friendly and productive built environment in Andhra Pradesh. BCA will share knowledge and expertise relating to the set-up, operation, experience and best practices in the following areas:

- 1) BCA’s initiatives to create a safe built environment in Singapore through the Construction and Real Estate Network (CORENET) e-Submission system for project approvals.
- 2) BCA’s Construction Quality Assessment System (CONQUAS) and Bonus System for Construction Quality (BSCQ) for quality construction procurement,
- 3) BCA’s Green Building Roadmaps and Green Mark Certification to promote environmental sustainability in the built environment, and
- 4) BCA’s Construction Productivity Roadmaps to enhance the quality of Singapore’s construction workforce and the adoption of productive technologies to ensure cost effective and timely delivery of construction projects.

BCA will also be conducting three-day briefings in Singapore for senior Andhra Pradesh officials. The officials will also be visiting consultants’ offices, construction sites and precast production sites to get an in-depth understanding of the built environment in Singapore.

The capital city of Amravati will set a new yardstick in the construction landscape of India. Photo courtesy: ccdmc.co

In addition, there will be three-day deep dive training sessions conducted in Vijayawada for the urban development and housing related agencies and private sector developers and contractors selected by APRERA.

Notably, Singapore has been involved in helping Andhra Pradesh build its capital city Amaravati since 2014 under the MOU signed between the Infrastructure Corporation of Andhra Pradesh and Enterprise Singapore.

**Taiwan Textile Federation to promote sustainability at Technotex India Exhibition**

**Business Standard**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/taiwan-textile-federation-to-promote-sustainability-at-technotex-india-exhibition-118062700469\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/taiwan-textile-federation-to-promote-sustainability-at-technotex-india-exhibition-118062700469_1.html)

The Taiwan Textile Federation and the Bureau of Foreign Trade would be forming the Taiwan Pavilion for the 6th year at Technotex India Exhibition which will be held in Mumbai from 28th-29th June 2018. Technotex India is organized by the Ministry of Textiles and FICCI.

Exploring new partnerships and business opportunities in the growing technical textiles sector of India, this year 10 leading Taiwanese companies producing innovative technical, functional, performance and industrial textiles and accessories will be showcasing their high-end products along with others at the Taiwan Pavilion @ Technotex India Exhibition. This will be an excellent opportunity for Indian buyers of "Smart Technology Textiles" to network with the Taiwanese suppliers here in India.

Taiwan is one of the very few countries who can fulfill India's requirements as the Taiwan textiles sector is the leader in technology innovations and manufacturing in the world with a strong research and development segment. Targeting the growing Indian technical textile industry, which is expected to grow at a rate of 20 percent annually to touch USD 30 billion over the next five years, Technotex India is a perfect platform to explore business opportunities under this sector in India.

Fashion as part of a function and eco-friendly and sustainable textiles are important factors in the growing apparel industry across major markets. Thanks to a surge in global demand for sustainability, technological, innovation and new functionalities textiles. Taiwan's textile manufacturers are surfing the wave by catering to the wellness generation, getting the production more cost-effective and going greener.

Mr. Sean Tsai of Taiwan Textile Federation said, "Technotex is an important platform for us to showcase and promote Taiwan's strength in technical as well as functional textiles amongst the Indian buyers across various industry verticals. India has a huge potential for us and we are looking forward to build new contacts and explore business opportunities in the Indian technical textiles market as well as other sectors such as sports apparel, outdoor gear and wear, home textiles and medical and healthcare sectors. We invite all to come and meet us at Technotex India 2018.

**Bangladesh extends RMG factory remediation deadline to Dec**

**Fibre2 Fashion**

<http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-news/bangladesh-extends-rmg-factory-remediation-deadline-to-dec-243042-newsdetails.htm>

The Bangladesh Government last week extended the deadline for completing remediation works in the readymade garment (RMG) factories, which are being inspected under the joint initiative of the government and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), from April 30 to December this year after almost all the factories missed the deadline.

The country is under pressure in national and international forums due the slow progress in fixing safety faults in the factories, state minister for labour Mohammadd Mujibul Haque said in a meeting with the representatives of the garment factories that missed the deadline.

The minister cautioned the representatives that strict action will be taken against those who fail to meet the new deadline, according to Bangladesh media reports. Lack of fund is the main challenge for remediation, according to factory representatives, many of whom said they could not start remediation work as their factories were housed in rented buildings, whose owners were not willing to fix the problems.

**China-U.S. Trade Tariffs May Cut U.S. Farm Exports by 40%**

**Bloomberg**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-27/china-u-s-trade-tariffs-seen-cutting-u-s-farm-exports-by-40>

Bilateral tariffs may reduce the value of U.S. farm exports to China by about 40 percent, according to a report published by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, a government think tank.

U.S. soybean, cotton, beef and cereal shipments to China may each drop by 50 percent in value, it said in a report published on its official WeChat account on Tuesday, citing results of a simulation. The price of imported soybeans may rise 5.9 percent and imported cotton prices may increase 7.5 percent, with minor impacts predicted for other farm goods, it said.

China could take measures including sourcing supply from countries within the “One Belt, One Road” initiative, increasing purchases of soybean substitutes and supporting domestic production of the oilseed, according to the think tank. It also suggested that the government maintain its minimum purchase prices for wheat and rice and subsidize growers. The Asian country is the world’s top importer of soybeans and rice, third-biggest cotton buyer and biggest wheat producer. “To resolve the trade dispute via negotiation is still a win-win move,” the report said. China was the world’s largest buyer of farm products in 2017.

The country’s large volume of imports of land-intensive crops including grains, oilseeds and cotton, help save its farmland and water resources. Authorities have strengthened control over pollution from livestock and chicken breeding after the country’s first environmental protection tax law came into effect on Jan. 1. The law is set to increase costs and may affect half of China’s pork production, 70 percent of chicken output and 58 percent of its dairy cows.