The Southern India Mills' Association
Post Box No. 3783, 41 Race Course, Coimbatore - 641 018
Phone: 0422 4225333 | Fax: 0422 4225366
E-mail: info@simamills.org | Web: www.simamills.org

NEWS CLIPPINGS –15-11-2018

India to dispute US' claim of under-reporting cotton subsidies	Economic Times https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-to-dispute-us-claim-of-under-reporting-cotton-subsidies/articleshow/66628691.cms

India will dispute US findings that claim New Delhi paid trade-distorting subsidies in the last seven years to its cotton farmers in excess of 10% permitted for developing countries. The US has alleged that India provides market price support or MPS for cotton "Vastly in excess of what it has reported to the World trade Organization (WTO)" and it ranged from 53-81% of the value of production from 2010-11 to 2016-17.

"We will dispute these findings strongly" said an officials in the know of the details.

This is the second counter-notification by the US attacking India's subsidy numbers. In Maythe Trump administration had challenged India on the basis of support given to wheat and rice.

However, the latest salvo is being seen in the light of the US targeting the cotton subsidies given by African countries to their poor farmers "The US' cotton subsidies have devastated African countries and hence, it is trying to shift the focus on us," said another official.

In its latest counter to India's subsidies, the US said: "India's notifications for the years at issue appear to dramatically under-report the value of India's MPS for cotton".

For example, India's notification for marketing year (MY) 2015-16 showed a value of support, converted from US dollars, of Rs 117.64 crore for cotton. By comparison, the US estimates that India's MPS was Rs 50,415 crore for cotton in that year.

The dollar-rupee difference is there and the US has assumed that the entire production of cotton is eligible for subsidies, which is incorrect," the second official added.

"The US wants India to report in rupee terms while India submits dollar-denominated numbers to the WTO. Depreciation of the rupee has helped us but the WTO does not mandate any particular currency," said a Delhi-based expert on WTO issues.

The WTO Agreement on Agriculture defines subsidies on the total value of agriculture production while the US has challenged India on the basis of support given to individual products. Similarly, the agreement doesn't specify the currency in which countries have to report their subsidy dole out.

Steel, Heavy Industry, Textile Ministries still apprehensive over RCEP pact	Business Line https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/steel-heavy-industry-textile-ministries-still-apprehensive-over-rcep-pact/article25498335.ece

Seek exclusion from tariff elimination/reduction for several items due to competition from China, other nations

India has got a much-needed breather with the deferring of the conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact, but at least three Central Ministries are still not convinced about the usefulness of the agreement.

"We have more convincing to do within the government. The Ministries of Steel, Heavy Industry and Textiles continue to be apprehensive as they feel their sectors are not ready to face competition from China and some others," a government official said.

Trade Ministers from the 16 RCEP countries, which includes India, China, the 10-member ASEAN block, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, decided in Singapore on Tuesday to give up the year-end deadline for a 'substantial package' and instead focus on concluding the trade deal by 2019.

The RCEP, which includes goods, services, investments, e-commerce, government procurement, once completed could be the largest free trade bloc in the world covering about 3.5 billion people, 30 per cent of the world's Gross Domestic Product and 40 per cent of world trade.

Seek exclusion

In the inter-ministerial consultations conducted by the Commerce Ministry, the Heavy Industry, Textiles and Steel Ministries have continued to seek exclusion of items pertaining to their respective sectors from tariff elimination/reduction obligation at the RCEP.

"The Steel Ministry, for instance, is insisting on excluding the entire range of finished steel products from the pact," the official said.

Highlighting the position of the domestic steel industry on the RCEP negotiations, Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, said, "We strongly oppose inclusion of stainless steel flat products in the RCEP agreement. The move will open flood gates of Chinese imports into India through zero duty access making operations for domestic producers non-viable."

"A case in point is the existing FTA of India with Korea and Japan. Though the FTAs were envisaged to promote trade between the two countries, much of the trade post-FTA has been one-sided and India has substantial trade deficit with both Korea and Japan," Jindal said.

Similarly, the Heavy Industry Ministry has apprehensions about the effect of RCEP on the automobile industry and manufacturers of machinery.

The Textiles Ministry, too, wants a large number of items to be insulated from the RCEP pact as it fears competition from China and ASEAN nations such as Vietnam and Philippines, the official said.

These Ministries are especially worried as there is pressure on India to take on commitments for eliminating tariffs on more than 90 per cent of items for most RCEP partners while allowing slightly lower commitments for countries such as China, which pose a huge challenge to the Indian industry.

“One has to understand that the list of items on which no reduction commitments would be taken will be very small and include the super-sensitive items which would mostly be agricultural products,” the official added.

The Commerce Ministry has been trying to drive home the point that all sectors will gain tariff-free access to the entire RCEP region and exports would grow. “If India is not part of the RCEP agreement, Indian exports will face tariffs in the region whereas all other countries that are part of the grouping wouldn’t and the competitiveness of Indian products would take a serious hit,” the official said.

RCEP nations want 2019 as deadline for early conclusion of pact	**Business Standard** https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/rcep-nations-want-2019-as-deadline-for-early-conclusion-of-pact-118111500002_1.html

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday joined leaders from nations to discuss the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact for its early conclusion by 2019.

At the leaders summit of the RCEP nations in Singapore, he reaffirmed India's commitment to a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement. However, India has crucial differences on tariff reduction, market access, and services trade norms, such as the free movement of trained professionals with other nations.

So, Modi stressed upon India’s latest position — that of a request for more time to decide on tariff rates, especially with the upcoming elections in 2019 — a senior trade diplomat said.

The ambitious pact is proposed between 10 Asean economies and six others — New Zealand, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea — with which the group has free-trade agreements (FTAs). So far, 24 rounds of talks have concluded, apart from six minister-level meets.

However, India kept its focus on services trade. "We need to make similar efforts to make progress in services negotiations as they constitute more than 50 per cent of the GDP of most of the RCEP countries. In future, services are going to play a very important role," Modi said.

Nations, however, reeled in the possibility of a deal concluding by 2019 by announcing the talks are on their last leg. "We welcomed the conclusion of seven Chapters to date, namely the Chapters on Economic and Technical

Cooperation, Small and Medium Enterprises, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, Government Procurement, Institutional Provisions, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures. Of this, five were concluded in this year," the statement said on Wednesday.

At a meet of the RCEP trade ministers, attended by Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu two days ago, the nations decided to expand talks on the basis of the 'package of year-end deliverables'. This document had been adopted two months ago to decide on the broad contours of the mega-regional deal.

"There was intense pressure for this by the Asean bloc, with support from China, which is increasingly wary of the trade potential with the US under the volatile Trump regime," the diplomat added.

No plans to grant MFN status to India: Pak govt	**Times of India** https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/no-plans-to-grant-mfn-status-to-india-pakistan-govt/articleshow/66620858.cms

The Pakistan government has said it has "no immediate plans" to grant Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India.

Asked whether the government was considering granting MFN status to India and that Prime Minister Imran Khan was keen to hold peace talks with the Indian government, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Commerce, Textile, Industry and Investments, Abdul Razak Dawood said, "No such plans at the moment"At present we have no immediate plans to grant MFN status to India," he said here at an event on Tuesday.

However, he said Pakistan is working out free trade agreements with different countries, especially China, and hopes to complete the second FTA with China by June, 2019.

Pakistan is yet to award the MFN status to India and it maintains a negative list of 1,209 items which are not permitted to be imported from India.

As per a World Trade Organisation rule, every member of WTO is required to accord this status to other member countries.

India has already granted this status to all WTO members, including Pakistan.

Under the MFN status, a WTO member country is obliged to treat other trading nations in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to customs duty and other levies, but Pakistan is yet to transition fully to MFN status for India.

Milestone! 10% of India's total electricity output now comes from renewable power	**Financial Express** https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/indias-march-for-green-energy-renewables-now-10-of-countrys-power-output/1380060/

Despite a slowing of the pace at which solar power projects are being built owing to tariffs plunging to levels unviable for the developers, the country has crossed a milestone on the renewable energy front.

Despite a slowing of the pace at which solar power projects are being built owing to tariffs plunging to levels unviable for the developers, the country has crossed a milestone on the renewable energy front. Renewable-power units (solar and wind) have over the last few years been raising their share in India's electricity output; in April-October 2018, this share touched the 10% threshold.

The share of renewables in total installed power capacity is also on a rise — from 14% in FY15, this has risen to the current level of over 20%.

Under the United Nations Frame Work Convention on Climate Change ratified in Paris in 2015, India has an obligation to increase the share of non-fossil-based power in total installled capacity to 40% by 2030. The government has set a target to achieve 175 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2022 – 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from biomass/bagasse and 5 GW from small hydro projects.

Between FY15-FY18, electricity generated by renewable sources increased at a whopping compound annual growth rate of 18.2%. To put this in perspective, the CAGR of conventional power production in the same period was only 4.8%.

Not only was solar capacity addition in 2017 more than that of coal, solar capacity added in the year (8,040 MW) was more than twice the net addition in the coal-based power sector (4,004 MW). While solar capacity showed an annual increase of 95% in 2017, high-emitting generating capacities added in the year was 75% lower than in the previous year. Until 2017, the thermal capacity addition was keeping a scorching pace – 91,731 MW capacity was added in the segment against the original target of 72,340 MW during FY13-17.

Experts have attributed the growth in renewable energy to the country's global commitments to cut carbon footprint, falling solar rates (it is another matter the decline has dented the developers' confidence after a certain threshold) and unlocking of potential energy demand through '24X7' power schemes. Solar power tariffs have fallen from an exorbitant Rs 17/unit in 2009 to just Rs 2.44/unit, mainly on the back of declining module prices, improvement in technology and increased competition in the sector. The lowest tariff for wind power currently stands `Rs 2.43/unit.

However, a certain segment of the industry is concerned about the viability of such low rates as project costs are seen to be going up with the recently imposed import duties on solar modules. On the other hand, if the tariffs start going up, states may become reluctant to buy solar power unless it is still cheaper after paying the mandatory fixed cost to thermal units under the power purchase agreements.

To aid domestic manufacturing, the government has levied a 25% safeguard duty on import of solar cells — the basic ingredient needed to manufacture solar panels — for a year ending July 19, 2019. The duty would be 20% for the next six months till January 29, 2020, and 15% in the subsequent six months.

Power demand will continue to be strong going forward: Satyanarayan Goel, IEX	**Economic Times** https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/expert-view/power-demand-will-continue-to-be-strong-going-forward-satyanarayan-goel-iex/articleshow/66590736.cms

Discoms these days don't resort to load shedding and try to ensure power supply at all times. Rural electrification under the Saubhagya scheme has also led to increase in demand. Satyanarayan Goel, CEO & MD, IEX, tells ET Now.

Last quarter saw a strong volume growth for discoms. What was the growth driver?

The Q2 volume growth was driven mainly by the increase in demand across the country. Demand increased in states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Jammu & Kashmir. These states were active on the exchange platform for purchase of power. In fact, the same trend is continuing in Q3 also.

Spot prices also surged to a nine-year high. What caused the spikes and how did it benefit your business?

The reason for price increase in September and early October was we had early withdrawal of monsoon in September and because of that, hydro generation went down. Wind generation was also lower in September and the problem was aggravated by the shortage of coal in September-October. Because of that, the prices on the exchange platform went up. We had a significant increase in buy volumes and a similar rise in sell volumes. Today we have 25,000 MW of generation capacity.

We are not able to generate power mainly because of non-availability of coal. If coal is available, I am sure the rate on the exchange platform will be in the range of Rs 3-3.25. In September, the prices increased to about Rs 4.50-4.60 because of the high demand. As far as IEX is concerned, our transaction fees is not dependent on the price of power. It is based on the volume of power. Our revenue is dependent on the volumes transacted on the exchange platform. We do not get any benefit out of increase in the price. In fact, the lower the price, better it is for us.

Higher demand by discoms played a very big role in pushing up purchase bids on IEX. Is this demand trend likely to sustain?

Yes, that increase in demand is going to remain in the future also. Earlier distribution companies used to resort to load shedding but now that is the last thing which discoms are trying. They try to ensure supply of power and rural electrification under the Saubhagya scheme has led to increase in demand. With election in five states and the general election next year, the demand increase is going to continue.

CERC had recently passed an order that pricing changes by IEX need approval. What are your views on rates and their forward trajectory?

One of the stakeholders said CERC should review and regulate the transaction fees.

CERC has said that the present transaction fees will remain but any variation in the future shall be with regulatory approval.

Earlier, exchanges were free to vary their transaction fees. Now it will be done with regulatory approval. As far as the present fee structure is concerned, that remains. There is no change in that

Fall in global crude price may ease India's import bill and inflation	**Economic Times** https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/fall-in-global-crude-price-may-ease-indias-import-bill-and-inflation/articleshow/66628596.cms

Global oil prices fell by about a quarter in 40 days to $65 a barrel on Wednesday, promising to reduce India's import bill and inflation. It is also likely to cool local fuel prices that crested several peaks and rob the Opposition of a key political plank against the Narendra Modi government ahead of a series of crucial state polls.

It has been a dramatic shift of sentiment in just about a month with traders switching from predicting $100 per barrel oil to fearing another supply glut amid dimming demand prospects.

US President Donald Trump's insistence on lower oil prices, his Iran sanctions and a USChina trade war seem to have helped temper oil prices in recent times. A relentless rise in crude oil price that took it above $86 a barrel on October 3 was fuelled by fears that US sanctions on Iran may not allow many waivers, leaving Saudi and other producers struggling to fill the gap after significant Iran supply goes out of the market.

But Trump surprised many by liberally distributing waivers that allowed India and seven other countries to continue to import from Tehran. This, along with a surge in crude output put at three biggest producers—US, Russia, and China—set the stage for a sharp fall in prices. The US is now the largest producer of crude oil.

A protracted US-China trade war is also seen as negative for oil demand. Car sales in China as well as India have slowed this year, hurting fuel demand. Trump's pressure on Saudis to avoid production cuts has further pushed the price slump. It is unclear how soon the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies led by Russia would act to check the price slump and stop an oil glut from building. Saudi has said production cut of about 1million barrels a day from October levels is needed to deal with current imbalance.

Saudi Arabia will never let a glut build again in future, Saudi energy minister Khalid alFalih had said at an international conference in New Delhi in April. For India, lower oil prices mean lower import bill, less pressure on rupee, narrowing current account deficit lower subsidy payout, higher public resources for other welfare projects, lower risk of inflation and increased room for RBI to cut interest rate. If current price trends were to continue,India's oil import bill in 2018-19 would be lower than .`8,81,000 crore projected by the oil ministry based on an assumed crude price of $77.88 per barrel and an exchange rate of 72.22 per dollar.

Dollar rise in oil price alters the country's import bill by Rs 6,158 crore. Variation in exchange rate by one rupee changes oil import by Rs 6,639 crore.

Local prices of petrol and diesel, published daily, factor in both international fuel rates as well as currency movements for the trailing fortnight. Petrol and diesel prices have fallen by Rs 5.4 and Rs 3.5 per litre, respectively since October 17 when the current fuel price decline trend started. The dramatic fall in international rates in the last few days will further bring down local fuel rates.

In Delhi, petrol was at Rs 77.4 and diesel Rs 72.19 per litre on Wednesday. Record fuel prices just about a month ago had given Opposition the opportunity to tap into public anger against the Modi government, which was forced to cut duties to placate consumers.

Maternity leave: Employers may get financial support	**Economic Times** https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/maternity-leave-employers-may-get-financial-support/articleshow/66626313.cms

Having incentivised job creation, the government is thinking of ways to encourage hiring of women and keeping them employed during their maternity period.

This follows instances of employers trying to cut costs by letting go female workers claiming maternity benefits after the leave period was increased to 26 weeks from 12 weeks.

The labour ministry proposes to reimburse employers the salaries paid for seven of the additional 14 weeks of maternity leave for female employees in the Rs 15,000 salary bracket who have been EPFO subscribers for 12 months, a senior government official told ET. This would cost the government Rs 400 crore annually.

The policy will start on a pilot basis in New Delhi and Maharashtra and scaled up across India later.

"Much on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana, the labour ministry now plans to give fiscal incentives to employers to retain female workers availing 26 weeks of maternity leave," the official told ET on condition of anonymity. The plan is for employers to bear half the salary payable for the additional 14 weeks of leave provided under the amended Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017, effective since April 1, 2017.

According to the official, there have been several representations before the labour ministry on how the extended maternity leave has become a deterrent for female employees who are asked to quit or are retrenched on flimsy grounds before they go on maternity leave.

Labour ministry Santosh Kumar Gangwar chaired a meeting on Wednesday on incentives to help employers bear the extra financial burden and a policy in this regard is expected to be finalised soon.

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, protects the employment of women during their maternity leave and entitles them to benefits including full pay. The act is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more people such as factories, mines, plantations, shops and other entities, as may be notified by the Central Government.

To be eligible for maternity benefits, awoman must have worked in an establishment for at least 80 days in the past 12 months. Payment during the leave period is based on the average daily wage for the period of actual absence.

According to a recent report by staffing company TeamLease Services, the enhanced maternity benefits will significantly hamper the entry of women into the workforce as employers are apprehensive about overheads such as maternity leave reimbursements and the cost of establishing post-maternity support infrastructure. Besides, the probability of employees availing of the benefit and not returning is a major concern.

WPI rises to 4-month high of 5.28% in October, up from 5.13% in Sept	**Business Standard** https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/wpi-rises-to-4-month-high-of-5-28-in-october-up-from-5-13-in-sept-118111401498_1.html

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rate rose to a four-month high of 5.28 per cent in October, up from 5.13 per cent in September.

Earlier, data showed that CPI fell to a one-year low of 3.31 per cent in October from 3.7 per cent in the previous month.

With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) generally tracking CPI inflation, economists said the monetary policy committee may not change the policy rate in next month’s meeting.

“Despite the change in the monetary policy stance to calibrated tightening, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) appears likely to maintain a status quo on the repo rate in the December 2018 policy review, following the decline in the October 2018 headline CPI inflation, the deep correction in crude oil prices, and the pullback in the value of rupee,” Aditi Nayar, principal economist at Icra, said.

The difference between the WPI and CPI inflation rates was mainly because of the composition of the two indices. Food items account for more than 45 per cent in CPI, while its weight is just over 14 per cent in WPI.

The rise in inflation was also caused by increase in inflation in manufactured items. Manufactured items have a weight of 64 per cent in WPI. "Rise in inflation is driven in parts by costlier fuel but more significantly, by rise in prices of manufactured products as well. Manufactured items have registered a 4.49% price gain YoY and indicate slow and steady growth in underlying demand conditions in the economy," said Rajni Thakur, economist, RBL Bank.

Edible cotton: How genetically modified cottonseed could revolutionize food and feed production	**Cotton Yarn Market** https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2018/11/14/edible-cotton-how-genetically-modified-cottonseed-could-revolutionize-food-and-feed-production/

Here's a somewhat boring fact you might already know about cotton: It doesn't make a good food, for humans or animals. Glands throughout the plant produce a toxic pigment called gossypol that limits its use as feed stock.

For humans, we only use cottonseed oil, the processing of which negates the toxin. As a feedstock, cottonseed meal and crop residue is useful, but you have to be careful about rations to avoid toxicity. It's safe for cattle, but not for hogs or poultry. You can let cattle graze a cotton field after harvest, but you don't want to let your bull join in for a reason we're about to get to. General signs of acute toxicity are similar among animal species and include respiratory distress, impaired body weight gain, anorexia, weakness, apathy, and death after several days.

But if managed well, cottonseed meal and cotton residue can help cattle farmers put the full product of a cotton harvest to use profitably. Cottonseed hulls have about 17 percent less protein than soybean hulls, but soybeans hulls cost about 25 percent more.

A Georgia study from 2000 compared the number of grazing days between standing cotton stalk residue and residue mowed prior to grazing. Savings from reduced hay feeding ranged from $0.90 per day for cows grazing standing cotton stalk residue to $0.58 per day for cows grazing mowed cotton stalk residue.

Here's a fun fact that I'll bet you didn't know about gossypol: It was developed in some countries as a contraceptive for men. At the proper doses, it induces sterility, without acute toxicity. But over time the sterility becomes permanent. The long term side effects were problematic and this line of research has been abandoned. So you can understand why cottonseeds, similar to little peanuts and chock full of fat and protein haven't caught on the way sunflower and pumpkin seeds have a snack or the basis of a buttery spread like tahini (sesame seeds) or sunflower butter. And you can see why you wouldn't want your bulls eating cottonseed meal.

So the fact that cotton produces gossypol reduces the value of cotton as a crop. If you could use cottonseeds as food for humans the way you can for sunflowers or use it without careful rationing as a feedstock, that would be a boon to cotton farmers. In fact, for every 1 pound of cotton fiber — the product, the plant produces 1.6 pounds of seed — the byproduct. Imagine if you were a farmer being able to produce straight up 2.6 pounds of product for sale instead.

A glandless cotton plant was developed from a strain found on a Hopi Indian reservation in Arizona in the 1950's but languished until the Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Co. of Waco, Texas started a breeding program to try to develop a commercially viable glandless cotton in 1967 in partnership with Texas A&M. Success came in the mid-1980's. The UPI reported at the time:

Texas A&M University has published a 48-page 'Cottonseed Cookery' cook book. Recipes include everything from cotton-fried chicken and cottonseed-stuffed fish to burritos, soups, salads, breads and pralines.

Unfortunately, the early version of glossypol-free cotton did not catch on. Though that shouldn't have come as a surprise. Cotton produces glossypol for a reason. It doesn't just induce sterility in bulls and men. It produces sterility in insects that nibble on cotton. This isn't quite the pest control strategy of producing a neurotoxin like caffeine in coffee or cacao (which also produces theobromine, the reason you don't feed chocolate to dogs) or nicotine in tobacco, which kills those nibbling insects. But creating sterility in your predatory rivals is a pretty decent strategy to keeping infestations manageable. Cotton farmers find this useful, as you can imagine.

Then in 1995, Keerti Rathore, an Indian plant breeder with a PhD from the University of London arrived at Texas A&M to pick up the mantle of edible cottonseed. 23 years later, he's nearly there. Rathore's team used RNA interference (RNAi) to silence a gene in the cotton plant to stop the plant from developing the glands that produce glossypol in the seeds, but not in the rest of the plant. In 2006 he filed and in 2011 was granted U.S. Patent #7,999,148: 'Cotton plant with seed-specific reduction in gossypol'. The patent application characterizes the innovation in this way:.

The method generally includes selectively inducing RNA gene silencing in the seed of a transgenic cotton plant, to interfere with expression of the δ-cadinene synthase gene or the δ-cadinene-8-hydroxylase gene in the seed of the cotton plant without substantially affecting expression of that gene in the foliage, floral parts, and roots of the plant.

AP Industries Min emphasizes on need for job creation and digital transformation in textile industry	**KNN India** https://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/sectors/ap-industries-min-emphasizes-on-need-for-job-creation-and-digital-transformation-in-textile-industry

The labour intensive textile sector needs to be encouraged for job creation, said Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister N Amarnath Reddy.

Speaking at the the Textile 4.0 conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and AP Spinning Mills Association, he emphasized on the need for digital transformation in textile industry.

He stressed the importance for it to adopt artificial intelligence in order to compete with the global market.

The government has announced nine sector-specific policies aimed at promoting the textile industry, he added.

"The government has put in place single window clearance, which ensures time-bound delivery of services to the citizens," said Reddy.

He further added that work for all the memorandum of understandings inked during the Partnership Summit at Visakhapatnam are underway as per their schedule.

Commenting over the industrial corridors passing through the state, he said "The two corridors will give Andhra Pradesh a great opportunity for industrial growth. A corporation for encouragement of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has also been set up in the State, Reddy stated.

Vietnamese businesses showcase products at Indian fair	Vietnam Plus https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamese-businesses-showcase-products-at-indian-fair/141894.vnp

Vietnamese businesses are displaying their products and services at the 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2018) in New Delhi, India which opened on November 14.

Via their participation, they expected that the fair will match them with potential partners as it brought together over 1,000 Indian and foreign businesses.

Ambassador of Vietnam to India Pham Sanh Chau attended the opening ceremony of Vietnamese booths at the fair.

IITF is the largest annual fair in India, trading multi-products, like consumer goods, processed food, apparels, footwear, décor products, fine arts articles, cosmetics, electronic-telecom devices, finance-banking services, and tours.

At the 2017 event, Vietnam was chosen as a “counterpart country”.

It is running through to November 27.

Vietnam’s export turnover to India in the first nine months of 2018 hit 5.1 billion USD.

India was one of Vietnam’s three export markets posting the highest growth, totalling more than 20 percent during January-September, along with China and the Republic of Korea (RoK).

The two countries are working to lift two-way trade to 15 million USD by 2020.

Vietnam mainly shipped coffee, pepper, cashew nuts, aquatic products to India and imported vegetable and fruit saplings, cotton, maize, pharmaceutical products, medicines, and cattle feed.-

4th edition of Intex South Asia inaugurated in Colombo	DD News http://ddnews.gov.in/international/4th-edition-intex-south-asia-inaugurated-colombo

The fourth edition of Intex South Asia, the largest international textile sourcing show in South Asia, was inaugurated on Wednesday in Colombo by Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

In his address, high commissioner noted that Intex South Asia has become an annual event in Sri Lanka in the calendar of textile industry and can go a long way in promoting the existing synergy between India and Sri Lanka.

High Commissioner added that there exists significant complementarity wherein Sri Lanka can source textile material from India and transform it into apparel and garments for rest of the world.

He encouraged Sri Lankan companies to be part of the supply and value chains of large Indian companies.

Sandhu praised the contribution of Sri Lankan companies, who have made substantial investments in India in textile sector.

He also recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for textile "From Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, Fashion to Foreign."

Int'l garment, textile machinery expo begins tomorrow	**Daily -Bangladesh** https://www.daily-bangladesh.com/english/Intl-garment-textile-machinery-expo-begins-tomorrow/14104

The third edition of Bangladesh International Garment and Textile Machinery Expo (BIGTEX) is set to kick off on Thursday at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the capital.

RedCarpet365 Limited is hosting the four-day exposition targeting the entire apparel industry.

The expo will have concurrent exhibitions as Bangladesh International Print, Pack and Signage Expo, Bangladesh International Fabric and Yarn Expo, Bangladesh International Dyes and Chemical Expo.

These exhibitions will play an important role by showcasing latest machineries, technologies, dyes, chemicals, yarns, fabrics and will provide an opportunity to experts, engineers and technicians to have a practical knowledge of the recent technological advancements available, without going abroad, said organizers on Wednesday.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) is the associate partner of the exhibition while Well Group is the co-partner.

Paperleaf, Foursource, Bangladesh Garments Accessories and Packaging Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGAPMEA) and Bangladesh Indenting Agents Association (BIAA) are also supporting the expo.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed is expected to open the expo at 11:00 am as the chief guest.

Honorary Consul General of Greece to Bangladesh and senior vice-president of BGMEA Faruque Hassan, first vice-president of BKMEA Mansoor Ahmed, President of BGAPMEA Md Abdul Kader Khan, President of BIAA Muhammad Ayub, Chairman and CEO of Well Group Syed Nurul Islam.

Chairman (Export & Market Development Committee), Bangladesh Paper Mills Association and DMD, Bashundhara Group Md Mustafizur Rahman and Head of Business, Paper Leaf Hasan Murad Chowdhury will also attend the inaugural session.