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NEWS CLIPPINGS –15-12-2018

India exports growth falls to 0.8% in November, trade deficit narrows to $16.7 billion	Live Mint https://www.livemint.com/Politics/6CtcsYtNVKRVv9XMJ5VlAK/Exports-up-08-in-November-trade-deficit-widens-to-166-b.html

Growth in India's merchandise exports slumped to 0.8% in November from 17.86% in October, the result of an unfavourable base effect, as the trade deficit narrowed benefitting from a sharp fall in crude oil prices. Data released by the commerce ministry showed imports grew at 4.3% while the trade deficit fell to $16.7 billion in November.

A double-digit contraction in exports of gems and jewellery and engineering goods in November weighed upon the performance of non-oil exports.

A contraction in imports of gold and precious and semi-precious stones, transport equipment and pulses offset a portion of the rise in the crude oil import bill.

Aditi Nayar, principal economist at Icra Ltd, said if crude oil prices remain relatively stable around current levels, the merchandise trade deficit is likely to average a lower $14 billion in the remaining months of FY2019, compared to $16 billion in the first eight months of this fiscal.

With oil prices falling by over 30% since October, India's external outlook is expected to improve.

However, a decision last week by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and some non-Opec producers, including Russia, to cut supply by 1.2 million barrels per day has supported prices this week.

That said, with an impending global slowdown and higher oil production in the US, the upside to oil price rise seems to have been capped.

Most economists have now narrowed down their current account deficit projections for 2018-19 after the current account deficit (CAD) touched a four-year high at 2.9% of gross domestic product (GDP) in the September quarter.

While ratings agency Icra Ltd now estimates the CAD at 2.6% of GDP, Bank of Baroda has projected the figure at 2.5%.

The International Monetary Fund, or IMF, has said that India's CAD is expected to widen to 2.6% of GDP in 2018-19.

However, at current levels it is much narrower than the near 5% of GDP seen during the taper tantrum of 2013.

Data released separately by the Reserve Bank of India showed an 18.8% expansion in services exports in October,

which partly benefited from a weaker rupee, contributing to a robust 23% rise in the services surplus.

In a report on India's exports published as part of an economic strategy for the next government, economists Gita Gopinath and Amartya Lahiri said constraints to growth in exports appear to be generalised due to low scale of production, low productivity and institutional frictions.

"Policy initiatives going forward need to focus on reforms that encourage greater scale, specifically labour reforms that allow easier separation between firms and workers. Specific manufacturing sectors like textiles and electronics can be catalysts for growth and employment if one can encourage scale," they added.

They said the ongoing reset of the China-US trade relations may be an opportunity.

"US firms may look to move production to other low-cost destinations," they added.

In the 25 years since 1992 when India began liberalizing its trade regime, India's share of world goods exports has risen from 0.5% in 1992 to 1.7% in 2017.

The corresponding export share of the much-celebrated Indian service sector rose from 0.5% to 3.4% during this period.

To put these numbers in context, over the same period the Chinese share of world merchandise exports rose from 1.8% to 12.8%.

Closer home, Bangladesh more than doubled its share of world merchandise exports in just the last ten years, going from 0.09% in 2007 to 0.2% in 2017.

More generally, while the world as whole exports around 30% of its GDP, India's export share of gross domestic product continues to languish below 20%.

Anti-dumping duty likely on Chinese chemical	**Economics Times** https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/anti-dumping-duty-likely-on-chinese-chemical/articleshow/67090640.cms

The government may impose anti-dumping duty for five years on a Chinese chemical used in dye and photography industry in order to guard domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country.

Imposition of the duty on 'Meta Phenylene Diamine' was recommended by the commerce ministry's investigation arm - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) after conducting a probe in this regard.

In its probe, the directorate has concluded that there has been continued dumping of the chemical from China and it is likely to continue and increase if the current duty is allowed to cease.

The authority recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty...so as to remove the injury to the domestic industry," the DGTR has said in a notification.

The recommended duty ranges between USD 1,015.44 per tonne and USD 573.92 per tonne. The decision to finally impose the duty will be taken by the finance ministry.
Aarti Industries Ltd had filed an application before the DGTR alleging continuation of dumping of this chemical from China. It has asked for review and continuation of the anti-dumping duties on the imports.
In March 2013, the government had imposed duty of USD 0.78 per kg on the imports of this chemical from China for five years.

Countries carry out anti-dumping probe to determine whether their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in below-cost imports.

The duty is also aimed at ensuring fair trading practises and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers with regard to foreign producers and exporters.

‘Big’ US-China trade deal could happen soon: Donald Trump	Live Mint https://www.livemint.com/Politics/4pxLUATqMui0URVy2sCYaI/Big-US-China-trade-deal-could-happen-soon-Donald-Trump.html

President Donald Trump on Friday said a major US-China trade deal could emerge in the near future, saying that China’s position has been weakened by the economic impact of the tariffs war.

“China wants to make a big and very comprehensive deal. It could happen, and rather soon!” he tweeted.

Trump said that China’s decision to back off from new tariffs on cars and auto parts reflected the pain inflicted by the United States in its trade war.

“China just announced that their economy is growing much slower than anticipated because of our Trade War with them. They have just suspended US Tariff Hikes. U.S. is doing very well,” Trump said.

Earlier Friday, China halted extra punitive duties that had been imposed this summer. They now fall from 40 per cent to 15 per cent -- the same rate imposed on all foreign-made vehicles.

Beauty, fashion drive growth at Miniso India	Live Mint https://www.livemint.com/Companies/u0ho6XRkhFgWhqgPmgZooO/Beauty-fashion-drive-growth-at-Miniso-India.html

Beauty and fashion products are driving growth at the Indian unit of Miniso, the Japanese low-cost retail chain that launched its first store in August 2017. The beauty category, launched in July, is expected to contribute 20% to the company's overall business, said Young Liu, chief business development officer at Miniso. The beauty range includes moisturisers, body washes and colour cosmetics.

"In other countries, the revenue from the beauty range is double the India numbers, therefore we believe there is a huge room for growth. Currently, we are localising the beauty range, bringing colours that suit the Indian skin tone which will further drive this growth," Liu said.

Miniso currently houses between 2,000 and 4,000 stock-keeping units (SKUs) in 12 categories, including health, beauty, stationery, gift items and creative homeware, at its 67 stores in India with a starting price of ₹150.

The company achieved its annual target of ₹700 crore revenue for 2017-18 in India with an average ticket size, which is 1.5 times higher than its other global markets.

With a presence across metros and tier I cities, the company plans to further penetrate smaller towns by taking the store count to 800 by 2020.

"We want to take our brand to tier II, III and IV towns and simultaneously expand our warehousing capabilities by setting up two to three new warehouses by 2019," said Liu.

Besides Gurugram, Mumbai and Bengaluru, Minsio will open a new warehouse in Kolkata next year.

The low-cost retailer said it will rely heavily on the franchise route to achieve the expansion targets. Currently, out of its existing 67 stores in India, 42 are franchise-owned. According to Liu, the key challenge to the expansion target is the quality of shopping malls in the country.

"There are not enough shopping malls in India to open Miniso stores. We have so many investors who want to invest in our stores but there are not enough well-managed shopping malls in India. Apart from malls, the high-street locations are equally important to us and we want to focus on that as well," he added.

The company, which targets customers in the 28-40 year age group, said that bottles, electronics and perfumes are its top-selling products. Indians prefer bright colours and the brand is looking to add them in its product range, it said. Last year, Miniso partnered with Marvel Studios to bring Pink Panther-themed products globally and it will bring more such superheroes-themed accessories to India next year.

Must have textiles in every Indian bride's trousseau	Navhindtimes http://www.navhindtimes.in/must-have-textiles-in-every-indian-brides-trousseau/

Each region in India has its own unique textile associated with weddings. Here are some of the finest wedding textiles in India.

Banarsi sari: Originating from Varanasi also known as Banaras in Uttar Pradesh, it is undoubtedly one of the most exquisite and rich saris woven in India. Known for its elaborately ornate with heavy gold and silver brocade or zari, fine silk and opulent embroidery, the Banarasi sari is a popular choice for bridal trousseaus. They were introduced in India by the Mughals and hence Mughal inspired designs such as intricate intertwining floral motifs, net like patterns, architectural designs along with figures of animals in gold or silver are common. Depending on the intricacy of its designs and patterns, a sari can take from 15 days to a month and sometimes up to six months to complete.The price range of Banarasi saris depends on the intricacy of work. The pure Banarasi silk sarees start from `4,500 and can go up to lakhs because of the real gold and silver zari threads used in it. Over the years, the Banarasi silk handloom industry has been facing competition from mechanised units producing the Banarasi silk sari at a faster and cheaper rate in cheaper synthetic alternatives to silk. Also, increasing quantities of look-alike Banarasi saris mass produced in China have been flooding the market. In 2009, the weaver association in Uttar Pradesh secured Geographical Indication (GI) rights for the Banaras brocade saris. This means that no saree or brocade made outside the six identified districts of Uttar Pradesh – Varanasi, Mirzapur, Chandauli, Bhadohi, Jaunpur and Azamgarh – can be legally sold under the name of Banaras sari or brocade.

Paitani sari: Named after the Paithan town in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, where it is hand woven, this fine silk sari is considered one of the richest saris in India. Once worn only by royals and aristocrats, today, Paithani saris hold a treasured place in the trousseau of a Maharashtrian bride. A genuine handloom Paithani sari uses about 500 grams of silk thread and another 250 grams of zari thread for a regular six yard sari. Nine yard saris obviously use more raw materials. The entire process of weaving and completing a Paithani sari can take anywhere from a month to two years. While Paithani saris often feature butis on the body, the highlight is always the border and pallu which consists of motifs like peacocks, lotus, parrots, flowers, vines and mango shapes. Since they're dyed by weavers using vegetable dyes, these saris come in basic colours like red, yellow, blue, purple, peach-pink, green and magenta. Passed on from one generation to another, these heirloom saris can cost anywhere from `7,000 to `2,50,000 depending on the silk thread and zari work on the border which is usually drawn from real gold or silver. Paithani saris have been facing competition from power loom Paithanis which look as good as handwoven saris and are sold at high prices despite being produced at one-tenth the cost. One of the tell-tale signs of a genuine Paithani sari is that the weave looks exactly the same of both sides, whereas on power loom saris one can see threads on the reverse. Because of the manual nature of the weaving process, no two Paithanis are exactly the same. There will always be minute variations in design. A genuine Paithani doesn't lose its lustre or wear out at folds.

Phulkari: Phulkari, which literally means flower work, is an embroidery technique from Punjab. This spectacular style of embroidery was patterned on odnis, shawls, dupattas and kurtis on charkha spun khaddar fabric. The main characteristic of this embroidery is the use of darn stitch on the wrong side of the cloth using untwisted coloured silk floss known as the pat. While Phulkari embroidery ornaments the cloth, garments made for ceremonial occasion such

as weddings and the birth of a son had embroidery fully covering the base fabric. These are known as baghs meaning garden. Phulkaris and baghs were traditionally embroidered by women for their own use and the use of family members and not for commercialisation. It was a folk art. The motifs, which were created in a geometric grid forming horizontal, vertical and diagonal thread work, were inspired by the artists' routine and represented life in the hamlets of Punjab. The patterns of Phulkari were neither drawn nor traced. The most favoured colour for embroidery was red and its shades as it is considered auspicious by Punjabi Hindus and Sikhs. Other colours are brown, blue, black and white. Phulkari garments were presented to brides at the time of their marriage, the number of Phulkari pieces defining the status of the family.It takes at least 80 days to complete a Phulkari salwar khameez and a heavy Phulkari work dupatta can cost almost as much as a Banarasi silk sari. Presently, machine made Phulkari attires are being manufactured in Amritsar and Ludhiana which makes it affordable for low end customers. Almost twelve Phulkari suits can be manufactured in a day by machines. In 2011, Phulkari was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) status in India, which means only registered traders and manufacturers from Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan would be able to use the term for the traditional craft.

It's destination Bhiwandi Hub for warehouse developers	**Live Mint** https://www.livemint.com/Companies/AXi5ORQbnXJuqC7QVtmr9M/Its-destination-Bhiwandi-Hub-for-warehouse-developers.html

Bhiwandi near Mumbai has emerged as a warehouse hub for Amazon, Flipkart, Myntra and Pepperfry, attracting blue-chip investors and developers keen for a slice of its booming economy

Forty kilometres from Mumbai lies Bhiwandi in Thane district, a warehousing hub dispatching hundreds of thousands of retail and industrial goods to consumers in the financial capital every day. The town, once known for its power looms, has emerged as a warehousing hotspot for e-commerce majors such as Amazon, Flipkart, Myntra and Pepperfry, attracting blue-chip investors and developers keen for a slice of its booming economy.

According to property consultant JLL India, Bhiwandi has around 25.7 million sq. ft of warehousing space, of which only 3.2 million sq. ft are of Grade A quality. At this pace of growth, the town is closing in on Gurugram, which houses 25.98 million sq. ft of Grade A and B warehousing space.

Among firms actively looking to invest in the region are global commercial developers, including e-Shang Redwood (ESR), IndoSpace and Ascendas-Singbridge, and Bengaluru-based Embassy Group. Warburg Pincus-backed logistics developer ESR is all set to sign two large land deals in Bhiwandi, ESR India's co-CEO Abhijit Malkani said. The company plans to build industrial parks focused on warehousing for retailers and e-commerce firms. If signed, ESR will become the first global institutional developer to enter the region.

According to Malkani, there is a massive demand-supply gap in the region due to lack of good quality space. "We are putting a lot of focus on Bhiwandi... Interest in the area has picked up in the past one-two years. Bhiwandi's landscape will change with organized, institutional players coming in."

Improved infrastructure and access to both Mumbai and Pune, as it is situated along the Mumbai-Nashik highway, have boosted Bhiwandi's chances of becoming a major warehousing hub.

"Bhiwandi intersects Mumbai right through the middle. This is a location, where, if you have a distribution hub, you

can reach both north and south Mumbai with equal ease," said Chandranath Dey, senior vice president, head-industrial consulting, JLL India.

He added that the vacancy level at Bhiwandi's warehouses is as low as 1-2%.

However, the region has its challenges, as it is dominated by unorganized developers. Besides, land acquisition has been difficult since much of the plots here are agricultural. "By law, one can have warehousing to the extent of 0.1 FSI (floor space index), which means just 10% of the total ground area. But in Bhiwandi, they are covering almost 70% of the ground floor," said Dey.

However, a recent change in local laws, allowing developers to hold over 50 acres to get special approvals under the integrated industrial area policy, has attracted large global players. "Mumbai is a major consumption centre in India. There is no other location in Mumbai, which can service the scale of warehousing requirement like the way Bhiwandi can," said Anshul Singhal, chief executive officer, Embassy Industrial Parks.

Amazon and Flipkart have been operating in the area for five-six years. While Amazon has five fulfilment centres in Bhiwandi, spread across 1 million sq. ft., Flipkart's facility is around 3 million sq. ft.

With around 4,500 employees, Flipkart's Bhiwandi facility is the largest in the western region.

"In the six years of operation, the facility has grown in line with the scaling of our business and the increased adoption of e-commerce in India," said a Flipkart spokesperson.

For online furniture retailer Pepperfry, the 300,000 sq. ft warehouse in Bhiwandi is its largest distribution hub, with a capacity to accommodate around 80,000 boxes.

Apparel exporters want hike in duty drawback rates	**The Hindu** https://www.thehindu.com/business/apparel-exporters-want-hike-in-duty-drawback-rates/article25735741.ece

Decrease in levy has come as a setback for industry: AEPC

Apparel exporters have appealed to the government to review the duty drawback rates announced recently for ready-made garments.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) chairman (acting) A. Sakthivel said the new rates announced by the government were 2.20-2.52 percentage points short of what the council had sought.

Reduced policy support

For instance, the rates announced for cotton ready-made garments are 1.8% to 2.2% whereas the council had sought 4.32%. Since the introduction of GST, the policy support received for apparel exports had reduced significantly. "The duty drawback rates for apparel industry has decreased for most of the important product categories of garments like cotton garments, MMF garments, blend garments, etc. This has come as a serious setback for the industry which

is already losing global market share due to reduced competitiveness, post GST," a release quoted him as saying.

Garment exports last financial year were worth $16.9 billion and this year, so far, there was negative growth. The industry had already sought an increase in rebate of state levies (ROSL). The government should increase the ROSL and enhance the duty drawback rates for garments, he said.

Ministers' panel to look into power sector stress issues	**Business Line** https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/ministers-panel-to-look-into-power-sector-stress-issues/article25726854.ece

The Centre has formed an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to examine the recommendations of the High-Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) tasked with looking into issues that have contributed to the stress in the power sector.

"The EGoM is chaired by Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley. It will make recommendations on the suggestions that have been made in the report of the HLEC. These comments will be forwarded for consideration by the Union Cabinet," a Government official aware of the decision told BusinessLine.

It may be recalled that the Cabinet Secretary-headed High-Level Empowered Committee was to look into the various issues that have contributed to the stress in the power sector, to resolve them and to maximise the efficiency of investments. This includes changes required to be made in the fuel allocation policy, regulatory framework, mechanisms to facilitate sale of power and ensure timely payments.

"Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, will be the member convenor of this EGoM, which will be serviced by the Ministry of Power. The other members of the committee are Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal, and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan."

The HLEC has recommended that NTPC can act as an aggregator of power from stressed power plants and offer that power to the Discoms against PPAs of NTPC till the time as NTPC's own plants are commissioned.

The committee has also recommended that a nodal agency may be designated which may invite bids for procurement of bulk power for medium term for 3-5 years in appropriate tranches, against pre-declared linkage by Coal India.

The Ministry of Coal may also earmark at least 60 per cent of the e-auction coal for the power sector. This should be in addition to the regular coal requirement of the power sector, the committee had recommended.

According to the HLEC, the disbursal of a Late Payment Surcharge should also be made mandatory in the event of delay in payment by the Discom.

Textile ready to take off	Business Recorder https://www.brecorder.com/2018/12/14/459105/textile-ready-to-take-off/

The currency has depreciated over 30 percent in last 12 months but textile exports grew by a mere 6 percent during Nov17-Oct18 over the same period last year. This implies that currency adjustment alone is not sufficient to boost exports.

Pakistan textile exports grew by 85 percent from $5.8 billion to $10.8 billion during FY02-07 at a time when currency and cotton prices were sticky. Since then, there has been no significant growth in textile exports during the last decade, despite the fact that the value of dollar has more than doubled against the rupee during the same period. FY11 was the only exception when textile exports jumped by 34 percent due to over 100 percent increase in cotton prices during that year.

Turning around stunted growth in textile exports requires more than just currency depreciation Yes, there are advantages of recent currency adjustments; but given the capacity constraints of value added sectors, growth may remain restricted to 5-10 percent this year.

In order to go beyond, textile industry needs to significantly increase its capacity as it happened during 2002-06. No significant sector wide expansion has been recorded in the industry during the last decade which could have led to a exportable surplus. It appears that stars have aligned for significant expansion in textile over coming periods: government has set the price for gas at 6.5 cents per unit and electricity at 7.5 cents per unit, is providing long term financing at attractive rates, and is seemingly committed to flexible exchange rate. These factors are making players to seriously consider massive expansions. It takes a year or two for the industry to expand and for that process to kick start more clarity is needed in implementation, and a few more incentives are warranted.

For example, the government has to do away with 0.25 percent tax for export development fund which is wasted in TDAP and other such nuisances, and refunds of exporters need to be cleared sooner or later. Anyhow, the direction is right.

Another major impediment is the falling cotton production in the country. Back in FY05, cotton production peaked at 14.3 million bales which was aligned with industry expansion. Cotton production has been downhill since; averaging at 12.7 million bales per year during FY06-15, before further spiraling downward to average annual production of 10.8 million bales by FY16-18.

One reason for recent dip is the shift of cotton production area to sugarcane which is due to undue incentives for sugarcane production in the form of support price mechanism. Per hectare yield has also deteriorated substantially over the same period. For context, yield in Indian Punjab is around 50 percent higher than Pakistani Punjab, even though domestic yield was not far behind as recent as in FY12.

The major problem is in cotton seed research which is poor in Pakistan. Three big textile players (Nishat, Sapphire and Fatima) have formed a cotton seed company (Safina) to resolve the problem. Such interventions can resolve the problem of germination and purification of seeds; but without stewardship of a global player such as Bayer (ex Monsanto), resistance against pesticides and other harming elements cannot be developed. India, Brazil, US and many other economies have done it; it is time for Pakistan to move towards GMOs in cotton production.

Cotton production is important as increasing reliance on imported cotton does not only strain current account deficit but also renders the exports uncompetitive relative to India and others. Imported cotton adds additional 10 percent logistics charge to cost of production. Value chain price of garments is same for buyers but cost of production

increases due to higher input price.

With currency adjustment, minimum wage is becoming competitive too. Until recently, Pakistan labour wage was around $145 per month which was similar to India ($150) and little lower than Vietnam ($150-175) but was almost double than Bangladesh ($70). Now with 34 percent currency adjustment, labour cost has fallen to $110-115, while the internal pressure in Bangladesh is pushing the wages close $100 per month.

Given the incentives for fabric, bed sheets, knitwear and towels, it makes sense for value added textile sectors to go for expansion, Market pulse confirms this view, as major players appear to be in advanced planning stage of expansion.

The problem is in garments which is a big market to tap. There are one or two players at the competitive curve in Punjab, but none in Karachi. The low hanging fruit is to incentivize garment industry in Pakistan. The labour lacks the skill set and our productivity is far behind even Bangladesh. Garment players require sustainable support – not like cash support for six months.

One option is to create a garment city in Punjab – be it Multan, Faisalabad or Lahore. But one that has all the facilities including housing for workers (aligned with PM's low-cost housing passion), skill development by one of the three Punjab institutes in this area, and custom office at site to reduce the friction in importing raw material for exporting goods. The other option is to incentivize existing players to expand where they are already present.

The math is simple – if 25 new garment factories are added by existing players, each can add $50 million of exports with 2,500 jobs per factory while the cost of setting up is just $10 million per factory. This can create sustainable exports of $1.25 billion per year – 50 percent increase from existing $2.5 billion exports in FY18.
Similar is the story of other value-added sectors, as they will expand too if long term financing, flexible exchange rate, and affordable energy prices policies continue. The problem in Pakistan is scale. Pakistan has niche buyers, but mass-market stores such as Walmart, Target and the likes do not come to Pakistan as there are too few garments or other value-added factories in Pakistan.
This will change the narrative of Pakistani exporters amongst buyers. The industrial exports growth does not happen in short term, it requires strategic decision of buyers which is a gradual process and needs commitment both from government and exporters.

Meanwhile, Pakistan should also look for market access in regions other than US and Europe. Pakistan should look at China, Japan, South Africa and other economies for exports. Pakistan needs bilateral agreements for market access, but not FTAs as history suggests these have adverse impact on imports. For example, Pakistan imports 90 percent of Kenyan tea, but exports nothing back in return.

Another market is retail textile exports – Pakistani brands in lawn and other products are exporting to various destinations through Kyapia; as exporting destinations have imposed import duties on retail products from Pakistan.

Lady luck can work in our favour for yarn and fabric- our exports are part of global production chain. China adds value to imported yarn to export to western markets, primarily the US. With the truce between China and the US in Argentina, tariff war between the two giants may end. And to expand the low value-added market, FTA2.0 with China is critical – Pakistan's yarn exports to China have 3.5 percent duty versus no duty for Vietnam. If Pakistan gets the same treatment, yarn exports to China can increase by 50 percent in no time. Note that unlike garments, there is no capacity bottleneck in yarn as around 100 mills are closed and they can become operative in months, if not weeks.

In a nutshell, if the policies are played right, Pakistan textile exports can grow by 50-70 percent in 3-4 years to cross $20 billion. Fingers crossed.

Hohenstein joins ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme	Innovation Textiles https://www.innovationintextiles.com/hohenstein-joins-zdhc-roadmap-to-zero-programme/

Hohenstein has announced it is joining the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme and in doing so, supports the Programme's vision of widespread implementation of sustainable chemistry, driving innovations and best practices in textiles, apparel and footwear industries to protect consumers, workers and the environment.

Hohenstein commits to working collaboratively on this task and towards the milestones set in the Programme's Joint Roadmap through active engagement with other brands, retailers and stakeholders.

"Hohenstein is proud to be joining over 20 leading brands working together to drive industry-wide change in responsible chemical management and commits to working on this task in a collaborative and open manner," the institute reports.

With around 1,000 employees in more than 40 branches and contact offices worldwide, Hohenstein is an international accredited testing laboratory, services provider and research partner in the textiles industry. Its work first and foremost involves the testing and certification of textiles. One of its core competencies is research and development for all kinds of applications and textile products. It also offers a number of advanced training services for companies along the entire textile production chain, among other.