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NEWS CLIPPINGS –09-02-2019

India hopes to sign FTA with EU in "Foreseeable Future"

Deccan Chronicle

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/economy/080219/india-hopes-to-sign-ftha-with-eu-in-foreseeable-future.html>

The government on Friday expressed hope that it would be able to sign a free trade agreement with the European Union (EU) in the "foreseeable future".

"We will find the necessary balance between ambition and sensitivity in the foreseeable future to have trade agreements with various countries including the EU...The FTA will happen soon I am sure," Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said on the sidelines of the National standards conclave organised by the commerce ministry and CII.

Asked if auto is the only concern, he declined to elaborate but said that auto component is one of the few sectors something which is at the cutting edge of global standard and "we have to virtually find a way forward."

He also added that the EU has expressed some concerns about India's service sector.

Wadhawan seemed optimistic about India surpassing the export level that had peaked during 2013-14.

"We will reach a peak level this year. Our exports had peaked at USD 314 billion in 2013-14 and I think we will go past that peak," he said.

In 2013-14, the country's merchandise exports touched USD 314.4 billion level. After that, exports came under immense pressure again due to global slowdown.

On the agriculture exports showing inactivity, he said, "food exports stagnated a bit because of price issues. Global commodity prices have fallen but the volumes have not come down. The quantities are still rising. We export over USD 40 billion worth of agriculture products. We are the largest exporters of rice in the world."

The third quarter showed a slowdown in exports but the secretary attributed it to the global prices.

"Petroleum prices are coming down. Our exports are 15 per cent petroleum products and that 15 per cent is lagging. Agriculture commodity prices have come down worldwide and agriculture export is about USD 40 billion out of over USD 300 billion. So all the pressures are there and the global slowdown is coming so that will obviously have its effect," he said.

He added that certain categories like grapes have recorded a huge jump on the back of the trade war between China and US.

Asked how free trade and opening up of borders would materialise in future when global giants US and China are at loggerheads, he said, "I am sure better sense will prevail at a global level and countries will not destabilise the WTO."

It is a very very useful framework, a very useful set of rules which brings some order and predictability to global trade, so I am sure the world community and the community of nations will not allow the WTO to be disrupted, he said.

Textiles Ministry to organize Silk Event to highlight growth in India since 2014

Devdiscourse.com

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/373427-textiles-ministry-to-organize-silk-event-to-highlight-growth-in-india-since-2014>

Ministry of Textiles, in association with Central Silk Board, is organizing an event, Surging Silk- Accomplishment and way forward, in New Delhi on 9th February 2019. Union Minister of External Affairs, Sushma Swaraj will be the chief guest and the event will be presided over by Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani.

The event is being organized to highlight the growth of the silk industry in India over the past 4 years. It focusses on the distribution of Buniyaad Tasar SilkReeling Machines to women reelers from tribal areas, as part of total eradication of the age-old practice of thigh reeling.

In order to eradicate thigh reeling practice in tasar silk sector and to ensure rightful earning to the poor rural and tribal women reelers, Central Silk Technological Research Institute has developed a machine in association with an entrepreneur from Champa, Chhattisgarh. The machine developed is known as Buniyaad Reeling machine. This machine will improve the quality and productivity of Tasar silk yarn and reduce the drudgery of women.

Women reeler using the traditional method earns approximately Rs.125/- per day while a tasar reeler using Buniyaad reeling machine can earn Rs.350/- per day. The Buniyaad reeling machine is priced at Rs.8,475/- per unit excluding taxes and transportation charges. It is planned to eradicate thigh reeling and replace with Buniyaad reeling machine by end of March 2019. The machine is available with solar power and pedal attachments. Machine manufacturers have already been identified for the production and delivery of the machines to the reelers.

During the event, the best achievers of silk industry across various segments of sericulture will be honoured. Awards will be given to the best performing states, the release of melange fabric produced from silk waste will take place, a mobile application will be launched for quality certification in silkworm seed sector and a compendium on Indian silk industry and state sericulture profile will be released.

The compendium will be a comprehensive compilation on the status and growth of sericulture and silk industry of each state, plans and programmes launched by Government of India being implemented across the country and ethnic silk products supported with a directory of important contacts points, to have first-hand information of the industry.

Ministry has made elaborate arrangements for participation from different spectrum of Textile industry in large numbers.

India's Exports to China set to touch record high as market access widens

Business Line

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-exports-to-china-set-to-touch-record-high-as-market-access-widens/article26218084.ece>

Beijing's spat with US, removal of trade hurdles with New Delhi spur growth

India's export to China is expected to reach an all-time high this fiscal with the US-China trade spat creating new opportunities for exporters and Beijing removing some trade barriers in its effort to check the growing bilateral trade imbalance.

The growth is driven by marine products, organic chemicals, plastics, petroleum products, grapes and rice, according to an official release of the Commerce Ministry.

"India's exports to China have grown after several years. India is poised to achieve its highest ever exports to the country this fiscal. Between April and December 2018, exports were \$12.7 billion which is closer to last year's exports of \$13.33 billion," the release said.

New Delhi, however, believes that more efforts are required for greater market penetration in China. "India is hopeful of soon signing protocols for export of Indian soyabean meals, cakes and pomegranates to China in the near future, as these are in advanced stages of discussion," the release added.

Discussions are on with the Chinese for early announcement of import quotas for sugar and rice for 2019 so that Indian exporters are able to plan their exports well in time, it said.

India's trade deficit with China was a huge \$63 billion in 2017-18, which was more than a third of the country's total trade deficit, with exports to China at \$13.3 billion and imports from the country at \$76.38 billion.

Acknowledging the need to take steps to check the deficit, China signed three export protocols — on rice, fishmeal and tobacco — to allow imports of the three items.

New Delhi is hopeful that the new protocols being discussed would boost India's exports further and rein in the deficit.

Discussions are also on for early announcement of Chinese import quotas for sugar and rice for 2019 so that Indian exporters are able to plan their exports well in time.

Making the most of the US-China trade dispute, the Department of Commerce took the initiative to identify and share with Indian exporters and other stakeholders, specific lines where the US will lose competitiveness in China and where India had an export potential, according to the release.

New industrial policy to be formulated with change in govt at Centre: Mamata Banerjee

KNN India.com

<https://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/sectors/new-industrial-policy-to-be-formulated-with-change-in-govt-at-centre-mamata-banerjee>

A new industrial policy would be formulated if there is a change in the government at the Centre after the Lok Sabha polls, said Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Chief Minister.

"After the change in the government post elections, there will be a new industrial policy. Many industrialists left India. I urge them to come back and invest in the country," Banerjee said at the fifth edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit that began at New Town near Kolkata.

There are availability of talented and skilled workers, land map and land-use policy, and policies for the IT, textiles, tea gardens, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and big businesses in the state, the Chief Minister said.

Claiming that the perception of the state had changed after 34 years of "misrule" of the Left Front, the Trinamool Congress chief said there were no working days lost now.

Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani, JSW group chairman Sajjan Jindal and many others were present at the business summit.

Industry happy with Karnataka Budget

Business Line

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/industry-happy-with-karnataka-budget/article26218142.ece>

Trade and industry is happy with the extension of the Karasamadhana Scheme in the State Budget.

Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy in his budget speech said, "I had announced Karasamadhana Scheme for the arrears under the provisions of Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. Trade and industry have represented for extension of the scheme for all the arrears arising out of the enactments administered by the Commercial Taxes Department which existed before the introduction of GST. Therefore, a comprehensive Karasamadhana Scheme will be rolled out to reduce the arrears."

Skills training

Sudhakar S Shetty, President, FKCCI said, "We had requested for Karasamadhan scheme. We are happy it has been addressed and it will help all the sectors."

Allocation of ₹5 crore for the establishment of State-level training centre for all workers of Department of Women and Child Welfare at Ballari and divisional level training centres at Mysuru, Belagavi and Kalaburagi and Chitradurga in Bengaluru division will help the women in these districts in various skills which are required to earn more income.

Development of Chikkamagalur and Shivamogga airstrips under PPP model and Hassan new airport will attract more tourists to these places but speedy completion of these projects is more important since it is pending many years

now.

"Helping of Startups in Bengaluru City by strengthening the incubation centre is a welcome move since Bengaluru is one of the leaders in start-ups," said Shetty.

'Please all Budget'

Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) termed the Budget as a 'Please all Budget' as it announced a slew of measures that fosters growth of farming community, rural economy and industrial development in the State.

Kishore Alva, President, BCIC & Joint President and Executive Director, Adani Udupi Power Corporation Ltd, welcoming the Budget, said, "The Chief Minister has done an excellent balancing act by addressing issues related to the farming community, rural masses and the industry by announcing several schemes in the budget 2019-20 which will support overall economic development of the State."

UKIBC signs pact with West Bengal govt	Business Standard https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ukibc-signs-pact-with-west-bengal-govt-119020801396_1.html
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The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the West Bengal government to enhance its commitment to deliver UK business, investment and economic growth in the state.

The MoU was signed at the Bengal Global Business Summit-2019 by UKIBC Group Chief Executive Richard Heald and West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) Managing Director Vandana Yadav.

Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata said, "In signing an MoU, I am delighted that UKIBC has recognised the growth potential in the East and North East of India. Bengal means business. So does Britain".

He said the pact will step up UK's commitment to facilitate trade and investment through collaboration, sharing information, promoting ease of doing business and making easy investor interactions.

The UK is an official partner of the summit and this year brought its biggest delegation ever, showcasing UK businesses ready to invest and grow in West Bengal.

After the MoU was signed in the presence of West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, Richard Heald said, "West Bengal is increasingly turning heads for UK businesses looking towards India and this pays testament to the enormous efforts taken by the government of West Bengal towards meaningful ease of doing business reform in recent years."

This was the second MoU that UKIBC signed with state governments. The first was with the Maharashtra government last month.

UK companies employ nearly 30,000 people in Kolkata alone, representing 11 per cent of all those employed by British companies operating in India.

Bengal business summit 2019: Indian Inc promises to invest over 40,000 crore

Business Today

<https://www.businessstoday.in/current/economy-politics/bengal-business-summit-2019-indian-inc-promises-to-invest-over-40000-crore/story/318334.html>

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government has secured investment proposals worth over Rs 40,000 crore on the first day of the flagship business summit which started on Thursday.

At least ten partner countries, over 32 nation across the globe and big delegations from India participated in the summit that got underway Thursday, suggested media reports.

According to media report, the state government, in the fourth edition of the event in 2018, had secured investment commitment worth USD 145.93 billion.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries has proposed to make an additional investment of Rs 10,000 crore in the digital space of the state for expansion of his Reliance Jio's 4G network. His company has already invested Rs 28,000 crore in the state, which is the biggest investment in the digital space of West Bengal so far.

Speaking at the Summit, Ambani said that the plan to invest Rs 10,000 crore more is already under implementation. He added that in 2016 when he first attended the summit, Reliance's investment in the state was to the tune of Rs 4,500 crore.

Sanjiv Puri, MD, ITC, said the group will invest Rs 1,700 crore to set up a new personal care products plant and upgrade its current facilities in the state.

Sajjan Jindal, chairman and managing director of the JSW Group, said the group is planning to double the capacity of cement plant in West Bengal and is considering to set up a steel plant worth Rs 50,000 crore, but could not finalise it due to lack of raw material.

Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL) has proposed to invest Rs 15,000 crore in West Bengal over the next five years. Among other Indian companies, Hiranandani Group has announced to make fresh investment of Rs 2000 crore in the state. Karan Adani, Chief Executive Officer, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones has said group will set up a port and logistics park in Bengal. Among the global delegates, Coca Cola has announced to invest Rs 500 crore and UAE-based DP World proposes to develop Kulpi Port at an investment of Rs 3,000 crore.

Businesses advised to take better advantage of FTA benefits

Vietnam Plus.vn

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/businesses-advised-to-take-better-advantage-of-fta-benefits/146286.vnp>

Vietnam's joining of free trade agreements (FTAs) is quite suitable in the context of trade globalization. However, to promote the efficiency of boosting exports, a concerted policy system is needed to help businesses successfully take advantage of benefits brought by the FTAs, according to insiders.

A survey by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) shows that the rate of taking advantage of FTA

benefits by Vietnamese enterprises is falling.

Businesses attributed the fall to shortcomings in State offices' enforcement of policies, strict rules of origin, and their lack of information about commitments and how to take full advantage of the FTAs. Many also acknowledged that their firms' competitiveness is weaker than that of partners whose countries are also members of the FTAs.

The garment and textile sector is considered one of those taking the most advantage of FTA benefits in Vietnam. However, President of the Ho Chi Minh City Textile and Garment - Embroidery Association Pham Xuan Hong said that the sector only succeeds in doing so with the Republic of Korea, while the rates with other partners remain low.

The reason is that different FTAs have different requirements on rules of origin, Hong elaborated, adding that many FTAs request clarification of origin of yarn, while Vietnam mainly imports materials from China.

According to experts, the rate of enterprises bringing into full play the FTAs has been improved remarkably, from 10 percent at first to 38 percent at present. However, it is not enough to equilibrate the trade balance with partners.

They said that together with tariff reduction, new-generation FTAs include strict regulations on technical standards, source of origin, and intellectual property, which have made Vietnamese enterprises fail to be adaptive to these agreements.

To meet expectations when joining FTAs, Vietnam should carry out measures in a concerted way to increase competitiveness of exporters, experts said.

Pham Quynh Mai, deputy head of the Multilateral Trade Policy Department under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, suggested businesses take the initiative in accessing information about the FTAs and their contents to make use of rules on origin in a systematic and effective manner.

Enterprises should also improve technology and increase product quality, as all kinds of products which hope to enjoy tariff incentives and be welcomed by consumers must meet all quality and technical requirements committed, Mai added. Nguyen Thi Tue Anh, deputy director of the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), said that the small scale is a weak point of Vietnamese enterprises, so they are incapable of meeting big orders.

She suggested they connect with others in the same sector to share orders, or cooperate with multi-national groups and businesses to bring opportunities into full play to participate in the regional and global supply chains.

Besides efforts of enterprises, the Vietnamese Government should focus on supporting enterprises to export their strong products by guiding them to implement rules of origin and simplifying procedures of certification and specific inspections, experts advised

How automation is creating disruptions in the textile industry

Deccan Chronicle
<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/technology/in-other-news/080219/how-automation-is-creating-disruptions-in-the-textile-industry.html>

Man's tryst with machine began in the late 18th century Britain in the wake of the Industrial Revolution. One of the main industries that were transformed completely during this time was the textile industry. Prior to the advent of machines and factories, most of the manufacturing took place in local homes. However, a series of innovations such as the Flying Shuttle, Spinning Jenny and finally the Sewing-Machine paved the road for mass-produced clothing. Fast forward to 2019; with the 4th Industrial Revolution dawning upon us, automation continues to cause major disruptions in the textile industry. From fibre manufacturing to spinning, knitting, weaving, dyeing, and the final assembly, the adoption of automation has helped this sector tremendously in terms of productivity, efficiency and quality. Even the packaging is now done by machines. In addition to all of this, the introduction of modern technologies has reduced the labour cost significantly, enabling merchandisers to save thousands of dollars.

Akshay Jaipuria, Partner at Vaya Home says that the turning point in the textile industry came when SoftWear Automation launched LOWRY, a sewing robot or sewbot, which is capable of making as many as 1,142 t-shirts within just 8 hours. Needless to say, the rise of automated sewing has attributed to the textile industry's growth. While some concerns have been raised regarding job losses and machines replacing the human workforce, technology has made its presence felt in the textile manufacturing process as well as the garment making process. Apart from improved production rate, the arrival of automated machines in the textile industry has also allowed a safer work environment.

Today, various processes such as cotton picking and ginning, which were manual earlier, have been automated. Cotton fibre tests now can be carried out in seconds thanks to the High Volume Instrument (HVI) system. Automation has also been achieved in spinning with the development of machines like ring spinning, air-jet spinning, rotor spinning and Vortex spinning among others. Moreover, automation has made it possible to get an uninformed yarn quality using the yarn fault detection system. Other sectors in the textile industry including weaving, dyeing and garment have also evolved after the incorporation of shuttleless looms, robotic handling devices and ERP systems.

"Automation has enabled the textile industry to increase the productivity by multiple times that too at a much lower cost. As we move towards the future, more advancements are expected to take place to reduce the power requirement of textile machinery, increasing their speed and efficiency. And it's only a matter of time before the textile industry becomes fully automated," said Jaipuria.

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Micro-factories can show the way forward'

Laundry Andcle.com

<http://www.laundryandcleaningnews.com/news/newsmicro-factories-can-show-the-way-forward-6975249>

Individualisation, automation and digitalisation: micro-factories are the way forward for the future of clothing production and will be the main theme of Texprocess in Frankfurt am Main from 14 to 17 May 2019.

"Send your favourite design to the manufacturer today via an app and wear your individually designed, perfectly fitting trainers or shirt tomorrow. It's a long time since this was just a pipe dream for the future," says Michael Ja"necke, director brand management technical textiles and textile processing at Messe Frankfurt. "Behind it, however, lies a host of complex processes, involving production, processing and logistics. Micro-factories, based on networked and integrated procedures, represent the progressive way of making textile processing quicker, more flexible and, because it is more local, also more sustainable; whilst, at the same time, producing personalised products." In a total of four micro-factories at the up-coming Texprocess, trade visitors will be able to get an idea of how integrated textile processing works and where micro-factories are already being used.

Italy industrial output contracts as indicators suggest "worsening" economy: ISTAT

Xinhuanet.com

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/08/c_137807261.htm

- Italy's industrial output contracted last year and other leading indicators suggested a "worsening" outlook for the nation's economy, ISTAT national statistics institute reported Friday.

Industrial production fell in every quarter in 2018, decreasing the most markedly in the last quarter, ISTAT noted.

Italy's seasonally adjusted industrial production index dropped by 0.8 percent in December 2018 compared with the previous month, by 1.1 percent in the last quarter of 2018 with respect to the previous three months, and by 5.5 percent compared to December 2017, the statistics agency said.

However, on average, industrial production grew moderately by 0.8 percent overall in 2018 compared to 2017 "thanks to a carry-over effect from the positive trend in the preceding year", ISTAT analysts wrote.

All the main economic sectors were in negative territory last year, the institute said, pointing to wood, paper and printing (-13 percent), textiles, apparel, leather, and accessories (-11.1 percent), and rubber, plastics, non-metal manufacturing (-7.9 percent), as well as steel, other metals, and vehicle manufacturing (both -5.5 percent).

The only sector that advanced slightly in December compared to November was intermediate goods by 0.1 percent. However, consumer goods "decreased significantly" by 2.9 percent, followed by energy with -1.5 percent, ISTAT said.

On a yearly basis, ISTAT saw consumer goods down 7.2 percent, followed by intermediate goods down 6.4 percent, energy down 4.4 percent, and capital goods down 3.5 percent.

In its monthly statement on the Italian economy, also out Friday, ISTAT noted that "the deceleration of the world economy has spilled over into Q4 2018, particularly in the industrial sector, which has experienced a broad-based loss of momentum coinciding with a further slowdown in global trade growth".

"The leading indicators experienced a sharp fall, suggesting a worsening of the Italian cyclical position in the coming months," ISTAT said.

At the end of January, ISTAT reported that Italy's gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018. That comes after a 0.1 percent contraction in the third quarter, meaning that the country has fallen into recession for the third time in 10 years. In technical terms, a recession is defined by at least two back-to-back quarters with negative economic growth.

"What emerged is that there is a negative trend across almost all sectors," ISTAT researcher Roberta De Santis told Xinhua.

She said this downturn in Italy's economy is due to "conditions in the entire eurozone and the international economy overall, as well the fact there have been slowdowns in European partner countries, such as Germany, that could weigh on the future of the Italian economy".

The researcher also warned of the negative impact to the world trade by the ongoing U.S.-China trade frictions, saying it certainly has caused "a consistent deceleration in world trade volume".

She said that the trade frictions do not affect Italy directly, but "Italy's economy is tightly linked to that of Germany, which in turn has a very close relationship with China in the sectors hardest-hit by tariffs, such as steel and automotive".

A new textile made from infrared sensitive yarn coated with a thin layer of carbon nanotubes self-regulates its thermal properties depending on how hot or cold the wearer is. While the design and performance of the technology still needs to be optimized, the materials making up the fabric are readily available and the nanotubes can easily be added to the yarn during standard dyeing processes at little additional cost. Many animals have evolved to efficiently manipulate infrared radiation for heating up and cooling down. Saharan silver ants, for example, dissipate excess heat thanks to triangular shaped hairs that can reflect near-IR rays depending on the position of the Sun. Things are different for humans – our bodies absorb and lose heat mainly through IR radiation with a wavelength of 10 microns. Unfortunately, neither our skin or even the most sophisticated of textiles made so far can control this wavelength channel in real time to regulate heating and cooling.

Fluffy textile

A team of researchers led by Min Ouyang and YuHuang Wang of the University of Maryland in the US has now designed a new IR-adaptive textile made from triacetate and cellulose bimorph fibres coated with a thin layer of conducting few-walled carbon nanotubes (CNTs) that can do just this. The yarn making up the textile is fluffy with large distances between the fibres. The two fibres in the textile both repel and attract water, so they warp and collapse into a tight bundle when placed in a hot and humid environment (such as that around a person sweating), explains Ouyang. This distortion, or actuation, brings the strands of the fibre yarns closer together, which induces resonant electromagnetic coupling between the CNTs in the fibre coating. This coupling shifts the textile's effectiveness in emitting energy as thermal radiation (its emissivity) so that it spectrally overlaps with that of skin. This effectively enhances heat exchange with the human body to dissipate heat. In contrast, when the textile is cold or dry, the reverse effect occurs: the fibres expand and reduce heat dissipation, keeping the wearer warm.

Almost instant reaction

The fabric either blocks IR radiation or allows it to pass through depending on how the electromagnetic interactions are tuned, or gated. “The reaction is almost instant, so before the wearer realizes they’re getting hot the garment could already be cooling them down. Conversely, as the body cools down, the dynamic works in reverse to trap in heat.

“Until now, the only way to regulate the heat radiator that is the human body was to put on or take clothes off,” he adds. Our work is the first to incorporate fundamental physics into textile technology to make a fabric that is a truly bidirectional regulator of thermal radiation.” The research, which is detailed in *Science* 10.1126/science.aau1217, could help the textile industry change the way it thinks when looking to improve the functionality of fabric and clothing, he tells *Physics World*. “While we would still like to optimize the design and performance of our technology, the materials we employed in our yarn are readily available already.”