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NEWS CLIPPINGS –10-10-2018

Cotton Corp gears up for MSP operations	Business Line https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/cotton-corp-gears-up-for-msp-operations/article25171605.ece?homepage=true

To begin purchases from Telangana soon

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is set to start purchases of the fibre crop for the 2018-19 season at minimum support price (MSP) from Telangana over the next few days.

CCI has geared up for large-scale MSP operations across the country as the Centre announced an MSP increase of 26-28 per cent for the fibre crop over last year. For the long staple variety, MSP has been increased by 26.16 per cent to ₹5,450 per quintal, while for the medium staple, MSP hike has been 28 per cent to ₹5,150 per quintal.

"We have already opened 330 centres and if required, may go upto 390," said P Alli Rani, Chairman and ND, CCI. Though CCI has opened 330 procurement centres across key growing states since October 1, purchases at support price have not begun so far due to the higher moisture content of over 12 per cent in cotton offered to CCI, she said.

Procurement is likely to begin in the next few days in Telangana since the moisture content is approaching 12 per cent there due to dry weather, Alli Rani said. Historically, the MSP procurement in cotton generally starts in the third or fourth week of October.

Market arrivals in small quantities have begun across the key producing States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Trade sources estimated the cotton arrivals at around 40,000-50,000 bales of 170 kg each. Prices are hovering between ₹5,200-5,600 per quintal across various markets, depending on the moisture content.

"Millers and ginners are yet to start purchases as the moisture content is still high. Also, there is no demand from multinationals as they are still holding old stocks. We expect the market to pick up after October 20, when arrivals pick up," said Ramanuj Das Boob, a ginner in Raichur.

Lower crop size

The Cotton Association of India, the the apex trade body, in its first estimates, has pegged the 2018-19 crop size at 348 lakh bales, lower than the 365 lakh bales produced in 2017-18 on account of deficient rains hurting the output in states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Also cotton acreages this year were marginally lower at 120.64 lakh hectares as against 121.72 lakh hectares in 2017-18.

“Whatever be the crop projections, we will be procuring all FAQ cotton offered by the farmers,” Alli Rani said. Last year, CCI had procured less than four lakh bales under MSP operations, since the market prices rose quickly and went above MSP rates. This year since MSP rates are much higher, the probability of higher volumes being purchased under MSP is high, Alli Rani added.

Meanwhile, about 270 ginning mills in Telangana are expected to start cotton purchases from Wednesday. The Marketing Department will open 11 procurement centres. “Some of the centres have already begun purchases,” a senior Telangana government official has said. “The farmers should get in touch with the ginning mills and the Cotton Corporation of India regarding the sale of their produce.”

He advised the farmers not to go for distress sale and ensure the moisture content is not very high in order to get a good price. Unginned cotton was quoting a minimum price of ₹5,450 a quintal in the Warangal yard and a minimum of ₹5,000 at the Adilabad yard.

Cotton and Currency Markets	**Kotak Commodities Research Desk** **For more details contact :** Research@kotakcommodities.com **&** aurobinda.gayan@kotakcommodities.com

A. Cotton		
Spot price (Ex-Gin) 28.5 to29 mm		
Rs/Bale	Rs/Candy	USD Cent/lb
21943	45900	78.70
Domestic Futures (Ex-Gin) July		
Rs/Bale	Rs/Candy	USD Cent/lb
22300	46646	79.98
International Futures		
NY ICE USD Cents/lb. (Dec 2018)		77.01
ZCE Cotton: Yuan/MT (Jan 2019)		15645
ZCE Cotton: USD Cents/lb.		87.13
Cotlook A Index - Physical		0.00
B. Currency		
USD/INR	Close	Previous Close
Spot	74.393	74.071

Cotton Guide:

Market was quiet on Tuesday though threat of Hurricane in the US continues to loom. December future ICE cotton settled a tad lower at 77.01 cents down by 54 points from the previous close. Dec did make a higher low and a higher high today (7620 and 7789 versus yesterday’s 7617 and 7761). Highs were made early and the lows were made late, not very encouraging for the bulls. The other months settled from 20 to 54 points lower. Their gains yesterday ranged from 24 to 145 points.

On the trading front volume were 26,899 contracts. Cleared yesterday were 34,207 contracts. Yesterday's session added 4,111 contracts to open interest to begin at 255,804 contracts. That normally would be considered a bullish development and maybe it still is, but the lack of follow-through today was concerning. That was the biggest one day increase in open interest since June 1st was up 4,304 contracts to 322,153 contracts. The all-time-ever-high open interest was set the in the next session (June 4th) at 322,253 contracts.

Hurricane Michael is first headed for the biggest cotton producing areas in Georgia and the majority of the cotton is wide open. Wind is the biggest concern, but heavy rains will take a toll as well. Michael is also expected to tear through parts of Alabama, Florida and the Carolinas. Hurricane Sergio is headed for Texas and Oklahoma bringing more unwanted rain by Friday. Take a look at the National Hurricane Center for the latest updates: https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

As per market source, potential damages in the combined Southeast and Delta regions was for losses of 200,000 to 500,000 bales. That estimate came with acknowledgement of a huge crop now in the fields. Thursday's USDA October estimate will likely reflect the increases, but the storm may reverse the number back to the September estimate. It's all guesswork now, but the market may have been reflecting the belief the US will end up with a lot of cotton. Cash sales of US cotton have not been robust for a couple of months. That has made the front-loaded export sales less front-loaded. Trade war and currency issues have stunted the business. While sellers have been holding off making offers until more is known on this crop's qualities, the light inquiries have been unsettling.

On the other side of the world Tuesday's session in China's ZCE futures gained back Monday's losses. Chinese mills have been waiting for additional quota allocations which are expected this week. Maybe that will liven up their arena.

Lastly on the domestic market all India daily arrivals have been around 30 to 40000 bales and the spot price continues to trade around Rs. 45600 to Rs. 45700 per candy ex-gin. The future contracts for October delivery had initially moved higher to make an intraday high of Rs. 22460 per bale but ended lower at Rs. 22300. We think market might remain sideways and the trading range would be Rs. 22180 to Rs. 22450 per bale.

.Currency Guide:

Indian rupee has opened higher by 0.25% to trade near 74.2 levels against the US dollar. Rupee is seeing some stability today after hitting record low level of 74.3962 in the previous session. Rupee has benefitted from some correction in crude oil and US dollar. Brent crude is trading lower near $84 per barrel International Energy Agency warned that prices are inflicting damage on the global economy. The US dollar index has also eased marginally as US 10-year bond yield corrected from 7-year highs. However, weighing on rupee are concerns about investor outflows amid rising interest rates in US and concerns about inflation and trade deficit amid higher crude oil price. IMF retained India's growth rate at 7.3% for this financial year but lowered forecast for 2019-2020 from 7.5% to 7.4%. Weakness in domestic equity market is also weighing on rupee. Indian rupee has fallen sharply and we are seeing choppiness as market players await fresh cues however the general bias is still on the downside. US economic optimism and Fed stance will continue to support US dollar. USDINR may trade in a range of 73.85-74.55 and bias may be on the upside.

Smriti Irani assures Manipur of central govt's support to develop textile industry	**Indian Express** https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/manipur/smriti-irani-manipur-govt-support-develop-textile-industry-n-biren-imphal-5394394/

The Union Minister also informed that the Central Government had recently approved setting up of an Eri Spinning Mill worth Rs 22 crore for the expansion of silk industry in Manipur. The foundation stone for the mill would be laid next month.

Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani has assured Manipur of sustained support from the Government of India for the growth of the textile industry and welfare of weavers and farmers in the state. The union minister on Tuesday inaugurated a three-day Silk Expo and Workshop on "Silk Samagra" in the presence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh and Textiles, Commerce and Industries Minister Th. Biswajit at Manipur Sericulture Project Management Complex, Sangaipat in Imphal East District.

She also informed that the Central Government had recently approved setting up of an Eri Spinning Mill worth Rs 22 crore for the expansion of silk industry in Manipur. The foundation stone for the mill would be laid next month.

Irani noted that various studies had indicated that wherever weavers had received benefits under Mudra Yojana, their income had gone up by 50 per cent. She urged the state government to provide the weavers with the benefits of the scheme. She said Silk Samagra is an initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure the possibilities of exponential growth in the silk sector.

"It is an endeavour not only to enhance the income of farmers and weavers but also to ensure occupying the No. 1 position in silk production and cultivation in the world. India is now in the No. 2 position," she said.

The Government of India had announced Rs 6,000 crore package for the development of apparel and make-ups sector in the country, she added. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's supervision, the GoI had enhanced funding to North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS). A large number of textile parks and textile units are currently functional in the North East region due to that, Irani added.

In 2013-14, the fund allocated under NERTPS was only Rs. 2.86 crore. However, in the past four years of NDA Government, Rs. 839 crore had already been spent for the growth of textiles industry in the North East region, she said. Manipur CM N. Biren Singh said that the Iri mill to be inaugurated next month is expected to give employment to around 2,500 people.

He said that Manipur has a very small population, so it would not take much time in bringing a developmental change in the textile industry, he added. The union minister also distributed Rs. 1,73,97,200 through DBT to 322 beneficiaries of Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP-Hills) for the construction of Individual Adult Rearing House (IARH). The three-day Silk Expo and Workshop on Silk Samagra is jointly organised by the Department of Sericulture, Government of Manipur and Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

US-China trade war gives India chance to contain its trade deficit	Financial Express https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/us-china-trade-war-gives-india-chance-to-contain-its-trade-deficit/1343656/

According to a commerce ministry study, of the 603 American tariff lines (items) on which Beijing has imposed extra duties in the range of 15-25%, India can ship out more in case of 44 items without much difficulty, as it currently has access to the Chinese market in these products.

The ongoing trade war between the US and China that has witnessed Beijing slapping higher duties on American goods in tit-for-tat action has opened up a window of opportunity for India that has long struggled to contain a widening trade deficit with its giant neighbour. But gains are contingent on getting market access and achieving competitiveness in many cases.

According to a commerce ministry study, of the 603 American tariff lines (items) on which Beijing has imposed extra duties in the range of 15-25%, India can ship out more in case of 44 items without much difficulty, as it currently has access to the Chinese market in these products. However, in case of 17 items where American supplies are substantial, India doesn’t have market access; so, it can export these items only if China opens up further.

The study, however, doesn’t provide a list of items where the potential for further exports to China exists (apart from just grapes and alloy steel seamless boiler). Also, as pointed out by independent analysts, most of the US supplies to China are expected to continue despite higher duties.

India doesn’t export as many as 54 items where American supplies to China are substantial. Most of the other items are small-ticket ones where imports by China from the US are negligible and or up to $10 million each.

Some analysts have, however, suggested that India explore the possibility of more exports in farm items like cotton, oilseeds, including soybean, oilmeals, maize, copper and chemicals, even if in some items, the Chinese demand may be much higher than what India can supply. China has either imposed or proposed tariffs on $110 billion of US goods, representing most of its American imports ranging from farm items like cotton to automobiles.

The trade war may “bring about a shift in the global trading patterns due to spill-over effects and displacement of the bilaterally-traded commodities”, said the study, titled Sino-India Trade: A perspective.

Currently, India’s supplies to China include cathode of copper, petroleum products, iron ore, cotton and textile items. However, India’s merchandise trade deficit with China touched a record $63 billion in 2017-18, forcing it to step up demand for greater market access.

Importantly, the study has acknowledged the stark difference between policy-making in both these countries, which is key to boosting competitiveness. "China has always set aside political, social and ideological differences in the interest of getting investment, technology and export channels. However, India's economic growth has always given in to the sentiments of the local industry—in many cases, foreign investments have been curbed or restricted," it said.

Highlighting some of the reasons why the world's second-largest economy is more competitive, the study said average lending rate for China's manufacturing sector stood at 4.4% in 2016, against India's 9.7%. Although wage costs are higher there (China's average hourly compensation cost per employee in manufacturing is $4.11 against India's $1.6), each Chinese worker produces 60% more than his Indian counterpart. In the global Logistics Performance Report, China is placed at 27th while India at 35th despite a 19-notch jump since 2014.

The study also points out that some of India's competitors, including Asean members, are taking advantage of their free trade agreement with China and are exporting more there. For instance, while frozen shrimps from India faces a 6% duty in China, those from Asean are supplies duty-free. Many textile items and aluminium oxide feature on the list of items where India faces tariff disadvantage against some of its competitors.

Indigi Certified Cotton Coming in 2019	**Cotton Grower** https://www.cottongrower.com/cotton-production/indigo-certified-cotton-coming-in-2019/

According to a company statement, Indigo Certified Cotton offers growers premier inputs to achieve higher yields and flexibility to decide how to market their fiber, while also emphasizing sustainable growing practices.

Indigo Certified Cotton covers dryland and irrigated acres with seed financed at 0%.

Indigo's microbial-treated seeds and data-driven agronomic support constitute the base of the offer, with the option to take advantage of Indigo's other services. When marketing with Indigo, growers will receive a premium on every acre of Indigo Certified Cotton sold. As with other crops within the Indigo Certified Crops program, growers may also market to buyers outside of Indigo.

"The latest offer for Indigo Certified Cotton reflects insights gathered from our previous production season, and our continued commitment to the sustainable production of fiber," said David Perry, Indigo president and CEO. "This new offer also provides increased marketing flexibility, so that growers can choose to sell with Indigo or through their normal channels. And, this comprehensive offer includes access to data-based agronomic advice, allowing growers to improve their profitability and environmental sustainability."

Indigo Certified Crops now consists of cotton, rice, soybean and corn. More information on Indigo Certified Cotton, other crops within the Indigo Certified Crops offer, and other offers for the upcoming season available through Indigo Production are available online.

Cotton purchase to commence at 269 centres in TS on Wednesday	Telangana Today https://telanganatoday.com/cotton-purchase-to-commence-at-269-centres-in-ts-on-wednesday

Cotton arrivals started picking up in the market yards. The State government has set the stage to commence the procurement operations in all 31 districts from Wednesday.

Cotton purchase centres would be opened at 269 ginning mills. In addition to this, another 11 centres would be opened by the Marketing Department, according to the Marketing Department Director Lakshmi Bai.

She had a review meeting with the officials on the measures to be taken to ensure hassle-free handling of the stocks being moved into the yards and purchase cen

The cotton arrivals are expected to increase by the third week of October in the State where in over 17,94,348 hectares of area is covered under the fiber crop this year as against 16,80,029 hectares last year.

Cotton is among the 14 kharif crops for which minimum support price has been assured. The medium staple varieties have been offered Rs 5,150 per quintal as against Rs 4,120 last year (an increase of 28.11 per cent over last year.)

The long staple varieties fetch Rs 5,450 per quintal as against Rs 4,320 offered last year (an increase of 26.16 %). The Marketing Department wanted all the ginning mills to sign the agreement with the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) forthwith.

The Centres will take up their operations from Wednesday morning. The State government has appointed nine special officers tasked with the responsibility of coordination with the growers and Marketing Department.

The State government is providing all support to the CCI to ensure that the payments are made to the farmers promptly. The software of the Marketing Department was also linked to the software of the CCI.

The bank account details of the cotton farmers have also been furnished to the CCI. A toll free number would also be provided to the farmers to seek help from the department in respect of payment related delays.

The Marketing Department issued 19.91 lakh identify cards with QR codes to the cotton farmers last year. The marketing officials have launched a campaign on educating the farmers on the specifications to be adhered to while moving their stock to the yards.

They are offering best price on the cotton with up to 12 per cent moisture levels.

Govt imposes 5-yr anti-dumping duty on Vietnamese, EU nylon filament yarn	Business Standard https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-imposes-5-yr-anti-dumping-duty-on-vietnamese-eu-nylon-filament-yarn-118100900550_1.html

Imposition of duty aims at guarding domestic manufacturers of this yarn from cheap imports coming from EU and Vietnam

India has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to $719 per tonne for five years on import of nylon filament yarn from the European Union (EU) and Vietnam following recommendations by the commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR.

"The anti-dumping duty imposed... shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the 6th day of October, 2018 and shall be paid in Indian currency," the department of revenue has said in a notification.

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in its probe has stated that nylon filament yarn (multi filament) has been exported to India from these two regions below normal values, and the domestic industry has suffered material injury on account of such dumped imports.

Imposition of duty aims at guarding domestic manufacturers of this yarn from cheap imports coming from EU and Vietnam.

The anti-dumping duty imposed ranged between $719.44 per tonne and $128.06 per tonne.

Import of this yarn from the EU and Vietnam has increased to 13,799 tonnes between October 2015 and March 2017 (which was the period of investigation) from 7,201 tonnes in 2013-14.

JCT, Gujarat Polyfilms, Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals, Prafful Overseas and AYM Syntex had jointly filed for initiation of the investigations and imposition of the duty.

The major uses of this yarn are in home furnishing and industrial application such as curtains, sewing and embroidery thread and fishnets.

To recommend duties, the DGTR in its probe would have to establish that dumping has caused material injury to domestic players.

Anti-dumping duties are levied to provide a level-playing field to the local industry by guarding against below-cost import.

Imposition of anti-dumping duty is permissible under the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime. Both India and China are members of the Geneva-based body.

The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

They are not a measure to restrict import or cause an unjustified increase in cost of the products.

IGST refund not Allowed to Exporters after claiming benefit of higher duty drawback rate: CBIC Clarification	**Caclub** https://caclub.in/igst-refund-not-allowed-to-exporters-after-claiming-benefit-of-higher-duty-drawback-rate-cbic-clarification/

CBIC has clarified that where exporters have opted/ preferred to take drawback at higher rate in place of IGST refund for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 Sept. 2017, there is no justification in re-opening the issue at this stage and the exporters will not be allowed to avail IGST refund after initially claiming the benefit of higher drawback

Sub: Cases where IGST refunds have not been granted due to claiming higher rate of drawback OR where higher rate and lower rate were identical

1. Numerous representations have been received from exporters/ export associations, regarding cases where IGST refunds have not been granted because higher rate of drawback has been claimed or where higher rate and lower rate were identical.

2.0 The issue has been examined extensively in this Ministry. The legal provisions related to Drawback claims are as under:

2.1 Notes and condition (11) of Notf. No.131/2016-Cus(NT) dated 31.10.2016 (as amended by Notf. No.59/2017-Cus(NT) dated 29.6.2017), under which All Industry Rates of Drawback had been notified and which were applicable for availing composite rates during period in question (i.e. 1.7.2017 to 30.9.2017), prescribed that 'The rates and caps of drawback specified in columns (4) and (5) of the said Schedule shall not be applicable to export of a commodity or product if such commodity or product is:

(d) exported claiming refund of the integrated goods and services tax paid on such exports.

2.2 Notes and Condition (12A) of Notfn. No.131/2016-Cus(NT) dated 31.10.2016 (as amended by Notfn. No.59/2017-Cus(NT) dated 296.2017 and 73/2017-Cus(NT) dated 26.7.2017) prescribed that 'The rates and caps of drawback specified in columns (4) and (5) of the said Schedule shall be applicable to export of a commodity or product if the exporter satisfies the following conditions, namely:

(ii) If the goods are exported on payment of integrated goods and services tax, the exporter shall declare that no refund of integrated goods and services tax paid on export product shall be claimed;

2.3 In terms of Rules 12 and 13 of the Customs, Central Excise Duties and Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995, the shipping bill itself is treated as claim for drawback in terms of the declarations made on the shipping bill.

2.4 The declarations required in terms of above Notes and Conditions and provisions of the Drawback Rules are made electronically in the EDI System. When composite drawback rate was claimed (by declaring suffix A or C with Drawback serial number), exporter was required to tick DBK002 and DBK003 declarations in the shipping bills. In fact, for period 1.7.2017 to 26.7.2017, a manual declaration was also required to be given as the changes made on 26.7.2017 were made applicable for exports made from 1.7.2017 onwards.

2.5 By declaring drawback serial number suffixed with A or C and by making above stated declarations, the exporters consciously relinquished their IGST/ ITC claims.

3. It has been noted that exporters had availed the option to take drawback at higher rate in place of IGST refund out of their own volition. Considering the fact that exporters have made aforesaid declaration while claiming the higher rate of drawback, it has been decided that it would not be justified allowing exporters to avail IGST refund after initially claiming the benefit of higher drawback. There is no justification for re-opening the issue at this stage.

No time limit prescribed in law for amendment of shipping bill: Expert	**Business Standard** https://www.business-standard.com/article/sme/no-time-limit-prescribed-in-law-for-amendment-of-shipping-bill-expert-118100801080_1.html

The only condition is that the document on the basis of which amendment is sought should be available at the time of export

We made shipments in January 2018 to June 2018 under advance authorization and now came to know that inputs mentioned in the advance authorization can be imported duty free under Free Trade Agreements. We want to convert our above shipping **bills from advance authorisationto drawback** shipping **bills, as per Para 4.49 (e) of Handbook of Procedures, Vol 1, where no time limit for conversion is mentioned. However, the relevant custom circular for conversion of** shipping **bill 36/2010-customs dated 23rd September 2010 says that request for conversion must be made within 90 days. Considering the fact that our shipping bills are of January to June 2018 and that more than 90 days have passed since exports, what should we do to get duty drawback?**

In the case of Diamond Engg (Chennai) P. Ltd. [2013(288) ELT 0265 (Tri. Mad.), the Tribunal held that Section 149 of the Customs Act, 1962 does not prescribe any time-limit for amendment of the document. The only condition is that the document on the basis of which amendment is sought should be available at the time of export. Therefore, the amendment sought cannot be denied on the ground of limitation. There are other case laws on the same point such as VRA Cotton Mills Pvt. Ltd. [2014 (309) ELT 0100 (Tri. Ahmd.)] and Parle Products Pvt. Ltd. [2017 (358) ELT 341 (Tri. Mumbai)].

The exporters of readymade garments (RMG) are granted Rebate **of State Levies (ROSL) namely Value Added** Tax **(VAT) on** fuel **used in power generation duty on electricity generation and charges on purchase of grid power, mandi** tax **an purchase of cotton, stamp duties on export documents, SGST on inputs used in production of cotton and embedded SGST on purchases from unregistered dealers. Please confirm that the above saidlevies are**

not subsumed in GST. **If the answer is in affirmative, should RMG exporters continue to avail ROSL?**

The Ministry of Textiles introduced the ROSL scheme through notifications 12020/03/2016-IT, dated 12-8-2016 and 31-8-2016, much before introduction of GST. The ROSL rates were notified through notification 12020/03/2016-IT dated 13-8-2016. In ROSL scheme, the rebate of State levies is understood to comprise State VAT/CST on inputs including packaging, fuel, duty on electricity generation and duties and charges on purchase of grid power, as accumulated through the stages of production from yarn to finished garments. The taxes like VAT/CST, purchase tax etc. have been subsumed under the GST but taxes on fuel etc. have not been subsumed under GST. So, the ROSL rates were reduced upon introduction of GST through notification 14/26/2016-IT dated 27-6-2017 effective from 1-7-2017. The revised rates are 0.39% for ROSL and 0.23% for ROSL under Advance Authorization-All Industry Rates (AA-AIR) combination respectively.

IGST **exemption on imports under advance authorisation and EPCG authorisationwasavailable till 1st October 2018. Has it been extended?**

Yes. Notification 66/2018-Customs dated 26th September 2018 has extended the IGST exemption on imports under advance authorisation and EPCG authorisation till 31st March 2019.

Manufacturing sector sees 69% rise in online hiring	**Business Line** https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/manufacturing-sector-sees-69-rise-in-online-hiring/article25171481.ece

Hiring by the production and manufacturing sector witnessed an impressive 69 per cent year-on-year growth in September making the sector the leader in online hiring for six months in a row, according to Monster Employment Index September 2018.

There has been a 24 per cent spurt in online hiring in the last three months since June, it further said.

Retail was the second-most actively hiring sector, registering 36 per cent growth from the year-ago level. Home appliances came third in the index with a growth rate of 23 per cent on y-o-y. Oil/Gas/ Petroleum/Power and Healthcare also were among the industries that registered growth at 16 per cent and 13 per cent respectively.

Key sector

“Production and Manufacturing continues to lead the online hiring scenario, emerging a key sector. The government’s impetus towards making India a manufacturing hub has put the sector in a high- growth trajectory, which will definitely enhance India’s position in the world economy,” said Abhijeet Mukherjee, CEO, Monster.com, APAC and Gulf.

On the other hand, NGO/social services registered an annual decline of 33 per cent among all the monitored sectors. It was followed by printing/packaging, which witnessed a decline of 22 per cent, and the online hiring came down by

18 per cent in garments/textiles sector.

City-wise, non-metros outperformed metros with Chandigarh (up 15 per cent) and Jaipur (up 2 per cent) as the only cities to register positive growth year-on-year even in September. Month-on-month e-recruitment activity in these two cities expanded by 3 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

Online hiring activity was lower than the corresponding period a year-ago in the five key cities of Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai (down three per cent), Delhi-NCR and Mumbai.

FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) to team up with weavers and designers to boost Handloom sale in India And Abroad	**APN News** https://www.apnnews.com/ficci-ladies-organisation-flo-to-team-up-with-weavers-and-designers-to-boost-handloom-sale-in-india-and-abroad/

FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), one of the most prestigious pan India forums working towards the goal of women empowerment in its bid to boost country's handwoven, hand embroidered and hand crafted heritage will be working directly with weavers and designers to boost sales in India and abroad.

The Handloom and handicraft sector showcases the country's unique cultural mosaic and rich heritage. It also has the economic potential to strengthen livelihoods in a sustainable manner. However, a prime concern in this sector is that there is a dearth of information available on the artisans as well as their linkages with buyers, designers and importers" said Ms Pinky Reddy while speaking at the Handloom Business Meet titled 'Hathkargha' organised by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) along with parent body FICCI and FACEBOOK late last evening .

Union Textile Minister Inaugurating the meet said that India exported handcrafted goods worth Rs 1.36 lakh crore in last four years and urged social networking giant 'Facebook' and business women organisation FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) to help get involved directly with weavers as well as help generate additional income for weavers and connecting them directly with the buyers in India and abroad as well as with modern Indian customers.

""Handlooms and handmade textile products is a sub-sector which has achieved its recognition and glory in the internal arena. Harnessing of skills, design intervention, and access to credit will play a big role in forging the global luxury industry ahead. FLO in it's bid to empower handloom women weavers has already compiled and released a Women Artisans Craft Directory , which covers the 29 states of India and highlights the creative dexterity of more than 400 women along with their contact details." said Ms Reddy.

"The Women artisans craft Directory is an effort to support women artisans from various parts of the country to connect directly with buyers across India and the world and will also help bridge the gap between India's skilled women artisans and discerning buyers as it will establish a direct link with artisans, bring them recognition and respect" said Reddy.

"FLO has also been working with various eminent designers and fashion entrepreneurs who understand the true potential of Handlooms & Handicrafts and its significant role in providing employment to a vast segment of craftsperson, thereby preserving the intangible heritage of our country.” She said.

“This is the only sector that offers the promise and potential to preserve and promote India’s cultural identity. With more active promotion, additional financing and tax breaks for the handloom industry, India could provide the finest hand makers of the world.” added Ms Reddy.

Yarn Expo Autumn to host over 500 exhibitors	**Knitting Industry** https://www.knittingindustry.com/yarn-expo-autumn-to-host-over-500-exhibitors/

More than 500 exhibitors from 14 countries and regions will showcase an extensive range of yarn and fibre products at the Shanghai National Exhibition and Convention Center next week. These exhibitors, as the largest gathering ever seen at the fair, are set to welcome a wide variety of visitors throughout the textiles supply chain from 15-17 October, solidifying the status of Yarn Expo as the leading first stop of every textile sourcing season. The fair will take place this edition alongside ITMA Asia + CITME.

“For those looking for the industry’s latest innovations, Yarn Expo Autumn is the place to be. The reliability of buyer quality has once again attracted big-name industry players – including PT Indo-Rama, Chemtax, Shandong Ruyi, Jiangsu Shenghong and Jilin Chemical Fiber Group – who choose the fair as a platform to debut new products each year,” say organisers.

The fair’s product groups have also expanded in recent years, reflecting market needs, to now include: natural fibres (cotton, wool, silk and flax/ramie); man-made fibres (regenerated and synthetic); specialty fibres; natural and blend yarns (cotton, wool, silk and linen/ramie); man-made and blend yarns (regenerated and synthetic); elastic yarns; fancy yarns; and specialty yarns.

New international exhibitors

Significant new business partnerships in the yarn and fibre industry are anticipated at the fair, with new international sourcing options this edition. Highlighted big-name newcomers at the fair include Safilin from France, offering premium linen products, and Italy’s Sinterama Asia, which will show its range of 1,200 diverse chemical fibres and end uses.

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premium linen products, and Italy's Sinterama Asia, which will show its range of 1,200 diverse chemical fibres and end uses. One of the world's largest single site spinners, Novetex Textiles, from Hong Kong, will feature super soft merino in a wide range of colours, along with sustainable options in glen merino and 100% lamb's wool. Another not-to-be-missed highlight is Parkdale Mills, from the US, a leading manufacturer of spun yarns, which will showcase cotton varieties, such as open end fibres, ring spun, air jet and vortex, in different blends.

Even more choice

Another international must-see is the Pakistan Zone, returning to the fair this year with a strong collection of the country's leading yarn and fibre exhibitors. Highlights include Abtex International, which will showcase their new mélange blends and fancy yarns, Fabcot's cotton yarns and greige fabrics, and International Textile's 100% MJS yarn and fabrics. Meanwhile, Texstyle will be a worthwhile visit for those in keeping with sustainability trends, as it will highlight its recycled and regenerated yarns from cotton, polyester, acrylic and wool.

Joining them are more than 50 exhibitors in the India Pavilion, organised by Texprocil, while domestic exhibitors can be found at the Fancy Yarn Zone, Chemical Fibre Zone, Cotton Yarn Zone and Wool/Linen Zone. Group pavilions at the fair include the Sateri Pavilion and Birla Satellite.

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

Crude oil prices may have peaked	**Business Line** https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/crude-oil-prices-may-have-peaked/article25171659.ece

Has the simmering crude oil market peaked, even if for the time being? This is the multi-million dollar question everyone is asking. Since the start of September, prices had spiked by over 10 per cent reaching a four-year high despite the fact that at the Algiers meeting last month OPEC had declared that the market was comfortably supplied.

Now, crude prices have come off the boil, having lost about $3 a barrel from the highs of last week and $10 from the rate a month ago. Brent has dropped to $83.5 a barrel while WTI is below $74.

While the persistent fear of a supply shortfall triggered by sanctions on Iran coming into effect by early November had provided the market the thrust upwards, the huge flow of speculative capital prompted by worries over supplies has created huge net-long futures positions for financial investors which has exerted an exaggerated price action.

Many market observers believe the world crude oil market is currently facing no significant shortage, but the fear of outages is what has lent a bullish tendency. Even in the case of Iran there is an expectation that its oil exports may fall less sharply than feared, while Libya's oil production has stated to rise.

Softer stance

Importantly for the market, the US appears to be softening its tough stance against buyers of Iranian oil and the possibility of some exemptions or in some cases, extension of time limit is real. India is widely seen as a potential beneficiary of the softening US stand on Iran. It is likely other buyers of Iranian oil — the EU, Japan and South Korea — may also be allowed to continue to buy from Iran for some more time. In the event, concerns over supply tightening will ease considerably.

At the same time, US crude oil stocks are on the rise. They increased by 8 million barrels last week, more sharply than at any time in the last 18 months, according to an expert. Additionally, seasonal factors come into play. The season for refinery maintenance is round the corner.

Strangely, the market has ignored the fact that total OPEC output last month was at its highest level this year; and also the fact that Russia and Saudi Arabia had agreed informally to raise output in the coming months. Indeed, Saudi production in October could reach a record 10.7 million barrels per day and Russia, 11.3 mbpd.

It is likely that the market fundamentals will soon start to assert themselves. In the event, the current risk premium of about $12 will begin to dwindle, which, in turn, will prompt the exit of speculative capital.

On current reckoning, the forecasts of crude touching $90-100 a barrel soon appear outlandish. If anything, the market appears ripe for a correction.

Rates could first drop to $80 a barrel and towards the end of the year close in on $75 a barrel unless of course the crude bulls discover a red rag.

The writer is a policy commentator and commodities market specialist Views are personal

Ethiopia to begin work on three more textile centres before July 2019	**Global Construct** http://www.globalconstructionreview.com/news/ethiopia-begin-work-three-more-textile-centres-jul/

Ethiopia will start work on three more industrial parks that will play a “critical role” in the country’s bid for economic take-off on the back of its textile industry.

The developments, which are to begin before next July, are in are Aysha and Semera, near the Djibouti border and Assosa, next to the Sudanese border.

Lelise Neme, chief executive of the Ethiopia Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), toldthe Xinhua news agency that the three parks were expected to play a “critical role in Ethiopia’s plan to transform its still largely agrarian economy into an industrialized one by 2025, using the textile and garment sector as a key component”.

The announcement follows another in September, which said a further four would be built in Jimma, Adama, Arerti, and Dire Dawa.

In addition to these manufacturing facilities, four agro-industrial parks are being developed to capture more value from Ethiopia's farming output. These are to be built in the north eastern regions of Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR.

Ethiopia has based its industrialisation effort on the development of low-carbon, tax-exempt "plug & play" industrial parks along development corridors. So far, this has resulted in four operation ventures, at Bole Lemi, Hawassa, Mekele and Kombolcha (see Further reading, below, for more on these).

On Sunday (7 October), these four were joined by a fifth at Adama, about 100km southeast of Addis Ababa. This was opened by Abiy Ahmed, the prime minister of Ethiopia (pictured).

The 120ha, $150m development will host a number of international manufacturers, such as Spanish synthetic yarn specialist Antex, Hong Kong's Charter Ventures Apparel, Jiangsu Shinshine Wool Textile of China and Kingdom Linen Ethiopia, the local subsidiary of Zhejiang Jinyuan Flax.

Ethiopia plans to increase the number of operational industrial parks from the current four to around 30 by 2025, increasing the share of the economy contributed by manufacturing from 5% to 22%.

Pakistan to seek IMF bailout, stocks gain	**Live Mint** https://www.livemint.com/Politics/fHcc4MbVzUNYL5fDxERV5O/Pakistan-to-seek-IMF-bailout-stocks-gain.html

Pakistan's foreign currency reserves have plunged 40% in 2018 to the lowest in almost four years. The nation is running twin current account and budget deficits of more than 5% of GDP

Pakistan's stocks and bonds rose and the rupee fell after the government said it would seek the nation's thirteenth International Monetary Fund bailout since the late 1980s in a bid to stabilize the economy and plug dwindling finances.

The South Asia nation's key stock measure snapped six days of losses to advance as much as 3%, the most in more than four months, before paring some gains, while its dollar-denominated bonds maturing in 2027 climbed the most since July 26. The rupee, a managed float, fell at least 4.6% against the dollar, according to people familiar with the matter. The move is speculated to have been pushed by authorities in response to the IMF's calls for a weaker exchange rate.

After consulting with "leading economists", Pakistan will formally approach the IMF for support and Finance Minister Asad Umar will hold talks with officials during the lender's annual meetings in Bali this week, the Finance Ministry said in a statement late Monday. Umar told Bloomberg in August that the government may need more than $12 billion.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, who came to power after July elections, is under pressure to generate external funding as the country faces the latest in a long line of financial blowouts. The IMF said last week that recent government efforts haven't been sufficient to stem a looming crisis.

"The challenge for the current government is to ensure that fundamental economic structural reforms are carried out to ensure that this spiral of being in an IMF program every few years is broken once and for all," the Finance Ministry said. "To correct the underlying imbalances, fiscal and monetary actions needed to be undertaken without delay."

Foreign currency reserves have plunged 40% in 2018 to the lowest in almost four years, while the nation is running twin current account and budget deficits of more than 5% of gross domestic product. Authorities have devalued the rupee multiple times since December.

The currency's latest drop to between 130 to 136 per dollar, according to the people who asked not to be identified as they aren't authorized to speak publicly, comes after the IMF repeatedly stated that the rupee was overvalued. "The currency move is definitely a devaluation," said Shahid Habib, chief executive officer at Arif Habib Ltd.

"The market knows the macroeconomic conditions and based on those, they are having their own expectations for the exchange rate," said Abid Qamar, a spokesman at Pakistan's central bank

The central bank has raised interest rates to the highest in three years to help shore up confidence in the economy.

Bailout addiction

"Going to the IMF was a matter of when, not if. For an economy that has become addicted to foreign loans and bailouts, the future is very much like the past," said Uzair Younus, a South Asia director at Washington-based consultancy Albright Stonebridge Group LLC. "Pakistan may very well find itself seeking another bailout in the next three to four years if it does not do structural reforms."

The government has deep problems to fix. Less than 1 percent of the nation's more than 200 million people file tax returns and its exports, including textiles, lag the region. However, Pakistan has yet to formally approach the IMF, the lender's Chief Economist Maurice Obstfeld told reporters in Bali.

"We'll be listening very attentively when and if they come to us," Obstfeld said. "The government expressed a desire to enact deep structural reforms that might break the cycle of Pakistan needing financial support from the fund frequently. That is a very good sign going forward."

US approval

Islamabad has also taken on more than $60 billion of loans from China to bolster its decrepit infrastructure. Critics see that as part of a debt diplomacy trap by Beijing and question whether Pakistan will be ever be able to make the repayments.

Those vast debts have prompted worries from U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who warned in July that he would be watching to see if Khan's government uses IMF funds to pay off the opaque Chinese loans.

"Securing US approval on the IMF Executive Board will require Pakistan to strike a fine geopolitical balance between the Trump administration's concerns over China's growing economic engagement in Pakistan and the country's bilateral commitments," said Bilal Khan, a senior economist at Standard Chartered Plc.

Pakistan's economic outlook is also at risk from eroding gains in macroeconomic stability and growth may moderate to 4 percent in 2019 and slow to about 3 percent in the medium term, the IMF said on Tuesday.

"We will have to swallow this bitter pill," Pakistan's Maritime Affairs Minister Syed Ali Haider Zaidi told Bloomberg in Karachi on Tuesday. "We have looked at all our options."

Ethiopia to begin work on three more textile centres before July 2019	**Global Construction** http://www.globalconstructionreview.com/news/ethiopia-begin-work-three-more-textile-centres-jul/

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