

News LETTER

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

03
FEBRUARY
2017

CITI



News Highlights

Budget 2017: Govt eyes job opportunities in textiles, tourism and affordable housing

Budget allocation for textile ministry rises 36% to Rs 6,227 crore

Can Kenya break the global fashion industry's low-wage model?

Wool Is So Yesterday: Why Natural Vegan Fabrics Are Taking Over

Cotlook A Index (Cent/lb)

| | |
|------------|-------|
| 27-01-2017 | 83.55 |
| 30-01-2017 | 84.25 |
| 31-01-2017 | 83.50 |
| 01-02-2017 | 84.25 |
| 01-02-2016 | 67.95 |
| 02-02-2015 | 67.05 |

New York Cotton Futures (Cents/lb) As on 02.02.2017

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Mar 2017 | 77.31 |
| May 2017 | 77.85 |
| July 2017 | 78.34 |

NATIONAL



Budget 2017: Govt eyes job opportunities in textiles, tourism and affordable housing

Budget allocation for textile ministry rises 36% to Rs 6,227 crore

Indian textile firms fail to investigate abuse complaints - activists

NITI Aayog bats for globalization, to review govt programmes every month

Engagement of Designer in Handloom clusters takes Hand-woven fabrics to new heights

Bangladesh minister urges India to lift duty on jute

Koovs: Putting a fashionable foot forward

Lakshmi Machine Works moves up on BSE

PHD Chamber and Regional Textile Commissioner's office jointly organising 'Textile Exhibition cum Buyer-Seller Meet (B2B)

GLOBAL



Can Kenya break the global fashion industry's low-wage model?

US officials see Uzbek cotton exports at record low

Wool Is So Yesterday: Why Natural Vegan Fabrics Are Taking Over

Textile company Tirotext uses Brückner's finishing line

New biofunctional fabrics prove effective against dust mites

Texworld USA and Apparel Sourcing USA boast record breaking attendance

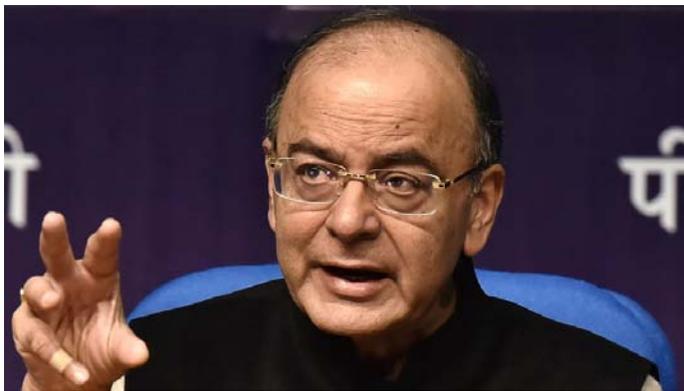
NATIONAL:

Budget 2017: Govt eyes job opportunities in textiles, tourism and affordable housing

(Source: The Hindustan times, February 03, 2017)



Sanjeev K Ahuja



Union finance minister Arun Jaitley. (Sanjeev Verma/HT photo)

Finance minister Arun Jaitley in his budget has reiterated the government's commitment to job creation and identified several sectors - textiles, leather, tourism, transportation and affordable housing - that he said will open up employment opportunity.

In his speech on Wednesday, Jaitley described "energising youth through education, skills and jobs" as one of the government's 10 important focus areas.

The Centre, which has promised 100 million jobs by 2022, has decided to replicate the special scheme it had launched for the textile sector in the leather and footwear industries as well.

"For transportation sector as a whole, including rail, roads, shipping, I have provided Rs 2,41,387 crore in 2017-18. This magnitude of investment will spur a huge amount of economic activity across the country and create more job opportunities," the finance minister said on Wednesday.

Tourism, said to be a big employment generator with a multiplier impact on the economy, is another sector which the Centre lays special emphasis for generating employment. Jaitley announced that five Special Tourism Zones, anchored on SPVs, will

be set up in partnership with the states. Incredible India 2.0 campaign will also be launched across the world in order to encourage the sector.

Experts said the decision to accord industry status to the affordable housing sector also seems to have aimed at providing mammoth job and entrepreneurship opportunities. With the mission of providing 20 million houses across India, the Centre has announced skilled development plans for youths for making them employable in this sector.

“The budget lays special focus on the youth in the context of skill development, and it recognises the issue of job creation as well opportunities for boosting entrepreneurial skills. For example, the budget proposes training for masons for providing a workforce for housing sector with a major focus on the affordable housing,” CII director general Chandrajit Banerjee said.

“This sector will also create micro-entrepreneurs. The industry, which has come out of the effects of demonetisation, is there to support the government in this sector,” he added.

The private sector, too, is upbeat about the budgetary announcements.

“The budget gives a great thrust to the Skill India Initiative. The government’s enhanced focus on youth learning and skill development (via schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana), upliftment of women (through schemes like Mahila Shakti Kendra and Anganwadi initiatives) are notable moves,” Arjun Pratap, founder and CEO of EdGE Networks - an HR Tech startup - said.

Pratap added that women empowerment has been given special attention in this budget which will resonate well for India’s economic growth. Jaitley said in his speech that the total funds allocated for the welfare of women and children across all the ministries will rise to Rs 1,846 billion from Rs 1,565 billion the previous year.

“If executed well, these initiatives could bring in significant transformation across rural India. We hope that the investment in youth and education through the Skill India initiative will lead to a more employable population – and bridge the demand and supply gap,” he added.

Employment generation has been the key electoral promise of the National Democratic Alliance government, which is midway through its five-year term.

Tens of thousands of people, mostly in the informal sector, lost their jobs after the government’s demonetisation drive and affected the economy, which was already hurting from slowing demand and investments.

Jaitley’s budget was being seen as an opportunity for the Modi government to ease the pain of people hit hard by the shock recall 500-and 1000-rupee banknotes in his fight against black money.

[Home](#)

Budget allocation for textile ministry rises 36% to Rs 6,227 crore

The Budget has allocated Rs 6,227 crore for the textile ministry for the next fiscal, representing a 36% hike from the budgetted level of Rs 4,595 crore a year earlier, as the government steps up focus on labour-intensive sectors to create more jobs.

(Source: The Financial Express, February 03, 2017)



The annual rise in budgetary allocation for the textile ministry has been marginal in recent years, and in 2013-14, it even witnessed a cut in outlay from a year before.

The Budget has allocated Rs 6,227 crore for the textile ministry for the next fiscal, representing a 36% hike from the budgetted level of Rs 4,595 crore a year earlier, as the government steps up focus on labour-intensive sectors to create more jobs.

However, the outlay for the next fiscal is a tad lower than the revised estimate of R6,286 crore for 2016-17, as allocation had to be raised substantially mid-way this fiscal under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) to settle a major chunk of pending claims pertaining to earlier years and also to provide for a new duty drawback scheme that was announced as part of a special package for the garments industry in June last year (after the 2016-17 Budget was presented).

These two major schemes — TUFS and the remission of state levies (RoSL) to the garments industry under the duty drawback scheme — have been allocated R2,013 crore and R1,555 crore, respectively, accounting for over a half of the total outlay for 2017-18.

Analysts say although the budgetary allocation for 2017-18 is slightly lower than the revised estimate for the current fiscal, there is a chance that the ministry will get more funds under these schemes if required.

FE had reported on January 30 that the ministry could be allocated R6,200-6,500 crore and the government could provide more than R2,000 crore for the ATUFS and over R1,500 crore for the duty drawback scheme in the Budget for 2017-18.

While the allocation for the ATUFS was raised to R2,610 crore in the revised estimate for 2016-17 from the budgetted level of R1,480 crore, R400 crore was provided for the RoSL in the current fiscal.

However, most of the other schemes barely saw any change in allocation for 2017-18 from the budgetted level last year.

The annual rise in budgetary allocation for the ministry has been marginal in recent years, and in 2013-14, it even witnessed a cut in outlay from a year before. The ministry was even pulled up by a parliamentary standing committee in 2015 for slow spending in previous years.

However, the panel observed that the ministry, of late, had improved its pace of expenditure. The textile and the garment sector assumes importance as it employs close to 32 million people, having become the largest employer after agriculture.

Rahul Mehta, president of the Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India, said though there are no new schemes or programmes specifically for the textiles or garment industry, the Budget has several provisions that will help the sector. For instance, the reduction of the corporate tax to 25% for small companies with turnover of up to R50 crore will cover a large number of garment units.

[Home](#)

Indian textile firms fail to investigate abuse complaints - activists

(Source: Anuradha Nagaraj, Reuters, February 02, 2017)

CHENNAI, India (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Women facing sexual harassment in India's garment industry have no place to turn as textile companies are shirking their legal duty to investigate abuse allegations, activists said on Thursday.

Big textile companies are legally required to form committees to look into sexual harassment complaints but the vast majority haven't done so, according to campaigners.

In response to a right to information query filed by a charity in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, the state government said it had no record of committees being formed or functioning in more than 3,000 mills across four districts.

"The reply shocked us," said R. Karuppusamy of the Rights Education and Development Centre.

"Young girls work in this industry and there is enough documented evidence to show that there is abuse and exploitation inside the mills. But there are no complaint committees for them to approach," Karuppusamy said.

Much of India's \$40 billion garment and textile industry, which employs an estimated 45 million mostly female workers, operates in the informal sector and is poorly regulated.

A 2016 report by women's rights groups Sisters for Change and Munnade said 60 percent of women garment workers in the southern city of Bengaluru faced intimidation and violence in "hostile" workplaces.

It stated that one in seven woman garment workers had been raped or forced to commit a sexual act.

This reflects the situation across all Indian textile hubs, including Tamil Nadu and Gurgaon in north India, activists say.

"On paper, many mills will show you that committees exist but they are not real," said S. Thivyrakhini of the all-women Tamil Nadu Textile and Common Labour Union.

"We deal with cases everyday where the only option for women who face harassment is to quit their jobs, something many cannot afford to do."

The 2013 Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act states that any workplace with more than 10 employees must set up an internal complaints committee and make it accessible to workers.

In four Tamil Nadu districts known as the "textile valley of India" officials provided no data on committees.

In another district, details of only one district-level committee were given, prompting Karuppusamy to file an official complaint with local government and police in January, demanding an audit of all mills.

Labour department officials were unavailable for comment.

Mill managers said multiple redress mechanisms were available and awareness programs were conducted to inform workers of their rights.

"In Tiruppur, we have many systems that are functioning," said Raja M. Shanmugam of the Tiruppur Exporters' Association.

A national package unveiled in 2016, aiming to generate 10 million jobs and boost textile exports by \$30 billion, has also made it mandatory for firms applying for tax benefits to form committees, Shanmugam added.

"There are some who don't have them but they will form them soon enough if they want to be part of the industry's growth," he said.

(Reporting by Anuradha Nagaraj, Editing by Ed Upright and Lyndsay Griffiths. Please credit the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, women's rights, trafficking and climate change. Visit www.trust.org)

[Home](#)

NITI Aayog bats for globalization, to review govt programmes every month

NITI Aayog favoured India aggressively pursuing globalization, doing away with all the remaining approval requirements for foreign direct investment

(Source: Gireesh Chandra Prasad/Utpal Bhaskar, Livemint, February 03, 2017)



Indian industry also needs to become far more competitive, says NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. Photo: Ramesh Pathania/Mint

New Delhi: NITI Aayog will on a monthly basis review the outcomes of various policy measures and schemes to ensure the government's spending delivers the intended outcome, the top brass of the think tank said at The Verdict, a conference organized by Mint and CNBC-TV18 on the Union budget.

NITI Aayog also favoured India aggressively pursuing globalization, doing away with all the remaining approval requirements for foreign direct investment and carrying forward job creation efforts in labour-intensive sectors.

NITI Aayog chief executive Amitabh Kant said the think tank had put in a lot of effort on the outcome budget for ministries. "There are clearly defined outcomes for all ministries. All that will be put on a dashboard and will be reviewed on a monthly basis. The road sector has done quite well in terms of achieving outcomes," Kant said.

He said that despite the resurgence in protectionism in global trade, he remains a firm believer in globalization.

"We need to ensure that our textile exports and garments need to get into European markets. Indian industry also needs to become far more competitive. The budget 2017-18 has done a lot of structural changes in this regard," said Kant.

NITI Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya said the government had extended the package announced earlier for the labour-intensive textile sector to the footwear and leather sectors in the 2017-18 budget.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley also announced measures to support electronics manufacturing in the budget.

N.K. Singh, who headed the panel to review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, said the panel had recommended a 0.5% deviation from the fiscal consolidation road map under circumstances such as far-reaching structural reforms in the economy that have unintended economic consequences, such as acts of war and collapse of agriculture, on the advice of a fiscal council to be set up.

Jaitley said in his budget speech that the FRBM panel had suggested a 3% fiscal deficit target for the next three financial years, from which he had deviated slightly to set a 3.2% target for 2017-18.

[Home](#)

Engagement of Designer in Handloom clusters takes Hand-woven fabrics to new heights

(Source: Business Standard, February 03, 2017)

Engagement of Designer in Handloom clusters takes Hand-woven fabrics to new heights As a result of an initiative launched by the Ministry of Textiles on the second National Handloom Day (7th August 2016), the traditional hand-woven products of West Bengal Handloom clusters have been transformed into high-profile fashionable fabrics. Due to the involvement of a reputed fashion designer (identified by MoU partner IMG Reliance) in training and product development, "Beyond Boundaries", a garment range produced from the handloom products of West Bengal Handloom Clusters in Coochbehar and Udaynarayanpur, is being showcased in the Lakme Fashion Week, being held in Mumbai from February 1-5, 2017.

The engagement of the fashion designer was done under a pioneering initiative taken by the Ministry of Textiles, to engage reputed designers in handloom clusters for product development/diversification, improved marketability and better returns. MoUs were signed with IMG Reliance and other similar organizations on the 2nd National Handloom Day i.e. 7th August 2016, in Varanasi.

Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned a large number of projects for comprehensive development of handloom-concentrated blocks across the country. 273 such projects have been sanctioned with 2,30,133 weavers as beneficiaries. These include Coochbehar and Udaynarayanpur Handloom Clusters in West Bengal, which respectively cover 505 and 640 handloom weavers. Financial assistance has been provided for various interventions, including design development. In order to develop new designs/products in the clusters, an MoU was signed with a group of designers in partnership with IMG Reliance. Among them, Shri Sayantan Sarkar, Fashion Designer has come out with a range of garments, which is being showcased in the Lakme Fashion Week. It is expected that the products developed will go a long way in supporting handlooms, with the weavers getting higher wages. Mr. Sayantan Sarkar worked in association with Weavers Service Centre, Kolkata in Coochbehar Handloom Cluster in Coochbehar district and in Udaynarayanpur Handloom Cluster in Howrah district.

Bengal is known for its Jamdanis and Balucharis but a larger number of weavers presently produce in plain weaves and basic "Tangail" or plain weave sarees with

jacquard borders or even the local towels gamchas" and the Lungis" which constitute a large segment in Bengal.

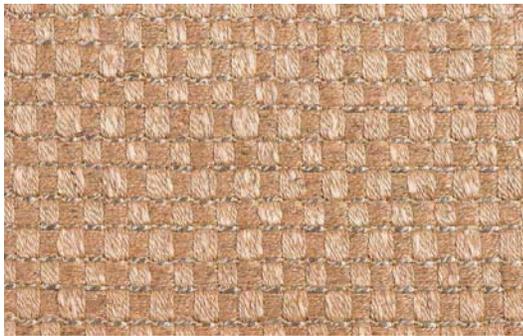
This initiative has introduced Linen yarn to weave the gamchas", colour palette was changed to pastels instead of the stark contrasting combinations and the check formation was changed to an uneven gradation according to the forecast which all of a sudden made the same weave look like an upmarket fabric with extreme drapability and also difficult to replicate in powerlooms.

(This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

[Home](#)

Bangladesh minister urges India to lift duty on jute

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, February 02, 2017)



Commerce minister of Bangladesh Tofail Ahmed has urged India to adopt measures to remove trade barriers in order to increase export-import between the two countries. He also stressed on the need for lifting anti-dumping duty on jute products as the imposition of the duty could have adverse effects on the import and export of these items.

Trade barriers affect exports from Bangladesh to India, said Ahmed during a meeting with Nirmala Sitaraman, Indian trade and industries minister, in Andhra Pradesh after the inaugural function of a two-day partnership summit organised by ministry for trade and industries and the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

The minister from Bangladesh suggested that official talks should be held between both countries to remove trade barriers, according to Bangladeshi media reports.

Bangladesh's GDP growth is 7.11 per cent and the country is progressing socially as well as economically, said Ahmed. It is the second largest exporter in the region after India, with total exports amounting \$34 billion, he added. (KD)

[Home](#)

Koovs: Putting a fashionable foot forward

By positioning itself as a fashion-centric portal, Koovs is creating a niche market for itself in the Indian apparel retailing space

(Source: Kunal Purandare, Forbes India, February 02, 2017)



KUNAL PURANDARE, FORBES INDIA STAFF



CEO Mary Turner launched a Rs 10 crore ad campaign called ‘Step Into Koovs’ to build the Koovs brand

When Koovs Plc approached designer Manish Arora in 2015 to create a menswear collection exclusively for the London-based online fashion portal, it was the first time he would be veering away from womenswear, the segment where he has made his mark. However, the collection he designed was an instant hit on koovs.com and was sold out within two weeks in April 2016, says Mary Turner, CEO, Koovs.

Led by Anant Nahata, Waheed Alli and Robert Bready (former founder-directors at UK-based online clothing platform Asos), Koovs offers apparel and accessories from 150 international brands, as well as its own private label. It has seen rapid growth in the current fiscal, with sales shooting up by 115 percent—from Rs 22 crore in April-July, 2015 to Rs 47.3 crore in the same period in 2016.

“What we want to be is the fashion-forward ecommerce place that the young, star-conscious person wants to come to,” says Alli (52), executive chairman of Koovs. “We

want to help you dress and be fashionable.” Alli, a Labour life peer in the UK, is a multi-millionaire entrepreneur with interests in media companies. The company he had earlier founded, Asos, is a global fashion and beauty retailing giant, focusing on affordable and fashionable merchandise.

Koovs collaborates with different people who can give the brand a design edge over rivals. For instance, it recently teamed up with London-based illustrator Hattie Stewart, known for her unique and playful artwork, to design a women’s collection that adheres to everything that the Koovs brand stands for—cool, comfortable, laid-back and quirky. Similarly, Koovs tied up with Delhi-based designer-duo Gauri and Nainika Karan in early 2016 for a line of elegant party dresses for women that was launched on the website in November 2016.

“The talent is there and we know where to find it,” says Turner, 57, adding that designers from its studio in Kingsway, London, visit runways across the globe, from Milan to Paris and from New York to Los Angeles, to find inspiration for Koovs’s own label. Sourcing of fabrics, as well as manufacturing of products is done in India.

[Home](#)

Lakshmi Machine Works moves up on BSE

(Source: Accord Fintech, Livemint, February 03, 2017)

Lakshmi Machine Works is currently trading at Rs. 3865.00, up by 3.40 points or 0.09 % from its previous closing of Rs. 3861.60 on the BSE.

The scrip opened at Rs. 3872.50 and has touched a high and low of Rs. 3899.25 and Rs. 3855.80 respectively. So far 212 shares were traded on the counter.

The BSE group 'A' stock of face value Rs. 10 has touched a 52 week high of Rs. 4698.50 on 06-Oct-2016 and a 52 week low of Rs. 3050.00 on 26-Feb-2016.

Last one week high and low of the scrip stood at Rs. 3992.35 and Rs. 3830.00 respectively. The current market cap of the company is Rs. 4359.01 crore.

The promoters holding in the company stood at 28.35%, while institutions and non-institutions held 18.93% and 52.73% respectively.

Textile machinery manufacturing major Lakshmi Machine Works has showcased 10 machines at IMTEX 2017 in Bengaluru. The products were designed in line with the company’s policy of delivering innovation and value creation, backed by a well-trained service team. The company’s solution will address needs like high productivity, accuracy, low downtime, minimal rejection and above all - an automated solution.

Lakshmi Machine Works, founded in the year 1962 is a global player and among the top three manufacturers of the entire range of Textile Spinning Machinery ranging from Blow Room to Ring Spinning.

[Home](#)

PHD Chamber and Regional Textile Commissioner's office jointly organising 'Textile Exhibition cum Buyer-Seller Meet (B2B)

(Source: PHD Chamber, January 31, 2017)

PHD Chamber in association with O/o Regional Textile Commissioner, Noida, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is organising 'Textile Exhibition cum Buyer-Seller Meet (B2B)' from 10th-12th February 2017 at Trade Facilitation Centre, Bada Lalpur, Varanasi. The Chamber expects visitors in large numbers to be present and extend their network with quality suppliers and business partners. Visitors could also avail benefits from the products on display in the Exhibition cum Buyer Seller Meet.

There is no Registration Fee for Buyers. PHD is also providing 2 night accommodation along with half day city tour of Varanasi to approved and registered buyers. However, prior registration is necessary.

Exhibition stalls are also being provided at the venue at special discounted rate of Rs.12000/- + Service Tax (for 3 days).

Those interested can get in touch with Subhashish.gaur@phdcci.in or Mob: 9711395603.

The Key features of Textile Exhibition cum B2B Meet are:

- *Suggest interventions in the Textile sector with focus on powerloom products for increasing the domestic manufacturing thereby decreasing the import burdens while looking at the export potential.*
- *3 days Exhibition cum B2B Meet*
- *Industry and Government delegations.*
- *Face to face Buyer Seller interaction and Negotiations.*
- *Creating a platform for exhibiting latest products, trends and technologies related to Textiles.*

Exhibitor benefits:

- *Focused Exhibition on Textiles*
- *One to one B2B interactions*
- *Increasing Brand Awareness*
- *Opportunity to increase market share*
- *Business networking and generation of leads*
- *Displaying of latest products*
- *Joint Venture, Collaboration and Investment Opportunities*
- *A gathering consisting of senior officials of Government of India, diplomats, CEOs and top officials from the technical textile companies from India and abroad.*

Visitor benefits:

- *Latest products and design on display.*
- *Opportunity with Quality Suppliers and business partners.*



- *Range of Varanasi Silk products on display.*
- *Face to Face interaction with manufacturers*
- *and bulk sellers.*

[Home](#)

GLOBAL:

Can Kenya break the global fashion industry's low-wage model?

The textile industry is the second largest employer in developing countries, but most artisans are trapped in domestic markets with no links to international trade

(Source: Anna Dubuis, The Guardian, February 02, 2017)



Catherine Makie, 27, sews bow ties for European and US markets in Nairobi's Kibera slum. Photograph: Anna Dubuis

At a tailors' workshop in Kibera, Nairobi's sprawling slum, business has gone global for a group of women.

After years spent sewing clothes for the local market, the 10 tailors have started on international orders for bow ties.

Their client is Wakuu, a two-year-old business employing Nairobi artisans to create suits and other garments using local fabric, kitenge, which they then sell in Europe and the US.

The women have been hired to create accessories and Wakuu says it will reinvest a portion of its profits into further training, as well as providing support to their families, for instance through improved childcare facilities.

"Fashion can be a major growth driver for African nations," says Daan Vreeburg, co-founder of Wakuu. "I saw we could build a business and employ people, give them a fair wage and break the poverty chain."

The Kenyan garments sector remains relatively small, with just 40,000 workers according to a report (pdf) commissioned by development organisation Hivos.

But if the African Development Bank gets its way, this is set to change. In 2015 it launched the Fashionomics initiative, an online business platform designed to boost small businesses in the fashion and textile industry. The bank believes the sector could generate 400,000 jobs in sub-Saharan Africa by 2025.

For these jobs to be sustainable, the region will need to break away from the model the fashion industry has pursued elsewhere in the world and which has already done damage in Kenya, according to Nicola Round, campaigns manager at UK-based Labour Behind the Label.

“In Kenya, like many other African countries, the domestic textile industry has suffered because of the ‘race to the bottom’ by global brands seeking out low-cost labour,” says Round. Reaching global markets at all is also a challenge. The textile industry is the second largest employer in developing countries, after agriculture, but the majority of artisans are trapped in domestic markets without links to international trade.

Wakuu is part of the steady flow of socially conscious fashion brands trying to challenge this norm by sourcing artisans from marginalised communities to produce their fashion lines.

Others include Artisan.Fashion, which connects Kenyan artisans to luxury brands such as Vivienne Westwood and Stella McCartney in a bid to pull high fashion houses away from mass production factories.

The company involves 22 community groups, recruited from existing networks like self-help and women’s groups, and is able to produce 100,000 units a year, mostly bags and accessories. Not all such enterprises succeed in scaling up and having a lasting impact, however.

New York brand SUNO, worn by the likes of Michelle Obama and Beyoncé, trained Kenyan tailors as part of efforts to build a sustainable fashion business. But last year it announced it would close after failing to attract sufficient investment to take it to the next stage.

Clare Lissaman, an ethical fashion consultant and co-founder of menswear brand Arthur & Henry, warns that good intentions do not always translate into sustainable businesses, and a robust business model is essential.

Being able to demonstrate the product’s worth is vital, she adds: “Just because it is made in the slums does not mean it is automatically good. You need to show you are doing what you say you are doing.”

The search for profits

Vreeburg, who also works for the Netherlands-African Business Council, and his business partner Nick Searra, are conscious of the potential pitfalls as they attempt to scale up Wakuu.

Although the suits and bow ties have been a hit, Vreeburg says the business could not survive solely on the handmade products created by their small-scale artisans.

Shunning the cheap option of outsourcing production to Asia, however, they have launched a T-shirt line made in a local Kenyan factory to boost profits and in turn support the artisans.

Their website will detail where each product was made and by whom, and they are formalising a partnership with the Kibera workshop to ensure the women have a guaranteed income.

Jewellery brand The Good is Good is planning to take a slightly different tack, enlisting established western designers with an existing client base to come up with designs for traditional artisans in Kenya to produce. The hope is this will ensure a sustainable market.

“We are changing traditional designs a little bit but if we are to create opportunities in the western market it is important to create a product that we can sell,” says Jeff Parry, who is launching the brand this year with wife Anna.

From their home in Sweden it is difficult to monitor working conditions so they have partnered with an existing Fairtrade-certified project employing women in the Maasai Mara.

“For us it is obvious that they should be made fairly and ethically,” says Parry. “It’s really good for us to know the processes are right and that they get paid properly.”

[Home](#)

US officials see Uzbek cotton exports at record low

(Source: Agrimoney.com, February 02, 2017)

Uzbek cotton exports will fall to record lows, thanks to lower plantings and rising domestic usage, US officials said.

The US Department of Agriculture's bureau in Tashkent saw Uzbekistani cotton exports in 2016-17 at 2.39m 480-pound bales.

This is above the USDA's official forecast for Uzbek exports, but some 360,000 bales behind the Tashkent bureau's earlier estimates, and the lowest level on records going back to 1960.

Falling production

The bureau saw 2016-17 cotton production at 4.08m bales, about 200,000 bales below its earlier estimates.

"A warmer than usual winter, lack of water, pest problems and replanting all caused a lower than expected crop," the bureau said.

Planted area was reduced by 30,500 hectares, to 1.26m hectares, due to a shift in government policy.

"In 2016-17, the government of Uzbekistan lowered cotton planting area to open up fields for vegetable and fruit production, especially in areas where water is scarce and cotton yields are low," the bureau said.

The government intends to reduce cotton planted area by a total of 170,500 hectares over the next five years, although the bureau expects production to be resilient thanks to improving agronomy.

Rising consumption

Higher cotton consumption was also seen reducing exports.

The bureau saw Uzbek cotton consumption at 1.84m bales, some 200,000 bales above earlier estimates.

"Domestic cotton consumption is increasing year-by-year with new textile investments," the bureau said.

"The Uzbek government is encouraging new partnerships to increase the domestic use of cotton."

"Many new textile investments have been approved which will increase domestic consumption gradually in the coming years."

[Home](#)

Wool Is So Yesterday: Why Natural Vegan Fabrics Are Taking Over

(Source: Peta.org, February 02, 2017)

Instead of wool, you can wear some of the many natural vegan fabrics that don't involve punching and stomping on sheep. Recently, we've seen a surge of high-performing vegan fabrics that are the perfect combination of soft and sustainable.

More and more clothing brands are opting for these materials that don't support the cruelty of the wool industry. Here are some of the natural vegan fabrics that you should be wearing:

1. Organic Cotton

Organic cotton is grown without harmful chemicals and doesn't destroy ecosystems. In fact, it's known to improve soil quality and often uses less water. Like other vegan fabrics, organic cotton is easier to clean than wool, faster drying, and softer to the touch.

The Rosemarie Dress by Toad&Co is a blend of organic cotton and Tencel. (See number four for more details about Tencel, aka “lyocell.”)



2. Linen

Linen is a durable material that becomes softer and stronger the more that it’s used. Vegan fabrics such as linen can absorb up to 20 percent of its weight in moisture before it feels damp. Unlike wool, which takes a long time to dry, linen easily releases moisture into the air, which keeps you cool. In addition, it is non-allergenic, and requires considerably fewer pesticides and fertilizers than other crops and is both recyclable and biodegradable. Abercrombie & Fitch’s cotton and Linen Blend Cardigan is lightweight and features front pockets and button closure.



3. Seaweed

That’s right: seaweed! Dried seaweed is crushed coarsely, ground, and simultaneously introduced into cellulose fiber, from which materials for a wide variety of textiles, known as SeaCell, are manufactured. Brown algae used in this material supposedly activate cell regeneration, re-mineralize skin, limit inflammation, soothe itchiness (take that, itchy wool!) and detoxify the body. The porous structure of the SeaCell textile

fibers promotes humidity intake and release, which keeps you warm in the winter and cool in the summer. We love this soft, comfortable SeaCell Modal Blend Tank by Boss.



4. Wood

Lyocell is the general term for a material made from wood pulp that's manufactured by means of an environmentally friendly process that reuses processing chemicals. It's also biodegradable, recyclable, and naturally wrinkle-free. A great substitute for silk, Lyocell is soft, drapes well, and can be washed, dyed, and even woven to mimic the qualities of suede, leather, moleskin, or wool. Bed Bath & Beyond carries this soft Tencel Lyocell 500-Thread-Count Stripe Sheet Set, available in multiple colors.



5. Beech Tree Fiber

Modal is a variety of rayon, made exclusively from the renewable fiber of beech trees. Since the base material comes from a natural source, rayon fibers such as modal are sometimes classified as a "natural synthetic." Fabric made from modal is very soft and smooth, with a moderate to high sheen. The original "artificial silk," it is soft, drapes

well, and dyes easily. Unlike wool, it does not need to be ironed and retains its shape, size, and strength even after repeated washings. (Water structurally weakens wool.) Banana Republic's Signature Modal Tee looks so cozy that you may want to wear it every day.



6. Hemp

Hemp grows without the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers, making it ideal for organic farming. The plant's roots can descend 3 feet or more into the ground, thereby anchoring and protecting soil from runoff while building and preserving topsoil and subsoil structures. Hemp is also completely biodegradable. It is similar to linen in feel and breathability, unlike wool, which traps heat and can support the growth of bacteria. Patagonia makes this Women's Lightweight A/C Top from a blend of cotton and hemp crêpe.



7. Soybeans

Soy fabric, also known as “vegetable cashmere” is a new eco-friendly fabric made from a byproduct of soybean processing. It has the softness and luster of silk, the drape and durability of cotton, and the warmth and comfort of cashmere. The material is free of any petrochemicals, and, most importantly, does not involve the abuse of sheep. Fashion insiders call the process in which materials come from the Earth and are wholly biodegradable a “cradle-to-cradle” approach. We appreciate KD New York’s cozy, flowing designs that are suitable for both work and yoga class! Check out this Open Back Tie Pullover.



8. rPET

Another eco-friendly option is rPET, which stands for recycled polyethylene terephthalate. Also simply called “recycled polyester,” it’s a member of the polyester family and refers to the plastic bottles used for water and soda. When you put a bottle in the recycle bin, it may be turned into a polyester fiber of some kind, or something else entirely. Unlike wool, it’s soft to the touch and won’t have you scratching your neck around the collar. Check out Patagonia’s Insulated Prairie Dawn Parka, which will keep you warm without any cruelty.



These vegan fabrics are the face of our future. They're versatile and environmentally sound and don't involve cruelty to animals—which is increasingly viewed as unnecessary and unjustifiable. Please visit our “How to Wear Vegan” feature for more information on cruelty-free clothing.

[Home](#)

Textile company Tirotext uses Brückner's finishing line

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, February 02, 2017)



Tirotext, Transnistrian textile company producing clothing products located in Tiraspol, Moldova, has opened new finishing line of Brückner, Germany's systems supplier in the field of textile machinery for the complete sector of dry finishing, dyeing and coating of textiles, technical textiles, nonwovens, glass fibre fabric, and floor coverings.

The line is suitable for the conventional finishing of bed and table linen and also home textiles, but is also suitable for pigment dyeing. In front the heart of the line, an 8 zone Power-Frame stenter of 3.20 metres working width, the line is provided additionally with an infra-red dryer and a horizontal nozzle-type pre-dryer with 2 fabric passages. The modular structure of the line allows the implementation of various technological processes and assures Tirotext a very high production capacity.

The alternately arranged thermo zones of the dryer, which is typical for Brückner, and the proven split-flow air circulation system, leads to an excellent quality of the results in view of homogeneity of the dyeing along the complete fabric width. Since the

commissioning of the line, Brückner is supporting the customer technologically so that he can use the line completely and in all its varieties. Brückner's technologists are available for the customer also in future so that both can benefit also of further options and work together in a continuous cooperation in view of product development and extension of the range of products. Several tests have already been made in the Brückner technology centre in Leonberg. (GK)

[Home](#)

New biofunctional fabrics prove effective against dust mites

(Source: Innovations in Textiles, February 02, 2017)



Permethrin is a widely-used substance for treating textiles against mites. However, the neurotoxin may also cause undesirable side effects, such as headaches or deafness, in humans.

The William-Küster-Institute for Hygiene, Environment and Medicine at the Hohenstein Institute has now tested a new product made by Proneem France, which contains alternative active ingredients but proved highly effective against mites. In a test in accordance with NF G39-011, Proneem finish by Proneem France was able to inhibit the growth of a mite population by over 90% and was therefore awarded the Hohenstein quality label Effective against Dust Mites.

“This shows that the Hohenstein test for effectiveness against dust mites in accordance with standard NF G39-011 is also suitable for alternative, permethrin-free finishing treatments and offers textile manufacturers a way of developing optimised bedding and home textiles that will reduce the symptoms of house dust allergy-sufferers,” the Institute explains.

Permethrin treatment

Dust mites prefer to live in duvets and mattresses, upholstered furniture and carpets where they find ideal hygrothermal conditions. Using treated bedding can reduce the rate of reproduction of the mites and so decrease the allergen load.

Normally, these finishing treatments contain the acaricide permethrin. As a toxin that can be ingested or absorbed, it is effective against numerous insects, including mites. Permethrin is a neurotoxic chemical which, in insects, causes agitation and cramps, then coordination disorders and finally paralysis. Permethrin is poorly absorbed by healthy skin, but nevertheless attempts are being made to find alternative finishing agents.

Dust mite allergy

Between four and five million Germans suffer from a house dust mite allergy. However, this is not caused by the mites, but by their faeces. The little arachnids prefer to live in duvets and mattresses, upholstered furniture and carpets.



The conditions there are perfect for them are: an average temperature of 25 °C, humidity of up to 70% and the human skin flakes on which the small creatures feed. The faeces disintegrate into very small particles, and when stirred up, these particles enter the mucous membranes through the respiratory tract, causing allergic reactions with the typical symptoms, including a runny nose, watery or itchy eyes, and in severe cases even asthma and breathlessness.

www.hohenstein.de

[Home](#)

Texworld USA and Apparel Sourcing USA boast record breaking attendance

(Source: Knitting Industry, February 02, 2017)

The Winter 2017 editions of Texworld USA and Apparel Sourcing USA closed their doors on 25 January, welcoming a record number of verified visitors across three days.

The final attendance showed a 20% increase over the previously documented record for any winter edition in the show's 10-year history. Visitors represented a total of 54 countries, including: USA, France, Australia, Canada, Japan, Brazil, India, Israel, Nigeria, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Italy, Spain, Argentina, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and others.



“The Winter 2017 edition of Texworld USA and Apparel Sourcing USA has been a record-breaker, both in terms of exhibitors presented and visitor attendance,” said Dennis Smith, President and CEO, Messe Frankfurt North America. “We knew that this edition would prove to be an important gauge for where the apparel market is headed and what we’ve seen is that a mood of cautious optimism is prevailing over all else. The apparel industry is far from standing still and we’re thrilled to be the industry sourcing event that buyers choose season after season.”

Exhibitors

Texworld USA Winter 2017 boasted over 225 exhibitors representing 12 countries, including: Canada, USA, Colombia, India, United Kingdom, China, Hong Kong, Japan, and more. Turkey, Korea and Taiwan returned with dedicated country pavilions. The Lenzing Pavilion also returned to the show floor with 17 exhibitors focused on integrating sustainable fibres into a wide range of product categories.

Apparel Sourcing USA, a long-term joint venture partnership between Messe Frankfurt and CCPIT-TEX, presented 107 suppliers from 9 countries including: China, Hong Kong, India, Myanmar, Taiwan, USA and Sri Lanka. In addition, Mexico and Peru represented western hemisphere sourcing options with 12 suppliers present on the show floor.



“It’s no secret that consumer buying patterns are changing quickly and that the customer is looking for more value than ever when purchasing apparel.” said Jennifer Bacon, Show Director, Fashion & Apparel. “This is impacting brands and our buyers every day and we recognize that. This is why we’ve focused on curating a group of exhibitors that offer a great product at a great price. Ultimately, our buyers can visit other textile or apparel shows to network and get inspiration on trends, but Texworld USA is the show to find in-demand, on-trend fabrics at realistic and affordable prices. We’re an order writing show, now more than ever.”

Texworld USA seminar series

As always, Texworld USA’s complimentary educational sessions proved to be a big draw for attendees. Organised by Lenzing Innovation, the seminar series focused on industry hot topics like TPP and duty-free trade, colour and fabric trends, digital printing, and the impact of the buy-now-wear-now trend.



The most popular seminars by attendance included Pantone’s colour trend seminar titled Muse: Colors to Inspire, the WWD-moderated Instant Fashion: How Has And Will The Move To In-Season, Buy-Now, Wear-Now Fashion Shows Impact The Textile And Sourcing Supply Chain?, and Fashion 101: Getting Back to the Basics of Starting a Fashion Line with Mercedes Gonzales.

The January 2017 edition also saw the debut of Texworld USA Floor Sessions. This addition to the shows’ educational programming was designed to provide attendees at all levels of the industry with the opportunity to discuss topics of interest with their peers in a more intimate setting. The discussions tackled topics such as sustainability, growing an independent fashion brand, and future outlooks on the global textile industry.

New Texworld Showcase and SPOTLIGHT display

Texworld USA revamped the well-known trend forum for Winter 2017. The new Texworld Showcase placed a heavier emphasis on curating textiles across all 16 categories of products available and allowed visitors to get a wider view of exhibitor offerings for Spring/Summer 2018.



Additionally, a heavy focus was placed on the chosen theme of the season, functional fabrics and apparel, in a new dedicated area of the Apparel Sourcing USA show floor. The SPOTLIGHT display area highlighted some of the best functional fabrics from Texworld USA exhibitors, as well as active wear and performance apparel from Apparel Sourcing USA exhibitors. The SPOTLIGHT area will return to the show floor in July 2017, where attendees can explore a new theme for the Fall/Winter 2018 season.

www.texworldusa.com
www.usa.messefrankfurt.com

[Home](#)
