RNI No: MAHENG/14704
Published on 10th of Every Month

Textile Insights
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VOL. 1 No. 1 Mumbai JUNE, 2023 PAGES 36

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T&A Sector - Towards Sustainable Growth

The textiles & apparel sector is aiming towards attaining circularity. Our correspondent takes stock of the initiatives being taken by the industry

The Textile and Apparel (T&A) sector is consciously trying to adopt circularity as the industry is aggressively looking to achieve its sustainability goals by bringing in multiple green practices across its value chain. Experts are of the view that since the customers also now prefer joining hands with suppliers who are more serious in sustainable and green practices, the only way out for the industry players is to join this movement in a more dedicated manner.

"Today, there is a big surge in awareness about how you manufacture your products in a more sustainable manner without hurting your climate and surroundings. Circularity in T&A making is catching up fast as the industry is gearing up to infuse sustainability elements in a more structured manner. In fact, this is the only way out if the industry wants to sustain in the longer term," says Rahul Mehta, past President, Clothing Manufacturers of India and Director of Mumbai-based Creative Group of Companies.



Today, sustainability has become the highest priority for most companies dealing in home furnishings, apparel and textiles.

Updeep Singh, CEO & President, Sutlej Textiles

"Textile businesses have taken up important issues like climate change and the development of sustainable textiles more seriously than ever. Even consumers are demanding textiles that have been produced in an ethical manner. This, in turn, has increased the demand for sustainable and eco-friendly textiles. Today, sustainability has become the highest priority for most companies dealing in home furnishings, apparel and textiles. We at Sutlej Textiles and Industries Ltd have taken several steps and have aims to optimize environment-friendly operations and reduce our company's carbon footprint by investing in green technologies and sustainable practices," says Updeep Singh, CEO & President of Sutlej Textiles.

The Rs 3000-crore company, one of the largest manufacturers of spun-dyed yarn and value-added mélange yarn in the country today, has recently got the distinction of becoming one of the few large Indian textile companies to have integrated backward manufacturing 'green' fibre facility. With an aim to transform the

Continued On Page 3

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'India Will Become A New Challenger In MMF Segment In The Years To Come'



Indian textile and apparel sector is in a much stronger position than earlier years. Post Covid, there has been a change in the geopolitical situation which favours India. With the China+1 policy of global buyers, India stands to gain some share, says **Gurudas Aras**

Read The Interview On Page No. 20



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T&A Sector - Towards Sustainable Growth

Continued From Page 1

company into a sustainable entity, the company has initiated the production of Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) by recycling PET bottles at an investment of Rs 225 crore. The 120-tonne per day capacity of recycled PSF, located in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, has already been commercialised from March 2021. The company consumes over 85 per cent of its green-fibre capacity for its captive requirement.

Sutlej, which is also into home textiles (though a much smaller business presently), manufactures polyester fibre utilizing PET waste. Besides, the initiative addresses a growing consumer need to buy garments utilizing recycled fibre. As prominent garment labels the world over replace synthetic fibres with 'greener' alternatives, a wider market has emerged for green fibre. Sutlej's manufacture of green fibre resulted in capacity utilization of almost 97 per cent. Most of the fibre produced is consumed within the company, thereby strengthening value-addition and resilience to a challenging price environment. More importantly, the backward integration enhanced the company's image as a responsible and reliable manufacturer.

"Our vision for sustainability is the bedrock of our growth strategy. Driven by a holistic approach, we truly believe that concern for the environment is key to business growth in the industry. Be it working with like-minded partners, manufacturing products within our own facilities, complying with environment-friendly practices set forth by our internal strategic teams, or even the selection of potential ventures, everything is done to realise our vision of attaining social and ecological equilibrium," says Pallak Seth, Vice Chairman of PDS Group, which is a global apparel manufacturer and supplier, catering to leading global apparel brands and retailers like Ralph Lauren, Hanes Brands, kohl's, Calvin Klein, Mango, Walmart, Tesco, Target, Carrefour and many others.

"The growing importance of sustainability reporting is supported by the fact that investors and other stakeholders are calling on companies to disclose more about their sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategies. ESG reporting is an ideal and effective means of enabling companies to answer in a single document a wide variety of questions that stakeholders may raise. I am very pleased and proud of the effort and momentum that the PDS Group and its constituent business units have put into our sustainability agenda," adds Seth who has set a unique, asset-light, plug-and-play platform that not only performs the functions in an asset-light manner and hence infuse scalability and robustness into the business, but also promotes a large entrepreneurial ecosystem alongside its entire value chain.



Circularity in T&A making is catching up fast as the industry is gearing up to infuse sustainability elements in a more structured manner.

Rahul Mehta, past President, Clothing Manufacturers of India & Director, Creative Group of Companies

The $ 1.2-billion PDS Group offers a compelling proposition for best talents from across the world through its global consumer-driven manufacturing and sourcing platform. In fact, PDS today offers a trend-setting platform for entrepreneurs who want to set up and run their businesses on its platform.

"A circular economy can be a game changer for Indian suppliers and manufacturers of textiles and apparels. Indian suppliers and manufacturers stand to make considerable gains if they proactively adopt good practices and innovate through circular business models and practices and get ready to be part of the transformation that is happening globally. However, global discussions on circular economy have to be clearly contextualised for India. India is both a major producer and consumer of textiles and apparels and any circular economy intervention has to be aligned to the requirements of the value chain actors in India," says a report by the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), a think-tank based out of New Delhi. CRB has created the framework to capture circular economy priorities or action points in alignment with the principles of a circular economy. This paper has been developed through extensive engagement with the stakeholders of the Indian T&A industry and identifies CE priorities in the Indian context.

In fact, the textile industry is the second-most polluter globally. More than 20 per cent of industrial water pollution is due to garment manufacturing. Globally, 80 per cent of textile waste generated is not recycled and is often sent to landfills or incinerated. In fact, the industry is responsible for over 8 per cent of global pollution. With a growing economy and changing demographics, the consumption of textiles and clothing has gone up by more than 60 per cent today as compared to the consumption in 2000. In the past 15 years, textile production has almost doubled. This has significantly aggravated the whole situation.

The industry finds itself in a quandary as it is struggling to balance its mainstream targets of productivity and production and its sustainability goals. The current linear system of production, distribution and usage of T&A is not sustainable as there is less regard for environmental impact. Experts are of the view that the current 'take-make-dispose' approach not only adversely impacts the environment and society, but also the future business of the T&A industry.

"With the world's biggest fashion brands increasingly committing to net zero targets, we are witnessing an upward momentum for sustainability in the international fashion arena. This era of environmental and social awareness as well as governance in the textile industry has to be the major focus for India. The concerted policy action such as the European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan, which paves the way for the transition to a circular economy, the recently introduced New York Fashion Bill for supply chain mapping, and other such positive international developments will significantly affect the Indian textile sector given its crucial role in the global textile

Continued On Page 4



Our vision for sustainability is the bedrock of our growth strategy. Driven by a holistic approach, we truly believe that concern for the environment is key to business growth in the industry.

Pallak Seth, Vice Chairman, PDS Group

T&A Sector - Towards Sustainable Growth

Continued From Page 3

and apparel value chains," says Atul Bagai, Head, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Country Office, India.

UNEP's work focuses on the value chain approach for interventions in the textile sector. It believes that coordinated actions in all regions by all stakeholders (government, industry, and consumers) and changes at each stage in the value chain involving players of all sizes and market segments are required to transition to a more sustainable and circular fashion. Additionally, stronger governance and policies are critical. UNEP is developing a roadmap for a collaborative pathway towards greater sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain.

"The concept of 'reuse, recycle and reduce' can take us towards the sustainable future in the years to come. We have become more materialistic without many constraints and this is damaging our very own environment. Regarding recycling of products, we are moving in the right direction, but this alone is not sufficient. The other two are also very important elements which need to be imbibed in our daily lifestyle. Innovative technologies and enhanced cooperation between the industry, academia and government will be the key enablers towards sustainability in the sector," says Prof R.S. Rengasamy, Department of Textiles and Fibre Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

Bain & Company conducted research in partnership with the World Economic Forum which shows that business leaders increasingly feel a sense of urgency about embracing circularity. Circular disruption is underway in many industries, often led by new entrants with innovative business models. In a recent survey of senior executives, it found that leadership teams are growing more aware that they are vulnerable to circular disruption the more time they spend preparing for it. In its study, it states that supply chain executives are planning to double the share of revenue from circular products and services by 2030.

"Circularity is becoming very important and all leading global retailers have set targets to reduce their carbon footprint – garments and textiles exporters have realised that it is no longer just talk; it's reality and needs immediate action. However the speed of action will depend on the buyer's push and requirements," says Sanjay Jain, former Chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and MD, TT Ltd.

Meanwhile, the Indian textile sector is also gearing up to adopt circularity in its value chain. One such effort is the formation of an industry-led platform – Circular Apparel Innovation Factory (CAIF). Started in 2018 and formally launched in November 2019 at Sankalp Forum's 11th Global Forum in Mumbai, CAIF is a global initiative of Intellecap, the impact advisory arm of the leading impact investing organisation, Mumbai-headquartered Aavishkaar Group, which works to build businesses that can benefit the underserved segments across Asia and Africa. Intellecap builds enabling ecosystems and channelizes capital into creating and nurturing a sustainable and equitable society.



Circularity is becoming very important and all leading global retailers have set targets to reduce their carbon footprint.

SanjayJain, ex-Chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry& MD, TT Ltd.



As an industry-led platform, CAIF's missionis to build the ecosystem and strengthen capabilities to drive the transition to a circular economy in the apparel and textile industry.

Venkat Kotamaraju, Director, CAIF

CAIF is supported by the DOEN Foundation, a Dutch foundation supporting initiatives in the field of culture and cohesion and in the field of green and inclusive economy, as also Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd (ABFRL) as its founding anchor partners. To accelerate the shift of the industry from its current 'take-make-dispose' approach to one that is more circular across the lifecycle, CAIF works with a diverse group of stakeholders from across the value chain.

"As an industry-led platform, CAIF's mission is to build the ecosystem and strengthen capabilities to drive the transition to a circular economy in the apparel and textile industry. The platform is building the textile industry's innovation infrastructure by bringing together key stakeholders to collaborate and work together on achieving the five key circular goals: increasing the use of sustainable inputs and material; maximising the utilisation of clothing & textiles; increasing the recycling of clothing; boosting production through renewable inputs and minimising negative social impacts and increasing social responsibility," says Venkat Kotamaraju, Director, CAIF.

CAIF has been partnering and collaborating with over 15 brands and manufacturers (local, regional and global) directly through programmes in India and Bangladesh. Through different initiatives, CAIF's network includes over 400 innovators and solution providers (local, regional and global), which it partners with and enables through capability building and facilitating partnerships with brands and manufacturers across programmes. CAIF's construct for engaging innovators and solutions providers is through the time-tested 4S ecosystem approach of Search, Seed, Support and Scale.

In the next 24-36 months, CAIF will be looking to partner with 30-40 like-minded and value-aligned organisations, through which it will further build the ecosystem and capabilities across value chain stakeholders.

CAIF is looking to make the work of the apparel, textile and fashion industry more sustainable (resource-efficient, resilient and responsible) through reducing carbon emissions (both avoidance and removal), while creating green and circular jobs for those employed across the value chain. Some of the partner brands and manufacturers have very clear and ambitious targets like, for example, moving to recycled water usage (away from fresh water) by 70-100 per cent between 2025 and 2030, eliminating energy usage and consumption by 30-50 per cent by 2030, replacing virgin material usage with recycled material use by 50-70 per cent by 2030, etc. ❑

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USDA: 2023/24 Global Cotton Use Forecast At 3-Year High

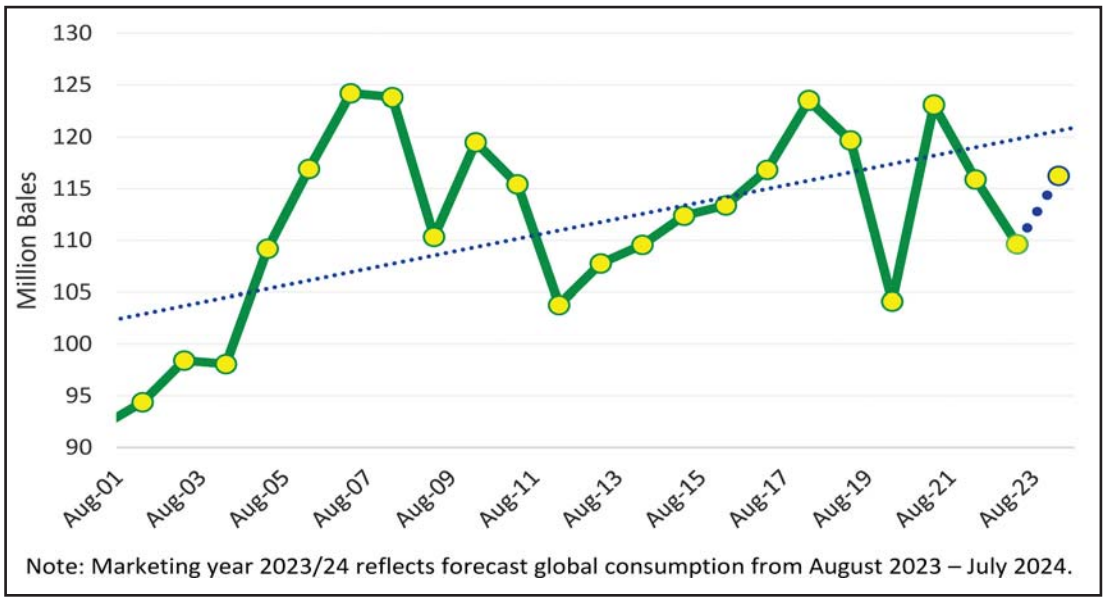
Global cotton consumption is forecasted at 116.2 million bales, up more than 6.6 million from the previous year. Greater cotton supplies, lower producer price inflation, low global cotton yarn stocks, and greater margins for spinners are expected to boost future use. Consumption is forecast at the second highest level in 5 years and implies an annual growth rate of 6.0 percent, significantly higher than the long-term annual average of 1.5 percent since 1960/61. Still, consumption is projected below trend as macroeconomic headwinds and competition from chemical fibers continue to pressurize global use.

The world's three largest consumers – China, India, and Pakistan – are forecast to account for more than half of the global increase. Of the top ten consuming countries, all are expected to have higher use. After significant reductions for India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the previous year, a general easing of financial pressures and greater supplies are expected to support consumption. Prospects for a depreciating U.S. dollar, greater access to opening letters of credit, and lower energy costs are expected to boost growth.

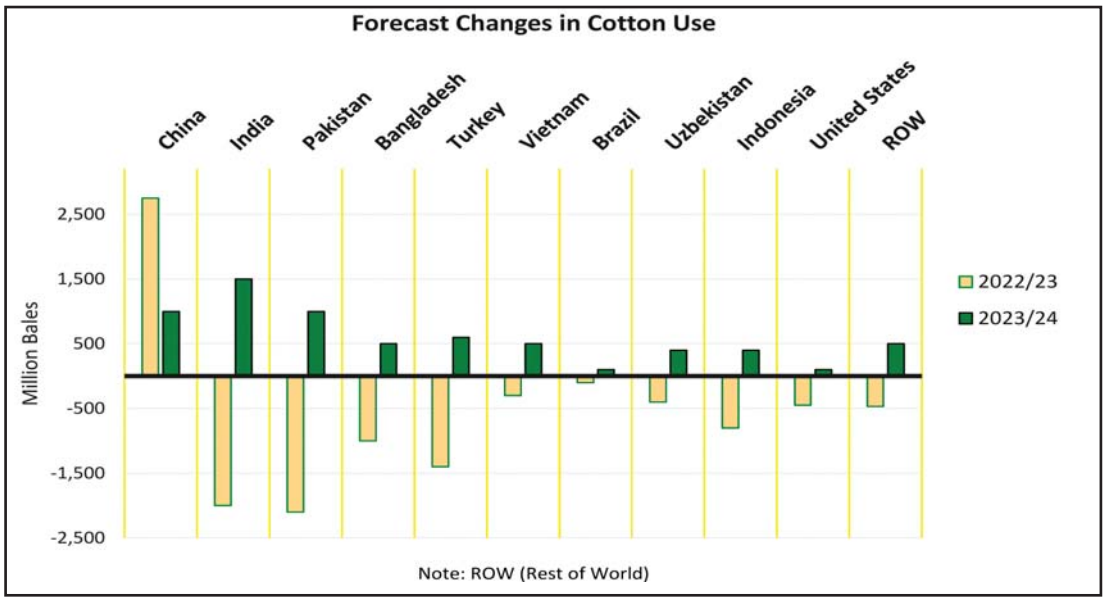
Higher cotton consumption is also supported by prospects for global economic growth. Cotton lint consumption and year-over-year changes in global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are mostly correlated, however, cotton use and GDP do not always follow the same trend as illustrated in the chart alongside. The April 2023 World Economic Outlook published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects global GDP to grow 2.8 percent for calendar year 2023 and 3.0 percent for 2024. The IMF's outlook is uncertain and mentions concerns in the global banking sector, persistently high consumer inflation, and other factors that may inhibit global growth. Recent global cotton consumption relative to global gross GDP and population remains significantly below the level of record consumption witnessed more than 16 years prior. Since the 2006/07 consumption record of more than 124.0 million bales, competition with man-made fibers and macroeconomic challenges have pressured not only the level but the volatility of consumption.

Higher cotton yarn prices compared with cotton lint (roughly half of input costs) supports greater profit margins. Year-to-year changes in this margin (cotton yarn minus lint) have trended closely with changes in global cotton consumption as seen alongside. A less volatile and average level going into 2023/24 is expected to support greater consumption compared with the previous year's low expected margins. China's yarn is used to represent global yarn price as it is the largest cotton yarn producer, importer, and consumer. Comparing the yarn price across various origins of cotton lint is a general gauge for capturing spinner's profitability in and outside China.

Another factor driving higher consumption is expected low inventories across the cotton product supply chain at the beginning of 2023/24. Disrupted and delayed shipments of consumer goods in calendar years 2021 and 2022 inflated global inventories and retailers responded with unusually large reductions in 2022/23 product orders. In addition, China's lockdown orders starting in early 2022 also slowed consumption to unusually low levels. Global mills' operating rates have improved and are expected to continue into 2023/24 relative to the previous year. As the effects of the pandemic further recede, inventory levels across the cotton product supply chain are expected to normalize and support higher use. Rising household savings accumulated during China's COVID lockdowns are also expected to support greater domestic purchases of cotton finished goods in one of the world's most populous countries. Uncertainties in the consumption outlook include the level of global cotton production, a persistent shift of consumer purchases to services and away from goods, and the unexpected impacts of global financial tightening in response to persistently high inflation. The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine has further contributed to uncertainty regarding global economic growth. This is particularly acute for Europe, as both the European Union and United Kingdom are the world's largest buyer of consumer products made from cotton fiber.



Note: Marketing year 2023/24 reflects forecast global consumption from August 2023 – July 2024.



Note: ROW (Rest of World)

2023/24 Outlook

Production is mostly unchanged at 116.2 million bales, 300,000 lower compared with the previous year as declines in China and Turkey are mostly offset by larger crops in the United States and Pakistan. The small change in global production is partially due to less competitive prices for cotton relative to other crops but this is offset by more favorable expected weather in major producing countries.

In January 2023, the A-Index was about one-third lower than a year prior relative to U.S. Gulf corn prices and Rotterdam U.S. soybean prices, contributing to lower plantings of cotton across major producing countries. Despite lower plantings, harvested area in the United States is expected to rise as less acres are abandoned compared with the previous year's record level. Greater production is also expected in Pakistan where unusually severe rainfall and flooding drove the previous year's crop to the lowest level since 1983/84. ❑

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India-UK Free Trade Agreement – A Mutually Beneficial Pact

The India-UK trade deal, a comprehensive trade agreement, is likely to create millions of jobs and enormous opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. Therefore, it would be a win-win situation for both countries, writes Prof. **Rakesh Mohan Joshi**

India's historic relationship with the UK since colonial times, long-standing cultural and social exchanges, backed by shared democratic system based on the Westminster model make the two nations natural allies with multiple mutual complementarities. The UK is India's important trade partner and is among the few counties with whom India enjoys a trade surplus since 2004, which means India exports more to the UK than it imports from that country. Even during April-Jan. 2022-23, India had a trade surplus of $ 1.5 billion with the UK. However, general economic slowdown and financial woes in the UK during the recent years led to demand slowdown, which also impacted Indian exports. India's exports to the UK grew at 9.27% during April-Jan, 2022-23, whereas imports increased at over three times its exports at 33.14% during the same period, which is a matter of concern for India.

UK's exit from the European Union, an event popularly known as Brexit, in January 2020, resulted from a referendum which was won with a very thin margin of 51.9% of the voters supporting exit from the EU. Brexit even today remains a matter of fierce political debate in the UK. As feared by a number of economists, Brexit adversely impacted British trade and investment. Even by the UK government's own assessment, British trade and investment is expected to get stunted by 2-8% during the next fifteen years. To cope with growing economic woes, British government is actively exploring alternatives not only to boost its trade and economy, but also as a face-saving exercise.

In post-Brexit UK, FTA with India is being largely perceived as a major achievement that will not only benefit its trade and commerce, but it is also considered to be strategically significant to counterweigh China and strengthening its relation with world's



largest functional democracy.

Contentious Issues:

India's trade deal with Britain missed the deadline of Diwali 2022 set by the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson primarily because of political turmoil in the UK and difficulty in hammering out consensus on contentious issues involving conflicting interests. Some of contentious issues included movement of people and visa regulations, services trade, patent laws, climate change, data localisation and non-tariff trade barriers.

To break the impasse and take forward the negotiations, British Secretary of State for International Trade, Kemi Badenoch, visited India in early December 22. Out of 26 chapters in the proposed India-UK FTA, discussions are closed on 13 chapters by the seventh round of negotiations, which were completed between Feb. 6-10, 2023, in London.

Indian professionals, especially professionals with high level of skillsets, contribute significantly to development of Britain. Yet, Indian negotiators found it difficult to agree with Britain's increasingly restrictive policies on free movement of Indian personnel under mode IV of GATS agreement, which also seems to be stumbling block even for professionals and genuine businessmen. Indian and foreign students are allowed to stay in Britain for a period of two years to find a job and gain work experience under the present visa rule. However, British Home Secretary Suella Braverman is keen on curtailing the period of stay for overseas students under the post-study visa route to six months. Also, Braverman's remark in Oct., 2022, that 'the trade agreement could lead to increased immigration from India' further complicated the negotiations.

A Win-Win Deal with Enormous Potential for Bilateral Trade and Investments:

Both India and UK are looking forward to benefitting each other by striking a mutually beneficial trade deal as both sides seem keen to take forward trade negotiations despite several diplomatic and trade roadblocks.

Textile is India's most important export product to the UK wherein India has a whopping trade surplus of $ 1.6 billion. Interestingly, Ready-Made Garments (RMGs) are the largest export product to the UK. RMGs made from cotton only accounted for $ 707 million, whereas RMGs from man-made fibre (MMF) accounted for $ 276 million during April-Jan, 2022-23. India-UK FTA holds enormous potential for facilitating Indian textile industry to increase its competitiveness in the UK market as the competing countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka enjoy free access to the British market under UK's Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP). Such tariff concessions are not available to India. The trade deal is expected to benefit the UK industry by providing better access to its products. India is world's fastest growing major economy and one of the largest markets with 1.4 billion people. The trade deal is expected to lower or remove the current import tariff of upto 150% on whiskey and upto 125% on cars and other British products. For instance, the British whisky industry is likely to be a major gainer of India-UK trade agreement as it is estimated that Brexit has cost dearly the British whisky industry estimated at $6.3 every week due to loss of EU market as it has to negotiate separately with each country about shipping norms, customs and packaging requirements, quality standards etc. India is world's largest consumer of whisky, accounting for half of world's whisky consumption. Whisky accounts for over 60% of total sales of IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor). Presently, the share of imported scotch whisky is around 2% of IMFL sold in India. It is estimated that the removal of import tariffs on scotch would make it more affordable and increase its share to 6% of IMFL sold in India.

India-UK trade deal seems to be a highly balanced and comprehensive trade agreement and would be a clear win-win situation for both the countries. It is likely to create millions of jobs and enormous opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. However, to strike the deal early, sensitive issues impacting both sides need to be resolved or may be set aside so as to move ahead with speedy negotiations. ❑

Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi is Director, Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru, andProfessor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi (rakeshmohanjoshi@gmail.com)

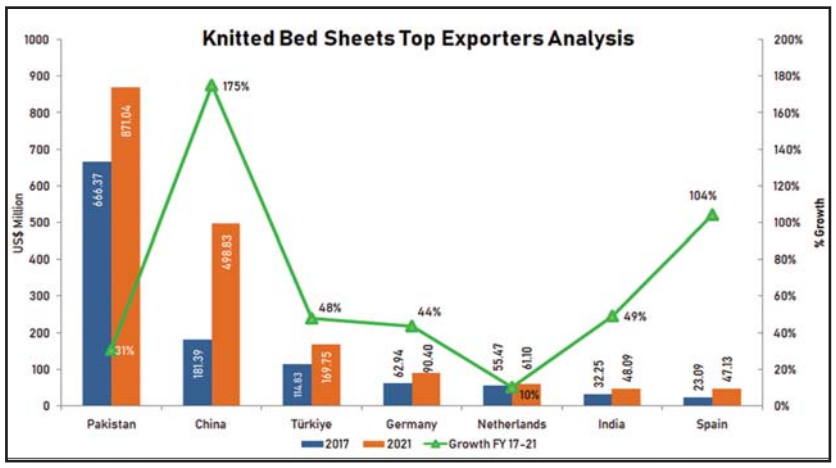
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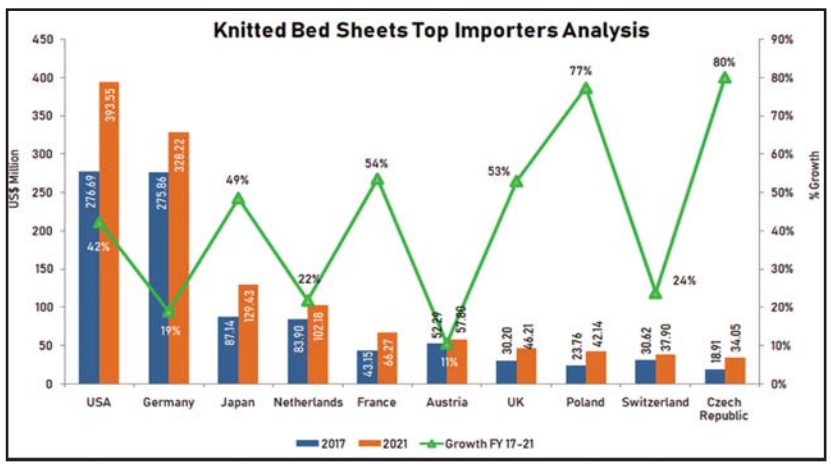
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Knitted bed sheets offer many advantages over woven sheets, making them a very cosy and comfortable sleeping surface





Knitted bed sheets, also known as knitted or jersey sheets, are a type of bedding made from knitted fabric rather than the traditional woven material. They are typically crafted from soft, stretchy and breathable jersey knit fabric, which is commonly used for making T-shirts. Knitted bed sheets offer a very cosy and comfortable sleeping surface that can conform to the contour of your body.

Here are some key characteristics and benefits of knitted bed sheets:

Stretch and flexibility: Knitted fabric has a natural stretch that allows the sheets to fit snugly around your mattress, regardless of its thickness or size. This feature ensures a secure fit and minimizes the chances of the sheets slipping off during the night.

Softness and comfort: Knitted sheets are known for their soft and smooth texture, making them incredibly comfortable to sleep on. The jersey knit fabric is gentle against the skin, providing a cosy sleeping surface that promotes relaxation and restful sleep.

Breathability: Knitted sheets offer good breathability, allowing air to circulate and prevent excessive heat build-up. This can be particularly beneficial for hot sleepers or those living in warmer climates, as it helps regulate body temperature and promotes a cooler sleeping environment.

Durability: While knitted sheets may not be as durable as traditional woven sheets, they can still withstand regular use and washing, if properly cared for. The fabric's stretchiness allows it to retain its shape well and resist wrinkling.

Easy care: Knitted sheets are generally low-maintenance and easy to care for. They are often machine washable and can be tumble-dried on a low setting. However, it is always a good idea to follow the manufacturer's care instructions to ensure longevity of your sheets.

Knitted Bed Products

The usage of jersey in bed products is rapidly growing due to fabric's basic characteristics. Jersey fabric is softer than woven fabrics and it is more stretchable. Stretchability makes it the best fabric for bedding products. Consumers need not worry about wrinkles and making bed again and again.

The most common products from jersey fabrics are

- Flat bed sheets
- Fitted bed sheets
- Pillow covers
- Duvet covers

The following types of yarns are used for jersey fabric

- Cotton
- Polyester
- Cottonpolyester blends
- Bamboo
- And their Blends with Spandex.

Fabric Weight Range: The most popular fabric weights (gsm) are from 120-155 grams in economical range, while higher weights of more than 160 – 240 grams are used for higher segment.

Type of Designs: The knitted bed products are sold in following designs: solid dyes, printed, stripes and melange

International Trade of Knitted Bed Sheets

Export Analysis

As per trade data from ITC,the export value of knitted bed sheets totalled US$ 2.15 billion in year 2021. Pakistan is the largest exporter of knitted bed sheets with total exports of US$ 871.04 million, followed by China and Turkey. India stands as the sixth largest, with total exports of US$ 48.09 million. However, the ongoing political uncertainty in Pakistan is likely to adversely impact its overall exports, which presents an opportunity for Indian manufacturers and exporters of knitted bed sheets to gain market share.

Import Analysis

USA is the largest importer of knitted bed sheets with total imports of US$ 393.55 million, followed by Germany, Japan and Netherlands. The European Union (EU-28) imported knitted bed sheets with total value of US$ 850.30 million. ❑

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Printed, Published and Owned by **Arvindraj Babulal Semlani** and printed at Mangal Paper Mart, Unit No. D-3, Akruli Industrial Estate, Akurli Road, Kandivali (East), Mumbai - 400101 and published at B-21 Gnat Vikrant CHS, 17 Poddar Street, Opp Surya Hospital, Santacruz (W), Mumbai 400054.

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Japan – The High Potential Market For India's Apparel Manufacturers



Japan, the island country located in East Asia, is the eleventh most populated and urbanized country with a population of more than 125 million. GDP-wise, Japan is the third largest economy after the United States and China and eighth largest labour force with over 68.6 million workers.

Japan is the fourth largest textile and apparel importer of the world, even though the population of the nation is small when compared with other main global markets.

According to UN Comtrade statistics, Japan Textile & Apparels (T&A) imports from the world totaled US$ 34973.32 million in 2022 and witnessed a growth of 4.82% over the previous year.

China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia are the top five T&A suppliers to Japan, accounting for 81% share of Japan's total T&A imports.

China dominates the Japanese T&A market with 56% share with an import value of US$ 19462.55 million. After China comes Vietnam with 14% share. Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia are competing with each other with shares of 4%, 4% and 3%, respectively.

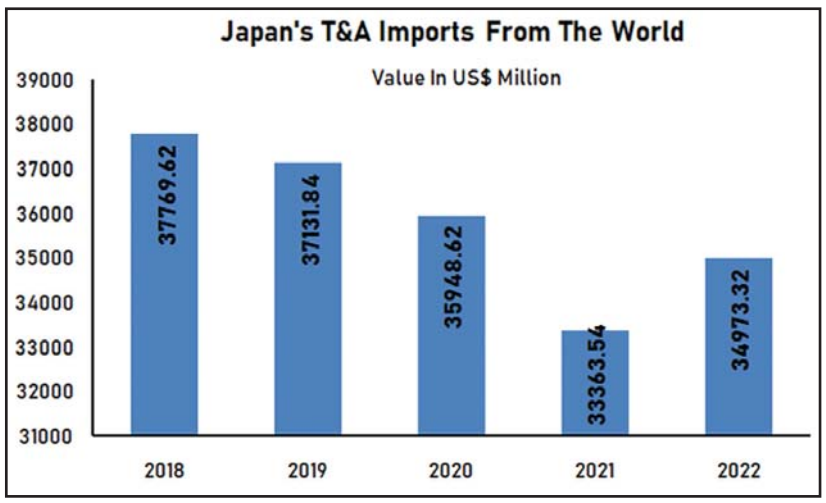
Product-wise, apparel is the dominating commodity in Japan's T&A imports basket, with a share of 71% of the total T&C imports. The knitted apparel imports totalled US$ 12957.46 million with a growth of 3.4% in 2022 over the previous year, while woven apparels totalled US$ 12009 million registering a growth of 6.1%. Both knitted and woven are moving neck-to-neck, with shares of 37% and 34%, respectively, of the total T&A imports of Japan.

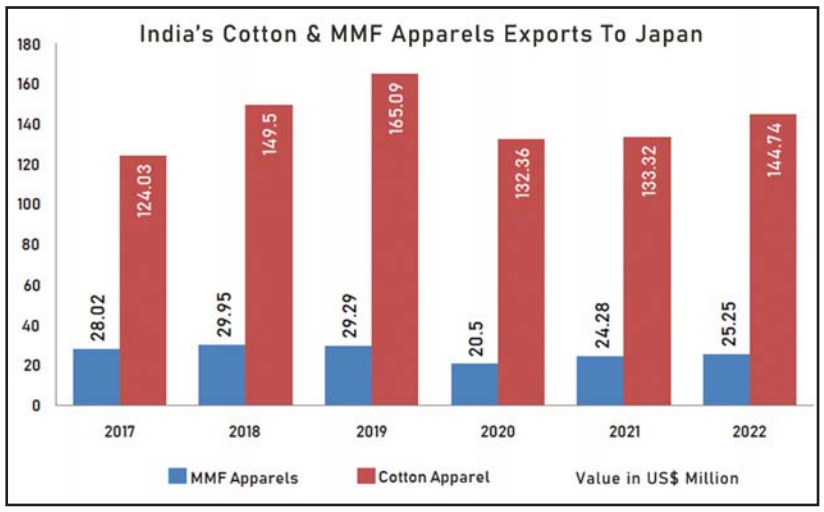
This is followed by other made-up textiles, non-woven, man-made textile (MMF), carpet and cotton, with shares of 14%, 4%, 3%, 2% and 2%, respectively. Amongst all these products, cotton imports have witnessed the highest growth of 22.08% to US$ 606.62 million in 2022 over the previous year.

Japan's T&A imports from China, which witnessed a minimal change of 0.41% in 2022, were worth US$ 19462.55 million. Apparels imports dropped marginally by 0.65% to US$ 13811.41 million.

India is the ninth largest T&A supplier to Japan. India's T&A exports to Japan totalled US$ 386.06 million, registering a growth of 5.63% in 2022 over the previous year. Apparel is the major commodity with 51% share, followed by cotton, other made-ups textile and carpets with shares of 17%, 14% and 4%, respectively.

In the apparel segment, the major products exported from India to Japan are cotton blouses, cotton dresses, cotton T-shirts, cotton furnishing articles and cotton trousers. Indian apparel manufacturers and exporters have a huge market in Japan, but due lack of quality culture, India is missing out on big opportunities in Japan market.





Indian manufacturers have only mastered the skill of selling cotton-based apparels, but the same is not true for MMF-based apparels. To fill this gap, Indian government introduced the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. The scheme will give a major push to increase production and exports of MMF apparels from India. Therefore, a huge potential market awaits Indian apparel manufacturers in the form of MMF apparels.

AEPC organized two-day Reverse Buyer Seller meet under the name of 'UPNEXT INDIA 2023' which kick-started with Japan. 84 prominent Japanese buyers, including trading companies and retail chains/stores, are in India to source their requirements from the 112-odd Indian exhibitors who displayed diverse range of RMG reflecting Japanese taste.

Naren Goenka, Chairman, AEPC, said, "We have a strong business opportunity in Japan,which is reflected by the fact that China, which has been a dominant garment supplier to Japan, has witnessed a decline in the past 5 years, giving significant advantage to India. The garment industry in both the countries have geared up to increase this trade taking advantage of duty-free access for Indian RMG post Indo-Japan CEPA agreement, as against an approximate 9% duty for China and Turkey."

Goenka further said, "The government is coming up with a PLI scheme which will majorly include Ready Made Garment (RMG). This PLI will be with much simpler norms to be eligible, which will largely address the issue of capacity creation and fabric diversification. Additionally, the government has issued BIS standards for importers and exporters to ensure stable and safe quality. Plus, on the higher freight cost, the government is considering enabling vessels to sail directly to Japan so that the time and cost gets reduced drastically."

All the above measures are expected to benefit T&A exporters, providing a boost to T&A exports from India to Japan. ❑

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India's T&A Exports Witness Major Decline

Cotton textiles exports have dropped drastically, negatively affecting the overall T&A exports from India

India's textile and apparel (T&A) sector witnessed a major drop of 17.9% in FY2022-23. The exports earnings in the same year totalled US$ 35666.78 million, while in FY2021-22, the earnings were US$ 43437.50 million. The sector contributes 8% to country's total exports in FY2022-23, while its contribution was 10% in the previous year.

The decline in the T&A exports is the result of high cotton prices, high inventories with international buyers, sluggish market and Russia-Ukraine war.

The top markets for India's T&A goods are USA, Bangladesh, UAE, UK and Germany. USA remains the largest market for India's T&A. Commodity-wise, woven apparel is now the largest exported commodity.

All commodities, except wool and woven apparels, have witnessed decline in the export market. Woven apparel, which is the largest exported commodity, has surpassed cotton textiles and knitted apparels exports in FY2022-23.

India's cotton textiles exports drops nearly by half

India's cotton textiles exports fell by 47.5% to US$ 5663.13 million in FY2022-23. Bangladesh remains the largest buyer for Indian cotton, with total exports of US$ 2028.85 million, but exports declined by 55.5% in FY2022-23.

Under this segment, cotton yarn is the highest exported product, with exports of US$ 2752.56 million, a decline of 49.9% in value terms. However, in terms of quantity exported, the fall was quite drastic. Indian manufacturers exported around 484.04 million kgs of cotton yarn in FY2022-23, as compared to exports of 1386.95 million kgs in the previous fiscal.

Similarly, Indian raw cotton has recorded a steep decline of 71.9% in exports totalling US$ 749.33 million in FY2022-23. Around 231.05 million kgs of raw cotton, including cotton waste and cotton thread, was exported by India.

Knitwear exports down by 5.8%

Knitwear apparel exports have declined by 5.8% in the international market. The commodity's export value totalled US$ 7704.16 million in FY2022-23. USA remains the largest market for India's knitwear apparels. Knitwear exports to the top four major markets have witnessed a decline.

T-shirt, which remains the most exported product under knitwear, has declined by 3%, with a total export of US$ 2393.40 million in FY2022-23. Under the T-shirt segment, cotton T-shirt exports totalled US$ 1771.93 million, while T-shirt made of other textile materials totalled US$ 621.47million.

Exports of men's shirt went up by 14.38% to US$ 740.06 million, while men's brief, underpants and nightwear exports fell by 13.2% to US$ 625.54 million in FY2022-23 compared to the previous fiscal.

Woven apparel: Top and trending commodity

Woven apparel is one of the two commodities that witnessed a positive growth in the segment. Exports of this commodity totalled US$ 8499.54, with growth of 8.3% in FY2022-23 over the previous year.

Here too, USA remains the largest market, with a growth of 11.3% at US$ 2927.16 million in FY2022-23. Exports to U.A.E registered a drop of 41.8%, while Spain and UK witnessed a substantial growth of 22.4% and 20.34%, respectively.

Dresses made of cotton were exported the most under this segment, with their exports totalling US$ 885.12 million, registering a growth of 23%.The second topmost were dresses made of synthetic fibre at US$ 729.09 million, recording a growth of 20.2% in FY2022-23.

Other textile made-ups exports fall

The exports of other textile made-ups fell by 16.3% to US$ 5655.73 million in FY2022-23. Kitchen and toilet linen were the top products under this category, with their exports growing by 7% to US$ 1023.55 million in FY2022-23.

India's T&A Commodities Trend In FY2022-23

Commodity	Exports (US$ Mln)	Growth (in%)	Top Market	Share (in%)
SILK	101.13	-13.2	UAE	0%
WOOL	171.16	26.9	ITALY	0%
COTTON TEXTILES	5663.13	-47.5	BANGLADESH	16%
OTHER TEXTILE FIBRE	467.17	-30.8	USA	1%
MAN MADE FILAMENT	1959.78	-19.2	TURKEY	5%
MAN MADE STAPLE FIBRE	1779.02	-13.9%	TURKEY	5%
NONWOVENS	516.54	-7.4%	USA	1%
SPECIAL FABRICS	346.73	-6.4%	USA	1%
COTTON FABRICS	389.81	-12.1%	USA	1%
KNITTED FABRICS	578.56	-32%	SRI LANKA	1%
KNITTED APPARELS	7704.16	-5.8%	USA	22%
WOVEN APPARELS	8499.54	8.3%	USA	24%
MADE UP'S ETC	5655.73	16.3%	USA	16%

Data Source: DGCI&S

India's Top T&A Export Market

FY2022-23 **(In US$ Millions)**

Total T&C Exports - US$ 35666.78 million

Rank	Country	Export	% Change over last fiscal	% Share of the total T&C exports
1	USA	US$ 10085.32	-11.44	28%
2	BANGLADESH	US$ 2532.03	-51.10	7%
3	UAE	US$ 2056.55	-21.65	6%
4	UK	US$ 1999.05	-1.62	6%
5	GERMANY	US$ 1500.33	-1.29	4%
6	FRANCE	US$ 951.64	1.91	3%
7	SPAIN	US$ 909.22	-0.98	3%
8	NETHERLAND	US$ 901.86	3.76	3%
9	ITALY	US$ 859.37	2.38	2%
10	SRI LANKA	US$ 726.87	-14.91	2%

Data Source: DGCI&S

Here too USA is the main market, with exports totalling US$ 2618.76 million, down by 24.21% in FY2022-23. USA accounts for 46% share of the total exports of other textile made-ups from India. Rest of the export markets too have recorded negative growth in

Continued On Page 15

India's T&A Exports ...

Continued From Page 14

other textile made-ups, but their share in this segment is very small.

Italy surpasses UK in wool exports

Wool has witnessed highest growth of 27% over the previous year in T&A export basket. Exports of wool totalled US$ 171.16 million in FY2022-23.

Italy has overtaken UK in wool exports from India. Exports to Italy totalled US$ 39.5 million, a growth of 85.5% in FY2022-23 and accounting for 23% share of the total wool exports from India. Even UK too recorded a growth of 26.1% at US$ 30.76 million for the same fiscal year.

MMF & MMSF Exports Down

The exports of both Man Made Filament (MMF) and Man Made Staple Fibre (MMSF) declined by 19.2% and 13.9% respectively in FY2022-23 as compared to the previous year.

Under MMF, high tenacity yarn of nylon, which was the topmost product in the previous fiscal, registered a drop of 35.6% in FY2022-23 to US$ 913.96 million.

Under MMF commodity, woven fabric of synthetic filament yarn was the top product. The export of this product totalled US$ 936.51 million and witnessed a rise of 4.22% in FY2022-23. The product accounts for48% of the total MMF exports from India.

Under the MMSF commodity, other woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibres were exported the most in FY2022-23. The exports of this product totalled US$ 407.74 million, a growth of 14.56%.

Country-wise India's T&A export trends

As the buying from almost all the countries remained lower than expected, the top markets have witnessed a negative trend in FY2022-23.

Huge drop in exports to China

China was the fifth largest market for India's T&A goods in FY2021-22, but in the last fiscal, the country stood on 15th position. Exports to such a major market dropped by 70% to US$ 4823.79 million in FY2022-23. China now accounts for 1% of the country's total T&A exports, while in FY2021-22, it accounted for 4%.

India largely exports cotton to China. In FY2022-23, the cotton exports to China totalled US$ 245.96 million, with a drop of 80.4% over the previous fiscal.

USA – The unbeatable market for India's T&A goods

USA has always been the largest and unbeatable market for India's T&A goods. In FY2022-23, T&A exports to the US totalled US$ 10085.32 million, a decline of 11.4%.

Apparel is the largest exported commodity to the US. The overall apparel exports totalled US$ 5411.18 million, a growth of 1.28% in FY2022-23 over the previous year. Apparel accounts for 54% of country's total T&A exports to the US.

Exports to Bangladesh significantly down, cotton on negative trend

Bangladesh is now the second largest export market for India's T&A goods. India's T&A exports to Bangladesh registered a negative growth of 51.1% to US$ 2532.03 million in FY2022-23 over the previous year.

Cotton is the chief commodity exported to Bangladesh and constitutes 80% share of total T&A exports to Bangladesh. Cotton exports to Bangladesh fell by 55.5% to US$ 2028.85 million in FY2022-23 over the previous year.

UAE and UK share 6% each

The exports to UAE declined by 21.6% to US$ 2056.55 million. Apparel is the major commodity exported to UAE and its exports totalled US$ 1228.35 million, a fall of 32.6% in FY2022-23.

Exports to UK totalled US$ 1999.05 million, a slight fall of 1.6% in FY2022-23. The Indian apparel goods are dominating the UK market, with exports totalling US$ 1470.21 million, a growth of 5.52% in FY2022-23. ❑

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Brazzoli – Batliboi Tie Up



(L to R) Erhan Duman, General Manager, Brazzoli S.r.l., Italy, Rajkumar Katkar, General Manager – Batliboi Textile Machinery Group, Ali Cakici, Director - Brazzoli S.r.l., Italy and Abhay Sidham, CEO – Batliboi Textile Machinery Group



(L to R) Rajkumar Katkar, General Manager – Batliboi Textile Machinery Group, Ali Cakici, Director- Brazzoli S.r.l., Italy, Abhay Sidham, CEO – Batliboi Textile Machinery Group, Kaan Cakici, Member of Board- Brazzoli S.r.l., Italy

Batliboi recently announced tie-up with Brazzoli S.r.l., Italy for sales and marketing of entire range of soft flow dyeing machine on all-India basis except for Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

With 50 years of dominant presence in textile processing sector, Brazzoli S.r.l is globally recognized as the leading manufacturer of dyeing machines, with superior technological content for treatment of fabrics in rope form. Identified as the manufacturer with most proven experience in overflow and jet sector of fabric dyeing, Brazzoli is now in a position to offer customers a solution for every type of product and successfully meet new challenges. .

The company's headquarters and manufacturing unit, together with commercial, research and development, post-sales and technical assistance departments are located near Milan. "Brazzoli loyalists proudly claim that the legend is back! The technology leader worldwide in soft flow dyeing machine has made strong comeback and sold more than 350 dyeing machines worldwide during last 3 years.

Brazzoli's high quality dyeing machines and Batliboi's strong marketing and service network complement each other in providing sustainable solutions to fast growing Indian textile processing industry and ensure customers would achieve consistent premium quality of end products at most competitive cost.

With the textile industry in India poised for a robust growth in the coming years, this association will help meet the requirements of the emerging market. Both Batliboi and Brazzoli are confident of a long and successful business association. ❑

Raschel Machine Brings Smart Textile Projects Into The Forefront

Inauguration of MJ 52/1-S from KARL MAYER for processing electrically conductive yarns at Grabher GROUP

The combination of electrically conductive material with textiles opens up a wide range of new possibilities, especially in the sports sector. The analysis of mobility through sensors, for example, helps to avoid incorrect overload to the body and to increase the fun factor during physical activity. The work of a consortium consisting of component and sports product manufacturers, service providers and research institutions, including the University of Salzburg with its sports, movement and computer scientists as the scientific lead centre, aims to demonstrate how the potentials can be utilized through specific, marketable products.



Inauguration of the MJ 52/1-S at the Grabher GROUP in a ceremonial round, among the participants Michael Kieren (3rd from left) and, following in the picture to the right, Christof Naier from the KARL MAYER GROUP, Lustenau's mayor Dr. Kurt Fischer and Günter Grabher, managing director of the Grabher GROUP

As a partner from the textile production chain, the Grabher GROUP is involved in the cooperation. A milestone was celebrated at the research subsidiary of the leading manufacturer of high-tech products, V-Trion GmbH, in Lustenau on 3 May 2023: Managing Director Günter Grabher inaugurated the MJ 52/1-S from KARL MAYER, a key machine for project work in the smart textile sector. On the Raschel machine with jacquard and multibar technology, electrically conductive yarns can be worked into warp knitted fabrics directly and placed as required in order to easily implement functional elements such as sensors, conductors and coils. The textile properties remain unchanged. The integrated production method saves additional process steps and reduces environmental pollution compared to other processes, such as conductive printing pastes.

The MJ 52/1-S will also be used for projects of the Smart Textiles Platform Austria. This network association brings together more than 80 international companies and research institutes. The Grabher GROUP and the KARL MAYER GROUP are members. ❑

DiloGroup Join Hands With Dell'Orco & Villani And TechnoPlants To Promote Textile Recycling

To strengthen and promote the recycling of garment waste in order to save valuable textile fibre in the European and worldwide textile economy, DiloGroup announced the close commencement of co-operation with Italian companies Dell'Orco & Villani and TechnoPlants.

This co-operation forms a strong group of expertises to provide supply of complete projects in the area of textile recycling .

Dell'Orco & Villani is a long term highly experienced and innovative specialist in the field of tearing equipment to recycle textile garment clippings. This technology maintains as much as possible the staple length of reopened fibre from yarn in knitted and woven textiles. This special tearing process avoids the downgrading and shortening of the staple.

TechnoPlants is a highly experienced specialist in the field of aerodynamic web forming and through air technology with particular emphasis on reclaimed fibre for various applications as for example in acoustic and thermal insulation, car parts, upholstery and bedding.

DiloGroup with DiloSystems GmbH is a general contractor specialising in the area of fibre preparation, carding, cross-lapping and needling who will act as a turnkey general provider of complete projects including Dell'Orco & Villani components to reclaim wasted fibre as well as TechnoPlants components when aerodynamic web forming is included or when carding, cross-lapping is selected together with through-air ovens and end-of-line equipment including packaging from TechnoPlants.

The great expertise of the three companies together is a source for the complete know-how in this large area of applications to reuse fibre from textile waste in new nonwoven material. The management of Dell'Orco & Villani, TechnoPlants and DiloGroup is pleased to announce this cooperation in the best interest of our worldwide range of customers of this special field.

With the beginning of upcoming ITMA 23, more details of the organizational structure of this cooperation among the three companies will be released and project engineering will be started. ❑



Content Marketing – Concept And Approach



By Rajesh Balkrishna Padalkar

Most people think content writing means just writing articles. Up to an extent this may be true, but in modern times one must be sure who is the audience and on what platform are they going to connect with the article. For example, an article on LinkedIn will have a much professional approach but a similar post on Instagram will have a funkier appeal. To break the popular myth, it's not just about writing an article but it could be writing a script for a video, sample for your web page, key note address by a M.D, a press release, a advertisement copy or a technical article for an upcoming product launch

So basically, content writing is the process of planning, writing, and editing web content, typically for digital marketing purposes with the aim of giving information or solving a problem for a specific audience. By solving the audience's challenges, you create value and importance for the target audience thus establishing trust.

Content marketing is here to STAY

Content marketing is a strategic marketing approach focused on creating and distributing valuable, relevant and consistent content to attract and retain a clearly defined audience — and, ultimately, to drive profitable customer action. Specifically, there are four key reasons – and benefits to use content marketing viz, increased sales, cost savings, better customers who have more loyalty, content as a profit centre

How to write niche content?

Write for human beings and not robots

Ultimately it's your customers who are going to read or experience the digital content made by you. Your content should have the 'Empathy' factor to connect with the customer. Emotional factors, real life stories get huge audience traction. Be sure to include engaging and relevant images and videos, quotes from experts, short "sound bites" for sharing, internal linking, and external high-authority links

Be Google friendly

Now that you have written an emotional script, ultimately Google has to recognise it as top content to display under SEO algorithms. So, re-edit the article/script to aim for a combination of low competition and high search volume and make sure your reader leaves happy. Viewers searching for short videos won't read a massive ultimate guide, and vice versa and lastly ensure that both Google and your readers have a good search experience

Collaborate with your clients

If you are coming up with content for a client rather than your own company or brand, involve them in the ideation process. Your clients are industry experts and will bring knowledge to the table that you can then transform into compelling material. Better industry insights lead to better ideas and, subsequently, better results ❑

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'India Will Become A New Challenger In MMF Segment In The Years To Come'

You have been in the industry for a long time now. Could you tell us how has the industry transformed over the years?

The textile industry is one of the oldest industries in India dating back to the British era. It's a very important sector in terms of employment and export potential. In the past, the composite mills were at the core of textile production, but with the government's faulty policies, weaving and garments production has slowly shifted to a decentralized sector. Over the period, the composite textile mills found it difficult to compete with the small players and started closing down. The last decade saw focus once again coming back to integrated textile production centres and integrated textile parks. Due to self-sufficiency in all kinds of raw materials, availability of labour at a reasonable cost and continued investments in modernizing the production capacities, India has slowly secured a dominant position in the global textile trade. India has done very well in textile made-ups and home textiles but has missed the bus in apparel on the global stage due to smaller capacities and fragmented value chains. However, in the last decade, with the help of the government's various schemes like TUFs (Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme), the industry has been fairly modernized and hence the quality of the products has also improved considerably.

How is domestic T&A sector placed in the given situation? Tell us about the opportunities and challenges the industry is faced with.

At present, the Indian textile and apparel sector is in a much stronger position than earlier years. Post Covid, there has been a change in the geopolitical situation which favours India. With the China+1 policy of global buyers, India stands to gain some share, although the immediate benefit was taken by competing countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh. India being more cotton-centric and the major global textile trade happening in man-made fibre-based products, India has been at a disadvantage for decades. However, with the government's focus on promoting investments in man-made fibre-based manufacturing and technical textiles through schemes like PLI, this situation is likely to change gradually. Unlike China, Vietnam and Bangladesh, the garments sector has not been a growth engine for India due to India's higher cost and inability to give volumes. Moreover, India is positioned mainly in the low and middle-value segments in the global market which is a disadvantage. The domestic textile market has been quite robust over the last few years, although the exports have stagnated.

The major challenges have been the volatile raw material prices, fragmented textile value chain adding to the cost and making it uncompetitive, non-availability of required skilled labour, lower operational productivity and inconsistent quality. The opportunities are plenty due to the increasing acceptability of India as a reliable supplier, China+1 and the US ban on Xinjian cotton-based products giving new market opportunities and the availability of all types of raw materials making it possible to widen the product basket and increasing the global share. The concluded FTAs with Australia and UAE and the ones under discussion with UK, Canada and EU will open up a huge market opportunity for India which so far has been illuding due to higher import duties on Indian goods to these countries.

The recent pandemic had its share of impact across industries and textile industry was no exception. While Covid had its adverse impact, it also changed the world order and sprung surprises and opportunities (China Plus 1) for a country like India. How do you see India placed this time around to grab these avenues?

The Covid crisis affected the Indian textile industry severely. The already ailing industry had to shut down its operations due to a complete lockdown for more than 3 months. Post-Covid, the pent-up demand helped in boosting the industry morale, which resulted in partially returning back to normalcy in production. Apart from the robust local demand for textile goods post the second wave, India really got into an

Continued On Page 21

Continued From Page 20

advantageous situation on the global platform. Due to the change in the geopolitical situation post Covid, the buyers started looking for an alternative to China. The China+1 policy helped India, alongside Vietnam and Bangladesh. India started ramping up its capacities in garments. The US ban on Xinjiang cotton brought up huge opportunities for the Indian manufacturers of cotton products. Due to increased consumption of home textiles (frequent replacements of bedsheets and towels) during Covid times, India's exports of home textiles to the US and EU markets grew considerably. India is now preparing itself to become a manufacturing hub, targeting to take some share from China. For that, the government has declared schemes such as Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India, PLI (Production Linked Incentive Scheme) and MITRA (fully integrated textile parks) to attract investments in manufacturing. These initiatives will go a long way in increasing India's competitiveness in the textile world and will push India up the value chain sooner rather than later. However, at present, the Indian textile industry is facing a serious issue of an increase in raw material prices and other input materials over and above an increase in fossil fuel costs (coal, diesel etc.). This is likely to impact the competitiveness of the industry in the short term as there is hardly any possibility to pass on the price increase to the final commodity product.

The present government appears to be quite supportive to the industry as it has been often coming up with encouraging policies and infrastructure. How far have these helped the industry or how far has the industry been able to take advantage of them?

The erstwhile TUFs (Technology Upgradation Fund) scheme has been quite instrumental in modernising the Indian textile industry. This has expedited the modernisation speed of the industry which has helped it in catching up with the other competing countries to some extent. Spinning has benefitted the most from this scheme, but weaving and processing could not take the benefit for some reasons. The scheme of textile parks has also been very successful. The present government has been very supportive of the textile industry and has brought in many innovative schemes like PLI and MITRA for attracting investments for the creation of world-class capacity. The recent budget has given support to the MSME sector, which is a major contributor to the textile industry. The PLI 1.0 with a larger investment threshold limit and an outlay of Rs. 10,684 crore had been proposed for attracting investments in the made fibres and technical textile sector. This scheme is focused mainly on the larger business houses with the objective of creating some world champions out of them. The response to this has been very good. The PLI 2.0 with a lower threshold investment limit will be focusing on medium-scale manufacturers from the apparel, accessories and made-up sectors. The National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM) with an outlay of Rs.1480 crore has been very helpful in promoting investments in the technical textile field. The government has taken efforts in closing many FTAs recently and is engaged in hard negotiations with the UK, Canada and the EU for signing FTAs, which will go a long way in opening those markets for Indian exporters.

The government has tried to eliminate the anomalies and provide a level playing field to man-made fibre (MMF) sector. How far has that helped the industry put up a competitive production base, given that the global industry is primarily MMF-based?

As mentioned above, the government is giving much-required focus to the man-made fibres sector now, which was missing earlier and which was also the reason for India's share in the global textile trade stagnating for a long time. India had been primarily in a very limited range of products and that too mainly in cotton. In spite of the fact that India is the second largest man-made fibre producer in the world after China, the downstream production has been an issue. One of the reasons has been the higher duties on the man-made fibres and monopolies of few players producing the raw material. Even today, the inverted duty structure in the case of the polyester value chain is creating a serious issue for the industry. The government's decision to remove anti-dumping duty on PTA and viscose has been a path-breaking initiative which is helping the man-made fibre sector. I hope that with government initiatives in promoting the man-made sector investments and the investments in downstream projects, India will become a new challenger in this segment in the years to come, which will also help in increasing our global share.

How can Free Trade Agreements (one likely with the UK, though in talks for long and not able to make any headway) and other such arrangements boost our apparel and textiles exports in coming years? Despite our efforts, we have languished in exports in recent years.

As mentioned earlier, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) play an important role in increasing the exports of textile items. Indian manufacturers and exporters do not have a level playing field against competing countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Indian goods attract at least 9% import duties in the EU and many other countries, as against zero import duty for these nations. The textile and commerce minister Piyush Goyal has been instrumental in taking efforts to close the FTAs with Australia and UAE (which can play as a gateway to Europe). The next target is to complete the negotiations with the UK, the EU and Canada. If done, then these three will be quite big markets for Indian textile exporters. The UK FTA negotiations have been languishing since 2013, but now the commerce ministry is making serious efforts in pushing it towards closure.

In the last few years, abnormal volatility in commodity prices (mainly cotton) has adversely impacted the industry. What are the ways and means to de-risk the industries from such uncertainties?

Yes, the volatility in cotton prices has virtually made the life of the spinning industry very difficult. This, coupled with demand contraction, has impacted the Indian textile industry very badly. Nearly 40% of the spinning capacity is still closed. The following steps can help in overcoming the issue that the industry is facing right now by reducing the dependence on cotton as well as increasing the supply.

- Focus on increasing the cotton yield
- Blending with other similar fibres (Viscose, Lyocell, Modal)
- Increase the use of recycled/regenerated cotton
- Exercise judicious control over the raw cotton exports
- Increase the consumption of man-made fibres

Creating a strong textile production base also calls for a strong machinery base. Our efforts in the past to strengthen our machinery sector have not yielded much of results. Your view.

No country can grow its textile industry without strong support from its domestic machinery industry. One of the major success factors of China's phenomenal growth in the global textile world had been the strong support from its domestic textile machinery manufacturing sector. Today, in India, more than 60% of the annual requirement of textile machinery (around Rs 16,000 crore) is met through imports, more so in weaving, knitting, processing and garmenting. India totally depends on exports for the high-speed weaving machines, knitting and warp knitting machines, some of the critical processing machines, garmenting machinery and technical textile machinery. The annual imports of textile machinery and accessories are to the tune of approximately Rs 9,500 crore. This situation must change and it can only happen if the government gives support to the local machinery industry in bringing in new technologies through collaborations or joint ventures with leading European and Japanese machinery makers. India is in a disadvantaged situation vis-a-vis China since the initial capital cost of the project is higher due to the need to import some part of the plant and machinery. The government needs to incentivise domestic machinery manufacturing by encouraging joint ventures and collaborations on the one hand and in-house R&D and innovations on the other hand. ❑

Lenzing And Partners Launch Austria's Largest Textile Recycling Project

Lenzing, ARA, Salesianer Miettex, Caritas and Södra joining forces to drive forward the transition to circularity

The Lenzing Group, a world-leading provider of specialty fibers for the textile and nonwoven industries, has taken another big step towards achieving a circular future in collaboration with several partners. Austrian companies and not-for-profit organizations, including Lenzing's logistics and sorting partner ARA (Altstoff Recycling Austria AG), the textile service provider Salesianer Miettex and Caritas, as well as the Swedish pulp producer Södra have joined forces to collect used household and clothing textiles for reprocessing to produce pulp and, ultimately, new lyocell and viscose fibers.

In this pilot project, used textiles collected by Salesianer Miettex that are not suitable for reuse will be passed on to ARA, before being delivered to Caritas for sorting by hand at a recycling plant. The Caritas recycling facility provides secure employment to more than 70 people with disabilities. After the sorting process, the textiles will be delivered to Södra for recycling and processing to produce Once-More® pulp. This method is world's first in the industrial recycling of textile waste made from blended fibers. Lenzing will then apply its innovative REFIBRA™ technology to produce new lyocell and viscose fibers.



"One company alone cannot solve the pressing problem of textile waste. Proactive partnerships such as these allow us to make progress and accomplish real systemic change," says Sonja Zak, Head of Textile Sourcing & Co-operations at Lenzing Group. "We work hard to make our industries more sustainable and promote the transformation of the textile business model from linear to circular. Continued action across the whole sector will be necessary to facilitate this transition."

"The EU's action plan puts waste and secondary raw materials front and center to cement their role on the market. Thus, in the recycling business, it is vital to maintain a 360-degree view of all consumer products. ARA has been instrumental to the implementation of extended producer responsibility in Austria for 30 years. It therefore makes sense to incorporate this expertise into the textile sector. This means that in the future we will be recycling not only packaging, but as many products as possible, including textiles," adds Martin Prieler, CEO of ARA. ❑

HKTDC And D&B Hong Kong Join Hands To Help SMEs Enhance ESG Competitiveness

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and Dun & Bradstreet (HK) Limited (D&B) announced a new partnership to help small and medium-sized enterprises ("SMEs"), start-ups, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises ("MSMEs") with green transformation by offering a comprehensive range of quality ESG registered services, namely D&B ESG Registered TM.

As a leading global provider of business decisioning data and analytics and the HKTDC's recognised ESG partner, D&B further demonstrates its commitment in promoting environmental, social and governance (ESG) to companies, large and small, in Hong Kong to enhance their competitiveness and drive growth.

A D&B ESG Registered TM badge and profile will be presented to companies that have successfully completed the required assessment as a recognition of commitment to disclosing ESG data. This ESG service aims to support companies to expand their business, enhance their reputation and attract investors, while achieving their net-zero targets.



(L-R) Andrew Wu, MD of Dun & Bradstreet China - Mainland China & HKSAR and and Dr Patrick Lau, Deputy Executive Director of HKTDC, announce a new partnership between the two organisations to enhance SMEs' ESG competitiveness

Drive sustainable ecosystem for SMEs

Managing Director of Dun & Bradstreet China - Mainland and Hong Kong SAR Mr Andrew Wu said: "Dun & Bradstreet is privileged to be part of it to support and drive a sustainable ecosystem for SMEs. To have our ESG solutions recognised by HKTDC, a statutory body in HK, for not just large corporations and listed companies, but also the SMEs, start-ups and the MSMEs... as the UNSDGs' (United Nations Sustainable Development Group) motto states, "Leave no one behind".

Dun & Bradstreet Hong Kong as the recognised Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) partner of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) sets an excellent example of D&B's strong reputation as a global provider of reliable business decisioning data and analytics."

HKTDC Deputy Executive Director Dr Patrick Lau said, "We are pleased to join hands with Dun & Bradstreet (HK) Limited to support Hong Kong enterprises in capitalising on the global trend towards sustainability."

Under the partnership, D&B will provide discounted ESG registered services for members of HKTDC's Transformation Sandbox (T-box), a comprehensive business support programme launched in April 2020 to help SMEs upgrade and transform. ❑

Socko Launches Its First 100% Recycled Socks

Socko, a sustainable sock brand based in the UK, has launched a new range of socks that are 100% recycled and made in the UK. The Montys collection are the UK's first 100% recycled socks and features a unisex design, plastic-free packaging, and comes in three different sizes and colours.

The Montys socks are made from waste, using Recover™ cotton spun with recycled PET bottles and plated with ECONYL® regenerated nylon. Recycled elastane is used for the stretchy cuff, making these socks not only environmentally friendly but also comfortable to wear. All the materials used in these socks are Global Recycled Standard certified, making them a sustainable and ethical choice for customers.

Each pair of The Montys socks is made to last, and to further reduce waste, each pair comes with a free mending kit (needle and thread) to extend the active life of the socks. Traditional manufacturing and design methods are combined with innovative recycled materials to create a quality product that is sustainable and long-lasting.

Emma Mathews, Founder of Socko and Author of How to Quit Fast Fashion, said:

"Creating a 100% recycled sock is a project I have been working on since I started Socko. This milestone goes to show that true sustainability is founded in the grassroots through the determination to focus on doing one thing well. It's this approach that benefits both the people who produce and wear our socks but also means that we tread more lightly on the planet." ❑





Yamuna All Set To Showcase Its Technologies At ITMA 2023

ITMA 2023

Hall No: 11
Stall No: A102

Yamuna Machine Works, a leader in fabric finishing machines is participating at ITMA 2023 in Milan and will presents its technologies at stall no A102 in hall no 11.

Yamuna had recently launched its new technologies at the India ITME exhibition 2022, which received a very good response from the industry.



Now Yamuna is ready to showcase its technological prowess at the international platform in Milan.

Yamuna is a leader in wet processing machinery in India and has also successfully launched a continuous bleaching range, compactor and multi-layer stenter recently. Yamuna exports its machinery to many leading countries in Europe, Central Asia, North and South America, and Africa.

Yamuna will display a stenter, a single chamber, a coating head with all three positions (knife over roll, knife over air, foam coating) and an Eco Roto wash (drum washer), especially for knits and Lycra fabric washing.

During exhibition in Milan, Yamuna's focus will be on displaying its strengths for being a reliable global supplier of wet finishing machines for different fabrics including technical textiles since it has long experience of handling special finish fabrics and coatings. ❑

Picanol To Unveil Revolutionary Rapier Machine At ITMA 2023

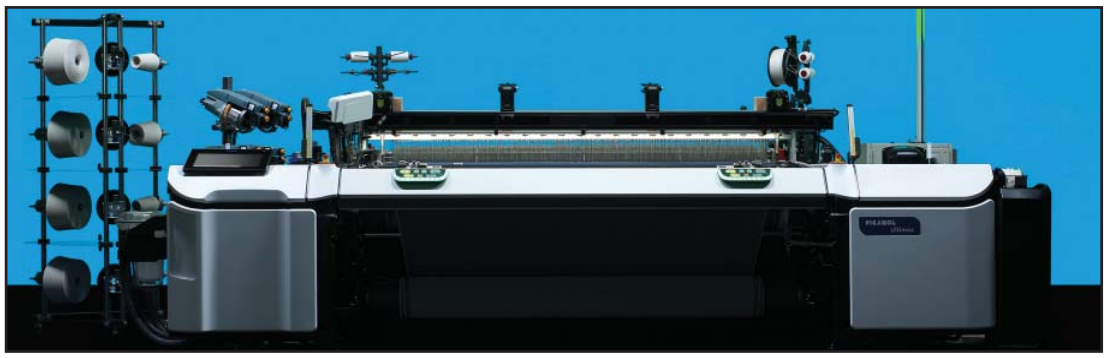
ITMA 2023

Hall No: 6
Booth No: B201

At ITMA 2023, Picanol, the world's leading weaving machine manufacturer, will present its latest high-tech weaving machines and services at Booth B201 in Hall 6. ITMA is the world's most influential textile and garment technology exhibition and it will be held from June 8 - 14, 2023, in Milan (Italy).

The eye-catcher at the Picanol booth will be the world premiere of an all-new and revolutionary rapier weaving machine, the Ultimax, that will become available in the first quarter of 2024. In total, Picanol will have 12 machines on display at ITMA 2023. In addition to 6 rapier weaving machines, Picanol will also present 4 airjet weaving machines featuring new developments. Furthermore, a rapier machine in Jacquard execution will be on display at the Bonas booth and an airjet machine in Jacquard execution will be presented at the Stäubli booth.

"Picanol has sold more than 130,000 rapier machines worldwide since the launch of our first rapier weaving machine, and we have challenged ourselves to further improve our current and highly successful OptiMax-i Connect rapier platform. The result is the brand-new Ultimax rapier weaving machine that focuses on three main benefits: ultimate performance and high-quality output, readiness for the sustainability requirements of tomorrow, and the greatest ease of use thanks to a maximum level of digitization. In addition, the classic Picanol exterior design of the machine has been radically disrupted, to make it clear from the outside how revolutionary Ultimax is on the inside," explains Johan Verstraete, Vice President Weaving Machines.



Creating a worthy successor to the OptiMax rapier generation, of which over 60,000 units are running worldwide, was a real challenge. But combining 85 years of experience with new ideas and technologies has resulted in the all-new and revolutionary Ultimax rapier machine. It excels in the fields of performance and quality, it is designed with sustainability as the baseline, and the high degree of digitization results in a previously unseen ease of use."

Innovations in airjet technology

ITMA 2023 will also be the moment that Picanol launches a speed increase on its airjet platform, the OmniPlus-i Connect. This is another example of how Picanol sets the benchmark in the industry. Also on display for the very first time will be a brand-new leno system, the o-Leno, which combines smart performance, user-friendliness, and intuitive control at its best.

Novelties in PicConnect

With PicConnect, Picanol is centralizing its digital tools and services in one new fully digital platform. At ITMA 2023, visitors will be able to discover all the benefits and latest features of PicConnect to leverage the full extent of the possibilities offered by its Picanol weaving machines. Among other things, the recently released features such as alerting, access control, the action center, and the export of monitoring data should catch the attention of many visitors. ❑

FAST MOVING TECHNOLOGY

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Smart products for more effectiveness in weaving preparation

Success in fabric production starts with flawless weaving preparation. Whether for warp tying or automatic drawing in, Stäubli weaving preparation systems are known for their unmatched reliability and technical refinement. Weaving mills benefit from the extended uptime of our highly efficient machinery, which we have perfected in close partnership with customers around the world.

www.staubli.com

ITMA 2023

Hall 6 | Stand n°A201

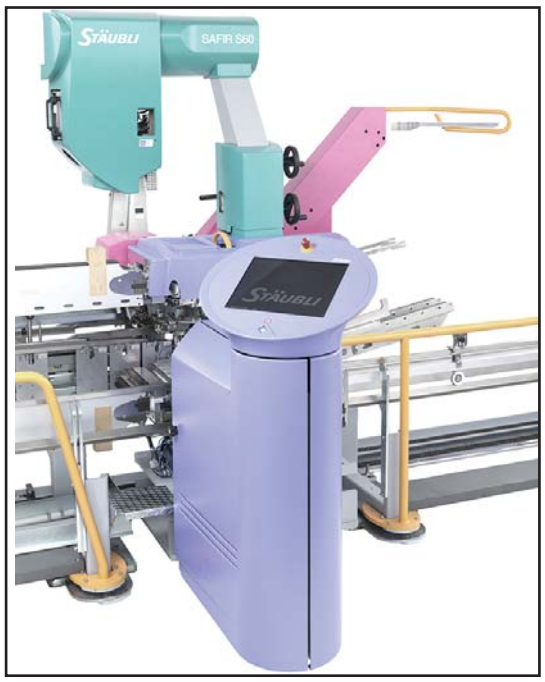
Stäubli At ITMA 2023 – Innovation Ahead, Sustainability Inside

Stäubli plays an important role in the design and quality of woven end products.

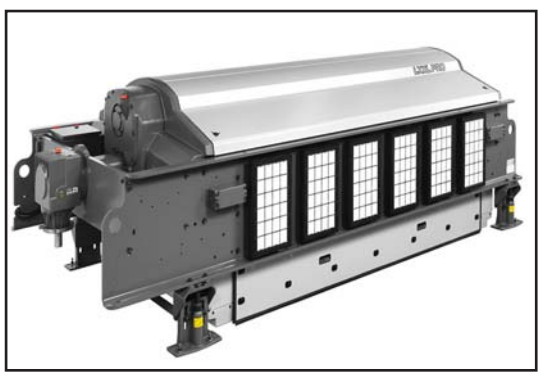
ITMA 2023

Hall No: 6
Booth No: A201

Stäubli Textile will be there, exhibiting some impressive innovations. With core competencies in shedding (cam motions, dobbies, and Jacquard machines) and weaving preparation (drawing-in, leasing, and warp-tying machines),Stäubli plays an important role in the design and quality of woven end-products. For over 130 years, Stäubli has been a leading provider of premium quality products and services for sustainable improvements in industry and society. Stäubli's reliability and stability are based on uninterrupted family ownership, and the company's technical excellence is the result of a continuous focus on industrial customers. This is all part of one strategic goal: to develop solutions for safer, more efficient, and more economical industrial processes. Stäubli constantly offers new and improved high-performance systems and solutions for processing fabrics for fashionwear, home fabrics, carpeting and automotive, protection and medical applications, as well as highly complex technical textiles for future applications.



SAFIR S60 automatic drawing-in machine – zoom on machine without drawing-in truck featuring Active Warp Control 2.0 technology



LXXL PRO electronic Jacquard machine available in formats up to 25,600 hooks

Stäubli Booth A201 / Hall 6

Visitors to Booth A201 in Hall 6 will learn how Stäubli solutions can boost their weaving mills'performance and overall efficiency. Besides offering a wide range of decisive functional advantages, Stäubli machines promise unsurpassed service life.

Some of the Stäubli products being exhibited in the weaving hall:

◆ **SAFIR S60 automatic drawing-in system – NEW with Active Warp Control 2.0 (AWC 2.0)**

The SAFIR series of drawing-in systems offers unique advantages for efficient style changes. With its Active Warp Control technology, Stäubli has been setting standards in yarn recognition and management for many years. At ITMA 2023,Stäubli will present the next generationof this technology: Active Warp Control 2.0. Visitors to the booth can observe an automatic drawing-in system in operation with this impressive technology.

◆ **Shed formation solutions for frame weaving robustness, reduced maintenance & oil savings**

Do you need a high-speed weaving solution that offers top reliability and adaptability? Then check out the 1600/1700 series of cam motions and the S3000/S3200 series of electronic rotary dobbies. Stäubli's broad product range answers the latest market demands and customer requirements and wishes, included reduced maintenance. The design of Stäubli machinery increasingly takes environmental performance into account. For instance, the latest machines offer reduced oil volumes and fewer oil changes. ITMA visitors will learn more about this and other innovations featured in Stäubli's electronic rotary dobbies and cam motions.

◆ **LX PRO, LXL PRO, LXXL PRO Jacquard machines featuring energy savings**

The PRO series of Jacquard machines was launched at the end of 2022. These machines have already convinced Jacquard weavers around the world who seek top energy efficiency in the production of flat, terry, or OPW (one-piece woven) fabrics. Available in formats ranging from 4,608 hooks (LX PRO) to 25,600 hooks (LXXL PRO), these Jacquard machines feature Stäubli's exclusive NOEMI electronics architecture and the state-of-the-art MX PRO module. This combination perfectly integrates the constraints of high-speed weaving, temperature and the significant number of hooks to be lifted. ITMA visitors will see three complete Jacquard installations in operation producing trendy fabrics and learn all about the advantages and benefits these machines provide.

◆ **NEW ALPHA carpet weaving system**

Stäubli will be introducing a new carpet weaving system at ITMA. Certain to be a highlight of the booth, the new ALPHA carpet weaving system will be in operation every hour producing rugs. It features numerous newly developed components never before exhibited. Visitors can walk across the weavers' stand and observe the double carpet production.

◆ **NEW My Staubli Portal**

Stäubli will present its new customer portal at ITMA 2023: My Staubli. As a new key to machinery solutions, this platform offers personal access to online information about Stäubli's range of solutions and services. Visitors will learn about the many benefits the new portal offers.

The Stäubli booth will provide a comprehensive overview of the company's range of solutions for future-oriented weaving mills. That's because Stäubli is committed to remain in close contact with its customers and meet market requirements as a partner. The Stäubli team looks forward to presenting their latest solutions & innovations and discussing visitors' individual needs and wishes for cost-effective and highly-productive textile manufacturing. ❑

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Hall 11, A102 | 8 - 14 June 2023

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- Geo Grid Coating Lines
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- Universal Lamination Machine
- Multifunctional Coating Line
- Back Coating Line for Tufted / Nonwoven Carpet
- Open Width Compactor Continuous Bleaching Range

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BRÜCKNER To Present Trendsetting Innovations At ITMA 2023

Sustainable, Digital And On The Way To Climate-Neutral Finishing

ITMA 2023

Hall No: 18
Booth No: A101



Electrically heated DUO-THERM oven for nonwoven finishing

BRÜCKNER, leading supplier of customized machinery and lines, presents its innovative and trend-setting highlights for textile finishing and coating at ITMA 2023 in Milan.

BRÜCKNER will show the next stenter generation POWER-FRAME SFP-4 with many new features: new electric / hydrogen-powered heating systems, intelligent software solutions for optimizing formulas, systems for heat-recovery and exhaust air purification, innovative application systems for chemicals, and newly developed machine concepts.

CO2 -free heating systems

The most important innovation of the BRÜCKNER dryer is without doubt the innovative heating systems. Driven by the energy crisis and the constant focus on energy-efficient solutions, new possibilities to combine different heating media like gas, steam, oil or electricity have been developed. In addition, BRÜCKNER also offers burners which can be operated with hydrogen in the future. These combination possibilities allow the textile finisher maximum flexibility in the choice of the energy carrier. Another exciting development is solutions for the purely electric heating of industrial ovens by means of heat pumps, which BRÜCKNER offers together with a partner. In the present situation and with a view to the future, these new types of heating offer decisive advantages: Green hydrogen and/or electricity reduce the dependence on fossil raw materials and contribute considerably to minimize the CO2 footprint.

Smart Production Systems

Digital products and services are another highlight. On request, new lines are equipped with various intelligent assistance systems that support the machine operator in finding the optimum machine setting for each process. A special innovation is the new simulation tool ExperTex: with the help of artificial intelligence, the desired production process of drying or heat-setting is simulated on the computer. Different scenarios can then be compared with each other: Throughput times, energy consumption, CO2 footprint and production costs. This innovative system offers customers considerable added value, as it allows accurate pre-calculation of orders, opens up productivity gains and/or energy savings, and permits "right-first-time production" by means of pre-optimized formulas. Expert knowledge and years of experience in textile finishing are thus available at the push of a button. This tool and much more will be available to customers in the new my-Brückner customer portal in the future. All important machine information, access to digital services, and a service system will be bundled there and can be accessed at any time.

Heat-recovery and exhaust air purification systems

The new generation of ECO-HEAT heat-recovery and ECO-AIR exhaust air purification systems features a new type of intelligent control. Both types of lines can also be retrofitted at any time to older lines from various manufacturers in order to realize the best possible energy savings and solve existing exhaust air problems. All exhaust air treatment systems can be tested in advance at customers' sites by means of laboratory systems in order to better assess utilization rate and efficiency.

Innovative systems for the application of chemicals

Of course, customers can inform themselves on the BRÜCKNER booth also about numerous further possibilities to save primary resources such as energy, water, chemicals and waste water. Here, for example, the minimum application unit ECO-COAT should be mentioned, a new type of padder with minimum preparation quantity or residual liquor, and a further developed coating unit OPTI-COAT 2in1, which combines the use of floating knife and knife-over-cylinder application in one system. With a high-precision coating cylinder and a perfectly ground coating knife, excellent results can be achieved for paste and foam coatings. In addition,


New POWER-FRAME SFP-4 stenter generation

the special design of the unit ensures optimum accessibility for cleaning and maintenance purposes.

New finishing machines

Another highlight is a completely new designed high-performance relaxation dryer POWER-DRY which can be heated CO2-free by means of a high-temperature heat pump. In order to show the variety of BRÜCKNER's product portfolio and to illustrate technologies in a realistic and "tangible" way, many machine models will also be exhibited.

The total cost of ownership (TCO) is lower for BRÜCKNER's lines than for other suppliers. This applies to all presented machines in the field of finishing of carpets, nonwovens and denim, migration- and crease-free continuous dyeing as well as in the versatile field of technical textiles and is supported by the technological advice of experienced experts.

Modernization / upgrading of existing lines

With regard to sustainability and resource conservation, BRÜCKNER's After Sales team and the technology team offer numerous possibilities for modernization and technological e on site. It is not always necessary to invest in a new line, often the potential of older machines can be exploited quickly and efficiently by modifications and also by technological consulting. ❑

Mastering The Future With Sustainability

Sustainability – a central theme of the KARL MAYER GROUP at ITMA

The Karl Mayer Group is a family business with a long tradition and a strong sense of social responsibility. In its corporate strategy, it commits to act in line with social and ecological goals and to orienting itself towards the "Environmental Social Governance (ESG)" standards.

With a focus on a future worth living in, the KARL MAYER GROUP ensures sustainable processes above all with its products and services.

Sustainability will be the overarching theme shaping the KARL MAYER GROUP's presentation at the world's most important textile machinery exhibition. A compact sustainability gallery will feature elements including an example of the circular economy of material from the warp knitting sector, a 3D-knitted garment with extremely low-waste production, and a technical warp knitted grid fabric that offers two environmental benefits in one: not only is it made from natural fibres, but it is also used as a carrier material for CO2-effective vertical urban greening. Other features of the sustainable innovations collection revolve around production technology. Various demonstrations will address topics such as how energy consumption can be monitored and managed in the warp knitting industry, while



the denim industry can look forward to a solution for indigo dyeing that has an extremely low carbon footprint.

In addition to the focused performance show, ITMA visitors will see the theme of sustainability reflected at almost every turn around the rest of the KARL MAYER GROUP's stand. Under the motto "Master the Change – profitable, flexible, sustainable", solutions and innovations are provided to answer our customers' key questions, including: "How can I deal with the increasing pressure to be more sustainable?"

One potential way forward for warp knitting is shown by a new fall plate raschel machine, which – thanks to specific modifications – is suitable for processing staple fibres. The resulting warp knitted textiles are not only chic but also sustainable, meeting the growing demand for clothing with a low ecological impact.

A high-performance tricot machine operates using an energy-efficient direct drive. In doing so, it uses pattern data from the cloud rather than pattern discs, thereby reducing its material and transport intensity. A warp knitting machine with weft insertion demonstrates how an optimised weft carrier can save waste in the weft yarn, and STOLL's ADF model requires less energy thanks to a range of targeted design changes. ❑

ITMA 2023

Hall No: 4
Booth No: B119



Trützschler Group To Showcase High-Tech Machines At ITMA

Trützschler, with 1320-square-meter stand at ITMA 2023, will introduce the latest machines and technologies from the entire Trützschler Group –including Spinning, Card Clothing, Nonwovens and Man-Made Fibers.

ITMA 2023

Hall No: 3
Stand No: C101



A first T-SUPREMA needle-punching line.

truecycled®

Trützschler's new brand TRUECYCLED for textile recycling.

Trützschler Spinning and Trützschler Card Clothing

Trützschler Spinning will showcase innovations for carding, draw frame and combing which meet the most important customer requirements in fiber processing: higher efficiency, more sustainable raw material utilization and intelligent automation – while also displaying the potential of digital technologies for spinning mills. Visitors can also look forward to the introduction of our new brand TRUECYCLED for textile recycling. Our machinery expertise and technological know-how enable our customers to produce sliver with the highest possible level of quality and make it possible to turn waste into value.

Trützschler Card Clothing (TCC) will present a wide range of technologies from its clothing portfolio, which covers the complete spectrum of applications in the spinning and nonwoven markets. This includes all of the service features and machinery equipment that are supported, which will be demonstrated live at the booth as part of an "Action Point" presentation. TCC is also focusing on recycling applications and will showcase its contribution to sustainability in the textile industry. These features and functions are all supplemented by "My Wires", our digital wire performance solution that is integrated into the Trützschler digital platform.

Trützschler Nonwovens and Trützschler Man-Made Fibers

Trützschler Nonwovens will focus on solutions that take nonwoven production processes to a new level. The story of innovations for needle-punching will be told at two booths: Trützschler is going to concentrate on the holistic T-SUPREMA package of excellent machinery, tailormade production lines, integrated digital support and global service. Our cooperation partner in needle-punching, the Italian company Texnology S.r.l., will offer details about machinery and applications at booth A101 in Hall 10, and will also provide a chance to check out a running needle-punching line featuring some of the T-SUPREMA machinery.

Trützschler Nonwovens will also showcase solutions for new and environmentally friendly wipe materials, as well as an innovative drying concept. Unlocking the potential of digitalization is the key topic at our T-ONE corner, where our experts will demonstrate every aspect of our digital environment – from quality control and recipe management through to real-time process monitoring and AI-based line optimization. Last but not least, Trützschler Man-Made Fibers will demonstrate the power of OPTIMA, Trützschler Man-Made Fiber's flexible platform for all types of Bulk Continuous Filament (BCF) carpet and Industrial Yarn (IDY). ❑



A carded-pulp line



Trützschler offers proven solutions for textile recycling – such as the intelligent card TC 19Ri for Recycling

ITMA 2023

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SPGPrints To Showcase Reliable, Innovative And Sustainable Solutions For Textile Printing At ITMA 2023

ITMA 2023

Hall No: 7
Booth No: D101



From June 8-14, 2023, the world's largest international textile and garment technology exhibition ITMA will take place in Milan. SPGPrints will be present at the exhibition to show how its complete range of solutions help textile companies meet any challenges they might face.

Printing tomorrow

In the world of printing, tomorrow is about pushing boundaries in technology with groundbreaking new methods and applications in order to build and maintain lasting relationships. This can only be done by truly understanding customers processes and workflows, and helping them achieving their goals. That's why SPGPrints this year presents a completely new booth concept, aimed at helping customers overcome their challenges in optimizing digital and rotary printing workflows.

TECHTalks

One of the new SPGPrints ITMA concepts are the so-called TECHTalks. Every day during ITMA several 10 minute presentations will be given by an SPGPrints expert, elaborating on different relevant topics within the fashion industry. An overview of all different free to join TECHTalks including timetable is available on www.spgprints.com/itma-2023. In the coming weeks more TECHtalks will be added, so stay tuned!

What's new?

As mentioned previously, tomorrow is about pushing boundaries in technology. That's exactly what SPGPrints does, and this results in a fully new booth concept. In this concept, visitors are step-by-step guided through the different parts of the booth under the heading 'Show, Don't Tell'. Amongst others, newest innovations are shown, but also different perspectives of customers challenges are being touched upon. In addition, the massive portfolio expansion of digital printers, rotary printers and ink range is presented in a unique way. This ultimately shows that SPGPrints truly understands customers workflows and processes, and can help with every challenge associated with knowledge, expertise, machines, software, workflows, consumables and service.

Sustainability

As a manufacturer SPGPrints is engaged in a continuous process to reduce its impact saving energy, water and chemicals as much as possible. It's important that these contributions also play a key role in SPGPrints ITMA presence. It is SPGPrints' ambition to be as sustainable and circular as possible. That's why SPGPrints booth will be almost 100% renewable. Find out yourself how SPGPrints can help you become more productive with reliable, innovative and sustainable solutions? Visit SPGPrints booth at ITMA in Hall 7 Booth D101 and challenge company's experts with your questions, attend its TECHTalks or just see what we can do to help you achieve your goals. See you at ITMA Milan! ❑

DiloGroup at ITMA 2023

ITMA 2023

Hall No: 10
Booth No: A201

At ITMA 2023, DiloGroup will present its "MicroPunch" on a floor space of 750 square meter. MicroPunch is a complete production line for intensive needling.

This will be the first time worldwide that an industrial MicroPunch installation will run with fibre to show the industrial exploitation of Dilo MicroPunch technology for needling fine and lightweight fleeces to be used in hygiene, medicine, apparel and other applications.

The good abrasion resistance of the intensely needled material suggests further application fields apart from medicine and hygiene, such as apparel, artificial leather, battery separators and filter media.

The production of personal care, single use wipes with a weight range between 30 and ca. 60 g/m² made of fine fibres, often with blends of polyester and viscose, has been up to now a domain of hydroentangling technology. As this product is typical disposable, it is in the focus of sustainability and recyclability.

For this reason, biologically degradable fibres are a goal for more environmental sustainability. ❑

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A Transformational Journey Of Tirupur Knitwear Cluster



Knitwear cluster Tirupur, in Southern India has scripted an incredible story. The cluster which does over Rs 60,000 crore worth of knitwear business and of which 50 per cent is exported, has transformed into a completely' Zero Liquid Discharge' garment manufacturing hub where the water used by its dying and processing units are treated at common affluent treatment plants and reused. By doing so, the cluster is not only consuming significantly less water but also not discharging any hazardous water.

Tirupur cluster is currently comprising 300 dyeing units attached with 18 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and 60 Dyeing Units having their own Individual Effluent Treatment Plants (IETPs). The CETPs & IETPs in Tirupur have successfully implemented Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), first of its kind globally. Every day 18 CETPs are recycling 100 MLD of water and 60 IETPs are recycling 20 MLD of water. The effluent is treated to recover 94 per cent of water, which is re-sent for processing and the balance 6 per cent recovered as salt solution or salt to reuse for process. Tirupur is providing employment to 600,000 workers (directly 60 per cent are women workers) hailing from rural areas and 200,000 workers indirectly.

"The toxic effluents generated during the processing of fabrics was depleting the ground water level before implementation of ZLD which has now been completely eliminated and the treated water is reused again for processing of fabrics and the appreciable point to be noted is that not only the ground water is depleted to a tune of 120 MLD every day, but also saving of water," says Kumar Duraiswamy, joint secretary, Tirupur Exporters Association.

"We normally witness the farmers protests for opening of dam shutters to release the water to carry out their cultivation needs and it was a first time in the history, that farmers had protested not to open a dam near Tirupur due to heavy pollution in the water stored in dam. After implementation of ZLD and spending a huge amount of money for cleaning the dam, the dam was reopened around 3 years back and now by using this water the cultivation is happening in more than 20,000 acre of land," adds Duraiswamy.

> 'Tirupur as a knitwear hub has come a long way. Each and every stakeholder has played its role in making this cluster a truly sustainable garment manufacturing cluster. We will continue to carry on with our endeavours to take this success story to the next level,"

"Tirupur as a knitwear hub has come a long way. Each and every stakeholder has played its role in making this cluster a truly sustainable garment manufacturing cluster. We will continue to carry on with our endeavours to take this success story to the next level," says Gopalakrishnan, Chairman of Tirupur-based, Royal Classic Mills. Led by flagship knitwear brand like Classic Polo, the Rs 750-crore company boasts of having the largest IETP in Tirupur.

Towards achieving its sustainable goal, the units in Tirupur are increasingly using non-conventional energy resources like wind and solar power. These units have installed solar power plants and wind energy generators, producing 1,600 KVA per day, whereas the power consumption by the industry in Tirupur is about 250 KVA only. The overall power consumption of entire Tirupur district is 650 KVA and the excess power produced is distributed through Tamilnadu Power Grid.

There is this mass tree plantation project "Vanathukul Tiruppur" meaning Tirupur Inside Forest, by NGO called VETRY. Businesses of Tirupur are contributing to VETRY NGO, and in last 8 years or so, over 15 Lakh saplings have been planted. The planted saplings have been maintained for 3 years and the sustainability rate is 88.9 per cent.

"This project's uniqueness has been taken as a benchmark and similar kind of projects are implemented in other parts of the country. Acres of barren land due to failure of agriculture have been identified and saplings are being planted. The movement is all set to contribute heavily to our environment and plant," says Duraiswamy.

Besides, rain water harvesting is also being taken up aggressively across Tirupur by various stakeholders. Rainwater harvesting have made many factories self sustainable in terms of water usage. Many households are now also following the practice of rainwater harvesting and they fully depend on the harvested rainwater for their drinking and cooking needs. ❑

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SAURER. — Hall: **H2** | Stall: **B101**

Loptex — Hall: **H2** | Stall: **A106**

FADIS TEXTILE MACHINERY — Hall: **H3** | Stall: **B106**

RATTI — Hall: **H3** | Stall: **D202**

Knitting

Mayer & Cie. — Hall: **H2** | Stall: **E101**

Processing

LORIS BELLINI Dyeing machines — Hall: **H11** | Stall: **B207**

MARIO CROSTA — Hall: **H14** | Stall: **B207**

FERRARO SPA — Hall: **H14** | Stall: **A112**

BRAZZOLI THE DYEING MACHINES MANUFACTURER — Hall: **H11** | Stall: **D206**

ELIAR — Hall: **H11** | Stall: **E101**

PENTEK TEXTILE MACHINERY — Hall: H18 | Stall: **B201**

PLM Impianti — Hall: **H11** | Stall: **D306**

EUROPROGETTI S.R.L. recovery water technology — Hall: **H9** | Stall: **C207**

DETTIN S.p.A. — Hall: **H11** | Stall: **E308**

ICHINOSE — Hall: **H7** | Stall: **D102**

FIMAT SPECIALISTS IN SOLUTIONS — Hall: **H7** | Stall: **D201**

POZZI LEOPOLDO since 1885 — Hall: **H18** | Stall: **A103**

MS PRINTING SOLUTIONS a DOVER company — Hall: **H7** | Stall: **D206**

KÜSTERS CALICO — Hall: **H18** | Stall: **B303**

IL SUNG — Hall: **H18** | Stall: **A208**

unitop aquacare — Hall: **H9** | Stall: **C308**

MONTI ANTONIO — Hall: **H7** | Stall: **B104**

YILMAK — Hall: **H11** | Stall: **E207**

Technical Textiles

Mayer & Cie. — Hall: **H2** | Stall: **E101**

MAGEBA — Hall: **H10** | Stall: **C105**

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