

**Ministry of Textiles**  
**Monthly Summary to the Cabinet for the Month of February, 2019**

**1. Policy Decisions:**

**Exemption of the provisions of Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987 for the use of HDPE/PP bags in the packaging of food grains**

Department of Food and Public Distribution has been granted permission for the use of High Density Poly Ethylene / Poly Propylene (HDPE/PP) bags to the extent of 3.00 lakhs bales of bags and for using 58,000 bags of 30 kg HDPE/PP bags (equivalent to 34,800 bales of 50 kg bags) for procurement of wheat in Punjab under National Food Security Act (NFSA) in February, 2019.

**2. Important Achievements:**

**i. Handlooms Sector:**

Three National Level Expo at Varanasi, Nagpur & Patna; two National Level Silk Fab at Allahabad & Raipur and one State Level Expo Events at Chennai were held in February, 2019 which provided direct market interface between consumers and handloom weavers. 02 International fairs viz; International Sourcing Expo, were held at Frankfurt, Germany and New Delhi during the month of February 2019 to promote handlooms in overseas market.

**ii. Handicrafts Sector:**

- Hon'ble Minister of Textiles laid the foundation stone of Hastshilp Complex at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 18/02/2019. Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Hon'ble Member of Parliament was present during the occasion.
- Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra inaugurated the 33<sup>rd</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Mela held at Surajkund, Faridabad (Haryana) from 01.02.2019 to 17.02.2019. Thailand was the partner Nation and Maharashtra was the theme state of the event. Various Crafts Persons across the country had participated in the event.
- Hon'ble Minister of Textiles inaugurated the Handicrafts Productivity Centre and Testing Laboratory at Jaipur on 25.02.2019 in the presence of Shri Ramcharan Bohra, Member of Parliament. Toolkits were distributed to the Artisans on the occasion.
- Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) had inaugurated National Handicrafts Fairs 2019 from 19.01.2019 to 02.02.2019 at Kumbh Mela, Prayagraj in the presence of officers of State Government.

- iii. **Silk Sector:** Central Silk Board in coordination with the Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi has organised a mega silk event “Surging Silk” at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 09.02.2019 to honour the best achievers in Sericulture Sector. In this context, the silk trader M/s POTHYS, Chennai received the award for the largest consumer of Silk Mark labels for the year 2017-18.
- iv. **Cotton:** All India arrivals of seed cotton (Kapas) during the month of February, 2019 were 58.35 lakh bales. Out of this 4.14 lakh bales of seed cotton have been procured by Cotton Corporation of India under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation.
- v. **Powerloom Sector:** Under the Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers, 1,979 powerloom workers were enrolled by various nodal agencies under the Scheme during February, 2019 with a total GOI share of premium of Rs. 2, 21,750.
- vi. **Technology Upgradation:** During the month of February 2019, 56 UIDs have been issued with a project cost of Rs. 193.08 cores and subsidy requirement of Rs. 15.36 Crore under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS).
- vii. The Hon’ble Minister of Textiles launched a scheme for development of Knitting & Knitwear Sector (outlay of Rs. 47.72 Cr. upto 2019-20) under PowerTex India Scheme on 28.02.2019 at New Delhi.
- viii. The Hon’ble Minister of Textiles inaugurated 100 days MSME outreach programme at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 showcasing the achievements in the 39 districts under the schemes implemented under DC(Handlooms), DC (Handicrafts) and Powerloom Sector. Hon’ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Thaawarchand Gehlot was present on the occasion and honoured the Artisans / Weavers. Besides a large number of artisans and weavers from all the districts have participated the event and showcased Handloom / Handicrafts items in the stalls organized during the event.

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