



## News Letter

### Special points of interest:

- Garments
- ESI / PF
- Skill Development Training
- Labour
- Dyeing
- Trade Union

### Social Awareness and Voluntary Education (SAVE)

SAVE (Social Awareness and Voluntary Education) is a registered Indian Non-Governmental Organization, promoted in the year 1993, as a growing response to the challenge of preventing the child labor practices. Internalizing the fact that the issue of child labor needs to be addressed in a multipronged strategy SAVE expanded its intervention among women and textile and garment industry workers focusing promotion of the comprehensive rights of the garment and textile industry workers and empowerment of women. Currently SAVE reaches out to children, young women, women, textile and garment workers including the migrant workers.

Since 1995, SAVE has been carrying out programs among children in distress primarily among the children working in textile and hazardous industries with specific emphasis on promotion of health and educational rights through special schooling for the drop out children and child labourers and through vocational training support. Community sensitization is one of the main activities towards prevention of child labor. SAVE initiated campaigns and advocacy strategies could mainstream the issues of child labor and the plight of young girls in the garment and textile industry. SAVE has the unique credibility of being the champion organization in exposing the child labor issues in Tirupur.

TIRUPUR UPDATE: A NEWSLETTER OF SAVE

IS PUBLISHED BY

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## Garments

### [Odisha to join hands with Tirupur knitwear industry](#) [The Hindu April 4, 2017](#)

Tirupur: Odisha Skill Development Authority is to join hands with the Tirupur knitwear industry stakeholders to ensure that the cluster here gets 'specifically trained manpower' from Odisha for apparel production.

G. Rajesh, an Indian Forest Service Officer and member secretary of Odisha Skill Development Authority, said that the Authority would use the expertise from NIFT-TEA Knitwear Institute to impart knitwear industry-specific lessons into the training programmes which the Authority already been running through various institutes in Odisha.

"The collaboration will thus provide an impetus to the apparel cluster here as they need not have to train a rookie worker to cater to the specific needs in the production process and at the same time the trained workforce in Odisha also gets quality employment," he said here on Monday. The idea to hold this initiative came in the wake of an increase in the flow of labourers from Odisha to Tirupur during the recent times, but at the same time the workers were found not to be fully suited for the specific needs that were expected by the apparel manufacturers here.

It resulted in many workers from Odisha end up doing unskilled works and eventually they were found moving to other clusters.

The experts from NIFT-TEA Institute will visit Odisha to oversee the existing training programmes for textile industry and suggest the changes that need to be incorporated in the lessons to suit to the knitwear production.

Mr. Rajesh, who is also the Director of Employment in Odisha Government, said the Authority had been instrumental in providing skilled employees from Odisha for upcountry clusters involved in automobile engineering, textile, construction and a few other industrial activities.



Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/odisha-to-join-hands-with-tirupur-knitwear-industry/article17796496.ece>

**[RBI to directly sensitise Tirupur knitwear sector to digital payments](#)**  
**[The Hindu April 11, 2017](#)**

Tirupur: The Reserve Bank of India, coordinating with the Lead Bank, is all set to hold a direct sensitisation programme for SME units in Tirupur knitwear cluster soon to improve the digital awareness levels and help them get familiar with cashless transactions.

Lead District Manager S. Sundaramoorthy said the RBI officials in the ranks of General Manager and Deputy General Manager would interact with the SME unit owners as well as the employees in their units who were entrusted with the payments such as salaries and other financial transactions and explain to them the concepts and benefits of digital payments.

The RBI's initiative holds significance as 2.25 lakh new bank accounts were opened in two months since the demonetisation exercise was announced in November. Many of the new account holders and people involved in the transactions of money from these accounts were yet to fully understand the nuances of digital payment.

“Even many people owning the SMEs are yet to learn the digital payment method,” pointed out sources in banking and knitwear sector.

A salient feature of the RBI's crusade would be the focus to be given to popularise 'unstructured supplementary service data' (USSD) concept.

“This USSD method enables digital payment access even from the basic mobile phone sets that might not have high end operating systems,” said Mr. Sundaramoorthy.



Link

**<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/rbi-to-directly-sensitise-tirupur-knitwear-sector-to-digital-payments/article17915755.ece>**

**Critical situation due to water scarcity, garment workers are put in trouble**  
**Dinamalar, April 11, 2017**

Tirupur: The garment manufacturing companies were in trouble due to attempts made to manage labourers' need for water.

Various garment companies are working in Tirupur to meet the production targets in the local and foreign markets. There are about five lakhs of labourers employed in these companies. The labourers live with their families either in rented houses or in the residential quarters of the companies. The residential quarters constructed by the companies are done in such a way to accommodate a large number of workers, ranging from 100 to 1,000 workers.

The third phase of drinking water connection supply is under the responsibility of the companies. However, to manage water scarcity the companies have to buy the water being supplied by the lorries once a week and also bore wells. The companies that have multiple branches transport the water to each branch in order to meet the demand.

Quite unexpectedly, there has been water scarcity everywhere in Tamil Nadu. As a result, it is extremely difficult to manage the water requirements at the present time. A small quantity of water is made available to the banian companies by means of transport vehicles. Even then, there are banian companies in a state of crisis due to the water scarcity.

To manage the water scarcity of labourers there are companies who create awareness of the issue. The district administration has permitted the water supply by the lorries under certain conditions. However, the owners of tanker lorries oppose this method of water supply to the companies.

As per the version of Vijayakumar, the General Secretary of Tirupur Exporters' Association:

"It is very difficult to meet the water requirements of labourers in the garment companies and about 20 percent of garment companies are functioning with the residential facilities for the labourers. All these companies are unable to meet the water requirements.

"Also, the district administration has given permission to supply the water to the companies. Despite this, the tanker lorry owners are not interested in water transport. At this juncture it is felt that the labourers may go away in search of water, which will severely affect the garment production in such a way that the production targets cannot be met in time.

To protect the garment industry in Tirupur, the owners of tanker lorries must come forward to carry water. The negotiation talks are being held now and then with the aim to solve the issue of water scarcity. Moreover, there are tanker lorries owned by the dyeing

factories. By making use of them, water transport can be further carried out. Currently, there are talks to make this arrangement come into fruition. There are also certain garment companies planning to buy the tanker lorries to deliver water.”

### **[Bandh by traders over steep yarn prices](#)**

**[The New Indian Express April 7, 2017](#)**

Erode: Over 5,000 textile shops in Erode city downed shutters on Thursday in response to the one day bandh called by the Erode Cloth Merchants Association (ECMA) to protest against the steep rise in yarn prices.

Over 11 organisations took part in the bandh, which caused a loss of business valued at Rs 100 crore, ECMA President Ravindhnan said.

According to him, prices of all counts of yarn have been ringing steeply with the insurance being nearly 30 percent during the past three months. The price of one candy of yarn (356kg) was Rs 33,500 three months back. It rose to Rs 38,500 in March and has now reached Rs 47,000. Manufacturers are unable to produce cloth according to the orders they received when prices were low, he pointed out.

Traders in the turn are finding it difficult to sell due to the higher cloth prices, which have risen in the last coupled of months. To ensure stability in the market no action has been taken. Ravindhnan said that the centre should buy cotton from famers through the Cotton Corporation of India and supply it at a fair price to spinning mills.

Because of the centre’s apathy, producers and traders are unable to produce and sell cloth at reasonable prices within the textile sector. Ravindhnan lamented that the textile sector has already been hit by demonetisation and is now facing another crisis.

### **[Tirupur garment industrialists feel happy](#)**

**[Daily Thanthi April 18, 2017](#)**

Tirupur: Much more importance is being given to cotton production not only in relation to garment production but also in the textile industry.

As a result of the decrease in cotton production in India, the textile industrialists and the mill owners have demanded the government to reduce the tax for importing cotton and to make a ban on the export of the same.

Concerning Indian spinning mills, long size cotton known as ‘PCH32, MCS civic’ is required for yarn production. In the past, this variety of cotton was produced in India itself. However, at present the production of this variety of cotton has decreased so this variety of cotton is imported from countries such as the United States and Russia. In the current

year, the cotton production in Australia has doubled and that cotton will likely be exported to many other countries including India. Since the cotton is imported the price of yarn will decrease.

Related to this situation the industrialists of Tirupur said in a joint statement:

“On account of this decrease in the cotton production, the yarn price was continuously increased. But at present, there is a chance to decrease the yarn prices due to the importation of cotton. If the import tax is cancelled, a further decrease in the yarn price may occur. This will make the Tirupur garment industrialists feel happy.”

**The ratio of interest has increased for the Provident Fund deposit – Trade unionists of garment industry are happy**

**Daily Thanthi April 18, 2017**

Tirupur: The members of the Central Board of Trustees amde a decision that 8.65 percent of interest would be paid to the Provident Fund deposit in the 2016-17 financial year.

It is because of this decision that about 4 crore workers of the Provident Fund will receive the corresponding benefits. This favourable decision has pleased interested stakeholders such as the trade unionists.

Regarding this they said:

Lakhs of workers are employed in many companies within the radius of Tirupur. The central government has made several reforms in the Provident Fund deposit scheme. Some of them may be unfavourable to the workers and so affect them negatively. However, the increment of interest ratio in the case of Provident Fund deposit made by the central ministry is beneficial to the workers and so they are happy about it. Further, the restriction in receiving the proceeds of the Provident Fund deposit by the labourers must be relaxed. If the restrictions are removed or relaxed, not only would the workers of export companies benefit but also the workers employed in the small, middle and mini companies.

**To make a complaint a 'Mobile App' was introduced by the industrial department  
Dinamalar April 20, 2017**

Tirupur: To make complaints against the shortage of weights and the packets of things, the industrial department has introduced a 'Mobiles App' called TN-LMCTS.

By releasing the 'App' the particulars such as mobile phone number, e-mail address and house address can be registered for which a password will be sent. After the registration of the password, a page for making complaints will be opened. Captions such as 'urgent complaint' or 'emergency complaint' will be displayed.

In addition, the shortage of weight and the lack of required details can be seen and the complaints related to them can be made thereon. There are also methods by which the details connected to the complaints such as a photograph and video may be registered - even the photograph-selling outlet or the slot can be registered.

The complaint being lodged is also registered electronically in the computer of the labour officer of the district. The same will be sent as an SMS to the complaint makers phone number.

To draw awareness about this 'App' among the public, an order has been issued to hold introductory meetings with the consumers' organisations.

**Since the yarn prices return to normal the industrialists are happy  
Daily Thanthi April 24, 2017**

Tirupur: The garment companies of Tirupur aimed for the local markets to receive orders from the sellers of various states and supply the finished products. However, the Tirupur garment companies only happened to manage the increase of yarn prices per kilo every month. Apart from this, there was a lorry strike and therefore they were unable to make the supply on time. At the same time, they were unable to obtain payment for the sale of their garments.

The garment production for the summer season is about to be completed and again the orders for the winter season are sent from various states. There has been a greater number of orders received for the weight loop net sweater from Maharashtra, Delhi and Gova.

The textile mills have maintained the yarn prices for the past two months and the garment companies meant for the local markets are busily engaged in the receipt of winter

season orders. The garment companies have said that if the prices of raw materials remain unchanged for two months they can complete the received orders and supply to the sellers.

Relating to this, they said:

We faced many problems during the garment production for the summer seasons. The yarn prices were continually increasing but for the past two months they are stable. We are happy to see the yarn prices stable at the time of receiving orders for the summer season production so we can manufacture the garments as per the fixed cost. We are hoping that the situation continues unchanged in the future. We receive orders for the winter seasons. Perhaps, this favourable condition will continue in the future. Also, we can successfully complete the orders and supply them.

A higher quantity of yarn is required for the manufacture of winter season garments. In addition, procuring the cotton and keeping it in storage during the harvest season is very important. Therefore, in order to meet the supply of cotton to the mills, the Cotton Corporation of India and the Ministry of Textiles must take the necessary steps.

**[Possibility of Tirupur - To manage the downfall of business - the importance of strengthening the European Market](#)**  
**[Dinamalar April 24, 2017](#)**

Tirupur: Since the big companies have been decreasing the number of business centres, the export of garments to the United States (US) is gradually decreasing. The industrialists of Tirupur will manage this challenge.

About 45 percent of businesses are being availed from each section of the countries. Concerning the foreign countries, the sellers place orders with the garment manufacturing companies.

The big companies in those countries have founded thousands of business centres and directly sell the garments to the customers. However, for the past few months especially in the US, the habit of visiting the businesses centres and purchasing the garments has been gradually decreasing.

The change among the customers' purchasing trends has severely affected the biggest companies. The big companies that were unable to manage the loss have reduced the number of their business centres for the direct sale. Accordingly the 'Seers' company has reduced its business centres to 150. Likewise, 'Abercrombie' has reduced its business centres from 839 to 670.

As a result of this change, the Tirupur garment industrialists have been severely affected and therefore they are worried since the number of orders being given by the sellers of those nations will also decrease.

Related to this, Krish, a garment industry consultant said:

Because of the business falling down, four of the companies in the US have decreased the number of their business centres. Nowadays, the people overseas are interested in purchasing the garments on-line.

The reduction of the number of garment business centres overseas will affect the garment manufacturing industry of Tirupur. The currencies of countries like Panama, Chile, and other Latin American countries are becoming more developed. Therefore, Latin America too has reduced the import business.

Hence, the garment manufacturers must make a greater effort to get orders from the European countries.

In order to get orders from the European countries, the garment industrialists of Tirupur are required to obtain a quality control certificate. Since the competition will increase, the garment industrialists are advised to increase the productivity of garments and capture the new markets. Then only can they manage the critical situation in the garment business.

As per the opinion of Raja Shanmugam, the President of Tirupur Exporters' Association:

The garment companies are dealing with a loss due to the decrease of orders. Despite this setback, normality will be restored within short a period because business through on-line orders is increasing.

Identifying the new companies and making business deals with them can increase the export of garments. However, while closing down the business the receipt of payment from those companies will be impossible and so the heavy loss must be met out. To manage this critical situation, the export business insurance must be utilised

**Garment industry backs farmers**  
**The Hindu April 26, 2017**

Tirupur: The bandh in Tirupur evoked mixed response.

Almost 80 % of the shops within Tirupur city and 70 % of the shops in the other areas of the district were closed on the day.

Meanwhile, majority of the units in Tirupur knitwear cluster functioned normally as large chunk of garment exporters had tight deadlines to dispatch the consignments failing which they stood the chance of losing repeat orders.

Tirupur Exporters' Association general secretary T. R. Vijayakumar told The Hindu that the entire garment industry was morally supporting the grievances of farmers and the issues that confronted them.

“But, we left the decision to open or close the textile units in support of the bandh on the day to the discretion of the owners of the respective units”, he clarified.

As many as 2,040 persons, belonging to various political parties and trade unions like CPI (M), DMK, CPI, INTUC, LPF, AITUC and CITU among others, were arrested for staging road blockade and other forms of agitations at 30 places in the district. The day was by and large peaceful without any untoward incidents reported from anywhere in the district.



Link

**<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/garment-industry-backs-farmers/article18211491.ece>**

**[Rejigged cotton project on the anvil: Textile Commissioner - Draft of the plan will be sent to the ministry soon](#)**

**[The Hindu April 28, 2017](#)**

Coimbatore: In an effort to give a thrust to the cotton sector, the Textile Ministry is looking to introduce a revamped Technology Mission on Cotton, Textile Commissioner Kavita Gupta told The Hindu. The office of the Textile Commissioner would send a draft on the revamped project to the Textile Ministry in a couple of months. "We have had a series of meetings with stakeholders and researchers," Ms. Gupta said.

**Four parts**

"We will propose it to the Ministry. The mission will have four parts. The first two will deal with cotton productivity and will come under the Agriculture Ministry. The third and fourth missions will be under the Textile Ministry."

A Technology Mission on Cotton was implemented by the Union Government from 2000 to 2012 and it had four "mini missions." India is now the largest producer of cotton globally.

"There is a need for a revamped Technology Mission on Cotton as the country needs to adopt global standards and focus on quality," said J. Thulasidharan, president of Indian Cotton Federation. Ms. Gupta added that apart from this, in order to get a clear picture on production and capacity of various segments in the textile value chain, the Ministry has now made annual and monthly filing of data mandatory.

All units from ginning to garmenting will have to file data on quality and quantity. Till October, this can be done manually or online and from October it can be done only online.

The annual data will give the profile of the unit and the monthly information will give a clear picture on production of various textile products. "This is filed by the industry and for its benefit. It will help the Government come out with the right policy interventions," she said.

The system is simplified for the MSMEs and for the very small units, a survey will be done, she added.

**Link**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/rejigged-cotton-project-on-the-anvil-textile-commissioner/article18261873.ece>**

**Smriti advocates nature-friendly practices – promises to recommend separate award for the sector from Environment ministry for ‘Prevention of pollution’**  
**The New Indian Express April 28, 2017**

Tirupur: Industrial clusters in the country that will be involved in the production of green energy and use eco-friendly techniques will be recommended for awards by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), said Minister of Textiles, Smriti Irani, on her maiden visit to Tirupur after taking charge of the textiles portfolio on Thursday.

In a meeting with apparel exporters in the city, the minister said that she will make a recommendation to the MoEFCC to constitute a separate award for an industrial cluster as a whole. Currently, the MoEFCC distributed the National Award for Prevention of Pollution to individual units.

Representatives of various trade bodies who met the minister appealed to the government to fix the goods and service tax (GST) in the textile sector at a fixed low rate of five percent. The representatives also asked the minister to extend the duty drawback and the Rebate of State Levies (ROSL) for another two years since the implementation of the GST, according to Raja Shanmugam, President of Tirupur Exporters' Association. The trade bodies also requested a separate board for knitwear products since these products had a whopping 47.4 percent share of the total garment exports during the last fiscal year. The monetary value of the knitwear exports stood at Rs. 55,158 crore.

The minister assured the industry to conduct conclave of textile research associations at Tirupur every year

**Min visits CETO at Arulpuram**

Smriti Irani also visited the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) run by a group of dyeing units at Arulpuram in the outskirts of the city and the Palladam Hi-tech Weaving Park on Thursday evening. During her visit to Erode, the minister stressed on the importance of textile dyeing units adopting the zero liquid discharge method to reduce pollution.

**Ryits oppose new dyeing unit**

The farmers' association from Uthukuli staged a joint demonstration at Chengapalli on Thursday against the authorities' decision to allow a dyeing unit to be opened near Kuttaikattupudur, fearing degradation of the environment. The farmers also alleged that officials have not taken any steps to close down three dyeing units that openly released effluents in Kavundampalayam.

## **ESI / PF**

### **P.F interest ratio is fixed – the minister for labour welfare has announced** **The Hindu (Tamil) April 14, 2017**

New Delhi: Honourable Pandaru Thathareya, the Central Minister for Labour Welfare has made an announcement in accordance with the PF interest ratio that has been fixed at 8.65 percent for the last financial year.

Relating to this he continued to say:

“The PF Trust Committee has decided to give 8.65 percent of interest. Even then there will be a surplus of Rs. 158 crore. If necessary, I will discuss the issue in the financial ministry. I will make a demand to provide 8.65 percent interest. However this amount will be paid to the employees. But I cannot assure how and when this will be paid to them.

As usual, the PF Trust Committee will fix the interest ratio. However, the central ministry will have to approve the decision made by the trustees. While the approval is gained the interest for the PF amount will be deposited in the accounts of employees. Since, the PF Trust Committee is an independent organisation the central ministry will accept the recommendation of the trust.

The PF Trust Committee had fixed an interest rate of 8.8 percent for the financial year of 2015-16. The financial ministry decreased the PF interest rate to 8.7 percent. In reaction to the decrease, opposition was raised throughout the country so the interest is again fixed at 8.8 percent.

The finance ministry requested to the labour welfare ministry to decrease 0.50 percent of the interest according to the small savings scheme. Even then, there is no reduction of the interest ratio.

### **Whether the EPF administration is handed over to the state government? Trade unions condemn the central government** **Dinakaran April 16, 2017**

Velur: All the trade unions throughout India have raised their voices against the central government which seems to take serious effort to hand over the EPF administration to the state governments.

Taking into the consideration of labourers working in small, middle and big companies a new scheme in view of their better future was established under the law. The legislation is known as EPF and MP Act 1952.

Zonal offices in Delhi, Chennai, Madurai, Kovai, Tambaram, Velur, Thirunelveli, Trichy, Selam, Pudhuvai, Bangalore, Thiruvandram and Hyderabad have been funded. The total number of zonal offices throughout India is 120 in which more than 10 crore workers have joined as members.

The Provident Fund administration renders its services to the workers who approach the officials therein and request guidance and support. However, the central government has been taking initiatives to hand over the Provident Fund zonal offices to the state government. The steps being taken by the central government are not receptive because the workers and the trade unionists all over the country are discontented.

Related to this, Kirupagavan, the President said:

“Related to the matter of taking steps to hand over the EPF centres, opinion from proprietors and labourers was sought. The general opinion was that this act will result in negative consequences. This new method will affect not only the workers but the factories and their owners as well

“So far, an amount of Rs. 5,000 crores is kept idle without demand from the public. The fund is under the control of the Central Board of Trustees. The central government has turned its attention towards this fund for the development of the state and the central government in the name of a shared social protection fund.

“It is said that this since its commencement it is not at all involved in the act of bribery and measure of the fund. But when it is handed over to the state governments the consequence of it will be left to one’s discretion. The fund divided in the name of social protection fund will be handed to the state government by the central government with instruction. However, it is questionable whether the state government will follow them. For instance until the year 1982, the PF accounts of workers belonging to the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation was under our control up to the date the position and retirement benefits were properly given to the workers. But at present, the pension and other benefits are being paid to them on an instalment basis.

“The same thing will also happen in the case of EPF administration when it is handed over to the state governments. Hence, all the trade unions, industries and proprietors must come forward to oppose the central government decision.

“Moreover, the employees fund has been properly invested. When the same is handed

over to the state government we cannot expect the positive approach of making use of it. What will happen to the fund when it is diverted towards the free scheme to the general public? The central government had introduced the new pension scheme in 2014. The same was introduced by the state government of Tamil Nadu one year prior. However, an amount of Rs. 6,000 crores deducted from the salary of workers has not yet been paid.

“Similarly, our conditions too will become a matter of question. As per central government the retirement age 60 years. In the case of Tamil Nadu it is 58 years and in Kerala the same is 56 years. How are they going to manage these differences? Moreover, as per the plan of the central government, the ESI that the labour department organised will also be linked with it. Again, no new employment will be favoured to anyone.

“All the things will be handed over to the agents in the method of outsourcing. To state it clearly, the workers will be allocated to six agencies. Accordingly one agency is meant for the investment of money, another agency for distribution and transactions, and another one for the settlement and so on. By means of this practice they are planning to close down the Employee Provident Fund Scheme administration.

“Therefore, parliament members of all the political parties and all the trade unions throughout the country must oppose this bill with joint effort when it is placed in parliament. To serve this purpose our trade unions have been holding talks with the other trade unions and parliament members.

“The central government must give up the plan of handing over the EPF to the state governments in view of the workers’ welfare in the future.”

### [PF can be withdrawn for medical emergencies](#)

[The Hindu April 28, 2017](#)

New Delhi: Now, you can withdraw your provident fund savings to pay hospital bills in case of serious illness by submitting a self-declaration form to the Employees’ Provident



Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/pf-can-be-withdrawn-for-medical-emergencies/article18262032.ece>

Fund Organisation (EPFO). The Labour Ministry has issued a notification on April 25 doing away with the requirement of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) subscribers to get their employer's approval or submit doctor's certificate to withdraw provident fund savings for medical purposes.

#### Self-declaration needed

"The move is in line with the government's policy of moving towards a self-declaration regime. Employees will no longer be required to produce any certificate for taking all kinds of advance from their provident fund accounts," EPFO central provident fund commissioner V.P. Joy told The Hindu.

He said the EPFO had introduced a composite claim form which needed to be submitted by employees to avail themselves of provident fund advance.

#### Three different forms

Previously, employees were required to fill and submit three different forms to EPFO for withdrawing provident fund for such purposes.

## **Skill Development Training**

#### [Skill development training to one lakh of labourers](#) [Dinamalar April 17, 2017](#)

Tirupur: A suggestion of providing skill development training to one lakh of labourers during this year is being sent to the central government.

The target is fixed in accordance with the value of garment exports that must be reached (one lakh crore of rupees) in the year 2020.

For this purpose, the required infrastructure facilities are being established. To make it convenient it is important that the skills of workers must be improved. Therefore, the necessary skill development will be carried out with the support of the human resources development department, the Ministry of Textiles, and the rural people's development scheme as per the plan made. In the last financial year 10,000 workers were given skill development training with the subsidy being provided by the central textile ministry.

With the joint effort of 'NIFT-T' college and Tirupur Exporters' Association nearly 175 training centres were opened within Tamil Nadu. Among them about 75 centres are founded in Tirupur. Skill development training for forty days was given to the workers.

To reach the target of export business one lakhs of labourers are required every year. Notably, the target can be attained only with the workers who have undergone training.

The garments industrialists of Tirupur have made an achievement by founding the skill development centre scheme with the support of subsidies provided by the central government.

About 13,000 workers were trained in the last year. The central government allotted an amount of Rs. 10,000 for the training taking place over a period of 45 days. Now there is a plan that 10,000 workers would be given skill development training in the last year.

Finally, the training was given to 13,000 workers. Also, the skill development training will be given to one lakh workers in the current year as per plan.

Raja Shanmugam, the President of Tirupur Exporters' Association and Vijayakumar, the General Secretary said:

"We have planned to provide the training to one lakh of labourers. The untrained workers are given training in such a way that they can learn all in two months that can be learned in three years so the productivity will naturally be improved.

"The labourers are divided into groups in which each group will consist of 30 workers and the details of their Aadhar will be sent to the central government for the approval. Then only the training will be started.

"About 175 centres have been founded at the state level. The NIFT-T college has accepted the scheme and provided skill development training to the workers.

"To carry out this service, special officers and trainers have been appointed and concessions will be given to the backward and downtrodden people with concern of their social development."

## Garments companies are ready to provide training to the new industries in Tirupur

Daily Thanthi April 28, 2017

Tirupur: The garment manufacturing companies of Tirupur for the local and export markets are busily engaged in the increase of garment production.

To serve this purpose the industrialists have introduced many schemes and try to implement them. They receive financial aid from the central and the state governments. Apart from this, aiming at the high productivity and reduced of cost of production, the industrialists have organised many committees in the industrial corporation. On behalf of the industrial corporation, many garment committees, each consisting of 10 persons and eight printing companies were included. Training is provided to the companies already in function that they would provide training in the new committee of complaints.

Related to this they said:

“The group of experts will provide the training in the garment production activities to the newly founded groups. The training will be given to them in two phases. Training will be provided to them in reducing the cost of production and quality development.

“Additionally, the training will be given on the value-added garment production. To continue the same, we are training various groups in the knitting garment production.

“By means of this money circulation we can achieve our target in the garment industry. Also, it will be helpful to [propel the workers and the industrialists to] be regarded as the first industry in the nearest future.

## **Labour Issues**

## We will throw away the Anti-labour laws into the Bengal sea - comrade T.K Rangarajan stated furiously in the parliament

Theekkadir April 21, 2017

New Delhi: Comrade Rangarajan who furiously spoke in parliament that the anti-labour laws would be thrown into the Bengal Sea commented on the same.

The bill relating to the anti-labour laws was passed in parliament. Opposing the bill's passing comrade T.K. Rangarajan, the member of the Marxist party, referred to it in his speech.

Most of the members of parliament opposed to the bill also joined with him. The bill was described as an out and out anti-labour law. It was stated that the minister will feel sorry for having passed the bill after his retirement. This bill will also affect the next generation of labourers.

Comrade T.K. Rangarajan stated:

"I request all members to read the history of Indian trade unions. No salvation of concession was gained by the mercy of the government whether in the history of trade unions of Kovai and Mumbai or the struggle of railway workers.

"It may be that the concessions of rights were gained only through the long struggle of the working class. A number of five persons were killed by shooting during the railway workers' struggle in Ponmalai. Again, four textile mill workers were sent to the garrets. All of this was the reaction to the release of the first salary policy of workers. So every concession was gained by the struggles of workers on a large scale.

"I have been working as a trade unionist since the age of 16 years. Again, I took serious efforts by participating in the struggle of cement, textile, BHEL, railway and arms and ammunitions workers in the past. I am fully aware of their position and their living conditions. Also, I took part in the agreement made during the events of struggle. Winning an amount of one rupee is not a simple matter. We have to enter into the struggle with the great effort. On account of this many workers have lost their employment.

"Perhaps the workers gained benefits by one way. They will get back by some other means. The overtime is increased. What is the real reason of it? The workers are exploited more and more. Actually who are the beneficiaries of this? People say that the trade union is becoming weaker again and again. I would like to warn the government. The Indian labourers will rise again and again. They will throw away all the anti-labour laws, notably laws against the labour will be helpful to retain what they lose.

Our minister speaks about the ILO and whether the government accepts all the resolutions of the ILO. They paint out the aspects of all the resolutions of the ILO? 125 hours of overtime. The [bill] will affect the labourers, general public and their families in the future so I request you to withdraw the bill having passed. The government makes efforts to retain the rights and concessions gained by the workers during the freedom of struggle and even thereafter so this is really a false attempt.

**[Young woman who came to Tirupur in search of work committed suicide](#)**  
**[Dinamani April 6, 2017](#)**

Tirupur: A young woman who came from Nagapattinam to Tirupur in search of work committed suicide by consuming poison.

Related to this incident, the police personnel report stated:

Jeyaraj is a native of Marungur in Nagapattinam. He is a farm worker. His daughter, Rajeswaran, aged 19 years left her home on April 3 and came to Tirupur to work in the garments companies there.

Rajeswaran arrived in Tirupur on April 4 and attempted in vain to search for work in the Arulpuram area. Having become broken-hearted she committed suicide by consuming pesticides.

Subsequently, she came to the bus stand in Palladam with a plan of returning to Nagapattinam on the same day and got into the bus. When the corporation bus was passing near Kangayam, she vomited and lost her consciousness. Suddenly, she was admitted in the government hospital in Kangayam and later to the Government Hospital in Tirupur for further treatment. Rajeswaran underwent treatment but died on Wednesday.

The police personnel of Palladam filed a case and have started inquires about the same.

**[Young women committed suicide for the denial of permission to study away from home - by discontinuing the service in the textile mills](#)**  
**[Daily Thanthi April 9, 2017](#)**

Vedanchendur: Nallathambi is a native of Kunjuveeranpatty near Vedachendur in Dinidigul district. His daughter, Karthikamani, was studying up to the 10<sup>th</sup> standard.

Karthikamani was working in private mills near Vittalnaikkanpatty and staying in the residence of Karuppaiya, her elder aunt at Kalanampatty. Karthikamani told her father that she did not want to work in the mills. She said that she was willing to join in the hostel of a private trust being conducted in Tanjore. However, her father who did not like her plan of staying away from home denied her proposal. Although at the same time he was planning to make his daughter continue her studies.

Nallathambi advised Karthikamani to enrol in a school at Vedachendur. Karthikamani became broken-hearted due to the denial of her father to study in her place of choice.

On the eve of her suicide, she consumed a poisonous seed of "Arali" a native plant. At the same time, she was in the home of her aunt. While she was struggling to survive, her relatives admitted her to the Government Hospital in Dindigul. Later, she was admitted to the Government Hospital in Madurai for further treatment. She died there due to the failure of treatment.

Pugalendhi, the Inspector of Police in Vedachendur, filed a case and continued the inquiries.

**[Young girl committed suicide by hanging herself in the hostel belongs to a private textile mill](#)**

**[Daily Thanthi April 21, 2017](#)**

Palladam: A young girl committed suicide by hanging herself in the hostel belonging to private mills near Palladam.

The police personnel made a report:

Sivakumar was a native of Periyakattupalayam near Panrutti in the Kadalur District. His wife was Velumani. Both of them have a daughter, Sivaranjani, aged 16 years. Two years ago Sivakumar expired.

Recently, Velunmani admitted Sivaranjani as a worker in Lakshmi Mill near Palladam in Tirupur on April 4.

While Sivaranjani was talking to her mother via telephone, Sivaguru, Sivaranjani's elder brother of who has an alcohol addiction was beating Velunmani at home. Sivaranjani became broken-hearted as a result of the abuse toward her mother. The residents of Sivaranjani's adjacent room went to her room yesterday to see her position but her room was kept opened and Sivaranjani was not seen there. Again they continued their search and found that the toilet remained open.

When the residents entered into the toilet they found Sivaranjani hanging from a rope from the roof and felt shocked. Instantly, they informed the management of the mills and the management informed the police personnel.

Immediately, they took the dead body for a post mortem in the government hospital in Palladam. Thereafter, the news was reported to Velunmani and other relatives. All of them came to the hospital and kept on seeing the dead body of the young girl.

The police personnel filed a case and started the inquiries. They assure the public that Sivaranjani would have committed suicide from a broken heart on account of Sivaguru's

attempt to beat Velunmani.

### **Worker Commits Suicide Dinamani 22, April 2017**

Dharapuram: A male worker, Thanmiyi Mehta, aged 23 years (son of Muthira Mehta from West Bengal) committed suicide in Rudravathi near Kundadam. He was found hanging in the bathroom of the hostel. He was employed in a private textile spinning mill. The police have registered a case and are investigating.

## **Dyeing Issues**

### **[Dyeing units cautioned about reduced water supply](#) [The Hindu April 7, 2017](#)**

Tirupur: Wet processing units in Tirupur knitwear cluster will have a tough time ahead as the quantity of water to be supplied for industrial purposes through the distribution scheme maintained by New Tirupur Development Corporation Limited (NTADCL) will be brought down with immediate effect.

S. Nagarajan, president of Dyers Association of Tirupur, said that the NTADCL authorities had cautioned the dyeing units about the reduction in supply, which is presently around 30 to 35 mld (million litres per day) , considering the substantial shrinkage in the water availability at the sources from where it was drawn for the supply.

“They have not mentioned how much exact quantity will be cut down, but only stated that the restriction will be applicable till the water level at the sources improve,” he said.

Link

**<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/dyeing-units-cautioned-about-reduced-water-supply/article17857385.ece>**

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The 30 mld of water consumed till now include the water consumed for dyeing and for peripheral usages such as at workers’ quarters and canteen.

“Actually, our usage has also come down from 90 mld consumed many years ago to the range of 30 to 35 mld due to the recycling of water to the tune of 92 % during the dyeing/bleaching process,” pointed out Mr. Nagarajan.

Tirupur Exporters’ Association president Raja Shanmugam appealed to the knitwear sector units and its owners not only to judiciously use water at the industrial level, but also in their households.

**[The government officials inspect the dyeing factories functioning out of the rules](#)**  
**[Dinamalar April 10, 2017](#)**

Tirupur: The Pollution Control Board officials are involved in the inspection of the dyeing factories operating with more machinery than legally permitted. About 451 dyeing factories are functioning in and around Tirupur to serve the purpose of dyeing. Nearly 18 public effluent water treatment centres are also in Tirupur along with them. The Pollution Control Board has permitted tests such as 30, 50 and 80 percent in respect of infrastructure for the treatment purposes.

So far the Pollution Control Board has not given permission to any centre up to 100 percent. Therefore, the dyeing factories must be operated within the limits of permission. Yet there are complaints received by the Pollution Control Board that in certain dyeing factories the processes are being carried out without the requisite permission. Reacting to the complaints received, the officials of the Pollution Control Board have been inspecting all the dyeing factories within the effluent water treatment centres. All of the

officials have engaged in the inspection of such effluent water treatment centres to ascertain whether they follow the permitted ratio of operation, and that other regulations related to the use of soft blowing machineries, the measure of cloths subjected to the dyeing processes and the volume of effluent water being discharged are properly managed. Notice is served to the dyeing factories that make use of more machinery than permitted and requests them to explain the reasons.

The inspection is completed in the dyeing factories within the effluent water treatment centre of Murugampalayam. At present the officials are inspecting the factories within the centre of Veerapandi. All dyeing factories will be inspected in the future.

### [Recycled drainage water for dyeing units](#)

[The New Indian Express April 12, 2017](#)

Tirupur: As the water crisis in Tirupur has intensified, the dyeing units in the cluster have decided to use drainage water after treating effluent treatment plants.

At a meeting chaired by District Collector S. Jeyanthi on Tuesday, owners of dyeing units conveyed that they would collect drainage water in the city using collection tanks. The water would then be mixed with the effluent at the nearest treatment plant and used for dyeing in view of the acute water shortage.

The meeting was held against the backdrop of various farmers' associations raising their concern over using water for industrial purposes when it was inadequate even for drinking and farming. A few of them had earlier demanded that dyeing units should be shut until normalcy returns.

According to the Dyers Association of Tirupur, 95 percent of the water needs of dyeing units in the cluster are met with the water obtained by treating effluent. The treated drainage water will help them meet the remaining five percent.

There are a total of 18 common effluent treatment plants (CETPS) in Tirupur in the vicinity of dyeing units. The CEPT's have inlet pipelines to collect effluent and outlet pipelines to provide treated water to the units. Over 100 units in the Tirupur region have their own effluent treatment plants.

### **Stop sewage water from entering dam'**

**Erode:** The Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam urged the State to check the inflow of urban sewage into the Surampatty check dam, Erode.

The association said the dam was built during the Kamaraj period to irrigate over 2,300 acres in Modakurichi block. The seepage water from the lower Bhavani Project canal

was the main source for the dam.

However, the urban sewage in addition to the dyeing and tannery unit wastes have made the dam water useless for irrigation for many years. The problem became worse after garbage and debris were dumped in the canal.

Finally the Sangam approached the HC which ordered the removal of all encroachments on the canal and dam site. During such work, many pipelines taking dyeing unit waste to the dam were removed.

The dam had nearly five feet of water after the recent rain. It improved the local ground water level. Unfortunately, the sewage water also began reaching the dam. If it was not stopped, the dam would again become a dumping ground for sewage and industrial waste and all efforts made to restore the dam would fail.

The Erode Corporation should lay a separate sewage line to prevent sewage water entering into the dam, the Sangam pleaded.

### **Road-block for water supply**

Erode: Many women of MSK and Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in the 18<sup>th</sup> ward blocked the road in front of the corporation zonal office III at Surampatty on Monday in protest of the water scarcity in their area. They alleged that their once-in-six-days water supply had stopped a month ago. They withdrew their protest action after corporation officials promised to help.

### **Opposition to found a dyeing factory** **Dinamani April 28, 2017**

Tirupur: People living in Sengapalli rallied against the founding of a new dyeing factory near the residential area of Tirupur.

The general public gathered in front of the Electricity Board office at Sengappalli in which R. Natchimuthu, the representative of the public, presided.

The rallying cry was that permission must not be given to found the dyeing factory in the areas of Sengapalli, Kadapalayam and Kuttyakkattupudur.

Three dyeing factories already functioning in the Kavindampalayam Panchayat discharge the effluent water without proper treatment from the centre. Referring to this foul practice, a petition was given to the district administration. However, so far

authorities took no action.

Additionally, the drought compensation to the farmers announced by the government is yet to be paid to the farmers of Uthukkuli. The demand for this was also raised by Chin-nasamy, the District Secretary of the Farmers' Association with participation from K.C. Chenniappan, the Manager of the association.

## Trade Union

### [CITU advises the garments workers increment of wages by 5 percent as per the agreement](#)

[Theekkadir April 7, 2017](#)

Tirupur: The CITU Banyan and General Workers Union has advised the banyan workers to ask for a 5 percent increment in wages as per the agreement from April 18 of this year.

As per the agreement made in 2016, an increment of 5 percent in the wages for four years must be implemented from April 1 in the year of 2017 applicable to all the banyan workers. Likewise, the same 5 percent increment in the wages must be given to the piece rate workers and contract-based workers in accordance with the agreement.

The labourers who earn a higher salary than the salary as per the agreement are advised to receive a 5 percent of increment by demand. All the workers must receive the increased salary with dearness and travelling allowances.

Comrade G. Sampath, the General Secretary of General Workers Union has advised the workers through his circular to inform the union about the companies which refuse to pay the increment.

**Worker dies under mysterious circumstances in spinning mill - CITU demands an investigation by the RDO**

**Theekadir April 24, 2017**

Tirupur: A male worker from West Bengal committed suicide in Rudravathi, near Kundadam, Tirupur district. The CITU has demanded a thorough investigation into the worker's death by the RDO.

Mr. C. Eashwaramoorthy, Secretary of the Tirupur Spinning Mill Association said that SKT Spinning Mills where the incident took place employs over 400 workers from other states. On April 20, the worker was found hanging in the bathroom of the hostel. The worker had been employed at the mill for the last two months. Attempts to meet the management have failed. There is room for doubt in his death and his co-workers and the community have also raised questions over the manner of his death.

The mill employs both males and females at very low wages, making them work for 12 to 16 hours a day with no proper food and poor facilities. They are denied ESI, EPF, festival holidays, weekly holiday and compensation for working on holidays. CITU has asked the employees to submit a list of their demands to be presented to the mill's management.



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