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textile

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Pakistan presents annual budget for fiscal year **2023-2024** totaling over \$50B

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar sets 3.5% GDP growth target for next year in his budget presentation to National Assembly, hoping to unlock International Monetary Fund program.



[Read Article Inside](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Functional Fabric Fair

Dates: July 18th to 19th, 2023.
Venue: Javits Convention Center,
New York, USA United States Of America.



12th INDIA TREND FAIR

Dates: July 19th to 21st, 2023.
Venue: Belle Salle Shibuya Garden,
Nanpeidaicho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan



DOMOTEX Asia/CHINA FLOOR

Dates: July 26th to 28th, 2023.
Venue: National Exhibition and Convention
Center, Shanghai, China



Yarn Expo 2023

Dates: Aug 04th to 06th, 2023.
Venue: Surat International Exhibition
and Convention Centre, India



Intex South Asia Sri Lanka 2023

Dates: Aug 09th to 11th, 2023.
Venue: BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Yarn Expo - Autumn 2023

Dates: Aug 28th to 30th, 2023.
Venue: National Exhibition and convention
Centre 111 Laigang Road, Shanghai, China.



Bishkek Fashion & Textile Exhibition

Dates: Sep 07th to 09th, 2023.
Venue: Dordoy Bazaar , Bishkek, Kazakhstan.

techtexsil INDIA

Techtextil India 2023

Dates: Sep 12th to 14th, 2023.
Venue: (JWCC) Mumbai, India.



Textile Asia Lahore 2023

Dates: Oct 13th to 15th, 2023.
Venue: Lahore Expo Centre, Pakistan.



International Engineering & Machinery Asia 2023

Dates: Nov 04th to 06th, 2023.
Venue: Expo Centre, Lahore.
www.machineryasiaexpo.com



ITMA ASIA + CITME 2023

Dates: Nov 19th to 23rd, 2023.
Venue: Shanghai, China.
www.itmaasia.com



ITM International Textile Machinery 2024

Dates: Nov 04th to 06th, 2024.
Venue: Bakırköy, Turkey.
www.itmexhibition.com

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AUSTRALIA

Cotton production to reach 5 mn bales in 2023: Cotton Australia

Industry body Cotton Australia has projected around 5 million bales of cotton crop in 2023. In addition, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics and Sciences (ABARES) is forecasting a 22-23 gross value of cotton production at around \$3.4 billion with expectations that exports will reach a value of \$5.1 billion because of prior shipping delays for the 2022 crop.

ABARES is also pointing to a possible recovery in cotton prices as buyers look for quality sustainable cotton combined with crop decreases and low stock levels in the US, said Cotton Australia.

"The industry is now forecasting a 5 million bale crop despite some of the wettest conditions and major flooding across much of New South Wales," said **Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay**.



productivity at 1,815 kilos per hectare (+13.9 per cent up from 2021-22) and an area increase of 2.3 per cent to 1.638 million hectares.

For the time being, the weather has been favouring both the planting and the development of the crop. Cotton producers, however, remain focused on higher production costs, especially of fertilizers, CEPEA's latest fortnightly report on Brazilian cotton said.

Due to the beginning of the crop season and higher cotton availability, the pace of trade is expected to increase. Some purchasers are already interested in guaranteeing the product of the next crop through contracts.

CONAB estimated in its December 2022 report that the consumption can reach 720,000 tons in the 2022-23 season, 2.1 per cent up from 705,000 tons in 2020-21.

Ending stocks in Brazil were 1.34 million tons in December 2022, lowest since 2018-19 and may sustain prices until the beginning of the next season.

In December 2023, on the other hand, CONAB forecasts ending stocks to be at 1.614 million tons (2022-23 crop), the highest since 2019-20, CEPEA said.

The USDA estimates the world 2022-23 cotton crop at 25.197 million tons and global consumption to reduce by 4.9 per cent to reach

24.32 million tons, the lowest since 2019-20 (22.658 million). World imports, in turn, are expected to amount to 9.204 million tons, down 1.4 per cent from 2021-22. Therefore, the USDA projects the global stocks at 19.5 million tons in 2022-23, 4.8 per cent up compared to the previous season.

The USDA indicates that shipments from Brazil may total 1.807 million tons in 2022-23 (from August 2022 to July 2023), up 7.4 per cent compared to the season before and the third highest in history.



BRAZIL

Brazil's cotton area may increase in 2022-23 season

The cotton area in Brazil may increase in the 2022-23 season, due to the good profitability over the last years. However, it may be affected by the possible downturn of the world economy because of inflation and COVID-19 cases in China, according to the Center for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics (CEPEA).

Brazil's National Supply Company (CONAB) has projected cotton production in Brazil to reach 2.973 million tons for 2022-23, an increase of 16.6 per cent compared to 2021-22, which would be the second highest in history. This is the result of



BANGLADESH

Bangladesh's garment exports up 9% to \$38.5 bn in July-Apr 2023

Readymade garment (RMG) (Chapter 61 & 62) exports from Bangladesh increased by 9.09 per cent to \$38.577 billion in the first ten months of fiscal 2022-23 (FY23) compared to exports of \$35.362 billion in July-April 2022, as per provisional data released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

Woven RMG exports grew at a faster pace than knitwear.

RMG exports from Bangladesh were 1.05 per cent higher than the target of \$38.177 billion for July-April 2023, as per EPB data. Exports of

knitwear (Chapter 61) increased by 8.97 per cent to \$20.967 billion in July-April 2023, as against exports of \$19.242 billion during the same months of the previous fiscal.

Exports of woven apparel (Chapter 62) increased by 9.24 per cent to \$17.609 billion during the period under review, compared to exports of \$16.119 billion during July-April 2022, as per the data.

Home textile exports (Chapter 63, excluding 630510) decreased by 29.34 per cent to \$940.8 million during the period under review, compared to exports of \$1,331.42 million during July-April 2022.

At the same time, woven and knitted apparel, clothing accessories and home textile exports together accounted for 86.51 per cent of Bangladesh's total exports of \$45.677 billion during July- March FY23.

In 2021-22, Bangladesh achieved an all-time high in the value of its RMG exports, reaching \$42.613 billion, which represents an increase of 35.47 per cent compared to the exports of \$31.456 billion in fiscal 2020-21. Despite the global slow-down, Bangladesh has succeeded in achieving a growth in garment exports in the recent months.



CHINA

China's textiles & apparel exports down 6.74% in Jan-Mar 2023

China's export of textiles, apparel, and clothing accessories in the first quarter (Q1) of 2023 amounted to \$67.229 billion, which indicates a decline of 6.74 per cent compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, according to the latest data released by the General Administration of Customs of China. The country's garment exports decreased by 1.3 per cent during the same period.

There's an improvement in the outbound shipment of garments, with

a significant reduction in the decline of exports. Garment exports witnessed a steep fall of 14.7 per cent during the first two months of the current year.

During January-March 2023, garment and clothing accessories exports stood at \$35.160 billion, which was 1.3 per cent lower than the same period of last year. The shipment was valued at \$35.614 billion in the period under review.

China's textile exports, including yarn, fabrics, and others, registered a fall of 12.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to reach \$32.069 billion in the first three months of 2023 against the exports of \$36.480 billion in January-March 2022.

The imports of textile yarn and fabric products by China also declined by 25.9 per cent to \$2.403 billion in January-March 2023 against the shipment of \$3.242 billion during the corresponding period of last year.

China had exported textiles, apparel, and clothing accessories worth \$323.344 billion in 2022, registering a mild growth of 2.53 per cent compared to the previous year. Last year, the country exported garment and clothing accessories worth \$175.396 billion and textile including yarn, fabrics, and others worth \$145.079 billion, as per the data.



INDIA

India's RMG exports decline 23.1% to \$1,210 mn in April 2023

India's exports of readymade garments (RMG) of all textiles decreased by 23.10 per cent to \$1,210.66 million in April 2023, the first month of the new fiscal 2023-24 (FY24), as per the data released by the department of commerce under India's ministry of commerce and industry. RMG exports were noted at \$1,574.37 million in the same period of the previous fiscal.

The exports of cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups, and handloom products declined by 23.42 per cent to \$887.89 million in April 2023 from \$1,159.49 million in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Carpet exports came down by 15.85 per cent to \$105.19 million from \$125 million in the same period of the last fiscal. Man-made yarn, fabrics and made ups exports went down by 13.93 per cent year-over-year (YoY) to \$393 million from \$456.59 million in April 2022.

India's import of textile, yarn and fabric and made-up articles decreased by 17.06 per cent to \$161.38 million in April 2023 against \$194.58 million in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. The inbound shipment of cotton raw and waste slipped by 13.81 per cent to \$45.3 million from \$52.56 million in April last year.

India's overall exports (merchandise and services combined) in April 2023 is estimated at \$65.02 billion, showing an increase of 2 per cent over April 2022. Overall imports in April this year are estimated at \$66.40 billion, which was 7.92 per cent lower than the imports of April 2022.

During FY23, the exports of RMG of all textiles increased by 1.10 per cent to \$16,191.47 million. Garment exports were noted at \$16,014.84 million in 2021-22.





ITALY

Italy's GDP grows 0.5% in Q1 2023, driven by industrial sector: Istat

In the first quarter of 2023, Italy saw a modest growth in its gross domestic product (GDP), increasing by 0.5 per cent from the previous quarter, and 1.8 per cent over the same quarter in the previous year, according to Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat). This growth was mainly attributed to the positive performance of the industrial sector. Both domestic demand and net exports contributed to the growth.

However, March saw a decrease in the industrial production index by 0.6 per cent compared to February, with a small decline of 0.1 per cent in the first quarter overall. External trade figures from February showed a 0.4 per cent increase in seasonally-adjusted exports and a 1.4 per cent decrease in imports compared to January.

Within the EU, exports decreased by 0.8 per cent, while non-EU exports rose by 1.7 per cent. Imports fell for both EU, down 1.2 per cent, and non-EU countries, down 1.6 per cent. March non-EU trade figures saw a further decline, with exports down by 4.6 per cent and imports dropping by 12.9 per cent compared to February, as per Istat.

Despite challenges in trade and industry, the employment situation in Italy improved in March. The number of employed people increased, while unemployment decreased, bringing the unemployment rate down to 7.8 per cent.

However, the rising inflation remains a concern for the Italian economy. In March, the seasonally adjusted index of volume sales fell by 0.3 per cent month-on-month, indicating that high inflation is affecting private consumption. In April, the Italian consumer price index (NIC) saw an 8.3 per cent increase year-on-year, up from 7.6 per cent in March. The Italian harmonised index

of consumer prices (HICP) increased by 8.8 per cent annually, with the differential between Italy and the euro area widening.



PHILIPPINES

Philippine economy grows amidst global challenges: IMF

The Philippine economy achieved one of the highest growth rates among emerging economies in 2022, with GDP growth forecast to moderate to 6 per cent in 2023 due to a challenging external environment, as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF). An IMF team led by Shanaka Jay Peiris met with officials in Manila from May 8-12 to discuss recent economic and financial developments.

"The Philippine economy has achieved one of the strongest recoveries in emerging markets following the pandemic-related deep economic downturn," Peiris said in a statement.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has increased the policy rate to 6.25 per cent, anchoring inflation expectations. However, persistent core inflation suggests that a tighter stance may be necessary for an extended period.

"The regional tripartite wage setting system has served the country well and should continue to link wage increases to productivity gains. Risks to inflation remain on the upside, and a continued tightening bias may be appropriate until inflation falls decisively within the 2-4 per cent target range.

The current account deficit is expected to narrow to 2.5 per cent of GDP in 2023 from 4.4 per cent in 2022 mainly due to declining commodity prices," Peiris added.

Peiris emphasised that fiscal consolidation is in progress, supporting monetary policy and contributing to debt sustainability. Efforts for medium-term fiscal consolidation are encouraged, focusing on enhancing

targeted social spending, promoting infrastructure investment, and facilitating climate transition objectives.

Despite the global banking turmoil, the Philippines has experienced limited impact. Yet, the IMF advised close monitoring of the financial system due to tightening conditions. Peiris also stressed the importance of structural reforms to boost productivity and address climate change through a green growth strategy.



TURKEY

Turkiye's apparel exports to Azerbaijan soar 150 per cent in 5 years

Azerbaijan and Turkiye have signed a protocol amending the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), reflecting Azerbaijan's confidence in the further growth of bilateral trade.

Over the past five years, Turkiye's apparel exports to Azerbaijan have surged by more than 150 per cent, while fabric exports have also seen substantial growth. Azerbaijan is emerging as a significant textile market for Turkiye.

"The implementation of the document will give a further impetus for increasing the trade turnover with the brotherly country," Mikayil Jabbarov, minister of economy of Azerbaijan, said in a tweet.

Textile and apparel exports from Turkiye to Azerbaijan have experienced robust growth in recent years.

Exports rose to \$87.620 million in 2021 from \$28.286 million in 2018. However, there was a decline, with exports reaching \$75.186 million in 2022. The outbound shipments increased by 167 per cent in 2022 compared to 2018 trade. Exports were recorded at \$38.890 million in 2020 and \$34.701 million in 2019.

Fabric exports to Azerbaijan have nearly doubled in the last five years. Shipments reached \$26.316 million in

2022, up from \$14.623 million in 2018. Exports were recorded at \$22.224 million in 2021, \$18.294 million in 2020, and \$18.431 million in 2019.

Although Azerbaijan is an emerging market for Türkiye's textiles and apparel, it is still a relatively small market. In 2022, it accounted for just 0.41 per cent of Türkiye's total apparel exports of \$18.449 billion.



USA

US' textiles & apparel imports drop 19.98% to \$25.8 bn in Jan-Mar 2023

US' imports of textiles and apparel have continued to decrease in value terms, falling by 19.98 per cent to \$25.874 billion in the first three months of 2023, compared to \$32.331 billion during the same period in 2022. China remains the largest supplier of textiles and clothing to the US, holding a 23.78 per cent market share, followed by Vietnam with a 14.75 per cent share.

In January-March 2023, the bulk of US textile imports consisted of apparel, amounting to \$19.472 billion, while non-apparel imports accounted for \$6.400 billion, according to the latest Major Shippers Report released by the US department of commerce. Both segments experienced a decline in inbound shipments.

Apparel imports dropped by 19.73 per cent compared to the \$24.259 billion traded in January-March 2022, while non-apparel imports fell by 20.71 per cent from \$6.400 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Among the top ten apparel suppliers to the US, the import from any country did not register rise. The imports from China and Cambodia declined by 34.89 per cent and 32.57 per cent, respectively. The import from Vietnam dropped 24.25 per cent, Pakistan 26.97 per cent, Honduras 15.84 per cent, Bangladesh 13.34 per cent and India 11 per cent.

Among the top ten suppliers in the non-apparel category, imports from Mexico experienced a year-on-year growth of 10.20 per cent. Imports from no other country rose in this period. Imports from Vietnam, on the other hand, declined by 12.58 per cent. Inbound shipments from other countries, such as China, Turkey, and Canada, also decreased. Specifically, imports from China decreased by 33.28 per cent and from India by 21.73 per cent.

During the period under review, US textile and apparel imports totalled \$25.874 billion. Man-made fibre products accounted for \$13.258 billion, while cotton products were valued at \$10.876 billion. Wool products made up \$780.065 million, and products from silk and vegetable fibres were worth \$956.980 million.

In 2022, US imports of textiles and apparel continued to rise, reaching \$132.201 billion, up from \$113.938 billion in 2021. This increase followed a sharp decline in 2020 when the country's inbound shipments dropped to \$89.596 billion, compared to imports of \$111.033 billion in 2019.



VIETNAM

Vietnam's industrial production surges 3.6% in April 2023: GSO

Vietnam's index of industrial production (IIP) for April 2023 saw a 3.6 per cent month-on-month (MoM) increase and a 0.5 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). However, the country saw a 1.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in IIP for the first four months of 2023, a contrast to the 7.8 per cent growth experienced in the same period of 2022.

Sectors such as processing and manufacturing witnessed decline 2.1 per cent in IIP. Factors contributing to this decrease include the slow recovery of the global economy and tightened monetary policies in several countries, resulting in reduced consumption demand and export turnover, said Vietnamese media reports quoting the ministry of industry and trade (MoIT).

During the first four months of 2023, key industrial products experienced a drop in IIP, including textiles from natural fibres (11.1 per cent) and casual wear (10.4 per cent). Conversely, some products, such as garments made from man-made fibres, saw a 12.2 per cent increase in IIP.

To foster production growth and support businesses, the MoIT plans to monitor the production of various sectors, addressing any obstacles impeding development. The ministry also aims to connect domestic enterprises with foreign direct investment (FDI) and global companies to facilitate participation in global supply chains, the reports added.

Furthermore, the MoIT will continue to support small and medium-sized enterprises in their recovery and production development by proposing tax and fee exemptions or reductions & facilitating credit access.



The Pakistani government presented the annual budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in parliament on Friday, totaling 14 trillion rupees (approximately \$50.4 billion) amid political tensions and high inflation.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar set a 3.5% GDP growth target for next year in his budget presentation to the National Assembly, saying the government is focusing on elements of the "real economy" in the hope of unlocking the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program.

Islamabad entered a \$6.5 billion IMF three-year program in 2019 and is still waiting for the remaining \$2.5 billion, which is set to expire at the end of this month.

Despite depleted foreign reserves and an economic crisis, the government has allocated 1.804 billion rupees for defense in the budget, a 15.4% increase over the previous year.

Dar also announced a 35% pay increase for lower-level government employees and a 30% pay increase for officers.

According to the budget, the country's total expenditure for the

next fiscal year starting on July 1 is 13,320 billion rupees, with gross revenue estimated at 12,163 billion rupees.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presided over a Cabinet meeting to approve the budget, during which he stated that his government has accepted all IMF conditions and hoped to receive the remaining funds.

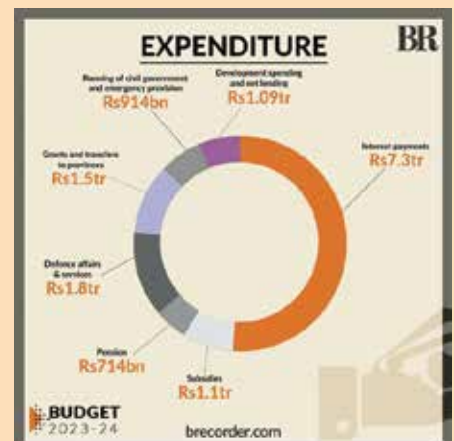
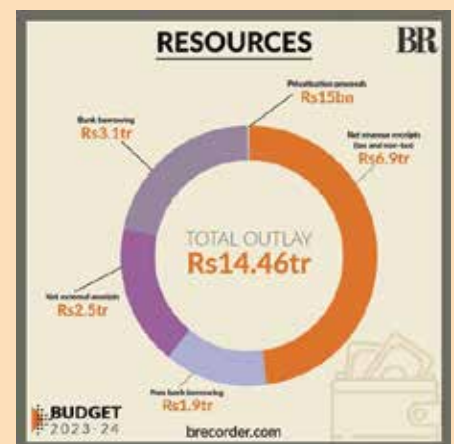
However, he said the country's economic growth is linked with political stability, as the South Asian nation is currently facing its worst economic and political crisis.

"Without political stability, even billions of dollars in the budget could not make a difference in improving the economic situation," Sharif was quoted as saying by Pakistan's state-run Associated Press.

The South Asian country missed almost all of its economic targets set in the previous budget during the current fiscal year, which ends in June, according to a local newspaper.

The current political and economic crisis has eroded the government's popularity of over 12 parties' alliance - Pakistan Democratic Alliance (PDM)

- led by Sharif due to constant changes in the GDP growth announced in the previous year's budget.



BUDGET 2023-24



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Economic growth target fixed at 3.5% for fiscal year 2023-24.
- Inflation forecasted to average at 21%.
- Tax-to-GDP ratio to stand at 8.7%.
- Current account deficit to stand at \$6 billion by end of fiscal year 2023-24.
- Government has allocated Rs1.8 trillion for defence spending.
- Rs1.1 trillion earmarked for subsidies.
- Rs761 billion allocated for pension.
- Government will spend Rs950 billion on account of Public Sector Development Programme.
- Rs22.7 billion earmarked for health sector.
- Agriculture credit limit enhanced from Rs1,800 billion to Rs2,250 billion.
- Solarisation of 50,000 agriculture tubewells through Rs30 billion.
- Withdrawal of all duties and taxes on imported seeds, combined harvesters, dryers and rice planters.
- Rs10 billion earmarked for PM's Youth Business and Agriculture Loans scheme.
- Rs6 billion subsidy announced on imported urea.
- Targeted subsidy announced on wheat flour, ghee, pulses and rice.
- 35% increase in salaries of government servants of grade 1-16 in the form of ad-hoc relief.
- 30% increase in salaries of government servants of grade 17-22 in the form of ad-hoc relief.
- Tax free imports of software and hardware by IT and IT enabled services equal to 1% of their exports with a ceiling of \$50,000.
- No sales tax return by freelancers with exports of \$2,000 per month.
- Increase in Benazir Income Support Programme allocation from Rs400 billion to Rs450 billion.
- Upward revision in pensions and increase in minimum pension to Rs12,000.
- Rs10 billion set aside for provisions of 100,000 laptops for students.
- Exemption of custom duty on import of raw materials for batteries, solar panels and inverters.

How is silk made? A step by step guide



Silk is made from the cocoons of the silkworm, the larval form of the silk moth. The process of silk production is called sericulture, and it involves several stages:

1. Egg production: The process begins with the production of eggs by the adult silk moth.

2. Larvae hatching: The eggs hatch into larvae, which are commonly known as silkworms. These silkworms are fed with mulberry leaves.

3. Silk cocoon formation: The silkworms secrete a protein called fibroin, which is used to create the cocoon. The cocoon is made of a single thread of silk, which is produced by the silkworm's salivary glands. The silkworm wraps itself in the cocoon, which protects it during the pupal stage.

4. Harvesting the cocoon: After about two weeks, the silkworm pupates inside the cocoon, and the cocoon is harvested. To obtain the silk, the cocoons are boiled or steamed to kill the pupa and loosen the silk thread.

5. Reeling the silk: The silk threads are then carefully unwound from the cocoon. This process is known as reeling. The silk threads from several cocoons are combined to form a single thread. The resulting thread is then spun into silk fabric.

6. Dyeing and weaving: The silk thread is dyed and then woven into silk fabric, which can be used to create a variety of products, including clothing, scarves, and bedding.

It takes approximately 2,500 silkworms to produce one pound of raw silk, which illustrates why silk is considered a luxury material.

Possibly the most beautiful, delicate and lustrous materials ever created

Silk dates back thousands of years, and still to this day is highly regarded as one of the most valuable, luxurious fabric. Even after all of those years, little has changed in the way silk is produced.

Despite advances in production method technologies, silk production

still very much remains a labour intensive process, and a lot of hard work is involved.

What is silk made of?

While there are now a huge variety of different types of insects used to produce silk, the most commonly used species is the larvae of 'Bombyx mori' – (the caterpillar of the domestic silkworm). These incredible silkworms produce one of the most highly sought after materials with a plethora of excellent properties.

While silk is lustrous and lightweight, it's also impressively strong, with one filament of silk being stronger than a comparable filament of steel.





How is silk made?

Here is a step-by-step guide to the fascinating process in which silk is produced...

1. Sericulture

This is the term used to describe the process of gathering the silkworms and harvesting the cocoon to collect the materials.

Female silkmoths lay anything from around 300 – 500 eggs at any one time. These eggs eventually hatch to form silkworms, which are incubated in a controlled environment until they hatch into larvae (caterpillars).

The silkworms feed continually on a huge amount of mulberry leaves to encourage growth. It takes around 6 weeks to grow to their full potential (about 3 inches). At this time, they'll stop eating and begin to raise their heads – that's when they're ready to spin their cocoon.

Did you know? It takes around 2,500 silkworms to produce one pound of raw silk.

2. Thread extraction

Once the silkworms have spun their cocoon, they will eventually enclose themselves inside it and then it's time to extract the silk threads.

The cocoons are placed into boiling water in order to soften and dissolve the gum that is holding the cocoon together. This is a crucial step in the silk production process as it ensures that there is no damage to the continuity of each thread.

Each thread is then carefully reeled from the cocoon in individual long threads, which are then wound on a reel. Some of the sericin may still remain on the threads to protect the fibres during processing, but this is usually washed out with soap and boiling water.

3. Dyeing

When the silk threads have been washed and degummed, they will be bleached and dried before the dyeing process commences.

Traditional silk dyeing techniques take the dyes from natural resources found in the surrounding environment, such as fruit or indigo plant leaves. The threads will be soaked together in bundles, inside a pot of hot indigo leaves and water. This process will occur multiple times over a span of days to ensure proper colour tone and quality.

However, these traditional dyeing methods have almost become extinct in the commercial manufacturing of silk. Advances in technology mean that manufacturers instead opt for using various dyes such as acid dyes or reactive dyes. This gives a greater range of choice in colours and shades to be able to serve wider demand.

That being said, the general idea behind the technique remains similar as the silk is immersed in a dye bath to soak up the colour. The silk may be fed into the bath through two cylinders, or fixed to a round jig which is immersed in the bath.

4. Spinning

The traditional spinning wheel has always, and will always be an integral part of the silk production process. Although updated industrial processes are now able to spin silk threads much quicker, it simply mimics the functions of the classic spinning wheel.

The process of spinning essentially unwinds the dyed fibres on to a bobbin, so that they lay flat ready for the weaving process. This can be done in many different ways from hand-spinning to ring-spinning and mule spinning.

5. Weaving

Weaving is the process in which the final piece of silk comes together. There are many different ways in which silk can be woven – satin weave, plain weave and open weave are most common, and the finish of the silk will depend on the type of weave.

Generally, weaving involves interlacing two sets of threads so that they lock around each other and create a strong, uniform piece of

fabric. The threads will be woven at right angles to each other, and the two different angles are called a warp and a weft. The warp will run up and down the fabric, while the weft runs across it.

6. Printing

Should a piece of silk require a special pattern or design, it will need to be printed after pre-treatment. This can be done in two different ways: Digital Printing or Screen Printing.

Digital silk printing uses a specially designed textile printer, using ink to transfer hand drawn or digitally produced artwork on to fabrics.

Screen printing is the traditional, more hands-on method of essentially creating the same outcome – though in some cases, a bolder, more vibrant look may be achieved due to a thicker application of ink.



7. Finishing

In order to be deemed ready for use, silks must be finished. Finishing a piece of silk gives it that highly lustrous sheen that it is so commonly known for, and is the reason that the desired look and feel can be achieved.

Silk finishing can be done in many different ways, mainly by applying different chemical treatments which can add a host of valuable properties including fire resistance and crease-proofing.

Overcoming Difficulties: Embracing Advancement in Pakistan Textile Industry



The textile business in Pakistan is confronting heap difficulties lately, counting rising energy costs, expansion, a serious lack of cotton, and a boycott on all imports of hardware and synthetics.

These difficulties have put colossal tension on the business and compromised its endurance. In any case, there is a promising sign not too far off - embracing artificial filaments and investigating new areas of significant worth expansion, like specialized and execution materials, the industry can conquer these difficulties and arise more grounded than at any other time.

One of the most promising solutions for the textile industry is to shift towards manmade fibers, primarily polyester.

Polyester is a versatile material that is widely used in a range of applications, from clothing to home textiles. By using polyester, the textile industry can reduce its reliance on cotton, which is currently facing severe shortages, and tap into a new market that is in high demand.

Additionally, polyester has the added advantage of being cost-effective, which can help reduce the production cost of textiles. Another

promising solution for the industry is to explore new areas of value addition such as technical textiles and performance textiles, including sportswear.

Technical textiles are fabrics that are designed to provide specific functionalities such as flame resistance, UV protection, and water resistance, among others.

Performance textiles, on the other hand, are fabrics that are designed to enhance athletic performance by providing moisture management, breathability, and other benefits.

By focusing on these areas of value addition, the industry can tap into new markets and diversify its product offerings.

The cotton alternatives such as viscose should also be considered. Viscose is a type of rayon that is made from natural materials such as wood pulp. It has a similar texture to cotton and is a cost-effective alternative that can help to alleviate the shortage of cotton in the market.

The last eight months have been very challenging for the industry, with the increase in production costs and lost orders due to the recession in the West.

However, by embracing man-made fibers, exploring new areas of value addition, and considering alternatives to cotton, the industry can weather the storm and emerge stronger than ever before.

In conclusion, the challenges facing the textile industry in Pakistan are complex and require a comprehensive approach from the government and relevant stakeholders.

By embracing innovative solutions such as man-made fibers and exploring new areas of value addition, the industry can overcome these challenges and emerge as a competitive player in the global market. It is imperative that the government and relevant stakeholders work together to support the industry.

TEXTILE EXPORTS			
In Billion Dollars			
Month	FY22	FY23	% Change
July	1.47	1.48	1%
August	1.46	1.58	8%
September	1.49	1.53	3%
October	1.60	1.36	-15%
November	1.74	1.42	-18%
December	1.62	1.36	-16%
January	1.55	1.32	-15%
February	1.67	1.18	-30%
March	1.63	1.26	-23%
April	1.74	1.23	-29%
May*	1.64	1.31	-20%
Total	17.61	15.02	-15%

*Provisional

• Textile exports decreased by **20%** in May-23 as compared to May-22
• Textile exports decreased by **15%** in 11MFY23 compared to 11MFY22



PAKISTAN & RUSSIA BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

The bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia have undergone significant developments in recent years. While historically the two countries had a complex relationship during the Cold War era due to Pakistan's close ties with the United States and Russia's alliance with India, the dynamics have evolved since then. Here is an overview of the current state of Pakistan-Russia bilateral relations:

1. Diplomatic Engagement:

Diplomatic engagement between Pakistan and Russia has increased in recent years. High-level visits by officials from both countries have taken place, including visits by the respective foreign ministers. These visits have helped in strengthening political and diplomatic ties.

2. Defense Cooperation: Defense cooperation is a crucial aspect of Pakistan-Russia relations. The two countries have conducted joint military exercises and exchanged defense-related delegations. Pakistan has shown interest in acquiring

military equipment from Russia, including helicopters and anti-aircraft systems. In 2014, Pakistan and Russia signed a defense cooperation agreement, further enhancing military ties.

3. Economic and Trade Relations: Economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Russia have room for growth. The bilateral trade volume remains relatively low compared to the potential. However, efforts are underway to boost economic cooperation.

Both countries have expressed interest in expanding trade in various sectors such as energy, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals. In 2018, Pakistan and Russia signed a bilateral investment treaty to facilitate investment flows.

4. Energy Cooperation: Energy cooperation has emerged as a significant area of collaboration. Pakistan has expressed interest in importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia. In 2020, the two countries signed an agreement for the construction of the North-South Gas Pipeline,

which will transport gas from Karachi to Lahore. There have also been discussions about potential collaboration in nuclear energy.

5. Regional Connectivity: Pakistan and Russia have shown mutual interest in regional connectivity initiatives.

They are both stakeholders in the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which aims to connect the Pakistani port of Gwadar with China's northwestern region. Russia has expressed interest in utilizing the CPEC route for trade purposes.

6. Counterterrorism Cooperation: Both countries have recognized the importance of cooperation in combating terrorism and extremism.

Pakistan and Russia have exchanged intelligence on security matters and conducted joint military exercises focused on counterterrorism. They have also engaged in trilateral cooperation with China to address common security concerns.

Pakistan-Russia Relations

Pakistan and Russia (former Soviet Union) established diplomatic relations on 1 May 1948. Both the countries enjoy close, friendly and cooperative relations and bilateral relations are marked by mutual respect, trust and convergence of views on most international and regional issues.

Pakistan aims to forge long-term multi-dimensional strategic partnership with the Russian Federation in the fields of trade, energy, culture, defence, security and people-to-people contacts.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries dates back to the Soviet times. Karachi Steel Mills, major thermal power facilities at Muzaffargarh, Multan-II and Guddu were built by Soviet Union. Besides Soviet Union also helped Pakistan in the establishment of Oil and Gas Development Corporation Ltd. (OGDCL) and in the development of agriculture sector of Pakistan.

Both countries have similar stakes in durable peace and stability in their common neighbourhood and harbor shared aspirations for regional development and prosperity.

High Level Interaction:

The upward trajectory of bilateral relations is being maintained through sustained high-level interactions and strong institutional mechanisms.

Pakistan's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as a full member, has infused a new energy to our ties with the Russian Federation. Pakistan highly values the support extended by the Russian Federation during its membership process.

At that time Former Prime Minister Imran Khan met with the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitri Medvedev on the sidelines of the 'China International Import Expo' on 5 November 2018. Besides, Former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi held bilateral meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov twice in 2018.



The first meeting was held in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 73rd Session in September 2018. FM Qureshi also held talks with Russian Foreign Minister on 26 December 2018 in Moscow.

2017 was particularly important year from political point of view for both countries as significant meetings took place including bilateral meetings between the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the President of the Russian Federation in Astana on 9 June 2017 and Prime Ministers of both countries in Sochi on 30 November 2017.

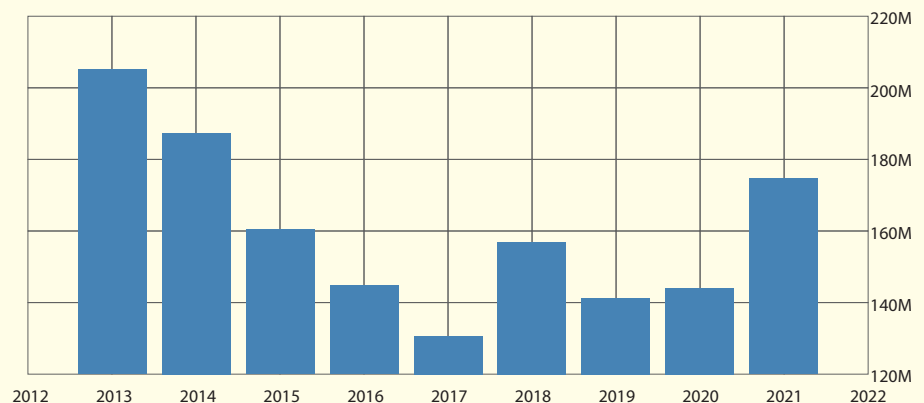
Both the meetings were held on the sidelines of high-level SCO meeting. Besides, there have been eight (08) visits from Pakistan at the ministerial levels including Ministers from Foreign Affairs, Defence, Water & Power, Science and Technology,

Industries and Production, Defence Production, Commerce and Textile and National Health Services in 2017.

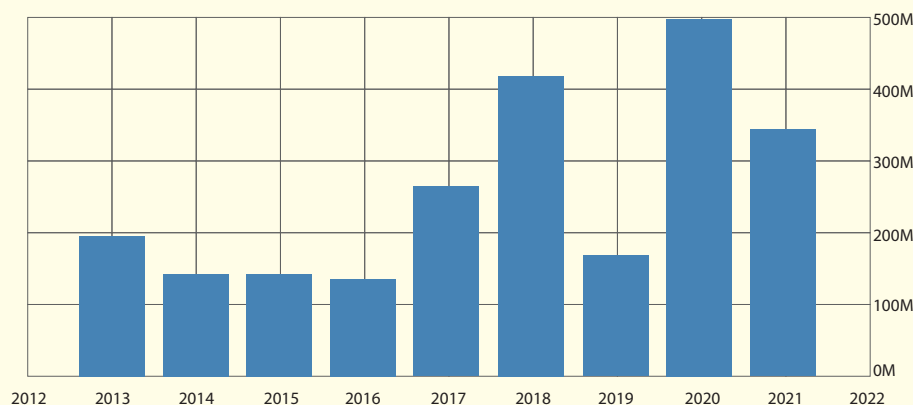
Parliamentary Level Exchanges:

Bilateral exchanges at Parliamentary level have also expanded in recent times. Acting Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla led a five-member delegation to the International Conference on the Role of Parliaments in the Modern World: Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation — 25 Years on the Path of Multidimensional Parliamentary Cooperation».

The conference was held on 10 December 2018 in Moscow. Senator Mushaid Hussain visited Russia in October 2018 to attend the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP).



Pakistan Exports to Russia was US\$175.2 Million during FY 2021-22



Pakistan Exports to Russia was US\$175.2 Million during FY 2021-22

Besides, former Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited Russia in December 2017 to participate in the conference called Parliamentarians Against Drugs. Besides, former Chairman Senate of Pakistan led a 16-member delegation to the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in October 2017 in Saint Petersburg.

From the Russian side Chairman State Duma (lower house of Russian Parliament) Vyacheslav Volodin paid first ever visit to Pakistan in December 2017 to participate in the six country «Regional Conference on Challenge of Terrorism and Inter Regional Connectivity». The Chairman of the Russian 'State Duma Committee on International Affairs' Mr. Leonid Slutsky visited Pakistan in November 2017, during his visit he called on the Speaker National Assembly and met with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

Trade Cooperation:

Bilateral trade between two countries is increasing steadily. Pakistan's major exports to Russian market include, cotton, textiles, leather, synthetic fabrics, rice, fruits, surgical and sports goods. Our major imports include fertilizers, chemical elements and compounds, rubber, tyres and tubes, paper and paper board, iron and steel (raw and manufactured products) and machinery.

Pakistan-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation is an important institutional mechanism to review whole

spectrum of bilateral cooperation and chart down roadmap for future developments. The Inaugural Session of the IGC was held in Moscow on 21 September 2010. The Fifth Session of the IGC was held in Moscow from 28 to 30 November 2017.

Trade Wing

Trade Wing of the Embassy is entrusted with the task of increasing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia. It stays in regular contact with the relevant Ministries and Departments of the Russian Federation, as well as of Pakistan to address the issues hindering the growth of bilateral trade.

It is heartening to observe that bilateral trade between both the countries is on an upward trajectory. Businessmen, importers, exporters and investors of both the countries interested in establishing business relations with their counterparts are encouraged to contact Trade Wing for any kind of information or query. Trade Wing carries out a wide range of activities for promotion of bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries. The main functions of the Trade wing are as follows:

- Sectorial analysis of the Russian economy;
- Maintenance of dialogue with relevant Russian authorities;
- Facilitating businessmen during their visits to Russia and vice versa;
- Organizing events, exhibitions, promoting Pakistani products;

v. Conducting and coordinating the visit of Russian companies for participation in exhibitions being organized in Pakistan;

vi. Assistance in business matchmaking and establishment of business contacts between respective counterparts;

vii. Information sharing regarding business activities, tax regulations, investment opportunities in both countries;

viii. Identification of trade barriers and working out proposals for their elimination;

ix. Facilitating the introduction of Pakistani companies in Russian market and vice-versa.

Pakistan makes its first purchase of discounted Russian oil

Pakistan has placed its first order for discounted Russian crude oil under a deal struck between Islamabad and Moscow, the country's petroleum minister said, with one cargo to dock at the port of Karachi in May.

Pakistan's purchase gives Russia a new outlet, adding to Moscow's growing sales to India and China, as it redirects oil from western markets because of the Ukraine conflict.

As a long-standing Western ally and the arch-rival of neighbouring India, which historically is closer to Moscow, analysts say the crude deal would have been difficult for Pakistan to accept, but its financing needs are great.

Discounted crude offers respite as Pakistan faces an acute balance of payments crisis, risking a default on its debt obligations. The foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank are scarcely enough to cover four weeks of controlled imports.

Energy imports make up the majority of the country's external payments.

Why EcoRon ?



Gatron (Industries) Ltd.



Decrease Carbon Footprint
by 1,040 tons per year



Reduce Landfills across
the country



Lower dependence on
fossil fuels



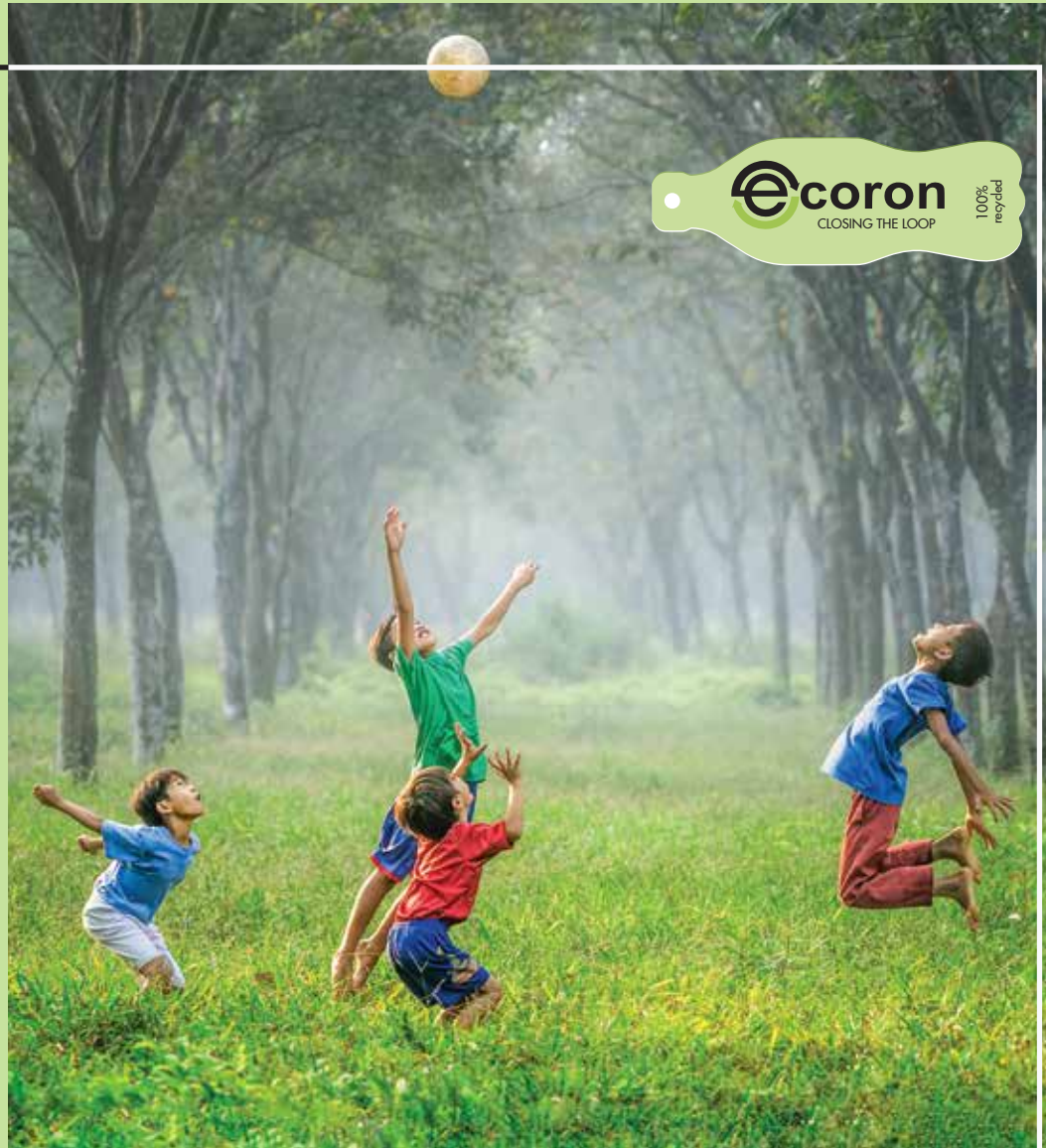
Increase Bio Diversity

Ecoron is closing the loop by
minimizing waste in the
community

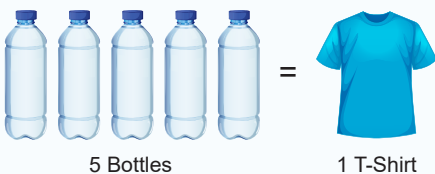
Our yarn is made from 100%
post consumer recycled
PET bottles

We are recycling 14 million
plastic bottles every month

The quality of Ecoron is
comparable to virgin yarn



Gatron (Industries) Ltd. belongs to a group of companies, G&T – Gani & Tayub. The group is in business since 1948. These seven decades of operational excellence, experience and expertise have all formed a combined strength to empower the group as a leading name in Polyester Filament Yarn, Polyester Chips and PET Resin in Pakistan.



STRIVING FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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yarnnorth@gatronova.com



Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association



The Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association was established in 1960 in pursuance Companies act VII of 1913 (Now Companies Ordinance 1984) and Mr. S. Osman Ali, S.QA, CSP, Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce issued license no.49 on 21 st April 1960.

Certificate of Incorporation was issued on in favour of The Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association under the Companies act VII of 1913 (Now Companies Ordinance 1984) on 24th November 1960 by Mr. M.Y. Siddiqui, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Karachi.

Founder members

Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Mr. Ahmad Adaya
Mr. Mohammad Ismail Ahmed, Mr. Suleman Dawood
Mr. Mohammad Siddique, Mr. A. Razzak Aziz
Mr. Zakir Mashhadi, Mr. Noor Mohammad Osman
Mr. Abdul Shakoor Naviwala

Objectives

Following are the key objectives for which The Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association was established.

1. To protect and promote in Pakistan and elsewhere the interest of merchants and dealers in Yarn of all grades, kinds and descriptions, including Cotton & Mercerized Yarn, Silk & Rayon Yarn, Woolen Yarn, Staple Fibre Yarn and all other Synthetic Yarns and to take all steps, necessary or advisable, for the protection and promotion of the trade in Yarns generally.

2. To create a spirit of co-operation and mutual help amongst the Members of the Association in all problems, which relate to the Yarn trade and to secure wherever possible, organized and/or concerned action on all subjects involving interests of Members.

3. To collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to the import, export or sale of Yarns of all grades, kinds and descriptions, and to print and publish any rate and price circulars, reports, books and leaflets that the Association may think desirable for the promotion of its objects.

4. To consult and communicate with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Chamber of Commerce, Associations, and other Mercantile and public bodies in Pakistan and elsewhere and to promote measures for the protection and promotion of interests of trade, commerce and industry and /or persons engaged therein.



Mr. Sohail Nisar (Senior Vice Chairman P.Y.M.A)

Hello Textile would like to thank the executive committee of P.Y.M.A namely Mr Usman Iqbal (Patron in Chief & Former Chairman), Mr. Sohail Nisar (Senior Vice Chairman) and Mr Saqib Goodluck (Former Chairman) for giving their valuable time and joining us for a brief session.

Hello Textile: How does PYMA stand for the betterment of such a vital industry? & what makes PYMA's members different to those without PYMA?

PYMA: We are one of the premier yarn industry association and ready to play the role of a catalyst, driving all subsectors of the industry under one platform towards path of growth. Common industry challenges are being taken together for public advocacy.

The Government is giving due importance to the textile industry as it has the potential to perform in the larger interest of the economy. It is unfortunate for those not being its members. However, legislation is under process for all those not registered with the respective associations.

PYMA has been successful in achieving tangible results on issues confronted by the yarn industry, and thus its members are largely benefitted.

Hello Textile: How many members are registered with PYMA and what benefit do they get after becoming the members?

PYMA: As of now there are in excess of 650 members (Punjab & Kpk: 350+ whereas Sindh & Balochistan: 300+) registered with us. PYMA provides a wide range of services and support to their members. Some of the key benefits of being a member include:

1. PYMA represents the interests of their members and

advocate for policies that benefit the industry as a whole.

2. PYMA provides members with access to valuable information, research, and resources that can help them stay informed and competitive.

3. PYMA provides a platform for members to connect and network with industry peers, potential customers, and suppliers.

4. PYMA offer training and educational programs to help members stay up-to-date with the latest trends and best practices in their industry.

5. PYMA promote their members and their products and services through various channels, including trade shows, conferences, and other events.

Hello Textile: How does PYMA collaborate with government and other stakeholders?

PYMA: We collaborates with various stakeholders, including the government, to promote the interests of their members.

They engage in advocacy and lobbying efforts to influence policy decisions and regulations that affect their industry. PYMA also work with academic institutions, research organizations, and other industry associations to share knowledge and resources and collaborate on projects and initiatives.

Hello Textile: What kind of role are trade associations playing for the betterment in Pakistan?

PYMA: Trade associations in Pakistan play a crucial role in promoting and protecting the interests of various industries and businesses.

These associations work to establish common standards and best practices, advocate for policies that benefit their members, and provide a platform for networking and collaboration among industry peers.



Hello Textile: How would you evaluate textile and garment industry performing presently as an earning member for country's economy?

PYMA: The textile and garment industry has historically played a significant role in many countries' economies, particularly in developing nations. It has been a major source of employment, export earnings, and economic growth in several countries.

Textile industry is the mainstay of Pakistan's economy. It accounts for around 9% of GDP, over 50% of merchandise exports and around 45% of the manufacturing sector workforce. Approximately 3.5 million direct labor force is employed by the textile industry.

Indirect employment and unorganized sector employment is not accounted for. Both Textile & Clothing sector performed very well last year and posted pronominal profits. In spite of all odds the Industry even posted profits last year.

The textile industry is confronted with the menace of energy supply disruptions. Challenges include both, energy security and affordability coupled with high interest rate and spiraling inflation.

We see a great potential for both textile and clothing industry, provided we are able to manage these challenges. we are confident that we can double our capacities and exports in the shortest possible time.

Hello Textile: What is your say of the 5pc RD that is imposed on Polyester Yarn by the Government? Do you think this will benefit the yarn manufacturers & traders?

PYMA: We (P.Y.M.A) together with other local trade bodies and associations rejected the ECC decision to impose 5 percent regulatory duty (RD) on polyester filament yarn because it was primary raw material of textile industry. We totally condemn this move because it will lead to the destruction of 800,000 power looms which are the lifeline of textile industry.

We would also like to highlight here that local yarn manufacturers are not producing the required yarn and its total local capacity is estimated to be 35 percent only and still 65 percent goods are being imported.

On the other hand that there is already 11 percent customs duty on polyester filament yarn, and with 5% RD, the duty will be 16 percent while fabric is also subject to 16 percent duty.

So it is better to directly import finished fabric rather to import Yarn and pay the same amount of custom duty.

This will save time and money but at the same time it will have adverse effects on the domestic workforce & production and millions of workers will be unemployed, pushing around 2 million households into poverty.



War in Ukraine

leaves lasting scars on the global economy

It has been over a year since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the war's economic impact still reverberates around the world. The war – while not being the key factor explaining the slower-than-anticipated economic growth in 2022 and downgraded forecasts for 2023 – weighed negatively on global economic activity, adding to inflationary pressures worldwide and impeding the post-pandemic recovery.

The war has contributed to volatile and elevated commodity and energy prices, which exacerbated food shortages and stoked inflation in many regions across the world. Although energy and grain prices subsided from their mid-2022 peaks, the risks of their resurgence remain, and Europe may still face challenges to its energy security.

Some effects of the war have been mitigated by targeted policy measures and initiatives, including the UN-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative. Nevertheless, uncertainty over the duration and intensity of the conflict, along with potential export restrictions in food-exporting countries, mean that food supply challenges will likely persist in 2023. Countries have also taken steps to secure imports of essentials, given the disruption of supply chains. It remains an open question as to whether global supply chains will evolve into significantly different configurations, given the accumulated experience with the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 launched last month has estimated some of the economic consequences of the war. Ukraine's economy suffered heavy losses, contracting by over 30 per cent in 2022 according to preliminary



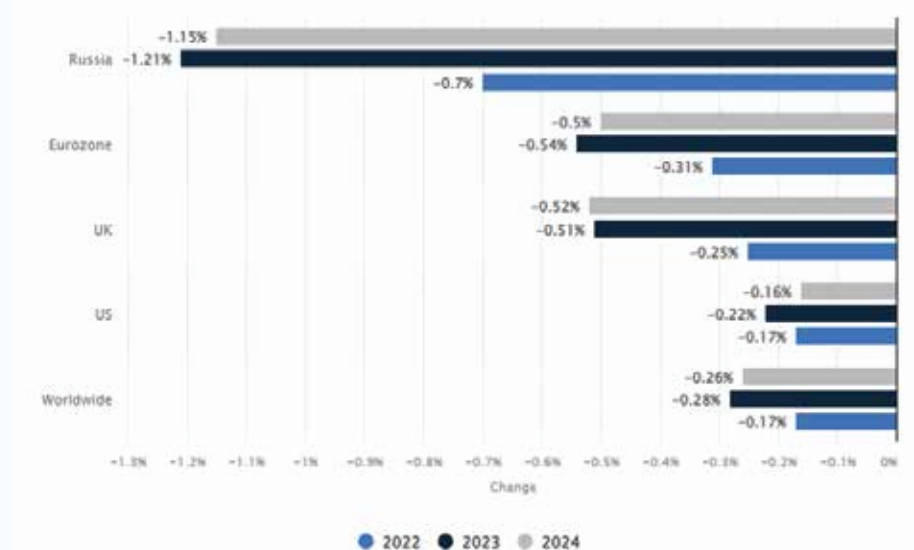
national data, and after the end of the conflict, will need large-scale and expensive reconstruction efforts. International support for Ukraine from various partners has remained steadfast over this period.

While initial estimates had predicted a 10 to 15 per cent contraction in the Russian economy, the contraction over 2022 was considerably lower at 2.1 per cent according to most recent data from the Russian Federal State Statistics Service, as export earnings remained strong despite the war and

a range of sanctions. However, the near-term outlook for the Russian economy remains uncertain.

Near-term economic prospects for the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia have been significantly impacted. Impacts occur through numerous channels, including migration, commodity prices, market volatility, remittances and changes in fiscal space. Individual country effects vary by degree of exposure and coping capacity, and several economies have performed better than foreseen earlier due to the relocation of some economic activity from the Russian Federation. In the longer run, political and economic fallout from the conflict is likely to shape trade and finance flows in CIS countries and the overall framework of their integration into the global economy.

It's important to emphasize that the specific impact on the global economy depends on the duration and intensity of the conflict, as well as the responses of various countries and international organizations. Geopolitical conflicts have complex and interconnected effects, and it may take time to fully assess their consequences on the global economic landscape.



Estimated impact of the Ukraine crisis on global economic growth from 2022 to 2024

A person wearing a VR headset is shown in profile, interacting with a futuristic digital interface. The interface features various elements like a 'FUTURISTIC HUD', a 'TEST' button, a 'JAMRON' button, and several circular progress indicators. The person's hand is visible, interacting with a glowing digital sphere. The background is a dark, textured surface with a blue and purple color scheme.

The Metaverse: Bridging the Physical and Digital Worlds

In the vast expanse of the universe, with its millions of galaxies, imagine a digital galaxy like Earth where customisation knows no bounds. With the advent of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) headsets, we can now teleport into this world—a galaxy called the metaverse.

Within this metaverse, multiple planet-like worlds have emerged, such as Decentraland, Zepeto, and Roblox, each revolving around the core concept of an open-world experience.

To fully immerse ourselves in these digital planets, we utilise avatars as mediators between the physical and digital realms. Avatars allow us to teleport into the digital world and can be personalised and customised to our liking. Depending on our tastes and preferences, the customisation options are vast and unique to each individual.

Just as two persons avatars will differ, so too will their activities within the metaverse. For example, one person may have an interest in attending a virtual music concert, while another may prefer participating in a thrilling car race.

Some may even indulge in virtual shopping, where brand choices and

preferences vary. The metaverse thus provides a personalised experience, offering insights into users' preferred activities, preferred social interactions, and behavioural patterns.

For those seeking unique experiences in life, the metaverse opens up new possibilities. Users can purchase non-fungible tokens (NFTs) to acquire add-on items like body skins, accessories, garments, and gestures. Luxury brands like Gucci have even ventured into this space, launching NFT versions of their products. In fact, the Gucci Dionysus bag sold on NFT platforms for more than its physical counterpart. Users can also purchase virtual land and establish retail stores or create customised homes.

The metaverse enables direct sales to avatars, eliminating intermediaries. This direct-to-avatar (D2A) commerce is considered the future of e-commerce, where brands engage directly with end consumers.

Entrepreneurs like Andrew Kiguel, co-founder and CEO of Tokens.com, have recognised this potential and invested millions in the metaverse. Kiguel has even rented out spaces in the metaverse for fashion shows and retail shops.

What's more, brands across

industries have also begun to embrace the metaverse. Gucci, H&M, Samsung, Vodafone, and others have already established virtual malls. Hyundai has launched the Hyundai Mobility Adventure games, while Louis Vuitton commemorated its 200th anniversary with a game within the metaverse.

The ability to merge the physical and digital worlds has paved the way for brands to explore the metaverse. It represents the evolution of the online shopping experience and provides a competitive edge.

The possibilities are limitless, as demonstrated by Nike, which introduced an NFT digital twin of its physical hoodie in the metaverse, complete with wings.

Tools like Unreal Engine's MetaHuman Creator allow users to create highly realistic digital replicas of themselves, enabling them to try on clothes and make purchases for both their physical selves and their digital twins. Metaworlds like Zepeto even enable users to dress their avatars in Gucci attire.

Looking ahead, the metaverse offers numerous opportunities for retail organisations. The choice of metaverse use cases will be influenced

by the key differentiators each organisation employs to compete in the market. Whether it is recreating in-store experiences for clothing stores, furniture showrooms, or automobile dealerships, the metaverse provides a solution.

The pandemic has accelerated the adoption of various talent engagement applications, such as virtual training, onboarding, and mentoring. Retail businesses need to broaden their scope and consider adopting a distinct approach when it comes to selling their products within the metaverse. By embracing the metaverse, retail brands can tap into new markets, engage with consumers directly, and stay ahead of the competition.

A Phygital World: Are We Ready?

Phygital is a complete cycle that strengthens and improves the physical experience using hybrid virtual spaces. With the metaverse on the virtual horizon, we predict that 'phygital' will go through a seismic shift, sparking a new wave of creativity, imagination, and ingenuity.

Digital twins and phygital objects will help build the foundations of the industrial metaverse, which opens up a discussion about how smart cities of

the future will operate. The metaverse could host data-driven cities that use intelligent systems, signifying an ambitious shift towards techno-urbanism. Smart city initiatives are already underway in many metropolitan areas around the world, including the South Korean capital of Seoul.

Seoul is undergoing a digital transformation on a city-wide scale that promises to be the first metropolitan government with a full-service virtual world. Park Yun-Gyu, Head of Communication at the South Korean Ministry for Science & ICT, said in a recent statement. "It is important to create a world-class expanded virtual world ecosystem as a starting point for intensively fostering the expanded virtual world."

A range of public services will be available in the Seoul metaverse by 2023. A virtual city hall where citizens can meet avatars of public officials is in the works and will go a long way in making public services more accessible.

Citizens will also be able to file other types of administrative requests including booking library meeting rooms or tennis court slots. One of the biggest advantages of a virtual city hall is its capacity to overcome time, space and language barriers. Citizens can even use cell phones

connected to IoT to visit cultural sites virtually if they can't be there in person. This is particularly important for vulnerable communities such as disabled residents who can engage with public services safely and conveniently.

It's compelling to think that one day soon, a city of almost 10 million people will have smart infrastructure and super-personalized experiences powered by the combined might of the metaverse, Web 3.0, IoT, and phygital technology. One question still remains. Are we ready to embrace a world powered by smart technologies, interoperability, and mass technology integration? The data points to yes.

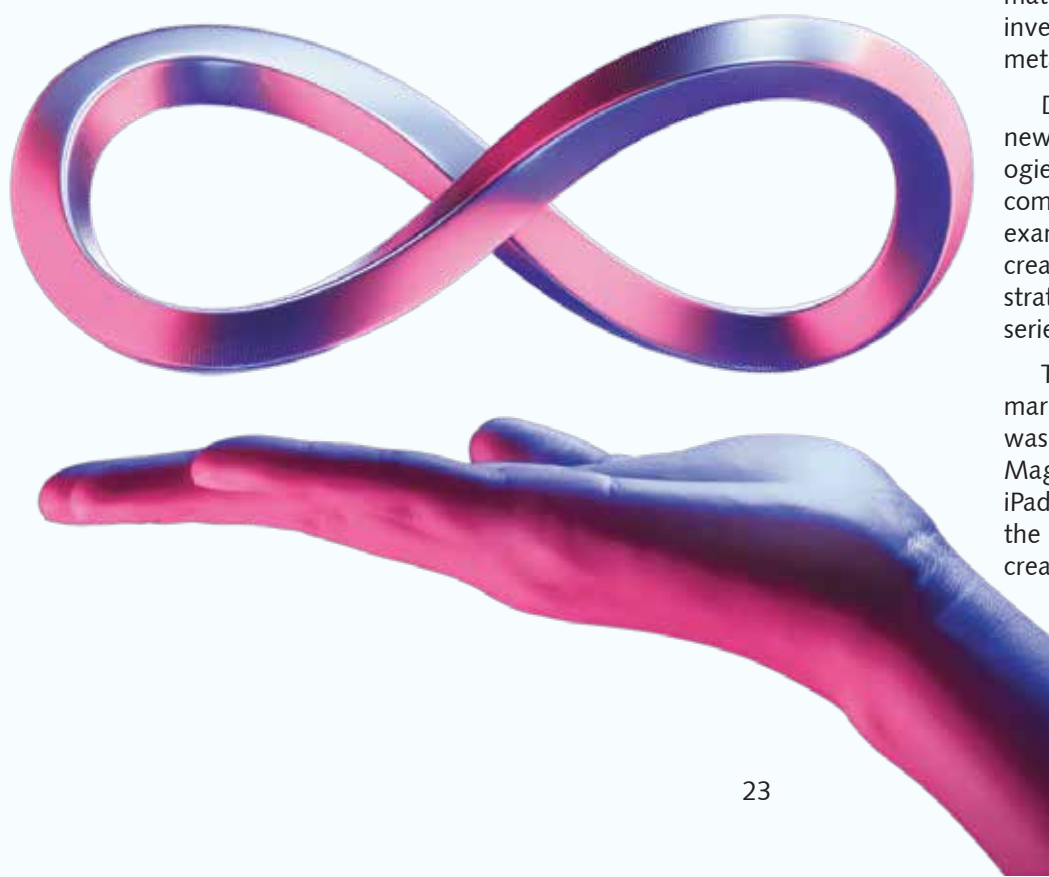
According to Statista, smart infrastructure is the largest segment of the global smart city market, with revenues worldwide forecast to reach more than 70 billion U.S. dollars in 2021.

This constitutes a market share of almost 55 percent for intelligent infrastructure within the global smart city market. These numbers show the increasing importance of the digital format, which will one day become the backbone for persistent, virtual worlds based on our own.

The world as we know it is quietly undergoing a technological transformation as businesses and consumers invest more time and money in the metaverse.

Developers are already discovering new applications for phygital technologies that will rewrite how we communicate and interact forever. For example, tech firm Magik Book created a unique Phygital marketing strategy with their interactive book series.

Theory designed a physical marketing catalog for Porche which was displayed in car showrooms. The Magik Book digitally connects to an iPad, and as consumers flip through the pages, related content is displayed creating a unique phygital approach.



Exploring Nooriabad: A Thriving Hub of Industrial Excellence

Nooriabad Industrial Area, located in the Sindh province of Pakistan, stands as a testament to the nation's commitment to economic growth and industrial development. Established in 1989, Nooriabad has emerged as a dynamic industrial hub, attracting both local and international businesses. With its strategic location, supportive infrastructure, and a business-friendly environment, Nooriabad Industrial Area has become a preferred destination for various industries. Factories located here are almost 70 percent big Textile Mills which includes cotton , yarn , weaving , spinning , dyeing , garments etc and 30 percent are others which include rice , steel , ply, cement industries & others.



In this article, we delve into the key features and significance of this thriving industrial zone.

Prime Location:

Nooriabad Industrial Area enjoys a strategic location, situated along the Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway (M-9), approximately 80 kilometers from Karachi, the country's largest city and commercial hub. Its proximity to major transportation routes facilitates the seamless movement of goods and raw materials, making it an ideal choice for industries requiring efficient logistics.

Infrastructure and Facilities:

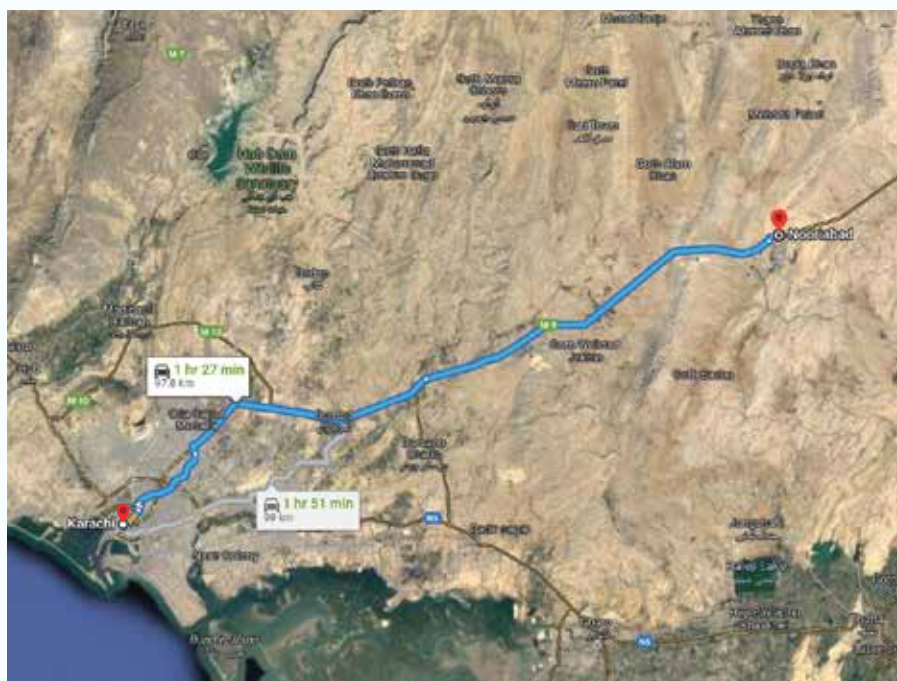
One of the key factors contributing to Nooriabad's success is its well-developed infrastructure and modern facilities. The area boasts a network of well-paved roads, ensuring easy accessibility for transportation and commuting. Additionally, it offers reliable power supply, ample water resources, and advanced telecommunications infrastructure, providing industries with the necessary resources to thrive.

Diverse Industrial Base:

Nooriabad Industrial Area houses a diverse range of industries, making it a multifaceted economic zone. It accommodates manufacturing units for textiles, garments, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, food processing, plastics, packaging, and automotive parts, among others. This diverse industrial base creates a synergistic environment, fostering collaboration and promoting growth through inter-industry linkages.

Job Creation and Economic Growth:

The establishment of Nooriabad Industrial Area has been a significant catalyst for job creation and economic growth in the region. With a large number of industrial units operating in the area, thousands of job opportunities have been generated, leading to improved livelihoods and economic prosperity for the local population. Moreover, the industrial activity in Nooriabad contributes to the national economy through increased tax



revenues and exports.

Business-Friendly Policies:

The government of Pakistan has introduced several business-friendly policies to attract investment and promote industrial development in Nooriabad Industrial Area. These policies include tax incentives, streamlined regulatory procedures, and special economic zone status, providing an enabling environment for businesses to flourish.

The supportive measures have encouraged both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors to set up operations in the area, further

enhancing its industrial landscape.

Efforts Towards Sustainability:

Nooriabad Industrial Area is not only focused on economic growth but also committed to environmental sustainability. Many industries within the zone have adopted eco-friendly practices, investing in waste management systems, energy-efficient technologies, and pollution control measures. This proactive approach towards sustainability ensures responsible industrial practices and minimizes the ecological impact of industrial activities.



Nooriabad power station to provide 100 MW electricity to K-Electric.

Jhimpir Wind Power Plant:

The Jhimpir Wind Power Plant is located in Jhimpir, a town in the Thatta District of Sindh province, Pakistan. It is one of the largest wind power projects in the country and has a total capacity of around 150 MW. The plant consists of numerous wind turbines that harness the strong wind resources in the area to generate electricity.

The Jhimpir Wind Power Plant plays a significant role in Pakistan's efforts to diversify its energy mix and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. It helps to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to the country's sustainable development goals.

Overall, both Jhimpir Wind Power Plant and Nooriabad contribute to Pakistan's renewable energy sector, promoting clean and sustainable electricity generation. These projects are part of the country's broader efforts to address energy shortages, reduce reliance on imported fuels, and combat climate change.

Weather:

Temperature is not much hot in Summer, and remains usually between 30°C to 45°C, and cool winds blow due to near sea side and fresh breeze from the sea side. Rainfall is near normal depending on weather patterns all the year around. In winter, the temperature is between 06°C to 28°C, not too cold in day time however in night time it is cool. The Winter months are from December to February.



Jhimpir Wind Power Plant

Conclusion:

Nooriabad Industrial Area stands as a shining example of Pakistan's dedication to industrialization and economic progress. With its strategic location, robust infrastructure, diverse industrial base, and business-friendly policies, it continues to attract investments and foster innovation.

As the industrial sector in Nooriabad thrives, it creates employment opportunities, fuels economic growth, and contributes to the overall development of the region and the nation.

The future looks promising for Nooriabad Industrial Area, as it strives to become a regional hub of industrial excellence. It's worth noting that while Nooriabad is famous for its industrial activities, it also has natural beauty and serves as a gateway to the scenic Kirthar National Park, which attracts tourists and nature enthusiasts.

NOORIABAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Location	District Dadu on Super Highway 90 km From Karachi
Year of Establishment	1983
Total Area	3,342 acres
Total Number of Plots	1,150 plots
Size of Plots	0.5-1.0 acres
Uptake/No. of Plots Allotted	522 plots; Occupancy - 30%
Industrial Plots Availability	Plots are available
Infrastructure	Roads, Sewerage, Electricity, Water Supply, Telephone
Nearest City	Karachi
Type of Industry	Textile, Light Engineering, Food Processing, Chemical Plants



TEXPO 2023

26TH-28TH MAY 2023 EXPO CENTRE, KARACHI - PAKISTAN



The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Karachi under supervision of Ministry of Commerce organized the 4th Edition of TEXPO with Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala and Secretary Fareed Iqbal Qureshi in attendance as chief guests from 26-28 May 2023 at Expo Center Karachi.

The event showcased the textile and leather industry's offerings from all across Pakistan, ranging from leather garments, footwear, cotton, ready-made garments, home textiles, denim, knitwear, and sportswear, among others.

TEXPO 2023 has attracted buyers from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, China, Japan, Columbia, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran, and 77 non-traditional markets.

TEXPO is one of the largest exhibitions of international textile and leather sectors. The event was marketed in more than 60 countries across the world. The goal of the event was to attract foreign investments showcasing best textile and leather products of Pakistan during the exhibition. TDAP invited foreign delegates for participation in the

event.

Zubair Motiwala welcomed all foreign delegates and stated that Pakistan offers complete vertically integrated textile production facilities and an opportunity to diversify the supply chain for all delegates visiting. "TEXPO 2023 is going to be a big show under one roof as far as Pakistani textile is concerned. It is a flagship event for our country, and we wholeheartedly thank all the foreign delegates for registering and visiting."

The theme for the 4th Texpo was **"Weaving the way to Sustainability"** as the importance of combating global warming and climate change for Pakistan has been visibly seen and felt by the devastating floods of 2022. The theme pays tribute to the efforts of the local and global textile industry that has been at the forefront of striving to ensure compliance to local and international laws and customer requirements working to adopt eco-friendly practices in sourcing and production thus contributing towards making a difference environmentally, economically, and socially.

In light of TEXPO 2023's theme, a

two-day fashion show was held on May 26 and 27, which showcased Ready-to-Wear, Resort Wear, and Luxury Pret items with a focus on sustainable fashion. The event featured collections exclusively curated by Pakistani designers and design houses along with Pakistan's top male and female models





Pakistani designers impress Chinese at TEXPO 2023 fashion show

The TEXPO 2023 fashion show in Karachi was a remarkable event, showcasing the best of Pakistani design and textiles to the international audience.

This event was organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

A Chinese citizen Zhang from Guangzhou told China Economic Net that the fashion show highlighted the rich culture and heritage of Pakistan, while also showcasing its modern designs. It was a great opportunity for

Pakistani designers to showcase their talent and skills to the Chinese audience and make an impression on them.

He further said that the Texpo 2023 fashion show served as a platform for both countries to strengthen their economic ties through trade in textiles today show featured some of the most talented designers from Pakistan.

"I'm thankful to Guangzhou Consulate that providing me this opportunity to attend the textile exhibition and honestly before coming to Pakistan I was not expecting such a great fashion show and exhibition as well. It was really surprising for me and now I can say that Pakistan is one of the advanced countries in these sectors", he added.

It is pertinent to mention that after COVID-19 Pakistan organized the largest textile exhibition where more than 400 delegates from 60 countries participated in the exhibition, with around 100 Chinese enterprises.

On the side forums of TEXPO 2023 a fashion show was held in Karachi, and it was attended by Chinese, Pakistani, and other international entrepreneurs, textile manufacturers, designers, and fashion enthusiasts.





The Persistent Gas Crisis Triggers Economic Meltdown, increasing consumers' hardships!

Pakistan has been facing a persistent energy crisis largely due to mounting circular debt coupled with a recurring balance of payment crisis which is due to an external financing gap of \$6 billion for a breather till June 2023 to resume the IMF-EFF program, needed to bring external account stability.

The unbudgeted subsidies, DISCOs inefficiencies, delayed tariff adjustment, theft, high T&D losses & governance issues have not only deteriorated the financial position of the entire energy chain but also skyrocketed energy tariffs for the exporters, industrial sector and domestic consumers.

According to the Special Committee on Gas circular debt, it reaches Rs1.64 trillion. In addition to this, despite the massive increase in electricity prices, circular debt has skyrocketed to over Rs 4 trillion till Feb 2023, as electricity circular debt stood at Rs 2.67 trillion.

This circular debt is having a cascading effect on the economy which accumulates public debt,

affects the energy chain and bleeds exporters' capacity.

The government has already increased gas tariffs up to 112% recently. Whereas, for captive & general industries gas tariffs have increased by 32.31% & 23.34% respectively. Moreover, under the tough conditionalities of the IMF program, after the withdrawal of subsidy for exporters, cost of the electricity skyrocketed to 1.7 times compared to Vietnam, around 1.3 times to Bangladesh, and around 0.9 times to India & over 1.1 times to China respectively (assuming the effects of rupee devaluation & GST effects).

The cost of electricity is anticipated to increase in the coming months.

Every winter triggers a gas crisis & despite several announced gas load management plans by governments & unfortunately, every winter the same gas load management plan ends up in a flawed & useless exercise. This not only wastes national resources at the cost of economic growth but also

increases general public hardships.

The scale & intensity of this ongoing crippling gas crisis in 2022-23 particularly in Pakistan's economic hub, Karachi & generally in Sindh, can be understood from the fact that the gas crisis started a few months back before the winter arrived in Oct last year & is continuing despite summer having struck the ground. This spell of ongoing gas crisis extended for around 6 months, which is unprecedented in Pakistan's history.

South Asia Projected Real GDP Growth in 2023

Countries	Projected Real GDP growth
Pakistan	0.40%
India	6.30%
Bangladesh	5.20%
Bhutan	4.50%
Maldives	6.60%
Srilanka	-4.30%

Source: World Bank



The Petroleum Minister in his recent visit to the KCCI said we're working on a mechanism and committed to resolving the gas crisis for domestic and industrialists, but cannot provide gas 24/7 as a) leftover gas 1,600 MMCFD for the entire country & b) reserves depleting in most parts of the country.

Firstly, our reserves are depleting because we have not tapped unconventional sources of energy, unavailability/lack of service providers/technologies & independent upstream regulators which have caused huge delays in the extension of leases, award/cancellation of E&P blocks & allocation of oil & gas to buyers.

The multiple regulators and inconsistent policies have also contributed to complex issues that led to either delays or failure in achieving set production targets.

Secondly, according to media sources, CM Sindh in a meeting with the Petroleum Minister to resolve the gas crisis in the province, said; the total gas production of Pakistan stands at around 3,358 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD).

Out of which, Sindh's share in production is 62-65% or 2,100 to 2,200 MMCFD & total demand of Sindh province is around 1,600 to 1,700 MMCFD. Therefore, after meeting domestic requirements, Sindh is surplus with around 350-400 MMCFD.

The President of KCCI Mr Tariq Yousuf has shown serious concerns over the suspension of gas supply, and said; local production has deteriorated by 25% which is hampering exports. Without immediate restoration of gas, industries can't function as businesses are not viable anymore. Mr Zubair Motiwala former president

of KCCI & chairman of the Businessmen Group raised pertinent questions in OGRA'S gas hearing at SSGC recently, despite increasing gas tariffs, we are burdening domestic industry beyond its capacity, which has become uncompetitive compared with India & Bangladesh, how can the industries run in such a situation? This will put the industry at standstill.

We have been passing through the most critical economic times in the history of Pakistan. Line losses & leakages of domestic consumers are huge. Fertilizers are making huge amounts of money & the highest-paid companies on the stock exchange. Providing subsidies to the fertilizer industry & supplying gas at a lower rate.

Industries are not getting any gas in the SITE area, drying without any gas, yet increasing the gas tariff for the industry, would increase unemployment & eventually we won't be able to compete with Bangladesh as its textile exports skyrocketed to \$40 billion. In 50 years, time, Bangladesh skyrocketed and what we have done?

On account of multifaceted issues, the rupee devaluation of over 36%, stood at Rs284.64 in the interbank market against the dollar, has exacerbated imported fuel costs, LCs issues, dollar & raw material shortages, and historic policy rates of 21% (expected to reach 22-23% till June 2023), & a whopping hike in gas/electricity & petroleum prices made Pakistan's businesses uncompetitive compared to India, Bangladesh & Vietnam. After every 2-3 years, a recurring balance of payment crisis reaches a level & every govt is forced to pursue unwanted IMF programs & implement tough macroeconomic adjustments, that badly affect the quality of growth & the business cycle.

Looking at the gravity & complexities of Pakistan's energy sector, even the resumption of the IMF program alone won't fix the gigantic energy sector's circular debt syndrome, which has detrimental effects on the productive capacity of the exporters & bleeding the economy every day. The World Bank projects Pakistan's lowest economic growth after Sri Lanka in 2023. According to the World Bank, Pakistan's Real GDP is projected to drop to 0.4% in 2022-23 compared to 5.97% last year which is an unprecedented contraction of over \$21 billion in one year caused a massive drop in exports, hyperinflation & unemployment.

During the ongoing economic slowdown and domestic and external shocks, Pakistan's total exports to GDP (goods + services) which stood at 10.29 percent, may further go down this year. This export to GDP had peaked at 14.76% in FY2006 & deteriorated by 4.47% in GDP terms. The cumulative loss in terms of the GDP is around a whopping \$17 billion.

According to the PBS, Pakistan's export has deteriorated by over \$2.30 billion or 10% in Jul-Mar 2022-23 compared to last year.

If the ongoing crisis persists, it is expected that Pak exports to remain around \$28-29 billion in FY23 & may further plunge in FY23. Moreover, Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) production has dropped by 4.40% during July-Jan of 2022-23 compared to last year. Whereas, LSM output dropped by 7.9% in Jan 2022-23 as compared to last year, which is largely due to the delays in LCs opening on imports, shortage of raw material, steep currency devaluation & high energy tariffs & policy rates.

Pakistan's Exports in Jul-Mar 2022-23

(\$bln)	Period	2022-23	2021-22	% Change
Goods Exports	Jul-Mar	21.04	23.35	-9.89%
Goods Impots	Jul-Mar	43.94	58.85	-25.34%
Trade Deficit	Jul-Mar	-22.90	-35.50	-35.49%

Source: PBS

12 Beaches You Must Visit in Karachi

Karachi is the largest city in Pakistan. It is the city of lights with a population of around 30 Million. It is situated on the seashore. That increases its beauty and importance.

It is sixth most populous city in the world with a population of over 20 million people. It is located on the eastern coast of the country and is the economic and cultural capital of Pakistan. Karachi is also the capital of the Sindh province. It offers a range of attractions for visitors. Here are some of the top attractions in Karachi:

1. Mohatta Palace: This historical palace-turned-museum showcases the rich culture and heritage of Karachi. Built in the early 20th century, it features an exquisite blend of Islamic and Rajput architecture and houses a collection of art, artifacts, and exhibitions.

2. National Museum of Pakistan: Located in the heart of Karachi, the National Museum is a treasure trove of Pakistani history, art, and culture. It has a vast collection of ancient artifacts, sculptures, manuscripts, and archaeological finds.

3. Frere Hall: A beautiful colonial-era building, Frere Hall is a cultural and recreational center in Karachi. It hosts art exhibitions, literary events, and houses a public library. The surrounding Bagh Ibn-e-Qasim park is a pleasant place for a leisurely walk.

4. Mazar-e-Quaid (Quaid's Mausoleum): This impressive mausoleum is the final resting place of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. It is a significant national monument and a symbol of reverence for the country's independence.

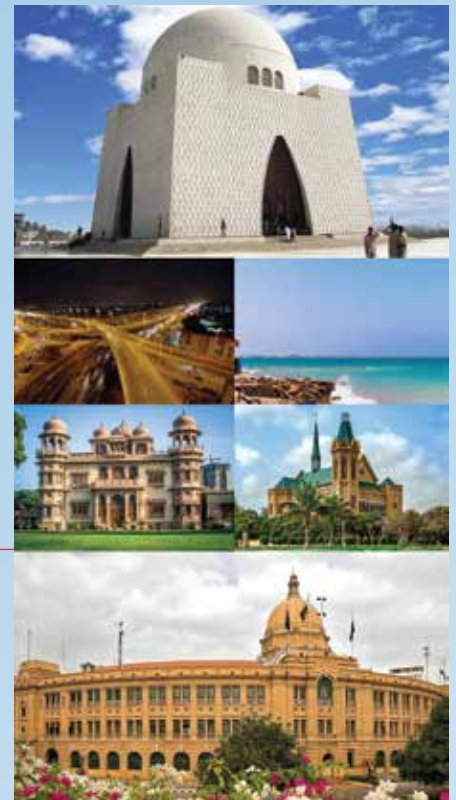
5. Karachi Safari Park: Spread over a vast area, the Karachi Safari Park offers a unique wildlife experience. It

has a zoo section with a variety of animals, including lions, tigers, zebras, and monkeys. The park also has a dedicated safari area where visitors can observe animals in a more natural habitat.

6. Pakistan Maritime Museum: Situated near Clifton Beach, this museum highlights the maritime history and naval heritage of Pakistan. It features various galleries, including ship models, naval weapons, and displays on the Pakistan Navy.

7. Port Grand: Located at the Karachi Port Trust area, Port Grand is a popular waterfront entertainment complex. It offers a diverse range of dining options, shopping outlets, live music, and an overall festive ambience.

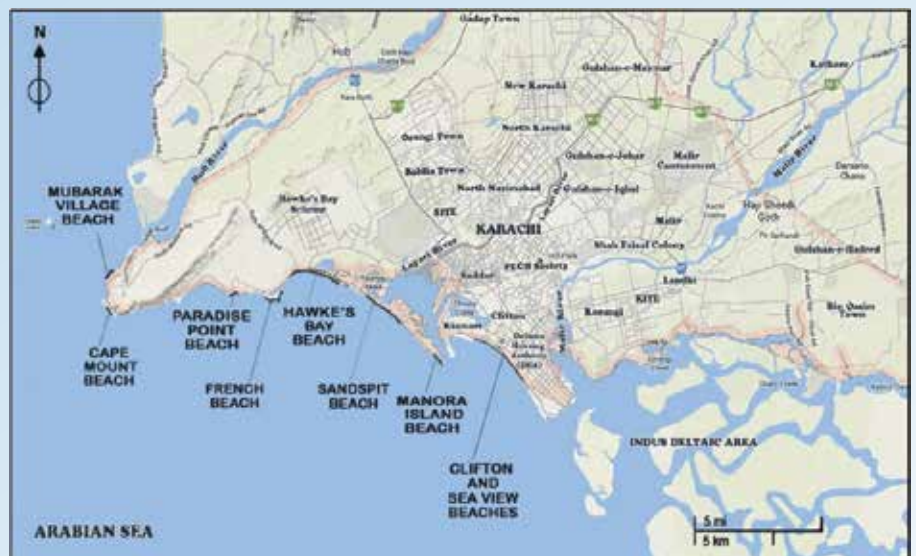
8. Empress Market: A bustling marketplace in the heart of Karachi, Empress Market is a great place to experience the city's vibrant street life.



It offers a wide array of goods, including fresh produce, spices, clothing, and handicrafts.

9. Churna Island: While not directly in Karachi, Churna Island is a popular day trip destination for water enthusiasts. Situated off the coast of Karachi, it is known for its crystal-clear waters, vibrant coral reefs, and opportunities for snorkeling, scuba diving, and boat trips.

These are just a few of the many attractions Karachi has to offer. The city also boasts a lively food scene, shopping malls, historical sites, and architectural landmarks worth exploring.



French Beach

French Beach, also known as Plage de France, is a popular beach located in Karachi, Pakistan. It is situated on the Arabian Sea coast line and is

known for its serene beauty and clean environment. The beach is

named "French Beach" due to its

popularity among the French expatriate community in Karachi.

French Beach offers a more secluded and tranquil experience compared to other beaches in the city. It is surrounded by rocky cliffs and has soft golden sand, making it an ideal spot for relaxation and leisure activities.

One of the unique features of French Beach is that it is a private beach. Access to the beach is restricted, and visitors are required to obtain a special pass from the local authorities or through private beach resort operators.

Mubarak Village Beach

Mubarak Village Beach is a popular tourist destination located near Karachi, Pakistan. It is known for its scenic beauty, serene environment, and sandy shores. Mubarak Village is situated on the Arabian Sea coast, making it a picturesque spot for beach lovers.

Visitors to Mubarak Village Beach can enjoy various activities such as swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, and beachside walks.

In this article, we will tell you about the top known and unknown beaches in Karachi.

The beach offers stunning views of the sea and the surrounding cliffs. It's a great place to relax and unwind, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

One of the main attractions of Mubarak Village Beach is its vibrant fishing community. You can witness local fishermen bringing in their fresh catches and experience the lively atmosphere of the village. It's an excellent opportunity to learn about the traditional fishing practices and culture of the area.

While visiting Mubarak Village Beach, it's essential to respect the local customs and dress modestly, as the area has a conservative cultural background. It's also recommended to bring your own food, water, and other supplies, as there might be limited facilities available on the beach.

Turtle Beach

Turtle Beach is located between hawks bay and Sandspit beach. This beach is the home of green turtles. In the winter season, after sunset, you can watch these turtles. Bluewater is the major attraction of turtle beach Karachi. Turtle Beach is the famous and best spot for tourists in Karachi. This is a sandy beach with no stones. In the Summer season, green and olive turtles come there to give eggs.



Clifton Beach

Clifton beach is located in the Arabian Sea (from Karachi to Ormara beach Balochistan). This is a famous beach in Pakistan and is always open to common people. Do Darya restaurant is located near this beach but this is the place for cultural food and seafood in Karachi. Those who pay a visit to Clifton Beach must go to the Do Darya restaurant. At the end of the 20th century, Huffington Post regarded this beach as the "Most Famous Beach in Karachi".



Hawks Bay Beach

It is situated on the Arabian Sea coastline and is known for its beautiful sandy beach and clear blue waters. Hawksbay Beach is approximately 20 kilometers southwest of the city center of Karachi and can be reached by road.

The beach offers a serene and picturesque environment, making it a favored spot for picnics, family outings, and recreational activities. Visitors can enjoy swimming, sunbathing, and taking leisurely walks along the shoreline.

Hawksbay Beach is known for its stunning sunsets, which attract many people during the evening hours. It is advisable to carry your own food and drinks, as there are limited food options available at the beach.



Nathia Gali Beach



The beach of Nathia Gali is located 40 kilometres southwest of Karachi. The final point on Karachi's coastline is Nathiagali Beach, which is a naval facility. Access to this beach is **RESTRICTED**. You can only travel if you have a senior-ranking military link and are accompanied by your host. Your host will need to make a reservation through his or her unit in advance.

Manora Island Beach

Manora is a small peninsula located near Karachi port. The island is about a 15–20-minute boat journey from mainland Karachi. It is a captivating coastal destination that offers a serene and picturesque environment for visitors. With its rich history and breathtaking scenery, Manora Beach is a must-visit for nature lovers and history enthusiasts alike. Manora Beach is renowned for its pristine shoreline, clear turquoise waters, and golden sand.

The beach provides a peaceful and tranquil setting, perfect for relaxing and rejuvenating. Adventure enthusiasts can indulge in various water sports and activities at Manora Beach. From jet skiing to banana boat rides, there are plenty of options to satisfy the thrill-seekers.



July-Sep (2023)

Korangi Creek

Korangi Creek is a residential and commercial area located in the southern part of Karachi, Pakistan. It is situated along the Arabian Sea coastline and is known for its scenic beauty and upscale living. The creek itself is a natural tidal inlet that extends into the area, providing a serene environment for residents.



Korangi Creek is considered one of the most prestigious and affluent neighborhoods in Karachi. It features a mix of luxurious villas, high-rise apartment complexes, and gated communities. The area is well-planned and offers modern infrastructure, landscaped parks, and wide roads. It is known for its greenery, with tree-lined streets and lush surroundings.

The location of Korangi Creek provides residents with easy access to various amenities and facilities. It is in proximity to several prestigious schools, hospitals, shopping centers, and recreational areas. Additionally, there are numerous restaurants, cafes, and entertainment options available in and around the area.

Devil's Point

Devil point is a beach near DHA Phase 8. it is a relaxing point in Karachi. But why this beach is called Devil's point, no one knows the exact reason for this. One reason is told among karachiites that, Best car and bike riders from Karachi come here to do racing, wheeling, and driving. That's why many accidents take place here. Despite this, people come here and spend their time sitting and watching the blue water.

Cape Monze Beach

Cape Monze Beach is known for its picturesque beauty, with golden sandy shores, crystal-clear blue waters, and rocky cliffs. The beach is surrounded by rugged hills, adding to its natural charm. It's a favorite spot for locals and tourists alike, especially during weekends and holidays.

Visitors can enjoy various activities at Cape Monze Beach, such as swimming, sunbathing, and picnicking. The calm waters make it suitable for leisurely swimming, although it's always essential to take necessary precautions and follow safety guidelines.

Sunehra Beach

Golden Beach, near Mubarak Village Road, is a fantastic beach for families. Sonera Beach is a popular fishing site in Karachi, as well as a popular tourist destination during vacations and weekends. Visitors come from all over the world to experience the enjoyment of catching fish and then sharing a meal with friends. Visitors may participate in a variety of sporting activities such as driving boats, taking a swim on the beach, lying down in the sea, driving boats, playing games, and riding camels.

Russian Beach Karachi

The Russian Beach is situated on Mazar Road in Qasim Town. This beach not only has calming waves and a soothing atmosphere but is also an exciting place for those who are fond of fishing. Moreover, it is a beautiful place with huts alongside the water in temperate weather and soothing waves.

Time before the Russian engineers came to Pakistan in the following area to work in the technical swap. With the help of Russian engineers, the Pakistan Steel Mills was created, so the land was called to be the leisure point for Russian engineers. This is why this place is called Russian Beach.

Enhancing the Competitiveness of Pakistan's Leather Garment Industry

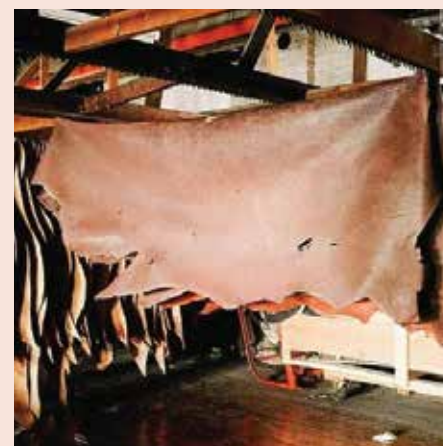


government and private sector are working together to address these challenges and to promote the growth of the industry.

After textiles and vegetables, Pakistan's leather industry, including value addition, ranks third in export revenue (sector as a whole). Over 800 tanneries in Pakistan are actively engaged in making the best quality finished leather from Cow, Buffalo, Sheep, and Goat skins. Thus, Pakistan is known as the center for producing high-grade leather and leather products.

Pakistan is rich in agricultural products and has a large livestock population which plays an important role in the economy of Pakistan by producing around 13.0 Million Hides and 47.4 Million Skins per annum (2022-23). The type of sheep skins we have in Pakistan is better in respect of grain, substance and compactness of fibers.

Pakistan is an Islamic republic democrat country having unofficial population count approx. 220 millions. All Muslims celebrate Eid-e-Qurban occasion once a year, when they slaughter/sacrifice minimum one of the animals from Cow, Buffalo, Goat and Sheep that day following the tradition of Prophet Ibrahim. Every Muslim has a yearning desire to sacrifice most beautiful and healthy animal on that day. Due to this collective sacrificial slaughtering of animals on such a large scale, massive amounts of animal hide are easily and readily available that tanneries can buy. About 60% - 80% of total raw material requirement is fulfilled every year this way.



Pakistan is one of the largest producers and exporters of leather products in the world. The leather industry in Pakistan is one of the oldest and most established industries in the country, dating back to the 1940s. It is an important sector of the economy, contributing significantly to the country's export earnings and providing employment opportunities to millions of people.

Pakistan's leather industry is concentrated in the city of Karachi, which is home to a large number of tanneries, leather product manufacturers, and exporters. The industry is vertically integrated, with tanneries, leather goods manufacturers, and exporters all working together to

produce and market a wide range of leather products.

The leather industry in Pakistan is known for its high-quality leather, which is exported to many countries around the world.

The most significant markets for Pakistan's leather products are Europe, the United States, and the Middle East. Pakistan's leather exports include finished leather, leather garments, leather gloves, leather footwear, leather goods, and leather chemicals.

Despite its importance to the country's economy, the leather industry in Pakistan faces a number of challenges, including environmental concerns, low productivity, and lack of modern technology. However, the

A Quick Look on History

At the time of independence there were only a few tanneries producing sole leather and that too at a very small scale.

- In the early days of independence some tanneries were established in Karachi.
- In 1950's some were established in Lahore and adjoining areas.
- The 1960's saw the installation of more units in other parts of the country like Multan, Sahiwal, Kasur, Gujranwala and Sialkot. These units were well-equipped with the latest and modern facilities. More advanced units were established in the 1970's and Pakistan started production of finished leather.
- The era of 1980's saw a period of improved quality production.
- In 1990 the leather sector jumped to become the second largest foreign exchange earner for the country by contributing 10.41 percent toward the total export revenue.
- During July-November 2015-16, the leather exports of Pakistan faced a decline of 27 percent while India, which exported 43 percent more leather garments, witnessed 27 percent increase in its leather exports during the same period.

Cities of Pakistan Famous for Leather Production

Even though there are factories that make leather all over Pakistan, including in Kasur, Lahore, and Multan, over 90% of goods and clothing are produced in Karachi and Sialkot.

Very few of these leather goods are marketed in the local market; almost all are exported. In Pakistan, there are more than 2500 tanneries, both registered and unregistered.

The major cities with developed leather industries include Sialkot, Karachi, Kasur, Gujranwala, Multan, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Hyderabad, and Peshawar. In the country, there are 784 leather units, 461 leather garment manufacturing units,



348 glove units, and more than 524 footwear units.

Areas	No. of Leather Industries
Sialkot	53
Karachi	44
Lahore	9
Others	5

The typical sources of raw materials for leather production are the cow, buffalo, goats, and sheep. Firstly, the tanning procedure includes a preparatory stage (Soaking, Liming, De-fleshing, De liming, Bating, and Pickling). Following the preparatory stage, the tanning stage begins, and many tanning techniques are typically used, including (Vegetable tanning, Aldehyde tanning, Synthetic tanning, and Chrome tanning).

Then, post-tanning procedures include slamming, splitting, skiving, and neutralizing, dyeing, greasing, drying, and finishing come after the tanning stage. Finally, colors are applied to the leather's surface to cover any scars or damage.



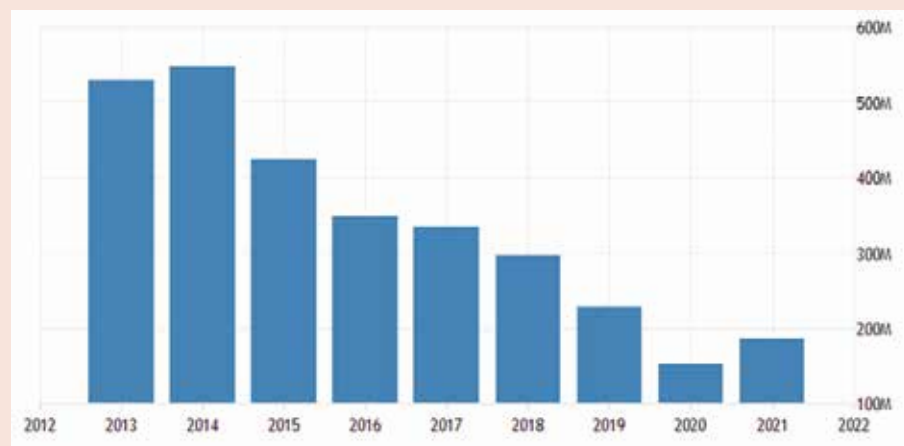
Pakistan's Raw Leather & Leather Apparel Exporting Countries

Pakistan was the fourth-largest exporter of leather apparel in the world in 2020 with \$588M in exports.

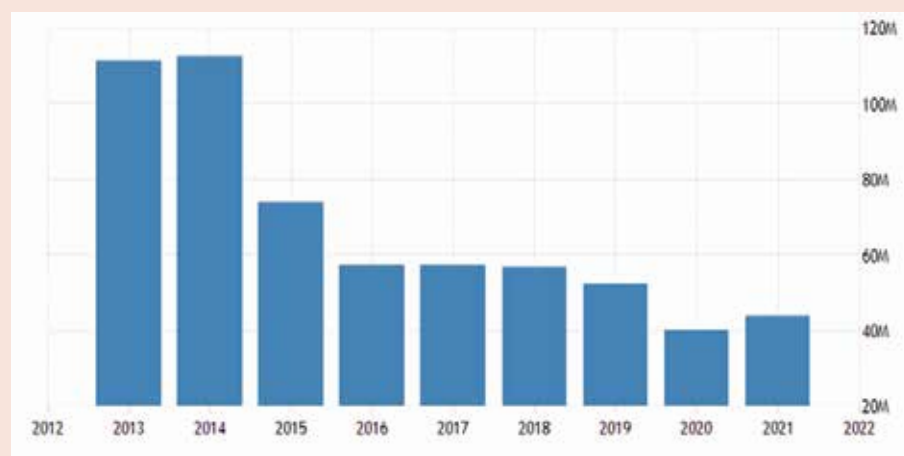
Meanwhile, In the same year, leather apparel was Pakistan's ninth-most-exported good. United States (\$117M), Germany (\$101M), Canada (\$37.2M), Poland (\$35M), and the United Kingdom (\$26.9M) is Pakistan's top export markets for leather clothing.

Moreover, Pakistan receives its raw skin and hides from China, Kenya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Tanzania. As a whole, major countries importing leather goods from Pakistan include Italy, Germany, France, the United States, Portugal, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan, Belgium, Spain, Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Mexico, Chile, Poland, Russia, Denmark, and South Africa.

***Pakistan Exports of raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather was US\$186.9 Million during 2021-22**



***Pakistan Imports of Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather was US\$43.53 Million during 2021-22**



Final Thoughts

Comparing Pakistan's leather garment export performance to that of its main rivals reveals that Pakistan's leather garment exports outperformed the global average in both the ten-year CAGR (-4.83%) and the yearly growth rate (-8.17%).

These growth rates surpass those of both India and Italy. Also, the Pakistani government supports the leather clothing business by removing import customs charges, increasing the duty drawback rates on leather clothing, lowering regulatory fees, and starting the Sialkot Tannery Zone project.

The industry has embraced the automation of customs procedures. Before the sector can once again prosper, though, there is still a ton of work to be done.

About 0.3 million people have employment prospects in the leather business, which also generates significant amounts of foreign exchange for the nation.

Additionally, Pakistan's livestock population assures a steady supply of raw materials for the leather industry. With all these advantageous circumstances, Pakistan's leather sector ought should have grown and generated significant foreign exchange earnings for the country.

SUDAN CONFLICT

why is there fighting and what is at stake in the region?



Power struggle between military factions erupted after faltering transition to civilian-led government.

Intense clashes between Sudan's military and the country's main paramilitary force have killed hundreds of people and sent thousands fleeing for safety, as a burgeoning civil war threatens to destabilize the wider region.

What's behind the fighting?

The clashes erupted in the middle of April amid an apparent power struggle between the two main factions of the military regime.

The Sudanese armed forces are broadly loyal to Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the country's de facto ruler, while the paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a collection of militia, follow the former warlord Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti.

The power struggle has its roots in the years before a 2019 uprising that ousted the dictatorial ruler Omar al-Bashir, who built up formidable security forces that he deliberately set against one another.

When an effort to transition to a democratic civilian-led government faltered after Bashir's fall, an eventual showdown appeared inevitable, with diplomats in Khartoum warning in early 2022 that they feared such an outbreak of violence. In the weeks before clashes broke out tensions had risen further.

How did the military rivalries develop?

The RSF was founded by Bashir to crush a rebellion in Darfur that began more than 20 years ago due to the political and economic marginalization of the local people by Sudan's central government. The RSF was also known by the name of Janjaweed, which

became associated with widespread atrocities.

In 2013, Bashir transformed the Janjaweed into a semi-organised paramilitary force and gave their leaders military ranks before deploying them to crush a rebellion in South Darfur and then dispatching many to fight in the war in Yemen, and later Libya.



Sudan's armed forces are broadly loyal to Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the country's de facto ruler.

The RSF, led by Hemedti, and the regular military forces under Burhan cooperated to oust Bashir in 2019. The RSF then dispersed a peaceful sit-in that was held in front of the military headquarters in Khartoum, killing hundreds of people and raping dozens more.

A power-sharing deal with the civilians who led the protests against Bashir, which was supposed to bring about a transition towards a democratic government, was interrupted by a coup in October 2021.

The coup put the army back in charge but it faced weekly protests, renewed isolation and deepening economic woes. Hemedti swung behind the plan for a new transition, bringing tensions with Burhan to the surface.

Hemedti has huge wealth derived from the export of gold from illegal mines, and commands tens of thousands of battle-hardened veterans. He has long chafed at his position as official deputy on Sudan's ruling council.

What are the faultlines?

A central cause of tension since the 2019 uprising has been the civilian demand for oversight of the military and integration of the RSF into the regular armed forces.

Civilians have also called for the handover of lucrative military holdings in agriculture, trade and other industries - a crucial source of power for an army that has often outsourced military action to regional militias.



The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces are loyal to Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti.



Smoke rises during clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Khartoum, Sudan

Another point of contention is the pursuit of justice over allegations of war crimes by the military and its allies in the conflict in Darfur from 2003. The international criminal court is seeking trials for Bashir and other Sudanese suspects.

Justice is also being sought over the killings of pro-democracy protesters in June 2019, in which military forces are implicated. Activists and civilian groups have been angered by delays to an official investigation. In addition, they want justice for at least 125 people killed by security forces in protests since the 2021 coup.

What's at stake in the region?

Sudan is in a volatile region bordering the Red Sea, the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa. Its strategic location and agricultural wealth have attracted regional power plays, complicating the chances of a successful transition to civilian-led government.

Several of Sudan's neighbours – including Ethiopia, Chad and South Sudan – have been affected by political upheavals and conflict, and Sudan's relationship with Ethiopia, in particular, has been strained over issues including disputed farmland along their border.

Sudanese refugees have fled the recent fighting to the country's neighbours, including thousands who have crossed into Chad.

Major geopolitical dimensions are also at play, with Russia, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other powers battling for influence in Sudan.

The Saudis and the UAE have seen Sudan's transition as an opportunity to push back against Islamist influence in the region. They, along with the US and Britain, form the "Quad", which has sponsored mediation in Sudan along with the UN and the African Union.

What happens next?

Despite the three-day cease-fire currently in place, neither leader has yet signaled a willingness to begin negotiations to end the conflict, which analysts believe will quickly engulf the country's infrastructure and draw in surrounding nations.

The RSF is likely to target oil infrastructure linking South Sudan with Khartoum and the export terminal at Port Sudan.

Revenue from pipeline transit fees is controlled by the SAF and Hemedti's forces will seek to cut this off in the event of an extended war."

Damage to this oil infrastructure would disrupt the oil exports of Chinese, Indian and Malaysian companies in South Sudan that depend entirely on Sudan for access to the global market.

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