

Leather industry hit by demonetisation: survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, December 19

Trade in major clusters of leather and related products has been hit hard by the demonetisation, industry body Assocham has said.

“There has been a significant decline in the arrival of animal hide. While tanneries in Chennai have recorded more than 60 per cent fall in skin arrival, other major leather clusters – Agra, Kanpur and Kolkata have recorded over 75 per cent decline in this regard,” a survey-cum-analysis on ‘Impact of Demonetisation’ on the leather industry by Assocham, said.

“The leather industry is reeling under stress as butchers are not providing animal hide for (which) they are not being paid in cash, tanneries are not able to get the hide transported as they are unable to pay the drivers in cash,” it said.

Moreover, the survey said, shortfall in coal supply for boilers is also adding to the industry’s woes. Assocham interacted with representatives of

about 100 tanneries in major leather clusters – Agra, Chennai, Kanpur and Kolkata – in the last fortnight to assess the impact of Centre’s November 8 decision to demonetise 500 and 1,000 rupee notes.

It observed that the leather industry in aforementioned centres has been facing grave difficulties in production activity due to demonetisation as they are unable to make payments on every level be it for raw material, for transportation and the workforce.

Majority of total respondents said their production has declined by over 60 per cent while number of workers in leather factories has also come down drastically by about 75 per cent as they are not being paid on time, it said.

Even industries have to lay off employees due to lack of finances, the survey highlights.

About 60 out of 100 respondents said they are no longer taking export orders as they would not be able to complete order on time.

Leather industry takes 60-75% blow from demonetisation

LUCKNOW: Trade in major clusters of leather and related products in India has been hit hard by the demonetisation, industry body Assocham said on Monday.

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About 60 out of 100 respondents said they are no longer taking export orders in the wake of demonetisation as they would not be able to complete order on time. Many of the industry representatives said that leather industry would take 9-12 months time to recover from the impact of demonetisation, it pointed out.

Cash crunch continued to hit the people in Mumbai over 40 days after the demonetisation move, even as the queues for depositing the old scrapped notes at the banks eased.

However, the people are irked as ATMs at many places continue to run out of cash.

"There is a short queue for withdrawal and almost no queue for the deposits. You can

see it here," said a senior executive of a leading private bank in Fort area. A senior officer at Department of Post, Maharashtra and Goa Circle, said, "The numbers of depositors as well the amount of deposits across the five regions in the circle have reduced by over 80 to 85 per cent and so is the case with opening new accounts."

However, some people in the city complained that the note ban has increased their difficulties.

Sheetala Prasad, a grocery owner from suburban Kandivili, said, "These days have been the worst days for my business. We are facing a lot of problems for want of cash."

He expressed unhappiness over the Rs 50,000 withdrawal limits for current account and Rs 24,000 for savings account.

Expressing his anguish over the ATMs running out of cash, Ramesh Tripathi, a trainer at a gym in South Mumbai, said, "The ATMs have virtually become defunct. The 'ATM Closed' boards are now a permanent feature." P11

Leather industry hit as firms fail to pay in cash

Lucknow: Though PM Narendra Modi in Kanpur on Monday termed demonetisation the beginning of a bright future, a survey showed leather industry across the nation was suffering due to cash crunch. The owners are not being unable to make payments for raw material, transportation and the workforce. One of the country's major export industries, it has been hit hard by the Centre's demonetisation move, claims a quick survey-cum-analysis by ASSOCHAM. TNS

Telcos Bolster Security Infra amid Digi-Push

BAR THE DOORS Even as enterprise security spending is expected to rise 10% on-year, experts warn that telecom networks may still be vulnerable

Devina Sengupta & Neha Alawadhi

Mumbai | New Delhi: India's largest telcos have ramped up security infrastructure to guard against hackers and cyber-attacks amid increasing focus on digitisation, but experts stress that multiple aspects of a telecom network could be exploited by such criminals.

According to Garther, enterprise security spending (hardware, software and services) in India is on pace to reach \$1.12 billion in 2016, up 10.6% from \$1.01 billion in 2015.

"We deflect close to 10 million threats per day to our network across India," said Vodafone India, the country's second largest telco, in an email response to queries from ET. It plans to launch its payments bank by March 2017.

Vodafone, which operates mobile wallet M-Pesa, said it is constantly fine-tuning security. For this, it uses cyber intelligence from internal

and external sources as well as data mining and analytics processes identical to big data analysis.

Market leader Bharti Airtel, which started a payments bank last month, said it too has beefed up security. "For securing financial transactions, we have PCI/DSS certification for all payments we get on Airtel, which has been extended to the payments bank," it said.

Airtel is collaborating closely with regulators, the government and industry bodies to detect attacks at emergent stage. It said it is helping both feature and smartphone users with advanced anti-money laundering and fraud management technologies for real time detection. It also employs ethical hackers who break into protected systems and networks to assess security.

According to a study by industry body ASSOCHAM and research firm EY, mobile frauds are an area of great concern for companies as 40-45% of financial transactions are via

mobile devices. This threat is expected to grow to 60-65% by 2017.

Experts say despite heavy investment, aspects such as applications and services provided on top of the network are more prone to attacks.

"I think there is a lot of scope for improvement, particularly when we are talking about privacy of individuals, money involved, applications residing on top of hardware. More often than not, these are vulnerable and that's where security is required," said Amresh Nandan, research director for communications service provider technology at research firm Garther.

In India, some of the ways data is collected are themselves not safe, allowing access to cyber criminals. Nandan said most ways to acquire customer data — much of which still requires paperwork and ID photos of photocopies — and how this data is stored are not very clear.

Lack of strong data protection and privacy laws further compounds the

Hackers Alert!

Telcos say they have beefed up security with increased focus on digital

Vulnerable points in a telecom system remain, such as...

1. The network
2. Applications and services provided by telcos
3. Data collection and storage processes



» Some telcos ask write hat, or ethical hackers to help find vulnerabilities

» Indian technology, privacy and data laws are not adequate to address the ways and means of cyber crime

problem for end users.

Saket Modi, CEO of cyber security company Lincidus, pegged telcos as more secure on an average than FinTech companies. "In the case of telcos, in general, people are not publicly exposed to base stations or network switches in a telecom network. It is relatively difficult to find vulnerabilities," though this does not make a network "unhackable."

Most cyber attacks on telecom majors internationally involve customer data breach, leading to hefty fines paid by the companies.

"It is a common misunderstanding that hacking requires sophisticated tools and highly complex skills. Simple organisation can exist in isolation, we have to tackle these threats to protect ourselves and our customers," said Vodafone.

