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## Texas Tech varsity to give textile expertise to India

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TEXAS, USA (Commodity Online): The nonwovens laboratory in Texas Tech University will collaborate with Indian textile industry in developing skill sets for the emerging technical textiles industry in India, according to Dr Ramkumar Seshadri, Associate Professor at Texas Tech University. The laboratory recently hosted a number of visitors from India including V Srinivas, Joint Secretary, Textiles, A B Joshi, Textile Commissioner, Dhiren Seth, President of Cotton Association of India (CAI) among others. The delegation also included industry leaders from India, Pakistan, Australia and USA.

The nonwovens laboratory with over 2 million dollar investment has state-of-the-art H1 technology contoured needle zone needle punching machine, through air thermal bonder and coating mangle. The laboratory also has a good textile testing facility. This laboratory has new instruments such as BET surface area analyzer, TSI particulate filtration tester and contact angle measuring instrument. Dr. Ramkumar and Mr. A. B. Joshi discussed the importance of setting up new centers of excellence in technical textiles in India. During the discussions with the Textile Commissioner, Dr. Ramkumar insisted on the need to develop process oriented centers of research. These can involve, one stop R & D center for nonwovens, composites.

One positive outcome is that the realization that India can lead technical textiles research by uniquely developing a center focusing on chemical formulations and research focusing on technical textiles., according to Dr. Ramkumar who also discussed with Mr. Dhiren Sheth, President and Mr. Nayan Mirani, Vice President of the Cotton Association of India about the possibility of providing a workshop on the value-added opportunities in cotton. The leadership of the Cotton Association of India expressed keen interest in this idea and has invited Dr. Ramkumar to visit the Association during his next visit to have detailed discussions.