INTRODUCTION:
The word ‘Textile’ is derived from the Latin word ‘Texere’ meaning to weave. Textiles are originally woven fabric; the term is now applied to any manufacture from fibers, filaments or yarns, natural or man-made obtained by interlacing.

Textiles have been around almost as long as humankind itself. Early humans wore animal skins and clothing woven from leaves and grasses. As human evolved, so did the textiles they used in their daily lives and the processes by which they were made. The textile industry includes every business involved in growing or producing fibers, such as sheep farmers and cotton growers, those who make the fiber into thread.

The history of textile is almost as old as that of human civilization. Rigveda, the earliest of the Veda contains the literary information about textile and it refers to weaving. Ramayana and Mahabharata, the eminent Indian epics depict the existence of wide variety of fabrics in ancient India.

design or manufacture of clothing and their distribution. The raw material may be The textile industry is primarily concerned with the production of yarn, and cloth and the subsequent natural or synthetic using products of the chemical industry

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Indian Weaving Industry has conventionally been one of the most promising sectors of huge employment. In fact, after agriculture, the Weaving Industry is largest provider of work force. There is abundance in the raw materials; the continuous supply of cheap work force is the contributing factors behind the success of the weaving industry of India. However, the liberalization of the international trade along with change in the reforms of domestic economy, have affected negatively to Indian Weaving Industry. In India the fragments of woven cotton and bone needles have been discovered at Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, the ancient seats of the Indus Valley Civilization.
Indian Weaving industry has traditionally been one of India's thriving sectors of mass employment. Abundant raw materials and an unlimited supply of cheap labor have contributed to its success. Due to the international trade liberalization and domestic economic reforms there has been a major impact on the Indian Weaving Industry.

The Indian textile industry is nearly 195 years old, with the first mill on modern lines having been set up in 1817. From small beginnings and against heavy odds, it has made phenomenal growth, especially after the country gained Independence. Indian Textile Industry is divided in three major segments-

a) Composite Mills in the organized sector where both the spinning and weaving takes place under one roof.

b) Spinning Mills in the organized sector; and

c) Decentralized sector consisting of handlooms and power looms.

The handloom and power loom sector is the largest activities after Agriculture providing direct and indirect employment to more than 30 lakh weavers. This sector contributes nearly 22 percent of the total cloth produced in the country and also contributed substantially to the export income of the country.

Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur District popularly known as Manchester of Maharashtra is about 425 Km from Mumbai. Ichalkaranji was a princely state ruled by the Ghorpade Dynasty for the last two centuries. Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade was responsible for developing the Ichalkaranji village into an important Industrial town. He encouraged Mr. Vitthalrao Datar, a young entrepreneur of the town, to install a power loom in 1904. Perhaps this was the first power loom started in the decentralized sector in the country. Thus, Ichalkaranji has given a new concepts and dimensions to textiles in India by setting up power looms, a sizing unit, Shuttle less looms, Export Oriented Units etc.