

## *Silk testing lab set up in Sualkuchi*

**AJIT PATOWARY**

GUWAHATI, June 17 – The Silk Mark Organisation of India (Silk Mark) has set up a silk purity testing laboratory at Sualkuchi Barsattra.

Sualkuchi is famous world over for its silk industry. The request for the laboratory was made by the Sualkuchi Tat Silpa Unnayan Samiti on September 16 last year with a view to saving the silk industry, particularly the mulberry silk part of the industry, from the threats posed by spurious and cheaper silk cloths imported by some unscrupulous traders.

The Sualkuchi artisans and

businessmen engaged in the enterprise of silk cloth manufacture, had resorted to an agitational programme in March-April, 2013 to register their protest against the failure of the authorities concerned to protect their business from the spurious silk items manufactured in other states.

While the State government initiated a move to provide protection to the Sualkuchi artisans with Geographical Indication Registration rights of their designs among other things, the people of Sualkuchi formed the Unnayan Samiti on June 8, 2013.

(See page 4)

## Silk testing ...

(Contd from page 1)

In response to the request of the Unnayan Samiti, the Silk Mark Organisation of India informed on May 5 last that the silk testing laboratory requested by it had been approved. By this time, the laboratory has been installed and Silk Mark Organisation experts today

started imparting training to the local people in using this facility. A batch of five local youths is undergoing training for five days. Silk Mark and Central Silk Board experts are imparting training on acid test, burn test, microscopic test etc.

Informing this, Unnayan Samiti general secretary Hiralal Kalita told this correspondent that with the laboratory to become functional from the first week of July, it is expected that the harm caused by the spurious silk items to the genuine Sualkuchi silk items would be prevented effectively.

Referring to the Silk Mark Organisation authorities, Kalita said the laboratory is the first of its kind in the entire NE region, which is run by a community organisation.

**TEXTILE POLICY** ■ State likely to accept major recommendations of Halwankar committee

# Good proposals welcome: Minister

**Kanchan Srivastava**

@kanchanDNA

The state is set to accept some of the major recommendations proposed by the Suresh Halwankar committee in its report on the new textile policy of Maharashtra.

The proposed draft policy is being studied by the experts and will be put up before the cabinet and then in the coming session of the legislature, said Minister of Textiles Chandrakant Dada Patil.

He said some of the committee's recommendations are "very good" and would be accommodated in the existing policy, which was put in place by the previous Congress-NCP government in 2012.

But he didn't elaborate on the recommendations being positively considered.

The textile sector is the second-largest employer, after agriculture, in Maharashtra. At present, over 30 lakh people are directly employed and 2 crore are indirectly employed in the industry.

The committee was constituted in November, soon after the government took oath, with an objective to review



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the existing textile policy.

It recommended disinvestment of sick cooperative mills and suggested that permanently sick cooperative cotton mills be handed over to the private sector, which has created a lot of controversy in the cooperative sector.

It also talks about development of five mega-textile hubs and attracting foreign direct investment in the textile industry.

"Amravati must be developed as spinning, Nagpur as knitting, Solapur teri-towel

and Ichalkaranji as suiting-shirting-denim mega composite textile hubs with complete facilities, along with common effluent treatment plant and water recycling plants in the vicinity, thus cutting down on cost and time of making garment from cotton drastically," states the report.

The committee has hailed China's textile policy and suggested "Fibre to Fashion" approach to turn around the sector, which was once blooming in the state.

## Some of the main recommendations

Reduced power tariff for textile industry, like in other states

Scrapping of MPCB nod for spinning, weaving or knitting mills

**0.5%** cess on purchase of cotton for insurance of workers

Allowing women to work in night shifts to improve production

**75%** subsidy for "design-cum-sampling centres"

**25%** subsidy for setting up skill development centre affiliated to all big industries for offering relevant programmes with the help of IITs

**25%** subsidy on conversion of shuttle loom to semi-automatic looms

**10%** subsidy instead of 5% for technical textiles with a cap of Rs50 lakh

**30%** subsidy for upgrade in B and C zone of the state, 40% in D zone

# Centre plans to publish Make in India report card

Ajith Athrady

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** In a bid to blunt the Opposition's criticism on the Make in India programme, the NDA government is working towards bringing a report card highlighting investments received and jobs created in various sectors, since the launch of the 'much-hyped' campaign.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), in association with various other departments, will come out with a report card detailing the achievements made, a senior official in the DIPP told *Deccan Herald*.

Claiming that since the launch of the Make In India campaign, a large number of foreign investors have shown

interest in the manufacturing sector, an official said, adding that sectors like leather, IT, telecom, solar energy and automobile have made strides in attracting investments, said the official.

The DIPP is gathering details from various ministries about investments received by them since the launch of the campaign, and details of investments are in the pipeline. The report card will have details of investments in each sector and jobs created so far.

Since the launch of the campaign, FDI inflows into the manufacturing sector increased by an annual 45 per cent. In fact, in FY15, FDI inflows grew an annual 26.15 per cent at \$31.8 billion, as against 10 per cent, a year ago, at \$25.27 billion, said the official.

The major objective behind the initiative is to focus on 25 sectors of the economy for job creation and skill enhancement. Some of these sectors are: automobiles, chemicals, IT, pharmaceuticals, textiles, ports, aviation, leather, tourism and hospitality, wellness, railways, auto components, design manufacturing, renewable energy, mining, and bio-technology.



# Hosiery-maker Dollar Industries to set up ₹25-cr Ludhiana facility

## OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, June 19

Kolkata-headquartered hosiery and knitwear brand Dollar Industries will invest ₹25 crore to set up a new facility at Ludhiana.

The company has manufacturing facilities at Kolkata, Tirupur (Tamil Nadu), Delhi and Ludhiana.

According to Vinod Kr Gupta, Managing Director, the upcoming outer-wear unit, catering to loungers, T-shirts and so on, is expected to be operational by over the next 12 to 18 months.

"We have obtained a one-acre plot and construction of factory work has begun. The facility should start commercial

**The upcoming outer-wear unit, catering to loungers, T-shirts and so on, is expected to be operational by over the next 12 to 18 months.**

production in another 12-odd months or so," he told reporters. This apart, a possible foray into the super premium men's inner-wear segment has also been planned around July.

The company is looking to compete with brands like "Jockey" and "Hanes" with the launch of its "Force Nxt" brand next month.

Plans are also afoot to enter the African markets by the end

of this fiscal. "There is good demand for our products from African nations. We are exploring the opportunities there too," Gupta said.

The company, currently listed on two regional stock exchanges - Kolkata and Jaipur, is hopeful of making the transfer to the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) by the end of this fiscal.

Merchant bankers have also been appointed for the same.

Gupta points out that there are no plans of an IPO.

Dollar reported a turnover of ₹730 crore last fiscal (FY-15) and is looking at a 17 per cent growth in net sales to ₹850 crore in FY-16. Profit last fiscal stood at approximately ₹19 crore.

## Start-up Zeezeezoo.com to take on GAPs and Zaras of the world in the baby wear segment

**RUTAM VORA**

Ahmedabad, June 19

Launched by a Vadodara-based start-up Zeezeezoo.com, the baby wears like onesies and t-shirts made from organic cotton and natural dyes with themes of Indian festivals painted on it is set to give a tough competition to multinational players.

The start-up is targeting the young parents in India and overseas, who wish to get a feel of Indianness in their kid's clothing thereby offering them baby wears in organic materials.

Founded by two individuals, Ashini Shah and Rahil Shah, the company currently sells baby products — apparels and essentials — through its own portal and at select e-commerce platforms. "The products are for up to 2 age group. Parents are very sensitive about the quality and

design of these products. Currently, no Indian brand has such quality, design and nation-wide presence for this segment. To make it special, we are putting hand-drawn designs with reference to Indian festivals. Soon we will have rakshabandhan collection," said Rahil Shah, co-founder of Seventeen Square Webwares Pvt. Ltd, which markets Zeezeezoo brand for baby and toddler segment.

All the products are outsourced for manufacturing in Noida. A central warehouse is set up in New Delhi, from where the products are shipped to any parts of the country within 2-5 days.

### **Expanding its platform**

"Currently, we are supplying within India, but very soon our platform will also be open to accept foreign currency payments. Then we would

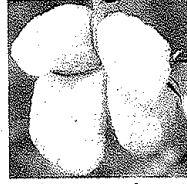
be able to ship the products to any part of the world," said Rahil, adding that delivery for international markets such as New York or London will take about a week.

According to market estimates, the organised baby wear market in India is estimated at around ₹35,000-40,000 crore. Shah maintained that the shelf life of baby wear (up to 2 age group) is about six months, relatively less than the kids (3-14 age group) segment, hence there is big potential to grow. Currently, in India the major players are all multinational brands such as Zara, Gap and Carters.

For the finances, the company has currently raised funds from friends and relatives, while it plans to tap equity partners in next 4-6 months. Since its launch in May, the portal has received 6,000 unique visitors.

### **Cotton stays flat on dull demand**

Rajkot, June 19



Cotton prices stood unchanged on dull buying activity. Arrival of the fibre also dipped in the past few days as the harvesting season is at the fag end.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was traded at ₹34,200-800 per candy of 356 kg. About 5,000 bales of 170 kg arrived in Gujarat and 10,000 bales arrived in India. *Kapas* or raw cotton marginally declined on weak ginning demand. *Kapas* was down by ₹5 to ₹920-930 for a *maund* of 20 kg and gin delivery *kapas* stood at ₹930-940. Cottonseed lost ₹5 to ₹435-440. OUR CORRESPONDENT

# कपड़ा कारखानों में आठ हजार बाल मजदूर

नई दिल्ली | एजेसी

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी की कपड़ा फैक्ट्रियों में बचपन दम तोड़ रहा है। शुक्रवार को दिल्ली के महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री संदीप कुमार ने एक रिपोर्ट जारी की जिसके मुताबिक, लगभग 8000 बच्चे कपड़ा फैक्ट्रियों में काम कर रहे हैं। इनमें से 70 फीसदी से ज्यादा लड़कियां हैं।

'द हिंडन वर्कफोर्स' नाम की रिपोर्ट सेव द चिल्ड्रेन एनजीओ ने तैयार की है। इसके अनुसार, ओखला क्षेत्र की फैक्ट्रियों में सबसे ज्यादा बच्चे काम कर रहे हैं और सबसे कम तुगलकाबाद इलाके में। इनमें से 64 फीसदी बच्चों का जन्म दिल्ली में ही हुआ है। हालांकि इनके परिवार उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल जैसे राज्यों से यहां आए। 87 फीसदी बच्चे अपने परिवार के साथ घरों में और 13 फीसदी छोटे-छोटे कमरों में चल रहे अड्डों पर काम करते हैं।

**100**

साल लग जाएंगे देश से बाल मजदूरी खत्म करने में

**01** करोड़ से ज्यादा बच्चे विभिन्न उद्योगों में नष्ट कर रहे बचपन



**80%** बाल मजदूर ग्रामीण इलाकों में

**53%** की दर से शहरी इलाकों में बढ़ रही बाल मजदूरी

**75%** बाल मजदूरी खेती से जुड़े कार्यों में

**अफ्रीका में सबसे ज्यादा**

अफ्रीका में 4.8 करोड़ बच्चे विभिन्न तरह की मजदूरी कर रहे हैं। सहारा रेगिस्तान के आसपास के मुल्कों में 5 से 14 वर्ष के 40 फीसदी से ज्यादा बच्चे मजदूर हैं।

स्रोत: क्राई की रिपोर्ट

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री ने एक समिति गठित करने की घोषणा की जो विभिन्न उद्योगों में काम कर रहे बच्चों की स्थिति जानने की कोशिश

करेगी। सेव द चिल्ड्रेन के सीईओ थॉमस चांडी ने कहा कि राजधानी के पांच जिलों में फैले कपड़ा उद्योग के 14 प्रमुख केंद्रों में यह पड़ताल की गई।

**केंद्र पर साधा निशाना**

संदीप कुमार ने कहा कि घरेलू उद्योगों में 14 साल से छोटे बच्चों को काम करने की मंजूरी देकर केंद्र सरकार ने गलत फैसला लिया है। एक तरफ तो हम बच्चों को बेहतर भविष्य देने की बात करते हैं वहीं दूसरी तरफ केंद्र सरकार बच्चों से जुड़े कानूनों को कमजोर करती जा रही है।

**पड़ोस में हालात ठीक नहीं**

पाकिस्तान: करीब 24 लाख बाल मजदूर हैं। ये फुटबॉल की सिलाई, चूड़ी बनाना और कपड़ा उद्योग में काम कर रहे हैं। यहां बच्चों को चार से पांच वर्ष की उम्र में ही चूड़ी बनाने के धंधे में झोंक दिया जाता है।

बांग्लादेश: लगभग 47 लाख बच्चे मजदूरी में फंसे हैं। कपड़ा उद्योग में सबसे ज्यादा बच्चे मजदूरी करते हैं। इनमें सबसे बड़ी संख्या लड़कियों की है।