

Govt okays land sale for sick co-op textile mills

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Mumbai: Maharashtra government may soon allow sick cooperative textile mills in the state to sell off excess land in their possession, so as to recover losses and revive the business. "This is a major step being considered under the comprehensive plan to revive sick textile mills under co-op structure," textile minister Chandrakant Dada Patil told **dna**.

Earlier, the Suresh Halwankar committee had recommended closure of all sick mills to cut losses, creating an uproar in political circles. The Congress and NCP had

termed the recommendation a "deliberate attempt" to destroy the cooperative sector – where both the opposition parties claim strong presence.

The attempt is seen as a last-ditch effort on part of Fadnavis government to breathe fresh lease of life into nearly 50 cooperative textile mills in the state – which are sick, closed or under liquidation.

The government's share in their capital ranges from 80% to 45%. Most of them are spinning mills. Each unit has loss in tune of Rs 20-40 crore.

These mills were never given permission to sell the extra land, despite repeated requests to this effect.

Knitting a sorry tale

Around 50 textile mills in state are sick, closed or under liquidation process

Losses in range of Rs 10-40 crore/ unit

Govt share in their capital: 45-80%

"We expect the decision will help them recover from losses. Where selling land alone won't help, the government will chip in," said Patil. The government has not yet decided on whether there should be a cap on saleable land.

Patil added, "We want these mills to revive, the government has

invested big money in them."

Industry experts called the plan "useless" and "impractical". "Most sick mills are in smaller cities and towns. The minister possibly doesn't know that no mill has that much excess land which could fetch them Rs30-40 crore."

Ashok Swamy, chairman of the Textile Federation said, "Selling excess land won't help much. The government must do something more to support the sector, which once propelled the growth of Maharashtra. Out of 120-plus cooperative mills in the state, 50% are in the sick category."

Textile stocks jump on pitch for lower GST

DILIP KUMAR JHA

Mumbai, 27 August

Stocks of textile companies rose on Thursday, following a proposal by the Ministry of Textiles to keep the sector on the lowest range of the proposed goods and services tax (GST). While shares of Indo Count Industries jumped 11 per cent to ₹25.40 apiece, those of Mafatlal Industries rose 6.42 per cent to ₹253.80 apiece. Almost all companies in the sector, be it in the raw materials or finished products segments, saw their stocks rise.

Earlier, Union Textiles Minister Sangosh Gangwar had said, "We are trying to convince the finance minister so that GST for the textile sector remains at the lowest level."

It is, however, unclear whether the textiles ministry has sent the proposal to its finance counterpart.

The GST regulation proposes a duty of 12-18 per cent. Depending upon various parameters, the applicable

CURTAIN-RAISER

	BSE price in ₹		
	Aug 26	Aug 27	%chg
Lambodahara Textiles	770.50	871.75	13.14
Indo Count Ind	848.25	940.75	10.90
Morarjee Textiles	36.35	40.20	10.59
Himatsingka Seide	163.19	179.50	9.99
JBF Ind	196.15	215.75	9.99
Nirlon	170.85	185.10	8.34
Ashapura Intimates Fas	230.10	245.90	6.87
Mafatlal Ind	238.50	253.80	6.42
Rupa & Co.	324.00	343.90	6.14
Century Enka	200.70	213.00	6.13
RSR Mohota Spg	209.20	220.70	5.50
Page Ind	13,837.05	14,579.85	5.04
Ruby Mills	371.50	390.10	5.01
Sutlej Textiles	425.50	445.00	4.58
Welspun India	727.60	760.25	4.49
KPR Mills	689.25	715.25	3.77
Arvind Ltd	257.20	264.70	2.92
Kitex Garments	670.55	684.10	2.02

Compiled by BS Research Bureau

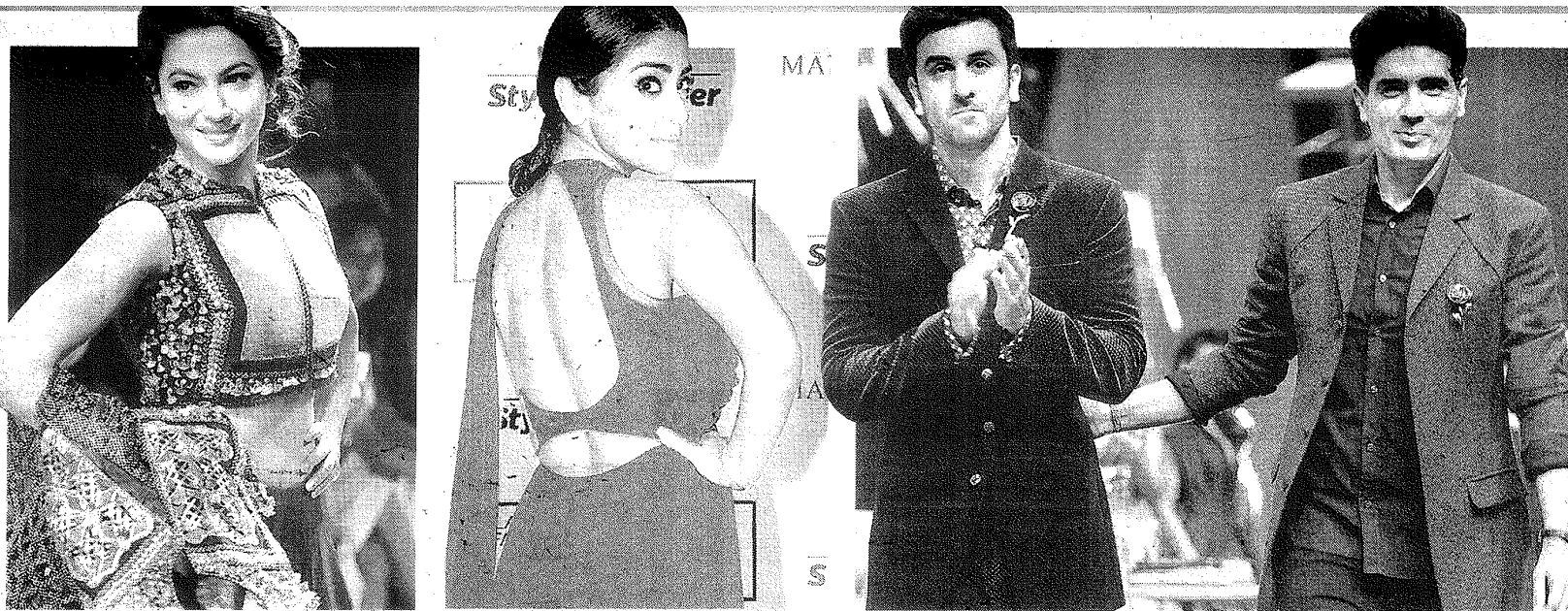
GST rate would differ from one sector to another.

"India has a share of five per

cent in global textile exports, with an annual shipment of \$40 billion. With increased focus on 'Make in India', we want to double our market share in the next five years," the minister said.

The sector has welcomed the textile ministry's proposal. "GST is a complex issue for the textile sector due to a number of state and central levies applicable on various products. So, even if GST is made applicable, it will take some time for the sector to settle," said R K Dalmia, chairman of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council and president of Century Textiles.

The textiles sector is dominated by unorganised players, with minimum room for value addition. While a company produces yarn used for weaving somewhere else, the product then goes for fabric and, finally, for garments. A number of small factories are involved in the entire value chain, and these aren't even registered with the excise department.



(Left to right) Gauahar Khan in a Rinku Sobti collection; Shriya Saran at Manish Malhotra's show; Ranbir Kapoor was the showstopper for Manish Malhotra.

LFW 2015 celebrates Indian Handloom & Textile Day with aplomb

A TASTE OF INDIA



Lisa Haydon was the showstopper for Swati Vijaivargie's bohemian collection.

By Radhika Bhalla

ONE of the most exciting properties of the ongoing Lakme Fashion Week in its winter/festive 15 edition in Mumbai is the Indian Handloom and Textile Day.

The stage was set for the grand display of desi weaves with Nikhil Thampi's show on Day 1 itself, as he combined pure silk, linen, cotton and polyester blends in a beautifully minimal collection titled 'Alchemy'. Lungi saris in pristine white, vermillion and red, transparent churidars, risqué blouses with metallic straps,

On the RAMPAGE

and deep-necked tulle saris in nude teamed with golden belts blended an immaculate sense of fashion with refined sexiness. Payal Singhal played with Indian silhouettes as well, with gold embroidery as was seen in a red lehenga-choli set worn by showstopper Nimrat Kaur.

The evening show was nothing short of a spectacle as veteran designer Manish Malhotra presented his first-ever men's line called 'The Gentleman's Club' at Mehboob Studio in Bandra. Celebrating 25 years of his career, Manish pulled out the stops from the start with a lavish 80ft x 30ft big runway stage that had chairs and tables hanging from the high ceiling with ropes. A grand piano, sofas, chaises, carpets and large curtains completed the runway that was flanked by Bollywood celebrities on either side. Even before the show began, flashbulbs went into a tizzy as celebs like Arjun Kapoor, Karan Johar, Nita Ambani, Shradha Kapoor, Diana Penty, Tabu, Sonali Bendre, Tamannaah Bhatia and Mandira Bedi made their way to their FROW seats.

The show began with the ladies setting the tone in gowns with large skirts in emerald green, blue and glimmering sequins. The men's range saw suiting fabrics and velvet applied to tuxedos, double breasted bandgalas, straight pants, blazers, shawls and achkans with



Nimrat Kaur stunned the audience in a red lehenga-choli set at Payal Singhal's show; Shradha Kapoor (top right) was present among guests at the event in Mumbai.

abstracted floral embroidery on the elbow and lapels. The highlight of the show was heartthrob Ranbir Kapoor, who stole the show in a maroon suit, complete with a printed shirt underneath and a brooch on the lapel.

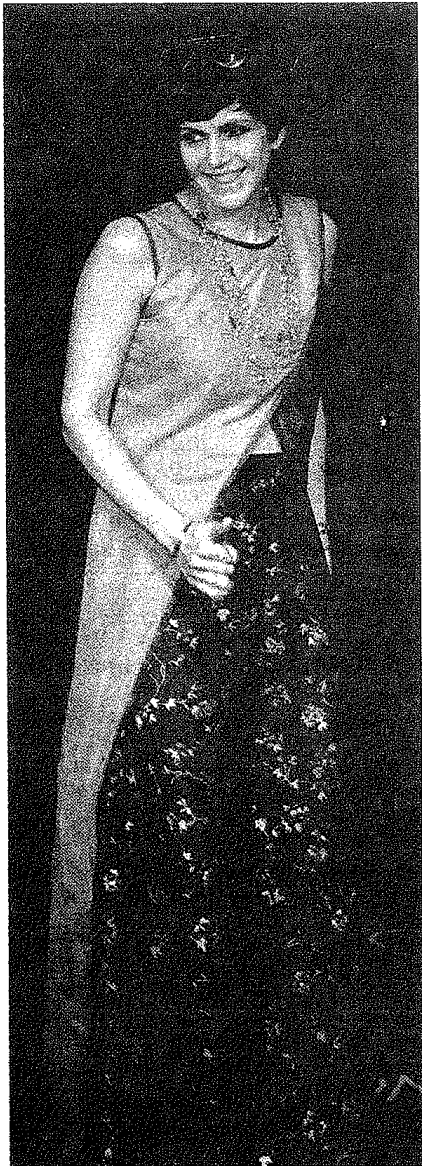
Day 2 began on an equally strong note, with a Benaras or Varanasi theme for the Indian Handloom and Textile Day. Delhi-based Rinku Sobti took the lead with chic checked trousers, saris and drapes teamed with cut-out blouses, jackets, jumpsuits and kurtas.

The elegant Gauahar Khan walked the ramp for her in a macramé woven long kurta, tasselled cropped top and black silk embellished lehenga. Shruti Sancheti looked to Japanese motifs of maple leaves, mushrooms, flower buds, and abstract birds to treat luxurious fabrics like brocades, gicha silk, sheer Bengal

dupion, cotton silk and chanderi. Kimonos with obi belts were teamed with brocade trousers and lehengas, making for an interesting combination. Meanwhile, Swati and Sunaina reinvented their specialty patterns like Shikargaha, Khimkhwab, Khandwa, Chaar Taar and Dampach on saris.

Moving on to younger styles, Jaipur designer Swati Vijaivargie took inspiration from the flat weaving Kilim and Dhurrie techniques from the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The bohemian collection included fitted skirts, kurta-dresses and long jackets, paired with striped flat shoes. Model-turned-actress Lisa Haydon made a befitting showstopper for the collection, dressed in a colourful cropped top with a draped skirt and a long kurta jacket.

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Actress and TV anchor Mandira Bedi (from left), actor Gauhar Khan, who was the showstopper for Rinku Sobti's show, and models walk the ramp on Day Two of the Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2015 at Palladium Hotel, Lower Parel, Mumbai, on Tuesday.

— SATEJ SHINDE



From the looms of Benaras

SUSHMITA MURTHY
MUMBAI

Natural dyes, organic fabrics and largely Indian aesthetics dominated the ramp on Day Two of the Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2015, also the Indian Handloom and Textile Day at the sartorial extravaganza. A ritual every season, the day as the name suggests, focuses on traditional Indian weaves and techniques and natural fabrics and colours in an attempt to revive indigenous Indian styles. "Reinvent Benaras" was the theme for the day and had designers using the temple town as their muse, drawing heavily from its traditional weaves, designs and general essence.

Swati and Sunaina opened the Day Two with saris made of fine silk and

embellished with pure zari. They were woven on home-grown pit looms of Banaras. The show set the tone for the string of shows lined up for the day.

Rinku Sobti's collection, titled Tassels, played with untamed, loosely hung threads at the hemlines and sleeves of sari blouses and pants. Actor Gauhar Khan walked as the showstopper for Sobti's show in a rich gold, black and red lehenga choli with a bold brone gauze dupatta.

Following at 3.30 pm, were designers Divya Seth, Swati Vijaivargie and Vrisa.

Seth's Kalamputli collection that brought together traditional kalamkari designs and signature katputli styles. Natural dyes in earthy hues of turmeric, rust and indigo, hand-painted designs and intensive gota work on khadi



were the highlights of her collection.

Swati Vijaivargie's Mauj was an ode to the *mauj dari* (rug) designs typical to Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Mauj durries are traditionally woven by women and children who are being initiated into the process and, hence, use left-over material that they can experiment with. Vijaivargie's designs borrowed heavily from the ideology and repainted and dyed excess

fabric to use as appliqué and patchwork on garments, creating a line of distinctive pieces. Model-turned-actress Lisa Haydon walked the ramp for Vijaivargie, wearing a dhoti pants-meets-flare skirt with a crop top and flowy ankle-length jacket.

Breathing a desi boho vibe onto the ramp was Vrisa. Bathed in earthy hues again, such as biscuit brown, beige and indigo, Vrisa brought to the ramp flowy ankle length dresses and long tunics paired with ankle-length pants. Heavily tasselled stoles with ghungroo-jingling borders wrapped beautifully, added to the elegant collection.

The general tone remained rather similar throughout the day with the ramp basking in desi flavours and dull understated colours.

Ashdeen's Scent of the Orient collection attempted to revive traditional Parsi thread work on dual chrome saris in blue and white, reminiscent of Chinese porcelain, which incidentally is the inspiration for Parsi Gara embroidery. Organza and net blouses with bead work complimented the six yards.

One of our favourites, Karishma Shahani, under her label Kasha, presented a collection with her patent style of multiple cotton-layered kurtis, jackets and scarves paired with brogue-styled fabric shoes.

Breaking the understated mood of the day was Gaurang Shah's unapologetic grandeur as he presented the most visually arresting show on Day Two. To begin with, Shah created a theatrical atmosphere with a live band of

folk singers and kathak dancers.

Shah's collection was Indian handlooms on a platter. Basking in shades of orange and yellow, the designer brought together multiple weaves, textures and styles. Iktat, sambhalpuri, bomkai, Gujarati mirror, baluchari, bandhni, paithani, brocade among many others made their way on organza, silk, cotton etc. Gaurang also showcased multiple styles of drape from the Maharashtrian navari to the Bengali and Gujarati styles. Some models even sashayed wearing two saris — 12 yards in all — putting out yet another twist to the classic drape. Shah's saris were an amalgamation of various desi weaves that strung together seamlessly, forming a rich and varied product of a different kind.

Withdrawal of incentives in exim policy hits silk sector

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, 27 August

As the silk and embroidery industry faces rising cost of importing silk from China, withdrawal of incentives in the new export-import (exim) policy will hit lakhs of workers associated with the industry. They are likely to lose their livelihood if immediate measures are not taken by the government, said Mr Vikram Tania, president, Silk Association of India.

Addressing a Press meet organised by Bharat Chamber of Commerce today, Mr Tania said: "Sericulture and Silk fabric exports create high employment opportunities. Various value-addition services such as embroidery, printing and others done on silk fabric require the expertise of craftsmen

and artisans."

With less incentives to non-handloom silk fabrics exports of such products would further decrease thereby affecting rural employment, he said.

Silk embroidery made on handloom is exported to the USA, Europe and Japan.

Mr Rajendra Kapoor, a member of the association and a city businessman, highlighted that embroidery has a history of around 150 years in Bengal and with such discriminatory policies despite the state government's aim of providing a new lease of life to the handicraft industry, the industry will close down eventually.

According to the association, during the financial year of 2014-2015, silk industry made a total business worth \$470 million.

Mr Kapoor said that a good chunk of the business, around 25 per cent, came from the West Asian countries for which no incentive is provided. The government does not want us to explore new markets and export to developed countries only.

Indian yarn is not conducive for silk production and Chinese yarn is of better quality. Thus Chinese silk has replaced Indian silk in the international market, highlights Mr Tania.

He asserted that there is a need to make Indian yarn better in terms of quality so that Indian yarn can be used in silk production instead of Chinese raw material which is more expensive. Mr Tania said adding apart from China, India imports some silk yarn from Vietnam and Brazil.

WADIA SELLS BOMBAY DYEING SHARES

New Delhi, 27 August: Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Company chairman Nusli Wadia today offloaded more than 19.26 lakh shares of the textile company for more than Rs 12 crore through an open market transaction.

However, the buyer of the shares could not be ascertained immediately.

According to bulk deal data available with the stock exchanges, Mr Wadia sold a total of 19,26,770 shares of Bombay Dyeing.

The shares were purchased on an average price of Rs 63.87, valuing the transaction at Rs 12.30 crore.

In a separate bulk deal, Merrill Lynch Capital Markets Espana has sold 15.41 lakh shares of India Cements.

PTI

Textile woes: outside agency to conduct study

Associations to approach Centre jointly

LN REVATHY

Coimbatore, August 27

Textile associations across the country have decided to engage an outside agency to conduct a study of the ailing sector and present the same to the Government.

Industry sources told *Business-Line* that they have started the search of assigning the job to an agency. "One of them, which is already doing some work for us, is likely to submit a proposal soon," a top official of the Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) said, adding "but that (the study) could take three months."

Meanwhile the various textile associations have decided to come under one umbrella to make their representation to the government.

"We are seeking a level playing field," asserted SIMA Chairman T Rajkumar.

He said the industry expects the government to announce the allocation of ₹300 crore towards TUF very soon. "This would give some respite. The market is also improving as it normally does during this time of the year with the festive season round the corner."

The SIMA chief stressed the need for reduction in the import duty on fibre and interest cost, among others.

On issues such as delay in GST rollout, he said "this is again a worry. But until such time, the State government should consider reducing VAT and remove the market cess. We are seeking a "Textile Value Addition Policy".

"State governments should no longer encourage additional spindleage as there is excess capacity. But it looks like there could be an addition of 3 to 4 lakh spindles next year. We should strengthen the weak link in the textile chain such as processing and weaving," he said.