

Gangwar inaugurates Silk Fab exhibition



Santosh Kumar Gangwar, MoS (I/C) inaugurated the Silk Fab exhibition. Speaking on this occasion, Gangwar said that the exhibition enables an interface between the weavers and consumers. It will be open from 11 am to 8 pm up to

November 8, 2015. The Primary Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies are recommended by their respective state governments. The exhibition has participation from weavers who are recipients of National Award for design.

'India-Australia nuclear deal, FTA to be finalised by 2015 end'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

AUSTRALIA IS "on track" to finalise the nuclear deal and free trade agreement with India by end of 2015, Australian trade minister Andrew Robb said on Tuesday.

"We had a target — the end of this year. We have got a lot of work still to do, but we are still on track to complete that (CECA negotiations) by the end of this year, as we are with the nuclear cooperation agreement," he told reporters here.

Australia had signed a civil nuclear agreement with India in September last year to supply it uranium for meeting New Delhi's energy needs. "Our processes for bringing the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement into force before the end of 2015 are on track but the ratification (of the same by Australian Parliament) has not taken place. We got 40 per cent of the world's uranium and this deal is important for India as well as for us," Robb said.

Emphasising that the com-

Australia had signed a civil nuclear agreement with India in September last year to supply it uranium for meeting New Delhi's energy needs.

prehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) must respect India's sensitivities regarding the farm sector, the Australian trade minister said that the focus of the agreement will be "overwhelmingly or principally on services", which comprise about 75 per cent of the Australia's economy. The services could include engineering, health, education, environment, project management, construction, financial, among others, he added.

"We already have a respectable goods package. We understand that any such agreement has to respect the fact that about 600 million people in India live on less than \$2 a day," the minister said.

Robb also discussed the roadmap for finalising the free trade agreement with his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman. "My negotiating team has set a time-line for concluding various parts of the negotiations which I have discussed with my counterpart," he added.

Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his former Australian counterpart Tony Abbott had sought an early conclusion of CECA negotiations, with Abbott saying that it should be done by 2015, a timeline considered ambitious by trade experts.

According to those involved in the negotiations, while Canberra wants enhanced access for auto components, financial services, pulses, wines, meat and dairy, New Delhi wants access for professionals, textiles, leather, auto parts, pharma, among others. However, while India is willing to cede ground on some of the issues like auto components, high-end wine and meat, it is unwilling to budge on issues including movement of natural persons (mode 4) and agriculture.

Bazaar of crafts made by women across India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 27 October

Crafts across India from Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir and from Gujarat to West Bengal are in focus at the Shilpkala Utsav, an annual festival of crafts and the one of the only women artisans' craft bazaar in the city, which began here today.

Minister of State for Textiles Santosh K Gangawal and BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the three-day crafts bazaar.

The fourth edition of the bazaar is showcasing a variety of handcrafted collection of textiles, crafts, paintings, jewelery and accessories in a range of materials by 78 participants from 18 states.

"Our focus is on empowering women, promoting their crafts while eliminating and reducing their dependence on middlemen. The idea is to offer them an opportunity to meet customers and understand the urban taste," one of the organisers said.

To add to the festivity of arts and

crafts live demonstrations by artisans and cultural performances by a variety of artists are also scheduled on all the three days.

The event is hosted by the All India Women's Conference, a independent women's voluntary organisation which began in 1927 with the aim of improving the social welfare of women in India. It currently has close to 500 branches in the country.

"This year the textile unit under AIWC is organising a fashion show with the theme of unity in diversity, which includes a complete showcase of Indian garments. This is our first effort at a fashion show," says one of the organisers.

The Shilpkala Utsav is being supported for the second year in a row by the Office of the Development Commissioner of Handicrafts, in the textile ministry.

Crafts from the Chamba region, which is a dying craft also leather craft, blue pottery, Lucknowi chikan, Tanjore paintings, aromatic candles etc are on display.

INDUSTRY IS OF THE VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE THE REQUISITE CHANGES ARE MADE

Govt to restructure technology fund scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 27 October

The Centre will not discontinue the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) and rather restructure it keeping in view the complaints of the textile industry, Union minister Santosh Gangwar said today.

TUFs was introduced in 1999 to catalyse investments in all the sub-sectors of textiles and jute industry by way of 5 per cent interest reimbursement.

The textile minister said his ministry has requested the finance ministry to make the desired changes, and the

“scheme will not be discontinued” but will only be tweaked to remove the “complaints” by the industry.

However, representatives of the textile industry are of the view that they should be consulted before the requisite changes are made, pointing out that the sector is in a “bad shape” and the government has not disbursed subsidy amount under the scheme for the period after September 2014.

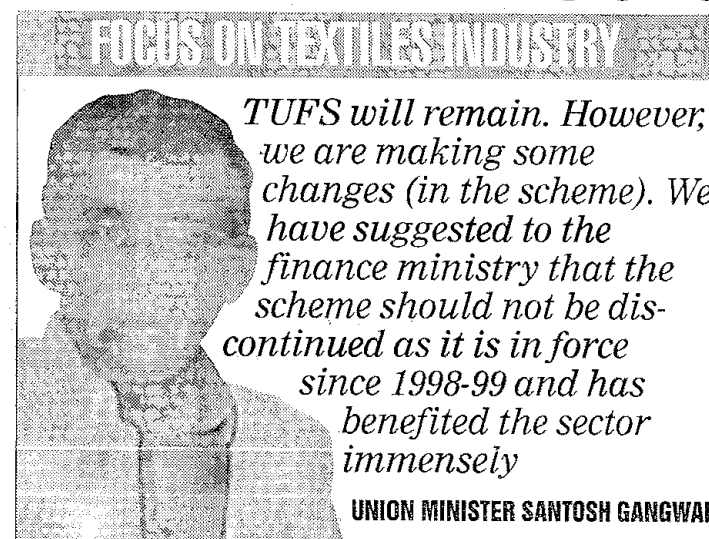
“TUFs will remain. However, we are making some changes (in the scheme). We have suggested to the finance ministry that the scheme should not be discontinued

as it is in force since 1998-99 and has benefited the sector immensely. There was a blackout and leftout period in between which was wrong,” Mr Gangwar said on the sidelines of an Assocham event here.

Asked by when the changes in the new scheme will be notified, he said: “it will be known in hardly 15 days”.

Mr Gangwar added that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants the scheme to “reach a logical end”.

However, he added the government will not discontinue the scheme but will restructure it in such a manner that there are no “complaints”. As of



now, the scheme is to continue till March 2017, the end of 12th Plan period.

Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) secretary-general

Binoy Job said: “For more than a year, the money has not been disbursed. This year the subsidy amount was released in September,

but that was for until September 2014.

“As a result, we are badly stuck as textile industry runs on bare minimum margin of 2-5 per cent. The industry is already in a bad shape because of global market conditions such as China slowdown, and is thus, heavily dependent on the subsidies.

“If the government does not disburse committed support under TUFs, we will be in a soup. Before restructuring, the government should consult the textile industry,” he added.

Mr Job further said that the Rs 1,520 crore allocated for TUFs in the 2015 Budget is “quite

less” since as per the scheme, at least Rs 3,000 crore should have been provided.

Besides, the textile minister expects the new policy to be finalised before the Winter Session of Parliament.

“We have circulated the draft policy for inputs among various ministries. I expect the new policy to be finalised before the Winter session of Parliament,” Gangwar said.

The new textiles policy, which is being finalised by the government, aims to increase the exports to \$300 billion by 2024-25 and envisages creation of additional 35 million jobs.

शिल्पकला उत्सव दिल्ली में भी शुरू

नई दिल्ली (कासं)। शहर में शुरू हो रहे शिल्पकला उत्सव में तमिलनाडु से लेकर जम्मू-कश्मीर और गुजरात से लेकर पश्चिम बंगाल तक पूरे देश की शिल्पकला की छटा दिखेगी।

यह उत्सव शिल्पकला का सालाना बाजार और राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में आयोजित किया जाने वाला महिला शिल्पकारों का एक मात्र शिल्प बाजार है। कपड़ा राज्य मंत्री संतोष गंगवार और भाजपा नेता मीनाक्षी लेखी ने तीन दिनों के शिल्प बाजार का उद्घाटन किया।

यह उत्सव का चौथा संस्करण है। इसमें दस्तकारी कपड़ों, शिल्पकलाओं, पेंटिंग, आभूषण और एसेसरीज का विविध संग्रह पेश किया जा रहा है। साथ ही 18 राज्यों के 78 प्रतिभागियों का संग्रह भी उत्सव का हिस्सा है।



नई दिल्ली में मंगलवार को अफ्रीकी देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों के साथ भारत की विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज। • सोनू मेहता

विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज ने खुफिया सूचनाएं साझा करने पर दिया जोर

आतंकवाद के खिलाफ भारत-अफ्रीका एक हों



नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

भारत ने आतंकवाद के खिलाफ साझा प्रहार के लिए अफ्रीकी देशों से सहयोग की पेशकश की है। मंगलवार को भारत अफ्रीका फोरम शिखर सम्मेलन की मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक में विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज ने भारत और अफ्रीका के लिए सुरक्षा परिषद में स्थायी सदस्यता की भी जोरदार वकालत की।

सुषमा ने बोको हराम और इस्लामिक स्टेट जैसे आतंकी संगठनों के बढ़ते खतरे की ओर आगाह किया। उन्होंने आतंकवाद के खिलाफ साझेदारी के तहत 54 अफ्रीकी देशों से खुफिया सूचनाओं के आदान-प्रदान और प्रशिक्षण पर जोर दिया ताकि आतंकी नेटवर्क और फंडिंग को ध्वस्त किया जा सके।

नॉन स्टेट एक्टर्स पर ध्यान दें

सुषमा ने कहा कि हम सभी देश आतंकवाद का सामना कर रहे हैं। नॉन स्टेट एक्टर्स यानी खुद को किसी देश या सरकार से स्वतंत्र मानने वाले तत्वों और सीमा पार आतंक की समस्या ने चुनौती का रूप ले लिया है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र अंतरराष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद के खिलाफ एक व्यापक करार को जल्द अपनाने में सहयोग करेगा।

मेक इन इंडिया पर भी बात

बैठक में मेक इन इंडिया को लेकर भी चर्चा हुई। भारत अफ्रीकी देशों को मेक इन इंडिया के तहत कई रियायतों का प्रस्ताव करेगा। विदेश मंत्री ने अफ्रीका के दूरसंचार, पनबिजली, कृषि, विनिर्माण, आईटी, जल शोधन एवं आपूर्ति, दवा एवं फार्मा, कोयला, ऑटोमोबाइल, बागवानी और कपड़ा क्षेत्र में भारतीय कंपनियों के बढ़ते निवेश का उल्लेख किया। उन्होंने कहा कि समुद्री व्यापार, समुद्री सुरक्षा और समुद्री लुटेरों से मुकाबले के लिए भी साथ काम किया जाना चाहिए।

जलवायु परिवर्तन पर मिलकर काम करें

विदेश मंत्री ने कहा कि दोनों पक्ष जलवायु परिवर्तन पर पेरिस कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ पार्टिज 21 और केन्या में होने वाले 10वें मंत्रिस्तरीय सम्मेलन से पहले मिलकर काम करने की आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि इन मामलों में समान चिंताएं और समान हित हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हाल में ही कुछ त्रिपक्षीय मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों और महाद्वीपीय मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों पर बातचीत बढ़ी है।

2.5 अरब लोगों को मिले हक

सुषमा ने कहा कि भारत और अफ्रीका के करीब 2.5 अरब लोगों को सुरक्षा परिषद में उनकी वाजिब जगह से वंचित नहीं रखा जा सकता। उन्होंने 70 सालों से संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद में सिर्फ पांच देशों के वर्चस्व पर सवाल उठाए। सुषमा ने दक्षिण अफ्रीका की विदेश मंत्री मैट नकोअना-माशबाने से मुलाकात की।

अफ्रीका से
व्यापारिक
रिश्ते

09 अरब डॉलर का रियायती कर्ज अफ्रीकी देशों को मुहैया कराया

40 देशों से जुड़ी 60 परियोजनाएं पूरी हुईं और 80 पर कार्य जारी

05 साल में दोगुना बढ़कर 72 अरब डॉलर हुआ द्विपक्षीय व्यापार

30 लाख से ज्यादा भारतवंशी रहते हैं अफ्रीका के तमाम देशों में

07 वर्ष में भारत ने अफ्रीकी देशों को 40 हजार छात्रवृत्तियां दीं

नोएडा में 30 से शुरू होगा शिल्प मेला

जनसत्ता संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली, 27 अक्टूबर। नोएडा में 30 अक्टूबर से शुरू होने वाले दस दिन के शिल्प मेले में इस बार भी सार्क देशों के अलावा बिम्सटैक देशों के शिल्पकार हिस्सा लेंगे। इस साल आयोजन की थीम पर्यटन और हस्तशिल्प पर है। यह आयोजन नोएडा प्राधिकरण, उत्तर प्रदेश पर्यटन विभाग और केंद्रीय टेक्स्टाइल और पर्यटन मंत्रालय के सहयोग से किया जाता है।

आयोजकों ने उम्मीद जताई है कि इस बार का शिल्पोत्सव अपने पहले से ज्यादा व्यापक विस्तार और लोकप्रियता के कारण अपने पुराने सभी रिकार्ड तोड़ने में कामयाब हो पाएगा। मेले में हर दिन स्कूली विद्यार्थी सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम पेश करेंगे। मेले के दौरान बिजली, पेयजल आपूर्ति, साफ-सफाई, परिवहन, स्वास्थ्य और अन्य सभी आवश्यक जन सुविधा उपलब्ध करवाने को लेकर भी तैयारियां शुरू कर दी गई हैं।

टफ स्कीम का भविष्य अधर में

कपड़ा मंत्रालय टफ स्कीम की रिस्ट्रक्चरिंग के पक्ष में

राजीव कुमार

नई दिल्ली। टेक्सटाइल उद्यमियों को पूंजीगत निवेश पर मिलने वाली सब्सिडी से जुड़ी टेक्नोलॉजी अपग्रेडेशन फंड (टफ) स्कीम का भविष्य अधर में जाता दिख रहा है। फंड के अभाव में टेक्सटाइल उद्यमियों को टफ स्कीम का कोई लाभ नहीं मिल रहा है।

टफ स्कीम को लेकर पिछले कुछ महीनों से वित्त मंत्रालय की उदासीनता को देखते हुए टेक्सटाइल उद्यमियों को इस बात की आशंका है कि टफ स्कीम को सरकार बंद कर सकती है। हालांकि टेक्सटाइल मंत्रालय का कहना है कि टफ स्कीम को बंद नहीं किया जा रहा है बल्कि इस स्कीम की रिस्ट्रक्चरिंग की जा रही है। लेकिन सब कुछ वित्त मंत्रालय पर निर्भर करता है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक वित्त मंत्रालय की तरफ से हरी झंडी नहीं मिलने पर टफ स्कीम की समाप्ति की आशंका से भी

● टफ स्कीम का भविष्य वित्त मंत्रालय के रुख पर निर्भर

इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता है।

चालू वित्त वर्ष 2015-16 के लिए टफ स्कीम के तहत लगभग 1,550 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन किया गया था, लेकिन टेक्सटाइल उद्यमियों का टफ स्कीम के तहत आवंटित राशि से अधिक का बकाया सरकार के पास था। ऐसे में चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए टफ स्कीम के तहत कोई राशि नहीं बची। टेक्सटाइल मंत्रालय ने कुछ माह पहले टफ स्कीम को जारी रखने व उद्यमियों को उसका लाभ देने के लिए वित्त मंत्रालय से इस मद में और राशि की मांग की थी। लेकिन वित्त मंत्रालय की तरफ से इस मद में और राशि आवंटित नहीं की गई।

वित्त मंत्रालय की तरफ से हो रहे टालमटोल के बाद टेक्सटाइल उद्यमियों को अब यह लगने लगा है कि टफ स्कीम को सरकार बंद करने

जा रही है। टेक्सटाइल मंत्रालय के मुताबिक टफ स्कीम रहेगी, लेकिन इस स्कीम में कुछ बदलाव किया जाएगा। मंत्रालय ने वित्त मंत्रालय से इस स्कीम को ब्रेक नहीं देने का अनुरोध किया है क्योंकि यह स्कीम वर्ष 1998-99 से चल रही है और इससे टेक्सटाइल उद्योग को काफी लाभ मिला है। हालांकि दो बार इस स्कीम को ब्रेक किया गया। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक टफ स्कीम में से उन चीजों को हटा दिया जाएगा, जिससे उद्यमियों को कोई लाभ नहीं है। उसके बाद इस स्कीम को नए रूप में अधिसूचित किया जा सकता है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक अगले 15 दिनों में टफ स्कीम को लेकर सब कुछ साफ हो जाएगा। टेक्सटाइल उद्यमियों की तरफ से नई मशीनरी की खरीदारी करने पर उन्हें ब्याज दरों में टफ स्कीम के तहत सब्सिडी दी जाती है। टफ स्कीम को नई टेक्सटाइल पॉलिसी में जोड़ने पर विचार किया जा रहा है।

‘शिल्पकला उत्सव’ से खरीदें नायाब वस्तुएं

हरिभूमि न्यूज, नई दिल्ली

18 राज्य प्रतिभागी

दिल्ली में रहते हुए यदि आप तमिलनाडु के हस्तशिल्प उत्पादों से अपना घर सजाना चाहते हैं, तो शिल्पकला उत्सव में आकर अपनी पसंद की वस्तुएं खरीद सकते हैं। राजधानी में मंगलवार से शुरू हुए ‘शिल्पकला उत्सव’ में तमिलनाडु, जम्मू-कश्मीर, गुजरात से लेकर पश्चिम बंगाल तक पूरे देश की नायाब शिल्पकला उत्पादों की प्रदर्शनी लगाई गई है। आगा खान हॉल में आयोजित उत्सव शिल्पकला का सालाना बाजार है।

यह राजधानी में आयोजित किया जाने वाला महिला शिल्पकारों का एक मात्र शिल्प बाजार है। कपड़ा राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) संतोष गंगवार व भाजपा नेता मीनाक्षी लेखी ने तीन दिवसीय शिल्पकला

यह उत्सव का चौथा संस्करण है। इसमें दस्तकारी कपड़ों, शिल्पकलाओं, पेंटिंग, आभूषण और एक्सेसरीज के संग्रह पेश किए जा रहे हैं। साथ ही 18 राज्यों के 78 प्रतिभागियों का संग्रह भी उत्सव का हिस्सा है।

बाजार का उद्घाटन किया।

शिल्पकला को बढ़ावा

एक आयोजक ने बताया कि हमारा लक्ष्य महिलाओं को सशक्त करना, बिचौलियों पर उनकी निर्भरता को खत्म करते हुए शिल्प को बढ़ावा देना है। इस उत्सव के आयोजन का उद्देश्य महिलाओं को ग्राहकों से मिलने और शहरी पसंद को समझने का एक अवसर उपलब्ध कराना है।

Kumar Mangalam May Raise Stake in Century Textiles

Palak.Shah@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Kumar Mangalam Birla's stake in Century Textiles and Industries could rise by almost 5% in the next few weeks as he plans to convert warrants held by his entities into equity before the deadline of December 18 — when the instruments lapse. Century Textiles, founded by his grandfather Basant Kumar Birla, had issued 1.86 crore warrants to private companies owned by the Aditya Birla Group chairman last year.

Of this, 84.7 lakh warrants were converted into equity shares in March this year, taking the promoter stake in the company to over 45% from 40% in December 2014.

Kumar Mangalam Birla now intends to convert the rest of the warrants into equity. After this, promoter group stake in Century will rise to 50.21% from 45.22% currently.

An email sent to Aditya Birla Group and Century Textiles went unanswered till the time of going to print.

Analysts say that the promoter of Century Textiles had refrained from converting their entire warrants to equity in one go as it would have triggered an open offer. Sebi rules allow for creeping acquisition or buying shares from the secondary market only up to 5% in a fiscal.

The warrants were issued at ₹355 each in 2014. Century Textiles shares gained 2.76% to close at ₹545 on Tuesday.

A Green Weave Now Takes Hold in Cotton Textile Hubs of Tamil Nadu

Mills in Tamil Nadu, in a pilot, is changing the decades-old way cotton is spun into threads

Bharani.Vaithéesvaran
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Modern material science is striding into textile mills in Tamil Nadu in a pilot that is changing the decades-old way cotton is spun into thin threads, a move entrepreneurs dub a significant advancement.

In the energy saver pilot in textile hubs of Coimbatore and Tiruppur, millers are replacing heavy plastic-made spindle tubes — which hold the cotton threads coming out of the core spinning machine — with 12-gram carbon tubes.

These lightweight tubes are sturdy, last eight years and offer investment payback in three years, meaning the rest of their lifetimes can be dedicated for pure energy savings of up to 8%.

In Tamil Nadu, textile mills depend purely on manufacturing efficiency to compete with those in Gujarat as low availability of raw material cotton forces them to cut corners on power use to survive in the global exports arena.

This power-saver is another effort to improve profits after a good number of enterprises moved to LEDs a few months ago to cut lighting costs.

The spindle is the capacity metric



Twist in the Tale

- Currently, Coimbatore and Tiruppur millers use heavy plastic-made spindle tubes
- They are replacing it with 12-gram carbon tubes

THESE LIGHTWEIGHT TUBES ARE...

- Sturdy
- Last eight years
- Offer investment payback in three years

SIDDHARTH

for textiles just as tonnes are for cement production and the main power consuming area in a textile mill. Considering that the watts saved is directly from the spindle, textile mill owners say it has potential to revolutionise production. "Earlier it was plastic tubes. Several materials were tried out, but the speed of spinning is over 23,000 revolutions per minute. This requires the tube to be very light but robust. Carbon fits the bill," said Prabhu Damodharan, secretary of Indian Textpreneurs Federation, a south-side band of textile entrepreneurs.

For an average textile mill with a

capacity of 50,000 spindles, the move can help cut power costs by ₹50 lakh a year. With a majority of Indian textile businesses in the small and medium segment, this is a sizable amount off the expenses column of their balance sheets.

For the pilot, over one lakh carbon tubes have been purchased so far. As per industry representatives there is potential to save ₹75 crore a year in power costs if 50-lakh spindles of the 2.25-crore capacity in Tamil Nadu make the transition.

Carbon tubes have already made their entry in aviation, race cars and the sports industry, areas

PRABHU DAMODHARAN
Secretary, Indian Textpreneurs Federation

Earlier it was plastic tubes. Several materials were tried out, but the speed of spinning is over 23,000 revolutions per minute. This requires the tube to be very light but robust. Carbon fits the bill

where cutting weight of objects to aid mobility is paramount.

"Carbon composites are made by a few suppliers in the world and its potential is just waiting to be tapped," said Atul Guglani, director at Mantex Technologies, which is supplying the tubes to Coimbatore mills now.

It has taken nearly three years for the idea to get commercialised. Guglani said his company will foray into medical technologies next to see if weights of external aids in the human body can be cut. "The idea is simple: a 10-gram tube can withstand weight of 200 kg," he said.

India, Africa are natural partners in development struggle: Swaraj

'Both want to eliminate poverty and develop sustainably; FTA will boost investment, growth'

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, October 27

India has "noted with interest" the recent announcements regarding the signing of a Tripartite Free Trade Agreement and the launch of negotiations for the creation of a Continental Free Trade Agreement in Africa, said Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister, on Tuesday.

"These are important developments and will stimulate further trade and investment," the Minister said in her statement at the Third India-Africa Forum Summit.

Swaraj felt that there was considerable synergy between the priorities being pursued by the Indian government and Africa's Agenda 2063.

"In the past, the solidarity between India and Africa was vital to defeat the forces of colonialism. Today, India and Africa are engaged in an equally vital struggle — the struggle to eliminate poverty and uplift our people," the External Affairs Minister pointed out.

Shared goals

She added that both India and Africa are working to ensure provision of healthcare, education, employment, access to modern energy services, infrastructure, and connectivity between resources and markets. "The similarity of our priorities and shared purpose provide special strength and context to our partnership," she added.

"India and Africa have worked together to develop a common understanding of our core priorities for an inclusive economic growth to eradicate poverty and allocate adequate resources for sustainable development," the Minister said.

She said India and Africa were the two most rapidly growing developing economies in the world.

"We are very happy to note the intensification of the India-Africa economic engagement in recent years. Our bilateral trade has multiplied 20 times in the last 15 years and doubled in the last five years to reach nearly \$72 billion in 2014-



North South outreach South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, on Tuesday REUTERS

2015," she said, adding that there is growing investment by Indian companies in Africa in a range of sectors, including telecommunications, hydrocarbons; agriculture, manufacturing, IT, water treatment and supply, drugs and pharmaceuticals, coal, automobiles, floriculture and textiles.

Turning her attention to the 3

million strong Indian diaspora in Africa, the Minister said they formed an important link between the countries.

"They have worked together with their African brethren in opposing colonialism in the past and are today working for economic development in their home countries," she said.

Kanoria Chemicals' denim unit in Ethiopia goes on stream

Easy access to US, EU markets makes African nation a good place to invest in: company

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, October 27

Kanoria Africa Textiles, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kanoria Chemicals and Industries Ltd, said here on Tuesday that it has completed its "integrated denim project" in Ethiopia.

The unit, located about 50 km from capital Addis Ababa, has an annual capacity of 12 million metres, and has been set up at an investment of \$50 million (around ₹325 crore).

"The African textiles industry has huge potential for manufacturing and exports. Ethiopia is a \$51-billion economy but currently imports almost all of its textiles. This provides a significant opportunity to Indian companies," said RV Kanoria, the company's Chairman and Managing Director.

The project — in which Kanoria Chemicals holds an 80 per cent stake with the rest being held by Hong Kong-based Fung Capital — is expected to provide direct employment to 500 people and in-

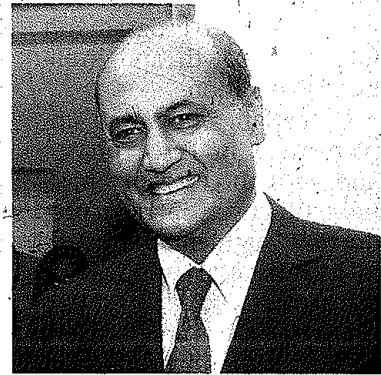
direct employment to 20,000 in the garments sector.

The company expects to generate about \$25 million (about ₹162.5 crore) annually through the project.

AGOA extension

The US recently extended the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) by 10 years, and Ethiopia is among the nations covered by the Act. Also, the Ethiopian government is providing a host of incentives to foreign investors, Kanoria pointed out, adding that these factors make exports from that country an attractive proposition.

"Through the AGOA, the US and EU markets can be accessed duty- and quota-free. This provides an opportunity for us to export significantly, and further the 'Made in Africa' brand, which has taken off in recent years," he added. It will use about 5,000 tonnes of cotton each year. The raw material is at present being sourced from Pakistan and Afri-



RV Kanoria

can countries such as Sudan, as a drought has hit cotton production in Ethiopia.

Falling cotton output is a concern, along with infrastructural shortcomings like road connectivity and undeveloped ginning processes, but improvements are expected in the short term, said Kanoria.

"The work on the Lamu port corridor is under way and will help improve road networks up to Ethiopia. A number of free trade agreements have also been signed with neighbouring countries, which will improve access. That is why this project is a long-term bet," he said.

Business Line, Delhi

Wednesday 28th October 2015, Page: 18

Width: 5.99 cms, Height: 3.81 cms, a4, Ref: pmin.2015-10-28.61.108

Bazaar of crafts in Delhi

New Delhi, October 27

Crafts across India from Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir and from Gujarat to West Bengal are in focus at the Shilpkala Utsav, an annual festival of crafts and the one of the only women artisans' craft bazaar in the city, which began here today. Minister of State for Textiles Santosh K Gangwar and BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the three-day crafts bazaar. PTI

Kanoria re-enters textile business

In talks with garment firms to sell denim from its Ethiopian plant

BS REPORTER

New Delhi, 27 October

Nearly two decades after exiting the textiles business, Kanoria Chemicals & Industries Ltd has made a re-entry. It is in talks with H&M, Peter Van Heusen, Velocity, Raymonds and Arvind to sell denim from its plant in Ethiopia. The company has made an investment of about \$50 million in the African country to take advantage from duty-free exports to the US and the European Union. The plant is the first denim manufacturing unit in the eastern Africa.

Chairman and Managing

Director Rajya Vardhan Kanoria told *Business Standard*, "The company is also in talks with the Ethiopian government for supporting cooperative contract farming of cotton."

The plant has an annual capacity of 12 million metres. The company requires 5,000-7,500 tonnes of cotton yearly. Currently, it is importing cotton from the US, India, Pakistan and Sudan. Under trade agreements with African countries, garment exports to the US and the EU do not attract import duty, which is 14 per cent.

Under trade agreements with African countries, garment exports to the US and the EU do not attract import duty

Kanoria said their Ethiopian venture had 20 per cent equity participation from private equity player Fung Capital. Indian Export-Import bank has provided a \$21-million loan for the plant.

The denim plant is located in Bishoftu town of Oromia region. It would make fine-quality denim fabric and create direct employment opportunities for about 500 people, and an expected indirect employment to around 20,000, primarily in the garment sector, said Kanoria.

Govt to restructure tech fund scheme: Gangwar

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Centre will not discontinue the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), and rather, restructure it keeping in view the complaints of the textile industry, Union minister Santosh Gangwar said on Tuesday.

TUFS was introduced in 1999 to catalyse investments in all the sub-sectors of textiles and jute industry by way of 5% interest reimbursement. The textile minister said his ministry has requested the finance ministry to make the desired changes, and the "scheme will not be discontinued" but will only be tweaked to remove the "complaints" by the industry.

However, representatives of the textile industry are of the view that they should be consulted before the requisite changes are made, pointing out that the sector is in "bad shape" and the government has not disbursed subsidy amount under the scheme for the period after September 2014.

"TUFS will remain. However, we are making some changes (in the scheme). We

CHANGE OF PLAN

■ The Centre will not discontinue the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), and rather, restructure it keeping in view the complaints of the textile industry, Union minister Santosh Gangwar said

■ TUFS was introduced in 1999 to catalyse investments in all the sub-sectors of textiles and jute industry by way of 5% interest reimbursement

have suggested to the finance ministry that the scheme should not be discontinued as it is in force since 1998-99 and has benefited the sector immensely. There was a blackout and left-out period in between which was wrong," Gangwar said on the sidelines of an Assocham event in New Delhi.

Asked by when the changes in the new scheme will be notified, he said, "It will be known in hardly 15 days". Gangwar added that Prime Minister Narendra

Modi wants the scheme to "reach a logical end".

However, he added the government will not discontinue the scheme but will restructure it in such a manner that there are no "complaints". As of now, the scheme is to continue till March 2017, the end of 12th plan period.

Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) secretary-general Binoy Job said, "For more than a year, the money has not been disbursed. This year the subsidy amount was released in September, but that was for until September 2014.

"As a result, we are badly stuck as textile industry runs on bare minimum margin of 2-5%. The industry is already in a bad shape because of global market conditions like China slowdown, and is thus, heavily dependent on the subsidies.

"If the government does not disburse committed support under TUFS, we will be in a soup. Before restructuring, the government should consult the textile industry," he added.

PTI

Loom Ahead

An exhibition of cotton weaves in Mumbai attempts to revive the craft of the Rabha community

POOJA PILLAI

IT IS not surprising that the weaving traditions of the Rabha women are little known outside the Dooar forests of West Bengal and Assam. According to Sarmistha Lahiri, Secretary of Hast Karigar Society, the Rabha community is shy and rarely engages with the outside world. "We had gone to the Buxa and Chilapata forests as a part of our work to find and revive lost or dying handicrafts and handloom traditions," she says. The weaves of the Rabhas caught the attention of the organisation, which realised that this craft needed a wider exposure. "Impressions", the Hast Karigar Society's exhibition in Mumbai, is an effort in that direction.



The traditional economy of the Rabhas is based on agriculture and forests-based activities, and it is the women who do the weaving. Using two types of looms, they weave cotton cloth that are very soft and have lively and colourful patterns. "The women mostly weave lufungs (sarongs) and maplas (stoles) for themselves, and for festivals," says Lahiri.

With the Uttar Banga Bon-Jan Shramajeevi Mancha, the Hast Karigar Society organised a group of 15 Rabha women from a village in the Buxa forests last year and provided them with the opportunity to earn a livelihood through their weaving and, at the same time, work to revive their craft. This year, the weavers from Buxa have been joined by a group from the Mendabari



The Rabha women in clothes they have woven; the cotton fabric is very soft and in vibrant colours and patterns

forest village in Chilapata forest. "When we started the revival project last year, we had included a few dupattas," says Lahiri. "We have a much wider selection now, including dupattas, stoles and sarongs, and are planning to expand into saris next year," she adds.

● Haute style

Sparkling cuts for the season

Vibrant colours, smart cuts and elegant designs are what most women look for in an outfit. Balancing these elements in unique and customised outfits for the women of today, is the festive collection from **Sparkles Fashion Studio**. From ethnic suits, saris, 'lehengas' to party wear, the brand has something for every woman.

A personal touch

The brand is proud of the fact that provides innovative and customised designs as per the customers' taste.

Creating designs that are effortless, timeless and ooze elegance and grace, the latest collection comes in bright shades and has the most unique cuts.

Shweta Jaisal, a senior designer with the brand, says, "Each and every outfit is chic and of utmost quality. This collection has taken inspiration from 'ocean waves', where the silhouette and cowls of the garments show the tide, while colours like beige, emerald green, red and orangish red, depict the freshness of the ocean."

Asymmetrical embroidery depicts the smooth blend of the waves touching the shore, says Siddhi Mehta, who co-designed the latest collection.

"We design garments for

every occasion using hand and machine embroidery like 'zardosi', 'aari', 'kantha', 'chikankari', 'silk embroidery' and 3D," adds Siddhi.

She says that the brand also creates prints and does printing on fabrics.

"The brand's USP is that it provides a professional fashion designer who can guide the client according to her requisites, especially in terms the embroidery available in various colour combinations."

The garments are made of fabrics like raw silk, pure silk, cotton, satin, crape, lycra, net, georgette and chiffon. The fashion boutique, unlike any other, aims to give stylish, great and affordable clothing. "We would like to offer customers with many options and choices to solve their fashion problems," concludes Siddhi.

Tini Sara Anien



Are you a college student and want to model for Metrolife's 'Haute Style'? Do you have any fashion tips for the season? Or you simply want to say something about our feature 'Haute Style'? Send your emails with contact number to: metrolife@deccanherald.co.in or dhmetro@gmail.com



ANSHIKA, a student, wore a green net skirt with brocade, raw silk border and gold and fuchsia kota matka neck blouse with gold net brocade finished dupatta. **Punchline:** "The look is perfect for an ethnic party or even for the upcoming festivals. The way the outfit falls is impressive." **Price:** Net skirt with gold and fuchsia neck blouse and gold net brocade finished dupatta (Rs 7,750)

NEHA, a student, wore a red front short jacket style 'anarkali' with a sequin embroidered opening and teamed it with a net velvet finished 'dupatta'. **Punchline:** "The bright red colour accentuates the garment and makes it proper for any occasion." **Price:** Short jacket style 'anarkali' and net velvet finished 'dupatta' (Rs 12,040)

ANKUSHA, a student, wore an emerald green zari embroidered Chinese collar silk suit with a back button opening and velvet finish crushed tissue 'dupatta'. **Punchline:** "The bright colour and classic design make the costume perfect for any occasion." **Price:** Emerald green zari silk suit with crushed tissue 'dupatta' (Rs 5,747)

SIMRAN SHARMA, a student, wore a fuchsia cowl suit with a turquoise embroidered Chinese collar with semi-raw silk pants. **Punchline:** "The suit has a unique design, which is flattering and also very trendy. I like the way the outfit flows." **Price:** Fuchsia cowl suit with semi raw silk pants (Rs 4,142)

JINAL, a student, sported a red side short centre long 'anarkali' with zari and a silk embroidered Chinese collar and purple kundan work brocade yoke with a net brocade finished 'dupatta'. **Punchline:** "I love how two different colours are mixed to make this outfit. The work on the outfit is amazing." **Price:** Long 'anarkali' and a net dupatta (Rs 7,986)

SUPRIYA, a student, wore a beige net skirt with zari and silk embroidered belt with a red raw silk heavy embroidered blouse and a chandiler lace finished gold net 'dupatta'. **Punchline:** "The outfit is a perfect mix of colours and looks great for a wedding celebration or a festive night out." **Price:** Beige net skirt with silk embroidered blouse and gold net 'dupatta' (Rs 12,288)

The need to manufacture more jobs

Deep Fish

N Chandra Mohan

One reliable indicator of how well the Indian economy is doing is whether adequate jobs are being created. What is the benefit of being the fastest growing economy in the world if it does not generate employment and thereby contribute to material well-being? Every year, around 10-12 million people, mostly young and educated, seek gainful work opportunities in the towns and cities. How many of them are absorbed in the manufacturing or services sector? Those who cannot secure work join the growing ranks of the jobless or withdraw altogether from the labour force if they are discouraged by the dismal prospects for gainful employment.

Unlike in advanced countries where up-to-date information is available on the labour market, this information is available in India only with a five-year lag. The last comprehensive survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation pertains to 2011-12. The Labour Bureau, however, has conducted 25 quarterly surveys on changes in employment from October-December 2008 till January-March 2015 in labour-intensive sectors like textiles, leather, metals, automobiles, gems and jewellery, transport, IT/BPO and handloom/power loom. This is perhaps the best source for gauging job creation in the manufacturing sector.

The news is not good from the four quarterly surveys for 2014-15. The number of jobs declined sequentially every quarter. Around 182,000 jobs were generated during April-June 2014, which dropped to 143,000 in July-September, and further to 83,000 in October-December and 64,000 in January-March 2015 although manufacturing growth in value-added averaged a respectable 7.1 per cent over this period. Manufacturing growth thus is not employment-intensive enough, if not jobless in nature. Overall, 521,000 jobs were created during the year which looks respectable when compared to the 276,000 jobs generated in 2013-14.

These numbers don't indicate any broad-based upswing in job creation in manufacturing. Only IT/BPO and textiles generated the bulk of jobs last year, while it shrank in labour-intensive sectors like leather, metals, gems and jewellery, transport, handloom and power loom. The bleak export outlook for many of these industries also has a bearing on the limited number of jobs being generated. As manufacturing has been prioritised under the Make in India programme, it should con-

cern policy makers that this sector is not adequately absorbing job seekers who are streaming in from the countryside looking for employment in urban India.

The picture remains equally dismal if we focus only on the latest quarter, January-March 2015, and comparable quarters in earlier years. Here again, IT/BPO accounts for roughly three-fifths of employment. Textiles drops out as the 24,000-odd jobs generated do not compensate for the sharp job losses of 54,000 in January-March 2014. This important sector also experienced massive shrinkage in employment in January-March 2010 and January-March 2011. Employment generation is marginal in sectors like automobiles and metals and negative in transport, handloom/power loom when compared to January-March 2014.

JOBS are being generated mainly in IT/BPO. However, for all the encouragement this sector is receiving under the Digital India programme, this sector by itself cannot take care of those who are leaving their farms and heading for towns and cities. It is only labour-intensive manufacturing that can do so, especially sectors like textiles and automobiles.

Jobs thus are being generated mainly in IT/BPO. However, for all the encouragement this sector is receiving under the Digital India programme, this sector by itself cannot take care of those who are leaving their farms and heading for towns and cities. It is only labour-intensive manufacturing that can do so, especially sectors like textiles and automobiles. The disappointment really is automobiles as there are signs that green-field foreign direct investments have substantially picked up in this sector. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report for 2015, India, in fact, accounted for the bulk of FDI in the automobile sector in South Asia.

The country absorbed the preponderant share of green-field investment projects announced by global automakers and first-tier suppliers during 2013-14, including 12 projects larger than \$100 million in the region. This major sector alone accounts for 20 per cent of India's manufacturing

value-added with an annual production of 18 million vehicles. India's auto industry is a global hub in the making. Currently, this sector has acquired critical size with global original equipment manufacturers and strong domestic players that have set up shop in India. This has, in turn, catalysed a thriving auto component industry. But where have all the jobs gone?

The limited employment in manufacturing cannot be addressed through quick fixes. It is not possible to tackle this problem without developing skills that the industry wants. India presents a paradox of skill shortages despite a situation of labour surplus. Around fifteen per cent of India's trucks are idle due to shortage of drivers. The steel industry is short of metallurgists. The healthcare sector is short of paramedics and technicians. The booming construction sector has a shortage of civil engineers. These skill mismatches must be met by stepping up enrolment in industrial training, vocational institutes and public-funded institutions of learning.

In this milieu, firms in sectors like automobiles are increasingly using capital-intensive technology that minimizes the need for hiring more workers. Or when they do hire, they increasingly prefer contract and other non-permanent forms of labour to perform regular work at much lower wages and without basic rights like forming independent unions. An inflection point in the regard was the violence at the country's largest car manufacturer's facility in Haryana a few years ago. The industry has renewed demands for changes in labour legislation to encourage more flexibility and exit (read hire and fire) in the use of labour. The unions, for their part, seek greater protections for their constituents.

India's labour legislation has not stood in the way of industry's need for non-permanent workers. Employers have found ways of circumventing such laws to minimise labour costs with contract workers on their rolls. But a dualistic structure of labour utilisation in industry also arises because of high variability in demand on account of cyclical and seasonal factors. Temporary workers are hired in times of peak demand and discharged thereafter. The Labour Bureau's quarterly surveys also indicate that contract, rather than direct, workers are being hired. The problem on the job front is clearly the poor quality of employment. Unless more regular employment is generated in manufacturing and other sectors of the economy, there are bound to be serious social strains as frustration grows among the jobless educated youth.

(N Chandra Mohan is an economics and business commentator based in New Delhi)