

New textile policy likely after Budget

MUMBAI, Jan 28 (PTI): The much-awaited new textile policy is likely to be announced after the Budget, Textile Commissioner Kiran Soni Gupta said here.

"The new textile policy is almost ready and is expected to be announced immediately after the Union Budget. We had comprehensive detailed discussions with various stake holders," Gupta told reporters after inaugurating the 60th National Garment Fair organised by CMAI here.

The policy will give a direction to the textile sector and act as a huge support to it. It has outlined all the aspects - the vision, strategy and the action plan, she said.

Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) president Rahul Mehta said that the country's apparel exports are likely to touch USD 17 billion in FY15 as compared to USD 14.7 billion last year.

In 2014-15, the growth rate of domestic garment market will be 10 to 12 per cent, while the growth rate of export market would be 18 to 20 per cent, Mehta said.

The growth in Indian textile sector was due to improvement in dollar-rupee parity, which has become favourable for the industry because of downtrend in Chinese economy and reduced competition from Bangladesh, he said.

Commenting on textile parks development programme, Gupta stated that 61 textile parks have been sanctioned, out of which 55 are presently operating. Further, 13 textile parks are under consideration. Some of the textile Parks, like the ones at Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore, have shown excellent performance. Technical textiles have very bright future. There has been good demand with good scope for the industry to expand the production capacity, Gupta said.

The Government has been promoting north-eastern region with focus on agro-textiles and geo-textiles, she added.

The B2B garment fair has 260 stalls displaying over 300 brands of summer collection. It covers men's wear, women's wear, kids wear, ethnic wear, intimate wear, etc. A footfall of 20,000 trade visitors is expected during the fair, Mehta said.

Business Line, Delhi

Saturday 31st January 2015, Page: 16

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Cotton wilts on weak offtake

Rajkot, January 30

Cotton price moved down as demand remained weak on Friday. *Kapas* or raw cotton marginally declined as ginning demand was slow. According to traders, buyers were not accepting the rise in price which restricted the demand. Moreover, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has started selling cotton which may exert pressure on the prices. Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton declined to ₹30,500-30,700 per candy of 356 kg. About 45,000 bales (of 170 kg) arrived in Gujarat and 1.75 lakh bales arrived in India. *Kapas* lost ₹5-7 to ₹770-810 for a *maund* of 20 kg and gin delivery *kapas* went for ₹810-820. Cotton seed stood at ₹355-362 in Gujarat. OUR CORRESPONDENT

Hindu, Delhi

Saturday 31st January 2015, Page: 20

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Kashmiri motifs, Benarasi saris

Kolkata-based designers Swati Agarwal and Sunaina Jalan's new collection of hand woven saris celebrates the beauty of Kashmir

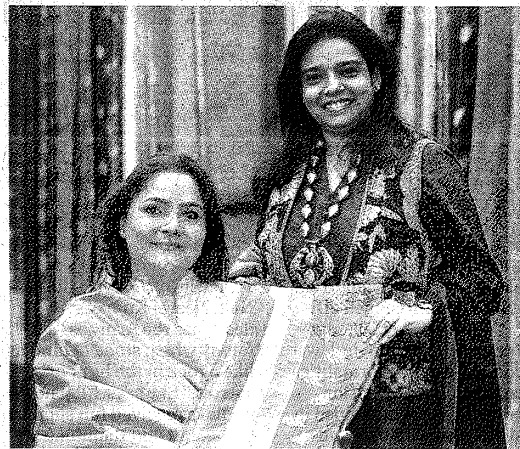
MADHUR TANKHA

The pristine beauty of the Kashmir Valley, endowed with inimitable natural surroundings, has been adapted by designer duo Swati Agarwal and Sunaina Jalan in the new collection of saris. There is an unmistakable imprint of the picturesque Valley in the wide assortment of saris.

These housewives-turned-designers, who live in Kolkata but keep shuttling between Benaras and the City of Joy as they work in collaboration with five dozen families living in the city on the banks of Ganga, have used Kashmiri motifs and embossed them on saris in such a manner that they look majestic.

These saris are an interesting blend of the Valley and Benaras and it seems that the geographical distance between the Northern most State and this Uttar-Pradesh city has been blurred for the convenience of the discerning.

The duo went for a week to the Valley where they were bowled over by the majestic



INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP *Designers Swati Agarwal (left) and Sunaina Jalan*

mountains, waterfalls and the warmth of shikarawalas.

The collection seems to have derived inspiration from the Chinar trees, jamavar and flowers of the Shalimar Bagh. "Yes, we have drawn inspiration from the flora and landmarks to recreate the pristine beauty of the Valley on hand-woven Benarasi sari. We were fortunate to have

discovered the unexplored charm and beauty of Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg. It was time to reflect the breathtaking beauty of Kashmir in our saris. We have revived age-old Benarasi weaving techniques and deployed them for 'The Kashmir Collection'."

But what is the correlation between the Valley and

Benaras that motivated the duo to do a jugalbandi of sorts? "We took the decision to produce a collection dedicated to Kashmir after hearing about the devastating floods in the State. It crudely took away lives of so many people and even people in the rural areas were affected as villages got submerged. Everyone, especially the senior citizens, women, children, were badly affected by the catastrophe. The work of creative people, who spent months and even years in producing heavily embroidered carpets and Pashmina shawls went down the drain due to this natural calamity," says Swati.

Though Swati and Sunaina don't hail from the Valley, they felt it was their duty to do something to improve the state of the locals after the recent floods.

"Actually, we decided to travel to the Valley so that we could get inspiration for our work and donate proceeds from our collection to the people of the State. We are donating proceeds to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for rehabilitation of the

people there," says Swati.

This time round they could have as an experiment worked with artisans of Kashmir but they again chose to work with their team of karigars of Benaras. "We are committed to work for the welfare of artisans in Benaras, who have been employed by us since they launched our label in 2007. As they get good remuneration even the young generation is following in their parents' footsteps. So we want to continue our relationship."

On their entry in the creative field, the self-taught Swati says, "My brother was getting married and I couldn't get a proper Benarasi sari for myself. Then I researched and got enlightened about the rich textiles of the region which I thought needed to be revived. Unfortunately, there is no archive on Benarasi saris and families usually do not pass their skills to the next generation. So the techniques used for creating these old mesmerised saris are either used by a few families or are lost forever."

The exhibition, which recently concluded in the Capital, will travel to Hyderabad, Mumbai and Singapore.

एंटरटेनमेंट का कुंड... 'सूरजकुंड'

टिकट के रेट

दिन	रेट
रोजाना	₹70 रुपये प्रति व्यक्ति
वीकेंड	₹100 प्रति व्यक्ति

नोट : वरिष्ठ नागरिक, विकलांग और सैनिकों के लिए 50 पर्सेंट छूट रहेगी। उनके लिए फोटो आईडी कार्ड जरूरी है। इसके अलावा वीक डेज में स्टूडेंट 50 प्रतिशत की छूट मिलेगी। इसके लिए भी कॉलेज का फोटो आईडी कार्ड अनिवार्य है।

■ हेमलता सेनी, फरीदाबाद

कल से सूरजकुंड मेले का आगाज हो रहा है। मेला 15 फरवरी तक चलेगा। सुबह 10:30 बजे से रात 8 बजे तक मेले का आनंद ले सकेंगे। इस बार छत्तीसगढ़ स्टेट मेले की थीम है, जबकि पश्चिम एशिया का देश लेबनान पार्टनर कंट्री के रूप में शिरकत कर रहा है। करीब 20 देशों के कलाकार और शिल्पकार मेले में आ रहे हैं। इस बार मेला परिसर को पेपर फ्री करने की भी कोशिश की गई है। इसलिए मेला प्राधिकरण टिकटों की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग पर जोर दे रहा है। मोडिया प्रभारी राजेश जून ने बताया कि लोग भीड़ से बचने के लिए हरियाणा पर्यटन विभाग की वेबसाइट के अलावा बुक माई शो से भी ऑनलाइन टिकट बुक करा सकते हैं। इसके अलावा सूरजकुंड के मोबाइल

ऐप से भी टिकट बुक कराया जा सकता है। टिकट बुक करवाने के बाद एक एसएमएस आएगा जिसे दिखाकर वह मेले में एंट्री ले सकते हैं। इसके साथ ही दिल्ली व गुडगांव के 22 मेट्रो स्टेशनों पर टिकटों की बिक्री होगी। सिक्युरिटी के लिए 120 सीसीटीवी कैमरे लगाए गए और भारी पुलिस फोर्स तैनात की गई है। मेला प्राधिकरण की ओर से 12 पार्किंग स्थल बनाए गए हैं। दिल्ली की ओर से आने वाले दर्शकों के लिए दिल्ली गेट के पास 2 पार्किंग बनाई गई है।

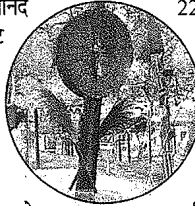
कहां-कहां से चलेगी बस

मेले के लिए हरियाणा रोडवेज ने लो फ्लोर बसों की व्यवस्था की है। ये बसें एनआईटी बस अड्डे, दिल्ली के शिवाजी स्टेडियम से, बल्लभगढ़ बस स्टैंड से और पलवल बस स्टैंड से चला

करेंगी। रोडवेज ने बसों का टाइम टेबल व रूट तैयार कर लिया है। दिल्ली से हर आधे घंटे और एनआईटी बस स्टैंड से 45 मिनट पर बसें दर्शकों के लिए उपलब्ध होंगी। एनआईटी बस अड्डे से पहली बस सुबह 8 बजे चलेगी। दिल्ली के शिवाजी स्टेडियम से पहली बस मेले के लिए सुबह 8:30 बजे चलेगी। सूरजकुंड मेले से दिल्ली के लिए पहली बस सुबह 10 बजे और आखिरी बस रात 8:30 बजे मिलेगी।

मेट्रो भी ऑप्शन

मेट्रो से आ रहे हैं तो बदरपुर या तुगलकाबाद मेट्रो स्टेशन पर उतरें। इन स्टेशनों से ऑटो आपको सीधा मेले के दिल्ली गेट की ओर उतार देंगे। बदरपुर मेट्रो स्टेशन से हर आधे घंटे पर मेला स्पेशल बस सर्विस उपलब्ध है। इसके अलावा अगर आप ट्रेन से आ रहे हैं तो आप तुगलकाबाद उतरकर ऑटो ले सकते हैं। गुडगांव से मेले के लिए बसें चलाई जा रही हैं।



किसानों को राहत के लिए कपास आयात पर लग सकता है शुल्क

राजीव कुमार

नई दिल्ली। कॉटन किसानों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए सरकार कपास (कॉटन) के आयात पर शुल्क लगा सकती है। कृषि मंत्रालय ने वाणिज्य मंत्रालय से कॉटन के आयात पर शुल्क लगाने की सिफारिश की है। वर्तमान में घरेलू बाजार में कॉटन की कीमत 30,000 रुपये प्रति कैंडी (एक कैंडी 356 किलोग्राम) चल रही है। यह कीमत अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार की कीमत से अब भी 10 फीसदी तक अधिक है।

मंत्रालय सूत्रों के मुताबिक कृषि मंत्रालय ने देश के कपास किसानों के हितों को देखते हुए कॉटन के आयात पर 15 फीसदी तक शुल्क लगाने की सिफारिश की है। कृषि मंत्रालय की तरफ से इस संबंध में



वाणिज्य व उद्योग मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण को पत्र लिखा गया है। अभी कॉटन के आयात पर कोई शुल्क नहीं लगता है।

मंत्रालय सूत्रों के मुताबिक अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में भारतीय बाजार के मुकाबले कॉटन की कीमत अब भी 10 फीसदी तक कम है। ऐसे में कॉटन को कच्चे माल के रूप में इस्तेमाल करने वाले निर्माता घरेलू कॉटन की खरीदारी की जगह विदेश से कॉटन का आयात कर सकते हैं। इससे

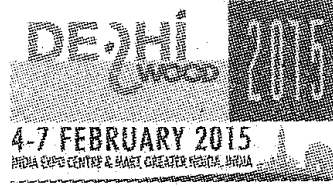
- कृषि मंत्रालय ने 15 फीसदी शुल्क की सिफारिश की
- मांग गिरने से कॉटन की कीमत लगातार गिरावट की ओर

उनके उत्पाद की लागत कम आएगी। मंत्रालय सूत्रों के मुताबिक यार्न निर्माताओं की तरफ से कॉटन का आयात करने पर भारतीय किसानों के कपास की मांग और कम हो जाएगी। लेकिन कपास पर आयात शुल्क लग जाने के बाद घरेलू यार्न निर्माता कॉटन के आयात की जगह घरेलू खरीदारी ही करेंगे। घरेलू बाजार में कपास की कीमत में पहले से ही पिछले साल के मुकाबले 30 फीसदी तक की गिरावट आ चुकी है। कॉटन

कॉरपोरेशन किसानों से न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य पर कॉटन की खरीदारी कर रहा है। इस साल चीन की तरफ से कॉटन आयात में आई भारी गिरावट की वजह से भारतीय कॉटन की कीमत कम होती जा रही है। किसान बाजार में कॉटन की आपूर्ति कम कर रहे हैं। किसान कॉटन की कीमत तेज होने की उम्मीद लगाए बैठे हैं। वर्ष 2014-2015 के कॉटन सीजन में भारत में 406 लाख बेल्स (एक बेल 170 किलोग्राम के बराबर होता है) होने का अनुमान है। गुजरात व महाराष्ट्र के कॉटन एसोसिएशन के मुताबिक कॉटन की कीमत में गिरावट का दौर लगातार जारी रहा, तो यह किसानों के लिए खतरनाक साबित हो सकता है। पिछले महीने सरकार ने खाद्य तेल के आयात शुल्क में पांच फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी की है।

दिल्ली वुड में शामिल होंगे 450 से अधिक प्रदर्शक

नई दिल्ली। आगामी चार फरवरी से 7 फरवरी तक इंडिया एक्सपो



सेंटर, ग्रेटर नोएडा में दिल्ली वुड के चौथे संस्करण का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। दिल्ली वुड उत्तर भारत में आयोजित किया जाने वाला अकेला काष्ठ कला व्यापार शो है। इस अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार

शो में फर्नीचर निर्माण की तकनीकों, बढ़ईगिरी के कामों, मशीनरी, उपकरण, फिटिंग्स, अन्य दूसरी आवश्यक वस्तुओं, कच्चा माल और उत्पादों का प्रदर्शन किया जाएगा। दिल्ली वुड में भारत के साथ-साथ चीन, जर्मनी, इटली, कनाडा, फ्रांस, ताइवान, टर्की और अमेरिका आदि 20 देशों से आये 450 से अधिक प्रदर्शक हिस्सा लेंगे।

लालइमली के कर्मचारी भुखमरी के कगार पर

कानपुर (भाषा)। गर्म कपड़े बनाने के लिए अपने जमाने की मशहूर भारत सरकार के कपड़ा मंत्रालय के अन्तर्गत आने वाली कंपनी लाल इमली के करीब 1200 कर्मचारी पिछले सात महीने से वेतन न मिलने से परेशान हैं और अब उनके परिवारों के सामने भुखमरी की नौबत आ गई है।

कर्मचारी बकाया वेतन के लिए आन्दोलन कर रहे हैं और उनका कहना कि सरकार इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दे रही है। वहीं कंपनी के महाप्रबंधक का कहना है कि इस बाबत मंत्रालय को लगातार जानकारी दी जा रही है और मंत्रालय को बता दिया गया है कि कर्मचारियों को पिछले कई महीनों से वेतन नहीं मिल पा रहा है।

लाल इमली कंपनी कानपुर की सबसे पुरानी कपड़ा मिल है जो गर्म कपड़े बनाने के लिए बहुत मशहूर थी लेकिन वर्ष 1992 से यह खस्ताहाल कंपनी (बीमार कंपनी) के रूप में घोषित कर दी गयी। तब से इसके पुनरुद्धार के लिए अनेक प्रस्ताव केन्द्र सरकार को भेजे गये लेकिन कुछ नहीं हुआ और अब कंपनी के कर्मचारी खाने को मोहताज है।

देश में 13 टेक्सटाइल पार्कों को मंजूरी, 15 और खुलेंगे

लखनऊ (एसएनबी)। सूबे की राजधानी में एक दिवसीय दौरे पर आये केन्द्रीय कपड़ा राज्य मंत्री स्वतंत्र प्रभार संतोष गंगवार ने बताया कि केन्द्र सरकार देश में 13 टेक्सटाइल पार्कों के निर्माण को मंजूरी दे चुकी है और 15 टेक्सटाइल्स पार्क और खोले जाएंगे।

उन्होंने बताया कि यूपी ने अभी तक टेक्सटाइल पार्क के लिए कोई आवेदन नहीं किया है। इसे लेकर वह मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव से बात करेंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि टेक्सटाइल पार्क के निर्माण के लिए आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि बढ़ाकर पांच फरवरी कर दी गयी है। उन्होंने बताया कि टेक्सटाइल पार्क बनाने में 100 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश होगा। इस पार्क में दस उद्योग एक जगह 25 एकड़ की जमीन पर स्थापित होंगे। इसके लिए केन्द्र सरकार 40 करोड़ देगी और बाकी राज्य सरकार और उद्योग लगाने वाले को देना होगा।

उन्होंने बताया कि एक टेक्सटाइल पार्क से औसतन 1000 लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा। उनकी कोशिश पहले चरण में सभी राज्यों में एक-एक टेक्सटाइल पार्क देने की होगी। उन्होंने कहा कि मोदी सरकार ने चुनाव के पहले बुनकरों को अलग योजना देने का एलान किया था।

THREE different design sensibilities were bought together over the week to create a unique synergy of mind and thought. The participants were noted designer duo Abraham & Thakore', Bharathi Raviprakash, whose work with jewellery has won accolades, and Sharan Apparao from Apparao Galleries.

The event which was called 'Raw Elegance', showcased new designs in these three disciplines, and the trio presented their works at the concept store Moonriver by Radhika Gupta.

Bharathi's precious stones in their natural state such as untreated rubies, opals and onyx, amethyst and quartz in lovely smoky colours, explored bold organic forms, while Sharan Apparao had commissioned artists to design chessboards in a simple format. Abraham & Thakore, though, stuck to their signature black and white collection

DESIGNED TO PERFECTION



Abraham & Thakore

that works well with natural fibres. Bharathi Raviprakash's Studio Tara, which is headquartered in Chennai, is a

love story of an artist and her medium; rare, beautiful and raw gem stones. Pure elements are crafted in a signature style that is bold, and sophisticated. A collection of signature bespoke jewellery is inspired by luscious, handpicked gemstones.

Says the designer, "My inspiration is mostly from organic forms and I like to play with geometric patterns. I love drama and even my simple jewellery is designed to make a statement.

"The jewellery created at Studio Tara conveys stories of raw and pristine charm unleashing the gems' aesthetic potential. The revolutionary designs depict the fearless, individualistic spirit of the label".

Budding fashion brands

ONE just can't do without their luxury essentials, accessories or couture — those prized Italian and French goodies that we keep wrapped under felt and neat

boxes. However, if you're like me, then more often than not there are days when you get just plain tired of the same old look, same old brands, and popular high street styles.

I, for one, am constantly looking for young and fresh labels and can't wait to experiment. I decided it would be fun to round up some of the latest fashion entrants who have made a name for themselves amongst the stylish within a short span of time and am sharing my research in the hope that these younger labels, and up and coming brands, can add a refreshing touch to your style and home.

COUTURE BEGINNINGS

The eponymous label 'SONALI GUPTA' was launched by the young designer in 2012 with a private exhibition of her own exquisitely designed collection. Little expected but pleasantly appreciated, the collection received rave reviews and today it is fast becoming a known label amongst fashionistas in the Capital. Bringing together an ethereal sense of design, with myriad exposure to style and fashion from centuries past, Sonali's label is quintessentially contemporary-traditional for the trendy and chic.

Celebrities that have been snapped in Sonali Gupta designs include Sonam Kapoor, Tara Sharma, Huma Qureshi and Sonakshi Sinha, to name but a few.

BOX OF TREASURES

An exciting new addition to the Capital's luxury market, 'Pitaraah' is a premium multi-designer store catering to both men and women. Walk into the sets of a grand life!

**Creations by
Rahul Mishra
are available
at 'Pitaraah'.**

Curated by the bon vivant duo, Akhil Verma & Deepti Verma; Pitaraah is the hamlet of contemporary and chic fashion. The store spreads over 2,200 sq.ft in Delhi's designer hub — Defence Colony and showcases Indian-wear and RTW collections that celebrate the spirit of the festive season and

combine surreal aesthetics with drama and functionality. With her in depth knowledge of fashion trends and designers styles, Deepti Verma, former deputy editor of *Harper's Bazar*, has curated names and ensembles that are in keeping with international trends and contemporary design.

On the other hand, Akhil Verma's experience in styling, internships with top designers and his keen eye for have helped his looks to make a statement.

This contemporary store houses both traditional and contemporary styles from some of the biggest names from the Indian fashion fraternity such as: Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla, Suneet Verma, Rohit Bal, Meera & Muzaffar Ali, Nachiket Barve, Rahul Mishra and younger names like Shehla Khan, Sahil Kochchar, Ridhi Mehra, Indian Textiles, Annaika as well as accessory brands.

STYLE FOR BABIES

If you're bored of the run of the mill baby stuff then babyjalebi.com is the hottest stop for all your unique baby home and furnishing requirements. The products are as quirky and avant-garde as the brand name suggests and comes with unprecedented patented personalisation and customisation options. Founded by duo Gunia Chopra & Rati Nehra in 2013, www.babyjalebi.com is a baby home and lifestyle brand with great offerings

for your little one.

It all started when Rati & Gunia, who were doing up their own children's rooms, realised that there was a dearth of baby products available in the Indian market. Their endeavour is to make beautiful and diverse products with as little repetition in design as possible, as they believe each baby is unique and deserves a product that is equally distinct. The offerings range from from baby bedding to swaddling sheets to cushions to nursery decor.

CLUTCH IT

SVJ is a fine leather brand by fashionista Sanya V Jain with a degree in design from Parsons New York, devoted to the 'good life'; celebrating and living it well through fine goods. SVJ believes that a bag can represent a part of you, an inner temptress, party personality and can even project a work ethic. The accessories whilst quite classic are reinvented by a concept of fun and entertainment. SVJ is available at Pernias pop-up shop.



Khadi on the ramp

With capes, *garara* pants and dungarees, three designers are taking *khadi* to luxurious heights, writes Asmita Aggarwal



A ₹1,800 *khadi* jacket from Khadi Gram Udyog and a ₹45 pocket square to rev it up. That's all it took for Sunil Sethi, the chairperson of the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), to spark a revolution of sorts and galvanise a chiffon-drenched fashion industry to turn its attention to *khadi*.

Sethi's style statement had three top designers — Anamika Khanna, Rajesh Pratap Singh and Rohit Bal — showcasing their *khadi* designer wear at 'Huts to High Street', a

fashion show organised by FDCI in collaboration with the Gujarat State Khadi and Village Industries Board at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Memorial in Ahmedabad.

The fabric, which has come to be looked upon as the attire of the *jholawalas* and meant to be crafted only into loose *kurtas* to be worn with *Kohlapuris* — is back in fashion. Singh has created cropped jackets, boyish shorts and dungarees out of what is usually considered too rough a fabric to mould. "I have been work-

ing with *khadi* for the Arvind Mills project and this time we again used the indigo dyeing techniques," he says. "The idea was to break free from the shackles of what *khadi* is perceived as — an intellectual garment, meant only for the 'thinking few'. *Khadi* is supple, easy, it breathes and what FDCI has done will only take it a step further."

Singh kept the aesthetic and natural rawness of the fabric alive by retaining its ivory-toned hue and only placed a red piping to highlight pockets or robust backs. Rather than a Bollywood showstopper, he chose five men from the Rabari tribe to wear his patchwork jackets.

Khanna, who showcased a line soaked in the flavours of *khadi* with her signature capes, used white to offset shimmer, with the Radha-Krishna motifs strewn generously over her elaborate, asymmetrical shirts and *dhoti* pants. "It's a misnomer that *khadi* is not malleable; I used *khadi* (600 counts) that is smooth and sourced from Bengal. *Khadi* needs to be made edgy, cool and for me anything which has its roots in India will always be appealing," says Khanna. She made 16 pieces for the show and stuck to women's wear — "my forte as I am not equipped with the technical skill to do menswear".

FDCI board member Anju Modi, who supported the cause by turning up in a charcoal black *khadi* tunic, says, "In all the razzle-dazzle of fashion, *khadi* is like a lone warrior that has its own voice. It is rich and commands a characteristic texture, is handspun and so it is absolutely organic. She sources the fabric from

Khadi and Village Industries Commission and then adds patterns and motifs, vegetable dye or print to it. "The beauty of the fabric is that it doesn't get crushed and absorbs colour beautifully," she says. "What it needs is a design quotient so that it gets the boost it deserves."

Treated deftly, *khadi* can be alleviated to couture, says designer Renu Tandon who has in the past designed a purely *khadi* line where she played with the borders keeping the colour spectrum natural. The fabric's versatility allows it to work in both summer and winter.

For Sethi, it all started when he invited O Ravi, member secretary of the Gujarat State Khadi & Village Industries Board, to Wills India Fashion Week and explained to him that fashion was moving towards a more serious space. "I still remember taking Bal's *khadi* shirts to Selfridges in 2000 and they did exceedingly well," he says. "This show," says Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel, "carries forward the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said '*Ek khadi har ghar* (*khadi* in every house)'. This will also help the poor by giving them employment."

What makes *khadi* relevant is the historical value it commands as it is "symbolic of the construction of modern India", says designer Abhishek Gupta. What it needs is a global perspective, he adds. "Luxury products can be made from *khadi*. We designers just need to push that proverbial envelope."

The *khadi* creations are available at the personal stores of the designers. Prices begin at ₹20,000

Suddenly, better numbers

The wonders that statisticians can perform! Now that key numbers for the economy have been revised, the Manmohan Singh government can justifiably claim that it did not leave the economy in an almighty mess, with (as it seemed until Thursday) the only two-year period in recent times when gross domestic product (GDP) growth was less than five per cent. Indeed it can claim that the economy was already on the mend before it handed over charge to Mr Modi, since growth had recovered from 4.9 per cent in 2012-13 to 6.6 per cent in 2013-14. Then, if you take the changed definition of GDP (falling in line with that used internationally), the last government can take credit for growth in those two years that shows up at 5.1 per cent and 6.9 per cent — or an average of six per cent. Even by the old definition of GDP (now renamed GVA, for gross value added), growth during the six years that began with the financial crisis of 2008 would have averaged seven per cent. By the new definition, it may well have been higher. That's what would have been called a Tiger rate of growth in the last century, and is not bad at all in the difficult and turbulent global environment of the last few years. Certainly, it is one of the best in the world for the period. The country would be doing very well if it managed to repeat that growth rate over the next six years.

That raises the question, what are the prospects? The most encouraging thing is that savings and investment rates are still high, even though not as high as at the height of the boom period in the middle of the last decade. If the history of the recent past (when investment in power, gas and road projects produced little or no additional output) can be avoided, then savings and investment rates that remain comfortably above 30 per cent should be able to underwrite sustained economic growth of seven per cent; somewhat less if the global environment turns hostile to exports and the growth engine has to be entirely domestic.

It helps that the Modi government has been gaining steam, after a slow start. The repeated promises of meeting the fiscal deficit target are reassuring since the Budget is now close at hand. At least some kinds of tax terrorism (those affecting foreigners) are being buried; domestic victims will have to wait a bit longer, it seems. Meanwhile, inflation rates have dropped, and the current account deficit might well disappear because of low oil prices. So the stability factors for the economy have rarely looked better. For future budgeting, the subsidy bill is being tackled with a determined push to eliminate waste and replace product price subsidies with direct cash transfers — cooking gas now, fertiliser and perhaps even foodgrain next. Price control has been lifted on diesel. The money saved could fuel public investment.

That brings up the issue of accelerating growth. Here, the cobwebs around policymaking are getting cleared. Foreign investment has been opened up in a couple of sectors, and (for good or ill) the environment roadblocks in the way of projects are being lowered if not removed. Disinvestment has finally got under way, and the spectrum auction will happen soon, even if not in the best way possible. Private investment may start if the high stock prices encourage companies to raise fresh capital — as some (Tata Motors, for instance) have started doing. Once serious investment starts in rail and road projects, as is apparently intended, public investment will be additional growth fuel. While it remains true that the quarterly corporate numbers are not very encouraging, and the news from the banking sector positively discouraging, it could well be that *achche din* may indeed be coming.

SAT hears DLF appeal, adjourns to February 6

BS REPORTER

Mumbai, 30 January

The Securities Appellate Tribunal on Friday heard some arguments on Friday in real estate major DLF's appeal against the heavy penalty imposed on it last year by the stock market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The matter will next be heard on February 6.

The tribunal

heard arguments by counsel for Sebi.

Counsel for DLF answered queries

the tribunal had previously sought

clarification on, beside making its

arguments against the Sebi order. Sebi

had barred the company and key

officials from accessing the

stock market for three years,

in a matter relating to disclosures made at the time of its

initial public offering (IPO) in 2007. An IPO is a process by

which companies raise money

Sebi had barred the company and key officials from accessing the stock market for three years, in a matter relating to disclosures made at the time of its IPO in 2007

by sale of shares to the public for the first time.

One Kimsuk Krishna Sinha had alleged a DLF subsidiary was involved in a land

deal in which he was said to have been duped of ₹34 crore.

A police case was registered. Sebi said that investors

should have been informed of this at the time of the IPO,

which was not done.

In earlier hearings, Sinha sought to be made a

part of the appeal. He had alleged he was

not heard by the regulator despite mak-

ing the original complaint. The tribunal

had turned down the petition. Subse-

quently, the Supreme Court allowed

it. The earlier hearings also involved a

move by DLF to access capital invested in mutual funds. MF

units also come under the definition of securities. Fund hous-

es had declined to refund their capital, citing the ban. This was

later allowed.

हलवणकर समिति ने मुख्यमंत्री को सौंपी नई वस्त्रोद्योग नीति पर रिपोर्ट

भास्कर न्यूज़ | मुख्

राज्य में नई वस्त्र उद्योग नीति बनाने के लिए विधायक सुरेश हलवणकर की अध्यक्षता में गठित कमेटी ने शुक्रवार को मुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस को रिपोर्ट सौंपा दी। हलवणकर ने दावा किया कि नई नीति लागू होने के बाद अगले पांच साल में 80 हजार करोड़ रुपए का निवेश होगा। राज्य भर में 11 लाख लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा। हलवणकर ने बताया कि समिति ने मुख्यमंत्री को रिपोर्ट सौंप दी है। इससे पहले समिति ने वस्त्र उद्योग मंत्री चंद्रकांत पाटील और राज्य के मुख्य सचिव स्वाधीन क्षत्रीय के सामने रिपोर्ट का ब्यौरा भी रखा। उन्होंने बताया कि चीन में कपास से कपड़ा बनाने की प्रक्रिया एक ही जगह की जाती है। दो महीने में कपड़ा तैयार हो जाता है। लेकिन हमारे यहां कपास से कपड़ा बनाने की प्रक्रिया के लिए 56 जगहों पर जाना होता है। इसमें नौ महीने लग जाते हैं। वाहनों का खर्च और विविध प्रकार के करों के कारण कपड़ा महंगा हो जाता है। इसलिए रिपोर्ट में चीन की तर्ज पर 'फैब्रिक से फैशन' संकुल तैयार करने की सिफारिश की गई है।