

Kanpur leather industry in danger as NGT cracks whip on pollution

Deepa Jainani

Lucknow, Feb 6: Kanpur's leather and tannery industry, which earns foreign exchange worth Rs 6,000 crore for the country and gives direct livelihood to more than one lakh people, is being held responsible by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for polluting the Ganga.

NGT has taken a stern view on either closing down or shifting the 700-odd units if they fail to stop polluting the river.

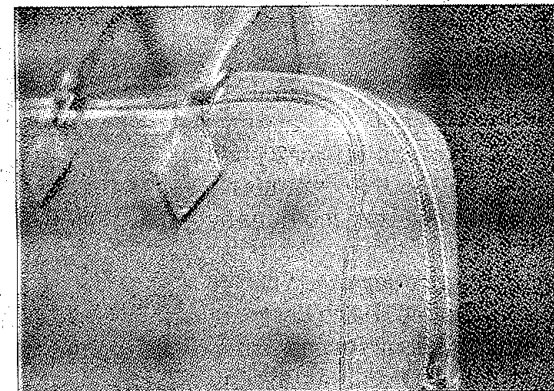
Already 98 units have been shut by the state administration on the same ground while clouds of uncertainty hang over the rest until such time the NGT takes a final decision. Taking into consideration the fact that the matter is of utmost importance, the NGT is hearing the case on a day-to-day basis.

It may be mentioned that the NGT bench headed by Swatanter Kumar had recently ordered closure of 700 tanneries located on the banks of the Ganga in Kanpur, terming them as one of the "highest sources of pollution", and had observed

that if effective steps to curb the pollution level were not taken, then the tanneries would be closed as the "life of millions cannot be put at stake."

"The life of millions cannot be put at stake for carrying out a commercial activity for a group of individuals. A balance has to be struck," it had said, adding that, "We make it clear in unambiguous terms that if the industry, the government and the UPPCB and UP Jal Nigam do not act with a complete sense of responsibility and take effective steps to prevent and control the pollution of the Ganga in all respects at least from this industrial cluster, we will be compelled to order complete closure of all 700 tannery industries operating in Kanpur."

The bench, which was hearing a plea filed by Krishan Kant Singh, had directed inspection of the entire tannery industrial cluster by a team comprising representatives of the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), Central Pollution Control Board, environment ministry and



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National Ganga River Basin Authority, and following which the UPPCB had started cracking down on the tanneries and initiated the process of closing 98 such factories in Kanpur, which were allegedly releasing toxic effluents into the river, by cutting electricity and water supply to them.

Apart from seeking the current status of the total number of drains carrying sewage and effluents from these industries as well as the number of plants that treat the waste before discharging it into the river, the NGT bench had also sought to know the capacity of existing effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and sewage treatment

plants (STPs) and how much untreated waste was being discharged into the Ganga.

Details were also sought for the quantity of effluents being generated by the tanneries, and the average duration of power available to the existing STP and common ETP, and whether there were alternate arrangements in case of power cuts.

However, while the tanneries agree they discharge effluents, they feel they are being made scapegoats in the matter, which has more to do with the administration's inefficiency. "Even if all 700-odd tanneries are closed down, effluents will still continue to pollute the Ganga as the problem does not

end with us. We discharge 15-20% effluents only, while the rest is untreated domestic sewage. Apart from the leather industry, as many as 30,000 small and medium enterprises consisting of battery plants, chemical and detergent units, dyeing units, textile mills and metallurgical units are situated on various small towns on the banks of the Ganga. They don't even have effluent treatment plants and no one bothers to see to that, while the leather business is being targeted," said Taj Alam, president of UP Leather Association, adding that the common treatment plant is run by the UP Jal Nigam, which has done

precious little in upgrading it.

Agreeing with the bench's assertion that the life of millions cannot be put at stake, Alam says that while the leather industry cannot be held above board, the root of the problem lies somewhere else. "No infrastructural upgradation has been undertaken over the years. The city has a sewage treatment plant that is years behind current needs. Population has grown manifold and so has the industrial imprint, but the city still works on an age old treatment plant. The government needs to have long-term vision and upgrade the infrastructural system. The leather industry is being killed over the inefficient attitude of the state government," he said, adding that even with all technological and financial backing at its disposal, it took the British government 22 years to clean the river Thames. "How can the river Ganga which has a run of more than a 1000 km and so many industrial towns on its banks, be cleaned overnight?" he asked.

Naiyar Jamal, of Kanpur

Tanneries Association, too, feels the industry is being asked to pay for inefficiency of the state administration. "The Kanpur tanneries are more than a century old. UP Jal Nigam takes money from each one of us for the operation and maintenance of the treatment plant, yet there is been no upgradation of it for more than two decades. The old plant had the capacity to treat 175 tanneries in 1996, after which more than 200 more tanneries have come up. No work on capacity building has been done and in the meantime the old plant has started overflowing," he said, adding that now that the NGT has taken a stern view on the issue, the state administration has woken up.

Indeed, the state government on Monday sanctioned Rs 8 crore for a feasibility study and survey project for a new treatment plant.

It may be mentioned that Kanpur accounts for 40% of leather exports and had upstaged Chennai to take the number one position for exporting leather a few years ago.

कॉलेजों में 'फैशन शो' पर लगे प्रतिबंध

मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने राज्य सरकार को दिए निर्देश

चेन्नई (प्रे)। तमिलनाडु में कॉलेज व अन्य शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में फैशन शो (सौंदर्य प्रतियोगिता) पर आपत्ति लेते हुए मद्रास हाई कोर्ट ने राज्य सरकार को ऐसे कार्यक्रमों को कॉलेज और विश्वविद्यालय में प्रतिबंध करने के लिए सर्कुलर जारी करने का आदेश दिया है।

एक इंजीनियरिंग छात्रा की मां लक्ष्मी सुरेश की याचिका पर अंतरिम आदेश जारी करते हुए जस्टिस टीएस शिवांगनम ने कहा, 'यह समझ से परे है कि कैसे रैंप पर चलना इंजीनियरिंग का कोर्स करने वाले विद्यार्थियों को फायदा पहुंचाएगा।' जज ने उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के सचिव और तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग के आयुक्त को तुरंत सभी संस्थानों, विश्वविद्यालयों, डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालयों और विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों से मान्यता प्राप्त कॉलेजों को ऐसी किसी भी प्रकार की सौंदर्य प्रतियोगिता के आयोजन पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए सर्कुलर जारी करने को कहा है।

2013 में हुआ था आयोजन

याचिकाकर्ता ने कहा कि उनकी इंजीनियरिंग छात्रा बेटी ने फरवरी 2013 में अन्ना विश्वविद्यालय के कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग में आयोजित एक सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम के दौरान हुए 'मिस टेक्नोफेस कॉन्टेस्ट' में हिस्सा लिया था। इसमें छात्रा को वादानुसार पुरस्कार न देकर एक फर्जी हस्ताक्षर वाला प्रशंसा प्रमाण-पत्र थमा दिया गया।

पुरस्कार और मुआवजे की मांग

याचिकाकर्ता ने कोर्ट से सेंट्रल इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज व अन्ना विश्वविद्यालय के डीन, छात्र संघ और आर्ट्स सोसायटी के अध्यक्ष तथा टेक्नोफेस के आयोजनकर्ताओं को विज्ञापन में बताए गए पुरस्कार और पांच लाख रुपये मुआवजा देने के निर्देश देने की मांग की थी।

जज ने उठाए सवाल

फैसला सुनाते वक्त जज ने कहा, 'क्या एक शताब्दी पहले स्थापित, सरकार और प्रशासित कॉलेज में आकर्षक चेहरे वाले लड़के और लड़की को चुनने के कार्यक्रम आयोजित करना आवश्यक है। आकर्षक पुरस्कार राशि का प्रचार किया गया और कई कॉर्पोरेट दिग्गजों ने इसके लिए पैसा भी दिया।' हालांकि यूनिवर्सिटी प्रशासन ने दावा किया कि उसे ऐसे किसी कार्यक्रम या पुरस्कार की जानकारी नहीं है। इसके बाद जज ने 20 फरवरी तक के लिए सुनवाई स्थगित कर दी।

चौपाल पर देश विदेश के कलाकारों का नृत्य



चौपाल पर फैशन शो के दौरान पोज बनाती विदेशी कलाकार।



विदेशी बालाएं आकर्षक मुद्रा में।

जागरण संवाददाता, फरीदाबाद : सूरजकुंड मेले की बड़ी व छोटी चौपाल पर देशी व विदेशी कलाकारों ने जमकर रंग जमाया। खिली धूप में दर्शकों ने भी सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का लुत्फ लिया। बड़ी चौपाल पर महिला कलाकारों की प्रस्तुति आकर्षण का केंद्र रही। कजाकिस्तान, बेलारूस, अजरबैजान, किर्गिस्तान, उज्बेकिस्तान तथा श्रीलंका के कलाकारों ने सांस्कृतिक परिवेश का अहसास कराया। इनके अलावा हरियाणा, छत्तीसगढ़, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश, पंजाब तथा उत्तर

प्रदेश के कलाकारों ने भी अपनी प्रस्तुति से छाप छोड़ी। गुजरात के कलाकारों ने सिद्धिगोमा नृत्य प्रस्तुत किया तो पंजाब के कलाकारों ने भांगड़ा करके माहौल को खुशनुमा बनाया। मराठी नृत्य लावणी भी आकर्षण का केंद्र रहा। सभी की प्रस्तुति के दौरान दर्शक भी साथ-साथ थिरक रहे थे।

छोटी चौपाल पर भी हुई मस्ती

मेले में छोटी चौपाल के कार्यक्रमों से भी मस्ती का माहौल रहा। बेलारूस के कलाकारों ने अपनी प्रस्तुति

से रंग जमाया। छत्तीसगढ़ के राजनाथ गांव के कलाकारों ने अपनी प्रस्तुति से छाप छोड़ी। दीवारकर्मा नृत्य से सूरज तिवारी, पूनम तिवारी, राजू वर्मा, उकेश साहू, गोविंद साहू, हुकुम यादव, विश्वनाथ क्षत्रिय, वर्षा, शिवानी तथा द्वारका मानिकपुरी ने सामूहिक नृत्य प्रस्तुति देकर छत्तीसगढ़ के सांस्कृतिक परिवेश का अहसास कराया। सलीम हरियाणवी ने लोक गायकी से किसानों की खुशहाली बयान की।

Exploring the Portuguese connection

Jaideep Deo Bhanj

NEW DELHI: There are several countries in that world that are connected by a common history of having some sort of Portuguese influence due to colonisation.

These Portuguese-influenced countries are not just influenced by the language and culture left behind, but are tied together through the works of a wide range of artists belonging to different generations. Their skills are on display in a show titled Lusophonies Lusofonias at the India International Centre here.

About 150 works in multiple media such as screen, canvas, paper, textiles, video and various other media and sculpture are on display and the exhibition has been divided into three sections: Colonialism, Independence and Future Miscegenation and Diaspora. The aim is to familiarise



COMMON ROOTS: Visitors taking a look at the ongoing Lusophonies Lusofonias exhibition at the India International Centre in New Delhi.

people with the art emerging from Portuguese-speaking countries and how it has evolved.

This travelling exhibition has been curated by

Carlos Cabral Nunes and expresses the artistic diversity of the earlier artists as well as the work of a new generation of Portuguese-speaking artists.

Carlos says, "All the different works, perspectives, participants, authors and media exhibited in "Lusophonies | Lusofonias" have a common connection, whether experiential or through a formal aesthetic, to African roots."

Carlos says his focus now is on finding more connections with Portugal and Asia and is on a hunt for more influences found in India, especially Goa, and other parts of the Orient. He hopes that this endeavour will bring the people of these countries together through art.

India is represented at the exhibition by the works of Subodh Kerkar

The exhibition is on view till February 15 at the Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC. It is being held in collaboration with Perve Gallery, Lisbon, and Embassies of Portugal, Angola, Brazil and Mozambique.

Textile units seek excise duty cut on synthetic fibre

M. Soundariya Preetha

COIMBATORE: In a move to boost use of synthetic fibre, the textile industry has sought excise duty reduction on all manmade fibre and filament to 6 per cent from the existing 12 per cent.

In a pre-budget memorandum, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry has suggested that the government should reduce the excise duty and to cover the revenue loss, it should introduce two per cent mandatory excise duty on all value added products that are manmade fibre-based.

Globally, manmade fibre accounts for 70 per cent of the fibre consumption. However, in India, it is less than 30 per cent.

The duty reduction on raw materials such as PTA (purified terephthalic acid) and MEG (mono ethylene glycol) should follow as a logical sequence to avoid an inverted duty structure.

According to the memorandum, in India, the per capita consumption of manmade fibre is nearly three kg as against the world per capita consumption of 8 kg.

Reduction in excise duty in manmade fibre will lead to increase in demand.

The excise duty on synthetic fibre should be six per cent.

The customs duty on PTA and MEG should be brought down to zero per cent and the customs duty on polyester fibre and filament should be increased to 10 per cent, according to the memorandum.

Not working to any real design

Despite having a vast array of fabrics and skilled weavers, India is not making the cut in the world market due to lack of vision, writes RITU KUMAR



Handloom production is environment friendly and a source of employment generation for unskilled rural workers, especially women who are traditionally employed in hand spinning. We just cannot be blind to the immense potential of one of the country's richest resources HT PHOTO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to choose Varanasi as his constituency in the 2014 general elections has rekindled the hope that it will lead to the revival of the city's fabled craft, the Benaras Brocades. These patterned gold and silver silks have been woven in the city since ancient times, but unfortunately there has been a sharp decline in the demand for this fabric in recent years. This is a sad situation as these saris are associated with the erstwhile royal courts and religious traditions, and represent the exotic in Indian couture.

Several government bodies have been set up to save this heritage. But they are directionless when it comes to dealing with the fast-changing world of design and fashion. Isn't it ironic that while handloom fabrics are considered chic, sophisticated, edgy and aspirational in the world of fashion, they for some odd reason don't get due respect in this country? Far from being showcased, they are shunted to the dusty backrooms of government emporia.

All economic packages are aimed at getting subsidies for handlooms under the assumption that the fabric is used largely by the poor. This is surefire way of ensuring its irrelevance. The handlooms of Benaras and khadi are among India's greatest sartorial contributions to the world. They are a rarity in the world of textiles and need to be looked at with a fresh perspective.

The Benaras Brocade could put the country on the textile map of the world and can also become a tourist attraction. Look at how Thailand has carved out an identity for itself in textiles with the simple dupion silk, which is now sold as Thai silk around the world with enormous success.

In India, we have an amazing variety of fabrics and with these we can produce a hundred Thailand-like stories projecting India and its weavers in the highly competitive world of fashion fabrics. In addition to this, we are organic

THE HANDLOOMS OF BENARAS AND KHADI ARE AMONG INDIA'S GREATEST SARTORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD. THEY ARE A RARITY IN THE WORLD OF TEXTILES AND NEED TO BE LOOKED AT WITH A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

in production. This unique combination of handspun fabrics and the inherited skills of our weavers is our USP and give us an edge in a mechanised world.

Which is why I am puzzled as to why we still carry our colonial baggage. Having successfully gone Indian after getting rid of imported Lancashire cottons, we are now in the process of imitating China to produce inferior saris.

China is doing its best to replicate what we make by hand in their mechanised units and selling them both to India and the rest of the international fashion community. China is managing to get away with this because though there is a huge market for handcrafted goods, India has not been able to take advantage of this and improve the lot of our weavers.

I feel India could also do much more with Ahimsa silk. We could make a splash in the international arena with this incredible fabric produced from yarn in the Terai regions. They produce the rarest of tussar and moga silks. The other product that we should try to promote is pashmina. The wool comes from the Pashmina goat, a special breed indigenous to the Himalayas. Pashmina shawls are also hand-spun and are synonymous around the world for their superb quality.

The textiles sector is the largest provider of employment in India after agriculture. It is a vertically integrated

industry and produces everything from raw materials to finished products. Handloom production is uniquely environment-friendly, being a source of employment generation for unskilled rural workers, especially women, who are traditionally employed in hand-spinning. We just cannot be blind to the immense potential of one of the country's richest resources.

India has a plethora of institutions like the Khadi Gram Udyog set up specifically to cater to the needs of this sector. But the Udyog, which has a great network of outlets across the country, is in a comatose state and is doing the bare minimum to promote the production of khadi. Often they have an inventory of spurious goods that are sold from their enviable retail addresses. Mind you, all this is being done at the taxpayers' expense. The Weavers Service Centres, set up in the 1970s, are in a state of disarray and the handloom boards and other such organisations are only accountable to themselves. We have also managed to politicise our award schemes for master weavers.

As a new emerging economic power, India should be attracting investment in fashion and textiles. But for that we must encourage one of the most unique textiles the world has known. We have been leaders in this sector and still can hold the pole position in dyeing, printing and weaving.

India has exported the most aspirational textiles to the world for thousands of years. Surely the time has come to review our heritage. We owe it to our future generations to nurture our fabrics and processes. We should place ourselves in a position where we are a cut above the rest of the world. This is not too difficult a proposition, considering the vast resources we have at hand.

Ritu Kumar is a textile revivalist and fashion designer. The views expressed by the author are personal

Delhi polls a dampener on Surajkund crafts mela

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, FEBRUARY 6

The Assembly polls in Delhi seem to be playing a spoilsport for the international Surajkund mela, presently underway here, in the matter of overall footfall so far.

With little over a week left, the number of visitors stands around 1.5 lakh only. The mela had over 10 lakh visitors last year. However, the authorities claim that the attendance was not a cause of concern as rush is witnessed mainly on weekends.

"The quantum of sale is down this year," claimed Fida Hussain, a craftsman from Jammu and Kashmir who sells items of paper mache. Afzal, also from Kashmir and dealing in woolen stolls, claimed that he was awaiting a good response.

Ishrar Ahmed from Saharanpur, UP, who works on wood items, said the response this year was not up to expectations. Elections in neighbouring Delhi could be a factor, he added.

"The overall attendance



Folk artists from Sri Lanka at the Surajkund Mela on Friday. PTI

and rush is still weak, though we still have nine days to go. This is perhaps mainly due to ongoing elections in Delhi," claimed sources in the department. The weekend could also go dry as people would be busy voting on Saturday and it could also affect the rush on Sunday, they added.

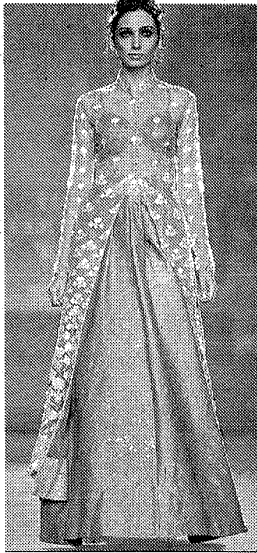
The total number of visitors recorded till Thursday night has been around 1.25 lakh. Aditya Dahrya, ADC and Mela Administrator, however, claimed that the response was overwhelming.

Rajesh Joon, Mela Nodal Officer, said while over 1,700 artisans and performers were taking part, footfall of around 50,000 was recorded on Friday.

फैशन बाय ऑफ़ेज

जैसा बॉडी शोप वैसा एंगेजमेंट का लहंगा

दो सप्ताह पहले एंगेजमेंट पर वेस्टर्न लुक के लिए गाउन के कुछ स्टाइल के बारे में बताया गया था, लेकिन अगर ट्रेडिशनल लुक चाहती हैं तो जानिए लहंगे के स्टाइल्स के बारे में। बॉडी टाइप के अनुसार लहंगे का चयन कर सकती हैं।



प्लेन लहंगे पर नेट जैकेट

एंगेजमेंट पर सुंदर दिखना चाहती है, लेकिन ट्रेडिशनल लुक के साथ तो लहंगा परफेक्ट है। पहला फैशन और बेस्ट लुक के लिए लहंगा से बेहतर कुछ नहीं होगा। बॉडी टाइप के अनुसार लहंगा पहनने से लुक उभर कर आएगा। ज्यादा प्रयोग नहीं करना चाहते तो प्लेन, सिंगल कलर लहंगे पर जैकेट पहन सकती हैं।

कीमत ₹ 5,000 से शुरू

यहां उपलब्ध : डिजाइनर अंजू मोदी की जैकेट में स्टाइल मिलेगा। अलग-अलग रंज होने के कारण अपने अनुसार खरीदें।

पीयर-शोप बॉडी है तो पहनिए

आपकी बॉडी टाइप पीयर-शोप यानी ऊपर से स्लिम और नीचे से चौड़ी है तो जैकेट स्टाइल लहंगा सुंदर दिखेगा। जैकेट अचकन या प्लेयर की तरह खुलने वाली जैकेट पहनी जा सकती है। अपर हाफ स्लिम होने के कारण स्कूप-नेक ब्लाउज के साथ चोकर या कोई स्टेटमेंट नेकलेस अलग दिखाई देगा।

कीमत ₹ 9,000 से शुरू

यहां उपलब्ध : डिजाइनर कविता और मीनू मलिक इस किस्म के लहंगे के लिए प्रचलित हैं। ऑनलाइन खरीद सकती हैं।



दिखाना चाहती हैं कर्क्स तो...

किम कारदर्शियां की तरह ऑरगलास फिगर है तो कर्क्स दिखाने की कोशिश करें। फिश-स्टाइल लहंगा जो हिप्स पर टाइट और नीचे की तरफ फ्लोई परफेक्ट रहेगा। इससे फेमेनाइन लुक मिलेगा। इसे बॉडीस या कॉरसेट के साथ टीमअप करें। पेट पर फैट्स ज्यादा हों तो कॉरसेट पहनकर दिखाई नहीं देंगे।

कीमत ₹ 7,500 से शुरू

यहां उपलब्ध : इस किस्म के लहंगे की बड़ी बेरायटी उपलब्ध है। मॉडर्न लुक के लिए पेपलम ब्लाउज पहनें।

एथलेटिक बॉडी टाइप के लिए...

आलिया भट्ट की तरह पेटिट फिगर या एथलेटिक बॉडी फ्रेम है तो शॉर्ट चोली के साथ शिमर लहंगा सुंदर दिखेगा। हाइट को लिफ्ट देने के लिए पेंसिल हील्स पहनी जा सकती है। ब्लाउज के नेक को चौड़ा रहने दीजिए। हाई लेक या बैक-अप अच्छा नहीं दिखेगा। चोकर पहनने से गला दबा-दबा दिखाई देगा।

कीमत ₹ 10,000 से शुरू

यहां उपलब्ध : फोटो में गौहर खान ने डिजाइनर जाँय मित्रा का लहंगा पहना हुआ है। लहंगे के बॉटम पर नेट फबेगी।

