

सूरत में सभी लूम्स कारखाने 9 मई को बंद रहेंगे

सूरत (ब्यूरो)। सूरत के कपड़ा उद्योग में आई भयंकर मंदी के कारण 9 मई को सभी लूम्स कारखाने 24 घंटे के लिए बंद रहेंगे। जेकोर्ड कारखानों में 20 दिन के वैकेशन पर विचार के लिए 15 मई को जेकोर्ड वीवर्स की मीटिंग होगी। सूत्रों के अनुसार बाजार में मंदी के कारण व्यापारियों ने ग्रे की खरीद पर ब्रेक लगा रखा है। इससे वीवर्स के पास ग्रे का स्टॉक हो गया है। खरीद के अभाव में पिछले एक महीने में ग्रे की कीमत पांच रुपए तक घट गई है। इसलिए वीवर्स ग्रे का उत्पादन कम करना चाहते हैं। सभी वीवर्स का मत जानने के लिए वीवर्स ने 9 मई को 24 घंटे बंद रखने का फैसला किया।

By Darshan Desai in Ahmedabad

IIT-MADRAS graduate Kannan Lakshminarayan dusted a few copies of "Young India" to find Mahatma Gandhi's vision and initiate cotton farmers to use miniature spinning machines right in their village where they grow the crop and increase their income.

Following this, the middleman was out, the long-drawn value chain was short-circuited while farmers became spinners first and subsequently, weavers and even garment makers.

In 1920, Mahatma Gandhi had written in "Young India": "I feel convinced that the revival of hand-spinning and hand weaving will make the largest contribution to the economic and the moral regeneration of India. The millions must have a simple

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—Ranin Vyas,
Volun-Teach volunteer

industry to supplement agriculture.”

The beginning was made from Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, more known for cotton farmers' suicide. It is now set to take root in rural Gujarat following the efforts of a group of businessmen in Ahmedabad who work to empower farmers and their families at their doorstep to produce yarn from their own cotton.

Volun-Teach (voluntary teaching) is the group of businessmen from Ahmedabad that is helping set up plants with miniature spinning machines made by Kannan's Microspin Machine Works in the largely cotton-growing North Gujarat and Saurashtra regions.

The plants will be of farmers, by the farmers and for the farmers. "We have formed an entity called Mahek Producers Company, which is essentially a 'producers company' envisaged under the Companies Act in an amendment implemented two years ago."

"Under this, only those who are 'primary producers' engaged in an activity connected with or related to primary produce can be the share holders," explained Ranin Vyas, a volunteer of Volun-Teach.

Some 150-odd Volun-Teach volunteers regularly visit villages and teach youngsters. "During one such visit, we identified two villages — Bunav in North Gujarat and Gohilwad region consisting areas of two districts of Saurashtra, where they grow only cotton,"

Vyas told MAIL TODAY.

He said, "We will train farmers in operating the spinning machines that will be bought through debt financing."

Microspin's founder and CEO Kannan said that besides farmers

forming their own producers company, local entrepreneurs could set up the spinning machines and employ farmers in the units.

"A farmer or his family member employed at such units can make ₹4,000-₹8,000 a month. This is an

additional income for them, besides what they earn from their cotton crop," Kannan told MAIL TODAY.

Vyas said: "Over 60 per cent farmers don't have own land but they work on farms. Such projects would help, as it could check migration to cities for work."

The concept has taken a big leap in Buldana district of Maharashtra where farmers' cooperative credit society has created an integrated spinning mill using Microspin machines.

Kannan said that this would "probably be the only place in the world where a farmer brings cotton to the in-gate and it goes out as a fabric from the out-gate."

This is possible because Kannan has evolved a new technology called BlowCard that "simplifies a part of the spinning process by

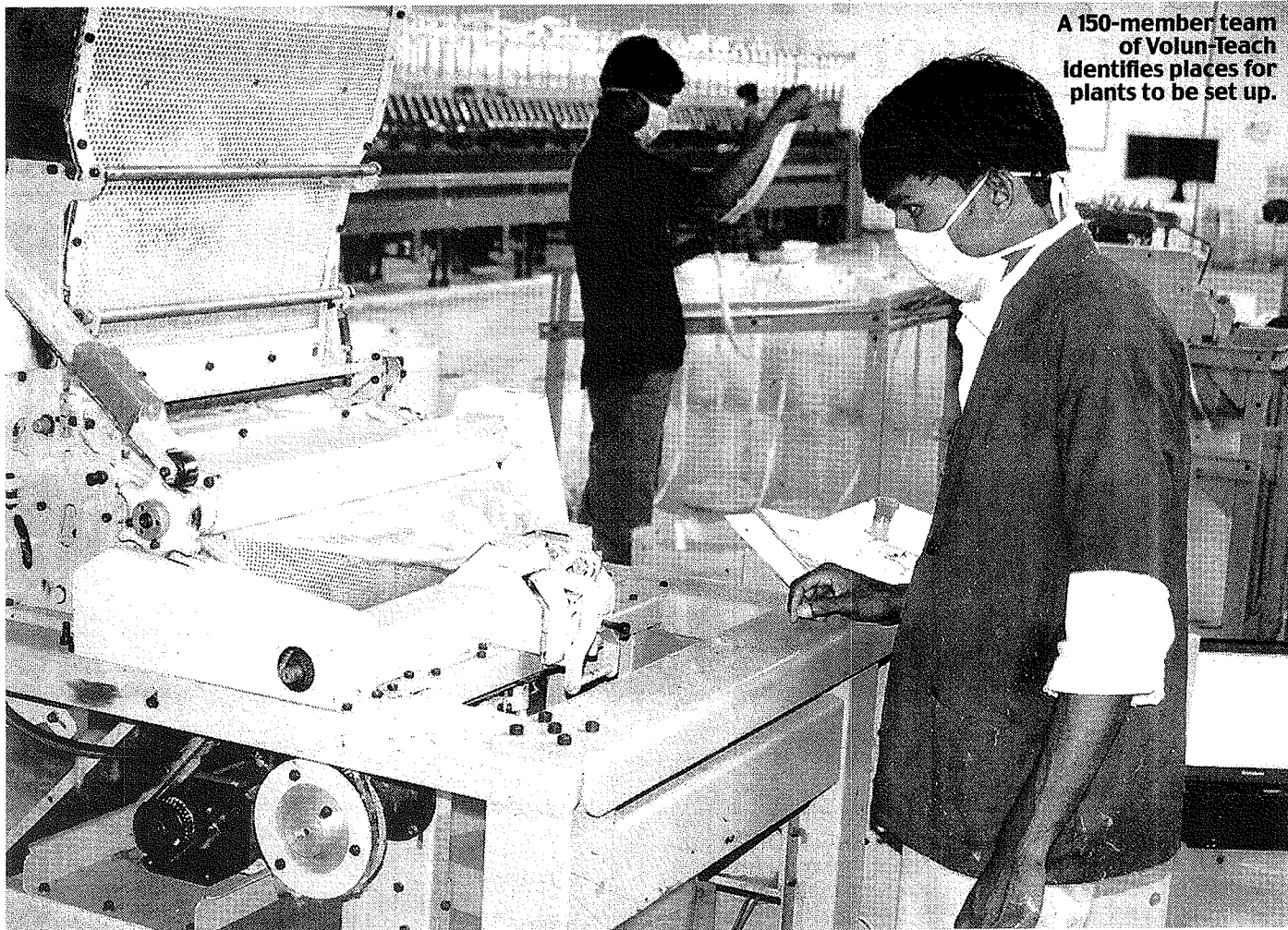
integrating blending, blow-room and carding activities carried out in a conventional spinning mill. This has also reduced energy and infrastructural expenses besides the cost procuring finances.

Kannan claimed that the product is of higher value than the one produced in a conventional spinning mill. Besides, the miniature machines come for ₹2 crore as against ₹100 crore for a normal spinning machine. The entire chain would entail an investment of Rs 6 crore.

He said, "Only about five per cent of the income in the textile value chain goes to farmers." He added that as many as 1,200 clusters could be created in the country even if five per cent of locally made cotton was diverted to such projects and some 370 of these could be in Gujarat.

Photos: AKANKSHA JOSHI

A 150-member team of Volun-Teach identifies places for plants to be set up.



Spinning yarn for cotton farmers in Gandhi's Gujarat



Volun-Teach is the group from Ahmedabad that is helping set up plants with spinning machines in North Gujarat and Saurashtra

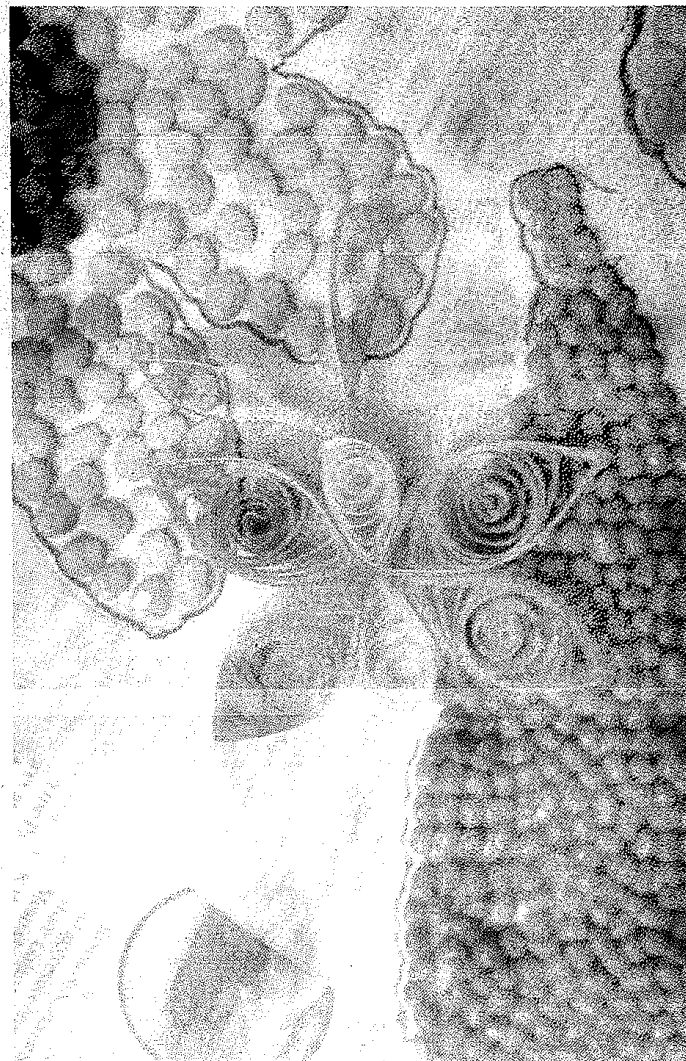
'NO WOOL SUBSIDY HARMING WEAVERS'

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

Raising the issue in Parliament of ending subsidy on woollen yarn by the Centre, Congress member Viplove Thakur on Thursday alleged that the step has badly affected the livelihood of weavers in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Ms Thakur alleged that while subsidy is being given to silk and cotton yarn weavers in Uttar Pradesh city Varanasi, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents, and Gujarat where he hails from, it had been stopped for the poor weavers of woollen yarn.



ECO-FRIENDLY Handmade and handcrafted ornaments are gaining popularity among youngsters.

Jewellery street

For that extra edge

A perfect look is incomplete without fashion accessories. Be it earrings, nose rings, bracelets and hair accessories, or purses, handbags, belts and shades, accessories are synonymous with beauty. These days, jewellery is made out of almost every material. Meghana Abraham, a professional, says, "Fashionable jewellery ranges from cheap accessories to high-end ones. Original pieces are becoming extremely expensive and imitation jewellery has gained a momentum in the market because of its pricing. With artificial jewellery, customers tend to get better design options."

Handmade and handcrafted ornaments are also quite popular among youngsters these days. Of these, terracotta and paper quilled jewellery are in vogue. "Quilling or paper filigree is an art form that involves strips of paper being rolled, shaped and

glued together to create decorative designs," says Swathi Chandrashekar, a paper quiller.

"The paper is wound around a quill to create a basic coil shape. It is then glued at the tip and these coils are arranged to form flowers, leaves and various patterns that are similar to ironwork. This art has gained immense interest among youngsters. Since they are made out of paper, they are light-weight and

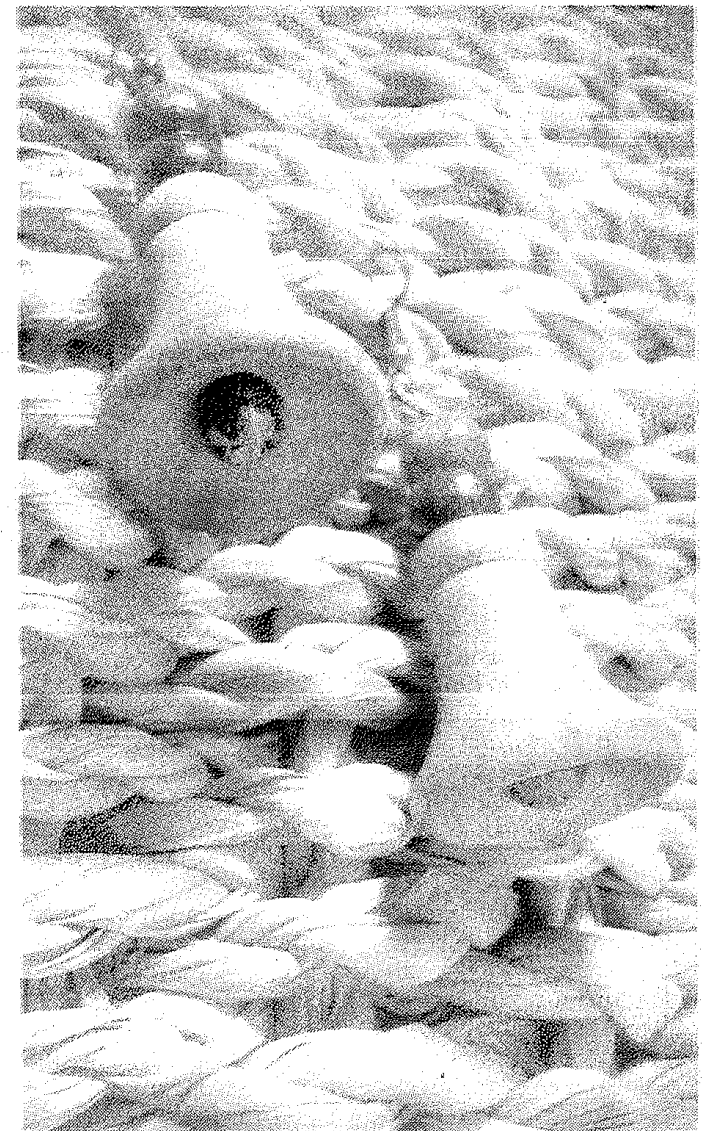
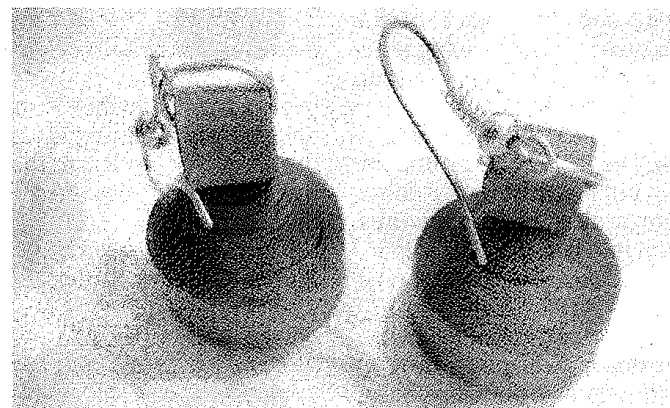
will not hurt," she adds. Paper quilled jewellery are cost-effective too and come in eclectic options. Beaded jewellery is also hot in the market. The requirement here is just thread and beads. Bindu Sasstry, who loves jewellery designing, has a collection of beaded jewels.

"The beads are collected from various parts of the country and range from beads made from raw materials of plants and trees to expensive

corals. A variety of jewellery pieces are available to choose from," she says. Another fashion fad that is making the rounds is the nose accessory like studs, rings and screws. Nose rings include varieties like *mukhuttis* from Tamil Nadu; ornate, traditional lotuses, swan designs and those studded with gemstones from Karnataka; *nathuri* and *bhauriya* from Rajasthan, the conventional clove-shaped nose stud called *laung* and the pendant suspended between the nostrils called *latkan nath* from Uttar Pradesh.

Press nose rings are trending too and are sported by those who love mixing tradition with novelty. Sahaja, who loves donning jewellery, says, "Nose rings have a certain aesthetic beauty attached to them. It has a 'desi' touch which brings out the beauty of a woman."

Preethi Ravi



कांग्रेस ने ऊन पर सब्सिडी समाप्त किए जाने का किया विरोध

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। राज्यसभा में बृहस्पतिवार को कांग्रेस की एक सदस्य ने केंद्र द्वारा ऊन पर सब्सिडी समाप्त किए जाने से हिमाचल प्रदेश सहित विभिन्न राज्यों के बुनकरों, विशेषकर महिलाओं पर काफी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ने का मुद्दा उठाया। सदस्य ने आरोप लगाया कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के संसदीय क्षेत्र के रेशम बुनकरों और गुजरात के कपड़ा कंपनियों को फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए रेशम एवं सूती धागे पर सब्सिडी दी जा रही है।

शून्यकाल में कांग्रेस की विप्लव ठाकुर ने यह मुद्दा उठाते हुए कहा कि केंद्र सरकार ने ऊन पर सब्सिडी समाप्त कर दी है। इसके कारण हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू कश्मीर, उत्तर प्रदेश,

उत्तराखंड सहित कई राज्यों के ऊनी वस्त्र बनाने वाले गरीब बुनकरों, विशेषकर महिलाओं के समक्ष रोजीरोटी का संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है। उन्होंने मांग की कि सरकार को फौरन यह सब्सिडी बहाल कर इन लोगों को राहत देनी चाहिए। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि इस सरकार ने प्रधानमंत्री के निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के रेशम बुनकरों और गुजरात की कपड़ा मिलों को फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए रेशमी और सूती धागे पर सब्सिडी प्रदान की है। उन्होंने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार अमीरों को फायदा पहुंचा रही है और गरीबों के साथ अन्याय कर रही है। कांग्रेस के ही आनंद शर्मा ने ऊनी धागे पर सब्सिडी बहाल करने की विप्लव ठाकुर की मांग का समर्थन करते हुए कहा कि देश में कृषि के बाद

सबसे अधिक रोजगार हस्तशिल्प और हथकरघा क्षेत्र से मिल रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र को प्रोत्साहन देने की जरूरत है अन्यथा हमारे बुनकर और हस्तशिल्पी जीवन यापन के लिए तरस जाएंगे।

गिलानी के बयान का विरोध : राज्यसभा में बृहस्पतिवार को शिवसेना के सदस्य संजय राउत ने हुरियत कांफ्रेंस के कट्टरपंथी धड़े के नेता सैयद अली शाह गिलानी के अमरनाथ यात्रा को 30 दिनों के लिए सीमित करने के बयान का कड़ा विरोध करते हुए कहा कि विश्वभर के हिन्दुओं की आस्था से जुड़ी इस तीर्थयात्रा की अवधि कम करने का अधिकार किसी पाकिस्तानी एजेंट को नहीं है।