

Stress on promoting Sualkuchi's handloom industry

CORRESPONDENT

SUALKUCHI, May 14 – The Sualkuchi Utsav, organised by the North-East Institute of Fashion Technology and the Assam Government, was held recently to promote the handloom industry and tourism in Sualkuchi.

On the occasion, an exhibition of handloom products, a health camp, a fashion show and a cultural show were held to showcase the talent of the weavers. In the Sualkuchi Utsav, dignitaries of the Central Government and the State Handloom and Textile Department, including Dr Sanjay Kumar Panda, Secretary, Ministry of Handloom and Textiles, Government of India, Pushpa Subramaniam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Handloom and Textiles, Government of India, Handloom Commissioner Alok Kumar and Additional Handloom Commissioner SK Sahu interacted with the participants in the exhibition, particularly with the self-help

group members, bankers, handloom cooperative societies and tourist officials.

Dr Panda later visited some local weavers at their residences and studied their problems. A team, led by Dr Panda, visited Moni Baishya of Napara who has been running *muga* looms in spite of the shortage of *muga* cocoons. He also visited one Sarat Kalita of Kalitapara, who told him that he was yet to receive any government help. The Secretary also visited Khanin Das's handloom factory at No. 1 Naktadol and took stock of the problems and their business as master weavers.

The members of the Sualkuchi Tat Silpa Unnayan Samiti, which was formed after the outbreak of violence in Sualkuchi in 2013, presented a memorandum. The Secretary assured them that their demands would be addressed as far as possible. He directed the NHDC officials to supply mulberry yarn to Sualkuchi from Karnataka. Besides, he put emphasis on setting up a

raw material bank at Sualkuchi for procuring *muga* and *eri* cocoons locally.

Dr Panda joined the felicitation and fashion show held at the Sualkuchi Auditorium in the afternoon. The team was presented *gamosas*, *seleng sadors* and *sarees* by the State Handloom and Textile Department. Receiving the felicitation, Dr Panda called for concentrated efforts from all corners including the Central and State Governments, cooperative societies, self-help groups, etc., for improving Sualkuchi.

He said the handloom products of Sualkuchi can be made more exclusive with good quality, designs and colour combination to draw the attention of customers. "If the customers do not like to purchase the clothes, all efforts to make the handloom industry a prosperous one will fail," he said.

Dr Panda called upon the weavers to produce other dress materials to cater to the needs of foreign markets.

सुविधा केंद्र से बुनकरों को होगा लाभ : गंगवार

अरविंद कुमार

वाराणसी, 16 मई। केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री संतोष गंगवार ने बड़ा लालपुर में वाराणसी विकास प्राधिकरण (वीडीए) की जमीन पर प्रस्तावित बुनकर सुविधा केंद्र और शिल्पग्राम संग्रहालय स्थल पर पौधारोपण कर शिल्पग्राम का शुभारंभ किया। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने कहा कि शिल्पग्राम संग्रहालय दो साल में तैयार हो जाएगा। बड़ा लालपुर में ट्रेड फैसलिटी सेंटर का वाराणसी के सांसद और प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने सात नवंबर 2014 को शिलान्यास किया था।

दो दिन के वाराणसी दौरे पर आए केंद्रीय कपड़ा मंत्री संतोष गंगवार ने कहा कि 200 करोड़ रुपये की इस योजना से 43 लाख से अधिक हथकरघा बुनकरों को लाभ मिलेगा। जनगणना के मुताबिक 331 हथकरघा और 95439 लोग बुनकरी कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हथकरघा और हस्तशिल्प उत्पादों को कलात्मक डिजाइन, रंग संयोजन, बेहतर क्राफ्टमैनशिप और लंबे समय तक स्थायित्व के लिए विदेशों में इस हुनर को मान्यता मिली है। वाराणसी सहित पूर्वांचल के बुनकरों को रोजगार के बेहतर अवसर पैदा करने के लिए भारत सरकार की ओर से पूर्वांचल में सबसे

बड़ा शिल्पग्राम बड़ा लालपुर में 7.931 एकड़ जमीन पर व्यापार सुविधा केंद्र और शिल्प संग्रहालय की स्थापना की जा रही है। इसके बन जाने पर विपणन गतिविधियों के साथ अन्तरराष्ट्रीय बाजार बुनकरों के लिए मददगार साबित होगा।

केंद्रीय मंत्री ने बीएचयू के एलडी गेस्ट हाउस में ट्रेड फैसलिटी सेंटर पर आयोजित एक सेमिनार को संबोधित किया। इस अवसर पर बीएचयू के कुलपति गिरीशचंद्र त्रिपाठी ने कहा कि सेंटर के खुल जाने के बाद बुनकरी के पेशे से जो लोग भी जुड़े हैं, इस सेंटर से उन्हें लाभ होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि बीएचयू में अगर कोई इस तरह का केंद्र खुले तो उसे जमीन उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।

पूर्वांचल निर्यातक संघ के पूर्व अध्यक्ष मुकेश अग्रवाल ने कहा कि दिल्ली की तर्ज पर वाराणसी में इस तरह के सेंटर का विस्तार होना चाहिए। इस अवसर पर प्रदेश के राज्यपाल राम नाईक ने कहा कि प्रतिस्पर्धा के दौर में तकनीकी बदलाव जरूरी है। हथकरघा भारत की सांस्कृतिक विरासत है। विकास आयुक्त आलोक रंजन ने कहा कि वाराणसी में 1995 से 2010 के बीच बुनकर 44 फीसद थे जो बढ़कर 50 फीसद हो गए हैं।

'Farmers to face heat of spinning sector crisis'

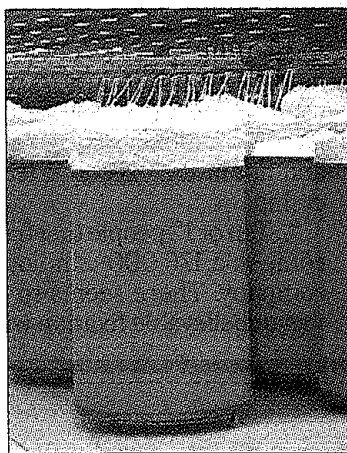
Crisil calls for export interest subvention for textile sector

COIMBATORE, PTI: Credit rating agency Crisil has suggested the need for export interest subvention for spinning textile sector.

As per the interim report, prepared based on the request of Texpreneurs Forum, a copy of which was presented to the Commerce Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, a couple of days ago, rising NPA levels in Textile, falling EBITDA and Net Margin (majority of the mills in net loss) and fall in credit rating showed the reality.

"If the same trend continues, in next stage, fall of spinning sector will lead to a major crisis to farming community, because every year cotton output is increasing in our country," the report said.

Though in general, government was of the opinion that spinning was well organised and well grown and self-sustainable, because of 2011-12 historic losses due to cotton volatility and subsequent development in China in the last



two years and also new capacity addition in spinning sector, created big trouble in finances of 'stand alone spinning mills,' it said.

Stating that cotton as commodity only has limited export potential, because only 10 countries will import cotton, the report said in case of yarn, export potential was more as it can be exported to more than 60 countries, indicating that cotton farming also directly linked with the health of spinning industry.

China should invest in Make in India: Experts

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SHANGHAI: Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch to Chinese investors, academics and scholars have said that business houses from China should grab the opportunity that the Make in India campaign offers.

But for that to happen, India would have to provide the right kind of business environment, they said.

"For example, in the sector of infrastructure, companies (in India) face many challenges like land acquisition, the guarantee for profit and the issue of visas for workers," Liu Xiaoxue, researcher on economics at the prestigious Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told HT.

On the positive side, India's growth is a big opportunity for Chinese enterprises to capture the market. "India is now more open than before," Liu said, adding that Chinese companies too need to adapt to the situation in India.

For example, India has strict visa rules for foreign workers. "It is a big challenge for Chinese companies. But Chinese companies should learn how to use the local

labour force," Liu said.

"The Make in India campaign is a golden chance to lure Chinese investment into India. (As PM Modi said) India needs money for infrastructure — roads, airports, high-speed railway, highways etc. Since the opening up of the Chinese economy, Chinese companies have worked on these sectors. They have the skill and the edge in terms of infrastructure," Huang Shang with independent Caixin magazine that focuses on economics and finance told HT.

According to Huang, if Make in India can take root and take shape over the next few years, it could create solid manufacturing base in India. "India can start producing goods. Like textile. India could begin to export more to China," Huang said.

Both agreed that the overall "sentiment" of India's economic potential was positive and many have high expectations that India's economy could take off soon.

"India could send the right signal by opening up more sectors. India has to express the willingness. Foreign businesses have to feel that they are welcome so that they commit more resources to India," Huang said.