

CROP AREA REINED IN 9%

A DELAY in the arrival of the monsoon and uneven distribution of rainfall have dragged down the sowing of summer crops by almost 9% until Friday from a year before, the latest farm ministry data showed, reports **fe Bureau in New Delhi**. Although the water storage level across 91 reservoirs in India has been the same as last year level (at 26% of the total storage capacity), partly aided by unseasonal showers in northern and central India earlier this year, sowing operation would be affected in coming weeks if the

geographical spread of rainfall remains patchy on top of a deficient monsoon, as predicted by the Met department.

Area under paddy went up 4.2% until Friday from a year earlier, while that of oilseeds, too, has gone up in the initial stage of planting (*see charts*). However, the coverage of coarse cereals was hit the worst, having plunged by almost 60% from a year earlier, and the planting of pulses declined nearly 11% until Friday.

■ **Continued on Page 2**

Summer sowing drops

(Area in lakh hectares) June 12

	2014	2015
Paddy	4.52	4.71
Pulses	2.75	2.46
Coarse cereals	6.09	3.82
Oilseeds	0.94	1.21
Cane	43.52	41.58
Cotton	17.34	14.3
Total	82.27	75.1

Source: Ministry of agriculture

Untimely rains aid water levels

(Reserves as % of capacity)

	Jun 11, 2015	Jun 11, 2014	10-yr avg
North	42	39	28
East	29	31	15
West	21	26	21
Central	31	33	14
South	17	13	18
All India	26	26	18

Source: Ministry of water resources

Rain distribution patchy

(% change in rainfall from LPA, June 1-11)

East/Northeast	22
Northwest	-8
Central India	-29
South Peninsula	-7
All India	-1

Source: IMD



favourable base, as in 2014-15, too, planting was initially affected by dry spells and the monsoon hit the Kerala coast only on June 6, a day later than this year.

Although water reserves are at the last year's level, according to the data from the ministry of water resources, states having lower storage than the corresponding period of last year are Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, many parts of which were expected to face dry spells for a second straight year. Earlier, official sources had said pulses, coarse cereals and oilseed crops could be affected because states in the northwestern and central regions are among the largest producers of these items.

The country imports more than half of its edible oil and one-fifth of its pulse requirements annually and any drop in the production of commodities further enhances reliance on imports. Luckily for the government, global prices of most of the commodities, including edible oils, are already depressed, which has reduced the risks of imported inflation significantly. Food minister Ram Vilas Paswan has also asked authorities to undertake massive anti-hoarding operations to ensure smooth supplies of items such as pulses. Summer crops are usually sown with the arrival of the monsoon rains in June and harvested from mid-September.

The quantum of rainfall during June 1-11 (40.8 millimetres) has trailed the benchmark 50-year average by just 1% despite the delay in the monsoon onset over Kerala thanks to pre-monsoon showers. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) this month revised downward its forecast of seasonal showers for this

year to 88% of a long-period average (LPA) — the same as last year — from its April prediction of 93%. Private weather forecaster Skymet, however, has predicted a normal monsoon, with showers at 102% of the LPA.

After a delay of a couple of days, the southwest monsoon crossed the Mumbai coast on Friday. According to Skymet, the monsoon has already covered Kerala, Tamil Nadu parts of Karnataka and the entire northeast India. However it said that monsoon "continues to be delayed, and a little weak as the cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea has drifted towards Oman coast, pulling the moisture from the region, which will take some time to replenish". But it added that there were chances of good widespread rain across the country from June 13 due to multiple weather systems. "This could be construed as precursor to monsoon onset over some parts of the country," it said.

■ Centre, states to prepare list of projects of sufficient economic value stalled for financing issues

■ Road map soon on ways to reduce NPAs and restructured loans



had said PSBs could also explore the possibility of selling their non-core businesses.

Crop area reined in 9%

Even the sowing area under cotton and sugarcane declined by 18% and 4.5%, respectively, from a year earlier. The total area under summer-sown crops is down (75.10 lakh hectares until Friday against 82.27 lakh hectares) even on a

CCI nod: The Competition Commission has approved the Rs 233-crore deal for the acquisition of Birla Textile Mills by Sutlej Textiles and Industries, according to a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange. PII

जलेबा का नमूना फेल दुकानदार पर जुर्माना

सूरजकुंड मेला

फरीदाबाद | कार्यालय संवाददाता

अंतरराष्ट्रीय सूरजकुंड हस्तशिल्प मेले में बिकने वाले खाद्य पदार्थ की गुणवत्ता कटघरे में खड़ी हो गई है। जी हां, 28 वें सूरजकुंड हस्तशिल्प मेला में बिकने वाले खाद्य पदार्थों के लिए नमूने में जलेबा का नमूना फेल हो गया है।

जो गुणवत्ता के लिहाज से तय स्वास्थ्य विभाग के मापदंड पर खरा नहीं उतर पाया। इस पर अतिरिक्त जिला उपायुक्त आदित्य दहिया ने दुकान मालिक पर 50 हजार रुपये का जुर्माना किया है। इस दौरान मेले में खाद्य संरक्षा व औषधि प्रशासन (एफएसडीए) ने विभिन्न खाद्य पदार्थों के करीब 10 नमूने लिए थे। इसके अलावा शहर के दूसरे हिस्सों से लिए गए पनीर के नमूने फेल पाए जाने पर सेक्टर तीस एक

नामचीन दुकान संचालक को दो लाख रुपये और तिगांव के एक व्यापारी को 50 हजार रुपये का जुर्माना किया गया। वर्ष 2014 में सूरजकुंड मेले में तत्कालीन फूड सेफ्टी अधिकारी डीके शर्मा ने मौजूदा सिविल सर्जन डॉ. अरविंद लोहान के आदेश पर खाद्य पदार्थों के 10 नमूने लिए गए थे।

पंचकूला लैब में जलेबा का नमूना फेल पाया गया। स्वास्थ्य विभाग के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी का कहना है कि जांच रिपोर्ट आने के बाद दुकान संचालक रामवीर को अपना पक्ष रखने का भी समय दिया गया था। लेकिन वे इसकी पुष्टि नहीं कर सके। एडीसी के पास मामला दर्ज किया गया।

गुरुवार देर शाम अतिरिक्त जिला उपायुक्त आदित्य दहिया ने 50 हजार का जुर्माना किया गया। इसके अलावा अग्रवाल स्वीट्स और तिगांव से पनीर के नमूने लिए गए थे। जांच रिपोर्ट में यह निम्न स्तर का पाया गया है।

Cotton wilts on slack buying

Rajkot, June 12

Cotton prices moved down on weak domestic demand. *Kapas* or raw cotton too decreased as demand from ginners reduced. Traders said that overall demand was very slow from both exporters and mills. Because of dull quality stock and farmers' expectation of high prices, demand was down in past few days. Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton was down by ₹300 to ₹34,500-35,200 per candy of 356 kg. About 5,000 bales (of 170 kg) arrived in Gujarat and 12,000 bales arrived in India. According to traders, cotton prices may not decline much as this year stock position is very tight. *Kapas* lost ₹10 to ₹910-925 for a *maund* of 20 kg and gin delivery *kapas* was at ₹925-940. Cottonseed was unchanged at ₹435-440. OUR CORRESPONDENT

KCR hard-sells Telangana to India Inc

New industrial policy promises graft-free, hassle-free, time-bound clearances

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, June 12

The Telangana State government on Friday presented its much awaited Industrial Policy 2015 to an audience of about 2,000 small and big industrialists who gathered here from across the country.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao tried to strike a chord with the industry by assuring them of a "graft-free, hassle-free" system that gives no scope for "pairavees" (lobbies).

He promised them a red carpet welcome to the CM's Office from the airport and to vet their applications as quickly as possible. "We are going to penalise officials ₹1,000 a day for delays," he said.

Mega projects, with investments of ₹200 crore and above, would be given permissions in

15 days, he said. The portal launched on Friday allows entrepreneurs to key in details and submit them.

Who's who in attendance

ITC Chairman YC Deveshwar, GMR Group chief Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao, GVK group chief GV Krishna Reddy, Nasscom's BVR Mohan Reddy and Ruia group's Pavan Ruia were among the top industrialists who attended the high-profile launch of the policy, held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC).

With a promise to give quick, time-bound and transparent permissions to project proposals, the industrial policy identifies 14 core areas for a focused approach. These include life sciences, pharma, information technology, aerospace, automo-

biles, textiles, minerals and transportation and logistics.

Quick approval

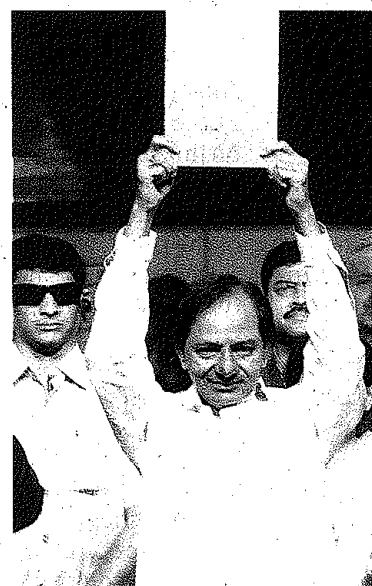
With a land bank of about 1.5 lakh acres in the State earmarked for industry, the government promises to clear proposals for Mega Projects in a span of 15 days.

At the heart of the policy is TS-iPASS (Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self-certification System), which calls for penal action against officials for delaying the processing of applications.

Besides TS-iPASS, the policy comprises T-IDEA and T-PRIDE, which offer incentives in stamp duty, value added tax and interest. The State has also promised power at an affordable rate.

Special incentives

The Industrial Policy framework, which was passed in the Assembly in November 2014 to ensure accountability, promises



This is it Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao displays a copy of the State's Industrial Policy, in Hyderabad, on Friday

MOHAMMED YOUSUF

to offer minimum inspection and maximum facilitation.

The policy comes out with

Red carpet

- State government says the policy allows no scope for lobbies
- Promises to clear investments above ₹200 crore within 15 days
- Portal launched for entrepreneurs to submit applications
- The policy has identified 14 core areas for a focussed approach
- Penal action against officials delaying processing of applications

special incentives for women entrepreneurs and those belonging to the SC and ST communities.

It mandates the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) with securing statutory clearances for industrial parks.

The government also plans to develop industrial townships to make it easier to get to work.

The Chief Minister also launched a solar power policy, under which the government will set up a cell to ensure single-window clearances for solar projects. Besides thermal power

production, the State is going for creation of 2,500 MW of solar power.

Land allotment

A mechanism will be put in place to identify the requirement of land for a particular project. A Price Fixation Committee will determine the prices of land in different Industrial Parks. The prices will be listed on the dedicated website that has been launched by the State for Project clearances.

If need be, the State government will acquire land from private parties.

Textile industry seeks extra funds for TUFS

M. Soundariya Preetha

COIMBATORE: The textile industry has sought additional allocation for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to clear the subsidy amount pending for earlier commitments under the scheme and also for new investments this year.

Prem Malik, Chairman of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, told presspersons here on Friday, The Government should provide Rs.3,000 crore additional allocation for the scheme for 2015-16. Textiles is a capital intensive industry and the two per cent to five per cent subsidy on interest available through the scheme helps the industry improve its competitiveness.

The scheme is valid till 2017 and the Government should provide adequate allocations for it. The industry is facing several challenges and during the last three years, investments were to the tune of Rs.27,000 crore to Rs.30,000 crore. Investments are expected to be minimal if the scheme is not there as the capital cost is high for the textile and clothing sector and "We need an element of rebate on interest," he said.

Sources in the industry added that nearly 35 per cent of textile and clothing production in the country is exported. The scheme helps the industry improve its efficiency and competitiveness by upgrading the technology.

विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की विभूतियां सम्मानित

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। परिवर्तन जन कल्याण समिति के तत्वावधान में शुक्रवार को आयोजित ठेका श्रम और सामाजिक न्याय विषय पर आयोजित सेमीनार में विभिन्न वक्ताओं ने श्रमिकों के हितों की सुरक्षा करने, ठेका श्रम बंद करने तथा सभी के साथ सामाजिक न्याय किये जाने पर बल दिया गया। इस दौरान समाज सेवा, कला, संस्कृति आदि की विभिन्न विभूतियों को सम्मानित किया गया।

रफी मार्ग स्थित कान्स्टीट्यूशन क्लब में आयोजित ठेका श्रम और सामाजिक न्याय विषयक सेमीनार में केन्द्रीय वस्त्र मंत्री संतोश कुमार गंगवार मुख्य अतिथि रहे जबकि सांसद भानू प्रताप सिंह, पूर्व सांसद कमल किशोर, अंतराष्ट्रीय क्षत्रिय महासभा के महासचिव आरपी सिंह, आईपी यूनिवर्सिटी के डॉ. अमरपाल सिंह विशिष्ट अतिथि रहे। समारोह में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उल्लेखनीय योगदान के लिए कई विभूतियों को सम्मानित किया गया।

उच्चतर माध्यमिक बालिका विद्यालय पुष्प विहार के संगीत शिक्षक वरदानी लाल को संगीतश्री सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया जबकि साहित्यकार पृथ्वी सिंह केदारखंडी व आचार्य सिद्ध बाबा ब्रह्मचारी को साहित्य सेवाश्री, आमलेन्दू मुखर्जी को श्रम रत्न, विरजेश उपाध्यक्ष, महेश शर्मा व अनिल शर्मा को श्रम संरक्षण रत्न, नरेन्द्र भाटी को पत्रकारिता रत्न, विजय आर्य को समाज सेवा रत्न व राकेश तिगरानिया को समाज सेवाश्री रत्न सम्मान दिया गया। सेमीनार को संबोधित करते हुए विभिन्न वक्ताओं ने ठेका श्रम पर चिंता व्यक्त की। उन्होंने कहा कि ठेका श्रम के चलते श्रमिक अपने अधिकारों से वंचित हो रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ठेका श्रम में ठेकेदार श्रमिकों का जमकर शोषण करते हैं। वक्ताओं ने श्रमिकों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए सामाजिक न्याय की पहल शुरू करने पर बल दिया।



CCI nod for Birla Textile acquisition

The Competition Commission has approved the ₹233-crore deal for the acquisition of Birla Textile Mills by Sutlej Textiles and Industries. Birla Textile Mills is the textile division of Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals.

PTI4

Kharif sowing down 8.7% on monsoon delay

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 12 June

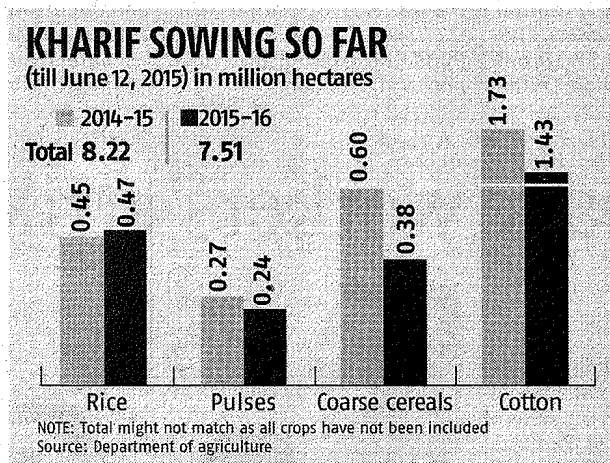
Delayed arrival of the monsoon, along with its uncertain run so far over much of central and northern parts of the country has disturbed the sowing of kharif crops, mainly coarse cereals and cotton.

Sowing of kharif crops as on June 12, is almost 8.71 per cent less than the same period last year at 7.51 million hectares, with the maximum impact on coarse cereals and cotton, mainly grown in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Bihar.

In total, kharif crops are sown on 105.06 million hectares during the season. Data from the Department of Agriculture show paddy has been planted on 0.47 million hectares, up from 0.45 million hectares planted in the year-ago period.

Pulses have been sown on 0.24 million hectares, down from 0.27 million hectares. In total, the crop is planted on 10.81 million hectares.

Officials said a strong push to sowing of kharif crops will come if monsoon reaches central and northern parts of the country on time, which is expected to be around end of June. India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on



Thursday the country received 36.4 millimeters of rainfall between June 1 and 10, which is almost near the normal of 36.2 millimeters.

However, monsoon in the northwest parts of the country — which includes the key grain-producing states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar

Pradesh and Rajasthan — has been around 13 per cent below normal in the first 10 days. In Central India, which comprises Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, it has been 31 per cent below normal.

The Met department said that in the week ended June 10, rainfall intensity went down slightly and showers were around five per cent below normal, mainly due to Cyclone Ashobaa.

AccuWeather senior meteorologist Jason Nicholls said though monsoon has arrived, drought would be a problem across much of the country and in Pakistan this season.

“A developing El Niño is expected to lead to below-normal rainfall across much of India this monsoon season with northwestern India and Pakistan likely the driest,” said Nicholls.

Far southern and north-eastern India might be the only areas to reach normal rainfall totals during the 2015 monsoon season, he added.

The southwest monsoon reached Mumbai on Friday. Regular rainfall was expected only in four or five days, Mumbai Regional Meteorological Centre's director-general V K Rajeev told PTI.

Nai Dunia, New Delhi

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Width: 6.86 cms, Height: 2.36 cms, a4, Ref: pmin.2015-06-13.37.108

खादी ग्रामोद्योग का सौर ऊर्जा आधारित उद्यमिता विकास कार्यक्रम

बहुउद्देश्यीय प्रशिक्षण केंद्र, खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग नई दिल्ली द्वारा गुड़गांव के उद्योग विहार फेज-1 में सौर ऊर्जा पर आधारित उद्यमिता विकास कार्यक्रम (ईडीपी) का आयोजन 5 से 7 जून 2015 के दौरान किया गया।

APPROVES ACQUISITION OF BIRLA TEXTILE MILLS

NEW DELHI: The Competition Commission has approved the Rs 233-crore deal for the acquisition of Birla Textile Mills (BTM) by Sutej Textiles and Industries. "The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has communicated to us their approval," Sutej Textiles and Industries said in a filing to the BSE. Birla Textile Mills is the textile division of Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals, located at Baddi, Himachal Pradesh. "The consideration for purchase of BTM from Chambal works out to be Rs 232.63 crore (including net current assets) subject to closing and other adjustments, if any," Sutej Textiles and Industries had earlier said.

PTI

CCI approves acquisition of Birla Textile Mills

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved a ₹233-crore deal for the acquisition of Birla Textile Mills (BTM) by Sutlej Textiles and Industries. "The Competition Commission of India has communicated to us their approval," Sutlej Textiles and Industries said in a filing to the BSE. Birla Textile Mills is the textile division of Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals, which is located at Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.

MINT, Delhi

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RADHA CHADHA LUXURY CULT

Western adventures in Chinese design

Coco Chanel, Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, Ralph Lauren, Jean Paul Gaultier, Alexander McQueen, John Galliano, Tom Ford, they all fell under the spell of China. In fact, name any major Western designer

over the last 100 years, and almost like a rite of passage, they have all turned to China for inspiration, and created fantastical dresses that marry Chinese aesthetics with Western form. These dresses, juxtaposed alongside the original inspiration—whether it is imperial Qing dynasty robes, delicate blue porcelain vases, ancient calligraphy, sultry Shanghainese actresses from the 1930s, or even the no-frills Mao uniform—form a fascinating exhibition called *China: Through The Looking Glass*, currently running at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

To see inspiration and end product side by side is a visual delight, sometimes so beautiful it leaves you emotionally stunned. Take for instance the robe of the Qianlong Emperor (1735-95) in yellow silk satin, intensely embroidered with writhing dragons, curly-wurly clouds, elongated pagoda, multicoloured candy stripes—an exquisite piece of history that you admire. And then you turn to the sequined dazzler of a dress next to it and you gasp—this is Tom Ford's take on the emperor's old clothes, created for Yves Saint Laurent's autumn/winter 2004-05 collection. The loosely cut robe has been turned into a figure-hugging evening gown, every inch of it twinkling with sequins—it is still yellow, the dragon, the pagoda, the clouds, the candy stripes are all there, but now the

garment oozes oomph and 21st century glamour. This is design sorcery.

This abiding love affair with China is intriguing. What is it that draws Western designers in such vast numbers to this faraway land? What is the special pull of Chinese culture that fires their imagination? What spurs them to adapt and adopt a set of symbols so alien from their own? Clearly China's rich and colourful sartorial history—as exemplified by the sumptuous imperial robe above—plays a role; but there is more, an elusive mix of elements that beckon and grip these designers' collective fantasy.

There are many possible answers, but definitely the fantasy of China as portrayed in the movies is a strong force. The American-Chinese actor Anna May Wong, who played stereotypical roles in Hollywood movies in the 1930s—sometimes a wily "dragon lady", sometimes a docile "lotus flower"—was one of the first to shape the Western mind. The stunning black charmeuse evening gown she wore in the 1934 film *Limehouse Blues* is on display here—designed by American designer Travis Banton, it has a massive gold-and-silver dragon slithering up the entire front of the dress.

While Anna May Wong's sensual-but-somewhat-clichéd image is crafted by Western film-makers, the spate of films that came from Chinese directors like Zhang Yimou, Wong Kar-Wai, Ang

Lee in the 1990s and 2000s has created a more nuanced picture of Chinese femininity. My all-time favourite is Maggie Cheung in Wong Kar-Wai's 2000 film *In The Mood For Love*—there is a fleeting quality that she exudes, a fragility, a stillness, an indefinable yearning, and above all, enormous restraint, and yet, the sum total of all this is enormous sensuality. A fully clothed Maggie Cheung—in a series of gorgeous *qipao*'s, I might add—merely standing by a window or walking down a shabby staircase packs more sensuality than the blatant, scantily clad come-hither sexuality portrayed in Western films. Perhaps it is this enigmatic sensuality that fascinates Western designers?

Several outfits in the exhibition embody this same quality. Jean Paul Gaultier's black satin dress from his 2001-02 haute couture collection is a splendid example—it is a high-collared, short-sleeved *qipao*, much like Maggie Cheung's, but there is a fantastical "garden" of black flowers and butterflies that adorns a daringly plunging near-nude tulle back. John Galliano's sheath-like *qipao*-dress in red silk jacquard is another example—from his autumn/winter 1997-98

Orientalist: John Galliano's creation in red silk, at the museum in New York.



COURTESY METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

collection for the House of Dior—it envelops the body like a second skin, heightening the awareness of every curve, so unforgiving in its cut that only a woman with a perfect figure would dare to wear it.

While one can understand the appeal of the sensual *qipao*, Western designers have had a field day with the figure of Mao, and played with the sheer drabness of the Mao suit. Chinese-American designer Vivienne Tam's dress from her 1995

spring/summer collection has Mao's face repeated as a pattern all over the outfit—the face

treatment is reminiscent of Andy Warhol's prints, but taken a step further by the artist Zhang Hongtu who gives Mao a variety of props—sunglasses, bushy pigtailed, squint eyes focused on a blackened nose. While Tam pokes fun, John Galliano's jacket-and-skirt ensemble for the House of Dior, spring/summer 1999, raises the plebeian Mao suit to a sophisticated style statement—the shapeless Mao jacket is given a tucked-in Dior waist, rendered in shantung, red silk piping, Chinese collar with military stars. It sits on a Mao-green skirt of pleated silk jacquard.

Some of the most creative outfits in the

exhibition are inspired by blue-and-white porcelain. Invented in Jingdezhen in the 13th century, fine works of porcelain are prized as priceless art. A 15th century jar with dragon designs seems to be the inspiration for Roberto Cavalli's magnificent evening dress—in blue-and-white silk satin—from his autumn/winter 2005-06 collection. Karl Lagerfeld honours the genre with an exquisite blue-and-white beaded dress with floral motifs for the House of Chanel's spring/summer 1984 haute couture collection. Sarah Burton takes a creative leap—she embroiders shards of blue-and-white porcelain on to fabric to build the bodice of her dress for Alexander McQueen autumn/winter 2011-12, while lush layers of white organza frills make up the skirt and extensive train. Chinese artist Li Xiaofeng gives up on fabric altogether, using pieces of broken porcelain to create a dress-like artwork titled *Weight of the Millenium*.

As China's stature rises on the world stage today, this exhibition serves to remind that its history is extremely rich, and its hypnotic allure has always drawn adventurers. These designers are ultimately adventurers of the artistic kind, and China for them is a creative engine, where they seek and find endless stimuli.

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