

## **Tripura wants expansion of textile manufacturing facilities**

**AGARTALA:** To reach the available artisans and boost the garments manufacturing skill, the Tripura government has urged the Centre to extend facilities of textile industry at the district level, said Tripura Industry Minister Tapan Chakraborty. The move came after a meeting of Chakraborty with Union Minister for Textile Santosh Kumar Gangwar. He also pointed out that the extension of textile industry in the state can reach rural artisans who were currently in search of work under this sector and it is not possible to get every artisan here in city where the state's first textile industry is coming up soon. (UNI)



## वर्धा में हस्तकला का प्रशिक्षण केंद्र बनाने के लिए समिति गठित

भास्कर न्यूज | मुंबई

वर्धा जिले के सेवाग्राम में ग्रामोद्योग, कुटिर उद्योग व हस्तकला को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए उच्चस्तरीय समिति का गठन कर दिया गया है। यह समिति सेवाग्राम में संसाधन व प्रशिक्षण केंद्र की स्थापना करने के लिए रिपोर्ट तैयार करेगी। इससे संबंधित शासनादेश बुधवार को राज्य सरकार ने जारी कर दिया। समिति को तीन महीने के भीतर रिपोर्ट सरकार को देना होगा। समिति को केंद्र की स्थापना के लिए जगह सुनिश्चित करने और केंद्र के काम को प्रभावी बनाने के लिए सुझाव देने को कहा गया है। समिति केंद्र की रूपरेखा सेवाग्राम ट्रस्ट और विभागीय आयुक्त, नागपुर से चर्चा के बाद तैयार करेगी। इसके बाद सरकार के पास इसकी सिफारिश करेगी। समिति के अध्यक्ष भाजपा उपाध्यक्ष विनय सहस्त्रबुद्धे होंगे। समिति के सदस्य के रूप में वर्धा के डॉ. गोपाल पालीवाल भी होंगे।



ग्रामीण सड़कों के निर्माण में जियो टेक्सटाइल्स इस्तेमाल : कोच्चि। केंद्र दक्षिणी राज्यों में जूट व नारियल के रेशे जैसे जियो-टेक्सटाइल्स का उपयोग ग्रामीण सड़कों के निर्माण में किए जाने से प्रभावित है। अन्य राज्यों से कर्नाटक व तमिलनाडु के अनुभव को दोहराने को कहा है।



*Veteran duo sets the ball rolling, GenNext designers add to the glitz*



A model (above) presents a design from the *Jawani Jaaneman* collection by designer duo Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla.



PHOTOS: YOGEN SHAH

The front row for the Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla show at the Lakme Fashion Week on Tuesday was packed with celebs like Jaya Bachchan, Sussanne Khan, Sonali Bendre, Dimple Kapadia, Twinkle Khanna, Nita Ambani and daughter. The fashion week is in its 15th year.

## LFW OPENS WITH THE YOUNG & ABLE

By Radhika Bhalla

THE Lakme Fashion Week is known for bringing out the freshest designs from young and veteran designers alike, and its winter/festive 2015 season which began at Mumbai's Palladium Hotel on Tuesday lived up to the expectations.

For the opening show, designer duo Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla veered away from their traditional trademark styles and packed in a punch with their collection *Jawani Jaaneman*. Nostalgic, retro-chic silhouettes transported fashionistas to the disco era with ensembles like gold sequin kaftans and fitted jumpsuits with colourful sequins work for women and blinged-out jackets with gold trousers for men.

Flouncy pleats in pastel yellow and grey — a glimpse of which the duo gave recently at the bridal show in the Capital — made an extended appearance, as seen on beautiful mermaid gowns and statement blouses. Blinged-out *lehenga* skirts added a *desi* element, presented to the beats of popular retro songs like *I will survive*, *Raat baki baat baki* and *I Will Always Love You* by Whitney Houston.

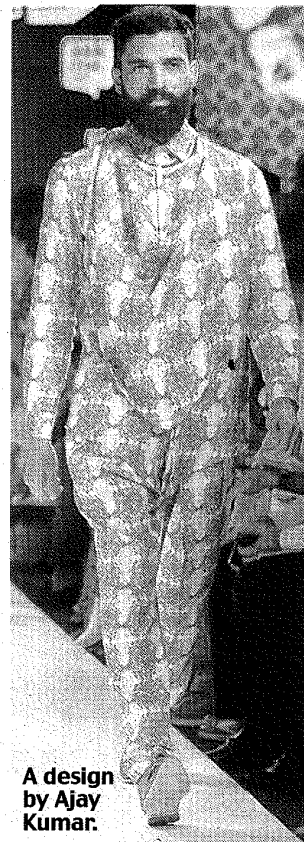
### On the RAMPAGE

The finale was truly memorable as models walked in lines of three in gold kaftans and masks and performed a choreographed dance to the 1982 hit *Jawani Jaaneman* from the movie *Namak Halal*.

The front row was packed with famous faces like Jaya Bachchan, Dimple Kapadia, Twinkle Khanna, Sussanne Khan, Sonali Bendre Behl and Nita Ambani.

Day 2 on Wednesday continued with the youthful flavour as seven GenNext designers presented capsule collections. Delhi-boy Siddharth Bansal lived up to expectations with his quirky and bright prints on sporty separates while Kriti Tula made an impression with her upcycled collection. Cochin-based designer Jebin Johny's show took a fun take on fitted maxi dresses, pencil skirts and crop-tops with bold graphic prints on white backdrops. Matching wedges completed the look. Meanwhile, Ajay Kumar brought in a fresh take to menswear with tightly packed prints of lotus flowers juxtaposed with kaleidoscope patterns on shirts, jackets, kurtas and trousers, with cowls neck and bib details.

All eyes were on young-gun Kristy De Cunha's show, who made quite an impression on the fash-frat two seasons ago as a GenNext debut. For her



A design by Ajay Kumar.

current line, the designer played with doll-like prints on structured and theatrical gowns and dresses. The high-energy show was ended by model and VJ Anusha Dandekar, who put up a spirited dance performance in a structured blue skirt with a cape blouse.

As the afternoon rolled on, seasoned fashion dissenters took the stage. Delhi-based label Huenm surprised many with elements of bling in their show along with a mix of animal prints that harked back to the '90s as inspiration with a modern take. A men's sweatshirt with feather cuffs was a standout.

Another label from the Capital, Ilk, took to deconstructed fashion on boxy silhouettes like skirts and pre-draped saris with sequins check embellishments for an earthy evening look. Lastly, 'Quirkbox' brought out the love with origami-inspired heart-shaped embroidery and prints on dresses, tunics, pencil skirts and coats. Two models that walked hand-in-hand at the end of the show wearing identical dresses that read 'pyaar' and 'love' truly captured the essence of young designers and their love affair with courting the new.



**LACKLUSTRE DEBUT**

# Power Mech shares fall 8.48% on listing

By AMI SHAH

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MUMBAI

Shares of Power Mech Projects Ltd debuted 8.48% lower on the BSE on Wednesday, despite robust subscription, sparking concerns on the fate of public offers set to open amid market volatility.

Power Mech shares, which opened at ₹600 against an issue price of ₹640, climbed to a high of ₹663.10 a share. They erased all gains and closed at ₹585.75, down 8.48% from its issue price. The 30-share benchmark Sensex closed 1.22% lower at 25,714.66 points.

The Power Mech initial public offering (IPO) to raise up to ₹273.2 crore was subscribed 38 times and the company had set an IPO price of ₹640 a share.

The Hyderabad-based company will use the proceeds to fund its working capital requirements, among other things.

Founded in 2009, Power Mech provides engineering services to the power sector across three services: construction, testing and commissioning of boilers, turbines and generators.

Arvind Infrastructure Ltd, the real estate arm of the textile and apparel maker, too, listed on the bourses on Wednesday. The stock opened at ₹56.05 and touched a high and a low of ₹56.05 and ₹53.25, respectively.

Arvind Infrastructure closed at ₹53.25 on the National Stock

Exchange, while Arvind Ltd closed 3.12% lower at ₹255.95.

Arvind Ltd had transferred its real estate business to Arvind Infrastructure that issued one share for every 10 shares held by the shareholders of Arvind.



# Highlighting handloom

Rinku Sobti seeks to impress fashion experts at Lakme Fashion Week with an entire collection centred around handloom

MADHUR TANKHA

It is a marriage between the rich and the poor. And it has been replicated on the fabric. Delhi-based designer Rinku Sobti has drawn inspiration from tassels – loosely hanging threads used for extravagant decoration of soft furnishings – to draw the sorry plight of weavers in her new collection.

Coinciding with the Indian Textile Day, the catalyst for this collection, to be presented at Lakme Fashion Week in Mumbai on August 27, are the Bajardiya weavers from Varanasi, who interacted with the designer on WhatsApp on a daily basis for the past eight months.

The collection, which highlights the aesthetic beauty of handloom and handspun fabric, has been conceptualised to bring the focus to the weavers, who despite creating rich fabric continue to live hand-to-



Handloom is all set to be the new growth story. I see a lot of potential

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ETHNIC WITH MODERN TOUCH A model draped in a Rinku Sobti's attire

mouth existence.

“As a designer it is my prerogative to choose my inspiration. If I am mesmerised by a *gulab ka phool* then I would draw and give it to weavers to take inspiration from its outward appearance in their work. Similarly, here I developed design of tassels and handed it over to Bajardiya weavers from Varanasi to make a collection around it. The design of tassels has been replicated in the form of motifs. I have seen the metamorphosis of the threads turning into fabric and then the ultimate outfit,” says Rinku.

Explaining the rationale for using tassels as her inspiration, Rinku says tassels are luscious strands of threads used by the rich and epitomise lavishness. “The irony would not be lost on fashion experts at Lakme as the weavers, who have drawn inspiration from it to create motifs, themselves live in poverty. It is high time that we do something substantially for the impoverished weavers. They are simply amazing. Despite their difficulties, they create exotic creations with their nimble fingers.”

Noting that the collec-

tion is a tribute to the weaving community, Rinku says this is her chance to put the spotlight on weavers, who keep alive the heritage of Indian textiles.

In this endeavour, Rinku has amalgamated contemporary cuts and checks with traditional crafts. “Silk net weaves are forte of the Bajardiya weavers and they have done a brilliant job of weaving them in check patterns.” Skirts, jackets, saris and lehengas have been designed to show clean cuts and strong lines.

“Handloom is all set to be the new growth story. I see a lot of potential. India has the resources, talent of weavers, brain power of designers. All it needs is a little push and ensure that execution is done more methodically. The need of the hour is to go back to our roots. Revival of handloom is not charity but it makes sense even if I see in from the perspective of a businesswoman,” says Rinku, whose collection of lehengas and saris will be on display at her Vasant Kunj store in the Capital.

To ensure that the collection is not monotonous, she has introduced checks. “To pep up the garments we took net silk check. Not boring, mundane handloom. Then we have silk, georgette. The purpose behind all this is to get the attention of the young generation” Rinku wants more members of her profession to work in handloom sector as this would be a win-win situation for both. “Not only designers will benefit but also weavers who need to get work which their forefathers have been doing for centuries. We have to make their strength saleable.”



# Stitched with Love by Ramu Kaka, Sold by Korra Jeans

Korra, which makes customised jeans in Delhi's Okhla industrial area, includes the name of the tailor with the brand label

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**Bengaluru:** It's a regular workday at a 1,500 sq-ft workshop in Delhi's Okhla industrial area, where 15 tailors are busy fashioning customised jeans that will carry their names along with the Korra brand



label, which was launched last year.

Every once in a while, the tailors shift to a different machine for the next stitching process or pick up an electric iron to press the fabric. After a few hours, a tailor sews the brand label on the finished pair of jeans and writes his name on it, before rolling the pair into a bag he has fashioned out of excess fabric.

"This is the only place where my name is known to the person who uses the product and it feels very good," said Wakil, one of the tailors, who worked at an assembly line for a factory in Kanpur earlier.

An experienced tailor makes two pairs of jeans in a day, while a new-

comer manages just one. Korra has sold about 700 pairs so far through its website and has recently started selling on online marketplaces Koovs and Myntra. The brand is seeking to make the most of a growing global movement against sweatshop manufacturing. It has sold a fifth of its products to 13 countries outside India, including the US, France, UK and Italy.

The company brands itself around its conscious choices as it makes jeans with raw denim and organic cotton threads acquired from local producers, stitched by a single tailor on second-hand machinery.

"We don't want to be the people standing in front of companies and telling them to change their ways. Instead, if we can build something by making better choices ourselves, right from the bottom-up, then we should do it," said Shyam Sukhramani, one of the founders, who hopes the company will grow organically while maintaining its



LONG-LASTING

The co offers a care plan with free repair services, encouraging users to wear jeans more often

core values. Sukhramani, who worked with Levi Strauss & Co for 17 years, joined Himanshu Shani and Mia Morikawa, who run a sustainable clothing and accessory brand 11.11, and Rajesh Jaju to start the Good People Company in 2013, which launched the Korra brand.

The company offers a care plan with free repair services, encouraging users to wear their jeans more often.

"The supply chain has been carefully curated and involves engaging a network of vendors that provide the necessary ingredients to

make a pair of environmentally conscious jeans — from the naturally dyed indigo selvedge denim, organic cotton threads, custom made rivets/buttons, zippers made of a combination of recycled materials to the second-hand machines," said Morikawa.

Each pair of jeans is made after the order is placed, so that it can be customised. Buyers in the National Capital Region can also avail themselves of the home-try-on service.

Arvind K Singhal, the chairman and managing director of management consulting firm Technopak,

said brands such as Korra have a positive future, given the growing demand for personalisation.

"They may not become Rs 1,000 crore brands but they can certainly make a mark for themselves and be profitable," he said.

While international brands providing custom-fitted raw jeans such as 3x1, Roy, Levi's Tailor Shop charge more than \$200 (over ₹13,000), Korra jeans are priced at ₹2,900-3,900, exclusive of custom-fitting charges.

"We will, over the next six to 12 months, be investing in building a team to scale up our customer service, technology and manufacturing," said Sukhramani, who estimates that the company will require \$25 million (about ₹162 crore) over the next five years to scale up to the level of the established players.

The company was bootstrapped for two years and received angel funding, last year and this year, from India and abroad.



Hindu, Delhi

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## Looming crisis



he crisis-ridden textile sector, being labour-intensive, should have been an ideal candidate for a push as part of the Prime Minister's pet 'Make in India' initiative, but as the issues it is mired in remain unresolved, and with losses mounting, the situation is grim. Nearly half of India's power looms are at a standstill: the spinning industry in the northern and southern regions has pressed in shutdowns of as much as 15 to 20 per cent of production capacity. The textile industry as a whole is reeling under high input and transaction costs. The products find it hard to compete in export markets, where India-made yarn, fabrics and garments attract duties respectively at rates of 3.5, 8.5 and 14 per cent. Yet, Pakistan, Vietnam and Cambodia enjoy zero-duty access in some categories in the U.S., EU and China. India's trade negotiators need to seek expedited results. China is not picking up much from India this year.

Cotton was cheaper in India this year initially. But the Cotton Corporation of India for several months sold the good-quality produce procured in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and parts of Maharashtra at prices higher than international levels, making Indian cotton uncompetitive. This added to the problems of the industry, especially the spinning segment, before an intervention by the Union Textile Ministry ensured resumption of smooth supplies. Tinkering with the cotton market through Minimum Support Price operations must be avoided. Instead, direct cash subsidy benefit to farmers could help reform the sector. China has also decided to go in for direct subsidies to cotton growers, with its textile industry free to source cotton at international prices. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme that was originally brought in by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and launched in 1999, is a ready framework available to the Centre to address the needs of the textile sector. The scheme, that is estimated to have so far resulted in investments of over Rs.3,00,000 crore in the whole textile value chain, will expire in March 2017. It should be extended. A comprehensive National Textile Policy must be announced at the earliest to create a level playing field with regard to tariff rates, raw material costs, cost of funding and transaction costs. Each power loom provides work to about 2.5 workers. Closures all across the country could endanger livelihoods on a large scale. Conversely, a healthy textile sector could potentially create millions of jobs. That should be the target.



## **Budget consultations to start from Sept 4**

*New Delhi:* Finance ministry will start consultations on 2016-17 Budget with different ministries and government departments from September 4. Beginning with commerce, textile and external affairs, the consultations with different departments would conclude on September 28. **PTI**



# Winter gets festive for GenNext

SUSHMITA MURTHY  
MUMBAI

One of Indian fashion's biggest calendar events, the Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2015, began on Wednesday with an army of fresh designers making their debuts on the ramp. Like every year, upcoming designers from the GenNext section took to the main stage with their fresh take on sartorial stories.

It was one of the longest GenNext shows with seven designers showcasing their garments. Trench coats, blazers and jackets were a staple across collections, reflecting the mood of the season. Gold was the underlining element across collections that catered to the latter part of the fashion season — festive.

Of the many designers that featured their collections on Day 1, there are some that particularly impressed.

Kochi-based designer Jebin Johny's Kathakabuki, although tailored only for wash-board abs and toned derrières, was a striking collection that attempted at blending two dance forms — the Indian Kathakali and the Japanese Kabuki. It presented disciplined, sharp designs in bold colours such as oranges, blacks and reds on a white can-



vas of cotton-lycra stitched into clean-cut pencil skirts with crop and dresses. Certainly, a highlight in the GenNext section.

Creating much sartorial drama on stage was Ishita Mangal's Misprison with Treason, a collection inspired by a crime scene. Featuring blood-stained stoles, police-ticker-inspired belts and crime scene sketches as prints, it made for a bold statement on the ramp. More bold than artistic. Soft silhouettes and fabrics made the collection breezy, despite the arresting designs.

Following the GenNext designers was another young brigade — the Grazia Young Fashion Award winners.

Quirk Box by Jayesh and Rixi, one of the quirkiest and popular duos of the season, in keeping with their style, showcased playful ensembles with pop art-style prints, eclectic colour blocking and

patchwork in their collection called Love Story.

Also interesting to see was Heumn's diverse range of styles in one collection. Sharp-tailored neoprene outfits, faux leather, organza, shimmer, fur and velvet were all part of the capsule Heumn collection. Gold remained the underlying staple that made the garments fierce and festive at the same time.

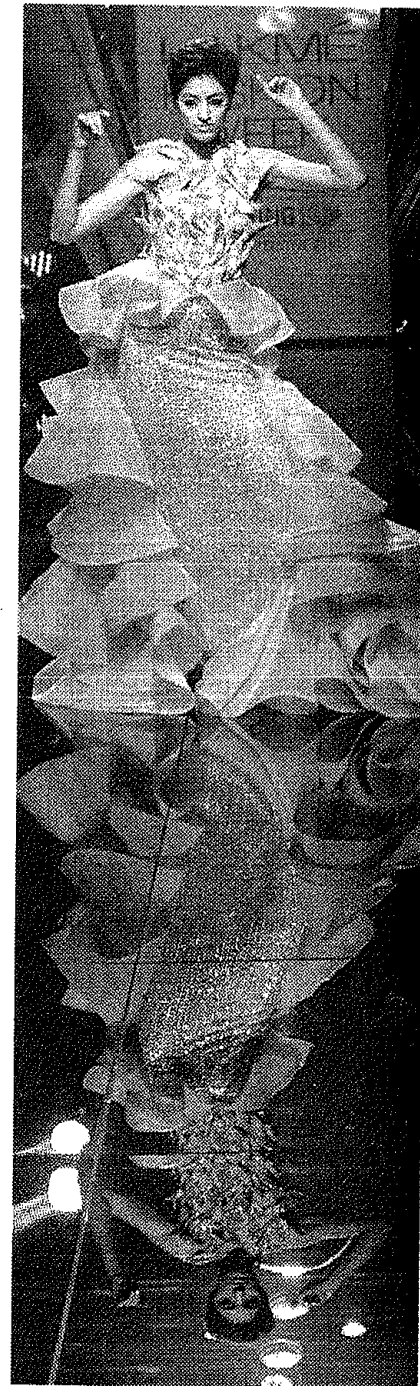
Nikhil Thampi's collection, Alchemy, as the name suggests, was a metallic experiment on textile. It began on an ethereal note with white cotton, tissue and net textiles playing canvas to matt gold thread work and zari. The styles were largely Indo-Western, with Thampi taking the classic Indian drape to add a Western twist.

Ending the day on a high note was Krishna Mehta and Soumitra's ethnic Indian collection. Krishna Mehta stayed true to maharani-style lehenga cholis and saris in rich fuschia tones of oranges, pinks and reds. Dhoti pants, angrakha tops and tunics featured heavily in the quintessentially regal Indian collection, but Mehta's twist to the navari sari, was a first. She teamed the bottom of the nine yard with cholis and jackets offering a fresh interpretation of the garment. Certainly, our favourite for the day.



Models (clockwise from top) present creations of GenNext designers and Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla, as Jaya Bachchan and industrialist Mukesh Ambani's wife Nita attend the opening show of the Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2015 at Palladium Hotel, Lower Parel, Mumbai, on Tuesday.

— SATEJ SHINDE





## **Govt to promote geo-textiles roads**

Impressed by quality of rural roads constructed using jute and coir geo-textiles, the centre asked other states to replicate the “good experience of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu” in this regard.



## **Kavita Fabrics migrates to BSE**

Shares of Kavita Fabrics will migrate to BSE mainboard from the stock exchange's SME platform on August 28. This would be the seventh company to migrate to the mainboard.



## Textile Minister launches Galleria Intima 2015

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**TAKING PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi's recently launched "Make in India" forward, Intimate Apparel Association of India (IAAI) organised a 2-day trade fair which focussed on intimate wear manufacturing in India. Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Textiles (Independent Charge) inaugurated the exhibition on Wednesday. The Joint Secretary for Textile Exports, Sunaina Tomar was also present. A white paper on 'Make in India, Make for the World: Developing India as a quality intimate supplier for global markets' was also simultaneously released by the Textile Minister.

This year, in the fourth edition of India's biggest intimate apparel trade fair, Galleria Intima will be in focus in order to transform it as the next major hub of intimate wear manufacturing. The exhibition showcased everything from fibres to laces as well as hooks and packaging. Visitors from a wide

variety of sectors including brand owners, manufacturers of intimate wear, designers, export houses, large format retailers, online retailers, buying houses were part of it. More than 1000 brands from India, as well as 80 exhibitors from more than 10 countries and 15 Chinese companies participated, making Galleria Intima 4.0 an all-encompassing platform for intimate apparel.

Santosh Kumar Gangwar said, "Our honourable Prime Minister's call of Make in India is deeply etched in the soul of the country. Our textile industry is capable of manufacturing products of high global demand. One of our USPs is the creation of beautiful traditional motifs by our highly skilled manpower. The intimate wear industry is highly capable of increasing the exports of the nation to European, Japanese and American markets. With domestic demand on the rise, it is also important for good quality products to be manufactured within the country to replace imports."

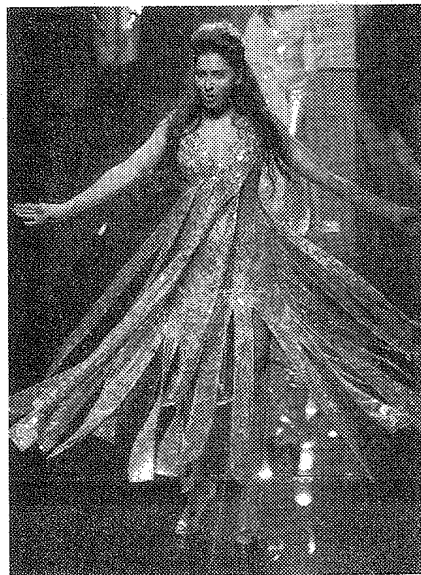






## BLAST FROM THE GOLDEN PAST

**T**he golden era of the 80s was recreated quite literally on the ramp in Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla's show *Jawaani Jaaneman* that kicked off the Lakme Fashion Week on Tuesday night. Super model Jessie Randhawa in a petalled organza gown drew appreciative cheers as did 80s ramp queen Anna Bredmeyer in majestic floor length ponchos. The collection, largely played in gold, mirrored the flamboyance of the heady 80s.





# CAI estimates cotton output for 2015-16 at 380 lakh bales

## fe Bureau

**Pune, Aug 26:** The Cotton Association of India (CAI) has released its first estimates of the crop for the 2015-16 season beginning on October 1 at 380 lakh bales of 170 kg each. This is almost similar to the output of 382 lakh bales achieved in the 2014-15 season.

The association says the acreage under cotton during the ensuing 2015-16 cotton season is going to be less than that of the current crop year. Yield is, however, likely to be higher during the 2015-16 crop season due to good and

timely rainfall in the cotton growing areas, Dhiren Seth, president, CAI said.

The production for the 2015-16 season therefore is expected to be similar to that of 2014-15 crop year. However, the association said, the yield may go up due to timely rainfall in the cotton growing areas and the crop for the next cotton season is expected to match previous year's figures.

The total cotton supply in the next season is estimated at 470.65 lakh bales while the domestic consumption is pegged at 325 lakh bales, leaving a surplus of 145.65 lakh



bales for exports. In 2015-16 season, the output in the northern region, including Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, is expected to be up a tad at 55.50 lakh bales against

53.50 lakh bales to be produced in the current season. Scanty rainfall in parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra is likely to pull down output in the central zone to 203 lakh

**The association says the acreage under cotton in the 2015-16 season is going to be less than that of the current crop year. However, yield is likely to be higher during 2015-16**

bales (204.50 last year), though output in Madhya Pradesh may go up to 19 lakh bales as against 18 lakh bales.

Output in southern region, including Telangana,

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, may register a fall at 115.50 lakh bales (118.75 lakh bales). Mill consumption is estimated to be higher at 285 lakh bales (278 lakh bales) with demand from small scale units and non-mills also supporting the bullish trend in consumption.

Global cotton output is estimated to decline by 9% in crop year 2015-16 on diversion of acreage to other remunerative crops. CAI also released the July estimates for ongoing cotton season 2014-15, placing it at 382.75 lakh bales (of 170 kg each).

The total cotton crop stood at 407.25 lakh bales during 2013-14, according to CAI data.

Earlier, CAI officials had said that Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) may not be able to sell a sizeable quantity of cotton at the end of the season. The CCI has procured about 87 lakh bales to provide price support to the farmers. Unfortunately, the CCI has not been able to sell the entire quantity of cotton procured by it and looking at the pace at which the fibre is getting disposed, a sizeable quantity is likely to remain unsold at the end of the season, CAI officials had said.



## **Kavita Fabrics to migrate to BSE's mainboard**

Shares of Gujarat-based Kavita Fabrics will migrate to BSE mainboard from the stock exchange's SME platform on August 28. This would be the seventh company out of the total 100 companies listed on the BSE segment for small and medium enterprises (SME) to migrate to the mainboard. "Trading Members of the exchange are hereby informed that effective from Friday, August 28, 2015, the equity shares of Kavita Fabrics which are already listed under BSE SME platform will now be migrated and admitted to dealings on the mainboard platform in list of B Group," BSE said in a circular on Wednesday.



## Budget consultations from 4 Sep

**New Delhi:** The finance ministry will start consultations on 2016-17 Budget with different ministries and government departments from 4 September. The finance ministry has already started the budgetary exercise in mid-August, two months ahead of schedule, to have wider consultations with stakeholders. Beginning with commerce, textile and external affairs ministries on 4 September, the consultations with different departments would conclude on 28 September. The consultations would focus on expenditure proposals for 2016-17 and revised estimates for 2015-16. The finance ministry's Budget division has also issued the detailed guidelines for firming up the expenditure proposals for the next fiscal. **PTI**