

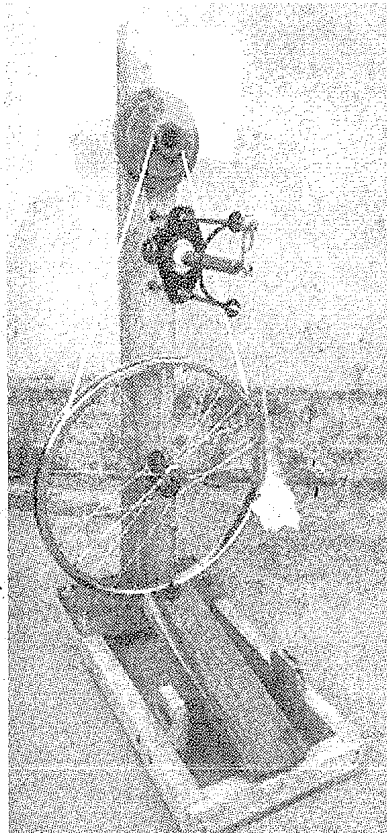
New *charkha* to remove problems of spinning innovated

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, July 27: A new *charkha* has been innovated to remove the problem of spinning the weft yarn of eri silk with an aim at checking the massive flight of eri cocoon to other parts of the country, which are either not known for their traditional eri culture or far behind the State in eri cocoon production.

Eri is a natural warm silk cloth, made of the yarns derived from the cocoons of eri worms, and, Assam is one of the largest eri cocoon producing States of the country. But due to the lack of proper equipment to produce the weft yarn from these silk cocoons, State's artisans have now gradually started withdrawing from their tradition of weaving eri cloths, which are known to be wholly organic and hence have a great demand in other parts of the country and abroad as well.

The new *charkha*, innovated by former North Eastern Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST, formerly Regional Research Laboratory), Jorhat SN Choudhury and his mechanical engineer son KN Choudhury at the workshop they have set up at their Shreenagar-based house here and named – Choudhury Eri Spinning Charkha-II – is expected to remove this problem and State's artisans would now be able to weave their cloths comfortably and thus the flight of eri cocoons from the State



could be prevented.

Noted sericulture entrepreneur Chandan Keshab of Boko Milanpur, who is a member of a Boko-based large eri producers' group, said that their group has been testing the equipment for the past one year and found that it has been able to reduce the time period of production

of weft yarn. About 250 grams of weft yarn of about 25 counts could be produced with the help of this equipment within eight hours, Keshab said.

When contacted, SN Choudhury told this newspaper that experiments are going on also on the amount of warp eri yarn the equipment can produce.

The idea to invent this *charkha* came to Choudhury's mind because of the low output of the existing eri *charkha*, which led to the massive flight of eri cocoons to various parts of the country, affecting the sericulture industry of the State.

Choudhury has been feeling the need of such a *charkha*, following the invention of a *charkha* by his father late Jnanananda Choudhury, a former teacher of the city's Arya Vidyapeeth Higher Secondary and Multipurpose School in the 1950s. His father's *charkha* is known as the Choudhury Eri Spinning Charkha No. 1 and it was well received by the NE artisans and traders involved in the sector. It was exported to some South Asian countries too.

The *charkha* innovated by Choudhury and his son can be operated manually. It is around 6.5 kg in weight and it can be operated from both right and left directions through an adjustable pedal. Even children can operate it. The equipment is made of wood, brass and steel parts, bearing and bushings, Choudhury said.

Cabinet approves ₹20,000-cr infrastructure investment fund

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved creation of a ₹20,000-crore National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), a sort of sovereign fund, for development of infrastructure projects, including the stalled ones.

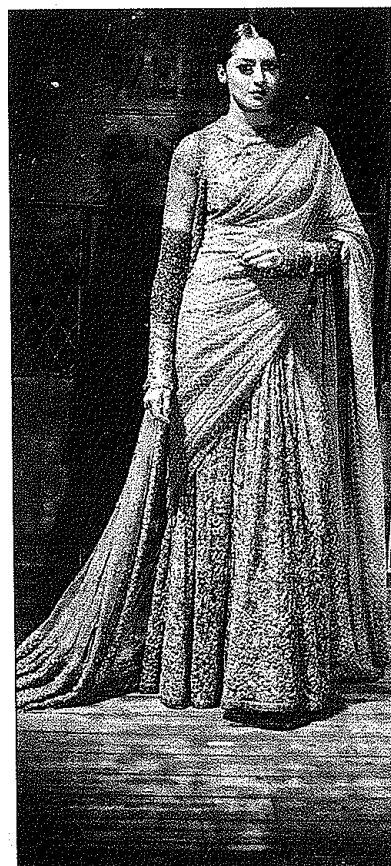
The decision to set up the fund was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sources said.

The NIIF, sources said, is being established with an aim to maximise “economic impact” mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both green field and brown field, “including stalled projects”.

The fund could also consider funding nationally important projects in the manufacturing sector.

The initial authorised capital of NIIF would be ₹20,000 crore, which will be raised from time to time as decided by the Finance Minister.

The Government would contribute 49 per cent of the subscribed capital of NIIF.



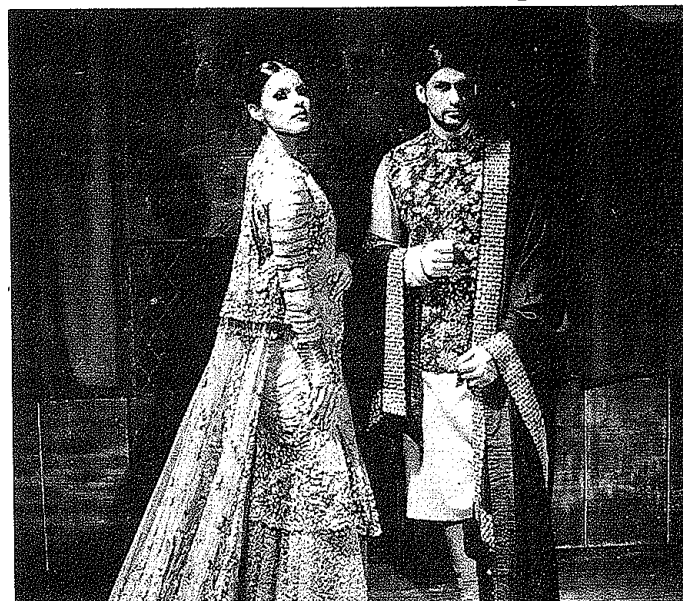
साब्यसाची के परिधान पेश करती मॉडल।

मॉडर्न और क्लासी लुक की जादूगारी

वंदना यादव, नई दिल्ली

देश के विभिन्न राज्यों के संगम को लेकर मॉडर्न वियर बनाने में माहिर फैशन डिजाइनर साब्यसाची मुखर्जी ने बुधवार को अपने शो में पूरे भारत की आर्ट को एक मंच पर लाकर दिखा दिया। बंगाल की कारीगरी से लेकर जरदोजी और रेशम की फाइन हाथ की कढ़ाई के साथ उन्होंने मन को भाने वाला कलेक्शन बनाया।

एमेर्जॉन इंडिया कुटूर् वीक के ओपनिंग शो में उन्होंने भारत की हंटिंग बर्ड बटेर से प्रेरित होकर अपने कलेक्शन को पेश किया। कलेक्शन को मॉडर्न और क्लासी रखते हुए उन्होंने गहरे रंगों का प्रयोग किया। शो का आकर्षण रंगों का बेहतरीन संयोजन था। ग्रे शेड, ब्लैक, मरून और क्रीम कलर के परिधान रैंप पर नजर आए। साब्यसाची ने मेन्स कलेक्शन को भी खूबसूरती से दर्शाया। शेरवानी और जैकेट्स पर परंपरागत कढ़ाई बेहद फब रही थी। साब्यसाची ने बताया कि



साब्यसाची मुखर्जी ने मेन्स कलेक्शन को भी बखूबी दर्शाया।

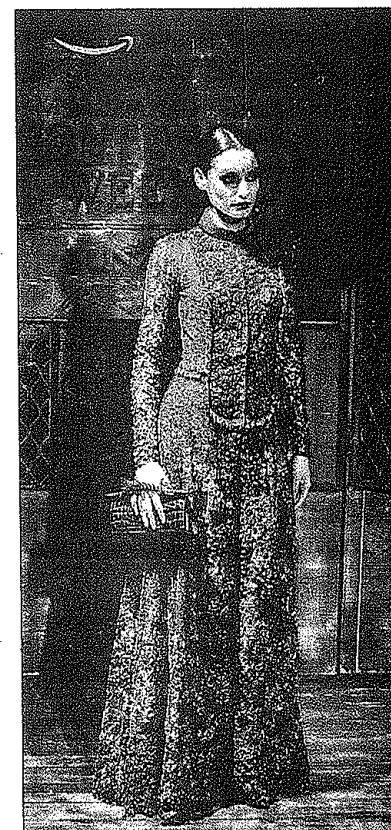
उनके परिधान आरामदायक हैं। इनका वाइल्ड लुक और ट्रेवल नेचर इनकी



मॉडल के इस परिधान को दर्शकों ने खूब सराहा।

खासियत रही। इतना ही नहीं साब्यसाची के शो में पेरिस के मशहूर फुटवियर डिजाइनर

क्रिस्टियन सौबुटिन के फुटवियर शो का आकर्षण बने।



इस परिधान के साथ मॉडल जब रैंप पर उतरी तो तालियों से स्वागत किया गया।

Spin a Yarn

Designer Anju Modi references heritage in her latest collection, inspired by Persia

JAGMEETA THIND JOY

IT'S BEEN a busy run-up to this edition of Amazon India Couture Week for Anju Modi. The award-winning designer and couturier recently launched her flagship store in Delhi's upmarket Defence Colony. A champion of Indian textiles for nearly three decades now, she has just wrapped up work with director Sanjay Leela Bhansali's soon-to-release period film *Bajirao Mastani*. This is her second film as a costume designer after last year's hit, *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela*, which saw Modi celebrate the sartorial styles of Kutch. We spoke to the designer on her latest collection, the contemporisation of Indian couture and designing for Bollywood.

What was your inspiration for this season?

This season, my inspiration for "Kashish" came from Persia, one of the world's richest and ancient civilizations. We see Persian influences in architecture, in myriad art forms ranging from calligraphy to miniature art, in the unique designs and *bootis*, and literature as well. You will see a wide gamut of colours

such as ochre, ivory, mint, indigo, red and teal. I have used natural fabrics such as fine khadi, chanderi and dupion silk in the collection.

How has Indian couture changed over the years, be it in terms of silhouettes or styling?

Indian couture has now become more focused and design oriented than it was before. Not just from the perspective of the designers, but also the customers. There is maturity with how our clients and customers view our garments and that reflects in the way we style and design our collections.

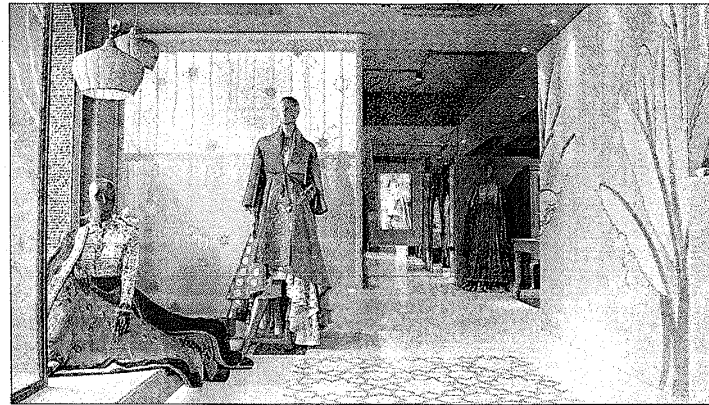
You have recently launched your flagship store and made it an all-inclusive space.

I feel that Defence Colony has become a couture street. The perspective with the new store is to present the whole gamut of lines

by the label under one roof, including menswear.

How was the experience of designing for Bollywood?

It is both interesting and challenging to work but it is a creative rush to work with a filmmaker like Bhansali. My collections usually follow strong cultural references as the backdrop, so designing for *Bajirao Mastani* was right up my alley. It was an absolute pleasure to travel through Maharashtra (the seat of power of the noted Peshwa) to research and study the crafts and design heritage. We have to be extra focused when it comes to designing for a movie, since every nuance, every detail of the character is highlighted and brought to fore through the subtlety or opulence of the look.



(Clockwise from above) Anju Modi's Defence Colony store; 'Kashish' sketch; Modi



STYLE

Lakme Fashion Week has designs on 'Banaras'

MUMBAI: Organisers of the Lakme Fashion Week, along with designer-politician Shaina N.C., announced the launch of its initiative titled "Reinvent Banaras" for the revival of Banaras handlooms here on Wednesday.

Designers Krishna Mehta, Shruti Sancheti and textile designer Hemang Agrawal were present.

Ace designer Ritu Kumar revealed some significant looks from her "Varanasi Weaves" collection, which will be showcased at the Indian Handlooms and Textiles Day at the Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive, 2015, on August 27.

The Indian Handloom and

Textile Day at the fashion gala will celebrate the rich heritage of hand-woven luxury every season.

Ms. Shaina will curate a special exhibition at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum for Lakme Fashion Week.

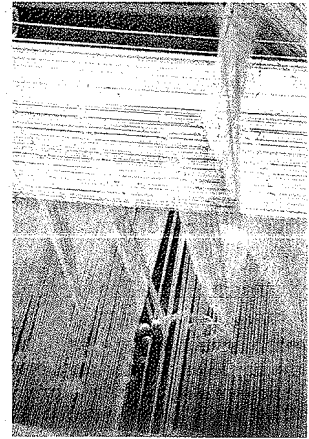
Top designers on board

The exhibition will showcase the works of fashion designers like Ritu Kumar, Anita Dongre, Ritu Beri, Gaurav Gupta, Varun Bahl, Rina Dhaka and Krishna Mehta, on a single platform.

This is part of a nationwide campaign, led by Ms. Shaina, focussed to uplift the Banaras handloom industry, part of

the "Make In India" initiative supported by the Union Textiles Ministry.

"With Indian Textile Day, our aim is to provide a platform to showcase the variety and vibrancy of Indian weaves and highlight Indian crafts to a global and young audience. We are delighted to announce that this special edition of Indian Textile Day will revive, uplift and reinvent Banaras handlooms in partnership with India's leading designers, Saket Dhankar, vice-president and head, fashion, IMG Reliance Ltd., said. "Reinvent Banaras' will showcase the magic of Banaras handlooms on the ramp".
— IANS



Silk woven on a handloom in Varanasi. -

FILE PHOTO: AP

Make way for Shahbanu

Persia is in focus at the ongoing Amazon India Couture Week

MADHUR TANKHA

Described as one of the richest ancient civilizations, Persia is proving to be the haute inspiration at the ongoing Amazon India Couture Week 2015. The architectural heritage and culture, remnants of which are palpable in some parts of the sub-continent, have inspired veteran couturier Anju Modi and debutant Reynu Tandon to create their collections.

Modi says from a historical point of view, Persia is significant as the empire stretched from Northern Africa and the West Asia to parts of Europe and the Indian sub-continent.

"The extent of the civilisation's influence is reflected through and can be seen in the architectural references and art forms

ranging calligraphy to miniature art and literature and philosophy. All these aspects of the Persian Empire inspired the collection this season."

With each couture collection, Modi seeks to give a more contemporary take on design. Heritage and handicraft are the pillars of her design ethos. "A lot of these elements will be reflected in this couture collection. Floral *bootis* and motifs will be a key feature this time round. You can expect a lot of strong and interesting colour combinations, some fine details and embroideries that will all reflect the collection's Persian inspiration."

Shedding light on the Persian influence in her collection, Tandon says, "Persia is known for its architecture, music and landscape. Shahbanu is a collection inspired by royal women from the Persian gharana. The royal princesses were called Shahbanu."

Continued on page 2

...Make way for Shahbanu

Continued from page 1

Tandon has used zardosi gold embroidery, royal blue and mirror work. "The collection will be presented in a series of period creations, each with a story to tell."

Shararas, anarkalis, lehengas with intricate gold embellishments will be showcased.

She has predominantly used georgette and velvet.

Meanwhile, couturier Manish Malhotra is going to present the finale in which Aishwarya Rai is going to be the showstopper.

Synonymous with bridal wear, Manish, who is presenting the show on August 2, says, "Since this is the last show of the fashion week, it is going to be a departure from what you have seen. It will be an intimate setting as we will present a preview of our limited edition Manish Malhotra London Label."

"This collection is even more special to me as it also marks the celebration of successful 10 years of my label in August this year," says Manish.



A sketch by Anju Modi

हीरोइन से चमकेगा कोतूर वीक

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

फैशन और फिल्मों का चोली दामन का साथ रहा है। और इसकी बानगी फैशन वीक में देखने को मिले, ऐसा तो हो नहीं सकता। राजधानी के होटल ताज पैलेस में इंडिया कोतूर वीक 2015 का आगाज फैशन डिजाइनर सब्यासाची के शो से हुआ। कोतूर वीक में यह पहला मौका है जब पहले दिन केवल ही डिजाइनर ने अपना संग्रह पेश किया हो।

देर रात शुरू हुए इस शो में सब्यासाची ने अपने चिर-परिचित अंदाज में पारंपरिक भारतीय डिजाइंस का मुजाहिरा किया। उनके काम में शोध के साथ-साथ आधुनिक भारत की छाप भी देखने को मिलती रही है। कुछ मोटे और बेहद सूक्ष्म डिजाइंस के साथ एक-एक रेशे को वह पूरी तवज्जो देते दिखते हैं। यही वजह है कि उनके कोतूर संग्रह में हाथ की बुनाई-कढ़ाई के साथ-साथ एक तरह का राजसी लुक भी उभर कर सामने आता है। बकौल सब्यासाची- 'आज हम बेशक नए जमाने के लिए नए-पुराने किस्म के परिधान बना रहे हैं, लेकिन जब बात हाई फैशन या कहिये कि कोतूर की आती है तो उसे सजाने के लिए उन्हीं सदियों पुराने तौर-तरीकों पर नजर जाती है, जिसे आज



कोतूर के तहत 'हीरोइन' कलेक्शन पेश करने वाले डिजाइनर दिबारुन मुखर्जी के संग्रह की एक झलक। • हिन्दुस्तान

शायद बहुतेरे लोग भूल चुके हैं।' मखमली एहसास लिये यह संग्रह न केवल अपने स्टाइल, बल्कि अपनी शान-ओ-शौकत के लिए भी आगंतुकों के दिल को भाया। एक बेहद ड्रामेटिक अंदाज और थीम के साथ शुरू हुआ ये शो अपने प्रेजेंटेशन की वजह से भी सुर्खियों में रहा।

कुछ अन्य डिजाइनरों से बात करने पर पता चला कि इस बार कोतूर वीक में ज्यादातर फैशन डिजाइनर लगभग इसी थीम पर फोकस कर रहे हैं। बेशक उनके संग्रहों में हाई फैशन की झलक होगी,

लेकिन उसका आधार लगभग भारतीय पारंपरिक डिजाइंस और काशीदाकारी के आस-पास ही होगा। कोतूर वीक में 'हीरोइन' संग्रह पेश करने वाले डिजाइनर दिबारुन मुखर्जी का संग्रह इसी अवधारणा के आस-पास नजर आता है।

कोतूर वीक में पहली बार शिरकत करने जा रहे युवा डिजाइनर दिबारुन मुखर्जी कहते हैं, 'हीरोइन संग्रह कई मायनों में काफी अलग होगा। इसमें हमने बॉलीवुड को एक नए नजरिये से देखने की कोशिश की है।