

Actors Deepika Padukone, Fawad Khan and designer Manish Malhotra along with models (left, extreme right) walk the ramp at the India Couture Week 2016 in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— BUNNY SMITH

# Deepika, Fawad set ramp on fire on Day 1

GEETHA JAYARAMAN  
NEW DELHI

Ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra opened this year's FDCI India Couture Week 2016 and showcased his latest collection titled, "The Persian Story". Actors Deepika Padukone and Fawad Khan turned out to be the perfect showstoppers for the collection.

Pakistani star Fawad opened the grand show and was welcomed with loud cheers and applause

from the crowd as he walked in a black kurta and deep maroon palazzo-pyjama.

Manish's design narrative was inspired by the stunning architecture of Persia, blooming paradise of fauna and flora, and fearless royals that ruled their vast kingdoms. Models showcased his collection as they walked to the tunes of authentic Persian music. The collection saw a wide range of heavily-embellished hand-woven gold embroidery

adorn sheer and velvet fabrics, lehengas with sheer tops, opulent velvet jackets over cigarette trousers, exquisite gowns and regal sherwanis and sequined dresses which featured elaborate architectural, floral motifs and check shirts and achkans.

The designer presented intricate motifs on 50 limited edition pieces, swathed in deep shades of maroon, emerald green and azure blue. Manish recreated the magic of Persia by transforming the set into a tra-



ditional Persian setting filled with marble motifs, popular Persian chandeliers and a small shamiana

(a marquee), which helped the models exiting the ramp.

Talking about his inspiration, the designer said, "I had Persian Story's idea in mind for so many years. I love Persian architecture, I like the colour schemes of Persia, music and that was a concept I had in my mind and that's how it got generated..."

The *Bajirao Mastani* actress stole the show in a beautiful off-shoulder choli, with intricate gold embroidery and a long-

trailed lehenga. The star also wore a polki-pearl choker and a hath-phool from Hazaarilal by Sandeep Narang.

Talking about the fabulous showstoppers, Manish said, "I am so thankful to Fawad for being here and dearest Deepika I know her since she was a model and her first film...it's a very special moment."

Deepika, who started her career as a model, said the ensemble she donned was the heaviest. "The last time I walked for him, I

thought that outfit was the heaviest. This is much heavier compared to the earlier one. I was very nervous and out of breath at the ramp. Also, this is the biggest ramp I have ever walked on," quipped the actress.

Fawad walked the ramp for the first time in India. Asked if it was his first time on the ramp in Delhi, Fawad quickly replied, "In Delhi for the first time. In India for the first time. Obviously it was very daunting."



# 'Angry govt blocking judges'

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

Deputy leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma on Thursday alleged that the government was blocking the appointment of judges as it was "very angry" after the Supreme Court's decision in the National Judicial Appointments Commission.

"For the last one year, the collegium, the CJI, they have made recommendations to the government, but after the NJAC judgment, the government seems to be very angry and on path of confrontation with the collegium of the Supreme Court," Mr Sharma said elaborating on the vacancies of judges in higher judiciary. However, the charge was strongly refuted by the Centre.

The Supreme Court of India had in October 2015 declared as unconstitutional the law brought by the government to replace the over two-decade-old collegium system of judges appointing judges in the higher judiciary and quashed the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act. "Therefore, the attempt of this government is to block appointments and force a situation where the memorandum of procedure of appointments (MoP) as proposed by the collegium of Supreme Court is diluted so that people owing allegiance to particular ideology, people having certain leanings, will get accommodated," Mr Sharma alleged during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha.

He claimed that the situation was so serious that Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur broke down in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and "months have passed but the Prime Minister is unmoved".

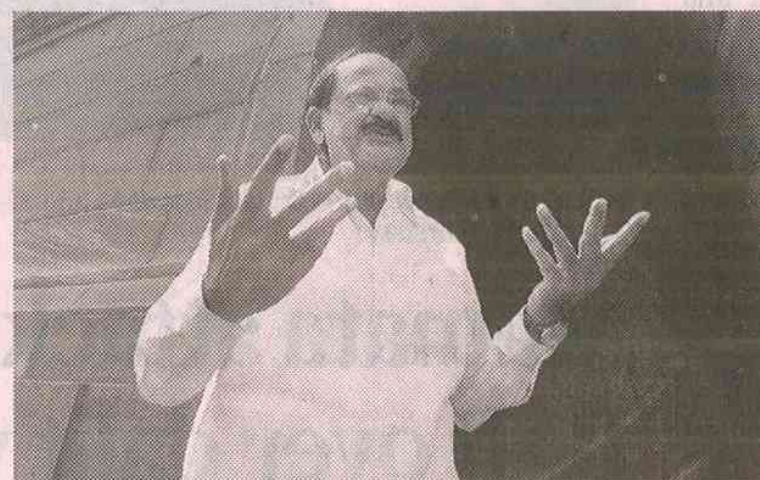
"The Prime Minister has not taken any action, nor his government. His government has to address this issue and explain why it is blocking names which have been recommended by the high court and Supreme Court collegiums, and when will these vacancies be filled so that poor people can get justice," Mr Sharma said.

The senior Congress leader pointed out that over five crore civil and



Samajwadi Party member Jaya Bachchan (clockwise from left), CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury with Union minister for law and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union textile minister Smriti Irani, Union minister for urban development and I&B M. Venkaiah Naidu and BJP MP Paresh Rawal during the Monsoon Session at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday.

— G.N. JHA, PTI



criminal cases are pending in various courts across India. The situation is further exacerbated due to the lack of appointment of judges to the vacant posts in the high courts, he said.

Refuting the charges, former law and justice minister Sadananda Gowda said "The matter raised by Anand Sharma is far away from the truth. After the NJAC verdict, the government itself went to the CJI. I myself went to the CJI. I said that the new MoP will take some time for finalisation. So we said that there is a huge pendency across the country... We said the appointments can be proceeded as per the earlier MoP."

Mr Gowda, who has now been shifted to the ministry of statistics and programme implementation, said he had himself written a letter to the CJI, and on that basis, the appointments started.



# Sifting subtleties in the gush

Expected. A Manish Malhotra show will be starry, opulent, sheer, blingy, swishy and grand with the hype and hoopla of topline Bollywood presence. Expected. A dishy Fawad Khan will have women hooting for him with full gusto, overlooking his wearables and taken in by his bearded sobriety and gait (The guy loved all the attention and lapped it up with an elegant smile, if a smile could be called that). Expected. Deepika Padukone beating all the tiredness of her overseas shoots and becoming the showstopper in a red velvet *lehenga*, completely enmeshed in *badla* work across a never-ending trail and a cropped *choli* blouse, a cocktail bride look that has been around for a long time but looking scorching simply because it is on a different diva this time.

That's the thing about designer Manish Malhotra, who commemorated 11 years in the industry with a 50-piece rollout of his line at the opening night of the FDCI India Couture Week. It's expected he won't cross the predictable and familiar, no matter what a couture show implies. It is perhaps okay for a couturier of his standing to retain a few signature accents but does that mean one should overdo a template so that couture after couture season, the designs look assembly line? The Persian Story may have been a sales pitch but the warm colour palette, the royal gush, embellished excesses, architectural motifs, the indulgent

MANISH MALHOTRA's couture show was grand but predictable. There were just about hints of innovation

fDCI  
FASHION DESIGN COUNCIL OF INDIA



## DEEPIKA: NEITHER PREGNANT, NOR ENGAGED

While addressing reporters after the show, the fashion designer, who is also celebrating 11 years of his label, confessed his love for Persian architecture.

"I love Persian architecture; I love the whole colour scheme and the music. I had it in my mind and this is how this collection was generated", he said. "I keep looking at things, observing them and keeping them in my mind and later express myself," he further added.

Talking about Deepika's outfit, "This is something that every bride should wear this season. If you see its architecture, it has *badla* work which takes a lot of time. This *lehenga* took



tired walking the ramp. It's the heaviest." Pakistani import Fawad Khan, who is now looking to be a Bollywood staple, was

about three months," he said.

The *Bajirao Mastani* star also wore a *polki*-pearl choker and a *hath-phool* from Hazoorilal by Sandeep Narang. When Deepika was asked about managing the weight of her *lehenga*, she said, "I was a model before and have done so many shows but I have never been so



walking the ramp for the first time in India. Asked about his thoughts while walking the ramp, he joked, "I was thinking about the food."

Asked if she would like to wear something similar on her own wedding, Deepika said, "Why not? Every bride has to look her best on her wedding and also, let me clarify there is no such plan anytime soon. I am not pregnant, not engaged and not planning to get married anytime soon."

The designer and his showstoppers were seen laughing and joking with the media.

hand-woven gold embroidery adorning sheer and velvet fabrics, the abundance of maroon and red are all what we have seen before. One may argue that in India couture rarely steps out of the bridal-festive zone but if our artistes are not going to break the mould, who will?

We wish Manish, given his standing, could risk stepping out of the comfort zone a bit more. For there were indeed some smart innovations in his bouquet, tucked away between the folds of his largesse. And despite Fawad Khan making god-speed with his fluid palazzo pants and black *achkan*, it was the other men who had the better overlays. We particularly liked the red and fawn-coloured check combos the boys strutted out in, sometimes in throws and lapels. The double lapel, some of them contrasting, on short *galabandhs* was another smart flourish. The men's solids were interesting with just the right dash of embellishment just as the tonal ruffled gown was worn by only one female model.

The wine brocade jacket, cigarette pants teamed with a slanted Persian cap would make for a stylish evening statement by many contemporary women. We also wish we had more interpretations of the sheer pastel combos. This understated Manish needed a little bit more nudge and a push. Richness, resplendence and detailing are always the designer's forte. No doubt about that. But he must beat what we expect of him. Particularly on the ramp. Photos: Pankaj Kumar



# Promoting fashion accessories

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**AJAY TAMTA**, Union Minister of State for Textiles, Government of India declared open the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indian Fashion Jewellery and Accessories Show (IFJAS 2016) on July 21, at state-of-art India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida in a colourful ceremony. The fair is being organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts from July 21 – 23.

Dinesh Kumar, Chairman-EPCH, Sobinder Kohli, President of the fair, Neetu Singh, Vice President, fair, O.P. Prahaladka, Vice Chairmen – EPCH, members of committee of administration were present on the occasion.

While inaugurating the show, Tamta said that Handicrafts in India pre-dominantly comes from the cottage, micro, small and medium sector. Handicrafts sector plays a very important social and economic role of providing employment at the village and town levels



to women and economically weaker sections of society. The Minister further said that Indian exporters have shown good performance in increasing the exports of fashion jewellery and accessories, yet they need to do more hard work in maintaining quality, price and delivery of their products to face competition as well as to promote exports from the country.

He applauded the efforts of the exporting community for providing employment to the artisans and craftpersons in villages and livelihood to their families. He also sug-

gested that new crafts other than being practised in the craft clusters in villages should also be introduced in order to generate sustained employment opportunities.

He further stressed for development of crafts in the Himalayan region on the basis of good work being done by EPCH for promoting North East region by bringing products made by artisans and craftpersons of NER on this platform where large number of International buyers are visiting to source their requirement. The Minister of State for Textiles complimented EPCH for cre-

ating an important marketing event not only for exporters but also for the International buying community under one roof. Rakesh Kumar, ED – EPCH apprised the Union Minister of State for Textiles about the activities being undertaken by EPCH for promotion of Handicrafts sector and future course of action with the hope that Handicrafts sector will be getting all support from the office of Minister of State for Textiles.

Over 250 exhibitors drawn from all over the country will be displaying fashion jewellery, scarves, wallets, beads, hair accessories and fancy footwear.



# Rekindling Persian

PUJA BANERJEE

**T**here's something magical about the fine marriage of craftsmanship and heritage. Manish Malhotra's opening show for India Couture Week 2016 brought this magic to life, as he unveiled The Persian Story. The collection weaves together the subtle nuances of history and legacy, to recreate the glory of a bygone era. It was like a dream when Deepika Padukone and Fawad Khan walked down the ramp sizzling in the masterpieces.

Manish Malhotra's design narrative is inspired by the stunning architecture of Persia, the blooming paradise of fauna and flora, and the fearless royals who ruled their vast kingdoms. Indulgent in hand-woven gold embroidery and velvet fabrics, lehengas with sheer tops, opulent velvet jackets over cigarette trousers, exquisite gowns and regal sherwanis- the models set out a visual treat for the audience. Intricate motifs meander on 50 limited edition pieces, swathed in deep shades of maroon, emerald green and azure blue. This season, the traditional dupatta is reimagined for the confident, modern woman.

Speaking about 'The Persian Story' Manish said, "2016 marks an important milestone as the 'Manish Malhotra' label celebrates 11 years. The

## BEAUTY

Fashion designer Manish Malhotra in association with 'Hazaarilal by Sandeep Narang' kickstarts the India Couture Week 2016 with 'The Persian Story'



**'While the collection is inspired by Persia, every outfit has its own unique story told in the language of distinct colours, detailed motifs and rich fabrics'**

Persian Story is a special collection as it represents a new design story for the label. While the collection is inspired by the stories, sights and poetry of Persia, every outfit has its own unique story told in the language of distinct colours, detailed motifs and rich fabrics. I would like to thank my good friend and sponsor of this show, Sandeep Narang, for providing the stunning jewellery for this opening act of ICW 2016."

In a contemporary version of a Persian folktale, the scenography took guests back to the time of conquerors like Alexander the Great. The showing culminated with the stunning Deepika Padukone in a resplendent red velvet lehenga that featured a beautiful, seemingly never-ending trail, walking the runway. Bollywood heartthrob Fawad Khan looked dapper in Manish Malhotra's creation posing alongside Deepika.

The lehenga showcased the fine work of craftsmen and was completely embroidered in vintage badla work.

diverse works on display. 30 artists will be displaying about 80 diverse art works at the exhibition.

**WHEN:** July 22- July 24 **WHERE:** Indian Habitat Center **TIMINGS:** 11 am – 7pm





# 17 cotton and man-made fibre mills close in 11 months

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 17 cotton and man-made fibre textile mills spread over 8 states closed between June last year and May this year.

"The major reported reasons for closure include financial problems due to inadequate working capital, insufficient cash flow, increase in cost of product, squeezed profit margin, stressed assets etc," Minister of State for Textiles Ajay Tamta said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

He said the ministry has no scheme for providing finance and technical support for the revival of closed mills.

These 17 mills were present in eight states including six in Tamil Nadu, three each in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and one each in Telangana, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

At present, there are 1,420 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (non-SSI), including mills of national textile corporation, operating in the country.

Replying to a separate question, Tamta said the Department of Agriculture is implementing Cotton Development Programme with focus on cropping system approach under National Food Security Mission in 15 major cotton growing states. PII

## नई फसल के आने के बाद ही घटेंगी कपास की कीमत

नई दिल्ली | मई, 2016 से 35 फीसदी महंगी हो चुकी कपास की कीमतों में कमी नई फसल आने के बाद ही होने की संभावना है। रिसर्च फर्म इंडिया रेटिंग ने यह आकलन किया है। कपास की नई फसल की आवक अक्टूबर से शुरू होने की संभावना है। काबिलेगौर कॉटन कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया की ओर से बाजार में सप्लाई बढ़ाने के बावजूद कपास की कीमतों में तेजी का रुख बना हुआ है। इंडिया रेटिंग के अनुसार सितंबर अंत तक कपास की कीमत अपने उच्चतम स्तर 120 से 127 रुपए प्रति किलोग्राम पर रहने की संभावना है। पिछले साल देश में कपास का उत्पादन कम होने से इसके दामों में इतना उछाल आया है। ऐसे में जब अक्टूबर में नई फसल आएगी तभी दामों में कुछ गिरावट की उम्मीद की जा सकती है। एजेंसी के अनुसार दाम बढ़ने से गिन्स और स्पिनर्स के लाभ जो कि मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष में 15 फीसदी से ऊपर है, में कमी आने की संभावना है। हालांकि, सरकार के निर्देश पर कॉटन कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया अपना सारा स्टॉक मीडियम और स्मॉल स्केल के स्पिनर्स को ही बेच रही है।



# नई फसल तक कॉटन के दाम में कमी नहीं

नई दिल्ली। कॉटन कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीआई) के प्रयासों के बावजूद कॉटन की कीमतों के जल्द नीचे आने की संभावना नहीं है। कीमतों में अक्टूबर से नई फसल के आने के बाद ही कोई कमी आ सकती है। यह बात इंडिया रेटिंग्स एंड रिसर्च ने कही है। कॉटन के दामों में मई 2016 के बाद से 35 फीसदी से भी अधिक की तेजी आई है।

सीसीआई ने कॉटन की कीमतों पर काबू रखने के लिए बाजार में इसके स्टॉक बेचने के प्रयास किए थे। कहा गया कि घरेलू उत्पादन में कमी से कॉटन की कीमतों में तेजी आई है। सितंबर में कॉटन सीजन खत्म होने तक कीमतों के 120-127 रुपये प्रति कि.ग्रा. के स्तर पर रहने की संभावना है। एजेंसी कीमतों में तेजी से मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष में गिनर्स और स्पिनर्स के मुनाफे में 15 फीसदी से ज्यादा की कमी आ सकती है। एजेंसी





होटल ताज पैलेस में एफडीसीआई द्वारा आयोजित इंडिया कौचर वीक-2016 के दौरान तरुण तहिलियानी के शो में रैम्प पर जलवे बिखेरती मॉडल्स।

फोटो : कुमार संजय

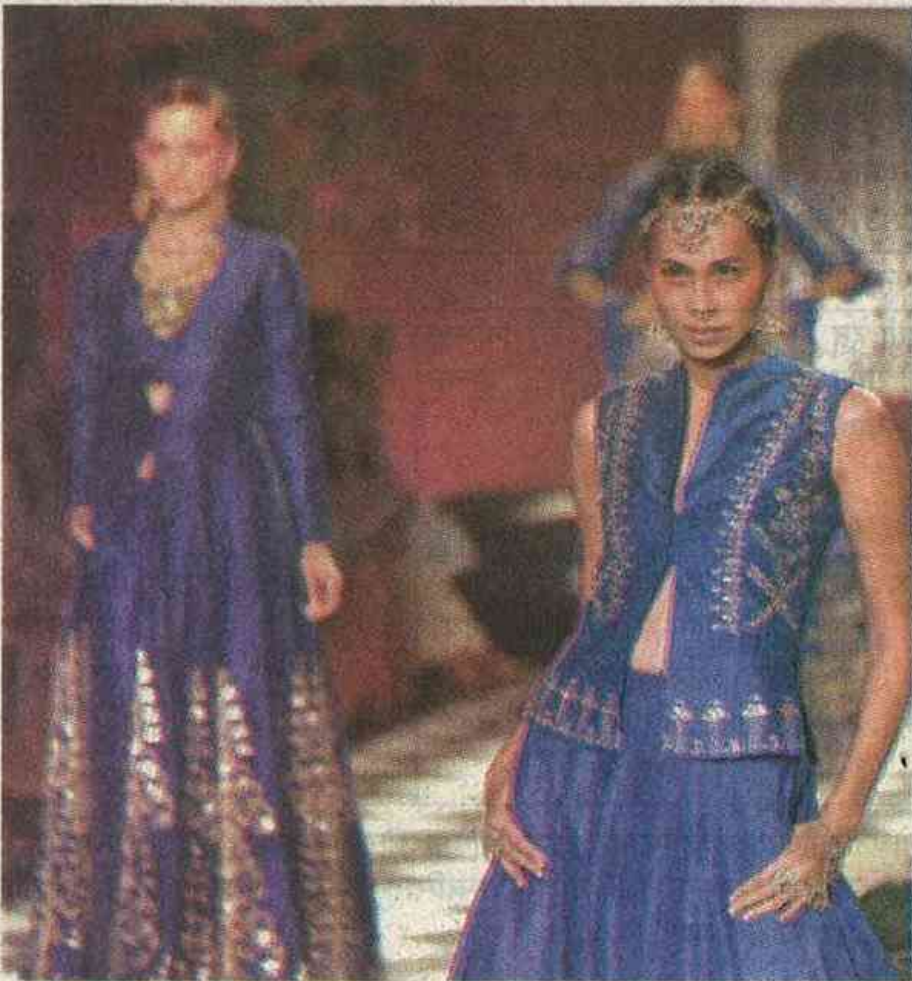


## ‘हस्तशिल्प में रोजगार देना लक्ष्य’

ग्रेटर नोएडा (ब्यूरो)। हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद द्वारा आयोजित भारतीय फैशन ज्वेलरी एंड एक्सेसरीज शो बृहस्पतिवार से शहर के इंडिया एक्सपो मार्ट एंड सेंटर में शुरू हो गया। देशभर के 25 से अधिक एक्सपोर्टर हिस्सा ले रहे हैं। हस्तशिल्पियों के अनूठे उत्पाद प्रदर्शित किए गए हैं। तीन दिवसीय इस शो का उद्घाटन केंद्रीय कपड़ा राज्यमंत्री अजय टम्टा ने किया। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि हस्तशिल्प में एक करोड़ नए लोगों को रोजगार देना है। देश में आर्थिक संपन्नता आने लगी है। अब इससे कारोबार बढ़ने वाला है। हस्तशिल्प की गांव, कस्बा और शहरों में महिलाओं और आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों को रोजगार प्रदान करने में अहम भूमिका है। टम्टा ने कहा कि भारतीय निर्यातकों ने फैशन ज्वेलरी व एक्सेसरीज का निर्यात बढ़ाने में अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है। हालांकि, अन्य प्रतियोगिता देशों से प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना करने के साथ ही देश से निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए गुणवत्ता, कीमत और अपने उत्पादों के वितरण को बनाए रखने में उन्हें और अधिक कड़ी मेहनत करने की जरूरत है।



# इंडिया कुटोर फैशन वीक में छाया अनीता डोंगरे का जादू



'एफडीसीआई इंडिया कुटोर फैशन वीक-2016' में अनीता डोंगरे के परिधान पहनकर मॉडल रैंप पर वॉक करते हुए। छाया: गिहिर सिंह



## नई पहचान

व्यापार की संभावना तलाशने अमेरिका के निवेशकों का दल आया शहर

# अब यूएसए में छाएगा शहर का हैंडीक्राफ्ट और स्वाद

इंदौर (मप्र)। ब्यूरो

यहां का हैंडीक्राफ्ट और हैंडलूम अच्छा है। खासतौर पर लेदर, कपड़े के प्रोडक्ट्स और जूट से बनी कलात्मक वस्तुएं। ये तो यूएस के बाजार में छा जाएंगे। इसके लिए शुरुआत ऑनलाइन पोर्टल की मदद से की जाएगी और यहां की ये विशेषताएं यूएस में सीधे तौर पर निर्यात होंगी। शहर की इस खूबी ने यूएसए के शिकागो और केंटूकी से आए निवेशकों को आकर्षित किया। खानपान के लिए पहचाने जाने वाले शहर को अब एक और नई पहचान भी मिलने जा रही है। इंडो अमेरिकन बिजनेस चेंबर ऑफ एसएमई द्वारा भारत सरकार और अमेरिका के बीच व्यापार की संभावनाओं को तलाशने के

लिए यूएसए के निवेशकों का दल शहर आया। 7 सदस्यीय इस दल ने शहर में बिजनेस की संभावनाओं को चार क्षेत्रों में देखा। इन्होंने आने वाले तीन साल में यहां हस्तशिल्प व हथकरघा के अलावा फूड इंडस्ट्री, आईटी सेक्टर और मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग इंडस्ट्री को विकसित करने की बात की। इस दल की प्रमुख इंडियन अमेरिकन बिजनेस काउंसिलिंग यूएसए की चेयरपर्सन पूनम गुप्ता कृष्णन ने स्थानीय उद्योगपतियों से चर्चा में कहा कि यहां इन चारों क्षेत्रों में काफी संभावनाएं हैं और छोटे और मध्यम उद्योगों में करीब 1 लाख युवाओं को रोजगार मिल सकेगा। इंडो अमेरिकन बिजनेस चेंबर ऑफ एसएमई के प्रदेश चैंप्टर के अध्यक्ष एलसी तोलानी ने बताया कि दल ने यहां के उद्योगपतियों

ये खूबियां आई पसंद

- यहां का सौहार्दपूर्ण माहौल
- आसपास कई इंडस्ट्री का होना
- एजुकेशनल हब होने से युवाओं का सहजता से मिलना
- आवागमन की सुविधा

को यूएसए आकर वहां पर इंदौर के बिजनेस को विकसित किया जा सकता है।

पूनम गुप्ता कृष्णन ने कहा कि यहां आलू की पैदावार और गुणवत्ता अच्छी है। इसे लेकर पोटेटो प्रोडक्ट पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा। इसके लिए कोल चैन भी लगाई जाएगी। चूंकि यहां खाने का स्वाद पूरी दुनिया को पसंद है इसलिए रेडी टू इट इंडस्ट्री में भी संभावनाएं बन रही हैं।



## ■ Raymond Loss Widens to ₹16.6 Crore in First Quarter



**NEW DELHI** Raymond reported widening of its consolidated net loss at ₹16.6 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2016. The company had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹14.4 crore during the April-June period of previous financial year, Raymond said in a filing to the BSE. Its total consolidated income from operations during the quarter under review was up 4.8% to ₹1,057.4 crore as against ₹1,008.8 crore in the corresponding period of last financial year. Raymond CMD Gautam Hari Singhania said: "The current quarter witnessed a subdued consumer demand with early onset of end of season sales period in addition to volatile global economic environment."



# Focus on quality, fashion jewellery exporters told

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

New Delhi, July 21

Fashion jewellery and accessory exporters should focus on maintaining quality and timely product delivery to enhance competitiveness in global markets and boost exports, Minister of States for Textiles Ajay Tamta said.

According to Tamta, exports of fashion jewellery and accessories have increased.

“However, they need to do more hard work in maintaining quality, price and delivery of their products to face the competition from other countries as well as promote exports,” a Ministry statement, quoting Tamta, said.

He was speaking at the 9th edition of the Indian Fashion Jewellery and Accessories Show at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida.



# Raymond Q1 loss widens to ₹16.61 cr

Diversified group Raymond reported widening of its consolidated net loss at ₹16.61 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2016. The company had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹14.47 crore during the April-June period of previous financial year, Raymond said in a filing to the BSE. Its total consolidated income from operations during the quarter under review was up 4.81 per cent to ₹1,057.36 crore as against ₹1,008.82 crore in the corresponding period of last fiscal.



# Focus on quality & delivery: Textile ministry to exporters

**New Delhi, July 21:** Fashion jewellery and accessory exporters should focus on quality and timely delivery to enhance competitiveness in global markets and boost exports, minister of state for textiles Ajay Tamta said.

According to Tamta, Indian exporters have stepped up exports of fashion jewellery and accessories. “However,

they need to do more hard work in maintaining quality, price and delivery of their products to face the competition from other competitive countries as well as promote exports from the country,” the ministry said in a statement, quoting Tamta. He was speaking at the 9th edition of the Indian Fashion Jewellery and Accessories Show. *PTI*



# 17 cotton/man-made fibre mills close in 11 months

**New Delhi, July 21:** As many as 17 cotton and man-made fibre textile mills spread over 8 states closed between June last year and May this year.

“The major reported reasons for closure include financial problems due to inadequate working capital, insufficient cash flow, in-

crease in cost of product, squeezed profit margin, stressed assets etc,” minister of state for textiles Ajay Tamta said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

He said the ministry has no scheme for providing finance and technical support for the revival of closed mills.

These 17 mills were pre-

sent in eight states including six in Tamil Nadu, three each in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and one each in Telangana, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

At present, there are 1,420 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (non-SSI), including mills of national textile cor-

poration, operating in the country.

Replying to a separate question, Tamta said the Department of Agriculture is implementing Cotton Development Programme with focus on cropping system approach under National Food Security Mission in 15 major cotton growing states. *PTI*



## **‘Cotton prices may not decline till arrival of new crop’**

Cotton prices, which have shot up by over 35% since May 2016, are unlikely to come down sharply till the arrival of new crop from October despite state-run CCI's efforts to offload its stock in the market to contain prices, says India Ratings and Research.

The fall in domestic production has spiked cotton prices, which are likely to remain at a high level of ₹120-127/kg till the cotton season ending September, it said. The rise in prices is expected to squeeze profits of ginners and spinners by over 15% in the current fiscal, it noted. “Ind-Ra believes that cotton prices will not see any steep decrease, till the arrival of the next crop,” it said.



## **Cotton prices may not fall till Oct**

Cotton prices, which have shot up by over 35 per cent since May, are unlikely to fall till arrival of new crop from October despite CCI efforts to offload its stock in the market to contain prices, says Ind-Ra.



## **17 cotton mills shut in 11 months**

As many as 17 cotton and man-made fibre textile mills spread over 8 states closed between June last year and May this year, minister of state for textiles Ajay Tamta said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Thursday.