

FAIR TIMES

FTF-I Newsletter

»»» March- April 2024 «««



Top News

Central Cottage Industries Emporium of India Visit

Fair Trade Forum India President, Mr. Rajesh Kumar and Program Director, Xavier Selvan met the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and MD, Central Cottage Industries Emporium of India (CCIE) on 8th January, 2024. Mr. Ajay Gupta on 8th January 2024. They discussed on partnerships between FTFI, CCIE and Ministry of Textiles in areas of sustainable livelihood and education for women artisans in India.

During the discussion, the CCIE has agreed to offer display spaces at the emporium for the products of the FTF-I and its associated Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Members. Having display spaces at the CCIE can provide great visibility and market access for the products made by the grassroot artisans.

Fair Trade Forum India leaders met with Central Cottage Industries Emporium officials to discuss partnerships in sustainable livelihood and women artisans' education. CCIE agreed to provide display spaces for FTF-I products, enhancing visibility and market access for grassroots artisans.



Top News

Showcasing India's Rich Heritage: FTF-I Members Highlight Handicraft Traditions at Bharat Tex-2024

The Fair Trade Forum-India's (FTF -I) Member Organizations - Mesh, Cedar, and Moral Fibre participated in the Bharat Tex-2024, the country's largest global textiles event between 26th and 29th February 2024.

The Bharat Tex-2024 was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event is a platform to showcase the rich handicraft and handloom traditions prevalent across various Indian states. Pavilions focusing on sustainability and circularity, underscoring the importance of eco-friendly practices are part of the event. An 'Indi Haat' was set up to promote indigenous craftsmanship and products on themes - Indian Textiles Heritage and sustainability.

FTF-I Member Organizations - Mesh, Cedar, and Moral Fibre, showcased sustainable textile solutions at Bharat Tex-2024, India's largest textiles event. Their participation highlighted eco-friendly practices and promoted indigenous craftsmanship, aligned with fair trade principles.



Top News

A Sustainable Vision: Conserve India Honored at CITI Textile Awards

Conserve India- The Member Organization of the Fair Trade Forum-India, received the prestigious 'Best Alternate Materials Use' award at the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) Textile Sustainability Awards ceremony held at the Bharat Tex on 26 February 2024.

The award was distributed by Shri Piyush Goyal- Union Minister for Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Commerce and Industry. This recognition not only highlights Conserve India's exceptional efforts but also showcases the significance of sustainable practices in today's textile landscape.

Congratulations !

Conserve India, a Member Organization of FTF-I, received the esteemed 'Best Alternate Materials Use' award at the CITI Textile Sustainability Awards, presented by Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal. Their recognition underscores the pivotal role of sustainable practices in reshaping the textile industry landscape.



Top News

Celebrating Innovation: Rajiben Vankar Rewarded for Upcycling Revolution

Rajiben Vankar, the Founder of Rajiben - Crafting a Better Planet, has been honored with the prestigious Jankidevi Bajaj Puraskar for Rural Entrepreneurship 2023 in Mumbai, Maharashtra, presented on 9th January 2024.

The Ladies' Wing of IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Bajaj Electricals, presented the 30th IMC Ladies' Wing Jankidevi Bajaj Puraskar 2023. It was given by the actress and environmentalist Dia Mirza, adding a touch of glamor to the occasion.

Rajiben is an artisan entrepreneur and weaver, associated with Kaarigarclinic. She has upcycled over 3 million single-use plastics and assisted over 100 women from 17 villages in establishing sustainable livelihoods.

Rajiben Vankar, Founder of Rajiben - Crafting a Better Planet, receives prestigious Jankidevi Bajaj Puraskar for Rural Entrepreneurship 2023 in Mumbai, Maharashtra, for her exceptional work in upcycling plastic waste and empowering women.



Top News

Transforming Lives: StreeVikas Fellowship Program Enters Phase 2 with Intensive On-Site Training

Fair Trade Forum-India advances the StreeVikas Fellowship Program 2023 to the second phase. The phase-2 on-site training was held from 21st to 25th January 2024 in Bangalore, Karnataka. The 5-day event provided leadership training, personality development sessions, and promoting the overall well-being of women artisans.

The 6-month fellowship program was launched in October 2023 for women artisan leaders from 20 Civil Society Organizations across PAN India.

Phase 2 of the fellowship program allowed participants to interact and share ideas through different games and activities. The fellows delivered presentations on their planned work during the fellowship journey and made educational visits to different sites to gain exposure to creativity and innovation.



FTF-I advances StreeVikas Fellowship Program 2023 to phase 2, offered intensive on-site training in Bangalore from 21st to 25th January 2024. The 5-day event focused on leadership, personality development, and overall well-being, empowering women artisan leaders from 20 CSOs nationwide.

Top News

Fair Trade Fair 2024: Celebrating India's Handicrafts and Sustainable Practices

Fair Trade Fair 2024 was organized by Sasha-Member organization of the FTF-I between 8th to 11th March at Kolkata, West Bengal. The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest-Musician, Director, and Writer Shri Anindya Chatterjee.

The fair showcased the handicrafts and textiles from different parts of India. 45 grassroots organizations came together to celebrate fair trade and sustainable practices, each with a unique story to tell, a journey to share, and a commitment to ethical commerce.

CSOs participated in the event- Aagor Dagra, Lekope, Dhokra Handicrafts, Sandhur Kushal Kala Kendra, Sadhna, and Anwasha Tribal Arts & Crafts- added their voices to this chorus of change.



Sasha's Fair Trade Fair 2024 in Kolkata was held between 8th-11th March. The fair was inaugurated by Shri Anindya Chatterjee. The event featured diverse Indian handicrafts from 45 grassroots organizations, championing fair trade and sustainable practices for a brighter, more ethical future.

FTF-I Stories

Embroidering Dreams: Nafisa's Journey of Resilience, Passion, and Purpose

Life can be incredibly joyful and purposeful when one pursues what truly fulfills them. Nafisa's journey is one such story of resilience, determination, and self-discovery.

Nafisa was born in Chittor and settled in Udaipur, Rajasthan after marriage. She has two children- son is studying in college and her daughter is in high school. Despite the responsibilities that come with marriage and raising a family, she is determined to continue pursuing her passions and interests. From a young age, Nafisa displayed a keen fascination for fashion and design, sparking her interest in stitching when she was in 3rd standard. This early exposure to the world of textiles and crafts laid the foundation for her later pursuits.

She was looking for a platform that could help her grow in her area of expertise. Learning about Sadhna, member organization of the FTF-I, through her sister opened up a new avenue for Nafisa, one that resonated deeply with her love for design and handicrafts.

It was through Sadhna that she honed her skills in stitching, embroidery, and patchwork. Her dedication to her craft led her to become a standout artisan, gaining recognition and exposure in various cities across India.

She is an expert in hand embroidery and serves as a Master Trainer at Sadhna. She goes to different events and exhibitions to represent Sadhna.

Her involvement in FTF-I leadership positions and training showcases her commitment to continuous learning and professional development.



FTF-I Stories

Women Entrepreneur Journey : Margaret's mission to promote craft heritage of Nagaland

Kevisedenuo Margaret Zinyu is an artisan leader from Kohima, Nagaland. She runs an organization, URA Collective, dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich craft heritage of Nagaland. URA Collective is a Civil Society Organization (CSO) associated with the Fair Trade Forum-India (FTF-I). This enabled her to join the STREE Vikas Fellowship Program. Through participation in the fellowship program, she experienced the power of collaboration and cross-learning among artisan leaders from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. While interacting with different entrepreneurs, she understood the challenges of working in a specific sector of the handmade industry. During the fellowship program, she was encouraged to visit CSOs to understand the work and product development, including macro and micro dealings. Applying her learnings, she developed a report, "The Makers- Material + Lab". She describes her project as a 'Concept gallery for Makers dealing in raw materials such as yarns in azo-free colors and an experiential space for thrilled learners and seekers through hands-on workshops.'

Margaret is dedicated to elevating URA Collective through strategic marketing, networking, and rebranding efforts. With a commitment to fair trade principles, she aims to amplify the visibility and impact of Nagaland's artisan community, ensuring their continued prosperity and cultural preservation.

