

Textile cluster will be a game-changer

Industry Leaders Say The Project Will Boost Investment And Create Jobs In The Region

'Nethra' Raju



CATCHING UP ON ALL THE ACTION: Participants attend a conclave, organized by Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development and Confederation of Indian Industry, that streamed the Union Budget live on Thursday

Times News Network

Mysore: The proposal in the Union Budget to set up a textile cluster in Mysore will be a game-changer for the heritage city as it will boost investment and create jobs in the region, industry leaders say.

Mysore was awarded a textile cluster along with five other cities, and Rs 200 allocated for it.

R C Jagadesh, chairman of CII-Mysore zone, said, "The textile cluster for Mysore will play an important role by

providing technical assistance for capacity building, empowering small and medium entrepreneurs and improving the supply chain process thereby improving quality of products, exports and creating business opportunity and large-scale employment generation."

The proposed facility will help Mysore emerge as a textiles hub because of its proximity to textile centres in Tamil Nadu such as Tiruppur and Coimbatore, MIA general secretary Suresh Kumar Jain said. Mysore region is one of the major cotton-

Why it did not take off

Though the state government had set aside 250 acres of land at Kadkola, the project didn't take off and the land was allotted to others. According to Jain, the Centre's proposal will be a hit if it creates basic facilities and extends them to entrepreneurs.

However, Mysore MP Prathap Simha said entrepreneurs have to invest and buy land, which could affect its prospects. Simha said 15 entrepreneurs have to set up special purpose vehicles to set up the textile cluster and buy land. The Centre will extend 40 per cent of the capital required or Rs 20 crore, whichever is less as subsidy, he said. According to him, the cluster will create jobs for 10,000 families.

producing belts and raw material will be available locally, he added.

The proposal comes a decade after the state government's initiative to set up a textile park in Mysore, which didn't take off as entrepreneurs didn't show interest. The proposed textile and readymade garments park mooted in 2005 was a non-starter with few entrepreneurs evincing interest to invest in textile units at the park. While the authorities expected that big textiles would move in, entrepreneurs were keen to set up ancillary or tiny units making the project unviable.

Promise of tourist hub forgotten

Times News Network

Mysore: When Narendra Modi visited Mysore while campaigning for the Lok Sabha election, he had promised to tap into the city's tourism potential by drawing parallels with Paris.

Even after he became prime minister, BJP leaders stuck to the line that Modi would extend financial aid to explore the heritage city's tourism potential.

NOT ENOUGH

But, the first budget of the NDA government was silent not only on turning Mysore into a tourist hub, but also on preserving heritage sites/buildings in the city, leaving stakeholders disappointed.

An expert on heritage said the Centre should have pitched in to preserve the city's heritage.

“Mysore is also rich in heritage and it should have been selected to preserve its vintage character

An expert on heritage

“The Centre announced a National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (Hriday) and set aside Rs 200 crore for it. Some cities like Mathura, Gaya and Ajmer have been selected for the project. Mysore is also rich in heritage and it should have been selected to preserve its vintage character.”

Stakeholders are now pinning their hopes on the proposed five theme-based tourist circuits, for which the Centre has set aside Rs 500 crore.

