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By

SAJJAN

at

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Entrance: By Invitation

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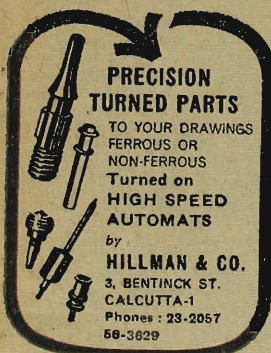
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Kovalam Sands By M. F. Husain.

Husain's show disappointing

By Our Art Critic

An exhibition of Husain's paintings is, indeed, an event in the art life of a city, and the show which is now on at the Pandole Gallery will be welcomed by many.

Husain's aesthetic adventure has always been motivated by a healthy restlessness, a quest for something different. Those who have known the stylistic evolution of the painter will recall its many facets, each one a stepping stone to something bigger, something refreshingly new. And in the shaping of the course the subject matter has always been the most significant factor.

Husain is on the threshold of one of those phases—the Kerala phase. The arid colourfulness of Rajasthan with all its romanticism has yielded place to the verdure of Kerala and, even more significantly, to the sombre Dravidian types and their sharp bronze-like features.

In the hands of this master painter these types appear to be meaningful; one seems to comprehend the Dravidian character better.

VARIETY OF MEDIA

The 21 paintings on show are executed in a variety of media—crayon, inks, oils and acrylic. In the handling of each of these Husain has displayed a facile competence and a mature sense of design. "The Three Pebbles", the "Dravidian Bronze" and "Kerala Sun on her Bronze Body" are, indeed, outstanding examples—technically. The "Periyar" too brings out the atmosphere of the sanctuary vividly.

Yet, on the whole, the show left me rather disappointed. The brilliance of Husain's technical competence evoke admiration, but hardly moves a viewer. The emotional

content is lacking. In fact, the exhibits appear to be the leaves from an artist's sketch-book, some visual snapshots, raw materials for a truly significant creation. Many will eagerly wait for that masterpiece.

The show will remain open till April 10.

Riten's imaginative woodcrafts

By Our Art Critic

The potentialities of handicrafts as media of creative expression are brought out significantly by the exhibition of Riten Mozumdar, which is now on at the Jehangir Art Gallery. The aesthetic aspect of craft, often fashioned to suit a commercial trend, is brought out beautifully and distinctively by the floor coverings (*nandras*), wall hangings and articles of woodcraft included in the show.

Mozumdar's treatment of *nanda* is indeed exciting. He has decorated these rugs with bold designs, executed mainly in the tie and dye (*bandhani*) technique, a process commonly used to produce delicately ornamented saris in Rajasthan or Gujarat. He has often used blocks to super-impose certain motifs or ornamentation, the most popular one with the artist being the Devnagri script. At places he has used the brush too. As an element of attraction colour plays an equally important role.

The wall hangings are mainly printed with blocks. Certain areas are painted with brush also. In the block designs the artist has made a judicious blend of his own designs with traditional ones with very interesting results.

USE OF PLASTIC

The pieces of woodcraft displayed in the show are marked by equally imaginative designing. Some of the screens with exquisite trellis work and a few inlaid centre-tables and trays are truly fascinating. An interesting feature of some inlaid pieces is the use of plastic, which is visually as interesting as ivory and yet more versatile in use.

The only exhibits which are not so successful are the chairs which, though beautifully designed, are completely unfunctional.

On the whole this is an extremely interesting show. Every article on display has a distinctive character, which I feel sure must be a source of satisfaction for the artist as it is for the viewer.

The show is open till Wednesday.

**IN THE CITY
TODAY**

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S. K. Patil on controls

By A Staff Reporter

The ban that was sought to be imposed on companies' donation to political parties might not materialise, said Mr. S. K. Patil in Bombay on Saturday.

He said a statutory ban would give rise to unfair practices. Companies might make donations on the sly, he feared.

The Government's proposal to restrict admissions to engineering colleges might lead to a shortage of technical personnel. He urged the Government to take a practical stand in restoring the health of the economy.

Mr. Patil pleaded for the removal of all unnecessary controls. Controls eroded into the democratic way of life and therefore there should be as few of them as necessary.

Mr. Patil was speaking at the annual meeting of the All-India Association of Industries.

Mr. J. H. Doshi, president of the association, suggested a revision of the whole structure of export incentives in consultation with the industry, cutting the duties on important export items, making available indigenous raw materials at international prices and provision of adequate drawback and elimination of delays in their receipt. He pleaded for a higher rate of industrial development.

Indian Aluminium

By A Staff Reporter

The Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd. has announced that its rights issue of new ordinary shares to raise Rs. 6.4 crores has been successful. The proceeds of the share issue are to be utilised for financing the company's major integrated aluminium project in western India. A new smelter already under construction in Mysore will increase the company's aluminium production by 30,000 tonnes per annum by the end of next year, giving the company a total in-gate capacity of about 70,000 tonnes per annum.

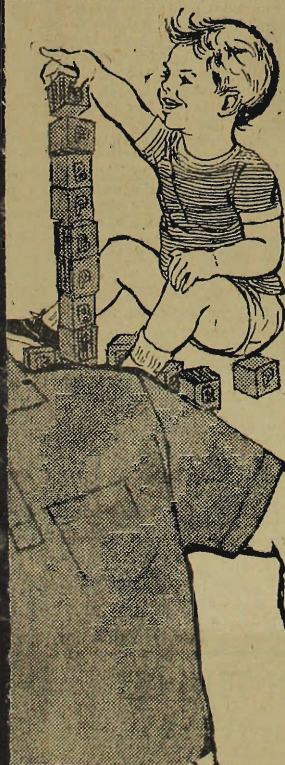
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Company meeting:

J. K. SYNTHETICS LTD.

Speech of the Chairman, Shri Gopalkrishna Singhania

Following is the speech delivered by the Chairman, Shri Gopalkrishna Singhania at the 24th Annual General Meeting of the company held on Saturday, 23rd March 1968:

Friends:

On the economic front, the past year has been a disastrous one. While millions of our people in various parts of the country, and particularly in Bihar, suffered grievous hardships as a result of the failure of two successive monsoons and the continued rise in prices, large sectors of industry have been seriously affected by a significant recession in demand and mounting costs on the one hand, and a virtual collapse of industrial discipline, and, in many instances of law and order on the other. The only silver lining in the dark clouds overhead has been the removal, at least for the time being, of one of the most serious impediments to production in the shape of shortage of raw

approximately 165 million kgs, out of which 58 million kgs. will be contributed by the production of synthetic fibres. This increase in the production of synthetic fibres, will promote import substitution of raw materials and also bring about reduction in manufacturing costs in the country.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

It is unfortunate that while the Government of India is encouraging import substitution on the one hand, on the other they continue to allow the State Trading Corporation to import synthetic yarns for supply to the weaving industry. The import of synthetic yarns has involved heavy expenditure in foreign exchange. As far as possible, the Government should encourage the existing producers to expand their production facilities in order to make available the necessary raw materials to the weavers.

We are all aware that the synthetic fibre industry in India is still in the infant stage of development. The recent steep increase in excise duty, which has no relation to the cost or the sale prices, imposed by the Union Budget in 1967, has burdened the cost of synthetic fibre yarns to such an extent that the results would only be disastrous and may ultimately lead to calamity. The manufacturers have been asked to bear the burden of increased excise duty to a large extent and in case the market cannot absorb the increase in the prices of synthetic fibres and yards due to increase in excise duty, I am afraid that this will wipe out the entire profits and some units may even have to suffer losses.

In the case of your own unit the enhancement in the excise duty will impose an additional burden of over Rs. 1.50 crores annually, based on the 1966-67 level of production of nylon yarn.

UNION BUDGET 1968-69

The Union Budget presented to Parliament recently by the Finance Minister has not, I am afraid, provided any measures which would give the much needed boost to the country's economy. The burden of corporate taxation continues to remain at a very high level and the reduction in the rate of surtax and abolition of the dividend tax would, in my opinion, have little effect on corporate profits after tax with the high level of excise duties and all round increase in production costs. I am also doubtful whether the one point reduction in the bank rate announced soon after the presentation of the budget, which for borrowers will mean only a half per cent reduction in the bank's leading rate from the present high level of 9% to 10%, will bring about an early recovery from the recessionary conditions prevailing in industry.

EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT

Your company has made much progress in the establishment of the Acrylic fibre plant. The initial plant and equipments have already arrived at the factory site at Kota and are under erection. It is hoped that the plant will go into production by May 1968 and will produce Acrylic fibre for the first time in India. Your company has made further progress in the implementation of the scheme for production of nylon tyre cord and nylon staple fibre. Contracts for the purchase of plant and equipment have been placed with foreign machinery suppliers in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in the import licence. These contracts have been submitted to the Government of India



Shri Gopalkrishna Singhania

materials and foreign exchange. The liberalisation of maintenance imports, thanks to foreign aid, has enabled many industries to achieve a higher utilisation of installed capacity. Unfortunately, this relief has been nullified in many cases by the deep recession which has overtaken the economy.

LAW AND ORDER

On the labour front, the difficulties faced by various industries have been greatly aggravated by the policies adopted by some of the new State Governments consisting mainly of a coalition of Socialist and Communist Parties. Under the guise of the democratic rights of the people, mob rule has been allowed to prevail and the management of industries has in some parts of the country become a veritable nightmare. There is clear evidence that one political party in the country is taking full advantage of its participation in the government of these States to encourage the process of disintegration as a necessary prerequisite to the assumption of power it hopes ultimately to achieve. At the same time it is only fair to recognise that if some of the people have responded to the call of indiscipline and disorder, it is partly due to the frustration and despair caused by persistent shortages, spiralling prices and the absence of any advancement in their standard of living. What is so heartbreaking is that the miseries inflicted on our people, the stagnation in our economy, and the debasement of our currency could have been avoided by recourse to sensible and pragmatic policies, the effectiveness of which have been amply proved in other countries. Even today, if our