

NIFT grad develops flame-resistant apparel for kids

Joins Hands With Textile Firm For Further Testing

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Ahmedabad: The recent tragedy in Surat brought the issue of fire safety into sharp focus. Keeping in mind the need to save toddlers from accidental exposure to flames, a National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Gandhinagar, graduate has developed kidswear that can prevent spread of flames.

Prateek Rathi, who graduated in the recent convocation, had taken up the project of flame-resistant kidswear as his final-year assignment.

"The inspiration was regulations in the western countries where extensive studies have shown that about a quarter of fire injuries occur in children under 15 years of age. There are regulations as well about the sleepwear in a few countries. No such concept exists in India but here we see accidents during festivities such as Diwali where children enjoy lights and fire-crackers," said Rathi.

Rathi got associated with



Prateek Rathi shows some of his creations

Yogesh Chawda

a city-based major textile company for development and testing. Mamta Chaudhary, production development manager at the textile major, told TOI that the garments were specifically for the age group three to nine years.

"Children in this age group are mentally or physically not prepared to handle fire accidents and thus, the fabric can provide some level of security to children from accidental fire," she said.

Rathi worked on two concepts — cotton fabric which is further treated with flame-retardant finishes which lasts

more than 100 washes and use of inherent flame-resistant fibres and their blends with synthetic fibre to meet the flame-resistant properties of international standards. "The fabric has been tested at our in-house lab and ATIRA for different parameters," said Chaudhary.

"We devised ways to make the fabric at low complexity — providing both sturdiness and comfort," said Rathi, adding that he is working further on the project with the brand even after his graduation requirements. The team is yet to devise ways to take the concept forward.