

CITY VIEWS

Joint Venture

Hartmarx Corporation partners with Arvind Mills to launch brands in India

By T. Malik

Hartmarx Corporation announced on May 7 that they have signed an agreement with the Arvind Mills Limited to market and retail in India its owned Hart Schaffner Marx and Sansabelt brands and, in cooperation with S.A.R.L. de Gestion Pierre Cardin, the licensed Pierre Cardin brand.

The long term agreements provide for the opening of 135 Hart Schaffner Marx, 400 Sansabelt and 260 Pierre Cardin points of sale in India. These points of sale will include a number of exclusive stores for each of these brands as well as shop-in-shop locations in leading department and specialty stores.

Homi Patel, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hartmarx stated, "We are extremely excited to be working with the group at Arvind Mills on the introduction of the Hart Schaffner Marx, Sansabelt and Pierre Cardin brands in India and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship for both companies."

Arvind currently markets a number of international brands and is aggressively pursuing a multiple brand, multiple channel

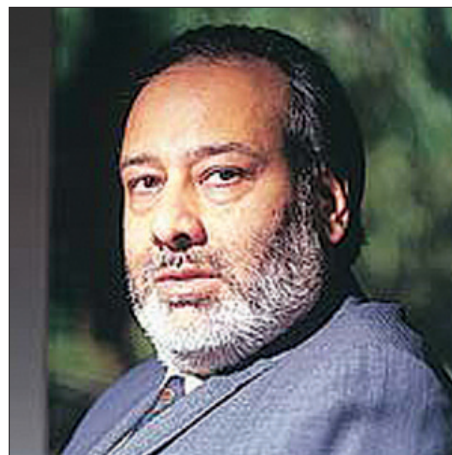
and multiple price point strategy to gain dominant leadership in the fast growing, branded apparel market in India. Established in 1931, Arvind is the third largest denim producer worldwide.

The dynamics of the Indian market are rapidly changing and becoming very receptive to

international brands. One quarter of its population (300 million) are between the ages of 20 and 35 and represent a high spending segment interested in fashion.

Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman and Managing Director of Arvind Mills stated, "Our association with Hartmarx will not only add strength to our portfolio but will also help us secure a dominant position in the tailored clothing market."

Apparel sales are estimated to grow approximately 18 percent per year with the market for men's branded apparel to grow at



Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman and Managing Director of Arvind Mills. (File photo)

the rate of 22 percent a year.

Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman and Managing Director of Arvind Mills stated, "Our association with Hartmarx will not only add strength to our portfolio but will also help us secure a dominant position in the tailored clothing market. We are excited at the opportunity to embark on this association and to grow the business relationship with

additional Hartmarx brands in the future. Our decision to partner with Hartmarx in India reinforces our commitment to connect with internationally recognized labels that hold a unique place in fashion history."

Hartmarx produces and markets business, casual and golf apparel under its own brands, including Hart Schaffner Marx, Hickey-Freeman, Palm Beach, Coppley, Monarchy, Manchester, Escapes, Society Brand, Racquet Club, Naturalife, Pusser's of the West Indies, Brannoch, Sansabelt, Exclusively Misook, Barrie Pace, Eye, Christopher Blue, Pine IV, Wörn, Blue House Drive, One Girl Who..., Zooey by Alice Heller and b.chyll.

In addition, the Company has certain exclusive rights under licensing agreements to market selected products under a number of premier brands such as Austin Reed, Tommy Hilfiger, Burberry men's tailored clothing, Ted Baker, Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus, Claiborne, Pierre Cardin, Perry Ellis, Lyle & Scott, Golden Bear, Jag and Dr. Martens. The Company's broad range of distribution channels includes fine specialty and leading department stores, value-oriented retailers, direct mail catalogs and e-commerce.

Award

Golden Apple award winner teacher Samina Khan surprised by announcement

By T. Malik

It was a regular day at Michele Clarke Academy Preparatory Magnet School located at 5101 W. Harrison, when the classes of teachers Samina Khan and Donnell White were interrupted by video cameras, staff and relatives and were announced winners of the prestigious 'the Golden Apple Award'. Both the teachers were unaware that they had won the award and surprised by the camera and congratulations from their students, team members, relatives and friends.

They were nominated by their principal Dr. Henry West for the award and they were one of the 31 finalists and the only teachers to receive the award from the same school who were selected out of 850 teachers from Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will counties.

DesiTALK was the only south Asian newspaper, who had featured the nomination and had spoken with Dr. Henry West and he had said that "He was new to school and he observed Samina and saw her dedication and hands-on activity and innovative teaching methodologies and the result was....students



Samina Khan with her students at the fund raising. (File photo)

were engaged and enjoyed learning..."

"I'm just speechless," said Khan, as her science class began to clap in unison. "I want to thank God first of all, as well as my colleagues and parents. I will always be the apple of their eye." "This is like a dream come true," she added. "My father used to say that the most respected professions are teacher, priest and doctor. I feel as though

this is the Nobel Prize in my profession. But I couldn't have done it without these great kids." The 10 Golden Apple Award recipients receive a tuition-free spring-term sabbatical at Northwestern University, a \$3,000 cash prize, an IBM personal computer, induction into the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, as well as the award itself which will be presented to them during a special ceremony on Sept. 6. The awards selection committee is comprised of Chicago-area educators. The process of choosing the teachers began last fall with recommendations from middle school faculty members. From there, nominees needed to provide personal essays regarding their methods and goals as educators. Then letters of recommendation from colleagues are assessed and after the number of finalists was narrowed to 31, Golden Apple committee members visited the schools to observe them during in-class sessions. Afterward, members interviewed each principal and selected colleagues, parents and students. Samina was born in Ethiopia (Africa), to Indian parents, and was brought up in Nigeria. She received her Bachelors

from Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna (Nigeria) in Microbiology. Kaduna Polytechnic is the most prestigious and largest institution of higher learning in West Africa. She came to the United States about eleven years ago and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse and later transferred to Northeastern Illinois University, where she worked on her Masters degree in Biology. She earned her Masters in Education with distinction from the University of DePaul in Chicago. She speaks four different languages English, Hausa (Nigerian), Urdu/Hindi and Punjabi. Her multicultural background enables her to teach students from various backgrounds.

She has been nominated by her co-workers and the school authorities for various awards such as the Drive award in 2006 and was awarded the Com-Ed100 in 2004. She was recruited by the Chicago Public Schools through the GEO (Global Educators Outreach Program), program after qualifying rigorous written examination and interview for which thousands of candidates from 23 countries contested and only 50 applicants were chosen and she was among them.

Breaking News

Terrorist's serial blasts kill 90 in Jaipur

Agencies

Jaipur-Terror struck yet again — this time in Jaipur, at the busiest market, at the busiest hour, aimed with chilling precision to kill, maim, terrify and cleave the country. At last count, the toll was 90 killed, and with over 150 injured, it could go up.

The first blast took place at 7.20pm on Tuesday in the crowded Johari Bazaar and within 15 minutes seven more blasts occurred in adjoining areas in the walled city — near the Hanuman Mandir, which was milling with devotees, near Hawa Mahal, at Badi Chaupad, Tripolia Bazar and Chandpole.

Within minutes, the entire market was a picture of total chaos. People ran screaming, jumping over dead bodies and severed limbs, skirting mangled rickshaws and damaged cars. The piercing wail of ambulance sirens replaced the firecrackers that would go off every other day in Jaipur to celebrate its victorious Rajasthan Royals T20 team.

Terrorists displaying the telltale tactics of Lashkar-e-Taiba and SIMI struck with bombs planted on cycles and cycle-rickshaws. In the past three years, this is the 21st terror attack outside Jammu & Kashmir. Chief minister Vasundhara Raje said, "We will not tolerate this."

Police later arrested a man from Mumbai. Rajasthan's director general of police, A S Gill, said the attacks were designed to cause maximum damage and the sites had been picked with care. He confirmed that bombs had been planted on brand-new Avon cycles. Similar cycle blasts on September 8, 2006, in Malegaon, Maharashtra, had killed 38 people during a Muslim festival day. Bombs on cycles were also used for the attack on the Faizabad court.

Blast bears Lashkar-e-Taiba signature

Agencies

Jaipur: Tuesday's episode of serial blasts in Jaipur bears a close resemblance to the pattern followed by the suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba militants in Sankatmochan temple attack in Varanasi on March 7, 2006, the 7/11 Mumbai suburban train blasts and the Malegaon blasts on September 8 the same year.

The seven near-simultaneous blasts in Jaipur occurred within a time frame of 12 minutes, similar to the Mumbai suburban train blasts on July 11, 2006, where seven bombs went off within 11 minutes. More than 200 were killed in the Mumbai attacks. The serial blasts at Sankatmochan temple and at Varanasi railway station on March 7, 2006, too occurred within a time frame of 15 minutes. Like in the case of Jaipur, the explosives in Malegaon were planted on bicycles outside a mosque where a huge gathering was observing Sabe Baarat on September 8, 2006. Other instances where terrorists placed bombs on cycles were in serial explosions in court premises in Varanasi, Faizabad and Lucknow on November 23, 2007.

The jihadis' designs were similar not just in the precision timing but also in their motive to inflict large casualties. Jaipur, Mumbai suburban trains and Varanasi serial blasts — in all of these, the terrorists had planted seven bombs and managed to explode all of them except in the case of Sankatmochan blasts in which four bombs were defused.

For the jihadis, Tuesdays and Fridays seem to be the most favoured days to set off their attack. While 7/11 Mumbai blasts, Sankatmochan blasts and attack at Ram mandir temple complex on July 5, 2005, happened on Tuesdays, as many as half-a-dozen bomb attacks in the past decade were on Fridays.