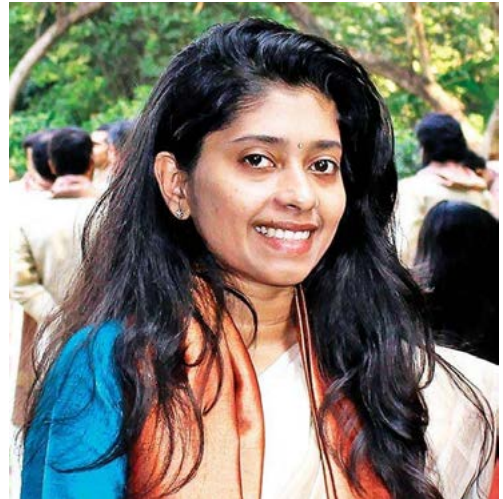


NIDian's design race on tracks with unique fire suit garment

<http://www.dnaindia.com/ahmedabad/report-nidian-s-design-race-on-tracks-with-unique-fire-suit-garment-2579670>



A 28-year-old student of the National Institute of Design has designed a fire suit garment targetting Formula-1, highest class of single-seat auto-racing league. The garment has been manufactured by Arvind International here in Gujarat.

Meenu Pillai who pursued a Masters programme in Apparel Design and belonging to small village Pattazhy in Kerala was convocated this month.

Speaking about her design, Pillai said, "Motorsports could be a widespread sport in the world and gaining accolades in India currently. Formula One especially has begun within the country in the 2000s, with 2 Indian drivers competitive Narain Karthikeyan and Karun Chandhok. Since there was no racing suit manufacturer in India keeping in mind the safety with terribly strict standards, I took up the project of designing a garment for them. Everyone is waiting for a manufacturer to begin by producing fire retardant suits based on the standards which may add a lot of impact and a significant approach towards the technological growth in Indian sports sector. This project is a small contribution for made in India movement.

Since the existing design majorly focusses on the fire safety, I was completely focusing on the comfort and fire safety part with few parameters which will help to avoid unwanted energy loss of the driver through high vibration and sweating."

After her research and design, Pillai approached Arvind International for manufacturing the initial test samples with help of her senior who is designer of the advance material division. She says, "Arvind Mills has an Advanced Material Division (Arvind International) which manufactures fire retardant fabrics and workwear based on fire retardant.

Fabric plays a crucial role in extreme human protection clothes. The technical necessities are achieved by stitching proper materials by following right method based on standards.

Thermal protective performance, Limited Oxygen Index, Fire Retardant, etc. are necessary specifications and are major requirements of fabric for formula 1 racing suit.

We are ready with the design and now will be going for testing the sample. Getting approval from Formula-1 is a big thing."

Vikalp Saxena who works with Arvind and was the industrial guide of Meenu said, "She has done an extensive research on Formula 1 garments and convinced us to make this in Arvind. We really appreciate her efforts and sincerity towards her work. The fabric used in this garment are made in Arvind out of Inherent FR Fabric (Para & Meta Aramid blends). This project has shaped out really well we are thinking to commercialise this product in near future."

AN ACCOMPLISHMENT

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