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Global Textiles Dialogue
Knowledge Sessions

14th - 17th February 2025



Organised By
BHARAT TEX TRADE FEDERATION



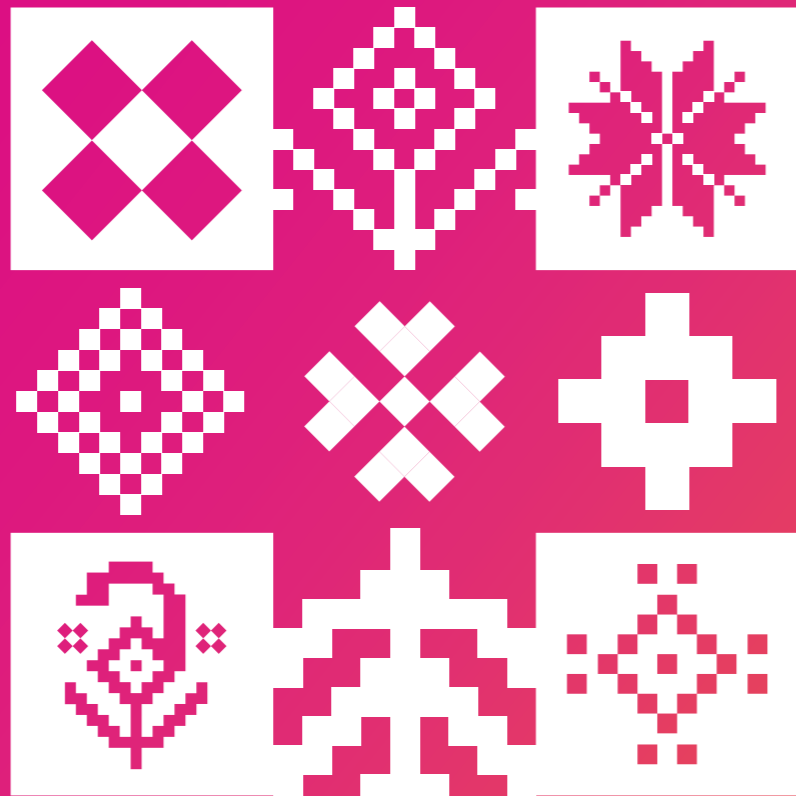
ABOUT

Bharat Tex 2025, where the future of textiles unfolds through meticulously curated knowledge sessions!

Building on the success of Bharat Tex 2024, this year we are hosting over 60 sessions that promise to deliver a vibrant and an enriching experience, focusing on technically rich topics, latest trends, and innovations in the global textile ecosystem. The sessions are curated to provide invaluable insights from industry experts, policymakers, and thought leaders, thus, ensuring enriching experience for all the attendees. Here are the six thematic themes that will be the cornerstone of our knowledge sessions:

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TRADE



RT 01: HOW CAN INDIA BE A STABLE PARTNER IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD: SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE, ADAPTING TO MARKET VOLATILITY AND DISRUPTION



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Background

The global textile and apparel industry, one of the most interconnected sectors, has faced unprecedented challenges in recent years due to major disruptions such as geopolitical tensions, and armed conflicts. These events have exposed vulnerabilities in traditional supply chain models with delays, rising costs, and material shortages becoming frequent issues. In this volatile environment, the need for resilient and reliable supply chain partnerships has never been greater.

India, as one of the world’s largest textile and garment producers stands out as a potential stabilising force. With a textile industry valued at over \$140 billion and employing more than 45 million people, India boasts significant capacity, expertise, and infrastructure to serve as a dependable partner. The country produces over 6 million tons of cotton annually making it the world’s second-largest producer, and is a leading supplier of diverse textiles such as silk, jute, and synthetic fibres.

India’s ability to adapt during disruptions has already been demonstrated. During the pandemic, the nation quickly scaled up production of critical materials like personal protective equipment (PPE), and became the second-largest exporter globally by mid-2020. In response to the ongoing geopolitical shifts, India has strengthened trade relations signing or negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with key markets such as the European Union, the UK, and Australia, further enhancing its position as a trusted supplier.

However, India’s role as a stable partner goes beyond scale and adaptability. The government’s push for sustainable manufacturing practices, digital transformation, and infrastructural upgrades under initiatives like “Make in India” and “Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes” is creating a future-ready textile sector. Investments in renewable energy, logistics networks, and smart manufacturing technologies are enabling Indian companies to offer reliable and competitive solutions.

Structure of the Session

The session is designed as a roundtable between key stakeholders in the textile industry to deliberate on the way forward for enhancing supply chain resilience, adapting to market volatility, and exploring India's role as a stable partner amidst global disruptions.

Objectives

1. Assess India's potential as a reliable supply chain partner in a volatile global market.
2. Explore strategies to enhance supply chain resilience amid disruptions.
3. Identify opportunities for collaboration and regional partnerships to ensure stability.

Outcomes

1. Identification of actionable steps to enhance India’s supply chain resilience, focusing on infrastructure development, technology adoption, and regional trade agreements.

2. Insights on aligning India’s trade and investment policies with global trends to strengthen its position as a reliable partner in global supply chains.
3. Compilation of case studies and successful examples of Indian companies adapting to disruptions and ensuring continuity in global supply chains.
4. Recommendations for embedding sustainability and circular economy principles into supply chain strategies to meet global demand for responsible production.
5. A roadmap to establish India as a preferred partner in the evolving global supply chain landscape by addressing bottlenecks, fostering innovation, and strengthening trade relations.

Chair

Shri, Giriraj Singh, Hon’ble Minister of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Speakers

1. Ms. Alison Ward, CEO, Cotton Connect
2. Mr. Pallak Seth, Executive Vice Chairman, PDS Limited
3. Mr. Sivaramakrishnan Ganapathi, CEO, Gokaldas Exports
4. Mr. Eric Dorchies, CEO, CIEL Textile
5. Ms. Aditi Bharadwaj, Head of Regional Sourcing, South Asia, Ralph Lauren
6. Prof. Ram Singh, Trade and Supply Chain Specialist, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
7. Mr. Rajinder Gupta, Chairman Emeritus, Trident Group
8. Mr. Mukesh Bansal, EVP, Vardhman Textiles Ltd
9. Mr. Keyur Parekh, CEO Global Business - Welspun Living Limited
10. Mr. Kulin Lalbhai, Vice Chairman, Arvind Fashions
11. Mr. Satyaki Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, VFY Business, Aditya Birla Group
12. Mr. Shreyaskar Chaudhary, Managing Director, Pratibha Syntex Limited
13. Ms. Eva Benavidez Clayton, Senior Director, Better Cotton, Geneva
14. Ms. Coreen Marie, Senior Buyer, Dunns
15. Mr. Jorge Gomez Garcia, Strategic Sourcing Manager, Coppel Corporation
16. Mr. Ashesh Amin, CEO and Co-Founder of Pivot Apparel

PD 19: INDIA’S \$100 BILLION EXPORTS TARGET: TRANSFORMING VISION TO REALITY



Background

India’s textile sector, valued at approximately \$140 billion, is positioned as one of the largest in the world— contributing 10% of country’s exports. In FY 2023, India’s textile and apparel exports were valued at \$36.73 billion with key trading partners including the United States, the European Union, and emerging markets in Asia and Africa. Recent trade agreements such as the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA), have opened new opportunities by reducing tariffs and enhancing market access for Indian textile products.

Reaching the \$100 billion target will require a multipronged approach including diversifying export markets, improving trade logistics, easing of regulatory reforms, promoting large scale investments (both FDI and Domestic) and fostering innovation. India’s traditional exports like cotton and handloom products need to be complemented with growth in man-made fibres, technical textiles, and sustainable fabrics to meet global demand shifts. With initiatives like the PM MITRA scheme and enhanced global collaborations, India is poised to increase its share in the \$1.3 trillion global textile and apparel market.



Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will focus on strategies to leverage trade agreements, infrastructure development, and innovation to drive exports and realise the \$100 billion vision.

Objectives

1. Explore the potential of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements such as AI-ECTA and CEPA in expanding market access and reducing tariff barriers for Indian textiles.
2. Diversify Export Markets.
3. Promote High-Value and Sustainable Products.
4. Improve Trade Logistics and Infrastructure.
5. Leverage Global Demand for Indian Heritage.
6. Foster Innovation and Investment.

Outcomes

1. Identification of key enablers, such as market diversification, trade agreements, and policy reforms, needed to achieve the \$100 billion export target for the textile and apparel sector.
2. Actionable steps to integrate advanced technologies such as Industry 4.0 tools, digital design, and smart manufacturing to improve efficiency and global appeal.
3. Strategies for empowering MSMEs through financial assistance, capacity building, and market linkages to scale their contributions to exports.
4. A phased roadmap to achieve the \$100 billion target by addressing challenges, prioritising strategic investments, and leveraging global market opportunities.

Chair

Ms. Subhra, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Mr. Mohit Bhasin, Global Co-Lead Economic Growth and Partner, KPMG in India

Speakers

1. Mr. Sunil Shewakramani, CEO, Busana
2. Mr. Naren Kumar Goenka, Chairman, Bharat Tex and Former Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council
3. Mr. HK Agarwal, Managing Director, Grasim Industries Ltd; Business Director, Pulp and Fibre Business, Aditya Birla Group
4. Mr. Anant Ahuja, Shahi Group
5. Mr. Shaleen Toshniwal, Vice chairman MATEXIL & Joint Managing Director of M/S Banswara Syntex Ltd.
6. Ms. Nishi Vora, Director, Fashion Accessories India , Founder – Accessories & Trims Manufacturers Association (ATMA)

PD 6: SCALING UP TEXTILE MANUFACTURING IN INDIA: GRABBING OPPORTUNITIES, ADDRESSING CHALLENGES**Background**

India's textile sector is one of the largest globally, contributing significantly to employment, exports, and GDP. With the market poised to reach \$350 billion by 2030, the sector presents immense opportunities for growth. However, scaling up textile manufacturing to capitalize on these opportunities requires addressing key challenges including infrastructure gaps, global competition, compliance with sustainability standards, and supply chain disruptions.

The government's initiatives, such as PM MITRA parks, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and free trade agreements with key markets, aim to position India as a global hub for textile production. These measures, combined with India's strengths in raw material availability, skilled labor, and a diverse product portfolio create a conducive environment for scaling up manufacturing.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will explore strategies to scale up India's textile manufacturing capabilities, leveraging the nation's strengths to capitalise on emerging global opportunities. Industry leaders and policymakers will address key challenges such as infrastructure gaps, technology adoption, and workforce development, while also highlighting initiatives to enhance sustainability and competitiveness. The session will aim to chart a roadmap for positioning India as a global leader in textile manufacturing, fostering growth, innovation, and collaboration across the sector.

Objectives

1. Identifying emerging trends, global market opportunities, and high-potential segments within the textile industry to drive India's growth trajectory.
2. Discussing critical bottlenecks such as infrastructure gaps, supply chain inefficiencies, skill shortages, and compliance with global sustainability standards.
3. Exploring the role of policies such as PM MITRA parks, the PLI scheme, and trade agreements in boosting investment and capacity in the textile sector.
4. Highlighting the adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies, automation, and digitalisation to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.
5. Discussing strategies to enhance workforce capabilities and bridge skill gaps to meet the evolving demands of the sector.
6. Creating a comprehensive plan to scale up textile manufacturing in India—aligning with economic, environmental, and social goals.

Outcomes

1. Insights into the primary factors fueling the expansion of India's textile manufacturing sector, such as policy reforms, technological advancements, and demand from domestic and global markets.
2. Roadmap for Overcoming Challenges, solutions to address barriers such as infrastructure gaps, supply chain inefficiencies, and environmental compliance hurdles.
3. Discussions on action points for policymakers to enhance ease of doing business, attract investments, and foster innovation in the textile sector.
4. Strategic discussions to position India as a global leader in textile exports, with a focus on scaling operations, adopting advanced manufacturing techniques, and meeting international quality standards.



TRADE

Chair

Mr. Jalaj Dani, Member of Steering Committee - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade SCALE and Brand India Cell, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Moderator

Mr. Mohit Bhasin, Global Co-Lead Economic Growth and Partner, KPMG in India

Speakers

1. Ms. Dipali Goenka, CEO & MD, Welspun living Ltd.
2. Mr. Manmohan Singh, Chief Marketing Officer, Birla Cellulose, Aditya Birla Group
3. Mr. Sanjay Jain, Group CEO, PDS
4. Mr. Harish Ahuja, MD, Shahi Exports
5. Mr. Hemant D Sharma, Sector Head/ President Polyester, Reliance Industries Limited

INVESTMENT & POLICY



PD 5: GLOBAL MEGA TRENDS ARE RESHAPING THE TEXTILE ECOSYSTEM: HOW SMART ORGANISATIONS CAN STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE



Background

The global textile & clothing industry is undergoing a step change characterised by sourcing shifts, sustainability, and digitalisation. The structural changes could be termed as the 'Second Wave' since the dismantling of the MFA regime in mid-1990s. The demand for apparel in developed countries is saturated around 40 kgs per capita and there is a trend towards 'recommerce' or sales of second-hand clothing. There is a significant increase in the demand for circular fashion based on regenerated fibres produced from mechanical and chemical recycling technologies. Emerging regulations in advanced countries will add an impetus to innovation in recycling technologies.

The above trends have far-reaching impact on the production and distribution of textiles and apparel.

Structure of the Session

The session will have a presentation in the beginning by the moderator followed by a discussion on the topic.

Objectives

1. Highlight key global trends prevalent in the textile and apparel industry.
2. Impact of these global trends on the Indian T&A industry.
3. Showcase opportunities arising out of it.
4. Address challenges hindering to take advantages of these trends.
5. Highlight emerging trend of circular value chain.
6. Explore features needed in the enabling requirement.

Outcomes

The discussion is expected to present the following points:

1. A detailed analysis of key global trends in the industry that have immediate and long-term impact on the Indian T&A industry.
2. How India's inherent strengths such as skilled labor, abundant raw materials, and a rich textile heritage, can be leveraged to attract growth and investment considering global trends.
3. Highlighting opportunities and challenges in segments which offer significant potential for investment.
4. Furthermore, the discussion will highlight shifts in business impacted by mega trends.
5. Trends in circularity in textile value chain and its impact in T&A.

Chair

Shri. Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Mr. Giuseppe Gherzi, Managing Partner, Gherzi Switzerland

Speakers

1. Mr. Dirk Vantyghem, Director General, Euratex
2. Dr. Christian Schindler, Secretary General, ITMF
3. Mr. Eric Dorchies, CEO, CIEL
4. Mr. Mark Jarvis, Textile IQ Accelerating Circularity
5. Mr. Narendra Makwana, Founder and CEO, Greenstitch
6. Ms. Marci Zaroff, CEO, Eco Fashion Corp
7. Ms. Tricia Carey, Executive Secretary, Accelerating Circularity

PD 7: ADVANT-EDGE INDIA: MAKING INDIA THE PREFERRED INVESTMENT DESTINATION FOR GLOBAL TEXTILES



Background

International trade in textiles and apparel is characterised by significant shifts in sourcing by international brands and retail. While the gradual long-term shifts are consistent with the nature of our itinerant industry, trends have accelerated in recent years. Buyers are extremely concerned about geo-political factors, risks of over-dependence on a single country and high cost of logistics. A closer look at the sourcing of apparel by the US and EU manifests these trends. Between 2010 and 2013, there have been dramatic shifts resulting in the contraction of China's market share in world trade in textiles and apparel, especially in the US, in favour of emerging countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and India. A similar trend is reflected in the increased investments in textile machinery by emerging countries.

The prevailing trade tensions are compelling international buyers to derisk their sourcing by adopting a package of measures such as nearshoring, friendshoring, and reconfiguration of trade alliances.

The emerging trends augur well for India. There is an opportunity for India to reposition its industry to double its share in world trade in textiles and apparel by improving global competitiveness.

The panellists will discuss India's strengths and capabilities and fashion the roadmap for realising the vision to achieve USD 100 billion of T&A exports.

Structure of the Session

The session will have a presentation in the beginning by the moderator followed by discussion on the topic.

Objectives

1. Highlight key trends in terms of shifts in sourcing at the global level.
2. Look at concerns and sourcing shifts arising out of geo-political factors.
3. Discuss measures to de-risk supply chain challenges.
4. What are the impacts of these shifts on the Indian T&A industry and what is the advantage of sourcing from India.
5. Explore the roadmap for the Indian textile industry to adjust and take benefits of these shifts.

Outcomes

The discussion is expected to present the following points:

1. A detailed analysis of global sourcing shifts in the industry that have immediate and long-term impacts on the Indian T&A industry.
2. Highlighting opportunities and challenges in segments which offer significant potential for investment.
3. Roadmap for the Indian T&A industry to adjust and take benefits of these shifts.

Chair

Shri. Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Mr. Robert Antoshak, Partner, Gherzi



Speakers

1. Dr. K. V. Srinivasan, President, ITMF
2. Mr. Eric Dorchies, Group CEO, CEIL Group
3. Mr. Calvin Wooley, Global SCD Leader, Inter Ikea
4. Mr Uday Gill, Gherzi
5. Mr. Watsh Wardhan, Decathlon
6. Mr. Eric Trachtenberg, Executive Director, ICAC
7. Ms. Radha Srinivas, Sr. VP, Grey Matter Concepts

PD 23: UNLOCKING THE EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL OF TEXTILES – POLICY AS AN ENABLER AND FACILITATOR



Background

The Indian textile and apparel sector is a cornerstone of the country's economy, contributing to over 45 million direct jobs and 60 million indirect jobs, making it the second-largest employer after agriculture. With the industry poised to grow to \$350 billion by 2030, the potential for generating new employment opportunities is immense. However, realising this potential requires a supportive policy ecosystem that addresses critical challenges such as workforce housing, skill development, and social security for workers.

Worker housing remains a significant barrier to growth in the sector. Migrant workers, who form a large part of the textile workforce, often face inadequate housing and infrastructure which impacts productivity and retention. Additionally, state-specific policies and incentives vary widely creating disparities in the allocation of resources and investments across regions. Aligning these policies with the evolving needs of the industry and its workforce is essential for unlocking the sector's full employment potential.

Structure of the Session

This discussion conducted by a moderator and the esteemed panel of technical/industry experts will explore how targeted policy interventions, enhanced worker welfare initiatives, and collaborative efforts between industry and government can create a sustainable and inclusive environment for workforce expansion in the textile sector.

Objectives

1. Identify Key Employment Challenges in the Textile Sector.
2. Discuss Policy Enablers for Workforce Expansion.
3. Focus on Worker Housing as a Critical Enabler.
4. Promote State-Level Best Practices.
5. Encourage Public-Private Partnerships.
6. Develop a Framework for Inclusive Growth.

Outcome

1. Discussion on harmonising state-specific policies to reduce regional disparities and promote balanced growth.
2. Initiatives such as co-invested housing, jointly funded training programs, and industry-supported healthcare facilities were proposed as sustainable solutions to boost worker productivity and retention.
3. Public-private partnerships to fund housing projects and state-level incentives to encourage industry-led housing initiatives.

4. Proposal on setting up region-specific training centers and collaborating with educational institutions to align curricula with industry requirements, ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled workers.
5. Roadmap for Inclusive Growth: The session concluded with a consensus on developing a comprehensive policy framework that integrates worker welfare, housing, and skill development as core priorities.

Chair

Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog

Moderator

Mr. Nilachal Mishra, Head Government and Public Services Advisory and Partner, KPMG in India

Speaker

1. Mr. Rajesh Jain, CHRO, Welspun Living Limited
2. Mr. Ashish Dikshit, Managing Director, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited
3. Mr. Smit Gade Research Director, Good Business Lab
4. Mr. Anil Rajvanshi, President, Reliance Industries Limited

PD 21: VALUE FASHION IN INDIAN RETAIL- CONSUMER'S DELIGHT, INDUSTRY'S OPPORTUNITY



Background

Retail, especially Apparel Retail, is one of the most crucial components of the Indian economy, driving consumption-led growth in GDP. It is a sector which is attracting some of the biggest brands in the world to participate in India's Growth Story. And while the who's who of industry are rushing in to be a part of this growth story, the Indian Consumer is also evolving. A New Consumer is emerging who is looking beyond fancy Advertising and Branding. They are not seeking just cheap products, but Value for their rupee spend. Whilst on one hand the market is being flooded with marquee names with their high-end products, the Indian Consumer is demanding more and more value products—spurring the growth of a bunch of home-grown Indian retailers. The Great Indian Retail Story is driven by this Value Segment. The rapid growth of demand for Value products provides a huge opportunity for Retailers to see exponential growth— both in terms of geographical penetration as well as revenues, simultaneously delighting the Consumer and stimulating demand and consumption.

Value Retail is driving the Indian Retail Story. What are the opportunities in it for Retailers? Where do they lie? Is this a purely non-urban phenomena or are Urban Markets also experiencing this? What are the Challenges? Is it an opportunity only available to Indian Retailers or will International Brands also join the race?

These are some of the questions that will be raised and discussed. The Panel will be selected to represent the different segments— High-end, Value, Domestic, and International Retailers.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion would focus on the growth potential of India's domestic market fueled by a growing middle class, higher disposable incomes, and an aspirational young population.



INVESTMENT & POLICY

Objectives

1. A White Paper on identifying the features of Value Retail on the necessary shifts required in Product, Marketing, Pricing, and Distribution Strategies.
2. The challenges in adapting to the New Consumer, and prospects going forward.

Chair

SDr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner, Handloom

Moderator

Mr. B.S. Nagesh, Shoppers Stop, TRRAIN

Speakers

1. Mr. Venkatesalu P., Managing Director, Tata Trent
2. Mr. Suman Saha, CXO, House of Brands and FWD at Myntra
3. Mr. Rajesh Jain, MD and CEO, Sports and Leisure Apparel Limited
4. Mr. Vedant Modi, Chief Revenue Officer, Vedant Fashions
5. Mr. Rakesh Biyani, Mentor, Nexon Omniverse Ltd.
6. Mr. Ram Chandra Agarwal, CMD, V2 Retail Ltd.



INFRASTRUCTURE



INFRASTRUCTURE

PD 16: SMART INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ENABLING FUTURE-READY TEXTILES ECOSYSTEM- PM MITRA LEADS THE WAY



Background

As the textile industry continues to evolve, the demand for smart, sustainable, and efficient industrial infrastructure has become increasingly critical. Recognising this need, the Government of India has launched the PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Parks scheme, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at creating world-class infrastructure for the textiles sector. With an investment of INR 4,445 crores, PM MITRA aims to establish seven integrated textile parks across the country, offering modern facilities, plug-and-play infrastructure, and synergies across the textile value chain.

This ambitious initiative aligns with the vision of creating a future-ready textiles ecosystem that is competitive, sustainable, and globally integrated. By leveraging advancements in technology such as automation, IoT, and AI-driven manufacturing, these industrial parks promise to drive efficiency, reduce operational costs, and ensure environmental compliance. Furthermore, PM MITRA's focus on promoting circularity and renewable energy usage reinforces India's commitment to sustainable development.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will explore the role of smart industrial infrastructure in transforming the textiles sector with a focus on how PM MITRA serves as a model for scalable, sustainable, and tech-driven industrial ecosystems.

Objectives

1. Analyse the Impact of Smart Infrastructure on the Textiles Industry.
2. Highlight the Role of PM MITRA in Driving Growth.
3. Address Challenges in Implementing Smart Infrastructure.
4. Promote Technological Innovations in Textiles.
5. Encourage Investment and Private Sector Participation.
6. Foster Collaboration Across Public and Private Sectors.

Outcome

1. Awareness into the objectives, scope, and benefits of the PM MITRA scheme, emphasising its potential to revolutionise textile manufacturing in India.
2. Identification of opportunities and incentives provided by the PM MITRA scheme to attract domestic and foreign investments in mega textile parks.
3. Discussion on how PM MITRA can promote equitable regional growth by establishing integrated textile parks across India, driving economic development and employment.
4. Plans to generate employment and enhance skill development in the textile sector through the PM MITRA initiative.
5. Discussion on how PM MITRA parks can set benchmarks in sustainable manufacturing practices by incorporating green energy, waste management, and resource efficiency.

Chair

Mr. Rajat Kumar Saini, CEO & MD, NICDC

Moderator

Mr. Shobhit Agrawal, Partner, KPMG in India

Speakers

1. Mr. Samir Prabodhchandra Joshipura, Group CEO, Trident
2. Mr. Salil Dutt, Chief Technical Adviser, UNIDO Indonesia
3. Mr. Updeep Chatrath, CEO (ODHISA Project) & Resident Director - Delhi. Welspun World
4. Mr. Raja Ram Pai, CEO, JSW Infrastructure Limited



SUSTAINABILITY

RT03: INNOVATE FORWARD: SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES FUTURE



Background

With increasing pressure from global environmental concerns and resource limitations, the textile sector must pivot toward adopting circular economies, renewable materials, and resource-efficient manufacturing processes. India, with its established position in the global textile market, has a unique opportunity to lead this transformation by integrating innovative practices, advancing technology, and fostering cross-sector collaborations. This session will explore pathways to enhance sustainability across all stages of textile production, from design and sourcing to manufacturing and waste management, with a focus on creating a resilient and environmentally conscious textile industry that meets future demands.

Objectives of the Session

1. To explore innovative solutions and strategies for driving sustainability in the textile industry, focusing on circular economy principles and resource-efficient practices.
2. To discuss the role of technology and innovation in transforming textile production processes, from raw material sourcing to end-of-life product management.
3. To foster collaboration between industry leaders, policymakers, and academia to create a unified approach to sustainability in textiles.
4. To develop actionable pathways that integrate sustainable design, manufacturing, and business models into India's textile industry for long-term success.

Structure of the Session

This round table will convene international and domestic leaders to explore innovative pathways for shaping a sustainable future in textiles. The discussion will center on the adoption of cutting-edge green technologies, alternative materials, and circular economy principles to address environmental challenges. By fostering collaboration between industry, academia, and start-ups, the session aims to identify actionable strategies for overcoming barriers, scaling transformative solutions, and aligning with global best practices to position India's textile sector as a frontrunner in sustainability and innovation.

Outcomes

1. Frameworks and actionable strategies for integrating sustainability in India's textile manufacturing, promoting circular economy principles and resource efficiency.
2. Formation of collaborative partnerships between industry stakeholders, policymakers, and academia, aimed at advancing sustainable practices and innovations within the sector.
3. Identification of key technological innovations and business models that can be leveraged to scale up sustainable practices in textile manufacturing.
4. Insights on how India can align its textile manufacturing processes with global sustainability standards and market trends, driving the nation towards becoming a global leader in sustainable textiles.

Chair

Shri. Pabitra Margherita Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Co-Chair

Mr. Sunil Handunneththi, Hon'ble Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, Government of Sri Lanka

Moderator

Ms. Namrata Rana, Partner, KPMG in India

Speaker

1. Mrs. Neelu Gupta, Sales & Marketing, Trident Group (Chief Marketing Strategy and Customer Relations)
2. Mr. Bhargava Huchuroa, Chief Operating Officer, Gokaldas exports
3. Mr. Rajeev Gupta, CEO, RSWM
4. Mr. Alok Mishra, President - Sustainability- Welspun World
5. Mr Bob Assenberg, Fund Director, Good Fashion Fund
6. Ms. Puja Tickoo, Executive Vice President, Shahi
7. Mr. Ganesh Kasekar, Representative South Asia, Global Organic Textile Standard
8. Dr. Naresh Tyagi, Chief Sustainability Officer, ABFRL
9. Mr. Manish Gupta, India Head supply chain, Better Cotton Initiative
10. Mr. Avik Banerjee, Material Program lead, H&M
11. Mr. Jagjeet Singh Kandal, Country Director - IDH India
12. Mr. Shubhransu, Senior Environment Specialist, VARNER AS Liaison Office, India
13. Ms. Anchal Saini, CEO, Flyrobe
14. Mr. Shreeram Wadekar, Vice President, Business Manager, R-PET, Reliance Industries Limited
15. Dr. Srikanta K. Panigrahi, Director General, India Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD)

PD 31: MAXIMIZING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY: DRIVING FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES



Background

The textile industry, known for its resource-intensive processes, faces increasing pressure to adopt sustainable practices and maximise resource efficiency. From water and energy use to raw material consumption and waste generation, the sector's environmental footprint demands urgent action. Technological advancements offer transformative opportunities to address these challenges, enabling companies to optimise resource use, reduce waste, and achieve higher productivity while lowering costs.

Key technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, IoT (Internet of Things), and automation are revolutionising resource management across the textile value chain. For instance, AI powered analytics can enhance energy efficiency in production, IoT-enabled sensors can monitor real time resource consumption, and automated dyeing systems can significantly cut water use. Furthermore, advanced recycling technologies are making it possible to recover and reuse postconsumer and industrial textile waste, aligning with circular economy principles.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will explore how technology-driven interventions can maximise resource efficiency in the textile industry. By examining case studies, innovations, and collaborative frameworks, the discussion will provide actionable insights to help companies integrate these solutions into their operations, driving sustainability while enhancing competitiveness.



Objectives

1. Explore Technological Innovations for Resource Optimisation.
2. Promote Adoption of Circular Economy Practices.
3. Identify Solutions for Real-Time Resource Monitoring.
4. Address Challenges in Scaling Up Technological Solutions.
5. Share Best Practices and Case Studies from Industry Leaders.
6. Foster Collaboration for Industry-Wide Transformation.

Outcomes

1. Identification of cutting-edge approaches to maximize resource efficiency including water conservation, energy optimisation, and waste reduction across the textile value chain.
2. Strategies to integrate circular design principles into textile production to extend product lifecycles and reduce environmental impact.
3. Frameworks for collaboration between industry stakeholders, technology providers, and policymakers to enhance resource efficiency and sustainability efforts.
4. Exploration of innovative solutions like bio-based materials, low-impact dyeing processes, and renewable energy integration for sustainable production.
5. Creation of a step-by-step roadmap for transitioning the Indian textile sector to a resource-efficient and sustainable model, aligning with India's Net-Zero and circular economy goals.

Chair

Ms. Gauri Singh, DDG, Irena

Moderator

Ms. Shruti Singh, Country Head, Fashion Revolution India

Speaker

1. Ms. Nina Shariati, Founder & CEP, Circular Transparency & Global Trade Expert, UN/CEFACT, Circular Economy, Transparency & Traceability
2. Mr. Tejas Sampat, Sr. Director, Corporate Responsibility, PVH Corp
3. Mr. Pranjal Goswami, Chief Sustainability Officer, Gokuldas Exports Limited
4. Ms. Komal Hiranandani, Founder & CEO, Dolce Vee
5. Mr. Anil Tibrewal, CEO (Spun Yarns Business). PT Indo-Rama Synthetics Tbk

PD 8: GREEN SYNERGY: CRAFTING SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS



Background

The global textile industry is at a critical point, seeking to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility. For India, a leading textile producer, there is an urgent need to transform supply chains into sustainable ecosystems that prioritise environmental responsibility at every stage—from sourcing to end-of-life disposal.

India's textile sector, essential to its economy, also poses significant environmental challenges. By adopting greener technologies and circular practices, the industry can reduce its impact, enhance competitiveness, and attract green investments.

This transformation offers India an opportunity to solidify its position as a responsible manufacturing hub while inspiring global solutions. Through innovation and collaboration, the textile sector can become a catalyst for positive environmental and economic change.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will focus on overcoming key challenges in transforming India's textile sector into a global leader in sustainability. Panellists will explore strategies to scale green investments, foster public-private collaborations, and align with international benchmarks. The session will highlight India's unique strengths, such as its manufacturing expertise and innovation potential, to drive sustainable growth. Insights from global best practices will inform a roadmap for decarbonisation, circularity, and water stewardship.

Objectives

1. Identify actionable strategies to address sustainability challenges in India's textile and apparel sector.
2. Leverage India's unique strengths to enhance its global competitiveness in sustainable textiles.
3. Facilitate knowledge sharing on best practices for decarbonisation, circularity, and water stewardship.
4. Develop a roadmap for fostering green investments and public-private collaborations in the sector.

Outcomes

1. A strategic roadmap outlining key actions for de-carbonisation, circularity, and water stewardship in India's textile sector.
2. Enhanced public-private partnerships and collaborations to drive sustainable innovation and investments.
3. Identification of policy and investment opportunities to support the transition to responsible manufacturing practices.
4. Insights into global best practices and their applicability to strengthen India's position as a leader in sustainable textiles.

Moderator

Ms. Jasmer Dhingra, Director – Programs (India), IDH

Speakers

1. Ms. Nina Shariati, Founder & CEP, Circular Transparency & Global Trade Expert, UN/CEFACT, Circular Economy, Transparency & Traceability
2. Mr. Ganesh Shankar, Flux Gentech + Sustainability Mafia
3. Ms. Ozunimi Lillian, UNIDO
4. Ms. Danique Lodewijks, Bestseller Sustainability/ Sustainable Raw Materials Manager
5. Mr. Tom Lange, Principal, BCG
6. Mr. Sundar Senthilnathan, Head of Public Affairs, H&M



PD 13: CRAFTS, COMMERCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: SAFEGUARDING TRADITION PROMOTING LIVELIHOODS



Background

Handloom weaving is a significant cultural practice that embodies the living heritage of various communities, particularly in India. This craft not only represents an ancient art form but also reflects the socio-economic fabric and identity of the weavers. The intricate designs and techniques used in handloom weaving are deeply intertwined with the history, traditions, and communal life of the weavers.

The handloom industry is predominantly a cottage industry where families engage in growing cotton to weaving as a collective endeavor. Skills are passed down through generations, with younger members often assisting in physically demanding tasks such as warping threads. The designs produced by handloom weavers are not merely aesthetic; they carry cultural narratives and social meanings. According to the 2019-20 Handloom census, the sector employs over 3.5 million people, predominantly women, making it the second-largest employment generator after agriculture.

UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) was adopted in 2003 after 60 years of work in this domain. The Convention is the international community's first binding multilateral instrument intended to safeguard and raise the profile of this heritage including handloom practices inciting countries to care about. UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter, the Convention) recognise both positive and negative aspects of economic engagement for safeguarding and sustainable development.

Handloom weaving can be a powerful force for inclusive and equitable economic development, however, today it faces challenges such as decontextualisation, misappropriation, misrepresentation and dispossession. In response to these challenges, the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), formulated by the Government of India has been an important initiative, focusing on promoting the growth and sustainability of the handloom sector. Despite these efforts, challenges persist, and the sector continues to grapple with structural issues related to market, design, and copyrights and financial access to community,

UNESCO has been working towards addressing this issue globally. Safeguarding planning that takes economic dimensions of intangible cultural heritage into account should be rights-based, ensuring that the rights of the communities, groups, and individuals that create, bear, and transmit their living heritage are duly protected while engaging in commercial activities. Developing heritage-sensitive and rights-based approaches to managing the economic dimensions of intangible cultural heritage can help to address both sustainability and safeguarding concerns in rapidly changing contexts.

The New Delhi Leaders Declaration of 2023 has encouraged 'the international community to protect the living cultural heritage, including [associated] intellectual property, notably with regard to the impact of the over-commercialisation and misappropriation of such living heritage on the sustainability and on the livelihoods of practitioners and community bearers as well as Indigenous Peoples'. To reduce the risk of decontextualisation and over-commercialisation out of the economic activity associated with living heritage, UNESCO recommends safeguarding measures addressing the economic dimension associated with the living heritage through a community centric approach.

Structure of the Session

The structure of the panel discussion has been divided in the following key areas:

1. Showcase Best Practices of Successful Initiatives on Responsible Production and Consumption benefiting community enterprises and entrepreneurs of the handloom sector in a sustainable cultural, social, economic and environmental way.
2. Uncovering the challenges and exploring potential solutions in the legal, financial, and marketing aspects of the handloom sector, while also highlighting opportunities for collaboration among stakeholders.
3. Role of Stakeholders in developing a collaborative approach towards addressing these challenges and protecting the rights of the community.

Objectives

1. The session has been designed to showcase some of the best practices of sustainable development in the handloom sector in India which has addressed not only the safeguarding of the traditional craftsmanship but has also proven economic feasibility while addressing the rights of the community or community organisations.
2. This also provides the opportunity to uncover the key pressing issues related to safeguarding and livelihood across the traditional value chain of the sector—from farming to weaving.
3. The key objective of the session is to identify possible solutions on legal, financial, and marketing aspects for the strengthening the value chain of the handloom sector. Additionally, the session will focus on the role of Community Organisation, Civil Society, Financial and Legal Institutions, International Organisations and Government in achieving sustainable development for the community.

Outcomes

1. Identifying areas of intervention in the handloom sector with respect to safeguarding traditions and livelihoods of the community.
2. Developing a mechanism for collaboration and partnerships to address the economic dimensions of safeguarding the handloom crafts of India.
3. Promoting the need for start-up capital and marketing support for community-led enterprises.
4. Establishing linkages between weavers, financial institutions, NGOs, and government bodies to foster a supportive ecosystem by creating networks that facilitate access to funding, training, and market opportunities.
5. Providing policy-level recommendations to implement the economic dimension of safeguarding handloom textiles for the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Chair

Ms. Amrit Raj, Development Commissioner, Handcrafts

Moderator

Ms. Reena Mittal, Founder and CEO, Slow Textiles



Speakers

1. Ms. Kavya Saxena, Executive Director, Khamir
2. Ms. Sujata Goswami, Executive Director, Sarba Shanti Ayog
3. Mr. Anand Srivastava, MSME Finance Expert
4. Mr. Shani Himanshu, Co-Founder, 11.11
5. Mr. R.K. Singh, Chief General Manager, SIDBI
6. Mr. Abeer Chakravarty, Chairman and Managing Director, AHEAD Initiatives
7. Mr. S. Bandyopadhyay, Director (East Zone), Weavers' Service Centre Guwahati, O/o Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

PD 09: CLUSTER CONVERSATION: HOW INDIA'S MSME'S TEXTILE CLUSTERS ARE LEADING THE SUSTAINABILITY DRIVE



Background

The Indian Apparel & Textile manufacturing sector is spread across the country and is largely organised into geographical clusters specialising in different parts of the textile value chain. Some of the key textile and apparel clusters include Ludhiana, Panipat, Surat, and Tirupur. While Ludhiana is known for its woollens and knitwear, Panipat is the recycling capital and specialises in home textiles. Tirupur is a major exporting cluster for garments, and Surat focusses on synthetic fibres. According to estimates, there are over 70 such manufacturing clusters in the country. In recent times, in addition to production efficiency, there is a sharper focus on sustainable and inclusive practices in the clusters. This is driven by buyers'/brands requirements, stricter regulations, resource depletion, and rising consumer awareness amongst other things.

These clusters are at varying degrees of awareness and adoption of such practices. However, there is an increasing acceptance that sustainability will play a strategic role in the growth of the sector both in international and domestic markets. Given that the Indian A&T industry is dominated by small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), a cluster development approach can be an effective tool to support SMEs and other cluster level stakeholders to pursue sustainable and inclusive practices. While each cluster will identify their own priorities and gaps for sustainable practices, there is immense merit in collaboration and knowledge sharing amongst clusters. This will enable the different clusters to leverage on known successes and avoid potential pitfalls.

In fact, the Indian A&T sector is in a strong position to assume leadership on sustainable and inclusive practices and demonstrate workable roadmaps for other emerging economies. This session aims to bring experts and industry actors from different clusters to a common platform for deliberating on the successes and challenges to adopting sustainable practices.

Further, the stakeholders can also discuss effective mechanisms for free knowledge flow and collaboration models.

Structure of the Session

This session will be organised as a moderated discussion between various apparel and textile clusters across the country. The purpose of the discussion are: to brainstorm and

agree on broad contours of a roadmap for sustainable and circular textiles; to examine how adopting such (sustainable and circular) approaches help in effective integration into global value chains and to facilitate knowledge sharing amongst clusters. The discussion will also see participation from key policy actors at the regional and central level and ecosystem experts strategic to the development of sustainable clusters. The discussion will be preceded by a short presentation on current practices and challenges to adopting sustainable and circular practices.

Objectives

1. Highlight some of the current successful sustainable practices across A&T clusters in the country.
2. Identify elements of a common framework that can form the basis for cluster level sustainability roadmaps.
3. Explore mechanisms for regular information and knowledge sharing amongst clusters.

Outcomes

1. The session will provide a concise overview of the existing best practices for sustainability and circularity in leading apparel and textile clusters across India.
2. The session will enable discussion on the proposed contours of a roadmap for promoting sustainability and circularity across the cluster that will help identify actionable points by various stakeholders including policy action.
3. The session will deliberate on how Indian A&T clusters can carve a distinct image and competitive advantage based on sustainability and circularity.
4. The session will facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing across clusters and different sectoral stakeholders to achieve a shared vision.

Moderator

Ms. Devyani Hari, Senior Director, Centre for Responsible Business

Speakers

1. Mr. Parvinder Singh, Founder, GATS
2. Mr. Tushar Jani, Programme Director, Centre for Environment Education (CEE)
3. Mr. K. M. Subramanian, President, Tirupur Exporters Association
4. Mr. P. Gopalakrishnan, President, Karur Textile Manufacture Exporters Association
5. Ms. Claudia Giacobelli, Programme Officer, Industry & Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme



PD: 12 - ECONOMIC GREEN PRINTS, NAVIGATING THE FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE OF SUSTAINABILITY



Background

The global textile industry is at the forefront of the sustainability movement, with India playing a critical role as a major producer and exporter of textiles. While the sector contributes over \$200 billion to India's economy and supports millions of livelihoods, it is also resource-intensive, consuming significant amounts of water and energy and generating substantial waste. Transitioning to sustainable practices is both an economic and environmental imperative. Globally, the textile industry emits 1.2 billion tons of CO₂ annually and investment in sustainable textile technologies is projected to exceed \$20 billion by 2030.

India is well-positioned to lead this transition, with its growing green financing ecosystem. In 2023, India raised \$7.5 billion through green bonds, reflecting its commitment to sustainability. Meanwhile, international efforts, such as the European Union's Green Deal, offer opportunities for Indian textile companies to align with global trends. However, challenges such as the high costs of green technologies, limited access to financing for small and medium enterprises, and navigating complex international compliance frameworks remain significant barriers.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will delve into how Indian and global stakeholders can collaborate to navigate the financial landscape of sustainability. It will focus on unlocking capital, leveraging financial incentives, and fostering innovation to drive economic growth and environmental resilience in the textile sector.

Objectives

1. Explore the Evolving Role of Green Financing in Textiles.
2. Address Barriers to Sustainable Investments.
3. Highlight India's Position in Global Green Finance.
4. Promote Investment in High-Growth Sustainable Technologies.
5. Foster Public-Private Partnerships.
6. Develop Action Plans for Financial Resilience.

Outcomes

1. Recommendations on creating accessible financial instruments and incentives to support sustainable textile practices, including green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, and subsidies for eco-friendly technologies.
2. Insights into partnerships between government bodies, private investors, and multilateral organisations to drive investment in sustainable textiles.
3. Development of actionable strategies to enable MSMEs in the textile sector to access affordable finance for sustainable transformations, emphasising capacity-building programs and risk-sharing mechanisms.
4. Identification of strategies to position India's textile industry as a global leader in sustainable production through financial innovations and international collaborations.

Chair

Shri. Asit Gopal, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Ms. Namrata Rana, Partner, KPMG in India

Speakers

1. Mr. Manmohan Parkash, Former Deputy Director General, Asian Development Bank
2. Ms. Greeshma Hedge, Senior Associate- Strategy and Build, The Global Development Incubator
3. Ms. Nicole Rycroft, Founder & Executive Director, Canopy Planet
4. Mr. Sanchit Kukreja, Senior Supply Chain Manager (Global), Organic Cotton Accelerator
5. Mr. Abhishek Bansal, Vice President - Corporate Sustainability, Arvind Ltd
6. Mr. Siddharth Lulla, Principal, Intellectap

PD 36: SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS



Background

Sustainability on a global level is a complex and interconnected issue that requires collective action, international collaboration, and systemic change. The world's environmental, economic, and social challenges are deeply intertwined and solutions must take a holistic approach that balance ecological protection, economic development, and social equity. While developed nations have resources to advance sustainability, India offers valuable lessons through its traditional knowledge and innovative solutions tailored to its socio-economic context. A sustainable future for fashion and textiles can only be achieved by embracing partnerships across all levels of the industry—from design and production to consumption and disposal at the global level. Only joint action from different stakeholders can drive the industry to reduce its environmental footprint, promote social responsibility, and create more sustainable business models. Stakeholder collaborations have been recognised as crucial in promoting innovation within the ecosystem. They are critical to driving systemic change, reducing environmental footprints, promoting social equity, and ensuring economic viability within the fashion and textile industry.

Structure of the Session

This moderated discussion will feature a panel of academicians and industry experts. The session aims to raise a holistic dialogue on sustainability in the textile sector encompassing aspects that combine research, innovation, policy, traditions, and technology to shape a more sustainable and equitable future across various echelons of the fashion industry.

Objectives

1. To foster international collaboration for addressing overarching sustainability challenges.
2. To promote integrated solutions that balance the ecosystem through joint efforts of small industry, academia, and craft in the fashion industry.
3. To highlight traditional practices and innovative solutions as models for global sustainability.
4. To advocate implementation of sustainable practices throughout the fashion and textiles value chain.



- To encourage partnerships for bridging expertise and drive innovation in sustainability.
- To facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders for the development of actionable strategies in sustainable fashion.

Outcomes

- Emphasising the importance of sustained dialogue and collaborative efforts through research, innovation, and policy interventions that will shape the sustainable future of the fashion industry.
- Pragmatic measures for sustainable fashion by implementing practical strategies for reducing environmental footprints in the fashion and textile value chain were proposed.
- Facilitated collaborations among industry, academia, policymakers, and innovators to promote systemic transformation.
- The integration of traditional knowledge and creative solutions across many global socioeconomic situations to expand effective sustainability models worldwide.

Chair

Ms. Tanu Kashyap, Director General, NIFT

Co-Chair

Ms. Jen Reed, VP Responsible Sourcing and Business Development - Geniemode

Moderator

Prof. Dr. Malini Divakala Director, NIFT Hyderabad

Speakers

- Ms. Sally Denton, FTI, Associate Director, Academic Partnership, UAL
- Prof. Karen Pearson Professor / Chairperson Department of Science & Mathematics, Chair- Sustainability Council, FIT New York
- Mr. Anant Ahuja Director ESG & Sustainability at Shahi Exports
- Ms. Sucharu Uppal Joint President - Brands and Retail at Grasim Industries Limited, Cellulosic fibers
- Mr. Rajnish Jain, Co- Founder, Avani

PD 20: PANEL DISCUSSION: PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACCELERATING CIRCULARITY IN TEXTILE SECTOR



Background

Circular Economy and Sustainability in the Textiles Sector with special focus on the ongoing and future areas of partnerships between the EU & India, and the evolving policy landscape in the EU including the EU Sustainable and Circular Textile Strategy. This panel will be aimed at government officials, Indian business, and relevant stakeholders for them to understand the status and emerging policy landscape in the EU on Circular Economy and Textiles sector, as well as highlight the ongoing and upcoming areas of partnerships between EU and India in the textile sector focused on sustainability and circularity.

Structure of the Session

This discussion will be conducted by a moderator and the speakers will focus on the evolving policy landscape on sustainability and circular economy in the EU including the CE Textile Strategy. It will also discuss the ongoing EU-India initiatives to address CE in various areas towards sustainable and socially just outcomes. The panel discussion will be followed by the release of the knowledge products.

Outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding on evolving policy landscape in the textile sector on resource efficiency and circular economy in the EU and its member states.
- Best practices including resource optimisation tools, recycling approaches, and technologies from the EU and its member states.
- Insights into ongoing areas of partnership between the EU and India on the Textile Sector.

Moderator

Dr. Rachna Arora, Team Leader and Director, EU-I RECEI

Speakers

- Mr. Venkat Kotamaraju, Partner & Director, Intellectap
- Mr. Sundar Senthilnathan, Head of India - Public Affairs, H&M
- Mr. Dirk Vantyghem, Director General, EURATEX
- Mr. Ganesh Anantharaman, Co-Founder SAGS Apparel
- Mr. Abhishek Jani, CEO, Fairtrade India
- Ms. Hilde van Djuin, Managing Director, Circle Economy Foundation
- Mr. Bartosz Przywara, Counsellor for Energy, Climate Action and Environment European Union Delegation to India

PD: 24 – PARAMPARA AUR PARYAVARAN: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE HANDLOOM TRADITIONS OF INDIA



Background

Indian handlooms are one of the oldest traditions in the world. Sustainability is inherent to this century-old textile tradition in the country. Each region of the country has its own unique handloom tradition, closely building on local natural resources and echoing the local socio-cultural-ecological ethos of the practicing community. Research, awareness, and education around various aspects related to traditional textiles and bringing those sustainability learnings to the modern textile sector is essential. Recycling of textile waste through traditional crafts and modern day technologies can help the sector reduce its carbon footprint. Innovation in fibres and production processes can be crucial in reducing waste and conserving biodiversity.

Structure of the Session

This will be a moderated discussion where the esteemed panel of sector experts will discuss how sustainability and circularity aspects are inherent to the Indian Handloom traditions positioning them an important component of India's roadmap to achieve SDGs and Atmanirbhar Bharat. The panel will also elaborate on learnings from the handloom traditions for the sustainable fashion industry globally.



Objectives

1. Highlight Sustainability elements inherent to Handloom Traditions.
2. Highlight Government Initiatives towards strengthening the sector.
3. Foster collaboration between domestic and international stakeholders.

Outcomes

1. The discussion will highlight how conservation and strengthening of Indian Handloom traditions is closely linked to conservation of biodiversity, green economies, and empowering women.
2. It would bring together key learnings for global sustainable fashion industry.
3. It would highlight innovation, education, and capacity building initiatives towards positioning handloom as a sustainable fabric for the future.

Chair

Dr. M Beena, Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Dr. Janki Shah, Programme Director, Sustainable Lifestyle and Traditions, CEE

Speakers

1. Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Head, UN Environment Programme Country office, India
2. Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee, Former President, Crafts Council of India
3. Dr. Sudha Dhingra, Dean Academics, NIFT Delhi
4. Mr. Neelesh Kumar Sah, Joint Secretary, Climate Change and International Cooperation, MoEFCC
5. Ms. Kavya Saxena, Executive Director, Khamir

PD:29 WILL SUSTAINABLE FIBRES DEFINE THE FUTURE OF TEXTILES?



Background

The fashion industry faces an urgent need to transition to next-generation materials to reduce its environmental footprint, meet tightening regulations, and ensure long-term business viability. Despite the significant promise of next-gen materials, scaling their adoption remains a challenge due to high costs, lengthy development timelines, and uncertainty around scalability.

This panel will mark the official launch of the “Executive Blueprint to Scale Next Gen Materials,” a report developed by Fashion For Good in collaboration with BCG. The session will delve into the material mix of the future, offering a vision for the fibres and technologies that will define sustainable fashion. Key topics will include strategies for scaling these materials, overcoming barriers, and aligning innovation with market readiness.

Structure of the Session

The session will start with a presentation introducing the “Executive Blueprint to Scale Next Gen Materials,” including its key findings and implications for the industry. This will set the stage for a panel discussion with leading experts who will address the question: What collective actions are needed to drive the adoption of next-gen materials and realise the material mix of the future?

Objectives

1. Launch the “Executive Blueprint to Scale Next Gen Materials” and outline the envisioned fibre and material composition for a sustainable fashion industry.
2. Identify barriers to scaling next-gen materials, including economic, technical, and regulatory factors and explore opportunities to address them.
3. Encourage dialogue among brands, innovators, and supply chain partners to align efforts and resources for scaling next-gen materials.
4. Inspire participants to commit to collective action and individual initiatives that support the adoption of next-gen materials.
5. Highlight case studies or early successes in next-gen material adoption to demonstrate feasibility and potential impact.

Outcomes

1. Attendees gain a clear understanding of the steps needed to scale next-gen materials and the role they can play in this transition.
2. Provide a conceptual framework or practical steps for integrating next-gen materials into supply chains and product lines.
3. Strengthen connections between brands, innovators, and other stakeholders to foster partnerships and collaborations.
4. Encourage participants to set material sourcing targets and explore ways to incorporate next-gen materials into their business strategies.
5. Highlight the need for supportive policy frameworks and investment mechanisms to accelerate the adoption of sustainable materials.

Moderator

Ms. Katrin Ley, Managing Director, Fashion For Good

Speakers

1. Ms. Catharina Martínez-Pardo, Partner, Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
2. Ms. Sucharu Uppal, Joint President - Brands and Retail, Aditya Birla Group
3. Ms. Danique Lodewijks, Sustainable Raw Materials Manager, BESTSELLER
4. Ms Nidhi Dua, Sr. Director, Product Development & Sourcing-India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka- Levis Strauss
5. Mr. Punit Lalbhai, Executive Director, Arvind Limited



PD 04: GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS: CREATING STANDARDS NOT BARRIERS



Background

The textile industry operates within an increasingly interconnected global marketplace, where adherence to international quality standards is critical for ensuring competitiveness and fostering trust among consumers, manufacturers, and regulators. With the rise of global value chains, stringent quality norms have become essential to maintain product safety, durability, and sustainability. Standards such as ISO certifications, Oeko-Tex labels, and GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) play a pivotal role in defining the future of textiles by addressing both technical requirements and sustainability benchmarks.

The future of quality norms is shaped by technological advancements, environmental concerns, and evolving consumer preferences for traceability, transparency, and ethical sourcing. For emerging economies, particularly India, aligning with global standards offers a dual opportunity: expanding exports to international markets and elevating domestic manufacturing quality. However, challenges such as fragmented compliance frameworks, high costs of certification, and limited awareness among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) persist.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and standard-setting bodies to explore the development and adoption of global quality norms for textiles. It will examine the impact of these standards on the industry's growth, sustainability, and innovation while addressing the need for harmonised regulations to create a level playing field in the global market.

Objectives

1. Examine the Role of Quality Standards in Shaping the Future of Textiles.
2. Identify Challenges in Adopting Global Standards.
3. Explore the Integration of Sustainability into Quality Norms.
4. Promote Harmonisation of Quality Standards Across Regions.
5. Highlight Opportunities for Technological Innovation in Compliance.
6. Empower Indian Manufacturers to Lead in Global Standards Adoption.

Moderator

Mr. Rijit Sengupta, CEO, Centre for Responsible Business

Speakers

1. Mr. Arvind Rewal, Global Raw Materials Lead - Agriculture, IKEASupply
2. Mr. Vikram Joshi, Textile Technologist and Founder, Rangotri
3. Mr. Animesh Saxena, MD, Neetee Clothing
4. Ms. Natasha Majumdar, Network Representative India, Amfori
5. Ms. Sumita Ghose, Founder, Rangсутra

PD 45: CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN TEXTILES: GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES IN HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL ELIMINATION



Background

India boasts the world's second-largest textile manufacturing capacity, contributing 5% of global textile and apparel trade. With a market size of \$154 billion in 2023, the sector is expected to grow to \$350 billion by 2030, driven by abundant raw materials, skilled labor, and a rich heritage in textile craftsmanship.

Government initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, PM MITRA parks, and relaxed FDI norms (allowing 100% foreign direct investment) aim to attract global investment. Strategic trade agreements with key markets such as the UAE, Australia, ASEAN, and Japan further strengthen India's position as a textile investment hub.

Despite these strengths, challenges remain, including infrastructure gaps, meeting international sustainability standards, and the need for innovation to maintain competitiveness.

Structure of the Session

The discussion, led by a moderator and an esteemed panel of technical and industry experts, will explore strategies to overcome barriers to investment in India's textile sector. It will also highlight how to leverage India's unique strengths to position the country as a leading global hub for textile investments.

Objectives

The shift to a circular economy in textiles is essential for addressing environmental challenges associated with hazardous chemicals. Circularity focuses on eliminating waste, extending the lifecycle of materials, and restoring natural systems. By adopting global best practices in hazardous chemical management, the textile industry can align with these principles, paving the way for safer, more sustainable, and eco-friendly production processes.

Outcomes

1. Innovations such as bio-based dyes and non-toxic alternatives to conventional chemicals reduce environmental and health hazards while maintaining product quality.
2. Frameworks like ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) and certifications such as OEKO-TEX® ensure compliance with rigorous safety benchmarks.
3. Processes like waterless dyeing and chemical recycling minimize chemical waste and reduce dependency on virgin resources.
4. Industry leaders and stakeholders are coming together through platforms like the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) to share knowledge, tools, and strategies for chemical elimination.
5. Introduction and adherence to global frameworks like the Global Framework on Chemicals, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and REACH are instrumental in guiding the industry toward eliminating hazardous chemicals.



Moderator

Mr. Cristiano Pasini, Director and UNIDO Representative Sub Regional Office in India

Speakers

1. Ms. Ozunimi ITI, Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO, Vienna
2. Ms. YILIQI, Scientist & Senior Manager, Natural Resource Defence Council, Washington DC
3. Ms. Eva Benavidez Clayton, Senior Director, Better Cotton, Geneva
4. Mr. Salil Dutt, Chief Technical Advisor, UNIDO, Jakarta
5. Dr. Rahul Nabar, Adj. Professor (IIT Bombay, Chemical Engineering), Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
6. Ms. Barbara Oswald, Chief Commercial Officer, Bluesign, Geneva

WORKSHOP: INDIA: A GLOBAL CIRCULARITY HUB - DEVELOPING AND SCALING POST-CONSUMER TEXTILE WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Background**

As the momentum to scale and accelerate circularity in fashion grows, there have been increased calls to action from industry and investors to tap into the opportunity in the textile sector.

It is estimated that close to 90 million tonnes of textile waste is generated annually [1], resulting in a loss of over USD 500 billion for the fashion industry[2] at large. In India, studies suggest the country sees close to 7 million tonnes of textile waste being generated every year, a majority of which is post-consumer (~51%)[3].

In the EU and in countries that receive textile waste, such as India and Ghana, as well as fora such as the G7 and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), there are several discussions underway on policy solutions to address the sizable textile waste issue.

Laudes Foundation's partners across the globe are working to solve the issue of post-consumer waste - demonstrating best practices, enabling market linkages where possible, advocating for inclusive and implementable policy frameworks, and driving investment into the innovations and infrastructure needed for a circular transition.

Session Context

The session will bring together a diverse yet complementary set of actors working on different aspects of circularity and post-consumer waste management in textiles, spotlighting best practices and examples of "what good looks like". Our objective is to convene the relevant stakeholders within the ecosystem with the goal of creating a space to share, learn, and collaborate for action by outlining avenues for partnership.

Here are some examples of existing efforts within the ecosystem, some of which are supported by Laudes Foundation.

1. The development of an ecosystem for circularity in fashion through the Re-START Alliance, convened by Laudes Foundation bringing together Fashion for Good, Canopy, and IDH.
2. A first-of-its-kind pilot being led by IDH within the framework of the Re-START Alliance with 6 Urban Local Bodies in the state of Maharashtra – IN in partnership with SBI Foundation and the Ministry of Textiles – Government of India.

3. An initiative with sorters and collectors of textile waste (post-industrial and post-consumer) being led by Fashion for Good to develop the system to sort and feedback at least 68,000 tons of textile waste into the textile supply chain in India.
4. Investor engagement efforts by Canopy along with the India Impact Investors Council to support the investment community in seeing the value of waste & circularity businesses and innovations and supporting their scale through innovative finance in India.
5. Efforts around developing a policy white paper by the Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), CRB, and CEEW with the support of Laudes Foundation to create policy recommendations for textile waste cluster development in India.
6. An initiative to support the development of a sustainable business case for textile waste management by waste management social enterprises such as Saahas Zero Waste, WeVOIS, and GreenWorms in India being led by Upaya Social Ventures with the support of the Laudes Foundation.
7. H&M Foundation's work with twelve other organisations in Bangalore, Karnataka – IN aimed at supporting informal waste workers in dealing with post-consumer textile waste and supporting livelihood improvements which also includes efforts to set up facilities and build capacity with the Circular Apparel Innovation Factory by Intellectap.

Structure of the Session

An interactive half-day workshop with key stakeholders and representatives of stakeholders from across the circular fashion value chain.

Objectives

1. This will be the first of such convenings with follow-up sessions planned with stakeholders and a review of actions at the subsequent Bharat Tex.
2. Showcasing best practices in post-consumer waste management from efforts in India and globally.
3. Aligning industry stakeholders and other ecosystem actors towards a common agenda focused on post-consumer textile waste management.
4. Developing a roadmap to scale post-consumer textile waste management in India – finding ways to scale innovation, infrastructure, support enabling policies, and investment.

Outcomes

1. A shared understanding of industry priorities on circularity, current challenges, and opportunities around using post-consumer textile waste.
2. Alignment of goals and vision across a diverse set of organisations working in a fragmented manner on waste & circularity in fashion in the region.
3. A collaborative, implementable roadmap with key milestones to scaling the use of post-consumer textiles as feedstock for fashion in India. The actions outlined in the roadmap will be revisited at the subsequent Bharat Tex.



SUSTAINABILITY

Invited Attendees

1. Danique Lodewijks, BESTSELLER
2. Ms. Sham Sherif, Inditex
3. Mr. Avik Banerjee, H&M
4. Ms. Sucharu Uppal, Grasim Industries
5. Mr. Anant Ahuja, Shahi Exports
6. Mr. Anurag Gupta, USHA Yarns
7. Ms. Priyanka Singh, CEEW
8. Ms. Devyani Hari, CRB
9. Mr. Hilde van Duijn, Circle Economy
10. Ms. Sucharita Kamath, ANDE
11. Ms. Nicole Rycroft, Canopy
12. Ms. Shruti Singh, Canopy
13. Ms. Katrin Ley, Fashion for Good
14. Ms. Priyanka Khanna, Fashion for Good
15. Mr. Siddharth Lulla, CAIF
16. Ms. Gigi Mathews, Enviu
17. Ms. Anjali Krishnan, IDH
18. Ms. Shruti Goel, Upaya Social Ventures
19. Mr. Aman Bhaiya, SBI Foundation
20. Ms. Kathleen Rademan, Circ
21. Ms. Astha Kubele, Saahas Zero Waste
22. Mr. Shekar, Hasirudala
23. Mr. Akshay Gunteti, Greenworms
24. Mr. Ranjit Sasi, Reverse Resources
25. Mr. Rahul Mehta, CMAI
26. Ms. Fernanda Drumond, H&M Foundation
27. Ms. Chandrima Chatterjee, CITI
28. M. Sudhir Sekri, AEPC



INDUSTRY 5.0: TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTIVITY & SKILLS

PD 14: - TEXTILE MACHINERY: CAN INDIA BECOME A MACHINE MANUFACTURING HUB**Background**

The global textile machinery export market is valued at US\$ 29.26 Bn. in 2024. The export market is anticipated to hit a valuation of US\$ 30 Billion by 2025 whereas India's textile machinery export sector is demonstrating impressive growth with a valuation of US\$ 838 million in FY 2024.

India is currently showing export supremacy in exporting machinery for spinning, twisting, and yarn preparation and recorded an export value of US\$ 475 million in FY 2024 marking a remarkable growth of 23% compared to the previous fiscal. India's textile machinery exports account for a 17% share of total textile machinery trade whereas the imports have seen a decrease of 2.2% in 2023 compared to the previous year, thereby, showcasing the rise of the Indian Textile Engineering and Technology industry.

India currently being identified as the manufacturing hub for textiles, technical textiles, and apparel is all geared up to show its dominance in textile machinery manufacturing. Indian innovative brains are today at the chair boards of top global technology providers, it is time for the wings of knowledge wings to fly and assist India's textile engineering and technology segment to touch the horizon. The only way to channel India's vision of dominance in technology is by generating a solid framework for the textile engineering and technology mission.

Structure of the Session

Innovative technology will be introduced by the esteemed panel of technology experts and a Q & A session with the moderator will focus on identifying strategies to make India a manufacturing hub for textile engineering and technology machinery and also craft a vision for 2047 that will help build India as the dominant technology supplier for the textile industry.

Objectives

1. Establish Framework to make India the desired destination for manufacturing textile engineering and technology machinery.
2. Explore FDI & Technology transfer for textile machinery currently not manufactured in India. Target Import substitution through R & D or JV with International suppliers.
3. Draw a framework for the challenges faced by textile machinery manufacturers.
4. Showcase opportunities in the emerging technology sector. Understand the growth curve of these technologies.
5. Develop a roadmap for enhancing India's global competitiveness through innovation and green strategies.

Outcomes

1. Map the best technologies benefitting India and create an action plan for bringing these technologies manufacturing in India.
2. Identifying segments for R & D developments in Textile machinery as per the user industry needs.
3. Showcase endless opportunities in textile technological advancements that will enhance productivity, improve efficiency, and deliver excellence.
4. A structured plan for India by facilitating knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and joint ventures to become the machinery manufacturing hub.

Chair

Ms. Manisha Sensarma, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Mr. Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director, Suvin Expo LLP

Speakers

1. Mr. Mark Smith, Deputy Vice President-Sales, Karl Mayer
2. Mr. Surjit Singh Mahajan, Managing Director, Stäubli India Pvt. Ltd
3. Mr. M. S. Dadu, Chairman, ColorJet India Limited
4. Mr. Swen Schwenkner, Area Sales Manager, AndritzKusters
5. Mr. M. Sankar, Director (Operations) LMW limited
6. Mr. Debabrata Ghosh, Vice President and Sales Director, Oerlikon Textiles India.

PD 26: JUST TRANSITION FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF INDIAN TEXTILE SECTOR**Background**

Developing a supportive policy ecosystem to enable future green job growth and ensure a Just Transition is critical to sustain the competitiveness of India's textile sector and position the country as a responsible investment destination and trade partner. A Just Transition entails adoption of environmentally sustainable production and processing methods and the offering of green innovative products with low carbon footprints in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creates decent work opportunities and leaves no one behind. It also ensures that in the process of this transition, workers, employers and producers in jobs and occupations across the textile value chain that are reduced and phased out have pathways to transition to other viable employment through re- and upskilling and social protection coverage.

India enjoys global comparative advantage in the sector due to the presence of an extensive network of value chain players, that is, farm to processing to mill to garment or market. Larger and more formal businesses in the upper tiers of global supply chains have linkages with small enterprises and producers engaged in the production of goods and agricultural commodities the bulk of which are produced in informal work arrangements. Cotton, for instance, is labor-intensive, highly input-dependent, and vulnerable to pests and price fluctuations. Similarly, cotton textile processing is witnessing unprecedented changes due to the use of technology, AI for automation alongside clean production techniques necessitating skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling of workforce and decent work conditions.

To sustain competitiveness of the sector, therefore, a just transition approach across the value chain in textiles sector, and cotton farms builds on the foundation of social dialogue between workers, employers and government and is an essential step.

The panel discussion would highlight the integrated efforts made by the market actors towards this goal in India and globally and present the challenges and opportunities to be addressed collaboratively to minimise job and income loss due to climate change as well as India's commitment to a shift to environmentally sustainable business practises by underscoring global interventions and tangible solutions to advance equitable and sustainable development through cooperation among governments, businesses, workers, and other stakeholders.

Structure of the Session

Conversation led by the moderator. Panel structured to encourage open dialogue and deeper insights.

Objectives

The session will highlight ongoing efforts and explore potential collaborations to facilitate and accelerate a Just Transition in the sector, providing insights into global and national experiences advancing Just Transition and Responsible Business Practices.

Outcomes

1. Changes and solutions to promote safe, equitable, and sustainable working environments and assess future readiness of the textile sector.
2. Opportunities for collaboration at the national and global level.
3. Increased awareness of global best practices on just transition in the textile sector.

Moderator

Ms. Michiko Miyamoto, Director, ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia and Country Office for India

Speakers

1. Ms. Swapna Mishra, Chief Executive Officer, Textile Sector Skill Council
2. Mr Vivek Kumar Singh, Member – The Employers' Federation of India, Head of Sustainability – Grasim Textiles Business
3. Mr. Insaf Nizam, Specialist. International Labour Organization (ILO)

PD:32 UNSUNG WARRIORS: HOW LEVERAGING PRODUCTIVITY CAN LEAD TO ENHANCED COMPETITIVENESS



Background

Enterprise level productivity plays a significant role in the competitiveness of the business and sector as a whole. While the cost of key inputs like raw material and technology solutions follow global pricing norms and there are several factors effecting enterprise productivity, the major contributor to firm level competitiveness is human resource productivity. The Indian apparel industry lags behind global competitors like, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in terms of productivity. Estimates of RBC show that average factory can improve its productivity by 15% in one years time and about 30-50% over 3 years.

A high productivity paradigm not only improves cost competitiveness, profitability, and attracts investments, it also contributes to: sustainability through resource efficiency and decent employment creation thus contributing to SDG Goals.

For achieving significant improvement in productivity, it is crucial for the supply chain partners to work together to address challenges and drive out waste. The proposed panel discussion aims to bring together top voices and experts from apparel supply chains to share their perspective on the importance of productivity and how collaborative approaches can facilitate the creation of a productive, responsive, sustainable, and thus, a competitive industry that is good for all the stakeholders.

Structure of the Session

The panel discussion between the esteemed panel of technical/industry experts will focus

on identifying strategies for leveraging productivity for improving the competitiveness of the apparel industry for positioning it as an attractive investment and sourcing destination.

Objectives

1. Highlight Productivity benchmarks, status, and improvement opportunity available.
2. Establish link between skills, manufacturing productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness.
3. Share challenges for productivity improvement and remedial measures.
4. Examples of supply chain collaboration for improving productivity and competitiveness.
5. Develop a roadmap for enhancing productivity and competitiveness of the industry.

Outcomes

1. The discussion is expected to provide clear insights and evidence on the productivity improvement opportunity available, its impact on profitability and competitiveness for the industry.
2. Learning from the global case studies about the value of working together to improve productivity and sustainability.
3. Improved understanding of strategic roadmap for productivity and competitiveness enhancement.

Moderator

Dr. Rajesh Bheda, MD, Rajesh Bheda Consulting

Speakers

1. Mr. Siva Ganapathi, MD, Gokaldas Exports
2. Ms. Deepika Diwan, Sourcing Strategist
3. Mr. Suchira Surendranath, Director Strategy & Investment Brandix Limited
4. Mr. Pallab Banerjee Managing Director, Pearl Global
5. Mr. Elango Viswanathan, CEO, SNQS international

PD 37: UNHEARD VOICES: HOW INDIA'S UNORGANISED TEXTILE SECTOR IS DRIVING GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT



Background

India, a global textile powerhouse, has the world's second-largest textile manufacturing capacity and accounts for 5% of global trade in textiles and apparel. With a market size of \$154 billion in 2023, the sector is projected to reach \$350 billion by 2030. India's textile sector is a cornerstone of its economy, employing millions and contributing significantly to GDP. However, the sector is largely unorganised, with a vast number of small-scale units and informal workers. This unorganised sector often operates outside the purview of formal regulations and social safety nets.

These sectors comprise a majority of the textile industry, including handloom weavers, garment makers, and small-scale factories. Despite limited resources and access to technology, the unorganised sector plays a crucial role in driving India's textile exports and domestic consumption. It provides employment to a large segment of the population, particularly in rural and marginalised communities. The sector faces numerous challenges, including lack of access to credit, skill development, quality orientation and markets. Highlighting the contributions and challenges of the unorganised sector is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to address the sector's needs and ensure its sustainable growth.



The majority of entrepreneurs in these Unorganised Clusters are not aware of Government initiatives and schemes. There are small interventions which are required to make some of the Champions units in these Unorganised Clusters to take them to next level.

Structure of the Session

This discussion conducted by a moderator and the esteemed panel of Voices from the Ground who are entrepreneurs/technical/industry experts working in different unorganised clusters,—will focus on identifying the challenges being faced by their respective clusters and identifying strategies to overcome these barriers, leveraging their unique strengths for growth.

Objectives

1. Highlight the significance of the unorganised sector: To shed light on the significant role of India's unorganised textile sector in driving economic growth, employment generation, and catering to the needs of low and middle-income segment consumers.
2. Need for Quantification of contribution from the unorganised sector: To quantify the contribution of the unorganised textile sector to India's GDP and employment, and identify clusters having a large gamut of the unorganised sector.
3. Identify challenges of the Sector and possible mitigation : To arrive at broad challenges faced by the Unorganised Sector such as Sourcing, Quality Standardisation, Market Linkages in respective clusters and explore options to mitigate these challenges.
4. Explore policy interventions and reforms: To explore the impact of government policies and regulations on the unorganised textile sector, and to advocate for policy reforms and interventions to empower workers in the unorganised textile sector.
5. Showcase growth opportunities: To explore and showcase the vast growth opportunities in terms of business growth, improvement in working conditions, the role of technology and innovation in transforming the unorganised textile sector.
6. Indicate a roadmap for growth: To develop a roadmap for awareness among the unorganised sector for taking them on a growth path by supporting Champion units for scaling up and showcasing them as role models to others.

Outcomes

1. Leveraging strengths of the Unorganised sector: A detailed analysis of the inherent strengths of the Unorganised sector, such as abundant skilled/unskilled labor, abundant raw materials, and a rich textile heritage and how these can be leveraged to drive growth.
2. Acknowledging the contribution of the Unorganised sector: Recognition of the scale and impact of the significant size of the unorganised textile sector and its substantial contribution to India's economy in terms of GDP, employment, and exports.
3. Identifying challenges and issues: Identification of challenges and issues faced by the Unorganised sector, such as low wages and poor working conditions, lack of social security and benefits limited market access, price fluctuations and competition, access to credit, lack of access to latest technology and innovation.
4. Improving market access: Suggestions for improving market access for Unorganised sector players, such as access to credit and investment, technology, and information and collective bargaining and organisation of workers in the Unorganised sector.
5. Utilising existing government initiatives: Insights into utilising existing government initiatives and benefits including the financial incentives given to MSMEs, access to credit, and schemes for the skilling of manpower.
6. Roadmap for growth: A roadmap for awareness among the Unorganised sector for

taking them on a growth path by supporting Champion units for scaling up and showcasing them as role models to others.

Moderator

Mr. Ravi Bhushan Arora, MD TBD

Speakers

1. Mr. Alope Bhatnagar, Representing Pali & Balotra
2. Mr. Amit Bohra, Representing Pali & Balotra
3. Mr. Manjeet Singh, Representing Saharanpur Hosiery Cluster
4. Mr. Kanwal Aggi, Representing Loni, Jafrabad, Gandhi Nagar Garment Cluster

PD 22: FUTURE FACTORIES: FUELED BY SMART MANUFACTURING AND INNOVATION



Background

The textile industry is undergoing a paradigm shift driven by advancements in smart manufacturing and innovation. Future factories are leveraging technologies such as automation, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and data analytics to revolutionise production processes, enhance efficiency, and minimise environmental impact. Globally, the market for smart manufacturing in textiles is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12%, reflecting the increasing adoption of Industry 4.0 principles across the sector.

India's textile industry, contributing approximately 7% to the country's GDP stands at the cusp of this transformation. With initiatives like PM MITRA parks and government incentives promoting technology-driven growth, the Indian textile sector is primed to adopt smart manufacturing practices. The integration of digital tools in areas like predictive maintenance, real-time monitoring, and advanced materials development is helping to meet global demands for sustainable and high-quality textile products. However, challenges such as high capital costs, skill gaps, and infrastructure limitations remain critical hurdles to widespread adoption.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will examine how smart-manufacturing and technological innovation are shaping the future of textiles—empowering India to compete globally while driving sustainable and efficient production practices.

Objectives

1. Explore the Role of Technology in Transforming Textile Manufacturing.
2. Showcase Successful Smart Manufacturing Models.
3. Address Barriers to Adoption of Smart Manufacturing.
4. Highlight the Impact of Smart Manufacturing on Sustainability.
5. Promote Government and Industry Collaboration.
6. Envision the Future of Indian Textile Factories in the Global Market.

Chair

Shri. Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Dr. Christian Schindler, Director General, ITMF, Switzerland

Speakers

1. Mr. Joachim Hensch, Sr. Consultant (Digital Manufacturing), Gherzi Textil Organisation
2. Mr. Gilberto Loureiro, Co-founder & CEO, Smartex, Portugal



3. Mr. Akhil Sivanandan, CEO, Green Story
4. Mr. Fritz Legler, Textile Marketing Officer - Global Head of Marketing, Sales & Service WPS, Stäubli Sargans, Switzerland
5. Dr Ing Yves-Simon Gloy, RWTH Aachen University, Germany
6. Mr. Greg Hanson, CEO, Browzwear, USA
7. Mr. Max Easton Global Innovation Director, SMARTEX

PD 34: AI in Fashion: Reinventing the Fabric of Tomorrow



Background

The fashion industry is undergoing a transformation due to the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and innovative technologies. AI enhances creativity, efficiency, and sustainability in design, production, marketing, and customer experience. It also optimises fabric cutting, minimises waste, and streamlines supply chain logistics. AI-driven insights enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty while reducing the industry's environmental footprint.

AI is revolutionising the fashion industry by enabling smart textiles, virtual try-ons, predictive trend analysis, and digital fashion. These technologies enable customers to try on garments virtually, reducing returns and enhancing online shopping experiences. However, AI also presents ethical concerns, potential loss of traditional craftsmanship, and workforce displacement. However, these challenges present opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and skill development. Bharat Tex, a platform celebrating the convergence of traditional textiles and contemporary design sees AI's role as essential for integrating India's textile heritage, promoting sustainable practices, positioning Indian fashion at the forefront of global trends, and creating scalable opportunities for artisans and designers. AI and innovation in fashion are not just about adapting to a digital future; they are about preserving and reimagining the cultural and creative essence of fashion for future generations.

Structure of the Session

Discussion will be focus on how fashion brands can use AI to track the entire journey of garments, ensuring they are recycled and do not end up in landfills. It will highlight AI solutions for monitoring sustainability and promoting circular fashion practices.

Objectives

1. To discuss AI's impact and Future Road map for the fashion industry
2. The integration of AI and technology makes smart textiles, virtual try-ons, and predictive trend analysis possible.
3. AI plays a crucial role in enhancing online shopping experiences and minimizing returns.
4. Presents ethical concerns and potential loss of traditional craftsmanship.
5. Provides opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and skill development.
6. AI and innovation in fashion preserve and reimagine the cultural and creative essence of fashion.

Chair

Mr. Philippa Abeles, Senior Vice President Sourcing & Operations, Geniemode

Moderator

Mr. Varun Vaid, Business Director, Wazir Advisors

Speakers

1. Dr. Satya Banerjee, Course Leader MSc Fashion Analytics and Forecasting, London College of Fashion, UK
2. Dr. Kamyar Shirvani Moghaddam, Associate Dean, Learning & Teaching, Department of Fashion & Textiles, RMIT Melbourne, Australia
3. Mr. Rajiv Bajaj, Managing Director, Strataysys India & South East Asia
4. Dr. Angshuman Ghosh, Founder and CEO of MENRV.AI



PD: 28 - INNOVATING FOR TOMORROW: CATALYSING SUCCESS THROUGH TEXTILE START-UPS



Background

The global textile industry is at a pivotal moment with emerging technologies, sustainability imperatives, and shifting consumer preferences reshaping the landscape. As in other sectors, start-ups in Textiles and related sectors have been at the forefront of creating this change. They are contributing in multiple ways including developing innovative solutions that address critical challenges such as resource efficiency, waste reduction, and circular economy integration. From creating bio-engineered fabrics and smart textiles to advancing eco-friendly dyeing techniques and closed-loop production systems, these ventures are setting new benchmarks for the industry. India, with its deep-rooted textile heritage and a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem, is uniquely positioned to become a global hub for textile innovation. The government's initiatives, such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and support for technical textiles, have further accelerated the growth of start-ups in this sector.

The contribution of start-ups can be seen across the value chain from upstream raw materials to the final products used by the end consumer. As innovation proceeds at a rapid pace, it becomes all the important to leverage the unique skills and strengths of start-ups to make an impact in the global textiles industry.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will delve into the role of startups as catalysts for change in the textile industry. It will bring together industry experts, investors, policymakers, and successful entrepreneurs to discuss the impact that start-ups have been able to create and the potential for the future.

Objectives

1. To explore the transformative role of start-ups in driving innovation within the textile sector.
2. To highlight emerging trends, technologies, and sustainable practices shaping the future of the global textile industry.
3. To facilitate knowledge sharing among industry leaders, start-up founders, investors, and academia on overcoming challenges such as access to capital, market visibility, and regulatory barriers.
4. To identify actionable strategies for fostering cross-sector collaborations and scaling innovative solutions in the textile ecosystem.

Outcomes

1. A deeper understanding of how start-ups can contribute to the growth and evolution of the textile industry through innovation and technology.
2. Insights into successful case studies and best practices from start-ups.
3. Practical recommendations for addressing key challenges faced by start-ups in the textile sector, including funding, market access, and policy support.
4. Strengthened connections between stakeholders, paving the way for future collaborations and partnerships to accelerate innovation in the textile industry.

Moderator

Prof. Thillai Rajan A, Professor, IIT Madras

Speakers

1. Prof. Ashwini K. Agrawal, IIT Delhi
2. Mr. Akshya Shree, Founder, Silpakarman
3. Mr. Durga Charan Das, Founder, STITCHMES
4. Mr. Shreyans Kokra, CanvaLoop

Fire Side Chat

Speakers

1. Mr. Venkatesalu, CEO, ZUDIO TATA Clothing Retail Stores
2. Ms. Nandita Sinha, CEO, Myntra
3. Mr. Akhilesh Prasad, CEO, Reliance Trends
4. Mr. T.V. Mohandas Pai, Infosys
5. Mr. Swapnil Srivastav, Founder, Kidbea
6. Mr. Gautam Saraog, Go colors
7. Mr. Sivaramakrishnan Ganapath, Gokaldas Exports Ltd.
8. Mr. Viney Singh, Managing Director, Fabindia

AAVARTAN: THE INDIAN TEXTILE STARTUP COMPENDIUM



Background

The global textile industry is undergoing a transformation driven by technological advancements, sustainability demands, and evolving consumer expectations. Startups in the textile and related sectors are leading this transformation, offering innovative solutions that address challenges such as resource efficiency, waste reduction, and the integration of circular economy principles. India, with its deep-rooted textile heritage and growing entrepreneurial ecosystem, has emerged as a hub for textile innovation.

AAVARTAN: The Bharat Tex 2025 Textile Startup Compendium

CREST at IIT Madras proposes to map the landscape of over 3,000 textile-related startups in India and assess their contributions to job creation, revenue generation, innovations, and investments. Through Aavartan - compendium to be unveiled at Bharat Tex 2025, this initiative aims to document and showcase the most innovative textile startups, highlighting their impact on transforming the textile ecosystem. Aavartan will not only recognise these startups' contributions but also support the creation of a sustainable and vibrant startup ecosystem, offering insights into trends, enablers, and challenges shaping the industry's future.

Objectives

1. Highlight the transformative role of startups in driving innovation within the textile sector.
2. Document emerging trends, technologies, and sustainable practices shaping the industry's future.
3. Create a platform for knowledge sharing among startups, industry leaders, investors, and academia.
4. Strengthen the ecosystem by fostering cross-sector collaborations and scaling innovative solutions.

Proposed Structure

1. A curated selection of startups contributing to various domains of textiles, such as sustainable textiles, smart textiles, technical textiles, and eco-friendly practices.
2. Comprehensive case studies and success stories highlighting innovative solutions and their impact.
3. Expert insights from policymakers, industry leaders, and investors to provide a holistic perspective.
4. Networking opportunities for startups to connect with potential collaborators and stakeholders.
5. Startups can apply to be part of the compendium. All applications will undergo a rigorous selection process to ensure a high-quality showcase of innovations.

Expected Outcomes

1. A comprehensive and prestigious compendium showcasing the innovation and potential of Indian textile startups.
2. Increased visibility and credibility for startups among key stakeholders in the textile ecosystem.
3. Strengthened connections between industry leaders, startups, and policymakers,



STARTUP & INNOVATION

- paving the way for future collaborations.
4. Practical strategies for addressing challenges faced by start-ups such as funding, market access, and regulatory hurdles.

SUTRADHAR - PITCH FEST



Background

The textile industry in India, renowned for its rich heritage and innovative capabilities, is undergoing rapid transformation with the emergence of startups. To celebrate and promote this evolution, 12 Indian Textile Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), supported by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, have organised Bharat Tex, India's largest global textile event. This event showcases India's leadership in sustainable manufacturing, textile heritage, and economic growth, underscoring the nation's commitment to the 5F Vision: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

Bharat Tex serves as a global platform not only to highlight India's textile sector capabilities but also to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. By offering startups an avenue to present their innovations, gain exposure, and connect with global markets, Bharat Tex is creating a robust ecosystem for startups to thrive.

Structure of the Session

The Sutradhar Pitch Fest will provide a dynamic platform for startups in the textile sector to pitch their ventures to investors in a high-energy, "Shark Tank" style format.

Format

1. Each startup will have 8 minutes to present their venture, followed by 4 minutes for Q&A and discussions with the investors.
2. Investors will express their interest confidentially after each pitch, ensuring a balance of excitement and privacy.
3. While the total number of investors showing interest in a startup will be displayed publicly to build anticipation, the identities of these investors will only be shared with the respective founders for follow-up discussions.

Session Plan:

1. The pitch fest will be divided into two sessions, each lasting approximately 90 minutes.
2. A total of 15–20 startups will have the opportunity to pitch during the event.

Objectives

1. To offer a platform for startups to showcase their innovations to potential investors and global audiences.
2. To foster connections between startups, investors, and key stakeholders in the textile ecosystem.
3. To highlight the transformative role of startups in shaping India's textile industry through innovation and sustainability.
4. To create opportunities for startups to secure funding, gain visibility, and expand their market reach.

Outcomes

1. Startups will gain access to interested investors, paving the way for funding discussions and potential partnerships.
2. Participants will gain global exposure by presenting their ideas at India's largest textile event.
3. Startups will receive feedback and insights from seasoned investors, helping them refine their business strategies.
4. By connecting startups with investors and stakeholders, Bharat Tex will strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the textile sector.
5. The success stories and innovative ideas shared during the pitch fest will inspire and encourage aspiring entrepreneurs in the textile domain.



ART, CRAFT & WEAVES

PD 27: CRAFT, GENDER AND SUSTAINABILITY: HOW WOMEN ARTISANS FROM HANDLOOM AND HANDICRAFT CLUSTERS ARE CREATING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



Background

India's handloom and handicraft sectors are a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage and unparalleled craftsmanship. Women artisans play a pivotal role in preserving these traditions, often working in rural and semi-urban clusters. Beyond safeguarding India's cultural identity, their work drives economic empowerment and supports sustainable livelihoods. As global markets shift toward sustainability, the demand for eco-friendly, handcrafted products is growing, creating new opportunities for women artisans. This session will explore the journeys of these women, their contributions to sustainability, and the challenges they face in scaling their craft while ensuring environmental and economic resilience.

Structure of the Session

This panel will spotlight the voices of women artisans from textile clusters, exploring how traditional craftsmanship can drive sustainable livelihoods. The discussion will emphasise the role of eco-friendly production in preserving heritage crafts while fostering economic empowerment and environmental sustainability.

Objectives

1. Highlighting the role of women in preserving traditional crafts and their contributions to sustainable practices.
2. Discussion on how eco-friendly production methods are creating lasting economic opportunities.
3. Addressing barriers such as market access, financial support, and skill development faced by women artisans.
4. Examining how collaborations, training programs, and policy interventions can support women in scaling their craft sustainably.
5. Showcasing the potential of traditional crafts in meeting international demand for sustainable and unique products.

Chair

Ms. Susan Ferguson, Representative from UN Women

Co-Chair

Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner, Handloom, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Ms. Shaguna Gahilote, Program Analyst, UN Women

Speakers

1. Ms. Amuthavalli, Secretary Handlooms, Tamil Nadu Government
2. Mr. Franck Viault, Minister Counsellor, Head of EU
3. Mr. Hari Kumar, Head of Sustainability & Governance, H&M Group India
4. Ms. Iasishah Rymbai, Founder and Director, Eriweave Pvt. Ltd.
5. Ms. Zahida Amin, Managing Director, Naie Kiran Shawl Embroidery Works
6. Dr. Sudha Dhingra, Dean, NIFT



PD 17: THE FUTURE OF TEXTILES- MAN MADE FIBRES- CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Background**

The global textile industry is witnessing a significant shift towards man-made fibres (MMFs) as they increasingly dominate the market due to their versatility, durability, and cost-effectiveness. With environmental concerns reshaping consumer preferences, MMFs, particularly those derived from recycled or sustainable materials, are emerging as critical solutions for the future of textiles. India, already a major player in the MMF segment, has the potential to further enhance its position by addressing challenges such as raw material sourcing, technological gaps, and compliance with global sustainability standards. This session will explore the evolving role of MMFs in shaping the future of the textile industry, focusing on innovation, investment, and sustainability.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will explore the cutting-edge advancements in man-made fibres, focusing on their implications for functionality, sustainability, and the future of the global textile landscape.

Objectives

1. Analysing the growing demand for man-made fibres and their role in shaping the global textile landscape.
2. Discussion on innovations in sustainable MMF production and the transition to eco-friendly materials.
3. Identifying key barriers, such as supply chain inefficiencies and technological limitations impacting the MMF sector.
4. Examining opportunities for India to enhance its global footprint in MMFs.
5. Facilitate dialogue between industry stakeholders, innovators, and policymakers to create a robust MMF ecosystem.

Chair

Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Mr. Shobhit Agrawal, Partner, KPMG in India

Speakers

1. Mr. N. K. Panda, MD, Maccaferri Environmental Solution
2. Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO, BMD Pvt Ltd
3. Mr. Bhadresh Dodhia, Co-chairman, Bharat Tex and Chairman, MATEXIL
4. Mr. Surya Valluri, President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Aditya Birla Group
5. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Markanday, Major Projects, Trident Group
6. Mr. Harel Paul Talmor, Vice President - Business Development, Nilit Industries Asia

PD 11: SPECIALTY FIBRES & COMPOSITES: INNOVATION & INDIGENISATION

**Background**

Specialty fibres and composites represent the cutting edge of textile and material science offering enhanced performance properties that cater to diverse applications in sectors such as aerospace, defense, automotive, healthcare, and construction. Unlike conventional fibres, specialty fibres such as carbon, aramid, basalt, and ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene (UHMWPE) are engineered for specific functionalities, including high strength-to-weight ratios, thermal resistance, and chemical durability. When combined with composite technologies, these fibres enable the creation of advanced materials that are lightweight yet incredibly robust.

In recent years, the global demand for specialty fibres and composites has surged due to their critical role in addressing modern challenges including sustainability, efficiency, and technological advancement. For India, indigenising the production of specialty fibres and composites presents a dual opportunity: reducing reliance on imports and positioning the country as a leader in this high-value sector. Investments in R&D, skill development, and the establishment of domestic manufacturing facilities can enhance India's competitiveness in this domain, aligning with the "Make in India" initiative and fostering self-reliance in advanced materials.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will delve into the latest innovations in specialty fibres and composites, emphasising the importance of indigenisation to meet domestic and global demands. The dialogue will also explore the collaboration between industries, research institutions, and policymakers to accelerate advancements in this field, fostering economic growth and technological leadership.

Objectives

1. Highlight Innovations in Specialty Fibres and Composites.
2. Promote Indigenisation of High-Performance Materials.
3. Examine the Role of Specialty Fibres in Sustainability.
4. Bridge Industry and Research for Advanced Material Development.
5. Address Challenges in Scaling Up Production.
6. Position India as a Global Leader in Specialty Materials.

Chair

Ms. Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Department of Bio - Technology

Moderator

Mr. Prashant Agarwal

Speakers

1. Prof. Bastian Quattelbaum, Professor, Hochschule Niederrhein University
2. Mr. Shyamlal Patnaik, Joint President, Aditya Birla Group
3. Mr. Siddharth Gupta, Business Development Head, Barnet India
4. Mr. Gurpreet Bhatia, President & CEO, Advance Material Division, Arvind Pvt Ltd
5. Mr. Kiran warrior, Global Category Head-Advanced Textiles, Welspun
6. Dr. B. K. Behera, Director TIT Bhiwani, (Former HOD IIT Delhi, Textiles, Composite specialty)

PD: 15 - COTTON VALUE CHAIN: GLOBAL TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES



Background

The cotton industry plays a vital role in the global textile and apparel ecosystem serving as the backbone of economic development in several countries, including India. India is the largest producer of cotton globally and accounts for about 23% of the world's cotton production. This session at Bharat Tex 2025 aims to provide insights into the current trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the cotton value chain. It will serve as a platform for stakeholders across the spectrum—producers, manufacturers, standard owners, and brands to discuss innovative strategies and future pathways for sustainable growth.

Structure of the Session

This discussion conducted by a moderator and the esteemed panel of technical/industry experts will focus on identifying strategies for sustainable sourcing, global collaboration across the supply chain for ensuring maximum impact of sustainability, shaping demand for cotton textiles through transparency & story telling to overcome these barriers, leveraging India's unique strengths and positioning the country as a global textile investment hub.

Objectives

1. Synopsis of the global situation in terms of cotton acreage, production, trends, etc.
2. Highlight India's competitive advantages in the cotton textile sector.
3. Need for aligning with global standards of sustainability & traceability.
4. Underline the expanding uses of cotton beyond traditional textiles.
5. Foster collaboration between various stakeholders for maximum impact.

Outcomes

1. This session will delve into how India, as a leading player, can leverage its strengths to address the hurdles and embrace innovative strategies to remain competitive in the evolving global landscape.
2. Promoting the benefits of sustainable cotton to drive demand and encourage responsible consumption.
3. Insights into meeting stringent environmental and social compliance standards required by international buyers especially in the EU.
4. Highlighting growth areas such as technical textiles, sustainable fashion, and digital supply chain integration which offer significant potential for investment and expansion.
5. Opportunities for collaborations and partnerships across stakeholders for maximum impact and benefit.

Moderator

Mr. Eric Trachtenberg, Executive Director, ICAC

Speakers

1. Ms. Jyoti Narain Kapoor - Country Head, BCI
2. Ms. Anne Raudaskoski, Co-Founder, Ethica Oy,
3. Mr. Sisira Kaluarachchi - Sourcing & Supply Chain, Foundation Garments (Hela Clothing)
4. Mr. Arvind Rewal, Global Raw Material Leader, IKEA
5. Mr. Raman Bhalla, India Head, Louis Dreyfus Company
6. Mr. Raghav Agarwal, Director, Salona Group



TECHNICAL TEXTILE

TECHNICAL TEXTILE

PD 18: MOBILTECH - THE NEW SUNRISE SECTOR—OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



Background

The global technical textile market valued at US\$ 218 billion in 2021/22 is experiencing robust growth at a rate of 5%, outpacing conventional textiles which grow at 1-2%. Non-wovens account for over 35% of the total technical textile market value and are expanding at a rate exceeding 5%. The Indian technical textile industry, worth USD 18 billion, is growing at an impressive 13% CAGR. Recognising the sector's potential, the government has identified technical textiles as a focus area and introduced various incentives and support measures to stimulate demand and attract investments in this rapidly emerging sector. Key initiatives include capital subsidies under TUFS, the establishment of the National Technical Textiles Mission, and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

Within the technical textiles domain, the Mobiletech sector (Automotive, Aircraft, Truck, Railway, Coach, Caravan) stands out as a dynamic and rapidly evolving field, with a market size of US\$ 38 billion. This sector focuses on integrating textile technology, supply chain management, and nomination and certification management within the mobility and transportation industries. Mobiletech encompasses a diverse range of applications including airbags and seat belts, carpets and acoustic insulation, seat covers and headliners, hoses and belts, tire cords, and filters for liquids and air. The market is expanding, driven by shifting regional demand in mobility markets and the increasing adoption of advanced materials (e.g., lightweight or sustainable materials) within the mobility industry.

The thematic panel will discuss the growth drivers for technical textiles in mobility markets and argue about opportunities and challenges facing the Indian tech tex industry in this domain.

Structure of the Session

The format of the panel with a duration of 60 minutes will be interactive and will be divided into five segments:

1. Introduction by Chairman (5 min)
2. Introduction by Moderator (10 min)
3. Contributions by Speakers (5 min each)
4. Panel Discussion (10 min)
5. Q&A with Audience (10 min)

Objectives and outcomes

1. Highlight key trends and products included in the Mobiltech sector.
2. What are growth drivers for the mobility market.
3. Discuss the positioning of India in this respect, its potential and challenges.
4. Discuss investment opportunities in Mobiltech segment.
5. Explore roadmap for the Indian textile industry.

Chair

Shri. Rajiv Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Moderator

Mr. Hendrik van Delden, Partner, Gherzi

Speakers

1. Mr. Steven Schiffman, CEO, Advanced Textil Association, USA
2. Dr. Thomas Gries, Director, ITA, RWTC Aachen University, Germany
3. Dr. Yves Gloy, Gherzi, Germany
4. Mr. Pradeep Chhajerh, COO, TESCA Textile and Seat Components
5. Mr. Ajay Sardana, President, Reliance Industries



FASHION



PD30: INDIAN CINEMA AND FASHION: TRANSFORMING REEL TO REAL



Background

Bollywood, the heart of Indian cinema, has been a powerful driver of fashion trends and cultural expression for decades. From the classic styles of the 1950s to the contemporary fusion of tradition and modernity, Bollywood has consistently influenced Indian fashion. Iconic movies and stars have showcased everything from opulent handloom saris to cutting-edge designs, seamlessly blending India's rich textile heritage with global influences.

Beyond shaping domestic trends, Bollywood has served as a cultural ambassador, introducing Indian fashion to international audiences. Bollywood-inspired fashion has found its way to global runways, red carpets, and everyday wardrobes, contributing significantly to the global appeal of Indian textiles, handlooms, and couture. The industry's collaboration with Indian designers has further propelled India's fashion narrative, highlighting the synergy between cinema and textiles.

Structure of the Session

This panel discussion will delve into how Bollywood has become a defining glamour quotient of Indian fashion, influencing trends, empowering designers, and amplifying the global reach of Indian fashion and textiles.

Objectives

1. Explore Bollywood's Influence on Indian Fashion Evolution.
2. Highlight the Global Impact of Bollywood-Inspired Fashion.
3. Showcase Collaborations Between Bollywood and Indian Designers.
4. Discuss Bollywood's Role in Preserving Textile Heritage.
5. Address the Challenges of Fast Fashion and Cultural Representation.
6. Celebrate Bollywood as a Cultural Bridge.

Chair

Mr. Gulshan Devaiah

Moderator

Ms. Theia Tekchandaney

Speakers

1. Mr. Darshan Jalan
2. Mr. Pushpdeep Bhardwaj
3. Ms. Archana Rao

PD 35: THE INFLUENCE OF INFLUENCERS: SOCIAL MEDIA IN FASHION



Background

Tim Berners-Lee's vision was the "web as a powerful force for social change and individual creativity". With 4.65 bn of the 5.17 bn global internet population on social media and the total amount of data consumed globally likely to reach 181 zettabytes by 2025, businesses are giving adequate importance to creating content and communities on social media for trade and commerce. The Indian market, with its 50 percent of connected people, which is a significant group, is also manifesting the marketing efforts on social media like other countries.

Structure of the Session

A moderator and a distinguished panel of technical and business experts will lead this conversation. With an emphasis on fashion, the conversation will explore the benefits and drawbacks of social media adoption by businesses and consumers. The session will begin with a keynote address on the media's future developments, followed by use cases of Kutch's rural entrepreneurs, recent student entrepreneurs who became social media-savvy, and new job roles and opportunities on social media. Furthermore, the review of India's IT Act, data privacy concerns, and advertising standards will all be covered. The panel discussion will end with an open house for a question-and-answer session engaging the live audience. Total Duration: 60 to 90 mins.

Objectives

Finding answers to these key questions:

1. Are India's fashion brand stories good enough to capture the attention of global consumers.
2. Which are the new media? Which is more effective.
3. Cite Some good brand stories told.
4. Will stories be sufficient, importance of insights.
5. Role of virtual influencers.

Outcomes

1. Understanding Social Media's Impact: Explore the significance of social media for Indian garment and textile exporters and how it shapes their marketing strategies.
2. Job Opportunities for Fashion Students: Discuss emerging job roles and career paths available for fashion students in the evolving industry landscape.
3. Integration of Influencers and Ad Agencies: Analyse the relationship between the influencer community and advertising

Chair

Ms. Tanu Kashyap, Director General, NIFT

Co-Chair

Ms. Rachael Gentner Creative Director of Activewear, Fashion Snoops

Moderator

Mr. Yuvraj Dua, Influencer

Speakers

1. Mr. Viren Razdan, Managing Director, Brand-nomics
2. Mr. Harsh Pamnani, Marketing Head T-Hub, Brand consultant
3. Mr. Siddharth Batra, Fashion & Beauty Digital Content Creator
4. Ms. Dolly Singh, Content creator and Actor



PD 10: NO MORE MISFITS- HOW INDIA'S OWN SIZE CHARTS WILL LEAD TO BETTER FITS AND IMPROVED E-COMMERCE



Background

The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, sanctioned the "National Sizing Survey of India" project to the National Institute of Fashion Technology, H.O, New Delhi, in May 2017 under its Research and Development scheme. The project's primary objective was to develop a comprehensive body size chart based on measurements of the Indian population, aiming to enhance the fitting of ready-to-wear garments.

The project concluded successfully in 2023. Project excerpts will be unveiled during the Bharat Tex event to disseminate the outcomes of this national initiative. The Clothing Manufacturing Association of India (CMAI) played an integral role and actively participated at every stage, including overseeing and validating the project deliverables. A panel discussion titled "Unlocking Opportunities: 'INDIAsize' Revolutionising the Apparel Fashion Business Landscape" is conducted in this context. This discussion aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how INDIAsize can transform the fashion and apparel industry. This includes discussing the project's impact on sizing standardization, consumer satisfaction, and stakeholder readiness for its implementation. The panel will also highlight the relevance of the project's findings and deliverables in the Indian context, as well as its potential impact on the apparel fashion business landscape.

Objectives

The panel discussion, titled "Unlocking Opportunities: 'INDIAsize' Revolutionizing the Apparel Fashion Business Landscape" will delve into the transformative potential of INDIAsize in the apparel sector. The discourse will encompass a detailed exploration of the advantages that INDIAsize offers, including its impact on sizing standardisation, production efficiency, and consumer satisfaction. The panel will assess the current industry needs, gauging the readiness of stakeholders to adopt INDIAsize standards, and discuss the practical implications of its integration. Additionally, the discussion will underline the relevance of the study, emphasizing the crucial role of standardized sizing in the Indian context and how it contributes to informed decision-making within the fashion and economic domains. Overall, the panel aims to provide insights into how INDIAsize can revolutionize the fashion landscape and contribute to broader economic advancements in India.

Outcomes

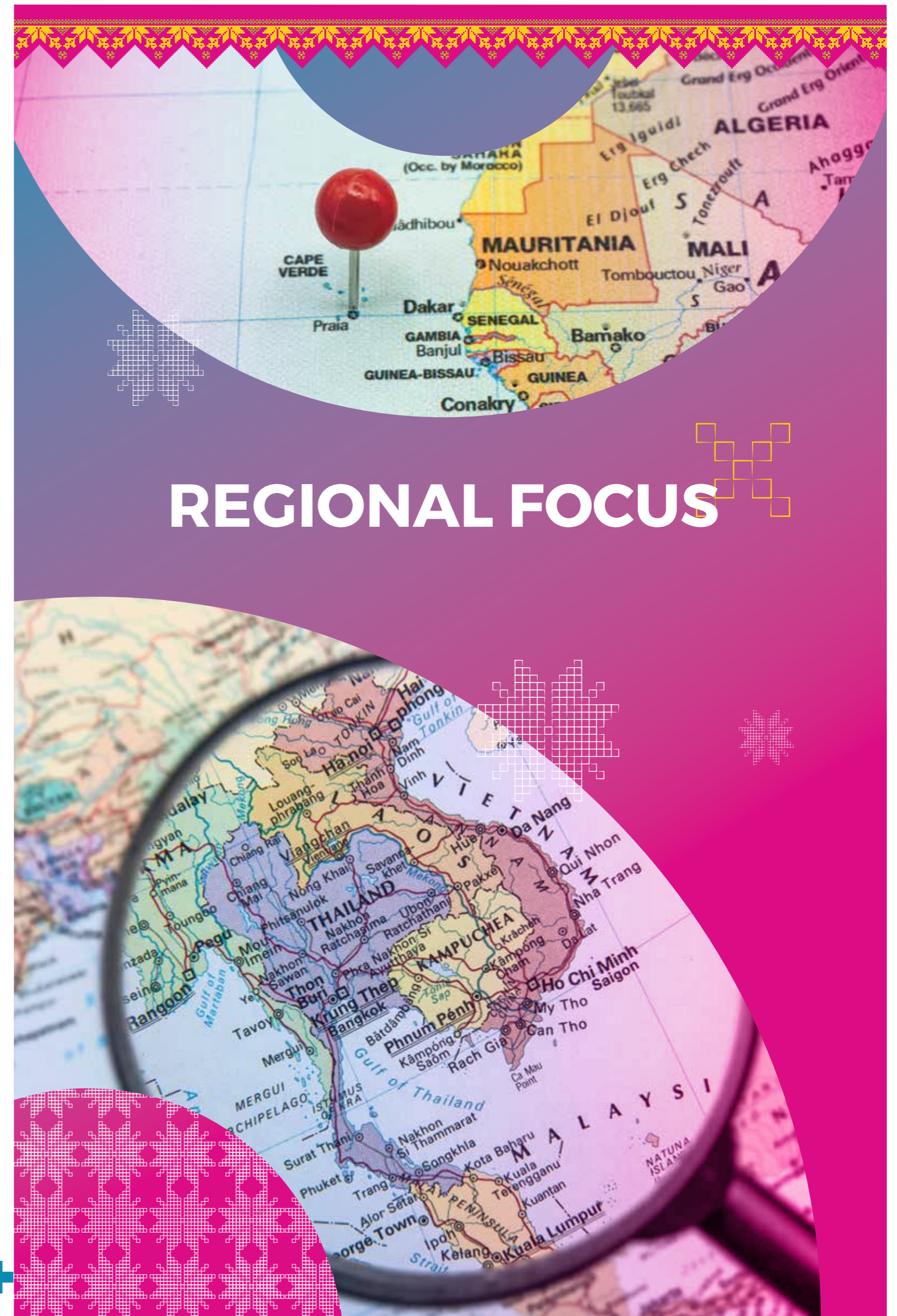
1. Holistic Understanding: The panel aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how INDIAsize can transform the apparel sector, covering its impact on sizing standardization, production efficiency, and consumer satisfaction.
2. Practical Implementation and Impact: Attendees should gain practical insights into implementing INDIAsize, evaluating its implications, and assessing stakeholder readiness. Emphasis will be placed on its relevance in the Indian context and its potential to revolutionize the fashion landscape while contributing to broader economic advancements.

Moderator

Prof. Manoj Tiwari, NIFT

Speakers

1. Mr. Neeraj Gaur, Assistant Vice President, Product Development & Technical Design Services, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail
2. Mr. Srinivas Govindan - Head strategy & Projects (Reliance Trends) of Reliance Retail Ltd
3. Mr. Lal Sudhakaran - Chief Sourcing Officer, Arvind Fashions
4. Mr. Kaushik Basu – Head Product Development & Technical Services, Raymond Ltd
5. Dr. Noopur Anand, Professor and Principal Investigator INDIAsize



PD 25: AFRICA

**Background**

The African continent comprising of 54 nations is growing fast and is a region to watch. The continent with a population of 1.5 billion of which 44.5 percent live in urban areas, median age being 19.2 years, is growing in per capita consumption.

Proximity of the Northern part of the continent to Europe helps in near shoring of apparels made in the region to the EU. Also, being nearer to North America as compared to textile & apparel producing regions in Asia along with favorable market access regulations create opportunities for this industry for African producers of apparel. The countries in the cotton growing regions of West Africa are looking for forward integration and export value added products instead be satisfied with export of the raw cotton. Africa is an interesting destination not only for textile and garment manufacturers to address the demand of textile and apparel but also for manufacturers of textile machinery.

Within the continent, the key markets in Africa are Nigeria, Morocco and Egypt. While Nigeria is the largest country in Africa and has presence in the T&A industry since long, Morocco and Egypt with their proximity to Europe are destinations for sourcing apparel for the EU market.

The region offers opportunity for marketing of goods (textiles) for the apparel industry and for local consumption of textiles and apparels/home furnishing. There are opportunities to expand the market for Indian brands – apparel and home textiles – in the region; expand sourcing of textiles for the growing apparel industry; investment by Indian companies in textile clusters in Africa amongst others.

Structure of the Session

The session will have a presentation in the beginning by the moderator (or alternatively by speaker), followed by discussion on the topic.

Objectives

1. Assess opportunities driven by urbanisation, rising consumption, and proximity to EU and North American markets.
2. Discuss forward integration in West Africa from raw cotton to value-added products.
3. Identify opportunities for Indian investment, technology transfer, and partnerships in Africa's textile clusters.
4. Highlight prospects for Indian brands, machinery, and textiles in Africa's local and export markets.
5. Examine the strategic roles of Nigeria, Morocco, and Egypt in T&A trade.

Outcomes

The discussion is expected to present following points:

1. Clear understanding of the continent's potential as a production and sourcing hub.
2. Plans for trade, investment, and sustainable collaborations in the T&A sector.
3. Recommendations for enhancing African value chains and manufacturing.
4. Strategies for entering and thriving in African markets.
5. Frameworks for continued engagement and partnerships in the T&A industry.

Moderator

Mr. Navdeep Sodhi, Partner, Gherzi

Speakers

1. Md. Kassem, Chairman, ACTIF, Egypt
2. Mr. Seleshi Lemma, DG, MIDI, Ethiopia
3. Mr. Pankaj Bedi, Chairman, United Aryan Group, Kenya
4. Mr. Jerry Addai Marfo, AICL, Ghana
5. Mr. Nikhil Gandhi, ED and CMO, ARISE IIP
6. Mr. Sileshi Lemma, DG, Ethiopia Textile Ind Dev Ins
7. Mr. Dieudonné Manirakiza, CEO, 2M Invest Konsult

PD 33: ASIA AND OCEANIA

**Background**

ASEAN, a regional intergovernmental organisation, comprises 10 member states in Southeast Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Oceania includes Australia and New Zealand. ASEAN remains a crucial trading partner for India, accounting for 11 percent of its global trade, with bilateral trade reaching USD 122.67 billion during 2023-24. India-ASEAN free trade agreement faces scrutiny over tariff schedules, impacting India's competitiveness due to an inverted duty structure on intermediary products including textiles. India has also raised concerns about discrepancies in import duties and non-tariff barriers.

Australia is an important market for India, with a focus on exports of apparel and home textiles, India's export to Australia was US\$ 637 million in 2023. India's trade rankings in textiles in this region for 2023, highlight significant variations in exports. India ranks relatively high in Malaysia, holding the 6th position globally, with a notable trade value of \$223.36 million. In contrast, India has lower export values with other ASEAN nations, such as Brunei, Darussalam, and Laos. Vietnam emerges as a major trading partner, where India holds the 9th rank in textile exports, with the highest trade value of \$339.119 million among the listed ASEAN countries. This indicates that while India has strong textile trade relations with several ASEAN nations, there is a significant disparity in trade volumes. The ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) has played a significant role in this, allowing for easier market access

Globally, India and the ASEAN region form the largest textile manufacturing hub in the world. ASEAN and India offer cost-competitive operations and have been attracting investments from each side. This includes setting up manufacturing units and joint ventures to leverage the region's resources and market potential.

Structure of the Session

The session will have a presentation in the beginning by the moderator (or alternatively by speaker), followed by discussion on the topic.

Objectives

1. Analyse trade patterns, export disparities, and AIFTA's role in market access.
2. Identify challenges like inverted duty structures and non-tariff barriers affecting competitiveness.
3. Explore opportunities for joint ventures and manufacturing collaborations between India and ASEAN.
4. Strategise on positioning India and ASEAN as a global textile manufacturing hub.
5. Foster sustainable partnerships and policy dialogues to enhance trade relations.

REGIONAL FOCUS

Outcomes

The discussion is expected to present the following points:

1. Strategies to boost India's exports and resolve trade barriers under AIFTA.
2. Identification of opportunities for bilateral ventures and cost-efficient operations.
3. Recommendations to tackle tariff issues and improve market access.
4. Framework for India-ASEAN partnerships in textiles and apparel.
5. Proposals for refining AIFTA and addressing trade discrepancies.

Moderator

Mr. Mark Jarvis, CEO, Textile IQ

Speakers

1. Mr. Pietro Valenti, Managing Director, Pangea Fabrics & Consulting
2. Mr. P. Boobalan, Founder & CEO, Texcoms Int'l
3. Mr. Seung Ho Park, Head (Biz Dev), Sedo Camping Co
4. Mr. D.S. Raman, COO, Aquarelle Group
5. Mr. Alex Salamanca, Country Manager, Ramsay McDonald

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS USING JUTE, ABACA, COIR, KENAF, SISAL (JACKS) AND ALLIED FIBRES”



Background

The National Jute Board will be organising a One-day International Conference on “Sustainable Solutions using Jute, Abaca, Coir, Kenaf, Sisal (JACKS) and allied fibres” during Bharat Tex 2025 at New Delhi, India on 15th Feb 2025.

Several International programs / developments are going on that are driven by the impact of climate change. Even though not explicitly mentioned programs like “Net Zero, Low Carbon, Carbon Capture and Storage” etc. are related to the use of fossil fuels and Green House Gas Emissions generally, CO2 emissions specifically are the main consideration. Given that CO2 is a key element in these discussions and policy development concepts such as Carbon Footprint is gaining prominence. In agricultural systems, in addition to carbon footprint, carbon sequestration at the crop level plays an important role as well.

In the past few years not only policy makers but consumers in several countries are also concerned about the damages caused by climate change and global warming. It is also impacting the livelihoods of many families. Given this for example, the European Union has an ambitious target of becoming ‘Climate Neutral by 2050’ and therefore is increasingly bringing in legislation to achieve this goal.

In the context of the suppliers of products, such as jute, sisal, coir etc. to the EU may be required to prove their Sustainable Credibility in the future. For the same, authorities at global level are required to have a uniform platform and workout on schemes that could assess, document, and provide evidence of sustainability.

Structure of the Conference

This will be a day long Conference divided into 4 sessions other than the inaugural session and will be starting at 09.30 A. M. on 15th February 2025 at Bharat Mandapam during Bharat Tex.

In line with the above, international domain experts and representatives from Universities, United Nations, Trade Bodies etc. will be invited in the event to share their knowledge / views and probable sustainable solutions related to the following fields:

1. Sustainable and Modern mechanised agronomic practices and creating awareness at the Global Level in the promotion of eco-friendly JACKS and allied fibres,
2. Advanced technologies in fibre processing/ manufacturing of Natural Fibre Composites including Bio-Composites.
3. Promoting sustainability using products of JACKS fibres.
4. Discussions regarding Policy Framework at Global Level.

Objectives

Even though the National Jute Board (NJB), Ministry of Textile (MoT), Govt. of India focuses mainly on jute fibre, this event would solicit insights from other natural hard / bast fibres, such as sisal, abaca, kenaf, coir etc. It is recognised that the producers of JACKS fibres (Jute, Abaca, Coir, Kenaf and Sisal fibre) face similar challenges and therefore, the event aims to take the opportunity of sharing their experiences in overcoming the challenges being faced by the producers and manufacturers and also to develop a sustainable ecosystem for these hard /bast fibres.

Outcomes

1. Diversity of views which could enrich the strategic reflection on the hard and bast fibre sectors.

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2. And by strengthening the position of these fibres in the international arena, through orchestrated collective international actions which are needed to be very effective in the present context of climate change.

Speakers

Session 1: Sustainable and Modern Agronomic Practices through technological advancement in JACKS fibres cultivation

1. Associate Professor Revocatus L. Macchunda, Dean School of materials, Energy, water and environmental sciences, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science & Technology, The United Republic of Tanzania.
2. Dr. Mubarak Ahmed Khan, Scientific Advisor, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Bangladesh
3. Prof. Marcelo Carazzolle, State University of Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Session 2: ‘Advanced Technologies for the Future focusing on advancement in Technologies for JACKS fibre processing: Natural Fibre Composite

1. Prof. (Dr) Sabu Thomas, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
2. Mr. Ilone Hayek, Area Sales Manager, NSC, Schlumberger, France
3. Prof. Dipayan Das, Professor in the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi

Session 3: ‘Promoting Sustainability with JACKS and allied fibre products

1. Mr. Dilip Tambirajah, Secretary General, International Natural Fiber Organization (INFO), Zoetermeer, The Netherlands
2. Mrs. Claudia Giacobelli, Programme Officer at UNEP in Paris.
3. Prof. Sanjay Shukla, Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia

Session 4: Policy Framework for global governance of JACKS fibres

1. Dr. Nayani S. Aratchige, Director, Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka
2. Mr. Wilson Andrada, Chairman Sidifibras, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.
3. Mr. Olivo G. Mtung’e, Director of Sisal Development and Marketing will represent Tanzania Sisal Board
4. Mr. Dickson Kibata, Representative Fiber Crop Directorate Agriculture and Food Authority Nairobi, Kenya

International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Silk Sector – SILKTECH 2025



Background

An International Conference on “Emerging Technologies in SILK SECTOR - SILKTECH 2025” is set to be a crucial scientific event within Bharat Tex 2025, celebrating silk's enduring legacy and its evolving applications. Known as the "Queen of Textiles," silk has captivated humanity for centuries with its elegance, luster, and comfort. India, renowned for its production of all major commercial types- Mulberry, Eri, Muga, and Tasar and holds a distinguished position in the global silk industry and stands poised to lead in raw silk production. Beyond its traditional role in textiles, silk now finds novel applications in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and medical, and technical fields. This conference will explore the latest advancements in conventional silk production and technical textiles, emphasising global market trends and sustainable innovations across the silk production chain, from farm to fabric, including by-products. This International

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R&D event will cover emerging technologies in the field of silk sector for sustainable and inclusive growth of silk industry. Emerging technologies in silk sector for sustainable and inclusive growth of silk sector will be addressed during the international conference.

Structure of the Session

There will be three Technical session. Chair person and moderator for every session and the esteemed panel of technical/industry experts will focus on identifying strategies to overcome technical barriers, leveraging India's unique strengths, and positioning the country as a global textile investment hub.

Following major areas will be the core focus of conference by covering pre-cocoon and post-cocoon sectors of silk Industry.

1. Emerging technologies "farm to fabric" and Silk by-products
2. Silk novel applications in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, medical, and biotechnological intervention in silk sector
3. Silk in Technical Applications
4. Sustainable Solutions in Silk Industry

Objectives

The conference aims to provide a common platform to deliberate the EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN SILK SECTOR of mulberry and vanya (non-mulberry) silk sectors across the globe for sustainable and Inclusive growth. The conference is expected to gather new and innovative ideas for the overall development of the global silk industry in the true spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family and One Future.

Outcomes

1. Promotion of International co-operation and exchange of ideas between Research, Industry, Educational Institutes, Policy makers.
2. Signing of MoU's to strengthen R&D efforts and mutual co-operation.
3. Identification of challenges in Pre & Post cocoon sectors and the need for technology development to address the issues.

Session I: Emerging technologies "farm to fabric" and Silk by-products

Chair

Dr. S. Periyasamy, Director, CSB-CSTRI, Bengaluru

Co-Chair

Dr. S. Nivedita, Scientist-D, CSB-CSTRI, Bengaluru

Speakers

1. Dr. Shuichiro Tomita, Group Leader, Silkworm Research Group, Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, NARO, Tsukuba, Japan.
2. Dr. Deepti Gupta, Professor, Dept. of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi
3. Dr. Chyuki Takabayashi, Director, Okaya Silk Museum Okaya, Japan

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Session II: Silk novel applications in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, medical and biotechnological intervention in silk sector

Chair

Dr. N.B. Chowdary, Director, CSB-CTRRTI Ranchi

Co-Chair

Dr. J.P. Pandey, Scientist-D, CSB-CTRRTI Ranchi

Speakers

1. Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, FR Eng Professor of Materials Engineering, Director of the Center for Nanofibers and Nanotechnology, Department of Mechanical Engineering, National University of Singapore (NUS).
2. Prof. Chun-Hung Chen, Associate Professor, Department of Cosmetic Science, Providence University, Taiwan

Session III: Silk in Technical Applications

Chair

Mr. Jagannathan, Scientist D, CSB-CSTRI, Bengaluru

Co-Chair

Dr. K. Jena, Scientist-D, CSB-CTRRTI Ranchi

Speakers

1. Prof. Prasad Potluri, Professor of Robotics & Textile composites, Director of Northwest Composites Centre, University of Manchester (UK)
2. Dr. Harun Venkatesan, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi

Session IV: Sustainable Solutions in Silk Industry & Conclusive Panel Discussion

Chair

Dr. Manthira Moorthy, S. Director (Tech), CSB, Bengaluru

Co-Chair

Mr. M.R. Itagi, Scientist D, CSB-CSTRI, Bengaluru

Speaker

Dr. G. Hariraj, Retired Scientist, CSTRI, CSB

