

Inaugural Session



“The Indian textile industry has the potential to scale new heights in the globalised economy.”

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The association has trained and educated textile and apparel industry professionals. It conducts graduate membership and associateship examinations and innumerable seminars and workshops throughout the year. TAI has 27 different units which disseminate knowledge and expertise among industry professionals.

TAI is also serving the textile industry by participating in various meetings convened by Textile Ministry, Textile Commissioner's office and various Textile Educational Institutes. Having a large number of Textile Industry professionals as its members, TAI has contributed its inputs when the textile policy was framed.

As far as this conference is concerned, it is expected to be the largest convergence of cohesive forces and intends to bring together all textile industry stakeholders like mill owners, corporate houses, trade associations, export councils, policy makers, industry leaders, CEOs and senior professionals from the national and international industry and discuss large opportunities face to face.

The Indian textile industry today is a strong, vibrant and growing industry. The resurgence of textiles is the result of synergizing the strengths of all the stakeholders, including government. The government provided the conducive policy framework for encouraging investment; demand opportunities were created due to economic growth and industry took advantage of this scenario to strengthen its fundamentals and improve its growth process. The industry has been growing at the rate of 9-10 per cent during two-three years as compared to 3-4 per cent during the last six decades since independence. However, still the full potential of the industry remains to be realized.

The Indian textiles industry is extremely varied, with the hand-spun and hand-woven sector at one end of the spectrum, and the capital intensive, sophisticated mill sector at the other. The decentralized powerloom/hosiery and knitting sectors form the largest section of the textiles sector. The close linkage of the industry to agriculture and the heritage and traditions of the country make the Indian textiles sector unique in comparison with the textile industry of other countries. India is also endowed with rich raw material availability both natural and MMF. This also provides the industry with the capacity to produce a variety of products suitable to the different market segments, both within and outside the country.

To fuel the growth of this industry, government has initiated schemes like Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which is recently restructured, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), Scheme for Growth and Development of Technical Textiles (SGDTT), Technology Mission of Technical Textiles (TMTT), Integrated Skill Development Scheme for Textiles, powerloom development schemes such as Modified Group Work Shed Scheme, Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Development, Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom

weavers and rationalized the fiscal duty structure to provide a level playing field to all segments of this industry. The Draft National Fiber Policy has been finalized to address the issues of equitable use of all fibers to attain self-sufficiency in the fiber base to meet both domestic and export demands.

A buoyant domestic economy is creating new opportunities for the growth of the textile industry. The sustained growth in GDP, per capita income, changing demographics resulting in 60 per cent of the population in the working age group, declining dependency ratio, the projected increase in the organized retail industry, all point towards a huge demand for textile and clothing in the domestic market. The government's focus on rural economy and inclusive growth will also unlock the huge demand from rural economy. The expiration of quota has also unveiled unlimited opportunities for globally cost- and quality-competitive units.

There is a sense of optimism and confidence prevailing in the industry and the industry is projected to grow at the rate of 16 per cent in value terms in the XIth five year plan to reach the market size of US \$115 billion and attract an investment of Rs 150600 crores. The attendant benefit would be incremental employment opportunities for 17 million people. The XIth plan is in the process of formation, we shall seek the industry inputs for it.

There are, however, certain areas of concern which if not tackled would destabilize and freeze the growth of the industry. The globalised scenario has intensified the competition to an extent that 'survival of the fittest' has become the norm. To withstand the competitive scenario, it is necessary to build up world class state-of-the-art manufacturing capacities for production and export of internationally competitive value added products. The issues of sustainable growth and social responsibility shall have to be addressed more effectively.

The government will continue with its existing policy environment and will bring out some more policy initiatives. The aim of the government is to continue to provide a conducive policy environment which will encourage innovation, augment R&D efforts and enhance productivity through the upgradation of technology, manufacturing process and development of human resources to facilitate the textile industry to attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and exports of textiles and clothing.

The Indian textile industry has the potential to scale new heights in the globalised economy. For this to happen, the industry, TAI, the State Governments and Government of India have to strategize and work in close co-ordination and co-operation. I hope the conference would be able to take a bird's eye-view ahead and set the goal for the industry enabling it to chart a course accurately with a clearly defined task for each segment of the industry.