



2ND SUSTAINABILITY TEXTILE SUMMIT

Sustainability in textiles has become increasingly important in the current times, according to Ms. Prajakta L Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles. She emphasized the need for recycling textile hubs to be established on a pilot project basis, which will aid in understanding practical challenges in achieving sustainability goals. Ms. Verma made these remarks while addressing the 2nd Sustainable Textile Summit, organized by PHDCCI on December 20, 2023 at PHD House, New Delhi.

As the knowledge partner of the event, Fibre2Fashion launched a knowledge paper titled 'Organic Shift in Value Chain: Exploring Sustainable Textiles for a Greener Future.'

During the inaugural session on 'Policies and Regulations, Challenges & Opportunities for Textile Sustainability, and the Way Forward', Ms. Verma noted that sustainable textiles have become a critical issue for the entire value chain. She acknowledged that the textile ecosystem is diligently working towards this goal, with several Start-ups developing high-



quality circular products. She also highlighted the importance of traceability in sustainability, mentioning the government's recent launch of a traceability project in Kasturi cotton. She asserted that the government is ready to support the industry through policy interventions and budget allocations. She encouraged the industry to prepare a roadmap for sustainable textiles.

Mr. Madhu Sudhan Bhageria, Chairman, PHDCCI Textiles Committee and Chairman and Managing Director, Filatex India

Ltd., provided an overview of the summit. He observed that present day consumers are increasingly concerned about the environment, and several brands are taking this matter seriously. He emphasized the need to spread awareness in the textile industry.

Mr. Anil Jadhav, Regional Director, South Asia & the Middle East, Ecocert, stated that certification is a crucial part of sustainable textiles, with environmental and social responsibility becoming increasingly important in the industry.

Professor Abhijit Majumdar, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, expressed concern over the rapid increase in textile production and frequent discarding by consumers, leading to escalating textile waste and environmental issues. He pointed out that circularity and waste management are vital aspects of sustainability and suggested that blockchain technology could provide traceability throughout the textile value chain. He stressed the need for optimizing processes in the textile value chain to reduce environmental footprints.

Mr. Debabrata Ghosh, Vice President and Sales Director, Oerlikon Textile India Private Limited, proposed that integrating textile processes could reduce environmental impacts and production costs. He noted that various processes such as spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing, and garmenting are currently conducted at different locations, leading to high transportation costs and time.

Mr. Abhishek Jani, CEO, Fairtrade India, emphasized the importance of collective engagement to achieve sustainable textile goals, highlighting the significant use of water and

chemicals throughout the textile value chain.

Dr Srikanta K Panigrahi, Director General, Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) and a sustainability thought leader, cautioned the industry, noting that sustainability has become a focal point in European and other developed markets. He mentioned that buyers are willing to pay more for certified garments and warned that Indian industry must adapt quickly to avoid technical trade barriers. He apprised that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) would introduce standards in this direction.

Mr. Vinit Kumar, CEO, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), pointed out that the production process for Khadi clothes is already sustainable, consuming five times less water and requiring no electricity. He emphasized the importance of certification and labelling in enhancing the credibility of sustainable clothes.

At the panel discussion on “Carbon Disclosures and Emissions Reduction,” Prof. Bipin Kumar, Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi stressed on increased penetration of circularity.

Ms. Manisha Choudhary, National Coordinator, Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) India, UN Environment Programme underlined that it is very important to pass knowledge in a compact manner to fragile small and medium-sized textile industries. Mr. Anupam Prasad, Head of Office-India, Sedex apprised that Sedex is a mapping platform for sustainability of textiles.

Mr. R K Vij, Co-chair, PHDCCI Textile Committee and Secretary-General, PTA Users Association, urged the government to streamline policies related to the textile industry. He pointed out that current policies have not prevented the influx of imported fabrics into the industry.

Mr. Jaswant Singh, Senior Manager Sustainability Operations, EKI Energy Services Ltd.; Mr. Surya Prakash Valluri, CSO, Grasim Ltd. and Mr. Abhishek Bansal, Arvind Limited emphasized the need for fair distribution of margins. They noted that retailers and brands enjoy an average margin of 35-40 per cent, while upstream value chain industries manage with single-digit margins, yet bear the primary responsibility for sustainability.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and USAID/India for supporting Indian Railways to achieve Mission Net Zero Carbon Emission

The Cabinet approved a MoU between India and USAID/India for supporting Indian Railways to achieve Mission Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2030. The MoU provides a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the railway sector. The MoU facilitates utility modernization, advanced energy solutions and systems, regional energy and market integration and private sector participation and engagement, training and seminars/workshops focusing on specific technology areas like Renewable Energy, energy efficiency and other interactions for knowledge sharing. The MoU will help Indian Railways to reduce dependence on imported fuel such as Diesel, Coal, etc. Deployment of Renewable Energy plants will give fillip to RE technology in the country. This will help in development of local ecosystem which subsequently gives boost to local product development. Technical assistance for the services under this MoU is intended to be provided by USAID under the SAREP initiative. This MoU is not an obligation of funds or a commitment of any kind, and it is non-binding. This does not involve any financial commitment from Indian Railways.