



CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY  
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Speech By:  
**SHRI T. RAJKUMAR**  
Chairman  
at  
**63rd Annual General Meeting**  
held on Virtual Platform  
on 15th December 2021



## **CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AT THE 63<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Good Morning Friends!**

Past Chairmen of CITI, my colleagues Deputy Chairman, Shri S. K. Khandelia Ji, and Vice Chairman, Shri R L Nolkha Ji, esteemed members of the Committee of CITI, Representatives of the Member Associations, Associate Members, Affiliate Members of CITI, Senior Industrialists from the Indian Textile & Clothing Industry, invitees, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Friends, it gives me great pleasure in welcoming all of you to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI). I express my sincere thanks to all of you for attending our AGM today and for your continuous support throughout the year.

The years 2020 and 2021 have really been very difficult from personal and business points of view owing to the unprecedented outbreak of Covid pandemic. Despite the hardships of lockdown challenges, CITI organized and attended a number of meetings, especially with the Central and State Government Ministers and also organized series of events and programmes on a virtual mode. CITI has been instrumental in bringing many policy reforms in the textile sector, especially in the MMF sector during the last one year. The Indian economy particularly the textile industry is today showing the strong signs of recovery from the damage inflicted by the Covid pandemic with economic indicators gathering momentum and moving towards the pre-Covid levels.

Friends, as you all are aware that CITI's AGM has traditionally been providing a forum for evaluating the overall scenario of the World and Indian economy and how Textile Industry, especially the Indian Textile Industry has performed in the last one year.

CITI from time to time has represented the various issues and challenges of the Industry to various departments of the Ministries and we are extremely hopeful that the Government will continue providing various policy reforms and support for the quick revival of the Textiles and Clothing (T&C) Industry.

Apart from the industrial scenario, let me also present to you in brief the major activities which CITI has undertaken during this period.

Friends, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of CITI and CITI CDRA along with the Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2021 are already with you.

## **The Economy**

- As per the World Economic Outlook, October 2021, the global economic recovery is continuing, even as the pandemic resurges.
- The global economy is projected to grow 5.9 percent in 2021 and 4.9 percent in 2022, 0.1 percentage points lower for 2021 than in the July forecast.
- The downward revision for 2021 reflects a downgrade for advanced economies—in part due to supply disruptions—and for low-income developing countries, largely due to worsening pandemic dynamics.
- Indian economy is poised for a rebound after

enduring a second wave of COVID-19 infections this year that further constrained activity and took a heavy toll on its people.

- As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Indian GDP is poised to grow at 9.5% in 2021 and is projected to grow at 8.5% during 2022, retaining the fastest-growing major economy tag.
- As per IMF, inflation in India is projected to remain at about 5.6% and 4.9% in 2021 and 2022, respectively.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is also optimistic about the economic growth of India and the Central Bank has forecasted GDP to grow at 9.5% during FY 2022.
- With the World witnessing the fear of new Covid variant “Omicron”, the future growth prospects remain highly vulnerable in the coming time. However, the Indian Government and various rating agencies are highly optimistic about the Indian economy.

### **Key Policy Decisions taken by the Government of India for the betterment of Indian Textile & Clothing Industry**

Friends, CITI has been constantly taking up various policy issues directly with the respective Ministries and along with National Committee for Textiles and Clothing (NCTC) to mitigate the various challenges faced by the textile industry. CITI was very much instrumental in bringing out the policy reforms in the T&C sector in the last two years.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Government has been

addressing the issues concerning the T&C Industry and striving hard to bring out policies and programmes to improve the growth and competitiveness of this important labour-intensive sector, which have about 80% of its units under the MSMEs segment and employing more than 110 million people, directly-indirectly, next only to the agriculture sector.

Under the able guidance of Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Ministry of Textiles has been undertaking a host of initiatives to assist, support and to attract new investment opportunities in the textile value chain.

Some of the recent pathbreaking policy initiatives taken by the Government to improve the cost competitiveness and to make India a global champion in Textile & Clothing products are:

- Extending RoSCTL Scheme up to 31st March 2024 for Garments and Made-ups Sector.
- WTO compatible RoDTEP rates for yarn, fabric, and other products.
- Removal of Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on Viscose Staple Fibre (VSF).
- Abolishing ADD on PTA, rejecting the proposed ADD on PSF and VSF spun yarn.
- Allocating Rs 10,683 crores under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.
- Setting up of 7 Mega Textile Parks in 3 years under PM MITRA Scheme with an outlay of Rs 4,445 crores.
- National Technical Textile Mission with an outlay of Rs. 1,480 crores.

With the supportive policies of the Government, the economy will continue to grow and I am sure that the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji to have a US\$ 5 trillion economy will come true very soon!

I, on behalf of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and the Members of the National Committee on Textiles and Clothing (NCTC), profusely thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, our former Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Ji, Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles and Railways, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh Ji and everyone involved for all these major announcements!

CITI has been extending wholehearted support to the Government and Industry for the successful implementation of all these schemes and I encourage and request CITI Members to avail maximum benefit from these Schemes. I am extremely sure that all these schemes will benefit all the exporters and will result in more investment, employment and the holistic growth of the T&C Industry.

### **Performance of the Cotton Sector of India**

- As per the estimates by Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption (COCPC) in its meeting held on 12.11.2021, the area under cotton cultivation decreased marginally to 130.07 lakh hectares in 2020-21 as compared to 134.77 lakh hectares in 2019-20. Similarly, the yield is

projected to increase marginally to 462.46 kg per hectare in 2020-21 from 460.41 kg per hectare in 2019-20.

- Production of cotton has been estimated at 353.8 lakh bales during the year 2020-21 as against 365 lakh bales in 2019-20.
- For the upcoming season 2021-22, the Cabinet has approved an increase of Rs 211 per quintal in MSP of medium staple cotton to reach Rs 5,726 per quintal from Rs 5,515 per quintal last year. Similarly, MSP for long staple cotton for 2021-22 has been increased to Rs 6,025 per quintal from Rs 5,825 during 2020-21.

### **Import Duty on Cotton**

In the Union Budget 2021-22, the Government imposed 5% Basic Customs Duty (BCD), 5% Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) and 10% Social Welfare Surcharge on both amounting to 11% import duty on cotton imports which came as a major blow to the Textile Industry especially to the value added textile manufacturing segment. CITI has been making continuous and constant efforts to persuade the Government to withdraw the import duty atleast for the Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton that is not grown in the industry and will not benefit the Indian cotton farmers. Though the Ministry of Textiles has also been making continuous efforts, the genuine plea is yet to be considered. We urge the Government to exempt the ELS cotton from the import duty not only to have a level playing field but also to change the cotton market sentiment to a certain extent.

## **Impact of the Rising Cotton Prices**

The Indian Textile & Clothing Industry, especially the cotton value chain is facing an unprecedented challenge on the raw material front due to the skyrocketing of cotton prices both in the international and domestic markets.

The Government has been increasing MSP for cotton every year and this increase has had largely been responsible for The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. to procure around 200 lakh bales under MSP operations during the last three seasons. As the international cotton prices were ruling lower during 2019-20, CCI could not fully liquidate its stocks. Hence, CCI started offering bulk discounts enabling the trade to procure over 60% of the stock. Since spinning mills were starving for the working capital, they could not derive much advantage despite getting priority being the actual users. Taking advantage of the constant price increase by CCI and 10% import duty on cotton, the traders started increasing prices steeply. The Shankar 6 Cotton (suitable to spin 30s and 40s) price that prevailed at Rs.39,000 per candy during October 2020 currently prevails at Rs.70,000 per candy. The same price trend could be seen in the yarn price due to the spurt in demand for yarn immediately after lifting the lockdown restrictions. Such a steep increase in cotton and yarn price had extreme impact on the exports. The downstream sectors constantly put pressure on the Government for intervention.

CITI, TEXPROCIL, and SIMA were constantly in dialogue with all the stakeholders and held a series of meetings in association with the Ministry of Textiles to avoid any adverse steps by the Government. I thank all the stakeholders for extending their valuable cooperation in this regard.



## **EXIM Performance of Indian Textile & Clothing Industry**

- During 2020-21, India's total exports of all commodities declined by 7% while exports of India's Textile & Apparel declined by about 10% to reach US\$ 30.8 bn as compared to exports of US\$ 34.2 bn in 2019-20. Share of T&A exports in India's total exports also declined from 10.9% in 2019-20 to 10.6% in 2020-21.
- Except for Fibres and Home Textiles, all other T&A commodities registered a decline in exports during the above period. Exports of Apparel declined by 21% during 2020-21 to reach US\$ 12.2 bn as compared to 2019-20.
- Exports of Cotton based T&A declined by 8% in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20. Year 2020-21 witnessed a surge of 79% in exports of cotton fibre as compared to 2019-20. At the same time, export of MMF based T&A declined by 18% in 2020-21 as compared to the exports during 2019-20.
- India's total imports of all commodities during 2020-21, declined by 17% while imports of India's Textile & declined by about 28% to reach US\$ 5.8 bn as compared to imports of US\$ 8.1 bn during 2019-20. Share of T&A imports in India's total imports also declined from 1.7% in 2019-20 to 1.5% in 2020-21. Except for yarn all other T&A commodities showed a decline in imports during the above period.

Friends, the Ministry of Textiles has set an ambitious target of increasing the textile business size to US\$ 350 bn, including US\$ 100 bn exports by 2025-26 and also US\$ 44 bn export by March 2022. It is heartening to know that

during Apr-Oct 2021, the Industry has already achieved 52% of the target despite all the challenges of demand and logistics. While, the exports of Cotton Yarn/ Fabric/ Made-ups/ Handloom Products etc. and Man-Made Yarn/ Fabric/ Made-ups etc. have achieved the target export to the tune of 64% and 52% respectively during Apr-Oct 2021, the exports of Readymade Garments (RMG) could achieve only 43% of the total target during the above period. Low exports of RMG are mainly due to a mis-match between India's export basket and import basket of the major importing countries. Also, Indian exporters are facing tariff disadvantages against the competing countries in many of the major markets. To fill this gap, there is an urgent need for the Government to provide knowledge support by facilitating Seminars and Workshops on apparel trends of the major markets to appraise the apparel exporters and assist them in establishing business relationships with these countries. Also, there is a dire need to negotiate FTAs with developed and large markets like EU, USA, Australia, Canada, Britain, etc. to increase market access and ensure level playing field against competitors like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, etc.

We all must be prepared for Trade 2.0 and make contingency plans for a potential shake-up of global value chains. The apparel trade would be reshaped by new barriers, trade tensions, and uncertainty in the global arena. The Textile Industry may expand more into the MMF sector to gain global market share and focus more on exports of diversified high-value products like Sportswear, Women's Western wear, intimate wear, etc.

To improve the competitiveness of the Indian exporters with respect to the global competitors, the Government is

very keen to promptly sign Free Trade Agreements with major export destinations like EU, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, etc. At the same time, for making Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission a reality, the Government is holding wider consultations with the major economies of the world like USA, Japan, UK, South Korea, etc, and inviting them to come and invest in India and take advantage of the resources available here.

### **Increase in Logistics Cost, Non-Availability of Containers and Surge in Container Cost**

During pre-COVID times, the shipping cost to North America which was averaging around \$1,800 per 40-foot container, has now touched a high of 12,000 per container. The abnormally high logistics cost is significantly affecting the cost competitiveness of the Indian T&A Industry, which is already facing stiff competition from cheaper manufacturing destinations like Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, due to tariff differential issues favoring them in major destinations like EU, USA and UK. Besides the increase in the freight cost, many companies are also finding it difficult to book cargos. T&A Industry is considered to be a time-sensitive Industry, compelled to meet the fashion requirements of their foreign clients. Irregularities in dispatching the final products to a particular place at a specified location on time can lead to reduced (or no) profits or even cancellation of orders for the exporters. This remains a major concern.

## **Effect of the new GST rates on T&C Industry with effect from 1st January 2022**

CITI's long pending demand of addressing the inverted duty structures in the textile value chain has been finally addressed. I profusely thank the Government for the same. The reduction of 18% GST on man-made fibres to 12% and slotting the entire MMF value chain under 12% GST rate is a welcome measure. However, the readymade garment GST rate could have been retained at 5% for the garments below Rs.1,000 to benefit the rural masses. Similarly, the increase of GST rate on cotton fabric and RMGs below Rs.1,000 from 5% to 12% in the cotton textile value will have significant impact on the handloom, power loom and small garment manufacturers who are currently covered under compounded rate. Even the State Government operated departments like Khadi and Cooptex will now opt for sourcing their needs from the organised sectors to enable them to take GST credit. Therefore, I urge the Government to reduce the GST rates on cotton fabrics and both MMF and cotton garments below Rs.1,000 from 12% to 5%. We welcome addressing the inverted duty structure in the textile processing job work by increasing the rate from 5% to 12%.

## **Major Policy Issues and Recommendations submitted by CITI to Government**

CITI has been aggressively pursuing the issues of the entire Textile value chain as the Indian Textile Industry stands at a crucial juncture experiencing its worst phase and certainly needs maximum support from the Government to overcome the unprecedented challenges.

Some of the other major policy Issues and Recommendations which CITI has been raising with the Government for the last one year are given below:

- ECLGS 2.0 – Remove the outstanding total loan limit of Rs.500 crores and cap the maximum loan eligibility at not more than Rs.100 crores.
- Classify Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton under separate HS Code and exempt from 5% BCD and 5% AIDC.
- Reduce hank yarn obligation from 30% to 15% and reduce the number of items from 11 to 3 or 4 prescribing the fabric construction details under Handloom Reservation Act.
- Removal of condition for fulfilling average export obligation under EPCG Scheme.
- Fixation of National Minimum Wages after considering wages prevailing in competing countries along with the cost-of-living index.
- Revamp Handloom Reservation Act
- Accelerate signing of FTAs and renegotiate bilateral agreement with neighbouring countries.
- Expedite implementation of proposed amendments in the Electricity Act.
- Announce the new National Textile Policy.

CITI has raised all these issues with various concerned Ministries and Departments during several physical and virtual meetings including the recent pre-budget meeting called by the Ministry of Finance. I am extremely sure that Government will take up all these issues on priority and will continue its support to the Indian Textile & Clothing Industry.

## **Brief About Key Activities of CITI**

### **CITI's Global Textile Conclave, 2021**

CITI successfully organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Global Textile Conclave (GTC) on 24-25 February 2021. The theme of the Conference: “India Factor: Transforming Global Textiles & Apparel in 2021-30” was a reflection of contemporary trends impacting our Industry.

CITI GTC-2021 was organized in a virtual mode under challenging circumstances caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference witnessed an overwhelming response from the T&C Industry in India and abroad. GTC witnessed a worldwide audience of more than 4500 participants from 32 countries comprising international brands and retail, raw material and machinery suppliers, academia as well as policymakers.

On behalf of the entire Indian Textile Industry, I express our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji for sending his best wishes to CITI for organizing the 2nd edition of CITI GTC2021 and sharing his goodwill message for the Textile & apparel Industry and I do hope that we will be able to fulfill all the expectation of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

I am also immensely thankful to the former Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani Ji for kindly inaugurating the Conclave and sharing her insights with us.

### **Interactive Cotton Webinar on the occasion of World Cotton Day**

CITI organised an Interactive Cotton Webinar coinciding with the World Cotton Day, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav –

75th Anniversary of India's Independence Day and CITI-CDRA Golden Jubilee Celebrations on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021! The Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal Ji being the Chief Guest inaugurated the Webinar and interacted with the Industry leaders on the occasion! The Hon'ble Minister congratulated CITI-CDRA for completing 50 years of service to the Textile & Clothing (T&C) Industry. He emphasised on the need for having quality cotton and sustainable cotton for the overall development of the T&C Industry. The Hon'ble Minister stated that India should focus on enhancing cotton productivity from the current level of around 462 Kg per hectare to at least 800-900 Kg per hectare by adopting the latest innovative technologies and global best farming practices.

The Hon'ble Minister further pointed out that several remedial measures had been adopted by the Government to improve the quality and low productivity of the cotton in the country. India was working on suitable interventions for enhancing productivity in cotton, such as High-Density Planting System (HDPS), drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, inter-cropping, promotion of best farm practices, and mechanization of cotton harvesting for reducing contamination of cotton and improving farm income with the collective efforts of the entire cotton value chain, in the coming years. This will lead India not only to be AatmaNirbhar in every aspect of cotton but also emerge as the biggest supplier of good quality cotton in the world.

I appealed to the Hon'ble Union Minister that though, many structural issues on raw material front had been resolved, the Technology Mission on Cotton II (TMC II) is one issue that needs Government's attention. In the absence of technology support, it is resulting in low

productivity and the Government can address this issue by urgently announcing TMC II which will support the Government in enhancing the low productivity issue prevailing in the country and also help cotton farmers get better prices for their produce. I also reiterated that our prevailing issues are having a cascading effect on the growth prospects of the T&C Industry. The Hon'ble Union Minister stated that the Government is taking every possible step to support the T&C Industry.

### **Webinar on Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme**

The Indian Textile and Clothing Industry has been waiting for an incentivization scheme that can boost competition, investments, innovation along with employment. Under the Government of India's landmark PLI Scheme, incentives worth Rs. 10,683 crore will be provided to the Textile Industry over five years. PLI scheme is not only expected to create huge employment opportunities for over 7.5 lakh people directly and several lakhs for supporting activities by bringing in fresh investments of more than Rs 19,000 crore but it will also help the Indian T&A Industry to leverage the economies of scale and help Indian Textile and Apparel companies to emerge as global champions. The Scheme will also positively impact especially States like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, etc.

The present ambit of the PLI Scheme is covering 50 HS lines of Manmade Fibre (MMF) Apparel, 42 HS lines of MMF Fabrics at 8 digits, and many products from 10 segments of Technical Textiles.



To have a better understanding of the scheme, CITI in association with Ernst & Young (EY) organized a Virtual Interactive Session on “Production Linked Incentive Scheme Notified for the Textiles & Clothing Sector” on 21 October 2021.

I request my Industry partners to actively participate in the PLI scheme to make it a grand success.

### **CITI's Participation in Samarth Scheme**

As you are aware that the Textile Industry is facing shortage of skilled workforce for manufacturing high-end textile products for the niche markets in the western countries. The Ministry of Textiles has rolled out the Samarth Scheme to train Indian youths so that the Textile & Clothing Industry provides them ample opportunities to get absorbed in the Indian T&C Industry especially in the garment factories which the scope of employing 30-60 people per crore of investment. To address the skill-gap issue in the T&C Industry, CITI, being one of the leading Industry chambers, has joined hands with the Ministry of Textiles for imparting demand-driven quality skill training programme to the Indian youths and has received the mandate for training 5,540 youths under the Samarth Scheme. As on date, CITI has set up 29 training centers across textile clusters in India to train the youth in the textiles and garments-related job roles, excluding spinning & weaving segment, under the Samarth Scheme.

As the business sentiment has considerably improved across the Textile value chain, we are increasing the number of training centres and soon we will be able to add 50 new training centres across India for various textiles and garmenting related job roles.

## **Key Activities of CITI-CDRA**

I am glad to inform you that the CITI's Cotton Development and Research Association (CITI-CDRA) which is the research wing of CITI cotton development activities in India has completed 50 years yeoman services to the cotton farming community under the leadership of various cotton doyens and greatly helped to enhance the production, productivity, and quality of cotton, especially in the States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. On behalf of the entire cotton textile value chain I highly admire and thank each and everyone for their valuable contributions. The contributions made by Shri P D Patodia, Shri Suresh Kotak, Shri Prem Malik and Late Shri S K Ghorpade are commendable. We have organised a Cotton Webinar coinciding with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of CITI-CDRA on a virtual mode on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal ji. We are in the process of bringing out a Coffee-Table book titled "Millennial Shades of Cotton", as one of the key Golden Jubilee commemoration activities. We have appealed to the Government to launch the Technology Mission on Cotton II in a revised format with a mission-mode approach to double the farmers' income, bridge the gap in quantity and quality requirements of cotton and to achieve the envisaged growth.

- The year 2020-21 was the 14th year of the project in Rajasthan, the 6th year in Maharashtra and the 4th year in Madhya Pradesh. The project activities encompassed eight districts from these states and involved about 94133 cotton farmers from 1705 villages having 148518 hectares under cotton cultivation.

- CITI-CDRA project activities in Rajasthan during 2020-21 encompassed 7 clusters in the state covering 19,504 hectares of land and about 22,205 numbers of farmers in over 150 villages.
- Similarly, in Maharashtra project activities were spread in 15 clusters in the state covering 16,522 numbers of farmers and 28,330 hectares of land.
- In Madhya Pradesh CITI-CDRA activities were spread in 9 clusters covering 1,413 villages covering a land of around 64,852 hectares in which about 52,975 farmers were included.
- As a result of CITI-CDRA activities, an increase in yield of about 43%, 20% and 22% was reported in the project areas of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh respectively as compared to the yield reported by the Agriculture Department of the respective states.
- The CITI-CDRA collaborative Project in Ratlam, Dhar, and Jhabua Districts of Madhya Pradesh, promoting Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton production on a sustainable basis will definitely have a major impact on the production of ELS Cotton in the country.

## **We have given details of all CITI and CITI-CDRA Activities in the CITI Annual Report**

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those of you who have helped me and CITI in accomplishing our objectives.

### **Acknowledgements**

- . At the outset, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji for listening to the Textile Industry pleas and taking many pathbreaking policy decisions taken for the betterment of Indian Textile & Clothing (T&C) Industry.
- . I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal Ji, for extending all possible support and kind encouragement for the growth of the Textile Industry.
- . I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, State Minister of Finance and all the concerned officials of Finance Ministry, Customs Officials, Tax Administrators and GST Council members for addressing various tax related issues of the Industry.
- . I would also like to convey our sincere gratitude to Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh Ji, Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles, for supporting T&C Industry.

- I also thank our former Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Ji for her kind support and guidance for the Textile Industry throughout her tenure as the Textile Minister and especially during the Covid-19 period. Her kind support and guidance helped India to become the second largest producer of PPE body coveralls from the net importer within a short time span of two months.
- Let me also express my deep gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri M K Stalin Ji, his team and the senior officials of Tamil Nadu Government for all their kind support for the textile industry.
- I would like to thank Shri Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and all concerned officials in NITI Aayog for supporting T&C Industry for the policy reforms in the MMF sector, especially for removing Anti-Dumping Duties on PTA and VSF and removing the GST inverted duty structure in the MMF value chain, which was the long pending demand of the textile industry.
- I convey our sincere gratitude to Shri Upendra Prasad Singh, Secretary Textiles, who has been steering the Textile Industry in the right direction and addressing various underlying issues of the Textile & Clothing sector.
- I would also like to extend a special thanks to the former Secretary (Textiles), Shri Ravi Capoor, who could persuade the Government in bringing various

reforms and benefits for the Textiles and clothing Industry.

- I also extend my sincere gratitude to all the senior officials and staff of the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) for their kind support to the Industry.
- I would like to thank our Textile Commissioner Ms. Roop Rashi for listening to Industry pleas and extending full support to the Textile Industry in resolving many issues especially related to TUFS.
- I also thank, all political leaders, and individuals who directly and indirectly extended valuable cooperation and support in addressing various issues affecting the Textile Industry.
- I wholeheartedly express my sincere gratitude to all the National and Regional Textile Industry Associations, Export Promotion Councils and The Cotton Corporation of India who have come together with CITI in taking up many Industry issues in a single voice.
- During the difficult years, the guidance of our esteemed committee members has helped CITI in meeting some of the challenges in the best way possible. I would like to use this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all of them.
- I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the

Past Chairmen of CITI for their wholehearted support and guidance throughout my tenure.

- I would also like to express my deep gratitude to CITI Office Bearers, Shri S K Khandelia Ji, Deputy Chairman, CITI and, Shri R L Nolkha Ji, Vice Chairman, CITI for sharing my responsibilities and extending their support and participation in discharging my duties as Chairman, CITI.
- Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Chairmen / Presidents and SGs of all Member Associations, Associate Members and Corporate Members of CITI as well as Chairmen of major Export Promotion Councils such as AEPC, TEXPROCIL, SRTEPC and PDEXCIL and other Textile associations. I sincerely thank all of them on behalf of CITI.
- I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to the Chairmen and EDs of all our member associations of National Committee on Textiles and Clothing (NCTC) viz; AEPC, ASFI, CMAI, ITME, ITTA, PDEXCIL, SRTEPC and TEXPROCIL due to which textile and Clothing Industry could come together on a single platform to raise the industrial issues in a single voice.
- My sincere thanks also extends to Chairmen and Team Leaders of Textile Committees of Trade Bodies viz; ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI, FIEO, etc also for their support and cooperation in addressing textile issues.
- I am extremely thankful to immediate past

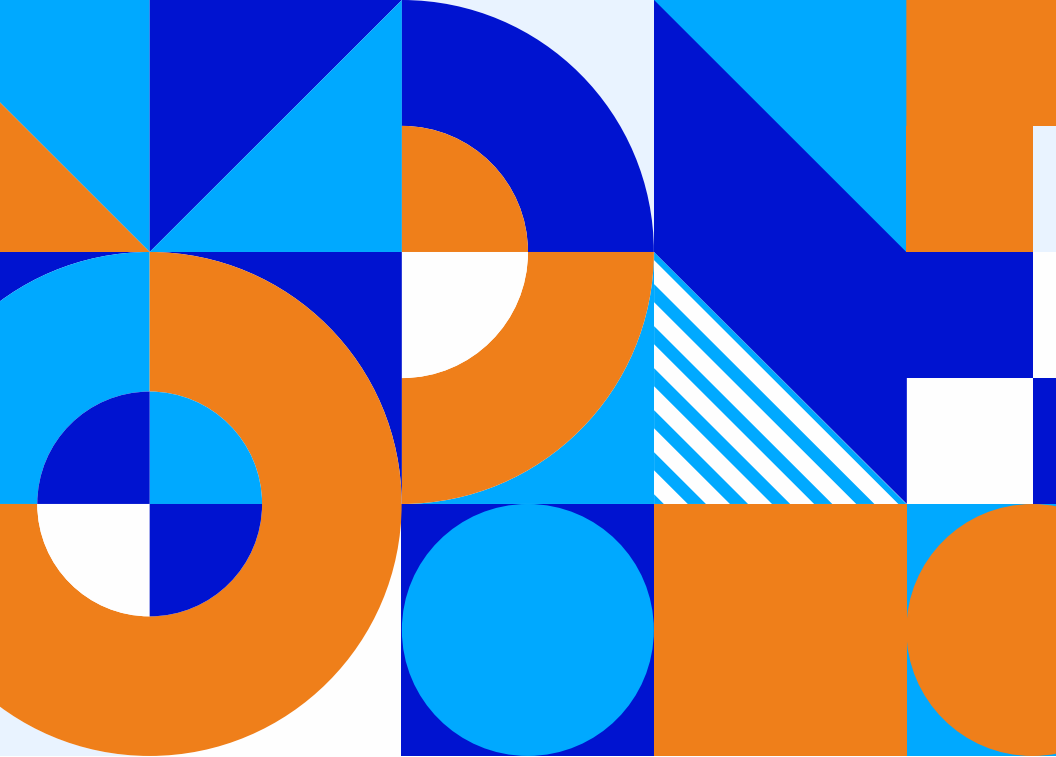
Chairman SIMA, Shri Ashwin Chandra and Chairman SIMA Shri Ravi Sam, and Secretary General, Dr K Selvaraju and SIMA Team for their wholehearted support and cooperation for CITI's endeavours.

- I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Shri P D Patodia Ji, Chairman, and Shri Prem Malik, Co-Chairman of Standing Committee of Cotton, CITI-CDRA and their Team for all their support and dedication for the cotton development activities of CITI.
- I would like to thank, NSDC Chairman, Shri A. M. Naik and his Team and Dr J V Rao, CEO, Textile Sector Skill Council (TSC) and his Team for their wholehearted support for the textile skill development activities of CITI and for supporting CITI in creating awareness about PMKVY 3.0 special project amongst all stakeholders of the textile value chain.
- On behalf of CITI and the Industry at large, I thank both print and visual media for the support extended by them to us during my Chairmanship of CITI. The proper projection of our issues by them helped us immensely in seeking remedies to some of them.
- Finally, I would like to thank CITI Secretary General, Dr. S Sunanda and her team for all their hard work and dedication which they have shown throughout the year and also appreciate the Secretariat for handling every issue very effectively. I wish them success in their future endeavours also.









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