TEXTILE TRANSFORMATION: INDIA'S STRATEGIC WEAVE INTO THE FUTURE

Crafting the Future: India's Bold Strides in Textile Innovation

The global spotlight is on India's textile industry, which skilfully weaves centuries-old traditions with cutting-edge innovation. As one of the largest textile producers globally, India is poised to solidify its leadership amidst growing demand for sustainability, high-performance fabrics, and competitive supply chains. With the industry projected to grow to USD 350 billion by 2030 and expected to add 35 million new jobs, India's textile sector is at the forefront of shaping a massive economic and employment expansion.

A DUAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL PILLAR

India's textile industry, a cornerstone of the economy, contributes 2.3% to the GDP and employs over 45 million people directly, with an additional 55 million indirectly involved across the value chain.

As the second-largest employment generator after agriculture, it plays a vital role in rural upliftment and women's empowerment. Enhanced by a robust economic framework, cutting-edge technology, international reach, and strong government support, the sector demonstrates vast potential as a global leader.

The diverse range of products—from heritage handwoven fabrics like khadi and silk to mass-produced garments and technical textiles—have solidified the sector's global reputation and driven economic growth.

This variety aligns with the 5F vision, covering the entire spectrum from farm to fibre, fabric, fashion, and foreign markets, and fosters a well-developed supply chain that extends from production to retail, all while preserving the cultural legacy embedded in India's handlooms.

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS: BEYOND COST LEADERSHIP

India's ability to produce various textiles at competitive prices continues to attract global brands and retailers. Yet, as fast fashion and consumer preferences evolve rapidly, staying competitive demands more than just cost efficiency. This is why Indian manufacturers are now enhancing their design capabilities, anticipating global trends, and offering versatile products that meet the needs of discerning consumers.

The move into high-value technical textiles, catering to industries such as healthcare, automotive, and agriculture, signifies a crucial shift from traditional outputs. Moreover, recognizing the need to balance fibre reliance, India is reducing its over-dependence on cotton and scaling up synthetic fibre production—a strategic adjustment that has propelled China to a dominant position in global textile exports. This shift is

further supported by the launch of the multi-million-dollar National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), aimed at upscaling India's global leadership in the technical textile space.

HARNESSING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The government has been instrumental in fostering the textile industry's growth. Key initiatives include:

- ✓ **PM MITRA Textile Parks:** To create an integrated ecosystem that scales production units for enhanced efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- ✓ **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:** Encouraging investment in MMF fabrics and apparel, alongside technical textiles, to boost innovation and production capacity
- ✓ **National Technical Textiles Mission:** Driving R&D to elevate India's position in global markets
- ✓ **SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector):** Designed to upskill the workforce, enhancing the industry's overall productivity and quality standards through targeted training programs

SUSTAINABILITY: A STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE

As global demand for sustainable sourcing intensifies, Indian manufacturers are leading the way by implementing renewable energy use, ethical labour standards, and waste reduction.

This shift towards sustainable practices not only meets environmental imperatives but also opens strategic avenues for enhancing India's global reputation. The adoption of solar energy and water-efficient processes is now increasingly becoming standard practice within the industry. Moreover, a national-level task force comprising of key stakeholders is methodically charting a pathway towards sustainable products, solidifying India's position as a leader in global sustainability efforts.

BRIDGING THE SKILL GAP

The industry's reliance on a vast workforce represents both a strength and a vital opportunity. Traditional skills such as weaving and dyeing continue to be invaluable, while the adoption of automation, CAD, and advanced manufacturing technologies is driving an increasing demand for technical expertise.

Skill development initiatives, especially in rural areas, are essential to building an inclusive and future-ready workforce. Furthermore, tailored training programs targeting women and underrepresented groups enhance gender diversity and inclusivity, fostering a more equitable industry landscape globally.

DRIVING GLOBAL TEXTILE INNOVATION: INDIA'S STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENTS IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR

India's textile industry stands at the forefront of global innovation, setting new standards in the textile market through strategic growth and technological advancements. The adoption of man-made fibres (MMF) diversifies

India's raw material base and aligns with crucial global trends, enhancing both stability and adaptability in the market.

Significant technological investments have boosted India's manufacturing capabilities, establishing it as a formidable competitor against key regional players like Bangladesh and Vietnam. These improvements not only enhance operational efficiencies but also elevate the quality of outputs, reinforcing India's reputation as a reliable partner in the international textile arena.

A commitment to sustainable practices distinguishes India's textile industry, appealing to a global network of partners and buyers who prioritize environmental responsibility alongside quality and innovation.

The Road Ahead: Charting the Future of Innovation and Collaboration

India's textile industry is poised for continued leadership on the global stage, with a focus on:

- ✓ **Research and Development (R&D):** Innovating sustainable, energy-efficient textiles to set global standards.
- ✓ **Technological Modernization:** Elevating efficiency and precision through advanced automation and digitalization.
- ✓ **Strategic Partnerships:** Enhancing innovation and skill development through government, industry, and academia collaborations.
- ✓ **Sustainability and Circularity:** Enhancing resource efficiency, water use efficiency and energy efficiency through investments, technology and capacity building; setting up a national level teak force for a clear decarbonisation agenda

These initiatives highlight the industry's proactive strategy to leverage challenges as opportunities for global market leadership.

BHARAT TEX 2025: HARNESSING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Bharat Tex 2025, India's largest textile event, showcases India's extensive capabilities within the textile sector. This event offers key stakeholders the opportunity to engage with and experience the cutting-edge innovations India contributes to the global stage, highlighting the country's pivotal role in shaping the future of global textiles. This catalytic initiative in the transformative journey of India's textile industry, is poised to thrust the sector into a new era of global prominence and innovation.

Scheduled for February 12-17, 2025, this pivotal event, hosted m in New Delhi, is set to amplify India's textile prowess on a global scale.

A CONVERGENCE OF GLOBAL LEADERS AND INNOVATORS

Spanning an expansive 2.2 million square feet of exhibition space, Bharat Tex will host over 5,000 exhibitors and feature over 20,000 exhibits, attracting 6,000 international buyers and 12,000 domestic business visitors from 110 countries.

Supported by major global and national brands such as Aditya Birla, Reliance Industries, Trident Group, and Welspun, the event underscores the substantial industry support and collaboration. Additional key participants include Mafatlal Industries Ltd, EM Crafts, and Supreme Nonwoven Industries Private Limited, highlighting the diverse industry involvement.

DYNAMIC PLATFORMS FOR INNOVATION AND DIALOGUE

Bharat Tex 2025 will showcase various specialized pavilions, including:

- ✓ **Sustainability Pavilion**: Highlighting the industry's dedication to eco-friendly practices.
- ✓ **Start-Up Innovation Pavilion**: Showcasing cutting-edge solutions from emerging businesses.
- ✓ **Craft Museum – Indi bhaat**: A B2C platform that celebrates the intricate tapestry of traditional arts and weaves.

These pavilions are complemented by significant events such as the International Silk Conference, Better Cotton Annual Meet, and the Innovation Hackathon, promoting an environment ripe for networking, collaboration, and growth.

DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY: INNOVATION MEETS RESPONSIBILITY

As the textile industry embraces a pivotal shift towards eco-conscious practices, Bharat Tex 2025 becomes a vital platform for advancing sustainability. Supported by the Ministry of Textiles and organized by 11 Export Promotion Councils, the event showcases collaborative efforts to reduce environmental impact and foster ethical standards.

Key themes include:

- ✓ **Eco-Friendly Innovations**: From water-efficient dyeing techniques to organic cotton farming, the event emphasizes practices that reduce the industry's carbon footprint and resource consumption.
- ✓ **Circular Economy**: Discussions and initiatives focus on recycling, upcycling, and closed-loop manufacturing, underscoring a commitment to minimizing textile waste.
- ✓ **Ethical Sourcing**: Promoting fair wages, safe working conditions, and transparent supply chains, the event drives awareness around responsible sourcing and consumption.

Major sessions such as Future of Textiles: ESG & Sustainability and Accelerating Circularity in Indian Textiles delve into strategies for sustainable growth, while hands-on masterclasses tackle challenges like waste management and waterless dyeing.

Global leaders including the Better Cotton Initiative, UNEP, Laudes Foundation, and corporates like Aditya Birla Group and Arvind align their expertise to highlight scalable solutions, making sustainability not just a vision but a tangible reality for the textile industry.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

The event will also host 70 knowledge sessions facilitated by esteemed partners like KPMG, Gherzi, and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), offering insights into sustainability, trade, investment, and technological advancements. These sessions are designed to equip attendees with the knowledge to navigate and succeed in the evolving global market landscape.

ENGAGEMENT WITH GLOBAL AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Bharat Tex is also supported by an impressive roster of associate partners, including UN agencies such as UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, and UNIDO, alongside government entities like the national think tank Niti Aayog and other departments such as industries and commerce. These partnerships enhance the event's capacity for global dialogue and policy alignment within the textile sector.

Through its comprehensive agenda, Bharat Tex 2025 promises not only to showcase India's vast capabilities across the textile industry but also to set new benchmarks in innovation, sustainability, and global trade relationships. This monumental event is a clarion call to all stakeholders in the textile ecosystem to engage, innovate, and contribute to a future that is both sustainable and prosperous.

Lead the Change in the World of Textile at Bharat Tex 2025—Register Now at www.bharat-tex.com!