

• CITI Textile Sustainability Awards, 2024

Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has been encouraging excellence across the value chain of textile production since 1993-94 through the CITI BIRLA Awards and now with the CITI Textile Sustainability Awards, the focus is being expanding towards Sustainability, Circularity, and Traceability which poses a challenge as well as opportunity for the textile industry.

During the Bharat Tex 2024, CITI organized the 2nd edition of CITI Textile Sustainability Awards on 26th February 2024. During this year, the awards witnessed the below given catregories:

- Best Practices in Social Responsibility & Green Practices.
- Innovative Material Management in Textile Mills
- Best Recyclers
- Best HR Practices
- Best Alternate Materials Use
- Best Sustainable Retail Practices
- Best Women Entrepreneurs- Leading Sustainability and Social Impact

The event was inauguared by Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal, while Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles and Railways, Smt. Darshana Jardosh delivered the Keynote Address during the event.



Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal delievering the inaugural address



Hon'ble Minister of States for Textile & Railways delievering the Keynote address







26th Feb – 1st March 2024

In his inauguaral address, Shri Piyush Goyal complimented the exemplary service of all involved in the textile sector. Shri Goyal applauded CITI for their support and hard work and expressed confidence in helping the sector grow and provide employment and opportunities to the youth of the nation. He further emphasised on CITI's ability to serve not only the needs of the nation but the entire world. He thanked the CITI officials and conveyed his gratitude to the officials for their contribution towards the sector and for guiding the government to continue to grow the textile industry.



With a vision for India's growth and prosperity, the Hon'ble Minister urged stakeholders to work together with a national spirit, ensuring that the textile industry continues to represent the nation's identity and prowess globally, "Let's all work together in oneness and supporting each other with a national spirit and understanding different elements of value chain and making sure textile industry represent the face of India across the world", opined the Hon'ble Minister. He further said that the Bharat Tex 2024 event is a testament to the capability of the sector to be a leader in the future at a global stage. He expressed confidence that working together and understanding the elements of the value chain will help the textile industry be the driving force of the nation's GDP.

Shri Rakesh Mehra, Chairman CITI felicitating Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal,



Shri Ashwin Chandran, Deputy Chairman CITI, felicitating Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles and Railways Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh,

Hon'ble Minster of State for Textiles and Railways while delivering her inaugural address emphasized the increased role of women in the Textile Industry. She requested the industry to reduce dependency on the imports be it for textile machinery or textile products and said that Textile Industry in India has got a brighter future and soon Textile Industry will play a bigger role in India's GDP. She applauded CITI for recognizing and rewarding the efforts of Women Enterprenuers in its award categories.



The CITI Textile Sustainability Awards featured **three** Interactive Sessions focusing on various aspects of sustainability in the textile industry:



The first session was moderated by **Dr. Arindam Basu, Director General, NITRA** and featured **Mr. K.K. Lalpuria, ED & CEO, Indo Count Industries** as a speaker. The session focused on "Achieving Excellence: Green Practices & Innovative Material Management".



The Second interactive Session, "Success Stories: Best Recyclers, HR Practitioners & Alternate Materials Use", was moderated by Dr. Rajesh Bheda, Principal & CEO, Rajesh Bheda Consulting and featured Mr. Anil Jauhri. ex-CEO, NABCB, Mr. Marius Golden, Co-Founder and COO, Reverse Resources, Ms. Anjali Krishnan, Program Manager-Alternate Materials, IDH, Mr. Prithvi M. Krishnakumar, Jt. MD, Sulochana Cotton Spg. Mills, Mr. Deepak Goel, Director, Geetanjali Woollens and Mr. Suchira Surendranath, Director – Cross Country, Brandix Group as speakers. Also seen in the picture (from Left) Dr. Arindam Basu, DG, NITRA and Ms. Chandrima Chatterjee, SG, CITI.



The third Interactive Session, "Best Sustainable Retail Practices & Women Leading Sustainability and Social Impact", was moderated by Mr. Prashant Agarwal, Jt. MD, Wazir Advisors and featured Mr. Raman Dutta, General Secretary, Brands & Sourcing Leaders Association, Dr. Rennie Joyy, Founder, Aalekh Foundation, Mr. Ashok Kumar Thanikonda, Senior Program Officer, Global Green Growth Institute, Mr. Sanjeev Grewal, Regional Business Director- SW Asia & ME, Amann Group, Ms. Nivedita Banerji, Founder, Kumbaya Producer Company as speakers.

The three Interactive Sessions were followed by presentations of **Mr. Manu Gahlowt, Director-Softlines, Intertek** and **Mr. Khaled Schuman, Executive Director, Cotton Egypt Association.**



Presentation by Mr. Manu Gahlowt, Director-Softlines, Intertek on Sustainable Retail Practices



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



26th Feb – 1st March 2024



Presentation by Mr. Khaled Schuman, Executive Director, Cotton Egypt Association on Integrating Sustainability in the Production, Distribution and Procurement Process

During the event felicitated Kumuda who is a is a dynamic and efficient Nano entrepreneur as the "Most Inspiring Women Entrepreneur - Circular Textiles".



Kumuda recipient of the "Most Inspiring Women Entrepreneur - Circular Textiles" in CITI Textile Sustainability Awards 2024 with Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, , Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles and Railways, Shri Rakesh Mehra, Chairman CITI, Shri, Ashwin Chandran, Deputy Chairman, CITI, and Shri T. Rajkumar, Immediate Past Chairman, CITI





26th Feb – 1st March 2024

Category wise awardees of the CITI Birla Economic & Textile Research Foundation Awards and CITI Textile Sustainability Awards are as below:

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CITI Birla Economic & Textile Research Foundation Awards

- 1. Best Practices adopted by Textile Mills especially in Social Responsibility & Green Practices
 - Winner: Indo Count Industries Ltd.
 - 1st Runner Up: Pratibha Syntex Ltd.
- 2. Innovative Material Management in Textile Mills
 - Winner: Indo Count Industries Ltd.
 - o 1st Winner up: Jeyavishnu Clothing Pvt. Ltd.

CITI Textile Sustainability Awards'2024

- 1. Best Recyclers
 - Winner: Geetanjali Woolens Pvt. Ltd.
 - o 1st Runner up: Sulochana Cotton Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd.
 - 2nd Runner Up: Kakkar Spinning Mills
- 2. Best Alternate Materials Use:
 - Winner: Sulochana Cotton Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd.
 - 1st Runner Up: Conserve India
 - o 2nd Runner Up: Reliance Industries Ltd.
- 3. Best Sustainable Retail Practices:
 - o Winner: Amann Sewing & Embroidery Threads Pvt. Ltd
 - 1st Runner Up: Raymond UCO Denim Everblue Apparel Ltd.
 - 2nd Runner Up: Indo Count Industries Ltd.
- 4. Best Women Entrepreneurs- Leading Sustainability and Social Impact
 - Winner: Kumbaya Producer Company Limited
 - 1st Runner Up: Saahas Waste Management Pvt. Ltd
 - o 2nd Runner Up: 23:23 Designs & Sourcing
- 5. Best HR Practices
 - Winner: Brandix Apparel India Pvt Ltd.
 - 1st Runner Up: Teejay India Pvt. Ltd.
 - 2nd Runner Up: Pratibha Syntex Ltd.



Award ceremenoy was concluded with the closing reamarks of Shri Ashwin Chandran, Deputy Chairman – CITI who extended his heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce, and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, the Textile Minister, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, all participants, organizers, and sponsors for a successful and thanked all the award winners.



Vote of thanks by Mr. Ashwin Chandran, Deputy Chairman of CITI

• Exemplary Services to the Indian Textile Industry awards

During the CITI Textile Sustainability Awards, CITI also organized *Exemplary Services to the Indian Textile Industry* awards to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the various industry stalwarts towards the growth of Indian Textile Industry. The Awards were handed over by Hon'ble Union Textile Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh.

List of awardess is as below:

- Shri B.K. Patodia, who was pioneer in opening international markets and promoting export excellence.
- Late Dr. Rajaram Jaipuria, who dedicated over 50 years to the industry and championed sustainable cotton development initiatives.
- **Dr. Krishnaraj Vanarvarayar**, known for his leadership in various textile segments and his role in shaping industry policies.
- Shri Prem Malik, instrumental in establishing skill development programs and forging international partnerships, were also honoured for their lasting impact.





Mr. Umang Patodia, son of Shri B K Patodia receiving the Exemplary Service to the Textile Industry Award on behalf of Shri B.K. Patodia, Past Chairman, CITI & Chairman, GTN Textiles Ltd.



Mr. Saket Jaipuria, grandson of Dr. Rajaram Jaipuria and Executive Director, Ginni Filaments receiving the Exemplary Service to the Textile Industry Award on behalf of Late Dr Rajaram Jaipuria, Past Chairman, CITI & CMD, Ginni Filaments Ltd.



Mr Shankar Vanavarayar, son of Dr Krishnaraj Vanarvarayar receiving the Exemplary Service to the Textile Industry Award on behalf of Dr Krishnaraj Vanarvarayar, Past Chairman, CITI & Chairman, Sri Sakthi Textiles Ltd.



Shri K.K. Lalpuria, Executive Director & CEO,Indo Count Industries Ltd. receiving the Exemplary Service to the Textile Industry award on behalf of Shri Prem Malik, Past Chairman, CITI & Vice Chairman, NSL Textiles Ltd.



• Meeting of the National Committee on Textile & Clothing (NCTC)

The Indian Textile Industry is going through a critical phase as there has been a slowdown in domestic demand as well as exports. Moreover, the industry is also facing challenges in terms of raw material availability and pricing, as also gearing itself up for the upcoming requirements towards sustainability and traceability. So to discuss the same and devise a roadmap to overcome the present challenges, CITI organized a meeting of NCTC on 26^{th} February 2024 from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM on the sidelines of Bharat Tex 2024.

The meeting was attended by various representatives from assocations like from CITI, CMAI, TEXPROCIL, SIMA, AMFII, and industry representatives from TT Limited, Grasim Industries, etc.

The meeting started with the opening remarks of CITI Chairman, Shri Rakesh Mehra who thanked



all the participants for joining the NCTC meeting. Shri Mehra highlighted that during the inauguration of Bharat Tex. Hon'ble Prime Minister opined that the role of Government should be more of a facilitator for procedure simplification. Indian Textile Industry is fragmented in nature with varying perspectives which may be conflicting in nature and hence recommended enhancing collaboration various among stakeholders within the textile sector so that a comprehensive resolution can be achieved to

further the development of the industry.

During the meeting various suggestions were put forward by various stakeholders such as:

- o Increasing the competitiveness of Indian Textile Industry
- o Roadmap for strengthening the domestic gamment sector
- Working on new marketing concepts according to new age customers
- Setting up HSN code guidelines to achieve the desired target of US\$ 350 bn industry
- o Setting up more committes like TAG to discuss industry issues frequently
- Using of NCTC platform towards making the industry more aware of the increasing ESG reporting.

The meeting ended with the closing remarks of Shri T. Rajkumar, Immediate Past Chairman CITI, who thanked all the participants for joining the NCTC meeting and assured all that NCTC will work towards all the actionable emerged during the meeting.



• MoU of CITI with Fair Wear Foundation

The textile industry is increasingly being faced with growing requirements on the various social and environmental compliance requirements and proper disclosure formats to report on the same.

In this regard, several of the European countries have already brought in mandatory guidelines



for reporting on due diligence on ESG parameters. Companies, including brands and retailers, in the context of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs,) the OECD, Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment Sector (OECD Guidelines) and upcoming/existing Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD) legislations, will have the responsibility to assess, identify, prevent, mitigate and remediate risks and violations in their supply chain.

Given the growing need for more awareness and capacity building in this area, CITI has signed an agreement with the Fair Wear Foundation for raising awareness on HRDD and greater engagement of the industry in this area to facilitate improved industry action through more information and validation to enable impactful due diligence action and reporting.

The areas of collaborative activity include :

- CITI together with Fair Wear will have meetings with the senior level management of the leading suppliers for an understanding of the requirements and challenges of implementing the HRDD framework.
- Organise small cluster level workshops along with our regional associations in the textile clusters of Coimbatore, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Delhi for training of the industry members on HRDD.
- To ensure an institutional long term repository of the technical know-how of the HRDD content and implementation, CITI will anchor a Facilitation Hub at CITI office to service industry queries, capacity building needs and initial handholding of the industry members who want to get trained on the HRDD framework
- Support or co-host supplier facing learning and capacity building events on HRDD at production locations
- To work on dissemination of practical tools aimed at the improvement of purchasing practices

The first the cluster level meetings started with a meeting in Delhi at the Netherland Embassy on 1st March 2024. CITI will be planning cluster level training programmes on HRDD along with our regional associations in the various textile clusters.



26th Feb – 1st March 2024

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12 | Page