

**Remarks of H.E. Ambassador Mr Sibi George
at 13th India Trend Fair, Tokyo, January 16-18, 2024**

Mr. Romesh Khajuria, Chairman, Wool & Woolens Export Promotion Council (WWEPC),

Mr. Suresh Thakur, ED, WWEPC and officer bearers of Power loom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL)

Mr. Prashant Godghate, Chairman, Japan India Industry Promotion Association

Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to Inaugurate the 13th edition of India Trend Fair, a bi-annual affair, which provides a perfect platform to showcase India's fast-growing apparel and accessory market. I am happy to state that India Trend Fair (ITF) provides an opportunity to over 120 Indian exporters to showcase their textile and fashion products. These products have the potential of being specifically designed and value added, to cater to Japanese fashion trends and requirements. The Trend Fair brings the latest in Indian fashion and textile technology to Japan.

2. The Indian textile ecosystem, rooted in tradition and innovation, covers cotton, silk, wool, and synthetic fibres. The industry, employing around 4.5 crore people, is the second-largest employer in India. The government focuses on enhancing infrastructure, technology, skills, and traditional strengths, with the industry valued at USD

154 billion, contributing 2-3% to the GDP. India is the third-largest exporter of textiles and apparel globally.

3. Friends, India is today recognized as one of the best sourcing destinations for garments, textiles, accessories and finished products. It provides a perfect blend of fashion, design, quality, patterns, textures, colors and finish. Manufacturers here are ready to innovate, be flexible on quantities, have hands-on approach to quality control and keep the integrity on deadlines. India has been a name for artisanal craftsmanship combined with deeply embedded value chains in fashion, traditional garments and time-honoured textile techniques.

4. Government schemes like PM MITRA and PLI aim to boost the textile industry, providing integrated value chains, employment, and investments. PM MITRA envisions 7 mega textile parks, while PLI promotes growth in (Man Made Fabric) MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics, and Technical Textiles. The National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM) supports technical textiles' growth, and the SAMARTH Scheme focuses on employment and skill development in the traditional sector, benefitting 1.7 lakh beneficiaries.

5. India's share in Japanese textile market is near negligible, therefore there is immense potential for increasing bilateral textiles trade and investment between India and Japan. Japan is the third largest apparel importer in the world. On the other hand, Indian textile industry is highly diversified with a wide range of handicrafts, wool and silk products of traditional handlooms industry, and hand-made carpets.

6. As the bilateral relations between India and Japan deepen further, there is a huge potential for Indian apparel items to be im-

ported tariff-free into Japan. India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement already provides a G-2-G enabling framework. The B-2-B connect of Japanese buyers and Indian manufacturers to forge partnerships which are meaningful, competitive yet collaborative is the way forward.

7. I am happy to note that WVEPC and PDEXCIL are organizing this Roadshow for promoting upcoming Bharat Tex 2024, a Global Textile Expo to be held in New Delhi on February 26-29, 2024.

8. Bharat Tex 2024, a major global textile event organized by Indian Textile Export Promotion Councils and supported by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, brings together industry experts, manufacturers, buyers, designers, and enthusiasts worldwide. The event features exhibitions, knowledge sessions, thematic discussions, G2G meetings, B2B networks, MoU signings, product launches, and interactive pavilions. It aims to attract top policymakers, global CEOs, international exhibitors, and buyers.

9. Bharat Tex 2024, will be held at state-of-the-art venues in New Delhi, spanning nearly 200,000 sq. m, showcasing various textile products. It includes 50 knowledge sessions covering global and India-specific topics, providing a platform for G2G and B2B interactions. The 4-day event expects over 3,500 exhibitors, 3,000 overseas buyers, and 40,000 domestic buyers.

10. I commend the efforts of organizers and exhibitors in showcasing this event today and wish it all the success!
