

PRESS RELEASE

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textile, inaugurates 58th edition of India International Garment Fair

Fair to boost market sentiments of Indian exporters; expected to bring in double digit growth in the next quarter- AEPC Chairman

January 18, 2017, New Delhi: Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), India, organised the 58th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) today at Pragati Maidan. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textile, inaugurated the three day international fair, catering to Autumn- Winter 2017/ 18. The inauguration was done in the presence of dignitaries- Shri Ajay Tamta, Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles; Smt. Rashmi Verma, IAS, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry Of Textiles; Shri Subrata Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles amongst many others.

Speaking on the inauguration, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textile, said, "Festivity in terms of trade had begun under the aegis of AEPC which is organising its 58th Fair. I congratulate the participants who have come here with a lot of hope, presenting their talent to the rest of the world. I am made aware that over 1000 buyers are coming to this fair today so that they can leverage the talent that India has to offer. My hope is that AEPC through these endeavours goes from strength to strength... small and medium enterprises which are new in the world of exports use these platforms which are comparatively cost effective."

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Ashok G Rajani, Chairman, AEPC said, "India's RMG export to World during April-December of 2016-17 witnessed a decline of 0.2% compared to the same period in the previous financial year. The market sentiments have been affected due to delays in roll out of special package which was announced for the apparel sector in June 2016 and stagnation in the Europe and US markets."

"We are expecting the 58th IIGF to bring in double digit growth in the Indian export market, bringing in optimism amongst exporters", added Mr. Rajani.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lalit Thukral, Chairman Exhibition Advisory Committee, AEPC said, "We are expecting participation from nearly 1100 national and international buyers and buying houses at IIGF. Buyers attending the Fair are expected to visit for immediate sourcing requirements and deliveries. This scenario will immensely benefit manufacturers with capacities prepared to deliver at a short notice."

1081 buyers have confirmed from 94 countries across the world. Buyers from Europe, The United States of America, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa amongst many others are participating in the event.

Fourteen states from India viz. Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Gujarat, Karnataka to name a few are participating. A total of 312 participants are showcasing women's wear, accessories, kid's wear and men's wear.

The 58th IIGF aims to be one of the largest platforms in Asia where overseas garment buyers can source and forge the business relationship with India's finest in Apparel and Fashion Accessories domain.

About Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)

Incorporated in 1978, AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/ international buyers who choose India as their preferred sourcing destination for garments. In recent years AEPC has worked tirelessly in integrating the entire industry - starting at the grass root level of training the workforce and supplying a steady stream of man power to the industry; identifying the best countries to source machinery and other infrastructure and brokering several path breaking deals for its members and finally helping exporters to showcase their best at home fairs as well as be highly visible at international fairs the world over. With AEPC's expertise and all the advantages that India has, it makes for a truly win-win situation - Indian exporters grow stronger each year in their achievements, skills and proficiency, while international buyers get superior solutions for their garment imports.

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