

TWENTIETH REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(2020-21)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

**[FUNCTIONING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
FASHION TECHNOLOGY (NIFT)]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 22.07.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.07.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

July, 2021/Ashadha, 1943 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR
(2020-21)**

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
4. Shri Pasunoori Dayakar
5. Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi
6. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
7. Shri B.N. Bache Gowda
8. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
9. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
10. Adv. Dean Kuriakose
11. Shri Sanjay Sadashivrao Mandlik
12. Shri Khalilur Rahaman
13. Shri D. Ravikumar
14. Shri Nayab Singh Saini
15. Shri Naba Kumar Sarania
16. Shri Ganesh Singh
17. Shri Bhola Singh
18. Shri K. Subbarayan
19. @ Vacant
20. # Vacant
21. \$ Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Dushyant Gautam
23. Shri Neeraj Dangi
24. Shri Oscar Fernandes
25. Shri Elamaram Kareem
26. ^ Shri Mahesh Jethmalani
27. Dr. Banda Prakash
28. * Shri Naresh Bansal
29. Ms. Dola Sen
30. Shri M. Shanmugam
31. Shri Vivek Thakur

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri T.G. Chandrasekhar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri D.R. Mohanty - Director
3. Ms. Miranda Ingudam - Deputy Secretary

@ Vacancy occurred *vice* Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty resigned *w.e.f* 3rd February, 2021.

Shri John Barla ceased to be Member of the Committee *w.e.f* 07.07.2021 *vice* he was appointed as Union Minister.

\$ Dr. Virendra Kumar ceased to be Member of the Committee *w.e.f* 07.07.2021 *vice* he was appointed as Union Minister.

^ Nominated *w.e.f* 11th June, 2021 *vice* Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra expired.

* Nominated *w.e.f* 23rd December, 2020 *vice* Shri Rajaram retired.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Labour (2020-21) having been authorized by the Committee, present on their behalf this Twentieth Report on 'Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)' relating to the Ministry of Textiles.

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles on 2nd December, 2020. The Committee considered and adopted this Report during the sitting held on 8th July, 2021.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the above cited Ministry of Textiles for tendering evidence and placing before the Committee all the requisite information sought for in connection with the examination of the subject.

4. For ease of reference and convenience, the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

New Delhi;
20th July, 2021
29 Ashadha, 1943 (Saka)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

PART I

I **INTRODUCTORY**

1. The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) was set up in 1986, and over the years has established itself as the pioneering institute of fashion education in the Country being in the vanguard of providing professional human resource to the textile and apparel industry. A leader in fashion education, NIFT seeks to integrate knowledge, academic freedom, critical independence and creative thinking. For the last three decades, the Institute has lived up to its reputation as a bastion of academic excellence and as a key enabler of developing competent professionals. It was made a Statutory Institute in 2006 by an Act of Parliament with the President of India as 'Visitor' and 17 full-fledged, professionally managed campuses across the Country *viz.* Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Kannur, Kangra, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Panchkula, Patna, Raebareli, Shillong and Srinagar.
2. NIFT has strengthened its academic strategy through invigorating thought leadership, research stimulus, industry focus, creative enterprise and peer learning reinforcing the Institute's academic bedrock. Fostering a new generation of creative thinkers, the Institute is empowered to award degrees in undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral studies. NIFT offers Under Graduate programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Communication, Accessory Design, Knitwear Design, Textile Design, Leather Design and Fashion Technology and Post Graduate Programmes on Design, Fashion Tech and Fashion Management besides also offering Doctoral Programmes, Diploma Programmes and Continuing Education Programmes. Articulating the ideology of world-class learning practices, the Institute has entered into strategic alliances with leading International Institutes. Committed to

academic excellence in fashion education, the vision of the Institute embraces challenges to provide impetus in setting the highest academic standards. While continuing to strive for the best, NIFT has undertaken a major exercise to review and restructure the curriculum with an objective to prepare a curriculum which is inter disciplinary in nature, aiming at holistic personality development of students and augmenting their creative abilities. NIFT has also pioneered significant changes in the industry in terms of strategy, approach, technology upgradation, design intervention and management practices. The future ready new curriculum which opens many pathways for students to position themselves in the industry as holistic professionals has been brought about. Meticulous mapping of professional competency and subject matter is carried out before engaging any external expert in the form of visiting faculty and jury members. The new curriculum also requires the use of specialized labs and infrastructure that will be made available at all the NIFT campuses.

3. To ensure its contribution to the industry, NIFT has been undertaking important and relevant projects like National Sizing Survey of India, Skill Upgradation, Design Development and Product Diversification, product range development, packaging /exhibition, fashion shows among many other endeavours. The academic strategy of NIFT embraces internationalism. The core activities of the Institute have enhanced its international visibility and standing. NIFT has strategic agreements and partnerships with 26 leading international Fashion Institutes and organizations. The international collaborations allow the students to experience 'study abroad' options through exchange programme.

4. The vision of NIFT is to offer at all its campuses, a learning experience of the highest standards in fashion pertaining to design, technology and management and encourage a remarkably creative

student body to draw inspiration from India's textiles and crafts while focusing on emerging global trends relevant to the industries that it serves.

5. The Mission of NIFT is broadly to:-

- Provide a transformative educational environment for talented young men and women to nurture their inventive potential and to acquire distinctive skills valuable to self, industry and society.
- Offer a stimulating, modernistic and evolving curriculum that spans the vast spectrum of India's artistic heritage yet remain firmly contemporary by incorporating disruptive technologies.
- Value and celebrate cultural and individual diversity in our students, faculty and alumni, always emphasizing the power of fellowship.
- Be a global leader in the dissemination of innovative and project-based pedagogies in design, management and technology for all facets of the textile, apparel, retail and accessories industries, through the promotion of rigorous and cutting-edge research.
- Enable faculty and students to have intensive interaction with educational institutions, fashion houses, start-up hubs and corporations relevant to our programmes.
- Bring forth graduates who stay committed to exacting standards of professional excellence and personal integrity.

6. With a view to assess the performance of NIFT in monitoring and promoting quality and excellence in education and research in the area of fashion technology as well as the patronage the Institute needs from

the Government to further its endeavour, the Committee took up the subject for examination and report. In the process, the Committee obtained preliminary materials and requisite written replies from the Ministry/NIFT besides taking their oral evidence. Based on such written and oral depositions, the Committee have analyzed various issues concerning the subject matter as enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs followed by the Committee's considered Observations/Recommendations.

II FUNCTIONS AND MANDATE

7. The salient features of the NIFT Act, 2006, which provides statutory backing to the Institution *inter-alia* include provisions pertaining to President of India being the Visitor of the Institute; Policy Decisions on administration of Institute taken by the Board of Governors; Director General serving as the Principal Executive Officer; Registrar as the Secretary to the Board; besides the Institution being empowered to award Degrees to Under Graduates (UG), Post Graduates (PG) and for Doctoral Studies in the areas of Design, Management and Technology.

8. The functions of the NIFT as enumerated in Section 6 of the NIFT Act, 2006 are as follows:-
 - (i) to nurture and promote quality and excellence in education and research in the area of fashion technology;
 - (ii) to lay down courses leading to graduate and post-graduate degrees, doctoral and post-doctoral courses and research in area of fashion technology;
 - (iii) to hold examinations and grant degrees in area of fashion technology;
 - (iv) to confer honorary degrees, awards or other distinctions in area of fashion technology;

- (v) to cooperate with educational or other institutions in any part of the world having objects wholly or partly similar to those of the Institute by exchange of faculty members and scholars and generally in such manner as may be conducive to their common objective;
- (vi) to conduct courses for teachers, fashion technologists and other professionals;
- (vii) to undertake research and studies in area of fashion technology and application thereof, particularly concerning the integration of locally produced materials, the requirements of mass production, improved quality and design and international marketing;
- (viii) to collect and maintain literature and materials available in area of fashion technology so as to develop a modern information centre within the Country;
- (ix) to create a central faculty of fashion technology resource and analysis for use by the researchers;
- (x) to have a centre to experiment and innovate and to train persons in the area of fashion technology;
- (xi) to develop an international centre for creation and transmission of information in the area of fashion technology, with focus on educational, professional and industrial commitments;
- (xii) to develop a multi-disciplinary approach in carrying out research and training in area of fashion technology so that the larger interests of the profession, academia and fashion industry are better served;
- (xiii) to organise national or international symposia, seminars, conferences and exhibitions in selected area of fashion technology, from time to time;
- (xiv) to arrange courses catering to the special needs of the developing Countries;
- (xv) to act as a nucleus for interaction between academia and industry by encouraging exchange of fashion technologists and

other technical staff between the Institute and the industry and by undertaking sponsored and funded research as well as consultancy projects by the Institute;

(xvi) to provide technical assistance to artisans, craftsmen, manufacturers, designers and exporters of fashion products; and

(xvii) to carry out any other activity in the area of fashion technology not specifically listed above.

III PROGRAMMES AND FACULTIES

9. The Committee were informed that the strength of NIFT includes 17 Campuses; 2106 Guest Faculty; 43 Research Scholars; 551 In House Faculty; 10 Departments; 781 Employees/Officers; 552 Experts; 12668 Students; 28000 plus Alumni; and 6000 plus Industry Associations. The Committee were also apprised that NIFT Alumni occupied over 70% of the Managerial Positions in Textile and Fashion Industry Association not only in India but in South East Asia and were instrumental in shaping the future of Fashion Business through these key decision making positions.

10. Asked to furnish the break-up of the number of seats in various disciplines/categories, the Ministry deposed as under:-

CATEGORY	B.DES	BFT	MFM	M.DES	MFT	TOTAL
Regular	2304	397	495	134	112	3442
EWS	213	36	45	12	12	318
NRI	299	50	61	18	16	444
Domicile	222	35	49	7	0	313
Total	3038	518	650	171	140	4517

11. On a specific query on the sanctioned strength of academic staff and the vacancies, the Ministry furnished the following information:-

Academic Posts - Sanctioned and In-Position (Regular, Long Term Contract)

Name of Post	Sanctioned Total	Total Filled	Vacant
Sr. Prof. / Professor	209	64	145
Associate Professor	209	208	1
Assistant Professor	417	180	237*

* Recruitment process initiated. Vacancies likely to be filled in 2021-22.

12. Highlighting the existing programme/courses offered at various levels, the Ministry submitted as under:-

I UNDER GRADUATE:

Bachelor of Design

- Fashion Design
- Textile Design
- Knitwear Design
- Accessory Design
- Leather Design
- Fashion Communication

Bachelor of Fashion Technology

II POST GRADUATE:

- Master of Fashion Technology
- Master of Fashion Management
- Master of Design Space

III CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Short duration part time evening/weekend course of 5 days upto 1 year.

IV BRIDGE PROGRAMME

- Allows former NIFT Graduates to enhance their Diploma to Degree.

V DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- 1-2 year full time programme.

VI PhD Programme

- Both Full time and part time

13. The Committee were then informed that the nature of Academic transaction included *inter-alia* Semester System; Major and Minor; Deepening Specializations; Inter Departmental Minors and General Electives; Craft Cluster Initiative; Industry Internships and Connect; Graduation Projects; Collaborative Workshops; Special (Expert) Lectures; Students Exchange etc.

14. In response to a specific query, the Ministry submitted that focus of Academic Input of NIFT was on the Top Ten Skills for Millennials *viz.* Complex Problem Solving; Critical Thinking; Creativity; People Management; Coordinating with others; Emotional Intelligence; Judgement and Decision Making; Service Orientation; Negotiation; and Cognitive Flexibility; whereas Learning Outcomes include Knowledge, Skill and Synthesis for curriculum as a whole, for each domain as well as specifically for each subject.

IV RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

15. Touching upon the Research and Development Initiatives taken by NIFT, the Ministry of Textiles highlighted the various facets as under:-

I Doctoral Programme:-

- Sustainability

- Garment Manufacturing
- Product Development
- Design Education & Innovation
- Market & Trend Studies

II NIFT Faculty Publications:-

- More than around 780 papers in leading academic research journals
- 20 articles in commercial magazines/newspapers
- 128 books/book chapters
- Approximately 850 paper presentations in seminars and conferences all over the world by NIFT faculty members.

III Patents filed:-

- Anti Molestation Jacket (Self Defence Wearable)
- Computerized Sewing Skill Evaluation System
- Advances Needle Guard
- Pedal-Less Attachment for SNLS Sewing Machine
- Sewing Needle Vending Machine
- Automatic Detachable Cycle Time & Output calculator for Industrial Sewing Machine
- On-Machine Broken Needle Collecting Attachment for SNLS Machine
- Automatic Thread Removal/Suction Machine for Knit Garments

IV Industry Chairs – Tata Trent Chair:- Measure impact of National Brand and Private Labels on customers in terms of footfall, conversion, repeat purchase, loyalty and brand advocacy in the organized Apparel Retail Industry in India.

V Shahi Chair-Apparel Manufacturing:- To develop and execute high impact research agenda, developing multi-investigator programs

and multi-disciplinary laboratories, developing innovative training programs and curricula, fostering collaborations across the industry and academia.

V CENTRE FOR ADVANCE RESEARCH IN TEXTILES

16. This Centre is proposed to be set-up in the hub of Textile Manufacturing of India, Coimbatore. Envisaged as an Research and Development (R&D) Centre with international level of facilities to support cutting edge research in the textile and clothing sector, its main objective is to support fundamental research, product development, and technology transfer; to facilitate outreach, economic development, engagement and extension, coupled with research and teaching; and to work with Industry, Government and partners through fundamental research, product development, testing and fabrication services. The focus areas and verticals include Fibre Engineering Lab; Advance Wet Processing Lab; Smart Garments Lab; Nonwoven Lab; and Digitization and Automation Lab. It has also been submitted that a Project Report is being finalized.

VI INITIATIVES/MAJOR PROJECTS TO IMPROVE FUNCTIONING OF NIFT

17. Initiatives taken to improve the functioning of NIFT as highlighted to the Committee include *inter-alia* the Craft Cluster Initiative; Major Project Initiatives *viz.* NIFT Design Innovation Incubator; Visionxt-Trend Insights and Forecasting Lab; Repository Indian Textiles and Crafts; India Size Project; International Linkages; Dual Degree Opportunity; and Centre for Sustainable Fashion at Bhubaneswar Campus.

(i) CRAFT CLUSTER INITIATIVE AND ITS IMPACT

18. The Committee were apprised that as the premier institute in fashion education in India and in tandem with its wider commitment to social and human values, NIFT inculcates a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Indian craft heritage and its potential to contribute to global fashion. As a leader of fashion education in India, NIFT realized the importance of its social responsibilities and continued its endeavor to train designers to appreciate and promote the handlooms and handicrafts of India. The Craft Cluster Initiative programme provided the students of NIFT a systematic, continuous and regular exposure every year to the diversely rich and unique handlooms and handicrafts of India. NIFT has an advantage of connecting with the handloom and handicrafts clusters and forge new partnerships, due to its presence in 17 States across the Country. Under this initiative, various campuses of NIFT have adopted local clusters of handloom and handicraft and carry out activities involving product development, design intervention, knowledge sharing and capacity building. The Ministry further submitted that the students at NIFT specialized in the areas of design, technology, management and communication. According to the specialization, students contributed in varied areas in the clusters like design intelligence, design innovation, product development, supply chain management, brand management, retail entrepreneurship, organizational development and systems design and development. The students also contributed in the areas of process innovation, production planning, and research-based improvisation and quality management. Further, the students assisted artisans to develop distinct identity of the handloom and handicraft clusters through logo, promotional materials like posters, brochures and catalogues. Through this initiative, NIFT has been successful in creating a widespread awareness and sensitivity in assimilating crafts into fashion and vice-versa.

19. As regards steps taken by NIFT towards fostering more interaction between students and experienced artisans, the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles deposed in evidence as under:-

“Sir, you are absolutely right. All those who are master craftsmen are invited and they do workshops with the students. We do not take them in the Artisan Awareness Workshop. They work for craft based product development and craft research development and they come and teach the students. Our students cannot go and teach them anything, they come only after learning from them. The awareness that we can give to our artisans and craftsmen, we can give that today's generation, you are absolutely right that fashion comes again after four hundred years, but it does not come in that form, so to today's generation which colour is pleasing, what is the demand of today's generation, without telling them, because when they go and work with them, they learn a lot from them. The children who come to us here, children of all classes come, children of every class come, and there are some people who have never seen the village. For ten days when they go and stay in the village, their whole life changes.

You talked about designing uniforms for Anganwadi women. We did not say this in our presentation, but NIFT does and has been doing almost everything to design their uniforms, for many years. We make a uniform for whoever approaches or tells us.”

20. On the aspect of Craft intervention, the representatives of the Ministry further deposed as under:-

“NIFT with active support from the offices of Development Commissioner-Handicrafts and Handloom has developed and implemented a new Craft Cluster Initiative Program which is dovetailed with academics with the aim to:-

- *Provide the students with continuous exposure to the handloom and handicraft clusters.*
- *Reach out to the artisans and craftsmen at the grass root level*
- *Create a widespread awareness and sensitivity in assimilating crafts into fashion and vice-versa.*

Further, approximately 7000 students across NIFT campuses are working in 70 craft clusters of handloom and handicrafts with over 1200 artisans every semester. Activities undertaken include:-

- *Craft Demonstration by artisans at NIFT campuses*
- *Craft Research and Documentation*
- *Craft Based Design Project*
- *Artisan Awareness Workshop at NIFT Campuses*
- *Showcase of Craft Cluster Activities by organizing Craft Bazaar at NIFT Campuses*
- *Apart from the above activities DC(HL) and DC(HC) also sponsor Craft Based Graduation Projects”*

21. Highlighting areas of Industry Interaction, the representative of the Ministry apprised as under:-

- Forecast Technology & skill requirements of the Industry based on business and technology trends.
- Industry specific Certificate & Diploma Programmes offering professional education to Industry
- Intellectual Collaboration through expert lectures, technical workshops, seminars and conferences.
- Classroom projects sponsored by the Industry to address real time challenges and to work on cutting-edge research and develop solutions than can have a global impact.
- Internship, Graduation Research Projects and full time placement.

- Joint Research and Consultancy viz., Research Chair, Co-Innovation labs etc.
- Industry Consultancy with research focused initiatives.
- Faculty Industry Attachment.

22. On being asked to elucidate and give concrete examples of success of craft cluster initiative, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The Craft Cluster Initiative has been a successful academic endeavour across various disciplines at NIFT. The initiative has given an opportunity to NIFT and its students to interact with artisans based in the different clusters of India. The craft sensitization has familiarized students about Indian textile/craft traditions, evoking a deep sense of regard towards sustainable cultural practices. The know-how of the heritage and culture has surely instilled a sense of pride among younger generations. The initiative has benefitted the artisans through co-creation of contemporary and viable designs, thereby boosting their sales. The conduct of artisan awareness workshops has led to knowledge dissemination and better understanding of design and urban markets. The initiative has also exposed students to various handloom and handicraft clusters, inspiring them to amalgamate handcrafted skills in their design collections. Young NIFT graduates have started working closely with craft clusters and some of them have initiated craft-based start-ups, thereby providing new markets to the artisans. The initiative has also led to rich documentation of the textile and crafts of India that would be made available to the world through a digital repository that is being developed by NIFT. The Repository endeavours to showcase creativity and diversity of traditional Indian textiles, clothing and crafts and their continuity in contemporary India. The knowledge portal would also create an integrated database of craft practitioners to promote and provide direct access to Indian and international stakeholders.”

23. The Ministry further submitted as follows:-

“There are many success stories of NIFT alumni, who have strived to amalgamate traditional craft skills in contemporary fashion, thus promoting the textile heritage of India on a global platform and providing livelihood to several artisans. To name a few, celebrity designer Sabyasachi extensively uses Indian textiles and popularised the Indianness through color, cut and craft on global platforms. Designer, Sanjay Garg, who started with four weavers in Chanderi cluster, now employs over 450 weavers to create exquisite handloom saris. Another designer, Anavila Misra known for her exquisite linen saris has been engaged with the craft clusters of West Bengal and Jharkhand. She has always acknowledged the contribution of the artisans for design development. Well known designer Rajesh Pratap Singh’s collaboration with Arvind for producing khadi denim demonstrates the strong connect between traditional crafts and the apparel industry. Many NIFT alumni have made efforts to showcase Indian handlooms and handicrafts on international runways. For instance, Suket Dhir has incorporated Benarasi and Jamdani weaves in his collections, that are acclaimed globally. NIFT alumni have always made efforts to build conscious sustainable fashion through indigenous handcrafted skills. Upasana Design Studio, an Auroville based conscious clothing studio by Uma Prajapati showcases the power of the handloom heritage combined with ethical practices. Another designer, Shashikanth Naidu exclusively works with Kalamkari projecting the richness of the craft on a contemporary silhouette. Shravan Ramaswamy works extensively with handlooms of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. His expertise lies in merging tradition with contemporary ethnic fashion. Another designer Aneeth Arora interprets international aesthetic using local material and skills, taking inspiration from immediate surroundings to make a product that is globally relevant. Many NIFT alumni are deeply involved in the revival of the languishing textiles and

crafts of India. For example, textile designer, Poonam Pandit has made efforts to revive the languishing Goan handloom weaving clusters. Through design intervention, the clusters have started developing new products, leading to both domestic and international sales. Designer, Pankaja Sethi has been working with Adivasi women and weavers of Odisha for nearly two decades, co-creating experimental handloom weaves, catering to the urban markets. Another designer, Lipsa under the label Galang Gabaan also promotes Odisha textiles, merging with high fashion trends to create ready-to-wear line of clothing. Knitwear designer, Samant Chauhan closely works with Bhagalpur weavers and is also known for development of handloom denim in association with Ministry of Textiles. NIFT by way of integrating the craft cluster initiative into their curriculum, ensures that design, management and technology students are sensitized to the craft sector and in the future are able to effectively contribute in reviving, preserving and promoting the rich textiles and crafts of India.”

24. Asked to share measures taken to include India’s heritage in the curriculum, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“NIFT students are given in-depth knowledge on the rich textile heritage of India. Students study Indian Handlooms, Handicrafts and Costume in the design disciplines. History of Indian Textiles covers the textile traditions of India for woven, dyed, painted and embroidered textiles. History of Costume (indigenous & contemporary India) forms an important part of the curriculum encapsulating the heritage costumes of various States of India. Sustainability, crafts in fashion and textile heritage of India is imparted as the basic foundation in the initial semesters of the design disciplines. Craft research and documentation is a mandatory input across all streams of education at NIFT. Students are sensitized to appreciate the environment, process and product through visits to craft clusters. The interaction with the artisans additionally enhances experience that further provides real time experience. The curriculum delves into the historical and cultural significance of the textile

traditions and encourages them to explore contemporary designs enhancing the craft essence. Another subject, Heritage Couture and Indian Apparel Design & Development, focuses on explorations to bridge tradition with modern fashion in terms of textile, technique and silhouette. Students also undertake design intervention through a craft-based design project in the final year within the craft clusters which they had earlier visited. The collaborative project involves innovative experimentation with the artisans. The Institute encourages students to undertake their final year Graduation Projects with the craft clusters thus supporting artisans and infusing new designs to sustain the craft legacy of India.”

25. In response to some pointed queries, the Ministry deposed as follows:-

“NIFT undertakes consultancy projects with various Government and Non-Government Organisations. These Projects provide exposure to faculty and experiential learning to students. It benefits various stakeholders by upgrading technical skills and adds design value. Details of some projects are as under:-

(ii) NIFT DESIGN INNOVATION INCUBATOR (DII)

Setting up a “NIFT Design Innovation Incubator” (DII) for facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship and to cater to the requirements, proposed to set up incubation facilities (Regional Incubators) in Mumbai, New Delhi and Chennai campuses of NIFT;

- *Collaborative Research: With World’s Best Industry and Academia to address future direction.*
- *Product Development: Through innovative technology, new design process.*
- *Enabling Ecosystem: Basic research leading to Intellectual Property.*

- *Industry-Alumni-Student Interaction: Space for active experimentation, testing and prototyping.*
- *State of Art Machinery & Equipment: An integral value to NIFT.*
- *Monetization: Contribution to start up economy.*
- *Deliverable: 50-60 entrepreneurial by ventures employing over 1500 people.*
- *Delhi Incubation Centre will be operational by early 2021.*

(iii) VISIONXT-TREND INSIGHTS AND FORECASTING LAB

This project was sanctioned by Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India to create a first ever Artificial Intelligence enabled indigenous fashion forecasting service that endeavours to design seasonal directions for our Country. The trend forecasting service would be aligned to our national and sub-national socio-cultural constructs and market requirements.

- *Support Indian Fashion Industry with AI Enabled first ever indigenous trend direction and fashion forecast facility.*
- *Capture diversity and regional flavours of Indian trends, help businesses plan their products better and enable strategize market development in the tier 3, 4 and 5 townships.*
- *Cover micro to macro trends to capture heterogeneity and aspiration of the diverse market.*
- *Integrate big data into design intelligence for better predictive probability.*
- *Address growing multifold fashion consumption by aspirational younger population.*
- *Funded by Ministry of Textiles.*
- *Capacity Building commenced and AI integrated trends insight system being developed for India.*
- *First Youth Trends Insight book for India is ready.*

(iv) THE REPOSITORY-INDIAN TEXTILES AND CRAFTS

This project was sanctioned by Ministry of Textiles Govt. of India under NIFT Cluster Initiative with funding support by DC (Handlooms) & (Handicrafts). The project is to provide a digital platform/portal, a virtual museum of textiles and apparel including designer archives, a craft repository with individuated information on crafts-persons, their communities, their work processes and products, Case Studies and research in the areas of crafts and textiles – from NIFT, the crafts Museum, the Weaver Service Centres and private collections.

- *Showcase creativity and diversity of traditional Indian Textile, clothing and crafts and their continuity in contemporary India from a virtual/digital platform.*
- *Offer creative resource and information services to researchers, entrepreneurs and crafts persons including weavers.*
- *Interactive platform by achieving indigenous knowledge on textiles and crafts, research and industry trends.*
- *Provide information on new developments and current events relating to crafts, clothing and textiles.*
- *Project metadata, templates completed and soft launch of Portal in mid, 2021.*

The Craft cluster Initiative of NIFT is supported by the DC Handlooms and the DC Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles. The body of textile and craft knowledge generated through the Craft Cluster Initiative will be channeled into a national knowledge portal titled Indian Textile & Craft Repository. It is also proposed that this repository house the virtual registers of the textiles and crafts resources, which are available in the Weaver Service Centres, the Crafts Museums, similar institutions and private collections. The repository would develop a virtual museum of textiles, and textile

crafts, a designer archive, indigenous case studies, and also act as aggregator of online information on related research. The repository is intended to provide an interactive platform where information about individual crafts persons and their products can be shared. TCR would comprise various sub-repositories and would offer seamless access to learning and creative resources along with multiple information services to researchers, entrepreneurs, crafts people and craft enthusiasts. The Textile and Craft Repository would be aligned/merged with the portal of the National Centre of Textile design (which is mandated to maintain a portal providing public access to such information) on completion.

(v) INDIASIZE PROJECT

Under this project, NIFT is undertaking an extensive anthropometric research study to develop a comprehensive body size chart for Indian population. The proposed study aims at not only standardizing garment size charts for the Indian apparel sector but the findings of the study will have ramifications across various sectors such as automotive, aerospace, fitness & sport, art, computer gaming etc. where the insights from this data can produce ergonomically designed products which are well suited for the Indian population.

- *Develop India Size Chart for ready to Wear Garment.*
- *Body Measurement through 3D Body Scanner.*
- *Sanctioned under R&D scheme of Ministry of Textiles.*
- *Funding Support – GOI – 70% & NIFT/Industry-30%.*
- *Steering Committee – Ministry of Textiles.*
- *Scanners Procured*
- *Pilot Study with 350 people completed.*
- *Implementation Plan in place.*
- *Data capturing to commence in January 2021 at Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Shillong.*

- *Development of Size Chart for Indian Population by the end of 2022.”*

26. On the India Size Project, the representatives of the Ministry deposed in the oral evidence as under:-

“Sir, wherever you look, you will find that it is written Euro 6, Euro 8, UK 7. Our India does not have any standard size of its own. Through this project, we are setting the size of India, because our waist is a bit small. The size of UK, Europe or USA is much bigger than us, so we are not able to fit. We don't even know what our size is. Through this medium, in the year 2022 we can tell that India 7 means 39 waist or so and so etc.

Sir, this is very important. This is the problem due to which we do not have any size of our own. We will develop it and make it popular in the year 2022 by declaring a size of the whole of India.”

(vi) INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

27. As regards international linkages, the Ministry elaborated as under:-

“The academic strategy of NIFT embraces internationalism. Over the years, NIFT has consciously enhanced its international visibility and standing among other reputed fashion institutes abroad. NIFT has strategic agreements and partnerships with 26 leading international fashion institutes and organizations that share the same academic direction. On one hand this gives NIFT students a unique opportunity to integrate with the global main - stream of fashion by opting for the exchange programme with collaborating partner institutes and on the other, presents the international students with plethora of similar ‘study abroad’ options under exchange programmes at NIFT. This provides excellent opportunities to NIFT as well as international students to interact with students from various geographies, encouraging them to broaden their vision and understand different cultures. Some of the key institutes with whom NIFT has an association are Queensland University of

Technology, Australia; De Montfort University, UK; Glasgow School of Arts, UK; Swiss Textile College, Switzerland; ENSAIT, France; NABA, Italy; ESMOD, Germany; Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands; Amsterdam Fashion Institute, Netherlands; Bunka Gakuken University, Japan; University of Northampton, UK; Politecnico di Milano, Italy; KEA-Copenhagen School of Design and Technology, Denmark; North Carolina State University, USA; Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), USA etc.

NIFT has consciously enhanced its international visibility and standing among other reputed fashion institutes abroad. NIFT has strategic agreements and partnerships with 26 leading international fashion institutes and organizations that share the same academic direction through:-

- *Exchange Program with collaborating partner institutes.*
- *Study abroad options under Exchange Programs to international students at NIFT.*

NIFT's Global Ranking:-

- *NIFT has received three badges of Excellence in the Global ranking of Fashion Schools by Business of Fashion, for Best Overall, Best in Global Influence (a school's global reputation and influence), and Best in Long Term Value (student preparedness for the real world).*
- *Leading Indian Publications have been ranking NIFT as number 1 in fashion education in the Country. 9 NIFT Campuses are in the top 10.*
- *NIFT was ranked at Number 12 in the CEO world listing of top 110 Fashion Schools.”*

28. On being asked to furnish the details of the Institutes with whom NIFT has international linkages, the Ministry submitted the following information:-

LIST OF 26 INSTITUTES WITH WHOM NIFT HAS INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

S No.	International Universities	Country/Area
1	Queensland University of Technology (QUT)	Australia
2	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)	Australia
3	Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)	UK
4	Ecole Superieure des arts et techniques de la mode (ESMOD)	France
5	Schweizerische Textilfachschule STF (earlier STC)	Switzerland
6	The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)	USA
7	The State University of New York College at Buffalo	USA
8	Amsterdam Fashion Institute (AMFI)	Netherlands
9	Saxion University of Applied Sciences	Netherlands
10	Ecole Nationale Superieure des Arts et Industries Textiles (ENSAIT)	France
11	Instituto Europeo di Design (IED)	Italy
12	Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (NABA)	Italy
13	De Mont Fort University (DMU)	UK
14	Glasgow School of Arts (GSA)	UK
15	BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT)	Bangladesh
16	Bunka Gakuen University	Japan
17	The Fashion and Design Institute (FDI)	Mauritius
18	Donghua University	China
19	University of Northampton	UK
20	Ecole Duperre	France
21	Politecnico di Milano (PDM)	Italy
22	Shenkar College of Engineering & Design & Art	Israel
23	KEA- Copenhagen School of Design and Technology	Denmark
24	North Carolina State University	USA
25	The Savannah College of Art and Design	USA
26	Nottingham Trent University	UK

(vii) DUAL DEGREE OPPORTUNITY

29. Regarding Dual Degree Opportunity, the Ministry apprised as under:-

“Strategic partnership of NIFT with Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York, USA allows selection of meritorious students from NIFT for a unique opportunity to obtain a Dual Degree from both NIFT and FIT. Students from NIFT undertake two years study at the home Institute intercepted by study of one year at FIT. Thereafter, the students resume their studies at NIFT to obtain the Dual Degree from both the institutes.”

30. In response to a specific query on the number of students who have been benefited from the dual degree scheme, the Ministry furnished the following information:-

No. of students benefited from dual Degree Scheme

S.No.	Year of Exchange	Outgoing students	Incoming students
1	2015-16	61	46
2	2016-17	91	48
3	2017-18	68	56
4	2018-19	29	18
5	2019-20	41	26

(viii) CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION AT BHUBANESWAR CAMPUS

31. As regards the proposal to set up a Centre for Sustainable Fashion At Bhubaneswar, the Ministry apprised as follows:-

“NIFT Bhubaneswar proposed to have a “Centre for Sustainable Fashion (CSF)” based on the unique richness of handloom, natural dye and natural Fibre base. NIFT Bhubaneswar identified about 60 different locally grown dye yielding plants and 10 different natural Fibre plants and planted almost all of them in the campus. The unique proposition made by the campus revolves around the concept of “Farm to Fashion”. This is the only institution today in the world where the students can see the entire value chain of eco-friendly fashion.”

32. On being asked to furnish details of the Positive initiative of ‘Farm to Fashion’ at NIFT Bhubaneswar to be replicated at other campuses, the Ministry responded as under:-

“Eco-conscious consumers have started exercising their choices on what to wear and what not to wear. The demand for sustainable fashion has increased by leaps and bounds both in the domestic and international markets. This has created a huge gap between demand and supply of sustainable fashion. The biggest challenge in overcoming this gap is in integrating sustainable fashion industry with eco-friendly materials and processes through research, development, academics and training. We do not have institutions that offer educational programmes, training, research and development support for integration of the entire eco-friendly fashion value chain. NIFT, Bhubaneswar has created ‘Farm to Fashion’ as a concept to make sustainability the future of fashion industry. Considering age-old traditional knowledge in handloom, handicrafts, production and application of natural dyes, production and use of different types of natural fibres, NIFT Bhubaneswar explored the possibility of creating a mini-model to demonstrate the entire eco-friendly value chain in the Campus. 60 different varieties of natural dye yielding plants available in the State of Odisha were identified with the help of artisans, farmers and experts from different places. Similarly, 10 different local varieties of fibre-yielding plants in the State were identified. These plants have been successfully grown in the Campus. Feeder plants like Mulberry, Arjun &

Asan trees in the campus were planted so as to have a full-fledged mini production unit of Ahimsa Silk (Non-violent Silk) of three different varieties like Mulberry, Tussar and Eri. For sustenance and growth of flora in the Campus bee boxes were kept for pollination. Perma-culture, compost production, and rain-water conservation was simultaneously adopted to support the initiative. This unique initiative has tremendous opportunities for collaboration with handloom clusters, weavers, NGOs, State emporiums and corporates for making Odisha a hub for sustainable fashion. The biggest advantage would be to students and industry whereby they can see and learn the complete value chain of eco-friendly fashion. The future of fashion rests on sustainability. This initiative will prepare the required human resources to support and drive the fashion industry. All NIFT Campuses have been asked to initiate similar “Farm to Fashion” projects based on their location, typographical uniqueness and availability of resources. NIFT Kangra has already initiated action in 6 acres of unutilized land.”

VII OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

33. Other ongoing projects of NIFT as highlighted to the Committee are as under:-

“(a) ‘Digital Platform for Craft Based Enterprises’ for MeitY.

(b) ‘Centre of Excellence for Khadi’ at NIFT in collaboration with KVIC for Ministry of MSME.

(c) Implementation of USTTAD Scheme for design intervention, product range development, branding of Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(d) E-Content for Fashion Design and Technology Subjects – Phase II for 09 MOOC Courses under NMEICT Scheme of MHRD.

(e) International Project for Capacity Building and benchmarking of Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (ETIDI).

(f) Knowledge partner in implementing the branding of value added Handloom products scheme for Department of Handlooms and Handicrafts, Government of Kerala.

(g) Knowledge partner for setting up of an Incubation Centre in Apparel Manufacturing at Gwalior alongwith IIDC and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(h) 'Integrated & Holistic Development of Bhagalpur Mega Handloom Cluster' for Government of Bihar."

VIII CURRENT INITIATIVES IN WAKE OF COVID-19

34. In response to a specific query on the current initiatives taken up by NIFT in the wake of Covid-19, the Ministry submitted that the following initiatives were taken:-

“(a) Curriculum transaction completely through online mode using various platforms;

(b) Over 100 webinars have been conducted in last eight months, including several with international experts;

(c) Examination and evaluation on online platforms;

(d) PhD defense conducted online;

(e) Craft Documentation and Industry Internship being done through online mode;

(f) Admissions 2020 conducted through online mode including live counseling;

(g) Students granted fee concession and allowed to pay in three installments”

IX FORWARD LOOKING STEPS TAKEN BY NIFT

35. On being asked to furnish details of forward looking steps taken by NIFT, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Curriculum Restructuring: Restructured curriculum with the aim to revamp and provide individuated pathways to the students enabling them to exercise choice and develop capacity of lifelong learning. Introduction of new and emerging subjects keeping in mind the future needs of the industry and holistic development of desirable skill sets for the students.

Communication Strategy: NIFT has redrawn its Communication Strategy to meet the communication needs and objectives of all stakeholders of NIFT. NIFT is using digital medium for its Admission. Multiple platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube channel are used.

NIFT Statute: Statute of NIFT has been finalised with the approval of the President of India as Visitor.

New Campuses: 17th Campus of NIFT has started at Panchkula, Haryana from 1st June, 2019. From the current Academic session July-Dec, 2020, 3 regular courses have been launched.

Implementation EWS Reservation: EWS Reservation has been successfully implemented across NIFT Campuses since July, 2019. NIFT has implemented 10% EWS quota for all academic courses. In order to implement 10% of EWS quota major construction work is envisaged in the following Campuses – Bhubaneswar, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Mumbai, Kannur, Raebareli. For the above major construction work Rs. 183.12 crore has been approved in-principle by Ministry of Finance. A note for Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for the purpose is under finalization.

Projects: NIFT has under taken a few prestigious projects viz. India Size Project; Visionxt; NIFT Design Innovation Incubator; and the Repository – Indian Textiles and Crafts.”

36. On being asked about leather technology and institutional support thereon, the representative of the Ministry deposed in oral evidence as under:-

“CLRI, Chennai and Kanpur are the two areas where they have leather technology, plus we have a lot of it in Agra where they make footwear and we have faculty who train leather experts and they have gone abroad. Leather design is a unique programme which is not there in any other Country, in any other part of the world. We have a specialised programme in leather. Sir, these institutes, what we have listed, are live MoUs. We have signed for over 40 to 45. We keep on reviewing every year and these are the Institutes with which we have active exchange.”

X STUDENT SUPPORT AND SCHOLARSHIPS

37. On the issue of Student Support and Scholarships, the Ministry of Textiles deposited as under:-

- SARTHAK – NIFT Financial Assistance Scheme which gives 50%, 75% and 100% waiver of Tuition Fee to students from financially weaker background.
- UDAAN – NIFT Scholarship Scheme for Foreign Studies which gives opportunity to students of economically weaker background to study in foreign Institutes of repute.
- Merit Based Scholarship at NIFT for which financial assistance is based on student merit.
- Student Laptop Policy under which interest free loans are offered to students of lower income bracket for purchase of laptops.
- Student Assistantship Programme of NIFT is designed to aid students who have demonstrated financial need by engaging students in Resource Centre, Labs, CE Programmes.
- SC/ST Scholarship Assistance to students seeking scholarships from State Governments.
- Centralized On-Campus Placements are organized every year with placement record of 84.2% last year (2019-20).

38. On the plans of NIFT to open Haats in various States and the ongoing Samarth Scheme, the representative of the Ministry deposed in oral evidence as under:-

“This is an issue outside NIFT. There is a marketing scheme of DC, Handicraft and DC, Handloom in which we do many fairs, many exposures. Now we have started one more that we have built about 38 urban haats, like Dilli Haat is in Delhi, within the last ten years, about 38 such haats are built in many districts across our India. Urban Haats are everywhere in big districts. But they are in the hands of the State Government and hence their condition is not good. Right now we have told DC, Handicraft and Handloom together that we should have a calendar for every Haat just like the calendar is made in Dilli Haat. Our craftsmen are people. It should not be as if suppose we have an Urban Haat in Lucknow. In Lucknow, from Jammu and Kashmir, from Tamil Nadu, from Gujarat, we bring artisans and sell their goods there. Now no one will buy chickenkari in Lucknow. An effort is going on that we should give a good push to it that there are about 40 urban haats in the whole of India, they come in large quantity from other states as they come to Dilli Haat.

Second, when it comes to the skilling or training of our children, we run two-three schemes. We have a scheme running in Noida – 'Samarth'. 'Samarth' is our separate training program, which is outside the Ministry of Skills and run by the Ministry of Textiles. I would request you to study it a little bit and we can discuss about getting this capable mind training to the children of your constituency. There are many centers for this training. There are centers of state government and also centers of industry. We do not drive ourselves. We also give training programs through the Institution of the State Government or those who are in the industry. They also give money for upskilling and next level skilling to the children they have. We give this program to those who are organizations, industry associations. It is not run by people privately. We have done this in “Samarth” that instead

of giving to private institutions, training should be given through the Institution of Industry, Association, State Government and our DC, Handicraft, Handloom.”

39. Asked to furnish the details of Udaan Scheme, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“NIFT has taken unique initiative to give opportunity to the students belonging to economically weaker backgrounds to study (upto six months) in foreign Institutes of repute with whom NIFT has MoU for semester exchange, dual degree opportunities. The policy “UDAAN”- NIFT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR FOREIGN STUDIES is effective from 2018-19 onwards. This will enable meritorious students to study at the best Institutes abroad along with studies at NIFT and would cover their travel, tuition fee and subsistence allowance.”

40. In response to a pointed query regarding the number of students given the opportunity, the Ministry stated as under:-

“The Policy was implemented in 2019 for the 1st time. Limited numbers of students are selected based on availability of suitable opportunities with the Institute, with whom NIFT has collaboration. This is a two-tier selection process at Campus and Head Office. However, in future more number of students would be attracted and apply for the opportunity and NIFT will be able to offer more opportunities in near future.”

41. On the eligibility criteria, the Ministry stated as under:-

“Regular students belonging to economically weaker sections of NIFT fulfilling the criteria of SARTHAK NIFT Financial Assistance Scheme are eligible for consideration under the UDAAN – NIFT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR FOREIGN STUDIES. The benefits of this Scheme shall not

extend to NRI/ NRI sponsored students. Under this scheme, NIFT will provide opportunity to study in Summer Program/Semester Exchange for upto six months with its International Partner Institutes according to the student specialization.”

42. The Ministry further submitted as follows:-

“The amount under various heads qualifies for 100% financial assistance depending on the eligibility criteria viz. Tuition Fees on actual; Hostel / dormitory charges on actual; Technology Fee; Student Activity Fee; Recreation & Athletics Fee Health Services; Health Insurance; Travel expenses on economy class (as per actual); and Visa Fee. Subsistence allowance was as under:-

S.No	Category of institutes depending on location	Amount of Financial Assistance for subsistence allowance
<i>A</i>	<i>European Institutes</i>	<i>5000 US\$ per semester</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>American Institutes</i>	<i>4000 US\$ per semester</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Oceanic & Australian Institutes</i>	<i>3750 US\$ per semester</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>Asian Institutes</i>	<i>3000 US\$ per semester</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Middle Eastern Institutes (Israel)</i>	<i>3000 US\$ per semester</i>

43. On the Udaan Scheme, the representative of the Ministry elaborated in oral evidence as under:-

“Sir, in our scheme, it has only two students because we have started last year only. Every year, two students are sponsored through this. Sir, it is actually such that already in 26 campuses student exchange program is going on, students are coming. We are supporting all the other expenses only as a special case for two children. This is the first year now, response is good. If more children come, we can take it forward, but for now it is only for two. Sir, we will give separate report about student

exchange program especially about UDAAN scheme. You must have made some criteria for it. It will also come inside that students of this level can go ahead in it. Some of its criteria must have been made, which has just been questioned by the honorable MP. Sir, the criteria is that we ask for applications from students and those applications are with which institute, like we have dual degree program with FIT New York, there 26 students go and FIT asks for a portfolio from them. An entrance test is conducted at the level of NIFT. Our own students apply and then their portfolios go to FIT and they get selected. The rest like ENSAIT or KEA is in Germany, there are two or three students, then students apply, which is done on the basis of their performance. Sir, what you said is a very small number. See that we are a self sustaining institute. We work on the fees of the students and according to the government institute the fees of NIFT is much less than the fees of any fashion institute in India which you call reputed institutes. We have just started paying these two fees inside that and due to Corona, the exchange is practically closed right now.”

44. On being asked to furnish details of the Student Exchange Programme at NIFT, the Ministry stated as follows:-

“The academic strategy of NIFT embraces internationalism. Over the years, NIFT has consciously enhanced its international visibility and standing among other reputed fashion institutes abroad. NIFT has strategic agreements and partnerships with 26 leading international fashion institutes & organizations that share the same academic direction. On the one hand, this offers a unique opportunity for NIFT students to integrate with the global mainstream of fashion by selecting the exchange programme with collaborating partner institutes, and on the other, presents the international students with plethora of similar ‘study abroad’ options under exchange programs at NIFT. This provides both NIFT and foreign students with excellent opportunities to connect with students from different geographies, enabling them to expand their vision and understand different cultures. The ‘study abroad’ opportunity offered to

the international students is available across all the 17 NIFT campuses and under various course disciplines.”

45. Elaborating further on the type of Exchange Programmes that NIFT has with Partner Institutes, the Ministry furnished the following detailed information:-

Reciprocal Exchange (Semester Exchange Programme) NIFT has association with ENSAIT, France; Queensland University of Technology, Australia; De Montfort University, UK; Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands; NABA, Italy; Politecnico di Milano, Italy; KEA - Copenhagen School of Design and Technology, Denmark & BGEMA University of Technology, Bangladesh Glasgow School of Arts, UK, Amsterdam Fashion Institute, Netherlands, ESMOD, Germany for Reciprocal semester exchange programme.

Dual Degree Programme (FIT) Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, U.S.A, offers dual degree to NIFT UG student where students do 3 years at NIFT & 1 year at FIT which is paid & get B. Design degree from NIFT & Associate Applied Science (AAS) Degree from FIT.

Summer Programme – Reciprocal Free seat: NIFT offers reciprocal exchange of short term of duration of 2-16 weeks with **Swiss Textile College**.

Study Abroad Policy with BUNKA – Paid exchange One-way exchange where NIFT students attend one semester at Bunka Gauken University, Japan (Paid Seats).

NIFT organizes special craft cluster tour and retail stores and Industry tours for its various International Partners which is a paid programme.

S.No.	Year of Exchange	Outgoing students	Incoming students
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1	2015-16	61	46
2	2016-17	91	48
3	2017-18	68	56
4	2018-19	29	18
5	2019-20	41	26

XI MAJOR UNDERGOING PROJECTS PERTAINING TO NEW NIFT CAMPUSES

46. The Committee were also apprised that the stated policy for establishment of New Campus was One NIFT Campus per State after viability assessment by the Evaluation Committee with State Government's liability to provide 20-30 acres of land; Rs. 150-200 Crore for construction of Campus and Rs. 30 Crore for Equipment, Machines & Furniture; and also Annual Revenue Grants to cover deficit till Campus was financially viable.

47. On the plans and projections of the Major Undergoing Projects, the Ministry highlighted as under:-

“(a) Setting up of permanent NIFT Campus at Srinagar, J&K with a total cost of construction Rs.257.89 crore out of this Rs.130.55 crore has been released for construction work.

(b) Setting up of permanent NIFT Campus at Shillong, Meghalaya with a total cost of Rs. 105.22 crore [in the ratio of 90:10 (GOI : State Govt)] (Rs.97.72 crore GOI share and Rs. 7.5 crore State Govt. share) out of Rs.97.72 crore (GOI share) Rs.89.92 crore has been released for construction of building and procurement of academic items.

(c) Setting up of permanent NIFT Campus at Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh with a total cost of Rs.104.17 crore out of this Rs.103.50 crore has been released for construction of building and procurement of academic items.

(d) Setting up of extension campus at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh: with a total cost of Rs.6.00 crore out of this Rs.4.00 crore has been released.”

48. As regards the current status of the Campuses at Rae Bareli, Shillong, Srinagar, Panchkula and Varanasi, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Status of 5 campuses is as follows:

Shillong: Permanent Building work has been completed and NIFT has taken possession of Administrative, Academic and Resource Centre Building from 1st Jan, 2020. The construction of new Campus is complete by 97.30% .

Raebareli: Campus is functional from permanent building which was constructed and handed over by M/s. ITI limited. The possession of Hostel, Residential and Academic Buildings has been taken over in phased manner from the Academic Session July 2016-2017 onwards.

Srinagar: Campus is functional from its temporary campus. Permanent campus building's construction is in progress. J&K, SIDCO is the construction agency. The Residential Buildings will be completed in 2021 and complete structure will be built in 2022.

Panchkula: Temporary campus started functioning with 2 CE programme from June, 2019. From Academic session 2020-2021, 3 regular courses have been launched from the temporary Campus. Permanent Campus is under construction Haryana Police Housing Corporation is the construction agency. Probable time of completion is June, 2021.

Varanasi: Space has been allotted in new IIHT building Complex. 5 Continuing Education programs are being run. This campus is an extension centre of NIFT Raebareli.”

XII BUDGETARY SUPPORT

49. The Committee sought to know the details of funding pattern and Government Grants for NIFT. In response, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“NIFT received various grants from the Govt. of India from 1986-87 to 2006-07 viz., Plan Grant of INR 215.75 Cr, non-Plan Grant of INR 99.90 Cr and INR 2.00 Cr towards initial establishment of Raebareli Campus. Since 2007-08, NIFT received INR 10 Cr per year for the subsequent period of 5 years towards Block grant which was discontinued in 2012-13. In addition to the above grants, INR 8.80 Cr was received as arrear compensation of the 6th Pay Commission for the period 2008-09 to 2013-17.”

50. The Ministry further stated that NIFT continued to receive the following Scheme Wise Financial Support from Ministry of Textiles, Government of India:-

SCHEME-WISE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

S.No.	Name of the scheme	Amount received from F/Y 2006-07 to F/Y 2019-20
1	Grant for Implementing OBC Quota	343.22 Crs
2	NER Scheme (Shillong Campus)	99.92 Crs
3	Setting up of Srinagar campus	140.55 Crs
4	Raebareli Permanent Campus*	33.83 Crs
5	Raebareli Ext. Centre Varanasi	4.00 Crs
6	Grant for Implementing EWS Quota **	183.12 Crs

* This is the amount that MOT has released directly to NIFT; however, MOT has also released a grant directly to ITI Ltd for Construction of Building for Raebareli campus.

** Rs.183.12 crore has been approved in-principle by Ministry of Finance. A note for Standing Finance Committee (SFC) for the purpose is under finalization.

51. On being asked to give Synchronisation of Salaries *vis a vis* Income and Expenditure on Guest Lecturers, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Campuses while preparing their Annual Revenue Budget also consider the provision of establishment expenses which may occur due to recruitment against the vacant faculty position. In F/Y 2019-20 approx. Rs.10.45 Cr was incurred as Guest Faculty expenses. However, this expenditure will be substantially reduced after filling up the regular vacant post of Faculty which is likely to be completed by 2021-22. Synchronization of Guest faculty Vs Vacant regular vacancy will not be a problem as it is already budgeted by the campuses in the Annual Budget.”

52. In response to a specific query pertaining to the Endowment Fund, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“After enacting the NIFT Act 2006, the Cabinet approved the Block Grant Scheme for NIFT in 2007, wherein the guidelines of this Scheme governed the generation of the Endowment Fund for NIFT. As per the scheme, NIFT received matching grant from Government of India against the annual savings from their regular non-plan grant and other receipts as reflected in the NIFT Annual Accounts and transferred to the Endowment Fund after approval of the F&AC and BOG. The matching grant was contributed till the Endowment Fund attained the maximum limit of Rs.100 Crores in 2012 which included the contribution of Rs. 50 Crores by the Central Government and Rs. 50 Crores from NIFT’s saving. This amount of Rs. 100 Crores has been separately invested in a bank and is to be kept intact and unaffected. The interest earned through this amount is

expended as per the Endowment Fund Policy for various procurements at NIFT Campuses.”

53. On the aspects pertaining to the Revenue Grant, the Ministry submitted that all revenue expenditures at NIFT was managed through funds generated by NIFT through its internal sources viz., Revenue from fees; Interest earned on FDR; Project Income; Continuing Education (CE) Program Income; Hostel Income; Misc. receipt; and Endowment Fund
54. The Ministry categorically stated that NIFT was not funded to meet any revenue and administrative expenditure and no specific grant was sanctioned for this purpose by the Ministry of Textiles.
55. The Ministry *inter-alia* further stated as under:-

“The grants provided by the Ministry of Textiles was very instrumental in achieving this remarkable feat. With several campuses under its umbrella hosting about 3200 Graduates each academic year across campuses and disciplines, sustaining the affordable education students from all economic background is becoming increasingly challenging, especially after the discontinuation of grants. However, leaving no stone unturned, NIFT continues to uphold status-quo and offers best standard and quality education to its stakeholders and the required financial implications are being managed mainly through the tuition fee paid by the students, which increases approximately 10% every year. Following pursuits of other Institutes of National Importance in this Country, the fee collected at NIFT should be utilized for creating State of the Art academic infrastructure, research & development facilities etc. which can aid in creating a competitive and sustained talent pool in fashion domain which will raise the Indian fashion industry to a higher level in global ranking. In current competitive environment, no institution may excel without robust support for research and development. Therefore, it is indeed necessary for NIFT to get funding support to meet the revenue

expenditures including administrative overheads and salaries to its employees from the Government of India.”

XIII. REQUIRED SUPPORT

56. Asked to state the specific support NIFT needed from the Government, the Ministry stated that the Institute required the following support:-
- (a) Full Time Director General;
 - (b) Full time faculty for remote campuses;
 - (c) NIFT – National Institute of National Importance;
 - (d) Government Grants; and
 - (e) Listing of Degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act.
57. On being asked to furnish details on the stated proposal for declaring NIFT as Institute of National Importance, the Ministry submitted that the proposal seeks the approval for declaring the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) as an Institution of National Importance under Entry 64 in the List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
59. The Proposal details as furnished by the Ministry of Textiles *inter-alia* highlighted the Background of NIFT; its Statutory Status since 2007 after the enactment of the NIFT Act, 2006 becoming the First Institute in the Country to Award Degrees in Fashion Education; 17 functional NIFT Campuses across the Country; Programmes offered in Fashion Design, Leather Design, Accessory Design, Textile Design, Knitwear Design, Fashion Communication and Apparel Production along with full time Post Graduate Programmes in Design, Fashion Management and Fashion Technology besides Doctoral Degree Programme (PhD) in Fashion since 2009; Internationally Benchmarked Curriculum; the increasing role of NIFT and its alumni in remaining instrumental and shaping the future of Fashion Business; NIFT’s Global Connect; Cluster Initiative Programme; Consultancy Projects; and its emergence as the undisputed Vanguard of

Fashion Education in the Country and the imperative need to declare NIFT as an Institute of National Importance so as to explore the full potential of India's heritage as well as its products. The Ministry further submitted that the Pathfinder's Role of NIFT in benchmarking professional Fashion Business Education, proactively anticipating and responding to the emerging business environment was a testimony for the Institute's academic prowess and proficiency. The proposal to declare NIFT as an Institution of National Importance, earlier submitted way back at the time when NIFT Act, 2006 was passed, had not been taken up and therefore, the Ministry of Textiles were submitting their bonafide plea yet again.

60. On being asked to furnish details on the proposal for recognition of NIFT degrees under the UGC Act, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“NIFT is empowered by an Act of Parliament to award Bachelor's, Master's & Doctorate degrees. However, NIFT degrees are not recognised by the UGC. NIFT alumni while applying for higher education or for the purposes of seeking employment in various Government or other Departments, at times, face problems as the NIFT degrees have not been notified under the UGC Act. In order to address the concern, various communications have been sent to the UGC. NIFT has written several requests to UGC, Ministry of HRD through Ministry of Textiles vide letters dated 24.09.2012, 26.03.2013, 14.06.2013, 11.08.2014, 31.03.2015, 31.03.2016 and 11.07.2016. NIFT has also requested Ministry of Textiles vide its letters dated 4th August, 2014 and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)/Shiksha Mantralay vide letters dated 10.02.2015, 25.02.2016, 07.06.2016, 13.06.2016 for UGC recognition of NIFT degrees. In response to our requests, NIFT received a letter from Education Officer, UGC dated 4th June, 2014 wherein it is stated that any degree which is not specified under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956, shall render such degree as “invalid”.”

61. As regards other constraints faced by NIFT, the representatives of the Ministry deposed during oral evidence as under:-

"Sir, as DG Sir said, we have started 17 centers by starting one center of NIFT, we have made 17 campuses. Right now it is a big challenge with us that we should maintain quality in these 17 centers as now DG Sir told that there are many such campuses, where we are not getting faculty. We run these through guest faculty. It is our request and also our advice to the Institution that we should not dilute its brand equity. If we spread it very much, everywhere, like it happened in IITs, IIMs, we have proliferated them a lot, so they have 50-60-70% vacancies of faculty. We are not able to bring that institution to that level. Our request now is that we first consolidate these 17 campuses. For the next 5 years, we should run them very well and after that see if it is needed in other smaller places, can we supply, can the faculty come or not. Until then, as a principle, we would not like to proliferate too much, rather consolidate first, and then move ahead."

PART II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

MISSION, FUNCTIONS AND MANDATE OF NIFT

1. The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) set up in the year, 1986 has since been given a statutory backing through the NIFT Act, 2006 and has over the years established itself as the pioneering Institute of Fashion Education in the Country, being in the vanguard of providing professional human resource to the Textile and Apparel Industry. The Committee observe that a wide mandate has been conferred on the Institute vide Section 6 of the NIFT Act, 2006 which lays down the mission, functions and mandate of NIFT as a pioneering Fashion Institute of the Country aspiring to emerge as a global leader. The Committee hope and expect that the Institute would continue to augment its core activities as mandated in the Act not only to enhance its International standing in various areas of fashion technology but also to evolve and encourage a fashion curriculum that promotes experimentation and innovation in fashion education and research, especially keeping in mind the rich cultural diversity of the Country.

PROGRAMMES AND FACULTIES

2. The Committee find that the core strength of NIFT include *inter-alia* 17 Campuses, 216 Guest Faculties, 43 Research Scholars, 551 In-House Faculties, 10 Departments, 781 Employees/Officers, 552 Experts, 12668 Students, 28000 plus Alumni and 6000 plus Industry. The Committee appreciate that NIFT Alumni occupy over 70% of the Managerial positions in Textile and Fashion Industry not

only in India but in South East Asia and remain instrumental in shaping the future of Fashion Business through the key decision making positions that they have occupied. The Committee also find that seats towards NIFT Courses are categorized into Regular, EWS, NRI and Domicile with break ups of 3442, 318, 444 and 313 respectively totalling upto 4517 seats at present. Courses offered by NIFT in the Under Graduate Bachelor of Design include Fashion, Textile, Knitwear, Accessory, Leather and Fashion Communication; Post Graduate Masters Degree include Fashion Technology, Fashion Management and Design Space; Short Duration Part Time Courses in the form of Continuing Education; Bridge Programme, Diploma Programme and PhD Programme. It is encouraging to note that the focus of academic input of NIFT is on the top ten skills for Millennial's which *inter-alia* include Complex Problem Solving; Critical Thinking; Creativity; Emotional Intelligence; Judgment and Decision Making; Service Orientation; Negotiation; Cognitive Flexibility; etc. While appreciating the broad span and range of Courses offered by NIFT, the Committee are of the considered opinion that developing Cutting Edge Technologies and gaining expertise as well as super-specializations in intricate areas and aspects of fashion would undoubtedly put the Indian Fashion Industry on a level playing field for which NIFT as the pioneering Fashion Institute has an even greater role to play. The Committee, therefore, recommend that NIFT leverage and expand the courses and programmes offered as per the global standard so as to cater to the high expectations of the Nation and rise further on the Global Fashion Map.

3. The Committee are deeply concerned to find that against the total sanctioned strength of 835 academic posts at the level of Senior Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor there is a vacancy of 383 posts. The

Ministry have clarified that the recruitment process for the vacant posts has been initiated and vacancies are likely to be filled in the FY 2021-22. Keeping in view the fact that such large scale vacancies at Senior Faculty levels of the Institute are bound to adversely affect the academic targets of the Institute, the Committee exhort the Ministry to accelerate the recruitment process so that vacancies are filled within the projected timeline.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

4. The Committee note that the ongoing Research and Development Initiatives at NIFT include *inter-alia* Doctoral Programme on Sustainability; Garment Manufacturing; Product Development; Design Education & Innovation; Market and Trend Studies besides NIFT Faculty publications in leading academic research journals; Patents filed; Industry Chairs etc. The Committee are informed that a Center for Advance Research in Textiles is proposed to be set up at Coimbatore, the hub of Textile Manufacturing in India, as a Research and Development (R&D) Centre with international level facilities to support cutting edge research in the Textile and Clothing Sector having thrust on Fibre Engineering Lab; Advance Wet Processing Lab; Smart Garments Lab; Non Woven Lab; and Digitization & Automation Lab. A Project Report is being finalized on this particular proposal. While taking note of the Ministry's apt endeavour to set up an Advanced Research Center on Textiles, the Committee desire that the Project Report be finalized in the right earnest and within strict timelines so that the laudable efforts towards establishing an international level

R&D Center with world class cutting edge technologies are drawn to their logical conclusion.

INITIATIVES TAKEN TO IMPROVE FUNCTIONING OF NIFT

(i) CRAFT CLUSTER INITIATIVE AND ITS IMPACT

5. The Committee note that the Craft Cluster Initiative Programme provides NIFT students a systematic, continuous and regular exposure every year to the diversely rich and unique handlooms and handicrafts of India to inculcate in them a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indian Craft Heritage and its potential to contribute to Global Fashion. According to the Ministry, through this initiative, NIFT has been successful in creating widespread awareness and sensitivity in assimilating crafts into fashion and *vice-versa* by giving the students the opportunity to assist artisans to develop a distinct identity of the handloom and handicraft clusters through logo, promotional materials like posters, brochures and catalogues. The Committee appreciate that as many as 7000 students across NIFT Campuses are working in 70 craft clusters of handloom and handicrafts with over 1200 artisans every semester. The Committee appreciate the impact of the Craft Cluster Initiative in providing an opportunity to the students to interact with artisans of varied clusters thereby sensitizing students about Indian Textile/ Craft Traditions. It is heartening that while artisans are benefitted through co-creation of contemporary and viable designs thereby boosting their sales and leading to knowledge dissemination and better understanding of design and urban markets through artisan awareness workshops, students on the other hand are exposed to various handloom and handicraft clusters inspiring them to amalgamate

handicraft skills in their design collection with many of them initiating start-ups. Besides, the repository endeavours to showcase creativity and diversity of traditional Indian Textiles, clothing and Crafts and their continuity in contemporary India through a knowledge portal to document the textile and crafts of India with the overall vision to create an integrated database of craft practitioner for promoting them through provisions of direct access to Indian and International Stakeholders. The Committee acknowledge the commendable initiatives taken by the Ministry towards Craft Cluster programme which intends to benefit both students and artisans and desire that the momentum be continued unabated with the needed thrust and impetus for creation of a repository portal to provide direct interface between the artisans and the buyers obviating scope for middlemen.

(ii) **DESIGN INNOVATION INCUBATOR (DII) PROJECT**

6. The Committee are pleased to find that under the NIFT Design Innovation Incubation (DII) Project, product development through innovative technology in an enabling environment has been envisaged with an expected deliverable of 50-60 entrepreneurial set ups having capacity to generate employment of over 1500 people. The Committee desire that the Project be expedited so as to make it operational within the projected timelines for achieving the expected outcome deliverables as targeted. The Committee also desire that similar product design

innovative projects be ventured into with a view to encourage more entrepreneurs and enhance employment generation in the fashion sector.

(iii) **VISIONXT-TREND INSIGHTS AND FORECASTING LAB**

7. The Committee observe that the Visionxt-Trend Insights and Forecasting Lab was sanctioned to create a first ever Artificial Intelligence Enabled Indigenous Fashion Forecasting Service that endeavours to design seasonal directions for the Country aligned to National and Sub-National, Socio- Cultural Constraints and Market requirements. In terms of achievements made, the first Youth Trends Insight Book for India is ready. Keeping in view the importance of being trendy in the fashion world, the Committee would like the Ministry to encourage NIFT to come out with the innovative project at an early date so that the trend forecasting service captures Diversity and Regional Flavours of Indian Trends, covers Micro to Macro Trends capturing the heterogeneity and aspiration of the Diverse Market, integrates Big Data into Design Intelligence for better predictive probability and addresses growing multifold fashion consumption by the aspirational younger population.

(iv) **REPOSITORY – INDIAN TEXTILES AND CRAFTS PROJECT**

8. The Committee note that the Repository – Indian Textiles and Crafts Project seeks to provide a digital platform, a virtual museum of textiles and apparels including design archives, a craft repository with individuated information on craft persons, their communities, their work processes and products, Case

Studies, Research in the areas of Crafts and Textiles, Crafts Museum, Weaver Service Centers, Private Collections etc. The Committee further note that besides showcasing creativity and diversity of traditional Indian Textiles and offering creative resource and information services, this project also offers an interactive platform on indigenous knowledge on textiles and crafts, research and industry trends while also providing information on new developments and current events relating to crafts, clothing and textiles. While appreciating the expected soft launch of the portal in mid 2021, the Committee desire that the requisite wherewithal be completed well in time to achieve the intended benefits of the project. The Committee also desire that, as contemplated, the portal of Textiles and Craft Repository be merged with that of the National Center of Textile Design to offer seamless access to learning and creative resources along with multiple information services to Researchers, Entrepreneurs, etc.

(v) **INDIA SIZE PROJECT**

9. The Committee note that under the India Size Project, NIFT is undertaking an extensive, anthropometric research study to develop a comprehensive body size chart for Indian population aiming to standardize garment size charts for the Indian apparel sector. The Committee further note that expected ramifications of the findings and insights of the study and data derived thereon are to be used to produce ergonomically designed products well suited for the Indian population in other sectors such as automotive aerospace, fitness and sports, art, computer gaming etc. The project seeks to develop India Size Chart for ready to wear garment through body measurement by 3D Body scanner with contribution of 70

percent funding support by the Government of India and 30 percent by the NIFT/ Industry. Reportedly, a Pilot Study with 350 people has been completed and an Implementation Plan put in place for development of size chart for the Indian population by the end of 2022. Keeping in view the dire need of an India Size Chart for Garments and Apparels based on actual body structure of Indians, the Committee are of the considered opinion that the India Size Project is a laudable initiative in the right direction and therefore the implementation plan as put in place be vigorously pursued so that for the first time an India Size Chart is brought about for large scale manufacturing of branded as well as non branded items, both domestically and internationally.

(vi) **INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES WITH DUAL DEGREE OPPORTUNITY**

10. The Committee are appreciative of NIFT's efforts to consciously enhance its international visibility and standing amongst other reputed fashion Institutes abroad through 26 strategic agreements and partnerships with leading international fashion institutes and organizations in Australia, UK, Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, Denmark, USA, etc., that share the same academic direction. The Committee observe that such strategic partnerships on one hand gives NIFT students a unique opportunity to integrate with global mainstream fashion through their exchange programme with collaborating partner institutes while on the other hand present international students with a plethora of similar 'study abroad' options under the NIFT Exchange programme. The Committee are pleased to note that NIFT's Global Ranking has been encouraging with the Institute having received three badges of

Excellence in Global Ranking of Fashion Schools by business of Fashion viz. for best overall, best in Global Influence and best in long term value. It is also equally heartening to note that while NIFT has been ranked number one in Fashion Education in the Country, 9 NIFT campuses are in the top 10 and NIFT's ranking in the CEO world listing of top 110 Fashion Schools stands at number two. The Committee trust that NIFT's endeavours towards strategic partnerships with International Fashion Institutes would continue with added fervor towards mutually beneficial linkages so that adequate opportunities are created for students from across the globe to meet and broaden their vision and come up with innovative fashion products through fusion, amalgamation, adoption and adaptation of divergent cultures.

11. Strategic Partnership of NIFT with Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) New York, USA allowing selection of Meritorious Students from NIFT for a unique opportunity to obtain a dual degree from both NIFT and FIT is a novel feature wherein students from NIFT undertake two years study at home Institute intercepted by study of one year at FIT, after which, the students resume their studies at NIFT to obtain Dual Degree from both the Institutes. The Committee find that since its inceptions in the year 2015-16 till 2019-20, the total number of outgoing students *vis-a-vis* incoming students under the programme stood at 290 and 194 respectively whereas the number of students who have benefitted from the Dual Degree Scheme for the year 2019-20 stands at 41 (outgoing Students) and 26 (incoming students). The Committee desire that earnest efforts be made through feasibility studies to give more opportunities to larger number of students by tying up with other countries too for obtaining such unique Dual Degrees.

(vii) **CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION AT BHUBANESWAR CAMPUS**

12. The Committee are happy to note the proposal of NIFT Bhubaneswar to have a 'Center for Sustainable Fashion (CSF)' based on the unique richness of handloom, natural dye and natural fibre wherein 60 different locally grown dye yielding plants and 10 different natural fibre plants are being planted in the Campus, revolving around the concept of 'Farm to Fashion'. Notably, it is the only Institution in the World where students can see the entire value chain of eco-friendly fashion. As the growing demands for sustainable fashion by eco-conscious consumers has created a huge gap between demand and supply, it is a step in right direction to overcome the challenge by integrating sustainable fashion industry with eco-friendly materials and processes through research, development, academics and training. The Committee appreciate that NIFT Bhubaneswar explored the possibility of creating a mini-model to demonstrate the entire eco-friendly value chain in the campus inclusive of natural dye yielding plants, fibre yielding plants; feeder plants viz. Mulberry, Arjun and Asan trees, Bee Boxes for pollination, Perna Culture, Compost Production, Rain Water Conservation etc. In view of the fact that the biggest advantage would be for students and industry whereby they can see and learn the complete value chain of eco-friendly and sustainable fashion, the Committee trust that this commendable and unique initiative taken up by NIFT Bhubaneswar would enable preparation of the required human resources needed to support and drive the fashion industry towards sustainable fashion. The Committee also desire that as assured to, all NIFT Campuses make an endeavour to replicate similar 'Farm to Fashion' Projects based on their location, geographical and topographical

uniqueness and availability of resources so as to cater to the growing demands for sustainable fashion.

STUDENT SUPPORT AND SCHOLARSHIPS

13. The Committee are pleased to note that NIFT offers various Student Support and Scholarships viz. Sarthak NIFT Financial Assistance Scheme; Udaan - NIFT Scholarship Scheme for Foreign Students; Merit Based Scholarships; Student Laptop Policy; Student Assistantship Program of NIFT; SC/ST Scholarship Assistance and Centralised On-Campus Placements with placement record of 84.2% last year (2019-20). Besides, other exchange programmes viz. Reciprocal Exchange (Semester Exchange Programme); Summer Programmes and Study Abroad Policy are also undertaken. The Committee recommend that sincere efforts be made to expand the student support and scholarship scheme so as to benefit more and more students and adequate generation of funds be explored for the purpose.

MAJOR ONGOING PROJECTS PERTAINING TO NEW NIFT CAMPUSES

14. The Committee note that the stated policy for establishment of new NIFT Campus is one NIFT Campus per State after viability assessment by the Evaluation Committee. In accordance with that, apart from the 17 campuses already established, new campuses at Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir), Shillong (Meghalaya), Rae Bareli (Uttar Pradesh) and an extended campus at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) are being set up. The Committee find that while 97.30% of construction of new campus in Shillong has been completed, the campuses at

Rae Bareli and Srinagar are already functional. Further, Temporary Panchkula Campus started functioning and space has been allotted in new building complex for Varanasi Extension Campus. The Committee desire that the timelines set for construction of these new campuses are strictly adhered to so that these campuses are made fully functional at an early date for the benefit of aspiring students in the said States.

BUDGETARY SUPPORT

15. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that NIFT used to receive various grants from the Government of India since 1986-97 which was gradually discontinued in 2012-13. Further, NIFT has not been funded to meet any revenue and administrative expenditure and no specific grant has been sanctioned for the purpose. In view of the increasing number of outputs of NIFT in terms of hosting about 3200 Graduates each academic year and keeping in mind the fact that no institution can excel without robust funding support for carrying out research and development activities, the Committee exhort the Ministry to strive to ensure adequate financial support to NIFT enabling it to excel in its mission.

PROPOSAL TO DECLARE NIFT AS INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND OTHER ISSUES

16. The Committee's attention has been drawn to the specific supports NIFT requires from the Government which *inter-alia* include need for a full time Director General, full time faculty for remote campuses, NIFT's aspiration to be declared as an Institute of National Importance, Need for Government Grants and Recognition of NIFT Degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act. The Committee observe that the long standing aspiration of NIFT to be conferred the status of an Institute of National Importance under Entry 64 in List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, a proposal which was tabled at the time of passing the NIFT

Act, 2006 appears to be genuine. Keeping in view the immense potential for future growth of Indian fashion products which has not yet been fully exploited, the Committee are of the considered opinion that in order to take full advantage of the available opportunities, the declaration of NIFT to be an Institute of National Importance appears to be of paramount importance and accordingly requisite action be taken so that NIFT gets recognition of an Institute of National Importance, commensurate with its prominence and proficiency in the fashion domain.

17. The Committee are concerned to note that even though NIFT is empowered by an Act of Parliament to award Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degrees, NIFT Degrees are not yet recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Committee find that despite several communications from the Ministry of Textiles requesting UGC for giving recognition to NIFT degrees, the same has not been done on the plea that any degree which is not specified under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956, shall render it 'invalid'. The Committee desire that this issue be taken up in the right earnest at the appropriate levels so that it is sorted out at the earliest in the larger interest of various Degree Holders of the Institute. The Committee also desire that other constraints being faced by NIFT be looked into with utmost seriousness and resolved appropriately so as to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the Institute.

New Delhi;
July, 2021
Ashadha, 1943 (Saka)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(2020-21)

Minutes of the Sixth Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 2nd December, 2020 from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab – CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi
4. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
5. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
6. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
7. Dr. Virendra Kumar
8. Shri Nayab Singh Saini
9. Shri Bhola Singh

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Neeraj Dangi

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri T.G. Chandrasekhar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri P.C. Choulda - Director
3. Shri D.R. Mohanty - Additional Director
4. Ms. Miranda Ingudam - Deputy Secretary
5. Shri Kulvinder Singh - Deputy Secretary

Witnesses
Representatives of the Ministry of Textiles

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Shri Ravi Capoor | Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Shantmanu | DG (NIFT) |
| 3. | Shri Jogi Ranjan Panigrahi | JS (NIFT) |
| 4. | Prof. Dr. Vandana Narang | Dean (A), NIFT |
| 5. | Prof. Dr. Suhail Anwar | Registrar, NIFT |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and the representatives of the Ministry of Textiles to the sitting of the Committee, convened to have a briefing on the Subject 'Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)'. Drawing the attention of the witnesses to Direction of 58 of the 'Directions by the Speaker' regarding confidentiality of the proceedings during deposition before the Parliamentary Committees, the Chairperson asked the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles to brief the Committee on the subject matter.

3. The Secretary, Ministry of Textiles accordingly gave an overview of various issues pertaining to the 'Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology' through a Power Point Presentation, which *inter-alia* included outreach of NIFT, salient features of the NIFT Act, Board of Governors, campuses and seats in NIFT, policy for establishment of new campuses, departments and programmes of NIFT, R & D initiatives, Industry interaction, development of India Size chart for ready to wear garments, global ranking of NIFT, current initiatives initiated in wake of Covid-19 etc.

4. The Members then raised certain specific queries on related issues and the representatives of the Ministry responded to them. As some points required detailed and statistical data, the Chairperson asked the Secretary to furnish written replies thereon within 10 days. The Secretary assured to comply.

5. The Chairperson thanked the Secretary and other representatives of the Ministry for furnishing the available information on the subject matter and responding to the queries of the Members.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

[A copy of the audio-recorded verbatim proceedings was kept on record]

The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(2020-21)

Minutes of the Nineteenth Sitting of the Committee

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 08th July, 2021 from 1100 hrs. to 1315 hrs. in Committee Room No. '3', Parliament House Annexe, Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
4. Shri Dayakar Pasunoori
5. Shri Satish Kumar Gautam
6. Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav
7. Shri Naba Kumar Sarania
8. Shri Nayab Singh Saini
9. Shri Bhola Singh

Rajya Sabha

10. Dr. Banda Prakash
11. Ms. Dola Sen
12. Shri M. Shanmugam
13. Shri Neeraj Dangi
14. Shri Dushyant Gautam
15. Shri Vivek Thakur
16. Shri Naresh Bansal

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri T.G. Chandrasekhar | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri D.R. Mohanty | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Sanjay Sethi | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Kulvinder Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Shri Sidhartha Gautam Kamidi | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee, convened for consideration and adoption of the following Draft Reports on:

(i) Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

(ii) XX XX XX XX.

(iii) XX XX XX XX.

(iv) XX XX XX XX.

(v) XX XX XX XX.

3. Giving an overview of the important Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Draft Reports, the Chairperson solicited the views/ suggestions of the Members.

4. The Committee, then, took up the Draft Reports one by one for consideration and after some discussions adopted them.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports in light of the factual verifications, if any, in respect of Draft Report on Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and present the Reports to Parliament in the ensuing Monsoon Session.

6. XX XX XX XX.

The witnesses then withdrew.

[A copy of the verbatim proceedings was kept on record]

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Does not pertain to this Report.