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INDIA TRADE PROMOTION ORGANISATION
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NEED TO INCORPORATE SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH , SAYS PRESIDENT OF INDIA AT IITF2013

There is an urgent need to incorporate skill development and vocational training in the process of economic growth, emphasised the President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, while inaugurating the 33rd edition of India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, today.

Among the high dignitaries present on the occasion were the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Textile, Mr. Anand Sharma; Union Minister of New & Renewable Energy, Mr. Farooq Abdullah, Her Excellency, Deputy Trade and Industry Minister of South Africa, Ms. Elizabeth Thabethe; Minister of Industries, Government of Bihar, Dr. Renu Kumari ; Minister of Handloom and Textiles, Govt. of Odisha Mrs. Sarojini Hembram,; Commerce Secretary, Govt. of India Mr. S. R. Rao; Charge D’Affairs, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Yasuhisa Kawamura; members of the diplomatic corps, participants from India and overseas and media representatives.

Complimenting ITPO, the President underlined the contribution of ITPO in providing an ideal platform for the SMEs. He complimented

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ITPO for new initiatives introduced at the IITF for the convenience of a large number of participants and the visitors. He said, India as a country with a primarily agro-based economy and a burgeoning population could make its presence felt in diverse fields such as heavy industries, communication, nuclear energy, space research, electronics etc., due to the immense contribution of the SME sector.

The SME sector can prosper only if there are concerted efforts and widening of the markets for their products. He said that IITF has been consistently helping in meeting the needs of crucial sectors which in turn contribute to the equitable and inclusive growth of the nation. He further added that India is the third largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity; empowerment of the people is the most crucial instrument in the economic development of any country and this could be backed by legal enactments such as Food Security, RTI, etc. The President said that the vision of inclusive growth aims at social mobility of all the sections of the society.

In his key note address, Mr. Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Textiles pointed out that the SME sector in India contributes 17 per cent to the country's GDP and constitutes 40% of the manufacturing sector as also the same amount to the exports. He said that Japan's participation as a "Partner Country" underscores India's special relations with Japan. Both Japan and South Africa have been the strategic partners of India, he added. He said that Japan is not only a major foreign investor in India but also assisted India in providing strong support in the development of infrastructure. The Minister emphasized that the priority was to raise the share of manufacturing sector in the GDP of the country from the

current 16 per cent to 26 per cent in one decade and creating 100 billion skilled jobs.

Mr. Sharma informed the gathering that India's trade in 2012 crossed one trillion US\$ including merchandise trade and service sectors. During the last three months of this year, India has registered a double digit growth in exports which would help the country in bringing down the current account deficit. Mr. Anand Sharma further informed that India is also a major destination for foreign investments even during the difficult times of economic crises, India has remained one of the three most favoured destinations for foreign investments. For the last four years, India has received FDI to the tune of 162 billion US\$.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Trade and Industry Minister of South Africa, the Focus Country expressed her happiness over the participation of her country as a Focus Country for the second time and the growing bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

Mr. Yasuhisa Kawamura, Charge D'Affairs, Embassy of Japan said that India and Japan are bound by the shared values of democracies, respect for human rights and rule of law. The volume of trade between India and Japan has increased 6 times during the last 10 years since 2001. After signing the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries, the direct foreign investment from Japan to India has increased 7 times for the last three years, and subsequently Japan had become the 3rd largest FDI in India. The number of Japanese companies working with India reached the figure of 926 in 2012.

Dr. Renu Kumari, Minister of Industries, Govt. of Bihar and Mrs. Sarojini Hembram, Minister of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Odisha, highlighted the salient features of their respective pavilions and export potential of their States.

Earlier, while welcoming the gathering, Mrs. Rita Menon, CMD, ITPO said that IITF 2013 will be remembered for several first timers which include launch of mobile application by which a visitor can access details of the fair, webcast of all programmes at Hamsadhawani Theatre on Android, ios, Blackberry etc. through out the world; LED screen are put up at strategic locations in the fair ground; 10 ticket counter for return metro journey set up with the support of DMRC.

She further informed that catering to the need of exponentially growing number of exhibitors, ITPO is pursuing its ambitious plan of setting up a world class exhibition-cum-convention complex at Pragati Maidan in near future. She added that ITPO has introduced the Innovation Pavilion set up at outside Hall No. 14 showcasing young talents in business entrepreneurship and economically viable new ideas.

Mr. Malay Shrivastava, Executive Director of ITPO, proposed a vote of thanks
