

SPEECH OF

**THIRU. DAYANIDHI MARAN**

AT

THE INAUGURATION OF

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION**

**TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

AT

KANGRA (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

ON

5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2009

AT 12.30 P.M.

Thiru. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh

Tmt. Rita Menon, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Thiru. Rajiv Takru, Director General, National Institute of Fashion

Technology

Thiru. S.S.Guleria, Director, Technical Education, Himachal Pradesh

Thiru. Dinesh Kumar Rangra, Director, NIFT, Kangra

Others on the Dias

Friends in the Media

Students and

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to stand before this august assembly, in the shadow of the mighty Dhauladhar range for an occasion that marks the beginning of a brand new chapter in the progress of this region – namely, the inauguration of NIFT, Kangra.

Many of you will recall the event in January, 2009 when our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Prof. Dhumal accompanied by my predecessor Thiru. Shankersinh Vaghela had jointly laid the foundation stone for the induction of the latest centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology on this very ground. It may be recalled that Ministry of Textiles and NIFT were expected to start a full-fledged NIFT centre at

this site from August, 2009. Incidentally whenever a NIFT Centre has been started anywhere in the country, including the original Centre at Delhi, we have never started with more than two courses per Centre. Based on the interaction between my Ministry and the State Government and seeing the enthusiasm and support being extended by the State right from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, his cabinet colleagues, the Chief Secretary and her team of officers, at all levels, as also the warmth and willingness of the people of this area, we decided to take a big leap and thought of starting the Kangra Centre of NIFT with as many as five courses simultaneously.

Believe me, it was an uphill task. A full-fledged functioning NIFT Centre is much more than land and bricks and mortar. It is a self sufficient community with faculty, administrative and support staff, students and vast infrastructure not only to look after their day to day needs but also all official and academic requirements. It is not out of place to mention here that the NIFT as an institution has been recognised by an Act of Parliament as an institute of excellence. The NIFT name carries a brand value and equity all over the world. Some of the biggest names of the fashion and allied industry in the country who have also attained international acclaim are NIFT Alumni. NIFT

is not in the business of merely running degree programmes but rather it is a breeding ground for locating raw talent in our youngsters. Through the most rigorous training and extremely hard work, NIFT converts them into fashion professionals. It is not an exaggeration to say that NIFT graduates rank with the best in the world in terms of skills and technical competence. The current batch of 150 new entrants at Kangra have to live up to this tradition and I call upon them on this occasion to put forward their best and fully justify, the trust and confidence imposed upon them by the State of Himachal Pradesh as also the Govt. of India. On our part, from the Ministry of Textiles or the NIFT all possible support shall be extended to this new Centre and we shall ensure that it will not lack in either necessary infrastructure or trained faculty. NIFT shall be deputing senior faculty and trainers as per requirement from other parts of the country to also come here and supplement the efforts which will be made by the permanent faculty at Kangra. In addition NIFT has a strong tradition of using local talent. Kangra and the surrounding areas are known internationally for handicrafts and handmade items of great beauty. The resources available here shall provide good exposure to the students. On the other hand, the presence of NIFT in Kangra will

definitely provide a great deal of formal and informal input to the local arts and crafts to enable them to develop further. NIFT as a matter of policy and as part of the social responsibility embraced by the Ministry of Textiles and duly communicated to all its institutions, makes a determined effort for training of artisans, local craftsman and even local unemployed youth in skills that may help them better their way of life. A similar initiative will also be launched at Kangra. This is normally done in close coordination with the State Government, its officers and state agencies. We shall follow the same methodology here.

The planning for the NIFT Kangra permanent Centre here has already moved at a rapid pace and an Empowered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary have already finalized the selection of Architects for this campus. Construction activities shall be undertaken through the State PWD. I have seen the proposed plans and designs for the permanent Centre. They look most impressive. It is my wish that work should now commence at the greatest possible pace and no bottlenecks should be allowed to interfere with getting the permanent structures organised. Today we have 150 students, next year we will have a total of 300 students. Therefore,

we cannot afford any delay in planning and implementing on an immediate basis. NIFT Kangra Centre, I can say without any reservation, enjoys perhaps the most beautiful site amongst all the NIFT Centres anywhere in India.

It is now important that both faculty and students live up to this standard and our expectations. I would be the happiest if NIFT Kangra goes on to become the jewel in the ground of NIFT all over the country and in future employers were to express their preference for recruiting graduates of NIFT Kangra as compared to other Centres.

With these words, I take pleasure in inaugurating NIFT Kangra. You have my fullest support and may your future efforts be crowned with the greatest success.

All the best

Thanking you

