Innovating for a Stronger Tomorrow: Shri Rakesh Mehra’s Vision for India’s Textile Machinery Industry



On the occasion of the 64th Annual General Meeting of the Textile Machinery Manufacturers’ Association (TMMA), held on 19th September 2024 in Mumbai, Shri Rakesh Mehra, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), delivered an inspiring address as the Chief Guest. His speech highlighted the vital role of technological innovation in the textile industry and the promising opportunities that lie ahead for India’s textile machinery manufacturers.

Shri Mehra began by commending TMMA for its significant contributions to the textile engineering sector over the years, emphasizing how critical machinery is to the overall success of the industry. As India’s textile market grows robustly—valued at approximately USD 165-170 billion, including USD 35 billion in exports—there is great potential for Indian machinery manufacturers to thrive. Government initiatives like the PLI and PM MITRA schemes, coupled with rising domestic and global demand, are expected to propel India towards a USD 350 billion market size by 2030.

However, Shri Mehra also pointed out the existing technology gaps in indigenous machinery, especially in areas like weaving and processing, where India still relies on imports to meet quality standards. He urged domestic manufacturers to step up, embrace innovation, and develop cutting-edge technology to remain globally competitive.

Highlighting global trends in sustainability and digitization, Shri Mehra stressed that future technology must align with evolving market demands. He also called for collaboration between industry stakeholders to bridge the technological gaps and meet emerging compliance requirements.

In conclusion, Shri Mehra expressed optimism that India will soon reduce its dependence on imported machinery, with indigenous technology driving the nation's textile sector forward.