INDIAN TEXTILE MACHINERY INDUSTRY

TMMA(I) 66th Annual General Meeting Highlights Industry Challenges, Technology Priorities and Global Opportunities

The Textile Machinery Manufacturers' Association (India) (TMMA) held its **66thAnnual General Meeting (AGM)** on 18 September 2026, bringing together leading representatives of the textile engineering industry, members of the Association, industry professionals, government officials, guests and distinguished experts.

The AGM focused on the changing global textile manufacturing environment, the challenges confronting Indian textile machinery manufacturers, the growing domestic market opportunity, the need for technological modernisation and automation, and the importance of developing globally competitive Indian textile machinery.

The programme also featured the presentation of the **TMMA Export Excellence Awards and R&D Awards for 2025–6,** recognising achievements in exports, indigenous technology development, research and innovation.

Chairman'Address: India Has the Market, but Competitiveness Is Essential

Welcoming the gathering, **Mr. Prashant Mangukia, Chairman, TMMA(I),** extended a warm welcome to Chief Guest **Mr. Durai Palanisamy,** Chairman of the Southern India Mills'Association (SIMA) and Executive Director of Pallava Group, as well as members of the Managing Committee, colleagues and guests. He emphasised that the AGM provided an opportunity to examine the current position of the textile engineering industry and, more importantly, the opportunities emerging ahead.

According to Mr. Mangukia, FY2025–6 was marked by resilience as well as uncertainty. Geopolitical tensions, tariff uncertainties, changing trade policies and fragmented global supply chains are reshaping manufacturing and sourcing strategies worldwide. The increasing adoption of **China+1, near-shoring and friend-shoring strategies,** he noted, presents an important opportunity for India.

However, he stressed that opportunity alone would not be sufficient. Indian manufacturers would have to compete on **technology, quality, productivity, delivery and reliability.** For the textile engineering industry, this means faster innovation, greater automation and a stronger focus on global competitiveness.

India' Economic Strength and Textile Engineering Opportunity

The Chairman highlighted India's economic resilience, noting that real GDP growth was **7.7% in FY2025–6,** compared with 7.1% in the previous year. He linked this growth to domestic consumption, investment, manufacturing and services.

For the textile engineering sector, India's infrastructure development, manufacturing expansion and deeper integration with global value chains create significant opportunities. Every major expansion in the textile industry, he observed, creates opportunities for textile engineering.

The critical question, therefore, is whether Indian machinery manufacturers can capture a larger share of this opportunity.

Domestic Machinery Market Presents a Major Opportunity

Mr. Mangukia also drew attention to the challenging operating environment faced by the textile engineering industry during FY2025–26. Production and capacity utilisation declined in double digits, while exports remained under pressure.

At the same time, domestic textile machinery demand increased to approximately **₹32,397 crore.** Against this substantial market, Indian manufacturers supplied less than 25% by value, while imports increased sharply to approximately **₹26,999 crore,** predominantly in the weaving and knitting machinery segments.

The Chairman's message was that the issue is not a lack of market opportunity but the ability of Indian manufacturers to compete effectively. The industry must therefore move beyond simply producing more machinery and concentrate on developing machinery that is **more advanced, efficient, reliable and globally competitive.**

Five Priorities for the Future

Mr. Mangukia outlined five key priorities for strengthening the Indian textile engineering industry:

1. Stronger Domestic Manufacturing

The industry needs an ecosystem that encourages and strengthens Indian machinery manufacturing while continuously improving competitiveness.

2. Technology and Modernisation

With technology evolving rapidly, Indian textile machinery manufacturers need to keep pace and make technology a key source of competitive advantage.

3. Quality and a Level Playing Field

Customers need access to the best technology at competitive prices, while Indian manufacturers need a fair opportunity to compete.

4. Exports – From India to the World

The Chairman identified exports as one of the industry's major opportunities. With global supply chains changing, Indian manufacturers need to look beyond the domestic market and strengthen international marketing, project exports, export finance and global partnerships.

The larger ambition is for **machines designed and manufactured in India to be trusted worldwide.**

5. R&D, Innovation and Skills

The industry must invest in R&D, innovation and human resources. Stronger collaboration between industry, academia and technology institutions, together with development of skilled manpower, will be essential for future competitiveness.

From Cost Competitiveness to Technology Competitiveness

The Chairman observed that geopolitical uncertainty, tariffs and changing trade patterns will continue to challenge global manufacturing. At the same time, the diversification of manufacturing creates an opportunity for India.

With its large domestic market, growing engineering capabilities and entrepreneurial strength, India has the foundation to expand its role in global textile manufacturing.

The industry, he emphasised, now needs **speed, scale and confidence** and must transition from being primarily cost-competitive to becoming **technology-competitive.** In his view, this transformation could enable Indian textile engineering companies to develop from suppliers to Indian textile mills into global technology partners.

Mr. Mangukia also reaffirmed TMMA(I)'s role in representing the industry's interests before government, facilitating dialogue between machinery manufacturers and textile users, supporting technology and market development, sharing industry intelligence and creating opportunities for collaboration.

Chief Guest Mr. Durai Palanisamy: Textile Industry Entering an Important Phase

The Chief Guest, **Mr. Durai Palanisamy,** Executive Director of Pallava Textiles Private Ltd. and Chairman of SIMA, addressed the

gathering after the award presentations. Mr. Durai Palanisamy is the Executive Director of **Pallava Textiles Private Ltd.,** a flagship company of Pallavaa Group. He holds a B.Tech. in Textiles and an MBA in International Business Management from Southern New Hampshire University, USA.

Mr. Palanisamy expressed his appreciation for being invited to the 66th AGM and said he was particularly pleased to present the awards recognising the achievements of the industry's members. He emphasised that recognising performance is important not only as an acknowledgement of achievement but also as a means of motivating companies to improve further.

He described the Indian textile industry as being at an important stage, with developments such as FTAs and government policies creating positive momentum. He also observed increasing activity around the **China+1 strategy,** with brands and retailers seeking to diversify supply chains and move part of their sourcing and manufacturing into India.

Modernisation and Automation Become Critical

One of the significant observations in Mr. Palanisamy's address was the need for modernisation of India's textile manufacturing capacity.

He referred to information indicating that only around **15–20% of the installed spinning capacity in the country is less than 10 years old,** highlighting the need for modernisation if the Indian textile industry is to remain globally competitive.

He explained that machinery-buying decisions have changed considerably. While price, quality and maintenance remain important, mills today are increasingly examining:

- Automation capability
- Cost efficiency
- Digitalisation
- ERP integration
- Data availability and utilisation
- Overall productivity and operational efficiency

Labour availability has become a particularly important issue for textile mills, making practical automation increasingly critical.

Industry 4.0, AI and Integrated Data

Mr. Palanisamy highlighted the growing importance of **Artificial Intelligence and Industry 4.0** in textile manufacturing.

He pointed out that textile production consists of a sequence of interconnected processes, often involving machinery from multiple suppliers. Data generated by individual machines can therefore remain in separate silos.

The challenge for machinery manufacturers is to enable data generated across different machines and processes to be integrated into a common system. Such integration would allow textile manufacturers to convert machine data into useful information for operational and strategic decision-making.

He also stressed that automation needs to be **practical, effective and affordable.** Expensive automation that does not deliver adequate operational value may not provide the desired benefits to textile manufacturers.

Strengthening Cooperation Between Machinery Manufacturers and Textile Mills

Mr. Palanisamy called for closer cooperation between machinery manufacturers and textile producers.

He noted that government initiatives aimed at promoting textile machinery manufacturing in India could create opportunities for further investment. At the same time, he encouraged textile mills to provide manufacturers with opportunities to test and refine machinery on actual production floors.

He argued that machinery manufacturers should thoroughly test equipment before commercial deployment, work closely with customers to resolve practical issues and use production-floor experience to improve machines.

Such cooperation, he said, can build **customer confidence and trust** and help Indian machinery manufacturers develop genuinely world-class products.

Looking ahead, he said Industry 4.0 and AI would play an increasingly important role. Machines capable of self-adjustment and auto-correction are already becoming more widely accepted, and developing increasingly intelligent machinery will be an important direction for the industry.

Export Excellence Awards 2025–26

A major highlight of the AGM was the presentation of the **TMMA Export Excellence Awards 2025–26.**

The Association's award programme covers the Apex Export Award, Segment Export Awards for major sectors of the textile machinery industry, and Special Export Awards. The categories include textile machinery, parts and accessories, textile testing/monitoring/controlling instruments and specialised machinery segments.

Apex Export Award

Rieter India Pvt. Ltd., Pune received the Apex Export Award.

The company's overall turnover during the year was reported at **₹1,138 crore,** with total weighted exports, including direct and indirect exports, of **₹311 crore.**



The award was received by **Mr. Abhijeet Puranik, Director – Machine Sales.**

Segment Export Awards

Machinery Sector:
Kirloskar Toyota Textile Machinery Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru received the award. The company reported turnover of ₹302 crore, including weighted exports of ₹218 crore.



Recipients of the Award is Mr. A. Ragotham Head Marketing of the Company.

Parts & Accessories Sector:
Lakshmi Card Clothing Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore was recognised, with reported turnover of ₹163 crore and weighted exports of ₹24 crore.



Mr. N. Jagadeesan, GM-Exports Marketing of the Company.

Textile Testing, Monitoring & Controlling Instruments:
Premier Evolvics Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore received the award, with reported turnover of ₹75 crore and weighted exports of ₹22 crore.

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Recipient of the Award is Mr. Sanjay Gandhi – Vice President -Sales of the company

Special Export Awards

The Special Export Awards recognised companies across specialised segments:

- **Spinning Machinery:** Truetzschler India Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad
- **Synthetic Machinery:** Bhagat Textile Engineers, Surat
- **Processing Machinery:** Colorjet India Ltd., Noida
- **Parts & Accessories:** Sieger Spintech Equipments Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore
- **Small Scale – Machinery:** Menzel Engineering India Pvt. Ltd., Palghar
- **Small Scale – Parts & Accessories:** Inspiron Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad

The cited export performance figures demonstrate the contribution of these companies to India's textile machinery exports during 2025–26.



Recipient of the Award is Mr. Sandeep Sharma, GM Sales, of **Truetzschler India Private Limited, Ahmedabad**



Mr. Harshil Lalitbhai Bhagat - Director, Mr. Harikesh Gupta - General Manager - Marketing, and Mr. Hiral Bhavsar – Manager Sales, of **Bhagat Textile Engineers, Surat**



The recipient of the Award is Mr. P. Bojaraj Vice President, of the **Sieger Spintech Equipments Private Limited, Coimbatore**



Recipient of the Award are Mr. Harish Mehta – Managing Director, Mr. Kinnar Desai Vice President-Sales and Mr. Milind Mehta of **Menzel Engineering India Private Limited, Palghar**



Recipient of the Award is Ms. Radhikaben Bhagwati – Director of **Inspiron Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad**

R&D and Innovation Awards

The AGM also recognised indigenous product development and R&D achievements.

According to the award citation, **nine member companies submitted nominations for 14 Product-R&D Awards.** Two nominations were considered eligible for the Innovation Award, while four nominations received Certificates of Appreciation for R&D efforts during 2025–26.

LMW Limited – LRJ90 SX SXL Ring Frame

LMW Limited, Coimbatore, received an Innovation Award for its **LRJ90 SX SXL Ring Frame,** featuring 2,400 spindles with a 65 mm gauge.

The citation identifies the 2,400-spindle, 65 mm-gauge configuration as a first-to-market development. The award was received by **Mr. V. Prakash, Senior Manager – R&D.**



The Indian Card Clothing Co. Ltd., Pune, received an Innovation Award for its **stainless-steel card clothing** developed for applications including medical textiles and synthetic fibre processing.

The development addresses contamination-free working requirements, particularly important in medical textile applications, while the stainless-steel wires in the doffing zone improve fibre transfer.



Recipient of the Award are Mr. Mehul Trivedi - Director, Mr. Lakshmikant Rathi – President, Mr. Ashok Kumar Pal – VP (Product development & Technical support) of **The Indian Card Clothing Co. Ltd.,**

Certificates of Appreciation

Certificates of Appreciation were presented for several further developments:

Lakshmi Card Clothing Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd. was recognised for **ALFA COMB & ALFA TOP COMB,** manufactured through an 18-stage progressive stamping process. The citation highlights precision, replaceable strips, reduced production time and labour requirements, improved fabric handle and suitability for sustainable textile production.



Recipient of the Award is Mr. N. Jagadeesan,

GM-Exports Marketing of the **Lakshmi Card Clothing Mfg. Co. Pvt. Ltd**

Ramsons Garment Finishing Equipments Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru was recognised for its **GO GREEN MACHINE (NANO SPRAY).** The technology uses advanced chemical atomisation to apply finishing treatments with reduced water and chemical consumption. The cited benefits include up to 50% reduction in water consumption, more than 60% reduction in chemical usage and zero wastewater discharge.



Recipient of the Award are Mr. Ram Mohan - CEO and Mr. Sunil Poddar – Sales Manager of **Ramsons Garment Finishing Equipments Private Limited, Bangalore**

Sieger Spintech Equipments Pvt. Ltd. received Certificates of Appreciation for two developments: the **Pallet Through AMR Cone Transport System** and the **Flying Cone Tip Identification System.** The AMR system provides flexible movement around obstacles, while the image-scanning system is designed to prevent paper cone coding mix-ups during pallet formation and subsequent automated handling.



Recipient of the Award is Mr. P. Bojaraj Vice President, of the **Sieger Spintech Equipments Private Limited**

A Stronger Partnership Between Industry, Government and Technology Providers

The discussions at the AGM underlined that India's textile engineering development will require coordinated action across the entire ecosystem.

The Chairman acknowledged the continued engagement of the **Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, DPIIT, BIS, Textile Commissionerate and other government departments and agencies** with the industry.

The Chief Guest's address similarly emphasised cooperation between machinery manufacturers and textile mills, particularly in testing, developing and improving machinery under real production conditions.

Together, these perspectives point towards a more integrated model in which manufacturers, textile producers, government agencies, academia and technology institutions work together on competitiveness, modernisation, innovation and skills.

Vote of Thanks and Recognition of Industry Support

The AGM concluded with a Vote of Thanks expressing appreciation to Chief Guest Mr. Durai Palanisamy for his participation and for presenting the Export and R&D Awards. The Association also congratulated all award winners for their achievements in exports, research and innovation.

Acknowledgement was extended to officials from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Finance, DGFT, Ministry of Textiles and the Textile Commissioner's office for their engagement and support.

The Association also remembered **Late Dr. Anirban Guha of IIT Mumbai,** a long-serving member of the R&D Awards Jury, and acknowledged his contribution to the Association's awards activities.



The R&D Awards Jury members were thanked for their time and expertise, while appreciation was also expressed to the Textiles Committee, India-ITME Society, ITAMMA, the print and electronic media, TMMA members, the Secretariat and the Association's Advisor for their respective contributions.

Conclusion

The **66th AGM of TMMA(I)** presented a clear picture of an Indian textile engineering industry facing significant challenges but also standing before a substantial opportunity.

The domestic textile machinery market offers considerable potential, while global supply-chain diversification is creating new possibilities for Indian manufacturers. At the same time, the industry must address competitiveness, modernisation, automation, digitalisation, R&D, skilled manpower, exports and customer confidence.

The central message emerging from both the Chairman's address and the Chief Guest's speech was the need to move beyond conventional cost-based competition towards **technology-driven competitiveness.**

The industry's future will increasingly depend on intelligent machinery, Industry 4.0, AI, integrated data, practical automation, indigenous R&D and closer collaboration between machinery manufacturers and textile mills.

The Export Excellence and R&D Awards provided tangible evidence of the innovation and export capabilities already present within the Indian textile machinery sector. The challenge ahead is to build upon these capabilities and translate them into greater domestic market participation and stronger international presence.

As the Chairman concluded, the next chapter of Indian textile engineering should not be defined merely by growth, but by **leadership, competitiveness and global technological capability.**