

Inaugural Session



D. R. Mehta, President, TAI

“It's time to deliberate on various business models, reflect upon the challenges we are facing the present day and look at possible strategies”

As you all know, TAI has more than 20,000 professional members, has been serving the textile industry and textile professionals for more than 70 years by conducting various seminars, conferences, and also the examinations. It has a prestigious bimonthly, Journal of Textile Association, through which textile professionals are updated with the latest technology.

The textile and apparel industry is the mother industry of this country and a decade ago 1/3 of the foreign exchange was earned out of textile exports. Although our textile exports in value as well as volume terms has been increasing, because of the fast growth of the Indian economy, the percentage share of our foreign exchange earned appears to be lowered to 21 per cent. However, textiles forms 16 per cent of total production and its contribution to GDP is about 4 per cent. There is tremendous scope in diversification and getting into various technical textiles which will grow at a rapid rate as the investment in infrastructure increases.

It is heartening to note that in the liberalized economy the government also took positive steps in terms of the Technology Up-gradation Fund for modernization of the industry as well as setting up of the Cotton Technology Mission or Technology Parks. Surely industry always looks for policy support, so that it gets a level playing field. Our infrastructure facilities are poor, our utility costs such as fuel, water, electricity are higher and productivity is lower, and hence even a country like Bangladesh has taken over India in garment exports and thus it's time to deliberate on various business models, reflect upon the challenges we are facing the present day and look at possible strategies, so that we are able to exploit the opportunities, using our strengths. Needless to mention that India has the spirit of tenacity, excellence and we shall become victorious.