The Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA) jointly with Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles (MoT), GoI organised the One day “National Conclave on Technical Textiles - Protech” on 16th November 2022 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Chief Guest, Ms. Rachna Shah, IAS, Secretary (Textiles), MoT, GoI inaugurated the Conclave and the Exhibition of companies encompassing wide range of protective textile products. The conclave received over whelming response and attended by more than 450 delegates from the Senior Officials & Representatives from Central Govt., Indian Defence Forces, Professional from Technical Textile Industry, COEs and Entrepreneurs especially from Protech segment.

In his brief welcome address, Dr. Arindam Basu, Director General, NITRA, apprised about the NITRA’s state of art research facilities and thrust on continuous Research & Development on Protective Textiles. He further added about the projects undertaken by NITRA in the field of technical textiles, especially Protech.

Shri. Raj Kumar Jain, Chairman, NITRA, addressed the delegates and said that the market for Technical Textiles is expanding as the products are being used by an ever-increasing number of end users in various industries such as protective wear, agriculture, construction, amongst others. He also mentioned that, with the increase in disposable income, the consumption of technical textiles is expected to increase more even in retail households in the near future. He appreciated MoT, GoI for launching many schemes for the growth and development of technical textiles such as PLI, NTTM, PM MITRA, etc. He further highlighted that the GoI is promoting indigenous manufacturers of technical textiles to explore the global opportunities and cater to the domestic demand as well.

In his address to delegates, Shri. Amit Agarwal, Chairman, ITTA, explained in detail about the ITTA, its benefits & services to ITTA members and its contribution towards the growth of technical textile w.r.t. Indian Stds, HSN Codes, policy matters, etc. He highlighted that Protective Textiles are not only used in cut & fire scenarios, but have wider usage in many hazardous prone activities related to energy transmission, radiation energy, chemical & biological exposures, extreme climates, etc. He stated that there exists a huge potential for protective textiles in India given increasing exposure to hazards and presence of five crore people in organized and almost equal people in unorganized sector. India should focus on enhancing the standardization for technical textiles items, he added. He also emphasized that mandation for the use of technical textiles by user industry would significantly drive the growth of technical textiles in India.

Ms. Roop Rashi, IA & AS, Textile Commissioner, MoT, GoI, in her special address mentioned that there is a need to focus on outcome-oriented R&D in the technical textile sector, and given MoT’s focus on R&D which is a major component of the NTTM, tremendous growth
is anticipated in the coming years. She apprised about the Govt. efforts on resolving issues in this sector in terms of credit support, subsidy support and facilitation of investment flow. She also said that the Technical Textiles industry will be a catalyst to fulfil India’s vision of Industry 4.0.

Shri. Rajeev Saxena, IRSS, Joint Secretary, MoT, GOI, spoke on the Outlook of Protective Textiles in India under NTTM. He talked about the Market size: World & India and its growth factors such as rising demand from new application areas, Stds & guidelines, Innovation & R&D, etc. He informed that 74 Protech Standards have been developed by BIS for Testing, Specification and Code of Practice. He emphasized on the NTTM and its components including R&D & Innovation; Skilling, Training & Education; Promotion & Market Development and Export Promotion. He highlighted the focused initiatives under this mission such as supporting R&D Projects in niche and strategic Protech areas and QCOs on 12 protech items. He stated that the Govt. will soon frame the guidelines to support & create an education ecosystem and skilled workforce in this field with the development of new courses & laboratory infrastructure.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Rachna Shah, Secretary (Textiles), highlighted that India’s textile industry is a major contributor to the Indian economy and its exports. The Technical Textile is a sunrise industry with a robust growth rate of 10% annually. However, the sector is still small in size and there is a lot of opportunity for India to be a prominent player in the global arena. Talking about the vibrancy & energy in the Technical Textiles sector, she added that India is poised to emerge as a powerful destination for manufacturing and exports. However, it is important to focus on product diversification, design, aesthetics, as well as training for the manpower. She pointed out the concerted effort by the MoT under NTTM to develop and implement stds for the technical textile items and market quality products that are at par with international stds. She also stated that Protective textile is one of the most prominent applications of technical textiles segment. Focus should be on indigenization of technology and implementation of quality standards in niche Protech items, given the spur in global demand and usage for Protech products, she further added.

Dr. Anup Rakshit, Executive Director, ITTA, talked about the various activities and services that ITTA is rendering to facilitate manufacturers of technical textile products i.e., HSN codes, IS stds, QCO, policy matters, etc., before proposing the formal vote of thanks.

Three Panel Discussions on the following topics were covered in detailed during the conclave--

1. Prospect of a cent-per-cent indigenisation of Protective Textile products in India.

2. Experience and Expectations of consumers towards adoption of Indian Protective Textiles.

3. Market promotion & Export opportunities of Protective Textiles in India along with Global Best Practices.
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