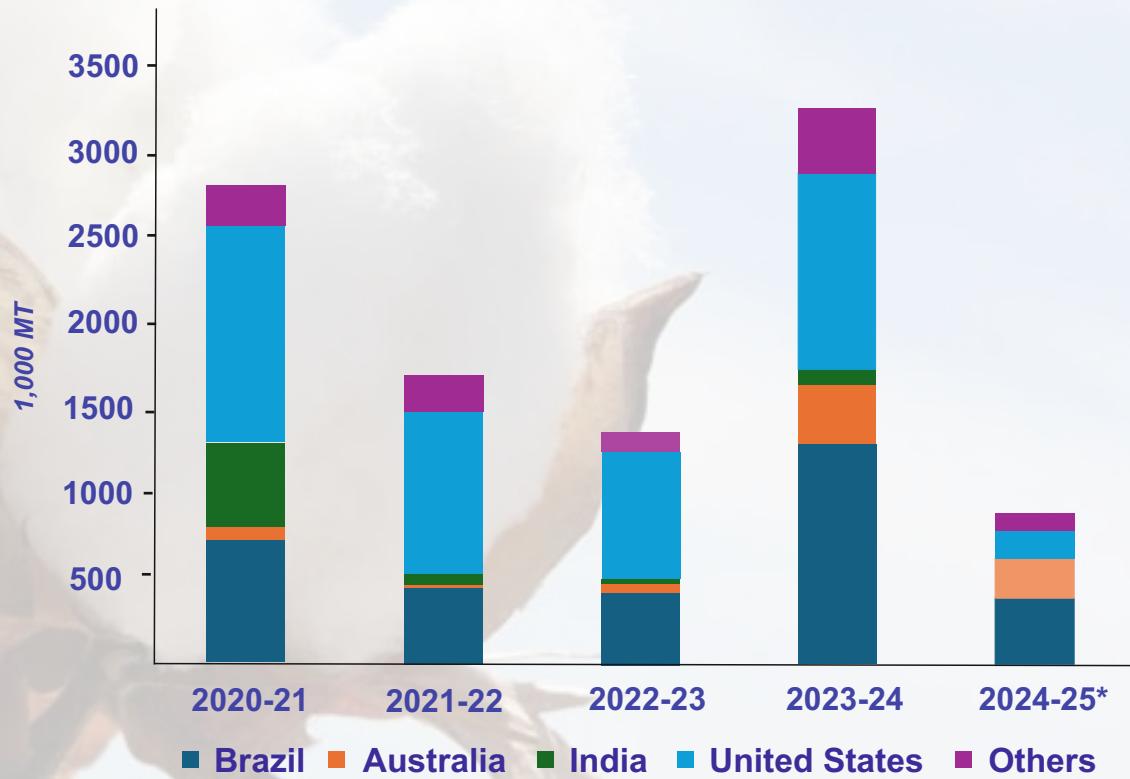




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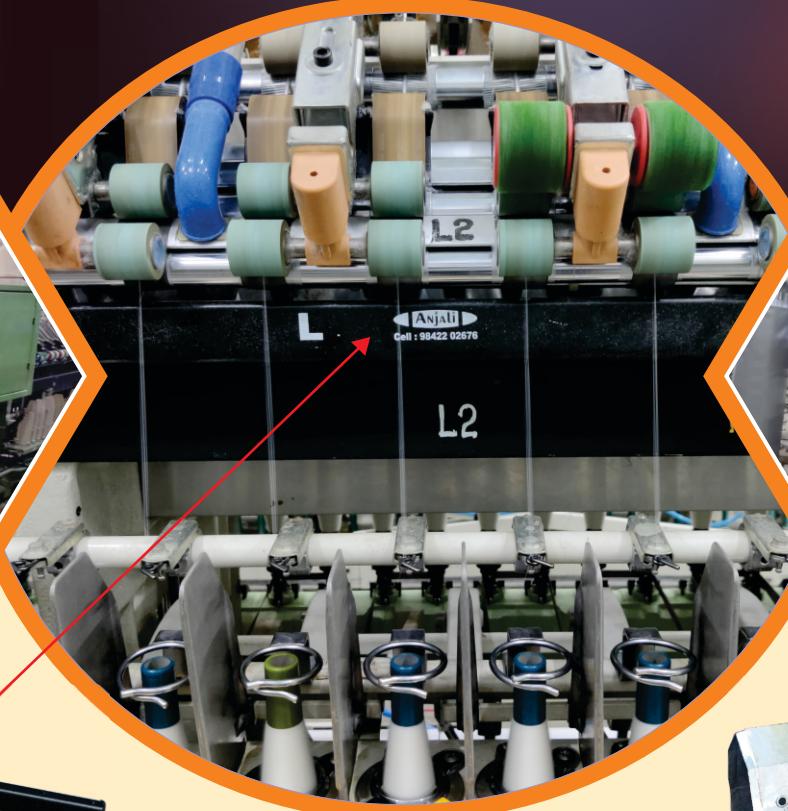
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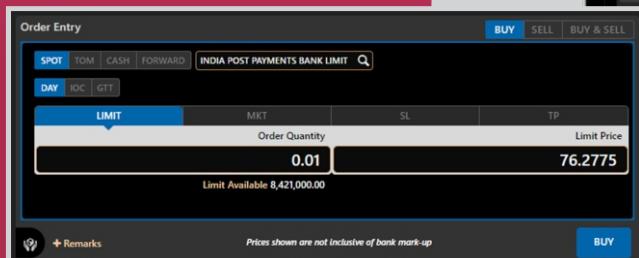
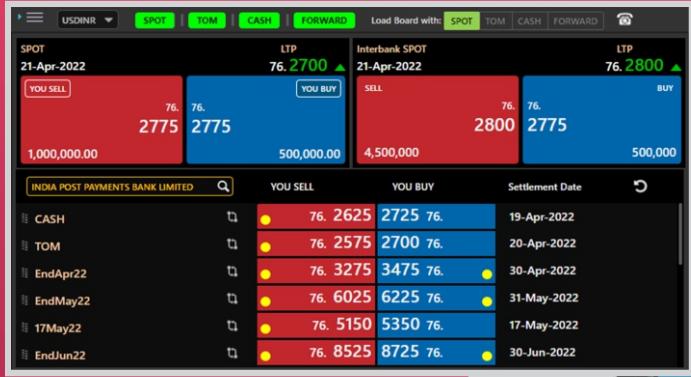
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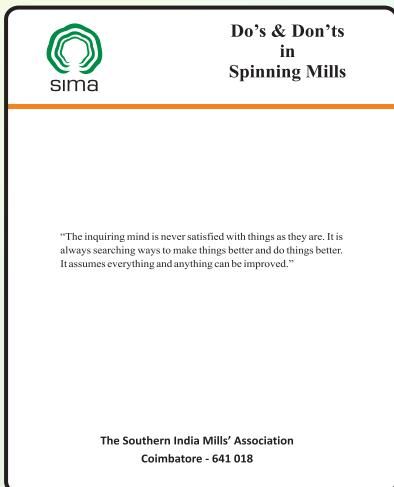
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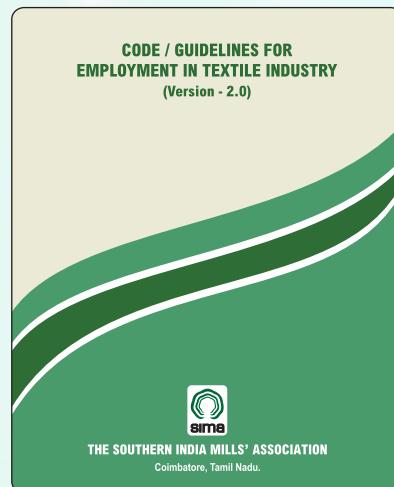
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From the Chairman



Friends,

On behalf of the entire textile fraternity, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, and Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh for the landmark achievement of concluding the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom.

The India-UK FTA offers timely relief to the Indian textile industry, which is currently facing export challenges due to volatile US tariff rates. Building on its proactive FTA strategy, the Union Government has swiftly concluded key agreements with Australia, the UAE, Mauritius and has now finalized the long-awaited UK FTA. This pact opens major opportunities for India's textile sector especially garments and made-ups to strengthen its market share in the UK by capitalizing on its manufacturing strengths and global competitiveness.

India's textile and apparel (T&A) exports rose by 6% to \$36.606 billion during the recently concluded fiscal 2024-25 (FY25). Of the total, apparel exports increased by 10% to \$15.989 billion, while textile exports grew by 4% to \$20.617 billion. Within the textile sector, exports of cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products increased modestly by 3% to \$12.056 billion in 2024-25. Exports of man-made yarn, fabrics, and made-ups rose by 4% to \$4.869 billion. I hope with the conclusion of FTA with UK, India's Textiles & Clothing exports would reach a new high in ongoing Financial Year.

The cotton prices on Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), New York, eased on muted global demand and prospects of a better cotton in countries such as Australia and Brazil, consequently, multinational traders in India started to off-load their stocks procured earlier. To sum up, enough cotton is available with the Cotton Corporation of India, ginners, traders and with the industry. The prices are unlikely to go down from the current level due to the low market arrivals. Pointing out the reduction in crop size, the Association has been even more vigorously taking up the industry demand with the government, seeking to exempt the import of cotton from the Customs Duty, more specifically during the off-season.

As the summer heatwave persists and temperatures continue to rise, it's crucial to prioritize the safety of our spinning mills during this challenging period. Remaining vigilant in identifying and addressing the potential fire hazards should be a priority.

On the labour front, Fast fashion giant Boohoo is reportedly facing a 100 million EUR (120 million USD) lawsuit from investors after allegations of modern slavery (forced labor) reduced its value by more than one

From the Chairman

billion EUR (1.2 billion USD). The retailer is being targeted by lawyers seeking compensation for shareholders who suffered huge losses following claims about the treatment of workers in supplier facilities across the United Kingdom.

On the power front, the Association, challenged the imposition of solar network charges on rooftop solar generators before the Madras High Court. The Court passed a favourable order, ruling against the levy. However, the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDCL) has filed an appeal against the order and secured a stay on its implementation. In response, the Association has approached the department, stating that the interim stay applies only to a single writ petitioner, which should not affect the relief already extended to the Association's members.

According to the IMF, India is poised to surpass Japan and become the world's fourth largest economy by 2025. The country is projected to remain the fastest growing major economy, sustaining a growth rate above 6% over the next two years, driven by strong momentum in the services and industrial sectors. Inflation has remained within the Reserve Bank of India's target range of 2-6%, reflecting stable macroeconomic conditions.

Overall, with demand sentiments reviving in both the domestic and export markets, I feel the Indian textile industry has started to emerge out of the long drawn recession it has faced and I sincerely hope that the move would improve its financial performance in the near future.

With a heavy heart, I record that on 22nd April 2025, a standoff emerged between India and Pakistan, which was sparked by the 2025 Pahalgam attack, a terrorist attack in the Baisaran Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 27 lives and left many others injured. A ceasefire was announced on 10th May 2025 following an agreement between the two nations. It is my sincere hope that this incident does not adversely affect the country's trade and economic stability.



Dr S K Sundararaman
Chairman

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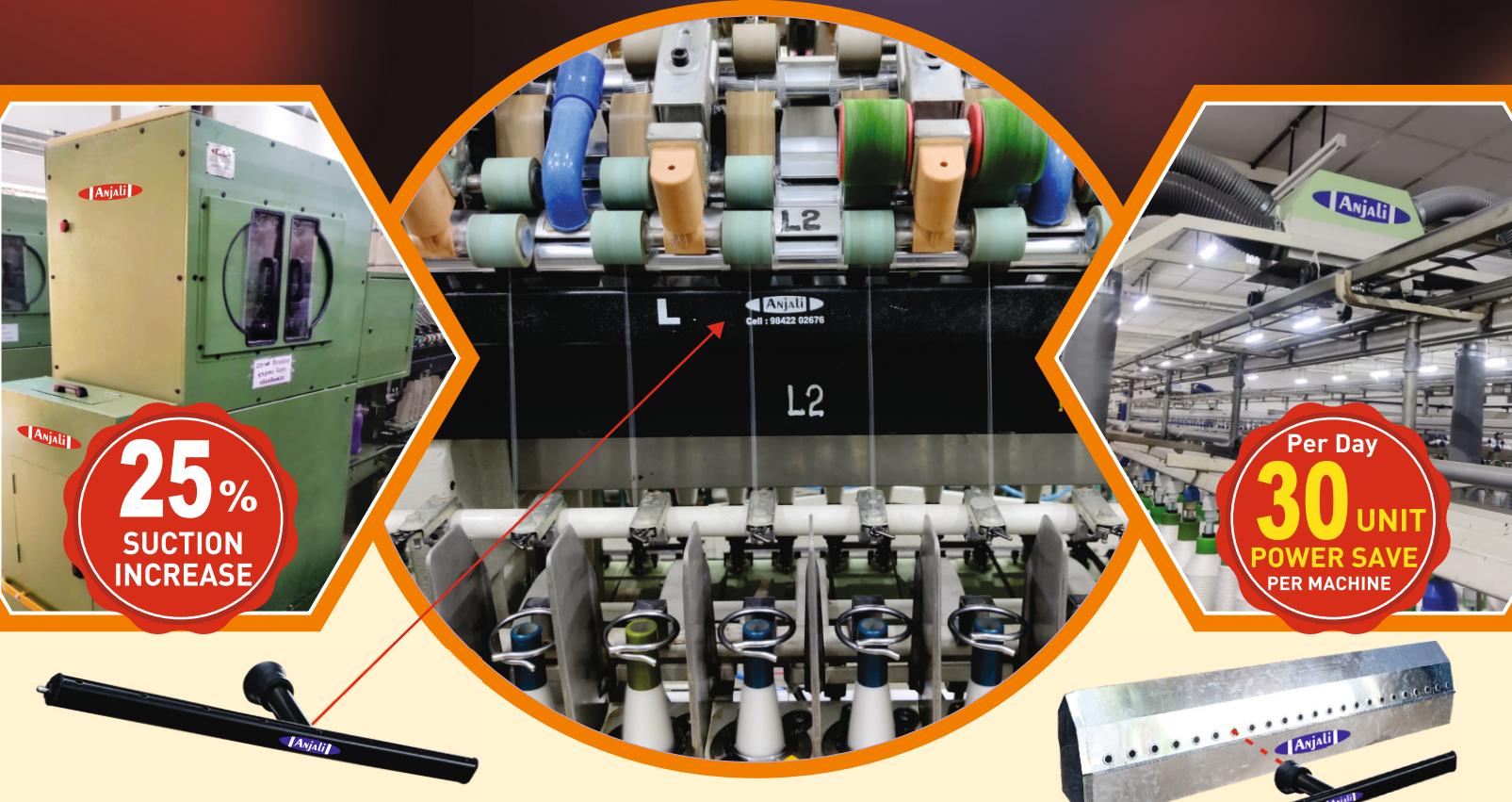


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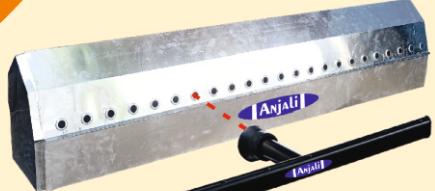
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