ITM
INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MARKET
Trade Textile And Technology

Italian Textile Machinery in India: Innovation, Investment and the Road to Future Growth

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— Marco Salvadé, President, ACIMIT

1. How do you assess the current opportunities and future growth potential of the Indian textile machinery market for Italian technology suppliers?

India represents a strategic market for the Italian textile machinery industry and offers significant opportunities for future growth. In 2025, India was the leading destination for Italian textile machinery exports worldwide, with sales reaching €176 million, an increase of 28% compared to 2024. This performance confirms the importance of the Indian market for our manufacturers and the strong interest in Italian technology.

Although the first half of 2026 recorded a slowdown, with exports amounting to €52 million, we remain confident in the long-term potential of the Indian textile industry.

The country's ongoing industrial development and the need to modernise production facilities offer significant opportunities for Italian manufacturers, particularly in automation, digitalisation, energy efficiency and sustainable production.

Italian textile machinery companies can support this transformation thanks to their technological expertise, flexibility and ability to develop customised solutions. We believe that strengthening technological cooperation between Italy and India will be essential to supporting the competitiveness and future development of the Indian textile industry.

2. What are the major technology requirements of Indian textile manufacturers, particularly in automation, productivity, digitalisation, sustainability and energy efficiency?

Indian textile manufacturers are increasingly focused on improving productivity, production quality and operational efficiency in order to strengthen their competitiveness in international markets.

Automation and digitalisation are becoming particularly important in this process, enabling manufacturers to optimise production, improve process control, reduce downtime and ensure more consistent quality standards. At the same time, energy efficiency is a key priority, as companies seek to reduce operating costs while making their production processes more sustainable.

Another important requirement is the ability to combine technological innovation with flexibility. India's textile industry is extremely diversified, and manufacturers need solutions that can respond to different production requirements and investment strategies.

In this context, Italian textile machinery manufacturers have a significant competitive advantage. Their longstanding commitment to research and development, combined with their ability to provide customised technological solutions, makes them valuable partners for Indian companies seeking to modernise their production facilities and move towards more efficient and sustainable manufacturing.

3. Which technologies, machinery or innovations will your company promote for the Indian market around India ITME 2026?

As ACIMIT represents the Italian textile machinery industry as a whole, India ITME 2026 will be an important opportunity to highlight the technological excellence and diversity of our member companies.

The composition of Italian exports to India clearly demonstrates the breadth of our technological offering. In the first half of 2026, spinning machinery accounted for 36% of total exports to the Indian market, followed by finishing machinery at 24%, accessories at 18% and weaving machinery at 13%. Italian manufacturers also provide advanced solutions for knitting and other textile processes.

At India ITME 2026, the Italian textile machinery industry will place particular emphasis on technologies designed to increase productivity, improve automation and digitalisation, optimise energy consumption and support more sustainable production processes.

One of the distinctive strengths of Italian technology is the ability to combine innovation with customised solutions, responding to the specific needs of each manufacturer. Our objective is to demonstrate how Italian machinery can support the technological upgrading of India's textile industry, contributing to greater efficiency, product quality and long-term competitiveness.