

Women's self-reliance takes centre stage as PM opens garment unit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Varanasi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday termed Arvind Limited's new garment manufacturing facility in Mirzamurad a boost to women's empowerment after interacting with 300 trained women workers at the plant. Developed with an investment of around Rs150 crore, the facility is expected to generate employment for over 1,000 people, predominantly women.

"One of the best aspects of Arvind Limited's garment manufacturing facility in Varanasi is the boost it will give to women empowerment!" Modi posted on X after leaving the plant. He interacted with the women workers, who are turning their aspirations into careers after completing training. The women workers expressed gratitude to Modi for his initiatives that led to the establishment of the facility in Varanasi. Modi also viewed an exhibition of khadi garments and Arvind products and learnt about the manufacturing process. He asked the women about their work experience, challenges, roles and future goals.

One worker said Modi asked her name, job and dream, making her feel as though an elder at home was speaking to her. She shared her ambition to



MAKE IN UP Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of garment manufacturing facility in Varanasi on Sunday

start her own industry, and he encouraged her. Another trainee said she aimed to become a manager in a major project before launching her own business. Earlier, immediately after landing at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Modi reached Mirzamurad and inaugurated the state-of-the-art garment manufacturing facility in the presence of governor Anandiben Patel and CM Yogi Adityanath.

Welcoming Modi, Arvind Limited chairperson Sanjay Lalbhai called it a proud moment for the company and highlighted the group's 130-year journey of consistently investing in enterprises that contribute to economic growth, employment generation and nation-building. "We are particularly proud that this investment will cre-

ate large-scale employment opportunities, with women expected to form a significant part of the workforce, reflecting the transformative power of Nari Shakti in driving India's growth story. We are proud to partner in India's development journey through investment, innovation and job creation," he said.

Developed with an investment of approximately Rs 150 crore, the facility is Arvind's first manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh. Spread across 5.5 acres, with a total built-up area of approximately 65,000 square feet, the plant has a revenue potential of Rs 250 crore. It is expected to employ over 1,000 people, predominantly women, and manufacture essential knitwear products using advanced automated sewing technologies.