PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT®

Edition 45, March 2023



Interview with Hiral Sanghvi, Marketing Director, Welpack Industries, Pg-10

Product of the Month – Contact Lens, Pg-15

Union Budget 2023 – Corporate Law Updates, Pg-18

Countryscape – Focus on Poland, Pg-22

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Editorial Advisory Board

Convener - Mr. Vikram Bhadauria,
ALOK Masterbatches

Member - Mr. Manoj Agarwal,
Kanpur Plastipack

Member – Mr. Amit Pal, Kolor Impex

Member – Mr. Devang Sheth,
Polycromax Industries

Member - Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra

Editorial Advisor - Mr. Niranjan Mudholkar

Plexconnect is published by:
The Plastics Export Promotion Council

Editor: Sribash Dasmohapatra,
Executive Director, Plexconcil

Associate Editor: Sangita Iyengar

Send in your feedback, comments,
suggestions to **editor@plexconcil.org**

THE PLASTICS EXPORT
PROMOTION COUNCIL

Head Office (Head Office)
B-Wing, Dynasty Business Park, Unit No. 2, Ground Floor, Andheri-Kurla Road, Chakala, Andheri East,
Mumbai – 400059, Maharashtra
Tel: 022 – 40170000

Delhi - Northern Regional (Regional Office)
319, 3rd Floor, Block - E, International Trade Tower 99, Nehru Place
New Delhi - 110019
Tel: 91-11-26478817 / 26478819
Fax: 91-11-26478821
Email: plexnr@plexconcil.org
ashutosh.kumar@plexconcil.org

Chennai - Southern (Regional Office)
No: 5 | Ground Floor | Vivekananda Road
|Off Spur Tank Road
Chetpet | Chennai 600 031 | Tamil Nadu | INDIA
Tel : +91 44 2829 2620 | 2829 2625 (D)
M: +91 98400 53930
Email : ruban.hobday@plexconcil.org

Kolkata - Eastern Regional (Regional Office)
Vanijya Bhavan, 1/1 Wood Street
Kolkata - 700016
Tel: 91-33-22834497 / 22834498
Fax: 91-33-22834289
Email: nilotpal@plexconcil.org

Ahmedabad – Gujarat Region (Regional Office)
A-1001, Titanium Heights,
Nr. Vodafone House,
Corporate Road,
Prahladnagar, Makarba,
Ahmedabad- 380015 (Gujarat)
Tel: 079-48010103
Email: naman@plexconcil.org

@officialplexconcil
THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
@plexconcil
@officialplexconcil

To protect your harvest, mulch films need to last an entire season.

Adverse environmental conditions can lead to cracks and tears in mulch film over time.
Our masterbatches can solve these problems.



We use a combination of silver, black, UV and Anti-Oxidant masterbatches for:

- High Sunlight Reflectance
- High Opacity
- Chemical & Pesticide Resistance

Our high-quality masterbatches also offer smooth finish and high gloss, meaning your products look fantastic!

Contact us for Mulch Films or GeoSynthetics needs!

dhirendra@jjplastalloy.com :
www.jjplastalloy.com :
+91 8808 736 600 :
Bharuch (Gujarat) & : Chandauli (U·P), India.

JJ Plastalloy
MASTERBATCHES & COMPOUNDS
Science that betters your everyday

QIQO

Tatva
KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
Simple science solutions to improve lives

CONTENTS

From the Chairman's Desk	05
Council Activities – January 2023	06
Interview with Hiral Sanghvi, Marketing Director, Welpack Industries	10
Product of the Month – Contact Lens	15
Union Budget 2023 – Corporate Law Updates by Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys	18
Countryscape – Focus on Poland	22
Polymer Price Tracker	25
Export Performance – January 2023	26
Staying Competitive with Automation	31
Evaluating Export Markets, Assessing Country and Customer Risks	34
International News	39
India News	44
Why become a Plexconcil Member?	50
New Members – January 2023	51

KONSPEC®

Your Tomorrow™

Nature to Nature
An Eco Friendly Alternative

Bio Degradable & Compostable Compounds & Masterbatches









APPLICATIONS

- **Disposable Cutlery**
  Spoons, Forks, Knives etc.,
- **Flexible Packaging**
  Textile Bags, Garbage Bags, Shopping Bags
- **Thermoforming Containers for Food Packaging**
  Hot & Cold Applications
- **3D Filaments**
- **Extruded Straws, Lollipop Sticks, Earbud Sticks etc.,**
- **Bio Polymer Coated Paper cups**

Compounds & Masterbatches meet the requirements of
EN 13432, ISO 17088 & ASTM D6400 Standards

NABL CERTIFICATE
TC-7142

Supported by fully equipped **NABL accredited lab** capable of testing as per **International protocols**

KONKAN SPECIALITY POLYPRODUCTS PVT. LTD.
Plot No.37, KIADB Indl. Area, Baikampady, Mangalore - 575011
Tel. 0824-2408129/2409274 | Email - rrnayak@konspec.com

www.konspec.com



The last month of the financial year is finally upon us and am sure everyone is quite busy tallying their accounts. Hope you have had a successful year and your goals and expectations have been met.

The past financial year has been quite the challenge with recessionary factors, political instability and the continuing cloud of Covid that still shrouds China. However, history has proven resilience of the human race and hopefully, better sense will prevail and the world as we know can go back to peace, stability and economic growth.

Since returning from PlastIndia, we have been busy! The Council recently concluded a successfully participation at IPF in Bangladesh. India's plastics exports to Bangladesh are looking up and have risen from USD 322.4 million in CY 2021 to USD 389.50 million in CY 2022, up 21% on a yoy basis. Plastic raw materials; films & sheets; flexible & rigid packaging as well as consumer products have witnessed steady growth and we need to focus on markets in closer proximity to ensure a steady supply chain. In the coming weeks, we will also be participating at KOPLAS in Korea for the first time. Korea is a good potential market, and we have several leads on FIBC requirements. However, the market has good potential across segments and we will hopefully get a better understanding post our visit. We are also participating at COSMOPROF in Bologna later this month as well as PLASTICO in Brazil. We also have plans to use these platforms to promote PLEXCONNECT buyer registration and believe our timing is apt in promoting the exhibition is two major continents.

During January 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 873 million, lower by 22.4% from USD 1,124 million in January 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2022 – January 2023 was USD 10,039 million as against USD 11,116 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 9.7%. Read more about it in our Export Promotion section.

As a responsible organization, our commitment towards circularity remains steadfast. Time and again, we endeavour to extend the message of our commitment towards the environment and encourage our industry to adopt sustainable manufacturing process and develop green products. In this issue, we have touched upon the humble Garbage Disposal Bag. Perhaps this product is a very vital link between how we manage our waste and our environment. Welpack Industries Marketing Director, Hiral Sanghvi shares some important nuggets of information with us and reflects upon the need to not just create products that are green but also extend sustainability to process and people.

Leading Consultants Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, who recently conducted a webinar for our members on understanding the Union Budget implications for businesses have shared a synopsis of the same for our member's easy understanding.

For new exporters as well as existing exporters who are looking to expand their global business, we have brought you a look into important seven steps that you must consider while planning your growth strategy. The magazine also includes some reflections on the role of Automation in the MSME sector, especially now since the pandemic has resulted in fast tracking digitization and automation across industries.

This month we have focused on exports of Contact Lens under Product of the Month and Poland under Countryscape, in addition to a round up of news and views.

On a parting note, we received tremendous response to PLEXCONNECT 2023 in the past month, especially during PLASTINDIA and now would be a good time to book your space. Your participation means a lot to us, and we look forward to your support.

Until then, best wishes for another great fiscal year ahead.

Warm regards,

Hemant Minocha
Chairman

PLEXCONCIL's Seminar on "Export and Business Opportunities in Plastic Industries for MSME's " – 05th to 08th January 2023 | Western Region

"Advantage Maharashtra Expo-2023" one of the largest Industrial Expo of the region was organized by MASSIA- Marathwada Association of Small-Scale Industries & Agriculture from 5th to 8th January 2023 at Auric, DMIC, Shendra Aurangabad, Maharashtra (India) to promote Marathwada as preferred destination for business growth.

Considering the above potential of exhibition and huge foot fall of exporters & entrepreneurs for the Expo, The Plastics Export Promotion Council- PLEXCONCIL, sponsored by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India organized an Awareness Seminar on "Export and Business Opportunities in Plastic Industries for MSME's" in association with MSME-Development & Facilitation Office-Aurangabad, Ministry of MSME Govt. of India & MASSIA - Marathwada Association of Small-Scale Industries & Agriculture on Friday, 6th January 2023 at Seminar Hall 2, Auric, DMIC, Shendra Aurangabad, Maharashtra (India) with a purpose to create awareness about the various government schemes and PLEXCONCIL initiatives among the exporters and entrepreneurs of the plastic sector.

Under the able leadership and guidance of Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra Executive Director, Plexconcil, Shri. Shrikrishna Vasantrao Amlekar ,EX-COA member, PLEXCONCIL ,Shri A.R.Gokhe, IEDS, Director, MSME DFO, Mumbai, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, Shri N N Estolkar, Joint Director Br MSME DFO, Aurangabad, Shri Subhash Ingewar Assistant Director, Br. MSME DFO, Aurangabad and with the support & coordination of MASSIA Association leaders Shri. Manish Agarwal, Shri. Anil Patil and Shri. Kishore Rathi the event was a grand success and was attended by more than 100 manufacturers, exporters and traders from Plastic Industry.

On behalf of PLEXCONCIL, Membership & MSME department secretariate Ms. Mrunali Elle represented Council and briefed the exporter & entrepreneur community about PLEXCONCIL Services, Membership benefits and updated them on the present scenario of the Plastic Industry.

Seminar & Outreach programme on Program on India - Australia Economic Co- operation & Trade Agreement (IND-AUS ECTA), Chennai-10th January 2023 | Southern Region:

EEPC India (SR), in association with DGFT Chennai has organized a Seminar & Outreach Program on Indo-Australia ECTA on January 10, 2023.

The primary objective of this program was to explore the India – Australia bilateral trade opportunities between these vibrant economies with shared interest and trade complementarities, especially for the exporters in and around Chennai.

Officers from Department of Commerce - Government of India, Australian Consulate, ECGC made presentations on India-Australia ECTA.

Plexconcil Southern Region participated with its members for better outreach on exploring the trade opportunities in Australia.

Meeting to discuss the Export Target 2022 - 23 - January 17 - Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi

A meeting was held by Mr. Anant Swarup, Joint Secretary, to discuss the Export Target of the Councils and the addressed the issues raised by the various Councils. Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director and Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director represented the Council at the above meeting.

Meeting with the Secretary (MSME) regarding PLEXCONNECT Trade Fair - January 17, 2023

A meeting was held with the Secretary (MSME) towards the financial support of MSME for the organisation of the PLEXCONNECT Trade Exhibition of the Council. The MSME agreed to provide the Council financial support for the above event. Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director & Mr.Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director attended the above meeting.

Panel Meeting – Raw Materials – 17th January 2023 | Eastern Region

RAW material panel Meeting was held on 17th January 2023 under the Chairmanship of Mr Alok Tibrewal, C/o Swastik Plastalloys Pvt. Ltd., to review the periodical performance of the Raw Materials Panel.

Meeting with Cluster Development Commissioner, Haryana - January 18, 2023

Shri Ashutosh Kumar, alongwith Mr. Anuj sharma and Mr. Subhash C.Srivastava met with the Cluster Development Authorities at Wazirpur to target the clusters located at the Wazirpur and Bawana Industrial Area as a part of campaign for increasing the membership campaign.

PLEXCONCIL's Export Promotion at ICERP 2023, Mumbai (18-20, January 2023) | Western Region

PLEXCONCIL's recently organized it's booth (Booth No: E9) at the exhibition ICERP 2023, from 18th to 20th January 2023 at Hall 4 & 5 at BEC, Mumbai in order to

promote various government benefits and Plexconcil initiatives.

Under the guidance of Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra , Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL event was extremely successful which generated good amount of leads for Membership as well as Plexconnect-2023.

PLEXCONCIL was assigned the task of promoting PLEXCONCIL's Membership benefits, Plexconnect-2023 along governments MSME scheme.

More than 100 visitors from various regions visited the booth in three days. They were a combination of Manufacturers, Exporters, Traders for FRP and related products.

Visitors were briefed and guided about availing various export opportunities and government scheme benefits related to loans, subsidies, infrastructure, reimbursements, banking, export-import and PLEXCONCIL initiatives thus developing their business and increasing their exports and presence in foreign market.

Visitors were also encouraged to participate in PLEXCONCIL's first ever export-focused exhibition, PLEXCONNECT 2023. They were informed about the benefits of exhibiting and how it can help them showcase their products to 600 select Buyers from over 100+ Countries, which will surely boost their exports.

Meeting with the local Association of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab & Himachal Pradesh - January 19, 2023

There was a meeting that was held between the Council Delhi office and the local Associations of Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh to work out the strategy for doing the seminars/workshops for mutual beneficial association. The meeting was part of the campaign of the Northern Region towards member mobilisation of the Northern Region. The representatives of the Plastics Manufacturers Association, Rajasthan agreed for the same in the next financial year 2022 - 23. Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director and Mr. Anuj Sharma, Assistant Manager represented the Council at the above meeting.

Meeting with the Indian Missions of Sub-Saharan African countries on 20th & 24th January 2023

DVC meeting with the Indian Missions of Sub-Saharan African countries was held by Deputy Secretary (FT-Africa), Department of Commerce on 20th & 24th January, 2023, wherein Plexconcil made a presentation on PLEXCONNECT-2023, indicating the opportunities for buyers in the SSA Region and also for enhancement of exports in the sector to the Region.

Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director and Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South made the presentation and participated in the above meeting.

Meeting with the Commerce Secretary to discuss the issue of the Vostro Account - January 24, 2023 - Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi

A meeting was held between the Council and the Commerce Secretary to discuss the issues of the VOSTRO Account especially taking into consideration of the current ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

It was mutually agreed during the meeting that the opening of the VOSTRO Account would pave the way of the Indian Rupee as a universally accepted trading currency especially after the decline in the US Dollar and Euro.

Apart from that certain issues were discussed like our Indian Banks are despite notifications of the RBI not trading with our Russia counterparts in VOSTRO account and the anomalies resulting due to VOSTRO and SPECIAL RUPEE VOSTRO ACCOUNT.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Hemant Minocha, Chairman, Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director & Mr. Anuj Sharma, Assistant Manager.

Council's participation at the Bharat Parv, an initiative of the Government of India - January 26 - 31, 2023 - Red Fort Lawns, New Delhi

"BHARAT PARV" is an initiative of the Government of India to showcase the capabilities of the Government of India in terms of various verticals which includes Trade, Defence, Tourism, IT Sector etc.

Various Ministries falling under the ambit of the Government of India are allotted 50 sq.mtrs each. open space to display their role in the promotion of "MAKE IN INDIA" campaign.

The Council Delhi office participated as part of the stall allotted to Ministry of Commerce & Industry along with the Services Export Promotion Council for promoting the various schemes under the initiatives of the Council.

The above event is aimed towards the membership mobilisation of the Council from the North Region as the major footfall is expected from the Northern Region.

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director, Mr. Subhash Srivastava, Senior Manager, Mr. Anuj Sharma, Assistant Manager & Mr. Ashok Kumar Shah, Junior Executive represented the Council at the above event.

DCS INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY

Formally Known as PKS International Company

Top Merchant Exporter in Northern Region 2004 to 2021

Awarded as Top Merchant Exporter in "Northern Region" by The PLEXCONCIL (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

For consecutive 17 years

Top Merchant Exporter in Northern Region 2004 to 2021

LEADING EXPORTER OF 100% INDIAN HUMAN HAIR
PIONEER IN THIS INDUSTRY SINCE 50 YEARS.

We are fully committed to quality with regards to our products as well as our processes and services. This is fully corroborated by our long standing relationships with almost all of our international clients.

- **Non Remy Double Draw Natural Hair-black**
- **Non Remy Double Draw Natural Hair-grey**
- **Non Remy Double Draw Natural Hair-white**
- **Remy Single Draw Natural-black**
- **Bulk Hair**



Top Export Excellence Award in (Northen Region) by "FIEO"



Highest Foreign Exchange Earner Award in (Northen Region) by
"FIEO" (Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt. of India)



"Niryat Shree & Niryat Bandhu"
For Highest Exports in Non-MSME Category by "FIEO"

DCS GROUPS

Mr. Prem Kumar Solanki | **Mr. Pushpender Kr. Solanki**

Corporate Office : 2nd Floor, 223 DLF Tower, 15 Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar New Delhi-110015 (INDIA)
Telephone : +91-11-45566861 Mobile : +91-9716035229
Email : dcs@dcshairs.com, pks@pkshairs.com | Website : www.dcshairs.com

★ ★ **Two Star Export House**

RECOGNIZED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES (GOVT. OF INDIA)

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS

ANNOUNCING

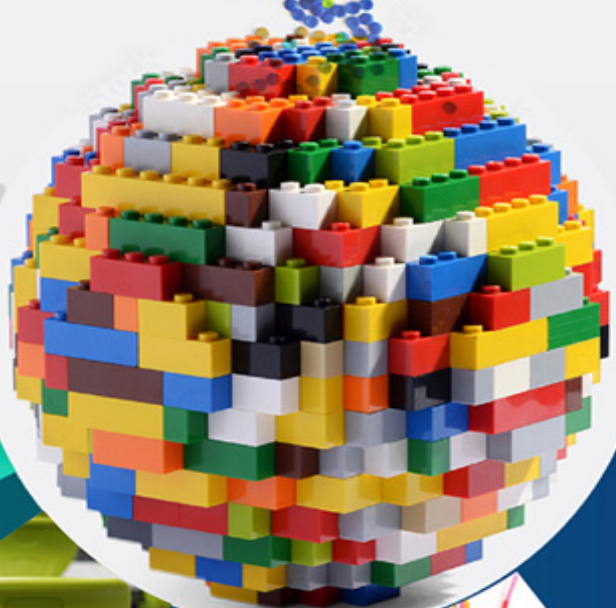
THE **FIRST EVER**
EXPORT FOCUSED EVENT FOR PLASTICS

PLEX CONNECT 2023™

CONNECTING
GLOBAL PLASTICS INDUSTRY













SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 15 - 17 2023
BOMBAY EXHIBITION CENTRE,
NESCO, MUMBAI

ORGANIZED BY

The Plastics Export Promotion Council

Head Office – Mumbai
Dynasty Business Park, Ground Floor, B-Wing, Office No. 2, Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400 059, INDIA, T : +91-22-4017 0000 | E : office@plexconcil.org | w : www.plexconcil.org

SUPPORTING ASSOCIATIONS

Please scan the QR code to Register for Exhibit / Visit / Attend RBSM



Hiral Sanghvi,

Marketing Director, Welpack Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Supporting Environmental Goals through Excellence

With the growth in environmental concerns, there is a continuous rise in consumer awareness towards the use of eco-friendly products. Thus, the customer preference towards eco-friendly clean substitutes from traditional synthetic products is anticipated to fuel the demand for alternatives such as Oxo-biodegradable & Compostable bags for waste disposal. Over the years, the demand for biodegradable bag market has been witnessing a higher growth due to the implementation of stringent regulations on the use of non-degradable plastic by various governments across the world and an increase in health awareness among the consumers.

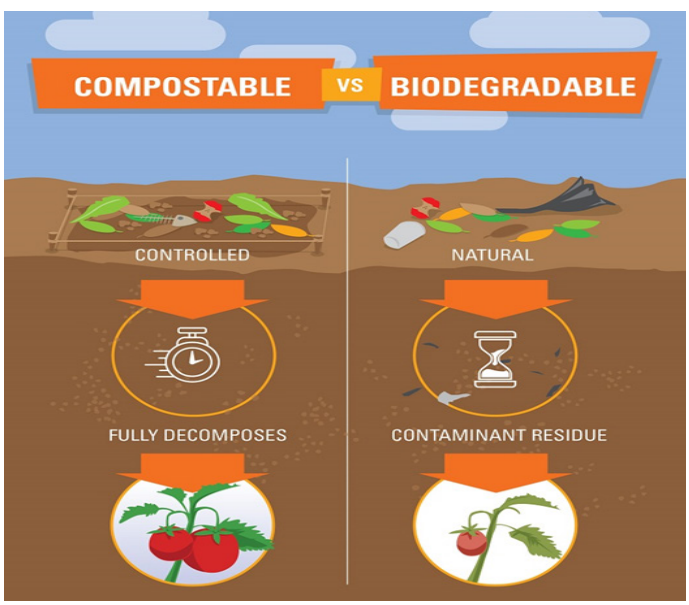
With over three decades of experience in manufacturing packaging material, Welpack has been consistently delivering top-notch quality products manufactured using cutting edge technology and machinery. Leveraging the golden opportunity to care for environment with its manufacturing products, the company is focused not just on manufacturing environmentally sustainable products, but also ensures it remains committed to creating a sustainable business through its processes and practices.

In this issue of the magazine, we spoke to Hiral Sanghvi, Director, Welpack Industries to understand the business of manufacturing Oxo-Biodegradable & Compostable Garbage bags. A humble product, but one that is crucial cog in the wheel towards saving our precious environment.

(interview)

What is the difference between Oxo-biodegradable and Compostable bags?

The difference between the two products is actually very subtle. Oxo Biodegradable bags are polymer based and decompose in the environment in two or more years. However, the residue as microplastics remain in the soil. On the other, Compostable bags decompose a 100% in the soil. Having said that, for this to happen, the bags must be exposed to sunlight, at 30 degrees Celsius and in proper soil conditions. These decompose in about six months and being made from corn starch; it even supports growth of plant life.



Which if these products is leading in the category and why? Both in terms on Commercial use and Residential use

Presently, considering the size of our country's population and the higher cost of Compostable bags, Oxo Biodegradable bags have a higher consumption. Compostable bags are still used by a niche segment though it has the potential to grow. The higher cost of the product is attributed to the high cost of raw material which directly impacts the process and hence ultimately the cost to consumer.

In terms of usage pattern, within the garbage or waste bags segment, consumption between Commercial and Residential is better defined by the size of the products. Naturally demand for large bags is higher in commercial use whereas residential demand is for smaller sizes.

What are the drivers impacting the growth of the product segment?

I believe that with greater and growing awareness and sensitivity towards environment, there is an increasing demand for products that are environmentally compatible and sustainable. Hence, the use of both types of products have been growing at a steady pace and this will continue as consumers continue to shift towards environmentally friendly products, including garbage bags.

What differentiates your products from other similar alternatives?

We have our own product that goes under the name Go Green. Go Green is available in both Compostable and Oxo-Biodegradable versions.

One of the biggest differentiators for us is that we have a very large pan India distribution, and our products are available across the country both through e-commerce and brick & mortar stores.

Furthermore, having been in the business for 30 years now, we are known for the high quality of our products. We never compromise on our quality and have consistently delivered on this front since we first began.

As a company, we believe in complete sustainability and a key part of our organization is Women empowerment. The entire team behind the manufacturing and distribution of Go Green products is handled by women and our efforts to empower more and more women will continue.





Besides aligning ourselves to empowering women, we are also aligned to our Hon'ble PM's vision of Swachch Bharat Abhiyan and are perhaps one among very few companies that have CPCB certification.

What are the opportunities for export for your product segment?

Garbage disposable bags as an industry has been growing and will continue to do so. This is mainly because waste generation in the recent past has increased tremendously with growing consumption in the world. Hence, the growing needs for responsible disposal of waste that we generate.

If one looks at India itself, since the pandemic, there has been a spurt in waste segregation among the population as well as need to ensure proper disposal. This has led to increased consumption of waste bags.

Similarly, in developing countries too this trend is eventually going to catch with more and more awareness about waste disposal and its impact on the environment. These are markets have immense untapped potential for exports. We are presently exporting to multiple countries both directly and through merchant exporters and plan to expand our footprint globally too.

What are Bio-hazard bags and what are the opportunities for the product segment?

Bio-hazard bags are bags that are typically used by hospitals and clinics to segregate the different kinds of waste that they general. From simple dry waste to injections, etc. This is a very important segment as these bags not only need to have much greater thickness to avoid leaks/ spillage, etc., but also are colour coded to mark their purpose. We manufacture these bags but are yet to explore exports of the product.



What are the typical challenges faced by the manufacturers/ exporters of your product segment?

I believe the biggest challenge we face is the competition. And the reason is that today, there are many manufacturers who are solely engaged in the price game without much though on quality. This impacts manufacturers like us who cannot compromise on quality and yet need to maintain business bottom line. Spurious quality, even if cheaper can be very detrimental to the environment and efforts to save it.

Also, despite being a high growth segment, mass awareness about waste segregation is low. Especially in rural areas. In fact even in many urban areas, it is not uncommon to find people using plastic carry bags to dispose off their waste.

And of course, with the Compostable bags, there is the high cost of raw material. Being plant based, and due to lower consumption, raw material is expensive. However, this should ease when demand increases as it will not make the raw material more easily available, but also bring down the prices.

What are new innovations in the product segment? What does the future hold?

Presently, in India, we have drawstring bags – these are bags with a string attached at the bottom to tie.



However, globally, we have tie bags with a mechanism to pull at the top and tie. Much more efficient so one could look at bringing similar bags to India. What we very importantly need is to have both dry and wet waste bags sold as a set. When these come in sets, it becomes easier for the consumer to segregate waste and they don't need to buy these separately. In fact that should be a norm so people are compelled to use the bags in the right manner.

Our company is also in the process of developing bags aimed at women to help responsibly dispose of their sanitary pads and the like. This is a very crucial segment as today, sanitary pads are being disposed off by any and all means. This is a health hazard so our endeavour is to make bags that can be easily accessible and bought by women of all strata of society. We wish to make this practice a norm and limit ourselves to the niche segment.



As a company, we work on a pan India scale and we have plans in place to expand our outreach right down to the roots. Rural India is a large market with great potential and through e-commerce as well as physical stores, we hope to reach the grassroots population.

We are also trying and hope to work with civic authorities to further percolate the Swachch Bharat initiatives to every corner of the country. It is tough but we hope to achieve our goals.

HERE REQUIREMENTS MEET INNOVATIONS

A 360° approach in Engineering with Plastics

- Tooling, Molding, Extrusion & Assembly
- Engineering Design Services
- Polymer Compounding



Why Jyoti?

- Protection of IPR
- A Mindset of Scientific Molding
- 2k Molding / IML Capability
- Excellent Quality Management System
- In-house Tool Room Setup
- Plastic Extrusion Capability
- Government of India Certified Export House
- 63 Years of Excellence
- Trusted by Fortune 500 Companies
- Established track records in supplying to USA, North America, Europe & Asian countries

EXPLORE THE CAPABILITIES WITH OUR EXPERTS!

Jyoti
PLASTICS AND BEYOND

www.jyotiplastic.com



Contact Lenses

Contact lenses are thin disks of polymers that fit over the cornea of the eye for correction of vision, cosmetic or therapeutic purposes. There are generally two types of Contact lenses – hard contact lenses or rigid gas permeable contact lenses; and soft contact lenses. Over the years, soft contact lenses have found preference amongst the people as they provide flexibility and convenience over spectacles. The product is classified under Subheading 900130 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Contact lenses is valued at USD 7 billion per year approximately.

- In 2021, top-5 exporting countries of Contact lenses were: Ireland (18.5%), Germany (17.9%), United States of America (14.3%), United Kingdom (8.4%), and Singapore (8.3%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Contact lenses were: Japan (19.4%), United States of America (14.2%), Germany (8.2%), China (8.1%) and United Kingdom (4.9%).

In 2021-22, India exported 2.0 million units of Contact lenses valued at USD 18.5 million to the world. Singapore was the top export destination in terms of value while United Kingdom was the top export destination in terms of volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (000 units)
Singapore	4.92	United Kingdom	410
United Kingdom	4.78	Singapore	365
United States of America	3.22	United Arab Emirates	297
Hong Kong	2.06	United States of America	193
Netherlands	0.61	Hong Kong	161
Czech Republic	0.59	Nepal	84.5
United Arab Emirates	0.56	Netherlands	59.3
Indonesia	0.24	Czech Republic	42.8
Nepal	0.22	Türkiye	37.2
Türkiye	0.12	Afghanistan	35.0

Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

Product of the month

In 2021-22, India imported 13.8 million units of Contact lenses valued at USD 28.3 million from the world. Ireland was the top supplier in terms of value while South Korea was the top supplier in terms of volume to India.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (000 units)
Ireland	4.24	South Korea	3,409
United States of America	4.02	Malaysia	1,889
United Kingdom	3.83	Taiwan	1,366
Hong Kong	3.62	United States of America	950
South Korea	3.59	Germany	894
Netherlands	2.54	China	843
Germany	2.19	United Kingdom	842
Indonesia	1.15	Hong Kong	774
Brazil	1.11	Indonesia	722
Taiwan	0.92	Ireland	693

Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research



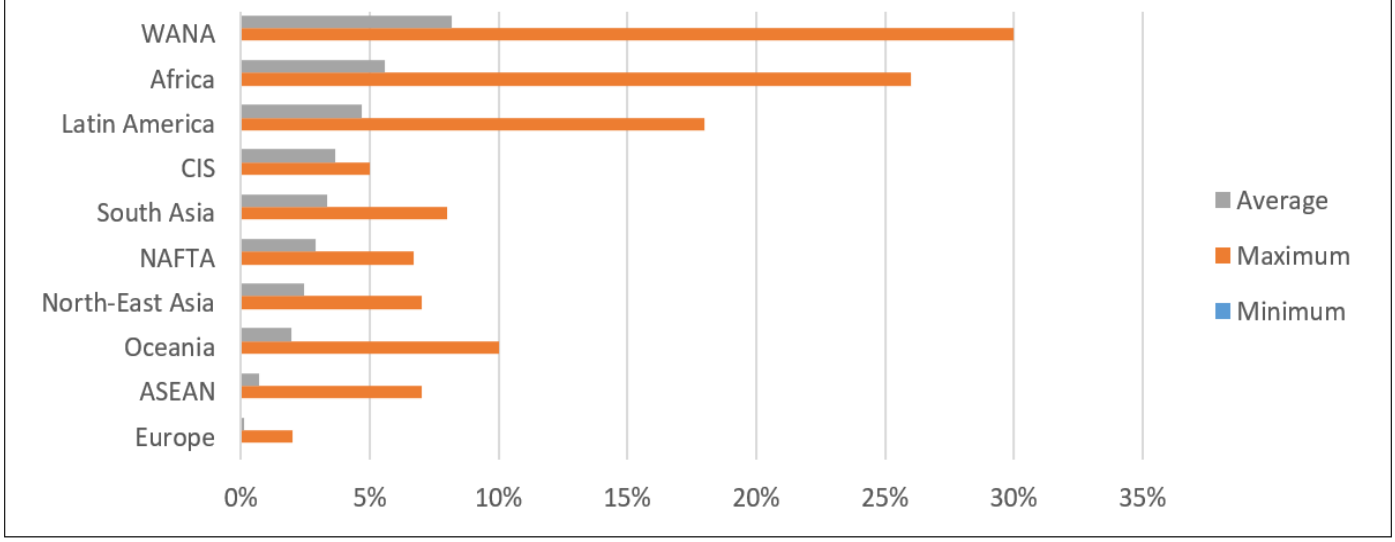


Indian firms dealing in Contact lenses have immense potential to export to destinations like Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, United States of America, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

There is zero duty applicable on import of Contact lenses from India in Australia under the recently signed India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. Even the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement accords benefit of zero custom duty on import of Contact lenses from India in the United Arab Emirates. Import of Contact lenses from India by the European Union countries (including the United Kingdom) is eligible for zero customs duty under Generalised Scheme of Preferences. Further, some of the South Asian countries like Bangladesh and Nepal provide preferential treatment to imports of Contact lenses from India under the SAFTA Agreement. Contact lenses are eligible for zero customs duty in Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and Singapore.

Unfortunately, some countries in WANA, Africa, Latin America and the CIS region do not accord any preferential treatment to Contact lenses imported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.

Effective tariff applied by various regions on import of Contact lenses from India



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research



Union Budget 2023 – Corporate Law Updates

In the Union Budget 2023, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman proposed certain amendments, partly towards ease of doing business, and partly for certain rationalization measures. The major amendments proposed were as follows:

A. Announcements pertaining to technology policy

1. Data Embassies

It was proposed to facilitate setting up of data embassies in the International Financial Services Center of the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, for providing digital continuity solutions. (a) This will help storage of certain 'critical data' at a data embassy (such as GIFT IFSC) as part of a business continuity or disaster recovery plan for organizations or governments, in case of any disasters, cyber-attacks, unforeseen exigencies in the host country or location. In such cases, the alternate location of data embassy would ensure availability, integrity of data and continuous flow of such critical information. (b) This is a positive step in promoting cloud computing capabilities in India, however, the initiative must be recalibrated with existing and probable capabilities to host such critical information in a secure manner. It must also be reconciled with existing and forthcoming laws relating to data protection, information solicitation and other laws and frameworks.

B. Announcements relating to ease of doing business and fintech

1. Simplification of KYC Process

The Finance Minister ("FM") announced that the existing 'one size fits all' approach to KYC will be substituted with a 'risk-based' model. The Government has hinted that key financial sector regulators will be encouraged to embrace a KYC system that is in sync with an increasingly digital India.

2. One Stop Solution for Individuals and Business Establishments

The Budget may pave the way for widening the use of DigiLocker and Aadhaar as a one-stop solution for verification of the identity and address of an individual by government agencies, regulators, and regulated entities. Similarly, PAN will be used as the common identifier for corporate entities and trusts.

3. Unified Filing Process

In keeping with the Government's objective of enabling greater ease of doing business in India, the Budget proposes a 'Unified Filing Process' that would consist of a common portal through which the same information may be submitted by a user to different government agencies when making statutory filings.

4. Use of DigiLocker

With an eye to boost the fintech ecosystem further, the Budget contemplates widening the scope of documents handled through DigiLocker for individuals. It also floats the possibility of an Entity DigiLocker to be set up for use by MSMEs, large businesses and charitable trusts

for storing and sharing documents online securely with various authorities, regulators, banks, and other business entities.

5. Green Credit Programme

Budget announced the introduction of a Green Credit Programme under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 that would be used to incentivise environmentally sustainable and responsive behaviour by companies, individuals, and local bodies. 6. Digital Payments The FM, in her Budget speech, highlighted that, in 2022, digital payments shot up by 76 per cent in terms of transactions and 91 per cent by value and reaffirmed the Government's continued fiscal support for digital public infrastructure. The Budget is a reflection of the fact that the Government is attuned to the suggestions and concerns of stakeholders and has attempted to balance the objectives of creating a business-friendly climate with building safeguards for financial institutions and retail investors.

C. Announcements in relation to infrastructure

The Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman ("FM") has listed 'Infrastructure and Investment' as one of the seven priorities in the Union Budget 2023 ("Budget"). The announcements in respect of the infrastructure sector have a potential of boosting economic growth, private investment and employment opportunities in the sector.

D. Announcement in respect to Capital Investment Outlay

The capital investment outlay has been increased by 33% to INR 10 lakh crore, representing 3.3% of the GDP and a lion's share of the current budget allocation. This announcement shows the continued focus of the Union Government for infrastructure development.

The 50-year interest free loan to state governments has been continued for one more year to spur investment in infrastructure and to incentivize for complementary policy actions, with an enhanced outlay of INR 1.3 lakh crore.

E. Private Investment in Infrastructure

The FM announced that the newly established Infrastructure Finance Secretariat will assist all stakeholders for attracting more private investment in infrastructure, including railways, roads, urban infrastructure and power, which are predominantly dependent on public resources.

F. Establishment of Urban Infrastructure Development Fund ("UIDF")

The Budget also alluded to the establishment of UIDF to make up for any priority sector lending shortfall. The Union Government proposes to earmark INR 10,000 crore per annum solely for UIDF. UIDF will be managed by the National Housing Bank and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

G. Announcements for enhancement of business activities in Gujarat International Finance Tech- City ("GIFT") International Financial Services Centre ("IFSC")

GIFT IFSC

To enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, the following measures have been proposed to be implemented:-

- Delegation of powers under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 ("SEZ Act") to International Financial Services Centres Authority ("IFSCA") to avoid dual regulation.
- Setting up a single window IT system for registration and approval from IFSCA, SEZ authorities, GSTN, Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India.
- Permitting acquisition financing by IFSC Banking Units of foreign banks.
- Establishing a subsidiary of EXIM Bank for trade re-financing.
- Amending IFSCA Act for statutory provisions for arbitration, ancillary services, and avoiding dual regulation under SEZ Act.
- Recognizing offshore derivative instruments as valid contracts.

H. Announcements for settling contractual disputes in case of government or government undertakings

Vivad se Vishwas II – Settling Contractual Disputes

To reduce the burden of judiciary in case of dispute arising of government contracts, it is proposed that:

- To settle contractual disputes of government and government undertakings, wherein arbitral award is under challenge in a court, a voluntary settlement scheme with standardized terms will be introduced. This will be done by offering graded settlement terms depending on pendency level of the dispute.

The above announcements made by the finance minister will reduce the burden of courts. The proposed scheme is one stop solution to provide certainty and to benefit the business at large. Commercial disputes which take a longer duration to settle will be speedily resolved through this scheme and therefore a great relief for businesses. The purpose of arbitration as a mode of dispute resolution is to reduce the burden of traditional courts. Challenges to arbitral awards in government contracts are defeating the purpose of arbitration and clogging the judicial system. The proposed scheme is one stop solution to provide certainty and to benefit the business at large.

I. Announcements for relief to MSMEs

Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief for MSMEs

To provide relief to MSMEs, it is proposed that:

- In cases of failure by MSMEs to execute contracts during the Covid period, 95% of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to them by government and government undertakings.

The above announcements made by the finance minister while presenting the budget will provide some financial relief to MSME. This will provide MSME to use the blocked capital and they can use the funds for their other developmental activities, and it will help the economy to grow.

PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Scheme ("PM Vikas Scheme")

The FM in her Budget speech announced the PM Vikas Scheme for providing assistance to traditional artisans and craftspeople, who work with their hands using tools. PM Vikas Scheme aims to improve the quality, scale and reach of the products manufactured by traditional artisans and craftspeople and integrate the same with the MSME value chain.

The linking of traditional artisans and craftspeople of the country with MSMEs under the PM Vikas Scheme will mutually benefit MSMEs as well as traditional artisans and craftspeople

J. Relief for Startups

Certain start-ups if incorporated before April 1, 2024 can avail tax benefits, as applicable to them, as against April 1, 2023 in the current provision Section 79 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, provides for a condition for availing the benefit of carry forward of losses.

In case of eligible startups, the Budget proposes to provide the benefit of carry forward of losses on change of shareholding of start-ups from seven years of incorporation to ten years.

K. Decriminalization of offence – 276A of IT Act

Section 276A has provision for imprisonment of the liquidator of a company which is undergoing winding up, in case the liquidator fails to comply with section 178(1) and (3) of the IT Act. Section 178(1) requires the liquidator to give notice of his appointment as such to the tax authority and 178(3) requires the liquidator to set aside amount, as notified by the assessing officer, before parting with any of the assets of the company which is into liquidation.

L. Filing of returns of income in case of retrospective business reorganization:

Section 170A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was inserted by way of Finance Act, 2022, to be effective from April 1, 2022. Section 170A provides that in case any of the entity is undergoing business reorganization and has filed any return, the successor entity shall file modified return of income for any assessment year to which such order of business reorganization is applicable. Business reorganization has been defined to mean reorganization of business involving amalgamation or de-merger or merger of business of on or more persons. The current section 170A uses the word 'successor entity' but since business reorganization could be in a form which does not entail dissolution of former entity, the Budget proposes substitution of section 170A to provide clarification that a modified return shall be furnished by an 'entity to whom the order of the business reorganisation applies.'

This article has been written by Mr. S Sriram, Partner, Direct Tax, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys, a full-service law firm based in India. The firm has offices in 14 cities and has over 400 professionals specializing in areas such as corporate & commercial laws, dispute resolution, taxation and intellectual property.



Excellence in
Manufacturing Facilities
Economic Times - Promising Plants 2021

alltime

One of India's top homeware exporter

100% socially & ethically compliant factory

(ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018, amfori BSCI, SEDEX P - 4, amfori BEPI, HIGG, CDP)

Customized product designs with private labelling

ALL TIME PLASTICS PVT. LTD.

www.alltimeplastics.com | | | | expo@alltimeplastics.com



POLAND
Economic overview



Poland is located in Central Europe, east of Germany. It has an area of 312,685 square kilometres and a population of 37.7 million. Poland shares land borders with several countries including Belarus; Czech Republic; Germany; Lithuania; Russia; Slovakia and Ukraine due to which it often serves as a distribution hub for companies targeting sales in Central and Eastern Europe. The major sectors that are contributing towards the economic growth of Poland are banking, food processing and textiles.

As of February 17, 2023, S&P's rating for Poland is A- (Stable); Moody's rating stands at A2 (Stable); and Fitch has a reported rating of A- (Stable).

Economic indicators		2020	2021	2022
Nominal GDP	USD Billion	599.8	679.1	716.3
Nominal GDP per capita	USD	15,802	17,946	19,023
Real GDP growth	%	-2.2	5.9	3.8
Total population	Million	38.0	37.8	37.7
Average inflation	%	3.4	5.1	13.8
Total merchandise exports	USD Billion	254	318	NA
Total merchandise imports	USD Billion	255	335	NA

Source: IMF, TradeMap

As a member state of the European Union, Poland enjoys superior market access to countries in the European Free Trade Association and few others located in South-eastern Europe, Latin America and West Asia North Africa regions. It also benefits from the European Union free trade agreements with Canada, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa and Viet Nam.

India and the European Union have been engaged in negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), once signed it will open a huge window of trade opportunities between India and the European Union countries.

Trade overview

India and Poland engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 3.82 billion in 2022. During the year, India's exports to Poland were valued at USD 2.53 billion while India's imports from Poland were valued at USD 1.29 billion.

The major items of export (2-digit HS) from India to Poland are nuclear reactors including turbo-jets (USD 405 million), electrical machinery (USD 205 million), iron and steel (USD 192 million), articles of apparel and clothing (USD 173 million) and organic chemicals (USD 145 million). Likewise, major items of export (2-digit HS) from Poland to India are mineral fuels including coal (USD 493 million), iron and steel (USD 108 million) and other nuclear reactors (USD 95 million).





For products that come under the purview of PLEXCONCIL, the trade is in favour of India with exports of USD 179 million to Poland and a trade surplus of USD 153 million. The major items of export to Poland being:

- Plastic raw materials (33.7%)
- Plastic sheets and films (19.4%)
- FIBC, Woven sacks, woven fabrics, and tarpaulin (12.8%)

Poland's annual plastics imports are valued at USD 27 billion approx. Its plastic imports are largely catered to, by Germany (28%), China (12%) and Italy (6.1%). India's market share in Poland's plastics imports is quite insignificant.







Export potential for India

Our internal research indicates that India's export of PLEXCONCIL member products to Poland has the potential to grow by USD 8.9 billion. Details of product panels and their export potential to Poland is provided below:

Product panel	Poland's import from India	Poland's import from world	India's export to world	Export potential for India
	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
Plastic raw materials	31.8	11,095.6	3,995.9	3,012.2
Plastic films and sheets	26.9	4,000.7	1,905.1	1,488.8
Consumer & houseware products	12.1	5,332.3	1,460.6	1,176.6
Medical items of plastics	11.9	1,269.9	891.5	808.8
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	1.0	1,258.3	595.8	567.3
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	10.2	581.6	770.2	362.6
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	23.3	334.6	1,682.4	248.3
Plastic pipes & fittings	0.9	784.9	266.3	172.9
Writing instruments & stationery	1.1	190.6	201.9	117.5

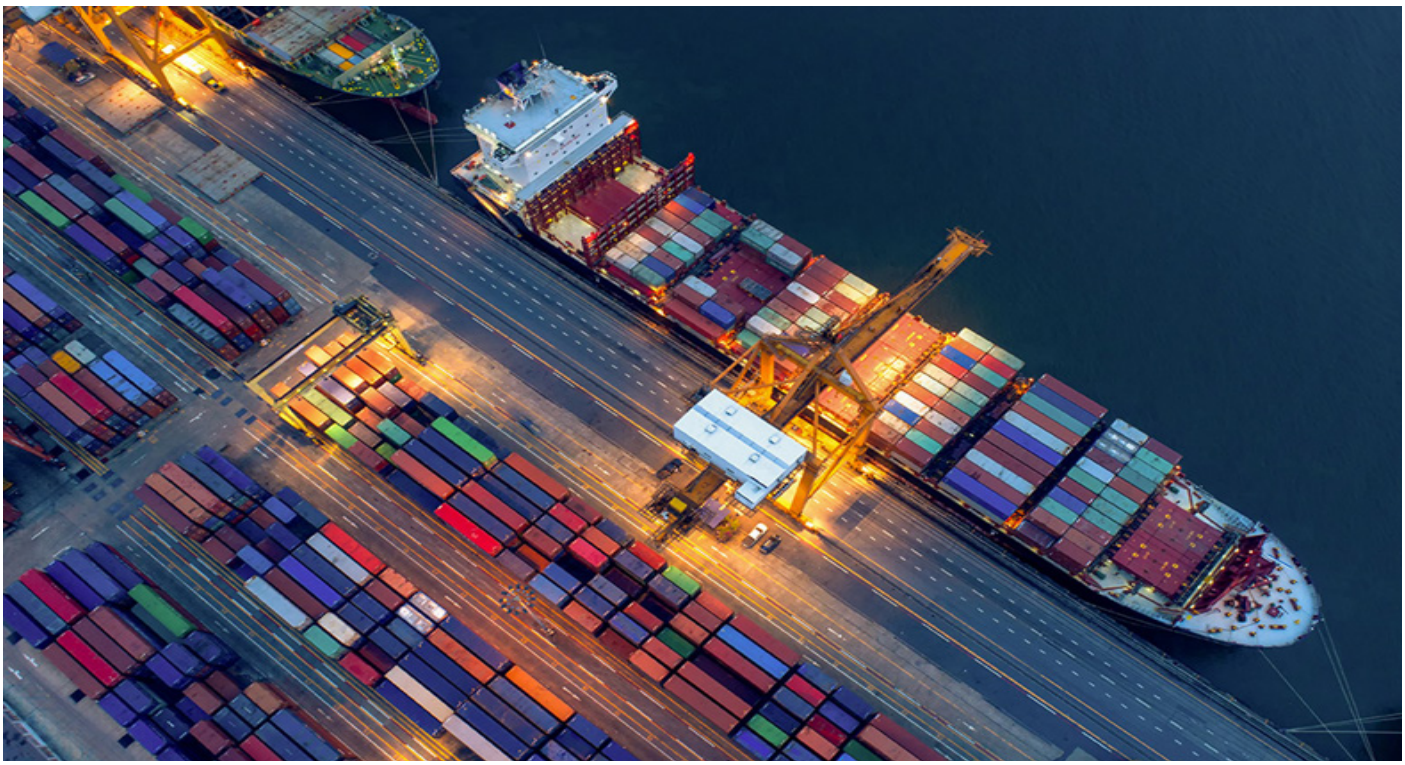
Source: TradeMap, Plexconcil Research



POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) JANUARY 2023

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) ↓ ↓ ↑ Nov-22 Dec-22 Jan-23	• HDPE prices increased by Rs 4,000 per MT in January 2023 after a decline of Rs 1,000 per MT in December 2022 and Rs 11,000 per MT in November 2022. • In January 2023, HDPE prices were up by Rs 2,000 per MT in the first week of the month and by Rs 2,000 per MT later.
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) ↓ ↓ ↑ Nov-22 Dec-22 Jan-23	• LLDPE prices were up by Rs 4,000 per MT in January 2023 after a fall of Rs 2,000 per MT in December 2022 and Rs 11,000 per MT in November 2022. • In January 2023, LLDPE prices were raised by Rs 2,500 per MT in the first week of the month and by Rs 1,500 per MT later.
Low Density Polyethylene(LDPE) ↓ ↓ ↑ Nov-22 Dec-22 Jan-23	• LDPE prices increased by Rs 3,000 per MT in January 2023. Prices had declined by Rs 2,500 per MT in December 2022 and Rs 6,000 per MT in November 2022. • In January 2023, LDPE prices were raised by Rs 1,000 per MT in the first week of the month and by Rs 2,000 per MT later.
Polypropylene (PP) ↓ ↑ ↑ Nov-22 Dec-22 Jan-23	• PP prices were up Rs 4,500 per MT in January 2023 after an increase of Rs 3,000 per MT in December 2022. Prices had declined by Rs 10,000 per MT in November 2022. • In January 2023, PP prices were up by Rs 3,000 per MT in the first week of the month and by Rs 1,500 per MT later.
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) ↓ ↑ ↑ Nov-22 Dec-22 Jan-23	• PVC prices increased by Rs 2,000 per MT in January 2023 after rising Rs 14,000 per MT in December 2022. Prices had declined by Rs 8,000 per MT in November 2022. • In January 2023, PVC prices were raised by Rs 2,000 per MT in the first week of the month and thereafter no changes were announced.

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research

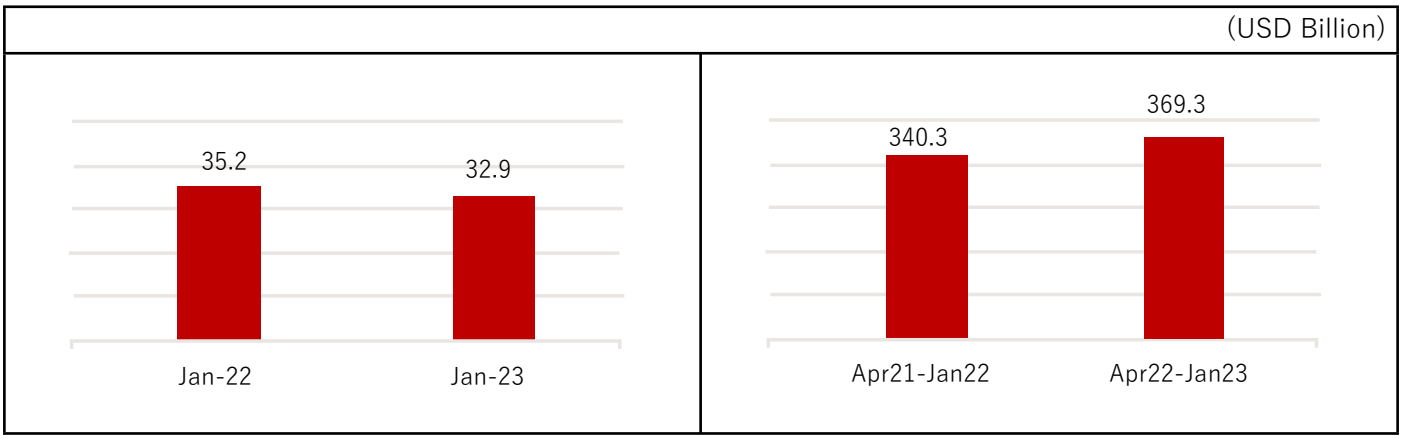


Export Performance – January 2023

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 32.9 billion in January 2023, down by 6.6% from USD 35.2 billion in January 2022. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2022 – January 2023 was USD 369.3 billion as against USD 340.3 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 8.5%.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India

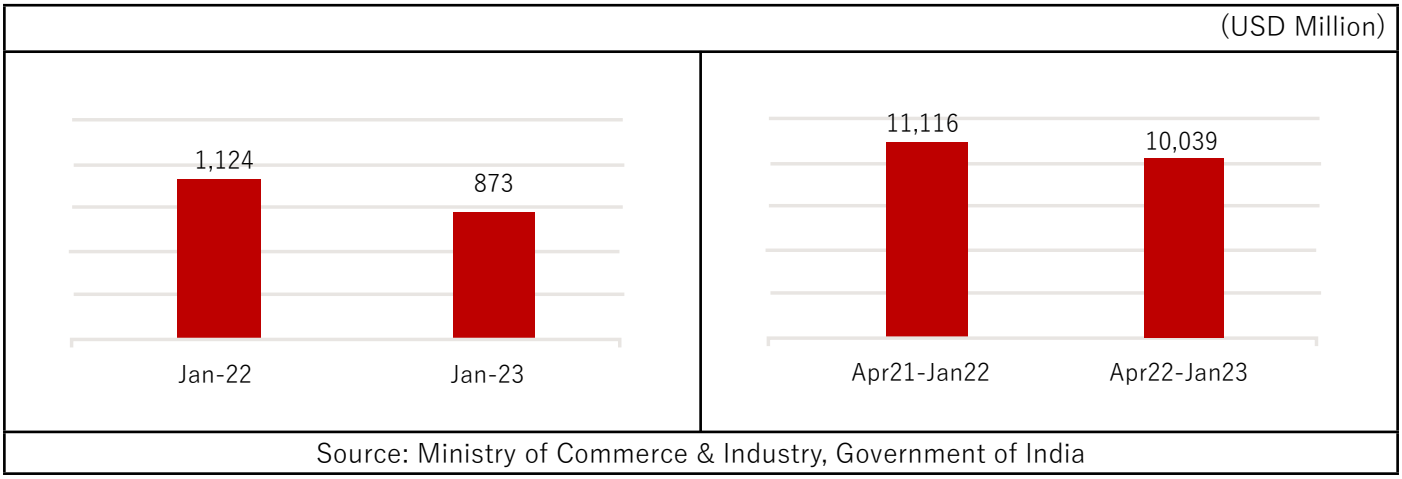


Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During January 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 873 million, lower by 22.4% from USD 1,124 million in January 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2022 – January 2023 was USD 10,039 million as against USD 11,116 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 9.7%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In January 2023, most of the product panels, namely, Plastic raw materials; Plastic films & sheets; FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin; Consumer & houseware products; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; Plastic pipes & fittings; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; FRP & Composites and Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments reported lower exports. However, product panels like; Medical items of plastics; Writing instruments & stationery; Human hair & related products and Miscellaneous products reported a positive growth in exports.

Exhibit 3: Panel-wise % growth in plastics export by India

Panel	Jan-22	Jan-23	Growth	Apr 21-Jan-22	Apr 22-Jan-23	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	68.7	58.9	-14.2%	665.6	615.2	-7.6%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	25.7	25.5	-0.9%	223.7	228.1	+1.9%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	138.5	99.3	-28.3%	1,409.7	1,199.0	-14.9%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	49.6	44.2	-10.9%	514.5	475.5	-7.6%
FRP & Composites	38.6	35.8	-7.2%	372.9	351.5	-5.7%
Human hair & related products	41.1	49.7	+20.9%	691.7	549.1	-20.6%
Medical items of plastics	35.0	38.9	+11.1%	338.3	408.6	+20.8%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	84.1	93.2	+10.8%	723.5	864.8	+19.5%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	55.5	46.8	-15.6%	511.4	529.3	+3.5%
Plastic films & sheets	175.6	120.0	-31.7%	1,675.9	1,529.7	-8.7%
Plastic pipes & fittings	29.1	23.2	-20.4%	235.9	245.6	+4.1%
Plastic raw materials	363.5	215.3	-40.8%	3,578.0	2,822.1	-21.1%
Writing instruments & stationery	19.0	21.8	+14.7%	174.5	220.8	+26.5%
	1,123.9	872.6	-22.4%	11,115.6	10,039.0	-9.7%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export Performance

Export of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 14.2% in January 2023 on account of lower sales of Tableware and kitchenware of plastics (HS code 392410), Plastic moulded suitcases (42021220), Safety headgear (650610). Exports of Toys of plastics (95030030) has also been showing a significant decline since May 2022 due to change in the HS code of Toys of plastics resulting in failure to capture the correct value of its exports from India.

Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments exports were lower by 0.9% in January 2023 due to a decline in sales of Other binder or baler twine of polyethylene or polypropylene (560749). This product is mainly shipped to Europe and North America.

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin,** exports in January 2023 fell by 28.3% as Indian exporters reported a decline in sales of Sacks and bags of plastics (39232990); and Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532). Exports of both Sacks and bags of plastics and Flexible intermediate bulk containers from India had hit a two year low in October 2022 due to recession concerns in Europe. Indian exporters have also mentioned about a decline in price realisations for these products in the international market.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** declined by 10.9% during January 2023 on account of lower sales of PVC floor coverings (391810) and Decorative laminates (482390). Indian exporters have mentioned about removal of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) in the EU as one of the reasons for lower exports in January 2023.

Export of **FRP & Composites** was down by 7.2% due to lower sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099).

Export of **Human hair & related products** increased by 20.9% due to higher sales of Human hair unworked (050100) and Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (67030010). China's reopening from Covid-19 restrictions is likely to improve the export of Human hair & related products from India.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** witnessed an increase of 11.1% in January 2023 due to higher sales of Spectacle lenses of polymers (900150) from India to France, United Atab Emirates and the United States of America.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** increased by 10.8% in January 2023 due to higher sales of Optical fibres, optical fibres bundles and cables (90011000).

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export declined by 15.6% on lower sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (392321), Caps and closures for bottles (39235010) and Other articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods of plastics (39239090).

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 31.7% in January 2023 due to a slide in sales of Self-adhesive sheets and films of plastics (391910, 391990); Rigid and flexible sheets of polymers of propylene (392020), Plates and sheets of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate (392062) and Flexible & metallised plates, sheets, film, foil and strip of plastics (39219094). Apparently, plastic films & sheets manufacturers in India have slashed production amid sluggish global demand and high inventory.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 20.4% due to poor sales of Other rigid tubes of polyethylene (39172110); Other seamless tubes of polymers of vinyl chloride (391723) and Other tubes and pipes (391731).

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 40.8% in January 2023 due to a decline in sales of Linear low-density polyethylene (39014010); Polypropylene (390210); and Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769) from India.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** witnessed an increase of 14.7% in January 2023 due to higher sales of Ball point pens of plastics (960810). This product segment has been doing quite well in the export market since the beginning of this year.

Exhibit 4: Details of % change seen in top 50 items of export

HS Code	Description	Apr 21- Jan 22	Apr 22- Jan 23	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	836.41	734.68	-12.2%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	677.72	528.78	-22.0%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	568.67	305.73	-46.2%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	517.14	403.97	-21.9%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	415.86	352.02	-15.4%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	378.42	588.49	+55.5%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	367.08	344.64	-6.1%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	275.8	217.85	-21.0%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	241.53	175.99	-27.1%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	242.78	182.53	-24.8%
48239019	Decorative laminates	219.91	238.4	+8.4%
39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. polymethyl methacrylate): Other	236.02	170.95	-27.6%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	219.91	65.45	-70.2%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	213.00	174.8	-17.9%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	183.65	177.47	-3.4%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0,94, in primary forms	182.46	45.68	-75.0%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	151.46	96.70	-36.2%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other	149.59	131.46	-12.1%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	144.05	147.18	+2.2%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	136.20	129.62	-4.8%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	149.07	132.01	-11.4%
54072090	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of >= 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of <= 1 mm: Other	109.72	82.43	-24.9%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	102.62	100.84	-1.7%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	104.27	120.94	+16.0%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other	101.95	93.18	-8.6%
39073010	Epoxide resins, in primary forms: Epoxy resins	95.83	81.96	-14.5%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other	95.30	70.16	-26.4%
90183930	Cannulae	88.04	116.32	+32.1%
96081019	Ball-point pens	86.25	115.05	+33.4%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Flexible, metallised	87.06	85.44	-1.9%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	82.69	73.39	-11.2%
95030030	Toys of plastics	86.67	11.25	-87.0%
39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	80.68	75.71	-6.2%

39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes: Other	75.68	80.32	+6.1%
96032100	Tooth brushes	76.36	83.07	+8.8%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	70.22	103.52	+47.4%
39011010	Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes 95% or more by weight of the total polymer content	73.02	41.68	-42.9%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	73.91	70.32	-4.9%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	64.40	75.47	+17.2%
39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	62.11	61.61	-0.8%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	62.54	71.65	+14.6%
39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	60.83	74.84	+23.0%
39241010	Insulated tableware and kitchenware of plastics	58.88	48.89	-17.0%
39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers	58.37	67.83	+16.2%
59031090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride: Other	59.06	60.53	+2.5%
39181090	Floor coverings, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles, and wall or ceiling coverings in rolls with a width of >= 45 cm, consisting of a layer of plastic fixed permanently on a backing of any material other than paper, the face side of which is grained, embossed, coloured, design-printed or otherwise decorated, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	56.60	53.95	-4.7%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes: Other	58.61	57.74	-1.5%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	56.59	57.47	+1.6%
39191000	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, in rolls <= 20 cm wide	54.94	45.29	-17.6%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other	52.76	53.09	+0.6%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



Staying Competitive with Automation

From energy management to the automotive industry, from the medical to the packaging industry – plastic is an extremely versatile and popular raw material for many industries. Despite the increasing demand, the industry is also facing major challenges: new and creative solutions are needed in order to remain competitive in a global market while at the same time providing consistently high quality.

Higher energy prices and limited access to raw materials demand more productivity and efficiency. What is the solution? Companies must rethink the way they create value and fundamentally revamp their existing processes.

One promising approach is the use of even more production automation in both the plastics processing industry and for tool mold making. While it appears to be the obvious answer, it often causes uncertainty, especially for medium-sized companies: Is it financially viable to rethink production methods? What about the return on investment? How quickly can automated solutions be implemented, and are they flexible? The short answer: Automation is definitely worth pursuing. More efficient processes mean lower costs over the long term. And with a tailor-made solution, the investment will quickly pay off.

Market overview

The journey of the Indian plastics industry has been phenomenal to say the least. From its very humble beginnings in 1950, production of plastics has grown from 1.5 million tonnes to over 368 million tonnes presently. As compared to the global average and despite having the highest growth rate of 16% the per capita consumption of Plastics remains low at 11 Kg in comparison to the global average of 28 kgs.



Since 1950, global production of plastics has been growing at the rate of an average of 8.2% per annum with Indian plastics exports itself reaching a staggering USD 13.4 Billion in FY 21-22 from a modest USD 16 million in 1955. The global export market for plastics is valued at USD 1.2 Trillion with India's share being just about 1.1% with the potential to garner 3% by 2025.

The Indian plastics industry today boasts of over 50,000 processing units and employs over five million people. With polymer production growing at 7.3% in the last five years, vast domestic consumption, exports to over 200 countries, & increase in foreign direct investments,

leading global companies from Europe, USA, Japan, China and Taiwan have been setting up their manufacturing facilities in India.

The Case for Automation

As is the case with many other industries, the plastics industry is facing tremendous change. Smart factories with automated and networked processes and humans merely responsible for their supervision are now becoming the norm in the context of Industry 4.0. Digitalization is the major trend that is fundamentally driving the way value is created in industry. This offers great opportunities for processors.



With growing disposable incomes and consumption, the plastics industry in India has opened doors to enormous development across the entire value chain, right from polymer producers to machine manufacturers to processors to ancillary industries.

Adoption Industry 4.0, Digitization, Automation, Big Data and Analytics are widely used by the industry, this setting the base for manufacturing growth in the segment. The industry also sees greater investments in R&D and Innovation and many processors today hold global patents for products ranging from packaging to engineering plastics.

However, this poses a particular challenge for the plastics processing industry, which is predominantly made up of small and medium-sized companies for which such a transformation and the associated investments are not an easy feat.

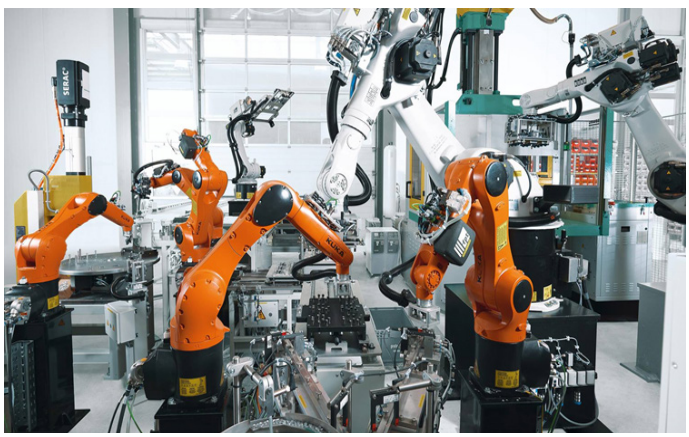
Automation Opportunities

Common challenges such as shorter product cycles and a greater variety of products, not to mention a shortage of skilled workers, require quick solutions. And increasingly fierce international competition is also putting a squeeze on pricing.

Within the plastics industry, there have been noticeable shifts in global supply chains in the recent past and Indian processors who wish to remain competitive only have two options: high quality and the realization of complex projects or developing greater cost-effectiveness through more efficient production methods. Both can be accomplished through production automation.

This doesn't mean the production line has to be fully auto- mated right out of the gate. Small steps should be taken to restructure the company: starting by strategically focusing on digital processes, expanding new structures, training employees, and incorporating new technologies.

Automating the production chain creates opportunities for companies to streamline operations, improve efficiency and competitiveness, shorten the time to market and develop new business models.



The role of Robotics in Processing

Robotics play a pivotal role in the plastics industry in a variety of ways: in the automated loading and unloading of machine tools in toolmaking and injection molding machines in the processing of materials, in the direct processing of plastics or in complex assembly applications.

Robots also demonstrate their superiority when it comes to collation or palletizing. In, on or next to the machine, robots help to increase efficiency with maximum precision, speed up processes and reduce downtime. And they do so in industrial production as well as in confined, germ-free spaces and wherever the highest hygiene standards must be met.

Unlike the linear kinematics that are commonly used, robots increase the degree of integration in production because their versatility allows more process steps such as welding, adhesive bonding or assembly to be carried out in a single cell.

Value creation thus increases, while the logistical effort for the transfer of materials decreases. At the same time, they offer forward-looking integration into both the production world of today and the smart factory of tomorrow. There are many different ways the robot can be used in the plastics industry.

Role of Govt Schemes

MSMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy, contributing approximately 30% of the country's GDP (Gross Domestic Product), 45% of manufacturing output and providing employment to 11 crores of India's population.

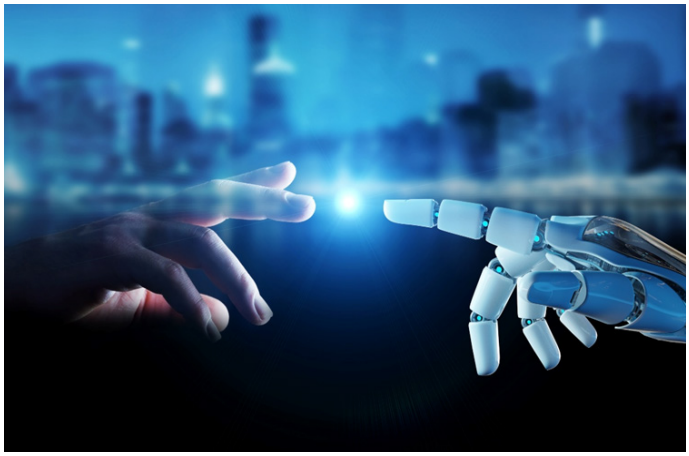


Ministry of MSME has been implementing Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS) for promoting competitiveness amongst Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by the way of wastage reduction through Lean Manufacturing, support for Design improvement, building awareness on Intellectual Property Rights, Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Scheme, digitally empowerment of MSME through Digital MSME and to promote & support untapped creativity of individual and to promote adoption of latest technologies in manufacturing as well as knowledge based innovation MSMEs through Incubation across India.

The main goals of such schemes are to promote and support product quality & energy efficiency by reducing the cost of production, adopt a clean development mechanism and remain competitive in both the domestic and international markets.

Conclusion

While digitalization offers great opportunities for the industry, it can also be daunting, especially for small and medium-sized companies. The same is true for the production of plastics and the associated machine tooling sector. This industry must break with old habits and embrace the new reality: high cost pressures, strong demand for individual products and shorter product life cycles, all in the context of increasing international competition.



With the rapid pace of technology development, the processing industry in India is seeing high adoption of big data and analytics to help them predict the future and thus survive and thrive during challenging times. Turning towards 'Internet of Things' and Artificial Intelligence, Automation, Industry 4.0, the segment has been able to tide over the supply chain and manpower challenges of today and such adoption is only set to grow. Infusing technology, creating a culture of innovation and encouraging technical collaborations, alliances and partnerships has the impetus behind India's manufacturing growth and usher in a new era of industrialization.

The question that however remains is: are we doing enough?



Evaluating Export Markets

Assessing Country and Customer Risks

Risk is a fact of life.

Any entrepreneur who exports or imports must assess the risk of conducting business with a customer or supplier located in another country. How one assesses risk varies from organization to organization and industry to industry because the variables change.

Here are seven steps you should take to assess risk in dealing with your customers and their countries. After all, a high-risk customer in a low-risk country is not a much better risk than a low-risk customer in a high- risk country.

Step #1: Identify Bribery and Corruption Risks

Bribery and corruption are a significant world problem. While lack of transparency is a huge problem for businesses, successful business relationships are based on predictability of outcomes. Where bribery and corruption exist, business processes are distorted and predictability is lost.



Transparency International (TI) is an organization that is dedicated to fighting corruption. TI regularly publishes data about corruption in numerous publications available for free on its website. One of the most important of these publications, in the context of this discussion, is the annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI).

Analyze the TI website and read its publications to learn a country's business practices. As the old saying goes, forewarned is forearmed.

Step #2: Measure Country Risk

One of the many tasks the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) performs is to measure country risk. They do so using a model called the Country Risk Assessment Model (CRAM). All countries are categorized according to the credit risk they pose, which is meant to reflect country risk.



The OECD does not classify two groups of countries:

1. Very small countries that do not generally receive official export credit support.
2. High-income OECD countries and other high-income Eurozone countries like the United States, Germany and Japan.

All other countries (and a limited number of supranational, multilateral and regional financial institutions) are classified on a scale of zero to seven, with zero being the lowest level of risk.

Current and historical data are freely available on the OECD website.

If you know that a particular area has high risk, approach negotiations differently than negotiations in low-risk areas. Your business solutions may be different or more restricted in choice.

It should be remembered that CRAM data, like any other data, is only partially useful in the analysis because events in the world change quicker than the data can be published.

Step #3: Measure Business Regulations

Bureaucracy is one of the banes of business processes. Less paperwork is better, yet controls are needed at all levels to maintain a reasonably fair-trading environment for all.

A few years ago, the World Bank began a project called Doing Business: Measuring Business Regulations. This project generated data on virtually all nations that measure business regulation and the ease of doing business in a globally interconnected and interdependent world that is not well inter-regulated.



Doing Business ranks the economy of countries based on 10 categories covering a range of issues from local codes of conduct for business to ports, shipping etc. The data in this category includes information about obtaining credit and the ease or difficulty in recovering money from insolvent parties.

Step #4: Review Fairness of Trade

Whether you are a trader or a service provider, competitiveness considerations are highly important. Competition is what drives us to be more successful than others. Fair competition is good; unfair competition is not good. So-called predatory behavior is not a good approach to doing business, as it typically works on the exploitation of the weak, who are typically disadvantaged and victimized. This behavior has questionable ethics, to say the least.

One of the reports published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) is the Global Competitiveness Report. This report measures the competitiveness of economies across 12 pillars including but not limited to:

- **Institutions -** This pillar includes issues like regulations and bureaucracy (red tape), transparency, and government policies and their implementation.
- **Infrastructure** - Infrastructure is a critical component of the business environment and its processes as it affects areas such as transportation, energy supply and distribution, and communication. These, in turn, affect the economic efficiency of a country.
- **Macroeconomic Environment -** Government fiscal policies, interest rates, and inflation are issues that fall within this pillar—with an obvious impact on business.
- **Goods Market Efficiency -** This pillar includes issues such as taxes, business ownership, and attitudes toward foreign direct investment.
- Financial Market Development - The recent global financial crisis has highlighted the need for a banking sector that's trustworthy and transparent—one that operates in a prudentially controlled environment with adequate regulation on securities and other financial products.
- **Market Size -** We know that globalization has assisted in opening up markets, although barriers still exist. Foreign countries, however, remain good sources of potential additional sales (beyond domestic borders) and also provide opportunities for different sourcing options.
- **Business Sophistication -** The interconnection of firms from close-by geographical areas, or clustering, increases efficiencies and optimizes processes.

By combining data from the different areas in the Global Competitiveness Report, we can consider to what degree a nation meets certain requirements that we may seek.

Step #5: Understand and Manage Bank Risk

In international trade, banks are relied upon for several purposes, ranging from loans to foreign exchange to global trade facilitation.

When you assess and manage bank risk, they are essentially inseparable from country risk. Since banks reflect the financial position of an economy, it's easy to imagine the natural alignment between these two elements.



When assessing a foreign bank, you should ask the following questions:

- **How reputable is the bank?**
- **Are they known to your bank?**
- **Do you need to mitigate your risk?**

Banks are subject to national laws and regulations. This means they are also subject to political forces since laws and regulations are created by politicians.

If you consider this issue in relation to payment settlement methods via export letter of credit, then you may need to have the letter of credit openly confirmed by a local bank (presumably your bank) or have it confirmed in a country other than the importing nation.

If the nation where the bank is offering the payment is questionable, it doesn't matter which bank you use. If a negative response is received on confirmation, proceed very cautiously or ask for more secure payment options such as prepayment.

Assess bank and bank risk when you look at new business and when you review transactions. As the world of commerce changes in response to economic events, natural disasters, and human decisions, so too does the risk associated with these transactions. When it comes to money, there is no room for emotion or complacency.

Step #6: Use Industry and Government Resources

Chambers of commerce are private organizations that represent a category of industry sectors and work for the benefit of their membership.

Both chambers of commerce and trade consulates have roles in common such as networking and business matching functions. They are able to put people in touch with each other and also find sellers and suppliers to assist in the generation of business activities. One advantage of working through these organizations is they already have a network of industry contacts that have been filtered. This helps you find a potential seller or buyer much faster.

In India, we have Export Promotion Councils (EPC) for different product exports who can provide similar services to exporters.

An exporter can take a membership with the designated EPC and maximize resources because these trade specialists work closely with other federal, state, local and private partners to offer a full range of expertise in international trade, marketing and finance. EPCs willingly and enthusiastically provide counsel to you and your company on exporting, help you assess the export potential of your products, identify markets, and locate overseas buyers, reps, distributors and partners.

Using trustworthy information sources not only speeds up your processes, but also reduces risks.

Step #7: Understand Regulations and Documentation Requirements

Without exception, all international transactions must comply with customs regulations, which vary from one nation to another. The easiest and best option to ensure compliance is to ask the buyer for help. A simple question does the trick: What documents do you need from me to complete the customs formalities at your end? The buyer usually answers with a quick and comprehensive list of all the required documents.

The exporter provides all the necessary documents with accurate data and in the correct format. If goods qualify for preferential duty treatment under a free trade agreement, there may be additional documentation. In order to qualify for preferential duty treatment, the exporter or importer must be able to prove the origin of the goods.



Apart from customs, you may run into other issues regarding the product and destination. Most countries have government permit-issuing agencies that are involved in an export/import transaction depending on the nature of the traded product.

Examples of these types of permits include:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or equivalent counterparts, such as the European Medicine Evaluation Agency (EMEA) or the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia; Industrial chemicals that may be subjected to transport restrictions because of their hazardous nature, as well as special licenses and distribution and warehousing restrictions in the importing country, among others.

Here again, contacting your EPC is a good place to start as they can help you with documentation requirements for exports as well as provide guidance on prevailing rules and regulations pertaining to the destination countries. Websites such as dgft.gov.in can also help with information related to various export related matters.

For more information on starting your own export business or to expand your export to new markets, contact office@plexconcil.org

This article is based on a white paper published on shippingsolutions.com

AEQUS INFRA

HDC
HUBBALLI DURABLE GOODS CLUSTER



Join the White Goods Manufacturing
'REVOLUTION'

Aequs Infra presents HDC, India's first manufacturing cluster, developed specifically for consumer durables, including white goods and brown goods manufacturing. This vertically integrated manufacturing ecosystem will host the entire durable goods manufacturing value chain, from raw material to finished goods, and shared services like cafeteria, medical services, créches, sanitation etc.

Further, with world class manufacturing facilities and infrastructure and the fastest speed to market, our expert team makes setting up and operationalizing your business simple and easy.

Aequs Infra. We add Ease to your Business.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

SPEED TO MARKET

BUILT-TO-SUIT

CLUSTER ECOSYSTEM

The key benefits of the cluster are:

- *INSTANT PLUG-N-PLAY MANUFACTURING*
- *24/7 UTILITY SERVICES*
- *INCUBATION FACILITY*
- *TRAINING CENTRE*
- *READY-TO-HIRE RESOURCES*
- *RESIDENTIAL/ DORMS*

Financial Benefits are*

- **20%** **subsidy** on capital investment of plant & machinery
- **2%** **incentive** on the turnover for the first five years
- **100%** **duty exemption** on electricity for the first five years
- **₹1** per unit of **power consumed** for five years

*Full text & meaning only as per Government of Karnataka (GO) Government Order

Contact us at: 82086 48747 vijay.singh@aequs.com

Address: No 55, Whitefield Main Road, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru – 560048
Website: www.aequsinfra.com



International News

Sumika partners with Hexagon, enabling 60% plastic carbon reduction for new vehicles by digitizing sustainable compounds for engineers

Digitised mechanical and environmental performance of recycled short glass-fibre reinforced PP compounds supports the transition to more sustainable vehicles

Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division and Sumika Polymer Compounds Europe (SPC Europe), a leading manufacturer of thermoplastic compounds, have partnered to digitise the performance of new sustainable automotive-grade polypropylene (PP) compounds, enabling engineers to design components that are more recyclable and offer a lower carbon footprint for future vehicles. Sumika is exhibiting its sustainable PP compounds at the upcoming PlastIndia 2023 event in New Delhi (Pragati Maidan) from February 1-5 in Hall 3H - Booth F17A.

Sumika Polymer Compounds' short glass-fibre polypropylene (GF-PP) THERMOFIL HP and recycled polypropylene (GF-rPP) THERMOFIL CIRCLE materials benefit from sustainable manufacturing and recycling processes and offer carmakers performance equivalent to incumbent engineering plastics, but with an up to 60% lower carbon footprint. A growing proportion of today's PP components are recovered and recycled compared to polyamides (PA), of which up to 70% are utilised in waste-to-energy initiatives or finish up in landfill, but there remains substantial room for improvement. These new Sumika recycled PP compounds are designed for the circular economy, contributing to plastic waste reduction at vehicle end-of-life.

Plastics can contribute up to 20% of the total weight of a car, and their application is escalating with the continuing replacement of metals. The automotive industry's shift to eMobility has increased the need for lightweighting components to maximise the energy efficiency of vehicles and mitigate the considerable weight of battery packs, but their environmental performance throughout the lifecycle must also be considered by product development teams.

"With aggressive sustainability targets and an increased focus on recycled materials, there is growing demand from Indian automotive companies and OEMs for sustainable materials. However, adoption has been slow because getting an accurate understanding of the characteristics of recycled materials is often a difficult proposition. Our partnership with Sumika will help address this challenge to a large extent and boost adoption of sustainable materials in India," said Sridhar Dharmarajan, Executive Vice President & Managing Director, Hexagon India.

"Limited material behaviour data is a barrier to sustainable eMobility innovations because automotive engineering teams have not been able to put new materials through the rigorous virtual durability and safety tests required for automotive endorsement," said Guillaume Boisot, head of the Materials Centre of Excellence at Hexagon. "Our unique multiscale material modelling technology accelerates the adoption of SPC Europe's ground-breaking recycled materials by making it possible for product development teams to accurately simulate a component and subject it to established automotive engineering test and validation."



This vital engineering data is the result of a long-term partnership between the two companies, providing product development teams the ability to evaluate the suitability of GF-PP compounds in new designs to address carbon-neutral targets by replacing traditional engineering plastics.

"Our THERMOFIL short glass-fibre reinforced polypropylene compounds offer equivalent performance to traditional engineering plastics while providing a much lower carbon footprint, which makes them highly suitable to meet design challenges that sustainable eMobility brings," said Bruno Pendélio, marketing manager for SPC Europe. "Combining our efforts with Hexagon allows us to support the race towards carbon neutrality by further lightweighting our customers' automotive components, reducing physical material testing and prototyping."

Hexagon conducted a detailed and rigorous testing and physical validation programme with SPC Europe to produce highly accurate multi-scale behavioural models of its THERMOFIL HP grades and THERMOFIL CIRCLE portfolio of recycled PP grades. Each material grade has a model that simulates the materials' mechanical and environmental performance throughout a component's lifecycle. The encrypted proprietary material models can be accessed by SPC Europe customers through Hexagon's Digimat software. Digimat is interoperable with popular computer-aided engineering (CAE) software tools, such as MSC Nastran, Marc, and third-party software, empowering engineers to perform accurate analyses using established digital engineering workflows.

For Manufacturers Fed Up with China, Some Roads Lead to Mexico

Reshoring operations from China back to North America doesn't always mean coming to the United States, according to experts spotting recent trends. And, even China is taking part in the latest wave of manufacturing relocation.

Everyone — including Chinese manufacturers — is "looking to diversify away from China," asserted Raine Mahdi, CEO and founder of manufacturing sourcing platform Zipfox. "Walmart used to insist that any potential vendors they considered [had to] produce their goods in China. Now, they will not consider new vendors who don't have at least one supplier outside of China.



"This shift is why the list of Chinese companies moving operations to Mexico is growing by the day. They understand that US buyers are keenly focused on diversifying their supply — and they're even willing to pay a bit more to do so. If you're looking to skate where the puck is going, that's where it's headed."

For plastics manufacturers or buyers, any potential downsides to sourcing from Mexico "are few, and reasonably overcome," Mahdi explained.

"Establishing a partnership with a reliable factory to produce molds is key, as they are not as prevalent in Mexico as they are in China. The culture of innovation and problem solving is not as strong in Mexico — yet — as it is in China. This will evolve in time, especially as incoming Chinese companies and executives make an impact on Mexico's business culture."

The increased flow of goods northward from Mexico via Laredo, TX, is a clear indication of the value manufacturers are placing on sourcing from south of the border, he added.

"If you visit Laredo now, you will see new warehouses under construction everywhere, as companies expand to handle the increased volume of goods. This trend began during the pandemic and has not stopped. Last year, Mexico exported about 20% more to the United States than in 2021. If that becomes a pattern, even in the short run, Mexico will become the number one supplier to the United States. It is already our number one trading partner because the flow of goods is bilateral, whereas with China it mostly flows one way."

What to expect in Mexico

Unsurprisingly, the business climate in Mexico is not a carbon copy of China's, asserted Hupert, China/Mexico supply chain expert for Harris Bricken.

"Mexico isn't set up for every type of international company operating in China right now," he noted. "In Mexico, you will be expected to own your factory" or facility. Not only is the 2,000-mile land border between the United States and Mexico a clear advantage, he added, but manufacturing managers and employees in Mexico tend to view themselves as more closely aligned partners with US-based companies or international companies with US operations. They "feel that they are on the same team."

The culture of contract manufacturing isn't quite as established in Mexico, Harris added, "but I think over time we'll see more of it."

While China enjoys a tremendously integrated horizontal network, Mexico isn't integrated in that fashion yet, said Hupert. Chinese businesses tend to know "a little bit about everyone else's business . . . in Mexico that is not so; people don't share their network the same way." Ultimately, setting up manufacturing in Mexico will require careful negotiation of each relationship "quite intently. This is more of a partnership than a set of transactions like they are in China, and you are the point person. Even if you use someone else, you are going to have to eventually negotiate face to face with that manufacturing manager in Mexico — and he's going to be making judgments about you as a person, not just about your project," said Hupert.

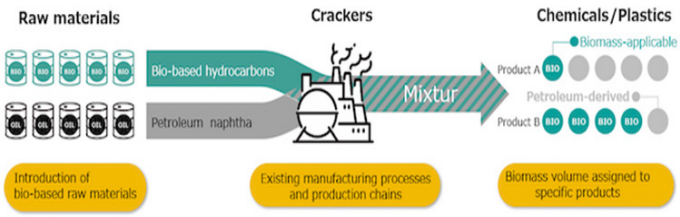
Mahdi concurred about the distinct cultural differences. "When moving operations to Mexico, your new potential supplier may need information/molds you're unable to provide. In terms of setting up a manufacturing facility, it depends on the industry and location. It would probably have something to do with staffing and adjusting to the business culture, which is much different in Mexico than in China," said Mahdi.

Source: Plastics Today

Biomass Polycarbonate in Pipeline via Japanese Partnership

Mitsui Chemicals Inc. and Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co. Inc. (MGC) have launched initiatives to manufacture and market biomass polycarbonate (PC) as part of the companies' efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Mitsui Chemicals will provide biomass-derived bisphenol A (BPA), which is scheduled to be developed under its BePlayer brand, and MGC will use this as a monomer feedstock in the manufacture of its PC Iupilon.

In December 2021, Mitsui Chemicals was the first company in Japan to allocate derivatives and products (made with bio-based hydrocarbons as a raw material) using the mass balance method based on the ISCC Plus certification system. It is currently selling biomass-based chemicals and resins, including epoxy resin and α-methylstyrene. Mitsui has also begun to offer products in the biomass phenol chain, where it has traditionally been difficult to prepare biomass aromatic compounds taken directly from plant-derived raw materials. The company aims to have all seven products BPA certified and on the market by March 2024, when it will start providing biomass BPA to MGC.



MGC will purchase the ISCC Plus–certified biomass BPA from Mitsui Chemicals for the first time in Japan and will begin efforts to produce biomass PC at its Kashima plant using the interface polymerization method. MGC will utilize Kashima Polymer's compounding capability and MGC Filsheet's processing facilities — both companies are part of the MGC group — for rigid, highly transparent sheet and film products for molding to add functionality to biomass PC. Furthermore, MGC is building an integrated supply chain for biomass PC products by marketing these products through the global sales networks of Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics and Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Trading.

MGC's Kashima plant and the MGC Group companies mentioned above are aiming to obtain ISCC Plus certification by the end of this year. Up to now it has been challenging to procure biomass PC products for various fields, including automotive, electrical and electronics, optics, and semiconductors. The ISCC Plus certification will allow for these products to be supplied widely through the mass balance method. In addition, MGC is planning to use circular carbon methanol together with biomass BPA to make the entire PC framework derived from either CO2 or plants. Meanwhile, MGC is planning to acquire ISCC Plus certification at its overseas PC material manufacturing bases, Thai Polycarbonate and MCC Process Plastics (Shanghai).

Source: Plastics Today

Origin Materials and Avantium to Accelerate the Mass Production of FDCA and PEF for Advanced Chemicals and Plastics

Origin Materials, Inc. ("Origin" and "Origin Materials") (NASDAQ: ORGN, ORGNW), the world's leading carbon negative materials company with a mission to enable the world's transition to sustainable materials, and Avantium N.V. ("Avantium"), (Euronext: AVTX) a leading technology company in renewable chemistry, today announced a partnership to accelerate the mass production of FDCA and PEF for use in advanced chemicals and plastics.

The partnership aims to bring together the strengths of Origin's patented carbon-negative technology platform, which turns the carbon found in sustainable wood residues into useful materials including chloromethylfurfural ("CMF"), with Avantium's YXY® Technology, which can be used to convert derivatives of Origin's CMF into FDCA, the chemical building block for the polymer PEF, at attractive unit economics.

The partnership represents a potential breakthrough in the commercialization of cost-competitive and low-carbon PEF, a polymer with an attractive combination of sustainability and performance characteristics for packaging including enhanced barrier properties. The produced PEF is expected to be 100% plant-based, fully recyclable, have attractive unit economics, and to offer a significantly reduced carbon footprint, with superior strength, thermal properties, and barrier properties compared to today's widely used petroleum-based materials.

"We are excited to partner with Avantium, a leading innovator and developer of sustainable chemistry, on a project with far-reaching impact," said John Bissell, Origin Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer. "Together we aim to bring the value of FDCA and one of its main applications, PEF, to the industry at large and to drive decarbonization throughout the supply chain. By combining Origin's revolutionary platform, which can produce key FDCA precursors like CMF from sustainable wood residues, with Avantium's YXY® process technology, we aim to transform the polymers and materials industry. This partnership accelerates our efforts to bring economical non-food based FDCA and PEF to market."

"We are excited to enter into this strategic partnership with Origin Materials, a leading sustainable materials company and like-minded partner committed to revolutionizing the chemical and plastics industry," said Tom van Aken, CEO of Avantium. "The technologies of both companies are highly complementary and will also enable the use of non-edible, renewable feedstocks for the production of FDCA and PEF, meeting the expectations of brand owners and consumers worldwide. This supplements the feedstock options for our technology. We look forward to working together on our shared ambition to transition the world to large-scale sustainable materials made from non-fossil resources."

The partnership includes a licensing agreement providing Origin with access to relevant parts of Avantium's process technology for producing FDCA from Origin's CMF derivatives at a 100 metric kilotons per annum scale facility and a conditional offtake agreement under which Avantium will supply Origin Materials with FDCA and PEF from its plants to accelerate market development. Under the terms of the transaction, Avantium received an upfront payment of €5 million in 2022 and, as a result of signing the licensing agreement, will receive an additional payment of €7.5 million, and may receive additional payments depending on the achievement of certain development milestones. Origin expects to incorporate Avantium's process technology into the supply chain for product from future plants.

Source: Business Wire

INEOS announces development of 'Styroflex' material

Materials company, INEOS Styrolution has announced the development of Styroflex SBC. A material that the company claims is a superior, cost-effective binder for bio-based products such as cork. The new solution is a cork-Styroflex-compound requiring no further additives or additional binders. It is expected to be a cost-effective and fully recyclable alternative to commonly used Polyurethane based binders.



Styroflex is a styrene-butadiene block copolymer (SBC) with the properties of a thermoplastic elastomer (S-TPE) that the company claims is suitable for extrusion (including both blown and cast film) and injection moulding. INEOS believes The product demonstrates high resiliency, toughness, optical clarity and process stability. In film applications, Styroflex provides excellent stretch recovery, puncture resistance, superior transparency as well as high oxygen and moisture permeability. Key applications for Styroflex include medical tubes, stretch hoods, impact-modified compounds and flexible films.

Styroflex is currently cleared for a range of food contact applications, however, further testing is being planned for the cork binder application to ensure all food safety requirements are met.

Stefan Meier, Business Development Manager at INEOS Styrolution, stated: "The amazing properties of Styroflex make it the material of choice for a very broad range of applications. I look forward to popping a Styroflex cork on a lovely bottle of wine in the future."

Source: Interplas Insights

Oliver Healthcare Packaging to Set-up 122,000 Square Foot Manufacturing Facility in Malaysia to Meet Growing Demand for Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Products in Asia-Pacific

Oliver Healthcare Packaging (Oliver), a leading healthcare company driving quality and innovation in medical packaging, has announced that it will establish a new manufacturing facility in the southern state of Johor in Malaysia, its largest regional plant. The company broke ground on the 122,000-square foot facility today, which is located within the i-Tech Valley, an integrated industrial park in the established economic zone of Iskandar Puteri, Johor. The plant is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2024 and will supply its rapidly growing Asia-Pacific customer base.



The new manufacturing facility will have the latest state-of-the-art equipment, operating ISO-7 and ISO-8 clean rooms, while meeting growing regulatory standards for medical packaging. The plant will produce pouches, lids, CleanCut cards, and roll stock, and will boast the latest in printing technology with an emphasis on supporting its growing medical device and pharmaceutical customers in the region.

"Southeast Asia is an important region for us, and this site was strategically chosen to serve the large concentration of pharmaceutical and medical device companies that currently operate in Singapore and Malaysia. It will also help us strengthen our regional position and address any future supply-chain challenges and gaps in expertise that may impact the healthcare industry," said Michael Benevento, President and Chief Executive Officer, Oliver.

In line with the company's commitment to embed corporate responsibility and stewardship into its business practices, the Johor plant will also emphasize sustainability throughout its manufacturing process. To help mitigate its environmental impact within the healthcare industry, plans for the facility include the installation of solar panels to supplement and reduce dependability on local utilities. Additionally, some of the materials used in the production process will be 100% recyclable, and recycling programs will be implemented to not only reduce the amount of scrap material generated during the manufacturing process, but also the amount of waste sent to landfills.

"As healthcare demands continue to increase, our customers in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries have witnessed impressive sales growth across the region. Driven by our unwavering commitment to innovation, quality, and service excellence, we look forward to better serving our customers' needs and truly redefining the healthcare and packing landscape in Asia," added Dr. Aldin Velic, General Manager, Southeast Asia, Oliver.

Oliver also has a Technical Centre in Singapore where its research and development takes place, as well as manufacturing plants in the United States, Europe, and China.

Source: Packaging 360



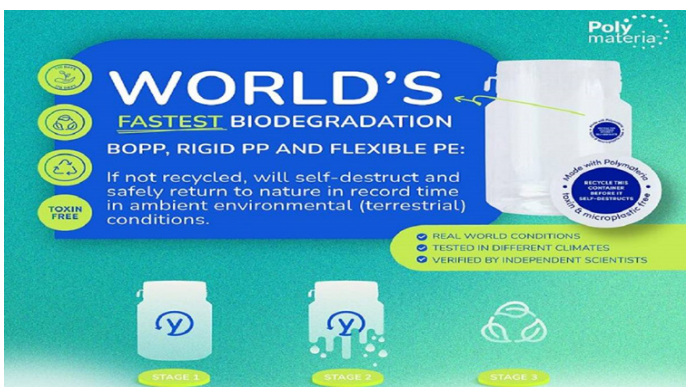
India News

Toppan and Polymateria Introduces 'Biotransformed' Packaging With a New Record

A new breakthrough by sustainable plastic innovator Polymateria in partnership with Indian plastic manufacturer Toppan Specialty Films (TSP), has seen plastics commonly used in the packaging industry biotransform in under 4 months and return to nature in just 176 days, leaving no microplastics or toxins behind. It's the fastest-ever full biodegradation of biaxially oriented (flexible) polypropylene which is used in food and cosmetic packaging. The result was achieved using Polymateria's innovative biotransformation technology, which is set to play a significant part in reducing plastic pollution in India and around the world.

Polymateria also worked with one of the world's largest confectionery manufacturers to create rigid plastic packaging armed with biotransformation technology, which was measured to fully biodegrade in 230 days, breaking a previous record of 310 days. These twin breakthroughs mean that common packaging from candy wrappers to cigarette packaging could be made biodegradable - with important impacts on the 11 million tons of plastic waste that reach the ocean every year.

The first prototypes of biotransformed plastics developed through the partnership between Polymateria and Toppan were verified by the fully accredited AIMPLAS Technological Institute of Plastic laboratory in Spain, which tested the plastics under the ISO 17556 standard for biodegradability.



Niall Dunne, CEO of Polymateria said, "I'm delighted to be announcing our record-speed biodegradation here in India given the leadership role the country is playing on tackling plastic pollution. In a market the size of India, multiple solutions will be needed and our technology provides an additional route by making plastic fully biodegradable in the ambient environment. Working with sustainability champions like Toppan gives me great hope that by coming together the industry will rise to the challenge."

Manohar Kumar, CEO of Toppan Speciality Films said, "We are delighted to see the record-speed biodegradation achieved by combining our plastic packaging with Polymateria's technology. We are already seeing huge interest in our sustainable biodegradable packaging in India and look forward to working with some of the country's most well-known brands as it gets widely rolled out."

Products using Polymateria's technology can be recycled, but if they escape into nature, they will biotransform into a bioavailable wax. The wax then attracts microorganisms like bacteria and fungi, which safely digest it and return it to nature without harm.

Biotransformation technology will be part of the solution to the global problem of plastic pollution, and Toppan is leading the way in adopting innovative technologies which can be brought to scale rapidly. This technology has the potential to significantly boost the sustainability of the packaging industry, in conjunction with other measures including improved waste management systems, consumer education and further innovative ideas from both government and the private sector. Time is running out to tackle plastic pollution, with some projections suggesting there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. Governments and businesses across many sectors need to work together to create a cleaner future.

Source: Indian Retailer

Lumax Auto Technologies signs pact to acquire majority stake in IAC International Automotive India

Lumax Auto Technologies on Monday said it has signed an agreement to acquire a majority stake in IAC International Automotive India from the International Automotive Components Group at an equity valuation of Rs 587 crore. As part of this deal, 75 per cent of the stake will be bought through SPV (acquisition vehicle) at Rs 440 crore, which will be paid in cash funded by debt and internal accruals, and IAC will continue to hold 25 per cent stake in it, the company said in a release.



The strong free cash flow generation in Lumax Auto Technologies Ltd (LATL) and IAC India will ensure debt repayment in the next five years, it added.

This strategic partnership will help the company expand its existing business in four-wheeler automotive plastics and offer customers with a wider product range.

A part of the Lumax-DK Jain Group, Lumax Auto Technologies is a tier-1 automotive systems and components supplier. IAC India is a tier-1 interior systems and components supplier to key automotive OEMs in India. IAC India has five manufacturing plants -- two in Chakan (Pune) and one each in Manesar, Nashik and Bengaluru -- besides an engineering centre in Pune with key capabilities in product designing and engineering, dimensional engineering, product development, program management and tooling development, it added.

"This is a marquee milestone in our long-term growth goals of strategic partnerships with global industry leaders. With our group's existing expertise in automotive lighting and plastics, it provides the opportunity to combine competitive strengths across automotive lighting, plastics and interiors to provide complete solutions to our customers," Deepak Jain, Chairman and Managing director of Lumax, said.

The IAC Group is a strategic supplier of powertrain-agnostic automotive interior and exterior systems and components to leading automotive OEMs across the world and operates 45 manufacturing facilities across 17 countries, according to the release.

Source: ET

ExxonMobil Launches 50% Post-Consumer Recycled Plastic Pails In India

ExxonMobil, a global leader in lubrication technology innovation, has launched an initiative to encourage sustainable packaging with its 50% Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) plastic pails. The PCR pails drive the use of recycled plastic, helping reduce plastic waste, and enabling sustainable progress. The company's 50% PCR pails, first in pails packing for lubricating oils in India, aim to help customers reduce waste, convert waste to value and advance sustainability ambitions.



Vipin Rana, Chief Executive Officer, ExxonMobil Lubricants Pvt. Ltd., said, "Mobil can help create value by advancing customers' mobility, productivity, and sustainability ambitions. Our initiative to transition to 50% post-consumer recycled plastic pails is just one example of how we are advancing our customers' sustainability ambitions. We understand the ever-changing needs of our customers and stakeholders and are committed to operating our business in an accountable and sustainable manner, supplying feature products by minimizing the environmental impacts, and supporting the communities in which we operate."

ExxonMobil has emerged as a categorical leader in the diversion of waste in lubricant facilities. All Mobil products manufactured in the company's global network of lubricant facilities carry the Underwriters Laboratories Zero Waste to Landfill, Silver Validation, first earned in 2018. This validation recognizes ExxonMobil's commitment to reducing waste and advancing a circular economy. Additionally, ExxonMobil continues to be the first and only finished lubricants marketer to carry this credential, and each year diverts more than 90% (over 50,000 tons) of lubricant operations waste from landfills into new productive uses.

Source: Outlookindia.com

India's HPCL to start Barmer oil refinery and petchem complex in January 2024

India's Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) plans to start its 9 million tonne-a-year Barmer refinery and petrochemical project in Rajasthan state by January 2024, the oil minister said on Tuesday, helping to cut petrochemical imports.



India, the third biggest oil importer, is expanding refining capacity to meet rising demand for fuel and petrochemical to power economic expansion. India's per capita petrochemical consumption is about a third of the global average.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the project, which covers 4,800 acres, would produce 2.4 million tonnes a year of petrochemicals and cut the annual petrochemical import bill by 260 billion rupees ($3.14 billion).

India's annual imports of petrochemicals were worth about 950 billion rupees, he said.

Most Indian refiners are linking petrochemical plants with refineries as demand for plastics and specialty chemicals rises. Integrating petrochemical plants would also help refiners hedge against slowing demand for conventional fuel in the longer term.

The Barmer refinery and petrochemical project will produce gasoline and gasoil for retail sales and will use naphtha, liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene as feedstock to make petrochemicals.

HPCL's head of refineries, S Bharathan, said his company would look at importing oil from the Middle East to start the project, which will also process 1.5 million tonnes a year of locally produced oil.

The project, in which HPCL has a 74% stake and the Rajasthan government holds the rest, was due to be completed by December 2022 but shutdowns due to the pandemic delayed the plans. The project cost has risen to 720 billion rupees from the 430 billion rupees estimated in 2018, the minister said.

The Barmer complex, executed by HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd, could double capacity to 18 million tonnes a year, he added.

Source: Reuters

Padcare Labs: Solving sanitary napkins disposal conundrum, one bin-full at a time

Ajinkya Dhariya asked me, "How many years do you think it takes for sanitary napkins to decompose?" A couple of years, I said. Dhariya responded, "You will not believe this, but it takes 800 years for unrecycled pads to decompose."



In 2018, Dhariya was visiting a landfill near Pune, when he saw ragpickers picking up used sanitary napkins and diapers with their bare hands. Dhariya couldn't believe what he had seen. "Imagine the kind of health risk," he says, "This was the trigger point for me, I knew I had to do something about this problem." This is what led him to start Padcare Labs.

How grave is the problem though? The numbers say it all. "India has 121 million menstruating females, generating 1,200 crore sanitary napkin waste every year," claims Dhariya. Of this waste, close to 98 percent goes to landfills. Why? "There is no disposal at source and no supply chain. There was no technology available for this waste to be converted to form some kind of value—so landfills were the only option," he adds.

The innovation for Padcare Labs was not just to look at solving one stakeholder's problem, but target the entire value chain—from collection to processing. For starters, Dhariya says, "I realised the user only cared about wanting to dispose the sanitary napkin. So we started by providing Padcare bins—where sanitary napkins could be stored for 30 days without any odour or bacterial growth." These pads are then collected from all these locations and brought to a material recovery facility (MRF).

They are then processed through Padcare's patented technology, which, in 20 minutes, recovers close to 99 percent of the material at low cost, separating it into pulp and plastic. "This pulp can be used across various industries such as paper, packaging etc. We convert the plastics into granules and then use it to make the Padcare bins," he explains.

This entire process, which Dhariya terms as 'menstrual hygiene management', is what Padcare provides as a service to its clients. Though the Padcare bins are free of cost, customers are charged per pick-up and per bin. This accounts for 80 percent of the revenue and the rest comes from output waste, which is pulp and plastic, and selling products that are made from these. With close to 250 clients, including Mahindra, P&G, Goldman Sachs and Hero Group, the company is clocking in a turnover of ₹2.2 crore. Padcare Labs has over $0.5 billion of funding including grants from organisations such as BIRAC, Niti Aayog, Infosys Foundation, Tata Trust and a few more.

Going forward, Dhariya has big plans for the company. Apart from geographical expansion both in India and internationally, they hope to work closely with residential communities as well. "Also, we are currently experimenting to see if this technology can be used for other materials as well, including diapers, tetra packs and textile waste," he says.

Source: Forbes India

IIT Roorkee inaugurates Centre of Excellence for research in petrochemicals, chemical engineering

The Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-Roorkee) on Wednesday inaugurated a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Roorkee in Petrochemicals for working in the area of "Process Development and Waste".

IIT-Roorkee and CIPET signed an MoU to strengthen academic and research cooperation in the areas of Petrochemicals, Plastics, Polymers, Chemical Engineering and Science, and Material Science at IIT Roorkee.

The MoU outlines the imperative fair recognizing the importance of academic and research cooperation in the areas of Petrochemicals, Plastics, Polymers, Chemical Engineering and Science.



The CoE was inaugurated by Arun Baroka, IAS, Secretary, Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals, Government of India. Prof KK Pant, Director IIT Roorkee, Deepak Mishra, Joint Sectary, Petrochemicals; Prof Shishir Sinha, Director General, CIPET, and Prof V C Srivastava, Head Chemical Engineering Department also attended.

During the ceremony Prof KK Pant, Director said, "Presently, the CoE is fully established in the Department of Chemical Engineering and is doing excellence in terms of research and development activities in the areas of Green Chemical and Petrochemicals."

Prof KK Pant added, "The collaboration will further encourage interaction between the CIPET and IIT Roorkee through joint supervision in the areas of Petrochemicals, Plastics, Polymers, Chemical Engineering and Science, Material Science, and other areas."

While inaugurating the event, Arun Baroka said, "The CoE in Petrochemicals established at IIT will foster research cooperation in the areas of Petrochemicals, Plastics, Polymers, Chemical Engineering and Science,

and Material Science. Moreover, the MoU concluded between IIT Roorkee and CIPET will further the rapidly growing scientific and technological knowledge and professional excellence in S&T and applied research and consultancy."

Prof Shishir Sinha said, "CIPET as an institute operates in the hub and spoke model with over 45 locations across the country with specialization in skill training, technical support, academics as well as research. And the participation of CIPET Experts in IIT Roorkee Programs will prove to be a symbiotic relationship for the nation."

Regarding collaboration between CIPET and IIT Roorkee, Deepak Mishra said, "The joint efforts will enhance, within the country, the availability of highly qualified manpower in the areas of Petrochemicals, Plastics, Polymers, Chemical Engineering and Science, Material Science, and other areas of Engineering, Technology, and Science without any prejudice to prevailing rules and regulations." (ANI)

Source: The Print

Rajiv Plastics Invests $7 Million in the New Surangi Site

Indian masterbatch producer Rajiv Plastic Industries invested in a new facility in Surangi (Silvassa) just before the pandemic. Spreads over 5-acre land parcel with a built-up area of 60,000 sq. ft, Surangi site has been opened with the whole masterbatch machinery shifted from the old Dadra unit to the new and much bigger plant.

"We have invested about $7 million in the new Surangi site, opened about 2 years ago just when the pandemic hit the country. Now, we have two masterbatch manufacturing facilities at Pune & Surangi, while the old Dadra unit is now engaged in the new vertical of plastic recycling," informed Hemant Minocha, Director, Rajiv Plastic Industries.



Rajiv has installed several new production lines at their new Surangi (Silvassa, India) plant and a complete state-of-the-art ZSK 58 line from Coperion (Germany) for the production of speciality black masterbatches / concentrates and compounds.

"The combined capacity of both the units was 45,000 MTPA split evenly, but with the installation of new Coperion line at the new shed, additional 6,000 MTPA capacity would be added, making the total installed capacity reaching to the 51,000 MTPA."

Mumbai headquartered company, has also confirmed entering the liquid colour concentrate space to meet the rising demand from PET and PVC industry besides customers demanding small volume colorant quantities for engineering & commodity plastics. "Colour matching of liquids are a fairly simple and quick process as we have most monos ready for it and it gives us the upper hand on quick turnarounds as compared to our competitors."

Established in 1978, Rajiv Plastics is one of India's oldest and Asia's leading colour & additive masterbatch and polymer compound manufacturers. The company claims to provide an advanced level of solutions to the plastic processing industry's ever changing and challenging needs.

"We are using the latest technologies in machinery, R&D, and materials coupled with a wealth of talent and experience to deliver the finest products. As part of further bolstering our R&D work, a lab scale Continuous Mixer FCM-12 has also been purchased for highly filled materials / masterbatches."

Rajiv Plastics has recently introduced and plans to showcase at K Show the special effect glass or stone look alike dry-blend masterbatches, which require no carrier resin and are to be directly added to the polymer of choice and premixed and then injection moulded, extruded to create attractive surface finishes that look like real stone and granite for many household products and stationery items.

Rajiv entered the export market in 1994, now exports 45% of its production to customers spread over 50 countries, operating directly or thru network of distributors, with considerable part of its overseas shipments goes to the markets of North America and Africa.

When asked if the new lines at Surangi further hikes exports, Hemant Minocha added, "The installation of new line will not impact export figures as it will remain pegged at 45% level with remaining 55% serves the domestic market. We have experienced surge in domestic demand and the new line will help us in fulfilling our domestic commitments."

Specialising in color & additive masterbatches for commodity plastics, engineering, polymer compounds and alloys, pre-colored engineering compounds, the domestic clientele on the commodity side includes Supreme, Neelkamal, FMCG side, Unilever, PNG and in the automotive sector VW, Mahindra & Tata.

Pune Startup Creates World's First Recycled Sunglasses From Packets of Chips

A Pune startup has created what it says are the world's first recycled sunglasses made from discarded packets of chips.

Anish Malpani announced the launch of the recycled sunglasses on Twitter, calling it the "hardest thing" he has ever been a part of. The former finance professional spent two years researching and creating the recycled sunglasses from multi-layered plastics (MLP) in a Pune laboratory.



When Malpani started his social impact start-up Ashaya in February 2021, he wanted to work on solving the problem of multi-layered plastics that are notoriously difficult to recycle, the Indian Express reported. Made from fusing multiple materials, MLPs pose a serious threat to the environment. This kind of plastic is most commonly used in packaging food items – like the packets of chips Malpani used to create his line of recycled sunglasses.

Malpani and his team worked directly with waste pickers to collect discarded packets of chips. The money earned from these sunglasses will be used to pay waste pickers better and fund the education of their children, a video explaining the concept behind the sunglasses revealed.

Malpani said a beta version of the sunglasses has been launched at a special price of Rs 1,099.

Source: Packaging 360

Why become a Plexconcil Member?

Established since 1955, the Plastics Export Promotion Council, PLEXCONCIL, is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India. PLEXCONCIL is a non-profit organization representing exporters from the Indian plastics industry and is engaged in promoting the industry exports.

The Council is focused on achieving excellence in exports by undertaking various activities and initiatives to promote the industry. The Council undertakes activities such as participation at international trade fairs, sponsoring delegations to target markets, inviting foreign business delegations to India, organising buyer-seller meets both in India and the overseas etc.,

The Council also routinely undertakes research and surveys, organizes the Annual Awards to recognize top performing exporters, monitors the development of new technology and shares the same with members, facilitates joint ventures and collaboration with foreign companies and trade associations as well as represents the issues and concerns to the relevant Government bodies.

The Council represents a wide variety of plastics products including – Plastics Raw Materials, Packaging Materials, Films, Consumer Goods, Writing Instruments, Travel ware, Plastic Sheets, Leather Cloth, Vinyl Floor Coverings, Pipes and Fittings, Water Storage Tanks, Custom made plastic Items from a range of plastic materials including Engineered Plastics, Electrical Accessories, FRP/GRP Products, Sanitary Fittings, Tarpaulins, Laminates, Fishing Lines/Fishnets, Cordage/ Ropes/Twines, Laboratory Ware; Eye Ware, Surgical/ Medical Disposables.

Membership Benefits

- Discounted fees at International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions
- Financial benefits to exporters, as available through Government of India
- Disseminating trade enquiries/trade leads
- Instituting Export Awards in recognition of outstanding export performance
- Assistance on export financing with various institutions and banks
- Networking opportunities within the plastics industry
- Listing in PLEXCONCIL member's directory
- Basic Website Development Assistance *

*Nominal Charges Applicable

The Plastics Export Promotion Council added the following companies/firms as new members during January 2023. We would like to welcome them aboard!

Sr.No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Director Name	Email
1	A V Consumables	69 Silicon Industrial Hub, Nova Petrochemical Ni Gali Changodar N H 8 Village Moraiya Ta Sanand	Ahmedabad	382213	Gujarat	Aditya Virendra Sarabhai	kushal.sdc@gmail.com
2	Agati Industries Private Limited	C-1/222 Yamuna Vihar, North East,	Delhi	110053	Delhi	Pawan Mishra	pawanmishra07@gmail.com
3	Alekhya Plastic Industries	Sy No.115/1b, Virat Nagar,-Kurnool Road,Ongole,Andhra Pradesh,Prakasam	Ongole	523002	Andhra Pradesh(New)	Akuthota Geetha Lakshmi	alekhyaplastic@yahoo.co.in
4	Alteem Instruments	Opp Ganes Meridian A , Near Gujarat High Court	Ahmedabad	380060	Gujarat	Anil Ratilal Patel	anil@alteem.com
5	Dadra Polyplast Industries	Plot No 286/1/1 Unit 4 And 104 Shri Bavan Udyog Bhavan ,B/H Dadra Gram Panchayat, Demni Road ,Dadra , Silvassa	Dadra Nagar Haveli	396230	Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	Dilip S Patil	dadrapolyplast@gmail.com
6	Dhiman & Sons	Near Power House M/S Dhiman And Sons Safidon,	Jind	126112	Haryana	Manoj Dhima	dhimansfd@gmail.com
7	Mangalam Industries	Mangalam Industrie, Survey No 337/1, Near Patel Cricket Ground, Village Kachigam,	Daman	396210	Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	Nikesh Suresh Karsiya	hiteshkarsiya@gmail.com
8	Mecolam Engineering Private Limited	4 &5, 11th Main,,Virat Nagar, Bommanahalli,Bangalore,Karnataka,Bengaluru Urban,560068	Bangalore	560068	Karnataka	Boris Mathews	info@mecolam.com
9	Omnia Toys India Private Limited	Gat No. 428, Building B4-B/C, Indospace Rohan Industrial Park , Chakan Pune	Pune	410501	Maharashtra	Ajit Surendra Danole	mangesh.yadav@dreamplast.com
10	Pixel Impex	1a/4,Bryant Nagar, 11th Street,Tuticorin,	Tuticorin	628008	Tamil Nadu	Murali Kannan S	pixelmurali@gmail.com
11	Pristius Pack Llp	17 Nilamber Grandeur, Nr Navrachana Univerisity,	Bhayli	391410	Gujarat	Priyank Shaileshkumar Patel	akash@pristiuspack.com
12	Rishi Packaging	Sr No. 56/3, Plot No. 16, Ground Floor, Silver Industrial Estat, Bhimpore,	Nani Daman	396210	Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	Deveshkumar Santaramo	rishipackage@gmail.com
13	Seyyon Hi-Tech Poly Fabs Private Limited	No.114/1, Periyar Nagar,,Erode,Tamil Nadu,Erode,638001	Erode	638001	Tamil Nadu	Sivalingam	info@seyyon.in
14	Shaila Polysacks Private Limited	10-3-316/2,1st Floor Crystal Towers, Above Andhra Bank,, Masab Tank, S.D Eye Hospital Road,, Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500028	Hyderabad		Telengana	Atul Banthia	shailapolysacks@gmail.com
15	Ventureway Retail Private Limited	Plot No.162, Ram Ratan Patel Colony,	Pithampur	454775	Madhya Pradesh	Jaswant Singh	angadrsingh@gmail.com
16	Wilva Impex Private Limited	Flat No.12, Seetha Flats, Old No.41,New No.82, 3rd Main Road,Gandhi Nagar, Adyar,	Chennai	600020	Tamil Nadu	Subha Ramaswamy	subharamaswamy@yahoo.com
17	Yashoda Polyfilms Private Limited	Plot No. 15 & 16, Phase Iii, Gut No.25, Udyog Mitra Industrial Co-Op. Society, Chitegaon, Paithan Road,	Aurangabad	431107	Maharashtra	Pradeepkumar Ramlal Goel	apoorv@yashodapoly.com