



PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT[®]

Edition 49, Jul 2023

**PLEXCONNECT 2023 Reboots
Plastics Exports Momentum, Pg-11**

**Interview with Abhinay Lakhampure,
The Shakti Plastics Industries, Pg-25**

**Aditya Kashikar talks
about DCTS, Pg-33**

**Export Performance
– May 2023, Pg-19**

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“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better” said Maya Angelou and this sentiment resonates with all our Council’s efforts that ended in a spectacular culmination with PLEXCONNECT 2023! Our maiden venture has been immensely successful and while we never doubted its potential, the response from the industry has been truly overwhelming. The event received over 7000 trade visitors over the three day exhibition. 400 international buyers from 51 countries attended the RBSM. 4161 business meetings held during the RBSM ensured an export reboot generating USD 16.1 million worth enquiries and on spot orders were valued at USD 5.3 million!! We are really elated with the extremely positive feedback from the industry and while exhibitors have mostly shown great satisfaction with the quality of visitors, organization of the event and business meetings, etc., those who missed out, have clearly expressed their interest to participate in the next edition.

PLEXCONNECT 2023 aptly showcased that the world’s spotlight is indeed on India. The exhibition welcomed business delegations from South Korea, Israel, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, Cameroon, Azerbaijan, Nepal and Uzbekistan. All of them evinced their interest to work more closely with Plexconcil to promote bilateral trade (in plastics) between India and their respective countries. Besides the official meetings, exhibitors interacted with the numerous international buyers at their stalls and are very hopeful of converting these enquiries to new business.

In addition to 10+ trade associations, the event also saw participation of 25 companies from State Pavilions of Telangana, Tamil Nadu & Madhya Pradesh. 60 businesses under the MSME Ministry Banner made their presence among the leading industry names. Prestigious organizations such as CIPET and ECGC were also present. The exhibition witnessed some leading innovations which are testimony to growing investments in R&D in the country.

During May 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 940 million, lower by 12.4% from USD 1,073 million in May 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – May 2023 was USD 1,887 million as against USD 2,173 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 13.1%.

Circularity and focus on product lifecycle, from design to end of product life is a very crucial component in ensuring a sustainable future for our industry. In this issue, we spoke to Abhinay Lakhampure of The Shakti Plastics Industries who has shared various insights on the subject. We also have Aditya Kashikar speaking about the introduction of the DCTS by the UK Government to improve access to the UK market for developing countries. The DCTS aims to support sustainable growth in developing countries and its provisions include reducing tariffs, liberalizing rules of origin requirements & simplifying the conditions attached to the scheme. The DCTS applies to countries that currently benefit under the UK’s GSP.

Under Product of the Month, we bring you Woven Fabrics obtained from strip or the like of Plastics. We also bring you Glimpses from PLEXCONNECT 2023 as well as some of the latest trends showcased at Interpack in Germany. All this in addition to news from India and around the world.

I would like to end by thanking all members of our industry, exhibitors, supporting associations, international buyers and every stakeholder for believing in our vision and partaking in our efforts to boost Indian plastic exports. We value all your feedback and look forward to achieving many more milestones ahead.

Warm regards,

Hemant Minocha
Chairman

► Council Activities - May 2023

Plexconcil's Indian Pavilion at Interpack, Dusseldorf, Germany, 4-10 May, 2023

PLEXCONCIL, in its endeavour to promote the export of plastics products, participated in INTERPACK 2023, DUSSELDROF, GERMANY, the largest show for packaging and processing in Europe which was held from 4-10 May 2023.

About the INTERPACK 2023, Dusseldorf, Germany

Interpack 2023 is when the global packaging industry meets in Düsseldorf when innovations along the entire value chain are presented and the top trends are discussed, then you know it is Interpack. The focus was on packaging materials, packaging machines, and related process technology for the food, beverage, confectionery, bakery, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, non-food, and industrial goods sectors. Interpack is a global trendsetter for the future themes of the industry. From Sustainability to Digitalization: what will be reality tomorrow was presented at the show.



2800 exhibitors from more than 68 countries and more than 1.70 lakh visitors make this show one of the leading and most established shows for packaging and processing in the world especially in Europe.

The Interpack 2023 shows entire value creation chains: From the production and refinement of packaging products and packaging materials - over packaging and distribution - right up to quality assurance and consumer protection.

Processes and machinery for the packaging of - Food - Beverages - Pharmaceuticals -Cosmetics -Consumer goods (non-food) -Industrial goods - Packaging materials - packaging means and packaging production -Processes and machinery for confectionery, bakery, and pharmaceuticals -Services

The next edition will be on 7-13 May 2026.

Indian Pavilion

The Indian plastic packaging industry plays a major role in the supply chain both processing and packaging including machinery manufacturing. Plexconcil had for the first time Indian Pavilion at this show with 21 exhibitors from across India. The Indian Pavilion was spread across two halls in Hall 8A & 8B (3 locations).



India Branding was created along with the Exhibitor's directory which was distributed to potential buyers at the show. The Council had a booth to promote its activities including the promotion and sourcing of Buyers & Exhibitors for PLEXCONNECT 2023.



Though the expected footfalls were less this year compared to the last edition, the buyers were keen to do business and every buyer who visited the Pavilion was able to source the right product. The last two days the footfalls were heavier than the weekends (Sat-Sun).

Feedback:

1. The India Pavilion should be at all the important and relevant halls like Hall 7, 8, and 9 so that the buyers would be able to locate their products.
2. Better branding and promotion of the pavilion including hoardings inside the halls and outside the halls.
3. The tunnel booth and floor marking should be changed to provide width for the stall rather than the depth which has been done this year.



PLEXCONNECT 2023 Promotions

Plexconnect 2023 was promoted effectively during the show by the Council's representatives visiting potential exhibitors/buyers and inviting them to visit the show. Plexconnect and the activities of the Council were promoted at the Council's booth. Plexconnect 2023 was promoted amongst all the Indian Exhibitors at the show who were not part of the Indian Pavilion. The buyers were invited to visit Plexconnect 2023.

The representatives met all the country associations present at the show to invite them to Plexconnect 2023 along with all the potential buyers who were invited as buyers to visit Plexconnect 2023.

The Council was represented by Mr. Sribash Dasmahapatra, Executive Director, and Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director, South.

Officials Meeting during the Show

Consulate General of India, Frankfurt, Germany

Dr. Amit Telang, Consul General, and Mr. Vinod Kumar, Consul – of Commerce visited the Indian Pavilion at the invitation of the Plexconcil.



A meeting was fixed with Mr. Thomas Dohse, Director, Interpack along with the Indian Representatives of Messe Dusseldorf, the organizers of the show with the Consul General mainly to seek more space in 2026 for the Indian Pavilion. The Consul General visits all the Indian Exhibitors interacting with them about their recommendations and inputs to make to more relevant and fruitful.



Mr. Ravish Kamath, Recent Past Chairman, Plexconcil presented a memento to the Consul General along with Mr. Sribash Dasmahapatra, Executive Director, Plexconcil.

Meeting with the officials of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas – May 4, 2023 | Northern Region

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director met with the officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to issue directives to the various PSU like GAIL, OPAL, ONGC, IOCL etc. For their participation at the PLEX-CONNECT 2023. The Regional Director briefed the officials regarding the positive outcome of the PSU units participation and how they will motivate the small and medium player enterprises for participation at the exhibition.

► Council Activities - May 2023

Follow up meeting up with the Principal Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Government regarding the participation of Uttar Pradesh at the PLEXCONNECT 2023 exhibition through Video Conferencing – May 4, 2023 | Northern Region

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director interacted with the Principal Secretary and other key dignitaries of the Secretariat of the Uttar Pradesh as a follow up after the visit to the state of Uttar Pradesh. The Uttar Pradesh State shall exhibit the State Pavilion at the above exhibition which will play a key role in promoting the future editions of the exhibition especially in view of the recently concluded U.P. Global Investors Summit. The above participation will have the efforts and approval of PMO.

PSU participation of GAIL for PLEXCONNECT 2023 – May 8, 2023 | Northern Region

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director met with the officials of GAIL towards their participation at the PLEXCONNECT 2023 exhibition. GAIL responded that they are under the process of deciding the merit for finalizing their participation at the event. They looked keen on participation but were a little apprehensive on the quality of exhibitors at the exhibition especially with regard to Plastic Raw Materials.

Meeting with Mr Sandip J. Sagale, IAS, Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat – 08th May 2023 | Western Region

Mr Naman Marjadi met Mr Sandip J. Sagale, IAS (Industries Commissioner), Government of Gujarat regarding participation of Gujarat State with State pavilion during PLEXCONNECT 2023: India's FIRST ever Trade Exhibition focused on Plastics Exports.

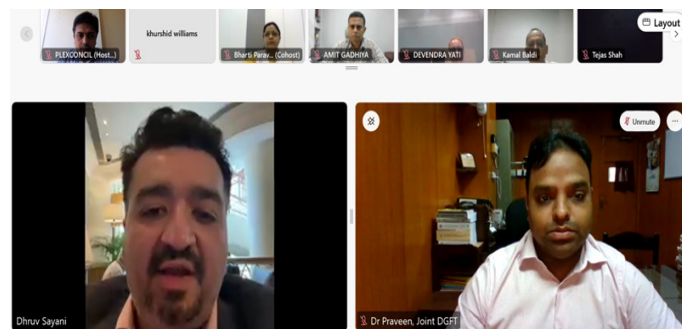
Meeting with Department of Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructural Development Corporation (DSI IDC), Govt. of NCT of Delhi – May 9, 2023 | Northern Region

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director met with the officials of DSI IDC toward their participation representing the state of Delhi at the above exhibition. Their initial response was very positive but the only issue they were facing was the lack of funds for this event. However, they looked assertive towards participation.

Webinar on Amnesty Scheme for Advance Authorization and EPCG Scheme – 10th May 2023 | Western Region

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) and DGFT RA Mumbai organized Webinar on Amnesty Scheme for Advance Authorization and EPCG Scheme on 10th May, 2023. The objective of this webinar was

to create awareness about “Amnesty Scheme for One Time Settlement of Default in Export obligation by Advance and EPCG Authorization holders.



Welcome address of the webinar was given by Mr. Dhruv Sayani, Plexconcil Panel Chairman of Consumer & Housewares Products and director of M/s. Crystal Plastics & Metallizing Private Limited. **Dr Praveen Kumar -Joint DGFT, Mumbai** gave presentation and explained about Coverage of the scheme, Benefit allowed under the Scheme, Procedure for Registration & Application, Validity of the Scheme. Q & A session was moderated by Ms Bharti Parave, Assistant Director, Plexconcil. Webinar ended with vote of Thanks by Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil.

Meeting with Secretary MSME for enhancement to 150 members for PLEXCONNECT 2023 – May 10, 2023 | Northern Region

Mr. Anuj Sharma and Mr. Subhash Srivastava followed up with the office of Secretary MSME towards enhancement of exhibitors to 150 from the currently allocated 60 members with financial cap of Rs. 1.50 lacs under PMS Scheme of MSME. The file is under submission and the approval shall be granted as per the discretionary powers of the Minister of MSME as the approval will be amendment of the policy of PMS under MSME.

Virtual Meeting held with Indian Chamber of Commerce for Italy (ICCI) – 10th May 2023 | Eastern Region

Virtual Meeting held with Indian Chamber of Commerce for Italy (ICCI) towards invite buyers at the RBSM program scheduled during PLEXCONNECT Exhibition in Mumbai. Regional Director(ER) attended the meeting.

Regional Director (ER) co-ordinated with various Indian Embassies with regard to promotion of RBSM scheduled during PLEXCONNECT 2023 Exhibition.

Participation of the state of the Himachal Pradesh during May 13 – 15, 2023 for PLEXCONNECT 2023 – NESCO, Mumbai – June 15 – 17, 2023 | Northern Region

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director, North interacted with the Principal Secretary of Himachal Pradesh and successfully managed the State Pavilion of Himachal Pradesh at the PLEXCONNECT 2023 with the total area measuring 42 sq. Mtrs.



Meeting at Dept. of Commerce, Govt. of India – 22nd May 2023 | Western Region

On 22nd May 2023, a meeting on the subject “End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International legally binding instrument” was held under the Chairmanship of Shri. Amitabh Kumar, Joint Secretary, TNM-II, Department of Commerce, at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Mr. Manish Tulsian, Assistant Director, represented the council at the said meeting and provided the views of the plastics industry on the possible core obligations as compiled by the UNEP Secretariat.



Meeting with the Hon’ble Commerce & Industry Minister – May 23, 2023 | Northern Region

A meeting was chaired by the Commerce & Industry Minister to discuss the export strategy by the Export Promotion Council to enhance exports. Mr. Arvind Gonenka CoA Member, Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director and Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director attended the above meeting.

Meeting regarding PLEXCONNECT 2023 - India’s First Export Focused Exhibition for Plastics - 15-17 June 2023 at Ahmedabad – 24th May 2023 | Western Region

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) and Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association (GSPMA) organized a meeting to present the benefits and opportunities of participation at PLEXCONNECT 2023 on 24th May, 2023 at Ahmedabad Management Association at Ahmedabad.

Welcome Address of the meeting was given by Mr Atul Kanuga, President, GSPMA. Mr. Hemant Minocha, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL gave opening remarks for the meeting. Mr. Rajeev Chitalia, Past Chairman & Panel Chairman, PLEXCONCIL and Mr. Jigish Doshi, President, Plastindia Foundation also addressed the participants during the meeting. Presentation on PLEXCONNECT 2023 was given by Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL. Vote of thanks of the meeting was given by Mr Bharat Patel, Hon Secretary, GSPMA. Mr. Devang Pathak, Chairman-Seminar Committee, GSPMA moderated the meeting.



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Plexconnect 2023 Reboots Plastics Export Momentum

- Generates \$16 million worth of inquiries, \$5.3 mn worth deals closed in 3 days
- Showcases industry innovations
- Many foreign delegations keen to buy Indian goods
- Unprecedented enthusiasm from among several States

India's first ever export-focused international plastics exposition Plexconnect 2023, organised recently, has rebooted the business momentum and showcased many cost and energy saving innovations.

The event has generated business inquiries valued at over **\$16.1** and firmed up deals of about **\$5.3** million while several country delegations expressed their interest in continuing their business and exploring new opportunities with India.

Organised by Plexconcil, Plexconnect 2023 has been billed as the most anticipated event in the plastics industry. The Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Smt. Anupriya Patel was the chief guest, while Shri. Santosh Sarangi, IAS, Addl. Secretary & DGFT, was the Guest of Honor.

7000+ trade visitors attended Plexconnect 2023.

GLIMPSES FROM THE EVENT

Inauguration Ceremony

The Hon'ble MoS, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Chief Guest; Guest of Honour, Shri. Santosh Sarangi, IAS, Addl Secretary & DGFT, Plexconcil Chairman, Shri. Hemant Minocha, Vice Chairman, Shri. Vikram Bhadauria & ED, Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra at the lamp lighting & Ribbon cutting ceremony. The esteemed guests officially revealed the International Buyers' Directory at the event, marking the official start of the exhibition.





The proceedings commenced with the Indian National Anthem which was attended by the international buyers, various ambassadors of foreign missions in the city, eminent members of the industry, exhibitors, media and more.

VIP Tour @ PLEXCONNECT

The Hon'ble MoS, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Chief Guest; Guest of Honour, Shri. Santosh Sarangi, IAS, Addl Secretary & DGFT were given a tour of the exhibition by the Plexconcil Chairman, Shri. Hemant Minocha, Vice Chairman, Shri. Vikram Bhadauria & ED, Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra wherein the dignitaries interacted with various exhibitors and explored products on display at the event.





RBSM @ PLEXCONNECT

More than 400 buyers from across 51 countries participated in the RBSM (reverse buyer seller meets). 4161 B2B meetings were held during the RBSM and both buyers and exporters expressed satisfaction and were hopeful of continued association. The value of business enquiries at Plexconnect 2023 stood at USD 16.1 million while the value of confirmed orders were found to be USD 5.3 million. The buyers gave 300+ business orders during the show.





Hemant Minocha, Chairman of Plexconcil expressed the confidence that the event will be a stepping stone for the success of the country's plastics exporters, most of whom are MSMEs. Plexconcil held meetings with Country delegations from South Korea, Israel, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, Cameroon, Azerbaijan, Nepal and Uzbekistan and all of them evinced their interest in working more closely with Plexconcil to promote bilateral trade (in plastics) between India and their respective countries, Minocha said.

Exhibitors @ PLEXCONNECT

Around 25 companies from Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh participated under the state pavilions at Plexconnect 2023. The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises had supported participation of 60 exhibitors.



The ECGC Ltd. (formerly known as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.), wholly owned by the Government of India, also participated in Plexconnect 2023 with their different credit risk insurance and related services for exports and Export Factoring facility for MSME sector.

The Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), premier national Institution functioning under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India also participated at Plexconnect 2023.

Business was brisk @ PLEXCONNECT 2023







Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, Plexconcil, said the expo has been highly successful in connecting Indian Exporters with International Buyers. With the renewed enthusiasm, he was confident that the industry will take full advantage of the new FTA regime and the China+1 global business environment.

More than ten major trade associations participated in Plexconnect, 2023 which was also attended by over 7,000 trade visitors. PLASTINDIA Foundation, All India Plastics Manufacturers Association, Organisation of Plastic Processors of India, Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association, Plastics Machinery Manufacturers Association of India, In-

dian Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container Association, All India Flat Tape Manufacturer Association, Karnataka State Plastic Association, Tamil Nadu Plastics Manufacturers' Association, Telangana and Andhra Plastic Manufacturers Association, Indian Plastics Federation, Indian Plastics Institute, Indian Institute of Packaging, Chhattisgarh Plastic Nirmata Sangha, All India Human Hair Exporters Association had put up their stalls at Plexconnect 2023 and supported in promoting the event through their members.

Free Consultants Clinic @ PLEXCONNECT 2023

During Plexconnect 2023, the Free Consultants Clinic attracted the attention of many exhibitors and visitors wherein issues related with Customs/ Logistic, DGFT, RBI/Bank and GST were resolved by subject matter experts.



Technical Seminars @ PLEXCONNECT 2023

Technical seminars held alongside the event attracted huge attendance with 767 visitors interacting with experts over the 3 days. The topics ranged from Doing Business in EU, Taiwan & Spain; to GeM Portal Training, Entering Global Markets. GST & Tax Updates, Getting exports ready and more.



INNOVATIONS @ PLEXCONNECT

Among the innovations, Dasmohapatra explained that Zaveri Engineers showcased their latest processing technology, Grain Polymerization, which is the first of its kind with patents spanning the world and in India. Developed by Shailesh and Shrenik Zaveri, the processing reduces machinery cost by 70-85%, tooling cost by 85-90% and electricity cost by 65-75%.



It is used to create a vast range of hollow products from decorative to utility and in large diameters. The processing also allows for processing of customized quantities and are effective in large scale production and project applications.

In another innovation, V.K. Rain Pipe Irrigation System introduced its smart and India's first UV coated Rain Irrigation System. It has more life span than any other ordinary rain irrigation system. It is very easy to assemble and reallocate. It helps to reduce the consumption of energy and water by more than 50 percent. With the help of appropriate water pressure, This System can spray up to 10 to 15 feet on both sides.

The company also displayed India's New Invention – an HDPE laminated woven fabric flexible and foldable lay flat pipes among others.





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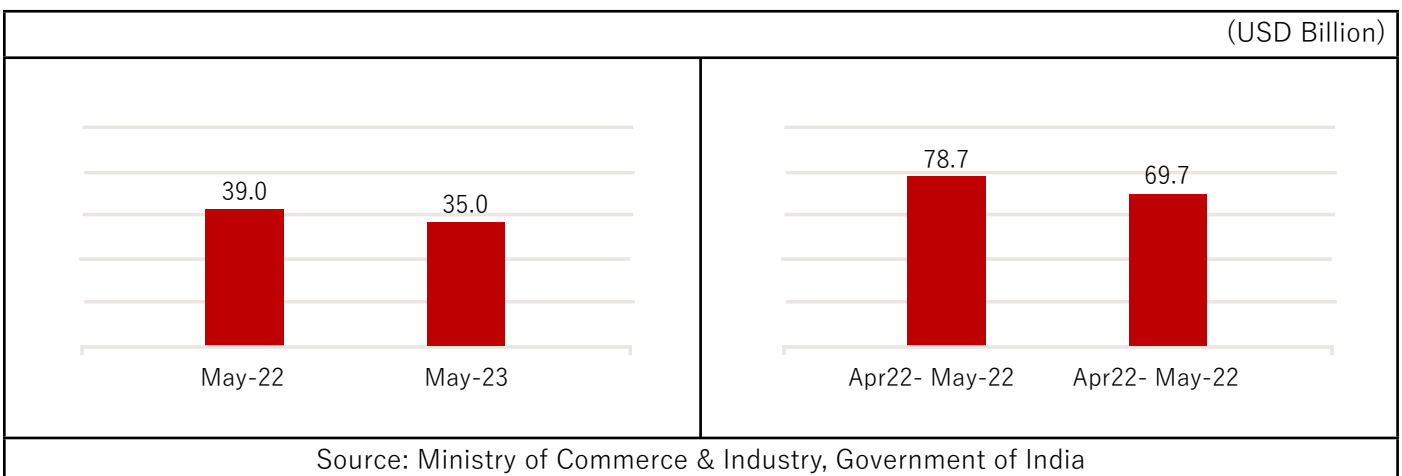


Export Performance – May 2023

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 35.0 billion in May 2023, down by 10.3% from USD 39.0 billion in May 2022. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2023 – May 2023 was USD 69.7 billion as against USD 78.7 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 11.4%.

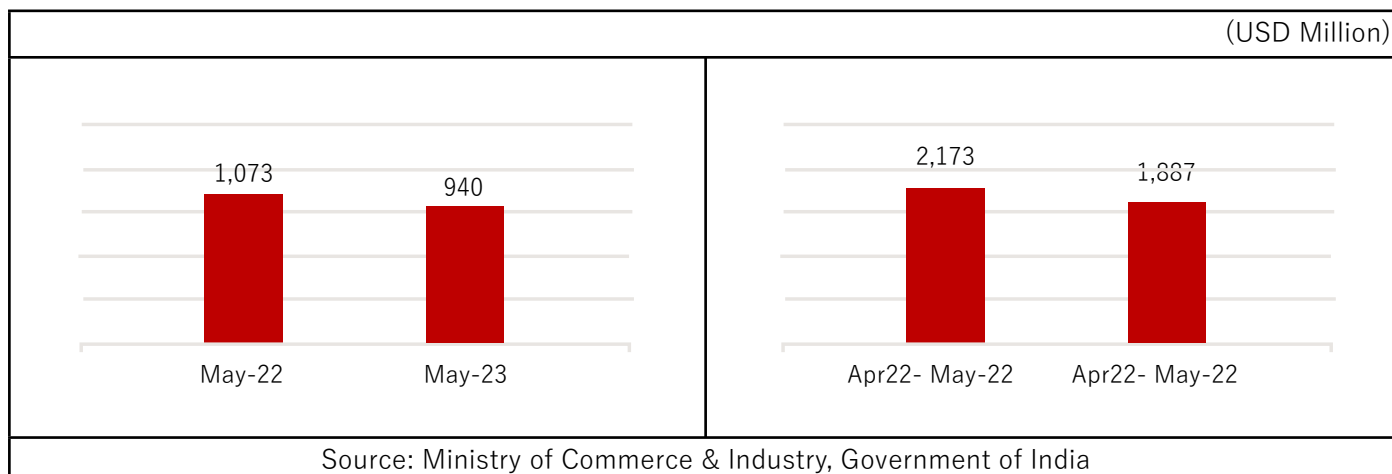
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During May 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 940 million, lower by 12.4% from USD 1,073 million in May 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – May 2023 was USD 1,887 million as against USD 2,173 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 13.1%.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In May 2023, almost all the product panels witnessed a decline in exports. Plastic films and sheets once again had the steepest fall of 25.4%, followed by Plastic raw materials; FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; and Miscellaneous products and items nes – all of which reported a double-digit decline. The other panels which struggled to grow were FRP & Composites; Consumer & houseware products; Plastic pipes & fittings; Medical items of plastics; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates and Writing instruments & stationery.

Product panels which reported a growth in exports during May 2023 were Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; and Human hair & related products.

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

Panel	May-22 (USD Mn)	May-23 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)	Apr 22- May-22 (USD Mn)	Apr 23- May-23 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)
Consumer & houseware products	60.5	58.2	-3.9%	130.1	120.6	-7.3%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	22.9	23.1	+1.0%	46.9	45.1	-4.0%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	131.9	100.9	-23.5%	273.6	206.2	-24.6%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	54.8	53.5	-2.3%	110.2	105.1	-4.6%
FRP & Composites	38.4	35.3	-8.1%	79.3	70.2	-11.5%
Human hair & related products	59.1	62.2	+5.4%	112.3	129.2	+15.0%
Medical items of plastics	42.7	41.2	-3.4%	82.5	87.3	+5.8%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	87.4	77.7	-11.1%	171.3	158.7	-7.4%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	55.0	48.5	-11.9%	110.6	95.6	-13.6%
Plastic films & sheets	182.5	136.1	-25.4%	372.1	275.3	-26.0%
Plastic pipes & fittings	25.1	23.2	-7.6%	52.4	45.4	-13.4%
Plastic raw materials	289.4	257.0	-11.2%	582.3	502.8	-13.7%
Writing instruments & stationery	23.0	22.8	-1.1%	49.0	45.6	-6.9%
	1,072.7	939.7	-12.4%	2,172.6	1,886.9	-13.1%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 3.9% in May 2023 on account of lower sales of Hygienic or toilet articles of plastics (HS Code 39249010); and Other boxes of plastics (42023290) to the United States of America.

Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments exports were up by 1.0% in May 2023 due to increase in sales of Other made-up fishing nets of materials other than nylon (56081190) to Canada, Chile, and the United Kingdom. This product had reported its highest-ever monthly export of USD 5.01 million for India in March 2023.

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin**, exports in May 2023 fell by 23.5% as Indian exporters reported a decline in sales of Sacks and bags of plastics (39232990); and Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532). Indian exporters continue to mention about slowing demand in the international market, especially in Europe and North America.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** declined by 2.3% during May 2023 on account of lower sales of Other floor coverings of (39181090) and Decorative laminates (48239019).

Export of **FRP & Composites** was down by 8.1% on account of lower sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099) due to the economic downturn as well as elevated manufacturing cost in Europe. Removal of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from EU has also negatively impacted export of plastics from India.

Export of **Human hair & related products** increased by 5.4% due to higher sales of Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (67030010) and Wigs (67041100). The export of Wigs worth USD 2.68 million during May 2023 is interesting because such a high value export of Wigs has never taken place from India.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** were down of 3.4% in May 2023 due to lower sales of Syringes with or without needles (90183100) and Cannulae (90183930). India generally exports these two products to countries in Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** fell by 11.1% in May 2023 due to lower shipments of Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere specified (39269080) to the United States of America.

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export declined by 11.9% on lower sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (392321) to the United States of America.

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 25.4% in May 2023 due to a slide in sales of Self-adhesive sheets and films of plastics (3919); Sheets and films of polymers of propylene (392020); Sheets and films of polyethylene terephthalate (392062); and Flexible & laminated sheets and films of other plastics (39219096). The plastic films & sheets segment is under stress and manufacturers in India have slashed production amid sluggish global demand and high inventory. This product segment is also facing headwinds as several new lines have been operationalized both in the BOPP and BOPET segments in the last two years.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 7.6% due to lower sales of almost all types of plastic pipes & fittings. Exports of plastic pipes & fittings have been low this year on account of reduction in product prices.

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 11.2% in May 2023 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769). Apparently, the prices of polyethylene terephthalate cooled-off quite a bit during May 2023 and have been passed on to the overseas buyers. India is among the top-5 exporters of Polyethylene terephthalate resin in the world.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** declined by 1.1% in May 2023 due to lower sales of Felt-tipped and other porous-tipped pens and markers (960820) to the United States of America.

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 22- May 22 (USD Mn)	Apr 23- May 23 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	164.4	123.2	-25.1%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	102.6	108.2	+5.5%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	100.3	67.6	-32.6%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	81.0	91.4	+12.8%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	77.8	69.4	-10.8%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	80.8	62.8	-22.2%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	67.2	66.6	-0.9%
48239019	Decorative laminates	48.3	47.7	-1.3%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	65.3	39.8	-39.0%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	46.6	31.6	-32.3%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	43.7	32.1	-26.5%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	39.1	29.1	-25.6%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	36.3	25.6	-29.6%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	44.6	32.3	-27.5%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	31.8	28.8	-9.4%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	26.7	33.0	+23.4%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Other	34.0	25.0	-26.2%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	23.1	22.0	-5.0%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	23.6	26.5	+12.2%
96081019	Ball-point pens	22.7	22.6	-0.4%
90183930	Cannulae	23.3	22.9	-1.8%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	20.4	19.9	-2.6%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	30.6	25.9	-15.6%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	21.6	18.1	-16.1%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	18.6	17.5	-5.8%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	11.2	15.8	+41.0%
96032100	Tooth brushes	16.4	15.7	-3.7%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, metallised	21.4	15.9	-25.5%
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	22.8	16.3	-28.7%

39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	18.3	13.6	-25.7%
39073010	Epoxy resins	18.3	10.8	-41.2%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	19.9	10.5	-47.0%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	13.8	16.0	+16.3%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	15.6	15.0	-3.6%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	16.7	13.5	-19.4%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	19.8	15.7	-20.4%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	11.4	12.3	+7.6%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene	14.6	13.8	-5.7%
39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials	13.2	11.8	-10.5%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	17.0	9.2	-45.7%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms	15.4	14.9	-3.2%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	13.3	13.0	-2.6%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	12.1	11.5	-4.6%
39100090	Silicones in primary forms: Other	13.1	9.2	-30.2%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles, of plastics	11.2	11.7	+3.7%
39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	12.9	10.6	-17.7%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	13.7	12.3	-9.7%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	11.8	8.5	-27.6%
39019000	Other ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers, having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	10.4	10.0	-3.4%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	17.4	5.5	-68.3%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



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Abhinay Lakhmapure

Senior manager - EPR Compliance,
The Shakti Plastic Industries, Mumbai

Plastic waste is undoubtedly one of the major challenges of Municipal Solid Waste and the need of the hour is to make a deliberate shift from a linear economy to a circular economy by adopting an approach of turning plastic waste to value.

Economies and brand owners have been finding new and innovative ways to promote circularity through reuse, recycling and reducing use of plastics. The Ellen MacArthur Foundations' late November 2022 report is a wake-up call for all organizations involved in the packaging supply chain around the world. What the report clearly illustrates is that without every sector across the entire supply chain focusing on making transformational changes within their given area, very little sustainable progress will be achieved.

We need to reshape the entire system to ensure recycled content is more readily available and that brands through to retailers have as much potential and responsibility as those in the recycling sector to make this happen.

The positive news is that the report identifies important steps forward in businesses making and planning major investments in designing packaging to be 100% technically recyclable via investment in new recycling plants in developed and developing countries. To support these efforts, however, city and rural collection and sorting infrastructures around the world must be substantially improved.

Ultimately to create circularity we need a concerted and coherent effort where every sector in the supply chain shoulders their responsibility including resin creation, packaging design, post-consumer collection, recycling into new resins, and most importantly, using remade resins into new consumer products.

For plastics the 2030 targets could be 10% for contact-sensitive (i.e., food-grade) plastic packaging such as food wraps with those figures jumping to 50% by 2040. Single-use plastic beverage bottles targets for 2030 could be 30% growing to 65% by 2040 and 35% for other plastic packaging set to reach 65% by 2040.



In this article, we spoke to Abhinay Lakhmapure, Senior Manager – EPR Compliances, The Shakti Plastic Industries (TSPI), Mumbai who explains in an interview how TSPI ensures that plastic waste is used as a resource, thus making sure that less plastic is dumped in landfills.

By recycling all sorts of plastic waste including Multi-Layer Plastic (MLPs), TSPI maximizes the recyclability of plastic waste and manufacturing raw materials out of it which are further used to make new products. By encouraging and increasing the rate of recycling of plastic waste, TSPI has been closing the loop and making sure the plastic is continuously kept into the product life cycle, thus inculcating the concept of circular economy into our business.

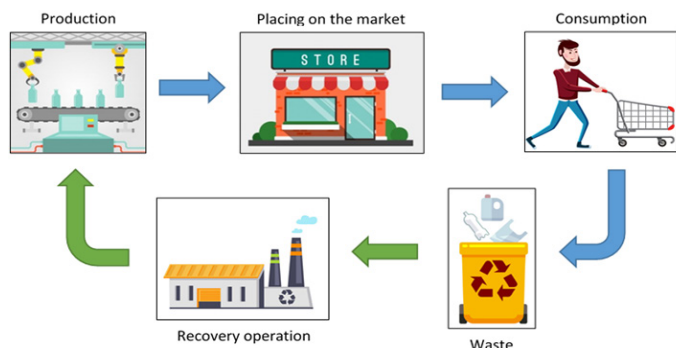
(excerpts)

As an industry what are some of the important and viable measures that the industry can take to tackle the legacy of plastic pollution?

One of the primary steps to controlling plastic pollution is to Reduce waste and dependency on virgin materials. There is a pressing need to address the issue from grass root level which starts with product design for processors and adapt the approach to conceive the product to its end of lifecycle. Stopping the sale and use of SUP is also critical in the current environmental concerns globally.

Some of the other measures that as processors we can take is to:

- Support Organizations Addressing Plastic Waste Management / Plastic Pollution
- Segregation at source which plays a vital role
- Promote and Support Scientific Disposal of Plastic Waste i.e Plastic Recycling and Converting Plastic Packaging into Plastic Commodity
- By Replacing Plastic Packaging with Alternative and cutting down volume of Plastic Packaging from Supply Chain



The EPR that is well conceived in thought and concept is facing sluggishness in registration in India. What are the hurdles to its acceptance and implementation?

We believe that the slow uptake of EPR registration is mainly due to the lack of awareness among processors and clarity on responsibilities of obligated entities. The complicated documentation and transaction considering Trading and indirect sales / purchase is also cause for concern while there needs to be better alignment between the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board / Pollution control Committee. Lack of Enforcement by Authorities besides the commercial impact of EPR on MSME Sector needs to also be looked into.

What are your views on our industry's efforts to invest in R&D and Product design to reduce use of virgin plastics?

Considering the commercial impact due to EPR cost many of the FMCG and MNC Companies are shifting from Plastic Packaging to alternatives whereas many others are working on buy back mechanism to generate waste to value.

Speaking of packaging, are options such as paper, glass, metal better in terms of recycling/reuse?

If one is to look at the End Product after Sustainable Recycling and conversion of waste to sustainable products, Plastic has proven its uniqueness due to its technical properties as well as cost effectiveness. However, in the case of Packaging it is still under trial as majority of FMCG, Pharma and Edible Packaging Industries still prefers Virgin Plastic as compared to paper, glass and metal. There is a need to fast track research and development of use of PCR in food grade and pharma practice where the industry in India still lags behind some of its global counterparts. Packaging, especially food grade is a vast and fast growing industry and while the hygiene and convenience aspects of plastics cannot be denied, as an industry and society, we need to find ways to work around the threat of adding to plastic waste generation.



Are biopolymers sustainable alternatives in the long term? (CPCB recently questioned biodegradable plastics being sold in the country!)

In nature, biopolymers can be found in large amounts. They are biodegradable and may not have any negative effects on the environment but are difficult for Collection, segregation and recycling considering recycling perspective. In the commercial aspect Biopolymers are comparatively higher in prices than normal plastic and hence have been

slow in adoption by the consumer at large.

What needs to be done to better integrate the various stakeholders, including rag pickers in waste management?

- Information, Education and Communication plays a key role
- • Development of Infrastructure for Collection and Segregation of Plastic Waste
- • Enabling the Livelihood of Ragpickers by developing lucrative schemes for incentives against waste collected
- • Involvement of PWFs and WMAs in Channelizing Plastic Waste
- Promote Recycling of Plastic Waste and Awareness on Plastic Waste Management
- Use of Recycled Plastic Products



Any suggestions for practical approach to balance waste generation/ management and business sustainability in plastics, which still continues to have far reaching benefits?

- For Sustainable Waste Management and giving justice to plastic waste, Waste should be diverted / channelized and sold to registered Plastic Waste Processor for better Industrial Waste management
- Recycling of Plastic Packaging under Coverage of Extended Producers Responsibility
- Use of **Eco-Friendly Alternatives to Single-Use Plastics**

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POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) May 2023

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDPE prices fell by Rs 2,000 per MT in May 2023 after witnessing a decline of Rs 2,000 per MT both in April 2023 as well as in March 2023. • In May 2023, HDPE prices were cut by Rs 2,000 per MT in the second week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLDPE prices contracted by Rs 3,000 per MT in May 2023. Prices had declined by Rs 2,000 per MT in April 2023 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in March 2023. • In May 2023, LLDPE prices were cut by Rs 3,000 per MT during the second week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	
Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDPE prices declined by Rs 3,000 per MT in May 2023; prices had fallen by Rs 2,000 per MT in April 2023 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in March 2023. • In May 2023, LDPE prices were reduced by Rs 3,000 per MT in the second week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	
Polypropylene (PP)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP prices slumped by Rs 3,000 per MT in May 2023 after witnessing a fall of Rs 2,500 per MT in April 2023 and Rs 3,500 per MT in March 2023. • In May 2023, PP prices were reduced by Rs 1,500 per MT during the second week of the month and by Rs 1,500 per MT later.
Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVC prices fell by Rs 4,000 per MT in May 2023. PVC prices had contracted by Rs 4,000 per MT in April 2023 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in March 2023. • In May 2023, PVC prices were slashed down by Rs 4,000 per MT in the first week itself. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research



Understanding Polymer Price Trends - May 2023

In the intricate ballet of market trends, PolyOlefin prices continue with its downward slide, landing between \$880-\$960/mt. This shift is not merely an economic indicator, but a signal for us to recalibrate our strategies in the face of change. Synchronized with this, naphtha costs are hovering between \$420-\$450, leading us towards a dwindling conversion margin of \$470-\$490. These thin margins sketch a challenging outlook, potentially unsustainable beyond the next two months.

Interestingly, Polypropylene (PP) is playing a crucial role amidst this shift. It's experiencing a surge in booking interest, with a substantial 38,000 mt already secured across top processors, as privately indicated by a network of producers.

On the other hand, we could see Polyethylene (PE) prices further slipping by around \$40-\$50 due to seasonal factors. However, it's crucial not to let this short-term trend overshadow the larger picture that's gradually coming into focus.

With the arrival of July's first week, our market radar suggests a robust bullish turn on the horizon. As the excess imports run their course and new shipments remain weeks away, we are standing at the edge of a marketplace precipice. Anticipated pent-up demand, coupled with the onset of the festive season, is poised to trigger a significant uptick in prices, potentially crossing the \$1000 threshold for most applications.

WOVEN FABRICS OBTAINED FROM STRIP OR THE LIKE OF PLASTICS

Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics are a set of intermediate products that find use in the manufacturing of pond liners; flexible intermediate bulk containers; and carpets and rugs etc. Since these fabrics are made of synthetic filament yarn of polypropylene and / or polyethylene, they are quite sturdy, lightweight, and affordable. The product is classified under Subheading 540720 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics is valued at USD 1.6 billion per year approximately.

- In 2022, top-5 exporting countries of Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics were: China (15.4%), Saudi Arabia (9.9%), Türkiye (7.0%), India (6.9%), and Greece (5.4%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics were: United States of America (34.3%), Netherlands (4.4%), Canada (4.1%), Greece (3.5%) and France (3.3%).

In 2022-23, India exported 376 million sqm of Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics valued at USD 102.0 million to the world. United States of America was the top export destination in terms of value as well as in terms of volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (million sqm)
United States of America	64.09	United States of America	237.03
Spain	5.40	Spain	22.87
United Kingdom	4.37	Portugal	18.20
Portugal	3.76	United Kingdom	14.02
Netherlands	3.27	Italy	11.11
Canada	2.31	Netherlands	10.96
Italy	2.26	Canada	7.09
Germany	1.77	France	6.52
France	1.74	Morocco	6.09
Sri Lanka	1.71	Brazil	5.22

▶ Product of the month

In 2022-23, India imported 42.7 million sqm of Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics valued at USD 9.2 million from the world. China was the top supplier in terms of value as well as in terms of volume to India.

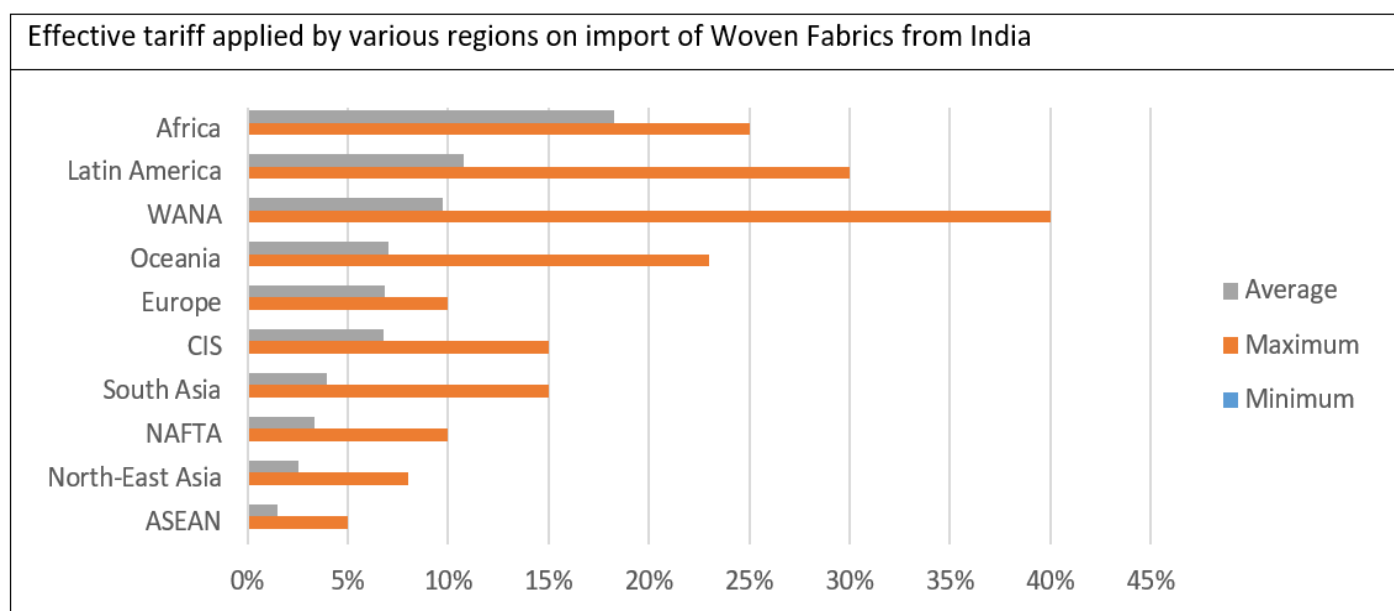
Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (million sqm)
China	5.65	China	36.28
Saudi Arabia	1.34	Saudi Arabia	5.73
United States of America	0.86	United States of America	0.32
Belgium	0.49	Belgium	0.08
Hong Kong	0.29	United Arab Emirates	0.08
Germany	0.23	Netherlands	0.07
Netherlands	0.14	Hong Kong	0.06
Malaysia	0.13	Germany	0.05
Thailand	0.06	Malaysia	0.02
Italy	0.02	Thailand	0.01

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

Indian firms dealing in Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics have immense potential to export to destinations like Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand, United States of America, and Viet Nam.

There is zero duty applicable on import of Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics from India in Australia under the recently signed India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement and in South Korea & Japan, under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Further, some of the ASEAN countries like Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand also allow zero duty imports of Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics are eligible for zero customs duty in Canada, Israel, Singapore and United States of America.

Unfortunately, some countries in Africa, Latin America, WANA, and Europe region do not accord any preferential treatment to Woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like of plastics imported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research



Aditya Kashikar,

International Trade Consultant

India, UK and DCTS (Developing Countries Trading System)

The United Kingdom's recent introduction of the Developing Countries Trading System (DCTS) marks a significant shift in its trade policies. The move aims to revamp the country's trading relationship with developing nations, including India. However, because of this change, Indian goods worth \$960 million are set to lose their concessional duty access to the UK market. This article delves into the implications of the DCTS on Indian exporters, analyzing the challenges they face and the potential strategies they can adopt to mitigate the impact.

Understanding the Developing Countries Trading System (DCTS)

The DCTS is a novel trade preference scheme introduced by the UK after its departure from the European Union. As part of its independent trade policy, the UK seeks to reconfigure its relationships with developing nations by implementing this new system. The DCTS aims to provide preferential market access to a carefully selected group of countries with the greatest need for assistance, focusing on poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Impact on Indian Goods

India has long enjoyed favorable trade relations with the UK, benefiting from the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) provided by the European Union. However, with the implementation of the DCTS, Indian exporters are set to lose their concessional duty access to the UK market, affecting goods worth \$960 million. This move poses significant challenges for Indian industries, par-

ticularly in sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and automobile components and plastics.

The impact of the UK's Developing Countries Trading System (DCTS) on plastic commodities exported from India to the UK is likely to be significant. The DCTS, introduced by the UK after its exit from the European Union, aims to reconfigure trade relationships with developing countries and promote sustainable development. However, the implementation of the DCTS may have certain implications for the Indian plastic commodities sector:

1. **Loss of Preferential Trade Benefits:** Under the DCTS, the preferential trade benefits that Indian plastic commodity exporters previously enjoyed in the UK market may be diminished or eliminated. This could result in increased tariffs or trade barriers, making it more challenging for Indian exporters to access the UK market on favorable terms. The loss of these preferential trade benefits can reduce the competitiveness of Indian plastic commodities in the UK market.
2. **Increased Competition:** The DCTS may lead to intensified competition for Indian plastic commodity exporters in the UK market. Other developing countries that still retain preferential access under the DCTS may become more competitive, posing a challenge for Indian exporters. They may face increased competition from these countries, impacting their market share and profitability.
3. **Shift in Supply Chains:** The implementation of the DCTS may necessitate a restructuring of supply chains within the Indian plastic commodities sector. To mitigate the impact of reduced access to the UK market, exporters may need to explore alternative markets or realign their supply chains to target countries that still have preferential trade agreements with the UK. This could involve identifying new markets, establishing partnerships with distributors in other regions, or diversifying their product offerings.

4. **Trade Policy Reassessment:** The introduction of the DCTS may prompt Indian authorities to reassess their trade policies and explore new trade agreements or partnerships with the UK. Bilateral negotiations could help establish favorable terms, reducing trade barriers, and facilitating continued trade in plastic commodities. These negotiations may involve promoting the quality and safety standards of Indian plastic products, highlighting their value proposition, and engaging in diplomatic dialogues to ensure a mutually beneficial trade relationship.
5. **Potential Impact on Export Volumes:** The changes brought about by the DCTS may have an impact on the overall export volumes of Indian plastic commodities to the UK. The loss of preferential trade benefits and increased competition may lead to a decline in the export volumes or a slowdown in growth. Indian exporters may need to explore strategies to mitigate the potential decline, such as diversifying their export destinations or focusing on domestic consumption.

Mitigating the Impact

While the loss of concessional duty access presents a significant challenge, Indian exporters can adopt various strategies to mitigate the impact and adapt to the changing trade landscape.

1. **Diversification of Markets:** Indian exporters can explore new markets beyond the UK to reduce dependency and diversify their customer base. This approach would involve identifying emerging economies and countries with which India has favorable trade agreements, such as those in Southeast Asia and Africa, and focusing on expanding exports to these regions. The systematic way of doing this is FTA Benchmarking (<https://shorturl.at/IFKX7>)
2. **Enhancing Competitiveness:** To remain competitive in the UK market, Indian exporters need to emphasize product quality, innovation, and efficiency. Investing in research and development, adopting advanced manufacturing technologies, and focusing on value addition can help maintain a competitive edge despite the loss of preferential access.
3. **Strengthening Bilateral Trade Relations:** Indian authorities should engage in diplomatic efforts to negotiate bilateral trade agreements with the UK. By

establishing favorable terms and reducing trade barriers, both countries can ensure the continuity of mutually beneficial trade relations, benefiting exporters on both sides.

4. **Exploring Value-added Opportunities:** Indian exporters can explore value-added opportunities by diversifying their product offerings or expanding into new product categories. By identifying niche markets or addressing specific demands in the UK market, exporters can leverage their expertise and capabilities to find new avenues for growth.
5. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Collaboration among Indian exporters and with UK businesses can help mitigate the impact of the loss of preferential access. By forging strategic partnerships, joint ventures, or alliances, exporters can leverage shared resources, knowledge, and networks to explore new opportunities and jointly address challenges arising from the trade policy changes. Here, becoming an AEO (<https://shorturl.at/DFLS1>) will give you a privilege to strengthen your collaboration & partnership with your UK partners.

Conclusion

The implementation of the UK's DCTS is likely to have a notable impact on plastic commodities exported from India to the UK. The loss of preferential trade benefits, increased competition, potential restructuring of supply chains, and the need for trade policy reassessment are some of the key implications for the Indian plastic commodities sector. Exporters will need to adapt their strategies and explore alternative markets to mitigate the impact and maintain their competitiveness in the evolving trade landscape.

The United Kingdom's position as a bright spot for Indian plastic exports would be reinforced through a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two nations. This agreement would foster a mutually beneficial environment, allowing Indian plastic manufacturers to tap into the UK market with greater ease and competitiveness. With the removal of trade barriers and tariffs, Indian plastic exporters would gain a significant advantage in terms of cost-effectiveness and enhanced market access. The UK, renowned for its robust infrastructure and thriving consumer base, presents a lucrative opportunity for Indian plastic products. Furthermore, the FTA would facilitate increased collaboration and technology transfer, leading to improved product quality and innovation. By fostering a strong trading relationship, the UK would



continue to be an attractive and reliable destination for Indian plastic exports, benefiting both economies and further strengthening the bilateral ties between the two nations.

I hope, this article helped you to get insights about preferential tariffs, so that you can decide your business (import-export) strategy in more dynamic and effective manner. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to approach me!

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Interpack Reveals Key Global Packaging Sustainability Trends

The world’s largest packaging trade show lived up to its reputation for showcasing leading-edge technologies — as these new developments in mono-material flexible packaging and paper packaging prove.

The massive Interpack show took place early May in Düsseldorf, Germany. In the six-year gap since last edition (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), packaging has become a central topic for many brands. At the show, 2,800 exhibitors, 140,000 visitors (with one third foreigners), and 18 halls were there to remind the importance of the sector.

As we’ve seen globally, packaging sustainability is a concern for consumers and, often, a headache for many brand owners whom sourcing and end-of-life scenarios for the packaging material have become decisive criteria.

The major packaging producers also have net zero paths to achieve. The European regulations for all packaging in the European Union (EU) to be reusable or recyclable in an economically viable way by 2030 — in line with the EU Green Deal and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan — is putting huge pressure on packaging manu-

facturers.

Companies of all sizes and across the whole value chain are sharing research and development and joining forces. Collaboration is not just a buzz word; it is helping companies achieve their sustainability goals.

(R)evolution in mono-material films and flexible packaging.

The trend toward mono-material packaging remains obvious.



Laurent Chantraine, Business Development Manager Flexible Packaging, Jindal

Jindal Films displayed its new polypropylene (PP) mono-material to help replace polyethylene-based laminates. The global leader in specialty films showcased its Bicolor oriented polypropylene (OPP) films designed to facilitate the switch from non-recyclable laminates (that is, containing PET, aluminum/foil, or paper, for example) towards mono-material mechanically recyclable PP-based laminates for flexible packaging markets.

The breakthrough technology Bicor 12MB100 is a high stiffness OPP film with low shrink for broad PET replacement applications to help brands in their “light-weighting” journey. For more specialized applications when designing PP-based retort barrier laminates, Bicor 25MR100 and 25MR103 are being proposed as print outer webs. MR100 and MR103 were designed to help minimize the shrinkage and visual distortion during both the heat-sealing step and the steam autoclave sterilization step.

Since nothing beats a live demo, Jindal organized live tests with 11 industrial machinery partners using PP mono-material solutions on more than 20 packaging machines, covering four commonly used flexible packaging formats — vertical form-fill-seal, horizontal form-fill-seal, overwrap, and pouches (lay-flat and standup). Most of these types of machines were typically previously running non-recyclable structures. These live demonstrations aim to prove the versatility of polypropylene films, with a balance of mechanical, barrier, optical, and heat-seal properties unequalled by other materials.

Bobst

Another “design for recycling” innovation for sustainable packaging is the one BARRIER PrimeCycle, a polymer-based mono-material developed by Bobst with several partners. PrimeCycle is an EVOH-free, topcoat-free solution for polyethylene (PE) barrier films that offers an alternative to metallized polyester films. It bears the advantage of being recyclable while retaining barrier qualities. Dow Packaging and Specialty Plastics is the creator of the breakthrough technology. Sun Chemical, a global leader in the production of inks, coatings and adhesives, is the developer of the adhesive for the one-BARRIER PrimeCycle project and one of the co-creators of the primer. Bobst has opened its two huge demo and centers in Europe to all actors to speed up industrial packaging solutions.



Sara Alexander, Marketing Communication, Flexible Packaging, Bobst

A leader in flexible packaging and material science, ProAmpac showcased its new high-performance mono PE recyclable film. Called ProActive Recyclable R-2050, it is its newest patent-pending addition to the ProActive Recyclable series of polyethylene-based structures. Developed for the European market, R-2050 is to replace conventional multi-material laminates without affecting the high-speed filling line efficiencies.

ProAmpa



The R-2050 is available in standard and high-barrier versions to maintain or extend the shelf life of food products. Both platforms are widely recyclable in Europe through existing streams, and compliant with OPRL (On-Pack Recycling Label initiative) in the UK for front-of-store drop-off.

Of course, Sabic is also in the run and showcased its Trucircle solutions for flexibles packaging and in particular heat-resistant mono-PE pouches.



Done in close cooperation with Covestro, this new fully recyclable stand-up pouch is made with SABIC BOPE material, including Covestro's heat-resistant coating resin technology. The transparent coating, currently in trial phase, has been tested and validated, offering a broader sealing temperature window when processing on form-fill-seal lines for flexible packaging as it prevents both film shrinkage and film sticking to heat-seal bars during FFS. Sabic's BOPE material is available in certified circular and renewable grades.

A few days after the fair, Sabic announced a sector initiative. Together with BASF, Covestro, Dow, Lyondell-Basell, Mitsubishi Chemical, SABIC and Solvay, they have committed to join R&D projects towards more sustainable plastic waste processing and mechanical and chemical recycling.

Could this be wrapped in paper instead?

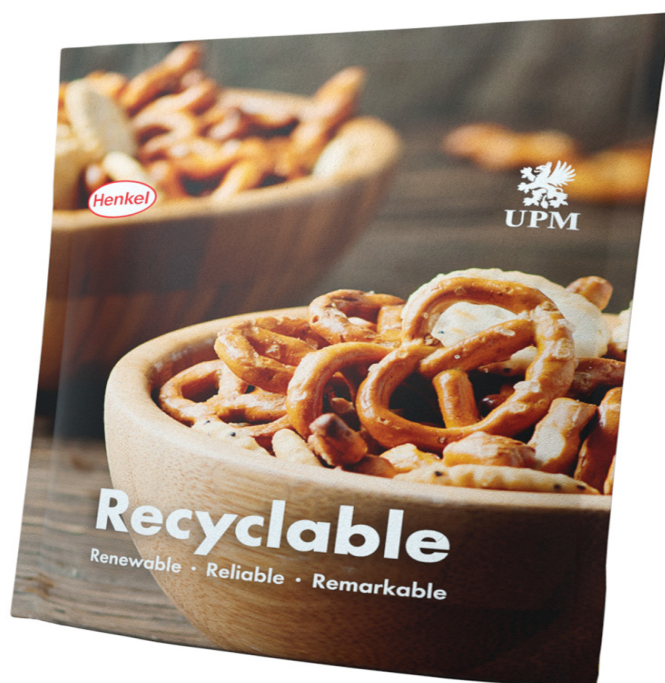
Numerous companies displayed recyclable paper pouches.



Nathan Klettlinger, Director Global Marketing, Pro-Ampac

ProAmpac presented its ProActive Recyclable Paper-1000 for a curbside recyclable and heat-sealable paper packaging also suited for frozen food applications, such as ready-to-eat meals and vegetables. RP-1000 can also be used for some dry foods and secondary packaging applications such as confectionery. Pre-qualified for curbside recycling, RP-1000 can be recycled in both paper (it is adequate for repulpability) and mixed streams.

UPM Specialty Papers and Henkel



Plastic coating traditionally required for protection and heat-sealing often renders the final product difficult to recycle. So UPM Specialty Papers and Henkel have reworked the concept. Based on existing UPM Asendo and UPM Asendo Pro barrier papers, the water-based coatings LOCTITE LIOFOL HS 2809-22 RE heat seal and AQUENCE EPIX BC 6134 grease barrier are added. The resulting pouches are easy to recycle and contribute to recover more fibers. This helps meet growing consumer and regulatory demands for easy-to-recycle packaging.



Similar operation for Sappi Group, who joined Sirane for a focus on coated papers as a flexible packaging solution. Leader in packaging development and the largest pouch manufacturer in the UK, Sirane brought its knowledge of packaging and coating with its Earthfilm, which can be supplied as flow-wrap film or pre-formed stand-up pouches to the giant paper maker Sappi. Together they showcased the heat-sealable standup pouch with barrier and reinforced gusset.



As a proof of its commitment to this new segment, Sappi has recently made a multi-million euro investment in a new type of barrier coating line at its Alfeld mill in Germany. The state-of-the-art solution will be used to produce innovative high-barrier papers.





Claiming to be the inventor of the Dry Molded fiber, Pul-Pac is a Swedish packaging company whose process turns cellulose pulp into sustainable, rigid, three-dimensional packaging.

It is called Dry Molded Fiber since very little water is used in comparison with conventional wet molding.

It is called Dry Molded Fiber since very little water is used in comparison with conventional wet molding. Owners of the company are Stora Enso, Amcor, and Aliaxis. Its North American partner is Seismic Solutions based in Chicago, where an application center is facilitating the demo and will allow scaling up Dry Molded Fiber.

Valmatic



Paperdose is produced by Valmatic, an Italian co-packer in thermoforming doses for European and Italian customers. As a testimony of its attention to sustainability and environmental issues, it has developed a range of single-dose packaging of variable capacity ranging from 1 to 50 ml, manufactured with recyclable paper from forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and with recyclability confirmed by the Aticelca cellulosic recyclability assessment. The mono-dose can be filled on form-fill-seal machines and is targeted at the

pharmaceutical and cosmetic sectors.
Hoffmann Neopac



And finally, Swiss-based packaging manufacturer Hoffmann Neopac is proving that paper tubes are not just a gimmick. The PaperX is a fiber-based laminate that uses up to 80% paper in its production. Compared with conventional tubes, the packaging contains 46% less plastic. You can't be afraid to innovate if you want to survive in the packaging sector!

Source: Packaging Digest



International News

A Solution to Homelessness Built by Plastics

A pilot project in Los Angeles County uses roto-molded plastic modules to build permanent supportive housing for a fraction of the cost of municipal projects.

A lack of affordable housing is one of the causes of homelessness in major US urban centers. In Los Angeles County, where I live, more than 69,000 people are experiencing homelessness, according to the most recent survey of the L.A. Homeless Services Authority. Encampments riddle Los Angeles and surrounding communities and there is a wearied sense among residents that the problem has become intractable. An architect/entrepreneur by the name of Charles Wee begs to differ. His company LifeArk claims it can build permanent supportive housing at a cost of \$190,000 per unit, reports nonprofit media outlet LAist. Compare that with the median per unit cost set forth by municipal officials of \$470,000. What's Wee's secret ingredient? You guessed it — plastic.

LifeArk molds 8-x-8 foot modules from a proprietary high-density polyethylene (HDPE) skin with an integrated high-density polyurethane core that snap together a little bit like Lego pieces to “build” housing units. The material contains 30% post-consumer recycled plastic. The pieces are roto-molded at a partner facility in Madera, CA, where 90% of the prefab housing is built. That has helped to slash construction costs.



LifeArk has started landing contracts up and down California's central coast, reports LAist, but all eyes right now are on a pilot project in El Monte, a working-class suburb of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley. The company is using a \$1 million innovation grant awarded by LA County to stitch together “dozens of modules to create three beige-gray, low-lying buildings that blend into a neighborhood that includes an ice cream supplier and faded stucco apartment complex,” writes LAist.

Perhaps to preempt concerns from the zero-tolerance-for-plastics crowd, LifeArk notes the environmental benefits of using HDPE for the building blocks on its website. The material emits no harmful fumes into the environment and its production requires only a fraction of the energy required to produce steel from iron ore. The LifeArk modules can even be produced from 100% recycled HDPE, the company stresses, and is 100% recyclable. Housing made from the material has a 30-year lifespan with minimal maintenance, it adds.

Interestingly, the foam cores and a hull that replaces the land deck allow the modules to float. The LifeArk building system was designed to “create self-sustaining communities on water and land,” said the company on its website, and is a “rapidly deployable response that will mobilize economic development and regeneration for millions of displaced peoples around the world.”

Source: Plastics Today

Polyplastics Adds POM to Medical-Grade Polymers Portfolio

A longtime supplier of cyclic olefin copolymers under the Topas brand to the medical technology sector, the Polyplastics Group has added Duracon polyoxymethylene/acetalis (POM) to its medical-grade polymers portfolio. The Duracon POM PM series is now commercially available globally for medical applications.



Polyplastics’ two acetal grades include standard viscosity PM09S01N, which delivers the reliable mechanical properties and moldability expected from POM, and PM27S01N, a high-flow grade that enables wall-thinning, miniaturization, and lightweighting of medical devices.

Both grades meet medical device manufacturers’ key requirements and are targeted for a range of applications including drug contact and delivery. The materials are in compliance with ISO 10993 and USP Class VI for biocompatibility and cytotoxicity, have been submitted to FDA’s Drug Master File (DMF) and Device Master File (MAF), and comply with EU 10/2011 and FDA food contact 21 CFR 177.2470. The materials withstand hot steam and ethylene oxide (EtO) sterilization.

The PM series adheres to strict quality management systems including conformity to the VDI 2017 medical-grade polymers standard. Full traceability of processes and products, and production management based on GMP principles are ensured.

Source: Plastics Today

Abu Dhabi Oil Co. Offers Almost \$11 Billion to Take Over Covestro

Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC) has made a more than €10 billion (\$10.9 billion) offer to take over Covestro AG, Reuters and several other media outlets reported on June 20. Stock in chemicals giant Covestro, a major supplier of polycarbonate, jumped by double digits after the news hit.

(On June 22, Bloomberg News reported that Covestro rejected the offer, saying it was too low.)



The energy giant has made an informal offer for a per-share price in the mid-50 euros, which compares with a Monday closing price of €40.31, reported Reuters, citing sources that asked not to be named because the matter is confidential. Shares in Covestro were up 14% at €46 at 1400 GMT, trading at their highest in more than a year, said Reuters.

Historically an oil and natural gas producer, ADNOC is seeking to diversify its portfolio, reports Seeking Alpha. It controls a majority of chemicals company Borouge plc and has a 25% stake in Austria’s Borealis.

Covestro’s core products, which include insulation chemicals and upholstery foam as well as polycarbonate, would give ADNOC access to advanced materials that go into electric vehicles, thermal insulation for buildings, and coatings, adhesives, and engineering plastics, reports Reuters. Vertical integration is also a factor in ADNOC’s offer, as oil is an important base product for many of those categories, adds Seeking Alpha.

Covestro currently does not have any shareholders with a stake of 3% or more, which tends to make it easier to finalize a takeover, according to Seeking Alpha. However, there are political implications to consider, as well. The German government has taken a fairly hard line when it comes to foreign M&A projects, and some

members of the administration may be aligned with the view that the chemical industry is a sector of strategic importance.

Source: Plastics Today

TotalEnergies Corbion’s sugarcane-based bioplastic lands EU climate regulation certification

TotalEnergies Corbion has announced that its Luminy Polylactic Acid (PLA) bioplastics meet the EU Taxonomy Regulation criteria on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Bioplastics reduce fossil fuel dependency and support a circular, local-for-local economy due to multiple end-of-life options. Luminy PLA is a certified 100% bio-based polymer that can replace conventional plastics in many applications.



The EU Taxonomy Regulation is critical for sustainable innovation because it sets a standard for what can be labeled as “sustainable” in business in the EU. The regulation intends to help increase environmentally sustainable investment and further drive the implementation of the European Green Deal.



The regulation’s framework uses six environmental objectives including climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, and sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources. It also includes the transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, and protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

“TotalEnergies Corbion continues to work closely with lawmakers, regulators and non-governmental organizations as we push to create more sustainable plastic alternatives,” says Maelenn Ravard, the company’s sustainability and regulatory manager.

In addition to compliance with the EU Taxonomy Regulation, the company’s line of Luminy PLA is certified as fully bio-based according to EN16785 and the USDA biopreferred program. “Our production plant is ISO-certified for environmental management, quality and safety and we follow the regulations set by the World Wildlife Fund’s sugarcane industry organization Bonsucro.”

Luminy PLA bioplastics are derived from sugarcane, an annually renewable resource, and are among the few bioplastic types that are bio-based and biodegradable. As outlined in the “Planting the Future with PLA,” whitepaper, creating a kilogram of PLA requires 1.75 square meters of sugarcane farmland, which captures 1.8 kg of CO2 from the atmosphere as it grows.



TotalEnergies Corbion’s entire production capacity requires just 0.08% of arable land in Thailand, where the company produces PLA locally. The company asserts that the efficiency of land use and the benefits of carbon capture make PLA bioplastics a good option for reducing global reliance on fossil-based plastics.

The production of bio-based Luminy PLA has a 75% reduced carbon footprint, including biogenic carbon, compared to conventional plastics. The company says that its peer-reviewed LCA analyses contain a more detailed overview of the global warming potential and of how Luminy PLA performs in other environmental impact categories such as carbon footprint, water footprint and direct land use change.

Conventional plastics alternative

The sugarcane crops absorb carbon from the atmosphere while growing and storing it in their biomass, called biogenic carbon. This carbon is then transferred to the value chain to end up in the PLA final product. When incinerating the PLA plastic product, the biogenic carbon will be released back into the atmosphere, making the process neutral.

TotalEnergies Corbion's Luminy PLA bioplastics enable businesses to transition to more sustainable materials without compromising on quality or performance. The company says that the material provides a viable alternative to conventional plastics, aligning with the EU Taxonomy Regulation's objectives and supporting the global shift toward a more sustainable future.

Meanwhile, TotalEnergies Corbion, Posco International and ESOL have partnered to develop recycling infrastructure and technology for PLA in South Korea, in line with the government's framework for carbon neutrality.

While Posco International oversees and finances the project, ESOL is responsible for retrieving the post-consumer recycled PLA waste and advancing technology to collect, sort, clean, purify and rework the PLA. Additionally, TotalEnergies Corbion supports the project with data and experience in advanced PLA recycling.

Source: Packaging Insights

Dow and P&G China boost e-commerce pack recyclability with air capsule launch

Dow is partnering with Procter & Gamble China (P&G China) for an air capsule to create environmentally sustainable e-commerce packaging. The air capsule, enabled by P&G China's innovation and Dow's materials, aims to protect products while avoiding excessive packaging in e-commerce and facilitating recyclability.

Global materials science company Dow explains that air capsule packaging is a significant milestone in advancing environmental sustainability for the e-commerce industry, offering benefits such as a 40% reduction in material weight compared to traditional corrugated parcel boxes, requiring 25% of original trucking and 75% less warehouse space.

The air capsule furthermore offers safe and reliable cushion protection and enables recyclability through an all-PE monomaterial structure.



The packaging design is also reliable and convenient for consumers, with features such as a tamper-free opening for content integrity, an easy-to-tear strip and an auto-deflate feature for hassle-free disposal after opening.

"The rise of e-commerce has inevitably generated an increase in packaging waste. At Dow, our role is to develop materials that enable better performing, [environmentally] sustainable packaging designed for recyclability from the start," says Bambang Candra, commercial vice president for Asia Pacific at Dow Packaging & Specialty Plastics.

Booming e-commerce is generating more packaging waste, says Candra.

"Through our collaboration with P&G China, we not only meet the needs of consumer brands and e-retailers but also enable consumers to do their part with materials that close the loop on packaging waste."

Last year, Innova Market Insights identified "Home Delivery Haven" as the leading packaging trend. According to a survey by the market researcher, 35% of global consumers have increased their home food delivery use since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Facilitating recyclability

E-commerce packaging typically consists of carton boxes as the outer packaging, with air cushion bags or bubble wrap inside to protect and stabilize the products during delivery.

However, the traditional air cushion bag film structure is multi-material – such as nylon (to provide a high gas barrier for extended shelf life), a tie-layer resin and PE – making it difficult to recycle through conventional methods.



Dow's Elite AT high-performance PE resins provide comparable gas barrier performance, allowing nylon to be removed from the formulation to create an all-PE monomaterial structure that enables packaging to be recycled.

“At P&G, we are focused on optimizing our packaging design and committed to driving greater circularity in plastic packaging. Partnering with Dow has enabled us to make progress in our commitment toward achieving 100% recyclable or reusable packaging by 2030. The development of our air capsule e-commerce packaging is a step in the right direction, and we hope to continue collaborating with more partners to drive such impact at scale,” says Neo Yang, go to market packaging innovation director, P&G Greater China.

Dow recently entered into a long-term supply agreement in North America with biomass refineries operator New Energy Blue, which is set to create bio-based ethylene from renewable agricultural residues.

“Dow is in close discussions with New Energy Blue on project progress and milestones and will consider this successful when we begin incorporating this renewable feedstock into our production,” Manav Lahoti, global sustainability director for Olefins, Aromatics & Alternative at Dow, told Packaging Insights.

Source: Packaging Insights

Ski line by Rossignol made using INEOS resins

“ISCC-Plus certified REODRIN brings about a 70% reduction in GHG emissions compared to fossil based equivalent. As the world's first bio-attributed epichlorohydrin, REODRIN, combines its greenhouse gas savings with significant reduction of water intake, land use and overall ecological impact of production,” comments Pedro Moura Pinto, Business Unit Manager Allylics at INEOS Inovyn.



When Huntsman received their first batch of REODRIN in January 2023, they started using it as a basis for their ARALDITE product line. The new REDcert2 certified bio-attributed resin was quick to turn heads at Rossignol.

“Our resin has currently no equivalent on the market. It is 100% bio-attributed and presents more than 80% lower CO2 footprint than its fossil-based counterparts without compromising on performance. We must thank our development, manufacturing and supply chain teams for that achievement, but also to INEOS Inovyn as all this wouldn't have been possible without REODRIN™,” says Philippe Christou, Head of Environmental & Technology Intelligence Group for Huntsman's Advanced Materials division.

Rossignol's new ski line was advertised by Huntsman and Rossignol at the last JEC World.

Source: Interplas Insights

AIMPLAS develops bio-based, lightweight materials for transport sector

AIMPLAS, the Plastics Technology Centre, coordinates the FOREST project, a new EU funded research that aims to delve into advanced lightweight bio-based or recycled materials to facilitate the decarbonization of the transport sector. The project consortium is made of 14 partners from 8 different countries developing innovative bio-based polymers & additives and recycled

carbon fibres for sustainable and safe transport applications.

The FOREST project will last until May 2026 and is fully aligned with EU 2030 Climate and Energy challenges. FOREST will reduce the structural weight of vehicles by providing light components made of carbon fibre-reinforced plastic. AIMPLAS claims that this way, less fuel and energy consumption will be necessary to cover the same distance, thanks to the development of novel lightweight multifunctional biocomposites as a competitive alternative to conventional composites.



These biocomposite candidates will be obtained using one-shot manufacturing techniques, involving Out-of-Autoclave (OoA) processes to build and test prototypes with improved multifunctional properties (mechanical resistance, fire-retardant, EMI-shielding) for transport application.

In addition, new chemistries based on high-biobased content for polymers and additives will be developed. In this regard, it is claimed that the fossil sources dependency will be reduced.

FOREST is also focusing on efficient methods to recover 100% of carbon fibre carbon waste to develop high-quality semi-finished materials for valuable transport applications. And finally, the consortium will research the influence of the multifunctional properties on the biocomposite. Therefore, the project will combine the biobased, recycled and multifunctionality material nature to obtain sustainable solutions for the bus, aeronautic and automotive sectors.

AIMPLAS claims that this project is committed to effective circularity solutions applied to multifunctional biocomposite constituents with more than 50% sustainable materials contained in lightweight products.

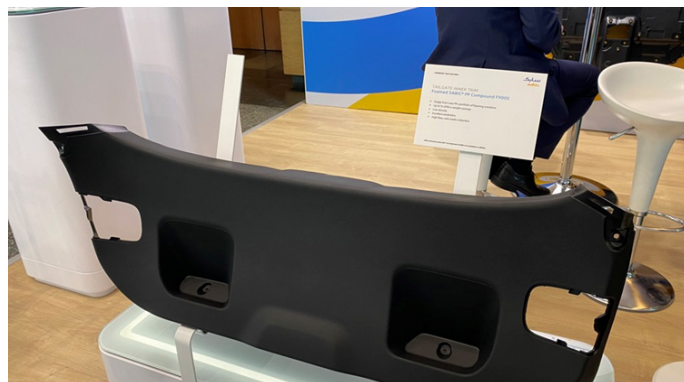
FOREST is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and Innovation programme.

Source: Interplas Insights

A new look for car interiors

Chemical company Sabic, headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, recently launched a range of polypropylene (PP) compounds for foam injection molding (FIM). According to the company, its mineral-reinforced PPc F9005, PPc F9007 and PPc F9015 grades could help improve the aesthetics of visible automotive interior parts with complex geometries, such as door panels and trim, seat and trunk cladding, A/B/C/D pillar covers and center consoles.

Unlike mainstream FIM materials, which typically exhibit surface defects, the new PP compounds have a more uniformly high surface quality, similar to solid injection molded parts, the company says. Moreover, when compared to solid components, foamed parts made with the PP compounds can offer weight savings that could, in turn, help cut emissions. According to a cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment study carried out by Sabic, the advanced new materials can help OEMs lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by as much as 15%.



“The automotive industry continues to look for new weight-out strategies that can advance energy efficiency and sustainability goals,” said Abdullah Al-Otaibi, general manager. “Although foam injection molding produces desirable lightweight parts, manufacturers have been forced to sacrifice aesthetics, until now. We applied our extensive expertise in foaming technology to develop these new compounds to help resolve the issue of surface quality and open new application opportunities for foamed parts.”

FIM aesthetics

Previously, the FIM process was essentially limited to non-visible parts, restricting its usefulness in automotive applications, the company explains. Foaming can underperform in surface aesthetics, and silver streaking, swirl lines and dimples are common defects. The PP compounds for foamed interior parts have low-gloss textured (grained) surfaces that help eliminate streaking and swirling. Talc filler in these grades acts as a nucleator that promotes the generation of finer bubbles,



which contribute to a consistent surface appearance. For improved aesthetics, these grades are currently available in selected automotive interior colors with custom coloring also available, Sabic says.

Weight benefits

Weight reduction depends on several factors, including the type of FIM technique used. Short-shot molding, which uses the same tooling as an injection molded part, can reduce weight by up to 10%. The company's PPc 9007 is formulated for short-shot FIM and low-impact applications. Core-back molding, which requires part redesign and new tooling, can lower weight by as much as 30%, and both Sabic PPc 9005 and PPc 9015 grades are formulated for core-back molding and deliver medium stiffness and impact.

The choice between the short-shot and core-back techniques, with their different tooling requirements, also helps to determine whether using FIM with Sabic PP compounds is cost neutral or could offer cost savings. Additional cost savings could be possible, such as cycle time reductions and flow improvements.

Another consideration is the foaming process, which can use chemical or physical agents. The PP compounds can be used with chemical blowing agents, which are typically preferred for visible foamed parts. These agents are introduced to the molding machine in the form of a masterbatch, along with the plastic pellets, and activate during the melt phase to release gases for foaming.

The PP compounds have launched in Europe, with upcoming availability in the Americas and Asia/Pacific.

Reinforced Plastics asked the company about how the automotive industry could develop over the next few years. "Sustainability and electrification are helping to drive change at an unprecedented pace," a spokesperson said. "FIM with Sabic materials can help in both areas – by reducing the CO2 footprint of component and vehicle production; and by reducing the weight of components and systems to support increased EV range."

Source: reinforcedplastics.com



India News

Circular economy for plastic waste boosting recycling sector in state

The circular economy pattern for plastic waste is improving the recycling sector in the state and how. Minal Shah – a Pune-based flexible packaging plastic manufacturer and joint secretary, Maharashtra Plastic Manufacturers Association – is a case in point.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under (plastic) extended producers' responsibility (EPR) gave Shah a target of processing 120 tonnes of plastic annually, which is at least 70% of the overall plastic his company sends to the market. Shah tied-up with an authorised recycling centre in Pune for recycling 120 tonnes of flexible packaging plastic on his behalf, and submitted the certificate obtained for the same to the CPCB Plastic EPR portal. Not only did the recycler get a particular amount for plastic processing, but the manufacturer also (Shah) got his certificate, and an equivalent amount of plastic was collected from the market thus helping reduce plastic pollution. This circular economy model for plastic waste is what is currently generating funds for plastic processing, not to mention encouraging the recycling sector in the state.

The model has been gaining traction ever since the ministry of environment, forests and climate change, Government of India, in its February 16, 2022, Fourth Amendment to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, notified the 'Guidelines on Extended Producers' Responsibility for Plastic Packaging' in schedule 2 of the Rules. According to these guidelines, producers, importers and brand owners (PIBOs) have to register through the online, centralised portal developed by the CPCB. As per data shared by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), over 390 plastic manufacturing companies and 230 recycling companies in Maharashtra have registered under EPR in 2022 alone. Over 480 applica-

tions for registration are pending which covers nearly 95% of the entire industry, according to MPCB officials.

Shah said, "Just like the GST portal, the CPCB has developed a very effective portal for EPR. The manufacturer as well as the recycler needs to fill up every detail on the EPR portal including the amount of scrap collected by recyclers and waste pickers, from which place it has been collected, the vehicle number, types of waste, processing details, and to whom the certificate is being issued and for recycling what quantity. A special number is generated on every certificate so that repetition can be avoided. Moreover, the regulation has also made it mandatory for brand owners to set up their recycling units."



Pratap Jagtap, sub-regional officer, MPCB Pune, said, "The plastic manufacturing and processing industry is gearing up to curb plastic pollution. Various efforts ranging from collection of plastic waste, recycling, and research on chemical analysis of different types of plastic are being undertaken. We are seeing positive changes and we will see a better impact on plastic waste management in the coming three to four years in Pune as well as in Maharashtra."

Waste pickers playing major role in circular economy

While waste pickers belong to the informal (plastic) sector, they are playing a major role in the circular economy of plastic. According to Lubna Anantkrushnan, member, SWaCH, Pune, the important contributions by the waste pickers in the city include: door-to-door waste collection, segregation of plastic material, and sending of the same to recycling centres.

The informal recycling sector is already recycling a substantial portion of the expected recycling under EPR. The recovery rate for rigid plastics in 2022 (69%) is far higher than the recycling target for 2024-25 (50%). However, for these recycling rates to be formally notified under the EPR framework, recyclers need to be appropriately registered, and this may prove to be a challenge for the large informal sector, Anantkrushnan said.

Scientists too contributing to plastic waste circular economy

Currently, there are limited options available for recycling plastic material including alternative fuels and re-using products among others. However, the industry is exploring other options too for recycling, for which it is seeking help from scientists.

One such research institute in Pune carrying out important research in the circular economy of plastic waste is the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL). The institute has successfully experimented with a few products including auto parts, and plant pots made using recycling nonwoven plastic material. H V Pol, scientist, NCL, said, "The mechanical recycling branch for plastic waste is working on developing various products from various types of plastics apart from PET. There are several types of research going on in this field that will boost the circular economy."

Similarly, the chemical recycling branch analyses the chemical formulation of plastic materials. By decoding the material, scientists can figure out the possible recycling methods for plastics that are non-biodegradable, said Sameer Chikhli, scientist, NCL Pune.

Source: Hindustan Times

India plans to revive trade deal with SACU

Amid declining merchandise exports due to demand slowdown in the west, India is placing renewed focus on striking a trade deal with a union of five countries of Southern Africa that could give a leg up to exports of pharmaceutical products and automobiles, two people aware of the development said.

The resource rich Southern African Customs Union (SACU), a customs union among five countries of Southern Africa: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa, is one of the largest suppliers of raw primary or semi-processed commodities. According to the ministry of commerce, five rounds of negotiations regarding a potential India-SACU preferential trade agreement have been held thus far. The first round of discussions took place in 2007 and talks stalled in 2010. However, reports indicated that both sides had agreed to revive the talks in 2020. According to persons aware of the matter, talks between both sides have made progress.



This comes as trade experts have pointed out that diversification of exports is crucial as 40% of India's export orders come from just seven countries and hence are more susceptible to external shocks. Currently, US and Europe form nearly one-third of India's merchandise exports and have driven outbound shipments in the last decade.

"SACU is a developing country union so it won't have non-trade issues in the deal such as labor, gender and environment. So it will be relatively easier to complete negotiations. We can sign a FTA with them. There is a lot of complementarity between India and South Africa. We are importing coal, diamonds, gold, and iron ore," first person aware of the development said.

"There are gains to be made in pharma, iron and steel sectors too. Our exports are close to \$9bn and imports are about \$11-12bn. Trade balance also needs correction. About 38% of the exports are automobiles. There are gains to be made there. Tariffs are as high as 20-25%. South Africa is number one in passenger automobile exports, biggest among our three key markets Mexico, GCC and Spain," the person quoted above stated.

Source: The Mint

Govt amends export rules to enable Made in India drones to freely fly in global skies

Next time you are in Southeast Asia, the Middle East or South America, don't be surprised if one of the most sought-after drone brands for civilian applications carries the 'Made in India' label.

The government on late Friday liberalised the policy for the export of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for drones falling under the civilian use category.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)'s decision is in line with the emphasis laid in the country's Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, on facilitating the export of high-technology items including drones.



The move will enable the global sale of drones that were previously restricted for export under the Special Chemicals Organisms Material Equipments and Technology (SCOMET) list. The SCOMET list deals with items that are subject to specific regulations due to their potential dual-use applications in terms of both civilian as well as military uses and are governed by international obligations on non-proliferation.

The SCOMET license was required for the export of such items leading the country's fledgling drone industry to face obstacles when it came to exporting drones only meant for civilian use. This led the civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to take up the matter with the commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal.

Based on the wider consultations held with stakeholders the SCOMET policy for drones has been revised. Under the amended policy, civilian drones and UAVs with a range equal to or less than 25 km and delivering a payload of not more than 25 kg – excluding the software and technology of these items – have been brought under the General Authorisation for Export of Drones (GAED). The one-time GAED license will be valid for a three-year period.

Welcoming the move, president of the apex industry association Drone Federation of India (DFI), Smit Shah said, "One of the key bottlenecks being faced by drone manufacturers was the requirement for permissions and licenses every time a manufacturer got an export order. With the easing of the rules, the export of civilian drones will become a lot easier."

Shah further added that all Indian drone companies working on applications such as basic surveys, mapping and agriculture would now get an opportunity to not only export their products in a hassle-free manner but also collaborate with international companies to deploy their products and services across the world.

Prepping for future growth

Following the announcement, drone manufacturers were already eyeing a huge growth potential for the goods and services.

"We have already bagged close to 7,000 plus export orders but we could not get them shipped out. We are, therefore, delighted with this very progressive decision taken by the government. This will enable us not only to ship our orders but also fulfill our target of exporting 10,000 drones to 100 countries across the world," said founder & CEO of the Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace, Agnishwar Jayaprakash.

Garuda, which raised \$22 million in funding in a Series A round – the highest for a drone startup to date – and has bulk orders from seven countries including Malaysia, the UAE and Panama is firming up plans to export 10,000 drones by the end of the year.

India is looking at making its drone sector into a \$20-billion industry by 2030 and has already brought the sector under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. The liberalisation of export controls on drones may also encourage innovation and technological advancements in the upcoming industry.

Source: Business Today

Indian exporters push for FTA talks with Egypt

Exporters have urged the central government to consider negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) with Egypt as they see huge potential in the Egyptian market.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India on Monday after six-days of State visit to the US and Egypt. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that India and Egypt have historic trade relations, which are robust and fairly balanced.

India's exports increased to USD 4.1 billion in 2022-23 from USD 3.74 billion in 2021-22. However, imports from that country declined to about USD 2 billion against USD 3.5 billion in 2021-22.

Fertiliser, crude oil, chemicals, raw cotton, and raw hides are major import items from Egypt. The main export items include wheat, rice, cotton yarn, petroleum, meat, flat-rolled products, ferroalloys (related to iron) and light vehicles.

"The prime minister's visit is significant as Egypt is the gateway to Africa and Europe. A cementing of economic relations and possibly a feasibility study for FTA can be undertaken as Egypt has such FTAs with countries in West Asia and Africa," Sahai said.

Besides cooperation in agriculture, biotechnology, pharma, and renewable energy, India should explore tie-ups in logistics with Egypt, he added.

"We should look at taking trade to USD 15 billion in the next three years from the current over USD 6 billion," he said.

Source: KNN

India's MSME sector contributes 30% to GDP and nearly 50 % to exports: Union Minister Narayan Rane

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Minister Narayan Rane has said that efforts should be made to make India the third largest economy in the world by giving a boost to the MSME sector. He said emphasis should be laid on using modern technologies to ramp up production through MSME industries.



On the occasion of International MSME Day, the Minister was speaking at Udyami Bharat-MSME Day in New Delhi today. He said the country's MSME sector contributes 30 percent to the GDP and nearly 50 percent to exports.

The Minister also launched various initiatives for the growth and development of MSMEs on the occasion. These include the CHAMPIONS 2.0 Portal, MSME Idea Hackathon 3.0 for Women Entrepreneurs, and a Mobile App for Geo-tagging of Cluster Projects and Technology Centers.

Various MoUs were signed between the Ministry of MSME, GeM, Tripura Government, and SIDBI. CHAMPION portal is a platform for speedy, convenient, and effective redressal of MSMEs' grievances. It also provides guidance and advisory services in the areas of Finance, Marketing, Technology, Raw Material, Labour, Infrastructure, and Capacity Building.

Source: All India Radio

Instant credit, networking opportunities are the top priorities of Indian MSMEs, finds survey

The foremost demand of the Indian MSMEs (approximately 55 per cent) is an instant line of credit to accelerate day-to-day decision-making related to inventory management, hiring, and procurement, amongst others as their foremost priority, said the survey by MSME-focused fintech Kinara Capital.

The MSME Sentiment survey analysed inputs from 2,600 Udyam registered MSMEs across the manufacturing, trading, and services sector in six states: Gujarat,

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.



The survey also revealed additional demands from the MSME sector, including the need for a flexible repayment product for debt payback (16 per cent), increased access to commercial vehicle loans (15 per cent), and two-wheeler loans for business purposes.

The major barriers hindering the growth of enterprises, as indicated by the survey, include the lack of availability of short-term loans (38 per cent), lack of flexible credit or spending limits (19 per cent), and payment delays from customers among other factors.

In terms of non-financial demands, approximately 24 per cent of MSMEs expressed the importance of networking with buyers and sellers. Additionally, 21 per cent of MSMEs highlighted the need for digitization of their businesses, such as online services for website creation and online selling. Moreover, MSMEs sought guidance in business support services like accounting, tax filings, GST calculation, and filing support.

Out of the 2,600 MSMEs surveyed, 65 per cent were traders, 32 per cent were manufacturers, and three per cent were service providers.

Source: FE



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



New Members

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

Sr. No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Director Name	Email
1	Agarwal Technoplast Private Limited	364, Gokhale Road, Modelcolony,	Pune	411016	Maharashtra	Divya Bansal	manoj@agarwalpune.com
2	Elegant Vinyl Private Limited	Survey No 688/C And 688/B, Paiki Ni Land, Mouje Kubadthal, Tal Daskroi,	Ahmedabad	382430	Gujarat	Anil Prakashchandra Agrawal	info@elegantvinyl.com
3	Garuda Enterprises	Plot No 61 Door No 23-8-116 Tuda Plots, Royal Nagar R C Road, Tirupati	Chittoor	517501	Andhra Pradesh	M C Narasimhulu	usnabadi@gmail.com
4	Glamiva Overseas Private Limited	Block / Survey No 342/1, 345, 347 & 349, Village Sokhda, Ta - Matar,	Kheda	387570	Gujarat	Manav Arora	exim@virgohtml.com
5	H And H Polymers	5, Shankeshwar Industrial Estate, Tajpur Bhat Road, Changodar,	Ahmedabad	382213	Gujarat	Harsh Copra	hhpolymers81@gmail.com
6	High Grade Industries (India) Private Limited	510-513, 5th Floor, A Wing, Crystal Plaza, New Link Road, Andheri West,	Mumbai	400053	Maharashtra	Gurnamsingh Bhagatsingh Kohli	niranjay@highgrade.in
7	Ihe Hair	No.3/173, C Type 37th Street, Sidco Nagar, Villivakkam,	Chennai	600049	Tamil Nadu	Magesh	hairexim@gmail.com
8	Jairam Plastic Industries	Plot No.2720, Kranti Gate Main Road, Near Highmec Casting, Metoda Gidc, Kalawad Road,	Rajkot	360021	Gujarat	Gopalbhai Nathabhai Vadodariya	info@jairamplastic.com
9	Kankai Pipes & Fittings Private Limited	Survey No.97 Paiki - 4, Ukarada Padadhari,	Rajkot	360110	Gujarat	Mahendra Kantibhai Talapada	kbmeghani2111@gmail.com
10	Karibu International	71, Annapurna, Jaitala Road, Behind Hanuman Mandir Daate Layout, Bhamti Nagpur,	Nagpur	440016	Maharashtra	Jaya Gaurav Bhatt	karibu.int@gmail.com
11	Kedar Concepts	31, Silver Triangle Complex Near Vyas Vadi, Nava Vadaj	Ahmedabad	380013	Gujarat	Kedar Pradhan	kedar@group-kedar.com
12	Krupa Plastic Industries Pvt Ltd	Krupa Plastic Ind Pvt Ltd 824/P/4 Gajanand Food Lane, Kothari Char Rasta, Santej, Kalol, Gandhinagar	Kalol	382721	Gujarat	Vrajesh Parikh	krupaplastic@hotmail.com
13	Patel Polymer	Plot No 716/1 Opp Tata Arvind Homes, Vill Vadsar Ta Kalol,	Gandhinagar	382721	Gujarat	Jignesh Gordhanbhai Patel	keyurbavishi@yahoo.com
14	Poly Seals	Site No.31a, Sir C.V.Raman Industrial Estate, Pollachi Road, Eachari	Coimbatore	641021	Tamil Nadu	Sriram	plastsasind@gmail.com
15	Raw Hair Impex	No.24/40, 1st Floor, Easwari Nagar 1st Street, Nagalkeni, Chromepet Chennai Tamil Nadu 600044	Chennai	600044	Tamil Nadu	Selvakumar Paulpandi	indianrawhair7@gmail.com
16	Ruparel Polystrap Private Limited	Ruparel Industrial Estate, Near Railway Station, Mahuva,	Bhavnagar	364290	Gujarat	Mr. ANAND RUPAREL	rupastrap@gmail.com

17	S.D. Polymer Pvt. Ltd.	A-84, Tajpur Extension,	South Delhi	110044	Delhi	Annu Agarwa	annugoyal@gmail.com
18	S.P.Colour And Chemicals	1, 30/5, Master Mohalla, 4- Libaspur,	Delhi	110042	Delhi	Sunaina Bajaj	spcolourchem@gmail.com
19	Sanghvi Industries	192/2, Sayli Village, Alok City, Near Jbf Factory,	Silvassa	396230	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Nimesh A Sanghvi	nimesh@wel-packind.com
20	Shree Salasar Decoplast Private Limited	206, 2nd Floor, Iscon Mall, Star Bazar Building, Jodhpur Char Rasta, Satellite,	Ahmedabad	380015	Gujarat	Viraj Tibrewal	shreesalasar-decoplast@gmail.com
21	Shri Tirupati Industries	Office No. 322, 3rd Floor, Ganpati Plaza M I Road	Jaipur	302001	Rajasthan	Vishahl Bansal	vishalbansal61@gmail.com
22	Silver Polypack	Survey No. 637, P7 At Tankara Khijadiya Road;	Morbi	363650	Gujarat	Dinesh Bhimjibhai Detroja	silverpolypack@gmail.com
23	Sorath Polyfab Llp	Survey No 283 Paiki 1 Paiki 1, Nichi Mandal To Vankda Road, At-Vankda, Halvad Road, Morbi	Morbi	363642	Gujarat	Keval Bharatbhai Fefar	sorathpolyfab-llp@yahoo.com
24	Sumitra Silver Private Limited	Wh -115, Second Floor Mayapuri Ph -1, Near Police Station	Delhi	110064	Delhi	Raj Kumar Garg	sumitrasilver@gmail.com
25	Texel Industries Limited	Block No 2106 Santej-Khatraj Road, Santej, Kalol Dist Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar	382721	Gujarat	Shaileshbhai R Mehta	exports@geotexelin.com
26	Time Technoplast Ltd	101,1st Floor, Centre Point Somnath Daman Road, Somnath Dabhel	Nani Daman	396210	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Vishal Anil Jain	johnson@time-technoplast.com
27	Triton International Private Limited	Floor 5, Plot No.17, Orient House, Adi Marzban Path, Off.S.B.S Road, Ballard Estate	Mumbai	400001	Maharashtra	Vishal Veersingh Sukhani	info@triton-intl.com
28	Your Equipment Solutions	Plot N0.212, 1st Stage, Sompura, Industrial Area, Nidavanda Village,, Nela-mangala Taluk,	Bengaluru Rural	562132	Karnataka	Girish Bhagirath Kamath	gbk@y-e-s.in