PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT®

Edition 60, June 2024

Interview with Kailesh Shah, MD, All Time Plastics, Pg-21

Interview with Anshuman Punj, CEO, Supervac Industries, Pg-29

Export Performance – April 2024, Pg-16

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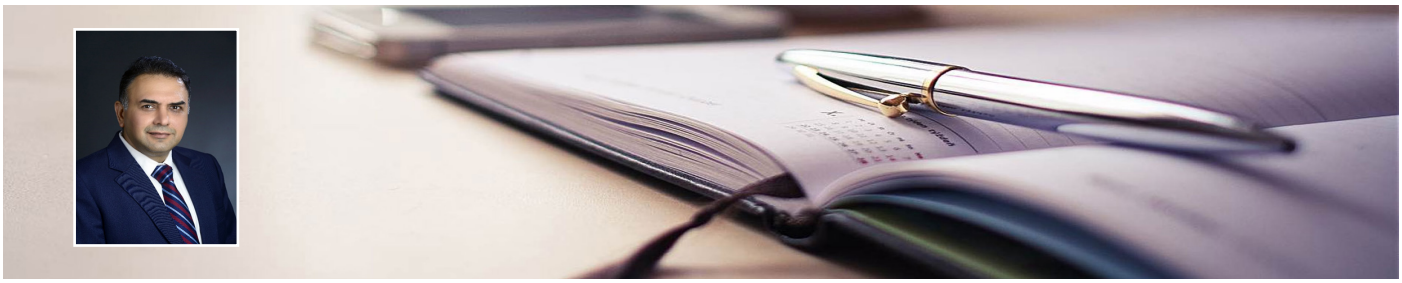
From the Chairman's Desk



This month is indeed a month of high for us here at Plexconcil. There is much to celebrate! To begin with, PLEXCONNECT 2024 is all set to infuse vigour once again into plastics exports. The exhibition that will take place at Nesco, Mumbai from June 7-9, will welcome 600 international 400 buyers from 50+ countries to network and source from some of our industry's leading exporters. A much-anticipated event for the Council, we look forward to greater success for our participants, buyers and all stakeholders as we resolutely march towards achieving the USD 25 Billion export target that we have set for ourself.

On the 7th of June, we will also host the Annual Awards (2021-2024) that will be held at Nesco. The Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri. Ramesh Bais has kindly agreed to grace this event as our Chief Guest and bestow the award on the winners. We applaud the remarkable achievements of our member exporters and recognize the dedication, innovation, and relentless pursuit of excellence in the growth of their business and India's exports. We are also grateful to the Government of India for the pivotal role that it has been constantly playing in export promotion through it's very initiative and schemes, always encouraging our export segment to undertake a more proactive approach to expanding our global outreach. This year, winners will be picked from nominations received for 47 different categories.

We are further pleased to inform you that the month of June marks the 5th anniversary of PLEXCONNECT magazine. What started as a humble attempt at creating a mouthpiece for our industry, today has garnered much recognition from the industry. Over the past five years, we have been able to bring you insights into a variety of topics, interviews from respected and leading members of the trade, thoughts and opinions by various industry experts, and much more. We are very grateful to all those who have given us their time and shared their valuable perspectives.

Despite a seemingly simple product segment, Consumer & Houseware is a very integral part of our lives. In this issue, Kailesh Shah, MD, All Times Plastics shares very valuable insights into how technology and their mantra of being future fit by investing in comprehensive solutions are consistently directed towards enhancing product functionality, optimizing material usage, and refining aesthetics to align with evolving consumer preferences. All Time Plastics will be receiving the Award for Excellence in Manufacturing this year and we congratulate them on their stellar achievements.

We also talked in length about the role of Silicones Resins and Oils with Anshuman Punj, CEO, Supervac Industries, and an industry expert, who shared in-depth insights into the product category, explaining in detail the vast advantages, growth drivers, challenges as well as the sustainability efforts of the segment.

The Government of India launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with the primary focus on providing potable water supply to rural households. To implement the nationwide initiative, the projects under JJM employ various types of pipes, depending on availability, cost, and durability. HDPE pipes are one of the common pipes used in this due to their flexibility, durability, and resistance to chemicals and corrosion. Dr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy, an industry expert delves into the success and challenges of this critical mission as well shares suggestions to improve efficiencies.

All this is in addition to Product of Month featuring Doors and Windows of Plastics, news and views from around the world and more.

PLEXCONCIL is committed to promoting exports and empowering exporters through various initiatives. Despite the challenges that we face time and again in international trade, we applaud our exporters for their dynamism, optimism, and resilience. As we continue on this path of progress, I sincerely appreciate your invaluable contributions to our industry's growth and success.

We wish you all much success!

Warm regards,

Hemant Minocha
Chairman

PLEXCONNECT 2024 roadshow at Vanamati, Nagpur, Maharashtra on 12th April 2024 | Western Region:

PLEXCONCIL held an export awareness seminar cum PLEXCONNECT 2024 roadshow at Vanamati, VIP Road, Dharampeth, Nagpur, Maharashtra. The objective of this event was to promote opportunities in plastics product exports among the MSMEs, informing them about the various schemes and incentives that are available for new exporters as well as the benefits of participating at global scale exhibitions such as PLEXCONNECT 2024, which is scheduled to be held in Mumbai from 7th—9th June 2024. Notable attendees at the event included Ms. Snehal Dhokey, ITS, Assistant DGFT – Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Nagpur, Mr. S Muddamwar, General Manager – District Industries Centre (DIC) Nagpur. Mr. Dhruv Sayani, Convener - PLEXCONNECT 2024 and COA member - Plexconcil, along with Mr. Manish Tulsian, Deputy Director - Plexconcil, were present at the PLEXCONNECT 2024 roadshow cum export awareness seminar at Nagpur.

Awareness Seminar on Export Opportunities from Eastern Region/PLEXCONNECT Trade Show 2024 – 12.4.2024, Kolkata | Eastern Region:

Plexconcil jointly with Indian Plastics Federation (IPF) organised an awareness seminar on export opportunities from ER/Plexconnect 2024 trade show in Kolkata on 12.4.24. Mr Alok Tibrewala, Raw material Panel chairman-Plexconcil /NEC Chairman-Plastindia 2026 and Mr Lalit Agarwal, President-IPF addressed the gathering. A detailed presentation on PLEXCONNECT Trade Show was made during the seminar.

Meeting with Mr Bharat Patel, Incoming President, GSPMA on 12th April 2024 | Western Region:

Mr Darshan Shah, CoA member, PLEXCONCIL and Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil met Mr Bharat Patel, Incoming President, Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturer Association (GSPMA) at his office. The purpose the meeting was to promote PLEXCONNECT 2024 among GSPMA members and deliberation on organizing several joint activities in current financial year.

Meeting with Shri S. J. Haider, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Mines Department, Government of Gujarat on 12th April 2024 | Western Region:

PLEXCONCIL received an appointment to meet Shri S. J. Haider, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Mines Department, Government of Gujarat on 12th April 2024. Mr Darshan Shah, CoA member, PLEXCONCIL and Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil met Shri S. J. Haider and requested for Gujarat State participation at PLEXCONNECT 2024.

Meeting with Shri Dr. Prashant Jilova, IAS, Addl. Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat on 15th April 2024 | Western Region:

Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil met Shri Dr. Prashant Jilova, IAS, Addl. Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat for inviting state participation for PLEXCONNECT 2024.

Export Awareness Seminar on Plastic/PLEXCONNECT 2024- 15.4.2024, Bhubaneswar, Odisha | Eastern Region:

An Export Awareness Seminar on Plastic/PLEXCONNECT 2024 organised jointly by PLEXCONCIL, FIEO (Odisha Chapter) and DEP&M (MSME Deptt. Govt. of Odisha). Mr Kamal Sahoo, Head, FIEO (Odisha Chapter) welcomed the participants. The seminar was graced by Shri. Bimalendu Ray, OAS, (S.S), Director, DEP&M, MSME Dept. Govt. of Odisha. Presentation by Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL, MOC&I, GOI on Export potential & Details about PLEXCONNECT - 2024 Trade Show. Presentation was followed by an interactive session.

Seminar on Plastic Export Opportunities and PLEXCONNECT 2024 Roadshow on 19th April 2024 | Western Region:

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) and Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association (GSPMA) organized a Seminar on Plastic Export Opportunities and PLEXCONNECT 2024 Roadshow at AMA, Ahmedabad on 19th April 2024. This outreach program was organized with an objective to showcase opportunities and benefits of participating at PLEXCONNECT 2024.

Welcome Address was given by Mr Bharat Patel, Upcoming President, GSPMA. Mr Alpesh Patel, Chairman, Gujarat Regional Committee, PLEXCONCIL gave opening remarks for the seminar. Mr Vajubhai Vaghasia, Chairman, PLEXPO India, GSPMA shared his views about the event. Presentation on Plastic Export Opportunities and benefits of participating at PLEXCONNECT 2024 was given Mr. Dhruv Sayani, Chairman -PLEXCONNECT 2024. Seminar ended with Vote of Thanks by Mr Darshan Shah, CoA Member, PLEXCONCIL.

Roadshow on the Export Opportunities & PLEXCONNECT 2024 Road Show 20th April 2024 | Chennai | Southern Region:

The Plastics Export Promotion Council organized the PLEXCONNECT 2024 Road Show to promote exhibitor registration while creating awareness on the 20th April 2024 in Chennai.

Mr. Dhruv Sayani, Convener – PLEXCONNECT 2024 who made the presentation explained the benefits of exports relating to the participant's products and their possibilities to meet their probable buyers one-to-one during the PLEXCONNECT 2024. He made a detail presentation on the advantages including the subsidies from MSME and the State Pavilions offering these to promote exports from the States.

Mr. YV Raman, Regional Chairman – South – Plexconcil welcomed the participants briefing them about the services provided by the Regional Office and the achievement of the Southern Region in terms of exports contributing largely to the India's exports.

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Mr. Suresh Babuji, Director, MSME, Chennai spoke about the MSME scheme being approved for PLEXCONNECT 2024 and assured that they will clear the documents for the participants to receive the subsidy.

Mr. Mehta, President, TAPMA assured all their support for PLEXCONNECT 2024.

More than 60 participants were glued to the presentation about the eagerness of the international buyers who were keen to visit PLEXCONNECT 2024. The event was successful in getting 6-7 companies for PLEXCONNECT 2024 but also few as new members.

Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director – South -Plexconcil made the vote of thanks explaining about the benefits for participating under the State Pavilions.

Meeting with Addl Secretary Finance, Govt of Telangana on 24th April 2024 | Southern Region:

Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South visited the office of Mr. R. Ravi, Additional Secretary Finance, Govt of Telangana, and other officials in pursuing the pending payment of the State Pavilion hosted during PLEXCONNECT 2023. The delay is mainly because of the Govt change and other aspects. However, Mr. Ravi has assured to clear the payment by 10th May 2024. We will follow it up for the payment accordingly.

Meeting with ADC – MSME, Hyderabad on 24th April 2024 | Southern Region:

The meeting with ADC Mr. Chandra Sekar and Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Assistant Director was very fruitful. The pending two MSME applications were discussed and pushed through for revalidation. The exhibitors were called to the office and finalized the documents. The revalidation should happen next week to close these two applications pending from PLEXCONNECT 2023. The PLEXCONNECT 2024 MSME approval was informed to the officials for their support for the same.

A seminar on ZED and doing E-Commerce Business for the Plastics Industry was discussed. It was proposed to host the same during June last week with the support of the TAAPMA.

Meeting with TAAPMA on 24th April 2024 | Southern Region:

A meeting with Mr. Kamlesh Gupta, Secretary regarding promoting PLEXCONNECT 2024 and the MSME option for their members to participate. He assured me to send out the details on their groups for more publicity.

Meeting with Shri Sandip Sagale, IAS, Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat on 25th April 2024 | Western Region:

Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil met Shri Sandip Sagale, IAS, Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat regarding state participation of Gujarat in upcoming edition of PLEXCONNECT 2024.

Meeting with Mr. Paresh Painuly, General Manager, iNDEXTb on 26th April 2024 | Western Region:

Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil met Mr. Paresh Painuly, General Manager, iNDEXTb regarding inviting Gujarat state participation in upcoming edition of PLEXCONNECT 2024 scheduled in June 2024 in Mumbai.

CHINTAN SHIVIR Organised by DGCI&S in Kolkata – 26.4.2024| Eastern Region:

Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), under Ministry of Commerce, Government of India organized a 'Chintan Shivir' on 26th April 2024, Friday at Science City, Kolkata. In the inaugural session, DG, DGCI&S welcomed the participants. Keynote Address delivered by Sri L. Satya Srinibas, Additional Secretary, DOC, Govt. of India. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD attended the above CHINTAN Shivir.

Viksit Bharat presentation Meeting - Chemicals and Plastics - 26.04.2024 | Eastern Region:

Above meeting Chaired by Mr Manish Chadha, Joint Secretary, EP(CAP) Div., DOC. Mr Hemant Minocha, Chairman, Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD, Mr Manish Tulsian, Dy. Director joined the meeting via online mode.

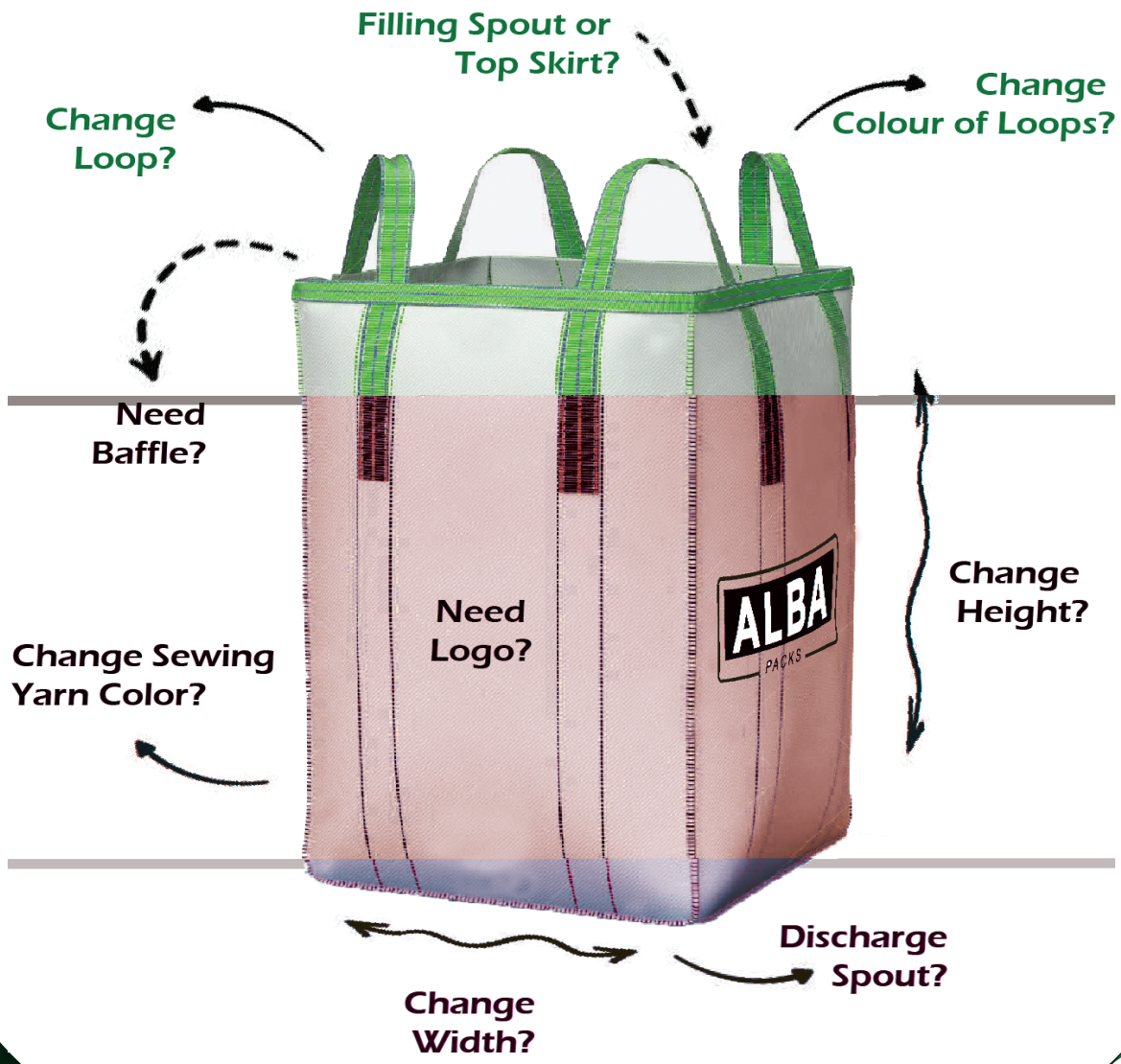
Participation in KPLEX 2024 Show –April 26-29, 2024, at BIEC, Bengaluru | Southern Region

The Chennai office of the Council participated in the KPLEX Show, organized by M/s Karnataka State Polymers Association (KSPA) jointly with Kerala Plastic Manufacturers Association (KPMA), at the BIEC in Bengaluru, from April 26-29, 2024.This Show was a sourcing platform for plastics and its allied industries and to showcase the advancements, growth, and opportunities for the plastics particularly from Southern India. The KPLEX 2024 show was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri. Ravish Kamath, President – PlastIndia Foundation and Panel Chairman – FIBC Panel (Plexconcil).

The organizers allotted a complimentary booth of 9 sqmtr to the Council who had a promotional booth to disseminate information on the Council's services and on the export potential for plastic products from India.

Participation in this event also provided a platform to promote PLEXCONNECT 2024 show and for membership mobilization to encourage industry entrepreneurs to enrol in Council membership and thereafter to start their exports with Council's support and guidance, and the Secretariat is following up with these entrepreneurs to enrol them in Council membership.

The Council was represented by Shri. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South and Shri. R. Dayanidhi, Assistant Director – South.



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PLEXCONCIL's Collaborative Approach Catalyzes Business Opportunities in Plastics Exports

In the dynamic landscape of global trade, Export Promotion Councils like the Plastics Export Promotion Council of India (PLEXCONCIL) play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between the plastics manufacturing industry and government entities. Focusing on international trade, PLEXCONCIL serves as a conduit for dialogue, advocacy, and support, ensuring the smooth functioning of this vital sector.

Let's delve into the multifaceted contributions of PLEXCONCIL in fostering growth, facilitating market access, and promoting excellence within the plastics manufacturing ecosystem.

One of PLEXCONCIL's primary objectives is to provide unwavering support to its expansive network of over 3,000 member exporters. Through various initiatives, including market research, organizing India Pavilions at renowned international plastics expos, Reverse Buyer Seller Meets, leading trade delegations, policy advocacy, and redressals, PLEXCONCIL assists its members in navigating the complexities of global markets. By offering crucial insights, facilitating business connections, and disseminating market intelligence, PLEXCONCIL empowers its members to seize opportunities and overcome challenges in diverse international markets.

Emphasizing innovation and adaptability, PLEXCONCIL continuously evolves its approach to meet the dynamic needs of exporters and uphold the Indian plastics export industry's reputation as the world's leading hub for sourcing plastics. Through a range of innovative initiatives, PLEXCONCIL aims to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of its members on the global stage.

Plexconcil's Global Outreach

PLEXCONCIL promotes Indian plastic exports globally, targeting key markets such as the USA, EU, Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. The USA offers opportunities in packaging, automotive, consumer goods, and construction. The EU market is lucrative for automotive components, medical devices, and industrial applications. The Middle East demands plastics for construction, packaging, and consumer goods. Southeast Asia's expanding markets include packaging, electronics, and automotive components.

Africa's industrial growth fuels demand in construction, agriculture, and consumer goods. Latin America, with countries like Brazil and Mexico, seeks plastic in automotive parts, packaging, and construction. Oceania, comprising Australia and New Zealand, offers prospects in packaging and automotive sectors. PLEXCONCIL aids exporters in understanding market nuances, regulations, and consumer preferences, facilitating successful market entry and expansion through valuable insights, networking, and promotional support.

Organizing India's FIRST EVER Export-Focused Exhibition for Plastics

As part of its numerous initiatives to foster a culture of innovation and collaboration, PLEXCONCIL organized the first-ever export-focused exhibition for Plastics, PLEXCONNECT, in 2023. Following years of experience in the global marketplace, PLEXCONNECT 2023 held at Nesco, Mumbai was introduced as the ideal platform to empower manufacturers-exporters to embrace emerging trends, leverage cutting-edge technologies, and capitalize on new opportunities in the ever-evolving plastics market.

Supported by the Ministry of Commerce, PLEXCONNECT provides MSME Exporters and new exporters with a world-class platform to understand global trends, network, and interact with international buyers. The exhibition received significant support from Indian embassies and high commissions, actively promoting the platform and the Indian plastics industry.

It also proved extremely popular with international buyers who conducted business meetings with Indian exporters. The unique aspect of the exhibition lies in identifying strategic markets and genuine buyers who are invited to participate in the RBSM during the exhibition, with MAI support.

PLEXCONNECT 2024

Sponsored by the Department of Commerce, Government of India, PLEXCONCIL is on course to once again organize India's largest export-focused plastic expo with PLEXCONNECT 2024. The three-day event is scheduled to take place from June 7th to 9th, 2024, in Mumbai.

PLEX 2024
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Over 600 buyers representing 65 countries will participate in the pivotal Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) during PLEXCONNECT 2024. Among them, significant interest has been expressed by buyers from Africa, showing a strong inclination towards engaging in trade discussions with Indian exporters of plastic products. Additionally, enthusiasm abounds among buyers from South Asia, ASEAN, Latin America (notably Brazil, Guatemala, Chile), CIS (Russia), WANA (Egypt), Europe (United Kingdom), and North America (United States). We expect at least 400 more buyers to confirm their participation in the next two months, making PLEXCONNECT 2024 the biggest plastic exports summit in the country.

Furthermore, after successful meetings with Indian Consulates in the USA, who are actively helping with outreach to large-format stores in North America, we expect stores such as Walmart, Target, and IKEA to visit the show for their sourcing needs.

Leading participants of the Indian plastic industry, such as The Supreme Industries Ltd., All Time Plastics Pvt. Ltd., Flair Writing Industries Limited, Sudhakar PVC Products Private Limited, RMG Polyvinyl India Limited, FAMILY PLASTICS AND THERMOWARE (P) LIMITED, The Shakti Plastic Industries, DYNASTY PLASTICS PRIVATE LIMITED, among others, will showcase finished products to international buyers. On the other hand, Blends Colours Private Limited, JJ Plastalloy Pvt. Ltd., Mehul Colours & Masterbatch Pvt. Ltd., and a few Public Sector Undertakings will showcase innovative products and technologies in the realm of raw materials.

Meanwhile, companies like MAMATA MACHINERY PVT. LTD., Neelgiri Machinery Global Pvt. Ltd., RR PLAST EXTRUSIONS PVT. LTD., will exhibit cutting-edge machinery. Additionally, brands like Pashupati Extrusion Pvt. Ltd. will present recycling equipment.

PLEXCONNECT 2024 will showcase a wide display of plastics products – from Finished goods to semi-finished to raw materials to machinery, moulds & dies, the exhibition spans 15 product categories, making it one of the most comprehensive showcase to an international audience.

Network with industry leaders, Govt bodies, international buyers and more as PLEXCONNECT brings together the perfect blend of stakeholders to catalyze international business, promote Indian exports and promote Indian processing industry, which includes MSME exporters.

PLEXCONNECT 2024 will be held from June 7-9, Hall 2 & 3, Nesco, Goregaon, Mumbai. Visitor Registration: http://www.plexconcil.org/plexconnect/visitor-registration

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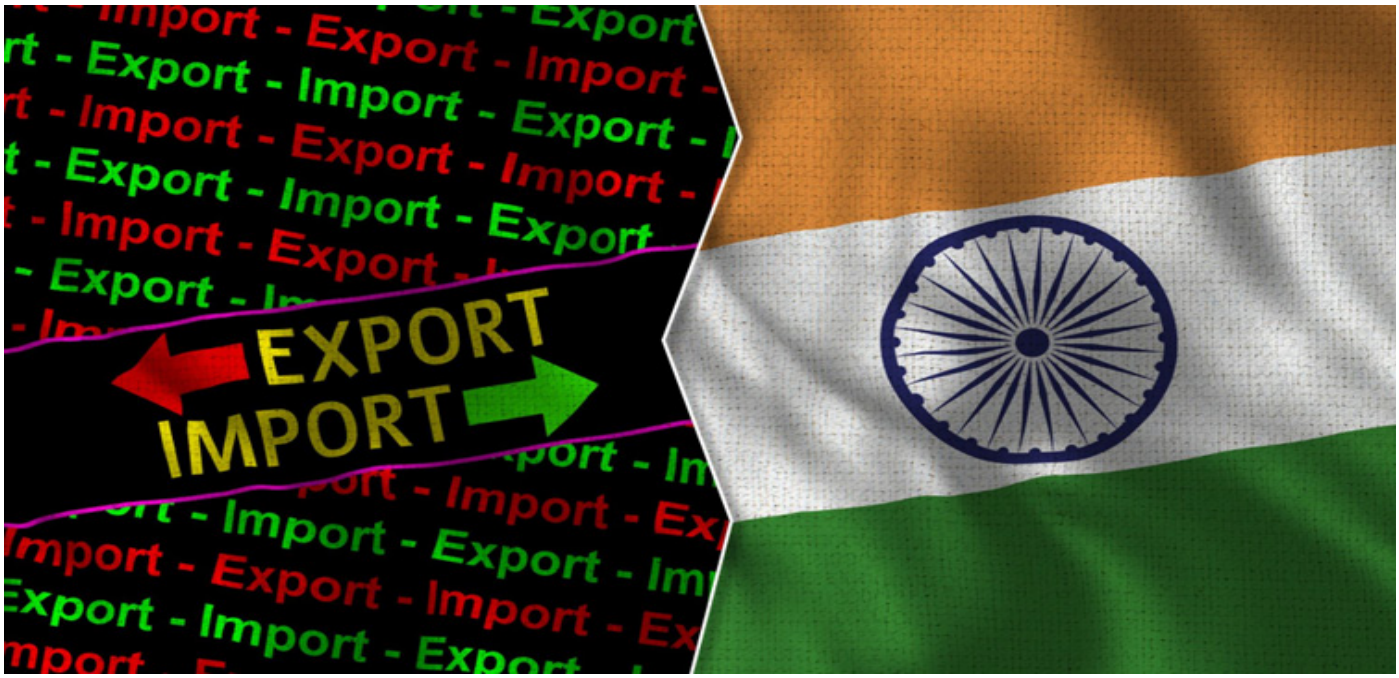
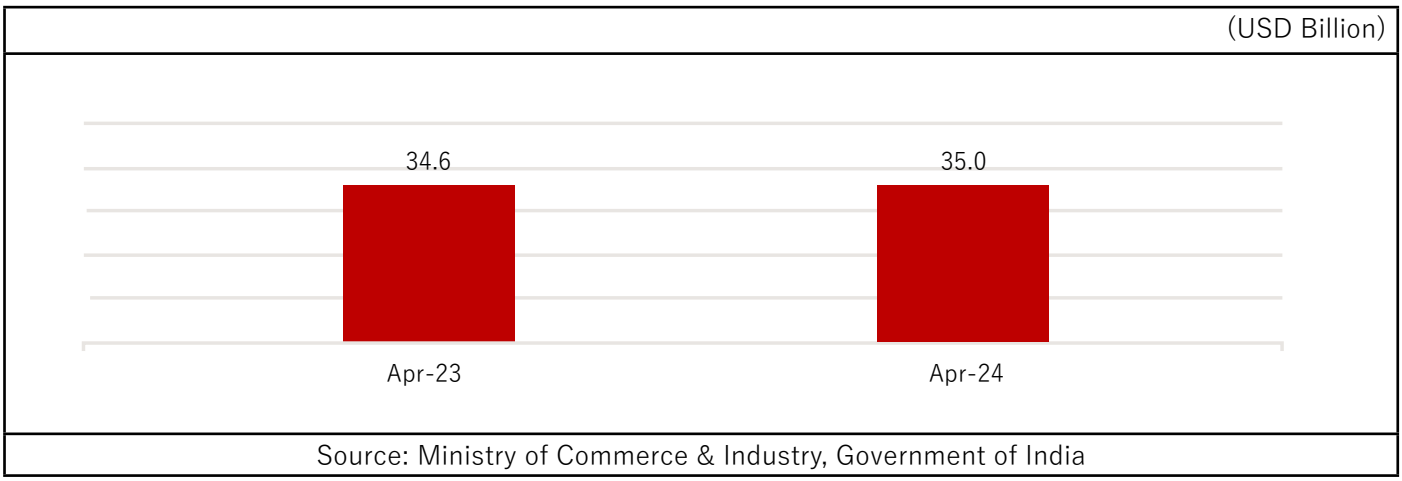


Export Performance – April 2024

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 35.0 billion in April 2024, higher by 1.1% from USD 34.6 billion in April 2023. In the last financial year i.e. April 2023 to March 2024, India witnessed merchandise exports of USD 437.1 billion.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India

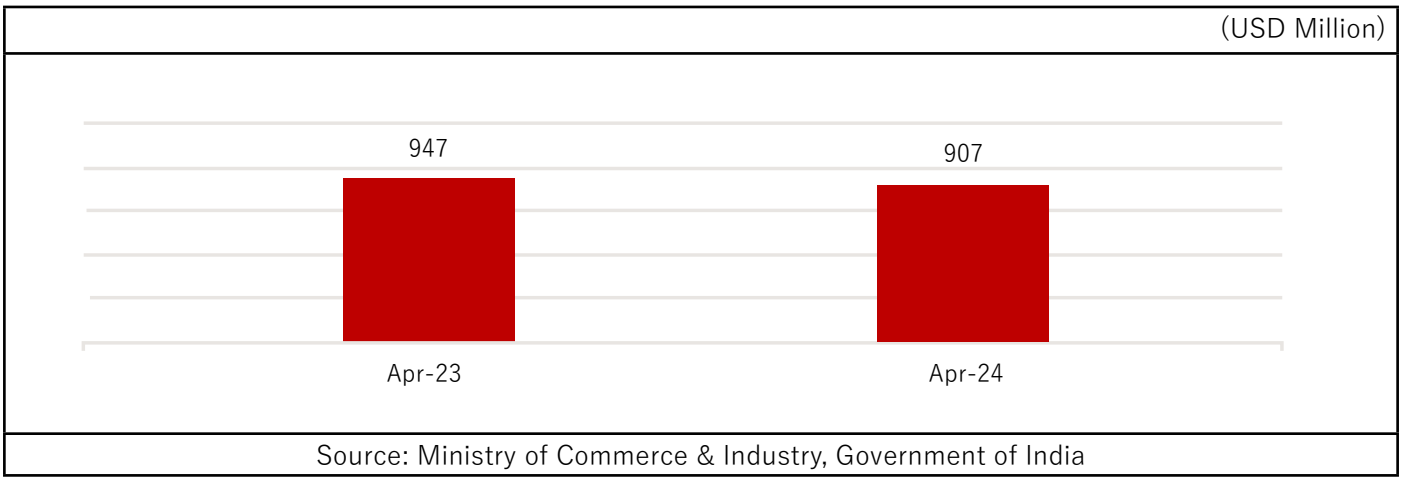


Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During April 2024, India exported plastics worth USD 907 million, lower by 4.3% from USD 947 million in April 2023. In the last financial year i.e. April 2023 to March 2024, India witnessed plastics exports of USD 11.5 billion.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

The export performance during April 2024 was somewhat mixed. Product panels, namely, Plastic films and sheets; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, tarpaulin; FRP & Composites; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; and Plastic pipes & fittings performed well. However, product panels like Plastic raw materials; Consumer & houseware products; Medical items of plastics; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; Writing instruments & stationery; Human hair & related products; and Miscellaneous products and items nes reported a negative growth in exports.

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

Panel	Apr-23 (USD Mn)	Apr-24 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)
Consumer & houseware products	62.4	56.9	-8.9%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	22.0	20.0	-9.0%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	105.3	110.0	+4.5%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	51.5	52.4	+1.6%
FRP & Composites	34.9	39.0	+11.8%
Human hair & related products	67.0	49.9	-25.5%
Medical items of plastics	46.1	42.4	-8.0%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	81.0	42.8	-47.1%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	47.2	52.4	+11.2%
Plastic films & sheets	139.2	161.7	+16.2%
Plastic pipes & fittings	22.2	22.3	+0.4%
Plastic raw materials	245.7	235.2	-4.3%
Writing instruments & stationery	22.9	21.9	-4.1%
	947.2	906.8	-4.3%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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

HS Code	Description	Apr-23	Apr-24	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	61.8	62.6	+1.4%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	45.6	44.7	-2.1%
39269099	Other articles of plastics n.e.s	34.5	38.5	+11.6%
39232990	Other sacks and bags of plastics excl. those of polymers of ethylene	33.6	35.1	+4.5%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	54.8	15.6	-71.5%
39021000	Polypropylene	27.4	34.0	+24.3%
39076190	Other primary form of polyethylene terephthalate	34.7	17.7	-49.0%
48239019	Decorative laminates	23.6	20.9	-11.5%
39269080	Polypropylene articles n.e.s	16.2	18.2	+12.0%
39206220	Flexible and plain sheets and film of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	17.4	25.0	+43.9%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	13.4	14.8	+10.9%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	14.9	15.1	+1.1%
39202020	Flexible and plain sheets and film of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	21.2	19.9	-6.3%
39239090	Other articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics	13.6	15.9	+16.9%
59039090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane	12.2	17.0	+39.5%
05010010	Human hair, unworked	19.8	4.9	-75.3%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	13.8	13.6	-1.7%
39202090	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	12.0	13.3	+10.7%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0.94, in primary forms	7.7	8.1	+5.2%
39076990	Other primary form of polyethylene terephthalate	14.4	7.1	-50.9%
96081019	Ball-point pens	11.3	10.6	-6.3%
90183930	Cannulae	12.6	10.4	-17.7%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE)	10.4	10.7	+2.4%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene	10.6	10.2	-3.9%
39219099	Other sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	8.7	11.4	+30.3%
39199090	Other self-adhesive sheets and film of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide	7.4	8.6	+15.6%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	9.2	8.8	-4.0%
54072090	Other woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of >= 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of <= 1 mm	8.1	10.6	+31.9%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	8.1	8.9	+11.1%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	7.3	8.1	+11.0%
39011090	Other polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0.94, in primary forms	9.7	8.3	-14.5%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s.	8.0	5.2	-34.5%
39206919	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked	6.7	7.1	+4.9%

90041000	Sunglasses	0.2	0.1	-44.4%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	8.5	7.8	-7.4%
39181090	Other floor coverings, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles, and wall or ceiling coverings in rolls with a width of >= 45 cm, of polymers of vinyl chloride	6.0	6.9	+14.0%
39219094	Flexible and metallised sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	8.0	8.5	+6.6%
39140020	Ion exchangers of polymerisation or co-polymerisation type	6.3	6.7	+6.5%
39095000	Polyurethanes	6.6	6.6	+0.2%
96032100	Tooth brushes	8.0	5.8	-27.9%
39204900	Sheets and film of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	5.2	5.0	-4.6%
39206290	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	5.7	8.8	+55.0%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	5.9	5.0	-15.3%
39201019	Other sheets and film of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	6.4	6.7	+5.0%
39172390	Other rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings of polymers of vinyl chloride	5.8	4.9	-15.7%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	5.6	7.1	+26.9%
39219096	Flexible and laminated sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	5.2	6.9	+33.5%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles of plastics	5.4	5.2	-3.9%
39206929	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked	4.8	5.7	+20.4%
39073010	Epoxy resins	4.7	5.2	+9.7%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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Dadra and Nagar Haveli (26),
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Kailash Shah

MD, All Time Plastics Pvt Ltd.

Championing Excellence in Manufacturing – Being Future Fit

The Annual Awards function, hosted by PLEXCONCIL since 1955, plays a pivotal role in recognizing and celebrating the outstanding contributions of the plastics export industry. This year, the awards that are being held on June 7, 2024 at Nesco, in Mumbai, not only highlights manufacturing excellence and innovation but also underscores our industry's commitment to sustainability and the remarkable achievements of our entrepreneurs. This year's edition comprises 47 categories comprising a wide product range and aims to honour not only highest achievements in export figures, but also women entrepreneurs, innovation and much more.

With a significant portion of the Indian plastics industry coming from the MSME sector, the awards inspire exporters to pursue new ideas and persevere in the face of challenges to achieve business goals and expand global markets. Each year, the increasing number of nominations reflects the industry's dynamic growth and its dedication to achieving greater heights. These accolades serve as a testament to the relentless effort, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit that drive the plastics industry forward, encouraging all members to continue striving for excellence and contributing to India's global trade prowess.

In this interview, we spoke to Kailesh Shah, MD, All Time Plastics, an industry veteran and one of the most respected names within the all-important houseware segment. In this issue, Kailesh shares his wisdom on the role of technology and their mantra of being future fit by investing in comprehensive solutions that enhance and improve overall manufacturing efficiency. His belief – "Entrepreneurship is not just about technical prowess; it's about building relationships, understanding market dynamics, and continuously striving for excellence."

(excerpts)

Congratulations on winning the award for Excellence in Manufacturing! As you receive this award, what thoughts come to your mind?

Winning the Award for Excellence in Manufacturing brings immense satisfaction to our entire team. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication at the plant level, where numerous micro projects were implemented. These initiatives culminated in the creation of a highly automated and digital manufacturing environment, significantly easing the workload for our employees and enhancing the company's efficiency.

Our company has consistently been driven by technology, always aiming to adopt the latest advancements to stay future-fit. This forward-thinking approach has been pivotal in receiving numerous awards from various customers, trade organizations, and industry bodies.

The mantra of being future-fit involves substantial investments in our plants, technology, and people. It's not just about acquiring automated systems or robots but providing comprehensive solutions that enhance the overall quality of manufacturing. These investments are

challenging and require significant financial commitment, but they are essential for maintaining high standards.

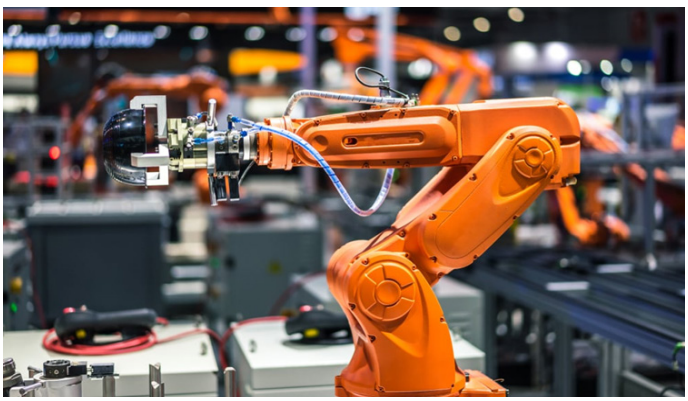
Moreover, the success of these initiatives relies heavily on the support of our internal team, whose contributions are crucial. This award recognizes not just technological advancements but also the collaborative effort and commitment of our entire team to drive excellence in manufacturing.

Automation and Robotics are gaining increasing importance in manufacturing today. How have these investments shaped businesses, including your own over the years?

Automation and robotics have indeed become increasingly important in manufacturing today. Our journey with automation and robotics began about 10-11 years ago, and even now, we feel we are only 60-70% along the way. This ongoing journey is a testament to the continuous discovery and adaptation required to tailor these technologies specifically to our company's needs.

One of the significant lessons we've learned is that you cannot simply rely on marketplace consultants or standard solutions, as they are often prohibitively expensive and may not fit perfectly with your unique manufacturing setup. Instead, we've developed internal strength within our organization, taking a step-by-step approach and learning from industry leaders and successful companies. This strategy has allowed us to embrace the most suitable technologies for our operations.

For many Indian processors, including ourselves, the shift towards automation has been crucial. Initially, some processors faced challenges because they did not invest in the correct machinery from the outset. As a result, their automation efforts were not fully effective. We realized that true automation requires a comprehensive solution where the entire process is automated, not just parts of it. This holistic approach ensures the full benefits of automation are realized, rather than having automation and manual processes working side by side without synergy.



Over the last few years, there has been a notable shift in the Indian manufacturing sector. Many companies have made significant strides in adopting automation and robotics, learning from the early challenges and adapting to new technologies. This change has been pivotal in improving efficiency and productivity across the industry.

In our own business, these investments in automation and robotics have significantly shaped our operations. By continuously upgrading our systems and processes, we've achieved higher efficiency and productivity, which in turn has led to greater satisfaction among our employees and recognition from our customers and industry bodies. Looking ahead, we believe that with the ongoing advancements and the availability of more suitable machinery, the Indian manufacturing sector will continue to grow and innovate, fully leveraging the benefits of automation and robotics.

Will automation impact manual skills or replace existing manpower?

Automation often raises concerns about its impact on manual skills and existing manpower, but our experience tells a different story. In our company, we have not laid off any employees due to automation. Instead, automation has enabled us to increase production without reducing our workforce. By automating processes, we process more material with the same number of employees, boosting efficiency and productivity.

As businesses grow, they can expand both in physical space and workforce. Automation changes the nature of jobs rather than eliminating them. We now hire more engineers and skilled operators who can handle multiple machines. This evolution in skills is crucial as employees adapt to new demands brought about by automation.

Over the past few years, our workforce and production have both increased. Automation has improved efficiency, reduced waste, and allowed us to absorb more employees into manufacturing. Thus, automation supports business expansion and creates more job opportunities. Furthermore, automation generates jobs in the automation industry itself, requiring a skilled workforce for producing robots and automation solutions.

Competitiveness in today's market demands automation. Without it, businesses may struggle to survive. Therefore, automation transforms manpower and leads to the development of new skills and job opportunities in both manufacturing and automation sectors.

Investing in shop floor upgrade is often capital intensive despite obvious results. What advise would you give MSME's who are often challenged by high cost of finance?

Investing in shop floor upgrades can indeed be capital-intensive, presenting a challenge, particularly for MSMEs facing high costs of finance. Having said that, in my opinion, MSMEs should consider some of the below mentioned points:

- Financial Health: Prioritize maintaining a strong financial standing within your company. This can help you negotiate better financing terms with banks.
- Leverage MSME Benefits: While MSMEs may receive some financial benefits such as slightly lower interest rates, it's essential to make the most of these incentives, even if they are modest.
- Scalable Solutions: Instead of high-cost automation tools, focus on scalable and cost-effective solutions that can enhance efficiency without requiring a significant upfront investment. Look for simple systems and incremental upgrades that align with your budget.
- Alternative Financing: Explore alternative financing options beyond traditional bank loans. This could include government grants, subsidies, or industry-specific funding programs that offer more favorable terms for technology investments.
- Strategic Investments: Prioritize investments with high ROI potential and implement them in stages. This approach allows for gradual improvements without straining your finances excessively.
- Partnerships and Collaborations: Consider collaborating with other businesses or industry groups to share the costs and benefits of new technology investments. Pooling resources can make high-cost upgrades more feasible for MSMEs.

By focusing on financial health, leveraging available benefits, exploring alternative financing options, making strategic investments, and seeking collaborations, MSMEs can overcome the challenge of high costs of finance and successfully upgrade their shop floors to improve efficiency and competitiveness.

In today's world, how important is it for businesses to invest in R&D? How do companies in India approach the subject?

Investing in research and development (R&D) stands as a pivotal strategy for businesses in navigating the competitive landscape of today's market. It serves as a cornerstone for ensuring sustained innovation and continual enhancement of products and services.

For example, in the houseware industry, we undertake R&D to enhance functionality, reduce material usage, and improve aesthetics. Unlike in certain applications such as automotive parts, which may not be directly interacted with, houseware products are touched and used daily by every member of the family, making their design and quality paramount. Thus, investing in R&D enables us to create products that are not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly, contributing to their widespread acceptance and usage. Safety is another crucial aspect of houseware plastics as you want to any form leeching or toxins impact when handling.

Notably, companies across India are increasingly recognizing the paramount importance of R&D and are adopting diverse approaches to harness its benefits. A prominent strategy observed among businesses, particularly smaller enterprises, involves outsourcing R&D activities. This pragmatic approach is driven by cost considerations and the intricate nature of maintaining in-house design engineering capabilities.

Investing in R&D transcends mere product innovation; it encompasses a strategic imperative for staying relevant, meeting consumer expectations, and promoting sustainable practices. Companies in India are progressively embracing R&D as a cornerstone for driving growth and enhancing competitiveness in the global marketplace.

How has the houseware plastics industry adapted to growing preferences for alternatives among consumers?

An important aspect of our business is that we are consistently directed towards enhancing product functionality, optimizing material usage, and refining aesthetics to align with evolving consumer preferences. This concerted effort is indispensable in meeting the dynamic demands of the market.

One also needs to remain a step ahead in addressing pressing environmental concerns and so companies are increasingly and actively engaged in developing eco-friendly solutions, such as utilizing recycled plastics and minimizing environmental impact, thereby aligning their operations with sustainability goals.

An essential facet of our business entails educating consumers about product safety, sustainability practices, and the advantages of utilizing specific materials. With our products, this concerted outreach effort is facilitated through a QR code-enabled test reports, fostering consumer awareness and informed decision-making.

Quality assurance and effective communication constitute focal points within our industry today and companies prioritize maintaining stringent quality standards, fostering transparent communication with stakeholders, and actively engaging with consumers to address their concerns and preferences.

Furthermore, companies are increasingly assuming industry responsibility by collaborating with raw material suppliers, converters, and educational institutions to tackle industry-wide challenges, such as pollution and waste management.

What are some of the challenges faced by exporters of the segment, especially in the current geopolitical developments?

Exporters in the segment are encountering various challenges, particularly amid the current geopolitical developments. The situation in Ukraine and the Red Sea development have disrupted shipment routes, necessitating the preponement of shipments due to increased lead times. The conflict in Russia further compounded the challenges, impacting business operations in a market where the company previously enjoyed a significant presence.

Navigating these challenges requires exporters to realign their strategies, adapting to changes in lead times and market demands. Fluctuating costs, exacerbated by post-COVID economic dynamics, have affected the saleability of certain articles, leading to shifts in product offerings. Additionally, geopolitical uncertainties surrounding international trade pose ongoing hurdles for exporters.

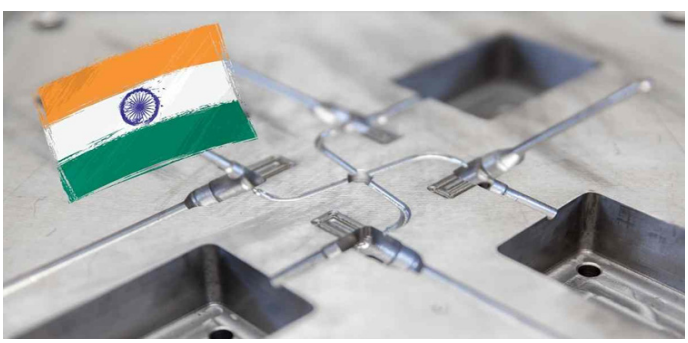
From a governmental perspective, exporters have faced regulatory obstacles, with recent notifications impacting export-oriented units (EOUs) and advanced license holders. The exclusion of major exporters from benefits intended for smaller exporters has posed significant operational challenges. However, efforts to address these issues through representation have resulted in some progress, with temporary allowances granted pending further review.

Overall, exporters in the segment must remain vigilant and adaptive in navigating the complexities of international trade amidst geopolitical uncertainties and regulatory changes. Continued engagement with relevant stakeholders and proactive measures are essential for mitigating risks and sustaining business operations in a dynamic global landscape.

What, in your opinion, will drive future growth of the segment?

In my opinion, the future growth of the houseware segment will be driven significantly by the "China plus one" strategy, which entails diversifying sourcing away from sole dependence on China. As businesses worldwide seek alternative manufacturing hubs, India stands poised to capitalize on this opportunity. However, to fully leverage the potential of "China plus one," it's imperative for Indian converters and manufacturers to address key challenges and enhance their readiness.

One critical aspect is the need to proactively invest in building manufacturing capacities well in advance of securing business orders. Historically, there has been a tendency to wait until securing orders before expanding capacity, leading to potential missed opportunities. By developing capacities in anticipation of future demand, Indian businesses can ensure they are ready to seize opportunities as they arise, thereby staying competitive in the global market.



Addressing challenges in the tooling industry is another essential factor for driving future growth in the houseware segment. While India boasts capable tool makers, there are limitations in scaling up and adopting advanced technologies. This bottleneck in mold manufacturing can impede the segment's growth potential. Therefore, efforts to modernize and streamline the tooling industry are crucial for enabling Indian manufacturers to meet the demands of the houseware market efficiently.

Overall, by embracing the "China plus one" strategy, investing in manufacturing capacities proactively, and addressing challenges in the tooling industry, the houseware segment in India can position itself for robust growth and sustained competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Any words of wisdom that you wish to share with upcoming entrepreneurs of plastics?

Certainly! For upcoming entrepreneurs in the plastics industry, my advice would be to broaden your perspective beyond just technical requirements. While technical expertise is crucial, successful entrepreneurship encompasses a blend of technical, commercial, and soft skills.

Firstly, prioritize developing strong communication skills and a proactive attitude towards meeting customer needs. Being responsive, reliable, and proactive can set you apart in a competitive market.

Secondly, understand the importance of mapping out customer requirements comprehensively. Take the time to understand your customers' expectations, regardless of their scale or profile. Effective customer service involves not only meeting but also exceeding their expectations.

Lastly, introspect and assess your own capabilities and limitations. Be honest about your strengths and weaknesses, and focus on improving areas that need development. Whether it's investing in skills or resources, ensure that you are equipped to deliver quality products and services consistently.

Entrepreneurship is not just about technical prowess; it's about building relationships, understanding market dynamics, and continuously striving for excellence.

POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) APRIL 2024

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Feb-24 ↑ | Mar-24 ↔ | Apr-24 ↓	• HDPE prices fell by Rs 2,000 per MT in April 2024 after remaining flat in March 2024. HDPE prices had increased by Rs 1,000 per MT in February 2024. • In April 2024, HDPE prices were lowered by Rs 2,000 per MT in the second week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) Feb-24 ↔ | Mar-24 ↔ | Apr-24 ↓	• LLDPE prices fell by Rs 3,000 per MT in April 2024 after remaining unchanged for the two consecutive months in March 2024 and February 2024. • In April 2024, LLDPE prices were lowered by Rs 3,000 per MT in the second week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Low Density Polyethylene(LDPE) Feb-24 ↑ | Mar-24 ↑ | Apr-24 ↑	• LDPE prices increased by Rs 2,000 per MT in April 2024. LDPE prices were higher by Rs 1,500 per MT in March 2024 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in February 2024. • In April 2024, LDPE prices were increased by Rs 1,000 per MT in the second week and by Rs 1,000 per MT in the third week.
Polypropylene (PP) Feb-24 ↑ | Mar-24 ↔ | Apr-24 ↑	• PP prices increased by Rs 2,000 per MT in April 2024 after remaining unchanged in March 2024. PP prices were higher by Rs 1,500 per MT in February 2024. • In April 2024, PP prices were increased by Rs 1,000 per MT each in the second and third week. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Feb-24 ↑ | Mar-24 ↑ | Apr-24 ↑	• PVC prices were yet again increased by Rs 1,000 per MT in April 2024 after witnessing a similar hike in March 2024 and February 2024. • In April 2024, PVC prices were increased by Rs 1,000 per MT in the first week. Thereafter no price changes were announced.

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research

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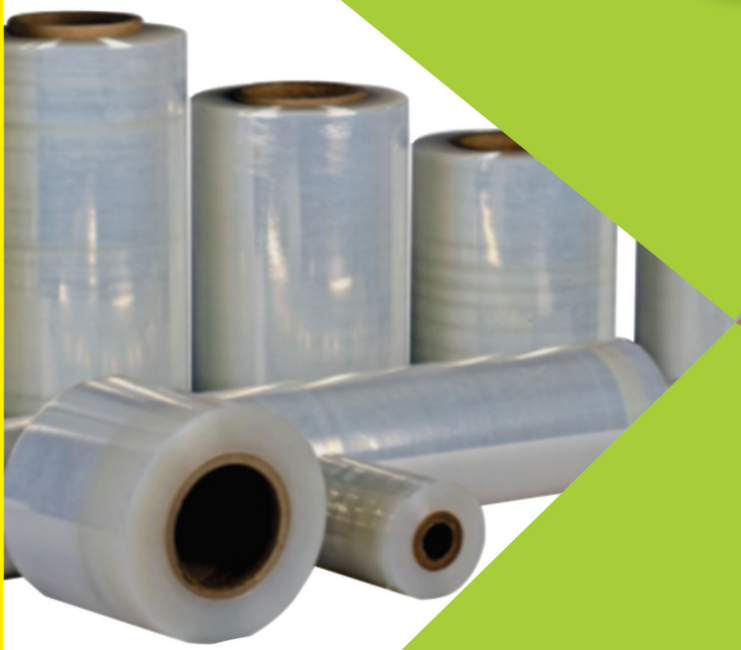

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Anshuman Punj

CEO, Supervac Industries

Navigating the Versatile World of Oils and Resins

The silicone oils and resins industry is a crucial segment of the chemicals and materials sector, offering versatile products with unique properties like thermal stability and water repellence. These polymers, derived from silicon, oxygen, carbon, and hydrogen atoms, find extensive applications in automotive, construction, electronics, healthcare, and personal care sectors. Silicone oils serve as lubricants, hydraulic fluids, and release agents, while silicone resins are valued for coatings, adhesives, sealants, and encapsulants due to their heat resistance and durability.

As companies invest in R&D to create innovative products the silicone oils and resins industry is set for growth, focusing on efficiency and sustainability and driven by its sustainability goals.

In this interview, Anshuman Punj, CEO, Supervac Industries, who is a post-graduate mechanical engineer and an industry expert, gives us in-depth insights into the product category and explains in detail the vast advantages, growth drivers, challenges as well as the sustainability efforts of the segment.

Founded in 1994, Supervac® pioneered indigenous manufacturing of vacuum consumables in India on the principles of High Quality at Sensible Rates. The company's commitment to Customer Satisfaction remains unwavering and today, as India's leading manufacturer and supplier of a comprehensive range of vacuum consumables, Supervac exports to 35+ countries worldwide.

(excerpts)

What are the unique properties of silicone oils and resins that make them desirable for various applications? How do silicone oils and resins compare to other industrial polymers or plastics?

Silicone oils and resins offer a unique set of properties that make them highly desirable for various applications. One key attribute is their exceptional thermal stability, remaining functional across a wide temperature range from -50° C to 200° C or higher. This makes them ideal for applications in extreme environments, such as automotive, aerospace, and electronics industries.

Additionally, silicone oils and resins exhibit excellent electrical insulation properties, corrosion resistance, and water repellence. These qualities render them invaluable in electrical components, sealants, adhesives, and waterproof coatings.

Compared to other industrial polymers or plastics like polyethylene or polypropylene, silicone oils and resins boast superior flexibility and durability over a broader temperature spectrum. They also have a lower surface tension, resulting in excellent wetting and spreading characteristics. This makes them suitable for applications where adherence to various substrates is crucial.

Moreover, silicone materials are biocompatible, making them ideal for use in medical implants, prosthetics, and pharmaceutical applications.

Overall, the unique combination of thermal stability, electrical insulation, flexibility, durability, and biocompatibility positions silicone oils and resins as versatile materials with a wide range of industrial and commercial applications.

Diffusion Pump Oil

Image of product

Can you elaborate on the benefits of silicone oils in lubrication and damping applications, compared to traditional mineral oils or synthetic lubricants?

Silicone oils offer several advantages over traditional mineral oils or synthetic lubricants in lubrication and damping applications. Firstly, they have a wider operating temperature range, remaining effective in both high and low-temperature environments where mineral oils may degrade or become less viscous.

Secondly, silicone oils possess excellent oxidation stability, resisting breakdown and prolonging their lifespan compared to mineral oils, which can degrade over time due to oxidation.

Furthermore, silicone oils exhibit superior compatibility with various materials, including plastics and elastomers, reducing the risk of seal deterioration or swelling, which can occur with some synthetic lubricants.

Additionally, silicone oils have a lower volatility, reducing the frequency of lubricant replenishment and minimizing evaporative losses compared to some synthetic lubricants.

Lastly, silicone oils offer enhanced damping properties, providing effective vibration and noise reduction in damping applications, such as shock absorbers and automotive suspensions, compared to traditional lubricants.

Overall, the superior temperature stability, oxidation resistance, material compatibility, lower volatility, and damping properties make silicone oils a preferred choice for lubrication and damping applications over traditional mineral oils or synthetic lubricants.

In what ways do silicone resins offer advantages in coating, encapsulation, and adhesive applications compared to other types of resins?

Silicone resins provide several advantages in coating, encapsulation, and adhesive applications compared to other types of resins. Firstly, they offer exceptional thermal stability, withstanding high temperatures without degradation, making them suitable for harsh environments like automotive engine compartments or industrial machinery.

Secondly, silicone resins exhibit excellent UV resistance, maintaining their color and properties over extended exposure to sunlight, a crucial feature for outdoor applications.

Moreover, silicone resins have superior flexibility and adhesion to various substrates, including metals, plastics, and ceramics, ensuring long-lasting bonds and coatings that resist cracking or delamination.

Additionally, silicone resins offer outstanding moisture and chemical resistance, protecting underlying surfaces from corrosion, moisture ingress, and chemical damage, which is critical in harsh industrial or marine environments.

Furthermore, silicone resins are often optically clear, making them ideal for encapsulation of sensitive electronic components where visibility or light transmission is necessary.

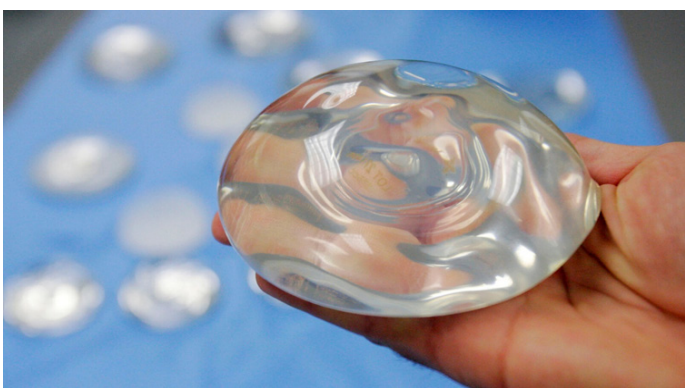
Overall, the combination of thermal stability, UV resistance, flexibility, adhesion, chemical resistance, and optical clarity positions silicone resins as highly advantageous for coating, encapsulation, and adhesive applications compared to other types of resins.

What are the primary sectors driving the demand for silicone oils and resins, and how is this demand evolving?

The primary sectors driving the demand for silicone oils and resins include:

- Automotive: Silicone oils and resins are used in gaskets, seals, lubricants, and coatings due to their thermal stability and flexibility, catering to the automotive industry's demand for high-performance materials.
- Electronics: With the increasing complexity and miniaturization of electronic devices, silicone oils and resins are essential for encapsulation, adhesion, and thermal management, protecting sensitive components from moisture, heat, and mechanical stress.

- Construction: Silicone sealants and coatings are widely utilized in construction for their weather resistance, durability, and flexibility, contributing to demand in this sector.
- Healthcare: Silicone materials are vital in medical devices, implants, and pharmaceutical applications due to their biocompatibility and chemical inertness.



As technology advances and environmental concerns grow, there's a trend towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly silicone formulations. Additionally, the demand for silicone materials in emerging sectors like renewable energy and 3D printing is expected to further drive market growth.

Can you provide insights into the growing applications of silicone oils in textile, and personal care industries?

Silicone oils are finding growing applications across diverse industries:

- Textile: In the textile industry, silicone oils are employed as softeners and lubricants in fabric finishing processes. They impart a smooth, soft feel to textiles, reduce friction during processing, and enhance fabric drape and handle. Additionally, silicone oils can provide water repellence and stain resistance to textiles, enhancing their durability and performance.
- Personal Care: Silicone oils are valued in personal care products for their emollient properties, providing a smooth, silky feel to skin and hair. They are commonly used in moisturizers, hair conditioners, and shampoos to improve spreadability, enhance shine, and reduce frizz. Silicone oils also form a protective barrier on the skin, helping to retain moisture and prevent dehydration.

Overall, the versatility and beneficial properties of silicone oils make them increasingly indispensable in automotive, textile, and personal care industries, driving their growing applications and demand.

Please explain how silicone resins are being utilized in aerospace, and what factors are fueling their demand?

Aerospace: In the aerospace sector, silicone resins find applications in aircraft manufacturing and maintenance. They are used as adhesives, sealants, coatings, and composite materials due to their lightweight, flame retardant, and high-temperature resistant properties. Silicone resins contribute to the structural integrity, durability, and performance of aircraft components, providing protection against extreme temperatures, vibrations, and environmental factors.

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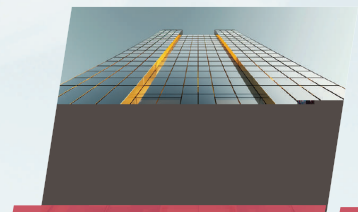

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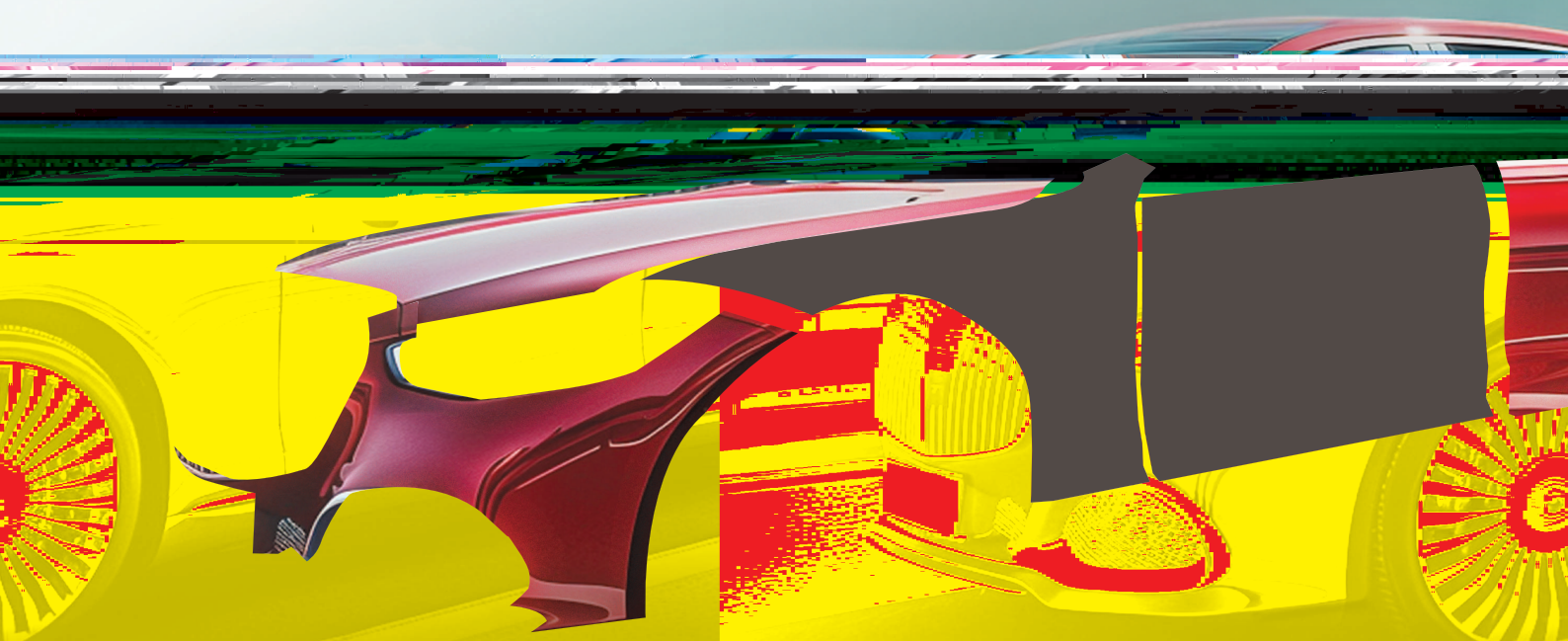


UV Protection *Heat Protection* *Hydrophobic Properties* *Anti-Glare Properties*

Factors fueling the demand for silicone resins include the increasing emphasis on high-performance materials, stringent regulations regarding safety and environmental protection, technological advancements in materials science, and the growing demand for durable and reliable solutions in the aerospace industry.

How are advancements in silicone chemistry and processing technologies impacting the development of new products and applications?

Advancements in silicone chemistry and processing technologies are revolutionizing product development and expanding applications:

1. Enhanced Properties: Innovations in silicone chemistry enable the modification of molecular structures to achieve tailored properties, such as improved thermal stability, flexibility, and biocompatibility. This facilitates the creation of specialized products for diverse industries, including automotive, electronics, and healthcare.
2. Novel Applications: Breakthroughs in processing technologies, such as 3D printing and nanotechnology, are unlocking new avenues for silicone utilization. These advancements enable the fabrication of intricate structures and precise coatings, opening doors to applications in biotechnology, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing.
3. Sustainability: The development of eco-friendly silicone formulations, utilizing renewable resources and minimizing environmental impact, is a growing focus. This aligns with global sustainability goals and addresses consumer demand for greener alternatives in various sectors, including packaging, textiles, and consumer goods.

Overall, advancements in silicone chemistry and processing technologies are driving innovation, enabling the creation of cutting-edge products with improved performance, novel functionalities, and reduced environmental footprint, thus shaping the future of multiple industries.

What role does sustainability and environmental regulations play in shaping the future of the silicone oils and resins industry? How is the industry working to reduce the environmental impact of silicone oil and resin manufacturing processes, such as emissions and waste generation?

Sustainability and environmental regulations are increasingly influencing the silicone oils and resins industry. Environmental concerns drive demand for greener alternatives and push manufacturers to minimize the environmental impact of their processes:

1. Regulation Compliance: Stringent environmental regulations compel manufacturers to adhere to emission standards, waste disposal guidelines, and chemical safety protocols. Compliance ensures sustainable practices and reduces environmental harm.
2. Green Initiatives: Industry players are investing in research and development to create eco-friendly silicone formulations using renewable resources and energy-efficient processes. This includes exploring bio-based feedstocks and employing cleaner production methods to reduce carbon footprint and waste generation.
3. Circular Economy: Embracing principles of the circular economy, the industry focuses on recycling and waste management strategies to minimize resource depletion and promote sustainability throughout the product lifecycle. This involves recycling post-consumer silicone products and exploring closed-loop systems for material reuse.

In summary, sustainability and environmental regulations are driving forces shaping the future of the silicone oils and resins industry. Through innovation and strategic initiatives, the industry aims to reduce its environmental footprint while meeting the demands of a more eco-conscious market.

Can you discuss the emergence of bio-based or recycled silicone oils and resins, and their potential impact on the industry?

The emergence of bio-based and recycled silicone oils and resins signifies a significant shift towards sustainability in the industry:

1. Environmental Benefits: Bio-based silicone oils and resins utilize renewable feedstocks, such as plant-derived materials, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating carbon emissions. Recycled silicone products contribute to waste reduction and resource conservation, promoting a circular economy.
2. Market Demand: Consumer preferences for eco-friendly products drive the demand for bio-based and recycled silicone materials. Industries seeking to enhance their sustainability credentials increasingly favor these alternatives, leading to market growth and diversification.
3. Technological Advancements: Ongoing research and development efforts focus on improving the performance and scalability of bio-based and recycled silicone formulations. Innovations in production processes and material properties aim to enhance competitiveness and broaden application potential.

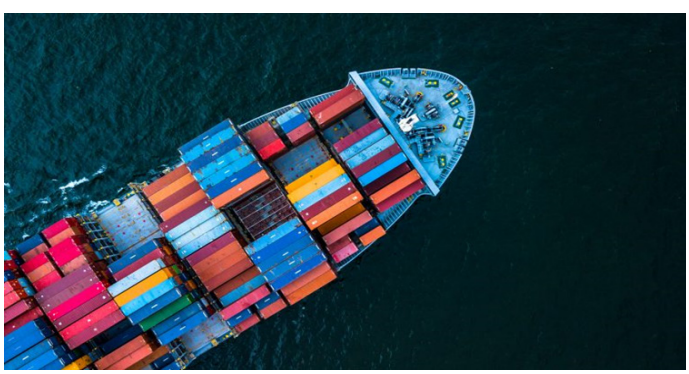
Overall, bio-based and recycled silicone oils and resins have the potential to revolutionize the industry by offering sustainable alternatives that align with environmental goals and market demands. Their adoption represents a crucial step towards a more sustainable and circular silicone industry.

What are the key export markets for Indian silicone oils and resins, and what factors drive demand in these regions?

The key export markets for Indian silicone oils and resins include:

1. United States: The US is a significant importer of Indian silicone oils and resins due to its vast manufacturing base, particularly in industries like automotive, electronics, and construction. Factors driving demand include the need for high-quality materials, technological advancements, and cost competitiveness.
2. European Union: European countries import Indian silicone oils and resins for various applications in automotive, aerospace, and healthcare sectors. Demand is fueled by stringent quality standards, environmental regulations, and a focus on sustainable materials.
3. Middle East: The Middle East region relies on Indian silicone oils and resins for construction, infrastructure development, and industrial applications. Factors driving demand include rapid urbanization, infrastructure projects, and the region's growing industrial sector.
4. Asia-Pacific: Countries like China, Japan, and South Korea import Indian silicone oils and resins for diverse industries, driven by manufacturing growth, technological advancements, and increasing demand for specialty chemicals.

Overall, factors such as quality, cost-effectiveness, technological innovation, and regulatory compliance drive demand for Indian silicone oils and resins in key export markets across the globe.



What are the main hurdles or trade barriers that affect the international trade of silicone oils and resins?

The main hurdles or trade barriers affecting the international trade of silicone oils and resins include:

1. Tariffs and Duties: High tariffs and import duties imposed by certain countries can increase the cost of imported silicone products, making them less competitive in the global market.
2. Regulatory Compliance: Varied regulations and standards related to product safety, environmental protection, and chemical labeling pose challenges for exporters in meeting diverse requirements across different markets.
3. Technical Barriers: Technical regulations, certification processes, and testing requirements specific to silicone oils and resins can create barriers to trade, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) lacking resources for compliance.
4. Intellectual Property Rights: Protection of intellectual property rights and patents can hinder market access and innovation for exporters, particularly in countries with lax enforcement of IP laws.
5. Market Access Restrictions: Non-tariff barriers such as quotas, import licenses, and restrictions on foreign investment can limit market access and hinder the growth of international trade in silicone oils and resins.

Addressing these hurdles requires collaboration between governments, industry stakeholders, and trade organizations to streamline regulations, reduce trade barriers, and promote fair and open competition in the global market.

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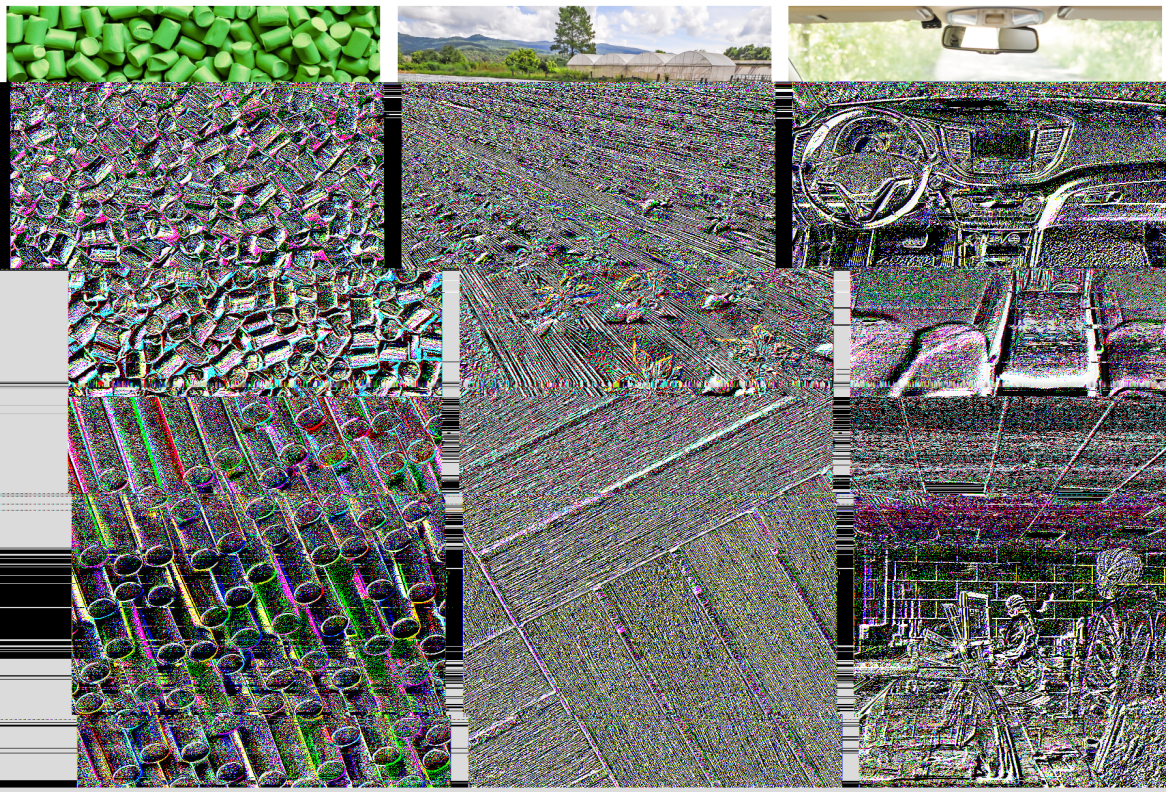

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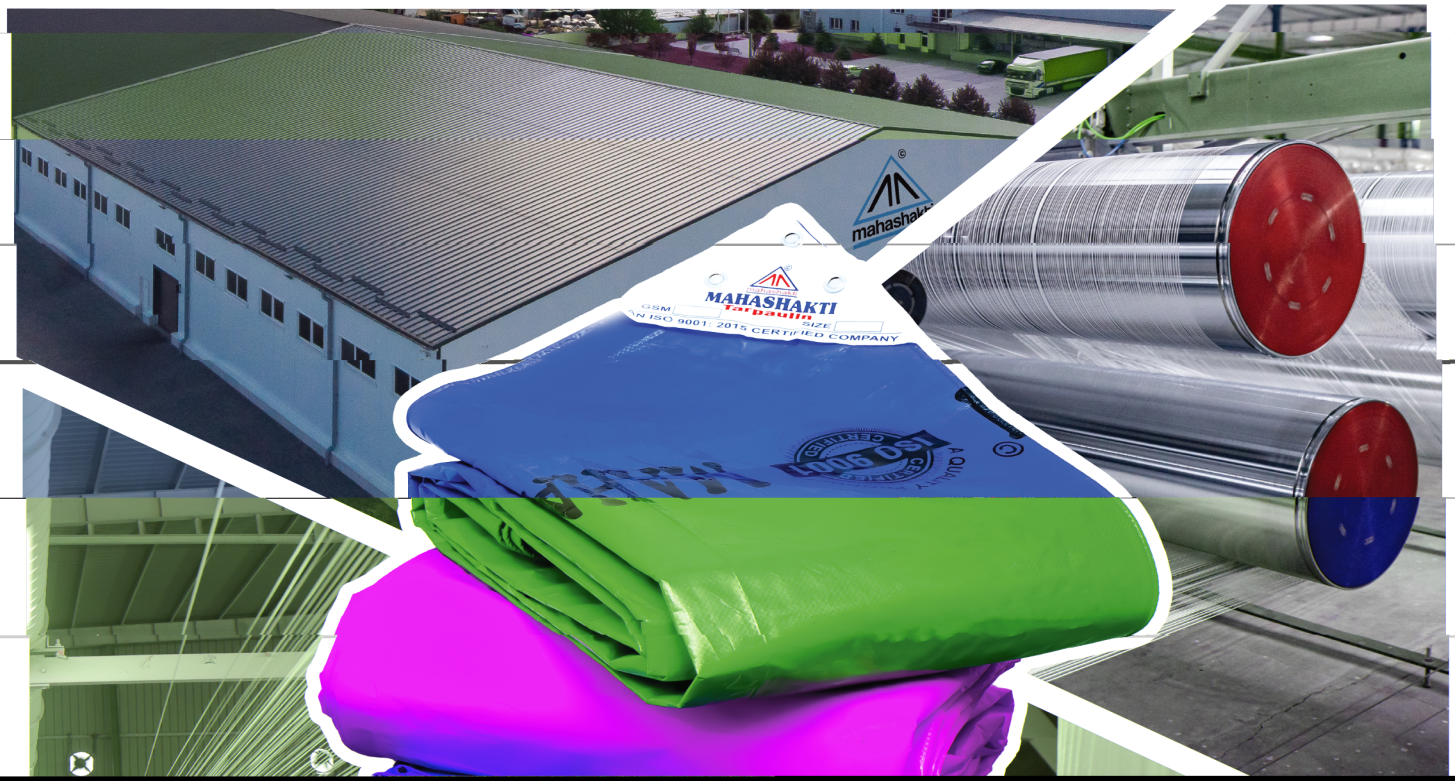


Doors & Windows of Plastics

Doors and windows are the key elements of our homes and workplaces. They are available in wood, metal, and plastic, as may be required depending on the budget, climatic conditions and consumer preferences. Doors and windows of plastics (mainly uPVC or unplasticized Polyvinyl Chloride) have been replacing traditional materials for making doors and windows in a significant way all over the globe due to their ability to offer better insulation, soundproofing, and resistance to fading and deterioration. Doors and windows of plastics are classified under Subheading 392520 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Doors and windows of plastics is valued between USD 5.0 – 6.0 billion per year approximately.

- In 2023, top-5 exporting countries of Doors and windows of plastics were: Poland (39.7%), Romania (8.2%), China (8.1%), Germany (6.8%), and Türkiye (3.7%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Doors and windows of plastics were: United States of America (16.6%), Italy (15.6%), Germany (12.1%), Switzerland (6.9%) and France (6.6%).

In 2023, India exported 1,599 tonnes of Doors and windows of plastics valued at USD 7.53 million to the world. Bhutan and Maldives were the top-2 export destinations in terms of value as well as volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (tonnes)
Bhutan	2.19	Maldives	565
Maldives	1.47	Bhutan	344
Oman	1.08	Oman	182
Malaysia	0.88	Malaysia	154
Philippines	0.52	Nepal	90
Nepal	0.43	Philippines	84
United States of America	0.20	New Zealand	33
New Zealand	0.15	Netherlands	21
United Arab Emirates	0.12	Brazil	19
Germany	0.09	United States of America	18

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

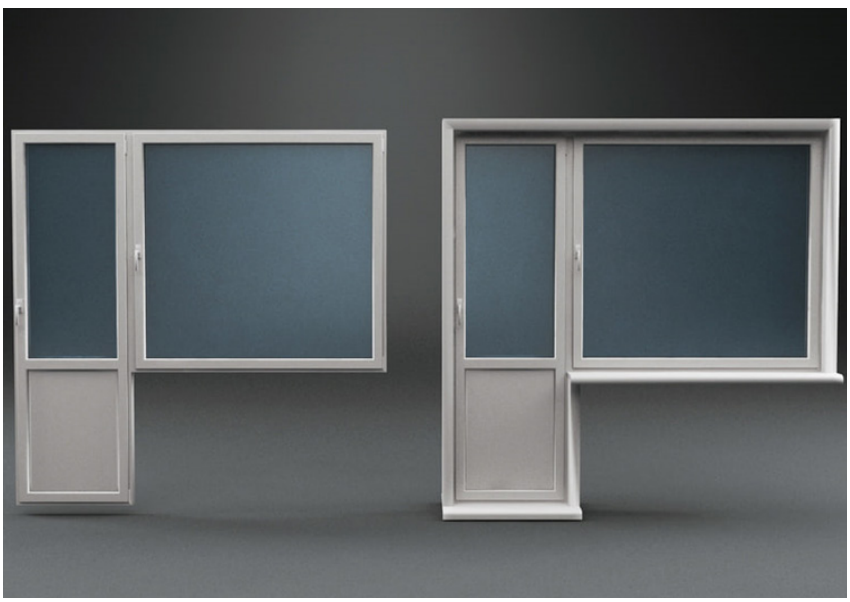
Product of the month

In 2023, India imported 3,862 tonnes of Doors and windows of plastics valued at USD 6.39 million. China was the top supplier of Doors and windows of plastics to India.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (tonnes)
China	3.42	China	2,488
Bangladesh	1.47	Bangladesh	1,080
Belgium	0.34	South Korea	111
South Korea	0.32	Malaysia	106
Taiwan	0.29	Taiwan	30
Germany	0.16	Germany	11
Malaysia	0.12	Nepal	9
Türkiye	0.06	Belgium	8
United Kingdom	0.06	Türkiye	5
Netherlands	0.04	United Kingdom	5

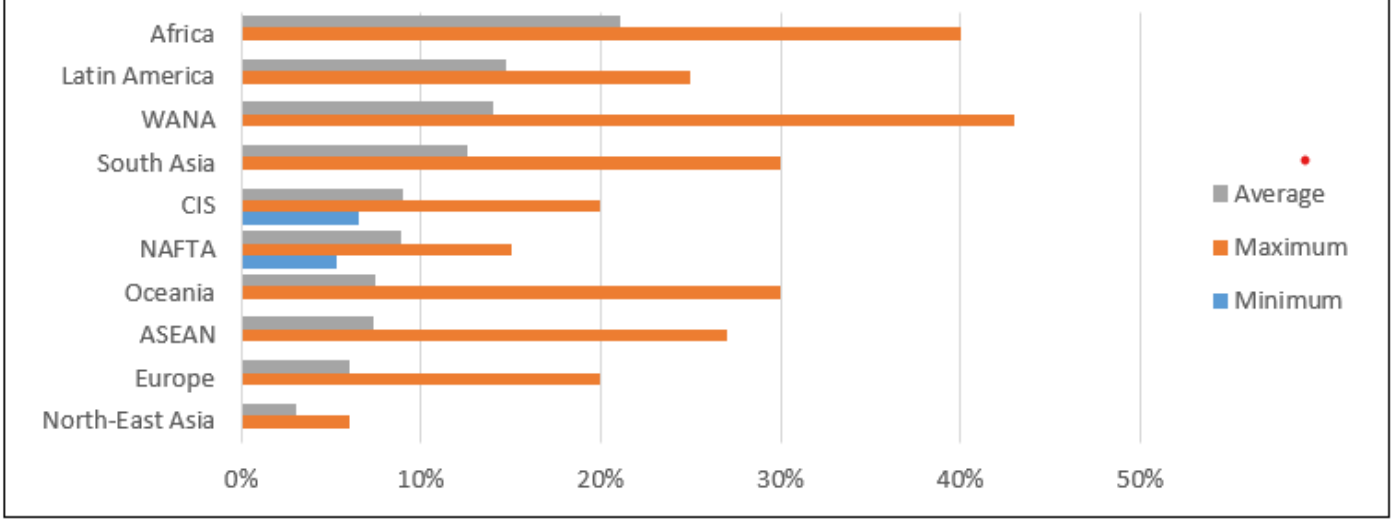
Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

Indian firms dealing in Doors and windows of plastics can target export destinations like Australia, Bhutan, Japan, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America as these are lucrative markets.

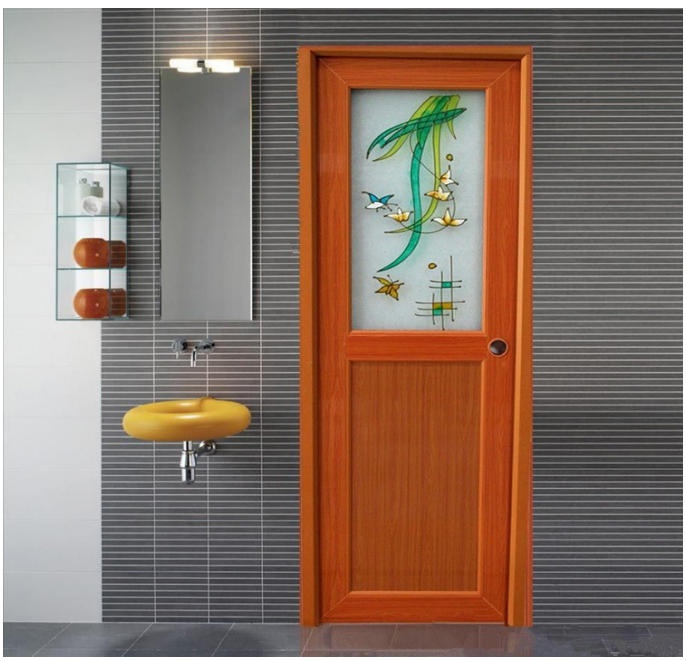


There is zero duty applicable on import of Doors and windows of plastics from India in Australia, Bhutan, Japan as well as the United Arab Emirates under India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit; India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; and India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, respectively. Import of Doors and windows of plastics from India by some of the ASEAN countries (particularly Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand) is also eligible for preferential customs duty under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. Doors and windows of plastics do not attract any customs duty in Brunei, Singapore, and Switzerland. Although, India's export of Doors and windows of plastics to Nepal, Oman, and the United States of America do not enjoy any preferential treatment, these markets are quite lucrative for export.

Effective tariff applied by various regions on import of Doors and windows of plastics from India



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research



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Dr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy

Jal Jeevan Mission and HDPE pipes for water distribution

The Government of India launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with state partnerships on 15th August 2019 to provide tap water to every rural household by 2024. Only 17% of rural homes had tap water at the mission's inception. The Jal Jeevan Mission in India primarily focuses on providing potable water supply to rural households. To implement the nationwide initiative, the projects under JJM employ various types of pipes, depending on availability, cost, and durability. HDPE pipes are one of the common pipes used in this due to their flexibility, durability, and resistance to chemicals and corrosion. They are often used for water supply systems, particularly for underground applications.

The HDPE pipes used in "Jal Jeevan Mission" are made of HDPE resins owing to their cost- effectiveness for conveying potable water, irrigation, and other applications. They adhere to BIS specifications (IS 4984), manufactured in various grades (PE-63, PE 80, and PE 100) with different pressure ratings. By 2024, the count of rural homes with tap water rose to over 76%. Thus, with the success of JJM, the demand for HDPE pipes also escalated.

Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The Union government has allocated ₹ 70,163 crore for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the budget 2024-25.

HDPE Pipes used under this mission include:

- State Departments approve the Quality Assurance Plan for Manufacturing and supply of PE Pipe as IS: 4984 - 2016
- The state ensures the Quality by way of Pre-shipment inspection by reputed Third Party Inspection (TPI) agencies like, the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET)
- Some states have initiated random pipe sampling from the site and getting them doubly checked in the Laboratory to doubly ensure quality by repeating sampling.

Raw material guidelines for IS: 4984:

- All EPC contracts are awarded based on using HDPE Pipes made out of 100% virgin raw material.
- IS: 4984 Standard allows 5% of Clean Reprocessable material generated inside the plant during production and testing.

Government policy of zero contamination to piped water

India ranks 120th among 122 countries in the water quality index, with nearly 70% contaminated water. Despite some improvements in water supply metrics over the past year, only 3% of Indian households drink piped water from their local bodies without purification. Due to intermittent water supply, pipes are pressurized for only a few hours daily, allowing contaminated ground water to seep in during no-supply periods. Consequently, when municipal water supply resumes, the contaminated water flows out of taps.

The Govt aims to ensure the delivery of potable water and increase the percentage of households receiving purified water from 3% to 20% over the next 5 years.

Despite government efforts, safe tap water remains a privilege in India due to concerns over steady supply, quality checks, testing, and real-time surveillance of consumer complaints. Besides the installation of a seamless network of supply, reliable and real-time monitoring of water quality, and health hazards associated with piped water, there's a need for trust to consume it directly from taps. However, the Indian states are trying their best to provide contamination free piped water. Recently, Puri in Odisha became the first Indian city to provide 24×7 safe drinking water from taps for residents in July 2021.

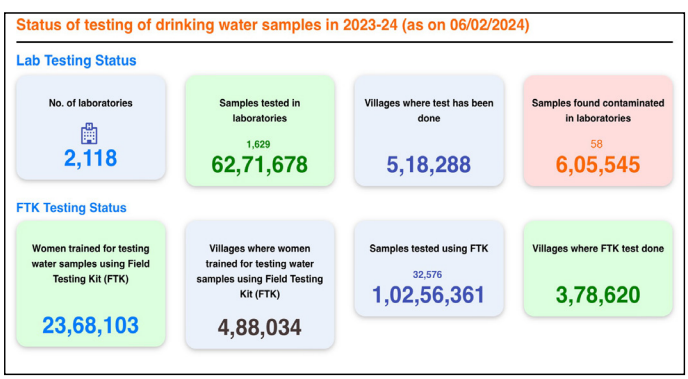
On account of the success of the JJM, the Department of Water Resources has been allocated INR 20,055 crore, marking a 43% increase from the previous year's revised estimates. The Standing Committee on Water Resources (2022) noted that several states and UTs had achieved 90%-100% household coverage under JJM.

Challenges And Repercussions Faced in Jal Jeevan Mission for Water Contamination

As per the IS: 4984 – 2016, the pipes for the Jal Jeevan Mission are required to be made from 100% fit-for-purpose virgin raw material whereas it seems some pipes are made of r**eprocessed plastic finding its way which can lead to compromise in Structural Integrity apart from Public Health at Large.** This is despite the fact that Government regulations and specifications are very stringent and even BIS specifications aim at tightening the space to ensure that pipes are indeed made from virgin material only.

- The reiteration of the construal comes from the online water quality data of JJM Dashboard which shows as much as 10% of the water samples to be contaminated

- The treated water from the WTP is transported mostly through HDPE Pipes, which would lead us to believe that the source of contamination is the medium of transportation of water through HDPE Pipes made from unfit-for-purpose raw material.



- It is a proven fact that HDPE pipes using the right raw material are the cheapest and the best medium for transporting potable water as they are not prone to any corrosion or to generating any residue.

- Life Cycle Cost - PE pipe, which is designed for 50 years thro' accelerated test for 10000 hours as per ISO 9080, is now expected at a much lower life due to compromised quality (Huge replacement cost to the exchequer)

- Reprocessed Plastics from uncertified and unknown compositions are the biggest threat to "LIFE"-the life of the pipeline and more importantly life of human beings, compromising the noble objective of Jal Jeevan Mission.

- Unethical practices by unscrupulous manufacturers cannot be allowed to defeat such a noble deed the government has set out to achieve.

- PE pipe has been used for the Transportation of Cooking Gas with zero leakage for the past 30 years, and globally for the past 60 years; while Non Renewable Water over 30% is common in Municipal Water Distribution using the same PE80 / PE100 materials.

There are also major **public health repercussions** that come along with contaminated pipes:

- Recycled Plastics Material sourced from Uncertified Sources comprise many chemicals, such as Phthalate, Polybrominated biphenyls (Pb), bisphenol-A (BPA), and Cadmium, released during plastic manufacturing and leaching of plastics from various plastic products

- According to the UNDP Report, there are more than 13,000 Chemicals in Plastics out of which about 3200 Chemicals are hazardous. About 40% of them are water-soluble. Plastics from Uncertified Sources can be hazardous.

- Leaching content from recycled plastics may contain more Metal than specified in BS:6920.

- Harmful Chemicals substances like BPA (Bisphenol-A) and DEHP (Di-2-ethylhexyl Phthalate) are released from Reused plastics.

- The above substances cause endocrine disruption and have shown many adverse outcomes for children and reproductive and developmental effects for adults.

- Research also indicates that DEHP adversely affects the liver, reproductive tract, kidney and lungs

- Many studies have been conducted to understand the risk of individual chemicals— BPA or DEHP on human health and ecology.

Suggested steps to overcome the current challenges of using reprocessed materials for PE Pipes manufacturing

Regulatory Compliance:

- Raw Material Inspection, jointly conducted by TPI and Project owner, before commencing production.
- 24x7 witness (online inspection) by renowned Independent TPI during production
- Stringent audit of the finished Goods sold by the manufacturer, tallying it to the batch number and quantity of specific Raw Materials purchased from Certified Sources. To be certified by appointed Independent TPI.
- Stricter norms for Pipe Inspection – Pre- and post-shipment inspection to be conducted by different independent TPI. TPI to issue a certificate to the project owner that no reprocessed plastic material has been used in the manufacture of Pipe.
- Currently, CIPET is the only TPI Agency for a majority of PE pipe projects, including pre- and Post shipment. Suggestion to Include below list of renowned TPI Agencies for inspection Governance like Bureau Veritas, SGS, Loyed, Crown, ITI
- Undertaking by the Contractor that the pipe supplied for the water project has been made with 100% virgin PE resin as per IS: 4984. In case of non-compliance, Blacklisting of the Contractor is to be initiated by the project owner.

Consumer Education and Campaign:
Launch educational campaigns to inform consumers about the detrimental effects of recycled plastics in PE pipes and encourage them to support companies that prioritize sustainability in the manufacturing processes.

Investment in Research and Development:
Allocate resources towards research and development initiatives aimed at finding the ill effects of Recycled plastics in Potable water transportation.

Regulate the use of Recycled Plastics:
Regulate the manufacture of recycled plastics, explore ways to find their uses, and avoid its entry into the Drinking water pipeline.

About the Author

Dr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy is an Industry expert with over 35 years of experience in PE Piping systems. He worked with various Companies manufacturing Pipes for water supply, Irrigation etc. He is an alumnus of IIT, Kharagpur, where he was awarded a Doctorate Degree in Water Management.

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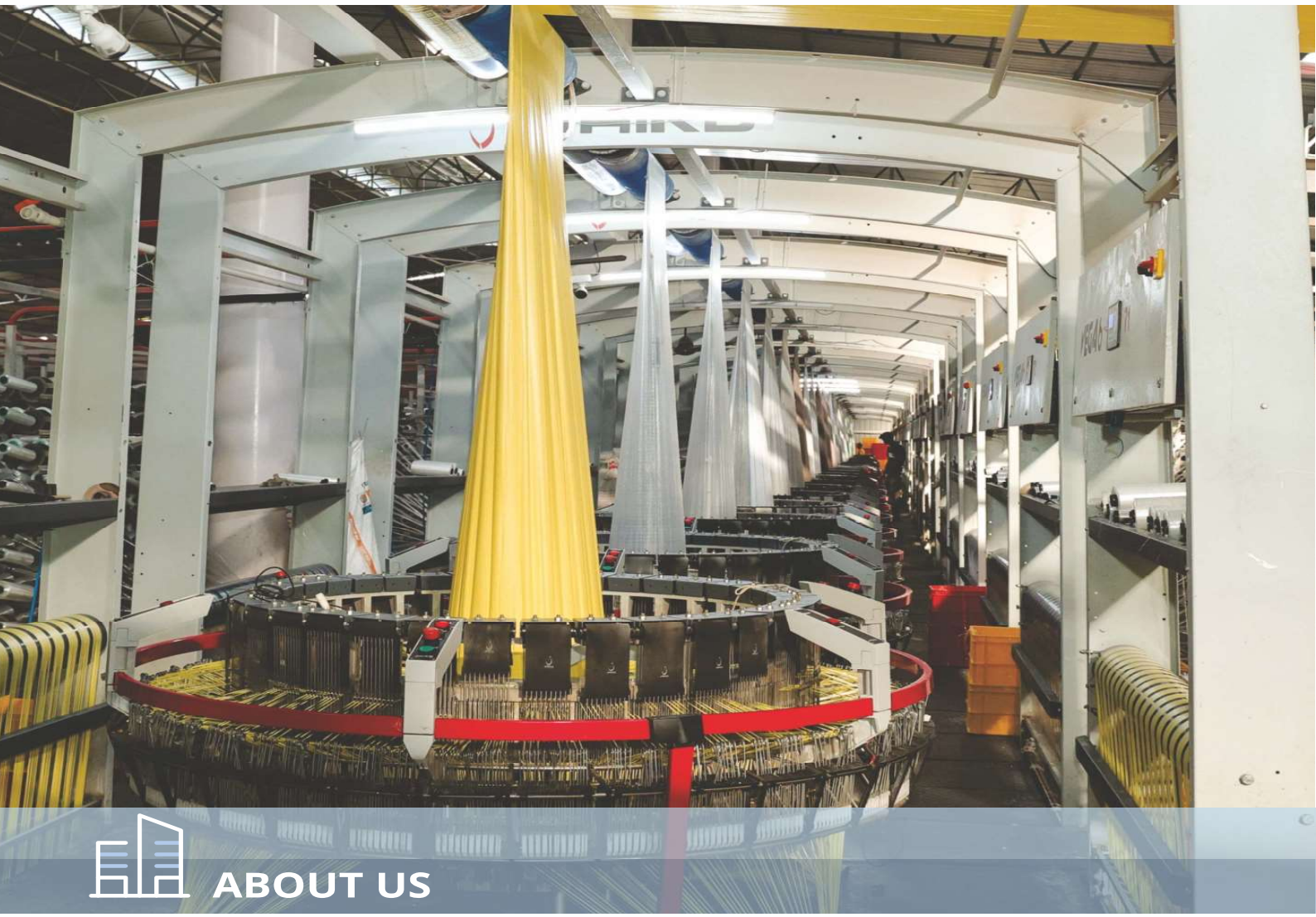

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International News

DuPont Calls It Splits

DuPont announced yesterday a plan to split the company into three publicly traded entities. Under the plan, the proposed separation of its electronics and water businesses would be conducted in a tax-free process for shareholders. The so-called New DuPont would continue as a "premier diversified industrial company" powered by deep materials science and application engineering expertise, the company said in its announcement.

The standalone electronics and water businesses would benefit from a greater ability to tailor capital allocation and growth strategies aligned with their brands, among other advantages, according to DuPont.

Positioned for growth in medical markets.

New DuPont, for its part, will have a strong presence in the fast-growing healthcare end-markets, including applications for biopharma consumables, medical devices, and medical packaging. Technologies enabling advanced mobility, particularly within electric vehicles, also will be a key focus. Finally, New DuPont will remain a provider of advanced solutions serving safety, construction, aerospace, and other industrial-based end-markets, explained company officials.

Flexibility to pursue focused growth strategies.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity to deliver long-term, sustainable shareholder value through the creation of three strong, industry-leading companies," said Ed Breen, DuPont executive chairman and CEO. "The three-way separation will unlock incremental value for shareholders and customers and also create new opportunities for employees. Critically, each company will have greater flexibility to pursue [its] own focused growth strategies, including portfolio-enhancing M&As." New DuPont will be comprised of the existing businesses within the Water & Protection segment (excluding Water Solutions), the majority of businesses within Industrial Solutions (including healthcare), and the retained businesses reported in the corporate statement (including adhesives). These businesses generated net sales of approximately $6.6 billion in 2023, reported DuPont.

The separation is expected to be completed within 18 to 24 months, the company said.

Source: Plastics Today

3D-printed Lens Implant Could Revolutionize Cataract Surgery

A polymer blend developed by academic researchers coupled with stereolithography has the potential to accelerate the design and manufacture of intraocular lens implants.

A mixture of photopolymerizable materials developed by researchers in England combined with 3D printing could revolutionize cataract surgery. A photopolymerizable resin containing 2-phenoxyethyl acrylate, poly (ethylene glycol) dimethacrylate, and a photoinitiator was used to fabricate a prototype device, similar to a non-refractive intraocular lens (IOL), via stereolithography in a proof-of-principle study at the University of East Anglia

in Norwich, UK. The process has the potential to accelerate design and manufacture of IOLs and facilitate the production of patient-specific lenses. It also enables expanded research into alternative materials for this application.

Molding and lathing are current IOL fabrication methods.

Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness and the second cause of severe vision impairment worldwide, write the researchers in a paper published online on May 19 in Current Eye Research. The primary methods used to manufacture implantable IOLs currently are molding and lathing. The latter technique involves the production of rods cut into disc-shaped structures that are then machined with a lathe. In both cases, the IOLs are polished to remove artifacts that may affect smoothness while preserving the implant's sharp edges. While these techniques produce high-quality IOLs, they have several disadvantages, write the researchers led by Associate Professor in Healthcare Technologies Aram Saeed, PhD, and Professor Michael Wormstone, PhD, at the School of Biological Sciences.

Current methods are time consuming, requiring demanding cleaning procedures and multiple production steps, write the researchers. They also are labor intensive and require costly specialized equipment. 3D printing eliminates many of these challenges.

SLA accelerates production of IOL prototypes.

Stereolithography (SLA) was the chosen 3D-printing method, because of the "high resolution and speed of fabrication, the versatility of the materials that can be used, and the possibility of using them simultaneously. These attributes make SLA a promising technique to accelerate the production of novel IOL prototypes," notes the paper.

The photopolymerizable formulation developed in-house for SLA printing enabled the production of IOL prototypes with the requisite mechanical properties. A battery of tests verified the transparency and biocompatibility of the devices. Implantability was evaluated using an internationally recognized suspended human capsular bag system, which was first developed at the University of East Anglia. The SLA-fabricated implant was folded — as is customary when implanting IOLs using current technology — loaded into an injection system, and "implanted" in the capsular bag, which had previously been inflated. Following ejection, the folded implant unfurled and recovered its natural shape without affecting the structural characteristics, according to the paper.

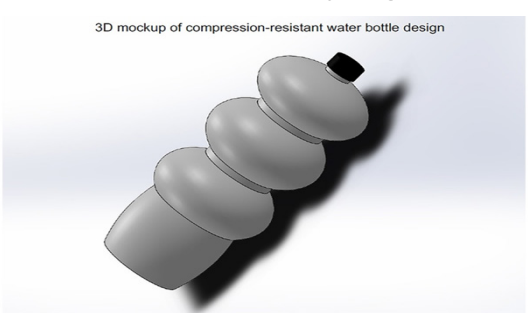
Technology refinements to come.

Further research is needed to apply the process to the manufacture of refractive IOLs, the researchers acknowledged. It remains suitable, however, for prototyping and developing innovative implants to address specific clinical challenges, they note in the paper. Moreover, the proof-of-concept paper is the first in a series that will detail further developments. "As we continue to publish our findings and share our advancements, we aim to be at the forefront of the industry, working with industrial partners and researchers worldwide to refine and enhance the technology," Saeed told British publication The Engineer.

Source: Plastics Today

Circular Plastics Challenge Targets rPET

Winners in the 2024 challenge used bottle geometry to improve recycling, deployed florescent tracer-based sorting, and turned stores into recycling centers.



Top winner Strong Bottle reimagines the water bottle to improve recycling rates.

At a Glance

- Circular Plastics Challenge focused on increasing the supply of rPET.
- First-place winner addressed the problem of PET bottles flattened during recycling.
- Winners were announced at NPE2024 via a virtual showcase.

Hillenbrand, Net Impact, and Coca-Cola announced the winners of the second annual Circular Plastics Challenge, a global competition that builds awareness and promotes innovation in plastics sustainability and circularity.

A key goal of the annual challenge is to mobilize the next generation of plastics-industry leaders with a real-world circularity problem, enabling them to put their experience and classroom knowledge to work on solutions. Participants each year include undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals.

This year's challenge focused on solutions that boost the supply of recycled PET aka rPET.

"As more companies commit to ambitious recycled content goals due to regulatory and consumer pressure to combat global plastic pollution, the supply of recycled PET is not keeping up with demand," said Hilary Manzo, associate director of programs at Net Impact.

"According to a 2023 McKinsey & Co. report, from 2012 to 2022 rPET consumption increased roughly 4% per year, while supply only grew at around 1% per year over the same period," she noted. Manzo moderated the finalist presentations and awards announcement for this year's challenge in a virtual showcase broadcast from NPE2024, held May 6-10 in Orlando, FL.

The 2024 Circular Plastics Challenge generated 65 applications from 18 countries, up from 50 submissions from 10 countries in its inaugural year.

The submitted projects, which are at laboratory scale, ranged from reverse vending to extended producer responsibility (EPR) innovations. The challenge's panel of judges included sustainability executives from Hillenbrand, Net Impact, and Coca-Cola; judging criteria include practicality and scalability.

The top three teams received awards of $10,000, $2,500, and $1,000, respectively.

Circular Plastics Challenge top winner details.

First-place honors in the 2024 challenge went to a reimagined PET beverage bottle dubbed the Strong Bottle, which features a novel geometry designed to boost recycling rates. The Strong Bottle team is based at Boise State University.

The second-place winner was EcoTrace, a technology that uses florescent-based markers and tracer-based sorting to improve PET's recyclability. Third place went to rMarket, a platform for transforming retail locations into recycling centers.

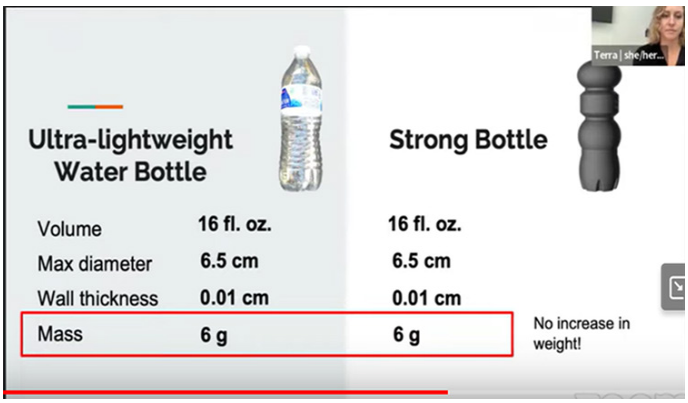
EcoTrace fluorescent markers improve PET recyclability. ECOTRACE via HILLENBRAND

The Strong Bottle team, led by Boise State graduate student Terra Miller-Cassman, undergraduate Taylor Fackrell, and mechanical engineering professor Aaron Smith, proposed a clever solution to the common problem of lightweight, single-use water bottles being flattened during the recycling process and consequently being improperly sorted.

With current PET water bottle shapes, the pressurized air-sorting technology at materials recovery/recycling facilities (MRFs) can blow flattened bottles into the paper recycling stream rather than properly diverting them to go with bulky plastic items. The flattened bottles contaminate the collected paper, and the paper/bottle mixture ends up in landfill.

This type of paper-stream contamination occurs so frequently that many municipalities have eliminated lightweight PET water bottles from their curbside recycling programs.

Strong Bottle features a new disposable water bottle shape that won't flatten during recycling and could create a 15% increase in the PET collected.



Strong Bottle benefits vs. ultra-lightweight PET bottle. STRONG BOTTLE via YOUTUBE

The new shape features alternating spheres and cylinders. As compression force presses on the spheres, the load is distributed, reducing total compression force on the sides of the bottle and preventing flattening.

"Our team developed Strong Bottle to increase the supply of recycled PET," said Miller-Cassman in her presentation at the NPE2024 showcase. "We have essentially redesigned the water bottle to make it universally recyclable.

"If the major beverage brands were to adopt the Strong Bottle design, it would influence widespread acceptance of lightweight bottles in municipal curbside recycling programs, and this would increase the amount of recycled PET by 400 million pounds per year for a total amount of 1.2 billion pounds per year in recycled PET bottles," she added. "This is a 60% increase over the amount of recycled PET bottles that were captured in 2022."

Strong Bottle uses the same amount (6 grams) of PET as an ultra-light-weight water bottle.

The Strong Bottle was developed as a drop-in solution for existing PET water bottles and designed to be manufactured using existing bottle-manufacturing methods. Following the developmental stage, the Strong Bottle team plans to "manufacture a prototype by blowmolding the shape and gather feedback from customers in the beverage industry and run a pilot test with a material recovery facility," Miller-Cassman said.

Although initial renderings show a grey bottle, the Strong Bottle prototype will be molded from clear PET.

The first-place winner in last year's Circular Plastics Challenge was a startup, Ashaya, that turns post-consumer multilayer plastic packaging into recycled sunglasses and other products. It subsequently appeared on Shark Tank India where the company received funding from the H&M Foundation and Social Alpha in India to continue development and commercialization.

Source: Plastics Today

Cabot Corp launches eco-certified universal circular black masterbatches

Cabot Corporation announced the launch of its new REPLASBLAK universal circular black masterbatches with certified sustainable material. With this launch, Cabot has introduced two new products which will be sold as the industry's first-ever universal circular black masterbatches with International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC PLUS) certified content. The new REPLASBLAK universal circular black masterbatches are powered by EVOLVE Sustainable Solutions and will enable Cabot to continue to deliver the high-performance, quality and reliability that the plastics industry requires at scale for certified circular solutions.

The global transition toward a lower carbon future is driving the need for advanced sustainable solutions that support a circular economy and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As such, automotive plastic compounders and converters are seeking third-party certified black masterbatch products that leverage circular value chains and recycled feedstocks in the product manufacturing process.

Cabot is positioned to enable a more sustainable future with its new universal circular black masterbatch products that are made from mechanically recycled polymer. These solutions offer customers an ISCC PLUS certified single masterbatch for use in a wide range of automotive applications for colouring polyolefins and many engineering plastics.

The two new products, REPLASBLAK reUN5285 universal circular black masterbatch and REPLASBLAK reUN5290 universal circular black masterbatch, are powered by EVOLVE Sustainable Solutions under the recovered category. These solutions enhance Cabot's well-established range of universal black masterbatches recognised for the colouring of a wide range of poly-

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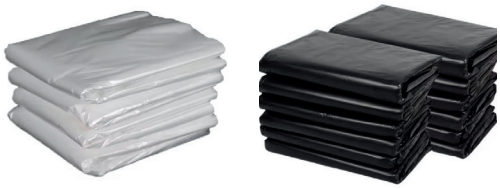

LDPE Liner Bags

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PE/BOPP Woven Sack Bag

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mers with the added benefit of sustainability. The solutions offer superior versatility by enabling the use of a single masterbatch at a low addition rate, resulting in material management efficiency in the product manufacturing process.

Furthermore, both grades enable high gloss and high jetness pigmentation, offering superior colour performance and mechanical properties similar to a standard universal black masterbatch. This makes the solutions suitable for use in various applications in the automotive segment, including interiors, exterior parts and under-the-hood applications.

REPLASBLAK reUN5285 universal circular black masterbatch leverages a 45% ISCC PLUS mass balance certified material made from mechanically recycled polymer. The solution is suitable for compounding applications in the automotive industry.

REPLASBLAK reUN5290 universal circular black masterbatch leverages a 20% ISCC PLUS mass balance certified material made from mechanically recycled polymer. The solution is suitable for compounding as well as direct injection moulding and sheet extrusion applications in the automotive industry.

“Building upon our pioneering role as the first global black masterbatch manufacturer to offer a universal grade, we are excited to expand our universal black masterbatch portfolio with our new REPLASBLAK circular masterbatches featuring ISCC PLUS certified content,” said Jeff Zhu, executive vice president and president, Carbon & Silica Technologies, Battery Materials and Asia Pacific Region.

“By aligning with third-party certifications like ISCC PLUS, our customers have the validation they need to ensure the integrity and performance of our global supply chain as they progress toward their sustainability targets and ambitions. The introduction of our new products underscores our unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable materials innovation and developing novel solutions that pave the way for a more sustainable future.”

EVOLVE Sustainable Solutions is Cabot’s technology platform for delivering sustainable reinforcing carbons and other performance materials. Products powered by EVOLVE Sustainable Solutions offer sustainable content with reliable performance at industrial scale by leveraging circular value chains and/or materials recovered from end-of-life tyres and/or recycled materials, and/or renewable and bio-based materials, and/or processes that reduce GHG emissions.

Source: Interplas Insights

Cannon Afros advances with formable, wide-size PU based VIP panels

Cannon Afros, part of the Cannon Group, is a supplier of dosing systems, mixing equipment, processing technologies and expertise for the thermal insulation of domestic and commercial refrigerators using polyurethane (PU) resin-based formulations.

The aim of the LIFE VICORPAN Project is the development of energy-efficient and recyclable Vacuum-improved Insulation by CORe shaped PANels and it is going to bring significant improvements in the energy consumption of refrigerators, freezers and cooling cabinets used in supermarkets, stores, restaurants with a direct sales function.

The project is led by Cannon Afros, with co-funding from the European Union’s LIFE program (LIFE20 CCM/IT001644), in close cooperation with partners BASF Polyurethanes bringing knowledgeable insulation chemistry for open cell foam-based vacuum insulation panel (VIP) solutions, and EPTA, a multinational industrial Group specialised and leader in commercial refrigeration and who will integrate the new VIP panels into its products.

“Cannon Afros has now developed new equipment to manufacture formable, extra-wide PU based VIPs, thereby expanding the scope of the project to better encompass large commercial fridges and freezers,” said Simone Bechi, R&D engineer and operations manager at Cannon Afros.

“Key to this significant advancement is the formability of the open-cell polyurethane core, which can now be shaped to meet manufacturers’ design requirements. Shaping the panels avoids the thermal bridges at the junctions of the top, bottom and side walls that greatly limit the energy efficiency of traditional VIPs. It also provides greater flexibility when inserting panels into the shell of cooling cabinets.”

VIPs with an open-cell polyurethane core have a lower density, greater flexibility and are much lighter than traditional glass-fibre based VIPs. The improved VICORPAN design can now provide up to 17% lower heat transmission in commercial refrigerators and freezers compared with conventional PU foam insulation.

The initiative has a high potential to reduce CO2 emissions of commercial refrigerators, contributing an essential percentage of the total energy consumption related to cold chain cycles. The project responds to policy goals related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, and recyclability, as well as the technical development of refrigerating appliances for domestic and commercial use.

The project encompasses panel assembly in refrigerator prototypes produced in Italy and France by the project partner EPTA, as well as testing their operational use and energy efficiency, thereby helping manufacturers meet higher categories of energy efficiency labelling in Europe.

First introduced for selected household appliances in 1994 and subsequently expanded in 2004, the EU energy label has been a key driver for helping consumers to choose products which are more and more energy efficient. The EU Energy Labelling (EU) 2019/2018 and Ecodesign (EU) 2019/2024 regulations, that establish the regulatory requirements for refrigerating appliances with a direct sales function (i.e. for commercial refrigerators), came into force in March 2021 and are giving a strong drive towards their efficiency. Both regulations are indirectly intended to promote innovation among manufacturers, to reduce the energy consumption and environmental impact of refrigeration equipment.

Source: Interplas Insights

APR expands design for recyclability recognition programme

US-based Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) has expanded its recyclability recognition programme to include new packaging components.

The programme provides third-party validation that a package or packaging component's design is compatible with the North American recycling system. This is done by confirming that the item has met the highest criteria for recyclability according to the APR Design Guide. Complete packages and all components of package design, including labels, barrier materials, dispensers, and more, are eligible for Preferred Design Recognition (PDR).

PDR is now available for blow moulded PET bottles and containers, PET packaging constructs, natural and coloured HDPE bottles and containers, and mono-material PE stretch and collation shrink films.

In total, the APR recognition is now available for 24 types of plastic products.

"Since its inception, the APR Design Recognition Program has reviewed and recognised packaging from more than 120 companies and has led to the mainstream adoption of impactful innovations," said Ruben Nance, APR programme director for PDR. "One recognised component may be used on hundreds, if not thousands of different packages, so that one component can have a massive impact on plastics packaging sustainability. The APR Design Recognition Program provides a simple way to identify these types of trusted solutions from suppliers."

Brand and retailer procurement teams can save the time, effort, and resources needed to identify and validate recyclable packaging through the APR Library of Recognized Solutions. The recently upgraded library now includes search, sort, and filter capabilities. New products are now included in real time, with ongoing additional improvements in searchability and categorisation.

The APR is also involved in initiatives to improve plastics recyclability outside North America. In 2022, it launched a global design catalogue to help companies navigate different plastics recyclability guidelines around the world. Last year, it worked together with RecyClass to harmonise US-EU guidance for design for recyclability.

Source: Sustainable Plastics

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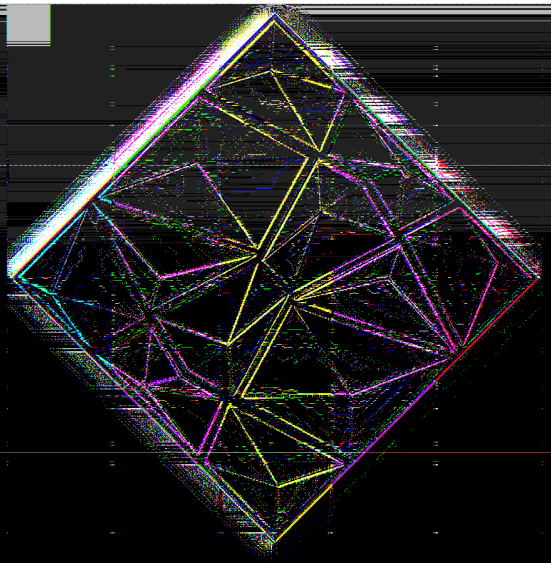
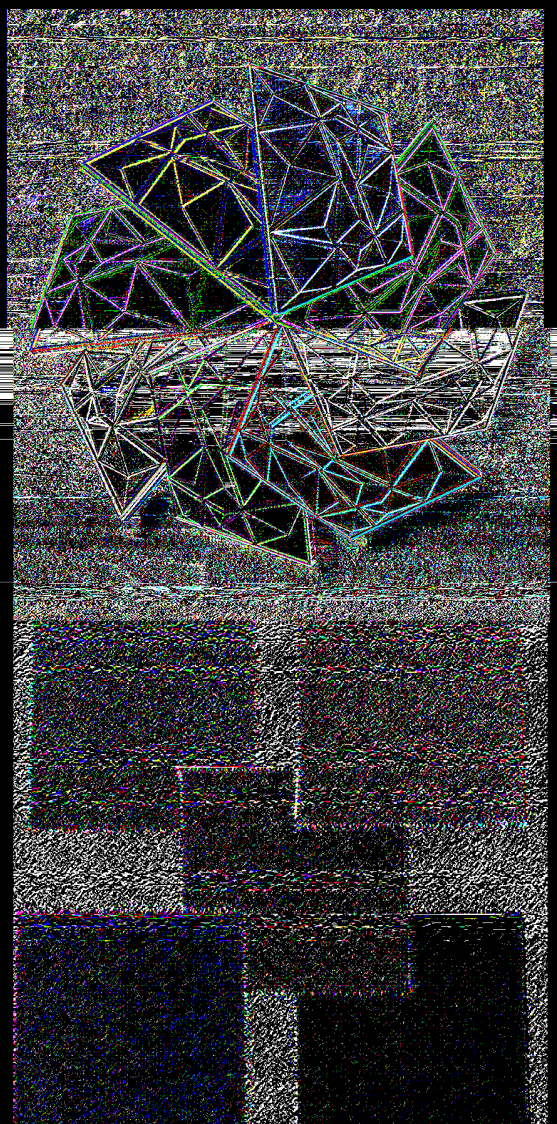




India News

Flomic eyes major growth amid India's export boom

Logistics major Flomic is planning a substantial expansion as India targets an export increase to USD 2 trillion by 2030.

With strategic initiatives in warehousing, technology, and workforce development, Flomic aims to capitalise on this ambitious national goal.

"We are excited about our future and committed to growing in the logistics and forwarding industry," said Lancy Barboza, Managing Director of Flomic.
A key component of Flomic's strategy is enhancing its warehousing capabilities. The company is not only adding more space but also transforming its storage and shipping processes through advanced mechanization, a release said.

The company is investing in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other digital tools to optimise logistics management. The company has also plans to invest in comprehensive training programs to enhance operational skills and deepen knowledge of digital tools and analytics. This initiative aims to equip the team to meet client needs with confidence and expertise.

By expanding infrastructure, leveraging cutting-edge technology, and enhancing team skills, Flomic is prepared not just to meet but to exceed client expectations in the evolving export market, the release added. "By taking these steps, we are ready to be a key player in India's export growth, driving success and adding value across our operations," added Barboza.

Source: The Statesman

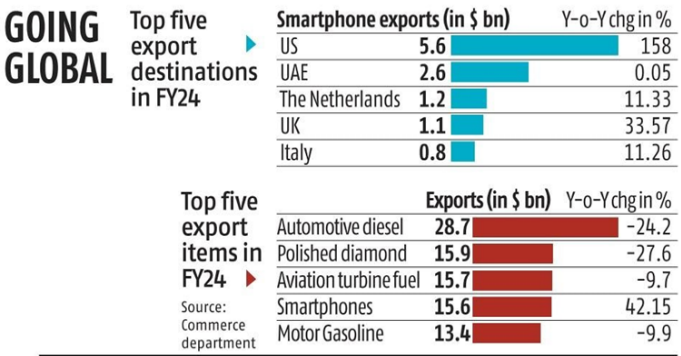
Smartphones become India's fourth largest export item with 42% growth

Smartphones are now the fourth-largest export item from India with 42 per cent growth to $15.6 billion in FY24, up by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year.

India started collecting data for smartphones separately from April 2022. While India's top export items are dominated by petroleum products, smartphones replaced motor gasoline to become the fourth-largest exported commodity in FY24.

According to commerce department data, the spike in smartphone exports was driven by a 158 per cent increase in shipments to the US at $5.6 billion, followed by the United Arab Emirates ($2.6 billion), the Netherlands ($1.2 billion), and the UK ($1.1 billion). The value of mobile devices produced in India for both export and domestic markets in FY24 soared to Rs 4.1 trillion ($49.16 billion), up at least 17 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y), according to preliminary estimates by the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), which represents most of the mobile players in the country.

Smartphones have been a key success story of the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, helping India become the second-largest mobile phone manufac-turing country, after China. It has also been a key instrument in the China-Plus-One strategy, which is focused on leveraging the geopolitical tensions between that country and the US to woo companies manufacturing in China and persuade them to shift to India.



The eligible firms for PLI include Apple's three vendors — Foxconn, Wistron India (now Tata Electronics), and Pegatron — as well as Samsung.

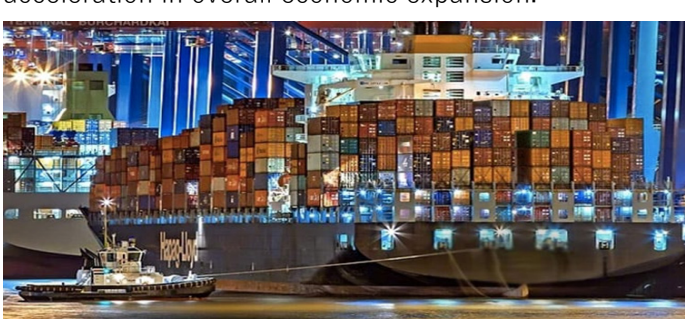
Apple has led the charge in exports, with the value of outbound shipments of mobile devices expected to have crossed Rs 1.2 trillion ($14.39 billion) in FY24, up 33 per cent from Rs 90,000 crore in FY23. Exports in FY24, based on the early estimates, accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the total output value, up from 25 per cent in FY23, according to ICEA data.

Source: Business Standard

India Sees Record Rise In Exports, Employment At 18-Year High In May: Report

The Indian economy clocked a record rise in exports and the sharpest upturn in employment in nearly 18 years in May, according to HSBC Flash Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) data released on Thursday.

The PMI data, compiled by S&P Global, indicated the third-strongest upturn in private sector output since July 2010. Although the manufacturing industry continued to lead the growth of both sales and output, it was the service economy that was responsible for the latest acceleration in overall economic expansion.



sures the month-on-month change in the combined output of India's manufacturing and service sectors - rise from a final reading of 61.5 in April to 61.7, which indicated the third-strongest rate of expansion in close to 14 years," the survey stated.

Over this period, growth was stronger only in July 2023 and March 2024. When explaining the latest increase, survey participants cited successful advertising, efficiency gains, robust intakes of new work and demand strength, the report said.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said: "The composite PMI ticked up further in May, recording the third strongest reading in close to 14 years, supported by a sharp acceleration in the services sector. Although manufacturing sector growth slowed slightly in May, it continued to surpass that in the service economy."

Additionally, the latest data showed strength in new export orders for both sectors, which rose at the fastest pace since the series started in September 2014, he added.

Source: NDTV

India eyes new export markets as trade with traditional partners declines

The ministry of commerce is working on a plan to diversify its export destinations, and ship goods such as electronics goods, drugs, engineering goods, and food products to new markets, as trade with India's traditional partners such as the US and Europe declines amid geopolitical realignment prompted by regional conflicts. The government sees significant export potential in regions such as Saudi Arabia, France, Vietnam, the Netherlands, Mexico, and Ethiopia, two people aware of the development said.

The goods identified for export to absolutely new markets include iron ore, engineering goods, drugs and pharmaceuticals, electronics items, agricultural and processed food products.

This initiative is viewed as the government's strategy to broaden the export range from traditional food commodities to include alcoholic beverages, ready-to-eat foods, confectionery, and value-added products such as banana and jackfruit.

This approach involves market research to identify the most suitable products for each destination, considering factors such as market trends, competition, and regulatory requirements, the people cited above said.

New target markets

The commerce ministry has decided to target France, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya to push the export of iron ore. Currently, iron ore is mainly exported to China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, and the Netherlands, the first of the two persons cited earlier said.

For engineering goods, the government has identified new markets such as Sao Tome, Macao, Georgia, Croatia, Guinea-Bissau, Belize, Azerbaijan, Myanmar, Lithuania, Norway, Somalia, the US, and Greece, the first person said.

Also, the government has identified the Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Mexico, Japan and Kuwait as promising markets. As of now, engineering goods are mainly exported to the US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Germany and Italy.

The exports of engineering goods in Europe remained unchanged in FY24, standing at $27 billion.

Similarly, for drugs and pharmaceuticals, Montenegro, South Sudan, Chad, Comoros, Brunei, Latvia, Ireland, Sweden, Haiti and Ethiopia have been identified as new market destinations and Greece as a promising market. Traditional markets for drugs and pharmaceuticals are the US, the UK, the Netherlands, South Africa and Brazil.

For electronics goods, the government has identified Sao Tome, Montenegro, Cayman Islands, St. Vincent, Mongolia, EL Salvador, Turkmenistan, Honduras, Bahrain, Somalia, Puerto Rico, Vietnam and Sweden as new market destinations, while Russia, Mexico and Turkey are listed in the category of promising markets.

The traditional markets for electronics goods are the US, UAE, the Netherlands, the UK and Italy.

Trade deficit

India's goods trade deficit narrowed by nearly 17% in March compared with the previous month, while exports rose only marginally. However, India's agricultural export recorded a marginal increase of 2.5% to $33.24 billion in FY24 from $32.43 billion in the previous fiscal

The trade deficit fell to $15.6 billion in March, down from $18.71 billion in February, and $16.02 billion in January, commerce ministry data showed. This is the lowest it's been in 11 months—the last time the deficit was narrower was in April 2023 when it came in at $14.44 billion.

An extensive analysis of the export market in these untapped regions is underway to identify potential products and explore new markets, the second person said.

"After conducting this analysis, we will implement targeted actions, such as organising trade delegations and participating in market events, to effectively promote Indian agricultural products," the second person added.

Source: Mint

Udyam portal: India now has over 4 crore registered MSMEs

The total number of registered enterprises on the government's Udyam portal on Friday crossed the 4-crore milestone. According to the data from the portal, launched on July 1, 2020, over 4 crore (4,00,42,875) MSMEs have been registered with the MSME Ministry including 3.93 crore micro enterprises followed by 6.08 lakh small enterprises and 55,488 medium-sized enterprises.

The total count also included 1.56 crore registrations via the Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) launched in January last year to bring units exempted from Goods and Service Tax (GST) into the formal economic fold and enable access to priority sector lending.

The 4-crore mark was achieved in around five months from 3 crore registrations recorded till October last year while 2 crore registrations were achieved till June last year, less than three years since the launch of the portal.

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In terms of employment, the 4 crore units had reported 17.94 crore jobs including 1.87 crore in units registered via UAP.

The Udyam registration takes into account the investment in plant and machinery and turnover to categorise enterprises into micro, small and medium segments. The details of investment in plant and machinery and turnover are captured from the database of the Central Board of Direct Taxes and GST network.

However, a handful of Udyam-registered units have also shut down post Covid.

According to the data shared by Minister of State in the MSME Ministry Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma on February 8 this year in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the number of MSMEs closed since the government's Udyam registration portal launch on July 1, 2020 post-Covid has jumped to 35,680 as of February 5, 2024.

Out of total closures, 13,290 units were shut in the financial year 2022-23 while FY22 saw the closure of 6,222 MSMEs and 175 units in FY21. In the current financial year, as of February 5, 15,993 MSMEs have closed their operations.

The total count of MSMEs shut was 0.08 per cent of total registrations on the Udyam portal.

Source: FE

New plastic management rules will impact FMCG companies: Analysts

New mandatory norms for plastic recycling and reuse of plastic packaging will impact consumer goods companies like Nestle India, Britannia, and Colgate, according to analysts at brokerage firm Kotak Institutional Equities.

Under the new Plastic Waste Management rules, India will implement mandatory norms for the recycling and reuse of plastic content for producers, importers, and brand owners of plastic packaging (excluding micro, small and medium enterprises, or MSMEs) in a phased manner starting from FY25.

India is the third-largest plastic producer globally. While these new norms will put India ahead in the global league, they will also impact packaging costs for consumer companies.

The brokerage said that consumer companies, on average, spend 5-8 per cent of their revenues on packaging, while still heavily relying on plastics.

"We believe that Britannia, Colgate, and Nestle will be the most impacted, while Godrej Consumer Products, ITC, Jyothy Labs, and Varun Beverages will remain the least impacted by the new PWM rules," the brokerage said in its note.

"Our assessment is based on relative overall revenue-based exposure of companies to five key variables: plastic, transparent plastic, food-grade plastic, flexible plastic, and multi-layered plastic (MLP)," it added.

Consumer companies are already working to reduce plastic packaging.

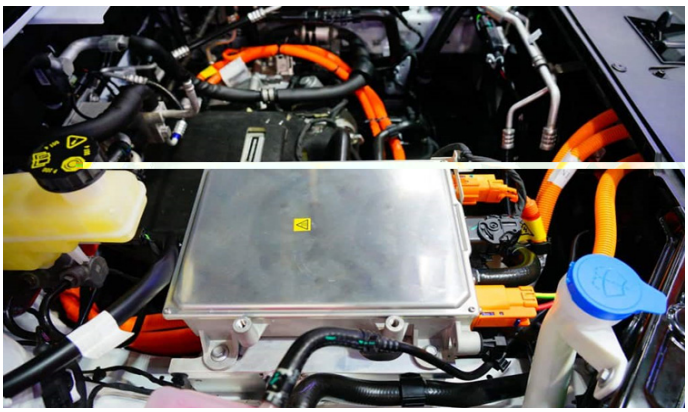
"Packaging is one of the key focus areas. We have undertaken several measures on this front, including optimising current packaging by reducing size, initiating the use of recycled content in secondary packaging, and moving towards easy-to-recycle packaging material," said a Nestle India spokesperson. The company has stopped using plastic for all promotional material since 2020.

Meanwhile, "plastic recyclers such as Ganesha Ecosphere and innovative packaging companies such as EPL, Uflex, and ITC, which can provide solutions for making plastic recyclable, will be the key beneficiaries of the rollout of the new PWM rules," analysts added.

Source: Business Standard

Leveraging plastics and composites for a sustainable automotive future

In the last decade, the automotive industry has witnessed a remarkable shift towards using plastics and composites. This transformative journey has been revolutionary, as we've observed an ever-increasing reliance on these materials in vehicle manufacturing. This shift's implications are far-reaching and set to redefine the future of the automotive landscape. Global Electric Vehicle Plastics market is expected to grow from $3.7 billion in 2022 and is projected to reach $12.6 billion in 2027, at a CAGR of 27.9% during the forecast period.



Application & challenges of plastics and composites in automotive

The data paints a compelling picture. The use of plastics in automotive applications is on the rise, with predictions suggesting that by 2030, there could be up to 17% more plastic used per vehicle. Today, plastics account for up to 50% of a vehicle's volume, indicating a substantial shift away from traditional metal components.

This transformative journey not only tackles challenges in e-mobility adoption but also shapes a future where these materials redefine automotive efficiency, safety, and sustainability. Embracing the shift toward electric mobility, the automotive industry encounters several challenges, each met with innovative solutions through the application of plastics and composites.

Weight constraints – It is a crucial concern for electric vehicles (EVs), which are effectively addressed as these materials offer a substantial reduction compared to traditional metals, enhancing overall efficiency and extending the range of EVs. For electric vehicles, a 10% weight reduction typically equals a 13.7% increase in range.

Battery Weight and Range Anxiety – The weight of batteries, a major contributor to range anxiety, is mitigated by incorporating plastics and composites in battery enclosures.

Safety Standards and Flame Retardancy – Safety standards, particularly flame retardancy, are diligently met through the inherent properties of these materials, reducing the risk of thermal incidents in EVs.

Electrical Components and Heat Management – The need for efficient heat management in electrical components finds a solution in the superior thermal insulation properties of plastics and composites, ensuring optimal performance.

Environmental Sustainability and Recycling – As environmental consciousness grows, the industry grapples with concerns regarding the ecological impact and recycling of materials. Plastics and composites contribute to a more sustainable approach, with ongoing advancements in recycling technologies addressing the issue of plastic waste.

Design Freedom and Aesthetics – Yet the benefits of plastics and composites extend far beyond lightweight, electrical applications and batteries. These materials offer a world of design possibilities, enabling manufacturers to craft intricate forms for exteriors, interiors, and even powertrain components. They have also revolutionized lighting design and offer exceptional electrical and thermal insulation properties, along with corrosion resistance.

The Adoption Process

Core competence with engineers and designers at automotive OEMs, engineering service providers, and raw material manufacturers have developed methods to create applications using materials based on key engineering performance requirements, manufacturing process requirements, design attributes, and cost considerations.

Identifying Needs and Desires – For adoption of polymer composites follow a structured approach, beginning with the identification of needs and desires, driven by the desire to enhance product performance, productivity, or meet regulatory requirements.

Feasibility Studies – Conduct feasibility studies to determine the technical and economic viability of adopting plastics and composites for a specific application. This study should include an assessment of performance, cost, and the readiness of technology (TRL – Technology Readiness Level).

Developing a Comprehensive Plan – Based on the results of the feasibility study, a technology adoption plan is developed. This plan includes a timeline for implementation, resource requirements, and a budget.

Collaborative Efforts – Suppliers and collaborators are identified based on their capabilities, technical expertise, and experience in research and development.

Employee Training and Integration – Training and development of employees for the new technology, including design, manufacturing processes, and testing.

Ensuring Compliance and Safety – Integrating the technology with existing automotive systems and testing the integrated system for safety and performance compliance with regulations.

New Materials and Applications – Launching materials and their applications for systems while promoting their benefits to customers and stakeholders.

The automotive industry's embrace of plastics and composites marks a pivotal moment in its evolution. These materials drive innovation, offer design flexibility, durability, and eco-friendly properties, promoting sustainability. As we navigate towards a cleaner and more efficient automotive future, companies are moving ahead with 5R right weighting approach, stand at the forefront. This approach focuses on the Right Material, aligning with the industry's shift towards lightweighting and sustainable solutions. This will drive a positive change, with innovative solutions in the automotive industry benefiting both society and the environment.

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
- Special price for Dun & Bradstreet's DUNS Registered Solution, Global Profiler, and ESG Report

The Plastics Export Promotion Council added the following companies/firms as new members during April-2024. We would like to welcome them aboard!

Sr. No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Email
1	Accucera Global Private Limited	C-112, Upper First Floor, Mayapuri Industrial Phase 2, West Delhi,	Delhi	110064	Delhi	accuceraglobal@gmail.com
2	Bagla Technopack Private Limited	B-2/8, Safdarjung Enclave,	Delhi	110029	Delhi	ankit.sharma@bagla-group.com
3	Balaji Inc	Revenue Survey No.348/2, Plot No .7 Dholra Road, Shapur Rajkot	Rajkot	360026	Gujarat	balajiinc.23@gmail.com
4	Capital Colours & Additives Industries Private Limited	Ida, Plot No-221/A,Phase-Iii,Patancheru, Pashamylaram,	Sangareddy	502307	Telengana	capitalcolours2015@gmail.com
5	Carbon Light Private Limited	A-8/7 Sector 22, Meerut Road Industrial Area Ghaziabad,	Ghaziabad	201001	Uttar Pradesh	anuj@carbonlight.co.in
6	Creative Dies & Moulds Private Limited	Gala No.F7 & 8, Ansa Industrial Estate, Sakivihar Road, Sakinaka, Andheri (E)	Mumbai	400072	Maharashtra	sarita@creative-moulds.com
7	Exmart International Private Limited	268 Sant Nagar East Of Kailash, South	New Delhi	110065	New Delhi	rajeshjain@exmartintl.net
8	Forace Speciality Chem Private Limited	Plot No. 40, Sector -11 Sidcul Haridwar,	Haridwar	249403	Uttarakhand	accounts@foracepolymers.in
9	Gardens Need Private Limited	B-3 Sector A5/6 Tronica City,	Ghaziabad	201103	Uttar Pradesh	gautam@gardensneed.com
10	Gel Craft Healthcare Private Limited	5a Office No.2 Iind Floor Uper Agarwal Sweet Main Mkt Madanpur Khadar Sarita Vihar,South Delhi,	Delhi	110076	Delhi	gelcrafthealthcare@gmail.com
11	Hi-Tech Polyplast Nagpur Private Limited	Plot No. B 88, B 89, B 90 Butibori Midc, Village Tembhari	Nagpur	441122	Maharashtra	pankaj@hi-techpolyplast.in
12	Kbm Plastic Machinery Llp	Near National Highway - 8, Hissa No 2, Survey No 54, Virar Phata, Virar East, Vasai Virar, Palghar	Virar	401305	Maharashtra	info@kbmmail.com
13	Madura Green Polymer Private Limited	1 Janki Center Off Veera Desai Road, Andheri West	Mumbai	400053	Maharashtra	purchase.backoffice@maduratex.com
14	Marvel Enterprise	Plot No 353/6, Near Ashok Leyland Service Station, Gidc	Bhavnagar	364004	Gujarat	info@kamaniplastic.com
15	Morgan Industries Limited	C2 Sipcot Complex Cuddalore	Cuddalore	607005	Tamil Nadu	baskaran.t@groupmorgan.in
16	Parshwa International	53-C, Mittal Court, Nariman Point,	Mumbai	400021	Maharashtra	parshwaint2@blowkings.co.in
17	Patel Strap Private Limited	Survey No. 366/22/Unit No.-2, Bhavnagar-Rajkot Highway Opp. Indian Oil Petro Pump, Kardej (Navagam)	Bhavnagar	364060	Gujarat	account@patel-strap.com
18	Rishabh Plastic Products Private Limited	A-402, Ramkrishna Coop Hsg Soc Ltd, L.T. Road,Babhai Naka, Opp. Deepak Hotel, Borivali West	Mumbai	400092	Maharashtra	info@rishabhplast.com
19	Rustoppers Packtech Private Limited	443/A Sidco Industrial Estate, Ambattur	Chennai	600098	Tamil Nadu	avadivel@rustoppers.com
20	Saheb Polyplast Private Limited	L.S.No-507, Chandisar-Kumbhalmer Road, Nr. Railway Station, At-Chandisar, Po-Chandisar	Palanpur	385001	Gujarat	info@sahebpipes.com
21	Samridhi Technoplast Private Limited	Dta Phase 2 Mahindra World City Mahindra Wold City Ltd Kalwara Tehsil Sanganer	Jaipur	302037	Rajasthan	samridhitechnoplast@gmail.com
22	Satyendra Masterbatch Private Limited	Urvey No. 111/4 Opp. Hotel 2000, N.H. No 8 Anand,	Anand	388001	Gujarat	ronak@satyendragroup.com

New Members

23	Sharia Exports	601,Maharana Pratap Complex, Nr Vs Hospital Opp Ellisbridge P.O.	Ahmedabad	380006	Gujarat	eximguru07@gmail.com
24	Shore Auto-Rubber Exports Pvt Ltd	C/O. Gauri Warehousing Corpn.,Gat No.148, At. Post Kuruli,	Pune	410501	Maharashtra	kishore@shore-rubber.com
25	Shree Ram Corporation	S.No. 549, Plot No. 13 P ,Ghuntu, General Udhyog Mahendra Nagar Road,	Morbi	363642	Gujarat	shreeramcorporation33@gmail.com
26	Shubham Packaging	Industrial Building, H.No. 313/H, Survey No. 732/2 And 736/6, Village Dabhel, Daman	Daman	396210	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	vimal@shubham-packaging.com
27	Signac International	C603. Neelgiri Apartment, Opp Riddhi Siddhi Hospital, Malad West,	Mumbai	400064	Maharashtra	sales@signacpens.com
28	Slogan Polyfilms Private Limited	R.S. No.53p3, Saraya-Nesada Road, Ta. Tankara, Saraya,	Morbi	363650	Gujarat	polyfilms@slogangroup.in
29	Sumitek Prasada Machinery Private Limited	Plot No. 564, Kathwada Gidc, Odhav,	Ahmedabad	382430	Gujarat	director@sumitekprasada.com
30	Sun Poly Tarp Overseas Pvt Ltd	Plot No, 49, Maa Umiya Audhyogik Sahakari Sanstha Mayadit, Kapsi (Buj) Bhandara Road, Tah- Kamptee,	Nagpur	440035	Maharashtra	mandhana.raghav@gmail.com
31	Surya Global Flexifilms Private Limited	A-437, 438 Old No. 53-53-A First Floor Block-A Opp Family Bazar New Ashok Nagar East,	Delhi	110096	Delhi	amit.tyagi@suryasgf.com
32	Thermo Puf Manufacturing Llp	W2,Midc,Wai,Satara,	Satara	412803	Maharashtra	exports.thermopuf@gmail.com
33	Velatal Industries Private Limited	115, Tiruchengode Road, Pallipalayam Erode Namakkal	Erode	638006	Tamil Nadu	velatalindustries@gmail.com
34	Vishakha Renewables 1 Private Limited	Ashirwad Paras, Corp. House 2 Nr. Auda Garden, Prahladnagar, Manekbag,	Ahmedabad	380015	Gujarat	aajish.shah@vishakharenewables.com