PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT®

Edition 62, November 2024

Interview of Sukhdeep Sethi, Managing Director at AVI Global Plast Pvt. Ltd., Pg No. 14

Export Performance of September 2024, Pg No. 08

Product of the Month – Articles for the Conveyance or Packaging of Goods of Plastics, Pg No. 19

www.blendcolours.com

Boost Your Business Growth With Impeccable Colours of Nature

Committed to enhance quality and performance through innovating various custom colour, special effects and sustainable masterbatches to provide genuine and vibrant solutions

Application areas for colour Masterbatches

✦ Caps Closures & FMCG ✦ Wires & Cables ✦ Non Woven ✦ Oil Containers ✦ Toys ✦ Household & Furniture ✦ Woven Sacks & Lamination ✦ Polyester Fibre ✦ PP BCF

- **Leading Manufacturer & Exporter of Masterbatches, Additives & Compounds**
- **Network spread over 60+ countries**

Exceeding Your Expectations

BLEND COLOURS

Powered by Innovation

Hear BLEND, Think #BLENDCOLOURS

Use Plastics Properly. Dispose Responsibly

Blend Colours Pvt.Ltd. Plot No: #35, IDA Kattedan, Hyderabad - 500077 (TS) India.
Ph: +91-40-24361499. Email: info@blendcolours.com

Connect us with : YouTube

Editorial Advisory Board

Convener - Mr. Vikram Bhadauria,
ALOK Masterbatches

Member - Mr. Manoj Agarwal,
Kanpur Plastipack

Member – Mr. Amit Pal, Kolor Impex

Member – Mr. Devang Sheth,
Polycromax Industries

Member - Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra

Editorial Advisor - Mr. Niranjan Mudholkar

Plexconnect is published by:
The Plastics Export Promotion Council

Editor: Sribash Dasmohapatra,
Executive Director, Plexconcil

Associate Editor: Arva Rege

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

THE PLASTICS EXPORT
PROMOTION COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

@officialplexconcil
THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
@plexconcil
@officialplexconcil

Contents

From the Chairman's Desk	04
Council Activities of September 2024	05
Export Performance of September 2024	08
Interview of Sukhdeep Sethi, Managing Director at AVI Global Plast Pvt. Ltd.	14
Polymer Price Tracker – September 2024	18
Product of the Month – Articles for the Conveyance or Packaging of Goods of Plastics	19
Countryscape – New Zealand	23
International News	26
India News	31
Why become a Plexconcil Member?	39
New Members	40

From the Chairman's Desk

As we approach the new year, we are filled with hope and high expectations for the future. This season marks an exciting time, with India's plastic exports performing strongly and our goals drawing nearer with each milestone achieved.

In September 2024, India reached an impressive USD 1,103 million in plastic exports, marking a significant 25.9% growth over the USD 876 million recorded in September 2023. The cumulative export value from April to September 2024 stands at USD 6,120 million, reflecting a 9.7% increase over the USD 5,580 million achieved during the same period last year. These numbers are a testament to the hard work of our industry and our shared commitment to excellence. With this growth trajectory, we are optimistic about not only meeting but potentially exceeding the ambitious targets set by the Government of India.

The first quarter of the year presented some challenges; however, the industry's resilience and strategic efforts allowed for a resurgence in the second quarter. This momentum gives us confidence that we are well on our way to surpassing the USD 13 billion mark by year-end, which will be a notable achievement for the sector.

In a broader context, India's merchandise exports also demonstrated positive growth, reaching USD 34.6 billion in September 2024—a slight increase from USD 34.4 billion in September 2023. The cumulative value of merchandise exports from April to September 2024 reached USD 213.2 billion, reflecting a modest growth of 1.0% over the USD 211.1 billion recorded during the same period last year. Despite global economic uncertainties, these figures indicate India's strong position in the international market, and they underscore the vital role our plastics industry plays in this success.

Plexconcil has also been proactive in expanding our reach and promoting Indian plastic products in key international markets. Through a series of strategic promotional activities extending into March 2025, we are creating greater visibility for India's plastic sector globally. This includes initiatives in Dubai, Russia, Mexico, and Brazil—markets that hold immense potential for our exporters. By participating in trade fairs, facilitating buyer-seller meets, and leading international outreach programs, we are not only boosting trade but also fostering long-term relationships that will support the industry's growth in years to come.

The resilience of the plastics industry in the face of global challenges has been commendable. We continue to see the impact of geopolitical tensions, from the Ukraine conflict to issues in the Middle East, which add complexity to the export landscape. Yet, our industry has proven adaptable, displaying an impressive ability to respond to these shifts without compromising our global standing. The ability of our exporters to adapt quickly and continue delivering high-quality products amidst these challenges demonstrates the strength of India's plastics industry and highlights our role as a reliable partner in the global supply chain.

We are hopeful that the recent elections in the United States will open new avenues for stronger trade relations between India and the U.S. The U.S. remains one of our most important markets, and we look forward to renewed collaboration that may lead to increased access, reduced trade barriers, and new growth opportunities for our exporters. We believe that stronger bilateral ties between India and the U.S. will foster new opportunities for innovation, sustainable development, and job creation that will benefit both countries.

As we look ahead, Plexconcil remains committed to supporting trade and enhancing the export landscape for our members. Our initiatives will continue to prioritize the needs of our exporters, addressing challenges and helping them reach their full potential. The path forward holds immense promise, and we are here to provide the resources, guidance, and advocacy needed to ensure our industry's sustained success.

Thank you to each of our members for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Together, we will achieve our goals and continue to elevate India's position in the global plastics market. Let us work hand in hand, inspired by the vision of a successful and prosperous future for India's plastics sector.

Warm regards,
Vikram Bhadauria
Chairman

Consultation Meeting with EPCs regarding India-Egypt JTC - 5th September 2024 | Eastern Region:

The above meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Ms Priya P. Nair, Economic Advisor, Department of Commerce to discuss the issues likely to be raised during the upcoming 6th India-Egypt JTC meeting.

Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD (East) joined the meeting through an online mode.

Panel Discussion on North Rhine-Westphalia and Gujarat - natural partners - strong economies: 5th September 2024 | Western Region:

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) supported a delegation visit and Panel Discussion on North Rhine-Westphalia and Gujarat - natural partners - strong economies organized by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung- India and AnantTattva Private Limited at Ahmedabad on the 5th of September, 2024. Honourable Mr. Florian Müller MP Member of the German Bundestag interacted with other panel members and industry members during the program. The event was aimed to build on strong economic foundations between the states of Gujarat and North Rhine-Westphalia and to explore where further engagement and business potential lies for co-operation.

Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil represented the council during the event.

Meeting to discuss Industry Potential of West Bengal - 11th September 2024 | Eastern Region:

The above meeting chaired by Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal in the presence of the Chief Secretary, Chief Advisor to Chief Minister & Chairman WBIDC, Principal Secretary Industry Commerce & Enterprises.

Mr Alok Tibrewala, Regional Chairman (ER) & Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD (ER) represented the Council at this meeting.

Stakeholder Consultation on Promoting Manufacturing in Tier 2 and Tier 3 Cities: 12th September 2024 | Western Region:

Stakeholder consultation meeting was chaired by the Principal Secretaries of the Industries and Energy Departments, Govt. of Maharashtra. The focus of the session was to gather the valuable insights on advancing India's manufacturing sector, particularly in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities, in line with the Government's vision for a self-reliant, 'Vikasit Bharat' and the objectives of *Atma Nirbhar Bharat*. This consultation was crucial as we work towards enhancing India's global standing through robust manufacturing ecosystems, skilled labour forces, and improved infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Nilotpal Biswas, RD-East and Mr. Ruban Hobday, RD-South.

North East Plast Expo, Guwahati, 12th-15th, September 2024 | Eastern Region:

The aforesaid exhibition was held at Sarusajai Sports Stadium, Guwahati. In connection with promotion of council's activities/Membership.

Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD(ER) visited the show & interacted with the exhibitors at this show.

Stakeholder consultation for discussion on upcoming India - Peru Trade Agreement, India - EU FTA, India - Egypt JTC and Review of India - Korea CEPA, India - Malaysia CECA , India Sri Lanka ETCA - 19th September 2024 | Eastern Region:

Above Stakeholder consultation meeting was organised by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.

Mr Nilotpal Biswas (RD-ER) joined the meeting through an online mode & provided relevant inputs.

Stakeholder consultation on Quality Control Order for Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) Copolymers (IS 13601:1993) - 19th September 2024 | Eastern Region:

Above Stakeholder consultation was meeting organised by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.

Mr Nilotpal Biswas (RD-ER) joined the meeting through an online mode & provided relevant inputs.

Seminar on -"Crucial Role of Smart and Efficient Maintenance in Plastics Processing Industry" - 20th September 2024 | Eastern Region:

Above seminar organised by OPPI in Kolkata. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD(ER) made a presentation on Export Potential of Plastic Goods during the seminar.

Workshop on Employability of Persons with Disabilities, 26th September 2024 | Eastern Region:

The above workshop was jointly organised by Women and Child Development and Social Welfare (WCD & SW) Department & Commerce and Enterprises Dept. Govt. of West Bengal. Keynote address was delivered by Dr. (Smt.) Sashi Panja, Honourable Minister of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare Dept. and Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Dept., Govt. of West Bengal. In addition to that, senior state government officials from both the departments, NGOs working with persons with disabilities and representatives from various business chambers/EPCs also attended the workshop.

Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD(ER) represented the Council at this meeting.

Southern Regional Sub Committee Meeting - 27th September 2024 at RO Chennai | Southern Region:

The 1st Southern Regional Sub-Committee Meeting for the year 2024-2025 was held on Friday, the 27th of September 2024 at the Regional Office, Chennai under the chair of Shri. YV Raman, Regional Chairman, Plexconcil – Southern Region and discussed the following agenda points:

1. To take note of the RO-South activities since the last RC meeting
2. To discuss the Strategies to increase Membership from South
3. 3To discuss and recommend the Export Promotional Activities in the South
4. To discuss and submit any policy recommendations to the Budget/FTP or the Council.

Meeting with BIS-Chennai on 27th September 2024 at Chennai | Southern Region:

Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South met with BIS-Chennai officials to discuss and to plan for organizing Sensitisation Program on BIS rules and regulations in exports and imports of Polymers and Plastic Products across all the four Southern States.

INDIA PAVILION AT

ArabPlast

17TH INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW FOR PLASTICS, RECYCLING, PETROCHEMICALS, PACKAGING & RUBBER INDUSTRY

THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

MORE THAN 100 EXHIBITORS ALREADY PARTICIPATING

7th – 9th Jan. 2025
Dubai, UAE.

SPACE ONLY

Rs. 43,882/-Per sqm
(Minimum bookable area is 27 sqm)

SHELL SCHEME

Rs. 50,142/- Per sqm
(Minimum bookable area is 12 sqm)

★ 10% additional charges on premium stall (2 side open)

For book you space contact

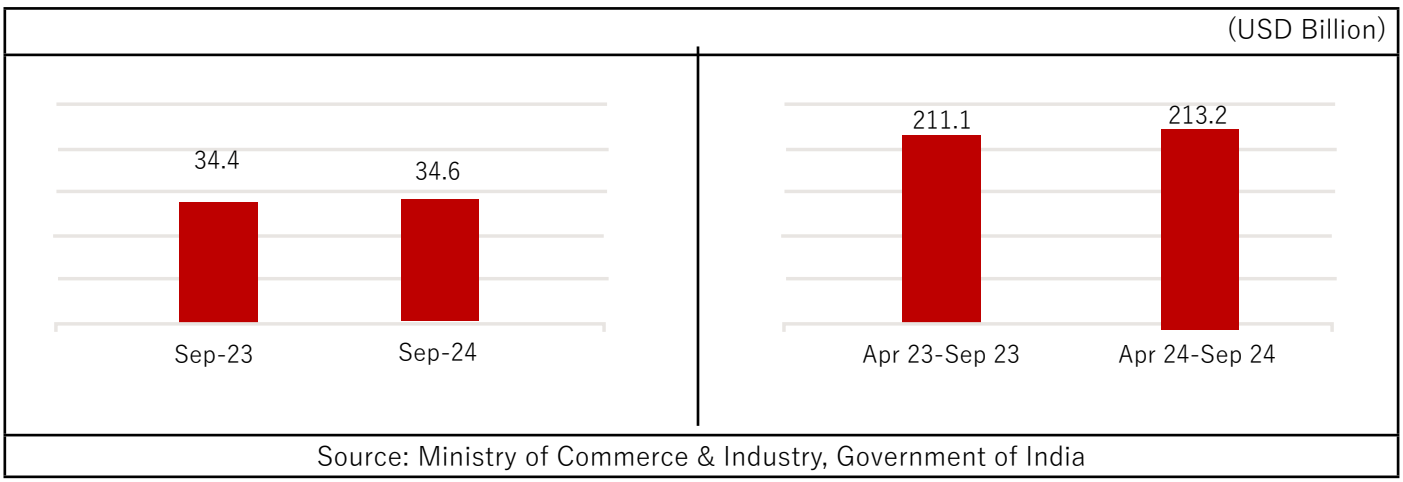
kajal@plexconcil.org
prasad@plexconcil.org
nigel@plexconcil.org

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT
September 2024

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 34.6 billion in September 2024, higher by 0.5% from USD 34.4 billion in September 2023. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2024 – September 2024 was USD 213.2 billion as against USD 211.1 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 1.0%.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



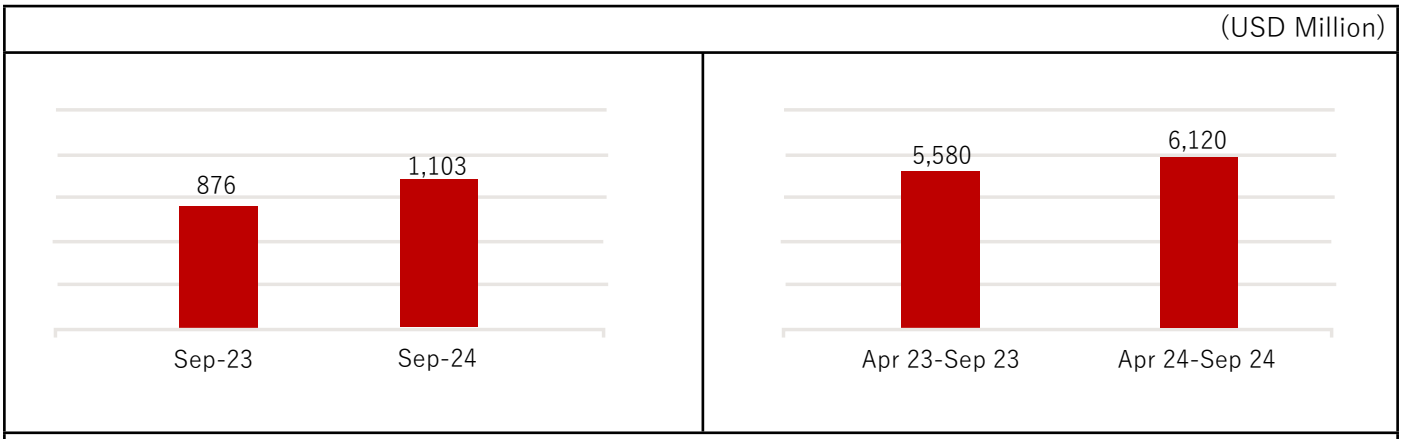
Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During September 2024, India exported plastics worth USD 1,103 million, higher by 25.9% from USD 876 million in September 2023. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2024 – September 2024 was USD 6,120 million as against USD 5,580 million during the same period last year, registering an increase of 9.7%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India

(USD Million)



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In September 2024, export performance saw a substantial increase across all product categories, marking a noteworthy achievement as it is the first time this year that all panels reported positive results, with Plastic raw materials achieving the highest surge, followed by Plastic films and sheets; Writing instruments & stationery; FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin; Human hair & related products; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; Medical items of plastics; FRP & Composites; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; Consumer & houseware products; Plastic pipes & fittings and Miscellaneous products and items nes.

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

Panel	Sep-23	Sep-24	Growth	Apr 23-Sep-23	Apr 24-Sep-24	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	55.2	61.1	+10.7%	366.4	377.8	+3.1%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	19.5	26.1	+34.1%	128.0	148.9	+16.3%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	114.8	143.1	+24.7%	657.7	744.3	+13.2%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	55.1	63.1	+14.6%	342.5	378.0	+10.4%
FRP & Composites	39.0	45.9	+17.6%	226.9	267.8	+18.0%
Human hair & related products	52.2	65.2	+24.9%	347.2	352.0	+1.4%
Medical items of plastics	42.8	49.9	+16.6%	262.5	276.7	+5.4%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	53.2	55.4	+4.3%	398.9	331.4	-16.9%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	53.4	59.6	+11.7%	306.8	336.3	+9.6%
Plastic films & sheets	139.1	178.5	+28.3%	828.6	1,021.0	+23.2%
Plastic pipes & fittings	22.8	27.5	+20.4%	138.1	161.9	+17.2%
Plastic raw materials	208.5	276.4	+32.6%	1,445.0	1,570.2	+8.7%
Writing instruments & stationery	20.1	50.9	+153.4%	131.2	154.4	+17.7%
	875.6	**1,102.7**	**+25.9%**	**5,579.9**	**6,120.5**	**+9.7%**

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export Performance

Exports of **Consumer & houseware products** witnessed an increase of 10.7% in September 2024 due to higher sales of Tableware and Kitchenware of plastics (HS Code 392410) to Nigeria; Travelling-bags, insulated food, beverage bags, shopping bags and similar containers with outer surface of plastic sheeting (420292) to Netherlands and other switches of plastic (85365020) to Germany.

Exports of **Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments** were up by 34.1% in September 2024 due to positive growth witnessed in sales of Other binder or baler twine of polyethylene or polypropylene (560749) and Made up knotted fishing nets (560811). Europe and WANA regions are significant buyers of this product from India.

In September 2024, the export of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics & tarpaulin** witnessed a growth of 24.7% due to higher sales of Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532) and sacks and bags of plastics (39232990) to the United States of America. It may be noted that Flexible intermediate bulk containers products reported its highest- ever export of in the past three years.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** were higher by 14.6% in September 2024 on account of improved sales of Floor coverings of polymers of vinyl chloride (391810), Decorative laminates (48239019) and Other textile fabrics, impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polymers of vinyl chloride (59031090).

Export of **FRP & Composites** witnessed a growth of 17.6% during September 2024. This notable increase was due to higher exports of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099).

Export of **Human hair & related products** augmented by 24.9% in September 2024 on account of a significant rise in sales of Human hair unworked (05010010) to Myanmar. Importantly, the average price realisations for Human hair unworked has seen an improvement in the current year, this far.

Medical items of plastics export were higher by 16.6% in September 2024 due to a rise in sales of Syringes with or without needles used in medical (901831) to Austria and Blood tranfusion apparatus (90189032).

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** were up by 4.3% in September 2024 due to higher shipments of Polypropylene articles (39269080).

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export increased by 11.7% on account of higher sales of Sacks and bags of polyethylene (392321) and Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods of plastics (392390). Sacks and bags of plastics also reported its highest- ever export of in the past three years.

In September 2024, the export of **Plastic films & sheets** was higher by 28.3% due to increased sales of Self- adhesive tapes (391990); Rigid and flexible sheets of polymers of propylene (392020); Films & sheets of polyethylene terephthalate (392062); Other Flexible and metallised films & sheets (392190). Indian exporters of plastic films and sheets are experiencing promising growth in the export market, driven by strong performance in the polymer sector and a revival in the film business. This positive trend is further supported by an improved pricing environment.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** zoomed by 20.4% due to improved sales of Rigid tubes and pipes of Polymers of vinyl chloride (39172390); Rigid tubes of plastics (391729) and Flexible tubes of plastics (391739).

Plastics raw materials exports were higher by 32.6% due to increased shipments of Polypropylene (390210); Acrylic polymers (390690) and Other polyethylene terephthalate (390761).

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** substantially increased by 153% in September 2024 due to higher sales of Felt-tipped and other porous-tipped pens and marker (960820) and Ball point pens (96081019) to the United states of America. Export of writing instruments and stationery from India had been on a decline for the last one year.

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 23-Sep 23 (USD Mn)	Apr 24-Sep 24 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	390.7	441.4	+13.0%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	259.0	264.1	+1.9%
39269099	Other articles of plastics n.e.s	223.7	264.1	+18.1%
39232990	Other sacks and bags of plastics excl. those of polymers of ethylene	206.4	226.8	+9.9%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	238.3	148.8	-37.6%
39021000	Polypropylene	165.9	193.2	+16.5%
39076190	Other primary form of polyethylene terephthalate	182.5	160.2	-12.2%
48239019	Decorative laminates	149.2	159.5	+6.9%
39269080	Polypropylene articles n.e.s	102.1	125.4	+22.8%
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	96.9	135.3	+39.7%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	100.0	117.7	+17.8%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	100.2	107.9	+7.6%
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	99.6	118.0	+18.5%
39239090	Other articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics	92.2	104.0	+12.8%
59039090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane	93.0	106.9	+15.0%
05010010	Human hair, unworked	79.8	85.3	+6.9%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	85.7	82.1	-4.2%
39202090	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	73.1	84.5	+15.6%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0.94, in primary forms	47.0	61.8	+31.4%
39076990	Other primary form of polyethylene terephthalate	74.8	63.1	-15.6%
96081019	Ball-point pens	68.4	70.3	+2.7%
90183930	Cannulae	67.0	69.1	+3.1%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE)	44.7	82.8	+85.2%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene	62.2	63.5	+2.0%
39219099	Other sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	57.9	73.2	+26.4%
39199090	Other self-adhesive sheets and film of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide	52.5	68.3	+29.9%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	56.1	63.0	+12.3%
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	47.5	62.4	+31.5%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	49.7	55.4	+11.5%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	48.1	49.7	+3.4%
39011090	Other polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0.94, in primary forms	53.6	36.5	-31.8%

39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s.	49.5	40.7	-17.7%
39206919	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked	46.9	47.3	+0.7%
90041000	Sunglasses	1.3	3.6	+174.8%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	42.7	55.1	+29.0%
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	39.6	54.5	+37.6%
39219094	Flexible and metallised sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	38.2	56.8	+48.8%
39140020	Ion exchangers of polymerisation or co-polymerisation type	39.1	46.4	+18.8%
39095000	Polyurethanes	39.7	41.8	+5.2%
96032100	Tooth brushes	42.0	35.3	-16.0%
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	39.0	39.6	+1.5%
39206290	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	35.1	46.0	+31.1%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	36.9	38.1	+3.1%
39201019	Other sheets and film of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	33.8	38.0	+12.4%
39172390	Other rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings of polymers of vinyl chloride	34.6	35.3	+2.2%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	32.9	38.9	+17.9%
39219096	Flexible and laminated sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	31.7	38.2	+20.6%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles of plastics	35.5	31.5	-11.3%
39206929	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked	28.3	47.6	+68.2%
39073010	Epoxy resins	28.9	28.7	-0.6%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

THREE STAR EXPORT HOUSE
GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED

DCS INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY

Formerly Known as PKS International Company

Top Merchant Exporter in Northern Region 2004 to 2021

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

For consecutive 19 years

Top Merchant Exporter in Northern Region 2004 to 2021

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

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

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

Top Merchant Exporter in "Northern Region" by The PLEXCONCIL
(Ministry of Commerce Industry, Govt. of India) for consecutive 19 years

"Top Export Excellence" Award in (Northern Region) by **FIEO** **2014-2015**

"Highest Foreign Exchange Earner" Award in (Northern Region) by
FIEO (Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt. of India)
F.Y. 2016-2017

"Niryat Shree" Award For Highest Exports, Residual Sector NON-MSME Category by **FIEO** **2014 & 2021**

Mr. Prem Kumar Solanki

Mr. Pushpender Kr. Solanki

Mr. Hitesh Kumar Solanki

DCS GROUPS

Corporate Office : 223 DLF Tower, 15 Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 (INDIA)
Branch Office : 81-B, Sector - 5, IMT Manesar, Gurugram, Haryana-122050 (INDIA)
Telephone : +91-11-41558352 **Mobile :** +91-9716035229 **Email :** dcs@dcshairs.com **Website :** www.dcshairs.com

★ ★ ★ Three Star Export House

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

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS

Sukhdeep Sethi

Managing Director of AVI Global Plast Pvt. Ltd.

Sukhdeep Sethi is the Managing Director of AVI Global Plast, India's foremost PET sheet manufacturer and thermoformed packaging specialist. A Chartered Accountant and INSEAD alumnus, Sukhdeep brings 18 years of expertise in sales, marketing, strategic planning, and product innovation to his role. He has been instrumental in expanding AVI Global's footprint across six continents, enhancing the company's presence in industries spanning FMCG, pharmaceuticals, food, and medical device packaging.

A recognized leader in the plastics industry, Sukhdeep has led the introduction of unique packaging solutions, such as tamper-evident clamshells, heat-seal punnets, and ESD packaging made with recycled materials. He also drives AVI's sustainability efforts, ensuring compliance with international regulations and advancing the company's commitment to a circular economy. His efforts have notably propelled India's influence in the global fruit packaging market, skillfully aligning AVI's offerings with sustainability expectations of diverse markets.

Sukhdeep's deep understanding of polymers, international business, and sales management has been pivotal to AVI's innovation in rigid sheet and thermoforming applications, His leadership remains focused on customer satisfaction, sustainable growth, and advancing India's contributions to eco-conscious packaging solutions.

Avi Global Plast has been a leader in producing rigid plastic packaging. Could you share some recent innovations or trends the company has embraced?

At AVI Global Plast, we focus on innovations that enhance shelf life, promote circularity, and improve consumer convenience. For instance, we developed a unique meat tray with a capillary base design that absorbs moisture without non-recyclable absorbent pads, which keeps meat and seafood fresher for longer and simplifies recyclability. We have also introduced anti-fog containers for cut fruits and vegetables, reducing condensation during refrigerated storage—a big benefit for e-grocery and retail where product freshness, visibility and appeal are critical. Our heat-seal punnets and clamshells, made with up to 100% certified recycled PET, minimize material usage and carbon footprints, which aligns with European market and regulatory trends.

With sustainability in focus, what steps has Avi Global Plast taken towards environmentally friendly packaging?

We see packaging as an opportunity for positive environmental impact, not just product protection. Over the past decade, we've invested in technology to align our operations with sustainability goals. For example, we produce packaging using up to 100% recycled PET, including ocean-bound plastic to help protect marine biodiversity. We also developed a traceability platform, AVI Trace for finished rPET packaging to prevent greenwashing, by providing data transparency from waste collection to conversion. AVI was the first rigid packaging company to comply with India's Extended Producer

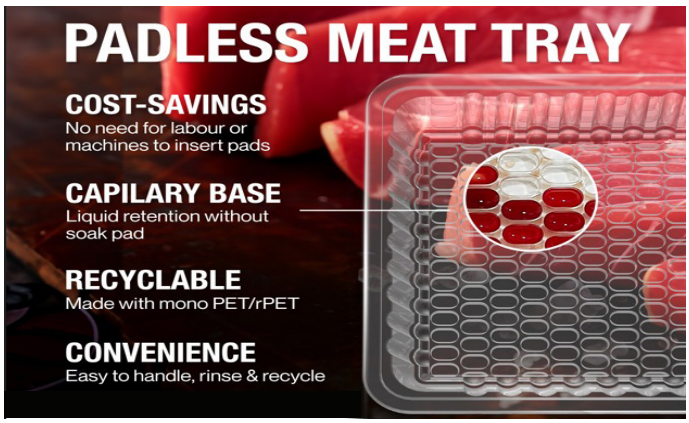
Responsibility (EPR) and we have voluntarily taken the initiative to categorize and quantify the Environmental, Social, and Governance aspects of our manufacturing and business operations. Currently, 14% of our factory needs are met by solar energy.

As a second-generation entrepreneur, what challenges and opportunities have you encountered while leading Avi Global Plast?

Growing AVI from its origins in garment and pharmaceutical packaging to our current portfolio which serves industry segments like Food, Fresh Produce, FMCG, Electronics, and Medical Devices has been a rewarding journey. Diversifying into PET packaging helped our turnover grow significantly, reaching ₹258.02 crores in 2023-24, a 77% increase over the past decade. Key challenges included hiring skilled talent, implementing global management standards, and fostering a quality-first culture. Today AVI holds certifications like BRC, Sedex, ISO 9001, ISO 22000 and GRS among others which demonstrates our commitment to safety, sustainability and ethical manufacturing. Internationally, we adapted to regulations like the UK's Plastic Packaging Tax and Europe's EN 15343 certifications to legally meet recycled content requirements, enabling AVI to serve customers in 30 countries.

With rising global demand for sustainable materials, how do you balance product innovation with meeting regulatory requirements?

Rather than seeing regulations as barriers, we incorporate compliance into our R&D to innovate responsibly. Our capillary meat trays, for instance, meet waste reduction goals by eliminating non-recyclable components. Similarly, our certified post-consumer rPET punnets comply with the UK's Plastic Packaging Tax. By staying ahead of regulations, we ensure our packaging is sustainable, compliant, and commercially viable for all markets.



Avi Global Plast exports products worldwide. How do you navigate the varied regulatory standards across different countries?

Navigating international regulations requires adaptability. For example, France's packaging rules now restrict plastic for certain fruits, while Spain mandates traceability under UNE EN 15343 for recycled content. We work closely with local partners to stay informed and proactively adapt our packaging designs, ensuring compliance and hassle-free deliveries worldwide.

What role does technology play in daily operations at Avi Global Plast, and how do you see it evolving?

Technology is central to our operations, supporting efficiency and sustainability. IoT-based sensors monitor key parameters across machines, enabling predictive maintenance and minimizing downtime. Solar panels power 14% of our energy requirements, while other process improvements through regular audits have supported us in operating at peak energy efficiency. Looking ahead, we have planned investments in recycling tech and sustainable materials to strengthen our focus on responsible manufacturing.

Having been in the plastics industry for over two decades, how have you seen it evolve, and what shifts do you anticipate?

The industry has shifted towards sustainable practices, moving from PVC to PET and, more recently, to recycled and biodegradable materials. Regulatory mandates now drive these changes, setting clear guidelines for recycled content and waste management. I anticipate further advancements in materials, packaging design, production and recycling, all towards enhancing circularity as consumer expectations and regulations continue to evolve.

How does Avi Global Plast maintain a competitive edge amidst increasing local and international competition?

Our competitive edge lies in quality, reliability and transparency. While some competitors may cut costs, for instance by reducing pack weight, we focus on delivery packaging as promised, ensuring our solutions are the right fit for the end-application. Our in-house capabilities, from sheet extrusion, mould-making to thermoforming, enable quicker time to market with tighter quality control, which helps us to compete effectively both domestically and internationally.

As a leader, how do you foster innovation and adaptability within your team to meet the changing demands of the industry?

Fostering innovation at AVI means creating a culture of ownership and continuous learning. We support our teams with regular training and cross-functional collaboration, communicating compliance and packaging insights directly across departments. This proactive mindset enables us to meet regulatory changes and deliver high-quality, compliant packaging that drives AVI's growth in a dynamic industry.

CPS+ eMarketplace

Backed by Chinaplas 国际橡塑展

Expertise in Plastics & Rubber. Connecting Global Business.

10,000+ Products For You to Explore

From raw materials, machines to semi-finished products - everything you need in one place.

Addressing Your Sourcing and Production Needs

A marketplace 100% dedicated to plastics and rubber solutions supporting your production needs.

Find Your Ideal Business Partners with Our Expertise

With our deep industry expertise, we match you with the perfect business partners. Let us help you find the right suppliers, effortlessly.

Empowering You to Stay Ahead of the Curve

Access the latest industry news, market trends and business insights - all in real-time.

2.5 Million+ Global Buyers from 150+ Countries or Regions and 20+ Industries are Using our Platform.

Welcome to Join for Free!

Experience Now

POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET)
September 2024

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)				• HDPE prices fell by Rs 1,000 per MT in September 2024 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in August 2024. HDPE prices held steady in July 2024 • In September 2024, HDPE prices declined by Rs 1,000 per MT during the first week of the month itself. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
⟷	↓	↓		
Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24		
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)				• LLDPE prices remained unchanged in September 2024. LLDPE prices were down by RS 2,000 per MT in August 2024 and strengthened by Rs 1,000 per MT in July 2024. • In September 2024, LLDPE prices were remained unchanged throughout the month.
↑	↓	⟷		
Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24		
Low Density Polyethylene(LDPE)				• LDPE prices were steady in September 2024. LDPE prices continued to slide, falling by Rs 3,500 per MT in August 2024 and by Rs 1,000 per MT in July 2024. • In September 2024, LDPE prices were remained unchanged throughout the month.
↓	↓	⟷		
Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24		
Polypropylene (PP)				• PP prices lowered by Rs 3,000 per MT in September 2024 by Rs 2,000 per MT in August 2024. PP prices had increased Rs 1,000 per MT in July 2024. • In September 2024, PP prices were down by Rs 3,000 per MT in the first week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
↑	↓	↓		
Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24		
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)				• PVC prices remained unchanged in September 2024. PVC prices declined by Rs 6,000 per MT in August 2024 after witnessing a similar decrease in July 2024. • In September 2024, PVC prices were remained unchanged throughout the month.
↓	↓	⟷		
Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24		

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research

PRODUCT: ARTICLES FOR THE CONVEYANCE OR PACKAGING OF GOODS OF PLASTICS

Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods of plastics include insulated ware such as cones, carboys, bottles, and flasks, alongside spools, spindles, bobbins, stoppers, lids, caps, and aseptic bags. These are made from durable materials like polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and PET. These products are designed for a wide range of applications in industries such as food, pharmaceuticals, and textiles. Their lightweight nature and excellent chemical resistance ensure safety and reliability during storage and transport. They are classified under Subheading 392390 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics is valued at USD 10 billion per year approximately

- In 2023, top-5 exporting countries of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics were: China (18.3%), United States of America (14.0%), Germany (7.0%), Canada (6.2%), & Mexico (5.4%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics were: United States of America (17.3%), Mexico (7.3%), Germany (7.0%), Canada (5.9%) & France (3.6%).

In 2023-24, India exported 65,542 tonnes of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics valued at USD 193 million to the world. The United States of America was the top export destination both in terms of value as well as volume.

Product of the month

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (tonnes)
United States of America	31.20	United States of America	7,908
United Kingdom	22.85	United Arab Emirates	5,553
United Arab Emirates	15.70	United Kingdom	5,031
France	5.96	Sierra Leone	3,017
Thailand	5.00	Zimbabwe	2,127
Japan	4.60	Liberia	1,996
Sierra Leone	4.43	Qatar	1,973
Nepal	4.03	Congo DRC	1,718
Qatar	3.96	Australia	1,527
South Korea	3.95	Japan	1,272

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

In 2023-24, India imported 17,316 tonnes of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics at USD 117 million from the world. China was the top supplier both in terms of value as well as volume.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (tonnes)
China	27.86	China	6,450
South Korea	15.55	South Korea	2,262
United States of America	12.16	Malaysia	1,235
Germany	7.65	Japan	1,110
Italy	6.66	Italy	999
Singapore	6.56	Viet Nam	899
France	5.86	Thailand	721
Japan	5.55	United States of America	616
Malaysia	4.17	Mexico	575
Thailand	3.34	Belgium	492

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

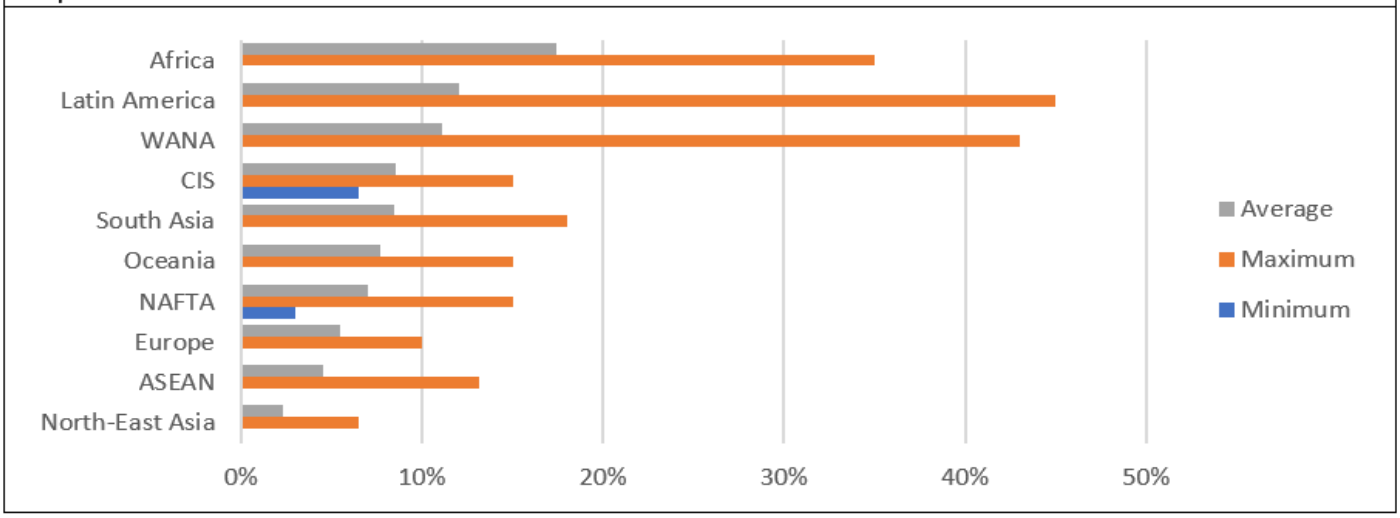
Indian firms dealing in Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics have immense potential to export to destinations like Australia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and the United Kingdom.

- Import of this product is eligible for zero customs duty in Australia under India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement and Japan and South Korea under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- There is zero duty applicable on import of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics from India in the United Kingdom under Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS).
- Certain ASEAN countries, such as Malaysia, Viet Nam and Philippines also offer preferential customs duty and Thailand offers zero customs duty on imports of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics from India under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.
- Import of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics enjoy zero customs duty in Singapore.

India's Exports to Austria, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Taiwan do not enjoy any preferential treatment, however, these markets are quite lucrative for exports as they currently import 15.0% of the global imports of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics.

Unfortunately, some countries in Africa, CIS, Oceania & Europe do not accord any preferential treatment to Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics imported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.

Effective tariff applied by various regions on import of Articles for the conveyance/ packaging of goods of plastics from India



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research

Supported By

Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Organised By

IPF
INDIAN PLASTICS FEDERATION

Supported By

wbidc
West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation

ICC
INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PLASTINDIA FOUNDATION

Indplas® '25

10th INTERNATIONAL PLASTICS EXHIBITION

28th February - 3rd March 2025

Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan
(Milan Mela) Kolkata, India

THE FUTURE IS EAST

INNOVATE | TRANSFORM | SHOWCASE

Disclaimer: The map of India is used for reference only.

Ready to Experience the Future of Plastics?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
and plan your visit in advance

Scan hare to register

Register Now for free entry at *www.indplas.in*

Avoid long queue and cost at venue.

Spot registration will be Rs 500/day

PREMIER SPONSOR

Haldia Petrochemicals Limited
HALDIA PETROCHEMICALS LTD

DIAMOND SPONSOR

DDEV PLASTIKS

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Dhunseri POLY FILMS
HP Delivering Happiness
HMEL
GAIL (India) Limited
PLATINUM.
wbidc West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation

GOLD SPONSORS

Creative Poly Packs Pvt. Ltd.
KLJ GROUP SINCE 1967
MALSON®
PLASTI PACK House of PVC Raw Mater ials
INDUSTRIAL PARK
Rateria GROUP OF COMPANIES
Raunaq
Shakambari GROUP
Servo plast Hi-performance Masterba
SONALI REDEFINING COLORS
UTKARSH Life demands. We deliver.

SILVER SPONSORS

ARVIND
AER DRY Plastics Automation
Anirudh Plastic PRIVATE LIMITED
Ajaplas SHREE NARAYANI PIPE MFG CO.
ASM
ARC INFOTECH PVT LTD
INDO
Jain's EURO EXTRUSIONS
JJ Plastalloy
MATSUI In search of rapport
neoplast People you can believe
PLASTIC ABHIYANTA
RATNA JEET
RUBCHEM
RACHANA POLYMERS PRIVATE LIMITED
RAMA
SPECTRUM INDUSTRIES
vintech Innovate & Improvise
Winners EVERYTHING POSSIBLE
YIZUMI
HPM

For further details, please contact

(CIN: U9111OWB1959NPL024140)
8B, Royd Street,1st Floor, Kolkata 700016, WB, India.

Phone: +91 33 2217 5700 / 4604 7820
E-mail: exhibition@indplas.in
Website: www.indplas.in

Ashok Jajodia, Chairman, INDPLAS '25, EOC
Email: chairman2025@indplas.in
Mobile: + 91 98310 90756

NEW ZEALAND

Economic overview

New Zealand is located in Oceania, made up of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, southeast of Australia. It has an area of 268,838 square kilometres and a population of 5.2 million. The country boasts a highly developed free-market economy with the service sector accounting for 70% of its GDP. Agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism also play significant roles in the economy. In recent years, New Zealand has focused on sustainability and innovation, promoting clean energy and environmental practices. The country's agricultural exports, especially dairy and meat products, contribute greatly to its economy, while tourism showcases its stunning landscapes and unique culture, attracting millions of visitors each year.

As of October 16, 2024, S&P's rating for New Zealand is AAA (Stable); Moody's rating stands at AAA (Stable); and Fitch has a reported rating of AA+ (Stable).

Economic indicators		2021	2022	2023
Nominal GDP	USD Billion	249.7	242.4	249.0
Nominal GDP per capita	USD	48,861	47,284	47,537
Real GDP growth	%	5.6	2.4	0.6
Total population	Million	5.1	5.1	5.2
Average inflation	%	3.9	7.2	5.7
Total merchandise exports	USD Million	43,362	43,996	39,763
Total merchandise imports	USD Million	49,589	54,676	49,958

Source: IMF, TradeMap

New Zealand currently has ten FTAs in force, with Australia, China, EU, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (with Australia), Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the United Kingdom. New Zealand is also engaged in various trade agreements that span across the Oceania region and beyond such as: Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus); South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA); Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership.

Trade overview

India and New Zealand share a long-standing and cordial relationship. In 2023, India and New Zealand engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 891 million. During the year, India's exports to New Zealand were valued at USD 509 million while India's imports from New Zealand were valued at USD 382 million.

The major items of export (2-digit HS) from India to New Zealand are other pharmaceutical medicines (USD 59.5 million), mineral fuels and oils (USD 54.8 million), toilet linen and kitchen linen (USD 34.3 million) and machinery and mechanical appliances (USD 29.4 million). Likewise, major items of export (2-digit HS) from New Zealand to India are cooking coal (USD 68.3 million), wood pulp (USD 49.9 million) and wool, animal hair and woven fabric (USD 38.0 million).

For products that come under the purview of PLEXCONCIL, the trade is largely in favour of India with exports of USD 18.7 million to New Zealand while imports from New Zealand to India stand at USD 3.3 million, leading a substantial trade surplus of USD 15.4 million for India. The major items of export to New Zealand are:

- FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin (22.7%),
- Plastic films and sheets (16.6%), and
- Packaging items - flexible, rigid (12.1%).

New Zealand's annual plastics imports are valued at USD 2.6 million approx. Its plastic imports are largely catered to, by China (33.6%); United States of America (12.4%) and Australia (11.1%). India's market share in New Zealand's plastics imports is quite insignificant (1.1%).

Export potential for India

Based on our internal research, India's export of PLEXCONCIL member products to New Zealand has the potential to grow by USD 2.4 billion. Details of product panels and their export potential to New Zealand is provided below:

Product panel	New Zealand's import from India	New Zealand's import from world	India's export to world	Export potential for India
	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
Consumer & houseware products	3.9	653.7	1,656.3	547.6
Medical items of plastics	0.2	432.1	1,162.9	428.7
Plastic raw materials	1.1	412.5	2,903.0	382.0
Plastic films and sheets	3.1	355.3	1,682.5	343.6
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	2.3	220.3	604.8	218.1
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	1.6	79.9	835.5	74.1
Plastic pipes & fittings	0.6	104.4	278.7	71.1
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	4.2	87.8	1,298.3	57.0
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	1.1	30.9	256.8	28.4

Source: TradeMap, Plexconcil Research

INDIA PAVILION AT

RUPLASTICA

THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

Benefit to the Participants:
Avail Subsidy under the MAI Scheme – Available on a First-Come, First-Served

21st - 24th January 2025

Moscow, Russia

Venue : Expocentre Moscow

Coca-Cola Marks rPET Milestone

Beverage brand's latest sustainability achievement should save the equivalent of nearly 2 billion 20-ounce bottles in the US this year.

When a global brand like Coca-Cola makes a packaging change the sustainable effects have a far-reaching impact.

This week the company announced the completion of its portfolio expansion for 100% recycled PET (rPET) 20-oz bottles for branded products nationwide that include Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Coke Zero, and Coke flavors.

As a result, the company expects to avoid using nearly 80 million pounds of virgin PET in 2024 — the equivalent of nearly 2 billion bottles. This packaging shift reduces energy use, carbon emissions, and waste. It helps the company take steps toward a goal of having 50% recycled content in all bottles and cans by 2030, which is a key pillar of its World Without Waste strategy.

A prominent new "Recycle Me Again" label acknowledges the bottle contains recycled content and inspires consumers to recycle the bottles so that they may be remade again.

That's what the circular economy is all about.

The 20-oz 100% recycled plastic Coca-Cola Trademark bottles are available at retailers across the country.

It's the latest in a ongoing series of the brand's rPET bottle developments since 2021. The accompanying slideshow notes that and two other Coca-Cola packaging breakthroughs including a reusable beverage cup pilot this summer.

Source: Plastics Today

SK Chemicals Launches Copolyester with Improved Recyclability

New polymer trumps traditional copolyester's chemical resistance with recyclability, improved transparency, and extrusion blowmolding suitability for larger-sized bottles.

SK Chemicals strengthened its sustainable packaging solution lineup with the launch of EcoTria Claro 300, a copolyester that expands recyclability and molding and processing versatility.

The South Korea-based company reports the material has a higher viscosity than existing copolyester products even under high-temperature molding conditions, making it suitable for extrusion blowmolding for large-sized containers. EBM requires a high-viscosity material that maintains its shape without melting during the high-temperature molding process in manufacturing.

The company defines larger as 2-Liter (33.8 ounces) bottles and up.

Typical transparent polymers like PET and copolyester lack the heat resistance and viscosity required for high-temperature EBM molding conditions. Thus opaque materials such as polypropylene and polyethylene have been mainly used for large-capacity container materials. SK Chemicals anticipates that EcoTria Claro 300, which can be processed with EBM molding and is classified as PET for seamless recycling, will quickly replace other large-capacity containers where transparency is required.

Product markets include large bottles for water, juice, and beverages. The company aims to expand copolyester sales in the EBM application market to about 30,000 tons.

Kim Eung-soo, head of the green materials business at SK chemicals, said “With the launch of EcoTria Claro 300, SK chemicals can now provide a wide range of customized sustainable packaging solutions from cosmetic sample bottles under 100 mL to large-capacity beverage containers. We will continue to develop technologies that can implement the physical properties and quality of materials needed for injection molding techniques and various applications, expanding the use of sustainable packaging materials.”

Source: Plastics Today

Thermoforming Expansions for Amcor Flexibles Address Healthcare Market Needs

Two pieces of news from one of the leading healthcare packaging manufacturers reflect the growth and direction of the pharmaceutical and medical device markets. Thermoformed trays dominate in healthcare for medical devices, as well as for many pharmaceuticals (syringe trays, for example). Leading supplier Amcor Flexibles has made some recent moves to meet market needs.

At the Advanced Manufacturing Minneapolis event (October 16-17), I talked with Angelia Schiedemeyer, Marketing Communications Manager at Amcor Flexibles, about:

1. Coming January 2025, and as previously reported, the Oshkosh facility will have additional capacity for thermoforming trays. The company converted a warehouse into a Class 7 cleanroom to supply a growing market for trays for medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

This is a significant move because you can now source both tray and lid from the same facility. This simplifies supplier validation.

2. Launching in first quarter of 2025, Amcor Healthcare AmSecure is a new product. It’s an APET material designed to be “recycle ready,” according to guidelines of the Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR). Certification from APR is yet to come, hopefully in 1Q25.

While APET still holds a small percentage of the healthcare packaging market, it better addresses the sustainability asks of customers, hence introduction of the new product.

Schiedemeyer tells me AmSecure is suitable for trays for both the pharmaceutical and medical markets. It will also be available in rollstock for customers that want to do their own thermoforming.

Source: Plastics Today

Halogen-free, Flame-retardant Biopolymer Earns PLASTICS Innovation Award

The material from British startup Floreon Technologies is the first bio-based plastic to achieve a UL 94 V-0 fire-resistance rating.

A plant-based halogen-free and flame-retardant polymer developed by Floreon Technologies has earned the UK company the 2024 Innovation in Bioplastics Award from the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS).

Floreon’s Therma-Tech is the first halogen-free polylactic acid compound to earn a UL 94 V-0 fire-resistance rating. The rating means that in testing the material exhibited:

- Burning combustion for 10 seconds or less after applying a controlled flame;
- Total flaming combustion time of 50 seconds or less for five samples;
- No burning of samples up to the mounting clamp by either flaming or glowing combustion.

Reduced carbon footprint

Meeting these conditions, the material performs like a styrenic polymer (ABS), but with a seven-times-smaller carbon footprint, the company said. It also requires less energy to process, driving down production temperatures by up to 40° C and reducing manufacturers' Scope 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions.

"Floreon Therma-Tech offers companies that want to use bio-based materials in durable applications, like building and construction, with sustainable attributes from beginning to end of life," said Patrick Krieger, PLASTICS' vice president of sustainability. The material can find use in applications ranging from transportation and electronics to sports and safety equipment.

Partnership with University of Sheffield

Through knowledge sharing with the University of Sheffield, Floreon has scaled up three products this year: Therma-Tech, Dura-Tech, and Bio-Tech.

"Being recognized by our peers in the bioplastics space highlights that the industry shares our excitement for the technology's far-reaching potential," said Floreon CEO Sandrine Garnier. "Winning this award is testament to the relentless innovation and commitment of the entire Floreon team and the significance of the breakthrough we've made."

The award was announced during PLASTICS' Bioplastics Week from Oct. 7 to 11.

Floreon, which launched in 2011 to seek a sustainable alternative to oil-based plastic for water cooler bottles, is also a finalist in the UK's Plastics Industry Awards being held in November.

Source: Plastics Today

World's First Home Compostable Tamper-Evident Seal Debuts

Carbios' biodegrading enzyme is the "secret sauce" for rapid decomposition when combined with Sleever's PLA film.

It seems to be a short jump from making a shrink-sleeve label home compostable to introducing additional packaging options from the same compostable technology platform. After reporting on a polylactic acid shrink-sleeve label several weeks ago, Carbios and Sleever leverage their combined know-how to introduce SeelCap Onego, the world's first home-compostable tamper-evident TE seal.

As with the PLA label, the compostable TE band relies on Carbios Active, an encapsulated enzyme that speeds the composting process.

Just how fast? It's claimed that the new seal will completely degrade in composting conditions in less than six months even at room temperature per TÜV Austria "OK Compost Home" certification. This reduces the carbon footprint by up to 70%.

To add additional value, the proprietary design of the TE seal was developed by Fabrice Peltier with one additional goal beyond tamper evidence: enable easy opening in a single movement with a gripping flap.

The compostable seal is particularly suited for glass packaged products, especially those sealed with wooden caps that include bottled wines, spirits, and alcohol products.

It also solves a problem for recyclers. Due to the small size of this type of TE band (less than 60 mm or 2.5 inches), conventional plastic TE seals do not work with traditional packaging sorting and recycling flows, according to the supplier.

"I'm delighted to present SeelCap Onego to the market resulting from our partnership with Sleever," says Emmanuel Ladent, CEO, Carbios. "[This] offers a valuable alternative when recycling is not an option. It's a concrete application of Carbios' mission to find innovative and sustainable solutions to rethink the life cycle of all types of plastic."

Adds Eric Fresnel, Sleever Group president, "This innovation in packaging security meets the needs of the wine, spirits and alcoholic beverages markets, particularly in countries where recycling channels for glass packaging have not yet been developed."

Source: Plastics Today

Celanese Ahead of the Curve on Recycled Plastics for Auto Sector

Materials supplier outlines how it can help automakers comply with EU mandates to incorporate 25% recycled content.

European Union (EU) legislation mandating certain levels of plastic recyclate content in automobiles is leading to accelerated initiatives by automakers to develop materials and infrastructure to ensure supply availability come the early 2030s, when 25% recycled content will be signed into law. In a recent webinar, materials supplier Celanese outlined its approach to delivering on solutions to assist in the realization of recycled content targets.

"More than six million cars reach end of life [annually in Europe], and there's a lot of plastic content in those cars," noted Oliver Kuisle, sustainability leader EU at Celanese. Further, the materials supplier estimates that 20 to 40% of automotive shredder residue (ASR) is plastic and is ultimately landfilled or incinerated. Kuisle also noted that impending EU legislation will be applied to all cars sold in Europe, not just those manufactured there.

Grade segregation

Celanese's portfolio of recycled content engineering plastics currently includes:

- Zytel PA ECO-R polyamide derived from post-industrial recycled (PIR) PA fibers and ocean plastics;
- Santoprene TPC ECO-R containing post-consumer recycled (PCR) PP;
- Rynite PET and Celanex PBT/PET ECO-R grades incorporating PCR PET.

Most grades on offer from Celanese are supplied using the segregated approach, meaning a Celanex PBT/PET blend with minimum 25% recycled content, for example, actually contains that ratio of PCR PET. Rynite PET grades with up to 100% PCR PET content are offered, with a product carbon footprint (PCF) reduction of up to 59%.

In terms of performance, while each grade will have its own map, a PA 6 grade with 35% glass-fiber reinforcement, cited as an example by Celanese, exhibits no drop-off in tensile modulus, while the notched Sharpy impact strength, stress, and strain performance are in the ranges that can be expected for the respective performance tolerances.

Mass-balance polyamide

Celanese has opted for the mass-balance approach for commercially available grade Zytel 70G30HSLR ECO-0R 312 BK099, which is a 30% glass-fiber-reinforced material. The ISCC+ third-party certified material offers a seamless transition to recycled materials with a 30% allocation of recycled content.

Celanese can extend this mass-balance approach to a range of different offerings, from glass-filled to unfilled toughened grades, through medium toughened and super-toughened grades, to a smaller number of glass-filled and toughened combination grades. "This is a great way to maintain your performance and get that recycled content to help meet your targets," said Micheal Chisholm, sustainability leader AM at Celanese.

“We have a large portfolio, but we are continually working to bring more solutions to market,” added Chisholm. These include flame-retardant grades in the PA 66 sphere, as well as a Zytel HTN51 high-temperature polyphthalamide semi-aromatic PA grade based on PIR PA.

Recycled input quality assurance

Key to successful delivery of recycled content solutions is ensuring the quality of the recycled inputs. “[Here], we don’t really make a difference between post-consumer, post-industrial, or virgin feedstock,” says Kuisle. “We demand the same quality standards — we don’t make any concessions — and it’s by engaging with our recycled feedstock suppliers by way of agreements and long-term contracts [that we ensure quality].”

Source: Plastics Today

Sustainability and compliance are key to future-proofing packaging solutions: Jay Deepak Shah, CEO, Jay Wood Industry

We see sustainability as a growth driver, and our packaging strategy is deeply in sync with the globally followed principles of circular economy, says Jay Deepak Shah, CEO, Jay Wood Industry.

Jaywood Industry (JWI), which makes wooden pallets, is embracing advanced energy management systems and solar initiatives at its Taloja plant. The company claims its PEFC/42-31-06 and FSC C146265 certifications mandate that wood and paper products come from sustainably managed forests. So the manufacturing process has to meet stringent environmental, social and economic standards, says Jay Deepak Shah, CEO of Jaywood Industry.

In an interaction with ET Online, he points out that there is a growing demand for suppliers who prioritise eco-friendly practices. The company's emphasis on sustainability and compliance enables it to position itself as an ethically responsible pallet manufacturer. Edited excerpts:

The Economic Times: How has the shift towards sustainable manufacturing practices affected the market for wooden pallets in recent years? What growth opportunities do you see?

Jay Deepak Shah: The shift towards sustainable manufacturing practices has profoundly impacted the wooden pallet market, which is valued at $63.2 billion and projected to grow to $92.5 billion by 2032— a CAGR of 4.2%. As businesses and governments increasingly prioritise sustainability, wooden pallets have emerged as a cornerstone of the circular economy. The inherent ability to reuse, repair and recycle these position them favourably against plastic alternatives.

In sectors like e-commerce, where efficiency is paramount, wooden pallets provide a durable, cost-effective solution that aligns with the growing demand for sustainable packaging. As the e-commerce sector expands, wooden pallets will be instrumental in optimising logistics and reducing operational costs.

Manufacturers that invest in these innovations while adhering to sustainable practices will not only improve their operational efficiency but also attract environmentally conscious consumers. Overall, the focus on sustainability presents significant growth opportunities for the wooden pallet industry, enabling companies to lead in their markets by offering eco-friendly solutions.

The Economic Times: How do you ensure your packaging strategy aligns with the principles of a circular economy, particularly regarding reuse and recycling?

Jay Deepak Shah: It is a fundamental part of our operations that is designed to maximise resource efficiency and minimise waste generation. We start by responsibly sourcing wood to ensure that our products have minimal environmental impact. We support forest conservation efforts and contribute to a more responsible supply chain.

We implement a robust inspection and repair system that allows us to assess and refurbish pallets instead of discarding them. By extending their life cycles, we reduce the need for new raw materials and minimise manufacturing waste. This reuse process helps us conserve resources. When pallets can no longer be repaired, we repurpose them into eco-friendly products such as fur-

niture and decorative pieces. This not only diverts waste from landfills, but also supports local communities by creating economic opportunities. Through this closed-loop approach, we actively contribute to a greener economy and a more sustainable future.

The Economic Times: How do evolving regulations around sustainability and environmental practices impact your business operations?

Jay Deepak Shah: Adhering to standards like ISPM 15 (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15), which governs the treatment of wooden pallets for international shipping, is essential to maintaining our market access and upholding our credibility. These regulations drive us to implement stringent quality control processes, ensuring our pallets undergo heat treatment or fumigation to eliminate pests and meet international safety standards. This commitment to quality not only ensures compliance but also enhances our products' appeal, especially in the export sector, where adherence to such standards is critical.

Today's customers are increasingly looking for suppliers who prioritise eco-friendly practices. By demonstrating our adherence to sustainability, we create a unique selling point that resonates strongly with industries like logistics, agriculture and pharmaceuticals — where alignment with regulatory requirements is a key factor in supplier selection. By staying ahead of evolving regulations, we protect our business and position ourselves as a leader within the industry.

The Economic Times: What role does research and development play in your efforts to innovate sustainable packaging solutions? Any recent breakthroughs worth highlighting here?

Jay Deepak Shah: Research and development (R&D) are crucial to our strategy and to remain a step ahead. A recent breakthrough has been the integration of advanced manufacturing technologies. At our Taloja plant, we introduced a cutting-edge chamfering machine that has revolutionised our production process. This machine allows us to produce bevelled edges on wooden planks, enhancing the ease of pallet movement with hand trucks. The increased efficiency has improved productivity while simultaneously reducing energy consumption and operational costs.

Our R&D efforts are also directed towards sourcing sustainable materials, such as eco-friendly timber and alternative resources. Additionally, we actively collaborate with industry experts and academic partners to incorporate the latest research and innovations into our processes. This approach ensures we continue to lead in sustainable packaging while meeting the expectations of environmentally conscious consumers.

The Economic Times: How do you envision the future of sustainable packaging in the wooden pallet industry in five to ten years?

Jay Deepak Shah: Our vision for the future of green packaging solutions in the wooden pallet industry centres on sustainability, innovation and resilience. Over the next five to ten years, we aim to set new standards in eco-friendly packaging by exceeding customer expectations. A key priority will be integrating sustainability deeper into our manufacturing processes. This involves ramping up recycling initiatives to ensure a large portion of our raw materials come from recycled sources, fostering a circular economy.

We envision old pallets being continuously repurposed, reducing the need for new resources and minimising waste. We'll also focus on research and development to innovate packaging solutions that are sustainable and practical. This includes exploring alternative materials to complement wooden pallets and broadening our product offerings to meet evolving customer needs.

Besides, we see technological advancements like automation and smart logistics playing a critical role. By streamlining production, reducing energy consumption, and minimising waste, we can improve efficiency while bolstering our sustainability efforts.

Lastly, as consumers increasingly prioritise eco-friendly products, we're committed to fostering partnerships with clients and stakeholders, driving collective action toward a greener, more sustainable future in the industry.

Source: The Economic Times

Nearly 40,000 km of rural roads constructed using plastic waste: Govt

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, nearly 40,000 km of rural roads have been built using this sustainable technique, with 13,000 km completed in the last two years alone, she said

Nearly 40,000 km of rural roads constructed using plastic waste till date with 13,000 km completed in the last two years alone, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a media interaction, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Vini Mahajan said over 55 per cent of villages have been declared 'ODF Plus Model' while 5 lakh waste collection vehicles are in operation and there is a significant progress in greywater and plastic waste management.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, nearly 40,000 km of rural roads have been built using this sustainable technique, with 13,000 km completed in the last two years alone, she said.

"These innovations showcase our commitment to sustainability and the future of sanitation in India," she added.

She emphasised the invaluable collective support from all Central ministries, states and UTs to the 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2024' campaign.

Mahajan highlighted that sanitation is a societal issue that unites us all, driven by cohesive leadership from the highest levels to local communities.

Cleanliness, she noted, is not just a milestone but an ever-evolving journey, with behaviour change at its core.

Source: Business Standard

India's first 'Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers' inaugurated in Pune

Praj's first-of-its-kind 'Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers' in India is a pioneering effort in developing indigenously integrated technology for the production of PLA, said the minister

On Sunday, October 13, 2024, India's first 'Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers' showcasing Praj Industries Limited's (Praj's) indigenously developed integrated polylactic acid (PLA) technology was inaugurated at the hands of Dr Jitendra Singh, minister of state (independent charge), ministry of science and technology; in the presence of Rajesh Gokhale, secretary, department of biotechnology (DBT); and Ashish Lele, director, National Chemical Laboratory at Jejuri near Pune.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said, "Praj's first-of-its-kind 'Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers' in India is a pioneering effort in developing indigenously integrated technology for the production of PLA. This demonstrates India's strong lead in technological innovation and the resolve to transition from fossil-based plastics to eco-friendly alternatives, crucial for addressing the global plastic pollution crisis. This will also enable the dual goals of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India'. This facility symbolises a new chapter for India's bioeconomy."

Lele said, "The inauguration of Praj's demonstration facility for biopolymers signifies a pivotal advancement. India produces around 25 million tonne of plastic annually with 9.3 million tonne turning into waste and only 3.4 million tonne being collected. The rest ends up in landfills and our oceans. It is crucial to tackle the plastic crisis by shifting towards biodegradable and compostable bioplastics. A collaborative partnership among industry, academia, and government, exemplified by Praj's initiatives, is essential to address this urgent challenge."

Praj, a leader in industrial biotechnology, has developed a strong leadership position in the biofuels industry and also diversified into renewable chemicals and materials (RCM) with key focus on bioplastics. Integrated PLA technology was developed at the Praj research and development centre. Made from renewable resources such as corn starch or sugarcane, PLA is a natural polymer designed to substitute widely used petroleum-based plastics like PET (polyethene terephthalate). Praj's recently constructed state-of-the-art demonstration facility – spread over three acres – houses fermentation, chemical synthesis, separation and purification sections along with other supporting sections. The facility showcases production capacities of 100 tonne per annum (TPA) for Lactic Acid; and 60 TPA for Lactide, equivalent to 55 TPA for PLA.

Commenting on the landmark development, Pramod Chaudhari, founder and executive Chairman, Praj, said, "In 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Praj strategically chose to diversify its offerings beyond its established leadership in bioenergy solutions, signalling a crucial turning point in the company's development. We began our journey into renewable chemicals and materials, particularly emphasising bioplastics. Together, we are dedicated to the shared vision of establishing India as a global bio-manufacturing hub, while addressing the plastic crisis, and creating a sustainable, innovative, and resilient future for #ViksitBharat!"

Source: Hindustan Times

IISc breakthrough promises greener recycling of high-performance polymer

The lightweight composites are noted for their durability, high strength, and low density and are widely used in aerospace and construction sectors, wind turbines, and sporting goods.

In a breakthrough that could facilitate wider adoption of carbon fibre-reinforced polymer (CFRP) composites across industries, a research group at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed and patented a technique that addresses the material's biggest downside – its poor recyclability.

The lightweight composites are noted for their durability, high strength, and low density and are widely used in aerospace and construction sectors, wind turbines, and sporting goods. They have found new thrust as the world increasingly adopts manufacturing techniques that involve reduced CO2 emissions.

A team from the Department of Materials Engineering, led by Prof Suryasarathi Bose and Prof Subodh Kumar, has developed a bio-based aqueous solution that enables CFRP laminate recycling.

CFRP consists of carbon fibres embedded in a polymer matrix, usually an epoxy resin. CFRP waste is primarily composed of thermoset (permanently hardened when heated or cured) matrices which makes recycling difficult. The solution, SaLSo, is developed with everyday ingredients and helps easy recovery of the epoxy and the carbon fibres, simplifying the recycling process.

Samir Mandal, a PhD student working with Prof Bose and Prof Kumar, explained that the solution "selectively cleaves" the Carbon-Nitrogen and Carbon-Oxygen bonds in the thermoset polymer matrix (like epoxy and vinyl ester) and breaks down its network structure.

Cost-effective waste management

The recycled epoxy and carbon fibres were found to maintain structural integrity and can be reused in new composites or blended with other polymers to create new products.

Prof Bose said the technique addressed both the costs and carbon footprint associated with carbon fibre production. "This is a concoction that can break the resin down and reclaim the fabric. The epoxy broken down into fragments can also be put to use as a hardener to design other materials, helping the industry achieve a circular economy," he told DH. Traditional CFRP recycling methods involve the use of industrial crushers and the regrinding processes involve CO2 emissions. The resultant products also have limited utility because they cannot blend in with all materials.

India produces, annually, an estimated 2,000 to 4,000 metric tons of CFRP composites. As demand rises and the industry adopts advanced manufacturing technologies, CFRP production in India is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10-15% over the next decade. The production is estimated to be in the 6,000-10,000 metric tons range by 2030, making the country a key player in the global market.

Studies project that by 2025, the annual global carbon fibre-reinforced epoxy waste will reach 20,000 tons. The researchers said viable recycling solutions were critical because large portions of this waste could end up in landfills or be incinerated, contributing significantly to environmental degradation.

"Aircraft components after their limited useful life, for instance, are shredded and sent to the landfills. We are in talks with agencies like NAL (National Aerospace Laboratories) and windmill manufacturers to see how efficiently we can put this high-performance material to better, wider use," Prof Bose said.

Source: Deccan Herald

Food & beverages, FMCG, pharma will drive demand for advanced packaging solutions: Dhananjay Salunkhe, Huhtamaki India

The demand for innovative packaging solutions is further amplified by the growing food processing sector, with an emphasis on safety and quality, says Dhananjay Salunkhe, Managing Director, Huhtamaki India.

The shift toward sustainability is driving business strategies globally, including India. With government regulations promoting eco-friendly materials and reducing plastic waste, businesses are investing more in sustainable packaging solutions, with an emphasis on safety and quality.

Sustainability is becoming a core focus, as consumers — especially with the rise of e-commerce — seek environmentally friendly and personalised packaging experiences, says Dhananjay Salunkhe, Managing Director, Huhtamaki India, a packaging company. In an interaction with ET Digital, Salunkhe says that Huhtamaki India's top priority is making its packaging fully recyclable and driving circularity. Edited excerpts:

The Economic Times: How is India's packaging industry positioned, and how has it evolved over time?

Dhananjay Salunkhe: India's packaging industry is the fifth-largest sector of the economy, with a significant contribution from flexible packaging, which is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7-8% over the next five years. The shift toward sustainability is a defining trend, driven by global initiatives and government regulations promoting eco-friendly materials and reducing plastic waste. The demand for innovative packaging solutions is further amplified by the growing food processing sector, with an emphasis on safety and quality.

Sustainability is becoming a core focus, as consumers, especially with the rise of e-commerce, seek environmentally friendly and personalised packaging experiences. Technology, such as smart packaging, is also playing a critical role, transforming packaging into an interactive element that enhances the overall consumer experience. The growth of specific end-user categories such as food & beverages, FMCG, and pharmaceuticals will further drive demand for advanced packaging solutions.

The Economic Times: How has Huhtamaki's presence in India evolved?

Dhananjay Salunkhe: Huhtamaki India, a subsidiary of the Finnish global packaging leader Huhtamaki Oyj, delivers innovative and sustainable packaging solutions nationwide. With 10 state-of-the-art manufacturing sites and headquarters in Thane, Mumbai, we transform raw materials into high-performance packaging. Our advanced R&D facility in Khopoli, Maharashtra, enables us to create products that meet everyday consumer needs while addressing the industry's evolving sustainability demands. What sets us apart in the Indian market is our integrated portfolio of flexible packaging, labels and cylinders, giving us a unique edge. We strive to protect food, people and the planet by deploying cutting-edge technology to drive innovative circular packaging solutions that are fit for a competitive market. Our global presence enables us to serve 37 countries in over 100 locations across Europe, Africa, Oceania, Southeast Asia, North America, and South America.

The Economic Times: Could you explain Huhtamaki's sustainability road map in India?

DS: Our 2030 road map revolves around advancing the circular economy and taking significant climate action, including our commitment to significantly reduce carbon emissions by 2030. In India, our environmental efforts include reducing energy consumption, cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and increasing the use of renewable energy across our manufacturing sites. We are also focused on sustainable end-of-life solutions for packaging to minimise our environmental impact throughout the value chain. Our approach encompasses robust climate, water, waste, and energy management practices. We have implemented water conservation solutions, prioritised waste reduction through circular initiatives, and are working to lower the carbon footprint of our packaging solutions. A key priority for the coming years is transitioning to 100% renewable energy, and we are conducting biodiversity assessments to ensure the protection of natural ecosystems across our sites.

On the product side, our top priority is making our packaging fully recyclable and driving circularity. Last year, 72.9% of our products were recyclable, compostable, or reusable globally, and we continue to make strides in this area through our innovative technologies.

The Economic Times: With flexible packaging playing a pivotal role in the consumer goods industry, what emerging trends do you see reshaping the landscape in India?

Dhananjay Salunkhe: Sustainability is the key factor driving the growth of the flexible packaging market in India, offering clear benefits such as reduced raw material consumption, decreased reliance on natural resources and minimal waste generation, significantly less than traditional packaging formats. These advantages have made flexible packa ging the top choice for both consumers and manufacturers. Additionally, flexible packaging's versatility allows for wider distribution with reduced packaging weight, all while maintaining functionality.

With a significant portion of Indian consumers preferring small-unit packages that meet their specific needs, flexible packaging caters to this demand efficiently. Digitalisation is also reshaping the landscape, emphasising connectivity, traceability and recycling. The stronger push for su stainability, driven by new regulations focused on reuse and recycling, is opening new opportunities for innovation in material technology and end-to-end recycling solutions.

The Economic Times: What key actions can India take to accelerate the adoption of sustainable packaging solutions from both regulatory and industry perspectives?

Dhananjay Salunkhe: India has demonstrated a strong commitment to implementing regulations around plastic waste management, especially in the last couple of years. Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR), the single-use plastic ban, marking and labelling requirements, data visibility in the plastics value chain, and targets for recycled content are some of the key pillars introduced through these regulations. One area where we believe regulations can play a key role is by encouraging the devel opment of recyclable structures for flexible packaging. While the inclusion of recycled content is already being addressed, it can only succeed if we have recyclable (mono-layered) structures. If this area is also covered under guidelines and regulations, it will add great value to the circularity of flexible packaging and help close the loop.

The industry must work with policymakers by providing technical expertise and data points needed to form such policies. Additionally, the industry can aid policymakers in testing and assessing the industrial feasibility of proposed regulations. A collaborative approach between authorities and industries will ensure the development of fruitful, feasible, and impactful regulations.

The Economic Times: What challenges does the packaging industry face in balancing sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and scalability?

Dhananjay Salunkhe: The key challenge for the packaging industry is to develop solutions that are both sustainable and affordable while also ensuring they can scale up to meet large industrial demands. Balancing these factors requires innovation, investment and collaboration across the supply chain. Sustainable packaging technologies necessitate significant investment in new manufacturing equipment, technology development and resources over a period of 2-4 years. Not every company can afford this cost, especially with uncertain returns. The uncertainty arises from the complexity of implementing new technologies on the customer's side, the timing of customer readiness to adopt, and whether customers and consumers are willing to pay the additional costs incurred by suppliers.

We recognise a spectrum of challenges on the horizon, from ensuring safety and sustainability to the critical task of refining our manufacturing processes and product lineup for greater coherence and impact. The key challenge with flexible packaging has been that these benefits have traditionally relied on multi-material packaging structures, combining thin layers of various types of plastic or plastic films laminated to aluminium or paper.

Source: The Economic Times

Sudarshan Chemical to acquire Germany's Heubach for Rs 1,180 crore

The Heubach acquisition will help address these challenges with a clear turnaround plan, SCIL said in a release

Pune-based Sudarshan Chemical Industries (SCIL) has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the global pigment business operations of Germany's Heubach Group for Rs 1,180 crore (€127.5 million).

Following the announcement, shares of SCIL jumped 19.1 per cent to Rs 1,208, valuing the company at Rs 8,359 crore.

The deal, a combination of asset and share acquisition, will help boost SCIL's product portfolio and provide access to Heubach's technological capabilities and strong presence in Europe and the Americas.

The merged entity will have a broad pigment portfolio, 19 global sites, and a diversified asset footprint. In 2022, Heubach became the world's second-largest pigment player after integrating with Clariant.

However, the group has been facing financial challenges over the past two years due to rising costs, inventory issues, and high interest rates.

The Heubach acquisition will help address these challenges with a clear turnaround plan, SCIL said in a release.

SCIL's managing director Rajesh Rathi will lead the combined company.

The deal will require regulatory approvals, including those from the Competition Commission of India and other authorities in various jurisdictions. The acquisition is expected to close in 3-4 months following approvals from regulators and SCIL shareholders.

Shares of SCIL have more than doubled so far this year. During FY24, the company clocked a net profit of Rs 335 crore on revenues of Rs 2,141 crore, while during the three-month period ended June 2024, it reported a net profit of Rs 41 crore on revenues of Rs 580 crore. Meanwhile, the consolidated turnover of the Heubach Group in 2023 was €879 million, down from €1,069 million.

Source: Business Standard

From creation to disposal, plastics industry is poised for transformation via AI: Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai, UFlex

AI can optimise manufacturing processes by analysing vast amounts of data, thereby improving efficiency, reducing waste and enhancing product quality, says Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai, Director, Sustainability & President, Flexible Packaging and New Product Development, UFlex.

The flexible packaging industry has come a long way and is among the key drivers of the Indian economy, ensuring affordable packaged products for consumers. However, transitioning to eco-friendly materials or recycling processes still faces many challenges including upfront investments that can be particularly prohibitive for smaller businesses. But India is on the right path in exporting these sustainable packaging solutions, says Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai, Director, Sustainability & President, Flexible Packaging and New Product Development, UFlex Limited. In an interaction with ET Digital, Pillai also says that artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to play a key role in the transformation of the plastics industry from creation to disposal. Edited excerpts:

The Economic Times: Where does India stand in terms of innovation in sustainable packaging?

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai: India is making great progress in sustainable packaging innovations, fuelled by a conducive regulatory environment. The government's initiatives, such as the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies, are fostering a culture of sustainability, encouraging brand owners and producers to accelerate their journey toward sustainable packaging and enhanced recycling responsibilities.

The flexible packaging industry is a key driver of the Indian economy, ensuring affordable packaged products for consumers. As we move toward circularity, our focus at UFlex is on sustainable packaging, integrating recycled content and innovative solutions to combat plastic waste. At UFlex, we are committed to driving innovation in packaging solutions for the FMCG sector by developing packaging structures that incorporate recycled content, substituting aluminum foil in multilayer plastics, and re-engineering designs based on the 'more for less' principle. We have also been at forefront of technological advancements in recycling multilayer plastics.

The Economic Times: What are the major challenges faced by Indian companies, especially MSMEs, with plastic waste and recycling?

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai: Indian MSME companies face significant challenges here. Many lack the knowledge and expertise to implement effective waste management practices, resulting in improper disposal and adverse environmental impact.

Transitioning to eco-friendly materials or recycling processes requires upfront investment, which can be prohibitive for smaller businesses operating on tight margins. The recycling infrastructure for flexible packaging is still developing in India. MSMEs often struggle to find reliable avenues for recycling post-consumer plastic waste, leading to accumulation and disposal issues. A lack of demand and higher costs of recycled materials make it challenging for MSMEs to justify investments in recycling technologies or to source recycled materials.

The Economic Times: How does UFlex apply circular economy principles in its packaging and waste management?

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai: As a pioneer in recycling multi-layer plastics since 1994, UFlex today processes nearly 30,000 MT of plastic waste annually. Our recycling facilities in India, Mexico, Poland and Egypt are paving the way for sustainability in flexible packaging.
UFlex is addressing the challenge of recycling multi-layer aseptic packaging by investing in Enzymatic Delamination Technology. This advanced process uses enzymes to separate the layers of materials, allowing for the effective recycling of components like paper and polyethylene/foil laminates. Through these initiatives, UFlex demonstrates its commitment to advancing circular economy principles.

The Economic Times: Sustainable packaging from traditional packaging comes with financial challenges for businesses as profit margins can be impacted — sustainable materials tend to be more expensive initially than conventional alternatives. What's your take on this?

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai: Transitioning to sustainable packaging from traditional options does present financial challenges for businesses, as sustainable materials often come with higher initial costs, impacting profit margins. However, many companies are investing significantly in research and development to create cost-effective sustainable materials. For instance, we produce 100% PCR PET films by upcycling post-consumer PET bottles, which offer the same attributes as virgin PET.

A recent McKinsey survey indicates that customers are increasingly willing to pay more for sustainable packaging, particularly in developing nations. This willingness suggests that, despite the initial costs, the long-term benefits of adopting sustainable packaging can enhance brand loyalty and open new market opportunities. Ultimately, the investment in sustainable solutions not only aligns with environmental goals but can also prove profitable in the evolving marketplace.

The Economic Times: How does India stand in terms of making R&D investments to find affordable sustainable materials and ensuring quality at competitive prices?

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai: India is actively prioritising R&D investments in the flexible packaging industry to develop affordable sustainable materials while ensuring quality at competitive prices. The introduction of new regulatory policies has created a strong impetus for plastic packaging manufacturers to explore innovative solutions, driving growth in the packaging sector. An increasing momentum in R&D investments indicates that India is well-equipped to advance its sustainable packaging landscape.

The Economic Times: What role can AI play in tackling flexible packaging waste?

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai: From creation to disposal, the plastics industry is poised for transformation through artificial intelligence (AI). In the production phase, AI can optimise manufacturing processes by analysing vast amounts of data, thereby improving efficiency, reducing waste, and enhancing product quality. And at the end of the life cycle, AI is crucial for waste management and recycling processes.

Advanced AI sorting technologies utilise smart learning and deep learning to differentiate between plastic packaging and non-plastic packaging, food-grade and non-food-grade plastics, different packaging materials, and different brands. These advanced systems will be integrated into our global recycling infrastructure.

The Economic Times: What are the future trends in sustainable packaging?

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai: The future of sustainable flexible packaging is characterised by innovation and increased environmental awareness, responding to both consumer demand and regulatory pressures. Companies are working to minimise their ecological footprint, with the development of biodegradable and compostable materials gaining traction. The focus on recyclability is also leading to closed-loop systems that promote circular economy principles.

Water-based inks and adhesives are becoming more popular as brands prioritise eco-friendly materials. Additionally, brands are integrating post-consumer recycled materials into their packaging to reduce reliance on virgin plastics.

As awareness of sustainable packaging grows, both companies and consumers are well-positioned to drive the transition toward more responsible packaging solutions.

Source: The Economic Times

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 September-2024. We would like to welcome them aboard!

Sr. No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Email
1	Accuuemit Irrigation (India) Private Limited	102, Mittal Estate No. 4, Sir M. V. Road, Andheri East,	Mumbai	400059	Maharashtra	accounts@accuuemit.com
2	Anil Plastic	Ground Floor, Plot No.187 Pkt-M, Sec 5, Dsiidc Industrial Area Bawana,	West Delhi	110039	Delhi	h.goyal@anilplastic.com
3	Atharva Polymers Private Limited	Gat No. 596, Hissa No.1, At. Dhoke Sanga Vi, Midc Ranjangaon, Tal. Shirur	Pune	412209	Maharashtra	info.jmpolymers@gmail.com
4	Bridge Retail Business Management Private Limited	Block-H, 18, Second Floor, Sumel Business Park-3, Rajhirapur, Opp Raipur Gate	Ahmedabad	380001	Gujarat	kewlanisam@yahoo.co.in
5	Ctm Geosynthetics India Llp	A-504 The First B/S Keshavbaug Party Plot Vastrapur, Iim Vastrapur,	Ahmedabad	380015	Gujarat	kenil@ctm-geosynthetics.com
6	Fadia Engineers	B-1-90/6,Ph-I, Fadia Engineers B/H.Satyam Way Bridge, Nr,- Neeka Tube Char Rasta G I D C Estate, Vatva	Ahmedabad	382445	Gujarat	fadiaengineers@gmail.com
7	Flexibond Industries Private Limited	Plot No. 810/1, Kothari Cross Road Village - Santej, Taluka - Kalol	Kalol	382721	Gujarat	sagarsheth8478@gmail.com
8	Fudpak	Shop No A6, Ground Floor A4 Gemini Parsn Complex , Door No 446/600, Anna Salai	Chennai	600006	Tamil Nadu	info@fudpak.in
9	Globe Print N Pack	3rd Floor, B-49, Pravasi Industrial Estate, Off Aarey Road, Goregaon East,	Mumbai	400063	Maharashtra	accounts@globeprintnpack.com
10	Hnvglobal Service Llp	15, Maruthi Krupa, 18th Cross, Lalji Nagar, Lakkasandra, Adugodi Bengaluru Urban Bangalore	Bengaluru	560030	Karnataka	venkatarayappa.nagarjun@gmail.com
11	Inverter Palace And Arvika Exporters	Vp 16/202, Kattakada Vilappil Malayinkeezhu,	Thiruvanantha-puram	695573	Kerala	arvikaindia7@gmail.com
12	Ishan Tubes Private Limited	100, Apollo Trade Centre, Prakash Industrial Estate Sahibabad,	Ghaziabad,	201006	Uttar Pradesh	ishantubes@gmail.com
13	K P Polymers	Plot No-10 And 11,Sno.54 2p2,54 2p3,54 2p4, Nr.Laxmi Ind. Estste,B/H.Somnath Paper Mill, Navagam Road,	Lakhdhirnagar	363641	Gujarat	kppolymersmorbi@gmail.com
14	Kaizen Manufacturing Company Private Limited	Khasra No. 974- 975, Gintigaon, Kotabagh Kaladhungi,	Nainital	263159	Uttarakhand	kaizenmfg@gmail.com
15	Knack Polymers	Survey No.1089 (Old No.861), Village Motibhoyan, Khatraj-Kalol Road, Taluka Kalol,	Gandhinagar	382721	Gujarat	jaimin@knack-polymers.com
16	Kuber Enterprises	Wing-4/9/2 Prem Nagar, Near Mandir Gurdwara,	Dehradun	248007	Uttarakhand	sushil.sehgal@kuberenterprises.in
17	Lyka Global Plast Llp	Sr No. 194p1, Lajai Hadmatiya Road, Nr. Resonance Paper Mill, At- Hadmatiya	Morbi	363650	Gujarat	info@lykagpl.com
18	Maheshwar Flooring Industries Limited	C/O Prem Kapoor 10703/25 Ground Floor Jhandewalan Road Nabi Karim	Central Delhi	110055	New Delhi	maheshwarflooringindustriesltd@gmail.com

19	Marucool World Private Limited	F-665 4th Phase Boranada Industrial Area	Jodhpur	342012	Rajasthan	jodhpur@mppi.co.in
20	Naaz Plastic	Gala No A/5a Sagar Ind Estate 3, S No 46 Dgumal Nagar Waliv,	Vasai	401208	Maharashtra	naazplastic212@gmail.com
21	Neela Enterprises	Ward No 5, 73, Shreeram Colony Bhagyanagar Koppal Koppal	Koppal	583231	Karnataka	neelaentps@gmail.com
22	Plast Technology India Private Limited	365/2, Plot No 6, Wmdc, Chakan, Ambethan Road, Kharabwadi, Chakan,	Pune	410501	Maharashtra	plast.technology5@gmail.com
23	Qualever Products	Gulabgarh Behra Road Derabassi,	S.A.S Nagar	140507	Punjab	qualever@gmail.com
24	Rupika Hair Merchant	Pocket G-6/88-89, 2nd Floor Sector-11, Rohini	North Delhi	110085	Delhi	rupikahair@gmail.com
25	S M Nowofab Private Limited	Plot No.131, Ida Medchal, Medchal Malkajgiri Manda	Hyderabad	501401	Telengana	info@smnowofab.com
26	Shree Hari Industries	Ground Floor,Plot No 1,Shiv Aradhana Industrial Park, Indore Highway,Kuha,Ahmedabad Odhav	Ahmeabad	382433	Gujarat	shreehariindinfo@gmail.com
27	Weorex Private Limited	23/93, 5th Street,Ss Colony,Madurai	Madurai	625016	Tamil Nadu	rajkumar@weorex.com