

PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT[®]

Edition 26, August 2021

**Raffia – The Industry that
Treads the PP Demand Growth**

**Interview with Pratibha
Dewett, CMSO, Lucro**

**Advanced Cargo Information
in Egyptian Customs**

**Resilience in Supply Chain
Networks**



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From the Chairman's Desk	03
Council Activities – June 2021	05
Raffia – The Industry that Treads the PP Demand Growth	09
Export Performance – June 2021	15
Countryscape - Spain	22
Interview with Pratibha Dewett, CMSO, Lucro	26
Polymer Price Tracker	30
Product of the Month - Combs	31
Egyptian Customs System – Advanced Cargo Information (ACI)	36
Resilience of Supply Chain Networks - An Aetos Perspective	38
International News	41
India News	47
Why become a Plexconcil Member?	53
New Members – June 2021	54



In a statement made in early July, the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri. Piyush Goyal said that India witnessed the highest-ever level of exports during April-June quarter at \$95 billion on account of healthy growth in sectors, including engineering, rice, oil meals and marine products. He said that the country can clock \$1.5 trillion of goods and services exports in the next few years. Export momentum remained strong through the month of July as well, registering a YOY growth of 45.13% in goods exports in the first 3 weeks of the month.

During June 2021, India exported plastics worth USD 1,301 million, up 60.4% from USD 811 million in June 2020. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2021 – June 2021 was USD 3,417 million as against USD 2,211 million during the same period last year, registering a positive growth of 54.5%. On the ongoing consultations between India and the EU/ UK on FTAs, it is stated that at the highest level, there was a clear agreement on resumption of negotiations, and resolve to expedite finality in the negotiations at an early date. India is also pursuing upgradation of preferential trade agreements with Chile and MERCOSUR (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay), and taking forward negotiations with various other countries, including Israel. Besides, efforts are on to review the existing FTAs with Korea, ASEAN and Japan and upgrade them. As we know, FTAs are critical to exports and renegotiating terms is integral to capitalizing on the increasing global demand for Indian products.

In the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, India has significantly improved its ranking in terms of trade facilitation due to various reforms undertaken by various departments especially customs under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC). India has scored 90.32 per cent in the Survey. Such achievements are critical to our global business relations and would go a long way in boosting international trade.

In this issue of the magazine, Aetos Founder & MD, Anil Arora talks about the importance of agility and adaptability in managing supply chains efficiently. We also interviewed Pratibha Dewett, CMSO, Lucro who talks about closing the loop between recyclers and the processors to align with the EPR under the amended PWM Rules. We have also talked about the Raffia industry and the significant role of technologies in catalysing its growth over the years with Rajkumar Lohia, Lohia Corp. As always, we also bring you industry updates, besides export focus on Spain under Countryscape, and Combs under Product of the Month, besides news from around the world and India.

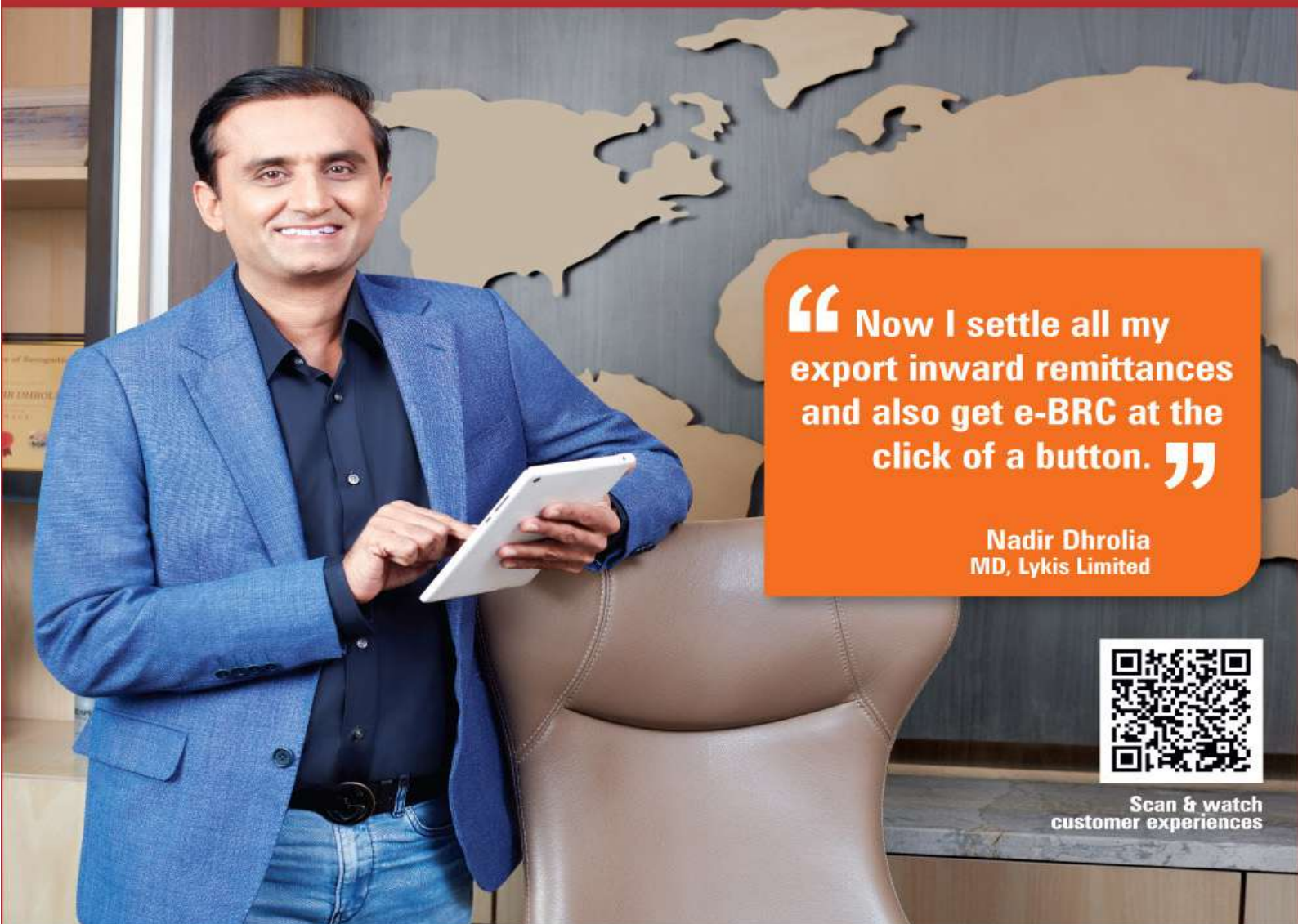
There is much to look forward to in times ahead and we are hoping some of the positive moves being made by the GOI will help us keep up with our goals. Plastics exports have been going strong and if we keep with the current rate of over USD 1 billion dollars a month in exports, we are looking at USD 12 billion dollars for the year. Kudos to the great efforts being made by the industry.

Before I conclude, on behalf of the plastic export industry and Plexconcil, we extend our warmest welcome to our new MoS, Commerce & Industry, Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel and Commerce Secretary, Shri. BVR Subrahmanyam. We look forward to their guidance and support.

On the road to success, there is no room for criticism or complaints. Let's keep away from such deviants and remain solely focused on the milestones we have set for ourselves. Stay safe, stay healthy.

Warm regards,

Arvind Goenka
Chairman



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Date: 12-06-2021**Webinar on Paying the Price for of Plastic - Understanding Volatility, its Drivers and Future outlook**

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (Plexconcil) organised webinar on “Paying the Price for a Plastic” - Understanding Volatility, its Drivers and Future Outlook on 12th June, 2021.

Intrinsically linked to the global crude pricing that is cyclical in nature, polymer pricing is not isolated and its impact is felt across the board. This webinar helped to understand long term and short term price volatility drivers and deliberated on the need to develop pathways to ensure demand and supply chain remain robust.



Mr. Arvind Goenka, Chairman, Plexconcil



Mr Manoj Agarwal, MD, Kanpur Plastipack Ltd

The welcome address for the webinar was given by Mr. Arvind Goenka, Chairman, Plexconcil and webinar was moderated by Mr. Manoj Agarwal, MD, Kanpur Plastipack Ltd.

Speakers Mr. Satyendra Sahai, Head of Polymer Marketing (India & Global Markets), IOC spoke on the topic “Understanding price fluctuations in the polymer industry, current shortage in raw material and impact of BIS on polymer imports” and Mr. Makarand Dixit, Head -Marketing Petrochemicals, Nayara Energy Limited addressed participants on the topic “Capacity Additions and barriers faced by polymer producers to enhance output & the future outlook; specialty polymers and why our industry is still



Mr. Satyendra Sahai, Head of Polymer Marketing (India & Global Markets), IOC



Mr. Makarand Dixit, Head - Marketing Petrochemicals, Nayara Energy Limited

heavily import reliant when there is rising demand for engineering plastic; impact of BIS on polymer imports.

Date: 18-06-2021**Webinar on “Recent challenges faced in EPCG, Advance Authorization and Duty Drawback schemes”**

The Council organised a webinar on “Recent challenges faced by the exporters in the case of EPCG, Advance Authorization and Duty Drawback schemes”. The objective of this webinar was to guide exporters on incentive schemes such as EPCG, Advance Authorization and Duty Drawback.

Mr. Hemant Minocha, Vice Chairman, Plexconcil during welcome address said that Exports form the backbone of a country's economy and export community depends a lot on incentives offered by Government schemes which play a vital role in taking India a step closer to the government's \$5 trillion economy goal.

All three schemes were explained in detail by expert speakers, Mr Ratan Jain, Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys, Mr. Saurabh Malpani, Principal Associate, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys and Mr. Shreyash Agrawal, Senior Associate, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys. Presentation was followed by interactive Q & A session.



Mr. Ratan Jain, Partner, L&S Attorneys



Mr. Saurabh Malpani, Principal Associate, L&S Attorneys



Mr. Shreyash Agrawal, Senior Associate, L&S Attorneys

The webinar was attended by more than 190 participants.

Date: 25-06-2021

Webinar on Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

The Council organised a webinar on Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Technical Textile such as FIBC bags, Nets, Ropes, twines, cordage and others. The scheme is expected to be announced by the Government of India shortly. The Government has allocated an outlay of INR 10,683 crores for Man-made fibres (MMF) and Technical textiles. The intent of the PLI scheme is to promote domestic manufacturing, increase exports and encourage import substitution for about 40 products in the MMF category and 10 in the Technical textiles category. The eligibility under the PLI scheme is based on criteria's like investment / manufacturing capacity / turnover.



Glimpse of Webinar Proceedings

(L to R Clockwise, Mr Ravish Kamath, Past Chairman and Panel Chairman, Woven Sacks /FIBCs, Plexconcil, Mr Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, Plexconcil, Mr Sagar Shah, Partner, Tax and Regulatory, Ernst & Young LLP)

The welcome address for the webinar was given by Mr. Ravish Kamath, Past Chairman, Plexconcil and Panel chairman, Woven Sacks /FIBCs, Plexconcil. Mr Sagar Shah, Partner, Tax and Regulatory, Ernst & Young LLP briefed participants about background about Indian Technical Textiles Market, insights on the eligibility criteria & incentives offered. He also shared practical experience of PLI schemes introduced for other products. During the Q&A, several queries were resolved by Speaker. Over 140 participants attended the webinar.

Date: 16-06-2021

Regional Committee Meeting of the Eastern Region held through Video Conference

Eastern Regional Committee Meeting was held on 16th June 2021 under the chairmanship of Mr. Prasan Lohia, Regional Chairman. Agenda items related to issues and concern with regard to export, Council's promotional activities, plastic export from eastern region and council's membership development were discussed.

Date: 25-06-2021

Regional Committee Meeting of the Southern Region held through Video Conference

Mr. Y V Raman, Regional Chairman, South convened a Video Conference Meeting on 25th June 2021. The discussions mainly focussed on the rapid changes across multiple dimensions that are sweeping across the world as well as in India, its impact the Indian industry and exports and strategies for crisis management while working towards the foreseeable future. The Regional Chairman also requested Members to their valuable inputs and suggestions to grow exports from the South.

The following was the Agenda for the meeting.

1. Strategies to increase Membership from South
2. Suggestions for Virtual Export Promotion Activities to enhance exports from the Southern Region
3. Recommendation on post-Covid-19 FTP policy changes.
4. Recommendation on the Finance/Subsidies
5. Suggestions on organizing webinars

Date: 29-06-2021

Pipes & Fittings Panel Meeting (Virtual)

The 1st PIPES & FITTINGS Panel Meeting via Video Conferencing for the year 2021-22 was held on 29th June 2021. Mr. P. Mohan, Panel Chairman, welcomed the Members and the Panel Members discussed in detail on the following points:

- Instability of Raw Material Prices – Request Plexconcil to bring out Price Index
- The Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP/MEIS) for Pipes and Fittings should be announced and MEIS for previous years to be released
- Skill Development through training
- Technology Transfers
- Cluster Development (finding the gap and recommending Common Facilitation Centre to improve the quality of the product and to be cost-effective)
- Bringing out a study on the industry covering the opportunities overseas
- Product Research to bring niche product
- Finding ways to implement the discussions through proper channels and to call for “brainstorming” sessions with other like-minded stakeholders.
- Recent Import Ban on certain types of Plastic Pipes



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RAFFIA - THE INDUSTRY THAT TREADS THE PP DEMAND GROWTH IN INDIA



The idea to produce flat tape yarns or fibrous products via the film is quite old. The first known efforts were made in the early 1930s. Jacques and his co-workers at the I.G. Farbenindustrie AG applied in 1936, for their first patent to produce oriented tapes from polymer films, using films of polyvinyl chloride and of polystyrene in 1936,. However, when in the early 1950's the polyolefins, namely high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP), came into commercial reality, the situation changed completely. These polymers, being relatively inexpensive and having good stretch ability and orientation ability, produced tapes with high strength. This gave the impetus for development of methods to commercially produce flat tape yarns and fibrillated fibres from PP/HDPE polymers, culminating into commercial production of plastic wovensacks (PWS) in early 1960's to contain, carry, store and protect bulk commodity goods.

Present status of flat tape yarn industry

The flat tape manufacturing process is based on high throughput rates, high efficiency and is low manpower intensive compared to jute industry and not vulnerable from seasonal effects unlike jute. These advantages have benefited propagation of various flat tape yarn products, mainly woven sacks in a short period of time. Several applications were developed in last 5 decades and the application portfolio enlarged encompassing from traditional woven sacks to Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBCs) and technical fabrics such as geotextiles. Today, India stands as the second largest producer of woven sacks and largest exporter of Flexible Intermediate bulk Containers (FIBCs).

Globally, the production of flat tape yarn woven fabrics is around

16.1 mMTA and it has grown at 4.8% CAGR over for the last 5 years.



Ajay Shah

President– Polymer Chain Reliance Industries Limited, Mumbai

The largest end-use market is represented by woven sacks for bulk packaging of cement, fertilizers, food grains, sugar, agricultural produce, animal feed, fodder, chemicals, petrochemicals, sand, minerals and ores, flour, seeds, nuts, and many more products of mass consumption. Other growing applications of flat tape yarn woven fabrics are Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBCs), open mesh leno and raschel bags for packaging of agricultural produce, shade net fabrics, wrapping fabrics, tarpaulins, geotextiles, geomembranes, webbings, lifting slings, ropes, twines, stitching threads, etc.

In India, the flat tape yarn woven sack industry is popularly known as the 'Raffia' industry. The industry is more than 50 years old. Prior to the plastic woven sacks, majority of the packaging was done in jute sacks till early 1970s. The shortage of jute sacks, during the Bangladesh war in 1970s demanded alternates for bulk packaging, which resulted into the rapid development of plastic woven sack industry. Furthermore, the prolonged jute strike in the 1980's, triggered the mass use of PWS in the bulk packaging sector. Today, PP sacks enjoy a good market share in India and is likely to continue to do so as such in the coming years.

The Indian Raffia industry has a nationwide spread, with more than 1270 units in small and medium scale enterprises. With an investment of ~ INR 28,000 crores, it employs about 13 lac workers, with installed processing capacity of 2800 KTA, gross annual turnover of INR 30,000 crores and enjoys the reputation of making an important economic contribution to the country's growth.

Recently, the growing awareness on sustainability and environment protection has also resulted in a need for reusable and recyclable packaging sacks of high quality and performance.

Domestic Raffia industry – Sector wise Outlook

The PP/HDPE Raffia industry is generally classified into the following main categories, depending on package type and end-use function as;

1. Woven sacks for packaging of cement, fertilizer, food grains, sugar, polymers, chemicals
2. Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBCs) or Big Bags
3. Tarpaulins
4. Wrapping fabrics
5. Other applications

Raffia sector is one of the key segments of the domestic polymer processing industry, contributing to growth of consumption of commodity polymers like Polypropylene Homopolymer (PP) and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE). The domestic Raffia industry roughly contributes 15% of the domestic polyolefin consumption of around 13.5m MT. Polypropylene contributing more than 82% of the total Raffia sector consumption.

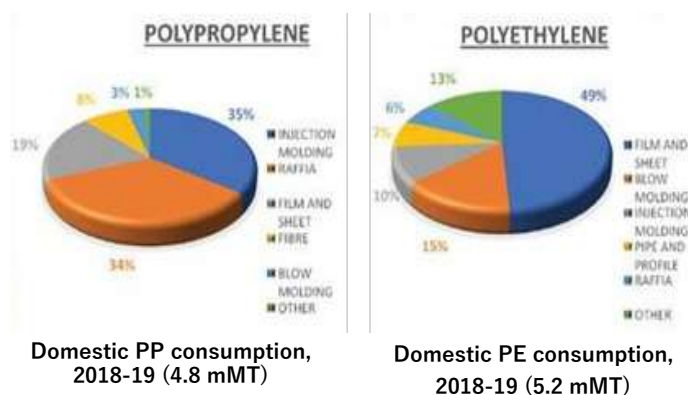


Figure 1: Downstream sector wise consumption pattern of domestic polyolefins industry

The overall Raffia industry is expected to grow at a CAGR of 9 % and expected to reach a market size of INR 46,200 crores by the year 2024-25

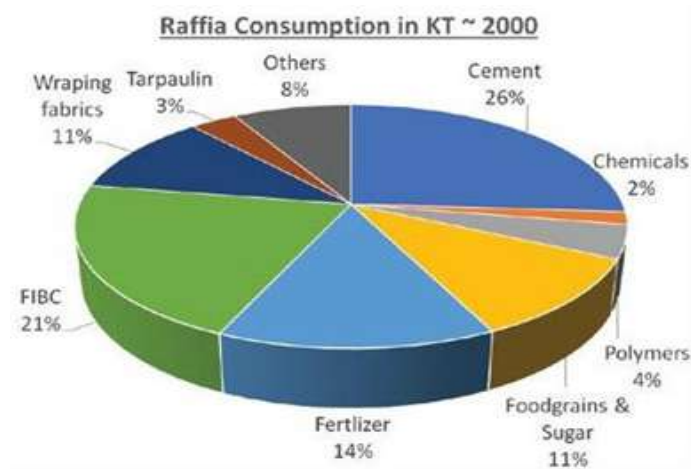


Figure 2: Application wise consumption pattern of domestic Raffia industry

The largest product category in the Raffia sector in India is cement packaging which consumes around 520 KT of polymer with 26% share and currently valued at INR 7600 crores. It is expected to reach INR 10,650 crores by 2024-25.

The entire cement packaging segment is served by polypropylene woven sacks due to its higher stiffness, adaptability for hot cement packaging and better dimensional stability at higher temperatures. Currently, India is the second largest cement producer in the world after China with a total capacity of 509 Million Tonnes in 2018-19. With the Government of India giving boost to various infrastructure and irrigation projects, housing facilities and road networks, the Cement Industry in India is currently growing at a pace of 7% as per industry estimates.

Packaging is becoming an important branding message in cement

sector. Presently, the cement manufacturers are using similar packaging sack for costlier premium products along with grey cement to position them in the market. In last few years, many of the cement manufacturers have shifted packaging of premium cement from regular woven sacks to Block bottom valve laminated sacks, commonly known in industry as 'AdStar' or AdPro' sacks. For instance, block bottom valve sacks or laminated PP bags are considered as premium packaging products, at an extra cost. Also, the manufacturers have a freedom of choice in terms of getting branding and visibility as these sacks allow printing of high-quality graphics. The other factors which are driving this change in cement packaging are better quality and consistent end-use performance, possibility to reduce loss of cement during handling, transportation and storage and the increased compliance with government policies of large public interest related to health, safety,

pollution-control and environmental protection including reuse and recycling of discarded sacks.

Another significant segment in the Indian Raffia market is Fertilizer packaging which consumes around 275 KT of polymer with 14% share of the Raffia consumption. This Raffia segment is expected to register a growth of around 6% for next 5 years. Laminated HDPE bags are predominantly used for packing fertilizers owing to better outdoor stability of HDPE than polypropylene. With easy availability of UV stabilizers and suitable master batches at lower cost, recently, PP made inroads into this sector and its share is growing as faster production rates are possible for PP woven sack manufacturing.

In India, there are about 55 fertilizer units producing Urea, DAP, Complex and Ammonium Sulphate fertilizers. The total production of Urea fertilizer is ~ 240 mMT and DAP and Complex fertilizers is ~ 130 mMT, besides this India also imports sizable quantity of fertilizers. Considering local production and import, requiring 275 KTA of PP/HDPE sacks currently valued at INR 3600 crores. Urea is predominantly packed in HDPE sacks, whereas, DAP and NPK fertilizers are preferably packed in PP sacks.

Another important segment for Raffia is the packaging of food grains, sugar and agriculture product packaging. This sector is presently coming under JPMA act and has seen relatively higher growth in

last decade, solely due to the end-use advantages of PP/HDPE woven sacks, easy availability, lower cost versus jute sacks. This Raffia packaging segment consumes around 229 KT of polymer with 14% share. India is one of the largest producers of commodities like food grains, sugar, fruits, vegetables and tea. With varied crop pattern, localized production of commodities, safe and hygienic storage, transportation and distribution and protection against wastage, packaging becomes of utmost importance. Huge losses have been observed in agriculture produce in India. Wastage varies from 5 to 35% depending on nature of crops.

Open mesh leno sacks are widely used for packing of various agricultural products such as onions, potato, garlic, carrot, ginger, orange, pineapple other fruits and vegetables. Leno bags being permeable allow the air to pass through the sack which help to



keep the product fresh. With their low weights and cost-effective nature, leno bags provide a superior packaging alternative to other materials.

Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBCs) is another important segment of Raffia sector and consumes around 420 KT of polymer with 21% share. FIBCs, also called as Big bags, are the large size, box shape bags fabricated from thick and UV stabilized, coated or uncoated Raffia fabrics, with integrated lifting devices for bag handling. FIBCs are one of the most cost effective and ideal types of packaging for shipping and storing dry bulk products.

FIBCs are available for powdered and granular materials like chemicals, petrochemicals, minerals, building materials, fertilizers, foods grains, etc.

India is the largest exporter of FIBCs to the global market, with major supplies to North America, Europe and Australia. In 1998, India's export was around 8% of the global FIBC consumption of 567

KTA. The domestic FIBC industry has recorded an admirable growth in the last two decades and the present export share is around 30% of the global FIBC consumption of 1240 KTA. The major factors contributing to this growth are the local availability of raw materials including speciality high tenacity grades, efficient machinery with latest technology, skilled manpower specially for the FIBC fabrication process, stringent quality norms and, the long reputation of supply of high quality FIBCs to the global market.

Advantages of FIBCs:

- Low cost of material handling from the manufacturer to the end user, inclusive of wastage of material
- Easy filling and discharge of material from bag
- Saving in loading/unloading time due to ease of handling
- Possibility of automation to reduce manpower
- Low weight packing for transport
- Built in safety factor of at least 5:1 on nominal load
- Transportation of empty FIBCs is cheap and space saving
- No requirements of handling pallets when compared to small sacks – self supporting
- Moisture sensitive material can be stored and transported using inner liners made of barrier films
- Eco-friendly, since product is recyclable

Polymer packaging sacks is yet another segment of domestic Raffia industry which is growing at fast pace and the present consumption of this segment is 82 KT of polypropylene resin. Recently, all domestic polymer producers have voluntarily started procurement of ISI marked, BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) compliant packaging sacks to ensure high level of bag quality and consistent end-use performance.

Geosynthetics segment which includes geotextiles, geomembranes and other geo-engineering products, is a relatively new entrant in Raffia industry. Polypropylene woven geotextiles of various types such as tape-by-tape,; tape-by-multifilament yarn and tape-by-monofilament are extensively used for soil embankments and soil erosion control in construction of irrigation works, roads, railways, ports, mines, buildings and more. Having the functions of reinforcement, filtration, drainage and layer separation, PP woven geotextile is one of the most popular and fast-growing segments. Polypropylene is the predominantly used raw material for production of geotextiles and the present consumption is 35 KT.

Geomembranes represent the other largest group of geosynthetics. Geomembranes are relatively thin, impervious sheets of PP or HDPE woven fabrics and multiple laminated on both sides, used primarily for waterproofing, separation and linings of liquids or solids storage facilities. This includes all types of landfills, surface impoundments, roads, railways, canals, reservoirs, pond lining in aquaculture and agriculture and other containment facilities. Geomembranes produced from Raffia fabrics provide higher strength, longer service life, most economical and effective method of storing water. Although, this segment is in nascent stage, in recent years has shown rapid growth and popularity, particularly in pond lining sector.

Other growing applications of Raffia are packaging sacks for animal feed, fodder, chemicals, sand, minerals, flour, seeds, nuts, and many more products of mass consumption. Raffia tape yarns also find there use in wrapping fabrics, tarpaulins, raschel knit shade net fabrics, webbings, lifting slings, ropes, twines, stitching threads, etc.

This article has been republished from Raffia Times with permission of the Publisher, Lohia Group.

Industry Speak



**Rajkumar
Lohia, CMD,
Lohia Corp**

How has the machinery manufacturing industry evolved over the last decades?

I have not seen any major evolution in the plastic industry vis-à-vis plastic machinery manufacturing. The import of machinery still dominates the value of overall machinery requirement in India and lot of machinery manufacturing

industry may still suffer if the protection of anti-dumping vis-à-vis Far East is completely withdrawn. Hence, in my opinion, a lot is still to be done in the machine manufacturing industry.

What are the factors that are driving demand for advanced machinery in India?

The polymer availability and the technology to run advanced machinery has greatly developed in India today. Rise in plastics consumption across sectors has also further necessitated the demand for advanced machinery to be installed to address the quality requirement and offset the increased cost of production.

What are the latest technologies that are being used in the production of woven sacks/ FIBC and how has that impacted the growth of the segment? If you consider the history of the raffia industry and the use of technology, it is not new and goes back to more than 3 decades to the 80's when technology was first introduced in the Indian raffia industry. Even then, the technologies introduced were perhaps the best available anywhere in the world and that coupled with its early introduction into the segment, availability of raw-material and entrepreneurship of Indian businessmen drove the growth of the raffia industry.

What are the challenges faced by machinery manufacturers in India, especially in terms on adoption of new advanced technologies/ machinery?

There is only one challenge which is universal but also much more accentuated in India and that is that bright people do not want to work on the shop floor. Most technically skilled workforce opts to work in the IT space where the working environment are much more comfortable. Besides, there is a specific disadvantage in India that the quality of trained workers has gone down over years.

How has the pandemic impacted demand for machinery manufacturers?

Our industry has fortunately not been very impacted by the pandemic.

Which countries are major suppliers of machinery to India? What are your views on the Anti-Dumping Duties proposal on import of plastic processing machinery in India?

The biggest exporter of machinery to India is Germany and China. As far as the anti-Dumping is concerned, this cannot be answered in General but has to be answered on specific example.

What is the future outlook (application and markets), globally and in India, for your industry?

The global outlook of plastic processing machinery continues to be bright as apart from China, the per capita consumption of plastics in India is still very low as compared to semi-developed world and majority of the developed nations. We also have to remember that China has crossed the stage of being a developing nation and has definitely entered into the area of semi-developed country status.

What are some of the significant Sustainability practices adopted by companies such as yours?

The sustainability practice adopted by our company is to remain focussed on staying in raffia industry and to trust people and protect integrity.

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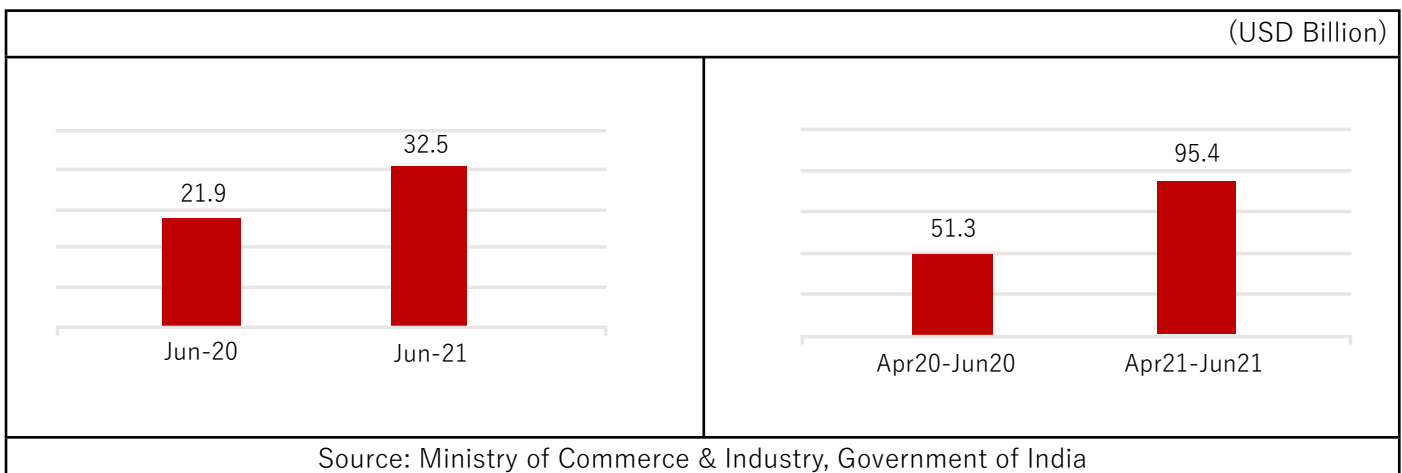


Export Performance - June 2021

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 32.5 billion in June 2021, up 48.3% from USD 21.9 billion in June 2020. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2021 – June 2021 was USD 95.4 billion as against USD 51.3 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 85.9%.

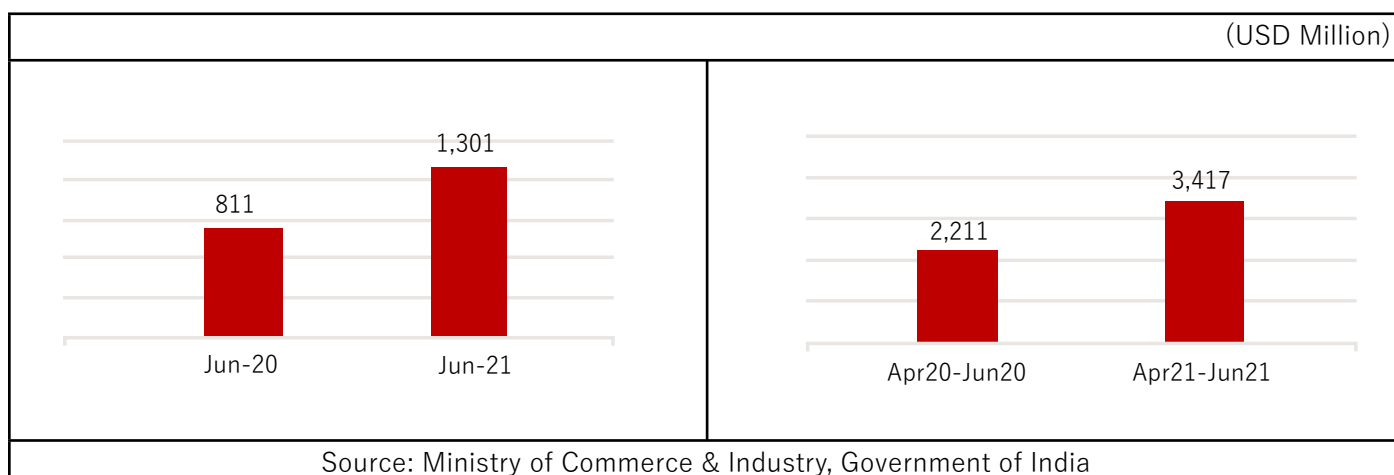
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During June 2021, India exported plastics worth USD 1,301 million, up 60.4% from USD 811 million in June 2020. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2021 – June 2021 was USD 3,417 million as against USD 2,211 million during the same period last year, registering a positive growth of 54.5%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In June 2021, all the product panels except Cordage & fishnets and Writing instruments, reported positive growth. In terms of absolute growth, high gains were registered by Plastic raw materials; Human hair products; Miscellaneous products; Woven sacks / FIBCs; and Polyester films.

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

Panel	Jun-20	Jun-21	Growth	Apr 20- Jun 20	Apr 21- Jun 21	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & House ware	38.8	57.4	+47.8%	68.7	162.2	+136.2%
Cordage & Fishnets	17.0	16.8	-1.2%	29.1	46.9	+60.9%
Composites / FRP products	22.3	34.6	+55.4%	46.1	100.4	+117.7%
Floor Coverings, Leather cloth & Laminates	33.9	55.8	+64.5%	72.3	157.3	+117.6%
Human Hair & Related Products	26.5	95.7	+260.4%	48.1	219.2	+356.0%
Miscellaneous Products	109.8	175.6	+59.8%	259.5	487.6	+87.9%
Pipes & Fittings	14.2	20.7	+45.7%	26.6	59.5	+123.7%
Polyester Films	141.5	184.6	+30.5%	384.0	517.2	+34.7%
Plastics Raw Materials	309.8	514.5	+66.1%	1,061.4	1,240.5	+16.9%
Rigid Packaging & PET Preforms	27.3	31.7	+16.3%	63.8	97.4	+52.6%
Woven Sacks / FIBCs	56.7	101.7	+79.4%	128.4	288.6	+124.7%
Writing Instruments	13.5	12.3	-8.5%	23.1	40.1	+74.0%
	811.4	1,301.5	+60.4%	2,211.0	3,416.7	+54.5%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of Consumer & house ware products increased by 47.8% in June 2021 due to higher shipment of Electrical switches of plastics (HS code 85365020); Tableware and kitchenware of plastics (HS code 392410); and Toys of plastics (HS code 95030030).

Cordage & fishnets export were down 1.2% in June 2021 on account of decline in sales of Made-up fishing nets (HS code 560811).

Export of Composites was up by 55.4% due to increased sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (HS code 39269099).

In case of Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates, exports in June 2021 were up 64.5% as Indian exporters managed higher sales of Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than PVC or PU: Other (HS code 59039090); and Decorative laminates (HS code 48239019). Exports under HS code 59039090 have been witnessing strong export growth from India to the United States of America.

Export of Human hair & related products clocked an impressive 260.4% growth due to strong sales of Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (HS code 67030010); and Human hair, unworked, whether or not washed and scoured (HS code 05010010).

Miscellaneous products export increased by 59.8% in June 2021 due to higher sales of Optical fibres, optical fibres bundles and cables (HS code 90011000); Other sacks and bags of plastics (HS code 39232990); and Polypropylene articles, n.e.s (HS code 39269080).

Export of Pipes & fittings witnessed a growth of 45.7% due to improved sales of Tubes, pipes, and hoses of polymers of vinyl chloride (HS code 391723); and Flexible tubes, pipes and hoses, having a minimum burst pressure of 27.6 MPa (HS code 391731).

Polyester films witnessed an increase of 30.5% in exports in June 2021 due to higher shipments of Sheets and films of polymers of propylene (HS code 392020).

Plastics raw materials export was up 66.1% in June 2021 due to higher sales of Other acrylic polymers in primary form (HS Code 39069090); Other primary form of Polyethylene terephthalate (HS Code 39076190 and 39076990); Polypropylene (HS Code 39021000); Other Linear low-density polyethylene (HS Code 39014010); and Other polystyrene (HS Code 39031990).

Rigid packaging & PET performs export witnessed an increase of 16.3% due to improved sales of Other items of plastics for the conveyance or packing of goods (HS code 39239090); and Caps and closures for bottles (HS Code 39235010).

Export of Woven sacks and FIBCs gained 49.4% during June 2021 on account of higher sales of Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers or FIBCs (HS code 63053200). India is a significant exporter of FIBC to Europe and North America.

Export of Writing instruments fell by 8.5% in June 2021, mainly on account of lower sales of Other ball point pens (HS code 96081019).

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 20- Jun 20	Apr 21- Jun 21	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers, for the packing of goods, of synthetic or man-made textile materials	105.4	226.0	+114.4%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	264.9	202.1	-23.7%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	169.0	236.1	+39.7%
39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other	63.7	116.3	+82.5%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached	46.6	191.0	+309.8%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	45.4	99.2	+118.7%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of ≥ 0.94 , in primary forms	109.9	70.5	-35.9%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene, in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	84.2	91.1	+8.2%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (excl. made-up of individually sheathed fibres of heading 8544)	42.8	93.6	+118.9%
48239019	Decorative laminates	31.9	63.9	+100.6%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Flexible, plain	64.9	65.6	+1.1%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	32.5	69.2	+113.0%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Flexible, plain	63.3	97.5	+54.1%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	27.9	48.8	+74.6%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	35.2	81.0	+129.9%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	19.6	56.2	+186.4%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	29.6	42.4	+43.6%
39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. polymethyl methacrylate): Other	16.4	105.6	+542.4%

39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other	26.7	48.2	+80.5%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	17.8	32.5	+83.2%
39011010	Linear low-density polyethylene, in which ethylene monomer unit contributes 95 % or more by weight of the total polymer content	45.0	23.1	-48.8%
54072090	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of ≥ 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of ≤ 1 mm: Other	16.1	38.4	+138.9%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other	28.4	37.9	+33.6%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	24.6	37.0	+50.2%
90183930	Cannulae	20.2	21.8	+7.9%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other	24.6	27.6	+11.9%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	46.3	39.4	-14.8%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles): Flexible, laminated	24.6	21.9	-11.3%
96081019	Ball-point pens	13.9	20.9	+50.4%
39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	10.6	24.9	+135.4%
39072090	Polyethers in primary forms (excl. polyacetals): Other	19.8	11.9	-39.6%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene, whether or not plaited or braided and whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or sheathed with rubber or plastics	14.1	27.1	+92.2%
95030030	Tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys; dolls' carriages; dolls; other toys: of plastics	10.0	22.4	+122.6%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	14.8	22.1	+49.9%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Flexible, metallised	21.1	23.9	+13.5%

39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes: Other	18.0	23.0	+28.0%
96032100	Tooth brushes, incl. dental-plate brushes	12.7	20.9	+64.9%
59031090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride: Other	8.6	18.1	+109.5%
39023000	Propylene copolymers, in primary forms	34.4	18.9	-45.0%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms: Ion exchangers of polymerisation or	15.1	18.3	+21.2%
39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	11.6	15.2	+30.8%
39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles	13.2	15.5	+17.5%
39241010	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Insulated ware	5.3	15.4	+192.0%
39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms (excl. cellulose acetates, cellulose nitrates and cellulose ethers): Other	12.9	15.9	+24.0%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	14.1	18.4	+31.2%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics: Caps and closures for bottles	9.4	17.5	+86.7%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes: Other	8.3	17.5	+109.5%
54072030	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of ≥ 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of ≤ 1 mm: Dyed	3.5	16.8	+378.4%
39073010	Epoxy resins	6.9	24.3	+250.4%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0.94 , in primary forms: Other	12.9	17.8	+37.3%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



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SPAIN

Economic overview

Spain is located in the south west part of Europe sharing land borders with Portugal, France, and Andorra. It has an area of 505,370 square kilometres and a population of 47.1 million. Spain is a modern knowledge-based economy and is ranked 30th among 190 economies in the Ease of Doing Business 2020 report published by the World Bank. Since tourism is one of Spain's most important sectors, its economic growth was severely impacted by the pandemic. Despite the challenges, Spain is expected to witness a bounce back soon. The government's official growth forecast for 2021 is 6.5%.

As of July 15, 2021, the S&P's rating for Spain is A (negative); Moody's rating stands at Baa1 (stable); and Fitch has a reported rating of A- (stable).



Economic indicators		2018	2019	2020
Nominal GDP	USD Trillion	1.42	1.39	1.28
Nominal GDP per capita	USD	30,448	29,586	27,132
Real GDP growth	%	2.4	2.0	-11.0
Total population	Million	46.7	47.1	47.1
Average inflation	%	1.7	0.7	-0.3
Total merchandise exports	USD Billion	346.1	337.2	312.1
Total merchandise imports	USD Billion	391.1	375.5	329.7

Source: IMF, TradeMap

As part of the European Union, Spain has trade agreements with 80+ countries including Algeria, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Georgia, Greenland, Guatemala, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Norway, Panama, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and others. Spain does not have a trade agreement with India. However, India and the European Union have been engaged in negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), once signed it will open a huge window of trade opportunities between India and the European Union countries.

Nishith Gupta, Director, Sapana Polyweave Pvt Ltd. Mumbai

Spain with its relatively warmer climate, long coastline and a larger population is potentially a very significant market for our products. Since our products are used outdoors and if we consider other export destinations as a benchmark, Spain can be a very good market for us. However, identifying the right companies or retailers and reaching the correct decision maker in these companies is the main challenge for many exporters trying to trade in Spain. I believe we need to better identify potential buyers and participation in more sector specific trade shows such as gardening or home textile fairs in Spain as that would be a good way for Indian exporters to expand their business in Spain.

Plexconcil can play a strategic role in extending exporter outreach into the country by helping its members participate in leading product specific trade shows. The Council could also help members by facilitating Buyer Seller Meets with institutional buyers and retailers to whom we can showcase our product range. Some retailers like El Corte Ingles have their buying offices in India and through the Council, events/ meets with such retailers can be organized for our exporters.

On the whole though, doing business with Spain is fine and we haven't encountered any difficulties worth mentioning.

Trade overview

Spain is an important trade partner of India in the European Union and relations between the two countries have been cordial ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in the 1950's. In 2020, India and Spain engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 4.52 billion. During the year, India's exports to Spain were valued at USD 3.09 billion in comparison to India's imports worth USD 1.43 billion resulting in a trade surplus of USD 1.66 billion to India.

The major items of export (2-digit HS) from India to Spain are organic chemicals (USD 521 million), articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted (USD 319 million), machinery and mechanical appliances (USD 213 million), articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted (USD 207 million), and articles of iron or steel (USD 180 million). Likewise, major items of export (2-digit HS) from Spain to India are machinery and mechanical appliances (USD 179 million), organic chemicals (USD 154 million), ships, boats and floating structures (USD 114 million), tanning or dyeing extracts including pigments and other colouring matter (USD 96 million), and miscellaneous chemical products (USD 86 million).

Within plastics, the trade is in favour of India with exports of USD 164.9 million to Spain and a trade surplus of USD 74.3 million. India's plastics exports to Spain primarily comprise of the following:

- Woven sacks/FIBCs (28.7%)
- Plastic sheets and films (20.9%)
- Plastic raw materials (14.8%)
- Packaging items (9.8%), and
- Other moulded and extruded items (8.7%)

Spain's annual plastics imports are valued between USD 19-21 billion. Its plastic imports are largely catered to, by China (15.7%), Germany (15.7%), and France (10.8%). However, India also has a good standing in some of the plastic product imports by Spain:

- Woven sacks/FIBCs – Market share of 50.2% (Rank 1)
- Ropes, twines and cordage – Market share of 8.2% (Rank 3)
- Nets, including fishnets – Market share of 6.8% (Rank 4)
- Travel ware – Market share of 3.3% (Rank 6)
- Masterbatches – Market share of 3.1% (Rank 9)



Trade potential

Our internal research indicates that India's export of value-added plastics to Spain has the potential to grow by nearly USD 4.8 billion. Product categories, within value-added plastics, that have immense export potential for export to Spain include:

Product Category	Spain's import from India	Spain's import from world	India's export to world	Trade potential for India
	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
Plastic sheets and films	34.7	1,927.5	1,338.2	1,015.3
Medical disposables	10.1	1,777.1	638.7	628.6
Other moulded and extruded items	14.4	2,126.6	600.8	585.4
Travel ware	16.3	420.3	328.1	311.8
Masterbatches	14.6	482.3	1,155.0	275.7
Houseware	1.6	376.3	191.2	189.6
All types of optical items	4.0	645.5	375.6	148.2
Self-adhesive sheets and films	5.2	403.8	109.5	104.3
Woven sacks/FIBCs	47.3	138.4	853.8	91.2
Decorative laminates	2.9	52.8	310.2	49.9

Source: TradeMap, Plexconcil Research



Industry Speak



Chirag P Thummer,
Managing director,
Aareha Elastin
FIBC Pvt Ltd.

What are the opportunities for growth of your product exports to Spain?

Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container (FIBC) are strong, durable, cost effective and environment friendly for strong, transporting and easy handling the commodities. FIBC's are the most economical packaging material and ideal type of packaging for shipping

and storing. With the growth in agriculture and industrial businesses in Spain, a door of opportunities is about to open for an Indian FIBC market. We can see a bright future business with Spain in upcoming time.

What are the typical challenges faced by exporters to Spain?

For any Indian exporter, competitive rates with superior quality and time delivery is the key factor for strong business alliance with all overseas buyers. In the pandemic times Poly propylene (PP) exporters and manufacturers from India have faced an unseen era of shortage of raw material and hike in international prices for raw materials with uncertain shipping freight charges and non-availability of transport container and carriages. Gradually, we are seeing a ray of hope and anticipate normalization in shipping schedules with competitive freight costs and availability of raw material for smooth production of FIBC bags to entertain our clients from Spain.

As the 7th largest trade partner in the EU, what are the measures that Indian exporters require to enhance our trade with the country and capture new opportunities? With the growing economy, Indian exporters require setting up of commodity boards to promote exports focused in providing better domestic infrastructure, creating skilled labour as well as focus on international participation and programs conducted by Export promotion councils. Aggressive trade policies by government is required with better incentives and tax relief as well as export assistance such as export credit, cash assistance, import replenishment, licensing, free trade zones like SEZ etc. development of ports, quality control and pre-shipment inspection measures and guidance to exporters in order to compete in global trade.

How is the ease of doing business in Spain?

Since our commencement we, Aareha Elastin FIBC PVT LTD. have always remained a company committed to serving superior quality products to our clients. With our high-quality packaging solutions, it is very ease for us to reach the customers at Spain. Our exports to Spain are increasing with different buyers from industrial, agricultural and food industry uses.

How can Plexconcil help exporters in extending their outreach to the country?

To represent any business at global platform one should to understand the international policies and laws and Plexconcil is the only platform for the plastic exporting community. The Council can play an even greater role in helping exporters by educating them on international policies and representing their business globally by providing financial benefits to exporters through Government of India, networking opportunities within plastic industry by publishing regular E- magazines and arranging more and more virtual B2B plastic buyer seller meet between the Indian exporters with overseas buyers.

During the pandemic, Indian FIBC industry had to compete with international pricing and be on level playing field with international manufacturers. Without the MEIS advantage, the export business could not show any improvement as FIBC is a competitive, made to order customized product. The year-on-year growth advantage gained by exporters in the last 5 years will be lost if the ongoing problem of Export incentives are not resolved on DGFT portal or suitable new scheme employed in place for exporters. Plexconcil can take initiative to ensure immediate intervention with Ministry of Commerce on behalf of FIBC manufacturers as well as other exporters from India.



Pratibha Dewett

CMSO Lucro

"The plastics recycling market in India is estimated to grow at a rate of 6.5% till the end of 2023. The drivers for this continued growth have been the increasing use of plastic in the packaging industry, government support/regulation on the use of PCR content, innovations within supply chains that have made adding value to post consumer plastic waste economically viable and the overall awareness in consumers of the impact of plastic disposal on the environment".

Tell us about the plastic recycling landscape in India. What are the key challenges faced by the recycling industry in India?

Plastic recycling in India has been gaining momentum off-late with the growing awareness on plastic waste globally. The most important industry development in the last few months in terms of compliance has been the compulsion for brands to use recycled plastic content in their packaging lines in Maharashtra. As a signatory to UNEP and an active member of Conference of Parties (CoP), India has announced its own vision for reducing its carbon footprint- a large part of which is plastic waste management. Many policies and regulations are being made to achieve these commitments. Even with many challenges surrounding plastic waste management, the plastic recycling industry in India has been growing and is well placed to grow more. The plastics recycling market in India is estimated to grow at a rate of 6.5% till the end of 2023.

Coupled with structural challenges, where the waste collection and disposal is largely unorganized and the change brought by big initiatives is difficult to measure,

the imperative factor of both regulatory bodies and the private sector collaborating towards boosting initiatives is missing in India.

Key Challenges:

a. Collection

A little more than three-fourth of solid waste management budget is allotted to collection and transportation, leaving very little for processing, resource recovery or disposal.

We have overcome this challenge by incorporating a local first strategy for collection where we have started working directly with more local waste-pickers to incorporate a dual benefit. We were able to cut the cost of raw material down by minimizing the number of hands waste exchanges. Through this we were also able to ensure that the benefits created by upcycling plastic waste can trickle down directly to the waste pickers.

b. Waste Segregation

It is a pretty well known fact that waste segregation at source is next to non-existent in India. Waste segregation happens primarily by waste-pickers who often times do not see a lot of value in heavily contaminated plastic bits; resulting in this plastic which could have been recycled going to landfills or being incinerated.

To try and overcome this challenge at our level, we have been educating waste-pickers we work directly with about the value of certain plastics regardless of

the contamination levels. We have also installed one of the largest waste washing lines in India (with over 95% water recycled) to ensure waste is washed thoroughly before it is sent to the next stage in recycling.

c. Technology & Traceability

The absence of transparency in plastic recycling has been a challenge, and it has always raised suspicions over the authenticity of the recycled claim.

We have overcome this challenge by making a unique waste management software that tracks waste right from the point of collection to segregation, washing, recycling and to final product manufacture. This software tracks the movement of waste through a unique QR code assigned to it as the waste moves through the supply chain and to final product. It also captures details of the companies/people that the waste has changed hands along with images at each stage. This has helped us increase traceability and transparency in our system and helped brands ensure that the claims made are done with verifiable proof.

d. Design of packaging

The first step towards creating a circular plastic loop has to come from the design or redesign aspect- to make the plastic recyclable or easy to recycle. This is something we have been doing with a lot of brands by helping develop bespoke products which not only contain recycled content but are also made with a consideration to end of life recyclability.

e. Investments in waste management

There is substantial potential in creating value to end of life plastic waste by using existing technologies. However, it is a bit of a paradox that investments to translate this potential into reality have been relatively small. There is an urgent global call to treat plastic recycling as an essential service- requiring infrastructure investments, advanced supply chain tracking and strategies to enhance lives of waste-pickers. Promoting the plastic recycling industry might be an important aspect to solve for a dipping local economy; provided corporates and government policymakers are willing to work as partners.

f. Adoption by brands

Although the adoption landscape is currently improving, it still takes a long time (even with multiple use cases available) to convince brands to move to packaging with recycled content. A number of large brand owners are keen to show affiliation with the sustainability movement and understand the underlying opportunities. In

this pursuit, some restrict themselves to just marketing campaigns to change their brand image. While some of their steps seem actionable and measurable, many of their ambitious plans do not have measurable targets. This is where regulatory measures will play a key difference in defining the future of plastic waste in India.

What are the various technologies currently being used in the country?

Only mechanical recycling technologies are currently being used in India. There are several other technologies that are currently being prototyped. However, the sustainability (Economic, environmental and social) feasibility of these are yet to be tested.



What are the unique advantages of your recycling technology (Plast-e-cycle) as well as your recycled granules?

We strongly believe that recycling happens not when a consumer puts their waste in the right bin nor when material is sorted by waste management companies and recycled by recycling companies. The cycle is only completed when a material is converted into a new product. Our unique process of Plast-e-cycle ensures that we are closing the loop on plastic by working with brands that use this recycled packaging. We have a well-integrated waste value chain wherein we handle every aspect of the supply chain ourselves.

Through our unique process, we ensure that waste goes through several levels of segregation- since we believe that the final product is only as good as the segregation and cleaning process it has been through. The waste is then washed thoroughly to remove any impurities. After washing it is recycled into granules and made into the final product in our facilities.

To consistently create shared value and to ensure that more plastic is upcycled and not landfilled, we stay focussed on:

- Supply chain innovations,
- Leveraging technology,
- Increased amount paid to waste pickers as a direct result of increasing the value of waste by making high value end products.

- Mainstreaming sustainability in this segment and
- Creating new products to increase our portfolio of PCR based products & packaging leading to expansion in existing market and new categories in the market.



Tell us about Dow's investment in Lucro. What have been the most significant impact of the partnership on your organization's vision & goals?

Lucro's partnership with Dow has been one of the biggest collaborations we have had this year and something that has added a lot of value to Lucro. This has helped us:

1. Build trust with brands

Partnering with a company such as Dow that has a lot of experience in Material science and is a well-established brand, has helped built confidence and trust with other brand owners/clients further leading to new leads and increasing our customer base.

2. Innovation

This kind of a collaboration has fostered greater innovation further helping us scale operations. Lucro has been able to establish itself as an innovative leader in the recycling industry.

3. Technical expertise

The technical expertise that a company such as Dow possesses in plastic surpasses all others. This technical expertise when applied to recycled plastic, has helped Lucro develop new innovative products that have helped replace virgin plastic across a lot of new packaging. This technical expertise has also helped us broaden our vision on application of products and build new bespoke products for new clients.

4. Marketing & promotions-

This collaboration has helped us cut through the noise and helped us establish our brand name in the market.

Rural Waste Management is a huge cause for concern considering the rising use of plastics as well as lack of recycling facilities in rural belts. What are your views on the same?

Rural waste management until a few years ago was predominantly organic and biodegradable. It is becoming a major problem off-late due to the increased market penetration of brands as well as increased consumption of packaged food in rural areas. Brands are launching smaller SKU's to target increased consumption patterns- which lead to more waste. Waste-pickers do not see the value in picking smaller SKU plastic packaging- which in-turn lead to these smaller SKU's going into landfills or pollution our water bodies.

Transporting waste in smaller quantities from rural areas to recycling facilities that are located in far off areas does not make any economic sense to either the waste-picker, the recycler or the brand that finally buys the recycled plastic material. The only solution to this problem is ensuring that well financed recycling facilities and set up at strategic locations to ensure that every stakeholder sees some value in the waste.

What are some of the most effective global practices that can be applied to India? Especially in the collection, treatment and recycling of mixed/ contaminated plastics?

Some regulations to encourage recycling in certain developed countries are:

1. To oversee recycling special organizations are set up. The sole job of these organizations are to finance some of the costs involved in collecting and sorting plastic waste funding for which comes from producers of the waste. This ensures that plastic waste polluters are directly responsible to collect the waste and allows externalities relating to end-of-life management to be re-internalized into product pricing.
2. Cost of traditional processing solutions such as landfill and incineration come at an increased price - in the form of increased taxes. This in-turn incentivizes brands to look for solutions other than landfill and incineration.
3. Some of the other key takeaways from global practices are the holistic waste management systems, along with added penalties levied at user level in the absence of source segregation, informal sector partnerships and community campaigns.

In your opinion, what could be the practical challenges to the implementation of the Amended PWM Rules/ EPR on especially MSME that has limited financial and logistical resources? How can facilitators help achieve the Govt Circular economy goals?

The challenges of the current rules on EPR are that they are not tied in with a plan to reduce the waste. Unless these 2- collection and use of recycled material are tied in together, companies will continue to increase production, sales and more trash along with way. The cost of EPR compliance is another challenge. Cost of EPR can depend on multiple factors such as type of plastic, geographical regions, transportation, type of end processing, the state of ULB- this is not something that has been taken into account which creates ambiguity on the actual collection numbers vs. shown collection numbers.



What is the future outlook for the recycling industry in India? What applications can benefit in coming years? According to a Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report of 2019 the total annual plastic waste generation in India at 3.3 million metric tonnes per year. Plastic is a threat to the environment, but it's the largest source of a circular economy if recycled. This waste should be looked at like a resource, most of which can be recycled and re-used to create a Circular Plastic Economy. Even with many challenges surrounding plastic waste management, the plastic recycling industry has been growing and is well placed to grow more. The plastics recycling market in India is estimated to grow at a rate of 6.5% till the end of 2023. The drivers for this continued growth have been the increasing use of plastic in the packaging industry, government support/regulation on the use of PCR content, innovations within supply chains that have made adding value to post consumer plastic waste economically viable and the overall awareness in consumers of the impact of plastic disposal on the environment.

The waste management and recycling industry need to work together to address the last- mile of the waste value stream with a well-integrated digital solution to ensure that brands get the advantage of traceability in the supply chain & have a verifiable claim against any accusations of misconduct.

More tie-ups and partnerships with other companies need to be encouraged that allow integration into the whole waste value chain. This would require a first mile waste picker or a waste management company to be well integrated or connected with a company that uses this waste in their value chain & for a recycling company such as Lucro- this would also include partnerships with waste management companies as well as brands and other MNC's to ensure that a closed loop plastic waste management system is adopted.

There are still so many unexplored secondary applications for Post-consumer plastic waste in FMCG'S, electronics, retail, textiles and furniture amongst others, that if the true potential is allowed to be unlocked, it will save a majority of India's plastic waste problems.



POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) JUNE 2021

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)			- HDPE prices fell by Rs 3000 per MT in June 2021 after a decline of Rs 6500 per MT in May 2021 and a minor downward revision in April 2021. - In June 2021, HDPE prices eased by Rs 1000 per MT in the first week and by Rs 2000 per MT in the second week. Thereafter no changes were announced.
			
Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)			- LLDPE prices fell by Rs 1000 per MT in June 2021 after a decline of Rs 9500 per MT in May 2021 and Rs 3000 per MT in April 2021. - In June 2021, LLDPE prices eased by Rs 1000 per MT in the first week. Thereafter no changes were announced.
			
Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	
Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)			- LDPE prices dropped by Rs 5000 per MT in June 2021 after decline of Rs 11500 per MT in May 2021. Prices had increased by Rs 7000 per MT in April 2021. - In June 2021, LDPE prices witnessed a fall of Rs 5000 per MT in the first week. Thereafter no changes were announced.
			
Mar-21	Apr-21	Jun-21	
Polypropylene (PP)			- PP prices lowered by Rs 6000 per MT in June 2021 after a decline of Rs 8500 per MT in May 2021 and Rs 3000 per MT in April 2021. - In June 2021, PP prices eased by Rs 3000 per MT in the first week, Rs 2000 per MT in the second week and Rs 1000 per MT around mid-month.
			
Mar-21	Apr-21	Jun-21	
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)			- PVC prices fell by Rs 10000 per MT in June 2021 after declining by Rs 4500 per MT in May 2021. Prices had increased by Rs 2500 per MT in April 2021. - In June 2021, PVC prices eased by Rs 5000 per MT in the first week, Rs 3000 per MT in the second week and Rs 2000 per MT around mid-month.
			
Mar-21	Apr-21	Jun-21	



Plastic Combs

Plastic comb is an article that finds use for cleaning, untangling, or styling of hair. It consists of a shaft that holds a row of teeth for pulling through the hair. Some of the popular types of plastic combs are all purpose comb, wide tooth comb, fine tooth comb, pocket comb, tail comb, and rake comb. The product is classified under Sub-heading 961511 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Plastic comb stands at USD 500 million per year.

- In 2020, top-5 exporting countries of Plastic combs were: China (83.5%), Hong Kong (3.9%), Germany (1.9%), Poland (1.1%), and France (1.1%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Plastic combs resin were: United States of America (21.1%), Germany (5.3%), Japan (4.7%), Iraq (4.1%), and Hong Kong (4.0%).

India is among the top-15 exporters of Plastic combs in the world. In 2020, India exported 857 tonnes of Plastic combs valued at USD 2.60 million to the world. United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Yemen were the three major destinations for export of Plastic combs from India.



Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (Tonnes)
United Arab Emirates	0.53	United Arab Emirates	188.66
Iraq	0.31	Iraq	124.93
Yemen	0.29	Yemen	90.37
Cote D' Ivoire	0.17	Cote D' Ivoire	75.95
Saudi Arabia	0.16	Panama	46.34
Afghanistan	0.14	Bangladesh	45.92
Panama	0.12	Somalia	45.64
Somalia	0.12	Haiti	44.28
Haiti	0.11	Saudi Arabia	42.18
United Kingdom	0.10	Afghanistan	34.81

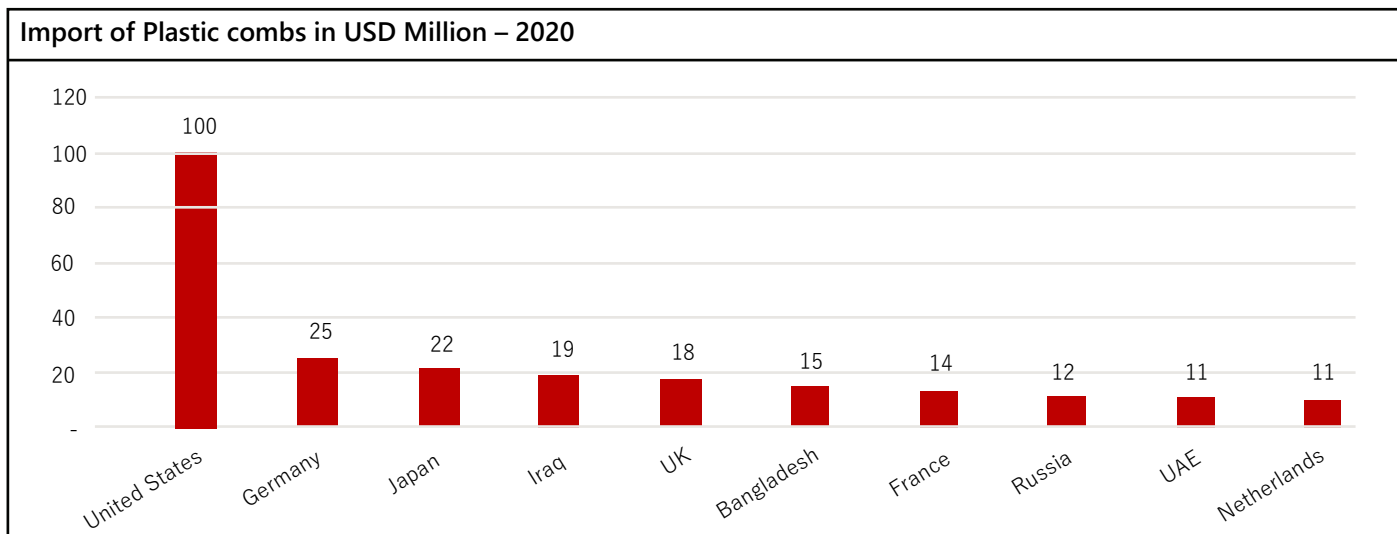
Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

India is also an importer of Plastic combs. In 2020, India imported 1,180 tonnes of Plastic combs valued at USD 2.13 million from the world. China was the major source for India's imports.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (Tonnes)
China	1.95	China	1,146.37
Thailand	0.05	South Korea	9.90
Malaysia	0.03	Spain	8.77
South Korea	0.03	Malaysia	3.38
United Kingdom	0.02	Hong Kong	2.70
United States of America	0.01	Thailand	2.44
Germany	0.01	Germany	1.74
Spain	0.01	United States of America	1.47
Switzerland	0.01	Switzerland	1.17
Hong Kong	0.01	Poland	0.90

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

Our internal research indicates that Indian firms dealing in Plastic combs have immense potential to export to destinations like United States of America, Germany, Japan, Iraq, United Kingdom, Bangladesh, France, Russia, United Arab Emirates, and Netherlands.



Source: Trade Map, Plexconcil Research

Kishor Gupta, Partner, Hindustan Trading Co., Kolkata

There are several factors impacting export growth of combs from India. Besides blessings of God, we must maintain quality, unique & better looking, fancy packaging and personal interaction with the genuine importers. During my first personal visit to Dubai, I secured my order by simply demonstrating the quality of my product and illustrating the difference between other competitive products. However, after a while, we did lose our exports to other competitors who had longstanding relations with customers. Subsequently, we participated at ArabPlast wherein we were once again able to secure orders based on the sheer superiority in the quality of our products, different polymers used, unique colour combinations and of course the personal interaction with buyers. While this unfortunately again did not last too long, today, we export to Myanmar where despite China's presence, we enjoy a good standing with local buyers. In fact, several traders engaged in re-exports buy from us and sell at higher rates even.

Despite the comparatively smaller size of our business, we enjoy a good position and regularly service markets pan India including Srinagar. Our entire packaging is meant for the mall audience, and we remain quite focused

on the segment as the cost of going to shows abroad can be quite high and does not always make good business sense. We probably have the biggest range of combs besides numerous other useful items including several household items all made of virgin quality and different fancy packaging.

Continuous change or upgrade in designs for better looking products is very important factor for the product category. Importers are always looking for new designs so they may earn more. However, in India, we still lack in several technological aspects, which I believe can be brought into the country with some support from the Council and of course the Govt. This will help us better compete in global markets.

We also see a trend of alternate materials emerging. Having said that, mass consumers cannot afford cost of alternate like wood. Recycled material is not an ideal substitute as it does not afford high quality finish and rather looks cheap. In combs, there is no room for hidden quality. Consumers tend to either buy popular brands or in case of plastic-based products, opt for great designs and fancy looking products. However, we also tend to lose certain part of our business to cheaper alternatives and hence designs play an important role. Design, finish, cost are 3 very important aspects of our business today.

High polymer pricing has hit our industry quite hard in the past year or so and there needs to be better understanding between polymer producers, the Govt and especially the MSME sector who have borne maximum brunt of the skyrocketing polymer prices. Smaller exporters have lost any competitive advantage gained due to high input cost and unlike China, we do not enjoy assured protection and subsidies for exports. The pandemic too has created chaos and with exporters have not been able to achieve the same levels of export orders due the global disruption.

As a company, we have made a great deal of progress over the years and organizations like Plexconcil can play a catalytic role in helping our industry's global outreach, especially in the current dynamics where our biggest competitor China, is facing global backlash. Many opportunities are emerging for our exporters and with greater support in terms of GOI incentives, technology upgradation and dedicated search engines, our segment has great potential for further growth.



Industry Speak



Dhruv Sayani,
Director, Crystal
Plastics &
Metallizing Pvt Ltd.,
Mumbai

Despite being among Top 15 exporting countries for Combs, the disparity in India's exports (nearly 5% of global demand) vs. China (nearly 83.5%) is humungous. In your opinion, why the huge gap and how can we bridge it?

There are two major reasons for this; the global importers are used to visiting fairs in China such as the Canton Fair which has a large focus on Beauty & Personal Care products thereby attracting many importers. There are many other beauty centric fairs China has been promoting over the last 15 years that has got the global importer attention. China has also been using various Apps & E-Exporter Websites & Portals through which importers are able to purchase a mixed container of beauty products in which combs happen to be one of the many products imported in the same container. The Plexconcil has been trying its best to reach out to maximum importers in all categories but in India we still lack a National Beauty & Personal Care Trade Show either physical or virtual that can attract global importers towards India. The best way to bridge the gap is to bring all manufactures across different beauty categories outside of plastic as well to collaborate on creating a unified awareness of all beauty & personal care products for the global audience. With the increased marketing of Make in India we surely see this number changing in the coming years and one aspect that the world has observed is that India is manufacturing some of the finest products in terms of quality and competitive pricing.

How do changing designs and trends impact the manufacturing/ production/ inventories? How frequently does the industry need to adapt?

Since we are talking about Combs & Beauty Accessories, designs and trends have a major impact in the manufacturing and production. Beauty & Personal Care is one industry that changes trends almost every year as people are more conscious now on their wellbeing and grooming. We as a company continue our innovations to give the consumers something new every year and to adapt to global trends and demands. If we look back, 4 years ago there was no trend on men's grooming or grooming products for beards and moustaches. Look at it today! There is a huge demand and trend for this now. Being a 50 year old company with exports to over 75 countries across the globe, manufacturing, producing and inventory management is not very challenging for us; but yes, keeping an eye out for new trends and

being trendsetting in product development is a constant pressure.

What is the impact of alternate materials such as wood, recycled material, etc on the traditional segment?

At Crystal Combs, we also look at working with wood, recycled material and environment friendly and bio-degradable materials. Globally all companies are looking at reducing their carbon footprint and working with environment friendly materials on the production floor and in their product profile. The companies that do not adapt to these changes in their products and materials will surely see an impact. We have been doing our research in this space and have introduced 15 product lines with recycled and bio-degradable materials.

What are the anticipated new developments/ advancements in the industry?

DIY is the new word for the personal care and beauty sector, DIY – stands for Do It Yourself. COVID-19 has changed the way consumers think and through the two years of COVID-19, lockdowns and slowdowns, consumers have started looking for more DIY products to be used at home for personal care. This trend is here to stay and therefore the industry at large will be working towards manufacturing and developing more DIY products for end consumers which will solve the need for styling and beauty at home.

What are the emerging opportunities for Indian exporters?

COVID-19 has opened the horizon for Indian exporters to learn new ways for exporters to reach out to newer markets. India has emerged as a strong alternate to China in the run for the manufacturing industry and globally we are seeing a major surge in purchase from India as well as a keen interest in importers to work with India. The opportunities that lie ahead are immense and in the next 5 years India will be one of the highest exports of beauty and personal care in certain categories.

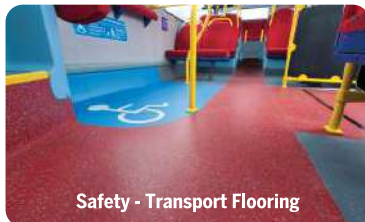
What are typical challenges faced by exporters and what measures are needed to overcome the same?

Many exporters still face the challenge of raw material prices and since July 2021 the prices of plastic raw materials has been constantly increasing. We have seen exporters taking a step back as they are unable to compete with price points. Apart from this the other challenge this industry faces is the lack of a unified representation on the global platform through trade fairs, seminars, BSMs for Indian beauty, wellness and personal care products.

What is the future outlook for manufacturers/ exporters, especially the MSME sector that has been seriously impacted by the pandemic?

The pandemic has affected all sectors and has changed the way of doing business in the long term. Companies have probably learned the hard way adapting to the situation and probably even made this pandemic a part of our lives and now we work along with it. The first lockdown in 2020 impacted the MSME sector far more than the 2021 lockdown as the 2nd lockdowns nationally were better managed so manufacturers and exporters could continue working with safety precautions. The MSME sector has surely been impacted in various ways but the future surely looks bright as the horizon broadens for the Indian manufacturers on the global stage.

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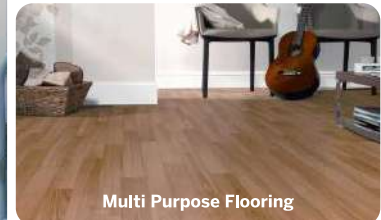
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Egypt Adopts System Requiring Importers to Declare Cargo in Advance

The Egyptian Customs introduced a new system regarding the pre-registration of cargo information called “Advanced Cargo Information (ACI)”, which aims to simplify and to speed up the procedures for releasing goods and moreover, which contribute to verify exporters and importers, all through a single window online portal.

The new system obliges the importer to register his data, the data of the exporter and the shipping data via the electronic portal of the National Single Window System for Foreign Trade “Nafeza” (<https://www.nafeza.gov.eg>). This registration should be carried out before the goods are shipped and even if there’s only a pro-forma invoice (the early, the better). An Advanced Cargo Information Declaration Number (ACID) is issued by the Nafeza system, which will then be sent to both the importer and the exporter by email. ACID number must be shown in the invoice and B / L. Please make sure to enter a field for the ACID number in your invoices and other relevant documents.

From the exporter’s side, and as a first step, the exporter has to register his information on the “CargoX” blockchain. This step is free of charge. As soon as the exporter registers his data, it is synchronized with the Nafaze system. The shipping documents are then to be uploaded to CargoX by the exporter. To be noted that you can use PDF, XML or any Electronic System that issues Digital Documents (ERP Systems). As soon as the exporter has uploaded the shipping documents contained therein the ACID number, the importer can view these documents and begins his process with customs Authority here in Egypt. This process covers sea freight only. With every shipping documents that is uploaded on CargoX the exporter has to pay a certain fee.

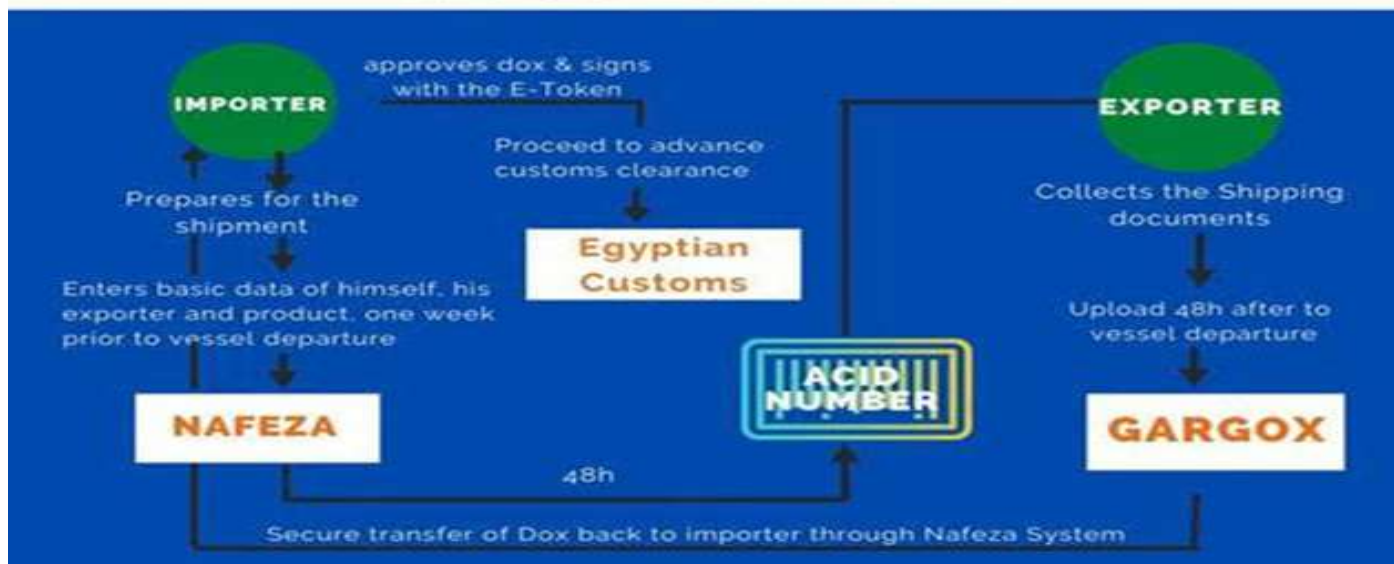
To be noted that, CargoX will ultimately act as the courier for the shipping documents and will in future take over the transfer of the exporter’s documents to the bank. At the moment, the exporter still has to deliver the documents to the bank until the full integration with the Egyptian banks and other relevant authorities is complete.

Important: If the ACID number is not included in the shipping documents, the goods will not be cleared through the Egyptian customs. Rather, the goods will be returned without unloading in the Egyptian ports at the expense of the carrier or his representative.

Data source from : Advanced Cargo Information System “ACI” (Decision n. 38/2021) (ahk.de)

ADVANCED CARGO INFORMATION SYSTEM

Simplifying Customs Procedures



Latest development:- Official Journal – Issue No. 140 (Supplement – A) – Dated June 23rd, 2021 of Ministry of Finance, Decree No. 328 of the year 2021 Amending Certain Provisions of Decree No. 38 of the year 2021

The period of trial implementation of the ACI System with regard to the consignments imported to the Egyptian seaports, as prescribed by Article 4 of Decree no. 38 of the year 2021 referred to (first phase), shall be extended to 30/09/2021, provided that the binding actual implementation of this system shall commence as of 01/10/2021.



Resilience of Supply Chain Networks - An Aetos Perspective

Plexconnect invites Anil Arora, Founder & MD, Aetos to share his views on the global supply chain dynamics against the backdrop of the pandemic.

Taking stock of reality in a post Covid world

It would be lying to oneself if one did not want low prices, especially during a force majeure induced recession. It is ensured that global competition will not allow firms to charge higher prices just because they have decided to source locally (which is invariably higher cost). The challenge to firms now is to maintain a fair amount of competitiveness with increased resilience in the face of pressure of running efficient operations & use of capital & capacity.

As markets for traditional products mature, innovation lights the way for increased competitiveness in the global foray. Along with innovation, special technologies & advanced materials are also required making it hard for a firm to have all the capacity/capabilities necessary to generate everything itself. Consider the advent of IoT & their inclusion in the process of making appliances 'smart', an appliances manufacturer would not have the ability to make sensor-based touch panels or internet enabled microchips to control the various operations of their devices.

There are several weak spots that got highlighted due to the pandemic triggered temporary trade restrictions. The most exposed industry has been that of Communication equipment, Apparel and Petroleum products (Fig 1).



**Anil Arora,
Founder &
Managing
Director, Aetos**

Evolution brings massive change upon an industry, and a swift acceptance of what is and what can be. It is said that if you cannot change the direction of the wind, adjust your sails.

COVID-19 has impacted the way we do business in a more significant way than any other event in recent history. Within the supply chain, traditional ways of approaching customer relationships, efficiency and product leadership are being revisited. What we are seeing now is the ability of businesses to adapt to our current reality and seizing upon the opportunities being presented.

Designed to be responsive and agile, a strong supply chain must address changing variables in how goods are moved from one place to another with efficiency, dependability and fluidity. Such adaptability is the capability of a company to efficiently manage and react to changes or disruptions without substantial negative impacts on time, cost, quality, or performance, and build resilience even in the most trying circumstances.

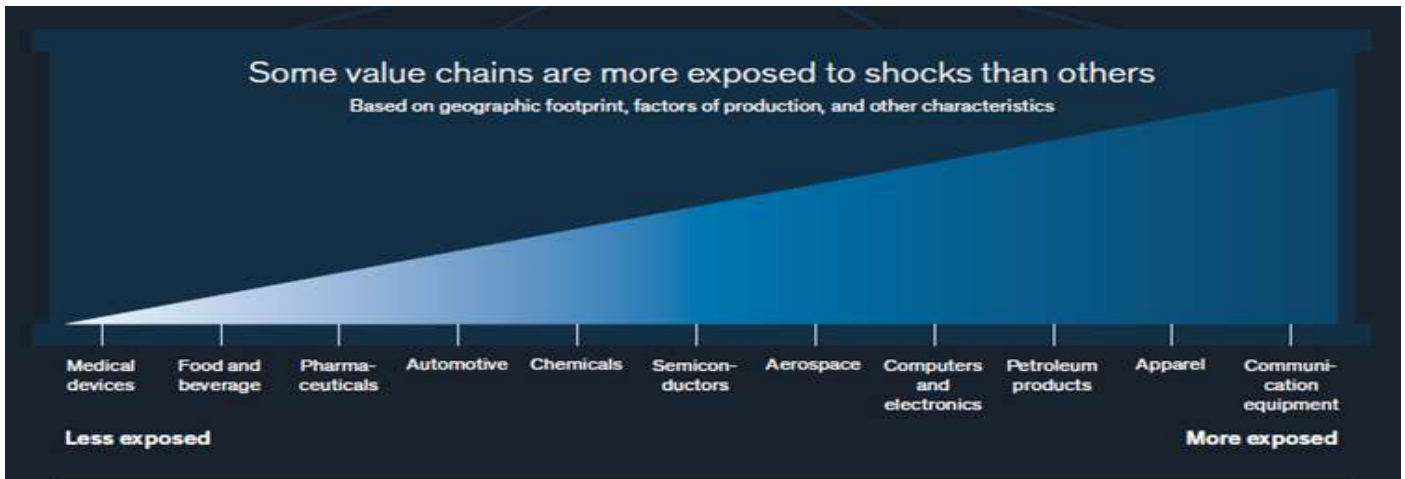


Figure 1: Impact across various value chains (McKinsey Global Institute, 2020)

The challenge for companies is to make their supply chains more resilient without weakening their competitiveness. To meet this challenge, managers should first understand their vulnerabilities and then consider a number of steps—some of which they should have taken long before the pandemic struck.

There is a rise of economic nationalism which is evident, India's Atmanirbhar movement is an example of a movement towards local sourcing & production. The situation is same in other countries as well, & according to Harvard Business Review (Shih, 2020), manufacturers worldwide are under great politico-competitive pressure to increase domestic output & grow employment in their home countries, all the while reducing dependence on risky sourcing, revisiting lean manufacturing & inventory strategies that dictate the amount of inventory held in their global supply chains. Companies could implement resilience strategies in their supply chains by diversifying sourcing from different geographies (for eg. 25% of the overall product from 2 or more manufacturing concerns) & keeping capacity utilization in check (say upto 85%).

The McKinsey study has calculated that there is approximately a month's worth of disruptions every 3.7 years of a magnitude that wipes away 45% of a year's EBITDA every decade. It now has become very critical to evaluate the focal points of a firm's supply chain strategy (Fig 2).

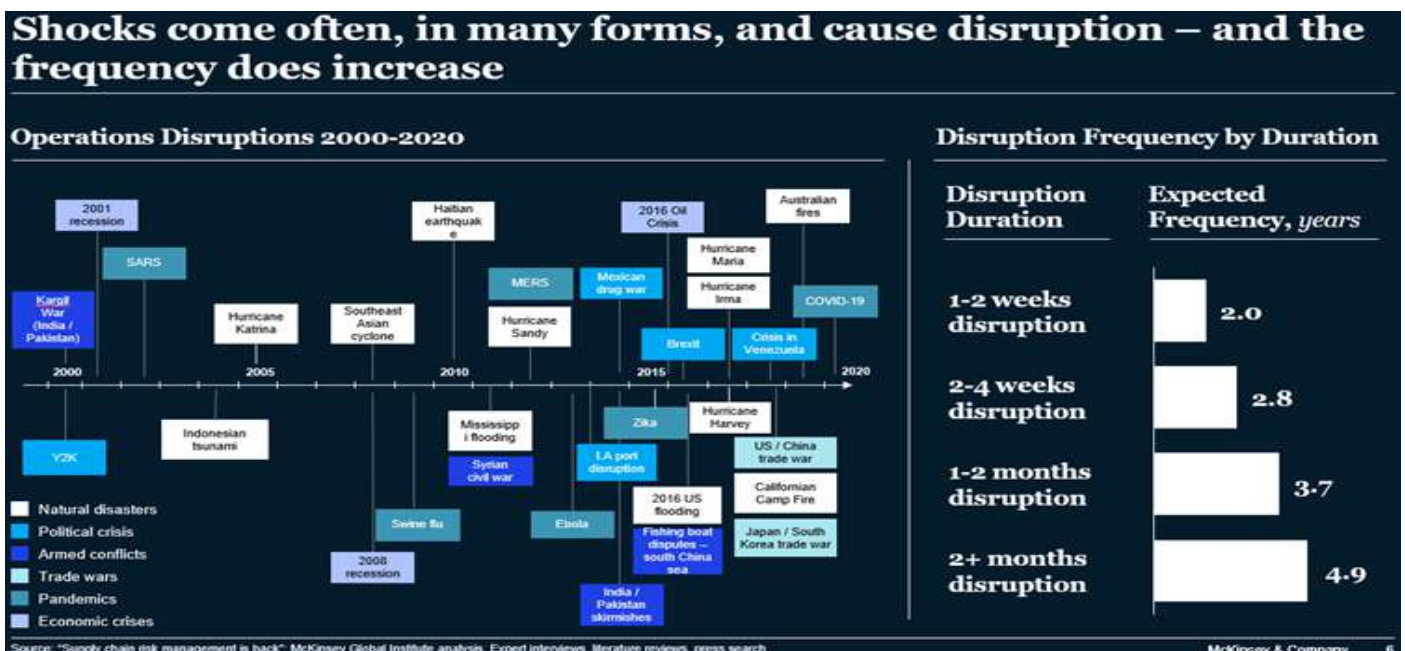


Figure 2: Size of disruption (Alicke, 2021)

Risk profile, partnerships, trade-offs, cost ownership & govt policies are the pillars of building resilience in supply chains for the long term. Of them all, a firm has control over only certain variables within each vertical giving way to a very interesting but essential balancing act resulting in making or breaking the future of the firm.

History has shown us that small well thought solutions solve a majority of issues on the landscape. While inventory management, cost optimization, nearshoring & 'glocal' sourcing are at play it is important to note that product, plant & platform harmonization are critically important synergies to have in order to build the much sought-after supply chain resilience. Purpose driven digital transformation exercises, including but not limited to the movement of siloed legacy ERP systems to modular and integrated supply chain platforms providing the entire gamut of services is a firm footed step in the right direction (Fig 3).



Fig 3: Integrated Platform with Business Intelligence Module (Aetos DigiLog, 2021)

Supply chain adaptability is serving as the most sought-after capability in the industry. Cross sectional validity for supply chain resilience should be checked across value chain. Measure of primary & backup suppliers and associated key stock levels along with inventory concentration across geographies is a sure first step towards this. Assessment of emerging downstream dynamics like D2C as well as distribution network analysis is the natural second step. A third step can involve stress testing the process environment for efficiency and performance & making the digital move towards both while enabling enterprise network monitoring for all the above. Finally, a realistic look at integration with participating government agencies (Customs, Railways, Ports etc) during the digitalization exercise would definitely yield value for the long run.

It seems that the next gold rush in the logistics & supply chain space would be on the digital frontier & in this, one must run as fast as one can in order to stay competitive and thrive. However, it requires specialized bandwidth, domain experience & technical thoroughbred to execute this transformation.



International News

Solvay launches new shortstop inhibitor solution for safer acrylic monomer transportation and storage

Solvay has developed Phenothiazine LVT™ 2330, a next-generation shortstop inhibitor solution available globally and designed to protect against runaway polymerization of acrylic and methacrylic acids, esters and other monomers in bulk storage facilities, transportation tanks and containers.

A runaway polymerization is potentially hazardous due to the reaction becoming uncontrollable and the heat that it produces may lead to a fire or an explosion or rupture of closed storage and transport containers. This uncontrolled polymerization can place people, property and the environment at significant risk.

“Solvay’s new Phenothiazine (PTZ) LVT 2330 comprises a thirty percent active liquid solution of PTZ dissolved into Rhodiasolv Polarclean HSP1 solvent, part of Solvay’s line of powerful, green solvents for industrial applications,” said Dave Vanzin, Technical Service & Development Manager at Solvay. “It was developed as an alternative to the use of N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) widely employed in the USA and the EU as a solvent for shortstop inhibitors but considered a substance of very high concern (SVHC) under REACH regulations.”

Solvay’s Phenothiazine LVT™ 2330 is safer to handle than NMP containing solutions and it also has a lower freezing point, which is highly advantageous for facilities and transport in colder climates. Also, the high active PTZ concentration of Phenothiazine LVT 2330 permits deployment and storage of the efficient and economic shortstop in both large and small installations.

“We see a great market potential for this pioneering shortstop inhibitor with a non-toxic and non-volatile solvent for the acrylics markets in North America and Europe, where chemical toxicity is of increasing concern to the industry and authorities,” said Lars Fischer, Worldwide Technical Market Manager at Solvay. “However, Asia offers the greatest potential where shortstop inhibitors were not standard and have only recently been more widely accepted and used to help reduce the risk of accidents.”

™ Phenothiazine LVT is a trademark of Solvay
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1 Hansen Solubility Parameters

Report Forecasts Robust Growth for Plastics Industry

The good news: Plastics manufacturing is now projected to increase by 5% this year, according to a new report from the Plastics Industry Association. The bad news: Resin prices will continue to rise.



The US plastics industry continues to grow. According to the Q2 Plastics Industry Outlook released by the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), plastics manufacturing is now projected to increase by 5.0% this year. Plastics machinery and production molds are revised upward to increase by 12.6% and 4.6%, respectively, said the PLASTICS report. "This year's production of plastic materials and resins could decrease by 2.9% and increase by 8.2% next year," the report also noted. Plastic materials and resins saw a 6% decrease in Q1. That is expected to improve, although output will be less than last year, PLASTICS projects. Production in Q2 and Q3, respectively, could be 1.1% and 0.6% lower than a year earlier. Production will likely be 3.6% lower in Q4 compared with last year's production ramp up of 13.5%. Holding back plastic production in 2021 are the broad-based supply-chain difficulties, which could result in lower production by 2.9% in 2021. However, as the economy continues to recover in 2022, production could increase by 9.2%, starting with a 12.2% increase in Q1 and a 9.5% increase in Q2, projects the PLASTICS Q2 report.

Higher resin prices will remain throughout 2021.

Processors have been complaining about the increase in resin prices, which isn't making their customers happy, but they shouldn't hope for any relief. PLASTICS said that "higher prices due to plastic materials and resin scarcity along with strong demand are now projected to remain throughout 2021." Comparing this year's Q2 and Q3 with last year is enough to make processors choke on their coffee: In Q1 and Q2, prices were 14.1% and 25.9% higher than a year ago, respectively.

The only good news the PLASTICS report has to offer is that the rate of price increases will start to slow this year at 23.2% in Q3 and 17.0% in Q4, leaving resin prices 19.9% above last year on an annual basis. Some relief is expected to come in 2022, with resin prices projected to increase a modest 3.1% in Q1 and 2.5% in Q2.

Plastic products manufacturing rose by 12.5% in Q2 following a 0.1% decrease in Q1. Production is expected to increase by 5.0% in Q3 and by 3.2% in Q4, said the report. "That brings a production increase of 5.0% this year," said PLASTICS, "and it is expected that production will continue to increase by 3.3%. The moderate production forecast in 2022 is in sync with the overall economic growth that will most likely slow after this year's bounce back from the pandemic." The increase in production is also projected to bring an increase in employment in the sector, the report noted.

Plastics machinery production forecast to rise 12.6% this year.

As for plastics machinery, increased production should bode well for this sector. Plastics machinery production rose by 11.2% in Q1 and 21.7% in Q2, but these rates are "magnified in comparison to the lows in Q1 and Q2 last year," the report noted. "It is now projected that [machinery] production could increase by 10.2% and 8.2% in Q3 and Q4, respectively. Annually, a 12.6% increase in plastics machinery is expected this year but could slow to 0.4% in 2022."

An increase in machinery production won't help much in the employment picture, however, as the industry "will continue to experience a tight labor supply this year," said PLASTICS.

Although production of industrial molds decreased 2.1% in Q1, Q2 production increased by 11.6%, and further increases are expected — 5.5% in Q3 and 4.2% in Q4. Employment in mold manufacturing is projected to have increased by 1.4% in Q2, after a slight decrease in Q1. "The producer price index for industrial molds is now expected to increase this year by 0.5%," said the report. "The next year's 0.7% increase forecast is unchanged. Quarterly price index changes are still expected to remain on the low side this year and next year. Following a 0.5% decrease in Q1 and no change in Q2, Q3 and Q4 could see 1.2% and 1.3% price increases respectively. The price index in 2022 is currently projected to increase 0.9% in Q1 and 0.8% in Q2."

Source: Plastics Today

IPEX Builds Advanced Plastics Manufacturing Plant in North Carolina



Thermoplastic piping supplier IPEX reports that it is making a major investment in a new injection molding plant in Pineville, NC. Equipped with state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 and artificial intelligence technology, the facility will significantly increase IPEX's ability to manufacture fittings for plumbing, electrical, industrial, and municipal applications, said the company.

The nearly 200,000-square-foot manufacturing facility will be the technological flagship for the company's operations and one of the most advanced plastics manufacturing facilities in the industry, according to IPEX. The plant's flexible automation capabilities will enable total automation for all facets of sorting, labelling, counting, packing, and assembly.

Automation will eliminate the majority of manual, repetitive processes and tasks, and the production floor will be forklift-free, replaced by AI-powered auto-guided vehicles, thus increasing plant safety. Indeed, industry-leading health and safety best practices will be implemented at the facility on day one, said IPEX.

With sustainability in mind, the plant will be fully climate-controlled and use energy-efficient lighting and high-efficiency machines to reduce the use of both electricity and water. Ample space for testing and prototyping a number of new products already in development has been set aside in the building design.

IPEX anticipates hiring more than 150 people in the area, with key opportunities for supervisory, technical, and quality control personnel to support Industry 4.0 systems. The new plant is described as an integral part of IPEX's continued growth plans in North America by CEO Alex Mestres. "This level of investment in new technologies, cloud connectivity, and flexible automation will make this plant a learning showcase for the rest of our operations and will allow us to better serve our customers with added flexibility, response time, and innovative products," said Mestres in a prepared statement.

Construction is expected to be finalized in late 2022, with full operations planned to start in early 2023. Once the project is completed, the Pineville site, which includes an existing molding facility, will be home to nearly 100 injection molding machines, IPEX's biggest molding complex.

The Pineville manufacturing plant is the company's fourth new facility announcement in 2021, following three new distribution centers in Garland, TX; Winnipeg, MB; and Dartmouth, NS.

Source: Plastics Today

Long-Fiber Polyamide Composites Boast Enhanced Appearance

Compounder Avient has debuted a series of polyamide-based Complèt long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic composites with enhanced moisture resistance and smooth surface aesthetics. These formulations feature polyamide 6 and 6/6 with delayed moisture absorption, which prolongs the effectiveness of their structural performance in moisture-rich environments.



These new materials also take aim at inconsistent surface appearance issues with long-fiber polyamides, which have affected quality perceptions in the past. Long glass-fiber-reinforced grades of Complèt moisture-resistant polyamide feature surfaces that are smooth and virtually free of visible fiber, making them suitable for a range of consumer applications.

Complèt moisture-resistant polyamide 6 and 6/6 grades are globally available in several fiber-loading levels (weight percentages) using long glass fiber, long carbon fiber, or hybrid combinations. This allows the materials to retain structural properties that fall between those of standard and specialty polyamides when exposed to moisture. As a result, the materials are ideal for metal replacement and lightweighting initiatives in automotive and power sports applications that encounter varying climates or intermittent exposure to water.

"When manufacturers wanted to quell performance concerns by limiting moisture absorption for polyamide 6 or 6/6, the only options were less hygroscopic and more costly specialty polyamides," said Eric Wollan, General Manager of Avient's long-fiber technologies. "Avient's new line of moisture-resistant polyamide LFTs are modified to absorb moisture more slowly. This significantly prolongs the effectiveness of a part's structural capabilities in humid environments or during short-term water immersion, but at a more economical price point."

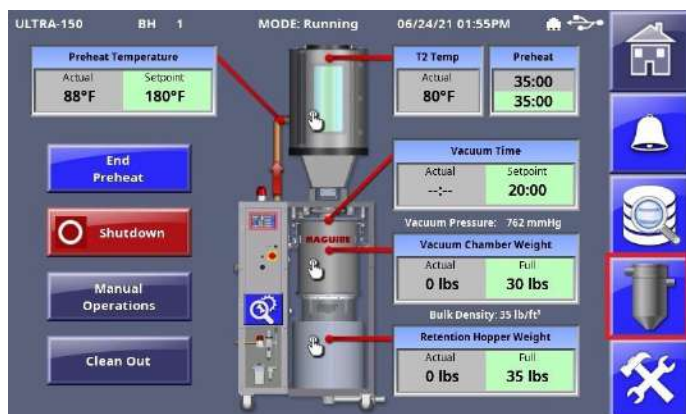
Additionally, the Complèt grades provide lower shrink for applications that require high dimensional stability. In effect, they serve as a material solution to combat warp distortion from uneven cooling.

Source: Plastics Today

Maguire integrates FlexBus Lite into dryer's touchscreen controller

Maguire has made its ULTRA dryer touchscreen controller more powerful and feature-rich by integrating the FlexBus Lite software into the platform's Arm Cortex microprocessor.

FlexBus Lite, a standard feature on all touchscreen blender controls, is now integrated into the ULTRA dryer touchscreen controls, enabling users to have complete pump and receiver control in a cell.



User-friendly and straightforward, FlexBus Lite features an intuitive receiver and pump control – with features typically only found on larger central system controls. It enables control of one vacuum pump and full system functionality control of up to 10 materials receivers. The icon-based touchscreen shows each of the receiver's activity in real time, whether calling for material, receiving material, or showing material discharging.

Frank Kavanagh, VP Sales and Marketing, clarified: "With the dryer, vacuum chamber and material retention hopper on load cells – you are able to completely regulate the drying rate to the process rate. This allows the operator to program a shutdown to any specific day and time. The control system then monitors the rate so that the loader will stop calling for material and the dryer will be empty. With the control system monitoring the rate, this makes material changes even easier."

FlexBus Lite on the ULTRA dryer offers full feature conveying control with several advantages, including handling single or multiple dryers; one ULTRA dryer can manage the conveying of an entire cell; and remote-control capability.

There are no additional controls necessary and FlexBus Lite can work with any Maguire product or any third-party system.

Source: Interplas Insights

W. Müller develops screen changer to enable sustainable use of recycle

Germany-based blow moulding specialist W. Müller has developed a new generation of screen changers for its extruders in extrusion blow moulding. It is designed to be space-saving and suitable for installation in vertically oriented extruders.

A screen changer is recommended when using PCR, the experts at W. MÜLLER agree. Filtering the melt is also an essential element of controlled extrusion with these materials. The filtering screen consists of a fixed perforated carrier plate, which is covered by several interchangeable grids with different mesh sizes. If the differential pressure on this grid exceeds a certain value, the screen must be changed.



Managing Director Christian Müller said: "In the processing of recycled material, in particular PCR materials, the risk of contamination increases, which does not enter the production process from the outside but from the used material itself. These can be, for example, snippets of aluminium lids or sleeves of bottles. In operation, the screen is slowly getting clogged and must be changed regularly. How often, depends on the quality of the processed material. W. MÜLLER has designed its own system for this change."

The screen changer can be retrofitted and does not require any special safety precautions, as it does not have its own drive. It can be operated manually or by using a cordless screwdriver without effort.

For PCR processing, W. MÜLLER offers the ReCo3 system for its extrusion units, consisting of three independent extruders. The PCR layer is enclosed in the middle by two layers of virgin material. The extruders are mounted vertically for this process. Müller added: "Traditionally, there are no screen changers for such extruders, we are one of the very few suppliers on the market. Normally, the changers are too long to install vertically without risking the stability of the extruder."

W. MÜLLER constantly carries out tests with PCR and other recyclates in their in-house technical centres in Germany and the US in order to expand its expertise in this area.

Source: Interplas Insights

Tetra Pak and Stora Enso aim to triple recycling capacity of beverage cartons in Poland

A partnership between Tetra Pak and Stora Enso will see the introduction of a large-scale carton repulping line at Stora Enso's Ostrołęka production unit in Poland.



The line will triple the annual recycling capacity of used beverage cartons in Poland from 25,000 to 75,000 tonnes. This will allow recycling of the entire volume of beverage cartons sold in the country as well as ones from neighbouring countries, including Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The total investment is €29.1m. Stora Enso will invest €17m into a new repulping line that will recover the carton fibres, while Tetra Pak, along with Plastigram, will invest a total of €12.1m to build an additional line. This will recover and separately recycle the polymers and the aluminium, using a patented separation technology. Both lines will be operational by the beginning of 2023. The separated materials will be used as raw materials for various end applications. Recycled fibres will be integrated into Stora Enso's recycled board. The separated polymers and aluminium will be given new life in the form of different kinds of products, such as crates and foils.

The investment aims to contribute to the development of a circular economy at a country level. It will also be fully aligned with the European Green Deal.

Charles Brand, President of Tetra Pak Europe & Central Asia, said: "We are seeking opportunities across the entire recycling value chain to improve how cartons get recycled and to develop solutions that effectively recycle all packaging components, including polymers and aluminium. Therefore, I am very proud of this investment as well as of the strong partnership with Stora Enso." Hannu Kasurinen, Executive Vice President of Stora Enso's Packaging Materials division, added: "With this development we can advance towards a greater degree of recyclability, a critical factor in enabling a circular bio-economy. We are delighted to join forces with Tetra Pak in what will be another important milestone towards the fully circular future we expect to realise. Moreover, as EU collection systems continue to evolve, the project holds potential to increase capacity for future excess volumes."

Source: Interplas Insights

FANUC UK sets date for 2021 Open House

Building on the success of its first ever open house in 2019 and its debut virtual offering in 2020, FANUC UK will host an automation event in November this year.



Taking place between 1-5 November, FANUC is inviting guests to visit its UK headquarters in Antsy Park, Coventry. There will be a full line-up of speakers as well as a demonstration programme spanning three distinct themes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, which is bookended by two open days for exploration of its facility on the Monday and Friday.

The Open House will showcase FANUC's latest technology, including the new versions of its ROBOSHOT and ROBOCUT machines, as well as its collaborative CRX-10iA robot. It will also feature a range of guest exhibitors and demonstrations, displaying a wide variety of automation applications.

Tom Bouchier, Managing Director at FANUC UK, said: “Events such as these offer a brilliant platform to share knowledge and explore key industry issues. We’re thrilled to be hosting our open house over the course of a week, as this gives everyone the chance to come along and take part in what promises to be an interesting, enjoyable, and engaging event.”

The themes throughout the week will cover a range of topics and issues within the sector. Tuesday looks at ‘Automation and Outlook of UK Manufacturing’, while Wednesday will take a closer look at ‘Business Development, Training & Apprenticeships’. Thursday hones in on ‘Industry 4.0 and IIoT’, with themed talks and panel discussions taking place each day.

Source: Interplas Insights

ALPLA Backing Biodegradable Materials

With its acquisition of a significant minority stake in the Slovak company Panara a.s., the global packaging specialist, the ALPLA Group, is stepping up its activities in the research field of alternative, sustainable raw materials for packaging. Panara is focusing on the development of fully bio-based and biodegradable plastics.

ALPLA is pursuing a holistic approach that requires that all of its product areas and future packaging solutions are being developed with a functioning circular economy in mind. Hence selecting materials that are suitable for bio-based and biodegradable packaging. In pursuit of its mission, ALPLA is investing in the Panara a.s. and is acquiring a significant minority share in this Slovak company specialised in the development of bioplastics.

ALPLA Chairman Günther Lehner, who is responsible for sustainability, circular economy, technology development and innovation: ‘Panara has a lot of experience in the area of bio-based plastics. In acquiring a stake in the company and partnering with Panara, we want to leverage this expertise and make the transfer of knowledge possible for our applications and customers.’

Fully bio-based and compostable plastic

Panara has been conducting research in the area of biopolymers since 2006. This involves its partnering with the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and the Centre for Applied Research of Environmentally Friendly Polymeric Materials (CEPOMA) in Nitra. Just recently, the company introduced a bioplastic to the market under the brand name Nonoilin which is made entirely using renewable resources, is recyclable and can be completely industrially composted at the end of its life cycle. The material is also temperature-resistant and stable. Christian Zmölnig, Director of Corporate Research and Innovation at ALPLA, sees the collaboration as another step in the direction of the packaging of the future: ‘As a technology leader in the area of packaging materials, we engage in ongoing work with partners to develop new raw materials that will minimise carbon dioxide emissions as well as resource consumption.’

Advancing the circular economy

Acquiring a stake in Panara is in line with ALPLA’s strategic focus of increased investment in the circular economy. The four Rs Replace, Reduce, Re-use and Recycle are crucial in order to advance forward-looking activities and to identify areas of action.

The “Replace research field” comprises research into and the use of alternative, bio-based and recyclable materials.

ALPLA is already involved in the development of paper-based bottles with the company Paboco, for example, and has unveiled a home-compostable coffee capsule to the public.

Reduce focuses on an ongoing reduction in material consumption, Re-use is all about optimising the properties of plastic bottles for reuse systems and Recycle addresses the overarching objective of keeping as much plastic as possible in the recycling cycle.



India News

Gurgaon-based Firm Begins Making Biopolymer from Corn Starch

Gurgaon-based Hi-Tech International, a technology sourcing provider in the field of plastics and packaging, has come out with a plant-based bio-compostable polymer. The biopolymer, made from corn starch, can replace single- and multiple-use plastic products.

“Corn starch is the main ingredient in the polymer, which is biodegradable. It is 100 per cent compostable and can replace plastic bottles, straws, cups, disposable cutlery and polybags,” said Mukul Sareen, Director, Business Development, Hi-Tech International.

Bio-compostable product

The bio-compostable polymer, branded as Dr. Bio, has received the approval of the Institute of Petrochemicals Technology (formerly Central Institute of Petrochemicals Technology Engineering and Technology) after tests.

“Our product, India’s first, was approved only after it was found to be compostable. Ours is the only Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) approved biopolymer film,” the Hi-Tech International official said.

The firm, which shifted its headquarters to the Haryana city a few years ago from Mumbai, has made further progress with its product.

“We got the Central Pollution Control Board licence to start producing the bio-compostable polymer a few days ago and we have now begun to pitch Dr Bio to various customers,” Sareen told BusinessLine in a phone interview. Hi-Tech began producing bio-polymers at its plant in Ludhiana, Punjab, in 2018.



Polymer granules

The biopolymer is produced by converting the corn starch into a granule. “We buy starch from the mills and go in for polymerisation through a blending process. This helps us to get polymer granules the way some petrochemical firms produce plastic granules,” Sareen said. From these granules, the Gurgaon-based firm, established in 1985, produces bottles, cups, trays, polybags and other such materials. “Corn starch makes up 60-70 per cent of our product. We also use biomass to manufacture our products,” he said.

The biopolymer product getting the mandatory clearances from the authorities is significant since India alone produces 9.46 million tonnes of plastic waste every year. At least 40 per cent of this remains uncollected. The problem with these waste is some 43 per cent is used for packaging and most are for single-use.

At least 60 per cent of this ends up in landfills or in open environments. A real problem with plastics is that out of every 100 kg, at least 40 kg is not tapped for reuse.

Stronger than plastics

Though production costs of biopolymer are higher, it can be offset by producing materials that have lower micron levels than traditional plastic products. "Biopolymers are 2.5 times costlier than plastic products but where it can score is that you cannot produce a plastic bag less than 50 microns. On the other hand, we can produce a biopolymer bag of 20 microns," he said.

Though the micron level is lower, these biopolymers are stronger than the plastic bags. "A 50 micron conventional polybag made of plastic can normally hold products up to two kg. Our biopolymer bags can hold products up to five kg," Sareen said.

Hi-Tech International's hope for a good response to its product also stems from the new law that the Centre is planning to come up with toward raising the micron level to 120. "This will make our product more competitive against the plastic products," he said.

The company has commercially launched Dr Bio and some customers have accepted it. "We are also exporting the biopolymers to Europe, the US, South America and South Africa. We have started pitching our product to e-commerce firms too and so far, we have got good traction," he said.

Hi-Tech, which is a privately held firm, is now looking to produce similar biopolymers from potato and tapioca, which are starch materials.

Source: Packaging 360

Petroleum Minister to focus on increasing domestic production of crude and natural gas

As we transform towards a US \$ 5 trillion economy, energy availability and consumption will be of paramount importance. My focus will be on increasing domestic production of crude and natural gas, in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, said Hardeep Singh Puri while taking over charge of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as cabinet minister. As we transform towards a US \$5 Trillion economy, energy availability and consumption will be of paramount importance, added Puri.

"The work of this ministry touches each and every citizen in the country directly or indirectly. The energy issues in this ministry have immense potential and several challenges. The need to adapt to changing times, adopt new technologies and to be in consonance with the energy transition taking place across the world, provides a fascinating opportunity," commented Puri.

I will also work towards development of a natural gas-based economy in the country and increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix of the country to 15% by 2030 as announced by the Prime Minister.

"In the last seven years, under the able guidance of my predecessor Dharmendra Pradhan, a number of path-breaking reforms and initiatives have been ushered in the sector. I would strive to take them forward, and fulfil the expectations of the Prime Minister, our people and the country," added Puri.

Source: Indian Chemical News

Clear indications of economic recovery, confident of high exports, FDI: Piyush Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said there are clear indications of an economic revival in India and that the country is on track to achieve \$400 billion of goods exports this financial year besides attracting high foreign direct investment (FDI) in FY22. At the CII-Horasis India Meeting, he also said that currently India is in talks with 16 countries including the UK, the EU, Australia, Canada, and the UAE for trade agreements. With some countries, India is working for early harvest agreements which will allow the country to quickly identify areas of mutual interest and progress negotiations faster towards a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, or FTAs, Goyal said.



"We have focused our efforts on a few very promising agreements where I can clearly see huge comparative advantages for India to get market access and the ability to trade both in goods and services in a much bigger way. The UK, EU, Australia, Canada, UAE are countries with whom we can very quickly expand our discussions and engagements," he added.

Goyal said India received highest ever FDI in the Covid-19 hit 2020, in contrast with a shrinkage in investment inflows globally. In 2020-21, FDI into the country rose 19% to \$59.63 billion. Total FDI, including equity,

re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10% to \$81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against \$74.39 billion in 2019-20. "This year, we are very confident that we will continue this streak of seven continuous years of historic highs in our foreign investments," Goyal said. Similarly, he said, India's exports too are recording healthy growth and would reach \$400 billion by the end of the current financial year.

During July 1-21, merchandise exports crossed \$ 22 billion and are "poised to cross \$32-33 billion by end of the month (July), which means our run rate is on track to achieve \$400 billion of exports target for the first time ever".

Source: ET

Exports up 45% on-yr in first 3 weeks of July: Govt

Led by petroleum, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, India's goods exports in the first three weeks of July rose 45.13% year-on-year to \$22.48 billion. Imports in the first three weeks of July posted a sharper increase of 64.82% to \$31.77 billion, commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Excluding petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL), the export of all other goods increased by 34.11% in the July 1-21 period.

As per the data, exports to the US, UAE and Brazil increased 51% to \$493.24 million, 127% to \$373.36 million and 212% to \$144.5 million, respectively. The top decrease in outbound shipments was seen in Oman, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Imports, excluding petroleum, increased 53.79% in the period, compared to the same period last year. An increase in imports was witnessed from Saudi Arabia, UAE and Iraq while those from Indonesia, Switzerland and Kazakhstan declined.

Compared to 2019-20, goods exports in the first three weeks of July were 25.42% and excluding POL, they were up 24.81%.

India's goods exports in June grew 48.34% on-year to \$32.50 billion. In the April-June 2021 period, the cumulative value of exports was \$95.39 billion, the highest ever merchandise exports in a quarter, posting an increase of 85.88%.

Source: ET

India improves ranking in trade facilitation aided by reforms

India has scored 90.32 per cent in United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, a finance ministry statement said.

India has significantly improved its ranking in terms of trade facilitation due to various reforms undertaken by various departments especially customs under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC). India has scored 90.32 per cent in United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, a finance ministry statement said.

The survey hails this as a remarkable jump from 78.49 per cent in 2019, it said. The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by UNESCAP. The 2021 survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

After evaluation of 143 economies, the 2021 survey has highlighted India's significant improvement in the scores on all five key indicators... Transparency improved to 100 per cent in 2021 from 93.33 per cent in 2019, formalities rose to 95.83 per cent in 2021 from 87.5 per cent in 2019 while institutional arrangement and cooperation jumped improved to 88.89 per cent in 2021 from 66.67 per cent in 2019.

Other parameters like paperless trade improved to 96.3 per cent in 2021 from 81.48 per cent in 2019 while cross-border paperless trade improved to 66.67 per cent in 2021 from 55.56 per cent in 2019, it said. The survey notes that India is the best performing country when compared to south and south west Asia region (63.12 per cent) and Asia Pacific region (65.85 per cent), it said. "The overall score of India has also been found to be greater than many Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries including France, the UK, Canada, Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of EU. India has achieved a 100 per cent score for the Transparency index and 66 per cent in the Women in trade component," it said.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has been at forefront of path breaking reforms under the umbrella of 'Turant' Customs to usher in a faceless, paperless and contactless customs by way of a series of reforms, the finance ministry statement said. This has had a direct impact in terms of the improvement in the UNESCAP rankings on digital and sustainable trade facilitation, it said.

Further, during the COVID-19 pandemic, customs formations have made all efforts to expedite COVID related imports such as oxygen related equipment, life-saving medicines and vaccines, it said. A dedicated single window COVID-19 24*7 helpdesk for EXIM trade was created on the CBIC website to facilitate quick resolution of issue(s) faced by importers, it added.

Source: FE

Excise duty collections from petroleum products being used in infra development, says Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said excise duty collected from petroleum products are being used for infrastructure development and other development items.

The road transport and highways minister said this in the Lok Sabha while replying to a question on the impact of rising fuel prices on the logistics cost of transportation in the country.

"The excise duty rates on petroleum products have been calibrated to generate resources for infrastructure and other development items of expenditure, keeping in view the prevalent fiscal situation," Gadkari said.



According to the minister, the logistics cost of transportation through road depends on several factors such as capital cost of the vehicle, salaries, insurance, permit tax, maintenance, fuel, toll tax and other miscellaneous expenses.

The excise collections on petrol and diesel jumped by 88 per cent to Rs 3.35 lakh crore in the last fiscal ended March 31, 2021, after excise duty was raised to a record high. The excise duty on petrol was hiked from Rs 19.98 per litre to Rs 32.9 last year to recoup gains arising from international oil prices plunging to a multi-year low as the pandemic gulped the demand.

Citing a study conducted by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through a consultant, Gadkari said the impact of fuel is 34 per of the total transport freight cost by vehicle. "The transport companies may or may not pass the increased cost depending upon the market situation or capacity to absorb additional cost etc," he said, quoting the study.

The prices of petrol and diesel are market-determined with effect from June 26, 2010, and October 19, 2014, respectively.

Since then, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been taking the appropriate decision on the pricing of petrol and diesel based on international product prices and other market conditions.

Replying to a separate question, Gadkari said the national and local level lockdowns and restrictions due to COVID-19 posed constraints to the movement and supply/availability of materials, machinery and labour, which affected the progress of works.

"However, due to several initiatives taken by the government under Atmanirbhar Bharat to provide relief measures to contractors/ concessionaires/ consultants, the maintenance and development work on National Highways have overshot the targets," he noted.

The minister pointed out that NHAI awarded 31 projects of 890 km length at a cost of Rs 26,322 crore from April to August 2020. The length of projects awarded by NHAI in the April to June period of 2021-22 stood at 383 km.

Source: FE

Govt takes up costly crude issue with Opec, other oil producing countries

The government has been taking up the issue of high crude oil prices bilaterally with oil-producing countries and with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), minister of state of for petroleum and natural gas Rameswar Teli said on Monday.

The price of Indian basket of crude was \$74.3/barrel on Monday, up from \$50/barrel in end-December, supported by global demand recovery and voluntary production cuts until July-end from major oil exporting nations.

The OPEC plus group on Sunday agreed to increase the output of crude oil by 0.4 million barrels per day from August for five months ending December, which could lower the price. "This is good news for India because there seems to be a 'no solution' with the government not willing to lower taxes as consumers pay higher prices for petrol and diesel," analysts at CARE Ratings noted.

With petrol and diesel demand returning, the Centre could cut auto fuel taxes by Rs 13/litre for the rest of the fiscal, and still keep its revenue from these sources intact at Rs 3.2 lakh crore as estimated in the Budget for FY22, analysts at Nomura said. Without any tax cuts, the revenue collection can go up to around Rs 4.7 lakh crore, it added.

CARE Ratings pointed out that though there could be a reversal of crude price movement, the retail price difference would not be too significant. If exchange rates and tax levels remain unchanged, retail price of petrol will be Rs 98 per litre in Delhi if Brent falls to \$70 per barrel, down from Rs 101.6 per litre with Brent trading at \$75 per barrel.

Despite demand for petrol and diesel falling 10.6% annually in FY21, the Centre's income from excise duty on auto fuels rose a whopping 87.8% y-o-y to Rs 3.4 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, data provided by Teli in Parliament showed.

The rise in income can be attributed to cumulative hikes in surcharge and cess on auto fuels by Rs 13/litre on petrol and Rs 16/litre on diesel in March and May 2020. "The excise duty rates on petrol and diesel have been calibrated to generate resources for infrastructure and other developmental items of expenditure keeping in view the present fiscal position," Teli said.

Source: FE

Pil Italica Lifestyle plans to expand base in southern India

Plastic furniture manufacturer Pil Italica Lifestyle NSE 1.27 % on Monday said it plans to expand its base in the five states of southern India by setting up or acquiring or leasing additional manufacturing facilities and aims to increase production by 3,600 metric tonnes per annum. The company is also looking to set up fulfilment centres in Hyderabad and Chennai.

"The company plans to expand its base in the 5 states of Southern India by setting up or acquiring or leasing additional manufacturing facilities to increase production by 3,600 MT per annum," Pil Italica Lifestyle said in a regulatory filing.

The company said to cater to the Southern India market, the company is planning to set up fulfilment centres in Hyderabad and Chennai. At present, it has a fulfilment centre in Bengaluru. "These fulfilment centres will provide faster distribution to our current distributors and dealers and will also enable the company to expand further and faster across Southern India," it noted.



The company said it will announce its ambitious five-year mega expansion plan at its annual general meeting (AGM) on June 24, 2021.

Pil Italica Lifestyle is a moulded plastic furniture manufacturer. Its product portfolio includes plastic chairs, tables, trolley, sun loungers, crates, storage bins and waste bins. These products are made in the company's industrial unit spread across 18,500 sq mt in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Source: ET

India refiners' June crude processing bridled by virus curbs

Indian refiners' crude throughput in June was little changed from the previous month when it fell to multi-month lows as a severe second wave of coronavirus restrained demand, forcing refiners to reduce runs.

Refiners processed 4.50 million barrels per day (18.4 million tonnes) of crude oil in June, provisional government data showed on Friday. This compares with 4.49 million barrels per day (bpd) processed in May, which was the lowest since October 2020.



Crude oil imports also fell to a 9-month low in June as refiners curtailed purchases amid higher fuel inventories due to low consumption and renewed lockdowns in the previous two months, data obtained from trade sources showed. Refineries' crude oil throughput last month was still 4.7% higher than June 2020 levels.

India's fuel demand also inched higher after slumping to a nine-month low in May as many states in the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer started easing restrictions and mobility picked up. Indian state fuel retailers' gasoline sales also exceeded pre-pandemic levels in the first fortnight of July, preliminary industry data showed last week.

"With a further likely easing of mobility restrictions, I would expect oil demand to recover further, resulting in higher refinery processing rates down the road," UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

Indian refiners operated at an average rate of 89.59% of capacity in June, down from 92.37% of capacity in May, the government data showed. The country's largest refiner, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), last month operated its directly owned plants at 93.53% capacity, as per the data. Reliance, owner of the world's biggest refining complex, operated its plants at 93.12% capacity in June.

Natural gas output rose 19.5% to 2.78 billion cubic metres, while crude oil production eased nearly 2% to 606,000 barrels per day (2.48 million tonnes), data from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas showed.

Source: ET

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, Taraulins, Laminates, Fishing Lines/Fishnets, Cordage/Ropes/Twines, Laboratory Ware; Eye Ware, Surgical/Medical Disposables.

Membership Benefits

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

The Plastics Export Promotion Council added the following companies/firms as new members during June 2021. We would like to welcome them aboard!

Sr. No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Director Name	Email
1	ABERAMI ENTERPRISES	NO.4/120, C.K.S.NAGAR , CUTCHERY STREET ,	Gobichettipalayam	638452	Tamil Nadu	BALAMURUGAN	drd-moorthy1914@gmail.com
2	ABLE MOULDERS	AAMOD, 56, DASHMESH NAGAR,	AURANGABAD	431005	Maharashtra	DEEPALI M DABRI	ablemoulders@gmail.com
3	ADCOMP PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED	PLOT NO.6, R K INDUSTRIAL ZONE 8, KUVADVA -WANKANER ROAD,	RANPUR - RAJKOT	360023	Gujarat	SACHIN PATIL	sachin@acp-in.com
4	ADHESIVE SPECIALITIES	SY NO. 261/2, HARAGADDE VILLAGE , JIGANI HOBLI, ANEKAL TALUK,	Bangalore	560105	Karnataka	A. SIVAI	info@adhesivespecialities.co.in
5	AEC PLAST PRIVATE LIMITED	HOUSE NO.08/A, FLAT NO. 604, GOMATI APARTMENT, WHC ROAD, DHARAMPETH,	NAGPUR	440010	Maharashtra	ISHAN A VI-JAYWARGI	aecplast@gmail.com
6	AKSHAR POLYTEX INDIA LLP	SURVEY NO.20 PAIKI 2, BEHIND HADMATIYA VILLAGE, LAJAI ROAD,HADMATIYA,	MORBI	363642	Gujarat	KRUPAL H CHANDIBHARMAR	account@akshar-polytexindia.com
7	CARRIS PIPES AND TUBES PRIVATE LIMITED	VIII/220 A, AKANAD, MUDAKUZHA P.O, PERUMBAVOOR,	ERNAKULAM	683546	Kerala	AJIMON JOSEPH	aquatechcochin@gmail.com
8	DESIGNTREE. COM LIMITED	SURVEY NO.196, PON KANDAGRA, MUNDRA KUCHCHH,	MUNDRA	370410	Gujarat	DHARMENDRA J CHOWRASIA	dc@raalchem.com
9	DILSEN AUTOPLAST	PLOT NO: 146, 1ST MAIN ROAD EXTENSION SIDCO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE THIRUMUDIVAKKAM	CHENNAI	600132	Tamil Nadu	G V NIVETHITHA	senthil@dilsen.in
10	FINEFAB NON WOVEN LLP	SURVEY NO.92/1, TANKARA LATIPAR ROAD, AT HIRAPAR,	MORBI	363650	Gujarat	RENISHBHAI P BHATASHNA	finefabllp@gmail.com
11	FRISCON POLYFAB PRIVATE LIMITED	PLOT NO. 108, SMART INDUSTRIAL PARK, NEAR NATRIP PITHAMPUR,	PITHAMPUR	454775	Madhya Pradesh	ANSHUL K AGARWAL	contact@friscon-polyfab.com
12	GEEKAY METALS PRIVATE LIMITED	31, MANGALAM BUILDING, 5-B, OLD PALASIA,	INDORE	452001	Madhya Pradesh	ADITYA KALANI	gkm_kalani@yahoo.co.in
13	GLOBAL SOLUTIONS	B 305, JALDHARA CHS, NEAR HIGHLAND PARK,	THANE	400607	Maharashtra	MALLIKA	nanu8021@gmail.com
14	HOPECURE LIFECARE DEVICES LLP	AKSHAT TOWER, 302-304, NR. PAKWAN RESTAURANT-II S.G HIGHWAY,	AHMEDABAD	380054	Gujarat	URMILKUMAR R GAUDANI	info@hopecure.in
15	I A ENTERPRISE	KAZISAH, MONDAL PARA, BELDANGA	BELDANGA	742133	West Bengal	MD INTAZ ALI	mdintazali1@gmail.com
16	INTIMATE FLEXI PACK PRIVATE LIMITED	Khasra No. -1793, Vill-Mehndiganj, Po- Rajatalab, Distt-	VARANASI,	221311	Uttar Pradesh	PAWAN SINGH	intimateflexipack@gmail.com
17	ITO GLOBAL POLYPACK	310, 3RD FLOOR, SWAGAT BUSINESS HUB, SURAT HAZIRA ROAD, ICHHAPORE,	SURAT	394510	Gujarat	RAMNARAYAN LOKRAM SHARMA	info@itoglobal.in
18	KANDOI TECHFAB PRIVATE LIMITED	Survey No. 293/2/1/1, Village Naroli,	Silvassa	396230	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	BHAGIRATH SUTHAR	exim@daman-polyfabs.com
19	KOHEYI POLYMERS (INDIA) PVT LTD	BASERA, NO 46 GROUND FLOOR, BESANT AVENUE ADYAR,	CHENNAI,	600020	Tamil Nadu	POORNIMA	info@kohyei.in

20	MAHAVIR PLASTIC AGENCY	PLOT NO.56/57/58 MAZDA GALI, PIPODARA, TAL. KAMREJ,	SURAT	394150	Gujarat	CHIRAG JAIN	chirag.seema-plastic@gmail.com
21	MARUDHARA POLYPACK PVT. LTD.	F-661-662, G-681 & 682 PHASE IV, BORANADA RIICO, INDUSTRIAL AREA,	JODHPUR	342012	Rajasthan	MAHESH PU-ROHIT	accounts@mppi.co.in
22	METRO TECHNOPACK	SURVEY NO-33 P1, VILLAGE - LUTAVADR, RAJKOT,	MORBI	363642	Gujarat	AAKASH RAMESHBHAI VIRGAMA	info@metrotechnopack.com
23	NADIA HUMAN HAIR DOT COM	VILL-HANTRA, P.O.- CHHOTTA ANDULIA, PS-CHAPRA	.	741171	West Bengal	MANIRUL	nadiahuman-hair@gmail.com
24	NAKSHAA INTERNATIONAL	B-501, VASTUPUJA HEIGHTS, NR. SUDAMA CHOWK, MOTA VARACHHA ROAD,	Surat	394101	Gujarat	ZALAKKUMAR CHANDUBHAI KAVATHIYA	nakshaainternational@gmail.com
25	OCUVENT MEDICAL DEVICES PRIVATE LIMITED	NO.4/20, PUNNAGAI PUNGA, WEST COLLEGE ROAD, ARUMBAKKAM,	CHENNAI	600106	Tamil Nadu	CHINNASAMY V	chinnasamy@freedomophthalmic.com
26	ORYN POLYPACK LLP	SURVEY NO 185, PAIKI 2 / PAIKI 2, HADMATIYA,	TANKARA	363641	Gujarat	PRAVINBHAI DETROJA	orynpolypackllp@gmail.com
27	PANARA LAMINATE PRIVATE LIMITED	NEAR CANPAC AND BH SANKALP ESTATE, SURVEY NO 322, VILLAGE CHIYADA, TALUKA BAVLA,	AHMEDABAD	382220	Gujarat	MAYUR CHUDASMA	panaralaminat@gmail.com
28	RAMDEV PIPES	PLOT NO. 1 - B, SURVEY NO 160, OPP. JAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, OPP. THAKAR DHANI HOTEL, KALAVAD ROAD, CHAPRA,	RAJKOT	360021	Gujarat	JAYDEV RAVJIBHAI SATODIYA	ramdevpipes@yahoo.com
29	SAKAR INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED	H-10 MADHAVPURA MARKET, SHAHIBAUGH ROAD,	AHMEDABAD	380004	Gujarat	NAVEEN ASAWA	ramesh@sakarindustries.in
30	SHREE RAM ELECTROCAST (JHARKHAND) PRIVATE LIMITED	DIAMOND PRESTIGE , LEVEL 1, SUITE 113, TALTALA 41A, TACHARYA JAGADISH CHANDRA BOSE ROAD	KOLKATA	700017	West Bengal	PAWAN SHARMA	pankajpandey@beekaygroup.co
31	SOFT TURF	NO 17, KIADB INDUSTRIAL AREA, JIGANI PHASE 1 , ANEKAL TALUK,	Bangalore	560105	Karnataka	BOBEN GEORGE	softturf@gmail.com
32	SULTANIA OIL INDUSTRIES PVT LTD	123/1 124 126 127, MOUZA SELU,	KALMESHWAR	441501	Maharashtra	KUNAL HANSRAJ SHAH	sultaniacotton@gmail.com
33	TAYAJE AND SONS PVT. LTD.,	E-122, 2ND FLOOR, DILSHAD GARDEN,	SHAHDARA	110095	Delhi	MANOJ KUMAR	tayaje@gmail.com
34	VEEGLOW INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED	C-102, 1ST. FLOOR, SIDDHI VINAYAK TOWER, OFFS.G.HIGHWAY, MAKARABA,	AHMEDABAD	380051	Gujarat	DUSHYANT R YOGI	export@veeglow.com
35	VIPRA CLOSURES PRIVATE LIMITED	UNIT NO 513, 5TH FLOOR, HUBTOWN SOLARIS, N S PHADKE MARG, ANDHERI EAST,	MUMBAI	400069	Maharashtra	RAHUL R JAIN	rashmi@vipra.co.in