PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT®

Edition 31, January 2022

Overcoming present challenges in Shipping & Logistics

Product of the Month – Ion Exchangers based on Polymers

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After the passing of another year of trysts, it is now time to welcome the new year with renewed energies, positivity and lots of hope. The past two years have taught us many lessons; however, some important learnings that stood the test of time are hope, resilience and patience – important qualities that we all need to remember when battling our worst battles. Here is wishing you all plenty of happiness and prosperity in the coming year!

In early December, the Hon'ble CIM, Shri Piyush Goyal called for an all stakeholders' meet of which Plexconcil was also a part of. As we know, the benefits and opportunities for plastics are immense and each year, a new innovation or technology emerges that increases growth potential for our segment manifold. Climate change and environment conservation have compelled our industry towards new frontiers and the silver lining is that today, plastics have emerged better & more versatile with even greater applications. During the meeting the Hon'ble CIM said that Centre is committed to the holistic and sustainable growth of the plastic sector in India. And despite the challenges, being one of the biggest generators of employment in India, it should now aim to double the employment along with an increase in its turnover. The government has asked the industry to explore ways to achieve its full potential and triple the sector's overall turnover to Rs 10 lakh crore in the next five years. The minister heard industry stakeholders' views and suggestions for further boosting the performance and potential of the overall plastics industry. Although the target is ambitious, it is achievable for which all-round reform measures are required with policy support from the government.

During November 2021, India exported plastics worth USD 990 million, up 39.1% from USD 712 million in November 2020. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2021 – November 2021 was USD 8,762 million as against USD 6,294 million during the same period last year, registering a positive growth of 39.2%. Nearly all panels have witnessed growth in the past months and as supply chains and logistics continue to ease, and demand continues from global markets, we anticipate continued growth.

In the month of November, Plexconcil spearheaded a delegation to Dubai Expo and organised India pavilion at ArabPlast which received resounding success and our participating members have returned buoyed by the numerous inquiries and prospects that they received during these events. In this issue, we bring you some glimpses from the Dubai Expo. The Council is now geared up to lead members to more events in the coming year. Undoubtedly, physical shows have enhanced networking and business opportunities that had otherwise seen a setback due to the pandemic.

While business has seen an upward trend, some challenges, especially supply chain disruptions, volatility in economies, rise of Omicron, etc will continue to linger for a while. In this issue, we take a look at overcoming shipping challenges and how we can plan to mitigate risks related to shipping. We also look at Ion Exchangers based on Polymers under the Product of the Month feature. This product although extensively used in various applications, is unique and India has great potential for exports, with some policy support from the Govt.

In other features, we bring you some information and updates on Recycled plastics, news from India and around the world and export performance figures for the month of November.

Until next time, have a great start to the year and stay safe and healthy.

Warm regards,

Arvind Goenka
Chairman

Youth Wing Committee Meeting: 01st,26th & 29th November 2021 | Southern Region

A brief meeting was organized on 1st & 26th November 2021 with the Youth Wing Committee members to discuss the plans to bring out the e-Directory for the Plastic Industry with the software developer. Mr. Pranay, Mr. Dhruven Chitalia, and Mr. Mayank Goenka along with Mr. Ruban Hobday, RD – South participated in the meeting.

Meeting to Review of Progress Towards India's Export Target for 2021-22 for European Countries organised by FT-Europe Division of Department of Commerce: 10th November | Eastern Region

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, FT-Europe Division. Commercial Representatives/In-charge of Commercial Wings in the 11 Indian Missions in Europe attended the meeting. The prime objective of the meeting was to review the progress of target achieved during April-October, 2021. Mr NIlotpal Biswas, Regional Director represented the Council for the aforesaid meeting.

Meeting regarding National Logistics Portal (Marine): 11th November 2021 | Western Region

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI) and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW) has entrusted the work of developing the National Logistics Portal (Marine) to Indian Ports Association (IPA).

National Logistic Portal (NLP) is a project of national importance aimed at connecting all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT, to improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and time delays.

To know more about this initiative and understand importance of NLP for the benefit of Plexconcil Members, virtual meeting was held on 11th November, 2021 with Mr. Abhishek Nair, EY, NLP Team. It was also discussed to organize webinar on this important initiative for the benefit of members. From Plexconcil, Ms Bharti Parave, Asst. Director (Trade & Policy) and Mr Naman Marjadi, Asst. Director, Ahmedabad office attended the meeting.

Meeting (Virtual) with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on 16th November 2021 | Southern Region

A Virtual Meeting was organised with NSDC officials regarding the request for Accreditation as Training Partner to conduct the Certificate Course in International Business.

PLEXCONCIL's Eastern Regional Committee Meeting held on 16th November 2021 | Eastern Region

The Eastern Regional Committee Meeting of the PLEXCONCIL held on 16th November 2021. Agenda items pertaining issues and concern with regard to export from Eastern Region, Council's promotional activities, plastic export from eastern region and council's membership development were discussed. Member Exporters expressed their concerns on the following issue and requested for the Council's intervention.

1. RODTEP rates are too low and for Advance Authorization exports, RODTEP is still not extended.
2. Interest subvention is still not extended.
3. MEIS limit for Sept 2020 to Dec. 2020 quota has been exhausted and those who have not been able to apply due to one other reason, cannot apply now or are not eligible to get the same.

Preparatory talks/discussion with the Embassy of India, Lima (Peru & Bolivia) and High Commission of India Accra, Ghana | Eastern Region

The RD(East) has been continuously in touch with Commercial section with the aforesaid Embassies/High commission office in order to organise the Export Promotion activity(Webinar/B2B Meeting) for promotion of trade. It may be informed that Embassy of India, Lima jointly with PLEXCONCIL, CAPEXIL and with other association organised a Webinar on 1st December 2021 on 'Trade and Business Opportunities with Peru & Bolivia: Focus product: Plastics & Rubber'.

Meeting with FT (NEA) Division, MoC, Govt. of India on 23rd November 2021 | Southern Region

Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director and Shri. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director,SR attended the review meeting of Export Target for NEA Countries organized by the FT (NEA) Division, MoC, Govt. of India.

Meeting with Mr R Muthuraj, ITS, Additional DGFT, RA AHMEDABAD: 26th November 2021 | Western Region

Mr Naman Marjadi, Asst. Director, Plexconcil Ahmedabad met Mr R Muthuraj, ITS, Additional DGFT, RA AHMEDABAD to deliberate and discuss on working closely for benefit of industry and trade. Mr R Muthuraj was also briefed about issues faced by members and he assured all support to resolve the same.

HOME DÉCOR, GIFTS, HOUSEWARE SHOW – November 30 – December 3, 2021 | Northern Region

The Council's Delhi office successfully participated at above event. The event targeted the Consumer items and Gifts items which were primarily from Plastics and Textiles. The Delhi office received a complimentary fully furnished booth measuring 9 sq.mtr. at the above event. The exhibitors were informed regarding the various services offered by the Council after becoming the member of the Council, like RCMC, MAI, Export Performance Certificates, Redressal of their grievances with the Ministry of Commerce and also other Ministries relating to their product etc. The event was highly successful with regard to the mobilization of members from the Northern Region.

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director, Mr. Anuj Sharma, Assistant Manager and Mr. Ashok Kumar Shah, officiating Assistance represented the Council at the above event.

Participation at Plast Eurasia, Istanbul, Turkey – December 1st – 4th, 2021

- Council facilitated Indian participation at 30th International Istanbul Plastic Industry Fair Plast Eurasia 2021, the largest industry fair held every year in Europe. The fair was organized by M/s. Tuyap in cooperation with PAGE V (Turkish Plastics Industry Foundation) in Tuyap Fair Convention and Congress Centre, Istanbul from 1st – 4th December, 2021. Plast Eurasia 2021 bought together 852 exhibitors from 39 countries and 60,742 professional visitors from 99 countries.

- Seven (7) Indian companies participated through the Council. Ms. Sudhi Choudhary – Consul General of India in Turkey visited the exhibition and interacted with the Indian participants. Indian participant's brochure was printed and distributed among the visitors and other exhibitors. Mrs. Alka Lopes represented the Council at this exhibition.

PLAST EURASIA 2021 Inauguration

Ms. Sudhi Choudhary – Consul General of India in Turkey at Plexconcil stall

Ms. Sudhi Choudhary – Consul General of India in Turkey interacting with Indian exhibitors.

PLEXCONCIL VISITS INDIA PAVILION AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI, UAE

In 2021, India celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate its 75th year of independence and, as a part of the celebration, the nation took the opportunity at Expo 2020 Dubai to not only showcase its cultural prowess, but to also discern the future of innovation, trade and global technology trends represented by 193 countries from across the globe. As accorded by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri. Piyush Goyal, the Department of Commerce had recommended EPCs to consider participation at Expo 2020 Dubai, and The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) actively took the initiative for an expeditious interaction with FICCI to further the interests of the Indian plastic fraternity.

PLEXCONCIL visited the India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai during the second month of the launch to witness an impressive spectacle of India's soft power and highlights of the nation's industrial accomplishments, trade development initiatives undertaken by the Government of India, export proficiency of the Indian states and the corresponding opportunities available to them in the international trade ecosystem that shall augment India's potential as a global sourcing hub and attract foreign investments.

The PLEXCONCIL delegation was headed by Council Chairman, Shri. Arvind Goenka and Executive Director, Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, to understand and explore the prospects for the plastic industry as exhibited at the India Pavilion. Plastic being a highly versatile commodity consumed in arguably every facet of living, it was a great occasion to interact with the various stakeholders present at Expo 2020 Dubai.

The delegation met with Shri. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General of FICCI, to discuss the possibilities of showcasing the SME sector of Indian plastic industry at the Pavilion. The Secretary General congratulated PLEXCONCIL for being one of the first EPCs to visit the Pavilion and hailed the Council's initiative to evaluate the opportunities that shall benefit the plastic industry, particularly the SMEs.

Shri. Dasmohapatra regarded the various trade potential destinations for the plastic industry by visiting several country pavilions and gauged the future outlook of industrialization, and thereby, the possible government policies that would affect the consumption of plastics globally and impact world trade.

Climate change and a concentrated focus on maximizing the use of recycled plastics being among the prevalent themes of Expo 2020 Dubai, Shri. Dasmohapatra particularly visited the Germany and Japan pavilions- the established pioneers in the technology of sustainable recycling, to understand the advancements in plastic recycling industry and its potential in the global markets.

Expo 2020 Dubai proved an excellent avenue for PLEXCONCIL to study the forward trajectory of exports and trade which shall aid the EPC in assisting its members in a direction that aligns them with the global demand.

PLEXCONCIL visit to India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, UAE

(L to R): Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL; Shri. Arvind Goenka, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL; Shri. Krunal Goda, Senior Manager, PLEXCONCIL

The PLEXCONCIL delegation meets with Shri. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General of FICCI- the organizers of the India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, UAE

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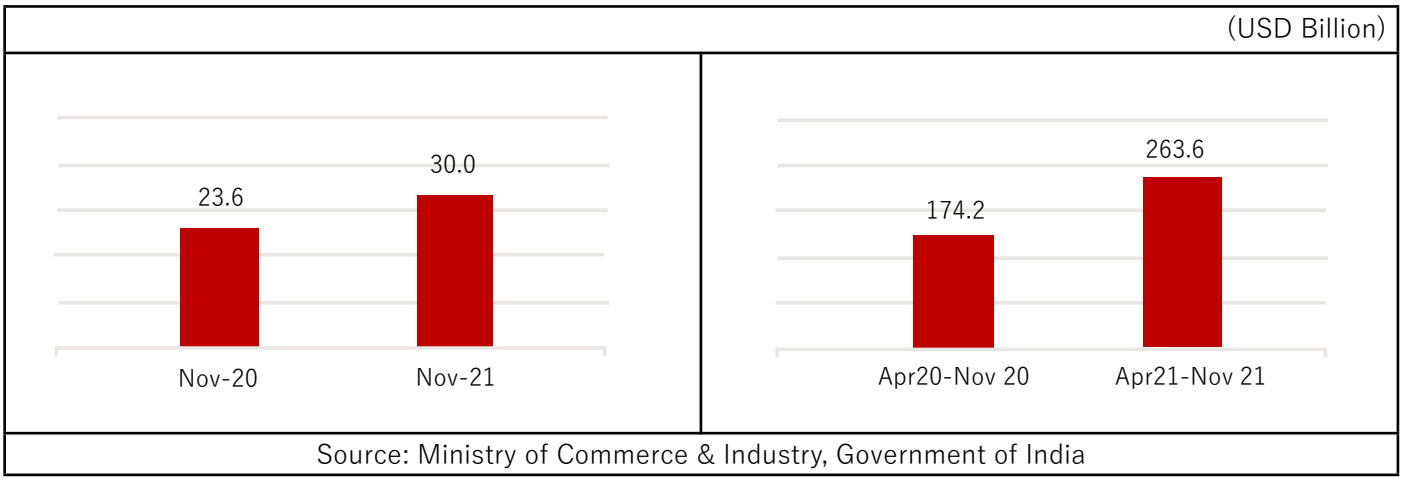
Export Performance – November 2021

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 30.0 billion in November 2021, up 27.2% from USD 23.6 billion in November 2020. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2021 – November 2021 was USD 263.6 billion as against USD 174.2 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 51.3%.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India

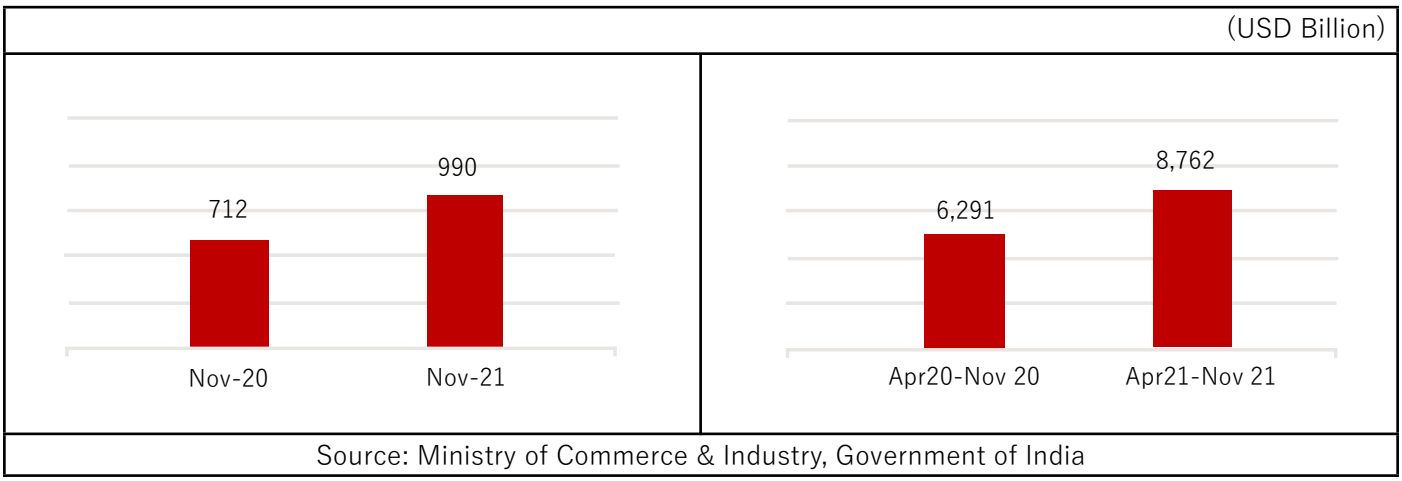


Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During November 2021, India exported plastics worth USD 990 million, up 39.1% from USD 712 million in November 2020. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2021 – November 2021 was USD 8,762 million as against USD 6,294 million during the same period last year, registering a positive growth of 39.2%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In November 2021, most of the product panels, especially Plastic raw materials; Plastic films & sheets; Human hair & related products; FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, tarpaulin; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; and Miscellaneous products reported a strong positive growth in exports. Export of Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates, however, was in the negative.

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

Panel	Nov-20	Nov-21	Growth	Apr 20- Nov 20	Apr 21- Nov 21	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	51.3	55.8	+8.8%	338.5	525.3	+55.2%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	18.5	20.4	+10.1%	126.8	171.1	+34.9%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	104.1	120.9	+16.2%	729.6	1,119.6	+53.4%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	41.2	39.6	-3.8%	277.2	411.1	+48.3%
FRP & Composites	26.9	32.7	+21.7%	177.5	289.9	+63.4%
Human hair & related products	41.3	61.9	+50.0%	216.4	582.0	+168.9%
Medical items of plastics	28.8	33.4	+15.9%	220.8	266.5	+20.7%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	40.1	68.9	+72.0%	303.1	557.5	+83.9%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	38.6	48.7	+26.0%	305.9	400.0	+30.8%
Plastic films & sheets	108.4	156.5	+44.3%	1,005.1	1,301.7	+29.5%
Plastic pipes & fittings	17.0	20.3	+19.4%	112.0	177.6	+58.5%
Plastic raw materials	184.3	316.2	+71.6%	2,375.9	2,824.1	+18.9%
Writing instruments & stationery	11.4	15.0	+31.6%	104.7	135.9	+29.7%
	711.8	990.3	+39.1%	6,293.7	8,762.2	+39.2%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & house ware products** increased by 8.8% in November 2021 due to higher shipment of Travel ware of plastics (HS code 420212); Other safety headgear (HS code 65061090); and Tooth brushes (HS code 96032100).

Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments export were also up by 10.1% in November 2021 aided by improved sales of Monofilament, rods, sticks & profile shapes, of plastics (HS code 39169028 and 39169090); and Other twine of polyethylene or polypropylene (HS code 56074900).

Export of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin** gained 16.2% during November 2021 as sales of Sacks and bags of other plastics (HS code 39232990); and Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers or FIBCs (HS code 63053200) remained strong.

In case of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates,** exports in November 2021 were lower by 3.8% as Indian exporters reported a decline in sales of Other textile fabrics coated with plastics (HS code 590390).

Export of **FRP & Composites** was up by 21.7% due to increased sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (HS code 39269099).

Export of **Human hair & related products** clocked an impressive 50.0% growth due to strong sales of Human hair, unworked, whether or not washed and scoured (HS code 05010010); Human hair, waste (HS code 05010020); and Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (HS code 67030010).

Export of **Medical items of plastics** witnessed an increase of 15.9% in November 2021 due to higher sales of Syringes (HS Code 90183100); Cannulae (HS Code 90183930); and Blood transfusion apparatus (HS Code 90189032).

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** increased by 72.0% in November 2021 due to higher sales of Polypropylene articles nes (HS code 39269080); and Optical fibres, optical fibres bundles and cables (HS code 90011000).

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export increased by 26.0% on higher sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (HS code 39232100); and Other articles for conveyance or packing of goods (HS code 39239090).

Plastic films & sheets witnessed an increase of 44.3% in exports during November 2021 due to higher shipments of Self-adhesive films and sheets of plastics, whether or not in rolls (HS code 3919); Sheets and films of polymers of propylene (HS code 392020); and Flexible films and sheets of polyethylene terephthalate (HS code 39206220). Export of Plastic pipes & fittings witnessed a growth of 19.4% due to improved sales of Tubes of polyethylene (HS code 39172110); Other tubes of polymers of vinyl chloride (HS code 39172390); and Flexible tubes, pipes and hoses, having a minimum burst pressure of 27.6 MPa (HS code 391731).

Plastics raw materials export was up 71.6% in November 2021 due to higher sales of Linear low-density polyethylene (HS Code 39014010); Polypropylene (HS Code 39021000); Polytetrafluoroethylene (HS Code 39046100); Other acrylic polymers in primary form (HS Code 39069090); Epoxy resins (HS Code 39073010); and Polyethylene terephthalate in various forms (HS Code 39076190 and 39076990).

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** witnessed an increase of 31.6% in November 2021. This product segment, especially Ball point pens (HS Code 960810), is limping back to growth after a period of difficult sales due to closure of schools and offices.

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 20 - Nov 20	Apr 21 - Nov 21	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers, for the packing of goods, of synthetic or man-made textile materials	406.6	658.5	+62.0%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	518.0	444.4	-14.2%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	376.1	531.0	+41.2%
39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other	224.1	331.4	+47.9%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached	206.0	436.9	+112.1%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	174.8	285.1	+63.1%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0,94, in primary forms	242.4	154.5	-36.2%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene, in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	190.4	168.4	-11.5%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (excl. made-up of individually sheathed fibres of heading 8544)	131.5	285.9	+117.5%
48239019	Decorative laminates	123.7	173.5	+40.3%
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	136.2	167.2	+22.7%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914: Polypropylene articles, nes	115.9	192.2	+65.8%
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	129.1	210.3	+62.9%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	98.3	144.4	+46.9%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	95.1	182.0	+91.3%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	84.9	130.5	+53.8%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	93.0	112.1	+20.6%
39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. polymethyl methacrylate): Other	63.6	204.8	+222.0%

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	74.1	120.1	+62.1%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	75.3	85.0	+12.9%
39011010	Linear low-density polyethylene, in which ethylene monomer unit contributes 95 % or more by weight of the total polymer content	89.2	61.2	-31.4%
54072090	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of >= 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of <= 1 mm: Other	59.3	88.4	+49.1%
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	67.4	76.9	+14.2%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	62.7	106.8	+70.3%
90183930	Cannulae	62.0	66.2	+6.8%
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	67.9	77.6	+14.4%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	63.3	53.5	-15.4%
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	62.6	58.8	-6.0%
96081019	Ball-point pens	54.0	65.3	+20.9%
39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	50.2	64.2	+27.7%
39072090	Polyethers in primary forms (excl. polyacetals): Other	60.4	32.0	-47.0%
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	48.3	77.9	+61.4%
95030030	Toys of plastics	52.5	73.8	+40.5%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	50.5	63.4	+25.6%
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	53.6	64.2	+19.7%

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	47.9	59.6	+24.5%
96032100	Tooth brushes, incl. dental-plate brushes	41.5	59.3	+42.7%
59031090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride: Other	38.9	47.1	+21.1%
39023000	Propylene copolymers, in primary forms	53.5	40.1	-25.1%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms: Ion exchangers of polymerisation	42.6	48.5	+13.9%
39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	35.0	45.9	+31.1%
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	38.2	44.9	+17.6%
39241010	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Insulated ware	29.8	43.9	+47.5%
39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms (excl. cellulose acetates, cellulose nitrates and cellulose ethers): Other	37.2	46.0	+23.5%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	36.3	48.7	+34.2%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics: Caps and closures for bottles	33.3	44.6	+34.1%
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	33.5	45.8	+36.8%
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	24.4	20.1	-17.7%
39073010	Epoxy resins	24.8	74.5	+200.9%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	32.4	54.4	+68.3%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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Get Ready for a Fund Raise

The SME sector plays an important role in boosting the Indian economy and contributing towards the development of a country. There are over 6 crores SMEs in India today and these registered and unregistered SMEs employ a workforce that consists of 40% of the working population. Money is the backbone of any business and availability of funds is essential. During the first year of operation, lack of funds is the most common problem faced by an SME & one of the main reasons for shutdown.

The key objective as a businessman for raising funds is expansion & growth over a couple of years. Funding is required to increase the capacity of the business with regards to raw materials, infrastructure, facility expansion, marketing & promotion etc.

While entrepreneurs and innovators have continued to transform unique ideas into a reality, the question often shifts to long-term existence through fund raise and sustainability? Only 1 out of 10 business owners are able to raise funds for the graduation of their business into the next stage.

And you wonder why? The answer is quite simple: They aren't prepared for a Fund Raise, nor did they take efforts to make their business fundable.

What is a Fund Raise?

It is a process that every business has to go through multiple times during its lifetime. Nevertheless, the need to raise funds is beyond the results of having more capital, it is also to draw partners to your business that will contribute to positive change.

Fund raise or Fundraising is a process where you would put up your business as an exhibit. It will be closely evaluated by those you hope to raise funds from viz. Banks, NBFCs, Venture Capitalists, Angel Investors, et. al. This tells them the health of your business.

To withstand the critique, you need to groom your business in a way it is easy to understand what or who drives your business, what is your business's Unique Selling Point (USP), and other such questions and these can be difficult points to pinpoint or assess. At such times, it would be important to solicit the advice of Finance Professionals or experts who have the expertise in helping you in scaling up or raising funds for your company.

9 Elements of a Business Plan to remember if you are Looking to Raise Funds

What makes the difference between a fundable and non-fundable business? What are those Key Elements of a Business Plan which convinces the VC? Besides the idea and the passion of the entrepreneur, a thorough business plan, which transforms into the business pitch is probably one of the most crucial presentations and documents for a business with all the critical elements which can help the investor make the right decision.

Here is a checklist of the most important Elements of a Business Plan, which can help raise funds.

#1: Take On The Problem Head On, At The Start

The very first part of the business plan should clearly, and concisely define what the problem which your business is going to solve is? Several times, the entrepreneurs are over-excited with the 'solution' which they are offering and focus on that first. The solution becomes sellable, only when the problem is defined and explained in detail.

#2: Your Business or Product USP: The Solution

Once the problem has been defined, head straight to the solution part, and make it the USP or Unique Selling Proposition of your business. You can avoid the technical jargon, and the insider details of the solution, but explain it in layman terms so that even a non-technical person can understand it. If the VC is not able to understand how you are solving the problem, his brain automatically will reject the idea.

#3: Market Size, Competition & Numbers

Once the problem and the solution have been provided, focus on the numbers: The size of the market, the segmentation, demographics, customer landscape, competition and basically, how big can your business grow?

Investors like businesses which can eventually hit the billion-dollar mark, and double-digit growth, but it depends on the market size. To provide credibility, Components of the Business Plan should have reports from reputed publications such as Forrester or Gartner, and never, ever underestimate the competition during the presentation of the business plan. Investors like those entrepreneurs who know who their competitors are, and to what extent can they disrupt your venture.

#4: The Business Model

This is probably the most important feature among all Parts of the Business Plan: How will you make money? The business model should have revenue projections, profit estimation, gross margins, details like who will eventually pay you money for sustaining operations. The entrepreneur should be really passionate and dedicated to finding and calculating these numbers because at the end, this is what makes or breaks the business.

#5: Marketing & Sales

Once the business model is established and explained, move over to the Elements of a Marketing Plan, which is laser-focussed on results. Yes, we admit that marketing and sales is a dynamic process, and there can be no future-proof, cemented plan in this regard. But the VC should know your vision, and the ideas you have regarding marketing and sales, and how your idea will spread in the ecosystem. How the sales channel will be established, how marketing funnels, affiliates, partners will be created. These should be the Key Components of a Business Plan. If you can acquire Letter of Intent (LOI), contract summaries from sales/marketing partners, then it will undoubtedly boost your chances, as it shows a concrete plan and vision.

#6: Your Most Important Asset: Your Team

A team is what builds and nurtures your business. Before asking how much money you need as venture capital for your business, always present the team or the expected team as one of the Major Components of a Business Plan. Investors invest in teams, and not ideas.

#7: Money You Need: Your Funding Requirement

Based on your business model, and the projections, calculate how much money your business needs, and then explain the planned usage of the funds. Quantify every penny, and calculate the sweat equity and capital needed and invested. An estimate of the current valuation is also recommended, if possible. All three factors of volume, cost and pricing parameters should be considered and explained.

#8: Financial Predictions

A separate financial model is required by most of the investors before they say yes. But a brief financial prediction can be made within the business plan, which mainly projects revenues and expenses for the next 5 years. And past 3 years, if you have an existing startup. Factors such as breakeven and growth predictions can also be included. Overall, the investor wants to know where you are currently, and where you want to go, and how his investment can make him money.

#9: Exit Strategy

On average, every investor invests with an aim to generate 10X returns on exit. This is the reason that a projected and estimated exit strategy should be in place, which gives an idea to the investor about your business' plans, and how you as the founder will be able to leverage its potential during an exit. It can be an IPO, a sell-off to another big investor, or more.

What are the Different Types of Investors?

There are various types of investors that cater to solely one financial channel and invest most of their capital in it. Before they are categorized into their different subtypes, an investor is first categorized based on two main categories – active investor and passive investor.

- Active Investor – An active investor is someone who constantly checks the market for amazing investment opportunities and has made investing an integral part of their life. For example, investors like a stock market investor and a cryptocurrency investor can be categorized as active investors.
- Passive Investor – On the other hand, a passive investor is an investor that makes long-term investments that may have poor value at the start but hold a lot of value potential for the future and can serve as an excellent investment opportunity if you are willing to wait for a long time. An investor like a mutual fund investor and a real estate investor often come under this category.

Financing Options for SMEs

1. Angel Investor

An angel investor is an investor that has amassed massive amounts of wealth and revenue for themselves. This investor earns an income that is 3x-4x or even more than the income of most successful average men. Their net worth is often found to be in millions, and they are an investor who can be found anywhere in the industry sector. An angel investor primarily invests in first-time business companies and startups by purchasing large amounts of their shares.

2. P2P Lenders

P2P lenders are investors, or groups of investors, that help small businesses get a chance with their products and services in the financial market. These lenders are specialized in this type of investing, and if a business wants their financial help, they need to appeal to them by themselves. If they like the business idea and think it has potential, these lenders personally fund the ventures of small businesses and purchase their shares.

3. Personal Investor

A personal investor is an individual investor that invests their capital in a business company, or any investment opportunity for that matter, for their own personal gain. They do not represent a group, nor do they invest only in small ventures particularly, but everywhere they see a chance of investment. If these types of investors were to invest in businesses, they need to go through a rigorous documentation process to do so.

4. Banks

Banks are investors as well, but they invest in a different way than individual investors. Banks provide businesses, companies, and individual loans that act as their "investment." This investment gets a fixed monthly return which is increased by the interest rate charged by the bank. If a business is looking for financing through investing, opting for loans from their local banks is their best choice.

Banks may also be willing to provide an overdraft of some sort and may be willing to lend in the long term where that lending can be secured on major assets such as land and buildings. However, raising medium-term finance to fund operations is often more difficult for SMEs as banks are traditionally rather conservative. This is understandable as the loss on one defaulted loan requires many good loans to recover that loss. Hence, many SMEs end up financing medium-term, and potentially longer-term assets, with short-term finance such as an overdraft. This is poor matching and very much less than ideal. This issue is often known as the 'maturity gap' as there is a mismatch of the maturity of the assets and liabilities within the business.

Furthermore, banks will often require personal guarantees from the owner-manager of the SME, which means the owner-manager has to risk his personal wealth in order to fund the company.

5. Venture Capitalists

A venture capitalist is an investor that invests in a business or company only and only if the said business has an idea or growth rate that has the potential of becoming immensely successful one day. If a business shows signs of rapid growth in the future, a venture capitalist will be the first investor to invest a large amount of capital in the business by purchasing an equity stake.

6. The SME owner, family and friends

This is potentially a very good source of finance because these investors may be willing to accept a lower return than many other investors as their motivation to invest is not purely financial. The key limitation is that, for most of us, the finance that we can raise personally, and from friends and family, is somewhat limited.

7. Listing

By achieving a listing on a stock exchange an SME would become a quoted company and, hence, raising finance would become less of an issue. However, before a listing can be considered the company must grow to such a size that a listing is feasible. Many SMEs can never hope to achieve this.

8. Supply chain financing

In supply chain financing (SCF) the finance follows the value as it moves through the supply chain. SCF is relatively new and is different to traditional working capital financing methods, such as factoring or offering settlement discounts, because it promotes collaboration between buyers and sellers in the supply chain. Traditionally there was competition as the buyer wanted to take extended credit, and the seller wanted quick payment. SCF works very well where the buyer has a better credit rating than the seller.

Conclusion

Fundraising is certainly a crucial gateway that can be a matter of survival and growth for your business and an investor is an integral part of the business world. Hence it is imperative that you understand the process and enlist help or manage information in the most astute manner before you embark upon your fundraising journey.

DISCLAIMER: Some content in the above article have been sourced from msmex.in

PRODUCT LINE

rPET

- rPSF
- rPET Granules (FDA Approved)
- rPET Flakes
- Polyester Yarn
- rPET Master Batch

rPP

- rPP Regrind
- rPP Granules
- Additives Fillers
- Woven Fabric & Sack
- Master Batch

rHDPE

- rHDPE Regrind
- rHDPE Granules (FDA Approved)
- rWoven Fabric

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PASHUPATI EXCRUSION PVT. LTD. Kashipur (Uttarakhand)	SRM SPINNERS LTD. Bhilwara (Rajasthan)	KUNDANA TECHNO TEX PVT. LTD. Hyderabad (Telangana)
SALASAR TECHNO TEX PVT. LTD. Jaipur (Rajasthan)	SAURABH CLEAN TECH PVT. LTD. Alwar (Rajasthan)	PASHUPATI AGENCIES Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)

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POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) NOVEMBER 2021

High Density Polyethylene HDPE)				• HDPE prices increased by Rs 1500 per MT in November 2021 after an increase of Rs 7500 per MT in October 2021. HDPE prices were unchanged in September 2021. • In November 2021, HDPE prices witnessed a rise of Rs 1500 per MT in the first week. Thereafter no changes were announced.
⟷	↑	↑		
Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21		
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)				• LLDPE prices moved up by Rs 2500 per MT in November 2021 after an increase of Rs 9000 per MT in October 2021 and Rs 1000 per MT in September 2021. • In November 2021, LLDPE prices witnessed a rise of Rs 2500 per MT in the first week. Thereafter no changes were announced.
↑	↑	↑		
Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21		
Low Density Polyethylene(LDPE)				• LDPE prices moved up by Rs 5000 per MT in November 2021 after an increase of Rs 15000 per MT in October 2021 and Rs 1000 per MT in September 2021. • In November 2021, LDPE prices were hiked by Rs 5000 per MT in the first week. Thereafter no changes were announced.
↑	↑	↑		
Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21		
Polypropylene (PP)				• PP prices were unchanged in November 2021. PP prices had increased by Rs 10000 per MT in October 2021 and Rs 1000 per MT in September 2021. • In November 2021, PP prices increased by Rs 2000 per MT in the first week but were reduced by Rs 2000 per MT around mid-month.
↑	↑	⟷		
Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21		
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)				• PVC prices fell by Rs 13000 per MT in November 2021 after an increase of Rs 20000 per MT in October 2021 and Rs 11000 per MT in September 2021. • In November 2021, PVC prices were reduced by Rs 13000 per MT around mid-month. Thereafter no changes were announced.
↑	↑	↓		
Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21		

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research

ION EXCHANGERS BASED ON POLYMERS

Ion exchangers based on polymers are cross-linked water insoluble polymer-carrying, ionisable functional groups that find use in water & waste water treatment as well as non-water and speciality applications in industries such as pharmaceuticals, food & beverages, chemicals and others. The product is classified under Subheading 391400 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Ion exchangers based on polymers is valued at USD 2.0 billion per year.

- In 2020, top-5 exporting countries of Ion exchangers based on polymers were: Sweden (20.6%), China (19%), United States of America (15.8%), Japan (7.3%), and India (4.6%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Ion exchangers based on polymers were: United States of America (17.1%), China (9.2%), Germany (7.1%), Republic of Korea (5.3%), and Switzerland (4.7%).

In 2020-21, India exported 20,870 tonnes of Ion exchangers based on polymers valued at USD 65.9 million to the world. United States of America and Germany were the major export destination countries both in terms of value as well as volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (tonnes)
United States of America	20.52	United States of America	7,204
Germany	7.77	Germany	2,534
Saudi Arabia	4.22	Republic of Korea	925
Republic of Korea	3.14	Russia	756
China	2.98	Turkey	754
Thailand	2.11	China	699
Russia	2.06	Vietnam	663
Japan	1.97	Saudi Arabia	618
Turkey	1.94	Japan	617
Vietnam	1.51	Belgium	569

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

India is also an importer of Ion exchangers based on polymers. In 2020-21, India imported 6,055 tonnes of Ion exchangers based on polymers valued at USD 56.6 million from the world. While Sweden, Germany and Singapore were the top three suppliers in terms of value, China was the top supplier in terms of volume.

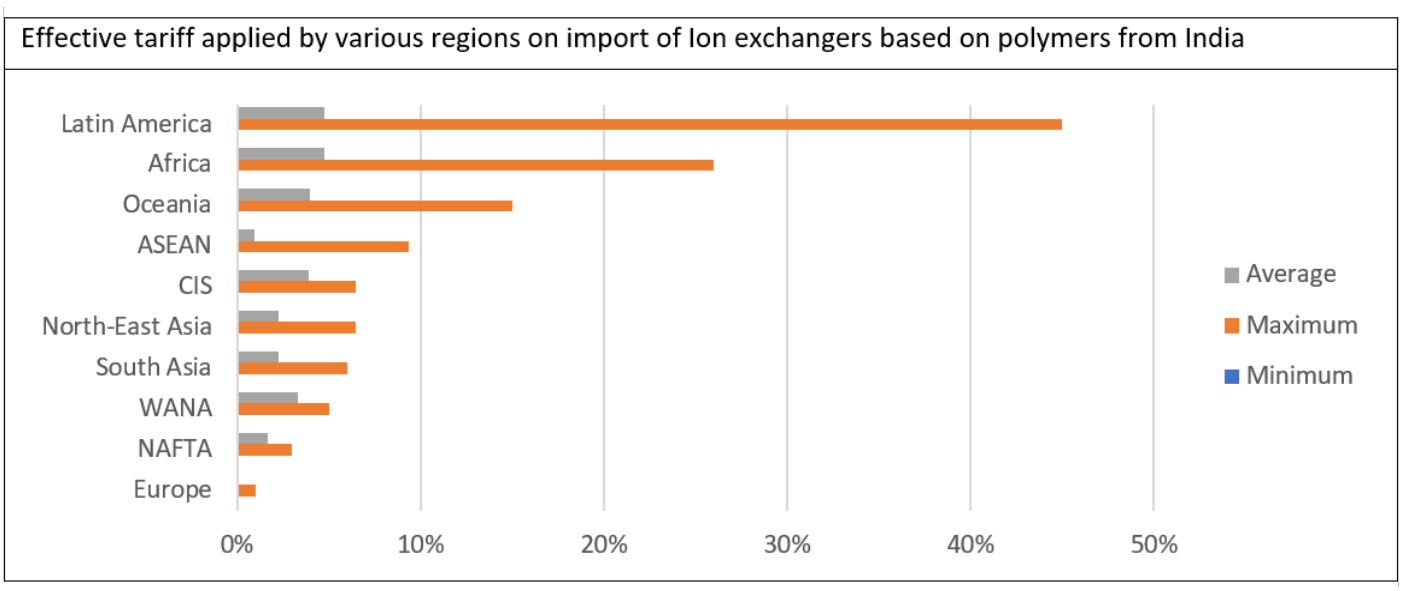
Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (tonnes)
Sweden	9.24	China	2,894
Germany	9.04	Brazil	1,452
Singapore	8.00	Belgium	318
United States of America	7.64	United States of America	276
China	6.96	Germany	269
Romania	5.24	France	174
Brazil	3.18	Romania	144
France	2.14	Taiwan	125
Belgium	1.83	Italy	98
Japan	1.58	United Arab Emirates	74

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

Indian firms dealing in Ion exchangers based on polymers have immense potential to export to destinations like Germany, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Canada, Singapore, France, Taiwan, Netherlands, Belgium, and Russia.

There is zero customs duty applicable on import of Ion exchangers based on polymers from India in the European Union and the United Kingdom due to Generalised Scheme of Preferences Scheme; and in several ASEAN countries due to India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. Import of Ion exchangers based on polymers from India are eligible for zero customs duty in Japan due to India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and in Republic of Korea due to India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. In fact, the customs duty on import of this product in Nepal and Bangladesh (from India) also stands reduced due to the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area.

Unfortunately, several countries in Latin America, Africa, and Oceania do not accord any preferential treatment to Ion exchangers based on polymers exported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on these products is high.



Industry Speak

Interview with Mahendra Vyavhare, Managing Director, Autus Environment Protection Technologies Pvt Ltd.

What are the key drivers impacting the growth of the industry?

Water treatment applications have been increasing lately, owing to the strong demand for freshwater resources including drinking water segment for removal of Iron, Fluoride and Arsenic .

Ion exchange treatment process is commonly used for water softening or demineralization. It is also used for removing other substances from water in processes, such as de-alkalization, de-ionization, separation of impurities ,recovery of products

Power, chemical & petrochemical, pharmaceutical, food & beverage, electrical & electronics, and metal & mining are the key end-use industries of ion exchange resins. These resins are used to replace the magnesium and calcium ions in hard water with sodium ions and to remove poisonous and heavy metal ions to avoid scaling problems with process water as well as complete demineralisation of water for process steam and power plant water uses .

Water recycling is a multi-stage process in wastewater treatment plants & its demand is growing due to increasing stringent norms for industry

With the increasing need for water treatment across the globe, the demand for ion exchange resins is likely to grow further.

Besides water treatment functions, what are the other important emerging applications and uses of the product?

Chromatographic separations, Pharmaceuticals, Separation and recovery of product/precious metals, Food industry applications and Ultra-pure water application for semiconductor industry applications are some of the emerging application areas for the product segment.

India imports nearly as much as exports of the product. In your opinion, what is the reason for India's high imports?

Many high end application grade products are not made in India like Chromatographic resins, Pharmaceuticals, Chloroalkyl plant resins and Ultrapure grade/ thermal power plant condensate polishers resins. Largely, uniform particle size resins are not made in India and hence are being imported.

What are the challenges faced by manufacturers of the product? What are the challenges to market growth?

The major challenge is the longer durations required in getting permissions which are essential in starting up or expanding production capacities.

Furthermore, after the RO Membrane introduction, ion exchange resins are largely being used only as polishers in most of the water treatment plants which has limited it's growth. Secondly most the applications for separation and recovery depends on subsequent recovery techniques used after the use of ion exchange resins are costly hence only limited applications use ion exchange resins where product/precious metal recovery provides higher margins. This factor limits ion exchange resin uses to the larger applications.

What are the measures needed to enhance India's production capacities of the product?

Higher subsidies in setting up inhouse technology centres to focus on new product and technology developments and shorter durations for getting required permissions which are essential in becoming a global manufacturing hub which we truly should be getting are critical to boosting our production capacities.

What are the latest advancements/ developments in the product segment?

Ion exchange membranes are emerging products which are being tested for various applications , there are many applications where compact system demand is increasing in industries like power plants, semiconductor industries , pharmaceuticals etc , ion exchanger resin membrane provides larger surface area which helps to compact the system substantially and also produces lesser waste water , this feature is largely creating interest in other applications areas as well.

What are the new global opportunities for exports?

USA and Europe are traditionally 2 biggest major markets which are set to grow gain after Covid crises. Also, South east Asia market growth has been phenomenal recently which has benefited largely from migration of few industries from China. India is gearing up fast and chemical and pharmaceutical industry is flourishing, and overall market outlook looks promising!

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Overcoming Present Challenges in Shipping & Logistics

The shipping industry is an integral part of the transportation sector and the overall supply chain. Shipping moves goods across geolocations promptly, driving the economy toward a progressive path. The volume of cargo that ships carry is huge compared to other transportation modes, offering very significant economic advantages.

Dry bulk, containers, and oil tankers are the main markets the shipping industry caters to depending on the cargo. Commercial ships, largely, operate on a time-charter basis and the overall product size, cost per cubic meter of cargo, and weight per metric ton determine the shipping cost.

The role of maritime transport is more important than ever in supporting the resilience of national economies during the current crisis.

Shipping Lines`

Sr. No.	Carrier Name	Founder Year	Total Capacity (Teus) in Million	Total Container Ship
1	A.P MOLLER	1904	4.1	590
2	MSC	1970	3.65	500
3	Cosco	1961	2.9	360
4	CMA CGM GROUP	1978	2.69	509
5	Hapag Lioyd	1970	1.68	355
6	ONE	2017	1.57	271
7	Evergeen Line	1968	1.3	200
8	Yang Ming Line	1972	0.64	101
9	PIL	1967	0.393	153
10	Hyundai Maritime	1976	0.392	130
11	ZIM Line	1945	0.28	80
12	Wan Hai Line	1965	0.265	72

Challenges

Restrictions to the movement of goods and people initially affected all international shipping companies' financial performances with a significant slump in demand for goods and its transportation in the supply chain. Logistics chains face huge losses from the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on both the supply and demand side.

Despite the pressures of sustaining businesses and maintaining export orders, challenges for exporters have in the past months have further exacerbated by erratic shipping schedules. Changing COVID regulations in countries facing different levels of lockdowns or restrictions have resulted in ships have to skip port of calls, delay in departures or arrivals, reduced frequency and drastic increase in ocean freight. In fact, freight to Europe and USA has increased nearly 5 to 6 times pre-pandemic levels. Added to the chaos, there has been a non-availability of containers.

The shutdown of factories and scarcity of labor to load and unload cargo, and drivers to operate trucks, has paralyzed trade and smooth functioning port operations. Reduced number of free days at loading and destination port and damage to container inventory due to long delays coupled by delivery order cancellations have undoubtedly been adding to the logistics costs for exporters.

Globally, the volume has gone down by more than 15 percent and is likely to drop further along with challenges of ports congestion and increasing turnaround time. Very limited shipping line options due to mergers & acquisitions has also compounded the issue.

	Name of Shipping Line	Name of Shipping Line	Year Of Merger
1	A P Moller	Maersk	2011/2017
		Safmarine	
		Hamburg Sud	
2	MSC	MSC	
3	Cosco	Cosco	2018
		OOCL	
4	CMA CGM	CMA CGM	2018
		APL	
5	Hapag Loyd	Hapag Loyd	2018
		UASC	
6	One	NYK	2017
		MOL	
		K Line	

Reasons for the Challenges during COVID 19

With changing economic scenario caused by the intensity of the spread of the COVID virus, countries globally have been forced to implement restrictions and take often harsh steps regarding people movement. Shutting of airports and cargo terminals have been greatly impacted by such measures and this has undoubtedly, created an imbalance between Inbound/Outbound Cargo.

Operations at ports in USA and Europe were particularly impacted due to the high number of cases. USA is a top export destination for India while exports to Europe form a significant part of exports too. Slow operations at these ports and many others caused major disruptions to India's supply chains.

During the slowdown in the past months or year even, Chinese container manufacturers shut down manufacturing of containers leading to acute shortage of containers. China is currently the largest shipping container producing country in the world, representing over 85% of the world's total shipping container production. Meanwhile, China is also the home for several world's top 10 largest shipping container manufacturers, including CIMC, Singamas, CXIC, and CEC.

Geographically, Asia-Pacific is the largest regional market for shipping containers due to the rapid growth in the regional economy and development in the inter-Asia and intra-Asia trade. Hence, besides demand for regional, there has also been heavy demand of containers in China & Far East countries for west bound cargo.

In an unprecedented global phenomenon, the pandemic brought global economic activity to a near standstill between April to June 2020. However, activities picked up pace at a brisk rate and their came a sudden spurt in export growth post Aug 2020 leading to huge demand for containers. This was a period when the entire world was still in turmoil caused by the pandemic and exporters with limited operations in force, exporters became riddled by longer turnaround time and high shipping costs.

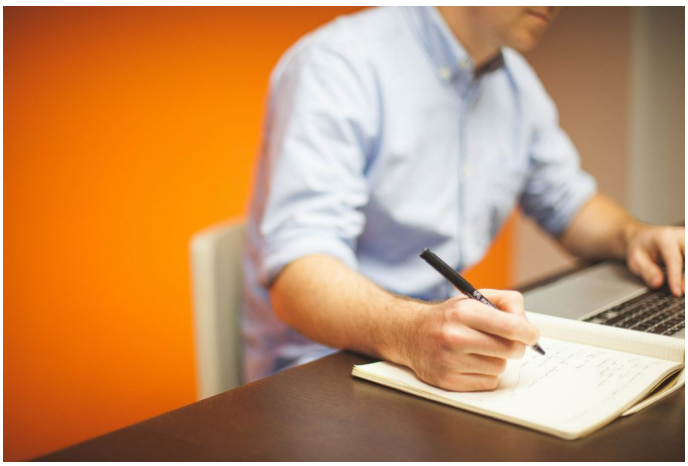
Where does the solution lie?

- Advance logistics planning for inbound/outbound cargo.
- Request Customers to accept Split Shipments
- Keep all Customers informed about the current Shipping scenario
- Review the old Orders & Contracts & Inco terms
- Avoid Over commitment
- Understand Commercial Geography & major Sea routes

- Split the business with multiple Shipping lines
- Book Containers inventory in advance
- Convert Big lot of Containers Imports in Bulk/Break Bulk shipments
- Look out for alternate Ports
- Prefer Direct Vessel without Transhipment wherever possible
- Tie up with knowledge partners
- Provide Port wise/Container Type wise monthly/ quarterly planning to Forwarders based on alloca-

tion (exporters/importers to provide based on their allocation)

- Rework the Container Stuffing plan size wise for the Europe, USA & South America sector due to Weight restriction of 18 MT in 20' Containers to optimize Ocean Freight & other Logistics Cost.
- Inform the Marketing department to check with the logistics office while giving quotations to Customer, prevailing Ocean Freight & trend to cover the Ocean Freight Cost for the entire Order qty based on delivery schedule.
- Plan inventory of Raw material (Import) based on current uncertainty in Shipping.
- Rework the arrival dates of Project cargo by keeping a margin of arrival time of at least 10 to 15 days to avoid project delay.



To conclude

Logistics are becoming more and more complex. Supply chain digitalization will increase the scale of transportation and allow for optimization of existing infrastructure. Closer insights into inventory status and transport flows will help companies further optimize their supply chains and make them more flexible. Intermodal transport, connections to the hinterland, and port-centric logistics are critical from an end-to-end supply chain standpoint. The preparation of giant container ships capable of handling more container units is expected to continue in the next 15 years.

The past year has been unpredictable and hectic for freight procurement and supply chain logistics management. In addition to an unforeseen blockage of the Suez Canal, the consequences of the pandemic have caused damaging shortages and disruptions for global supply chains – from shipping lines, ports, warehouses, factories, and more. While shippers and manufacturers are slowly beginning to recover, they are still likely to face residual challenges in 2022. If the past year has taught us anything, it is the importance of resilience and planning and to overcome these challenges and future ones, companies must find creative, yet pragmatic solutions to overcome logistics challenges.

DISCLAIMER: The above article has been developed with inputs from a leading expert in Shipping and Logistics based in Mumbai. All points/ data mentioned in the article are based on views of the expert. For any clarifications, readers may contact editor@plexconcil.org.

9 Upfront Decisions That Affect Plastic Bottle Recyclability

Want to increase your bottle's recyclability as much as possible? Review these best practices that will maximize the sustainability of the packaging.

In the path to creating packaging components that can be recycled, many brands fail to understand how upfront decisions can have a dramatic impact on downstream results. For example, having a basic understanding of how a package journeys through a "materials recovery facility" or MRF, as it is commonly referred to, is critical knowledge necessary to design easily recyclable packages.

You should consider these nine tips and explanations during the bottle design decision-making process.

1. The garbage journey.

At the MRF, curbside collected materials are dumped onto a table and fed into a conveyor. A near-infrared (NIR) camera is used to identify materials. The equipment uses an air jet to direct or deflect the package into the proper stream — PET, HDPE, landfill, etc. The goal is to engineer a package that stays in the recycle stream and doesn't get kicked off the belt and into the landfill category.

2. Camera confusion.

Packaging components such as shrink sleeves, closures, and paper labels made from a different material than the container can confuse the camera into thinking that the item is not recyclable. This can vary depending on the age of the equipment, sensitivity, etc. The process is not 100% foolproof and therefore may make incorrect decisions.

3. Increase your "through" rate.

The goal is to properly recycle as many packaging containers as possible, which is good business and good for the environment. So, with that as a superficial overview, what can you do to increase your "through rate?" What

evaluations should be a standard part of your process?

4. Iconic shapes.

Is it appropriate to create an iconic shape for your product/brand? Beyond boosting your brand equity, the environmental motivator is that an iconic-shaped bottle has less reliance on the label, which can also translate into a smaller label.

5. Smaller labels.

Smaller labels on your container reduce the chance that the NIR camera is going to misread your bottle. With more of the actual bottle surface visible, this increases the chance that the bottle will be directed to the correct recycling stream and away from the landfill.

6. Size matters.

It's important to be aware that anything smaller than 2 x 2-inches will fall through the conveyor tables. So, if you ask consumers to crush a container post use, you want to make sure it is still larger than that size.

7. Include label removal instructions.

The industry needs to continue to educate consumers. Most don't know one plastic type from another. Removing a label is not something consumers would do intuitively, so you need to remind them.

8. Smash 'em!

A container that rolls on a MRF conveyor belt is not a good thing because it increases the chance that it could be directed into the wrong recycling stream. Teaching consumers to flatten or smash your container will go a long way in getting it reclaimed. Further, you can find a happy medium between not having your bottle roll, yet still meeting your performance specifications for transport and usage.

9. Put the cap back on the PET bottle.

Putting the closure back on the bottle traps air. If a discarded but capped bottle ends up on a waterway, it will float, not sink. That will make it far easier to remove and recover. Regarding the recycling stream, the bottle with closure will be ground up together. The PET will sink, while the closure particles float. The latter materials are skimmed in the wash bath and sent off for olefin recycling for possible downstream use for items such as carpet fibers.

Source: Packaging Digest

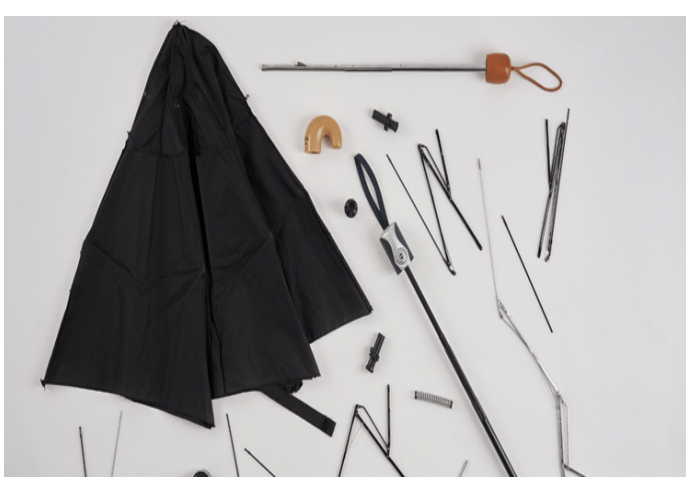
7 Innovative Products Made from Plastic Waste

One of the easiest ways to help the environment is to focus on what kinds of plastic we use, how we use them, and what we do to clean up the plastic already polluting the earth. Innovations focusing on plastic waste are one of the most popular things we cover here at Springwise. In honour of #plasticfreejuly, we have curated 7 of our best.

1. CUTTING BOARDS MADE FROM RECYCLED PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS

Matt and Jonny, the UK-based siblings and content creators of Brothers Make, have designed an upcycled cutting board made from used plastic bottle tops. Matt, a design and technology secondary school teacher, and Jonny, a senior account manager at a marketing firm, started making things together in 2018 as a way of spending more quality time together which eventually led to launching a YouTube channel. After gaining traction, the brothers opened an online store selling products made using 100 per cent recycled waste plastic. The shop sells a variety of things, ranging from plant pots, coasters and coffee caddies to buttons, Māori Pendants and guitar picks.

To ensure the chopping boards comply with safety standards, the brothers say that all the plastic that they receive is hand-sorted to ensure it is food-grade HDPE plastic and that there are no non-plastic contaminants left on the plastic. They then run the plastic through three sorting and cleaning cycles before being heated. They also said that they keep the heating process at around 140-160 degrees so that no fumes are introduced to the plastic or burning occurs.



2. UMBRELLAS DESTINED FOR LANDFILL TURNED INTO BEAUTIFUL HOME FURNISHINGS

Anti is a new design company created with a singular purpose. Every product that the business builds is up-cycled from an item that is rarely, if ever, recycled. The first collection is a series of desk and table lamps made from discarded umbrellas. With more than one billion umbrellas thrown away worldwide each year, the volume of available material is vast.

One of the main reasons that umbrellas are so wasteful is that they are not built to last. As part of the throwaway culture that simply replaces rather than repairs items, hundreds of thousands of pounds of metal, plastic and nylon are wasted annually through the incineration or dumping of umbrellas as rubbish.

The team dissembles each umbrella into its separate materials. Plastic pieces are either reused as is or melted down for 3D printing into new shapes. The final designs echo the original shapes of the umbrellas yet are far stronger and are built to be repaired and used for many years. If a customer wants to discard a lamp, the company runs a take-back scheme that reintegrates the returned item back into the circular design process.

3. PACKAGING WASTE TURNED INTO VEGAN LEATHER

With patent-pending technology, Israeli startup Remeant converts single-use plastics into sustainable vegan leathers. Each textile is unique, produced as it is from a particular set of waste products. The finishes on the leather-like pieces range from marbled and bubble wrap, to crinkly, shiny aluminium.

The technology is capable of upcycling some of the most difficult to reuse waste plastics, including bubble wrap, and the durable fabrics are lightweight, waterproof and washable. The team customises colours for clients, and the innovative process for Remeant, is already at work on other upcycling ideas. Remeant was four years in the making, and the textiles are able to be used for everything from leather upholstery projects to handbags, shoes, clothing and interior decorating.

4. NOVEL WOOD DECKING MADE FROM PLASTIC BAGS

Wood decking is beautiful and versatile, but not very sustainable. However, a Virginia-based company has developed a way to make ‘wooden’ decking almost entirely from waste products. The company turns reclaimed sawdust and plastic bags into composite deck boards and is now one of the largest plastic bag recyclers in the US.

Trex’s process is green from start to finish. Its proprietary processing method first cleans plastic film and grinds it into granules. These are then combined with sawdust reclaimed from factories, and the mixture is heated to give it a soft, pliable consistency. Profile dies are used to form the mixture into boards, which are cooled and cut to the desired length.

A standard, 16-foot board will use around 2,250 plastic bags, most of them the hard-to-recycle, thin-film type that is often used as sandwich bags, overwrap on kitchen rolls and as newspaper sleeves. To source the plastic, the company has set up its own nationwide recycling programme, with drop off points outside stores and in local communities and schools. Trex will also pay businesses that generate a lot of plastic waste to take the waste off their hands.

5. CRUELTY-FREE DEODORANTS MADE FROM OCEAN PLASTIC

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, between eight to 10 million tonnes of plastic is dumped into our oceans every year. Innovative companies are trying to do something about this by repurposing ocean plastic into new products. One of those taking this route is Sarah Ribner’s company PiperWai, which is

making a line of natural deodorants, designed to work on all skin types.

Instead of packaging its products in plastic or glass, PiperWai uses containers made from recycled ocean plastic. The containers are made by a non-profit that pays fishing boats to collect ocean waste instead of fish. The plastic is then cleaned and processed into new packaging, and the company also relies on solar energy for its operations. This is all fitting for a deodorant that is certified vegan, cruelty-free, and doesn't contain pollutants or toxic ingredients that harm the environment or people.

According to Ribner, the move away from virgin plastics was spurred on by many of her customers, who wrote in to ask when the brand would switch to more sustainable packaging. Ribner credits this to an increase in the amount of information that is available now about the climate crisis, saying that "…now, we have more access to information through social media and there's more attention on the fact that the climate crisis is one of the biggest that we're going to face."

6. KENYAN STARTUP RECYCLES PLASTIC INTO BRICKS STRONGER THAN CONCRETE

Tired of waiting for the government to come up with solutions to the plastic pollution problem in Kenya, Nzambi Matee decided to take matters into her own hands. The entrepreneur set up a factory, named Gjenge Makers, that recycles plastic waste into bricks stronger than concrete. The Nairobi-based factory has developed a prototype machine that is able to produce 1,500 bricks each day, made from a mix of different kinds of plastics. Matee collects the waste material from packaging factories for free and pays for the plastic from other recyclers. Working with a combination of high-density polyethylene used in milk and shampoo bottles, low-density polyethylene found in sandwich and cereal bags, and polypropylene used in ropes and buckets, the machine first churns the plastic waste with sand, then heats it and finally compresses it to form bricks.

Although Matee does stay away from PET, which is found most commonly in plastic bottles, Gjenge Makers has managed to recycle more than 20 tonnes of plastic waste into paving bricks since 2017, all of which come in an array of colours. Matee also plans to add a bigger production line that could triple capacity and hopes to break even by the end of this year.

7. UPCYCLED PLASTIC WASTE TURNED INTO STYLISH PUBLIC FURNITURE

An estimated eight million tonnes of plastic contaminate the world's oceans every year, adding to the 180 million tonnes that are already there. Ninety per cent of the plastic enters the oceans via rivers, including the Shin Mun River in Sha Tin, Hong Kong. In an attempt to alleviate this problem, two designers from Hong Kong-based HIR studio have created a collection of twelve benches. Looking to the Shin Mun River for inspiration, Howard Chung and Irene Cheng collected single-use plastic waste and upcycled them into stylish pieces of public furniture. The pair found that due to the lack of recycling bins and collection points, only thirteen per cent of Hong Kong's plastics are repurposed, and plastics are often being downcycled into rubbish bags or containers, therefore only extending them by one lifecycle.

Chung and Cheng tracked down a supply of recyclable HDPE plastics, with the help of NGOs Waste No Mall and the Sha Tin Recycling Centre, which collects from public housing estates and green stations every week. The process of designing the benches involved taking 20,000 items of salvaged plastic, weighing roughly half a tonne and mixing them with virgin plastic to ensure that the furniture was strong enough to withstand plastic use. As they found that there were still too many impurities in the composition from the recycling factories in Hong Kong, the pair turned to a factory in Foshan in southern China to produce the benches. There, the Sha Tin plastic was first shredded, then melted and then squeezed from a gigantic pipe, before being pulverised into pellets and set in moulds.

Source: springwise.com

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International News

Solvay to Supply Avio with Advanced Materials for Space Exploration

Solvay and Avio SpA have signed a long-term agreement for the supply of composite and adhesive materials for use across a range of projects including the Vega space program, the European Space Agency's satellite launch vehicles designed to send payloads into low Earth orbit. Solvay will supply Avio with ablative material, RTM resins, and adhesives. Solvay has a strong legacy in the space market and has long been a leader in ablative materials for space applications such as nozzles and exit cones. Its products have been used across many space launch programs over the years, thanks to their ability to withstand the extremely high temperatures produced by the rocket motor exhaust.

Avio has more than 50 years of history designing, developing, producing, and integrating space launchers for placing institutional, governmental, and commercial payloads in Earth orbit through its Vega rocket family.

"We are excited to extend our partnership with industry leader Avio and continue to support Vega critical missions," explained Carmelo Lo Faro, President of Solvay's Materials Segment. "We are all currently seeing renewed enthusiasm and investment in the global space race, and we believe that our advanced materials will be key enablers for space exploration, space tourism, and also the launch placement of satellite constellations. We helped put the first man on the moon and will be there for the first woman on Mars!"

"The long-term agreement strengthens the relationship between our companies," added Sergio Colabucci, Avio Procurement Director. "It also secures the supply to Avio of strategic products for Vega family launchers in the upcoming years, when the demand of launchers to place satellites into low Earth orbit is expected to increase."

Source: Plastics Today

Polyamide Connectors Harness Cables with Color in EVs

Cable harnesses are among the most complex assemblies found in electric vehicles (EVs). Their numerous connectors not only all have to be marked in different colors to indicate a range of functions and support assembly and maintenance, but they also must be flame retardant and mechanically robust. With the polyamide 6 compound Durethan BKV30FN04, Lanxess has developed a material that has already been tried and tested in numerous series applications, including in cable harnesses for electric models produced by a European-US automotive manufacturer.

"In contrast to polyamides that are flame-protected with red phosphorous, our halogen-free, flame-retardant compound can also be dyed with bright, vivid colors like orange (RAL 2003) and yellow," said Bernhard Stoll, an expert in the use of plastics in electrical and electronic components at Lanxess. "The compound and color exhibit a high level of heat stability, which means that the different connectors can be easily and reliably distinguished throughout the vehicle's entire service life." The connectors are manufactured by Amphenol-Tuchel Electronics GmbH in Heilbronn, Germany.

Pre-colored compounds reduce costs

The polyamide 6 compound from Lanxess achieved the V-0 classification (test body thickness: 0.75 mm) in the UL 94 flammability test. "We have the compounds listed by UL on the Yellow Card under 'All Colors,' which also includes colors like yellow, orange, and blue. This means that processors will not have to color the product themselves or have the product undergo the time-consuming UL certification process. They can simply use our pre-colored compounds as they are, which helps to cut costs," said Stoll.

Cable harnesses run along the entire length and width of the vehicle and bundle all the different on-board power supply lines for electric and electronic functions like power converters, battery charging systems, electric drives, and infotainment systems. The total length of the cables can reach several kilometers, which is one of the reasons why cable harnesses are so heavy. The complexity of cable harnesses makes them very expensive components, which is why the connectors must not break during installation. "Our compound is extremely strong and tough, meaning that the connectors can easily withstand bumps or being dropped," said Stoll. The thermoplastic is highly resistant to chemicals, so its strength and stiffness are barely compromised upon contact with electrolytes or coolants. It also exhibits excellent tracking resistance, achieving a CTI (Comparative Tracking Index, IEC 60112) value of 600 in orange.

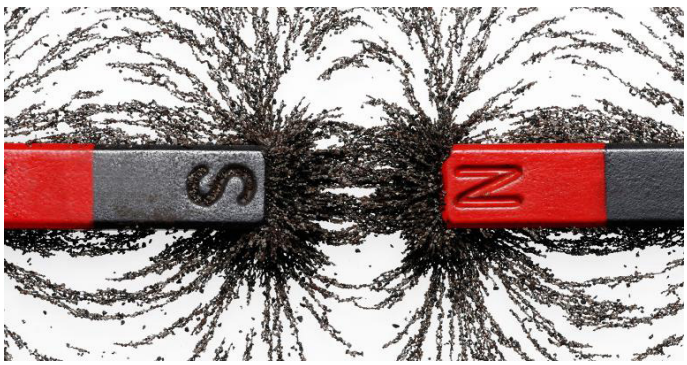
Wide processing window

Durethan BKV30FN04 is used for connectors in the fields of electro-mobility, as well as signal transmission technology and industrial engineering. "Here, too, our compound has proved suitable for injection molding in a stable process within a wide processing window. The material's flame-retardant additives leave hardly any deposit in the mold, which helps to ensure a long tool service life and efficient production," said Stoll. And when it comes to occupational hygiene, the polyamide 6 is easier to handle than equivalent compounds that are flame-protected with red phosphorous.

Source: Plastics Today

Magnetic Ink Attracts Sustainable Solutions

Sometimes you hear about an idea that's so simple and makes so much sense that you can't believe it took this long to implement it. Even my esteemed SPRING colleague, Tom Brady, PhD, who has been around the recycling block a few times, calls this concept "brilliant". As many of you are aware, PET beverage containers are often wrapped with PET-G (or sometimes polyvinyl chloride aka PVC) shrink-sleeve labels. The problem is that the labels are contaminants in the recycling process. They have a density higher than water and can't be separated from PET flakes during the sink-float separation step of the recycling process. Thus, they contaminate the recycled PET stream and reduce the quality of recycled PET (rPET).



California has gone so far as to consider PET-G to not be PET and does not allow it to carry a #1 RIC code. Thus, perfectly recyclable PET bottles that use shrink-sleeve labels never make it to MRFs, and usually end up in landfills.

A startup company called Magnomer has developed a unique and rather elegant solution. Their process applies a magnetic ink to the shrink labels. The ink can be transparent or of various colors and is applied with standard label printing equipment.

When recovered bottles reach the processor, they are ground up as usual. As they leave the grinder for pelletizing, a magnet is used to attract and separate out the shrink label flakes.

Per a survey done by Magnomer in conjunction with the Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR), magnets are already in place to prevent metal contamination, so incremental investments, if required, will be minimal.

According to Ravish Majithia, founder and CEO of Magnomer, "what makes our system unique is its convenience. Recyclers get a cleaner PET stream without significant financial investments or changes in operating procedures. And consumers can simply drop the bottles in their recycling bins or return them for deposit repayments. Also, the need for consumers to look for and remember to remove perforated polyolefin labels prior to recycling is eliminated."

Magnomer has successfully tested their system with label producer American Fuji Seal and a global beverage company in fully commercialized, scaled up labelling and bottling facilities. They are engaged with the APR for their Innovation Recognition program. The Recognition program entails commercial-scale testing at a minimum of two MRFs and two reclaimers. Magnomer expects to receive APR recognition in Q1 2022.

There's another benefit to Magnomer's technology: It has benefits for paper recycling streams as well. It could allow materials recovery facilities (MRFs) to cost effectively use magnets to separate out laminated films, such as chips bags. This would help remove plastic contamination from paper bales, where these flexible packages often end up today

I asked the director of a county solid waste management district in the Northeast for their thoughts regarding this approach and was told that, "if proven out in the 'real world', I think it would be a big help in that consumer confusion would be eliminated regarding whether or not they're supposed to remove labels from PET bottles. One less rule makes consumer education easier. Removing foil laminated snack bags from fiber runs would be great, particularly in high volume MRFs."

Source: Plastics Today

Fresh salmon packed with Styropor® Ccycled™: The world's first EPS fish boxes based on chemically recycled plastics introduced in Norway

Fresh fish and ChemCycling™: How does this go together? In a joint project, three companies have demonstrated how it works: BASF as raw material supplier for EPS, VARTDAL PLAST, who converts the beads into filet fish boxes and Bremnes Seashore that uses the boxes for the transport of some of its high-quality salmon brand BÖMLO® as of Christmas 2021.

"The EPS Fish Box is a well-known and trusted companion of ours with excellent properties for maintaining and securing the cold chain during transport. A secure cold chain is vital for food safety and preventing food waste. For us at Bremnes Seashore it's exciting to try an alternative where the carbon footprint is significantly reduced and we always appreciate initiatives that promote the circular economy," says Simon Nesse Økland, Head of Development at Bremnes Seashore.

Food contact approval and virgin-quality packaging

Thanks to its manufacturing process, Styropor® Ccycled™ has the same properties as conventional Styropor®. This maintains the excellent packaging properties such as thermal insulation and pressure-resistance with good buckling stiffness and stacking stability, which are essential to keep fish cool and safe at the same time. In the production of the packaging foams that have become so well-known over the last 70 years, pyrolysis oil replaces fossil raw materials. BASF sources this oil from technology partners who use a thermochemical process called pyrolysis to transform post-consumer plastic waste that would otherwise be used for energy recovery or go to landfill into this secondary raw material. BASF then uses the oil at the very beginning of the value chain to manufacture new plastics and other products.

Since recycled and fossil raw materials are mixed in BASF's production Verbund and cannot be distinguished from each other, the recycled portion is allocated to Styropor® Ccycled™ using a mass balance approach. Both the allocation process and the product itself, have been certified by an independent auditor. In addition, a certified Life Cycle Assessment evaluating the environmental performance of the product concludes, that compared with conventional Styropor®, at least 50 percent of CO2 is saved in the production of Styropor® Ccycled™.

Styropor® Ccycled™ for each key application in BASF's EPS product portfolio

"Chemical recycling of plastic waste is not only an essential building block to achieve the European circular economy targets but is especially useful for applications with high requirements for the quality and safety of the material such as protective packaging, pharma boxes and food packaging. We are therefore very proud of the ChemCycling™ project with Bremnes Seashore on EPS fish boxes and we are happy to have helped our customer to progress on his sustainability path," says Klaus Ries, head of BASF's styrenics business in Europe.

Also, for the converter VARTDAL PLAST Styropor® Ccycled™ brings a lot of advantages as the product is identical to virgin material. Therefore, the production process does not have to be adjusted. The company and their products are certified according to the ecoloop certification programme, confirming that 100 % recycled material was used as feedstock. "Bremnes Seashore has been a customer of VARTDAL PLAST for decades and we are excited that they are the first customer to choose VARTDAL AIRBOX LOOP, an EPS fish box made from 100 % Styropor® Ccycled™ raw material derived from chemically recycled plastics", says Jan Endre Vartdal, owner and CEO at VARTDAL PLAST. "Our goal is to transform our entire production from using fossil based raw materials into using fossil free or recycled raw materials. The use of Styropor® Ccycled™ raw material from BASF enables us to begin this transformation in close cooperation with our customers without compromising on quality and recyclability".

Circular economy in action: fish boxes are recyclable and recycled

EPS fish boxes are an important packaging product within the EPS product family. The first fish box was made back in 1965 and has since become an essential tool for transporting fresh fish all over the world. With an average weight of 0.6 kg per box the standard EPS fish box on average can carry 22 kg of fresh fish. In addition, EPS fish boxes are recyclable and recycled widely in Scandinavia and other European countries. Therefore, fish boxes are collected, compacted, and shredded. The shredded EPS fish boxes are then used as feedstock to produce recycled polystyrene which can be used for various applications such as insulation boards. "As a plastic producer we have a responsibility to contribute to getting our products back into the loop. For this reason, we have set up two high-capacity compacting sites in the middle of Norway and in the eastern part of Norway. By utilizing return freight, our own trucks collect and transport EPS from waste disposal sites, fish processors and building and construction hubs back to our compacting sites, where the EPS is shredded, compacted and palleted ready for recycling. Our long-term goal is to source the compacted material back into our product series VARTDAL LOOP® which only consists of products made from recycled or fossil free raw materials", Jan Endre Vartdal adds.

Source: Packaging 360

AmPrima™ PE Plus offers a breakthrough sustainability innovation for complex packaging formats

Amcor Flexibles North America continues to forge an innovative path to its 2025 sustainability goal. This time, the stepstone is the combination of critical machinability performance and barrier characteristics for product protection of shelf-stable liquid foods.

AmPrima™ PE Plus recycle ready solutions provide brand owners with innovative packaging that supports recyclability in categories that have been historically challenging. At the same time, AmPrima PE Plus innovation delivers highly durable hermetic edge and fitment seals that perform well under abusive manufacturing, distribution and usage conditions.

Amcor, a leader in responsible packaging design and development has engineered a high-barrier flexible film that provides superior heat resistance and is a more-sustainable alternative to standard metallized or foil-based structures.

"We know that in today's world of high-performance equipment, rigorous quality testing and consumer-driven environmental consciousness, developing a recycle-ready solution that delivers on all attributes is crucial," said Amcor Marketing Director Brian Douglas. "Our proprietary, oriented structure has a demonstrated ability to run on commercial converting and filling equipment at the same machine speeds as non-recyclable material, putting it in a different class from other conventionally-oriented, recyclable film options."

Amcor's AmPrima PE Plus heat resistant recycle ready solutions for pouches delivers significant value in multiple ways. It offers:

- Pre-qualification of film by How2Recycle® in the U.S for applications that meet the clean and dry requirement
- Sealing and spout insertion without distortion due to heat-resistant outer web
- Ability to match current run cycles per minute achieved with a non-recyclable oriented polyester laminate
- Product quality and flavor preservation with high-barrier properties comparable to AlOx or metallized films
- Excellent durability for distribution, including puncture and scuff resistance

A 22% reduction in carbon footprint for AmPrima PE Plus heat resistant pouches compared to a 3ply foil solution even when the used packaging is landfilled. Once recycled the reduction increases to 49%.*

*Verified by ASSET™ – Amcor's proprietary lifecycle assessment tool certified by the Carbon Trust
Leading the market with the first high-barrier, high-speed, heat-resistant, recycle-ready solution is a strategic opportunity for today's environmentally-focused brands.

Source: Packaging 360

TotalEnergies and Plastic Omnium to Develop Recycled Materials for the Automotive Industry

TotalEnergies and French automotive supplier Plastic Omnium have signed a strategic partnership to design and develop new plastic materials, made from recycled polypropylene, for the automotive industry.

TotalEnergies and Plastic Omnium will pool their engineering skills to design new types of recycled materials that offer enhanced performance while providing deliverable responses to the challenges raised by end-of-life plastics. These new materials will contain anywhere from 20% up to 100% recycled materials and are sourced from industrial and domestic waste streams. They also will have a CO2 impact as much as six times lower than using virgin materials.

The use of plastics in automotive bodywork plays a key role in cutting the automotive industry's carbon emissions. They make it easier to improve aerodynamic performance and reduce the overall weight of vehicles, helping in turn to cut the amount of fuel used by internal combustion vehicles and increase the autonomy of electric vehicles.

"This partnership with Plastic Omnium is a great example of collaboration and innovation to develop ever-higher and environmentally friendly recycled plastic materials that help our OEM and vehicle manufacturer customers to reduce their carbon footprints," said Valérie Goff, senior vice president, polymers at TotalEnergies. "This project will also contribute to addressing the challenge of the circular economy and to our ambition of producing 30% recycled and renewable polymers by 2030."

"Recycling plastic materials is a challenge to us as manufacturers, and a vital issue for our planet," said Stéphane Noël, president and CEO of Plastic Omnium Intelligent Exterior Systems. "This exciting partnership paves the way to providing responses that are better integrated and more environmentally friendly, reflecting our customers' and suppliers' carbon neutrality goals. This is absolutely central to a strategic partnership that seeks to support the far-reaching transformation the industry is currently undergoing."

Source: ptonline.com

SK Geo Centric and Kolon Industries launch eco-friendly plastic PBAT

SK Geo Centric (SKGC), a subsidiary of SK Innovation, announced on December 22 that it is going to commercialize and launch PBAT, an eco-friendly biodegradable plastic material in collaboration with Kolon Industries.

PBAT (Polybuthylene Adipate-co-Terephthalate) is an environmentally friendly plastic that degrades swiftly in nature due to oxygen, heat, light, and enzyme reactions.

SK Geo Centric has been working with Kolon Industries on joint research and development since last year, and was able to launch a commercialized product in just eight months after signing a strategic partnership agreement in April, which was followed by the development of prototype products and the acquisition of an eco-label certificate EL724).

SK Geo Centric is expanding its client base through supplying PBAT raw materials and its marketing expertise and network. SK Geo Centric is South Korea's only producer of 1,4-Butanediol, a key ingredient in PBAT as well as a variety of fabrics, plastics, and electro-chemical substances.

Kolon Industries, on the other hand, has a high level of technological prowess in producing polyester products and will produce high-quality PBAT at Gumi Plant by combining both companies' technological skills in terms of optimum temperature, ideal material mixing ratios, and other factors, based on a reliable supply of PBAT raw material.

While regular plastic takes over a century to disintegrate in the natural environment, PBAT decomposes by more than 90% in just six months after being buried.

Consequently, it makes it a highly eco-friendly plastic substance. It can be used in a variety of disposable bags and agricultural plastic mulching films, to name a few, due to its quick decomposition speed and flexibility.

Plastic mulching film is an agricultural plastic film used to maintain soil's temperature and moisture.

In particular, it can have a similar strength to existing plastic films such as LD and LLDPE when it is coupled with other components such as harder PLA ((Poly Lactic Acid) starch. It also has excellent printability and workability, allowing it to be used for a variety of packaging purposes.

The Gumi plant has a PBAT production capability of 3000 tons per year. According to the industry, the global PBAT market will expand from 220,000 tons in 2020 to 800,000 tons in 2025, as demand for biodegradable products grows exponentially in response to increasingly stringent environmental regulations.

Working with Kolon Industries, SK Geo Centric intends to boost its manufacturing scale to 60,000 tons by 2020 to meet rising demand in the global biodegradable plastic market. "We believe PBAT will have a broad application in the future since, due to its flexibility and rapid decomposition rate, it is harmless to the environment when buried to the ground," said Kang Dong-hoon, Vice President of SK Geo Centric's Green Biz Group. "We will accelerate our 'Carbon to Green' strategy by churning out more eco-friendly chemical products."

"We are ecstatic to be able to contribute to the solution of environmental problems by mass-producing biodegradable plastics, especially because plastic waste has been identified as one of the major sources of pollution," said Lee Bum-han, Head of Kolon Industries' Technical Division. "We will accelerate our ESG management in order to position ourselves as an environmental company that opens the door to a sustainable future."

Source: Korea IT Times (http://www.koreaittimes.com)

Igus to set up injection moulding facility in Bengaluru

Igus, a German company that is into motion plastics, will set up a 10,000 sq. ft. injection moulding facility in Bengalure, as an expansion of its existing product customisation unit at Mahadevapura.

Motion plastics are self-lubricating, low maintenance, durable parts for industrial machinery, appliances, equipment, and automobiles. They are manufactured using high-load bearing polymers that are equally or more reliable than similar products made of metals.

Deepak Paul, Managing Director, Igus India, said, "India is one of the key markets in the world for Igus, occupying one among the top 10 positions, globally. An injection moulding facility in India has been a long-standing requirement of our customers in the country."

Injection moulding of plastic is the process of melting plastic pellets. Once malleable, they are injected at pressure into a mould cavity to make a part or product. Stephen Moreno Simpson, International Group Development, Igus GmbH, said, "Igus products are manufactured in accordance with its guiding principle – plastics

for longer life. Our products are designed to extend the service life of machines and applications, eliminate maintenance and reduce costs."

Motion plastics products find application across diverse manufacturing industries, including the automobile industry. Around 90% of cars on Indian roads have Igus motion plastic products or parts. The company offers 20 million parts a month to the automobile industry.

Igus has a target to double its India revenues from ₹120 crore in 2020-2021 to ₹300 crore in the next 3 to 4 years. "We have achieved double-digit growth for the last 20 years in India. We are now witnessing a 60% growth, which is more than our record high," said Santhosh Jacob, Country Manager and Director, Igus India. On November 24, the company unveiled 180 of its new products at a virtual exhibition: Igus Motion Plastic Show (IMPS) where customers can see the products and interact with experts.
Source: The Hindu

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India's downstream industry yet to tap its huge export potential

"India's per capita polymer consumption is one third of global average. This points to the enormous potential, especially with the kind of development and urbanization that is currently underway. With the kind of growth trajectory that India is on, there is a huge demand for chemicals, hygiene, diapers, smart cities, and infrastructure piping material etc. Infact, there are many overseas players that are setting up their units to tap this potential," says Sanjiv Sharma, Executive Director - Corporate Planning and Economic Studies, Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

The petrochemicals are in net deficit as the imports continue to happen. It shows that India requires a lot of petrochemicals and a lot of scope for investments," commented Sharma.

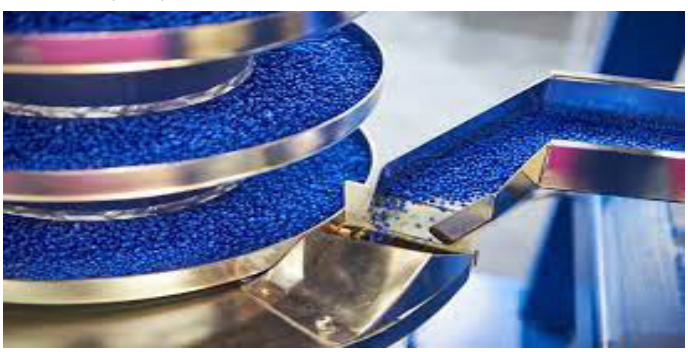
"The key issues that hamper the growth of petrochemicals are capital intensive costs and power blending costs which are 8.85% in India, compared to 3.35% in the United States. Another challenge is feedstock disadvantage. We are using Naphtha whereas globally Ethane is being used. We have lower import duty and from the investor point of view, it is a disadvantage for those who want to set up shop here. There is also a regional imbalance of petrochemical plants as far as demand is concerned. We require policy changes to remove the impediments. We have potential for high margins and value additions. There have to be plans for domestic players. The development of industrial parks and investment zones, and plastic neutrality are the way forward," added Sharma.

Sharma spoke at the panel discussion 'Unlocking Capacity and Capability: Opportunity for Investment in the Downstream industry' along with other speakers at the Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals Conference (ICPC) 2021 organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

"With the hike in Naphtha feedstock cost, refineries will have to take a call on the adoption of renewables. They will need to move towards adoption of green hydrogen technologies. With crude to chemical clusters in demand, defining the contours of an optimal transition becomes necessary. The pivotal technologies are available such as steam cracking, hydrocracking, and catalytic cracking. The approach needs to be refined as achieving 85% petrochemicals is a big challenge," says T. N. K. Bapiraju, CGM - Technical, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited.

"Plastic industry employs 15 million people in India but there are few exports. The lack of access to ports is a great impediment to exports. Comparatively, China is 40-50 times bigger exporter than India. The places near ports are expensive and it is difficult to set up large capacity units that require space. It is difficult to operate if you don't get good quality power. Discoms ask us to amend the processes which are high cost. Government has to amend the existing set of rules. Managing the large complexes with 80,000 people is a huge challenge as the labor policies are not friendly. With businesses suffering due to unionism, owners get fearful about operating at such levels. The value add of plastics is not very high and the government could do well in terms of PLI for the industry. Export oriented with land around ports, labor policies, and quality power supply are the few ingredients of achieving turnover of Rs. 8-10 lakh crore in the next 10 years. This will add huge value. Many new players can come to the business and help the country to take off and build a plastic business," says V. K. Taparia, Executive Director, The Supreme Industries Limited.

"We have been exporting US $10 billion dollar plastics and we want to achieve US $12.8 billion exports in 2022, in alignment with the government's US $400 billion export target. The import volumes are rising but not as compared to the exports. The export of value added products witnessed a growth of 47.5% growth during April-October, 2021 in comparison to 14.5% for plastic raw materials. From US $6 - 8 billion this year, we are targeting US $25 billion exports in the next five years. China and Korea are way ahead of India. Chinese exporters get a wide range of government incentives aimed at encouraging firms to produce almost exclusively for the foreign market. South Korea has 17 FTAs with ASEAN. Smaller economies like Vietnam and Malaysia are also catching up. Polymers are expensive in India. Main reason is cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) prices for India are 10-15% higher than prices offered to China and NEA countries. Main reason is India is highly dependent on import of plastic raw materials to manufacture value added products both for domestic and export markets. Now if India buys expensive polymers, how can we be competitive in world markets? Government needs to look at CIF," says Arvind Goenka, Managing Director, RMG Polyvinyl India Limited.



"The plastic processing capacity has been 55 million tons, growing at 8.85% CAGR in the last 5 years. There is US $10 billion investment in the last 10 years and we still do Rs. 45,000 crore worth import per annum. China is exporting a lot of finished products to India and accounts for 40% of plastic imports in India. The cheap Chinese products have a direct impact on local craftsmen in India. Chinese products such as telecom, toys, mobiles etc. have a huge demand in India. Unavailability of latest technology to produce the plastics can be tackled by adopting latest technologies to produce finished goods. The plastic process industry can get additional Rs. 45,000 crore by creating the domestic options. The demand for plastic processing machines is real and there is potential for employing 250,000 people," says Arvind Mehta Chairman, Governing Council, AIPMA and Managing Director, Welset Plast Extrusion.

"Plastic industry will play a critical role in the US $5 trillion economy and is therefore expected to grow at a significant rate. However, recycling of the plastic too has to be part of this process. Currently, while the recycling rate is growing at 3%, the polymer consumption is 12% and there is a deficit of 9%. There will be environmental consequences if we don't devise the disposal of plastics. Plastic polymers increase and Naphtha will increase but there is no focus on increasing the ratio of disposal. Land bound plastic is increasing and by 20250, we might be sitting in plastic homes. The industry must look at the issues. Recycling industry is at the nascent stage and there is a mismatch between the polymer manufacturing and recycling. There is excitement about the advanced recycling but is still way behind in terms of actual requirement. One of the challenges is that manufacturers are expecting good quality of recycled plastics and that is affected by the bad quality of scrap that reaches them. It is the time industry should encourage the recycling industry and the government must help in setting up clusters for the recycling companies and provide them incentives," says Hanumant Saraf, Business Head - Plastic Gemcorp Recycling.

Source: Indian Chemical News

Realistic approach to steer PCPIRs towards successful outcomes

"We have got inputs from a wider spectrum of people to understand the issues within the PCPIRs. Dahej is the only PCPIR that we have envisioned fully and it offers us lessons in terms of what still needs to be done. While the anchor tenants and other key factors have been partially achieved, we need to do more on infrastructure and policy," says Rangarajan Vijayaraghavan, Vice President, Adani Group.

There have been multiple aspirational intentions that have been laid out. Why Dahej has not been able to take off the way it was expected is because of the issues across the value chain. The interesting part is that while our exports have grown fast, the imports comparatively have grown faster. It points towards the opportunity where the Indian chemical industry has to step up efforts to bridge the gap of US$ 163 billion worth of demand," commented Vijayaraghavan.

"The master plan can pick up global lessons, especially from Europe and the Middle East. As an example, Jurong Chemical Park in Singapore since inception has been export oriented and leveraged the position of the location. In each of the PCPIRs, investors will be different, so will be the schemes and policies. Setting up of manufacturing plants is fine but a lot depends on the facilities for infrastructure developers and skill development of resources. At the same time, self-certification is critical for specialty chemicals as the product mix changes fast and can't wait endlessly for the regulatory approvals. The strategic master plan will enhance the capabilities of such PCPIRs," adds Vijayaraghavan.

Vijayaraghavan spoke at a panel discussion on 'Leveraging Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIRs) to achieve rapid integrated growth,' at the Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals Conference (ICPC) 2021 organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

"We anchor our solutions on sustainability as we align to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which include a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators over the next 15 years. Among the future added considerations are industrial symbiosis, energy transition, resiliency, digitalization, and climate change. Energy innovations help reduce total global energy consumption to mitigate the increased demand from population and economic growth. Refinement and upgrade of our planning processes and considerations are pertinent to ensure future industrial clusters are sustainable and relevant. Timely identification of the issues within the present ecosystem and support infrastructure could help in drawing a strategic roadmap for revival of PCPIRs in India," says Wooi Leong, TAN Senior Director (Energy & Industrial), Surbana Jurong Infrastructure Pte Ltd.

"Union government is actively supporting the respective states to make their PCPIRs successful. There is a need for all the stakeholders to come together and share their inputs for the master plan which has to be developed jointly by the government, investors and anchor tenants. This approach will help in understanding the issues better and provide the solutions in advance. It is also good to see that PCPIRs are looking at their global counterparts for lessons and advice," says Samir Kumar Biswas, Additional Secretary (Chemicals), Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India. "Demand assessed for 52 petrochemical end products is 87 MMTPA by 2040 and the demand and supply scenario in petrochemicals is expected to be deficit by 45 MMTPA, which accounts for Rs. 3,44,032 crore. New PCPIR policy would facilitate PCPIRs as a major growth enabler for the chemical and petrochemicals industry. Pursuing refinery-Petchem stream utilization and imports for downstream units would be way forward. Based on interaction, downstream industry players expect pipeline facility and storage facility and storage of feedstock, common infrastructure, suitable incentive schemes to encourage them to put up facilities in the Eastern region," says Dhananjay Sahoo, GM (PC Strategy & TS), Indian Oil Corporation.

"Odisha's unique value proposition is its long coastline with 3 major ports for easy import and export. PCPIR in Paradip is the home to Indian Oil's largest refinery complex. The anchor tenant with 15 MMTPA capacity will be soon expanded to 25 MMTPA. 4 MMTPA dual feed Naphtha cracker, feedstock is available for the downstream units including Paradeep Plastic Park. The feedstock options from Indian Oil include Polypropylene Plant with the capacity of 860 KTA; Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) plant with capacity of 357 KTA to be com-

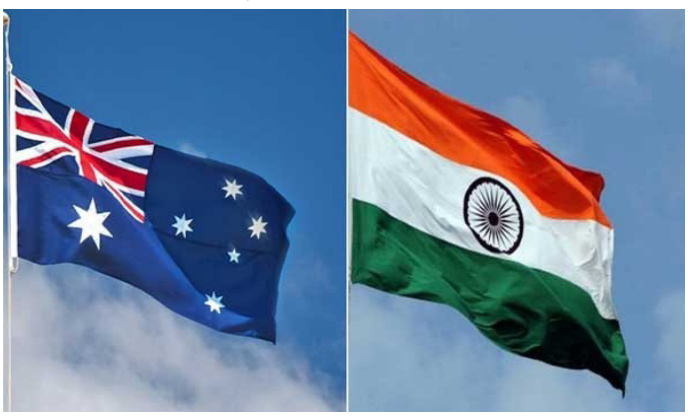
missioned in 2022; PX-PTA Plant with capacity of 1200 KTA to be commissioned in 2023-24. Others include Ethylene and Propylene from a Paradip Refinery, Toluene and Mixed C4 stream," says Kalyan Mohanty CGM (SLNA), Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL), Government of Odisha.

"The proposed Rajasthan PCPIR has a lot of strategic advantages with excellent connectivity and location. It will fall within the influence region of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor. Investors have tremendous opportunities to invest across the downstream value chain. There is an investment potential of Rs. 7,500 crore and employment generation potential of 1.4 lakh jobs by 2030. Of the ethylene downstream petrochemicals, particularly PVC and EO derivatives have immense potential in the future; there could be merit in exploring a cracker unit at this stage. Several value-added ethylene downstream product chains would be crucial to explore as demand for many of these products are likely to register double digit growth over the next 5-10 years," says Kulveer Singh, Additional GM, RIICO, Government of Rajasthan. Source: Indian Chemical News

Interim trade deal soon ahead of India-Australia FTA

India and Australia have decided to expedite the pace of negotiations to clinch an interim trade deal, which will be followed up with a broader free trade agreement (FTA). Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and Australian minister for trade, tourism and investment Dan Tehan held a virtual meeting on Tuesday and reviewed the progress made in various rounds of talks between the chief negotiators of both the sides.

Earlier this year, both the countries had aimed at clinching an FTA, formally called bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, by December 2022. However, an early-harvest deal was to be clinched by this Christmas. The FTA will cover goods, services, investments, government procurement, logistics, standards and rules of origin, among others. While bilateral goods trade stood at $12.3 billion in FY21, India had a deficit of $4.2 billion with Australia, as it shipped out merchandise worth just over $4 billion.



Major traded items include mineral fuels, pharmaceutical products, organic chemicals and gems & jewellery. "The ministers appreciated the progress made in various rounds of talks between the chief negotiators of both the sides and discussed the way forward for an early conclusion of interim agreement," the commerce ministry said in a statement. Both Goyal and Tehan decided to "deepen the engagement and directed the officials to speed up the negotiations to pave the way for a comprehensive agreement".

"The ministers look forward to a balanced trade agreement that encourages benefit to both the economies and their people, and that reflects their shared commitment to a rules-based international trading system," the ministry said.

Although talks for an FTA with Australia have been going on since 2011, the reluctance of Indian industry to offer greater access in farm and dairy products and Australia's unwillingness to further open up its services sector for the free movement of skilled Indian professionals have delayed the outcome of the negotiations. However, in the past two years, the talks have gained momentum. The negotiations with Australia are a part of India's broader strategy to forge "fair and balanced" trade agreements with key economies and revamp existing pacts to boost trade. The move gained traction after India pulled out of the China-dominated RCEP talks in November 2019.

Earlier this month, India and its third-largest export market, the UAE, held the last round of formal negotiations for a "mutually-beneficial" comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA). New Delhi and Abu Dhabi aim to sign the deal by March 2022 after the completion of necessary ratification processes. If all goes as planned, it would be the first FTA to be signed by India in just over a decade.

Balanced FTAs are expected to also enable the country to achieve sustained growth rates in exports in the coming years. Already, India has set an ambitious merchandise export target of $400 billion for FY22, against $291 billion in FY21.

Source: FE

Govt working to bring changes in GST Act, public platforms to support biz: Jayant Sinha

The government is working to bring changes in the GST Act and other public platforms so that companies can utilise data to grow big in size and scale, Jayant Sinha, Chairperson, Parliament Standing Committee on Finance, said on Thursday.

"Public platforms such as UPI and Aadhaar are very important platforms. Even then, for us to leapfrog, we have to do more in terms of public platforms," Sinha said while speaking at the Assocham e-summit on 'Non-Banking Finance Companies & Infrastructure Financing: Transforming the Financial Lending Landscape'.

When the Factoring Bill came to the Standing Committee on Finance, the government was opening up factoring to more non-banking financial companies and enabling more NBFCs to participate in that.

"But even as we were doing that we were not addressing some important platform and data related issues. That is why we suggested that anything that is on GST as an invoice should automatically be gone to TReDS as well. Then it can be used on TReDS to finance receivables and so on.

"So, that was the recommendation of the committee, and I am very happy to tell you it was accepted by the government," Sinha said.

However, he said, any change will need statutory backing through legislation, as the GSTN (GST Network) does not enable the usage of data within GSTN for any other purpose. So, there is a need to change not only the central GST Act but all the state GSTN Acts to enable GSTN invoices to automatically get on to TReDS or other platforms, he added.

TReDS is a platform that facilitates discounting of invoices for MSMEs from corporate buyers through multiple financiers.

He said GST is fast becoming the commercial backbone of this country, and the government is doing all the necessary changes that will be required to support the businesses.

For India to leapfrog and become a globally competitive economy of the size of USD 10 trillion, public platforms, as well as private innovation, need to work in tandem, he said. While making public platforms frictionless is 10 per cent of the story, 90 per cent of the story lies with the private players and businesses to innovate.

"So, those are the kind of things we are working on right now, and there is a report that we will be putting out on strengthening credit flow to MSMEs, and we would welcome input from NBFCs on that"

"Private sector innovation is required on top of these public platforms. The good news today is that there is ample capital available. Because of the great exits and tremendous capital that we have in the market right now, there is plenty of capital available to support high-quality businesses," Sinha said.

Source: FE

ECLGS: Govt's credit guarantee scheme crosses Rs 3 lakh cr mark in loans sanctioned to MSMEs

The Rs-4.5-lakh-crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) announced last year by the government to support MSMEs and other businesses with their operational liabilities post Covid has sanctioned loans amounting to Rs 3.09 lakh crore as of December 10, 2021, according to the data by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC). The guarantee coverage by NCGTC is provided to member lending institutions with respect to the credit given by them to MSMEs whose total credit outstanding across all lenders and days past due as of February 29, 2020, is up to Rs 50 crore and up to 60 days respectively.

The latest data on ECLGS sanctions was shared by MoS Finance Ministry Bhagwat Karad in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha. The sanctioned amount till December 10 was up from Rs 2.86 lakh crore loan sanctioned as of September 24, 2021, as per a Finance Ministry's statement in September.

Importantly, the government had extended the scheme till March next year from September this year. This was the fifth extension since the scheme's launch in May last year. From earlier extension till November last year, ECLGS was extended further to March 2021 followed by June and then September before another six-month extension along with subsequent expansion in scope as well to include more sectors and markets. Further, the

last date of disbursement under the scheme was extended till June 30, 2022.

The total beneficiaries under the ECLGS scheme have been more than 1.25 crore. “Over around Rs 2.90 lakh crore loans have been sanctioned (under ECLGS). With this support, over 1.25 crore beneficiaries have strengthened their businesses. The majority of them are MSMEs,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said on November 12 at the virtual launch of the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

However, according to a TransUnion Cibil report earlier this month, 57 per cent of ECLGS borrowers had said it wasn’t easy to avail the credit facility under the scheme. The study was based on sample data of loans amounting to Rs 1.45 lakh crore disbursed out of Rs 1.7 lakh crore in overall disbursement under ECLGS 1.0 and ECLGS 2.0 till March 2021.

Source: FE

FIEO sees export growth slowing in FY23, aims for $460-475 billion

India’s exports growth may slow to 15-17.5% in FY23 but containment of Covid-19 through massive vaccination across the globe and creation of required capacity will be the decisive factors, the country’s top exporters body has said.

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) on Thursday said that FY22 is expected to end with merchandise exports of $400 billion but the aim for the next fiscal is $460-475 billion.

India’s exports in FY21 were $290.6 billion and the country is expected to clock $400 billion this fiscal, a growth of 37.6%.

Since $400 billion would be a high base for FY23, an export growth of 30-35% on such numbers would be difficult particularly as additional exports may require augmenting the capacity as well, FIEO said in a statement. “Looking into the emergence of the new variants and supply side challenges at this point of time, we would like to be a little conservative and will aim for an export of $460-475 billion during the next fiscal,” said FIEO President, A Sakthivel.

Much will depend on the containment of Covid-19 through massive vaccination across the globe and creation of required capacity, which would decide whether India should look for 15-20% growth or even more for the next financial year, according to the statement.

“Moreover, the spectacular increase in global trade by about 22%, buoyed by high prices of commodities, as witnessed in 2021 will not be there to provide the tail wind to our exports,” he said, highlighting the emergence of the new variants and supply side challenges.

Sakthivel said the good thing with India’s exports has been a very balanced growth across sectors both in traditional exports as well as sunrise sectors of exports during the current fiscal. “We are hopeful that the same trend will continue particularly as the order booking position of all exporters are extremely encouraging and China plus one policy of global companies is definitely helping our exports,” he said.

As per FIEO, a trend of India’s exports during the current year shows that in the first seven months of the current fiscal, when the overall exports grew by about 59%, almost all regions showed a growth rate of about 60% or more except for ASEAN, North East Asia and CIS countries.

Therefore, in the next year as well, exports growth will be widespread and exports to NAFTA, Europe, Middle-East, Oceania will continue to boom particularly and India should look at concluding trade pacts with the UK, UAE, Canada and Australia, and a regional economic alliance with EU, GCC (UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait), SACU (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini) and other economic regions.

The federation said that lack of capacity is one of the major concerns to meet the increasing demand. Moreover, with increase in the prices of inputs, skyrocketing freight and delays in shipments and payments have resulted in the need for additional credit.

"While container shortage has eased due to peak season supplies for Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year getting over, the same is likely to compound once countries open up after the holiday seasons particularly if the new variant is not brought under control," Sakthivel said.

Source: ET

With PLI schemes & global demand recovery, India exports likely to fly high in New Year

After staging a strong recovery from COVID-induced slowdown in 2021, India's exports are likely to extend the growth story to the New Year also on increased demand in the global markets, boost in domestic manufacturing due to production-linked incentive schemes and implementation of some interim trade pacts.

Expectations of positive growth in the country's exports are also backed up by the outlook of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which predicts a 4.7 per cent expansion in the global merchandise trade volume in 2022. Exporters believe that the outbound shipments would cross USD 400 billion mark in this fiscal going by the current momentum and may reach USD 475 billion in 2022-23. However, the growth and global demand will also depend on whether the countries would be able to contain Covid-19 and the new variant Omicron through massive vaccination worldwide, they suggest.

Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said that the world respects India as a trusted global business partner now and the country's exports are growing in regions including the Middle East, Arica and South American nations, besides India's traditional destinations.

"An intense review and monitoring at macro and geographical levels are helping to find new areas of trading relationships. Various measures to improve ease of doing business, incentivisation schemes like PLIs, rationalisation of duties is facilitating the trade like never before," he told PTI.

To boost exports, the government has taken several measures such as notifying RoDTEP (Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) rates, and releasing Rs 56,027 crore against pending tax refunds of exporters and steps to promote ease of doing business, the secretary added.

The centre has implemented a series of steps to promote exports of both goods and services and that includes the introduction of RoDTEP and Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Schemes, the launch of Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin to facilitate trade and increase FTA utilization by exporters, promoting districts as export hubs by identifying products with export potential in each district and addressing bottlenecks, and promoting ease of doing business.

The recently introduced PLI schemes will also support growth in the New Year, particularly in mobile, electronics and drugs and pharma sectors as incremental production will push additional exports as well.

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

Membership Benefits

- Discounted fees at International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions
- Financial benefits to exporters, as available through Government of India
- Disseminating trade enquiries/trade leads
- Instituting Export Awards in recognition of outstanding export performance
- Assistance on export financing with various institutions and banks
- Networking opportunities within the plastics industry
- Listing in PLEXCONCIL member's directory
- Special price for Dun & Bradstreet's D-U-N-S® REGISTERED™ SOLUTION (Plus Variant)

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

Sr. No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Director Name	Email
1	Centenary Geotex Private Limited	A 703, Palak Elina, nr. Hathising Vadi Opp. Vasantnagar, Iscon Ambli Road	Ahmedabad	380058	Gujarat	Raghav Rajiv Bansal	raghav@centenary-geotex.in
2	Udyogi Plastics Private Limited	294 Bepin Behari Ganguly Street, 2nd Floor	Kolkata	700012	West Bengal	Giriraj Kumar Mundhra	exim@udyogi.net
3	M Pac	2nd Floor, H-54, 2046 Paiki, Fudhnawadi, Outside Sahara Gate,	Surat	395010	Gujarat	Mahendra Shyamsundar Sharma	nagwanpuneet@gmail.com
4	Viva Pack Private Limited	401, Accron Building, Near Rameshwar, Mahadev Temple, Ghoddod Road,	Surat	395007	Gujarat	Nilaksh Shyam Agarwal	radhagovind@alpha-packaging.co
5	South Asia Impex India	#116/1, Basement Floor 22nd Cross, Govindarajanagar,	Bangalore	560040	Karnataka	Katte Narayan Praveen	info@southasiaim-pex.in
6	Arjun Agri & Bio Energy Private Limited	NO. 47 Rajaji Road	Salem	636007	Tamil Nadu	R R Arjun Mohan	arjunmega@gmail.com
7	Naveen Graphics Pvt. Ltd.	A 1/327, Second Floor Janakpuri,	Delhi	110058	New Delhi	Suraj Bhalla	surajbhalla@gmail.com
8	Cinderella Hair Casstle	No.15 G1,Flat Maadev Apartment, 5st Street, Devi Nagar Kolathur	Chennai	600099	Tamil Nadu	Arunkumar V	cinderellahaircast-le2020@gmail.com
9	Revex Plasticisers Pvt Ltd	A-73, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-1	Delhi	110028	Delhi	Dipesh Gupta	dipesh@revex.co.in
10	Kairos Polymers Private Limited	PLOT NO 4 & 5, Survey NO. 63/2 P1, ON National Highway 27 Village : Pipaliya Taluka : Gondal	Rajkot	360311	Gujarat	Jayeshkumar Vadasola	kairospolymers@gmail.com
11	Vistas Investments Private Limited	NO.41 2nd Cross 8TH A Main 4TH Block , Koramangla	Bangalore	560034	Karnataka	Dabbala Sukada Reddy	vistasvision87@gmail.com
12	Reform Packaging Private Limited	PLOT NO 12 13 Sanand Land And Develop Estate Opp Gokuldham Arcade Village Ularia Taluka Sanand	Ahmedabad	382210	Gujarat	Vijaykumar P Shah	vijayshah@reform-pack.co.in
13	M Plast India Ltd	A-19, Bathla Apartments 43, I.P. Extn.	Delhi	110092	New Delhi	Mohit Shukla	ms@mplast.com
14	Keep It Fresh LLP	PLOT NO. 18,Sector -06,IMT - Manesar,	Gurgaon	122052	Haryana	Sidharth Sareen	accounts2@rustx.net
15	Major Polypack Industries	Morbi Rajkot Highway, Survey No.475/1, Lajal, Bhimnath Mahadev Road,	Morbi	363641	Gujarat	Shaileshbhai K Bhalodiya	export.majorpoly-pack@gmail.com
16	Ravago Manufacturing India Private Limited	PLOT NO. 96, Alindra, GIDC Manjusar,	Savli,	391775	Gujarat	Deepak Shah	chirag.shah@rava-gomi.com
17	Mayfair Colortech Pvt Ltd	B/1, 103, 106, 107, 1ST Floor, Kripa Industrial Estate, Near Mumbai Nashik Highway, Sonale	Bhgiwandi	421302	Maharas-htra	Sejal Tanna	mayfair.cpl@gmail.com
18	Preet Flex	1602/C, GIDC, Halol Panch Mahals,	Halol	389350	Gujarat	Gautam Jain	global@themoks-hgroup.com