



PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT[®]

Edition 42, December 2022



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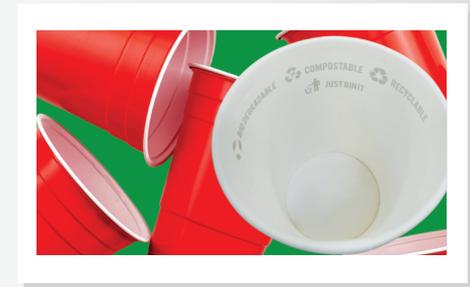
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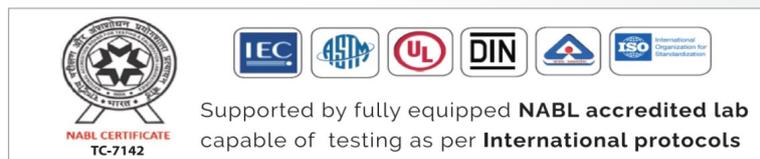


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It's finally December and as the entire world is gearing up for the year end festivities and spending quiet moments with the family, I believe that the month brings with it simplicity, clarity and the silence needed to introspect and plan for a brand-new start in the coming year.

After a spectacular end to the last financial year with nearly USD 418 Billion in exports, 43% growth over its previous fiscal, merchandise exports in October contracted 16.5% to stand at USD 29.78 Billion. Despite the Govt of India's best efforts to promote manufacturing through various schemes, the euphoria of the past achievements has been severely hampered by the upsurge in geopolitical crisis world over. This is the first time that merchandise exports have contracted in two years on a year-on-year basis and is attributed to the weak global demand prevalent this year. The Ukraine-Russia conflict that added to the EU's economic woes, apprehensions over the recessionary conditions developing in the US and insufficient reciprocity with the India – ASEAN trade agreements, etc are just some of the dominant reasons for India losing out opportunities in its key markets this past year.

Plastics exports has also been impacted by the contraction in merchandise exports. During October 2022, India exported plastics worth USD 852 million, lower by 21.8% from USD 1,090 million in October 2021. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2022 – October 2022 was USD 7,232 million as against USD 7,777 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 7.0%. Seeing this trend, Plexconcil has revisited its export target for this fiscal and contrary to initial expectations, we have readjusted plastics exports forecast to grow by about 10% in this fiscal, which would be fair. The dismal global environment indicates that it would be prudent to exercise caution and gear up for some difficult times ahead.

Meanwhile, the Govt of India continues to actively support and promote Indian exports, including forging stronger trade relations with the GCC and concluding its trade agreement with Australia. More such negotiations are planned by the GOI besides working at ground level to promote manufacturing exports. In fact, besides exploring emerging or new markets, it is an opportune



moment for exporters to relook at their strategy for EU in light of their recent energy crisis to fill in gaps considering our industry already enjoys healthy exports to EU.

In fact, Plexconcil's visit to the K Fair in October was very fruitful after a long gap of three years. The Council held several meetings with stakeholders from various international trade bodies, including USA, EU, WANA, North-east Asia and more to promote value added exports from India and received great response. The objective was to invite buyers to attend the proposed RBSM during PlastIndia in February 2023 and PLEXCONNECT 2023 in June, as well as highlight India's processing capabilities and collaboration opportunities. In this issue of the magazine, we bring you a detailed report of the Council's visit to the fair.

The Council has also planned a slew of activities to promote PLEXCONNECT 2023 starting this month. The website will be live, and participants may book their space online. Visitor and Buyer registrations will also commence, and our team is of course always at hand to help you with your queries or concerns.

In other stories, we bring you an interview with Shivam Bansal of JJ Plastalloy who talks about the Masterbatches industry, focus on Italy under Countryscape, Travel ware of Plastics under Product of the Month, a glimpse into the new CBAM Regulation in EU, news and more.

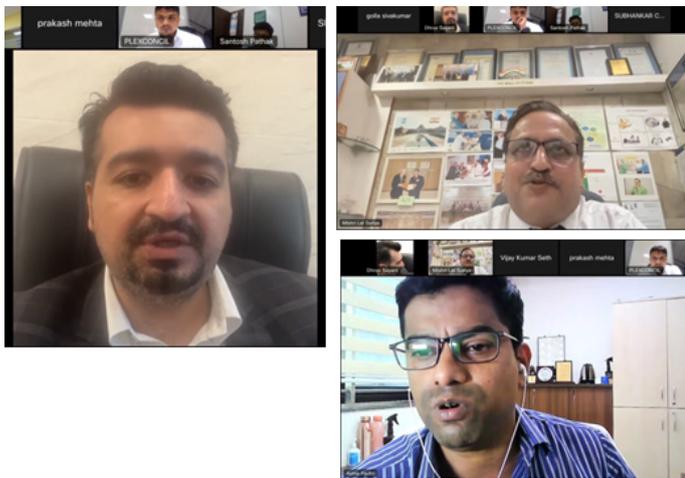
As the saying goes, what feels like the end, is often the beginning. As we draw to the close of this year, let us learn from the experiences of the past year and plan for better times ahead. On behalf of the Council, I extend the warmest greetings for the upcoming festive season to you all.

Warm Regards,

Hemant Minocha
Chairman

PLEXCONCIL & MSME-DFO: Webinar on Awareness Programme on ZED & other DC (MSME) Scheme of the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India – 30th September 2022 | Western Region

Indian MSMEs i.e. the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises are an important pillar of the Indian Economy. Today they need the right guidance and support to progress further. The Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India has taken some revolutionary steps to boost this sector so that they are prepared to face the global competition and also help making an “AtmaNirbhar Bharat”. As one of the steps, the Ministry has introduced the “MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification “Scheme.



To make awareness about ZED Certification Scheme along with some updates about DC (MSME) schemes, The Plastic Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) and MSME Development and Facilitation office, Ahmedabad organized a Webinar on awareness Programme on ZED & other DC (MSME) Scheme of the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India on 30th September, 2022

Mr. Dhruv Sayani, Plexconcil Panel Chairman of Consumer & Housewares Products and director of M/s. Crystal Plastics & Metallizing Private Limited gave welcome address for the webinar.

Mr. M L Suriya, QCI Certified ZED-Master Trainer and Consultant spoke about overview of ZED scheme, various Government institutions on obtaining ZED Certificate and improve Productivity and profitability of company through ZED. Mr Ashis Kumar Padhi, IEDS, Assistant Director, MSME Development and Facilitation office, Ahmedabad explained about various DC (MSME) scheme of the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India. The webinar ended with Vote of Thanks by Naman Marjadi, Asst. Director, Plexconcil Ahmedabad.

Stakeholder consultation with Plastic Industry of Gujarat | 03rd October 2022 | Western Region

Plexconcil organized stakeholder consultation between DGFT and Plastic Industry of Gujarat virtually on 3rd October, 2022. The meeting focused on Issues and concern of Plastic Industry. Dr Rahul Singh, ITS, Deputy Director General of Foreign Trade, Office of the Jt. DGFT, RA Vadodara interacted with participants about issues and challenges faced by Plexconcil members and deliberated on possible resolution on issues being faced by Plastic Exporters. From Plexconcil, Ms Bharti Parave and Mr Naman Marjadi attended the meeting.

Promotion of RBSM scheduled to be held during PLASTINDIA 2023 Exhibition, New Delhi | Western Region

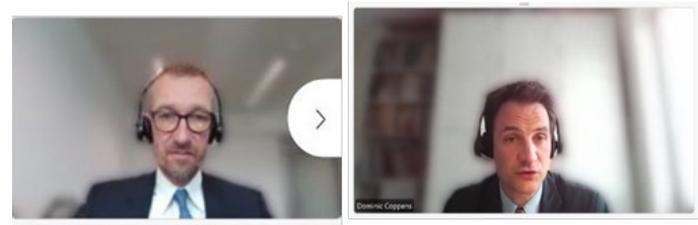
In order to invite quality Buyers, the council has been promoting RBSM to all Trade Missions abroad. In addition to that RD-PLEXCONCIL(ER) actively promoting/ following up with the worldwide Plastic Trade Associations. The Council is targeting to invite 600 buyers for the event.

‘Meet & Greet’ to celebrate Bijoya – 12th October 2022 | Eastern Region

The above program organized by West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) & IDCO. The event was graced by the presence of Hon’ble Chief Minister, WB Mamata Banerjee. Dr H K Dwivedi, IAS Chief Secretary, Govt. of WB & many other Dignitaries were also attended the function. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD represented the Council.

PLEXCONNECT- Webinar on Introduction to EU’s proposed CBAM Legislation and its impact on Plastic Exports from India – 14th October 2022 | Western Region

EU is at the forefront of international efforts to fight climate change. The European Green Deal sets out a clear path towards realising the EU’s ambitious target of a 55% reduction in carbon emissions



compared to 1990 levels by 2030, and to become a climate-neutral continent by 2050. As part of these efforts, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a climate measure that should prevent the risk of carbon leakage and support the EU's increased ambition on climate mitigation, while ensuring WTO compatibility.

To spread awareness about proposed EU's CBAM legislation, The Plastic Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) organized a Webinar on Introduction to European Union's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) Legislation and its impact on Plastic Exports from India on 14th October, 2022.

Welcome address for the webinar was given by Dr. S S Rajpathak, Panel Chairman - CORDAGE, FISHNETS & MONOFILAMENTS, Plexconcil and who was also representing M/s Garware Technical Fibres Limited.

Speakers Mr. Nicolas Lockhart, Partner, Sidley, Mr Dominic Coppens, Senior Managing Associate, Sidley and Ms Maryanne Kamau, Managing Associate, Sidley spoke about status of CBAM in the EU legislative process, key features of the legislation, CBAM's consistency with WTO and its impact on Indian Exporter. The webinar ended with Vote of Thanks by Naman Marjadi, Asst. Director, Plexconcil Ahmedabad.

VC Meeting on India's Presidency of G20 – 14th October 2022 | Southern Region:

VC Meeting on India's Presidency of G20 was held on 14th October 2022 to discuss on the side events to be planned during the India's Presidency of G20. Plexconcil being part of the side events informed the Committee that the Council will showcase the strength of Indian plastics industry and the opportunities therein for export from India to the G20 nations.

Plexconcil was represented by Mr. Ruban Hobday, Director – Southern Region.

Exporters Conference with Shri. Piyush Goyal , Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry , Minister of Textiles and Minister of Consumer Affairs , Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India - 16th October 2022 at Chennai | Southern Region:

Exporters Conference with Shri. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Minister of Textiles and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India was organised by DG-FT-Chennai and FIEO-SR, wherein the Plexconcil Members and other participants had fruitful interaction for the betterment of the trade.

PLEXCONCIL does a mega global reach-out at K Fair 2022 to boost exports of value-added plastic products | Western Region

PLEXCONCIL and Plastindia Foundation organized one of the largest government-sponsored country pavilions at K Fair 2022- the world's No.1 exhibition for plastics held at Dusseldorf, Germany from 19th to 26th October 2022. The trade fair witnessed over 147+ MSMEs who showcased 'Made in India' products and technology to the collective plastics world.

The Council, in its mega global reach-out drive to boost exports of value-added plastic products, interacted with 30+ countries, international plastics associations, chambers of commerce, trade bodies and industry associations to join hands and collaborate to boost bilateral trade.

Toy Manufacturing - Factory Visit on 28th Oct 2022 | Southern Region

The Regional Office – Chennai, as advised by Regional Chairman – South had organized a factory visit to M/s. Radiant Design, Ambattur, Chennai on 28th Oct 2022 to visit and understand the toy manufacturing industry which has huge potential for exports.



PLEXCONCIL'S MEGA GLOBAL REACH-OUT AT K FAIR 2022, DUSSELDORF, GERMANY – SHOW REPORT

PLEXCONCIL and Plastindia Foundation organized one of the biggest government-sponsored country pavilions at K Fair 2022 - the world's No.1 Exhibition and B2B Networking Platform for plastics held at Dusseldorf, Germany from 19th to 26th October 2022, witnessing the presence of 3037 exhibitors and 1,76,000 from over 157 countries.

The participation at K Fair was aimed at leading Indian MSMEs to showcase 'Made in India' products and technology to the collective plastics world; establish India's manufacturing prowess, repute and capability to meet world quality-standards and supply demands on international platform; and conduct mega global reach-out drive to boost exports of value-added plastic products by collaborating with international plastic associations.

INAUGURATION OF THE K 2022 INDIA PAVILION

The India Pavilion was inaugurated by Shri. Amit Telang, Consul General, Consulate General of India in Frankfurt; Shri. Hemant Minocha, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL; Shri. Jigish Doshi, President, Plastindia Foundation; Mr. Ravish Kamath, Vice President, Plastindia Foundation; Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL; Mr. Ajay Shah, NEC Chairman, Plastindia; Shri. Jayesh Rambhia, Treasurer, Plastindia Foundation; Shri. Arvind Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director, Welset Plast Extrusions Pvt Ltd in the presence of Shri. Thomas Schlitt, Managing Director, Messe Dusseldorf India; Shri. Thomas Kranken, Project Director, Messe Dusseldorf; Smt. Millie Contractor, Sales Director, Messe Dusseldorf India; Indian MSME delegates and trade members. The dignitary contingent was especially highlighted by the presence of Shri. Dakuri Chandra Sekhar, Addl Dev. Commissioner, MSME D&FO.

Shri. Telang & Shri. Chandra Sekhar met with the Indian Plastics Industry MSMEs and interacted with them to understand the various export challenges faced by them, share insights on current market conditions considering the precarious European geopolitical conditions, and also to brief the participants on the various government schemes which MSMEs can leverage upon to boost their exports.



Inauguration of the India Pavilion by Shri. Amit Telang, Consul General, CGI Frankfurt (centre) in the presence of PLEXCONCIL and PIF dignitaries; Shri. Thomas Schlitt, Managing Director, Messe Dusseldorf India and Shri. Thomas Franken, Project Director, Messe Dusseldorf

A formal ribbon cutting ceremony was also conducted at the Pavilion by Shri. Hemant Minocha, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL; Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL; Shri. Jigish Doshi, President, Plastindia Foundation; Shri. Ravish Kamath, Vice President, Plastindia Foundation; Shri. Jayesh Rambhia, Treasurer, Plastindia Foundation; Shri. Arvind Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director, Welset Plast Extrusions Pvt Ltd; Shri. Mayur D Shah, Managing Director, Ravikumar Chemicals Pvt Ltd; Shri. Raju Desai, Director, Jyoti Plastics Works Pvt Ltd; Shri. Manoj R Shah, Owner, RP Shah & Sons; and Smt. Padmaja Reddy, Managing Director, Padmaja Polymers Private Limited.



VOCAL FOR LOCAL: PLEXCONCIL MEETS WITH GLOBAL STAKEHOLDERS OF PLASTICS INDUSTRY TO COLLABORATE AND BOOST EXPORTS FROM INDIA

During the week-long trade fair, the PLEXCONCIL team led by Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL; Shri. Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director-Eastern Region and Shri. Krunal Goda, Senior Manager interacted with 30+ countries, international plastics associations, chambers of commerce, trade bodies and industry associations to collaborate and boost the bilateral trade of value-added plastic products. During these meetings, the Council briefed the global stakeholders about the surging demand and preference of the global plastic industry to make India their sourcing hub as a part of their 'China Plus One' policy.

The Council spotlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to support the plastic manufacturing industry, enabling them to import the latest technologies by collaborating with world-leaders in the field, thereby meeting global quality-standards and supply demands for value-added plastic products. The Council also emphasized on the need for equivalent support from the global stakeholders.

The Council met international stakeholders from over 30 countries who were excited to learn about the Indian Government's efforts to invite global buyers to India and receive an invitation to participate in the Department of Commerce sponsored Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets initiated by PLEXCONCIL- Plastindia 2023 (1st-5th February 2023, New Delhi) and PLEXCONNECT 2023, the Council's first ever export-focused exhibition for plastics (15th-17th June 2023, Mumbai)



PLEXCONCIL held discussions with some prominent associations and trade bodies including:

USA: The Plastics Industry Association, USA; AMUT USA

EUROPE: Plastics Europe, Belgium; British Plastic Federation, UK; ProTec Polymer Processing, Germany; Composites United e.V., Germany; VDMA, Germany; GKV TecPart, Germany; FSK, Germany; Amaplast, Italy; Plast Milano, Italy; Switzerland Global Enterprise; ANAIP, Spain; Society of Petroleum Engineers; Flock Association of Europe; Kunststoffland NRW e.V; CzechTrade; tuyap, Turkey; Istanbul Chemicals and Chemical Products Exporters Association, Turkey; Messe Dusseldorf, Germany

WANA: DMG Events, UAE; Qatar Development Bank; Beauty Sky Expo, UAE

NORTHEAST ASIA: Taiwan External Trade DEVELOPMENT Council; Korea E&Ex Inc; International Plastic Fair Association, Japan



Shri. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL; Shri. Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director, PLEXCONCIL; and Shri. Krunal Goda, Senior Manager, PLEXCONCIL met with various international trade bodies to promote exports of Indian value-added plastic products



(Clockwise from top-left) PLEXCONCIL Chairman discusses with Messe Dusseldorf on the various opportunities to invite potential European buyers to India for export promotion activities; Shri. D. Chandra

Sekhar, MSME Addl Dev. Commissioner and PLEXCONCIL representatives attend a presentation by AMUT USA on Plastic Recycling; Shri. Telang, Consul General, CGI Frankfurt and PLEXCONCIL Chairman visit India Pavilion to understand the innovations made in the industry and the challenges faced by plastic processing industry; Shri. D. Chandra Sekhar, MSME Addl Dev. Commissioner visits the MSMEs in the India Pavilion; PLEXCONCIL representatives interact with GKV senior official to understand competitive foreign technology; Shi. D. Chandra Sekhar, MSME Addl Dev. Commissioner and PLEXCONCIL officers attend a demo session on latest German technological updates

NPE 2024: PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION USA JOINS HANDS WITH PLEXCONCIL

In its continuous endeavour to boost Indian plastic exports to USA and provide a B2B Networking Platform to Indian Plastic Trade Members which will give them an access to USA & NAFTA regions, PLEXCONCIL- for the 4th straight year –signed an MOU with Plastics Industry Association USA to organize the India Pavilion at NPE 2024 as the most reliable partner to associate with Plastics Industry Association USA. The MOU was signed in the presence of Mr. Gunther Hoyt, Chairman Emeritus and Director, and Mr. Glenn Anderson, Chief Operating Officer. The Council has committed to bring a much larger Indian delegation for NPE 2024 than all previous editions, and probably one of the largest national pavilions at the show.



PLEXCONCIL representatives with the office bearers of Plastics Industry Association USA, organizers of NPE 2024 - Mr. Gunther Hoyt, Chairman Emeritus and Director, and Mr. Glenn Anderson, Chief Operating Officer

CIRCULAR ECONOMY & SUSTAINABILITY: TAKING HON'BLE PM'S VISION AHEAD

In its endeavour to take ahead the Hon'ble PM Shri. Narendra Modi ji's vision for 'Circular Economy', PLEXCONCIL representatives met with the senior officials of VDMA, Germany to discuss collaboration opportunities to organize knowledge-sharing programs for Indian Plastic Processor Industry. The Council discussed the various possibilities of showcasing German Technologies on Circular Economy in India during the export-promotion activities organized by the Council with the support of the Department of Commerce.



PLEXCONCIL representatives with Mr. Florian Mikulasch, Economics and Market Advisor, VDMA at the K 2022 Circular Economy Forum

INTERACTION WITH INDIAN EXHIBITORS AND CELEBRATING DIWALI 2022

The Council representatives met with all the 147 Indian exhibitors participating at K 2022 to greet them on the festive occasion of Diwali and sought feedback on their participation experience. The delegates were also briefed on the various export promotion initiatives undertaken by the Council and the Government of India schemes that enables MSMEs to boost their exports.



PLEXCONCIL representatives and the Indian exhibitors usher the auspicious festival of Diwali at K 2022, Germany by holding a Pooja ceremony in the India Pavilion

K 2022 witnessed the presence of 3037 exhibitors and 1,76,000 from over 157 countries. While the numbers were significantly lower due to the current geopolitical issues, for the Indian delegates, the fair proved to be one of the most successful representations, enabling them to boost their exports to Europe & attract large-scale foreign investments in India. Post this show, PLEXCONCIL is confident that it shall achieve its target of USD 16 Bn plastic exports in FY 2022-2023.



PLEXCONCIL and the Indian Plastic Industry members completed a successful representation at K 2022



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Hemant Minocha

Chairman –
Plexconcil Committee



Ravish Kamath

PLEXCONNECT 2023
Committee Chairman

Connecting Global Plastics Industry

As the apex body representing the Indian plastics export industry, Plexconcil has been at the forefront of promoting plastics exports for over six decades. Having led several successful participations of Indian plastics exporters at renowned trade exhibitions globally, undertaken several initiatives to promote the growth of plastics exports from India and supported and collaborated with numerous domestic associations and Govt departments to promote the benefits of exports, the Council is now organizing its first ever export focused exhibition, PLEXCONNECT 2023 from June 15-17, 2023 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, NESCO, Mumbai.

Export growth is central to the advancement of any economy and in the backdrop of growing opportunities globally, the Council has established its own objectives of leading the export industry to achieve USD 25 Billion by 2025. In this interview, Plexconcil Chairman, Hemant Minocha and PLEXCONNECT 2023 Committee Chairman, Ravish Kamath talk about the need for Indian plastics exports to align with the Hon'ble PM's vision to make India a USD 5 Trillion economy in the next 5 years and how PLEXCONNECT 2023 has been envisioned as the platform that will catalyse export growth in plastics as well as pave the way for future exporters to become a part of the industry's best.

(excerpts)

What prompted Plexconcil to launch an exhibition of its own with PLEXCONNECT 2023?

Hemant Minocha (HM): There are many factors that prompted our decision. Today, if we look at the pace at which the Indian economy has been growing over the last decade, it is seen that despite the global headwinds, the Indian economy has fared far better than most countries. Today, India has pipped UK to become the 5th largest economy in the world. In FY 21-22, India's exports crossed its USD 400 Billion target, recording USD 418 Billion in exports. The country has been growing at the rate of 8.6% in the past 5 years, two of which were the pandemic years alone. We are a USD 3.17 Trillion economy today and with the GOI's timely interventions, dynamic policies, infrastructure development, thrust to boost manufacturing under "Make In India" & PLI schemes, etc, India has been making quick and long strides towards greater economic growth. With conditions in favour of India, the timing is perfect to expand our own horizons.

Ravish Kamath (RK): With disruptions in global supply chains, many countries have adopted a China +1 strategy. The pandemic tipped the balance for many traditional supply chains and if we observe global developments, countries have been looking for alternatives, even preferring to source requirements domestically or from the closest economies. In this paradigm shift in supply chains, India gained a distinct advantage. Despite the pandemic, fluctuating polymer prices, container prices, logistical challenges, etc, plastics exports surpassed expectation to achieve nearly 35% growth with USD 13.35 billion exports in FY21-22. All this indicates that we are on the right path and hence the drive to pursue every avenue that will only help accentuate our potential. PLEXCONNECT is a key initiative by the council in this direction and an opportune moment to help exporters capture the global potential and emerging prospects.

What are the advantages of plastics exports?

HM: According to an UNCTAD report, overall, the value of global trade reached a record level of \$28.5 trillion in 2021. That's an increase of 25% on 2020 and 13% higher compared to 2019. Globally, plastics export market is valued at USD 1.2 trillion, and India has just about 1.1% of the market share. India's plastics exports currently reach over 200 countries and new opportunities continue to present. The size of the global market speaks volumes about India's export potential.



RK: In the past decade, India's value-added exports have been growing at an average rate of 8.9% versus raw materials that has been growing 5.4%. This growth is in line with our industry's efforts to push exports of finished products. Today, Plastics exports is only 3.16% of India's overall merchandise exports. However, considering the scale and size of our industry and as stated by the Hon'ble CIM, Shri. Piyush Goyal, our industry has the potential to touch USD 100 Billion in the coming years.



India today is very well recognized for the quality and competitiveness of products. We are leading in numerous segments including engineering plastics, FIBC, film & sheets, etc. The industry has added capacities in polymer production, employs the most advanced manufacturing technologies, invests in R&D for materials and product development, is seeing a rising growth of skilled personnel and a lot more. Leading plastics majors have also been making increasing investments in plastics processing industry in India. All this makes plastics exports ideally placed to garner a much higher market share globally in the coming years and hence is a lucrative proposition for new and existing exporters.

Tell us about PLEXCONNECT 2023

RK: PLEXCONNECT 2023 is the culmination of Plexconcil's over six decades of experience and learnings in the pursuit of plastics export promotion. PLEXCONNECT 2023 is the country's first ever export focused exhibition for plastics and that is the most important aspect of the show.



The Council over the years has supported, participated and led exporters to numerous exhibitions, both domestically and internationally. Plexconcil is a Founding Member of PlastIndia and a lead Council of CAPIndia too. However, there is no other exhibition in India that is purely export focused and we believe that a dedicated platform is key to achieving our export promotion goals in the coming years.



PLEXCONNECT 2023 has been designed to bring the global plastics fraternity including processors, buyers from all allied industries, technology providers, machinery, dyes and mold manufacturers, Govt bodies, and more, all under one roof to network, engage, explore and conduct their business. 600 select buyers from over 100 countries will be invited to attend the Reverse Buyer Seller Meet that will be held along the side-lines of the show. By ensuring a perfect buyer-seller match, we hope to create a focused platform to promote closer ties amongst the international buyers and Indian processors.

What are the advantages for participants?

RK: Foremost, PLEXCONNECT 2023, is the first ever export focused exhibition for plastics. In India, the plastics industry comprises around 50,000 processors and we have only about 2800 exporters. Hence it is only logical that plastics trade exhibitions largely cater to the domestic industry and exporters are only a smaller part of it. Therefore, we have designed a platform that focuses on creating a networking and business forum wherein international buyers and visitors can experience the full potential of our export capabilities. With a vast array of products including machinery, technology, and more, catering to numerous industry applications on showcase, PLEXCONNECT 2023 will be the most comprehensive showcase of our industry's manufacturing & export prowess.

HM: PLEXCONNECT 2023 is being supported by the Department of Commerce, MSME Ministry, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals as well as numerous other leading associations in India. And this is because we wish to highlight the industry's vast capabilities & capacities from across the country. This is significant to not just the Council's efforts but moreover the Govt initiatives such as One District, One Product (ODOP), promotion of manufacturing clusters, SEZs, plastics parks, etc across India.

Technology lies at the heart of any flourishing industry and PLEXCONNECT 2023 aims to be the platform for technology exchange. We aim for not only participation by international technology providers but also showcase the latest technological advancements in India. This is critical to boost buyer confidence in Indian exporters.

What are some of the highlights of PLEXCONNECT 2023?

RK: PLEXCONNECT 2023 is the ideal platform focused on plastics exports as it highlights India's capacities & capabilities to an international audience. We hope to also attract a greater number of MSME industry players into the export fraternity by providing them the experience of engaging with global buyers at an international standard trade fair.

Some of the key highlights include:

- Spread over 20000 sq mtr, the event will feature 500+ leading exporters/ plastics manufacturers
- 600 select buyers from 100+ countries will be invited under the Dept of Commerce's MAI scheme
- For added convenience, all stall bookings, both domestic & international, as well as visitor registration will be done online on the event website.
- 10,000 + Visitors expected and Technical Seminars, Experience Centre to be some of the added benefits for stakeholders.
- Special Pavilion for New Exporters/ Aspiring Exporters, Innovation cell, Education/Training & Research Institutes as well as a Sustainability Pavilion showcasing the best in Recycling technologies
- Pavilion for Technology & Machinery, Tooling companies, etc with thrust on technology/ machinery exports from India
- International Pavilion with focus on technology upgradation
- State Pavilions – participation by Plastic Parks, District as Export Hubs (under ODOP scheme), etc

What is your message for the industry as you kickstart your plans for PLEXCONNECT 2023?

HM: Foremost, we are grateful to the Govt of India, all our members, the plastics fraternity of India, our supporting associations and all stakeholders who have always supported our endeavours to promote the growth of our industry. We look forward to your wholehearted participation at PLEXCONNECT 2023 and hope that you will greatly benefit from the same.

A small step is what it takes to make a giant leap. Hence, we call upon new exporters and potential exporters to be a part of this event as not only does it promise to be an experience of a global scale, but it is the perfect place to explore opportunities and become a part of a global fraternity.

As our tagline goes, PLEXCONNECT 2023 is that vital link in the worldwide plastics supply chain that connects the global plastics fraternity. PLEXCONNECT 2023 promises to always remain the true showcase of India's export capabilities in plastics and hence is poised to become one of the most important plastics trade show in the global events calendar.



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A PREMIER SHOWCASE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PLASTICS INDUSTRY

Since 1955, The Plastics Export Promotion Council of India (PLEXCONCIL) with the active support & financial assistance from Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India has been driving and accelerating the exports growth of the Indian Plastics industry, promoting brand "Made in India" worldwide and connecting Indian exporters with vast number of Buyers at leading plastics exhibitions world over. Now, for the first time, PLEXCONCIL presents a unique platform designed to bring the global plastics fraternity and allied industries under one roof in India and showcase the prowess of the Indian Plastics Processing Industry.

WHY BE A PART OF PLEXCONNECT 2023?

- Spread over **20,000 sq mtr**
- **500+** leading exporters/ plastics manufacturers
- Themed Pavilions
- **10,000 + Trade Visitors**
- Buyers from over **100+ Countries**
- Technical Seminars
- Experience Centre
- Conveniently located at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Nesco, Mumbai
- International Pavilions.

FOR EXHIBITORS

- **600 Select Buyers, 100+ Countries**
- **10,000+ Trade Visitors**
- The Only show dedicated for Plastics Exports
- Themed Pavilions
- State & District Pavilions
- Reverse Buyer Seller Meets
- International Pavilions

Poised to become a premier platform for India's prowess in Plastics processing, PLEXCONNECT 2023 is the ideal platform to showcase India's of manufacturing Capabilities, Capacities, Quality and Commitment to global trade.

FOR VISITORS

- Meet **500 leading brands** from the Indian Plastics Industry
- Witness Latest Products & Technology
- Interact with Government bodies
- Network with Global Decision Makers
- Technical Seminars
- Live Machine Demo

EXHIBITORS PROFILE

PROCESSING MACHINERY



MOULDS & DIES



SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS



FINISHED GOODS



FIBC, Woven Sacks, Woven Fabrics, Tarpaulin



Floor Coverings, Leather Cloth & Laminates



Plastic Films & Sheets



Human Hair & Related Products



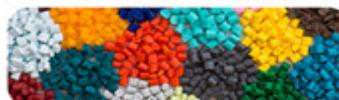
Consumer & Housewares Products



FRP Products



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Shivam Bansal

Director, JJ Plastalloy Pvt. Ltd.

Adding Colour & Functionality to Plastics

Proliferating economic growth and rapid urbanization in emerging countries, replacement of metal parts with plastic components, growing end user markets such as packaging, automobile and healthcare, increasing demand of plastics from construction and luxury goods packaging industries have been in recent years driving the global masterbatch market. Masterbatches are used for imparting color and enhancing useful properties of polymers such as antistatic, antifog, antilocking, UV stabilizing, flame retardation and more. Various types of carrier polymers such as polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, and polyethylene terephthalate are preferred along with the product for use in injection molding and extrusion processes.

Launch of new products and upcoming new technologies are the common trends in the global masterbatch market and growth in masterbatch market is directly associated to the amount of polymer consumption in a region. While growth in the specialty masterbatches products in selected end-user markets offers huge growth opportunities, variation in prices of raw materials is a major factor hindering the growth of the masterbatch market.

In this issue of the magazine, we spoke to JJ Plastalloy, a renowned name in Masterbatch exports having developed a large range of Additive masterbatches to enhance the existing properties of commodity & engineering plastics. Since 1995, JJ

Plastalloy has delivered quality and maximum profitability product to each client. Ranging from pen refills to arms and ammunition, JJ Plastalloy produces master batches and compounds for all kinds of thermoplastic products.

(excerpts)

Today what are the key factors that are driving demand for masterbatches?

With growing number of applications ranging from packaging to automobiles and more, improved functional aspects, increased shelf life, appealing packaging, recycling, achieving special effects like metallic, Wooden are a few of the key factors which will drive the demand for Masterbatches.



Pigments or color masterbatches – which one is better and will gain more traction in the coming years?

As a Masterbatch manufacturer our key role is how do we disperse pigments uniformly in Polymer Matrix. Quality of Dispersion will define the quality of Masterbatch. Why is Dispersion the key? Any

brand owner or product manufacturer will wish to have exactly same colour in his product manufactured over a period of time. This Colour Consistency is achieved only through perfect dispersion. When pigments are used there is improper mixing between Polymer which is in granule form and Pigment which is in powder form. Various different technologies have been tested to have proper mixing of Granules with Powder but desired results could not be achieved. This non homogenous mixing does not give a consistent physical appearance to the finished product. Additionally, pigment causes a lot of dusting and there is a lot of weight loss and contamination related issues. Hence considering overall benefits of using Masterbatches, definitely there will be increased preference for Masterbatches over pigments in future.



Which end user applications are likely to witness significant growth in consumption?

You know demand for Plastics is increasing in every field. Owing to increasing consumerism, increased online buying, organized supermarkets, packaging of all sorts (Rigid or Flexible) is getting converted to plastics. Also, customer expectations on aesthetic and functional aspects has also increased. This is contributing a lot in increased demand of Plastic Masterbatches.



Furthermore, farming in India is getting more mechanized and modern. Hence there is an increasing performance requirement in Plasticulture sector. These performance aspects can be achieved through using right Masterbatches. So, there is a

good growth in demand from Plasticulture Zone.



Similarly Plastic Usage in infrastructure like Pipes, Water Tanks is also increasing. So overall almost all the sectors we can witness growth in Plastics and ultimately increasing demand for Masterbatches.

What is the impact of bio-degradable masterbatches in the overall masterbatches market?

This is a very very niche market. Compostable Plastics are used in Single Use Application. Currently due to commercial viability, the applications are bit limited. However, we expect to have good growth in times to come as more regulations and sustainability factors come in.

What are some of the news technologies/ ad-



vancements that are prevalent in the industry today?

Currently the industry is moving towards more automation. Be in terms of material storage/feeding/packing and so on. More and more companies are adopting Gravimetric dosage. There is a lot of focus on how to make the production area free of contamination and keep it dust free. On testing front, more and more companies are having pilot line downstream processing equipments also so as to simulate the product performance inhouse. Also, a lot of attention is being given as how to improve yield and reduce wastage.

What is the JJ Plastalloy brand USP? Also tell us about your sustainability programme.

We are a Customer Centric Organisation. Every activity of ours is guided by the philosophy of Customer Satisfaction. We always judge how every decision of ours is going to impact on **Quality, Cost and Delivery** parameters to the customer. To achieve this objective of QCD, we focus a lot on our Human Resource Development. We emphasise a lot on continuous training of our manpower at every level. We go by the philosophy that every person with right attitude has immense potential and can be groomed on skill sets with training. We remain committed to our customers with QCD through continuous training of our Human Resource.



For Sustainability our company has taken several steps. We have been using Solar Power for past 4 years now and going to increase Solar Power capacity at our Dahej plant. Water is a very key resource which we have learnt very well now. We use almost 50 Kilo Liters of Water in our plant every day. Not even a single drop of water is discharged in drain. Entire water is treated in STP then we use it for every application other than drinking purposes in our plant. The entire Plastic waste generated inside our plant is recycled scientifically. We ensure we don't waste these critical resources.

Tell us about your product portfolio.

We have Masterbatches for practically every type of plastics (Other than PVC) and for every application. Right from Agriculture to Packaging to Infrastructure, Hygiene, etc., we have a range of Masterbatches meeting the users' requirements. We are a proud Indian Masterbatch Manufacturer catering to requirement of entire Plastic Industry.



What are the emerging export opportunities for Indian masterbatch exporters?

Going by my opinion, Plastic Consumption is increasing practically everywhere across the world. Accordingly, there is increasing demand for Masterbatches everywhere. We believe that Indian Masterbatch Manufacturers are trusted all across the world and considered to be better than many of our competitors located in other countries. This is a very big opportunity and we should encash upon it.

What are the barriers to trade?

Currently very high ocean freights are a big threat to exporters fraternity as a whole. Although there is a good correction in ocean freights, the huge volatility is a cause of concern for all of us.

What are the policies/ measures needed to overcome the challenges faced by masterbatch manufacturers/ exporters?

As of now we are facing very unhealthy kind of competition from Vietnamese competitors. Masterbatches from Vietnam have flooded the marketplace at very low rates. The Indian manufacturers are not able to recover our costs against the rates offered by Vietnamese counterparts. This is something that needs immediate attention.

Additionally, Masterbatches from Vietnam is flooding our domestic market as well. Owing to South Asian Free Trade Agreement, Masterbatches are imported at zero duty from Vietnam. Whereas we end up paying heavy customs duty on our basic raw material. This makes us thoroughly uncompetitive in the domestic market as well.

Hence in future we sincerely request the Govt. of India not to enter into such FTA where the domestic industry becomes non-viable.

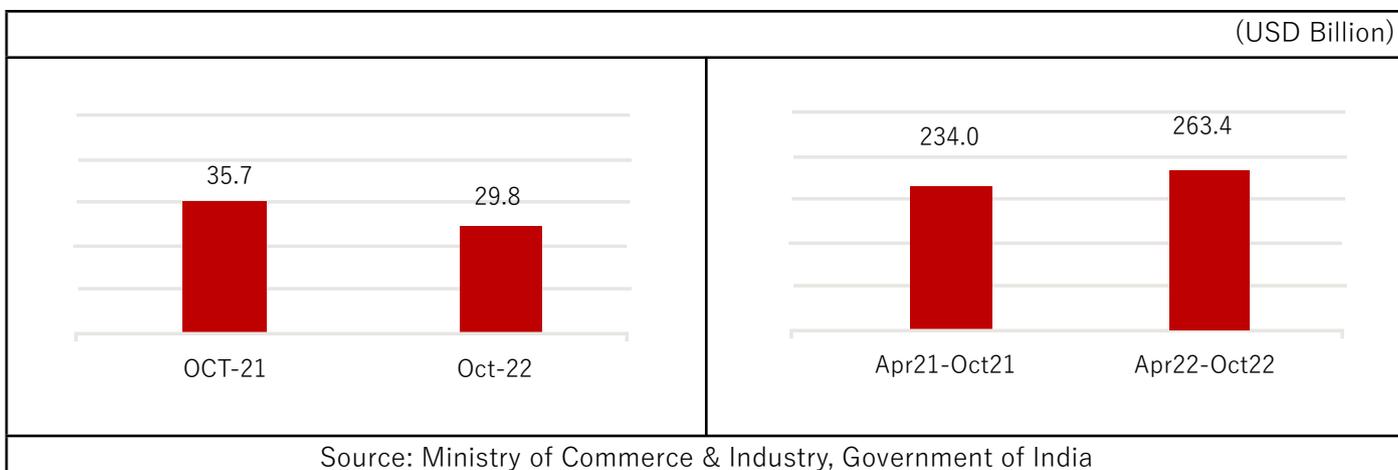


Export Performance –October 2022

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 29.8 billion in October 2022, down 16.7% from USD 35.7 billion in October 2021. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2022 – October 2022 was USD 263.4 billion as against USD 234 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 12.6%.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India

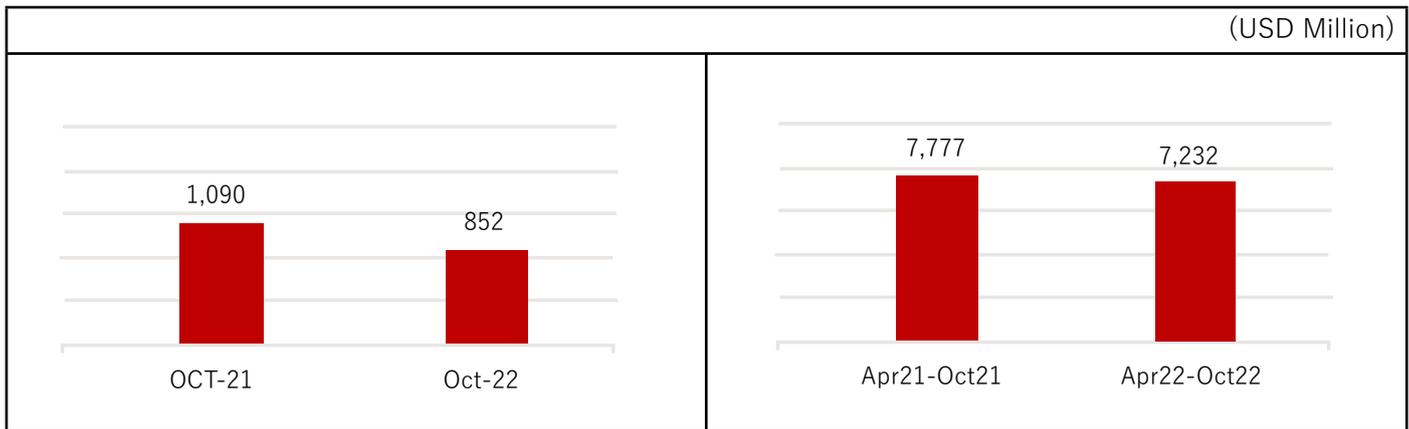


TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During October 2022, India exported plastics worth USD 852 million, lower by 21.8% from USD 1,090 million in October 2021. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2022 – October 2022 was USD 7,232 million as against USD 7,777 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 7.0%.

Export Performance

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In October 2022, most of the product panels, namely Plastic raw materials; FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin; Plastic films & sheets; Consumer & houseware products; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; FRP & Composites; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; Plastic pipes & fittings; and Human hair & related products reported lower exports. However, product panels like Medical items of plastics; Writing instruments & stationery; and Miscellaneous products reported positive growth in exports.

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

Panel	Oct-21 (USD Mn)	Oct-22 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)	Apr 21- Oct 21 (USD Mn)	Apr 22- Oct 22 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)
Consumer & houseware products	78.6	59.3	-24.5%	469.5	434.1	-7.5%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	25.5	18.5	-27.2%	150.8	158.6	+5.2%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	151.8	96.9	-36.1%	998.7	884.1	-11.5%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	51.6	39.6	-23.3%	371.5	338.0	-9.0%
FRP & Composites	38.9	27.9	-28.5%	257.2	254.6	-1.0%
Human hair & related products	65.0	45.4	-30.1%	520.1	378.3	-27.3%
Medical items of plastics	34.5	39.1	+13.2%	233.1	286.9	+23.1%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	80.3	87.2	+8.5%	488.6	585.6	+19.9%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	53.5	45.6	-14.9%	351.3	382.0	+8.7%
Plastic films & sheets	158.1	129.4	-18.2%	1,145.2	1,128.2	-1.5%
Plastic pipes & fittings	26.9	20.9	-22.3%	157.3	174.7	+11.0%
Plastic raw materials	306.9	222.0	-27.7%	2,512.9	2,070.7	-17.6%
Writing instruments & stationery	18.2	20.6	+13.1%	120.8	156.3	+29.4%
	1,089.8	852.3	-21.8%	7,777.0	7,232.0	-7.0%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



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Export of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 24.5% in October 2022 on account of lower sales of Household articles and toilet articles of plastics (HS code 39249010), Safety headgear (HS code 650610), and Other switches of plastic (HS code 85365020). Exports of Toys of plastics (HS code 95030030) has also been showing a significant decline since May 2022 due to change in the HS code of Toys of plastics resulting in failure to capture the correct value of its exports from India.

Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments exports were lower by 27.2% in October 2022 due to slowing sales of Other twine of polyethylene and polypropylene (HS code 56074900), and Made up fishing nets (HS code 560811) in Europe, which is a major destination for export of the above products from India. Europe is currently experiencing inflationary pressure due to energy crisis caused by Russia-Ukraine war.

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin**, exports in October 2022 fell by 36.1% as Indian exporters reported a decline in sales of Sacks and bags of plastics (HS code 39232990) and Flexible intermediate bulk containers (HS code 630532). Exports of Flexible intermediate bulk containers from India have hit their lowest monthly level since November 2020. Indian exporters have indicated that Turkey has emerged as a major threat to India in the international markets as its currency has depreciated sharply against the US Dollar.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** declined by 23.3% during October 2022 on account of lower sales of PVC floor coverings (HS code 391810) and Textile fabrics impregnated or coated or covered or laminated with plastics other than PVC and PU (HS code 590390) to North America.

Export of **FRP & Composites** was down by 28.5% due to lower 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** fell by 30.1% due to a decline in sales of Human hair, unworked (HS code 050100) and Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (HS code 67030010). India's major export destination for Human hair is China where economic activity has been disturbed due to Zero Covid policy and regular lockdowns. Indian exporters have also mentioned about smuggling of human hair from India to Myanmar.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** witnessed an increase of 13.2% in October 2022 due to higher sales of Spectacle lenses of polymers (HS code 900150); Syringes with or without needles (HS code 901831) from India.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** increased by 8.5% in October 2022 due to higher sales of Optical fibres, optical fibres bundles and cables (HS code 90011000).

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export fell by 14.9% on lower sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (HS code 392321). North America and Europe are the largest export destinations for these products from India.

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 18.2% in October 2022 due to a slide in sales of Self-adhesive sheets and films of plastics (HS code 3919); Rigid and flexible sheets of polymers of propylene (HS code 392020); and Rigid and flexible sheets of polyethylene terephthalate (HS code 392062).

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 22.3% due to poor sales of Other rigid tubes of polyethylene (HS code 39172190); Other seamless tubes of polymers of vinyl chloride (HS code 39172390); Other tubes and pipes (HS code 391731, 391732).

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 27.7% in October 2022 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene with a specific gravity of 0.94 or more (HS code 390120); Polypropylene (HS code 390210); and Other acrylic polymers (HS code 390690) from India.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** witnessed an increase of 13.1% in October 2022 due to higher sales of Ball point pens of plastics (HS code 960810). This product segment has been doing quite well in the export market since the beginning of this year.

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 21 – Oct 21 (USD Mn)	Apr 22 – Oct 22 (USD Mn)	Growth (%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	584.4	540.4	-7.5%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	461.0	426.1	-7.6%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	398.1	201.3	-49.5%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	387.9	281.3	-27.5%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	297.2	259.5	-12.7%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	249.4	384.7	+54.3%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	253.4	250.0	-1.3%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	185.6	169.0	-8.9%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	166.3	153.6	-7.6%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	168.7	135.1	-19.9%
48239019	Decorative laminates	155.9	166.4	+6.7%
39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. polymethyl methacrylate): Other	184.2	116.3	-36.9%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	150.9	41.9	-72.3%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	145.9	127.6	-12.5%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	127.3	131.6	+3.4%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of $\geq 0,94$, in primary forms	136.4	29.5	-78.4%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	122.3	70.8	-42.1%
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	107.2	99.5	-7.2%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	98.4	107.9	+9.7%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	94.2	89.4	-5.1%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	113.3	87.9	-22.4%
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	78.8	62.8	-20.4%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	69.2	72.4	+4.6%

Export Performance

90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	75.4	83.4	+10.7%
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	69.1	67.3	-2.5%
39073010	Epoxide resins, in primary forms: Epoxy resins	65.4	61.4	-6.1%
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	69.5	52.2	-24.9%
90183930	Cannulae	56.8	81.4	+43.3%
96081019	Ball-point pens	57.9	80.6	+39.2%
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	54.4	65.5	+20.5%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	53.6	54.7	+2.0%
95030030	Toys of plastics	67.4	11.0	-83.7%
39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	57.5	53.6	-6.8%
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	53.4	57.2	+7.2%
96032100	Tooth brushes	52.4	56.8	+8.4%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	45.3	75.7	+67.2%
39011010	Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes 95% or more by weight of the total polymer content	54.4	26.6	-51.1%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	53.4	52.4	-1.8%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	42.2	52.7	+24.9%
39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	39.1	43.8	+12.0%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	43.7	50.1	+14.5%
39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	40.6	52.3	+28.9%
39241010	Insulated tableware and kitchenware of plastics	38.9	30.6	-21.3%

Export Performance

39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers	37.8	48.8	+28.8%
59031090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride: Other	41.9	43.1	+2.8%
39181090	Floor coverings, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles, and wall or ceiling coverings in rolls with a width of ≥ 45 cm, consisting of a layer of plastic fixed permanently on a backing of any material other than paper, the face side of which is grained, embossed, coloured, design-printed or otherwise decorated, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	36.0	39.1	+8.6%
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	40.9	40.8	-0.4%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	39.3	41.8	+6.2%
39191000	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, in rolls ≤ 20 cm wide	34.5	37.3	+8.1%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, 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	35.5	36.9	+3.8%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



TRAVEL WARE OF PLASTICS

Travel ware of plastics include items like suitcases, brief cases, executive cases, vanity cases, casual bags and satchels, used mainly for carrying clothes and other possessions. Over the years, Travel ware of plastics have gained popularity due to their light weight, durability, portability, and availability in various styles and colours. Travel ware of plastics are generally made from polypropylene, polycarbonate, and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene. Of late, manufacturers have been using recycled materials in a bid to create a more sustainable future. The product is classified under Subheading 420212 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Travel ware of plastics is valued at USD 5.5 billion per year approximately.

- In 2021, top-5 exporting countries of Travel ware of plastics were: China (74%), Italy (3.8%), France (2.6%), Belgium (2.4%) and Germany (1.9%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Travel ware of plastics were: United States of America (18.6%), Germany (7.6%), France (4.8%), China (3.6%) and the United Kingdom (3.5%).

In 2021-22, India exported 4.21 million pieces of Travel ware of plastics valued at USD 41.8 million to the world. Belgium was the top export destination in terms of value while United States of America was the top export destination in terms of volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (pieces)
Belgium	17.57	United States of America	1,549,787
United States of America	9.49	Belgium	780,122
United Arab Emirates	1.91	United Arab Emirates	298,746
Italy	1.59	United Kingdom	296,458
United Kingdom	1.45	Australia	202,675
Australia	0.85	Malaysia	96,906
Qatar	0.84	Nepal	88,944
Germany	0.71	Qatar	78,888
Singapore	0.53	Germany	72,359
Canada	0.49	Saudi Arabia	64,456

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

Product of the Month

In 2021-22, India imported 17.3 million pieces of Travel ware of plastics valued at USD 124.1 million from the world. China and Bangladesh were the major suppliers to India.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (pieces)
Bangladesh	59.03	China	11,778,385
China	54.61	Bangladesh	4,645,499
Hong Kong	4.18	Hong Kong	555,998
Singapore	1.64	Myanmar	74,745
Thailand	0.88	Thailand	44,070
Myanmar	0.77	Indonesia	31,892
United States of America	0.56	United States of America	22,469
Switzerland	0.46	Viet Nam	16,726
United Arab Emirates	0.46	United Arab Emirates	14,056
Indonesia	0.24	Malaysia	11,856

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

Indian firms dealing in Travel ware of plastics have immense potential to export to destinations like Belgium, Japan, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Viet Nam.

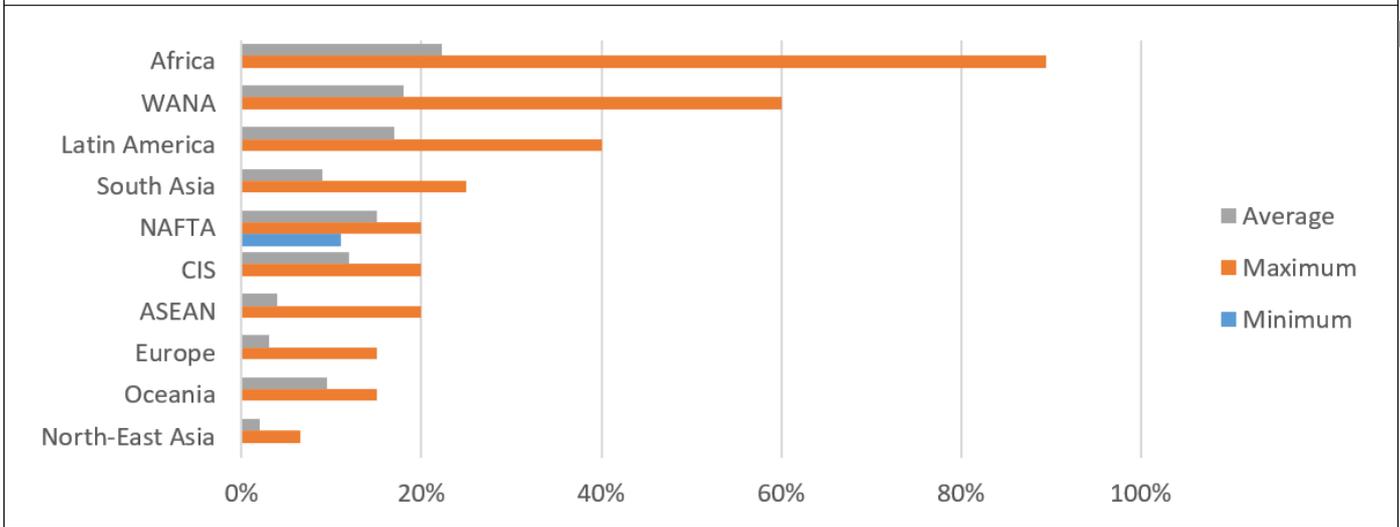


There is zero duty applicable on import of Travel ware of plastics from India in Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; and in Bhutan under the India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit. Several of the ASEAN countries like Laos, Philippines, and Viet Nam, also allow zero duty imports of Travel ware of plastics under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. Import of Travel ware of plastics is eligible for zero customs duty in Brunei, Israel, Malaysia, Norway, Singapore, and Sri Lanka.

Import of Travel ware of plastics from India is eligible for preferential tariff in the European Union, the United Kingdom and certain European Free Trade Association countries like Liechtenstein and Switzerland under Generalized System of Preferences.

Unfortunately, several countries in Africa, WANA, Latin America, South Asia and NAFTA do not accord any preferential treatment to Travel ware of plastics exported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.

Effective tariff applied by various regions on import of Travel ware of plastics from India



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research

Yatin Agarwal, Director, Styles Baggage Pvt. Ltd

As one of the niche players in the market, our company manufactures and exports sports bags and in the last financial year, we achieved spectacular growth of almost 25-30%. Similar growth may have been experienced by many players in the travel, health & fitness industry with the opening up of global economies post Covid. However, in the current year, due to the part recessionary phase in Europe coupled with the Ukraine crisis, exports have undoubtedly been hit to some extent and we need to wait and watch. We anticipate some slackening in growth in this fiscal.

In terms of India's overall luggage exports, while we do have leading players like VIP, Samsonite and Safari who are global majors, we continue to have significant imports from China and Bangladesh, possibly because there is continued import of semi-finished products or accessories or even finished products being imported. However, the China+1 Policy is the biggest opportunity for Indian exporters and with the strong re-emergence of the travel tourism industry post Covid, Indian exporters have vast opportunities in the global marketplace. Going forward, reduction in Oil prices, freight costs and strong US\$ as we are seeing presently also bode well for exporters and one should look at capitalizing on such opportunities. Having said that the cyclic fluctuations of Oil prices and Currency is the biggest challenge for exporters and while one cannot avoid it, it would be prudent to plan for such eventualities and minimize risk exposure. The concept of smart luggage, which include luggage with RFID, GPS, self-charging functions, etc

are also gaining acceptance, despite the comparatively higher costs. Manufacturers must also look at innovation as that would be a clear competitive advantage and help exports too.

As we have seen across sports segments, environmental awareness is very high. Ocean plastics are being turned into shoes and other accessories and even the largest brands are working on recycling & reducing plastic waste and their carbon footprint in general. Our company too has been receiving an increasing number of inquiries and we are working towards including fabrics made of recycled materials. That is the way forward and as responsible processors, we are committed to aligning ourselves with this all-important move towards circularity.





POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) OCTOBER 2022

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDPE prices moved up by Rs 2000 per MT in October 2022, similar to the increase seen in September 2022. Prices had declined by Rs 6000 per MT in August 2022. • In October 2022, HDPE prices were increased by Rs 2000 per MT in the beginning of the month. Thereafter no changes were announced.
			
Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLDPE prices inched up by Rs 2000 per MT in October 2022 after an increase of Rs 3500 per MT in September 2022 and decline of Rs 8000 per MT in August 2022. • In October 2022, LLDPE prices were increased by Rs 2000 per MT in the beginning of the month. Thereafter no changes were announced.
			
Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	
Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDPE prices increased by Rs 3000 per MT in October 2022 after a decline of Rs 1000 per MT in September 2022 and Rs 14000 per MT in August 2022. • In October 2022, LDPE prices were increased by Rs 3000 per MT in the beginning of the month. Thereafter no changes were announced.
			
Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	
Polypropylene (PP)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PP prices remained unchanged in October 2022 after an increase of Rs 3000 per MT in September 2022 and a decline of Rs 7000 per MT in August 2022. • In October 2022, PP prices did not witness any change and remained almost the same throughout the month.
			
Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVC prices further lowered by Rs 3000 per MT in October 2022 after a decline of Rs 4000 per MT in September 2022 as well as August 2022. • In October 2022, PVC prices were reduced by Rs 3000 per MT in the third week of the month. Thereafter no changes were announced.
			
Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research



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EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

The CBAM is a new carbon regulation — a type of carbon pricing — to help the EU fight climate change. While the existing EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) covers EU countries, the CBAM will apply to goods produced outside the EU. This addresses the problem of carbon leakage; that is, the situation where companies move the production of goods to countries with less stringent emissions policies, primarily to save costs associated with carbon pricing. Unlike the ETS's 'cap-and-trade' system, the CBAM (at least in its initial form) won't set caps on imports or emissions, and there'll be no trading of carbon permits.

The introduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in the European Union (EU) will have a significant on businesses importing goods into the EU. The EU legislative process is currently being finalized and the CBAM transitional period is expected to already start in January 2023. Learn about the CBAM and how you can prepare for its arrival.

What is the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism? What is its scope?

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a measure introduced by the EU, aimed at preventing the risk of carbon leakage.

The CBAM will apply to direct emissions of greenhouse gases emitted during the production process of the products covered. Under the European Commission's proposal, EU importers will have to report emissions embedded in their goods without paying a financial adjustment in a transitional phase starting in 2023. By the end of the transition period, the Commission will evaluate how the CBAM is working and whether to extend its scope to more products and services - including down the value chain, and whether to cover so-called 'indirect' emissions (i.e. carbon emissions from the electricity used to produce the good).

Once CBAM is fully implemented, CBAM system will work as follows:

EU importers will buy carbon certificates corresponding to the carbon price that would have been paid, had the goods been produced under the EU's carbon pricing rules.

The EU importer must declare by 31 May each year the quantity of goods and the embedded emissions in those goods imported into the EU in the preceding year. At the same time, the importer surrenders the number of CBAM certificates that corresponds to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions embedded in the products.

If importers can prove, based on verified information from third country producers, that a carbon price has already been paid during the production of the imported goods, the corresponding amount can be deducted from their final bill.

It is important to note that though the obligation will be on EU importer, however, for importers to comply with the requirements, information must be provided by the exporters as well.

What is the likely impact on the new legislation on exporters of plastics to EU?

Initially, CBAM will apply to imports of the following goods, namely, (a) cement, (b) iron and steel, (c) aluminium, (d) fertilizers and (e) electricity.

Though plastic products are currently not covered in the CBAM regulations, however, the product coverage is likely to be expanded subsequently to cover organic chemicals, plastics, hydrogen and ammonia.



What must be the key points of consideration for exporters to the EU from India?

Exporters must remain aware of new developments taking place in the EU regarding plastic exports, including CBAM, waste management rules, etc. The exporters should familiarize themselves with how CBAM operates and take steps to mitigate the risk of higher costs and burden in the future upon CBAM's implementation.

It may be noted that CBAM compliance requires regular monitoring of emissions embedded in the products covered/to be covered by the CBAM. Though final methodology will be released later, however, the obligation to monitor, calculate, report and verify the emissions, and eventually the obligation to pay for them, will result in significant administrative burden for exporters as well as importers to the EU. Indian exporters may consider devising internal monitoring systems to determine em-

bedded emissions in the final product, which may then be used for reporting to the EU subsequently.

What is the likely impact on plastics supply chains in the long run?

In the long run, plastics are expected to be included in CBAM and plastic exporters from India are likely to face carbon levy under CBAM.



Further, new regulations are expected that focus on (a) control/discourage industries using non-renewable inputs into their production process and (b) circular economy. Thus, new regulations may impact trade in products that cannot be recycled or are considered to cause negative impact on environment, such as single-use plastics.

What is the present status of the legislation in the EU? What can we expect in 2023?

In a session held on 22 June 2022, the EU Parliament voted to adopt its position on the regulation establishing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). As a next step, the EU Parliament is expected to start negotiations with the EU Council on the CBAM and the proposed changes thereto in order to reach agreement on a final legal text.

In the interim, Indian exporters should keep an eye on the developments and engage with EU importers on preparations for the reporting obligations that will take effect in the transitional period starting Jan 01, 2023.

What are anticipated challenges to its implementation, for both importers and exporters?

As mentioned above, the obligation to monitor, calculate, report and verify the emissions, and eventually the obligation to pay for them, will result in significant administrative burden for exporters as well as importers to the EU. Presently, the final methodology to calculate emissions is still in progress. However, in the interim, the exporters may introduce internal mechanisms to monitor direct emissions of greenhouse gases emitted during the production process.



How to prepare in 2022 for the CBAM?

Uncover the hidden emissions in your imports. Do you know your suppliers when it comes to carbon? A product's emissions can vary hugely between different countries and production facilities. Ensure you don't get any unwelcome surprises.

Start gathering production emissions data now to:

- Understand how CBAM could impact your profit and loss from 2027
- See what default values could look like for your products
- Identify lower-carbon suppliers and secure multi-year procurement contracts
- If any of your suppliers aren't yet tracking their carbon footprint, encourage them to start measuring production and indirect (electricity usage) emissions, so they can provide you with actual primary data from 2023. Although there'll be no financial adjustment until 2027 for your imports' embedded emissions, the more accurate data the Commission collects before that, the fairer their default values are likely to be from 2027.

Businesses only have four annual processes to go through before the CBAM comes into full swing. If you get your house in order now, you'll have time to embed carbon accounting and supplier engagement into your processes and get your supply chains ready for the rising cost of carbon.



ITALY

Economic overview

Italy is located in Southern Europe. It has an area of 301,340 square kilometres and a population base of 59.2 million. Italy shares land borders with Austria, France, Vatican City, San Marino, Slovenia, and Switzerland. Italy is the eighth largest economy in the world, thanks to its well-rounded manufacturing and services sector, which is mainly run by small and medium-sized enterprises. The country is a well-known supplier of machine tools, fashion, automotive, pharmaceuticals and wine. Despite the current challenges of high inflation, Italy is expected to report a GDP growth of 3.2% in 2022.

As of November 8, 2022, S&P's rating for Italy is BBB (Stable); Moody's rating stands at Baa3 (Negative); and Fitch has a reported rating of BBB (Stable).

As a member state of the European Union, Italy enjoys superior market access to countries in the European Free Trade Association and few others located in South-eastern Europe, Latin America and West Asia North Africa regions. It also benefits from the European Union free trade agreements with Canada, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa and Viet Nam.



Economic indicators		2019	2020	2021
Nominal GDP	USD Billion	2,011.5	1,891.1	2,101.3
Nominal GDP per capita	USD	33,628	31,707	35,473
Real GDP growth	%	0.5	-9.0	6.7
Total population	Million	59.8	59.6	59.2
Average inflation	%	0.6	-0.2	1.9
Total merchandise exports	USD Billion	537.7	498.8	601.7
Total merchandise imports	USD Billion	474.9	426.5	557.2

Source: IMF, TradeMap

India and the European Union have been engaged in negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), once signed it will open a huge window of trade opportunities between India and the European Union countries.

Hemant Minocha, Director, Rajiv Masterbatches & Chairman – Plexconcil

Within the masterbatches segment, we see a huge push towards sustainable products like bioplastics, masterbatches for recycling and upcycling. However, Indian exporters face stiff competition from Vietnam, Turkey and China. These countries have better pricing, turnaround and Turkey has locational advantage besides a depreciating currency at the moment. On the commodity items it is very hard to compete with them although on specialties India has an edge. Technically Indian products are preferred over these other countries. Having said that, Italy is a developed market with a robust manufacturing base itself. Hence there also is competition from local manufacturers who have economies of scale and of course the distinction of being local.

On another note, despite shipping and container issues are said to be easing, availability of containers and frequency of shipping lines is still a huge challenge for exporters and definitely a disadvantage presently. Over the years, we have also found that payment delays are common. Therefore, it would help exporters to have better understanding of customer needs and Italian culture. It is also very crucial for exporters to undertake a full background check and have insurances in place. Planning ahead for container delays / availability and having better understanding on global pricing will also go a long way.



For products that come under the purview of PLEXCONCIL, the trade is in favour of India with exports of USD 480 million to Italy and a trade surplus of USD 208 million. The major items of export to Italy being:

- Plastic raw materials (49.0%)
- Plastic sheets and films (18.7%), and
- FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, tarpaulins (15.5%)

Italy's annual plastics imports are valued at USD 37.2 billion approx. Its plastic imports are largely catered to, by Germany (23%), China (12%) and France (10%). India's market share in Italy's plastics imports is quite low.



Trade overview

Italy is India's fourth largest trading partner in the European Union. India and Italy were engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 13.2 billion in 2021-22. During the year, India's exports to Italy were valued at USD 8.2 billion while India's imports from Italy were valued at USD 5.0 billion.

The major items of export (2-digit HS) from India to Italy are iron and steel (USD 2.1 billion), machinery and mechanical appliances (USD 602 million), organic chemicals (USD 532 million), aluminium (USD 494 million), and mobile phones (USD 436 million). Likewise, major items of export (2-digit HS) from Italy to India are machinery and mechanical appliances (USD 1.8 billion), organic chemicals (USD 290 million), and electrical machinery and equipment (USD 274 million).

Export potential for India

Our internal research indicates that India's export of PLEXCONCIL member products to Italy has the potential to grow by over USD 9.8 billion. Details of product panels and their export potential to Italy is provided below:

Product panel	Italy's import from India	Italy's import from world	India's export to world	Export potential for India
	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
Plastic raw materials	214.5	17,108.4	3,995.9	3,351.7
Plastic films & sheets	74.0	4,012.8	1,905.1	1,735.1
Consumer & houseware products	34.6	6,952.0	1,460.6	1,394.3
Medical items of plastics	11.0	3,468.4	891.5	880.5
Miscellaneous Products and items nes	35.2	2,147.3	1,253.1	860.3
Packaging items – flexible, rigid	2.0	1,363.6	595.8	564.1
Floorcoverings, leather cloth & laminates	16.6	547.4	770.2	319.7
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	73.1	409.9	1,682.4	235.5
Plastic pipes & fittings	4.5	696.8	266.3	189.1
Writing instruments & stationery	0.7	177.7	201.9	131.3

Source: TradeMap, Plexconcil Research



Jaykumar Nair, Vice President – Commercial, Garware Hi-Tech Films Limited (formerly known as Garware Polyester Ltd.)

At Garware Hi Tech, we primarily have two segments of Specialty films. Industrial PET Films for value added applications and WINDOW Films, PPF Film for Automobile sector. In the industrial PET Films along with BOPET Films we offer a versatile range of PETG Shrink films for bottle sleeving application and lidding films for dairy and ready to eat food segment. We have added couple new variants in these segments.

Within Shrink films we face competition from – Klockner Pentaplast Germany, SKC Korea, BONSET USA, Bill Care, Germany, Chinese & Taiwanese manufacturers etc. & for lidding films, the major competitors are Nuroll, Italy, DUPONT, Super films and Chinese & Taiwanese manufacturers. However, within India no one makes WINDOW Films.

Besides the presence of some large players, some of the other challenges are high import duty, language barriers, especially in the heart of the country as local buyers prefer to deal with someone who knows the local language, stock point options, payments delays, etc. However, Italy is one of the advance countries of Europe having substantial industrial growth which gives excellent opportunities to exporters. Exporters should have strong network of agents and distributors to ensure uninterrupted and timely delivery of goods.

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International News

Meeting in Uruguay marks major step in Global plastics treaty

At the fifth UNEA session (UNEA 5.2), member nations adopted a mandate: “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument.”

The goal of the UN is to establish a treaty by the end of 2024, to help this process, following a meeting in Senegal earlier on in the year it was recommended there should five Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meetings over the next two years. The first of which takes place in Punta Del Este, Uruguay from the 28th November-1st December.

The mandate from the UN has called for the widest possible participation in the treaty; from governments all over the globe to different stakeholders including business, industry and indigenous people. The INC will be a hybrid event with 25% of those involved participating online. In addition to this 35% will be from government and 60% will be from the major stakeholder groups.

Uniting key players on the world stage however may be an issue for the UN and other interested parties. Russia has self-nominated themselves for a place on the bureau while opposing the nomination of EU members. This is compounded by the fact that, according to reports in Reuters the United States is sounding out to allies that they want a split from the treaty, proposing a similar deal to the Paris agreement.



On the back of the announcement of the treaty and the INC's there was a clamour from businesses to align themselves with major names in the plastics industry to protect interests and potentially innovate. The ‘business coalition for a plastics treaty’ Major industry names such as Packem and Borealis aim to work together with brands such as Coca-Cola and Nestle to: ‘the reduce plastic production and use through a circular economy approach, increased circulation of all necessary plastics, and the prevention and remediation of hard-to-abate micro- and macro-plastic leakage into the environment.’

There are six key points that have been identified when ‘setting the goalposts’ in regards to the targets and what could be damaging to the negotiation of any possible agreement: failure to control production of virgin polymers, lack of monitoring and reporting obligations, inadequate funding, lack of transparency on chemicals used in plastics production, linear-economy conceptualisation of plastics and maybe most notably not repeating the failures of the Paris agreement which relied heavily on nationally determined contributions (NDCs). NDC's effectively allowed nations to set what some see as underwhelming targets when combating climate change.

Such NDC's are part of the reasoning behind organisations like the Ellen MacArthur foundation (EMF), calling for agreements to be legally binding as the organisation believes it will: "prevent a patchwork of disconnected solutions, create a level playing field, and set the right enabling conditions to scale up circular economy solutions worldwide."

The UN has also had its say from what it would like to see from the plastics industry moving forward, in UNEA Resolution 5/14 there is an emphasis on finding new, sustainable approaches but also a challenge set out to the plastics industry by aiming to: 'design products and materials so that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled.' This is effectively a goal of severely reducing single use plastics.

A UK wide ban was proposed on single use plastics in 2021, a report produced by DEFRA showed that the plastics industry was already beginning to move away from single use material due to the UK plastics pact. However, the report did concede that this maybe costly for both businesses and customers.

According to the EMF and UN global commitment report, a driving force behind the principles and basic ideas of the treaty as well as cutting out the use of single use plastics, the industry has a duty to uphold the circular economy by innovating and creating viable alternatives. According to the report current industry trends indicate: 'Current efforts are mainly focused on material changes, such as lightweighting and packaging redesign.' Although this is an improvement the message from the EMF report is clear, the industry needs to 'curb' the production of further packaging products.

The reuse of single use plastics is another issue that is highlighted in the report that is likely to be a mainstay of the treaty. The EMF report acknowledges targets set by major brands however it does highlight the lacklustre nature of the figures and points out 'low - and slightly decreasing - share of reusable plastic packaging.' The report highlights the need for those in the industry to have an action plan, an issue that is likely to be discussed with stakeholders as part of the treaty.

The report also points out the plastics industry has a whole has targets that it is currently missing: '100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable plastic packaging' is a target that the industry is likely to miss and an issue that the treaty may look to target. To meet these targets that may be revisited in the treaty as the report points out the industry needs to improve infrastructure to hit any realistic goal. Unilever last reported highlighted that only 53% of their packaging were recyclable which by the company's own admission is much less than the 70% of other general materials that are recyclable. He company highlight the relative lack of technology capa-

ble of recycling plastic as opposed to other materials.

The industry and major stakeholders around it is also likely to have discussions around the use of virgin polymers. The EMF reports the use of plastics produced from fossil fuels are back to 2018 levels with the report calling for business and industry to drop reliance on new plastics and opt for recycled products.

Mars is committed to dropping their virgin plastics use by 25% in the coming years however they do not give a time frame and do not give an indication on what current virgin plastics usage looks like within the company.

Source: Interplas Insights

Arkema Debuts Bio-Attributed Acrylic Materials

A new range of bio-attributed acrylic materials from Arkema uses the mass-balance approach to help users tell their sustainability story by ensuring a verified level of non-fossil feedstock.



The company's just-announced bio-attributed acrylic monomers and specialty acrylic additives and resins are mass-balance certified under the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification-PLUS framework, the company said. Arkema's customers can use these materials to reduce Scope 3 greenhouse-gas emissions.

"The development of these bio-attributed acrylic materials is an important step on the sustainable development roadmap of Arkema and its Coating Solutions segment," said Hervé Castres Saint Martin, Global Group President, Acrylic Monomers. "These innovative products deliver the same high quality and performance that our customers expect from us, while at the same time enabling them to lower their own carbon footprint."

Arkema's Carling and Genay plants in France have been newly certified for acrylic monomers and specialty acrylic additives, respectively, and its Zwickau plant in Germany for specialty acrylic resins. Production of Arkema's certified bio-attributed acrylic materials will extend throughout Europe and other regions, the company added. The mass-balance method of manufacture establishes a chain of custody that tracks the total amount

of biomass content through a production system, ensuring the appropriate allocation of non-fossil content in finished goods based on auditable bookkeeping, the company explained.

“Engaging in both complementary approaches of mass balance and physical segregation accelerates our innovation in renewable materials for our customers and partners, to help them achieve their own sustainable development targets,” said Richard Jenkins, Senior Vice President, Arkema Coating Solutions. “In line with Arkema’s newly reinforced commitment to the Paris Agreement, we are working diligently to reduce our environmental footprint while developing innovative materials for a more sustainable world.”

Source: Plastics Today

LG Chem Targets Polycarbonate Production Via Carbon Capture

Korea’s LG Chem plans to construct an innovative carbon mitigation facility that will produce raw materials for plastics using carbon dioxide to build its foundation to achieve 2050 Net Zero. The company will construct a Dry Reforming of Methane (DRM) facility, which can produce plastics using carbon dioxide captured at the plant and the byproduct gas, methane.



The DRM facility will be constructed as a 1,000-tonne/year pilot plant at the Daesan site of LG Chem in Chungcheongnam Province by 2023. After verifying the process technologies and catalysts developed using proprietary technologies, plans are to expand its scale by 2026.

DRM is a type of carbon dioxide, capture, and utilization (CCU) technology that reduces carbon dioxide emissions by more than 50% while producing resins such as polycarbonates. The company will build this DRM plant using proprietary technologies instead of externally licensed technologies, even developing catalysts essential for carbon dioxide conversion using its own methods. LG Chem is the first in Korea to commercialize DRM facilities using proprietary technology-based processes and catalysts.

Until now, it was challenging to commercialize DRM due to issues with catalyst performance dropping quickly during operation. However, LG Chem applied proprietary developed processes and catalyst technologies to address this issue, thereby significantly strengthening the durability of catalysts.

LG Chem established a new organization dedicated to the catalyst business to internalize catalyst production technologies in 2019. To date, the company has developed and launched catalysts for products such as polyolefin elastomers and carbon nanotubes.

Kuk Lae Noh, President of LG Chem’s Petrochemicals Co., stated, “LG Chem does intend to be bound within the traditional petrochemical industry structure but is continuously striving to take a leading role in carbon mitigation and sustainable innovative technologies in the global chemical industry.”

Source: Plastics Today

Stabilization Technology Delivers Sustainable HDPE for Blow Molding

Plastics additives supplier Baerlocher has collaborated with processor Envision Plastics, machinery OEMs Bekum America and W. Müller, and polyethylene supplier ExxonMobil Chemical to develop new sustainable plastics for the packaging industry. Baerlocher’s innovative Baeropol T-Blends stabilization solutions significantly enhance the recyclability of virgin polyolefin resins and the quality of recycled high-density polyethylene (re-HDPE) resins used in extrusion blow molding (EBM) applications. The blends are equally applicable to post-industrial recycled (PIR) and post-consumer recycled (PCR) content used in polyethylene (PE) film. Baerlocher is involved in numerous commercial projects with leading members of the US Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR), such as Little Rock, AR-based recycler Revolution, as well as companies in the UK and Canada (Cascades Flexible Packaging).



“Mechanical recycling utilizes only 20% of the energy of chemical recycling and much less water,” says Ed Hall, President and CEO, North America, at Baerlocher. “This means mechanical recycling is the most obvious choice right now, but high-quality PCR is rare.” This is where Baeropol T-Blends stabilization additives come in.

“Brand owners are increasing their use of PCR content in end products in response to growing consumer demand for greater sustainability and [the requirements of] new regulations,” said Andreas Holzner, Global Head of the Special Additives Business Unit at Baerlocher. “Historically, the inconsistent quality of PCR content has limited its use in extrusion blow molding applications. Working with industry leaders, Baerlocher continues to invest in cutting-edge application development that enhances the value of recycled HDPE and expands its use in extrusion blow molding.”

Customizable additives stabilize PCR content in packaging

Baeropol T-Blends are formulated with Baerlocher’s Resin Stabilization Technology (RST), customizable additive blends that act as an antioxidant and produce a synergistic effect with primary and secondary antioxidants to stabilize polyolefin resins. Baerlocher’s advanced RST packages create value far beyond the use of typical binary antioxidant blends. The technology enables companies to achieve superior stabilization in PCR content used in a variety of packaging applications and meets global calls for greater corporate responsibility and to better support the circular economy.

Baerlocher’s work with leading HDPE plastics recycler Envision Plastics enabled the development of a new grade of HDPE PCR content with improved consistency and processability, and ultimately resulted in high-quality packaging applications. The new re-HDPE grade was tested at Bekum America’s facility using an F-style 10-liter bottle with a handle. Results revealed the re-HDPE 100% PCR content displayed more robust processability and enhanced final bottle specifications versus the control.

New PCR grade available for trials

“We are delighted to work with Baerlocher on additives to enhance recycled content used in a broad base of commercial applications, including those for direct food contact,” said Jean Bina, Director of Sales and Market Development at Envision Plastics. “The new PCR grade is available for trials today and is being tested by world-class consumer packaged goods companies and their blow molders.”

Further experiments at Bekum demonstrated that Baeropol T-Blend has a significant positive impact on the processability and final properties of PCR materials that have varying concentrations of virgin material.

Baerlocher also worked with W. Müller, a leading German EBM technology provider, to validate new PCR materials formulated with Baeropol T-blends. Results showed that these materials exhibit less variation in die pressure and parison length, while producing bottles with top load performance that matches those made with virgin resin.

Recycle-ready resins developed in collaboration with ExxonMobil

Additionally, Baerlocher’s upstream collaboration with polymer company ExxonMobil Chemical supports the company’s efforts to create virgin polyethylene (PE) resins that are easier to recycle. Baerlocher’s RST solution, along with ExxonMobil Chemical’s modification of the resin architecture, helped to successfully develop these novel recycle-ready resins.

“Baerlocher’s technical expertise supported our development of a new generation of high-performance and recycle-friendly resins,” said Mark Canright, HDPE Principal Engineer, ExxonMobil Chemical. “Baerlocher provided us with a cutting-edge stabilization package that supports our effort to increase the number of recycling cycles for our resin.”

Source: Plastics Today

The future of drug delivery: from detailed extrusion to a solution

Daniel Mielert, head of product development for Injection & Dosing Devices at Raumedic, discusses the future of drug delivery from detailed coextrusion to a comprehensive solution.



Complex requirements, user-friendly solutions

Process engineering know-how and materials expertise are crucial to any project from the beginning. For the past two years, Daniel Mielert has led a team of eight in customer drug-delivery projects, an important market for the medical and pharmaceutical industry, in part because more than 537 million people worldwide now suffer from diabetes.

As human life expectancy increases, so does the incidence of many chronic diseases. In hospitals, nursing care or home care, subcutaneous administration of medications is increasingly used where people need long-term or permanent drug therapies such as insulins, heparins, cytokines, interferons and immunomodulators, EPO or allergen extracts for hyposensitization. Subcutaneous drug administration is considered to have few complications and to be gentle on patients.

A versatile prodigy for modern drug-delivery systems

Coextruded tubing has a minimum internal diameter of up to only 0.1 millimetre and is indispensable in many drug delivery systems. Depending on the application, it may have layers introduced during manufacturing — a process known as composite tubing extrusion — to improve the functionality and safety of the injection system.

Here, the outer layer connects the coextruded tubing to other components of the fluid outlet such as the needle insertion system, reservoir or pump unit. The tubing and all connecting joints must withstand pressure of up to six bar. The inner layer is inert, thereby ensuring marginal interaction with the drug throughout the product's life cycle.

Properties like these make coextruded tubing an important component of the fluid outlet, the heart of any drug delivery system. Raumedic not only designs and adapts the tubing for individual systems, it also intelligently combines various manufacturing processes.

Smart combination of processes and technologies

“The complex requirements of modern medical technology, in particular in drug delivery, call for intelligent process combinations,” Mielert says. “Long-term applications, safety and reliability for home-care use, miniaturisation and greater user-friendliness all mean challenges in developing and manufacturing drug delivery systems. All the components have to dovetail reliably.”

There is customised know-how in every phase of a development project along with the constant pursuit of the optimal complete system — from the first sketch and initial 3D models for rapid prototyping all the way to final specifications.

“We observe the market and see the difficulties that can arise when components come from different suppliers and must be assembled into an overall system,” Mielert explains. Often, the components or materials are incompatible. The result can be additional corrections, a need for optimisation or even costly design or concept changes. That costs time and money unnecessarily — a powerful argument given rising costs and deadline pressures in healthcare, especially in light of the acute energy debate.

“We consider the whole system right from the start: We find individual solutions for every requirement, no matter how complex,” Mielert says. This not only saves time and money, it minimises risk: Individual components are developed, manufactured and validated by an experienced expert.

Individually designed soft cannulas

Raumedic has demonstrated its expertise in combining technology and materials. This includes integrating soft cannulas into the fluid outlet of patch pumps.

The cannula replaces the classic steel injection cannula and remains inside the patient for the duration of the application, enhancing comfort and drug delivery.

With an assembled solution, the highest quality standards for materials, geometry and dimensions can be realised in the extrusion process, offering possibilities when post-processing extruded tubing to expand the assembly into customised soft cannulas. Alternatively, injection moulding reduces the number of steps because both the cannula shaft and the housing are produced from a single mould.

Source: Medical Plastic News

India News

EPR challenges before plastic waste recycling plants in India

While large corporates have already volunteered to minimize the use of plastic in both hard and flexible forms to reduce its impact on the environment, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are yet to come forward to adopt the post-use scrap collection mechanism, thereby creating a roadblock for the acceleration in recycling and circularity of the plastic economy, experts gathered at the Plastic EPR (Extended Producers' Responsibility) Conference 2022 organised in Mumbai by AP Industry Conferences observed on Tuesday.

Several large fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies in India have already declared 'plastic waste neutral'. Dabur India Ltd announced itself as 'plastic waste neutral' in February this year, followed by Procter & Gamble (P&G) India in March. In August this year, Amway India also declared to become 'plastic waste neutral'. Kolkata-headquartered ITC Ltd followed suit and announced that the company already achieved 'plastic waste neutrality' in the financial year 2021-22. Another FMCG behemoth Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) aims to achieve this goal by the current year-end. Additionally, a number of large corporations from other industries such as textiles have also declared 'plastic waste neutral' in the last few months.

All these companies use a huge volume of hard and flexible packaging materials for the internal and external packing of articles. These plastic packaging materials often remained collected by the local rag-pickers and municipal bodies, but a huge quantity of it is dumped irresponsibly which gets incinerated into the sea. Also, tonnes of plastic scrap is dumped in landfills. Irresponsible dumping of plastic, thus, damages the environment and creates soil, air, and water pollution.

"This does not mean that we have stopped using plastic for packaging food and non-food articles. We buy plastic waste from the market in the volume equivalent to our virgin plastic consumption and dispatch the same for recycling. We have also achieved success in developing 'first-of-its-kind' food-grade packaging material for recycled plastic for packing some of our edible products. Presently, we are using food-grade recycled plastic materials only for a couple of products, but want to expand it across other articles as and when time progresses. In short, our scrap purchase nullifies the use of virgin plastic in our product value chain," said Tusar Pattnaik, Corporate Head EHS & EPR (India & SAARC), Dabur India Ltd.

To make the environment healthier and safer for living beings, the government of India effected a ban on single-use plastic (SUP) effective from June 1, 2022. Also, the government enacted EPR laws under which the corporate users are mandated to collect a large percentage of used plastic materials and phase it out in a time-bound manner, failing which the government has made a provision of a massive penalty which may go even to the extent of canceling the license.

According to market sources, around 90 percent of SMEs and MSMEs have not registered with the concerned regulatory authorities, i.e. State Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board. Sameer



Joshi, Hon. Treasurer Governing Council, Indian Plastics Council, believes, “We should not wait for the last day to implement EPR laws into our company and end up paying penalties in case of any delay. Indian corporate must act now to achieve the targeted success well ahead of the deadline.”

Echoing a similar response, Paul E Prakash, Technology Leader – Packaging Development & Machinery, Pidilite Industries Ltd, said, “One EPR law will give multiplier benefits. With the law coming into force, EPR is gradually evolving into products,” he added.

Large corporates in India are following the ‘Three R’ approach which stands for Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. All efforts currently being made either by the state and central government or corporate and common people will help reduce the use of virgin plastics from the system. Even substitute materials such as biodegradable and compostable materials will help reduce applications of plastic from the system which eventually will take care of the ‘reduce’ portion of sustainability. ‘Reuse’ has not been successful anywhere in the world and hence, will be challenging in India as well. Even if ‘Reuse’ succeeds in India, scaling up this business will be impossible. On the contrary, ‘Recycle’ will succeed, and scale up also which gives an enormous opportunity for brand owners to participate.



Praveen Aggarwal, Chief Executive Officer, of Action Alliance for Recycling Beverage Cartons (AARC), said, “So far, only large corporates have announced plans to phase out plastic use voluntarily which others need to follow. But, there is an urgent need for these business owners to get benefit from these initiatives. For others to join this bandwagon therefore there is an urgent need for the government to introduce incentives which may encourage them to participate in this movement and create plastic a circular economy.”

The Shakti Plastic Industries, one of India’s largest plastic scrap recycling companies, envisaged a long-term plant to convert waste into usable products. With

four plants already in operation across various states, the company plans to set up 10 more recycling plants in the next four-five years to expand its business throughout the country.

“We have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Netherland-based Lyondell-Basell Industries N V to set up a 50,000 tonnes fully-automated, mechanical recycling plant in India. Presently, this is the largest plant in India which on expansion to 200,000 tonnes in the next few years would be the biggest plastic waste recycling plant in the world,” said Rahul V Poddar, Managing Director, The Shakti Plastic Industries Ltd.

Source: Polymer Update

CPCL, IOCL ink JV for Tamilnadu refinery project

Chennai Petroleum Corporation (CPCL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) and seed equity partners have signed a joint venture agreement for the upcoming grass root 9 MMTPA refinery and petrochemicals project at Nagapattinam in Tamilnadu.

IOCL and CPCL will together hold 50% of equity stake (25% each) in the joint venture company (JVC) and the balance 50% stake would be held by financial/strategic investors, to be identified at a later stage. Pending onboarding of the financial/strategic investor, the JVC is being incorporated with the two promoters, IOCL and CPCL.

The Rs 31,580 crore refinery complex will cater to the petroleum products demand of the Southern region of India and provide impetus for economic development of the region. The project will result in substantial socio-economic benefit to the country in general and more specifically to the State of Tamilnadu.

CPCL, one of the leading group companies of IOCL, produces petroleum products, lubricants, and additives. IOCL is a diversified, integrated energy major with presence in almost all the streams of oil, gas, petrochemicals and alternative energy sources.

Source: Business Standard

Coca-Cola and Zepto to Collect, Recycle PET Bottles in Mumbai

In the ‘return and recycle’ initiative, consumers can access the ‘Return PET Bottles’ feature on the Zepto app, where they can opt to return up to four empty PET bottles across any brand. The bottles will then be collected by Zepto riders during delivery.

Beverages major Coca-Cola India has partnered with grocery delivery service, Zepto, for a 'return and recycle' initiative for PET bottles. According to a joint statement, the initiative seeks to establish an organized process of collection of PET bottles with 100 per cent traceability, to ensure effective plastic waste management.



Consumers can access the 'Return PET Bottles' feature on the Zepto app, where they can opt to return up to four empty PET bottles across any brand. The bottles will then be collected by Zepto riders during delivery. The initiative has been launched in select locations in Mumbai and will further be scaled to other markets in India soon, the statement added. Zepto has already been leading a movement for paper bag collection on its app where customers have the option to help reuse bags by returning them to the delivery partner.

According to Coca-Cola India, the company's partnership with Zepto in India aims to create a circular economy for plastic by connecting all participants in the PET recycling value chain. "Leveraging the Zepto two-wheeler distribution network, Coca-Cola India seeks to 'collect back' empty PET bottles of any brand from consumers."

Greishma Singh, Vice President, Customer & Commercial Leadership, India & South West Asia Operating Unit, The Coca-Cola Company, said that the team at Coca-Cola, is continually leveraging their scale and reach across markets to reduce waste pollution and achieve the set sustainability goals. As per Singh, this innovative partnership with Zepto provides a great platform to generate awareness, influence behavior, and encourage consumers to recycle PET bottles in a super convenient way from the comfort of their homes. "We hope this partnership will enhance consumers' inclusion in the path towards a more sustainable, better, shared future," said Singh.

Vinay Dhanani, Chief Operating Officer at Zepto, said that Zepto users have an eco-conscious mindset where they have consistently expressed their interest and passion towards sustainability. Dhanani added that he sees an opportunity in leveraging the expertise to contribute to environment-friendly initiatives. "On the back

of our last-mile delivery network in Mumbai, we have been able to seamlessly integrate with this initiative that ensures effective plastic waste management. As one of India's youngest and fastest growing startups, Zepto is excited to be a part of a collective change with Coca-Cola India that enables and inspires customers to make an impact."

Source: Packaging 360

Plastic industry an integral part of Indian economy: Rane
The plastic industry in India is an integral part of the economy, said Union minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane on Wednesday.



Addressing the inaugural session of the Global MSME Convention in Goa virtually, the minister said that there are approximately 50,000 industries operating in the space. "Most of these industries are micro, small and medium scale. These industries contribute ₹3.5 lakh crore to the country's economy. They also generate employment opportunities for more than 50,000 people. About ₹35 thousand crores worth of plastic is exported from India."

Rane added that 60% of plastic in the country is getting recycled, a rate higher than that of developed countries. "Plastic production is increasing through the government's 'Make in India', 'Skill India', 'Swachh Bharat' and 'Digital India' initiatives. By 2027, the plastics industry is expected to have an annual turnover of ₹10 lakh crore, with exports increasing to two lakh tons. Employment opportunities will be created for one crore people in the next five years through this industry."

He said that the government's resolve to provide all possible support for the latest technology to boost the plastic industry. "The plastic industry's contribution will go a long way in fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'."

The convention has been organized by the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and All India Plastic Manufacturers Association. The theme is 'Opportunities for the Indian Plastics Industry in a US\$ 5 Trillion Economy'

Over the course of the two-day conference, experts will deliberate on various topics such as 'opportunities for the plastic industry through the government e-market place', 'Schemes of the Indian government to promote the plastic industry' and 'latest technology in the Indian tooling sector'.

More than 250 industries are participating in the conference, which will witness technology showcases, B2B meetings, business networking, case studies, best practices and panel discussions.

Source: Live Mint

India to launch free trade pact negotiation with Gulf Cooperation Council

In a bid to promote commerce and investment between the two regions, India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will announce the launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement.

GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region -- Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain.

In the fiscal year 2021-22, India's exports to the GCC member countries grew by 58.26% to about \$44 billion as against \$27.8 billion in 2020-21. According to commerce ministry data, the share of these six countries in India's total exports has risen to 10.4% in 2021-22, from 9.51% in 2020-21.



Similarly, imports rose by 85.8% to \$110.73 billion, compared to \$59.6 billion in 2020-21, the data showed. The share of GCC members in India's total imports rose to 18% in 2021-22, from 15.5% in 2020-21. Bilateral trade has increased to \$154.73 billion in 2021-22, from \$87.4 billion in 2020-21. "GCC officials will be here for the announcement," the official said.

India has already implemented a free trade pact with the UAE in May this year. India's bilateral trade with the nation increased to \$72.9 billion in 2021-22 as compared to \$43.3 billion in 2020-21.

India imports predominately crude oil and natural gas from the Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and exports pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; metals; imitation jewellery; electrical machinery; iron and steel; and chemicals to these countries.

Besides trade, Gulf nations are host to a sizeable Indian population. Out of about 32 million non-resident Indians (NRIs), nearly half are estimated to be working in Gulf countries.

The NRIs send a significant amount of money back home. According to a November 2021 report from the World Bank, India got \$87 billion in foreign remittances in 2021. Of this, a sizeable portion came from the GCC nations.

Among its trading partner of India in Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia is at the 4th spot. Total bilateral trade has increased to about \$ 43 billion in 2021-22, from \$ 22 billion a year ago.

India imports 8.5 million tonnes a year of LNG from Qatar and exports products ranging from cereals to meat, fish, chemicals, and plastics. Two-way commerce between India and Qatar rose to \$ 15 billion in 2021-22 from \$ 9.21 billion in 2020-21.

Kuwait was the 27th largest trading partner of India in the last fiscal. Bilateral trade has jumped to \$ 12.3 billion in 2021-22, as compared to \$ 6.3 billion in 2020-21. Oman was the 31st largest trading partner of India in 2021-22. Bilateral trade with the nation has increased to about \$ 10 billion in 2021-22, as compared to \$ 5.5 billion in 2020-21.

Source: Line Mint

How govt's ULIP initiative can accelerate efficiencies across logistics value chain for MSMEs

The MSME sector in India accounts for one-third of India's GDP and about 40 per cent of the country's total exports. The logistics sector, on the other hand, contributes to around 14.4 per cent of the country's GDP and the overall cost is around 14 per cent of the GDP, whereas BRICS average is 11 per cent. One of the primary reasons that can be attributed to the high costs is the highly unorganised nature of the industry. As India draws closer to the \$5 trillion economy, exports will form a certain part of India's growth. However, the industry faces several logistical challenges as MSMEs in cross-border trade deal with high transportation costs, a dearth of strong trade support, and geographical imbalances in export.



To overcome these challenges, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched an initiative called the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), this year. Designed for the logistics sector, the promising initiative was introduced as a part of the National Logistics Policy (NLP). The intent was to make businesses in the logistics sector easier by streamlining the logistics processes, increasing their efficiency, introducing transparency and visibility, and lowering logistics costs and time.

The NLP is an inclusive framework that is aimed at enhancing India's logistics sector which can execute a seamless movement of goods across the nation. The primary intent behind the framework is to reduce the current logistics costs in India. Additionally, the policy allows Indian businesses, especially MSMEs, to become globally competitive by creating a robust logistics infrastructure that facilitates cross-border trade.

In line with the vision of "PM GatiShakti", ULIP has been conceptualised with the objective to create a nationwide single window logistics platform for end-to-end visibility, develop a logistics gateway by integrating information available with various government agencies across the value chain, provide visibility for optimal usage of various modes of transportation, provide data which

can be utilized by the stakeholders for simplification of complicated processes like compliance, document filing, certifications, and approvals, and offer a platform for data exchange among government and private entities who are directly or indirectly involved in the Indian logistics ecosystem.

Factors affecting the Indian Logistics

We are all aware that India's logistics sector has been fragmented for quite some time. MSMEs must go through redundant manual processes, heavy documentation, and regular interference from various regulatory authorities, among other challenges. This was followed by the global shipping crisis which led to new challenges such as container shortages, high freight costs, late deliveries, trouble establishing liabilities for in-transit goods, and more. Also, small businesses deal with complex shipping processes and compliance issues including several customs clearances and quality or packaging checks. These businesses also face financial problems often overlooked by traditional lenders like banks. All these factors have affected their involvement in the global supply chain.

How ULIP will benefit all the stakeholders

Since its launch, the ULIP has developed a nationwide, interconnected, and multi-pronged system that has catapulted the Indian logistics industry with unmatched ease, speed, and economic expansion. The industry is responding well to the platform with 13 organisations having signed non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) to obtain data on ULIPs.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, NDAs are being negotiated with 11 other companies. Today, recognised businesses are contemplating integrating with ULIP to organise complex logistical operations, authenticate vendors' documentation, and gain visibility into freight movement. Currently, more than 100 APIs are used to integrate 30 systems from 7 ministries, including Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Railway, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY); encompassing more than 1,600 data fields for users.

Source: FE

How India-Australia FTA is set to boost trade that's already at a record high

The India-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA), approved by the Parliament of Australia comes at a time when trade between the two countries is already at record high levels.

Data with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India's trade with Australia had already reached \$22.49 billion in the first three quarters of this calendar year, a 62 percent jump over the \$13.88 billion during the same period in 2021. Indeed, India's trade with Australia in the first three quarters of 2022 has surpassed the \$21.98 billion worth of trade done in the entire year 2021.

Energy sector driving the growth

India's merchandise trade with Australia is driven heavily by imports from the latter. Of the \$22.49 billion of trade this year, imports accounted for more than \$15.6 billion and exports only for \$6.83 billion.

A closer look at these numbers reveals that most of the trade between the two countries happened in the energy sector. Of the \$15.6 billion imports from Australia this year, coking coal (\$9.56 billion), steam coal (\$1.4 billion), and other forms of coal (\$1.37 billion) accounted for close to 80 per cent of the total imports from Australia. Coking coal is a major input, good for iron and steel manufacturers, while steam coal is used by industries to produce steam to generate electricity and for heating purposes.

Australia is India's single biggest source for coking coal. In 2022 (till September), it accounted for more than 57 per cent (\$9.56 billion) of India's coking coal needs (\$16.48 billion).

Similarly, energy products dominate India's exports to Australia. By September 2022, automotive diesel fuel, high-speed diesel and automotive gasoline alone accounted for more than 55 per cent of India's exports to Australia this year.

Data also reveals that the pace of growth of India's exports to Australia is much faster than that of the imports. In the first three quarters of 2017, India's total Australian imports were worth about \$14.35 billion, which rose to \$15.56 billion in 2022 — or an average growth of 7.8 per cent per year.

But India's exports over the same period rose from about \$2.8 billion to \$6.8 billion, or a 19 per cent average annual growth rate.

Benefiting labour-intensive sectors

According to Saon Ray, professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), "The ECTA (Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) is likely to be beneficial for Indian exports that are labour-intensive in sectors such as textiles, apparel, agriculture products, fish products, leather, footwear, furniture, sports goods, jewellery, engineering goods, and some pharmaceuticals and medical devices (according to media reports)".

"Many raw materials and intermediate goods are of interest to India. Items that are of interest to India include plastics, in which Australia is more protective," she said. The Harmonized System, administered by the World Customs Organization, is an international nomenclature used to classify traded goods. Referring to chapter 39 of the system's codes — plastics and articles thereof — Ray added, "Some items are sensitive in this chapter, though most items are expected to be liberalised."

Diversification possible?

After the announcement of the FTA with Australia, Pi-yush Goyal, minister of commerce and trade, said that this move would open up markets across 6,000 broad Indian sectors that could include final goods such as textiles, jewellery and machinery. At a function, he also said that Australia could now benefit from Indian steel, the export duty on which was abolished six months after being levied.

Several industry experts, too, have said that this deal would bolster India's exports in the non-energy sector. Vivek Chandra, chair of the food processing and value additions council at the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries (ASSOCHAM) India — a non-governmental trade body — in a tweet said the FTA would open up more mutually beneficial avenues and new technology to "enhance the industry with the expansion of India's food processing sector".

Source: The Print

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
- Basic Website Development Assistance *

*Nominal Charges Applicable

New Members

The Plastics Export Promotion Council added the following companies/firms as new members during October 2022. We would like to welcome them aboard!

Sr.No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Director Name	Email
1	Abhishri Packaging Private Limited	Tainwala House Road No 18, Midc Andheri East,	Mumbai	400093	Maharashtra	Ravi Sampat Joshi	imports@abhishri.co.in
2	Axiom Cordages Limited	Gat No.114b & 120c, Betegaon Village, Mahagaon Road Boisar East, Taluka Palghar	Palghar	401501	Maharashtra	Manish Kumar Agarwal	k.office656@gmail.com
3	Cognate Composites Private Limited	C/O Meenashri Industries, Plot No 26/2 D-1 Block Chinchwad	Pune	411019	Maharashtra	Mallika Vishwesh Gadekar	acc.cognatecomposites@gmail.com
4	Flexi Bulk Packaging India	Survey No 253/1 To 7, Ashirwad, Ground Floor 8 Baner Park Baner,	Pune	411007	Maharashtra	Ashok Manohar Rajapurkar	ashok.rajaburkar@gmail.com
5	Gopala Packaging	3006 World Trade Centre, Ring Road	Surat	395002	Gujarat	Ankitkumar Girdharilal Agrawal	gopalapackaging72@gmail.com
6	Hce Usa Inc	4 G1 Krishna Avenue, Cv Raman Road Alwarpet,	Chennai	600018	Tamil Nadu	Sreeram Pichai	sreerampichai@gmail.com
7	Higenic Flora Private Limited	Sy No 364/1,364/2,365, Shivampet, Nawabpet, Hyderabad, Sangareddy	Hyderabad	502313	Telangana	Bachu Pranareshwar Reddy	info@higenicflorapolymers.in
8	Insta Pack	Shop No. F-27, 1st Floor Building B, Saffron Heights, H.No.696, Sr No. 30/1/2 Near Swaminarayan Mandir,	Silvassa	396235	Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu	Prince Bajaj	info@instapack.info
9	Kalika Pens And Markers	F-99, North Bombay Coop Hsg Ltd, Juhutara Road, Juhu, Vile Parle West,	Mumbai	400049	Maharashtra	Daanika Sawhney	pikpens@gmail.com
10	Madura Carbon India Limited	1 Janki Centre, Off Veera Desai Road, Andheri West	Mumbai	400053	Maharashtra	Gautam Vipin Kalra	marketing@maduratesx.com
11	Multi-Line Exporters	No.535,, Poonamallee High Road, Arumbakkam,	Chennai	600106	Tamil Nadu	Aysha	mdhalid@hotmail.com
12	Mutha Writting Instruments	Sr. No.45/2, Kumar Ind Estate, Gala 7/8, Shankarsheth Road,	Pune	411037	Maharashtra	Sachin C. Mutha	sachin.b2b@gmail.com
13	Neotex Plastipak Private Limited	Plot No-95 Sector-8b	Gandhinagar	382007	Gujarat	Mr. Harshketu Patel	harsh@neotexgroup.com
14	Ns Rolling Steel Private Limited	Office No. 604, Plot No. 74, Sector 15, Navi Mumbai	Navi Mumbai	400614	Maharashtra	Ravi Nandan Singh	nsrollingsteel@yahoo.com
15	Responsive Industries Ltd	Mahagaon Road, Betegaon Boisar East	Palghar	401501	Maharashtra	Shobhasingh Rajaramsingh Thakur	tanasha@gmail.com
16	Seth Pharma	78, Deen Dayal Nagar Kanpur,	Kanpur Nagar	208002	Uttar Pradesh	Vijay Kumar Seth	sethpharma@rediffmail.com
17	Swastik Polytex Private Limited	A-501, Amrit Kalash, Near Kamal & Company, Tonk Road,	Jaipur	302018	Rajasthan	Dharmichand Jain	swastikpolytex@yahoo.com

New Members

18	Tech Weave International Private Limited	202,2nd Floor.7,Abhis- hree Corporate Park, Iskon Bopal Road,Ambli,	Ahme- dabad	380058	Gujarat	Laxmidevi Shyamsunder Tibrewal	admin@ mayurwovens. com
19	U S Management Services	Office Cum Factory 1st Floor,13-231, S S Reddy Complex,Seven Temple, Uma Nagar, Medc- hal-Malkajgiri	Hydera- bad	501401	Telangana	Uppula Raghu- pathi	usmanage- ment2014@ gmail.com
20	Vijay Nets	9, Periyar Nagar, Kvb Nagar Road,,Senguntha- puram P.O. Contact	Karur	639002	Tamil Nadu	K.S. Ashwin Kumaar	vijaynetska- rur@gmail.com

Source: Plexconcil