



PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

# PLEXCONNECT<sup>®</sup>

Edition 52, October 2023

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It gives me great pleasure to announce the new dates for India's ONLY export focused exhibition for plastics organized by PLEXCONCIL! After the astounding success of PLEXCONNECT 2023 that surpassed all expectations in its first edition, we will be bringing you PLEXCONNECT 2024 from June 7-9, 2024 at NESCO, Mumbai. This second edition of the exhibition promises to be much bigger and we thank all those who have shared your valuable feedback that has helped us prepare for an even greater showcasing of our industry's prowess. The forthcoming edition that will be covering 20,000 sq mtrs or double the space, will see the convergence of 900 internal buyers from 100+ countries, 25000 trade visitors, 500 leading exhibitors and eminent industry organizations, associations and more. So, please save the date and visit our website to register today!

In recent years, sustainability has taken center stage in the global discourse, and rightfully so. The plastics industry has faced its share of scrutiny due to its environmental impact and yet I firmly believe that our industry has the potential to be a driving force for positive change. It is our collective responsibility to lead the way in adopting sustainable practices and products. In this issue, we bring you an interview with Punit Gopalka, CEO, Umasree Texplast who recently announced a JV with Brazil's Packem to manufacture 100% sustainable FIBC (Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container) /Jumbo Bags made of PET/PCR (rPET). This initiative not only meets the company's environmental goals but will also play a crucial role in employment generation and local waste management efforts.

The impending implementation of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) regulations on the import of polymer raw materials carries significant implications for plastic processing industry. In this issue, Arvind Goenka, MD, RMG Polyvinyl India Ltd. and Past Chairman, PLEXCONCIL talks about the impact of imposing BIS on raw material import and explains that to ensure effectiveness of the policy on polymers, mandatory BIS should be imposed on the complete value chain and not only on polymers alone so that cheap quality & low priced finished goods are not flooded in India leading to crippling of the MSME plastic processors. It will also ensure better quality of finished goods at the hands of the consumer.

International Trade Consultant and a regular writer for PLEXCONNECT, Aditya Kashikar shares a review of the India-ASEAN Trade Agreement marks and how the process aims to address concerns about barriers and misuse of the trade pact while enhancing bilateral trade. Read more in this feature.

The demand for medical plastics has surged in recent times, given their critical role in healthcare. While our industry has played a pivotal role in providing essential supplies, we must also focus on sustainability. In this issue, we delve on the initiatives being taken by the medical plastics industry to embrace greater sustainability goals and invest in research and development to create biodegradable and recyclable medical plastics.

Meanwhile, during August 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 963 million, lower by 7.4% from USD 1,040 million in August 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – August 2023 was USD 4,704 million as against USD 5,435 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 13.4%.

And finally, in this edition, our Countryscape section covers Maldives, and the Product of the Month is Plastic Tanks & Reservoirs. This is in addition to news and views from around the world.

As we approach the festive season, we wish you all the very best and encourage you to be safe and healthy.

**Warm regards,**

**Hemant Minocha**  
**Chairman**



## VC Meeting to discuss export policy of Human Hair – 04th August 2023 | South & Northern Region

VC Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri. Subash Chandra Agarwal, Addl. DGFT to discuss the issues related to export policy of Human Hair under HS Code 0501. The meeting was attended by Mr. Benjamin Cherian, Panel Chairman along with Panel Members and Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director – Plexconcil & Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South.

## KICK-OFF MEETING - CHEMICAL AND PLASTICS SECTOR FOR BGBS 2023- 04th August 2023 | Eastern Region

This meeting was organised by the Department of MSME and Textiles, Government of West Bengal. Mr Rajesh Pandey, IAS, Principal Secretary, MSME & Textile chaired the meeting. Mr Alok Tibrewal, Raw Material Panel Chairman, COA Member & Mr Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director, PLEXCONCIL represented the Council at this meeting.

## Participation in HIPLEX 2023 Show –August 04-07, 2023- Hitex Convention Centre, Hyderabad | Southern Region

The Chennai office of the Council participated in the HIPLEX 2023 Show, organized by M/s Telangana and Andhra Plastics Manufacturers Association (TAAPMA), at the Hitex Convention Centre in Hyderabad, from August 04-07, 2023. This Show was a sourcing platform for plastics and its allied industries and to showcase the advancements, growth and opportunities for the plastics particularly from Southern India.

The organizers allotted a complimentary booth of 12 sqmtr to the Council who had a promotional booth to disseminate information on the Council's services and on the export potential for plastic products from India. Participation in this event also provided a platform for membership mobilization to encourage industry entrepreneurs to enrol in Council membership and thereafter to start their exports with Council's support and guidance, and the Secretariat is following up with these entrepreneurs to enroll them in Council membership.

## Meeting with PlasticFinder, Italy on 08th August 2023 at SICCI (Southern India Chamber of Commerce & Industry) | Southern Region

A meeting was initiated by Plexconcil Southern Region as requested by SICCI one of the oldest Chamber of Commerce in India to discuss the proposal from PlasticFinder, an Italian company into bringing the plastic industry on e-commerce through a portal, especially for raw materials from India.

Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director, South welcomed Mr. Srinivasan Manikantan, Co-Founder, Plastic Finder, Italy while introducing the representatives Mr. YV Raman, Regional Chairman, Plexconcil, Mr. Meiyappan, President (Tamil Nadu Plastics Manufacturers Association- TAPMA) and Mr. Mahendra Mehta, Multiflex Polybags Pvt Ltd and Mr. R. Dayanidhi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil.



Mr. Srinivasan Manikantan made a presentation about the PlasticFinder Marketplace which is briefly below

- **A single gateway** to access EU Market with more than **3000 active companies**
- **ESCROW** guarantee is given by the leading Italian Bank partner for the seller/buyer
- Logistics management on the **import/export proceedings**

### Certified Recycled Plastics

- The legal-tech solution permits the Extra-EU companies to supply recycled materials in **compliance with EU norms and regulations**

It was decided that Plexconcil would recommend digital advertising for his business to create awareness in India through these digital platforms.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks thanking Mr. Vinod Solomon, Secretary, SICCI for organizing the meeting.

## “E-Masterclass” on Free Trade Agreements organised by FICCI on 09th & 10th August 2023 | Western Region

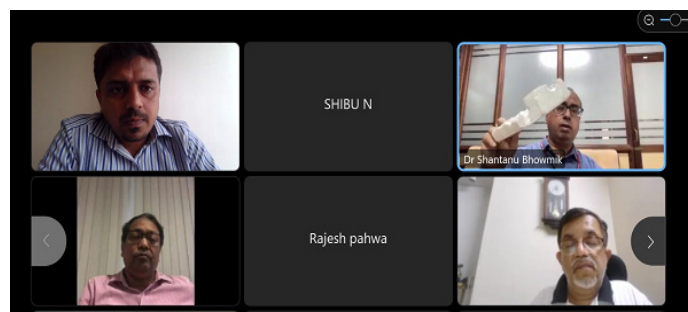
“E-Masterclass on Free Trade Agreements was organised by FICCI where Senior Officials of the Council from H.O. and Regional Offices participated in the online training program. The online sessions focussed on the India's engagement in Free Trade Agreements and important aspects such as Rules of Origin and Product Specific Rules (PSRs), CAROTAR, Trade Remedial Measures and Non-Tariff Measures.



## ► Council Activities

### **WEBINAR on Emerging Business Opportunities Through Plastic Recycling on 11th August 2023 | Eastern Region**

The Council organised this Webinar for the benefit of Members/plastic processors. Dr Shantanu Bhowmik, Professor at the Department of Aerospace Engineering at School of Engineering, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, India and Adjunct Professor: Center for Future Materials, University of Southern Queensland, Australia made a presentation and interacted with the participants. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director (East) welcomed the participants and introduced the speaker. The presentation was followed by an interactive session.



Dr Shantanu Bhowmik is interacting with the participants

### **Meeting with the Indian representative of RUPLASTICA, Russia – August 16, 2023 – Patparganj, New Delhi | Northern Region**

The above meeting was held between the officials of the Delhi office at the premises of the office of the Indian Representative of the fair to discuss the course of action for the participation of the Council at the above fair. RUPLASTICA was pleased to offer the Council 9 sqmtrs complimentary area at the fair.

### **Meeting with the officials of All India Plastics Industries Association (AIPIA) – August 18, 2023 | Northern Region**

The web meeting was held between Mr. Anuj Sharma of the Delhi office and the officials of the All India Plastics Industries Association (AIPAI) to discuss the participation of the Council at the MACHMA trade fair scheduled between November 23 – 26, 2023. The objective of the fair is the presence of the Council at the Punjab region taking into consideration the footfall for the fair. The Council is still awaiting the approval of the fair organizers regarding the complimentary booth at the fair.

### **Meeting for Export, Logistics and International Trade - 18th August 2023 | Eastern Region**

Deptt. of Commerce & Industry, Government of West Bengal organised this meeting. The Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal chaired the Meeting. Senior officers from the various Deptt. of Govt. of West Bengal including Ms Vandana Yadav, IAS Principal Secretary, Industry Commerce & Enterprises Department, Mr Rajesh Pandey, IAS, Principal Secretary, Deptt. of MSME and Textile attended the meeting. Mr Alok Tibrewal, Raw Material Panel Chairman/COA Member & Mr Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director, PLEXCONCIL represented the Council at this meeting.

### **Technology Conference for the Growth of Plastic Industry(Import substitution of Plastic Goods) – 18th August 2023 | Southern Region**

Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director and Mr. R. Dayanidhi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil – South attended the Technology Conference for Growth of Plastics Industry organised by AIPMA and TAPMA in Chennai.

### **Focus group discussion for Plastics Products (Rules of Origin)ROOs - 23rd August, 2023 | Eastern Region**

The aforesaid meeting organized by IIFT, Kolkata on virtual mode in order to discuss for preparation of common template on ROOs for plastic products to be used for future FTAs. RD(East) along with other senior officers of PLEXCONCIL attended the meeting.

### **Stakeholders consultation meeting was held to discuss Non-Tariff Barrier on 29th August 2023 | Western Region**

Stakeholders consultation meeting was held to discuss Non-Tariff Barrier issues relating to Countries (Japan & South Korea). The meeting was held in hybrid mode where Council's CoA members and Secretariat gave necessary inputs on the Non-Tariff Barrier.

### **Technology Conference for the Growth of Plastic Industry(Import substitution of Plastic Goods) – 31st August 2023 | Eastern Region**

Aforesaid conference organized by AIPMA in Kolkata. Mr Manish Chadha, Joint Secretary, DOC was the Guest of Honor at this conference. PLEXCONCIL was one of the supporting Association. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD represented the Council at this conference.

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## EXPORTING INNOVATION, EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES

Following on the heels of the stupendous success of its first edition, PLEXCONNECT 2023, the Second edition promises a grander showcase of India's vast plastic processing industry, innovation, quality and commitment to become a global leader in plastics.



## WHY BE A PART OF PLEXCONNECT 2024?

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# Punit Gopalka

CEO, Umasree Texplast

## rPET Jumbo Bags Lead the Way in Sustainable Solutions

In a recent major announcement, Umasree Texplast, an Ahmedabad based company, has entered into a JV with Brazil based Packem to make FIBC / Jumbo Bags from rPET/ PCR with an investment of \$20 million (appx. 160 crores) for a new plant in Gujarat to support circular economy and Make in India. Taking the lead in adopting mission Life, which serves as the company's inspiration to be a trustee of the environment, the company partnered with Brazil's Packem for setting up a plant near Ahmedabad to produce 100% sustainable FIBC (Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container) / Jumbo Bags made of PET/PCR (rPET).

Umasree has been at the forefront of providing customized big bag solutions for over 15 years. The company produces 3.50 Million units of big bags / FIBC / Jumbo Bags per year and aligning itself with evolving demands and the pressing need to meet climate change targets, the company launched its new rPET project in India. Through this venture, Umasree aims to benefit from new technologies and contribute significantly to the environment by providing sustainable packaging solutions to its customers worldwide.

In this interview, Punit Gopalka, CEO, Umasree Texplast talks about the vision behind the new venture, partnering with Brazil's Packem and more.

(excerpts)

**What is the key partnership announced by Umasree Texplast, and what is its significance?**

Umasree Texplast has entered into a joint venture (JV) with Brazil's Packem to establish a new plant near Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the production of 100% sustainable FIBC (Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container) or Jumbo Bags made from recycled PET/PCR (rPET). This partnership is significant as it aligns with the mission of sustainability and circular economy, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's environmental vision.



The joint venture involves an investment of approximately \$20 million (around 160 crores), and the new production plant will be located near Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India. Umasree Texplast holds a 49% equity stake in Packem Umasree Pvt. Ltd., while Packem holds the majority with a 51% stake in the joint venture.



We chose to form a joint venture with Packem because it is a young and energetic company with a vision for the future. India is a strategic location to serve the global market and we have been operating in this market since 2005. We have launched a 100% recycled and recyclable product and we felt Packem is a perfect fit with our philosophy of sustainability.

### **What distinguishes Packem Umasree Pvt. Ltd. in the Indian market?**

Packem Umasree Pvt. Ltd. will be the first company in India to produce FIBC/Jumbo Bags made entirely from 100% rPET/PCR, following the “Bottle to Bag” concept. This signifies a major step towards sustainability in the packaging industry.



### **What are the global implications of your venture on your present business?**

Packem's commitment to sustainability intensified in late 2019 when the company decided to invest heavily in ESG actions to be the pioneer in the global market. The partnership will expand our presence in global markets, including USA, Canada, and Europe, as we further leverage our established market presence in PP bags. This new facility in Asia will take this joint venture to global markets that are already served today by Umasree. Packem has been our business partners for over 10 years, and it was this relationship of trust that enabled the joint venture to further strengthen this partnership.



The global FIBC market is led by five countries India, China, Vietnam, Turkey, and Mexico. In 2021, these countries exported 250 million units, with India accounting for 50% of that volume. The product being sustainable, ESG compliant and circular economy in nature will create its own niche market globally.

### **What is the socio-economic impact of the project and how does it align with India's goals towards self reliance?**

Our rPET big bag will bring great environmental and social benefits to India, in addition to direct jobs. It is estimated that every metric ton of recycled plastic will create three local jobs for the collection and recycling industry. In addition, our project will create local demand for post-consumer PET bottles, with a positive impact on oceans, rivers and the environment in general.

The new production unit to come up near Ahmedabad which will produce 100 % sustainable FIBC / Jumbo Bags is expected to create about 1100 jobs. The plant will thus help India become self-reliant as well as emerge as a hub for exports of the bags.



## What is the environmental impact of using rPET in FIBC/Jumbo Bags?

The rPET/PCR to FIBC/Jumbo bags is the greatest innovation of recent years in the segment of packaging for agriculture and will help in developing a circular economy. The first 100% bag-to-bag projects in the world will see big bags used in the field processed and recycled to be made into big bags again. The company will reuse 100% of the rPET FIBC / Jumbo Bags and help reduce virgin plastic from agribusiness and industry.



The special technology for the production of high-performance fabrics from recycled rPET/PCR is exclusive to the Austrian Company Starlinger, the world leader in the production of machines for raffia plastic packaging and recycling equipment for plastics.

The use of rPET in these bags has significant environmental benefits.

**Besides agribusiness, are there specific industries or applications where rPET FIBC bags are in high demand?**

rPET FIBC can be used in Food Industry, Chemical Industry, Mining Industry, etc. PET is the only polymer, which can be 100% recycled into Food Grade (contamination free) recycled polymer, which can further help to cater to the Food Industries globally.



**How does the quality and performance of rPET FIBC bags compare to bags made from virgin materials?**

The quality and performance of rPET FIBC bags is similar to the bags made from virgin materials, as after recycling the PET polymers do not degrade its strength, and it does not degrade the natural properties of the polymer, same as virgin. PET stand out for their high tenacity and high creep modulus as well as low thermal shrinkage, providing fabric and articles produced out of it with exceptionally high strength and long-term form stability. This will open the opportunity to cater to new markets, which was not possible earlier.

**What are the factors that will drive growth of this industry in the future?**

The use of recycled PET/PCR bags in the FIBC market is expected to increase over the years. This sustainable approach can potentially replace a portion of polypropylene products with environmentally friendly alternatives, contributing to a more sustainable future for the industry.



### What export opportunities exist for manufacturers of rPET FIBC bags?

Majority of the production capacity of rPET FIBC Bags produced by Packem Umasree will be exported out of India to Europe / North America / South America / MEA / Japan / Korea / Australia / NZ, etc.



### What is the long-term outlook for the rPET FIBC bag industry in terms of growth and sustainability?

We foresee rPET FIBC Bag industry to grow globally including India, as it caters to the need of the sustainability, which is the issue being faced by all the large corporate companies globally. By using sustainable packaging, the end user companies will be able to meet some of their targets and also avail carbon credit with this product.

### PLEXCONCIL UPDATE

Members of PLEXCONCIL & IFIBCA met with His Excellency, Shri. Sibi George, Indian Ambassador to Japan in Tokyo to discuss the various issues concerning FIBC exports from India as well as plans to increase exports. The discussions were fruitful, and Ambassador offered complete support in promoting India's FIBC exports in Japan. A detailed response on the same is to be shared with the Ambassador. The global FIBC market is led by five countries India, China, Vietnam, Turkey, and Mexico. In 2021, these countries exported 250 million units, with India accounting for 50% of that volume.

Such interactions are encouraged to help facilitate export growth of Indian plastics with a more focused approach and PLEXCONCIL invites members to come forward with suggestions to help us in our endeavours.

#### Posts Replies Media Likes

 **India in Japan**イン...  · 1h  
Ambassador @AmbSibiGeorge met IFIBCA delegation visiting Japan to explore business opportunities & assured full cooperation in promoting export of FIBCs & plastics from India to Japan  
#ConnectingHimalayaswithMountFuji



Sibi George, Bharat's Ambassador to Japan & RMI and 6 others

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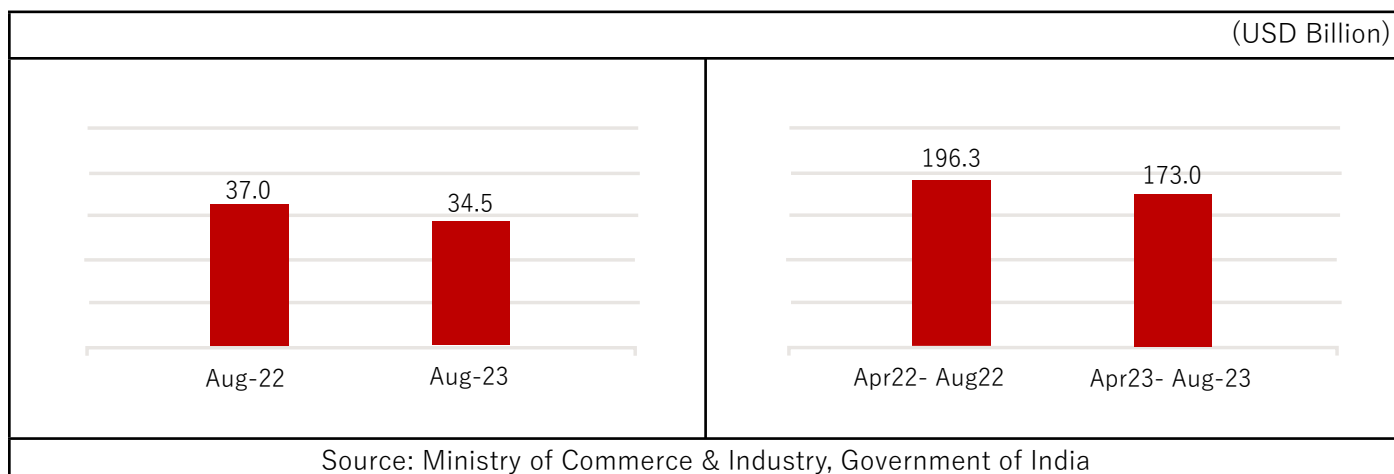


# Export Performance – August 2023

## TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 34.5 billion in August 2023, down by 6.9% from USD 37.0 billion in August 2022. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2023 – August 2023 was USD 173.0 billion as against USD 196.3 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 11.9%.

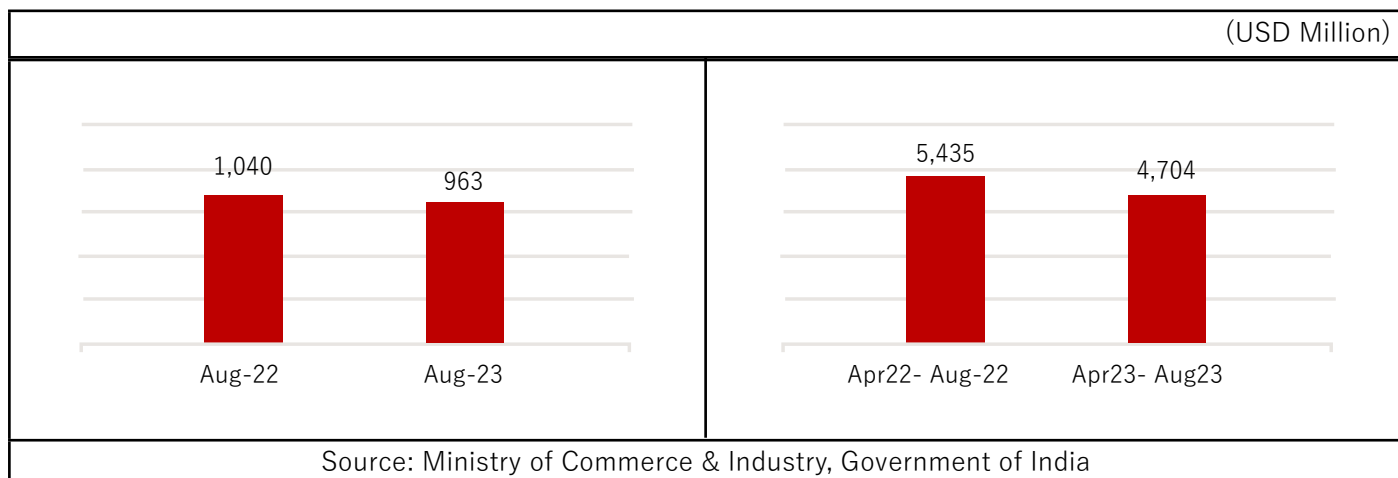
**Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India**



## TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During August 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 963 million, lower by 7.4% from USD 1,040 million in August 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – August 2023 was USD 4,704 million as against USD 5,435 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 13.4%.

**Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India**



## PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

The month of August 2023 witnessed a mixed performance. Product panels such as Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; FRP & Composites; Medical items of plastics; Consumer & houseware products; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; Writing instruments & stationery; and Human hair & related products, reported a positive growth in exports. Other panels like Plastic raw materials; FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin; Plastic films and sheets; Plastic pipes & fittings; and Miscellaneous products and items nes struggled to grow.

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

Panel	Aug-22	Aug-23	Growth	Apr 22- Aug-22	Apr 23- Aug-23	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	58.4	62.5	+7.0%	313.8	311.2	-0.8%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	23.8	24.8	+4.4%	116.8	108.5	-7.1%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	126.9	122.2	-3.7%	670.3	542.9	-19.0%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	44.2	66.7	+51.0%	253.7	287.4	+13.3%
FRP & Composites	35.1	41.7	+19.1%	191.4	187.9	-1.8%
Human hair & related products	42.9	55.2	+28.6%	290.0	295.0	+1.7%
Medical items of plastics	40.3	44.9	+11.4%	206.0	219.7	+6.7%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	81.5	54.0	-33.8%	418.9	345.8	-17.5%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	57.4	58.7	+2.2%	281.7	253.4	-10.0%
Plastic films & sheets	150.7	147.0	-2.5%	853.9	689.5	-19.2%
Plastic pipes & fittings	25.6	23.9	-6.6%	129.9	115.3	-11.2%
Plastic raw materials	331.0	239.4	-27.7%	1,593.5	1,236.5	-22.4%
Writing instruments & stationery	22.0	22.2	+0.8%	115.0	111.1	-3.3%
	1,039.7	963.2	-7.4%	5,434.6	4,704.4	-13.4%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



## ► Export Performance

Exports of **Consumer & houseware products** continued to show an improvement and were up by 7.0% in August 2023 on account of higher sales of Tableware and kitchenware of plastics (HS Code 3924); Other builders ware of plastic (392590); and Other switches of plastics (85365020).

**Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments** exports witnessed a trend reversal and were higher by 4.4% in August 2023 due to increased sales of Made-up fishing nets of nylon (56081110).

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin**, exports in August 2023 fell by 3.7% due to decline in sales of Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532). Indian exporters have mentioned about slow demand in the international markets, especially Europe and North America; as well as lower price realisations. However, FIBC manufacturers are looking at various other export destinations and have recently completed a business trip to Japan.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** zoomed up by 51.0% during August 2023 on account of higher sales of Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics (590390) and Decorative laminates (48239019). In August 2023, Decorative laminates achieved its highest-ever monthly export from India.

Export of **FRP & Composites** was up by 19.1% on account of higher sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099) which was previously struggling due to the economic downturn as well as elevated manufacturing cost in Europe. In August 2023, this product achieved its highest-ever monthly export in the last one and a half years.

Export of **Human hair & related products** were higher by 28.6% due to the effect of a low base in August 2022.

**Medical items of plastics** continued to do well and its exports were up by 11.4% in August 2023 due to higher sales of Spectacle lenses (900150). In fact, in August 2023, this product achieved its highest-ever monthly export from India. This product is generally shipped from India to countries in Europe and North America.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items** fell by 33.8% in August 2023 due to lower shipments of Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (90011000) to certain countries in Europe and North America.

**Packaging items - flexible, rigid** export inched up by 2.2% on account of higher sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (392321), and Carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles, of plastics (392330).

**Plastic films & sheets** export were lower by 2.5% in August 2023 due to a slide in sales of Sheets and films of polymers of propylene (392020); and Flexible metallised sheets and films (39219094).

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 6.6% due to lower sales of rigid tubes and pipes of polymers of ethylene (39172110) and other tubes and pipes of plastics (39172990).

**Plastics raw materials** export was lower by 27.7% in August 2023 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769) and Polypropylene (390210). India is among the top-5 exporters of Polyethylene terephthalate resin in the world.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** inched up by 0.8% in August 2023 due to a slight improvement in sales of Ball-point pens (960810) and Felt tipped pens and markers (960820).

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 22- Aug-22	Apr 23- Aug-23	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	406.0	322.5	-20.6%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	261.6	215.3	-17.7%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	327.7	166.2	-49.3%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	216.1	219.1	+1.4%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	187.8	185.3	-1.3%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	197.0	170.3	-13.6%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	179.6	153.1	-14.8%
48239019	Decorative laminates	121.2	125.5	+3.5%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	136.4	85.9	-37.0%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	105.9	85.5	-19.3%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	97.6	80.6	-17.5%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	98.3	81.2	-17.4%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	86.4	81.4	-5.9%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	128.1	64.3	-49.8%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	81.5	76.3	-6.5%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	66.3	68.0	+2.6%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Other	75.4	60.9	-19.2%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	63.6	50.5	-20.6%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	58.5	71.5	+22.2%
96081019	Ball-point pens	59.1	57.7	-2.4%
90183930	Cannulae	58.3	54.7	-6.1%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	53.6	46.5	-13.4%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	56.3	76.2	+35.3%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	53.7	46.7	-13.2%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	48.5	47.4	-2.2%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	36.2	36.8	+1.5%
96032100	Tooth brushes	40.1	36.6	-8.8%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, metallised	49.4	32.1	-35.0%
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	51.7	39.1	-24.3%



## ► Export Performance

39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	42.1	37.4	-11.1%
39073010	Epoxy resins	47.3	24.8	-47.7%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	39.9	29.0	-27.3%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	38.2	42.1	+10.1%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	38.8	40.2	+3.6%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	39.5	32.7	-17.1%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	41.7	42.2	+1.3%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	34.4	31.7	-7.8%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene	35.9	38.6	+7.7%
39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials	34.2	33.6	-1.9%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	39.5	25.4	-35.8%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms	32.0	40.2	+25.5%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	31.3	31.5	+0.7%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	31.0	28.2	-8.9%
39100090	Silicones in primary forms: Other	32.1	23.1	-27.9%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles, of plastics	29.1	30.4	+4.3%
39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	30.5	28.7	-6.1%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	27.8	28.3	+1.7%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	30.3	23.2	-23.6%
39019000	Other ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers, having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	30.8	24.4	-20.8%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	56.8	13.9	-75.5%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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# Arvind Goenka

MD, RMG Polyvinyl India Ltd.

## Navigating Complexities of BIS Implementation on Polymers

The impending implementation of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) regulations on the import of polymer raw materials carries significant implications for plastic processing industry both for the domestic industry and the export sector. These regulations, designed to uphold quality and safety standards, will undoubtedly exert a notable influence on various facets of the industrial landscape. However, one needs to consider the challenges that it will pose to an industry (Plastic Processors) that is no stranger to high input costs, short supply in raw material and a vast import dependency.

In this issue, Arvind Goenka, MD, RMG Polyvinyl India Ltd. and Past Chairman, PLEXCONCIL talks about the impending implementation and its impact on Polymer processing as well as exports from India.

(excerpts)

### What is the objective of the Govts plans to impose BIS on imports?

BIS will apply on the import of wide ranging products and polymers is just one part of the list of products. From a domestic perspective, the introduction of BIS requirements on imported raw materials underscores the commitment to enhancing product quality and consumer safety within the nation. Adherence to stringent quality standards

not only demonstrates the nation's commitment to producing goods of the highest calibre but also aligns with international expectations.

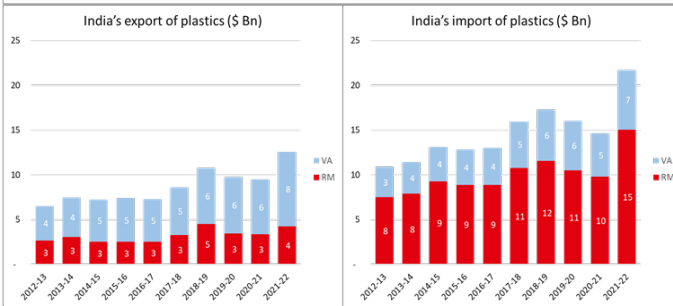


Overall, the implementation of BIS standards is essential for protecting consumers, promoting industry competitiveness, and ensuring the quality and safety of products in India. It also contributes to economic growth, trade, and technological advancement while safeguarding public health and the environment.

### What are the concerns of the plastics industry?

While the spirit behind the move is noble, the likely disruptions in the processing industry is sure to impede growth plans of both the domestic industry and exports. Presently, the Indian plastic industry is vastly import dependent for its raw material requirements. While plans to scale capacity is yet a long way off, in the short term, such a move is more likely to cause major hurdles as imports of Plastic finished goods are nearly as much as exports of Plastics finished goods. The main reason is that imported goods land cheaper in India than that produced locally.

INDIA IS ALSO A NET IMPORTER OF PLASTICS, MAINLY RAW MATERIALS



## What is the actual impact on supply chains and polymer pricing?

Polymers (raw materials) are expensive in India by as much as 10-15% as compared to prices (net of taxes) in China or other NE Asian countries. By imposing mandatory BIS on polymers, raw material prices will increase further.

Not all foreign suppliers will register for BIS as it entails special marking on bags, inspection of their production facilities, and payment of marking fees to BIS and these additional measures required would be a deterrent who may altogether suspend supplies to Indian processors. This will increase the CIF prices further. It will severely affect the processing industry.



Once CIF prices are higher, whether a processor is buying polymers for production of domestic or export goods, they will be rendered uncompetitive as compared to competing countries. Not all grades of polymers are produced in India, whereas mandatory BIS is imposed on the HSN itself, thereby creating a barrier in imports for all grades of that polymer.

## What is the likely impact on MSME industries who comprise nearly 80% of the plastics processing industry in India?

India has witnessed a huge growth in plastics trade in the past ten years, rising from US\$ 19 billion in 2013-14 to US\$ 37 billion in FY 2022-23. While India's plastics exports have contributed immensely to this growth witnessing a CAGR of 4.8%, plastics imports have been at the forefront & clocked a CAGR of 9.2% during FY 2013-14 to FY 2022-23. In FY 2022-23, India's plastics exports stood at USD 12 billion with potential to reach USD 25 billion by 2027.



The Indian plastics industry mostly comprises of the MSME sector and higher costs of raw material will make it difficult for MSME polymer processors to compete with imports of cheap finished articles of plastics which will not be governed under any Quality Control order and since they will be substantially cheaper in prices, they will garner a large market share. To be competitive in exports, a unit must derive benefit from economies of scale which is only possible if it has a robust domestic demand.

## Can you state an example?

As an example, with the implementation of mandatory BIS on PVC resin, imports of wide spec or off grade qualities will not be possible which will make the final product expensive both for domestic & export markets. Use of PVC off grades is necessary in some qualities for making PVC floorings, PVC water hose (for gardening), PVC shoes, etc as these products are multi-layered and off grades are used in middle & bottom layers to reduce costs and remain competitive. By using off grades, product performance is not affected and it only affects the colour. Such products are normally black or dark in colour.



### **What would be the implications for the export industry once BIS is implemented?**

The implications for the export sector are multifaceted. On one hand, the imposition of BIS regulations on polymer imports could potentially enhance the reputation of Indian exports of finished plastics in the global market but on the other hand it can have a bearing on the input costs making the export product uncompetitive in several markets.

The immediate aftermath of enforcing BIS regulations might pose challenges for exporters. Compliance with these regulations could necessitate adjustments to existing manufacturing processes and sourcing networks, and not to mention higher input costs that will impact cost of exports too. With implementation of mandatory BIS imports of wide spec or off grade qualities will not be possible which will make the final product expensive both for domestic & export markets” concluded Arvind Goenka, Past Chairman, Plexconcil.



### **What are some of the Council's suggestions or what would be the industry's wish list concerning the same to the Govt of India?**

We believe that to ensure effectiveness of the policy on polymers, mandatory BIS should be imposed on the complete value chain and not only on polymers alone so that cheap quality & low priced finished goods are not flooded in India leading to crippling of the MSME plastic processors. It will also ensure better quality of finished goods at the hands of the consumer.

Mandatory BIS standards on finished goods can be implemented in a phased manner to include those finished goods imported in large volumes, or those which are already produced according to BIS & other standards or those products which have a direct relation to health & safety.

And finally, mandatory BIS on Polymers should be imposed only after there is enough production capacity to cater to domestic demand for that polymer. For example, grades of Metallocene PE that are not manufactured in India should be exempt from BIS or should be given more time to comply. Polymers like Polycarbonate, POM, Nylon 66 etc., are not manufactured either and should also be exempt until such time that production starts here.

Until enough production capacity is achieved, such units should not export polymers and should rather be made available to domestic processors under Deemed exports at international rates.



### **What measures could be taken to provide greater support and guidance to polymer importers in complying with BIS standards?**

Many a times, in the international supply markets, many stock lots of polymers are available which are of prime quality but are offered at a lower rate in the light of geo political or economic situations. Such materials may not be BIS marked goods. To enable an Indian importer to benefit from it, the material may be allowed to be imported into the country subject to quality tests that meet the BIS standards.

The requirement for bags with BIS markings may be dispensed with. This will enable smaller polymer producers to apply for BIS registrations as they will not have to go in for special packaging. Their products already meet BIS standards for sure as all polymers are produced under licensed technologies from major petrochemical corporations and BIS standards are also derived from their specifications.



Additionally, Govt could provide support by registering all manufacturers of polymers at an early date. It is learnt, though not officially, that suppliers from Asian Region, who supply polymers at lower costs than USA or European origin are not being given priority in awarding approvals. Govt departments could hand hold such suppliers and smoothen the approval process so that maximum number of manufactures are approved as suppliers.

**Do you believe that offering incentives or subsidies to encourage compliance with BIS standards could be a viable option?**

As regards polymers, as mentioned earlier, all polymers are produced under licenses or under a technical know how from American or European companies and they will easily meet the BIS standards. I don't think polymer producers need incentives or subsidies. All Indian polymer producers have already obtained BIS certifications. As its being requested by the processing industry that BIS may be imposed on complete value chain, finished goods producers will greatly benefit if offered incentives or subsidy as they will have to upgrade their production facilities to meet BIS requirements for their finished goods and more importantly setting up expensive in-house testing facilities.





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## POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) August 2023

<b>High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDPE prices increased by Rs 1,000 per MT in August 2023 likewise by Rs 1,000 per MT in July 2023. HDPE prices declined by Rs 5,000 per MT in June 2023.</li> <li>In August 2023, HDPE prices were up by Rs 1,000 per MT in the first week of the month itself. Thereafter no price changes were announced.</li> </ul>
June-23	July-23	Aug-23	
<b>Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LLDPE prices inched up by 1,000 per MT in August 2023 after remaining unchanged in July 2023. LLDPE prices had witnessed a downfall of Rs 5,000 per MT in June 2023.</li> <li>In August 2023, LLDPE prices were up by Rs 1,000 per MT in the first week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.</li> </ul>
June-23	July-23	Aug-23	
<b>Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LDPE prices moved up by Rs 1,000 per MT in August 2023 after a price hike of Rs 2,000 per MT in July 2023. LDPE prices had fallen by Rs 5,000 per MT in June 2023.</li> <li>In August 2023, LDPE prices were increased by Rs 1,000 per MT in the first week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.</li> </ul>
June-23	July-23	Aug-23	
<b>Polypropylene (PP)</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PP prices strengthened by Rs 4,000 per MT both in August 2023 as well as July 2023 after witnessing a fall of Rs 10,000 per MT in June 2023.</li> <li>In August 2023, PP prices shot up by Rs 2,000 per MT during the first half of the month and by Rs 2,000 per MT later.</li> </ul>
June-23	July-23	Aug-23	
<b>Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PVC prices were hiked by Rs 3,500 per MT in August 2023 after an increase of Rs 1,500 per MT in July 2023. PVC prices had declined by Rs 1,000 per MT in June 2023.</li> <li>In August 2023, PVC prices were raised by Rs 3,500 per MT in the first week of the month itself. Thereafter no price changes were announced.</li> </ul>
June-23	July-23	Aug-23	

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research





## Understanding Polymer Price Trends – September 2023

September commenced on a bright note with a considerable upswing in the demand for polymers, energizing the market dynamics significantly. This uptick wasn't just confined to domestic terrain; international offers too mirrored a semblance of stability, indicating a bullish trend across the Polypropylene (PP) and Polyethylene (PE) verticals.

The scenario was further catalyzed by domestic producers who seized the moment to escalate prices across all verticals of PP and PE, marking a notable increment. However, the journey towards a steadier market witnessed a hiccup as the process of attaining Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) approval proceeded at a sluggish pace for producers. This sluggishness further instilled a layer of uncertainty among importers considering trading with Middle Eastern and Iranian suppliers.

On a global canvas, Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) offers held their ground at 880 USD levels, showcasing a world-wide price pressure. Concurrently, the price levels of PP Raffia too were indicative of a surge, standing at 1050 USD. Despite these positive indices, the export level remained lackadaisical, reflecting the pervading global economic frailty.

In a bid to stave off a market saturated with oversupply, global producers are maneuvering cautiously. This prudent approach stems from China's self-sustenance in utilizing its overall plant capacity, which might potentially tip the market scales towards oversupply. Amidst this global market choreography, India emerges as a focal point, enticing global producers with its lucrative market to offload their offers.

Taking a closer inspection within the polyolefin domain, High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipes observed a robust demand throughout September. This robust demand comes as a breath of fresh air, especially amidst the erratic seasonal trends that have been prevalent in the country. This burgeoning demand for HDPE pipes underscores a beacon of optimism in an otherwise uneven market landscape, offering a glimpse into a prospective stable market outlook as we navigate through the fiscal year.



# Aditya Kashikar

International Trade Counsulant

## India-ASEAN Trade Agreement Review Overview

The India-ASEAN Trade Agreement is a significant trade pact between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It aims to promote economic cooperation and reduce trade barriers between the two regions. Recently, there have been some noteworthy developments regarding the review of this agreement.

India and ASEAN are expected to formally launch the review exercise for the free trade agreement (FTA) in November. The review process will focus on eliminating barriers and addressing concerns about the misuse of the trade pact. The negotiations are expected to be concluded by 2025. This review is crucial as it aims to enhance and diversify trade while addressing the current irregularity in bilateral trade.

India's trade deficit with ASEAN has been a matter of concern, and this review aims to address this issue. The widening trade deficit between India and ASEAN has raised questions about the effectiveness of the existing trade agreement. The review will also focus on issues such as implementation, rules of origin, customs procedures, further liberalization of trade in goods, and sharing and exchange of trade data.

The review process will involve multiple rounds of talks between India and ASEAN. The first round of talks is expected to start in November. Both sides will deliberate on various aspects of the agreement and work towards finding solutions that benefit both parties. The goal is to create a more balanced and mutually beneficial trading relationship.

The India-ASEAN Trade Agreement has been instrumental in promoting bilateral trade between India and ASEAN member countries. In recent years, bilateral trade has witnessed significant growth. In FY23 alone, bilateral trade between India and ASEAN reached \$131.5 billion. However, challenges such as non-tariff barriers and the widening trade deficit need to be addressed to unlock the full potential of this partnership.

The review process will provide an opportunity to identify areas where improvements can be made. It will also help in addressing concerns raised by businesses regarding the misuse of the trade pact. By eliminating barriers and enhancing cooperation, both India and ASEAN can create a more conducive environment for trade and investment.

In conclusion, the review of the India-ASEAN Trade Agreement marks an important milestone in the economic relationship between India and ASEAN. The review process aims to address concerns about barriers and misuse of the trade pact while enhancing bilateral trade. It presents an opportunity for both regions to strengthen economic ties, boost trade, and explore new avenues for collaboration. As negotiations progress over the coming years, it will be interesting to see how this review shapes the future of India-ASEAN economic relations.

## What are the benefits for plastic industry?

The India-ASEAN Trade Agreement has several benefits for the plastics industry in both India and ASEAN member countries. Here are some key advantages:

1. **Market Access:** The agreement provides improved market access for the plastics industry by reducing or eliminating tariffs on plastics and plastic products traded between India and ASEAN member countries. This helps in expanding business opportunities and increasing exports for the plastics industry.
2. **Diversification of Suppliers:** The agreement allows the plastics industry to diversify its supply chain by accessing raw materials, machinery, and technology from ASEAN member countries at competitive prices. This promotes innovation, enhances product quality, and reduces production costs.
3. **Collaboration and Technology Transfer:** The agreement encourages collaboration and technology transfer between the plastics industries of India and ASEAN member countries. This facilitates the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices, leading to mutual growth and development.
4. **Harmonization of Standards:** The agreement promotes the harmonization of standards and regulations related to the plastics industry. This simplifies trade procedures, reduces non-tariff barriers, and ensures compliance with international quality standards.
5. **Access to a Larger Consumer Base:** The agreement provides access to a larger consumer base for the plastics industry by facilitating trade with ASEAN member countries. With a combined population of over 650 million people, ASEAN offers significant market potential for Indian plastic manufacturers.
6. **Sustainable Development:** The agreement emphasizes sustainable development in the plastics industry by promoting environmentally friendly practices, waste management, and recycling. This contributes to the circular economy and helps in reducing plastic pollution.

## What are the challenges for plastic industry?

The India-ASEAN Trade Agreement has several benefits for the plastics industry in both India and ASEAN member countries. However, there are also some challenges that need to be addressed. Here are some of the key challenges:

1. **Non-Tariff Barriers:** Non-tariff barriers such as technical regulations, standards, and certification requirements can pose a significant challenge for the plastics industry. These barriers can make it difficult for businesses to trade with each other and can increase the cost of goods for consumers.

2. **Intellectual Property Rights:** Intellectual property rights (IPR) protection is a major concern for the plastics industry. The lack of adequate IPR protection can discourage innovation and investment in the industry.
3. **Competition from China:** The plastics industry in India and ASEAN member countries faces stiff competition from China. China has a dominant position in the global plastics market and has been able to offer products at lower prices due to economies of scale.
4. **Environmental Concerns:** The plastics industry is often associated with environmental concerns such as plastic pollution and waste management. The increasing focus on sustainability and environmental protection can pose a challenge for the plastics industry.
5. **Regulatory Compliance:** Regulatory compliance is another challenge that businesses in the plastics industry face. Compliance with regulations related to product safety, environmental protection, and labor standards can be time-consuming and expensive.

## How to overcome the challenges?

1. **FTA Benchmarking:** It is a tool that enables importers and exporters to receive preferential treatment on customs duties under various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). It also allows businesses to maximize the benefits of FTAs, prioritize target markets, analyze the competitive landscape, and optimize supply chains. We provide 'FTA Benchmarking' services that help businesses get the most out of any FTA. They conduct a basic level of due diligence before importing goods and confirm that the goods meet the prescribed originating criteria. This will support businesses in correctly determining the country of origin, properly claiming the concessional duty, and assisting customs authorities in ensuring the smooth clearance of imports.
2. **Non Tariff Measures:** They have a significant impact on international trade, affecting market access, compliance, risk management, and competitiveness. We help businesses to understand and navigate NTMs to facilitate trade, meet regulatory requirements, protect consumers, and seize market opportunities. By addressing Non Tariff Measures effectively, businesses can enhance their trade performance and ensure sustainable growth in a globalized marketplace.





I hope, this article helped you to get insights about India-ASEAN Trade Agreement Review, so that you can decide your business (import-export) strategy in more dynamic and effective manner.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to approach me!

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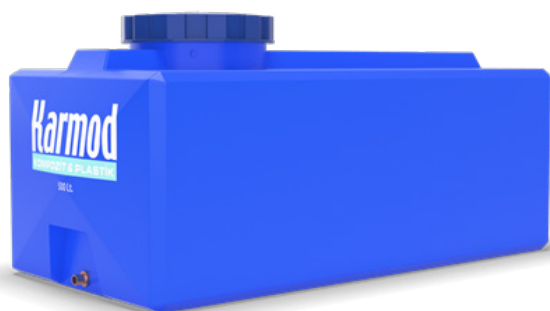
## Plastic Tanks and Reservoirs

Reservoirs, tanks, vats and similar containers are storage facilities mainly for water before it is distributed. They are often used in hospitals, hotels, offices and industrial and residential buildings. Reservoirs, tanks, vats and similar containers can be made from a variety of materials, including plastics (polyethylene, polypropylene), fiberglass, concrete, stone and metal etc. These days, plastics have taken place of traditional materials for tanks and reservoirs because they are leak-proof and rust proof, lightweight, hence easy for transportation and installation and also are available in variety of colours. Reservoirs, tanks, vats and similar containers of plastics with a holding capacity of over 300 litres are classified under Subheading 392510 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.



World-wide import of Reservoirs, tanks, vats and similar containers of plastics is valued at USD 1.2 billion per year approximately.

- In 2022, top-5 exporting countries of plastic tanks and reservoirs were: Germany (21.6%), Netherlands (8.8%), United States of America (6.1%), Poland (5.4%), & France (5.4%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of plastic tanks and reservoirs were: Netherlands (7.3%), Belgium (7.3%), Germany (6.6%), Canada (6.1%), & United States of America (6.0%).



In 2022-23, India exported 1,330 tonnes of plastic tanks and reservoirs valued at USD 3.53 million to the world. Tanzania was the top export destination both in terms of value as well as volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (tonnes)
Tanzania	0.96	Tanzania	699.06
Mexico	0.59	Bhutan	161.29
Bhutan	0.47	Mexico	102.39
Maldives	0.38	Maldives	74.68
Congo DRC	0.14	Congo DRC	53.33
United Arab Emirates	0.13	United Arab Emirates	44.10
Saudi Arabia	0.12	Mauritius	32.21
Nepal	0.11	New Zealand	21.70
Mauritius	0.09	Qatar	21.61
New Zealand	0.07	Nepal	19.86

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

In 2022-23, India imported 1,670 tonnes of plastic tanks and reservoirs containers valued at USD 4.17 million from the world. China was the top supplier both in terms of value as well as volume.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (tonnes)
China	1.15	China	655.40
South Korea	0.95	Bangladesh	389.84
Germany	0.40	South Korea	352.76
United Arab Emirates	0.38	United Arab Emirates	123.28
Malaysia	0.29	Malaysia	60.92
Bangladesh	0.24	Netherlands	32.78
Netherlands	0.20	Germany	17.14
Italy	0.12	Italy	12.15
Denmark	0.09	Denmark	6.79
Japan	0.09	Turkiye	6.64

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

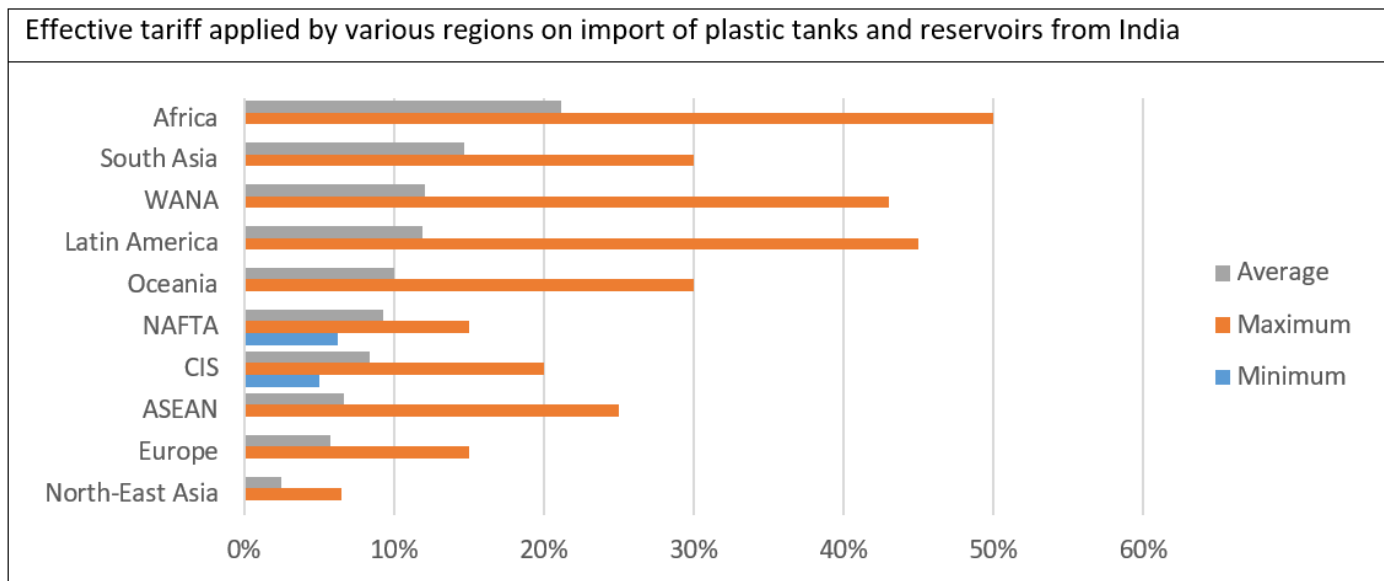
Indian firms dealing in plastic tanks and reservoirs have immense potential to export to destinations like Australia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

There is zero duty applicable on import of plastic tanks and reservoirs from India in the United Kingdom under Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS). Import of this product is eligible for zero customs duty in Australia under India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement and in Japan, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Switzerland also allows zero customs duty for this product under Generalized System of Preferences. Further, some countries in ASEAN like Philippines and Thailand offers preferential duty on imports of plastic tanks and reservoirs from India under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. Plastic tanks and reservoirs are eligible for zero customs duty in Israel and Singapore.

Unfortunately, some countries in Africa, South Asia, NAFTA and the CIS region do not accord any preferential treatment to plastic tanks and reservoirs imported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.



## ► Product of the Month



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research



## Promoting Growth & Sustainability In Medical Plastics

The medical plastics industry plays a pivotal role in modern healthcare, providing essential materials for a wide range of medical devices, equipment, and packaging. However, in response to concerns over plastic waste and environmental degradation, there is a growing trend towards transforming its practices to promote sustainability and reduce its environmental footprint through recyclable materials, innovative technologies, and collaborative efforts.

The pharmaceutical industry in India is one of the largest in the world in terms of production volume and is valued at several billion dollars. The medical industry, including medical devices and equipment, on the other hand, while is significant, it remains smaller compared to the pharmaceutical sector. Having said that, India's efforts were acknowledged by various international organizations, governments, and media outlets and the country's contribution to addressing the global shortage of medical supplies, especially during the early stages of the pandemic, earned it praise and recognition.

### Embracing Recyclability

The medical plastics industry has been a significant part of modern healthcare, providing essential materials for a wide range of medical devices, equipment, and packaging. However, this industry has faced criticism in recent years for its contribution to plastic waste and environmental degradation. In response to these concerns,

the medical plastics industry has been taking significant strides toward embracing recyclability. The industry is transforming its practices to promote sustainability and reduce its environmental footprint through recyclable materials, innovative technologies, and collaborative efforts.



### The Challenge of Plastic Waste in Healthcare

Plastic materials have been an integral part of healthcare for decades due to their versatility, durability, and cost-effectiveness. From single-use syringes to sterile packaging, plastics have revolutionized healthcare in terms of hygiene and convenience. However, the pervasive use of plastics in the medical field has led to a significant environmental problem: plastic waste. The healthcare sector generates massive quantities of single-use plastics, which often end up in landfills or incinerators, contributing to pollution and climate change.



### The Shift Toward Recyclability

Recognizing the need for change, the medical plastics industry has embarked on a journey to embrace recyclability as a cornerstone of its sustainability efforts. Several key factors have driven this shift:

**Materials Innovation:** The industry is investing in the development of new materials that are more easily recyclable. Biodegradable and compostable plastics, as well as bio-based polymers, are emerging as alternatives to traditional petroleum-based plastics. These materials break down more readily in the environment and can be recycled in specialized facilities.

**Design for Recycling:** Manufacturers are increasingly designing medical devices and packaging with recyclability in mind. This involves using fewer materials, reducing the complexity of product structures, and avoiding mixed-material components that are challenging to recycle.

**Closed-Loop Systems:** Some companies in the medical plastics industry are adopting closed-loop recycling systems. These systems involve collecting and recycling medical plastic waste within healthcare facilities, reducing the environmental impact and lowering costs.

**Collaborative Initiatives:** Industry stakeholders are collaborating to address the recycling challenge collectively. Partnerships between manufacturers, healthcare providers, and recycling companies have been established to develop efficient recycling programs and educate healthcare professionals about sustainable practices.

### Technological Advancements

The adoption of advanced recycling technologies has played a crucial role in the medical plastics industry's transition towards recyclability. These technologies have enabled the efficient separation, cleaning, and processing of medical plastics, making recycling economically viable. Some notable innovations include:

**Chemical Recycling:** This process involves breaking down plastics into their basic chemical components, allowing for the creation of new, high-quality plastic products. Chemical recycling is particularly promising for complex medical plastics.

**Mechanical Recycling:** Mechanical processes, such as shredding and melting, are used to transform medical plastic waste into reusable pellets, which can be used in the production of new medical devices and packaging.

**3D Printing:** Additive manufacturing techniques, like 3D printing, have opened up new possibilities for recycling medical plastics. These techniques enable the creation of customized medical devices using recycled plastics.





## Benefits of Embracing Recyclability

The medical plastics industry's commitment to recyclability offers several notable benefits:

**Environmental Impact Reduction:** Embracing recyclability reduces the industry's contribution to plastic waste, minimizing its environmental footprint and conserving natural resources.

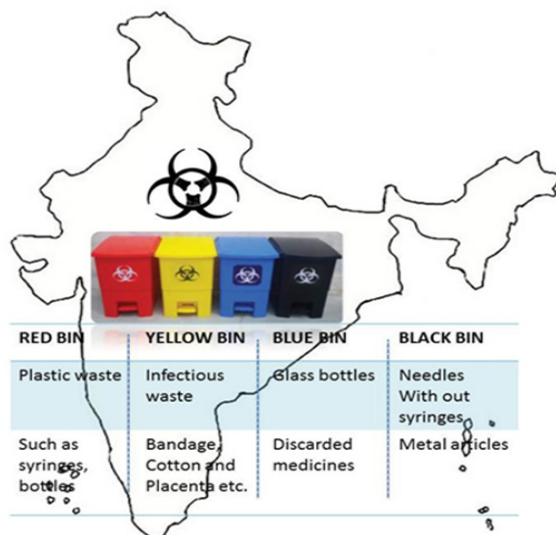
**Cost Savings:** Closed-loop recycling systems and the use of recycled materials can lead to cost savings for healthcare facilities, manufacturers, and consumers.

**Sustainable Reputation:** Companies that prioritize recyclability demonstrate their commitment to sustainability, which can enhance their reputation and appeal to environmentally-conscious consumers.

**Regulatory Compliance:** As governments and regulatory bodies increasingly focus on reducing plastic waste, embracing recyclability helps the industry remain compliant with evolving environmental regulations.

## India Scenario

The medical plastics industry in India is increasingly recognizing the importance of environmental sustainability and taking steps to reduce its environmental impact. Several policies and measures have been implemented to support this endeavor and it is not uncommon to see many medical plastics manufacturers in India adopting green manufacturing practices and obtaining certifications like ISO 14001 for environmental management.



The industry is actively exploring recycling options for medical plastics and companies have established recycling programs for their products or are partnering with recycling firms to ensure responsible disposal and recycling.

The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, laid out the responsibilities of plastic manufacturers, recyclers, and waste generators including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) provisions that require plastic manufacturers to take responsibility for the collection and recycling of post-consumer plastic waste, encouraging sustainable product design and recycling initiatives.'

Efforts are being made to reduce the use of single-use plastics in healthcare settings. This includes exploring reusable alternatives, minimizing packaging, and implementing efficient sterilization methods.

Some medical plastics manufacturers in India are exploring the use of bio-based and biodegradable plastics as alternatives to traditional petroleum-based plastics. Research and development efforts are underway to develop more sustainable materials and technologies for medical plastics.

Industry associations and organizations are also working to raise awareness about responsible plastic use and disposal among healthcare professionals, patients, and the general public. Collaboration between medical plastics manufacturers, healthcare institutions, and recycling companies is becoming more common.

The medical plastics industry in India is taking significant steps to embrace environmental sustainability by adopting greener practices, exploring recycling options, adhering to government regulations, and promoting responsible plastic use and disposal. The combination of industry initiatives and government policies is expected to lead to a more sustainable and eco-friendlier medical plastics sector in India.



For example, Poly Medicure, a prominent Indian manufacturer of medical devices, including disposable medical products like intravenous catheters and blood bags has adopted sustainable manufacturing practices and is committed to reducing its environmental footprint. The company has also received certifications for environmental management systems, indicating its commitment to sustainability.



Becton Dickinson (BD India), is a global leader in medical technology, including plastic medical devices such as syringes and intravenous sets. The company has initiatives focused on sustainability and responsible sourcing of materials and has set goals for reducing its environmental impact and has taken steps to minimize plastic waste.

The medical plastics industry's transition towards recyclability represents a significant step forward in addressing the environmental challenges associated with plastic waste in healthcare. Through materials innovation, design for recycling, advanced technologies, and collaborative efforts, this industry is reshaping its practices to align with sustainability goals. Embracing recyclability not only reduces the environmental impact but also opens up new opportunities for cost savings and sustainable growth. As the industry continues to evolve, it is poised to make a positive contribution to both healthcare and the environment.



# Maldives

## Economic overview

Maldives is located in Southern Asia, southwest of India. It has an area of 298 square kilometres and a population of 0.39 million. Maldives has a vibrant economy that is generally open to foreign trade. Tourism remains Maldives' largest economic activity and the major source of government revenue followed by construction and fisheries. Its economic structure relies mainly on services which almost holds 70% of total GDP.

As of September 8, 2023, Moody's rating for Maldives stands at Caa1 (Stable); and Fitch has a reported rating of B- (Negative).



Maldives has been a member of the WTO since May 1995. Maldives has trade agreements with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. Maldives and India are signatories to South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA).

Economic indicators		2020	2021	2022
Nominal GDP	USD Billion	3.7	5.3	6.2
Nominal GDP per capita	USD	9,883	14,013	15,883
Real GDP growth	%	-33.3	41.7	12.3
Total population	Million	0.38	0.38	0.39
Average inflation	%	-1.6	0.2	2.6
Total merchandise exports	USD Billion	163	152	158
Total merchandise imports	USD Billion	1,837	2,581	3,523

Source: IMF, TradeMap



## Trade overview

India and Maldives engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 1,017 million in 2022. During the year, India's exports to Maldives were valued at USD 497 million while India's imports from Maldives were valued at USD 518 million.

The major items of export (2-digit HS) from India to Maldives are diesel fuel (USD 61 million), other machinery and mechanical appliances (USD 58 million), other iron and steel (USD 48 million), pharmaceutical products (USD 30 million) and plastic pipes and hoses of PVC (USD 28 million). Likewise, major items of export (2-digit HS) from Maldives to India are aircrafts (USD 417 million), diesel fuel (USD 81 million) and other waste and scrap of iron and steel (USD 10 million). The import of aircraft by India from Maldives was quite unusual and took place only in the year 2022.



For products that come under the purview of PLEXCONCIL, the trade is in favour of India with exports of USD 33.5 million to Maldives and India's import from Maldives is valued at USD 0.21 million. The major items of export to Maldives being:

- Plastic pipes & fittings (34.1%),
- Plastic raw materials (21.7%), and

- Consumer & houseware products (9.9%).

Maldives's annual plastics imports are valued at USD 151 million approx. Its plastic imports are largely catered to, by India (29.4%), China (25.2%) and Thailand (7.9%). India has a good standing for all the plastic products, some of the plastic product imports by Maldives where India holds first rank were:

- Plastic raw materials – Market share of 44.1%,
- Plastic pipes and Fittings – Market share of 41.2%, and
- Medical items of plastic – Market share of 35.2%.



## Export potential for India

Our internal research indicates that India's export of PLEXCONCIL member products to Maldives has the potential to grow by USD 112 million. Details of product panels and their export potential to Maldives is provided below:

Product panel	Maldives's import from India	Maldives's import from world	India's export to world	Export potential for India
	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
Consumer & houseware products	4.0	35.8	1,623.6	31.4
Plastic pipes & fittings	11.5	36.1	304.0	24.6
Medical items of plastics	6.3	17.7	1,041.6	11.4
Plastic raw materials	7.3	17.1	3,602.4	9.7
Plastic films and sheets	1.1	9.7	1,936.2	8.5
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	2.7	8.0	647.6	5.3
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	0.3	4.6	775.8	4.3
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	2.8	5.8	1,512.6	2.9
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	0.7	2.3	282.8	1.6
Writing instruments & stationery	0.4	1.5	260.9	1.1

Source: TradeMap, Plexconcil Research



THE PLASTICS EXPORT  
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Department of Commerce  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
Government of India



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## International News

### Novel Micromolding Process Reduces Cost, Boosts Production Volumes

A novel approach for micromolding thin-wall cannulas has been developed by precision micromolding company Accumold. The new process is expected to reduce costs and failure rates while increasing production volumes. The thin-walled cannula design is also said to be customizable to meet specific applications and project lengths, material requirements, and head design.

#### Small-scale parts with tight tolerances

Conventional production of cannulas typically involves extrusion, tipping, and gluing to a metal hub, all of which introduce limitations in efficiency and quality, said Accumold. Extrusion, which involves forcing material through a die to create the cannula shape, becomes especially challenging for small dimensions because of the risk of material inconsistency, wall thickness irregularities, and potential defects. Tipping, the process of adding a plastic or metal tip to the cannula, introduces variability in terms of bonding strength and tip alignment, which can impact the precision required for medical procedures. There have also been general concerns about the gluing process, as adhesives can degrade over time and lead to safety issues if the cannula detaches from the hub.

With today's demand for smaller, thinner components continuing to rise, micro injection molding can play a significant role within the medical industry, particularly as minimally invasive procedures and the need for smaller devices become more prevalent.

Micro injection molding also enables the production of intricately designed medical components that often require tight tolerances.

Officials at Accumold anticipate that this molding approach will be applicable to applications in other industries, including electronics and automotive, because of its ability to produce small-scale parts in tight tolerances and consistent quality.



#### Miniaturization and maneuverability

Demand for small, thin-walled cannulas is projected to grow to facilitate invasive patient-care procedures, such as laparoscopic surgery, endoscopy, and catheter insertions. The diminutive size and thin walls of the cannulas also allow for minimal tissue disruption during insertion, as well as reduced pain, faster recovery times, and decreased risk of complications. The specialized cannulas play a particularly important role in fields where manoeuvrability is essential, such as neurosurgery and cardiovascular interventions. Their slender design enables access to complex anatomical structures that could be challenging to reach with larger instruments. Additionally, as medical technologies continue to evolve toward miniaturization and minimally invasive techniques, small and thin-walled cannulas become essential components for innovative medical devices.





## Process particulars

Perfected over five years of research at Accumold, the micro injection molding process requires several design for manufacturability (DFM) considerations to be addressed for effectiveness. Ensuring uniform wall thickness is paramount, as variations can lead to warping, cooling inconsistencies, and inadequate filling. Proper gate placement is essential for influencing material flow and minimizing stress points, while suitable venting channels are crucial to prevent air traps that can result in surface defects. Incorporating appropriate draft angles facilitates seamless ejection from the mold and prevents potential damage.

Maintaining accurate parting line alignment prevents flash and surface mismatches. Strategic placement of features such as ribs and supports enhances structural integrity without compromising the overall design, while carefully considering the positioning of ejector pins prevents interference with critical features during demolding.

Addressing assembly considerations in some instances can be vital, particularly if the cannula is part of a larger device. Ensuring mating surfaces, alignment features, and interlocking mechanisms are well designed enables smooth integration.

An appropriate aspect ratio directly impacts the manufacturability and quality of the molded part. Maintaining a balanced aspect ratio is essential to avoid challenges associated with flow dynamics, cooling, and structural integrity. An excessively high aspect ratio can lead to difficulties in material flow and cavity filling, potentially resulting in uneven thickness and defects. Conversely, an aspect ratio that is too low might hinder proper cooling and cause warping, making it vital to strike the right balance that promotes both accurate molding and structural stability.

Achieving the ideal aspect ratio is crucial not only for the successful filling of the mold but also for ensuring consistent quality throughout the production process. A well-balanced aspect ratio minimizes the risk of defects such as sink marks, flow lines, and uneven surfaces that can compromise the cannula's functionality and overall performance. Additionally, the aspect ratio affects the ease of demolding and assembly, contributing to efficient production and reliable end products.

## Material selection

During the five-year development process, particular attention was paid to material selection, which is paramount in optimizing outcomes. The unique challenges posed by micro-scale manufacturing, such as precise cavity filling and intricate geometry replication, require materials to possess specific properties such as low viscosity, excellent flowability, and minimal shrinkage. Material selection also affects the durability and biocompatibility of medical devices, ensuring they can withstand the rigors of use while being safe for patients. By choosing materials that align with the intended application and manufacturing process, manufacturers can achieve consistent quality, dimensional accuracy, and functional reliability, ultimately driving the success of micromolding endeavors, according to Accumold.

## Current medical applications

The micromolding process reportedly has been successfully performed in a range of end-use applications in a variety of materials. One example cited by Accumold is an ophthalmological cannula application in which polycarbonate was used to produce short cannulas for use in eye surgery. The cannula had an outer diameter of 0.035 in. (0.889 mm), inner diameter of 0.027 in. (0.6858 mm), and a wall thickness of 0.004 in. (0.1016 mm).

The company also prototyped a molded cannula for a drug manufacturer's cancer-drug-delivery device using polypropylene. The device has an inner diameter of 0.027 in. (0.6858 mm), outer diameter of 0.015 in. (0.381 mm), and wall thickness of 0.006 in. (0.1524 mm). For this application, the wall thickness tapered down to the needle, and was thinner at the tip.

A prototype of two molded cannulas for a large diabetes company's drug-delivery devices also utilized polypropylene for a cannula with an outer diameter of 0.022 in. (0.5588 mm), inner diameter of 0.011 in. (0.2794 mm), and wall thickness of 0.0055 in. (0.01397 mm).

The cannulas were molded on conventional presses and on Accumold's proprietary micromolding presses. Accumold's researchers discovered that conventional micromolding presses had difficulty with non-fill and flash. Through the use of the company's fully automated in-house presses and 16-cavity micromold tooling, reliable, repeatable, and high-volume production of 40 million parts per year from a single production cell was reportedly achieved.

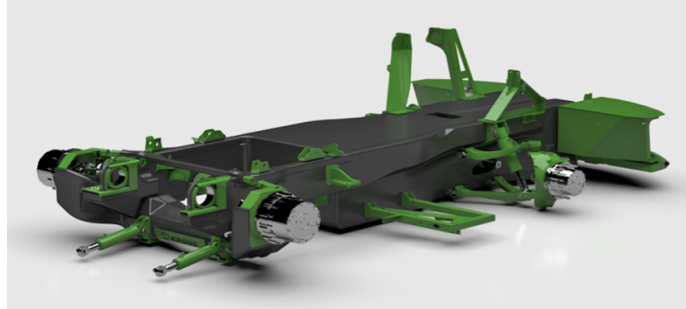
Source: Plastics Today

### Sustainability in Agriculture: Carbon Composite Innovation Halves Chassis Weight of Forage Harvester

To reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the commercial vehicle and agricultural sector, new ways are being sought to reduce the weight of vehicles, most of which weigh several tons. One approach is lightweight structural design using innovative material concepts, such as fiber composites.

The Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Machine Tools (IFW) at Leibniz Universität Hannover in Germany, together with its project partners, has developed a carbon composite chassis for the Krone Big X forage harvester as part of the AgriLight project. With the innovative design, the chassis weight of the forage harvester can be reduced by 50% while simultaneously increasing the torsional stiffness of the frame.

In order to be able to work larger fields more efficient-



ly, the performance of agricultural harvesting machines has risen sharply in recent decades. The higher performance of the machines has also increased their weight, which brings manufacturers to the limits of what is permissible under road traffic laws and confronts users with greater soil compaction issues and higher fuel consumption.

This issue was investigated by the AgriLight research project by IFW and project partners Krone GmbH & Co. KG, M&D Composites Technology GmbH, and the Institute for Polymer Materials and Plastics Technology (PuK) of the Clausthal University of Technology. By fundamentally re-engineering the chassis of the Krone Big X into an innovative fiber-composite design, its weight was significantly reduced.

#### Material challenges

Particular challenges arose from the different material properties of fiber composites and metallic materials, the associated complexity in the design of thick-walled carbon-fiber-reinforced plastic (CFRP) composite structures, and the integration of the new, fiber-compatible design into the existing vehicle structure. The new design possibilities of CFRP monocoque construction were used to create additional benefits for the customer, including larger, integrated tanks and simplified cleaning of the machine thanks to sealed surfaces.

IFW and PuK jointly investigated different resin systems for potential designs to find the optimal matrix for the application and the manufacturing process using vacuum infusion without autoclaves. Ansys Composite PrePost was used to perform the finite element simulation. Shell models of the entire CFRP structure were created as well as detailed analyses using solid models. Based on a load spectrum newly developed by Krone, design adjustments as well as optimizations in the laminate structure were made.

#### Innovative hybrid insert concept

In addition to the design and dimensioning of the frame structure, the IFW has also researched new approaches for the fiber-composite-compatible introduction of high loads into the frame structure of commercial vehicles. With the aid of the innovative hybrid insert concept, which is optimally suited to the vacuum infusion process, significantly higher loads can be introduced into the fiber-composite structures — together with classic fasteners such as screws and bolts — without the pre-stressing forces having to be borne by the laminate.

In the next step, a prototype of the chassis was produced at M&D Composites Technology. To this end, tooling was first fabricated, followed by production of the individual shell components of the monocoque. This prototype is then subjected to dynamic structural testing at partner Krone, where the developed load spectrum is run on the X-Poster. This validates the design results and the underlying finite element models.

The main objective of this test is to ensure that both the carbon-fiber-based chassis and the hybrid inserts used in highly stressed areas do not suffer any damage over the entire lifetime of a vehicle. IFW is implementing a measurement concept that includes Rayleigh and strain gauge sensors as well as optical 3D measurements to record the loads and deformations of the chassis. Through the development process, IFW has been able to leverage its expertise in the development and design of large fiber-composite structures as well as in the conception of application-related force application.

The AgriLight project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK) as part of the Lightweight Construction Technology Transfer Program (TTP LB).

Source: Plastics Today





### What sectors Grew?

This industry growth within the plastics and rubber sector will be represented at Interplas and that is represented by the size of this year's show. With over 500 exhibitors, this year's show is set to be the biggest for over 20 years and reflects progress within the industry. Source: Interplas Insights

### Walkers introduces 'Bagless' multipacks for Snack A Jacks to reduce plastic use

PepsiCo is trialing new multipack packaging for their Snack A Jacks range. Packs on shelves in Tesco stores across the UK will now use 86% less plastic on their outer packaging when compared with the previous multipack design.

In a first for Snack A Jacks, the new 'bagless' multipack is made from a tape-like strip which holds together five individual packets of Snack A Jacks.



The new packaging format is now available to buy exclusively at Tesco stores across the UK this week across three popular flavours: Salt & Vinegar, Sour Cream & Chive and BBQ.

The new outer tape as well as the individual packets qualify as officially recyclable under the UK On-Pack Recycling Label Scheme (OPRL) and can be recycled at flexible packaging collection points in supermarkets across the UK.

It's their third major sustainable packaging trial with Tesco in recent months, after they trialled a new cardboard design on Walkers multipacks to replace its outer plastic packaging, and piloted paper-based outer packaging earlier this year for Walkers Baked multipacks.

The trial has been made possible as we've invested over GBP 2 million (USD 2.45 million) in new equipment to enhance reduced plastic packaging capabilities at Walkers' Skelmersdale site in Lancashire, where Snack A Jacks are made.

It forms part of PepsiCo Positive, their health and sustainability transformation plan, which includes an ambition of reaching net zero emissions by 2040.

Across PepsiCo Europe, we're planning to eliminate virgin fossil-based plastic in crisp and snack bags by 2030. This ambition will apply to UK brands including Snack A Jacks, Walkers, Doritos, Quavers, Wotsits, and Pipers, and will be delivered by using 100% recycled or renewable content.

Gareth Callan, Packaging Sustainability lead at PepsiCo UK & Ireland: "Our new bagless multipack design is an innovative example of the solutions we're exploring to reduce virgin fossil plastic use across our portfolio. We're looking forward to assessing this new format as part of our commitment to creating a world where packaging never becomes waste."

Source: [potatopro.com](https://potatopro.com)

# India News

## India mulling its own carbon tax on exports along the lines of CBAM

In keeping with the European Union's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) principles, India is planning its own carbon tax, particularly for exports to European nations, according to a report by The Hindu Businessline (BL).

Senior officials were quoted by BL as saying that India will collect the tax proceeds itself instead of sharing them with the EU. A tax on imports or goods coming into India from the EU is also being planned. Officials are reportedly concerned about the legality of such a move if the World Trade Organisation challenges it.

Indian officials will selectively levy a tax "applicable only on EU exports affected by CBAM." The tax will thus remain within India and will be accounted for at the time of export, either through carbon credit or certification. According to the proposal, the tax will be levied only on "select products that will be exported from India to European nations."

An official told The Hindu Businessline that the constitutionality of such selective taxation is also under discussion. Indian officials have already stated that they would like the EU to return any carbon tax collected from Indian exporters. The argument presented was that the repatriated revenue would be used to fund India's climate objectives.

An official noted that the EU is not looking at the equivalence of emission reductions but at the equivalence of price. An agreement needs to be in place to ensure the EU's acceptance of such a law, he added.

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Regulation of the European Union was recently notified. It will be enforced in a transitional phase from 1 October this year, where traders will only have to provide information on the emissions embedded in their imports subject to the mechanism without paying any financial adjustment. The full implementation of CBAM is planned for January 2026, which will result in a levy on CBAM-covered imported products.

Source: Business Standard

## Artillery guns, drones and rifles part of India's latest export push

India will next week highlight the advances made in the indigenous defense manufacturing sector and showcase a range of locally produced weapons and systems before 35 countries with vital stakes in the Indo-Pacific region as part of an overarching drive to get a foothold in new markets and raise the country's defense exports to meet goals, senior officials aware of the matter said on Friday.



India has set a defense export target of ₹35,000 crore by 2024-25, which experts believe is within the country's reach.

The military hardware to be displayed by the Indian Army at the Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) to be held on September 26-27 in Delhi to tap export opportunities includes artillery guns, a variety of drones, counter unmanned aerial systems, anti-drone guns and jammers, assault weapons, sniper rifles and ballistic protection gear, said one of the officials cited above, requesting anonymity.

This gathering, being jointly hosted by the Indian and US armies, will be the largest conference for land forces in the region, with 20 countries represented by their army chiefs and the rest by vice chiefs or deputy commanders. It will bring together the top military leaders to enhance collaboration and understanding in the Indo-Pacific with the goal of promoting peace, security and prosperity across the region.

India's defence sector is characterised by a firm export push and an unprecedented cut back on imports under a multi-pronged self-reliance drive, said a second official, who also asked not to be named.

"IPACC will be a great platform to tell the world how India's defence manufacturing sector is coming of age, and the country is ready to meet the military needs of other nations," the second official added. The countries taking part in the conference include the US, the UK, France, Canada, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, the Maldives, and Papua New Guinea.

The hardware on display will include blast containment boxes, portable firing ranges, machine pistols, robotic equipment, automatic weapon cleaning systems and indoor shooting ranges, the first official said. Around 30 Indian vendors will be a part of the equipment display.

The defence ministry is tapping the government-to-government channel to drive defence exports and unlock new opportunities for domestic players, said Vivek Krishnan, CEO, SSS Defence, a Bengaluru-based firm.

"Earlier, the government-to-government channel was used only to boost exports of defence public sector undertakings. Now the private sector is also prominently in the picture. Indian defence attaches have been given directions to push indigenous military hardware in new markets," added Krishnan. SSS Defence manufactures small arms, ammunition and weapon accessories, and has made inroads into some foreign markets.

The locally made advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS) will be one of the highlights of IPACC's equipment display. The Defence Research and Development Organisation began the ATAGS project in 2013 to replace older army guns with a modern 155mm artillery

gun. It partnered with two private firms --- Bharat Forge and Tata Advanced Systems --- to manufacture the gun, which has a range of 48 km.

India's military exports have risen sharply, and imports have recorded a drop on the back of policy initiatives and reforms. Exports grew 23 times between 2013-14 and 2022-23 (from ₹686 crore to ₹16,000 crore), while the spending on imported weapons and systems dropped from 46% of the total expenditure in 2018-19 to 36.7% in December 2022.

India is currently exporting military hardware to more than 85 countries, with around 100 domestic firms involved in the exports. Its exports include missiles, artillery guns, rockets, armoured vehicles, offshore patrol vessels, personal protective gear, a variety of radars, surveillance systems and ammunition. Equipment that holds export potential includes light combat aircraft, helicopters, even tanks.

India is exporting bullet-proof jackets to 34 countries including Australia, Japan, Israel and Brazil, ammunition (ranging from 5.56mm to 155mm) to around 10 countries including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Indonesia and Thailand, fast interceptor boats to Mauritius, Seychelles and the Maldives, and defence electronics to countries such as the US, the UK and France, according to defence ministry data.

India has taken several measures over the last four to five years to boost self-reliance in defence. These include imposing phased bans on import of weapons, creating a separate budget for buying locally made military hardware, increasing foreign direct investment from 49% to 74% and improving ease of doing business. India is eyeing a turnover of ₹1,75,000 lakh crore in defence manufacturing by 2024-25.

Source: Hindustan Times

### **43% of India's exports to EU to be hit by green regulations: Report**

India's exports to the European Union (EU), worth \$37 billion, could be impacted due to the trade bloc's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and other green initiatives, a Delhi-based think tank's report has said.

The impact would translate into 43 per cent of India's exports to the EU, which is among India's key export markets after the United States (US).





The Centre for Energy, Environment and Water's report noted several categories in India's foreign trade at risk due to the EU regulations. These include textiles, chemicals, certain consumer electronics products, plastics, and vehicles which account for 32 per cent of India's exports to the EU in 2022.

"If CBAM sectors are added to the list, then the exports of at-risk sectors amount to \$37 billion, which is approximately 43 per cent of India's exports to the EU as of 2022," said the report authored by Prerna Prabhakar and Hemant Mallya and released on Thursday.

The report noted that lately numerous non-tariff measures have been implemented by developed countries to address sustainability, environment, and climate change. These include measures for energy efficiency, carbon footprint, waste management, water management, and sustainable forestry.

"With an increase in the issuance of E-NTMs by developed countries, India faces a serious challenge concerning its key export items. While India has taken significant steps to address this challenge, it still needs to develop a structured approach to deal with these measures to ensure that its exports are not impacted," it said, referring to European Union Non-Tariff Measure Statistics.

India needs a structured approach to deal with such EU measures and ensure that its exports are not impacted. For instance, India can resort to bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) to develop mutual recognition of compliance assessment activities in the respective countries. "Few EU trade agreements, such as the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement, exemplify how this can be achieved," the report said.

India needs to act quickly in utilising the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework to raise specific concerns with respect to non-trade measures notifications by other member nations. "Though India's participation

in the WTO has increased in recent times, strategies should be formulated to use the WTO mechanism in the future for raising concerns and seeking solutions," it said.

Source: Business Standard

### India emerging as export powerhouse for U.S. firms: BCG

India is among the emerging future export powerhouses for U.S. companies as the world's biggest economy looks to significantly cut imports from China, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group.

India, Mexico, and Southeast Asia are quickly emerging as export manufacturing powerhouses led by competitive cost structures, deep pools of labour, and growing scale and capabilities across diverse industries, the report titled 'Harnessing the Tectonic Shifts in Global Manufacturing' says.

India is rapidly developing as a producer of engines and turbines and has the additional benefit of possessing a potentially enormous domestic market, says BCG. First movers in such countries often gain the opportunity to establish capacity while labour, land, and other factors are abundant and very affordable, the report points out.



A given country's attractiveness will depend in part on its role in a particular product's value chain, according to the report. Some nations may be viable for final assembly but lack a competitive base of system and component suppliers. Others may be strong in key components but not in final assembly.

The report highlights moderately high assembly costs and labour constraints as a constant worry in the U.S. "One option, which combines a quick lead time with improved resilience, would be to shift final assembly and systems to Mexico and components to Germany. These alterations could enable the manufacturer to deliver the engine or turbine 40% faster at a similar cost... A second option, which focuses on lowering costs, would be to shift assembly and procurement to India. The time to

market would be slower here than in the Mexico-Germany option or in the status quo, but the potential cost savings range from 25% to 40%,” the BCG report says.

Further trade-offs would include longer lead times, the need for significant investment in new production capacity, and the need to develop a supply base in India, it adds.

India’s logistics infrastructure is unevenly developed, its environmental sustainability can be weak, and it has fewer free-trade agreements with nations other than the members of ASEAN, as per BCG.

“India is very cost competitive, however, and it has recently negotiated trade deals with Australia and the United Arab Emirates. Although India is just starting to emerge as a major exporter, it has a broad manufacturing base that supplies everything from electric vehicles and heavy machinery to chemicals and appliances for its domestic market,” the report says.

From 2018 through 2022, U.S. goods imports declined by 10% from China, but rose 18% from Mexico, 44% from India, and 65% from the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

U.S. imports of mechanical machinery from China shrank by 28% from 2018 through 2022, but increased by 21% from Mexico, 61% from ASEAN, and 70% from India.

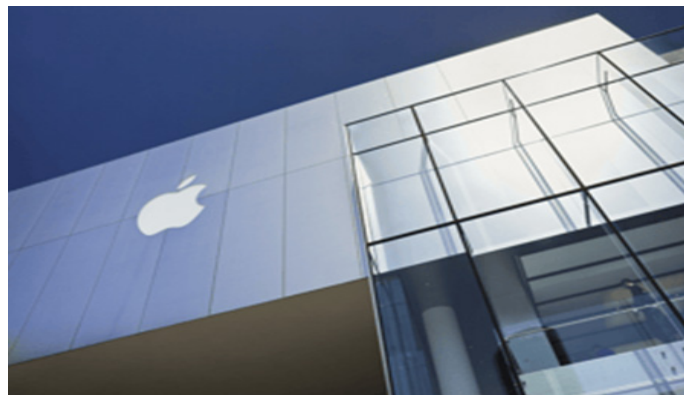
Despite its rising labour costs, China remains competitive, thanks to its current workforce availability, extensive supplier base, logistics infrastructure, and key role in certain industrial value chains, the report says. Southeast Asia is highly cost competitive, but it is far from North America and Europe, labour availability can be challenging, and sustainability is a concern, it adds.

Source: Fortune India

### **Apple Becomes Largest Smartphone Exporter From India, Samsung Takes Second Spot**

Apple has surged ahead of Samsung in smartphone exports from India, accounting for 49% of the country’s 12 Mn smartphone shipments in the second quarter of 2023 (Q2 2023).

Meanwhile, Samsung accounted for 45% of smartphone shipments in the June quarter, according to an ET report. Apple’s share of exports grew from 9% of around 8 Mn smartphones in Q2 2022 to almost half the total smartphone exports in Q2 2023, according to the report.



In the first half of 2023, Apple had already surpassed Samsung to become the leader in smartphone exports in terms of value. The trend can be attributed to Apple’s presence in the premium and super-premium segments, while Samsung offers products across all ranges.

Samsung and other Android smartphones have become caught up in the shirking global demand for smartphones, which has hit Android phone makers the worst. An industry executive told the publication that this slump has led to a reduction in export volumes for these brands in India.

The drop in Samsung’s share of export volumes from India, from a dominating 84% in Q2 2022 to 45% in Q2 2023, shows a major shift in the dynamics of the smartphone export market.

### **Apple Betting Big On Manufacturing In India**

For its part, Apple has been rapidly increasing its production capabilities in India over the past few quarters via its contract manufacturers. Foxconn, Wistron and Pegatron have all invested heavily in India to scale production of iPhones and start manufacturing other Apple products in the country.

The three contract manufacturers have also benefitted from the Indian government’s production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for smartphone manufacturing, introduced in 2021.

The report added that Wistron and Foxconn have also submitted applications for incentives after meeting the required incremental production targets. Foxconn has also initiated the production of the latest iPhone 15 at its Chennai manufacturing facility.

Earlier this month, a Foxconn representative said it would double its India employment, investment and business size in one year.

The comment came a month after Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) chairman and CEO Young Liu indicated that the company might invest several billions of dollars in India if it gets to implement its plans completely. During the company's second-quarter earnings call, Liu noted that Foxconn's Indian operations generate nearly \$10 Bn annually.

Source: inc42.com

## Goods trade deficit swells to 10-month high in Aug

India's merchandise trade gap swelled to the highest in 10 months in August as exports continued to slow due to weak demand in the West and China, even as sustained geo-political tensions keep inflation and interest rates elevated.

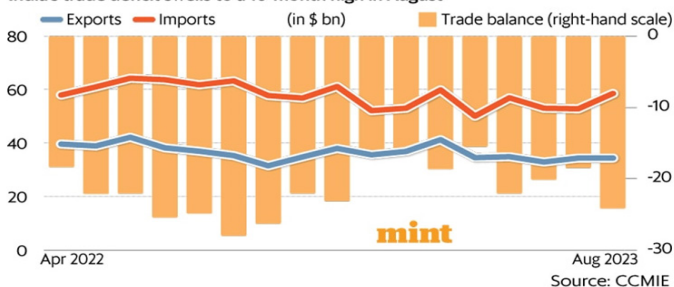
Commerce ministry data showed on Friday that exports slipped nearly 7% to \$34.48 billion in August from \$37.02 billion a year earlier. Meanwhile, imports declined to \$58.64 billion from \$61.88 billion last year, leaving the trade balance at \$24.16 billion.

Exporters expressed worry over the plunge in shipments of gems and jewellery, and organic and inorganic chemicals, that fell 22% and 18% respectively. Easing global fuel prices impacted earnings from refined petroleum exports, resulting in a sharp 30% drop. Cereal exports also fell over 40% due to export restrictions to arrest domestic prices.

## Gap widens

Exports slipped nearly 7% to \$34.48 billion in August from \$37.02 billion a year earlier

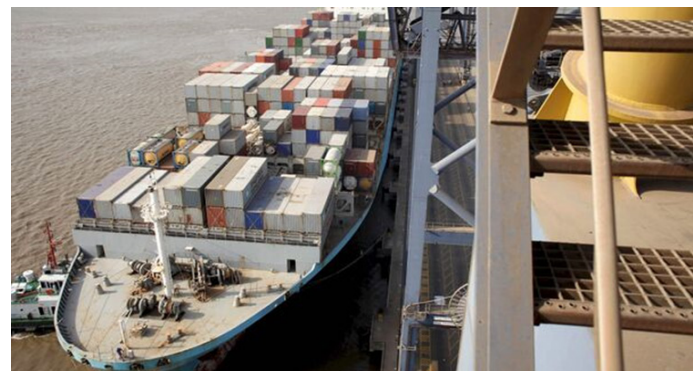
India's trade deficit swells to a 10-month high in August



However, engineering goods exports recovered to register a growth of 8% in August after eight consecutive months of year-on-year decline. Official data showed that engineering goods exports stood at \$9.05 billion in August 2023 as against \$8.40 billion last year. Arun Kumar Garodia, chairman, Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India said various factors including a slowdown in key advanced markets and muted overall demand had led to lower exports of engineering goods in previous months.

Exports of electronic goods rose by 26.29% in August to \$2.17 billion. During the April-August period, they rose by 35.22% to \$11.18 billion. Further, services exports in August are estimated at \$26.39 billion compared to \$26.5 billion a year ago. Imports stood at \$13.86 billion against \$15.22 billion. Meanwhile, gold imports in August rose by 38.75% to \$4.93 billion, and 10.48% to \$18.13 billion during April-August 2023.

"Owing to the sharp sequential uptick in merchandise imports in August 2023, the merchandise trade deficit widened to a 10-month high of \$24.2 billion in the month, while printing marginally lower than that seen in the year-ago levels. With the monthly merchandise trade deficit prints averaging much higher during July-August vis-à-vis April-June 2023, India's current account deficit is likely to widen in Q2 FY2024 from the \$10-12 billion expected in Q1 FY2024," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA Ltd.



Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said orders were beginning to pick up, and that the export pessimism was changing to optimism. However, demand from the European Union remains a concern in light of recent rate hikes, he added. Earlier this week, the European Central Bank raised rates to an all-time high of 4% amid the Russia-Ukraine war and continued oil production cuts by Opec countries.

A. Sakthivel, president, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, said a sluggish global economy and falling demand especially in major economies have led to the modest exports performance in recent months.

"Manufacturing across the euro zone and the US has contracted due to persistent policy tightening measures by both the US Fed and the European Central Bank squeezing finances, Sakthivel said. As Asian economies are showing mixed performance, countries across the continent have struggled to maintain the momentum. "The softening of commodity prices across the globe has also pulled down value-wise exports," Sakthivel added.

Source: Mint





## Why become a Plexconcil Member?

Established since 1955, the Plastics Export Promotion Council, PLEXCONCIL, is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India. PLEXCONCIL is a non-profit organization representing exporters from the Indian plastics industry and is engaged in promoting the industry exports.

The Council is focused on achieving excellence in exports by undertaking various activities and initiatives to promote the industry. The Council undertakes activities such as participation at international trade fairs, sponsoring delegations to target markets, inviting foreign business delegations to India, organising buyer-seller meets both in India and the overseas etc.,

The Council also routinely undertakes research and surveys, organizes the Annual Awards to recognize top performing exporters, monitors the development of new technology and shares the same with members, facilitates joint ventures and collaboration with foreign companies and trade associations as well as represents the issues and concerns to the relevant Government bodies.

The Council represents a wide variety of plastics products including – Plastics Raw Materials, Packaging Materials, Films, Consumer Goods, Writing Instruments, Travel ware, Plastic Sheets, Leather Cloth, Vinyl Floor Coverings, Pipes and Fittings, Water Storage Tanks, Custom made plastic Items from a range of plastic materials including Engineered Plastics, Electrical Accessories, FRP/GRP Products, Sanitary Fittings, Taraulins, Laminates, Fishing Lines/Fishnets, Cordage/Ropes/Twines, Laboratory Ware; Eye Ware, Surgical/Medical Disposables.

### Membership Benefits

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



**The Plastics Export Promotion Council added the following companies/firms as new members during August-2023. We would like to welcome them aboard!**

Sr. No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Director Name	Email
1	Agroha Colours Private Limited	S No- 3420/15 G/F Shanti Hauz Quazi, North Delhi,	Delhi	110006	Delhi	Parul Aggarwal	parul11985@gmail.com
2	Ameego Toys Private Limited	F-3/202, Treasure Vihar, Bijalpur Rajendra Nagar,	Indore	452012	Madhya Pradesh	Pooja Kalani	ameegotoy@gmail.com
3	Aria Stationery Llp	403, Hill N Sea Apartments , 72, Palli Hill Road , Bandra West,	Mumbai	400050	Maharashtra	Pradeep Singh Marwaha	mjani@allieddaman.com
4	Arora Polyfab (India) Private Limited	D-46, New Multan Nagar, North West Delhi	Delhi	110056	Delhi	Vinod Arora	arorapolyfab@gmail.com
5	Barnett Polypet Private Limited	Ft 07 Satyamev 2 Opp Kargil Petrol Pump, Ghatlodia	Ahmedabad	380061	Gujarat	Urvish Bhu- pendrakumar Patel	info@unigreen.in
6	Bonhomie Plastics Pvt Ltd	28, 2nd Floor, Ujagar Industrial Estate, W. T. Patil Marg, Deonar,	Mumbai	400088	Maharashtra	Smita Adesh Gunjan	adesh@bonhomie.com
7	Decora Cordage	Hreenathji Indust- rial Estate, Plot No.18,,S Abalpur, Near Jtot Export, Dhoraji Road,	Junagadh,	362037	Gujarat	Rope And Twi- ne Made Of Pp And Hdpe	decoracordage@gmail.com
8	Disha Jute And Allied Products Private Limited	Plot No.78, Sec- tor-21, Industrial Area Rohtak Road,	Bhiwani	127021	Haryana	Vikas Goyal	nikeshshah21@yahoo.com
9	Green Bags Universal Llp	Ground Floor, C- Wing, Shiv Sai Apartment, Shivai Nagar	Thane	400606	Maharashtra	Suchita Prab- hakar Kharat	greenbagsuniver- salllp@gmail.com
10	Greenpro Ventures Pri- vate Limited	7th Floor, Indra Complex, Sind- hvaimata Cross Road Manjalpur	Vadodara	390004	Gujarat	Hiren Prajapati	hiren.prajapati@ rishifibc.com
11	Hitech Colour Polyplast	B-38, Industrial Area Wazirpur, North West Delhi,	Delhi	110052	Delhi	Kartik Gupta	rakeshkumar. bandhu@gmail. com
12	Km Hair International	Km Hair Interna- tional 408 E,Raga- vanandha Nagar, Patharakudi	Karaikudi	630307	Tamil Nadu	Eknathkannan	eknathkannan. official@gmail.com
13	Kp Big Bags	22, Orchid Villa, B/H-Reliance, Petrol Pump, Sanand-Viragam High, Highway,Ta- luka -Sanand	Ahmadabad	382110	Gujarat	Kanchan Prasad	sales@bigbags. com
14	Labh Embro Private Limited	5, Nemi Sagar Co- lony Queens Road, Vaishali Nagar	Jaipur	302021	Rajasthan	Arihant Singh Sisodia	office.labh@gmail. com
15	M.PH Group	Wz-15a/1, Gali No. 10 Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar,New Delhi	New Delhi	110018	Delhi	Varun Malhotra	mphgroupplastic@ gmail.com

## New Members

16	Nandishwari Packaging	Plot No 2 Phase I , G I D C Ind Estate Vatva,	Ahmedabad	382445	Gujarat	Lipi Specific Family Trust	nandishwari. packaging@gmail. com
17	Pipes And Cables	144/989, Covai Road Contact No: 04324-241131 Karur	Karur	639002	Tamil Nadu	Prasanna	prasannak@pipes- andcables.com
18	Pr Expo Tradelink Llp	874/34-35, Gala No 201-202, 2nd Floor, A Wing, Ma- nibhadra Comp- lex-2, Munisuvrat Compound, Rahnal	Bhiwandi	421302	Maharashtra	Prakash Kataria,Parbat Singh	prexpotradelink@ gmail.com
19	Primeflexi Tech Private Limited	Plot No.196 Road No.3, Gidc Kathwada	Ahmedabad	382430	Gujarat	Kalpesh Patel	info@primeflexi- tech.com
20	Reyaj Human Hair Global Company	Barurbheri,Gopi- nathpur Barur- bherri,Gopinathpur Bhagawanpor	Bhagawanpor	721633	West Bengal	Ajagar Imam Sha	reyajalisha8@ gmail.com
21	S L Packaging	Survey No. 125- 2c, Dontireddy Venkatreddy Godowns,,Agiripal- le Mandal,,Nugon- dapalli,	Nugondapalli,	521211	Andhra Pradesh (New)	V S Jagadeesh	slpackaging. india@gmail.com
22	S R Flexi Pack	H No 1089 S No 157/1 Bldg, I-5 Shree Rajlaxmi, Hi Tech Park, Sonale Bhiwandi,	Bhiwandi	421302	Maharashtra	Muhammad Rizwan Umar Khan	srflexipack@gmail. com
23	Shree Plastic Industry	Malpani Truck Parking Kasara Dumala, Malpani Industrial Area,	Sangamner	422605	Maharashtra	Sanket Kailas Gunjal	shreeplastic11@ gmail.com
24	Shreeji International	I/1, Vikas Udyog Nagar, Off Goddev Road, Bhyander East,	Thane	401105	Maharashtra	Brijmohan Bhagwandas Mangal	info@shreejiindia. com
25	Skylite Industries India Private Limited	Plot No. L-6, Global Industrial Grande Village Golpura, Industrial Estate Barwala Panchkula,	Panchkula	134118	Haryana	Karan Mittal	karanmittal18@ gmail.com
26	Step Up Plast Llp	Survey No. 292/P1 Plot No 1 , Biliya Road, Biliya,	Morbi	363641	Gujarat	Vishaldeep Ra- jnikant Patel	stepupplastllp@ gmail.com
27	Subhasha Polychem Private Limited	Gf-27, Jaipur Electronic Market, Man Sarovar Link Road, Near Riddhi Siddhi,	Jaipur	302018	Rajasthan	Dheeraj Kansal	dheeraj@subhas- hapolychem.com
28	Subhulakshmi Enterp- rises	No.3/375. Pu- gazhendhi Salai Mogappair East Chennai	Thiruvallur	600037	Tamil Nadu	Ravikumar	subhulakshmi@ live.com
29	Tenty Private Limited	Unit No. 8b, 8th Floor, 23circus Avenue	Kolkata	700017	West Bengal	Ashok Goyal	kanishkgoyal@ tentygroup.com





30	Tileque Surfaces Llp	Survey No. 123 Paiki 1, B/H Bharat Petroleum, Khakhrechi Road, Maliya - Halvad S.H. - 7, Village Aniyari	Morbi	363630	Gujarat	Keshavbhai Harkhabhai Desai	info@tileque.com
31	Uniculture Manufactu- ring Private Limited	Plot No.482, Behind Shushma Namkeen, Tajpur Road, Changodar, Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	382213	Gujarat	Hardik Thakkar	export.uniculture@ gmail.com
32	Vishvas Polypack	Ls No. 807/2, Vishvas Polypack, Halvad-Maliya Highway, At - Sus- vav, Taluko-Hal- vad,	Morbi	363330	Gujarat	Mahendraku- mar Maganlal Bhoraniya	vishvaspolypack@ gmail.com
33	Yes Polypack Llp	Survey No-260 / P2, Rajpar Nashitpar Road, At-Rajpar	Morbi	363641	Gujarat	Pravinbhai Laxmanbhai Goriya	yespolypackllp@ gmail.com