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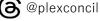
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From the Chairman's Desk



As we step into another promising quarter, I am pleased to share that India's plastic exports continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience and growth. The industry has consistently outperformed expectations, reinforcing its vital role in India's economic landscape.

A Strong Performance Amidst Global Challenges

In January 2025 alone, India's plastic exports reached USD 1,019 million, marking an impressive 11.3% increase from USD 916 million in January 2024. Over the April 2024–January 2025 period, total exports amounted to USD 10,343 million, reflecting a solid 9.6% rise from the previous year. These figures are a testament to the industry's dedication and innovation, positioning us favourably to exceed the ambitious targets set by the Government of India.

Despite facing hurdles in the first quarter, our collective efforts fuelled a strong resurgence in the second and third quarters. If this momentum continues, we are on track to surpass the USD 13 billion mark by the end of the fiscal year—an extraordinary milestone for the sector.

India's Place in Global Trade

While the plastics sector thrives, India's overall merchandise exports saw a slight dip, reaching USD 36.4 billion in January 2025, down 2.4% from USD 37.3 billion in January 2024. However, cumulative figures from April 2024 to January 2025 stand at USD 358.9 billion, reflecting a modest yet steady growth of 1.4% over the previous year. These numbers reaffirm India's strength in the global trade landscape, with the plastics industry playing a crucial role in sustaining this progress.

Navigating Geopolitical Uncertainties

As we celebrate our achievements, we must also prepare for potential headwinds. The return of the Trump administration in the US and the announcement of reciprocal tariffs pose challenges to our industry. The US remains our largest export destination, accounting for USD 2.2 billion in plastic exports, with imports from the US valued at USD 1.7 billion. An increase in tariffs on Indian plastic products could widen this trade imbalance,

impacting exporters and supply chains worldwide.

A higher tariff on plastic exports would not only decrease India's export volumes but also affect revenue streams, employment, and economic stability. Furthermore, global manufacturers may reevaluate supply chain strategies, potentially shifting production to regions with more favourable trade policies.

Strategic Responses for Sustained Growth

While these developments introduce uncertainties, they also present opportunities for proactive engagement and strategic adaptation. Key measures to mitigate risks include:

- Diplomatic Negotiations: India must actively engage with US counterparts to negotiate lower tariffs or a mutually beneficial trade agreement.
- Market Diversification: Exporters should explore alternative markets to reduce reliance on any single destination.
- Innovation and Competitiveness: Investments in advanced manufacturing technologies will enhance the global appeal and competitiveness of Indian plastic products.

Expanding Global Footprints

Plexconcil remains committed to driving international visibility for Indian plastic products. Our strategic initiatives in Dubai, Russia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Brazil continue to strengthen market presence, foster new trade relationships, and open doors for sustainable growth.

As we move forward, our focus remains on resilience, adaptability, and innovation. The Indian plastics industry has proven time and again that it cannot only withstand challenges but also emerge stronger. I am confident that, together, we will continue to push boundaries and achieve new milestones in the global marketplace.

Warm regards,

Vikram Bhadauria Chairman

Council Activities

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01st February 2025: Plexconcil's participation during the Shri. Chinnasamy Endownment Lecture organised by IPI – Coimbatore chapter at Hotel Kiscol Grands, Coimbatore.

The PLEXCONCIL was invited to present "Export Opportunities for Polymer & Plastics Products" on the 01st February 2025 during the Shri. Chinnasamy Endowment Lecture organised by IPI – Coimbatore chapter.



Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director, Southern Region made a presentation explaining the potential for Polymer & Plastics Products in the overseas market. He highlighted the schemes of the Govt of India along with the services provided by the PLEXCONCIL as a liaison body between the Industry and the Government.

The MSME entrepreneurs in and around Coimbatore about 90 companies participated in the program. It was a useful platform for the Council to create awareness about exports and the services of the Council promoting membership.

06th February 2025: Capacity Building Program on "Technology Up-gradation & Opportunities for Exports in Plastics & Fishnet Sector" at Rotary Community Centre, Nagercoil | Southern Region:

The Plexconcil Southern Region jointly with Kanyakumari District Fishnet Manufacturers Munnettra Sangham, Nagercoil organised a Capacity Building Program on "Technology Up-gradation & Opportunities for Exports in Plastics & Fishnet Sector" on 06th February 2025, (Thursday), Rotary Community Centre, Nagercoil



Smt. Suranya Smrithy Sajay, President – Kanyakumari District Fishnet Manufacturers Munnettra Sangham welcomed the participants while **Shri. Subbu**

Narayanan, President - Indian Fishnet Manufacturers Association addressed the gathering informing about the activities of the association and the support for the improvement of the industry. Smt. T. Ushadevi, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Customs House, Tuticorin in her special address acknowledged the Council for organising this Capacity Building Program and gave brief outline of the Customs Procedures for the benefit of the trade. Shri. R. Kumar, Asst. DGFT, Zonal Additional DGFT - Chennai briefed the participants on the FTP policy and procedures along with compliance to be fulfilled in export obligations. Shri. Berbert, General Manager - DIC, Nagercoil, Govt of TN informed the participants on the need to create Fishnet Cluster at Kanyakumari district for the betterment of the industry. Shri. K. Aslam, Sales Head, HDFC Bank - Madurai informed the participants on the banking support for their trade finance to compete in the export market.

Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director, Southern Region made a presentation explaining the potential for Fishnet products in the overseas market. He highlighted the schemes of the Govt of India along with the services provided by the PLEXCONCIL as a liaison body between the Industry and the Government.



The primary objective of the program was to bring the Fishnet Entrepreneurs to the export fold and guide them to access the international markets. The program also highlighted the various schemes and export subsidies offered by the Ministry of Commerce and DIC, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. The Council organized the same to inform about the benefits of membership while promoting plastics value added products exports from India.

5-6th February 2025: Bengal Global Business Summit | Eastern Region:

Govt. of West Bengal organised the above Summit held at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD attended the inaugural session on 5th February 2025.

Council Activities

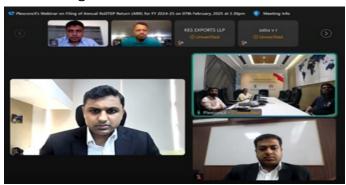
6th February 2025: Bengal Global Business Summit-BGBS Technical Session on Plastics & Chemicals | Eastern Region:

A Technical Session on Plastics & Chemicals was organised during BGBS Summit on 6th February 2025. Mr Alok Tibrewala, Regional Chairman(East), PLEXCONCIL moderated the session.

07th February 2025: Stakeholder consultation on Three Quality Control Orders in virtual mode | Eastern Region:

Above meeting was organised by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and chaired by Joint Secretary(PC) on 7th Feb 2025. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director represented the Council at this meeting.

07th February 2025: PLEXCONNECT- Webinar on Filing of Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) for FY 2023-24 | Western Region:



The Government of India (DGFT) has issued Public Notice No. 27/2024-25 regarding the mandatory Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) filing under the Foreign Trade Policy 2023. Exporters with total RoDTEP claims exceeding ₹1 crore must file ARR via the DGFT portal by March 31, 2025, to avoid denial of benefits. To help understand the procedure and compliance requirements for trade members, Plexconcil, in collaboration with Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan (LKS) Attorneys, organized a webinar on 07.02.2025.

The welcome address for the webinar was given by Ms Bharti Parave, Deputy Director (Trade & Policy), Plexconcil. Adv. (CA) Saurabh Malpani, Associate Partner LKS and Adv. (CA) Shreyash Agrawal, Principal Associate LKS gave background of RoDTEP scheme, overview of ARR and analysis of details to be filled in ARR form. Webinar ended with vote of Thanks by Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil.

18th February 2025: Participation in Executive Committee Meeting of GSPMA | Western Region:

Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association (GSP-MA) organized Executive Committee meeting of committee members on Tuesday, 18th February, 2025 at GSPMA office, Ahmedabad. As a part of the committee member, Mr Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, PLEXCONCIL- Regional Office (West) Ahmedabad was invited and attended the aforementioned meeting and shared relevant insights during the meeting.

22nd February 2025: Meeting with Human Hair & Hair Products Manufacturers and Exporters Association held at Hotel Kaldan Samudhra Palace, Mahabalipuram | Southern Region

Human Hair Association Members met under the chairmanship of Mr. Benjamin Cherian, President-HHHP-MEAI and discussed the issues with regard to recent export restriction/prohibition on Raw Human Hair, Technology upgradation for Human Hair sector, need to create special zone / clusters for Human Hair industry with tailor made incentive scheme for betterment of Human Hair sector. Mr. R. Dayanidhi, Asst. Director was part of the meeting and addressed the association members.



25th February 2025: Kanyakumari District Export Promotion Committee Meeting (VC) at District Collectorate Office, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu | Southern Region

The Kanyakumari District Export Promotion Committee was held on 25th February 2025 at the Collectorate Office under the chairmanship of District Collector to discuss the way forward to increase the exports from the Kanyakumari district. Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director represented the Council and highlighted the opportunities available in the plastic sector particularly for the Fishnet Sector.

Council Activities



27th February 2025: RBI Stakeholders meeting on Trade Regulations | Western Region:

Reserve Bank of India, Foreign Exchange Department organized stakeholder meeting on February 27, 2025 to discuss on draft set of trade regulations and directions. The purpose was to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and issues faced by the trade community and to gather valuable insights that could help refine and improve future regulations. Mr. Sachin Shah, Vice Chairman - Plexconcil and Mrs. Bharti Parave, Deputy Director (Trade & Policies) represented the council during the meeting.

28th Feb-3rd March 2025: Indplas 25, Trade Fair, Kolkata | Eastern Region:

Indplas 2025 trade fair was being organised by the Indian Plastic Federation, Kolkata. PLEXCONCIL was having a promotional booth at this Exhibition 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.





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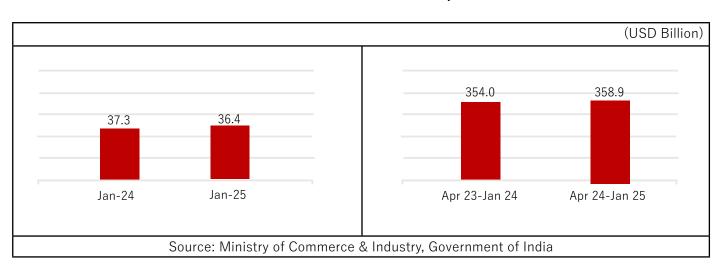


ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT JANUARY 2025

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 36.4 billion in January 2025, lower by 2.4% from USD 37.3 billion in January 2024. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2024 – January 2025 was USD 358.9 billion as against USD 354 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a modest 1.4% growth.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During January 2025, India exported plastics worth USD 1,019 million, higher by 11.3% from USD 916 million in January 2024. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2024 – January 2025 was USD 10,343 million as against USD 9,436 million during the same period last year, registering an increase of 9.6%.

(USD Million)

9,436

10,343

916

1,019

Jan-24

Jan-25

Apr 23-Jan 24

Apr 24-Jan 25

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India

PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In January 2025, export performance across various plastics product categories showed strong growth. FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, and Tarpaulin recorded the highest gains, followed by plastic raw materials; Plastic films and sheets; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; Consumer & houseware products; Medical items of plastics; Plastic pipes & fittings; Writing instruments & stationery; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; FRP & Composites and Miscellaneous products and items nes.

The only exception was Human hair and related products, which saw a 22.5% decline.

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

Panel	Jan-24	Jan-25	Growth	Apr 23- Jan-24	Apr 24- Jan-25	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	65.3	70.2	+7.4%	694.0	650.4	-6.3%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	21.9	23.6	+7.6%	208.9	252.0	+20.7%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	112.4	145.8	+29.7%	1,103.6	1,293.8	+17.2%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & lami- nates	55.4	63.8	+15.1%	565.3	634.9	+12.3%
FRP & Composites	40.2	40.9	+1.7%	396.8	427.7	+7.8%
Human hair & related products	71.9	55.7	-22.5%	633.9	612.9	-3.3%
Medical items of plastics	39.8	44.3	+11.5%	443.8	459.1	+3.4%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	48.9	56.5	+15.5%	595.7	565.1	-5.1%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	52.3	59.2	+13.2%	516.2	568.4	+10.1%
Plastic films & sheets	136.8	154.9	+13.2%	1,410.7	1,686.6	+19.6%
Plastic pipes & fittings	23.5	25.9	+10.4%	234.6	277.8	+18.4%
Plastic raw materials	230.6	259.4	+12.5%	2,422.1	2,684.4	+10.8%
Writing instruments & stationery	17.1	19.2	+12.1%	210.3	230.4	+9.5%
	916.0	1,019.3	+11.3%	9,435.8	10,343.5	+9.6%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



Exports of **Consumer & houseware products** witnessed an increase of 7.4% in January 2025. This growth was primarily due to higher sales of Tableware & kitchenware of plastics (392410) to Nigeria; Wallets, purses, key-pouches of plastic sheeting (42023290) to the USA and other switches of plastics (85365020) to Germany due to increase in demand.

Exports of **Cordage**, **fishnets & monofilaments** were up by 7.6% in January 2025 due to positive growth witnessed in sales of Other binder or baler twine of polyethylene or polypropylene (560749) to Chile.

In January 2025, the export of **FIBC**, **woven sacks**, **woven fabrics & tarpaulin** witnessed a growth of 29.7% due to higher sales of Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532) to the USA, Belgium, Germany, Italy and the UK and sacks and bags of plastics (39232990) to the United States of America.

Export of **Floor coverings**, **leather cloth & laminates** were higher by 15.1% in January 2025 on account of consistent sales of other floor coverings of polymers of vinyl chloride (391810) and Other textile fabrics, impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polymers of vinyl chloride (590390) to the USA.

Export of **FRP & Composites** increased by 1.7% during January 2025. This increase was due to higher exports of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099).

Export of **Human hair & related products** reduced by 22.5% in January 2025 on account of decrease in sales of Human hair dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (67030010) to China.

Medical items of plastics export were higher by 11.5% in January 2025 due to growing sales of cannulae (90183930) to the USA.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** were up by 15.5% in January 2025 due to higher shipments of Polypropylene articles (39269080).

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export augmented by 13.2% on account of higher sales of Sacks and bags of polyethylene (392321), Stoppers, lids, caps & other closures of plastics (392350) and Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods of plastics (392390).

In January 2025, the export of **Plastic films & sheets** was higher by 13.2% due to increased sales of Other self-adhesive plates & sheets (39199090); Rigid and flexible sheets of polymers of propylene (392020); Films and sheets of cellular plastic (392119) and Other Flexible and metallised films & sheets (39219094, 39219099). Indian exporters of plastic films and sheets saw a strong recovery in Q3, with better pricing and higher profitability. Despite modest volume growth, improved product mix and increased exports of value-added films boosted margins and overall performance.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** risen by 10.4% due to improved sales of Flexible tubes of plastics (391739) to Saudi Arabia. Indian exporters of pipes and fittings are targeting to the export market for UAE, Gulf and Africa.

Plastics raw materials exports were increased by 12.5% due to higher shipments of Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0.94, in primary forms (390120), Acrylic polymers (39069090); Other polyether's (39072990) and PET flake chip (39076930). This growth was largely on account of better prices.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** raised by 12.1% in January 2025 due to Higher sales of and Ball point pens (96081019) to France.

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 23-Jan 24	Apr 24-Jan 25	Growth
110 0000	Doddipadii	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	644.6	766.5	+18.9%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	479.0	475.5	-0.7%
39269099	Other articles of plastics n.e.s	390.0	421.7	+8.1%
39232990	Other sacks and bags of plastics excl. those of polymers of ethylene	350.5	397.0	+13.3%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	316.4	252.4	-20.2%
39021000	Polypropylene	285.9	322.2	+12.7%
39076190	Other primary form of polyethylene terephthalate	261.0	272.4	+4.4%
48239019	Decorative laminates	252.8	264.3	+4.5%
39269080	Polypropylene articles n.e.s	173.3	215.9	+24.5%
39206220	Flexible and plain sheets and film of non-cellular polyeth- ylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	173.6	221.8	+27.8%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	172.7	208.8	+20.9%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	170.6	183.5	+7.6%
39202020	Flexible and plain sheets and film of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	166.3	198.9	+19.7%
39239090	Other articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics	151.8	173.8	+14.5%
59039090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane	145.0	182.7	+26.0%
05010010	Human hair, unworked	144.4	133.6	-7.5%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	148.1	132.2	-10.7%
39202090	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	122.2	137.5	+12.6%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of $>= 0.94$, in primary forms	123.7	123.4	-0.2%
39076990	Other primary form of polyethylene terephthalate	115.1	101.1	-12.1%
96081019	Ball-point pens	112.0	112.2	+0.2%
90183930	Cannulae	108.4	123.1	+13.6%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE)	103.8	163.9	+57.9%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene	101.2	106.4	+5.2%
39219099	Other sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	98.7	119.6	+21.3%
39199090	Other self-adhesive sheets and film of plastics, whether or not in rolls $> 20 \ \text{cm}$ wide	93.9	107.8	+14.8%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	91.3	108.1	+18.4%
54072090	Other woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of $>=67$ decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of $<=1$ mm	86.6	105.3	+21.6%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	83.9	96.5	+15.0%

7	

39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	81.0	85.7	+5.7%
	Other polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0.94, in prima-			
39011090	ry forms	82.1	59.3	-27.8%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s.	79.5	65.3	-17.9%
39206919	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyesters, not re- inforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked	79.2	81.5	+2.9%
90041000	Sunglasses	86.2	4.5	-94.8%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	70.0	86.3	+23.3%
39181090	Other floor coverings, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles, and wall or ceiling coverings in rolls with a width of $>=45$ cm, of polymers of vinyl chloride	70.4	93.0	+32.1%
39219094	Flexible and metallised sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	66.3	97.5	+47.0%
39140020	Ion exchangers of polymerisation or co-polymerisation type	65.8	72.0	+9.4%
39095000	Polyurethanes	65.2	71.1	+9.1%
96032100	Tooth brushes	66.1	63.8	-3.6%
39204900	Sheets and film of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	64.7	67.6	+4.5%
39206290	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyethylene tere- phthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	61.2	77.4	+26.3%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	61.4	62.6	+1.9%
39201019	Other sheets and film of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked	58.1	63.0	+8.4%
39172390	Other rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings of polymers of vinyl chloride	58.4	59.6	+2.0%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	55.5	61.7	+11.2%
39219096	Flexible and laminated sheets and film of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked	53.9	62.3	+15.6%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles of plastics	55.6	54.5	-1.9%
39206929	Other sheets and film of non-cellular polyesters, not re- inforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked	50.2	70.5	+40.3%
39073010	Epoxy resins	51.2	47.3	-7.5%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Interview of Industry Leader



Mr. Gaurav Mirchandani

Director of Candytoy Corporate Pvt. Ltd.

Meet Gaurav Mirchandani, the dynamic director of Candytoy Corporate Pvt Ltd, a trailblazer in India's promotional toys and confectionery manufacturing. Backed by a proud family legacy, Gaurav is passionate about turning bold ideas into reality. With over 250 in-house injection moulding machines and a commitment to using food-grade materials, he champions the "Make in India" vision while redefining industry standards. Always ready to embrace challenges, Gaurav's innovative approach keeps him at the forefront of this unique market.

Candy toy products are such a fascinating niche! What inspired Candytoy to focus on this category, and how has it shaped your growth and strategy?



It all began when I returned to India from the United States and noticed a gap in the market. At the time, most promotional toys were being imported from China, and there weren't many local manufacturers addressing this need. This presented an exciting opportunity to establish something unique.

We started in 2015 with a B2B model, partnering with brands like Yellow Diamond under Prataap Snacks. They included promotional toys in their snack products—things like rings and small collectibles—to make them more appealing to children. It worked brilliantly, and we saw firsthand how toys could boost sales.

We continued collaborating with major brands like Cadbury, Britannia and Too Yum which further validated the demand for high-quality promotional toys. Then, in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to expand into candy toy production. By combining the

appeal of toys with the universal love for candy, we created a product that was both innovative and irresistible. This shift allowed us to carve out a unique niche in the market, and it has been central to our growth strategy ever since.



Blending toys and candy sounds exciting but also challenging. How does Candytoy ensure the safety and quality of both components throughout production and distribution?

Safety is a deeply personal priority for me, especially as a parent of twins. I approach this with the mindset that if I wouldn't feel comfortable giving it to my kids, it shouldn't go to market.



Interview of Industry Leader

4

For the toys, we use only BPA-free raw materials sourced from trusted suppliers like Reliance and MRPL. We avoid recycled plastics entirely because they don't meet our stringent safety criteria. All our toys are audited by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and comply with European EN71 standards, ensuring they're safe for children to use. Additionally, our factories are certified under SMETA and BRCGS, which cover everything from social responsibility to product safety.



On the confectionery side, we adhere strictly to FSSAI guidelines. We only use natural colours and flavours to ensure the highest level of safety and quality. Both components—edible and non-edible—undergo rigorous quality checks at multiple stages of production to guarantee consistency and compliance with global standards.

Understanding kids' preferences must be quite a task, especially as they change so quickly! How does Candytoy keep up with trends to create products that resonate with children and their parents?

It's true—children can be unpredictable, and their preferences evolve rapidly. That's why we've developed a multi-faceted approach to understanding their likes and dislikes.

We conduct regular surveys in schools and even within our organization. Kids test our designs and prototypes, and their feedback directly influences the final products. This hands-on interaction is invaluable because children are incredibly honest about what they like or don't like.

We also stay updated on global trends by participating in international exhibitions like SIAL in Paris, Anuga in Germany, and the Sweet & Snacks Expo in the US. These events are a goldmine of ideas and insights. By observing what's working in other markets, we can adapt and introduce fresh concepts tailored for Indian audiences. Ultimately, our goal is to create products that are fun, engaging, and safe while appealing to parents as well.



You mentioned partnerships earlier. Can you elaborate on how these collaborations are formed and their role in expanding your market presence?

Our B2B partnerships are built on the idea of adding value to our clients' products. When brands like Yellow Diamond include our toys in their offerings, it adds an element of novelty and excitement, which often leads to increased sales.

What sets us apart is our commitment to innovation and competitive pricing. We constantly work on creating unique designs that stand out while ensuring our pricing remains accessible. These collaborations have been instrumental in helping us establish a strong presence not just in India but also in international markets.



For us, it's not just about being a supplier; it's about being a strategic partner. We focus on understanding our clients' needs and delivering solutions that enhance their products and drive mutual growth.

Interview of Industry Leader

Expanding globally means dealing with different regulations and standards. How does Candytoy navigate these challenges?



Compliance is a critical part of our operations, and we've built a robust ecosystem to handle it efficiently. Every country we export to has its own unique regulatory requirements, and we've structured our processes to adapt seamlessly.

In India, government support for the toy sector has been a significant advantage. Initiatives like subsidies and better infrastructure have made it easier for manufacturers like us to comply with international standards while remaining competitive.

Our team stays updated on the latest regulations, whether it's related to toy safety or food standards. This proactive approach ensures that we maintain consistency and quality across all regions.

Competing in the international candy toy market must be tough, especially with China dominating the space. How does Candytoy differentiate itself?



China is undoubtedly a dominant player in the toy manufacturing space, but we've identified ways to stand out. By combining candy and toys, we've created a unique niche that doesn't face much competition domestically. Internationally, our edge lies in efficiency. Our production and packaging processes are 15-20% more cost-ef-

fective than those of our Chinese counterparts, giving us a pricing advantage. Beyond that, we focus heavily on innovation and quality. While we respect the competition, we're constantly learning and evolving to stay ahead.

Managing both the edible and non-edible components in a single product sounds complex. Can you walk us through your production process and the quality checks involved?

It's definitely a meticulous process. For the toys, the designs and materials go through multiple stages of approval by our technical team to ensure they meet safety standards. Similarly, the confectionery components are tested extensively by our food safety experts.

Once the materials are approved, the production process involves strict monitoring to ensure everything aligns with regulatory and consumer expectations. Our commitment to quality doesn't stop at production—we also focus on safe and efficient packaging to protect the integrity of the product during distribution.

Supply chain management must play a huge role in your success. What measures have you implemented to optimize it?

Supply chain optimization is a cornerstone of our business. For the toy components, we leverage India's well-established supply chain, sourcing raw materials from trusted suppliers like Reliance and Indian Oil.

On the confectionery side, we focus on consistent quality improvement and cost management. By streamlining our processes and building strong relationships with our suppliers, we ensure we can meet demand without compromising on quality or delivery timelines. This is especially critical for our global markets, where efficiency and reliability are non-negotiable.







PRODUCT: Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride

Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (HS Code 590310) typically made from fibers like cotton, polyester, or nylon, these fabrics mimic the look of leather and are used in diverse applications such as furniture upholstery, automotive interiors, marine covers, and industrial conveyor belts. PVC-coated fabrics are valued for their easy maintenance, water- resistant, flexible material, durability, and versatility, making them ideal for use in both commercial and specialized products like work wear and raincoats.

India's exports of Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) experienced a CAGR of 3.2% rising from USD 68.6 million in 2020-2021 to USD 75.4 million in 2023-2024. So far this year the product witnessed a growth of 1.4% reaching USD 63.1 million during Apr 24 - Jan 25, compared to USD 62.2 million during the same period last year.

World Wide Imports of Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride is valued at USD 2.6 Billion per year approximately.

- In 2023, top-5 exporting countries of Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride were: China (59%), Italy (5.4%), Canada (4.6%), United States of America (3.7%) and Portugal (3.5%).
- In 2023, top-5 importing countries of Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride were: United States of America (14.4%), Viet Nam (5.4%), India (4.5%), China (4.3%) and Russia (4%).

In 2023-24, India exported 39,392 sqm of Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride valued at USD 75.4 million to the world. The United States of America was the top export destination in terms of value and United Arab Emirates was the top export destination in terms of volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (sqm)
United States of America	14.23	United Arab Emirates	8,268
Mexico	14.20	United States of America	4,960
United Arab Emirates	10.58	Saudi Arabia	3,931
South Africa	5.56	Mexico	2,655
Saudi Arabia	4.38	Kenya	2,321
Bangladesh	2.80	Nepal	1,892
Nepal	2.50	Sri Lanka	1,852
Sri Lanka	2.20	Bangladesh	1,741
United Kingdom	2.20	South Africa	1,602
Germany	2.13	United Kingdom	866

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

Product of the month

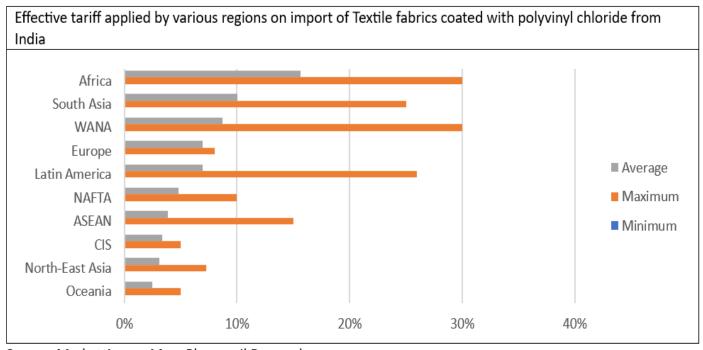
In 2023-24, India imported 50,59,273 sqm of Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride valued at USD 113 million from the world. China was the top supplier both in terms of value as well as volume.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (Sqm)
China	82.48	China	23,25,122
South Korea	14.38	Indonesia	15,82,603
Japan	3.79	Japan	8,35,003
Indonesia	3.51	Taiwan	1,95,964
Viet Nam	2.46	United States of America	1,12,597
Italy	0.88	South Korea	2,469
United States of America	0.83	Germany	1,339
Taiwan	0.75	Belgium	1,238
Germany	0.66	Canada	603.4
Belgium	0.62	France	502.2

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

Indian Firms dealing in Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride have immense potential to export to destinations like Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Russia, Thailand, UAE, UK and Viet Nam.

- There is zero duty applicable on import of Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride 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. Japan and United Arab Emirates under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- ASEAN countries, such as Indonesia & Myanmar offer preferential custom duty where in Cambodia, Thailand
 and Viet Nam offers zero custom duty on Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride from India under the
 ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.
- Import of this products enjoys zero customs duty in Russia and have notable potential to export. Unfortunately, several countries in Africa, South Asia, Europe, NAFTA and CIS do not accord any preferential treatment to Textile fabrics coated with polyvinyl chloride exported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research





Ms. Hiral Sanghvi

Managing Director at Welpack Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Hiral Sanghvi is the Managing Director of Welpack Industries Pvt. Ltd., a key player in India's plastic and packaging industry. With over 30 years of experience, she has led the company's growth in manufacturing and exporting a diverse range of products, including tarpaulins, garbage bags, HDPE woven fabrics, shade nets, and mulch films. Her leadership has helped Welpack Industries expand its market reach both in India and globally. Known for her innovative approach, Hiral is dedicated to advancing eco-friendly packaging solutions while maintaining high-quality standards across all product lines.

1. Can you share your journey and what inspired you to pursue marketing in the manufacturing sector?

Coming from a business family, I was always inclined towards understanding market trends and consumer behaviour. I realized that marketing plays a crucial role in connecting product innovation with market demand. My passion for creative storytelling and strategy led me to focus on marketing within the manufacturing industry, where I could combine business acumen with innovative approaches.



2. What are some of the most rewarding projects you've led at Welpack Industries?

Leading our digital transformation was a major milestone. Revamping our website, implementing SEO strategies, and launching targeted digital campaigns significantly boosted web traffic and customer inquiries. Additionally, a product awareness campaign leveraging social media, influencer collaborations, and educational content strengthened our brand positioning, resulting in higher sales and engagement.

3. What challenges have you faced, and how have you overcome them?

Being a woman in a family business, earning industry recognition was initially challenging. Many assumed I lacked experience. I overcame this by diving deep into product knowledge, engaging with clients, attending trade shows, and continuously educating myself. Over time, delivering measurable results built my credibility.

4. What innovative marketing strategies have set Welpack Industries apart?

We've leveraged digital marketing to expand beyond traditional markets, focusing on SEO-driven content, social media, and email automation. Educational content like product videos and industry webinars positioned us as thought leaders. Data-driven marketing helped personalize campaigns, improving customer engagement and conversion rates.



5. How do you stay updated with industry trends?

I actively participate in industry conferences, follow thought leaders, and subscribe to relevant publications. Continuous learning—whether through hands-on experience, competitor analysis, or online courses—keeps me ahead of market shifts.

Interview of Young Achiever

6. How do you balance creativity with the technical aspects of marketing?

Close collaboration with product teams ensures our messaging is both engaging and technically sound. I simplify complex information into relatable content using storytelling, customer testimonials, and real-world case studies to connect with both technical and non-technical audiences.

7. How has mentorship influenced your career, and how do you approach leadership?

I've had mentors who shaped my strategic thinking and leadership skills. Within my team, I foster a learning-oriented environment, providing constructive feedback and encouraging innovation. My leadership philosophy is to empower and inspire rather than dictate.



8. What advice would you give to aspiring marketing professionals in manufacturing?

Understand both marketing fundamentals and industry-specific nuances. B2B marketing differs from consumer marketing, requiring technical product knowledge and insight into customer pain points. Embrace digital tools, stay data-driven, and continuously sharpen skills in content marketing, SEO, and analytics.

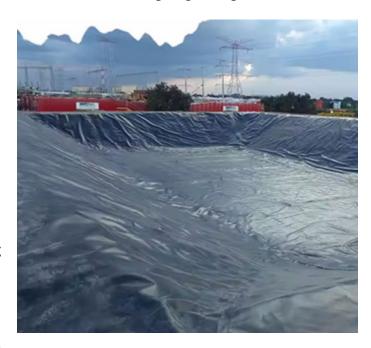


9. Have any personal milestones influenced your professional journey?

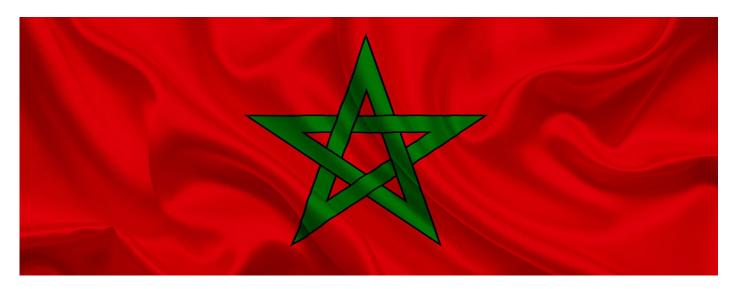
Public speaking and leadership programs have strengthened my communication and team management skills. Attending global trade expos broadened my business perspective, and community service reinforced my belief in ethical, customer-centric marketing.

10. What are your future goals, both personal and professional?

Professionally, I aim to elevate Welpack Industries' marketing strategy, expand into global markets, and build a distinctive brand identity. Personally, I'm committed to lifelong learning and mentoring young marketers. By staying agile, leveraging data, and fostering innovation, I look forward to driving long-term growth.







MOROCCO

Economic overview

The Morocco is located in Northern Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, between Algeria and Mauritania. It has an area of 716,550 square kilometres and a population of 37.0 million. It has a diverse economy with a GDP of \$157.1 billion in 2024. Key sectors include services, industry, and agriculture. Major exports are automotive products, fertilizers, and agricultural goods, while imports focus on energy and machinery. Morocco's economic strategy aims to balance traditional sectors with industrial growth.

As of March 04, 2025, S&P's rating for Morocco is BB+ (Positive); Moody's rating stands at Ba1 (Stable); and Fitch has a reported rating of BB+ (Stable).



Economic indicators		2021	2022	2023
Nominal GDP	USD Billion	142.0	131.0	144.4
Nominal GDP per capita	USD	3,911	3,571	3,901
Real GDP growth	%	8.2	1.5	3.4
Total population	Million	36.3	36.7	37.0
Average inflation	%	1.4	6.6	6.1
Total merchandise exports	USD Million	36,579	42,331	42,478
Total merchandise imports	USD Million	58,667	72,833	70,672

Source: IMF, TradeMap

Countryscape

Morocco has established a robust network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with major global and regional partners, including the United States of America, United Kingdom, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates. Additionally, it is a member of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the Agadir Agreement, and the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP).

Trade overview

Over the years, India and Morocco have enjoyed cordial and friendly relations. In 2023, India and Morocco engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 2,475 million. During the year, India's exports to Morocco were valued at USD 1,112 million while India's imports from Morocco were valued at USD 1,363 million.

The major items of export (2-digit HS) from India to Morocco are automotive diesel fuel (USD 172 million), other vehicles (USD 146 million), non-galvan pipe of iron (USD 143 million) and other combined refrigerator freezers (USD 57.8 million). Likewise, major items of export (2-digit HS) from Morocco to India are phosphoric acid (USD 528 million), fertilizers (USD 483 million) and natural calcium phosphates (USD 302 million).

For products that come under the purview of PLEXCONCIL, the trade is largely in favour of India with exports of USD 69.1 million to Morocco while imports from Morocco to India stand at USD 3.2 million, leading a substantial trade surplus of USD 65.9 million for India.

The major items of export to Morocco are:

- Plastic raw materials (30.1%),
- Consumer & houseware products (19.7%), and
- Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments (12.8%).

Morocco's annual plastics imports are valued at USD 4,033 million approx. Its plastic imports are largely catered to, by Spain (17.0%); China (13.3%) and France (9.2%). India's market share in Morocco's plastics imports is insignificant (2.5%). Although India maintains a strong position in the Morocco's import requirement for the following plastic product categories:

- FIBC, woven sacks & tarpaulins Market share of 18.5% (Rank 3),
- Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments Market share of 18.2% (Rank 2), and
- Human hair Market Share of 16.4% (Rank 2).

Export potential for India

Based on our internal research, India's export of PLEXCONCIL member products to Morocco has the potential to grow by USD 3.0 billion. Details of product panels and their export potential to Morocco is provided below:

Product panel	Morocco 's import from India	Morocco 's import from world	India's export to world	Export potential for India
	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
Plastic raw materials	20.8	1,431.1	2,903.0	1,032.8
Plastic films and sheets	4.2	494.6	1,682.5	416.8
Consumer & houseware products	13.8	608.4	1,656.3	361.3
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	1.0	214.3	604.8	213.3
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	1.4	257.7	835.5	174.1
Medical items of plastics	5.4	160.9	1,162.9	155.5
Plastic pipes & fittings	2.3	226.1	278.7	111.5
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	8.9	72.9	256.8	64.0
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	5.6	55.4	1,298.3	45.5

Source: TradeMap, Plexconcil Research



Groundbreaking Results From Citywide Petaluma Reuse Project With Starbucks, The Coca-Cola Company, PepsiCo and Other Leading Brands Show How Reuse Could Be an Everyday Reality

The Petaluma Reusable Cup Project from the NextGen Consortium, led by Closed Loop Partners' Center for the Circular Economy, was the first citywide program in the U.S. to offer reusable to-go cups at no cost to customers.



NEW YORK, Feb. 26, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Today, the NextGen Consortium, led by Closed Loop Partners' Center for the Circular Economy, with partners including Starbucks, The Coca-Cola Company, PepsiCo, Yum! Brands and other global businesses released ground-breaking results from the Petaluma Reusable Cup Project, the first initiative to catalyze reuse across an entire U.S. city.

The report, Making Reuse an Everyday Reality: Insights and Impact from the Petaluma Reusable Cup Project, reveals a major milestone for the reuse movement: enough of the project's purple cups were successfully returned for the reuse system to produce environmental

benefits when compared with a single-use alternative. Delivering a positive environmental outcome on this scale is particularly significant because the program was designed to automatically serve every customer ordering a to-go beverage with a reusable cup, across a citywide network.

This unprecedented collaboration in Petaluma set out to address accessibility and inclusivity challenges that typically restrict the ability of reuse programs to deliver impact. Throughout the duration of the three-month project, 30 businesses in Petaluma—from national brands to local restaurants—switched out single-use cups for reusable alternatives in unison, at no cost to the customer. Local consumers responded, returning cups from day one, with returns climbing rapidly in the first few weeks and over 220,000 cups returned throughout the program.

The Petaluma Reusable Cup Project was launched at a critical time, amidst growing regulatory, consumer and climate pressures on single-use packaging waste. Advancing reuse has been a focus for the NextGen Consortium, as identifying alternatives to single-use packaging becomes a top priority for brands and cities seeking to reduce waste. In the U.S., 50 billion single-use cups are purchased and disposed of each year, and many of these materials are wasted in landfills.

"The best part was that this project got the whole community involved. Deep public-private partnerships, including commerce and non-profits collaborating, demonstrated that it is possible to launch an inclusive and accessible reuse system that supported our residents. People got into it, and it was the talk of the town," said Mayor Kevin McDonnell of the City of Petaluma. "We are thrilled to be a part of this important work to scale reuse systems that keep our communities clean and support positive environmental outcomes."

"The Petaluma Reusable Cup Project demonstrated an ambitious, innovative vision of reuse as an everyday reality, paving the way for the Consortium to scale reuse in California and other markets," said Carolina Lobel, Senior Director at the Center for the Circular Economy at Closed Loop Partners. "Together, we can scale the solutions that have been proven to work and solve the current open challenges identified in the Petaluma project."

The Petaluma Reusable Cup Project builds on over half a decade of work to advance reuse by Closed Loop Partners' Center for the Circular Economy. While there is still work ahead to increase return rates, given variability across participating businesses, the groundbreaking results achieved mark an important milestone in catalyzing and scaling reuse systems. The Consortium invites brands, retailers, cities and innovators from all sectors to join upcoming reuse activations in cities across the U.S.—making critical strides to building a waste-free world.

About the NextGen Consortium

The NextGen Consortium is a multi-year consortium that addresses single-use foodservice packaging waste by advancing the design, commercialization and recovery of foodservice packaging alternatives. The NextGen Consortium is managed by Closed Loop Partners' Center for the Circular Economy. Starbucks and McDonald's are the founding partners of the Consortium, with The Coca-Cola Company and PepsiCo as sector lead partners. Peet's Coffee, with its parent company JDE Peet's, Wendy's, Yum! Brands, Delta Air Lines and Toast are supporting partners. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is the environmental advisory partner.

About the Center for the Circular Economy at Closed Loop Partners

The Center for the Circular Economy is the innovation arm of Closed Loop Partners, a firm at the forefront of building the circular economy. The Center executes research and analytics, unites organizations to tackle complex material challenges and implements systemic change that advances the circular economy. The Center for the Circular Economy's expertise spans circularity across the full lifecycle of materials, connecting upstream innovation to downstream recovery infrastructure and end markets

Source: PR Newswire

Mars Candy Packaging Uses 100% Recycled Plastic







Berry Global provides pantry jars made of recycled PET (rPET) for M&Ms, Skittles, and Starburst candies to eliminate more than 1,300 metric tons of virgin plastic yearly.

Berry Global Group Inc. has partnered with Mars, a leader in snacks and treats, to transition its pantry jars for M&M's, Skittles, and Starburst to 100% recycled PET (rPET) plastic — excluding jar lids.

According to the companies, this milestone strengthens the ongoing collaboration between Berry and Mars in developing sustainable packaging solutions with recycled content.

Building on the successful 2022 launch of pantry jars containing 15% recycled plastic — which saved 300 tons of virgin polymer annually — the updated 100% rPET jars are now rolling out nationwide. Widely recyclable and available in three sizes (60-, 81-, and 87-ounces), the new packaging eliminates more than 1,300 metric tons (1,400 US tons) of virgin plastic each year. It also helps reduce landfill waste, lowers emissions, and supports a circular economy.

Sustainable, certified food-grade packaging

Berry manufactures the easy-grip square jars at its facility using certified food-grade, mechanically recycled PET sourced from curbside collection streams. Leveraging its expertise in material science, Berry worked closely with Mars to ensure that sustainability improvements did not compromise product quality or aesthetics. "As companies worldwide commit to a circular economy, delivering high-quality products made with recycled materials at scale is crucial," says Peter Goshorn, vice president of food, beverage & spirits for Berry Global's Consumer Packaging North America Division. "That's why we collaborate with leading brands like Mars to significantly increase the use of recycled content, driving responsible business growth without sacrificing performance."



Partners in packaging sustainability since 2017

Since 2017, Mars and Berry have worked together to develop innovative, sustainable packaging solutions. As part of its Sustainable Packaging Plan, Mars is committed to reducing plastic waste by ensuring its packaging is reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

"In the world we want tomorrow, no packaging becomes waste — it is reused, recycled, or composted," says Allison Lin, global vice president of packaging sustainability at Mars. "We continue to rethink our packaging approach, collaborating with partners like Berry. Reducing virgin plastic usage through recycled content is a key step in our strategy, alongside eliminating unnecessary packaging, exploring reuse models, and designing for circularity. Increased use of recycled materials also helps strengthen collection systems and recycling infrastructure — essential for a circular economy."

Through the dedication of hundreds of Mars associates and partnerships with organizations like Berry, Mars is redesigning 12,000 packaging components while pushing the boundaries of packaging innovation, said the news release.

Source: Plastics Today

3D-printed Bioresorbable Heart Valve May Represent 'Paradigm Shift'

The implant is made from a shape-memory elastomer that supports tissue regeneration and bioresorbs within six to 12 months.

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and Emory University have developed a 3D-printed heart valve made of a bioresorbable polymer. Most heart valve implants currently are made from animal tissue and last only 10 to 15 years before needing to be replaced. The technology developed in Georgia Tech labs, described as a "paradigm shift" by the researchers, enables regeneration of the heart valve inside the patient and eliminates revision surgery as the patient's body changes.



Pediatric patients must undergo multiple surgeries

More than five million people are diagnosed with heart valve disease each year in the United States. If left untreated, it can have fatal consequences. Valve replacement and repair are the only methods of managing the condition, and they often require multiple surgical procedures, especially among children.

"In pediatrics, one of the biggest challenges is that kids grow, and their heart valves change size over time," said Professor Scott Hollister, Patsy and Alan Dorris Chair in Pediatric Technology and associate chair for Translational Research. "Because of this, children must undergo multiple surgeries to repair their valves as they grow. With this new technology, the patient can potentially grow new valve tissue and not have to worry about multiple valve replacements in the future," said Hollister in an article on the Georgia Tech website.

Faculty members Hollister and Lakshmi Prasad Dasi and their research teams at the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University in Atlanta led the research. Hollister is an expert in tissue engineering and 3D printing for pediatric medical devices and Dasi is a leading researcher in heart valve function and mechanics.

While 3D-printed heart valves currently exist, as do implantable bioresorbable materials, this is reportedly the first time that the two technologies have been combined to create a device with a resorbable, shape-memory material. Finding a suitable elastomer was one of the initial challenges.

Design requirements for the elastomer

Hollister outlined the design requirements for the material for PlasticsToday. The researchers had to find an "elastomer that could be tailored to match native valve leaflet properties as closely as possible," said Hollister. In addition, it had to be able to "withstand large deformations; be resorbable in a six- to 12-month timeframe; have shape-memory properties, [such that] it can be folded into a catheter for delivery but will expand at body temperature to its final form when delivered." The material also had to be biocompatible and support tissue growth, and accommodate 3D-printing technology, he added.

Poly(glycerol dodecanedioate), or PGD, developed in Hollister's lab, met all of these requirements.

The unique ability of 3D printing to economically produce patient-specific implants is a key reason it was selected as the means of production. In pediatric applications, 3D printing provides specific advantages

when working with bioresorbable materials, said Hollister. "The valves can be made patient-specific based on imaging data, and 3D printing [facilitates] complex structures like the leaflets connecting to the annulus for valve delivery," Hollister told PlasticsToday. Not to mention that it is much more cost-effective for the low-volume production of custom pediatric devices, he added.

Pediatrics is only the beginning

Pediatric applications are at the heart of this research, which has the potential to fulfill a largely unmet need. Implants aren't developed for pediatric populations as often as they are for adults because child diseases are rarer, and the manufacturing costs are elevated, according to Hollister and Dasi. Combining bioresorbable materials with 3D printing and manufacturing could be the key to developing better pediatric devices.

"The hope is that we will start with the pediatric patients who can benefit from this technology when there is no other treatment available to them," Dasi said in the article on the Georgia Tech site. "Then we hope to show, over time, that there's no reason why all valves shouldn't be made this way."

Professor Scott Hollister and his team produce the implants using a 3D printer. Image: Christopher McKenney/Georgia Tech.

That won't happen overnight. Medtech development famously is a marathon that stretches over many years. Hollister and Dasi's teams currently are testing the heart valve's physical durability using computational models and benchtop studies. Dasi's lab has a heart simulation setup that matches a real heart's physiological conditions and can mimic the pressure and flow conditions of an individual patient's heart. An additional machine tests the valve's mechanical durability by putting it through millions of heart cycles in a short time.

Long path to regulatory approval

"This is a long process that will entail bench and fatigue testing, large animal studies, and finally phase I and II clinical trials," Hollister told PlasticsToday. "From initial development to regulatory approval for a Class III device such as this will likely take at least eight years. It is possible that the device could be used in humans sooner if it were to qualify for the FDA Breakthrough Devices Program," said Hollister, before adding that "current events affecting research funding may make this time period longer."

Source: Plastics Today

Engel and Cannon to Enter Strategic Partnership



The aim of this cooperation between two strong partners is to further develop innovative technologies for PUR flooding and enable industrial applications with even higher quality and efficiency.

The demand for high-quality PUR-coated components is steadily increasing. Engel refers to this technology as clearmelt and has decades of experience with it, as well as a multitude of customers and references. With the clearmelt process, components are coated with PUR directly in the machine after the injection molding process. Now, Engel is strengthening its position through the partnership with Cannon – a cooperation between two experienced, family-owned companies that continuously invest in sustainable innovations. This combines long-standing expertise and leverages synergies to continue offering customers forward-looking solutions.

The collaboration between Engel and Cannon is particularly distinguished by a shared mindset based on long-term vision, quality, enthusiasm for innovation, and sustainable progress. Customers benefit from clearmelt with a coordinated technology that enables the efficient and economical integration of PUR into industrial manufacturing processes.

Technologically, the partnership is based on combining the strengths of both companies: Engel contributes its extensive expertise in injection molding technology, while Cannon, with its outstanding expertise in PUR processing, optimises process reliability and efficiency. The clearmelt technology, which coats thermoplastic components with a durable PUR surface, is further developed and optimised through Cannon's know-how, built over two decades in this field.

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Successful Collaboration at the Engel Technical Centre



Engel and Cannon – a strong combination of long-standing expertise with forward-looking solutions.© Engel

A prime example of this collaboration is the world's largest injection molding cell with a PUR system for clearmelt, which has been commissioned at the Engel technical centre in Sankt Valentin. There, customers can conduct practical tests with various PUR colour variants. The combination of the world's largest injection molding machine in a technical centre, the Engel duo 5500 combi M, and the precise metering and mixing technology from Cannon ensures maximum process stability and flexibility. The PUR system from Cannon, which provides precise and efficient material supply, is seamlessly integrated into the CC300 machine control system from Engel to ensure ease of use and maximum automation of the process. This not only speeds up the production chain but also improves the overall quality of the final products.

In addition to technological capability, the collaboration places particular emphasis on customer service. The global presence of Engel and Cannon ensures comprehensive support in all key markets, globally. Customers benefit from strong after-sales and application support, which, with extensive know-how, also assists in integrating this technology into existing production processes.

With this partnership, Engel and Cannon offer optimal production cells for combining injection molding and polyurethane processing from innovative and family-owned market leaders. This provides customers with the opportunity to respond to the increasing demands of the industry and achieve sustainable competitive advantages.

Source: Plastics Insights

The Sticky Business of Wearables: Advancing Adhesives for Longer Lasting Devices



As wearable technologies advance, there is an urgency to develop longer-lasting and safe adhesive options.

Continuous glucose monitors and other technologies that stick to people's skin are becoming more complicated and longer lasting, which means one of the big challenges with wearable devices is adhesion that stands the test of time.

Polymer scientist Aniruddha S. Palsule, PhD, formerly with Stress Engineering, presented on challenges of optimal skin adhesion for wearable technology earlier this month at MD&M West in Anaheim, CA.

Length of wear is an important selling point, so manufacturers have increased adhesion requirements, which years ago were only a day or two for wound closure applications like bandages to two weeks and longer for today's monitoring devices, according to Palsule.

That's a challenge because skin is extremely difficult to stick to.

"Skin is super low surface energy. Skin also is a living organ, so the cells in the top layer of the skin keep regenerating every 14 days or so," Palsule said. "Then, there is a lot of diversity in skin types. Think about the fragile skin of a newborn infant or an older person compared to the skin of an athlete."

More adhesive factors to consider for wearables

Lifestyle and the resultant load profile on the device are factors. Sweat is a consideration. People sweat differently, and sweat collects on the interface, which also challenges the device's ability to adhere to the skin.

Of course, irritation is a factor.

"People are allergic to a variety of adhesives that are used today," Palsule said.

Testing wearable device adhesion

Careful testing is important to gather the data needed to know if an adhesive is likely to meet manufacturers' and end-users' requirements. Palsule proposes a two-phased approach to testing wearable device adhesion. The first and shorter duration phase in the lab focuses on understanding and developing the right surrogate materials with which to pick the best possible adhesive for an application. The lab testing is done on materials, including surrogate skin and low-surface energy plastics or silicone-type materials.

"We can do a lot of complicated tests with those materials and account for different loads and test multiple adhesives at once," Palsule said. "Once that testing is completed and we've identified the best performing adhesives, then testing is done on actual subjects, on the body part where the device is going."

Device testing on human subjects aims to show that adhesive chemistries chosen for technologies function seamlessly during daily activities and for the duration, which some manufacturers are trying to extend.

Adhesive types have strengths and weaknesses

Adhesion companies are developing new product types to withstand the increasingly challenging requirements, according to Palsule.

"What we're seeing is that the type of adhesive depends on the end user," he said.

Acrylic and silicone-based adhesives are among the most commonly used on wearables today, according to Palsule.

"...In those chemistries there are a lot of different formulations and different adhesive types that device manufacturers can choose based on their specific requirements," he said.

Each has advantages and disadvantages. Acrylic tends to be a little better at adhering but can cause more sensitization to certain people. Silicones in general work well on skin and for tissue mimicry. Silicones also tend to be more flexible and don't cause as much trauma to skin, which can be better for fragile skin. Silicone, however, has lower initial adhesion than acrylics, Palsule noted.

Choosing the right adhesive boils down to the user profile, device size and weight, and location on the body where the device is going to be affixed.

For athletes, sweat, aggressive loading, and wear from clothing alone can play big roles in choosing the right adhesive for a device. That's not to say sedentary people who wear something monitoring cardiac function, for example, don't have challenges. Being able to wear the device during sleep is extremely important to test, he said.

Where the device is affixed makes a difference. The skin on the backs of the arm tends to be tighter than in the abdominal area, where a device might need to be more flexible and accommodating with higher loads.

Pushing wear times

While Palsule said he cannot comment on specific clients and their technologies, he imagines the new crop of technologies will continue to push wear times. To accommodate that, novel design concepts may be explored.

"For instance, where you have different points where the adhesive is in contact with skin, if one bond fails after two weeks, the second bond holds, then the third," he said.

One thing is for sure, according to Palsule, there is an urgency to develop longer-lasting and safe adhesive options.

Wearable technologies are advancing, and adhesives are a limiting factor, he said.

Source: Plastics Today



Sustainable Composite Flooring for Rail Employs Recycled PET

Composite panels in rail flooring systems are a lightweight, environmental alternative to plywood or metal for high-speed rail.



A bio-based phenolic thermoset resin developed by Scott Bader and a foam core material based on recycled PET resin represent a sustainable lightweight alternative to plywood or metal flooring for high-speed rail. The collaboration also brings proven structural and fire-safety performance.

Both companies have individually brought these new materials — Scott Bader's Crestafire Bio resin and Armacell's ArmaPET Struct GRX recycled PET foam core — to market in the last 12 months. By undertaking joint research to establish how the solutions perform in tandem in a sandwich structure, the partnership is supporting OEMs and their Tier 1 suppliers in fast-tracking the development of more environmentally desirable concepts that adhere to Europe's stringent EN45545-2 HL3 standards.

It takes two

"Industry conversations following the 2024 launch of our new 100% bio-based resin, Crestafire Bio, made it clear that, while the development is significant in itself, finding complementary solutions to deliver systems that can satisfy safety and sustainability concerns alongside delivering exceptional performance provide greater efficiency from concept testing to end-use applications," said Elena Romanova, global market manager for land transport at Scott Bader.

"While there is widespread adoption of composite structures in high-speed rail construction, the exploration of lighter weight, semi-structural interior applications is less advanced. This is a unique market approach that we believe will significantly contribute to both light-weighting and lower embodied carbon without compromising fire safety," said Romanova.

Plant-based alternative stores at room temperature

Scott Bader's Crestafire Bio offers a plant-based alternative to traditional phenolic resins. From an environmental perspective, this formulation is more favorable than traditional resins made from petrochemicals and can be stored at room temperature, reducing the cost and emissions associated with refrigeration. Differences in the process also enable a quicker turnaround for composite manufacturers and protect operators from potentially harmful VOCs.

Homogenous, fine-cell-foam core

In parallel, Armacell has further improved its 100% recycled ArmaPET Struct foam core with a more homogenous and finer cell structure with Struct GRX. This makes the technology even more efficient because of its improved shear properties, culminating in cost and weight savings by optimizing the resin uptake. Like all of Armacell's high-tech foam products, Struct GRX is made from recycled PET bottles and is 100% recyclable.

Bio-based phenolic/rPET-based foam sandwich structural composites are 60 to 70% lighter than plywood and fire-resistant, to boot. Image courtesy of Armacell.

"One of the most important benefits of Struct GRX is that it optimizes the resin uptake and, so, reduces the amount of resin required to ensure optimum performance, ultimately creating a lighter component," said Jordi Ponjoan, Armacell's product manager for PET foams.

Lighter and more durable than plywood

The proposed composite flooring is estimated to weigh in 60 to 70% lighter than plywood while being up to five times more durable. With global rail operators aiming to significantly increase the number of high-speed trains on their networks by 2030, while continuing to cut carbon emissions, the weight, make-up, and longevity of all material components will come under scrutiny. With the floor acting as a fire barrier and sandwich panels of a certain thickness being particularly challenging to fire test, the companies' investment in developing a proven system is aimed at supporting OEMs in meeting ambitious Net Zero targets.

Source: Plastics Today



Decoded: Why beverage giants are pushing against govt's new PET bottle rule



Leading beverage manufacturers, including Coca-Cola, Bisleri, and Parle Agro, are considering legal options against the Indian government's directive mandating the use of 30 per cent recycled food-grade PET (rPET) bottles starting April 1, 2025. Industry executives argue that the deadline is impractical due to limited recycling infrastructure, material shortages, and cost concerns, especially with peak summer demand approaching, according to a report by The Economic Times.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued this directive over two years ago as part of India's Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules. However, beverage companies contend that the industry is not adequately prepared for the transition, despite the extended timeline.

PET vs rPET bottles

PET, or polyethylene terephthalate, and rPET (recycled polyethylene terephthalate) are both widely used in packaging and textiles, but they differ significantly in their environmental impact and production process.

PET is a durable, lightweight plastic commonly found in beverage bottles, food containers, and synthetic fibres. Its strength and recyclability make it a popular choice, but it is primarily produced from fossil fuels like petroleum and natural gas, making its manufacturing process resource-intensive and environmentally demanding.

In contrast, rPET is an eco-friendlier alternative derived from recycled PET products. Post-consumer PET waste, such as plastic bottles, is collected, cleaned, and processed into flakes, which are then melted and repurposed into rPET pellets or resin. These materials are used to create new products like rPET packaging, rPET sheets, and rPET polyester fabrics, reducing reliance on virgin plastics and minimising waste.

What is the govt mandate on PET bottles?

To incentivise domestic recycling, India banned the import of plastic waste, including PET bottles in 2015. By 2016, however, the ban was amended, allowing plastic waste imports only for units located in special economic zones (SEZs).

The Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016 banned plastic sachets used for gutkha, tobacco, and pan masala due to high littering potential. Additionally, states/UTs were asked to form special task forces for eliminating single-use plastics (SUPs).

Plastic packaging producers, e-commerce firms, and major SUPs users were directed to phase out SUPs. Compliance varied by state/UT, with some implementing partial bans while others enforced a complete ban.

In 2019, the Environment Ministry imposed a full ban on plastic waste imports to strengthen India's waste management system and prevent the country from becoming a dumping ground. The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Manch (PDUSM) campaign played a role in advocating for this decision.

India allows PET waste imports

The ban on PET bottle imports was lifted in 2021 after industries processing plastic waste reported shortages in India. Seven Indian companies applied to import 93,000 tonnes of PET bottle waste from the US, Canada, and Germany, citing insufficient domestic supply.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change mandates that beverage makers use 30 per cent recycled plastic in rigid packaging, like PET bottles, starting April 1, 2025 with annual increases of 10 per cent to reach 60 per cent by financial year 2027-28 to 2028-29.

Industry urges govt to adopt 'realistic targets'

Industry representatives, during a December meeting with the Central Pollution Control Board, argued that the 30 per cent threshold is too stringent due to the scarcity of rPET and urged the government to adopt more realistic targets, suggesting an initial 15 per cent obligation with gradual 5 per cent annual increases, the Hindu Bussinessline had earlier reported.

Industry leaders say that despite ongoing investments, recycling capacity expansion takes 2-3 years. At present, only five Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)-approved plants are equipped to produce food-grade rPET, meeting just 15 per cent of industry demand.

Affordability and regulatory concerns

The industry fears that bottling costs will surge by nearly 30 per cent, a portion of which may be passed on to consumers. Smaller companies, lacking resources to procure certified rPET, may resort to lower-quality recyclers, raising safety and regulatory concerns.

Another challenge is that plastic bottles account for 70 per cent of beverage packaging, making them the most widely used option due to lower transport costs compared to glass and affordability over aluminium cans. The sudden shift to higher rPET content without sufficient infrastructure could disrupt supply chains.

Govt response and legal issues

Citing officials, The Economic Times reported that the government is unlikely to extend the deadline, citing that companies have had sufficient time to comply. Industry executives, however, believe the rigid timeline could force them to seek an anticipatory stay in court, delaying implementation.

Source: Business Standard

Tetra Pak becomes first in India's food & beverage industry to introduce packaging with certified recycled polymers



Tetra Pak announced on Monday that it has introduced packaging materials integrated with certified recycled polymers in India, becoming the first company in the food and beverage packaging industry in the country to do so.

The rules will come into effect on April 1, 2025, and aim to reduce plastic waste and promote the use of recycled content in packaging, the Swedish multinational packaging firm said in a press release on Monday.

This new offering features carton packages that incorporate 5% certified recycled polymers, in line with the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change's mandate under the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2022.

The packaging material used by Tetra Pak is certified by ISCC PLUS (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification), a globally recognised sustainability certification system, informed the multinational company. This certification ensures that the recycled polymers used in their packaging meet high standards of environmental responsibility.

"We are proud to be the first carton packaging producer to bring packaging material with 5% certified recycled polymers to India. This recycled content is sourced locally, and the packaging material is produced at our ISCC PLUS-certified factory in Chakan, Pune," said Cassio Simões, Managing Director of Tetra Pak South Asia.

Simões also commended the Indian government for its early adoption of this regulation, calling it an opportunity for the food and beverage industry to work together in transitioning to more circular solutions.

India News

The recycled polymers used in Tetra Pak packaging are sourced using chemical recycling technology, which allows the plastics to be made from a mix of recycled and non-recycled materials.

This process tracks the mass of recycled content throughout the supply chain, ensuring compliance with global food contact regulations. The chemically recycled plastics are equivalent in quality to virgin polymers, making them suitable for use in food and beverage packaging.

Tetra Pak's initiative aligns with global efforts to increase recycling rates and make recycling more economically viable. By incorporating recycled content, the company helps create a market for recycled materials, encouraging expanded recycling infrastructure.

"The transition to mainstream adoption of materials like plant-based and recycled polymers is still a work in progress. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that all our packaging is made from renewable or recycled polymers, eliminating reliance on fossil feedstock," added Simões.

Source: The Economic Times

India to remain bright spot for petchem demand in 2025

NEW DELHI, Feb 14 (Reuters) - India will be a bright spot for petrochemical demand in 2025 even as global consumption lags supply, amid rising demand for electric vehicle parts, solar panels and household appliances, industry executives said on the sidelines of India Energy Week conference.

"We are seeing good local demand in the sectors like propylene where our company operates," Bharat Petroleum's (BPCL.NS), opens new tab director of refineries Sanjay Khanna said.



Indian Oil (IOC.NS), opens new tab Chairman A S Sahney said demand is expected to remain resilient this year.

Petrochemicals are used in key building blocks for a variety of goods such as plastics, paints, and pharmaceuticals.

Ganesh Gopalakrishnan, Total Energies' global head of petrochemical trading, said there is good demand from the automobile sector while white goods consumption is recovering.

However, global petrochemical margins are expected to stay depressed for a few more years amid weak demand from top petrochemical consumer China and excess supply from new Chinese and Middle Eastern plants.

"The industry is waiting for China to announce its big incentive plan in March," said TotalEnergies's Gopalakrishnan, adding that this could spur China's demand and improve global petrochemical margins.

Refiners in India have been insulated from losses because they produce their own petrochemical feedstock naphtha, margins have been negative in the last 3-4 years for standalone plants which rely on imported feed, said Pankaj Srivastava, an analyst at consultancy Rystad Energy.

Meanwhile, investments continue to pour into India. The country is expected to receive \$87 billion worth of investments in the next decade to meet the nation's rising demand for petrochemicals, the country's oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said last year.

He said India consumes 25 to 30 million metric tons of petrochemical products annually, and the chemical and petrochemicals sector, currently valued at \$220 billion, is expected to grow to \$300 billion by 2025.

Companies such as Nayara Energy and Haldia Petrochemicals have already announced plans to boost production.

Petronet LNG is setting up a petrochemical complex of 750,000 metric tons-per-year (tpy) propane dehydrogenation unit and 500,000 tpy polypropylene unit in the western state of Gujarat.

"The downturn in petchems has always been cyclical and we hope margins will recover in next three years," Petronet LNG Chief Executive Akshay Kumar Singh said.

Source: Reuters

Why become a Plexconcil Member?

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

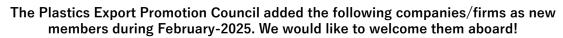
The Council is focused on achieving excellence in exports by undertaking various activities and initiatives to promote the industry. The Council undertakes activities such as participation at international trade fairs, sponsoring delegations to target markets, inviting foreign business delegations to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

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

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

Membership Benefits

- Discounted fees at International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions
- Financial benefits to exporters, as available through Government of India
- Disseminating trade enquiries/trade leads
- Instituting Export Awards in recognition of outstanding export performance
- Assistance on export financing with various institutions and banks
- Networking opportunities within the plastics industry
- Special price for Dun & Bradstreet's DUNS Registered Solution, Global Profiler, and ESG Report



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