

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT

May 2026



THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Sponsored by Department of Commerce, Govt. of India)

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Disclaimer: This report has been prepared on the basis of export data received from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Key Findings

Export of plastic products grew 21.3% in May 2026, marking the second consecutive monthly growth in shipments in the current financial year

The growth was led by 32.5% rise in export of raw materials due to considerable increase in price of key petrochemical products since the onset of the West Asia crisis; Export of Value Added plastics grew 17.3%, while Human Hair posted 19.6% growth.

Rupee depreciation and diversification of exports to nearby Asian countries also supported export growth

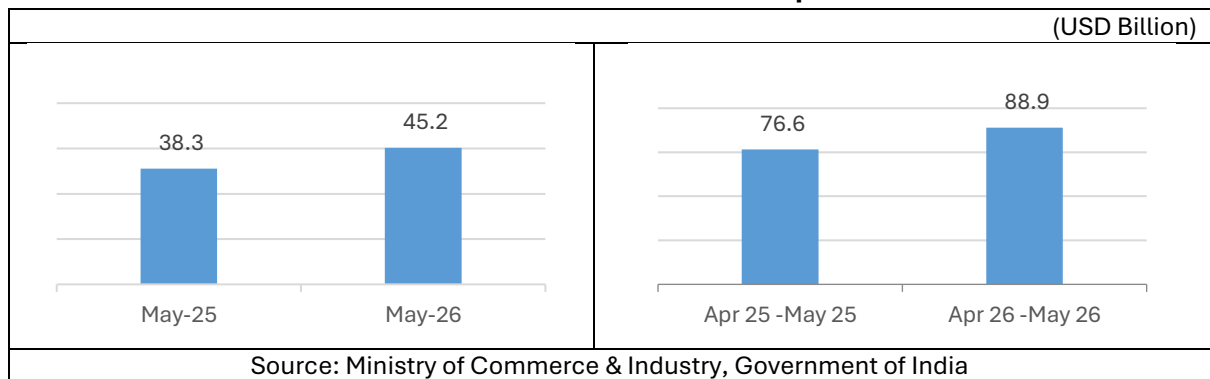
Specifically, demand for Packaging products grew considerably from Nepal, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and other Asian countries

Exports of FRP & Composites have grown after declining consecutively in the past four months; Similarly, shipment of pipes and tubes have recovered after declining in the past two months

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India's merchandise exports posted a whopping 18% growth to USD 45.2 billion in May 2026 from USD 38.3 billion in the year ago month led by sharp rise in shipment of petroleum products, cut & polished diamonds, smartphones, defence equipments, machineries, automobiles and so on.

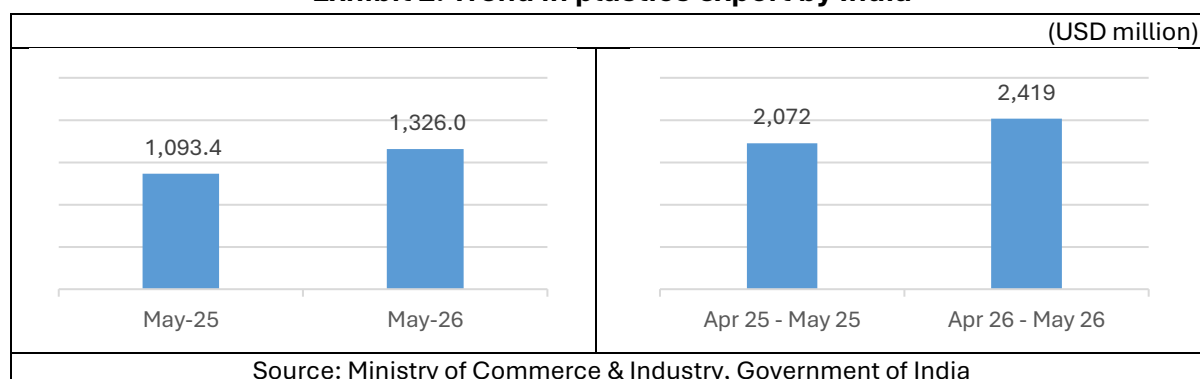
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

India's plastics and allied product exports posted 21.3% growth to USD 1326.0 million in May 2026 from USD 1093.4 million in the year ago month led by rise in shipment of raw materials, films & sheets, Human Hair, Packaging items, Pipes & Fittings and so on.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

As mentioned earlier, shipment of Raw Materials, Human Hair, Films & Sheets, Packaging products and Pipes & Fittings led the growth in overall plastic exports in May 2026.

Growth in export of FRP & Composites and Miscellaneous products also contributed to overall rise in shipments.

At the same time, there was notable decline in shipment of Consumer & Houseware products, FIBC, Woven Sacks, Floor Coverings, Cordage & Fishnets, Medical Items and Writings Instruments.

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

Panel	May-25	May-26	Growth	Apr 25- May-25	Apr 26- May-26	Growth
	USD million	USD million	%	USD million	USD million	%
Consumer & houseware products	74.6	70.5	-5.5%	144.9	142.1	-1.9%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	23.0	22.0	-4.2%	45.3	44.0	-2.8%
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	146.7	140.1	-4.5%	281.7	273.6	-2.9%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	65.1	63.8	-2.1%	122.9	114.6	-6.8%
FRP & Composites	42.4	45.5	+7.5%	82.4	83.9	+1.9%
Human hair & related products	76.9	92.0	+19.6%	128.6	175.1	+36.2%
Medical items of plastics	47.4	41.7	-12.0%	93.5	87.7	-6.2%
Miscellaneous products and items nes	67.8	124.8	+84.1%	126.4	213.1	+68.5%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	58.0	59.8	+3.1%	111.8	114.3	+2.2%
Plastic films and sheets	169.7	252.6	+48.8%	327.7	455.1	+38.9%
Plastic pipes & fittings	24.3	27.3	+12.6%	49.9	51.9	+4.1%
Plastic raw materials	274.6	364.1	+32.6%	512.9	617.6	+20.4%
Writing instruments & stationery	23.1	21.9	-5.1%	44.7	45.8	+2.5%
Grand Total	1,093.4	1,326.0	+21.3%	2,072.4	2,418.6	+16.7%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & Houseware Products** witnessed 5.5% decline led by fall in shipment of Tableware & Kitchenware (HS 39241090), Switches (HS 85365020), Building elements (HS

39259090), Safety Headgear (HS 65061090), Trunk, Suitcases, bags (HS 42021220) and so on. Weak demand in USA and high freight cost for shipment to UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries led to fall in exports in this category. Also, high raw material prices affected cost competitiveness of Indian manufacturers.

Shipment of **Cordage, Fishnets & Monofilaments** fell 4.2% because of fall in demand for Twine, Cordage (HS '56074900), Made-up Knitted Fishing nets (HS 56081110) and so on in Morocco and Norway. Also, shipments to UAE was affected by Middle East tension and high freight cost.

Export of **FIBC, Woven Sacks and Woven Fabrics** witnessed 4.5% decline because of fall in shipment of FIBC materials (HS 63053200) to key destinations such as USA and Belgium also also because of high freight cost. Rising cost of raw materials also led to erosion of export competitiveness in the global market.

Export of **Floor Covering, Leather Cloth and Laminates** contracted 2.1% because of fall in shipment of Textile fabrics (HS '59039090) to USA, Canada and Spain. Also, weak demand in Bangladesh led to fall in shipment in this product category. Also, shipment of PVC Floor Covering (HS '39181090) is affected to Saudi Arabia due to shipping line disruption in this region.

Export of **FRP and Composites** has grown 7.5% because of firm demand for Composite plastic articles (HS 39269099) in USA and other prominent markets. There is also strong demand for Other Plastic articles (HS 39269079) in Russian market, which aided overall export growth in this segment.

Shipment of **Human Hair & Related Products** grew 19.6% because of strong demand for value added Human Hair (HS 67030010) in China, Tunisia, Indonesia, Singapore and other markets. Specifically, there is 87% jump in demand for Human Hair in Tunisia, while shipment to Singapore more than doubled this month.

Export of **Medical Items of Plastics** recorded 12.0% declined because of fall in shipment of Needles, Catheters (HS 90183930), Syringes (HS 90183100), Spectacles, Googles (HS 90049090), especially to USA and some European countries. There is also fall in shipment of Blood tranfusion apparatus (HS 90189032), especially to Thailand, Belgium and Malaysia.

Miscellaneous plastic products and items (n.e.s.) recorded a robust export growth of 84.1%, led by sharp rise in shipment of Optical Fibres (HS 90011000), Objective Lenses (HS 90021100), Other Lenses (HS 90019090) and other Plastic Articles (HS 39269049). Exporters benefitted from new order inflows from Angola, Mexico, France and other markets for products in this category.

Exports of **Packaging Items – Flexible and Rigid** registered 3.1% growth, supported by improved demand for Carboys, Bottles, Flasks (HS 39233090), Boxes, Cases, Crates and other articles (HS 39231090). Exporters benefitted from rise in demands for packaging items in Asian countries such as Nepal, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Export of **Plastic Films and Sheets** recorded a robust growth of 48.8% led by increase in demand for Flexible, Plain Sheets (HS 39202020), Flexible, Plain Plates, Films & Sheets (HS 39206220) and Other Plates & Sheets (HS 39202090). There was a broad based rise in demand from across geographies ranging from UK, South Africa, Italy, Nigeria and Spain to Brazil, Russia and Turkey.

Exports of **Plastic Pipes and Fittings** grew 12.6% led by growth in shipment of Other Tubes, Pipes & Hoses (HS 39173990) to Australia, USA, UAE and other markets; Exporters also received strong orders for Flexible Tubes, Pipes & Hoses (HS 39173100) from Germany, France and Singapore;

There was also rising demand for Rigid Tubes, Pipes & Hoses (HS 39172110) from Bhutan, Russia and Thailand.

Plastic Raw Material exports registered a growth of 32.6% led by sharp rise in the price of key raw materials and strong demand in key markets such as Turkey, Kenya, Germany, Nigeria, Tanzania, Canada and other markets.

Particularly, there was growth in shipments of polyacetals, polyethers, epoxide resins, polycarbonates (HS 39076190) to Canada, Algeria, Haiti, Bangladesh. Exporters also received sizeable orders for Polypropylene (HS 39021000) from Kenya, Mexico, Tanzania and other markets.

Exports of **Writing Instruments and Stationery** declined 5.1% because of weak demand in USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Nepal. Specifically, there is weak demand for Other Ball point pens (HS 96081019) in Algeria, Kenya and UAE. Exports of Office or School Supplies, of Plastics (HS 39261099) declined because of subdued orders from China and other markets. Demand for Refills for Ball Point Pens (HS 960860) was low in UK and Algeria.

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

Code	Description	Apr 25- May-25	Apr 26- May 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers, for the packing of goods, of synthetic or man-made textile materials	171.35	161.95	-5.5%
'67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked; wool, other animal hair or other textile materials, prepared for use in making wigs or the like (excl. natural plaits of human hair, whether or not washed and degreased, but not otherwise processed): Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or	91.98	128.11	+39.3%
'90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (excl. made-up of individually sheathed fibres of heading 8544)	56.79	147.80	+160.3%
'39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other (Note that this HS Code has been replaced with HS 39232991HS 39232999 from this financial year)	82.28	75.95	-7.7%
'39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s.: Other	81.58	83.01	+1.8%
'48239019	Paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres, in strips or rolls of a width <= 36 cm, in rectangular or square sheets, of which no side > 36 cm in the unfolded state, or cut to shape other than rectangular or square, and articles of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres, n.e.s.: Decorative laminates	52.05	57.44	+10.4%
'05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	35.78	46.37	+29.6%
'39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. poly"methyl methacrylate"): Other	39.86	49.59	+24.4%

Code	Description	Apr 25- May-25	Apr 26- May 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	45.67	52.18	+14.3%
'39076190	Other primary form	49.40	72.74	+47.2%
'39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles , not elsewhere	45.33	38.42	-15.2%
'39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics (excl. boxes, cases, crates and similar articles; sacks and bags, incl. cones; carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles; spools, spindles, bobbins and similar supports; stoppers, lids, caps and other closures): Other	34.44	36.43	+5.8%
'39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	34.67	32.90	-5.1%
'39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular poly"ethylene terephthalate", not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. those of poly"methyl methacrylate", self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain	40.64	59.44	+46.3%
'39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain	38.03	78.98	+107.7%
'90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	28.52	27.51	-3.5%
'90183930	Needles, catheters, cannulae and the like, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences (excl. syringes, tubular metal needles and needles for sutures): Cannulae	26.47	26.59	+0.5%
'39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	27.93	36.70	+31.4%
'59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than poly"vinyl chloride" or polyurethane (excl. tyre cord fabric of high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides, polyesters or viscose rayon; wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with plastic; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing and a top layer or covering of plastics): Other	36.43	31.53	-13.5%
'39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms (excl. cellulose acetates, cellulose nitrates and cellulose ethers): Other	22.16	24.68	+11.4%
'39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	22.86	23.15	+1.3%

Code	Description	Apr 25- May-25	Apr 26- May 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'96081019	Ball-point pens (detailed label not available)	19.77	19.65	-0.6%
'39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	23.04	24.69	+7.2%
'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	19.76	25.92	+31.2%
'39076990	Other primary form	19.79	30.49	+54.1%
'39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide (excl. floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	16.33	20.44	+25.2%
'56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene, whether or not plaited or braided and whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or sheathed with rubber or plastics (excl. binder or baler twine)	19.21	17.29	-10.0%
'39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of $\geq 0,94$, in primary forms	17.71	21.17	+19.5%
'39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes (excl. polycarbonates, polyethylene terephthalate and other unsaturated polyesters, self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings in heading 3918): Other	19.08	21.19	+11.1%
'39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , metallised	18.36	28.27	+54.0%
'39046990	Fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms (excl. polytetrafluoroethylene): Other	16.98	21.53	+26.8%
'39014010	Linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	18.45	28.73	+55.7%
'39073010	Epoxide resins, in primary forms: Epoxy resins	15.53	29.93	+92.7%
'39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	18.75	13.17	-29.8%
'96032100	Tooth brushes, incl. dental-plate brushes	15.79	16.70	+5.8%

Code	Description	Apr 25- May-25	Apr 26- May 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	13.54	23.88	+76.4%
'39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms: Ion exchangers of polymerisation or	11.46	15.45	34.8%
'39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	12.99	19.74	+52.0%
'39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	13.73	17.09	+24.5%
'39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes (excl. polycarbonates, polythylene terephthalate and other unsaturated polyesters, self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings in heading 3918): Other	13.84	15.38	+11.1%
'39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , laminated	14.47	18.46	+27.6%
'39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918)	12.36	16.84	+36.2%
'59031090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with poly"vinyl chloride" (excl. wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with poly"vinyl chloride"; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing and a top layer or covering of poly"vinyl chloride"): Other	13.33	13.53	+1.5%
'39241010	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Insulated ware	10.87	12.32	+13.3%
'39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular poly"ethylene terephthalate", not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. those of poly"methyl methacrylate", self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	14.01	24.78	+76.9%
'39259090	Building elements for the manufacture of floors, walls, paartition walls, ceilings, roofs, etc., of plastic; gutters and accessories of plastic; railings, fences and similar barriers,	10.83	10.33	-4.6%

Code	Description	Apr 25- May-25	Apr 26- May 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
	of plastic; large shelves, for assembly and permanent installation in shops, workshops, etc., of plastic; architectural ornaments, e.g. friezes, of plastic; fittings and similar products for permanent mounting on buildings, of plastic: Other			
'39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	17.23	8.69	-49.6%
'39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	10.66	11.12	+4.3%
'39249090	Household articles and toilet articles, of plastics (excl. tableware, kitchenware, baths, shower-baths, wash-basins, bidets, lavatory pans, seats and covers, flushing cisterns and similar sanitary ware): Other	12.74	11.85	-7.0%
'39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics: Caps and closures for bottles	11.27	12.53	+11.2%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Exhibit 5: Reasons for major decline in plastic products exports

HS Code	Description	Apr 25- May 25	Apr 26 – May 26	Reasons for decline
		(USD Mn)		
'63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers, for the packing of goods, of synthetic or man-made textile materials	171.35	161.95	Exports have fallen because of rising freight cost, high raw material prices and weak demand in prominent markets such as USA and European countries
'39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other <u>(Note that this HS Code has been replaced with HS 39232991HS 39232999 from this financial year)</u>	82.28	75.95	Exports have fallen because of intensifying competition from China and ASEAN countries in prominent markets.
'39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s.: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	45.33	38.42	This is a residual category encompassing a wide range of plastic products that are not classified under specific HS codes. As the exact products exported under this category cannot be identified from the available trade data, it is difficult to ascertain the precise factors contributing to the decline in shipments. To improve the accuracy of trade analysis and enable better monitoring of export trends, the Government may consider introducing additional product-specific HS codes for items currently classified under this residual category. Greater product-level

HS Code	Description	Apr 25- May 25	Apr 26 – May 26	Reasons for decline
		(USD Mn)		
				disaggregation would facilitate more effective tracking of export performance and support informed policy interventions.
'39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	34.67	32.90	Exports have declined due to intensifying price competition in key markets such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. Indian exporters face a competitive disadvantage compared to several Asian competitors owing to relatively limited and less cost-effective access to raw materials, which impacts their pricing competitiveness in international markets.
'90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	28.52	27.51	Exports have fallen due to subdued demand in key European markets and the Middle East. Also, high freight cost eroded price competitiveness of Indian suppliers vis a vis European suppliers.
'59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than poly"vinyl chloride" or polyurethane (excl. tyre cord fabric of high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides, polyesters or viscose rayon; wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with plastic; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing and a top layer or covering of plastics): Other	36.43	31.53	Exports have fallen due to rising raw material prices, high freight cost and subdued demand in key markets such as USA and Canada.

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Plexconcil Research

-----End of report -----