

*News and Views...*

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## Lockdown not on cards after Omicron case, says Delhi health minister Jain



The first Omicron case was detected in Delhi on Sunday, and so far 23 cases have been genotyped across the country. The variant was first detected in South Africa towards the end of November and has since been detected in several countries.

A day after the first case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus was detected in the national capital, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain on Monday said a lockdown was not on the cards at the moment, and that the graded response action plan to combat Covid-19 will come into action if the number of cases starts increasing, as chief minister Arvind Kejriwal urged residents of the city not to panic.

“There is no possibility of a lockdown at the moment. The graded response action plan will be implemented if Covid-19 cases start

increasing,” said Jain. The plan has levels of restrictions such as closure of restaurants, malls, offices, and educational institutes as the positivity rate – proportion of samples that return positive – increases. Hospitals have also been asked to scale up their Covid-19 infrastructure accordingly. The graded response action plan is a mechanism similar to one used to fight air pollution.

It classifies outbreak severity into four bands – yellow, amber, orange and red – with each representing a more severe outbreak and, thus, stricter curbs than the one preceding it. Private offices, malls, weekly markets and the Metro will be shut down if the test positivity rate (TPR) rises above 2%, and the city will be put under a curfew if the number breaches 5%, according to the action plan, which was approved by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).

Jain added that 27 people who are suspected to have been infected with the Omicron variant have been admitted to Lok Nayak hospital. Of them, 17 have been confirmed to have Covid-19 either through RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen Test. The results of genomic sequencing for the rest are awaited.

The first Omicron case was detected in Delhi on Sunday, and so far 23 cases have been genotyped across the country. The variant was first detected in South Africa towards the end of November and has since been detected in several countries. Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal urged

people not to panic because of the variant. “The Omicron variant of the coronavirus has now entered India. We are constantly receiving news regarding patients being found in this region, that region, and even in Delhi. However, I would like to tell everyone that there is no need to panic or lose sleep over it. I am constantly monitoring the situation and progress being made to deal with the possible threat of the spread of Omicron,” he said in a digital press briefing on Monday

“I held a review meeting last week as well in relation to this, where we took account of all the necessary health facilities and their status, from beds to oxygen to medicines and all other necessary equipment. We are prepared to provide all this and other required material in sufficient quantity and on time. So there’s no need to get stressed or panic. But keep doing your part – continue social distancing and never step out without wearing a mask,” Kejriwal added.

On November 30, Kejriwal held a meeting to review the state’s preparedness against Covid in case a third wave emerges in the country. Kejriwal had then announced that 30,000 Covid-19 beds are ready in Delhi, with 100 beds per ward to be arranged as and when required on a two-week notice taking the total bed capacity of Delhi to over 64,000 beds. Additionally, 6,800 ICUs will also be ready very soon. Medicine stocks are currently being added, and home isolation arrangements are being strengthened.

Oxygen supply and storage is being bolstered, with extra storage facilities of 442 MT, and production of 121 MT oxygen within Delhi. Additionally, telemetry devices to provide real time oxygen tracking are being installed in all oxygen facilities. Around 6,000 oxygen cylinders have been imported and 15 oxygen tankers bought to prevent oxygen shortage, the CM then said.

The Delhi government has issued a Covid helpline number – 1031, to help Covid patients during any problem. This helpline number works 24x7. It employs employees in three shifts, who can attend 600 to 700 calls.

Jain added that more than 93.9% of people have received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and more than 61.3% both doses. He also added that the chief minister had written to the Centre urging them to ban flights from affected countries for some time to prevent the disease from spreading.

*-Hindustan Times*

### **Covid omicron news – live: Booster vaccine for all adults by year's end as UK PM warns of variant 'tidal wave'**

The target of giving every adult a booster jab has been brought forward to the end of this month as Boris Johnson warned that the UK could be set to face an omicron "tidal wave" that could cause "very many deaths".

He said everyone eligible aged 18 and over in England will have the chance to get their booster before the new year with the "emergency operation" being assisted by

military planning teams deployed across every region to set up additional vaccine sites.

Mr. Johnson also said that the UK government will provide additional support to accelerate vaccinations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland including extending opening hours for clinics and training thousands more volunteer vaccinators.

It comes as the spread of the new variant of coronavirus continues to accelerate rapidly, with a further 1,239 omicron cases having been recorded in the UK as of today - an increase of 65 per cent on the day before.

According to the statement, early evidence shows that the new omicron variant is spreading much faster than delta. In addition, it states that vaccine protection against symptomatic disease from omicron is reduced.

*-Independent.co.uk*

### **Coronavirus Omicron India LIVE Updates: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal says We're ready to tackle the Omicron threat. If required, we will impose necessary restrictions.**

We're ready to tackle the Omicron threat. If required, we will impose necessary restrictions. Currently, there is no such need to impose any restrictions...A decision on re-opening of schools will be taken after winter vacation for schools end, says Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

*-Moneycontrol*

### **State wise Omicron Cases in India**

The caseload of the Omicron Covid-19 variant is rising each day in India. On Sunday, the tally rose to 38 after Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh and Kerala reported their first infections and Maharashtra and Karnataka also recorded one each of the latest coronavirus variants. The World Health Organization (WHO) has said the new Omicron coronavirus strain has been found in 63 countries and will surpass the Delta variant in spreading speed.

1) Chandigarh has reported its first case of the Omicron variant of coronavirus as a 20-year-old fully vaccinated man, who had come from Italy to meet his relatives here, tested positive for the infection, Health department officials said on Sunday.

2) Kerala Health Minister Veena George said the first case of COVID-19 variant Omicron has been confirmed in the state. In a video posted on her Facebook page, the minister said that the patient was a Kerala native who recently came from the United Kingdom. The patient's condition is stable and there was no need to panic as the government was taking all necessary steps to curb the spread of the new variant of the virus, she said.

3) A man who had arrived from South Africa became the third person to test positive for the COVID-19 variant in Karnataka.

4) A 40-year-old man tested positive after returning to Nagpur in Maharashtra from a West African country, taking the state's tally of Omicron cases to 18.



5) On Saturday, Delhi had reported its second case, a 35-year-old man with travel history to Zimbabwe and South Africa.

### State-wise Omicron Covid tally as on 13 Dec

Maharashtra (18)  
Rajasthan (9)  
Karnataka (3)  
Karnataka (3)  
Kerala (1)  
Andhra Pradesh (1)  
Union Territories of Delhi (2)  
Chandigarh (1)

*-Livemint*



## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Indian paper industry urges govt to allow pulpwood plantation in degraded land

NEW DELHI: The Indian paper industry, which is facing inadequate raw material availability, has urged the government to offer degraded forest land and non-forest government land near mills for pulpwood plantation, a move that will also help increase the green cover in the country.

Raw material security is necessary for the paper industry to become self-reliant, said the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) in its pre-budget submission to the finance ministry, asking to consider its proposal for allowing pulpwood plantation in degraded land.

Being a wood fibre-deficient country, inadequate raw material availability has emerged as a major constraint for the domestic paper industry in meeting the growing demand for paper led by drivers such as growth in the education sector and discouraging use of single-use plastic, said an IPMA statement.

IPMA President A S Mehta, "We sincerely want the government to consider our proposal of offering degraded land to the industry for pulpwood plantation. Restoration of degraded land through plantation by the paper industry could help India meet its target of increasing green cover in the country and make India a world leader in paper manufacturing."

Terming it as a "win-win", he said this will also lead to the greening of India, unlocking the significant potential for employment

generation, especially in rural areas.

According to IPMA, the organised paper industry has invested around Rs 25,000 crore in the past few years but raw material constraints are putting a spanner in the works.

"Current demand for wood, one of the key raw materials, by India's paper industry is about 11 million tonnes per annum (TPA), against domestic availability of nine million TPA, and is projected to rise to 15 million TPA by 2024-25 at the current rates of growth," it said.

The paper industry has brought around 1.2 million hectares of land under plantations through industry-driven agro/ farm forestry, said IPMA adding that India's paper industry is wood-positive as it plants more trees than it harvests.

It may be recalled that under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), India needs to bring an additional 25-30 million hectares of degraded land under forest and tree cover to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030.

"The government should consider making degraded forest land and non-forest government land available to the paper industry in close proximity of the mills for plantation activities.

"India's paper industry looks forward to partnering in building Green India and contributing to the national objective of bringing 33 per cent of the landmass in India under tree cover," it said.

*-Times of India*

## Satia Industries to conduct trials on new Paper Machine from December; Reports YoY 53% growth in Q2 net profit

One of the largest Wood and Agro-based paper manufacturers in India, Satia Industries Limited (SIL) has registered remarkable growth in its Q2 FY 21-22 net profit. SIL's Net profit stood at INR 203.44 mn in Q2 FY22, compared to INR 132.60 mn in Q2 FY21.

"With the re-opening of the economy in Q2 FY22 post-Covid Lockdowns, SIL continues to receive regular orders from state textbook boards and open market. We have been able to record a further growth in SIL's production level of 33,089.75 MT in Q2 FY22 as compared to the production of 30,780.61 MT in Q2 FY21. SIL's sustained and healthy relationships with the State Textbook Board Corporations pan India has helped them secure orders at gross higher realization per ton," said Mr. Chirag Satia, Executive Director of Satia Industries Ltd.

Informing about the SIL's long-awaited expansion plan, Mr. Satia says, 4th Paper machine has been fully erected and production trials shall begin in first week of Dec 2021, and commercial operation will be started thereafter. Pulp mill, Soda recovery plant, Power generation plant along-with ETP have already been upgraded. Deinking plant too will start in this month only. Management is confident to get minimum three months additional production coming from this expansion in this financial year only.

Mr. Satia said in a statement that, we expect

a sustained growth demand with the re-opening of schools & colleges across the nation and with economic activities resuming normalcy; in the second half of the year with higher realizations. We have a strong order book in hand of 60 days at attractive price realization. Our new production will come in this year only and we expect to get minimum one quarter additional production from the new Paper machine in this financial year.

SIL continued its efforts to diversify into new product line like wedding card base along with increasing the share of Cup stock base and Copier paper in its total production during the quarter.

In close association with Zume, a US-based global brand, engaged in producing and outsourcing of moulded table cutlery products SIL has completed mechanical trials and normal production should begin in Dec. 2021

"We are happy to report that we shall start commercial production of cutlery before the end of this calendar year and thereafter we also plan to scale up capacities in this segment. This segment is expected to generate attractive realizations and thereby enhance our overall margins." Mr. Satia said.

SIL's management looks forward to achieve over 1,50,000 tons of production this year and 50 – 60% increase in top line over the last year and at least 150 to 200 bps EBIDTA margin accretion in full year FY22 compared to the current margins of Q2FY22; driven by change in product mix and higher production.

SIL says in a statement that, wood pulp digester automation is being done at a cost of 60 crores to optimize steam consumption from present level of 1.6ton steam /ton of pulp to 0.6 ton steam/ton of pulp. Based on the present cost of steam @ 2000/ton; it will lead to saving of minimum 300 ton steam costing 6 lacs /day and 22 cr/yr. Besides saving steam consumption, it shortens the processing time thus leading to increase in capacity by almost 50%. Higher in-house wood pulp production will reduce dependence on imported pulp with substantial gains in cost and procurement risk minimization. SIL will be the second company to install this project in India. ROI for this project will be just 18 months.

**-The Pulp and Paper Times**



## Edicon Paper Product's new Packaging Board plant started in Gujarat

The Indian packaging board market has been growing rapidly on account of growing demand from the FMCG, food & beverage, pharmaceutical and textile sectors. Although the COVID-19 pandemic caused a paper demand decline, the paperboard market strengthened on account of product consumption growth. Indian paper mills will continue to invest resources to develop sustainable packaging solutions towards meeting the increasing drive from brand owners for 'reducing, reusing and recycling plastic packaging.

"The emergence of online shopping or e-commerce has driven the growth for cardboard and other packing materials. E-commerce companies require an extensive amount of packaging solutions for a wide range of products. Among the varying available packaging solutions, paper and paperboard container and packaging products have been gaining traction because of their environmental benefits" said Mr. Dinesh Kavar, Managing Director, Edicon Paper Product Pvt. Ltd.

Situated in Morbi Gujarat, Edicon Paper is gearing up all the resources for setting up the mega capacity of duplex board, "Yes, we have been working upon this mammoth project for last one and a half year, packaging Board is just like gold because the demand of board seems to be sustainable in coming years, and we have

already planned to deploy the massive capacity of 350 Tons-per-day," Mr. Dinesh exclusively discloses to The Pulp and Paper Times.

Edicon Paper has engaged the best paper technology supplier from China, "We have imported entire plant and machinery from China except for pulp mill section which is supplied by Parason Machinery. We have invested around INR 200 crore in this new project, and will leave no stone unturned for achieving the quality packaging board production in one attempt," Mr. Dinesh described.

Edicon paper is expected to start the trial production in October followed by commercial production in November onwards.

"We are going to install 450 TPD pulp mill keeping in mind further enhancement of capacity, our GSM will be 120 to 380 GSM to be manufactured on 3.7 meters finished deckle machine.

*-The Pulp and Paper Times*

### E-Commerce rise in US & Europe may create fibre 'scarcity' for Indian Paper Mills

The effects of the stay-at-home orders and lockdowns that were set in place at the beginning of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic have created a number of changes in daily habits. The rise in e-commerce amid the pandemic has been one of the most significant changes to have occurred. This change in shopping habits has been beneficial for the pulp and paper industry as demand for paper and packaging materials

used to ship goods to consumers has substantially increased. However, we are now seeing that this rise in e-commerce has also allowed US paperboard producers to turn recycled catalogs, boxes, and newspapers into new paper products.

"The Americans are using a lot of their own recycled fibre right now to serve the new demand which is coming, just exploded in the COVID time. So the availability of fibre and their willingness even to export paper out of those countries is highly unlikely immediately," said Mr. Manish Patel, Managing Director at The South India Paper Mills Limited during ICCMA's Congress 2021 held at Greater Noida.

With more people shopping online, there's a lot more cardboard in the recycling stream these days. It wasn't just you. Americans consumed more corrugated cardboard boxes than ever last year.

"Just about every consumer segment accelerated in the fourth quarter. We continue to see strong double-digit growth in e-commerce, and we believe the vast majority of e-commerce adoption is permanent," International Paper CFO Tim Nicholls said in February.

Outlining the e-commerce rise in US and Europe, Ms Garima Aurora, Director at Unisource Papers explained the gravity of the situation during the event, she said that since the pandemic has changed the import of containerboard to India been less than to



15 percent main reason is already highlighted that within the home market (US & Europe) paper was consumed much more, corrugated box demand grew because of E-Commerce rise is one the reason. Even the corrugators were stocking much more paper because they were paranoid that prices might go up so they bought much more paper than requires. So the import to India was quite less.

Mr. Manish Patel said that there is huge spike in demand for corrugated packaging from the E-commerce sector in those countries and lot of new capacities in (US and Europe) are coming up to use recycled fibre. So the availability of recycled fibre for the Indian Market or elsewhere globally is likely to be difficult.

“You will see higher prices of the benchmark mixed waste grade” he said firmly.

Corrugated cardboard makes up a large percentage of the paper that enters recycling plants from homes, so the surge that has occurred due to the pandemic and the rise in e-commerce has significantly increased the value of mixed paper. New tissue paper and cardboard is created from the longer fibers in the discarded cardboard, which helps to strengthen mixed-paper pulp and produce improved material.

While answering one of the questions, Mr. Patel says, “e-commerce is becoming the habit for buying things so the retail trade is going to shift and stay there for a long time, and we have to be ready to deal with the idea

that E-commerce is going to consume a lot of packaging from our countries not only here but also those economies over the time. So the availability of material (Fibre) is, I feel going to be sustained high”

Ms Garima informed that Chain is going to roll out coal phase-out policy, they want to substitute coal with other cleaner forms of energy like natural gas.

Mr. Manish anticipates that coal prices should see a correction post-December.

New capacities coming on stream across Europe - including in France, Germany, Italy, and Turkey - will amount to almost 4 million tons of annual additional output potential over the next three years.

Replying on a question about the possible drop of export level of recovered paper to South & South East Asia due to new capacities, Mr. Jean-Luc Petithuguenin, PRESIDENT PAPER DIVISION, Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) said that, If there could be such drop, it will be due to high freight costs and/or lack of containers; the new capacities in Europe are not to consume the same qualities as in India or Asia – and when I say « qualities » I am referring to international standards such as the EN-643 norm.

***-The Pulp and Paper Times***

## GLOBAL NEWS

### Stora Enso launches Bio-Based Packaging Foam

**Papira, a fiber-based monomaterial, is designed to be biodegradable and compostable and Fibrease can be recycled in any paper or board stream. With the bio-based foams, the Finnish paper and packaging company is introducing “renewable and climate-friendly alternatives” in the protective packaging segment.**

Stora Enso is expanding its packaging products with a new portfolio of bio-based foams – Fibrease and Papira – made from Forest Stewardship Council-approved wood. The company says the FSC-certified products, which it has tested at real recycling facilities, are fully recyclable and can be used for protective and thermal packaging.

Papira, a fiber-based monomaterial designed to be biodegradable and compostable, can be recycled with paper or cardboard, that way the material can be used to make new paper products and ensure optimal use of resources. Fibrease can be recycled in any paper or board stream.

While Fibrease is already commercially available, the pilot plant producing Papira has started operations at the Fors site in Sweden, as a subsequent step to the investment announced in August 2020. Firstly, the pilot plant is intending to evaluate and validate Papira as packaging foam in customer tests. Later on, the foams can be used for protecting fragile goods and will be optimal



for the thermal packaging of temperature-sensitive products.

According to Stora Enso, fossil-fuel-based packaging is a major contributor to pollution, accounting for 40 percent of the world's plastics. "With Fibrease and Papira", the globally leading renewable solutions provider of packaging, biomaterials, wooden constructions, and paper, says it is introducing "renewable and climate-friendly alternatives" to the fossil-fuel-based protective packaging.

Also Read: Stora Enso Starts New Dispersion Barrier Line at Forshaga Site in Sweden

Markus Mannström, Executive Vice President of Biomaterials, Stora Enso, says, "With our bio-based foams, we help customers create eco-friendly and circular packaging solutions while also meeting material performance needs to protect and insulate the goods."

**-Papermart**



## Kellogg's planning to trial Recyclable Paper Liners in Cereal Boxes

**Kellogg Company will determine how it transforms its packaging further going forward, based on the success of this pilot project. This could involve trying to transition to recyclable at kerbside plastic liners – which are currently available in Ireland and Belgium.**

US-based food manufacturing company Kellogg's, in partnership with Tesco, is going to pilot recyclable paper liners for its cereal boxes in a select number of stores from January 2022.

As per the multinational company, the plastic inner liner in cereal boxes is not currently widely accepted in kerbside recycling. The new paper liner is recyclable and will make Kellogg's entire cereal packaging paper-based, as the cereal's outer card packaging is already fully recyclable.

Moreover, the new packaging, designed by Kellogg's packaging technologists, will be more suitable for the process of filling and sealing bags inside of cereal boxes that takes place at the company's factory, as well as for transporting the cereal to retailers.

Chris Silcock, Managing Director at Kellogg UK and Ireland, comments: "We know people want to do more to help the planet and that's why we are working hard towards meeting our commitment of all Kellogg's packaging being reusable, recyclable, or compostable by the end of 2025."

Kellogg's says that the results of the pilot will determine how it adapts its packaging going

forward. This could involve trying to transition to recyclable at kerbside plastic liners – which are already available in Ireland and Belgium – or rolling out fully paper-based packaging.

David Beardmore, Grocery Director, Kellogg Company, remarks, "We are committed to working with our suppliers to remove, reduce, reuse, and recycle packaging, particularly plastic. It's great to see that Kellogg is trialling a paper cereal bag in our stores – our customers will be pleased that they can easily recycle the bag at home."

Previously, Tesco and Kellogg have worked together on a few sustainability initiatives including a trial to collect cartons at in-store recycling points, which provided a short-term recycling solution for the tube packaging of Pringles.

Earlier this year, Kellogg's also announced its plans to remove excess air from its cereal packs, which could result in a 700-tonne annual reduction in carbon from the company's operations. Furthermore, Tesco had launched its partnership with Loop to offer customers a range of food, drink, household, and beauty products in reusable packaging.

**-Papermart**



## PAPER & PACKAGING NEWS

To focus on value-added, high margin offerings.

Diversified conglomerate ITC Ltd is looking to up its play in the value-added paperboards and speciality papers vertical as it ramps up on exports to existing countries like the Middle East, EU, UK, South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand; while focusing on the high margin value-added and sustainable packaging solutions for both the domestic and export markets.

Over the last few quarters, it has invested in innovative products while upping R&D in the segment. Work is on towards solutions “that are more resilient and strengthen supply chain” thereby benefitting farmers, among others.

Sustainable packaging solutions

Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Ltd, during a recent interaction with BusinessLine said investments were being made towards “value-added segment” with “sustainable packaging” as a focus.

For instance, the company has been actively substituting plastics with the help of sustainable packaging solutions developed at its Bhadrachalam unit in Telangana.

“We are a very clear leader in the value-added segment in paperboards and speciality papers. There are new products that have already been launched; more are in development stages. We have developed a sustainable fibre value chain which strengthens our competitiveness. The ITC Life Sciences and Technology Centre continues to work towards developing better

hybrids, including improved solutions for farmers that are more resilient to strengthen the value chain” Puri said.

The recyclable barrier paperboards ‘Filo’ (used in QSR and exports) and biodegradable paperboards ‘Omega’ are “gaining customer franchise”; while other launches include ‘Bioseal’ (compostable packaging solution), ‘Oxyblock’ (recyclable packaging solution for foods, edible oils) and ‘Antimicrobial coating’ (solution for germ-free packaging surface).

Amongst in-house divisions – personal care foods and hotels (food delivery) – witnessed conscious plastic substitution. These include Aashirvaad Instant Meals being packed using the in-house developed ‘IndoBowl’ paperboard in place of used-plastic packaging.

According to the Flexible Packaging Association, the beverage sector in the United States accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the packaging market. Currently, over 30 per cent of Americans (nearly a third) order food twice a week, which is expected to grow by 3 per cent in the coming years.

Market sources say many younger buyers are prepared to spend more on products packed sustainably. The move towards sustainable / non-plastic cutlery by food-service providers is also an indication of growing consciousness in matters of sustainability.

The company’s paperboards, packaging and printing business performed well, driven primarily by the cartons segment.

ITC’s paperboard, paper and packaging division saw a 25 per cent jump YoY in

Q2FY22 to 1,830 crore; while segment profits (at a profit before tax level) rose 24 per cent YoY to 409 crore.

Paperboard, paper and packaging divisions contribute around 14 per cent to gross revenues and approximately 8 – 10 per cent of the bottom line (before tax).

Import Substitution

According to Vadiraj Kulkarni, Divisional Chief Executive, Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division, ITC Limited, the segment witnessed a revival of demand across most end-user segments apart from publications, quick service restaurants and wedding card segments (which remain subdued).

There was robust growth in value-added products; strong performance in exports on a high base, notwithstanding logistical challenges while realizations improved.

Investments were made in pulp import substitution (at Bhadrachalam), cost-competitive fibre chain, a sharper focus on operational efficiency by leveraging data analytics, and Industry 4.0 enabled margin expansion despite the escalation in key input prices.

“Our strategy is to develop new and superior products, in collaboration with the value chain partners (customers, printers, converters etc.). And once we scale up, these offerings will contribute significantly to our top-line growth and will become margin accretive. We have ambitious growth targets,” Kulkarni said.

**-The Hindu Business Line**

## Warburg Pincus backed-Parksons Packaging acquires Manohar Packaging

It had not revealed commercials associated with the deal.

Warburg Pincus backed-Parksons Packaging Ltd on Monday said that it has acquired leading producer of carton packaging, Manohar Packaging. It has a strong presence in the alcoholic beverages and confectionery packaging segment, and the acquisition will help Parksons Packaging strengthen its pan-India footprint.

The company did not reveal commercials associated

Siddharth Kejriwal, Managing Director, Parksons Packaging said, "Parksons has consistently been at the forefront of delivering high service quality and innovation to our customers. Adding Manohar's depth of services and domain expertise strengthens our offerings in the Food & Beverage segment and increases our footprint in North and West India."

Founded in 1994, Manohar Packing is one of India's top producers of carton packaging and the industry leader in the alcoholic beverages segment. "Manohar's deep sector expertise and long-standing relationships with its marquee customer base brings significant synergies to Parksons' domain expertise and depth of services," the statement added.

Through 2 state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities across India, Manohar Packaging has the capacity to convert more than 100 million sheets annually and serve its customers.

"The plants bring high strategic value to Parksons Packaging and are significantly scalable for future," it added.

Parksons Packaging has six manufacturing plants located across Daman, Chakan, Pantnagar, Guwahati, and Sricity combined with Manohar's presence in Goa and Punjab, which will further enhance the combined company's reach and serve customers effectively across the country, said Kejriwal. Aditya Patwardhan, CEO, Manohar Packaging said, "This is an outstanding opportunity to continue our growth journey as part of Parksons and build the country's leading folding carton manufacturer. Based on Parksons' values, core capabilities, excellent brand reputation, and backing by Warburg Pincus, it's a natural fit that reinforces our long-term vision and relationships with customers."

*-The Hindu Business Line*



## CXO's SPEAKS

### Shree Krishna Paper Mills: Innovating Quality Products to Meet the Growing Demand



**In packaging, the future will be developing high tear factor packaging papers with value-added solutions. I feel the industry will change from using burst factor terms to tear factor terms, having high tear is more important than having high BF**

Shree Krishna Paper Mills & Industries Ltd. (SKPMIL) was established in the late 70s. The paper division was set up in the year 2004 and since then, SKPMIL has been using recycled fiber and virgin pulp to manufacture several varieties of industrial and specialty papers including newsprint, electrical insulation kraft paper, interleaving kraft paper, colour kraft paper, and absorbent kraft paper. The company recently entered the packaging sector with kraft paper for the carry bags. In an interaction with Paper Mart, Mr. Naynesh Pasari, Director, Shree Krishna Paper Mills & Industries Ltd. talks about the



company's achievements, manufacturing capabilities, product portfolio, and R&D efforts.

Paper Mart: Could you present a brief overview and significant achievements of Shree Krishna Paper Mills?

Naynesh Pasari: Shree Krishna Paper Mills has been in the industry for more than 45 years. It was started by my father in the late 70s. Since then, the company has been growing together with its customers, innovating and delivering quality products to meet the growing global demand for different types of paper.

We used to primarily produce C1S and C2S paper for which we used to procure base paper and then do value addition of coating on it; we were also the first company in India to introduce and manufacture thermal paper. We give a lot of priority to R&D, and innovation and that's now embedded in the company's DNA and culture.

The biggest achievement has definitely been the introduction of thermal paper, back in the 1990s. SKPMIL does not believe in turnover or profits as achievement, our biggest achievement is when our consumers give us repeat orders.

PM: Describe the infrastructure, the product portfolio, the manufacturing capabilities, and the machinery installed at your facility. Has there been any upgradation or capacity expansion in the recent past?

NP: In the early 2000s, we closed our Bahadurgarh division which was the coating unit producing C1S, C2S, and thermal paper because of electricity issues and unviability in terms of small-scale industry. At the same time, we invested in backward integration by setting up a paper manufacturing unit in

Rajasthan. The idea of the company was to have our own papermaking capability and then do the coating on it and serve the customers.

We had planned this plant as agro-based, but unfortunately, we couldn't get the required license for it and also learned that agro units leave a lot of environmental waste. So we went for waste paper-based manufacturing set up. We have almost 90 acres of land available for future expansion. If the situation becomes conducive, we look forward to utilizing that land.

We have the capability of manufacturing approximately 60,000 TPA in the GSM range of 30 to 150. Various grades are manufactured under one roof. We have one paper machine and one coating machine. The paper machine has a two-stage deinking plant from Lamort, France and the machine itself is from the USA.

Our coating machine is India's first and only manufacturing machine which has the three-stage coating— first stage, second stage, and back-barrier along with soft-nip calendar online, with almost 700 tonnes per month of manufacturing capability on the coating machine (offline coating).

PM: You have launched kraft paper for the carry bags this year; tell us more about the product along with the USPs.

NP: Initially, we had no idea how to make kraft paper for the carry bags and started with 5 tonnes. BF is one of the parameters but not the only parameter in this. If you want to give good quality to the product, then you need to have minimum GSM variation, minimum moisture variation, high-tear factor, relatively speck-free paper, less dirt count, and very little shade variation, so, it's a complicated product to manufacture and

supply consistently and that is exactly where our USP lies.

With our efforts, we are indirectly supplying our products to KFC, Taco Bell, and other QSR brands that are using our papers through converters.

PM: Now that you have told us that you basically manufacture from recycled papers, do you face any challenges while procuring waste paper?

NP: Making 'wealth' out of 'waste' definitely comes with a lot of challenges. Unfortunately, India is highly dependent on imports of waste paper. The availability of pulp or waste paper is limited in our country but mills are in huge numbers. There are approximately 600 paper mills, out of which 70 percent are recycled paper-based. People set up their mills but the planning or strategy required for waste paper in our country is not something that anyone wants to do. It is a totally unorganized market. We are still living in the age when most people simply burn waste paper or pack food in it. India is a fibre short country as neither we have pulp nor high strength waste paper. Hence, we are always dependent on imported fiber to run the 450 odd recycled paper mills our country is operating. People do not follow the practice of segregating the dry waste and wet waste in our country and this is a major drawback. However, people now, at least, have the basic fundamental knowledge on the importance of recycling. So, that is the positive side.

PM: Tell us about your new product and R&D efforts.

NP: After undertaking extensive R&D activities, we developed shuttering paper



which has been a grade that we have developed in-house using our own R&D and trials. We believe in creating products using our own research and not copying other mills, which recently has been the case with some mills who have simply just copied our technology. For any paper, you need to keep in mind the quality, cost factor, and process. We are sure that because of our sincerity, consistent efforts in R&D, our adaptability to new things, and our acceptance to change, we have been able to create this product out of scratch with our own technology.

Further, we are in the R&D stage of print-based decorative laminate paper. As we are already manufacturing shuttering paper, this is the complementary industry. So, this was the right product for us to do R&D upon. We have reached a situation in this development where we are confident that we will be able to make it. In this also we have not taken any help from anybody or copied any mills technology. It is our own painstaking research and development.

PM: Could you please shed some light on the various grades of food-grade paper manufactured by SKPMIL and what is the market scenario of such papers?



NP: Various certifications are required to be able to produce food-grade papers which can be grease-proof paper or carry bag paper. There are certain factors that have to be especially focused on for producing such papers.

The first thing starts with the quality of water – the kind of investments you have made for water management at the mill, to recycle it, and so on because the paper is ultimately made from water. The second thing is that the food-grade kraft paper should be odour-free. The paper should be free from heavy metals, chloroforms, there are certain other chemicals which when coming in contact with food create an impact on the food. Over a period of time, we have put a lot of effort into this process.

PM: What has been the impact of the pandemic on your company?

NP: I think everybody has been affected by the pandemic in some way or the other. The real answer lies in how fast one can absorb and accept the change, and take corrective actions. So, thankfully, we have already taken corrective actions. What lies in the future is still a grey area for everyone; however, I am confident that packaging will



never die. In packaging, the key is how fast one can innovate with value-added solutions, whether it is the normal paper or coated paper. The value-added items in packaging are going to be a very big role player in the coming years.

M: Any improvement in terms of technology at your mill?

NP: In technology, if we say asset-wise or machinery-wise, we have always been investing. We have purchased some equipment for the pulp mill, out of which a few have been imported and the remaining have been purchased from domestic suppliers. The paper industry is a highly capital-intensive industry. So, if you want to keep playing the game, you have to keep investing.

PM: Anything else that you would like to add to the interaction?

NP: I think, overall, the industry has been going through a very challenging time because raw material remains uncertain and the prices are at an all-time high – be it raw materials or logistics. India has to become self-sufficient in terms of generating and consuming waste. How to give the same quality finished goods to the consumer with quality waste paper that is never consistent and higher input costs is the challenge the industry is going through.

**-Papermart**

## Gayatrishakti Paper & Boards: Believing in Technology and Dedicated Workforce

Gayatrishakti Paper & Boards: Believing in Technology and Dedicated Workforce  
Gayatrishakti Paper & Boards Limited (GSPBL), started in 1996, is a leading manufacturer of a range of premium grades of packaging boards and kraft paper. Their products are made out of 100 percent recycled waste paper and are completely biodegradable. The company sets out to undertake various innovations in both the product-development side as well as in manufacturing processes on a consistent basis. Presently, GSPBL has invested in developing a 500 TPD brand-new pulp mill from the world-renowned 'Kadant' technology implemented and is currently under final trial-run.

In an interview with Paper Mart, Mr. Gajendra N. Agarwal, Managing Director, Gayatrishakti Paper & Boards Ltd., enlightens us about the business journey of the company, the manufacturing capabilities along with the infrastructure of their production facilities at Vapi and Sarigam in Gujarat, and the enabling factors to process a wide range of packaging board grades. Further, he also outlines the trends in the packaging industry and the future plans of the company.

Paper Mart: Could you please take us through the journey of Gayatrishakti Paper & Boards Ltd. and the notable milestones so far?

Gajendra N. Agarwal: Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards Ltd. started its business as a

packaging paperboard manufacturing company with its head office in Mumbai and two manufacturing facilities in Vapi and Sarigam, Gujarat. The company was founded by me in September 1996. Mr. Nikhar Agarwal, the second-generation in the business, is also into the day-to-day business of the company and is currently the Executive Director.

The company manufactures premium quality duplex boards and kraft paper from 100 percent recycled waste paper pulp and has an installed capacity of 1,08,000 MTPA and 1,44,000 MTPA. In fact, we are one of the leading manufacturers of duplex boards and kraft paper in India. We constantly upgrade our manufacturing facilities with the latest technologies in order to manufacture superior quality duplex boards and kraft paper.

PM: Please describe the manufacturing capabilities of the company along with an overview of the infrastructure of the unit. Has there been any expansion at the company in the recent past?

GNA: Initially, the company had one manufacturing facility of the duplex board with a production capacity of 96,000 MTPA and product range from 230 GSM to 500 GSM. The management felt the need to enter in kraft paper packaging segment and thus, the company established a kraft manufacturing facility in 2013 at Sarigam, Gujarat. The project was completed within a span of 18 months and started commercial production in June 2015 with a production capacity of 90,000 MTPA. At the kraft facility, we manufacture kraft paper in the range of 18 BF to 35 BF. It is one of the largest kraft-

producing plants in India on a single machine with more than 12,000 MTPA. The company has enhanced infrastructure at both the manufacturing facilities at Vapi and Sarigam. The use of the latest technology at both the manufacturing facilities helps in improving the quality of the finished product.



The company has a 4MW captive power plant at both facilities. We have made a huge investment in upgrading the plants and using the latest technology that has helped the company to increase the combined production capabilities in both the plants from 1,86,000 MTPA to 2,44,000 MTPA. In the future, we intend to increase the production capacity in both plants from 2,44,000 MTPA to 3,00,000 MTPA by FY23.

PM: Kindly describe the product portfolio of Gayatrishakti Paper and Boards. Also, shed some light on the kind of clientele, i.e. the different brands served by the Company.

GNA: Our Company manufactures duplex board and kraft paper at its manufacturing facilities at Vapi and at Sarigam in Gujarat. The range of the duplex board is from 230 GSM to 500 GSM and the range of kraft paper starts from 18BF to 35BF. We sell the product through a network of dealers and distributors. Due to our leverage on technology, the quality of our product has been consistent over the years and it has been widely accepted in the domestic and international markets. Our end-users are leading companies in the segments such as – MNCs, FMCGs, pharma, and e-commerce players.

PM: Outline the factors which enable you to process a wide range of grades in packaging boards, while ensuring cost efficiency and enhanced product quality.

GNA: Investment in the right technology and competent workforce are the key factors that enable us to process a wide range of grades in packaging boards with cost efficiency and enhanced product quality. We

have the best automation system from renowned vendors in the industry. We also have a competent and loyal workforce and executives at all levels that are well trained for their roles and are given individual responsibilities in their respective areas.

PM: Rising consumer awareness and adoption of sustainable materials have rapidly increased in the past few years. How would you describe the impact of this trend on the Indian paper and paperboards market?

GNA: Consumers' attitude towards minimising the use of plastic has changed the attitude of the paper and packaging industry over the last decade. With the ban on plastic by governments and public authorities around the world, the demand for packaging paper has increased significantly over a period of time and is expected to increase at a steady pace in the future. There has been a growing interest from all stakeholders to make packaging more sustainable and environment-friendly and paper is considered as the most environment-friendly material available.

Impact on Indian paper and packaging industry

The packaging industry in India is growing rapidly, and it is spanning across various end-user segments such as food and beverages, healthcare, hygiene, and home care, among others. Strong favourable demographics aside, factors such as growing disposable income levels, increasing consumer awareness and demand for processed food, and the

multinational giants taking rapid strides in the food, beverages, e-commerce, and pharmaceuticals space, are the key drivers impacting the growth of paper and paperboard packaging industry. The growth of this market is dependent on the demand for folding cartons and corrugated boxes products in the e-commerce packaging sector. Moreover, the market is segmented by the product and end-user verticals. Its end-user segment is further segmented by food, beverage, healthcare, personal care & household care, hardware & electrical products, other industries.

PM: Describe your initiatives for attaining superior quality, and enhancing efficiency in the overall production operations

GNA: We have always believed in adopting the latest technology for attaining the superior quality of both the products viz. coated paperboard and kraft liner board. Our company has continuously undertaken various innovations from time to time in both the products and manufacturing processes and has successfully implemented them so as to provide premium quality in the packaging market as well as enhance efficiency in the production operations.

Various technologies such as the introduction of blade coating in the coated paperboard to get the highest printing results, adding a hot disperser system in the kraft plant to make the final product of kraft paper specks- and smell-free and adopted jet cooking system for starch spray in kraft has made possible to provide the superior quality. Presently, our company has invested in developing a 500 TPD brand-new pulp mill



from the world-renowned 'Kadant' technology implemented and is currently under final trial-run. This is projected to further enhance the capabilities in attaining more superior quality and enhancing efficiency in the overall production operations in the kraft division of the company.

PM: E-commerce packaging is swiftly growing at an enormous pace within the packaging industry – in this respect, how rigid is packaging positioned in the industry?

GNA: The retail e-commerce packaging market is growing promisingly, with the rapid growth in the online shopping ecosystem. Moreover, changing lifestyles of people led by rapid urbanisation, mainly in the developing regions, augment the demand for retail-e-commerce packaging solutions. The increasing consumption of retail-e-commerce packaging materials fosters the retail e-commerce packaging market growth. With the spurring rise in the overall retail industries worldwide, the market is projected to garner immense gains over the next few years.

The Indian e-commerce packaging market was valued at USD 13.8 million in 2020, and it is expected to reach USD 1109.26 million by 2026, registering a CAGR of 13.8 percent during the period of 2021-2026. Owing to the rising population, increasing income levels, changing lifestyles, and growing economy, the demand for e-commerce packaging is growing in India. The country is focusing more on sustainable solutions, which is increasingly becoming a business imperative. With the growing awareness, the

requirement for eco-friendly and sustainable packaging is steadily on the rise. With several billion parcels delivered every year, the threat of packaging waste is increasing due to which, the need for recyclable packaging material is on the rise.

Many e-commerce companies are focusing on sustainable packaging solutions to reduce plastic waste and move toward paper-based packaging. Corrugated boxes are very common and widely used packaging materials for the e-commerce industry in the apparel segment, as the material is very strong and highly durable. Accelerated demand for packaging boards for online purchases is expected on account of the COVID19 pandemic. The market for packaging boards is likely to grow 9-10 percent annually in India, compared with around four percent globally.

PM: What are the future plans of Gayatrishakti Paper & Boards Ltd?

GNA: At present, the company is focused on increasing the production capacity and as a result thereof, the current installed capacity of the company is 2,50,000 MTPA of both coated paper board and kraft liner board. The company has already undertaken the CapEx program to enhance the capacity to 3,00,000 MTPA where the major capacity enhancement is proposed in the Kraft division. Developing a 500 TPD brand new pulp mill from the world-renowned 'Kadant' technology is under final trial-run so as to enable us to get better quality with required quantum more pulp presently which will further add in attaining more superior quality and enhancing efficiency in the overall

production operations in the Kraft division of the company. The company is also in the process to develop premium products in near future to cater to the increased demand for products, mainly 'white top kraft liner board' and 'kraft pulpboard'.

The company has an inbuilt manufacturing facility to produce uncoated white top kraft liner board and is shortly going for trial-run production so as to get a response from both domestic and international markets. In addition, the company is also planning for manufacturing of partial quality of value-added product viz. kraft pulpboard mainly required in the premium segment of corrugated boxes. Presently, such kraft pulpboard is being manufactured in very small quantum in India and the balance requirement is being met through import sources.

Further, the company aims to replace imported kraft pulpboard with Indian kraft that will match international standards and quality to promote domestic product usage in India. Both the products are mainly used in the premium segment of packaging and the demand in both domestic and international markets is growing gradually.

**-Papermart**





# Business Festival of Paper Industry



a Hyve event

**09-12|JANUARY 2022**

India Expo Centre,  
Greater Noida, Delhi- NCR, India

Paperex is the largest paper industry event in the world and it takes place in New Delhi, India.

It is a "A Unified Business Platform for Paper Industry" for new business opportunities, joint ventures, investments and technology transfer in paper and allied industries.

Paperex is always very well attended by large gathering of Paper Manufacturers to explore the New Technology., Machinery & Equipment and Raw Material for Paper & Board Manufacturing.

And the mass audience of Paper Traders, Printers, Publisher, Converter and Paper Packaging Companies to explore the variety of papers at the show



**23-25 November 2022**

Chennai Trade Centre, India

## A sneak Preview:

- Meet 250+ exhibitors who will display latest products & services from 18 countries
- Learn new trends by attending technical conference by IARPM
- Network with industry leaders at "Global Paper Technology Supplier" pavilion
- Delegation program to host international buyers
- 5000+ trade visitors from 20+ countries including 142 paper mills across India
- Visit "Paper Manufacturer" networking pavilion
- Engage with the leaders at "Exclusive Paper Mills CEO/MD Conclave"

## Business Connect Program

- **Market News & Views, a weekly e news alert program** covering Industry Updates , Launch of New Technologies , Partnership Opportunities , Industry Views, CSR activities
- **International Business Networking Program (IBNP) a monthly webinar** covering key industry across Indian as well as some neighboring countries including China, Taiwan, Bangladesh, etc
- **Open Seminars during the event**, a unique opportunity to have face to face interaction with industry leader and knowledge transfer



## Contact Us



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## Partnership Opportunities

There are many different ways of benefitting from the Paperex exhibition.

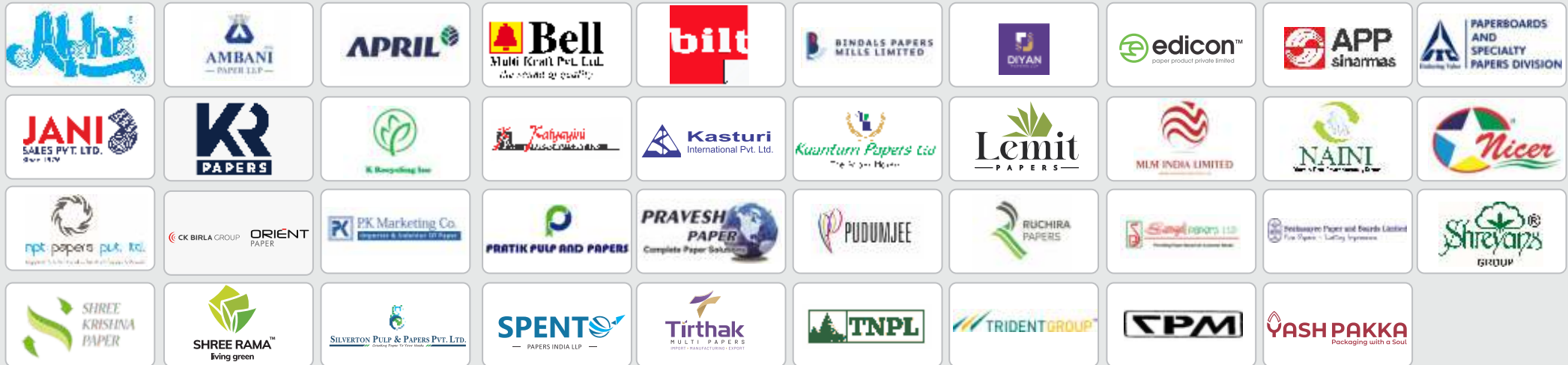
You can increase your company's exposure by becoming a Partner of the show, advertising in the exhibition's promotional materials, or simply visiting the show and gaining first-hand information about the new developments in the market and latest technology advancements. Branding gives an excellent opportunity to stand out from the crowd, reinforce, enhance and establish corporate visibility amongst the targeted audience. Branding is a great way to reinforce your brand message with benefits including:

- Enhance your leadership status
- Educate and inspire a targeted audience with your products and services
- Raise brand awareness and create preference to a targeted audience
- Build leadership status in the industry
- Create positive PR and raise awareness of the organisation as a whole
- Build brand positioning through associative imagery
- Create internal emotional commitment to the brand
- Provide innovative solutions to the industry
- Provide revenue generating ideas





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**COVID-19**

Basic  
Protective  
Measures



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CLEAN AND DISINFECT



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FREQUENTLY



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FROM OTHERS



AVOID TOUCHING  
EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH



STAY AT HOME  
WHEN YOU ARE SICK