

*News and Views...* 

*June 29, 2021*



**23 - 25 | NOVEMBER 2022**  
Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, INDIA



a Hyve event

**09 - 12 | JANUARY 2022**  
India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, Delhi- NCR, India

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## India administers over 63.2 lakh doses on June 23, 2021

India administered over 63.2 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccines until 9.30 p.m. on June 23. After registering a drop on June 22, the number of doses administered improved again on the third day since the government's revised vaccine policy came into action.

Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of vaccinations (11 lakh) followed by Uttar Pradesh (7.2 lakh) and Maharashtra (6 lakh).

While the pace of the vaccination drive has picked up significantly this week, India needs to administer 82 lakh doses daily on an average to fully inoculate its adult population by December 31, 2021.

The seven-day rolling average of daily vaccinations in the country continues to increase. It stood at 46.6 lakh on June 22, which is more than the 32.5 lakh recorded a week before (June 16). It was also significantly higher than the average daily doses recorded a month before (May 22) which was 18.2 lakh.

About 26.2% of adults in India, 45.5% of those aged above 45, and 48.5% of people aged above 60, were administered with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, until 8



p.m. on Wednesday. While 18% of the country's population has received at least one dose, only 3.8% are fully vaccinated. The figures are based on the estimated population in 2021.

In comparison, 11.64% and 10.72% of people in Brazil and Russia are fully vaccinated, respectively. The figure for the U.K. and the U.S. stood at 46.39% and 44.98%, respectively.

53,186 new infections

India recorded 53,186 new COVID-19 cases until 9.30 p.m. on June 23, taking its cumulative caseload to 3,00,81,069.

As many as 1,309 new deaths were also registered taking the tally to 3,92,000. Around 19 lakh samples were tested in the country on June 22 (the results for which were made available on June 23).

Kerala reported 12,787 new infections, followed by Maharashtra (10,066) and Tamil Nadu (6,596). Maharashtra recorded 508 new fatalities, followed by Tamil Nadu (166) and Kerala (150). Maharashtra's fatalities include backlog deaths which were missed in the previous reports.

The figures do not include cases and deaths from Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, and Ladakh. The data are sourced from the respective States' health bulletins.

India now records the second-highest number of seven-day average daily deaths in the world, next to Brazil (2,003). An average of 1,584 daily deaths was recorded on June 22. The two other countries with the highest fatality count after India were Colombia (620) and Argentina (524).

– *The Hindu*





## RedHill's oral pill shows promise against Covid-related pneumonia

Israel-based biopharmaceutical company RedHill Biopharma's new oral pill called Opananib has been found effective in patients hospitalised with Covid-related pneumonia, results from a clinical trial has shown.

The oral opananib is associated with a reduction in the need for supplemental oxygen support, earlier time to discharge from hospital and was well tolerated, the company said in a statement on Monday.

The Phase II trial analysed data from the 40-patient who were randomised to receive either opananib or placebo in addition to standard of care (SoC), predominantly including dexamethasone and/or remdesivir.

About 86.4 per cent of patients treated with opananib were discharged from hospital by Day 14 compared to 55.6 per cent of patients treated with placebo. The findings were presented at the World Microbe Forum, taking place online from June 20 to 24.

"Presentation of these positive data from our exploratory Phase 2 study support our growing confidence that opananib could be the first novel oral therapy to demonstrate efficacy in the treatment of Covid-19 in a large late-stage study. With the recent completion of enrollment of our 475-patient global Phase 2/3 study, we will have a clearer picture of that in the very near future," said Mark L Levitt, Medical Director at RedHill.

"Opananib acts on both the cause and effect of Covid-19 via a unique dual antiviral and anti-inflammatory mode of action. Being host-targeted, opananib is also expected to maintain effect against the emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants, which continue to threaten the progress being made against the pandemic and underscore the urgent need for effective Covid-19 therapeutics," Levitt added.

Opananib is orally-administered and has a sphingosine kinase-2 (SK2) selective inhibitor, with dual anti-inflammatory and antiviral activity. It targets the host and is therefore expected to be effective against emerging viral variants. Opananib has also shown anticancer activity and has the potential to target multiple oncology, viral, inflammatory, and gastrointestinal indications.

Opananib demonstrated potent antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that

causes Covid-19, completely inhibiting viral replication in an in vitro model of human lung bronchial tissue.

Additionally, preclinical in vivo studies have demonstrated opananib's potential to ameliorate inflammatory lung disorders, such as pneumonia, and has shown decreased fatality rates from influenza virus infection and ameliorated *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*-induced lung injury by reducing the levels of IL-6 and TNF-alpha in bronchoalveolar lavage fluids, the company said.

– IndiaTV





## Good News! Indians Can Now Travel to Russia, Turkey And Other Countries as COVID Cases Decline

As the coronavirus cases continue to decline in India, after a prolonged battle with deadly second wave of COVID-19, several countries have opened their doors for travellers from India. So, it's time to pack our bags and jet off to our favourite location fellows!

the list of countries that are open to Indians now

Turkey

Now, travellers from India can fly to Turkey, one of the most loved tourist destinations. However, the tourists have to follow a strict 14-day COVID quarantine rule upon arrival. Besides, travellers will have to undergo an RT-PCR test on the fourteenth day and can leave the quarantine facility after they test negative. Go, pack your bags!

Russia



If you are planning to travel to Russia then good news is that it is now open for travellers from India. You can apply for a tourist visa that is valid for up to 30 days for single entry or double entry. Please keep in mind that tourists entering the country must have a negative COVID-19 PCR test report issued at most 72 hours before arrival. Moscow and St Petersburg are must-visits in Russia. As the Covid cases in Russia was on the surge recently, it's advisable to book your tickets only if the situation is under control.

Egypt

Indians can now travel to Egypt, according to a report. There are currently restrictions for tourists arriving in the coastal governorates of the Red Sea, South Sinai and Matrouh, to travel to other governorates in Egypt. What are the COVID requirements? Well, health screenings will be done on arrival in Egypt, and all the passengers are required to fill in a health declaration. Also, as per the reports, all the passengers will be required to present a negative RT-PCR test, no older than 72 hours from August 15 onwards.

Serbia

If you are planning a trip to Serbia, please note that passengers must provide a negative RT-PCR test taken up to 48 hours before departure. Not applicable to passengers below the age of 12 years. Some of the attractions in Serbia include Church of St Sava, House on the Drina, Studenica Monastery, Subotica City Hall and Kalemegdan among others. There are only limited flight being operated by Lufthansa and KLM Royal Dutch from Mumbai to Belgrade.

Iceland

For Iceland, a valid vaccination certificate and a negative PCR test upon arrival is mandatory for all the tourists, as per the reports. On arrival, a COVID-19 screening test will be done at the border but those people are exempt from quarantine, whose test come out as negative. However, you have to be fully-vaccinated with the approved vaccinations by EU including Covishield by AstraZeneca. According to a report in News18, a company called Pure Luxe by KFT is providing private charters and land packages to the country since India doesn't have an Air Bubble pact with the country.

Uzbekistan

According to a news report, any Indian citizen destined for and holding a valid visa for CIS countries (excluding Russia) is eligible to travel to Uzbekistan. However, travellers must present a negative PCR test taken no longer than 72 hours prior to arrival in the country. Quarantine or self-isolation for 14 days is mandatory.

Rwanda

Any Indian national destined for any country in Africa and holding a valid visa can travel to Rwanda. As for the COVID-related requirements, all passengers arriving in Rwanda must complete the passenger locator form and upload their negative COVID-19 test certificate prior to arrival. On arrival, every traveller must proceed to a government-designated hotel for a second COVID-19 test.

– *India.com*

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Ministry of Tourism invites feedback on the draft National Strategy and Roadmap for promotion of MICE Industry in India

MICE is one of the important segments of business tourism, which also overlaps with leisure tourism. It is one of the fast-growing segments and brings several advantages to the country. Despite having huge potential, India's position is relatively low with just about 1% of global MICE business. On the other hand, India has a huge outbound MICE market and growing significantly.

Ministry of Tourism has recognized the immense potential of MICE and has been actively working on promotion and development of this niche area of tourism. The Ministry of Tourism had accordingly formulated a Draft National Strategy and Roadmap for Promotion of MICE Industry in India, which can be accessed from the following link also available on Ministry of Tourism's website [https://tourism.gov.in/under "what's new" section](https://tourism.gov.in/under%20what%27s%20new).

Before proceeding to finalize the draft strategy document and to make the document more comprehensive, Ministry of Tourism has invited

feedback/comments/suggestions on the draft National Strategy and Roadmap. The comments may be forwarded to the Ministry of Tourism on or before 30th June, 2021 at e-mail IDs : [js.tourism@gov.in](mailto:js.tourism@gov.in), [bibhuti.dash72@gov.in](mailto:bibhuti.dash72@gov.in), [prakash.om50@nic.in](mailto:prakash.om50@nic.in).

– **Exhibition Showcase**



### Impact on Indian economy after the COVID-19 second wave

It has been more than a year and a half since the COVID-19 pandemic penetrated the deepest core of human civilization and made us realize the power of mother nature. In India, after the first wave, we thought that we had gained control of the situation but the second wave found us wanting for basic necessities such as oxygen and medical supplies. It might appear that the second wave is on its way out with daily cases coming down to under 60,000 from the peaks of nearly 4 lakh cases, but we have lost over 3.8 lakh precious lives to COVID-19 already. With the hope that the situation will significantly improve on the medical side, it is time to assess the impact of the second wave on macroeconomics.

The government's approach in dealing with the two waves has been different. The response to the second wave has been localised and driven by the states while in the first wave we went for a national lockdown. I attribute this to the economic compulsions of the hard-hit central government and progressive spread of the virus. The second

wave started in the west with Maharashtra, went up North and now is peaking in the south of the country. This spread journey makes a national lockdown economically suboptimal.

To understand the economic impact of the second wave, let's remind ourselves of the first wave and its impact on the economy. In the first wave, we went through a prolonged national lockdown and a significantly lower number of peak cases. Manufacturing and the urban economy had come to a grinding halt while the rural economy continued to move because of less strict lockdowns. As a result, agriculture, which is the primary driver of our rural economy providing employment to 58% of our population, continued to grow. Agriculture further benefited from good monsoon and cheaper and higher availability of labor. Reflecting on the GDP figures, our agricultural economy grew by 3.4% while the overall economy contracted with 7.7% in FY21. The first wave was primarily urban in its spread. Urban areas reported more cases than rural areas for the first five months of the spread. In the second wave rural areas started reporting more cases than urban ones from the second month itself. An analysis of more than 50 most severely hit districts, 26 were in rural areas. Rural areas in the state of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala were the worst impacted. The situation was further aggravated, due to the inadequacy of medical infrastructure in the rural areas and the rush of patients from villages and smaller towns to urban centers. Agriculture

The second wave has seen stricter and longer lockdowns in the rural parts of the country. Due to the lockdowns, APMC Mandis have been closed for operations or have taken such steps voluntarily. Specifically, APMC Mandis in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra were closed during the peak harvesting season. Farmers were not prepared for the ensuing chaos. As the Mandis have still not opened fully, crops are rotting in the fields. Due to the closure of Mandis, vegetable vendors, and processing industries have also been hit. We can see the contrasting impact of the first and the second wave in the agriculture wage growth data. The average wage growth for the agriculture sector for the period of November 2020 to March 2021 has reduced to 2.9 percent (2nd wave) from 8.5 percent in April to August 2020 (1st wave).

#### Manufacturing

Manufacturing was at the receiving end in both the first and the second wave. To control the coronavirus spread, most of the manufacturing sector had to work at a lesser capacity or shut down. Non-essentials manufacturing was hit for longer and with more severe restrictions. The fear of prolonged lockdowns led to migration back to villages. In addition, the global and local supply chains had also not fully normalized after the first wave. This has meant higher cost of procuring raw materials for both small and large industries. As per the IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) in May 2021, PMI slumped to 50.8 from 57.5 reported in

February. It is at a ten-month low.

#### Services

The services sector in the last two decades has become the bedrock of the Indian economy contributing to more than half of the GDP. But, our services and knowledge-based industries have been built on the manufacturing industry premise of the 18th century i.e. proximity and discipline of workers to the factory is critical in getting good output. We apply the same philosophy for our software engineers and telecalling workforce. With the internet revolution this premise has proven to be an unnecessary legacy of the past. Now the workforce can be decentralized and anyone can work from anywhere till the time there is 4G internet. I do believe that COVID will prove a positive disruption for the services sector in the long run.

The first wave required a steep learning curve for the organizations to develop infrastructure and processes for remote working. For the employees, first wave lockdowns were a new paradigm and it took them some time to adjust to work from home and be productive. Prolonged lockdown and unlocking phases during the first wave ensured that both the employer and employee got into a rhythm and the productivity started reaching pre-covid levels. The second wave disrupted this rhythm. But the impact of the second wave has been localized and centered around groups of people with typical disruptions costing 3-4 weeks of productivity. My assessment is that the services sector will be the least hit from wave 2 from an output standpoint.

The table below summarizes the above ideas:

Time period	Indian GDP % growth	Services GDP % growth	Manufacturing GDP % growth	Agriculture GDP % growth
FY 21 (Reflection of the wave-1)	-7.3%	<u>Contracted by 16%</u>	Contraction by <u>7.2%</u>	<u>A growth of 3.4%</u>
% contribution to the overall GDP	Nil	<u>55%</u>	<u>17.4%</u>	<u>17.8%</u>
Expected impact of the wave-2	8.2% to 9.3% (Overall growth due to base effect but reduced forecasts by rating agencies)	Significantly lower than wave-1	Lower than wave-1	Higher than wave-1



## The overall impact on GDP

On May 31, the Indian government released the data for GDP that during the financial year 2020-21, GDP contracted by 7.3 percent. It is the most severe contraction from the time India got its independence. The reasons behind this trajectory are obvious – lockdown leading to the closing of business units, increasing unemployment rate and a significant decline in domestic consumption.

For the current financial year, the Reserve Bank of India has anticipated growth of 10.5 percent. But the rating agencies across the globe have downgraded it due to the impact of the second wave of COVID-19. Moody's initially projected 13.7 percent of growth for FY 2021-22, but later lowered it to 9.3 percent. The same goes with S&P Global Rating. They have lowered the 11 percent growth to 9.8 percent in case of moderate impact of the second wave, but for a worst-case scenario, it would be 8.2 percent. The ideas around a third wave are not helping the situation at all.

To summarize on the macroeconomic numbers of GDP, I expect a less severe impact of the second wave due to less strict, localized lockdowns and practically a lesser number of days in reaching the peak number of infections. Agriculture will see a deeper cut from the second wave compared to the first wave where it grew. Our hopes of economic revival are pinned to us having an express vaccination drive, which takes away the fear of a third wave and a revival of consumer confidence and spending.

– **Financial Express**

## RBI creates liquidity window of Rs 15,000 crore to help hotels, tourism

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced creating a special liquidity window of Rs 15,000 crore with a tenor of 3 years at the repo rate to provide liquidity support to the contact-intensive sectors hit by Covid-19.

The special liquidity window encourages banks to provide fresh lending support to hotels, restaurants, tourism, aviation ancillary services, and other services including private bus operators, car repair services, rent-a-car service providers, event/conference organizers, spa clinics, and beauty parlours/salons. These sectors have seen the biggest impact due to the second wave as authorities started imposing lockdown measures to curb the spread of the virus. These sectors will be permitted to park their surplus liquidity, equivalent to the size of the loan book created by them under this scheme, under the reverse repo window at a rate which is 25 basis points (bps) lower the repo rate, or 40 bps higher than the reverse repo rate.

“In order to mitigate the adverse impact of the second wave of the pandemic on certain contact-intensive sectors, a separate liquidity window of Rs 15,000 crores is being opened till March 31, 2022 with tenors of up

to three years at the repo rate”, said RBI governor Shaktikanta Das in Mumbai after a meeting of the monetary policy committee. The repo rate stands at 4 per cent and the reverse repo rate stands at 3.35 per cent. Among other relief measures taken by RBI to mitigate the impact of the second wave of the virus is, it has expanded the coverage of borrowers under the restructuring 2.0 scheme. Now, MSMEs, non MSMEs small businesses, and loans to individuals with aggregate exposure of Rs 50 crore will be eligible for restructuring. Earlier the threshold was set at Rs 25 crore.

– **Exhibition Showcase**



### Weekly e-news Alert Program - 'Market News & Views'

This is a regular program which will cover Industry Updates, Launch of New Technologies, Partnership Opportunities, Industry Views & CSR activities. The purpose of this program is to keep customers up to date with developments in the Industry.



## INDUSTRY UPDATES



### Valmet to Supply Two OptiConcept M Container Board Making Lines to Zhejiang Shanying Paper

Valmet will supply two OptiConcept M container board making lines with extensive packages of automation, services and industrial internet applications to Zhejiang Shanying Paper in Jiaxing City, Zhejiang province, China.

The new board making lines PM 16 and PM 17 continue the expanding of Zhejiang Shanying Paper's business in Zhejiang area. The start-ups are scheduled from the end of 2022 to early 2023.

These deliveries at Jiaxing Mill will already be Valmet's 11th and 12th OptiConcept M board making line deliveries to Zhejiang Shanying Paper. The 10 earlier machines were or will be delivered to customer's different sites. The latest one (PM 53) was published earlier this year.

"Our cooperation with Valmet has been excellent, and it is based on mutual trust. We are really happy about the already started-up

machine lines of Huazhong PM 21 and PM 23. This was a decisive factor when we were choosing the supplier for PM 16 and PM 17. We are expecting to have excellent support for the start-up and the line optimization after the start-up with the extensive automation package," says Wu Ming Wu, Chairman and CEO of Shanying International.

Valmet's delivery for the both machines will include a high-speed, multi-layer container board making line from broke collection to a reel and winders. The delivery will also include board machine process ventilation systems. The wide automation package includes Valmet DNA automation system for process and machine controls as well as runnability and condition monitoring and Valmet IQ quality management system. The delivery will also include comprehensive Maintenance Master Data, Valmet Paper Machine Clothing, spare parts and consumables packages.

For a period of two years, the start-up and the further optimization of PM 16 will be supported remotely from Valmet Performance Center. Valmet Industrial Internet solutions will help the optimizing of raw material and quality, and help the operator to optimize the use of fabrics. They can also be used to predict and avoid production losses and increase machine reliability, and with a solution called Dynamic Centerline Advisor, the operator can find the optimal setpoint and running conditions for processes. Virtual Mill, which can be used e.g. for personnel training, consists of full digital design twin of the board machine.

– *Paper Mart*



### Nippon Paper Acquires Portion of Elopak, Expands its Presence in European Market

Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd. has announced that it has acquired a portion of the issued ordinary share capital of Elopak ASA, a Norway-based liquid paper packaging company operating in Europe and North America, as a Cornerstone investor in Elopak's initial public offering on the Oslo Børs.

Nippon Paper has positioned the five businesses of packaging, household paper and healthcare, chemicals, energy, and wood as growth areas. In the packaging field in particular, paper is being reevaluated as an environmentally friendly material. As a total system supplier, our Paper-Pak Division has been striving to further expand its value

chain by securing an integrated system from base paper to processing, and has also sought opportunities for business expansion through capital investment and M&A in Japan and overseas.

Elopak is a leading global supplier of carton packaging and filling equipment for liquid food, catering to both the fresh and ambient markets. The company's iconic Pure-Pak® cartons are designed with the environment, food safety and convenience in mind. Using renewable, recyclable and sustainably sourced materials, Elopak provides innovative packaging solutions that offer a natural and convenient alternative to plastic bottles and which fit with a low carbon circular economy.

Elopak and Nippon Paper have been deepening their relationship for more than 30 years, starting in 1989 and most recently signed a new product licensing agreement in March 2016 that allows Nippon Paper to manufacture and sell certain Pure-Pak® products in Japan.

Under Nippon Paper's corporate slogan "Shaping the future with trees", Nippon Paper's corporate philosophy has been to contribute to the creation of a decarbonized society by sustainable and effective use of wood resources, and to the development of a more affluent lifestyle and culture for people around the world. Elopak has also pledged to create sustainable packaging solutions which empower consumers to make environmentally conscious choices.

– **Paper Mart**

## **Voith Group with Robust Development and Significantly Growing Orders Received in the First Half of FY2020-21**

In the first six months (October 2020 to the end of March 2021) of the current financial year 2020/2021, the Voith Group continued to develop positively, despite a very challenging market environment partly due to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, the Voith Group was able to operate in the black in all three divisions of its core business and increase Group-wide EBIT. In addition, there was significant growth in orders received at all Group Divisions.

After adjusting for currency effects, there was an increase of 3 percent compared to the previous year and the orders received were 21 percent higher than in the previous year. Further, the orders on hand as of March 31 were noticeably higher than the already high level of the previous year, resulting in its highest level in the last nine years. Voith was able to further increase its operating results slightly in the first half of the year. Despite the difficult market environment, net profit was in positive territory.

"The Voith Group remains in very robust shape operationally and financially, despite noticeable negative effects from the COVID-19 pandemic. In last year's comparative period, the COVID-19 crisis only impacted our earnings for two months, whereas in the current financial year we were under the influence of the crisis for the full six months. We can therefore be all the more satisfied



with our current business performance. Our broad sectoral and geographical positioning has paid off during the crisis and we are confident that Voith will continue on its chosen course of sustained profitable growth in the long term," explains Dr. Toralf Haag, CEO at Voith Group.

In the past, Voith had strategically strengthened its core business through various M&A activities. This had a positive impact on the half-year results during the crisis. Strengthening its business as a full-line supplier in the paper sector through the acquisitions of BTG at the end of 2019 and of 90 percent of the shares in Toscotec S.p.A. in 2020 bore initial fruit in the current financial year. ELIN Motoren GmbH also made a positive contribution in the first half of 2020/21. In the spring of 2020, Voith acquired 70 percent of the Austrian company, which specializes in electric motors and generators for industrial applications.

In addition to strengthening its core businesses, Voith continues to focus on opening promising business fields. Voith is examining strategic options in the fields of hydrogen technology, energy storage and electric drive systems. Its strategy is to

position itself as a pioneer and performance leader in its strategic business areas. To this end, Voith aims to be among the leading suppliers in each of the industries it covers and to continue to develop in the direction of the megatrends of decarbonization and digitalization.

“We are continuously expanding our core business in the areas of sustainability, decarbonization and digitalization. The electrification of the power train, paper as a sustainable raw material, and hydropower as a renewable energy source are the focus here in order to meet our responsibility to society and the environment and to be a pioneer in the race for sustainable technologies in terms of industrial sustainability,” says Dr. Toralf Haag.

Voith Paper remains on course for growth. Despite a normalization of investments in the paper industry, Voith Paper was again able to significantly increase its orders received by 26 percent in the first half of the financial year and sales remained at a high level.

The Voith Group’s strategic goal of achieving sustained profitable growth in the coming years remains unchanged. Despite continuing uncertainties, but due to the solid results for the first half of the financial year and a stronger market environment, Voith expects all key performance indicators to develop more positively in the remaining financial year 2020/21 than was projected at the 2019/20 financial year-end closing in December.

– **Paper Mart**

### **ITC-PSPD: Strategic investments helped deliver revenue growth and increased profitability**

Despite a subdued operating environment and sluggish demand conditions, ITC’s Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division (ITC-PSPD) achieved its highest ever volume of production and sales, crossing 8 lakh tonnes, driven by strategic investments in augmenting VAP manufacturing capacity, continuous focus on enhancing operational efficiency and innovations across the value chain. ITC-PSPD remains the clear leader in the VAP segment and continues to consolidate its preferred supplier position amongst leading end-use customers and brands. It is also a leading player in the eco-labelled products segment and premium recycled fibre based boards space.

In the ITC’s annual report for FY 19-20, report says, that Paper and Paperboard industry remained relatively muted in 2019-20. General economic slowdown, sharp fall in rural demand and tight liquidity conditions impacted end-user demand across segments.



Pulp prices which started correcting towards the end of 2018-19, declined sharply during the year due to contraction in global demand and higher inventory levels.

The fall in pulp prices not only resulted in lower price realisation, but also led to a surge in imports of paper into the country. This, along with subdued demand conditions which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, is likely to render the business environment challenging in the short-term.

Report admits that in the Paperboards, Paper and Packaging segment; ITC-PSPD’s margin expansion was driven by higher in-house pulp production, enhanced operating efficiencies and benign input costs.

Report further stated that Global demand for Paper & Paperboard in 2019 witnessed degrowth of 2% on the back of weak demand mainly in Asia and North America. Going forward, demand recovery is expected to be led by the packaging segment while demand for writing & printing and newsprint segments is expected to decline. The growth in the packaging segment is expected to be driven by essential consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, food service and e-Commerce. Writing & Printing and Newsprint segments, on the other hand, are expected to remain under pressure largely due to increasing adoption of digitisation and proliferation of smartphone usage.

Domestic demand for Paper & Paperboard which remained subdued for the first nine months of the year, started witnessing a marginal pick-up in growth trajectory in the fourth quarter. However, nation-wide



lockdown amidst the COVID-19 pandemic halted the recovery momentum, and led to demand contraction in the ensuing months. Beyond the short-term, demand is expected to be primarily driven by essential consumer goods in the FMCG industry, Pharma and Food delivery sectors

While growth in the domestic paper and paperboard industry was subdued during the year, cheap imports of paper and paperboard continued to flood the domestic market. Imports from China, ASEAN and South Korea rose sharply by 27% during the year. The current import policy and extant regulations governing commercial and social forestry in the country have put the Indian Paper and Paperboard industry at a significant disadvantage vis-à-vis imports. There is clearly a need to review the current import duty structure and re-examine the existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) as well as the new ones under formulation, towards providing a level playing field to the domestic industry and encouraging commercial farming of wood in India. Legislative changes along with appropriate environmental safeguards need to be implemented to enable private sector participation in commercial forestry on drylands and wastelands.

Report discloses that recent capacity augmentation in the VAP segment at Bhadrachalam mill has been fully absorbed and the line is operating at full capacity, delivering superior quality board which has been well accepted in the market. In line with its pursuit of providing sustainable

packaging, ITC-PSPD introduced recyclable barrier board 'Filo' series – a substitute for single-use plastics in the food service segment. The biodegradable 'Omega Series', launched as an alternative to plastic coated containers and cups is gaining significant customer franchise. ITC-PSPD continues to augment capacity through efficiency improvements of existing machines to support future growth in VAP segment.

#### PULP BUSINESS:

"ITC- PSPD continues to make structural interventions to reduce operating costs and dependence on imported pulp. Significant increase in in-house pulp production was achieved during the year through strategic interventions, Industry 4.0 initiatives and improved wood mix. Capacity utilisation of Bleached Chemical Thermo Mechanical Pulp mill (BCTMP) at the Bhadrachalam unit was further scaled up during the year. Innovations in the pulp mill have resulted in higher pulp production and improvement in pulp quality and yield. Initiatives such as bund plantation and plantation in core catchment area in Odisha (Malkangiri) will help in further reducing delivered cost of wood at the Bhadrachalam mill," report stated.

In line with the objective of enhancing the share of renewable energy in its operations, ITC-PSPD has implemented several initiatives including investments in a green boiler, soda recovery boilers, high pressure & efficiency circulating fluidised bed boiler, solar & wind energy and increased usage of bio-fuel. With these initiatives, renewable

sources presently account for 43% of total energy consumed at the Bhadrachalam, Bollaram, Tribeni and Kovai units. Your Company has embarked upon a pioneering initiative at the Bhadrachalam mill that seeks to replace conventional soda recovery boilers with a state-of-the-art and future-ready high pressure recovery boiler along with pulp capacity augmentation. This intervention will reduce the carbon footprint of operations through lower coal consumption and enable significant value capture in the system by enhancing in-house pulp production. The project is expected to be commissioned by 2022.

#### INDUSTRY 4.0



ITC-PSPD has been practising principles of Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), Lean and Six Sigma for over a decade now and has reaped substantial benefits through its Business Excellence initiative.

Implementation of several Industry 4.0 initiatives is underway focusing on areas such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Analytics. Several projects using Industry 4.0 levers have been successfully completed during the year resulting in significant savings. ITC has launched an Industry 4.0 Centre of Excellence (CoE) to build in-house capability in new technologies.

These interventions will further help in sustaining and enhancing company's competitive advantage.

#### DÉCOR SEGMENT:

Report shows its concern on décor paper import hampering domestic growth, "The recently commissioned Décor Papers machine at the Tribeni unit caters to a diverse range of world-class products and continues to be well accepted by discerning customers. During the year, the décor papers portfolio came under pressure from cheap imports, especially from China. Appropriate policy interventions to encourage higher level of import substitution will help realise the full potential of this sector," report says.

**– The Pulp and Paper Times**

### **West Coast Paper earned INR 276 Cr net profit in FY19-20; Impact of COVID to decline demand by 10-15 percent**

The Paper Industry is cyclical in nature and its performance depends on the global pulp and paper demand supply situation. The domestic paper sector is likely to see marginal improvement in demand from education and corporate sectors, aided by expected higher GDP growth of the Country over a medium to long term period. However the impact of COVID-19 will be felt in the overall working for the year 2020-21.

"COVID-19 has severally disrupted the demand for paper and paper board across all segments since Q4 of 2019-20 and is expected to continue through H1 of 2020-21. For the year as a whole, the demand is expected to contract by 10-15% compared to last year," Said Mr. S.K Bangur, Chairman and Managing Director of West Coast Paper Mills (WCPM) in the company's annual report for FY 19-20.

WCPM is continuously working by phase wise investment at Paper Division, Dandeli for improving paper quality, produce new speciality products and reduction of usage of steam, power, chemical, water and also minimize the breakdown of machines.

Mr. Bangur further stated that import pressures are likely to be continued although US \$ has appreciated against INR by more than 5% and could result in pricing pressures on paper products particularly maplitho segment. However, WCPM has a well diversified product base, which partially insulates it from the imports and cyclicity.

WCPM has developed new product variants like Walk up, Straw Base Straw Fold, Aqua base, Wax cote, Wesco Firma to improvise its product mix and capture new markets.

Further, recent launch of Plastic free coated cup stock paper will open new avenues for the WCPM with tremendous opportunities in the wake of single use plastic ban drive of the Central Government as well as ban by various State Governments. This segment having double digit growth prospect augurs well for increasing the market share in this segment.

WCPM has been investing heavily into modernizing equipment, improving quality, and developing personnel to maintain its position as a global leader. "The Company has fully integrated paper and pulp facility,



right from processing pulp from the woods to using captive power source. This helps the Company manage the cost effectively. The size and scale of the operations gives us an edge in sourcing Raw Materials as well as in transporting finished goods at best possible rates. The scale benefits and improved productivity and efficiency that we have brought in the Company over the last few years has helped us to improve profitability. Also, this year your company significantly brought down its raw material cost by reducing the imports of costlier wooden chips from 43 percent to 17 percent,” Mr. Bangur informed in the report.

With optimum capacity utilization, good demand outlook and progressive shift into environmental friendly and value added products; WCPM is expected to sustain its growth prospects.

WCPM’s Paper Division produces well established brands of commercial and premium grades of paper and boards ranging from 54 to 600 GSM, catered across six different product segments namely writing, printing, business stationary, specialty, industrial and packaging. The Company is constantly focusing on development of products and customer satisfaction.

#### PERFORMANCE:

The performance of the Company during the year under review has been satisfactory. The production & working during this year got impacted due to planned shut of ENMAS Recovery Boiler for 19 days in Oct. Finance Cost was higher due to NCDs /Loan taken for APL acquisition. Due to COVID 19 in March



2020, production of 5924 MT and Sales of 10136 MT got impacted.

Due to COVID 19 full plant was stopped from 26.03.2020. Based on Govt. approval for continuous process plant, plant was restarted on 04.04.2020. Since then plant is running at partial capacity due to low demand. It is expected to improve in Q2 FY 21.

#### DIVISION WISE PERFORMANCE:

##### PAPER AND PAPERBOARD DIVISION, DANDELI

The production of Paper and Paperboard was 313876 MT (98% capacity utilization) during the year against 304957 MT in the last year (95% capacity utilization) i.e., higher by 8919 MT. The sale of Paper and Paperboard was 304762 MT during the year against

301931 MT in the last year i.e., higher by 2831 MT. Turnover during the year was INR 1866 Crores as against INR 1851 Crores in the last year, i.e., higher by INR 15 Crores. The EBITDA margin was 24.56% during the year.

#### Resources Performance:

**Raw material:** The wood consumed per ton of pulp increased from 4.17 T/T in FY 2018-19 to 4.29 T/T in FY 2019-20 due to replacement of use of high yield imported chips with indigenous wood to encourage local farmers.

**Energy:** Total energy consumed per ton of product has reduced from 1286 Kwh/MT in FY 2018-19 to 1277 Kwh/MT in FY 2019-20.

**Water:** Water consumption per ton of product has reduced from 64 M3/MT in FY 2018-19 to 63 M3/MT in 2019-20.

#### Impact on Paper Industry post COVID-19

Noble Corona virus outbreaks have developed across the globe and is causing widespread concerns and hardship for consumers and business alike. With number of COVID-19 rising, the Anxiety levels are also on the rise. The manufacturing sector has been facing quite a few challenges like lower demand and uncertain outlook, the paper manufacturers are a no exceptions to this.

#### Potential negative demand impacts

i) Slowdown in Fast-Moving Consumer Goods - Concerns over the virus will, likely, affect consumer spending patterns, which will cascade across the entire economy. From a pulp and paper perspective, such a trend will most directly impact packaging demand across sectors except for e-commerce.



ii) Reduced Pulp Export leading to Domestic Oversupply- With reduced packaging demands, comes reduced demand for pulp to make those products. China is the key buyer of pulp, paper, wood, and chips. China accounted for one-third of the world's market pulp imports last decade. If China stops importing as much product, countries reliant on exporting goods to China will have to look to domestic markets to mitigate oversupply issues. This is likely to impact the US exporters of Pulp and Paper products as it has been one of the largest exporters to China over the last decade.

Potential positive demand impacts

I Towel and Tissue Consumption Could Increase - Health officials worldwide have stressed the importance of hygiene and disinfecting as efforts to contain COVID-19 intensify. Arguably the simplest measure to avoid spreading the disease – washing your hands – could have the biggest impact for pulp and paper demand with the usage of disposable hand towels increasing multifold.

ii) Increased e-commerce - The public need much more than disinfectant to make it through a potential pandemic, and much of what it needs will be bought online and delivered to homes. And while some governments have mandated people stay in their homes, many will voluntarily shelter themselves and rely on delivery services for food and goods. This creates a need for packaging, which could drive an increase in demand for packaging paper and corrugated materials.

**– The Pulp and Paper Times**

## **Cheema Boilers Ltd**

### **Water Cooled Vibrating Grate Boiler**



With growing consciousness on sustainable development and environmental concerns such as climate change focus for energy production world over has shifted towards renewable energy resources. Traditionally, Boilers use fossil fuels to produce steam and electricity to meet industrial requirements, but the need for alternate energy resources was felt. To fulfil this need, the most viable option was renewable energy resources and more specifically bio-mass. In bio-mass, the selected fuel was the paddy straw which is, in essence, a waste by-product of paddy/rice crop that is abundantly grown across India.

CHEEMA BOILERS LIMITED one of India's Leading Engineering Solutions Company accepted the challenge to design a suitable system to burn this fuel. At first, the following major hurdles were evaluated in using the paddy straw in the Boiler:-

- Logistics – Paddy straw has a high volume to weight ratio and it is not viable to transport it in actual form.
- Low ash sintering temperature – It causes slagging and fouling in Boilers and affects Boiler Run Time and life of Boiler parts.
- High moisture – It affects combustion efficiency. etc.

Paddy straw is, at first, compressed and converted into cubical-shaped blocks/bales at remote locations i.e. in fields for logistics viability and ease of transportation. But, these bales could not be burnt effectively and efficiently in this form. To overcome this challenge, CBL introduced world-class technology and invented a fuel handling system to disintegrate and feed the bales in furnaces and Water Cooled Vibrating Grate (WCVG) for effective burning of fuel.

The WCVG is configured as a fin-type membrane water-wall fitted with air nozzles in the fin area. The primary air is injected through these nozzles with set up of secondary nozzles above the grate to ensure complete combustion. The vibrating grate controlled by an electric motor and eccentric linked driveshaft travel down the fuel crossing four compartments such as feeding zone, heating zone, drying & Burning zone and finally ash zone before falling into a hopper in form of ash.

The boiler is carefully and specifically designed with three pass arrangement and SS 347H grade super-heater to ensure minimum slag deposition and its impact on tubes at higher steam temperature. All other design aspects are widely considered to minimize the fouling of ash in tail auxiliaries without compromising the performance.

Water and air pre-heaters are installed to improve the Boiler efficiency and to minimize the stack losses in terms of heat keeping in consideration the dew point the temperature of gases. At last, ESP/Bag-filters is installed to keep the SPM level within the limit as specified by CPCB.

The heat produces after combustion of fuel can be utilized to generate low, medium or

high-pressure steam in Boiler to meet industry goals.

CBL, with prime expertise, overcame all the hurdles during designing, manufacturing and installation and successfully commissioned 1st unit in Punjab and achieved steam to fuel ratio of 3.8 with thermal efficiency of  $79 \pm 1\%$  on 100% Paddy Straw. The composite %LOI/un-burnt is achieved even less than 02% against 05% in other Boilers available in the market.

CBL is leading the way in disruptive energy transition and this innovation is proof of it. It serves the purpose of supplying steam to the industry on required parameters and is environmentally friendly and safe to operate. It has also an outstanding record of availability at the lowest maintenance cost and its power consumption is also low. The anticipated life of grate is more than 10 years.

#### **Scale of operation**

Currently this unit has been installed and in commercial use for steam and power production in Punjab and another 02 orders for supply of 100% Paddy Straw & other biomass-fired Boilers are under execution in Punjab. Astonishingly, the total paddy straw consumption in all three setups will be 04 Lacs MT annually.

#### **Impact and benefits**

- Paddy straws are in essence waste by-product so it will monetarily be beneficial both for farmers and industry sector.
- Ash of this fuel contains 50-60 % silica content hence can be utilized in the construction sector and  $K_2O$  can be used as manure in the fields.
- Overall reduction in greenhouse gas

generation while comparing to fossil fuels. The generation of greenhouse the gas causes an increase in earth temperature and indirectly contributes to ozone layer depletion.

- The Burning of paddy in the field causes health risk on the local as well as regional-scale due to generation of harmful gases. It has also adverse consequences on the quality of the soil. So, above said practice eliminates the need for burning stubble in the field.

#### **Scalability and adoption of innovation**

System can be upgraded and modified up to the capacity of 200 TPH, 110 Kg/cm<sup>2</sup> (g), 540°C with the infrastructure CBL have. Also apart from bales/paddy straws, the furnace is capable of handling all types of biomass fuels (agro-waste and forest waste) having different moisture and ash fusion temperatures

## NEW TECHNOLOGIES

### Paques Environmental Technology India Pvt. Ltd.

#### Closed Loop Operation with Paques BIOPAQ® ICX in Sunshine Paptech (Sukraft Group), Wada – Maharashtra

Odour control is a major challenge in OCC/Kraft Paper mills. The odour in the paper is caused by uncontrolled Volatile Fatty Acids (VFA) and Sulphides. These two organics and inorganics create a foul smell when they are not under control. Since the wastewater from the OCC mill generally does not go through biological treatment, this leads to ground pollution and poses a major threat to the paper mill because of strict rules of PCB (Pollution Control Board) on water disposal. Therefore, these plants should be operated with ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) to avoid water disposal to the ground.

Sunshine Paptech, of Sukraft Group, is a prominent name in the paper mill industry for supplying High BF quality paper and are the leaders in the segment of high BF Kraft paper of the finest quality. Before the commissioning of BIOPAQ® ICX the paper mill was operating in a closed-loop without COD removal, resulting in the accumulation of COD and VFA in the loop water. Because of this, an odour was present in the paper that was produced from the mill. Since the mill was operating in a closed-loop without any treatment, COD, VFA and calcium concentration increased drastically. VFA in the water is the major reason for abnormal odour in the paper. To control the odour in the end product, Sunshine Paptech decided

to install the Paques BIOPAQ® ICX reactor. Paques supplied BIOPAQ® ICX technology, which is the third generation anaerobic reactor to Sunshine Paptech for handling the nutrient-rich water from the paper mill. The BIOPAQ® ICX reactor is an anaerobic reactor designed to biologically convert organic pollutants (measured as COD) present in the wastewater into biogas.

#### Installing a BIOPAQ® ICX reactor can have the following objectives:

- Reduction of VFA in water loop to make sure odour free paper production.
- Energy production from wastewater in the form of biogas.
- COD removal to comply with effluent standards.
- Pre-treatment before e.g. anaerobic treatment.
- Reduction of the operational costs of an existing treatment plant (e.g. aerobic treatment).

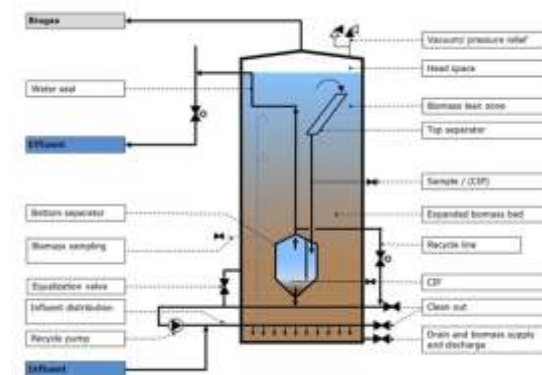
#### Benefits of the closed-loop system with BIOPAQ®:

- The paper mill can produce odour free paper.
- Freshwater consumption is less. We have to add fresh water which is equal to evaporation loss.
- Odour generating elements like VFA and Sulphide will be under control.
- COD in the loop will be maintained consistent concentration (5000 to 5500 mg/l).
- Water loop TDS will come down due to proper treatment.
- Calcium in the water loop will be under control.
- Biogas will be generated in the BIOPAQ® and it can be utilised as energy for boiler/gas engine to

produce steam/power.

Thus, with Paques BIOPAQ® ICX reactor closed-loop in OCC is possible **without installing any tertiary treatment like UF, RO and evaporation** thereby reducing capital and operational expenses. The major problem of water disposal and odour free paper production is not a matter of concern to Sunshine Paptech anymore. With the operation of BIOPAQ® ICX and adequate aerobic system, the COD and VFA in the water loop are well maintained which will make sure that paper production is odour free for the mill. The entire treated water from ETP can meet the paper mill process requirement and it is not necessary to add more freshwater to the system. This will help paper mills to optimise freshwater consumption and the plants which are located in drought areas to achieve their production capacity with available water resources. In closed-loop operation, **freshwater consumption is 1 m<sup>3</sup>/MT of paper produced.**

The Kraft paper (end product) from Sunshine Paptech is also certified as odour free & food grade with closed-loop operation by the renowned testing agency, SGS Laboratories.





## 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



## MEDIA SPEAK



### **Parason Machinery: Embarking upon minimizing the Imports of Paper Machines**

Parason Group is one of the largest manufacturers & suppliers of pulp and paper machinery. Renowned scientist & metallurgist Dr. Desarda is the Founder & Chairman of the Company. Parason started its first research unit for pulp and paper machinery in Year 1977. Parason is focused on Research & Development. Many types of research done by Parason have shown that the latest technology proposed by Parason not only enables Paper Mills to increase its Paper quality but also reduces the huge power consumption of machines which is the key point of profit for the Paper Industry. Parason offered products are widely used by Kraft, Tissue, Writing, Printing, and Hard

Board Paper Mills.

The Pulp and Paper Times touches the base of Parason Machinery and interacts with Mr. Shekhar Desarda of Managing Director about various market trends in paper machinery and opportunities emerging in paper machinery manufacturing. Here are his views:

Q: Recently Parason performed the 'Bhoomi Pujan' for the Paper Machinery Manufacturing unit, Please share your expansion plan? When it will be operational and what will be Parason's USP & Strategy for Paper Machinery manufacturing?

Our main motive behind starting a paper machinery manufacturing was to minimize the imports of paper machines in India. It was to provide excellent quality machines at affordable rates to Indian Paper Mills and to make India self-reliant in the Paper Industry sector.

Q: There has been a lot of suppliers in the Indian Paper Market for paper machinery, how does Parason stand out from other suppliers on quality and trustworthiness parameters?

Parason is known for the values we deliver. Our products speak for themselves. Our consistency towards manufacturing the best in the industry is intact and that makes us stand out from the others.

Q: What opportunities do prompt you to invest in the paper machinery segment?

The response of our clients for our machinery has always made us satisfied and encouraged to do more at the same time. Many of our clients have spelled to us about providing papermaking machines to them

along with the pulp line. Motivation is also a kind of opportunity. We got the motivation and this set us into action.

Q: Parason is a global name in the Pulp mill and Stock preparation machinery section, what parameters and working ethics make you a global supplier?

We as an organization, lead a group of people who work to serve the industry. Our teams are always encouraged to bring out the best in themselves and their colleagues. We are open and honest in the business and we are committed to our values. Everyone in the organization works with rules and regulations and maintains their professional integrity. Our clients always get sound treatment from us both in terms of products and services. I think that makes us a good supplier in the domestic and global market.

Q: 'Research and Development' is a core activity for any machine manufacturing company; How Parason commands this activity to become a trustful supplier? Please explain

Parason was started with a Refiner Plates Unit. Parason is the first in-house research & development center for refiner plates in India. Our engineers with exceptional skills and talent in metallurgy are the pillars of our manufacturing activities. We have come a long way from a small foundry to entering different domains. Our prompt service makes us a trusted supplier.

Q: Any new product you are bringing for the paper industry in the coming future if yes, please explain.

This year, we have introduced the molded fiber products manufacturing line for

industries that are willing to set up a new plant of biodegradable tableware and other molded fiber products with the use of bagasse and recycled paper. And our paper machinery manufacturing plant will be commencing shortly. So these are the new projects that we are focussing on right now.

Q: Return on Investment (ROI) has become an important issue as the paper industry is a capital intensive industry, being a capital equipment supplier, how does Parason ensure Paper Mills that the investment they made is secure.

We rely on the plan. The plan is developed strategically by our management and we abide by it. Deciding the level of the business, putting strong management in the front line, creating an effective business plan, and by correct evaluation, we make sure things will go well.

Q: Why does a Paper mill choose Parason's Machinery keeping in view of 'Productivity and Profitability' utmost priority for them?

The main aim of paper mills is to manufacture good quality paper at less cost. Parason Machinery provides the same. It is not feasible for all the mills to keep investing in machines now and then. Our machines are developed keeping in mind more productivity and profitability at lower maintenance costs.

Q: is Parason looking to invest more in the pulp machinery section in the shape of the acquisition of overseas companies?

Yes. Along with India, we already have our base in Brazil as well. And we are looking forward to expanding on the global canvas.

Q: Please tell us a few names of paper mills where you have supplied the machinery?

Well, that might take a while, but to name a few, it's TNPL, West Coast Paper Mill, Agrimaster(Egypt), Ballarpur Industries, Emami Paper Mills, Kuantum Papers, Diyan Papers, Banwari Paper Mill, Mehali Papers, etc.

– *The Pulp and Paper Times*

### **ABB to Deliver New Automation System for Arctic Paper Grycksbo**

ABB will deliver a new drive and automation system for the winder modernization project at Arctic Paper Grycksbo, Sweden. ABB's Ability 800xA and ACS880 multidrive system is projected to increase winder availability and productivity and ensure compliance with the latest legal requirements for safety. ABB has entered into a contract with Arctic Paper Grycksbo, a leading producer of high-quality graphical fine paper in Europe, to install a new drive and automation system for its Winder 10 at its mill in Grycksbo, Sweden. This is expected to improve the plant's production and availability as well as will meet the latest requirements for safety and machine directive.

The order also includes ABB's patented Winder Performance Optimization package, which will help Arctic Paper Grycksbo achieve higher productivity with its ability to continuously adjust winder acceleration and deceleration targets—removing bottlenecks at the winder. ABB's Ability™ System 800xA



and ACS880 multidrive frequency converters integrated platform includes machine control, slitter positioning, a drive and control system as well as a safety solution for the entire winder, putting ABB in charge of all functions including tuning and optimizing.

The new system will integrate four solutions – winder MCS controls, slitter positioning, safety and drive controls – into one single platform, creating a user-friendly interface that provides all diagnostics in one place, enabling operators to identify and troubleshoot issues more easily. The connection of this centralized data also means that problems can be solved immediately and remotely by ABB's winder drive specialists, without having to wait for them to travel to site.

– *Paper Mart*



## Columbia Pulp resumed operations of its straw pulp mill after one year

Columbia Pulp, headquartered in Dayton, has reopened its Lyons Ferry plant. This comes more than a year after coronavirus concerns forced the plant to shut down in April 2020.

“We’re excited in taking this next step,” Columbia Pulp CEO John Begley stated in a recent news release.

The restart means more than 90 full-time employees will return to work when the plant is fully operational.

Returning employees are expected to make up about 70% the work force as Columbia Pulp begins resuming operations, administrative services manager Eleanor Specht said.

The mill, situated in the state of Washington, produces pulp based on straw and alfalfa. Columbia Pulp produces straw pulp for paper production with a capacity of 140,000 tpy and employs around 100 people at the Lyons Ferry mill. The mill can also make up to 95,000 tpy of lignin and sugar for co-products for road and agricultural uses such as de-icing, dust control, and spray adjuvants.

The Lyons Ferry mill was commissioned in October 2019 following start of construction in 2017.

– **PULPAPERnews.com**

## Smurfit Kappa announces major €24 million investment in France

Smurfit Kappa has announced it will invest €24 million to expand its corrugated plant in Rethel, North-East France, demonstrating the company's continued commitment to its French customer market. The new investment will facilitate the consolidation of two existing facilities at that plant and the installation of a new state-of-the-art corrugator and conversion equipment.

This investment will result in environmental improvements at the plant including a reduction in CO2 emissions, with a saving of at least 150 tonnes annually.

Phase one of the project, including installation of the new corrugator, is due to be completed in the first half of 2022, with full completion of the investment project expected in 2023. The investment will help to modernise and expand the plant, which will include a new 8200m2 building designed specifically for the installation of the new high-tech corrugator.



Commenting on the announcement, Edwin Goffard, COO of Smurfit Kappa Europe – Corrugated and Converting, said: “Smurfit Kappa’s ambition to strengthen its position in France continues with this significant new investment. This investment will allow us to grow further and improve our quality of service to the food and industrial markets that we serve.”

Jean-Christophe Bugeon, CEO of Smurfit Kappa France, said: “This investment will not only expand the capacity at our site, but it will also help us to tackle the ever-growing environmental issues our planet faces by significantly reducing the plant’s carbon footprint.”

– **PULPAPERnews.com**

## Russia may face with new paper shortage due to possible lockdown

Russia may face with a new wave of a sharp growth of prices for paper and products on its basis, due to a significant deterioration of the current situation with COVID-19 in the country, according to recent statements, made by some leading domestic producers and local media reports.

According to analysts, the ever growing number of COVID-19 patients in Russia may lead to only to a significant increase of paper prices in the domestic market, but also its shortage, similar to those, which observed last year, when local consumers bought up the majority of domestic stocks (primarily of toilet paper) amid the fears of possible lockdowns.

# 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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## SOME LEADING COMPANIES AT THE EVENT

### Cheema Boilers Ltd



Cheema Boilers Limited is one of India's premier engineering solutions company serving industry's energy

requirements. CBL has been manufacturing boilers and allied products for the last two decades and has earned recognition as a research driven organization that sets benchmarks for innovative technologies. CBL's customer centric business practices uncompromising quality approach and continuous thrust on technological up-gradations are the key factors contributing to its multi-fold growth.

### Business Overview

Cheema Boilers Limited builds high capacity boilers for steam-generation power generation & process heating and provides turnkey integrated power plant solutions. Besides there are packaged boilers designed, manufactured and tested at CBL's facilities located near Chandigarh in the northern part of India. In addition CBL also offers support services for existing boilers and process furnaces.

Cheema Boilers Limited operates with a large sales and service network covering entire India & many other global locations. CBL's successful track-record of path-breaking engineering efficient project management in-house construction and commissioning expertise and its state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities enable the company

to provide products that reflect its many years of quality craftsmanship and innovation.





## SOME GLOBAL LEADERS OF PAPER INDUSTRY



## SOME GLOBAL LEADERS FOR PAPER INDUSTRY



...and many more

## SOME LEADING EXHIBITORS



...and many more

# Thank You

**COMBATING**  
**COVID-19**

Basic  
Protective  
Measures



USE FACE MASK



CLEAN AND DISINFECT



WASH YOUR HANDS  
FREQUENTLY



KEEP DISTANCE  
FROM OTHERS



AVOID TOUCHING  
EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH



STAY AT HOME  
WHEN YOU ARE SICK