

*News and Views...*

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## INDUSTRY NEWS



### Third phase of vaccination for citizens above 50 years of age likely to begin in March: Harsh Vardhan

The third phase of vaccination against Covid 19, targeted for citizens who are above the age of 50, is likely to begin in March, health minister Harsh Vardhan said in Lok Sabha on Friday.

Vardhan was replying to a bunch of questions on Covid-19 vaccination during question hour that lasted barely 15 minutes since the house opened at 4pm, with the opposition members protesting against the contentious farm laws.

To a specific question from BJP MP from Kaushambi, Vinod Sonkar, on when the third phase of vaccination for the 50 plus population is likely to begin, the minister said that "the date is not yet finalized but it is likely to begin anytime from second week of March onwards"

He informed the house that the vaccination process for the third phase could start from the first, second, third or fourth week of March.

The Minister also said that so far 22 countries have asked India for the vaccine to be provided. "Of them the government has already provided 15 countries with the vaccine either as aid or through an agreement. Till February 1, 56 lakh doses of grant assistance and 105 lakh doses on contract basis have been sent to these countries from India," he said.

The government had announced on Thursday that preparations to start inoculating elderly people is likely to begin as soon as vaccine supplies have started improving. "Vaccination of frontline workers have started from February 3. Once this stabilises, people over 50 years will be immunized very soon in near future" health secretary Rajesh Bhushan had said.

"Within that group, there is a sub-group of people over 60," he added, indicating that priority may be given to those above 60 years. So far, 44.49 lakh beneficiaries have been vaccinated against Covid-19.

The government plans to vaccinate around three crore health and frontline workers by April, followed by the priority population group of those above 50 years age and those younger but with severe co-morbidities.

However, with adequate supplies of vaccines, it is possible that multiple priority groups may be covered simultaneously.

### India is set to become a vital Covid vaccine maker – perhaps second only to the U.S.

India could become the world's second largest Covid vaccine maker, and analysts say the country has the capacity to produce for both its own population and other developing countries.

Most of the world's vaccines have historically come from India. Even before Covid-19, the South Asian country produced up to about 60% of the world's vaccines – and can do so at a relatively low cost.

"India has been a manufacturing hub for vaccines ... even before the pandemic, and should therefore be a strategic partner in the global inoculation against COVID-19," JPMorgan analysts wrote in a report last month.

Consulting firm Deloitte predicts that India will be second only to the U.S. in terms of coronavirus vaccine production this year. PS Easwaran, a partner at Deloitte India, said more than 3.5 billion Covid vaccines could be made in the country in 2021, compared to around 4 billion in the U.S.

Furthermore, companies in India are currently scaling up production to meet demand.

"We are expanding our annualized capacities to deliver 700 million doses of our intramuscular COVAXIN," said Indian firm Bharat Biotech, which developed a Covid vaccine together with the state-run Indian Council of Medical Research.

Covaxin has been approved for emergency use in India, but has been mired in

controversy due to criticism that there was a lack of transparency in its approval, and also because it hasn't published enough efficacy data.

Another vaccine — known as Covishield in India and co-developed by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford — has also been granted emergency approval in India. It is being produced locally by the Serum Institute of India (SII).

According to Reuters, SII makes around 50 million doses of Covishield every month, and plans to increase production to 100 million doses a month by March.

Other Indian companies have agreed to produce vaccines for developers such as the Russian Direct Investment Fund and U.S. firm Johnson & Johnson. To be clear, these vaccine candidates have not been approved for use yet.

“Even without successful vaccine development from their own pipelines, available capacity provides opportunity to partner as contract manufacturers with approved vaccine developers to meet supply needs particularly for India and other [emerging markets],” the JPMorgan report said.

India's vaccines will likely be more suitable for developing countries, said K Srinath Reddy, president of the Public Health Foundation of India.

Some of the leading vaccines right now, such as the ones from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, make use of messenger RNA technology (mRNA) which uses genetic material to trigger the body's own infection-fighting process.

Those vaccines require “stringent cold chain requirements” that will be difficult, or even “out of the realm of possibility,” for most health systems, Reddy said.

Vaccines made in India are easier to transport and cheaper, putting the country in a better position than the U.S. and Europe when it comes to meeting demand in the developing world, he added.

India's ‘proven record’

India's huge production capacity also gives analysts confidence that the country can provide vaccines to other nations.

New Delhi has pledged to send vaccines to its neighboring countries, and has already supplied 15.6 million doses to 17 countries, according to Reuters.

“India's manufacturing capabilities are sufficient to meet domestic demand,” said Nissy Solomon, a senior research associate at Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR).

“With a proven track record on the scale at which vaccines are produced, India should be able to ramp up production to meet international demand as well,” she told CNBC.

Solomon added that the country monitors domestic needs before making decisions on exports.

Bharat Biotech, for its part, said it is “fully prepared to meet the needs of India and global public health.”

Challenge of storing, distributing vaccines

However, there will be challenges as the country seeks to meet the vaccine demand in India and beyond.

Jefferies equity analyst, Abhishek Sharma, wrote in a note that the rollout of vaccines in



India has been slow. Even under the assumption that the speed of vaccinations will increase, Sharma estimates that only 22% of India's 1.38 billion population can be vaccinated in a year.

That's roughly the number of people India wants to inoculate by July or August.

“The supply of vaccines is not as much a problem as that of storage, distribution and vaccine uptake,” said CPPR's Solomon.

“India lacks the capacity to store and distribute to the masses at a scale as big as this,” she said, adding that the country should “strategically” choose vaccines that do not have to be stored at extreme temperatures. – CNBC

Wood counted the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest producer of vaccines, as an ace up the country's sleeve because “it's not going to have to rely upon foreign-

manufactured shots, which is a major asset and differentiates India from economies around the world."

This would be a critical component of sustaining India's economic recovery over the medium term as keeping up growth rates would be tricky, he said.

Fiscal deficit

Wood said S&P will be closely watching India's medium-term growth with regard to the country's sovereign rating, currently at BBB- with a stable outlook.

"Higher growth rates over the next few years are going to be critical to maintain and finance the government's higher fiscal deficits and debt stock," he said.

S&P has pegged India's combined Centre and state fiscal deficit at 14.5% of GDP – which is expected to drop to 11.6% in FY22 and further to below 10% in FY23.

"This is gradual and relatively slow fiscal consolidation, given how high that fiscal deficit is," Wood said, adding that S&P would be more concerned over the country's finances if the deficit remained in double-digits over the medium term.

– *The Economic Times*



## Latest Covid rules for travellers to India: All you need to know

On Wednesday, authorities in India announced a slew of fresh standard operating procedures for international travellers to the country.

The move has been undertaken due to "increasing evidence that the mutant variant of Sars-CoV-2 is in circulation in many countries" and because these mutant variations are "driving the pandemic in their country of origin".

The new procedures will go into effect from February 22 at 23.59 hours IST. Here's all you need to know.

Documents required prior to travel

All travellers should submit:

- A self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal ([www.newdelhiaairport.in](http://www.newdelhiaairport.in))
- A negative Covid-19 RT-PCR test report with a validity of 72 hours
- Declaration of the authenticity of the report and liability for criminal prosecution if found otherwise
- Undertaking to abide by home quarantine rules or self-monitoring for 14 days, as per government protocol
- Exemptions for PCR test

Those travelling to India in the event of the death of a family member will be allowed to skip the requirement for a negative PCR test result.

However, they will need to apply to the Air Suvidha portal at least 72 hours before boarding and wait for approval, the decision of which will be final.

Pre-boarding travel advice

- Only passengers who have filled out the

self declaration form on the Air Suvidha portal and uploaded the negative PCR test result will be permitted to travel.

- Passengers will need to undergo thermal screening before boarding.
- Those displaying symptoms of Covid-19 will not be permitted to board.
- Passengers are advised to download the Aarogya Setu app for ease of travel.
- Passengers who intend to take connecting flights from the arrival airport to other destinations in India must allow a transit time of 6-8 hours when booking connecting flights.

On arrival procedures

- Passengers are advised to maintain physical distancing while deboarding.
- Those found to be symptomatic during thermal screening will be immediately isolated and taken to a medical facility, as per health protocols.
- Passengers will be required to provide a sample for testing before leaving the airport or taking transit flights, with priority given to those who were exempted from providing a negative PCR test result before departure.

Regulations for international arrivals from flights originating in Middle East, UK and Europe

Passengers in this category will need to adhere to the aforementioned rules, in addition to the following:

- Provide travel history of the past 14 days in self-declaration form, as well as state whether they plan to disembark at the arrival airport or take further flights to

- reach their final destination in India.
- Comply with directions by airline staff who will segregate them in-flight or while disembarking, if they've arrived from, or have transited through, United Kingdom, Brazil or South Africa in the last 14 days.
  - Undergo a mandatory self-paid confirmatory molecular test on arrival in India.

For transiting and non-transiting arrivals from countries other than UK, Brazil and South Africa:

- Passengers will need to give a sample for testing at the designated area before exiting.
- If negative, they will need to monitor their health for seven days. They will need to report to a medical facility if symptoms occur.
- If positive, they will need to follow treatment as per the health protocol.

In case of contact with Covid-positive travellers

Contacts of Covid-positive cases are those co-passengers seated in the same row, three rows in front, and three rows behind.

If the contact is with a positive case travelling from UK, Brazil or South Africa, passengers will need to go into separate institutional quarantine and test on the 7th day.

- If the contact is with a positive case from countries other than those mentioned above, passengers can quarantine at home for 7 days before testing.
- All community contacts of those travellers who have tested positive (during

home quarantine period) will also be subjected to institutional quarantine in separate quarantine centres for 14 days and tested as per protocol.

- **Khaleej Times**



## Interim data suggests India's Covid-19 vaccines effective against new variants, says ICMR

- Bhargava said that the third clinical trial of Covaxin BB152 had been completed as all the 25,800 volunteers involved in the exercise had been administered both doses
- The ICMR had on Tuesday announced that India has detected four cases of the South African variant so far

Interim results of the ongoing clinical trial indicate that the indigenous Covid-19 vaccines would be effective against the mutated virus strains reported from the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil, said the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Thursday.

"The interim analysis report should be out in a week," said ICMR director-general Dr Balram Bhargava while addressing an international webinar "Kerala Health: Making the SDG A Reality," organised by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala.

Bhargava said that the third clinical trial of Covaxin BB152 had been completed as all the 25,800 volunteers involved in the exercise had been administered both doses. He also stated that a paper on Covaxin's neutralisation potential against the UK strain has been accepted for publication. In the case of the variants from South Africa and Brazil, efforts were on to isolate the mutated virus strains from the samples collected from travellers from these two countries, he said.

Bhargava pointed out that India was the fifth country in the world to isolate the Covid-19 virus as part of the efforts to develop a vaccine for the pandemic.

"India had from the outset resisted the temptation of going for herd immunity unlike many European countries, including the UK and Italy, and its decision had been vindicated from what happened in the western nations that allowed the pandemic to spread," he said.

The ICMR had on Tuesday announced that the South African variant of coronavirus circulating in more than 44 countries has entered India with four people having been detected with the strain.

India has also reported one case of the Brazilian strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

"The strain has multiple mutations, including in the receptor-binding domain of the spike protein allowing the virus to easily enter the lung cells of the human body. The majority of the cases in South Africa are due to the variant strain and it has spread to 44 countries," Bhargava had said.

New guidelines in view of variants

Ministry of Civil Aviation has announced updated guidelines for the international passengers coming to India in view of the rising cases of the mutant strain.

All international fliers except the ones coming on flights originating from the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East will have to submit a self-declaration form on the Air Suvidha portal before their scheduled travel.

- *Mint*

## India to be among fastest-growing emerging markets in FY22: S&P

India is likely to be among the fastest-growing emerging markets this year, Standard & Poor's predicted, even as the US rating company said new variants of the Covid-19 virus could lead to a much larger second wave and pose a risk to economic recovery.

The steep contraction in the current financial year will be followed by a bounce back to 10% growth in FY22, putting India among the fastest-growing economies in 2021, said Andrew Wood, S&P director of sovereign and international public finance ratings.

"We see the Indian economy growing at 6% over the medium term, may be slightly higher, and that compares very well to emerging markets all around," he said at a webinar on S&P's India 2021 Outlook on Wednesday.

A much larger second wave that could emanate from the new strains of the Covid-19 virus would be a major risk to India's economy, based on the significant impact similar events have had on the recovery paths of other countries, Wood said.

"We are also watching India's vaccination campaign very closely to see how well India can mitigate the lurking risks associated with the pandemic as well as new, more transmissible and potentially resistant strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus," Wood said.

S&P expects India to vaccinate a significant portion of its population only by the end of

2022, against about 9 million currently, which represents less than 1% of the population.

Wood counted the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest producer of vaccines, as an ace up the country's sleeve because "it's not going to have to rely upon foreign-manufactured shots, which is a major asset and differentiates India from economies around the world."

This would be a critical component of sustaining India's economic recovery over the medium term as keeping up growth rates would be tricky, he said.

### Fiscal deficit

Wood said S&P will be closely watching India's medium-term growth with regard to the country's sovereign rating, currently at BBB- with a stable outlook.

"Higher growth rates over the next few years are going to be critical to maintain and finance the government's higher fiscal deficits and debt stock," he said.

S&P has pegged India's combined Centre and state fiscal deficit at 14.5% of GDP – which is expected to drop to 11.6% in FY22 and further to below 10% in FY23.

"This is gradual and relatively slow fiscal consolidation, given how high that fiscal deficit is," Wood said, adding that S&P would be more concerned over the country's finances if the deficit remained in double-digits over the medium term.

- *The Economic Times*

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This program 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



### Union Budget 2021: Pulp and Paper Industry Views

*Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her third Budget – Union Budget 2021. Key industry leaders share their view and feedback. Here is a compilation.*

**Mr. P.S. Patwari, Executive Director & CEO, Emami Paper Mills Ltd.**

The Union Budget 2021 clearly signals a move to return India to a higher growth trajectory after the record contraction caused by the pandemic.

The announcements about infrastructure spending, health and wellbeing of the people and strengthening of the financial sector have clearly shown this intent. The pattern of

reforms is focused on boosting growth and removing bottlenecks across the industries. It will protect purchasing power, create more jobs and encourage demand.

Paper and paper board is a core industry that plays a vital role in the economic growth of our country. The industry is expected to grow in the range of 12-15% in the coming year due to increased economic activities. Infrastructure spending and rural growth being the focus areas of this budget – all industries like FMCG, pharma, health and hygiene are expected to grow significantly. Subsequently, more than 75% of the paper and paper board industry producing packaging paper and board is also expected to witness a high growth opportunity. Consumer awareness concerning eco-friendliness, sustainability, replacement of plastic, rise of e-commerce and growth in retail are again big boosters for the demand of packaging paper and paper board. Indian paper mills are investing and would be required to invest more in the capacity building and technology upgradation of their facilities to address the demand growth.

**Mr. Pawan Agarwal, Managing Director, Naini Group of Industries**

The Union Budget 2021 is a path breaking budget in the sense that it has done away with the old custom of Finance Ministers getting overawed by the pressure of controlling fiscal deficit. Instead, it focuses purely on growth, thereby stimulating demand. The growth is expected due to considerable budget outlay in the areas of infrastructure, health, education, agriculture and defence. This is



the most prudent path for a developing economy like India. It will certainly drive various sectors of economy along with pushing the case for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The creation of separate legal entity for handling bad debts of the banks is also a welcome step. The banks can now focus on supporting creation of quality assets without taking the stress for bad assets. Further, the enormous increase in expenditure has not been planned to be met by putting new taxes, as was the fear. The current level of taxes is already the lowest in the world and it will surely give suitable disposable income at the hands of both the individuals and the corporates. The budget has shown the right path, and the share market has already given a standing ovation. Now, it is up to the industry to sit up and start planning to reap benefits as this decade has taken a turn around the corner with this reformist budget.

– Paper Mart

## Paper industry likely to witness uptick in demand

The Indian paper industry, which was one of the worst hit in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, has been witnessing signs of revival on a month-on-month basis. Apart from a recovery in demand the industry is also likely to see some price correction happening moving forward.

According to Harsh Pati Singhania, Vice Chairman and MD, JK Paper and President, AIMA, while the demand for paper was impacted during the lockdown with most schools, colleges and other educational institutes closed; there was traction in demand for packaging boards.

“Paper industry was one of the most affected (during the pandemic) as educational institutes including schools, colleges and other institutions were shut down. Education is one of the big drivers for the paper industry in India. But now as we move along educational institutes, particularly in some region, have been allowed to open and may be by next session others should also open so the worst should be over and quarter-on-quarter or month-on-month we are seeing an uptick,” Singhania told BusinessLine.

The increased reliance of people on packaged goods and products during the lockdown gave a fillip to the packaging board business. This apart, the global trend supporting biodegradable and sustainable packaging has also augured well for the industry.

JK Paper has been able to operate its plants at more than 100 per cent capacity utilisation and has also been selling large volumes both in export and domestic markets across categories.

“On a quarter-on-quarter basis we have been improving and with demand revival and price improvement we would expect our performance to be better,” he said.

The company’s ongoing Rs 2,000 crore expansion project for increasing the packaging board capacity at the plant in Gujarat is likely to come onstream by the middle of this calendar year. It had also acquired debt-ridden Sirpur Paper Mills through the IBC process and that company is also now on the revival mode.

These major growth initiatives which are underway will lead to growth as long as JK Paper is concerned, he said.

### Price correction

Due to the shutdown, the prices of finished goods declined in India and in some categories it reduced substantially. Though there has been an upward revision in prices in the last few months, however, it is not back to pre pandemic levels. The industry is however doing better and should improve moving forward.

Prices had gone down by nearly 15 per cent during the lockdown and from there it has seen an uptick by around four-to-five per cent in the last few months. Though they have still not reached the pre-pandemic levels, however, it is expected that prices would improve moving forward.

“Global pulp prices have gone up a lot in the

recent months and that will have a bearing on paper prices. So there is a need and requirement to take price correction in the next one or two quarters given the pulp prices where they are now,” he said.

– **The Hindu Business Line**





### Coca-Cola to Begin Testing its First Paper Bottle

Coca-Cola will start the trial of its paper bottle as part of a longer-term bid to eliminate plastic from its packaging entirely. After several years of development, Coca-Cola will now test the bottle on one of its 500 brands—a drink called Adez sold in Hungary. Earlier in 2020, Coca-Cola partnered with the Danish company — Paboco (“Paper Bottle Company”) to manufacture a 100% paper-based bottle. However, the prototype is

made from an extra-strong paper shell that still contains a thin plastic liner.

The bottle is formed out of a single sheet of paper fiber to help make it strong enough to withstand the pressure of the bottling process, with the label printed directly on the bottle itself. The first version in the pilot has a thin plastic liner to keep the paper dry, but eventually, the bottle will use a liner made from a plant-based material; the cap can be made from paper. The material avoids the carbon footprint of manufacturing plastic from fossil fuels, and the final product will be fully recyclable. But the goal is to create a 100% recyclable, plastic-free bottle capable of preventing gas escaping from carbonated drinks.

The challenge — barrier must also ensure no fibres flake off into the liquid. This would pose a risk of altering the taste of the drink, or potentially fall foul of health and safety checks.

– *Papnews*

### Graphic Packaging International Launches Paperboard Innovation ProducePack

Graphic Packaging International has announced the launch of ProducePack, a sustainable paperboard packaging range of solutions for fresh produce. Aligned with Graphic Packaging’s Vision 2025 to be better stewards for the environment, the innovative carton offers brands and retailers an eco-friendly solution for a variety of applications with an artisan look that protects, preserves and presents fresh produce, from field to store.

ProducePack, available in multiple different configurations and structures, can offer comfortable carrying handles, beautiful branding and product differentiation in the otherwise monotonous produce aisle. Additionally, ProducePack offers another level of hygiene protection as the produce is prepacked and can reduce excessive handling in store.

The fully scalable ProducePack range is designed to support brands and retailers around the world on their journey to plastic reduction and replacement. The patented intelligent design enables easy stacking through reinforced corners with visually stunning shelf appeal that grabs the eye of the consumer. The innovative carton range can be hand- or machine-packed for small scale or mass production and is available now in the United States and Europe.

– *Paper Mart*



## ABB Delivers First-of-its-Kind Winder Safety System for New Zealand Paper Mill

Oji Fibre Solutions, a leading producer of market pulp, paperboard and fiber-based packaging, has appointed ABB to supply a specially-designed winder safety system – the first of its kind in New Zealand – as well as a winder drive control system and DCS880 drives. With the mill's existing winder equipment installed more than 30 years ago, the upgrade will help Oji Fibre ensure safe and efficient future operations, in line with recently updated safety requirements\*.

The new system features a range of winder safety improvement steps and devices including mechanical guarding (perimeter personnel access control via a retractable fence that keeps operators away from the danger zone), electrical controls (power interlocks), hydraulic controls (with redundancy), optical (safety light curtains) and safe speed monitoring. The creation of safety zones allows operation in one zone to continue when another zone is infringed, improving uptime at the mill.

The automation of manual tasks – such as hands-free threading, set change with automatic sheet cut off, automatic gluing or auto-measuring slitters – also reduces the risk of injury and failure by eliminating hands-on tasks. All of these automatic upgrades both increase winder throughput and remove the operator from exposure to potential hazards. The improved features are all supported by a new operator control panel with safety programmable logic controller

(PLC) and new human-machine interface (HMI).

Penrose Mill, which has an annual output of more than 85,000 tons of containerboard liner uses recycled sources collected by Oji Fibre's Fullcircle recycling service. Finished products are supplied mainly to the New Zealand, Australian and Asian markets.

"Our focus was to supply the equipment while simultaneously designing a safety system that would allow Oji Fibre to operate effectively to safely meet its customer requirements," said Shane Archer, Local Division Manager, Process Industries, ABB New Zealand.

"These measures also had to be benchmarked against national and international standards. We are proud to have redesigned and rebuilt Oji Fibre's safety system in line with New Zealand's latest requirements, making operations safer, more intelligent and more productive."

The investment with ABB will further future-proof the Oji Fibre site, which has taken steps to diversify its packaging portfolio in recent years. ABB will also complete all factory acceptance tests and commissioning remotely.

- Papnews



## Subdued demand partly offset by growth in exports; reports INR 285 Cr. Profit Before Tax in Q3



ITC's Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division (ITC-PSPD), is amongst the leading names in the business worldwide. ITC-PSPD recorded INR 285 cr. profit before tax in Q3 of FY 20-21, which is 14.6 percent low to previous year Q3's PBT, stood at INR 334 cr. In a media statement, ITC PSPD says that Subdued demand in Domestic market partly offset by robust growth in Exports. Liquor, Publications & Paper and Wedding Cards remain subdued. Softer realisations weighed on Revenue growth.

"Paperboards and Specialty Papers business recorded strong recovery in volumes with exports continuing to grow at a rapid pace. Consumer offtake continued to improve across most major end user segments in paperboards barring publication, notebooks and wedding cards. Specialty papers witnessed strong growth driven by pharma and décor segments," the statement said.

Covid pandemic didn't create any hurdle in ITC-PSPD's project related to operational efficiencies, paper machine rebuild project at Bhadrachalam and pressure recovery boiler

project on schedule high despite Covid disruptions – pulp mill capacity expansion (import substitution), reduced Carbon footprint and operational efficiencies ITC-PSPD continues to focus on developing sustainable paperboard and packaging solutions for end-customers leveraging the Company's state-of-the-art Life Sciences and Technology Centre. The recyclable barrier board 'Filo' series and biodegradable 'Omega Series' continue to gain robust customer franchise. Further, ITC-PSPD has also developed antiviral paper for applications in pharma and education & stationery businesses which is in the process of commercialisation. Similarly, the Packaging Business has developed unique and novel solutions including Bio-seal (bio-degradable packaging solution for QSR, personal care and packaged foods industries) and Oxyblock (a recyclable packaging solution with enhanced barrier properties) which are under various stages of commercialisation.

ITC takes great pride in servicing a large cross-section of industry requirements - from cigarette papers and Components to FMCG cartons, from electrical insulation papers to Bio-based Barrier Coated Board, from decorative laminate base to writing and printing papers and much more. ITC straddles the entire spectrum of paperboards - from 100% virgin, food-grade boards which are made from renewable and sustainable sources to 100% recycled boards.

**– The Pulp and Paper Times**



### **International Paper to Sell Kwidzyn Pulp and Paper Mill to Mayr Melnhof for EUR 670 Million**

International Paper has entered into an agreement to sell the Kwidzyn pulp and paper mill and supporting operations to Mayr-Melnhof Karton AG for EUR 670 million (approximately USD 812 million) in cash, subject to closing adjustments for net debt and net working capital.

The Kwidzyn mill employs approximately 2,300 people and has the annual capacity to produce 740,000 metric tons of folding boxboard, uncoated freesheet, specialty kraft papers, and market pulp on four machines.

Mayr-Melnhof explained that the acquisition of Kwidzyn forms part of its strategy to grow in high quality virgin fiber based cartonboard with innovative, sustainable and cost effective FBB (Folding Boxboard) grades.

The Kwidzyn mill is an integrated production facility. Its pulp mill has an annual capacity to produce about 400,000 tons, and the paper mill operates four paper machines that produce cartonboard. The flagship machine produces FBB with the capacity to produce 260,000 tons per year.

According to Mayr-Melnhof, the Kwidzyn mill recently entered the MF (machine finished) kraft paper segment through the conversion of one of its paper machines to serve the growing demand for flexible fiber-based packaging products. Production of this machine is increasing up to an annual capacity of 75,000 tons.

In addition, Kwidzyn operates two copy paper machines that produce UWF (uncoated woodfree) grades with an annual total capacity of 410,000 tons.

**– Paper Mart**





## Chinese paper industry posted an increase of profits in 2020

The Chinese paper industry posted an increase of profits in 2020, according to a recent report, published by Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and reports of some local media.

According to data of the Ministry, profits of the domestic papermaking sector last year amounted to 82.67 billion yuan (about US\$12.84 billion), which became by almost 21.2% higher than in 2019. At the same time revenue of the industry fell by 2.2% to 1.3 trillion yuan.

Despite the pandemic, paper and cardboard production in China demonstrated a significant growth in 2020, which, according to the majority of local analysts may continue this year.

It is planned, the growth of the industry will continue despite the plans of the Chinese government to significantly tighten ecology requirements for pulp and paper production in China this year.

– **PULPAPERnews.com**

## China imports almost 7 million t of recovered paper in 2020

China's recovered paper imports have been shrinking year after year since the country announced a ban on recovered paper imports from 2021. But Chinese paper mills have found ways to deal with this new situation.

Chinese paper mills went on one last buying spree for recovered paper in Europe just before the country's ban on importing solid waste took effect. Statistics from China Customs indicate that the highest amount of recovered paper all year was imported in December 2020. A total of 1.1 million t of recovered paper had been shipped to People's Republic in the final month of last year. By comparison, the monthly average for the period from January to November 2020 stood at just 584,000 t.

China has not accepted solid waste from other countries since 1 January 2021. The government unveiled this ban, which seeks to promote and propel collection within China's borders, back in 2017, with imports falling year after year since then. The year before the import ban took effect, 2020, was no exception. Chinese buyers purchased approximately 6.9 million t of recovered paper abroad last year, down from 10.9 million t in 2019, 17 million t in 2018 and 26 million t in 2017.

Imports of recycled pulp as an alternative Industry insiders have been looking for alternatives around the globe since it became known that China would stop importing recovered paper. Suppliers have found

alternative buyer in other Asian countries such as Indonesia, India or Malaysia. Chinese paper mills, for their part, started to establish pillars in other countries in order to perform the first stages of production there.

In this context, Chinese paper makers have been increasingly importing recycled pulp as an alternative, i.e. recovered paper that has already been processed for paper production, as this material can still be imported. They either buy it abroad or build facilities to make it on their own.

The USA, for example, has shipped 289,000 t of recycled pulp to China last year, which was 33.6 per cent more than in 2019, according to statistics from the American Forest & Paper Association.

– **Euwid Paper**





## Russian pulp and paper sector shows stable growth rates despite pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has not had a major negative effect on the Russian pulp and paper sector, which continues its active development this year.

This is reflected by maintaining stable demand for both pulp and paper in the domestic market, which compensated the reduction of exports this year.

In the meantime, the increase of the demand for packaging and sanitary and hygienic products (such as toilet paper) in Russia during the period of March-May supported sales of domestic pulp and paper producers in 2020.

Last year the production of the majority of packaging materials in Russia significantly increased: kraft liner - by 26.6%, fluting - by 10.9, corrugated board - by 3.2%.

The situation with exports generally stabilized in the second half of 2020

Overall, exports of kraft paper and kraft cardboard in Russia last year grew by almost 40%, while the supplies of reclaimed cardboard by more than 1.5 times, compared to 2019.

According to Yuri Lakhtikov, President of RAO Bumprom, a public association in Russia, which unites leading local paper and cardboard producers, Russian producers have proved to be competitive in the world market both in terms of prices and quality.

One of the reasons for this is high quality virgin fiber, which is used for the production of kraft paper in Russia. Moreover, according to Lakhtikov, Russia currently produces high-quality waste paper, which does not go through a lot of stages of processing.

– **PULPAPERnews.com**

## Metsä Group to grow in pulp and kraftliner

New Kemi softwood and hardwood pulp mill is to be built at a cost of €1.6bn.

Metsä Fibre, part of Metsä group, has made the final investment decision to build a new bioproducts mill in Kemi, Finland. The company puts the value of the investment at €1.6bn.

The new pulp mill is geared for a production capacity of 1.5 million tpy of softwood and hardwood pulp, and will be ready for start-up in the third quarter of 2023, according to Metsä group.

The new facility will replace the current pulp mill in Kemi which has an installed capacity of 620,000 tpy. Wood consumption is said to increase by 4.5 million cubic metres to 7.6 million m<sup>3</sup> of pulpwood per year.

Metsä Board invests for increasing kraftliner demand

Metsä group's subsidiary Metsä Board is also active at the Kemi site, running kraftliner operations with an installed capacity of 425,000 tpy of coated and uncoated white-top kraftliner

Now, enabled by Metsä Fibre's new bioproduct mill investment, the company launched a development programme for its white-top kraftliner mill in Kemi, the company said.

Under the €67m investment programme, Metsä Board will upgrade the kraftliner machine at Kemi to capacity by 40,000 tpy. In addition, it will purchase a 180,000 tpy unbleached pulp production line from Metsä Fibre in 2023.

– **Euwid Paper**



## **TNPL reports INR 31 Cr. loss due to weak demand in Q3; paper production dip**

The writing and Printing paper segment of Indian paper industry, which was one of the worst hit in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, is still to witness signs of revival on a month-on-month basis.

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL), an enterprise promoted by Government of Tamil Nadu, has been hit badly due to weak demand of W & P paper. TNPL reported Loss after Tax for the quarter ended 31st December, 2020 is Rs.31.60 Cr against the profit of Rs.29.51 Cr in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

“However, the actual impact of global health pandemic may be different from which has been estimated as on the date of approval of results and the company will continue to closely monitor any material changes to the future conditions,” said S. Sivashanmugaraja, Managing Director at TNPL in a statement.

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd reported total revenue of Rs.588.40 Cr including Exceptional Income of Rs.18.65 Cr for the quarter ended 31st December, 2020 against Rs.850.10 Cr in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The significant drop in revenue is due to impact of Covid-19 pandemic in the quarter ended 31st December 2020.

Paper production during the quarter ended 31st December, 2020 is 75005 MT against 114076 MT in the corresponding quarter of the previous year and Packaging Board

production is 47259 MT against 45235 MT in the corresponding quarter of previous year. Loss before tax for the quarter ended 31st December 2020 is Rs.48.42 Cr against the profit of Rs.40.95 Cr in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Total revenue for the Nine-months ended 31st December, 2020 is Rs.1696.73 Cr including Exceptional Income of Rs.18.65 Cr, against Rs.2594.62 Cr in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Loss before tax for the Nine-months ended 31st December, 2020 is Rs.93.69 Cr against the profit of Rs.188.65 Cr in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Loss after Tax for the Nine-months ended 31st December, 2020 is Rs.61.18 Cr against the profit of Rs.128.18 Cr in the corresponding period of the previous year. The company has provided Rs.175.25 Cr for depreciation & amortization and Rs. 148.54 Cr for finance charges for the Nine-months ended 31st December, 2020.

**– The Pulp and Paper Times**



## NEW TECHNOLOGIES

### BTG Instruments. A Voith Company

- Pulp 4.0 Talk to our experts for pulping solutions
  - MACS Cook
  - MACS Wash
  - MACS Bleach
  - MACS Lime Kiln
- MACSash a sustainable solution to your Fibre substitution and filler addition
- CONTROL Suite – A software that confirms your process control equipment performance and ensure reliable control.
- Vigilance Pro - A monitoring tool for tissue machine which provides the vibration and blade life analysis to the creeping/tissue blade.
- Smart Monitoring (bCONNECT)- Remote monitoring of BTG inline equipment's at site. This will ensure reliable measurement and instrument uptime to the process control supported by BTG expertise.
- SufMAX a Coating solutions programs involving process audit to the packaging grade paper where in our experts can review the process and will suggest improving the product quality.

### Ambani Paper

We are excited to announce that, due to our remarkable growth over the last 38 years, we are expanding!

Yes, we are coming with a new product UNCOATED & COATED DUPLEX PAPER BOARD which comes with Greyback and Whiteback coating as per the customer requirements.

Our AMBANI group of companies includes 8 Manufacturing plants across Morbi (Gujarat) India, equipped with the most advanced manufacturing technology from Germany, Korea, Taiwan & China. Our organization is devoted to the establishment of state-of-the-art infrastructure, that is well-equipped with all the necessary and advanced machinery.

### Krofta Engineering Ltd.



### Megacell

Krofta introduces State of the Art Technology: NEW DAF especially designed for Paper Industry. A unique technique, far enhanced compared to circular machines. The Megacell is provided with high performance and automatically sturdy floated sludge removal device. The scraping and therefore the sludge extraction area unit separated so as to produce best fulfillment of those functions. This mix avoids the utilization of rubber gaskets usually employed in standard scrapers pushing and extracting the floated sludge. Megacell is usually designed with a cone like bottom. The device is intended for optimum potency with much no maintenance.

### SALIENT BENEFITS:

- 50-70% savings\* in Civil Cost compared to Sedicell
- Higher capacity Product at Low Foot Print (Required lessor land space)
- Much Lower running Power cost in comparison to Present DAF Technology
- Excellent Output performance;
- Cheaper installation cost
- A very compact unit



# ZENITH

**First Time in India**



- Extra long life upto 10 years according to market survey.
- High nip load upto 550 kgs. per linear Cm.
- Wider Nip width.
- No internal cooling is required.
- Suitable for high speed machine upto 2200 m/min.
- Added profitability.
- Cost recovery of PU rollers within 8 months according to the PAPERMART reference by M/s Vijay Anand Paper Mill's case study.

**Recommended for  
BDR, SUCTION PRESS,  
SUCTION COUCH,  
SIZE PRESS, PLAIN PRESS  
and other applications.**

## Zenith Rubber Private Limited

Zenith Launches for the first time in India the most modern technology used in Europe/USA for making PU covering rollers. These rollers are being made from highly sophisticated machine brought from Europe. Our collaboration is with Dr. Benno Bader (Austria) who has earlier worked with VOITH Paper Fabrics & rollers as a Sr. R&D Manager.

PU rollers are suitable for Size press, Suction Press, Blind Drill Press Roll, LNP Press Rolls.

Our PU rollers for size press and Blind drill roller are being used by the following customer:- Maheshwari Logistic, Shree Ajit Paper, Super Deluxe (Vapi) Padmavati Paper (Mumbai)

North India

Khatema Fiber, Silvertown Pulp, Satia Industry, Shree Vishnu Vishal, Maruti paper, Meenu Paper, Lalji Board, Dayal Ji Board, Kanav paper, Sandeep Paper, Sainson Paper, Shree Paper-Indore Rollers Under Process: Janki News Print, Suryaans Paper Chennai, Genus Paper, Bindlas Duplex.

For more information please visit our website: [www.zenithrollers.com](http://www.zenithrollers.com) You can also contact us @ - [sales@zenithrollers.com](mailto:sales@zenithrollers.com) / [industrial@zenithrollers.com](mailto:industrial@zenithrollers.com) ; 011 45003100 Mobile no:- 9315078446, 9871471614

## 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



### Rules of Origin: Paper Import is likely to go down bringing relief to the domestic manufacturers

The Government of India has notified the Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020, which will come into force from 21st September 2020. These Rules (CAROTAR 2020) will apply to imports into India of goods at preferential rates of basic customs duty under free trade and other trade agreements and seek to curb the misuse of the Rules of Origin under the FTAs by requiring the importer to submit detailed information about the imported goods while importing under claim of preferential rate of duty.

Here is detailed views of Mr. Satya Pal Gupta, Former President- FPTA & Chairman- Narsingh Dass Group, Narsingh Dass Group is a multifarious trading group, renowned and much admired in the paper industry. With its core business aimed to create an efficient

flow of goods between manufacturers and consumers of paper, paperboard & related products, the group has risen consistently to be one of the most trusted business houses of its kind in India.

Trade can be a key factor in economic development. The prudent use of trade can boost a country's development and create absolute gains for the trading partners involved. Trade has been touted as an important tool in the path to development by prominent economists. However trade may not be a panacea for development as important questions surrounding how free trade really is and the harm trade can cause domestic industries to come into play.

India, over the years and under various political regimes post-independence has entered into bilateral/ multilateral trade agreements with several countries. India's experience with such trade agreements has been one mainly sided, that its trade deficit has only widened. China accounts for half of India's trade deficit – while Chinese imports into India have grown 26 percent year- on-year, India's exports to China grew barely 13 percent. All the more it has been noticed that Chinese products are routed through other countries and it has increased post the agreements. Products of other countries too were found to be routed through third countries to avail concessional rate of duties. These agreements can be broadly identified as follows:

Free Trade Agreements (FTA)

Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

India has a trade agreement named SAPTA (SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement) with South Asian countries where the PRD for imports of Paper & Paperboards from the signatory countries has been agreed as Zero. India has a trade agreement named ASEAN-India CECA with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries where the PRD for imports of Paper & Paperboards from the signatory countries has been agreed as Zero.

India also has a CEPA agreement Republic of Korea (South Korea) where the PRD for imports of Paper & Paperboards has been agreed as Zero.

India also has a trade agreement named Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (Formerly Bangkok Agreement) with China and four other countries and the reduction in tariff agreed upon for imports of not only Paper & Paperboards but a range of other products as well has been notified vide Notification No. 50/2018-Customs dated 30th June 2018. Just to name one HSN Code 4802, a reduction of 30 percent on the basic customs duty has been notified.

Similarly, India has signed agreements with several other countries where concessions to the Basic Customs Duty applicable to Paper & Paperboards has been agreed upon.

The chief objective behind signing of the trade agreements was to increase bilateral trade and also increase the scope of the same. The agreements entered into were done after years of skilful negotiations and much bargaining between

the countries and concessions granted to each other. It also led to the introduction of a concessional rate of duty, much lower than the normal Basic Customs Duty and called as Preferential Rate of Duty (PRD).

The advantage of PRD lies more with the exporting country rather than the importing country. PRD effectively reduces the Basic Customs Duty thereby reducing the cost of the imported goods making it cost effective against the domestically produced goods. It increases competition in the market. The domestic manufacturers have to continuously innovate and upgrade to remain competitive.

There have been times when the domestic manufacturers feel threatened in losing their market shares when importers bring in goods in increased quantities at low prices taking advantage of PRD, to increase their market shares and protect their revenues in their home markets.

It is pertinent to note that the domestic manufacturers over the years have been feeling threatened by the large-scale imports due to the advantage of the PRD structure. The domestic manufacturers in order to protect their interests approached the appropriate authorities (Directorate General of Trade Remedies -DGTR) for imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty and were successful in their effort. Anti-Dumping Duty was imposed on imports of Coated Papers originating from Peoples Republic of China, European Union and USA vide order dated Dec 26, 2018. Anti-Dumping Duty was also imposed on imports of Uncoated Copier Paper originating from Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore vide order

dated Oct 30, 2018. (Refer Table 3-6 for quantities imported from these countries.)

The Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry on January 31, 2020 came out with the Notification No. 45/2015-2020 prohibiting imports of stock-lots of paper and paperboards into the country. It was one more step by the Government of India to provide the domestic paper manufacturers protection as well as a level playing field.

The Government of India, Ministry of Finance, came out with Notification No. 81/2020-Customs (N.T.) on August 21, 2020 specifying the new rules of origin for imports into India. These rules are called Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin Under Trade Agreements) Rules 2020.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, addressing the ASEAN-India Business Council virtual meet on August 27th, 2020 pleaded for ensuring sanctity of the rules of origin and observed that lax implementation of the rules of origin has also led to Chinese goods coming into India through some ASEAN nations at preferential tariff rates. The statement and observation of the Minister concerned are very clear, unambiguous and self-explanatory.

These rules are primarily meant for importers of goods who claim Preferential Rate of Duty (PRD) in terms of a trade agreement.

Understanding the recent changes in the rules of origin is not simplistic, one needs to keep in mind the present day geo-political conditions, bilateral relations between India and neighboring countries, recent changes

made by the Government of India for procurement by the government departments, ecommerce and withdrawal of permission to operate in India to a large number of Apps and websites of a neighboring country.

There could be three logical reasons for the Government of India, political, economic and commercial and legal and financial, behind bringing the change in the rules of origin.

There is a popular movement to boycott Chinese products and prevent China from reaping economic benefits at the expense of India raging across the nation. India needs to contemplate actions on both the diplomatic and political front. The crucial significance of trade deals has dawned on India now more than any other time. The loss to the government exchequer by avoidance, mis-declaration, and taking wrongful benefit of the Preferential Rate of duty are some of the other issues which weigh heavily.

The change in rules of origin for genuine importers is more an issue of increased compliance. But for importers who were taking undue benefit by mis-declaration, and avoiding payment of actual customs duty it is a red-light warning.

The volume of imports is likely to go down bringing relief to the domestic manufacturers. The prevention of mis-declaration and rightful payment of customs duty will save the government revenues and provide a level playing field to the domestic players.

**– The Pulp and Paper Times**



## India's Exciting Packaging Story

The market is moving more and more toward sustainable solutions and the overall demand for paper-based packaging is projected to increase in the coming years. Since the incorporation of sustainability opens up doors for different packaging possibilities, there have been many breakthroughs in paper-based packaging solutions in recent times. Moreover, the massive surge in e-commerce in recent times has laid the groundwork for further growth in the packaging sector.

According to a report by IBEF, the packaging sector is categorized into two major segments -rigid and flexible packaging, with rigid packaging accounting for 64% market share. Also, in terms of packaging materials, 55% of the sector is dominated by plastics, followed by paper & cardboard (20%) and glass (10%).

### Rise of e-commerce

With technology becoming a ubiquitous part of our cultural fabric, the power of the internet has paved a way for the evolution and growth of e-commerce. Rising internet proliferation and further access to technology coupled with increasing smartphones use have laid the groundwork for consumers to shift to online shopping methods such as mobile commerce and social commerce on social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook. Thus, the advent of the ever-evolving and dynamic e-commerce sector is creating a surge in demand for innovative packaging solutions that will cater to the evolving customer perceptions.

According to a market research report by IBEF, titled 'Indian Packaging Industry Riding on the E-Commerce Wave', the Indian packaging industry is expected to reach USD 204.81 billion by 2025 from USD 50.5 billion in 2019 at 26.7% annually. The e-commerce segment of the packaging market was estimated at USD 451.4 million in 2019 and is forecast to reach USD 975.4 million by 2025 at 13.8% annually.

With the rise of e-commerce, it is no longer necessary for consumers to visit brick-and-mortar stores when what they're looking for

can be delivered right to their doors. This market change has been a boon for the packaging sector. Now, the important aspect is – developing right-sized packaging to reduce waste and increase efficiency, having the product's box to be as primary and assessing whether secondary packaging is still needed as the growth of e-tailers is reshaping the entire e-commerce system.

With the surge in e-commerce, the Indian packaging industry is witnessing sharp growth and is one of the strongest growing segments. According to the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), the packaging consumption in India has increased by 200% in the past decade, from 4.3 kgs per person per annum (pppa) to 8.6 kgs pppa.

Sustainability as the key driver for growth  
All thanks to a growing demand for more eco-friendly packaging from informed consumers and activists, the manufacturers and retailers are on the verge of a packaging renaissance in which new recyclable and compostable containers will begin to permeate the market. There has been an upsurge in awareness amongst consumers concerning eco-friendliness and sustainability, and without a doubt, they will prefer brands that advocate environmentally-friendly products and sustainability.

To achieve eco-friendly packaging  
manufacturers must look beyond recycling, and instead research and implement innovative and creative methods that can make a difference in the long run. This can be accomplished by adopting the practices of a circular economy and integrating processes

that address waste prevention. Packaging that is minimal in size, reusable, devoid of plastic and developed with responsibly sourced materials will drastically lower the carbon footprint and prevent spoilage.

Growth in retail brings multitude of opportunities

In the present retail landscape, outlets such as – supermarkets, convenience stores, supercenters, etc. are increasing at a rapid pace, opening the door for a sea of opportunities for newer innovations in the packaging industry.

As per a report presented by Retailers Association of India (RAI) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) titled 'Retail 4.0: Winning the 20s', the Indian retail market is likely to hit USD 1.1-1.3 trillion mark from USD 0.7 trillion in 2019 – a 9-11% CAGR growth – driven by multiple structural, socio-demographic and economic drivers fueling consumption. The ongoing and projected growth of Indian retail sector further portends well for the packaging sector with more growth of the retail-ready packaging.

The big shift: India as a top consideration China has been regarded as “the world’s factory” and being the global manufacturing hub, the country was one of the world’s largest packaging markets too, with fast-growing rates in segments such as paper packaging, flexible packaging, and rigid plastics packaging.

Although, in the pre-COVID times, the country was the leader in the sector it was the largest consumer, manufacturer and exporter of packaged materials and goods. However, the

pandemic-led lockdown and the prevailing anti-China sentiments have led to countries and companies to look for alternatives, in order to eliminate their supply chain disruptions, which further directs to the projection that India’s growing packaging industry may benefit in the near future.

Packaging for building brand identity

With rising trade, the phrase “let the buyer beware” became popular since inferior and impure quality products were disguised and sold to uninformed customers by counterfeits. Consequently, the manufacturers turned to use packaging in innovative ways to establish their brand identity.

In what ways does packaging affect our perceptions and the shopping choices we make? Package colors, materials, and other design elements are very deliberate and shape our outlook for a product. Much like advertising, packaging appeals to our emotions and directs our attention to specific product features.

A study conducted by the Paper and Packaging Board and IPSOS shows that 7 in 10 (72%) of consumers agree that packaging design can influence their purchasing decisions. In the same study, it is stated that 71% of consumers said they were more likely to buy brands that package their products in paper or cardboard, than in other materials.

Shift in demand during pandemic

Amid the pandemic, the demand for packaging for groceries, healthcare products and e-commerce transportation has increased exponentially; but, at the same

time, the demand for industrial, luxury and sections of B2B-transport packaging has declined.

It is noteworthy that the demand for all types of healthcare packaging and related substrates, including flexible blister foils, pumps, closures and rigid plastics, has soared. That is, the pharmaceutical packaging has become an important component of drug delivery in India. Similarly, the demand has also spiraled for packaging used in dietary supplements such as vitamins and essential supplies needed by consumers in a pandemic situation.

Outlook of the corrugating and packaging



companies

The future trends and key demand drivers of the paper-based packaging sector are contingent on consistent evolution and efforts in R&D by the packaging and paper making companies which further raises a new set of indispensable parameters to accelerate value creation. With respect to the trend observed in the paper-based packaging segment, the light weighing packaging is slated to grow in the coming times, and for that, the mills need to produce low GSM and high SCT fluting paper. Another key concern associated with the quality of the paper is the issue of 'bad odour' and about improving the surface of the paper to enhance the overall printability of the paper.

In addition, it seems that a close collaboration between the corrugators and the paper mills will help in reaching a better understanding of the requirements of each other. Besides, one more matter of concern for the corrugating companies is around the erratic change or increase in the prices of the paper and they contend that the paper mills should hold the price for each quarter.

It is quite evident that if the quality of the paper is not satisfactory, the converting and corrugation production lines won't be able to run efficiently. Also, the advantages offered by using modern technology – such as speed, quality control features, automatic delivery features cannot be realized if the machines have to run at slow speed or have to be halted. Paper mills gearing up for the surging demand

Paper and paperboard have witnessed

somewhat of an upsurge and they stand to gain further growth momentum in the coming times as it is the only renewable packaging material and moreover, it has an established collection and recycling system.

The present pace of technological development and revolution is projecting profound changes and in response, the paper mills are working to find innovative ways to not only reduce costs, but to increase productivity and develop new value-added products, particularly in specialty products and packaging papers. Growth opportunities are being created as eco-conscious consumers are demanding sustainable alternatives to plastics. The papermaking companies should adopt the cutting-edge technology to leverage the packaging design capabilities and to find new end uses for paper-based packaging materials. Also, there is a great scope in increasing the share of usage of paper as secondary packaging.

Overall, it may be said that the paper mills are investing and would be required to invest more in the capacity building and technological upgradation of the facilities to address the various challenges being faced by the corrugators and packaging companies.

Keeping in view the dynamism and promising growth potential of the paper-based packaging segment, Paper Mart has initiated a feature report on the packaging sector by interacting with the key paper mills, the corrugators, and the brand owners/buyers of packaging in India, on – the key emerging trends in the paper-packaging market, the

challenges with regard to quality of paper, and the ambitions and strategies with regard to incorporating more sustainable packaging solutions.

– **Paper Mart**



# BUSINESS FESTIVAL OF PAPER INDUSTRY



a Hyve event

**09-12|JANUARY 2022**

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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



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- **Market News & Views, a weekly e news alert program** covering Industry Updates , Launch of New Technologies , Partnership Opportunities , Industry Views, CSR activities
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- **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

### Krofta Engineering Ltd.



We introduce ourselves as the one of the leading suppliers of waste water treatment equipment and complete water management solutions, having

supplied more than 1200 systems for effluent and waste water applications.

We have been in the wastewater treatment business since 1983.

Mr. Raghvendra Khaitan, Managing Director since 1992 is the driving force behind Krofta. He has expanded Krofta's product range via a slew of International collaborations. Having achieved success in exports, tapping the vast overseas market is high on the agenda.

Krofta is a world leader in clarifiers based on the Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF)

Technology. Krofta clarifiers have retention times as low as 3 minutes and with a possibility of resource recovery in some cases as opposed to the sedimentation methods characterized by very long retention times.

In India we have over 1200 installations operating in diverse industrial segments, as mentioned in our partial customer list, enclosed for your ready reference. Water usage by industries is increasing at an enormous rate as industry is reliant on water for some part of their production process, be its use as a raw material, solvent, coolant,

transport agent or energy source. With the proper treatment, a significant proportion of industrial on-site wastewater can be reused. Thus, going beyond mandatory requirements, wastewater is the most reliable and economic source of water.

Krofta provides industry with total water management - from pretreatment, through process water, liquid and wastewater.

We market, design and manufacture one of the broadest ranges of equipment for this sector, providing g end-to-end solutions for our customer's water and wastewater treatment requirements.

We have a technical collaboration with AJV – Engineering Ky., Finland for Belt Filter Press and Stetfield Separators, UK for Oil interceptors.



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We introduce ourselves as one of the importers and suppliers of Nylon Sand-Witch Belts, Spindle Tapes, Perlon Ropes,

PTFE Coated Cloth & Tape, Food Grade conveyor Belts, Rubber conveyor Belts (Hygienic, Heat and oil resistant grades), Imported Timing Belts Variable speed Belts, Timing Pulleys, V-Belts & V-Pulleys, Brake liner, Plastic and S S Slat Chain Conveyor Belts, SS Wire Mesh Conveyor Belts, PU ropes & tubes, PU V Belts and PU rollers.

Our products are mostly used in the following industries viz. spinning, textile, texturizing, paper, tobacco & cigarette, soap and oil, wollen mills, transportation, razor blade, grinding, forging, HDPE Bag and woven sack industries, paching, printing newsprint, washing machines, petroleum refineries, computer printers, industrial laundries, tread mills & gyms, aluminum, steel plant, car factories, biscuit and bread, confectionary, food and beverages, pharmaceutical, tyre and tube, flour mills, rice mills, dhall mills and all other general industries for transmission, conveying and bucket elevators.



...and many more



...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