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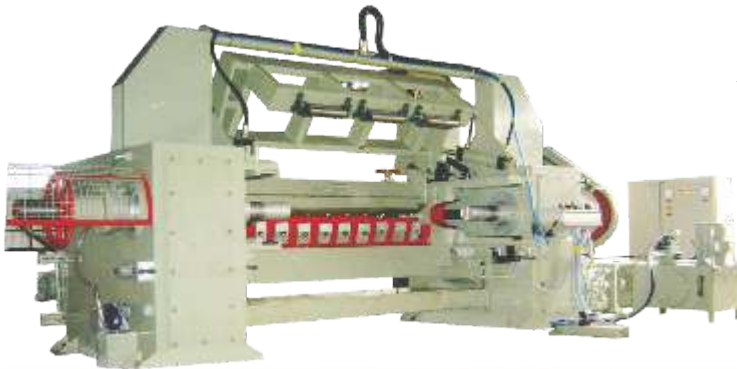
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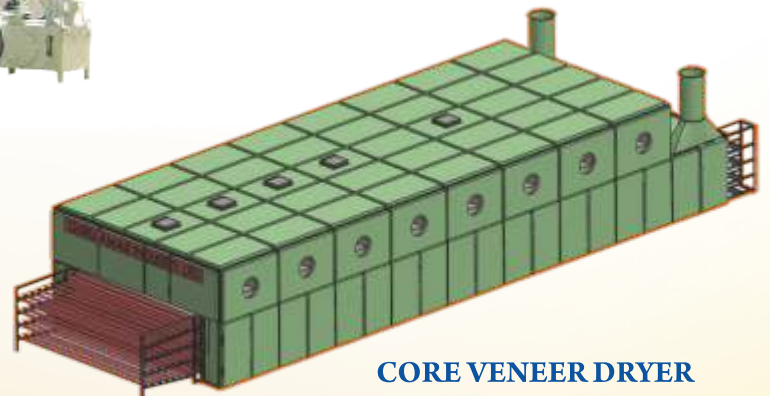
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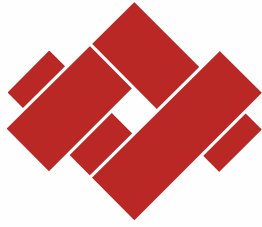


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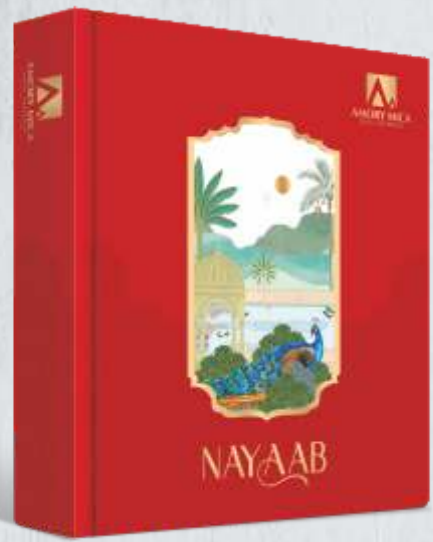


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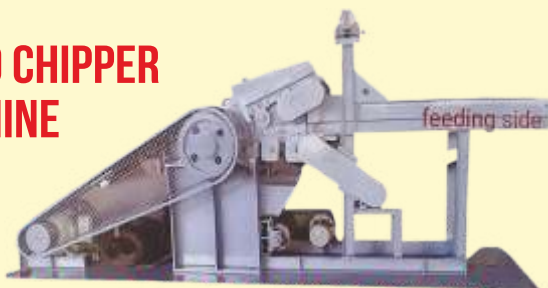
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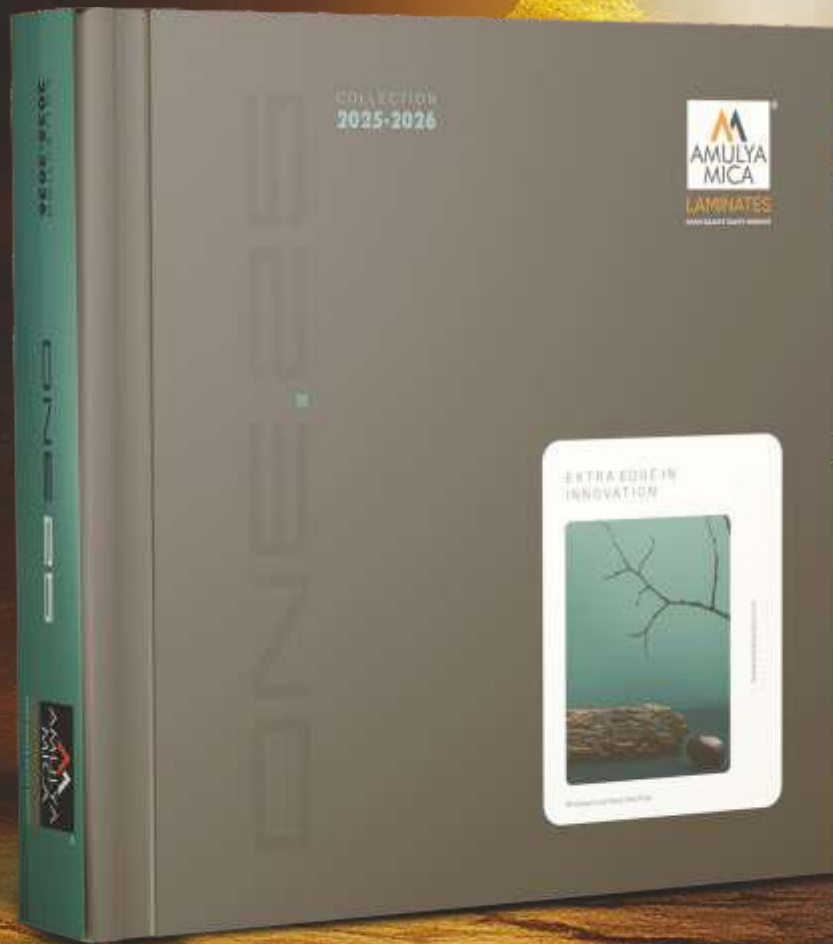


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# BIS

## Preparing for Compliance in the Furniture Sector

With the implementation of mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for the furniture sector scheduled for February 2026, the industry is being urged to begin preparations well in advance to ensure a smooth transition. The forthcoming regulation represents a significant shift in quality governance, aimed at standardising furniture products and enhancing consumer safety and confidence across the market.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) convened a meeting at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, chaired by Joint Secretary Sanjeev Singh, to deliberate on the effective rollout of the Furniture Quality Control Order, 2025. Earlier this year, DPIIT, exercising its powers under Section 16 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, and in consultation with BIS, issued a statutory notification formalising the enforcement of quality control norms for furniture. These provisions will come into force after 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026, giving the industry a defined window to align operations, processes, and supply chains.

The proposed BIS QCO will mandate certification for a wide range of furniture products, including chairs, tables and desks,



beds, and storage units. Importantly, the order will apply uniformly to both domestically manufactured furniture and imported products, while exports will remain outside its reach. This approach highlights the government's intent to create a level playing field and ensure consistent quality standards within the domestic market.

The notification, however, provides relief to certain micro enterprises. Furniture units registered on the Udyam Portal, with investment in plant and machinery not exceeding ₹25 lakh and annual turnover below ₹2 crore, as certified by a Chartered Accountant, will be exempted. As the deadline approaches, stakeholders are advised to assess compliance requirements early, strengthen quality systems, and engage with certification processes proactively to avoid disruption and ensure business continuity.



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## Century Ply

# Discussing the Road Ahead for Wood Panels in Odisha

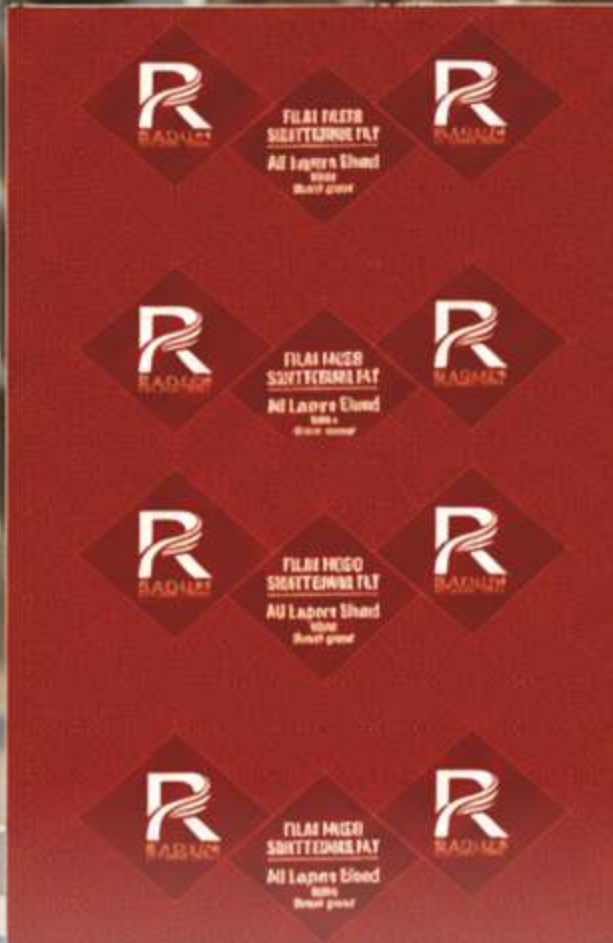


A constructive meeting of Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director of CenturyPly with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi, focused on the future trajectory of India's wood panel industry and the possibilities of a new venture in the state. The discussion centred on sectoral growth, sustainable manufacturing practices, and the need for a clear, long-term roadmap to strengthen plywood and MDF manufacturing. The interaction reflected a shared emphasis on responsible industrial

expansion aligned with Odisha's development priorities. Such high-level engagement underlined the state's growing attractiveness as a destination for investment in building materials and allied industries. The meeting was seen as an encouraging step towards exploring opportunities that could combine innovation, sustainability, and economic growth, while reinforcing confidence in Odisha's role in shaping the next phase of India's wood-based manufacturing sector.



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## HDMR MDF

# Rising Demand in Eastern India



Demand for HD Plus MR MDF panels is witnessing a sharp rise across Odisha and West Bengal, driven largely by the growing presence of OEMs and modular furniture manufacturers in the eastern region. High-density panels are increasingly preferred for kitchen cabinetry, knockdown furniture, and office and commercial interiors, where precision, durability, and uniformity are critical.

The rapid adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies such as CNC routers has further accelerated the shift towards HDMR MDF, pre-laminated boards, and other value-added panel products. These machines require consistent material quality, a requirement that high-density MDF fulfils more effectively than traditional substrates.

In both Odisha and West Bengal,

branded panel products enjoy stronger market acceptance than unbranded or generic alternatives. At the same time, the culture of ready-to-move-in offices, modular retail spaces, and cost-effective interior solutions is expanding steadily. This has led to a gradual decline in the use of solid wood and conventional plywood, which are often more expensive and time-consuming in installation.

Looking ahead, branded high-density MDF products are expected to drive sustained market growth. Several leading plywood manufacturers are exploring plans to set up MDF plants in Odisha and neighbouring eastern states, reinforcing the region's emergence as a key MDF consumption and production hub.



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## Chinese Innovation

# From Poultry Waste to Wood Glue

A research collaboration between Fraunhofer IFAM and the University of Pau is exploring an unusual but promising route toward sustainable wood adhesives: poultry feathers. Produced in vast quantities as a byproduct of the poultry industry, feathers are often discarded due to limited recycling options and low economic value. Scientists are now demonstrating that this wastestream could become a valuable raw material for bio-based wood glues.

Feathers consist largely of keratin, a fibrous protein also found in hair and nails. Keratin's chemical structure makes it suitable for modification, aligning it with a long tradition of protein-based adhesives such as bone and casein glues. Building on this principle, researchers in Bremen and southern France have examined whether keratin extracted from feathers can serve as an effective wood binder.

The team focused on duck feathers, which are generated in large volumes in Brittany. After optimising a hydrolysis process, the keratin degradation product was

purified and formulated into an aqueous, solvent-free adhesive, closely resembling conventional protein-based wood glues in its handling and application.

Mechanical testing delivered encouraging results. Wood samples bonded with the feather-based adhesive showed strong adhesion, comparable to that of commercial white glues used in furniture and interior applications. An additional and unexpected advantage emerged in terms of fire performance: the keratin-based adhesive exhibited high flame resistance, opening up new possibilities for improving the fire safety of wood products.

While the early findings are promising, the researchers note that further development is required. Future work will focus on enhancing water resistance and more fully exploiting the material's inherent flame-retardant properties. If these challenges can be addressed, feather-derived adhesives could offer a biodegradable, low-impact alternative to synthetic wood glues in the near future.

# PLY GAZETTE

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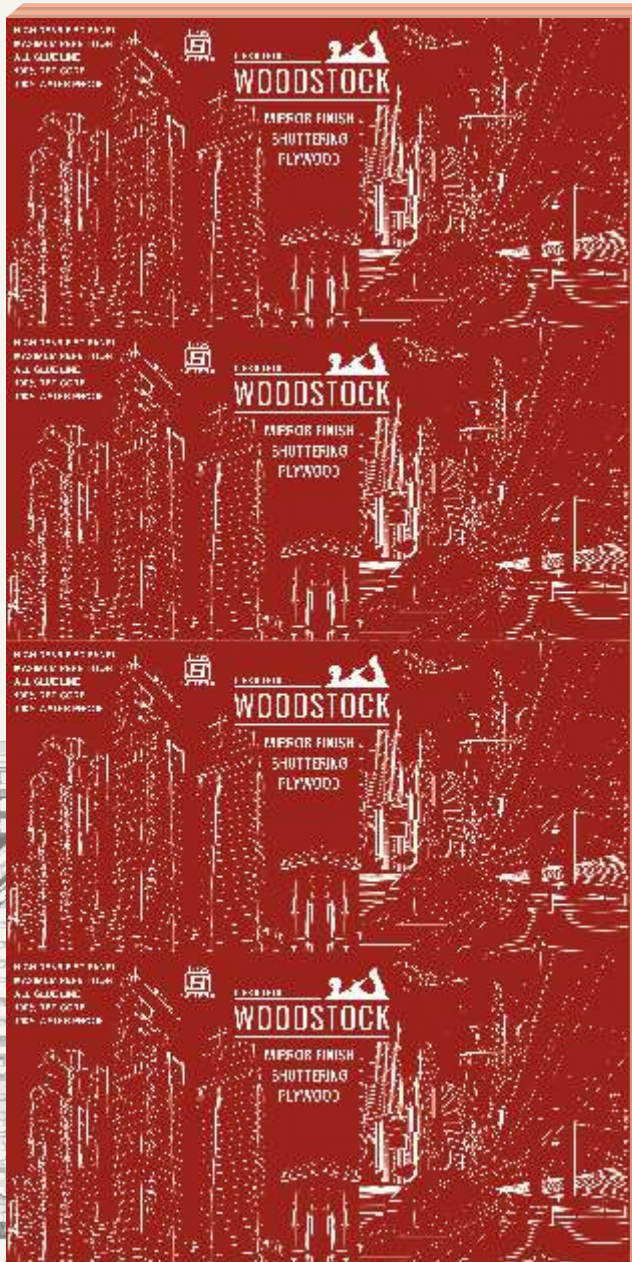
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BIS

# Nepal Plywood Supplies Rise as Licences Increase

Supply of plywood from Nepal into the Indian market has increased in recent months, driven by a growing number of Nepal-based manufacturers securing Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) licences. According to feedback from wood panel markets across the country, imports that had slowed earlier due to quality control order (QCO) compliance issues are now regaining momentum as regulatory bottleneck eases.

A few months ago, the flow of imported plywood from Nepal and other countries had weakened sharply following stricter enforcement of QCO norms. Several overseas suppliers faced delays in BIS approvals, restricting the entry of non-compliant material into India. With more Nepalese units now holding valid BIS licences, the supply situation has begun to normalise.

Trade data indicates that Nepal has long been an exporter of commercial plywood, with India remaining its principal destination. The renewed influx of Nepalese plywood, typically priced lower than comparable Indian-made products, has once again drawn the attention of domestic manufacturers. In the past, such imports have impacted Indian plywood producers, particularly in border states such as Uttar Pradesh, as well as in major consumption



markets including Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

Price competitiveness continues to be the key advantage for Nepalese plywood, making it an attractive option for cost-sensitive buyers. At the same time, Indian plywood manufacturers are attempting to counter this pressure by ramping up production, even as Nepal benefits from relatively abundant local timber used for core veneers, enabling high capacity utilisation.

However, industry observers note that true self-sufficiency in raw materials remains a challenge for India. Long-term investment in organised timber plantations is seen as essential for strengthening the domestic wood panel sector and reducing dependence on imports.



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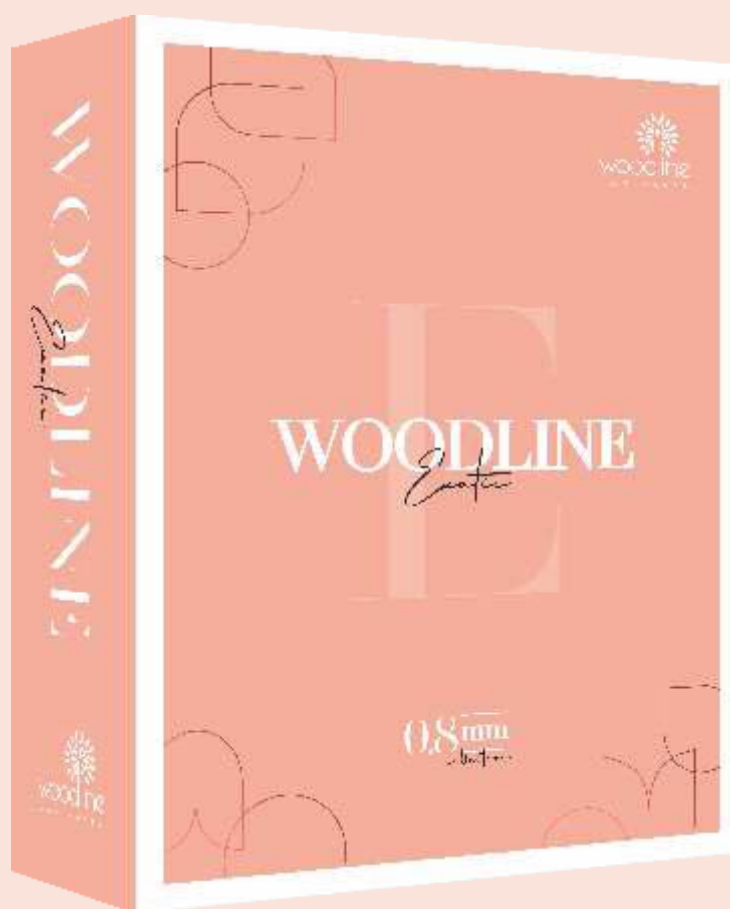
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## ASA Panels

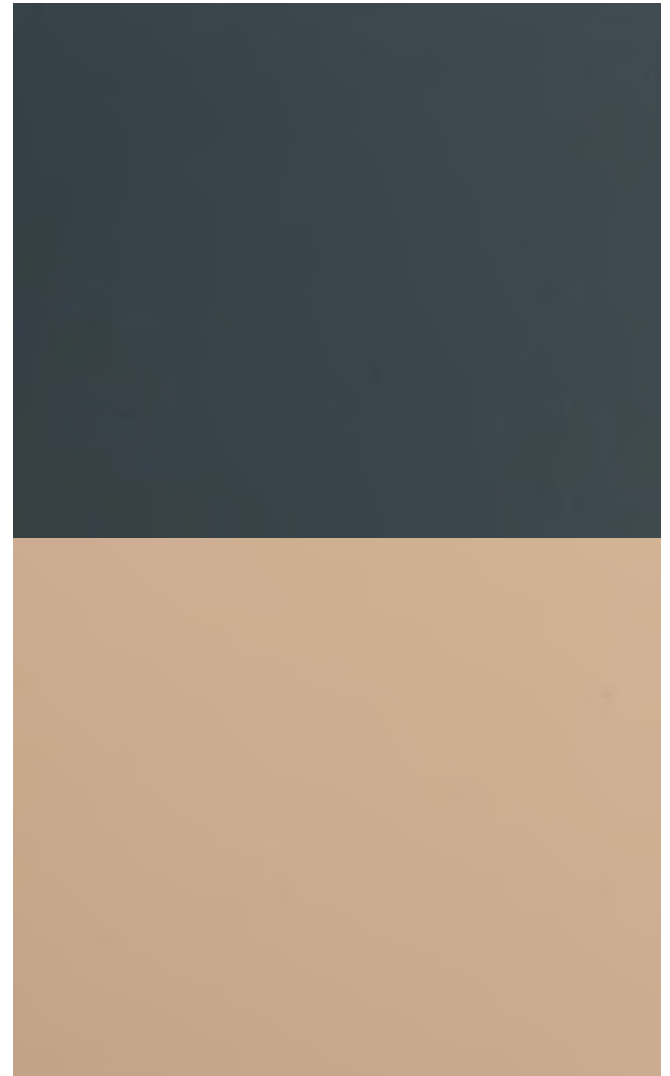
# Sparkling Fresh Interest in Surface Finishes

ASA panels or matte acrylic sheets, are generating fresh buzz across the decorative materials market. These 1 mm thick sheets, offered in a wide palette of soft pastel colours, are attracting designers, furniture makers and retail buyers seeking contemporary surface finishes with visual consistency.

Largely imported from China, these panels are now widely available across retail counters in India. Market participants note that the product is increasingly competing with established acrylic, PVC and decorative laminate segments, particularly by capturing demand for solid and pastel colour applications traditionally dominated by conventional surface décor products.

The growing interest is also reflected in the pace of new launches. Over the past few months, an estimated 20–25 new sample folders featuring ASA panels have been introduced by various suppliers. Each folder typically showcases 25–30 designs, with expectations that ranges could soon expand to 50–60 shades per collection as customer response strengthens.

Demand is being driven primarily by their performance attributes. Known for their weather resistance, impact strength and corrosion resistance, these sheets are being increasingly used in interior-grade furniture,



decorative panels and low-maintenance applications. Their ability to perform reliably in challenging environmental conditions, while maintaining a clean aesthetic, is positioning them as a fast-emerging alternative in the evolving surface finishes market.



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## Indian Timber

# High Dollar Rates Impacting Input Cost

The consistent increase in the dollar rates against Indian rupees over the last two months has begun to impact the wood panel and surface décor businesses in India because of the hike in import prices of the timber, veneers and other raw materials in India.

India plywood and panel product industry imports a significant quantity of core veneers, face veneers and other timber logs from various countries. Apart from timber, other raw materials & chemicals such as Methanol, Melamine & Phenol are also imported in huge quantity, and a weak currency directly affects international trade adversely, increasing the input cost of the

panel products.

Similarly in the laminate segment, the higher rates of dollar against INR is going to affect the price of imported décor paper and raw material (chemicals), it will eventually increase the operational cost of the laminate in all thickness. In the surface décor sector, the import prices of products such as ASA panels, acrylic panels etc may also increase in the wake of rising dollar rates.

Estimating from the current trends of dollar prices, it can be inferred that prices of the finished products both in wood panel and surface décor segment might increase marginally in the upcoming months.

***India plywood and panel product industry imports a significant quantity of core veneers, face veneers and other timber logs from various countries.***

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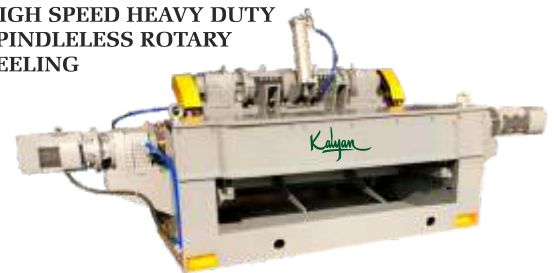
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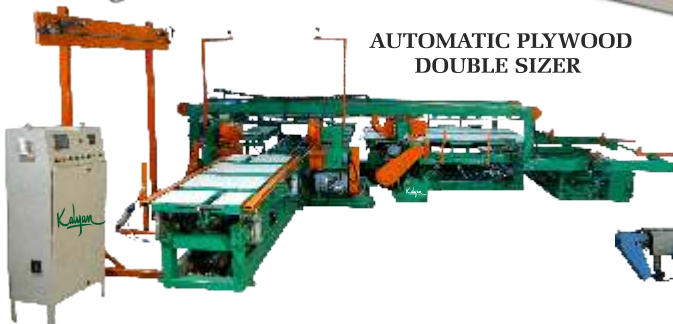


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## Interior Decor Market

# Retail-Led Momentum Expected to Drive Growth

Industry participants believe that interior and exterior retailing will play a decisive role in supporting market growth in the next financial year, despite recent headwinds faced by the wood panel and decorative surfaces sector. Market observers note that demand after Deepawali remained subdued, although it performed better than the previous year. The slowdown in subsequent weeks was largely attributed to the Bihar elections, which reportedly drew away nearly 60 percent of the workforce, including carpenters, leading to weak offtake at project sites across the country.

According to trade feedback, labour shortages combined with a post-festive liquidity crunch further weighed on sentiment. However, from the third week of

November, sales began showing signs of recovery as workers gradually returned to job sites. The market is expected to regain momentum, with branded players likely to retain an advantage due to stronger balance sheets and distribution strength, while smaller manufacturers may need to navigate cash flow constraints more carefully.

The MDF segment has also been under pressure, as inventories accumulated over previous months continue to weigh on the market. Industry estimates suggest that MDF demand declined by around 15 percent after the festive season, although a pickup is anticipated during the December–January period. In laminates, consolidation appears imminent, as domestic manufacturers face growing competition from substitute

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products such as pre-laminated boards. Sector watchers indicate that product applications are being redefined, with 30–35 established mid-sized laminate brands expected to emerge stronger, while newer entrants may struggle to balance capital requirements with margins.

At the same time, the decorative surfaces segment is witnessing the entry of new brands, particularly in hardware and fittings. Trade voices suggest that following the success of established names, more players are willing to enter this low-ticket but high-volume category. This shift is evident as plywood, veneer and laminate retailers increasingly add decorative surfaces and fittings to their displays.

Industry insiders believe that future growth will be driven by experiential products that cannot be effectively sold through e-commerce platforms, reinforcing the importance of physical retail presence. Eastern India currently accounts for an estimated 5–7 percent of the premium decorative market and around 10–12 percent of interior commodity products. With a rapid expansion of retail counters and showrooms across East and North-East India, stakeholders agree that the region holds significant untapped potential, provided retailers and distributors remain informed about new products, innovations and their applications.

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## Décor Panels

# Rising Demand for New-Age Products in East India

East and North East India are emerging as important growth markets for interior and surface décor products, supported by rapid expansion in real estate and infrastructure. Increasing investment in commercial office spaces by local enterprises, alongside the entry of national companies, is driving demand for modern, ready-to-install interior solutions across the region.

Industry observers note that improved infrastructure and connectivity in eastern states are playing a key role in this shift. Ongoing and proposed projects aimed at strengthening transport networks and utility services are accelerating construction activity in both commercial and residential segments. As a result, developers and building owners are seeking interior solutions that combine speed of installation with visual appeal, enabling quicker occupation of newly developed spaces.

This trend is expected to strengthen the OEM-led furniture and interiors market, which relies heavily on factory-made, modular components. Consequently, demand is rising for innovative and durable décor panels such as louvres, acrylic laminates, PVC panels, marble-finish boards, UV panels, ASA panels and other composite surfaces, alongside conventional plywood, MDF and particleboards.

Consumer behaviour is also shaping market dynamics. Buyers in states such as Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar show a strong preference for branded products, while in the North East, purchase decisions are significantly influenced by local retailers. Their recommendations are expected to play a decisive role in introducing and popularising new décor panel categories across the region.

**PLY GAZETTE**  
MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

# Merino Grande

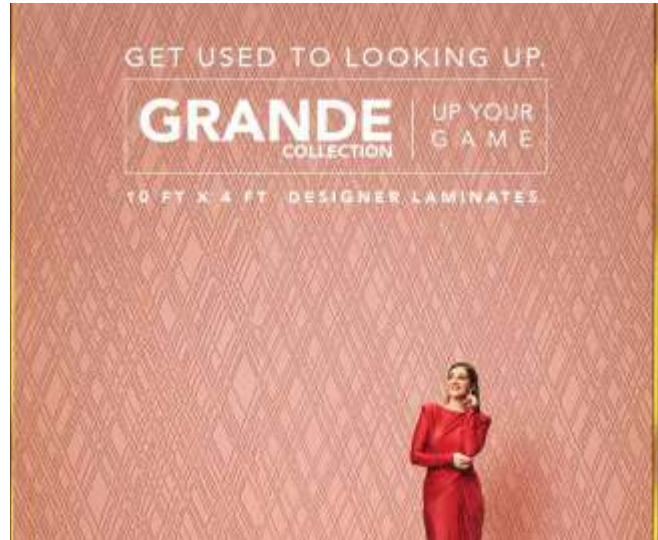
## Targeting Seamless Interior Surfaces

Merino Laminates has introduced its Grande Collection as a response to the growing demand for uninterrupted surfaces in contemporary interior design. The collection has been positioned as a solution to the constraints posed by conventional laminate sizes, particularly in projects that prioritise visual continuity and minimal detailing.

Industry sources indicated that the oversized format of the panels, measuring 10 feet in height and 4 feet in width with a thickness of 1.25 mm, allows designers to execute floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall applications without visible joints. This scale is understood to support large design elements such as tall wardrobes, long shutters, wall claddings, doors and extended tabletops, where consistent surfaces are critical to modern aesthetics.

According to the company, precision engineering has been applied to ensure dimensional stability across each sheet, enabling accurate alignment and smoother installation on site. The larger format is said to reduce the need for multiple sheets, thereby minimising cut lines that typically interrupt the flow of an interior. It has also been reported that the reduced number of joints can shorten installation time, simplify handling and allow for cleaner detailing at edges and corners.

The Grande Collection has been



developed to align with the shift towards more open residential, commercial and hospitality interiors. Its technical consistency is described as suitable for both linear layouts and more complex geometries that rely on uninterrupted planes.

Merino has stated that the range is available in 59 designs across nine finishes, offering a curated selection rather than an expansive catalogue. Finishes such as Feather Touch, High Gloss, Linea Wood, Luxe, Timber, Veneer and Woven contribute to varied textural expression, alongside a palette that includes solid colours, wood grains, stone-inspired patterns and metallic tones.

Distribution of the collection has reportedly been limited to selected showroom-type dealers, reinforcing its premium positioning and targeted use in high-value interior projects.

## Woodpulp HMR Board

# Aiming to Redefine Particle Board Performance

Woodpulp has positioned its HMR particle board as a response to the limitations traditionally associated with particle board in moisture-prone interior environments. Industry observers noted that the product has been developed for spaces where humidity, dampness and frequent contact with moisture are difficult to avoid, such as kitchens, bathrooms and utility areas.

According to information shared by the company, the board is manufactured using selected wood chips bonded with specialised moisture-resistant resins and consolidated under high heat and pressure. This process is said to deliver significantly better dimensional stability when compared with conventional particle board or standard MDF, particularly under fluctuating indoor conditions.

The distinctive green-tinted core has been cited as a visual indicator of the enhanced resin formulation. This internal composition reportedly allows the board to retain its structure even when exposed repeatedly to humid air, kitchen vapours or occasional surface spills. As a result, it is being

promoted as a dependable substrate for modern residential and commercial interiors where durability over time is a key requirement.

Technical assessments have highlighted several performance attributes. The higher-density construction is understood to improve load-bearing capacity and reduce the risk of warping or thinning. The board is also reported to demonstrate improved resistance to bending, sagging and chipping, making it suitable for larger panels and frequently used horizontal surfaces.

Another feature emphasised by industry sources is its superior screw-holding capacity. The compact and uniform core structure is said to allow fasteners to grip more securely, supporting reliable joint strength in cabinetry, wardrobes and modular furniture systems.

Overall, Woodpulp's HMR particle board has been positioned as a material that combines moisture resistance with structural strength, reinforcing confidence in particle board as a long-term interior solution.

*The higher-density construction is understood to improve load-bearing capacity and reduce the risk of warping or thinning.*

## Consumer Loyalty

# A Growth Lever in Tier-2 and Tier-3 Ply and Laminate Markets

Industry observers have increasingly pointed out that the growth trajectory of India's plywood and laminate sector is shifting away from metros and Tier-1 cities towards Tier-2 and Tier-3 ones. These smaller markets are experiencing a steady construction boom, supported by rapid urbanisation, rising disposable incomes and a growing preference for organised, modern interiors. As a result, manufacturers are being compelled to rethink traditional expansion strategies that were largely designed for structured urban markets.

Market assessments suggest that, in semi-urban and smaller towns, product quality alone does not guarantee success. Buying decisions are heavily influenced by carpenters, contractors and local builders who act as trusted advisors to end customers. Their recommendations are shaped as much by personal trust and ongoing engagement as by technical product features. This dynamic has drawn attention to the role of loyalty programmes as a strategic tool in strengthening brand presence across these geographies.

Industry experts have noted that Tier-2 and Tier-3 markets function on relationship-driven ecosystems. Carpenters and contractors often remain loyal to brands that acknowledge their contribution and

provide consistent value. Loyalty programmes are seen as enabling manufacturers to formalise these relationships, ensuring repeat sales while reinforcing trust among key influencers who guide purchase decisions.

The need for such programmes has also been linked to structural challenges within smaller markets. The plywood and laminate industry remains fragmented in many Tier-2 and Tier-3 regions, with issues such as counterfeit materials, uneven dealer engagement and limited product awareness affecting brand credibility. Digital loyalty platforms are increasingly being viewed as a way to address these gaps by introducing transparency and traceability into the channel.

Observers have highlighted that loyalty initiatives help build credibility by recognising the role of carpenters and contractors through rewards, incentives and personalised communication. When service professionals feel valued, they are more likely to recommend the same brand consistently, creating a stable base of repeat demand. In turn, this strengthens brand recall among end users, who often rely on professional advice when choosing materials.

Digital platforms, in particular, are seen as enhancing engagement efficiency.

Features such as QR-based product scanning allow partners to earn rewards instantly while also verifying product authenticity. This dual function has been described as especially relevant in smaller towns, where counterfeit circulation remains a persistent concern. By enabling real-time authentication, loyalty systems reportedly help protect both the brand and the consumer.

Industry discussions have also focused on the operational advantages of wallet-based loyalty mechanisms. Platforms designed specifically for the plywood and laminate sector are said to reflect the complexity of multi-layered distribution channels. The introduction of dual wallet systems, for instance, allows points earned by one channel partner to be shared downstream, facilitating equitable reward distribution across dealers, retailers and carpenters. This approach is seen as improving transparency in regions where informal practices have traditionally dominated.

Motivation and engagement are further strengthened through tier-based structures and gamified elements. Analysts note that partners in Tier-2 and Tier-3 markets respond strongly to aspirational rewards, recognition levels and performance-linked benefits. Contests, quizzes and leaderboards are believed to encourage frequent interaction with loyalty platforms while also improving product knowledge and brand familiarity.

Another advantage frequently cited is the availability of real-time data. Manufacturers gain access to insights on

regional participation, product movement and buying behaviour, which can inform more targeted expansion strategies. Such intelligence is considered particularly valuable in smaller towns, where market behaviour can vary significantly across districts and regions.

The ripple effect of loyalty programmes is also being observed at the end-user level. Buyers in Tier-2 and Tier-3 markets reportedly prioritise durability, authenticity and value for money. Loyalty-led initiatives allow manufacturers to reinforce product genuineness, introduce seasonal offers and build emotional connections with customers. Over time, this is believed to translate into stronger word-of-mouth marketing, which remains a powerful influence in these communities.

As the interiors and infrastructure sectors continue to expand beyond metropolitan centres, industry analysts suggest that loyalty-driven engagement will become a defining differentiator for plywood and laminate brands. Tier-2 and Tier-3 markets are no longer viewed as secondary opportunities but as the backbone of future demand.

The consensus within the industry appears to be that brands investing in structured loyalty programmes are better positioned to build trust, nurture long-term relationships and create brand advocates who influence high-intent purchases. This shift towards recognition, digital empowerment and relationship-led growth is increasingly being seen as the future direction of the plywood and laminate industry in India.

# Durian Laminates

## Bringing Dealers Together in Ranchi

Durian Laminates hosted a high-energy Dealers' Meet in Ranchi, bringing together over 250 dealers in an evening marked by engagement, collaboration, and shared optimism. Supported by its esteemed distributor, Shree Arihant Plywood, the event underscored the company's focus on strengthening partnerships and expanding market presence in the region.

In the presence of Vishal Dokania, Company Director, the gathering showcased Durian Laminates' premium Romania 1mm and Italia 0.8mm collections, alongside a preview of Exterra, its exterior-grade compact laminates, reflecting the brand's emphasis on innovation and application-led design. Dealers were also introduced to the Durian Bandhan Loyalty

Programme, reinforcing the company's commitment to long-term value creation for its channel partners.

The Ranchi meet highlighted Durian Laminates' strategy of building growth through

close dealer engagement and product-led conversations. The strong turnout and enthusiastic participation reaffirmed the trust and momentum that continue to drive the brand's journey across emerging markets.



# Virgo Group

## Showcasing New Design Vision at Pune PCMC Interior Meet

Virgo Group marked a significant moment in its design journey with the launch of its new collection at the Pune PCMC Interior Meet, bringing together members of the region's interior design and architecture community. Held as an interactive knowledge and networking session, the event reflected the brand's core philosophy of design, detail and distinction, while highlighting its focus on premium finishes and reliable performance.

The launch was positioned as a step towards redefining interior aesthetics, with professionals engaging closely with the new range and its applications. During the session, an interior professional shared long-term experience with Virgo products, noting consistent



quality and finishing since first using the brand in 2023. The feedback highlighted the durability of the laminates across seasons, with particular emphasis on their ability to support precise applications such as 90-degree bends in 1 mm

laminates, where the risk of surface bubbling was described as minimal.

Availability and accessibility were also underlined as key strengths, with the full range of sheets readily accessible through Srihari Marketing, allowing

clients and designers to view complete panels before final selection. The products were described as uniformly manufactured under the Virgo brand, reinforcing confidence in consistency and premium standards.

The Pune PCMC Interior Meet served not only as a product launch but also as a platform for dialogue within the interior community, reaffirming Virgo Group's commitment to innovation, quality craftsmanship and long-term partnerships with design professionals.



*The launch was positioned as a step towards redefining interior aesthetics, with professionals engaging closely with the new range and its applications.*



Amulya Mica

# High-profile Architects Meets in Amritsar and Ludhiana

Amulya Mica Industries Pvt. Ltd. reinforced its strong connect with India's architectural community by successfully hosting two high-profile Architects Meets in Punjab, at Hotel Taj, Amritsar on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025, and at Club Nirvana, Ludhiana on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. The well-planned events drew an enthusiastic response, bringing together over 27 leading architects in Amritsar and 35 in Ludhiana, reflecting the brand's growing credibility and influence in the design and building materials space.

Both gatherings were attended by key members of Amulya Mica's leadership team, including Vikas Choudhary, Senior Regional

Sales Manager, Northwest, and Hira Singh, Deputy Branch Manager, Ludhiana, along with senior team members. Managing Director Rakesh Agarwal personally welcomed the delegates at both venues, underlining the company's emphasis on nurturing long-term partnerships with architects and specifiers.

In his welcome address, Vikas Choudhary outlined Amulya Mica's steady growth, forward-looking vision, and strategic focus on product diversification. He highlighted the company's emphasis on value-added offerings, particularly the Imperial Premium range, which has gained strong acceptance in the market.





Addressing the gatherings, Rakesh Agarwal expressed sincere appreciation for the architects' continued trust and support. He shared insights into the Imperial Premium Series, with special focus on Synchronised Laminates and the 1.25 mm PVC Laminates

range, developed through extensive market research and professional feedback. He also spoke about Amulya Mica's CSR initiatives, reaffirming the company's commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. Highlighting a recent milestone, he announced the company's recognition with the CII MSME National Shining Award, reinforcing its commitment to quality, innovation, and service excellence.

The meets featured interactive discussions, product insights, and meaningful networking, culminating in elegant gala dinners that left participants with lasting impressions of collaboration and celebration.

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# Physical Properties of Wood and Their Influence on Plywood Panels



**Dr. S.K. Nath**

*The article reproduced below is Chapter 5 – “Physical Properties of Wood and Their Influence on Plywood Panels” from the book entitled **Plywood Manufacturing Practices in India - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.***

*The book has been compiled and edited by Dr. S.K. Nath, Joint Director (now Retd.),*

*Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bengaluru (Karnataka). The book covers the entire production line of plywood manufacture suitable for small and medium scale industry under the Indian conditions.*

Knowledge about the physical properties of wood is important to make suitable choice of timber for manufacture of different grades of plywood e.g. commercial, shuttering, marine or decorative etc. The important variables of wood, which influence its use as a plywood timber, are density, moisture content, shrinkage, swelling, and strength.

i) Density: It is the single property of wood which indicates the strength of wood. Density of wood is defined as the mass per unit volume. Since both mass and volume of wood changes with change in moisture content, it is necessary that the moisture content be stated while speaking of the density of wood. Air dry density thus

expressed as  $\text{kg}/\text{M}^3$  at 12 percent moisture content. Basic density is the mass of oven dry wood at the green dimension.

Specific gravity is the mass of a given volume of wood (at 12% MC) expressed as a fraction of the mass of an equal volume of water. Specific gravity is thus a pure number.

Specific gravity of different kinds of wood ranges from about 0.2 to 1.4. This means that lighter wood weigh about 200 kg per  $\text{M}^3$  when oven dry and the heaviest wood weigh about 1400 kg per  $\text{M}^3$ .

Wide variation in density of wood species is due mainly to differences in cell wall thickness. The specific gravity of the material of the cell wall does not vary much from species to species. It is usually between 1.5 to

1.7. Denser species have more wood cells with thicker cell wall. Wood density also varies with the quantity of extractives present in cells. Normally heartwood contains more extraneous materials than sapwood. This explains why heartwood of many species is denser than sapwood.

As a general rule heavier wood is found at the base of the tree and there is a gradual decrease in density towards up of the trunk. At any given height in the trunk there is usually a decrease in density from the pith to the bark of the tree in ring-porous hardwood, whereas in softwoods the position is reversed and the heaviest wood is usually found near the bark.

Definite relationships exist between density and strength properties of wood because these properties depend to a greater or lesser extent on the thickness of the walls of individual cells and on the proportions of the different kinds of tissue and the arrangement of cells in each piece of wood. If, for example, the parenchyma is distributed in broad layers, may constitute planes of weakness along which the timber will shear, despite a relatively high density for the sample as a whole. Due to difference in composition of the cell walls, in particular, higher lignin content in the cell walls of tropical species, these are less resistant to shock, but are stronger in compression parallel to grain than those of the timber from temperate regions.

Density is the determining factor in drying. It controls the dimensional changes that can take place in timber with changes in moisture content below fibre saturation point.

ii) Moisture Content: Water is a

constituent of wood and is found in sub-microscopic spaces between the micro fibres of the cell wall and in the cell lumen.

It is usual to express moisture content as the ratio of the weight of water in a given sample of wood to the weight of the wood substance. The latter can be determined by driving all the water out of the sample in an oven and the former by subtracting the oven-dry weight from the green weight.

$$\text{Moisture Content (MC \%)} = \frac{\text{Green Weight} - \text{Oven dry Weight}}{\text{Oven dry weight}} \times 100$$

With thin wall cells of light weight wood there is a considerable capacity for holding water and hence with these woods moisture content can exceed 100%, for example, MC of some pine and poplar species may be 140%. However in the thick-walled cells of dense wood there is little room for water and so moisture content when the cells are fully saturated can be quite low, for example MC of typical hardwood is usually about 70%. In the same species also heartwood contains less water than sapwood.

Water in wood cells may be free or bound. Water that remains in the cell lumen is the free water which can be easily lost from wood without any deformation in wood structure. Water that remains bound to sub-microscopic space cannot be removed without collapse of the cell wall and is called bound water. The moisture content at which normal shrinkage starts is the fibre saturation point (FSP) and the MC at this stage is around 30%.

The moisture content in wood is

important because it effects weight, strength, shrinkage, swelling, durability, thermal conductivity, electrical resistance and electrical capacity of wood.

The higher the moisture content, higher will be the weight of wood. As the MC is reduced below fibre saturation point, most strength properties of wood increases; however, shock resistance is lowered as MC decreases, shrinkage and swelling of wood is directly related to MC in wood. Drying wood below FSP will lead to shrinkage. But intake of water above FSP by timber will not increase the dimensions of the wood. Wood having moisture content below 20 per cent (Oven dry basis) is not attacked by staining or fungi.

Thermal conductivity of wood decreases with decrease of MC of wood. Reduction in MC from fibre saturation point to oven-dry condition increase the direct current electrical resistance of wood about a million fold and the resistance becomes so great that it is difficult to measure. However, as the moisture content increase, from FSP to more than 200 per cent causes a change in electrical resistance less than 50 folds.

Water in wood cells has very important role to play during peeling of veneer. Some of the free water is forced out during peeling. This water apparently acts as a lubricant between the wood and the knife and pressure bar and aids the cutting process. In normal veneer peeling, wood is compressed just ahead the knife. Wood with very high moisture content has no place for compression to take place until some water is forced out. As water is relatively non-compressible, it is forced from the wood

structure at such a rate that it causes local rupture of the wood. On the other hand, it is very difficult or impossible to cut good veneer from wood below fibre saturation point. Dry logs need to be boiled or kept under water to get the wood cells saturated with water in order to peel good quality veneer.

Variation in initial moisture content in wood or veneer affects drying time. Thus, wet heartwood veneer requires significantly longer drying time than drying heartwood of the same species with less M/C.

iii) Shrinkage and Swelling: The cell structure in the truest sense is the structure formed by highly crystalline strand or micro-fibril of the cell wall which remains un-effected for any loss or gain of water in the cell lumen. Even the micro-fibrils are by themselves known to be stable to moisture. However, admission of moisture into the fine space separating them is believed to cause them to separate and consequently the cell will have a tendency to swell. Similarly, when moisture is removed from the cell wall, micro-fibrils tend to crowd together and the cells contract. Thus swelling of wood due to intake of water stops at fibre saturation point only.

Since micro-fibrils are generally aligned with the axis of the cell, most movement or cell deformation will occur across the grain and little along the grain. Again, movement across the grain is less in the radial direction than in the tangential direction by a factor of about half. Shrinkage along the grain is appreciably less, hardly exceeding 5 percent that of along tangential direction.

Some species, for example, teak show

remarkably little shrinkage across the grain. This behavior may be partly explained by the stabilizing effect of certain extractives which pack in the micro-fibril interspaces and restrict movement. With some species like eucalyptus, shrinkage does occur before fibre saturation point is reached. This is due to partial collapse of the cell lumen.

Shrinkage and swelling has tremendous effect on veneering and bonding. Since radial shrinkage is less than tangential shrinkage, quarter sliced veneer often perform better than flat sliced or rotary cut veneer of the same species. Higher shrinkage or swelling causes stress on plywood glue line with changes in moisture content. Cracks in face veneer or warping in plywood may be due to higher veneer shrinkage. Bowing of thin decorative plywood panels are caused by different longitudinal shrinkage characteristics of the face and back veneer.

Estimation of dimensional changes: If a piece of wood shrinks 0.5 mm in width when drying from 20 to 19 percent moisture content, it can be expected to shrink at the rate of 0.5 mm for 1 percent decrease in MC when it dries from 10 to 5 percent moisture content, or when it dries by 1 percent moisture content at any other stage, within the limits of the oven-dry condition and the fibre saturation points. For a change in moisture content of 10 percent, the dimensional change is 10 times as great as the dimensional change for a moisture content change of 1 percent change in dimension due to swelling can be similarly estimated. To estimate the change in dimension due either to shrinkage or to swelling, occurring between two

moisture content values, the following formula may be used:

$$S = \frac{dc}{\left[ \frac{f}{r} - f \right] + M}$$

Where S = the change in dimension in linear or volumetric unit.

d = the dimension of the wood in linear or volumetric unit.

c = the change in moisture content values, within the limits of oven dry condition and the fibre-saturation point.

r = the applicable percentage of shrinkage from the green to oven-dry condition, expressed as a decimal.

f = the fibre saturation point, usually taken as 30 percent MC.

M = the mc in percent when the wood is at dimension d.

Spiral and diagonal grain or local grain distortions cause warping primarily because they affect the normal longitudinal shrinkage of wood. In these instances, some of the components of radial and tangential shrinkage tend to increase the longitudinal shrinkage, but not uniformly. Crook, bow, twist etc. often occurs. The excessive wood streaks in otherwise normal wood often seriously distort the piece.

iv) Strength Properties of Wood:

Strength properties are highly dependent on grain orientation. For general understanding of mechanical properties of wood it is always convenient to study its behavior under pure tension, pure compression, shear and bending stresses. Since wood is not a homogeneous material, its strength is not uniform along all the three coordinates.

Stress, Strain, elasticity and ultimate Strength: All solid wood is deformable under stress and behaves in elastic manner. That is, wood changes its dimension when it is stressed and the degree to which it can be deformed under a certain stress level depends on its structure and physical nature. Stress is proportional to strain within the elastic limit. Up to a certain point stress-strain relationship is linear. This point E is termed as point of proportionality. Beyond this point stress-strain relationship is no longer linear and most of the solid wood yield after elastic point. Wood, however, behave as elasto-plastic material. When the load is maximum that wood is no longer in a state to carry it, it fails or fractures.

Failure of wood is generally complicated as it exhibits both brittleness

and plastic nature. In tension, for instance, it behaves as a brittle material whereas in compression the deformation and failure are clearly plastic in nature.

Tensile Strength of Wood: The tensile strength of wood varies with the grain orientation, the maximum value of tensile force being along the grain and minimum strength being perpendicular to grain as is expected from the fibrous structure of wood. The ratio of tensile strength along and across the grain is 40:1. Thus wood is highly anisotropic in tension.

A special feature of failure of wood in tension is that it exhibits elasticity practically till failure. Failure is brittle type and is caused by rupture of fibres.

Compressive properties of Wood: Compressive strength of wood is the load required to cause rupture divided by the area of cross section of the specimen. The compressive or crushing strength of wood along the fibre is high and across the grain is low. Compression of wood takes place by shearing of fibre at 45° to 60° to the vertical plane of fibre or by crushing of fibres at edges. Microscopic studies show buckling of

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individual fibre. In compression, wood exhibits elasto-plastic behavior. That is, in compression, wood behaves with a distinct point of proportionality and parabolic change beyond point of proportionality.

**Bending Properties of Wood:** The bending strength of wood is usually assessed by testing a beam of rectangular section supported on two freely moving points. For a bent beam the concave side will be in compression and convex side will be in tension and at the middle line the stress will be zero and is termed as neutral plane. Within elastic limit of the material, the stress distribution in the cross section of the beam will be almost triangular. Also within elastic limit the deflection of the beam will be proportional to the load applied. With the increase in the load beyond elastic limit the deflection varies almost parabolically with load. Also stress distribution will not be triangular and will be nonlinear and this will continue till the extreme fibre on convex side rupture.

The modulus of rupture of a beam of wood whose grain is perpendicular to its axis

is low compared to that of a beam whose grain run in the direction parallel to the axis of the beam. This is explained by low tensile strength of wood perpendicular to its grain.

**Wood in Shear:** Shear strength of wood is an important mechanical characteristic. It is easy to split wood along the grain but not across the grain. Shear Strength of wood along the grain is low compared with its tensile or compressive strength. Shear strength across the grain is about 4 times that along the grain. However shear strength of wood perpendicular to the grain in tangential plane is least and constitute about half of shear strength of wood along the grain.

**Hardness of wood:** Hardness of wood is measured as force required by a standard metal punch (rounded to a definite radius) to make an indent of definite depth. Based on the depth, wood is classified as soft, hard or very hard.

Hardness of wood is important in wood turning and wood cutting and it is needed for such applications of wood where it has to resist abrasion as in wooden flooring

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Factors Affecting Strength Properties  
Wood: 1) Density: Density of wood is a good index of the amount of wood substance present, the rest being due to cell cavities, pores, resin ducts, etc.

Normally, heavier species are stronger than lighter species. However, the amount and character of the extractives in the heartwood may cause species of the same density to have different strength.

2) Moisture content: As wood is dried below fibre saturation point, strength increases due to a) actual strengthening and stiffening of the cell walls and b) increase in compactness or amount of wood substances in a given volume. But all strength properties are not equally affected by decrease in moisture content; for examples, while bending and crushing strength increases

greatly, shock resistance decreases with decrease in moisture. Linear increase of strength is offset by the presence of defects in wood – the effect of defects become prominent on drying of wood.

3) Heartwood and Sapwood: The heartwood in a tree is formed by transformation of sapwood by the infiltration of various substances. Theoretically, heartwood should not be stronger or weaker than sapwood. However, the amount and the nature of extractives in heartwood affects the strength e.g., crushing strength increases, modulus of rupture show some change whereas shock resistance do not show any change due to infiltration of extractives.

4) Growth-rate: In softwood, strongest wood is obtained with a normal growth rate. Very fast or very slow grown softwood is generally of low density and low strength.

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Fast grown ring porous hardwood yield stronger wood than slow grown wood. The diffuse-porous hardwood shows no relation between strength and growth rate.

#### Wood Defects Affecting Timber Strength:

- 1) Knots: The fibres of a knot are perpendicular to those of the length of timber. The strength of the knot in the main fibre direction is, then, that perpendicular to grain, which is low compared to that parallel to grain. Fibre around a knot is also distorted and the cross grain present in this would lower timber strength along the main grain of the lumber.
- 2) Cross-grain: The presence of cross grain results in a stress parallel to the axis in timber. The weakening effect of cross grain may become apparent at slopes of grain of about 1 in 20 and increases rapidly with an increase in slope. The presence of cross grain tremendously effect

resistance to impact.

- 3) Pitch pockets and bark pockets reduce the area available to resist shear and occasionally, are accompanied by a distortion of grain which reduce strength.
- 4) Compression wood is generally somewhat higher in specific gravity than normal wood and is frequently somewhat higher in some strength properties.
- 5) Shakes and Checks: Concentration of stress at the base of shakes and checks reduce the average shear strength of the remaining area below that of unchecked wood.

#### Referances:

1. Farmer, R.H., Handbook of Hardwoods, 2nd edition, 1972, Dept. of the Environment, London.
2. Christensen, G.N., Physical Properties of Wood, CSIRO/PAA Plywood Production Course, 1986, CSIRO, Division of chem. & Bldg.' Res., Melbourne, Australia.

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The advertisement features a modern, light-colored wooden cabinet with a dark interior shelf, set against a dark background. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter are visible below it. The text 'Bhutan tuff' and '#AbTuffKaHaiZamano' is prominently displayed in the top left, while 'WPC' is written in large white letters above the cabinet. The slogan 'CHOOSE THE RIGHT MATERIAL FOR YOUR HOME, CHOOSE BHUTAN TUFF' is written in white at the bottom left. The brand name 'Bhutantuff\_' is at the bottom right.

# SCM Open House 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Charting the Next Chapter of Woodworking Innovation

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Rimini in Italy, will once again become a focal point for the global woodworking industry as SCM opens the doors of its headquarters for the SCM Open House. Spread across more than 4,000 square metres, the event is positioned as a comprehensive showcase of how woodworking is evolving into a fully integrated, connected and sustainable industrial ecosystem, driven by advanced technologies, automation and digital

intelligence.

The core theme of SCM Open House 2026 is integration. In an industry increasingly shaped by customisation, faster production cycles and new materials, SCM is underscoring that competitiveness today no longer rests on individual machines alone, but on how systems, software and services work together seamlessly. Visitors will experience this philosophy across a wide range of world premieres and live



demonstrations covering furniture manufacturing, timber construction, surface treatment, flooring, windows and doors, and wood-aluminium solutions.

A major highlight of the Open House will be its strong emphasis on digital systems and services. SCM will present its Integrated Service Ecosystem, designed to transform machine-generated data into actionable insights that enhance efficiency, reliability and uptime. Central to this architecture is WinMES, the Manufacturing Execution System developed in partnership with Tecnest. Acting as the digital brain of the factory, WinMES integrates real-time data to optimise production flows, accelerate decision-making and improve overall plant performance. Complementing this is Smart Spindle, an advanced sensor system enabling predictive maintenance, alongside robust cybersecurity solutions that protect data, processes and infrastructure. From 2026 onwards, all new SCM machines will also include Additional Care, offering extended warranties, technical support and a three-year maintenance plan aimed at ensuring stable and performance-driven production environments.

Automation will be another central pillar of the event. At the Rimini headquarters, SCM will present an Integrated Sizing and Nesting Cell for Batch 1 production, combining flexibility, automation and reduced energy consumption. The solution integrates the flexstore hp automatic storage system, the gabbiani gt 2 single-blade panel saw and the



morbidelli x200 nesting CNC machining centre, all coordinated by intelligent software and robotics to maximise efficiency, minimise waste and support even unmanned shifts. Also showcased will be the stefani cell E, a compact and automated entry-level edgebanding solution designed for small and medium-sized enterprises seeking high productivity with limited investment.

The Open House will also spotlight Tecno Logica, one of the Group's newest companies and a benchmark in integrated systems and robotics. Its solutions, applied across sectors ranging from woodworking to automotive, are engineered for extremely high production capacities in complex and



diversified manufacturing scenarios, reinforcing SCM's role beyond woodworking alone.

Several new CNC machining centres will make their debut. Within the accord range, the accord 400 will feature the new flexmatic pro worktable with automatic positioning of pods and clamps, while the accord 500 edge will introduce the H80C "Compact" edgebanding technology, enabling automatic changes between different edge applications. The morbidelli x50 nesting centre with lifter integration will also be on display, offering safe and rapid handling of a wide variety of panels.

Panel processing innovations will extend beyond Rimini to the Villa Verucchio production plant, where the new gabbiani af beam saw will be unveiled in a world preview. Designed for faster cycles, energy efficiency and precision, the new range combines advanced motorisation, a powerful saw blade carriage and simplified maintenance, alongside enhanced operator safety. In edgebanding, solutions such as the new stefani m will emphasise flexibility, with servo-assisted units and the Multiedge system enabling fast, error-free changeovers. The celaschi p20 and p30 double-end tenoners will address the needs of small and medium-sized manufacturers producing panels and components for construction and industry.

Windows, doors and solid wood processing will also feature prominently. The windor nt1 angular machining centre will debut with the new Optima BR drilling-

routing unit and the Maestro active window software, while the superset nt throughfeed moulder will present an upgraded electronic control system designed for high-precision profiling.

Timber construction will be explored through an immersive digital experience showcasing the new area gl 5-axis CNC machining centre, developed for large-scale glulam elements used in public buildings, multi-storey structures and infrastructure projects. Surface finishing solutions will focus on the growing demand for matt effects, with Superfici unveiling Supermatt, a new physical matting system delivering ultra-low-gloss, durable finishes with reduced operating costs.

The Open House will also extend to joinery and aluminium machining. Visitors will see the nova si 4 circular saw with a newly designed sliding carriage and the L'invincibile si 3bo featuring an advanced blade safety system. For aluminium, the MC 307 Falcon by Mecal Machinery will be presented for the first time at the Rimini Technology Center, highlighting high-speed, flexible machining for both construction and furniture applications.

Through live demonstrations, guided plant tours and insights into emerging market trends, SCM Open House 2026 positions itself not merely as a product showcase, but as a strategic statement on the future of manufacturing. It reinforces SCM Group's role as a global technology leader and long-term partner for companies navigating the next era of industrial transformation.

# Wood Show Dubai 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

## Enabling the Middle East as a Global Wood Hub

For decades, the UAE has continued to host some of the most ambitious construction and development programmes in the world. Giga-projects, smart cities, large hospitality clusters, infrastructure corridors, and mixed-use developments are no longer exceptions; they are the norm. These projects require enormous volumes of materials delivered with precision, consistency, and long-term performance guarantees. Wood, once considered secondary to steel or concrete, has become a core specification material across residential, commercial, hospitality, and public spaces.

This shift has driven demand well beyond traditional timber imports. Engineered wood products such as plywood, MDF, HDF, laminated panels, and specialised interior solutions are now essential to meet



both design ambitions and functional requirements. Premium hardwoods are increasingly specified for high-end interiors, luxury hotels, and branded retail environments, where aesthetics and durability are non-negotiable. Just as importantly, certified and traceable timber has become a baseline requirement, reflecting

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the region's growing alignment with international sustainability standards. Sustainability, in fact, is no longer a peripheral consideration in the Middle East's wood market, it is a structural driver.

For wood suppliers, this has reshaped the market in fundamental ways. FSC and PEFC certified products are increasingly mandatory rather than optional. Engineered solutions that optimise raw material use, reduce waste, and improve efficiency are gaining traction, particularly as projects grow in complexity and scale. Lifecycle performance, how materials age, perform, and can be reused or recycled, has become a key decision-making factor. As a result, the UAE has positioned itself as a sophisticated market that values quality, compliance, and volume simultaneously, a rare combination in global material trade.

Geography has further reinforced this role. Strategically located between Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Indian subcontinent, the UAE functions as a natural gateway for global trade. World-class ports, advanced logistics infrastructure, and efficient re-export systems allow wood products and machinery



to move rapidly across borders. For international manufacturers and distributors, establishing a presence in the region offers access not only to local demand but also to fast-growing markets across multiple continents.

Dubai, in particular, has emerged as a focal point for this convergence. As a global trading and business hub, it attracts buyers, suppliers, specifiers, and investors from across the wood value chain. For many companies, the city is no longer just a sales destination; it is a strategic base for regional operations, partnerships, and market intelligence. This logistical and commercial connectivity has transformed how wood flows globally, with the region acting as both destination and distribution centre.

Alongside demand and trade,

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manufacturing capability in the region is undergoing a quiet but significant evolution. The Government and private investors are pouring resources into industrial development, automation, and advanced manufacturing. Woodworking facilities are becoming more sophisticated, adopting CNC machinery, digital fabrication tools, and integrated production systems. The focus is on speed, precision, consistency, and scalability, attributes essential for meeting the requirements of large, time-sensitive projects.

This technological shift is creating new opportunities not just for material suppliers, but also for machinery manufacturers, software providers, and automation specialists. As workshops and factories modernise, demand is rising for smart production systems that integrate design, cutting, finishing, and assembly into seamless digital workflows. The UAE and Dubai are increasingly seen as a testbed for next-generation woodworking technologies, where innovation is rapidly translated into commercial application.

Despite this growing digitisation, the

wood industry remains deeply tactile and relationship-driven. Large procurement decisions still depend on seeing, touching, and testing materials. Machinery investments require live demonstrations, technical discussions, and trust built through face-to-face engagement. In this context, physical industry platforms play a critical role in connecting global supply with regional demand.

This is where Wood Show Dubai has positioned itself as more than just an exhibition. As the Middle East's leading event for wood, furniture, and woodworking machinery, it mirrors and actively shapes the region's transformation. The show brings together global suppliers of raw materials and engineered products, leading manufacturers of machinery and technology, and a diverse audience of developers, contractors, architects, designers, and manufacturers. Crucially, these are buyers with active projects and real procurement needs, not passive observers.

Wood Show Dubai 2026 is slated to be held from 21st to 23rd April at the Dubai World Trade Center, to function as a strategic

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The advertisement features a central image of a modern wooden house with a balcony. To the left of the house is a shield with a flame striking it, symbolizing fire resistance. To the right is a large stack of ZEFW Board panels. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

marketplace rather than a traditional trade fair. It is a space where international expertise meets regional ambition, where partnerships are formed, and where trends move quickly from concept to contract. For many participants, it offers direct access to decision-makers shaping projects across the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

The event's importance is further reinforced by the co-located Global WoodShow Conference, which has emerged as a flagship knowledge platform for the industry. Anchored in regional policy frameworks such as the UAE Vision 2031 and Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, the conference explores how wood and innovation are influencing global construction, design, and manufacturing. Topics range from engineered wood applications and regulatory compliance to digital fabrication, sustainability mandates, and the implications of evolving global regulations such as the EU Deforestation Regulation.

By bringing together architects, engineers, policymakers, manufacturers, and designers, the conference bridges the gap

between material intelligence and built reality. It reflects a broader shift in the Middle East's wood sector: from transactional trade to integrated thinking about design, performance, and environmental responsibility.

Looking ahead, the Middle East's role in the global wood industry is set to deepen further. As supply chains recalibrate in response to geopolitical shifts, environmental regulation, and changing demand patterns, the region's combination of scale, connectivity, and investment makes it increasingly indispensable. Wood is no longer simply imported and consumed; it is specified strategically, processed technologically, and traded globally from the region.

For companies operating anywhere along the wood value chain, materials, machinery, design, or manufacturing, the Middle East represents not just an opportunity, but a strategic necessity. And as platforms like WoodShow Dubai continue to connect global players with regional momentum, the region is firmly establishing itself as one of the defining hubs of the wood industry's next chapter.



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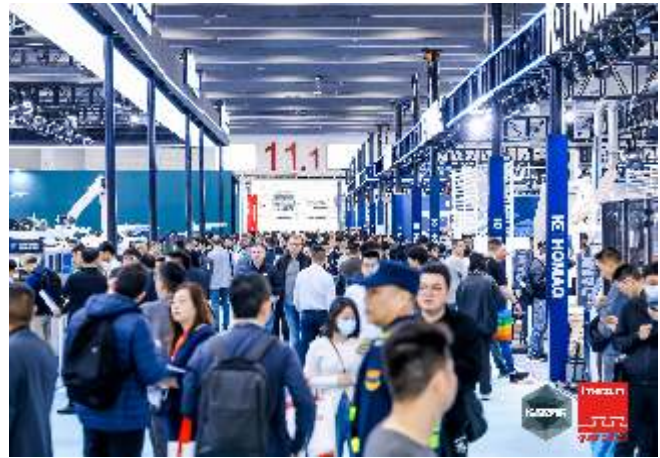
# Interzum Guangzhou 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

## Reinforcing Asia's Furniture Manufacturing Hub

Interzum Guangzhou 2026, widely regarded as Asia's most influential trade fair for furniture production, woodworking machinery and interior décor, is set to take place from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026, at the China Import and Export Fair Complex in Pazhou, Guangzhou. Organisers have indicated that the upcoming edition will once again underline the exhibition's role as a comprehensive platform for the entire furniture manufacturing value chain in Asia.

Held alongside the Office Furniture Show phase of the China International Furniture Fair (CIFF), the event is expected to attract a global mix of manufacturers, suppliers, designers and buyers. Industry observers have noted that this co-location has consistently strengthened business outcomes by creating a unified marketplace covering raw materials, components, machinery, accessories and finished solutions. The exhibition is positioned as a key annual meeting point for decision-makers seeking both sourcing opportunities and strategic insight into future industry trends.

According to the organisers, Interzum Guangzhou 2026 will continue to reflect the rapid technological and structural shifts taking place in furniture manufacturing and



interior construction. The fair is expected to present a broad spectrum of product segments, including hardware and components, wood-based panels and laminates, upholstery and bedding machinery, adhesives, paints and chemical materials, as well as advanced woodworking and furniture production equipment. Services, media and industry organisations will also form part of the overall exhibition ecosystem.

A strong emphasis is expected to be placed on knowledge exchange and industry dialogue through a series of onsite activities. The CIFM / Interzum Guangzhou seminar programme is designed to host forums where established industry leaders and overseas experts are expected to share insights on new materials, emerging technologies and evolving global market demands. Organisers

have stated that these sessions are intended to help participants better understand innovation pathways and material trends shaping the next phase of furniture production.

Business facilitation remains a central pillar of the exhibition. The onsite business matching programme is expected to provide structured, one-to-one meetings between exhibitors and buyers with clearly defined procurement needs. Decision-makers from furniture manufacturers, customised furniture enterprises, real estate companies and design studios are likely to benefit from targeted matchmaking services. In addition, VIP buyers are expected to receive a range of exclusive privileges, including supplier

recommendations, pre-scheduled meetings, personalised booth guidance, accommodation arrangements and access to the International Hall Lounge.

The PIAZZA International Hall Lounge is expected to once again serve as a focal point for informal networking and exchange. Introduced to Interzum Guangzhou in 2012, the concept has evolved into a multifunctional space resembling a public square, where business discussions, information sharing and casual meetings intersect. Organisers have indicated that PIAZZA and PIAZZA Mini will be located across Zones B and C, offering complimentary refreshments and internet access for both visitors and exhibitors.



Another key highlight of the 2026 edition will be the Interzum Guangzhou Award, which has steadily established itself as an authoritative benchmark for innovation in furniture accessories and materials across Asia. Modelled on the globally recognised Interzum Award from Germany, the Asia-focused award is intended to identify outstanding products, technologies and design solutions launched in the regional market. Industry stakeholders have come to view the award as a reflection of the sector's ongoing technological progress and creative evolution, with nominations for the 2026 awards currently open.

From an organisational perspective, CIFM / Interzum Guangzhou is jointly organised by Koelnmesse GmbH and China Foreign Trade Centre Group, Ltd. The event traces its origins to 2004, when Interzum was introduced to China as an extension of its Cologne-based parent show, which dates back to 1959. Over the years, the Guangzhou edition has grown into Asia's leading professional trade fair for woodworking machinery, furniture production and interior design, attracting both domestic and international participation.

The choice of Guangzhou as the host city continues to be viewed as strategically significant. Southern China, particularly the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, is widely recognised as one of the world's largest manufacturing hubs for furniture production. Industry analysts have pointed out that the region's integrated supply chains, advanced manufacturing capabilities and export-oriented ecosystem

make it a natural focal point for an exhibition of this scale. China's position as a global industry hub has further drawn machinery manufacturers, raw material suppliers and finished product producers to the region.

Figures from the previous edition underline the scale of the event. In 2025, the exhibition recorded nearly 180,000 square metres of gross exhibition space, hosting over 1,659 exhibiting companies, including 243 international brands. Visitor numbers exceeded 220,900 trade visitors, with statistics covering CIFF Phase II. Organisers have suggested that similar or stronger participation levels are anticipated in 2026, reflecting sustained industry confidence and recovery momentum.

Interzum Guangzhou 2026 is expected to be open exclusively to trade visitors aged 18 and above, with clearly defined opening hours for exhibitors and visitors across the four-day period. The organisers have reiterated that admission will be strictly professional, reinforcing the event's positioning as a business-focused platform rather than a consumer-facing show.

With its comprehensive scope, strong international participation and integration with CIFF, Interzum Guangzhou 2026 is widely expected to reinforce its status as Asia's definitive one-stop platform for the furniture manufacturing and interior décor industries. Industry observers believe the exhibition will continue to play a pivotal role in driving technological innovation, facilitating cross-border collaboration and shaping the future direction of furniture production across Asia and beyond.

# Wood Tech Warsaw Expo 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Spotlighting Future of Wood Working

The Wood Tech Warsaw Expo, scheduled to take place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2026, at Ptak Warsaw Expo in Warsaw, Poland, is expected to bring together the global woodworking and furniture manufacturing community under one roof. Billed as the largest trade fair for the sector in Poland, the event is positioned as a comprehensive platform showcasing the future of woodworking technology and furniture production.

According to the organisers, the expo is designed to present the latest advancements in machinery, tools and production technologies while offering visitors a chance to witness live demonstrations of cutting-edge equipment. The fair is also intended to facilitate business networking, enabling manufacturers, suppliers and decision-makers to establish new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships across domestic and international markets.

A key highlight of the event will be the accompanying Woodworking Technology Conference, where industry experts are expected to share insights on emerging trends, innovation pathways and practical solutions shaping the woodworking and furniture industries. The conference programme is aimed at professionals seeking



strategic knowledge as well as operational expertise.

The exhibitor profile is set to include manufacturers and suppliers of woodworking machinery, wood-based materials, veneers, laminates, carpentry tools, assembly systems, adhesives, chemicals, and wood protection technologies, along with companies involved in logistics and storage. On the visitor side, the expo is expected to attract specialists from the wood, furniture and carpentry sectors, architects, interior designers, craftsmen, investors, and representatives from construction and finishing industries.

Supported by a wide network of fair partners, strategic partners and media patrons, the event will take place at Ptak Warsaw Expo, recognised as the largest trade fair centre in Central and Eastern Europe. Organisers have indicated that the scale and scope of the exhibition will reinforce Warsaw's role as a key meeting point for the European and CIS woodworking markets.

# Wood Taiwan 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Showcasing Smart, Sustainable Future of Woodworking

WOOD TAIWAN 2026 is being positioned as a significant international platform for the woodworking and furniture manufacturing industry when it takes place from 23rd to 26th April, 2026, at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center in Taipei. Organisers have indicated that the upcoming edition will reflect the industry’s accelerating shift toward smart manufacturing, sustainability and future-ready wood applications, under the overarching theme “CraftSmart!”.

Industry sources have noted that WOODTAIWAN has steadily strengthened its reputation as Taiwan’s most comprehensive professional exhibition for woodworking machinery and related technologies. The 2026 edition is expected to further reinforce this standing by focusing on green

manufacturing, sustainable living and future wood solutions, three themes that are increasingly shaping global production and consumption patterns. The event is being organised by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) and the Taiwan Woodworking Machinery Association (TWMA), both of which have long been associated with promoting Taiwan’s industrial capabilities on the global stage.

According to information released by the organisers, the exhibition will be structured around a set of clearly defined exhibit zones designed to mirror current industry priorities. Core areas will include Machinery & Equipment, Hardware Accessories & Panels, Hand Tools & DIY, and Media, Services & Associations. In response





to evolving market demands, two newer zones—Smart Manufacturing & AI Solutions and Furniture Manufacturing & Timber Structures—have been introduced, reflecting the growing importance of automation, digitalisation and low-carbon construction in the wood sector.

The scale of WOOD TAIWAN 2026 is expected to underline Taiwan’s role as a key global supplier. Organisers have projected participation by around 150 exhibitors occupying approximately 850 booths, with more than 7,600 professional buyers and visitors anticipated from Taiwan and overseas markets. Observers have pointed

out that this breadth of participation highlights the depth and integration of Taiwan’s woodworking machinery supply chain, which spans equipment manufacturing, components, software and auxiliary technologies.

Product categories on display are expected to cover a wide spectrum, ranging from woodworking machinery and industrial laser equipment to pollution control machinery, cutting tools, software, abrasives and machine tool accessories. Industry analysts have suggested that this diversity allows buyers to evaluate complete production solutions rather than isolated products, a factor that has contributed to the exhibition’s strong appeal among decision-makers.

Beyond the exhibition floor, WOOD TAIWAN 2026 is set to emphasise professional exchange and business matchmaking. Organisers have outlined a programme of supporting events, including the Woodworking Machinery Design & Innovation Awards, one-on-one procurement meetings, Buyers’ Night

networking sessions, guided tours and an international forum focused on global market trends. Influential woodworking content creators are also expected to provide onsite coverage, while interactive DIY activities are planned to enhance visitor engagement and broaden outreach.

The exhibition is also being framed as a response to wider structural changes within the global woodworking machinery industry. In recent years, manufacturers worldwide have increasingly prioritised smart manufacturing, energy efficiency and sustainable materials. Taiwan, which is widely recognised as the world's fourth-largest exporter of woodworking machinery, has been cited as particularly well positioned to respond to these shifts due to its flexible manufacturing systems, turnkey solution capabilities and strength in customised production. The integration of artificial intelligence and automation into machinery design has been highlighted as a key factor enhancing the international competitiveness of Taiwanese suppliers.

In line with environmental, social and

governance (ESG) principles, WOOD TAIWAN 2026 will adopt a fully paperless approach. Organisers have confirmed that registration and booth applications will be conducted exclusively online, marking a transition to a 100 per cent digital system. This move has been presented as part of a broader effort to reduce environmental impact while streamlining participation for exhibitors and visitors alike. With booth applications reportedly gaining momentum, companies have been encouraged to secure their space early through the official WOOD TAIWAN website.

As preparations continue, industry commentators have suggested that WOOD TAIWAN 2026 will serve not only as a showcase of machinery and technology, but also as a barometer of where the global woodworking and furniture manufacturing industries are heading. By combining innovation, sustainability and international collaboration under one roof, the exhibition is widely expected to play a meaningful role in shaping future industry dialogue and business opportunities.



# Osaka Expo 2025

## Putting Forests at the Heart of Human Futures

At Osaka Expo 2025, forests occupied a central place in the event's vision of a sustainable and human-centred future. From carefully designed green sanctuaries to symbolic installations built around ancient trees, the Expo highlighted how forests continue to shape human wellbeing, culture and innovation in an increasingly urbanised world.

The organisers' commitment to sustainability was evident not only in the architecture of national pavilions but also in the way forestry and natural ecosystems are woven into the visitor experience. Amid displays of advanced technology and futuristic design, trees and timber provide a grounding presence, reminding visitors that progress and nature were not opposing forces but interconnected ones.

Central to the Expo's Grand Ring was the 'Forest of Tranquillity', a living installation designed to offer relief from Osaka's intense summer heat. This shaded green refuge demonstrated that the ecosystem services forests provide in real time: lowering ambient temperatures, improving air quality and creating spaces for rest and reflection. For many visitors, the forest became a momentary escape from the



crowds and a reminder of the role trees play in combating climate change and the urban heat island effect.

Across the Expo grounds, timber was thoughtfully incorporated into everyday infrastructure. Wooden benches and seating areas appeared throughout the site, offering both comfort and practicality. Unlike metal or plastic, timber remains cool under direct sunlight, allowing visitors to sit comfortably even during the hottest hours of the day. These simple design choices quietly reinforced the advantages of natural, renewable materials.

Inside several national pavilions, visitors remarked on a surprising sense of calm despite heavy foot traffic. Timber's natural sound-absorbing qualities helped



soften noise and reduced echoes, creating more focused and pleasant interior environments. This subtle effect reflected why wood is increasingly favoured in schools, offices and public buildings worldwide.

One of the most evocative installations was the 'Forest of Civilisation', which featured ancient sub-fossil oak trees, some more than

6,500 years old. Each oak was dedicated to a participating nation, transforming the exhibit into a powerful symbol of shared human history. These trees stood as silent witnesses to millennia of civilisation, underscoring how deeply forests are intertwined with human development across cultures and borders.

Osaka Expo 2025 ultimately presented forests not just as renewable resources, but as sources of comfort, resilience and connection. From cooling cities and cleaning air to inspiring collective identity, the Expo demonstrated that forests remain essential to human life. Using timber certified by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the event offered a compelling vision of how sustainable forestry can support both people and the planet.

## FIR TREES

# Revealing Hidden Gold

Researchers in Finland have reported that fir trees are capable of naturally accumulating traces of gold in their needles, offering new insight into biological mineral processes. According to findings by the University of Oulu and the Geological Survey of Finland, gold nanoparticles were detected inside spruce leaves growing near the Tiira gold deposit. The study suggested that microbes play a central role by converting dissolved gold present in soil water into solid particles.

Scientists involved in the research indicated that specific bacterial groups living as endophytes within the trees were responsible for trapping the metal inside leaf tissues. While the quantity of gold per tree was described as economically negligible, the discovery was seen as significant for mineral exploration. Researchers noted that such bio-indicators could enable more environmentally friendly, non-invasive methods for locating underground mineral deposits.

Woodtech & Mebelexpo Uzbekistan 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

# Setting The Stage for Global Engagement of Uzbekistan's Woodworking and Furniture Sector

WoodTech & MebelExpo Uzbekistan 2026 is being positioned as a defining moment for Central Asia's woodworking and furniture industries, as the exhibition prepares to return to Tashkent from 28th to 30th April, 2026. Scheduled at the Uzexpocentre NEC, the 22nd edition is widely expected to consolidate its standing as the country's most influential international platform for production technologies, materials, components and finished furniture, while also reflecting the broader transformation underway in Uzbekistan's manufacturing economy.

Industry observers have consistently described the exhibition as more than a conventional trade fair. Since its launch in

2004, WoodTech & MebelExpo Uzbekistan has evolved into the primary interface between local manufacturers and global technology providers. Over the years, it has come to be regarded as a conduit through which international best practices, advanced machinery and contemporary design philosophies have entered the Uzbek market. Organisers have indicated that the 2026 edition will build on this legacy by convening furniture producers, suppliers of high-tech equipment, raw material manufacturers, component specialists, and interior and design professionals from across the world.

Market analysts have pointed out that the relevance of the exhibition is closely tied to Uzbekistan's demographic and economic



profile. With a population exceeding 37.5 million, the country represents the largest consumer base in Central Asia. Rapid urbanisation, rising household incomes and sustained investment in residential, commercial, industrial and public infrastructure projects have collectively driven demand for furniture and interior solutions. It has been widely noted within the industry that close to 90 per cent of this demand is currently met by domestic manufacturers, a statistic that underscores both the scale achieved by local enterprises and the scope for further technological upgrading.

According to data frequently cited by organisers, more than 5,000 companies in Uzbekistan are active in furniture

manufacturing, woodworking, and the production of materials and components. Together, these enterprises employ over 300,000 people, making the sector a significant contributor to industrial employment. Over the past decade, manufacturers have expanded their product portfolios and improved quality standards, while design sensibilities have increasingly aligned with global trends. The steady rise in both exports and imports of ready furniture has also been interpreted as evidence of the industry's growing integration with international markets.

Within this environment, WoodTech & MebelExpo Uzbekistan has increasingly been characterised as a practical business instrument rather than a purely promotional



event. Domestic manufacturers are understood to value the opportunity to access modern machinery, tools and materials without leaving the country, thereby reducing costs and accelerating decision-making. At the same time, international exhibitors seeking entry into or expansion within the Uzbek and wider Central Asian markets are able to engage directly with manufacturers, distributors and buyers who play decisive roles in procurement and investment. As a result, the exhibition has earned a reputation as a neutral and efficient meeting point for negotiations, partnerships and long-term market strategies.

The scale and impact of the exhibition were clearly illustrated by the results of the 2025 edition. A total of 116 companies from 10 countries participated, representing a diverse mix of European, Asian and regional markets. Countries such as Austria, Germany, Italy, China, Türkiye, Russia and Kazakhstan were among those represented, alongside a strong domestic presence. During the three-day event, 6,769 professional visitors were recorded, reflecting a year-on-year increase of 12 per cent. Overall visits exceeded 9,000, a figure that many industry participants interpreted as a sign of growing confidence and engagement across the sector.

Feedback collected after the 2025 exhibition further reinforced its perceived value. Exhibitors reportedly expressed unanimous agreement on the event's importance for business development, while a significant majority assessed their participation outcomes as positive. Many companies indicated that contracts or

preliminary agreements had been concluded during the exhibition, and a high proportion stated their intention to recommend participation to industry peers. The strong rebooking rate was widely seen as a measure of the exhibition's return on investment and its relevance to commercial decision-making.

Looking ahead to 2026, organisers have emphasised that the exhibition will continue to provide a structured and results-oriented environment for market engagement. Exhibitors are expected to use the platform to introduce new products and technologies, demonstrate innovations in furniture design and woodworking processes, and gauge demand across different regions of Uzbekistan and neighbouring countries. For many participants, the exhibition is viewed as a strategic avenue for building dealer networks, expanding distribution reach and strengthening brand recognition across Central Asia.

The visitor profile has remained one of the exhibition's most notable strengths. Surveys conducted in recent editions have shown that a majority of visitors are business owners or senior decision-makers, with purchasing authority or significant influence over procurement. A substantial proportion of attendees are first-time visitors each year, indicating the exhibition's ability to attract new enterprises and emerging businesses. In 2025, visitors from 30 countries were recorded, with foreign participation particularly strong from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and China. Domestically, attendance was concentrated in Tashkent and six key furniture-producing

regions, which together account for the majority of national output.

Beyond the physical exhibition, WoodTech & MebelExpo Uzbekistan is supported by an extensive year-round promotional campaign. Organisers have highlighted the use of digital marketing, direct outreach, targeted communications, media partnerships and broadcast advertising to maintain visibility for exhibitors before and after the event. This sustained approach is widely believed to enhance brand recall, support lead generation and extend the commercial impact of participation well beyond the exhibition dates.

The 2026 edition will offer a range of participation formats designed to accommodate diverse business objectives. These include standard indoor stands, raw indoor space for customised booth design, outdoor areas for displaying large-scale machinery, indirect participation options, and tailored sponsorship and partnership packages. Industry commentators have noted that this flexibility allows both established global brands and smaller

regional players to align their presence with specific marketing, sales or expansion goals.

The exhibition is organised by Iteca Exhibitions, a long-established operator in Uzbekistan's exhibition and conference industry, in cooperation with international partners. With nearly three decades of experience across multiple sectors of the economy, the organiser's role has been widely acknowledged as a key factor in the exhibition's credibility, continuity and steady growth. Its international partnerships have further strengthened the event's global reach and professional standards.

As Uzbekistan's furniture and woodworking industries continue to modernise, diversify and scale, WoodTech & MebelExpo Uzbekistan 2026 is increasingly being seen as both a reflection of current industry capabilities and a catalyst for future development. For manufacturers, suppliers and technology providers seeking tangible business outcomes in Central Asia, the exhibition is no longer perceived as an optional showcase, but as a strategic fixture in the regional industry calendar.

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## INTEXT Expo 2026

# Positioning Ludhiana as North India's Design-Construction Confluence

INTEXT Expo 2026 was placed as North India's leading exhibition for architecture, construction, interiors, exteriors, and lifestyle industries, with Ludhiana once again identified as its strategic host city. Held from 16th to 19th January 2026 at the Ludhiana Exhibition Centre on G.T. Road, Sahnewal, the event was presented as the 14th edition of a platform that had steadily grown into a benchmark for business-driven trade exhibitions in the built-environment sector.

The 2026 edition marked over 15 years of industrial excellence, reinforcing INTEXT Expo's reputation as a convergence point for design innovation, construction technology, and market-ready solutions. The exhibition brought together 250 plus exhibitors from India and overseas, alongside an estimated 35,000 trade visitors, including architects, builders, engineers, developers, purchase managers, and institutional decision-makers. With over 30 focused product segments, the show proved to be a comprehensive marketplace offering live demonstrations and cutting-edge solutions redefining modern living.

INTEXT Expo had been built on a legacy of trust, scale, and measurable outcomes. Exhibitors participating in earlier editions have benefited from high-value



exposure, direct engagement with buyers, and strong return on investment through qualified leads and collaborations. Visitors, in turn, have experienced first-hand access to emerging materials, technologies, finishes, and systems shaping contemporary architecture and construction practices.

The scale and impact of the platform were underlined through data from INTEXT Expo 2025, described as one of the most influential showcases of interior, exterior, and lifestyle innovation in the region. The previous edition reportedly featured over 230 exhibitors from more than 20 states and attracted upwards of 30,000 business and trade visitors. The show generated over 19,200 qualified leads and facilitated business transactions valued at approximately ₹545 crore, reinforcing the exhibition's positioning as a revenue-generating platform rather than a purely

promotional event.

Ludhiana's selection as the host city was consistently highlighted in communication around the event. Sited as Punjab's industrial capital, Ludhiana was described as a natural hub for construction, manufacturing, and design-led enterprises. Its connectivity, strong trade base, and proximity to key northern markets were mentioned as factors that strengthened INTEXT Expo's regional and national relevance. The Ludhiana Exhibition Centre, was presented as a venue capable of supporting large-scale exhibitions and high visitor footfall.

The exhibition was organised by Udan Media & Communications Pvt. Ltd., a company founded in 2012 and recognised for curating large-format B2B and B2C trade shows across architecture, interiors, construction, and lifestyle sectors. Udan's decade-long experience and focus on innovation, execution precision, and stakeholder success had enabled INTEXT Expo to surpass industry benchmarks in exhibitor growth, visitor engagement, and business outcomes. With each successive edition, the platform has expanded its reach, strengthened its exhibitor retention rate, and enhanced its value proposition for participating brands.

INTEXT Expo 2026 was a highly result-oriented exhibition, supported by a multi-channel marketing ecosystem. The outreach efforts included WhatsApp and SMS invitations, extensive outdoor hoardings, print advertising, personalised electronic direct mailers, and large-scale tele-engagement campaigns. Collaborations with



architects, influencers, and industry bodies were highlighted as part of a strategy designed to ensure that exhibitor booths attracted serious buyers and decision-makers.

The exhibitor profile for INTEXT Expo was as diverse and comprehensive, spanning more than 40 industry segments. These included steel and concrete products, tiles and ceramics, water technologies, natural and engineered stone, plumbing systems, elevators and escalators, paints and wall coverings, bath and sanitation solutions, construction chemicals, doors and windows, flooring, lighting, wood and veneer products, home and office automation, kitchen technologies, glass, glazing, and façade systems. The platform's 62 per cent exhibitor retention rate reflected consistent



satisfaction with lead quality and business conversion potential.

Visitor profiling data from previous editions was also used to underline the seriousness of the platform. INTEXT Expo attracted professionals across more than a dozen categories, including architects, interior designers, builders, civil and structural engineers, consultants, project managers, government officials, institutional buyers, corporate leaders, wholesalers, retailers, and procurement heads from FMCG and industrial sectors. This edition generated business worth over crores through direct and indirect deals, further strengthening the show's credentials as a high-impact industry forum.

In addition to the main exhibition, INTEXT Expo 2026 featured Sanjh 2.0, a co-located conference event focused on town planning and architecture in Punjab. This was jointly presented by the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) Punjab Chapter and the Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) Punjab Regional Chapter. The narrative around Sanjh 2.0 positioned Punjab's architectural and urban evolution as a continuum, tracing its journey from ancient settlements and fortified towns to modern



planned cities and contemporary skylines. The initiative was curated by senior representatives from IIA and ITPI, underscoring its professional and academic orientation.

Across time, INTEXT Expo had evolved into a "go-to" platform for brands seeking visibility that translated into business. Industry participation from well-known names such as Jaquar, Finolex, TOSTEM, Surya, Havells, Bosch, Tata Pipes, and others pointed to market confidence. Over the last three editions, the exhibition was reported to have recorded a 45 per cent rise in exhibitor participation and a twofold increase in trade visitors, trends that organisers expected to continue in 2026.

INTEXT Expo 2026 proved to be more than a conventional trade fair. In effect, a space where visibility converted into revenue, where product showcases led to negotiations, and where industry relationships were forged on the exhibition floor. With Ludhiana at the centre of this convergence, the 2026 edition was a defining moment for North India's architecture, construction, and lifestyle industries, reinforcing INTEXT Expo's standing as a platform where business outcomes, not just footfalls, defined success.

भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो (BIS)

## फर्नीचर क्षेत्र में अनुपालन (कंप्लायंस) के लिए तैयारी

फर्नीचर क्षेत्र के लिए अनिवार्य भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो (BIS) के गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण आदेश (QCO) को फरवरी 2026 से लागू किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए उद्योग जगत को पहले से तैयारी शुरू करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जा रहा है, ताकि बदलाव की प्रक्रिया सुचारु रूप से पूरी हो सके। आने वाला यह नियम गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन में एक बड़ा बदलाव है, जिसका उद्देश्य फर्नीचर उत्पादों का मानकीकरण करना और बाजार में उपभोक्ताओं की सुरक्षा व विश्वास को बढ़ाना है।

30 अक्टूबर को उद्योग एवं आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (DPIIT) ने नई दिल्ली स्थित वाणिज्य भवन में एक बैठक आयोजित की गयी, जिसकी अध्यक्षता संयुक्त सचिव संजीव सिंह ने की। इस बैठक में फर्नीचर गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण आदेश, 2025 के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन पर चर्चा की गई। इससे पहले इस वर्ष, DPIIT ने भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 16 के अंतर्गत अपनी शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए और BIS से परामर्श के बाद, फर्नीचर के लिए गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण मानकों को लागू करने हेतु एक वैधानिक अधिसूचना जारी की थी। ये प्रावधान 13 फरवरी 2026 के बाद लागू होंगे, जिससे उद्योग को अपने संचालन, प्रक्रियाओं और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को अनुकूल बनाने के लिए एक निश्चित समयावधि मिलती है।

प्रस्तावित BIS QCO के तहत चेयर, टेबल, अलमीरा और डेस्क, बेड तथा भंडारण इकाइयों सहित फर्नीचर उत्पादों की एक विस्तृत श्रेणी के लिए



प्रमाणन अनिवार्य होगा। महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह आदेश घरेलू स्तर पर निर्मित फर्नीचर और आयातित उत्पादों दोनों पर समान रूप से लागू होगा, जबकि निर्यात को इसके दायरे से बाहर रखा जाएगा। यह दृष्टिकोण घरेलू बाजार में समान प्रतिस्पर्धा का माहौल बनाने और समान गुणवत्ता मानकों को सुनिश्चित करने के सरकार के उद्देश्य को दर्शाता है।

हालांकि, अधिसूचना में कुछ सूक्ष्म (माइक्रो) उद्यमों को राहत भी दी गई है। उद्यम पोर्टल पर पंजीकृत वे फर्नीचर इकाइयाँ, जिनका संयंत्र और मशीनरी में निवेश 25 लाख रुपये से अधिक नहीं है और जिनका वार्षिक कारोबार 2 करोड़ रुपये से कम है, तथा जिनकी पुष्टि चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट द्वारा की गई है, उन्हें छूट प्रदान की जाएगी। जैसे-जैसे अंतिम तिथि नजदीक आ रही है, हितधारकों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे अनुपालन आवश्यकताओं का समय रहते मूल्यांकन करें, गुणवत्ता प्रणालियों को मजबूत करें और प्रमाणन प्रक्रिया में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लें, ताकि किसी भी प्रकार की बाधा से बचा जा सके और व्यवसाय की निरंतरता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

सेंचुरीप्लाई

## ओडिशा में वुड पैनल उद्योग पर चर्चा



सेंचुरीप्लाई के कार्यकारी निदेशक केशव भजंका और ओडिशा के माननीय मुख्यमंत्री मोहन चरण माझी के बीच हुई एक रचनात्मक बैठक में भारत के वुड पैनल उद्योग के भविष्य की दिशा और राज्य में एक नए उद्यम की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा की गई। बातचीत का केंद्र उद्योग क्षेत्र की वृद्धि, सतत विनिर्माण प्रथाएँ तथा प्लाईवुड और एमडीएफ निर्माण - कार्य को मजबूत करने के लिए एक स्पष्ट और दीर्घकालिक रोडमैप की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।

यह संवाद ओडिशा की विकास

प्राथमिकताओं के अनुरूप जिम्मेदार औद्योगिक विस्तार पर साझा जोर को दर्शाता है। इस तरह के उच्च-स्तरीय संवाद ने निर्माण सामग्री और संबंधित उद्योगों में निवेश के लिए ओडिशा की बढ़ती आकर्षणशीलता को भी रेखांकित किया।

इस बैठक को नवाचार, सततता और आर्थिक विकास को एक साथ जोड़ने वाले अवसरों की खोज की दिशा में एक उत्साहजनक कदम माना गया, साथ ही भारत के वुड-आधारित विनिर्माण क्षेत्र के अगले चरण को आकार देने में ओडिशा की भूमिका पर विश्वास को भी मजबूत किया गया।

## HDMR MDF

# पूर्वी भारत में बढ़ती मांग



ओडिशा और पश्चिम बंगाल में HD Plus MR MDF पैनलों की मांग तेजी से बढ़ रही है, जिसका मुख्य कारण पूर्वी क्षेत्र में OEM कंपनियों और मॉड्यूलर फर्नीचर निर्माताओं की बढ़ती मौजूदगी है। उच्च घनत्व वाले पैनल रसोई कैबिनेट, नॉकडाउन फर्नीचर तथा कार्यालय और व्यावसायिक इंटीरियर में तेजी से पसंद किए जा रहे हैं, जहाँ सटीकता, मजबूती और समान गुणवत्ता अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होती है।

CNC राउटर जैसी उन्नत विनिर्माण तकनीकों को तेजी से अपनाए जाने से HDMR MDF, प्री-लैमिनेटेड बोर्ड और अन्य वैल्यू-एडेड पैनल उत्पादों की ओर रुझान और तेज हो गया है। इन मशीनों को लगातार समान गुणवत्ता वाली सामग्री की आवश्यकता होती है, जिसे पारंपरिक सबस्ट्रेट की तुलना में उच्च घनत्व वाला MDF अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से पूरा करता है।

ओडिशा और पश्चिम बंगाल दोनों राज्यों में ब्रांडेड पैनल उत्पादों को बिना ब्रांड या सामान्य विकल्पों की तुलना में अधिक बाजार स्वीकृति मिल रही है। साथ ही, रेडी-टू-मूव-इन कार्यालयों, मॉड्यूलर रिटेल स्पेस और किफायती इंटीरियर समाधानों की मांग लगातार बढ़ रही है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप ठोस लकड़ी और पारंपरिक प्लाईवुड के उपयोग में धीरे-धीरे कमी आ रही है, जो अक्सर अधिक महंगे और इंस्टॉलेशन में समय लेने वाले होते हैं।

आगे देखते हुए, ब्रांडेड उच्च घनत्व वाले MDF उत्पादों से बाजार में निरंतर वृद्धि होने की उम्मीद है। कई प्रमुख प्लाईवुड निर्माता ओडिशा और पड़ोसी पूर्वी राज्यों में MDF संयंत्र स्थापित करने की योजनाओं पर विचार कर रहे हैं, जिससे यह क्षेत्र MDF के उपभोग और उत्पादन का एक प्रमुख केंद्र बनकर उभर रहा है।

# पोल्ट्री अपशिष्ट से वुड ग्लू तक

Fraunhofer IFAM और University of Pau के बीच एक अनुसंधान सहयोग सतत लकड़ी के गोंद (wood adhesives) के लिए एक असामान्य लेकिन आशाजनक मार्ग तलाश रहा है: पोल्ट्री के पंख। पोल्ट्री उद्योग के उप-उत्पाद के रूप में बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पन्न होने वाले पंखों को अक्सर सीमित पुनर्चक्रण विकल्पों और कम आर्थिक मूल्य के कारण फेंक दिया जाता है। वैज्ञानिक अब यह दिखा रहे हैं कि यह अपशिष्ट धारा जैव-आधारित लकड़ी के गोंद के लिए एक मूल्यवान कच्चा माल बन सकती है।

पंख मुख्य रूप से केराटिन से बने होते हैं, जो एक रेशेदार प्रोटीन है और बाल और नाखूनों में भी पाया जाता है। केराटिन की रासायनिक संरचना इसे संशोधन के लिए उपयुक्त बनाती है, और यह हड्डी और केसिन गोंद जैसे प्रोटीन-आधारित गोंद की लंबी परंपरा के अनुरूप है। इस सिद्धांत के आधार पर, ब्रेमेन और दक्षिणी फ्रांस के शोधकर्ताओं ने यह अध्ययन किया कि क्या पंखों से निकाला गया केराटिन प्रभावी लकड़ी-बाइंडर के रूप में काम कर सकता है।

टीम ने बतख के पंखों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया, जो ब्रिटनी क्षेत्र में बड़ी मात्रा में उत्पन्न होते हैं। हाइड्रोलिसिस प्रक्रिया के अनुकूलन के बाद, केराटिन अपघटन उत्पाद को शुद्ध किया गया और इसे एक

जलीय, सॉल्वेंट-फ्री गोंद में तैयार किया गया, जो संचालन और अनुप्रयोग में पारंपरिक प्रोटीन-आधारित लकड़ी के गोंद के समान था।

यांत्रिक परीक्षणों (mechanical testing) ने उत्साहजनक परिणाम दिए। पंख-आधारित गोंद से जुड़े लकड़ी के नमूनों ने मजबूत चिपकने की क्षमता दिखाई, जो फर्नीचर और इंटीरियर अनुप्रयोगों में प्रयुक्त व्यावसायिक सफेद गोंद के बराबर थी। एक अतिरिक्त और अप्रत्याशित लाभ आग प्रतिरोध (fire performance) में भी सामने आया: केराटिन-आधारित गोंद ने उच्च ज्वाला प्रतिरोध प्रदर्शित किया, जिससे लकड़ी के उत्पादों की अग्नि सुरक्षा में सुधार की नई संभावनाएं खुलीं।

हालांकि प्रारंभिक निष्कर्ष आशाजनक हैं, शोधकर्ताओं ने नोट किया कि आगे और विकास की आवश्यकता है। भविष्य में ये कार्य पानी प्रतिरोध (water resistance) को बढ़ाने और सामग्री की अंतर्निहित ज्वाला-रोधी (flame-retardant) विशेषताओं का अधिकतम लाभ उठाने पर केंद्रित होगा। यदि इन चुनौतियों का समाधान किया जा सके, तो पंख-आधारित गोंद निकट भविष्य में सिंथेटिक लकड़ी के गोंद का विकल्प प्रदान कर सकता है।

## PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो (BIS)

# लाइसेंसों में वृद्धि के साथ नेपाल से प्लाईवुड की आपूर्ति बढ़ी

हाल के महीनों में नेपाल से भारतीय बाजार में प्लाईवुड की आपूर्ति बढ़ी है। इसका मुख्य कारण नेपाल स्थित निर्माताओं द्वारा भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो (BIS) के लाइसेंस की बढ़ती संख्या है। देशभर के वुड पैनेल बाजारों से मिले फीडबैक के अनुसार, गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण आदेश (QCO) से जुड़ी समस्याओं के कारण पहले धीमी पड़ी आयात प्रक्रिया अब नियामकीय बाधाओं के कम होने से फिर से गति पकड़ रही है।

कुछ महीने पहले, QCO मानकों के सख्त क्रियान्वयन के बाद नेपाल और अन्य देशों से आयातित प्लाईवुड का प्रवाह काफी कमजोर हो गया था। कई विदेशी आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को BIS अनुमोदन में देरी का सामना करना पड़ा, जिससे गैर-अनुपालन वाली सामग्री के भारत में प्रवेश पर रोक लग गई थी। अब जब अधिक नेपाली इकाइयों को वैध BIS लाइसेंस मिल चुके हैं, तो आपूर्ति की स्थिति धीरे-धीरे सामान्य होने लगी है।

व्यापार आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि नेपाल लंबे समय से व्यावसायिक प्लाईवुड का निर्यातक रहा है, जिसमें भारत उसका प्रमुख गंतव्य बना हुआ है। नेपाली प्लाईवुड का नया प्रवाह, जो आमतौर पर समान भारतीय उत्पादों की तुलना में कम कीमत पर उपलब्ध होता है, ने एक बार फिर घरेलू निर्माताओं का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। अतीत में, ऐसे आयातों ने भारतीय प्लाईवुड उत्पादकों को प्रभावित किया है, विशेष रूप से उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे सीमा राज्यों में, साथ ही



दिल्ली, राजस्थान, गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र जैसे प्रमुख उपभोग बाजारों में भी।

कीमत में प्रतिस्पर्धा नेपाली प्लाईवुड को लाभकारी बनाती है, जिससे यह लागत-संवेदनशील खरीदारों के लिए एक आकर्षक विकल्प बन जाता है। वहीं, भारतीय प्लाईवुड निर्माता इस दबाव का मुकाबला करने के लिए उत्पादन बढ़ाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं, जबकि नेपाल को कोर वेनियर के लिए अपेक्षाकृत प्रचुर मात्रा में स्थानीय लकड़ी का लाभ मिलता है, जिससे उच्च उत्पादन क्षमता का उपयोग संभव हो पाता है।

हालांकि, उद्योग विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि कच्चे माल में वास्तविक आत्मनिर्भरता भारत के लिए अभी भी एक चुनौती बनी हुई है। घरेलू वुड पैनेल क्षेत्र को मजबूत करने और आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने के लिए संगठित लकड़ी के बागानों में दीर्घकालिक निवेश को आवश्यक माना जा रहा है।

ASA पैनेल्स

# सतह फिनिशिंग उत्पाद की बज़ार में मांग बढ़ी

ASA पैनेल्स या मैट ऐक्रेलिक शीट्स सजावटी सामग्री के बाज़ार में नई हलचल पैदा कर रही हैं। 1 मिमी मोटाई वाली ये शीट्स, नरम पेस्टल रंगों की विस्तृत श्रृंखला में उपलब्ध हैं, जो आधुनिक सतह फिनिश और दृश्य समानता की तलाश कर रहे डिजाइनरों, फर्नीचर निर्माताओं और रिटेल खरीदारों को आकर्षित कर रही हैं।

मुख्य रूप से चीन से आयातित ये पैनेल अब भारत में रिटेल काउंटर्स पर व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध हैं। बाज़ार से जुड़े लोगों का कहना है कि यह उत्पाद तेजी से स्थापित ऐक्रेलिक, PVC और सजावटी लैमिनेट सेगमेंट के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहा है, खासकर ठोस और पेस्टल रंगों वाले अनुप्रयोगों की मांग को पकड़कर, जो पारंपरिक सतह सजावट उत्पादों के वर्चस्व में रही है।

बढ़ती रुचि का असर नए लॉन्च की गति में भी दिखाई दे रहा है। पिछले कुछ महीनों में विभिन्न आपूर्तिकर्ताओं द्वारा ASA पैनेलों वाले लगभग 20-25 नए सैंपल फोल्डर पेश किए गए हैं। प्रत्येक फोल्डर में आमतौर पर 25-30 डिज़ाइन प्रदर्शित किए जाते हैं, और जैसे-जैसे ग्राहकों की प्रतिक्रिया मजबूत हो रही है, उम्मीद है कि प्रति कलेक्शन रंगों की संख्या जल्द ही 50-60 शेड्स तक बढ़ सकती है।

इनकी मांग मुख्य रूप से इनके प्रदर्शन गुणों के कारण बढ़ रही है। मौसम प्रतिरोध, उच्च प्रभाव क्षमता और जंग-रोधी गुणों के लिए जाने जाने वाले ये शीट्स, इंटीरियर-ग्रेड फर्नीचर, सजावटी पैनेलों और



कम रखरखाव वाले उपयोगों में तेजी से इस्तेमाल हो रही हैं। चुनौतीपूर्ण पर्यावरणीय परिस्थितियों में भी विश्वसनीय प्रदर्शन करने और साफ-सुथरा सौंदर्य बनाए रखने की इनकी क्षमता इन्हें सतह फिनिश के विकसित होते बाज़ार में तेजी से उभरता हुआ विकल्प बना रही है।

इंडियन टिम्बर

# डॉलर की बढ़ी हुई दरों से कच्चे माल (इनपुट) की लागत पर असर पड़ रहा है

पिछले दो महीनों में भारतीय रुपये के मुकाबले डॉलर की दरों में लगातार वृद्धि होने लगी है, जिसका असर भारत में वुड पैनल और सरफेस डेकोर व्यवसाय पर पड़ना शुरू हो गया है। इसका मुख्य कारण लकड़ी, विनियर और अन्य कच्चे माल के आयात मूल्य में वृद्धि होना है।

भारत का प्लाईवुड और पैनल उत्पाद उद्योग विभिन्न देशों से बड़ी मात्रा में कोर वेनियर, फेस विनियर और अन्य लकड़ी के लॉग आयात करता है। लकड़ी के अलावा, मेथनॉल, मेलामाइन और फिनोल जैसे अन्य कच्चे माल और रसायन भी भारी मात्रा में आयात किए जाते हैं। कमजोर मुद्रा अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार को सीधे तौर पर नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित करती है, जिससे पैनल उत्पादों की इनपुट लागत बढ़

जाती है।

इसी तरह, लैमिनेट सेगमेंट में भी डॉलर के मुकाबले रुपये की ऊँची दर आयातित डेकोर पेपर और कच्चे माल (रसायनों) की कीमतों को प्रभावित करेगी, जिससे अंततः सभी मोटाइयों के लैमिनेट की परिचालन लागत बढ़ जाएगी। सरफेस डेकोर सेक्टर में ASA पैनल, ऐक्रेलिक पैनल आदि जैसे उत्पादों के आयात मूल्य में भी डॉलर की बढ़ती दरों के कारण वृद्धि हो सकती है।

वर्तमान डॉलर मूल्य प्रवृत्तियों से अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है कि आने वाले महीनों में वुड पैनल और सरफेस डेकोर दोनों सेगमेंट में तैयार उत्पादों की कीमतों में मामूली वृद्धि हो सकती है।

**भारत का प्लाईवुड और पैनल उत्पाद उद्योग विभिन्न देशों से बड़ी मात्रा में कोर विनियर, फेस विनियर और अन्य लकड़ी के लॉग आयात करता है।**

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## मेरिनो ग्रांडे – डिज़ाइनर लेमिनेट्स

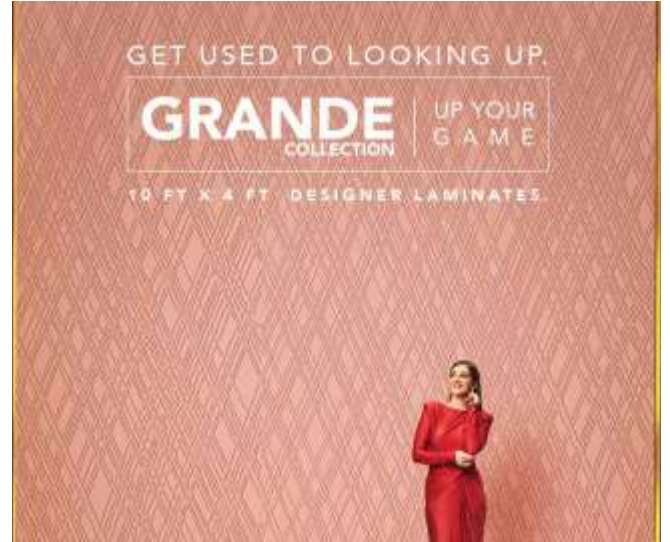
# सीमलेस सरफेस एवं बड़े साइज़ के साथ

मेरिनो लेमिनेट्स ने समकालीन इंटीरियर डिज़ाइन में निर्बाध (बिना जोड़ वाली) सतहों की बढ़ती मांग के जवाब में अपना ग्रांडे कलेक्शन पेश किया है। इस कलेक्शन को पारंपरिक लेमिनेट साइज़ से जुड़ी सीमाओं के समाधान के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, विशेष रूप से उन परियोजनाओं के लिए जहाँ दृश्य निरंतरता और न्यूनतम डिटेलिंग को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है।

उद्योग सूत्रों के अनुसार, पैनलों का ओवरसाइज़्ड फॉर्मेट—जिसकी ऊँचाई 10 फीट, चौड़ाई 4 फीट और मोटाई 1.25 मिमी है—डिज़ाइनरों को बिना किसी दिखाई देने वाले जोड़ के फर्श से छत तक और दीवार से दीवार तक के अनुप्रयोग करने में सक्षम बनाता है। यह आकार बड़े डिज़ाइन एलिमेंट्स जैसे ऊँची वार्डरोब्स, लंबे शटर, वॉल क्लैडिंग, दरवाज़े और विस्तृत टेबलटॉप्स के लिए उपयुक्त माना जाता है, जहाँ सतहों की एकरूपता आधुनिक सौंदर्य के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होती है।

कंपनी के अनुसार, प्रत्येक शीट में आयामी स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रिसिजन इंजीनियरिंग का उपयोग किया गया है, जिससे साइट पर सटीक एलाइनमेंट और अधिक सुगम इंस्टॉलेशन संभव होता है। बड़े फॉर्मेट के कारण कई शीट्स की आवश्यकता कम हो जाती है, जिससे वे कट लाइनें घटती हैं जो आमतौर पर इंटीरियर की दृश्य निरंतरता को बाधित करती हैं। यह भी बताया गया है कि जोड़ों की संख्या कम होने से इंस्टॉलेशन समय घटता है, हैंडलिंग आसान होती है और किनारों व कोनों पर अधिक साफ-सुथरी डिटेलिंग संभव होती है।

ग्रांडे कलेक्शन को आवासीय, व्यावसायिक



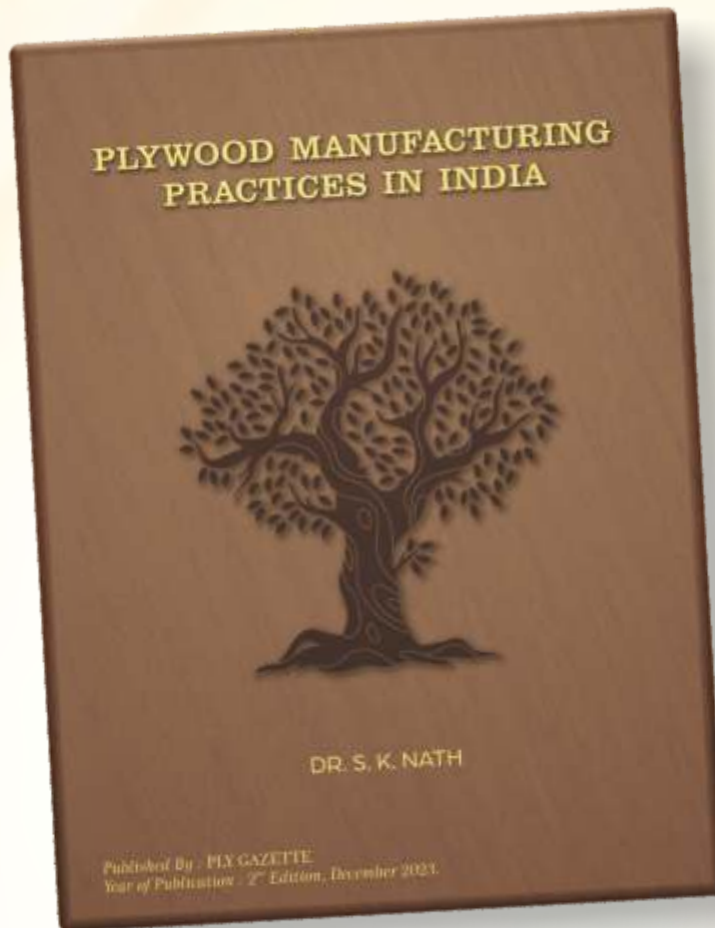
और हॉस्पिटैलिटी इंटीरियर्स में अधिक खुले लेआउट्स की ओर बढ़ते रुझान को ध्यान में रखते हुए विकसित किया गया है। इसकी तकनीकी संगति को रैखिक लेआउट्स के साथ-साथ उन जटिल ज्योमेट्रीज़ के लिए भी उपयुक्त बताया गया है, जहाँ निर्बाध सतहों की आवश्यकता होती है।

मेरिनो के अनुसार, यह रेंज नौ फिनिश में उपलब्ध 59 डिज़ाइनों में पेश की गई है, जो एक अत्यधिक विस्तृत कैटलॉग के बजाय एक क्यूरेटेड चयन प्रदान करती है। फेदर टच, हाई ग्लॉस, लिनिया वुड, लक्स, टिंबर, विनियर और वोवन जैसे फिनिश विविध टेक्सचरल अभिव्यक्ति प्रदान करते हैं, जबकि रंगों की श्रृंखला में सॉलिड कलर्स, वुड ग्रेन्स, स्टोन-प्रेरित पैटर्न और मेटैलिक टोन शामिल हैं।

बताया गया है कि इस कलेक्शन का वितरण चयनित शोरूम-प्रकार के डीलर्स तक सीमित रखा गया है, जिससे इसकी प्रीमियम पोज़िशनिंग और उच्च-मूल्य वाली इंटीरियर परियोजनाओं में लक्षित उपयोग को मजबूती मिलती है।

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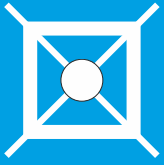


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