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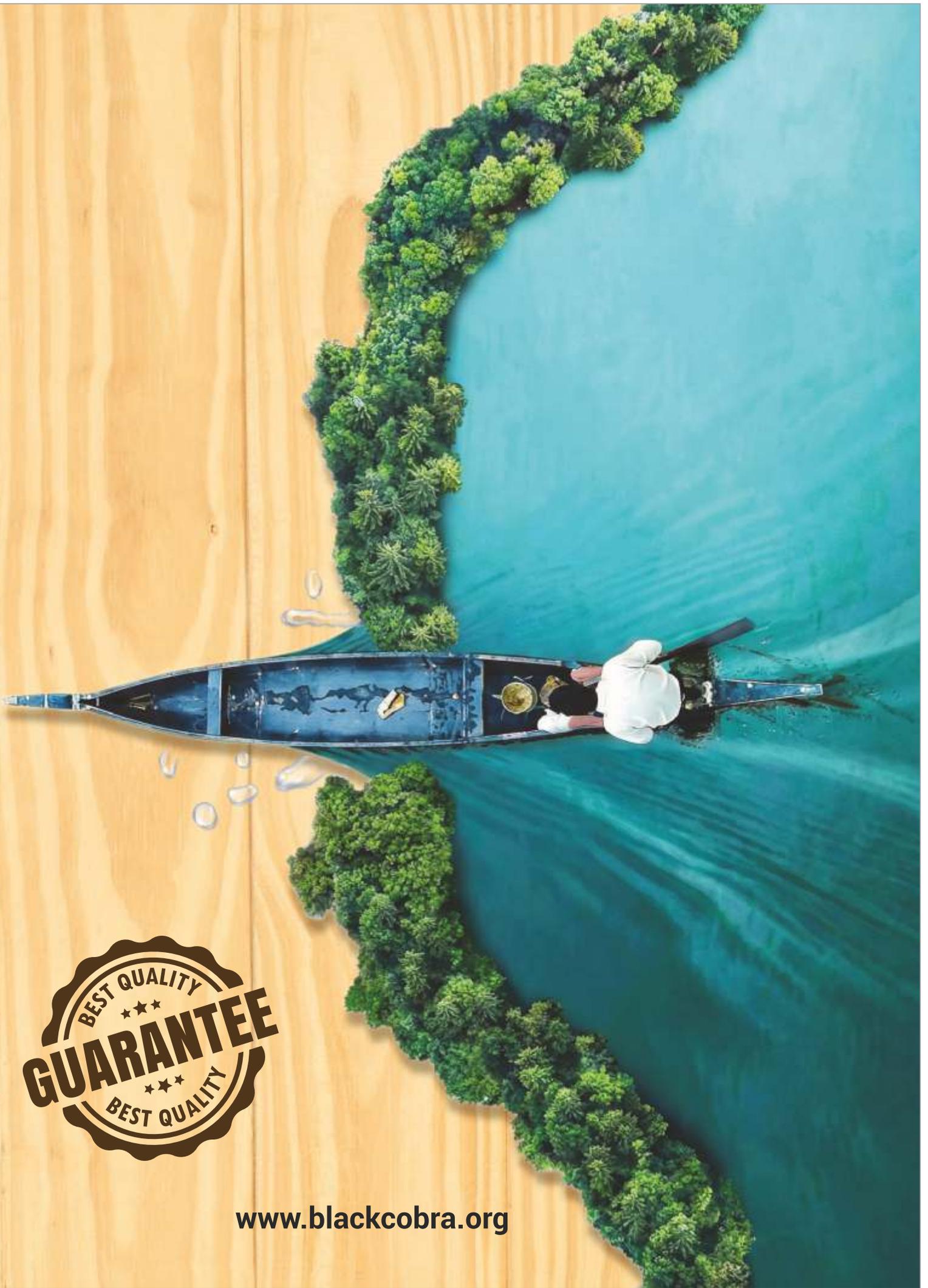
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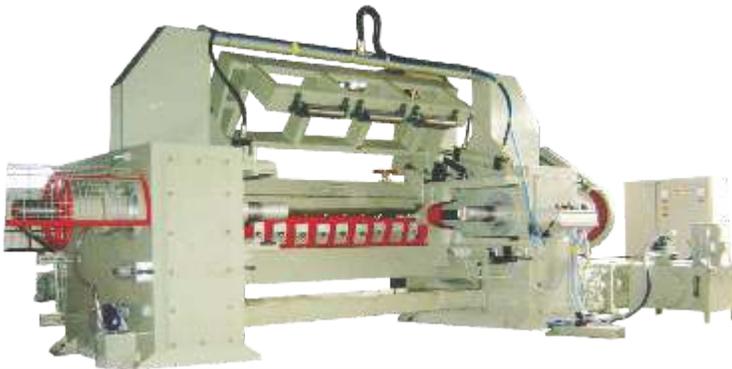
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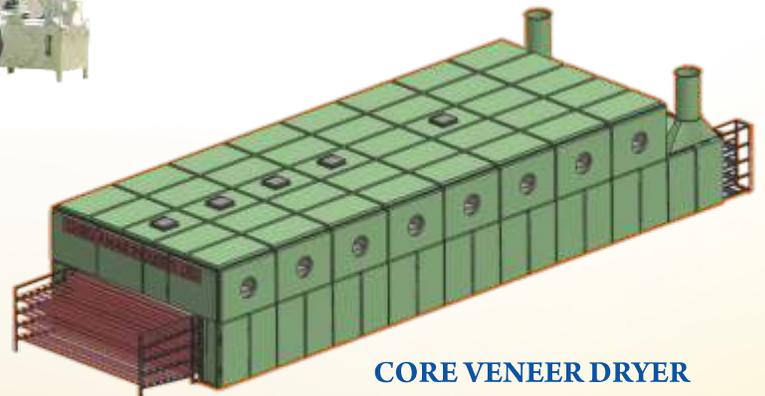
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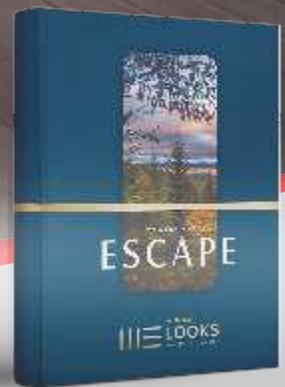
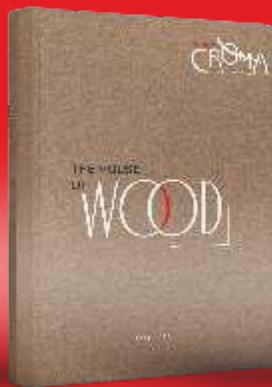
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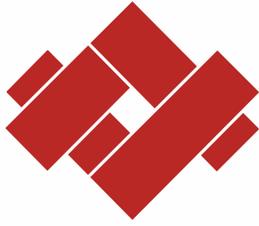


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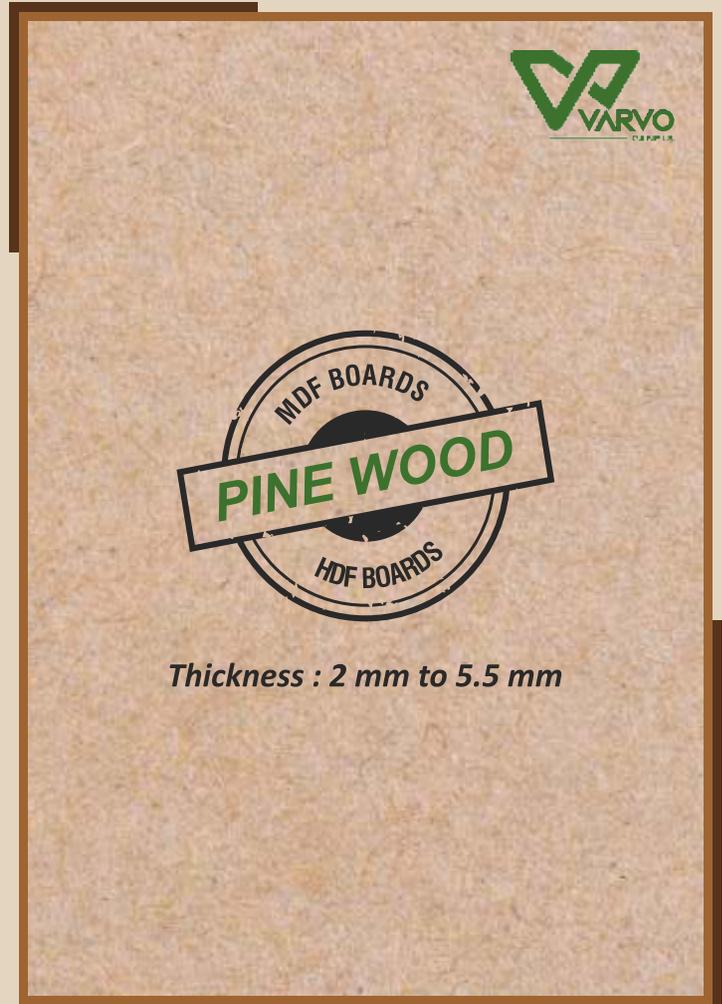


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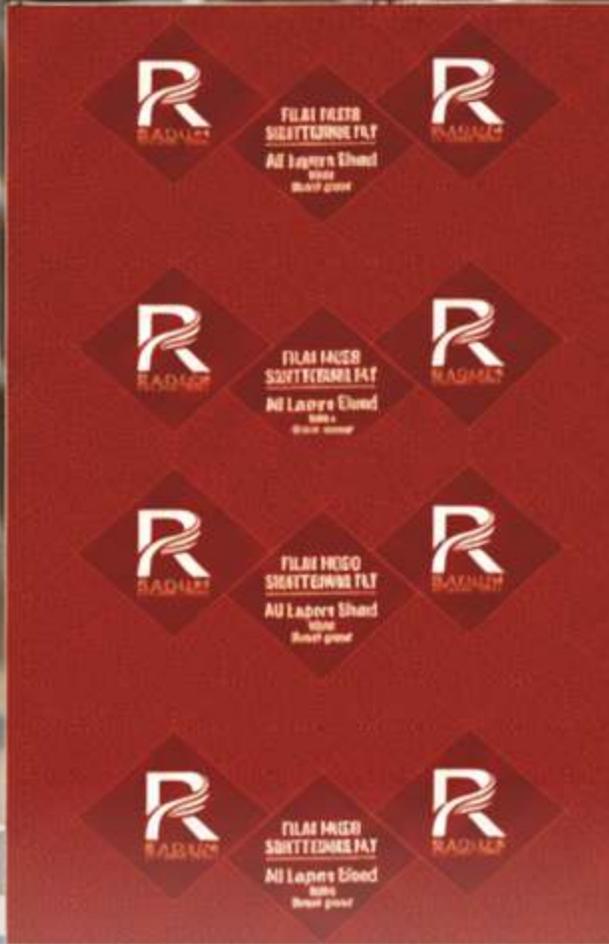
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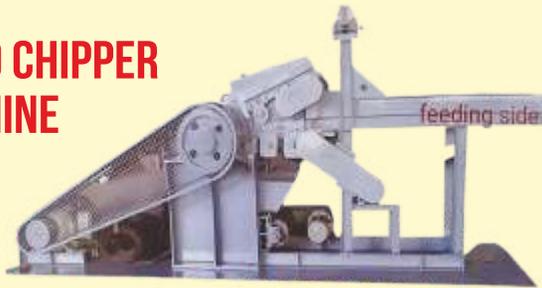


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Greenply

Investing ₹600 Crore in Integrated Wood Panel Plant, in Odisha

Greenply Industries Ltd has announced a major expansion of its manufacturing footprint with the establishment of a new integrated wood panel production facility at the Semiliguda Industrial Project in Koraput district, Odisha. The virtual inauguration of the project was held recently in Bhubaneswar in the presence of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister for the Department of Industries, Government of Odisha, along with senior state officials. The initiative underscores Greenply's long-term commitment to sustainable manufacturing and collaborative growth with the state.

Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Mittal, Chairman and Managing Director of Greenply Industries Ltd, highlighted the

company's focus on innovation, sustainability, and partnership-driven development. He acknowledged the Government of Odisha's support in facilitating land allotment and providing single-window clearances, which helped translate the project vision into reality. According to R Mittal, the upcoming plywood and MDF units will not only generate substantial employment but also serve as a foundation for agroforestry-led growth, creating shared value for local communities and the wood panel industry at large.

The project is closely aligned with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Government of India's Make in India initiative. Rajesh Mittal noted that the implementation of stringent quality control standards in the plywood and panel sector



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has strengthened domestic manufacturing, enhanced product credibility, and significantly expanded employment opportunities across the country.

Developed through Greenply's wholly owned subsidiary, Greenply Sandila Private Limited, the Semiliguda project leverages strategic location advantages, including proximity to plantation-grown timber, ensuring a sustainable and cost-efficient raw material supply. Strong road and rail connectivity further enhances access to domestic and export markets. Backed by Odisha's industry-friendly policies and a skilled local workforce, the project involves an investment exceeding ₹600 crore and is

expected to generate over 1,200 direct jobs, in addition to substantial indirect employment.

Beyond manufacturing, the facility is expected to catalyse regional economic development by supporting local suppliers, small and medium enterprises, and structured skill development programmes. Sustainability remains central to Greenply's approach. The company has already planted over 75 million seedlings across more than one lakh acres near its existing plants. This agroforestry model strengthens farmer incomes, contributes to India's green cover goals, and supports a more carbon-conscious growth pathway for the wood panel industry.

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Uttar Pradesh

Emerging as New Hub for Bagasse-Based Particle Boards

Uttar Pradesh is poised to become India's largest manufacturing base for bagasse-based particle boards, overtaking established centres such as Gujarat and Maharashtra. Industry sources indicate that four new bagasse-based particle board manufacturing lines are being set up in the state and are expected to commence production in the last quarter of FY 2026. The Sitapur belt has emerged as the primary hub for these units, followed by Muzaffarnagar, reflecting a clear geographic clustering around sugarcane-growing regions that ensure steady bagasse availability.

According to reports, two new units in the Sitapur belt alone will together add nearly 600 cubic metres per day of production capacity and are scheduled to begin operations with the next sugarcane crushing season. In addition, Yamunanagar-based Trenox Group is setting up a plant with a capacity of 300 cubic metres per day in the Shahjahanpur area, which is expected to go on stream by the end of the current year. A smaller unit is also reported to be coming up in the Muzaffarnagar region.

With these additions, Uttar Pradesh's bagasse-based particle board capacity is projected to reach approximately 4,000 cubic metres per day, accounting for nearly 45 per



cent of India's total capacity in this segment. Mayank Khandelwal, Director, SRB Boards, which currently operates the country's largest bagasse-based particle board capacity, noted that while the expansion underscores strong industry confidence, it will also intensify competition for raw material procurement. He welcomed the government's decision to levy a concessional 5 per cent GST on bagasse-based particle boards, calling it a significant boost for the sector's long-term growth.

The industry is now keenly awaiting the arrival of fresh bagasse with the start of the crushing season after Deepawali. Amrit Patel of Levis Particle Boards, Gujarat, said expectations are high for a good bagasse crop this year, which would support the sector's rapid capacity expansion.

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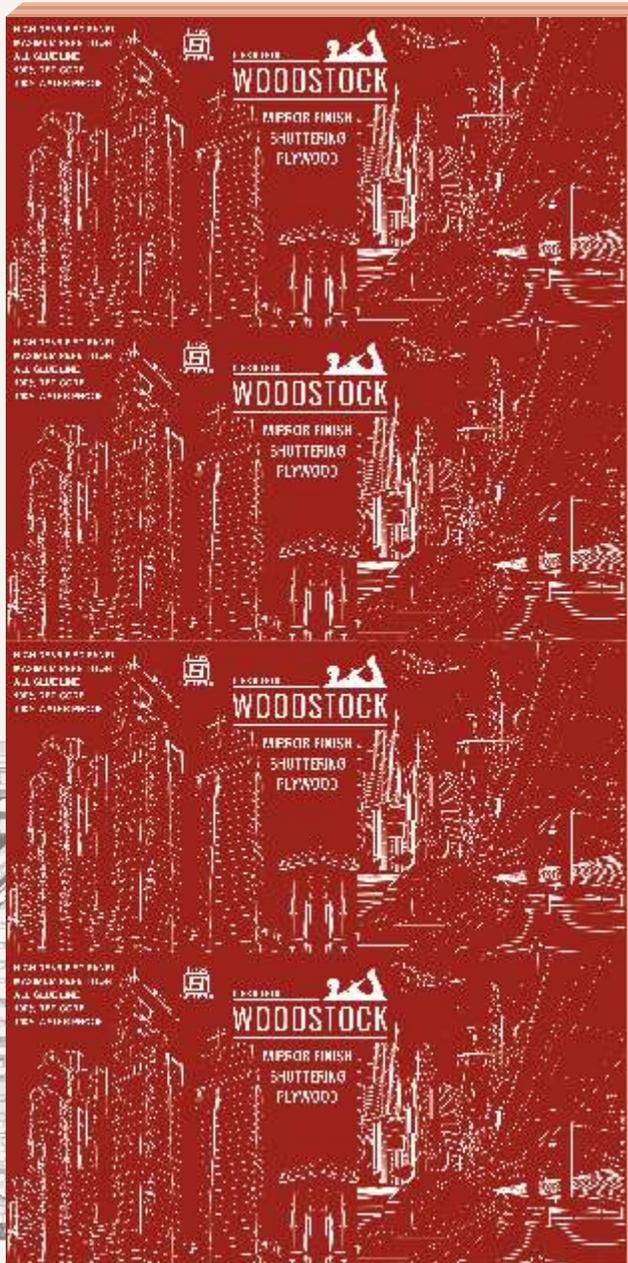
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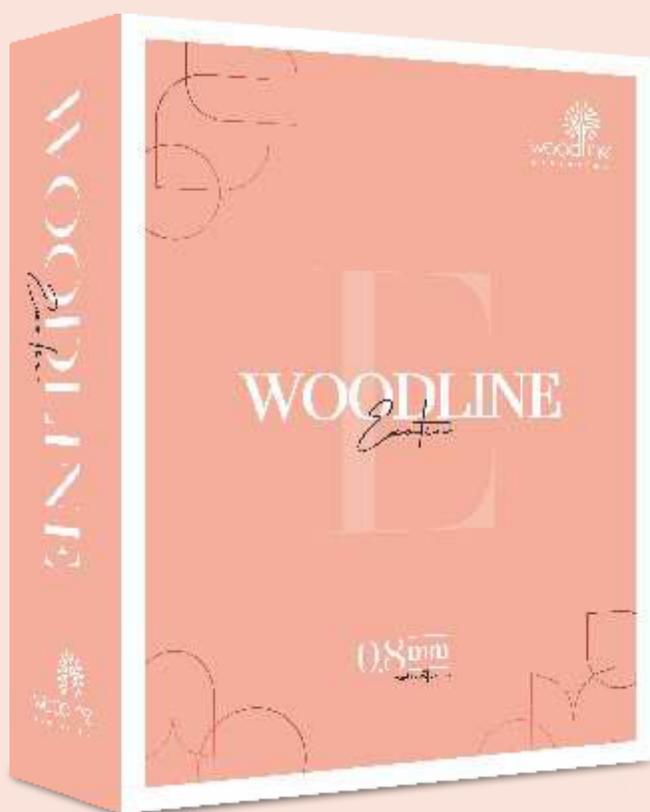
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Stylam Industries

AICA Kogyo Acquires 40% Stake

Recently, Stylam Industries announced that Japan's AICA Kogyo will acquire a 40% stake in the Haryana based decorative laminates manufacturer for ₹1,525 crore. The proposed investment will be executed in multiple tranches through a series of share purchase agreements with existing promoters and shareholders. Stylam promoters Pushpa Gupta, Dipti Gupta, and Manav Gupta have entered into an agreement to sell approximately 45.97 lakh shares, representing a 27.12 percent stake, in two tranches. Separately, shareholders Jagdish Gupta, Saru Gupta, and Nidhi Gupta have agreed to sell up to 21.82 lakh shares, equivalent to a 12.88 percent stake, also in two tranches.

All transactions have been priced at ₹2,250 per share, valuing the total acquisition of 40 percent equity at ₹1,525 crore for around 6.78 crore shares. Following the completion of these stake purchases, AICA Kogyo will make an open offer to public shareholders. The open offer price has been set at a 2 percent discount to the previous closing price of ₹2,300.50.

In addition to the equity transaction, the parties have entered into a shareholders' agreement outlining governance and board oversight post-acquisition. Under the agreement, Stylam's board will comprise up to 15 directors, with AICA Kogyo entitled to



nominate as many as eight directors, either executive or non-executive, and recommend one independent director. This structure signals AICA's intent to play an active role in the strategic direction and management of the company.

AICA Kogyo is a leading Japanese manufacturer of chemical and building material products, including high-pressure laminates, adhesives, coatings, and construction materials. The company operates manufacturing facilities across Asia and North America and has been present in India since 2011 through AICA Laminates India Pvt. Ltd., which markets decorative laminates under the well-known 'Sunmica' and 'AICA' brands.

Stylam Industries is among India's largest exporters of decorative laminates and surfacing solutions, with a strong footprint in Europe, Asia, and West Asia. The partnership is widely seen as a strategic move that could strengthen Stylam's global reach, technology capabilities, and long-term growth prospects.



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Fertilisers

Illegal Urea Seizure at Yamuna Nagar Plywood Unit Raises Alarms Over Diversion

An enforcement action in Haryana's Yamuna Nagar district has once again brought the spotlight on the alleged diversion of subsidised agricultural fertiliser to non-agricultural industries, a practice that authorities say undermines farmers' access to essential inputs and distorts the supply chain. Acting on specific intelligence, a team from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Gurugram, intercepted a pickup vehicle. The driver of the vehicle reportedly abandoned the pickup and fled the scene, leaving investigators to piece together the source and intended use of the fertiliser.

According to officials familiar with the

operation, the DGGI team had received inputs that subsidised urea meant for farmers was being illegally supplied to industrial units in the Yamuna Nagar region, a hub for plywood and allied manufacturing.

Yamuna Nagar is known as one of North India's largest plywood clusters, and past enforcement actions have repeatedly flagged the misuse of agricultural-grade urea in industrial processes, particularly in the manufacture of plywoods, laminates and resins, where urea-based compounds are sometimes used as bonding agents.

During the raid, officers found an unregistered and parked pickup vehicle.



The advertisement for Bhutan Tuff features a central image of a modern wooden house. To the left of the house is a shield with a flame-like effect, and to the right is a large stack of Bhutan Tuff plywood sheets. The text 'Bhutan tuff' is prominently displayed at the top left, with the hashtag '#AbTuffKaHaiZamana' below it. The text 'ZEFW Board' is written in a stylized font above the house. Below the house, the text reads 'CHOOSE THE RIGHT MATERIAL FOR YOUR HOME, CHOOSE BHUTAN TUFF'. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code and the Bhutan Tuff logo with social media icons.



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Officials said such tactics, are commonly employed by smugglers to evade identification and accountability.

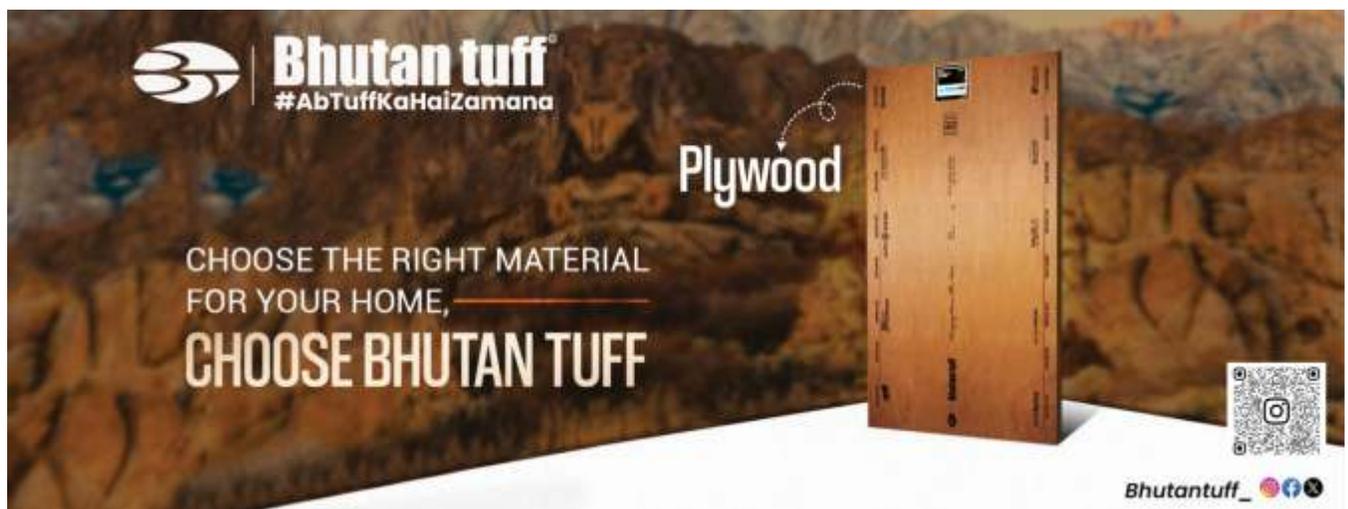
Following the seizure, the DGGI team alerted the state Agriculture Department and the local police. Officers from the Agriculture Department reached the site to verify whether the fertiliser was agricultural-grade and to initiate proceedings under relevant laws governing fertiliser distribution and use. The station house officer of the local police station was also called. An FIR has since been registered, and the seized vehicle and fertiliser have been taken into custody for further investigation.

Speaking at the site, Agriculture Department officials confirmed that samples of the seized urea were collected on the spot and would be sent for testing to establish their grade and origin. "Once the laboratory reports are received, and the investigation progresses, it will become clearer where this fertiliser came from, who supplied it, and for what purpose it was intended," an official said, adding that the matter was now under active

investigation by both the police and GST authorities.

The incident has reignited concerns among farmers and civil society groups about the persistent diversion of subsidised fertilisers, particularly urea, which is sold to farmers at heavily subsidised rates by the government. Farmers across several states have repeatedly complained of shortages during peak sowing seasons, often standing in long queues at cooperative societies and authorised retail outlets to secure limited quantities. In contrast, enforcement agencies allege that unscrupulous traders divert large consignments to industries willing to pay higher prices, thereby creating artificial scarcity in the agricultural market.

Officials pointed out that Haryana has introduced digital systems and farmer registration portals to streamline fertiliser distribution and prevent misuse. Under these systems, registered farmers can obtain agricultural-grade urea by verifying their identity, often through Aadhaar-linked mechanisms, and receive digital transaction





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permissions. However, authorities acknowledge that loopholes remain, particularly when fertiliser is procured from neighbouring states with different regulatory regimes or weaker monitoring mechanisms.

“Urea can still be procured from outside Haryana, where monitoring may not be as strict, and then brought into the state illegally,” an official explained. “This inter-state movement makes enforcement more complex and requires coordinated action between multiple agencies.”

The Yamuna Nagar seizure is not an isolated case. Over the years, several raids have uncovered similar instances of alleged fertiliser diversion, prompting calls for the formation of dedicated enforcement teams to conduct regular inspections of industrial warehouses and transport routes. Officials from the Agriculture Department have suggested that periodic joint raids involving GST, police, and agriculture officers could act as a deterrent and help dismantle organised networks involved in such activities.

Local residents and farmer groups

have welcomed the action but stress that sustained vigilance is required. “One raid is not enough,” said a farmer leader from the region. “As long as factories can get urea more easily than farmers, the problem will continue. The system needs to ensure that subsidised fertiliser reaches only those for whom it is intended.”

As investigations continue, authorities are working to trace the ownership of the pickup vehicle, identify the driver who fled the scene, and map the supply chain that led the fertiliser to premises. Officials said that once these links are established, further action would be taken in accordance with the law.

For now, the seizure serves as a reminder of the ongoing challenges in regulating subsidised commodities in a complex and interconnected economy. It also underscores the need for tighter inter-agency coordination and robust monitoring mechanisms to protect farmers’ interests and uphold the integrity of government subsidy programmes.

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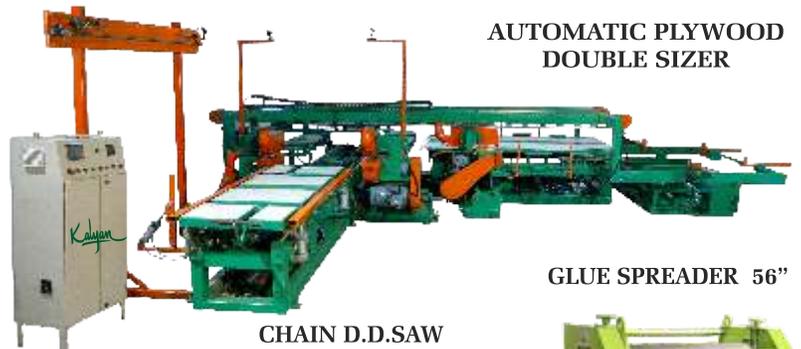
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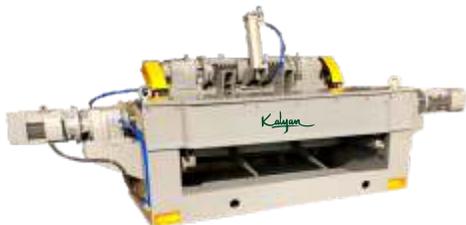
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Greenlam

Decowood rebranded as Mikasa Veneers

Greenlam Industries has rebranded its premium veneer line, Decowood Veneers, under the unified name Mikasa Decowood Veneers, aligning it with the larger Mikasa portfolio of floors, doors, veneers, and plywood. The move is designed to give architects, designers, trade partners, and homeowners a seamless experience, offering cohesive wood-panel solutions with consistent quality and wider

design flexibility.

The rebranding strengthens Mikasa's global positioning while preserving Decowood's reputation for craftsmanship and responsibly sourced veneers. It also supports Greenlam's strategy to expand Mikasa's reach across domestic and international markets, reinforcing its standing in premium surface solutions.

Praveedh Decor

Deepening Design Community Connect

Praveedh Decor is strengthening its engagement with architects and designers across India while advancing innovation in premium surface finishes. Its portfolio spans high gloss, supermatt, satin, matt glass, ABS-PMMA acrylic, and wooden

textures, all crafted using advanced PUR glue-based lamination for durable, seamless results. The company aims to support modern design needs with reliable, high-performance solutions.

Advance Waterproof Plywood

Built to Last: Redefining Durability

Advance Plywood's latest campaign highlights how true strength is tested not by time but by the elements. Built to endure every season, Advance waterproof plywood stands resilient against moisture, warping, and decay, promising beauty and durability in every corner of the home.

A recent TVC conveys its message with a touch of wit and confidence. "It is not difficult to save kitchen furniture from

water and moisture, it is impossible," the narrator begins, before revealing the solution: Advance marine-grade plywood.

Demonstrating unmatched endurance, the brand emphasises that even after being immersed in boiling water for 250 hours, the plywood remains unspoiled, a testament to performance that truly lasts.

Format4's Tempora F1000

Earns Global Recognition

The Format4 Tempora F1000 edge bander has secured major international honours, winning the AWFS Visionary New Product Award in Las Vegas and the Gold Medal at Drema 2025 in Poland. Industry juries praised its advanced SmarTouch control system and Centric edge jointing unit for simplifying operations, enhancing

productivity, and ensuring precise, high-quality edgebanding.

Designed for workshops of all scales, the Tempora F1000 delivers a blend of speed, accuracy, and adaptability, underscoring Format4's commitment to innovation and excellence in modern woodworking technology.

PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

CenturyPly

Introduces Maxima OEM Ply for Machine-Driven Furniture Manufacturing

As India's furniture industry accelerates its shift towards modular, factory-made production, Century Plyboards (India) Ltd. has launched MAXIMA OEM PLY, a plywood engineered specifically for machine-intensive manufacturing environments. The new product signals a strategic move to cater to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) who increasingly depend on precision, speed and consistency to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving market.

India's furniture sector is undergoing a structural transformation. Urbanisation, shrinking living spaces and changing consumer preferences are driving demand for modular furniture that can be produced at scale with uniform quality. This transition has pushed manufacturers to invest in automated and semi-automated machinery, making material precision a critical factor on the shop floor. Recognising this shift, CenturyPly has positioned MAXIMA OEM PLY as a machine-ready solution designed to perform seamlessly on modern production lines.

MAXIMA OEM PLY has been developed with a strong focus on uniform thickness, smooth machinability and superior edge finishing. These attributes are intended to address some of the most common challenges faced by modular furniture manufacturers, including uneven panels, excessive tool wear, poor edge banding and frequent rework. By offering consistently calibrated plywood, the product helps OEMs improve throughput, reduce wastage and maintain consistent output quality.

According to CenturyPly, the plywood is manufactured using high-quality eucalyptus wood, which is non-abrasive and significantly reduces stress on cutting and routing tools. This results in extended tool life and more stable machining performance, particularly important for high-volume operations where downtime and maintenance costs directly impact profitability. The smoother surface and cleaner edges also support stronger bonding during lamination and edge banding, enhancing the final appearance and

durability of finished furniture.

Commenting on the launch, Nikita Bansal, Executive Director at CenturyPly, said the company has consistently focused on innovation across its product portfolio, spanning plywood, MDF, WPC and high-density boards. She noted that the furniture-making process itself is changing rapidly, with OEMs playing a central role in meeting demand for fast, reliable and space-efficient furniture solutions. “These manufacturers need plywood that is not just calibrated, but calibrated with absolute precision,” she said, adding that this requirement was the driving force behind the development of MAXIMA.

Beyond introducing a new product, CenturyPly is also seeking to influence material choices within the OEM segment. While MR-grade plywood continues to be widely used due to cost considerations, it offers limited resistance to moisture and termites, reducing product lifespan. MAXIMA OEM PLY is available in both MR and BWP variants, and the company aims to encourage a gradual shift towards BWP-grade precision plywood for applications where durability and longevity are critical.

Pricing has been another key consideration in the product’s positioning. CenturyPly has aligned MAXIMA OEM PLY with the expectations of high-volume manufacturers, ensuring competitive pricing without compromising on quality standards. This approach reflects the company’s intent to make machine-optimised plywood accessible to a broader base of OEMs, rather

than limiting it to premium or niche segments.

To support the launch, CenturyPly has initiated a targeted digital outreach programme aimed at over 6,000 modular furniture OEMs across India. The campaign includes engagement with more than 1,300 verified partners registered on the company’s Sales Force Automation platform. Through this initiative, CenturyPly plans to demonstrate how MAXIMA OEM PLY enhances machining accuracy, reduces operational inefficiencies and supports scalable manufacturing.

Industry observers view the launch as a timely response to the growing formalisation of India’s furniture sector. As modular furniture gains ground in both domestic and export markets, materials that align with global manufacturing standards are becoming increasingly important. With MAXIMA OEM PLY, CenturyPly is positioning itself not only as a material supplier but as a partner in the industry’s transition towards precision-driven, industrialised furniture production.

Founded as one of India’s leading wood panel brands, Century Plyboards (India) Ltd. continues to expand its innovation-led portfolio across plywood, laminates, veneers and MDF. With MAXIMA OEM PLY, the company reinforces its focus on customer-centric solutions designed for the next phase of growth in India’s furniture manufacturing ecosystem.

Marine Grade Particle Boards

Finding Growing Acceptance in Retail Segment

Marine grade particle boards are steadily emerging as a new growth driver in India's particle board market, particularly within the retail furniture segment. Traditionally, particle boards have been widely used for modular furniture and institutional applications, catering mainly to OEMs, office furniture manufacturers, and large project contractors. However, recent product innovations by Indian manufacturers are reshaping market perceptions and expanding usage into residential interiors.

Leading particle board producers have introduced high-density, high moisture resistance particle boards, positioned as marine-grade solutions with enhanced technical features. These boards are designed



to address long-standing concerns around moisture susceptibility, strength, and durability, limitations that earlier confined particle boards largely to dry interior applications.

Manoj Lohia, CMD, Merino Industries Ltd, explains that the intent behind developing marine-grade particle boards was to offer a comprehensive solution across user

An advertisement for Bhutan Tuff plywood. The background is dark. On the left, there's a stack of plywood sheets. In the center, a person's hands are using a metal caliper to measure a piece of light-colored plywood. The plywood has "BHUTAN TUFF" printed on it. The text "Avolution Plywood" is written in white above the hands. The Bhutan Tuff logo, a stylized 'B' inside a circle, is on the left. Below the logo, the text "#AbTuffKaHaiZamana" is written. Below that, it says "CHOOSE THE RIGHT MATERIAL FOR YOUR HOME," followed by "CHOOSE BHUTAN TUFF" in large, bold, orange letters. In the bottom right corner, there's a QR code and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp.

segments. “The thought was to create a single product that works for carpenters, contractors, OEMs, interior designers, and architects alike. The moisture resistance of this board exceeds that of high-density MDF and can withstand boiling water tests up to 100 degrees, which we have demonstrated live to dealers and users,” he says.

Manufacturers highlight that the high-density structure of these boards ensures superior screw-holding capacity, with no warpage, bending, or surface undulation even under demanding conditions. This makes them suitable for kitchens, wardrobes, cabinets, partitions, and other moisture-prone applications in homes and commercial spaces.

CenturyPly notes that its SPB range is manufactured using advanced processes that reinforce density and internal bonding, enabling the boards to perform reliably under heavy usage. The company positions the product as an alternative to conventional

boards in both residential and commercial furniture, where durability and finish consistency are critical.

Other major players, including Action Tesa and Greenlam, have also entered this segment, actively driving awareness through dealer networks and product demonstrations. Retailers, according to industry feedback, are responding positively, viewing the product as a value-added offering for customers seeking moisture-resistant yet cost-effective furniture solutions.

While marine-grade plywood has long been governed by BIS standard IS:710, setting benchmarks for boiling-water resistance and durability, marine-grade particle boards are now attempting to bridge the performance gap through technology and process innovation. With growing acceptance among carpenters, designers, and homeowners, marine-grade particle boards appear poised to carve out a distinct space in India’s evolving furniture materials market.

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Merino's Marine Board

Raising the Bar

Merino's Marine Board is redefining what today's interiors demand, strength, endurance and dependability under the toughest conditions. Built as an advanced alternative to green boards, it combines durability with sustainability through Merino's proprietary chip weave technology and responsibly sourced agroforestry wood chips.

What truly sets it apart is its moisture resistance. While ordinary green boards may swell or weaken in damp environments, Merino's Marine Board shows no swelling even after two hours of boiling-water immersion, making it ideal for kitchens, bathrooms, coastal homes and high-moisture utility zones.

Available in standard 8x4 ft sheets and five thickness variants - 8, 12, 18, 22 and 25 mm, it supports diverse design and construction needs, from tall vertical panels to seamless cabinetry. Fabricators benefit from strong screw-holding and re-screwing capacity, ensuring fittings remain stable through repeated use, while its surface readily accepts PU or Duco paint for refined finishes.

The board is E1 emission compliant and produces minimal dust during cutting, supporting healthier indoor environments and safer job-site conditions. Backed by a 12-



year warranty and Merino's nationwide service network, it offers long-term value, reliability and confidence for architects, contractors and homeowners seeking materials engineered for extremes.

10-Foot Panels

Redefining Interior Design Preferences

A quiet but notable shift is underway in India's interior materials market, with growing interest in 10-foot height plywood, blockboards, doors and allied panel products. An increasing number of enquiries are being made seeking manufacturers capable of supplying oversized panels, including shuttering plywood, decorative veneers and laminates. While volumes remain limited, the trend signals evolving design aspirations among premium residential and commercial users.

Interior contractors attribute this demand to advancements in hardware and fittings that now comfortably support taller wardrobes, shutters and doors. A Hyderabad-based interior contractor tells that larger panels lend a sense of luxury and visual continuity to interiors, particularly in high-end homes and offices. According to him, wider availability and awareness from manufacturers could help the segment scale up.

OEMs echo similar sentiments, albeit with practical considerations. A Bengaluru-

based OEM notes that even when projects do not strictly require taller panels, 10-foot boards offer flexibility in cutting and reduced wastage for wardrobes and shutters. However, the limited domestic production makes such boards expensive and difficult to source consistently.

From North India, an OEM in Chandigarh observes that 10-foot doors are finding acceptance in luxury housing projects, where ceiling heights and design preferences are changing. For plywood, however, adoption depends largely on architects and interior contractors, as India's market has traditionally standardised on 8-foot panels, making larger sizes less cost-efficient.

Enquiries for oversized shuttering plywood, decorative veneers and laminates across digital platforms further indicate emerging curiosity. Industry observers believe that if manufacturers step in to build awareness and streamline production, 10-foot panels could gradually carve out a niche in India's evolving interior design landscape.

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ACP Makers

Announce 5% Price Hike from 1st December

The ACP Manufacturers Association has announced a 5 per cent increase in the prices of finished aluminium composite panel (ACP) products, effective from 1st December, 2025. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Association held on 18th November, 2025, where members deliberated on measures to ensure the sustainable growth and stability of the sector.

According to the Association, the price revision was unanimously approved, with full alignment and consent of all member manufacturers present at the meeting. The increase has been described as a modest but necessary step in response to sustained escalation in raw material costs, particularly driven by the global rise in aluminium prices.

The Association stated that the revised pricing is aimed at safeguarding product quality, maintaining operational reliability, and ensuring the financial health of ACP manufacturers amid challenging cost pressures. Members were advised to implement the revised prices uniformly from the effective date to maintain consistency across the market.

Reaffirming its collective approach, the Association also urged all members to adhere strictly to the decision ratified at the meeting. Industry observers note that the



move reflects broader trends across construction and building material segments, where manufacturers are recalibrating prices to offset input cost inflation while striving to sustain supply and quality standards.

BIS Certification

Relief for Nepalese Exporters as Process Eases

Nepalese manufacturers across sectors such as plywood, footwear, cement, sanitary pads and diapers are reporting a marked improvement in the process of obtaining and renewing Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification, a development that is beginning to ease exports to India after months of uncertainty. Industry representatives say procedural bottlenecks that had slowed shipments and disrupted trade flows are now easing, following sustained diplomatic and administrative engagement between the two countries.

The improvement follows commitments made during the Nepal–India Inter-Governmental Committee meeting on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Combat Unauthorised Trade held in Kathmandu. At the meeting, India agreed to expedite the issuance and renewal of BIS certificates for a range of Nepalese products, including plywood, footwear, yarn, sanitary pads, diapers, cement, corrugated sheets and steel items. Since then, exporters say progress has been visible on the ground.

Nepalese Ambassador to India Shankar Prasad Sharma recently noted on social media that industrialists were

reporting smoother BIS procedures, with technical inspections continuing and certifications being issued more promptly. According to him, the streamlining of processes has enabled factories to resume exports with greater predictability in recent weeks, offering relief to sectors that had been struggling to access the Indian market.

The plywood industry, one of the hardest to be hit by earlier delays, has seen a significant turnaround. Hom Prasad Ghimire, President of the Nepal Plywood Manufacturer Association, said manufacturers had faced severe challenges over the past eight months due to delays in certification and renewals. Over the last month, however, certificates have started coming through on time once the required procedures are completed. He attributed the improvement to coordinated efforts by Nepal's Finance Minister Rameshore Khanal and Ambassador Sharma.

Industry associations say the biggest bottleneck earlier was the delay in the deployment of Indian inspection teams, which stalled both fresh applications and renewals without clear explanations. This led to mounting inventories, order cancellations and working capital stress for exporters.

According to the plywood association, nine companies have recently received BIS certification, with another nine added to the approved list. Of the 52 manufacturers that applied, all are now reportedly on track to obtain certification. Nepal exported plywood worth Rs 7.09 billion in the last fiscal year.

There had also been concerns from the Indian side about the possibility of Nepalese factories exporting beyond their actual production capacity by routing goods from third countries, particularly China. Industry leaders say this suspicion contributed to prolonged scrutiny and delays. With inspections now proceeding more smoothly, exporters believe such concerns are being addressed through on-site verification.

Officials in Kathmandu confirm that the issue has been raised repeatedly at bilateral forums. Jitendra Basnet, joint secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, said Nepal had long pressed India to ease the certification regime, including during recent ministerial-level engagements. He noted that conditions have improved noticeably following discussions

between Nepal's Industry Minister Anil Kumar Sinha and India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

While BIS certification was made mandatory by India in 2020, its full enforcement was postponed during the Covid-19 pandemic. The requirement has often been viewed as part of India's broader strategy to prevent the diversion of Chinese goods through neighbouring countries, while ensuring that imports meet Indian standards of quality, safety and reliability.

Other sectors are also seeing gradual relief. Footwear manufacturers say the process remains uneven but is better than before. Cement exporters report that certifications are being issued on time once documentation is complete, supporting rising demand in India. Sanitary pad and diaper manufacturers, too, say prolonged delays have eased. With India accounting for the bulk of Nepal's trade, smoother certification is expected to provide a timely boost to exports, which stood at ₹224.68 billion last fiscal year against imports of ₹1.07 trillion.

The advertisement features a central image of a wooden plywood board standing upright in a lush, misty forest. The board is marked with the SIPL logo and various certification icons. To the right, the text reads: "Paani ka no effect, SIPL Plywood Hai bilkul perfect Fully waterproof". At the bottom, contact information is provided: "www.siplgroupindia.com", "+91 95128 46454", and "info@siplgroupindia.com".

Acrylic Laminates

Demand Fuels Growth of Domestic Manufacturers

Rising demand for acrylic laminates in interior and furniture applications is increasingly supporting domestic manufacturers, encouraging capacity expansion, design innovation, and wider market penetration. Once considered a niche surface décor product, acrylic laminate has rapidly gained acceptance across residential and commercial interiors, positioning Indian producers as key beneficiaries of this growth cycle.

India currently has around a dozen acrylic laminate manufacturing units producing quality products tailored to evolving customer requirements. According to industry reports, four new acrylic laminate units have recently commenced production in North India, each equipped with complete extrusion lines. Additionally, three more units are in advanced stages of setup and are expected to begin operations shortly. Gujarat continues to dominate the segment, hosting more than half a dozen manufacturing



facilities, with Morbi emerging as a significant production hub.

Jitu Panchotia of Crystal Acrylic Laminate, Morbi, notes that domestic manufacturers are offering a wide range of innovative, high-quality products, with service responsiveness being a major competitive advantage. He adds that Morbi alone accounts for nearly half a dozen acrylic laminate units, underscoring the cluster's growing importance in the segment.

Market feedback suggests that acrylic

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laminates are witnessing strong acceptance in both sheet and board formats for interior applications. A recent survey indicates increasing enthusiasm among retailers to stock multiple acrylic laminate brands, driven by attractive profit margins and rising customer enquiries. Many showrooms have now earmarked dedicated display areas for acrylic sheets. Notably, the product's reach has expanded beyond metro markets into Tier II cities, where it was largely absent just a year ago.

With nearly 100 acrylic laminate folders currently circulating in the Indian laminate market, the segment is witnessing heightened activity. Over the past six months alone, around 50 new acrylic laminate folders have been launched, reflecting the surge in demand as well as growing participation by new manufacturers and traders. However, industry observers caution that this rapid influx could lead to oversupply, a trend already visible in segments such as louvres and rafters.

Experts point out that as acceptance grows, supply naturally follows, attracting

both domestic producers and importers. This expansion, while positive for availability and choice, is also leading to margin pressures as competition intensifies. Retailers and manufacturers alike acknowledge that the earlier cushion of high margins is gradually narrowing.

From a product perspective, acrylic sheets are available in thicknesses ranging from 1 mm to 2 mm. The OEM segment predominantly prefers the 2.0 mm category for durability and performance, while retail trade focuses largely on sheets below 1.5 mm. According to retailers, the most preferred thickness in the quality-conscious segment lies between 1.3 mm and 1.5 mm, balancing aesthetics and cost.

With sustained retailer push and growing awareness among carpenters, acrylic laminates are steadily finding wider application in furniture making. Their clear, glass-like appearance and ability to enhance visual appeal continue to drive demand, reinforcing the role of domestic manufacturers in shaping the future of India's surfacedécor market.



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New Labour Codes

Bringing Major Changes for Employees Across India

The Central government's sweeping overhaul of labour laws, merging 29 existing legislations into four comprehensive labour codes will come into effect on 21st November, introducing a wide range of reforms that will directly impact the earnings, rights, and working conditions of employees across sectors. The new codes - Wage Code (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Social Security Code (2020), and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020), aim to modernise India's labour framework, strengthen worker protections, and improve ease of doing business.

One of the most significant changes is the universal legal right to minimum wages. Under the new rules, all employees, whether in the organised or unorganised sector are entitled to a minimum wage, with the Centre empowered to set a national floor rate. Additionally, the standardisation of the definition of wages mandates that basic pay must constitute at least 50% of total salary. While this may reduce take-home pay for some, it boosts long-term benefits such as Provident Fund, gratuity, and other social security contributions.

In a landmark move, gig and platform workers have been brought under the social



security net for the first time. Aggregators will be required to contribute a share of their annual turnover to a dedicated fund, enabling benefits including life insurance, disability cover, and health protection for workers in the digital and platform-based economy.

The eligibility for receiving gratuity has also been liberalised. Fixed-term employees will now qualify for gratuity after just one year of service, compared to the earlier requirement of five years, offering enhanced financial security to contractual workers.

Transparency in employment contracts has been strengthened with a mandatory requirement for employers to issue appointment letters to all workers, including informal, part-time, and gig

workers. Salary payments too are now time-bound, ensuring that wages must be disbursed promptly, within seven days for monthly wage earners, and within two working days in cases of termination or resignation.

The codes introduce several improvements in working conditions as well. Employees who work beyond their scheduled hours must receive at least double their regular wage rate as overtime compensation. Leave entitlements have been expanded by reducing eligibility from 240 days of work to 180 days, enabling newer employees to access paid leaves sooner.

The Occupational Safety Code includes a new provision for free annual health checkups for employees aged 40 and

above, reflecting a renewed focus on preventive healthcare at the workplace. Additionally, the new rules formally recognise work-from-home arrangements in the services sector, to be implemented through mutual agreement between employers and employees.

Importantly, commuting accidents occurring during travel between home and workplace will now be treated as employment-related, making affected workers eligible for compensation.

As the new labour codes roll out, they mark a significant shift in India's employment landscape, offering stronger rights, better protections, and greater clarity for millions of workers across the country.

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Jowat

High-Performance for Flawless Edge Banding

Jowat Italia Srl showcased a new generation of sustainable adhesive technologies at Sicam, the global furniture and interior industry supply fair in Pordenone, Italy. The event, which draws exhibitors and professionals from more than 100 countries, provided the ideal stage for Jowat to highlight its expanding portfolio of “green adhesives,” aligned with the fair’s theme, ‘All Ideas for the Furniture of the Future.’

The company’s environmentally responsible product range focuses on four pillars, renewable raw materials, resource efficiency, occupational safety, and consumer safety. With ISCC+ certification, Jowat is promoting the use of mass-balanced raw materials, a process in which renewable feedstocks are introduced early in the production chain and accounted for mathematically in the final product. This ensures increased use of renewable materials without altering technical performance.

A key introduction at Sicam was Jowacoll Grow 125.00, a new dispersion adhesive that is 30% bio-based (as certified under ISO 16620-4). Designed for the furniture industry, the PVAc adhesive supports more sustainable manufacturing while maintaining the dependable

processing qualities required for high-volume production. Suitable for flat lamination using decor papers, veneers, pressure laminates, and lightweight panel construction, it offers stable application and excellent roller-coating properties, allowing users to advance sustainability goals without compromising productivity.

For edge banding, Jowat highlighted Jowatherm PUR 608.00, known for its strong resource efficiency and consistent bonding results. Available in both granulate and pull-ring cans, it caters to manufacturers of all sizes, including small woodworking firms. For more demanding applications, Jowatherm PUR 608.10 provides high hot-tack, rapid cohesion build-up, and reliable adhesion even in challenging climatic conditions, such as elevated temperatures in summer production environments. Its fast set time enables immediate downstream processing, including milling and formatting, without delays or quality loss.

With these expanded adhesive solutions, Jowat continues to combine sustainability with high performance, reinforcing its position as a key technology partner for the future of furniture manufacturing.

Full Poplar Ply

Making a Return to North India

The Era of full Poplar Ply has started knocking on the plywood market as a number of plywood producers in North India have started offering these ranges which almost disappeared 4 years ago. As per a report from Yamunanagar plywood industry, the producers have started offering these ranges at affordable pricing.

The trade people from Gujarat, MP, and Maharashtra have reported about query for full Poplar Ply, who were shifted to economical grade plywood from Nepal, Vietnam and Kerala. A plywood trader from Gujarat says that recently he visited Yamunanagar and he found some good quality full Poplar plywood at competitive pricing very close to Kerala. He says that because of high timber and resin prices along with BIS compliances, the Kerala based plywood prices



have gone high in the last two three months.

Market reports that one year back, a big chunk of the economical grade plywood market had shifted due to cheaper alternate ply from imports and South India took the entire market share of Full Poplar Ply. A big market share of Poplar plywood is taken by Kerala based Rubber Plywood in Maharashtra, Gujarat and other markets.

Manufacturers say

that with easing availability of Poplar timber, the producers are shifting again to full Poplar Ply rather than alternate because Eucalyptus timber is getting costlier. It is noted that Poplar has dominated in the plywood market from 2014 to 2019 because of cheaper availability of raw materials, and North Plywood Industry leads its position in market, and the scenario seems to return 6 years back again, as per market report.

Bamboo Farming

Gets a Policy Push, Promising New Prosperity for Farmers

Bamboo cultivation is emerging as a significant income opportunity for farmers, backed by strong government support under the National Bamboo Mission. The initiative aims to promote self-employment by encouraging bamboo farming on land where conventional crops are not viable, thereby enhancing farm incomes and generating rural employment. Implemented through the Horticulture Department, the scheme will benefit farmers across 27 districts, including Samastipur, with district-wise targets already defined. In Samastipur alone, bamboo cultivation has been planned over 17 hectares, while departmental nurseries have been assigned targets for plantation development.

A key feature of the programme is the generous subsidy structure. High-density bamboo plantations in public areas will receive 100 per cent subsidy, while farmers undertaking high-density plantations in the private sector will be eligible for a 50 per cent subsidy. The unit cost has been fixed at ₹2.12 lakh per hectare. Bamboo cultivation will also be promoted as boundary plantation, with farmers eligible for subsidies for areas ranging from a minimum of 10 decimals to a maximum of 50 decimals. For boundary



planting, 50 per cent subsidy will be provided.

In the financial year 2025–26, the scheme also provides for distribution of at least 10 bamboo saplings per farmer for boundary plantations. Each sapling is priced at ₹2,300, with a subsidy of ₹2,150 per plant. The programme will be implemented over two years, from 2025–26 to 2026–27, with 60 per cent of the grant released in the first year and the remaining 40 per cent in the second.

Officials believe that bamboo, if linked with product manufacturing and external markets, can become a major economic driver for districts with strong cultivation potential. Farmers can apply online through the Horticulture Department's website, submitting required land and DBT documents, as the government positions bamboo as a sustainable, income-generating cash crop for rural India.

Guwahati

India's First Bamboo Airport Terminal Takes Flight

India is set to mark a significant milestone in sustainable infrastructure as Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares to inaugurate the country's first airport terminal constructed predominantly from bamboo at Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport. Built using nearly 140 metric tonnes of bamboo and engineered wood, the terminal stands as a bold statement of eco-conscious design blended with contemporary aviation standards.

Scheduled for inauguration on 20th

December during the Prime Minister's visit to Assam, the new terminal spans approximately 1.4 lakh square metres and is designed to handle up to 13 million passengers annually. Alongside the terminal, critical airside infrastructure including the runway, taxiways and airfield systems has been upgraded, a move expected to significantly enhance operational efficiency and nearly double the airport's capacity.

What sets the Guwahati terminal apart is its architectural narrative, deeply rooted in



Assam's cultural and natural identity. The sweeping arch-shaped façade, expansive open spaces and warm, natural bamboo hues present a distinctive regional character, offering passengers an immediate sense of place. Inside, soaring bamboo columns and intricately designed ceilings showcase traditional craftsmanship reimagined through modern engineering, demonstrating how indigenous materials can meet global infrastructure benchmarks.

The terminal's design philosophy extends beyond aesthetics to experience. Landscaped interiors filled with greenery create a calming, immersive environment, often described as a 'jungle in the city.' Inspired by the famed Kaziranga National Park, the terminal brings nature indoors, reinforcing the connection between Assam's

rich biodiversity and its emerging role as a regional aviation hub. At night, subtle lighting transforms the bamboo structure into a striking visual spectacle, rivaling some of the world's most celebrated international terminals.

Beyond architecture, the bamboo terminal symbolises a broader vision for Assam's future, strengthening connectivity, boosting tourism and catalysing economic development through sustainable infrastructure. As India increasingly focuses on green construction and climate-resilient development, Guwahati's bamboo terminal stands as a pioneering example, signalling how tradition, sustainability and modern mobility can converge to redefine public infrastructure.

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Timber

Global Market Strained as Prices Climb

The global timber market is facing sustained pressure as a combination of rising demand, supply chain disruptions, and trade barriers drives a sharp increase in wood prices. Lumber, including teak and other processed timber, has witnessed notable price escalation, raising concerns across furniture, construction, and packaging industries worldwide.

Industry experts caution that if the present conditions persist, the impact will extend well beyond timber traders, directly affecting manufacturing costs and consumer prices. One of the key triggers behind the surge is the recent decision by the United States to raise import tariffs on lumber sourced from several European countries. This move has dealt a significant blow to Europe's wood sector, with Germany emerging as one of the worst-affected markets. German industry bodies have warned that higher U.S. tariffs could weaken domestic producers and further distort global supply-demand dynamics.

Geopolitical factors have compounded the situation. The prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict has disrupted timber supply networks across Europe, restricting both exports and imports. Logistical challenges,



higher transportation costs, and uncertainty in sourcing have tightened availability in global markets. At the same time, demand from Asia, particularly from fast-growing economies such as China and India, has intensified competition for limited supplies.

For developing markets like India, the situation presents a serious challenge. With construction and furniture sectors expanding steadily, higher global timber prices are expected to push up input costs. Manufacturers may struggle to absorb these increases, making price pass-through to consumers increasingly likely.

Market indicators suggest that lumber prices could rise further in the near term. Unless trade tensions ease and supply chains stabilise, the global timber market is likely to remain under strain, with long-term implications for industries and end consumers alike.

Realty

Sentiment Rebounds on Strong Macros

India's real estate sector is showing early signs of a sustained recovery after nearly a year of muted sentiment, as developers, investors and occupiers begin to look past short-term global uncertainties. A recent industry report indicates that improving macroeconomic fundamentals are gradually restoring confidence across segments of the property market.

Supportive monetary conditions have played a key role in this turnaround. A cumulative 100 basis-point cut in the repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India has eased borrowing costs, while robust GST collections and a six-year low in consumer inflation have improved overall liquidity. Lower home loan rates are encouraging buyers and helping developers revive stalled investment decisions.

The recovery is being led by steady office leasing activity, particularly from global capability centres (GCCs) and flexible workspace operators, alongside resilient demand for premium residential housing. According to industry body NAREDCO, sentiment has strengthened across regions, with southern markets taking the lead. Improved access to finance and reduced cost

of capital have further bolstered developers' outlook, positioning the sector for sustained growth through the remainder of 2025.

Key urban centres such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune are at the forefront of the rebound. These markets are benefiting from calibrated project launches aligned with end-user demand, rather than speculative supply. Developers have reported a noticeable rise in confidence, reflected in improved future sentiment scores, driven by steady sales in high-value residential and commercial assets.

Confidence is also returning among non-developer stakeholders. Banks, non-banking finance companies and private equity investors have reported better sentiment, aided by improving cash flows and clearer visibility on returns. In residential real estate, nearly 70 per cent of stakeholders expect new project launches to remain stable or increase.

While premium and luxury housing, particularly homes priced above ₹1 crore, continues to attract strong interest, demand in the mid-income and affordable segments remains constrained due to affordability pressures and tighter margins.

Soft Poplar

Prices Offer Relief, Structural Challenges Persist

A sustained softness in poplar wood prices is offering much-needed breathing space to India's plywood industry, even as manufacturers continue to grapple with regulatory uncertainty, uneven technological adoption, and market volatility. According to J K Bihani, President of the Haryana Plywood Manufacturers Association, the current decline in raw material prices has been gradual rather than abrupt, driven largely by abundant supply and muted demand.

Wood prices, particularly poplar, have eased across quality grades. Top-grade poplar is currently trading at around ₹1,400 per quintal, while good average-quality material is available in the ₹1,200–1,250 range. What is noteworthy, Bihani observes, is that this price correction continued even during the monsoon season, a period that

traditionally witnesses supply disruptions and price escalation due to restricted cutting and transportation. This year, however, supply remained uninterrupted and plentiful, leading to downward pressure on prices.

The present scenario, he explains, is a classic case of supply outpacing demand. Buyers, anticipating further price corrections, have adopted a wait-and-watch approach, which has further softened the market. While poplar remains a staple raw material with consistent long-term demand, short-term sentiment has restrained buying activity.

On whether the current softness will sustain, Bihani remains cautiously pragmatic. With supply lines strong and stocks yet to be fully absorbed, prices are likely to remain stable for some time. A sharp

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upward movement appears unlikely until demand revives meaningfully. He also points out that eucalyptus, which finds application in multiple sectors beyond plywood, is less prone to sudden demand or price shocks, making its market relatively stable.

Contrary to speculation, recent GST developments have not directly influenced timber prices. The GST rate on plywood and related products remains unchanged at 18 percent. However, rate reductions in other sectors have improved overall market sentiment, creating expectations of broader demand revival. According to Bihani, the real driver behind current price movements remains the basic supply-demand equation rather than tax policy.

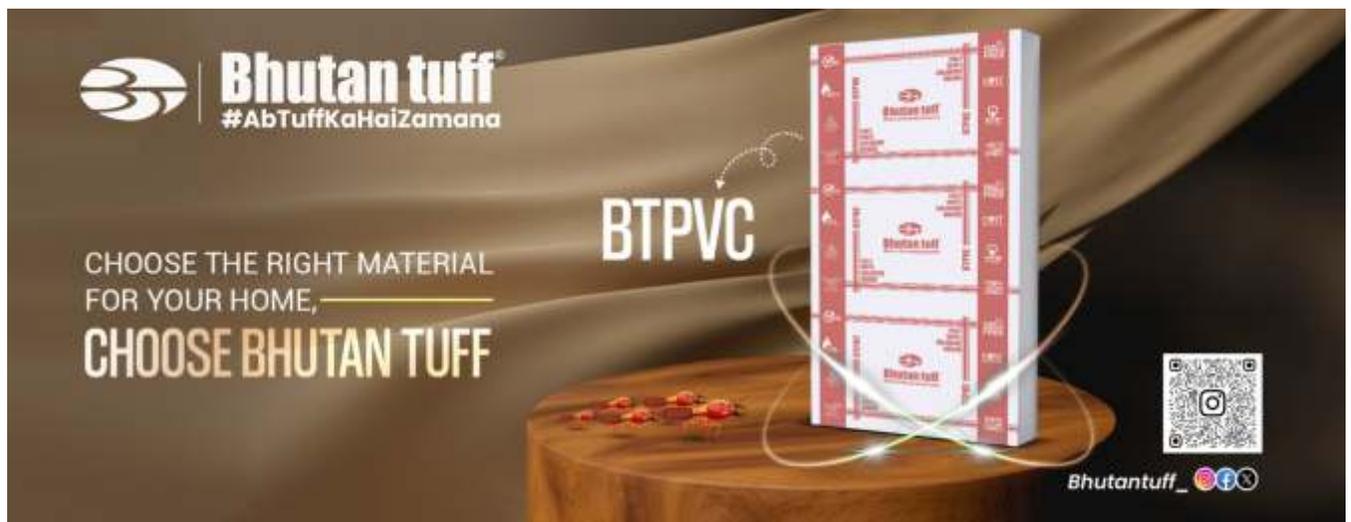
Global economic developments, particularly in the United States, have also had an indirect impact. Economic slowdown concerns, job losses, and recessionary fears in major economies have compelled the Indian government to focus on strengthening domestic demand. In this context, India's large population base continues to be its strongest buffer. With over 1.4 billion

consumers, domestic demand provides a level of resilience that many export-dependent economies lack.

On the manufacturing front, the industry is witnessing a clear divide between new and legacy units. Newer factories are increasingly equipped with advanced machinery such as 15-daylight and 20-daylight presses, allowing for higher output, better quality consistency, and lower per-unit overheads. These plants benefit from modern layouts and energy-efficient processes that significantly enhance competitiveness.

Older units, however, face constraints. Bihani candidly acknowledges that legacy plants must align production with their available resources and cost structures rather than chasing volumes aggressively. In an environment marked by demand uncertainty, calibrated production planning based on market signals has become essential for survival.

GST reform, in his assessment, remains more aspirational than real. While certain processes like new registrations have become easier, day-to-day compliance



continues to be paperwork-intensive. True reform, he argues, will be evident only when procedural complexity reduces and businesses save time and effort. At present, policy focus appears skewed towards introducing new regulations rather than ensuring clarity and effective implementation of existing ones.

Environmental compliance presents another layer of complexity. Pollution control norms apply uniformly across the industry, which has reduced overt resistance. However, inconsistent enforcement has created confusion. Rules are announced but not followed through rigorously, leaving manufacturers uncertain about compliance expectations. This lack of clarity complicates planning and increases compliance risks.

The issue of BIS licensing remains particularly contentious. Licensed operators have largely absorbed the increased compliance costs and continue operating without major disruption. The real challenge lies with unlicensed units that continue production with little fear of enforcement. Bihani stresses that policing such operators is the government's responsibility, not that of industry associations. Expecting associations to identify violators, he argues, shifts accountability away from regulatory authorities.

Clarifying another concern, he notes

that manufacturers do not require separate BIS licences for each grade from F10 to F50. A single licence suffices, although samples must be submitted separately for each grade. Even so, the volume of factory and market sampling has increased substantially, placing both financial and psychological strain on manufacturers.

Recent fire incidents at plywood factories have further highlighted operational vulnerabilities. In the past few months, three factories reportedly suffered fires, likely originating near oil boilers. Each incident resulted in losses estimated at ₹60–70 lakh. While insurance provides partial relief, recovery is limited to about 70–80 percent of losses, and the claims process is often cumbersome and time-consuming.

Summing up the industry's challenges, Bihani identifies four key pressure points: the widening technology gap between new and old units, regulatory ambiguity, unchecked operations by unlicensed players, and persistent market instability driven by fluctuating raw material and finished product prices. While softer poplar prices offer temporary relief, long-term sustainability, he emphasises, will depend on clearer regulations, fair enforcement, and steady demand growth.

PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

IndiaWood 2026

Shaping the Future of Woodworking and Furniture Manufacturing

IndiaWood 2026 returns to the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) from 26th February to 2nd March 2026, reaffirming its role as one of Asia's most influential trade fairs for the woodworking and furniture manufacturing industry. Recognised as a global summit for production

technology, materials, and design, the event is expected to draw thousands of professionals seeking to engage with cutting-edge solutions, emerging trends, and a fast-evolving marketplace driven by digitalisation, sustainability, and skilled innovation.



Held in a period of industrial expansion and rising domestic consumption, IndiaWood aims to accelerate India's position as a major global manufacturing hub. The event's purpose is not just to showcase technology or facilitate business, but to catalyse a long-term transformation in how the country designs, builds, and exports furniture and wood-based products.

IndiaWood has long established its reputation as the single most critical forum in Asia for woodworking and furniture manufacturing. The scale is substantial—80,000 sq m of exhibition space, 1,000+ exhibitors, and participation from 50+ countries. Over 75,000 trade visitors are expected, including OEMs, furniture manufacturers, architects, interior designers, hardware suppliers, traders, timber processors, technology providers, and global decision-makers.

For businesses looking to expand their footprint, the expo is an essential destination. Exhibitors demonstrate advanced woodworking machines, state-of-the-art manufacturing solutions, and materials ranging from wood panels and decorative surfaces to smart fittings and interior components. Visitors, on the other hand, gain access to a curated environment that encourages knowledge exchange, business partnerships, and sourcing, all under one roof.

IndiaWood 2026 places strong emphasis on the megatrends shaping the sector.

Digitalisation remains one of the core themes, with leading manufacturers

presenting automation solutions, AI-enabled machines, robotics for furniture production, smart factory integrations, and software for design, planning, and supply chain management.

Sustainability continues to dominate discussions globally, and IndiaWood is no exception. With rising consumer awareness and regulatory focus on environmental responsibility, the event highlights green materials, low-emission boards, energy-efficient machines, water-based coatings, and circular-economy practices in manufacturing.

Skilling is a crucial priority for the industry, which faces a chronic shortage of trained carpenters, machine operators, designers, and production specialists. IndiaWood's live demonstrations, workshops, and interactions with training institutes provide a platform for capacity development.

Supply chain management has become a strategic issue after the disruptions experienced worldwide. Exhibitors will present solutions in tooling, warehousing, digital tracking, packaging, transportation automation, and inventory management, critical for manufacturers scaling up for export competitiveness.

IndiaWood is part of a growing family of trade fairs organised by NürnbergMesse India, including MumbaiWood, KolkataWood, INDEXPLUS, INDIA MATTRESSTECH & UPHOLSTERY SUPPLIES EXPO (IME), and Wood+ in Architecture and Design (WAD). Together,

these events form a nationwide ecosystem that helps companies tap into India's diverse regional markets.

While IndiaWood serves as the flagship, MumbaiWood and KolkataWood act as regional gateways, offering access to manufacturers and buyers in Western and Eastern India respectively. INDEXPLUS connects the furniture and interior design community, bridging the gap between manufacturing technology and market demand, while the IME expo fuels the fast-growing mattress and upholstery supply chain. Collectively, these platforms nurture innovation, enhance supply chains, and strengthen India's voice in global industry conversations.

IndiaWood 2026 presents a comprehensive exhibit profile that mirrors the full manufacturing lifecycle.

Machinery & Technology

Visitors will see advanced solutions in solid and panel woodworking, surface treatment, finishing lines, veneer peeling, saw milling, CNC technologies, upholstery and mattress machinery, and automated packaging systems. Real-time demonstrations allow buyers to evaluate precision, efficiency, and production output.

Materials & Supplies

The materials section includes wood, veneers, decorative surfaces, adhesives, coatings, laminates, parquet and engineered flooring, composite panels, and embossing



technologies. The rise of sustainable alternatives-recycled boards, bio-adhesives, and reduced-emission materials, will be prominently showcased.

Fittings, Hardware & Components

The expo features the latest in architectural hardware, kitchen fittings, locking systems, lighting solutions, and semi-finished furniture components. As consumers demand modular, flexible, and smart furniture, these product categories have become central to design innovation.

Industry Services

Software companies, certifying bodies, training institutes, and online platforms will present their offerings, reflecting the growing importance of digital design, workflow automation, certification standards, and industry-wide networking in shaping modern manufacturing. IndiaWood is distinguished by the high quality of its visitor base. According to the organisers, 93% of IndiaWood 2025 visitors were decision-makers or buyers, underscoring its relevance as a serious business platform.

Typical visitor profiles include furniture manufacturers, OEMs, modular kitchen producers, plywood and panel traders, tool distributors, interior designers, architects, real estate developers, and international sourcing teams. Many come specifically to identify partners, evaluate machine upgrades, negotiate contracts, and stay abreast of global developments.

A major attraction at IndiaWood is its line-up of co-located conferences that deliver deep industry insights.

Surface in Motion India

After its successful debut at IndiaWood 2024, the conference returns for a 2025 edition and continues into 2026. It brings together global experts in surface design, decorative panels, coatings, and advanced finishing technologies. Attendees explore décor trends, tactile finishes, digital printing, and next-generation production processes.

Wood+ in Architecture and Design (WAD)

This platform explores the role of wood in contemporary architecture and interiors. With growing interest in biophilic design and sustainable materials, WAD highlights wood's versatility, durability, and aesthetic value in modern construction.

These events give stakeholders opportunities to learn, network, and collaborate on future-ready design and manufacturing solutions.

IndiaWood is organised by NürnbergMesse India, part of the NürnbergMesse Group, one of the top 15 exhibition organisers in the world. With a strong global presence across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, NürnbergMesse brings international expertise, standards, and networks to IndiaWood. Its portfolio of over 120 exhibitions supports multiple industries and creates significant economic impact globally.

Exhibitors at IndiaWood will gain unmatched exposure to thousands of potential customers, distributors, and industry leaders, with direct interaction opportunities across India and abroad. The

show opens doors to emerging non-metro markets, boosts brand visibility before 75,000+ business visitors, enables impactful product launches, offers insights into competitor strategies, strengthens existing partnerships, and helps build long-term business pipelines across Asia.

For companies seeking to carve out a place in the Indian or global supply chain, exhibiting at IndiaWood is a highly effective investment.

Visitors will benefit from a comprehensive, end-to-end industry showcase, gaining one-stop access to global brands, advanced technologies, and new-age materials. The event enables direct engagement with suppliers to negotiate, source efficiently, and discover production methods that enhance efficiency. Attendees also interact with experts on design and emerging trends, learn about sustainable practices and compliance, track global supply-chain shifts, and witness live machine demos for confident decision-making.

The event also helps businesses future-proof their operations by identifying innovations that enhance productivity.

India's furniture and woodworking industry is on an upward trajectory driven by urbanisation, rising incomes, a young workforce, digitised retail, and strong manufacturing ambitions under programmes like Make in India. The domestic market is expanding rapidly, while global buyers are increasingly evaluating India as a viable alternative manufacturing destination.

IndiaWood functions as a catalyst within this environment, bridging gaps between technology and demand, enabling cross-border collaborations, and empowering businesses to scale with confidence.

The show's comprehensive format ensures that both seasoned industry players and newcomers find what they need: ideas, partnerships, knowledge or solutions.

As the countdown begins, anticipation builds across the industry. The 2026 edition promises a broader international presence, more live demonstrations, expanded conference tracks, and a deeper focus on sustainability, automation, and skilled workforce development.

In an era where digital tools and physical craftsmanship must co-exist, IndiaWood provides clarity and direction, helping industry participants adapt, innovate, and compete globally.

Whether you are a manufacturer looking to upgrade machinery, an architect exploring surfaces and materials, a distributor seeking new brands, or a global company evaluating Indian partnerships, IndiaWood 2026 offers a marketplace rich with opportunities.

It is not merely an exhibition; it is a blueprint for the future of woodworking and furniture manufacturing in India.

IndiaWood 2026 will take place from 26th February to 2nd March 2026 at BIEC, Bengaluru. Entry is free for registered trade visitors above 18 years of age.

Interzum Guangzhou 2026

Materials Defining Tomorrow.

Interzum Guangzhou 2026, one of Asia's most influential exhibitions for furniture manufacturing and interior design materials, will return to the Canton Fair Complex from 28th to 31st March 2026. Spanning an expansive 180,000 square metres, the event is expected to attract global industry leaders, innovators, and decision-makers seeking fresh ideas, cutting-edge materials, and future-ready technologies.

Michiel Kruse, Managing Director of Koelnmesse China, says the event continues to shape the region's manufacturing landscape. Calling Interzum Guangzhou "the heartbeat of the Asian furniture manufacturing ecosystem," he notes that the 2026 edition will offer a powerful platform to explore intelligent production, sustainable materials, and solutions aligned with shifting global demands.

The broader home furnishing industry is entering a period of accelerated transformation, driven by both consumer expectations and rapid technological advancement. According to iiMedia Research's 2025 survey on China's home furnishing consumption, smart home technology leads the trend charts, with 29.09% of consumers highlighting intelligence as a priority. Environmental sustainability follows closely at 25.35%,



confirming that green materials and eco-friendly processes are shaping purchasing decisions.

Artificial intelligence is playing a defining role in this shift. AI tools are revolutionising manufacturing workflows, enhancing design precision, strengthening research and development, streamlining production lines, and elevating after-sales application services. The result is greater efficiency, reduced waste, and an improved user experience. At the same time, the introduction of next-generation materials is helping manufacturers address environmental concerns while offering new value propositions to customers who now demand performance, durability, and sustainability in equal measure.

Fittingly, the 2026 edition adopts the theme "Smart Revolution", a reflection of the



profound changes underway in furniture manufacturing worldwide.

A strong global presence is expected once again, with leading companies such as

Arpico, Ateja, Boyteks, Boyut Plastik, Cyber Lock, Dewert Okin, Freud, Henkel, Hueck, Impress, Interprint, Jowat, LamiGraf and Leitz participating. The hall layout has been strategically curated to spotlight solution-driven showcases for every stage of the furniture manufacturing value chain. Additional confirmed exhibitors include Limoss, Linak, Lueco, Match Graphics, Paolino Bacci, Pollmeier, Printech, Rehau, Renolit, Schattdecor, Swiss Krono and Wemhöner.

As the industry prepares for a new era defined by intelligence, sustainability, and material innovation, Interzum Guangzhou 2026 intends to provide a roadmap for the future.

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Afriwood Ethiopia 2026

Shaping the Future of Wood and Furniture Manufacturing in East Africa



Afriwood Ethiopia 2026, scheduled from 22nd to 24th February at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa, is set to return as one of Africa's most influential platforms for the wood, woodworking, and furniture manufacturing industry. Over the years, the exhibition has evolved into a pivotal meeting ground for industry stakeholders, manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, technology providers, and woodworking professionals, from across East Africa and around the world. Its 2026 edition promises to reinforce this status with an expanded showcase of technology, machinery, sustainable materials, and innovations

defining the future of wood processing in the region.

The event's growing prominence is anchored in Ethiopia's strategic location and the rapid development of the region's manufacturing and construction sectors. As global companies focus on Africa for new market opportunities, Afriwood has positioned itself as a gateway to East African markets, drawing exhibitors and visitors from countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sudan, and further beyond the continent. For businesses looking to enter or deepen their footprint in Africa's fast-growing wood industry, Afriwood is a

critical hub for trade and engagement.

Organised by Expo Group UAE, Afriwood East Africa has maintained a steady reputation for curating an ecosystem where business networking intersects with technology-led transformation. The three-day event provides a comprehensive showcase of the entire wood-processing value chain, from raw materials and forest products to advanced CNC machinery, woodworking tools, coatings, laminates, adhesives, and finishing solutions. Exhibitors range from globally recognised technology brands to regional suppliers, creating a diverse platform that appeals equally to large manufacturers, medium enterprises, and small-scale woodworkers.

Afriwood Ethiopia is focused on technology. The exhibition floor features the latest innovations in sawmilling machinery, panel cutting systems, and CNC processing solutions that are redefining production efficiency. Companies with expertise in high-performance machines for shaping, cutting, pressing, and drying wood products demonstrate how automation and precision engineering can significantly upgrade output quality for furniture makers and wood processors. With demand increasing for modern interior solutions and high-quality furniture across Africa, such technological advancements are essential for the sector's evolution.

Complementing the machinery showcase is a rich array of materials and components crucial to the furniture manufacturing ecosystem. Attendees can explore everything from veneers, MDF,

particle boards, and plywood varieties to cutting-edge laminates and eco-friendly coatings. This exposure is particularly valuable for manufacturers seeking new material combinations that enhance durability, expand design possibilities, and meet the rising consumer preference for modern, sustainable aesthetics. The exhibition also places strong emphasis on adhesives, fastening products, and surface treatment technologies—components that often determine the final quality and longevity of wood products.

A defining feature of Afriwood Ethiopia is its growing alignment with global sustainability conversations. As environmental challenges intensify, the wood industry is under increasing pressure to adopt eco-conscious practices. Exhibitors at Afriwood present solutions that champion sustainability, from responsibly sourced materials to energy-efficient machines and waste-minimisation technologies. The fair encourages dialogues around forest resource management, green manufacturing, and innovations that reduce ecological impact without compromising profitability or performance.

The 2026 edition will also offer an expanded knowledge-sharing platform, with seminars, workshops, and technical sessions led by experts from various segments of the global wood industry. These sessions explore themes such as automation in woodworking, precision cutting technologies, the future of forest products, global supply chain dynamics, and design trends shaping modern furniture manufacturing. Beyond technology,

the discussions also highlight business strategy, helping companies understand shifting market demands, export opportunities, compliance standards, and emerging consumer preferences.

Networking remains one of Afriwood's biggest draws. The event creates an environment where woodworking businesses can meet new suppliers, negotiate partnerships, explore distribution channels, and tap into regional trade networks. For international exhibitors, the fair provides direct access to Africa's booming construction and interior solutions market, where infrastructure growth is driving increased demand for doors, furniture, flooring, and modular interiors. For local manufacturers, it offers a rare opportunity to engage with global leaders, benchmark standards, and discover pathways for scaling up.

The Millennium Hall, one of Addis Ababa's leading exhibition venues, offers an ideal setting for a fair of this scale. With modern infrastructure, flexible exhibition layouts, and excellent connectivity to the city's hotels, transport, and commercial districts, it ensures a seamless experience for participants. The choice of venue reinforces Afriwood's commitment to providing an international-standard platform within one of Africa's fastest-developing capitals.

Afriwood East Africa has built its reputation not just as an exhibition but as a catalyst for industry transformation. It inspires new ideas, encourages technological adoption, and connects businesses with the tools and knowledge they need to compete in

a rapidly evolving sector. As the 2026 edition approaches, expectations are high that it will further accelerate innovation and investment in the region's wood and furniture manufacturing landscape.

The fair's significance extends beyond commercial value. By promoting modern machinery, efficient production methods, and sustainable sourcing practices, Afriwood contributes to broader economic goals, supporting industrial growth, job creation, and responsible utilisation of forest resources. It encourages collaboration that can strengthen regional manufacturing capacities, reduce reliance on imports, and empower local industries to meet rising domestic and export demands.

For entrepreneurs, manufacturers, furniture designers, and woodworkers, Afriwood Ethiopia 2026 is an unmatched opportunity to stay ahead of industry shifts. Whether exploring new machines, sourcing materials, learning about global trends, or forging partnerships, attendees will find the event a comprehensive experience that blends knowledge, commerce, and innovation under one roof.

As the wood and woodworking sector in East Africa stands at the cusp of significant transformation, Afriwood Ethiopia remains a key event shaping its future. With its expansive exhibits, industry insights, and global participation, the 2026 edition is set to reaffirm its role as the region's most influential platform for wood technology, furniture manufacturing, and sustainable growth.

FOR WOOD 2026

Showcasing the Future of Wooden Construction in Europe

FOR WOOD 2026, the Czech Republic's flagship trade fair dedicated to wooden buildings, timber technologies, and sustainable construction materials, re-arrives at Prague from 12th to 14th February, 2026, reaffirming its position as one of Europe's most influential platforms for modern wood-based construction. Held at the expansive PVA Expo Praha in Letňany, the event continues to grow in relevance as the global construction industry shifts its attention toward climate-friendly, energy-efficient, and renewable building solutions.

Organised by ABF as., FOR WOOD stands alongside its co-located events, most notably FOR PASIV, which focuses on passive and energy-efficient buildings, to present a comprehensive showcase of technologies, materials, and innovations shaping the future of sustainable living. Together, these fairs attract a combined audience of more than 25,000 visitors and over 120 exhibitors, including architects, contractors, builders, suppliers, policymakers, and investors.

For its 17th edition, FOR WOOD places special emphasis on wooden buildings and structural solutions, highlighting wood's rapidly rising prominence in European and global construction. As environmental

regulations tighten and nations commit to reducing carbon emissions, timber - versatile, renewable, and carbon-sequestering, has emerged as a preferred material for sustainable building strategies.

The fair showcases a wide spectrum of offerings: engineered timber systems, prefabricated modular wooden homes, CLT (cross-laminated timber) technologies, glulam structures, insulation materials, foundations and cladding systems, woodworking machinery, and tools. Exhibitors include manufacturers of high-quality timber products, innovators in composite materials, and developers of specialised construction software that streamlines design and execution.

Among the notable exhibitors is SMAR s.r.o., the official Matterport reseller for the Czech Republic and Slovakia, offering advanced 3D scanning technologies widely used in architecture, construction, and cultural documentation. Their presence underscores the fair's expanding focus on digitalisation, a driving force behind the modern wood industry.

FOR WOOD's ethos centres on accelerating the adoption of sustainable construction methods. The fair's educational

programmes, technical seminars, and expert-led sessions provide deep insights into the latest advancements in timber engineering, fire safety solutions for wooden buildings, cutting-edge insulation systems, and the integration of wood in hybrid structural models.

The 2026 edition comes at a pivotal moment for the Czech Republic and Central Europe. The region is experiencing a surge in demand for eco-friendly construction, driven by both regulatory pressures and consumer preference for natural, energy-efficient living environments. Wooden homes, long celebrated for their durability, aesthetics, and environmental advantages, are increasingly viewed as the answer to modern housing challenges, from affordability to climate resilience.

Exhibition Highlights: What Visitors Can Expect

The fair offers expansive coverage across the wooden construction landscape, with dedicated sectors including:

- Wooden Buildings & Structural Systems – showcasing modern

timber homes, modular structures, hybrid constructions, and engineered wood.

- Materials & Components – featuring timber, veneers, MDF boards, insulation, sealants, coatings, cladding, and composite materials.
- Groundwork & Sheathing Technologies – essential solutions for durability, safety, and performance of wooden construction.
- Machinery & Equipment – from cutting systems and milling machines to advanced precision tools and finishing technologies.
- Software & Digital Solutions – BIM tools, modeling software, and digital workflows transforming design and construction.
- Services & Education – training institutes, certification bodies, research centres, and professional associations.

FOR WOOD is notable for its



inclusivity: it welcomes both trade professionals and the general public, making it an educational experience for homeowners, students, and those curious about sustainable living.

Beyond its national significance, FOR WOOD serves as a bridge between Europe and global markets. The fair provides a key opportunity for businesses from regions such as Ghana, Nigeria, the Middle East, and South Asia, where interest in wood-based housing is rising. Exhibitors use the platform to explore export opportunities, technology transfers, and partnerships.

Professionals from the fields of furniture manufacturing, carpentry, cabinetry, windows and doors, interior decoration, timber trading, and industrial woodworking find immense value in the fair's linkage of multiple segments of the wood ecosystem. With its broad visitor profile, including architects, developers, infrastructure planners, designers, builders, and public-sector decision-makers, the event supports meaningful B2B dialogue and long-term collaboration.

The event is hosted at PVA Expo Praha, the largest and most modern exhibition complex in Prague. Featuring seven steel-structured indoor halls and more than 36,000 square metres of exhibition area, the venue provides an ideal setting for live demonstrations, interactive displays, and full-scale construction showcases. Its accessibility and proximity to the city center make it a preferred destination for international exhibitors and visitors alike.

FOR WOOD has demonstrated steady growth over the years, adapting to shifts in technology, materials, and consumer preferences. Its past editions, from 2020 through 2025 mirror the industry's rapid transformation and the fair's increasingly influential role in shaping regional construction trends. Each edition has strengthened its reputation as a hub for innovation and a meeting point for the most forward-thinking professionals in the timber sector.

The 2026 edition aims to push boundaries further by integrating emerging technologies, promoting cross-industry interactions, and offering deeper insights into low-carbon construction strategies.

At a time when the construction industry faces urgent challenges - urban expansion, environmental constraints, material shortages, and the demand for energy-efficient solutions, FOR WOOD stands out as a vital catalyst for change. By championing wood as a sustainable, high-performance building material, the fair helps pave the way for greener cities, healthier homes, and smarter infrastructure.

FOR WOOD 2026 is a vision of the future, where craftsmanship meets innovation, and sustainability becomes the foundation of modern construction. As Prague prepares to welcome the world's timber community, the event promises to deliver insight, opportunity, and inspiration for everyone invested in building a better tomorrow.

CenturyPly

Decorative Design Meets Legacy at CenturyArena Mumbai

Mumbai recently marked the unveiling of more than a retail destination with the launch of CenturyArena, a new experiential space by CenturyPly that brings together heritage, innovation, and contemporary design thinking. Located at Teen Petrol Pump, Naupada, Thane West, the store represents a significant step in the brand's ongoing journey to redefine how decorative solutions are discovered and experienced.

CenturyArena is conceived as a curated environment where inspiration meets expertise. From premium laminates and veneers to advanced decorative surfaces, the space showcases a comprehensive portfolio designed to address the evolving needs of architects, interior designers, contractors, and discerning homeowners. Every element within the store reflects CenturyPly's long-standing commitment to quality, backed by decades of trust in the Indian building materials industry.

Beyond product display, the Arena is designed as a collaborative hub. It encourages conversations, material exploration, and informed decision-making, enabling professionals and consumers alike to visualise spaces with greater clarity and confidence. The emphasis is not only on



CenturyArena is conceived as a curated environment where inspiration meets expertise.

aesthetics, but also on performance, sustainability, and future-ready design.

With the launch of CenturyArena Mumbai, Decoratives by CenturyPly reinforces its vision of creating immersive platforms that go beyond conventional showrooms. It is a space that honours craftsmanship while embracing innovation, designed for today's aspirations and tomorrow's spaces.

Tajpuria

Sparkled as Diamond Sponsor at Lucknow Exhibition

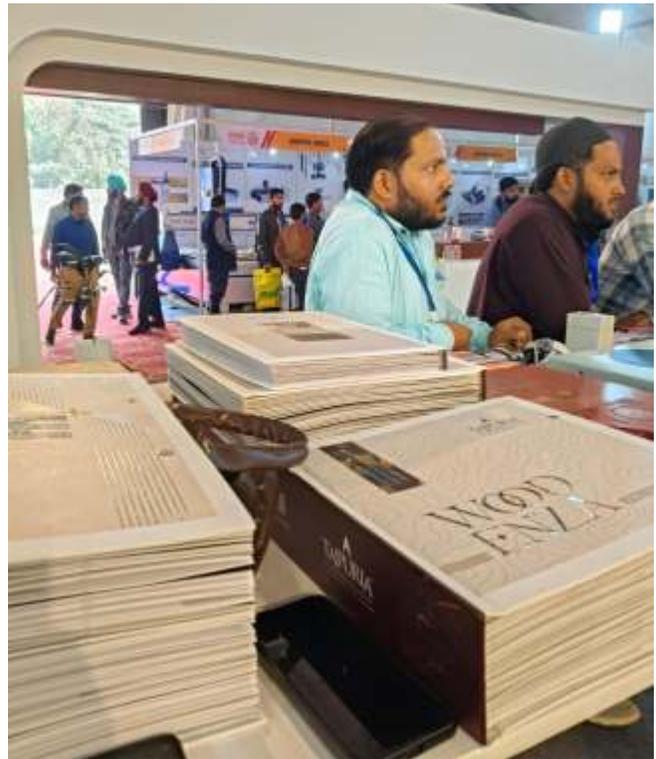
Tajpuria Shone as the Diamond Sponsor at Northern Wood International Ply & Wood Machinery Expo 2025. The Company proudly marked a significant milestone by participating as the Diamond Sponsor at the Northern Wood – International Ply & Wood Machinery Expo 2025, held on 12th, 13th and 14th December 2025 at the Defence Expo Ground, Sector-18, Vrindavan Colony, Lucknow (UP), India.

The 4th edition of this prestigious expo brought together leading names from the wood, laminates, ply and hardware industry, creating an influential platform for networking, innovation, and business collaborations.



Tajpuria's presence further strengthened the brand's commitment to delivering precision, performance and excellence to the interior and architectural fraternity.

With overwhelming response and business outcomes, Tajpuria moves into 2026 with higher ambition, wider dealer engagement, and new launches aimed at transforming interiors across India.



Amulya Mica

Marking 21 Years with Service, Spirituality and Solidarity

Amulya Mica commemorated its 21st Foundation Day on 7th December with a thoughtfully curated series of social and spiritual initiatives, reflecting the company's enduring values of responsibility, tradition, and collective growth. The day-long observance brought together employees, workers, and members of the extended

Amulya family in celebrations that balanced service to society with moments of prayer and reflection.

A key highlight of the Foundation Day was a Blood Donation Camp organised at the plant premises. Demonstrating strong employee engagement and social commitment, staff and workers volunteered



in large numbers, resulting in the collection of more than 127 units of blood. Managing Director Rakesh Agarwal led from the front by personally donating blood, reinforcing the organisation's culture of participation and empathy.

The celebrations also included a traditional Kund-Havan, conducted in a serene and disciplined manner by Arya Samaj children. The chanting of Vedic mantras and the offering of aahuti to the sacred fire created an atmosphere of devotion, as delegates prayed for peace, prosperity, and the continued success of the organisation. The ceremony underscored Amulya Mica's belief in preserving cultural traditions while inspiring positive energy within the workplace.

The evening concluded with a spiritual Satsang featuring the recitation of the Sunderkand Path. Nearly 750 delegates, including employees, their families, friends, and well-wishers, participated in the gathering. The collective prayers and devotional chants filled the environment with gratitude and harmony, followed by the distribution of prasad.

Addressing the gathering, Rakesh Agarwal expressed heartfelt appreciation to all participants. He reiterated that celebrating the Foundation Day through puja, havan, charitable activities, and blood donation has been a cherished tradition of the Amulya Mica family, which reflects its commitment to social welfare, spiritual grounding, and shared progress.



PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

Technology

Compressing Manufacturing Timelines

Indian manufacturing is witnessing a steady compression of production timelines, driven largely by the adoption of technology and improved infrastructure. In FY 2024–25, the Work in Progress (WIP) cycle, the time taken to convert raw materials into finished products, has shown a clear decline compared to earlier years, indicating sharper operational efficiency across sectors.

Both the raw material cycle and the finished goods cycle have undergone notable changes. Faster logistics, better road and port connectivity, and streamlined supply chains have reduced the time taken for raw materials to enter production. Similarly, improved distribution networks and demand forecasting have shortened the period between product completion and dispatch.

Digital adoption has been a key enabler. Companies are increasingly using

predictive artificial intelligence to forecast demand more accurately, allowing them to align production closely with market needs. Some consumer-facing manufacturers have even moved towards instant or on-demand manufacturing models, significantly cutting down on inventory holding and storage costs.

A generational shift in leadership is also visible. Younger promoters are more open to adopting advanced manufacturing practices and digital tools. Export-oriented companies, where margins are typically thin despite large volumes, are particularly focused on efficiency to protect profitability.

While the pace of improvement may moderate over time, the awareness around manufacturing efficiency has firmly taken root. The trend of technology-led process optimisation is expected to continue.



Scm Group and Tecnest

Partnering to Drive Digital Transformation in Manufacturing

Scm Group and Tecnest have formalised a strategic partnership aimed at accelerating the integration of advanced technological and digital solutions across modern manufacturing environments. The collaboration brings together Scm Group's global leadership in industrial machinery and material processing technologies with Tecnest's deep expertise in production

planning and supply chain management software, strengthening both companies' positions in their respective markets.

Under the agreement, Scm Group will expand its portfolio of products and services to include MES and MOM digital systems - Manufacturing Execution Systems and Manufacturing Operations Management, along with advanced software solutions



developed by Tecnest. This move reflects Scm Group's focus on offering customers not only high-performance machinery but also integrated digital ecosystems that enable smarter, more efficient and sustainable production processes. By leveraging Tecnest's technologies and proven track record, Scm Group aims to support manufacturers in achieving higher levels of operational visibility, control and resilience.

For Tecnest, the partnership opens new avenues for international growth. While continuing to operate independently and preserve its organisational identity, the company will benefit from Scm Group's global reach and industrial footprint. The collaboration is expected to create fresh opportunities in global markets, while ensuring continuity in Tecnest's close relationships with customers, partners and employees.

Commenting on the partnership, Marco Mancini, Chief Executive Officer of Scm Group, emphasised the changing nature of industrial competitiveness. He noted that competitive advantage today is no longer defined solely by the quality of machinery, but by the ability to integrate equipment into connected, resilient and sustainable production models. According to Mancini, the agreement with Tecnest aligns strongly with Scm Group's vision of combining advanced technologies, digital innovation and value-added services to enhance operational

efficiency for its customers.

Giorgio P. Apolloni, CEO of Tecnest and a shareholder alongside Fabio Pettarin and Mario Chientaroli, reiterated that Tecnest will continue to serve its market with the same solidity and customer-centric approach. He highlighted that the partnership with Scm Group represents a significant step toward accelerated growth and long-term business sustainability, while fully preserving Tecnest's core values and DNA.

Scm Group is a global leader in technologies for machining a wide range of materials, including wood, aluminium, plastic, glass, stone, metal and advanced materials. With highly specialised production facilities in Italy and additional manufacturing sites in Germany, the United States and Brazil, the group supports industries ranging from furniture and construction to automotive, aerospace and marine sectors. The group reports a turnover of around €900 million, employs over 4,000 people, and operates directly across five continents.

Tecnest, with offices in Udine, Milan and Bologna, brings nearly four decades of experience in advanced production planning and management solutions. With a team of more than 70 professionals, the company supports hundreds of customers in Italy and globally, driving factory digitalisation through technology, consulting expertise and hands-on operational support.

Dealer Engagement

It Goes Digital

The plywood and laminates industry is witnessing a shift in how manufacturers build and retain dealer relationships. As pricing, product quality, and supply efficiency become standard expectations, the focus has moved to deeper, more meaningful engagement. Manufacturers now recognise that loyalty is earned not through transactions, but through consistent, personalised, and value-driven interactions.

Digital loyalty platforms are at the centre of this transformation. They enable companies to recognise dealer contributions, strengthen trust, and create long-term partnerships built on transparency and rewards.

One of the most widely adopted tools is QR-based loyalty tracking. Manufacturers now print QR codes on plywood sheets, laminate packs, and cartons, allowing dealers, retailers, and carpenters to scan and instantly earn loyalty points. This ensures authenticity of material, reduces counterfeiting, and gives manufacturers real-time data on channel movement.

A breakthrough feature reshaping dealer loyalty is the dual wallet system, pioneered in the sector by LoyaltyXpert. The model separates loyalty points into two segments, a primary wallet for the core channel partner, and a secondary wallet that allows upstream partners to transfer points to their downstream counterparts. By enabling

transparent, tier-wise point flow, from distributor to dealer to retailer or carpenter, the system reduces fraud, improves visibility, and encourages seamless collaboration.

Gamification has added a new layer of emotional engagement. Skill challenges, leaderboards, quizzes, and digital training games incentivise participation and create a competitive, rewarding environment for channel partners.

Redemption options have expanded significantly as well. Dealers can now convert loyalty points into a wide range of rewards, from electronics and household goods to fuel vouchers, often through collaborations with leading e-commerce platforms. This makes the programmes useful, relevant, and aspirational.

Manufacturers are also adopting multi-tiered engagement frameworks that recognise every level of the distribution chain based on performance, knowledge, or contribution. These systems offer progression and recognition, turning loyalty into a structured pathway rather than a one-time reward.

In an industry built on craftsmanship and long-standing relationships, digital loyalty platforms are redefining how manufacturers connect with their dealer network. The future of engagement lies not just in rewarding purchases, but in nurturing trust, collaboration, and shared growth.

ग्रीनप्लाई

ओडिशा में एकीकृत वुड पैनल प्लांट में ₹600 करोड़ का निवेश

ग्रीनप्लाई इंडस्ट्रीज़ लिमिटेड ने ओडिशा के कोरापुट ज़िले में सेमिलीगुड़ा औद्योगिक परियोजना के अंतर्गत एक नए एकीकृत वुड पैनल उत्पादन संयंत्र की स्थापना के साथ अपने विनिर्माण विस्तार की एक बड़ी घोषणा की है। इस परियोजना का वर्चुअल उद्घाटन हाल ही में भुवनेश्वर में ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री मोहन चरण माझी और उद्योग विभाग के मंत्री संपद चंद्र स्वैन की उपस्थिति में, राज्य के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ किया गया। यह पहल ग्रीनप्लाई की सतत विनिर्माण और राज्य के साथ सहयोगात्मक विकास के प्रति दीर्घकालिक प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है।

सभा को संबोधित करते हुए ग्रीनप्लाई इंडस्ट्रीज़ लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन एवं मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर राजेश मित्तल ने कंपनी के नवाचार, स्थिरता और साझेदारी आधारित विकास पर केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण को रेखांकित किया। उन्होंने भूमि आवंटन और सिंगल-विंडो क्लियरेंस उपलब्ध कराने में ओडिशा सरकार के सहयोग के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया, जिससे इस परियोजना की परिकल्पना को साकार करने में मदद मिली। आर. मित्तल के अनुसार, प्रस्तावित प्लाईवुड और एमडीएफ इकाइयाँ न केवल बड़े पैमाने पर रोजगार सृजन करेंगी, बल्कि कृषि-वानिकी आधारित विकास की नींव भी रखेंगी, जिससे स्थानीय कामगारों और वुड पैनल उद्योग दोनों को साझा लाभ मिलेगा।

यह परियोजना 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के राष्ट्रीय विज़न और भारत सरकार की 'मेक इन इंडिया' पहल

के अनुरूप है। राजेश मित्तल ने बताया कि प्लाईवुड और पैनल क्षेत्र में कड़े गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण मानकों के लागू होने से घरेलू विनिर्माण को मजबूती मिली है, उत्पादों की विश्वसनीयता बढ़ी है।

ग्रीनप्लाई की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी ग्रीनप्लाई सैंडीला प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के माध्यम से विकसित यह सेमिलीगुड़ा परियोजना रणनीतिक स्थान के लाभों का उपयोग करती है, जिसमें प्लांटेशन में उगाई गई लकड़ी की नज़दीकी उपलब्धता शामिल है, जो सतत और लागत-कुशल कच्चे माल की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करती है। मजबूत सड़क और रेल संपर्क घरेलू तथा निर्यात बाजारों तक पहुंच को और बेहतर बनाते हैं। इस परियोजना में ₹600 करोड़ से अधिक का निवेश किया गया है और इससे 1,200 से अधिक प्रत्यक्ष रोजगार सृजित होने की उम्मीद है, साथ ही बड़े पैमाने पर अप्रत्यक्ष रोजगार भी उत्पन्न होंगे।

विनिर्माण से आगे बढ़कर, यह संयंत्र स्थानीय आपूर्तिकर्ताओं, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यमों तथा संरचित कौशल विकास कार्यक्रमों को समर्थन देकर क्षेत्रीय आर्थिक विकास को गति देने की उम्मीद करता है। स्थिरता ग्रीनप्लाई की रणनीति का केंद्र बनी हुई है। कंपनी ने अपने मौजूदा संयंत्रों के आसपास एक लाख एकड़ से अधिक क्षेत्र में 7.5 करोड़ से अधिक पौधे पहले ही लगाए हैं। यह कृषि-वानिकी मॉडल किसानों की आय को सशक्त बनाता है, और वुड पैनल उद्योग के लिए अधिक कार्बन-सचेत विकास पथ का समर्थन करता है।

उत्तर प्रदेश

बगास-आधारित पार्टिकल बोर्ड के लिए एक नए केंद्र के रूप में उभरता हुआ

उत्तर प्रदेश भारत में बगास-आधारित पार्टिकल बोर्ड के सबसे बड़े विनिर्माण केंद्र के रूप में उभरने की ओर अग्रसर है, जो गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र जैसे स्थापित केंद्रों को पीछे छोड़ सकता है। उद्योग सूत्रों के अनुसार, राज्य में बगास-आधारित पार्टिकल बोर्ड की चार नई विनिर्माण लाइनें स्थापित की जा रही हैं, जिनका उत्पादन वित्त वर्ष 2026 की अंतिम तिमाही में शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। इन इकाइयों के लिए सीतापुर बेल्ट मुख्य केंद्र के रूप में उभरा है, इसके बाद मुज़फ्फरनगर का स्थान है। यह स्पष्ट रूप से गन्ना उत्पादक क्षेत्रों के आसपास भौगोलिक एकाग्रता को दर्शाता है, जहां बगास की निरंतर उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित होती है।

रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, केवल सीतापुर बेल्ट में स्थापित की जा रही दो नई इकाइयाँ मिलकर लगभग 600 घन मीटर प्रतिदिन की अतिरिक्त उत्पादन क्षमता जोड़ेंगी और इनके आगामी गन्ना पेराई सत्र के साथ संचालन शुरू करने की योजना है। इसके अलावा, यमुनानगर स्थित ट्रीनॉक्स ग्रुप शाहजहांपुर क्षेत्र में 300 घन मीटर प्रतिदिन क्षमता वाला एक संयंत्र स्थापित कर रहा है, जिसके चालू वित्त वर्ष के अंत तक उत्पादन शुरू करने की संभावना है। मुज़फ्फरनगर क्षेत्र में एक छोटी इकाई के भी स्थापित होने की खबर है।

इन सभी जोड़ के बाद, उत्तर प्रदेश की बगास-आधारित पार्टिकल बोर्ड की कुल उत्पादन क्षमता लगभग 4,000 घन मीटर प्रतिदिन तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है, जो इस खंड में भारत की कुल क्षमता का



लगभग 45 प्रतिशत होगा। एसआरबी बोर्ड्स के निदेशक मयंक खंडेलवाल, जो वर्तमान में देश की सबसे बड़ी बगास-आधारित पार्टिकल बोर्ड क्षमता संचालित करते हैं, ने कहा कि यह विस्तार जहां उद्योग के मजबूत विश्वास को दर्शाता है, वहीं कच्चे माल की खरीद को लेकर प्रतिस्पर्धा भी बढ़ाएगा। उन्होंने बगास-आधारित पार्टिकल बोर्ड पर 5 प्रतिशत की रियायती जीएसटी लगाने के सरकार के फैसले का स्वागत किया और इसे इस क्षेत्र की दीर्घकालिक वृद्धि के लिए एक बड़ा प्रोत्साहन बताया।

उद्योग अब दीपावली के बाद पेराई सत्र की शुरुआत के साथ नए बगास की उपलब्धता का बेसब्री से इंतज़ार कर रहा है। गुजरात स्थित लेविस पार्टिकल बोर्ड्स के अमृत पटेल ने कहा कि इस वर्ष अच्छी बगास फसल की उम्मीदें काफी अधिक हैं, जो इस क्षेत्र में उत्पादन क्षमता के तेज़ विस्तार को बढ़ावा देगी।

स्टाइलैम इंडस्ट्रीज

AICA Kogyo द्वारा 40% हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण

हाल ही में स्टाइलैम इंडस्ट्रीज ने घोषणा की है कि जापान की एआईसीए कोग्यो हरियाणा स्थित डेकोरेटिव लैमिनेट निर्माता कंपनी में ₹1,525 करोड़ में 40 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी का अधिग्रहण करेगी। प्रस्तावित निवेश को मौजूदा प्रमोटर्स और शेयरधारकों के साथ किए जाने वाले कई शेयर खरीद समझौतों के माध्यम से चरणबद्ध (ट्रॉच) तरीके से पूरा किया जाएगा। स्टाइलैम के प्रमोटर्स पुष्पा गुप्ता, दिप्ती गुप्ता और मानव गुप्ता ने लगभग 45.97 लाख शेयर, जो कि 27.12 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, दो चरणों में बेचने के लिए समझौता किया है। इसके अलावा, शेयरधारक जगदीश गुप्ता, सरु गुप्ता और निधि गुप्ता ने भी दो चरणों में अधिकतम 21.82 लाख शेयर, यानी 12.88 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी, बेचने पर सहमति जताई है।

सभी लेन-देन ₹2,250 प्रति शेयर की कीमत पर तय किए गए हैं, जिसके आधार पर लगभग 6.78 करोड़ शेयरों के लिए 40 प्रतिशत इक्विटी का कुल मूल्यांकन ₹1,525 करोड़ किया गया है। हिस्सेदारी खरीद प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद, एआईसीए कोग्यो सार्वजनिक शेयरधारकों के लिए एक ओपन ऑफर भी लाएगी। ओपन ऑफर की कीमत पिछले समापन मूल्य ₹2,300.50 की तुलना में 2 प्रतिशत की छूट पर निर्धारित की गई है।

इक्विटी लेन-देन के अलावा, पक्षों के बीच एक शेयरधारक समझौता भी किया गया है, जिसमें अधिग्रहण के बाद कंपनी के गवर्नेंस और बोर्ड

निगरानी से जुड़े प्रावधान शामिल हैं। इस समझौते के तहत, स्टाइलैम के बोर्ड में अधिकतम 15 निदेशक होंगे, जिनमें से एआईसीए कोग्यो को कार्यकारी या गैर-कार्यकारी रूप में अधिकतम आठ निदेशकों को नामित करने का अधिकार होगा, साथ ही एक स्वतंत्र निदेशक की सिफारिश करने का भी अधिकार रहेगा। यह संरचना कंपनी की रणनीतिक दिशा और प्रबंधन में एआईसीए की सक्रिय भूमिका को दर्शाती है।

एआईसीए कोग्यो जापान की एक अग्रणी रासायनिक और निर्माण सामग्री उत्पाद निर्माता कंपनी है, जो हाई-प्रेसर लैमिनेट्स, चिपकने वाले पदार्थ, कोटिंग्स और निर्माण सामग्री जैसे उत्पादों का निर्माण करती है। कंपनी एशिया और उत्तरी अमेरिका में अपने विनिर्माण संयंत्र संचालित करती है और भारत में वर्ष 2011 से एआईसीए लैमिनेट्स इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के माध्यम से मौजूद है, जो 'सनमाइका' और 'एआईसीए' जैसे प्रसिद्ध ब्रांड्स के तहत डेकोरेटिव लैमिनेट्स का विपणन करती है।

स्टाइलैम इंडस्ट्रीज भारत की सबसे बड़ी डेकोरेटिव लैमिनेट और सरफेसिंग सॉल्यूशंस निर्यातक कंपनियों में शामिल है, जिसकी यूरोप, एशिया और पश्चिम एशिया में मजबूत उपस्थिति है। यह साझेदारी एक रणनीतिक कदम के रूप में देखी जा रही है, जिससे स्टाइलैम की वैश्विक पहुंच, तकनीकी क्षमताओं और दीर्घकालिक विकास संभावनाओं को मजबूती मिलने की उम्मीद है।

एसीपी मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन

1 दिसंबर से 5% मूल्य वृद्धि की घोषणा

एसीपी मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन ने तैयार एल्यूमिनियम कंपोजिट पैनल (ACP) उत्पादों की कीमतों में 5 प्रतिशत वृद्धि की घोषणा की है, जो 1 दिसंबर 2025 से प्रभावी होगी। यह निर्णय 18 नवंबर 2025 को आयोजित एसोसिएशन की बैठक में लिया गया, जहां सदस्यों ने सेक्टर की सतत वृद्धि और स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के उपायों पर विचार-विमर्श किया।

एसोसिएशन के अनुसार, मूल्य संशोधन को सर्वसम्मति से मंजूरी दी गई, जिसमें बैठक में उपस्थित सभी सदस्य निर्माताओं की पूर्ण सहमति शामिल रही। इस वृद्धि को कच्चे माल की लागत में लगातार हो रही बढ़ोतरी, विशेष रूप से वैश्विक स्तर पर एल्यूमिनियम की कीमतों में वृद्धि के कारण उठाया गया एक सीमित लेकिन आवश्यक कदम बताया गया है।

एसोसिएशन ने कहा कि संशोधित कीमतों का उद्देश्य उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता की रक्षा करना, परिचालन की विश्वसनीयता बनाए रखना और चुनौतीपूर्ण लागत दबावों के बीच एसीपी निर्माताओं की वित्तीय सेहत को सुनिश्चित करना है। सदस्यों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे बाजार में एकरूपता बनाए रखने के लिए प्रभावी तिथि से संशोधित कीमतों को समान रूप से लागू करें।

अपने सामूहिक दृष्टिकोण की पुनः पुष्टि करते हुए, एसोसिएशन ने सभी सदस्यों से बैठक में अनुमोदित निर्णय का सख्ती से पालन करने का आग्रह किया है। उद्योग विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि यह कदम



निर्माण और भवन सामग्री क्षेत्रों में दिखाई दे रहे व्यापक रुझानों को दर्शाता है, जहां निर्माता इनपुट लागत में मुद्रास्फीति की भरपाई के लिए कीमतों का पुनर्मूल्यांकन कर रहे हैं, साथ ही आपूर्ति और गुणवत्ता मानकों को बनाए रखने का प्रयास भी कर रहे हैं।

एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट्स

1 दिसंबर से 5% मूल्य वृद्धि की घोषणा

इंटीरियर और फर्नीचर अनुप्रयोगों में एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट्स की बढ़ती मांग घरेलू निर्माताओं को लगातार समर्थन दे रही है, जिससे उत्पादन क्षमता विस्तार, डिज़ाइन नवाचार और बाजार में व्यापक पहुंच को प्रोत्साहन मिल रहा है। कभी एक सीमित सरफेस डेकोर उत्पाद माने जाने वाले एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट्स ने अब आवासीय और व्यावसायिक इंटीरियर्स में तेजी से स्वीकार्यता हासिल कर ली है, जिससे भारतीय निर्माता इस विकास चक्र के प्रमुख लाभार्थी बनकर उभरे हैं।

वर्तमान में भारत में लगभग एक दर्जन से अधिक एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट निर्माण इकाइयाँ हैं, जो बदलती ग्राहक आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप गुणवत्तापूर्ण उत्पादों का निर्माण कर रही हैं। उद्योग रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, उत्तर भारत में हाल ही में चार नई एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट इकाइयाँ उत्पादन शुरू कर चुकी हैं, जिनमें पूर्ण एक्सट्रूज़न लाइनें लगी हैं। इसके अलावा, तीन और इकाइयाँ स्थापना चरण में हैं और शीघ्र ही परिचालन शुरू करने की संभावना है। इस खंड में गुजरात का दबदबा बना हुआ है, जहां आधा दर्जन से अधिक विनिर्माण इकाइयाँ स्थित हैं, और मोरबी एक प्रमुख उत्पादन केंद्र के रूप में उभर रहा है।

मोरबी स्थित क्रिस्टल एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट के जीतू पंचोतिया के अनुसार, घरेलू निर्माता नये डिज़ाइनों और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले उत्पादों की विस्तृत श्रृंखला पेश कर रहे हैं, उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि अकेले मोरबी में ही लगभग आधा दर्जन एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट इकाइयाँ हैं, जो इस क्लस्टर के बढ़ते महत्व



को दर्शाता है।

बाजार से मिली प्रतिक्रियाओं के अनुसार, इंटीरियर उपयोग के लिए एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट्स शीट और बोर्ड—दोनों प्रारूपों में मजबूत स्वीकार्यता प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। एक हालिया सर्वेक्षण से पता चलता है कि आकर्षक मुनाफा मार्जिन और बढ़ती ग्राहक पूछताछ के कारण रिटेलर्स में कई एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट ब्रांड्स रखने को लेकर उत्साह बढ़ रहा है। अब कई शोरूम्स ने एक्रेलिक शीट्स के लिए अलग से डिस्प्ले क्षेत्र निर्धारित कर दिए हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि इस उत्पाद की पहुंच अब मेट्रो बाजारों से आगे बढ़कर टियर-II शहरों तक पहुंच गई है, जहां यह एक वर्ष पहले तक लगभग अनुपस्थित था।

वर्तमान में भारतीय लैमिनेट बाजार में लगभग 100 एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट फोल्डर प्रचलन में हैं, जिससे इस सेगमेंट में गतिविधियां तेज़ हो गई हैं। केवल पिछले छह महीनों में ही लगभग 50 नए एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट फोल्डर लॉन्च किए गए हैं, जो बढ़ती मांग के

साथ-साथ नए निर्माताओं और व्यापारियों की बढ़ती भागीदारी को दर्शाता है। हालांकि, उद्योग विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी है कि इतनी तेज़ी से बढ़ता प्रवेश आपूर्ति की अधिकता (ओवरसप्लाय) की स्थिति पैदा कर सकता है, जैसा कि लूवर्स और राफ्टर्स जैसे अन्य सेगमेंट्स में पहले से देखा जा रहा है।

विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि जैसे-जैसे स्वीकार्यता बढ़ती है, आपूर्ति स्वाभाविक रूप से बढ़ती है, जिससे घरेलू निर्माता और आयातक दोनों आकर्षित होते हैं। यह विस्तार जहां उपलब्धता और विकल्पों के लिहाज से सकारात्मक है, वहीं प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ने से मुनाफा मार्जिन पर दबाव भी डाल रहा है। रिटेलर्स और निर्माता दोनों यह स्वीकार करते हैं कि पहले मिलने वाला ऊंचा मार्जिन अब धीरे-धीरे कम हो रहा है।

उत्पाद के दृष्टिकोण से, एक्रेलिक शीट्स 1 मिमी से 2 मिमी तक की मोटाई में उपलब्ध हैं।

ओईएम सेगमेंट में टिकाऊपन और प्रदर्शन के लिए 2.0 मिमी श्रेणी को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है, जबकि रिटेल व्यापार में मुख्य रूप से 1.5 मिमी से कम मोटाई वाली शीट्स की मांग रहती है। रिटेलर्स के अनुसार, गुणवत्ता के प्रति जागरूक सेगमेंट में 1.3 मिमी से 1.5 मिमी के बीच की मोटाई सबसे अधिक पसंद की जाती है, क्योंकि यह सौंदर्य और लागत के बीच संतुलन प्रदान करती है।

रिटेलर्स के निरंतर समर्थन और बढ़ती कारपेंटर जागरूकता के साथ, एक्रेलिक लैमिनेट्स फर्नीचर निर्माण में धीरे-धीरे अधिक व्यापक उपयोग पा रहे हैं। इनका साफ, कांच जैसा रूप और दृश्य आकर्षण बढ़ाने की क्षमता मांग को लगातार आगे बढ़ा रही है, जिससे भारत के सरफेस डेकोर बाजार के भविष्य को आकार देने में घरेलू निर्माताओं की भूमिका और मजबूत होती जा रही है।

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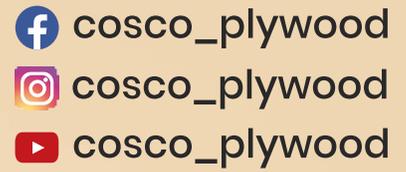


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