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PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

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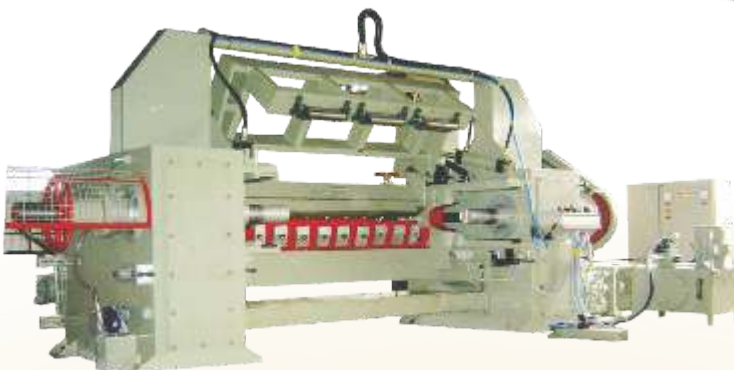
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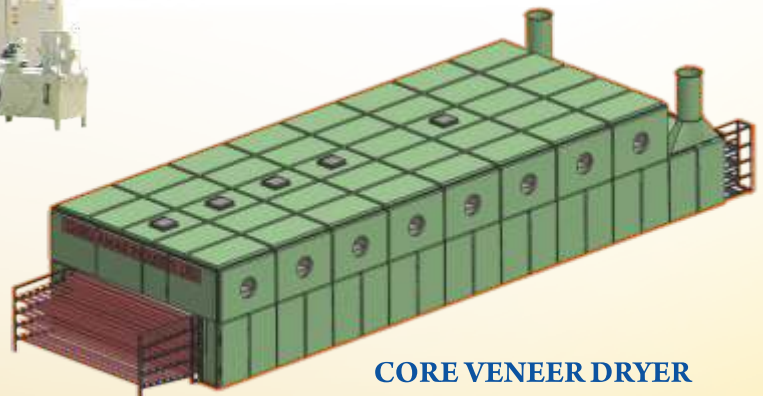
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MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

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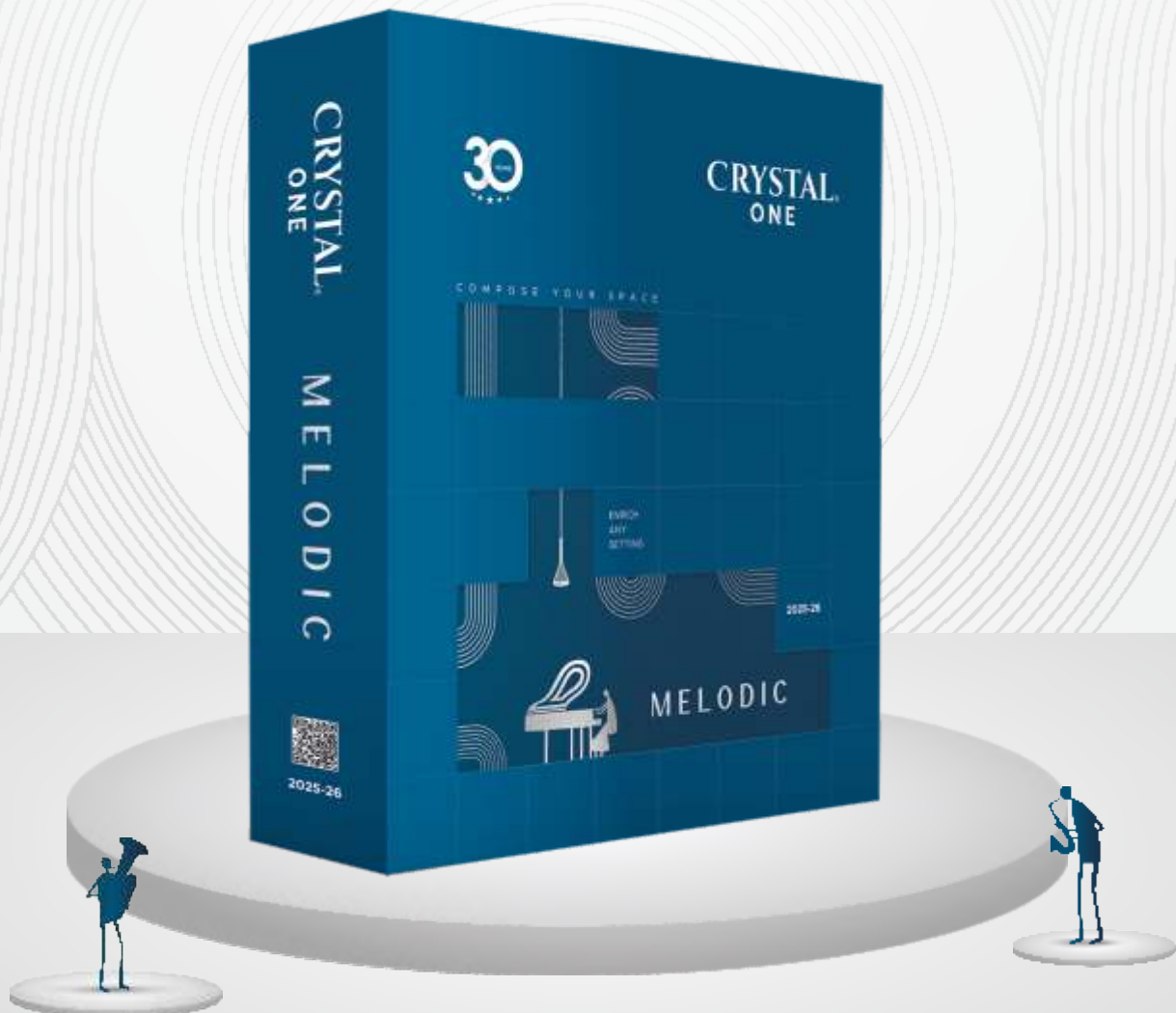
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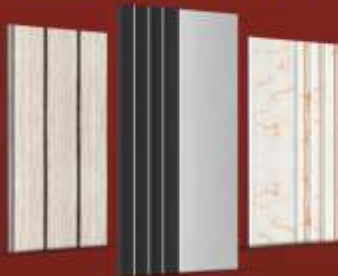


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HPMA

Announces 5% Price Hike Across Plywood Categories



At a recent meeting of its Executive Committee on 23rd June, 2025, the Haryana Plywood Manufacturers' Association (HPMA) decided to implement a 5% price increase on all categories of plywood, block boards, and flush doors. The meeting, held at Gymkhana Club in Jagadhari, cited a rise in input costs, particularly in wages, electricity, and formaldehyde chemicals, as the key reason for the hike. The revised rates were to take effect immediately. HPMA President J.K. Bihani conveyed the advisory on behalf of the association.

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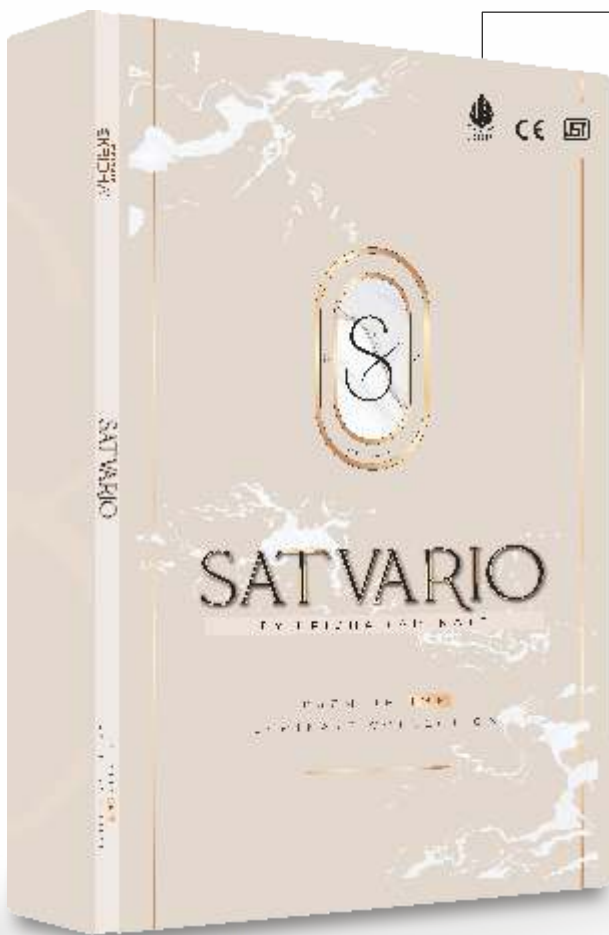
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Karnataka Plywood Manufacturers Association KPMA

Emergency Price Hike, Amid Rising Input Costs

In a swiftly convened emergency meeting held on 11th June, 2025, in Mangalore, the Karnataka Plywood Manufacturers Association (KPMA) decided to raise the prices of plywood and block boards, due to a sharp increase in the costs of timber, veneer, resin, transportation, and labour.


Sources from the association indicated that this move aligns with similar price revisions already announced by several key industry bodies, including the All India Plywood Manufacturers Association, the SOPMA, the Kannur Plywood Manufacturers Association, and other plywood and block

board manufacturers' groups across Kerala.

As per the new pricing structure, the rates will be increased immediately by ₹3 per square foot for 18mm, 16mm, and 15mm plywood, ₹2 per square foot for 12mm and 9mm variants, ₹1 per square foot for 6mm, and ₹3 per square foot for block boards.

Association insiders shared that the decision was considered unavoidable to prevent severe financial distress within the sector. KPMA President B. Abdul Salam has urged all members to implement the revised prices without delay, warning that failure to do so could endanger the long-term viability of the industry across the region.

Association insiders shared that the decision was considered unavoidable to prevent severe financial distress within the sector.



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CENTURY PLY

Begins Particle Board Production at New Tamil Nadu Facility

Century Plyboards has begun production of the first boards at its new particle board manufacturing facility near Chennai, Tamil Nadu. According to media sources, the Rs. 550 crore Greenfield unit, spread over 30 acres, marks a major step in expanding Century Ply's manufacturing footprint in the southern market.

The new unit is stated to have an annual capacity of 3, 60,000 cubic metres (CBM), significantly enhancing the company's earlier particle board capacity of 72,000 CBM. Initially, officials indicated that the production would focus on meeting strong domestic demand, especially considering that the company's capacity utilisation for particle boards reached 101% in FY23, following 102% in FY22.

Located roughly 30 km from Century Ply's existing plant in Gummidipoondi, the facility is expected to bring direct employment opportunities for over 300 people. Sources said the site's proximity to the existing operations was intended to streamline supply chains, optimise logistics, and increase operational efficiency.

The company is anticipating a notable capacity boost following the full commissioning of the unit during FY25, reinforcing its leadership in the wood panels and decorative products segment. Industry observers see this expansion as a strong signal of Century Ply's continued confidence in the long-term growth trajectory of India's building materials sector.



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ISI MARK

Mandate Bringing Big Shift in MDF Sector

Industry experts have noted that the mandatory implementation of the ISI mark in the MDF sector is driving a major transformation. They feel the move has ensured improved product quality, adherence to safety norms, and greater standardisation.

Drawing on global experience, stakeholders highlighted the growing

demand for certified, trustworthy materials. Observers also mentioned that the ISI mark was gaining traction in the plywood segment, indicating an industry-wide shift towards regulated production.

The change was expected to significantly influence market trends and boost consumer trust.

TIMBER CARGO LOSS

African Ship Sinks off Kerala Coast

Industry sources reveal that a freight ship arriving from Africa sank recently in the Arabian Sea near Kerala's coast, resulting in the loss of timber products worth millions of rupees. The vessel was reportedly carrying over 600 containers, including large volumes of

timber, face veneers, and core veneers bound for Cochin, Tuticorin, and Visakhapatnam ports. Timber trade insiders confirmed that the incident dealt a major blow to the wood panel sector, as crucial shipments meant for Indian markets were submerged with the ship.



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According to industry sources, India's accelerating corporate expansion has sharply increased demand for office spaces in metros and urban centres. With companies actively pursuing growth and market presence, the need for well-connected, modern workplaces has surged. This trend has also boosted the requirement for furniture and interior solutions.

The particle board industry, a key material for office furniture, is witnessing direct benefits from this development. Experts noted that rapid urbanisation and evolving office aesthetics are creating significant opportunities for the sector, positioning particle board as a preferred choice in contemporary workspace design.

VENTURA

Marking 30 Years with New Laminates



Ventura International was reported to be celebrating its 30th anniversary by launching 76 new Architectural Laminates under its PROBOOK collection. Known for premium interior and exterior solutions, the company has maintained a strong presence among architects and designers. Industry sources said the new range reflects Ventura's continued commitment to innovation, design excellence, and evolving market needs.

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RUSHIL DÉCOR

Targeting Q3 FY26 Completion for Jumbo Laminate Plant Expansion



Rushil Décor Limited is gearing up to complete Phase 2 of its advanced Jumbo Laminate manufacturing facility at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, by the third quarter of FY2026, as part of its strategic plan to enhance capacity, broaden its product portfolio, and bolster revenue growth.

The announcement follows a strong financial performance in FY2025, with the company reporting a 6.4% year-on-year rise in consolidated revenue to ₹8,979 million and an 11.1% increase in Profit After Tax (PAT) to ₹479 million. The growth was reportedly driven by consistent export demand, better operational efficiencies, and a growing share of value-added offerings.

Sources within the company indicated that consolidated revenues for

FY2026 are projected to reach ₹11,000 million, with the expanded facility playing a central role. The brownfield expansion, combining Phases 1 and 2, is expected to add 2.8 million laminate sheets annually, equivalent to 1mm single-side decorative laminates, primarily targeting international markets such as the USA and Europe. Management believes that this capacity increase could generate approximately ₹300 crore in additional annual revenue, with an expected EBITDA margin of 11%.

According to the company, initial export orders for 15% of Phase 1's capacity have already been secured, and efforts are underway to ramp up production progressively over the coming quarters.

Executives suggested

The announcement follows a strong financial performance in FY2025, with the company reporting a 6.4% year-on-year rise in consolidated revenue



that the plant reflects the company's broader ambition to deepen its presence in global markets while maintaining a strong foothold domestically. They added that the new phase will strengthen Rushil Décor's capabilities in delivering high-quality, design-forward laminate solutions in tune with evolving customer needs.

Rushil K. Thakkar, Managing Director, was quoted as saying that the company remains committed to innovation, capacity augmentation, and expanding its international reach, positioning itself as a long-term value creator in the building materials sector.

Founded in 1993, Rushil Décor Limited operates under its flagship

brand VIR and maintains a presence in over 56 countries. The company boasts six state-of-the-art facilities, with a combined annual production capacity of 3.49 million laminate sheets and 3,30,000 CBM MDF boards. With ISO 9001:2000 certification and 3 Star Export House status, Rushil Décor is supported by a wide network of over 4,600 retail points and 700 distributors across domestic and global markets.

*Rushil K. Thakkar,
Managing Director,
was quoted as saying
that the company
remains committed
to innovation,
capacity
augmentation, and
expanding its
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positioning itself as
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MULTIPLE PLYWOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Urges BIS to Curb Illegal Imports of Non-BIS Plywood Despite QCO Mandate

Despite the Indian government's Quality Control Order (QCO) mandating BIS certification for plywood, particle board, MDF, and wooden doors from February and March 2025, concerns have intensified over the continued illegal import of non-BIS-certified products into the country.

Various plywood associations and the Federation of Indian Plywood and Panel Industry (FIPPI) have raised alarms, stating that over ₹100 crore worth of uncertified wood products entered India through two key ports during March and April 2025. These imports, allegedly in clear violation of QCO norms, have prompted widespread frustration within the domestic industry.

The QCO was implemented to ensure high-quality, durable wood products for

consumers, with clear compliance guidelines issued to manufacturers. However, associations argue that lax enforcement at ports is rendering the mandate ineffective. They warn that this unchecked influx of substandard goods not only undermines the efforts of BIS-compliant manufacturers but also puts consumer safety at risk.

FIPPI and other trade bodies have called on the Bureau of Indian Standards to immediately intervene, tighten port inspections, and curb the entry of illegal materials. The industry maintains that without stricter vigilance, the intended objectives of the QCO, to safeguard quality and ensure fair competition, will remain unfulfilled.



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BIS

Organises Stakeholder Session on Amendments to IS 1659 and IS 303

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Lucknow Branch Office, organised a Manak Manthan session on 28th June, 2025, in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh, to discuss proposed amendments to two key plywood standards, IS 1659:2004 (Block Boards Specification) and IS 303:2024 (Plywood for General Purposes). The event was held at Hotel Comfort Inn Lakhimpur from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Held as part of BIS's initiative to strengthen stakeholder engagement and ensure smoother adoption of standards, the

session aimed to raise awareness around testing procedures, certification protocols, and licensing operations.

Officials informed that the amendments, marked as Draft Amendment No. 3 to IS 1659 and Draft Amendment No. 2 to IS 303, were open for consultation. The event focused on clarifying key changes, addressing implementation challenges, and collecting feedback. Participation was free, and BIS urged all relevant stakeholders to attend and contribute their inputs to the evolving standards.

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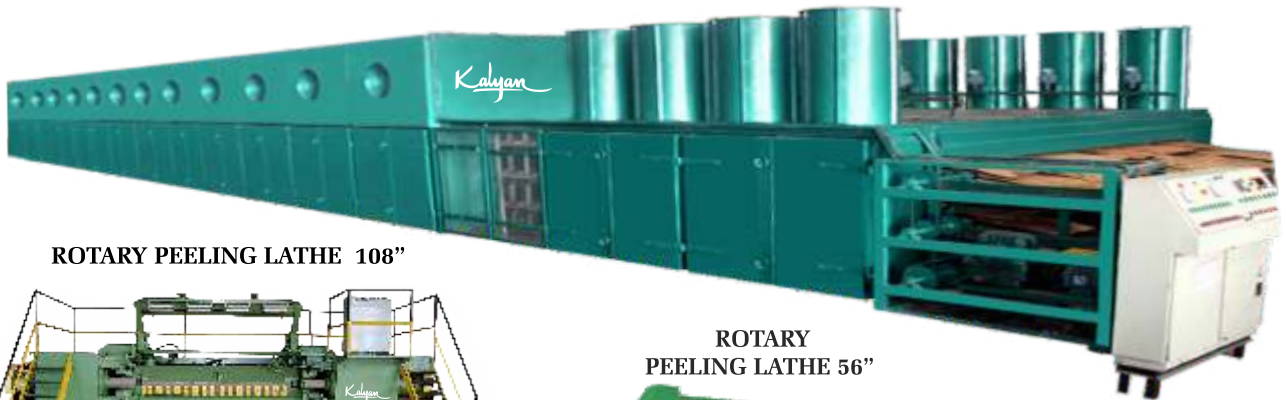
Company representatives highlighted that the factory operated as more than just a production unit, it served

as a space where innovation, quality, and sustainability converged. Backed by skilled professionals and modern equipment, the facility was described as central to the brand's promise of durability and excellence.

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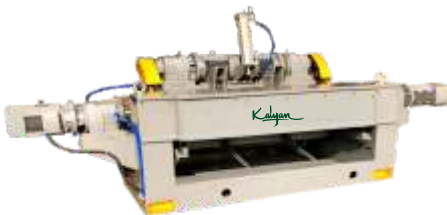
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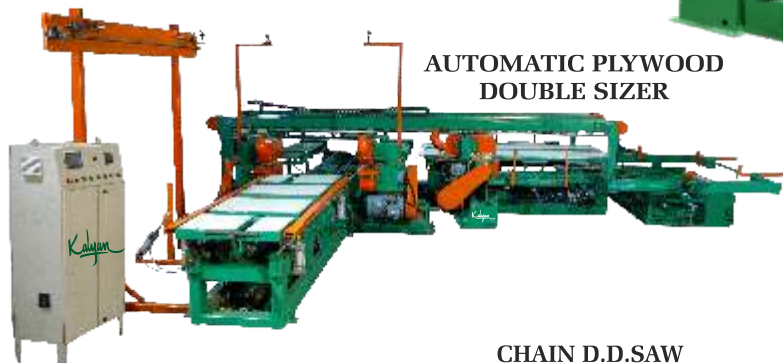


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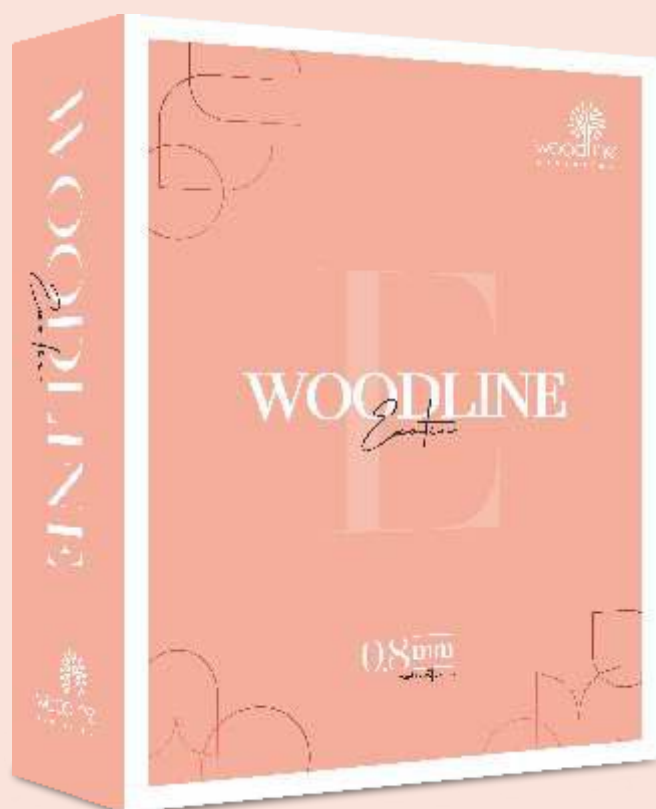
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DOMESTIC PLYWOOD INDUSTRY

Registers Positive Shift Post BIS-QCO Implementation

The domestic plywood industry has experienced a notable uplift following the implementation of the Bureau of Indian Standards, Quality Control Order (BIS-QCO). More than a month into its enforcement, the QCO has already begun reshaping market dynamics, particularly by curbing plywood imports from countries like Vietnam and Nepal. This development is said to have eased pressure on Indian manufacturers operating in regions such as Yamuna Nagar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala.

Manufacturers are believed to be benefiting from improved availability of core veneer and timber, leading to greater pricing stability and input cost management. With better margins and raw material access, industry sentiment reportedly turned optimistic, as domestic players prepared to fill the void left by declining imports.

Despite this, labour shortages remain a

challenge across key manufacturing hubs including Punjab, U.P. and Coimbatore. It is anticipated that manpower availability would improve post-harvest season in June.

The report also highlights several industry concerns related to standard amendments, sample drawing practices, and treatment protocol dilemmas. Associations are said to be advocating for a transparent and standardised approval system aligned with the "Make in India" initiative.

In terms of market performance, April has initially seen a muted response, but demand reportedly picked up later in the month. MDF prices dropped by 3–4% due to oversupply, though the laminate segment showed resilience. The particleboard sector is projected to strengthen in the second half of FY25, spurred by government projects and increasing office space consumption.

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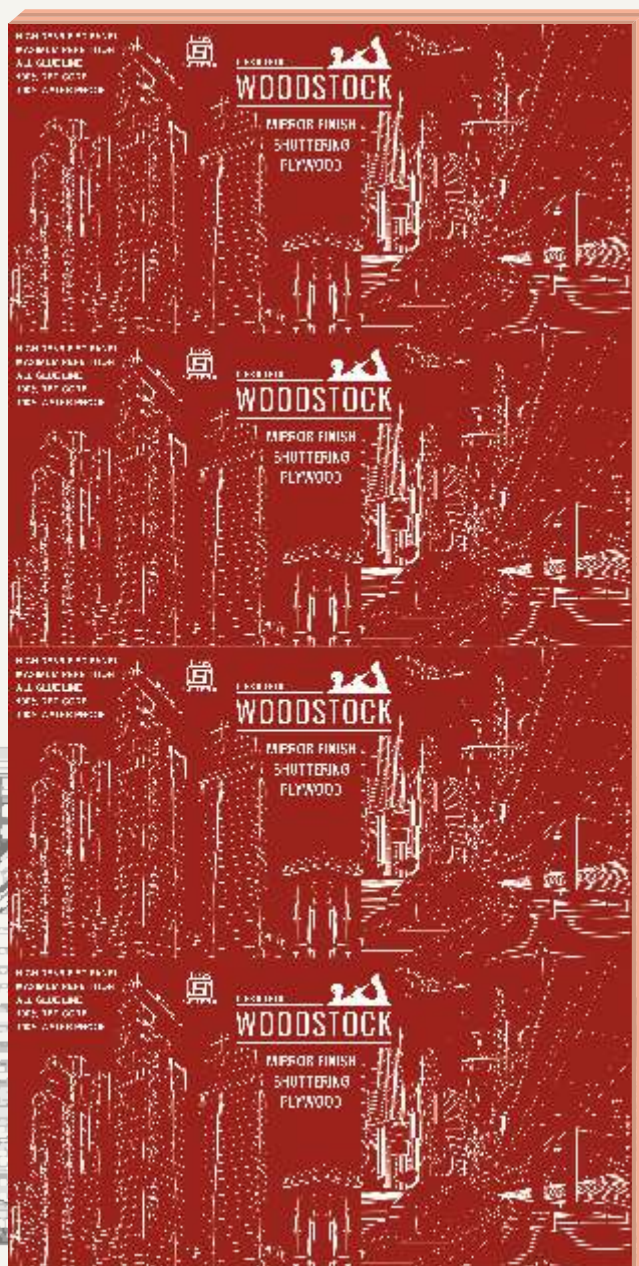
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ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Mandatory for In-House Resin Production in Plywood Units

A significant regulatory shift may be underway for India's plywood industry, as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to consider mandating environmental clearance (EC) for in-house resin manufacturing within plywood manufacturing units. The directive stems from concerns over the unchecked use of synthetic chemicals like phenol-formaldehyde and melamine-formaldehyde without due environmental scrutiny.

The NGT's order required MoEFCC to examine the issue and prepare appropriate guidelines for the plywood sector, particularly for units producing over 1,000 tonnes of resin annually for captive use. The tribunal instructed the ministry to submit an action report to its Registrar General within six months.

Following the order, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has been advised to review previously granted consents to several plywood units. The review aims to assess whether these units are manufacturing resins internally and whether such operations were authorised under

existing environmental norms. Where violations are found, such as producing resin without prior EC, HSPCB may be instructed to suspend resin production in those units until formal clearance is obtained under the EIA Notification 2006.

The expert committee under the EIA Notification 2006 had earlier proposed that resin manufacturing be categorised under 'Category B2', requiring a streamlined EC process for smaller chemical units. This would apply to units producing over 1,000 tonnes per year or more than 4 tonnes per day.

In accordance with the revised EIA Notification 2006, manufacturing of phenol-





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formaldehyde and melamine-formaldehyde resins is classified as synthetic organic chemical activity. Units located in industrial zones may seek EC from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), while others must approach the MoEFCC at the central level.

The ruling clarified that any unit engaged in captive resin manufacturing, including those producing plywood, mica, or veneer, must comply with EC requirements. However, units that source resins externally are exempt from this obligation.

This directive aligns with earlier regulatory practices in Punjab, where

formaldehyde-producing units have been operating under the EIA norms. Several plywood units in the state were also found to be producing resin for internal use without securing the required EC.

The NGT further stated that failure to file compliance reports or if additional instructions become necessary, the matter should be brought before the tribunal's judicial bench for further orders.

The development marks a potentially transformative phase for the plywood industry, emphasising accountability, environmental responsibility, and adherence to national green laws.

SOLID PLY

Emerging as Key Player in India's Plywood Sector

Solid Ply Pvt. Ltd., which began as a modest plywood trading business in 1975, has reportedly evolved into one of India's leading plywood manufacturers. Operating from Visakhapatnam, the company is said to benefit from the city's strategic location, offering seamless access to a major seaport and a well-connected transport network across the country.

Company sources indicate that Solid Ply has become known for delivering high-

quality plywood and decorative solutions for both residential and commercial use. Its expansive product range includes plywood, blockboards, and flush doors tailored for diverse furniture needs. Industry observers note the company's consistent innovation in plywood technology, backed by advanced manufacturing units spread across India, has positioned it among the top plywood manufacturers in the country.

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Uttar Pradesh Tiger is Rising to Roar Outside the Woods

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Uttar Pradesh is a large state which ranks 1st in term of its population of around 250 M persons and 4th in term of its geographical area of 240,928 Km² (ISFR 2023). Agriculture is the main occupation for 60% population and its contribution to the state economy is 28% which is 2nd after service sector (47%). The state is the 3rd largest economy in India and is now progressing well. Uttar Pradesh is ranked 2nd in the ease of doing business in the country and is now well positioned for industrial revolution. The state is in the process of developing the largest defence industrial corridor along with increased thrust on other sectors including wood based industry (WBI).

Wood based industry (WBI) sector has excellent history in the past yet it could not make reasonable progress in the recent years. This is despite the fact that the bulk of the wood produced within the state has been transported for decades to the adjoining small states like Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, New Delhi etc. for its processing to make wood products there. The author tried

to trace the history of the WBI and its expansion including the challenges faced in licensing the new units during the recent years. Uttar Pradesh, after a long legal battle, recently got clearance to allow licenses to the new WBI and the state is ready to create a new revolution in tree based green economy. There are different connotations of the word “Wood” and one of them is referred as an area covered with trees which is often called as “Forest” or “Woodland”. Here the word “Wood” represents “Agroforest Plantations” which are grown outside recorded forest areas for producing the wood for WBI. Uttar Pradesh with vast potential in wood production and its processing has been a giant sleeping tiger which is now awoken and ready to roar in agroforests and the WBI sector.

Status of forests and forest produce in the state

According to the recently released India State of Forest Report -2023, the state is low in forest area with just 7.54% (1.77 M ha) of its geographical area (GA) (240.9238 Km²)

under recorded forests which includes a very small share of 1.12 % of GA under very dense forests (> 70% crown density), 3.46% of GA under moderately density forests (40-70% crown density) and 1.66% of GA under open forests (10-40% crown density). The major forest area of the state was earlier in the Himalayan region which was allocated to newly created Uttarakhand state on 9th November 2000. Top three dominant tree species within forests of Uttar Pradesh are Sal 35.09 M trees with 49.28 Mm³ GS, Teak 16.16 M trees with 11.56 M m³ GS, and Mallotus 9.5 M trees with 1.83 Mm³ GS.

The state had 4057.03 Km² area under trees outside forests (ToFs) during 2023 which registered an increase of 29.82% in TOF tree cover during the last one decade from 2013 to 2023. The top five ToFs in its rural areas are Eucalyptus -142.126 M trees (6.971%), Mango -133.47 M (41.74%), Poplar - 49.051 M (2.407%), Sissoo -25.258 M (6.758%) and Prosopis -21.746 M (0.843). The top five ToFs In urban areas are Neem/Melia -3.689 (1.676%), Mango -2.958 (1.050%), Eucalyptus - 2.866 (0.331 %), Amrood -2.707 (0.083%) and

Prosopis -1.907 M (0.090%). Area under Agroforestry during 2023 was 8975 km² during 2023 which registered an increase of 1.89 Lakh ha (26.74%) whereas the GS was 80.22 Mm³ with 32.46% increase during the last one decade between 2013-2023. The potential annual wood productions from TOF was reported 8.56 Mm³ during 2023. The Forest department official website mentions Eucalyptus and Poplar as the top 2 agroforestry trees in the state (https://upforest.gov.in/web/MediaGallery/AgroForestry13082020_final.pdf).

FAO (1979) had reported 70853 ha area under Eucalyptus in the state and it was 2nd highest after 129034 ha in Karnataka out of a total of 415000 ha during 1974. Compared to Uttar Pradesh, two neighbouring states with similar trends in Eucalyptus plantations in North India namely Haryana had 5026 ha and Punjab 10684 ha area under this tree at that time. During that period, Eucalyptus was largely planted by the forest department on government land including forest land. Currently, more Eucalyptus is planted by the farmers without much support from



The advertisement features a large wood veneer sample on the left with a logo in the top left corner. To its right is a blue and white product folder with a geometric pattern. On the right side, there is a logo consisting of a stylized 'V' shape in orange and blue, followed by the text 'VRINDA® MICA'. Below this, contact information is provided: 'Contact : 9355 336 870, 9315 335 535', 'email: lrbwoodindustries@gmail.com', and 'web: www.lrbwood.in'. At the bottom left, text reads 'NATURA Veneer - 11101 (NV)' and 'Find this shade in Vrinda Mica Folder@08'.

government agencies and its wood is sold to WBI. Uttar Pradesh is now the top state to make maximum Eucalyptus and Poplar plantations in the country. In case of Eucalyptus, out of around 50 Crore estimated clonal Eucalyptus planted during 2024-25 in the country, the contribution of Uttar Pradesh was maximum of around 12-13 Crore plants. In case of Poplar, out of a total of 3.75 Crore saplings planted in the country the state share was around 1.40 Crore planted during the same year. These TOFs are the major wood resource for the WBI within and adjoining states.

Uttar Pradesh is the only state in the country where its majority of forests (4.5 Lakh ha) are PEFC-FM Certified (<https://upforestcorporation.co.in/About-Us>). These forests are located in 41 forest divisions throughout the state and the timber harvested from them is commercially harvested and marketed by the state forest corporation. The main outturn of timber, firewood, bamboo etc. from the state forests is given in Table-1.

bamboo, tendu and other produce during this period was Rs 20904 Lakh which varied from Rs. 15333 to 28536 Lakh during the same period. The major share of revenue to the forest corporation appears from the sale of timber that may also include it from the FM certified timber.

Development of Wood based industry in the state

Wood based industry has a long history and significant presence in the state. State Government has been facilitating and encouraging establishment of forest based industrial units under public and private sector since long. The available records indicate that the organised establishment of WBI was started in both the public and private sector over one hundred years ago. State has been encouraging the private sector to establish WBI by providing land on long term lease and assured raw material supply from government forests. Bareilly was one of the main centers for WBI in the state. WIMCO – a safety match company had its match factory

Table-1. Summary of forest produce from the state's forests during the recent years

Year	Timber (m ³)	Firewood(m ³)	Bamboo (Korry)	Others (Tendu)	Revenue (Lakh Rs.)
2018-19	174466	23421	37251	176152	28526
2019-20	121696	14498	18436	148528	21631
2020-21	139050	12482	10506	88516	15333
2021-22	147130	21047	31343	109448	18124

The average timber production was 145 Thousand m³/year which varied from 121696 m³ to 174466 m³ between 2018-19 to 2021-22 and the average revenue earned by the corporation from the sale of timber, fuelwood,

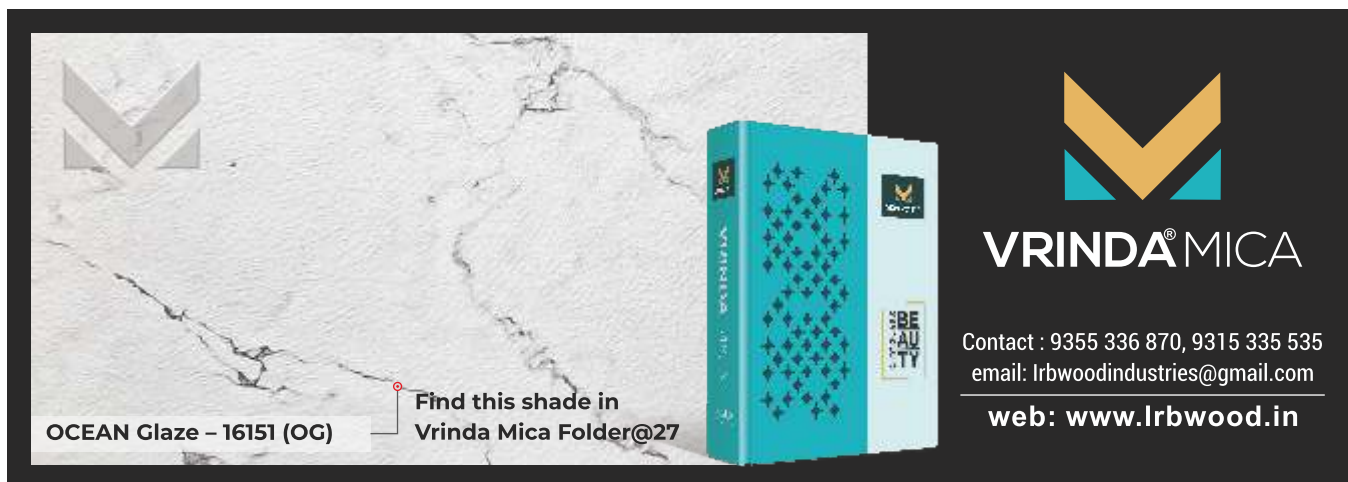
established in Bareilly during 1923 with 2 other factories namely Turpentine factory (The Indian Turpentine and Rosin Company Limited) in 1924 under public sector and Camphor factory (Camphor and Allied

Products Ltd.) in 1964 under private sector were established nearby WIMCO factory. Big paper manufacturing mills were established at Muzaffar Nagar (Tehri Paper and Pulp in 1933), Saharanpur (Star paper in 1938), Ayodhya (Yes Papers Ltd in 1981), Lal Kuan-Nainital (Century in 1984), and later some other small factories in different parts of the state. Nagina (Wood Craft City) and Saharanpur (Wood Carving City) were traditional wood working centers known for their excellent wood handicrafts, furniture and carving products. In panel products, Nuboard manufacturing company was created on 26.72 acre land in Rampur District in 1963. The name of this company was later changed to Kitply in 1982. Rampur and Hapur gradually developed clusters of small scale peeling and plywood making units which thereafter spilled over to some other districts of the state.

The main factor which facilitated the expansion of panel and related industry in North India including Uttar Pradesh is directly and indirectly related to the success of WIMCO's Poplar programme which was

initiated in 1977 for matchwood production. Till that stage, there was hardly any practice to plant trees for commercial purpose on farmland though naturally grown trees were maintained for domestic use. Existing WBI was used to source raw material from state forest department in those days. Uttar Pradesh has been the major Poplar growing state from the very beginning of WIMCO programme which was operated from Bareilly. Punjab and Haryana were two additional states where Poplar was gradually promoted by the company thereafter.

The last decade of 20th century i.e., 1990's was the watershed period in the expansion of panel industry in North India. Sudden closure of plywood industry in the north eastern states due to the Godaverman case 1996 made its shift initially to Yamuna Nagar in Haryana and then partly to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. A few small scale plywood factories located in North India were till then using locally available wood of Semul, Ailanthus, Mango and a few others. A local plywood factory in Punjab attempted the first use of farmland grown Poplar wood for



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making plywood during late 1980's. The sudden availability of its wood from wind fallen trees had no local utility during those days which was peeled and used for making plywood. The success of this trial encouraged other local plywood factories to start using Poplar wood for making plywood in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Poplar in those days was grown under contract farming model in which WIMCO technical team used to evaluate wood value of the plantations for procurement under its buy back agreement. Many plywood factories started the practice of getting harvestable Poplar plantations of perspective farmers evaluated from WIMCO technical team and then started their purchase at 10-20% higher price over the evaluated amount. This laid the foundation for the initial extensive use of Poplar in plywood and thereafter in block board manufacturing. Currently, there is only a very small and notional use of Poplar wood in making match splints for safety matches and the real driver for its expansion in North India has been plywood sector during the last 3 decades.

Introduction of Eucalyptus in making plywood was started quite late again initially in Punjab and Haryana and then it spread to Uttar Pradesh and other states. Its use was again started accidentally when the cost of Poplar wood was very high and the Eucalyptus wood was locally available at low prices. Initially, Eucalyptus veneers for making plywood were used in hybrid mode (alternate veneers of Eucalyptus and Poplar) and finally its pure plywood was started.

Eucalyptus plywood trade was promoted as heavy and hardwood plywood compared to light and soft Poplar made plywood which resulted in its significant market penetration. With massive expansion of Medium Density Board (MDF) and Particle Board (PB) in the country, Eucalyptus became the favoured wood for these new panel products and its use also significantly expanded in making plywood. New WBI units especially that of MDF and PB were given licenses in Uttarakhand during the first decade to make their products using only Eucalyptus and Poplar wood procured from the farmers. However these units preferred use of Eucalyptus for these new panel products because of its high density, low cost and abundant availability from the adjoining Uttar Pradesh farmland. There have been attempts by research establishments to promote and encourage use of other tree species especially *Melia dubia* in North India which has yet not been taken very kindly by both the panel industry and farmers in the major part of the state.

Awakening of the Tiger

The state has been trying to attract capital investment for establishing industries for quite some time and as such, the state's GDP has increased from 17 Lakh Crore to 25 Lakh Crore during the last 8 years. The state ranks second in the country in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). Per capita income has increased from Rs 50 Thousand to Rs 1.25 Lakh. The manufacturing industry in the state registered a growth of 13 percent during 2023-24 which was much higher than the

growth rate of 7.5 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). There are parallel efforts in developing infrastructure to meet the emerging needs of industry and other sectors.

The state of Uttar Pradesh could not create matching WBI infrastructure to realise the vast wood resource grown by numerous farmers in the past. Ultimately, Uttar Pradesh proposed fresh licensing of around 1350 WBI around 7 years back. It was initially challenged in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and after a long legal battle, the matter was finally settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2022. As such, the state started the process of licensing the WBI by offering low cost land acquisition, waiver of stamp duty, and 10 years GST waiver. As a result, the state has received investment of Rs. 20,000 Crore in WBI sector alone. Many branded and big panel product manufacturing companies like Greenlam industries Ltd., Green Ply Industries Ltd., Century Ltd. etc. and many other medium and small scale units are lined up for Greenfield wood based projects in the state. Many of

them have already procured land and are in the advanced stage of establishing their manufacturing facilities in the state.

Many of the panel product manufacturers in some other established wood based clusters like Yamuna Nagar have now started shifting their factories to Uttar Pradesh. They perceive expected benefits of low costs for land and its changing land use, electricity tariffs, and good availability of wood at reasonably low landing costs in Uttar Pradesh. Many of such entrepreneurs have silently procured 15-20 acres land each in different parts of the state (Ply Gazette May 2025 issue) and registered themselves for new industrial units to start their production facilities by dismantling their units and shifting them to Uttar Pradesh. It has been reported that Yamuna Nagar once had around 1000 WBI units long back which were gradually reduced to around 500 and now functional units are reported less than 200. According to Ply Gazette reports appearing in its latest issue of May 2025, their number was 380 in 2017 and is 160 now. Once there used to be wood demand of around 1000 trolleys/day



The advertisement features a large wood veneer sample on the left with a subtle logo. To its right is a blue and white product folder with a geometric pattern. On the right side, the Vrinda Mica logo is displayed above the company name. Below the name, contact information and the website are provided. A small red dot with a line points to the text 'Find this shade in Vrinda Mica Folder@08'.

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which has now reportedly reduced to 400 trolleys/day. It was the main plywood and wood based cluster in India which was once employing 2.5 Lakh people. Sourcing of both the wood and labour in this cluster has also been reported from Uttar Pradesh.

The shifting panel product manufacturing base to Uttar Pradesh is an indication of the giant leap in expansion of its WBI. The state with favourable industrial sector ecosystem attributes namely abundant and multiple skilled and unskilled human resource including that for shop floor and other activities, adequate wood raw material at reasonable low costs, huge possibility of expansion in both wood production and establishment of additional WBI, improved law and order situation, and positive and favourable industrial and political ecosystem are collectively proving a game changer for the expansion of WBI in the state. Additionally, improved roads, electricity and other infrastructure; parallelly developing other industries ease of doing business; supporting quick land acquisition process and necessary approvals for establishing new units; and improved security and protection to the industry have certainly improved the industrial ecosystems in the state.

Way forward

It is suggested that Uttar Pradesh needs to have some lesson learning from the ecosystem of plantation-WBI interface existing in other states and also evolving situation in the country. The following issues are tagged as way forward.

1. Developing linkages of wood consumption with its production

The current wood value chain for WBI is totally in unorganised sector where numerous farmers grow selected trees suo-moto for wood sale to WBI. The past experience indicates that most of the WBI established their manufacturing units but hardly invested in plantations to ensure wood production for meeting their raw material needs. A mechanism needs to be developed where it is to be ensured that certain percentage of annual budget of WBI is allocated for plantation activities surrounding their catchment areas. Special incentives in the form of taxation could be offered to those who meet the bottom line of targeted limits for making such plantations, developing quality planting stock production facility, and Research and Development on tree species and related issues to develop sustainable value chain between wood production and its processing. These units can develop long term synergic relationships for wood supply to their factories.

2. Expansion of WBI base in other regions of the state

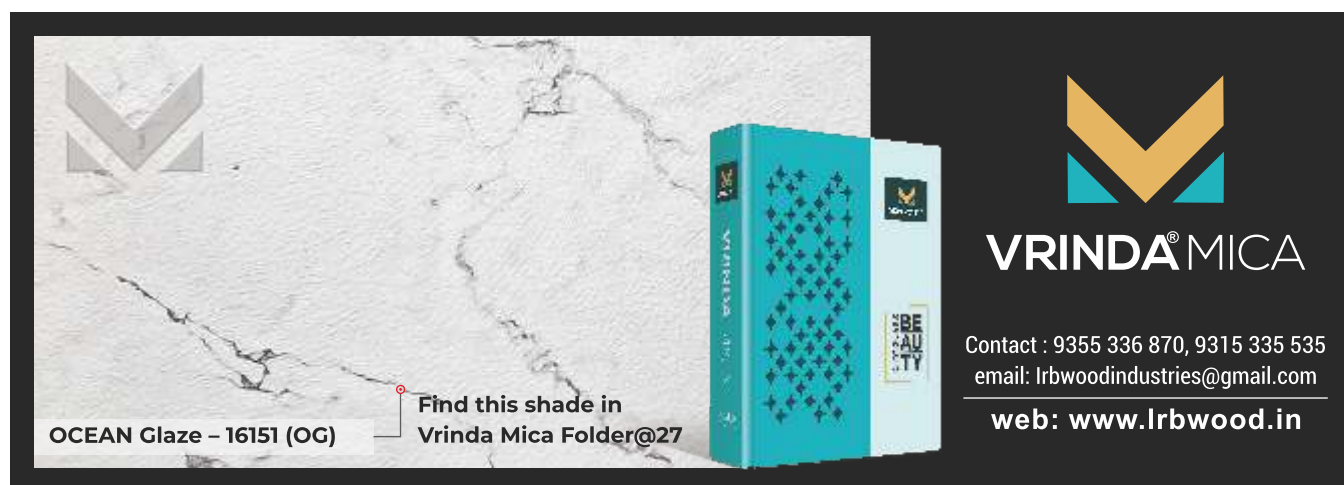
The current WBI units are predominantly coming up in and around locations where already

good plantation landscape is exiting. The main lesson learning from the past agroforestry and plantation programmes on the farmland in the country has been that wherever there is demand for wood from WBI, plantation activities have picked up compared to those regions where WBI is missing. Northern and western Uttar Pradesh regions have witnessed a huge economic transformative impact in rural areas by growing trees whereas eastern and southern regions have been left behind in this race. For similar developmental impact in low plantation foot-print regions, state could encourage some WBI units by giving them special lucrative initial rebates and concessions for procuring wood from other parts of the state for definite period with an undertaking that such units will undertake systematic plantations

to ensure that after 4-5 years of their establishment, they will have to source their wood raw material from the respective catchment areas. This will have huge economic and greening impact leading to the overall development of relatively low developed regions of the state.

3. Linking Government Plantation programmes with farmer's preference

There have been regular efforts in many states to provide free or subsidised seedlings to the farmers for making plantations. In some states, such schemes made good impact whereas in some others, it was not so good. Government programmes are broad based considering the entire state whereas farmers in many region plant specific species which meet their immediate tree based needs including growing them for WBI. While government may continue



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with their broad based plantation schemes, they need to provide flexibility to allow farmers to choose tree species of their preference. They may be allowed to procure such species from any source even if they are available in government nurseries with a provision of reimbursing cost of the plants to growers on production of receipt of such plants. Poplar and Eucalyptus are considered as the preferred species for agroforestry in the state and are hardly produced in government nurseries despite farmers willing to plant only them in selected areas due to ease in their sale. Such farmers need to be kept encouraged and engaged in planting activities and may be allowed to plant them under such provisions. FRI Dehradun is already entering the production licenses of their developed varieties and clones with third parties and the private sector is already the major contributor to the planting stock supply chain of selected trees in the state.

4. Certification of plantations

The country has acute shortage of certified wood (FSC and PEFC) which is needed for the production of export quality wood products especially for matching the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the

European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). These regulations aim to ensure that only legally harvested timber and deforestation-free products enter the EU markets. India is viewed as a future manufacturing hub for numerous products including wood products. Uttar Pradesh already has 4.5 Lakh ha of PEFC FM (forest management) certified forests which are worked by the state forest corporation and trade around 1.45 Lakh m³ wood annually (Table-1). This is a unique and exceptional opportunity for the state to realise the vast potential of certified export oriented wood products. Currently, the benefit of FM certified wood is not getting properly utilised. The most existing WBIs make wood products for domestic markets which hardly have any value realisation and appreciation for such certified products. There are only a few wood product manufacturers who are engaged in manufacturing them for export markets. State government needs to negotiate with potential wood product manufacturers exporting them to harness this vast potential. Uttar Pradesh could further facilitate and develop a model for production of FM certified wood on farmland for manufacturing the

FM certified products within the state. Central Government has recently launched a certification scheme “The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) PARMAAN” for this purpose. Some complex requirements in all the certification schemes including PARMAAN are to declare that wood is sustainably produced, not procured from illegal sources, is grown under a management plan, and grown following the set regulations and legal framework. The existing certification schemes are largely controlled and implemented by overseas agencies which have very heavy overhead costs limiting their outreach in India. There is need to make PARMAAN system low cost and practical for its application under Indian conditions especially for the major wood resource i.e., trees grown on farm land. Uttar Pradesh can take a lead as a model

state in working out a mechanism with PARMAAN to engage its forestry professional for certification, audit and validation of farmland grown plantations. The state needs to take it up as one of the integral service activity of the forest functionaries for certification of TOFs and not as a business activity. It could have much bigger multiplier effect to the state compared to small expected business revenue from this activity once the export potential of wood product picks up in the near future.

5. Declaring WBI as agro-industry

Uttar Pradesh can further take a lead in declaring WBI as agro industry. The simple logic behind this thought is that industries based on agriculture produce grown on farm land are considered as agriculture based industries. Likewise, the current scenario in the state and elsewhere is that



The advertisement features a large wood veneer sample on the left with a faint logo. To its right is a blue and white product folder with a geometric pattern. On the right side, the Vrinda Mica logo is displayed above the company name. Below the name, contact information and the website are provided. A small red dot with a line points to the veneer sample, accompanied by text.

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Poplar and Eucalyptus trees extensively used for making panel products are grown well integrated with agriculture crops by numerous farmers on the same fields. Considering one crop produce (agriculture crop) of the field as agriculture and the other crop produce (tree) of the same field as commercial produce is contradicting in nature. Overlapping legal and other regulations on other produce from the same field are inhibitory in nature for the well being of this sector.

As forestry is in concurrent list and farm grown wood is also considered as forest produce as per the provisions of the Indian Forest Produce 1927, this matter needs to be taken up with the centre government to amend the IFA to facilitate exclusion of farm grown trees from the purview of IFA the same way it was done for bamboos a few years back. India and select other countries consider farm grown wood as forest produce whereas most countries world over consider them as agriculture produce. Both Poplar and Eucalyptus are the life line for WBI in Uttar Pradesh and many other states. These are not native trees to India and hence considering them as forest produce at par with

traditional and native tree species for the purpose of regulations need to be viewed differently.

One fear repeatedly posed by the forestry sector is that bringing these trees out of the provisions of Indian Forest Act will encourage their illegal felling from government forests. These trees have just a notional presence on government forests. Let government take a policy decision for no more planting of these trees on forest land and liberate them from all the forest regulations to provide much needed and regularly demanded relief to the farmers. This will immensely help the WBI to get numerous benefits applicable to agro-industry, ease in their growing by numerous farmers, avoid double taxation on forest produce, and fast expansion of tree based wood value chain and trade.

6. Encasing the ecosystem of emerging wood carbon market

The bulk of the wood in the country including Uttar Pradesh is now produced on short production cycles on farmland, converted into wood products, and thereafter these products lock the carbon contained therein in various utilities and for various life cycles. Wood based products has a very high circular economy as they are

often recycled for new life cycles until they finally recycle back locked carbon into the nature. The land cleared by harvesting the planted trees is often replanted which captures another cycle of additional carbon in new tree crop making tree based positive green economy. The farmers of the state have recently received payment of carbon credits amounting to Rs. 202 Crore on growing trees and open up a new chapter of green economy in the country. The state has a huge potential in tree based carbon positive economy and is now all set to create a transformative impact not only in improving the green cover of forest deficit state but also in the economic well being of farmers and the state.

Conclusion

The state's proactive policies and improved infrastructure has positioned it to become the major producer of wood products especially panel products. It is offering multiple potential options in wood forestry

sector such as multiple wood based products, FSC certified wood, ecotourism, bamboo based industry etc. Its first 'furniture hub' is all set to come up in western Uttar Pradesh around the NCR near New Delhi and number of panel factory clusters in many other districts.

Most reports indicate that the state has now come out of the old inertia in forestry sector which was earlier often referred as "Grow more and process less wood" which is now changing to "Grow more and process more wood" within the state. Expansion in WBI in the state will certainly improve the infrastructure and local manufacturing base, generate employment, improve green cover, reduce migration, reduce dependence on traditional cash crops, boost new technology, boost export, reduce import, encourage efficient resource utilisation, improve farmer's income, and provide revenue to the state through taxation, licensing and their renewals. It is also likely to have a multiplier effect in increasing other lesser connected sectors like transportation, marketing, agriculture, and some others.

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MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

LIGNA 2025

SIEMPELKAMP Presents Recycling Innovations in Particle Board and MDF

At the LIGNA 2025 trade fair, Siempelkamp placed a sharp focus on sustainability under the theme “Smart. Sustainable. Siempelkamp,” highlighting its innovative recycling solutions for particleboard and MDF production. The company underscored its commitment to energy efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and high product quality, especially in the context of wood-based panel manufacturing.

Siempelkamp reportedly aimed to position recycling as a central theme of its participation at Hall 26, Booth E27. Their newly developed MDF recycling concept was described as a first-of-its-kind innovation within the sector. According to Moritz Schränkler, the development engineer leading the project, the process was not merely about separating materials, but about efficiently recovering fibres while cleaning them of contaminants like coatings and fittings. The process, developed through extensive R&D and external testing, was said to handle diverse input materials, including PMDI-glued boards, a point seen as a major competitive advantage.

Samiron Mondal, Managing Director at Siempelkamp, noted that the environmental friendliness of the process

aligned with Germany’s Waste Wood Ordinance. He emphasised that the technology enabled the repurposing of fibre-based materials from various finished products, such as flooring and kitchen panels, while reducing energy use and ensuring strong product performance.

For particleboard production, Siempelkamp had reportedly taken another leap forward since their 2023 debut. Ulrich Kaiser, Head of Sales for the Wood Division, shared that the 2025 iteration featured modular cleaning systems tailored to specific recycling needs. These systems were designed to sort out contaminants like plastic, metal, glass, and paper before pressing, thus producing a purer grade of reusable wood and advancing circular economy goals.

To enhance visitor engagement, Siempelkamp constructed a symbolic recycling tower at their booth and incorporated augmented reality tours of their recycling plants. S Mondal expressed enthusiasm about showcasing the technology and collaborating with customers to foster closed-loop systems within the industry.

DECOR BASE PAPER

Prices Rise by ₹10-15/kg.

Decor base paper prices have increased by ₹10–15 per kilogram, driven by rising input costs and the recent imposition of anti-dumping duty on prominent Chinese suppliers such as King Decor. The duty has made imports costlier, prompting price corrections across the market.

In response, domestic player ITC has also raised its rates, citing increased raw material and energy expenses. Industry experts believe this upward trend may affect laminate manufacturers' margins and could lead to a revision in end-product pricing if sustained.

FAMILY FIRMS

Struggling with Leadership Vacuum as Owners Age

A report reveals that often, family-owned companies worldwide are lacking successors, with ageing owners unable to pass leadership to the next generation.

Many industrialists/ businessmen, admit they have no suitable heir to take over their businesses, their children having chosen a different career path and none of the employees feeling ready to assume responsibility.

Data show that quite a few owners plan to exit their businesses soon, with the number rising each year.

Analysts warn that such a trend could weaken the economic engine, as these

firms contribute a substantial portion of the national output and jobs.

Experts point out demographic shifts, with more than half of the owners over 55, as further complicating succession planning. Observers add that scarcity of internal candidates is slowing investment, hindering long-term growth.

In India, this is quite apparent with many such companies facing a crisis because the next generation's lack of interest in the plywood/laminate/ related sectors, aided by increased competition, regulatory and other official barriers, labour problems and cash inflows.

LIGNA 2025

Anchoring Global Wood Industry with Innovation and Collaboration



The woodworking and wood processing industry turned its attention to LIGNA 2025, held from 26th to 30th May in Hanover, Germany, as stakeholders from around the world gathered in anticipation of a possible industry turnaround. Organised by Deutsche Messe AG and VDMA Woodworking Machinery, the event was seen as a significant milestone in an otherwise

cautious economic landscape, with more than 1,300 exhibitors, over 700 product premieres, and a projected footfall of 80,000 visitors.

Senior officials from Deutsche Messe had expressed gratitude ahead of the show for the confidence exhibited by exhibitors and industry partners. Dr. Jochen Köckler, Chairman of the Executive Board at Deutsche

Messe AG, reportedly noted that LIGNA, celebrating its 50th anniversary, would once again play a catalytic role in reinvigorating investment, improving productivity, and inspiring sustainability through a showcase of over 5,000 innovative solutions. He acknowledged the difficult economic context but remained optimistic that the fair would drive industry-wide confidence.

Dr. Bernhard Dirr, Managing Director of the VDMA Woodworking Machinery Association, observed that in challenging times, the role of direct dialogue between suppliers and customers became even more crucial. According to him, LIGNA remained the premier platform for presenting disruptive technologies to a qualified global audience and spurring new investment through innovation.

Stephanie Wagner, Head of LIGNA at Deutsche Messe AG, believed the robust industry response reflected widespread confidence in the event. She reportedly remarked that LIGNA had historically acted as a catalyst in helping the industry rebound during economic slowdowns and the 2025 edition would play a similar role.

Industry voices also underlined the significance of face-to-face engagement. Samiron Mondal, CEO of Siempelkamp's Business Unit Capital, was cited as saying that LIGNA served as the ideal venue to interact with customers and bring the fair's theme - "Linking People, Driving Innovation" to life. Similarly, Rudolf Eickhoff, Technical Managing Director at Venjakob, emphasised that in an environment marked by declining

sales and heightened competition, showcasing sustainable production methods at LIGNA was vital for long-term competitiveness.

The backdrop to LIGNA 2025 included growing uncertainty in global markets, with delays in investment decisions due to economic and political volatility. Dr. Köckler acknowledged that the industry was navigating complex geopolitical tensions, including tariffs and currency fluctuations, but maintained that wood's role as a sustainable, carbon-storing raw material remained indispensable, regardless of broader challenges.

The three major focus areas at LIGNA 2025, Connectivity, Sustainable Production, and Engineered Wood, were designed to unify stakeholders across industry, trade, and forestry. Wagner had earlier explained that these themes encapsulated the future direction of the sector, emphasising digital integration, resource-efficient processes, and the material potential of wood and wood composites. These concepts were reflected throughout the event's ten halls and open-air areas.

Among the most anticipated additions to the 2025 edition were LIGNA.Circular and LIGNA.TruckStop, both making their debut in Hall 12 and the outdoor venue, respectively. Based on the principle of circularity, LIGNA.Circular was created in collaboration with CADEMI and designed to spotlight sustainable innovations in machinery, design, raw material use, and end-of-life product management. Panel discussions and

expert presentations under this format explored transformative business models, collaboration across supply chains, and practical approaches to circular manufacturing.

Meanwhile, LIGNA.TruckStop attracted craftsmen, joiners, and carpenters with hands-on access to tools, fittings, and fastening technologies from brands like Festool, Hettich, SawStop, and Swiss Krono. Show trucks and live demonstrations complemented expert interviews and trade-focused presentations, supported by media partners BM and dds.

Traditional formats also featured strongly at the event. The LIGNA.Stage in Hall 12 continued as the main forum for industry dialogue, offering presentations on emerging technologies and market trends. The LIGNA.Campus in Hall 11 gave academic institutions a space to highlight educational pathways and research initiatives in wood technology and sustainable design.

Innovation and entrepreneurship were promoted through LIGNA.FutureSquare, which showcased offerings from first-time VDMA exhibitors and startups, while LIGNA.Recruiting opened career pathways by connecting jobseekers directly with leading employers.

A long-standing highlight, Carpenters' Day, brought together members of Germany's carpentry guilds on the Tuesday of the event. Organised in partnership with Tischler Schreiner Deutschland (TSD), the programme featured guided tours, networking, and showcases of new tools and

ergonomic workshop setups. TSD also presented two key initiatives, the national design competition "Die Gute Form 2025" and the "Ergonomie der Werkstatt" project, which aims to improve workspaces in guild-member companies. Eighteen model workshops were being developed in partnership with equipment manufacturers to demonstrate best practices.

Recognition of excellence remained central to LIGNA's spirit, with multiple awards presented across the five-day fair. These included the Forwarder Championships, The Hans-Jürgen Narjes Prize, Die Gute Form, and the German Timber Construction Prize, the latter of which had support from Germany's Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development, and Construction. The timber construction award ceremony was held on LIGNA Tuesday at 10 a.m. on the LIGNA.Stage in Hall 12.

Covering the entire value chain of woodworking from forestry technology and sawmill operations to surface treatment, mass production systems, automation, and energy from wood, LIGNA 2025 was described by organisers as a critical juncture for shaping the future of the global wood industry.

As the event came to a close, it became clear that the woodworking community had used LIGNA not just as a showcase of technology, but as a platform for trust-building, knowledge-sharing, and collective direction-setting at a time when such cohesion was more essential than ever.

AMULYA MICA

Hosts Vibrant Dealers Meet in Chennai, Unveils New C4 1mm Catalogue



Amulya Mica Industries Pvt. Ltd., in association with its Chennai distributor S.K. Agencies hosted an exclusive Dealers Meet on 16th June, 2025, at the Radisson Blu, Chennai, with over 40 leading dealers from the city and nearby regions. The event aimed to celebrate the brand's steady expansion and showcase its latest innovations.

The evening was attended by senior leadership including Rajagopala Pillai (Vice President - South), M. Vijayakumar (Branch Manager - Chennai), and the regional sales team. They were joined by Rakesh Agarwal (Managing Director), Abhishek Agarwal (Director), and Subir Palit (Mentor), along with Suresh Jain and Aman Jain from S.K.



Agencies, who welcomed the guests.

The event commenced with a lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a Ganesh Vandana and the national anthem, setting a tone of reverence and unity.

M. Vijayakumar shared a detailed overview of the Amulya Mica product range, while Abhishek Agarwal and R. Pillai introduced the Imperial Laminates - Synchronised Collection, emphasising the importance of digital engagement and social media for today's dealers. Subir Palit added insights on shifting market dynamics and marketing strategies to strengthen brand visibility.

A key highlight of the evening was the

launch of the C4 1mm Catalogue Collection, inspired by the 4Cs of diamonds, Colour, Clarity, Cut, and Carat. The new catalogue represented Classic, Contemporary, Creative & Colour, and was positioned as a premium yet affordable offering. The launch received enthusiastic appreciation from the dealer community.

In his address, Rakesh Agarwal expressed gratitude to all partners for their loyalty and support. He elaborated on the WPC/PVC product line's unique features and proudly announced Amulya Mica's recent recognition with the CII National Shining MSME Award 2025 for manufacturing excellence.

R. Agarwal also introduced his latest book, *Ram Mandir: The Journey to Ayodhya*, calling it a personal narrative of faith and



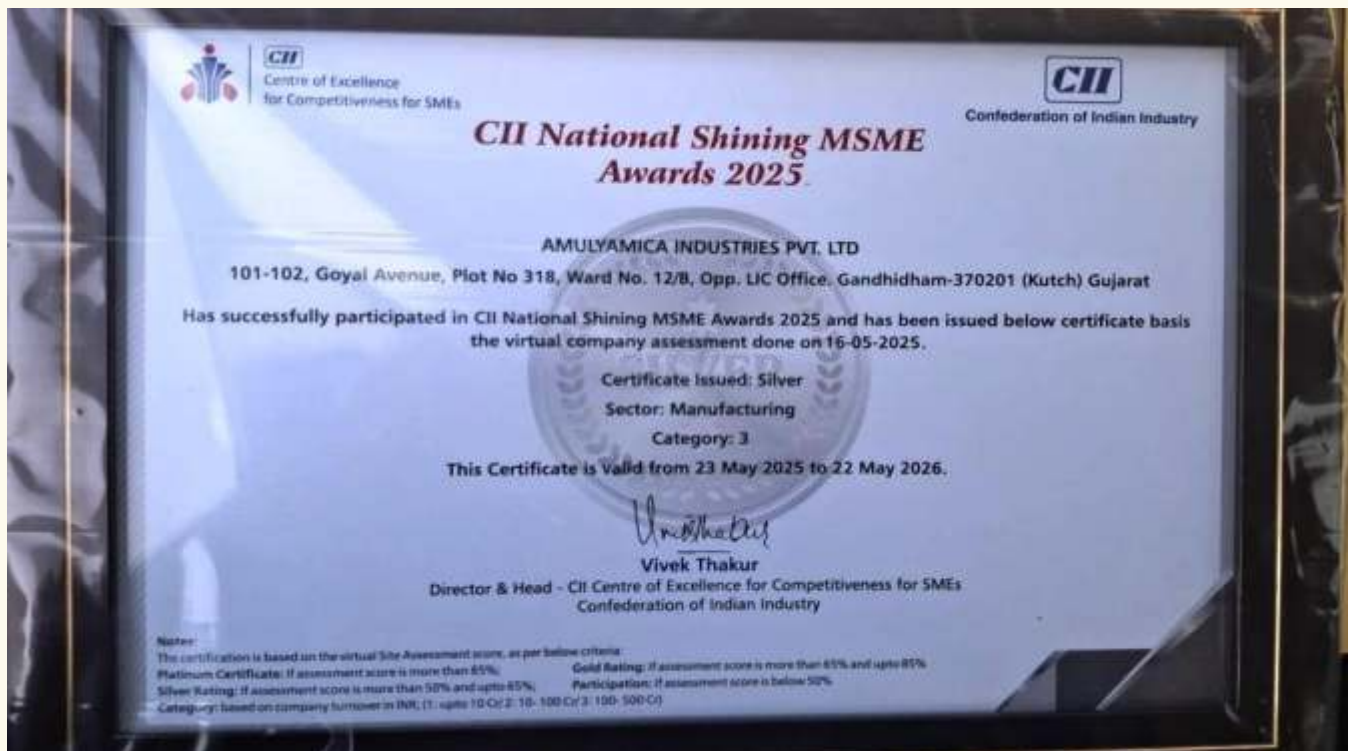
experience. He encouraged everyone to read and share the work.

The event ended with warm camaraderie, engaging exchanges, and a gala dinner with musical entertainment, capping a memorable evening that celebrated both tradition and progress.



AMULYA MICA

Wins CII National Shining MSME Award 2025



Amulya Mica has been conferred with the prestigious CII National Shining MSME Award 2025 in the Excellence in Manufacturing category, a recognition that reaffirms the company's leadership in quality and innovation within the laminates industry.

The award was announced at the CII Awards Virtual Ceremony held on 23rd May 2025, following a rigorous evaluation process conducted by a distinguished panel from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Commenting on the honour, Rakesh Agarwal, Managing Director, expressed deep gratitude to CII for recognising Amulya Mica's

relentless pursuit of manufacturing excellence. He credited the company's consistent innovation, quality-driven processes, and customer-centric approach as key drivers behind the achievement.

He further extended his appreciation to the Amulya Mica team, channel partners, and influencer network for their continued support and collaboration.

This award marks a proud milestone in Amulya Mica's journey, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable, ethical, and cutting-edge business practices, and setting the stage for future growth and global competitiveness.

Substituted Phenolic Resin



Dr. S.K. Nath

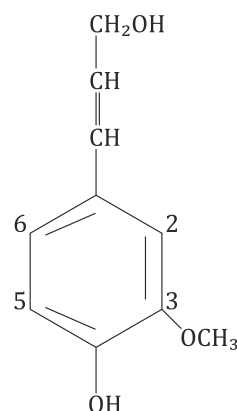
The article reproduced below is Chapter 24 – "Substituted Phenolic Resin" from the book entitled Plywood Manufacturing Practices in India - 2nd Edition. The book has been compiled and edited by Dr. S.K. Nath, Joint Director (now Retd.), Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bengaluru (Karnataka). The book covers the entire production line of plywood manufacture suitable for small and medium scale industry under the Indian conditions.

Adhesives Based on Lignin

Lignin is the second major component of wood and constitutes 20 to 30 per cent by weight of dry wood. Lignin is considered as incrusting material of the plant.

Lignin is composed of phenylpropane [C₉] units that linked together by carbon to carbon as well as carbon to oxygen [ether] bonds. Lignin in wood is neither hygroscopic nor soluble in water. Treatment of wood with sulphite under pulping conditions lead to partial degradation by the splitting of some ether bonds and introduction of sulphonic acid group [-SO₃H] mainly at the benzylic carbon atoms, rendering the lignin soluble in water. Thus lignin occurs as waste product in paper/pulp mill and has become a source of lignin for preparation of adhesive. The chemical feature of lignin that can be used for polymerisation reaction in wood adhesive application are: [i] presence of phenolic hydroxyl group, [ii] aliphatic hydroxyl groups, [iii] structures that can form quinone methide intermediate, [iv] unsubstituted 3- or 5- positions on phenolic C₉ units.

According to its structure as polyphenol, lignin as an adhesive component should be similar to phenol in phenol formaldehyde resins. But condensation of lignin with formaldehyde by heat or mineral acid is not as effective as phenol formaldehyde resin due to the lower number of free positions in the aromatic nuclei of lignin and considerably lower reactivity than phenol. In C₉ unit of lignin, the basic structure is:



The position 5 which is ortho to phenolic OH group is the only reactive position. However, in actual lignin molecule, there is only 0.5 free 5 positions per C₉ unit. The other ortho position and the para

position in the benzene rings are not available for reaction. For these reasons, lignin available as spent liquor cannot be effectively cross-linked with formaldehyde similar to phenol.

The major source of industrial lignin is from pulp and paper industry. During pulping, the lignin macromolecules are degraded and modified. In sulphite process, degraded lignin fragments, called liginosulphate, are of rather high molecular weight but kept in solution by sulphonic acid groups introduced during pulping. During alkaline pulping, lignin is extensively modified and cleavage of alkylaryl ether linkages in lignin takes place resulting in the formation of phenolic group rendering the lignin fragments water soluble. Lignin can be recovered from spent pulping liquor simply by lowering pH of the liquor.

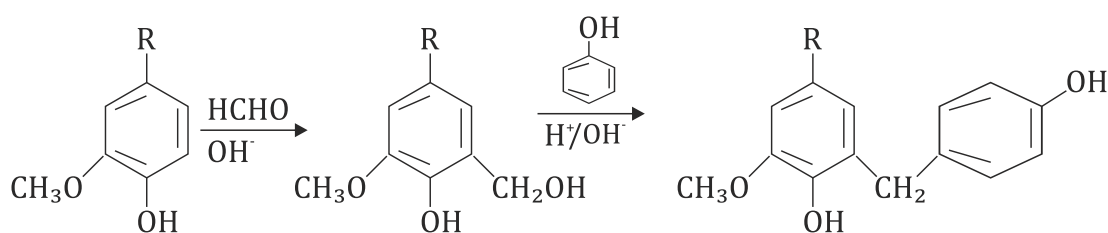
Recently lignin fragment with high number of reactive sites in C_9 unit has been obtained from industrial pulping of

Lignin as a substitute of Phenol in Phenol Formaldehyde Wood Adhesive

Substitution of phenol in PF wood adhesive is certainly the most widely explored avenue of lignin utilisation. Lignin PF formulations have been used in manufacturing particle board, plywood and fibre board. Under certain conditions, upto 40% of phenol formaldehyde can be replaced by liginosulphate or black liquor without deteriorating bond properties.

Alkali lignin containing 0.5 reactive site per C_9 unit clearly indicates difficulty in forming an acceptable co-polymerised product with phenol formaldehyde resins. To attain an acceptable final product, it is required that lignin react with PF in a high degree.

The first reaction usually occurs on the 5 positions of C_9 unit whereby formaldehyde will react to afford a hydroxymethylated intermediate, which reacts with phenol to form a methylene linkage.



sugarcane bagasse. The resulting by-product lignin contains a high number of approximately 0.7 unsubstituted 3- and 5-positions on phenolic C_9 unit. The value is about twice as high as that of other industrial lignins. Other materials which have been used as source of lignin for manufacture of wood adhesives are coconut shell flour, wood flour, etc.

The reactive site in C_9 unit in alkali lignin can be increased by fractionalisation of alkali lignin. Usually alkali lignin contain a substantial portion of low molecular fractions which can be expected to result in the termination of the polymerisation reaction of the resin owing to their large numbers and low content of reactive sites.

High molecular weight lignin

fragments obtained by ultrafiltration, is expected to contain an average number of reactive sites similar to that of whole lignin. Due to larger number of C₉ units per fragments, each fragment has better chance to contribute to polymerisation.

Lignin can be chemically modified to increase its reactivity towards formaldehyde by [i] first reacting lignin fragments [from alkali lignin] with phenol whereby more reactive sites are added to the product for polymerisation, [ii] Lignin can be chemically modified through demethylation which results in adding phenolic hydroxyl group in the benzene ring of C₉ unit. The ortho and para position of the newly generated hydroxyl group of C₉ unit can now be reactive to usual reaction with formaldehyde.

Preparation of PLF Resin using Lignin Powder

The method is based on pre-reaction of lignin derivative with molten phenol in the presence of an acid such as sulphuric acid at ambient temperature and resultant solution of phenol lignin derivative is dispersed with aqueous alkali. The dispersion was further reacted with formaldehyde to form phenol lignin formaldehyde [PLF] resin.

The actual method 100 kgs of molten phenol is mixed with 6.6 kgs of 98 per cent sulphuric acid in a steel container. 67 kgs of lignin powder is added to it and mixed for 30 minutes. The mixture is dispersed with 27 kgs of sodium hydroxide in 100 kgs of water and transferred to a resin kettle. 250 kgs of formalin [37% formaldehyde in water] is added and cooked under stirring at 70 ± 2°C for about 45 minutes. When the viscosity is 55-75 cp or flow time 20 – 25 sec. in B₄ flow cup of IS: 3944-1969, the resin is cooled and stored.

Adhesive Based on Tannin

Tannins are derived mainly from bark and wood of trees. Even though many plants produce tannin, properties and yield vary and only a few tannin extracts are available commercially. Their primary use is for converting animal skins to leather.

Tannin extracts consist of complex mixtures of polyphenols obtained by solvent extraction including extraction by hot water. Tannins can be broadly classified into two categories – hydrolysable and condensed tannins. Hydrolysable tannins have polyester structure and on hydrolysis break down into sugars, phenol carboxylic acid and related polymers. Condensed tannins do not break

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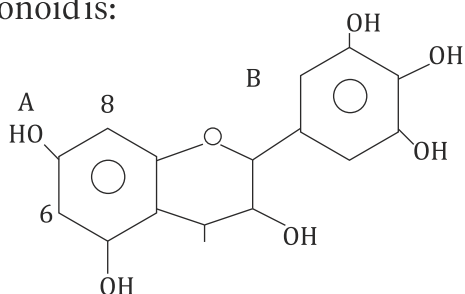
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down easily into simple recognisable components on treatment with acids or alkalis.

Condensed tannins and their flavonoid precursors are known for their wide distribution in nature and particularly for their substantial concentration in the wood and bark of various trees. These includes various Acacia [wattle or mimosa bark extract], Schinopsis [quebracho wood extract], Tsuga [hemlock bark extract], Rhus [sumac extract] and various pine bark extract.

Flavonoid constitutes the structural monomer of condensed tannin. The structure of flavonoid is:



This flavonoid unit is repeated 2 to 11 times in Mimosa tannin with an average degree of polymerisation of 4 to 5.

Presence of resorcinol unit [A] in tannin unit makes it possible to react with formaldehyde in the same manner as phenol. In fact, formaldehyde reacts with tannins to

undergo polymerisation through methylene bridge linkages at reactive positions on flavonoid molecules mainly at A ring. However, because of their size and shape, the tannin molecules become immobile at a low level of condensation with formaldehyde, so that the available reactive sites are too far apart for further methylene bridge formation. The result is incomplete cross linking and therefore weakness of the resin.

Secondly, the presence of non-tannin fraction like sugar, high molecular weight hydrocolloid gums in tannin, which cannot take part in resin formation with formaldehyde, make the final product weak for wood bonding. Fractionation of the tannin from other constituents has yet to be made successful industrially.

Fortification with phenolic resin has so far been found to overcome the weak bond of tannin based wood adhesive. Fortification generally consists of co-polymerisation of the tannin with phenolic or aminoplastic resins.

Preparation of Tannin based Adhesives

The preparation of tannin based adhesive does not require long condensation. Since tannin molecules are already big enough, a small amount of formaldehyde is

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Manufacturers : Plywood - Block Board - Flush Door

D-42F-42G, Ricco Industrial Area, Kaladera, Jaipur (RAJASTHAN) INDIA

required for further cross-linking into resin molecule. About 6-8 percent formaldehyde is sufficient. Formaldehyde may be added to tannin in the form of formalin or para formaldehyde or it can be supplied as free formaldehyde present in a phenol formaldehyde resin or by reactive methylene groups of the methylol phenol molecules. A co-condensed product of tannin with 30-50 percent by weight of phenol formaldehyde or resorcinol phenol formaldehyde makes it suitable for manufacture of exterior grade plywood.

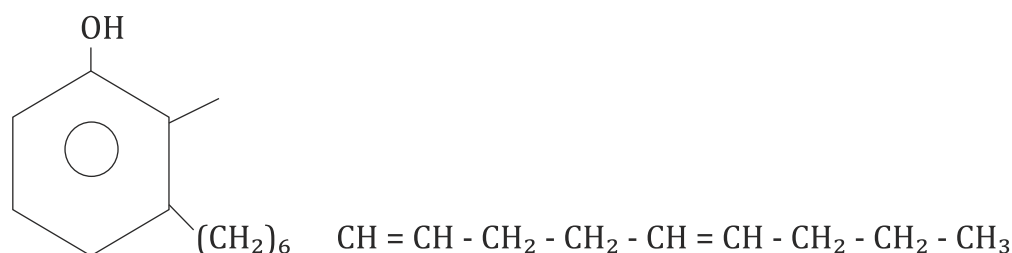
One of the major problems in using tannin based adhesive is that tannin adhesive have a tendency to thicken more rapidly than do synthetic resin adhesive after application to a wood surface. This is caused mainly by the higher affinity of water by wood than by this particular type of adhesive. This problem can be overcome by addition of a small quantity [~3% of adhesive solid] of carboxymethyl

cellulose. The later [CMC] holds water on the glue line without releasing them to the wood.

Tannin based adhesive system does not require any condensation of tannin with formaldehyde. A commercial urea formaldehyde resin or specially manufactured low condensed phenol formaldehyde resin is used as a base resin. Resorcinol is added to such resin upto 20% [W/W] on these resins. 10-20% [W/W] solution of tannin extract is mixed. The mixture is an adhesive that can cure on addition of formaldehyde [usually paraformaldehyde] and supply of heat. The pH of these adhesives is in the range of 5-7.

Cardanol Phenol Formaldehyde Adhesive

Cardanol is obtained by distillation of cashewnut shell liquid [CNSL] which is a by-product in cashew industry. Cardanol has a phenol like structure with a meta substituted 15 membered linear carbon-chain with two double bonds in it.




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Cardanol can react with formaldehyde to give resins requiring organic solvents for formulation as adhesives. However, cardanol can be used to replace phenol in phenol formaldehyde resin to give a water dispersible resin. About 30 percent by weight of phenol can be replaced by cardanol.

Cardanol is trifunctional like phenol i.e. Benzene nucleus in cardanol can undergo reaction like phenol in two ortho and one para position relative to -OH group in the nucleus.

The co-condensed cardanol phenol formaldehyde resin is prepared in two stages—first excess of phenol and cardanol mixture is reacted with formaldehyde in presence of an acid or alkali catalyst to get the novolac. Next, the product of the first stage is brought to resol stage by reacting with excess of formaldehyde in presence of alkali. The final resin is water dispersible.

Preparation

70 parts by weight of phenol and 30 parts by weight of cardanol are charged into the resin kettle and 60 parts by weight of formalin [37% formaldehyde] is added to it. 8 parts of sodium hydroxide in 33 parts by weight of water is charged next and the mixture is heated to $90 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ under stirring for 2 hours. The novolac resin formed is cooled to 55°C and 100 parts by weight of formalin and

10 parts by weight of sodium hydroxide in 66 parts by weight of water is added. Cooking continued at around 70°C till the viscosity of the resin is 70 – 80 cp or flow time in B4 flow cup of IS:3944/1969 is 24-25 secs. The resin is cooled.

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SCM

Showcasing Breakthroughs at Ligna 2025

Ligna 2025 saw SCM concluding on a high note, reporting a remarkable rise in business opportunities and enthusiastic engagement from attendees around the globe. Over four days, the leading machine-tool manufacturer welcomed thousands of industry professionals from more than 100 countries to its expansive 3,300 m² booth in Hall 13. With a total show attendance of 78,000 visitors, a significant increase over the 2023 edition, SCM's presence underscored both the resilience of the woodworking sector and the company's steadfast commitment to

innovation.

Ligna 2025, held at Messe Hannover, attracted visitors and exhibitors from every corner of the world. SCM's team of 350 experts and over 100 authorised dealers greeted customers from the DACH region (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), Northern and Eastern Europe, as well as North and South America, Asia, and beyond. The company reported that 90 percent of its revenue, nearly €810 million of its total 2024 turnover of €900 million, originated from exports, highlighting the international appetite for "Made in Italy"



technology.

“Despite global macroeconomic challenges, the woodworking industry remains determined to invest in productivity-enhancing solutions,” remarked Pietro Gheller, SCM Division Director. “At Ligna, we presented tangible, high-value innovations that reflect our 7 percent R&D investment and our focus on after-sales services as the key drivers of our customers’ success.”

SCM’s booth was designed as more than a simple machinery display; it embodied a forward-thinking vision of a fully integrated production environment. Visitors encountered solutions that ranged from stand-alone machines to complete, scalable automation cells, all interconnected via digital services that promise to revolutionise how companies manage production, maintenance, and data analysis.

Central to this vision was WinMES, SCM’s proprietary factory management system. Described by the company as the “digital brain” of production, WinMES demonstrated how connected machines, people, and materials can operate within a single, data-driven ecosystem. Live demonstrations illustrated how real-time analytics dashboards improve traceability, streamline coordination between departments, and enable proactive decision-making.

Complementing WinMES were several digital services on display:

MyPortal: The latest iteration of SCM’s digital platform, offering fleet-wide machine monitoring, energy consumption tracking to

calculate cost-per-piece, and centralised access to documentation and maintenance records. Attendees observed how MyPortal’s intuitive interface simplifies day-to-day operations and integrates service ticket management.

Cybersecurity Solutions: Designed specifically for industrial environments, these safeguards protect the machine’s PC against unauthorised access and data breaches. With cyber threats on the rise, SCM emphasised the importance of robust IT security in maintaining uninterrupted production.

Smart Spindle: A predictive technology that collects sensor data to detect anomalies in spindle or tool behaviour before they escalate into costly downtime. Demonstrations showed how Smart Spindle algorithms optimise machining parameters to enhance both speed and finish quality.

Solutions Library: A conversational, AI-powered knowledge base built on SCM’s decades of technical expertise. By allowing users to query best practices and troubleshooting advice, the library aims to shorten learning curves and reduce dependency on external support.

Technical Training Portal: Offering e-learning modules, on-demand webinars, and digital twin simulations, the portal empowers operators and maintenance personnel to refine their skills with greater autonomy. Attendees praised the interactive training tools as a significant step toward reducing reliance on external technicians.

Taken together, these digital

initiatives showcased SCM's commitment to modular, customisable service bundles, covering everything from initial start-up to full-scale production and preventive maintenance, to help customers minimise downtime and maximise operational reliability.

In addition to its digital suite, SCM unveiled a host of stand-alone machines that drew substantial interest. These included innovations across timber construction, surface treatment, and solid wood processing.

At the TecnoLogica pavilion, following SCM's recent acquisition of the Italian automation specialist, visitors were greeted by the RO-TEC X6 edgebander. With a multi-station carousel configuration inspired by automotive industry practices, the RO-TEC X6 represents a paradigm shift for furniture manufacturing: vertical part processing, multifunctionality, and automated loading and unloading within a compact rotary table. According to SCM, this machine can significantly reduce labour requirements and enhance throughput in mid- to high-volume production environments.

Back at SCM's main stand, the highlight engineering solution was a fully integrated, modular cell for furniture component processing. Capable of handling up to 1,200 parts per shift, the line combined:

A Gabbiani A2 angular panel saw equipped with the FlexStore HP automatic panel storage system at the infeed;

An anthropomorphic robot handling parts at the outfeed;

An automatic labeller to affix identification tags;

A Stefani Cell E flexible edgebanding cell featuring automatic panel return;

And a Morbidelli FX100 drilling cell, making its Ligna debut, optimised for batch-one processing.

Attendees noted how the cell's modularity allows manufacturers to start small and scale up as demand grows, all while maintaining consistent quality and reducing footprint.

Responding to the accelerating trend toward sustainable building, SCM presented new machinery designed specifically for timber construction and cross-laminated timber (CLT) processing.

The Oikos XS 650 made its Ligna debut. Engineered to process beams with cross-sections up to 650 x 310 mm, the machine is equipped with the updated Maestro LAB Beam & Wall software. This intuitive interface streamlines programming, enabling operators to quickly switch between beam and wall processing tasks while optimising cutting paths for maximum efficiency.

For CLT manufacturers, the Celaschi XL double-end profiling machine stood out. Boasting high productivity and precision, the Celaschi XL is designed to handle large timber panels, making it ideal for prefabricated building components.

By spotlighting these machines, SCM underscored its belief that the future of construction lies in timber, and that advanced processing equipment is essential to

unlocking the material's ecological and economic benefits.

SCM's commitment to delivering complete solutions extended to finishing and surface treatment. The company showcased its DMCSysTC, an automatic sanding and calibrating machine equipped with a CO₂ laser engraving unit. Demonstrations illustrated how the unit can create 3D engravings on parquet, MDF panels, fibre cement, and solid surfaces of virtually any length, opening new possibilities for decorative flooring, architectural elements, and custom signage.

The company's Superfici finishing range also received major upgrades:

Maestro painting robots, specialised in coating applications for windows and doors,

now feature an advanced software suite that optimises spray patterns and reduces overspray.

The Mini automatic spraying machine incorporated a new integrated colour-change system, allowing users to transition between hues quickly, ideal for jobs requiring frequent colour shifts.

The Valtorta F1 roller coating machine introduced an exclusive roller design that ensures flawless application, even on unusually shaped or textured surfaces.

By integrating laser engraving, robotic painting, and precision roller coating into its portfolio, SCM demonstrated a holistic approach to surface treatment that meets the evolving demands of today's designers and manufacturers.



Nesting, the practice of optimising material usage by arranging parts to minimise waste, has become a cornerstone of modern panel processing. SCM's Morbidelli X50 CNC machining center, displayed in its new Pro-Space version, highlighted this trend. Equipped with SMS (Spoilboard Management System) software, the X50 makes spoilboard panel handling seamless. A high-grip vacuum worktable ensures reliable part hold, even on small components, while SCM's patented spoilboard panel reduces waste by up to 90 percent compared to standard woodboards.

For furniture manufacturers seeking advanced drilling and routing capabilities, the upgraded Accord 500 series drew crowds. New features include the OptiZone patented system, which uses the Maestro LAB software to automatically define asymmetric machining areas based on part dimensions with a single click. The introduction of the Quadro 35 chain tool changer, which accommodates a broader range of tools in a compact space, underscored SCM's focus on flexibility and ease of use.

The Gabbiani PT95 beam saw, designed for both batch-one and mass production, stood out for its combination of high performance and user-friendly features.

Among its highlights are:

- The FlexCut unit for side-by-side bars up to 600mm;

- Blade motors delivering up to 18.5 kW of power;

- LED indicators for both front and rear loading;

- And guided positioning indicators for movable, air-floating tables.

Built to meet rigorous panel-sizing demands, the PT95 allows operators to achieve tight tolerances while maximising throughput.

In the edge banding arena, SCM introduced the Stefani M industrial edge bander. Highly configurable and suited for standalone or integrated cells, the Stefani M features electronic working units that simplify complex machining on delicate materials. Its fully automatic set-up guarantees repeatability and precision, critical for manufacturers tackling high-mix, low-volume production runs.

For solid wood processing, SCM's TopSet XXL throughfeed moulder garnered attention. Boasting extended working sections, spindle speeds of up to 12,000 rpm, and micrometric feed worktables, the TopSet XXL empowers woodworkers to achieve superior surface finishes and complex profiles. Customisable configurations allow users to tailor the machine to specific production needs, from simple mouldings to elaborate architectural components.

Rounding out SCM's exhibit were its latest joinery solutions. The Evocut 350i circular saw appealed to workshop operators with its compact footprint, high machining quality, and advanced safety features. Even with a small form factor, the Evocut 350i handles tilting cuts up to 46 degrees, governed by the intuitive eye-S control panel.

Similarly, the Nova SI 4 and Minimax SI 4 circular saws were presented as the most

versatile machines in their class. Thanks to a highly reliable sliding carriage, guaranteed for 10 years and an optional “Quick Lock” squaring frame for rapid fence adjustments, these saws offer a compelling combination of precision, durability, and user-driven customisation.

As Ligna 2025 concluded, SCM emerged as a clear frontrunner in marrying traditional woodworking know-how with cutting-edge technology and digital services. By demonstrating a holistic approach, spanning from raw material processing to real-time data analytics, the company reinforced its belief that innovation and connectivity are the pillars of tomorrow’s manufacturing landscape.

“We are confident that the solutions we unveiled at Ligna will enable our customers to

face future challenges head-on,” added Gheller. “From automation to digitalisation, from sustainable timber processing to advanced finishing, SCM is committed to equipping our partners with the tools they need to thrive.”

With a robust 2024 financial performance, €900 million in turnover and €600 million generated by the Wood Division, SCM’s strategic acquisitions (including Tecno Logica and Mecal Machinery) have expanded its technological portfolio and global reach. As the company looks beyond, its comprehensive Ligna showcase affirms that SCM is not just a machine-tool supplier, but a strategic partner in the ongoing evolution of the woodworking industry.

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कर्नाटक प्लाईवुड मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन

बढ़ती इनपुट लागतों के कारण, तत्कालीन मूल्य वृद्धि

11 जून 2025 को मैंगलोर में त्वरित रूप से बुलाई गई एक आपात बैठक में, कर्नाटक प्लाईवुड मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (KPMA) ने प्लाईवुड और ब्लॉक बोर्ड की कीमतों में वृद्धि करने का निर्णय लिया। इसके पीछे लकड़ी, विनियर, रेज़िन, परिवहन और श्रम लागत में तेज़ वृद्धि को कारण बताया गया।

संघ के सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह कदम कई प्रमुख उद्योग संघों द्वारा पहले से घोषित मूल्य संशोधनों के अनुरूप है, जिनमें ऑल इंडिया प्लाईवुड मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन, SOPMA, कन्नूर प्लाईवुड मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन और केरल के अन्य प्लाईवुड एवं ब्लॉक बोर्ड निर्माताओं के समूह शामिल हैं।

नए मूल्य ढांचे के अनुसार, दरों में तत्काल प्रभाव से वृद्धि की जाएगी: 18mm, 16mm और 15mm प्लाईवुड के लिए ₹3 प्रति वर्ग फुट, 12mm और 9mm वेरिएंट के लिए ₹2 प्रति वर्ग फुट, 6mm के लिए ₹1 प्रति वर्ग फुट, और ब्लॉक बोर्ड के लिए ₹3 प्रति वर्ग फुट की बढ़ोतरी की जाएगी।

एसोसिएशन के अंदरूनी सूत्रों ने बताया कि यह निर्णय क्षेत्र में प्लाईवुड उद्योग को गंभीर वित्तीय संकट से बचाने के लिए अनिवार्य समझा गया। KPMA के अध्यक्ष बी. अब्दुल सलाम ने सभी सदस्यों से आग्रह किया है कि वे संशोधित कीमतों को तुरंत लागू करें, साथ ही चेतावनी दी कि ऐसा न करने पर पूरे क्षेत्र में इस उद्योग की दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता खतरे में पड़ सकती है।

ऑफिस स्पेस में तेज़ वृद्धि

पार्टिकल बोर्ड्स को बढ़ावा देना

उद्योग स्रोतों के अनुसार, भारत में तेजी से बढ़ता कॉर्पोरेट विस्तार, महानगरों और शहरी केंद्रों में ऑफिस स्पेस की मांग तेज गति से बढ़ रही है। कंपनियां अपने विकास और बाज़ार में उपस्थिति को लेकर सक्रिय हैं, जिससे बेहतर संपर्क वाले और आधुनिक कार्यस्थलों की आवश्यकता बढ़ गई है। इस प्रवृत्ति ने फर्नीचर और आंतरिक सज्जा समाधान की मांग को भी प्रोत्साहित किया है।

ऑफिस फर्नीचर के लिए एक प्रमुख सामग्री के रूप में, पार्टिकल बोर्ड उद्योग को इस विकास से प्रत्यक्ष लाभ मिल रहा है। विशेषज्ञों ने बताया कि तेज़ी से हो रहे शहरीकरण और बदलते कार्यालय सौंदर्यशास्त्र इस क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पैदा कर रहे हैं, जिससे पार्टिकल बोर्ड को आधुनिक कार्यस्थल डिज़ाइन में एक पसंदीदा विकल्प के रूप में स्थापित किया जा रहा है।

लकड़ी उत्पाद की हानि

अफ्रीकी जहाज केरल तट के पास डूबा

उद्योग स्रोतों ने खुलासा किया है कि हाल ही में अफ्रीका से आ रहा एक मालवाहक जहाज अरब सागर में केरल के तट के पास डूब गया, जिससे करोड़ों रुपये मूल्य की लकड़ी से संबंधित उत्पादों की हानि हुई। बताया गया है कि जहाज पर 600 से अधिक कंटेनर थे, जिनमें बड़ी मात्रा में टिम्बर, फेस विनियर और कोर विनियर शामिल थे, जो

कोचीन, तूतिकोरिन और विशाखापत्तनम बंदरगाहों के लिए भेजे जा रहे थे।

लकड़ी व्यापार से जुड़े जानकारों ने पुष्टि की कि यह हादसा वुड पैनल उद्योग के लिए एक बड़ा झटका साबित हुआ है, क्योंकि भारतीय बाजारों के लिए भेजी जा रही महत्वपूर्ण खेपें उसी जहाज के साथ जलमग्न हो गईं।

ISI मार्क की अनिवार्यता

MDF क्षेत्र में बड़ा बदलाव ला रही है

उद्योग विशेषज्ञों ने उल्लेख किया है कि MDF क्षेत्र में ISI मार्क की अनिवार्य कार्यान्वयन से एक बड़ा परिवर्तन आ रहा है। उनका मानना है कि इस कदम से उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता में सुधार, सुरक्षा मानकों का पालन और अधिक मानकीकरण सुनिश्चित हुआ है।

वैश्विक अनुभव का हवाला देते हुए, हितधारकों ने प्रमाणित और विश्वसनीय सामग्रियों

की बढ़ती मांग को रेखांकित किया। पर्यवेक्षकों ने यह भी बताया कि प्लाइवुड खंड में भी ISI मार्क की स्वीकार्यता बढ़ रही है, जो इस ओर इशारा करता है कि उद्योग भर में विनियमित उत्पादन की ओर एक व्यापक बदलाव हो रहा है।

इस परिवर्तन से बाजार की प्रवृत्तियों पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव पड़ने और उपभोक्ता विश्वास को बढ़ावा मिलने की उम्मीद है।

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MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

सेंचुरी प्लाई

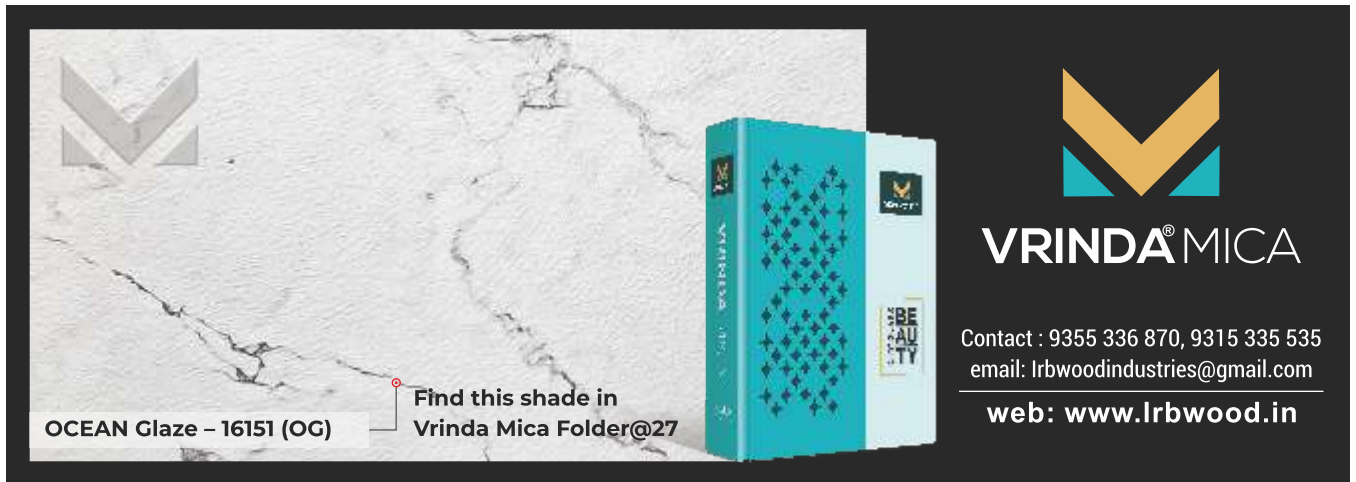
तमिलनाडु स्थित नई इकाई में पार्टिकल बोर्ड का उत्पादन प्रारंभ

सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स ने चेन्नई (तमिलनाडु) के पास स्थित अपनी नई पार्टिकल बोर्ड निर्माण इकाई में पहले बोर्ड्स का उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया है। मीडिया सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह ₹550 करोड़ की ग्रीनफील्ड परियोजना, जो 30 एकड़ में फैली हुई है, दक्षिण भारतीय बाजार में कंपनी की विनिर्माण उपस्थिति को विस्तार देने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

बताया गया है कि इस नई इकाई की वार्षिक उत्पादन क्षमता 3,60,000 घन मीटर (CBM) है, जो कंपनी की पहले की 72,000 CBM की पार्टिकल बोर्ड क्षमता से कई गुना अधिक है। प्रारंभिक चरण में, अधिकारियों ने संकेत दिया कि उत्पादन मुख्य रूप से घरेलू मांग को पूरा करने पर केंद्रित रहेगा, विशेषकर इस तथ्य को देखते हुए कि FY22 में 102% और FY23 में 101% क्षमता उपयोग दर दर्ज की गई थी।

यह संयंत्र गुमिडीपुंडी में स्थित सेंचुरी प्लाई की मौजूदा इकाई से लगभग 30 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, इस निकटता का उद्देश्य आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को सुचारु बनाना, लॉजिस्टिक्स को अनुकूलित करना, और संचालन क्षमता बढ़ाना है। यह इकाई 300 से अधिक लोगों को प्रत्यक्ष रोजगार देने की क्षमता भी रखती है।

कंपनी को उम्मीद है कि FY25 में इस इकाई के पूर्ण क्रियावन के बाद उसकी क्षमता में महत्वपूर्ण बढ़ोतरी होगी, जिससे वुड पैनल और सजावटी उत्पाद क्षेत्र में उसकी नेतृत्व स्थिति और मजबूत होगी। उद्योग विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि यह विस्तार सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स के भारत के भवन निर्माण सामग्री क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक विकास को लेकर आत्मविश्वास का एक ठोस संकेत है।



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विभिन्न प्लाईवुड एसोसिएशन का BIS से आग्रह

QCO निर्देश के बावजूद गैर-BIS प्लाईवुड के अवैध आयात पर रोक लगे

हालाँकि भारत सरकार ने फरवरी और मार्च 2025 से प्लाईवुड, पार्टिकल बोर्ड, एमडीएफ और लकड़ी के दरवाजों के लिए BIS प्रमाणन को अनिवार्य करते हुए क्वालिटी कंट्रोल ऑर्डर (QCO) लागू कर दिया है, फिर भी गैर-BIS प्रमाणित उत्पादों के अवैध आयात को लेकर चिंता लगातार बढ़ रही है।

विभिन्न प्लाईवुड संघों और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन प्लाईवुड एंड पैनल इंडस्ट्री (FIPPI) ने चेतावनी दी है कि मार्च और अप्रैल 2025 के दौरान केवल दो प्रमुख बंदरगाहों के माध्यम से ₹100 करोड़ से अधिक मूल्य के अप्रमाणित लकड़ी उत्पाद भारत में प्रवेश कर चुके हैं। ये आयात स्पष्ट रूप से QCO मानदंडों का उल्लंघन कर रहे हैं, जिससे देश की घरेलू उद्योग में व्यापक असंतोष व्याप्त है।

QCO का उद्देश्य उपभोक्ताओं को उच्च गुणवत्ता और टिकाऊ लकड़ी उत्पाद उपलब्ध कराना

है, जिसके लिए निर्माताओं को स्पष्ट अनुपालन दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए थे। हालाँकि, संघों का कहना है कि बंदरगाहों पर शिथिल निगरानी के चलते यह आदेश प्रभावी नहीं हो पा रहा है। उनका कहना है कि इस प्रकार के घटिया और गैर-मानक उत्पादों का निरंतर आयात न केवल BIS-अनुपालन कर रहे निर्माताओं के प्रयासों को कमजोर कर रहा है, बल्कि उपभोक्ता सुरक्षा को भी खतरे में डाल रहा है।

FIPPI और अन्य व्यापारिक संगठनों ने भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो (BIS) से तत्काल हस्तक्षेप करने, बंदरगाहों पर निरीक्षण को सख्त करने और अवैध सामग्री के प्रवेश पर रोक लगाने की अपील की है। उद्योग का मानना है कि यदि सख्त निगरानी नहीं की गई, तो QCO के तहत तय किए गए गुणवत्ता और निष्पक्ष प्रतिस्पर्धा को सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य अधूरे रह जाएंगे।

एचपीएमए

प्लाईवुड की सभी श्रेणियों में 5% मूल्य वृद्धि की घोषणा

23 जून 2025 को हरियाणा प्लाईवुड मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (HPMA) की कार्यकारी समिति की एक हालिया बैठक में, सभी श्रेणियों की प्लाईवुड, ब्लॉक बोर्ड और फ्लश डोर पर 5% मूल्य वृद्धि लागू करने का निर्णय लिया गया। यह बैठक जगाधरी स्थित जिमखाना क्लब में आयोजित की गई थी। बैठक में लागत वृद्धि, विशेष

रूप से मजदूरी, बिजली और फॉर्मेल्डिहाइड रसायनों की बढ़ती कीमतों को इस मूल्य वृद्धि का मुख्य कारण बताया गया। संशोधित दरें तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू करने का निर्णय लिया गया। HPMA के अध्यक्ष जे.के. बिहानी ने एसोसिएशन की ओर से यह सलाह जारी की।

एनवायर्नमेंटल क्लीयरेंस

प्लाईवुड इकाइयों में इन-हाउस रेजिन उत्पादन को अनिवार्य किया गया है

इस आदेश के बाद, हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (HSPCB) को सलाह दी गई है कि वह उन प्लाईवुड इकाइयों को पहले दिए गए अनुमतियों की समीक्षा करे, जिनमें इन-हाउस रेजिन उत्पादन हो रहा है

भारत के प्लाईवुड उद्योग के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण नियामक परिवर्तन की संभावना बन रही है, क्योंकि राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (NGT) ने पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) को निर्देश दिया है कि वह प्लाईवुड इकाइयों में इन-हाउस रेजिन उत्पादन के लिए पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति (EC) अनिवार्य करने पर विचार करे। यह निर्देश फिनाॅल-फॉर्मेल्डहाइड और मेलामाइन-फॉर्मेल्डहाइड जैसे सिंथेटिक रसायनों के अनियंत्रित उपयोग को लेकर

जताई गई पर्यावरणीय चिंताओं के आधार पर जारी किया गया है।

NGT के आदेश के अनुसार, MoEFCC को इस मुद्दे की जांच कर प्रासंगिक दिशानिर्देश तैयार करने को कहा गया है, विशेष रूप से उन इकाइयों के लिए जो वार्षिक 1,000 टन से अधिक रेजिन का उत्पादन केवल अपने उपयोग के लिए कर रही हैं। अधिकरण ने मंत्रालय को छह माह के भीतर कार्यवाही रिपोर्ट रजिस्ट्रार जनरल को सौंपने का निर्देश दिया है।

इस आदेश के बाद, हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (HSPCB) को सलाह दी गई है कि वह उन प्लाईवुड इकाइयों को पहले दिए गए अनुमतियों की समीक्षा करे, जिनमें इन-हाउस रेजिन उत्पादन हो रहा है। इस समीक्षा का उद्देश्य यह पता लगाना है कि क्या इकाइयाँ मौजूदा पर्यावरणीय नियमों के तहत अधिकृत थीं या नहीं। यदि



यह पाया गया कि किसी इकाई ने पूर्व EC के बिना रेज़िन उत्पादन शुरू किया है, तो HSPCB को निर्देश दिया जा सकता है कि वह उस इकाई में रेज़िन निर्माण को तब तक निलंबित करे, जब तक कि उसे पर्यावरण प्रभाव आंकलन (EIA) अधिसूचना 2006 के तहत स्वीकृति प्राप्त न हो जाए।

EIA अधिसूचना 2006 के तहत गठित विशेषज्ञ समिति ने पहले ही सुझाव दिया था कि रेज़िन निर्माण को 'श्रेणी B2' के तहत वर्गीकृत किया जाए, जिससे छोटी रासायनिक इकाइयों के लिए सरलीकृत EC प्रक्रिया लागू की जा सके। यह नियम उन इकाइयों पर लागू होगा जो 1,000 टन वार्षिक या प्रतिदिन 4 टन से अधिक उत्पादन करती हैं।

संशोधित EIA अधिसूचना 2006 के अनुसार, फिनाॅल-फॉर्मेल्डिहाइड और मेलामाइन-फॉर्मेल्डिहाइड रेज़िन का निर्माण सिंथेटिक ऑर्गेनिक केमिकल गतिविधि की श्रेणी में आता है। जो इकाइयाँ औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में स्थित हैं, वे राज्य पर्यावरण प्रभाव आंकलन प्राधिकरण (SEIAA) से EC प्राप्त कर सकती हैं, जबकि अन्य को केंद्रीय स्तर पर MoEFCC से संपर्क करना होगा।

इस आदेश में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि जो भी इकाइयाँ इन-हाउस रेज़िन निर्माण (चाहे वे प्लाइवुड, माइका या विनियर का उत्पादन करती हों) में संलग्न हैं, उन्हें EC प्राप्त करना अनिवार्य होगा। हालांकि, जो इकाइयाँ बाहरी स्रोतों से रेज़िन खरीदती हैं, उन्हें इस अनिवार्यता से छूट दी गई है।

यह निर्देश पंजाब में पहले से लागू पर्यावरणीय नियमों के अनुरूप है, जहाँ फॉर्मेल्डिहाइड उत्पादक इकाइयाँ EIA मानदंडों के अंतर्गत संचालित हो रही हैं। राज्य की कई प्लाइवुड इकाइयाँ भी बिना EC के इन-हाउस रेज़िन निर्माण करती पाई गई थीं।

NGT ने यह भी कहा है कि यदि अनुपालन रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत नहीं की जाती, या अतिरिक्त निर्देशों की आवश्यकता होती है, तो यह मामला अधिकरण की न्यायिक पीठ के समक्ष दोबारा प्रस्तुत किया जाए।

यह विकास प्लाईवुड उद्योग के लिए एक संभावित रूप से परिवर्तनकारी चरण को दर्शाता है, जिसमें जवाबदेही, पर्यावरणीय जिम्मेदारी, और राष्ट्रीय हरित कानूनों के अनुपालन पर ज़ोर दिया गया है।

इस आदेश में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि जो भी इकाइयाँ इन-हाउस रेज़िन निर्माण (चाहे वे प्लाइवुड, माइका या विनियर का उत्पादन करती हों) में संलग्न हैं, उन्हें EC प्राप्त करना अनिवार्य होगा। हालांकि, जो इकाइयाँ बाहरी स्रोतों से रेज़िन खरीदती हैं, उन्हें इस अनिवार्यता से छूट दी गई है

रुशील डेकॉर

जंबो लैमिनेट प्लांट विस्तार के लिए वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 की तीसरी तिमाही तक पूर्णता का लक्ष्य



यह घोषणा वित्त वर्ष 2025 में कंपनी के मजबूत वित्तीय प्रदर्शन के बाद की गई है, जिसमें कंपनी ने समेकित राजस्व में साल-दर-साल 6.4% की वृद्धि दर्ज की है

रुशील डेकोर लिमिटेड ने अपने रणनीतिक विस्तार योजना के तहत, गुजरात के गांधीनगर स्थित अत्याधुनिक जंबो लैमिनेट विनिर्माण संयंत्र के द्वितीय चरण को वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 की तीसरी तिमाही तक पूरा करने की तैयारी शुरू कर दी है। इस विस्तार का उद्देश्य उत्पादन क्षमता को बढ़ाना, उत्पाद पोर्टफोलियो का विस्तार करना और राजस्व वृद्धि को मजबूत करना है।

यह घोषणा वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में कंपनी के मजबूत वित्तीय प्रदर्शन के बाद आई है, जिसमें कंपनी ने 6.4% की वार्षिक वृद्धि के साथ ₹8.979 मिलियन का समेकित राजस्व और 11.1% की वृद्धि के साथ ₹479 मिलियन का शुद्ध लाभ (PAT) दर्ज किया। बताया गया है कि यह वृद्धि निरंतर निर्यात मांग, बेहतर संचालन क्षमता और वैल्यू-एडेड उत्पादों की बढ़ती हिस्सेदारी के चलते

संभव हुई।

कंपनी के सूत्रों के अनुसार, वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए समेकित राजस्व ₹11.000 मिलियन तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है, जिसमें विस्तारित संयंत्र की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेगी। ब्राउनफील्ड विस्तार, जो चरण 1 और चरण 2 को मिलाकर किया जा रहा है, से सालाना 2.8 मिलियन लैमिनेट शीट्स की अतिरिक्त क्षमता जुड़ेगी, जो कि मुख्यतः 1mm सिंगल-साइड डेकोरेटिव लैमिनेट्स होंगी और इनका प्रमुख लक्ष्य बाजार अमेरिका और यूरोप होंगे। प्रबंधन का मानना है कि इस विस्तार क्षमता से सालाना लगभग ₹300 करोड़ की अतिरिक्त आय उत्पन्न हो सकती है, जिसकी EBITDA मार्जिन लगभग 11% रहने की संभावना है।

कंपनी के अनुसार, चरण 1 की क्षमता का 15% पहले ही निर्यात आदेशों से सुरक्षित हो चुका



1993 में स्थापित, रुशिल डेकोर लिमिटेड अपने प्रमुख ब्रांड VIR के तहत कार्यरत है और 56 से अधिक देशों में अपनी उपस्थिति बनाए हुए है। कंपनी के पास छह अत्याधुनिक उत्पादन इकाइयाँ हैं, जिनकी सम्मिलित वार्षिक उत्पादन क्षमता 3.49 मिलियन लैमिनेट शीट्स और 3,30,000 घन मीटर (CBM) एमडीएफ बोर्ड्स है। ISO 9001:2000 प्रमाणन और 3 स्टार निर्यात गृह का दर्जा प्राप्त रुशिल डेकोर को घरेलू और वैश्विक बाजारों में 4,600 से अधिक रिटेल पॉइंट्स और 700 वितरकों के व्यापक नेटवर्क का समर्थन प्राप्त है।

है और आने वाली तिमाहियों में उत्पादन को चरणबद्ध रूप से बढ़ाने के प्रयास जारी हैं।

कार्यकारी अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यह संयंत्र कंपनी की वैश्विक बाजारों में उपस्थिति को गहरा करने की व्यापक महत्वाकांक्षा को दर्शाता है, जबकि घरेलू बाजार में भी मजबूत स्थिति बनाए रखने की योजना है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि नया चरण रुशिल डेकोर की डिज़ाइन-प्रेरित, उच्च

गुणवत्ता वाली लैमिनेट संसाधन प्रदान करने की क्षमता को और सुदृढ़ करेगा, जो बदलती उपभोक्ता आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप है।

रुशिल के. ठक्कर, प्रबंध निदेशक, ने कहा कि कंपनी नवाचार, क्षमता विस्तार और अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहुंच को बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, और निर्माण सामग्री क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक वैल्यू क्रिएटर बनने की दिशा में अग्रसर है।

रुशिल के. ठक्कर, प्रबंध निदेशक, ने कहा कि कंपनी नवाचार, क्षमता विस्तार और अपने अंतरराष्ट्रीय विस्तार के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध है, और निर्माण सामग्री क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक मूल्य सृजनकर्ता के रूप में अपनी स्थिति मजबूत कर रही है।

अमूल्य माईका

सीआईआई राष्ट्रीय शाइनिंग एमएसएमई पुरस्कार 2025 से सम्मानित



अमूल्य माईका को प्रतिष्ठित सीआईआई राष्ट्रीय शाइनिंग एमएसएमई पुरस्कार 2025 से मैनुफैक्चरिंग में उत्कृष्टता श्रेणी में सम्मानित किया गया है। यह सम्मान लैमिनेट उद्योग में गुणवत्ता और नवाचार के क्षेत्र में कंपनी की नेतृत्वकारी भूमिका की पुष्टि करता है।

यह पुरस्कार 23 मई 2025 को आयोजित सीआईआई पुरस्कार वर्चुअल समारोह में घोषित किया गया, जो भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ (CII) के एक विशिष्ट पैनल द्वारा किए गए गहन मूल्यांकन के बाद प्रदान किया गया।

इस सम्मान पर प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त करते हुए, अमूल्य माईका के प्रबंध निदेशक राकेश अग्रवाल ने CII के प्रति गहरी कृतज्ञता व्यक्त की। उन्होंने कंपनी

की निरंतर नवाचार प्रक्रिया, गुणवत्ता-आधारित कार्य प्रणाली और ग्राहक-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण को इस उपलब्धि के प्रमुख कारणों के रूप में श्रेय दिया।

उन्होंने अमूल्य माईका की टीम, चैनल भागीदारों और इन्फ्लुएंसर नेटवर्क का भी आभार व्यक्त किया, जिनके सतत सहयोग और सहभागिता से यह सफलता संभव हुई।

यह पुरस्कार अमूल्य माईका की यात्रा में एक गौरवपूर्ण उपलब्धि है, जो कंपनी की टिकाऊ, नैतिक और अत्याधुनिक व्यवसायिक नीतियों के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को मजबूत करता है और भविष्य की वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा व विकास के लिए मंच तैयार करता है।

सीएमपेलकम्प ने पार्टिकल बोर्ड और एमडीएफ में रीसाइक्लिंग तकनीक प्रस्तुत की

LIGNA 2025 व्यापार मेले में सीएमपेलकम्प ने 'स्मार्ट. सस्टेनेबल. सीएमपेलकम्प' थीम के तहत स्थिरता (सस्टेनेबिलिटी) पर विशेष जोर दिया, जिसमें पार्टिकल बोर्ड और एमडीएफ उत्पादन के लिए इसकी नवीनतम रीसाइक्लिंग प्रक्रियाओं को प्रमुखता से प्रस्तुत किया गया। कंपनी ने ऊर्जा दक्षता, लागत प्रभावशीलता और उच्च उत्पाद गुणवत्ता के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को विशेष रूप से लकड़ी-आधारित पैनल निर्माण के संदर्भ में रेखांकित किया।

सीएमपेलकम्प ने हॉल 26, बूथ E27 में अपनी भागीदारी के केंद्र में रीसाइक्लिंग को स्थापित करने का लक्ष्य रखा। उनके द्वारा विकसित किया गया नया MDF रीसाइक्लिंग कॉन्सेप्ट इस क्षेत्र में अपनी तरह का पहला नवाचार बताया गया। इस परियोजना के प्रमुख विकास इंजीनियर मोरिट्ज़ श्रैंकलर के अनुसार, यह प्रक्रिया केवल सामग्री को अलग करने तक सीमित नहीं थी, बल्कि इसमें रेशों को कुशलता से पुनः प्राप्त करना और उन्हें कोटिंग्स तथा फिटिंग्स जैसे अशुद्धियों से मुक्त करना शामिल था। यह प्रक्रिया विस्तृत अनुसंधान एवं परीक्षण के बाद विकसित की गई थी और यह विभिन्न प्रकार की इनपुट सामग्री, जैसे PMDI-ग्लूड बोर्ड्स को भी संभाल सकती थी, जिसे एक बड़ा प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक लाभ माना गया।

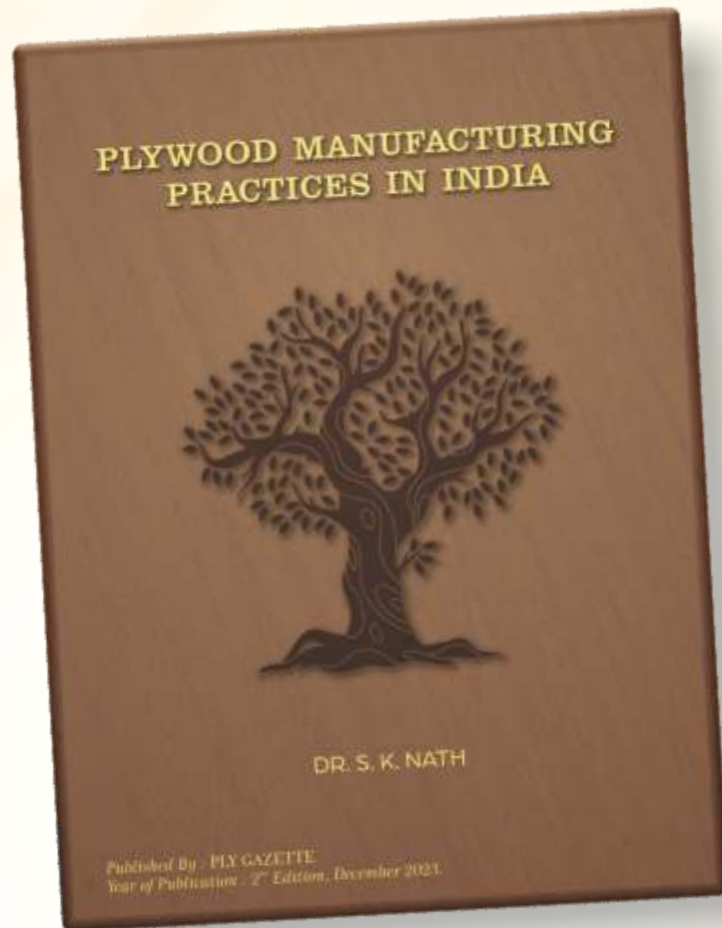
सीएमपेलकम्प के प्रबंध निदेशक समीरन मंडल

ने बताया कि यह पर्यावरण-अनुकूल प्रक्रिया जर्मनी के वेस्ट वुड ऑर्डिनेंस के अनुरूप है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि यह तकनीक फर्श और रसोई पैनलों जैसे तैयार उत्पादों से फाइबर-आधारित सामग्री को पुनः उपयोग के योग्य बनाते हुए ऊर्जा की खपत को कम करती है और उत्पाद के प्रदर्शन को मजबूत बनाए रखती है।

पार्टिकल बोर्ड उत्पादन के क्षेत्र में भी सीएमपेलकम्प ने 2023 की शुरुआत के बाद एक और महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाया। वुड डिवीजन के प्रमुख विपणन अधिकारी उलरिच कैसर ने बताया कि 2025 संस्करण में विशिष्ट रीसाइक्लिंग आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार मॉड्यूलर क्लीनिंग सिस्टम शामिल किए गए हैं। ये सिस्टम प्लास्टिक, धातु, कांच और कागज जैसे अशुद्धियों को प्रेसिंग से पहले छंट देते हैं, जिससे उच्च गुणवत्ता की पुनः उपयोगी लकड़ी प्राप्त होती है और परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था के लक्ष्यों को बढ़ावा मिलता है।

आगंतुकों की सहभागिता को बढ़ाने के लिए, सीएमपेलकम्प ने अपने बूथ पर एक प्रतीकात्मक रीसाइक्लिंग टॉवर का निर्माण किया और अपनी रीसाइक्लिंग प्लांट्स की ऑगमेंटेड रियलिटी टूर भी प्रस्तुत की। समीरन मंडल ने तकनीक के प्रदर्शन और उद्योग में क्लोज्ड-लूप सिस्टम को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए ग्राहकों के साथ सहयोग करने को लेकर उत्साह व्यक्त किया।

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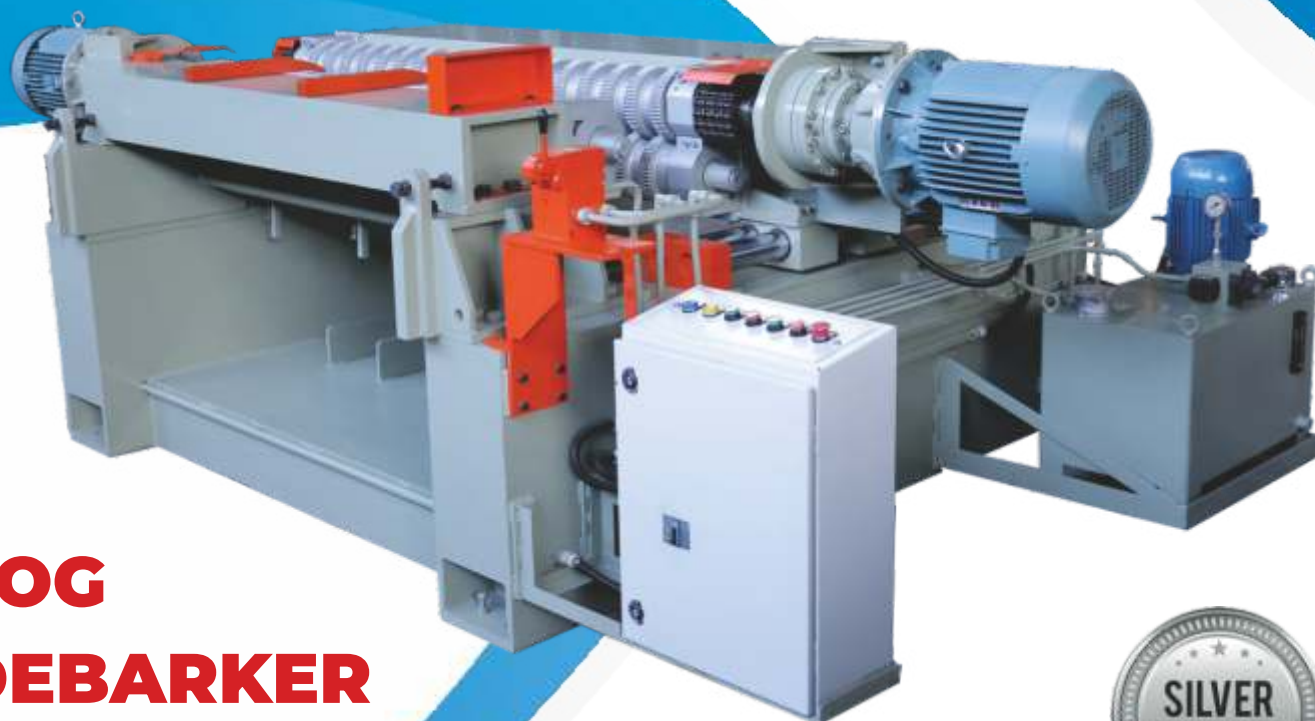


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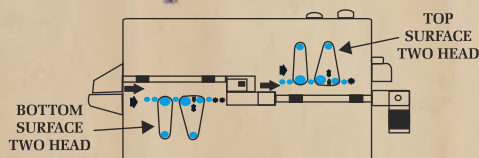
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