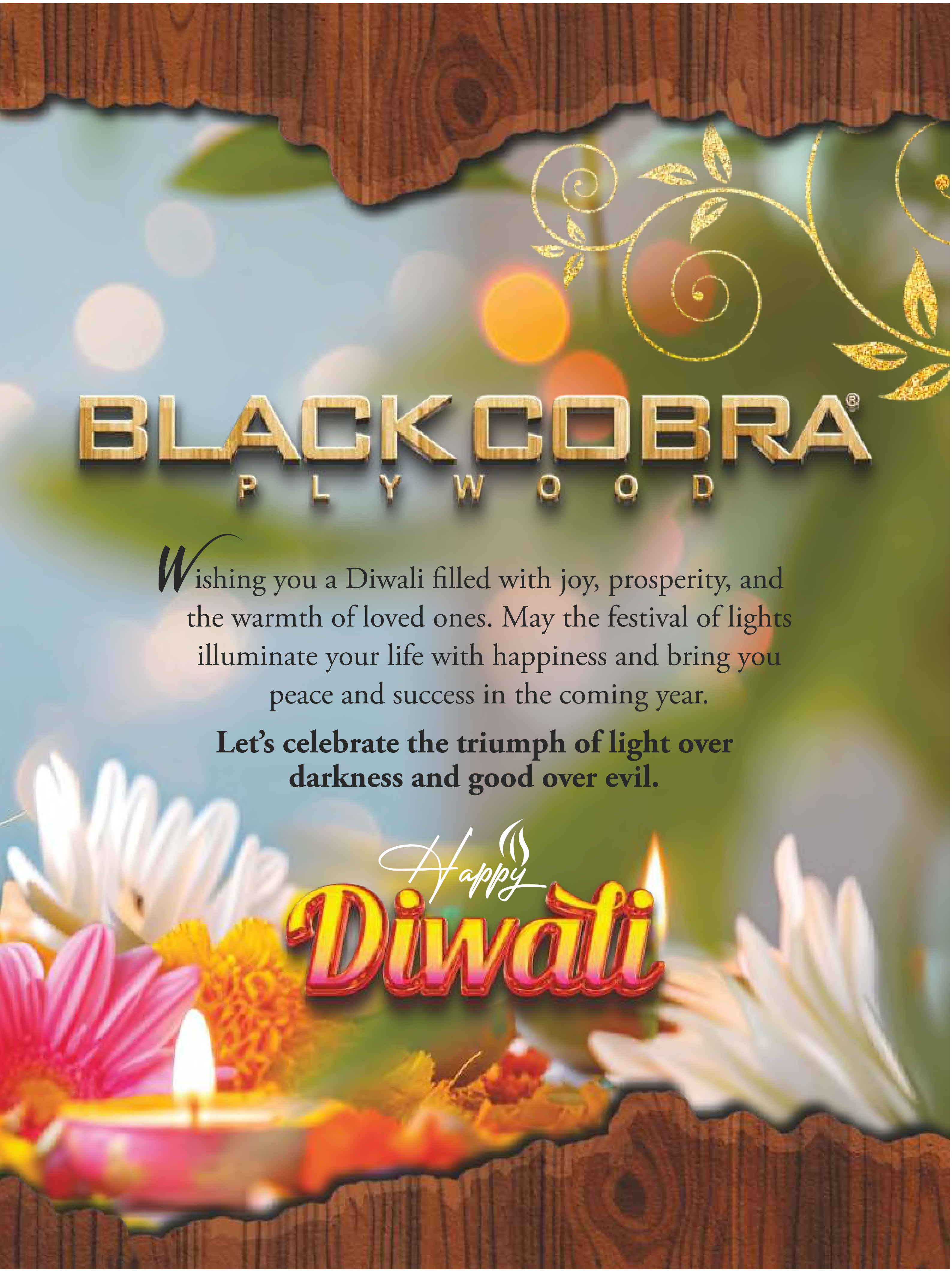
Year 29 October 2024

PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY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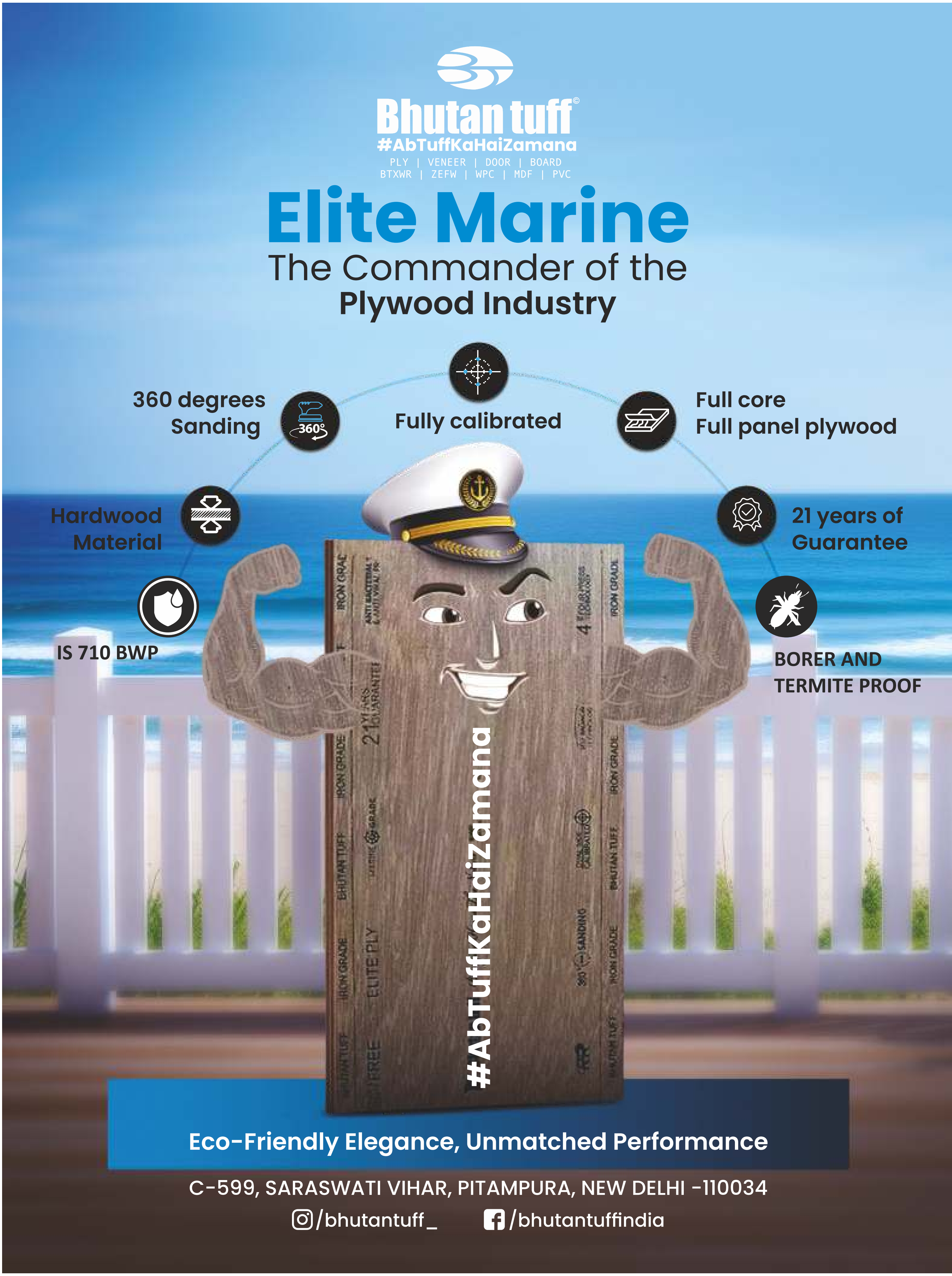
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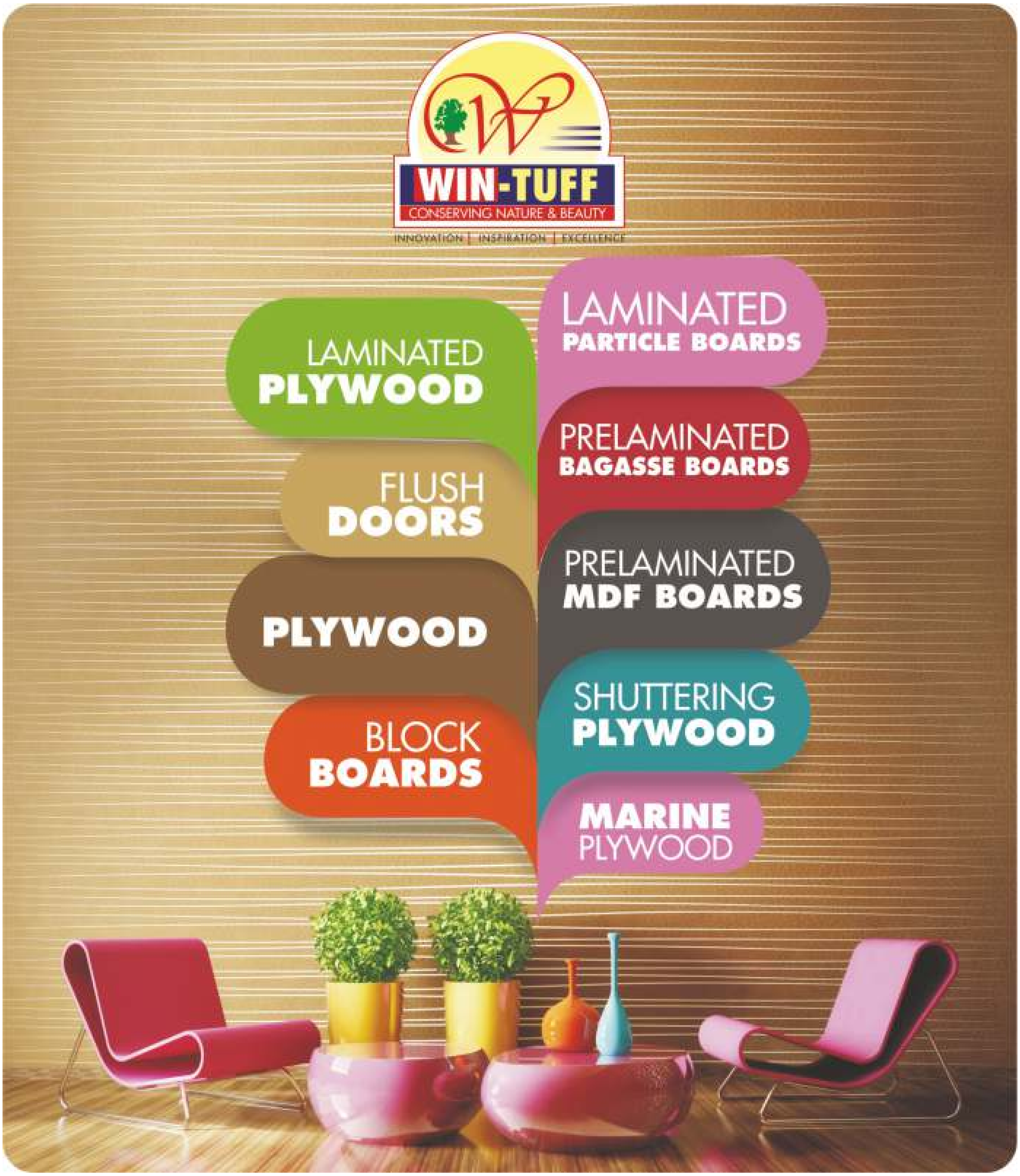

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Century Plyboards to Boost Plywood Production Capacity by 30%

Century Plyboards (India) plans to increase its plywood production capacity by approximately 30% over the next 12 to 15 months, backed by a capital investment of around R140 crore. The expansion will include both greenfield and brownfield projects, with the establishment of a new facility planned in either Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, or Andhra Pradesh.

Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director of Century Plyboards, shared that the company is currently focused on developing a new facility, which will involve an investment of roughly R100 crore. The final decision on the location will depend on commercial viability. In addition to the new facility, Century Plyboards is implementing brownfield expansions at its existing sites by incorporating balancing equipment and upgrading machinery.

Currently, Century Plyboards has a plywood production capacity of 339,600 cubic metres per annum, with a utilisation rate of around 75% in the first quarter of this fiscal year. The plywood market in India is estimated to be around R27,500 crore, with organised players holding about 30% of this market. Century Plyboards commands an 8% share of the overall plywood market and approximately 25-30% of the organised segment.

The organised plywood market is experiencing annual growth in the high single digits, and the company anticipates that the industry will double in size within the next six to seven years. K. Bhajanka stated, "Our objective is to grow faster than the industry, targeting more than 10% growth, which will inevitably increase our market share."

In response to rising input costs, the company has raised plywood prices twice this fiscal year, each by about 2% in the first and second quarters, and increased laminate prices by 3% in the second quarter. He noted that while raw materials predominantly came from domestic agroforests in the past, supply has recently fallen short of demand, leading to price hikes. As a result, importing core veneer from countries like Vietnam and Brazil has become more viable.

In the R8,000 crore laminates market, Century Plyboards holds an 8% market share. Last fiscal year, the laminate segment contributed approximately 17% to the company's total revenue, with exports reaching around R150 crore. Keshav Bhajanka expects to double laminate exports to R300 crore within the next three years.

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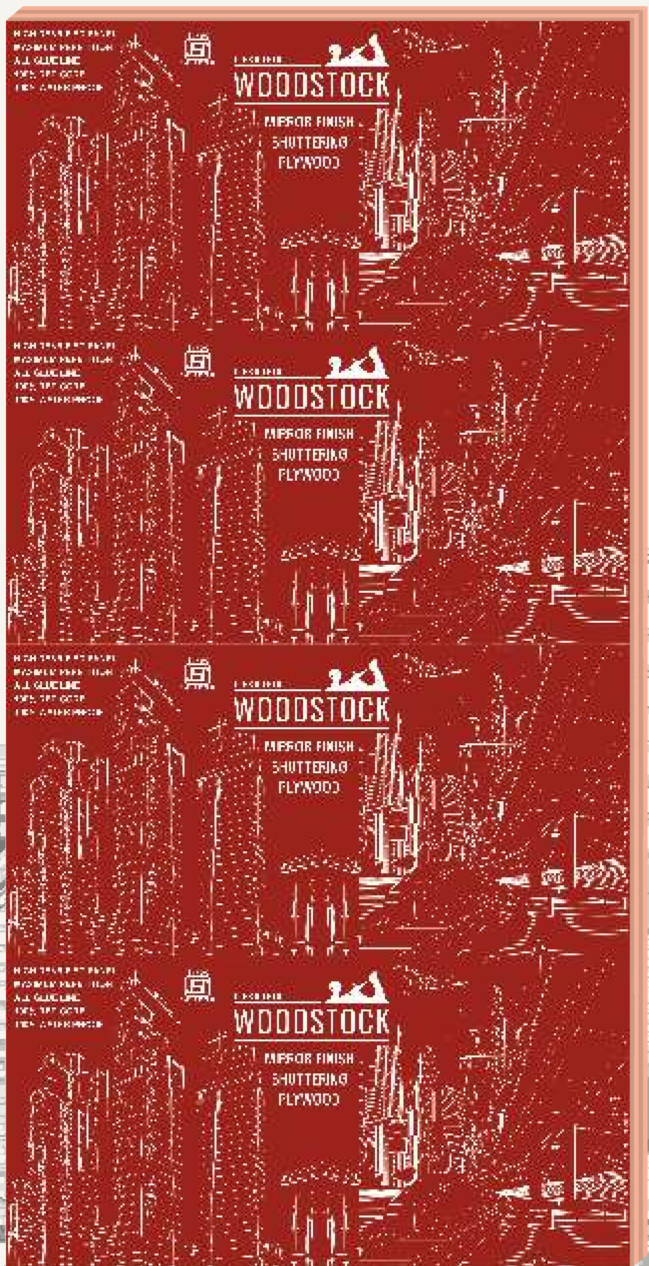

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Yamuna Nagar Laminate Manufacturers Association Announces Price Hike Due to Rising Raw Material Costs

The Yamuna Nagar Laminate Manufacturers Association (YLMA) has announced an increase in laminate prices, effective from 25th September 2024, due to a significant and continuous rise in the cost of raw materials. This decision comes as manufacturers face escalating production costs, making it necessary to adjust pricing to ensure the sustainability of their operations.

In the official notice, YLMA outlined the price adjustments for laminates of various thicknesses:

0.62 mm laminates will be a price increase of R15 per unit.

0.72 mm laminates will now cost R20 more per unit.

0.82 mm laminates will experience an increase of R30 per unit.

0.92 mm laminates will be priced R40 higher per unit.

The association has clarified that these revised rates are the result of continuous upward pressure on raw material costs over the last month, leaving laminate manufacturers with little choice but to pass on some of the burden to consumers. Additionally, it was noted that GST (Goods and Services Tax) will be charged extra on top of the revised prices.

This price hike will affect all laminate dispatches from 25th September 2024 onward.

Impact on the Industry

The rise in laminate prices is expected to have a ripple effect across the plywood and furniture industries, where laminates play a crucial role. Laminate manufacturers in Yamuna Nagar, a major hub for the wood and plywood industry in India, are feeling the brunt of inflation in raw material costs, particularly chemicals, resins, and wood-based products. These materials form the backbone of laminate production, and their price volatility directly impacts the cost structure for manufacturers.

For distributors and retailers, the increase will likely translate into higher prices for end consumers, potentially affecting demand in the short term. However, given the critical role laminates play in modern furniture, interiors, and construction, the overall demand is expected to remain steady, even as prices adjust.

Challenges for Manufacturers

Manufacturers across the sector have been grappling with rising costs for some time, and this latest hike in laminate prices underscores the broader challenge of managing supply chain disruptions and fluctuating costs of raw materials. As global economic uncertainties and supply chain constraints continue to persist, businesses are forced to reevaluate pricing strategies to stay competitive while maintaining quality standards.

The YLMA's decision to raise prices is a reflection of the broader challenges facing the industry, with rising raw material prices now a widespread concern. Manufacturers in Yamuna Nagar, one of India's most prominent hubs for laminate production, are striving to maintain their competitiveness while ensuring profitability.

Moving Forward

With the price hike now in effect, businesses and consumers should anticipate a rise in costs for laminated products, ranging from plywood to furniture and other wood-based items. As raw material costs fluctuate, it remains to be seen how long these higher prices will remain in place or whether further adjustments will be necessary.

For manufacturers, the priority will be on stabilising operations and absorbing any additional cost increases, while for buyers, budgeting for the increased prices will be crucial in the months ahead.

While the price hike is an unavoidable outcome of rising raw material costs, it underscores the ongoing challenges faced by laminate manufacturers. The Yamuna Nagar Laminate Manufacturers Association will continue to monitor market conditions, but for now, businesses and consumers alike will need to adapt to the new price structure.

All India MDF Manufacturers Association announces 6% price increase effective 10th October

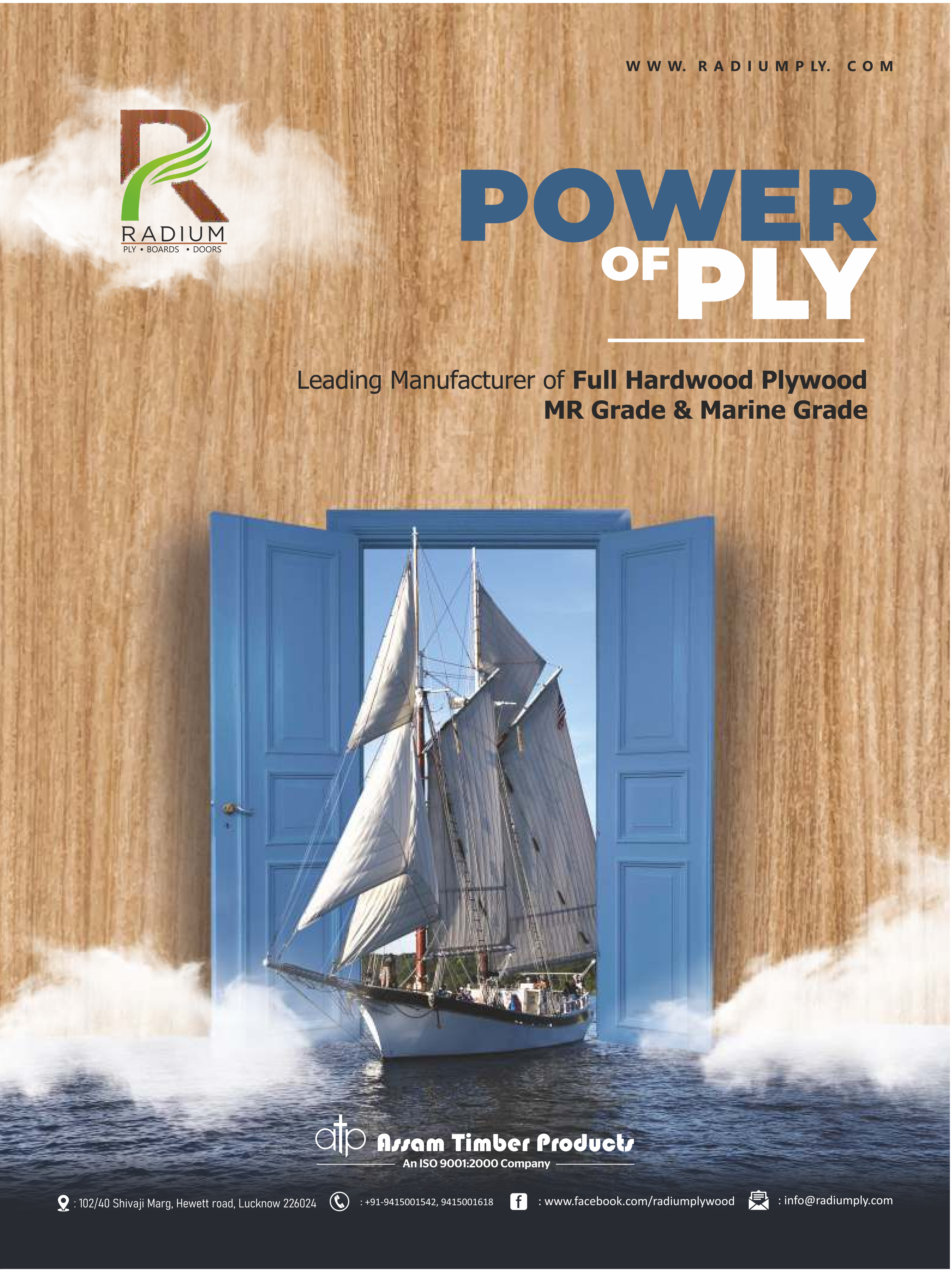
In a recent meeting attended by prominent MDF manufacturers from across the country, the AIMMA has collectively agreed to raise the price of MDF by 6%, effective from 10th October.

The meeting included key industry figures such as Amit Goel of Crosta Panels, Rajiv Daga of Archid Panel, Ajay Garg of E3 Group, Vineet Singla of Archit Nuwood, Sekhar Chand Sati of Infra Market, Lalit Gupta of Pioneer Panels, Aman Garg of Metro Group, Harsh and Praveen from Trinox Laminate, Rishabh Gupta of Prominent Fibres, Aditya Garg of Adlerwud, Abhinav Gupta of Signature Panel, and Mr. Ujjwal Bansal of Birmi Group.

The price hike is a response to the ongoing shortage of timber, which has driven up manufacturing costs for MDF. The manufacturers expressed hope that other industry players would follow this decision to offset the rising costs of production in such challenging conditions.

Additionally, concerns regarding payment terms and a list of defaulting parties were discussed. The newly formed office bearers of the AIMMA will take further action on these matters in consultation with its members.

The price hike is a response to the ongoing shortage of timber



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Rising Kraft Paper Prices Boost Liner Laminate Costs

The rising prices of B-grade Kraft paper are significantly impacting the cost of liner-grade laminate. Over the past month, the cost of liner laminate on a 0.72 mm basis has surged from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per sheet. Kraft paper manufacturers attribute this increase to higher raw material costs, which have forced them to raise prices. Reports indicate that B-grade Kraft paper prices have climbed by up to 25% within a month, currently hovering around Rs. 34 per kg, with further hikes expected in the coming weeks.

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Decisive meeting of Laminate Materials Suppliers Association (LMSA)

On 18th September, 2024, members of the Laminate Raw Materials Suppliers Association (LMSA) convened at Akashdeep Papers Pvt. Ltd. to address crucial issues affecting the financial health and operational integrity of the association's members. The meeting focused on two main agenda items: addressing outstanding dues from buyers and discussing new policies related to business transactions involving companies undergoing ownership changes.

Key Discussion Points

Long-standing Dues from Buyers

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the issue of outstanding dues from buyers. Members reported instances where businesses had been sold to new owners without settling their debts with LMSA member suppliers. For example, Indolam transitioned to S R Laminates, Trikalp became Morris, Aggarwal Laminates was converted to Rudraksh Traders, and R. Singh Laminates is now known as P Sunil Gandhi. These cases illustrate a concerning trend where sellers are avoiding their financial responsibilities, leaving suppliers to manage the burden of unpaid debts.

Impact on Supplier Cash Flow

The negative repercussions of unpaid dues were underscored, particularly regarding cash flow and overall business viability. Suppliers expressed their frustration over the financial strain caused by these debts, highlighting the urgent need for a robust policy to protect the interests of LMSA members.

Decisions Taken

Policy on Buyers with Outstanding Dues

After extensive discussion, the members reached a unanimous decision to implement a new policy aimed at safeguarding financial interests within the association. Under this policy, if a buyer has unpaid dues to any LMSA member and subsequently sells their company, no LMSA member will supply materials to that buyer or the new owners until the outstanding dues are settled. This decision reflects a commitment to maintaining the financial integrity of LMSA and ensuring that members are not unduly exposed to risk from buyers with poor payment histories.

The members recognised that enforcing this policy is essential for fostering a responsible business environment and maintaining trust among suppliers.

Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with the President of LMSA emphasising the importance of unity and cooperation among members in upholding the newly established policy. By standing together, the association can better protect its members' interests and encourage responsible business practices within the industry. The date for the next meeting will be communicated in due course, as LMSA continues its efforts to address the challenges facing its members and strengthen the association's operational framework.

The meeting marked a significant step towards securing the financial health of LMSA members. By implementing policies that hold buyers accountable for their financial obligations, the association aims to foster a sustainable and resilient environment for all stakeholders involved in the laminate raw materials industry.

Improved situation in Chhattisgarh plywood sector

Chhattisgarh is home to approximately 50-52 plywood factories, with major concentrations in Raipur (40 units), Rajnandgaon (4-5 units), Bilaspur (2-3 units), Bhilai (2 units), and Durg (1 unit). Additionally, 5-6 factories specialise in producing core veneer, a crucial material for plywood manufacturing.

Raipur, has 20-25 factories equipped with peeling machines also primarily using Eucalyptus wood for core veneer production. Peeling units have also been established in Rajnandgaon, Bhilai, Bilaspur, Durg, and Korba. However, due to limited local raw material availability, factories procure core veneer from Kerala and Uttar Pradesh also.

Despite the increased demand, the region faces a shortage of wood, particularly for Eucalyptus. To address this, farmers are being encouraged to expand Eucalyptus plantations, with a focus on cultivating the Neelgiri species, a hybrid Eucalyptus variety that matures within 5 years. Neelgiri is mainly found in Odisha and the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border and has become a popular choice in both the paper and plywood industries.

Eucalyptus trees, once primarily used in the paper industry, have now found significant use in the ply industry. This shift has been a major factor in the price increase of wood in the Odisha and Chhattisgarh regions. Over the past two years, wood prices have risen considerably. However, a positive outcome of this change is that farmers are reaping the benefits, and they are pleased with the development.

Earlier, there was no provision for granting a licence to set up a peeling unit here, but persistent efforts by ply industry manufacturers to raise their concerns with the government led to progress. Initially, manufacturers were given licences for SAW Mill, which were later surrendered in exchange for licences to operate peeling machines.

The installation of peeling machines has reduced the need for Chhattisgarh ply manufacturers to import core veneer from other states, mainly Kerala and Uttar Pradesh, thereby improving cost competitiveness. These peeling units, established over the last two years, have allowed local manufacturers to compete with other regions, particularly in terms of production costs.

Shuttering ply production has seen a significant rise, with many factories now focusing exclusively on this product.

In addition to expanding production capacities, many factories have invested in dryer units and peeling machines to enhance product quality, a key focus for local manufacturers. This shift towards higher quality standards is seen as a positive development for the Chhattisgarh plywood market.

Due to the need for dryers in manufacturing of shattering ply, many manufacturers have expanded their dryer units also.

The main manufacturers of shuttering ply include Matadi Plyboard, Aastha Timber, Prestige Ply Industries, Bhagat Wood Products, Sunny T Chest Industries, Krishna Wood and Metal, Kothari Panels, Sawariya Plywood Industries (Bilaspur), Gujarat Timber Industries Pvt. Ltd. Ashok Jindal Plywood (Bhilai), among others.

On talking to many ply manufacturers, it was told that now the Chhattisgarh plywood units are focusing on quality along with expanding their production. This is indeed, good news for the market.

India State of Forest Report Delayed by a Year: Concerns Over Forest Data Integrity

The delay in the release of the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) has raised concerns over the accuracy of forest data. Many speculate that the delay is due to significant reductions in forest cover, particularly in unclassified forests governed by the 1996 TN Godavarman judgement. There are also fears that inflated forest cover figures may be hiding the true extent of deforestation.

The ISFR, usually released every two years by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has now been delayed by over a year. Forestry officials, both current and retired, have voiced their concerns about this unprecedented delay. Down To Earth (DTE) filed a Right to Information (RTI) request on August 23rd, 2024, to understand the reasons behind this delay but has yet to receive a response. The last time the government missed the ISFR publication deadline was in 2007.

One senior official suggested that the delay might be due to a significant reduction in forest cover, which the government may be reluctant to disclose. The last ISFR report, published in 2021, recorded India's total forest cover as 713,789 square kilometres, or 21.71% of the country's land area, reflecting a marginal increase of 1,540 square kilometres since 2019. However, India's National Forest Policy sets a target of 33.3% forest cover in plains and 66.6% in hilly areas to ensure ecological stability.

Several officials have also raised concerns over inconsistencies in forest data classification, especially in light of the 2023 amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, now called the Van (Sanrakshan Evam

Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023. The amendments exclude unrecorded and deemed forests from government records, which activists argue could lead to these forests being diverted for development projects.

In response, the Supreme Court ordered the government to publish State Expert Committee (SEC) reports online in February 2024. These reports are crucial for identifying and listing forests as per the 1996 TN Godavarman ruling, which defines forests by their dictionary meaning, irrespective of ownership. Despite the government's claims of increasing forest cover, Global Forest Watch (GFW) reported that India lost around 23,300 square kilometres of tree cover between 2001 and 2023, with 95% of deforestation occurring in natural forests between 2013 and 2023.

On 8th August 2024, MoEFCC Minister Bhupender Yadav informed the Parliament that India had lost 173,396 hectares (1,733 square kilometres) of forest to development projects. He also claimed that compensatory afforestation efforts had restored 21,761 square kilometres of forest area between 2013 and 2023. However, officials believe that discrepancies in the data may expose the government to public scrutiny, especially with the recent release of SEC reports, which reveal that many forests remain unidentified despite Supreme Court orders, such as the 2011 Lafarge ruling.

Prakriti Srivastava, a retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) from Kerala and a petitioner challenging the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, criticised the FSI's reliance on automated algorithms that record green cover but fail to distinguish between forests, tree plantations, and orchards, leading to inflated statistics.

State-level analyses from ISFR reports between 1999 and 2021 also reveal discrepancies, particularly with unclassified forests. For instance, in Odisha, unclassified forests jumped from 17 square kilometres in 1999 to 16,282 square kilometres in 2015, only to plummet to 22 square kilometres in 2017 with no explanation. Similar inconsistencies were found in Goa, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, while West Bengal's unclassified forest cover remained unchanged from 1995 to 2021.

These inconsistencies, Srivastava argued, obscure the real situation of India's forests, leaving open questions about whether these areas have been encroached upon, diverted for development, or transferred to private ownership. In August 2024, Rajesh S, Inspector General of Forests at MoEFCC, assured a reporter that there was no delay in the report's release, though the 2023 deadline had already passed.

Patna Factories to Switch to PNG, Emitting 10 Times Less Toxic Gas

In a significant move to reduce air pollution, factories in Patna will soon be connected to PNG (Piped Natural Gas). The Pollution Control Board has issued an alert mandating the shift, ensuring that all factories in Patna industrial areas switch from diesel, coal, and LPG to PNG. Factories have been given a deadline to switch, and those failing to comply will face legal action.

The board emphasised that new factories being established in Patna and the surrounding districts must also use PNG. These factories will be required to register for PNG supply, and non-compliance will result in penalties. The transition is expected to reduce the emission of toxic gases by ten times compared to coal and diesel.

By December, this initiative will cover all factories in the Fatuha Industrial Area, and the use of PNG will be mandatory. The Pollution Control Board will closely monitor the registration and conversion process.

Hoshiarpur

Industrialists Meet DC to Discuss Development of Dhogri Industrial Park

A delegation of industrialists met with Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal to discuss the development of Dhogri Industrial Park. Naresh Tiwari, a representative of the Chamber of Industrial and Commercial Undertakings, assured the readiness to provide industrial land for the construction of internal roads within the park.

Tiwari emphasised that the development of internal roads and infrastructure is critical for the park's overall progress. The industrialists raised concerns about key infrastructure such as sewers, roads, and drainage systems, and urged the administration to expedite the development process.

Sharad Aggarwal, another industrialist, highlighted the need for urgent improvements in the sewage and road systems. He also mentioned that issues related to drainage, especially during the monsoon season, need to be addressed.

Shant Gupta stressed the need for linking drainage with proper outlets to prevent waterlogging during the rainy season. The industrialists also pointed out the growing pace of the industrial sector and the urgent need for infrastructure to keep up with this growth.

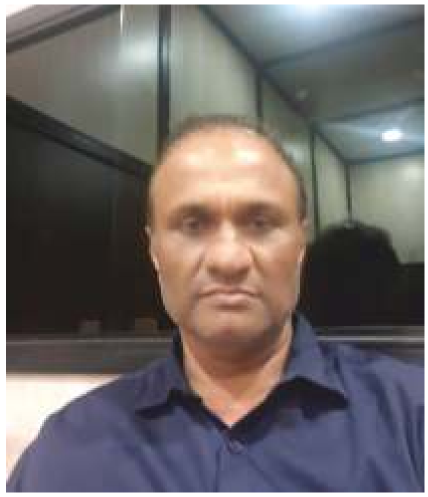
In response, Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal assured the delegation that the administration is committed to resolving these issues and working with the government to speed up the process of infrastructure development for the industrial park.

Shivdhan Décor break targets, with 10 million plus sunmica annually

Shivdhan Decor Limited, founded in 2017 by Navin Patel, stands as a leader in production capacity in Central India. A young and dynamic director, Mahek Patel also graces the company.

Thanks to its large production capacity, Shivdhan Decor has built a robust sales network, primarily managed by Deepak Bhai Patel and Nilesh Bhai Patel. In a recent meeting, Navin Bhai Patel shared that Mahek Patel oversees product quality, while distribution responsibilities rest with Deepak Bhai, Nilesh Bhai and Pradip Gadkari ensuring efficient market reach.

Shivdhan Decor



NAVIN PATEL

Limited primarily specialises in producing liner-grade mica, focusing on fabric, white, off-white, and wooden designs. In a conversation, Company Director Mahek Bhai Patel, reveals that their products are made entirely from 100% phenolic resin, ensuring high quality.

The key raw material used for producing Mica sheets is craft paper, for which the company has established a separate entity called "Shivdhan Sahyog Paper Pvt. Ltd." A new unit is being installed to enhance production efficiency. Navin Bhai Patel shared that their laminate sheet production capacity reached one crore sheets per annum , placing Shivdhan Decor among the top manufacturers in Central India in terms of output size.

Shivdhan Decor Limited is located 30 kms. from Nagpur city in Maharashtra, in the Vadoda area along Bhandara Road. The company's registered office is at Plot No. 556, Hiwari Layout, opposite Poonam Mall, Nagpur.

The facility houses six presses of 16 and 20 daylight, ensuring consistent production with the support of advanced machinery. A printing machine for wrapping paper has also been installed to boost operations. The company aims to further increase its production capacity, thereby strengthening its sales network across all states.

Archit Nuwood soon launching a New Range of Acrylic Boards and UV Coating in MDF & HDF

Established in 2020, Archit Nuwood Ind. Pvt. Ltd. has quickly emerged as a leader in MDF (Medium-Density Fibreboard) and HDF (High-Density Fibreboard) manufacturing. The company was founded by Prem Chand Singla near Tohana town in the Fatehabad district of Haryana. Operating under the Archit Group, the company expanded its production portfolio by starting Sunmica production in 2023.

The company is managed by directors Vinod Kumar Singla and Vinit Kumar Singla. Speaking about their product line, Vinod Singla highlighted MDF, HDF, and Carb as their primary offerings.

The manufacturing facility is located on Bhuna Road, approximately 12 kms. from Tohana. The product thicknesses range from 7 mm to 35 mm.

Currently, Archit Nuwood has a production capacity of about 360 cubic metres per day. However, plans are underway to scale this to 1,000 cubic metres per day. The company has ordered advanced machinery, primarily imported from Turkey, known for its high-quality performance. By 2025, there are plans to significantly expand the production capabilities.

In addition to their existing product line, the company is soon launching a new range of acrylic boards and UV-coated products. All production efforts are being aligned with their goal of achieving a 1,000 cubic metres daily output, positioning the company in a higher league within North India's MDF manufacturing industry.

Eucalyptus wood, known for its superior quality, is the primary raw material used in the manufacturing process.

All of Archit Nuwood's products are ISI certified, ensuring high standards of quality. The registered office is located in Tohana town, while the corporate office is based in Motinagar, Delhi.

Matadi Plyboard Industries

Focuses on product quality

Matadi Plyboard Industries, Raipur, established in August 1999 by Anil Ahuja is one of the oldest and most trusted names in the region. Specialising in shuttering ply, boards, and flush doors, the company has maintained its reputation for quality over nearly 25 years.

Today, under Director Pratik Ahuja's leadership, the focus on product quality has intensified, with advanced lab testing machinery from SC Dey Kolkata supporting continuous R&D efforts. Pratik has earned certifications in plywood and blockboard testing, as well as low-cost and special resin manufacturing from IPIRTI Bengaluru and Kolkata.

The factory operates two presses, each with a 15-daylight capacity, producing high-quality shuttering ply, commercial plywood, BWP grade plywood, blockboards, and flush doors. Their flagship brands, MERLIN and W-PLY, are registered trademarks and ISI certified (IS-303 and IS-7105 BWP).

All products are moisture-free, processed using a dryer machine, and the company has set up a separate peeling unit. Located 6 kms. from Raipur in Birgaon near Urla Industrial Area, the factory's main product is densified shuttering ply, which is ISI certified.

Anil Ahuja proudly emphasises the company's commitment to quality and innovation, ensuring that their densified shuttering ply remains a top choice in the market.

Upcoming premier events:

Bangladesh Wood International Expo 2024 and Nepal Wood International Expo 2025

The global wood and furniture industry is set to gather at two of the most highly anticipated exhibitions in South Asia, the Bangladesh Wood International Expo 2024 and the Nepal Wood International Expo 2025. Both events will serve as a pivotal platform for professionals and businesses in the woodworking, furniture, and associated industries, promising groundbreaking innovations, networking opportunities, and market expansion.

Bangladesh is rapidly becoming a significant hub for the woodworking and furniture industry. The Bangladesh Wood International Expo 2024 to be held from 24th to 26th October 2024 at Expo Zone, ICCB, Dhaka, Bangladesh is the premier event that highlights this growth. Now in its 8th edition, the expo will showcase the latest advancements in plywood, laminates, woodworking machinery, furnishings, tools, raw materials, and products.

As an annual exhibition, it is not just a trade fair but a platform where industry experts, manufacturers, and suppliers will come together to discuss trends, innovations, and emerging technologies. With a focus on sustainable growth and the adoption of cutting-edge tools and technologies, this event will offer valuable insights for companies looking to grow or solidify their presence in the regional market.

The expo will feature exhibitors from

both local and international markets, and attendees will get the chance to interact with some of the biggest names in the industry, learn from experts in the field, and explore new business partnerships.

Following the success of the Bangladesh Wood Expo, the focus will shift to Nepal in early 2025 with the 10th Nepal Wood International Expo to be held from 17th to 19th January 2025 at Bhrikuti Mandap Exhibition Hall, Kathmandu, Nepal. Over the years, Nepal has experienced substantial growth in the demand for woodworking technology and furniture manufacturing, making it a key destination for industry players.

The Nepal Wood Expo will provide an international platform where key players in the woodworking industry can exhibit their latest products and innovations, ranging from machinery to furniture, laminates, plywood, and raw materials. In addition to being a significant trade hub, the expo will serve as a learning ground for local businesses looking to expand into global markets or adopt more efficient and sustainable production methods.

Like the Bangladesh Expo, the Nepal Wood Expo will bring together international exhibitors and local businesses, providing excellent opportunities for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. It's the ideal event for manufacturers, suppliers, and buyers looking to tap into the evolving wood and furniture markets in Nepal and beyond.

Both expos are essential for businesses operating within or looking to expand into the South Asian woodworking and furniture markets. Participants will benefit from numerous opportunities, including networking with key players from local and international markets such as manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, and buyers. Attendees can also participate in seminars and workshops led by industry experts, offering insights into current trends, innovations, and the future of the woodworking industry. Moreover, the expos will showcase cutting-edge woodworking machinery and technologies aimed at enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and production quality. Additionally, the events will provide a platform to explore new market opportunities and build partnerships that foster business growth and expansion in the highly competitive wood industry.

The events are organised by Futurex, in collaboration with ASK and MediaSpace. Futurex has a track record of delivering top-notch exhibitions that foster collaboration, innovation, and growth in various industries across South Asia.

As the woodworking and furniture industries evolve, events like the Bangladesh Wood International Expo 2024 and the Nepal Wood International Expo 2025 offer invaluable opportunities for businesses to stay ahead of the curve. Whether you are looking to adopt new technologies, explore sustainable production methods, or network with industry leaders, these expos are not to be missed. Mark your calendars and join the global woodworking community in Bangladesh and Nepal!

More details at www.bangladeshwood.com and www.nepalwood.com.np

Amulya Mica's Glamorous Evening Design Innovation Meets Kolkata's Elite

Amulya Mica hosted the Kolkata Interior Designers Meet on 30th August, 2024, at LMNOQ Sky Bar, bringing together over 40 local designers. Led by Eastern Zonal Manager Neeraj Khandelwal, Prasanjeet Dutta, and Amit Jain, alongside the Kolkata Sales team, the event also featured Subir Palit, Amulya Mica's mentor, and Vivek Gupta, the Kolkata distributor.

The highlight of the evening was the launch of the new Imperial Laminates Catalogue, which introduced the Imperial series, a collection that blends style, innovation, and meticulous craftsmanship. The series, particularly the "Synchronised Laminates," showcased six unique patterns, three from the Abstract Series and three Wood Grain designs, suitable for residential, commercial, and hospitality spaces. The designs were praised for their versatility and elegance.

The meet also featured discussions on the AR & IDs bonding programme, which received positive feedback. Many designers expressed their enthusiasm for incorporating Amulya Mica's products into future projects. The evening concluded with a gala dinner and a musical night, leaving attendees inspired and excited for future collaborations.

Duroply Launches 'Roma Collection' of Dyed Veneers

Duroply, a leading Indian plywood manufacturer, has introduced a premium range of dyed veneers called the Roma Collection. This new collection is inspired by the intricate beauty of Italian architecture, offering a luxurious blend of elegance and sophistication for modern homes.

The launch was led by Duro Nature's Signature Brand, aimed at catering to the discerning clientele seeking beauty and elegance in their everyday living spaces. Akhilesh Chitlangia, the Managing Director and CEO of Duroply, said the company's research indicated a demand for premium and aesthetically exquisite veneers in urban India. The Roma Collection embodies this need, combining elegance with functionality for homes, offices, and commercial spaces.

This collection enhances the beauty and aesthetic of any space with its wide variety of colours and high-quality finishes. Available in a range of thicknesses, the veneers come in different types, including Moisture Resistant (MR) and Boiling Water Resistant (BWR), offering versatility in both interior and exterior designs.

Duroply hopes the Roma Collection will set a new standard in the Indian market, delivering high-class design while maintaining affordability.

The launch was led by Duro Nature's Signature Brand, aimed at catering to the discerning clientele seeking beauty and elegance in their everyday living spaces.

OBITUARY

AK Ahmed

Chairman of AK Group, passes away

AK Ahmed, visionary founder and chairman of the AK Group of Institutions, Mangaluru passed away on Tuesday, 8th October 2024, morning at a private hospital in the city. He was 76. Ahmed, affectionately known for his simplicity, generosity, and steadfast leadership, leaves behind a legacy of excellence in business and community service.

Born with a passion for entrepreneurship, Ahmed established the AK Group, which has grown into a renowned brand, known for its success across multiple sectors. His strategic vision and commitment to quality helped the company thrive, earning it a stellar reputation in the industry. Beyond business, Ahmed was also deeply committed to social causes.

Ahmed is survived by his wife, children, and family, who carry forward his legacy of hard work and integrity.

Expressing his grief, Naresh Tewari, Chairman of the All India Plywood Manufacturing Association, said, “I am sad on hearing that Ahmed Bhai has passed away. He was a beacon of professionalism and passion. Let us keep alive his spirit and continue the legacy he has left behind.”

AK Ahmed will be remembered not just as a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist but as a kind-hearted leader whose contributions to business and society have left an indelible mark. His passing is a great loss to the community, but his legacy will continue to inspire many. Ply Gazette pays homage to the noble soul.

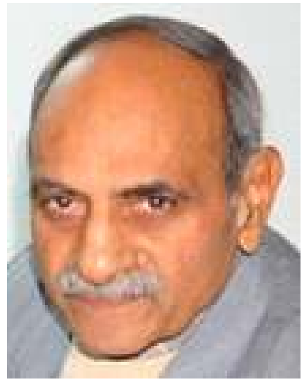
Remembering Vijay Kumar Gupta

The business community and countless others mourn the loss of Vijay Kumar Gupta, a respected entrepreneur and the visionary founder behind some of the most esteemed companies in the plywood and wood products industry. V K Gupta passed away on Sunday, 6th October 2024, at the age of 71, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, integrity, and dedication.

Vijay Kumar Gupta was the driving force behind several successful enterprises, including Ajay Plywood Industries Pvt. Ltd., Vijay Plywood Industries. Known for his humility and generosity, Vijay Kumar Gupta was a man who believed in giving back to the community. His compassionate nature and unwavering support for social causes touched the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ply Gazette remembers the benevolent persona

Commercial Tree Plantations in Haryana



R C Dhiman
Greenlams Industries Ltd.
(Ex-Unit Head Wimco SeedIngs,ITC)
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Commercial plants/trees are those which are grown for sale. Produce from most plants/trees has an overlapping utility in domestic consumption and commercial sale more so in highly populated countries like India where plant based production systems support local communities in meeting their biomass based needs in addition to providing financial support from sale to procure other articles required for sustenance and well being. For the purpose of this paper, commercial trees are those which are grown at a short rotation for sale of their wood. The list includes eucalyptus, poplar, ardu (maharukh), dek/Burma dek, kadam and a few others which are being grown for quite some time in the state and are the major contributor to the bulk of wood supplies to the wood based industry. It also includes some other trees which are being tried based on their better performance in other states and may have a potential to expand in area by creating a space in wood production. Though some of traditional trees like sisso, neem, kikar etc, do have high commercial value for their timber, they are relatively slow growing and considered ecologically sensitive trees which are harvested at moderate to long rotations and hence were not included in the current list discussed here.

Haryana is a small agrarian state which has played a significant role in green revolution. Currently, the state supplies significant quantity of food grains to the public distribution system and is among the major contributors to the central food pool. The state is known for growing specific basmati rice varieties which have high commercial value in the export market. Other commercial grown crops are wheat, sugarcane, cotton, oilseeds, pulses, barley, maize, millet etc. There are also number of commercial fruit trees grown in the state which meet overlapping commercial and domestic nutritional supplement of the people and also improve the greenery and wood production. The state forest department (SFD) has traditionally promoted planting of large number of commercial trees including fruit trees both within and outside recorded forest areas. The management, harvest and sale of produce from trees grown within the recorded forest areas are administered by the state government agencies those include SFD and state forest corporation. The trade of produce of commercial trees grown on farm land is happening in the open wood market in consonance with their demand and supply on regular basis.

Planting stock production facilities

Planting stock production within the state directly reflects the species composition used for making field the plantations. Bulk of the planting stock for field plantations is produced within the state though some stock is procured from outside the state when demand of certain species increases beyond local production. At times, it also moves to the adjoining states when either the local production is surplus or there is better demand and price appreciation in those states. Multiple parties; viz., state forest department, horticulture department, companies, and private nurseries grow planting stock in anticipation of their demand. SFD grow multiple species belonging to forestry and horticulture species, horticulture department grow fruit and medicinal plants/trees, and private sector grows selected commercially important trees.

Figure: One year old Eucalyptus with paddy straw guards coverings against animal damage.
Figure–Poplar based agroforestry, one of ideal tree for tree-crop combination in Agroforestry

Figure: Poplar an ideal tree for agroforestry-Integration of tree with wheat and konch (medicinal plant)

SFD has the largest network of forest nurseries which exit in almost all forest working units to grow planting stock of forest and fruit trees for its own requirement and also for some supply to farmers and others. The state also maintains 3 high-tech clonal production facilities at Seonthi, Bithmara and Yamuna Nagar districts. There was a private clonal production facility for eucalyptus in Ambala District a decade back that could function only for a few years. The planting stock of all the commercial trees is grown in the SFD nurseries but their volume especially that of eucalyptus and poplar is low than market demand. The production potential of eucalyptus clonal facilities is underutilized and the state is able to produce hardly 10% of state demand from these chambers. Private nurseries started coming up around 4 decades back which have now increased in significant number for producing planting stock of selected species. Unlike SFD nurseries, private nurseries are largely single species based, though some of them trade plants of other species by procuring from different sources.

The data of planting stock production was retrieved from the official website of SFD during July 2024 (year of nursery data not mentioned) which reported 2.058 Crore plants in its nurseries of 22 forest divisions (retrieved in July 2024). There are 342 species entries in the database that include forest, fruit, ornamental, shrub and herb species. The forest species in this list includes almost all tree

Boundary plantation of clonal eucalyptus, an ideal tree crop combination for this species

Fig.–Tall plants of Bargad grown in 30X45 cm poly bags. The tree is widely grown in village common places as shade tree

species found in the state i.e., traditional timber species like sal, chir pine, sissoo, neem, kikkar etc; commercially important forest trees like eucalyptus, poplar, dek, ardu etc.; fruit trees like amrood, mango (aam), anar, nimboo, amla etc.; socially, religiously and culturally important species, like peepal, bargad, bel, neem, arjun, etc; medicinal value trees like herd, behra, amla and large number of ornamental and other trees. The inventory of 342 species was grouped in to traditional timber species, commercial grown trees, horticulture/ fruit plants, and others categories. 10 leading traditional timber trees had 73.16 lakh plants with sisoo dominating with 19.52 Lakh (40.35%), arjun with 11.06 Lakh (15.12%) and jamun with 10.65 Lakh (14.56%), and others had less than 10 Lakh planting stock. The rest of the species were grouped under others category in which the dominant species were pahari papri (9.71 lakhs), amaltas (3.94 Lakh), gulmohar (3.13 Lakh), pilkhan 2.47 Lakh, pepal 1.70 Lakh, bargad 1.27 Lakh and miscellaneous as 4.08 Lakh. It also includes shrub and herb species of which chandani was 1.58 Lakh, gulab 2.45 Lakh, gudhil 2.09 Lakh. Commercially grown forest and fruits trees are discussed in detail in the following pages

Production of planting stock of Commercial forest trees

Planting stock of Top 10 commercially important trees in SFD nurseries is reported to be 24.12 Lakh plants (Table-1). There has been some overlapping entry for melia/bakain/Bruma/Malabar teak and these were grouped in one head under melias. Similarly there were 3 entries i.e., safed siris, kala siris and siris which were grouped under albizzias. The main species grown are eucalyptus (11.65 Lakh), poplar (1.46 Lakh), ardu (0.18 Lakh), melias (2.90 Lakh), casuarina (0.49 Lakh), simbal (0.30), toona (0.85), albizzias (5.32 Lakh), silver oak (0.54 Lakh), and kadam (0.42 Lakh). Planting stock of eucalyptus was reported in 16 divisions with maximum being in Yamuna Nagar (3.96 Lakh), Ambala (3.55 Lakh) and Morni-Pinjore (20.7 Lakh) divisions; poplar on the other hand was reported from only 3 divisions viz., Yamuna Nagar (0.95 Lakh), Kurukshetra (0.5 Lakh) and Charkhi Dadri (1000). Albizzias were reported from all the divisions; melia, kadam and silver oak from 20; toona from 15; casuarina from 13; simbal from 11; and ardu from 7 divisions.

Figure: Ardu (maharukh) fast growing native tree. It was one of the main tree for peeling before poplar and eucalyptus culture were established.

Among other commercially important tree species, a very small number of plants were reported for kadam (41905), casuarina (48631), mahogany (3200), teak (2350), chandan (890), gamar (40275) etc. Among albizzias, the share of safed siris was maximum (43.06%), followed by that of black siris (38.38% and siris (18.56%). Similarly share of dek was 49.94% and that of Burma dek as 50.05% in a total planting stock of 290233 number. 3 divisions Fatehabad (27173 No.), Morni.-Pinjore (19340) and Sirsa (41220) had more than 10000 plants of dek whereas Fatehabad (28686), Hisar (21225), Karnal (14240), Nuh (13685) and Panipat (17290) had more than 10000 plants of Burma dek.

Table-1. Planting stock of commercial tree species in SFD nurseries

Division	Euca	Poplar	Ardu	Melias	Casuarina	Simbal	Toona	Albizzias	Silver oak	Kadam	Total
Ambala	355220			4820			1025	1475	4283	75	366898
Bhiwani	9600		7800	1500	1000			68120	5450		93470
C.Dadri	5400	1000	6450	8868	1950		470	49115	130	700	74083
Faridabad	200							21866	522	2041	24629
Fatehabad	4444		500	55859	7300	1100	2685	8700	11872	3850	96310
Gurugram				5470		150		26320	500	35	32475
Hisar				21225	14050	500	100	87879	1400	1350	126504
Jhajjar				14170	965			5227	1583	493	22438
Jind	30650		3350	12450	15	5900		26814	403	3440	83022
Kaithal	21730			5340	120		3200	2250		2390	35030
Karnal	26830		70	22739		4475	8596	6845	4250	5098	78903
K.kshetra	57130	50000		7800			22950	7820	1880	1377	148957
M.garh				7011	50	1300	2300	245	4996	1190	17092
M.-Pinjore	206568			27310	500	2726	6680	9042	7430		260256
Nuh				12695		4101		66389		520	83705
Palwal	10000						1100	15180		2230	28510
Panipat	14100			20840	4114	1000	7290	10110	2200	400	60054
Rewari				864				13105	148	5520	19637
Rohtak	10000			9580	4822		4010	1450	730	25	30617
Sirsa	12800			41220	11745		3300	60523	315	5921	135824
Sonipat	4100			2334	2000	1376	1290	20027	40	140	31307
Y.Nagar	396008	95000		8138		7600	20228	23620	6289	5110	561993
Total	1164780	146000	18170	290233	48631	30228	85224	532122	54421	41905	2411714

Figure -1. Percent share of commercial trees in different divisions

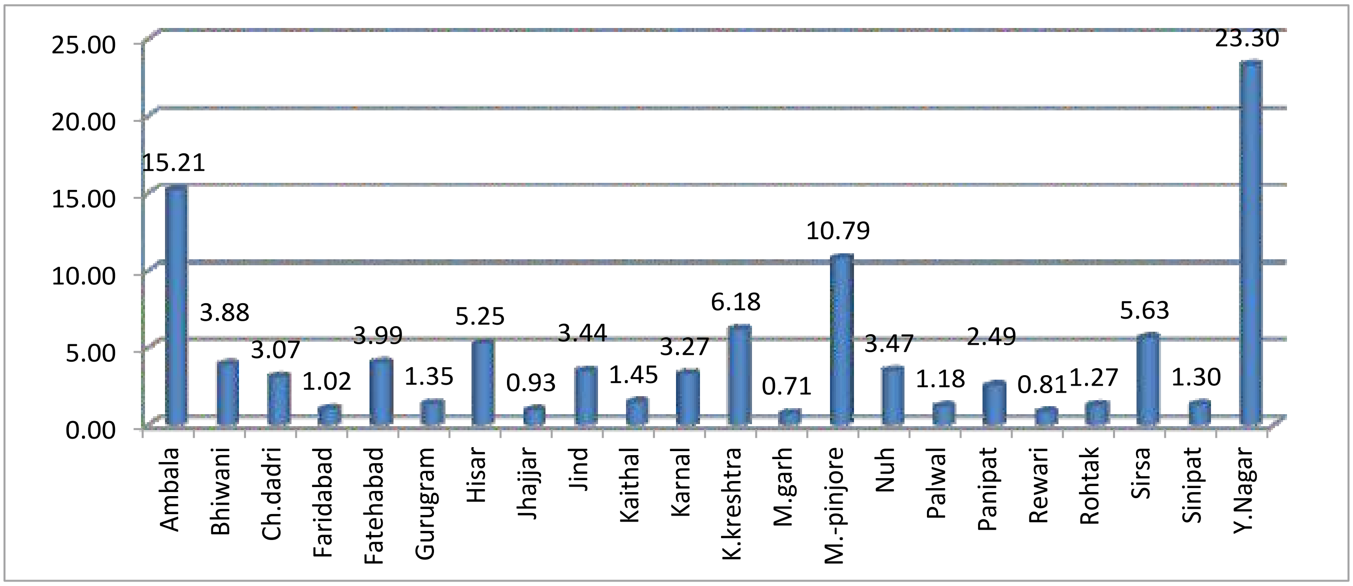
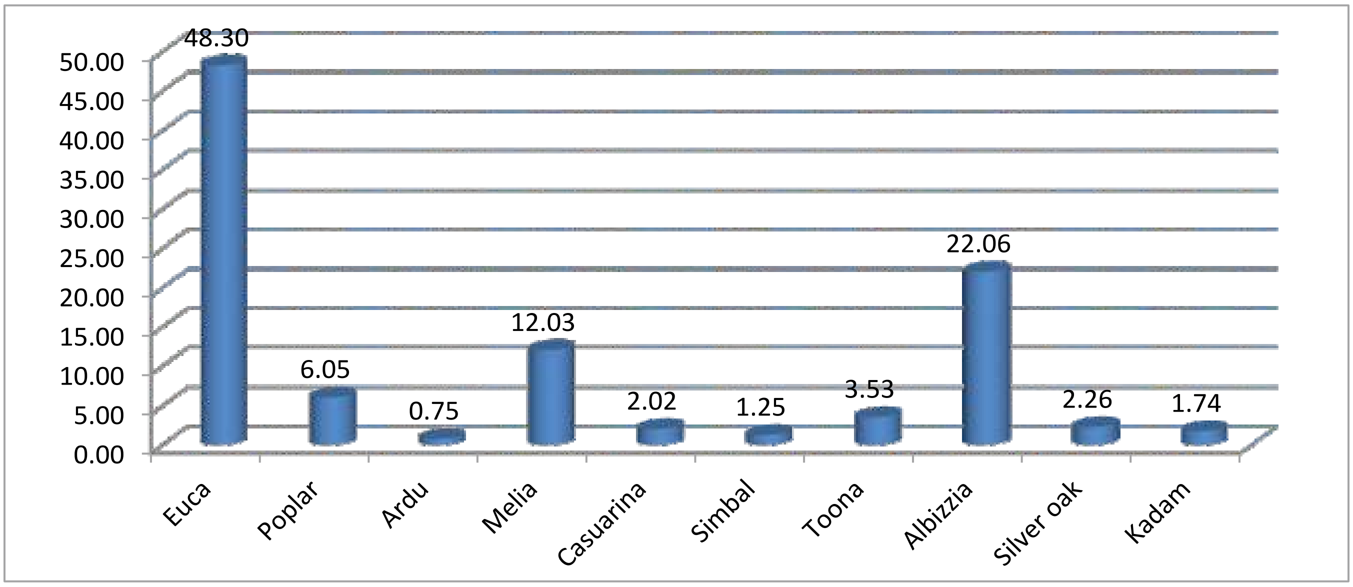


Figure -2. Percent share of individual trees among the commercial trees



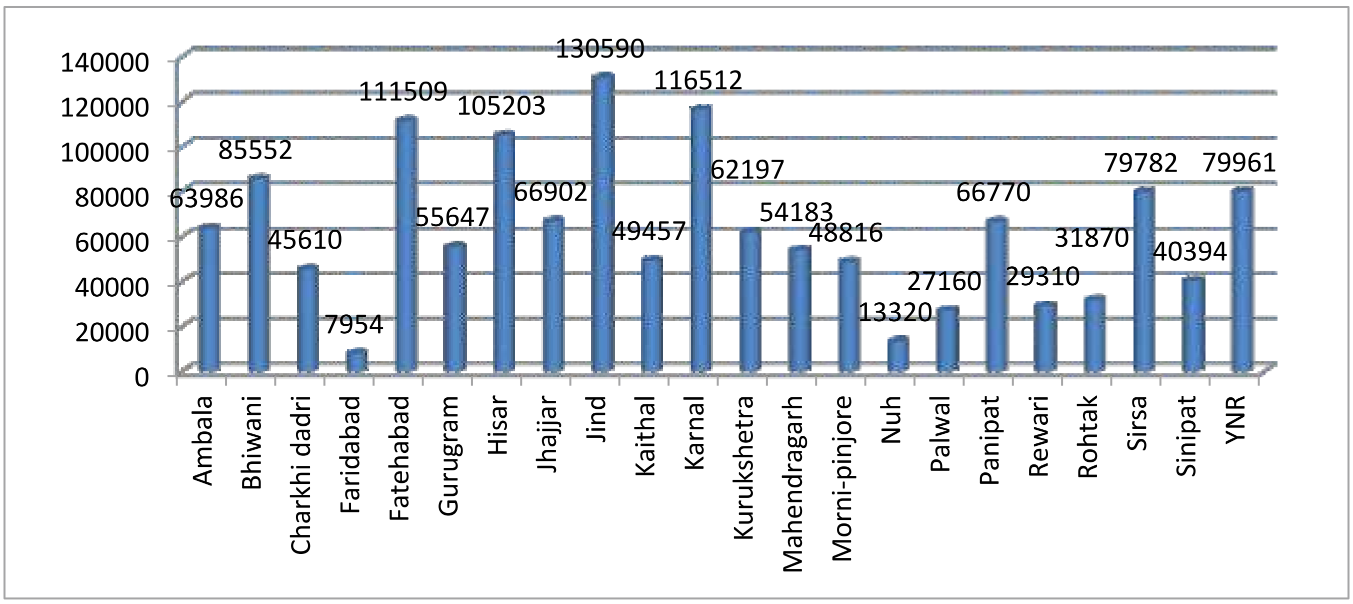
Among the 10 commercial trees, eucalyptus had maximum share of 48.30% followed by albizzias 22.06%, dek 12.03%, and poplar 6.05%.

Commercial Fruit trees

Most SFD nurseries grow planting stock of fruit trees like mango (aam), jamun, guava, peach, apple, amla, anar, lasoora, ber, grapes, lemon, mausomi, papita, bel, karonda, imli, and some others. There were around 18.13 lakhs plants of fruit species grown in different nurseries, out of which 5 major fruit trees viz., amrood, anar, papita, mango and nimboo had collectively around 13 Lakhs. Some fruit trees like dragon fruit, apple etc. had only notional presence in selected divisions. While guava and amla were reported in all the 22 divisions, papita in 21 (except Faridabad), nimboo in 20 (except Sonipat and Faridabad), anar in 21 (except Morni-Pinjore) and mango in 12 divisions (except most southern and western divisions), grapes in 13, and mango in 12 divisions of the state. Out of a total 18.13 lakh plants, amrood had a major share of 52.33% (9.52 Lakh) followed by amla 21.19% (3.97 lakh), anar 7.70% (1.40 Lakh), and nimboo 6.11% (1.24 Lakh) among the major fruit trees. Jind Division had a maximum of 1.31 Lakh plants followed by 1.16 Lakh in Karnal and 1.12 Lakh in Fatehabad division with minimum of 7954 plants of fruit trees in Faridabad.

Figure: Ridge planting in saline soils. White patches of accumulated salt visible along the ridges

Figure -3. Percent share of major fruit trees in different divisions.



Private nurseries

Private sector is the major contributor to the supply of planting stock of some commercially important trees viz., poplar, eucalyptus and melias. Unlike SFD, private nurseries are largely single species based, though some of them trade plants of other species by procuring from different sources. Private nurseries started developing in the state when poplar programme promoted by Wimco was extended here during early 1980's. Initially, Wimco created poplar nurseries in Yamunanagar and Karnal districts which subsequently expanded to a few other districts. Wimco/Wimco Seedlings was the single major producer of poplar saplings in the state till 1995 when the company was promoting its poplar programme under contract farming model. On termination of the contract farming model in 1995, Its staff and workers associated with nursery production get separated and started their own private nurseries leading to gradual increase in volume over the years. Currently, ex-Wimcoites are the major producer of poplar saplings followed by Wimco Seedlings, other nursery growers, and last being the SFD. Private nurseries also trade planting stock of eucalyptus, Burma dek and some other species in the state. Currently, around 1 to 1.3 Crore poplar saplings are being grown with major stock is likely to be planted within state and some will move to adjoining states. Wimco Seedlings, ITC supply clonal eucalyptus from its propagation facilities in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand and Pragati Biotech from Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Bulk of eucalyptus clonal plants planted in the state are procured by various agencies including SFD from Andhra Pradesh. Planting stock of some other species like clonal Burma dek, teak etc is also procured from outside the state.

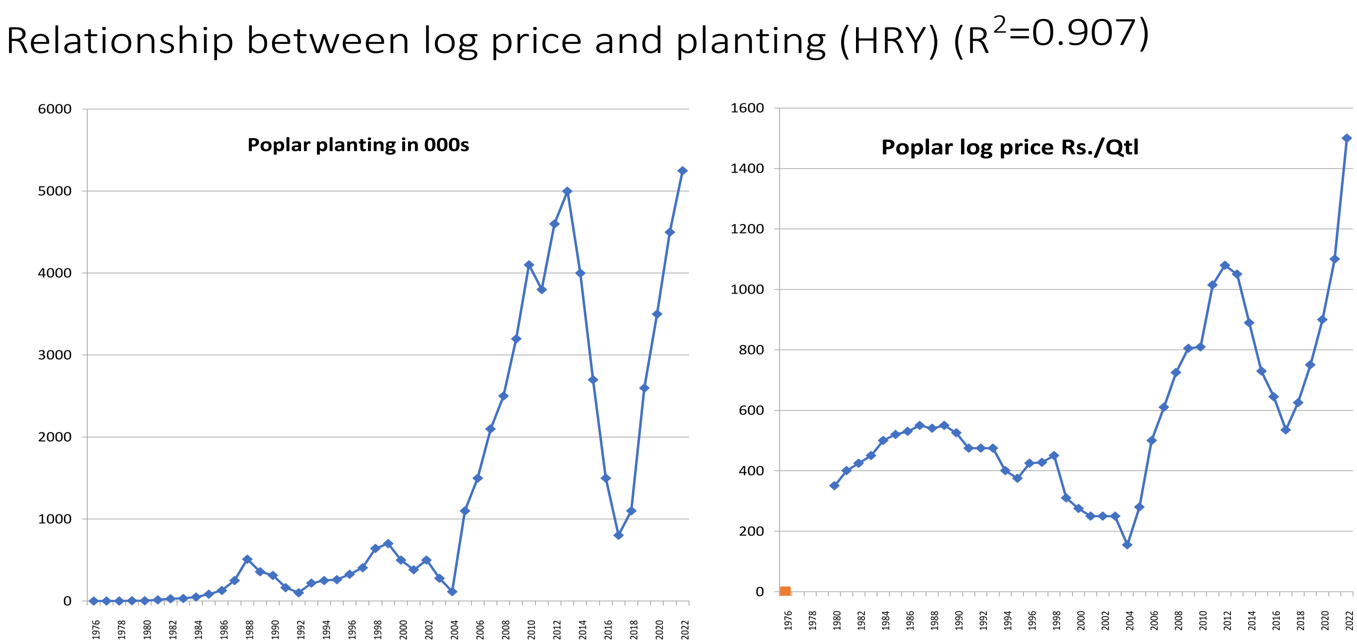
Plantation activities

Eucalyptus and poplar are the two well established commercial trees which have been extensively grown in the state during the last 4 decades. These are supporting a very large set of WBI both within and outside state. Currently eucalyptus is the top planted tree n the country and also in the state and it is planted in all the districts of the state. It was initially planted by the SFD on forest and institutional land long back. It made entry in to the farm land during mid 1970s when it was promoted for firewood production. The tree was gradually adopted by the farmers and became popular for producing packing cases for fruit and vegetable industry in Himachal Pradesh and also for supply of poles (ballies) to different locations and states. Also, its utilization base expanded to construction, furniture, charcoal production, firewood and host of other activities. Currently, the major utilization of its wood is in pulpwood and panel products. Its culture quickly shifted from seed origin plantations to selected clones which significantly enhanced its productivity and economical returns to growers. Around 1 Crore eucalyptus plants especially of clonal origin were planted during last year (2023-24) and there is heavy demand for its planting stock for fresh planting this year.

Poplar is extensively planted in Yamuna Nagar and in some adjoining districts of the state. First poplar plantation was established by planting 2000 saplings in Kalsia Farm in Yamuna Nagar District during 1975. Poplar plantations gradually expanded thereafter both in geographical locations and clonal mix. The tree is now life line for plywood industry in Haryana and North India. During 2023-24, 65-70 Lakh poplar saplings were planted whereas the number was around 50 Lakh saplings during 2011-12. Poplar is a model trees for planting in agrofoerstry and 52% of its plantations are reported in compact blocks and 48% on farm boundaries in the state.

Plantations trends of these 2 extremely important commercial trees witnessed annual and periodical variations due to market wood prices and government polices related to wood based industry and tree culture. For example, poplar wood prices dropped to the low-end range three times around 1995, 2004 and 2017 and plantation activities were very low during those periods. Once the wood prices start increasing, plantation activity also start expanding with every incremental increase in wood prices. Figure-4 below is drawn based on tracked poplar wood prices at Yamuna Nagar mandi and plantations made within the state till 2022. Poplar planting in the state varied from around a couple of Lakhs during 2003-04 when its wood prices were very low (Rs. 300/qtl) to an all-time high of around 65-70 lakh plants last year (2023-24) when its wood rates touched the upper price band of Rs. 1800/qtl, which was the highest recorded so far.

Figure-4. Relationship between planting number and wood prices (Rs./Qtl).



Ardu (maharukh) and simbal (semal) are 2 other important commercial trees which had a significant supply to safety match and plywood industries in the past when eucalyptus and poplars were not in picture. These two species were and are still being planted by SFD as is evident from their significant number in the planting stock inventory in its nurseries, mentioned above. Of these, the visibility of simbal has fast declined in many field locations whereas ardu still exists in many locations as it is well integrated with panel industry in some locations especially towards the border area of Rajasthan. There has been increased interest for Burma dek to produce good quality veneers. The tree has yet to make a significant impact in the state as only a few thousand plants are annually planted by the state farmers. Dek (bakain) was aggressively planted during the 1st decade when there were some resistance for eucalyptus and poplar planting due to crash in their wood prices. According to some estimates, it once constituted around 20% share in AF after poplar and eucalyptus in those days. Its wood has largely been used for making low quality furniture and as such did not find much favour in panel industry. Dek is now gradually getting relegated to low visibility and Burma dek has yet to compete with poplar and eucalyptus. Some other commercially important trees having some visibility in field and also in nurseries of SFD are kadam, albizzias, toon, teak, chandan, gmar and mahogany in isolated cases. Of these, siris (albizzias) has a significant share in plantations and nurseries but is largely used by the local artisans for domestic wood working. Kala siris (lebbek) and toon have good potential of being useful raw material for producing brown veneers which is much favored color in plywood industry.

The most recent tree inventory reported number of trees recorded on non-forest land during 2023 and is called as "Tree Census" which was done first time in the state. It reported data sets of 13 dominant species and all others were grouped under Misc. spp. Of these, eucalyptus and poplar were two dominant trees which are well connected with wood based market. District-wise No. of these two trees is given in Table-2 which indicate eucalyptus No. to be 10217705 and that of poplar as 4722980. Both these trees have been recorded in all the districts of state. Each of the 3 districts viz., Yamunanagar, Ambala and Jind had individually over 10% of eucalyptus trees and over 46% collectively in the state. Ambala had maximum number of 2468209 trees (24.16%) followed by 1208199 (11.82%) in Yamuna Nagar and 1084274 (10.61%) eucalyptus trees in Jind

District. Poplar trees from this census are reported mainly from 4 districts which are located in and around Yamuna river. Bulk of poplar (97.5) in the state is reported to be grown in Yamuna Nagar (85.36%), Ambala (6.67%), Panipat (4.18%) and Karnal (1.31%). All other districts collectively were reported to have just 2.5% of poplar trees, each of them individually had less than 1% poplar (Table -2) of that existed in the state.

Table- 2. District wise eucalyptus and poplar trees in the state

District	Eucalytus		Poplar		Total	
	No.	% in state	No.	% in state	No.	% in state
YNR	1208199	11.82	4031639	85.36	5239850	35.07
Ambala	2468209	24.16	315059	6.67	2783292	18.63
Jind	1084274	10.61	2703	0.06	1086988	7.28
Hisar	785284	7.69	9895	0.21	795187	5.32
Panipat	531021	5.20	197632	4.18	728658	4.88
Sonepat	668375	6.54	11026	0.23	679408	4.55
Karnal	532079	5.21	61744	1.31	593828	3.97
Kaithal	522949	5.12	1658	0.04	524612	3.51
Sirsa	434880	4.26	7169	0.15	442053	2.96
Fatehabad	392186	3.84	1460	0.03	393650	2.63
Kurukshetra	346332	3.39	40808	0.86	387143	2.59
Rohtak	303791	2.97	2892	0.06	306686	2.05
Jhajjar	218628	2.14	1354	0.03	219984	1.47
Panchkula	198258	1.94	15891	0.34	214151	1.43
Bhiwani	159934	1.57	617	0.01	160553	1.07
Charkhi Dadri	133510	1.31	232	0.00	133743	0.90
Palwal	109717	1.07	13923	0.29	123641	0.83
Faridabad	37170	0.36	3359	0.07	40529	0.27
Nuh	34677	0.34	1790	0.04	36467	0.24
Rewari	27935	0.27	1640	0.03	29575	0.20
Gurugram	16463	0.16	387	0.01	16850	0.11
Mahendragarh	3834	0.04	102	0.00	3936	0.03
G. Total	**10217705**	**100.00**	**4722980**	**100.00**	**14940785**	**100.00**

All other commercial trees had small numbers as such have been grouped under Miscellaneous category (Table-3). Amm (mango), amla, amrood are largely for commercial fruit cultivation with the share of jamun largely for wood production and a little for fruit production. Among others, the share of plantation is likely high in case of sisoo, kikar, neem and papdi had significant numbers.

Table-3. Species wise No. and volume of different trees in the state (Tree Census)

Species	No.	%	Vol. (cum)	
Bargad	97116	0.24	90147	0.59
Pipal	326612	0.79	328137	2.15
Pilkhan	67133	0.16	34510	0.23
Sisoo	2958895	7.18	987839	6.48
kikar	2024410	4.91	713516	4.68
Neem	3021575	7.33	926903	6.08
Aam	317487	0.77	188428	1.24
Amrood	427113	1.04	35787	0.23
Jamun	495759	1.20	206432	1.35
Amla	186534	0.45	33810	0.22
Papdi	1232122	2.99	229007	1.50
Euca	10217705	24.80	5685926	37.30
Poplar	4712980	11.44	412298	2.70
Misc	15111813	36.68	5372699	35.24
Total	41197254	100.00	15245638	100.00

Fruit tree plantations

Fruit trees are largely grown on farmland for overlapping produce that includes fruits and wood. Forest Survey of India in its biannual TOFs inventories includes these trees for estimating the green cover, growing stock and potential wood availability in the state and country. SFD regularly raises and promotes planting of fruit/wild fruit species in significant number. The state had an area of 69139 ha under fruit trees with 1010488 tone fruit production during 2022-23. The area under fruit trees has increased from 0.42% in 1966-67 8.23% of state's geographical area in 2020-21. The top 7 districts are Sirsa with 3528.55 ha (40.83%), Yamuna Nagar with 1649.45 ha (19.09%), Ambala with 659.92 ha (7.64%), Hisar with 531.19 ha (6.15%), and Bhiwani with 492.64 ha (5.70%). Bottom 3 districts which have below state average of fruit tree plantations are: Panipat 38.42 ha (0.39%), Jind with 33.28 ha (0.39%), Rewari with 39.38 ha (0.46%). SFD has also initiated a scheme of making grafted fruit plantations on 10 % of the Panchayat land available in the state. Panchayats in the state own a total of 3.5 lakh hectare land and out of which, 10% i.e., nearly 80000 acre will be used for this purpose. A plantation on one acre land is likely to cost an amount of Rs 25 lakh which will be borne by the forest department in which the planted fruits will be sole property of the Panchayats.

Plantation Volumes and Schemes

During the beginning of the current century, the plantation schemes for waterlogged areas and pollution control along highways were implemented using clonal eucalyptus. The planting of clonal eucalyptus was also taken up on the farmlands of small and marginal farmers free of cost to promote tree farming and to improve their income. Currently, the state is implementing "Van Mitra Scheme" under which subsidy is given on planting and maintaining trees. Trees are also now being planted under "Ek Per Maa ke Naam" scheme initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister this year. Eucalyptus is one of the major trees planted under such schemes.

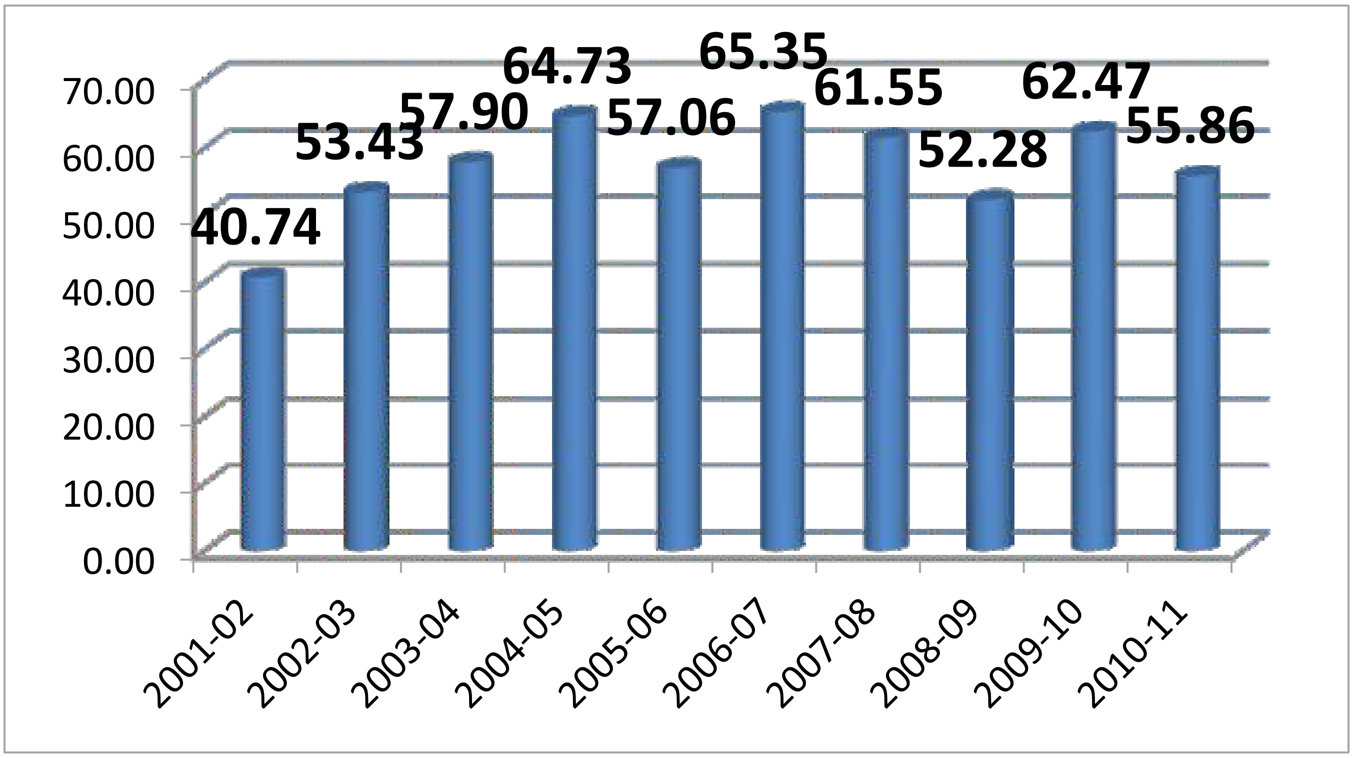
Planting trees is a regular activity every year. However, the number of plants planted, schemes, sub-schemes, fund sourcing, species compositions and tree growers' interest are constantly changing. The number of planted plants varied from over 5 Crore/year to just over 1 Crore/year. The names of schemes and sub-schemes under which tree plantations are made during different years go on changing/merging with time based on many factors of which fund sourcing and state needs are important. Commercially important trees form major share in plantations undertaken on farmland and community land. During 2018-19, 1.34 Crore saplings were planted under different plantation schemes (departmental plantations – 0.97 Crore, distribution of saplings - 0.37 Crore). Out of a total of 12398.99 ha, an area of 5866.79 ha was covered under Community Forestry Programme in which the share of Clonal and Non-clonal agroforestry (eucalypts clones) was maximum of 53.01% and that of FF seed (21.81%). If both the FF clonal and FF seed are put together, the contribution of farm forestry (FF) was three-fourths (75%) indicating that this scheme immensely helped in promoting the eucalyptus culture among the farmers in the state.

The state is regularly supplying plants as free and/or at subsidized rates to farmers. A data set available between 2001-02 to 2010-11 indicates 42% (193.96 Lakh) plants were planted by the SFD itself and 58% were supplied to tree growers free of cost (Table -4). The share of free supply of plants to farmers varied from a low of 40.74% in 2001-02 to a high of 65.35% in 2006-07 (Figure-4). The name of some other schemes and area covered with predominantly commercial trees is given in Table-4 (source Annual Administrative Reports)

Table-4. Some schemes which were based on planting of mainly eucalyptus and poplar commercial trees

Sr. No.	Schemes	2015-16 (Ha+RKm)	2018-19 (Ha+RKm)
1	Development of Agroforestry clonal and non-clonal	4657.15+0	5866+0
2	Special component plan for SC/ Forestry activities in SC villages	2571.03+0	
3	Social and farm forestry	2290.65+0	
4	Greenbelt in urban forestry	0+593.39	0+537.40
5	Extension forestry (Rail, Road & Canal)	28.00+2337.36	
6	Strip plantations on govt. land	0+3060	
7	Railway line plantation (Jind to Sonipat)		0+107.50
8	Wood based Industries	750+0	400+149
	Total	10296.86+5990.75	6266+793.9

Figure-4. Share of plants (mainly eucalyptus and some poplar) supplied to farmers



Bulk of plantations (>80%) made under forest category has been on Protected Forests (PF) and all other categories had less than 20% of planting in the state. Under the PF category a major share of 42.11% plants was in roadside plantations, followed by 33.34% in canal side, 20.73% in compact blocks, 2.35% along bundhs and 1.47% in rail sides. Out of a total of 1.16 Crore plants planted in different categories of non forest land (NFL); 43.70Lakh (37.82%) were on farmland, 32.62Lakh (28.23%) on private land, 27.30 Lakh (23.62%) on Panchayat land, 6.98 Lakh (6.04%) on any other land, 4.34 Lakh (3.75%) on institutional land, and 62100 (0.54%) on community land. Major share of plants under these schemes was that of eucalyptus both clonal and seed origin. In Agroforestry plantations, poplar was preferred in Yamuna Nagar and adjoining districts.

Conclusion

The State of Haryana is a small agrarian state with a geographical area of 44,212 Km2 that lies south of the Indian Himalayas with two ecologically highly sensitive and smaller parts viz., northern zone merging with Siwalik hills and the southern one with the Aravalli hills along with desert of Rajasthan. Natural forests occur in Siwalik, hills, Aravali hills and a few other locations, whereas in other locations farm grown trees and scattered tree occurring on non forest land are themajor green spots. All efforts till date could help in maintaining tree and forest cover of just 6.0% as per last FSI biannual report. It varied from 5.78, 5.48, 5.64, 5.79, 6.32, and 6% during 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021 report respectively. The forest and tree cover is far behind its committed target of 20%. Yamuna Nagar is the only district in the state which has reasonable area under forest and tree cover i.e., 43.66% of the geographical area, this district thus meets the required target of 20% forest and tree cover as suggested in the Indian Forest Policy 1988 and State Forest Policy 2006. Two other districts, viz., Faridabad (10.69%) and Yamunanagar (10.92%) have forest cover and tree cover above 10% of geographical area. Three districts viz., Gurugram (9.04%), Mahendragarh (5.44%) and Mewat (7.33%) have forest cover ranging from 5% to 10% of geographical area. Many districts having a very low per cent of forest and tree cover are Fatehabad (0.73%), Palwal (1%), Panipat (1.3%), Rohtak (1.17%), Sirsa (1.36%), Sonipat (1.04%), Hisar (1.44%) and some other districts. The only hope to increase state's forest and tree cover is to expand it on farm and other land outside recorded forest areas for which commercially grown trees are a great hope to expand with expanding wood based industry.

Russia Eyes India for Timber Trade Expansion amid Ukraine Sanctions

As Western sanctions over the Ukraine conflict continue to choke off its traditional timber markets, Russia is turning to India, a rapidly growing economy, as a key outlet for its lumber exports. Though India currently accounts for just 3% of Russia's timber trade, this figure is expected to rise significantly, with Russia's largest timber exporter, Segezha Group, leading the charge.

Russia, which exported over $3 billion worth of timber to the EU before sanctions, now finds itself heavily reliant on China, with 90% of its lumber heading there. However, the ongoing geopolitical situation has prompted Russian exporters to diversify, and India, one of the few major economies without sanctions on Russian forest products, presents a lucrative opportunity.

Segezha Group, responsible for more than 30% of Russia's timber exports, is pushing for a 50% increase in trade with India compared to 2022 levels. According to Nikolai Ivanov, Segezha Group's Vice President for External Relations, the company plans to expand beyond its existing plywood trade to include wooden house kits, biofuel, and wood pellets.

Addressing the Eastern Economic Forum, Ivanov described this as the beginning of a long-term strategy, although the current volumes remain modest compared to the market's potential. Segezha is also advocating for the reduction of India's steep import tariffs—30% on Russian plywood and 10% on paper, as well as for lower logistics costs, which Ivanov said must be kept under 20% to maintain profitability.

If successful, the partnership could see up to 50 million cubic metres of Russian timber exported to India annually, equivalent to 25% of Russia's total timber harvest. This would help India meet its growing demand for plywood, lumber, and logs, which has surged with the country's booming construction industry.

Indian imports of Russian lumber quadrupled in the first half of 2024, reaching 22,000 cubic metres, although this still represents just 2.2% of the country's total lumber imports. Plywood imports from Russia also grew 17% during the same period, but again remain a small portion of the market, at just 1% of India's overall plywood imports.

Russia isn't alone in targeting India's timber market. The U.S. has also increased its exports to the country, shipping 116,000 cubic metres of softwood lumber from the West Coast in 2023. With Indian demand for timber projected to soar by 70% by 2030, driven by a construction boom, Russia is betting big on India to offset its losses in the West and tap into one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Australia Cracks Down on Illegal Timber at Ports: 10% Targeted!

In a bold move to combat illegal logging, the Australian Government is tightening regulations to enhance timber traceability and enforcement. This initiative aligns with global efforts to ensure sustainable and legal timber supply chains.

Key Points:

- Tackling Illegal Timber: Up to 10% of timber entering Australian ports is estimated to be illegal. The government is stepping up to safeguard the industry from the harmful effects of illegal logging, which costs billions in lost revenue and environmental damage.

- Stronger Legislation: The Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Bill 2024 aims to boost enforcement, enabling authorities to seize non-compliant timber and publicly disclose violations at ports.

- Tech Investment: Australia is investing $4.4 million in DNA testing to create the world's largest forest identification database (WFID), improving the verification of timber origins and reducing fraud in the supply chain.

- Call to Action: Industry stakeholders had time until Friday, 13th September, 2024, to provide feedback on the new Bill.

- Alliances: Nations can collaborate on international agreements, joint monitoring, and sharing best practices to combat illegal logging and promote sustainable forestry globally.

- Other technology: Technology, such as blockchain, GPS tracking, and digital databases, enhances timber traceability by ensuring transparency and verifying timber origin to prevent illegal logging.

United States Wood-Bamboo Composite Flooring Market Overview by Application

The market for wood-bamboo composite flooring in the U.S. is segmented by application, with residential use leading the market. This is largely driven by homeowners' increasing preference for sustainable and eco-friendly flooring options. This segment includes installations in single-family homes, apartments, and condominiums, where durability and aesthetic appeal are highly valued.

Market Segmentation by Application

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Sports Facilities
- Others

The commercial sector also represents a significant portion of the market, providing flooring solutions for offices, retail spaces, hospitality venues, and educational institutions. The demand here is fueled by the need for durable, visually appealing materials suited for high-traffic environments. Industrial applications focus on flooring solutions for manufacturing facilities and warehouses, benefiting from the longevity and easy maintenance of wood-bamboo composites.

Key Manufacturers in the United States Wood-Bamboo Composite Flooring Market

- Yoyu
- Dasso
- Jiangxi Feiyu
- Eco Bamboo & Wood
- Tengda
- Jiangxi Shanyou
- Sinohcon
- Tianzhen

- Kang Ti Long
- Huayu
- Kangda
- Kanger Group
- Zhutao
- Jiangxi Lvbao
- US Floors Inc
- Teragren
- Bamboo Hardwoods

Future Outlook for the United States Wood-Bamboo Composite Flooring Market

The future of the U.S. wood-bamboo composite flooring market looks promising yet complex. Expected advancements in technology and market dynamics are set to reshape the landscape, presenting new growth and innovation opportunities. Stakeholders will need strategic foresight and adaptability to effectively navigate emerging trends within this evolving market.

Regional Analysis of the United States Wood-Bamboo Composite Flooring Market

The wood-bamboo composite flooring market in the U.S. displays varied regional consumer preferences and dynamics. North America is characterised by strong demand for innovative products driven by technological advancements. Meanwhile, Latin America is witnessing growth as consumer awareness of the benefits of wood-bamboo composite flooring increases. Overall, regional analyses reveal diverse opportunities for market expansion and product innovation.

Here's a primer about the Wood-Bamboo Composite Flooring Market

What is wood-bamboo composite flooring?

It is a flooring option that combines wood and bamboo materials, offering durability and sustainability.

What factors drive the growth of the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Key drivers include rising consumer preference for eco-friendly flooring, demand for attractive materials, and increasing awareness of the benefits of wood-bamboo composites.

What challenges does the wood-bamboo composite flooring market face?

Challenges include high manufacturing costs, limited raw material availability, and competition from other flooring materials.

Which regions are likely to dominate the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Regions like Asia Pacific, North America, and Europe are expected to lead due to increasing construction activities and a preference for sustainable materials.

What are key trends in the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Key trends include innovative installation methods, development of high-performance composite materials, and product customisation.

What types of wood-bamboo composite flooring are available?

Available types include solid wood-bamboo composite, engineered wood-bamboo composite, and strand woven wood-bamboo composite.

What are the main applications of wood-bamboo composite flooring?

Key applications span residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

What environmental benefits does wood-bamboo composite flooring offer?

Benefits include a reduced carbon footprint, sustainable raw material sourcing, and recyclability.

How do government regulations impact the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Regulations promoting sustainable construction and eco-friendly materials significantly influence the market.

What are consumer preferences in the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Consumers prefer wood-bamboo flooring for its durability, aesthetic appeal, and eco-friendliness, with purchasing decisions influenced by price, quality, and brand reputation.

What opportunities exist for new entrants in the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Opportunities include product innovation, partnerships with raw material suppliers, and entry into emerging markets.

How is the distribution and sales channel for wood-bamboo composite flooring organised?

Channels include direct sales, distributors, retailers, and e-commerce platforms.

What factors influence pricing strategies in the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Pricing is influenced by raw material costs, manufacturing processes, competition, and consumer demand.

How do technological advancements impact the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Advances in production, design, and installation methods are driving market growth.

What risks and challenges do investors face in the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

Investors encounter risks like fluctuating raw material prices, regulatory changes, and market competition.

How are consumer preferences and lifestyle changes impacting the wood-bamboo flooring market?

Trends toward sustainable, low-maintenance flooring and modern minimalistic interiors influence the market.

What are the future prospects for the wood-bamboo composite flooring market?

The market is expected to thrive due to growing eco-consciousness, sustainable construction trends, and technological advancements.

How can businesses use market research data for strategic decisions?

Businesses can leverage data to identify growth opportunities, understand competitive dynamics, assess consumer preferences, and develop effective marketing and expansion strategies.

Expert Insights on the Birch Plywood Market and Sanctions

A recent webinar organised by the European Panel Federation and the Polish Association of Wood-Based Panel Producers on 10th September, 2024, addressed significant challenges within the plywood market, particularly concerning the illegal importation of Russian and Belarusian birch products into the EU. The session gathered 300 participants who were provided with the latest market data, updates on the legal landscape, and potential strategies for ensuring responsible sourcing across Europe. A key takeaway was the consensus that regulations are only as effective as their enforcement.

Challenges Faced by European Producers

Jaroslaw Michniuk, a board member of the European Panel Federation and CEO of Paged Morag and Paged Meble, opened the session by highlighting the severe issues confronting European birch plywood producers. He noted that illegal imports are being offered at prices that are unsustainable for local manufacturers. While there is a need for increased production capacity, ongoing market distortions hinder necessary investments.

Market Historical Context

Martins Lacis, another board member of the European Panel Federation and Chair of the Plywood Product Group, shared valuable historical context and examined how illegal imports disrupt market stability and impact the European wood industry. He presented a timeline of key events that have influenced the birch plywood market in the EU and UK.

From 2018 to 2021, several EU production facilities had to close or halt investments due to an oversupply of Russian products, leading to a 10% drop in EU birch plywood production in 2020. Investigations by the European Commission resulted in anti-dumping duties. Following the onset of the war in Ukraine, imports of Russian and Belarusian wood products were banned in 2022, leading to a 12% increase in EU production that year, only to see a subsequent decline of 4% in 2023, alongside a concerning 19% share of illicit imports. The introduction of a new trade systematic (HS) code for birch plywood has allowed for better tracking of these products. However, ongoing sanctions and economic stagnation continue to strain the EU market, with rumours of companies from Kazakhstan and Turkey attempting to bypass regulations.

Emerging Trade Flows

Lacis pointed out that sanctions have prompted new import trade flows of birch plywood from traditional producing countries like Kazakhstan and Moldova, as well as countries lacking sufficient local birch resources, such as Turkey, Georgia, China, Vietnam, and Ghana. Notably, exports of Russian birch plywood to some of these countries have risen sharply.

In 2023, Russian plywood exports, which are predominantly birch, reached approximately 1.5 million cubic metres. Egypt was the largest importer with 337,000 cubic metres, followed by China (244,000 cubic metres), Turkey (196,000 cubic metres), and others.

Concerns Over Quality and Illicit Imports

The first quarter of 2024 saw a significant rise in imports from China and a doubling of imports from Uzbekistan compared to the same period in 2023. Lacis raised alarms regarding the increasing density of birch plywood products from China, which typically feature very thin birch top layers. Claims that the birch stems from the Baltics are not supported by statistics, and the volume required would be unachievable.

There are concerns that documentation of origin is being illegally copied for several shipments, prompting a Latvian forest owner to initiate investigations. Lacis concluded that while there may be slight relief from Kazakhstan and Turkey, the increasing density of Chinese products and the heightened trade between Russia, Egypt, and Uzbekistan remain troubling. It is estimated that about 16% of plywood in the EU market is still illicit, with lingering stocks of "unsaleable" birch plywood bearing false trademarks.

Anti-Circumvention Efforts and Legal Frameworks

Yuriy Rudyuk, a partner at Van Bael & Bellis, discussed the legal frameworks governing timber trade and the implications of non-compliance. He highlighted the anti-circumvention investigations conducted by the European Commission concerning imports from Kazakhstan and Turkey, which were initiated at the request of several leading EU producers. None of the investigated companies could prove they were not involved in circumvention practices, leading to an

The first quarter of 2024 saw a significant rise in imports from China and a doubling of imports from Uzbekistan compared to the same period in 2023

extension of the original 15.8% duty to imports from both countries without exception. Additionally, retroactive duties amounting to nearly €10 million were collected for imports registered during the investigation period up until August 2024. Common circumvention practices included transshipment and minimal modifications to Russian-origin products.

Rudyuk emphasised the need for rapid detection of similar developments, noting that the European Commission is now employing a near-real-time monitoring system to scrutinise suspicious trade flows early.

Stricter Sanction Regulations

Rudyuk also clarified the current sanctions against Russian wood product imports into the EU. Since June 2024, it has been explicitly prohibited to knowingly engage in activities that circumvent these regulations. He noted that enforcement varies across member states, with penalties ranging from administrative fines to potential prison sentences for individuals and confiscation of assets for companies. The European Commission aims to standardise these measures. According to a directive from April 2024, individuals providing financial services or facilitating trade for designated persons could face imprisonment for up to five years, while companies could incur fines ranging from 1% to 5% of global turnover or specific amounts between €8 million and €40 million. Member states must incorporate these regulations into national law by May 2025.

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) also prohibits imports of wood products linked to combat or sanctions, including birch plywood from Russia and Belarus, with strict penalties such as immediate suspension of trading authorisation.

Innovative Solutions for Timber Tracing

Victor Deklerck, Director of Science at World Forest ID, introduced attendees to the organisation's advanced timber tracing technology designed to verify the legality and sustainability of wood products. This innovative solution utilises isotope and soil analysis to create a 20 km resolution map, enabling the detection of false origin declarations in most cases. The project is expanding to cover more regions and wood species, aiming to encompass the most common varieties soon.

World Furniture Expo 2024:

A Premier Platform for Global Furniture and Design Innovation

The World Furniture Expo 2024, taking place from 5th to 7th December at the Bombay Exhibition Center, Mumbai, is a premier platform for the global furniture and design industry to come together and collaborate. As India's only dedicated international B2B marketplace for furniture and design, it offers an unparalleled opportunity for professionals from various sectors—home, office, outdoor, modular, kids, institutional, handcrafted, and more—to network, share insights, and explore the latest trends. With the core theme of Converge, Connect, Collaborate, the expo aims to foster partnerships and innovations that elevate design standards while promoting sustainability in the rapidly evolving furniture market.

The event is a comprehensive showcase featuring categories like home and office furniture, modular designs, kids' furniture, institutional solutions, handcrafted pieces, and decor. Attendees will have access to industry insights, workshops, and networking opportunities, making it a must-attend for those looking to stay ahead in the furniture industry. Organised by Worldex India, this B2B event offers a fertile ground for forming new business connections, discovering innovative designs, and engaging with the future of furniture. With diverse exhibitors and a strong focus on collaboration, the World Furniture Expo 2024 is set to be a landmark event in the global furniture and design space.

सैंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स

प्लाईवुड उत्पादन क्षमता को 30% तक बढ़ाएगी

सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स (इंडिया) अगले 12 से 15 महीनों में अपनी प्लाईवुड उत्पादन क्षमता को लगभग 30% तक बढ़ाने की योजना बना रही है, जिसके लिए लगभग 140 करोड़ रुपये का पूंजी निवेश किया जाएगा। इस विस्तार में ग्रीनफील्ड और ब्राउनफील्ड दोनों तरह की परियोजनाएँ शामिल होंगी, साथ ही पंजाब, उत्तर प्रदेश, ओडिशा या आंध्र प्रदेश में एक नई सुविधा स्थापित करने की योजना है।

सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स के कार्यकारी निदेशक केशव भजंका ने बताया कि कंपनी फिलहाल एक नई सुविधा विकसित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही है, जिसमें करीब 100 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश शामिल होगा। स्थान पर अंतिम निर्णय व्यावसायिक व्यवहार्यता पर निर्भर करेगा। नई सुविधा के अलावा, सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स अपने मौजूदा स्थलों पर संतुलन उपकरण और अपग्रेडिंग मशीनरी को शामिल करके ब्राउनफील्ड विस्तार को लागू कर रही है।

वर्तमान में, सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स की प्लाईवुड उत्पादन क्षमता 339,600 क्यूबिक मीटर प्रति वर्ष है, जिसका उपयोग इस वित्तीय वर्ष की पहली तिमाही में लगभग 75% रहा है। भारत में प्लाईवुड बाजार का अनुमान लगभग 27,500 करोड़ रुपये है, जिसमें संगठित खिलाड़ियों का इस बाजार पर लगभग 30% हिस्सा है। सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स का कुल प्लाईवुड बाजार में 8% और संगठित क्षेत्र में लगभग 25-30% हिस्सा है।

संगठित प्लाईवुड बाजार में सालाना उच्च एकल अंकों में वृद्धि हो रही है, और कंपनी को उम्मीद है कि अगले छह से सात वर्षों में उद्योग का आकार दोगुना हो जाएगा। भजनका ने कहा, "हमारा उद्देश्य उद्योग की तुलना में तेज़ी से बढ़ना है, 10% से अधिक की वृद्धि को लक्षित करना है, जिससे निश्चित रुप से हमारी बाजार हिस्सेदारी बढ़ेगी।"

बढ़ती इनपुट लागत के जवाब में, कंपनी ने इस वित्तीय वर्ष में प्लाईवुड की कीमतों में दो बार वृद्धि की है, पहली और दूसरी तिमाही में लगभग 2% की वृद्धि की गई है, और दूसरी तिमाही में लैमिनेट की कीमतों में 3% की वृद्धि की गई है। भजंका ने कहा कि जबकि अतीत में कच्चा माल मुख्य रुप से घरेलू कृषि वनों से आता था, हाल ही में आपूर्ति मांग से कम हो गई है, जिससे कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है। नतीजतन, वियतनाम और ब्राजील जैसे देशों से कोर विनियर का आयात करना अधिक व्यवहार्य हो गया है।

8,000 करोड़ रुपये के लैमिनेट बाजार में सेंचुरी प्लाईबोर्ड्स की हिस्सेदारी 8% है। पिछले वित्त वर्ष में लैमिनेट सेगमेंट ने कंपनी के कुल राजस्व में लगभग 17% का योगदान दिया, जबकि निर्यात 150 करोड़ रुपये के आसपास पहुंच गया। भजंका को उम्मीद है कि अगले तीन सालों में लैमिनेट निर्यात दोगुना होकर 300 करोड़ रुपये हो जाएगा।

लैमिनेट मैटेरियल्स सप्लायर्स एसोसिएशन (LMSA) की बैठक

18 सितंबर, 2024 को लैमिनेट रॉ मैटेरियल्स सप्लायर्स एसोसिएशन (LMSA) के सदस्य आकाशदीप पेपर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड में एसोसिएशन के सदस्यों की वित्तीय सेहत और परिचालन अखंडता को प्रभावित करने वाले महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर चर्चा करने के लिए एकत्रित हुए। बैठक में दो मुख्य एजेंडा आइटम पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया: खरीदारों से बकाया राशि का समाधान और स्वामित्व परिवर्तन से गुजर रही कंपनियों से जुड़े व्यावसायिक लेनदेन से संबंधित नई नीतियों पर चर्चा।

राशिबैठक का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा खरीदारों से बकाया राशि के मुद्दे पर चर्चा करने के लिए समर्पित था। सदस्यों ने ऐसे मामलों की रिपोर्ट की, जहां LMSA सदस्य आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के साथ अपने ऋणों का निपटान किए बिना व्यवसायों को नए मालिकों को बेच दिया गया था। उदाहरण के लिए, इंडोलम का एसआर लैमिनेट्स में रूपांतरण हो गया, त्रिकल्प का मॉरिस बन गया, अग्रवाल लैमिनेट्स का रुद्राक्ष ट्रेडर्स में रूपांतरण हो गया, और आर. सिंह लैमिनेट्स को अब पी सुनील गांधी के नाम से जाना जाता है। ये मामले एक चिंताजनक प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाते हैं, जहां विक्रेता अपनी वित्तीय जिम्मेदारियों से बच रहे हैं, जिससे आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को अवैतनिक ऋणों का बोझ संभालना पड़ रहा है।

अवैतनिक बकाया राशि के नकारात्मक नतीजों को रेखांकित किया गया, विशेष रूप से नकदी प्रवाह और समग्र व्यावसायिक व्यवहार्यता के संबंध में। आपूर्तिकर्ताओं ने इन ऋणों के कारण होने वाले वित्तीय तनाव पर अपनी निराशा व्यक्त की, LMSA सदस्यों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए एक मजबूत नीति की तत्काल आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डाला।

व्यापक चर्चा के बाद, सदस्य संघ के भीतर वित्तीय हितों की सुरक्षा के उद्देश्य से एक नई नीति को लागू करने के लिए सर्वसम्मति से निर्णय पर पहुँचे। इस नीति के तहत, यदि किसी खरीदार ने किसी LMSA सदस्य को बकाया राशि का भुगतान नहीं किया है और बाद में अपनी कंपनी बेच देता है, तो कोई भी LMSA सदस्य बकाया राशि का निपटान होने तक उस खरीदार या नए मालिकों को सामग्री की आपूर्ति नहीं करेगा। यह निर्णय LMSA की वित्तीय अखंडता को बनाए रखने और यह सुनिश्चित करने की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है कि सदस्यों को खराब भुगतान इतिहास वाले खरीदारों से जोखिम में न डाला जाए।

सदस्यों ने माना कि जिम्मेदार कारोबारी माहौल को बढ़ावा देने तथा आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के बीच विश्वास बनाए रखने के लिए इस नीति को लागू करना आवश्यक है।

बैठक का समापन LMSA के अध्यक्ष द्वारा नव स्थापित नीति को बनाए रखने में सदस्यों के बीच एकता और सहयोग के महत्व पर जोर देने के साथ हुआ। एक साथ खड़े होकर, एसोसिएशन अपने सदस्यों के हितों की बेहतर सुरक्षा कर सकता है और उद्योग के भीतर जिम्मेदार व्यावसायिक प्रथाओं को प्रोत्साहित कर सकता है। अगली बैठक की तारीख नियत समय में बताई जाएगी, क्योंकि LMSA अपने सदस्यों के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों का समाधान करने और एसोसिएशन के परिचालन ढांचे को मजबूत करने के अपने प्रयासों को जारी रखता है।

यह बैठक LMSA सदस्यों की वित्तीय सेहत को सुरक्षित करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। खरीदारों को उनके वित्तीय दायित्वों के लिए जवाबदेह बनाने वाली नीतियों को लागू करके, एसोसिएशन का लक्ष्य लैमिनेट कच्चे माल उद्योग में शामिल सभी हितधारकों के लिए एक टिकाऊ और लचीला वातावरण को बढ़ावा देना है।

अखिल भारतीय एमडीएफ निर्माता संघ ने 10 अक्टूबर से 6% मूल्य वृद्धि की घोषणा की

हाल ही में देश भर के प्रमुख एमडीएफ निर्माताओं की एक बैठक में, अखिल भारतीय एमडीएफ निर्माता संघ ने सामूहिक रूप से 10 अक्टूबर से एमडीएफ की कीमत 6% बढ़ाने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है।

इस बैठक में क्रोस्टा पैनल्स के अमित गोयल, आर्किड पैनल के राजीव डागा, ई3 ग्रुप के अजय गर्ग, अर्चित नुवुड के विनीत सिंगला, इंफ्रा मार्केट के शेखर चंद सती, पायनियर पैनल्स के ललित गुप्ता, मेट्रो ग्रुप के अमन गर्ग, ट्रिनॉक्स लैमिनेट के हर्ष और प्रवीण, प्रॉमिनेंट फाइबर्स के ऋषभ गुप्ता, एडलरवुड के आदित्य गर्ग, सिग्नेचर पैनल के अभिनव गुप्ता और बिरमी ग्रुप के श्री उज्ज्वल बंसल जैसे प्रमुख उद्योग जगत के लोग शामिल थे।

कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी लकड़ी की मौजूदा कमी के कारण की गई है, जिससे एमडीएफ की निर्माण लागत बढ़ गई है। निर्माताओं ने उम्मीद जताई कि अन्य उद्योग जगत के खिलाड़ी भी ऐसी चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियों में उत्पादन की बढ़ती लागत की भरपाई के लिए इस निर्णय का अनुसरण करेंगे।

इसके अतिरिक्त, भुगतान शर्तों और चूक करने वाले पक्षों की सूची के बारे में चिंताओं पर चर्चा की गई। अखिल भारतीय एमडीएफ निर्माता संघ के नवगठित पदाधिकारी अपने सदस्यों के परामर्श से इन मामलों पर आगे की कार्रवाई करेंगे।

यमुना नगर लैमिनेट मैन्युफैक्चरर एसोसिएशन ने कच्चे माल की बढ़ती लागत के कारण कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी की घोषणा की

यमुना नगर लैमिनेट मैन्युफैक्चर एसोसिएशन (YLMA) ने कच्चे माल की लागत में उल्लेखनीय और निरंतर वृद्धि के कारण 25 सितंबर 2024 से लैमिनेट की कीमतों में वृद्धि की घोषणा की है। यह निर्णय ऐसे समय में लिया गया है जब निर्माताओं को उत्पादन लागत में वृद्धि का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जिससे उनके संचालन की स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए मूल्य निर्धारण को समायोजित करना आवश्यक हो गया है।

आधिकारिक नोटिस में, YLMA ने विभिन्न मोटाई के लेमिनेट के लिए मूल्य समायोजन की रूपरेखा बताई:

0.62 मिमी लेमिनेट की कीमत में प्रति यूनिट 15 रुपये की बढ़ोतरी होगी।

0.72 मिमी लेमिनेट की कीमत अब प्रति यूनिट 20 रुपये अधिक होगी।

0.82 मिमी लेमिनेट में प्रति इकाई 30 रुपये की वृद्धि होगी।

0.92 मिमी लेमिनेट की कीमत प्रति इकाई 40 रुपये अधिक होगी।

एसोसिएशन ने स्पष्ट किया है कि ये संशोधित दरें पिछले महीने से कच्चे माल की लागत पर लगातार बढ़ते दबाव का परिणाम हैं, जिससे लेमिनेट निर्माताओं के पास उपभोक्ताओं पर कुछ बोझ डालने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं बचा है। इसके अतिरिक्त, यह भी ध्यान दिया गया कि संशोधित कीमतों के अलावा जीएसटी (माल और सेवा कर) भी अतिरिक्त रूप से लगाया जाएगा।

यह मूल्य वृद्धि 25 सितंबर 2024 से सभी लेमिनेट डिस्पैचों को प्रभावित करेगी।

लेमिनेट की कीमतों में वृद्धि का प्लाईवुड और फर्नीचर उद्योगों पर भी असर पड़ने की उम्मीद है, जहां लेमिनेट की भूमिका अहम होती है। भारत में लकड़ी और प्लाईवुड उद्योग के लिए एक प्रमुख केंद्र यमुना नगर में लेमिनेट निर्माता कच्चे माल की लागत, विशेष रूप से रसायनों, रेजिन और लकड़ी आधारित उत्पादों में मुद्रास्फीति का खामियाजा भुगत रहे हैं। ये सामग्री लैमिनेट उत्पादन की रीढ़ बनती है और इनकी कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव सीधे निर्माताओं के लिए लागत संरचना को प्रभावित करता है।

वितरकों और खुदरा विक्रेताओं के लिए, यह वृद्धि अंतिम उपभोक्ताओं के लिए उच्च कीमतों में तब्दील हो सकती है, जो संभावित रूप से अल्पावधि में मांग को प्रभावित कर सकती है। हालांकि, आधुनिक फर्नीचर, इंटीरियर और निर्माण में लेमिनेट की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को देखते हुए, कीमतों में समायोजन के बावजूद समग्र मांग स्थिर रहने की उम्मीद है।

पूरे क्षेत्र में निर्माता पिछले कुछ समय से बढ़ती लागतों से जूझ रहे हैं, और लेमिनेट की कीमतों में यह नवीनतम वृद्धि आपूर्ति श्रृंखला व्यवधानों और कच्चे माल की अस्थिर लागतों को

प्रबंधित करने की व्यापक चुनौती को रेखांकित करती है। चूंकि वैश्विक आर्थिक अनिश्चितताएं और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की बाधाएं बनी हुई हैं, इसलिए व्यवसायों को गुणवत्ता मानकों को बनाए रखते हुए प्रतिस्पर्धी बने रहने के लिए मूल्य निर्धारण रणनीतियों का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ रहा है।

YLMA द्वारा कीमतें बढ़ाने का निर्णय उद्योग के सामने आने वाली व्यापक चुनौतियों का प्रतिबिंब है, क्योंकि कच्चे माल की बढ़ती कीमतें अब व्यापक चिंता का विषय बन गई हैं। भारत के लेमिनेट उत्पादन के सबसे प्रमुख केंद्रों में से एक यमुना नगर में निर्माता लाभप्रदता सुनिश्चित करते हुए अपनी प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बनाए रखने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

अब मूल्य वृद्धि प्रभावी होने के साथ, व्यवसायों और उपभोक्ताओं को प्लाईवुड से लेकर फर्नीचर और अन्य लकड़ी-आधारित वस्तुओं तक लेमिनेटेड उत्पादों की लागत में वृद्धि की उम्मीद करनी चाहिए। चूंकि कच्चे माल की लागत में उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहता है, इसलिए यह देखना बाकी है कि ये उच्च कीमतें कब तक बनी रहेंगी या क्या आगे समायोजन की आवश्यकता होगी।

निर्माताओं के लिए प्राथमिकता परिचालन को स्थिर करने और किसी भी अतिरिक्त लागत वृद्धि को वहन करने की होगी, जबकि खरीदारों के लिए आने वाले महीनों में बढ़ी हुई कीमतों के लिए बजट बनाना महत्वपूर्ण होगा।

हालांकि कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी कच्चे माल की बढ़ती लागत का एक अपरिहार्य परिणाम है, लेकिन यह लैमिनेट निर्माताओं के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों को रेखांकित करता है। यमुना नगर लैमिनेट मैन्युफैक्चर एसोसिएशन बाजार की स्थितियों पर नज़र रखना जारी रखेगा, लेकिन अभी के लिए, व्यवसायों और उपभोक्ताओं को समान रूप से नई मूल्य संरचना के अनुकूल होने की आवश्यकता होगी।

क्राफ्ट पेपर की बढ़ती कीमतों से लाइनर लैमिनेट की लागत बढ़ी

बी-ग्रेड क्राफ्ट पेपर की बढ़ती कीमतें लाइनर-ग्रेड लेमिनेट की लागत को काफी प्रभावित कर रही हैं। पिछले महीने में, 0.72 मिमी के आधार पर लाइनर लेमिनेट की कीमत 15 रुपये से बढ़कर 20 रुपये प्रति शीट हो गई है। क्राफ्ट पेपर निर्माता इस वृद्धि का श्रेय कच्चे माल की उच्च लागत को देते हैं, जिसने उन्हें कीमतें बढ़ाने के लिए मजबूर किया है। रिपोर्ट बताती है कि बी-ग्रेड क्राफ्ट पेपर की कीमतें एक महीने के भीतर 25% तक बढ़ गई हैं, जो वर्तमान में 34 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के आसपास घूम रही हैं, आने वाले हफ्तों में और बढ़ोतरी की उम्मीद है।

छत्तीसगढ़ की प्लाईवुड इकाइयों की स्थिति में सुधार

छत्तीसगढ़ में लगभग 50-52 प्लाईवुड फैक्ट्रियाँ हैं, जिनमें से मुख्य रूप से रायपुर (40 इकाइयाँ), राजनांदगांव (4-5 इकाइयाँ), बिलासपुर (2-3 इकाइयाँ), भिलाई (2 इकाइयाँ) और दुर्ग (1 इकाई) में हैं। इसके अलावा, 5-6 फैक्ट्रियाँ कोर विनियर बनाने में माहिर हैं, जो प्लाईवुड निर्माण के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री है।

रायपुर में 20-25 कारखाने हैं, जिनमें पीलिंग मशीनें भी लगी हैं। कोर विनियर उत्पादन के लिए मुख्य रूप से यूकेलिप्टस की लकड़ी का उपयोग किया जाता है। राजनांदगांव, भिलाई, बिलासपुर, दुर्ग और कोरबा में भी पीलिंग इकाइयाँ स्थापित की गई हैं। हालाँकि, स्थानीय कच्चे माल की सीमित उपलब्धता के कारण, कारखाने केरल और उत्तर प्रदेश से कोर विनियर भी खरीदते हैं।

बढ़ती मांग के बावजूद, इस क्षेत्र में लकड़ी की कमी है, खास तौर पर नीलगिरी की। इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए, किसानों को नीलगिरी की खेती बढ़ाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है, जिसमें नीलगिरी प्रजाति की खेती पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जा रहा है, नीलगिरि प्रजाती मुख्य रूप से यूकेलिप्टस का ही हाइब्रिड रूप है। जो की 4-5 वर्षो में तैयार हो जाता है। नीलगिरी मुख्य रूप से ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़-ओडिशा सीमा पर पाई जाती है और यह कागज और प्लाईवुड उद्योग दोनों में एक लोकप्रिय विकल्प बन गई है।

नीलगिरी के पेड़, जो कभी मुख्य रूप से कागज़ उद्योग में इस्तेमाल किए जाते थे, अब प्लाई उद्योग में महत्वपूर्ण उपयोग में आ गए हैं। यह बदलाव ओडिशा और छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्रों में लकड़ी की कीमतों में वृद्धि का एक प्रमुख कारक रहा है। पिछले दो वर्षों में, लकड़ी की कीमतों में काफी वृद्धि हुई है। हालाँकि, इस बदलाव का एक सकारात्मक परिणाम यह है कि किसान इसका लाभ उठा रहे हैं, और वे विकास से खुश हैं।

पहले यहां पीलिंग यूनिट लगाने के लिए लाइसेंस देने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं था, लेकिन प्लाई उद्योग के निर्माताओं द्वारा सरकार के समक्ष अपनी चिंताओं को उठाने के लगातार प्रयासों से प्रगति हुई। शुरुआत में निर्माताओं को सॉ मील के लिए लाइसेंस दिए गए थे, जिन्हें बाद में पीलिंग मशीन चलाने के लाइसेंस के बदले में सरेंडर कर दिया गया।

पीलिंग मशीनों की स्थापना से छत्तीसगढ़ प्लाई निर्माताओं को अन्य राज्यों, मुख्य रूप से केरल और उत्तर प्रदेश से कोर विनियर आयात करने की आवश्यकता कम हो गई है, जिससे लागत प्रतिस्पर्धा में सुधार हुआ है। पिछले दो वर्षों में स्थापित इन पीलिंग इकाइयों ने स्थानीय निर्माताओं को अन्य क्षेत्रों के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा करने की अनुमति दी है, खासकर उत्पादन लागत के मामले में।

यहाँ शटरिंग प्लाई के उत्पादन में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि देखी गई है, तथा कई कारखाने अब विशेष रूप से इस उत्पाद पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं।

उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाने के अलावा, कई कारखानों ने उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए ड्रायर भी लगाया है, इसी कारण पीलिंग मशीन निर्माताओं का ध्यान भी इस ओर गया है। तथा वें यहाँ के बाजार पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं। उच्च गुणवत्ता मानकों की ओर यह बदलाव छत्तीसगढ़ प्लाईवुड बाजार के लिए एक सकारात्मक विकास के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

शटरिंग प्लाई के निर्माण में ड्रायर की आवश्यकता के कारण, कई निर्माताओं ने अपनी ड्रायर इकाइयों का भी विस्तार किया है।

शटरिंग प्लाई के मुख्य निर्माताओं में मातादी

प्लाईबोर्ड्स, आस्था टिम्बर, प्रेस्टीज प्लाई इंडस्ट्रीज, भगत वुड प्रोडक्ट्स, सनी टी चेस्ट इंडस्ट्रीज, कृष्णा वुड एंड मेटल, कोठारी पैनल्स, सांवरिया प्लाईवुड इंडस्ट्रीज (बिलासपुर), गुजरात टिम्बर इंडस्ट्रीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, अशोक जिंदल प्लाईवुड (भिलाई) आदि शामिल हैं।

कई प्लाई निर्माताओं से बात करने पर पता चला कि अब छत्तीसगढ़ की प्लाईवुड इकाइयां अपने उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के साथ-साथ गुणवत्ता पर भी ध्यान दे रही हैं। यह वाकई बाजार के लिए अच्छी खबर है।

पटना की फैक्ट्रियां पीएनजी का उपयोग करेंगी, जिससे जहरीली गैसों का उत्सर्जन 10 गुना कम होगा

वायु प्रदूषण को कम करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम के रूप में, पटना में कारखानों को जल्द ही PNG (पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस) से जोड़ा जाएगा। प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने इस बदलाव को अनिवार्य बनाने के लिए एक अलर्ट जारी किया है, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित होगा कि पटना औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में सभी कारखाने डीजल, कोयला और LPG से PNG पर स्विच करें। कारखानों को स्विच करने के लिए एक समय सीमा दी गई है, और इसका पालन न करने वालों पर कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

बोर्ड ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि पटना और आसपास के जिलों में स्थापित की जा रही नई फैक्ट्रियों को भी पीएनजी का इस्तेमाल करना होगा। इन फैक्ट्रियों को पीएनजी आपूर्ति के लिए पंजीकरण कराना होगा और ऐसा न करने पर जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा। इस बदलाव से कोयले और डीजल की तुलना में जहरीली गैसों के उत्सर्जन में दस गुना कमी आने की उम्मीद है।

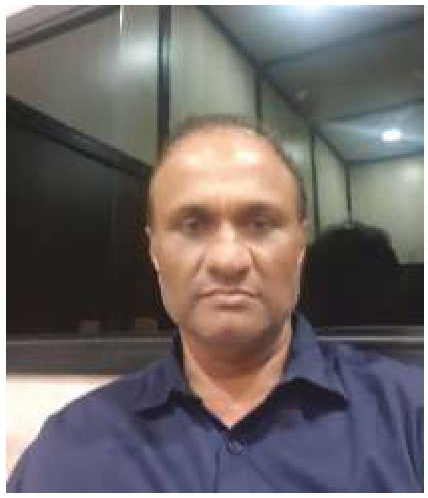
दिसंबर तक यह पहल फतुहा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र की सभी फैक्ट्रियों को कवर कर लेगी और पीएनजी का उपयोग अनिवार्य कर दिया जाएगा। प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड पंजीकरण और रूपांतरण प्रक्रिया पर कड़ी निगरानी रखेगा।

शिवधन डेकोर ने सालाना 10 मिलियन से अधिक सनमाईका का उत्पादन कर रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा

नवीन पटेल द्वारा 2017 में स्थापित शिवधन डेकोर लिमिटेड मध्य भारत में उत्पादन क्षमता के मामले में अग्रणी है। कंपनी में एक युवा और गतिशील निदेशक, महेक पटेल भी शामिल हैं।

अपनी बड़ी उत्पादन क्षमता की बदौलत, शिवधन डेकोर ने एक मजबूत बिक्री नेटवर्क बनाया है, जिसका प्रबंधन मुख्य रूप से दीपक भाई पटेल और नीलेश भाई पटेल करते हैं। हाल ही में एक बैठक में, नवीन भाई पटेल ने बताया कि महेक पटेल उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता की देखरेख करते हैं, जबकि वितरण की ज़िम्मेदारी दीपक भाई, नीलेश भाई एवं प्रदीप गडकरी के पास है, जिससे कुशल बाज़ार पहुँच सुनिश्चित होती है।

शिवधन डेकोर लिमिटेड मुख्य



NAVIN PATEL

रूप से लाईनर-ग्रेड के सनमाईका बनाने में माहिर है, जो फैबरिक, व्हाइट, ऑफ-व्हाइट और वुडन डिज़ाइन मुख्य रूप से बनाते हैं। बातचीत में, कंपनी के निदेशक महेक भाई पटेल ने बताया कि उनके उत्पाद पूरी तरह से 100% फेनोलिक रेजिन से बने होते हैं, जो उच्च गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करते हैं।

सनमाईका बनाने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाने वाला मुख्य कच्चा माल क्राफ्ट पेपर है, जिसके लिए कंपनी ने "शिवधन सहयोग पेपर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड" नामक एक अलग इकाई स्थापित की है। उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए एक नई इकाई स्थापित की जा रही है। नवीन भाई पटेल ने बताया कि उनकी सालाना लेमिनेट शीट उत्पादन क्षमता एक करोड़ शीट तक पहुंच गई, जिससे शिवधन डेकोर उत्पादन आकार के मामले में मध्य भारत में शीर्ष निर्माताओं में शामिल हो गया।

शिवधन डेकोर लिमिटेड महाराष्ट्र के नागपुर शहर से 30 किलोमीटर दूर भंडारा रोड पर वडोदा इलाके में स्थित है। कंपनी का पंजीकृत कार्यालय प्लाट नंबर 556, हिवारी लेआउट, पूनम मॉल के सामने, नागपुर में है।

इस परिसर में 16 तथा 20 डे-लाईट की छह प्रेस हैं, जो उन्नत मशीनरी के सहयोग से लगातार उत्पादन सुनिश्चित करती हैं। परिचालन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए रैपिंग पेपर के लिए एक प्रिंटिंग मशीन भी स्थापित की गई है। कंपनी का लक्ष्य अपनी उत्पादन क्षमता को और बढ़ाना है, जिससे सभी राज्यों में उसका बिक्री नेटवर्क मजबूत होगा।

डयूरो प्लाई ने डाइड विनियर्स ‘रोमा कलेक्शन’ को लॉन्च किया

भारत की अग्रणी प्लाईवुड निर्माता कंपनी ड्यूरोप्ली ने रोमा कलेक्शन नामक डाइड विनियर की प्रीमियम रेंज पेश की है। यह नया कलेक्शन इतालवी वास्तुकला की जटिल सुंदरता से प्रेरित है, जो आधुनिक घरों के लिए लालित्य और परिष्कार का एक शानदार मिश्रण पेश करता है।

इस लॉन्च का नेतृत्व ड्यूरो नेचर के सिग्नेचर ब्रांड ने किया, जिसका उद्देश्य अपने रोजमर्रा के रहने की जगहों में सुंदरता और लालित्य की तलाश करने वाले समझदार ग्राहकों की सेवा करना है। ड्यूरोप्ली के प्रबंध निदेशक और सीईओ अखिलेश चितलांगिया ने कहा कि कंपनी के शोध से शहरी भारत में प्रीमियम और सौंदर्य की दृष्टि से उत्तम विनियर की मांग का संकेत मिलता है। रोमा कलेक्शन इस ज़रूरत को पूरा करता है, जो घरों, दफ़्तरों और व्यावसायिक जगहों के लिए सुंदरता के साथ कार्यक्षमता का संयोजन करता है।

यह कलेक्शन अपने रंगों और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले फ़िनिश की विस्तृत विविधता के साथ किसी भी जगह की सुंदरता और सौंदर्य को बढ़ाता है। कई मोटाई में उपलब्ध, विनियर विभिन्न प्रकारों में आते हैं, जिनमें नमी प्रतिरोधी (MR) और उबलते पानी प्रतिरोधी (BWR) शामिल हैं, जो आंतरिक और बाहरी दोनों डिज़ाइनों में बहुमुखी प्रतिभा प्रदान करते हैं।

ड्यूरोप्ली को उम्मीद है कि रोमा कलेक्शन भारतीय बाजार में एक नया मानक स्थापित करेगा, जो किफायती मूल्य पर उच्च श्रेणी का डिजाइन उपलब्ध कराएगा।

अर्चित न्यूवुड

एमडीएफ और एचडीएफ में ऐक्रेलिक बोर्ड और यूवी कोटिंग की नई रेंज पेश करने की योजना

2020 में स्थापित, अर्चित न्यूवुड इंडस्ट्रीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड एमडीएफ (मीडियम-डेंसिटी फाइबरबोर्ड) और एचडीएफ (हाई-डेंसिटी फाइबरबोर्ड) निर्माण में तेजी से अग्रणी बनकर उभरा है। कंपनी की स्थापना हरियाणा के फतेहाबाद जिले के टोहाना शहर के पास प्रेम चंद्र सिंगला ने की थी। अर्चित समूह के तहत काम करते हुए, कंपनी ने 2023 में सनमाईका उत्पादन शुरू करके अपने उत्पादन पोर्टफोलियो का विस्तार किया।

कंपनी का प्रबंधन निदेशक विनोद कुमार सिंगला और विनीत कुमार सिंगला द्वारा किया जाता है। अपने उत्पाद लाइन के बारे में बोलते हुए, विनोद सिंगला ने एमडीएफ, एचडीएफ और कार्ब की अपनी प्राथमिक पेशकश के रूप में उजागर किया।

विनिर्माण सुविधा टोहाना से लगभग 12 किमी दूर भूना रोड पर स्थित है। उत्पाद की मोटाई 7 मिमी से 35 मिमी तक है।

वर्तमान में, अर्चित न्यूवुड की उत्पादन क्षमता लगभग 360 क्यूबिक मीटर प्रतिदिन है। हालाँकि, इसे बढ़ाकर 1,000 क्यूबिक मीटर प्रतिदिन करने की योजना चल रही है। कंपनी ने उन्नत मशीनरी का ऑर्डर दिया है, जो मुख्य रूप से तुर्की से आयात की गई है, जो अपने उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले प्रदर्शन के लिए जानी जाती है। 2025 तक, उत्पादन क्षमताओं का महत्वपूर्ण रूप से विस्तार करने की योजना है।

अपनी मौजूदा उत्पाद लाइन के अलावा, कंपनी जल्द ही ऐक्रेलिक बोर्ड और यूवी-कोटेड उत्पादों की एक नई रेंज लॉन्च करने जा रही है। सभी उत्पादन प्रयासों को 1,000 क्यूबिक मीटर दैनिक उत्पादन प्राप्त करने के उनके लक्ष्य के साथ जोड़ा जा रहा है, जो कंपनी को उत्तर भारत के एमडीएफ विनिर्माण उद्योग के भीतर एक उच्च श्रेणी में रखता है।

नीलगिरी की लकड़ी, जो अपनी बेहतर गुणवत्ता के लिए जानी जाती है, विनिर्माण प्रक्रिया में उपयोग की जाने वाली प्राथमिक कच्ची सामग्री है।

अर्चित न्यूवुड के सभी उत्पाद ISI प्रमाणित हैं, जो गुणवत्ता के उच्च मानकों को सुनिश्चित करते हैं। पंजीकृत कार्यालय टोहाना शहर में स्थित है, जबकि कॉर्पोरेट कार्यालय दिल्ली के मोतीनगर में स्थित है।

मातादी प्लाईबोर्ड इंडस्ट्रीज

उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता पर ध्यान

अगस्त 1999 में अनिल आहूजा द्वारा स्थापित मातादी प्लाईवुड इंडस्ट्रीज, रायपुर क्षेत्र के सबसे पुराने और सबसे भरोसेमंद नामों में से एक है। शटरिंग प्लाई, बोर्ड और फ्लश डोर में विशेषज्ञता रखने वाली इस कंपनी ने लगभग 25 वर्षों से गुणवत्ता के लिए अपनी प्रतिष्ठा बनाए रखी है।

आज, निदेशक प्रतीक आहूजा के नेतृत्व में, उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है, जिसमें एस-सी. डे कोलकाता से उन्नत प्रयोगशाला परीक्षण मशीनरी निरंतर अनुसंधान एवं विकास कार्य में सलंगन है। प्रतीक ने प्लाईवुड और ब्लॉकबोर्ड परीक्षण के साथ-साथ आईपीआईआरटीआई बेंगलुरु और कोलकाता से कम लागत और विशेष रेजिन निर्माण में प्रमाणन प्राप्त किया है।

फैक्ट्री में दो प्रेस हैं, जिनमें से प्रत्येक 15 डे-लाईट की क्षमता वाली है, जो उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले शटरिंग प्लाई, कर्मशियल प्लाईवुड, बीडब्ल्यूपी ग्रेड प्लाईवुड, ब्लॉकबोर्ड और फ्लश डोर का उत्पादन करती है। उनके प्रमुख ब्रांड, मर्लिन और W-PLY, पंजीकृत ट्रेडमार्क और आईएसआई प्रमाणित (आईएस-303 और आईएस-7105 बीडब्ल्यूपी) हैं।

सभी उत्पाद नमी रहित हैं, ड्रायर मशीन का उपयोग करके संसाधित किए जाते हैं, और कंपनी ने एक अलग पिलींग इकाई स्थापित की है। रायपुर से 6 किमी दूर उरला इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया के पास बिरगांव में स्थित, फैक्ट्री का मुख्य उत्पाद डेंसिफाइड शटरिंग प्लाई है, जो आई.एस.आई. प्रमाणित है।

अनिल आहूजा गर्व से गुणवत्ता और नवीनता के प्रति कंपनी की प्रतिबद्धता पर जोर देते हैं, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि उनका सघन शटरिंग प्लाई बाजार में शीर्ष विकल्प बना रहे।

होशियारपुर

धोगरी औद्योगिक पार्क के विकास पर चर्चा के लिए उद्योगपतियों ने डीसी से मुलाकात की

धोगरी औद्योगिक पार्क के विकास पर चर्चा के लिए उद्योगपतियों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने उपायुक्त हिमांशु अग्रवाल से मुलाकात की। चैंबर ऑफ इंडस्ट्रियल एंड कमर्शियल अंडरटेकिंग्स के प्रतिनिधि नरेश तिवारी ने पार्क के भीतर आंतरिक सड़कों के निर्माण के लिए औद्योगिक भूमि उपलब्ध कराने के लिए तत्परता का आश्वासन दिया।

तिवारी ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि पार्क की समग्र प्रगति के लिए आंतरिक सड़कों और बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास महत्वपूर्ण है। उद्योगपतियों ने सीवर, सड़क और जल निकासी व्यवस्था जैसे प्रमुख बुनियादी ढांचे के बारे में चिंता जताई और प्रशासन से विकास प्रक्रिया में तेजी लाने का आग्रह किया।

एक अन्य उद्योगपति शरद अग्रवाल ने सीवेज और सड़क व्यवस्था में तत्काल सुधार की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि जल निकासी से संबंधित मुद्दों, विशेष रूप से मानसून के मौसम के दौरान, को संबोधित करने की आवश्यकता है।

शांत गुप्ता ने बरसात के मौसम में जलभराव को रोकने के लिए जल निकासी को उचित आउटलेट से जोड़ने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया। उद्योगपतियों ने औद्योगिक क्षेत्र की बढ़ती गति और इस वृद्धि को बनाए रखने के लिए बुनियादी ढांचे की तत्काल आवश्यकता पर भी ध्यान दिलाया।

जवाब में, उपायुक्त हिमांशु अग्रवाल ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल को आश्वासन दिया कि प्रशासन इन मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है और औद्योगिक पार्क के लिए बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास की प्रक्रिया में तेजी लाने के लिए सरकार के साथ काम कर रहा है।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने बंदरगाहों पर अवैध लकड़ी पर शिकंजा कसा

अवैध कटाई से निपटने के लिए एक साहसिक कदम उठाते हुए, ऑस्ट्रेलियाई सरकार लकड़ी की ट्रेसबिलिटी और प्रवर्तन को बढ़ाने के लिए नियमों को कड़ा कर रही है। यह पहल टिकाऊ और कानूनी लकड़ी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला सुनिश्चित करने के वैश्विक प्रयासों के अनुरूप है।

मुख्य बिंदु:

- अवैध लकड़ी से निपटना: ऑस्ट्रेलियाई बंदरगाहों में प्रवेश करने वाली 10% तक लकड़ी अवैध होने का अनुमान है। सरकार उद्योग को अवैध कटाई के हानिकारक प्रभावों से बचाने के लिए कदम उठा रही है, जिससे राजस्व में अरबों की हानि और पर्यावरण को नुकसान होता है।
- मजबूत कानून: अवैध कटाई निषेध संशोधन विधेयक 2024 का उद्देश्य प्रवर्तन को बढ़ावा देना है, जिससे अधिकारियों को गैर-अनुपालन वाली लकड़ी जब्त करने और बंदरगाहों पर उल्लंघनों को सार्वजनिक रूप से प्रकट करने में सक्षम बनाया जा सके।
- तकनीकी निवेश: ऑस्ट्रेलिया दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा वन पहचान डेटाबेस (WFID) बनाने के लिए डीएनए परीक्षण में $4.4 मिलियन का निवेश कर रहा है, जिससे लकड़ी की उत्पत्ति के सत्यापन में सुधार होगा और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में धोखाधड़ी कम होगी।
- कार्रवाई का आह्वान: उद्योग के हितधारकों के पास नए विधेयक पर प्रतिक्रिया देने के लिए शुक्रवार, 13 सितंबर, 2024 तक का समय है।
- गठबंधन: राष्ट्र अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समझौतों, संयुक्त निगरानी और अवैध कटाई से निपटने तथा वैश्विक स्तर पर संधारणीय वानिकी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं को साझा करने पर सहयोग कर सकते हैं।
- अन्य प्रौद्योगिकी: ब्लॉकचेन, जीपीएस ट्रैकिंग और डिजिटल डेटाबेस जैसी प्रौद्योगिकी पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करके तथा अवैध कटाई को रोकने के लिए लकड़ी की उत्पत्ति की पुष्टि करके लकड़ी की ट्रेसबिलिटी को बढ़ाती है।

बर्च प्लाईवुड बाजार और प्रतिबंधों पर विशेषज्ञ अंतर्दृष्टि

यूरोपीय पैनल फेडरेशन और पोलिश एसोसिएशन ऑफ वुड-बेस्ड पैनल प्रोड्यूसर्स द्वारा 10 सितंबर, 2024 को आयोजित एक हालिया वेबिनार में प्लाईवुड बाजार के भीतर महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की गई, विशेष रूप से यूरोपीय संघ में रूसी और बेलारूसी बर्च उत्पादों के अवैध आयात से संबंधित। इस सत्र में 300 प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया, जिन्हें नवीनतम बाजार डेटा, कानूनी परिदृश्य पर अपडेट और पूरे यूरोप में जिम्मेदार सोर्सिंग सुनिश्चित करने के लिए संभावित रणनीतियों के बारे में जानकारी दी गई। एक महत्वपूर्ण निष्कर्ष यह था कि आम सहमति यह थी कि विनियमन केवल उनके प्रवर्तन के रूप में प्रभावी होते हैं।

यूरोपीय उत्पादकों के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियाँ

यूरोपीय पैनल फेडरेशन के बोर्ड सदस्य और पेज्ड मोरग और पेज्ड मेबल के सीईओ जारोस्लाव मिचनियुक ने यूरोपीय बर्च प्लाईवुड उत्पादकों के सामने आने वाली गंभीर समस्याओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए सत्र की शुरुआत की। उन्होंने कहा कि अवैध आयातों को ऐसी कीमतों पर पेश किया जा रहा है जो स्थानीय निर्माताओं के लिए टिकाऊ नहीं हैं। जबकि उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है, चल रही बाजार विकृतियाँ आवश्यक निवेश में बाधा डालती हैं।

बाजार का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

यूरोपीय पैनल फेडरेशन के एक अन्य बोर्ड सदस्य और प्लाईवुड उत्पाद समूह के अध्यक्ष मार्टिन लैसिस ने मूल्यवान ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ साझा किया और जांच की कि कैसे अवैध आयात बाजार की स्थिरता को बाधित करते हैं और यूरोपीय लकड़ी उद्योग को प्रभावित करते हैं। उन्होंने यूरोपीय संघ और ब्रिटेन में बर्च प्लाईवुड बाजार को प्रभावित करने वाली प्रमुख घटनाओं की समयरेखा प्रस्तुत की।

2018 से 2021 तक, रूसी उत्पादों की अधिक आपूर्ति के कारण कई यूरोपीय संघ उत्पादन सुविधाओं को निवेश बंद करना पड़ा या रोकना पड़ा, जिससे 2020 में यूरोपीय संघ के बर्च प्लाईवुड उत्पादन में 10% की गिरावट आई। यूरोपीय आयोग द्वारा की गई जांच के परिणामस्वरूप एंटी-डंपिंग शुल्क लगाए गए। यूक्रेन में युद्ध की शुरुआत के बाद, 2022 में रूसी और बेलारूसी लकड़ी के उत्पादों के आयात पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया, जिससे उस वर्ष यूरोपीय संघ के उत्पादन में 12% की वृद्धि हुई, लेकिन 2023 में 4% की गिरावट देखी गई, साथ ही अवैध आयात का 19% हिस्सा चिंताजनक था। बर्च प्लाईवुड के लिए एक नए व्यापार व्यवस्थित (HS) कोड की शुरुआत ने इन उत्पादों की बेहतर ट्रैकिंग की अनुमति दी है। हालांकि, चल रहे प्रतिबंध और आर्थिक ठहराव यूरोपीय संघ के बाजार पर दबाव बना रहे हैं, कजाकिस्तान और तुर्की की कंपनियों द्वारा नियमों को दरकिनार करने की कोशिश की अफवाहों के साथ।

उभरते व्यापार प्रवाह

लैसिस ने बताया कि प्रतिबंधों ने कजाकिस्तान और मोल्दोवा जैसे पारंपरिक उत्पादक देशों के साथ-साथ तुर्की, जॉर्जिया, चीन, वियतनाम और घाना जैसे पर्याप्त स्थानीय बर्च संसाधनों की कमी वाले देशों से बर्च प्लाईवुड के नए आयात व्यापार प्रवाह को प्रेरित किया है। उल्लेखनीय रूप से, इनमें से कुछ देशों में रूसी बर्च प्लाईवुड के निर्यात में तेजी से वृद्धि हुई है।

2023 में, रूसी प्लाईवुड निर्यात, जो मुख्य रूप से बर्च है, लगभग 1.5 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर तक पहुंच गया। मिस्र 337,000 क्यूबिक मीटर के साथ सबसे बड़ा आयातक था, उसके बाद चीन (244,000 क्यूबिक मीटर), तुर्की (196,000 क्यूबिक मीटर) और अन्य थे।

गुणवत्ता और अवैध आयात पर चिंता

2024 की पहली तिमाही में चीन से आयात में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि देखी गई और 2023 की इसी अवधि की तुलना में उज्बेकिस्तान से आयात दोगुना हो गया। लैसिस ने चीन से बर्च प्लाईवुड उत्पादों के बढ़ते घनत्व के बारे में चिंता जताई, जिसमें आमतौर पर बहुत पतली बर्च की ऊपरी परतें होती हैं। बाल्टिक से बर्च के तने के दावे सांख्यिकी द्वारा समर्थित नहीं हैं, और आवश्यक मात्रा अप्राप्य होगी।

ऐसी चिंताएं हैं कि कई शिपमेंट के लिए उत्पत्ति के दस्तावेज़ों की अवैध रूप से नकल की जा रही है, जिसके कारण लातविया के एक वन मालिक ने जांच शुरू कर दी है। लैसिस ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि कजाकिस्तान और तुर्की से थोड़ी राहत मिल सकती है, लेकिन चीनी उत्पादों की बढ़ती हुई सघनता और रूस, मिस्र और उज्बेकिस्तान के बीच बढ़ता व्यापार चिंताजनक बना हुआ है। यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि यूरोपीय संघ के बाजार में लगभग 16% प्लाईवुड अभी भी अवैध है, जिसमें झूठे ट्रेडमार्क वाले "अविक्रय" बर्च प्लाईवुड के स्टॉक हैं।

परिहार-विरोधी प्रयास और कानूनी ढाँचे

वैन बेल एंड बेलिस के एक भागीदार यूरी रुड्युक ने लकड़ी के व्यापार को नियंत्रित करने वाले कानूनी ढाँचों और गैर-अनुपालन के निहितार्थों पर चर्चा की। उन्होंने कजाकिस्तान और तुर्की से आयात के संबंध में यूरोपीय आयोग द्वारा की गई परिहार-विरोधी जाँच पर प्रकाश डाला, जो कई प्रमुख यूरोपीय संघ उत्पादकों के अनुरोध पर शुरू की गई थी। जाँच की गई कंपनियों में से कोई भी यह साबित नहीं कर सकी कि वे परिहार प्रथाओं में शामिल नहीं थीं, जिसके कारण बिना किसी अपवाद के दोनों देशों से आयात पर मूल 15.8% शुल्क बढ़ा दिया गया। इसके अतिरिक्त, अगस्त 2024 तक जाँच अवधि के दौरान पंजीकृत आयातों के लिए लगभग €10 मिलियन की राशि के पूर्वव्यापी शुल्क एकत्र किए गए। सामान्य परिहार प्रथाओं में ट्रांसशिपमेंट और रूसी-मूल उत्पादों में न्यूनतम संशोधन शामिल थे।

रुड्युक ने इसी प्रकार के घटनाक्रमों का शीघ्र पता लगाने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया तथा कहा कि यूरोपीय आयोग अब संदिग्ध व्यापार प्रवाह की शीघ्र जांच करने के लिए लगभग वास्तविक समय निगरानी प्रणाली का उपयोग कर रहा है।

सख्त प्रतिबंध विनियमरुड्युक ने यूरोपीय संघ में रूसी लकड़ी उत्पाद आयात के खिलाफ मौजूदा प्रतिबंधों को भी स्पष्ट किया। जून 2024 से, जानबूझकर ऐसी गतिविधियों में शामिल होने पर स्पष्ट रूप से प्रतिबंध लगा दिया गया है जो इन विनियमों को दरकिनार करती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सदस्य देशों में प्रवर्तन अलग-अलग है, जिसमें प्रशासनिक जुर्माने से लेकर व्यक्तियों के लिए संभावित जेल की सजा और कंपनियों के लिए संपत्ति जब्त करने तक के दंड शामिल हैं। यूरोपीय आयोग का लक्ष्य इन उपायों को मानकीकृत करना है। अप्रैल 2024 के एक निर्देश के अनुसार, वित्तीय सेवाएँ प्रदान करने वाले या नामित व्यक्तियों के लिए व्यापार की सुविधा प्रदान करने वाले व्यक्तियों को पाँच साल तक की कैद हो सकती है, जबकि कंपनियों पर वैश्विक कारोबार का 1% से 5% या €8 मिलियन से €40 मिलियन के बीच की विशिष्ट राशि का जुर्माना लगाया जा सकता है। सदस्य देशों को मई 2025 तक इन विनियमों को राष्ट्रीय कानून में शामिल करना होगा।

यूरोपीय संघ टिम्बर विनियमन (ईयूटीआर) भी युद्ध या प्रतिबंधों से जुड़े लकड़ी के उत्पादों के आयात पर प्रतिबंध लगाता है, जिसमें रूस और बेलारूस से बर्च प्लाईवुड भी शामिल है, जिसके लिए कठोर दंड का प्रावधान है, जैसे व्यापार प्राधिकरण का तत्काल निलंबन।

लकड़ी की ट्रेसिंग के लिए अभिनव समाधानवर्ल्ड फॉरेस्ट आईडी में विज्ञान निदेशक विक्टर डेलेर्क ने उपस्थित लोगों को संगठन की उन्नत लकड़ी ट्रेसिंग तकनीक से परिचित कराया, जिसे लकड़ी के उत्पादों की वैधता और स्थिरता को सत्यापित करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है। यह अभिनव समाधान 20 किमी रिज़ॉल्यूशन मानचित्र बनाने के लिए आइसोटोप और मिट्टी के विश्लेषण का उपयोग करता है, जिससे अधिकांश मामलों में गलत उत्पत्ति घोषणाओं का पता लगाना संभव हो जाता है। परियोजना का विस्तार अधिक क्षेत्रों और लकड़ी की प्रजातियों को कवर करने के लिए किया जा रहा है, जिसका लक्ष्य जल्द ही सबसे आम किस्मों को शामिल करना है।

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