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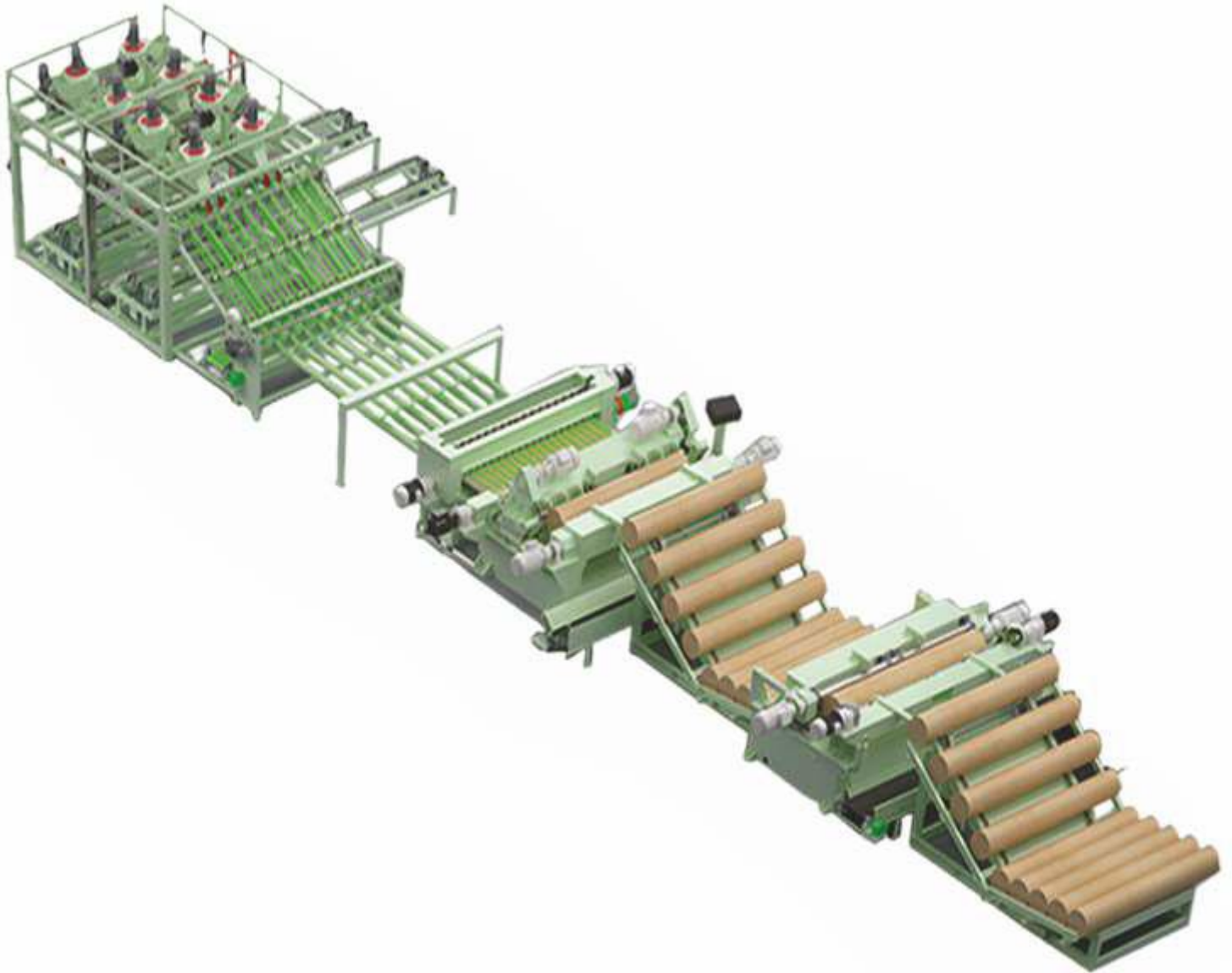
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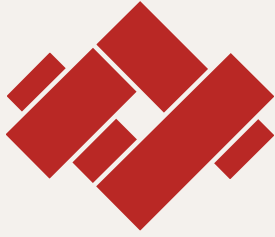


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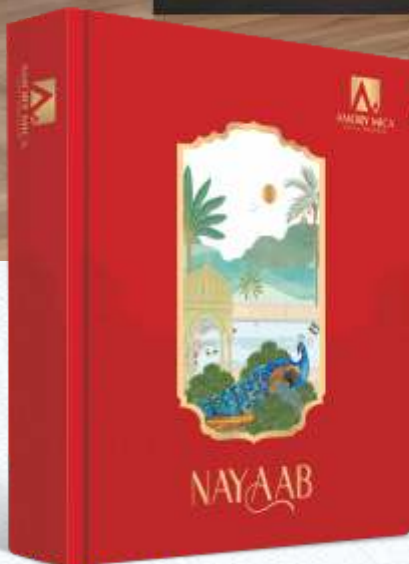
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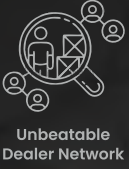
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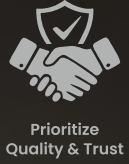
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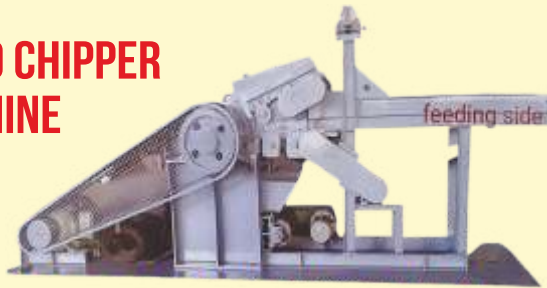


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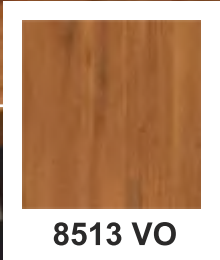


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A major highlight of the exhibition was the launch of Tajpuria's Acrylic Collection, crafted to bring high-gloss elegance, durability, and modern aesthetics to contemporary interiors.

Visitors appreciated the quality, finish, and innovation that Tajpuria continues to deliver to the market.

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Plywood, Panel And Laminate Industry

Rising Chemical Costs Push the Wood Panel Industry Toward Price Hikes

India's plywood, panel and laminate industry is bracing for another round of price increases from the first week of April, as a sharp surge in the cost of key chemicals and raw materials continues to strain manufacturers across the country. Industry stakeholders report that the sustained escalation in prices of inputs such as phenol and formaldehyde has pushed production costs beyond manageable levels, leaving companies with limited options.

Over the past week, the sector has witnessed intense volatility, with petrochemical-based inputs recording steep and, in some cases, near-doubling price movements. Phenol and formaldehyde prices have surged to an all-time high, that is raising serious concerns among manufacturers about the immediate outlook. The rising cost burden is further compounded by an increase in timber prices, including poplar.

The cumulative impact of these increases has placed significant pressure on the entire value chain, from plywood and blockboard manufacturers to door and laminate producers. Industry sources indicate that the current input cost environment has once again breached the threshold that companies can absorb, particularly after earlier rounds of price adjustments implemented in recent weeks.

In response to the rapidly evolving situation, several regional industry clusters and manufacturer associations convened meetings over the past few days to assess the implications of the rising costs. These discussions have largely centred on evaluating production sustainability and identifying ways to mitigate the financial strain. However, given the pace and scale of the increases, consensus is emerging that further price revisions may be unavoidable.

Manufacturers note that the day-to-day volatility in raw material pricing has made it increasingly difficult to plan production and pricing strategies. The uncertainty is particularly acute in the petrochemical segment, where supply-side disruptions and global market dynamics continue to drive fluctuations. As a result, companies are finding it challenging to maintain stable pricing for finished products while safeguarding margins.

The surge in chemical prices is not an isolated development but part of a broader trend affecting multiple raw materials critical to the wood panel industry. Adhesives and resins, which rely heavily on petrochemical derivatives such as phenol and formaldehyde, constitute a significant portion of production costs. Any sustained increase in their prices directly impacts the overall cost structure of

plywood, laminates and related products.

Industry participants suggest that the current scenario is among the most challenging in recent months, with input cost inflation outpacing earlier expectations. Many manufacturers had already implemented price hikes in mid-March to offset rising expenses, but the continued escalation has eroded those gains. As a result, there is growing recognition that additional price increases may be necessary to maintain operational viability.

According to industry feedback, most plywood, laminate and door manufacturers' associations are aligned on the need to pass on at least part of the cost burden to the market. While the exact quantum of the proposed increases may vary across regions and product categories, the direction is clear: a fresh round of price hikes is likely to be announced from early April.

At the same time, manufacturers are closely monitoring demand conditions, as any sharp increase in product prices could impact consumption in price-sensitive segments. Balancing cost recovery with market competitiveness remains a key concern, particularly in a scenario where end-

users may resist frequent price revisions.

Despite these challenges, the industry is attempting to maintain continuity in operations, although some players are reportedly evaluating production adjustments to manage costs more effectively. Smaller manufacturers, in particular, may face greater pressure due to limited financial buffers and lower bargaining power in raw material procurement.

The developments between 23rd and 28th March saw consistent upward movement in input prices, and the trend has continued into 30th March, underscoring the persistent volatility in the market. With no immediate signs of easing in chemical or timber costs, the industry appears set for a period of continued uncertainty.

As the new financial year begins, the coming weeks will be critical in determining how effectively manufacturers can navigate the dual challenge of rising costs and market dynamics. For now, the consensus within the industry points toward imminent price corrections, as companies seek to stabilise operations and sustain growth in an increasingly challenging environment.



ILMA

Rising chemical costs push industry towards price hike

The Indian laminate industry is bracing for another round of price escalation as raw material costs continue their upward surge. The Indian Laminate Manufacturers Association (ILMA) has convened an online meeting of its members on 20th March 2026 to deliberate on the worsening cost pressures, particularly driven by volatile chemical prices.

Methanol, a key input, has been witnessing a consistent rise in prices, directly impacting the cost of Formaldehyde, one of the most critical components in High Pressure Laminate (HPL) manufacturing. Industry reports suggest that Formaldehyde has recorded one of the sharpest increases in recent times, significantly disrupting production economics. Alongside this,

several other chemicals have also shown a persistent upward trend, compounding the challenge for manufacturers.

In its communication to members, ILMA highlighted the continued disruption in the supply of essential raw materials and the uncertainty surrounding their availability. The association indicated that it is evaluating the possibility of issuing a second price increase advisory. However, it emphasised the need for a collective discussion before arriving at any decision.

The upcoming meeting is expected to serve as a critical platform for stakeholders to assess the situation, share insights, and chart a coordinated response to the ongoing volatility.



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WPC PVC Association

Announcing 15% Price Hike Amid Supply Crisis

The WPC PVC Association has announced a 15% price increase across all ranges of WPC and PVC products, effective from 9th March, citing unprecedented pressure from escalating raw material costs and supply chain disruptions.

The decision comes in the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical tensions that have significantly impacted global trade flows. Key raw materials such as PVC resin, processing aids, and specialty additives have witnessed sharp price increases, driven by constrained availability and logistical bottlenecks.

According to the association, the surge in input costs has reached a level where absorbing the impact is no longer viable for manufacturers. “The increase is unavoidable under the current circumstances,” the association noted, adding that production economics across multiple plants have already been adversely affected.

Industry insiders indicate that several manufacturing units are operating under



stress, with margins tightening and supply uncertainties complicating planning cycles. The situation has also raised concerns over operational continuity if volatility persists.

In an advisory to stakeholders, the association has urged buyers to procure only essential requirements and refrain from excessive stockpiling. It warned that the industry may struggle to meet surplus demand amid ongoing constraints.

Given the fluid nature of the situation, the association has stated that prices will be reviewed weekly, with updates expected every Monday until market conditions stabilise.

As the sector steers this challenging phase, further price revisions remain a distinct possibility.



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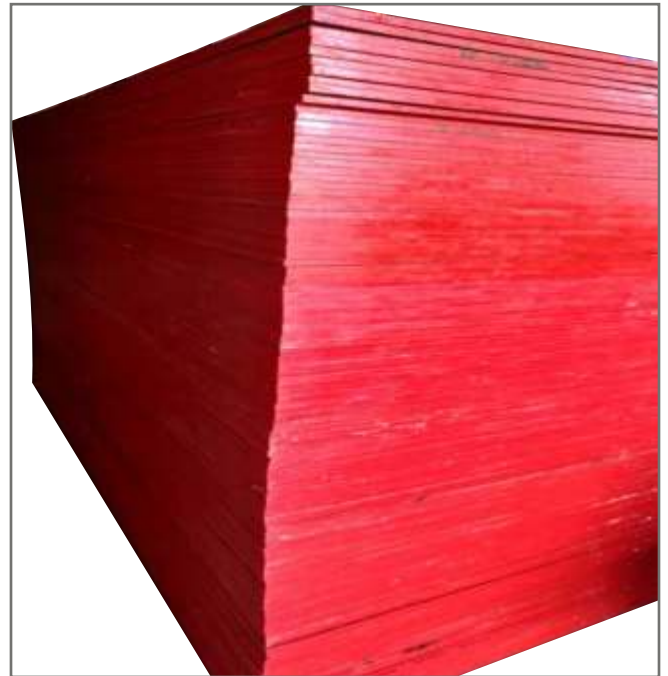
Shuttering Ply

Price Rise Amid Raw Material Crisis

The Shuttering Plywood Manufacturers' Association (SPMA), Yamunanagar, has announced a price increase of ₹3 per square foot (on a 12 mm basis) across all shuttering plywood variants - MR, MUF and PF, effective from 9th March. The decision comes in response to escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which have severely disrupted global supply chains and triggered sharp volatility in raw material prices.

At a meeting held on 9th March, SPMA members reviewed the mounting operational challenges facing the industry. Key inputs such as Phenol, Melamine and Formaline have reportedly witnessed price increases of 40-50%, significantly impacting production costs and margins.

The association stated that the hike is a necessary step to offset the steep rise in input costs, emphasising that the revision is purely compensatory in nature and does not include any profit component. Manufacturers, already grappling with supply constraints and uncertain availability of critical



chemicals, are under increasing pressure to maintain operational viability.

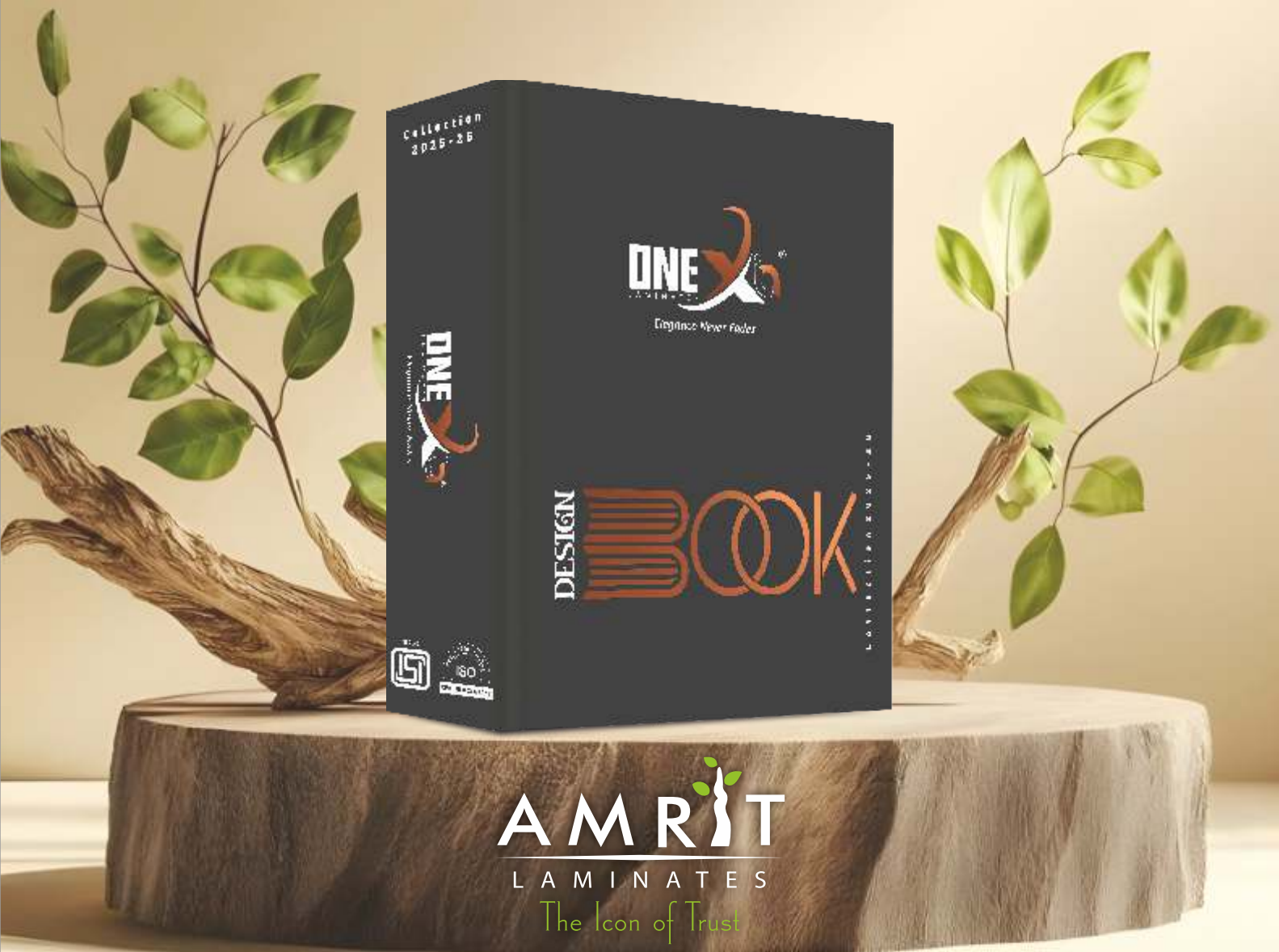
Given the fluidity of the situation, SPMA indicated that pricing structures will be reviewed on a weekly or even shorter basis, depending on market conditions. The association has also sought continued cooperation from stakeholders, urging collective resilience as the industry sails through this phase of uncertainty.

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West Asia Conflict

Sending Shockwaves Through Wood Panel Industry

The ongoing geopolitical tensions involving the US, Israel and Iran are beginning to cast a long shadow over India's wood panel and decorative surfaces industry, with raw material prices surging and logistics chains facing severe disruption.

Industry sources indicate that the conflict has triggered volatility across key imported inputs used in the manufacturing of MDF, laminates, particle boards and plywood. Global reports suggest that melamine prices have risen by 10–15%, while formaldehyde has also seen an increase of around 10%, significantly impacting resin costs, one of the most critical components in panel production.

Adding to the pressure is the rise in technical grade urea prices, largely due to import dependencies. This escalation is expected to further inflate the cost of resin manufacturing, ultimately pushing up input costs across the entire wood panel value chain.

However, it is not just raw materials that are under strain. The global logistics

network is facing an acute shortage of containers, even across key routes in the Indian Ocean. Shipping disruptions, including blank sailings and rerouted vessels avoiding the Strait of Hormuz, have led to increased freight costs and delayed shipments, compounding the uncertainty for manufacturers and importers alike.

The impact is particularly pronounced in the WPC/PVC segment. PVC resin prices have surged by over 10% within a week, affecting the production of WPC boards, door frames, doors, decorative sheets and edge band tapes. Industry players are already indicating a potential price increase of up to 10% in finished products, with many reluctant to accept new orders at existing rates.

Manufacturers across segments are currently in a wait-and-watch mode, closely monitoring developments while preparing for possible supply shortages. If the situation persists, the sector could face deeper disruptions, making cost management and supply continuity critical challenges in the months ahead.

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ILMA

Cost Escalation in Laminates, Amidst Rising Pressures

Amid escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the Indian laminate industry is beginning to feel the ripple effects. The Indian Laminate Manufacturers Association (ILMA) has issued a fresh advisory highlighting a sharp surge in raw material costs, driven largely by disruptions linked to the ongoing Iran conflict. The development, according to the association, has significantly impacted the cost structure of High-Pressure Laminates (HPL), placing manufacturers under increasing financial strain.

ILMA noted that the prices and supply of key raw materials essential for laminate production have witnessed a steep rise in recent weeks. This volatility has translated into higher input costs across various product categories, compelling manufacturers to recalibrate pricing in order to sustain operations.

In response to the mounting pressure, the association has recommended an increase in laminate prices across different thickness segments. Liners are expected to see a rise of ₹35, while 0.8mm sheets may go up by ₹50. Similarly, 0.9mm laminates are likely to witness an increase of ₹60, with 1.00mm sheets seeing the steepest hike of ₹70. Door skins, another key category, are projected to rise by ₹50.

The advisory comes at a time when manufacturers are already navigating a challenging business environment marked by fluctuating demand and tightening margins. Industry stakeholders have been urged to exercise caution and maintain strict financial discipline to mitigate the impact of rising costs.

ILMA has also emphasised the importance of timely payment cycles within the market. With raw material suppliers operating under constrained conditions, the association has cautioned that delays in receivables could further strain the supply chain. Ensuring smooth cash flow, it stated, will be critical in maintaining stability during this period of uncertainty.

The association's board members are closely monitoring the evolving situation and have assured members of regular updates. Any significant changes in raw material availability or pricing dynamics will be communicated promptly, enabling manufacturers to make informed decisions.

As global uncertainties continue to influence domestic industries, the laminate sector finds itself at a critical juncture, balancing cost pressures with market realities, while striving to maintain continuity and competitiveness.



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SPMA

Announces Price Hike Amid Raw Material Volatility

The Shuttering Plywood Manufacturers' Association (SPMA), Yamunanagar, has issued a trade advisory announcing an immediate price increase in shuttering plywood, following a high-level meeting held on 9th March, 2026, at Hotel Naivedyam. The decision comes in response to escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly the ongoing conflict in Iran, which has severely disrupted global supply chains.

According to the association, critical raw materials such as phenol, melamine, and formalin have witnessed unprecedented price volatility, with rates surging by 40–50%. As a result, SPMA has implemented a uniform price increase of ₹3 per square foot (on a 12 mm

basis) across all variants, including MR, MUF, and PF grades.

The association also indicated that pricing will be reviewed on a weekly or even shorter basis, depending on market conditions, to ensure operational sustainability. Industry leaders acknowledged that while such revisions may pose challenges for trade partners, they are necessitated by external macroeconomic pressures beyond the industry's control.

SPMA emphasised that the price increase is purely to offset rising input costs, with no additional profit margins involved, and sought continued cooperation from stakeholders.

SPMA emphasised that the price increase is purely to offset rising input costs, with no additional profit margins involved

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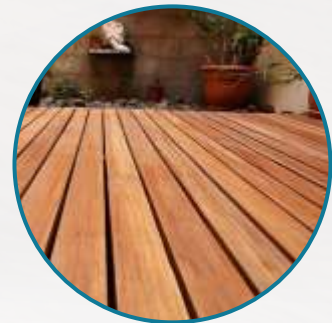
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SIPMA

Relief Sought Amid Rising Input Costs

Amid mounting cost pressures triggered by geopolitical instability in the Middle East, the South Indian Plywood Manufacturers Association (SIPMA) has formally approached the Government of India seeking urgent policy intervention. In a detailed representation addressed to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the association has highlighted the severe impact of rising petrochemical-based raw material prices on the plywood and panel manufacturing sector.

According to SIPMA, key inputs such as melamine, methanol, phenol, and urea, integral to resin production, have witnessed sharp price escalations alongside supply uncertainties and increased freight costs. These materials form the backbone of manufacturing processes for plywood, MDF, particle boards, and allied products, making the industry highly vulnerable to global disruptions.

The association has urged the government to grant immediate exemption from import duties on these critical raw materials. It has argued that such a measure would provide much-needed relief to manufacturers, particularly MSMEs, which are grappling with shrinking margins and operational

challenges.

Emphasising the sector's significant role in employment generation and its contribution to the broader manufacturing ecosystem, SIPMA noted that stabilising input costs is essential to ensure continuity and competitiveness. The appeal underscores the urgency for timely intervention, at least until global supply chains regain stability, to safeguard both industry viability and downstream markets.

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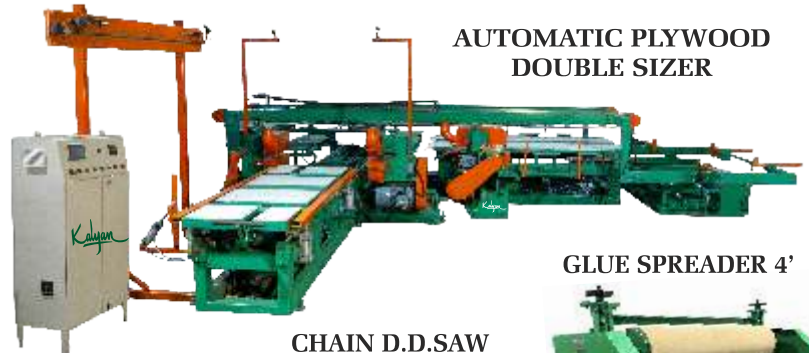
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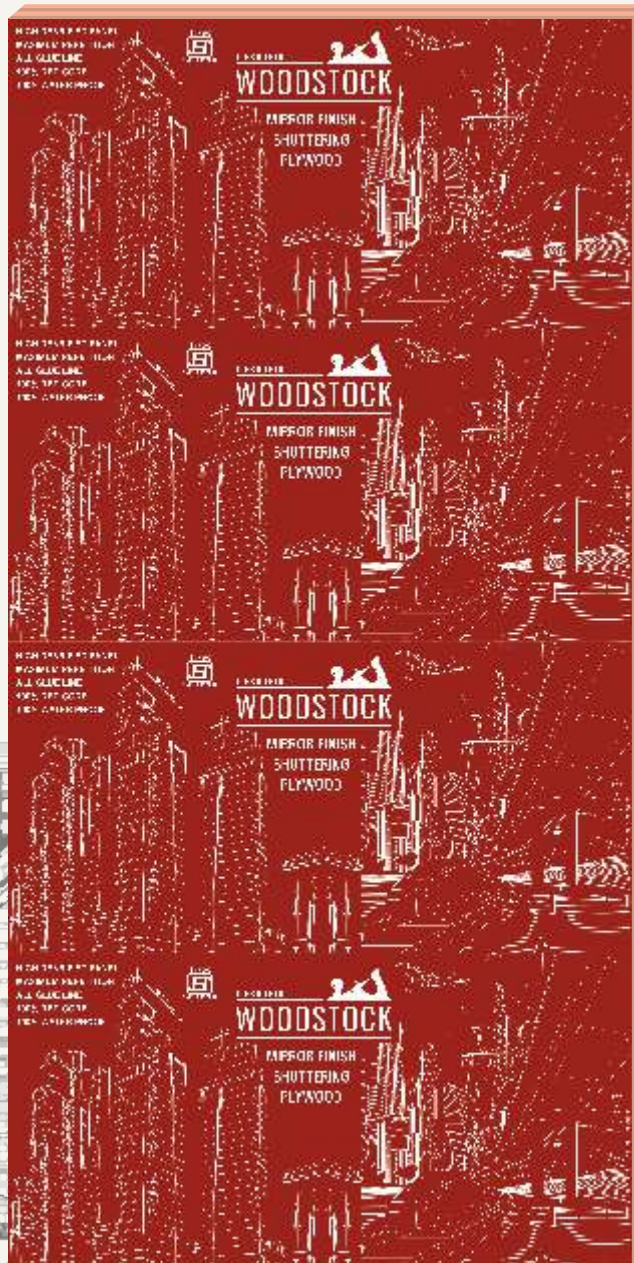
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PPMA

Punjab Plywood Units Cut Operations Amid Chemical Price Surge

Plywood manufacturers in Punjab have decided to scale down operations, with factories set to remain closed for three days a week in response to acute raw material challenges. The directive was issued by Inder Jeet Singh Sohal, President of the Punjab Plywood Manufacturers Association (PPMA), through an official communication to industry members.

The move comes amid an uncontrolled rise in the prices of key chemicals such as phenol and formaldehyde, which has significantly disrupted production economics. According to the association, the

decision to suspend operations for part of the week will remain in effect until further notice.

Sohal stated that the step is aimed at safeguarding the stability of the industry while addressing concerns over alleged black-marketing practices. He indicated that certain importers and traders have formed cartels, leading to artificial price inflation.

By collectively reducing consumption, the industry hopes to pressure suppliers to release stock into the market. Manufacturers have been urged to extend full cooperation as the situation continues to evolve.

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MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

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Crosta Panels

Announces 5% Price Hike on MDF Range

Crosta Panels has announced a 5% price increase across its entire MDF portfolio, including Interior, Exterior, EDXMR, and Pre-Laminated MDF products, citing escalating raw material costs triggered by the ongoing Gulf war situation. The company stated that the sharp rise in prices of imported inputs has significantly impacted overall production costs, making the revision unavoidable despite efforts to absorb the increase.

The revised pricing will come into

effect from 13th March, 2026. Orders placed on or after this date will be billed at the new rates, while all pending orders booked prior to the effective date will continue at existing prices.

The move reflects a broader industry trend, as manufacturers grapple with supply chain disruptions and volatile input costs. Crosta Panels expressed appreciation for continued customer support and reiterated its commitment to maintaining product quality and service standards.

RPMA

Announces Price Hike Amid Rising Input Costs

The Rajasthan Plywood Manufacturers Association (RPMA) has announced an immediate price revision following its general meeting held on 9th March, 2026, at Hotel Libra, Jaipur. The decision comes in response to a sharp increase in the cost of key raw materials, including chemicals such as formaldehyde,

phenol, and melamine, along with face veneer, pine raw board, and pine timber.

As per the association, prices of board and flush doors will be increased by ₹4 per square foot, while plywood prices will see a 5% hike. The move reflects mounting pressure on manufacturers due to global supply disruptions.

Punjab

Bets Big on Industry-Led Growth

In a decisive push to accelerate industrial growth, the Punjab Government has approved a comprehensive new industrial policy, positioning it as a transformative step for the state's economic landscape. Cleared during a recent Cabinet meeting, the policy aims to attract fresh investments, enhance ease of doing business, and generate employment across sectors.

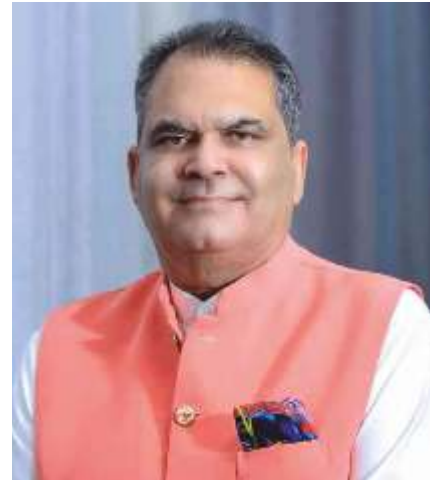
Announcing the development, Industries Minister Sanjeev Arora described the policy as a milestone initiative crafted in record time, with inputs from 24 committees comprising industry stakeholders. The government reportedly accepted nearly 77% of the recommendations, reflecting a consultative approach, while the remaining suggestions were set aside due to practical constraints.

A key highlight of the policy is the introduction of 24 sector-specific frameworks, an

unprecedented move, according to officials, that sets Punjab apart from other states. These sector-focused policies are designed to address unique industry needs while promoting targeted growth.

To further incentivize investment, the government has outlined 20 types of benefits, including capital subsidies - introduced in the state for the first time - along with freight subsidies, research and development support, and other financial incentives. Notably, enterprises investing ₹25 crore and employing at least 50 workers will qualify for these benefits, broadening the scope for mid-sized investors.

The policy also extends the duration of incentives from seven to ten years, with provisions allowing businesses to avail registration benefits for up to 15 years. Employment generation remains a central focus, with monthly support of ₹3,000 per employee in



general sectors, ₹5,000 in IT, and ₹7,500 in Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

In terms of sectoral priorities, food processing, automobiles and auto components, and electric vehicles have been identified as thrust areas. Startups in the Kandi region are set to receive incentives of up to 115%, signaling a strong push toward regional and entrepreneurial development.

Looking ahead, the government has unveiled plans to develop Mohali as the "Silicon Valley of Punjab," aiming to attract technology investments and create new opportunities for the state's youth.

Uttar Pradesh

Pushes for a Greener Future

Marking the occasion of International Day of Forests, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath outlined an ambitious roadmap to significantly enhance forest cover in Uttar Pradesh, setting a target of 16-17% to align with the state's population share in the country. Addressing a gathering in Lucknow during the National Forestry Dialogue, he emphasised the need for sustained ecological efforts backed by policy and public participation.

Highlighting progress over the past nine years, Yogi Adityanath stated that nearly 242 crore saplings have been planted across

the state, contributing to an increase in forest cover to approximately 10%. He contrasted this with earlier years, noting that previous administrations had planted only 5.5 crore saplings, often relying on private nurseries. In a demonstration of scale, the state planted a record 37 crore saplings in a single day last year, with a target of 35 crore set for the current year, potentially scaling up to 45 crore.

The Chief Minister also underscored the broader environmental impact of conservation initiatives. Referring to the success of the Namami Gange Programme, he noted the revival of the endangered Gangetic

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dolphin, with a recorded population of 6,327, including 2,397 in Uttar Pradesh alone. Additionally, the state currently hosts 11 Ramsar sites, with plans to expand this number to 100.

Yogi Adityanath also pointed to the link between environmental changes and wildlife movement, citing deforestation in neighbouring regions as a factor influencing animal migration into Uttar Pradesh. He stressed the importance of maintaining ecological balance and respecting wildlife habitats.

On the economic front, the state is advancing green initiatives, including the distribution of carbon credit funds to farmers, an initiative claimed to be a first in India. Eco-tourism is being promoted in Dudhwa National Park, supported by improved connectivity, while 2,467 forest-based green economy enterprises have been

established.

Budgetary allocations reflect this focus, with significant investments in social forestry, nurseries, forest modernisation, and clean air management. Parallely, urban sustainability efforts are underway, with Ayodhya being developed as a solar city alongside 17 other municipal corporations.

Gracing the occasion were Minister of Forests and Environment Arun Kumar Saxena, Minister of State K P Malik, Principal Secretary V Hekali Zhimomi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Department Sunil Chaudhary, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Anuradha Vemuri, and other forest officials.

The initiatives signal Uttar Pradesh's intent to integrate environmental conservation with economic growth, positioning forestry as a key pillar in its long-term development strategy.

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Action Tesa

A New Layer of Trust in Wood Panels

In a significant move to combat counterfeiting and reinforce brand authenticity, Action Tesa has introduced a first-of-its-kind product identification technology in the wood panel industry. The initiative, branded as “Tesa Inside,” embeds an invisible marker within each board, enabling users to verify authenticity through ultraviolet (UV) light.

At first glance, the boards appear indistinguishable from conventional products. However, when exposed to a blue UV torch, the embedded “Tesa Inside” marking becomes visible, confirming the product’s origin. According to the company’s Managing Director, Ajay Agrawal, this innovation marks a global first, designed to empower both consumers and furniture manufacturers with a reliable method of verification, even after the product has been processed into finished furniture.

The move comes at a time when the wood panel industry is grappling with increasing instances of duplication and misuse of generic product categories such as HDHMR boards. By integrating authentication directly into the material, Action Tesa aims to create a robust deterrent against counterfeit products, which often

compromise quality and erode brand trust.

Industry observers note that the implications of this technology extend beyond mere identification. For furniture manufacturers, the ability to demonstrate the use of genuine branded boards could enhance product value and pricing power. In an increasingly competitive market, traceability and authenticity are emerging as key differentiators.

The company also believes that this innovation will help formalise segments of the market that have long been affected by unbranded or falsely labeled products. By making authenticity verifiable at any stage, from raw board to finished furniture, Action Tesa is effectively introducing a new standard of transparency in the sector.

Having already established a strong presence in the wood panel industry, the company is positioning this technology as a defining feature of its brand identity. As manufacturing sectors globally adopt advanced anti-counterfeiting measures, Action Tesa’s “Tesa Inside” initiative signals a forward-looking approach, where innovation is not just about performance, but also about trust, accountability, and long-term value creation.

Rural Markets

Driving Growth in Decorative Wall Panels

The decorative surface wall panel segment is witnessing steady growth, with increasing traction coming from rural and semi-urban markets. Products such as WPC louvers, PS panels, soffits, and MDF-based designs have gained significant visibility over the past few years, steadily capturing market share in the wall décor category.

By 2022, these panels had already established a strong foothold, driven by their key advantages, ease of installation, low maintenance, and long-term durability. These attributes have made them a preferred choice for modern interior applications, both in residential and commercial spaces.

Industry reports indicate a growing

number of manufacturers are now focusing on tier II and tier III cities, tapping into the rising aspirations and evolving aesthetic preferences of rural consumers. Simultaneously, domestic production is expanding, with new manufacturing units being set up across regions to meet increasing demand.

With design flexibility and availability in varied sizes, ranging from 5 to 10 inches in width and up to 10.5 feet in height, these panels are aligning well with contemporary interior trends. As supply strengthens and awareness grows, the segment is poised for robust expansion through 2026.

Industry reports indicate a growing number of manufacturers are now focusing on tier II and tier III cities, tapping into the rising aspirations and evolving aesthetic preferences of rural consumers.



Shivam Wood

Announces Price Revision Amid Global Supply Disruptions

Shivam Wood Industries has announced an immediate price revision across its plywood product range, citing disruptions in the supply of imported raw materials due to the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region. The company noted that the crisis has significantly impacted supply chains, while also triggering a sharp and abnormal rise in the cost of essential chemicals and freight.

In its official communication dated 6th March, 2026, the Yamunanagar-based

manufacturer stated that the price adjustment is a necessary step under prevailing circumstances. Despite the increase, Shivam Wood Industries reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining product quality and ensuring timely deliveries to its customers.

The company has also expressed gratitude for continued customer support during this challenging phase for the industry.

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U.S.

Moves to Protect Domestic Hardwood Plywood Industry with Preliminary Duties

In a significant trade policy development, the U.S. Department of Commerce has announced preliminary antidumping duties on hardwood plywood imports from China, Indonesia, and Vietnam. The move has been widely welcomed by industry stakeholders, including the Decorative Hardwoods Association (DHA) and the Coalition for Fair Trade in Hardwood Plywood.

The decision, highlighted in a 12th March update by DHA, is being seen as a critical intervention to address the long-standing issue of unfairly priced imports that have impacted domestic manufacturers. Tim Brightbill, lead counsel to the Coalition, described the measure as a vital step toward restoring fair competition, noting that the U.S. hardwood plywood industry has faced sustained injury from dumped and subsidized imports over several decades.

DHA President Keith Christman emphasised that the preliminary antidumping duties, when combined with existing countervailing duties, could significantly strengthen the position of domestic producers. He pointed out that such



measures are essential not only for industry stability but also for safeguarding employment and economic activity in rural communities dependent on hardwood manufacturing.

The development also underscores persistent global trade tensions in the wood products sector, particularly concerning pricing practices and market access. Industry observers believe the duties could reshape import dynamics while offering relief to U.S. manufacturers striving to compete on equitable terms.

Further discussions on evolving trade policies and their implications are expected at the DHA 2026 Spring Conference & 105th Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.

West Asia/ Middle East

Supply Shock Ripples Across Industries

The ongoing crisis in West Asia is beginning to cast a visible shadow over India's manufacturing landscape, with disruptions in energy supplies and rising input costs impacting multiple sectors. As the conflict stretches beyond three weeks, industries reliant on petrochemical inputs and imported fuel are facing production slowdowns and price volatility.

One of the worst-hit clusters is Morbi, India's ceramic tile hub, where most of the operational units have reportedly shut down due to acute gas shortages. With gas accounting for a large share of production costs, the disruption has led to a sharp increase in tile prices, with further escalation expected. The shutdown has also affected employment, with many workers facing uncertainty.

The impact has extended to plastic manufacturing, where products ranging from PVC pipes to household goods are witnessing supply constraints. Industry sources indicate that plastic granules, derived from petroleum-based polypropylene, have seen price increases in recent weeks, driven by supply disruptions and rising crude-linked costs.

The textile value chain, particularly in Tiruppur, is also under strain. Manufacturers

report a steep rise in polyester yarn prices, along with higher costs for elastic, both critical inputs in undergarment production. This has begun to squeeze margins and could translate into higher retail prices.

The pharmaceutical sector, heavily dependent on petrochemical derivatives for both raw materials and packaging, is bracing for potential supply bottlenecks. Industry stakeholders warn that disruptions in packaging materials could slow down the availability of essential medicines in the coming weeks.

Food inflation pressures are also mounting. With India importing more than half of its edible oil requirements, prices of sunflower, soybean, and mustard oil have already risen. Strengthening palm oil prices are further pushing up the cost of processed foods, which have increased in less than a month.

The ripple effects are expected to reach the aviation sector as well. With the government lifting airfare caps and a likely revision in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, air travel costs are poised to rise. Taken together, the West Asia crisis is emerging as a significant external shock, testing the resilience of India's industrial and consumption ecosystem.

Gluing Faults and Remedial Measures



Dr. S.K. Nath

*The article reproduced below is Chapter 35 – "Gluing Faults and Remedial Measures" from the book entitled **Plywood Manufacturing Practices in India - 2nd Edition**. The book has been compiled and edited by Dr. S.K. Nath, Joint Director (now Retd.), Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bengaluru (Karnataka). The book covers the entire production line of plywood manufacture suitable for small and medium scale industry under the Indian conditions.*

The basic technology used in the manufacture of plywood is to cement two layers of veneers face to face by an adhesive. Hence application of adhesive on the veneers surface and subsequent curing of that between two veneer surfaces is the most important operation in plywood manufacture. Any problem or defect associated with the resin or glue mix and their application or curing will produce defective plywood. Strict quality control records will assist greatly in the trouble shooting process.

To start with, any remedial measures, it is necessary to know the fault or failure and probable reason. The most common gluing faults can be defined as follows:

Blister: It is indicated by the formation of an elevated portion on plywood surface as the panel is removed from hot press. These are formed due to trapped air, steam or other solvent vapour. Sometimes a blister burst with sound as the hot press pressure is released.

Steam Pocket: Separation of two

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Veneer

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adjacent layers of veneer inside a plywood due to accumulation of trapped steam or any solvent vapour during hot pressing leading to swelling of plywood surface is called steam pocket.

Delamination: The separation of veneer or wooden layers at the glue line is termed as delamination. The failure is mainly due to adhesive failure, due to poor adhesion with the adherent or because of cohesive failure of the adherent.

Face chip-off: This is a special case of delamination where only face veneer comes out as fibre from the edges of plywood.

Spot delamination: Due to non-uniform glue spread, non-uniform hot press platen temperature or pressure, certain spot on panel does not get bonded well and ultimately opens during subsequent operation.

Weak bond: Glue bond does not attain requisite strength after hot pressing and is identified by the presence of powdery glue line.

Cracked glue line: Separation of veneer layers in plywood is sometimes observed due to cracks developed in glue line which is either very thick or without sufficient quantity of

filler.

Pre-cure of adhesive: Adhesive gets partially cured on the glued veneer before or during hot pressing much earlier than full hot press pressure is attained. It is indicated by very poor or no glue transfer to the non-glued veneer. The entire or major quantity of adhesive is found cured on the glued veneer and gives a shining appearance.

Under cure of adhesive: Under cure of glue line is very difficult to identify as the poor bond due to this is very often assessed as glue failure. A strong glue line bond at the outer and weaker glue bond in inner glue line of thicker plywood indicates under cure adhesive. An under cure glue line can be tested by opening the glue line and touching with a moist finger which feels sticky.

Surface inactivation or case hardening: A no bond zone that is developed during hot pressing due to case hardening veneer appears very similar to spot bond. This is identified as no glue flow or penetration into the spread veneer and no wetting or glue transfer from the glued to the non-glued surface. The failed area looks like a dried out bond.

Glue penetration: Excessive glue



The advertisement features a split image. On the left, a dark, cluttered area is infested with termites. On the right, a clean, light-colored SIPL Block Board is shown, with a termite crawling on its surface. The SIPL logo is in the top left corner. The main text reads: "Termites nowhere near, SIPL Block Boards Rahe bilkul clear". Below this, it says "Termite and Borer Proof" with a circular icon of a termite. At the bottom, contact information is provided: "www.siplgroupindia.com", "+91 95128 46464", and "info@siplgroupindia.com".

penetration from glue line to either side causes scarcity of glue at the glue line resulting in poor bond. While the glue penetration into inner veneer line cannot be identified without the aid of a microscope, the penetration beyond the face veneer gives a very unpleasant look after curing.

Gluing faults arises due to any one or more of the following.

1. Glue mixing: Correct proportions of all ingredient of the glue mix are of utmost importance for the success of gluing operation. Components should be weighed and not measured by volume, except for liquids of known density. For example, urea glues are cured adding a hardener. If the quantity of hardener is insufficient, will generally increase pot life and assembly time and slow down curing, resulting in under cure. Excessive quantity of buffer may have similar effects. On the other hand, excessive hardener or insufficient buffer may cause shorter pot life, assembly and curing times and results in pre-cure.

Recording of pH and flow time of each batch of glue mix is compulsory. The identical data of the newly prepared batch with the standard values will indicate addition of all

ingredients and standard procedure of mixing. Any sharp deviation the value of pH and flow time, indicates the need to check the whole procedure.

2. Non-Uniform glue spread: The causes of non-uniform glue spread are many. Faulty adjustment of the glue spreader, bent or uneven spreader rolls or doctor rolls, unsuitable or worn grooves in rubber roll, badly fitted spreader bearings, faulty viscosity of glue, wavy and warped veneers or veneer of uneven thickness. These faults are very much localised and lead to spotty adhesion. Very thick or very thin glue spread lead to poor bond. Starved glue lines show poor wood failure with little or no glue apparent and with the failure at the glue wood interface. Excessively thick glue line shows fine crack showing disintegration at the glue line under shear.

Uniformity of glue spread should be checked visually on either sides of the glued veneer. Glue spread needed to be determined carefully when spreading is started and repeated checks should be made regularly and when variation is suspected.

Glue viscosity is an important factor in obtaining a thin and uniform glue spread.



Viscosity can be varied by increasing or decreasing the quantity of water or extenders or fillers.

Control of veneer quality as regards moisture content, thickness variation, very rough and wavy veneers should be strictly followed. Waviness in veneer is one of the major reasons for non-uniform glue spread. Waviness in veneer can be minimized by tenderizing veneer.

Frequent change in hot press parameters to avoid defects in plywood due to gluing fault, should be avoided as such a practice may still worsen the quality.

3. Pre-cure and Dry out: Curing or setting of resin is due to its polymerization which may be accompanied by loss of water or solvent. Curing of amino resin starts as soon as the hardener is added to the glue mix, whereas with phenolic curing of the resin does not occur before the plywood assembly is hot pressed. Dry out due to excessive loss of moisture from glued veneer would lead to poor glue transfer to the non-glued veneer during pressing. Pre-cure or dry out is accelerated by too long open assembly of glued veneer, use of hot aluminium cauls, too long hot press loading and closing time.

These also depends on other factors such as reactivity of the adhesive mix, water absorption and heat conducting capacity of wood, room temperature, glue spread, press temperature, pH of glue mix and hot veneer.

A pre-cured or dry out glued surface after being hot pressed will be left with spreader mark, poor or no transfer of glue to the mating surface and the cured surface will be lustrous.

Pre-cure and dry out are absolutely processing faults. Neither the glue nor the glue mix must be too old, open and closed assembly times as well as hot press loading time must not be too long and time between loading into the press and application of pressure must be short in case of hot pressing.

Old resin or resin with higher viscosity should be used first. Glue mixes should be prepared in small batches, specially, in hot days, so that each batch is used up much before pot life is over.

Loading time into hot press can be decreased by using mechanical loader. Close assembly time can be increased if pre-pressing is done before hot pressing.



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4. Penetration of glue: Penetration of glue across the face veneer gives the plywood surface an ugly look, specially, with coloured glue. This has become a common problem with very thin face veneer. It also occurs in porous and loosely peeled veneer, specially, in combination with irregular grain. Penetration is higher with veneer having higher moisture content and thinner glue mix. High pressure and temperature in the hot press also help the glue to penetrate more into the veneer. High glue spread and short assembly time may also be the reason of excess glue penetration.

5. Moisture content of veneer: The ideal moisture content in veneer used to manufacture plywood by using glue based on synthetic resins have value in the range 5%-8%. The glue formulations based on urea formaldehyde and phenol formaldehyde resins, used to manufacture plywood, need moisture content 6%-8% and 5%-6% respectively. If the moisture content is higher, the glue will tend to flow excessively, penetrate further into the timber and insufficient glue may remain at the glue line to transfer to the mating non-glued surface. In case of very low moisture content in veneer, the later will tend to absorb moisture from glue leaving thick glue on the glue line. The flow of glue to the non-glued surface will be poor resulting in a poor bond.

Sometimes non-uniform moisture content results in a sheet of veneer due to non-uniform green moisture content, non-uniform drying conditions and differences in drying behaviour. Such veneer sheet having wet and dry zones may show same gluing faults as described above.

Pressing of plywood with veneers above and below the correct average moisture content may lead to warping in plywood.

6. Veneer Defects: Veneer defects which lead to gluing faults are i) rough and uneven surface, ii) weak surface, iii) contaminated surface, iv) inactivated surface. With too rough or uneven surfaces, the percent of contact is low when the two faces are brought in close contact for bonding. Such surfaces form poor bond under normal pressure. Rough surfaces also require higher quantity of glue to fill up the valleys on its surface and thus form a thicker glue line. Such a glue line is liable to crack and thus becomes weak.

A fuzzy veneer surface or a surface having broken fibre has surface fibre very loosely held to the main body of the veneer. Such an adherent surface is weaker than the main body of the veneer and shows predominant timber failure under very low shear load when plywood made with such veneer are tested. Loose fibre on veneer surface may be due to peeling defect e.g. loose peeling or due to nose bar damage during peeling.

Sometimes contaminated veneer surface affects bonding. Contamination may be due to dirt or dust, waxes, oil, fungus attack, etc. Such deposition on veneer surface interferes with wetting of veneer by glue and produce weak joints. Glue failure due to presence of gum tapes is common, but do not lead to delamination if perforated tapes are used. Formation of weak bond due to contaminated surface can be overcome by cleaning veneer surface before gluing. Cleaning of veneer is, in fact, a part of veneer

preparation for gluing.

The occurrence of surface inactivation due to case hardening and its influence on bond strength has already been discussed. It's drying defect and when such problem arises, attention should be given to proper drying and to attain required moisture content in veneer.

7. Hot Press parameters: Temperature, pressure and time are three hot press parameters. All these parameters have already been discussed in detail earlier under hot pressing. The points to note here are the gluing faults or bond defects arising out of the deviation from the scheduled values of anyone or more of these parameters during hot pressing. It is to be remembered that a number of defects can be remedied before hot pressing, but once plywood is made by hot pressing and any defect has crept into it, the remedy lies only in rejection of a part or of the whole plywood.

Pressure brings two mating veneer surfaces close to each other and when the two surfaces are sufficiently close, glue transfer takes place from glued to non-glued surfaces and the voids between two surfaces are filled up with adhesive. In case of extremely insufficient pressure, the transfer of glue will be patchy or non-existent and on curing, the glued surface will appear as if it has got pre-cured. With moderately low pressure, the cured glue line will be uneven in thickness with thicker portions flattened where mating surfaces have made contact alternating with thinner portions where the glue will deposit apparently as pre-cured one. Very high pressure may lead to formation of starved glue line with high glue penetration or

squeeze out and may be higher compression of veneer.

Faulty pressure may be due to operator's mistake to set the pressure gauge according to plywood size, inaccurate pressure calculation, faulty pressure gauge or hydraulic or mechanical system. Attention to equipment with regards to points as mentioned is the remedy to problems arising out of pressure fault.

Pressing time and temperature are inter related - a higher temperature requires a shorter pressing time and vice versa. If the plywood is removed from hot press too early than a set time at a set temperature, the required thermoset condition of the resin will not be reached and the bond will not be strong enough to resist pressure from compressed areas and poor adhesion will result. Excessive hot pressing time may cause embrittlement or decomposition of the cured glue and result in poor bond.

Temperature induces initial decrease in viscosity, initiates flow and wetting of non-glued veneer by resin during hot pressing. Low temperature may not induce sufficient flow and cause poor wetting and penetration, resulting in formation of thick glue line. High temperature, on the other hand causes over penetration and results in a starved glue line.

Temperature variation in hot platen may be due to mechanical faults: water accumulation within platens of old steam heated hot press, blocked heating passages, carbon deposition in oil line or within platen and air locks etc. Ensuring proper flow of the heating medium in the platens, attention to the press, air vents and steam traps may

contribute towards more uniform platen temperatures. To avoid human error, automatic timer and temperature control may be attached. In any case, frequent checking of platen temperature by temperature meter be made and control of heating medium be done accordingly.

Problem related to pre-pressing:

Pre-pressing has two major objectives. The first objective is to transfer adhesive from the spread to the non-spread veneer. The second is to provide grip between layers of veneers so that the consolidated assemblies are more easily handled into the hot press avoiding down grade due to handling. If the transfer of glue and grip are not satisfactory the cause may be anyone of the following:

1. Poor transfer and poor grip means insufficient glue line moisture content, poor glue flow properties and likelihood of a bond failure due to adhesive dry out.
2. Good transfer of glue and poor grip means excessive glue line moisture content and the likelihood of a faulty bond caused by excessive glue flow.

Warping of plywood: Warping is the

distraction in a panel from its true plane which may occur during manufacture or storage. Warping in plywood and other panel product may be of different types e.g. bending, crooking, cupping and twisting. The common causes of warping are i) imbalance construction, variation in moisture content within or among veneer, assorted species, density or thickness variation of veneers which are used in one assembly, ii) uneven heating of hot press platen, iii) too high hot press temperature or too long pressing period, iv) poor stacking of panels after hot pressing, v) inherent timber defects.

Remedial measures

- i) Balanced construction with respect to veneer species, density, thickness.
- ii) Uniform moisture content in veneer.
- iii) Defective veneer such as tension wood, compression wood or too much of cross grain should be avoided as far as possible.
- iv) Use of low temperature cure resin reduces warping significantly (for example UF bonded plywood with curing temperature 105°– 110°C



has very little warping).
 v) Proper hot stacking of plywood after hot pressing helps to reduce

warping.
 vi) Stacking of plywood on a smooth rigid plane surface.

Gluing Faults - Their causes - remedial measures

Defects	Probable causes	Remedial easures
Blister and steam pocket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excessively high initial moisture content in veneer - high water content in gluemix - high glue spread on veneer - very high hot press temperature - trapped gases or water vapour in voids in veneer assembly of panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veneer moisture content should be within 6–8% for UF resin and 4–6% for PF bonded plywood - Glue spread should be 300–350 gm/m² of double glue line - Where OAT is given, glued veneer m.c. should be 14–20% - Solid content and viscosity of glue mix should be within specified value. - Specified hot press temperature for UF 105–110°C, for single stage PF 140–145°C, for double stage PF 130–135°C and for MUF 115–120°C
Delamination and weak bond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very low glue spread - Warm veneer - Very thin glue mix - Poor glue transfer to the non-glued veneer - Excessive glue penetration into porous veneer - Over dry veneer - Thickness variation in veneer beyond tolerance - Too high hot press pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control over glue spreader to obtain thin and uniform glue spread of requisite quantity - Viscosity of glue mix should be within specified value - Veneer temperature should not be higher than floor temperature - MC of veneer should be within specified value (allow OAT of glued veneer in case of PF) - Veneer thickness should be uniform - Strictly maintain specified hot press parameters
Face chip-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High moisture content in face veneer - Shorter hot pressing time - Pre-cure of adhesive before hot pressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control of face veneer m.c. with in specified value (6–10%) - Avoid too long hot press loading time - Strictly maintain all hot press parameter within specified values

Spot delamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presence of knot/cross gain with high m.c. in veneer - Presence of oil/resin streak in veneer - Foamy glue mix or presence of lumps of extender in it - Non-uniform hot press temperature or pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check veneer m.c. near and within a knot or cross gain in veneer - Necessary modification in glue formulation may be made to suit bonding of resinous veneer - Use aluminium caul on either side of plywood assembly during hot pressing if hot press platens are defective or replace the platen with a new one
Pre-cure of adhesive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too hot veneer or aluminium caul - Too thin spread of glue - Adhesive is too reactive - Veneer assembly kept near hot press for longer period before hot pressing - Too long time for assembling or hot press loading and closing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veneer and aluminium caul should be at floor temperature at the time of use - Fast assembly should be ensured specially in case of UF bonded plywood - Loading and closing of hot press should be completed before gel time of glue - In case of UF bonded plywood the glue pH should be kept at a value such that all processes mentioned above be completed before curing of the adhesive - Do not keep veneer assembly near hot press for long time
Under cure adhesive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient hot press time or temperature - Too moist glue line - Less reactive adhesive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain hot press temperature and time strictly as per schedule - Glue spread of 300-350 gm/m² should be strictly maintained - Veneer m.c. should be as per norms (ref. blister) - pH of UF based glue mix should be at 6.0-6.5 - Allow post curing in case of PF bonded plywood

Case hardening or surface inactivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over dried veneer - Wettability of veneer is low - High glue penetration and low glue transfer to the non-glue veneer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veneer should be dried at temperature below 180°C of dryer temperature to the final m.c. of 4-6% for PF and 6-8% for UF - If there is a brown tinge on plywood surface after hot pressing, it is a case of case hardening and needs veneer conditioning after drying
Glue penetration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High initial veneer m.c. - High glue spread - Short OAT - Too deep lathe checks on veneer - Very thin face veneer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veneer m.c. as specified under blister - After OAT, glued veneer m.c. should be 14-20% in case of PF - Glue spread should be 300-350 gm/m² (double glue line) - Proper lathe setting to obtain tight veneer is necessary - Use small quantity of inorganic filler in glue mix - Face veneer should be thick enough to avoid penetration
Corner or edge delimitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower m.c. at the edges due to either delayed drying after peeling - Veneer drying has not been done as first come first serve basis - Veneers peeled from semidried logs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid delayed drying of veneer - Follow proper sequence of drying - Keep logs wet before peeling either by keeping them in pond, water sprinkling or steaming
Poor bonding associated with blue stain mould	Stain and mould growth veneer when dried creates unusual porosity and permeability as well as varying degree of surface damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent mould growth on log during storage - Spray green veneer with insecticide if time gap between peeling and drying is more than 24 hours
Poor bonding associated with veneer from old logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rough veneer - Veneer with thickness variation - Veneer with mould attack - Decomposed veneer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Logs should be peeled till it is in green stage - If peeling is delayed logs should be kept under water in pond

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Euro Pratik

Expands Northern Footprint with Strategic Stake in Chawla Brothers

In a significant move to consolidate its presence in North India, Euro Pratik has acquired a 51% stake in Chawla Brothers, a 47-year-old partnership firm with strong roots in Jalandhar and Ludhiana. The acquisition, valued at ₹32.20 crore, marks the company's second strategic buyout in two quarters, following its southern expansion through URO Veneer World.

According to Director Pratik Singhvi, the deal is expected to strengthen Euro Pratik's distribution network, enhance brand visibility, and deepen market penetration across key northern states including Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh. The



company anticipates an additional revenue boost of approximately ₹85 crore in the next financial year as a direct outcome of this expansion.

Chawla Brothers, a prominent player in the decorative surface segment, reported a turnover of ₹49.50 crore for the financial year ending 31st March, 2025. The acquisition is slated for completion by 31st March, 2026, aligning with Euro Pratik's broader growth strategy.

Architects Visit Gandhidham Plant

A delegation of over 25 architects from across Northern India visited the Amulyamica manufacturing facility in Gandhidham on 14th February 2026, gaining first-hand exposure to the company's production capabilities and quality standards. The group, accompanied by regional sales teams, was accorded a traditional welcome featuring a turban ceremony, tilak, and band-baza, reflecting the region's rich cultural ethos.

The factory tour offered a comprehensive walkthrough of the entire manufacturing process, beginning with raw material selection and culminating in finished product output. Delegates were introduced to stringent quality control measures implemented at every stage to ensure consistency and reliability.

During an interactive conference session, Abhishek Agarwal presented an overview of the company's product portfolio,



along with its strategic vision for growth. Tarun Agarwal elaborated on operational efficiencies, highlighting the company's focus on raw material optimisation and advanced machinery to maintain superior quality benchmarks.

Addressing the gathering, Rakesh Agarwal expressed appreciation for the architects' continued trust, reiterating the company's commitment to uncompromised quality, service excellence, and ongoing CSR initiatives.

As part of Amulyamica's sustainability efforts, the visiting architects participated in a tree plantation drive within the premises. The itinerary also included visits to Smritivan Earthquake Memorial & Museum and the Rann of Kutch, offering a blend of learning and cultural exploration.

The delegates concluded the visit with strong appreciation for Amulyamica's hospitality and reinforced confidence in its product quality.



Bharat Buildcon 2026

India's Construction Ecosystem Converges on a Global Stage

India's rapidly evolving construction and infrastructure ecosystem is set to find its most comprehensive expression at Bharat Buildcon 2026, the country's flagship international exhibition for building materials. Scheduled to be held from 18th to 21st June, 2026, at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, the event has been rescheduled from its earlier April dates in view of prevailing geopolitical uncertainties.

Supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and co-organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Bharat Buildcon 2026 is being positioned as a transformative platform that integrates domestic manufacturing strength with global market access. Key industry bodies including CAPEXIL, SEPC, EEPC India, and NAREDCO are also lending

institutional support.

Bharat Buildcon aims to bring together manufacturers, exporters, policymakers, investors, and global buyers under one roof. With India's building materials exports already exceeding USD 24 billion annually and reaching over 150 countries, the exhibition arrives at a time when global supply chains are actively diversifying beyond traditional hubs. Regions such as the Middle East, Africa, and Europe are increasingly sourcing from India, presenting a significant opportunity for domestic players.

The exhibition will showcase advancements across sustainable construction materials, modern building technologies, and architectural solutions. The integrated conference, curated in partnership with ASAPP Info Global Group,

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will explore critical themes such as export readiness, trade compliance, financing mechanisms, and global procurement dynamics. With participation from over 1,000 international buyers and sourcing agencies, the platform is designed to deliver tangible business outcomes, from market entry strategies to partnership development.

A key highlight is the structured B2B and B2G engagement framework, enabling direct interaction with policymakers, export promotion councils, and financing institutions. For Indian companies, the event serves not merely as an exhibition but as a strategic gateway to global integration.

Among the prominent exhibitors, Virgo Laminates is set to showcase its offerings, reflecting the growing

sophistication and competitiveness of India's decorative surface segment.

Bharat Buildcon 2026 also aligns with broader national initiatives such as **Make in India**, **Digital India**, and the **Smart Cities Mission**, reinforcing the government's push toward infrastructure-led growth. As India positions itself as a global manufacturing and export hub, platforms like Bharat Buildcon are expected to play a pivotal role in bridging domestic capabilities with international demand.

With its expansive scope, institutional backing, and sharp focus on outcomes, Bharat Buildcon 2026 is not just an industry event, it is a statement of India's intent to lead the global construction materials landscape.

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Greenply

A Record Signed by Many

In a remarkable celebration of unity and sporting spirit, Greenply Industries has secured a place in the Guinness World Records for the most signatures on a piece of sports memorabilia. The milestone was achieved through a cricket bat signed by members of the Greenply family, symbolising collective belief and participation. The official certification marks a proud moment for the company, reflecting not just a record-breaking feat, but a shared journey that brings together passion, community, and the enduring spirit of cricket.

(Source: Social Media)



PLY GAZETTE

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Action TESA

Draws Strong Response at IndiaWood 2026

Action TESA reported an enthusiastic response at IndiaWood 2026, highlighting robust footfall and strong participation from channel partners, distributors, and architects. The company created an immersive experience with an outdoor studio setup and live band, adding to the visitor engagement.

At the exhibition, Action TESA introduced a range of new products, including Moistmaster, MoistroDoge, and its much-talked-about “Tesa Inside” quality assurance initiative, which received widespread appreciation. This is aimed at enhancing product authenticity and user confidence.



Company representatives expressed gratitude to visitors and stakeholders for their continued support, attributing the success of their showcase to industry trust and collaboration. The brand described the event as a reaffirmation of its growing market connect and innovation-led approach.

Innovations and engagement marked a successful showcase.



Punjab Govt

Appreciates Industry Participation at PPIS 2026

The Government of Punjab has formally acknowledged the contribution of industry leaders at the Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit (PPIS) 2026, to furniture and ply sector dialogue, underlining the growing synergy between policymakers and the manufacturing sector. In a communication issued by Sanjeev Arora, Cabinet Minister for Industries & Commerce, appreciation was extended to Naresh Tiwari, MD, Virgo Panels, for his participation as a panelist in the knowledge session.

The minister noted that Tiwari's insights, particularly on the furniture and plywood industry, added significant value to discussions focused on shaping forward-looking and transformative growth pathways for the state. The summit served as a platform to align industry perspectives with Punjab's broader economic vision.

Emphasising that the engagement marked more than just the conclusion of an event, the communication highlighted the beginning of a deeper collaboration between the government and industry stakeholders. The state government also reiterated its



commitment to supporting industry players and fostering sustained partnerships.

Officials indicated that such interactions are expected to play a crucial role in strengthening Punjab's industrial ecosystem and driving long-term economic development.

The summit served as a platform to align industry perspectives with Punjab's broader economic vision

WINedge

Precision Edges. Powerful Presence.

WINedge made a notable impression at IndiaWood 2026, presenting its premium edge banding solutions through its flagship offering, WINedge Edgebands by Winext Polytech. As a rapidly growing manufacturer in the furniture and home furnishings segment, the company showcased an expansive portfolio of ABS and acrylic edgebands designed to raise both aesthetics and durability in modern furniture.

Visitors to the company booth experienced a comprehensive display of over 1500 colour options, textures, and finishes, each engineered to seamlessly match leading laminate brands. The products, manufactured using high-grade materials and European primers, demonstrated superior adhesion, flexibility, and long-lasting colour fastness, addressing key requirements of contemporary furniture manufacturing.

The participation also highlighted WINedge Edgebands' commitment to global quality standards and customer-centric innovation. Engaging with architects, OEMs, and interior professionals, the team emphasised customised solutions tailored to evolving design sensibilities and industrial needs.

With a strong focus on reliability and performance, WINedge positioned itself as more than just a product range, it emerged as a dependable partner for manufacturers seeking precision and finesse in every detail.

IndiaWood 2026 thus became a strategic platform for WINedge to reinforce its brand promise: delivering edge banding solutions that combine technology, trust, and design excellence.



EBCO

Powering Intelligent Motion at IndiaWood 2026

At IndiaWood 2026, EBCO presented a compelling showcase of intelligent, motion-driven hardware systems engineered to enhance functionality, optimise space, and uplift contemporary interior design. The exhibit at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre reflected the company's commitment to precision engineering and user-centric innovation across residential, commercial, and institutional environments.

A key highlight was the SPINOVA 360°, an advanced storage solution that transformed conventional cabinets into fully rotational, multi-access units. Designed with high-precision silent bearings and balanced load distribution, it enabled smooth 360-degree movement with soft-close damping, ensuring quiet and safe operation while maximising accessibility.

EBCO also showcased its Pocket Door System, offering efficient space utilisation by

allowing shutters to slide seamlessly into internal compartments. Its push-to-open and flush configurations provided a clean, minimal aesthetic suited to modern interiors.

For dynamic spaces, the Linked Sliding Partition System Slim 80, SC demonstrated synchronised glass door movement with concealed hardware and no bottom track, maintaining a seamless floor finish. The Pro Motion Drawer System further highlighted durability and smooth functionality with full-extension runners and soft-close technology.

Complementing the range, EBCO's eSmart Door Locks, Click-On Hinges, and EcoGlide Concealed Drawer Slides reinforced its vision of integrating convenience, security, and refined design, positioning the brand at the forefront of next-generation hardware solutions.

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Wood Tech Warsaw Expo 2026

Where Wood Innovation Met Global Dialogue

Wood Tech Warsaw Expo 2026 emerged as a significant convergence point for the global woodworking and furniture manufacturing industry, held from 17th to 19th March at Ptak Warsaw Expo. Positioned as one of Europe's leading platforms, the event brought together manufacturers, technology providers, architects, and industry experts to explore emerging trends and innovations shaping the sector.

Spanning an expansive exhibition area, the expo showcased a comprehensive range of solutions, from advanced woodworking machinery and precision tools to raw materials such as timber, veneer, and structural wood. Technologies focused on wood protection, furniture assembly systems, and logistics solutions also featured prominently, underlining the industry's shift toward efficiency and sustainability.

The event served not merely as an exhibition but as a collaborative ecosystem where ideas translated into actionable

business opportunities. With participation from both domestic and international stakeholders, the platform facilitated meaningful dialogue on market expansion, automation, and evolving consumer preferences in interior design and furniture production.

According to organisers, the previous edition recorded over 10,800 visitors and 168 exhibitors, reflecting the growing global interest in the wood and furniture value chain. The 2026 edition continued this momentum, reinforcing its role as a hub for knowledge exchange and cross-border partnerships.

Open to both trade professionals and the general public, the expo underscored inclusivity while maintaining a strong B2B focus. As the woodworking industry navigates technological disruption and sustainability imperatives, Wood Tech Warsaw Expo stands out as a critical platform driving innovation, collaboration, and long-term market development.

PLY GAZETTE
MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

Wood

Fluorine-Free Coating Advances Sustainable Protection

In a significant step towards sustainable materials engineering, researchers in China have developed an eco-friendly solution to improve wood's resistance to moisture. While wood remains a renewable and widely used construction material, its hygroscopic nature often limits its durability, especially in outdoor environments.

The newly developed coating is a breakthrough in green chemistry that enhances durability and performance.

It offers a fluorine-free, energy-efficient alternative to conventional treatments that rely on hazardous chemicals and energy-intensive processes. Created through a one-step cocondensation process using octadecyl amine (ODA) and methyl trimethoxy silane (MTMS) in ethanol, the coating eliminates the need for external

energy input.

This innovation results in a super-hydrophobic surface with a water contact angle exceeding 155° and ultra-low surface energy. Notably, the coating demonstrates self-healing properties, restoring its functionality within 36 hours after damage and maintaining performance over multiple cycles.

The material also exhibits strong UV resistance and chemical stability, ensuring long-term effectiveness. By reducing water absorption and enhancing dimensional stability, the coating significantly extends the service life of wood.

This scalable, green approach presents a promising pathway for durable, environmentally responsible wood applications in construction and outdoor use.

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Edge Banding

The Real Cost Behind the Finish

In the competitive furniture manufacturing landscape, edge banding often becomes a battleground between cost efficiency and product durability. While low-cost edge bands may appear attractive at the outset, recent evaluations underline the critical importance of quality in ensuring long-term performance.

Tests comparing economical and premium edge bands reveal stark differences. Under stress conditions involving cooling and bending, cheaper variants tend to crack quickly, while high-quality edge bands retain flexibility, bending without breaking. This inherent resilience plays a vital role in maintaining structural integrity over time.

Colour durability, another key parameter, further distinguishes the two. Exposure to simulated outdoor conditions using xenon arc lamps showed significant yellowing and visible fading in low-cost products. Spectrophotometer readings recorded a colour difference (ΔE) of 2.7 in

cheaper samples, compared to just 0.3 in premium variants, which retained their original appearance with high lightfastness.

Chemical resistance tests also highlighted disparities. When subjected to cleaning agents and bleach, low-quality edge bands exhibited surface dullness and paint fading. In contrast, superior products showed negligible impact, maintaining both gloss and finish.

Industry experts emphasise that edge banding is not merely a finishing strip but a determinant of product longevity, aesthetic consistency, and manufacturing reliability. Short-term savings from cheaper alternatives often translate into higher long-term costs due to repairs, replacements, and customer dissatisfaction.

The findings reinforce a clear industry insight: durability, not just price, defines true value in edge band selection.

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Korea Build Week 2026

Global Gateway to Asia

Korea Build Week 2026 is set to open new avenues for global construction and building material companies seeking entry into Asia's dynamic markets. Scheduled from 5th to 8th August, 2026, at the COEX Convention & Exhibition Center, the event continues its legacy as South Korea's largest and most influential construction trade fair since its inception in 1986.

The exhibition arrives at a time when India-South Korea trade relations are gaining momentum under a Special Strategic Partnership, with bilateral targets set to reach USD 50 billion by 2030. For Indian companies in particular, the platform offers a timely opportunity to establish market presence and build cross-border collaborations.

The scale of the event underscores its industry relevance. The 2025 edition recorded over 600 exhibitors, 1,700 booths, and more than 54,000 business



visitors, reflecting strong participation from key stakeholders across the construction ecosystem.

Korea Build Week 2026 promises multiple business advantages, including direct access to decision-makers such as architects, builders, developers, and government representatives. Structured 1:1 business matching programmes aim to facilitate targeted interactions, while integrated B2B, B2G, and B2C channels enable diversified growth opportunities.

Exhibitors will also benefit from year-round

digital promotion, product launch platforms, and real-time market insights. With categories spanning construction materials, interior finishes, smart building systems, HVAC, lighting, and renewable energy, the event offers a comprehensive industry showcase.

As a gateway to broader Asian markets, Korea Build Week positions itself as a strategic platform for companies aiming to expand exports, strengthen distribution networks, and align with emerging construction trends.

Green Approach

Enhances Wood Durability

In a significant step towards sustainable materials engineering, researchers in China have developed a fluorine-free, energy-efficient coating that enhances wood's resistance to humidity while aligning with green chemistry principles. The innovation addresses a long-standing challenge associated with wood, its hygroscopic nature-which often limits durability in outdoor and high-moisture environments.

Unlike conventional protective coatings that rely on fluorinated compounds or energy-intensive processes, the new approach employs a one-step co-condensation method using octadecyl amine (ODA) and methyltrimethoxy silane (MTMS) in ethanol. This streamlined process eliminates the need for hazardous substances and external energy input, making it both environmentally responsible and industrially viable.

The resulting surface features a

hierarchical micro/nano structure with ultra-low surface free energy, enabling a water contact angle exceeding 155° , a key indicator of superhydrophobicity. Notably, the coating demonstrates self-healing properties, restoring its functionality within 36 hours after mechanical damage or plasma exposure.

Durability metrics further strengthen its potential. The coating sustains performance through up to 43 damage-repair cycles, maintains UV stability over extended exposure, and resists degradation in neutral and alkaline conditions.

By significantly reducing water absorption and improving dimensional stability, this MTMS/ODA-based solution extends the service life of wood in demanding applications. The development signals a scalable and eco-conscious pathway for advancing wood protection technologies in modern construction.

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Ornare

Enhances Interiors with Crysto Panels Range

Ornare is strengthening its position in the premium surfaces segment with the introduction of its Crysto panels, a collection designed to bring refined aesthetics and durability to contemporary interiors. Available in high gloss, super matte, metal matt and glass finishes, the panels are engineered using advanced tempered surface technology, ensuring long-lasting performance and visual appeal.

The offering is complemented by the Syncrolux range, which introduces textured panels and hybrid veneers inspired by natural materials such as wood, leather and stone. These designs aim to deliver depth and authenticity across furniture and wall applications, aligning with evolving interior trends.

Ornare's broader laminate portfolio includes premium European decors in



standard and large formats, supported by matching textured edge bands for seamless finishes. The Velmatt luxury matt laminates add a tactile dimension with anti-fingerprint properties, while digital laminates showcase Indian art-inspired and nature-driven patterns.

Further enhancing its portfolio, the company has introduced curated cabinetry laminates and the Ornare Grip range of colour-coded recessed handles, tailored for wardrobes and storage solutions. Together, the collection reflects a comprehensive approach to modern interior design, combining aesthetics, functionality, and precision engineering.

Sweden

Adopts Active Forestry to Preserve Ageing Ecosystems

In a significant shift towards proactive environmental stewardship, Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget (SCA) is redefining forest conservation practices in Sweden by focusing on the protection and creation of ecologically valuable old trees. The move reflects a broader transition within the forestry sector from passive conservation to active, science-led ecological management.

Traditionally, Swedish forestry conservation relied heavily on setting aside forest areas through reserves or voluntary exclusions. While these methods remain relevant, SCA has introduced a more integrated, landscape-level approach. The company currently manages five large biodiversity parks, where protected zones coexist with managed forestry practices aimed at sustaining

ecological, cultural, and social values.

Central to this strategy is the deliberate enhancement of biodiversity through targeted interventions. According to SCA's forest management leadership, conservation is no longer limited to preserving what already exists but extends to actively improving ecological conditions. This includes increasing the number of old-growth characteristics within forests, features that are critical for supporting specialised species.

Among the most notable techniques being employed are "veteranisation" and basal stem burning. These methods are designed to accelerate the natural ageing process of trees, replicating conditions typically found in undisturbed or fire-affected forests. Veteranisation involves creating controlled wounds on living trees,

triggering resin production that strengthens the wood and slows decay. Over time, this process results in dense, resin-rich “fatwood,” known for its durability.

Basal stem burning, on the other hand, uses carefully managed fire at the base of a tree to create partial burn scars. This stimulates a similar defensive response, making the wood more resistant to rot. Such features are vital habitats for a wide range of organisms, including fungi, lichens, and insects—particularly rare or red-listed beetle species that depend on fire-scarred wood.

The need for such interventions arises from the decline of natural forest fires in Sweden over the past century. While fire suppression has protected commercial timber resources, it has also reduced

the occurrence of ecological conditions essential for biodiversity. Active forestry practices now aim to bridge this gap.

SCA plans to scale up these measures, integrating them into routine forest operations. By aligning conservation efforts with harvesting activities, the company seeks to maximise ecological outcomes without compromising productivity.

This evolving model underscores a critical realisation: sustainable forestry is not merely about preservation, but about informed intervention. Sweden’s approach, led by SCA, offers a compelling blueprint for balancing economic interests with ecological resilience in the face of changing environmental realities.



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Blum

Strengthening Industry Connect with Innovation and Engagement at IndiaWood 2026

At IndiaWood 2026, global furniture fittings leader Blum reinforced its commitment to the Indian market through a strategic mix of product innovation, digital engagement, and customer-centric initiatives. The company's participation at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre highlighted its focus on building deeper connections with carpenters, contractors, OEMs, and channel partners.

A major highlight of Blum's presence was the launch of the Blum Club loyalty app, a first-of-its-kind initiative tailored specifically for India. Introduced by Maartende Vries, the app was designed to bring rewards and knowledge onto a single platform. Customers could scan QR codes printed on Blum products to accumulate reward points, redeemable for gifts or even bill

payments. The app is also expected to evolve into a training hub, offering modules that enhance product understanding and installation skills. This initiative builds on Blum's globally available Easy Assembly app, further strengthening its digital ecosystem.

Blum also showcased its robust e-services and configurator tools, widely used by OEMs. These software solutions integrate seamlessly with CNC programming and CAD systems, enabling manufacturers to optimise design, planning, and production workflows with greater efficiency and precision.

On the product front, Blum introduced the CLIP top BLUMOTION 105° hinge, a compact and cost-effective solution developed specifically for the Indian

market. Combining the trusted CLIP mounting system with integrated BLUMOTION soft-close technology, the hinge ensures smooth, silent closing without the need for additional components. Its tool-free installation significantly reduces assembly time, enhancing productivity both in factories and on-site.

Engineered for durability, the hinge has been tested for over 1, 20,000 cycles and complies with DIN performance standards, making it suitable for long-term use in residential and light commercial applications. Its three-dimensional adjustment capability allows precise alignment, ensuring consistent door gaps and reliable operation over time.

The hinge's compact design supports door thicknesses up to 24 mm, making it versatile across kitchens, wardrobes, and office furniture. With a corrosion-resistant nickel finish and a discreet profile, it blends seamlessly with modern furniture aesthetics while delivering consistent performance in high-usage environments.

Blum's participation at IndiaWood 2026 not only showcased its latest innovations but also reaffirmed its approach of combining technology, usability, and market relevance. By aligning product development with local needs and strengthening engagement through digital platforms, Blum continues to shape the future of furniture fittings in India.



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Maria Décor

Upgrades ASA Panels Range

Maria Décor has announced a significant upgrade to its established Exquiso ASA range with the introduction of ASAMICA prelaminated panels, marking a decisive advancement in weatherable surface technology. Positioned as more than a rebranding exercise, ASAMICA reflects a comprehensive technical refinement aimed at meeting the evolving demands of contemporary architecture and interior applications.

A key innovation lies in its improved bonding strength. By optimising the molecular structure of the panel's underside, the company has enhanced adhesive compatibility, reducing risks of delamination and surface bubbling, particularly in humid environments. This makes the panels suitable for both residential and large-scale commercial projects.

Consistency is another defining feature. Maria Décor has introduced a 'no batch variation' assurance across ASAMICA's palette, ensuring uniform colour output

whether deployed in a single installation or across expansive developments such as hotels or institutional buildings.

The range offers an expanded palette of 125 shades, spanning bold hues to muted pastels, and is available in three finishes - ultra-high gloss for reflective, glass-like surfaces; supermatt for a soft-touch, anti-fingerprint effect; and embossed textures that replicate organic materials. Matching ASA edge bands further enable a seamless, monolithic aesthetic.

Designed for performance as well as hygiene, ASAMICA panels are non-porous, easy to clean, and resistant to bacterial accumulation, making them suitable for kitchens and healthcare environments. UV stability ensures long-term colour retention.

Available in thicknesses from 3 mm to 50 mm and sizes up to 10 feet, the panels support uninterrupted vertical applications, while matching backers enhance structural stability over time.



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Aryamman

Surfaces for Contemporary Furniture

Responding to the evolving needs of India's furniture manufacturing sector, Group Aryamman has introduced a new portfolio of surface materials and components designed to merge visual sophistication with shopfloor efficiency. The launch reflects a growing industry shift towards integrated, ready-to-use solutions that minimise processing time while maintaining consistent quality.

At the forefront is Venère, a pre-finished veneer range engineered to deliver refined, European-inspired aesthetics with enhanced practicality. Developed for applications such as kitchens, wardrobes, and high-use interiors, the collection offers uniform thickness, stable performance, and controlled finishing. Its ready-to-use format significantly reduces dependence on post-lamination processes, enabling faster production cycles and consistent output across large-scale manufacturing.

Complementing this is Ebello, featuring the advanced EB-Matt surface. Moving beyond traditional PET foils and

standard super-matt boards, the EB curing technology improves scratch resistance, colour retention, and surface hardness. Its liquid-metal super-matt finish, marked by extremely low reflectivity, aligns with the demand for minimalist, contemporary interiors. Backed with kraft paper, the material is optimised for cold pressing, offering manufacturers flexibility without compromising durability.

Further strengthening the system-based approach, Aryamman has introduced new profiles for five-piece shutters, including J-Profiles tailored for handle-less kitchen designs. These ensure precise fitment and repeatable accuracy, essential for scalable production.

Matching handles, available in ten coordinated décors, complete the offering. Aligned with Aryamman's synchronised texture programme, they ensure tonal and tactile continuity, enabling manufacturers to deliver cohesive, end-to-end furniture solutions from a single source.

PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

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Zooper Natura

Signals a New Era of Surfaces

At IndiaWood 2026, Praveedh Décor unveiled Zooper Natura, positioning it as a decisive leap in surface innovation, one that retains the emotional resonance of natural veneer while resolving its long-standing limitations. Conceived as a next-generation finish, Zooper Natura bridges the gap between artisanal beauty and industrial precision, aligning with the evolving needs of contemporary interior manufacturing.

For decades, veneer has defined premium spaces through its warmth, organic grain, and tactile richness. Yet, its vulnerabilities - susceptibility to moisture, fading, cracking, and inconsistencies, have often posed challenges in large-scale, time-sensitive projects. Zooper Natura reframes this narrative. While preserving the visual depth and authenticity of natural wood, it introduces durability, scratch resistance, colour stability, and low maintenance into the equation, making it viable for high-performance applications.

Designed for versatility, the surface seamlessly transitions across use cases, from wall panels and shutters to furniture, joinery, and even curved or sculptural elements. This adaptability is reinforced by a tightly curated

palette of grains, minerals, and earthy tones. Rich wood textures, grounded stone finishes, and restrained industrial neutrals are brought together through synchronised pore technology, ensuring a consistent tactile and visual language.

What distinguishes Zooper Natura is its emphasis on continuity. Designers and manufacturers can now extend a single finish across multiple surfaces and formats - wardrobes, panels, and bespoke elements, without material breaks. This coherence reflects a broader shift in luxury design, where seamless integration outweighs ornamentation.

The launch builds on Praveedh Décor's decade-long investment in surface engineering, spanning innovations such as OpuLux, Acrymica, and advanced lamination capabilities. Zooper Natura thus emerges not merely as a product, but as a culmination of sustained R&D and manufacturing evolution.

Together, it signals a future where aesthetics, efficiency, and scalability converge, reshaping how surfaces are imagined and executed in modern interiors.

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MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

प्लाईवुड, पैनल और लैमिनेट इन्डस्ट्री

रासायनिक उत्पादों में बढ़ोतरी, लकड़ी पैनल उद्योग को कीमतें बढ़ाने की ओर धकेल रही है

भारत का प्लाईवुड, पैनल और लैमिनेट उद्योग अप्रैल के पहले सप्ताह से कीमतों में एक और बढ़ोतरी के लिए तैयार हो रहा है, क्योंकि प्रमुख रसायनों और कच्चे माल की लागत में तेज़ वृद्धि देशभर के निर्माताओं पर लगातार दबाव बना रही है। उद्योग से जुड़े लोगों के अनुसार, फिनोल और फॉर्मल्डिहाइड जैसे इनपुट की कीमतों में लगातार बढ़ोतरी ने उत्पादन लागत को नियंत्रण से बाहर कर दिया है, जिससे कंपनियों के पास सीमित विकल्प ही बचे हैं।

पिछले एक सप्ताह में इस क्षेत्र में भारी उतार-चढ़ाव देखा गया है, जिसमें पेट्रोकेमिकल आधारित कच्चे माल की कीमतों में तेज़ और कुछ मामलों में लगभग दोगुनी वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। फिनोल और फॉर्मल्डिहाइड की कीमतें अब तक के उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंच गई हैं, जिससे निर्माताओं में भविष्य को लेकर गंभीर चिंता पैदा हो गई है। इसके साथ ही पॉपलर सहित अन्य लकड़ी (टिंबर) की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी ने लागत का दबाव और बढ़ा दिया है।

इन सभी बढ़ोतरी का संयुक्त प्रभाव पूरी वैल्यू चेन पर पड़ा है, जिसमें प्लाईवुड और ब्लॉकबोर्ड निर्माता से लेकर दरवाज़ा और लैमिनेट उत्पादक तक शामिल हैं। उद्योग के सूत्रों का कहना है कि वर्तमान इनपुट लागत एक बार फिर उस सीमा को पार कर गई

है जिसे कंपनियां सहन नहीं कर सकती हैं, खासकर हाल ही में लागू किए गए मूल्य संशोधनों के बाद।

तेज़ी से बदलती स्थिति के जवाब में, विभिन्न क्षेत्रीय उद्योग समूहों और निर्माता संघों ने पिछले कुछ दिनों में बैठकें कीं, ताकि बढ़ती लागत के प्रभाव का आकलन किया जा सके। इन बैठकों में मुख्य रूप से उत्पादन की स्थिरता और वित्तीय दबाव को कम करने के उपायों पर चर्चा हुई। हालांकि, बढ़ती लागत की गति और स्तर को देखते हुए यह स्पष्ट होता जा रहा है कि कीमतों में और बढ़ोतरी लगभग अनिवार्य है।

निर्माताओं का कहना है कि कच्चे माल की कीमतों में रोज़ाना होने वाला उतार-चढ़ाव उत्पादन और मूल्य निर्धारण की योजना बनाना कठिन बना रहा है। यह अनिश्चितता विशेष रूप से पेट्रोकेमिकल क्षेत्र में अधिक है, जहां सप्लाई में बाधाएं और वैश्विक बाज़ार की स्थितियां लगातार बदलाव ला रही हैं। इसके कारण कंपनियों के लिए तैयार उत्पादों की कीमत स्थिर रखना और मुनाफा बनाए रखना चुनौतीपूर्ण हो गया है।

रसायनों की कीमतों में यह वृद्धि कोई अलग घटना नहीं है, बल्कि यह कई महत्वपूर्ण कच्चे माल को प्रभावित करने वाले व्यापक रुझान का हिस्सा है। चिपकने वाले पदार्थ (एडहेसिव) और रेज़िन, जो फिनोल और फॉर्मल्डिहाइड जैसे पेट्रोकेमिकल पर

आधारित होते हैं, उत्पादन लागत का बड़ा हिस्सा होते हैं। इनकी कीमतों में लगातार बढ़ोतरी सीधे तौर पर प्लाईवुड, लैमिनेट और संबंधित उत्पादों की लागत संरचना को प्रभावित करती है।

उद्योग से जुड़े लोगों का मानना है कि वर्तमान स्थिति हाल के महीनों में सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण है, क्योंकि इनपुट लागत में वृद्धि पहले के अनुमान से कहीं अधिक है। कई निर्माताओं ने मार्च के मध्य में कीमतें बढ़ाई थीं, लेकिन लगातार बढ़ती लागत ने उस लाभ को खत्म कर दिया है। इसलिए अब अतिरिक्त मूल्य वृद्धि की आवश्यकता महसूस की जा रही है ताकि संचालन जारी रखा जा सके।

उद्योग की प्रतिक्रिया के अनुसार, अधिकांश प्लाईवुड, लैमिनेट और दरवाजा निर्माताओं के संगठन इस बात पर सहमत हैं कि लागत का कुछ हिस्सा बाजार पर डालना जरूरी है। हालांकि कीमत बढ़ोतरी की मात्रा क्षेत्र और उत्पाद के अनुसार अलग-अलग हो सकती है, लेकिन दिशा स्पष्ट है—अप्रैल की शुरुआत से नई कीमतें लागू होने की संभावना है।

साथ ही, निर्माता मांग की स्थिति पर भी नज़र रख रहे हैं, क्योंकि उत्पादों की कीमत में अचानक वृद्धि से कीमत-संवेदनशील बाजार में मांग प्रभावित हो सकती है। लागत की भरपाई और बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा बनाए रखना एक बड़ी चुनौती है, खासकर

तब जब ग्राहक बार-बार कीमत बढ़ने का विरोध कर सकते हैं।

इन चुनौतियों के बावजूद उद्योग उत्पादन जारी रखने की कोशिश कर रहा है, हालांकि कुछ कंपनियां लागत नियंत्रण के लिए उत्पादन में बदलाव पर विचार कर रही हैं। छोटे निर्माताओं पर इसका अधिक असर पड़ सकता है, क्योंकि उनके पास सीमित वित्तीय संसाधन और कच्चे माल की खरीद में कम सौदेबाज़ी शक्ति होती है।

23 से 28 मार्च के बीच कच्चे माल की कीमतों में लगातार वृद्धि देखी गई, और यह रुझान 30 मार्च तक जारी रहा, जो बाजार में बनी अस्थिरता को दर्शाता है। रसायनों और लकड़ी की कीमतों में फिलहाल कोई राहत नहीं दिख रही है, जिससे उद्योग के सामने अनिश्चितता बनी हुई है।

जैसे ही नया वित्तीय वर्ष शुरू हो रहा है, आने वाले कुछ सप्ताह यह तय करेंगे कि निर्माता बढ़ती लागत और बाजार की चुनौतियों से कितनी प्रभावी तरीके से निपट पाते हैं। फिलहाल उद्योग में यह सहमति बन रही है कि कीमतों में जल्द ही सुधार (बढ़ोतरी) किया जाएगा, ताकि कंपनियां अपने संचालन को स्थिर रख सकें और इस चुनौतीपूर्ण माहौल में विकास जारी रख सकें।



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PPMA

रसायनों की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी के बीच पंजाब के प्लाईवुड यूनिट्स ने उत्पादन घटाया

पंजाब के प्लाईवुड निर्माताओं ने कच्चे माल की गंभीर समस्या के चलते अपने संचालन को कम करने का निर्णय लिया है, जिसके तहत फैक्ट्रियां अब सप्ताह में तीन दिन बंद रहेंगी। यह निर्देश पंजाब प्लाईवुड मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (PPMA) के अध्यक्ष इंदरजीत सिंह सोहल द्वारा उद्योग के सदस्यों को आधिकारिक रूप से जारी किया गया।

यह कदम फिनोल और फॉर्मलिडहाइड जैसे प्रमुख रसायनों की कीमतों में अनियंत्रित वृद्धि के बीच उठाया गया है, जिससे उत्पादन लागत पर गहरा असर पड़ा है। एसोसिएशन के अनुसार, सप्ताह के कुछ दिनों तक संचालन बंद रखने का यह फैसला अगले

आदेश तक लागू रहेगा।

सोहल ने कहा कि यह कदम उद्योग की स्थिरता बनाए रखने और कथित कालाबाजारी की चिंताओं को दूर करने के लिए उठाया गया है। उन्होंने संकेत दिया कि कुछ आयातकों और व्यापारियों ने आपस में मिलकर कार्टेल बना लिया है, जिससे कृत्रिम रूप से कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी हो रही है।

उद्योग का मानना है कि सामूहिक रूप से उत्पादन कम करने से सप्लायर्स पर दबाव पड़ेगा, जिससे वे बाजार में स्टॉक जारी करने के लिए मजबूर होंगे। निर्माताओं से अपील की गई है कि वे इस बदलती स्थिति में पूरा सहयोग करें।



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वुड पैनल और लैमिनेट इन्डस्ट्री

बढ़ती इनपुट लागतें लैमिनेट और पैनल निर्माताओं पर दबाव डाल रही हैं

वुड पैनल और लैमिनेट उद्योग एक बार फिर लागत के दबाव का सामना कर रहा है, क्योंकि प्रमुख कच्चे माल की कीमतें लगातार बढ़ रही हैं। यह स्थिति स्ट्रेट ऑफ होर्मुज़ के आसपास वैश्विक आपूर्ति में आई कमी के कारण बनी हुई है। उद्योग सूत्रों के अनुसार, फिनोल की कीमत लगभग 160 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम तक पहुंच गई है, जबकि फॉर्मल्डिहाइड 35 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम से ऊपर चला गया है, जिससे निर्माताओं की इनपुट लागत काफी बढ़ गई है।

इस तेज़ बढ़ोतरी ने पूरे क्षेत्र के उत्पादकों को अस्थिर कर दिया है, और कई निर्माता अब कठिन परिस्थितियों में उत्पादन की व्यवहार्यता का पुनर्मूल्यांकन कर रहे हैं। निकट भविष्य में कीमतों के स्थिर होने के कोई संकेत नहीं मिलने से कंपनियां घटते मुनाफे और बढ़ती लागत को संभालने में संघर्ष कर रही हैं।

उद्योग जगत की प्रतिक्रिया के अनुसार, इनपुट लागत अब नियंत्रण से बाहर हो चुकी है, जिसके कारण कुछ कंपनियां वित्तीय दबाव को कम करने के लिए अस्थायी रूप से उत्पादन में कटौती करने पर विचार कर रही हैं। यह स्थिति विशेष रूप से छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के निर्माताओं के लिए संचालन की स्थिरता को लेकर चिंता बढ़ा रही है।

सिर्फ दो हफ्ते पहले, उद्योग ने बढ़ती लागत को संतुलित करने के लिए लकड़ी पैनल और लैमिनेट सेगमेंट में सामूहिक रूप से कीमतें बढ़ाई थीं। हालांकि, कच्चे माल की कीमतों में लगातार हो रही वृद्धि अब निर्माताओं को और अधिक मूल्य संशोधन करने पर मजबूर कर रही है, जो संभवतः ब्रेक-ईवन स्तर तक हो सकते हैं, अन्यथा उन्हें इस अस्थिर स्थिति में उत्पादन कम करना पड़ सकता है।

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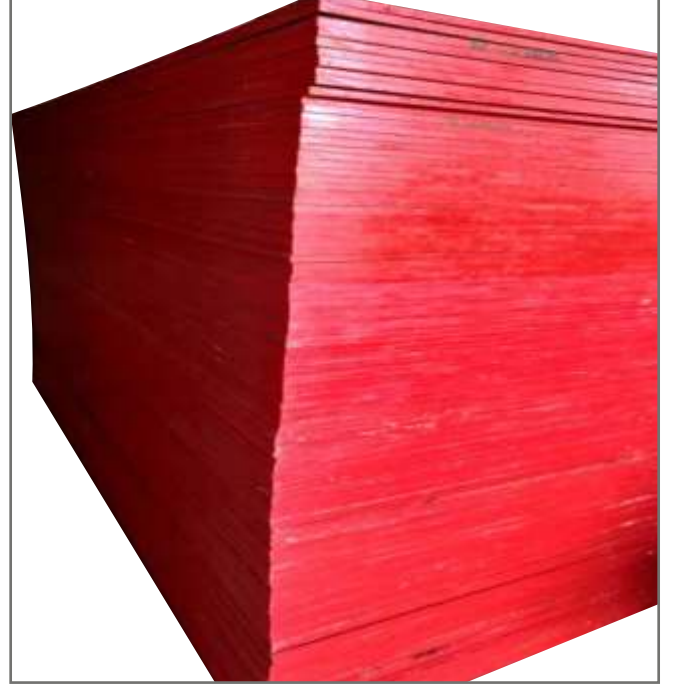
शटरिंग प्लाई

कच्चे माल के संकट के बीच मूल्य वृद्धि

यमुनानगर स्थित शटरिंग प्लाईवुड मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (SPMA) ने 9 मार्च से सभी शटरिंग प्लाईवुड वेरिएंट—MR, MUF और PF - पर (12 मिमी आधार पर) ₹3 प्रति वर्ग फुट की मूल्य वृद्धि की घोषणा की है। यह निर्णय मध्य पूर्व में बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनावों के कारण लिया गया है, जिसने वैश्विक सप्लाई चेन को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित किया है और कच्चे माल की कीमतों में तेज़ उतार-चढ़ाव पैदा किया है।

9 मार्च को आयोजित बैठक में SPMA सदस्यों ने उद्योग के सामने बढ़ती परिचालन चुनौतियों की समीक्षा की। फिनोल, मेलामाइन और फॉर्मालिन जैसे प्रमुख कच्चे माल की कीमतों में लगभग 40-50% की वृद्धि देखी गई है, जिससे उत्पादन लागत और मुनाफे पर गहरा असर पड़ा है।

एसोसिएशन ने कहा कि यह मूल्य वृद्धि इनपुट लागत में तेज़ बढ़ोतरी की भरपाई के लिए आवश्यक कदम है। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि यह संशोधन केवल लागत संतुलन के लिए है और इसमें किसी प्रकार का लाभ शामिल नहीं है। पहले से ही आपूर्ति की कमी और आवश्यक रसायनों की अनिश्चित उपलब्धता से जूझ रहे निर्माता अब अपनी परिचालन क्षमता बनाए



रखने के लिए बढ़ते दबाव का सामना कर रहे हैं।

स्थिति की बदलती प्रकृति को देखते हुए, SPMA ने संकेत दिया कि बाज़ार परिस्थितियों के अनुसार कीमतों की साप्ताहिक या उससे भी कम अंतराल पर समीक्षा की जाएगी। एसोसिएशन ने हितधारकों से सहयोग बनाए रखने की अपील करते हुए इस अनिश्चितता के दौर में सामूहिक धैर्य और सहयोग की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया है।

PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

पंजाब गवर्नमेंट

PPIS 2026 में उद्योग की भागीदारी की सराहना की

पंजाब सरकार ने प्रोग्रेसिव पंजाब इन्वेस्टर्स समिट (PPIS) 2026 में उद्योग से जुड़े नेताओं के योगदान को औपचारिक रूप से स्वीकार किया है, विशेष रूप से फर्नीचर और प्लाई सेक्टर से जुड़े संवाद में। इससे नीति-निर्माताओं और मैनुफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर के बीच बढ़ते तालमेल को रेखांकित किया गया है। उद्योग एवं वाणिज्य मंत्री संजीव अरोड़ा द्वारा जारी एक संचार में, विर्गो पैनल्स के एमडी नरेश तिवारी को ज्ञान सत्र में पैनलिस्ट के रूप में भागीदारी को सराहा गया।

मंत्री ने उल्लेख किया कि तिवारी के विचार, खासकर फर्नीचर और प्लाईवुड उद्योग पर, राज्य के लिए भविष्य उन्मुख और परिवर्तनकारी विकास के मार्ग तैयार करने वाली चर्चाओं में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देने वाले रहे। यह समिट उद्योग के दृष्टिकोण को पंजाब की व्यापक आर्थिक सोच के साथ जोड़ने का एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच साबित हुआ।

इस बात पर जोर देते हुए कि यह सहभागिता केवल एक आयोजन का समापन नहीं है, संचार में इसे सरकार और उद्योग हितधारकों के बीच गहरे सहयोग की शुरुआत बताया गया। राज्य सरकार ने उद्योग जगत को समर्थन देने और स्थायी साझेदारी को बढ़ावा देने



की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता भी दोहराई।

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, इस प्रकार की सहभागिता पंजाब के औद्योगिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को मजबूत करने और दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक विकास को गति देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी।

इस समिट ने उद्योग के दृष्टिकोण को पंजाब की व्यापक आर्थिक दृष्टि के साथ समन्वित करने के लिए एक मंच प्रदान किया

डब्ल्यूपीसी पीवीसी एसोसिएशन

आपूर्ति संकट के बीच 15% मूल्य वृद्धि की घोषणा

डब्ल्यूपीसी पीवीसी एसोसिएशन ने कच्चे माल की बढ़ती लागत और सप्लाय चैन में व्यवधान के कारण अभूतपूर्व दबाव का हवाला देते हुए 9 मार्च से डब्ल्यूपीसी और पीवीसी उत्पादों की सभी श्रेणियों पर 15% मूल्य वृद्धि की घोषणा की है।

यह निर्णय जारी भू-राजनीतिक तनावों की पृष्ठभूमि में लिया गया है, जिन्होंने वैश्विक व्यापार प्रवाह को काफी प्रभावित किया है। पीवीसी रेजिन, प्रोसेसिंग आदी और विशेष एडिटिव्स जैसे प्रमुख कच्चे माल की कीमतों में तेज़ बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है, जिसका कारण सीमित उपलब्धता और लॉजिस्टिक समस्याएँ हैं।

एसोसिएशन के अनुसार, इनपुट लागत में वृद्धि इस स्तर तक पहुँच गई है कि अब निर्माताओं के लिए इसका भार स्वयं वहन करना संभव नहीं रहा है। “वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में यह बढ़ोतरी अपरिहार्य है,” एसोसिएशन ने कहा, और जोड़ा कि कई प्लांट्स में उत्पादन की आर्थिक स्थिति पहले ही प्रभावित हो चुकी है।

उद्योग के जानकारों का कहना है कि कई



निर्माण इकाइयाँ दबाव में काम कर रही हैं, जहाँ मुनाफा घट रहा है और आपूर्ति की अनिश्चितता योजना बनाने की प्रक्रिया को जटिल बना रही है। यदि यह अस्थिरता जारी रहती है, तो परिचालन की निरंतरता को लेकर भी चिंता बढ़ गई है।

हितधारकों को जारी एक परामर्श में, एसोसिएशन ने खरीदारों से केवल आवश्यक मात्रा में ही खरीद करने और अत्यधिक स्टॉक जमा करने से बचने की अपील की है। उसने चेतावनी दी है कि वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में उद्योग अतिरिक्त मांग को पूरा करने में कठिनाई का सामना कर सकता है।

स्थिति की बदलती प्रकृति को देखते हुए, एसोसिएशन ने कहा है कि कीमतों की साप्ताहिक समीक्षा की जाएगी और बाज़ार की स्थिति स्थिर होने तक हर सोमवार अपडेट जारी किए जाएंगे।

जैसे-जैसे यह क्षेत्र इस चुनौतीपूर्ण दौर से गुजर रहा है, आगे भी कीमतों में संशोधन की संभावना बनी हुई है।

एक्शन टेसा

इंडियावुड 2026 में जोरदार प्रतिक्रिया मिली

एक्शन टेसा ने इंडिया वुड 2026 में जबरदस्त प्रतिक्रिया दर्ज की, जहाँ भारी संख्या में आगंतुकों की मौजूदगी और चैनल पार्टनर्स, डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स तथा आर्किटेक्ट्स की सक्रिय भागीदारी देखने को मिली। कंपनी ने आउटडोर स्टूडियो सेटअप और लाइव बैंड प्रोग्राम के साथ एक आकर्षक अनुभव तैयार किया, जिससे विज़िटर्स की भागीदारी और बढ़ी।

प्रदर्शनी में एक्शन टेसा ने कई नए उत्पाद पेश किए, जिनमें मॉइस्टमास्टर, मॉइस्ट्रूडोज और उसका चर्चित “Tesa Inside” क्वालिटी एश्योरेंस इनिशिएटिव शामिल है, जिसे व्यापक सराहना मिली। इसका उद्देश्य उत्पाद की प्रामाणिकता और उपयोगकर्ता विश्वास को बढ़ाना है।



कंपनी के प्रतिनिधियों ने आगंतुकों और हितधारकों के निरंतर समर्थन के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया और इस सफलता का श्रेय उद्योग के विश्वास और सहयोग को दिया। ब्रांड ने इस आयोजन को अपने बढ़ते मार्केट कनेक्ट और नवाचार-आधारित दृष्टिकोण की पुनः पुष्टि बताया।

नवाचार और सहभागिता के साथ यह एक सफल प्रस्तुति साबित हुई।



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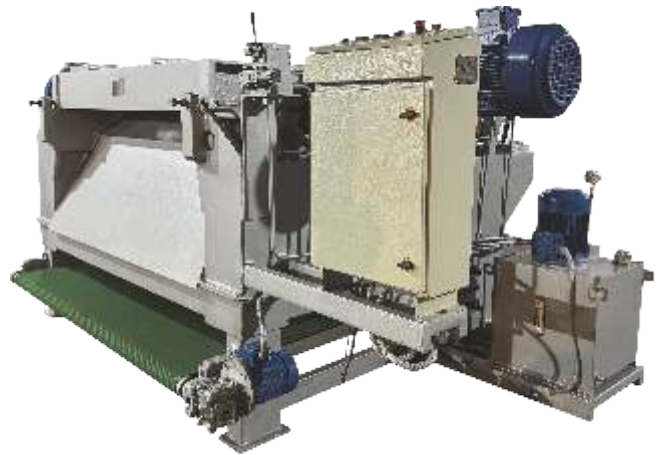
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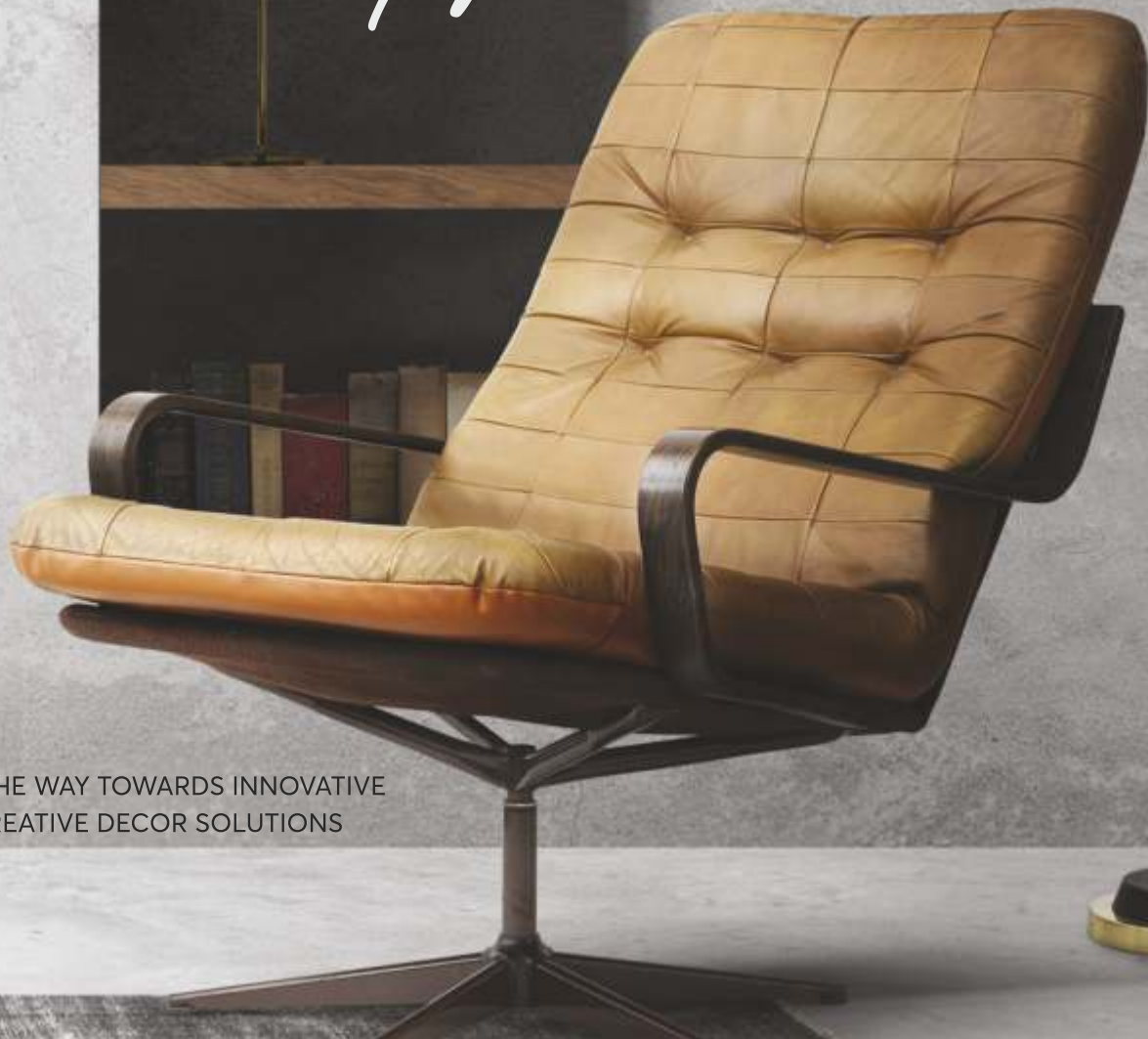
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