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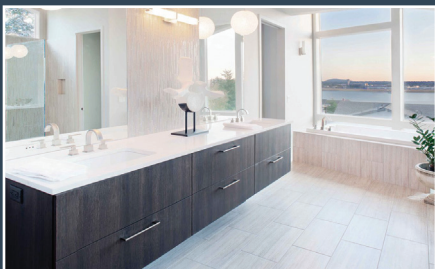
Volume 17 • Issue 2

A Quarterly Publication on Plywood / Wood & Bamboo Based Panel Products

April - June 2023



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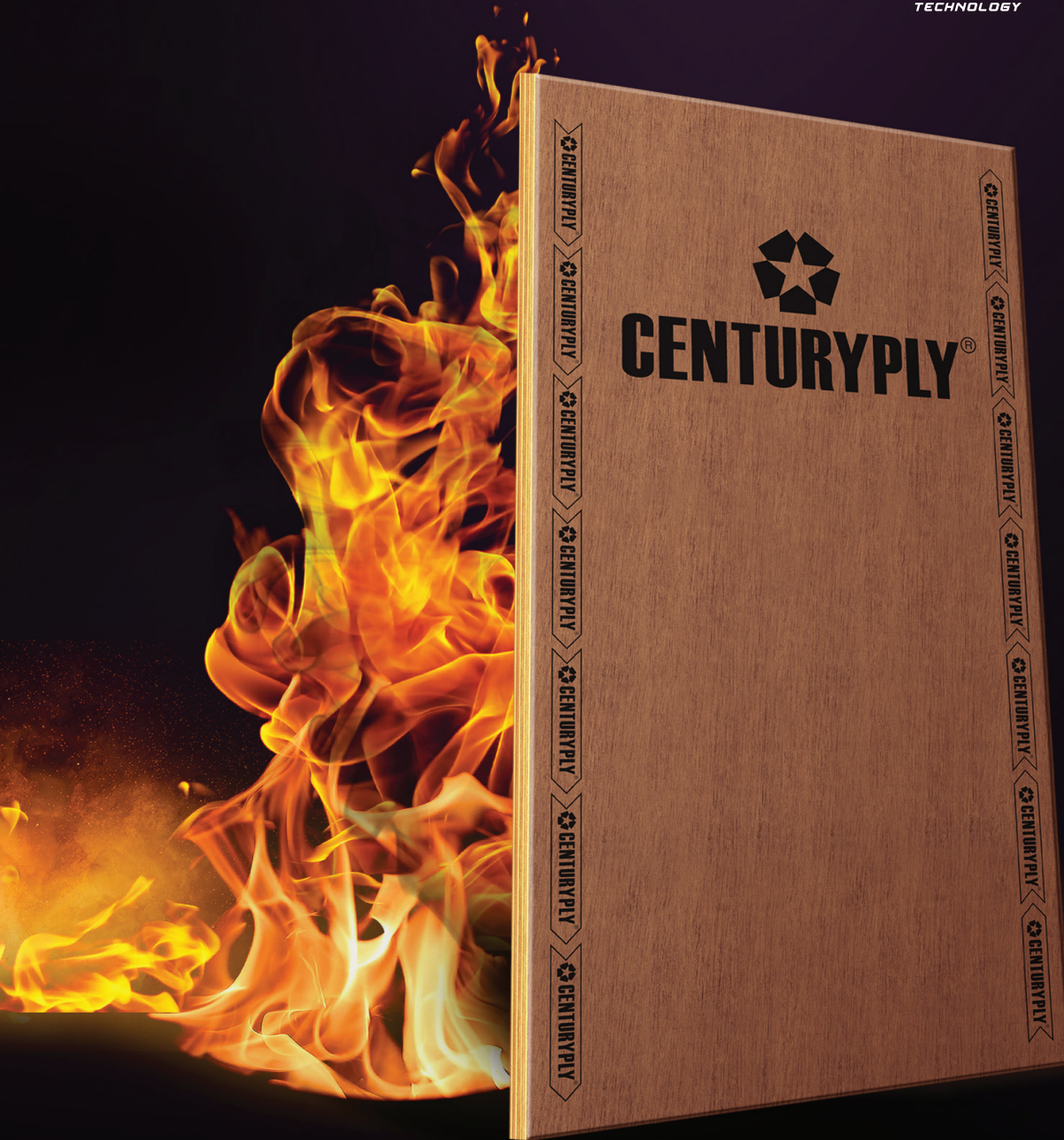


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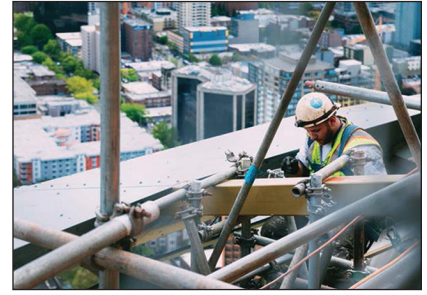
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Timber construction business: How to make it a success story



Michael Postulart*



Peter Hartmann**



The race is on: One prestigious project follows the next. The current tallest timber building at 85.4m-tall, Mjøstårnet, based in the town of Brumunddal, Innlandet, Norway, will soon surrender its place to the next record chaser, the Rocket in the city of Winterthur, Switzerland, which is scheduled to reach the 100m mark in 2026. With timber construction, many want to reach new heights. Multi-storey buildings are often intended not only to set new construction standards, but also to serve as an example of urban living. The wooden giants are unique, but they have one thing in common: They are complex. From vision to implementation, there are several hurdles to overcome. Schuler Consulting can help companies navigate through the jungle of project requirements, and implement construction projects from design to production.

OUT OF THE NICHE, INTO THE MARKET

Many entrepreneurs have recognised that the future lies in timber construction. Both investors who come from the classical object construction with mineral building materials as well as non-industry stakeholders are looking for their place in the market. Those who build with wood now are moving with the trend, for timber construction offers answers to modern man's

question of sustainable and affordable living space. By 2050, more than two billion additional individuals are expected to seek a roof over their heads. With the housing industry coping with this major task, wood can help to go the extra mile. In housing densification, wood as a building material is already better than other materials due to its properties, such as lower weight and higher stability.

But it is not only the building material itself that is appealing. Strengthened by the social demand for green building, timber construction is developing out of its niche and into a real movement. Wood is also a showcase candidate in terms of climate friendliness. While conventional construction emits up to 600kg of CO₂ per tonne of cement, the wood used in multi-storey buildings in timber construction saves more CO₂ than is emitted during the construction project. In the case of hybrid construction methods, with a combination of elements made of wood and wood-based materials as well as elements made of, for instance, concrete, it is the ratio that counts — every component that is not made of concrete saves CO₂ emissions.

For example, a single-family house binds about 40 tonnes of CO₂ and requires only half as much CO₂ in production as a concrete building. This already makes timber construction attractive today, but especially in the long term, also from a business perspective, since lower CO₂ emissions consequently mean less CO₂ tax.

The possibilities of timber construction are expanding step by step. Even bigger, even higher or even more sustainable: There are always new benchmarks. Building with wood is attractive for many, such as for residents and for politicians, who must also set new framework conditions in the building sector to comply with the agreed climate agreements, not least for economic reasons. However, in timber construction, there have so far been few standards to fall back on when implementing complex projects such as multi-storey buildings or housing developments reports.

*Senior Consultant, Schuler Consulting.

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On the one hand, this makes the market attractive, as there is a lot of design scope for architects, investors and engineers. It invites investors to think big and, of course, to build high. On the other hand, due to their complexity, projects in multi-storey construction place high demands on project management and project execution.

This is noticeable, among other things, in the fact that companies from the timber construction sector are increasingly looking for strategic advice. As such, Schuler Consulting's task as project engineers is then to look for lean ways in the project to implement the visions of the timber constructors economically and efficiently. To approach the question of how to become successful in timber construction, especially in large-scale projects, we share a few practical tips from our own experience.

SEVEN PROJECT MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR MULTI-STOREY CONSTRUCTION

Know your product: Every project starts with an idea, which can quickly grow in complexity. It is important to define the building project clearly from the beginning. Firstly, this means knowing your product and what you want to get out of it at the end of the project, and secondly, making a detailed business case. A business case is necessary to make one's vision economically tangible and to place it on a firm foundation that will try to withstand all risk assessments in the best-case scenario.

At the beginning of the project there is always the question of the product: What is to be built, how high, what is the vision in terms of sustainability and economic viability, and more. Then there is risk assessment by the project management. These are many questions that have to be clarified at the beginning to start the project cleanly.

Know your stakeholders: It is also necessary to have a top-down view of the goal at the beginning and not lose sight of it throughout the entire project course. This means knowing the requirements of all the people involved, such as architects, the building physicists and technical building planners, logisticians and buyers. Each of them brings a catalogue of requirements and wishes that need to be sorted, structured and prioritised. Often, classic conflicting goals between the different technical planners — fire protection, sound insulation, thermal insulation, statics, building services, architecture — have to be coordinated and aligned with the project goal. Also, new on board here is the production planner, who wants a product that can be manufactured as highly automated as possible to an economically feasible extent.

As project managers, Schuler plays a kind of conductor in a construction and factory planning project, bringing together or 'orchestrating' the concerns of the different planners in such a way that the end result is a product that can be produced smartly.

Small changes, big impact: Team size is crucial for successful project management. While small teams create a fast and agile working environment that also delivers results and implements changes at short notice, large teams can bring the necessary manpower to check changes down to the last detail. Even small changes in construction have a great impact in other areas: If the thickness of the timber frame construction is



The great timber construction boom is also due to the possibilities of automation and a higher degree of prefabrication.

changed, this impacts on the statics; if another layer is added to the wall structure, such as to improve the building's physical properties, the additional work steps and thus the entire cycle time in the coordinated prefabrication must be adjusted. Such changes also have a further impact on fire and noise protection, as well as thermal insulation — for example, if the dew point slips into an unfavourable range as a result of the change.

In large teams, there are enough specialist planners who can produce comprehensive designs for this. The challenge is to keep the threads in hand and bring them together properly. The more players there are in the game, the more views and opinions from different disciplines come up. This brings opportunities and risks. The project manager's task is to choose the right path, to develop the most target-oriented idea, and to take the entire team along on this path.

Logistics planning: The crucial question in all projects is logistics. It is often easier to manufacture the timber elements on-site, in the production environment, than to transport the elements to the construction site. The larger the projects, the greater the advantages of sophisticated logistics. Thus, a marginal topic that is inconspicuous at the beginning often gains a lot of attention in the projects. One of the reasons for this is that logistics is one of the major cost drivers in the value chain. With the progressive increase in CO2 taxation and the associated rise in transport costs, the pressure for optimised logistics is growing. Particularly large production volumes will result in a high number of loading cycles, which require smart and often individual loading concepts. Here, Schuler can develop concepts tailored to the customer with the surrounding logistics in the production and warehouse environments.

Certificates do not just hang on the wall: The issue of sustainability is becoming increasingly important in construction projects. Many insurance companies, funds and investors attach importance to building certification.

Through certification, builders and investors hope for greater

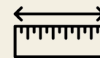
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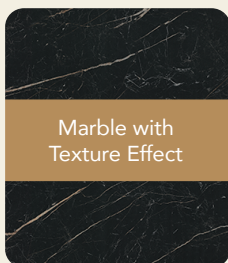


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Abstract Venner
Texture

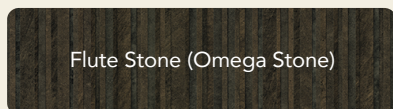


Texture in
Terrazzo Pattern

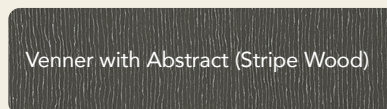


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Wood Texture

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Flute Stone (Omega Stone)



Venner with Abstract (Stripe Wood)



Defining the building project clearly from the beginning, knowing your product, make one's vision economically tangible.

competitiveness in the real estate market and higher returns over the entire lifecycle of the property. Over the last decades, various national as well as international methods and models have been developed, such as the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) certification, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, or the BREEAM certification by the Building Research Establishment. What do these topics have to do with factory planning? Depending on the model, the manufacturing process of the building elements flows into the certification with different weighting. That means CO₂ emissions, waste, transports, and others are a direct lever that have a positive or negative effect on the certification, depending on the process and construction design.

Another and often decisive point is the element construction. The certification goals are linked to various point systems that have a practical effect on the element construction — for example, which fasteners are used and how well they enable recycling, or what the energy requirements of the property are, which is to say, how good the combination of thermal insulation and building services must be. These issues influence the production and assembly processes. For this reason, it is important to have made the basic decisions at the beginning of the planning process, as explained in tip number one: What is my vision? How sustainable do I want to be?

Which certification do I strive for and with which goal achievement? What is in the lead — efficiency or cost, producibility, sustainability or design? All these issues are considered in the roadmap of a planning project.

Raise the automation level: In addition to sustainability goals and construction details of the elements, other guard rails are important in the project. It should be defined from the beginning what the degree of prefabrication and automation should be in the later production. The great timber construction boom is also due to the possibilities of automation and a higher degree of prefabrication. But a mere shift of value creation from the construction site to the production hall is no longer sufficient. Skilled workers are also very difficult to recruit in an orderly industrial environment on the production floor. Since this

problem will not be alleviated and the general trend is towards automation anyway, a high degree of automation should be aimed for here. This increases the complexity of the project, but with the right product and an efficient and automated production, there is the possibility of successfully creating housing in the future with planning certainty, despite challenges such as the shortage of skilled workers and the energy crisis.

Know the market developments: The timber construction market is dynamic, so it is particularly important to observe current developments and to be aware of innovations in good time, such as in certification. Risks and opportunities must be derived from what is happening in the market and their effects on the project must be assessed. For example, a look into the distant future offers hope that rising construction costs will reduce the requirements for a building, especially in the area of affordable housing. Currently, the requirements are still very high, but a change must take place here in perspective. A stronger consideration of timber construction in the standards compared to conventional construction would also create relief in fire and noise protection. Optimisations in these areas could further increase the attractiveness of building with wood by simplifying constructions, thus creating a step towards affordable housing. Current risks for timber construction projects, however, are the currently long delivery times of machinery suppliers. The machine manufacturers are working to capacity and are facing a procurement crisis for raw materials and machine components, which means that longer delivery times should be planned for, especially for larger plants.

CONCLUSION

Strategic production development often looks frighteningly complex at the outset, taking into account all stakeholders, constraints and regulations. However, when considering the long lifecycle of real estate or processes in the construction industry, holistic planning is necessary to be able to produce sustainably and efficiently. In the end, the aim is to deliver sustainable and affordable housing to the end customer with increased efficiency and profitability, and thus to operate successfully in the market. Those who want to take off in timber construction therefore set the course for success through strategic and efficient project management. And that is necessary, because there is a lot going on in the industry.

The constant race to build the next tallest wooden skyscraper shows how competitive the market is. Timber construction will continue to gain significant shares in the coming years. The timber construction boom will continue, even if the general construction boom, especially for single-family houses, is somewhat declining currently. Timber construction will hopefully quickly replace classic construction of using concrete and CO₂-intensive cement as the predominant construction method. Even so, it will not be possible to do without cement and concrete completely. We should limit ourselves to the sensible components, as the hybrid construction method demonstrates.

Timber construction business is and will remain popular. To be successful in it, Schuler Consulting offers support — whether the project concerns the production of single-family homes, a multi-storey wooden building, or of a housing development project.

Source: Wood in Architecture 2023. □

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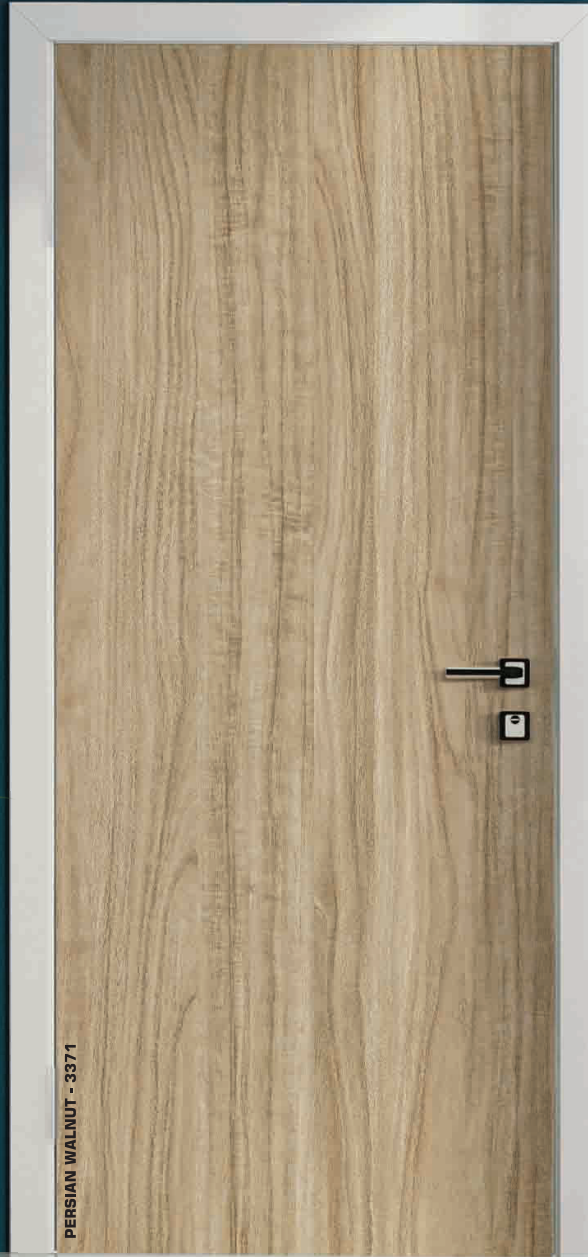
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Century Plyboards bolsters manufacturing, tech to capitalise on strong anticipated demand



The second generation of management at Century Plyboards, the Kolkata headquartered plywood and decorative wood brand, is keen to take the legacy forward via investments in technology and manufacturing.

Founded in 1986 by Sajjan Bhajanka and Sanjay Agarwal, Century Plyboards has emerged as one of the leading players in the decorative wood market in India. Its products span plywood, laminates, veneer, medium density fiberboards (MDF) and particle boards.

Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director of Century Plyboards and son of Sajjan Bhajanka, says the company's success lies in its focus on customer experience.

"We work on the principle of under-commit and over-deliver. This has resulted in high customer loyalty," says Bhajanka.

The plywood and decorative wood market in India comprises both organised and unorganised players, with latter accounting for at least half the market share. According to IMARC Group, the Indian plywood market size touched Rs 20,800 crore in FY23 and is expected to reach Rs 30,600 crore by FY29. If one adds the other segments like laminates and veneer the total market size is around Rs 25,000 crore annually, according to industry estimates.

Given this demand, Century Plyboards is preparing to win a larger share of the market through the establishment of newer manufacturing facilities spread across the country. A majority of its current manufacturing capacity is largely in West Bengal. However, the company is now expanding into Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

These manufacturing facilities, under various stages of commissioning, are focused on different product segments.

Bhajanka says the investments by Century Plyboards into these units are being done through internal accruals. He says that the quality of the company's products has given it the pricing power to generate the necessary capital internally.

"We take a long time before making any decision and are very pragmatic in getting clear returns," he remarked.

In addition, he also says how the company has lined up Rs 1,700 crore for future capital expenditure. Prior to this, Century Plyboards had overall spent around Rs 900 crore in capex-related activity.

Century Plyboards registered a revenue of Rs 3,027 crore for FY22 with a net profit of Rs 313.15 crore. In comparison, it had posted a revenue of Rs 2,130 crore in FY21 with a net profit of Rs 191.2 crore.

Despite the expected rise in demand for plywood, there are some larger ecosystem hurdles. The Reserve Bank of India



(RBI) recently raised interest rates to tame inflation, which has led to costlier home loans and lower sales.

The Indian housing market, however, has shown resilience in the first three months of 2023. According to real estate consultancy firm Anarock, quarterly housing sales are at an all-time high in the last decade with approximately 1,13,770 units sold in the first quarter of 2023 across top seven cities. This is a 14% yearly rise against approximately 99,550 units sold in the comparable one year ago period. The National Capital Region, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad accounted for 89% sales in the quarter.

Bhajanka remains confident about the long term growth prospects in the residential and commercial real estate market of India. “The potential is tremendous and take off is yet to happen. We will grow in all our business segments,” he remarks.

To tap into the growing demand, Century Plyboards is also leveraging technology to deliver higher value to its customers

as well as drive efficiency within the organisation. For example, it has launched “Promise App”, which allows the customers to identify the genuineness of plywood or other related products. It has also deployed automation and supply chain technologies for its sales force to get a better overview of its linkages with the buyers of its products.

Bhajanka says that the company has noticed a 40% increase in the productivity of its sales force once they were all onboarded onto a technology platform.

The Executive Director of Century Plyboards says plywood is an eco-friendly product as these are sourced from agroforestry.

Bhajanka believes other broader changes in the ecosystem—rapid urbanisation, higher demand for housing as well as the shift from unorganised to organised players and the rise of innovative products in the segment—will all contribute to the future success of decorative wood products. “This industry is only going to get stronger,” remarks Bhajanka. □

Greenpanel extends DIEFFENBACHER MDF plant order to include MAIER chipping line



Indian MDF pioneer Greenpanel Industries Ltd. has ordered from DIEFFENBACHER a MAIER chipping line for an MDF plant to be installed in Routhusuramala, Andhra Pradesh. Scheduled to begin operating in summer 2024, the DIEFFENBACHER MDF plant is the third ordered by Greenpanel. Highlighting the order extension is a MAIER Drum Chipper with a rotor diameter of 1600 mm. The order also includes the drum chipper feeding line, consisting of a chain bed conveyor adapted for multiple crane feeding, a cleaning zone and a chipper belt conveyor with metal detector. Greenpanel will use the chipping line to process eucalyptus into high-quality wood chips for MDF manufacturing. The chipping line is designed to process up to 60 tonnes of bone-dry wood per hour.

“Within DIEFFENBACHER’s complete plant portfolio, MAIER machines cover the wood yard and size-reduction

process steps,” explains Alexander Hoffmann, Managing Director of DIEFFENBACHER subsidiary B. Maier Zerkleinerungstechnik GmbH in Bielefeld, Germany. “One of our core competencies is the design, construction and supply of complete chipping lines based on drum chippers with rotor diameters of up to 2400 mm.”

“It’s great that we can get everything for our new plant from a single source at DIEFFENBACHER,” says Shobhan Mittal, Managing Director and CEO of Greenpanel. “As part of our new complete DIEFFENBACHER line, the MAIER wood yard technology will help us meet the growing demand for the highest quality MDF in India.” “This is the second MAIER chipping line we’ll deliver to India within just two years,” Hoffmann concludes. “The first one is currently installed at Merino Industries Ltd.’s new particleboard production site in Halol, Gujarat.” □

Clearing up myths about fire safety for **wooden structures**

Do mass timber or wooden buildings really fare worse than steel and concrete buildings in fire performance? Ian King, COO of Zeroignition (Zi), disagrees. With non-toxic fire-retardant additives, mass timber buildings can be safer than other traditional construction methods, he shared with Yap Shi Quan



Fire extinguishers are considered part of the active fire protection system (Image: Erik Mclean/Unsplash)

FIRE PERFORMANCE IN WOODEN STRUCTURES

How do mass timber or wooden structures fare in fire resistance compared to steel or concrete structures?

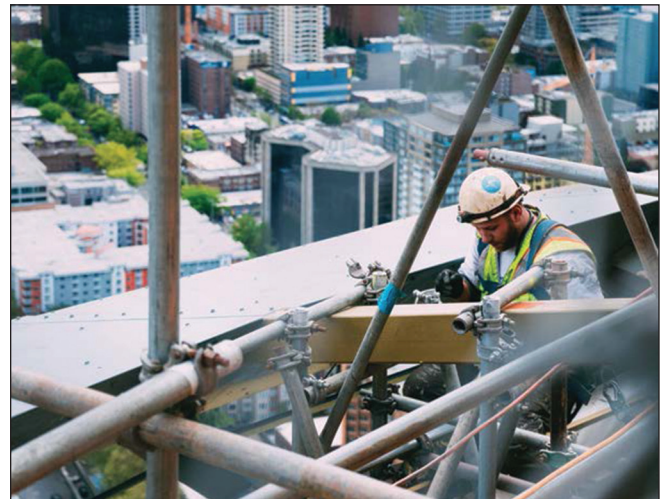
Ian King: At Zi, we are huge advocates for mass timber and timber frame construction, yet we know there are barriers preventing the industry from using it. In most reluctant markets this is due to a lack of education surrounding the use of timber materials in construction, and on top of this, there is a psychological barrier that “wood burns, so it must be dangerous” or is not fit-for-purpose.

This is not a perception that is usually applied to materials commonly favoured by the construction industry, like steel and concrete. As always, the answer is complex: Wood burns on the surface, but may not structurally degrade in a fire; steel and concrete do not burn, but do structurally degrade in fires. Ultimately, these long-standing misconceptions around fire performance have limited the use of timber in construction in some countries.

Yet the benefits of building with timber are myriad. It accelerates construction time frames and if properly engineered, is structurally sound. It regulates internal temperatures and reduces waste during its lifetime. But most importantly, it provides the required fire protection. When fire protection legislation is correctly followed, good design means timber can be as safe in fire as other materials. Wood even has the potential to be safer than other methods of construction with the optimum fire treatment, profiles, and species.

Non-toxic fire retardants are readily available, and

awareness of their capabilities needs to be increased so specifiers can build safer and more sustainably, particularly in regards to the use of timber. As research into specialist chemical technology for fire-safe building materials continues, its class leaders within the construction industry maintain the drive for safer solutions, with investment being pumped into R&D. Ultimately, what is needed is a more robust understanding of how all these work when incorporated into a build, to ensure all vulnerabilities are designed out.



Timber can be as safe in fire as other materials when good design and fire protection legislation are followed (Image: Anthony Ginsbrook)

Why do major destructive fires occur not because of poor fire performance of individual components, but due to the failure of the construction or a product system?

King: We have always maintained that to ensure effective fire safety in a building, the structure needs to be seen as one complete system with protected products working in unison, rather than a collection of individual elements.

System components will generally include active fire protection, which are measures that trigger a response, such as sprinkler systems and smoke alarms, and passive fire protection which refers to measures that slow down or contain fire, such as fire doors and fire retardant materials. A systems-led approach can combine active components like sprinkler systems with passive elements such as fire doors and fire-rated oriented strand board (OSB), medium-density fibreboard (MDF), particleboard, plywood panels on solid wood structural elements. Here, an assessment can be conducted where each component is assessed for its individual performance, as well as how it works in combination with other components.

The construction industry can learn lessons from other sectors. Automotive and aviation, for example, focus on a checklist approach to fire safety, ensuring every area, and the combined systems, have been optimised to safeguard passenger

safety. In construction, a similar approach should be non-negotiable. By further embracing the current digital revolution, ‘digital footprints’ can be created which prove that all the correct building criteria and safety checks have been adhered to. Importantly, a systemled fire protection design method needs to be adopted. This involves checking the specified components work both individually and holistically. Without this joined up approach, we cannot be sure individual elements will perform as they should during an emergency.

It is clear, however, for a systems-led approach to really work, up to date knowledge and awareness from industry professionals involved in the construction of buildings are imperative. Adopting this approach will feed into the wider goals of safe and fit-for-purpose buildings and structures.

What are the common causes of fire breakouts for wood or wood-based structures?

King: Proper engineering design, correct material choice and effective installation, coupled with a robust inspection regime are all important in helping to reduce the impact of fire in timber structures. This methodical approach to construction will ensure that timber buildings are just as fire-safe as concrete and steel projects. It is worth stressing also, while it is a combustible material, mass timber can provide the necessary two-hour window required for fire protection due to its slow charring rate.

MATERIALS

Using timber-based products treated with a specialist fire retardant can further enhance the safety of a build, providing a shield to better protect against fire. Flame-retardant products are chemically treated to be slow-burning or self-extinguishing when exposed to an open flame. These products can be made from any raw material treated with fire-retardant formulated additives to qualify as flame retarded and can delay the effects of being exposed to open flame.

ABOUT ZEROIGNITION

Can you tell us more about Zi?

King: Zi is a global fire-retardant technology business founded in 2009. Our headquarters is in Canada with labs,

scientists, engineers, commercial operations and production facilities across Europe and in North America.

Zi is dedicated to tailoring chemistry that enables manufacturers to produce non-toxic, effective fire-retarded end-use products. We supply manufacturers of construction products worldwide who are committed to meeting and beating fire safety requirements. In an era where the risks and devastation caused by fire are front page news, Zi offers technical solutions that are integrated into manufacturing to provide a unique response to the challenge. Our main aim is to allow the construction industry to build safe and to save lives. As a business, we are not afraid to challenge conventional wisdom. Making buildings fire-safe is always the priority.

After more than 10 years of development, Zi’s global team of chemists and technologists has developed our founder’s base chemistry into multiple formulations which can be tailored to produce fire-retardant chemicals to match the needs and requirements of each of our partners.

How does Zi’s solutions or approach mitigate fire breakouts for wood?

King: Non-toxic flame retardants form the basis of Zi’s product portfolio of fire-retardant additives, and are scientifically proven to be the most environmentally friendly category. When exposed to fire, these flame retardants employ multiple fire suppression methods to quench heat, isolate from oxygen, and promote char formation, generally generating small amounts of less harmful smoke compared to other fire-retardant categories.

What is the process like when you work with a customer, from consultancy to product delivery and after-sales?

King: We ensure all new products which use our technology and are going to the market are safe, meeting all regulatory requirements. Each of our customers’ needs is unique, so we work on a case-by-case basis to ensure a tailored solution.

We start by jointly defining the precise physical, engineering and fire performance required. In partnership with customers, we develop formulations and additional processes to maximise the utility of the end-use products. We test on both small and industrial scale to optimise performance and cost. This will



Zi specialises in nontoxic flame-retardant chemicals, applicable to timber structures (Image: Fabian Kuhne/Unsplash)

ensure all bases are fully covered to achieve robust systems where component products have been properly tested as part of a system.

The outcome? Original products that fit the bill, are of ideal quality, and most importantly, safer choices that are fit-for-purpose.

What kinds of challenges do you face when working with Asia-Pacific customers?

King: The Asia-Pacific region has its own particular challenges mostly from natural causes — earthquakes and typhoons, for example. There is a huge amount of misconception out there that says if it is not concrete and steel it is not safe enough. Yet wood, by its very nature, can flex in extreme environmental conditions to absorb energy. As mentioned

earlier, the issue is education and understanding of the modern methods of construction. Further, the two ‘traditional’ materials have a huge carbon footprint, where wood construction products can be neutral or even capture carbon.

The challenge is primarily to encourage and promote the adoption of the excellent fire protected wood systems and technologies which are already out there. Fantastic work is being done on this particularly in Sweden and western Canada, demonstrating that wooden buildings are as big and as strong and safe as concrete ones, and generally much more aesthetically pleasing. Zi has a raft of fireprotection technologies ready for adoption by Asia-Pacific producers and their customers, to accelerate the move to beautiful, strong, safe and effective large and small wooden structures.

Source: Panels & Furniture Asia. □

Amulya Mica had received National Awards for Manufacturing Competitiveness (NAMC) - 2022-23



Purbanchal Laminates Pvt. Ltd. “Amulya Mica” has received National Awards for Manufacturing Competitiveness (NAMC)-2022-23. This recognition is given by the International Research Institute for Manufacturing, Mumbai based on the onsite review & assessment carried out at Amulya Mica’s manufacturing plant. Mr. Uttam Chowdhury, Mrs. Hemlata Chowdhury & Mr. Romil Agarwal-Amulya Mica Work Manager has received the award from H.E. Mr. Jason Keats Hall - High Commissioner of Jamaica to India & Mr. Rajesh Pandey Principal Consultant, International Research Institute for Manufacturing on 21-April-23 at ITC Maratha Hotel, Mumbai in presence of Missile Man Padma Bhushan Dr. A Sivathanu Pillai, Founder CEO and Former MD BRAHMOS Aerospace Private Ltd., Mr. B. Thiagarjan , MD Blue Star Ltd, H.E. Mr. Claudio Ansorena, Hon’ Ambassador of Coasta Rica to India, H.E. Mr. Fleming Duarte - Hon’ Ambassador of Paraguay to India, , Mr. J D Patil- Former Member of Board, Larsen and Toubro, and Whole- Time Director (Defence & Smart Technologies) &

Ms.Preeti Bajaj - CEO & Managing Director - Luminous Power Technologies (P) Ltd. Some of other companies who received the award are Reliance Industries Ltd., Zydus Wellness Products Ltd., Grasim Industries Ltd, Tata Power, GAIL, Akum Pharma, SUN Pharma, Aditya Birla Group, Bharat Petroleum ,Kochi division, Luminous etc. Amulya Mica feels proud to receive such a prestigious award for manufacturing unit along with big companies of India. But our eye is on for Gold Award for that we will try continue for innovation and upgradation.

The award ceremony of NAMC was telecasted on CNBC TV18 news channel for the nation to witness & applaud the participating companies in their journey toward Manufacturing Competitiveness. Speaking on the great occasion, MD Mr. Rakesh Agarwal thanked all team members of plants. Without their support & efforts it would not be possible to reach in this height. Later he assured to work toward innovative products & automation of plant and cannot compromise with quality of the product. □

Duroply's large-sized plywood, blockboards, veneers and doors get huge response from the building construction industry



LAUNCHED UNDER THE BRAND NAME 'DURO PLUS', THESE 10- AND 9- FEET RANGE OF PRODUCTS ARE IDEAL FOR THOSE INTERIOR AND ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTIONS THAT REQUIRE JOINTLESS APPLICATIONS

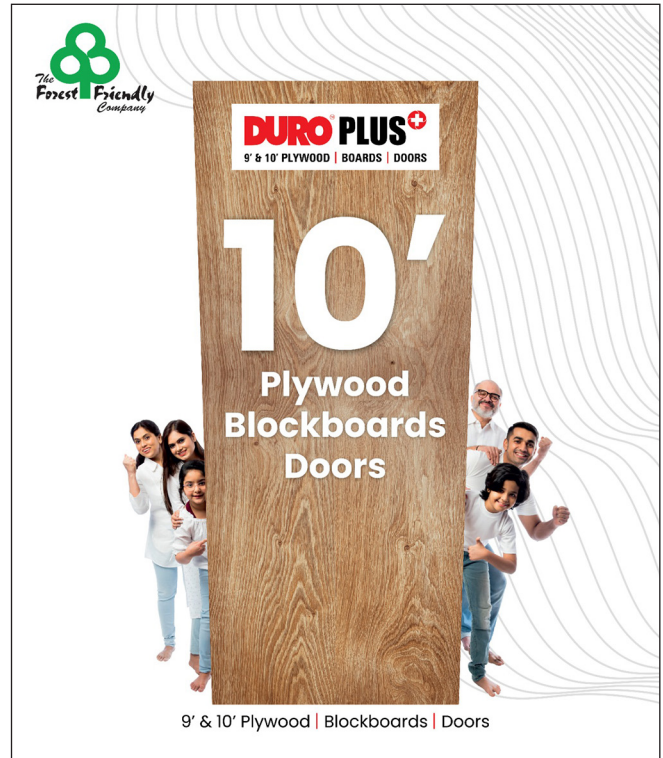
LARGE-SIZED PLYWOOD IS THE MOST INNOVATIVE APPLICATION IN THE PLYWOOD INDUSTRY OVER THE LAST 60+ YEARS

'DURO PLUS' RANGE OF PRODUCTS SAVE MATERIALS, ON-SITE CONSTRUCTION TIME AND ALSO ENHANCES BEAUTY OF THE PLACE

Duroply's large sized Plywood, Blockboards, Veneers and Doors get huge response from the building construction industry. Duroply had launched 10- and 9- feet large sized products under the brand name 'Duro Plus'. Architects and Interior Designers are finding these to be ideal for those sites that require jointless applications. This uniquely sized innovation from Duroply find application in various industries including tourism, hotel, hospital, malls, business complexes, offices, townhouses, villas, and resorts, to create a seamless look. This adds to the aesthetics, beauty, and magnificence of the property.

Explaining the benefits of 'Duro Plus' range of products, Mr. Akhilesh Chitlangia, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Duroply, said, "The culture of innovation that we have imbibed over our 65+ years of rich legacy endows us with unique insights into the industry. We realised a need for the large-sized

product range and success of 'Duro Plus' range of products has affirmed our better understanding of need of the industry. We are proud of have a series of innovations under our belt since our inception in 1957. We continue to set new benchmarks with our products and services for the industry to follow."



The Duro Plus range of products amalgamates various solutions into one high-utility product. This product range is very easy to install, reduces nail and resin usage, and most importantly, minimizes material wastage. Additionally, Duro Plus is fully compatible with different colored decorative veneers. As it provides a seamless and jointless look, the visual appeal of the establishment increases manifold adding grandeur to the place. No wonder, it has become an instant success in the industry. The uncut large view of the building adds to its beauty, enhance the overall visual appeal provide splendour to the place.

Building designers have welcomed Duro Plus as they are now able to create open spaces free of support columns, accommodating meeting and banquet rooms as well as hotel lobbies with wide and clear spans. As designers strive to create welcoming and comfortable spaces for their clients, Duro Plus 10- and 9- feet plywood allows for adding biophilic design principles to architecture. Duro Plus feet range of products is the need of hour as the demand of luxury housing is growing by the day. Housing sector boom that has just begun promises to ensure further success to the sector. Indians are now ready to live a connoisseur's life with elegant choices. □

Strength of domestic demand works for economy, India poised to sustain growth momentum: **Economic Review**

This is the assessment of the annual Economic Review for 2022-23, released by the Finance Ministry.



The country's impressive growth experienced in 2022-23, when the world economy was rocked by inflation and restrained by monetary tightening, is a narrative on what works for the Indian economy, and what clearly works is the strength of its domestic demand.

This is the assessment of the annual Economic Review for 2022-23, released by the Finance Ministry.

"Strong balance sheets and digital advancements could lead to better credit decisions allowing India's financial cycle to sustain for longer periods before encountering the challenge of bad debts. Thus, India appears poised to sustain its growth in a more durable way than before," the Review stated.

The provisional GDP estimates for 2022-23 released in May were higher than the consensus estimate, it said.

"A strong final quarter performance pushed the GDP growth for the full year to 7.2 per cent, higher than the 7 per cent estimated in February. This upside to the growth estimate takes the growth momentum deep into the current year," the Review noted.

It further emphasised that several forecasting agencies also share optimism about India's growth story as they have revised their growth estimates for the current fiscal upwards.

"The latest evidence also does not indicate any slowing of activity in the first two months of the current year. India is the fastest-growing major economy, is now no longer only a statistical fact," the document informed.

The Review said that inflation emerged as the major challenge in 2022-23 for India as it did for the rest of the world following the emergence of the geopolitical conflict and the impact of El Nino.

"The world over, policy measures to mitigate inflation were broadly similar-monetary tightening by the central banks and supply easing by the governments. What, however, worked for India was the country's inflation breaching the target to a lesser extent as compared to the groups of emerging market economies (EMEs) and advanced economies (AEs). This happened as the

average inflation in 2022-23 was lower in India than in the groups of EMEs and AEs, possibly owing to greater supply easing in the country," it explained.

As a result of this, the RBI did not have to increase the policy rates as much as the central banks of other countries did.

"As the year-end approached, the declining international prices of commodities led to a steep decline in India's wholesale price inflation. The pass-through to the retail level took some time, but before the year-end, headline inflation in India entered the target range. Core inflation, however, remained sticky but started to decline from March 2023 onwards," the Review said.

The pandemic had struck at its roots to cause an unprecedented contraction of output in 2020-21.

"The domestic demand has, however, recovered since then and moved from strength to strength in 2022-23. In the process, it enabled a near convergence of the pre- and post-pandemic quarterly growth trajectories," the assessment report said.

Stated simply, 2022-23 has brought the economy to a touching distance of the quarterly output it would have otherwise achieved in the absence of the pandemic.

Post-pandemic quarterly trajectories of consumption and investment have already crossed their pre-pandemic paths. However the report said that net exports need to cover some more ground as external demand did not work for India's economy in the second half of 2022-23 as well as it did in the first half.

"When external demand starts to work, the pre-and post-pandemic trajectories of real GDP will also converge. The supply side served well the demand side in 2022-23," it said.

The agriculture sector registered a twelve-quarter record high growth rate in the last quarter. It rebounded in the fourth quarter, driven by manufacturing.

"The year-end saw the contact-intensive services sector fully recovering to its pre-pandemic expanse and depth. Rising employment levels further worked for India as it increased inclusivity and strengthened domestic demand," the report added.

On employment front, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in India rose through the pandemic in line with the pre-pandemic trend.

The overall unemployment rate declined to a five-year low of 4.1 per cent in 2021-22, raising with it the worker-population ratio.

More recently, in 2022-23, the urban unemployment rate declined in each quarter, reflecting steady growth in employment levels in the country. Growing employment levels, in part, have been an outcome of several policy measures implemented over the last few years.

These measures strengthened the corporate sector, supported small enterprises, improved the ease of doing business, and attracted foreign capital to increase the employment generation capacity of the economy.

As these measures deepened after the outbreak of the pandemic, they reflected the now-vindicated understanding that only growth reforms would have worked for India in supporting economic recovery, the review explained.

On the financial services front, the report said that an increase in repo rates worked for India, enabling a 40-45 per cent of transmission in lending and deposit rates by the end of 2022-23. This, coupled with fiscal and administrative measures by the government, has been adequate to ease inflation down into the target range while ensuring that domestic demand is not crushed.

Consequently, the growth of credit rose in 2022-23, feeding the elevated demand. High growth in credit contributed to increasing the profitability of banks whose bottom lines were already improving with the declining gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio.

The developments in the merchandise and services trade helped the current account deficit (CAD) to narrow quickly towards the end of 2022-23, in part assisted by high levels of remittances, the review said.

Reducing CAD worked for the economy as it saved

resources for strengthening domestic demand.

“Besides a smaller CAD, net FDI inflows and smaller FPI outflows led to a year-end forex reserve worth ten months of imports. The year 2022-23 closed with India becoming the fifth largest forex reserve holder in the world, a cushion that contributed to orderly adjustment of the rupee with lower volatility relative to many EMEs and AEs,” it said.

“A critical cog in the wheel of economic growth in 2022-23 was the disciplined fiscal stance of the Central government. The year ended with a lower fiscal deficit (as per cent of GDP) compared to the previous year. Yet, the government could cut duties and increase welfare spending to alleviate stress from inflation. The government could also maintain its enhanced provision for capital expenditure, which is now leading to the crowding-in of private investment.

“While revenue buoyancy helped in meeting the budgeted fiscal deficit ratio to GDP, rationalising revenue expenditure was key to maintaining a disciplined fiscal stance. The Indian economy has carried the momentum from 2022-23 into the current fiscal year,” it noted.

High-frequency indicators paint a healthy picture of the state of the economy. Urban demand conditions remain resilient, with higher growth in auto sales, fuel consumption and UPI transactions. □

Greenply Industries to enter into a joint venture agreement with Samet BV



Greenply Industries Ltd, a manufacturer of plywood and allied products entered into a joint venture agreement with Samet BV for manufacturing and selling functional furniture hardware, the company said in a statement.

Greenply Industries will invest an amount of approximately Rs 34 crore in the joint venture over a period of the next four years. The board also approved the incorporation of a JV company Greenply Samet India Private Limited, the company said in a statement.

In a filing with the stock exchanges, Greenply Industries said, “The Board of Directors of Greenply Industries Limited, at its meeting held today, accorded their consent to enter into a Joint Venture agreement with SAMET B.V., a company duly

incorporated under the laws of Netherlands and having its registered office at Weesperstraat 61, 1018 VN, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, for manufacturing and selling functional furniture hardware such as slide systems for wooden and metallic drawers, hinge systems, lift-up systems and other connection fittings etc. through a manufacturing facility in India.”

The said JV Company to be incorporated shall be on an equal shareholding basis (1:1) as a private limited company in accordance with Indian law.

The objective of this joint venture agreement is to determine and implement the terms and conditions of the JV Company which shall be engaged in the business of manufacturing and selling functional furniture hardware such as slide systems for wooden and metallic drawers, hinge systems, lift-up systems, and other connection fittings etc. through a manufacturing facility in India.

Equity shares of Rs 10 each will be issued to each JV partners in equal proportion, the company said in a filing with the stock exchanges.

The board of directors of the JV Company shall consist of 4 (four) members (‘Directors’) where Samet shall nominate 2 (two) Directors (‘Samet Directors’) and Greenply shall nominate 2 (two) Directors (‘Greenply Directors’). There is an equal right to share subscription in case of issuance of shares and none of the JV Partners have the right to restrict any change in capital structure, the statement added. □

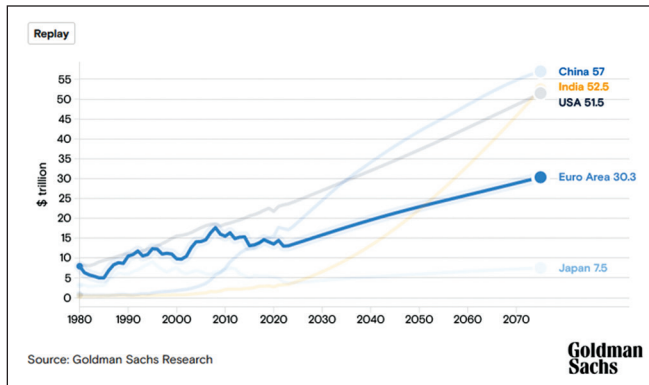
How India could rise to the world's second-biggest economy

As India's population of 1.4 billion people becomes the world's largest, its GDP is forecast to expand dramatically. Goldman Sachs Research projects India will have the world's second-largest economy by 2075.

For India, a key to realizing the potential of that growing population is boosting participation within its labor force, as well as providing training and skills for its immense pool of talent, says Santanu Sengupta, Goldman Sachs Research's India economist. "Over the next two decades, the dependency ratio of India will be one of the lowest among regional economies", he says, pointing out that India's population has one of the best ratios between its working-age population and its number of children and elderly. "So that really is the window for India to get it right in terms of setting up manufacturing capacity, continuing to grow services, continuing the growth of infrastructure."

India is forecast to have the world's second-largest economy by 2075

GDP level projections in real (2021) USD trillion



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We spoke with Sengupta about the underpinnings of India's economy, the demographic factors driving GDP forward, and the country's ambitions for green energy.

What are the main drivers of Goldman Sachs Research's long-term forecasts for India's economy?

India has made more progress in innovation and technology than some may realize. Yes, the country has demographics on its side, but that's not going to be the only driver of GDP. Innovation

and increasing worker productivity are going to be important for the world's fifth-biggest economy. In technical terms, that means greater output for each unit of labor and capital in India's economy.

Capital investment is also going to be a significant driver of growth going forward. Driven by favorable demographics, India's savings rate is likely to increase with falling dependency ratios, rising incomes, and deeper financial sector development, which is likely to make the pool of capital available to drive further investment.

On this front, the government has done the heavy-lifting in the recent past. But given healthy balance sheets of private corporates and banks in India, we believe that the conditions are conducive for a private sector capex cycle.

Finally, favourable demographics will add to potential growth over the forecast horizon. India's large population is clearly an opportunity, however the challenge is productively using the labor force, by increasing the labor force participation rate. That will mean creating the opportunities for this labor force to get absorbed and simultaneously training and upskilling the labor force.

How do India's demographics compare to other large countries in terms of aging and fertility?

In India, the demographic transition is happening more gradually and over a longer time period than the rest of Asia. This is primarily due to a more gradual decline in death and birth rates in India compared with the rest of Asia.

The population growth will continue. What we focus on is the dependency ratio, which is the non-working-age population that is dependent on the working-age population. For India, that will be among the lowest among large economies for the next 20 years or so. So that really is the window for India to get it right in terms of setting up manufacturing capacity, continuing to grow services, continuing the growth of infrastructure.

There's a lot of infrastructure creation that is going on now, primarily led by the government's focus on setting up infrastructure in terms of roads, railways and so forth. We believe this is also the appropriate time for the private sector to scale up on creating capacities in both manufacturing and services which has the potential of creating jobs and absorbing the large labor force.

What are some of the risks to Goldman Sachs Research's forecasts for India's economic growth?

The main downside risk would be if the labor force participation rate does not increase. The labor force participation rate in India has declined over the last 15 years. If you have more opportunities — especially for women, because the women's labor force participation rate is significantly lower than men's — you can shore up your labor force participation rate, which can further increase your potential growth.

Growth upside can come through higher productivity growth. India has taken a giant leap in terms of digitalization

of the economy, both through wider penetration of Internet and mobile Internet. But along with that you've had the unique identification number, or what is called the Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric ID system, by which you are now able to verify identification of the 1.4 billion population both online and physically. So it makes public service delivery much easier and more targeted. It widens the credit net, leads to smaller businesses getting more credit, and that can provide an upside to growth from an increase in productivity.

What are some of the other key factors to understanding India's economy?

It's a very domestic-demand-driven economy compared to many others, especially in the region which are more export dependent. India's growth until now has been mainly driven by domestic consumption as the main driver, around 55-60% of the overall economy, plus domestic investments.

Net exports have always been a drag on growth, because India runs a current account deficit. In recent times, we are seeing some progress on that front. Services exports have been increasing, and that is somewhat cushioning current account balances.

The other important factor to keep in mind is how commodity prices affect the macro economy — inflation, fiscal deficit, and current-account deficit. India imports most of the commodities that are required for a large population. And when commodity prices globally go up it obviously shows up in macro imbalances.

Over the last few years, those macro imbalances are

reducing, and you're getting less macro vulnerability from, one, inflation targeting and, two, through services exports, which is cushioning the current account balance.

And which commodities are particularly noteworthy for India's current account?

A large population has its energy requirements. Although the per-capita consumption of energy is way lower than not just the Western world, but also other emerging economies, the large population means a large energy import bill and shows up in India's current account imbalances.

This was more true around 10 years back. Over the last five years or so, there is growing resilience in the external balance dynamics through a structural improvement in current accounts through services exports and due to the central bank consciously building reserve buffers, which gives more cushion during episodes of dollar strength.

Is green energy and the energy transition an opportunity for India?

Absolutely. India has announced that it aims to reach net zero emissions by 2070 and for 50% of the power generation capacity to come from non-fossil sources by 2030. The government is also pushing EVs and green hydrogen, and is targeting 500GW of renewable or clean energy capacity by 2030.

Ultimately, transitioning to green energy is a large investment opportunity, but it'll take time. In the interim fossil fuels are going to be the majority share in energy needs until India transitions to green energy. □

Century Plyboards to invest ₹2,000 crore in three years on capacity expansion

Century Plyboards (India) Ltd is looking to invest close to ₹2,000 crore to expand laminates, MDF (medium density fibre) and particle board capacities in the next three years. The company is hopeful of achieving a turnover of ₹5,000 crore by FY26, up from ₹3,000 crore in FY22, backed by expansion of capacity and addition of newer product categories.

According to Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, Century Plyboards, a majority of the expansion would be through greenfield projects.

As part of the capital allocation plan, the company is commissioning additional MDF plants at an investment of more than ₹600 crore by the second quarter of 2023-24. Another greenfield particle board project is expected to come up in Tamil Nadu at an estimated investment of ₹500 crore. This is likely to materialise by March 2025.

The company is also in talks to introduce the plywood plant alongside the MDF plant at Hoshiarpur in second half of FY-24. This might entail an investment of Rs 100 crore.

In addition to that, the upcoming HPL (High Pressure

Laminates) Line project in Andhra Pradesh which was due is also in the pipeline and is expected to come on stream by end of FY 2023-2024. The company plans on investing Rs 200 crores on the project.

“We had invested capex of close to Rs 1000 crore in the first 35 years (of our operations) and now we are investing around Rs 2000 crore over a three year period. We are changing scales and a bulk of our investments are in the MDF and particle board business as it is a growing area,” Bhajanka told newsmen at the launch of new laminate brand – Sainik Laminates.

The new laminate brand would help the company address nearly 80 per cent of the approximately Rs 8000 crore laminate market in India, he said.

“We were previously only able to cater only to the premium segment with our existing Century brand laminates, but with the new brand, which is 20 per cent more economical, we will be able to address a larger portion of the market,” he said.

Backed by the new brand, the company expects revenue from laminates to double to Rs 1000 crore in the next four years. □

Action Tesa launches fire-retardant Boilo high-density fiberboard

The waterproof board has low-flammability features thanks to its nano-engineered particles



Elegant Bathroom in Luxury Home

Action Tesa has introduced Boilo, a boiling waterproof high-density fiberboard (HDF). The company claims it is the first company to introduce this product globally, which has low-flammability features thanks to its nano-engineered particles.

It has been flame-treated to lower the likelihood of fire mishaps in households or working spaces. The fire-retardant Boilo board reduces flammability and the possibility of a spark

burning down furniture or other woodwork. The entire range is available at authorised Action Tesa dealers across India.

Following the HDHMR board's popularity, Action Tesa Boilo Boiling Waterproof with FR Grade HDF boards is on a similar trajectory and is expected to become a favourite among architects, builders, interior designers, and homeowners.

Rising climate change, escalating fire incidents, and other life-threatening and asset-killing catastrophes drove Action Tesa to innovate Boilo. These boards are available in plain and pre-lam panels ideal for creating modular kitchens, closets for a wide range of lifestyles, home, and workplace furnishings, and more.

Ajay Aggarwal, Managing Director of Action Tesa, said, "Action Tesa has always prioritised addressing consumer concerns over safety and quality and investing in research and technology. Fire retardant plywood is one of the greatest safety features in your home, office, or other spaces."

Besides being water resistant and able to resist the adverse effects of hot water, Boilo is also termite-proof. It has a wide array of applications—from being used to craft furniture to restroom cubicles and flooring of a bus to damp areas such as washrooms.

Aggarwal further urged everyone to purchase Action Tesa goods from authorised dealers exclusively. Few store owners use the Action Tesa brand name to sell counterfeit or inferior goods.

Japan Plans to Launch Wooden Satellite



Japan plans to launch a wooden satellite by the year 2024. This ground breaking project is now in its experimental state, where the research team is working hard to execute the project. The wooden satellite has been named LignoSat. Various tests have already confirmed the high durability of space wood at the International Space Station- the ISS. The wood samples selected for the wooden satellite have proved their strength giving the project a hopeful turn.

LignoSat that will be jointly launched in 2024 by NASA and JAXA will use the Magnolia wood, commonly known as

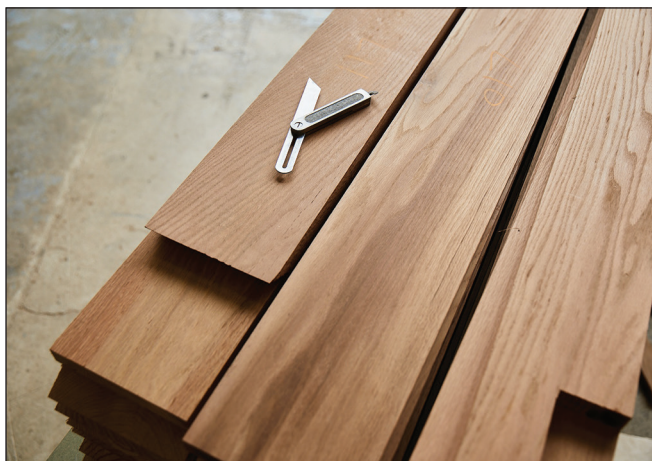
"Hoonoki" in Japanese. The team believes that this wood is the perfect one due to its high workability, stability and strength. The body of the satellite will built with the help of traditional Japanese carpentry technique.

The research group successfully conducted the preliminary strength tests. They also executed the elemental and crystal structure analysis of the wooden samples retrieved by Astronaut Koichi Wakata from space. The specimens not endured the extreme environment of outer space but also strongly handled intense cosmic rays and solar particles for ten months. The test conducted could prove no sign of decomposition or deformation, with no trace of cracking, warping, peeling, or surface damage. Three wooden specimens that were tested even showed no mass change due to constant space exposure.

LignoStella Space Wood Project was jointly launched by Kyoto University and Sumitomo Forestry in April 2020, where they conducted tests for over 290 days on the Japanese Experiment Module Kibo of the ISS. They are still working on various other stuffs before the launch. They are also concentrating on the fundamental mechanism of nano-level material, whose findings will also lead to new innovations for better future usage of wood materials. □

Total value of U.S. hardwood exports to India hits USD 3.247 million in the first quarter of 2023

American hardwood pavilion at Interzum 2023 aims to inform, educate and inspire



The total value of U.S. hardwood exports to India reached USD 3.247 million in the first quarter of this year, according to the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), the leading international trade association for the American hardwood industry. The statistics, which have been compiled from the latest data released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), were announced at the opening of Interzum 2023 (May 9, 2023), the world's leading international trade fair for suppliers to the furniture and interior design sectors returning to the halls of Kölnmesse until May 12, 2023.

A closer look at the numbers reveal that total hardwood lumber shipped from the United States to India increased by 36 percent in value to USD 2.142 million (up from USD 1.581 million for the same time period in 2022) and by 68 percent in volume to reach 3,796 cubic meters (up from 2,262 cubic meters for the first quarter of 2022). At the same time, direct exports of American hardwood veneers to the market reached USD 77,000 (up by 38 percent in comparison to Q1 last year). Lastly, exports of hardwood logs increased by 50 percent and 29 percent to reach 2,023 cubic meters and USD 1.03 million respectively.

The top five American hardwood species exported to India

in the first quarter of this year include ash (USD 744,000 and 1,377m³), white oak (USD 496,000 and 722m³), red oak (USD 276,000 and 499m³), maple (USD 281,000 and 686m³), and hickory (USD 249,000 and 292m³). Significant increases were seen in the value and volume of exports of ash (1,386 percent and 1,688 percent), and maple (965 percent and 1,424 percent). According to AHEC, the increase in exports in Q1 follows a new record for exports of U.S. hardwood lumber to India in 2022, with the total value of American hardwood lumber and veneer exported reaching USD 8.618 million.

“At Interzum, AHEC is showcasing its innovative approach to hardwood communication on a stand of 370sqm, together with a group of 29 U.S. hardwood exporting companies - the largest number yet. Visitors can expect information on the diverse palette of U.S. hardwoods, their environmental credentials and unique qualities. AHEC is also highlighting the environmental strengths of the U.S. hardwood resource, presenting various tools for verifying its sustainability. The stand will explain the core messages driving demand for U.S. hardwoods, as well as presenting examples of a range of applications and past projects all demonstrating the potential of these timbers,” concluded Roderick Wiles, AHEC Regional Director. □

Amulya Mica Star Dealers Meet at Ludhiana, North-1, Region Punjab 7th May 2023



Amulya Mica had organized Star Dealers meet at Maharaja Regency, Ludhiana on 7 May 2023. The function was inaugurated by Mr. Surendra Tharad, Mr. Rajneesh Ji, Mr. Ravi Gupta, Mr. Vikas Choudhary & Mr. Prashanjeet Dutta by lighting the lamp followed by Ganesh Vandana & National Anthem. The meet was organized to launch new 1mm Catalogue 23-24 (Inspired by World).

The company's Sr. VP – Marketing Mr. S.K. Tharad, Retail Business Head Mr. Prashanjeet Dutta, Sr. Regional Manager (North I) Mr. Ravi Gupta, Regional Sales Manager Mr. Vikas Choudhary, Product Head PVC Laminate Mr. Amit Jain & entire Punjab team had welcomed more than 150 dealers of Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir & Himachal Pradesh.

Due to illness MD Mr. Rakesh Agarwal could not attend the event. So sent video message to the delegates which was played. Mr. Agarwal thanked all delegates for long bonding

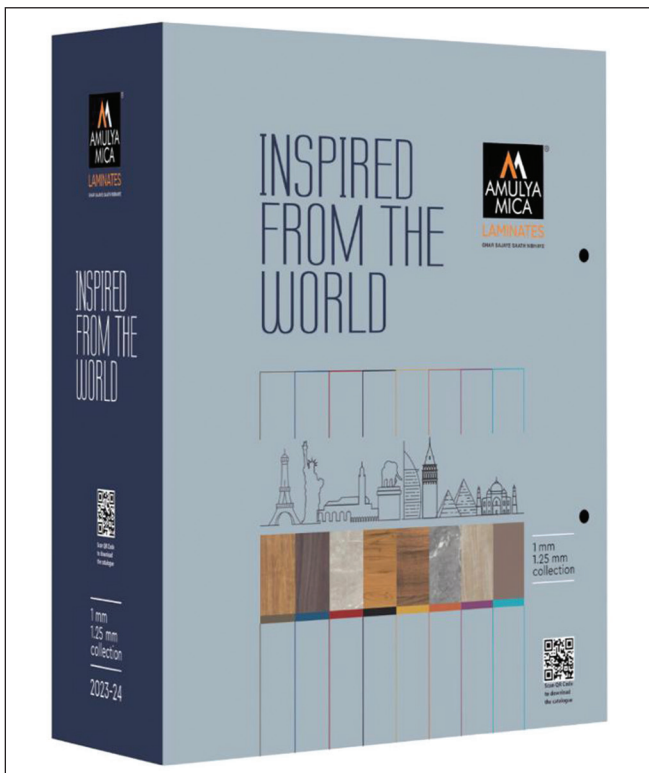
with Amulya Mica family. The company has full faith in Punjab channel partners and people. Any new showcase always starts from Punjab. Even when the company recruited its Brand Ambassador Mr. Harbhajan Singh, he also belongs from Punjab and company's first gallery also started here. Even a new 1mm catalogue was released first in Punjab. Further he spoke Amulya mica's growth & expansion project in hand, at the same time company's CSR activities and award & recognition.

Mr. Surendra Tharad spoke about company's innovation and project and future expansion plan and briefed entire Amulya Mica's product ranges starting from Plywood to Laminates and PVC/WPC Board & Frame. He introduced Mr. Amit Jain, the new Product Head of PVC Laminates and shared his experience.

In the event a new 1mm catalogue-23-24 was launched by Amulya Mica's loyal distributors of the region and entire Punjab team. Mr. Ravi Gupta & Mr. Tharad explained what is new in the 1mm catalogue. This catalogue is theme based, inspired by the world, as we are using imported paper designing the laminate sheets. Further they explained some of the new features which are incorporated in this catalogue. In this catalogue of 1mm, 1.25mm thickness of Imperial Laminates along with Digital Laminates collection is included for ready reference so to reach to mass. In each page theme wise sample tukadi kept as example in UAE glossy, in Turkey page Stone finish & in USA mild & Light texture. India is famous as colorful country, so solid colors. 35 new colors added. Technical information, QR code, CSR activities, certificates like Scratch Resistance, Anti-Bacterial etc included for ready reference. This catalogue represents the complete range of Amulya Mica's 1mm & 1.25mm laminates sheets. Everyone appreciated the color, design & style of presentation of the catalogue and has a high hope of winning the market.

After launching 1mm catalogue, new Imperial laminate 1.25mm catalogue also launched. This is the collection of Amulya Mica's premium laminates like Synchronized laminates, Seven Wonder etc. It is a very exclusive collection and meant for the people who have a fine taste in the life.

A very rewarding and attractive spot booking scheme was announced for all products. All the dealers responded overwhelmingly by registering their orders. The event was ended by following gala Dinner, music, dance & gift presentation. □



Amulya Mica conducted architects meet at Vadodara on 23rd June 2023



Amulya Mica had organized architects meet at Kabir Resort, Vadodara on 23rd June 2023. The meet was organized to launch new 1mm Catalogue 23-24 (Inspired by World) among architects.

The company's VP-Export Mr. Sunil Thakore & Sr. Area Sales Manager, Vadodara region Mr. Praful Brahmhatt had welcomed more than 40 architects of Vadodara region. MD Mr. Rakesh Agarwal was himself present to greet the architects.

Mr. Thakore briefed company's all products ranges plywood, laminates, WPC/PVC lead free board, Door Frame, cladding and about imperial laminates collection, Its USP and its benefits, which differentiate with others, at the same time company's CSR activities and award & recognition.

In the event a new 1mm catalogue-23-24 was launched by young architects of Vadodara Mr. Parth Chitte and Mr. Vishal Chitte. Mr. Thakore and Mr. Praful Brahmhatt explained what is new in the 1mm catalogue. It is theme based, inspired by the world, using imported European paper and 34 new colors added. Further they explained some of the new features which are incorporated in this catalogue like 1.25mm thickness of Imperial Laminates along with Digital Laminates collection is included for ready reference, QR code etc.

MD Mr. Rakesh Agarwal, in his speech thanked all architects for long term bonding with Amulya Mica. He also explained some new features incorporated in the 1mm catalogue for which he requested all to share their feedback after seeing the catalogue. Their feedback is very valuable for us as we can try for more innovation and upgradation. Further he spoke for the



company's CSR activities and award & recognition and assured all to always provide good quality product and services.

All architects took active involvement in going through catalogue. They appreciated Amulya Mica new catalogue, its design, and its new features.

The event was ended by following gala Dinner, music, dance & gift presentation. □

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“INDIAN WOOD & ALLIED PANELS” Quarterly Journal - FIPPI

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Binderholz's three-layered wood panels is now here



Binderholz's three-layer wood panels are made of solid wood and these may be used in several construction work. The solid spruce panel with tongue and groove connection offers the best prerequisites for high quality. It is also easy to handle the panels for processing and these panels also meet all visual and technical requirements. Lamellas optically graded by machines offer low-crack panels with a nice, uniform surface- guaranteed. These 3 layered solid construction panels are made following an environmentally friendly bonding process. An efficient 3-layer bond covered with strong cover

layers retains all the great properties of the wood. All these make the panels more stable and long-lasting.

Properties- These panels require no decorative work, which includes painting or plastering. It works with the circumferential tongue and groove connection. These construction panels can be worked with DIY tools. They are easy to use by pre-installing lighting fixtures, speakers, etc.

Applications- These strong construction panels are quite useful and can be used for various woodwork jobs. They can be used to construct floors, walls, and ceilings. These panels are useful for interior construction and can also be used for structurally protected exterior areas. They are suitable for interior fittings, furniture construction and for constructive timber work as well.

The woodworking industry has been benefiting from the well-thought-out wood solutions produced by binderholz. Their solid wood products include lumber, profiled timber, single and multi-ply laminated solid wood panels and glulam to binderholz CLT BBS. These particular solid spruce panels made by binderholz are a sustainable choice too. This product enhances the sustainable growth of the wood working industry as these panels are a natural alternative to conventional panels. These panels are a healthy choice that will not harm the environment. They are believed to be great for the indoor climate and are good for the outside environment too. □

Seismic shake test explores mass-timber resilience

NHERI Tall Wood Project partners came together to execute a seismic shake test on a 10-story wooden structure built with mass timber. The purpose of the test was to test the strength of mass timber products when subjected to earthquake. The two tests were successfully executed on May 9 at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Various universities collaborated on the project while The NHERI Tall Wood project was funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

The Natural Hazard Engineering Research Infrastructure reported that the mass timber building was a market rate prototype designed by LEVER Architecture. The 112-ft structure mass timber building that was subjected to the seismic shake test was large building that featured four exterior facade assemblies with a number of interior walls. It also owned 10-story stair tower that was for testing the effect on the safety-critical nonstructural components as well. The design of the structure also showcased rocking walls that helped the building to re-center itself while it encountered the seismic event. Post-tensioned steel rods were placed on each floor to absorb the powerful seismic force. It must be noted that the structure was built using donated mass timber products that included Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), Mass Plywood Panel (MPP), Nail- Laminated Timber (NLT), Dowel Laminated Timber (DLT), Veneer Laminated Timber (VLT), and Glulam.



The Awaited result-

The final result will not be released until later this year but the project team believes that this building type will result to be a good sustainable choice for the growing urbanization. The research partners also believe that the resilient mass timber building is also easily repairable after encountering such earthquakes. The mass timber building this time could endure the seismic effect with minimal damage. The building's rocking wall lateral system resulted to be extremely helpful. This test mostly focused on the seismic viability but the team further plans to deconstruct the top four floors of the building to study the mass timber deconstruction process. □

Tree Crops: An Efficient Tool for Recharging Ground Water Table

By RK Sapra, IFS (Retired)

India is having 16% of the world's population and only 4% of the world's fresh water resources. The "green revolution" which began during 1960s, has increased the demand for groundwater for agriculture. The rural electrification has led to an increase in the number of borewells to extract groundwater to meet the demand. Over the last 50 years, the number of borewells has grown from 01 million to 20 million, making India the world's largest user of groundwater. The Central ground water board of India has estimated that about 17% of ground water blocks are overexploited (extraction of water >100% of recharge) while 5% and 14% respectively, are a critical (extraction of water 90-100% of recharge) and semi-critical (extraction of water 70-90% of recharge) stages. The situation is particularly alarming in three major regions – north-western, western, and southern peninsular. As per Haryana Water Regulatory Authority (2022), there are 6885 villages in Haryana, of which villages suffering severely (ground water table >30m) and moderately (water table >30m) and moderately (water table 20-30 m) from ground water stress are 26% and 15% respectively. Hence, Haryana Government has prioritised these villages for their specific treatments.

Tree roots and leaf litter create soil conditions that promote the infiltrations of rainwater into the soil. Trees help slow down and temporarily store water runoff and reduce pollutants by taking up nutrients and other pollutants from soils and water through their roots. Trees, acting as mini-reservoirs, control storm-water at the source (www.forestsforwatersheds.org/reduce-stormwater/). As per the paper 'Maximising Water Yield through Silvicultural Interventions' by RK Tiwari (2019), the soil containing roots are able to absorb virtually zero, even in case of very heavy rain. The study also shows that the infiltration capacity of forest soil is much higher than the bare soil. The forests affect water availability in two ways. Firstly it reduces

water availability due to its evapotranspiration requirements and secondly, it increases infiltration into soil. Kanwar Pal "Rana, a farmer from Shahzadpur in "Ambala district of Haryana who developed a demonstration plot of clonal eucalyptus Vs seed route plantations in 1999, could harvest all the rainwater of this rainfed farmland through loosened soil around the plants and bunds on the periphery of farmland for the growth of plants and infiltration into the ground.

The block plantations are more effective in harvesting rainwater as compared to linear plantations. The infiltration capacity of native trees is higher (due to less evapotranspiration) as compared to tree crops of poplar, eucalyptus, etc. Hence, it is suggested that the panchayats of water stressed villages may be incentivised to divert their panchayat lands for planting native species (400 plants/hectares) along with cultivations of local grasses between them to facilitate the recharging of ground water table and to promote the biodiversity conservation. The landless families may be allowed to use the grasses for feeding their animals on payment basis as decided by the concerned panchayats. According to a study reported by a veteran researcher, AN Chaturvedi, eucalyptus required 511 litres of water for producing one kg of wood, while the agricultural crops of wheat and rice respectively, consume 1,500 litres and 4,500 litres of water for producing one kg of grain. In one hectare of eucalyptus crop that puts on a growth at the rate of 25m³/ha/yr, the annual requirement of water is 128 lakh litres. An equivalent piece of land that grows one crop each of wheat and rice during a year and gives an annual yield of 5.7 tonnes and 6.5 tonnes of grains respectively, consume 378 lakh litres of water. This shows that water requirement of eucalyptus crop is 37 per cent of agricultural crops. □

House Committee Submits Forest Bill Without Changes

The Parliamentary Joint committee on the draft Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act 2023 has accepted every single amendment proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change and recommended it entirely unchanged, as per its report in Parliament. Four Opposition party Members of Parliament- who were on the panel- Congress MPs Pradyut Bordoloi and Phulodevi Netam, Trinamool Congress' Jawahar Sircar and DMK's R Girirajan – have expressed their dissent in writing to provisions in the draft Bill.

Bordoloi has said in his dissent note that contrary to the new preamble proposed in the Act, the amendment's sum and substance 'emasculates' the original FCA and 'subverts' its purpose.

Netam has stated that while the constitution has entrusted the nation's forest wealth to the government, the latter is misusing it through these amendments as forests do not appear



to be the top priority in these. Girirajan has said the amendments are 'inconsistent and ultra vires to the principal act' and 'severely compromise the constitutional mandate of the State' to 'safeguard forests'. □

Forest Research Institute to come up in Yamunanagar



Haryana Forest and Environment Minister Kanwar Pal said that a Forest Research Institute would come up in Yamunanagar. Decks have been cleared for the setting up of the institute, he said.

During a meeting here, the minister was apprised by the officials that land from the Development and Panchayats Department would soon be transferred to the Forest Department for this purpose.

According to an official statement, the minister said that the setting up of Forest Research Institute would give further impetus

to plywood industries in the State, particularly in Yamunanagar.

He said that Yamunanagar-Jagadhri twin towns are a hub of plywood and related industries from where products are supplied worldwide.

Meanwhile, the minister said that 187 acres of land of Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) in Badopal, Fatehabad, would soon be transferred to the Forest Department for the purpose of conservation of blackbucks in Haryana.

Badopal Black Buck habitat would be the first owned habitat by the state Government, he said.

He said that Badopal village of Fatehabad is a natural habitat of blackbucks.

He also appreciated the local Bishnoi community for conserving blackbuck deer, which is the state animal of Haryana.

During the meeting, Kanwar Pal also reviewed the progress of tree plantation in Haryana. He said that besides planting saplings, it is also necessary to nurture and conserve the plants.

The Minister directed the officers to review and enhance the amount of fine to be imposed on illegal razing of trees under the purview of the Forest Department. He said that it is high time to review the fine amount which is still continuing as per The Punjab Land Preservation Act. □

Uttar Pradesh forest dept to raise 48 crore saplings for plantation in 2023

Forest department will raise 48 crore saplings in nurseries to achieve the target of planting 35 crore trees this year in the monsoon season as a part of the state government's annual plantation drive.

Over 40 crore saplings have been raised already and the rest will be ready before June.

Mission director for this year's plantation drive, Anjani Acharya, said that the forest department, currently, is work on the final plan for the plantation drive

"It will be in place after the district-wise plantation targets are set and the state government clears it," he said. As of now, management and monitoring of more than 1,800 nurseries where saplings are being raised is the priority of the department.

Coordinators have been appointed for each of the 18 divisions for management and monitoring of the nurseries, said the official. Hi-tech nurseries with mist chambers, shade houses, sprinklers, vermicompost and 'jeevamrit' are being set up in every division.

The nurseries belong to different government departments and include a few private ones as well. The species that will be planted have been categorised under broad groups, like those yielding food and fruit or fodder and fuel and economically



Forest department officials said over 40 crore saplings have been raised already and the rest will be ready before June.

viable ones, like timber and bamboo varieties.

The species that have been planted over the last few years in the state will all be included in the broad categories under the sub-groups. If there comes up a demand for any such species which is not available in the nurseries in the state, will be bought from other states.

At present, the forest department is getting the soil work done which is about digging the pits and enriching the soil for plantation. □

Continuous Plywood Production



Provider of plants, systems solutions and services for the panel manufacturing industry Dieffenbacher has introduced Conti-Plywood, a new process, allowing manufacturers to increase their production speed and capacity. Compared to production on a multi-opening press, manufacturers can produce plywood with more consistent mechanical board properties and lower thickness tolerances with less or minimal sanding.

With the efficient and fully automated continuous laying and press technique, manufacturers can achieve savings in labour and wage costs. The plywood technology enables board thicknesses from 9-120mm, and allows for all kinds of resins - be it polymeric methyl diphenyl isocyanate (PMDI), phenolic formaldehyde (PF) or melamine urea formaldehyde (MUF) - while consuming less rain and thermal energy. A Dieffenbacher Conti-Plywood line can produce single plywood (usually with nbo veneer overlap), continuously produced plywood, laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and cross-bonded LVL, all on the same line.

According to Dieffenbacher, the first Conti-Plywood line already operating in China has an annual capacity of around 150,000m³. Dieffenbacher expects that the greatest demand for new Conti-Plywood lines will also come from China. □

Andritz to supply pressured refining system to Greenpanel Industries



From left: Ashok Pareek, plant manager at Greenpanel; Subhash Aggarwal, technical manager at Greenpanel; Christian Rosypal, sales engineer at Andritz; Shobhan Mittal, managing director and CEO of Greenpanel; Michael Rupp, vice-president of Panelboard Systems at Andritz; and Ranjit Thind, sales agent of Andritz.

International technology group Andritz has received an order from Greenpanel Industries to supply a pressurised refining system to its mill in Andhra Pradesh, India. The new system will process 100% eucalyptus to produce high-quality medium-density fibreboard (MDF) products. It will use Andritz technologies, a 20-in plug screw feeder and an S 1056M high-consistency refiner, to achieve optimal fibre quality at a low electrical and thermal energy consumption.

Shobhan Mittal, managing director and CEO of Greenpanel Industries, said: "Our aim is to make the best use of the scarce resources available to us by using the most efficient manufacturing practices. The technological solution proposed by Andritz is in line with our environmentally friendly production approach." Greenpanel Industries is the main manufacturer of wood panels in India and said to be the largest producer of MDF in Asia. The company specialises in the production of MDF, plywood, decorative veneers, flooring, and doors made of 100% renewable wood. □

Greenlam at Tindivanam Begins Commercial Production

Greenlam, said that the manufacturing facility with installed capacity of 18.9 million square meter per annum has started commercial production from June 09, 2023. The said facility has the potential to generate revenue of Rs 400 crore per annum on full capacity utilization. The total capex incurred for the project stands at Rs 130 crore approx till commencement of the commercial production.

The Greenfield project to manufacture plywood and allied products has begun via the company's subsidiary HG Industries with an estimated investment of Rs 125 crore, it said.

The company added the Greenfield laminate plant and

particle board plant at Naidupeta, Andhra Pradesh is expected to start production by Q2FY24 and Q4FY24 respectively. Greenlam is among the world's top 3 laminate manufacturers with its flagship brands Greenlam Laminates, NewMika Laminates, Decowood Veneers, Mikasa Floors & Mikasa Doors & Frames.

The company reported a strong 79.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in net profit to Rs 46.10 crore in the March quarter (Q4FY23). Net revenues grew 15.2 per cent YoY to Rs 533.80 crore. The laminate business witnessed overall value and volume growth of 16 per cent and 16.8 per cent, respectively. □

Export benefits under RoDTEP scheme may be extended beyond September 30 for identified sectors



The scheme refunds embedded duties and taxes on exports and may be extended for up to six months beyond September 2023.

With persistent global uncertainty slowing down goods exports from India, the government is looking to extend export benefits under the popular Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to the chemicals, pharmaceuticals and iron & steel sectors beyond September 30, 2023, when it is set to lapse.

“Looking at the export prospects and the available budget for the scheme for this fiscal, it seems there will be enough funds available to continue the RoDTEP scheme for the chemicals, pharmaceuticals and iron & steel sectors beyond September 30 2023. While the tenure of the extension is yet to be decided, it could be up to six months till the end of the fiscal,” an official tracking the matter told businessline

However, the government is unlikely to extend the scheme for the identified sectors in perpetuity, like all other sectors covered under the scheme, as funding may be an issue at any time in the future, the official explained.

The RoDTEP scheme refunds exporters the embedded duties/taxes that are not rebated under other schemes. These include VAT on fuel used in transportation, mandi tax and duty on electricity used during manufacturing.

Refunds Input Taxes

As the scheme refunds input taxes that are calculated transparently, it complies with WTO norms.

When the scheme was announced in January 2021, it covered 8,731 items from most export sectors except for organic and inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and iron & steel, which covered most engineering items.

However, the government later decided to extend the scheme to the excluded sectors as well, which expanded the list

of eligible items to 10,342, per the DGFT figures. However, the benefits were extended only for the December 2022-September 30, 2023 period.

“Since the chemicals, pharma and iron & steel items account for a large chunk of India’s exports, the RoDTEP payout to these would also be substantial. That is why the government may want to have the flexibility of extending the benefit of the scheme to these sectors when there is enough fund available and withdraw it when finances are an issue,” the official explained.

Allocation for the RoDTEP scheme in FY23 was increased by 10 per cent to ₹15,069 crore, from ₹13,699 crore in 2022-23. Exports in April 2023, on the other hand, declined 12.7 per cent to \$34.66 billion as recessionary trends in many Western economies and Russia’s continued war in Ukraine made an ‘active impact.’ □

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Automation to drive higher growth rate for India's MDF industry - Greenpanel CFO



India's furniture industry will witness major changes with the entry of domestic organised and international players bringing in more automation, driving higher growth rates for the medium density fiberboard (MDF) sector, a top executive at Greenpanel Industries Ltd said.

"Automation will lead to higher growth rates for the MDF industry since it is a raw material produced in fully automated plants," Vishwanathan Venkatramani, chief financial officer at India's largest manufacturer of MDF said in an interview on the Reuters Trading India forum.

MDF, used widely in furniture, sports equipment and shoe heels, has lower structural defects as compared to plywood, which is produced in a labour-intensive environment, Venkatramani added. While MDF is primarily used in making furniture, other applications are also growing at a significant rate, he said.

The wood panel maker does not expect any major change in the current quarter which is normally a slow starter.

Demand is expected to pick up from July and the company is expecting a 12%-15% volume growth in fiscal year 2024 over 2023.

While plywood is facing demand constraints due to a slowdown in residential real estate, Venkatramani expects the outlook for premium plywood to improve significantly over the next two to three years. The company is projecting an 8%-10% volume growth for plywood in fiscal year 2024.

The Gurugram-based company recently reported tepid fourth-quarter earnings, due to lower margins in MDF export volumes and a cut in export realization. Greenpanel was one of the key beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic as Indians' appetite for readymade furniture grew rapidly. This fueled the company's stock price, which rallied 26 times from May 2020 to April 2022, eclipsing the near two-fold rise in the Nifty Midcap 100 index over the same period. Overall, analysts currently have a bullish view on the stock, with eight out of 12 rating it a 'buy', according to Refinitiv Eikon data. □

Indore furniture cluster eyes investment from anchor units

The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed for furniture cluster in Indore district is eyeing investment from anchor units to source end products manufactured at the cluster by the small and medium enterprises.

As many as 42 small and medium industries will get plots in the proposed furniture cluster in the first phase, according to the SPV. Micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) department has allotted 55 acres for developing a cluster for furniture at Betma Khurd, about 27 km away from Indore.

Association of Furniture Manufacturers and Trades, Indore, secretary and SPV member Harish Nagar said, "We are working on building a platform for small players by getting investment from anchor units. This will give small players a platform to commercialize their products and work for a brand."

The SPV is finalizing the development plan for furniture cluster on 55 acres in the first phase. As per the plan, plots measuring 10,000-50,000 square feet will be allotted to industries as per their requirement.

"Plots will be allotted to industries as per their demand. There will be 3-4 categories of plots in the cluster. Most industries coming up in the first phase are small players and require small land. Big land chunks will be allotted to industries



in the second phase," said Nagar. According to the SPV, a small common facility centre with advanced machinery is included in the new development plan where industries can take up turns to use the machine for job work.

The association said that around 110 industrialists had submitted money to the SPV for taking up land of which more than half took back the payment due to delay in the land allotment. □

Greenply Industries flags off the first dispatch of Greenply MDF

Marking a significant development in the wood panel industry, Greenply Industries has flagged off the 1st dispatch of its newly launched product Greenply MDF from its recently commissioned plant in Vadodara district, Gujarat. Commenting on the launch, Sanidhya Mittal, Joint Managing Director, Greenply Industries Limited said, “Greenply is already a leading brand in the plywood sector and venturing into the MDF business is a natural progression. This is one the most ambitious project for us at Greenply that we have completed it in just 15 months. We are extremely elated to have made our first dispatch and looking forward to a positive customer feedback”.

A grand ceremony has been organized to celebrate the first dispatch of the product which was also attended by the

players of the Indian Premier League franchise Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), as a part of Greenply’s association with the LSG, wherein, the cricketers were seen revealing the momentous feat being achieved by Greenply, amidst the company’s most trusted channel partners. With the newly launched MDF product, the company’s dealer community nationally will now have an extended product portfolio to offer to the customers.

The company has employed PRODIQ-NEO technology, the first of its kind in India that is equipped with measuring equipment and artificial intelligence software to guarantee product quality, precision, durability. Greenply is the first in the wood and panel industry to have successfully acquired the FSC – FM (Forest Management) Certification from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for its plantations and real-time data accessibility. □

Plywood industry picks up pace after pandemic

The nearly 500 plywood manufacturing units in Perumbavoor and surrounding areas such as Aluva, Kalady, and Muvattupuzha have returned to near normality after the crisis triggered by demonetisation, the epic floods of 2018, and the two years of COVID pandemic.

Industry sources said the plywood industry, however, had its own share of problems caused by the general deceleration in the economy. But it hopes to go full steam with the recovery of the economy.

One of the issues confronting the industry is shortage of raw materials. However, sources said it was a seasonal issue as raw materials fall short of demand when the rainy season sets in.

In the long run, the industry had expressed the view that the government should encourage planting of softwood to enable the sector to have sufficient raw materials. Besides, there is shortage caused by the slowdown in replanting of rubber trees in the State. The industry is important in terms of employment generation and its general contribution to the State’s economy. Sources said the plywood industry in Perumbavoor directly employed around 50,000 people, most of whom are from other States.

The industry was in the throes of a crisis when the COVID pandemic reached its peak with shortage of workers and a slowdown in demand. Bank loan repayment was also a serious issue facing plywood units. □

Durian Furniture Launches Marble & Granite Furniture Range

Durian Furniture presents a coveted collection of timeless furniture pieces made of natural marble and granite, including coffee tables, bedside tables, dining tables, TV units and more. Its immeasurable aesthetic charm of distinct patterns, grains, and hues makes each product one-of-a-kind.

Crafted from high-quality natural marble, their marble-top furniture pieces exude a smooth sheen that offers a sophisticated and timeless appeal. Furniture pieces made from exotic natural granite, are resistant to high heat and scratching, making their products perfectly suited for modern Indian homes. With a plethora of hues and patterns, products made from natural stones like granite and marble seamlessly blend with any décor. All while commanding attention with its charm and exclusivity.

Crafted with premium natural marble and granite, Durian’s

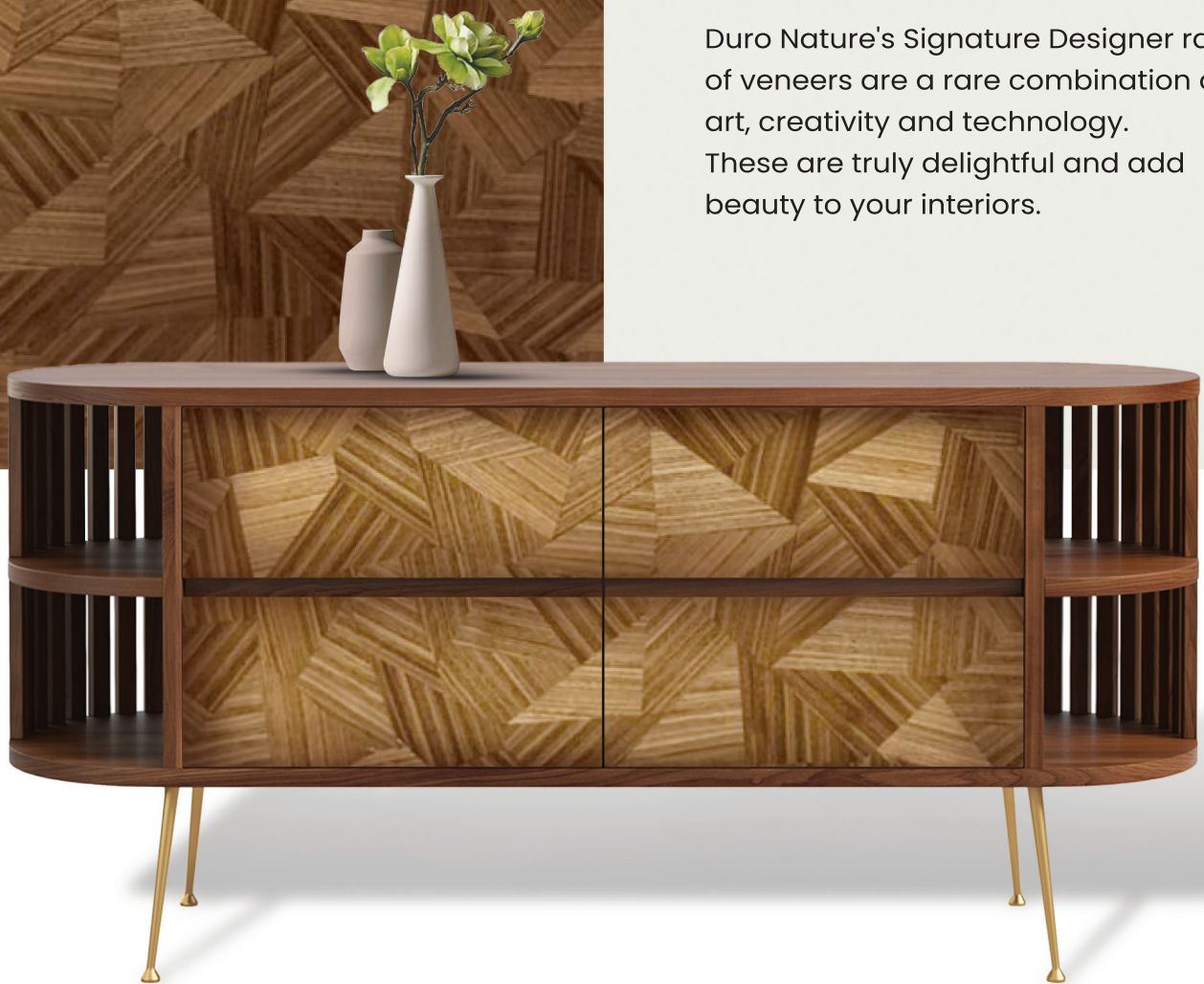


natural stone furniture pieces are easy to care for even with your busy schedule. Durian Furniture showcases exotically timeless furniture pieces crafted from high-quality marble and granite that infuse an understated glamour into modern homes. □

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✓ Water Proof

✓ Fire Resistant



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