

• FURNITURE • LAMINATES • BAMBOO

Indian Wood & Allied Panels

Volume 17 • Issue 1

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

January - March 2023



**A Way Forward for
Enhancing Production of
Saw grade Wood logs ...page 10**



**India should shift 5% of area under
cereal cultivation to agro-forestry....
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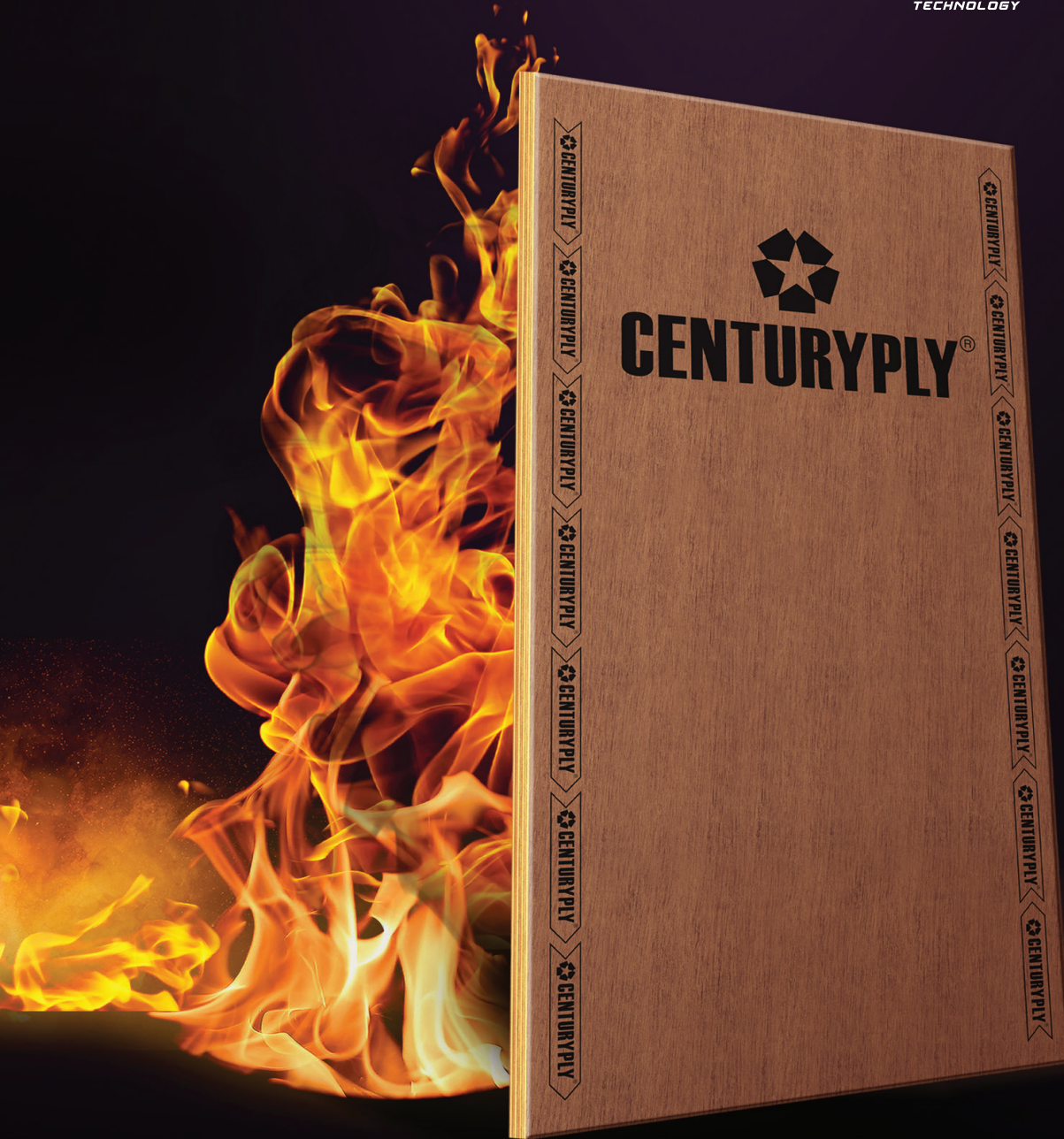


**Amulya Mica opened its first ever
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Present Status of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry

By Dr. C.N. Pandey Principal "Technical Advisor FIPPI and Mr. Sumit Roy M/s. Century Plyboard (India) Limited

Plywood & Panel Industry (MDF & Particle board) are a major constituent of Wood-based Industry, and is directly related to the Housing & Real Estate Sector. In India, with COVID-19 showing signs of receding, business owners were just about expecting to get back on their feet and start recouping at least part of the losses incurred by the pandemic. However, the Russia-Ukraine conflict seems to have thwarted their hopes with inevitable price inflation and a disturbed supply chain. The Indian import and export industry has been severely affected due to the caution in the foreign airspace. Industries across textiles, wood, steel, pharma, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), are nevertheless endangered. Russia is an important supplier of oil, metals, and natural gas and higher prices for these commodities are sure to create economic damage across the world. The Indian Rupee is also witnessing depreciation against the US Dollar, which will increase the cost of products in India. The Indian wood based industry is also witnessing challenges owing to the halt in shipments. There is tremendous uncertainty in the global markets not only in terms of trade but also in terms of liquidity. Lack of liquidity would mean a temporary haul in payments and receivables which would further impact the cost of acquiring raw materials as well. All this affected the overall business sentiment and confidence, which in turn has led to reduction in consumer spending. Consequently, this industry, has also seen a degrowth, during this period. However, this was a temporary and it appears that all these are now gradually falling in place.

Plywood and Panel Industry in India, is now based mainly on Plantation Timber, such as Poplar & Eucalyptus in North and Rubber Wood, Silver Oak & Melia Dubia in South. Almost 90 – 95% of timber requirement of this wood-based industry is being met from agroforestry wood grown by Farmers, who have now taken up plantation of these short rotation timber species on a large scale. Face Veneer required for making Plywood is being imported from countries like Africa, China, Indonesia, Malaysia etc. There are about 3,300 plywood mfg. units, of which more than 3,200 units are under unorganized sector and has a market share of nearly 80% of the total panel production in the country producing around 12 Million CBM plywood with annual turnover of Rs 25000 Crore where MDF industries consist of 9 units with market size of 4000 crore producing 9000 cbm/day followed by 63 particle boards (including 45 units as wood based and 18 bagasse based) with annual turnover of 2000 crore.

The Central Government has taken certain decisive measures to reduce the housing shortage in the country, which at present is estimated at around 50 million units. The Central Government's policies – "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana", to ensure 'Housing for All by 2030', and establishment of 100 smart cities. This will not only revive the Housing & Real Estate Sector in India, but will also lead to massive increase in demand for wood based panel products. This will boost establishment of many more new Plywood & Panel mfg. units, such as Medium Density Fibre Boards (MDF), Particle Boards and Bamboo-based Composites, in the near future. The industry therefore needs to be supported in a big way, not only by promoting Agro-Forestry to ensure availability of their wood requirements on a sustainable basis, but also by relaxing / liberalizing the Licensing / Permits

requirements for transportation and processing of Agro-Forestry Timber. Unfortunately, Government as such has not made any action plan or policy for the sustainable development of Plywood & Panel Industry in the country. The current Licensing Norms and Transport Permits, especially for setting up of Agro-Forestry Timber based Units, and on movement of Agroforestry Timber is a serious dampener to this Industry

While Agro-forestry is fast gaining acceptance, the need of the hour is that more and more Agroforestry Timber based industries / processing units come up in the country. While on one hand, Agroforestry Plantations increase the Forest / Green cover in the country, it also supplements income of Farmers, reduces their dependence on Govt. of sale of traditional / cash crops, the Agro-Forestry Timber based industries / processing units, which are generally set up in near vicinity of plantation, will provide employment opportunity in rural areas, reduce migration to urban areas, thereby leading to overall balanced growth. With abundant availability of Plywood and Other Panel Products such as MDF, PB, it will further pave the way for development of Organized Furniture Mfg. Units within the country, thereby reducing imports of furniture and saving precious foreign exchange.

Demand for wood and wood products in India continues to grow due to increasing population and economic development. These products are considered as "carbon neutral or even carbon negative" in terms of production, processing, use, recycling, and disposal at the end of service life. Such value added products can contribute significantly to "Circular Bio-economy" by reducing energy consumption and carbon footprints by cutting down on non-renewable building. Wood based industries in the country is diversified and so far most of the raw materials grown outside forests mainly under agro-forestry systems (e.g. eucalyptus, poplar, silver oak, casuarina etc) are being grown and/or utilized by pulp, paper and panel industries. With the significant growth predicted for paper and panel industries supply of raw material in future is also uncertain. On other hand, furniture, handicraft and other sectors have not received much attention or priority with regard to supply of raw materials or development of tree improvement programme focusing their needs. For example, furniture and handicraft hubs based in Saharanpur and Jodhpur are mainly utilizing mango, shisham and acacias and long term supply of these species is unpredictable. There is also lack of link among research institutes, farmers, industry and other stakeholders. These situation results in over exploitation of few species and unsustainable wood utilization, which is resulting in loss of income and enthusiasm for farmers to plant trees and it results in causing shortage of raw material for industry and higher import bills. India is a diverse country with a wide variety of underutilized tree species due to lack of awareness about their potential uses. Thus, there is strong need to identify and prioritize tree species with potential to meet the demand of wood based industries. In this regard Forest Development Corporations are likely to play a very productive role by taking up following activity rather than limiting themselves in harvest and sale of wood.

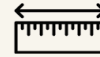
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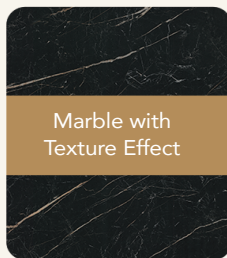
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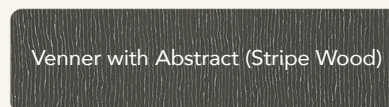
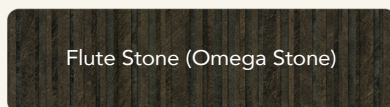
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- ii) Preparing a list of species capable of diversified use for industrial and commercial purposes.
- iii) To bring suitable forest areas under intensive Management Practices in order to improve, enrich and enhance production, both in quantity and quality.
- iv) To convert existing low quality forests into high quality productive forests by adopting intensive management system.
- v) To formulate financially viable projects in order to draw institutional finance to execute its wood production and marketing activities.
- vi) To convert low valued/ degraded/ poor site quality forests into high value man made forests to obtain high quality produce for diversified uses.

- vii) Enhancement of productivity in Teak Plantation areas by scientific thinning.

Different sources of wood:

- Forest: Govt. owned forests - 3 %

Trees Outside Forests (TOF):

Outside the govt. forests /Agro-forestry - 92 %

- TOF in Rural area
- TOF Urban area
- Imports: wood imported from different countries - 5 %

Sector-wise wood consumption

Saw milling joinery and furniture	54 million CBM
Pulp & paper wood consumption	15 million CBM
Plywood & Panel wood consumption	25 million CBM
Total Industrial wood consumption in India	93.84 million CBM

IMPORT DATA COMMODITY WISE FOR 2021-22 IN CBM AND VALUE IN RUPEES

ITC(HS) CODE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY UNIT Million (CBM)	VALUE IN RUPEES (CR.)
4403	WOOD IN THE ROUGH, WHETHER OR NOT STRIPPED OF BARK OR SAPWOOD, OR ROUGHLY SQUARED	5.44	7289
4407	WOOD SAWN OR CHIPPED LENGTHWISE, SLICED OR PEELED, WHETHER OR NOT PLANED, SANDED OR ENDJOINED, OF A THICKNESS EXCEEDING	3.39	3055
4408	VENEER SHEET AND SHEETS FOR PLYWOOD (W/N SPLICD) AND OTHER WOOD SAWN IN LENTH SLICD/PEELD W/N PLANED OR FINGER JTD THICKNESS <= 6MM	332.2	2180
4410	PARTCLE BOARD AND SMLR BOARD OF WOOD OTHER LIGNUS MATRLS W/N AGLOMRTD WITH RESIN OR OTHR ORGNIC BINDG SUBSTS	59.6	184
4411	FIBRE BOARD OF WOOD OR OTHER LIGNEUS MATRLS W/N BONDED WITH RESIN/OTHR ORGNIC SUBSTS	97.6	432
4412	PLYWOOD, VENEERED PANELS AND SIMILAR LAMINATED WOOD	226.3	772

Apr- Mar 2022

Description	Domestic Production	Total Turnover of the industry (INR Crores)	Import (INR Crores)	Export (INR Crores)	Import - export gap (INR Crores)	Import to Turnover (%)	Export to Turnover (%)
PARTCLE BOARDS	1.5 million cbm	1500	185	61	124	12%	4%
FIBER BOARD	2.0 million cbm	4000	432	404	28	14%	13%
PLYWOOD,	10 million cbm	26000	773	536	237	3%	2%
LAMINATE	228 million sheet	7000	-	-	-	-	-

Particular	No of Manufacturer		Direct employment	Indirect employment	Total production 2022
	Organised sector	Unorganised sector			
Plywood	650	2650	600,000	1,800,000	10 million CBM
MDF	9	0	8,000	40,000	2.0 million cbm
Particle board	16	45	4,500	15,000	1.5 million cbm
Laminate	40	160	72,000	360,000	228 million sheets.

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Timber Trail. Greenply's green drive at Tizit



All the trees are owned by Tizit's residents who got the saplings a few years back from the interior infrastructure company Greenply Industries.

Winter has just receded in Tizit, a tribal hamlet in Mon District of Nagaland. A familiar fragrance lingers in the spring air redolent of the Eucalyptus trees standing tall here. Neem and Khokan trees too densely dot the area. There are around 15 lakh of them, spread over 3,300 acres.

All the trees are owned by Tizit's residents who got the saplings a few years back from the interior infrastructure company Greenply Industries. Once the timber is ready for harvest it is sold back to Greenply at a profit which goes to the villagers on whose land the tree grew. The timber is in turn used to make products like plywood, block board, decorative veneers and MDF.

For wood-based industries, which are increasingly facing uncomfortable questions on forest losses from eco-warrior customers, sustainability is a big challenge. At Tizit, Greenply shows how it is rising to the challenge through sustainable wood production and processing by relying only on plantation timber.

Scattered amid the tall trees are stumps, barely a foot tall that are sprouting tender green shoots. Amit Yadav, the Commercial Head of Greenply's Tizit unit says the timber is harvested in such a manner that stumps are left for the tree to regenerate. "This way, we aren't causing deforestation," he says.

Greenply's Joint Managing Director and CEO Manoj Tulsian describes how the company deliberately set up its manufacturing unit in Tizit near the timber belt. "Sourcing timber from Nagaland helps us to reduce fuel expenditure for transportation and also helps reduce pollution in the surrounding areas. The timber sourced from here is of high quality as we focus on plantations of local species which suit the climate of the area."



Mr Manoj Tulsian, JMD and CEO, Greenply Industries

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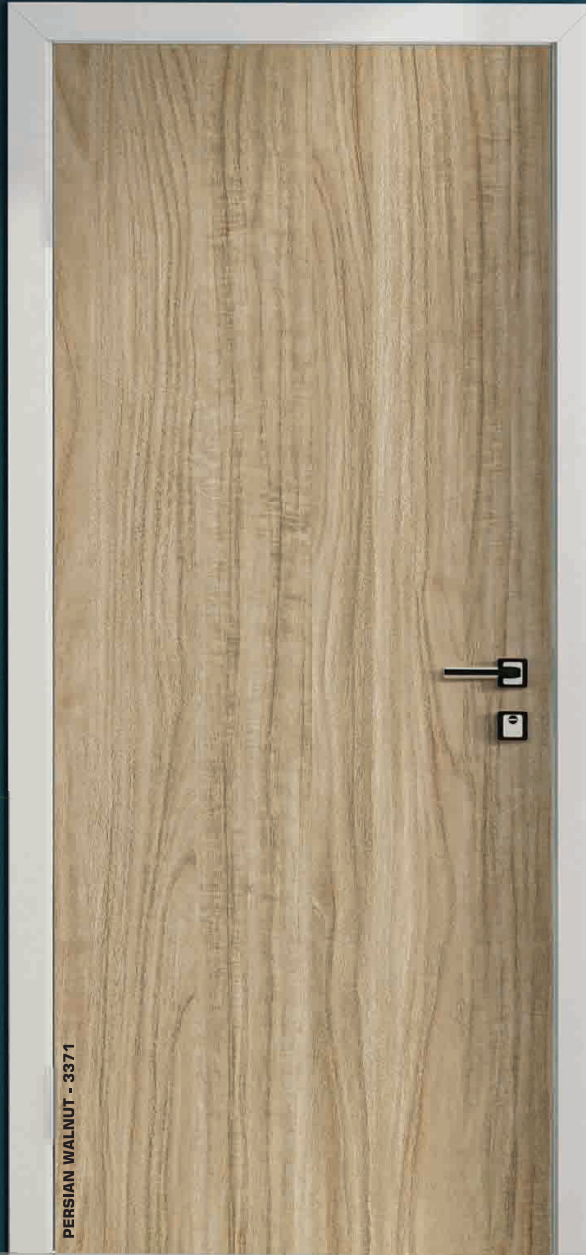
6.5, 6.75, 7 & 8

WIDTH (INCH)

27, 30, 33, 36, 39,
42 & 45

THICKNESS

30MM, 32MM & 35MM



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Growth partnerships

He says the company conducts plantation activities on degraded private lands, which are not suitable for commercial crops. “We provide them with free technical assistance from the nursery to the post-harvest stage through frequent training sessions. This has helped the farmers in switching to commercial planting from subsistence planting and we are seeing impactful results at all our sites,” Tulsian adds. Greenply has so far planted more than 20 million saplings across its manufacturing locations.

The plywood industry, Tulsian says, relies heavily on the real estate sector as a primary demand driver. “After a protracted period of stagnation, the real estate market is now undergoing a substantial upswing and a full recovery, which is benefiting the plywood industry,” he says, with optimism. In FY22, the company recorded a consolidated revenue of ₹1,536 crore. This was a jump from ₹1,165.3 crore in the financial year before that, shrugging off the setbacks of the pandemic when “things came to a standstill” in Tulsian’s words.

“Change in consumer preferences for larger and better-quality homes, increased demand for renovation and refurbishment, and a growing preference for ready-made furniture have benefitted the plywood segment at large and especially the organised players like us,” he says.

According to Tulsian the industry is increasingly getting organised, benefitting players like Greenply. “Particularly with the expansion of GST, the plywood industry is quickly becoming organised, as it has reduced pricing discrepancies between the organised and unorganised sectors and increased consumer preference for branded goods. It is also thriving as a result of the country’s rising urbanisation, which is encouraged by government attempts to build infrastructure and establish furniture hubs in the country,” he adds.



Plying innovation

On Greenply’s new products and goals, he says it is the first company to introduce E-0 plywood in the country. The factory in Tizit has a separate unit that manufactures this particular grade of plywood, which emits almost no formaldehyde. Exposure to high levels of formaldehyde on furniture can cause some people to have breathing problems or irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, or skin.

Greenply has also recently diversified into the MDF segment manufacturing its first MDF board at its Vadodara unit. “We are also the first company in the wood panel industry to introduce a premium range of plywood products through our Club portfolio and pioneered the concept of lifetime warranty in plywood. We also introduced 4 Press Technology and Penta 5 Tech in the manufacturing process to offer defect-free products to its consumers,” he adds. □

Greenply Industries’ net profit increases by 20.86% in Q3 FY23



Greenply Industries, a manufacturer of plywood and allied products, has reported a growth of 20.86 per cent in its consolidated net profit during the quarter ended December 31, 2022. Its profit after tax (PAT) stood at Rs 36.04 crore in Q3 FY23 as against Rs 29.82 crore in registered in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The company’s consolidated total income stood at Rs 431.25 crore in Q3 FY23, a growth of 1.77 per cent from Rs 423.75 crore it recorded in the similar quarter last year.

Manoj Tulsian, JMD & CEO of the company said, “The quarter posed difficulties due to the extended holiday season and sluggish demand. On the raw material front, we have seen some relief as chemical prices have come down from the peak, while the cost of timber remains on the high side.”

During the quarter, sales volume of its plywood business witnessed a growth of 2.4% year-on-year basis and stood at 16 million sq meters (MSM). The company’s consolidated net debt was at Rs 555.7 crore and net debt-equity ratio was at 0.89 times during 9M FY23, it said in a media release. Greenply Industries expects to start the trial run of its Vadodara plant in Q4 FY23. “Our MDF unit at Vadodara is advancing well and we are working tirelessly to start trial run in this quarter. The unit will help us tap into the under-served western market and benefit the company with improved product diversification,” said Tulsian. □

India should shift 5% of area under cereal cultivation to agro-forestry, says Century Ply chief

It will help increase farmers' income and meet domestic wood demand: Century Ply's Bhajanka



The Indian government should shift 5 per cent of the land under cereal cultivation to agro-forestry through incentives to help farmers earn higher income to emerge as a significant player in the global wood market, says SajjanBhajanka, Chairman, Century Plywoods.

“At least 60 per cent of the population is involved in agriculture and it serves only 16 per cent of the people in the country. That’s why we see farmers still languishing economically. If the Centre shifts 5 per cent of the land under cereals to agro-forestry, it can usher in a huge change in the rural and farmers’ economy,” Bhajanka told businessline in an online interaction.

Shifting will result in curbing the surplus in cash crops and creating a better demand-supply balance. While this will ensure farmers get a higher income, the 5 per cent of diversion to agro-forestry will be a bonus for growers, he said.

Lead to turnaround

“A lower surplus of cash crops and increased plantation timber revenue will result in a turnaround in the farm sector,” said the Chairman of Century Plywoods, which launched operations in 1986.

At least 140 million hectares (mh) of land is under cultivation and if 5 per cent is allocated for agri-forestry, some 7 mh of land can be used for timber wood forestry.

“Over the next 10 years 222 million cubic metres (mcm) of land can be generated annually from the shift of which 110 mcm can be used for wood-based products such as plywood, medium density fibreboard (MDF), and particle boards,” Bhajanka said.

Currently, the country’s per capita forest areas is 0.05 mh against 0.52 mh of per capital global forest area, while productivity is one-third of the global yield of 2.1 cubic metres

per hectare per year. “China’s log production is 352 mcm compared with India’s 88 mcm resulting in Beijing enjoying a 75 per cent share in the plywood market,” he said.

Sectoral problems

There is no regulatory framework for nursery development and financial assistance to agro-forestry activities. Wood grown on farms is not defined as “farm produce” resulting in transport and ownership problems.

Farmers need a pricey “certificate of origin” to transport or trade in the wood produced on their own lands and the Indian Forest Act says any species of tree grown on a farmer’s land becomes a timber when felled.

India would require to increase its wood production by 112 mcm to meet the rising demand over the next 10 years and the Centre must form a “National Wood Council” for function as a nodal agency for wood-based products.

Bhajanka said: “The council should ensure convergence of sectoral and inter-ministerial assistance besides easing regulatory requirements.”

India should develop a “Timber Policy” with a separate legal framework and form an agreement between growers, user companies and state forest departments.

Arrangements should be made to ensure sustainable certifiable raw material for wood and create an electronic platform. “Such steps will ensure new jobs for 2-2.5 million people and make India self-reliant in meeting the demand for wood, besides exporting it. It will be a GDP multiplier,” he said.

Besides, it will have ecological benefits from the timber value chain and it is possible to increase the value of wood by \$150 billion through value-addition. □

A Way Forward for Enhancing Production of Saw grade Wood logs



*Dr. C N Pandey**

The Central Government has taken certain decisive measures to reduce the housing shortage in the country, which at present is estimated at around 50 million units. The Central Government's policies – "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana", to ensure 'Housing for All by 2030', and establishment of 100 smart cities. This will not only revive the Housing & Real Estate Sector in India, but will also lead to massive increase in demand for solid wood & wood based panel products. This will boost establishment of many more new mfg. units, such as furniture, Medium Density Fibre Boards (MDF), Particle Boards and Bamboo-based Composites, in the near future. The industry therefore needs to be supported in a big way, not only by promoting Agro-Forestry to ensure availability of their wood requirements on a sustainable basis, but also by relaxing / liberalizing the Licensing / Permits requirements for transportation and processing of Agro-Forestry Timber. Demand for wood and wood products in India continues to grow due to increasing population and economic development. These products are considered as "carbon neutral or even carbon negative" in terms of production, processing, use, recycling, and disposal at the end of service life. Such value added products can contribute significantly to "Circular Bio-economy" by reducing energy consumption and carbon footprints by cutting down on

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While Agro-forestry is fast gaining acceptance, the need of the hour is that more and more Agro-Forestry Timber based industries / processing units come up in the country. While on one hand, Agro-Forestry Plantations increase the Forest / Green



**Principal Technical Adviser Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry*



cover in the country, it also supplements income of Farmers, reduces their dependence on Govt. of sale of traditional / cash crops, the Agro-Forestry Timber based industries / processing units, which are generally set up in near vicinity of plantation, will provide employment opportunity in rural areas, reduce migration to urban areas, thereby leading to overall balanced growth. With abundant availability of Plywood and Other Panel Products such as MDF, PB, it will further pave the way for development of Organized Furniture Mfg. Units within the country, thereby reducing imports of furniture and saving precious foreign exchange. However for availability of good girth round logs to meet the requirement of our saw milling and furniture grade sawn and seasoned timber our country is still depending on imported wood. If really Government wants to substitute imported timber and produce saw quality logs from long rotation plantation timber spp one of the best solution would be that Govt. lease the degraded forest land to Forest Development Corporations who in turn enter into proper MOU with the user industry without leasing the land to them and user agency have the right to undertake afforestation and take a fixed percentage of timber produce at the time of harvesting. This strategy will create good opportunity to states FDC who otherwise have not been involved much so far in producing quality raw materials. Policy makers to take note that such strategy may lead minimising the wood import in future ahead. In this regard Forest Development Corporations are likely to play a very productive role by taking up following activity rather than limiting themselves in harvest and sale of wood

1. Accelerate and increase forestry production by creating plantations of fast growing timber species, of higher economic value
2. Preparing a list of species capable of diversified use for industrial and commercial purposes.
3. To bring suitable forest areas under intensive Management Practices in order to improve, enrich and enhance production, both in quantity and quality.
4. To convert existing low quality forests into high quality productive forests by adopting intensive management system.
5. To formulate financially viable projects in order to draw institutional finance to execute its wood production and marketing activities.
6. To convert low valued/ degraded/ poor site quality forests into high value man made forests to obtain high quality produce for diversified uses.
7. Enhancement of productivity in Teak Plantation areas by scientific thinning. □

Duroply renews its Forest Steward Council certification

Duroply has renewed its international certification by the Forest Steward Council (FSC), the global authority in forest management standards providing world's most credible forest management certification schemes. Duroply's certification has been renewed for another five years for its Rajkot factory site and covers the production of Plywood, Veneers, Block Boards, Solid Wood Boards, Wood Wool Board, Laminated Compressed Wood, Composite Board, Doors and Door Frames and Flush Door using the Transfer and Percentage System (s). Certification also covers sale of FSC Controlled Wood. The certification is provided after a rigorous inspection is carried out by internationally trained experts.

An independent audit and site inspection for Duroply was done by California headquartered SCS Global Services, a pioneer and leader in the field of sustainability standards and third-party certification, working across the economy in the natural resources, built environment, food and agriculture, consumer products and climate sectors. The assessment has been conducted by SCS Global Services in accordance with the protocols of the Forest Stewardship Council A.C. As per the forest survey report of Government of India, the total forest cover in India has increased from 692,027 sq. km in 2011 to 713,789 sq. km by 2021.

Duroply lays emphasis on environmental sustainability as they continue to procure wood from responsible sources. Duroply is committed to making the world a better place and is devoted to ensuring that sustainability is incorporated into their work processes.

Announcing the renewal of Certification, Abhishek Chitlangia, Vice President – Manufacturing, Duroply, said, “As a legacy 65-year-old Plywood Company, we are deeply committed to protecting environment. Therefore, we had voluntarily secured FSC certification in 2016 itself. Renewal of this certification is demonstration of our continued commitment to our environment. We cultivate our timber sources very carefully and ensure that our suppliers adhere to global best forest friendly norms. Our manufacturing processes ensure near zero wastage of wood. As a caring company, we only use adhesives that conform to stringent European E0 emission norms. This is to ensure best of health to not only our consumers but also of our employees.”

The Rajkot facility (s) of Duroply has been certified to sell products as: FSC 100%; FSC Mix and FSC Controlled Wood. FSC 100% means all materials used come from responsibly managed, FSC-certified forests. Products with FSC mix certifications mean the product is made with a mixture of materials from FSC-certified forests, recycled materials, and/ or FSC-controlled wood. While controlled wood does not come from FSC-certified forests, it mitigates the risk of the material originating from unacceptable sources. □

Greenpanel buys third DIEFFENBACHER MDF plant Indian MDF pioneer to install new cebro thin-board line in routhusuramala, **Andhra Pradesh**



Contract signing between Greenpanel Managing Director and CEO Shobhan Mittal and DIEFFENBACHER CEO Christian Dieffenbacher at DIEFFENBACHER's headquarters in Eppingen, Germany.

India's largest MDF manufacturer, Greenpanel Industries Ltd., has ordered its third MDF plant from DIEFFENBACHER. The new thin-board line based on DIEFFENBACHER's smart plant concept CEBRO will be added in Routhusuramala, Andhra Pradesh. That's the same site where Greenpanel commissioned a DIEFFENBACHER MDF line with a 56-meter-long CPS, the longest continuous press in Asia, in 2018. The two companies' first project, an MDF plant that started up in 2010, pioneered the

Indian MDF market with the first continuous wood-based panel plant on the subcontinent.

"Over the last two years, we have increased our MDF production capacity from 500,000 to 660,000 m³, but the demand for our premium-quality boards produced with DIEFFENBACHER technology is still growing significantly," said Shobhan Mittal, Managing Director and CEO of Greenpanel. "Because our experience with our first two DIEFFENBACHER MDF plants was so positive, there was no question that we would order our third plant from DIEFFENBACHER. The CEBRO smart plant concept was another factor that made the decision very easy."

The new CEBRO line, scheduled to go into operation in summer 2024, will include a DIEFFENBACHER fiber dryer, air grader, forming station and forming line, a CPS+ continuous press system including Press Emission Control System, the raw board handling system and the new Wireless STS raw board storage system. DIEFFENBACHER's scope of supply also includes the digital service platform MyDIEFFENBACHER and EVORIS, DIEFFENBACHER's new plant digitalization solution.

"EVORIS is a great tool that will help us make even better decisions in the shortest possible time," said Mittal. "That's why we decided not only to use it in our new line but also to add EVORIS to our existing MDF line in Routhusuramala," he concluded. □

Andhra Pradesh: Construction of Century Ply unit at Gopavaram goes at brisk pace



The construction work of the Century Panels manufacturing unit being set up on 482 acres at Gopavaram in YSR Kadapa district is progressing rapidly. Century Ply Company has started the construction work after getting environmental and forest clearances for setting up

this unit wherein 2,000 people will be directly employed and 4,000 people will be indirectly employed through this unit, which is being set up at a cost of Rs.1,600 crore.

It is known that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy performed Bhoomi Puja on December 24, 2021 for the construction work of this unit. The first phase of the unit is targeted to be completed by December 2024 and start commercial production. Century Ply Chairman Sajjan Bhajanka announced during the foundation stone laying ceremony that it was initially planned to set up this unit in Tamil Nadu, but as the Andhra Pradesh government is granting permissions fast, it is being set up at Gopavaram.

He revealed that initially it was thought to set up the unit with Rs.600 crores, but now Rs.1,600 crores are being spent. Officials expect that the establishment of this unit at Gopavaram, a most backward area, will generate more wood-based allied industries, thereby providing large-scale employment to the locals. □

Caring For Furniture During Winter: Choose Veneers - Century Ply



Wooden furniture is tough and long-lasting, but only if it's genuine. The quality of raw materials and the treatment of the wood used decide whether your furniture will be able to withstand a harsh, cold winter. It will do so only if the wood is natural and of good quality. Choosing an authentic brand ensures that you get the best quality furniture with enhanced longevity.

"You can buy indoor or outdoor furniture without worrying about weather changes if the wood is treated and polished well. Wood Veneer is not suggested for outdoor application however, wood-based furniture for outdoors have different variety and treatment for solid wood to sustain weather changes. Wood, by virtue of its nature, can withstand weather changes unless hampered by man-made substances and water seepage; so, I don't see why a genuine piece of furniture won't be able to do that. If it has a natural veneer glued on it which is polished well, then I would advise customers to stop worrying about weather changes for indoor applications," says Rajeev Sharma, Head of Decorative Product Management, CenturyPly.

What are wood veneers?

Veneers are thin slices of the bark of a tree that are glued on top of wood panels or plywood. Unlike laminates, these are natural sheets and are usually less than 4 mm in thickness. Apart from acting as a protective shield for the panel, it also adds to the aesthetic appeal of your furniture. Veneers are premium products and unique because each bark is specific to a given species of trees.

"Veneers offer a huge range in terms of collection and variety. If you own a natural veneer, there is almost zero possibility of there being another natural veneer with the same patterns and detail. It's like a tiger print or fingerprint, each unique and different from the other. The trick is to identify originals from duplicates and ones with the same texture and patterns cannot be original. That's why choosing a genuine

brand like CenturyVeneers over local vendors guarantees that your veneer is one of a kind," Mr Sharma clarified.

The choice of veneers lies entirely with the customer, depending on the kind of furniture they want it for — there are options for both indoor and outdoor furniture as well as the ones that best suits your design.

Wood veneers are highly durable products, provided no compromises are made in the manufacturing, polishing and pasting processes. A trusted brand like CenturyVeneers comes with the assurance of authenticity and high processing standards in manufacturing and polishing. Moreover, customers can get warranties up to as many as seven years, though veneers are expected to last well beyond the warranty period. Premium products like veneers are certainly not cheap but they are affordable. When you compare the price with durability, veneers are the right fit for a customer.

"If you buy veneers from untrustworthy sellers, then you'll most likely receive a duplicate, not a natural veneer. Subsequently, its low quality will lead to damages or breakage, even due to weather changes, and add to your maintenance cost and efforts. Genuine natural veneers, on the other hand, are easy to maintain and long-lasting," Mr Sharma said.

The limitations of veneers: Is uniqueness a disadvantage?

Natural veneers are supposed to be used on flat surfaces and not bent. However, furniture with designs that need veneers to be bent is made with just the top surface of the veneer, reducing its thickness. It involves an intricate process, and the furniture may require additional maintenance, especially if kept outdoors. This may be considered a limitation. But also consider the uniqueness of natural veneers. Say, you may have ordered 30 sheets of a wood species of your choice. You reassess your interiors and decide you need 10 more, but there isn't any left in the market. What do you do? It cannot be replicated, leaving you with no option. The veneers you have cannot be found anywhere else, not unless it's a duplicate, of course!

Veneers are considered unique and premium furniture protection sheets. CenturyVeneers uses the best natural veneers, and their manufacturing process aims to produce highly durable, borer- and termite-proof and aesthetically pleasing veneers. They are the number one in sourcing natural veneers, letting them offer to their customers a huge collection over a wide price range. □

*Readers are invited to send views, comments and suggestions if any, addressed to Editorial board
We also invite your valuable Advertisement and Article to be published in the Journal.*

"INDIAN WOOD & ALLIED PANELS"

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Saket Mica's 1st mega dealer meet held in Bathinda

- Also launched Saket Mica 1mm folder

From the house of Purbanchal Laminates Pvt Ltd (Amulya Mica) Saket Mica's 1st mega dealers meet cum folder launch event held on 12th February, 2023 in Bathinda. The event was organised in association with their flagship distributor in the region, Jindal Plywood (Mica Junction). Mr Rakesh Agarwal, MD, Amulya Mica, Mr. Ravi Gupta Regional Manager Punjab region, Mr. Vikas Choudhary, Regional Manager Ludhiana, Mr. Sanjeev Jindal and Mr. Khushpal Jindal of Mica Junction performed a lamp-lighting ceremony and started the function. On this occasion, among the company officials' team, Mr. Manoj Yadav, Mr Ankit Tiwari (Chandigarh), Mr Vikram Chauhan, Mr. Lakhvinder Singh, etc. were also present and welcomed more than 200 dealers from three states: Haryana, Punjab & Sri Ganga Nagar district of Rajasthan.

In the meeting Mr. Ravi Gupta briefed the delegates company profiles, its product and USP which differentiate with others. He also explained company's CSR activities and award & recognition.

1mm Saket Mica folder is launched by MD Mr. Rakesh Agarwal, Mr. Sanjeev Jindal, Mr. Khushpal Jindal and team Amulya Mica. Later Mr. Ravi Gupta briefed the salient features of Saket Mica folder, its design and textures. The newly launched folder has 250 fitches, with the focus on solid pastel colours, along with other trending designs like wooden and marble collections Everyone presented in the meeting appreciated the style of Saket Mica folder.

In his speech, Mr. Rakesh Agarwal thanked the dealers and appreciated their support in the success and growth of the company. He said, "Punjab is leading state not only in farming but also in business, and it has helped indigenous brands like Amulya Mica grow by leaps and bounds. We got the inspiration from Punjab to introduce cladding in different markets. "The love and affection for Amulya Mica from Punjab is commendable, this is the reason that the brand ambassador for Amulya Mica is one of the leading cricketers, Mr Harbhajan Singh, who is also from Punjab."

"The concept of Saket Mica is also inspired by Punjab, which is why we decided to begin any first physical activity or programme related to Saket Mica in Punjab only. This is the first Saket Mica program, which began in Bathinda as grand dealers met, and it is made possible in collaboration with Jindal Plywood (Mica Junction)." He added that Amulya Mica is present in nearly 24 countries, and the brand has been awarded the title of "Star Export House status" in the country by the Government of India.

"Saket Mica is also synonymous with quality and affordability, with a long-term legacy and customer trust," he added. According to an estimate, the laminate market in India is nearly 45 lakh sheets per month, and Amulya Group is present in the segment of 15 to 18 lakh sheets in terms of affordability. To cater to balance market, we came up with Saket Mica in .80mm and 1 mm segment five years before it became the complete



range of laminates that it is today. In the near future, several innovative products based on HPL and PVC will be added.

Mr Rakesh Agarwal also inaugurated a lunge at the Mica Junction laminate display gallery. The gallery at Bhatinda functions on a fixed price and a technology supported billing system based on a QR core for every sheet. They have adopted

concept-based selling, helping the customers visualise the application before use. The last but not least, in the meeting various schemes are launched and on spot-booking, a positive response received. The scheme also included a lucky draw for the dealer for bookings. The programme concluded with a lot of fun, games, and entertainment, followed by dinner. □

Amulya Mica organized Architect Meet at Belgaum on 1st March 2023



Amulya Mica had organized Architect meet at Belgaum on 1st Mar/2023 in association with its Belgaum dealer Shri Ram Innovation, Belgaum at Hotel Fairfield by Marriott Belgaum to commemorate launch of new version of Imperial 1.25 premium laminate catalogue, Amulya Gold Plywood and Amulya Ultra Plywood 710, PVC Door Frame & PVC Door for Belgaum market. The meet started with lighting of lamp and Ganesh Vandana, followed by National Anthem. Mr. Raja Gopal Pillai, VP Sales Amulya Mica Southern region, Mr. Vivek Kedia, Regional Manager Bangalore region, Mr. Ashish Arora, Deputy Branch Manager Belgaum region along with Amulya Mica's Belgaum dealer Mr. Sachin Hangirgekar of Shri Ram Innovation, Belgaum greeted more than 100 architects and other dignitaries. The chief guest were Mr. Chaitanya Kulkarni, President CREDAI Karnataka, Mr. Sangram Patil, President Consulting Civil Engineers Association, Belgaum, Mr. P.S. Hiremath, President CREDAI Belgaum, Mr. Kuldeep Hengirgekar, President of the Indian Institute of Architects, Belgaum and Mr. Vijay Karveer of Karveer Agencies, Amulya Mica distributor of Hubli.

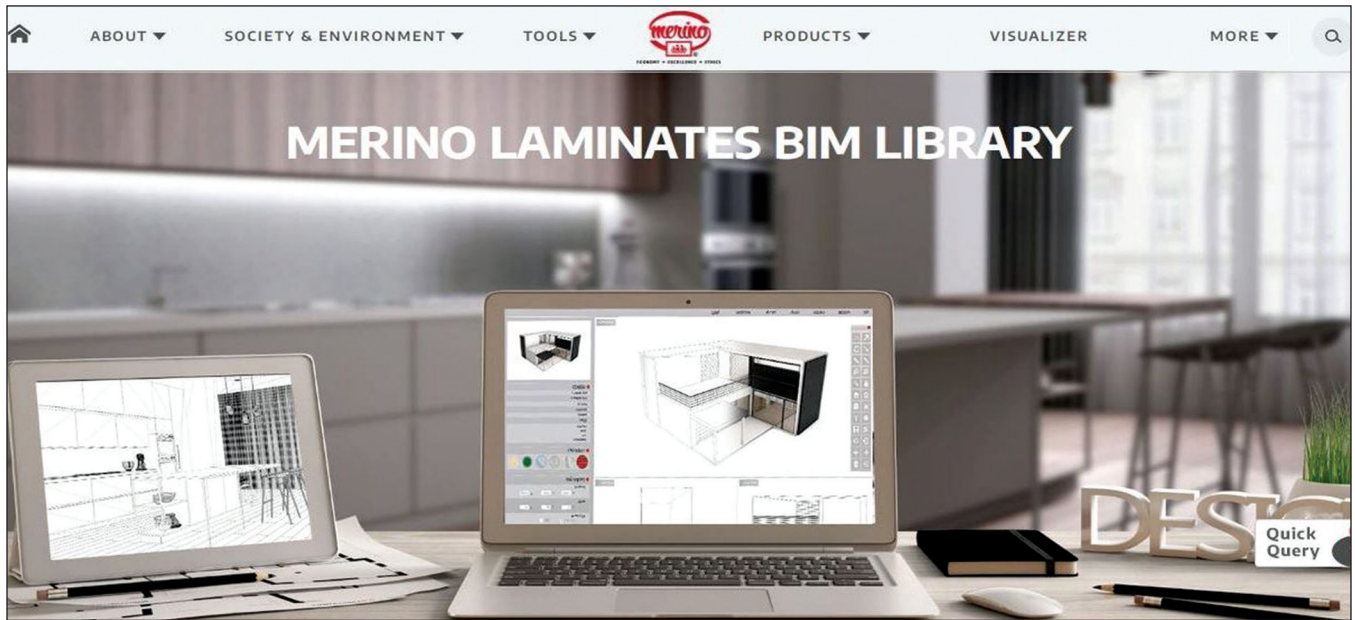
Mr. Raja Gopal Pillai addressed the gathering, in which he briefly explained about Amulya Mica Journey, its products and

its USP, how it differentiates with others, CSR activities and its award and recognition.

Then, the new version of AMULYA IMPERIAL COLLECTION 1.25mm was launched. Mr. Raja Gopal Pillai explained the main and special features of the Amulya Imperial Collection, right from selection of colour of the cover To the selection of textures To the selection of design papers (like No Repeat designs) To the comparison with Veneer and overall why Imperial is Premium and Special and Different from other range of Decorative Laminates. After launch of Imperial Collection, Amulya Gold Plywood and Amulya Ultra Plywood 710, PVC Door Frame "HYGINO", a health friendly surface & complete substitute to Wooden Door Frame & PVC Door had launched first time in Belgaum market. Mr. Pillai had explained about the quality of Plywood and USP of PVC Door Frame and PVC Door. PVC Door Frame is 100% water proof, fire resistance, anti-bacterial and suitable for indoor & outdoor application and much more. Every one present in meet appreciated the style and design of Amulya Mica products.

The meet was ended by VOTE of Thanks, followed by Gala Dinner. □

Merino introduces the BIM Catalogue for designers in India



Merino, India's leading manufacturer of high-pressure decorative laminates is delighted to introduce the first ever BIM catalogue that enables Architects and Interior designers to incorporate customized laminate designs into their 2D/3D projects.

- **Choose the desired file type** – Merino BIM Library will provide Revit and SketchUp material libraries.
- **Download and use in your 2D/3D projects** – Register and download BIM file, import the material library into the software and apply the required design.

DOWNLOAD BIM FILES

Download the required design category and choose from our latest range of designs.

Contemporary Art
Exclusive Designs

Download

Patterns & Stones
Nature Inspired Elegant Designs

Download

Woodgrains
Natural Wood Species Designs

Download

Merino Laminates has always been a forerunner in bringing-in innovations in the industry. The AID community in India will experience 400+ laminate designs through the Merino BIM catalogue. This industry first solution would allow the architect and designers to easily access the visual characteristics like color and design of the laminates. Thus, the Merino BIM catalogue would facilitate an opportunity for the AID community to work more effectively and efficiently on the designs.

The brand has designed an easy and instinctual process to help the AID community access files through its interface:

- **Select the desired design category** – Select any of the multiple design categories from the range of Merinolam laminates.

On introducing another industry first solution, Mr.Madhusudan Lohia, Director, Merino Industries Ltd. said, “As a brand, we look forward to connecting with the Architects and Interior Designers and have always taken an extra step in introducing something that is innovative, unique and useful for the industry. With the latest BIM catalogue, Merino is carving a path for the laminate industry to embrace technologically advanced solutions that will eventually help the industry grow. Merino is a brand that has been built on quality and we have a never-ending thrust to provide innovative solutions in times to come.” Merino, as a brand has experienced an extraordinary tale of evolution since its inception and is now embracing the younger generation’s path towards the future design trends for the country and the community.□

Greenpanel's TVC Features Three Players of IPL's Delhi Capitals Team



Greenpanel, launched its first-ever TVC with the tagline, Greenpanel- MDF ka doosra naam. The TVC features the three players, David Warner, Prithvi Shaw and Manish Pandey of the IPL's Delhi Capitals Team.

Greenpanel is the principal partner of Delhi Capital IPL team 2023. Taking ahead its vision of increasing brand visibility, the TVC launch is a strategic marketing move that will help amplify brand awareness while leveraging the IPL sponsorship.

Conceptualized by Law and Kenneth Saatchi & Saatchi Pvt. Ltd., this TVC is a fresh take on the conventional 'problem-solution' narrative. Greenpanel makes the finest MDF that is water resistant, fire retardant, termite proof and durable! The film is a breath of fresh air among the glut of IPL ads, with some memorable acting from the star trio.

Currently, the wood-based panel market is highly commoditized, price-sensitive and unorganized. The sole aim behind the TVC campaign launch at this stage is to make

Greenpanel synonymous with MDF. Expressing his contentment, Arvind Joshi, VP, Marketing, Greenpanel, remarks, "As a team, we're thrilled to embark on our first-ever massive consumer outreach under the leadership and vision of our MD & CEO, Shobhan Mittal. We are excited to bring Greenpanel to the forefront of consumer consciousness with our above-the-line approach. The timing couldn't be better, as we align ourselves with the excitement of the IPL tournament and our principal partnership with the Delhi Capitals team. We feel our TVC is truly remarkable - standing out amidst the clutter of advertising during this highly competitive season. We are confident that this campaign will make a lasting impression on our customers and are excited to see the impact it will generate."

Sharing his views on the campaign, Rohit Malkani, Joint National Creative Director, L&K Saatchi & Saatchi, said, "Sharing his views on the campaign, Rohit Malkani, Joint National Creative Director, L&K Saatchi & Saatchi said, "While it's always fun to do an IPL film for a brand, doing it on the heels of the pitch was even more exciting. Being the leader in the MDF category, the task set out for us was simple: make Greenpanel synonymous with MDF such that the two words are almost used interchangeably! With the Greenpanel film, we managed to do not just that, but also make people regret their choice of material/wood IF they haven't used Greenpanel MDF!"

Hindol Purkayastha, EVP & Head of North and East, LKSS, added, "The campaign was created in record time as we won the mandate recently. But the idea was to land a positioning for Greenpanel that we continue through the years. Thus, with 'MDF ka doosra naam', we already have a positioning that resonates with the market leader positioning for us. The team is excited and we are already looking at newer ways to strengthen their positioning in the category." □

Dyed Veneers supply rise help decorative veneers segment

The decorative veneer market is witnessing growing demand for dyed veneer, and retailers from different cities confirm the rise of dyed natural veneers. With the increase in offerings and range, as well as slightly reduced affordability in the dyed range, it is gaining acceptance in the upper middle and mid segments. Retail counters believe that "varieties with larger group numbers help them to offer better services," which is why they are finding the Dyed Veneer range more relevant and good looking.

Actually the dyed veneer market has seen expanded presence and demand growth with good availability of the material. The continuous innovation in the offerings with variety of colors and species are helping the market to grow big. To cater to the market, approximately 10 dyed veneers manufacturing plants have been established in different parts of the country. The market has improved as a result of the efforts of manufacturers and traders, the valuable knowledge gained, and the sharing of

the benefits of its durability and aesthetic value. The grey tone is still prevailing in the veneer market. The industry experts say that premium customers' preferences have shifted towards it. Indian decorative veneer producers say that they have lots of innovation opportunities in dyed veneers. Interior designers and architects love the new innovative colours of natural wood; as a result, its sales have suddenly increased, doubling the dyed demand. The louvers boom has also helped the dyed veneer segment to look different among the lots.

Many India-based veneer producers import dyed ranges from Europe and China, which has eased as freight rates have decreased. On the other hand, several Indian producers also have in-house technology for dyeing veneer. It is to be noted that decorative veneer demand has been consistently growing year on year, although the market is flooded with a variety of surface materials. The growing number of showrooms and retail dominance have also been driving the veneer demand in India. □

An ocean of opportunity from wood



Endless possibilities of wood to be re-established by Fraunhofer at upcoming LIGNA. The Fraunhofer WKI combines various materials into high-performance building elements using minimal material and energy. These novel hybrid material systems are designed to conserve resources, protect the climate, and at the same time expand the scope for architectural design.

The Fraunhofer Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut (WKI), headquartered in Braunschweig, Germany, has been dedicated to wood research and sustainability through the use of renewable raw materials for more than 75 years. And now, the research is

based on the properties of the wood. In relation to its weight, it has high strength and also offers high adaptability and workability. This is contrasted by the rather variable properties of wood in terms of tensile and compressive strength, which means that its use in load-bearing structures in particular has been limited to date. To compensate for this drawback, the WKI is developing both suitable fiber composite plastics and the appropriate manufacturing processes for wood-fiber composite plastic systems (wood-FRP systems). One approach, for example, is to incorporate multiple layers of polymer matrix and reinforcing fabric into a wooden structure as a tensile component. Several processes are available for implementing this technology. For example, a particularly high quality and reproducibility can be achieved by vacuum infusion. The hand lay-up process, on the other hand, allows in-situ applications, whereby the fiber composite plastic can even be used to reinforce existing wooden structures, provided the wooden components are accessible.

Another approach is wood-concrete composite systems (HBV systems), intended as an alternative to reinforced concrete. According to the WKI, they are particularly suitable for use under bending loads, in which high tensile stresses can occur on the underside of the composite system, for example in beams or ceiling slabs. To absorb these tensile forces, the Braunschweig researchers replace the steel with suitable wood. In this way, ceiling slabs are created, for example, in which a beam structure is first installed with a top layer of wood-based panels. □

DOST discovers plywood glue ingredients from local tree extracts



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) said that tannins or extracts from locally available trees could be ingredients for making plywood glue. The agency explained that tannins are organic substances normally present in barks and other plant tissues, which are commonly used to make leather and wood adhesives. “Some are used as tanning agents for leather products, clarifying agents for wine production and ingredients in cosmetics & pharmaceuticals products,” said Rebecca B. Lapuz of DOST — Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI).

Based on the agency’s initial findings along with other experts, experimental plywood bonded with tannin-phenol formaldehyde adhesives passed the bond quality requirement of ISO 12466-2 (2016), with minimum amount of formaldehyde emission released. Some of the crude tannin extracts were found moderately effective against fungi and insects when applied as wood preservative, it added.

The initial findings is a collaborative project of DOST-FPRDI, Switzerland-based Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH), Philippine Coconut Authority — Zamboanga Research Center (PCA-ZRC) and Visayas State University (VSU), which was funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The project was part of the research program “Pinoy Tannin: Development of a Sustainable Tannin Extraction in the Philippines” that evaluated the most effective way to extract tannins.

Led by Dr. Sauro Bianchi of BFH, the program aims to develop a low-cost and sustainable tannin extraction technology among local communities in the Philippines, and the use of local tannins as substitute for conventional adhesives and preservatives for the country’s wood industry. The institute led the project on the characterization of tannin extracts from agroforest residues such as barks, coconut husks and shells. It also studied its application in wood adhesives and wood preservatives. □

Luxury Home furnishing brand **Durian Furniture** is back in Chennai with their second store



After the delightful response from the people of Chennai, India's most loved design-led luxury furnishing brand Durian Furniture announces the launch of their second store in the city on 9th Jan 2023, just in time for the new year refresh. This sprawling 8500 Sq. Ft. store is located at OMR, Kandanchavadi, and showcases an eclectic range of luxury lifestyle furniture pieces.

With an exciting inaugural offer on a select range of home and office furniture, the store will create a haven for premium furniture pieces for the people of Chennai. With humble beginnings and a growth curve that spans over 40 years,

Durian is renowned for crafting enduring furniture pieces and for creating a one-stop solution for everyday spaces. With over 50 stores across India and counting, Durian Furniture inspires with its timeless designs that blend functionality and modern sensibilities to elevate the Indian lifestyle adding a premium and luxurious feel, no matter the size of the home.

Careful consideration towards workmanship with a purpose ensures the long-lasting impact the furniture has. Durian also gives its customers the freedom to customize the furniture and personalize it as per their comfort. Durian Furniture offers an unmatched 5 years warranty, free consultancy, easy EMI options, hassle-free delivery (/topic/hassle-free-delivery), and more to add to the hassle-free post-purchase experience, making it a satisfying one for customers.

Celebrated for their timeless and enduring furniture, Durian offers 1000+ designs for your home including sofa sets, recliners, coffee, and side tables, lounge chairs, dining room furniture, study tables, and WFH essentials, bedroom furniture including premium beds and more. From mid-century modern classics to contemporary design, they have a myriad of products designed to elevate any decor. If you are looking to buy furniture in Chennai, then visit the Durian store at OMR to touch and experience the livable luxury by yourself. You can also talk to their design experts to find the right products for your home. □

Amulya Cladding

Amulya Cladding is a high-quality construction product which is primarily used for long term façade cladding and exterior applications with 10 years warranty. Amulya Cladding is made as per EN 438-6 (Resistance against extreme climatic condition) from superior kraft paper, selected imported European decorative paper with high color retention property, superior UV technology & Fire resistance quality and Pure Phenolic Resin. Hardened Resin provides effective weather protection which makes it capable of withstanding erosion from natural elements. It comes with high UV resistance which makes it ideal for exterior & cladding façade.



Mr. Abdul Mubarik, Aadarsh Villa, Savina, Usaipur, Rajasthan



UPSC (CPWD), Delhi

Amulya Cladding makes the perfect cladding material for buildings requiring ventilated facades. It is resistant and sustainable, easy to machine and install, offering a myriad array of decorative possibilities. Amulya Cladding is found in a wide range of thickness. The range is available in 6mm, 8 mm, 10 mm, 12 mm and up to 15mm thickness and in standard size of 1220mmx2440mm. Amulya Cladding is certified by EPH- Lab Germany, National Test House, Kolkata & Thomas Bell Wright International Consultants Dubai.

For more information please visit website www.amulyamica.com or call at Toll-free no 1800 233 1468. □

Proposed FCA changes to offset landmark 1996 Supreme Court order on forests



The amendments proposed in the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, which was introduced in Parliament, will negate the impact of a landmark Supreme Court order of 1996 — known as the Godavarman judgment — that has since been the touchstone of forest conservation in the country.

The order had clarified that the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) is applicable to all land parcels that qualify to be forest as per “dictionary” meaning (deemed forest) thereby filling an important policy gap on how to treat existing forests predominantly of natural origin that are not notified or recorded officially. The judgment has been the basis of hundreds of court orders across the country to extend a protective shield to large tract of “deemed forest” or natural forests, including Aravalis in the National Capital Region (NCR), over the past 27 years.

Government sources and environment analysts told TOI that if the proposed amendments are passed, which seeks to reduce the applicability of the conservation law, over one-third of Aravalis in Gurgaon and Faridabad districts will be opened for non-forest activities. Till now this is not possible because of several court orders that have upheld the conservation of the “deemed forests” such as Mangar sacred grove in Faridabad.

The FCA specifies the mandatory provisions of taking prior approval of the central government for diversion of forest land for non-forest use and this has been a deterrent to rampant diversion of such land parcels for other purposes.

The bill has proposed that the conservation law would be applicable for land parcels that have been “notified” as forest as

per the Indian Forest Act of 1927 and for areas that are recorded as forest in government records as on or after October 25, 1980, the day FCA came into force. It also proposes that the law won’t be applicable for areas which have been changed from forest use for non-forest purpose by any government authority authorised by any state or UT government before December 12, 1996, the day of SC judgment in Union of India Vs T N Godavarman. This exclusion will come as a big relief for several residential and institutional projects in Gurgaon and Faridabad.

The bill also proposes exemptions from prior approval for forest land along linear rail and road network, tree and tree plantation or afforestation on land parcels that have not been recorded as forest in government records.

The applicability of the FCA received a big boost after the Godavarman judgment, which rules that the prior permission for diversion of forest land for non-forest use will be applicable for all areas that qualify to be forest as per “dictionary” meaning. But once the proposed amendments are passed by Parliament, large tract of areas across the country which got this protection would lose the tag.

TOI on March 12, 2021 had first reported how the first Cabinet note for the proposed changes had highlighted how the Godavarman judgement necessitated these changes. The environment ministry had said that till this order was passed, which made it mandatory to seek prior central approval for non-forest use of all “forest” land irrespective of their classification and ownership, the state, UT and central governments used to

apply the Act only to forests notified under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or any other local law and to forests that were under the management and control of forest departments.

It had also cited that because of this there has been a “declining tendency” of undertaking plantations in non-forest land by both government and private entities on non-forest land owing to apprehensions that they may face “hindrance in reaping benefits from such plantations due to applicability of the Act” because of the SC order.

“The amendment does not specify how existing forests predominantly of natural origin that are not notified or recorded will be treated.

The Godavarman judgement filled this important policy gap and called such areas meeting the dictionary meaning of forest. Many lakhs of acres have been identified by district level expert committees across the country and accorded legal protection. This is especially important in states with extremely low forest cover like Haryana which has just about 3.6% of forest cover - a significant proportion of which would be covered by the dictionary meaning of forests,” said Chetan Agarwal, an independent forest analyst. □

Ikea to Build Omnichannel Presence in Tamil Nadu

Swedish home furnishings retailer Ikea is exploring possibilities to establish company’s omnichannel presence in Tamil Nadu.

Ikea India spokesperson said, “Ingka global leadership met the government of Tamil Nadu during WEF in Davos to explore possibilities to expand Ikea’s omnichannel presence in the market. Tamil Nadu is a potential market for the Ingka group. Our ambition is to reach many more people with our well-designed, affordable, functional, and sustainable home furnishing solutions.”

The company is currently online in Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Gujarat and Bengaluru. Three big format Ikea stores are operational in Hyderabad, Navi Mumbai and Bengaluru. A city centre store opened in Mumbai in December 2021 and another one opened in July 2022. Ikea has been sourcing from India for close to 40 years working with around 65 suppliers, 48,000 direct employees and 500,000 people in the supply chain in India producing for Ikea stores worldwide.

Ikea made its debut in India with a 13-acre complex in Hyderabad in 2018. Recently, Ingka Group, the parent company of Ikea has started the process of construction of a retail destination or Ingka Centre in Noida that will be home to a large Ikea store.

Ikea India had recently launched a live streaming shopping experience called Live from Ikea, a series of live episodes where customers can engage with home furnishing experts for ideas and inspirations to live a better life at home. The viewers can also shop for the products being displayed in the live-streaming sessions. □

Amulya Mica won Assocham’s 9th MSME Excellence Award in the category of Most Socially Responsible Company of the year



Purbanchal Laminates Pvt. Ltd. has been awarded Assocham’s 9th MSME Excellence Award in the category of Most Socially Responsible Company of the year. Mr. Surendra Tharad- Sr. VP Sales (North & East), Mr. Sourabh Pandey, Project Head-WPC, Mr. Amit Kumar -Branch Manager Delhi and Ms. Hardeep Kaur, Rm-Project(North) Amulya Mica has received the award on 21-03-23 from Mr. B.B. Swain, Secretary Minister of MSME, Govt. of India at Shangri La, New Delhi in midst Hon’ble MSME Minister, Govt. of India Mr. Narayan Tatu Rane, Hon’ble State MSME Minister, Govt. of India Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and other big corporates both public & private etc.



Speaking on this great achievement, Mr. Rakesh Agarwal assures to do continue work toward the social upliftment of society, environment, education, Swachh Bharat and for Tree plantation. The Company firmly believes that Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) is not just an additional function of the business; rather it is ingrained in our core business operation. Further he informed that we have already planted 1 lacs trees sapling in different places of India and will continue to plant more & more – a small initiative to make mother earth Green for our Generation as well as for GEN-Next

Further Mr. Agarwal expresses his thanks and gratitude to all associates, team members and all channel partners who has made Amulya mica a quality and trusted brand. □

Is India the next big furniture power center?



Sometime this spring, a major geopolitical shift is coming: India will surpass China as the world's most populous country. It's a bit ahead of schedule—in fact, the wonks who count such things say it may have already occurred—but experts have seen this milestone coming for years, so it's not exactly a surprise.

What could be surprising, however, is what this change means for American companies. That's especially true for the home furnishings industry, which continues to get the bulk of its products from China but is frantically moving to shift its sourcing and manufacturing to other Asian nations. With the largest global population and an economic infrastructure gearing up for increased export, India stands to gain the most from this sourcing diaspora. It's why a headline this week in *The New York Times* asked: "Will This Be the 'Indian Century'?"

India's population will clock in at about 1.4 billion people in 2023, and according to U.N. forecasts, that number will continue to climb to over 1.5 billion by 2040, and even higher over the following 20 years. In the meantime, the organization predicts that China's totals have peaked and will begin a slow-but-steady drop over the rest of the century, falling below the 1 billion level sometime before 2080.

For India, the opportunities are enormous ... and so too are the challenges. Its infrastructure, economic systems and growth of the middle class are all very much behind China's. But its demographics portray a nation with a young and expanding workforce, and that's good for its business sector.

That's why we're likely to see much higher totals of exports from India, including in home furnishings. India already is the No. 2 supplier of home textiles to the U.S. and has a vibrant export sector in gifts, decorative accessories, tabletop and rugs. But it lags behind in furniture, and significantly behind in consumer electronics and household appliances.

The gap in electronics may be the first to close, thanks to recent moves by Apple, which says it will begin to move at least 10 percent of its manufacturing to India, largely migrating from China. The company's largest Chinese supplier, Foxconn, just

announced that it will create 100,000 jobs in India with new manufacturing facilities, a major turning point for the country's production base. As it was in China, Apple has been at the forefront of the sourcing world, and other companies are likely to follow its lead.

In off-the-record conversations with U.S. companies that source product overseas, a number have said they are moving aggressively to exit China and switch to Indian suppliers. Furniture producers had already been making moves in this area, though most sourcing in China initially shifted to Vietnam, Indonesia and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Lighting, which had been a mainstay of China, is also moving toward India. Other electrical products, notably kitchen and household appliances, are likely to be on the tail end of this migration, simply because India does not have a history of making these kinds of products.

But it's the decorative accessories and home decor areas where India should be expected to gain market share the fastest. The country has long had a tradition of hand-crafted gift and home products, and new factories and larger-scale production facilities are spurring expansion. A "Made in India" tag retains a cache among American consumers that China was never able to achieve, given the latter's reputation for mass-scale commodities and lower-priced goods.

The "Make in India" campaign, initiated in 2014 by current prime minister Narendra Modi, has represented a big effort to promote Indian goods around the world, though some would say it has not been as successful as was initially hoped. Now the timing seems to be working in India's favor. "Western countries are now rushing to embrace India as an alternative to China," wrote Alex Travelli and Weiyi Cai in their *Times* article, indicating that service as much as manufacturing would drive growth in the years ahead. "India's economic story, however it turns out, will not be a repetition of China's. The only certainty about the new biggest country in the world is that it will be unlike any that came before it."

Prime Minister Modi certainly agrees. As he recently said, "India's time has arrived. □"

Indian chemical sector to reach \$250 billion by 2040: ASSOCHAM



The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India organised a conclave to deliberate on key topics such as Import substitution, Academia & Industry Collaborations, Expanding Exports and Integrating India into the global supply chain.

Chemical including the petrochemical industry makes an important factor in India's growth story as the government is committed to provide a conducive environment for sustainability, safety, and growth, stated Arun Baroka, IAS, Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemical & Fertilizers, Government of India, at India's Specialty Chemicals Conclave - "Making India Self Reliant & Local to Global."

The conclave was organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) to deliberate on key topics such as Import substitution, Academia & Industry Collaborations, Expanding Exports and Integrating India into the global supply chain.

"The department of chemical and petrochemical is collaborating and creating an interface with various other departments of the government, particularly the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Minister of Commerce, and the Ministry of Labour to build the communication path that will help in resolving short term and long-term issues," said Baroka.

The Secretary also stated that the country is perched with strong enablers such as PCPIR and other policy support from the government enabled with ease of doing business (EoDB), feedstock security, and support of PLI scheme to various companies to achieve the growth target. He added that while India is a net importer of petrochemical intermediates and bulk chemicals, India is a net exporter of a diverse range of speciality chemicals globally.

"The growth rate of speciality chemical sector is much more than the GDP growth rate of the normal chemical sector. The growth rate, if we continue to do well can actually go up.

I'm quite confident that from the existing number of about \$30 billion, I think it should be touching, not less than \$200 to 250 billion by 2040," he quipped.

"India's chemical industry should focus on the strategy of China plus 1 as the expectation from global customers is different from India than what they expect from China," said Sagar Kaushik, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Chemicals & Petrochemicals & President Global Corporate & Industry Affairs, UPL.

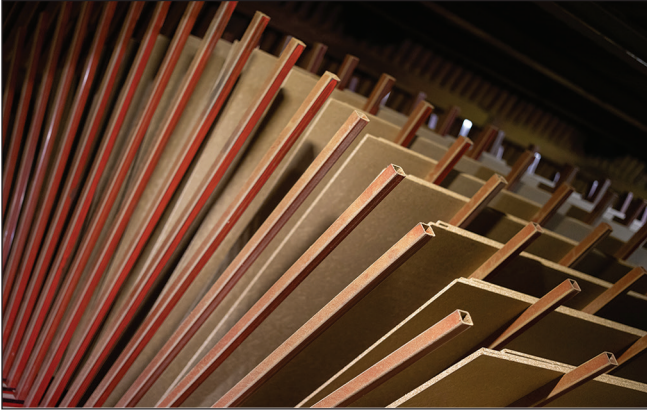
There should be a deeper collaboration of science and tech in the field and a shift towards sustainable value is extremely important, he added.

"There is a strong need to boost domestic production and bridge the gap between import and exports. Industry-Academia interface is required to improve the sector," said Nilesh Kulkarni, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Chemicals & Petrochemicals & Director – Commercial, Gharda Chemicals Ltd. To strengthen Indian Specialty chemicals, he also concentrated on leveraging new trends, infrastructure, skill set requirements, and collaboration.

"The Government of India has launched various flagship programmes such as Make in India and PLI. India should expand its global market in R&D competence, production capabilities, and sustainability with the Triple Helix model," said Susanta Kumar Purohit, Joint Secretary (Chemicals), DCPC.

The conclave also included key speakers Dr. Sangeeta Srivastava, Executive Director, Godavari Biorefineries Ltd and Prof. Aniruddha B. Pandit, Vice-Chancellor, Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT, Mumbai) who deliberated on building relationship between industry and academia. □

IKEA to use bio-based glue for reduced climate footprint



To reduce the climate footprint of board production, IKEA is switching from fossil-based to bio-based glues. Today, 5% of the climate footprint of the total IKEA value chain is connected to the use of glue in board materials. With this change, the goal is to reduce fossil-based glue use by 40% and greenhouse gas emissions from glue by 30% by FY30.

Finding new glue solutions is one of the main approaches to reducing the IKEA climate footprint, and most glue consumption is used in board production. As a result of innovation and several years of trials, IKEA is now switching to bio-based alternatives to reduce fossil-based glue usage by 40% and the climate footprint from glue by 30%.

“This is a big and important movement for IKEA, which we have been working to enable for more than 10 years. This confirms the need for more glues with much lower climate

footprints and that small changes can have big impacts. We hope this will inspire others to follow”, says VenlaHemmilä, Material and Technology Engineer at IKEA of Sweden.

Switching from fossil-based to bio-based glue solutions will be a stepwise approach, and the goal is to have most board-producing factories in the IKEA supply chain using glues that have lower climate footprints by FY30. In KazluRuda, Lithuania, the first IKEA Industry factory is now using a glue system made of technical starch from corn in large-scale production. This results from 10 years of efforts to find alternatives to fossil-based glues. In parallel, multiple trials with other glue systems are being conducted.

“As glue in board materials stands for 5% of the climate footprint of the IKEA value chain, this makes a big impact and a key step towards contributing to limiting global warming to 1.5°C. Together with increasing recycled wood use and striving towards 100% renewable energy in production, this is a milestone in our journey of making our wood-based products more sustainable”, says Andreas Rangel Ahrens, Head of Climate at Inter IKEA Group. Finding new glue solutions is one of the main approaches to further reduce the climate footprint linked to particle board production, together with striving towards 100% renewable energy consumption. This movement aligns with the overall IKEA ambition to only use renewable and recyclable materials by FY30. To enable a transition to 100% bio-based glue use, IKEA has recently launched an accelerator programme to pilot new glue solutions with external partners. Technical starch is made from industrially grown plants that are separated from the food value chain. □

Uttar Pradesh factories staring at painful phase with very high core veneer cost

Timber is at an all-time high in UP as the eucalyptus price has crossed over Rs 800 for plywood making. The scenario has pushed back to Plywood producers in state, as they view that timber supply will not improve in another 3 years due to fewer plantations in the state. The Industry people say that if we observe, we can see the demand for timber has risen all of a sudden due to the emergence of more particle boards and MDF manufacturing units in the northern region, and neither the farmers, nursery owners, nor the industrialists themselves had the foresight to expect such a high demand for timber in the wood panel industry in India.

One of the leading industrialists in the region and the President, UP Plywood Manufacturers Welfare Association Mr. Ashok Agarwal said that the timber availability is not there and the factory operation has reached to 50%. The demand as well as the payment is also not good, and the price viability is also not good at the factory level. “I’m hoping that the availability of timber will improve in three to four years. However, it is expected that good-quality timber will be scarce because MDF plants take lower-girth timber at a good price, so farmers will not be waiting for quality timber to be produced. The current situation is even worse than the situation during the COVID

period. We are trying to import from Uganda. But there is a freight issue because it is a landlocked state.” The plantation is going on at a fast Uttar Pradesh factories staring at painful phase with very high core veneer cost pace. Now there are no saplings available at WIMCO. Meliadubia is an option, but it is not as good as poplar and eucalyptus, he added.

Mr J N Gandhi, Manager R&D, Wimco Seedlings, ITC Limited, PSPD said that in comparison to Haryana, the plantation is very less in UP. WIMCO has planted nearly 30 lakh trees, including 10 lakh in Saharanpur. But in Haryana and Punjab, the plantation scenario is very good. We are estimating the availability of timber for wood panel industry in the near future. The industry will have easier access to timber in the northern region if the 3 crore plantation is completed and its yield reaches 85%. The industry is dependent on farmers, and to sustain the industry, players have to take initiative to be self sufficient in terms of timber. After many discussions, there is no such body that can take care of the initiative to plant timber by industry people, which is a great need for the future development of the industry. Mr Ashok Agarwal said that the industry people have to develop a nursery in every district and encourage the plantation by associating with farmers and industry people on a platform. □

A shifting narrative in the global dynamics

There is a shifting narrative in the global woodworking industry dynamics, with the Indian Furniture Market estimated at USD 23.33 billion in FY2021 and a projected increase at a CAGR of 6.04% to reach USD 32.75 billion in FY2027. This prosperous growth can largely be attributed to the rise of e-commerce channels – it has increased the Indian Furniture Markets’s accessibility to the broader, international

markets. As per the global Industry reports, India stands to be the fourth in terms of global furniture consumption and ranks fifth in the production; thus cementing its unmistakable imprint over the industry. It is just behind China, USA and Germany and on par with Italy.

A major driving force behind the Indian furniture market’s attractive revenues is the easy availability of raw materials, which is bolstered by the nation’s developing real estate sector. Furthermore, rapid commercialisation, increased household spending, and the geographic expansion of multinational corporations are massive growth incentives, too. With liberal policies promoting ease of doing business, India is encouraging new investments in a variety of industries. Besides, a burgeoning number of global business titans are establishing sales and service facilities in India to serve both domestic and, in fact, export markets like Asia, Japan, Australia and Europe. (Source: Wood & Panel Europe, Jan 2023). □



Duroply reports 60.2% sales growth in first nine months this fiscal

Duroply Industries Limited, India’s plywood manufacturer, reported 60.2% growth in sales during first nine months this fiscal, to Rs. 218.12 crores from Rs. 136.20 crores reported for same period last fiscal. Sales grew by 30.5% in Q3 FY23 over same quarter last fiscal, rising to Rs. 71.74 crores from Rs. 54.98 crores. The Company has maintained its profitable journey and has reported profit after tax of Rs. 0.72 crore during the quarter ended Dec 31, 2022.

Earnings before Interest and Tax (EBIT) during Q3 FY23 increased by 21.3%, to Rs. 2.47 crore from Rs. 2.04 crore during same quarter last fiscal. Commenting on the results, Akhilesh Chitlangia, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Duroply, said, “We are buoyed with our performance this quarter. Demand in Quarter 3 is always challenging due to the festive seasons across India. In addition, the inflationary pressure have posed significant challenges on business operations. Despite this, we have continued our growth and profitable turnaround.”

He said further, “Following the infusion of funds by way of preferential issue of fresh equity and warrants in Q2 FY 23, we have also substantially increased our marketing spend, from 1.6% of turnover last FY to over 4% in current financial year. The benefits of this investment are expected to be reaped in the forthcoming quarters. In addition, we have seen a substantial decrease in our interest costs, which is down by 18% QoQ basis and by 28% YOY basis in Q3 FY 23. Our focus remains firmly on innovation, better supply chain management and growing our footprint across the nation with our unwavering commitment to quality.” □

Amulya Mica opened its first ever Lounge at Guwahati, Assam



Amulya Mica, one of the established brands in laminate industry, is spreading its wings by opening Amulya mica lounge in PAN India. On 26th Feb/2023, Amulya Mica first ever Lounge in Eastern India got inaugurated in its dealer shop Balaji Steel & Plywood of Mr. Devki Nandan Choudhury

& Mr. Ankur Choudhury, Guwahati Assam. It is inaugurated by our eminent architect Ar. Santosh Banka in presence of company officials, Distributor of Guwahati Mangalam Associates with its team members and guests. Company official present were Mr. Ravi Pandey Dy BM Guwahati, Mr. Chandra Prakash Territory Manager, Mr. Sribas Dey, Sales Executive of Guwahati region and Marketing Manager Mr. Prosenjit Dutta from Kolkata and Ms. Sanjana Sharma from Delhi.



In today's Cut-Throat competition, not only the product has to be of best quality and of latest trend, but it is also necessary to show case the material in smart way which will attract the consumer at a glance. Even today, customer wants to experience the product by touch and feel for selection, especially in decorative laminate. Gallery concept is becoming a trend now-a-day.

Amulya Mica's lounge is meant to serve their customers with exotic range of Imperial series collection, premium laminate like Synchronized Laminates, Seven Wonder laminates etc, along with 1 mm laminates, cladding, PVC laminates, Plywood & WPC Boards, Door & Frame.



So, in Amulya lounge, one can experience full sheets at display which gives stylish & elegant look and better experience to customers and influencers with product detailing by smart and experienced persons. The chances of converting prospect into customer is almost 100% if he/she visits the gallery.

In this inauguration well known architects /contractors, dealers, some influential people of trade and society were present along with family members. Everyone is appreciated the way of showcasing Amulya Mica's product. Moving forward, the company is on the verge of opening more flag shop stores in eastern India. □

EPCH urges centre to bring furniture sector under PLI scheme



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a post-budget discussion with industry representatives from Rajasthan to address the challenges being faced by various industries.

During the interaction, Dileep Baid, vice-chairman of Exports Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) urged the finance minister to include the furniture sector in the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

“Furniture industry in India is dominated by micro and small units. In order to scale up the production and exports, the centre is regularly adding new potential sectors in the PLI scheme. Keeping in view the immense potential that wooden handcrafted furniture has, this segment may also kindly be considered under the PLI Scheme,” he said.

In the meeting, the representatives of the real estate industry raised the issue regarding the banks not supporting the affordable housing segment despite it being given infrastructure status.

Dhirendra Madan, president of Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai) said, “Unfortunately the banking sector doesn’t seem to be supportive of this larger intent of the Centre. Affordable housing sector is clubbed with real estate sector and is not accorded priority sector lending status.”

“There needs to be a mechanism to ensure targets for developer finance under affordable housing at a bank level or state level is spelt out and performance data is monitored in a transparent manner,” he said.

Federation of Rajasthan Trade and Industry (FORTI) also made a representation on various issues related to budgetary changes.

FORTI president Suresh Agarwal raised the issue of increase of TCS on certain foreign remittances and on sale of overseas tour packages. □

Exhibition Outlook 2023

May 15-19, 2023

LIGNA

Venue: MesseGlanda 30521 Hannover

Website: www.ligna.de

Event Highlight:

More than 90,000 professional visitors from the woodworking and wood processing sectors come to LIGNA the world’s leading trade fair for woodworking and wood processing plant, machinery and tools, from all over the world to discover innovative machinery, plant and technology from across the entire wood industry.

Global market leaders welcome this opportunity to stage live demonstrations of their plant and machinery in operation. Every two years, the wood industry has its own season.

The show is not only the place to discover innovations, conclude deals and build networks. In addition to the pure exhibition, the show has numerous special formats to offer for the entire spectrum of the woodworking and wood processing industry that go beyond the pure exhibition area

The 2023 edition of the event will show trends and innovations of the woodworking industry. It will put the spotlight on the digital transformation of the woodworking sector, prefabrication processes in timber construction and the bioeconomy. Machinery for forestry, wood-based panel production or machine components and automation technology will be shown at the world’s leading trade show for the industry.

Product Showcase:

- Energy from wood
- Wood-based panel production
- Machinery for forestry, roudwood & sawntimber production
- Machine components and automation technology
- Surface technology
- Sawmill technology
- Tools and machinery for custom mass production

Hall Plan:

- Tools, machines and system for individual and series production
- Surface technology
- Wood-based panel production
- Sawmill technology
- Energy from wood
- Machine components and automation technology
- Machines and technical equipment for forestry, roudwood and sawntimber production. □

May 29-31, 2023

DOMOTEX ASIA

Venue: National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai)

Website: en.dacf.cn

Event Highlight:

DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR is one of the leading flooring exhibitions in the Asian-Pacific region and the second largest flooring show worldwide. As part of the DOMOTEX trade event portfolio for the global flooring industry.

More than 66,000 industry professionals from the merging Asian market and 107 other countries attend each year and have utilised the event as their ideal platform to sell their flooring products, form partnerships, locate suppliers and manufactures, and network with industry leaders.

The exhibition product categories include wood flooring, bamboo and cork flooring, flooring technology, machine-made carpets, hand-made carpets, carpet technology, resilient flooring, sports flooring & WPC. □

September 5-8, 2023

CIFF / WMF

Venue: National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai, Hongqiao)

Website: www.ciff.furniture / www.woodworkfair.com

Event Highlight

Driven by innovation and design, CIFF – China International Furniture Fair is a business platform of strategic importance both for the domestic market and for export development. It covers the entire supply chain, bring top-tier companies together, promoting new products, ideas, and solutions in order to meet constantly-evolving market needs, and organising events both online and offline, as well as B2B meetings.

In view of the rising demand in innovative technologies across the entire supply chain of furniture production and woodworking industry, Shanghai International Furniture Machinery Fair (WMF) has been collocated with CIFF (Shanghai) once a year at Shanghai Hongqiao, China since 2018, to serves as a one-stop sourcing platform connecting upstream and downstream enterprises and stretching across the whole woodworking industry

In 2022, the show continued to maintain its high standard with an exhibition area of 45,000 sqm and more than 300 exhibitors, gathering leading enterprises in various sub sectors of home manufacturing technology. The fair has gathered exhibitors from around the world to showcase cutting-edge equipment and machinery.

Scope of Exhibits in WMF

- Tools and machinery for custom and mass production
- Machine components and automation technology
- Surface treatment technology
- Wood-based panel production
- Wood primary processing sawmill technology, energy from wood
- Wooden architecture technology
- Forestry technology

- Green production and safety control
- Wood products packaging
- Raw materials and accessories for wood production
- Knives, blades, machinery accessories and hand tools
- Engraving machinery
- Upholstery machinery and CAD/CAM technology. □

September 20-23, 2023

IFMAC

Venue: JIEXPO Kemayoran, Jakarta

Website: www.ifmac.net

Event Highlight:

The next edition of Vietnam Wood will be held in Saigon exhibition & Convention Center (SECC) from September 20-23, 2023.

The exhibition will serve as an efficient platform for exhibitors to showcase their product, network and present the company and businesses to the emerging market of Indonesia and the Southeast Asia Region.

Besides, it will also help visitors discover and experience the latest innovations and technology for furniture manufacturing and woodworking industry. The hotspot of new products, information, innovation and technology from the key players in the furniture and woodworking industry will be in one place. □

September 20-23, 2023

VIETNAM WOOD

Venue: Saigon Exhibition & Convention Centre (SECC)

Website: www.chanchao.com.tw/VietnamWood/

Event Highlight:

The next edition of Vietnam Wood will be held in Saigon Exhibition & Convention Centre (SECC) from Sept. 20-23, 2023.

VietnamWood 2022 gathered 233 exhibitors from 25 countries and regions to display their manufacturing production solutions and innovative machinery and technology for extensive to extent the business contacts and technical exchanges.

The next edition of the show in 2023 will continue the momentum to bolster the growth of the wood working industry in Vietnam. As usual, the event will still feature live demonstrations of tools, machinery and equipment, and production lines. □

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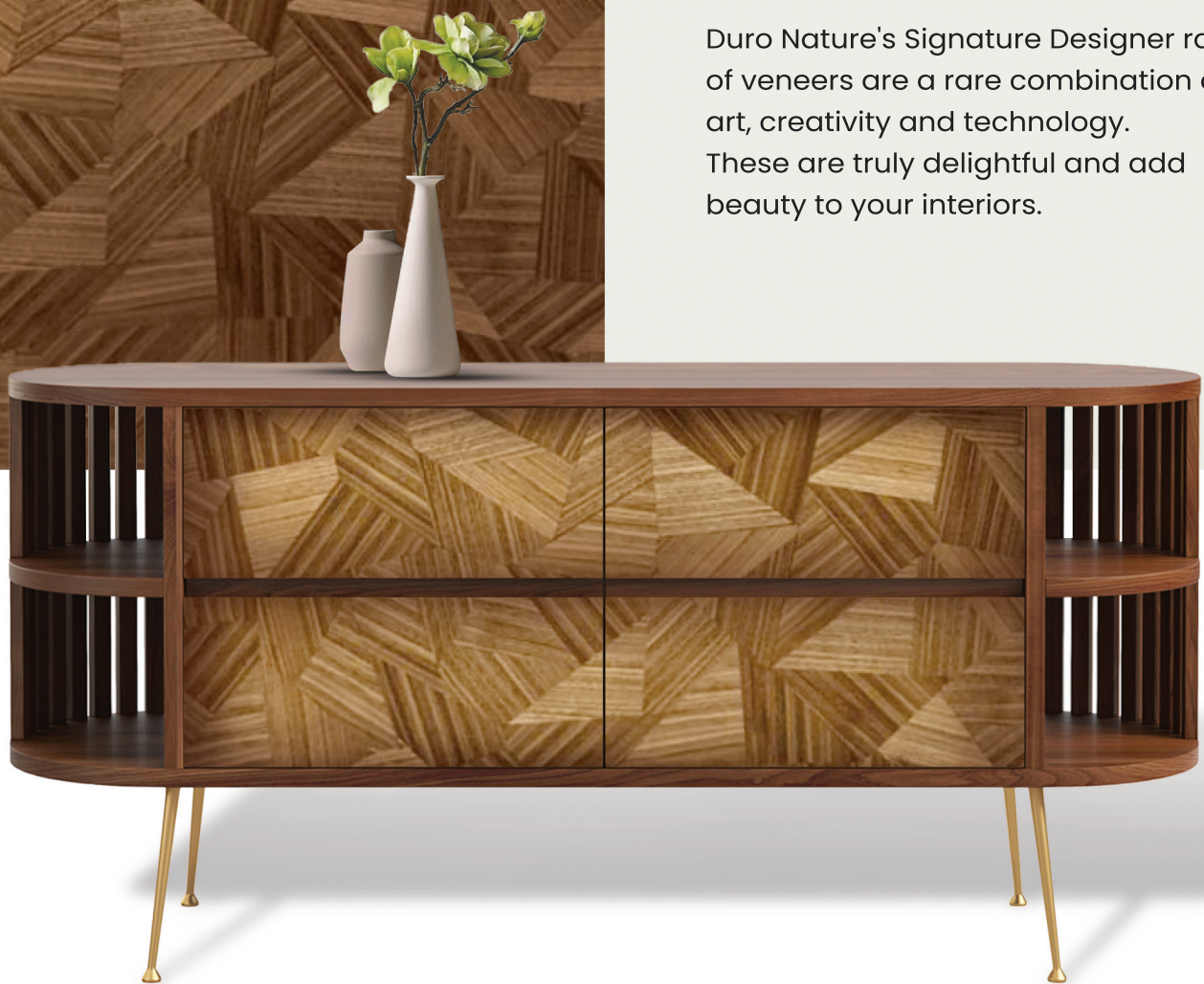
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