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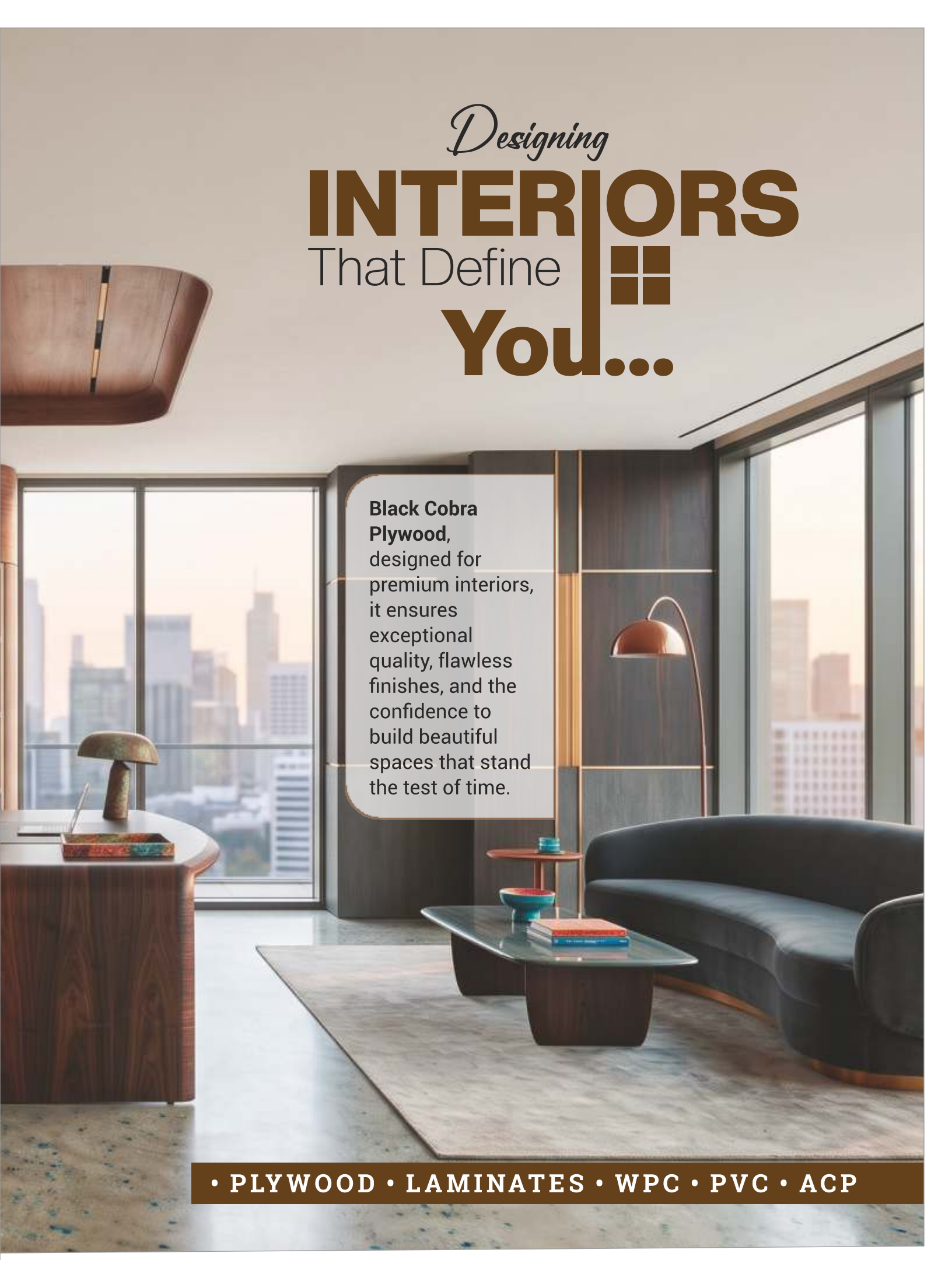
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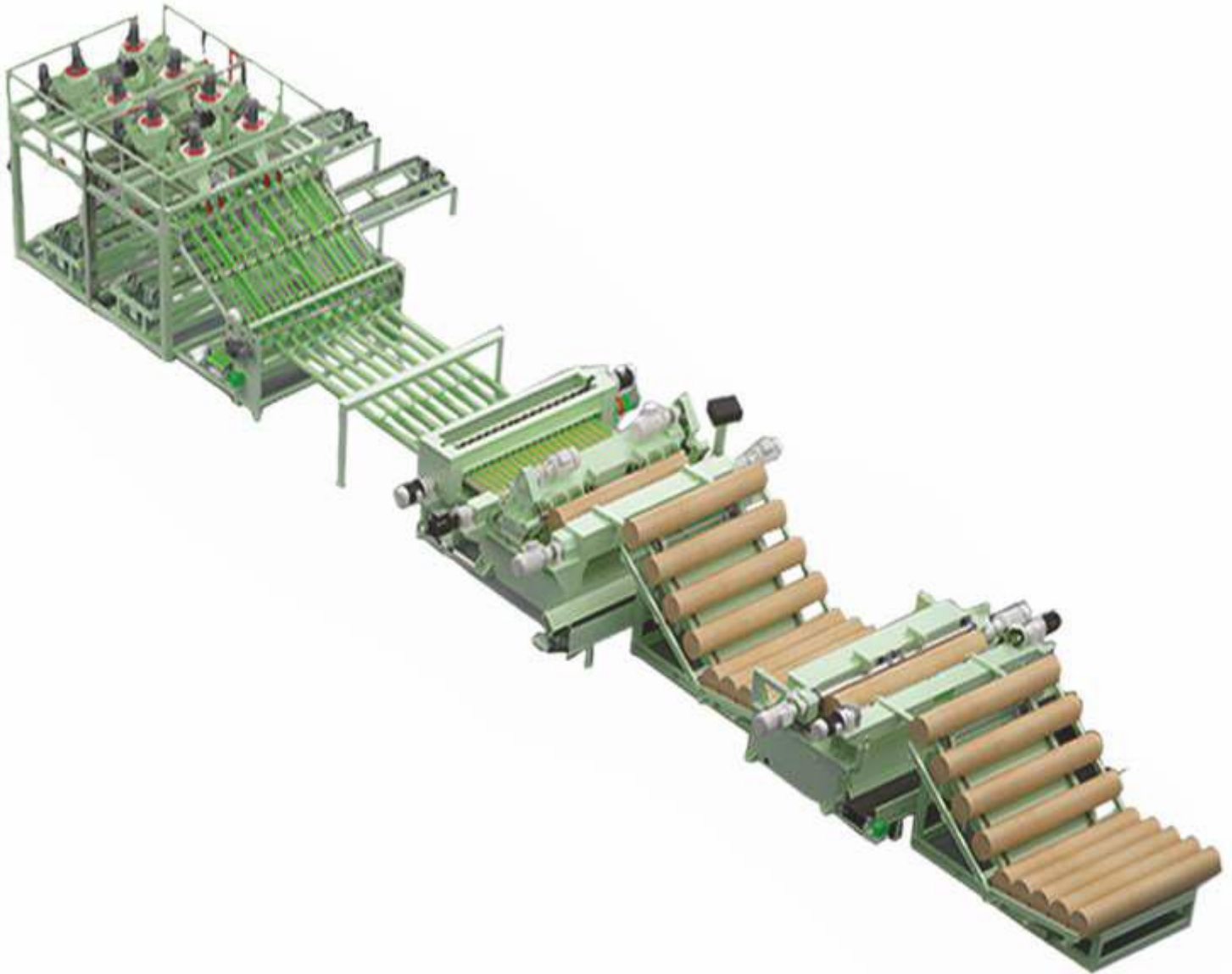
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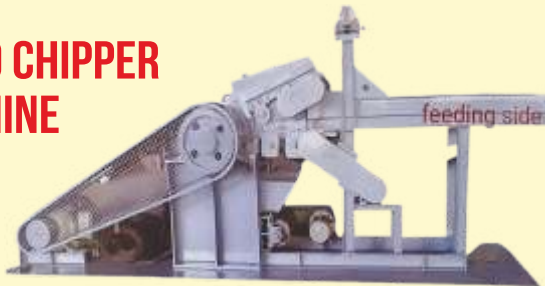


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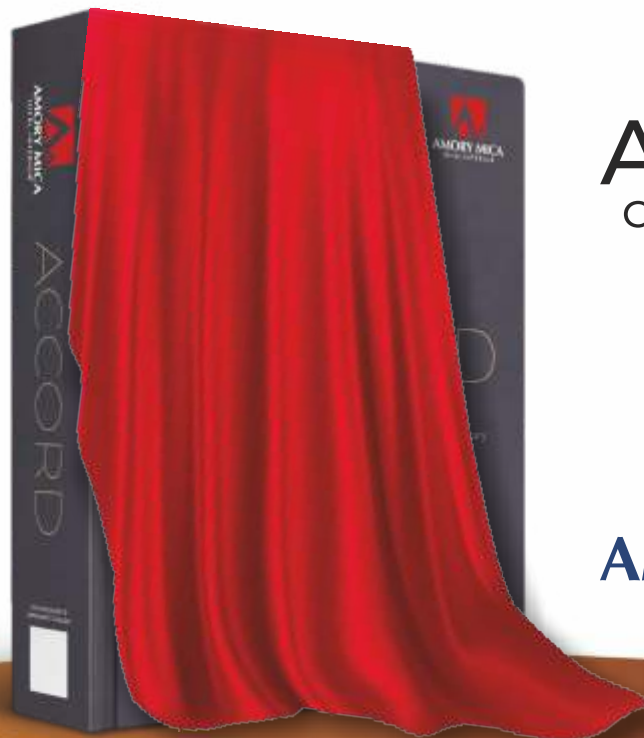


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Announcement of 5% price rise amid timber shortage and rising costs

The Plywood-Veneer Manufacturers Welfare Association, Bareilly, (PVMWA), has announced an increase in the prices of plywood and allied products following an emergency meeting held on 9th July 2026. The decision comes in response to an acute shortage of timber, which the association says has significantly increased production costs across the plywood manufacturing sector.

To help manufacturers cope with the challenging market conditions, representatives unanimously agreed to implement an immediate 5% price increase on plywood, block boards, flush doors, and shuttering plywood.

In addition to the price revision, the association urged its members to adopt ethical billing practices to ensure greater transparency in business transactions. It also resolved that the credit period extended to customers should not exceed 15 days, a move aimed at improving cash flow and reducing

financial stress on manufacturers.

The meeting, chaired by Association President Shekhar Agarwal, was convened to assess the impact of rising shortage of timber has disrupted the supply chain and substantially increased manufacturing expenses, making the price revision unavoidable. Industry stakeholders believe the measures will help offset escalating input costs while ensuring the continued availability of quality plywood products in the market.

The resolutions have come into effect immediately and are expected to influence pricing trends across the region. The announcement reflects the mounting pressure faced by plywood manufacturers as raw material availability tightens, highlighting the need for sustainable timber sourcing and stable supply chains to support the industry's long-term growth.

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BPMA

Declares Price Hike to Offset Escalating Manufacturing Costs

The Bengaluru Plywood Manufacturers Association (BPMA) has announced a revision in the prices of plywood, blockboard, and flush door products, citing sustained increases in raw material and production costs. The revised pricing, effective from 7th July 2026, was unanimously approved after consultations with member manufacturers across the region.

According to the association, the plywood industry continues to face mounting cost pressures due to sharp increases in the prices of timber, veneers, chemicals, resins, fuel, freight, electricity, and labour. These rising input costs have significantly impacted manufacturing operations, making a price revision necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the industry.

Under the revised structure, prices of plywood products will increase by 3%, while blockboard and flush door products will see a 5% price hike. The BPMA stated that the decision was taken after carefully reviewing

prevailing market conditions and evaluating the financial challenges confronting manufacturers.

The association has appealed to dealers, distributors, and channel partners to extend their continued cooperation and understanding, emphasizing that the revision is essential to maintain product quality, ensure uninterrupted supply, and support the industry's long-term growth. BPMA also expressed appreciation to its trade partners for their continued trust and partnership during a challenging business environment.

The announcement reflects the broader pressures facing India's plywood sector, where rising raw material costs and supply chain challenges continue to influence pricing decisions. Industry observers believe similar revisions by regional associations indicate a sustained effort by manufacturers to balance increasing production costs while maintaining quality standards and stable market supplies.

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KPMA

Alerts Members to Rising Input Costs Amid Global Supply Chain Disruptions

The Karnataka Plywood Manufacturers Association (KPMA) has informed its members of a sharp rise in input costs, citing escalating prices of key raw materials and severe shortages of timber and core veneer. In a circular issued on 17th July 2026, KPMA President B. Abdul Salam stated that the association's overall input costs have increased by approximately 7 per cent.

According to the association, prices of essential chemicals, including methanol, formaldehyde, phenol and melamine, have risen significantly due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, which has disrupted global supply chains and pushed up international prices.

The association also highlighted an acute shortage of timber and core veneer, adversely affecting production and causing raw material prices to rise sharply. These twin challenges have placed additional financial

pressure on plywood manufacturers across Karnataka.

KPMA said the communication was intended to keep members informed about the prevailing market conditions and the factors driving higher production costs. The association has appealed to its members for their understanding and continued support as the industry navigates the challenging business environment.

The advisory underscores the growing impact of geopolitical developments on India's wood panel industry, where manufacturers continue to grapple with volatile raw material prices, supply constraints and rising operational costs. Industry observers believe the sustained increase in input costs could eventually influence plywood pricing and market dynamics if current conditions persist.

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Plywood Industry

Yamuna Nagar Units Faces Mounting Challenges

The plywood industry in Yamuna Nagar, India's largest plywood manufacturing hub, is grappling with a perfect storm of rising production costs, weakening exports, labour shortages and growing competition from imported products. Industry leaders warn that unless corrective measures are taken, the sector could face a prolonged downturn with serious implications for manufacturing and employment.

Around 300 plywood factories in the Yamuna Nagar - Jagadhri zone are operational. However, manufacturers say escalating input costs have forced them to increase plywood prices by more than 10%, even as demand remains under pressure.

One of the biggest concerns is the rising cost

and inconsistent availability of key raw materials, particularly poplar and eucalyptus timber. Although timber prices have fluctuated with seasonal supply, manufacturers continue to face uncertainty over long-term availability. At the same time, the cost of essential petroleum-based chemicals has surged sharply. Formaldehyde, a key ingredient in plywood production, has nearly doubled. Phenol, used in waterproof plywood, has also doubled. While melamine prices have increased by 50%.

Industry representatives attribute these increases to rising global crude oil prices and supply chain disruptions, which have significantly raised manufacturing costs. According to industry members, the sustained escalation in input prices has

One of the biggest concerns is the rising cost and inconsistent availability of key raw materials, particularly poplar and eucalyptus timber

left manufacturers with little option but to pass part of the burden onto customers.

The export market has also suffered a setback. Rising costs and other disruptions have brought exports to a virtual standstill, depriving manufacturers of an important revenue stream.

Adding to the pressure is the growing influx of lower-priced plywood from Nepal into key domestic markets, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Local manufacturers say the cheaper imports have affected demand for products made in Yamuna Nagar, intensifying competition in an already challenging market.

Labour availability has emerged as another major concern. Many

workers who left for West Bengal have not returned, leaving factories with severe manpower shortages. Industry estimates suggest that several units are operating at half of their installed capacity, forcing employers to make concessions to retain skilled workers.

Industry leaders believe that coordinated policy support, stable raw material availability, improved logistics and measures to enhance export competitiveness will be essential to safeguard the future of Haryana's plywood industry. Without timely intervention, they caution, one of India's most important wood panel manufacturing clusters could face a gradual erosion of its competitive advantage.

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Greenlam

Expanding Retail Touchpoints Across Key Cities

In an evolving interior design landscape, choices are no longer made through tiny swatches; they are felt through real-world textures and tangible inspiration. Responding to this shift, Greenlam Industries has expanded its retail footprint with new experience-driven destinations in Prayagraj, Mumbai, and Indore, bringing craftsmanship closer to everyday creators.

In Prayagraj, Greenlam debuted its first Greenlam Shoppe alongside SD Enterprises, offering local homeowners, architects, and trade partners an immersive environment to explore premium 1 mm laminates, the Lexus collection, and specialised cladding. Simultaneously, the brand fortified its reach in Mumbai, one of India's most influential design hubs. Adding momentum to this expansion, Greenlam also unveiled its new Greenlam Studio in Indore in partnership with Devaditya Trade Logistic.

What sets these new destinations apart is their deliberate focus on human collaboration. The Indore studio, for instance,

introduces a full-sheet display concept. This enables designers and families alike to view textures, patterns, and finishes, including the AFX Collection and over 79 new decors, in true-to-life scale before making meaningful decisions for their homes.

By stepping away from traditional transactional retail, Greenlam's new outlets serve as community platforms where ideas are exchanged, product applications are explored, and professional partnerships are nurtured. These spaces bring together architects, contractors, and homeowners under one roof, bridging the gap between raw material and lived experience.

Through these strategic launches across key regional markets, Greenlam reinforces a simple truth: modern design isn't just about products, but about shared vision and accessibility. The experience centres ensure that those shaping tomorrow's spaces have the hands-on inspiration they need to bring their visions to life.

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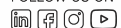
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Laminate

ILMA Revises Pricing Advisory

The Indian laminate industry has witnessed significant fluctuations in input costs over recent weeks as geopolitical developments continue to influence global energy, petrochemical and shipping markets. Reflecting these rapidly changing conditions, the Indian Laminate Manufacturers' Association (ILMA) has issued successive pricing advisories to help manufacturers align laminate prices with prevailing raw material costs.

Following the escalation of the conflict involving the United States and Iran, ILMA had cautioned laminate manufacturers across the country about the sharp rise in manufacturing costs resulting from renewed uncertainty in international markets. The association noted that volatility in crude oil prices, anticipated disruptions in global supply chains and escalating freight charges had substantially increased the cost of key raw materials used in laminate production.

Consequently, ILMA advised its members to revise laminate prices with effect from 14th July, reflecting the sharp escalation in input costs. The association recommended an indicative increase of ₹65 per sheet plus GST for 0.70 mm laminates, ₹80 plus GST for 0.80 mm, ₹90 plus GST for 0.90 mm, and ₹100 plus GST for 1.00 mm laminates, compared with pre-war price levels.

ILMA clarified that the advisory was intended to help manufacturers align pricing with escalating input costs and ensure business sustainability during an uncertain period. The association also stated that its Board Members would continue monitoring developments closely and assess their impact on the industry. However, it reiterated that every member company must independently determine its selling prices based on its own procurement costs, inventory position and commercial considerations, emphasising that the advisory should not be interpreted as



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a mandatory pricing directive.

Subsequently, with geopolitical tensions easing and international supply chains gradually stabilising, the market witnessed a welcome correction in the prices of several key chemicals used in laminate manufacturing. Responding to these improved conditions, ILMA issued a fresh advisory indicating that input costs had moderated significantly across various laminate categories.

According to the association, the easing of disruptions linked to the Iran conflict, coupled with improved availability of raw materials and lower freight costs, has created favourable conditions for a reduction in laminate prices. The estimated decline in manufacturing costs ranges from approximately ₹40 per sheet for 0.70 mm laminates to ₹70 per sheet for 1.00 mm laminates, depending on product specifications.

As a result, laminate prices are now expected to decline by approximately ₹25 to ₹50 per sheet, depending on thickness and product category, compared with the earlier pricing advisory. Industry observers believe

that manufacturers are likely to pass on a portion of these savings to customers, offering relief to furniture manufacturers, interior designers, dealers and end users.

ILMA has reiterated that the revised advisory, like its earlier communications, serves only as broad industry guidance and should not be construed as a fixed pricing instruction. Member companies have been advised to independently evaluate raw material procurement costs, inventory levels, manufacturing expenses and prevailing market conditions before finalising their commercial decisions.

With global commodity prices and supply chains continuing to evolve, ILMA has urged manufacturers to remain vigilant and responsive to market conditions. The association believes that aligning laminate prices with actual input costs will help maintain industry stability while ensuring that the benefits of favourable market conditions are passed on to the value chain whenever possible.

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Greenply

Huge Capital Outlay in Wood Panel Expansion

Amid chaotic global supply chains and rising energy costs, industries everywhere are learning to pause, adapt, and rewrite how they operate in an unpredictable world. Across India's building materials and interior infrastructure landscape, unorganised regional manufacturers are feeling the heat as high raw material costs, currency fluctuations, and cash flow bottlenecks compress margins. However, where smaller enterprises see market friction, established industry titans see a clear mandate to expand.

Leading this industrial shift is Greenply Industries Ltd., a household name that built its reputation on manufacturing high-grade plywood. Sanidhya Mittal, Joint Managing Director of Greenply Industries, says the company has laid out a bold vision for the future, backed by a massive capital expenditure plan over the next five years. Having already deployed a sizeable amount in CapEx over the preceding five-year cycle, this dramatic step-up in capital allocation reflects profound institutional confidence in India.

To understand why an organised market leader like Greenply can sustain growth while competitors struggle, it is important to examine balance sheets and supply chain resilience. Unorganised

manufacturers often operate with fragile cash flows and fragmented credit lines. When geopolitical tensions drive up crude oil and resin prices, suppliers demand faster payments, leaving smaller players vulnerable to procurement delays, production disruptions, and missed deliveries.

Greenply's structured corporate governance, banking relationships, and working capital channels help ensure consistent raw material sourcing even during commodity price spikes. For real estate developers, interior designers, and distributors, reliable supply is critical, as delays can disrupt entire projects. This reliability is increasingly shifting trade networks toward organised brands capable of fulfilling large orders on schedule.

The pressure is particularly relevant as higher crude prices push up resin, transportation, and power costs. While finished panel prices are unlikely to decline immediately, Greenply views such inflationary phases as part of the broader economic cycle.

To capture demand, the company is also investing in technology and product innovation. Its next-generation 2.0 Plywood uses continuous press Conti Roll technology to deliver dimensional stability, structural



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The technology also supports the growing shift toward factory-made modular furniture. OEM-ready panels can integrate with automated cutting, edge-banding, and assembly systems. Greenply has retrofitted existing plants nationwide, while its Odisha greenfield facility has been designed around the continuous manufacturing platform.

Parallel to its core plywood innovations, Greenply is expanding into complementary panel categories while retaining its identity as a plywood pioneer. With MDF and Particle Board witnessing strong sectoral growth, the company is positioning itself as a total interior solutions provider, offering products such as HDHMR boards, interior-grade MDF, and Marine Ply for varied applications and price points.

A key part of this strategy is Greenply's entry into Wood-Polymer Composite (WPC) manufacturing. While WPC is suited to moisture-prone areas such as bathrooms, kitchens, and coastal markets, the company sees significant potential in door frames. As quality plantation timber becomes

increasingly scarce, WPC offers a rot-proof, dimensionally stable, and eco-friendly alternative for LIG and MIG housing projects, while being easier to install and maintain.

Supporting this expansion is Greenply's focus on workforce development. At a time when labour shortages and employee turnover challenge the industry, the company views retention as a management responsibility. Structured training, wage growth, and long-term career opportunities have helped create a stable workforce.

This approach is particularly evident at Greenply's Kolkata plant, which records the highest individual output per worker among its facilities. With employees on permanent payroll and many having decades-long careers, the plant demonstrates the value of loyalty and experience. Similar practices in locations such as Tizit, Nagaland, have helped Greenply build skilled, committed teams that underpin operational excellence.

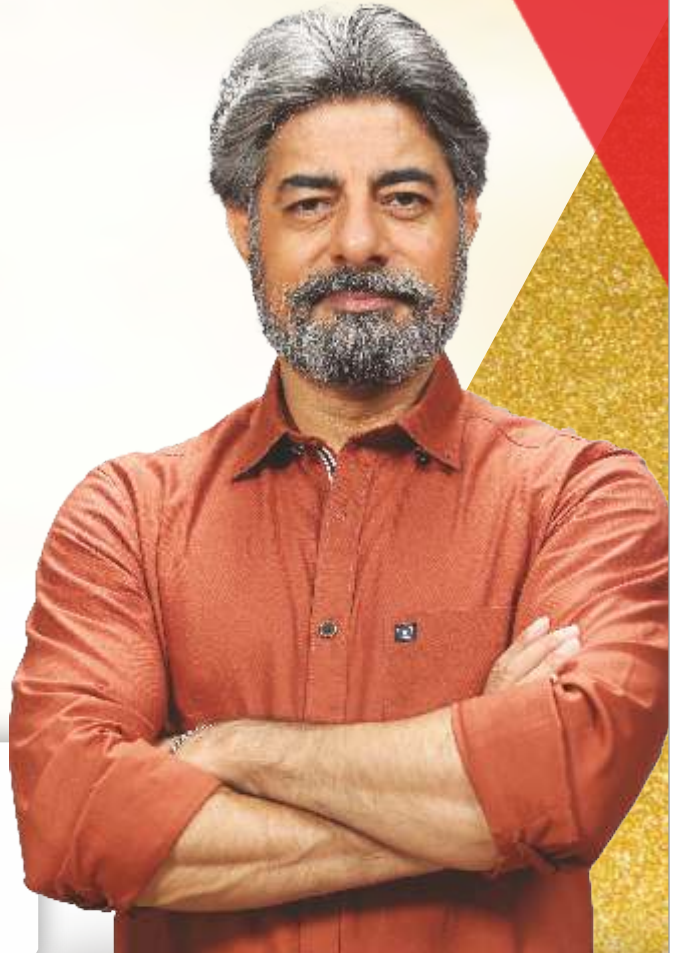




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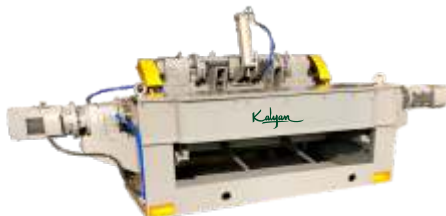
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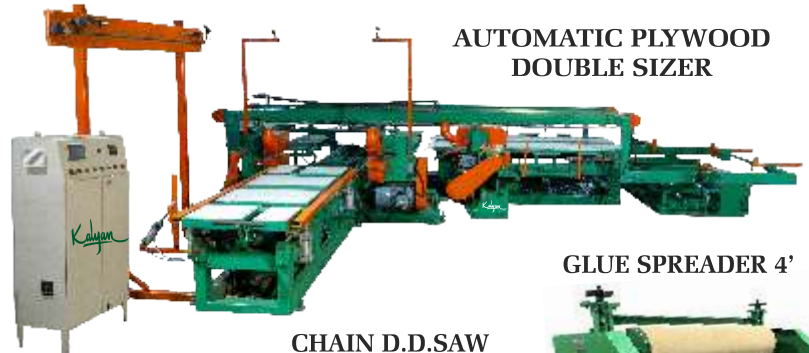
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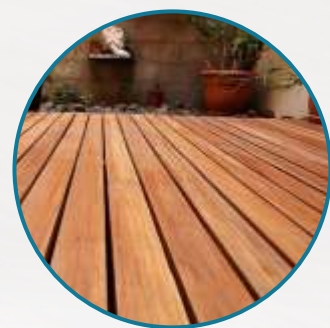
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Greenply

Strengthening Governance, Streamlining Global Corporate Structure

Greenply Industries has taken a series of strategic governance and organisational decisions that signal its intent to strengthen leadership, improve operational efficiency and prepare for long-term growth. At its Board meeting held on 24th July, 2026, the company approved the appointment of seasoned financial services executive Girish Kulkarni as an Independent Director, alongside a restructuring of its Singapore operations and a reclassification of several promoter group entities.

The appointment of G. Kulkarni, subject to shareholder approval, is for a five-year term extending from 24th July, 2026, to 23rd July, 2031. With more than four decades of experience spanning insurance, financial

services and corporate leadership across Asia, he is expected to bring valuable strategic insight to Greenply's Board at a time when the company continues to expand its domestic and international footprint.

Over the course of his career, Girish Kulkarni has held several prominent leadership positions, including Chairman (Asia Pacific – Non-Executive) at Dai-ichi Life and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance. He also played key roles in the growth of SBI Life Insurance, General Motors Finance (GMAC) and the Generali Group. His extensive experience in corporate governance, risk management and business expansion is expected to strengthen

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Greenply's strategic decision-making and governance practices.

Alongside the Board appointment, Greenply approved the amalgamation of its two wholly owned Singapore subsidiaries - Greenply Holdings Pte. Ltd. and Greenply Global Trading Pte. Ltd. The restructuring is aimed at simplifying the company's overseas corporate structure by bringing investment and trading operations under a single entity. The move is expected to reduce administrative costs, eliminate duplication of regulatory compliances and create a more streamlined international business framework without affecting the company's overall shareholding structure.

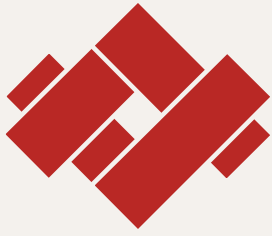
As both companies are wholly owned subsidiaries, the amalgamation will involve no cash consideration and is exempt from related-party transaction requirements under the applicable SEBI regulations. Following the merger, Greenply Global Trading Pte. Ltd. will continue as the direct wholly owned overseas subsidiary of Greenply Industries.

The Board also approved the reclassification of eight entities from the Promoter Group to the Public Shareholder category. The entities, including several members of the Mittal family and three corporate bodies, currently hold no equity

shares in the company. Their reclassification reflects the existing ownership pattern and aligns the company's disclosures with regulatory requirements under SEBI's Listing Obligations and Disclosure Regulations. The proposal will become effective after receiving the requisite no-objection from the stock exchanges.

Collectively, the three decisions demonstrate Greenply's focus on strengthening corporate governance while simplifying its organisational architecture. The induction of an experienced independent director enhances the diversity and expertise of the Board, while the overseas consolidation reflects a growing emphasis on operational efficiency and prudent corporate management.

For a company operating in an increasingly competitive wood panel and interior infrastructure market, robust governance structures are becoming as important as manufacturing capability and market reach. By combining experienced leadership with structural consolidation and regulatory alignment, Greenply appears to be positioning itself for sustainable growth while reinforcing investor confidence and organisational agility in an evolving global business environment.



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Global Recognition Can Unlock India's Export Potential

India's wooden panel industry is entering a new phase of growth, driven by stronger quality standards, regulatory reforms and an increasing focus on global competitiveness. The implementation of the Quality Control Order (QCO), together with the modernisation of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications, has significantly enhanced confidence in Indian-made plywood, laminates and other wood panel products. Yet, industry leaders believe the next major milestone lies beyond the domestic market: securing wider international recognition for Indian standards and expanding exports.

A recent online interaction convened by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with plywood and laminate manufacturers and industry associations reflected this ambition. The meeting explored export opportunities, emerging international markets and ways to strengthen the global presence of Indian wood panel products. It also provided manufacturers with an opportunity to present the challenges that continue to limit export growth despite notable improvements in quality and manufacturing capability.

Among the foremost concerns is the rising cost of timber. Indian manufacturers face significantly higher raw material costs

than many competing countries, affecting their ability to price products competitively in international markets. Equally worrying is the growing shortage of quality timber, which has increased pressure on the industry's supply chain and raised concerns over long-term raw material security.

Another issue raised by the industry is the increasing dependence on multiple foreign certifications, including CARB, EUDR and FSC, for accessing overseas markets. While Indian manufacturers are committed to meeting global quality expectations, obtaining these certifications often involves substantial expenditure, extensive documentation and prolonged compliance procedures. These requirements are particularly burdensome for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), many of which already manufacture products conforming to rigorous Indian standards.

Industry representatives stressed that Indian BIS standards have undergone significant strengthening under the Quality Control Order and are today comparable with leading international benchmarks. They argued that greater awareness among overseas buyers about the robustness of Indian certification systems could reduce duplication of compliance requirements and improve export opportunities, especially for

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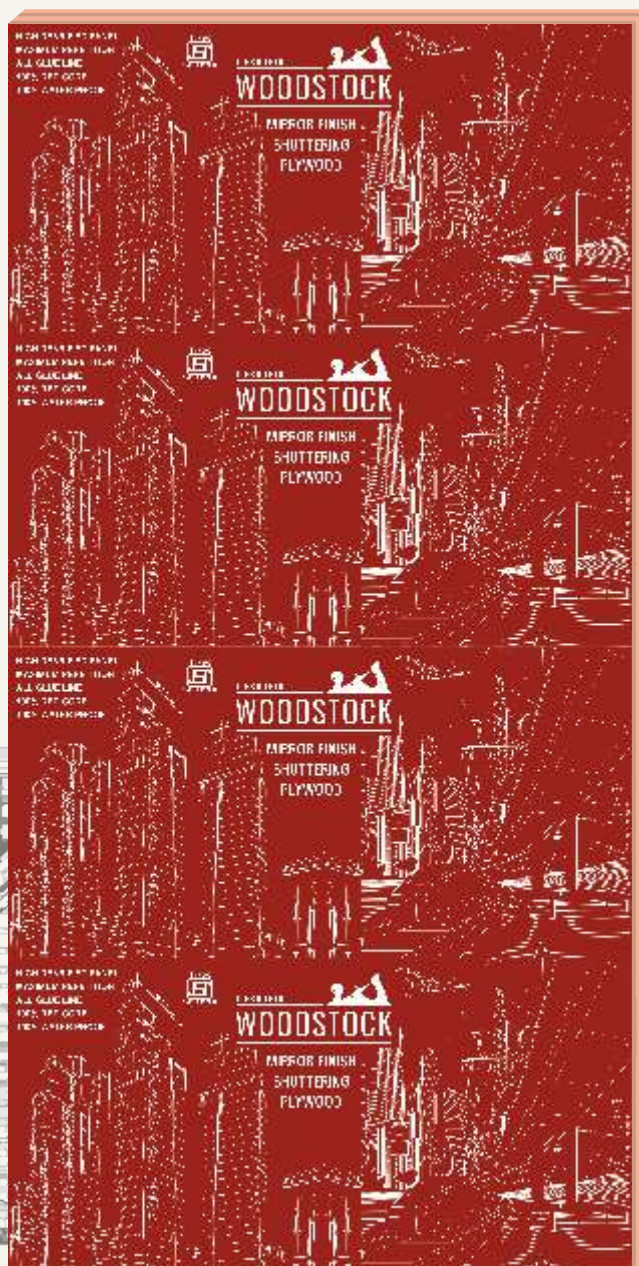
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The sector also highlighted India's unique advantage in sustainable raw material sourcing. Unlike several wood-producing nations that continue to rely heavily on natural forests, the Indian plywood industry is largely supported by agroforestry and farm-grown plantations. Poplar, eucalyptus and other cultivated species provide the backbone of the country's wood panel industry while simultaneously creating additional income for farmers and encouraging sustainable land use. Industry leaders believe this model deserves greater international recognition and should be differentiated from forest-dependent supply chains when sustainability standards are evaluated.

To strengthen the industry's long-term competitiveness, manufacturers have urged

both the Central and State governments to encourage large-scale plantations of fast-growing species such as poplar and eucalyptus. Simplified agro-forestry policies, better farmer incentives and expanded plantation programmes could significantly improve timber availability while reducing pressure on prices.

The Indian wooden panel industry has already demonstrated its willingness to embrace quality, modern manufacturing and sustainability. With continued government support, stronger raw material security and wider international acceptance of BIS standards, India is well positioned to emerge as a major global supplier of plywood, laminates and engineered wood products. The foundation has been laid; the next challenge is ensuring that Indian quality receives the global recognition it deserves.

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FIPPI

Pushing Agroforestry Policy for Jharkhand's Growth

The Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI) has proposed a comprehensive Jharkhand Agroforestry-Based Wood Industry Promotion Policy, 2026, presenting it to the Government of Jharkhand during the National Stakeholders Consultation on Industrial Promotion and Investment held in New Delhi on 9th July 2026. The draft policy seeks to position Jharkhand as a leading destination for agroforestry-based wood industries while creating a sustainable ecosystem that benefits manufacturers, farmers and rural communities alike.

The proposed framework was submitted to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the State Industries Minister and senior officials of the Industries Department. It reflects the industry's vision of transforming farm-grown timber into the foundation of a

modern, globally competitive wood products sector driven by sustainable resource management and value-added manufacturing.

The policy draws strength from India's National Agroforestry Policy and recognises the remarkable transition of the country's wood-based industries over the past three decades from dependence on natural forests to responsibly sourced agroforestry plantations. It also builds upon the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change guidelines that exempt industries using exclusively agroforestry timber from conventional licensing requirements.

FIPPI believes Jharkhand possesses enormous untapped potential. Nearly 2.66 million hectares of fallow land and over 4,200 sq. km of identified wasteland offer significant opportunities for commercial

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plantations of timber species. Regions such as Santhal Pargana and Giridih have been identified as promising locations for future agroforestry-based industrial clusters.

The proposed policy envisages attracting large-scale private investment in plywood, MDF, particle board, veneer, blockboard and other engineered wood products while simultaneously generating employment and improving farmers' incomes through market-linked tree cultivation. It also aims to establish dedicated industrial clusters supported by plug-and-play infrastructure, single-window clearances, investor facilitation and specialised Wood Sectoral Committees to coordinate industrial development.

To encourage investment, the draft recommends an extensive package of incentives, including capital subsidies, land cost reimbursement, 100 per cent stamp duty exemption, SGST reimbursement, electricity duty exemption, infrastructure support, freight reimbursement for exports and financial assistance for obtaining national and international quality certifications. Additional incentives have been proposed for MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, SC/ST

enterprises, anchor industries and early investors.

The policy also places strong emphasis on exports by proposing export development assistance, support for participation in international trade fairs, reverse buyer-seller meets and priority land allotment for export-oriented units.

Equally important is its commitment to sustainability. By encouraging agroforestry plantations instead of forest extraction, the policy aims to strengthen India's green economy while creating a reliable supply chain for the wood panel industry. It also promotes digital traceability of farm-grown timber, environmental compliance and responsible industrial practices.

For FIPPI, the proposed policy represents more than an industrial roadmap. It is a blueprint for integrating agriculture, manufacturing and environmental stewardship into a single growth model. If adopted, it could establish Jharkhand as a major hub for value-added wood products while generating rural livelihoods, attracting investment and strengthening India's position in the global wood products market.

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New Zealand Softwood

India–NZ FTA Set to Reshape Trade

The recently concluded India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected to significantly influence India's softwood market, with duty-free access for New Zealand timber likely to boost imports and put downward pressure on domestic prices.

Signed in April 2026, the agreement grants duty-free access to 100% of India's exports to New Zealand while reducing tariffs on nearly 95% of imports from the island nation. For India's timber and wood-processing industries, the pact is expected to improve the availability of competitively priced softwood, particularly New Zealand's widely used radiata pine.

India currently imports nearly 85% of its softwood requirement, with New Zealand remaining one of its largest suppliers. According to industry data, imports of New Zealand pinewood increased from approximately US\$521 million in 2019 to US\$587 million in 2024–25. Before the FTA, softwood imports attracted customs duties ranging between 5.5% and 11%, according to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

The removal of these duties is expected

to make imported timber more affordable, potentially benefiting furniture manufacturers, plywood producers, builders and other wood-processing industries that depend heavily on imported softwood.

India's softwood market is currently expanding at an estimated 11% annual growth rate and is projected to reach US\$1.06 billion by 2032, driven by rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development, housing demand and the growth of organised furniture manufacturing.

However, industry observers believe the increased availability of lower-priced imports could also alter sourcing strategies and intensify competition within the domestic timber market. While manufacturers may benefit from lower raw material costs, domestic suppliers could face pricing pressure as imported timber becomes more competitive.

As the FTA begins to take effect, stakeholders across the plywood, furniture and construction sectors will closely monitor its impact on supply chains, pricing trends and long-term market dynamics in one of the world's fastest-growing wood products markets.

For India's timber and wood-processing industries, the pact is expected to improve the availability of competitively priced softwood, particularly New Zealand's widely used radiata pine

New US standard

Strengthens Quality Benchmarks for TFL Panels

The Composite Panel Association (CPA) of the United States has introduced North America's first voluntary standard for thermally fused laminate (TFL) panels, establishing a common framework for the specification, manufacture and evaluation of these widely used decorative panel products.

The new benchmark is expected to enhance consistency, product quality and customer confidence across the composite panel industry by providing manufacturers, designers, specifiers and end-users with clearly defined performance requirements and testing protocols.

Thermally fused laminate panels are manufactured by bonding resin-impregnated decorative paper onto substrates such as particleboard, medium-density fibreboard (MDF) or plywood under carefully controlled heat and pressure. Known for their durability and attractive finishes, TFL panels have become a preferred material for furniture, kitchen cabinetry, wardrobes, flooring, office interiors and retail fixtures because of their excellent resistance to scratches, stains, abrasion and fading.

The newly introduced standard specifies key performance benchmarks covering impact resistance, surface

durability and dimensional stability. It also establishes minimum requirements for critical physical characteristics such as flatness, thickness tolerance and warp, helping ensure uniform quality regardless of the manufacturer.

Industry observers believe the standard will simplify product specification for architects, interior designers and furniture manufacturers while promoting greater transparency throughout the supply chain. By defining common testing methods and measurable performance criteria, it also reduces uncertainty when comparing products from different suppliers.

The Composite Panel Association said the voluntary standard represents an important milestone in advancing best manufacturing practices and supporting the growing use of TFL panels in residential, commercial and institutional applications.

As demand for durable, aesthetically appealing and cost-effective decorative surfaces continues to rise, the introduction of a unified industry standard is expected to strengthen confidence in TFL products, encourage higher manufacturing standards and support innovation across North America's furniture and interior design sectors.

European Commission

Eases Path to EUDR Compliance

The European Commission (EC) has unveiled a fresh package of measures to simplify the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), providing greater clarity for businesses ahead of the regulation's phased rollout by the end of 2026.

The latest package includes updated guidance documents, revised Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), a draft Delegated Act defining the scope of covered products, and enhancements to the EUDR Information System. Together, these measures are intended to help operators better understand and comply with the regulation while reducing administrative complexity.

Among the key updates are clearer explanations of due diligence obligations, traceability requirements and compliance procedures for businesses engaged in e-commerce. The Commission has also provided additional guidance for micro and small enterprises, recognising the need for proportionate compliance mechanisms for smaller operators participating in global supply chains.

A notable feature of the update is the introduction of new digital tools within the EUDR Information System. These include the option for voluntary grouping of due diligence declarations, enabling companies to

streamline reporting requirements and lower compliance-related administrative costs without compromising regulatory oversight.

The EUDR, one of the European Union's most significant environmental regulations, aims to ensure that products placed on the EU market are not linked to deforestation or forest degradation. The regulation applies to several commodities and derived products, including timber and wood-based products, making it particularly relevant for exporters, importers and manufacturers serving European markets.

The Commission's latest measures come as timber industry stakeholders across Europe and exporting countries continue preparing for implementation. While businesses have welcomed the additional guidance, industry discussions remain focused on developing practical, transparent and legally robust compliance systems that minimise disruptions to international trade.

With the implementation deadline approaching, the updated guidance is expected to provide greater certainty for supply chain operators while supporting the EU's broader objective of promoting sustainable sourcing and combating global deforestation.

A notable feature of the update is the introduction of new digital tools within the EUDR Information System

Tajpuria

Endless Charm of Plain Colour Laminates

In contemporary interior design, simplicity has emerged as a defining element of luxury. Plain colour laminates are increasingly becoming the preferred choice for architects, interior designers, and homeowners seeking clean aesthetics, understated elegance, and lasting visual appeal. Their versatility enables them to complement a wide range of design styles, from minimalist residences to premium commercial and hospitality spaces.

Tajpuria's well-curated colour laminate folder offers an extensive palette of trending plain shades in multiple finishes, including ZG (Zero Gloss), NE, FT, CR, CM, MS, CS, TS, TL, HG (High Gloss), and SF. Each finish delivers a distinct visual and tactile experience, allowing designers to create customised interiors while maintaining a refined and cohesive appearance.

Plain colour laminates enhance spaces by introducing brightness,

balance, and sophistication without overwhelming the overall design. Their adaptability makes them suitable for applications ranging from wardrobes and kitchen cabinetry to office furniture, retail displays, and wall panelling. As demand grows for timeless interiors rather than short-lived trends, these laminates continue to gain popularity across project segments.

Among the available finishes, ZG (Zero Gloss) has emerged as a standout choice. Its ultra-matte appearance, when paired with matching textured louvres or decorative panels, can closely replicate the premium look of Duco-painted surfaces. While the final outcome depends on design detailing and installation quality, the seamless finish delivers an elegant aesthetic that appeals to modern design sensibilities.

Beyond aesthetics, ZG laminates also offer practical advantages. They eliminate



the lengthy application process, surface preparation, maintenance concerns, and higher costs commonly associated with Duco finishes. This makes them an attractive solution for projects where designers seek premium visual impact without compromising efficiency or budget.

From mirror-like gloss to soft matte and textured finishes, Tajpuria's plain colour laminates continue to redefine modern interiors. Their enduring appeal lies in proving that exceptional design is often achieved not through complexity, but through the thoughtful combination of colour, finish, and flawless execution.

Amulya Mica

Opens flagship Style Studio in Gandhidham



Strengthening its footprint in western India, Amulya Mica has inaugurated a new Style Studio in Gandhidham, Gujarat, marking a significant milestone in the company's expansion strategy and reinforcing its presence across Kutch, Saurashtra and the wider Gujarat market.

Located at Goyal Avenue, opposite the LIC Office in Gandhidham, the state-of-the-art experience centre is among the first and one of the largest design studios of its kind in the Kutch district. With this launch, Amulya

Mica now operates 44 galleries across India, including two company-owned studios in Kolkata and Ludhiana.

Designed as an immersive destination for architects, interior designers, dealers, builders and homeowners, the new Style Studio showcases nearly 800 sheets across the company's diverse portfolio. Visitors can explore decorative laminates, PVC and WPC boards, plywood, and a wide range of interior and exterior surfacing solutions. A major attraction is the exclusive Imperial Series,



Amulya Mica's premium decorative laminate collection, displayed in thoughtfully curated lifestyle settings that help customers visualise products in real-world applications.

The studio was formally inaugurated on 23rd July with a traditional puja followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Dr. Nimaben Acharya, former Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, and Mrs. Divaben Nathani, Mayor of Gandhidham. The



ceremony was attended by Amulya Mica Managing Director Rakesh Agarwal, members of his family, business associates, channel partners and distinguished guests.

To commemorate the opening, the company organised a three-day networking



programme from 23rd to 25th July, attracting more than 1,000 visitors, including architects, interior designers, dealers, distributors, retailers and shop owners from Kutch and Saurashtra. Several prominent personalities from the region also visited the facility and appreciated its innovative presentation and comprehensive product displays.

Speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Agarwal said the new Style Studio reflects the company's commitment to combining innovation with customer engagement by offering an integrated platform where visitors can experience its complete portfolio under one roof. He noted that the investment demonstrates Amulya Mica's confidence in the region's growing design and construction market while making premium surfacing solutions more accessible.



The enthusiastic response from the architectural fraternity and business community has reinforced Amulya Mica's position as a trusted name in decorative laminates and interior solutions. With the Gandhidham Style Studio, the company aims to strengthen customer engagement while supporting the evolving needs of India's fast-growing furniture, interiors and construction sectors.



Amulya Mica

Honoured as Emerging Premium Laminate Brand of 2026

Amulya Mica Industries Pvt. Ltd., popularly known as Amulya Mica, has been honoured with the prestigious "Emerging Premium Laminate Brand of the Year 2026" award at the ET NOW Business Conclave & Awards 2026 – Gujarat Edition. The ceremony was held on 16th June 2026 at the Hyatt Hotel, Ahmedabad, recognising businesses that have demonstrated excellence, innovation, and sustained growth across various sectors.

The award was received on behalf of the company by Sunil Thakore, Vice President – Export, and presented by Arjun Modhwadia, Hon'ble Minister of Forest & Environment, Climate Change, Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat. The recognition marks another significant milestone in Amulya Mica's journey as it continues to strengthen its position in India's decorative laminates industry.

The ET NOW Business Conclave & Awards 2026 served as an important forum for discussions on Gujarat's evolving industrial landscape, with a strong emphasis on renewable energy, green hydrogen, biofuels, solar power, and sustainable development. The event brought together government ministers, corporate leaders, policymakers, and CSR professionals for panel discussions on balancing industrial



expansion with environmental responsibility.

The conclave also celebrated organisations that are contributing to India's economic and industrial progress across multiple sectors. Prominent companies, including Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GSFC), were among those recognised for their achievements and industry leadership.

Expressing his delight over the honour, Rakesh Agarwal, Managing Director of



Amulya Mica, described the award as a strong endorsement of the company's commitment to quality, innovation, and premium product offerings. He noted that the recognition reflects the brand's steady growth and increasing acceptance among architects, designers, dealers, and customers across domestic and international markets.

Agarwal also acknowledged the dedication of the company's employees, channel partners, distributors, business associates, and customers, whose continued trust and support have played a vital role in the company's success.

The recognition further reinforces Amulya Mica's commitment to delivering innovative decorative surfacing solutions while strengthening its position as one of India's fast-emerging premium laminate brands.



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E3

Deepening Carpenter Partnerships Through Digital Rewards

Recognising the pivotal role that carpenters play in India's furniture and interior industry, E3 Group has launched the E3 Rishta Loyalty Program, a technology-driven initiative aimed at strengthening its relationship with skilled craftsmen while creating a more rewarding and transparent engagement platform. The digital rewards programme reflects the company's growing emphasis on channel partnerships and acknowledges the influence that carpenters and operators have in product selection, quality execution and customer satisfaction.

Introduced as a nationwide campaign, the E3 Rishta Loyalty Application enables registered carpenters and operators to earn reward points by scanning QR codes on eligible E3 products. The points can subsequently be redeemed through an integrated rewards catalogue, while the application also provides users with real-time access to transaction history, exclusive promotional offers, product updates and company announcements.

The initiative is more than a conventional loyalty programme. It represents E3 Group's broader strategy of using digital technology to build long-term relationships with professionals who contribute directly to the success of the furniture and interiors sector. By combining



rewards, communication and product engagement within a single platform, the company aims to simplify interactions while offering greater transparency and convenience to its trade partners.

The response to the programme has already been encouraging. More than 20,386 carpenters from across India have enrolled on the platform, underlining growing acceptance of digital engagement tools within the woodworking community. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the leading contributor with 4,961 registrations, followed by Rajasthan with 1,725 and Madhya Pradesh with 1,538 participants. The programme has also established a significant presence in states including Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Delhi, reflecting its broad national reach.

Speaking about the initiative, Ajay



Garg, Managing Director of E3 Group, said the company has always regarded carpenters as an integral part of its growth journey. He noted that the E3 Rishta platform was created to recognise their contribution while making engagement with the brand more convenient, transparent and rewarding. According to him, the programme is built around trust, long-term relationships and technology-enabled partner support, bringing rewards, product information and communication together through a single digital interface.

Founded in 1990, E3 Group has steadily expanded its portfolio to become one of India's leading manufacturers of interior and exterior building solutions. Its product range spans HDMR and MDF boards, plywood, laminates, modular kitchens, wardrobes, hardware, acoustic panels, cladding solutions, sports turf, decking systems and several other architectural and building products. Backed by a distribution network of more than 6,000 dealers, distributors and retailers, the company serves architects, interior designers, builders and homeowners across the country.

The launch of the E3 Rishta Loyalty Program reflects a broader shift taking place within the building materials industry, where digital platforms are increasingly being used to strengthen relationships with trade professionals. As manufacturers move beyond traditional sales channels, initiatives that reward craftsmanship, encourage product familiarity and foster continuous engagement are becoming an important differentiator.

By placing carpenters at the centre of its engagement strategy, E3 Group has reinforced the message that lasting business success is built not only through quality products, but also through meaningful partnerships with the skilled professionals who bring those products to life in homes, offices and commercial spaces across India.

The response to the programme has already been encouraging. More than 20,386 carpenters from across India have enrolled on the platform, underlining growing acceptance of digital engagement tools within the woodworking community

Additives Used in Plywood Adhesives



Dr. S.K. Nath

*The article reproduced below is Chapter 26 – “Additives Used in Plywood Adhesives” from the book entitled **Plywood Manufacturing Practices in India - 2nd Edition**. The book has been compiled and edited by Dr. S.K. Nath, Joint Director (now Retd.), Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bengaluru (Karnataka). The book covers the entire production line of plywood manufacture suitable for small and medium scale industry under the Indian conditions.*

Extenders and Fillers

Synthetic phenol formaldehyde and urea formaldehyde are of major use in plywood manufacture. Pure synthetic resins are rarely used as adhesives. Plywood adhesives are mixtures of resin, filler/extenders and some other additives. The filler/extender component is the sand/screening of concrete. These substances are cheaper than resin and such substances when added to glue mix reduces glue cost without affecting its quality. Besides reducing cost, fillers/extenders perform other important functions such as control of viscosity and flow characteristics, reduce resin penetration into porous veneer and impart tack to pre-pressed veneers. There are extenders which when used in regulated quantity enhances bond quality. Filler and extender differ in their functions as they do when added to resin. Sometimes, extender may also serve the purpose of fillers. It has

therefore been the practice to use the terms fillers and extenders rather loosely and often synonymously.

Fillers

Additives which when added to resin do not undergo any physical or chemical changes in their properties may be called filler. Such inert filler is rarely available in practice and some physical changes occur to added substance acting as filler. The main function of filler when added to glue mix is to retard excess penetration of resin into porous veneer. Addition of filler to resin also improves its working properties compared to pure resin e.g. filler added resin behaves better on roller spreader and helps in obtaining thin uniform spread. Various substances both organic and inorganic origin are used as filler.

- 1) Inorganic Substances: China Clay, Chalk Powder, Slate Dust, Calcium Meta Silicate, Precipitated Silica,

Titanium Dioxide.

- 2) Materials of organic origin: Wood Flour and Bark Powder, Shell Flour – Coconut, Walnut, and Groundnut, Chest nut Kernel Powder, Rice Husk Powder.

For a substance to serve the purpose of filler, the particle size should be of the order of 100 to 200 meshes depending on chemical composition of the material. The material used as filler should be well mixed with the resin in order to ensure smooth spreading of the mix. Adding a high quantity of filler should be avoided in order to make a cheaper adhesive. Normally a quantity of 1 to 5% of filler on the weight of solid resin may be used.

The main purpose of inorganic filler is gap filling. Veneers which are bonded together to make plywood are porous and uneven to smaller or greater extent. Filler added adhesives serves to bridge gaps upto 0.25 mm. Fillers of inorganic origin serve partial gap filling properties. The use of these fillers is limited in present days for many difficulties encountered with their use such as settling, non-uniformity and abrasiveness.

Inorganic filler also impart water resistance property to glue line.

Use of organic fillers has many advantages. These substances not only have gap filling properties but many of them improve water resistance properties of glue line. Thus walnut shell flour with the presence of natural wax in the shell improves water resistance properties of the adhesive. Again coconut shell flour contains lignin which reacts with excess formaldehyde present in the resin to produce fortifying resin. Therefore, PF resins are commonly used with some nutshell flours or like other fillers.

Extenders

Extenders are substances which are added to an adhesive either to reduce the cost of glue mix or to reduce penetration through veneers or both. In practice, those substances are selected as an extender which in addition to above properties have some adhesive properties when added to an adhesive.

General properties of an Extender

An extender should have three main characteristics (1) It should readily disperse in the liquid resin giving a smooth and uniform glue mix that should maintain its viscosity



uniformly during its application, (2) It should improve the bonding capacity of the glue and increase the pot life of glue mix and (3) It should help to spread a specific quantity of glue solids without excessive dripping or squeezing out.

The quality of an extender is judged by the following properties:

- (1) Uniformity, (2) Low ash content (maximum 0.55%), (3) pH in the range 6 ± 0.2 (unbleached), (4) Viscosity (higher the better), (5) Protein (gluten) content max. 10%, (6) Medium to low water requirement, (7) should be free flowing powder – 95% of the material should be of mesh size between 100 to 200, (8) low sludge residue (associated with fibre gluten and ash), (9) minimum fat content, (10) moisture content – below 14% of the weight.

Classification of Extenders

Extenders may be broadly classified as

1) Cellulosic, (2) Inorganic, (3) Amylaceous and (4) Proteinous.

(1) Cellulosic Extender: Among this group fall materials from (a) wood flour, (b) bark powder, (c) nut shell flour and (d) alpha cellulose. These are normally used admixed with other extenders and are referred to as “Primary extenders”.

(2) Inorganic Extenders: Different types of clays, chalk powder, silicates belong to this group. Their use enjoyed some historical success, but has very limited use in

present days as a plywood glue extender. The limitations of their uses are settling, non-uniformity and abrasiveness. However, while using too porous veneer, these extenders are used in small quantities along with other types of extenders.

(3) Amylaceous Extenders: All starchy materials belong to this group. Most important of these is wheat flour which is being widely used as an extender in plywood industry both with UF and PF resins. Other starchy materials which are being used are tamarind seed powder, tapioca starch, guar seed meal powder, milo starch, de-oiled Sal seed meal, etc. Although many of these starchy materials are tacky in water solution and possess some water holding power when dispersed, these substances do not add much to bonding when plywood is hot pressed. They are normally called as “secondary extenders”. The implication is that they are added solely for cost reduction. The contribution of starchy extenders towards improvement of rheological properties of adhesive mixture are many e.g.

- (a) Greater assembly time tolerance
- (b) Better resistance to over penetration
- (c) Formation of faster and stronger prepress bond

- (d) Tackier consistency
- (e) Deeper adhesion on dense woods

Some authors have suggested use of starchy extenders after gelatinization in warm water in presence of alkali instead of directly adding powder extender to resin liquid. Starchy materials when correctly gelatinized develop very valuable colloidal properties including high viscosity. In case of un-gelatinized starchy extender, it behaves as inert filler and contributes little towards adhesive properties, whereas if the starches are gelatinized they help not only in preserving viscosity of the glue but also in contributing to dry adhesion. Starchy extenders which can be used after gelatinization are wheat flour, tapioca, tamarind seed powder, guar gum seed powder.

- (4) Proteinous Extenders: The principal protein additives to phenolic and urea resins are de-oiled groundnut cake powder, ground nut protein, soya bean flour and de-oiled maize gluten. Protein extenders normally require ammonia or caustic dispersion. It

is said that protein in the extenders undergo hydrolysis by ammonia or caustic into amino acids which react with free formaldehyde in the resin to form polymer and enhances bonding. Maize gluten, however, yields a water insoluble protein, prolamine. For extending urea or phenolic resins with proteinous extenders, it is therefore, necessary to disperse the extender materials in water in presence of alkali for about 20 to 25 minutes for hydrolysis of protein. Soya bean flour, when properly hydrolyzed can even be used to make co-polymer in phenol formaldehyde resin.

Out of the four different types of extenders mentioned above, the plywood industry uses proteins and amylaceous extenders mainly. While making choice of an extender to be added to a glue mix, care should be taken to see that the extender does not simply cheapen the glue mix by increasing volume. The objectives of adding an extender of proteinous and amylaceous type are as

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follows:

- 1) To help to control viscosity of the mixture
- 2) To improve adhesive performance including prepress bonding. Hydrolysis of proteinous extender and gelatinization of amylaceous extenders are suggested.
- 3) To aid in meeting effluent limitations (washability and filterability)
- 4) To contribute to structural integrity by maximizing wood failure through a) reduction of glue line failure due to dry out, (b) reduction of defects like voids, blows, blisters, crazing, etc.

Benefits from proper choice of extenders: It has been repeatedly mentioned that extenders are not simple substance as to add to a glue mix to obtain a cheaper glue mix. It is also not that any cheap proteinous or starchy material be used as extenders. The addition of extenders should serve specific purposes and only then benefits of adding extenders to glue mix can be obtained. The benefits are:

- 1) Smoother mix – reduction of graininess and formation of lumps
- 2) Reduction of problems associated with excessive gluten or fibre (a) reduction of “slap” at the spreaders, (b) reduction of sludge build up in spray or coater apparatus and pipe lines.
- 3) Better prepress due to higher and/or predictable viscosity.

- 4) Reduced abrasive tool wear (some high ash content flours are abrasives)
- 5) Uniform medium to low water requirement contributing to easier mixing procedures and improved quality control.

Limits of Extension

Plywood made with hot press urea resin glue extended with proteinous flours shows that the wet joint strength falls off slowly as more powder is added. No appreciable decrease in wet joint strength was apparent until 40 to 50% of extender, based on the weight of the dry resin had been added. Under dry conditions, the dry joint strength decreased still more slowly and joints containing upto 80 to 100% proteinous materials on resin exhibited high strength.

Large additions of extenders make UF and PF resin adhesives sensitive to moisture and susceptible to attack by micro-organisms. About 25-30% is considered the safe limit. Use of preservative along with the adhesive mix seems to delay the effect of micro-organism damage, but they are unable to prevent if over long periods of exposure to high moisture conditions.

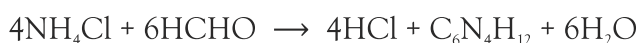
Catalysts and Hardeners

A catalyst is a material used to control the chemical changes in other bodies without undergoing any chemical changes itself and without loss of volume or weight. This term is sometimes incorrectly used when referring to hardeners which are in fact, used up during reaction. Used with synthetic resins, they promote the setting of the adhesive and can be used with or without the application of

heat.

Catalyst used with urea and some phenolic resins are often acidic substances—particularly cold setting synthetic resin adhesives frequently employ acidic type catalyst to complete their cure. A very common example is the use of para-toluene-sulphonic acid for the cure of cold setting phenol formaldehyde resin. The problem in using acidic catalyst is that since these substances do not alter chemically during the setting period may have deteriorating effect on timber in the long run.

Keeping in mind of the fact that acidic catalyst component may deteriorate timber and also of the fast curing of the resin by acidic catalysts, hardeners are used to cure resins as an alternative. With UF resin a variety of acid salts are used to make an adhesive to suit a variety of manufacturing conditions. Thus UF resins can be made to cure over a large range of speed. A very common example of UF hardener is ammonium chloride which reacts with free or bound formaldehyde in resin to release hydrogen chloride.



The generated hydrogen chloride brings down the pH and fast curing of the resin.

Fortifiers

The durability of an adhesive may be improved by adding a proportion of a more durable adhesive or a component of a durable adhesive to the inferior adhesive. The fortified adhesive or the combination of adhesives appears to produce a mixed adhesive with greater durability than the inferior one, but not as good as the better one.

Thus addition of melamine powder to urea resin, improves its water resistance power as well as durability. Urea resin is also fortified with melamine formaldehyde, resorcinol formaldehyde and casein. Phenol formaldehyde is fortified with resorcinol formaldehyde.

A sufficient quantity of the more durable adhesive must be incorporated in the mixed adhesive to achieve the required result and equal proportions of the two adhesives are not unusual.

Two adhesives may be combined for reasons other than improved durability. The reasons could, for instance, be longer



assembly period, improved viscosity or lower cost. For example, phenol formaldehyde is sometimes added to resorcinol formaldehyde to lower cost. Tannin (Mimosa) is added to phenol formaldehyde to attain low curing temperature and resistance to formation of blister even if slightly high moisture content in veneer. Replacement of phenol in phenol formaldehyde resin by naturally occurring materials such as caradnol or lignin to reduce adhesive cost has already been discussed in details. In such instances the added resins is not used as a fortifier and the durability of the original adhesive is unlikely to be improved.

Plasticizers

Plasticizers are substances which are high boiling liquids or low melting solids incorporated with adhesives to increase their flexibility and workability. Plasticizers when added to adhesives alter their deformation characteristics at a given temperature. Plasticizers form a film around the particles of the dispersion (polymer), increasing the distance between them and thus lowering the forces between them. In addition to increasing the flexibility of the dried film, they also lower the minimum film forming temperature of the adhesive. However, they tend to increase the tendency of the glue film to creep under load and should be careful to add to adhesive used for structural plywood. However, in wood bonding, where one of the substrate is flexible, plasticizer which match with the resin can be used to improve adhesion.

An example is the addition of dibutyl phthalate to polyvinyl acetate resin emulsion.

The addition of thermoplastic resin such as polyvinyl butyral or an elastomer to PF resin for bonding metal to wood is an instance of plasticization using a polymeric material. Plasticization can also be imparted by co-polymerization. Examples are the condensation of a mixture of phenol and cresols (ortho and para) or phenol and cashew nut shell liquid with formaldehyde in the manufacture of PF resins which are less brittle than pure PF resin.

Tackifying agent

These are substances when added to resin or glue mix, improves the tackiness of the resin or glue. Sometimes resin cannot be cooked to higher viscosity as during preparation water tolerance drastically comes down. Low viscous resin, when used as glue for making plywood, either moves at the valleys on veneer surface or there is higher penetration of resin into veneer leaving very less resin on veneer surface. This affects ultimate bonding of plywood. Glue viscosity can be made higher by adding more extender, but this is not desirable. Additional chemical can be added to resin during its preparation or making glue from low viscous resin to improve the viscosity and tackiness of the resin or glue. In addition to viscosity building a tackifying agent helps in holding veneer surfaces during cold pressing. Tackifiers are either resin polymer or viscosity building material of natural origin. Polyvinyl alcohol, guar gum belong to this group.

Glue line poison

These substances have no relation with bonding, but added through glue mix to protect veneer, and ultimately plywood, from

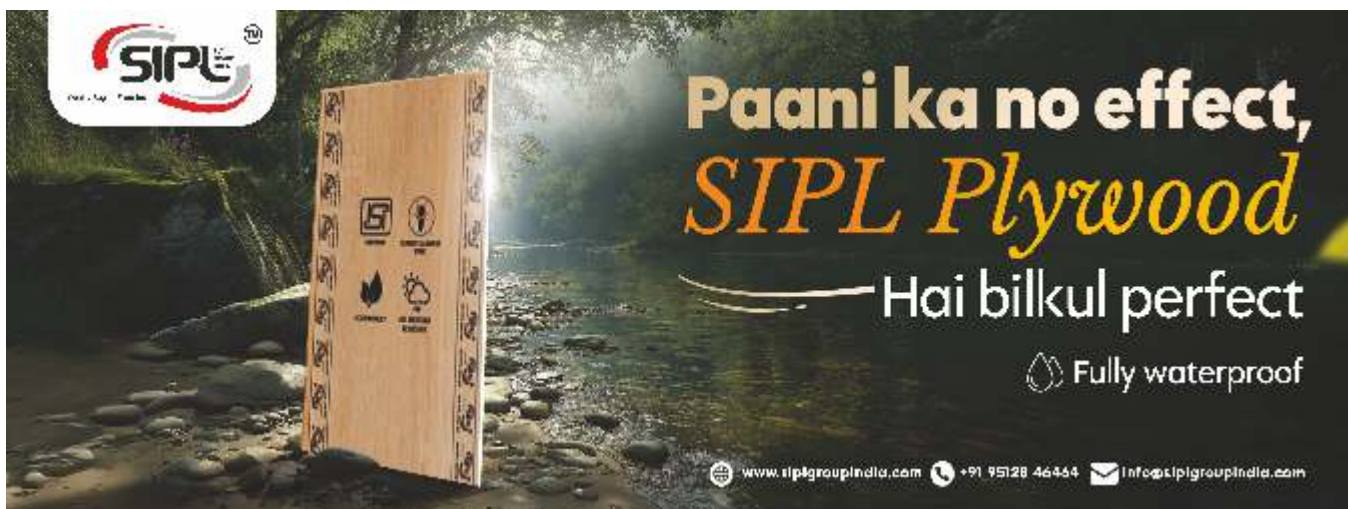
bio-degradation. Sap wood, any timber and other non-durable timber are susceptible to biodegradation and so is the plywood made out of it. Plywood made from non-durable timber has to be treated thoroughly with preservative chemicals to protect plywood from biodegradation. This can be done by dipping plywood in solution of preservative chemicals or by vacuum pressure treatment. Plywood treated by these methods tend to disintegrate and attains non acceptable surface look. Veneer can be treated with preservative chemicals, but some chemicals interfere in bonding. Adding protective chemicals with glue mix to treat veneer is better alternative to protect plywood from bio-degradation. Protective chemicals enter into veneer along with resin during glue application and subsequent pressing. Thus all the inner veneer layers within a plywood get coated with preservative chemical and become protected. A surface layer preservative coating to finished plywood is sufficient to protect plywood from bio-deterioration. Chemical from pyrethroid group and chlorinated hydrocarbons are widely used in India as glue line poisoning

chemicals. Care should be taken while using a glue line poisoner that the chemical should not interfere with curing of the resin and alter the viscosity of glue mix.

Accelerator

Substances of these class when added to glue mix helps to shorten the curing time of the resin under the same hot press condition. In India hot pressing time of plywood is comparatively higher than that used in most plywood manufacturing countries in the world. The reason being that most of the plywood mills do not go through pre-pressing of veneer assemblies before hot pressing and plywood factories uses low or medium condensed resin for making plywood fearing that high condensed resin may pre-cure under high temperature prevailing in factory floor. Accelerators are chosen from those substances which will remain dormant at ambient temperature of factory floor but will accelerate to cure the resin at higher temperature in the hot press. Among natural material tannin is added to phenolic resin to reduce the curing time of resin in the hot press.

Scavenger



The advertisement for SIPL Plywood features a large plywood board standing upright in a shallow, rocky stream. The board is marked with the SIPL logo and various certification icons. The background shows a lush forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The text on the right side of the image reads: "Paani ka no effect, SIPL Plywood Hai bilkul perfect" in a mix of bold and script fonts. Below this, it says "Fully waterproof" with a water drop icon. At the bottom, contact information is provided: a globe icon, the website "www.siplgroupindia.com", a phone icon with the number "+91 9528 46454", and an email icon with "info@siplgroupindia.com". The SIPL logo is also present in the top left corner of the image.

Substances of this nature when added to glue mix usually help in reducing formaldehyde emission from panel products. Formaldehyde emission from UF bonded plywood is a common phenomenon during service life. Inhalation of formaldehyde accumulated in commercial and residential building is injurious to human health. Formaldehyde based resins can be made using lesser proportion of formaldehyde in the formulation, but there is lowest limit beyond which the resin will not produce required bond strength in plywood. Scavenger when used admixed with glue will remain in the glue line after plywood is made and will help to remove emitted formaldehyde from the resin during service life of the panel. An example of scavenger is melamine added to urea formaldehyde resin to reduce formaldehyde emission from plywood bonded with this resin.

Solvent

Solvents are usually added to resin to make solution/dilute the resin. Water is the common solvent used with commonly used resins UF and PF for their preparation, storing and glue preparation. Any solvent, other than water, is rarely used in resin/glue making for plywood. If a resin shows tendency of lower solubility in the solvent in which it is being made and stored, then a solvent where it is more soluble or show stability, is added to the resin for storing for a longer period. Addition of methanol to melamine formaldehyde is an example.

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Komaboard

Sustainable Interiors Made Possible

Sustainable construction and interior materials are becoming a growing priority across India's building and design industry. Responding to this shift, Koemmerling has introduced KomaBoard, a premium range of PVC and WPC polymer composite sheets engineered to deliver durability, sustainability, and design flexibility for modern interiors.

Developed with German precision engineering standards, KomaBoard is designed as a high-performance alternative to conventional wood based paneling materials. The boards are completely waterproof and moisture resistant, preventing swelling, warping, and degradation in humid and monsoon conditions. They are also 100% termite and borer proof, eliminating the risk of insect related structural damage over time.

KomaBoard further enhances interior safety with fire retardant, anti-fungal, and anti-bacterial properties. Manufactured in a lead-free formulation, the sheets comply with rigorous international environmental standards and are free from formaldehyde, asbestos, lindane, PCB, PCP and CFCs.

The material is also produced without monomers, biocides, making it suitable for environments across commercial spaces.

A key advantage of KomaBoard lies in its sustainability driven material composition. Unlike conventional wood-based panels that often end up in landfills after use, these sheets are fully recyclable and support circular economy principles. Production waste and fabrication off cuts can be reintegrated into the manufacturing process, while used sheets can be recycled multiple times without significant degradation in quality.

Designed for versatility, KomaBoard features a smooth and precisely calibrated nonporous surface compatible with CNC cutting and carving machines. The boards support laminates, painting, polishing, and printing applications, enabling extensive surface customisation for interior designers and furniture manufacturers. The material is also compatible with standard woodworking tools and machinery, eliminating the need for specialised equipment.

Available in woodgrain textures and contemporary white finishes, KomaBoard is suitable for modular kitchens, wardrobes, wall panelling, false ceilings, office workstations, retail displays, partition grills, and exterior facade cladding.

Maria Decor

Introduces Asamica Collection

Modern interiors demand materials that combine aesthetics with long term performance. From kitchens and wardrobes to living spaces and commercial interiors, surfaces today are expected to withstand continuous use while maintaining their original appearance.

Maria Decor's Asamica surface collection has been developed to meet these evolving requirements through a combination of advanced material technology, refined finishes, and durable construction.

Central to Asamica is its patented ASA (acrylonitrile styrene acrylate) composition developed by LO Chem. The material is engineered to offer high resistance against scratches, fingerprints, heat, weather exposure, termites, and borers.

This allows the surfaces to maintain their smooth texture, colour consistency, and finish quality even after years of daily usage.

The collection has been designed for applications where durability is as important as appearance. Cabinet shutters, wardrobes, wall panels, and furniture surfaces are frequently exposed to moisture, heat, repeated handling and sunlight. Asamica addresses these challenges through its highly stable MA composition, helping prevent fading, surface wear, and finish deterioration over time.

One of the key highlights of the collection is its finish range. The Ultra-High Gloss series creates a reflective surface that enhances light within a space, adding a sense of openness and contemporary luxury.

The finish is designed to deliver high visual clarity while retaining resistance to scratches and fingerprints.

Complementing this is the Supermatt range, developed for softer and more understated interiors. The low reflectivity and smooth texture create a refined architectural appearance suited for modern residential and commercial spaces.

Both finishes are engineered to retain their visual depth and consistency through prolonged use. Assamica is available in a wide palette of 140 shades, giving architects, designers, and homeowners' greater flexibility in creating customised interior environments.

The collection is further supported by matching Exquiso MA edge bands that enable seamless integration across furniture and panel applications while maintaining colour continuity.

The surface collection also incorporates a 0% PVC composition, aligning with growing industry preference for responsible and performance-driven material solutions.

MumbaiWood 2026, 18th to 20th Sept,
Bombay Exhibition Centre (NESCO)

To Showcase Western India's Expanding Woodworking and Furniture Industry

Mumbai will once again become the focal point of India's woodworking and furniture manufacturing industry when MumbaiWood 2026 opens from 18th to 20th September 2026 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre (NESCO). Organised by NuernbergMesse India, the biennial exhibition has established itself as Western India's only dedicated trade fair for woodworking, furniture and mattress manufacturing technologies, bringing together manufacturers, technology providers, architects, designers and industry professionals from across India and overseas.

Positioned as the western counterpart to the highly successful IndiaWood and DelhiWood exhibitions, MumbaiWood has evolved into a comprehensive sourcing and networking platform for machinery manufacturers, raw material suppliers, furniture producers and woodworking professionals. The 2026 edition is expected to host over 200 exhibitors from 15 countries, attract more than 10,000 trade visitors, and occupy 7,000 sq. metres of exhibition space.

The exhibition reflects the growing importance of Western India as one of the country's fastest-expanding furniture and

interior manufacturing markets. Rapid urbanisation in Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Surat, a flourishing real estate sector, increasing office and retail development, expanding hospitality projects, and rising consumer demand for modular and premium furniture continue to drive investments across the value chain. Emerging manufacturing hubs such as Nagpur, Nashik, Vadodara and Rajkot are also strengthening the region's position as a major furniture production centre.

Visitors will gain access to a broad range of advanced technologies covering woodworking machinery, CNC equipment, panel processing, surface finishing, automation systems, upholstery and mattress manufacturing, packaging solutions and digital manufacturing technologies. The exhibition will also showcase laminates, veneers, plywood, MDF, particle boards, decorative surfaces, adhesives, coatings, fittings, hardware systems, lighting solutions and specialised software for furniture manufacturing.

One of the key attractions of MumbaiWood 2026 will be live demonstrations of more than 100



woodworking machines, enabling manufacturers to evaluate new technologies designed to improve productivity, precision and sustainability. Interactive workshops and technical sessions for architects, interior designers, builders and furniture manufacturers will provide valuable insights into emerging trends, smart manufacturing practices and evolving customer preferences.

The event is expected to attract a diverse audience comprising furniture manufacturers, saw millers, timber traders, plywood producers, hardware distributors, mattress manufacturers, builders, consultants, importers, exporters and educational institutions. It offers exhibitors an opportunity to launch new products, expand dealer networks, generate qualified business leads and strengthen their presence in India's rapidly growing furniture sector.

Running concurrently with INDEXPLUS, India's premier furniture and

interiors exhibition, MumbaiWood will bring together the complete furniture, interiors and woodworking ecosystem under one roof. The co-location is expected to create stronger business synergies by connecting machinery suppliers with furniture brands, architects, developers and interior professionals.

With India's furniture market projected to grow significantly over the coming decade and increasing demand for sustainable, customised and technology-driven manufacturing solutions, MumbaiWood 2026 is expected to serve as a strategic platform for innovation, collaboration and business development. As Western India continues to emerge as a major manufacturing and consumption hub, the exhibition is poised to play a vital role in shaping the future of the country's woodworking and furniture industry.

Internationale Holzmesse 2026, 2nd to 5th Sept,
Klagenfurt, Austria

Showcasing the Future of the Global Wood Industry

The global woodworking and forestry industry will converge in Klagenfurt, Austria, this September as Internationale Holzmesse 2026 opens its doors from 2nd to 5th September at the Klagenfurter Messe. Widely regarded as one of Europe's premier trade fairs for the timber sector, the exhibition will serve as a comprehensive platform for innovations in forestry, sawmilling, timber construction, carpentry and bio-energy.

Organised by the Klagenfurt Fair Company, the four-day event has earned a reputation as a meeting ground for manufacturers, technology providers, architects, forestry professionals, wood processors, researchers and policymakers from across Europe and beyond. Ranked among the Top 100 Industrial Engineering

events in Austria, Internationale Holzmesse continues to play a pivotal role in driving technological advancement and sustainable growth in the global wood industry.

The exhibition is expected to attract 20,000 to 50,000 visitors and between 100 and 500 exhibitors, reflecting its growing international significance. Visitors will have access to an extensive showcase of advanced machinery, automation systems, digital technologies, timber processing equipment, woodworking tools, engineered wood products and bio-energy solutions designed to improve productivity while supporting environmentally responsible practices.

As sustainability becomes central to industrial development worldwide, the fair will highlight innovations that promote



efficient forest management, responsible resource utilisation and circular economy principles. From smart forestry technologies and precision sawmilling to energy-efficient production systems and sustainable timber construction, exhibitors will present solutions aimed at meeting the evolving demands of modern manufacturing and green building.

One of the defining strengths of Internationale Holzmesse is its ability to connect every segment of the wood value chain under one roof. Forestry operators, sawmill owners, furniture manufacturers, carpenters, timber construction specialists and biomass energy producers will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, discover emerging technologies and forge strategic business partnerships.

Beyond the exhibition floor, the event will feature technical presentations, expert-led discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions focusing on industry trends, digital transformation, workforce development and sustainable innovation. These interactions are expected to provide valuable insights into the future direction of one of Europe's most important manufacturing sectors.

Austria's long-standing expertise in

sustainable forestry and advanced wood processing further enhances the relevance of Klagenfurt as the host city. The country's leadership in timber engineering and environmentally responsible forest management provides an ideal backdrop for showcasing innovations that are shaping the future of the global wood economy.

With increasing international attention on renewable materials and low-carbon construction, timber is emerging as a preferred solution for sustainable development. Internationale Holzmesse 2026 is expected to reflect this shift by presenting new technologies and collaborative approaches that reinforce wood's growing role in modern industry and construction.

As the countdown begins, exhibitors and visitors alike are preparing for four days of business networking, technology demonstrations and industry collaboration. For companies seeking to expand their global footprint, discover next-generation solutions or strengthen international partnerships, Internationale Holzmesse 2026 promises to be one of the year's most significant events for the woodworking and forestry industries.

PLY GAZETTE

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE INDIAN PANEL AND SURFACE INDUSTRY

WMF 2026, 5th to 8th Sept, NECC, Shanghai

Smart Manufacturing Solutions for the Global Furniture Industry

The future of furniture manufacturing will take centre stage in Shanghai this September as WMF 2026 - China International Furniture Machinery & Woodworking Machinery Fair (Shanghai) opens from 5th to 8th September 2026 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC), Shanghai. Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the exhibition has evolved into Asia's leading platform for woodworking machinery and intelligent furniture manufacturing technologies, attracting professionals from across the global wood processing and furniture sectors.

Organised jointly by the China

National Forestry Machinery Association, China Foreign Trade Guangzhou Exhibition Co., Ltd., Adsale Exhibition Services Ltd., and China Foreign Trade Macalline Exhibition Co., Ltd., WMF has become a key destination for manufacturers seeking next-generation production technologies, digital solutions and sustainable manufacturing practices.

This year's edition revolves around the theme, "The Smart Balance of Manufacturing," reflecting the industry's growing need to balance design innovation, operational efficiency, production flexibility and cost optimisation. As manufacturers worldwide respond to changing consumer



preferences and increasing demand for customised products, WMF 2026 will present integrated technologies that enable smarter, faster and more sustainable production.

Sprawling across 50,000 square metres of exhibition space, the fair will host more than 340 exhibitors and is expected to attract over 30,000 professional visitors from around the world. The exhibition will showcase the latest advancements in CNC machining centres, automated production lines, digital factories, panel processing equipment, solid wood machinery, engraving systems, upholstery technologies and CAD/CAM solutions. Visitors will also explore innovations in surface treatment, wood-based panel production, timber processing, green manufacturing, packaging technologies and advanced production materials.

One of the defining features of WMF 2026 is its emphasis on complete manufacturing solutions rather than standalone machinery. From wood pre-processing and precision cutting to edge banding, finishing, automation and factory-wide digital integration, the exhibition offers manufacturers practical pathways to modernise production while improving productivity and reducing environmental impact.

Sustainability remains a central focus throughout the event. Exhibitors will demonstrate energy-efficient equipment, eco-friendly adhesives and coatings, wood-plastic composite technologies and alternative materials that support low-emission, resource-efficient manufacturing.

These innovations are expected to play an increasingly important role as the global furniture industry embraces circular economy principles and greener production systems.

WMF 2026 will also form the manufacturing backbone of Furniture Tech Week, held alongside the 58th China International Furniture Fair (CIFF Shanghai), the Shanghai International Exhibition on Upholstery Technology for Home Furnishing, and the China International Building Decoration Fair (CBD Shanghai). Together, the four exhibitions create an integrated platform linking design, materials, machinery and manufacturing under one roof, enabling visitors to experience the complete furniture value chain.

Beyond the exhibition halls, attendees will benefit from business matching programmes, concurrent industry forums and technical sessions addressing digital transformation, intelligent factories, automation, sustainable production and emerging market opportunities.

As global manufacturers continue to invest in advanced production capabilities, WMF 2026 reinforces Shanghai's position as one of the world's leading hubs for woodworking and furniture manufacturing innovation. With its blend of cutting-edge technology, international networking and practical manufacturing solutions, the exhibition promises to be a significant milestone for businesses looking to shape the next chapter of the global furniture industry.

Shanghai Furniture & Woodworking Machinery Expo 2026, 5th to 8th Sept, NECC, Shanghai

Driving the Next Wave of Smart Furniture Manufacturing

The global furniture manufacturing industry will turn its attention to Shanghai this September as the Shanghai Furniture & Woodworking Machinery Expo 2026 opens from 5th to 8th September at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC), Shanghai, China. Co-located with the Shanghai International Furniture Machinery & Woodworking Machinery Fair (WMF 2026), the event will provide a comprehensive sourcing and networking platform that connects furniture manufacturers with machinery suppliers, material producers and technology providers from around the world.

Recognised as one of Asia's most influential trade exhibitions for woodworking machinery and furniture manufacturing equipment, the expo continues to strengthen its position as a gateway to the latest industrial technologies, intelligent manufacturing systems and sustainable production solutions.

Organised by Adsale Exhibition Services Ltd., the exhibition is expected to attract a diverse international audience, including furniture manufacturers, traders, building contractors, architects, interior

designers, research institutions and industrial associations. The event is designed to address the rapidly evolving needs of both custom and mass furniture production through integrated manufacturing solutions and advanced production technologies.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore an extensive range of products and services covering every stage of furniture manufacturing. The exhibition will feature woodworking and wood-processing machinery, furniture production equipment, panel manufacturing systems, cutting tools, knives and blades, automation technologies, machinery accessories, hand tools, measuring equipment and material handling systems. The materials showcase will include timber, logs, panel boards, semi-finished wood products, hardware, chemicals, decorative materials and furniture components, offering manufacturers a complete sourcing ecosystem under one roof.

A major attraction of the event will be its focus on intelligent manufacturing. Digital production systems, automation technologies and software solutions designed to improve efficiency, precision and

productivity are expected to dominate the exhibition floor. As manufacturers increasingly invest in Industry 4.0 technologies, the expo will provide valuable insights into smart factories, connected production lines and data-driven manufacturing processes that are transforming the global furniture industry.

The exhibition gains additional significance through its co-location with WMF 2026, enabling visitors to experience complementary technologies ranging from primary wood processing and surface treatment to advanced machinery, finishing solutions and sustainable manufacturing practices. This integrated format allows industry professionals to evaluate complete production workflows while identifying technologies that enhance competitiveness and operational efficiency.

The venue itself adds to the stature of the event. The National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC), Shanghai, is among the world's largest exhibition and convention complexes, spanning more than 1.5 million square metres. Its state-of-the-art

facilities, expansive exhibition halls and seamless connectivity to Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport and Hongqiao Railway Station make it one of Asia's premier destinations for international trade events.

Beyond product showcases, the expo offers an ideal platform for business networking, supplier engagement and market intelligence. Manufacturers can interact directly with machinery developers, technology specialists and material suppliers while exploring emerging trends that are reshaping furniture production across global markets.

With sustainability, automation and customisation continuing to redefine the furniture sector, the Shanghai Furniture & Woodworking Machinery Expo 2026 promises to deliver practical solutions and strategic business opportunities. By bringing together innovation, manufacturing expertise and international collaboration, the exhibition is set to reinforce Shanghai's position as a leading hub for the future of woodworking and furniture production.



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Saudi Wood Expo 2026, 30th Aug to 1st Sep,
RFECC, Riyadh

Set to Strengthen Middle-East's Expanding Wood Industry

Saudi Arabia's rapidly growing wood and woodworking sector will take centre stage later this year as Saudi Wood Expo 2026 returns for its third edition from 30th August to 1st September at the Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center (RFECC). Organised by dmgevents and co-located with Big5 Construct Saudi and the Saudi Industrial Expo, the exhibition has established itself as

the Kingdom's largest and most trusted dedicated event for the wood and woodworking industries.

Reflecting the momentum of Saudi Arabia's construction and manufacturing sectors under Vision 2030, the three-day exhibition is expected to attract more than 35,000 industry professionals across its co-located events. The expo will feature over 200



exhibitors from more than 20 countries, presenting 3,500-plus products and solutions spanning the entire wood industry value chain.

As Saudi Arabia accelerates investment in residential communities, hospitality projects, commercial developments and industrial infrastructure, demand for timber products, engineered wood, woodworking machinery and interior solutions continues to rise. Industry analysts estimate the Kingdom's wood market to be worth approximately US\$4.1 billion, creating significant opportunities for manufacturers, suppliers and technology providers.

Saudi Wood Expo 2026 aims to address these market requirements by providing a comprehensive sourcing platform for

architects, designers, contractors, manufacturers, distributors and procurement professionals. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the latest innovations in timber, hardwood and softwood, laminates and veneers, wood composites, flooring systems, doors and windows, furniture components, woodworking machinery, power tools, adhesives, coatings, Thermowood products and digital manufacturing technologies.

One of the exhibition's defining strengths is its international character. More than 80 per cent of exhibitors are expected to come from overseas, bringing global expertise and advanced manufacturing solutions to the Saudi market. Leading companies including Salco Laminates

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Industry, Kastamonu Entegre, Desert Board, Unilam Wood Industry, Ilim Timber, Cyprus Forest Industries, Freud SpA, Tan Timber and Al Arak Wooden Manufacturing are among the prominent brands scheduled to participate.

Beyond product displays, Saudi Wood Expo will offer visitors an interactive business environment where machinery demonstrations, technical discussions and live product presentations provide practical insights into modern woodworking technologies. Dedicated networking opportunities will enable manufacturers, suppliers, government representatives and industry leaders to exchange ideas, establish partnerships and explore new business opportunities.

The exhibition's co-location with Big 5 Construct Saudi further enhances its value proposition by connecting the wood industry with the Kingdom's broader construction, design, fit-out and manufacturing ecosystem. This integrated platform allows visitors to source products across multiple sectors while gaining a comprehensive understanding of emerging market trends and project requirements.

Speaking ahead of the event, Muhammed Kazi, Senior Vice President of dmG events, noted that Saudi Wood Expo continues to play a vital role in connecting suppliers, manufacturers and buyers while supporting the Kingdom's industrial diversification objectives and strengthening a more competitive wood industry.

Hosted at the state-of-the-art Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center, the event will run daily from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., providing industry professionals with ample opportunities to explore innovations, attend knowledge sessions and conduct business meetings.

As Saudi Arabia continues to reshape its urban landscape through ambitious mega projects and sustainable development initiatives, Saudi Wood Expo 2026 is expected to reinforce its position as the Kingdom's premier marketplace for wood products, machinery and manufacturing technologies. For businesses seeking to expand their regional presence, identify new suppliers or stay ahead of industry trends, the exhibition promises to be one of the Middle East's most significant woodworking events of the year.



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Pfleiderer

Launches Bio-Based Gluing for Greener Interiors

German wood-based panel manufacturer Pfleiderer Deutschland GmbH has introduced OrganicBoard Pure P2, an innovative decorative chipboard that combines high performance with a significantly more sustainable raw material concept. The new panel is manufactured using 100% recycled wood and features OrganicGlue, a bio-based adhesive derived from renewable raw materials sourced from other industrial processes.

By replacing conventional fossil-based binders, the company has taken a major step towards reducing dependence on natural gas and urea, while lowering the environmental footprint of panel production. The wood used in OrganicBoard continues to store carbon throughout the product's lifecycle, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to climate protection.

Designed for furniture and interior

applications, OrganicBoard Pure P2 features decorative surfaces on both sides and offers low emissions, anti-microbial properties, easy maintenance and reliable machinability. These characteristics make it suitable for a wide range of projects, including residential interiors, offices, hotels, restaurants, educational institutions and healthcare facilities.

Pfleiderer says the product demonstrates that sustainability need not come at the expense of quality or design flexibility. OrganicBoard is available in an extensive range of decors and surface textures, fully compatible with the company's DST System, enabling seamless integration across furniture and interior design projects. FSC and PEFC-certified variants are also available on request, further strengthening its credentials as an environmentally responsible solution for the modern woodworking and furniture industries.



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**DREMA 2026, 8th to 11th Sept,
Poznań International Fair, Poland**

Shaping Smart Wood Manufacturing

The European woodworking and furniture manufacturing industry will gather in Poznań, Poland, this September as DREMA 2026, the International Trade Fair of Machines, Tools and Components for the Woodworking and Furniture Industries, returns for its 42nd edition. Scheduled from 8th to 11th September at the Poznań International Fair (MTP Expo), the event is widely regarded as the leading woodworking exhibition in Central and Eastern Europe and one of the world's foremost trade fairs for the sector.

Organised by Poznań International Fair Ltd., DREMA has earned international recognition as the only woodworking exhibition in Poland officially endorsed by EUMABOIS, the European federation

representing woodworking machinery manufacturers. Today, it stands alongside the world's most influential industry exhibitions, attracting leading manufacturers, technology providers, furniture producers and timber processors from across Europe and beyond.

This year's edition places strong emphasis on the digital transformation of manufacturing. Under the banner of DREMA 5.0, artificial intelligence, robotics and smart factory technologies will dominate discussions and live demonstrations, reflecting the industry's accelerating shift towards intelligent production systems. Visitors will experience advanced CNC machining, automated manufacturing lines, sawmill technologies, digital production



planning and integrated software solutions designed to improve efficiency, precision and sustainability.

Among the major attractions is the AI DREMA 5.0 Forum, organised in collaboration with the Poznań University of Life Sciences and the Łukasiewicz Research Network. The forum will explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping furniture manufacturing, production management and woodworking processes, offering practical insights into the future of industrial automation.

The exhibition will also introduce several new features, including the Future Forward networking zone, designed to encourage collaboration between manufacturers, technology providers and industry professionals. The Technologists' Forum will focus on sustainable manufacturing and next-generation production techniques, while the Young Carpenter Academy aims to inspire and equip the next generation of skilled woodworking professionals.

Expanding its scope beyond machinery, DREMA 2026 will feature dedicated thematic zones showcasing industrial design, furniture restoration and wooden flooring technologies. Together, these additions reflect the exhibition's growing role as a platform that connects innovation, craftsmanship and sustainable manufacturing across the entire wood value chain.

Running concurrently with Furnica, the international exhibition for furniture components, and Sofab, dedicated to upholstery technologies, DREMA offers

visitors a comprehensive view of the furniture manufacturing ecosystem. This integrated format enables manufacturers to source machinery, production technologies, components, materials and accessories within a single business platform.

The exhibition will showcase machinery and equipment covering primary timber processing, laminating, gluing, surface finishing, assembly, packaging, warehousing, dust extraction, wood energy systems, environmental protection, occupational safety and CAD, ERP and production planning software. Research institutions, educational organisations and specialist service providers will also be represented, reinforcing the fair's reputation as a complete knowledge and technology hub.

In addition to live machinery demonstrations, visitors can attend technical presentations, industry congresses and product launches while witnessing some of the latest innovations competing for the prestigious MTP Gold Medal and Acanthus Aureus awards, recognising excellence in product innovation and exhibition design.

Manufacturers worldwide are continuing investing in automation, sustainability and digital transformation, and DREMA 2026 is expected to provide valuable insights into the future of woodworking and furniture production. By combining cutting-edge technologies with industry collaboration and knowledge exchange, the exhibition reaffirms Poznań's position as one of Europe's foremost destinations for innovation in the global wood and furniture industries.

**TIWF 2026, 16th to 18th Sept, Hall 5-6,
IMPACT Exhibition & Convention Centre, Bangkok**

To Drive ASEAN Wood Industry

Thailand is set to reinforce its position as a regional hub for the woodworking and furniture manufacturing industry with the Thailand International Woodworking & Furniture Exhibition (TIWF 2026), scheduled from 16th to 18th September 2026 at Hall 5-6, IMPACT Exhibition & Convention Centre, Bangkok. Organised with the support of Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and key forestry and industry institutions, the biennial exhibition is expected to bring together leading manufacturers, technology providers and buyers from across the global wood value chain.

Positioned as Southeast Asia's premier face-to-face platform for woodworking machinery,

furniture manufacturing technologies, materials, fittings and industrial services, TIWF 2026 will build on the success of its previous edition. While TIWF 2024 attracted more than 400 exhibitors and 8,000 trade visitors, the 2026 edition is expected to host over 350 exhibiting companies, 200 global suppliers and more than 10,000 trade buyers and professionals from around the world.

The exhibition will showcase a comprehensive spectrum of products and technologies spanning solid wood processing machinery, panel production systems, MDF and particle board manufacturing equipment, veneer peeling, finishing technologies, packaging systems and waste management solutions.

Visitors will also explore the latest developments in decorative laminates, plywood, veneers, engineered wood products, mass timber, coatings, adhesives, hardware, lighting systems and modular furniture components.

Beyond product displays, TIWF 2026 has been designed as a knowledge and business networking platform. A structured Business Matching Programme will facilitate pre-arranged one-to-one meetings between exhibitors and hosted buyers, while conferences, technical workshops, factory visits, certification programmes and live technology demonstrations will encourage collaboration and technology transfer. A dedicated Technology

Demonstration Zone, Thailand Woodworking Showcase Pavilion and Carpentry MasterClass are among the event's major attractions.

Sustainability will remain the core of this year's conference agenda. Industry experts will discuss carbon capture through timber, net-zero manufacturing strategies, sustainable reforestation, green factory models, high-rise timber construction, ASEAN wood trade opportunities and emerging design trends under the "Wood Living 2026" forum. The event's "Greening the Wood Industry" initiative further underscores Thailand's commitment to balancing industrial growth with responsible forest management.

Thailand offers a compelling backdrop for the exhibition. The country remains one of the world's largest importers of woodworking machinery, importing equipment worth approximately US\$60.8 million, while its exports of wood products and furniture continue to register strong growth. Rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development and increasing demand for automation have further strengthened investment in advanced manufacturing technologies.

TIWF 2026 also enjoys the support of more than 15 leading industry organisations from Thailand and overseas, including associations representing furniture, timber, machinery, certification, forestry,

education and international trade. The participation of organisations from India, Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia reflects the exhibition's growing importance as a regional marketplace for innovation and business development.

As manufacturers increasingly pursue automation, sustainability and export competitiveness, TIWF 2026 promises to serve as a strategic gateway to the rapidly expanding ASEAN woodworking and furniture market, offering valuable opportunities for technology providers, material suppliers, furniture manufacturers and industry professionals to forge new partnerships and shape the future of the sector.

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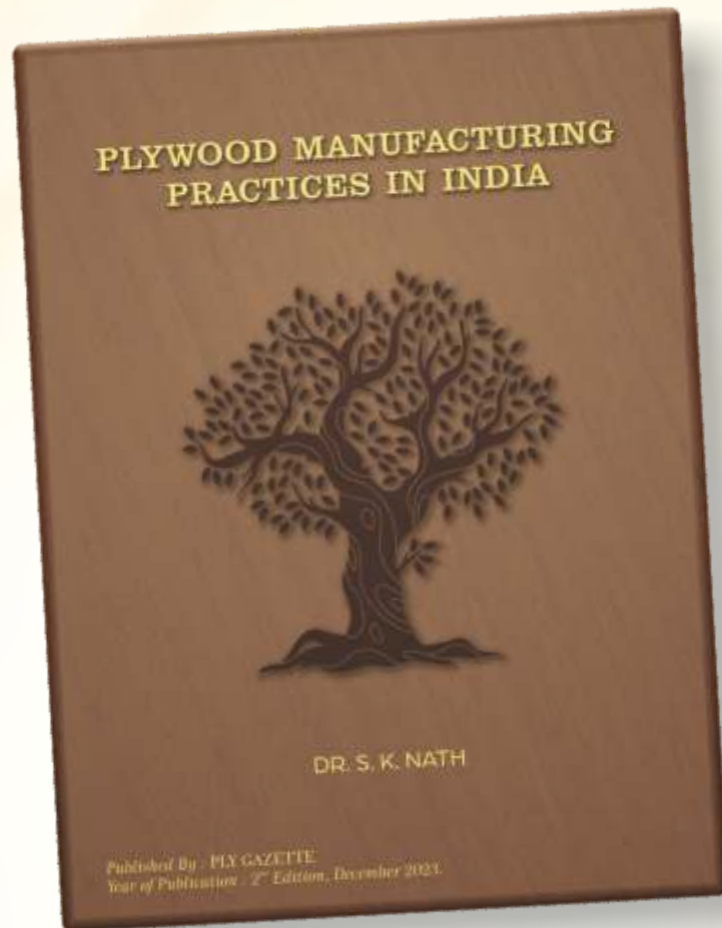
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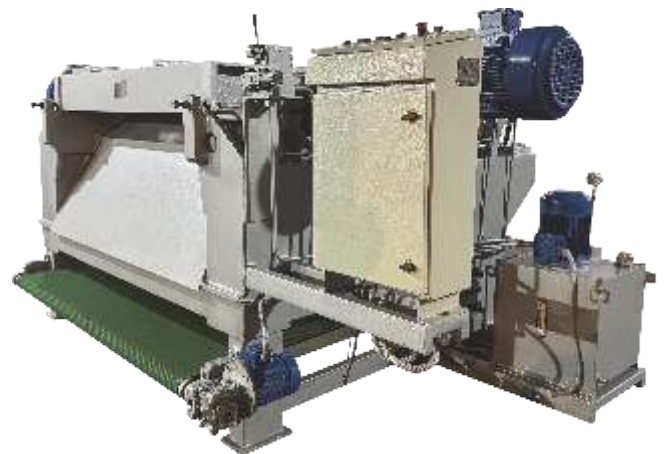
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