

# CONVENER REPORT

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Committee for International Trade 2024–2025

3rd Managing Committee Meeting – Kolkata, 21st & 22nd June 2025

Respected Members,

I extend my sincere gratitude to our esteemed President, Shri Mehul Mehta, for nominating me to this prestigious position. It is an honour to serve as the Convener of the International Trade Committee for 2024–2025.

Our committee comprises the following esteemed members:

- - Shri Shekhar Chandak (Mentor) – Chennai
- - Shri Yashaswi Patel – Pune
- - Shri Piyush Jain – Delhi
- - Shri Sanjeev Kumar Baldwa – Hyderabad

## Current Price Overview (Indicative – June 2025)

Product	Price (USD/MT)
Hardwood Pulp	540+
Softwood Pulp	850+
Woodfree Paper (Reels)	720
Coated Paper & Board (China)	680
Hi Bulk FBB (China)	600
Coated (Korea/Indonesia)	770
Newsprint (European)	550–580

\*Note: All prices are indicative and subject to fluctuation.\*

## Anti-Dumping Investigations

The ongoing investigation against multilayered packaging boards from China and Chile is expected to conclude by September 2025. An oral hearing is scheduled for 12th June 2025. I will share key insights during our meeting in Kolkata.

IPMA has also filed a fresh petition against imports of Virgin Grade Packaging Board from Indonesia.

## **Government Regulations & BIS Certification**

The Government of India has invited comments on the draft Quality Control Order for:

- Writing & printing paper
- Coated paper and boards (BIS Standards)

FPTA actively participated in the consultation and submitted formal recommendations. BIS certification implementation is likely in H2 2025, with potential supply chain implications for imports.

## **Minimum Import Price (MIP)**

A stakeholder consultation was held on 15th May 2025, chaired by Shri Sanjiv (Joint Secretary, DPIIT), to discuss the imposition of MIP on Virgin Multilayer Paper Board (VPB).

### **Shri Dalip Bindal ji, IPP represented FPTA at the meeting**

Key Highlights:

1) The representatives from the paper manufacturing companies, TPM

Consultants, and IPMA strongly advocated for immediate remedial action in the form of a Minimum Import Price (MIP) on imports of VPB. They specifically recommended that the MIP be based on the landed price of the product, rather than the CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) price

2) On the contrary, the importers and user industries opposed the imposition of an MIP on the product. They cautioned that imposition of MIP would significantly affect their operations and ultimately increase the burden on end consumers.

They also expressed their intention to submit written representations on the matter.

3) After due deliberations, the following decisions were made: -

a) TPM Consultants would provide details regarding the weighted average export price at which domestic manufacturers export the product.

b) Importers and user industries may submit their written representation at the earliest.

We await further communication regarding the next meeting by DPIIT. If it occurs before 21st June, I will share updates in person.

## Segment-Wise Market Analysis

### Virgin Grade Packaging Board

The market continues to face a supply-demand mismatch, particularly due to imports from China and Indonesia. Domestic manufacturers are attempting price hikes due to increasing input costs, but weak demand and oversupply have prevented market correction. This imbalance is putting pressure on both international and domestic prices, with significant implications for trade margins and planning.

### C2S (Coated Two-Side) Paper

Prices remain under pressure over the past 6 months. Despite shutdowns by Chenming (China) and their shift to higher GSM production, demand remains weak. Domestic expansion:

- Naini Paper's new coated machine is expected to add ~400 MT/month in C1S & C2S.
- Silverton will also commission similar capacity by year-end.

Demand shrinkage post-COVID, combined with rising domestic capacity, is expected to strain prices further.

### Kraft & Woodfree Paper

Virgin Kraft (USA): Prices range between \$600–\$620/MT.

A-Grade Woodfree Paper: Pricing is stable.

Recycled & Agro-based Paper (Maplitho, Creamwove): Demand is weak, and mills are unable to implement price hikes.

## Industry Outlook & Takeaways

- The global paper market remains volatile, driven by fluctuating demand and macroeconomic shifts.
- Tariff changes by the USA have introduced uncertainty. Shipping freights have spiked globally in a rush to meet delivery before the 90-day relief ends. Freight rates are expected to ease by July 2025.
- Stakeholders must remain vigilant and data-driven in planning and procurement.
- Always verify market intelligence through credible industry sources, not informal channels or social media.

### International Trip to Indonesia

A heartfelt thanks to all member associations for the overwhelming response to the upcoming FPTA International Trip to Indonesia.

The itinerary includes:

- April Fine Mill
- APP PINDO Deli Unit
- Indian Embassy in Jakarta

We are happy to share that the trip is fully booked, with a waiting list.

## Conclusion

Given the current dynamics, it is essential for all industry stakeholders to practice strategic planning and informed decision-making. As your committee, we remain committed to:

- Monitoring global trends
- Advocating policy support
- Fostering international relations.

Let's work together toward a more resilient and dynamic paper trade environment.

Warm regards,

Hiren J. Karia

Convener, International Trade Committee

FPTA 2024–2025