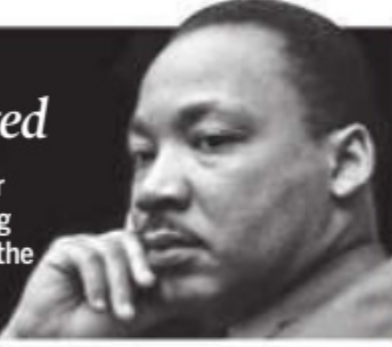




DAY'S DIARY

King Jr. assassinated

On this day in 1968, Martin Luther King was shot dead while standing outside his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Tennessee



MAN BEHIND THE MURDER

James Earl Ray pled guilty to the shooting and received a 99-year prison sentence. He claimed that he had been framed by a conspiracy responsible for King's assassination



AFTERMATH

As the news broke, cases of rioting, arson, looting, and violence were reported. Around 27,000 people were arrested, 3,500 were injured, and 40 plus were killed



FUNERAL RITES

On April 9, a seven-and-a-half hour series of funeral rites was held in Atlanta. Here, Abernathy stated that "one of the darkest hours of mankind" was at hand

Grey matters

PG 4



## Stage set for super king

The Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) vs Chennai Super Kings (CSK) match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Uppal is a highly anticipated battle on the cricket field on April 5, 2024. This encounter promises excitement, so much so that the tickets are sold out. Fans can watch the action live at special big screens of pubs and malls. CSK boasting a history of success and a seasoned lineup aim to assert their dominance away from home with MS Dhoni behind the stumps (may be for the last time for city crowd). Fans can check for tickets online via PayTM Insider for future matches. Ticket prices for each match may vary, with the starting price set at ₹750 and going up to ₹30,000 based on seating preferences.

File pic: PTI

Pics: Sri Loganathan Velmurugan

## XPRESS FOCUS

### UFlex Begins Commercial Production of Poly-Condensed Polyester Chips in Panipat, India, and a CPP Packaging Film production in Russia

New Delhi: UFlex, India's largest multinational flexible packaging and solutions company, announces a significant milestone in its global journey of expansion and innovation. Starting March 31, 2024, the company has successfully commenced commercializing poly-condensed polyester chips at its manufacturing facility in Panipat, India. In addition, it announced the commissioning of a 6.5-meter-wide Cast Polypropylene (CPP) Film Line with an installed capacity of 18,000 metric tons per annum (MTPA) in Russia through its subsidiary Flex Films Rus LLC, Russia.

UFlex's polyester chips manufacturing plant has an impressive installed capacity of 168,000 metric tons per annum (MTPA) and reaffirms the company's commitment to expanding its verti-



cal integration footprint. The Panipat plant will primarily manufacture poly-condensed polyester chips, which is a key raw material required to produce BOPET packaging films. In addition to catering to its in-house packaging film production, the facility will cater to third-party customers, contributing to the growth and sustainability of the packaging film industry in India. The Panipat facility complements the company's packaging films India footprint in Noida, the National Capital Region, and Dharwad, Karnataka, further solidifying UFlex's presence and capabilities in serving its packaging film customers across the country.

The CPP packaging film line in Russia will complement the existing capacity of one 8.7-meter-wide Biaxially Oriented Polyethylene Terephthalate (BOPET) Film Line with a capacity of 30,000 TPA and one 2.85-meter-wide plasma enhanced avant-garde metallizer with a capacity of 8,000 TPA.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ashok Chaturvedi, Chairman and Managing Director, UFlex Limited, said, "We are ex-

tremely buoyant about the commissioning of our Polyester chips plant in Panipat, and the CPP line in Russia. Now more than ever, our customers are interested in reliability, speed, and quality in their supply chain, and this expansion will allow us to deliver on those expectations. We are relying on our vertical integration strategy to meet the ever-increasing demand of the packaging industry and are betting on new capacities, expanded global footprint, and the ability to deliver quality, innovation, and customized solutions that the industry expects from UFlex. Leveraging advanced technology and sustainable practices, the company remains dedicated to delivering superior products and solutions that address the dynamic needs of the packaging market".



ASHOK CHATURVEDI  
Chairman and Managing Director, UFlex Limited

### A GUIDE TO FEMALE SOLO TRAVEL IN SAUDI

Solo travel signifies a journey of independence and self-discovery for women all over the world and as they continue to embrace this empowering experience, Saudi emerges as a top destination, offering a multitude of compelling reasons for solo adventurers to explore its diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage.

**Safety Priority:** Saudi consistently ranks as the safest destination among G20 nations, providing reassurance to solo female travellers. Medina, in particular, has been recognized for its exceptional safety standards, ensuring a secure environment for exploration. The culture of spirituality and hospitality further enhances the sense of safety and well-being for visitors.

**Warm Saudi Hospitality:** Hospitality is deeply ingrained in Saudi culture, epitomizing kindness and generosity towards tourists. Locals readily extend a warm welcome to solo travellers, offering assistance and guidance whenever needed. Even though dress code is relaxed and dependent on individual establishments, one may find

themselves embracing the vibrant local customs, from wearing traditional, yet fashionable attire like the abaya to experiencing the genuine camaraderie of Saudi society.

**Wellness Retreat:** Saudi emerges as a wellness capital, boasting diverse regions that champion bespoke wellness



experiences year-round. From the serene Red Sea to the lush mountains of Aseer, travelers can rejuvenate amidst breathtaking scenery and indulge in holistic wellness practices. Luxury retreats like Habitas AIUla and Six Senses Southern Dunes offer tailored wellness programs to promote relaxation and rejuvenation.

**Inspiring Saudi Women:** Women empowerment is at the forefront of Saudi's cultural transformation, with female entrepreneurs driving innovation across various sectors. Currently, women make up to 45% of Saudi's workforce. From tourism to arts and fashion, women are making significant contributions, shaping the country's vibrant cultural landscape.

**Unique Destination with Soul:** Saudi offers a captivating blend of history, heritage, and natural beauty, making it an ideal destination for soulful exploration. From UNESCO World Heritage Sites to bustling cosmopolitan hubs like Jeddah and Riyadh, every corner of the Kingdom invites travellers to immerse themselves in its rich tapestry of culture and tradition. Experience the allure of ancient ruins, vibrant markets, and breathtaking landscapes that define Saudi's unique identity. And for the first time, you can experience Saudi's Red Sea project. The new luxury destination recently opened its doors to guests with the launch of the Six Senses Southern Dunes and The St. Regis Red Sea Resort.

### FOUNDER SPEAK

## Motilal Oswal Alternates backed Simpolo Group's Rs. 1,000 crore expansion, serving as a catalyst for a new era in India's Ceramic Industry.

Simpolo Group, a pioneering force in the ceramic industry, is proud to announce an expansion that will triple its existing capacity, a huge leap in India's ceramic industry. With an investment of over ~ Rs. 1,000 crore over the next two to three years, the group is embarking on a transformative journey, setting the stage for two ground-breaking manufacturing facilities strategically located across the nation.

Expansion Details:

- 1) **Malia, Morbi, Gujarat:** Spanning an extensive area of approximately 86 acres, the Malia plant represents a bold step forward for Simpolo Group. With an investment of Rs. 650 crores, this visionary project is slated to commence operations in FY26. The Malia plant is poised to emerge as a cornerstone of innovation and excellence in the ceramic industry. This strategic investment underscores our unwavering commitment to meeting the burgeoning demand for premium ceramic products in India and providing more than 400 employment opportunities.
- 2) **Naidupeta, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh:** Nestled across 83 acres of pristine land, the Naidupeta plant in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, epitomises Simpolo Group's relentless pursuit of excellence. With an investment of over Rs. 350 crores, this visionary endeavour is scheduled to commence operations in FY25. Over the next two years, the plant aims to scale its production capacity to an impressive 13.2 million square meters per annum, a testament to our dedication to modernization and progress. Moreover, the Naidupeta plant is poised to serve as a catalyst for socio-economic development, with projections indicating the creation of 300 direct and indirect employment opportunities.



Mr. Jitendra Aghara, CMD of Simpolo Group, remarked, "The unveiling of our Rs. 1,000 crore expansion plan marks a pivotal moment in Simpolo Group's illustrious, 30-year-old journey. With the establishment of the Malia and Naidupeta plants, we are poised to consolidate our position in the Indian ceramic industry. Our conviction in innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction remains unwavering, and we are confident that these state-of-the-art facilities will set new benchmarks for excellence, showcasing the opportunities we see in the future of the tile industry and real estate growth in India."



As the Chief Marketing Officer of Simpolo Group, Mr. Bharat Aghara expressed, "I am thrilled about the expansive opportunities presented by our latest expansion initiative. With increased production capacities and a commitment to delivering cutting-edge designs, we are poised to meet the diverse needs of our esteemed customers while maintaining our competitive edge in the market. This expansion will help us penetrate new geographies and product segments."

Additionally, Simpolo Group's subsidiary, Nexion, currently operates a facility in Morbi with a robust production capacity of 6.6 million square metres per annum.

Simpolo Group is a significant player in the Indian ceramic industry, with a numero uno position in the premium tile market. As Simpolo Group embarks on this ambitious expansion journey, we invite stakeholders, partners, and enthusiasts alike to join us in our pursuit of excellence. With the unveiling of the Malia and Naidupeta plants, we are not merely expanding our footprint but consciously making an effort to redefine industry standards and elevate the bar for innovation and sustainability.



For More Details visit <https://www.simpolo.net/>