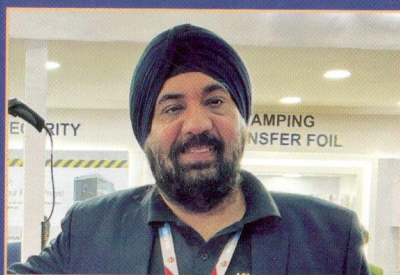


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ASPA's roadmap for fighting
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UFlex Chemicals Business unveils sustainable innovations at Printpack India 2025

MAHAN HAZARIKA

At Printpack India 2025, UFlex Chemicals showcased its innovative breakthroughs in printing inks, adhesives, and coatings solutions. Reflecting on the journey of UFlex Chemicals since 1994, the company has been continuously expanding its product portfolio to meet evolving market demands. "We initially focused on flexible packaging but have since expanded into offset packaging, narrow web packaging, and corrugation," explains Rajesh Srivastava, senior vice president, Chemicals Business, UFlex.

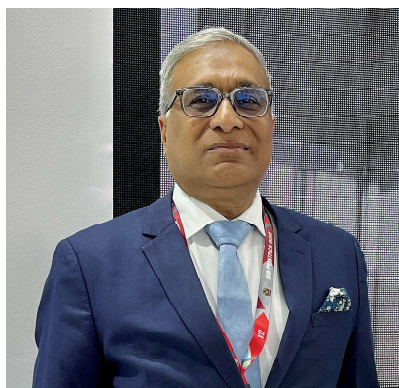
STANDING OUT IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET

"The printing inks and coatings market is becoming increasingly competitive, with customer expectations continuously rising. However, UFlex Chemicals business is focusing on value addition and performance enhancement," says Srivastava.

With advancements in printing and packaging, there is a growing demand for high-performance inks and adhesives compatible with advanced machinery, such as high-speed rotogravure and flexo machines, paper bag-making machines, and label printing presses. "Our strength lies in our deep understanding of application chemistry as we provide customized solutions driven by innovation and knowledge," he says.

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE CORE

Sustainability remains a top priority for UFlex. "We are committed to the 3Rs of sustainability – Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse," Srivastava says. The company



Rajesh Srivastava, senior vice president, Chemicals Business, UFlex, at the show.
Photo: The Packman

is actively developing water-based inks for flexible packaging, corrugated board printing, and paper bag printing. Additionally, it has successfully introduced water-based laminating adhesives for paper-based laminate substrates.

"Switching to water-based solutions significantly reduces solvent emissions and energy consumption," he explains. "Another major initiative is our LED-based inks for offset, narrow web and flexible packaging. LED curing reduces energy costs significantly compared to conventional UV lamps, helping lower carbon emissions."

Beyond these efforts, UFlex is actively working on green chemistry, including oil-based PU formulations, to further enhance sustainability. "Sustainability is no longer just a trend – it gives us a serious view to think about the future, and we are dedicated to developing sustainable solutions that truly make a difference," Srivastava adds.

REGULATORY CHANGES AND THEIR IMPACT

In India, food packaging regulations are becoming more stringent. "The FSSAI standard IS 15495-2022 mandates a ban on toluene in packaging inks," Srivastava points out. "Although this is a compliance-driven change, sustainability is more of a brand-driven initiative rather than a regulatory requirement."

However, he acknowledges the challenges brands face in adapting to sustainable packaging. "In India, product shelf life and logistics conditions make it difficult to shift completely to paper-based packaging without compromising barrier properties and durability. But with global brands expanding into India, we expect major advancements in the next five years," he predicts.

EMERGING TRENDS – EFFICIENCY, COST REDUCTION AND FAST CURING

The printing and packaging industry is undergoing rapid transformations, with efficiency improvements being a major focus. "Machines are running at higher speeds exceeding 500 meters per minute," Srivastava notes.

At the same time, manufacturers are seeking ways to reduce consumable usage. "Printers are working to lower ink and adhesive consumption while maintaining high print quality. There's also a strong push toward fast-curing adhesives, laser-engraved cylinders, and water-based printing for better cost-effectiveness and sustainability," he explains.

NAVIGATING SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES AND RAW MATERIAL COSTS

The global supply chain remains a challenge, particularly in securing raw materials for ink manufacturing. "Majority of raw materials in the ink industry are still imported, with significant reliance on Europe, Japan, Korea, and China," Srivastava highlights.

"While the supply chain situation has been relatively

stable over the past six months, geopolitical tensions and fluctuating logistics costs continue to pose risks due to lower demand in Western countries, we have been able to procure materials as per market demand maintaining supply efficiency," he admits.

FUTURE ROADMAP – INNOVATION AND EXPANSION

Looking ahead, UFlex Chemicals Business is actively diversifying beyond traditional packaging applications.

"We are expanding into the construction and decor industry, barrier coatings, and more sustainable solutions for the packaging industry" Srivastava reveals.

At Printpack India 2025, the company showcased its product range for the construction and décor industry, including PVC profiles, doors, edge banding, SPC flooring, wood/metal spray coatings etc. "These products were largely dependent on imports, but we are now offering local solutions to meet market demands," he notes. ■

PRINTPACK INDIA 2025

Toyo Ink Arets India showcases food-grade UV LED and water-based inks

At Printpack India 2025, Toyo Ink Arets India, a subsidiary of Belgium-based Toyo Ink Europe and a part of the globally renowned artience Group, presented its latest ink technology revolving around food-grade UV LED inks for offset printing, water-based inks for flexible packaging, and more. 'Science & Innovation' was the theme of the company's stand at the five-day show.

"As it did in its every erstwhile edition, Printpack India 2025 this year offered us yet another unique meeting point where we would connect with our customers and prospects for exchanging ideas, sharing knowledge, and engaging meaningfully with them to present our latest products and solutions. After all, we were excited as response to our exhibits of ink innovations was overwhelmingly positive," says Prasant Atre, managing director of Toyo Ink Arets India.

Pushing the boundaries of performance and sustainability, Toyo Ink Arets India exhibited the latest developments and innovations of UV LED food-grade and water-based inks for flexible packaging at Printpack India 2025. Considering the company's advancements in ink technology, its range of food-grade inks is made for indirect food contact, characterising unique features like low odour and low migration.

Pivotal presented at the Printpack India 2025 was Toyo Steraplast UV Ink, which caught the at-



Team Toyo Ink Arets India at the show. Photo: The Packman

tention of trade visitors. The ink is distinctive for its curing speed, colour vibrancy, flow properties, and stability. Every Toyo UV ink complies with the strictest global environmental standards, such as the Swiss Ordinance. The eco-friendliness and non-CMR composition of the Toyo Steraplast UV Ink ensure adherence to high safety benchmarks while delivering exceptional print quality.

Yet another crowd-pulling presentation at Toyo Ink Arets India's stand at Printpack India 2025 was the range of water-based inks for flexible packaging applications. These inks, which are engineered for CI flexo

and gravure printing, boast high concentration, low residual solvent content, and high printing efficiency. Such attributes make these inks suitable even for retort applications. In this respect, Aqualiona Series inks, designed for lamination, are the first choice of flexible packaging converters for the inks' versatility and superior performance.

Atre mentions that the incisive response that Toyo Ink Arets India received during the Printpack India 2025 not only confirms the popularity of the company's products but also the way how the industry people keep their trust and confidence in Toyo products. ■