

Intrapac 2025 promotes food safety

SPOT COVERAGE

Focus on food reinforced by FoodTekPack conference

The Intrapac exhibition in Greater Noida picked up pace on Day 2 and 3 with renewed enthusiasm among the visitors. From the conversations Packaging South Asia has had so far, the exhibitors say the second edition is bigger and better and more focused in comparison to the previous edition last year.

The focus on food safety resonated among the businesses with technology-centric solutions. Even more so, the visitors walking through the aisles of the show found the solutions useful. The topic of food safety and food waste was further reinforced with the insightful FoodTekPack conference co-located with the exhibition.



Samples on display at IntraPac India 2025



The maiden two-day conference, inaugurated on 11 December, discussed challenges and opportunities in saving food with sustainable packaging playing a key role in modernizing food export and import. Putting the attention on how food safety is critical from farm to thali, the panelists at FoodTekPack spoke from the perspective of consumers, brands, and packaging manufacturers.

Another interesting aspect is the innovation pavilion hosted by the Indian Institute of Packaging, which showcased packaging for handi-craft and food-based products. The theme for the pavilion seemed to have focused on the unboxing experience, where a consumer might feel reluctant to throw away the packaging after opening the product.

Some packaging innovations even made the look and feel of the product inside even more appealing. The innovations on the pavilion were composed of wood, corrugated cartons, paper cartons, and mono-polymer stand-up pouches.

Chandrashekhar Rajagopalan, president of Indian Flexible Packaging and Folding Carton Manufacturers Association, congratulated the IPAMA team for a successful organization. "This edition is building on what the maiden show established. Bringing together innovators, engineers, and design experts under one roof with a single aim – to help nurture businesses with a platform to collaborate and share

information that will determine the next step in the evolution of the Indian packaging Industry," he said.

"I've been closely associated with IPAMA for a long time, and I can see the level of effort they have been putting into the show, which is beneficial for the industry. When we attend exhibitions abroad, we can gauge how far India has come when it comes to redefining norms," he adds.

Commenting on the response so far, Prashant Vats, general secretary, IPAMA, said, "We have a good footfall so far, and the response has been very nice. Although it's hard to say where the major interests are or what the visitors are looking for, interactions are happening throughout the day and that's really encouraging."

As we have reported, so far, exhibitors have been showcasing innovations and products. If Ample Graphics showcased a range of machinery to meet the evolving needs of the food and packaging industry, GLS highlighted its water-based inks, VOC-compliant inks, and high-performance lamination adhesives. Faridabad-based Rototech Gravure India showcased its electronic rotogravure printing cylinders, Megabound displayed its automatic casemaker active dual, automatic top gluing conveyor, rigid box V grooving machine, and automatic rigid box wrapping and folding machines.

— Aayush Pandey





EPR norms and MLPS – On the second day of the FoodTekPack conference, Dr. Tribhuvan Singh Bisht, deputy program manager at the Center for Science and Environment, emphasized the significance of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations. He discussed their key categories and the grey areas that enable these regulations to continuously evolve. Dr. Bisht noted that multilayered plastics remain one of the greatest challenges for the packaging recycling industry, though advances in metallization technologies have helped mitigate the issue to some extent. He also highlighted that the use of recycled materials continues to lag, as virgin plastic remains more cost-effective than its recycled counterpart.



Day 2 gets going – Naresh Khanna, editor, Packaging South Asia and IndiFoodBev, set the tone for day 2 of the FoodTekPack conference by thanking the organizers, sponsors, speakers and the delegates who helped make day 1 a great success. Ainan Shahhidi, director of 4 Sixes Group, complimented the experts who helped highlight the diverse perspectives that were conveyed through the thoughtful presentations and interactive panel discussions.



Recycling value chain

In her presentation at FoodTekPack, Nitanshi Bhatnagar, business development head-North, Banyan Nation, talked about the layers of the fragmented recycling value chain. She said while India recovers 70% of its waste plastic, flexibles remain the least preferred stream.

"Unlike rigid packaging, flexible packaging faces additional collection challenges. The lightweight nature, contamination from product residues, and lack of consumer awareness mean that flexible packages that are technically recyclable aren't collected by the informal sector."

She highlighted what she believes is a feat in its own: "Banyan Nation took a giant leap when it taught the uneducated workforce the art and science of waste segregation."



Focus on carbon costs

In her presentation at the FoodTekPack, Dr Ishita Bhatnagar, co-founder, Zissions PHD water resources, explained that for most food brands, less than 10% of the carbon cost is actually spent inside the factory. The rest is in the field, on the truck, or in the wrapper. "That is the hidden 90% we are here to talk about today," Bhatnagar said.

Her keynote emphasized that India's waste problem cannot be solved without involving the informal sector, and the challenge lies in converting informal labor into formal, traceable data.

Bhatnagar highlighted three key strategies for integrating the invisible workforce: 1.

Digitized aggregation – using apps to register waste pickers and track collections digitally. 2. The 'Namaste' Benefit – buying credits from PROs (Producer Responsibility Organizations) that prove fair wages, ensuring high-quality material recovery. 3. Traceability– validating that recycled content (e.g. 20 % recycled material) comes from a managed stream rather than a landfill.



(L-R) Aditi Jhala of The Misfit, Nitin Sanduja from Buhler India, moderator Bhushan Namderao Yengade, founder, Binder Technology Consultancy, Himanshi Mahajan, packaging head - R&D, Mother Dairy and Prem Garg, national president, Indian Rice Exporters Federation at a panel discussion at FoodTekPack



(L-R) K. Ravi, founder, Raas Intellisolutions; Ashish Pinto, chief human resources officer, Nesco; Shrikanth Ramamurthy, Parksons Packaging; Sushil Sharma, Sealed Air.

Packaging for sustainability, cold chain efficiency, and export growth

SPOT COVERAGE

Insights from a panel discussion at Food Tek Pack 2025

In a post-lunch session on Day 1 of the Food Tek Pack conference in Greater Noida, a focused panel discussion deliberated upon the most urgent challenges in India's packaging and cold-chain ecosystem. Moderated by K. Ravi, founder of Raas Intellisolutions, the panel featured Ashish Pinto from Nesco, Shrikanth Ramamurthy from Parksons Packaging and Sushil Sharma from Sealed Air, each bringing a unique perspective spanning materials, sustainability frameworks, food safety, and export readiness.

The panel unanimously agreed that sustainability has moved from a buzzword to a baseline expectation for brands, retailers, and consumers. Shrikanth Ramamurthy emphasised the shift clearly, "Sustainability is the norm now. Five years ago, it used to be bad to talk about sustainability, but today it is at the centre of most packaging conversations."

Ramamurthy highlighted the growing importance of chemical recycling, PCR materials and compliance with India's evolving plastic waste management rules. "Every company must register and declare the plastic it buys and sells. Once you start using recycled materials, you begin to understand the total garbage footprint in the system," he said.

However, he cautioned that a mere discussion is not enough. "Some data cannot even be derived unless businesses adopt these initiatives and invest in new materials and systems."

Packaging's role in food safety and extended shelf life

Representing Sealed Air, Sushil Sharma noted how packaging is directly tied to food security and economic efficiency. "Food is power. The question is whether we truly understand what we don't know about the ecosystem," he said, emphasizing the need to analyze the full life-cycle of food—from production to consumption.

He noted packaging's role in extending shelf life, minimizing contamination, and enabling safe transportation across geographies. As India strengthens its position in global food exports, packaging that protects freshness while reducing waste becomes even more critical.

Cold chain gaps

A major part of the discussion centred on India's broken cold chain infrastructure. Ramamurthy presented the true picture and said, "India has 40 million metric tons of cold storage, but most of it is allocated to potatoes. Meanwhile, sectors such as meat—where we are the fourth-largest exporter—and fruits, where we are second-largest, lack adequate facilities."

He said cold-storage availability is misaligned not only for exports but also for domestic consumption. Without decentralized cold stores near consumption centres, products degrade, leading to waste and financial losses. "Otherwise, you are creating waste in the supply chain and creating sustainability issues."

He stressed that packaging must evolve to suit these new distribution realities, especially for categories such as meats and ready-to-cook foods, where consumer expectations for hygiene and consistency are rising.

Technology-enabled efficiency

The panel highlighted how small technological interventions can create large sustainability gains. One example involved a South Indian ice cream chain that installed sensors on deep freezers to track energy consumption, door openings, and temperature settings. "The first measurement is awareness," the speaker stressed. With real-time data, the brand corrected inefficiencies and reduced power consumption by 23%.

Such examples underscore how IoT-driven monitoring can strengthen cold-chain reliability, bring down operational costs, and improve environmental performance. K. Ravi concluded by noting that packaging innovation, cold-chain enhancement and sustainable materials will collectively define India's future in both domestic food security and global exports.

— Rajesh Kumar

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Vinsak at FoodTekPack conference

At The FoodTekPack conference, the Vinsak Group, a leading provider of advanced printing, packaging, and brand-protection solutions, highlighted a comprehensive range of hardware technologies such as printing machinery, finishing systems, and security label solutions. With strong expertise across India, the Middle East, and Africa, Vinsak delivers end-to-end support from consultation to installation and service.

Fasiculas, a sister concern of the Vinsak Group, specializes in digital authentication, traceability, and supply chain transparency through innovative software solutions. Its platforms, including blockchain-enabled systems, connect physical products with secure digital identities to combat counterfeiting and enhance brand protection. Fasiculas focuses on empowering businesses with smart, data-driven security and tracking tools.

Raman Sharma, Jatin Talwar, Avinash Singh Ajit Bhardwaj, and Harish Solanki from Vinsak Group are participating at the FoodTekPack conference. (Top right) On day 1, Raman Sharma, IT head of Vinsak, provided insights in an engaging panel discussion on integrating forensics and digital traceability into the food supply chain.

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FoodTekPack Conference 2025

Day 1

FoodTekPack Conference 2025
Day 1

Day 1 of the IPP group's FoodTekPack conference, held alongside the Intrapac India show in Greater Noida, began on a strong note with serious discussions on tackling food waste, circular economy, the history of packaging.