

Corrugated boxmakers want rise in price tags

Kolkata: Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association (EICMA) has appealed for a 15%-20% hike in price as the sector's profitability has hit an abysmal low. An EICMA spokesperson pointed out that the Rs 1,500 crore corrugated box industry in eastern India is reeling under tremendous pressure owing to rising input costs and the industry's failure to raise prices.

EICMA has appealed for price rise due to the fact that in the last three or four months, paper mills had raised the prices of Kraft Paper — the main raw material for the industry

— by Rs 2,000-4,000 per tonne, and the final consumers are refusing to pay higher prices despite repeated requests.

EICMA has called for an emergency meeting for their members and has decided to call for a protest closure on May 2 and 3, said Milan Kumar Dey, president, EICMA. There are over 12,000 corrugators spread across India — of which around 700 are from Eastern India. The industry is fragmented and dominated by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and employs more than three lakh workers directly and indirectly. TNN