



# **EASTERN INDIA CORRUGATED BOX MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION**

Bharat Chamber of Commerce

'BHARAT CHAMBERS'

9/1, Syed Amir Ali Avenue, Kolkata- 700 017

Phone : 2282-9591 / 2283-9608, Fax : (033) 2282-4947

R & D Centre

"Merlin Links", 3F & 3G, 166-B, S.P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata - 700 026

Phone : 2465 6691, E-mail : eicma123@gmail.com, info@eicbma.com

Website : www.eicbma.com

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Re : Corrugated Board Box Manufacturers' To Observe One-Day's Token Strike on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017 in protest of unjustified and artificial price increase of Kraft Paper.**

Hard pressed due to unprecedented and unjustified increase in cost of Kraft Paper, their primary raw material, more than 900 Corrugated Board Box Manufacturing units will observe One-Day's Token Strike on Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017.

Mr. Milan Kumar Dey, President, Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association has emphasized that the industry, comprising mostly MSME units in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sikkim and North-Eastern States have been pressed to the wall by 50 and odd Paper Mills who have formed a coterie with profiteering motive and are hiking their prices almost on weekly basis. This has resulted in a cumulative 20 to 25 per cent rise across different grades of kraft paper, since the last week of January, 2017, he added.

The uncalled for kraft paper price escalation has seriously affected the working of Corrugated Board Box Manufacturers to such extent, that they are prepared to suffer loss of production for One-Day amounting to more than Rs. 7.0 crores due to One-Day's Token Strike. The Association has emphasized that it is feared that due to uneconomic cost of output, several Corrugated Board Box units have already cut down their production, which would affect the livelihood of .35 lakhs workers and their families, apart from loss of VAT revenue to the State Governments and Excise to the Central Government. Besides, the high cost of packaging will make Indian products, non-competitive in the global market, resulting in imbalance of foreign exchange and making the India Rupee dearer vis-à-vis the US Dollar.

It is well known that Corrugated Boxes on the one hand help in packaging fruits and vegetables, processed foods, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and consumer goods as well as several other essential items, and on the other, are environment friendly being recyclable and a replacement to wooden crates, thereby saving trees and maintain the ecological balance. In other words, the Corrugated Box industry plays the role of a catalyst in the Indian Economy, by being an indispensable link in the supply chain of movement of goods to the end consumer, hence, in the interest of all stakeholders.

Making the Press Communiqué, the Association has humbly appealed:

- To The Paper Mills not to increase the prices of Kraft Paper irrationally and indiscriminately as any set back to the box industry will also impact them directly.
- Government of India, to take cognizance of the unwarranted practices of the Paper Mills, if the situation is not corrected, in the near future.
- To The CBEC to waive off Custom Duty on the import of Kraft Paper, so as to reduce the dependence on the regional Paper Mills.

- To The State Governments, to mediate and take necessary steps to curb the resultant inflation, make Corrugated Box packaging a cost effective option in the packaging of fruits and vegetables and save the MSME industry from extinction.
- To the Central and State Governments, to implement more effective waste management systems to collect paper waste efficiently.
- To the Consumers of corrugated boxes to give the fair and just dues to the industry in parity with paper costs and other input costs and based on market reality.

In conclusion, the Association has stressed that if the artificial price mechanism is not stopped, the member units will review the situation in due course and will be compelled to take imperative steps to raise the issue at appropriate fora for redressal, including all legal and statutory options for survival of the industry and save the Indian economy from increase in inflationary pressure through the supply chain of essential items.

---

**About EICMA & The Industry** - EICMA is an industrial organization set up in 1972, representing the interest of Corrugated Box Manufacturers in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Assam, Sikkim, and other North-Eastern States. The organisation has its own R&D Centre in Kolkata. EICMA is a member of Federation of Corrugated Box Manufacturers (FCBM) of India at Mumbai, which comprises 13 such regional Associations from different States. EICMA is also affiliated to Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata. There are about 900 Units in the Eastern Region and livelihood of .35 lakh families which are directly dependent on it is under threat.

Corrugated Box Manufacturers have been serving their clients as one of the most crucial supply chain partners to provide an eco-friendly alternative to wooden packaging for packing of Horticulture, Fruits and Vegetables, FMCG, Exports, Defence, etc. etc. To know more kindly refer [www.eicbma.com](http://www.eicbma.com)

---

**Copy forwarded for favour of  
publication/circulation/broadcasting/telecasting to :**

  
**(Milan Kumar Dey)**  
**President**  
**98300 56963 (M)**

**Dated the, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.**