



P S Patwari, Former President,
Indian Newsprint Manufacturers Association (INMA)

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Mr. P S Patwari, President, Indian Newsprint Manufacturers Association (INMA) while giving his reaction on recently announced Union Budget for the year 2021-22, said that “the Union Budget 21-22 clearly signals the move to return of

India to a higher growth trajectory after the record contraction caused by the pandemic. The announcement about infrastructure spending, health and well being of the people and strengthening of the financial sector has clearly shown this intent. The

pattern of reforms are focussed on boosting growth and removing bottlenecks across the industries. It will protect purchasing power, create more jobs and encourage demand”.

He further explained that the Paper

and paper board is a core industry and playing a vital role in the economic growth of our country. This industry’s growth will be in the range of 12-15% in the coming year due to increased economic activities. **Infrastructure spending and rural growth being the focussed area of this Union Budget 21-22; all the industries like FMCG, Pharma, health and hygiene will grow phenomenally. More than 75% of the Paper and paperboard industry is producing packaging paper and board wherein the growth opportunity is the highest.** Consumer awareness concerning eco-friendliness, sustainability, replacement of plastic, rise of e-commerce and growth in retail are again big booster for the demand of packaging paper and paper board. Indian Paper Mills are investing and would be required to invest more in the capacity building and technology upgradation

of their facilities to address the demand growth.

Today Newsprint Import is serious concern for Indian Paper Industry and when enquired about any proposal in the Union Budget 2021-22 to arrest this uncontrolled import, Mr. Patwari said that “there is no such proposal in the Union Budget 2021-22.” Further he said that “Newsprint import before covid-19 was in the range of 1.5 million tonnes per annum, which has reduced to one million tonne during the pandemic due to slow down of the economy. We have applied for Anti-dumping duty on imports of Newsprint, which has been recommended by the Competent Authority and forwarded to the Finance Ministry for further action.

While elaborating on country’s total newsprint production, he said that “installed capacity of Newsprint production in our country is 2.2 million tonnes per annum.

Production of Newsprint was in the range of 8 lacs tonnes per annum during the Pre-covid-19 period. During the pandemic period this production has gone down to the level of 3-4 lacs tonnes per annum and rest of the requirement of the Newspaper Industry is met through import. Now the requirement of Newspaper industry is slowly growing up.” In reply to our question whether they are looking for any remedial measures from the government to ensure sustained growth of the domestic newsprint production, he said that “Print media, except pandemic period, is performing very well and expecting a good growth in the range of around 10-12 % per annum for next 10 years. Indian Newsprint Industry can only take benefit of the growth in print media if the Govt. of India does not allow dumping of the Newsprint at cheap rates”.

