

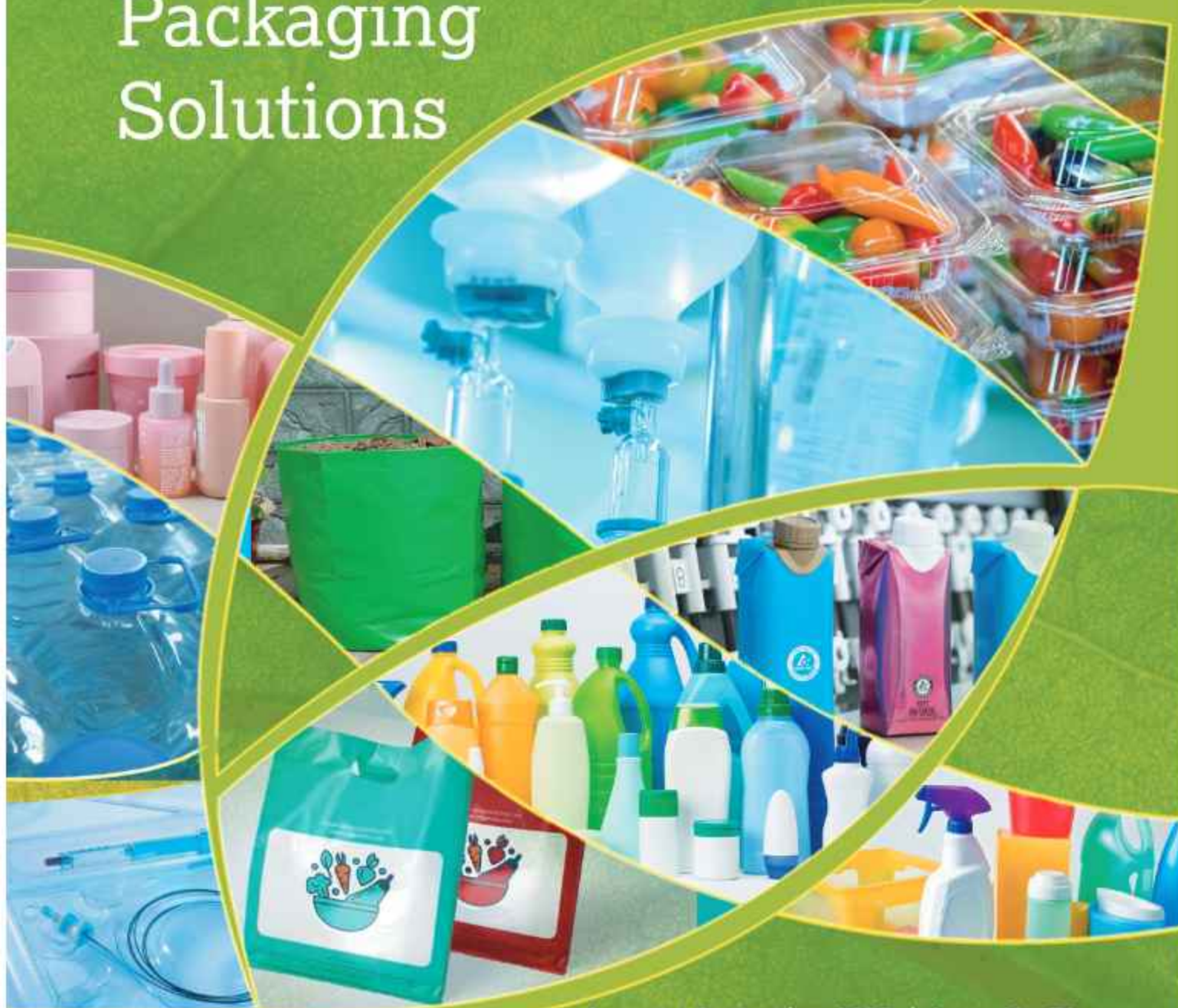


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Innovations in
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Solutions



August - September 2025 | Issue No. 76



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President's Message

Innovation and sustainability must go hand in hand to shape the future of plastics packaging.



Ravish B. Kamath
President, Plastindia Foundation

It is my privilege to present this special issue of Insight magazine on "Innovation in Plastics Packaging." The packaging industry today is at a turning point, shaped by sustainability imperatives, technological progress, and rapidly evolving global regulations.

Worldwide, we see strong momentum in adopting rPET, bio-based materials, and mono-material packaging, supported by smart labelling and circular economy initiatives. These advances are opening exciting possibilities, yet the sector also faces critical challenges—developing cost-effective recycling systems, managing diverse regulations, and addressing consumer concerns on sustainability.

For the Indian plastics packaging industry, aligning with international standards will be essential to remain globally competitive. This calls for greater investment in R&D, stronger collaboration across the value chain, and active engagement with regulators to ensure clear, science-based policies. Equally important is preparing a skilled workforce to drive innovation and support sustainable practices at scale.

By embracing innovation and collective responsibility, India can not only adapt to global trends but also set benchmarks in sustainable packaging. Together, we can ensure a circular future that meets present needs while safeguarding generations to come.

Preparations for PLASTINDIA 2026 to be held from 5th -10th February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi are also in full swing. This flagship exhibition will showcase India's strengths to the global plastics community, bringing together technology, innovation, and business opportunities. Visitor registration will be opening shortly, and we look forward to welcoming participants from across the world to make this edition yet another milestone event.

With Best Wishes

Ravish Kamath

President – Plastindia Foundation



Editor's Message

Innovations in Plastic Packaging: A Forward Look

The Indian plastic packaging market is a dynamic and expanding sector, projected to reach USD 26.13 billion by 2030 from an estimated USD 22.44 billion in 2025, demonstrating a CAGR of 3.09%. This growth underscores plastic's continued prominence as a packaging material, primarily due to its inherent advantages in lightweighting and cost-effectiveness. However, the industry is at a pivotal juncture, driven by an increasing global emphasis on sustainability, evolving consumer demands, and stringent regulatory frameworks.

The Sustainability Imperative

A significant driver of innovation is the urgent need for sustainable solutions. Substantial 52% of the total with the food and beverage followed by pharmaceuticals has brought environmental a paradigm shift towards responding with a focus on materials, and the adoption of frameworks. India's plastic credit from \$982 million to \$1.67 billion by accountability and circularity.



within the plastic packaging industry is the solutions. Plastic packaging constitutes a packaging market in India as of FY 2023, sector being the largest end-user, and personal care. This widespread use concerns to the forefront, prompting a circular economy. The industry is recycling, the development of eco-friendly Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) market, for instance, is projected to grow 2030, reflecting the increasing importance of

Technological Innovations: Redefining Plastic Packaging

The industry is witnessing a wave of technological advancements aimed at enhancing sustainability, functionality, and consumer experience. These innovations extend beyond simple recyclability and encompass a range of solutions:

- **Bio-based and Biodegradable Materials:** There is a significant surge in the development of bio-based polymers derived from renewable sources such as corn starch, sugarcane, and even food waste. These materials offer a reduced carbon footprint and, in some cases, are compostable, providing an end-of-life solution that minimises environmental impact.



Ramesh Parasuraman
Editor, Plastindia Foundation

- **Smart Packaging:** The integration of smart technologies like QR codes and NFC tags is transforming packaging into an interactive platform. This allows for enhanced consumer engagement, product authentication, and the dissemination of information regarding a product's journey and sustainability credentials.
- **Advanced Recycling Technologies:** Innovations in chemical and mechanical recycling are expanding the range of plastics that can be effectively recycled. These technologies are crucial for closing the loop and creating a truly circular economy for plastics.

Market Trends and Segmentation

The plastic packaging market in India is characterized by a diverse range of products and applications. Flexible packaging is gaining significant traction due to its versatility, lightweight nature, and ability to preserve product freshness. The India Flexible Packaging Market is valued at USD 20.41 billion in 2025 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.46% from 2025-2030, outpacing the overall plastic packaging market growth. This segment's rapid expansion is driven by innovations in barrier properties, printability, and sustainability.

Concurrently, the rigid plastic packaging segment is also experiencing robust growth, with a projected CAGR of 5.45% between FY2026-FY2033. This growth is fueled by advancements in material science, design optimisation, and the increasing demand for durable, reusable packaging solutions.

The food and beverage sector remains the largest consumer of plastic packaging, a trend that is expected to continue due to the sector's growth and the unmatched functionality that plastic offers in terms of food preservation and safety. Pharmaceuticals and personal care products follow closely, with their specific requirements for barrier properties, tamper evidence, and product protection driving innovation in specialized packaging solutions.

The Path Forward: A Collaborative and Innovative Future

The plastic packaging industry is at a critical juncture, navigating a complex landscape of environmental responsibility, technological disruption, and evolving market demands. The path forward requires a multi-faceted approach that embraces innovation, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability. As global pressure from regulators, markets, and consumers continues to mount, the industry's ability to adapt and reinvent itself will be paramount. The insights from industry leaders, coupled with the relentless pace of technological advancement, will undoubtedly shape the future of plastic packaging, ensuring its relevance and responsibility in the years to come.





NEC Chairman Message

PLASTINDIA 2026: As Promised, It Gets Bigger!

Bharat Poised to Host the Largest-Ever Plastics Exhibition



Mr. Alok Tibrewala
President, NEC Chairman,
PLASTINDIA 2026 – Bharat Next

The 12th edition of PLASTINDIA 2026 is shaping up to be the most ambitious and expansive event in the series' history. Set to take place at the iconic Bharat Mandapam, this edition solidifies India's rising stature as a global hub for plastics innovation, trade, and technology.

With over 75,000+ square meters of exhibition space, a remarkable more than 40% increase over previous editions, and more than 2000 exhibitors, PLASTINDIA 2026 is already sold out. This exponential growth reflects India's escalating influence in the global plastics sector and its increasing appeal as a destination for world-class trade exhibitions.

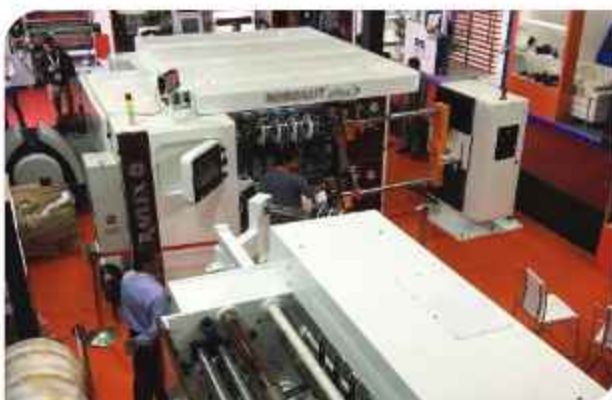
Aligning with the Government of India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision, PLASTINDIA 2026 will host a series of conferences/ conclaves across six dynamic days. These sessions will explore advancements in plastic technologies and their impact on key sectors including space exploration, defence, railways, aerospace, semiconductors, and electronics—all of which present groundbreaking opportunities for the plastics industry.

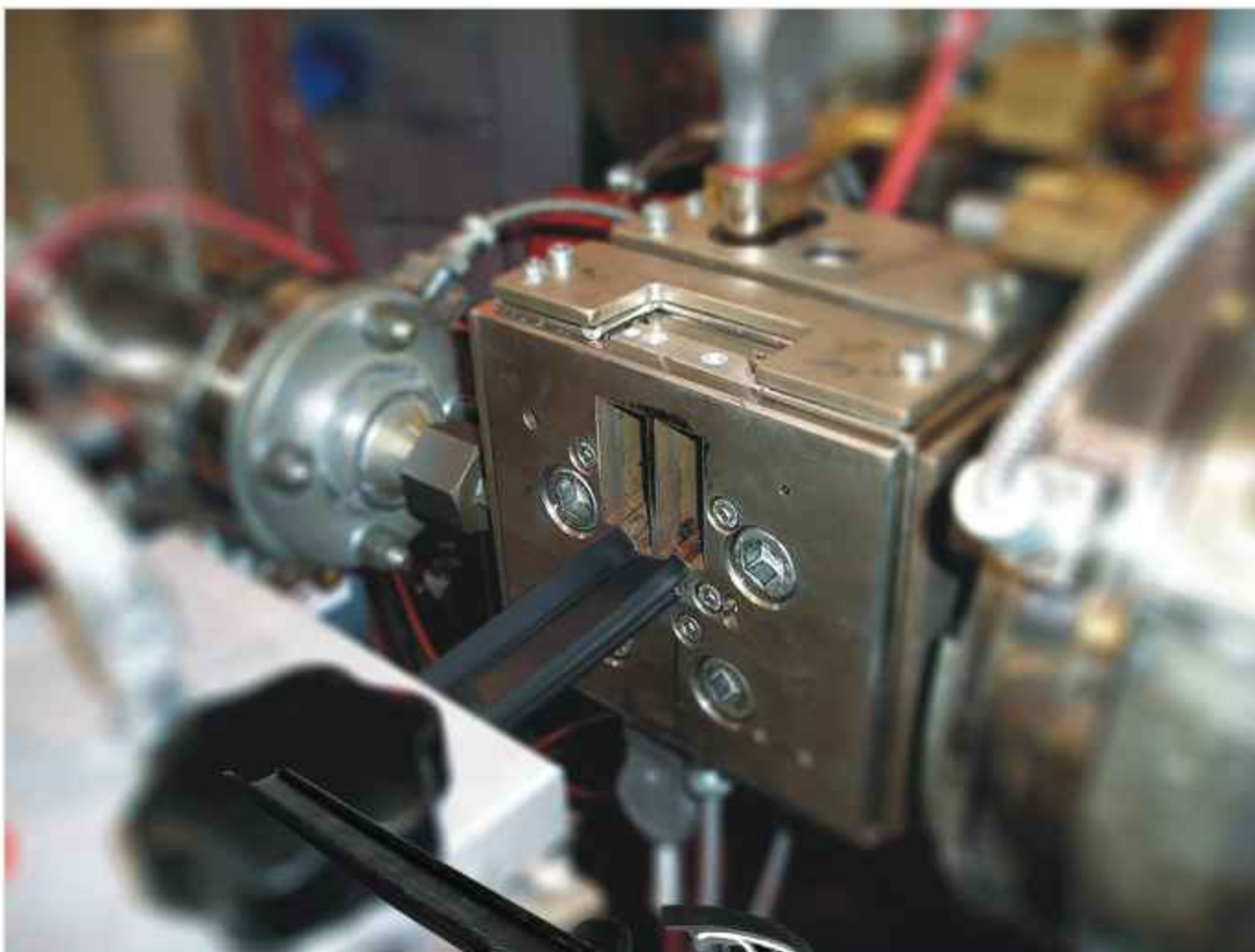
Global Showcase of Innovation

Leading global players are gearing up to unveil the latest in cutting-edge technologies, sustainable innovations, and high-performance materials. PLASTINDIA 2026 will not only highlight current industry trends but also serve as a launchpad for the future of plastics.

A Unique 'Open-Air Museum' Experience

In a first, visitors will be treated to an immersive Open-Air Museum installed at the venue. This interactive space will spotlight the legacy and strength of India's plastics industry, complete with dedicated selfie points to encourage engagement and create shareable experiences.





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A dedicated 32,000 sq. meters of space has been earmarked for showcasing state-of-the-art machinery, alongside priority zones focusing on sustainable solutions and raw materials for plastic packaging—placing sustainability at the forefront of the exhibition.

Enhancing the Visitor Experience with Smart Technology

Understanding the evolving needs of both exhibitors and visitors, the PLASTINDIA 2026 team has invested in huge resources for both. Apart from ensuring a seating arrangement of over 8000 visitors is made across the venue, seamless integration of technology is incorporated across all aspects of the event with the PLASTINDIA 2026 Mobile App -The PLASTINDIA 2026 Mobile App will offer 100% offline functionality, a GPS-enabled locator, path navigator, and estimated time display to help attendees efficiently navigate the vast venue. A comprehensive interactive map, real-time event updates, exhibitor details, and networking tools will make the app a vital resource for all participants. The app will also guide users to multiple food courts, spread over 60,000 sq. ft., with dine-in facilities accommodating over 3,000 visitors.

Streamlined Registration and Visitor Services

In a major convenience move, PLASTINDIA will roll out 150+ dedicated registration counters across key airports in Ahmedabad, Delhi, and Mumbai:

Mumbai & Ahmedabad Airports – Registration counters at Departure Terminals

Delhi Airport – Registration counters at the Arrival Terminal. Once at the venue, attendees can benefit from Wi-Fi zones (OTP-based), mobile charging stations, and other in-stadia services ensuring a world-class experience.

Digital Promotions & Branding Opportunities

With only a few months to go, the PLASTINDIA team has rolled out a comprehensive digital marketing campaign, complemented by exclusive branding and sponsorship opportunities for exhibitors and visitors. This strategic outreach is designed to engage a global audience of manufacturers, buyers, and thought leaders, ensuring strong visibility and maximum impact for all participants.

A Circular Vision for the Future

True to its commitment to sustainability and circular economy principles, PLASTINDIA 2026 promises to be more than just an exhibition; it will be a vision statement for the future of plastics in a self-reliant, sustainable Bharat.

We are kick starting grand promotion in Delhi on 20th September 2025, Hope to see everyone then!





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A Brief Report for Academic Year 2024-25 and Current Academic Year

Plastindia International University a rising name in the field
of Plastics and Polymer Education



1. Introduction

Plastindia International University (PIU), situated in Vapi, Gujarat, is India's first university exclusively dedicated to Plastics, Polymer Engineering, and Sustainability. Established under the Gujarat Private Universities Act by the Plastindia Foundation, and approved by UGC and AICTE, PIU offers industry-driven education focused on technical innovation and applied research. Located strategically between Silvassa and Daman, the university leverages the industrial ecosystem of the Vapi region to provide hands-on exposure to students.

With a modern 32-acre campus and a strong emphasis on teaching, training, consultancy, and research, PIU currently houses the School of Engineering offering two undergraduate programs: B. Tech in Plastics and Polymer Engineering, and B. Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), each with an intake of 60 students. The university prides itself on its faculty, composed of academicians with doctoral qualifications and industry expertise.

2. Global Collaborations and Upskilling Focus

To promote global academic standards, PIU has partnered with the University of Massachusetts Lowell (UMASS Lowell), a pioneer in Plastics Engineering education. This partnership provides students with the opportunity for international exposure through short-term programs abroad. PIU also addresses the need for continual industry reskilling and upskilling by offering short-term and hybrid training programs for professionals in the plastics industry. These programs are tailored to industry needs and include topics ranging from polymer processing to techno-commercial training. The university extends its training outreach to both on-campus and in-plant programs for corporate clients.

**Academic Year 2024-25: Launch of First B. Tech Batch in
Plastics and Polymer Engineering**

3. Milestone Commencement and Curriculum Design

The academic operations of PIU officially commenced in September 2024 with the launch of its flagship B. Tech program in Plastics and Polymer Engineering. Admissions were conducted purely on a merit basis at the national level. The commencement of this first cohort happened on 5th September 2024 marking a significant milestone, aligning with the university's vision to become a global leader in plastics and polymer education.

The curriculum was designed to meet the current and emerging needs of the plastics sector, blending theoretical knowledge with practical training. Focus areas included sustainable materials, polymer product design, recycling, and contemporary processing technologies.

4. Industrial Connect and Holistic Development:

PIU leveraged its location near Vapi's industrial belt to provide students with exceptional industrial exposure through Industry visits, internships, and lectures by industry experts. The university signed MoUs with reputed companies like Supreme, TIPCO group, Jyoti Plastics, Plastiblends, Rajoo Engineers, SKYI Composites, and others, fostering valuable industry-academic linkages.

To ensure well-rounded development, the university also organized co-curricular and extra-curricular activities including technical workshops, leadership seminars, and innovation competitions. Celebrations of festivals such as Ganesh Utsav, Garba, Diwali, and New Year created a vibrant campus life that enhanced student bonding and cultural integration.

**Academic Year 2025-26: Expansion and Strengthening
of Academic Programs**

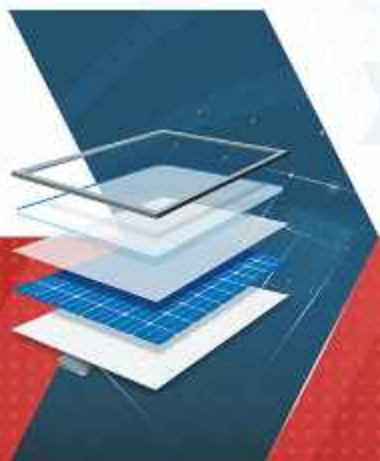
5. Launch of CSE Program and Lateral Entry Expansion

In response to growing industry demand, PIU launched a B. Tech in Computer Science and Engineering in

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the 2025-26 academic year. The program includes focus areas such as AI, ML, Robotics, and Data Science (aligning with Plastics sector) and has already seen over 50 enrolments. Simultaneously, the university witnessed a strong response for lateral entry admissions to the second year of its Plastics and Polymer Engineering program, admitting more than 45 diploma students.

Thanks to growing popularity and trust among stakeholders, PIU reached a three-digit milestone in total admissions this year and more than 115 students are there on campus. Hostel and transportation facilities are also provided to support the increasing number of residential students.

6. Academic Calendar and Student Support Initiatives

The second-year B. Tech classes for Plastics and Polymer Engineering began on 21st July 2025, following a 7-day bridge course for lateral entry students. First-year classes for both B. Tech programs are set to begin on 18th August 2025 with a 15-day induction, followed by formal academic sessions starting 8th September.

PIU continues to emphasize academic excellence through a well-rounded approach, including:

- ▶ Bridge courses for new entrants
- ▶ Advanced laboratory sessions
- ▶ Industrial exposure and guest lectures
- ▶ Courses in professional communication
- ▶ Wellness initiatives such as yoga and sports
- ▶ Co-curricular and extracurricular programs

Plastindia International University has made significant strides within just two academic cycles, demonstrating its commitment to producing industry-ready graduates with strong technical expertise, cultural sensitivity, and leadership qualities. With strategic industry collaborations, a student-centered academic approach, and continuous innovation, PIU is poised to become a premier institution in the domains of plastics, polymers, and beyond. We look forward to shaping future-ready engineers equipped with practical skills and holistic development.







Plastindia2026 Shall be the Biggest Trade Expo Says Achal Thakkar

Plastindia 2026 would be the biggest Trade Expo, said Achal Thakkar, NEC Member of Organising Committee of PLASTINDIA 2026 at recent summit in Mumbai.

Representing Plastindia Foundation at the 12th edition of the Elite Plus Speciality Films and Flexible Packaging Global Summit that was held on September 3rd and 4th at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, Thakkar said, "The 12th edition of PLASTINDIA 2026 is shaping up to be the most ambitious and expansive event in the series' history."

Further mentioning that PLASTINDIA 2026 that is scheduled from 5th – 10th Feb 2026, at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, he reiterated, "this edition solidifies India's rising stature as a global hub for plastics innovation, trade, and technology."

Thakkar presented details on PLASTINDIA 2026. With over 72,000+ square meters of exhibition space, a remarkable 40% increase over previous editions, and more than 2,000 exhibitors, PLASTINDIA 2026 is already sold out. This exponential growth reflects India's escalating influence in the global plastics sector and its increasing appeal as a destination for world-class trade exhibitions.

PLASTINDIA 2026 will host over 250 theme-based conferences across four dynamic days. These sessions

will explore advancements in plastic technologies and their impact on key sectors including space exploration, defence, railways, aerospace, semiconductors, and electronics—all of which present groundbreaking opportunities for the plastics industry. The expo shall also feature the Reverse Buyer – Seller Meet facilitating strategic interaction between overseas buyers and exhibitor.

The PLASTINDIA 2026 Mobile App shall offer 100% offline functionality, a GPS-enabled locator, path navigator, and estimated time display to help attendees efficiently navigate the vast venue during the trade expo. A comprehensive interactive map, real-time event updates, exhibitor details, and networking tools will make the app a vital resource for all participants. The app will also guide users to multiple food courts, spread over 60,000 sq. ft., with dine-in facilities accommodating over 3,000 visitors.

Leading global players are gearing up to unveil the latest in cutting-edge technologies, sustainable innovations, and high-performance materials. PLASTINDIA 2026 will not only highlight current industry trends but also serve as a launchpad for the future of plastics.



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FOUNDATION NEWS



GCPRS 2025 Concludes Successfully

The four-day conclave held deliberations on Circular Plastics Economy with High-Impact Industry and Policy Engagements



The 2nd Global Conclave on Plastics Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS 2025), was held from 17 to 20 June, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi proving to be a national platform for circular economy advocacy, innovation in recycling, and inclusive sustainability. With participation from senior government officials, global thought leaders, and over 225 exhibitors, the four-day conclave recorded over 20,000+ footfalls continuing to drive strategic collaborations across the value chain.



DAY 1

Inauguration and High-Level Deliberations on Innovation and Inclusion

The event was inaugurated on 17th June by Shri Deepak Mishra, Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, as Chief Guest, who emphasized, "India is at the cusp of a transformation in how we manage and recycle plastic. Events like GCPRS are vital platforms to foster solutions-driven dialogue and showcase innovations that align with our national sustainability goals."

The inaugural session also featured industry leaders like Mr. Manoj Shah, President, AIPMA, Shri Arvind Mehta, Mentor GCPRS and Chairman GC, AIPMA, Mr. Hiten Bheda, Chairman, GCPRS, Mr. Siddharth Shah, Co-Chairman, GCPRS, Mr. Hanumant Saraf, Co-Chairman, GCPRS. While Mr. S. G. Venkatesh, Executive Director (Petrochemicals), IOCL, Mr. Malwinder Singh Battu, Head – Marketing, HMEL were the Guest of Honours, Dignitaries included H.E. Capaya Rodriguez Gonzalez, Ambassador, Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Mr. Juan Goldnick Brandt, Minister Counsellor. The exhibition floor showcased biodegradable solutions, smart packaging, and advanced recycling technologies.



CEO Round Table Conference

CEO Round Table Conference was convened by Mr. S.K Ray and chaired by Shri Deepak Mishra, Joint Secretary, DCPC, Shri Satyendra Kumar, Director, NITI Aayog

Attended by over 200 participants representing brand owners, plastic producers, recyclers, and policymakers, the session addressed critical bottlenecks and proposed progressive measures like; Pricing of recyclates, demanding Industry status for with facilities like easy financing, and better infrastructure along with discussion on manufacturing product designs to enhance recyclability and ease of post-consumer segregation.



FOUNDER MEMBER ACTIVITY

DAY 2**Policy Integration and Start of the Sustainability Forum**

18th June welcomed Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, who praised the industry's sustainability focus. He said, "You are doing a great job, and this is the time for sustainability." Singh encouraged deeper integration of recycled plastics into the textile value chain and took a keen interest in technology showcases on the exhibition floor.

The Sustainability Forum was convened by Dr. Vijay Habbu and Mr. Hiten Bheda, Chairman-GCPRS inaugurated the same day and featured robust technical sessions with representation from Dr. Ravinder Singh, FSSAI, Sh. Shivam Dwivedi, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Ms. Vandana, Director, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (DCPC), Sh. Prashant Bhat, Mother Dairy, Sh. Rajesh Ayapilla, Coca-Cola India with a various themes including EPR norms, food-grade recycled plastics, regulatory pathways, safety in plastics, and packaging design. The French Embassy also engaged at the event, reflecting growing global collaboration.

**DAY 3**

19th June saw the forum shift focus to high-value recyclables and technology-driven transformation in food-grade and industrial plastic recycling. Organisations of the likes of Reliance Industries, SGS India, Boretech, Erema, Ishitva Robotic Systems, Banyan Nation, Indian Pollution Control Association, Pashupati Group. Made their presence with discussion on topics such as; Testing and approval processes for food-grade compliance, Need for harmonized standards to boost exports and regulatory clarity Importance of certifications, advanced, handling, and quality assurance systems.

As the conclave moved into its final day on 20th June, the event continued to fuel strategic collaborations and real-world action across the plastics ecosystem. From policy makers to recyclers, from start-ups to global investors, GCPRS 2025 is enabling a unified and results-driven vision for a sustainable plastic future.



**2ND GLOBAL CONCLAVE ON PLASTIC
RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY**



Innovations in Plastics Packaging

The shift toward sustainability remains the dominant theme in plastics packaging, but the approach has evolved far beyond simply improving recyclability.

In a world where sustainability, consumer experience, and operational efficiency drive business decisions, the Plastics packaging industry stands at a critical inflection point. Long criticized for its environmental impact, plastics packaging is undergoing a quiet revolution; one led by innovation, digitalization, and a renewed focus on the circular economy.

Starting from advanced bio-based polymers to smart packaging further to AI-driven design, plastics packaging is not just adapting but reinventing itself. For B2B stakeholders, understanding the emerging trends and innovation scope is no longer optional, one could say it is a competitive imperative. For businesses operating across the plastics packaging value chain — from resin suppliers to converters and end-users — innovation is not just about keeping up with trends. It's about reshaping the value proposition for a future defined by resource efficiency, digital integration, and environmental accountability.

Sustainable Plastics: Beyond Recycling

The shift toward sustainability remains the dominant theme in plastics packaging, but the approach has evolved far beyond simply improving recyclability.

a) Bio-Based and Biodegradable Plastics

A surge of innovation is occurring in bio-based materials derived from renewable sources like corn starch, sugarcane, algae, or even food waste. Companies like are developing compostable bioplastics (e.g., PLA, PHA) that match the performance of traditional plastics without the environmental baggage. However, for industrial packaging applications, performance remains key. Recent advancements in barrier properties and durability mean bio-based plastics are increasingly being used in food packaging, medical disposables, and even heavy-duty transport packaging.

b) Chemical Recycling

Traditional mechanical recycling has limitations specifically, contamination and polymer degradation among them. However, Chemical recycling, or advanced recycling, offers a scalable solution by breaking plastics back into their molecular components. Firms

like Eastman and Loop Industries are investing heavily in this technology, which enables the use of recycled feedstock in high-performance applications.

Smart and Functional Packaging

The digital transformation is now entering the packaging world with the rise of smart packaging technologies that offer more than just containment.

a) Track-and-Trace Technologies

Integrated RFID tags, QR codes, and NFC chips are becoming commonplace in logistics and supply chain packaging. These enable real-time tracking, anti-counterfeiting measures, and even condition monitoring (e.g., temperature or humidity sensors for pharma shipments).

b) Interactive Consumer Engagement

Brands are leveraging interactive packaging to bridge the physical and digital worlds. Through augmented reality (AR) and scannable codes, packaging can now deliver tutorials, promotions, or recycling instructions directly to consumers' smartphones — a game-changer for brand loyalty and transparency.

c) Self-Healing and Antimicrobial Plastics

In healthcare and food sectors, functional films with antimicrobial properties or self-healing surfaces are gaining attention.



These innovations extend shelf life, enhance safety, and reduce waste — aligning with both cost-saving and sustainability goals.

Lightweighting and Material Optimization

Reducing material usage while maintaining integrity is a prime objective in both environmental and economic terms. Lightweighting involves optimizing packaging designs to use less plastic without compromising strength or usability. Companies are employing AI-driven design tools and simulation software to test thinner walls, ribbed structures, and hybrid materials. The result is reduced resin usage, lower shipping costs, and improved carbon footprints.

In B2B logistics, collapsible crates, thin-walled IBCs (Intermediate Bulk Containers), and high-strength stretch films are emerging as critical tools for sustainable scale-up.

Circular Design Thinking

Circularity has become the new benchmark for innovation in plastics packaging. The focus is no longer just on the material, but on designing packaging systems that are reusable, recyclable, or easily recoverable.

a) Design for Recycling (DfR):

Standardizing materials, using mono-material packaging, and minimizing inks or labels are examples

of times. These systems reduce overall material demand and total cost of ownership over time.

Automation-Ready Packaging

As Industry 4.0 accelerates across manufacturing, Plastics packaging is being designed for automated filling, sealing, and inspection processes.

a) Consistent Dimensions and Tolerances:

Packaging for automated lines needs to meet exact specifications — even minute variations can disrupt high-speed lines. Precision molding and digital quality control are now integral to plastics packaging production.

b) Machine Learning in QC:

Advanced machine learning models can now detect micro-defects in packaging materials or structures during production, leading to improved consistency and reduced waste. For B2B buyers, this means higher reliability and fewer delays due to packaging failures.

Regulatory Influence and Market Readiness

Global regulations are shaping innovation priorities. The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), China's plastic ban policies, and growing EPR schemes in North America are driving the demand for compliant packaging solutions. Indian plastic exports saw an 8% increase, reaching USD 12.5 billion in 2024-25, up from



of how companies are aligning with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations globally. Packaging that is easier to sort and reprocess is more likely to enter the recycling stream successfully.

b) Reusable Packaging Models

For B2B applications, reusable packaging is seeing a revival, driven by closed-loop supply chains. Think bulk bins, pallets, and tote systems made from durable plastics, which can be sanitized and re-used hundreds

of times. These systems reduce overall material demand and total cost of ownership over time.

India exports a significant number of plastics and related products to both North America and Europe. The United States and Germany are major importers of Indian plastics. While the USA is the largest consumer of Indian plastic exports, China, the UAE, the UK, and France also feature prominently in the list of top importers. Indian exports to these regions include a variety of plastic items, such as packaging materials, films and sheets, pipes and

fittings, and raw materials

a) Material Transparency

Industries now require documentation about material composition, recyclability, and life-cycle assessments. Packaging suppliers that can provide this data — often through digital product passports stand to gain a competitive edge.

b) Eco-Labeling and Certifications

Third-party certifications (e.g., Eco Mark BIS, OK Compost, Blue Angel, or Cradle to Cradle) are becoming essential for procurement decisions, especially in sectors like food, pharmaceuticals, and electronics.

Needless to say, third-party certification plays a crucial role in India's eco-labelling efforts, particularly through the Eco Mark scheme, which is managed by BIS and ensures products meet environmental standards throughout their lifecycle.

The scheme's voluntary nature, coupled with the focus on quality and environmental criteria, aims to promote sustainable consumption and production in India.

So, What's Next?

The future of plastics packaging will be shaped by convergence — of materials science, digital tech, and systems thinking.

• AI & Big Data in Packaging Design:

Predictive modelling is streamlining packaging development, minimizing prototyping costs, and accelerating time to market.

• Nanotechnology:

Enhancements in barrier properties, UV protection, and shelf life are emerging from nano-infused plastics, with early adoption in pharma and food-grade packaging.

• Carbon Capture Plastics:

Startups and research labs are exploring CO₂-derived polymers as a way to create climate-positive plastic packaging.

These are not just lab curiosities so to say but most of the investors and large packaging converters are already betting on these technologies.

As Plastics-packaging continues to evolve, B2B stakeholders must navigate a complex landscape of regulation, innovation, and shifting customer expectations. But for those who invest in agile R&D, collaborative ecosystems, and circular design, the scope of innovation is wide and the opportunity is enormous.



Key Takeaways for Packaging Leaders

- Prioritize mono-material and recyclable designs.
- Explore bio-based alternatives for single-use applications.
- Leverage smart packaging for traceability and security.
- Invest in automation-ready formats with tight tolerances.
- Track emerging regulatory frameworks across markets.
- Build partnerships for circular business models.



Sukhdeep Singh Sethi,
Director AVI Global Plast

"Globally Customer expectations have evolved."

Yes, innovations in packaging and labelling are focusing on sustainability, smart technology integration, and enhanced consumer experience. These trends reflect a maturing understanding of circularity, where packaging must not only be recyclable but provably so. These innovations will fundamentally reshape India's packaging sector.

Sustainability-led innovation is at the heart of how we design and manufacture. AVI Global Plast manufactures thermoformed rigid plastic packaging and PET films for the food, fresh produce, QSR, and retail sectors. Our core offerings include rPET punnets, clamshells, trays, food containers, and PET sheets. We are credited for having India's first design-registered single and dual avocado punnets, engineered for shelf presence, optimized material use, and improved nesting efficiency. We've also made upstream innovations by simplifying design—lightweighting and improving nesting efficiency.

Our belief is simple: innovation should be practical, scalable, and rooted in performance—not just theoretical. The industry is evolving rapidly with several frontier innovations, including Enzymatic recycling technologies that recover high-purity rPET from mixed waste streams, AI-based sorting systems to improve recovery efficiency and quality, Mycelium-based compostable packaging, particularly for protective applications, Digital watermarks and smart labels to support traceability and automated end-of-life sorting.

While some of these technologies are still scaling in India, they represent the direction the industry is headed and AVI is actively evaluating them for future-readiness. However, there's a clear need for integrated educational programs that connect packaging design with waste management realities. Designers, engineers, and procurement teams must be trained on EU packaging regulation for it will affect the Indian plastics packaging industry significantly.

Indian processors catering to global markets will need to maintain material documentation, traceability, and recyclability proofs. Those that cannot comply risk losing access to high-value markets. Even domestic brands are beginning to demand EPR and sustainability credentials, showing how the PPWR is likely to shape India's internal market as well.



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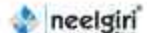
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India's Plastic Packaging Frontier

India's plastics packaging landscape is rapidly evolving—driven by sustainability mandates, agri-based innovation, and the growing promise of smart technologies. For B2B executives, understanding the interplay between ROI of smart packaging and India-led innovation is essential to navigate this dynamic sector.

For Indian B2B stakeholders; converters, FMCG leaders, agricultural brands, and logistics players the real opportunity lies in synergizing smart packaging with sustainable local materials. Measured pilots, ROI clarity, and robust brand storytelling can turn these innovations into scalable, commercially compelling solutions.



Smart Packaging in India

While smart packaging like RFID, NFC-enabled tamper alerts, and freshness sensors has matured globally, its Indian debut in B2B remains nascent but promising.

- Efficiency and Traceability:** Smart packaging enables seamless supply chain monitoring—minimizing spoilage, deterring counterfeiting, and optimizing stock turnover. In India's pharmaceutical and dairy logistics, this can translate into real cost savings and brand trust.
- Quantifying ROI:** Suppose an NFC-enabled cold chain indicator prevents just 1% spoiling in a ₹5 crore consignment that's ₹5 lakh saved per shipment. Over a year, such savings can offset implementation costs substantially.
- Scalable Tier Strategy:** Start with semi-active NFC tags in critical product lines or export channels. Then expand based on measurable ROI, instead of deploying across all SKUs at once.
- Brand Differentiation:** Companies those adopting smart packaging early especially in premium food or pharma segments can command higher price premiums and lock in customer loyalty.

Although smart packaging adoption in India is just beginning, its potential for demonstrably high returns—particularly in an evolving regulatory and consumer environment is clear.

India's Sustainability Trailblazers

India's innovation ecosystem is brimming with creative, locally relevant, and scalable materials-driven solutions that both resonate with global circular ambitions and

reflect regional strengths. Institutions like IIT- Hyderabad, IIT- M, KMF and alike to name some have been doing a great job. India's plastics packaging sector stands at a transformative crossroads. Locally rooted innovations—spanning mycelium foams, biopolymer films, and citrus waste packaging—are already rewriting the sustainability narrative. Smart packaging adds a layer of measurable, value-driven advantage, opening new revenue streams and cost efficiencies.

Agrees Mr. Jigish Doshi, Chairman and Managing Director, Vishaka Group, a diversified business conglomerate with multiple businesses, including packaging, material handling, irrigation, renewables, and agriculture. Doshi says, "These trends are not only shaping consumer demand but also influencing policy and supply chain strategies worldwide. Sustainability is a key focus for our organization."

These Indian innovations provide fertile ground for piloting smart packaging:

- Smart + Compostable:** Imagine tracking the cold chain of KMF's biodegradable milk sachets using low-cost NFC freshness sensors—combining circular materials with ROI-driving tech.
- Supply Chain Visibility for Biotech Startups:** TGP Bioplastics or Bioyug products could include traceable tags to verify origin and compostability—adding brand credibility, and aiding regulatory compliance.
- Community-Driven Awareness:** "Bioyug On Wheels" already educates consumers. Embedding QR-driven digital passports could enrich transparency and storytelling.

Innovation	What's New?	Significance
IIT-H Biodegradable Film	Made from sewage sludge and eggshells; 16 % stronger tensile strength, 186 % elongation, improved water barriers. Good for non-food uses; degrades into calcium rich soil micronutrient.	Turns urban and food waste into value added materials, aligning with circular economy principles.
IIT-M Mycelium Composites	Agricultural waste + fungal mycelium out-perform conventional EPS foams; fully compostable.	Tackles both plastic and agricultural waste, scalable via startup Nature Wrks Technologies
KMF's Biodegradable Milk Sachets	Corn starch/ sugarcane-based sachets degrade in 90 days, used widely in Bengaluru - no quality compromise, reduced recycling cost.	High impact, real-world use case in India's dairy sector replacing millions of plastic packets.
Orange Peel Packaging (ICAR CCRI & VNIT)	India's Central Citrus Research Institute (ICAR-CCRI) and Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) have developed eco-friendly packaging alternatives- Biodegradable films incorporating citrus peel bioactives into chitosan-alginate matrix	Innovative use of horticultural waste, linking agricultural value chains to packaging.
Balrampur Chini's "Bioyug" PLA Ecosystem	India's first integrated sugarcane-derived PLA chain, powered by renewables; cuts CO ₂ by 68% lifecycle; includes "Bioyug On Wheels" outreach.	Demonstrates agri-to-biopolymer circularity, supports farmer inclusion, and raises consumer awareness.
TGP Bioplastics (Satara)	Starch/cellulose certified compostable films and bags, shifting from lab to ISO-certified production; expanding to 800 TPA	Grassroots regional innovation transitioning from experimentation to scale.
Without (Ashaya)	Chemo-mechanical recycling of MLP (e.g., chip wrappers) into high-performance polymer blends, via social enterprise model	Converting hard-to-recycle packaging into recyclable products, while empowering waste-pickers.

ROI Considerations: What B2B Leaders Must Evaluate To maximize smart packaging ROI when paired with sustainable materials:

- One, Define Baseline Issues: Is spoilage, counterfeit risk, or regulatory traceability your primary cost driver?
- Two, Measure Direct Impact: Calculate cost avoidance or value uplift—e.g., 90-day biodegradability plus improved cold-chain tracking could reduce returns by x% or boost premium appeal.
- Three, Pilot, Evaluate, Scale: Start with high-risk product lines—dairy exports, pharma, or premium food segments and assess real savings.

Four, Leverage Sustainability Storytelling:

- Smart tags + locally developed compostable packaging = compelling brand equity with retailers and consumers.

Five, Align with Policy Incentives:

Government schemes (PLI, waste reduction targets) may financially support early adoption of biodegradable and smart packaging solutions.





Reinventing India's Food Packaging



India's food packaging sector stands at an inflection point, facing mounting environmental pressures, evolving consumer demands, and the urgent need to modernize supply chains.

It's not exaggerations if one says food packaging industry is undergoing a renaissance, perhaps rooted in necessity, powered by innovation, and shaped by sustainable ambition. From dairy sachets to edible millet cups, citrus-based films to antimicrobial plastics, the innovations are homegrown, high-impact, and tailor-made for scale.

Across laboratories, cooperatives, startups, and institutional corridors, transformation is well underway. Let's check how Indian innovations right from biodegradable sachets to antimicrobial plastics and active packaging systems are redefining food packaging for the future.

Eco-Innovation at Scale: From Field to Packet

India remains the world's largest milk producer, but the sector's packaging footprint is enormous relying largely on low-density polyethylene (LDPE) pouches and multi-layer laminates that generate millions of tons of plastic waste annually. Yet, two groundbreaking initiatives are redefining the sector. The case in point are organisations like KMF, IIT Roorkee, GB Pant University and Milkvilla, to name some.

Biodegradable Milk Sachets – Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF)

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has emerged as a clear pioneer. In Bengaluru, the KMF's Nandini brand is transitioning to biodegradable milk packets made from corn starch, sugarcane, and other plant-based ingredients. KMF, under its Nandini brand, recently ran

a successful pilot in Bengaluru introducing milk sachets made of corn starch, sugarcane, and other plant-based materials. These packets degrade within 90 days and can be composted into organic fertilizer.

Trials equally across local dairies, saw no compromise in milk quality or packet integrity. With consumption at 2–2.5 million packets daily, KMF anticipates substantial savings in recycling expenses and a major reduction in urban plastic burden. Statewide rollout is now underway. Consumer feedback confirmed no compromise in quality or durability, and the delivery experience remained familiar. With Bengaluru alone consuming 2–2.5 million plastic sachets per day, the environmental impact is profound.

Apart from this at IIT Roorkee, innovation takes a traditional twist with creating edible cups from underutilized Kodo millet, reinforced with guar gum and hibiscus powder to boost strength and moisture resistance. These cups are biodegradable or consumable, offering a cost-effective, regionally relevant alternative to plastics.

GB Pant University, Pantnagar, has also contributed to food safety with a new antibacterial plastic, capable of resisting microbial contamination for up to 72 hours, even when exposed to air and moisture, opening doors for safer food handling and packaging, particularly in perishable and hygiene-critical segments.

IoT-Enabled Packaging-Free Delivery – Milkvilla

Milkvilla, a Patna-based startup, deploys Bluetooth-controlled, autorickshaw-mounted milk dispensers that deliver chilled milk (0–4 °C) directly into consumer-owned containers completely bypassing plastic packaging. The system uses IoT monitoring for precise measurement,

freshness, and route efficiency. With over 6,000 customers across Patna, Muzaffarpur, and Bengaluru, Milkvilla has eliminated plastic sachet use and saved a significant number of trees.

Active & Smart Packaging

Indian packaging innovation isn't limited to materials—it's embracing technology.

Emerging technologies like active packaging, able to interact with food to extend shelf life (e.g., oxygen scavengers, antimicrobial films) are gaining traction. Such systems maintain product quality, safety, and convenience across transport and storage cycles.

At the recently held events like SIAL India 2025 and the Packaging Quality & Innovations Summit, industry leaders showcased intelligent packaging infused with IoT, including temperature and humidity monitoring, smart labels, and freshness indicators, all built to enhance food safety and reduce waste. Forums such as SIAL India and national packaging summits enable SMEs, startups, and corporations to converge around sustainable packaging solutions and accelerate adoption.

Smaller-scale innovations include biodegradable barrier coatings from startups like Urban Box (for food delivery containers) and bio-coatings from Opg Biosolutions, designed to improve the recyclability and shelf life of paper-based food packaging. Further, the rise of edible packaging, derived from seaweed, starch, or fruit residues, signals a shift toward zero-waste solutions; a trend gaining modest traction despite cost and shelf-life challenges.

Driving Adoption

For Indian brands, sustainability must also make sense economically, saving cost reducing waste along with adhering to regulatory compliances.

- **Circular Cost Savings:** KMF's pilot with biodegradable milk sachets shows immediate ROI via lower recycling costs and regulatory compliance with India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules.
- **Government Support:** Schemes like "LiFE" and India's renewed Ecomark eco-label amplify demand for eco-packaging.
- **Institutional Platforms:** The Indian Institute of Packaging offers advanced training—PG diplomas

and master's programs—helping the industry adopt best practices and align packaging talent to innovation.

The Road Forward

From dairy sachets to edible millet cups, citrus-based films to antibacterial plastics, the innovations are homegrown, high-impact, and tailor-made for scale. To foster transformation, food packaging stakeholders must align innovation, economics, and context.

This would involve majorly taking some steps. Like say first, identifying and focussing on sector-specific 'Pilot' replicating KMF's model across dairy, edible oil, beverages, and spices to scale biodegradable materials in high-volume categories.

Second, opting for the material-tech convergence, combining innovations like edible millet cups coupled with freshness indicators to offer high-value, IoT-enabled sustainable packaging.

Third, following up with Rural Linkages building rural-maker-networks around fruit peels, cottage manufacturers, and waste valorization, triggered by university-led prototypes.

Fourth, policy-driven investment with leveraging eco-labels (Ecomark), state incentives, and demand assurance under programs like PMFME to derisk innovation scaling.

With adopting innovations that are economically viable, environmentally responsible, and technologically forward, this new wave of Indian packaging promises not just to protect food but to fuel livelihoods, reduce waste, and redefine global packaging norms.





Advancing Healthcare Sustainability

While The Path to Achieving Healthcare Sustainability is Not Without Challenges, Including Upfront Costs and Regulatory Complexities, Numerous Opportunities Exist

India's healthcare sector is undergoing a significant transformation, with hospitals increasingly prioritizing sustainability in their operations. A pivotal aspect of this shift is the adoption of eco-friendly medical packaging solutions. Hospitals across India are embracing sustainable packaging practices and needless to say, suppliers are primarily driving innovation in this space.

Advancing healthcare sustainability is a multifaceted endeavour aimed at creating healthcare systems that meet current health needs without compromising environmental, economic, or social resources for future generations. This involves a shift toward more environmentally conscious practices, efficient resource use, and a focus on preventative care and community well-being.

In healthcare environments, preventing contamination is paramount. To address this, scientists at GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology (Pantnagar) have developed a groundbreaking antibacterial plastic capable of resisting microbial contamination for up to 72 hours—even when exposed to air and moisture. This innovation is pivotal for applications such as packaging for sterile consumables, diagnostic kits, and medical devices. For converters and material developers, such plastics can significantly reduce infection risk and improve patient safety.

Further to these challenges like safe disposal of waste and eco-conscious outlook fuel the push for biodegradable medical packaging.

Researchers at IIT Madras have developed mycelium-based biodegradable foams using agricultural and paper waste. These fungus-derived composites offer mechanical strength that surpasses conventional EPS foams while being compostable—an encouraging step toward greener medical packaging like protective cushioning for instruments or pharma shipping trays.

Companies are adopting materials like polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyethylene (PE), and polypropylene (PP) to reduce the environmental impact of packaging. Efforts are being made to develop packaging that can be reused, reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

Several Indian companies are at the forefront of developing and supplying sustainable medical packaging solutions. These suppliers are not only meeting the current demand but are also pioneering innovations to shape the future of medical packaging.

Manjushree Technopack Limited

Headquartered in Bangalore, Manjushree Technopack Limited is a leading rigid plastic packaging company in India. The company offers a range of products, including PET, HDPE, and PP grade plastics in bottles, containers, and preforms. With a capacity of over 1,75,000 MT per annum, Manjushree serves various sectors, including pharmaceuticals. The company's commitment to sustainability is evident in its efforts to develop recyclable and eco-friendly packaging solutions.



SSF Plastics India Pvt. Ltd.

SSF Plastics India Pvt. Ltd. specializes in manufacturing tamper-proof closures for lubricant bottles, ensuring product authenticity and preventing counterfeiting providing a variety of packaging solutions for the pharmaceutical industry. With ISO 13485:2016 certification, SSF Plastics manufactures medical-grade containers, child-resistant caps, and eye-drop kits. Their pharma packaging division is exploring recyclable PP bottles and bio-PE derived from sugarcane. With over four decades of experience, the company offers products such as eye drop sets, tablet containers with child-resistant caps, and PET cough syrup bottles.

UFlex Limited

Globally, functionally secure designs like child-resistant and senior-friendly (CRSF) blisters and wallets are gaining traction. Indian major UFlex has introduced CRSF foils for push-through and peel-push pack formats, offering both safety and material reduction. UFlex Limited is one of India's largest flexible packaging manufacturers, providing a variety of packaging solutions for the pharmaceutical industry. The company manufactures BOPET and BOPP films, along with aluminum foils for blister packaging.

UFlex's products carry approvals for quality ISO and US DMF certification, making them a trusted choice for pharmaceutical companies seeking reliable and sustainable packaging options.

Cosmo Films Ltd.

Cosmo Films Ltd., now known as Cosmo First Limited, is an Indian multinational corporation that manufactures bi-axially oriented polypropylene films (BOPP) for packaging, labeling, and lamination applications. The company's commitment to innovation is reflected in its development of sustainable packaging materials that cater to the growing demand for eco-friendly solutions in the medical sector.

Huhtamaki India Ltd.

Huhtamaki India Ltd., a part of the Finnish-based global food packaging major Huhtamaki Oyj, is a leading provider

of primary consumer packaging solutions in India. The company offers sterile and specialized pouches for the healthcare sector, ensuring that medical products are safely packaged and transported. Huhtamaki's focus on sustainability aligns with the industry's shift towards eco-friendly packaging solutions.

Hospital Adopting Sustainable Medical Packaging

Hospitals, as critical components of healthcare infrastructure, are recognizing the environmental impact of their operations, including the extensive use of single-use plastics in medical packaging. In response, many institutions are implementing strategies to reduce their ecological footprint. India's medical plastics packaging sector is stepping into a new era of innovation—blending antimicrobial materials, biodegradable alternatives, advanced manufacturing, user-centric design, and smart connectivity.

The case in the point is the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi that has initiated a comprehensive waste management program aimed at minimizing plastic waste. As part of this initiative, AIIMS has partnered with local suppliers to source biodegradable packaging materials for medical supplies. This collaboration not only supports the hospital's sustainability goals but also encourages local manufacturers to innovate and produce eco-friendly packaging solutions.

On the other hand, Fortis Healthcare, a prominent private hospital chain, has undertaken steps to reduce plastic usage by transitioning to biodegradable alternatives for packaging medical products. This move aligns with the hospital's broader environmental sustainability objectives and sets a precedent for other healthcare providers in the region. These case studies illustrate a growing trend among hospitals in India to adopt sustainable medical packaging practices, driven by both environmental considerations and regulatory pressures.

A Comprehensive shift requires government support

Green Tech Incentives: Subsidies for MSMEs investing in clean-room compostable film extruders or recyclable blister machinery.

EPR for Hospitals: Include medical packaging in India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework with clear reverse logistics mandates.

National Standards: BIS and IIP must accelerate certification protocols for biodegradable medical plastics.

Public Procurement Reform: Government hospitals should prioritize vendors using sustainable packaging.

The Road Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

Hospitals are increasingly adopting advancements to improve medication safety, enhance patient adherence, and streamline operations. While the adoption of sustainable medical packaging is gaining momentum, several challenges remain. These include the higher cost of eco-friendly materials, the need for specialized infrastructure for waste management, and the requirement for regulatory approvals for new packaging materials.

However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation and collaboration. Hospitals, suppliers, and regulatory bodies can work together to develop standards and frameworks that facilitate the adoption of sustainable packaging solutions.

Additionally, investment in research and development can lead to the creation of cost-effective and efficient eco-friendly packaging materials.

India's journey toward sustainable medical packaging is underway—with early adopters among hospitals,

visionary suppliers, and researchers leading the charge. But mainstream success requires policy push, supply chain innovation, and above all, an industry mindset that sees sustainability not as an obligation—but as an opportunity.

The shift towards sustainable medical packaging in India is not just a trend but a necessary evolution in the healthcare sector. Hospitals are increasingly recognizing the importance of reducing their environmental impact, and suppliers are rising to the occasion with innovative solutions.

With the right partnerships, regulatory clarity, and research-industry collaboration, Indian plastics innovators can set new benchmarks in medical packaging that are safe, sustainable, and export-ready. By continuing to foster collaboration and innovation, India can lead the way in sustainable medical packaging, ensuring both the health of its patients and the planet. In the new era of health and environment consciousness, plastics are not the villain, but the enabler, if redesigned responsibly.



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E-Commerce Sparks Green Shift in Packaging MSME's



E-Commerce Packaging Reforms are Pushing Indian MSMEs Towards Sustainable Innovation Creating both Pressure and Opportunities Equally

In India's evolving plastics packaging landscape, no force has been more disruptive—and transformative—than the explosive growth of e-commerce. From Amazon to Flipkart, the digital-first delivery economy has triggered a quiet but powerful revolution in how goods are packed, shipped, and recycled. But beyond the headlines, this revolution is creating both pressure and possibility for one of India's most critical stakeholder groups: micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

India's e-commerce market is projected to surpass \$200 billion by 2026, with millions of daily deliveries across tier 1-4 cities. That's a staggering amount of packaging—and plastic. To curb the environmental fallout, major platforms like Amazon India and Flipkart have committed to eliminating single-use plastics and scaling up recyclable, biodegradable, or compostable alternatives.

Flipkart achieved 100% elimination of single-use plastic in its supply chain by 2021. Amazon India, replaced air pillows and foam with paper cushions, and plastic tape with water-activated alternatives.

Such moves are not symbolic—they're compelling MSMEs to rethink their material choices and manufacturing approaches. These moves have cascading effects down the supply chain. e-commerce sellers and third-party logistics providers, many of whom are MSMEs must now comply with platform-specific sustainability mandates and national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations.

To put it simply, e-commerce packaging reforms are pushing Indian MSMEs towards sustainable innovation. For the plastics industry, especially its MSME segment, e-commerce packaging reforms have become a key driver pushing the sector toward sustainable packaging innovation. Yet the path to green adoption is not without hurdles be it financial, infrastructural, and regulatory.

India has over 60,000+ plastic processing MSMEs, according to data from CIPET and MSME Ministry. For these companies, especially those focused on packaging films, laminates, bags, and pouches, the pivot to eco-friendly alternatives is both a challenge and a growth opportunity.

Some forward-looking MSMEs are leveraging e-commerce as a proving ground for innovation. Borzo's latest data reveals that 56% of MSMEs are now using sustainable packaging materials, covering a wide footprint across Tier 2 and 3 cities like Vadodara, Nagpur, Kochi, and Jammu. Food & beverage firms remain most active in this shift.

Bengaluru based Packmile offers reusable and compostable courier bags, primarily serving e-commerce sellers in fashion and food. While the Mumbai based Let's Pac supplies biodegradable poly mailers made from cornstarch and PBAT to D2C brands like Suta and Neemli Naturals.

Rural startups in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are producing molded pulp trays and bagasse containers, selling via Flipkart's sustainable vendor program.

These MSMEs aren't just surviving but they're aligning themselves with the next wave of plastic packaging that prioritizes lightweighting, mono-materials, design for recyclability, and reusability.

Under the Uttar Pradesh Export Growth Campaign, MSMEs are receiving packaging, branding, and e-commerce mentorship via the MSME 1-Connect portal. This initiative empowers rural and urban enterprises alike to modernize their offerings, especially their packaging to meet both domestic e-commerce and international export standards.

States with strong export clusters, Morbi, Ludhiana, Tirupur, Kanpur are producing biodegradable containers and customized packaging exports, directly supporting the e-commerce export boom.

These regional innovations signal that MSMEs are not waiting but they are responding with ingenuity, albeit unevenly.

E-commerce is reshaping packaging not just technically, but strategically for India's MSMEs. From reducing plastic waste to enabling exports, the narrative is ESG-aligned and rich with innovation. MSMEs across regions are answering with sustainable materials, smart printing, and circular thinking. But to scale sustainably, they need targeted policy backing through incentives, infrastructure, and education.

Key Challenges MSMEs Face

MSMEs in the Indian plastic industry face numerous challenges, including high raw material costs, lack of access to skilled labor, technological advancements, and waste management issues.

- **Cost of Green Materials:** Compostable plastics and bio-based polymers (PLA, PHA) can cost 2-4x more than conventional PE or PP.
- **Tech Adoption Barriers:** Many MSMEs lack access to extrusion, molding, and sealing machinery compatible with newer green polymers.
- **Certifications & Compliance:** Navigating BIS standards, MoEFCC norms, and EPR documentation is resource-intensive for smaller firms.
- **Market Volatility:** Demand for eco-packaging remains concentrated in Tier 1 e-commerce zones, making rural/low-cost packaging transitions risky.

The Policy Vacuum

While market-led reforms are powerful, they are not enough. A clear public-private roadmap is needed to support MSMEs through this green transition. Currently, government support for plastic MSMEs remains fragmented.

- **Subsidies for Machinery Upgrade:** There is no national scheme offering capital support for MSMEs to purchase biodegradable film converters or compostable injection molds.
- **Green Material Incentives:** While bio-polymers are GST-exempt or low-rated, there is little supply-side support to scale domestic manufacturing of such materials.
- **Access to Testing & Certification:** Labs for compostability, recyclability, or migration testing are limited to metros, leaving MSMEs in smaller towns behind.
- **Clear EPR Implementation for MSMEs:** Most EPR platforms are designed for large brands, with little hand-holding or capacity-building for small processors.

Ensuring Collaborative Green Growth

To ensure that MSMEs are not left behind in India's packaging transition, these challenges should be addressed on priority by policymakers.

The future of Indian plastic packaging is already being written—one e-commerce order at a time. But for the transformation to be truly inclusive and scalable, MSMEs must be equipped not just to comply, but to compete.

With the right government support, aligned industry collaborations, and sustained e-commerce pressure, India's plastic MSMEs can become the green champions of tomorrow's packaging economy; balancing innovation with affordability, sustainability with scalability. It's time to invest in them.

In the new era of health and environment consciousness, plastics are not the villain, but the enabler; if redesigned responsibly.





Rajoo Engineers Invests in Capacity Building

Rajoo Engineers Ltd. has installed the Okuma Multus at its Shree Yanatralaya- The Machine shop strengthening its core manufacturing capabilities. According to the company the state-of-the-art installation is a part of Rajoo's investment plan announced in 2024, is set to advance its manufacturing excellence to global standards and reflects Rajoo's ongoing commitment to Total Quality Management (TQM) and future-ready production. "This investment represents our continuous focus on building world-class capabilities. The MULTUS U4000 brings greater agility and precision to our core manufacturing, ultimately creating more value for our global customers," said Mr. Utsav Doshi, Joint Managing Director, Rajoo Engineers Ltd. This high-precision multitasking machine Okuma MULTUS U4000 delivers advanced 5-axis machining by integrating turning, milling, drilling, and gear cutting into a single, highly automated setup.

The installation aligns with Rajoo's broader vision of innovation driven manufacturing and

supports its commitment to lean practices, sustainability, and Total Quality Management. With this strategic addition, Rajoo is further equipped to serve a rapidly evolving market with speed, reliability, and global-standard excellence. The Machine Shop, Rajoo's state-of-the-art in-house machining zone, is a temperature-controlled, dust-free facility designed to produce critical components with consistently high accuracy. The addition of this Japanese machine significantly enhances the company's ability to reduce lead times, improve quality, and reduce external dependencies.



Berlin Packaging Agrees to Purchase PET Bottle Caps from Origin Materials

Berlin Packaging has agreed to purchase sustainable polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle caps from technology company Origin Materials. According to the deal Berlin Packaging will procure PET 1881 caps for sale and distribution to its customer network, which includes multiple beverage manufacturers. The partnership is also said to leverage Berlin Packaging's global distribution capabilities. The move aims to enhance the availability of these packaging solutions for the beverage industry. Origin Materials CEO John Bissell said, "When we first connected with Berlin Packaging, the potential, vision, and strong degree of alignment was obvious. He added, "Their broad and deep distribution footprint not only immediately extends our market reach for 1881 but also opens the door for all our forthcoming formats across all closure applications globally."

The PET 1881 caps are designed to facilitate lighter packaging solutions and extend product shelf life. They are classified as monomaterial containers, which improve recyclability and support circular economy initiatives, according to the company. The caps can be produced using 100% post-consumer recycled (PCR) PET, making them suitable for food-grade applications, in contrast to many polypropylene and high-density polyethylene alternatives. The manufacturing process for the caps involves thermoforming, differing from the conventional injection-moulding technique.

Berlin Packaging sustainability vice-president Balaji Jayaseelan said, "At Berlin Packaging, our sustainability strategy is focused on innovation, collaboration, and measurable impact."

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"We are driven by the belief that Anything Is Possible, and we see that belief in Origin as well. We're excited to partner with Origin to bring their world-changing PET caps to our world-class customers." Berlin Packaging is claimed to be the world's largest hybrid packaging supplier of glass, plastic, and metal containers and closures. With a network of 1,700 suppliers, it offers over 55,000 stock-

keeping units, and operates more than 100 locations worldwide. The company provides a range of packaging manufacturing, distribution, and value-added services. Last month, Berlin Packaging acquired Italian company Cosmei, which specialises in creating streamlined essentials and custom designs in collaboration with beauty brands.





Sabert Acquires UK Sustainable Packaging Company Colpac



Sabert Corporation Europe has acquired UK-based Colpac, which offers sustainable paperboard packaging solutions. The acquisition was finalised on 31 July 2025.

Established in 1937 and located in Flitwick, Bedfordshire, Colpac serves customers in the food-to-go foodservice and industrial markets. The acquisition is expected to enhance Sabert's position in the sustainable food packaging sector within the UK and other markets. Colpac managing director Andrew Grimbaldeston said, "Colpac's team, heritage, and specialist paperboard expertise are a perfect complement to Sabert's portfolio. Together, we are better equipped to serve customers with a broad, innovative, and sustainable range of food packaging solutions." Sabert stated that Colpac's established capabilities in design and manufacturing align well with its operational goals.

Sabert CEO Paul McCann said, "Today marks an important milestone in our ongoing investment in the UK and our focus on expanding our diverse product portfolio of innovative, sustainable solutions." Both companies believe that a culture of sustainability, quality, and high service levels is the foundation of building lasting relationships with our customers. "Now, as one team, we can accelerate our efforts even further to develop and deliver sustainable, innovative solutions as our customers' trusted food packaging provider." In August 2024, Sabert announced that its Texas, US facility received certification from the Biodegradable Products Institute. The certification

applies to all products made with the company's moulded Pulp Plus and Pulp Ultra formulations at the Greenville facility, confirming compliance with ASTM standards for compostable products in North America.





UFlex Limited Recognised as a Top Employer 2025 in India

UFlex Limited is named a Top Employer 2025 in India



COMPANY NEWS

UFlex Limited, India's largest multinational flexible packaging and solutions company, has been recognised as a Top Employer in India by the Top Employers Institute, a leading global authority on HR excellence, certifying and guiding organizations to adopt world-class people practices. Mr. Anantshree Chaturvedi, Vice Chairman and CEO, Flex Films International, said, "This recognition is an important milestone in UFlex's journey. At UFlex, our people are at the centre of everything we strive to be as an organization. Being named a Top Employer India 2025 goes beyond just this recognition."

Commenting on the recognition, Mr. Chandan Chattaraj, President - Human Resources (India and Global), said, "Being certified by the Top Employers Institute is a proud moment that highlights our efforts in delivering best-in-class employee experience. At UFlex, HR transformation has been a continuous and all-encompassing journey focused on strengthening our people practices in alignment with evolving business goals." Over the years, UFlex has built a strong people-centric ecosystem backed by employee-first policies and an open, agile culture. The organisation has introduced various initiatives aimed

at supporting holistic development and employee well-being. The company offers curated learning paths, leadership development modules, and access to on-demand training through its internal learning platform, supporting continuous professional growth.

This global certification is a benchmark of excellence for people practices and stands as a testament to UFlex's commitment to being an employer of choice by creating a workplace where both people and purpose thrive. The recognition reflects the strength of UFlex's progressive people-first culture and highlights the progress it has made in making UFlex a preferred workplace.



Mr. Chandan Chattaraj



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McCain Foods Launches New Brand Identity and Packaging in India



McCain Foods has introduced a new brand identity and packaging in India, signalling the company's commitment to sourcing responsibly. The announcement was made at an event in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, where McCain's operations in India began.

The refreshed brand identity is centred around the theme 'Rooted in Real', which underscores McCain's focus on regenerative farming and sustainable collaborations, according to the company. The new visual identity includes a contemporary logo that reflects the essence of the farm-to-family journey, inspired by elements such as warmth and rolling hills. McCain Foods' redesigned packaging aims to enhance shelf visibility and convey freshness while also appealing to local consumer preferences. This transformation seeks to change perceptions of frozen food, presenting it as

fresh, natural, and of restaurant quality. McCain Foods India managing director Mainak Dhar said: "We are proud to introduce our new visual identity that honours our heritage, embraces the future, and reaffirms the values that have always defined us – real food, real people, and real purpose. "This transformation is deeply rooted in our pride for the farmers who grow our ingredients, the dedicated teams who bring our products to life, and the families who welcome McCain to their tables.

"Our new packaging is designed to inspire trust and excitement, and the 'Rooted in Real' platform is a steadfast promise – to remain true to the quality of our ingredients, the authenticity of our flavours, and the meaningful connections we foster every day."





Sojo Opens New Production Facility in Pennsylvania

Industrial packaging automation company Sojo Industries has opened a new production facility in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, US. The 215,000 sq. ft new facility is located near Sojo's headquarters in Bristol. It is already supporting production and is anticipated to be completely operational by the end of the year. The expansion triples the company's presence in Pennsylvania and bolsters its national production capabilities by expediting advanced automation and high-speed packaging processes. It addresses the growing demand for variety and customisation in consumer goods, which is challenging traditional packaging workflows. Sojo plans to add approximately 20 new positions to support the facility's growth. This hiring initiative is in line with the company's expansion strategy. The launch of the new facility follows a \$40m investment from S2G Investments, aimed at fueling Sojo's national expansion and the development of high-impact customer solutions and modular packaging infrastructure.

The facility features four packaging lines and advanced robotics infrastructure, catering to complex, stock-keeping unit-rich variety pack production. It will serve as Sojo's corporate hub and support high-speed, multi-

format production and the assembly of Sojo Flight rovers. These rovers function as portable manufacturing lines, capable of being set up and operational within an hour, facilitating swift on-site production of assorted variety packs for clients.

With more than 30 dock doors and expanded floor space, the Langhorne site is purpose-built to meet the needs of Fortune 500 companies, fast-scaling brands, co-manufacturers, and national distributors. The focus is on accelerating production speed, lowering transportation expenses, and enhancing flexibility in packaging operations. Sojo founder and CEO Barak Bar-Cohen said, "Today's supply chain challenges require technology partners who can move at the speed of consumer demand. He added, "With this new facility, we're expanding our ability to meet that challenge head-on, providing our customers with faster turnaround times, lower freight and labour costs, more storage, and the operational agility needed to adapt and scale in real time."





Germany's New Packaging Law Makes 25% Recycled Content Mandatory for SUP

A new packaging law has been passed in Germany in a bid to improve recycling and prevent packaging waste. The new 2025 amendment sets strict rules on packaging waste, recycling, and corporate responsibility. New updates from 2025 make the law even more demanding. Single-use plastic beverage bottles must now include at least 25% recycled content, with that figure rising to 30% by 2030. Recently the VerpackG replaced an older packaging law with a more ambitious framework to reduce waste and promote recycling. Reusable packaging will be promoted with the aim of reaching a target of 70 per cent reusable beverage packaging. The Act obliges retailers to clearly mark store shelves, highlighting whether beverage packaging is reusable or disposable and helping consumers to make more conscious buying decisions.

There are three main obligations under the German Packaging Act: registration, system participation, and reporting. The law provides for the establishment of a central office to co-ordinate dual systems, and to handle registration of the obligated producers and distributors. Local municipalities will, however, be responsible for determining how to carry out collection of the recycled and bioplastic packaging and how it is to be measured. In addition, it will be up to individual municipalities whether they collect additional plastic and metal waste together with the existing dual-collection system.

Germany is also preparing for a major EU-wide regulation: the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), expected to take full effect in 2026. This law will unify packaging rules across all EU member states, requiring packaging to be recyclable by design and limiting excessive materials. Another innovation under consideration is a recycling incentive fund. In future, businesses that use sustainable, recyclable packaging may receive financial support—while those that use hard-to-recycle materials could pay extra fees. The regulatory landscape for packaging is continuously evolving, making immediate action even more critical.

Since January 1, 2022, there has been a mandatory deposit on almost all single-use plastic beverage bottles and cans. Furthermore, new targets are already set for the near future. As of January 1, 2025, single-use PET beverage bottles must contain at least 25% recycled plastic. This threshold will increase to 30% for all single-use plastic bottles by 2030.





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Indonesia Introduces Major Safety Regulations

Indonesia has introduced landmark food safety regulations that come into effect July 24, 2025. According to experts, Indonesia's food packaging regulations are undergoing significant updates, with a focus on enhancing food safety and aligning with international standards. Key changes include mandatory implementation of SNI (Indonesian National Standard) for paper and cardboard used in primary food packaging, and a draft law addressing food contact materials. These changes are designed to strengthen consumer protection, align with international standards, and offer long-term benefits for public health and trade.

This regulation, effective from July 24, 2025, mandates the use of SNI 8218:2024 for paper and cardboard used in primary food packaging. Indonesian Food and Drug Authority BPOM has proposed a draft law addressing food contact materials, covering a wide range of materials including ceramics, glass, metals,

plastics, and rubber. With the Indonesian Food and Drug Authority (BPOM) and Ministry of Industry working in tandem, businesses involved in food packaging face a new regulatory landscape that demands attention and adaptation. The regulations address migration limits for various substances from packaging materials into food, with specific limits for certain materials like melamine-formaldehyde and PET. While BPOM's regulation covers all food contact materials, a separate but complementary move was made by the Ministry of Industry. On 24 January 2025, it enacted Regulation No. 6 of 2025, which mandates the adoption of SNI 8218:2024—a revised Indonesian National Standard for paper and cardboard used in primary food packaging. This new SNI updates the earlier 2015 version, integrating advances in material science and international best practices.





ACCC Proposes New Soft Plastics Recycling Scheme

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has proposed authorising Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia (SPSA) to establish a voluntary scheme aimed at enhancing the recycling of soft plastic packaging. This initiative seeks to address the environmental concerns associated with soft plastics such as shopping bags and food wrappers by increasing their collection and recycling rates.

Industry giants, including Woolworths Group, Coles Group, ALDI, Nestlé, Mars, and McCormick Foods are the initial members of the scheme. ACCC deputy chair Mick Keogh said: "It is clear that many Australians are concerned about the environmental impacts of soft plastic packaging and want to recycle it", adding further, "We believe the proposed scheme will result in an environmental benefit as it aims to take over and expand the current in-store collection and kerbside pilots for recycling soft plastic packaging, meaning some soft plastics are likely to be diverted from landfill."

In its assessment, the ACCC concluded that the environmental advantages of the scheme would outweigh any potential negative impacts on competition. The authorisation, if granted, would be in effect for eight years and would include conditions to ensure transparency and prevent exclusive contracts with processors. Interim authorisation has already been granted to SPSA to facilitate the transfer of operations from the Soft Plastics Taskforce, including the sharing of operational information and data.





JBT Marel Launches its Patented Efficient Agitation (EA) Retort for Packaging

JBT Marel, a leading global technology solutions provider to the food and beverage industry, has launched its patented Efficient Agitation (EA) Retort, the perfect optimization of static processing and agitation providing flexible preservation solutions across a wider range of packaging formats.

The EA Retort was built for packagers that specialize in preservation applications involving pouches, tubs, cups, glass, and other unique, delicate and challenging containers, as well as retortable foods that benefit from the shortened cook times provided by linear agitation. Unlike the trademarked traditional steam water spray (SWS) static retort, the EA Retort's patented trapezoidal motion profile provides greater mix energy in a shorter stroke length during the sterilization process while maintaining

the benefits of SWS even heating. The result is a more sustainable, flexible packaging design that reduces brine usage and cycle time to produce fresher food. "At JBT, we are transforming the food packaging industry by evolving our products to meet the needs of food and beverage packagers and the environment," said Breno Dos Santos, Product Line Manager. "The EA Retort offers an unparalleled combination of benefits that decrease production time and shipping costs, significantly reduce production times and increase sustainability to ensure food products reach consumers faster and fresher with better quality and efficiency." JBT Marel's EA Retort can enhance operational efficiency and reduce costs while delivering fresher, high-quality products.





Amcor Enhances Packaging of RAUCH Yippy drink in Austria

Amcor has announced its collaboration with RAUCH Yippy, a children's drink brand in Austria, to supply its Secure Flip 26mm tamper-evident sports cap. This move is aimed at enhancing the recyclability of the brand's packaging. The Secure Flip cap is designed to stay tethered to the polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle, ensuring that both components can be collected for recycling together, provided there is appropriate infrastructure. The Secure Flip sports cap, with its patented nondetachable tamper-evident band, offers an alternative to detachable tabs. The cap's design features an ergonomic Thumb Tab for one-handed opening, an audible 'click' sound for opening and closing confirmation, and a full 180-degree opening for easy access to the spout.

RAUCH Yippy has been offering a range of flavoured drinks with added calcium and vitamins without preservatives since 2003. The adoption of Amcor's Secure Flip cap builds on the brand's commitment to child-friendly packaging by enhancing the packaging's recyclability. Rauch Yippy international brand manager Gudrun Golob said: "The right packaging has been a critical part of Yippy's success.

"With the adoption of the Amcor closure, we are ensuring

that children continue to get the best enjoyment from the drink, and at the same time are able more easily to recycle the entire pack, an important benefit for increasingly environmentally conscious youngsters and their parents." The cap's coloured tamper-evident band also remains fixed after opening, providing visual assurance of the product's integrity from the manufacturer to the consumer. Amcor Rigid Packaging Solutions International sales vice-president Matthias Hammersen said: "Safe, comfortable on-the-go consumption is a key part of many drinks brands' offerings, and it's important that this can deliver a premium consumer experience. "Our Secure Flip closure was therefore specifically developed to combine aesthetics with functionality and convenience, and these benefits also help to enhance the pack's overall sustainability offering."





Coveris to Unveil Latest Advancements at FachPack 2025

Coveris is set to unveil its latest advancements in sustainable packaging at the FachPack 2025 exhibition, scheduled for 23-25 September in Nuremberg, Germany. The company will showcase a diverse array of packaging solutions, including films, labels, cartons, and paper-based products, all designed to support its No Waste vision. These products cater to various sectors, including food and beverage and logistics. Among the featured products is SleeveFlexR Stretch, a sustainable sleeve solution that incorporates recycled content of 35%, 50%, or 75%. This product is said to serve as a cost-effective alternative to traditional shrink sleeves and is produced using recyclates from Coveris' ReCover de-inking and recycling facility, promoting a closed-loop model.

Coveris will also showcase the FilmLiteR Stretch, a fully recyclable pallet transportation film containing over 30% recycled material. It is designed for stability and protection during the transport of beverages. This film is manufactured using 100% renewable energy and employs a heatless application process to reduce carbon emissions. In the food packaging sector, Coveris will

unveil its BarrierFresh MAP tray solution, which reduces plastic usage by 90% while ensuring recyclability and maintaining shelf life for meat, fish, and poultry products. This solution combines sustainably sourced board with a specially developed ethylene vinyl alcohol barrier film, resulting in a hermetically sealed, fully printable pack.

Another product on display will be MonoFlexBP, a thermoformable base web paired with a resealable lidding film for meat and cheese packaging, offering high oxygen barrier properties and resealing capabilities. Coveris will also showcase its Ultra-Low SIT CPP lamination films, designed for high-speed form-fill-seal packaging across various sectors, including food and personal care. These films provide optimised sealing strength at 85°C and are available in both transparent and white options, with thicknesses ranging from 30µm to 100µm. Furthermore, MonoFlexFibre Pure Max, a monomaterial paper-based substrate for cereal and protein bars, will be presented at the event.



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India Preparing on Green Policy

India is preparing for significant rulebook shifts across ministries to align with the EU's stricter 'green' regulations impacting trade. These regulations, set to take effect within a year, cover packaging, antibiotic use in livestock, deforestation-free products, and waste shipment. The EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) (EU) 2025/40, which entered into force on February 11, 2025, aims to minimize packaging waste and promote a circular economy for packaging within the EU. It replaces the previous Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC) and introduces stricter sustainability targets and harmonized rules across member states.

According to the key aspects of the PPWR: All packaging placed on the EU market must be designed for recyclability by 2030, with minimum recycled content targets for plastic packaging. The regulation encourages the reduction of packaging waste through increased reuse and refill systems.

Binding recycled content targets are set for plastic packaging, requiring the incorporation of post-consumer

recycled material. The PPWR mandates a reduction in packaging volume and weight, with specific targets for 2030, 2035, and 2040.

The regulation includes bans on specific single-use plastic packaging by 2030. New labeling requirements will help consumers identify recyclable packaging and make informed choices. The PPWR aims to harmonize national measures, strengthening the internal market and facilitating the transition to a circular economy.

While the PPWR entered into force February 11, 2025 it will be applicable in all member states effective August 12, 2026. The PPWR will have a significant impact on businesses operating within the EU. Companies will need to adapt their packaging design, materials, and processes to meet the new requirements. This includes evaluating packaging materials, transitioning to reusable or alternative materials for banned single-use packaging, and incorporating recycled content into packaging.

IN THE NEWS





National Plastic Pollution Reduction Campaign Launched



The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on the occasion of World Environment Day 2025 on 5th June with the theme 'One Nation, One Mission: End Plastic Pollution' and launched multiple national initiatives, including the National Plastic Pollution Reduction Campaign. As part of one month long pre-campaign activities undertaken before World Environment Day 2025, around 69,000 events were organized in which around 21 lakh people participated across the country. The main event for World Environment Day 2025 was celebrated on 5th June 2025 by the Ministry along with Government of NCT of Delhi. The event saw the participation of members of industry, civil society, students and Government officers from States and concerned central Ministries, following the 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach. National

Plastic Pollution Reduction Campaign (NPPRC) launched from 5th June to 31st October 2025 will include Focus on tiger reserves, urban and rural areas, and government offices.

The Campaign includes activities to reduce plastic pollution in Tiger Reserves and urban and rural areas under 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' programme. Separate focus will be given in reducing use of avoidable single use plastics in government offices especially during Special Campaign 5.0. A Hackathon on eco-alternatives to single-use plastics and engaging youth through creative competition such as poem writing, slogan writing and skits (Nukkad Nataks) on the theme of Ending Plastic Pollution is part of the campaign.

IN THE NEWS





IIT Hyderabad Develops Biopolymer-based Antimicrobial Food Packaging



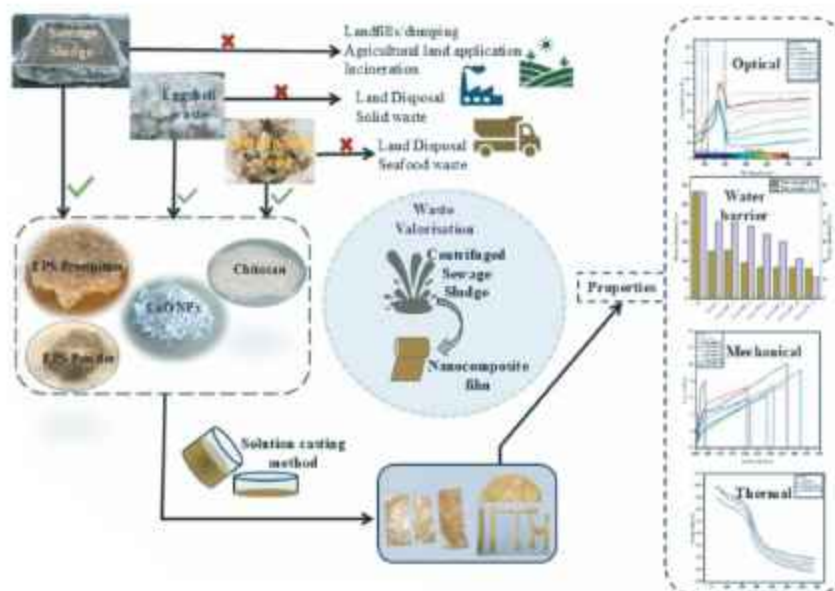
Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) have developed a biodegradable nanocomposite film using sewage sludge and waste chicken eggshells offering a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel-based packaging materials for non-food applications.

Environmental challenges associated with waste management and the reliance on petroleum-based plastics have inspired the development of novel, biodegradable, and eco-friendly nanocomposite films using waste materials, including sewage sludge (SS) and eggshells.

In this study, the nanocomposite films based on SS-derived extracellular polymeric substances (EP) combined with chitosan (Ch) and subsequently impregnated with calcium oxide nanoparticles (CaO) obtained from waste eggshells.

Nanocomposite films were fabricated by incorporating CaO in the EP and Ch matrix, varying EP concentration from 2 % to 12 %, using a simple, cost-effective solution casting method. The films were characterized using P-XRD, FTIR, and SEM to investigate the possible interactions among the components. Mechanical, thermal, optical, and water barrier properties were also examined using the universal testing machine (UTM), TGA, and UV-Visible spectrophotometry.

A soil burial test was also performed to investigate the biodegradability property of the films. The tensile strength (δt) and elongation at break (EAB) of the optimum Ch/CaO/EP 10 nanocomposite film increased by 16.2 % and 186 %, respectively, along with improved thermal, optical, and biodegradable properties of the nanocomposite film as compared to the pure Ch film, indicating the compatibility between the matrix and the bio-filler. The water solubility and absorption of the films improved by 79.9 % and 71.6 %, respectively, compared to the pure Ch film. The material and carbon balance of the films was also investigated, along with the possible reaction mechanism involved during the film fabrication. This study innovatively utilized EP extracted from SS and CaO prepared from waste eggshells to develop a nanocomposite film, which aligns with the concept of the circular economy and waste valorization.





ICAR-CCRI and LITU Signs MoU to Boost Academic Research Collaboration in Citrus Science



In a landmark initiative to foster academic excellence and agricultural innovation, the ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur, and Laxminarayan Innovation Technological University, Nagpur, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to address emerging challenges in citrus cultivation, processing innovations and value chain development along with providing packaging solutions. The MoU was formally signed in the presence of Dr. Dilip Ghosh, Director, ICAR-CCRI, and Dr. Atul Narayan Vaidya, Vice-Chancellor, LITU.

"This collaboration with LITU will act as a catalyst for developing a pool of talented citrus researchers who will drive science-based solutions and innovations for the benefit of farmers, processors, and exporters alike," said Dr. Ghosh. He also highlighted the institute's strategic vision to elevate India's citrus sector through innovation-led research, industry partnerships, and skill development.

CRI has developed innovative products like mandarin cubes, pomace cookies, and pummelo peel candies from citrus waste, maximizing resource utilization. They have also developed edible films from acid lime peel for biodegradable packaging. This MoU stands as the first-of-its-kind alliance between two premier Nagpur-based institutions, and is poised to serve as a model framework for future academia-research partnerships across India.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr. Vaidya, emphasized the critical need for bridging academic rigor with field-oriented research. He lauded ICAR-CCRI for its significant role in advancing India's horticultural landscape and expressed confidence that this collaboration would empower students and researchers to address emerging challenges in citrus cultivation, processing, and value chain development. The collaboration is envisioned to provide a robust platform for nurturing next-generation scientists, technologists, and agri-entrepreneurs with a focused vision on citrus innovation and sustainability.



Royal Vaassen and UPM Develop 'Barryrwrap Concept'

Netherlands-based flexible packaging supplier Royal Vaassen, in partnership with UPM Specialty Papers, has introduced a range of recyclable barrier paper solutions designed to meet stringent food safety and recyclability standards. Royal Vaassen has developed the Barryrwrap concept to provide medium to high-level barrier properties.

Royal Vaassen's Barryrwrap concept caters to various packaging requirements, including high-level oxygen and moisture barriers. It provides medium to high-level barrier properties in packaging. UPM Specialty Papers has contributed to the collaboration with its UPM Solide Lucent packaging paper, which serves as the foundation for Barryrwrap solutions.

Royal Vaassen sales manager Mark Gerritsen stated: "Our barrier papers are a sustainable alternative to laminates and plastics. They offer strong protection with a focus on performance and circularity, and are suitable for existing production lines and products such as coffee, stock and chocolate."

Gerritsen added: "Barryrwrap Everest is our highest performing barrier paper, developed for instant coffee and other dry products that demand maximum protection. The material provides an excellent barrier against moisture, oxygen and light; printing is reproduced with exceptional clarity and it's ready to seal on existing production lines."

With its fully recyclable paper structure, Barryrwrap Everest is a sustainable and circular alternative to traditional aluminium laminates, without compromising on quality or processability. UPM Solide Lucent packaging base paper is known for its smoothness and density, which allows for lower coat weights and the durability required for high-speed packaging lines. Its grammage can be adjusted to the specific needs of the application.

The EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation is setting new standards for recyclability, and the Barryrwrap solutions meet these demands with their widely recyclable properties.



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Upcoming Events - 2025

Complast Sri Lanka 2025

30th Aug - 01st Sept 2025

BMICH (Bandaranaike Memorial
International Conference Hall) Sri Lanka

Vietnam Print Pack 2025

10th Sept - 13th Sept 2025

Saigon Exhibition And Convention Center,
Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Kplex 2025

11th Sept - 14th Sept 2025

Adlux Exhibition Centre, Kochi India

Compack Chennai 2025

18th Sept - 20th Sept 2025

Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, India

K-Plastics & Rubber Exhibition 2025

08th Oct - 15th Oct 2025

Messe Dusseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

Plastex

14th Oct - 16th Oct 2025

Baku Expo Center, Baki, Azerbaijan

Plastiworld 2025

04th Nov - 06th Nov 2025

Jio World Convention Centre, BKC, Mumbai





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