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Table of Contents



07

President's Message
Ravish Kamath



10

Editor's Message
Ramesh Parasuraman



12

NEC Chairman's
Message
Alok Tibrewal



16

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23



32

FOUNDATION NEWS

17

Plastindia Foundation Makes its
Presence at Trade Show

FEATURE STORIES

23

Learning Is the Key to Success

25

The Need for Upskilling in the
Plastics Industry

28

Plastic Pollution Negotiations
Adjourn with New Text,
Follow-up Session Planned

31

Plastic Recycling Demands
Collaborative Efforts across
Government, Industry, and
Civil society

BUSINESS NEWS

32

Welspun's subsidiary Sintex-BAPL
acquires 100% stake in Weetek
Plastics

33

AMP Robotics Raises \$91m for
AI-powered Sorting of Waste

34

Covestro collaborates with Ausell
for Plastics Recycling

35

LG Chem and Reifenhäuser Sign
MoU for MDO PE films



COMPANY NEWS

37

Sumitomo Corporation -
MWC Expanding Phase 2 of
Industrial Park in Chennai

38

Covestro To Build Pilot Plant
for Recycling of Elastomers in
Germany

38

MBA Polymers To Expand It's
India Operations

39

NY's A G Appeal Against
Dismissal of PepsiCo Plastic
Pollution lawsuit

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

40

UK Scraps the Mandatory
Single-use Cup Recycling Scheme

41

EU Adopts Stricter
Packaging Standards

42

Ireland Waste Production
Surges

44

Implementation of Plastic Credits
Begin in Thailand

PRODUCT NEWS

45

Covestro Unveils CERTEVO®: An
Innovative Polymeric Substrate

46

Bpacks Introduces
World's First Bark Packaging

48

Huhtamaki Bags Awards at
the 2024 Crescents and Stars
Competition

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

49

Waste Styrofoam Can Now be
Converted into Polymers for
Electronics

FOUNDER MEMBERS

50

AIPMA Participates in the
Pre-Budget Consultations
with Union Finance Minister

52

Announcing INDPLAS'25
The 10th International Plastics
Exhibition

IN THE NEWS

55

MoEFCC Facilitates Landmark
Agreements to Advance Circular
w and Waste
Management

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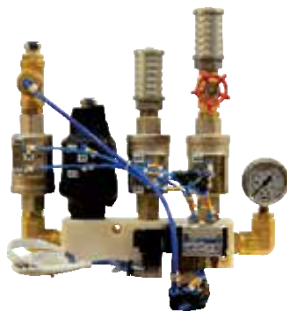
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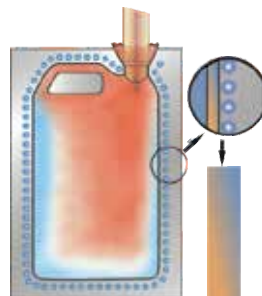
Several
Installations
Across India



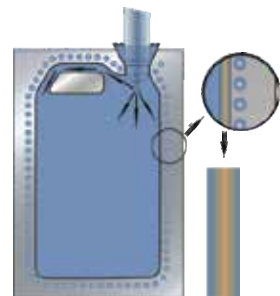
Blow Valve Block



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APPLICATIONS



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Innovative Solutions

President's Message



Dear Industry Colleagues & Friends,

We are at the beginning of the new fiscal year, 2025, filled with expectations of new opportunities, hope, and success! As we transition into the new year, we are confident that India's economy will improve significantly, with the plastics industry playing a vital role in shaping the nation's growth. The Indian plastics industry will be instrumental in realizing and enhancing these expectations, providing a platform to connect, collaborate, and innovate.

India is poised to become the third-largest global economy in this decade, driven by an industrial revolution in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, and infrastructure. At the heart of this transformation is the dynamic plastics industry, which continues to drive innovation, sustainability, and industrial growth. As this rapid evolution unfolds, the importance of specialized Education in Polymers and Plastics has become even more critical.

In the previous edition of INSIGHTS, we focused on the role of plastics in construction and their significant contribution to India's modernization efforts. Looking ahead, this edition will explore the importance of Education and Upskilling within the Plastics Industry.

In response to the growing need for a well-trained workforce in India's plastics industry, the Plastindia Foundation has decided to establish Plastindia International University in Gujarat, a major hub for the plastics sector. The Foundation will serve as the



Ravish Kamath

President, Plastindia Foundation

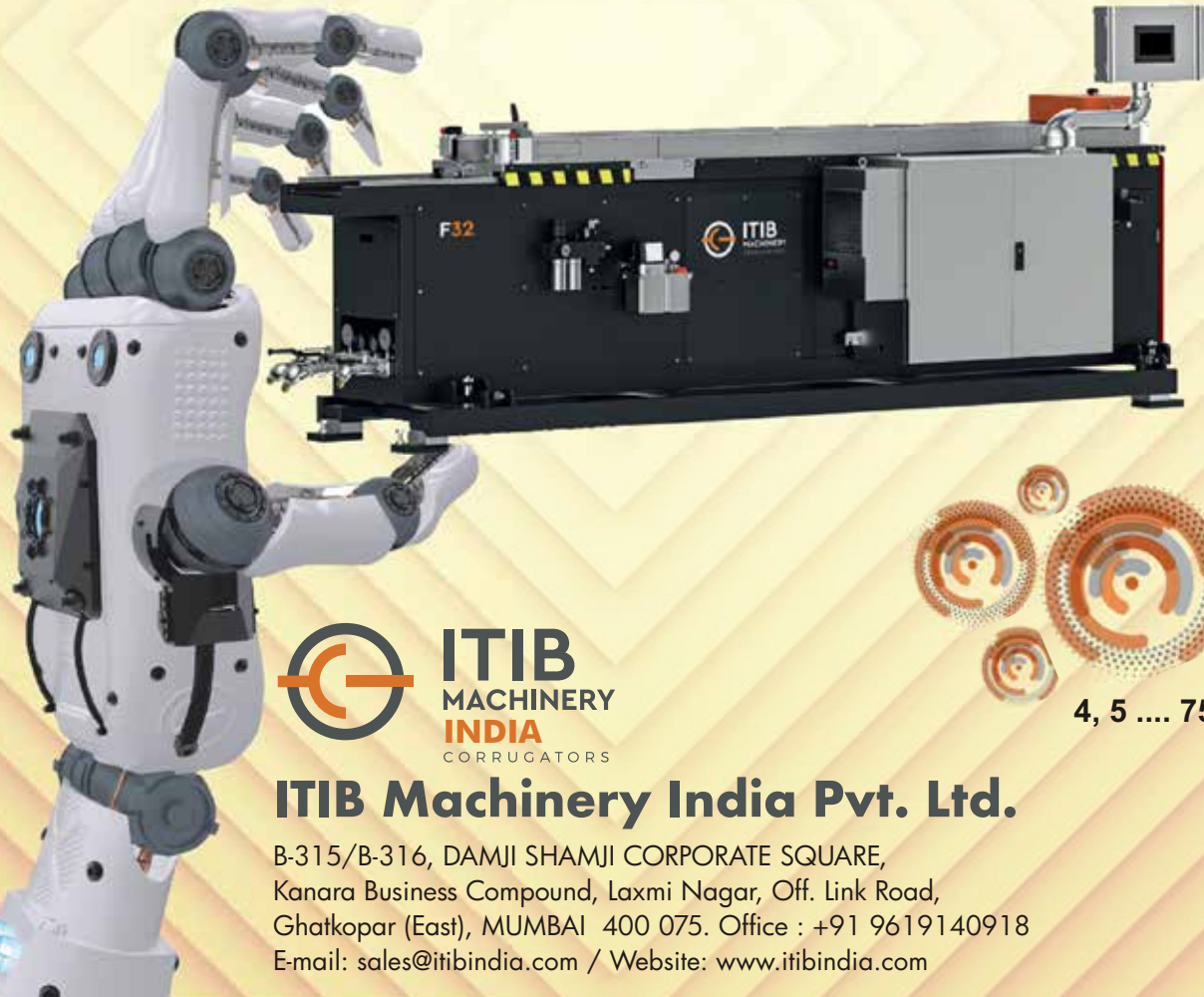
sponsoring body of the university, which is committed to providing world-class education in polymer sciences and plastic engineering. The university will offer specialized courses that focus on the latest technological advancements, sustainability practices, and industry trends. Plastindia International University aims to produce highly skilled professionals equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow's plastics industry. By combining theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on industry experience, the university is poised to play a pivotal role in developing the next generation of leaders in the sector. Through this initiative, we aim to strengthen the workforce's skill set and ensure that

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our industry remains innovative and competitive on the global stage.

On the international front, we had the privilege of attending the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5), which aims to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. This session took place from 25 November to 1 December 2024 at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center in Busan, Republic of Korea. The Government of India was represented at this important meeting by the Ministry of Forests, Environment, and Climate Change, Ministry of External Affairs, the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. Additionally, the nominees of Plastindia Foundation and other key members of the plastics industry attended the meeting. India expressed its opposition to reducing plastic production and emphasized the need to identify mechanisms for financing and addressing chemicals of concern. This stance was well received.

As we look toward PLASTINDIA 2026, preparations are well underway to ensure that the event will be a grand occasion for the plastics industry. With a focus on Bharat Next, PLASTINDIA 2026 promises to be the most dynamic edition yet. The event will provide a unique opportunity to showcase technological advancements,

connect with industry leaders, and discuss the future of the global plastics industry. We are excited to welcome experts, professionals, and stakeholders from around the world to engage in meaningful dialogue that will shape the future of the plastics sector.

A key highlight of PLASTINDIA 2026 will be the "CEO Conclave," where top global industrialists and entrepreneurs will gather to discuss and foster collaboration between stakeholders and policymakers to drive sector growth. This pivotal event, will be held concurrently with the exhibition & will offers a valuable opportunity for industry leaders to collaborate, innovate, and shape the future of the plastics sector.

As we embark on this new chapter in the fiscal year, we are excited about the future of the plastics industry, which stands at the crossroads of innovation and sustainability. By empowering individuals through education and skill development, we are laying the foundation for a successful and sustainable future for all. Let us work together to build a future where the potential of the plastics industry is fully realized, and the opportunities it creates benefit not only our economy but also the global community.

With best wishes for a prosperous year ahead!

Editor's Message

Nurturing Talent for Fostering Innovation in Polymers and Plastics in India



As the Indian plastics industry experiences remarkable growth, the significance of education in polymers and plastics has become increasingly evident. The rising demand for skilled professionals in this sector has prompted academic institutions and specialised training centers to develop programs aimed at nurturing talent and fostering innovation within the field of plastics and polymer engineering. With the industry emerging as a crucial contributor to India's economy, the educational landscape is evolving to address the needs of this dynamic sector. The emphasis on education in polymers and plastics is gaining momentum as the industry expands. Academic institutions and specialized training programs are acknowledging the urgent need for skilled professionals in this area.

The Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) plays a pivotal role in providing comprehensive training and education in plastics. As a premier institute, CIPET is dedicated to nurturing talent and fostering innovation within the plastics and polymer industry. Its multifaceted role encompasses skill development programs, research and development in plastics technology, entrepreneurship development, and facilitating partnerships between industry and academia, along with internships and placement opportunities that ensure graduates are well-equipped to meet industry demands. In addition to CIPET,



Ramesh Parasuraman
Editor, Plastindia Foundation

institutions such as the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) in Matunga (formerly UDCT) and MIT-WPU Pune are emerging as key contributors to advancing education in polymer science. ICT is renowned for its excellence in chemical engineering and offers postgraduate courses in polymer science and technology, which are

India's plastics sector employs over 4 million individuals across 30,000 processing units, making it a vital component of the

As the industry continues to expand, young Indians are presented with valuable opportunities to acquire essential skills that empower them to contribute to the sector's ongoing success and environmental sustainability.

Education in polymers and plastics transcends mere academic pursuit; it serves as a crucial stepping stone toward building a sustainable, innovative, and prosperous future for India's youth.



NEC Chairman's Message

PLASTINDIA 2026: Setting New Benchmarks in Global Plastics Industry Expo



The plastics industry is gearing up for one of its largest, most innovative, and well-organized trade exhibitions in the world- PLASTINDIA 2026. Following the resounding success of the Plastindia 2023 event, the 2026 edition to be held at the world-class Bharat Mandapam in Delhi from 5th – 10th February, promises to set a new benchmark in terms of scale, global participation, and industry significance. Recently, the PLASTINDIA 2026 launch event in Mumbai was a major milestone in this journey, and now, with 90% of the domestic bookings already filled and over 45,000 square meters of space secured within just two months, the countdown to PLASTINDIA 2026 has begun in earnest.

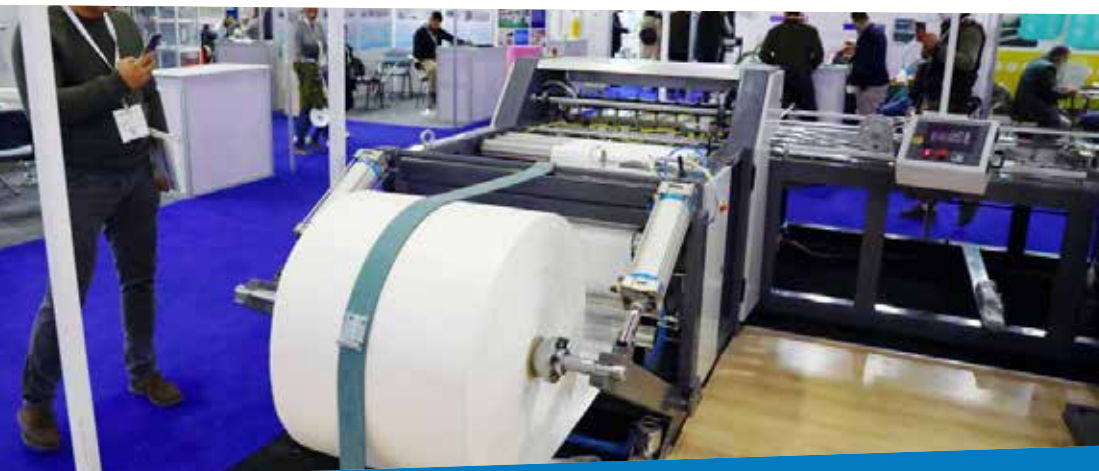
A Growing Demand and Unprecedented Growth

The momentum for PLASTINDIA 2026 has been gaining acceleration day- by-day. I would like to inform that with everyone's support we were able in successful booking 45,000 square meters of the domestic exhibition space within the first two months after the launch event, demonstrating exhibitors' interest for participation in PLASTINDIA 2026 exhibition. Further, one of the most notable challenges encountered during the initial phase of



Alok Tibrewal

Chairman, National Executive Council (NEC)



the event's planning was the overwhelming demand for space dedicated to live machinery displays. We (Team PLASTINDIA 2026) have had to constrain this category to 23,000 square meters, despite the high demand from exhibitors eager to showcase their cutting-edge technologies.

The event's organizing team has since been in close communication with the authorities at Bharat Mandapam, where the expo will be held, to explore the possibility of securing additional space for live machinery displays. The team has been relentlessly following up with the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, and officials at Bharat Mandapam to ensure that the infrastructure can accommodate this ever-growing demand.

Given the situation PLASTINDIA 2026, in all its likelihood might extend its exhibition space coverage to around 620,00 square meters. This increased space allocation reflects the growing importance of the plastics industry globally and the expanding interest in India as a key player in this sector.

Government Support and Strategic Partnerships

A key factor contributing to the rapid success of PLASTINDIA 2026 is the continued support from the Indian government. The Ministry of Commerce, GOI, and the officials at Bharat Mandapam have recognized the potential of Plastindia as a global platform for showcasing India's strengths in the plastics industry. Their cooperation in providing necessary resources and backing for such a grand-scale event has been invaluable to the organizing team.

The PI 2026 team expresses its sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Commerce and Bharat Mandapam for their continued support for its the collaboration with these authorities that is pivotal to ensuring the smooth execution of this world-class event, which will set a new

standard for global exhibitions.

Global Participation and Vendor Development

The PLASTINDIA 2026 team is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to attract the maximum number of international exhibitors and visitors. With the global nature of the plastics industry, international



participation is central to the success of the event. The team has already begun reaching out to overseas partners, embassies, and international trade bodies to secure their participation in this much-anticipated event.

In addition to this, the team has embarked on a comprehensive program to develop strong vendor relationships through one-on-one meetings. These strategic vendor tie-ups are set to ensure that PLASTINDIA 2026 will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure, with a seamless exhibition experience that will be remembered for years to come.



CEO Conclave: A Global Platform for Industry Leaders

In line with the global aspirations of PLASTINDIA 2026, the event will also host a high-profile CEO Conclave. This exclusive gathering will bring together the top 100 industry leaders, including CEOs from international companies, global retailers, and cutting-edge technology providers. The Conclave will provide a platform for industry leaders to explore investment opportunities in India, while also examining what the global market has to offer.

The PLASTINDIA 2026 CEO Conclave will address critical issues facing the plastics industry, from sustainability to emerging technologies, and will serve as a thought-leadership hub for innovative ideas, policies, and practices. This high-level dialogue will create a dynamic exchange of ideas between Indian and international leaders, further solidifying Plastindia's status as a global leader in the plastics industry.

Cutting-Edge Conferences and Seminars

An essential aspect of PLASTINDIA 2026 will be its diverse range of seminars and conferences, aimed at driving industry innovation, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing. The PI team has already secured most of the conference areas at Bharat Mandapam, and work is underway to develop a schedule that promises over 100 conference sessions. These conferences will focus on the most pressing issues in the plastics industry today, from sustainability and recycling to technological advancements and market trends.

The team is ensuring that the content and themes of these seminars are directly relevant to the challenges and opportunities faced by industry stakeholders. The seminars will offer a platform for experts, policymakers, and businesses to come together and discuss the future of the plastics sector. These sessions will also serve as an ideal networking opportunity for companies and individuals to form strategic partnerships and collaborations.

Digital Strategy and Communication

In today's digital age, effective communication is key to any successful event. The PLASTINDIA 2026 team is fully aware of this, and is employing a comprehensive communication strategy that leverages social media platforms to reach a global audience. The team is actively engaging with potential exhibitors, visitors, and industry professionals through various digital channels, ensuring that the event receives maximum visibility and participation.

Social media tools will play a crucial role in amplifying Plastindia's message, promoting its global reach, and keeping attendees informed about the latest updates, announcements, and developments related to the expo. By utilizing these platforms effectively, PLASTINDIA 2026 aims to create a dynamic online community that will extend the impact of the event beyond its physical location.

A Grand Vision for PLASTINDIA 2026

As PLASTINDIA 2026 draws closer, the team remains committed to delivering an event that exceeds expectations. With tireless efforts underway to ensure robust vendor development, a dynamic CEO Conclave, groundbreaking seminars, and seamless event infrastructure, PLASTINDIA 2026 is set to be a transformative experience for all attendees. The event is not just about showcasing products and technologies—it is about creating a lasting impact on the global plastics industry, highlighting India's role in shaping the future of the sector, and fostering international collaboration.

PLASTINDIA 2026 is poised to be a historic event, and with the full support of the Indian government, the international community, and the organizing team, it promises to be the biggest and most influential plastics industry expo ever held.

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- Engineering Masterbatch, PC/ABS/ PBT/Nylon

Plastindia International University

“

The plastics industry is on the brink of transformative growth, driven by technological advancements, increasing demand for sustainable solutions, and a focus on circular economies. To capitalize on these opportunities, skill development and technical upskilling are crucial. Initiatives must be taken to bridge the skill gap in plastics processing, manufacturing, and product development.

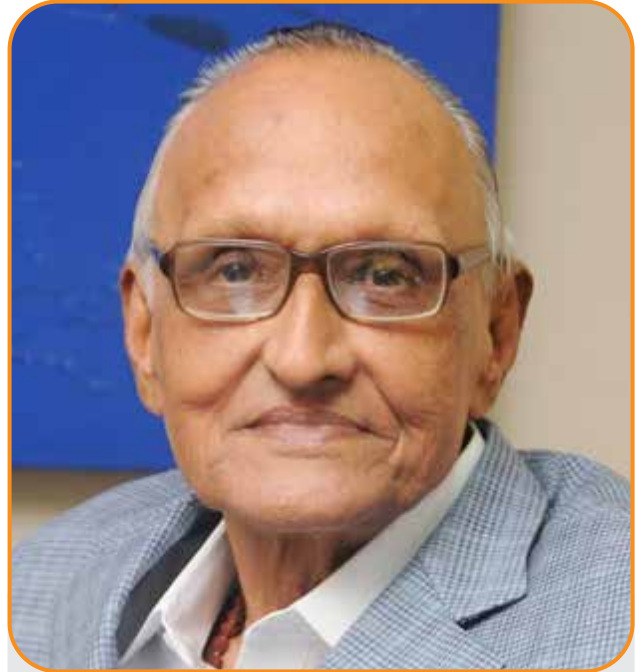
The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the importance of integrating skills and vocational education into higher education to better prepare students for the evolving job market. By incorporating vocational education, NEP 2020 seeks to equip students with practical skills that enhance their employability. This includes training in 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and technological proficiency.

Plastindia International University (PIU) plays a pivotal role in addressing these needs by weaving skill and vocational education into its B.Tech in Plastics and Polymer Engineering program.

Plastindia International University (PIU) is promoted by the Plastindia Foundation and established through a Gujarat State Legislative Act in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA.

It offers a four-year undergraduate B.Tech program in Plastics and Polymer Engineering, approved by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Government of India. PIU aims to produce industry-ready graduates equipped with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to lead the industry forward.

PIU has a unique advantage, being situated in one of Asia's most densely populated plastics industry clusters, providing real-time skills and vocational



Shri M P Taparia

President, Plastindia International University

education to its graduates. Through a blend of academic rigor and hands-on training, PIU ensures that students and professionals are prepared to meet the challenges of the evolving industry.

Aspiring professionals should pursue specialized courses to gain insights into advanced polymers, sustainability practices, and emerging trends in computing and technologies that are transforming the plastics industry for future growth.

”



Plastindia Foundation Makes its Presence at Trade Show

The Plastindia Foundation participated at various Conventions and trade shows; be it National and International, starting September, this year making its presence felt all over. Some of the prominent shows include Taipeiplas 2024, India Chem 2024, Plexpo 2024.

Apart from this, the Plastindia Foundation also participated at the inaugural convention at Polymer Bhawan, Hyderabad followed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) at Busan, South Korea.



India Chem 2024

The 13th Biennial India Chem 2024, held during 17-19 October at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai, showcased India's growing prominence in the global chemicals and petrochemicals industry.

Plastindia Foundation made its presence felt as it was honored to have Mr. Raju Desai, Vice President of Plastindia Foundation, during India Chem show.

The event brought together a diverse mix of participants, including industry leaders, government officials, and international delegations, fostering collaboration and innovation. The Netherlands served as the partner country, while key Indian states such as Gujarat, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan highlighted their contributions to the sector. Notable discussions centered on sustainability, green technologies, and future growth opportunities in agrochemicals, petrochemicals, and dyes & pigments. The event also celebrated excellence through awards recognizing innovation and sustainable practices.



We were honored to have Mr. Raju Desai, Vice President of Plastindia Foundation, at our stall during India Chem. His visit reinforces our commitment to driving growth and innovation in the plastics and chemicals industries.



TaipeiPLAS 2024

Taipei International Plastics & Rubber Industry Show (TaipeiPLAS), held during 24-28 September 2024, with over 500 exhibitors across more than 1,800 booths concluded with resounding success. Mr. Ashok P Jajodia Co-Chairman PLASTINDIA 2026, Mr. Jayesh Rambhia, Managing Committee member, PIF, lead the Team Plastindia at the Show. The five-day show attracted over 16,000 visitors from home and abroad. Among them were more than 2,500 international visitors from 98 countries/regions, including delegations from India, Myanmar, Vietnam, Malaysia, Algeria, and Egypt.

This year's TaipeiPLAS centered on three main themes: "Innovative Materials," "Advanced Manufacturing," and "Circular Economy." These themes highlight the industry's drive toward smarter, more energy-efficient production; meanwhile, innovation in materials and recycling are supporting cross-sector application and sustainable development.



► Our booth at the Taipeiplas 2024 exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan by Mr. Ashok P Jajodia Co-Chairman PLASTINDIA 2026, Mr. Jayesh Rambhia, Managing Committee member, PIF, and other dignitaries of Plastics Fraternity.



Polymer Bhawan

On the invitation of Karnataka State Polymer Association, Plastindia visited Hyderabad for the inauguration of 'Polymer Bhawan' on 10th November, 2024. Shri Priya Krishna MLA Govindraj Nagar, GoK, was the Chief Guest for the inauguration function.

The event was graced by dignitaries Shri H C Balachandra IFS, Member Secretary, KSPCB, Dr. Neetesh Patil Director, MSME, GoK, Shri Ravish Kamath, President Plastindia Foundation, Shri Arvind Mehta, Chairman General Council, All India Plastics Manufacturers Association, Shri Manoj Shah, President, All India Plastics Manufacturers Association along with many prominent figures from the Indian plastics industry. The function was presided by Shri Vijaya Kumar. V President, Karnataka State Polymer Association, KSPA.



INC-5

INC-5, Busan, South Korea

Mr. Rajesh Gauba and Mr. Punit Madan from CPMA, and Dr. Sameer Joshi from the Indian Plastic Institute, represented Plastindia Foundation at the recently held Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) at Busan, South Korea, during November 25- 01 December, 2024.

'At the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) in Busan, South Korea, India introduced a multilateral fund aimed at supporting developing nations in the fight against plastic pollution. This initiative will offer financial assistance, technology transfer, and grant-based finance to help countries transition to sustainable practices.

Key Highlights:

- Financial and Technical Support for compliance with global plastic reduction measures
- Funding from Developed Nations to cover transition costs
- Practical Model drawn from successful initiatives like the Montreal Protocol

India's proactive approach is a step towards a cleaner, sustainable future for all. This initiative underscores India's commitment to global action against plastic pollution.



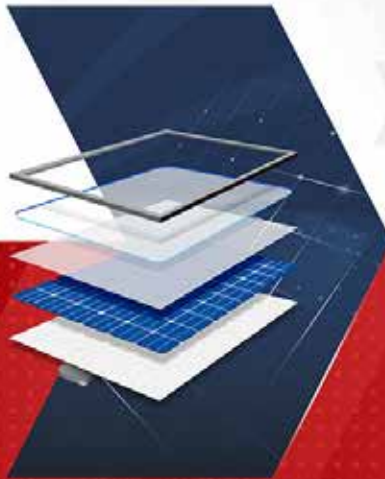
The 9th edition of PLEXPO 2024 held during 6-9 December 2024 at Gandhinagar Gujarat , concluded successfully with many fruitful engagements for Plastindia Foundation. The Plastindia Foundation stall at PLEXPO 2024 was officially inaugurated by Mr Ravish Kamath, President Plastindia Foundation, Dr. Raju Desai, Vice President of Plastindia Foundation, Mr. Dharmendra Gandhi, Treasurer of Plastindia Foundation, Mr. Alok Tibrewala, Chairman of NEC PLASTINDIA 2026, Mr. Jigish Doshi, Immediate Past President of Plastindia Foundation, along with other distinguished dignitaries from the plastics industry. The inauguration marks another step in advancing the plastics industry and fostering collaboration within the sector. Organised by the Gujarat State Plastics Manufacturers GSPMA, PlexpolIndia 2024 showcased Investment Opportunities, Latest Technologies and Manufacturing Capabilities.



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Learning Is the Key to Success

Academic education in plastic and polymer engineering is more than just a stepping stone to a career—it is the bedrock of innovation in an industry that shapes much of our modern world.



In today's rapidly advancing world, plastic and polymer engineering is at the heart of numerous technological innovations. From the cars we drive to the smartphones in our hands, polymers are integral to countless industries. The significance of academic education in plastic and polymer engineering cannot be overstated, as it provides the foundational knowledge, technical skills, and research opportunities necessary for driving innovation in this vital field.

A Foundation for Innovation

At its core, polymer engineering focuses on the design, processing, and development of plastics and other polymer-based materials. These materials are essential in industries like automotive, aerospace, healthcare, packaging, and electronics. The field is highly interdisciplinary, incorporating principles from chemistry, physics, material science, and engineering. A solid academic education in polymer engineering equips students with a deep understanding of polymer structures, properties, and processing techniques. This foundation is essential for developing new materials that meet the ever-evolving needs of society.

Academic programs in plastic and polymer engineering introduce students to a variety of topics, such as polymer chemistry, material science, thermodynamics, and the methods used to shape and mold polymers. Such programs emphasize both theoretical and practical learning, with laboratory experiments, projects, and internships providing hands-on experience. By blending classroom instruction with real-world applications, students are well-prepared to enter the workforce and contribute meaningfully to the industry.

Meeting Industry Demands

As global industries become more dependent on polymers, the demand for skilled engineers who can innovate, improve manufacturing processes, and solve technical challenges continues to grow. The plastics and polymer sector is crucial in developing lightweight, durable, and cost-effective materials for everything from packaging to medical devices. This growing demand makes academic training in polymer engineering essential to meeting the ever-evolving needs of various industries.

For example, the automotive industry increasingly relies on polymer composites to reduce vehicle weight and improve fuel efficiency. Similarly, the medical sector needs specialized polymers for devices such as implants, drug delivery systems, and prosthetics. Without a well-educated workforce capable of designing these advanced materials, industries would struggle to meet the growing demand for high-performance, sustainable solutions.



Paving the Way for Sustainable Solutions

One of the most pressing challenges facing the plastic and polymer industry today is environmental sustainability. The widespread use of single-use plastics has led to significant environmental concerns, particularly regarding plastic waste and pollution. Academic education in polymer engineering is pivotal in addressing these issues, as it encourages the development of biodegradable plastics, recycling technologies, and more sustainable manufacturing processes.

Students trained in polymer engineering are uniquely positioned to contribute to solutions like bioplastics made from renewable resources or the creation of closed-loop recycling systems. With a focus on both innovation and environmental responsibility, academic programs prepare engineers to lead the charge in creating materials that are not only efficient but also sustainable.

Research and Development

Another key benefit of academic education in polymer engineering is the emphasis on research and development. Universities and research institutions provide an environment where new ideas can be tested, prototypes can be developed, and the latest advancements in polymer science can be explored. Many

academic programs encourage students to engage in research projects that contribute to the advancement of polymer technologies. These projects may involve improving polymer properties, discovering new applications, or developing more efficient manufacturing processes.

Moreover, academic institutions often collaborate with industry partners, creating a bridge between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications. This partnership ensures that students gain practical experience and that industry challenges are addressed through cutting-edge research.

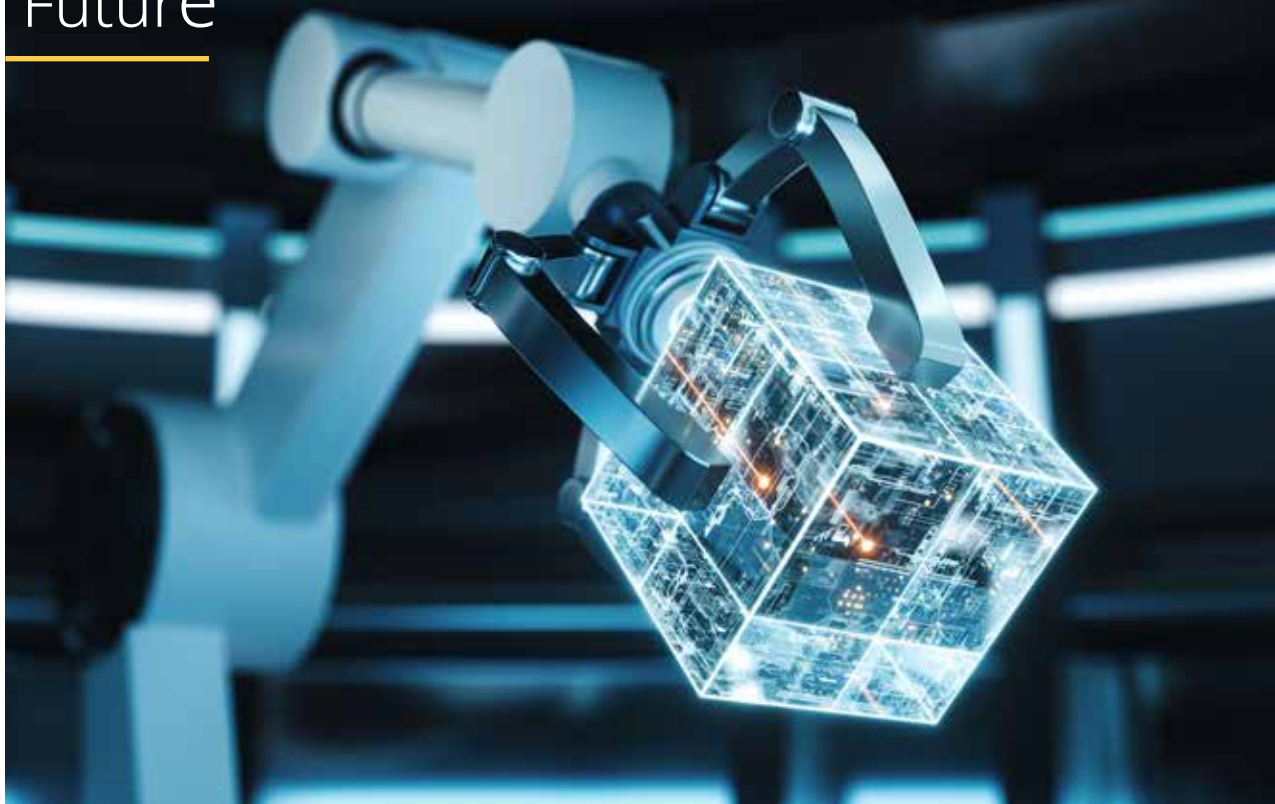
With a solid academic foundation, students are equipped to meet the needs of industries ranging from healthcare to aerospace, all while pushing the boundaries of what is possible with polymers.

As the world faces challenges like sustainability and resource management, highly skilled polymer engineers will play a critical role in creating solutions that benefit both industry and society at large. The importance of this academic training cannot be underestimated as it will continue to drive progress and meet the demands of a rapidly changing world. ■



The Need for Upskilling in the Plastics Industry

Unlocking Advantages for a Sustainable Future



The plastics industry stands at a pivotal moment and to remain competitive, it must embrace upskilling as a core strategy. By equipping workers with the tools, knowledge, and expertise to navigate the complexities of modern plastics manufacturing and recycling, the industry can unlock greater innovation, efficiency, and environmental responsibility. The plastics industry, a critical player in global manufacturing, has been facing mounting challenges. From sustainability concerns to rapid technological advancements, the sector must evolve to meet the demands of the modern world. One of the key strategies to ensure the industry's growth, adaptability, and environmental responsibility is upskilling—the process of enhancing and updating the knowledge and capabilities of the workforce. In a rapidly changing landscape, upskilling is not just beneficial, it is essential for ensuring that professionals in the plastics industry remain relevant, innovative, and prepared for the future.

The Evolving Landscape of the Plastics Industry

Plastics have become ubiquitous in modern life, used in everything from packaging to electronics to medical devices. However, as global awareness of environmental issues grows, so does the scrutiny placed on plastics, especially with respect to waste and recycling. The world is demanding more sustainable solutions, and governments, businesses, and consumers are calling for eco-friendly materials, processes, and systems.

Meanwhile, technological advancements, such as automation, AI, 3D printing, and Industry 4.0, are reshaping how plastics are produced and recycled. These technologies promise increased efficiency, reduced waste, and better product design. However, they also require a highly skilled workforce capable of adapting to and implementing these innovations.

To navigate these complexities, the plastics industry needs to focus on upskilling its workforce. Through

targeted education and training, employees can gain the skills needed to drive innovation, implement sustainable practices, and optimize production processes. Let's explore why upskilling is so vital and how it benefits both employees and the industry as a whole.

The Growing Need for Upskilling in Plastics

Several factors contribute to the increasing need for upskilling within the plastics industry:

1.EnvironmentalSustainabilityandCircularEconomy:

One of the most significant shifts in the plastics industry is the demand for sustainability. As plastic waste piles up in landfills and oceans, the need for better recycling methods, sustainable materials, and waste reduction strategies is paramount. Professionals working in plastics manufacturing and recycling must understand new materials, eco-friendly alternatives, and recycling technologies to create products that are both functional and environmentally responsible.

Upskilling in sustainable design, materials science, and recycling technologies is critical for meeting this challenge. This ensures that professionals have the knowledge to design for recyclability, innovate with bioplastics, and implement circular economy principles.

2.Technological Advancements: The advent of smart technologies, such as AI, robotics, and the Internet of Things (IoT), is transforming production lines across industries. In the plastics sector, automation is increasing productivity and efficiency, while AI-powered systems are enhancing sorting, manufacturing processes, and material recovery in recycling plants.

To harness these technologies, the workforce must be equipped with new skills. Upskilling in automation, data analysis, and machine learning allows employees to operate advanced manufacturing systems, troubleshoot issues, and make data-driven decisions that improve efficiency and quality.

3.Changing Consumer Expectations : Consumers are increasingly demanding more sustainable and ethically produced goods. They are also more knowledgeable about the environmental impact of plastics and are opting for products made from recycled or eco-friendly materials. This shift requires manufacturers to adapt their processes, product designs, and materials.

Upskilling in customer-oriented strategies, sustainable materials, and green manufacturing will help employees understand these evolving consumer preferences and how to meet them through better product development and manufacturing practices.

4.Regulatory Pressure: Governments across the globe are imposing stricter regulations on plastics production, especially regarding waste reduction, recyclability, and environmental impact. The European Union, for example, has implemented a ban on single-use plastics and is pushing for greater plastic recycling rates. In the United States, similar regulations are taking shape in states like California.

Workers in the plastics industry must stay informed about regulatory changes and ensure that production processes comply with these new standards. Upskilling in regulatory compliance, environmental laws, and waste management practices is essential for staying ahead of legal requirements.



Strategies for Upskilling in the Plastics Industry

1. Industry-Specific Training Programs: Partnerships between plastics manufacturers, educational institutions, and professional organizations can provide specialized training in areas such as sustainable materials, recycling technologies, and automation. These programs can combine hands-on learning with theoretical knowledge, preparing workers for real-world challenges.

2. Online Courses and Certifications: Online platforms like Coursera, edX, and Udemy offer flexible learning options for workers to upskill in areas like data analytics, robotics, and AI. These platforms make it easier for employees to gain knowledge at their own pace without interrupting their work schedules.

3. Workshops and On-the-Job Training: On-the-job training is essential for ensuring that employees can apply new knowledge in a practical setting. Workshops and company-led training sessions focused on new technologies and processes can ensure that skills are immediately relevant and transferable to the workplace.

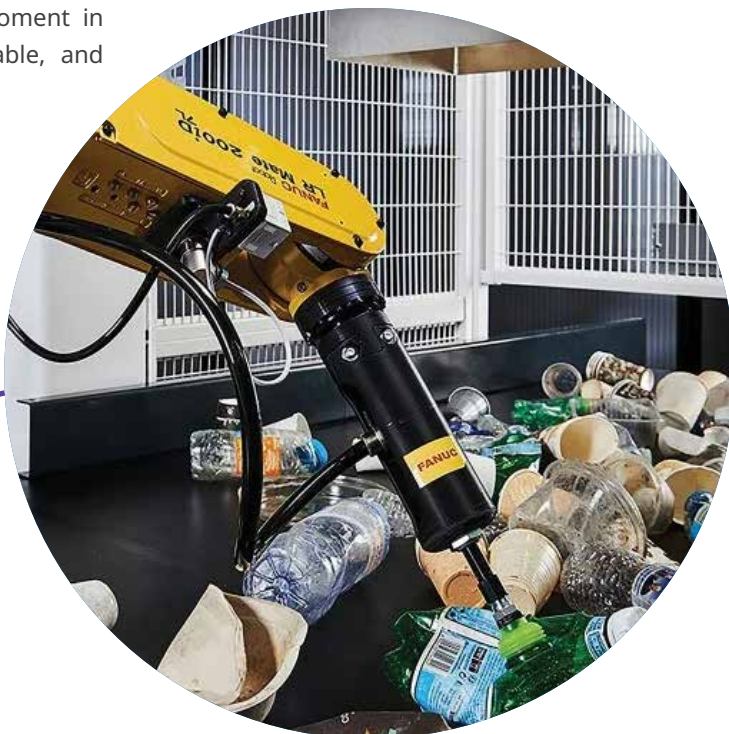
4. Continuous Learning and Development: Given the rapid pace of technological change, upskilling should be an ongoing process. Offering employees access to resources, webinars, and industry events ensures that they stay updated on the latest trends and developments.

The plastics industry stands at a pivotal moment in its history. To remain competitive, sustainable, and

compliant with increasingly stringent regulations, it must embrace upskilling as a core strategy. By equipping workers with the tools, knowledge, and expertise to navigate the complexities of modern plastics manufacturing and recycling, the industry can unlock greater innovation, efficiency, and environmental responsibility.

The plastics industry stands at a pivotal moment in its history. To remain competitive, sustainable, and compliant with increasingly stringent regulations, it must embrace upskilling as a core strategy.

Upskilling not only empowers individuals but also strengthens the entire sector, positioning it to meet the challenges of the future and drive meaningful change in a world that increasingly demands sustainable solutions. As the industry evolves, those who invest in continuous learning will lead the way in shaping a more efficient, sustainable, and circular plastics economy. ■



Plastic Pollution Negotiations Adjourn with New Text, Follow-up Session Planned

-Dr Sameer Joshi

FEATURE STORIES

The Road to Busan, perhaps that's the best way one could sum it up for, nothing is agreed till everything is agreed. At UNEA 5.2, the world promised to tackle plastic pollution only with consensus and not by force, at its next meeting.



With over 3,300 delegates; including Members representing more than 170 nations and Observers from more than 440 organizations have been meeting in Busan, Republic of Korea, since 25 November for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5). Through the week, Members negotiated two documents by the INC Chair, Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, before agreeing on the closing day to transmit the Chair's Text to the resumed session.

Countries like Rwanda, Mexico, and Panama advocated for a stronger treaty, particularly around contentious issues such as plastic production and the regulation of hazardous chemicals highlighting the need for a treaty that addresses the root causes of plastic pollution rather than merely treating its symptoms. These nations argued for meaningful action to curb production.

Interestingly, the Chair's text, released on December 1, reflected significant dilution, with its ambition noticeably reduced compared to earlier versions. What was once a bold attempt to combat plastic pollution had been moderated into a document that secured broad agreement.

The world's commitment to ending plastic pollution is clear and undeniable but one thing is clear; there is persisting divergence in critical areas and more time

is needed for these areas to be addressed.

This text contains some positive elements, including a strengthened focus on human health and the lifecycle of plastics. It provides clear definitions for key terms such as plastic, plastic pollution, and plastic waste, offering a foundation for consistent interpretation and implementation.

Additionally, the inclusion of annexes listing banned products and chemicals is a significant step toward coordinated global action.

Provisions addressing single-use and short-lived plastics, with prescribed phase-out timelines, demonstrate a commitment to reducing the most harmful types of plastic pollution.

The text also emphasises transparency, mandating the reporting of statistical data and making publicly available a list of exemptions granted to Parties and Regional Centres.

The document prohibits open dumping and burning of plastic waste. Sectoral focus is another strength of the text. It addresses emissions from fishing gear, plastic pellets, and microplastics from all sources, recognising their role as major contributors to marine pollution.

Indian representation were very receptive and the team negotiated excellently. Their untiring discussion with like-minded country teams helped gain support at the INC-5.

Officials from MEA, MOEFCC and DCPC team representing Indian Government categorically mentioned that everything has to be in consensus and not by force adding further that it would not be feasible to cut down on plastics production rather it would be advisable finding mechanisms of financing and addressing chemicals of concern. India gained support from like-minded countries that was echoed equally. ■



(The Author attended INC 5 and is thankful for inputs from various people and organizations)

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Plastic Recycling Demands Collaborative Efforts across Government, Industry, and Civil society

Ragpickers play a vital role in recycling plastics and other recyclable materials, and in solid waste management, collecting recyclable materials like plastic bottles, polythene bags, and other waste from streets, parks, and dumping grounds. However, it's high time they are given the due respect and be absorbed in formalised system. Yes, there is growing concern about the waste generated and measures taken to ensure effective waste management across the country however, there are gaps in collection and sorting plastic waste in the country. Needles to say empowering waste pickers with recognition, support, and resources enhances their role in building a sustainable waste management system.



Issue like these were discussed at the recently held three-day trade expo called Plastics Recycling Show India in Mumbai. The inaugural edition of the Plastics Recycling Show India 2024 (PRSI) was held from December 4th to 6th at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai.

The expo ensured panel discussions, conference discussing various issues on plastic recycling, bringing together delegates, thought leaders, exhibitors, innovators, and technology providers from the plastics recycling industry. Key themes included circular economy principles, sustainable packaging, regulations, challenges, opportunities, innovations, technologies, and trends suggesting Plastic Industry's commitment to tackling plastic pollution and fostering sustainable practices, contributing in India's journey towards effective plastic waste management.

Alliance to End Plastic Waste, INDIAN PLASTICS INSTITUTE – IPI, Mumbai Sustainability Centre, NEPRA, Indian Pollution Control Association and many more engaged in discussions on enhancing recycling infrastructure, incentivising waste management, streamlining regulatory frameworks, and fostering collaboration across the value chain.

India's plastics industry, a significant contributor across sectors such as automotive, construction, electronics, healthcare, textiles, and FMCG, has set ambitious targets for recycling. The path forward demands collaborative efforts across government, industry, and civil society, with a focus on developing circular economy solutions and promoting sustainable alternatives. Ultimately, India's success in managing plastic waste will not only mitigate environmental risks but also position the nation as a global leader in sustainable development. ■





Welspun's subsidiary Sintex-BAPL acquires 100% stake in Weetek Plastics

Welspun Corp Limited, part of Welspun World, through its subsidiary Sintex-BAPL Limited has announced the acquisition of 100% of the equity shares and non-cumulative redeemable preference shares of 'Weetek Plastics Private Limited' for an enterprise value of Rs 85 crores. With this acquisition, Weetek will become a wholly owned step-down subsidiary of Welspun Corp, further expanding its footprint in India's plastics manufacturing sector.

Weetek Plastics operates a state-of-the-art facility in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, with an annual production capacity of 19,000 metric tons and Sintex will investing to enhance the capacity and capability of this plant. The facility specializes in a wide range of products, including cPVC, uPVC, SWR pipes & fittings, and water storage solutions.

Welspun Corp will further enhance the facility's capability through a fresh round of investments to tap into new regional markets with immediate effect. This acquisition is in line with Welspun's strategy to accelerate its market presence and scale up production ahead of its planned expansion of four additional plastic

pipe manufacturing plants, to be located in Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Acquisition of Weetek Plastics with its advanced infrastructure provides a competitive edge to Sintex, enabling faster penetration into key markets such as Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal. The acquisition offers Welspun a ready platform to expand its product offerings and boost its capacity in India's growing plumbing and water management sectors. ■



AMP Robotics Raises \$91m for AI-powered Sorting of Waste



Waste sortation system developer AMP Robotics has raised \$91m in a Series D financing round, led by Congruent Ventures. The round saw contributions from both existing and new investors, including Sequoia Capital, XN, Blue Earth Capital, Liberty Mutual Investments, and Tao Capital Partners. The company intends to use the funds to expedite the rollout of its AMP ONE systems, designed to sort municipal solid waste (MSW) efficiently using AI.

Tim Stuart, Chief executive officer for AMP said, "AMP provides meaningfully lower-cost, higher-performance systems to recover commodities and increase landfill diversion, and we're uniquely positioned to reshape the waste and recycling landscape at a critical time. We're grateful to our longstanding and newest investors for their support in helping us chart a new path for sustainable materials management and resource efficiency."

AMP ONE aims to offer full-scale solutions for sorting various materials, thereby capturing more value that is typically lost to landfills or incineration. The system was successfully demonstrated in Portsmouth, Virginia, US. AMP's AI utilises deep learning by processing millions of material images into data for continuous self-improvement.

AMP initially launched sorting robots that could be integrated into existing recycling facilities with minimal retrofitting. The company has since advanced to create advanced recycling facilities. These installations have near-zero manual sorting and comprehensive data collections, making commodity recovery safer and more cost-effective. AMP's technology has expanded to include MSW sorting, a capability previously unavailable in the industry. Last month, AMP agreed with Waste Connections to implement its technology in Waste Connections' US single-stream recycling facilities.

Founded in 2014, AMP Robotics said its AI platform has identified 150 billion items and guided the sortation of more than 2.5 million tons of recyclables. It has three full-scale facilities and more than 400 AI systems deployed across North America, Asia, and Europe. ■



Tim Stuart
Chief Executive Officer, AMP

Covestro collaborates with Ausell for Plastics Recycling



Covestro, a global leader in high-performance polymer materials, has announced an enhanced collaboration with Chinese plastics recycling company Ausell. Building on their previous partnership in recycling polycarbonate water barrels, this new collaboration aims to accelerate the recycling of plastics from end-of-life vehicles, contributing to the automotive industry's circularity by transforming waste into valuable materials for new automotive components. According to the collaboration Ausell will supply recycled polycarbonates derived from discarded automotive headlamps, which Covestro will then process into high-quality PCR materials for automotive engineering applications.

This partnership marks a further step to effectively closing the plastics recycling loop within the automotive sector, reducing waste and carbon emissions while enhancing resource efficiency. This collaboration positions Covestro and Ausell at the forefront of efforts to develop compliant, high-performance materials while addressing the challenges of plastic waste

management and resource utilization in the automotive industry. The recycled polycarbonates will not only enhance the sustainability of automotive components but also demonstrate the potential for high-value recycling solutions.

Covestro has been partnering with Ausell, since 2020, to recycle 1 million 19-liter polycarbonate water barrels annually, converting them into high-performance post-consumer recycled (PCR) polycarbonates for various industries such as electronics, home appliances and automotive.

Xia Wenjun, CEO of Ausell, added: "Our enhanced collaboration with Covestro represents a significant step toward achieving our shared vision of a circular economy." ■



Lily Wang, Global Head of the Engineering Plastics Business Entity at Covestro, said, "We are excited to deepen our partnership with Ausell as we work closely with our value chain partners to accelerate the circular transformation of the automotive industry. Together, we are committed to pioneering sustainable solutions that will lead the way toward a circular and climate-neutral future."



LG Chem and Reifenhäuser Sign MoU for MDO PE films

South Korea's leading global chemical company LG Chem and the extrusion machine manufacturer Reifenhäuser have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to further develop and market competitive Machine Direction Oriented (MDO)-PE blown films and flat films for recyclable packaging.

Bernd Reifenhäuser, CEO of the Reifenhäuser Group, said: "The demand for flexible mono-material packaging is growing rapidly. But MDO-PE films must be stable and economical to produce in order to make the leap from a niche to a broad market. With LG Chem and Reifenhäuser, we have found the perfect match of raw material, extrusion technology and process know-how that will pave the way. For the first time, processors will be able to produce recyclable MDO-PE films at competitive production costs in a stable process that can be optimally further processed."

Dr. Lee Choong Hoon, Vice President and Head of NCC/PO Business Unit at LG Chem, adds: "We are very pleased to have found an experienced technology partner in Reifenhäuser to successfully combine

sustainability and profitability. Our combined technology has achieved unprecedented records in downgauging MDO-PE film – and that was just the beginning. We will continue this path together to accelerate the recyclability for flexible packaging."

The partners are building on a successful track record as earlier in May 2024, the companies had presented the world's first MDO-PE film only 18 micrometers (μm), which had been produced on an EVO Ultra Stretch blown film line from Reifenhäuser with specially developed PE materials (Polyethylene). LG Chem and Reifenhäuser are also working on further reducing material consumption by downgauging towards the level of conventional PET-PE laminates and thus making the production of MDO-PE films more profitable. ■



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Sumitomo Corporation - MWC Expanding Phase 2 of Industrial Park in Chennai

Sumitomo Corporation and Mahindra World City Developers Private Limited are jointly operating Origin Chennai Industrial Park near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Following the first phase (approximately 124 hectares), the park will expand the development site by approximately 57 hectares in the second phase, with sales to begin in 2025. The Industrial Park is located 37 km north of downtown Chennai along National Highway 16. With the support of both the Japanese and Indian governments, substations nearby and within the site, as well as access roads to national highways, have been developed, making this an industrial park with an environment in which tenant companies can do their business. Since the launch of Phase I in 2017, 15 companies (including 6 Japanese companies) have established operations in the park. Mr. Amit, a member

of the Mahindra Group's executive board and director & chairperson of MWC, said, "Over 20 companies have already expressed an interest in the expanded area, far exceeding the area of the expansion for sale, and we are considering further development of a similar size alongside this expansion. We aim to expand the development area to a total of approximately 250 hectares." Signing the contract he added, "We have built an excellent partnership with Sumitomo Corporation, and we aim to continue enhancing this relationship while expanding this project further." Sumitomo Corporation will support tenant operations and attract more manufacturing investment to India. ■



Covestro To Build Pilot Plant for Recycling of Elastomers in Germany

Covestro, a world-leading supplier of high-tech polymer materials, is announcing plans to build a pilot plant for recycling of elastomers. The investment in the double-digit million-euro range is used to fund the development and construction project of the state-of-the-art pilot plant at Covestro's site in Leverkusen, Germany. The construction is estimated to take about one year until technical completion. This technological development to recycle Vulkollan® marks an important step towards



more sustainability in the elastomers industry. The technology enables to not only recycle a mass fraction of more than 90% of the end-of-life material like forklift tires, but also to reduce the carbon footprint by up to two thirds compared to virgin material. The new chemical recycling process is a game-changer for the elastomers industry. Unlike mechanical recycling methods, this approach breaks down elastomeric end-of-life material into its chemical building blocks, to obtain purified monomers that can be re-used for these materials with known and proven quality. Dr. Thomas Braig, Head of the Elastomers business entity said, "The pilot plant and with it our commitment to proving the feasibility of recycling for elastomers demonstrates our clear commitment for circular solutions and marks an important milestone for our elastomer products." "With the successful scale-up of this new recycling process we address the demand of our customers for end-of-life solutions and carbon footprint reduction while assuring the high quality of our elastomer products. At the same time, this pilot plant is an invitation for players along the value chain to cooperate on developing a circular setup and the reverse value chain for end-of-life materials.", he added. ■

MBA Polymers To Expand It's India Operations

MBA Polymers would be opening multiple plastics recycling sites in India over the next five years, through 2030, with the first engineering plastics recycling site to be located near Pune. Dr Felix-Michael Weber, CEO MBA Polymers said, "We are planning to set up various recycling sites in phases with an investment of € 10 million. The first one is around Pune having the capacity to recycle 20,000 tonnes of engineering plastics waste annually.". The plant is scheduled to go

into operation by the end of 2025. Pune is one of the key automotive hubs in India. MBA Polymers' patented plastics recycling technology has been developed over the past 25 years. The technology recovers pure plastics from plastics-rich shredder residue, producing post-consumer recycled resins—including ABS, PC/ABS, BS/HPS, and PP 8 HDPE—used in applications ranging from appliances to consumer products and industrial parts. According to weber there is a huge untapped potential

NY's A G Appeal Against Dismissal of PepsiCo Plastic Pollution lawsuit

New York Attorney General Letitia James' office has filed an appeal against the dismissal of a lawsuit that accuses PepsiCo of contributing significantly to plastic pollution according to a report. The Attorney General's office of the state has challenged the reasoning behind the original decision. The appeal, submitted to the court's appellate division, challenges the judge's decision, with the Attorney General stating that the law and facts were "erroneously applied". The state's supreme court justice had previously dismissed the case, deeming the allegations speculative and attributing the responsibility for litter to consumers rather than the company.

In the original complaint, James targeted PepsiCo, headquartered in New York, US, and identified as one of the world's top plastic waste contributors, for the alleged environmental and health hazards of its packaging.

The complaint also charged the company for misleading the public about its recycling practices and efforts to

reduce plastic pollution. Research conducted by the Attorney General's office identified PepsiCo's products as the predominant source of plastic pollution in the Buffalo River, surpassing the next highest contributor, McDonald's, by threefold. While PepsiCo has not yet commented on the appeal, it had previously expressed approval of the initial ruling. ■



in Indian plastics recycling market. He said, " India generates tremendous amounts of plastic waste, is the third largest producer of plastics and is regarded as a promising market to grow'. MBA Polymers currently has an administrative office registered as MBA Polymers India Pvt Ltd, which opened at Pune in 2023. Since 2001, the company has opened and now operates five clean-tech sites based in Germany, Austria, China, UK and the USA, with a processing capacity of over 150,000 tonnes annually. ■



UK Scraps the Mandatory Single-use Cup Recycling Scheme



The UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has cancelled the proposed mandatory takeback scheme for single-use cups in the country, following an analysis showing that the scheme would cost the government and industry £52m (\$65.9m). The extensive analysis claimed that the costs would outweigh the environmental and economic benefits and was believed to be an 'unnecessary burden' on businesses.

A spokesperson from Defra said, "This decision allows businesses to concentrate on implementing our other packaging and collection reforms. These initiatives are expected to support 21,000 jobs and stimulate more than £10bn in investment in recycling capabilities over the next decade."

The scrapped single-use cup scheme was initially designed to increase recycling rates and reduce litter. The plan would have obligated cafés to recycle disposable paper cups. The previous government had suggested that coffee shops with more than ten employees would be required to provide bins and arrange for the recycling of fibre-based composite cups. In the UK, it

is estimated that between 2.5 and three billion coffee cups are discarded each year. The initial plan was for shops to install dedicated bins for cups starting in 2024, but the implementation was postponed to 2025 to give sellers more time to comply with the new regulations. Earlier this year, the plans were put on hold by the former government to allow for further engagement with stakeholders. However, this move has ultimately led to the scheme's cancellation due to its high costs and questionable effectiveness.

The spokesperson added, "This government is committed to ending the throwaway culture and transitioning towards a future where resources are reused for longer, and waste is minimised, all while accelerating progress towards net zero." The UK has advanced in packaging waste recycling, though challenges persist in meeting material-specific targets, driven by producer responsibility regulations. ■



EU Adopts Stricter Packaging Standards

The European Parliament has adopted a groundbreaking position to tackle Europe's mounting packaging waste problem. On Wednesday, MEPs overwhelmingly voted in favour of stricter regulations aimed at reducing waste, boosting reuse, and ensuring recyclable packaging across the EU. Central to the proposals is a phased reduction in packaging waste, with ambitious targets to cut overall packaging by 15% by 2040. Specific measures include a ban on lightweight plastic carrier bags under 15 microns—except when essential for hygiene or loose food items—and restrictions on single-use packaging such as hotel toiletries and airport shrink-wrap. The legislation also introduces a ban on per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFASs), commonly called “forever chemicals,” in food packaging.

Rapporteur Frédérique Ries highlighted the urgency of this measure, stating, “Recent events in Europe, particularly in Belgium, concerning water pollution by PFAS chemicals show the urgent need for action. By voting to ban ‘forever’ pollutants in food packaging, the European Parliament has shown that it seeks to protect the health of European citizens.”

The regulation mandates that businesses in the food service sector, such as restaurants and cafés, must offer consumers the option to bring their own containers for beverages and takeaways. The move seeks to curb the reliance on disposable packaging, aligning with broader EU goals to transition to a circular economy. Frédérique Ries, reflecting on the broader implications, remarked, “The end of throwaway packaging is still a long way off, but setting these targets is a step in the right direction.” Achieving high recycling rates remains a key ambition of the new rules. The Parliament has set a target for EU countries to ensure that 90% of materials used in packaging—ranging from plastics and metals to cardboard and glass—are collected separately by 2029. All packaging must also meet stringent recyclability criteria, which will be defined in forthcoming secondary legislation. Temporary exemptions, such as those for wood and wax packaging, have been included to allow for industry adaptation. ■





Ireland Waste Production Surges



Ireland's waste generation has increased significantly, jeopardising its recycling targets for 2025 according to the EPA reports. According to a new report by the country's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ireland generated 15.7 million tonnes of waste in 2022, which is 20% more than as compared to say in 2012, ten years prior. This increase poses challenges for Ireland's efforts to reduce waste and transition towards a circular economy. The report showed that the current municipal waste recycling rate in Ireland stands at 41%, which needs to reach 55% by 2025 to meet EU targets.

EPA environmental sustainability office director David Flynn said: "Ireland's progress towards a circular economy – a system of minimising waste and reducing the need for new raw materials by upholding the quality of products and materials for longer – is stalling. "Current measures to prevent waste, to promote reuse and to encourage recycling are not enough to meet mandatory municipal waste and plastic packaging targets." In terms of packaging waste, the recycling rate is at 60%, but this must increase to 65% by 2025. The report highlights that only 32% of plastic packaging was recycled, an increase from 28% in 2021, yet the target for 2025 is 50%. The EPA indicated that this reliance on other countries for waste treatment underscores Ireland's vulnerabilities in waste collection and treatment capabilities.

There was a 3% decrease reported in 2022 from 2021 in the proportion of households who have access to a brown bin for food and organic waste. As a result, only 66% of households had access to such bins by 2022. However, this figure is expected to rise in the coming years due to changes in 2023 that mandate waste collectors to provide households with a brown bin. ■

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Implementation of Plastic Credits Begin in Thailand



As global concerns around plastic waste management intensify, companies in Thailand have begun implementing Plastic Credits. Diversey Hygiene, a Solenis company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Corsair Group International focusing on upcycling Diversey's empty chemical containers and implementing CSR Plastic Credits to offset the company's plastic waste footprint in Thailand. The MOU was signed by Vikas Mittal, managing director for Thailand, Vietnam and Indochina at Diversey Hygiene (Thailand) Co., Ltd and Jussi Veikko Saloranta, chairman of the board and partner at Corsair Group International.

CSR Plastic Credits is a digital, ERC-20 receipt that proves that plastic waste has been removed from the environment, allowing both companies and private individuals to offset any amount of plastic waste they

generate monthly, simply by acquiring and retiring the equivalent amount of CSR Plastic Credits.

As global concerns around plastic waste management intensify, this collaboration aims to transform used and empty plastic containers into new, sustainable products and establish a system for retiring CSR Plastic Credits. The first phase of this CSR Plastic Credits collaboration will launch in Thailand with Diversey's Suma Star D1™ hand dishwashing detergent, featuring packaging labelled as plastic neutral. This initiative highlights Diversey's dedication

to promoting sustainability through innovative waste management and Corporate Social Responsibility practices.

While Corsair Group International develops viable business solutions for global environmental issues such as plastic waste, air pollution, water pollution and climate change Diversey provides hygiene solutions, which include advanced chemicals, digital technologies and value-added services, enable customers to build a cleaner, safer and more sustainable world. "Diversey is dedicated to reducing plastic waste and driving sustainability," said Mittal. "This partnership with Corsair Group International allows us to deliver greater value to our customers while creating a lasting environmental impact." ■



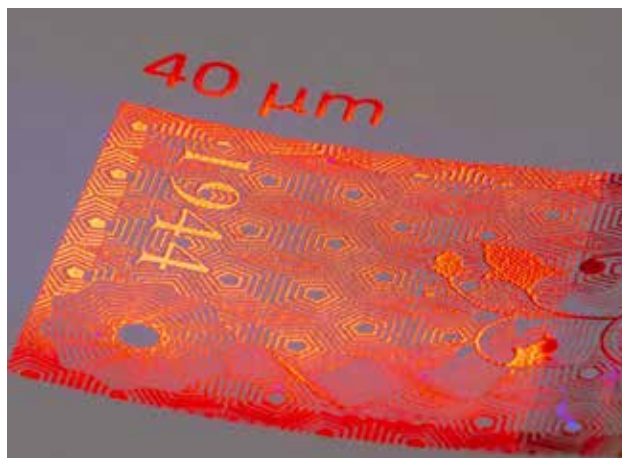
Covestro Unveils CERTEVO®: An Innovative Polymeric Substrate



Covestro has introduced CERTEVO®, an innovative polymeric printing substrate designed for advanced security printing applications like high-secure and durable official documents, certificates, and applications demanding for advanced anti-counterfeiting measures. The launch of CERTEVO® marks a significant advancement in document security, sustainability, and printing technology, combining performance and environmental responsibility.

It supports excellent printability via intaglio and offset processes, enabling embossing structures—surpassing traditional paper and enhancing security elements. Its hotmelt nature eliminates the need for coatings and primers, ensuring superior ink adhesion that simplifies printing and boosts durability. Additionally, advanced laser engravability allows precise micro-engravings, making counterfeiting efforts more challenging. As a single-polymer composition, CERTEVO® is recyclable, meeting the demand for sustainable security printing materials. Its high tear resistance and ink adhesion extend the lifecycle of printed items while conserving

resources. CERTEVO® thereby addresses environmental concerns and meets evolving sustainability requirements in document production. Furthermore, its durable composition lowers long-term costs by minimizing replacements, making it an ideal choice for governments and the public sector that prioritize security and environmental responsibility. ■



Bpacks Introduces World's First Bark Packaging

Bpacks, a UK-based developer of an innovative tree bark packaging technology, with sustainable alternatives, rooted firmly in the circular economy. The packaging is 100% home compostable and made using a composite material derived from up to 80% industrial byproducts. "Our product is universal in nature," explains Lev Bolshakov, co-founder of Bpacks. "It can help manufacturers of food and beverages, cosmetics and beauty products, and household items without causing environmental harm. Its high antibacterial index and ability to extend shelf life meet the demands of our clients."

The company's technology allows the use of existing manufacturing equipment for plastics and pulp moulding, making integration into current production streams seamless. Notably, the eco-friendly packaging extends the shelf life of perishable goods such as meat, vegetables, and fruit by up to seven days, potentially reducing food waste by more than 42%.

"By introducing this groundbreaking, eco-friendly packaging, we aim to lead by example and inspire more sustainable practices across our industry. The Bpacks solution will reduce product write-offs, enhance shelf life, and minimise waste, aligning seamlessly with our ESG values.", added Bolshakov.

Bpacks has ambitious plans for the coming years. The company aims to secure a seed round by March 2025 to fund the construction of its own pellet manufacturing facility, which will streamline its supply chain for plastics manufacturers and clients. "With this expansion, we project revenues exceeding €40M with a 30% EBITDA by 2028," noted Mikhail Taver, advisor and member of the Bpacks Board of Directors. ■





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Huhtamaki Bags Awards at the 2024 Crescents and Stars Competition

Huhtamaki bagged distinguished awards at the 2024 Crescents and Stars for Packaging competition for its OmniLock™ Ultra Paper and OmniLock™ MAX, further strengthening its position as a leader, pioneering innovation and sustainability in packaging.

OmniLock™ Ultra Paper

Recognized with a Silver Award for its eco-friendly innovation, the OmniLock™ Ultra Paper solution exemplifies sustainable packaging. This high-performance, ultra-high barrier, heat-sealable packaging replaces traditional plastic and aluminum laminates with a fully recyclable, paper-based alternative. It sets a new standard in sustainable design, aligning with our commitment to reducing environmental impact through recyclable and renewable materials.



OmniLock™ MAX



Awarded the Competency Award, OmniLock™ MAX stands out for its superior performance and sustainable construction. Designed with advanced barrier layers, OmniLock™ MAX ensures product freshness and protection. Its mono-material PE-based structure reduces energy consumption and material waste, offering an eco-friendly packaging solution without sacrificing durability or product quality.

These recognitions reflect Huhtamaki's dedication to, consistent with our blue loop™ program goals for a circular economy. ■

Waste Styrofoam Can Now be Converted into Polymers for Electronics



A new study at the University of Delaware and Argonne National Laboratory have come up with a chemical reaction that can convert Styrofoam into a high-value conducting polymer known as PEDOT:PSS- a polymer that has both electronic and ionic conductivity.

Researchers also noted that the upgraded plastic waste can be successfully incorporated into functional electronic devices, including silicon-based hybrid solar cells and organic electrochemical transistors.

"In this paper, we looked at two devices -- an organic electronic transistor and a solar cell," said Chun-Yuan Lo, a chemistry doctoral candidate and the paper's first author. "The performance of both types of conductive polymers was comparable, and shows that our method is a very eco-friendly approach for converting polystyrene waste into high-value electronic materials." He added "For the electronic devices community, the key takeaway is that you can make electronic materials from trash, and they perform just as well as what you would purchase commercially while the plastics research say its great potential for how this research can contribute to ongoing global sustainability efforts."

Laure Kayser, assistant professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering in UD's College of

Engineering with a joint appointment in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences who works with the research group of Yuan Lo, regularly works with PEDOT:PSS and was interested in finding ways to synthesize this material from plastic waste.

The researchers were able to find reaction conditions that resulted in high polymer sulfonation, minimal defects and high efficiency, all while using a mild sulfonating agent. And because the researchers were able to use polystyrene, specifically waste Styrofoam, as a starting material, their method also represents an efficient way to convert plastic waste into PEDOT:PSS.

Once the researchers had PEDOT:PSS in hand, they were able to compare how their waste-derived polymer performed compared to commercially available PEDOT:PSS.

PEDOT:PSS is a composite material where PEDOT (the conductive polymer) provides electrical conductivity, and PSS (polystyrene sulfonate) acts as a counter-ion. ■



AIPMA Participates in the Pre-Budget Consultations with Union Finance Minister

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had recently chaired the fourth pre-budget consultation engaging with experts and stakeholders from the export, trade, and industry sectors in preparation for the Union Budget 2025-26 and as a part of the trade delegation the 'All India Plastics Manufacturers Association' (AIPMA) invited by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, to participate in the Pre-Budget Consultation discussions.

FOUNDER MEMBERS



During the pre-budget consultation meeting with Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman shared their perspectives on boosting India's plastic industry. Mr. Arvind M. Mehta, Chairman Governing Council (AIPMA), and Mr. Manoj R. Shah, President (AIPMA), presented a strategic roadmap to enhance the competitiveness of India's plastic sector on a global scale.

Mr. Mehta highlighted that China's export of plastic finished goods is currently 25 times higher than India's. He emphasized the vast potential for India to expand its exports of finished plastic products. To achieve this, AIPMA proposed Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) to support manufacturers in scaling up operations and allocating funds for establishing warehouses at strategic locations to facilitate logistics for exports. These measures could boost India's plastic exports by four times within the next three years, creating substantial employment opportunities, substituting imports, and contributing to India's economic growth.

AIPMA also recommended several reforms to support the MSME plastic sector, including increasing customs duty on plastic finished goods to 20% to safeguard domestic manufacturers and avoiding the imposition of anti-dumping duties on critical inputs like PVC Paste Resin, PVC Suspension Resin, Titanium Dioxide, Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE), plastic processing machinery and similar products in this sector.

Given that MSMEs account for 85% of the Plastic Processing sector, Mr. Mehta stressed the need for ready-to-use facilities called PLUG & PLAY including land, buildings, power, water, sewage, and road connectivity, along with pre-approved clearances to help MSMEs start operations seamlessly. This should be on the long lease as fund required for MSME's will be less and one can start production immediately and it can be a game changer for the Indian Plastic Industry.

To foster ease of doing business and align with the "Make in India" initiative with "Zero effect & Zero defect", AIPMA called for the establishment of a Technical Upgradation Fund (TUF) with an allocation of INR 2,500 crore over 5 years for the plastic processing sector in line with textile sector.

Given that MSMEs account for 85% of the Plastic Processing sector, Mr. Mehta stressed the need for ready-to-use facilities called PLUG & PLAY including land, buildings, power, water, sewage, and road connectivity, along with pre-approved clearances on the long lease basis to help MSMEs start operations seamlessly.



AIPMA's key proposal to Government of India

- Reduce GST to NIL for plastic waste for recycling.
- Reduce GST from 18% to 5 % on recycled plastic granules only on the conversion cost of recycled granules.
- Reduce GST to NIL on recycling machinery to increase recycling companies in India.
- 20% subsidy across India for buying capital equipment for recycling.
- Establishment of a Technical Upgradation Fund (TUF) with INR 2,500 crore for 5 years.
- Enable Plug & Play for MSME's

Announcing INDPLAS'25

The 10th International Plastics Exhibition



The Indian Plastics Federation (IPF), Eastern India's largest plastics federation, is proud to announce INDPLAS'25, the 10th International Plastics Exhibition, which will be held from 28th February to 3rd March 2025 at the Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan in Kolkata. This milestone event aims to connect regions such as Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, and the North-East with the global plastics industry, fostering knowledge exchange and embracing innovative technologies for sustainable growth.

Themed "Future is East: Innovate, Transform, Showcase", INDPLAS'25 will cover over 10,000 square meters of exhibition space across three halls, with all exhibition slots fully booked within just 45 days, a testament to its immense industry anticipation. The event was formally launched with a grand ceremony attended by Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Industry, Commerce, and Enterprise, Government of West Bengal, highlighting the region's potential in the global plastics sector.

Further amplifying the excitement, a visitor promotion roadshow in Bhubaneswar, featuring dignitaries such as Shri Gokulananda Mallick, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for MSME, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, Government of Odisha, underscored the event's focus on innovation and sustainability. The roadshow included discussions on recycling innovations, biodegradable plastics, and sustainable practices.

Supported by leading industry players like Haldia Petrochemicals (Premier Sponsor) and HPCL, HMEL, and Dhunseri Poly Films (Platinum Sponsors), INDPLAS'25 will showcase advancements in biodegradable technologies, sustainable solutions, and recycling systems. Seminars and conferences will explore critical industry challenges, offering valuable insights into eco-conscious manufacturing and global market trends.

Under the leadership of Ashok Jajodia (Chairman), Amit Kumar Agarwal (Co-Chairman), and Alok Tibrewala (Chairman, NAB), INDPLAS'25 aims to be a transformative platform for innovation and collaboration, advancing Eastern India's role in the global plastics industry.



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MoEFCC Facilitates Landmark Agreements to Advance Circular Economy and Waste Management



The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has facilitated the signing of a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Telangana and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, alongside agreements between CSIR and leading recyclers. These initiatives underscore MoEFCC's pivotal role in driving India's transition to a circular economy while fostering sustainable waste management practices.

The MoU between the Government of Telangana and CSIR aims to develop a skilled workforce in the recycling and waste management sectors. Under this partnership, CSIR's laboratories and institutions will provide technical support for training programs in Telangana, equipping individuals with expertise in CSIR-developed waste management technologies. This collaboration will promote the adoption of circular economy principles and create new opportunities for green employment.

Simultaneously, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change enabled the signing of agreements between eight CSIR national laboratories and recyclers, focusing on fifteen innovative waste management and recycling technologies. The CSIR labs include, CSIR-NIIST, CSIR-IICT, CSIR-NML, CSIR-IMMT, CSIR-CEERI, CSIR-IIP and CSIR-CECRI.

The technologies are designed to establish state-of-the-art recycling infrastructure, support domestic waste recycling, and secure critical mineral supplies through advanced recycling processes. These agreements also foster innovation, encouraging the development of new recycling technologies and offering technical assistance for recyclers' existing operations.

The agreements and MoU were formalized in the presence of Ms Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR and Secretary,

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Smt. A. Santhi Kumari, Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana; Shri Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana; Shri Tanmay Kumar, Special Secretary, MoEFCC and Chairman, CPCB; Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC; Dr Vibha Malhotra Sawhney, Head, Technology Management Directorate, CSIR; and Dr. K J Sreeram, Mission Director, Waste to Wealth Mission, CSIR. Senior scientists and officials from CSIR, MoEFCC, and the Government of Telangana also participated in the event.

These initiatives align with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for Mission Circular Economy, emphasized during his address on India's 75th Independence Day. The MoEFCC has been instrumental in formulating policies and regulations, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, that incentivize recyclers and integrate the informal sector into formal recycling systems. These initiatives aim to minimize waste, recover valuable materials, and reduce reliance on virgin resources. The Central Government is actively working with recyclers, refurbishers, and start-ups to establish recycling units under the EPR framework, aiming to minimize waste disposal, recover valuable materials, and reduce dependence on virgin resources.



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Upcoming Events - 2025

Plasto 2025

08th Jan - 11th Jan, 2025
PIECC, Moshi, Pune, India

Plast Pack 2025

09th Jan - 12th Jan, 2025
Labhganga Exhibition Center,
Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Plastech Expo Daman 2025

16th Jan- 18th Jan, 2025
Dilip Nagar Ground, Daman, India

RUPLASTICA

21st Jan - 24th Jan, 2025
Moscow, Russia

Printpack 2025

01st Feb - 05th Feb, 2025
India Expo Center & Mart,
Greater Noida, India

Plast Champions 2025

07th Feb - 09th Feb, 2025
Bombay Exhibition Center, Goregaon,
India

Indplas 2025

28th Feb - 3rd Mar, 2025
Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan
(Milan Mela), Kolkata, India

Compounding And Recycling Asia

18th Mar - 19th Mar, 2025
Carlton Hotel Bangkok Sukhumvit,
Thailand

Plastics Recycling Conference 2025

24th Mar - 26th Mar, 2025
Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor,
Maryland, United States

PRS Europe 2025

01st April - 02nd April, 2025
Rai, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Plast Show Rajkot 2025

02nd April - 05th April 2025
Race Course Ground, Rajkot, Gujarat,
India

Packplus South 2025

9th April - 11th April, 2025
Hitex Exhibition Center, Hyderabad, India

Chinaplas 2025

15th April - 18th April, 2025
Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention
Center (Boo'an), PR China

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