

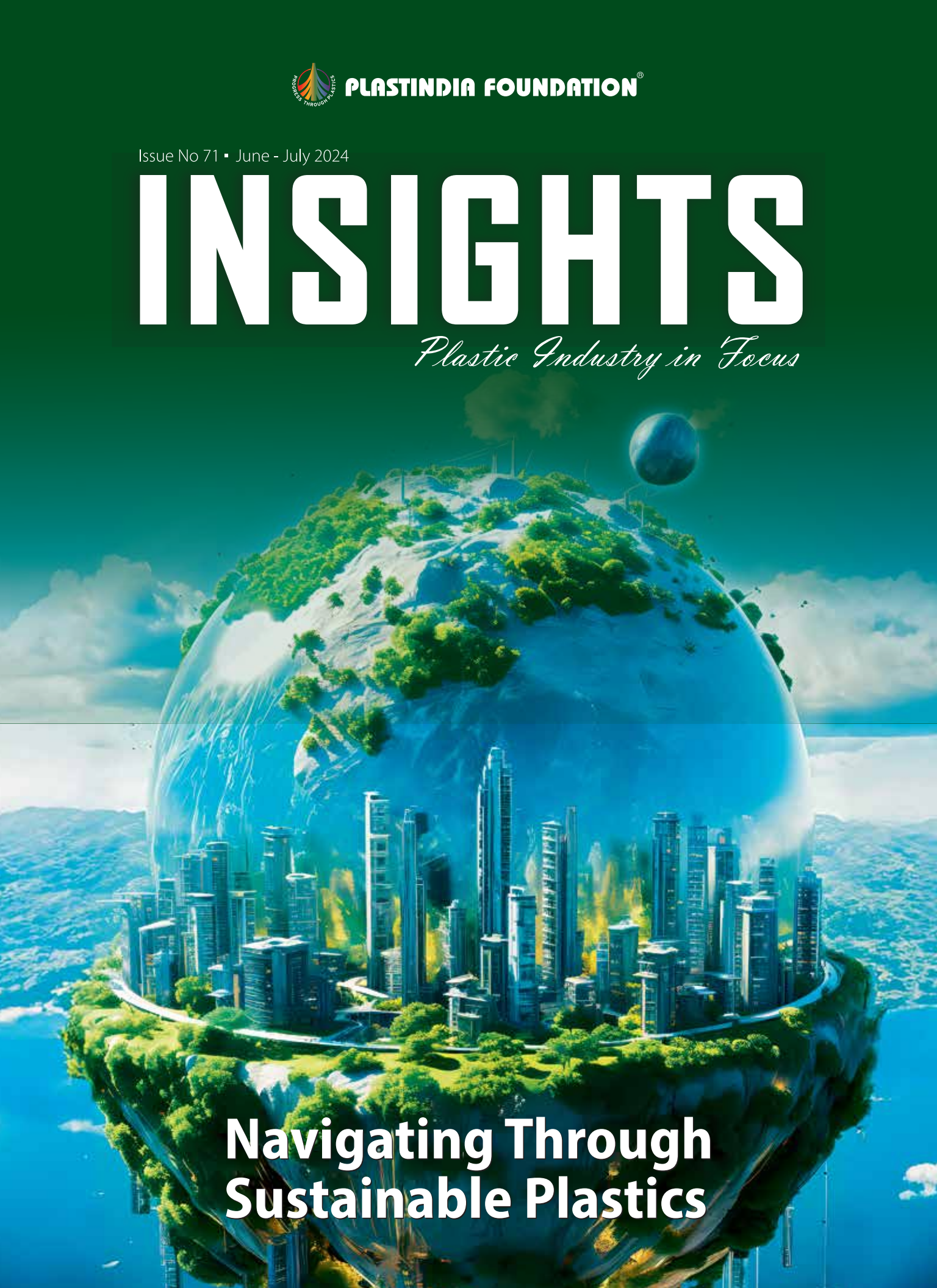


PLASTINDIA FOUNDATION®

Issue No 71 ▪ June - July 2024

INSIGHTS

Plastic Industry in Focus

A futuristic illustration of a floating island. The island is covered in lush green vegetation and features a dense cluster of modern, tall skyscrapers. A large, transparent, dome-like structure encloses the city, with a bright light source shining through it. The island is surrounded by a blue sky with clouds and a large, dark sphere (possibly a planet or moon) in the background. The overall scene conveys a sense of advanced technology and sustainable living.

**Navigating Through
Sustainable Plastics**

PLASTINDIA 2026

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Ravish Kamath

President, Plastindia Foundation

Dear Industry Colleagues & Friends,

At the onset, I would like to thank everyone for your support in helping us to re-launch Plastindia Foundation's Magazine "**INSIGHTS** – *Plastics Industry in Focus*" with a new look & feel along with better coverage of the industry happenings. While in the earlier issue we discussed about the growth prospective of the Indian Plastics Industry, this month we are addressing issues on 'Environment, PWM, Sustainable Plastics and Recycling'.

Plastics industry plays a pivotal role in creating employment opportunities and driving economic growth in India. Through manufacturing expansion, skill development initiatives, employment diversity, and entrepreneurial avenues, the industry has become a significant contributor to the nation's workforce.

Equally, we at Plastindia Foundation, are aware, it is essential to balance this growth with environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Efforts towards waste management, recycling infrastructure, and eco-friendly alternatives are crucial for mitigating the environmental impact of plastic production while ensuring long-term socio-economic benefits for the country.

Plastindia Foundation has been consistent to deliver equally on environment front as well. I would like to mention here that with our deliberate consistent efforts the Plastindia

President's Desk

Foundation being the permanent member of Asia Plastic Forum has now bagged seat in one of the elite group recently and has been awarded membership at Global Plastic Alliance; a multi stakeholder platform to accelerate the transition to a circular economy for plastics.

Plastindia Foundation had also briefed the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers with its inputs on Plastics Industry and PWM that represented India at INC 4 and INC 3 global meets. India stated that it supports an international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution only if reached through full consensus, rather than one made through a two-thirds majority. During the recent plenary session, the Indian delegation reiterated its position with New Delhi's backing for full consensus. The Indian delegation also emphasized the incorporation of principles such as equity, sustainable development, and common but differentiated responsibilities, along with a comprehensive list of 30 items.

Plastics make an immense contribution to the environmental sustainability through their energy saving potential and intrinsic recyclability and energy recovery options. Plastics being the wonder material, it solves many issues and with the growing applications of plastics, more and more products are being developed world over replacing heavier materials thus reducing consumption of many heavier material which in a way, are burden on the ecology.

Recycled and Sustainable Plastics are our requirement, the need of the hour, and everyone across the country is working to improve and increase their usage. I am sure with active participation of all the stakeholders, the perception of certain section who believe that plastics adds to pollution will be cleared for, the fact remains littering adds to pollution, and not Plastics!

JUNE TO SEPT 2024

EVENT SCHEDULE

	DATE	COMPANY
JUNE	14-17	IPLAS 2024 Venue : Chennai Trade Centre, Nungambakkam Chennai
	19-22	Interplas Thailand 2024 Venue : North Sathon Road Silom, Thailand
	19-20	Plastics Recycling Show Europe 2024 Venue : London, United Kingdom
JULY	04-07	Global Conclave on plastics recycling and sustainability 2024 Venue : Bharat Mandapam, IECC, New Delhi, INDIA (Pragati Maidan)
	10-13	Asia Pacific International Plastics and Rubber Industry Exhibition 2024 Venue : Qingdao International Convention Center, Qingdao, China
AUGUST	01-03	Total Plastics EXPO 2024 Venue : Codissia Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore, India
	08-10	World Battery Industry EXPO 2024 Venue : Tianhe District, China
	13-16	Interplast - Plastic Technology Fair In Brazil 2024 Venue : Expoville, Joinville, Brazil
SEPTEMBER	08-10	Print 2 Pack 2024 Venue : Nasr City, Egypt
	10-12	Propak West Africa 2024 Venue : Landmark Center, Lagos, Nigeria
	10-12	PRS Middle East & Africa 2024 Venue : Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai
	23-27	Colombia Plast Venue : Bagota, Colombia
	24-28	Taipei Plas 2024 Venue : Taipei, Taiwan



Ramesh Parasuraman,

Editor

Education and Awareness

The Pillars of effective Plastic Waste Management

more urgent than ever. Addressing the role of plastics in sustaining the environment requires a multifaceted approach that balances the benefits of plastics with their environmental consequences. This approach should emphasise the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Innovate, Educate, and Regulate.

The Role of Individual Behavior

Effective reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastics hinge on individual behaviour and consciousness. Public awareness and education are crucial in mitigating plastic waste and promoting environmentally responsible practices. In this context, the 3R approach- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - relies heavily on the pillars of education and awareness.

India's Initiatives and Challenges

The Indian government has undertaken several initiatives to foster recycling, a circular economy, and sustainability. Programs like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan have successfully raised public awareness about waste management and encouraged sustainable practices. These initiatives have spurred the growth of India's recycling industry, which processes a variety of materials, from plastics to e-waste and paper to metals.

Despite India's commendable recycling rate of 60%, driven largely by the informal sector, the industry faces significant challenges. The absence of a robust mechanism for waste segregation at the source results in a mix of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, complicating and increasing the cost of recycling processes. Additionally, inadequate infrastructure-such as recycling plants, waste segregation centres, and transportation facilities-impedes the growth of the domestic recycling industry.

The Path Forward

To elevate India's recycling industry to global leadership, substantial support from the government is essential. This includes simplifying processes, providing incentives, and investing in the necessary infrastructure. By addressing these challenges, India can make significant strides in breaking the cycle of waste and creating a sustainable future.

In conclusion, it is imperative for regulatory frameworks to not only articulate but also implement actionable strategies. Without decisive action, regulatory intentions remain mere rhetoric. ■■

The Environmental profile of plastics

Plastics possess a robust environmental profile, utilising a mere 4% of the world's oil production and demanding significantly less energy for production compared to alternative materials. Their durability and lightweight properties make them ideal for reducing weight in vehicles, packaging, and infrastructure, thereby contributing to energy efficiency and reduced emissions.

The Challenge of Plastic Waste Management

The generation and management of plastic waste play a critical role in determining the environmental performance of any nation. Traditional reliance on landfills for plastic waste management has proven inadequate due to the escalating volumes of waste and the adverse effects on soil, water, air, and living organisms. These challenges necessitate the exploration of incineration and other advanced waste management technologies.

The Urgency of Sustainable Practices

The need for sustainable practices is

Plastindia International University

India's First University dedicated to Plastics and Sustainability!

Plastindia International University (PIU), Vapi, is formed under the Gujarat Private Universities Act, 2009 (amendment 2016), by the Plastindia Foundation (PIF), Mumbai. It is the first university dedicated to industry-driven education and research in plastics and sustainability, offering specialized technology and management courses and continuing education programs for working professionals.



Shri M P Taparia

President, PIU

*Managing Director, **Supreme Industries Ltd.***

The School of Engineering (SOE) at PIU offers two undergraduate (Bachelor in Technology) programs in Plastic and Polymer Engineering and Computer Science and Engineering with an intake of 60 seats each. PIU has a campus of 32 acres with state-of-the-art facilities tailored for technical education, innovation, and industrial consultancy/research. It is strategically located in Vapi, situated on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor, near Silvassa and Daman, considered the processing hub of India.

PIU has signed a technical partnership with the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, USA, which is offering a Plastic Engineering Program since 1954, with the objective of supporting the establishment of state-of-the-art technical programs at PIU. They play a key role in advising and counselling on the development of infrastructure, academic curriculum, plans, and quality assurance, including ABET accreditation plans for SOE at PIU. PIU traces its roots back to PIF, Mumbai, an apex body of major associations, organizations, and institutions connected with plastics since 1987. PIF is dedicated to national progress through plastics. The key focus of the Foundation is to facilitate export-led growth of the Indian plastic industry and help boost export business volumes and revenues.

PIU has some energetic and ambitious plans to better train the next generation of plastic engineers and technologists. PIU's focus is on continuing education programs (short-to-medium term) to upskill and/or reskill industry professionals serving the plastic industry. From the academic forefront, postgraduate programs comprising MBA, M. Tech., and Ph.D. degrees are slated to commence in the near future. Although there is an understandable shift in the plastics sector, predicting future requirements is difficult, so the department depends upon the advice and guidance of an industrial governing board consisting of stalwarts from the industry. ■

Ramesh Parasuraman to spearhead INSIGHTS



Serving the industry for over three decades, Mr. Parasuraman is associated with various associations including of the likes of SPE, Plastindia Foundation, and professional bodies alike enlightening with his exceptional talent pool.

Plastindia Foundation has recently appointed Mr. Ramesh Parasuraman as Chairman of Publication Committee & 'Editor', INSIGHTS; a magazine published by Plastindia Foundation, apex body of the association, organizations, and institutions associated with Plastics & dedicated for promoting the growth and sustainability of the plastics industry in India. Under his leadership, INSIGHTS Magazine will thrive and continue to deliver impactful content to our audience. Mr. Ramesh Parasuraman is Managing Director, Allied Solutions India Pvt Ltd, a Mumbai – based company catering to the technical needs of plastics processors in the country. ■

Plastindia Foundation

Awarded Membership at Global Plastic Alliance

Plastindia Foundation in its endeavors has been consistently adhering to global standards and practices with common objectives to promote the development of the Indian plastics industry deliver equally on environment front with initiatives on Plastics Waste Management as well.

Plastindia Foundation being the permanent member of Asia Plastic Forum has now bagged seat in one of the elite group recently and has been awarded membership at Global Plastic

Alliance, a multi stakeholder platform to accelerate the transition to a circular economy for plastics.

GPAP harnesses the convening power of the World Economic Forum to bring together governments, businesses and civil society to translate commitments into action at both the global and national levels.

Recently Global Plastics Alliance has signed an MoU with World Plastic Council to work together for global plastics issues. ■

**GLOBAL
PLASTIC
ALLIANCE**



Plexconnect's second edition draws huge attention in Mumbai

The platform being purely focused on exports aim to provide smaller MSME exporters a glimpse into internal trade and open up newer opportunities for them.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of industry stalwarts, Government officials along with a national and international delegates and Mr. Rvish Kamat, President Plastindia Foundation, who was the Chief Guest.

Appreciating the efforts of Plexcouncil, Mr Ravish Kamat said, "I am thankful to Plexcouncil for coming up with such trade show as it will add up to the potential of the industry."

Further mentioning about the status of the Indian Plastics industry, Kamat said, "The landscape of the Indian plastics industry is evolving rapidly, driven by globalization, technological advancements,

and evolving consumer preferences. Concurrently, substantial investments are forecasted in response to the industry's expanding market size. I am sure we will see much more the like happening at this trade expo".

“The three day exhibition starting 7-9 June held in Mumbai focused on exports witnessed over 400 international buyers across 50 importing countries.”



“Mr Dhruv Sayani said, “PLEXCONNECT 2023 was a great success for the plastics industry, and despite being our maiden venture into organizing our very own international scale trade fair for plastics exports, the exhibition generated business inquiries forcing us to have the second edition as well.”

Earlier in the day, the event began with a traditional lighting of *Diyas*, at the hands of Mr Ravish Kamat, President Plastindia Foundation, Mr. Hemant Minocha, Chairman Plexconcil, Mr. Vikram Bhadauria, Mr. Arvind Goenka, Imm. Past President, Plexconcil, Vice Chairman, Plexconcil, Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, Plexconcil, Mr. Dhruv Sayani, Convener Exhibition Committee.

Welcoming everyone at the 2nd Edition of Plexconnect 2024, Mr. Minocha at the inaugural speech appreciated the efforts of all those for their support in making the event a success.

He said, “It is indeed a pleasure to have the presence of the industry professionals, both national and international, in a such a large number and I am thankful to everyone, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Commerce, and my exhibitors , colleagues from the industry for making this event a success”. He further briefed upon the status and growth prospective of the Indian Plastics industry.



“Plexconcil Executive Director, Sribash Dasmohapatra said, “As Plexconnect being in its second edition is still in its infancy, we expect have more participation than last year”.



He added, “PLEXCONNECT was conceived as an international scale exhibition that is exclusively focused on exports. The concept is to present a comprehensive showcase of Indian processing industry which includes everything from raw materials to semi-finished and finished products; mould & dies as well as machinery & technologies. We focus on showcasing innovation as well as the growing manufacturing capacities of our industry. The RBSM is especially focused to expanding our industry’s outreach to not only newer markets, but also deeper penetration into existing markets.”

The trade expo had received over 1000 applications for participating in its RBSM and around 400 international buyers from over 50 major importing countries were shortlisted after a stringent screening process. The buyers list includes businessmen from countries as far Latin American countries like Brazil, Chile, and Peru.

Other important highlights include State Pavilions from Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh as well as 60 exhibitors who were supported by The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. On the sidelines of the expo, Technical conferences are scheduled at Plexconnect, besides an export awareness campaign. Sustainability and recycling will be one of other major topics at the meet.

Plexconnect will also host seminars on important trade topics as well as a Consultants Clinic to help exporters with important trade advice. ■



Ravish Kamath

President, PlastIndia Foundation inaugurated Kplex 2024

Kplex 24, the esteemed plastics industry exhibition, was inaugurated in the esteemed presence of Ravish Kamath, President of Plastindia Foundation, the apex body of the plastic industry.

In a special tribute, Ravish Kamath was honored with a floral bouquet and shawl by the Karnataka State Polymer Association.

Plastindia Foundation Participation

Plastindia Foundation proudly participated in KPlax 2024, one of the premier platforms in southern India for the plastics industry. Mr. Ravish Kamath, President, Plastindia Foundation inaugurated the Plastindia Foundation booth.

At KPlax 2024, Plastindia Foundation showcased its commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and collaboration within the plastics industry. Our stall served as a hub of activity, attracting visitors from around the globe who were eager to explore the latest advancements and developments in the field.



Notable figures from the industry graced the event, including Rajneesh Mehta, Senior Vice President of Marketing at HPCL Mittal Energy, Chandu Bhai, Director of Shyam Textiles, Ramesh Lahoti, President of FKCCI, Shashidhar Shetty, President of KASSIA, and Vijay Kumar, President of the Karnataka State Polymer Association, alongside the organizer of Kplex 24, Hariram Thakkar.





APRIL 26-29, 2024

Generated significant enthusiasm within the South Indian Plastic Industry.



Moreover, our presence at K-Plex 2024 provided valuable opportunities for networking, knowledge exchange, and forging new partnerships. We connected with industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders, strengthening our global network and laying the groundwork for future collaborations.



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Plastindia Foundation *makes its presence felt at ChinaPlas'24*

The team under the guidance of Mr Raju Desai, Vice President - Plastindia Foundation, Mr Kailash Murarka - Vice Chairman - National Executive Council (NEC), for PLASTINDIA 2026 made their presence felt at the expo.

ChinaPlas'24 showcased latest market trends, breakthrough technologies, and innovative solutions in the plastics and rubber industries, enabling buyers from all over the world to actively participate in the accelerated industrial transformation with innovative technologies and solutions.

In addition, the expo was complemented by a series of concurrent events and summits, that further enhance the new

advantages and momentum for high-quality industrial development. Spread across exhibition area measuring 380,000 sqm, the trade expo was held over four consecutive days with over 4,420 international exhibitors an increase of over 12% compared to the 2018 edition in Shanghai.

Chinaplas, this year boasted of 9 country region Pavilion Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, USA, UK, Taiwan and Switzerland.

**Plastindia Foundation
was successfully represented
at the 36th edition of
Chinaplas 2024, the International
exhibition on Plastics,
held at the National Exhibition
and Convention Center (NECC)
in Hongqiao, Shanghai, PR China,
during April 23-26, 2024.**



The expo had over 17 Theme Zones, including Product Innovation Gallery, Special Bioplastics Zone, Recycled Plastics Zone, recycling Technology Zone, along with Tech Talk, a platform that showcased diversified and advanced technologies.

As a part of concurrent events, summit and seminar were equally held maintaining global standards. Throughout the three-day summit, professional association representatives from Asia, Europe and America provided insights into industry trends, opportunities, and challenges across different markets.

Mr. Raju Desai, who was invited as the speaker to address the global audience on day one - April 23, presented the growth prospects of the Indian Plastics industry that was well received among audience at the forum of the Chinaplas 2024.

He said, 'India accounts for approximately six percent of global plastics use, making it the third-largest consumer of this material behind China and the United States. Factors such as economic growth and population growth are expected to drive plastics use in the coming decades.'



This was followed by speakers from other professional association representatives.

Additionally, renowned material and equipment suppliers such as KUKA, ARBURG, EREMA, SABIC, BASF, DOW, ENGEL, WITTMANN, SINOPEC and BOROUGE also presented their latest innovative technology solutions during sessions focused on "Digitalization for Industrial Transformation and Sustainability", "Innovative Technology for Electric Vehicles" and "Innovative Technology for Green Energy." ■

China's manufacturing industry is currently undergoing a transformation driven by a strategic shift that has positioned the country for a competitive advantage in the global market and India did really well showcasing its relative strength in the plastics industry.



”

“

The 11th edition of PLASTINDIA made history with an unprecedented attendance and visionary discussions under guidance of Mr Jigish Doshi, the then PIF President and Mr Ajay Shah, the then NEC Chairman.



Alok Tibrewal

Chairman

National Executive Council - PLASTINDIA 2026

Despite the Post COVID uncertainty, the 11th edition of PLASTINDIA, the world's largest International Plastics Exhibition, was held last year, February 1st to 5th, 2023 with a remarkable attendance of 4 lakh visitors and over 1800 exhibitors across segment.

I am further delighted to inform that significant business transactions unfolded, setting stage for the plastics industry's growth and it was all because of the hard work and determination of our leaders and the team.

The theme for the 12th edition of 'PLASTINDIA 2026' is 'Bharat Next'. The reason is very simple; India is growing and needless to say the Indian Plastics Industry is all set for growth. With the overall global business model of China +1, Bharat is the only destination and we are all here to prove the point.

This edition we are anticipating over 2000 exhibitors to be spread over an wide area of 62,500 sqm, at Bharat Mandapam New Delhi. The trade expo will showcase product line with technological advances across segments including processing machinery, raw materials, recycling technology, automation 3-D solutions.

As a part of trade delegation we will have an increasing participation in the international pavilions as well. Apart from this, we are focusing on State pavilion on Startups, innovations recycling to provide employment and skill development across the sector. We also plan to conduct over 200 conference for knowledge sharing and as it happens the expo provides one of the biggest platform to everyone for National and International networking.

More than 170 industry leaders and CEOs shall be participating in discussions on propelling the Indian Plastics Industry to its fullest potential. Along with them, policymakers, bureaucrats students and especially NGO's would be invited for enlightening them on efforts of Indian Plastics industry on Plastic Waste Management and Recycling/sustainable Plastics.



Kailash B. Murarka

*Vice Chairman
National Executive Council -
PLASTINDIA 2026*

Plastindia as you know, has been doing great since inception and the last edition was one of the special. The reason for this remains, that despite many challenges we at Plastindia Foundation under the leadership of Jigishbhai and Ajaybhai were able to do a fantastic job.

This year also we have our President, Mr. Ravish Kamath, who has been working tirelessly for making this event a grand success. He is equally supported by Dr. Raju Desai and Mr. Dharmendra Gandhi and we all know they are masters in the field.

Also being together with Mr. Alok Tibrewala, Chairman (NEC), one of the best professional to have worked with, and with the support of everyone we will rock for sure.

The Indian 'Plastics Industry' is all set for growth there is no doubt about it. As we have been saying this, Plastindia expo is not just about domestic growth; it also equally focuses on global connections.

The exhibition will be having more than your expectation, be it business meeting, networking, RBSM meetings, technology, innovations, automation and many more for plastic products, machinery, and molds.

You name it and we will have everything related to plastics industry. This edition we are anticipating over 2000 exhibitors to be spread over an wide area of 62,500 sqm at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Forward thinking discussions and international networking opportunities has been the hallmark of our event, Plastindia is committed to driving innovation, fostering partnerships, and propelling the plastics industry towards a sustainable and prosperous tomorrow.

The expo for sure, will serve as common platform providing direct access with international buyers for India's thriving plastics industry, reinforcing India's position as a preferred global sourcing hub.

Moreover, I would like to request everyone, please feel free to share any suggestions or your feedback on insights@plastindia.org and it shall be discussed further for the betterment.

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The Environmental Profile of Plastics

Balancing Benefits and Challenges

Plastics have undoubtedly revolutionized modern life, offering unparalleled versatility, convenience, and cost-effectiveness across various industries. From packaging and construction to healthcare and transportation, plastics play a crucial role in everyday existence. However, alongside their undeniable benefits, plastics also present some environmental challenges which can be reduced with an all-inclusive policy and peoples support. However it seems to be easier said than done.

This article explores the nuanced environmental profile of plastics, highlighting both their contributions to human progress and the imperative for sustainable management.

Plastics have transformed numerous aspects of human society, contributing to advancements in healthcare, food preservation, transportation efficiency, and consumer convenience. Their lightweight nature reduces transportation costs and energy consumption, while their durability ensures product longevity and protection.

Plastic has a lower environmental impact than paper

Paper products require a vast amount of resources to produce. In addition to the need to cut down large numbers of trees to produce paper products. The paper making process requires vast quantities of energy and water to function. In addition, paper making factories produce a large amount of waste. In addition, because paper products are less durable than plastic products, like those storage injection molding, they have to be replaced far more often.

Plastic can be Recycled into a variety of forms

An important advantage of plastic is the sheer variety of forms it can be recycled into. Today's plastic bottles can be recycled and converted into tomorrow's feedstock for a plastic molding system. Not only is this more environmentally friendly, but it also makes plastic a very flexible

material for the industrial needs of the 21st century.

Plastic is more efficient than other materials

Because plastic is lighter and stronger than many other materials, it takes less plastic to handle any given task. This reduces the amount of material needed for a given purpose, which helps to reduce the environmental impact of plastic components.

Plastic materials can be converted into fuel

In addition to being recycled into other objects, plastic can be converted into fuel. Not only does this recycle the plastic, it also reduces the amount of fossil fuels that have to be extracted from the earth. Not only does this reduce the environmental impact of fossil fuel extraction, but can also help keep fuel prices low.

Which plastics are recyclable?

Summary of plastic polymer groups, their common uses, properties and recyclability. Numerical coding (from 1-7) is typically provided on plastic items and gives information of their polymer grouping below. Recyclability is based on common recycling schemes but can vary between countries as well as regionally within countries; check local recycling guidelines for further clarification.

Symbol	Polymer	Common Uses	Properties	Recyclable?
 PETE	Polyethylene terephthalate	 Plastic bottles (water, soft drinks, cooking oil)	Clear, strong and lightweight	Yes; widely recycled
 HDPE	High-density polyethylene	 Milk containers, cleaning agents, shampoo bottles, bleach bottles	Stiff and hardwearing; hard to breakdown in sunlight	Yes; widely recycled
 PVC	Polyvinyl chloride	 Plastic piping, vinyl flooring, cabling insulation, roof sheeting	Can be rigid or soft via plasticizers; used in construction, healthcare, electronics	Often not recyclable due to chemical properties; check local recycling
 LDPE	Low-density polyethylene	 Plastic bags, food wrapping (e.g. bread, fruit, vegetables)	Lightweight, low-cost, versatile; fails under mechanical and thermal stress	No; failure under stress makes it hard to recycle
 PP	Polypropylene	 Bottle lids, food tubs, furniture, houseware, medical, rope, automobile parts	Tough and resistant; effective barrier against water and chemicals	Often not recyclable; available in some locations; check local recycling
 PS	Polystyrene	 Food takeaway containers, plastic cutlery, egg tray	Lightweight; structurally weak; easily dispersed	No; rarely recycled but check local recycling
 OTHER	Other plastics (e.g. acrylic, polycarbonate, polyacetic fibres)	 Water cooler bottles, baby cups, fiberglass	Diverse in nature with various properties	No; diversity of materials risks contamination of recycling

How Plastics is helping the environment?

Contrary to many uninformed individuals, plastic can actually help the environment in a wide variety of ways. While it's common knowledge the plastic can be recycled and reformed through plastic molding techniques, there are still many more ways plastic is better for the environment than traditional materials such as paper or wood. The following examples are only some of the ways that plastic is helping the environment.



Using plastic can help improve the nation's fuel economy

Plastic is long lasting

Whether it is used in plastic molding or as a drink container, plastic is a very long lasting material. Because of this, there is less need to continually throw away plastic components. This not only reduces the amount of trash that is generated, but also reduces the need for the production of replacement components. Because of this, the durable nature of plastic reduces both waste and production related pollution.

Plastic can be easily compressed into a small package

World over one of the major problem is the availability of space for recycling and landfill. However, because plastic can be easily compressed, it is well suited to efficient storage, whether the goal is for permanent disposal or temporary storage before the material's recycling for another purpose, such as use in an injection molding process.

Finally, light weight plastic compounds have helped to dramatically improve the fuel economy of the nation. Whether it is increasing a car's mileage by using a plastic body, or simply reducing the weight of a truck's cargo, plastic helps reduce the amount of energy needed to get people to work and goods to market.

Don't bash plastics – they can be helpful!

Ultimately, plastic is an excellent tool to help reduce mankind's impact on the environment. In fact, in many respects plastic is far more environmentally friendly than any other material commonly used by man. If you'd like to recycle plastic and bring a design to life using plastic molding techniques, contact Superior Plastics – we'd love to be a part of your environmentally friendly, creative process!



Moreover, plastics have enabled innovations in medical devices, electronics, and renewable energy technologies, enhancing quality of life and driving economic growth.

Despite their manifold benefits, the proliferation of single-use plastics, inadequate waste management infrastructure, and marine pollution has garnered widespread concern.

Navigating through sustainable plastics in India presents several unique challenges due to the country's large population, rapid economic growth, and complex Waste Management Infrastructure.

India faces significant challenges in terms of inadequate Waste Management Infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Many regions lack proper recycling facilities, collection systems, and landfill management practices, making it difficult to effectively manage plastic waste.

While India has a vibrant informal recycling sector, it often operates in unregulated conditions. Integrating informal waste pickers into formal recycling systems while providing them proper training and resources remains a challenge.

Addressing the environmental impact of plastics requires a multifaceted approach encompassing policy interventions, technological innovations, and consumer behavior changes.

To conclude—

The environmental profile of plastics is complex, characterized by a delicate balance between their undeniable benefits and inherent drawbacks. While plastics have revolutionized modern life, their proliferation poses significant concerns to the environment and public health. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders, including policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, and consumers. By embracing sustainable practices, investing in technological innovations, and promoting circular economy principles, we can harness the benefits of plastics while minimizing their environmental footprint, ensuring a more resilient and equitable future for generations to come.

Governments, industry stakeholders, and civil society must collaborate to develop and implement effective strategies for waste reduction, recycling, and pollution prevention. This includes promoting the circular economy model, investing in alternative materials, and incentivizing eco-friendly product design and manufacturing practices.

While advancements in recycling technologies offer promising solutions for mitigating plastic pollution and conserving resources, mechanical recycling, chemical recycling, and biodegradable plastics present viable alternatives to traditional plastic disposal methods. Further more, bio-based plastics derived from renewable sources offer potential for reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions. However, challenges such as scalability, cost-effectiveness, and infrastructure limitations must be addressed to realize their full potential.

Empowering consumers with knowledge about the environmental impact of plastics is paramount to driving behavior change and fostering sustainable consumption patterns. Encouraging practices such as reduce, reuse, repair, and responsible disposal can significantly help reduce plastic waste generation. Additionally, advocating for product stewardship, extended producer responsibility, and eco-labeling schemes can incentivize businesses to adopt more environmentally conscious practices. ■

**Dr. Vijay G. Habbu**

*Consultant, Reliance Industries Limited
Adjunct Professor,
Institute of Chemical Technology*

Most of the people, who bring out health scares about plastics on social media (videos or blogs) or news items, and equally the readers, are not familiar with polymer science. Hence, the blatant lies about plastic water bottles causing cancer, etc. get traction. Water bottles are made of a plastic called PET, whose composition has no chemical that is carcinogenic. So, regardless of whether the water bottle is kept in a car or a fridge, there is no leaching of any dangerous chemicals. Besides, the fact that the same PET has been used in all countries the world over for the packaging of water, carbonated soft drinks, edible oils, pharmaceuticals, should be a good testimony of the safety of PET bottles.



Managing plastic-waste, like all other wastes needs strict enforcement of rules; rules that are logical, adaptable, and based on natural justice. The rules should gel well with the natural instincts of our country. While users/citizens should be responsible when disposing used plastics, the civic administration should provide good collection mechanisms. On these principles, for the management of Plastic Waste, India needs to enhance the pivotal role of the informal sector of waste-pickers – not only include them in a formal economy, but also tap into their ground wisdom. Secondly, a cardinal fact needs to be kept in mind that waste management begins from the collection of waste. Once collected, subsequent technological steps are relatively easy.

With this in mind, the industry should also set up visible recycling centres that will create enthusiasm among consumers to take the efforts to dispose plastic waste responsibly.

Long before buzzwords like recycling, circular economy, sustainability got global attention, Reliance has been recycling polyester. Reliance is presently at advanced stages of launching massive facilities for recycling used-PET into RPET that will be USFDA, EFSA and FSSAI approved.

Lastly, in my opinion, Regulators need to focus on clearing the plastic litter rather than chasing nebulous aims like Circular Economy, important as they are. ■



Dr. Sameer Joshi

Vice Chairman, Governing Council, IPI

Plastics are frequently criticized for everything from toxicity to ocean pollution, but they play an important role in green house gas emissions. Among applications for which non plastics alternatives are used at scale, the plastics offer lower total EHG contributions. The role of lifecycle analysis is also critical when talking of plastics. In a de-carbonized world, plastics bottles would continue to have slight advantage over gable top cartons; cartons with a triangular top that holds liquid beverage like milk, juice, because of high rates of recycling. HDPE bottles have lower Green House emissions inputs because of their higher recycling.



The real environmental profile of plastics has to be scientifically understood, and not based on emotions. According to data available, India recycles around 60 percent of plastics and over 90% PET. Though most of recycling happens in the unorganized sector, the situation is now changing and we have increasing number of recycling clusters across the country. Higher recycling infrastructure in terms of recycling is also being developed.

From year 2024 to 2027, the Indian recycling industry will see a grafting rise in terms of a hockey stick graph. The FSSAI in a landmark announcement has allowed use of 100 percent recycled plastics for food applications from PET. According to Plastics Waste Management rules, the objective of obligations of minimum recycled contents starting from 10% gradually increased to over 30 % and more is not only an Indian phenomenon but global thinking and action.

In India, we have laws to ban (SUP) plastics but nothing against littering. Plastics converter industry is the most affected by bans and regulations despite that the industry has adapted the change and is moving towards circular economy creating the change. The Indian Plastics Industry is seriously contributing towards responsible sustainable packaging. India has launched various initiatives for plastics waste, be it the plastics exchange for food, PET deposit returns scheme, Ocean cleaning and many more.



Mr. Subba Bangera

*Plastic Technologist, Chairman,
Active Biz Solutions Pvt Ltd*

Our biggest problem is the accumulated legacy wastage across the country which needs to be unearthed, collected and processed. As per data, India is recycling more than 90% of rigid plastics, more than 92% of PET and interestingly close to 60% of flexible waste and multilayer films.

The recycling industry has moved from an informal base to a very systematic and to large scale industry with a structured approach. The first real impact and focus on need for systematic and long-term approach to Plastic Waste Management happened on 2nd Oct 2014, when PM Modi took a broom and announced the Swatch Bharat Program. The focus fell on correctly and strongly on Plastic waste generated.



Since then, many policies have been created, more prominent are PWM, SUP (single use plastic), EPR (extended producer's responsibility). The results are visible. CPCB is constantly monitoring the waste generated & collection data and publishing in their website.

However, much-more is needed to be done. We need to educate every level of society that "Plastics is fantastic and saves life, but littering is bad. To make segregation, collection and sorting more systematic and user-friendly we must promote special purpose equipment development. We must develop machinery to suit rural small scale requirements to urban large scale demand.

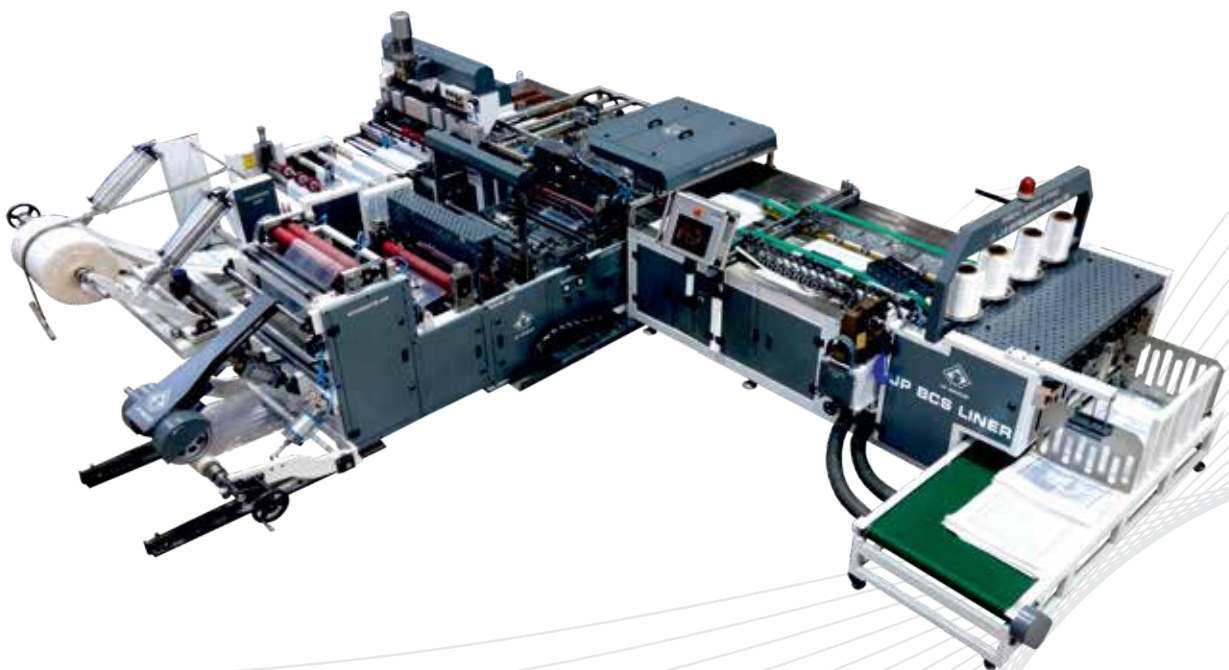
India has made great progress in AI approach & use of robotics in sorting and segregation which is far superior to many western (types of) equipment. The use of intelligent conveyors, gantry robots & delta robots, use of AGVs with payload as high as 1.5 Tons and above all incredible AMRs to regulate all movements have accelerated collection drives.

Our subsequent processing equipment and application developments are well designed and controlled. While equipment for rigid polymer waste is available in plenty, the success of processing MLPs into useful rigid products, notably in wood replacement applications has opened a great opportunity in rural waste management. ■



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Overview of Plastics and Sustainability

Plastics make a positive contribution to all three pillars of sustainability. Addressing the sustainability of plastics requires a holistic approach to ensure that the production, use, and disposal of plastics align with the principles of sustainability and contribute to a more sustainable future.

In order for a product or material to be truly described as sustainable it must be economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable. These aspects have become known as the **three pillars of sustainability**. And for all those who think plastics add to pollution, then let me say it doesn't, for plastics do not add to pollution it's littering that adds.

The fact remains Plastics make a positive contribution to all three pillars of sustainability.

“
The three pillars of sustainability, also known as the triple bottom line, are an essential framework for understanding and implementing sustainable practices in various domains.
”



Economic Sustainability

Plastics play a significant role in the global economy, supporting jobs, innovation, and economic growth in various sectors, including manufacturing, packaging, construction, and healthcare. Plastic products often offer cost-effective solutions compared to alternative materials, contributing to affordability and accessibility.

Economically plastics form an important part of the Indian economy and are a major export product. Socially, the plastics industry is a major and inclusive employer with an attention to training and education. One of the notable aspects of the plastics industry's contribution to employment is its inclusivity and diversity.

Unlike some sectors that may have specific skill requirements or educational qualifications, the plastics industry offers opportunities across a broad spectrum. From machine operators and technicians to engineers, designers, sales professionals, and managers, there is a role for individuals with varying levels of education and experience. This diversity not only enriches the workforce but also ensures that employment opportunities are accessible to a wider demographic, including those from rural areas and marginalized communities.



Plastics also have a role to play at a micro-economic level

Plastics products are very cost effective to produce and provide the ability to make single moulded components in complex shapes. This significantly reduces costs associated with assembly and the use of fixtures.

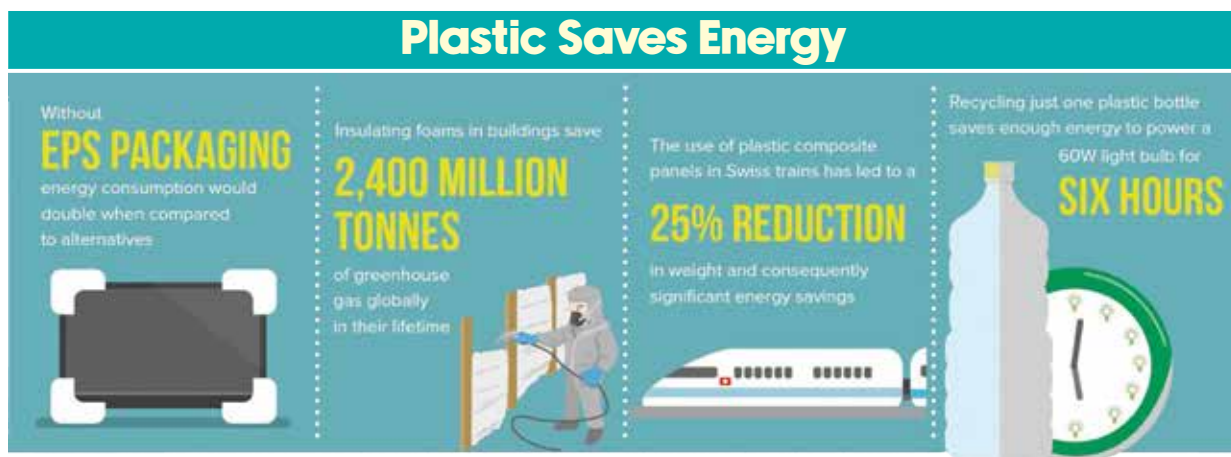
Plastics products also provide whole life cost savings; Reduced fuel use in transit due to their lightweight

Reduced maintained requirements, for example PVC windows do not require painting. Reduced energy required for heating when plastics insulation is used.

Reduced wastage (food / consumer goods); due to the unparalleled protective properties of plastics packaging.

The plastics industry is a leader in research and development, and innovation. Plastics materials and applications are constantly developed and improved. Significant industrial research and development is supported by a University infrastructure of polymer or polymer engineering departments.





Environmental Sustainability

Plastics have a very good environmental profile. Plastics contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing the weight and volume of packaging, which further helps reducing transportation-related emissions. Additionally lightweight plastic materials in vehicles and airplanes, help improve fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Plastics Packaging reduces waste (be it food / consumer goods). Plastics make an immense contribution to the environmental sustainability through their energy saving potential and intrinsic recyclability and energy recovery options.

Only 4% of the world's oil production is used for plastics and much less energy is used to produce it compared to other materials be it Paper, Glass, Metal. Plastics are durable yet lightweight and thus save weight in cars, aircraft, packaging and pipework.

When plastics have completed their use phase, whether as a car bumper or a bottle, they can either be recycled or if this is not economic or environmentally beneficial the calorific value of the plastic can be recovered through energy from waste incineration to provide a much source of home-grown power.

As a consequence plastics can be viewed as 'borrowing' the oil.

Social Sustainability

Completing the final pillar of sustainability, plastics are also socially sustainable.

Plastics have brought about various social benefits, such as improving access to safe drinking water through plastic pipes and packaging, enabling medical advancements through plastic medical devices and equipment, and providing affordable and lightweight materials for transportation and construction.

The plastics industry is socially inclusive and offers a wide range of worthwhile careers with considerable room for career development, progression and training. Plastics companies are geographically widely distributed across the globe providing employment.

Plastics makes a major contribution to safety, the used plastics in cars, for example, reduces weight and allows for the addition of safety features such as airbags. Furthermore, plastic foams such as EPS and EPP provide the necessary shock absorbency to be used in life saving devices such as helmets. ■

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Say **YES** to Plastics *with organised recycling*

The regulations made by Government of India needs to be simplified; offering relaxation in some measures for ensuring sustained recycling in the country

“ It is expected that worth of the global plastic market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 3.9% from 2023 to 2030 to reach USD 824.46 billions by 2030. ”



**Haren Sanghavi
M. D.**

GMS Plastic
Machinery Pvt. Ltd.

It is so young and most demanding. Isn't it? Just been about more than 117 years (1907 when Bakelite was developed), turn around. Many Experts, Brands, Food Packaging Industry, etc. claim it to be the most wonderful material ever found, whereas many believe that Plastics is solely responsible for environmental disaster.

On the other hand, Plastic Industry opinion is Say Yes to Plastics, Plastics is the wonder material, Plastics has the lowest Carbon footprint.

Being a Plastics businessman, there is a third angle I am looking at plastics and it's about Economics, Revenue, and the most important Employment. The fact remains, Plastic Stream holds 'Production industry' as well as 'Recycling industry' providing employments to lakhs of people.

Ever thought then who is responsible for the mess? Let's see the usage, consumption and employment data of Plastics and then analyse who is Responsible.

When it comes to plastic consumption on a Per-Person basis, the world's worst offender is Iceland, with annual consumption of 128.9 kg per person. This is 24.3 times higher than the yearly consumption per person of 5.3 kg in India. The global average consumption of plastic per person per year is 20.9 kg

Source

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/waste/india-among-the-12-countries-responsible-for-52-of-the-world-s-mismanaged-plastic-waste-report-90927#:~:text=The%20global%20average%20consumption%20of,it%2C%20was%20January%206%202023>

The Indian plastic industry is one of the leading sectors in the country's economy. The history of the plastic industry in India dates back to 1957 (67 years by 2024) with the production of polystyrene.

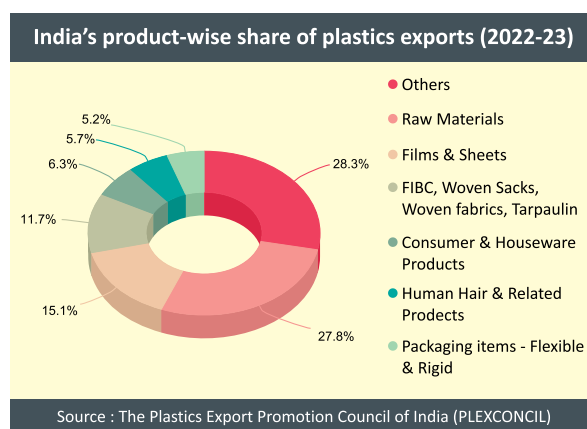
Since then, the industry has made substantial progress and has grown rapidly. It employs more than 4 million+ people in the country and constitutes 30,000+ processing units; among these, 85-90% belongs to small and medium enterprises.

The country majorly exports plastic raw materials, films, sheets, woven sacks, fabrics, and tarpaulin.

The Government of India intends to take the plastic industry from a current level of Rs. 3 lakh crore (US\$ 37.8 billion) of economic activity to Rs. 10 lakh crore (US\$ 126 billion)

in 4-5 years. To mitigate plastic pollution, Government of India has amended the waste management policies and included Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which will create a huge circular economy for waste across the board.

In FY23, India's plastic exports stood at US\$ 11.96 billion. The cumulative exports of plastics and related materials during 2022-23 were valued at US\$ 11.96 billion. This was a 10.4% decrease from the 2021-22 exports valued at US\$ 13.35 billion (see figure below).



India was among the few countries in 2019 to propose a global ban on single-use plastics. The idea was later widened and the world agreed in March 2022 to draw up a global treaty on plastic pollution.

Being actively involved in Plastic Recycling Machinery Industry as well as Plastic industry in 2021-22 (Post Covid) we tried to conduct a short online survey on Plastics and recycling with few questions such as:

- Which type of material do you recycle?
- How do you see potential of plastic recycling industry in India?
- How GST affected plastic recycling industry of country?
- How does Pollution Registration Laws affect Recycling Industry?
- Why Indian plastic industry is still dependent on outdated technology?
- What will boost recycling in India?

The responses were very interesting when it came to material recycling it was observed, the responses said 50% in Commodity Plastics, 6 % In Engineering Plastics, 44% were both Commodity and Engineering Plastics, 50% were in Industrial Waste Recycling, 20% were into Post Consumer Waste Recycling. 30% were doing both Industrial as well as Post Consumer Waste Recycling. About the potential of Plastic Industry in India, it is a known fact that since few years Indian Plastic Industry is expecting a growth of 6.6% CAGR

Source

<https://www.maximizemarketresearch.com/market-report/india-plastics-market/120148/>



6.6% CAGR

India Market to grow at a CAGR of 6.6% during 2024 - 2030

Indian Market Size

2023

2030

USD 43.68

USD 68.33

Market Size in **Billion**

GST affects plastic recycling industry

Recycling is a circular means of bringing back used plastics (Which are already Tax paid and consumed) back to reusable Plastics after passing through segregation, sorting, washing (Optional) and then pelletizing process. These plastics when collected and sold to recyclers are liable to GST Tax (at currently 5%). This leads the industry to an additional burden. Also, the equipment used for recycling is liable to be purchased with a GST Tax of 18%.

This 18% GST takes years for the recyclers to set off and their funds are blocked for a long time in the GST Tax department. This has led recycling industry to remain un-organised and away from all types of registration and tax burdens.

Pollution Registration Laws affecting recycling industry

As we all are aware Recycling whether Plastics, Glass, Paper, or any other material is liable to Pollution either of Air, Water or Noise. Every industry doing recycling is required to apply for Pollution Registration which is a long and impossible task for the recycling industry. Plastics Recycling industry is liable to do Segregation (which creates Air Pollution due to stink from the Post Consumer Waste Content), Washing (*which creates Water Pollution as most dirt and contaminants from Post Consumer Waste like Oil, Food, Milk, and various dirt will end up in water*), and Noise (*as machines will make noise when segregating, Crushing, Shredding and Pelletising*).





Hence, the industry will need to invest high amounts towards expenses to add equipment (Like Effluent Treatment, Air Treatment, Sound Barriers, etc.), labour and power to get Pollution approval's making the project completely unviable.

Indian Plastic industry still dependent on outdated 'Recycling Technology'

Before 2020, the Recycled Plastic Granules had limited demand and hence the prices fetched by recyclers were just enough to sustain their survival and expand slowly.

However post 2020 and with the implementation of Ban on Single Use Plastics, Extended Producer Responsibility Laws, Compulsion of use of 20% Recycled Waste in each product manufactured post 2021, India's recycling sector grew very fast and demand for recycled Granules also increased.

This led to multiple things:

1. Higher demand for high end and high production machines.
2. Higher demand for Recycled Plastic Granules which rose the recycling capacity from mere 40% to 60% of waste generated in India.
3. Higher demand for recycled Plastic Granules which led to increase in prices of Recycled Granules sometimes higher than Virgin Granule prices.
4. Higher demand for Advanced High Production and Power Efficient Recycling Machines.

What will boost recycling in India?

The regulations made by Government of India needs to be simplified and relaxed. Also to further boost 'Recycling' in India following measures should be adopted:

- Offering 25% subsidy to all post -consumer Waste Recyclers whether it is for Plastics or any other material.
- Easy Industry Registration for Recyclers.
- Simplification of Pollution Registration Forms for the Recycling Industry.
- Removal of GST on Recycled Granules.
- Removal of GST on Equipments for Recycling of Plastics and all materials.
- Innovation in Segregation and Sorting of Waste should be given utmost priority.
- Ban imports of Waste into India including those coming from various other routes.
- Provide incentive for those following norms set by BIS.
- Wherever the Government plans a Plastics Park, in addition to it a recycling zone should also be created with basic infrastructure to tackle Water, Air and Noise pollution along with fulfilling above norms.

All this will surely bring recycling to an organised structure and increase from 60 to 95% of post-consumer waste. ■



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Embracing Sustainable Packaging

A necessity for businesses in India

By embracing sustainable packaging practices, businesses can mitigate environmental risks, meet regulatory requirements, satisfy consumer demands, but is it that simple?

In recent years, India has witnessed a significant shift towards sustainable practices across various industries, and one area that has garnered particular attention is packaging. As businesses grapple with the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, the adoption of sustainable packaging has emerged as a necessity rather than a choice.

Like it or not, eco-friendly packaging is the latest buzzword as green practices have become a priority for both customers and companies globally. In short, it's more of a necessity than an option for businesses as the world transitions towards sustainable practices.

Here's why sustainable packaging has become imperative for businesses in India:

Environmental Concerns

India, like many other countries, faces pressing environmental challenges such as plastic pollution, deforestation and resource depletion. The widespread use of non-biodegradable packaging materials has

contributed to these issues, prompting businesses to seek alternative solutions that minimize their environmental impact.

Regulatory Pressures

With increasing awareness about environmental issues, governments worldwide are implementing stricter regulations to curb the use of single-use plastics and promote sustainable packaging practices. In India, initiatives such as the Plastic Waste Management Rules and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework are driving companies to adopt eco-friendly packaging alternatives, but then question remains - Is the purpose served?

A section of industry stakeholders thinks that the industry needs to create new solutions in response to the evolving needs of customers.

Consumer Preferences

Today, consumers are more environmentally conscious than ever before. They actively seek out products and brands that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability. Businesses that fail to address these preferences risk losing market share and damaging their reputation. By adopting sustainable packaging, companies can align themselves with consumer values and enhance their brand image.

Cost Savings

While there may be initial investments involved in transitioning to sustainable packaging, businesses stand to benefit from long-term cost savings. Eco-friendly packaging materials, such as recycled material, bioplastics, are often more cost-effective than traditional alternatives in the long run. Additionally, reducing packaging waste can lead to lower disposal and transportation cost for businesses.



Innovation Opportunities

Embracing sustainable packaging opens up opportunities for innovation and product differentiation. Companies can explore alternative materials, design concepts, and packaging formats that not only reduce environmental impact but also enhance the overall consumer experience. By staying ahead of the curve, businesses can gain a competitive edge in the market.

There are hosts of ways by which manufactures, retailers and other stakeholders can partner to collectively pursue sustainable packaging solutions and reduce environmental impact; Industry alliances through shared objectives is one such way out. There can be an increased focus on using recycled materials and designing packaging for recyclability, say industry experts.

According to a report by market research firm IMARC Group in 2023, India's sustainable packaging industry is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.24% between 2023 and 2028.

Corporate social responsibility has become a cornerstone of modern business practices. Adopting sustainable packaging is not only an ethical decision but also a strategic one that demonstrates a company's commitment to environmental stewardship. By integrating sustainability into their operations, businesses can fulfill their CSR objectives and contribute to the well-being of society. ■



Attitudes towards ‘Sustainable Packaging’ among consumers

Key Findings

Price, quality, and convenience still remains top buying criteria among consumers for products, while environmental impact continues to be one of the lowest-ranked factors (however, this is not true for all consumer groups).

While respondents named hygiene, food safety, and shelf life as the most important characteristics for product packaging when making a purchase, 40% of consumers still say environmental impact is an extremely or very important packaging characteristic when making purchasing decisions. That said, the overall relative importance of environmental factors for consumers has decreased somewhat.

Among concerned consumers, the impact of littering / ocean litter has become the primary environmental issue across all generations, regions.

Most consumers do not have a strong understanding of which packaging types are more sustainable but seem to favor compostable and plant-based packaging.

There is a long-standing gap in consumers' knowledge and education on sustainability more broadly, including recycling, compostable products, and so on.

Winning in sustainable packaging amid current market uncertainties will require a granular approach. There is no single solution to fit all cases.

What are challenges that stops many in the industry to adopt sustainable packaging?

Material innovation, particularly exploring biodegradable polymers, mycelium-based packaging, and plant-based alternatives, aligns with continuous improvement in packaging materials and design. Such designs not only use fewer resources but are also optimised for efficient recycling, contributing to a more sustainable packaging ecosystem.

However, creating innovative package designs for enhanced resource efficiency involves adopting a design thinking approach. Emphasising durability, reusability and recyclability, designers can optimise packaging for reduced resource usage.



A section of industry thinks that the industry needs to create new solutions in response to the evolving needs of customers and consumers as there are no standards to create a packaging design that suffices all the requirements and expectations.

Also, the fact remains at this stage this would add to cost for we (manufacturers) need to source our raw materials responsibly and create sturdy & creative packaging designs that can be transported smoothly and recycled efficiently afterwards, and question remains, is the consumer ready to pay? Perhaps not, adds a city based consultant on the condition of anonymity.

According to a study, there is no universal solution available for packaging players. Consumers today have diverse views on packaging sustainability. For example, in some of segments, consumers rank fiber packaging as the most sustainable, and in others, they rank compostable plastic film as the most sustainable. Hence, a truly granular understanding of end-user segments will be critical to win the sustainable-packaging race.

Packaging players need to not only understand how consumers buy and use products, as well as how the packaging is disposed of, but also consider how to improve the pain points and the regulators need to support them as well. For example, the hassle of recycling by cleaning packaging and bringing it back to the store is practically not possible for a manufacturer and/or FMCG company.

Multifaceted approach- the Way Ahead

Industry experts say India can address challenges stemming from insufficient manufacturing facilities and high raw material costs in sustainable packaging adoption through a multifaceted approach.

Government incentives tailored to support eco-friendly technologies and materials, such as compostable bags, could be instrumental.

Encouraging research and development in compostable materials represents a strategic avenue. Collaboration between government entities, industry associations, and manufacturers is crucial to fostering alliances that share knowledge and establish common standards, collectively overcoming hurdles in sustainable packaging adoption.

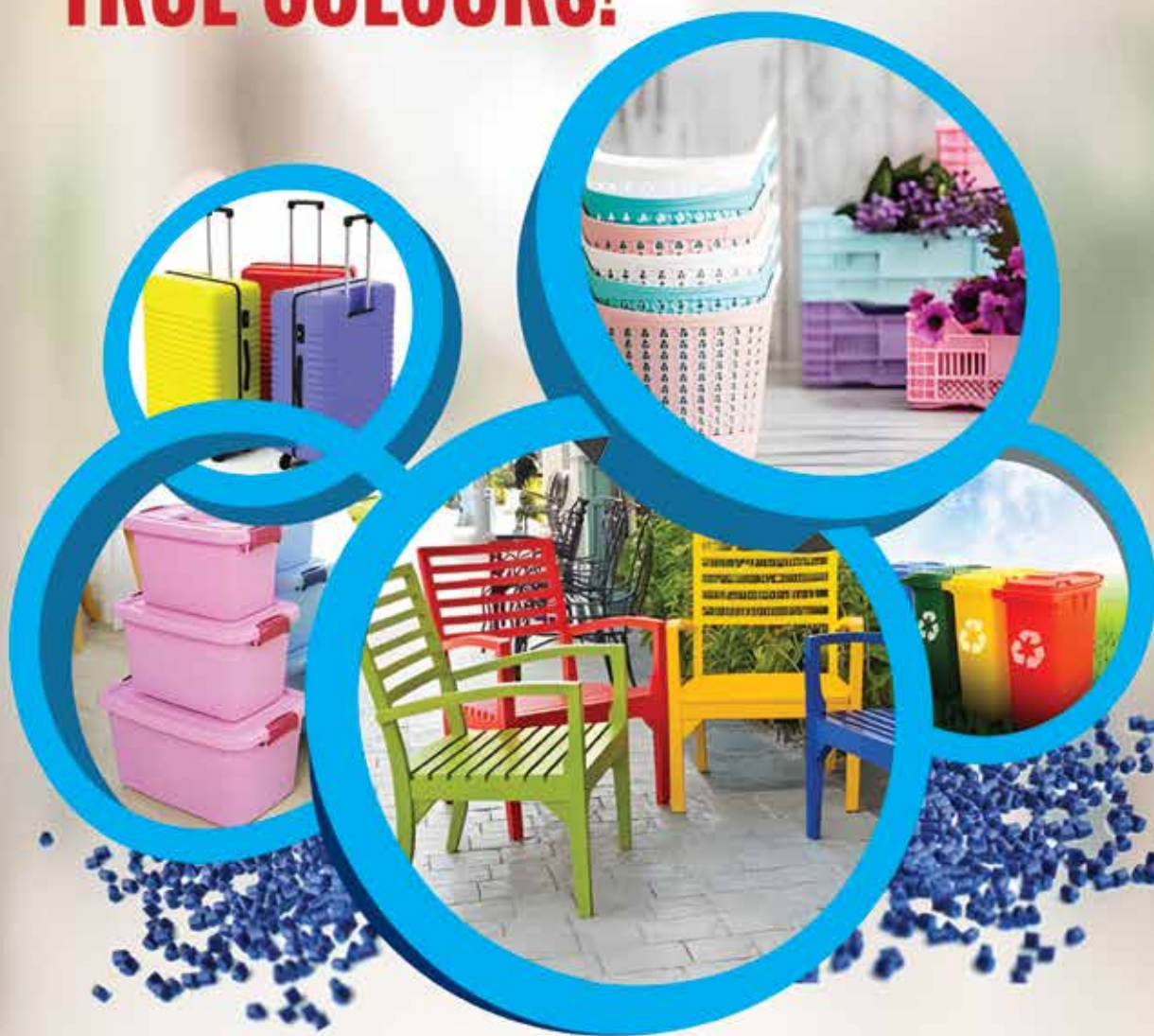
Offering subsidies, incentives and implementing regulations could set a standard and also encourage establishments to invest in this area. Additionally, skill development, investment in capacity building, innovation, and raising consumer awareness can further help to make significant progress in near future.

In conclusion, sustainable packaging has transitioned from being a mere trend to a business imperative in India. As businesses navigate an increasingly complex and interconnected world, prioritizing sustainability is no longer optional—it's a prerequisite for long-term success along with the necessary government and regulatory support.

By embracing sustainable packaging practices, businesses can mitigate environmental risks, meet regulatory requirements, satisfy consumer demands and drive innovation, all while building a more resilient and responsible future for generations to come.



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Motors, Drives and PLCs not only improve the efficiency of the recycling process, but also contribute to circularity goals by reducing waste and supporting the reuse of resources in plastics production.

Setting New Standards in Manufacturing **Sustainable Plastics**

The mission to make plastic production more sustainable is making promising progress

Some manufacturers are now adopting scrap-reduction machinery to minimise waste in production, and recycled bioplastics sourced from renewable materials are gaining momentum. Chemical recycling is also on the horizon, offering the potential to return recycled plastics to their original molecular state.

At the heart of this mission lie variable speed drives (VSDs) – also known as variable frequency drives (VFDs) or simply drives, along with motors and programmable logic controllers (PLCs). Whether applied to extrusion lines, flat dye cast machinery, blown film lines, blow moulding machines or injection moulding machines, these technologies are pivotal to advancing sustainability in plastics manufacturing.



Drives, Motors and PLCs are setting new standards for circularity

Fortunately, drives, motors and PLCs can work together to enhance energy-efficiency, reliability and overall performance of plastics production, resulting in a more circular lifecycle, and reduced total cost of ownership.

As we know, industrial motors convert electrical energy into mechanical motion to power equipment and machinery. Today's premium motors, such as those that use synchronous reluctance (SynRM) technology, offer unparalleled levels of performance, energy efficiency and reliability for the various applications used in plastic production both as quadric and constant torque.

“

Pairing motors with variable speed drives brings next-level results. Direct online motors can only be on or off, and will run at a fixed speed, regardless of the process requirements.

Conversely, when motors are combined with drives like ACS580 general purpose drives, they have the ability to control and regulate the speed, torque, and position of the motor shaft accurately. Eventually, this allows for synchronisation with the motion of other equipment and motor shafts. By enabling such precision control, VSDs can significantly cut energy usage and its associated carbon emissions, as well as reduce costs. ■



Making Plastic Production more Sustainable

“

The mission to make plastic production more sustainable is making promising progress, with exciting advances from mechanical recycling and scrap-free machinery, through to the creation of bioplastics from vegetables and pioneering chemical recycling.

”

While these new approaches are a giant leap towards reducing our reliance on single-use plastics and curbing the pollution of our planet, the industrial processes involved can paradoxically contribute to environmental problems.

To mitigate these negative consequences, it is vital that plastic product manufacturers of all varieties invest in energy-efficient technologies to perform their operations. Only then can this revolutionary, yet environmentally challenging material live a truly sustainable life. ■

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment



INC4 Canada Report - the story continues for **The Global Plastic Treaty**

India stated that it supports an international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution only if reached through full consensus

“

The United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 requested the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to begin its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024.

”

Sameer Joshi, PH.D

The INC is tasked with developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, henceforth referred to as “the instrument”, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic.

The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the Marine environment (INC-4), concluded on 29th April 2024 in Ottawa Canada with an advanced draft text of the instrument and agreement on intercessional work ahead of the fifth session (INC-5) in November 2024 in South Korea.

More than 2,500 delegates participated in INC-4, representing 170 Members and over 480 Observer organizations including non-government organizations, inter-government organizations, and UN entities. INC-4 marked the largest and most inclusive gathering with delegates negotiating the revised draft text of the international legally binding instrument.

Delegates discussed among other things - emissions and releases, production, product design, waste management, problematic and avoidable plastics, financing, and a just transition.

INC4 Members agreed on intercessional work & expert meetings that take place between the official INC sessions, that is expected to catalyze convergence on key issues. In addition, Members decided to create an Open-ended Legal Drafting Group to form at INC-5, serving in an advisory capacity by reviewing elements of the draft revised text to ensure legal soundness.



The Chair of the INC, Ambassador Luis Vayas said: “During these seven days of intense deliberations, you the (delegates) have managed to build on and advance the revised draft text of the instrument, providing streamlined text and entering textual negotiations on several elements”.

“We are all united by our strong shared commitment to deliver an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. It is this spirit of multilateralism which has guided our discussions here in Ottawa. We have found some common ground and we are walking this path together until the end. I firmly believe that we can carry this same spirit forth to Busan to deliver on our mandate.” he added.

“We came to Ottawa to advance the text and with the hope that Members would agree on the intercessional work required to make even greater progress ahead of INC-5. We leave Ottawa having achieved both goals and a clear path to landing an ambitious deal in Busan ahead of us,” said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). “The work, however, is far from over. I urge members to show continued commitment and flexibility to achieve maximum ambition.”

It has been an ambitious timeline of just 18 months and four sessions to get us to this point and we are now firmly on the road to Busan. Compromise and commitment remains strong at this advanced stage of the negotiations. “Plastics may last forever, but this INC should not!” And with this call, after over seven days of intense negotiations, the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment ended in Ottawa, Canada.

It was clear that there are various groups that are pushing their agenda EU and their group (sometimes US, Canada, Australia) included are ones pushing for #ambitious #targets, where as other countries including India are seeking a balanced approach and protecting the interests of developing countries.

Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment



India's submissions are the most balanced and logical. The real value of the INC-4 was in the side events where various global organizations presented on various topics like micro plastics, estimation of micro plastics in the environment, etc. It is evident that the scientists working on micro plastics and making tall claims have a long way to go!

India stated that it supports an international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution only if reached through full consensus, rather than one made through a two - discussion, from problematic and avoidable plastics to product design, composition and performance.

The planned intercessional work is expected to ease delegates' work at INC-5, although some feel it may not be enough. However, delegates were unable to agree on a proposal by the European Union to convene a resumed session of INC-4.

INC-4 closed at 3:17 am on Tuesday,

30th April 2024, which had begun on April 23rd 2024.

Plastics may last forever, but this INC should not!" And with this call, after over seven days of intense negotiations, the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, ended in Ottawa, Canada. ■

The big issue which as discussed a lot at these side events was not recycling it was "REUSE" & there is a lot of narratives on how #REUSE can make a

60-80%

dent in plastic waste generation. This is clearly something worth watching out for. It's a given in the global community that recycling is important but will not get us out of plastic waste.



Garbage Café

Fostered innovative methods across the country to curb plastic waste

Citizens, whether through grassroots initiatives, community-led projects, or entrepreneurial ventures play a role in driving innovation and finding creative solutions to plastic waste management challenges.

All of us remember the concept of a garbage cafe first started in 2019, a few years back with a food joint in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh where ragpickers and the homeless are offered meals if they collect and deposit plastic wastes at the café.

The cafe situated in Ambikapur has been set up by Ambikapur Municipal Corporation (AMC) which bagged the title of the second cleanest city in India. The then Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo inaugurated a 'Garbage Cafe' in Ambikapur that provides free food in exchange for plastic waste.

The concept of this cafe is to feed people with a meal in exchange of plastics. Deo said, "People can get their plastic waste weighed and enjoy a warm meal in return, the initiative will provide impetus to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Plastic Free India' resolve.

“I am so proud of this unique idea and initiative taken by AMC. The entire nation took several measures and steps to discourage using single-use plastic on Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary. But AMC took such an innovative step to keep the city plastic-free, I feel so good. This initiative has achieved support on the national and international level.” he added.



Each item he collects feels like a small victory, he says, adding up to a “bag of treasures” that he can exchange for food at what’s known as a “Garbage Cafe.” All three meals of the day, not only for him but for his whole family, are taken care of by these cafes across the city.

The concept of a garbage cafe was then followed by a café in Junagadh, Gujarat giving further some food for thought to fight the plastic menace.

All one needs to do is bring 500 gm of plastic waste for a glass of lemon or fennel juice, and a kg. to enjoy a plate of dhokla or poha. More the plastic waste, the bigger the platter, they say.

Else, take the case of Akash, a 28-year-old living in Delhi, who ventures out every morning to collect plastic in order to feed his family of four.

He usually starts his day by scavenging for plastic bottles in and around the waste collection areas of different neighborhoods. He begins around 7 am, when the waste from nearby houses typically arrives. His aim is to gather around three kilograms of plastic, which is enough to secure his meals for the day.

In a bid to preserve the environment and increase awareness about safe disposal of plastic waste, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) came up with the concept of Garbage Cafes in 2020.



Under this initiative, individuals who drop off one kilogram of plastic waste at designated garbage cafes receive a voucher for a complimentary meal at participating restaurants. *(One kilogram can be exchanged for lunch or dinner and 250 grams can be exchanged for breakfast).* Eligible plastic waste includes empty water bottles, soft drink bottles, plastic containers and similar materials.



The aim is to encourage the gathering of waste while also managing the use of disposable plastic products. Eateries hand over the plastic they collect to a municipal organization, which then recycles and repurposes it.

For Akash and many others, the Cafes have been life changing. “I came to Delhi around three years ago and started living with my relatives here,” Akash says. “While looking for a job I came across this scheme of the government where we can exchange plastic for free meals. This has really made my life easier, as I not only earn money out of selling plastic but also get free meals for my entire family.”

Business owners have seen benefits too, both environmentally and economically. In the short time since their business were designated a Garbage Cafe, they have seen the way the initiative has made people aware of the importance of safely disposing of plastic waste so that it gets recycled and reused, rather than ending up in landfills.

“I have seen an active participation by the people,” says Kumar, who notes that about 20 people have come to the cafe to ask about the program.

.....

“The authorities have also installed a plastic crusher machine right outside where the plastic gets safely broken down. We not only provide food and refreshments to people but also educate them about recycling plastic waste.”



A Unique Initiative

The first Garbage Cafe opened in Chhattisgarh, a state in the central part of India, in October 2019. Places in other parts of the country picked up the trend once they saw how successful it was. Similar initiatives also exist in a variety of other countries, including Europe, the US and Cambodia, among others.

Citizens play a vital role in raising awareness about the environmental impact of plastic waste and educating others about proper waste management practices. By understanding the consequences of their actions, individuals are more likely to adopt sustainable habits such as reducing, reusing, and recycling plastic materials.

Citizen engagement is instrumental

Plastic collection efforts across India reflect a growing commitment to sustainability. In Siliguri, West Bengal, alumni of a local school are offering free meals on Saturdays to individuals who contribute half a kilo of plastic waste.

Similarly, in Mulugu, Telangana state, authorities provide one kilo of rice in exchange for one kilo of plastic, with local school children actively involved in plastic collection efforts. The district collector of Mulugu aims to make his district the first in India to eliminate single-use plastic. A local couple even sent out wedding invitations printed on reusable cloth grocery bags.

Citizens point out that Garbage Cafes create a kind of virtuous cycle: “This cafe addresses waste management while also providing a warm meal to those in need, thereby incentivizing them to collect more plastic.”

Under the scheme, the Garbage Cafe which has been built in a converted bus shelter, will provide a full meal in exchange for 1kg or a free breakfast for 500g of plastic waste.

For example, 1 kg of plastic - that would typically take a couple of hours to collect - can be exchanged for a curry with rice, lentils and papadams. For half that weight, customers can receive a breakfast of samosas, lentil doughnuts or stuffed flat breads.



All helps recycling

All the plastics waste collected at these Garbage Cafes is then sent to a recycling plant in their respective area which turns it into plastic granules. And like many of India's plastic recycling schemes, this shredded plastic is used for road surfacing.



Odisha is not far, starts a similar scheme

Following the same footsteps, Kotpad Notified Area Council (NAC) in Koraput district of Odisha has started a similar initiative where poor people are provided with cooked free meals in exchange for a kilogram of plastic waste. The meal in exchange for the plastic initiative in Odisha has been flagged off under the State government's 'Aahar' scheme.

Talking about the initiative, a senior official from Kotpad Notified Area Council added, in order to make people aware of the new initiative, the NAC administration has put up banners and posters at various places in Koraput.

In essence, citizen participation is essential for fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and sustainability. By engaging individuals in the process of managing plastic waste, communities can work together towards a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future for all.

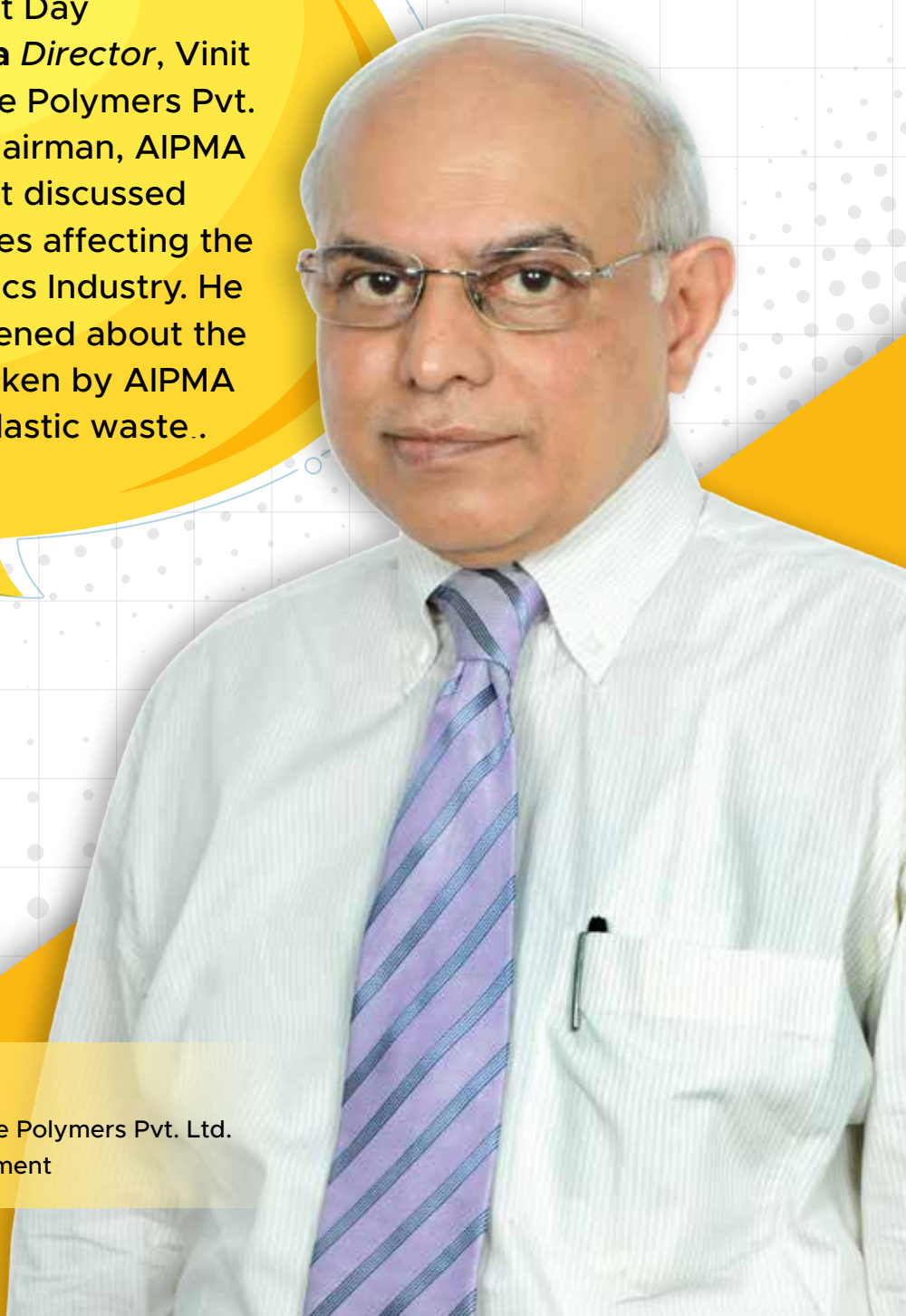
Encouraging citizens to change their consumption habits and reduce single-use plastic usage is essential for tackling the plastic waste crisis.

Proper waste segregation is a key to effective waste management. Citizens can actively participate by separating their recyclable and non-recyclable waste at the source. This makes it easier for recycling facilities to process materials and reduces the amount of plastic ending up in landfills or polluting the environment. ■

*The problem is **Littering** and not **Plastics***



On the occasion of World Environment Day **Hiten Bheda** Director, Vinit Performance Polymers Pvt. Ltd., and Chairman, AIPMA Environment discussed various issues affecting the Indian Plastics Industry. He also enlightened about the initiatives taken by AIPMA to reduce plastic waste..



Hiten Bheda

Director, Vinit Performance Polymers Pvt. Ltd.
Chairman, AIPMA Environment



“

We at The All India Plastic Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) have been at the fore-front to create 'anti-littering' awareness in the society. We are of the opinion that banning plastic products is akin to a solution in search of new problems

”

Q. What are the ways to reduce or minimize the negative impact of Plastics on environment?

Advent of plastics has been a recent phenomenon less than a century old, compared to existence of traditional materials like metals, glass or paper. Extremely favourable economics of plastic products did not provide impetus to its end of life management or resource recovery. It is only very recently that the focus has shifted to post consumption management. It would be prudent to assume that the technology only will provide much needed solution to negate adverse impact of plastic waste on the environment. Recycling, mechanical and chemical, along with other end of life solutions like pyrolysis and co-processing have shown great promise for resource recovery from plastic waste and reduce negative impact on the environment.

Q. Despite Plastics being one of the best materials, it has been associated for causing Environmental Pollution. Can you comment on environment profile of Plastics?

Undoubtedly, plastics are one of the most efficient materials of construction that can be converted into almost any size or shape using equipments that require moderate capex making plastic products economically attractive compared to products made from traditional materials like glass, paper, metals and wood. Its versatility to provide most economical solution for performance and long life has rendered it to grow to such a large level of consumption globally. Having said that, its very own attributes are now coming in way of its post consumption management resulting into leakages in the environment and societal concern for failure to manage.



Q. Managing plastics waste remains a concern for the industry. What is the percentage of Plastics in MSW and what are the steps/initiatives taken by your Association? Are you looking for any regulatory support from the Government, be it State or Central?

Based on data of surveys done indicate portion of plastic waste in municipal solid waste stream to be less than 7 percent. This reflects ground reality that most of the value derivable waste finds its way to recycling bulk of it for down cycling through informal segment. The only waste that remains back is non-segregated low value plastics of little interest to recyclers. This is reflected in such a low percentages of plastic waste in solid waste stream. The problem is associated with societal behavior of not segregating the waste at source as well as failures of urban/rural bodies to effectively drive these wastes for meaningful recovery.

We at All India Plastic Manufacturers Association (AIPMA) have been in the fore front to create anti-littering awareness in the society. AIPMA was the first one to sponsor the now world famous "Versova beach clean-up" undertaken by Afroz Saha. Besides, we have been associated in a pilot project to inculcate behavioral change in 50 odd villages in the district of Palghar

near Mumbai. The successful sustainable project today has created these villages completely free of Plastic pollution through basic segregation habits and subsequent use of collected waste material into products like paver blocks supporting the rural economy of these villages. We have pockets of such successful models across India and we need to replicate such behavioural change pan India with collaborative inclusion of stake holders including authorities of local, state and central government.

Q. Do you think ban on Plastics serve the purpose to reduce waste and environment impact? Also, has the EPR served its purpose in helping the industry to control plastics waste?

We are of the opinion that banning plastic products is akin to a solution in search of new problems. In a larger perspective, life and consumption are inseparable and any ban would lead to switching over to alternatives that are not necessarily environment friendly and may leave deeper foot print on the environment in longer term. Such measures for a large country like ours with population over a billion people requiring food security and health safety at affordable costs are difficult to yield desired results as has been seen. The use of EPR as a tool to address the problem in India has just begun as an initiative which is innovative and first of it's kind globally supported by digital platform. It would be pre-mature to judge the effectiveness of the model as of yet. One would expect it to evolve to next level providing ease of implementation by the value chain and at the same time, generating resources to propel investment in plastic waste management which can make all the difference.

IPF elects Ashok Jajodia as Chairman for Indplas'25



Alok Tibrewal

NAB Chairman



Ashok Jajodia

Chairman, Indplas'2025



Amit Agarwal

Co-Chairman, Indplas'2025

Indian Plastics Federation (IPF), one of the founder members of Plastindia Foundation and the torch-bearer of plastics industry, particularly in Eastern India has announced its flagship expo Indplas'2025, a trade mark expo on Plastics Industry held under the aegis of Indian Plastics Federation (IPF).

The 10th edition of Indplas'2025, would be held under the dynamic leadership of Mr Alok Tibrewal Chairman, National Advisory Board. While Mr Ashok Jajodia, is elected as Chairman for Indplas'25, Mr Amit Agarwal has been elected as Co-Chairman, Indplas'25. The mega expo shall be held during the week of February 28 to March 03, 2025, at Biswa Mela Prangan, Kolkatta.

The team will chart a course that will take Indplas '2025, to witness a groundbreaking exhibition that will set new standards of excellence and success in the Plastics Industry. Indplas is the largest International Exhibition on Plastics to be held in Eastern India.

New Office Bearers elected at GSPMA



Bharat Patil
President



Vijay Javia
Vice President



Anish Patel
Vice President



Mansukh Savaliya
Hon. Secretary



Nitin Khatang
Hon. Jt. Secretary



Devang Pathak
Hon. Treasurer

The Gujarat State Plastics Manufacturers' Association, known as "GSPMA", one of the founder members of Plastindia Foundation, and the leading association in the country, had elected office bearers among its members for the term 2024-25.

Mr Bharat Patel was elected as the Hon. President, Mr Vijay Javai and Mr Anish Patel, both were elected as Hon. Vice-President while Mr. Mansukh Savaliya was elected Hon. Secretary.

Apart from this Mr Nitin Khatang was elected as Hon. Joint Secretary and Mr Devang Pathak was elected as Hon. Treasurer. The announcement was

made recently.

Since four decades GSPMA with over 3500 plus members, has been working for the cause of the plastic industry.

Mr. Bharat Patel, Hon. President, GSPMA said, " I am humbly taking over the role of President to serve this apex body, GSPMA. With my team, I wish to achieve the goal of GSPMA under the mission 2023-24, for which we propose to have activities to bring GSPMA's member-centric initiatives. We've been encouraging self-reliance and aid in the growth and development of different sectors of plastic industries in Gujarat."



AMUT selected the ‘Preferred Partner for recycling projects in Albury and Melbourne

Circular Plastics Australia (PET), a joint venture pact group, Cleanaway Waste Management, Asahi Beverages, and Coca-Cola Europacific Partners (CCEP) has chosen AMUT as the preferred partner for the design and construction of its “Duet and Symphony” recycling projects in Albury and Melbourne. AMUT was also chosen by the Circular Plastics Australia (PE) joint venture between Pact and Clean away for the Choir project, also in Melbourne. A repeated success in three projects and thus, is an important step on the path towards circularity tackling climate change.

AMUT, established in 1958, is a global plastic processing, recycling and waste sorting & recovery systems designer and manufacturer. AMUT has been involved with its advanced recycling technologies, in three new World class plants, which will recycle approximately 60,000 tonnes of post-consumer plastic packaging into

high-quality resins (including food grade) annually.

AMUT washing lines are equipped with the best technical solutions to guarantee high purity of the final PO/PET flakes and in particular the perfect removal of organic and inorganic contaminants and separation of PSA labels and glue. These highly automated washing systems ensure extremely low operational costs with reduced power and water consumptions and chemicals too. ■



These integrated, custom engineered sorting and washing plants ensure that the bottles are part of a closed cycle, where they are used, collected and given another life. While Duet and Symphony are intended for PET bottles sorting and washing, Choir is for HOPE and PP. The Duet recycling line, in operation since 2022, was initially conceived for a total 3,400 Kg/h output. Once running and after one year of operation, it is now totalling 4,000 Kg/h output.





Huhtamaki to consolidate three Flexible Packaging manufacturing sites in UAE

Huhtamaki, a sustainable packaging solutions provider, has announced the consolidation of its Flexible Packaging manufacturing sites in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The company will maintain its Jebel Ali factory and expand the Ras Al Khaimah site.

Huhtamaki will gradually initiate the transition during the second half of 2024. According to the company, the consolidation is intended to enhance manufacturing efficiency, boost competitiveness, and lay a robust foundation for future growth in the region. The move is in line with Huhtamaki's strategy to expedite strategy implementation announced in November last year. The company expects the changes to materially support its profitability and efficiency.

The company anticipates efficiency improvements to yield savings of around €100m (\$103.38m) over the next three years. The planned consolidation does not constitute a significant portion of Huhtamaki's sales or profits. In the second quarter of 2024, the company will record consolidation-related costs totalling approximately €4m. These costs will be booked as items affecting

With its headquarters in Espoo, Finland, Huhtamaki operates across 37 countries with 107 locations globally. The company makes packaging solutions for food and beverages and personal care products and ensures hygiene and safety.

With its headquarters in Espoo, Finland, Huhtamaki operates across 37 countries with 107 locations globally. The company makes packaging solutions for food and beverages and personal care products and ensures hygiene and safety.

Additionally, in April the company announced the closure of its production facility in Port Klang, Malaysia, as part of its ongoing efforts to streamline operations and enhance global efficiency.

Bayer tie up with PAPACKS

to redefine Consumer Health Packaging



Earlier in May 2024, PAPACKS signed a memorandum of understanding with industrial hemp company element 6 Dynamics to expand its moulded and thermal-formed packaging in the US. Bayer's collaboration with PAPACKS follows the company's recent announcement that it has joined the Blister Pack Collective to reduce single-use plastics in healthcare packaging. Bayer has also previously launched an accessible QR code on its packaging for visually impaired consumers. ■

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology company Bayer has collaborated with packaging provider PAPACKS on fibre-based consumer health packaging to redefine Consumer Health Packaging. The pharma major is working on an alternative than using traditional plastic packaging for its brands.

The biodegradable packaging will be made from responsible virgin fibres, featuring PAPACK's moulded pulp technology that uses materials derived from renewable sources and a plant-based coating.

Bayer Director of Global Packaging Innovation, Jesse DelGigante commented: "Reducing plastic utilisation is one of the greatest challenges of our industry, so we're proud to accelerate progress towards using eco-friendly, renewable sources for our packaging."



PAPACKS founder and CEO Tahsin Dag added: "We're looking forward to the challenge of combining pulp technology with plant-based coating with the rigorous standards mandated by regulatory agencies for over-the-counter medicines. We expect this collaboration to help redefine packaging standards for the industry."

6%

The pharmaceutical packaging market was valued at \$127 bn in 2023, and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of more than 6% by 2030.

MoEF&CC amends

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

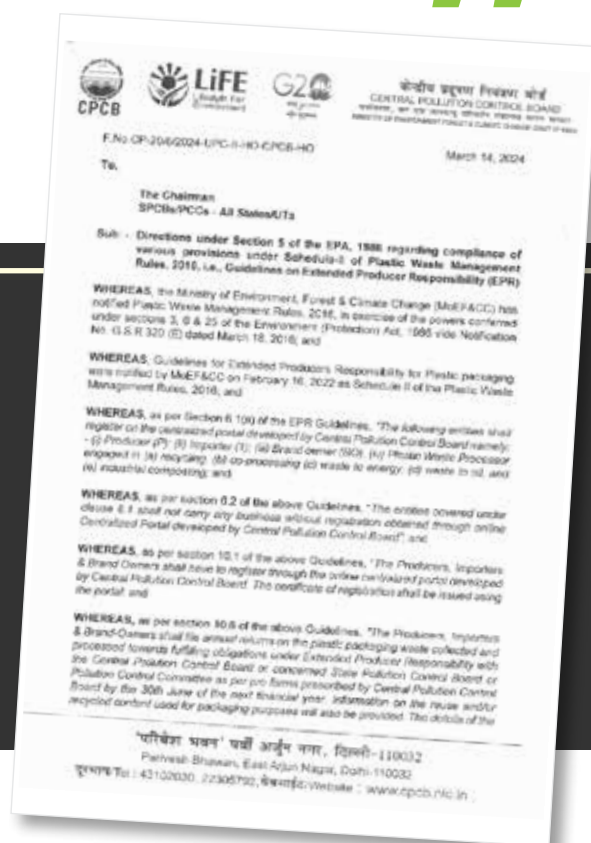
According to reports on 14 March 2024, the MoEF&CC published the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024 to amend the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, with immediate effect.

By way of the amendment, the definition of an importer, manufacturer and producer under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 has been amended and the definition of 'Seller' has been introduced.

Further, manufacturers of compostable plastic/biodegradable plastic carry bags or commodities have been entrusted with the additional liability of obtaining a certificate from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) before marketing or selling such products. Manufacturers of compostable plastic/biodegradable plastic will now also be required to inform the CPCB of the quantity of such commodities introduced in the market and the pre-consumer waste generated by it.

The amendment further inserts provisions in the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 to enable the local body to assess the plastic waste generated and the infrastructure for collection/ segregation/processing, as well as to take measures to prevent stocking, distribution, sale and usage of prohibited single-use plastic items in their jurisdiction. New provisions have also been inserted in Rule 11 relating to marking or labelling. Additionally, Form-I for the registration of producers or brand owners has been revised.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India has recently introduced amendments to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, through the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024. These changes signify a significant effort to address plastic pollution in India, particularly by targeting microplastics and setting stricter criteria for biodegradable plastics.



Key highlights of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2024



Biodegradable Plastics

Biodegradable plastics are now defined as materials capable of degradation by biological processes in specific environments like soil and landfill, without leaving any microplastics.



Microplastics

Microplastics are defined as any solid plastic particle insoluble in water, with dimensions between 1 micron and 1,000 microns (1 micron is one-thousandth of a millimetre). In recent years, they have been reported as a major source of pollution affecting rivers and oceans.



Microplastics Testing

The rules do not specify which chemical tests can establish the absence of microplastics or the extent to which microplastics must be reduced for elimination.

Expanded definition of “Importer”

The definition now includes imports of various plastic-related materials such as packaging, carry bags, sheets, raw materials, and intermediate materials used in plastic manufacturing for commercial purposes.

Earlier, “importer” referred to someone who imported plastic packaging, products with plastic packaging, carry bags, multi-layered packaging, plastic sheets or similar items.

Inclusive definition of “Manufacturer”

The scope now encompasses those engaged in the production of plastic raw materials, compostable plastics, and biodegradable plastics, reflecting a broader range of entities covered under this term.

Extended scope of “Producer”

Beyond manufacturing plastic packaging, it now includes the production of intermediate materials used in plastic packaging and contract manufacturing for brand owners.

Certification requirement

Manufacturers are allowed to produce carry bags and commodities from compostable or biodegradable plastics, and must obtain a certificate from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) before marketing or selling their products. ■

WWF

launches

BLUEPRINT

for credible action on

Plastic Pollution

Washington - based **WWF**, one of the world's leading conservation organizations, has released "The Blueprint for Credible Action on Plastic Pollution" in an effort to fight plastic pollution through science-based solutions.

According to WWF "The Blueprint for Credible Action on Plastic Pollution" can benefit companies initiating a new plastic strategy and those seeking to maintain leadership and expand existing strategies and plans. The blueprint can be used to identify gaps in existing programs and pinpoint opportunities for expansion and collaboration.

It further recommends that companies take the following steps to move from awareness and commitment to measurable progress backed by science-based recommendations:

Understand the plastic crisis and set ambitious goals, transform their plastic footprint. Advocate with others for system change, invest in circularity outside of direct operations. ■



WWF says following this blueprint will aid in better plastic footprint calculations and global waste data harmonization for easier collaboration with regulators and investors and target plastic pollution impacts and mitigation actions within a company's direct control. Furthermore, WWF expects readiness to advocate alongside stakeholders, policymakers and other companies, along with product portfolios that are envisioned and designed for a just and equitable future with **No Plastic in Nature.**

Abu Dhabi implements ban on Styrofoam



The ADDED will also conduct subsequent inspections to ensure adherence to the policy. The Abu Dhabi Single-Use Plastic Policy was introduced by the EAD in 2020, which was followed by a ban on single-use plastic bags in 2022. Last year, the EAD joined forces with the country's government and private sector to introduce reverse vending machines for single-use plastic bottles.



Our greater goal is to reduce harmful microplastics from entering the food chain, which can have detrimental effects on human health, biodiversity, and our natural ecosystems. We want the future generations to inherit a bountiful environment filled with all types of species so that they can live in proximity to nature as part of a fruitful lifestyle.



The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) has enforced a ban on specific Styrofoam products starting 1 June, 2024. The ban is part of the Abu Dhabi Single-Use Plastic Policy, which intends to cut reliance on single-use products in the country. The newly prohibited products include cups, lids, plates, and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, as well as food container vessels for products that are intended for immediate consumption.

The ban excludes products not intended for single-consumer use such as large storage boxes, coolers, and trays for meat, fruit, dairy, and other food items. It also exempts all products meant for medical usage.

The EAD's Secretary General, Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri said: "Today, the Abu Dhabi ban on some Styrofoam products came into effect. Inspired by the success of the ban on single-use plastic bags, we expect to see emirate-wide compliance and collaboration from our stakeholders in the government and private sector as we know that by working together, we will witness the best results

Meanwhile, the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) is facilitating this transition by educating more than 50,000 domestic commercial entities and 80 industrial facilities.



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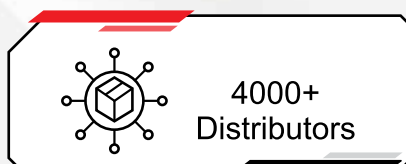


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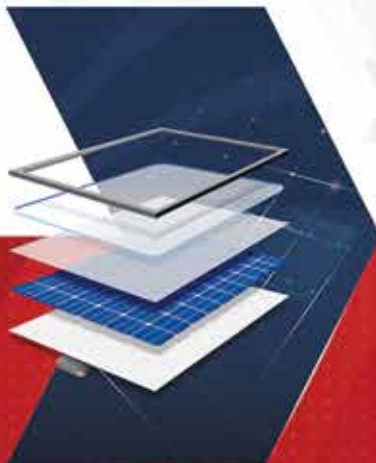


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Hamdard Laboratories adopts **SIG's Aseptic Carton Technology**



Hamdard Laboratories' food division has partnered with SIG to adopt its aseptic carton packaging and filling technologies. This move is aimed at addressing the diverse and evolving consumer product packaging demands for affordability, appropriate sizing, durability, and convenience. The collaboration will see the installation of an SIG XSlim 24 Aseptic filling machine at Hamdard's Aurangabad manufacturing facility in Maharashtra, India.

The SIG filling machine reportedly boasts a capacity of 24,000 carton packs per hour and can accommodate nine different volume sizes, from 80ml to 200ml. Its design allows for rapid size changes in under 15 minutes, providing Hamdard with the ability to swiftly adapt to market needs.

SIG India and Bangladesh market head Vandana Tandan said: "Hamdard is one of the most celebrated beverage brands in India and SIG is excited to partner with them. The partnership will be beneficial for both SIG and Hamdard to grow their presence across India." Hamdard plans to use the new technology to package its RoohAfza beverage variations, including glucose drinks, juices, milkshakes, lassi, and coconut water.

These will be made available in SIG's XSlimBloc carton packs with a drinking straw. SIG's technology is expected to help Hamdard reach different consumer groups both domestically and internationally, catering to a broad spectrum of price points. The technology also aligns with Hamdard's sustainability goals by reducing waste, saving energy, and optimising production times. It is exploring co-packing opportunities with other industry players to further expand its product offerings.

Hamid Ahmed

CEO, Food Division

Hamdard Laboratories India

Collaborating with SIG will help us broaden our packaging options and react quickly to changing market and consumer preferences and behaviour. "The unmatched speed and flexibility of SIG's filling solution will allow us to increase our production process efficiency and reduce our production cost".

LyondellBasell launches master batch **‘Polybatch Effects FROST’** *for PET Packaging*

Multinational chemical company LyondellBasell (LYB) has launched new product grades, developed to revolutionise the aesthetics of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) packaging called as Polybatch Effects FROST. These masterbatches offer a matte frost effect in two distinct styles, broadening the scope for creative packaging design. The new product grades are reportedly compatible with various colours and deliver a high-end appearance.

LYB Colors Business Manager, Nuria Vallespi Salvado said: *“These new product grades are another example of how LYB is creating solutions for everyday sustainable living. With our innovative masterbatch portfolio supported by our technical teams, we are helping brand owners achieve their desired look while keeping their sustainability goals at the forefront.”*

Polybatch Effects FROST masterbatches not only enhance the brand image with their premium aesthetic but also improve the look of recycled PET, making it more appealing, according to the company. These grades are designed to be recyclable with NIR sorting compatibility and comply with the US Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) regulations for food and cosmetic packaging.

Additionally, the masterbatches present a cost-effective solution as they can be used with existing injection stretch blow moulding processes. Polybatch Effects FROST can also be applied to personal and home-care product packaging. LYB is one of the largest polymer producers and a pioneer in polyolefin technologies. The company develops and manufactures products for a range of applications, including food safety, clean water, and quality healthcare.

In December last year, LYB partnered with Pigeon Singapore to help transition away from using 100% virgin polypropylene resins in the production of Pigeon nursing bottles.



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