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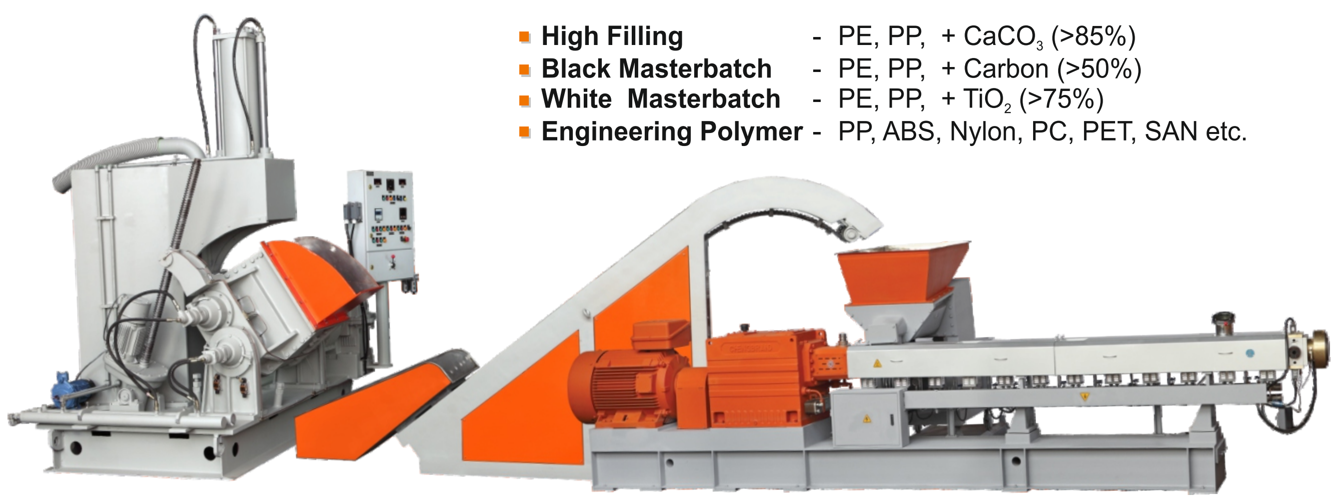

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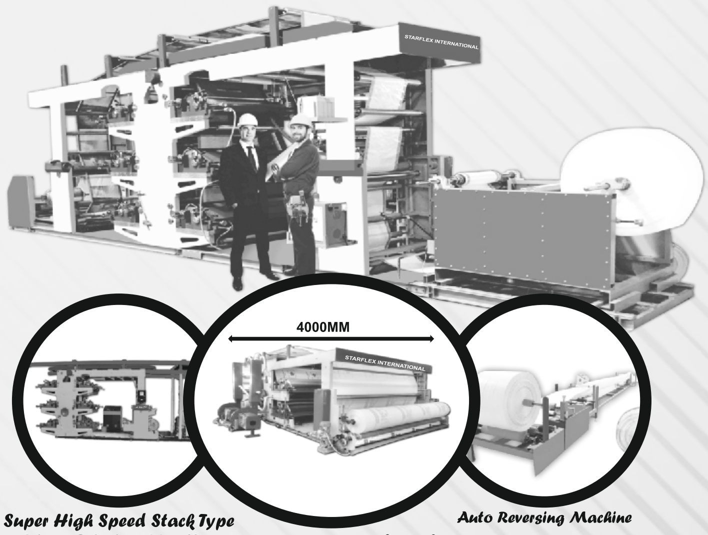

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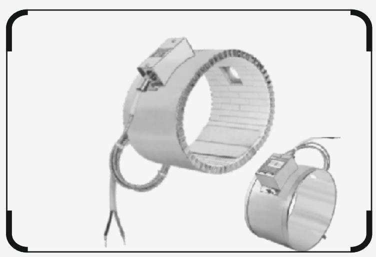

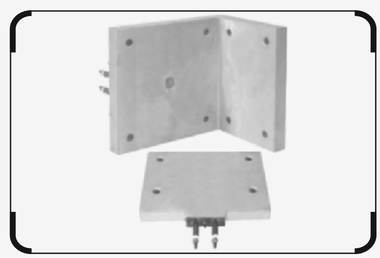

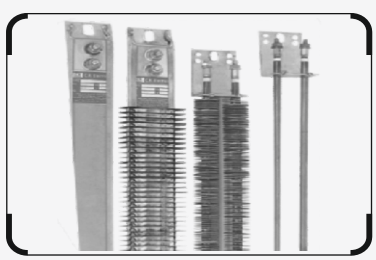

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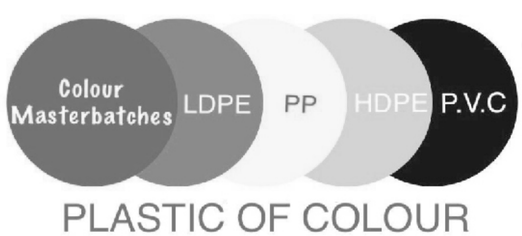

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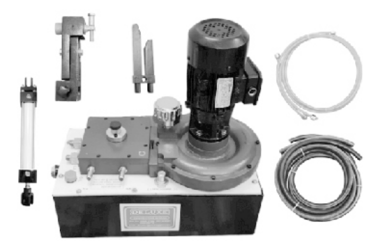

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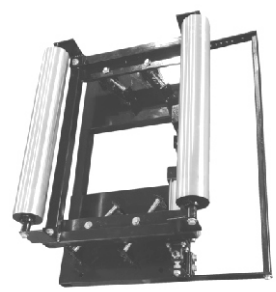

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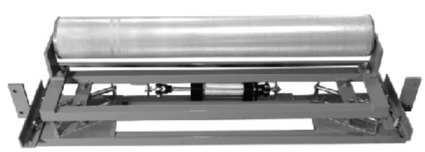

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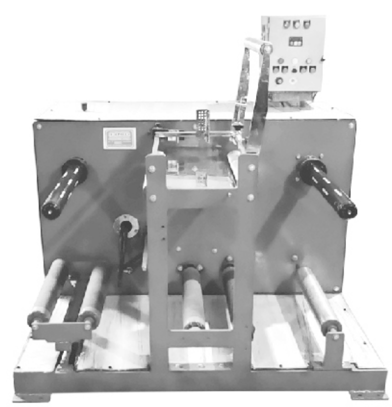

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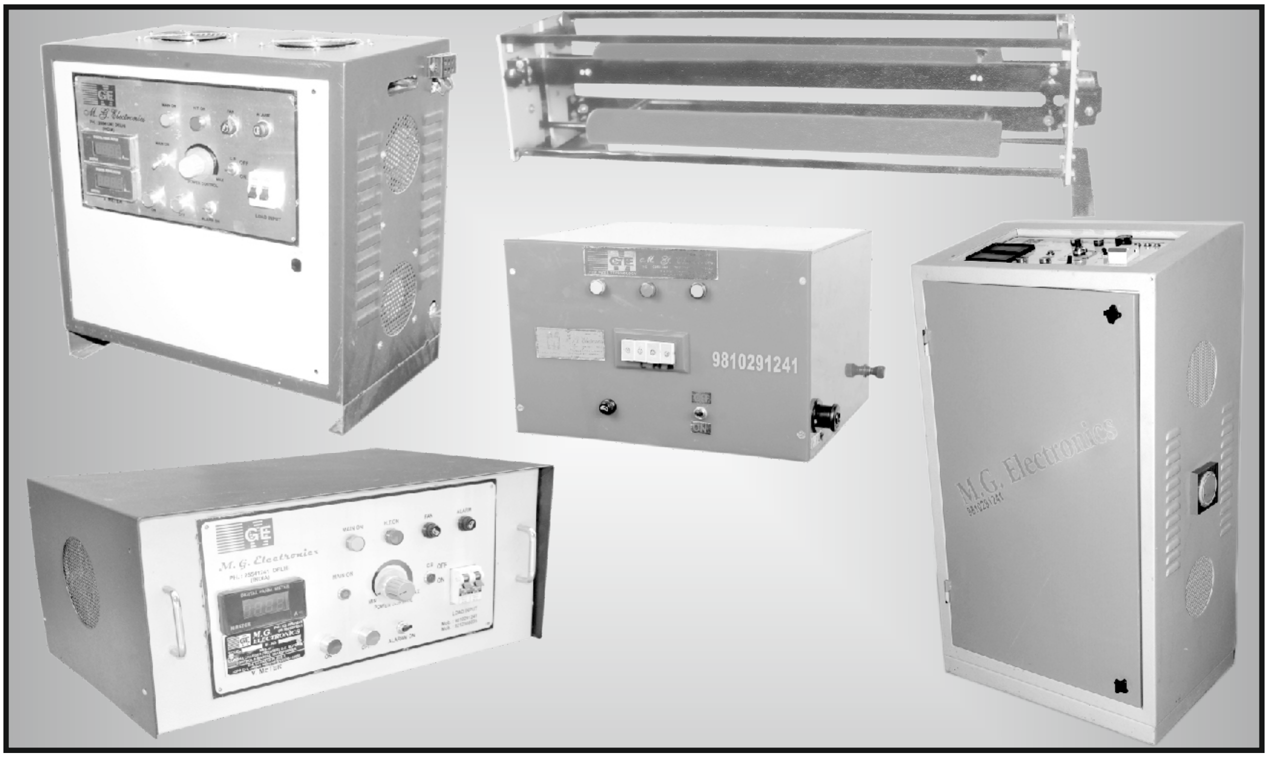

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Budget and MSME

This year's budget, as expected, goes one step forward towards becoming a middle-income nation by 2047. We are at present a 4 trillion-dollar economy, moving fast towards the 5 trillion-dollar mark, hoping to achieve the 10 trillion-dollar economy mark in a decade from now.

The MSME sector has to play a crucial role in all this movement forward. The contribution of the MSME sector to the national economy is over 30% to the GDP and the contribution to exports is almost 40%.

In all this rosy scenario, however there is one negative aspect, i.e. the manufacturing segment. This is a dismal 15% whereas it should be in the region of 25%. Tremendous hard work on the part of the government and also the private sector is required to meet this challenge. Without the share of manufacturing segment growing, we will always be a laggard. This is also extremely necessary because of job-creation. The manufacturing sector plays a crucial role in increasing the availability of jobs, which is required for a growing economy, otherwise it might cause social chaos.

For increasing the number of jobs, MSME sector plays a very crucial role. The whole industrial atmosphere has to be so changed that the new job seeker becomes the job giver.

With this in mind, the finance minister has announced many schemes in the budget, basically for easing finance flow to this sector. The budget emphasizes support with innovative measures like increased mudra loans, stress-period credit support, a credit guarantee scheme etc., these initiatives will also increase the global competitiveness of MSMEs.

Budget also focuses on skilling the MSME employee. A credit guarantee scheme has also been proposed for facilitating term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment without collateral and third-party guarantee. The thrust therefore is on upgrading the MSME sector providing them all opportunity to grow.

In spite of all the budgetary support to MSME as mentioned above, our plastic processing segment in MSME has many grievances which we would highlight in our upcoming issues for example; EPR, the increased electricity rates and the manifold increase in the factory licensing fee.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

A letter dated 15th July, 2024 was sent to Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi regarding 'Reconsideration of Revised Factory License Fee'

We are one of the largest associations of Micro & Small Scale Plastic Processors in the country, dedicated to serving their interests since 1982. This is to express our deep concern regarding the sudden and exorbitant financial burden imposed on the MSME sector by the recent exponential increase in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) factory license fees.

Our members have brought this to our attention recently, the shockingly high fees reflected in their recent notices, indicating a drastic increase in the MCD factory license renewal charges announced some time back. This was also confirmed in a camp organized at Udyog Nagar Delhi by some senior officials attending the camp. The fee has been increased from about Rs. 5/- per HP to Rs. 50/- per HP.

The importance of the MSME sector has always been stressed by the authorities including our Hon'ble Prime Minister who says that the MSME sector is the backbone of the national economy. Such drastic, harsh and abrupt increase harms this sector the most, as they are always under pressure for finances. MSME Sector in addition to its importance as an economic contributor is the largest employment generation segment, and this is very crucial.

In the light of these concerns, we urgently request and appeal for a rollback to the previous rates to alleviate the burden on MSMEs and enable them to continue contributing to our economy.

May we further request that factories who have already renewed their licenses at the higher price, their extra payment be either returned or adjusted in future renewal.

We request for your immediate attention to this pressing matter and eagerly await a positive response.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Event/Exhibition attended

1. MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, Okhla, New Delhi (Government of India, Ministry of MSME), functioning under the aegis of the Development Commissioner (MSME), organized an 'MSME Outreach Programme with Credit Opportunities' on 16.07.2024 at 10:30 AM at MSME-DFO, Okhla, New Delhi, for various associations and banks. The purpose of this seminar was to disseminate information about various important schemes of the Ministry of MSME. Shri Devinder Pal Singh, President; Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal, Patron; Shri Brijesh Bhutani, General Secretary; Shri Rohit Sarna, Joint Secretary; Shri Sudesh Gupta; and Shri Vikas Vishnoi, Executive Committee Members, attended the seminar on behalf of AIPIA.

2. A meeting was held with the DP World team on August 1, 2024, in our Association office to discuss the establishment of Bharat Mart, a market and trading platform for Indian businesses in Dubai. Set to open in 2026, Bharat Mart will enable Indian manufacturers and exporters to access global markets, aiming to reach USD 100 billion in bilateral non-oil trade by 2023. The platform will function as a distribution hub and a hybrid retail and wholesale marketplace, offering substantial opportunities for Indian manufacturers and MSMEs.

Important points discussed in the Executive Committee Meeting held on 10th July, 2024

1. **To approve the minutes of previous Executive Committee Meetings held on 10th June, 2024.**

   Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal raised objections concerning the minutes, specifically addressing disciplinary issues involving Shri Parshotam Kumar's behavior and his leadership of the delegation to Turkey this year. After a long discussion, the matter was resolved.

   Shri Jatin Raheja objected to the recorded minutes regarding the Taiwan Petrochemical Seminar. He sought clarification on the specific sentence recorded: "This should not have been done." Shri Raheja explained that the proposal to shift the seminar from day to evening hours was due to busy morning schedules and traffic issues. Shri Devinder Pal Singh, President, clarified that seminars are traditionally scheduled during the day. He mentioned that his statement, "This should not have been done," referred to a third party's comment suggesting that the Association's members were more focused on 'dinner and drinks,' which was awkward.

2. **Approval of the expenditure for the month of June, 2024**

- The expenditure for June-2024 was approved.

3. Discussion on Industry related matters

a. MCD Factory License Renewal Fee

Shri Bhupesh Ralli, Joint Secretary, said that the renewal fee for the MCD Factory License has increased multiple times compared to the fees in the year 2022-23 or earlier. He suggested that the Association should write to the authority to revert the MCD factory license fee to the levels prior to 1st April 2022, to enable the industry to survive in Delhi.

b. EPR Registration

Shri Arun Rastogi, Vice President, informed that his EPR consultant advised that the registration fee for 2021-22 now needs to be paid. Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal raised concerns about why micro and small-scale plastic units, which have been excluded from this perspective, still need to complete this registration. He also expressed concerns about the lack of transparency and unclear structures of the EPR provision.

c. Representation to Various Ministries

Shri Brijesh Bhutani, Hony. General Secretary, requested members to share pressing issues concerning different ministries, including the Ministry of Commerce, MoEFCC, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of MSME, and Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. This would allow the Association to send representations to these ministries to address the problems faced by MSME units.

4. Plast Eurasia Istanbul-Turkey Exhibition

a. Update on Stall Booking and Travel Status

The Secretary General updated that she is coordinating with Mr. Bhalla to secure space at the show. Mr. Bhalla indicated there are currently 14 stalls available in the raw material section and is actively working to secure the remaining 6 stalls needed for the full delegation of 20 members.

b. Potential Partnership with Wonderworx

It was agreed to a joint venture/collaboration/tie-up between ALL INDIA PLASTIC INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION and WONDERWORX for 3 years to organize international exhibitions under the IC scheme of the Ministry of MSME.

8. Any Other matter for discussion, subject to the Chair's approval.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Is EPR driving sustainable packaging choices in India?

By: Shriyal Sethumadhavan

Shriyal Sethumadhavan delves into India's EPR landscape, spotlighting the urgent need for sustainable plastic packaging amid several challenges.

Sustainable packaging is vital for businesses as it reduces waste and pollution, improves brand reputation, and appeals to eco-conscious consumers.

However, achieving government-set targets, such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) recycling goals for plastic packaging, poses significant challenges that need to be addressed.

Meeting targets

The EPR targets set by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for 2024 mandate 100% liability coverage for brand owners, producers, and reporters. Moreover, there are explicit rules, guidelines, and provisions in the Plastic Waste Management Rules of 2023 that hold companies responsible for EPR. Not adhering to these may result in penalties or sanctions or even the suspension of business operations in the Indian market imposed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It is a matter of statutory compliance, and those who engage in EPR or establish a system to do so are obligated to comply, says **Ashish Jain, Founder, Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA).** The CPCB is the regulatory body in India responsible for enforcing environmental protection laws, including those related to plastic waste management under the Environment Protection Act.

Enhancing collection, recycling, and use of recycled content, is critical for packaging companies and consumer brands, to comply with EPR regulations.

Landbell GreenForest Solutions assists brand owners in achieving EPR targets by fulfilling assigned goals through their network of recyclers. **Saurabh Shah,** the company's **Managing Director,** elaborates on three key aspects. Firstly, EPR targets, split between collection and recycling, are outlined in regulations. Secondly, there is a minimum level of recycling. Thirdly, there is the use of recycled content. Shah emphasises, "The use of recycled content will become mandatory in FY25-26, requiring brands to comply by April 2026. For recycling, brands can obtain credits from recyclers or end-of-life treatment processors like cement plants. Currently, for the year 23-24, 100 % credits can be obtained from end-of-life processing." He also highlighted challenges with multilayer and flexible plastics.

Envofix International Pvt Ltd and Cleanytic India Pvt Ltd specialise in waste management solutions. Highlighting the company's role in EPR targets, its **Founder Kamran Ahmed** says, "We assist industry players, particularly smaller and medium-sized entities, in navigating regulatory complexities. Many such players struggle due to frequent legislative amendments and limited resources. Our expertise in legislation interpretation and execution enables us to offer consultancy services, guiding these brands through compliance processes." Additionally, the companies also serve as collection partners, facilitating the transportation of materials to

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All type of L.D. Film, H.M. Film & P.P. & C.P. Plant
(Spl. Blowing & Moulding Grade) Granuals
(BOPP Brown & Natural)

various plastic waste processors. In India, these processors can recycle the waste or utilise it as an alternative fuel in waste-to-energy plants or cement kilns.

Challenges involved

India consumes approximately 150,000 to 200,000 MT of flexible packaging material monthly. However, the collection of post-consumer flexible packaging material is merely around 10,000 MT or less, which accounts for less than 5%of the total consumption.

“The primary reason behind this disparity is the dependency on an unorganised sector, comprising rag pickers, to collect plastic waste from either the littered environment or landfills,” says **Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai, Whole Time Director, Director - Sustainability, President - Flexible Packaging Business & New Product Development, Uflex**.

The flexible packaging materials and solutions company had established recycling processes for all its generated waste even before EPR rules came into effect. “Currently, we utilise 90% recycled content in our polyester products and are gradually introducing it into our polyethylene (PE), and cast polypropylene (CPP) products,” says Pillai. “The only material we have not incorporated recycled content into yet is BOPP, but we are actively working on it. We collaborate with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to gain approval for using recycled content in food packaging. Regarding collection, although producers primarily deal with pre-consumer waste, we also assist brand owners by recycling post-consumer waste through local Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs).” The company has local tie-up with MRFs.

Recently, Uflex also enhanced its project PlastiFix, where a plastic bottle dispensing machine has been installed to dispense used plastic bottles made of PET, and arrangements have been made for the collected bottles to return to its recycling plant for recycling. This will assist its customers, particularly brand owners, in fulfilling their EPR obligations based on collection.

He adds, “To address this volume effectively, an automated system is required for segregating and sorting municipal solid waste (MSW) using advanced technologies, including AI. This system would separate plastics from organics and other recyclables, enabling the collected plastics to be sent to recycling facilities. However, this solution is currently not prevalent in our country.”

The latest edition of EPR, declared on March 14, 2024, acknowledges this challenge. It has urged urban land bodies (ULBs) to develop methodologies for automatically sorting and segregating plastic waste from MSW. Pillai adds, “Until this is effectively done, we will continue to rely on conventional methods, and meeting EPR compliances and targets will remain challenging.”

Meeting EPR targets is not challenging for packaging companies since they typically outsource collection and recycling activities to agencies like IPCA, says Jain. However, challenges primarily revolve around additional costs incurred for compliance, as brands must allocate separate budgets for EPR. “Another challenge is the issue of trust; brands must trust that the EPR credits they receive are valid, despite not physically witnessing the material movement. Moreover, regulatory uncertainties, frequent policy changes, and the burden of sharing confidential data with government authorities pose significant challenges. Also, recent directives requiring an increase in the percentage of plastic packaging reuse and the incorporation of minimum recycling content further complicate compliance efforts.”

Shah adds to the challenges: “Currently, the entire EPR credits system is halted due to issues with the CPCB portal.” Despite registering over 40,000 brand owners, importers, producers, and 8,000 to 10,000 recyclers, the portal was hacked due to security reasons. Notably, major brand owners such as Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Unilever, Procter and Gamble, and Bisleri face significant hurdles. Shah highlights their struggle with the dysfunctional CPCB portal and the difficulty in distinguishing genuine credits from spurious ones. Additionally, the absence of a pricing benchmark poses challenges too. He mentions, “CPCB has suggested a benchmark of a minimum of Rs 1.5 per kilo and a maximum of Rs 5 per kilo. But that is still not established in a system.” However, for Shah, the most significant challenge lies in meeting EPR compliance due to the prolonged non-functionality of the CPCB portal.

Regulatory requirements

Although some brands are exploring alternative packaging options, these efforts are still limited in scope. While regulations mandating the use of recycled content in packaging are a positive step, Ahmed believes that minimising waste should be the top priority. Plus, sustainable solutions require a fundamental shift towards reducing plastic consumption, which regulatory frameworks should prioritise.

When EPR was introduced initially, in 2016, it lacked clarity on implementation procedures. The government had only mandated brand owners, producers, and importers to establish collection mechanisms for processing plastic packaging. Jain explains that their organisation (IPCA), with expertise dating back to 2001 in waste management, proposed action plans to facilitate compliance. Collaborating with multinational companies like Perfetti, Pepsi, DS, Dabur, and Nestle, they devised strategies to meet EPR obligations, including collecting post-consumer plastic packaging for recycling. The CPCB approved the proposal, and now IPCA collaborates with 200+ brands, establishing supply chains, engaging with waste workers, scrap dealers, and building recycling networks to meet EPR targets.

Recycling infrastructure

While some companies or consortia have indeed invested in recycling infrastructure, it is not a prevalent model in India, says Jain, adding, “Most companies prefer to subcontract their EPR obligations to specialised agencies like IPCA.” This preference stems not from cost concerns but from a lack of expertise and a desire for a simpler compliance process. The reluctance is because recycling infrastructure falls outside the core expertise of many brands. Additionally, investing in such infrastructure may expose brands to liabilities.

Ahmed acknowledges the need for significant planning and investment in establishing recycling infrastructure, a less common practice. He recommends, “Companies must collaborate with ULBs to enhance waste segregation,” emphasising its importance as a crucial initial step towards effective recycling infrastructure.

All of Uflex’s plants currently recycle pre-consumer waste, and some, such as those in India, Poland, Mexico, and Egypt, also recycle post-consumer waste. “Our aim has always been to recycle both pre- and post-consumer waste, thereby contributing to community recycling efforts,” says Pillai. “In India, we currently operate around 14 recycling plants, each with a cumulative annual capacity of 20,000 metric tonne.” Regarding nationwide recycling infrastructure, he adds, “We do not require extensive investments. Assuming a recycling plant can handle 100 MT per month, we would need only 2,500 to 3,000 recycling plants, which is feasible for a country like India.” However, he points out, “Without a proper waste collection infrastructure, the recycling infrastructure would remain underutilised.”

Key strategies to meet 2024 EPR targets

All brands, irrespective of their size, must actively engage in meeting EPR targets. Additionally, here are the strategies compiled from industry viewpoints.

- Invest in recycling infrastructure to address potential shortages of EPR credits in the future and foster transparency within the system.
- Start the EPR compliance process early in the year rather than waiting until later quarters to secure credits.
- Begin trials for incorporating recycled content into packaging materials, especially for non-food-grade applications, to meet compliance by 2026.
- Prioritise improving waste collection mechanisms for plastic waste.
- Emphasise recycling over other disposal methods to minimise residual waste.
- Accurately assess the costs associated with EPR compliance when engaging waste management agencies to avoid superficial compliance without addressing the root causes of plastic pollution.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNION BUDGET 2024-25

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament today. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

Part-A

Budget Estimates 2024-25:

-
    - o Total receipts other than borrowings: ₹ 32.07 lakh crore.
    - o Total expenditure: ₹ 48.21 lakh crore.
    - o Net tax receipt: ₹ 25.83 lakh crore.
    - o Fiscal deficit: 4.9 per cent of GDP.
- Government aims to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year.
- Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.
- The focus of budget is on **EMPLOYMENT, SKILLING, MSMEs, and the MIDDLE CLASS**.

Package of PM's five schemes for Employment and Skilling

- Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.
    1. **Scheme A - First Timers:** One-month salary of up to ₹ 15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.
    2. **Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing:** Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.
    3. **Scheme C - Support to employers:** Government to reimburse up to '3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.
    4. **New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling**
        - § 20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period.
        - § 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
    5. **New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies** to 1 crore youth in 5 years

Nine Budget Priorities in pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat':

1. Productivity and resilience in Agriculture
2. Employment & Skilling
3. Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
4. Manufacturing & Services
5. Urban Development
6. Energy Security
7. Infrastructure
8. Innovation, Research & Development and
9. Next Generation Reforms

Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services

Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector

- A credit guarantee scheme without collateral or third-party guarantee in term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment.

Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period

- New mechanism to facilitate continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period.

Mudra Loans

- The limit of Mudra loans under 'Tarun' category to be enhanced to ₹ 20 lakh from ₹ 10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans.

Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS

- Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform to be reduced from ₹ 500 crore to ₹ 250 crore..

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

- Financial support to set up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector .

E-Commerce Export Hubs

- E-Commerce Export Hubs to be set up under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode for MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets.

PART B

Indirect Taxes

GST

- Buoyed by GST's success, tax structure to be simplified and rationalised to expand GST to remaining sectors.

Sector specific customs duty proposals

Medicines and Medical Equipment

- Three cancer drugs namely TrastuzumabDeruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab fully exempted from custom duty.
- Changes in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on x-ray tubes & flat panel detectors for use in medical x-ray machines under the Phased Manufacturing Programme.

Mobile Phone and Related Parts

- BCD on mobile phone, mobile Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and mobile charger reduced to 15 per cent.

Precious Metals

- Customs duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent.

Other Metals

- BCD removed on ferro nickel and blister copper.
- BCD removed on ferrous scrap and nickel cathode.
- Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap.

Electronics

- BCD removed, subject to conditions, on oxygen free copper for manufacture of resistors.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- BCD on ammonium nitrate increased from 7.5 to 10 per cent.

Plastics

- BCD on PVC flex banners increased from 10 to 25 per cent.

Telecommunication Equipment

- BCD increased from 10 to 15 per cent on PCBA of specified telecom equipment.

Trade facilitation

- For promotion of domestic aviation and boat & ship MRO, time period for export of goods imported for repairs extended from six months to one year.
- Time-limit for re-import of goods for repairs under warranty extended from three to five years.

Critical Minerals

- 25 critical minerals fully exempted from customs duties.
- BCD on two critical minerals reduced.

Solar Energy

- Capital goods for use in manufacture of solar cells and panels exempted from customs duty.

Marine products

- BCD on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed reduced to 5 per cent.
- Various inputs for manufacture of shrimp and fish feed exempted from customs duty.

Leather and Textile

- BCD reduced on real down filling material from duck or goose.
- BCD reduced, subject to conditions, on methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) for manufacture of spandex yarn from 7.5 to 5 per cent.

Direct Taxes

- Efforts to simplify taxes, improve tax payer services, provide tax certainty and reduce litigation to be continued.
- Enhance revenues for funding development and welfare schemes of government.
- 58 per cent of corporate tax from simplified tax regime in FY23, more than two-thirds taxpayers availed simplified tax regime for personal income tax in FY 24.

Simplification for Charities and of TDS

- Two tax exemption regimes for charities to be merged into one.
- 5 per cent TDS rate on many payments merged into 2 per cent TDS rate.
- 20 per cent TDS rate on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI withdrawn.
- TDS rate on e-commerce operators reduced from one to 0.1 per cent.
- Delay for payment of TDS up to due date of filing statement decriminalized.

Simplification of Reassessment

- Assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more.
- In search cases, time limit reduced from ten to six years before the year of search.

Simplification and Rationalisation of Capital Gains

- Short term gains on certain financial assets to attract a tax rate of 20 per cent.
- Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5 per cent.
- Exemption limit of capital gains on certain financial assets increased to ₹ 1.25 lakh per year.

Tax Payer Services

- All remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders to be digitalized over the next two years.

Litigation and Appeals

- 'Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024' for resolution of income tax disputes pending in appeal.
- Monetary limits for filing direct taxes, excise and service tax related appeals in Tax Tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court increased to ₹ 60 lakh, ₹ 2 crore and ₹ 5 crore respectively.
- Safe harbour rules expanded to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.

Employment and Investment

- Angel tax for all classes of investors abolished to bolster start-up eco-system,.
- Simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises to promote cruise tourism in India.
- Safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.
- Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.

Deepening tax base

- Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.
- Income received on buy back of shares in the hands of recipient to be taxed.

Social Security Benefits.

- Deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to 14 per cent of the employee's salary.
- Non-reporting of small movable foreign assets up to ₹ 20 lakh de-penalised.

Other major proposal in Finance Bill

· Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.

Changes in Personal Income Tax under new tax regime

- Standard deduction for salaried employees increased from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 75,000.
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹ 15,000/- to ₹ 25,000/-
- Revised tax rate structure:

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

- Salaried employee in the new tax regime stands to save up to ₹ 17,500/- in income tax.

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News Concerning Plastics

Karnataka to allow use of plant-based biodegradable carry bags

Putting an end to the prevailing confusion over the use of biodegradable and compostable bags, the state govt has decided to allow sale and use of plant-based compostable carry bags that biodegrade within 180 days.

Reviewing the implementation of the ban order on single use plastic across Karnataka, forest, environment and ecology minister Eshwar Khandre on Friday directed officials to allow the manufacturing and sale of plant-based compostable and biodegradable bags that degenerate within 180-days. The state govt, in 2016, ordered the ban on single use plastic items including carry bags which are biodegradable in nature. This had led to a lot of confusion among the general public as markets were flooded with biodegradable and compostable carry bags. Eventually, the state govt had reiterated that all forms of plastic carry bags were included under the ban.

However, when the Government of India (GoI) ordered ban on the single use plastic items in 2022, the GoI notification permitted the manufacture and sale of plant-based compostable and biodegradable bags that degenerate within 180-days. With both the orders leading to confusion over the use of compostable and biodegradable carry bags, the Karnataka govt has now decided to comply with the 2022 ban order of the Central government and withdraw its 2016 ban notification.

Clearing the confusion, Khandre directed the officials of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to submit a proposal to withdraw the state govt's 2016 notification and replace the same with the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2022 enacted by the Central govt. The Centre's notification allows use of plant based biodegradable and compostable carry bags that disintegrate within 180-days.

Referring to the innovation made by the Defence Food Research Laboratory at Mysuru under the DRDO of Ministry of Defence and other private firms, the KSPCB officials briefed the minister, "There is an urgent need for a bio alternative product to replace the single use plastic items. The single use plastic items can only be eradicated with the introduction of alternatives such as plant-based biodegradable carry bags. The DFRL scientists and other private firms have come up with biodegradable carry bags made of Corn starch. These carry bags shall be used within six months and they will biodegrade on their own regardless of the usage."

Responding to the officials, Khandre said, "If such biodegradable carry bags are proven that they do not harm the environment and degenerate within 180-days, such products shall be permitted for use." The minister also directed that the cost of such alternatives shall be affordable to the public and only then citizens will give up on the use of single use plastic items. He also instructed the officials to showcase such plant based biodegradable compostable bags during the Environment Day event scheduled to be held at Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on July 3 in Bengaluru.

(Source: TNN, Jun 29, 2024)

Conclave to address issues related to plastic waste management, recycling, and sustainability, all aimed at promoting circularity

The four-day Global Conclave on Plastic Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS) got off to a robust start today at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, with Chief Guest Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers inaugurating the conference. Smt. Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, attended the session as the Guest of Honor. Among other notable attendees were AIPMA President Shri Manish Dedhia, CPMA President Shri Kamal Nanavati, AIPMA Governing Council Chairman Shri Arvind Mehta, GCPRS 2024 Chairman Shri Hiten Bheda, Pranav Kumar (CPMA), Prof. (Dr.) Shishir Sinha (Plastindia Foundation), Shri Ravish Kamath (Plastindia).

In her inaugural address, Verma commended the efforts of the AIPMA and the CPMA for organizing a conclave on a topic of paramount relevance, at a time when only ten percent of the total plastic waste generated globally was recycled. She said "be that as it may, and despite transitioning from a material of wonder to a victim of its own success, the plastic industry remains one of the leading contributors to the economy and in providing employment to millions globally". She reminded stakeholders that a concerted and collaborative effort across various sectors is necessary.

Verma further told that the government, in a bid to curb plastic pollution, had introduced the Plastic Waste Management Rules in 2016, which mandated extended producer responsibility, enforced stricter recycling package & banned specific single use plastic, and various amendments have also been made to the rules over the years to widen its ambit. She also stressed the role of CIPET and DCPC in staunchly implementing the rules.

Furthermore, she highlighted the critical part that the industry played in this sector. With environmental regulations tightening globally each day, she stressed the need to become a sustainable circular economy at the earliest.

Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises also expressed the support of the Ministry of MSME for this cause, pointing out that a large number of enterprises from the plastic industry came under their department as well. She said that with the vision of doubling exports, and as part of their 100 days program, the Ministry has decided to set up a state of the art export center at Hyderabad. She also urged stakeholders to call on the benefits extended by the Ministry, adding that many more technology centers were under way.

India's plastic recycling industry is rapidly growing, and is expected to reach $6.9 billion by 2033. Government initiatives and a robust existing recycling rate of approximately 60% highlight the country's commitment to managing plastic waste, adding that this conference will address critical issues in plastic waste management.

CPMA President Nanavati, in his speech, emphasized that plastic waste management is a global issue requiring collaboration among all value chain participants and the government. He said that the GCPRS aims to provide a platform for dialogue and discussion to develop solutions and the Indian industry is actively working to improve plastic circularity and ensure the effective implementation of regulatory requirements through cooperation with the government.

Arvind D. Mehta, Chairman of the Technology and Entrepreneurship Center (AMTEC), stated that they were preparing highly skilled and talented professionals for India's rapidly advancing plastic industry. He added that their institution was established to provide exceptional manpower and skill enhancement for the plastic manufacturing sector, and that it was a matter of great pride that they achieved this. He said that this event will prove to be a milestone for those involved in this sector and organization of this conclave is expected to open new pathways in this direction.

The conclave, jointly organized by the All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) and the Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturers' Association (CPMA), focuses on the rising use of plastic, its impact on the environment and also on the steps needed for solutions. Various businesses and experts from across the country will grace the conclave over the four days.

Aligned with India's zero waste goal, the GCPRS showcases innovative recycling technologies, sustainable options like biodegradable and compostable plastics, and efficient waste management solutions. The event serves as a platform for industry leaders, startups, and environmental experts to demonstrate their latest advancements and share insights on achieving sustainability in the plastic industry.

(Source: PIB, 4th July, 2024)

Gujarat's thin plastic conundrum

Tonnes of plastic of less than 120 microns are being destroyed in Gujarat's big cities every year since 2016 when municipal corporations enforced the stringent ban on this material which is an environmental hazard and poses a grave health risk for humans. Beginning with banning plastic less than 80 microns, the prohibition extends to those up to 120 microns. Despite regular drives by the civic bodies, plastic bags less than 120 microns continue to find their way into the markets with their use rampant at grocery stores, vegetable carts, paan kiosks and other small establishments.

Take Rajkot, Saurashtra's biggest commercial centre. Every month, the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) seizes around 150- 200 kg of banned plastic bags every month during the random raids conducted to check if Plastic Waste Management Rules. RMC's environment engineer, Nilesh Parmar, said, "We conduct raids and seize around 150 to 200 kg polythene bags every month. We suspect that this plastic is manufactured in central Gujarat." Sources indicate that the bags are so inexpensive that traders can afford to use them and get away with paying penalties that depend on the scale of sale or production. The aim behind banning these bags is they don't decompose easily. Over time, these plastic bags break down into microplastics, which enter the human food chain. An environmental activist in Bhavnagar, Dr Tejas Doshi says, "It takes hundreds of years for this plastic to decompose. It wrecks wildlife and pollutes oceans too."

(Source: TNN, Jul 4, 2024)

Nestle shifted critical recycling goal and revealed scale of plastics problem

When Nestle SA tweaked its plastic packaging goals in 2022, few noticed. The shift in language on the website of the world's largest food maker pledged to mostly use plastic "designed for" recycling by 2025 rather than only use "recyclable" or reusable packaging by next year — its original commitment.

The subtle rewording, highlighted publicly here for the first time, might seem like semantics. But the difference amounts to 280,000 metric tons of additional nonrecyclable plastic waste a year, according to the latest available data for 2022. Piled up, it would weigh the same as 30 Eiffel towers or 1,400 Statues of Liberty.

It's also a fresh indication that the efforts to curb the use of virgin plastics — including a key pledge made by dozens of companies since 2018 to make all such packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable — are failing. The rolling back of some commitments coincides with companies facing pressure from two years of rising raw material costs and investor calls to focus on profitability over saving the planet.

"If some of the world's largest multinational companies with near limitless resources at their disposal are failing to deliver on their commitments and pledges, something is clearly very wrong with the system," said Christina Dixon, ocean campaign leader at the Environmental Investigation Agency, a non-governmental organization, referring to the voluntary commitments by companies to reduce the use of plastics.

Nestle, the maker of Nespresso pods and Maggi Stock cubes, said it changed the wording because it was important to report on what it could control. "As communicated publicly in 2022, we remain committed to achieving 100% reusable or recyclable packaging in the long term but given infrastructure barriers this was no longer realistically achievable by 2025," a Nestle spokesperson said.

But according to its own data the company had fallen back. In 2022, the last year available, 51% of its packaging was recyclable, reusable or compostable, down from 55% in 2018, the base year restated for a fair comparison. The company expects this to rise to 63% for 2023 as some materials get recycled more widely. Using the adjusted goal and with the tweaked language, however, things look much better: in 2023, 83.5% of its plastic packaging was designed for recycling.

About 400 million tons of plastic waste are produced globally every year — so another 30 Eiffel Towers might seem like a drop in the ocean. But the United Nations has warned that if historic growth trends continue, that figure will almost treble to 1.1 billion tons in 2050. Much of that will end up in seas and rivers, causing massive harm to animal and human health. But with less than 10% of plastic recycled globally, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and companies like Nestle failing to reach their goals, promises that once looked bold now look unachievable.

Some producers blame insufficient recycling infrastructure, inadequate regulation and lethargic consumers for delays in recycling. And call on governments to do more to boost investment and create financial incentives to develop demand for more types of plastics markets.

But that is only part of the story. Critics says companies need to buck their addiction to packaging that doesn't have viable recycling solutions — things like multilayered plastic sachets used for food or household consumer products.

"A very big share of packaging put on the market today is not designed recyclable," said Sander Defruyt, who works on initiatives to create a circular economy for plastic at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. "Industry will need to continue making big investments in innovation and production line changes to move away from these, towards reusable or recyclable solutions."

The Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by the yachtswoman, has standardized the reporting of environmental pledges for big companies.

Technically difficult, collecting recyclable plastic is also expensive and bound by complex regulations.

Other plastics reduction pledges are also proving a challenge. Even though Nestle says it's on track to meet a goal of reducing its use of virgin plastics by a third compared with 2018, that figure was only 15% last year, meaning progress must dramatically accelerate to meet ambitions.

"Given the rampant food price inflation, this was not an easy path to pursue," Mark Schneider, Nestle's chief executive officer, told journalists in April of its efforts to reach environmental targets over the last two years.

Yet companies like Nestle and Unilever are considered sector leaders in terms of their plastics reduction efforts. They report annual progress on their commitments to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. So if they are failing to reach their goals, that bodes poorly for the rest. They want the UN Plastics Treaty — a legally binding global agreement expected this year — to reduce plastics production and set the same standard for companies globally. But reaching consensus is tricky and the last and penultimate round of talks took production caps off the table. "The global plastic industry has created the illusion of recyclability," Planet Tracker, an environmental NGO said in a statement. "When in reality a shocking 91% of plastic is not recycled globally."

The Volatile Business of Recycling

In a large industrial building just south of the River Thames in London stands a nest of red and black horizontal and diagonal conveyor belts and mechanical sorters — reminiscent of the famous painting "Relativity" by M.C. Escher. It processes the recycling of around two million people or 120,000 tons a year. It's one of about 100 material recovery facilities across the UK, of varying sizes. Workers in protective clothing remove items that may be dangerous such as batteries which can cause fires — as happens on a weekly basis — or anything that could clog up the machines. Mechanical sifters sort items by size. While optical machines separate different materials like metal and paper. In an adjoining warehouse stand the fruits of the process: large bales of recycled cardboard, metal or mixed plastic, ready for collection. The plastic is sold to reprocessors, who separate it out into varieties, shred and melt it down into pellets for resale. Veolia, the French owner of the plant, has upgraded its technology to deal with more materials in recent years. But the biggest brake on the development of the sector is that less than 50% of household packaging gets recycled in the UK — similar to most of Europe — a ratio that has stubbornly held for several years.

The company says there is no end market for some plastics — carrier or salad bags and clingfilm — and so there are no facilities to recycle them. "If we invest in a facility," says Tim Duret, Veolia's director of sustainable technology, "and the demand for that material is not consistent, it makes us very nervous to spend £40 million ($51 million) on a facility." Polyethylene terephthalate bottles — the sort used to hold Nestle's

Buxton mineral water — are cheap to recycle and versatile: they can be used to make new bottles, athleisure or sleeping bag filling for example. Even so, the recycling rate is only about 30% and the business is low margin. "On top of that you have volatility. We are losing money at the moment," said Duret of the south London plant. A key factor undermining the Veolia business plan is the cheaper cost and availability of virgin imported plastics, which is undercutting the recycled market. Recycled PET cost as much as €1,500 ($1,600) a ton in May, €200 higher than virgin PET according to S&P Global Commodity Insights data. The prices driven partly by the EU's 2025 directive requiring PET bottles to contain at least 25% recycled content. At least 2.2 million tons of plastic packaging end up in the UK market every year, but only a fifth of the materials are from recycled sources.

The UK Plastic Packaging Tax, introduced in 2022, charges producers £218 per ton for products made with less than 30% recycled content. Such measures should help drive demand. But Veolia wants the tax to rise to 50% and £500 per ton by 2030. There are other initiatives to force the mandatory use of recycled content. Plastics pricing is also an opaque business governed partly by regulatory requirements, there is no central database and there is huge variation in types. The supply of virgin plastics is only likely to rise. Petrochemicals companies increasingly view plastics as a way to make up for future anticipated falls in transport fossil fuel production. The International Energy Agency estimates that plastic will become the largest driver of oil demand, accounting for almost 50% of its growth by 2050. "The more sustainable option needs to be the default," says Sokhna Gueye head of packaging, UK and Ireland at Nestle. "And for that to be the default, it has to be cheaper as well. So recycled plastic longer term has to be cheaper than virgin plastic."

(Source: The Economic Times 16-07-2024)

Plastic Waste Management Under SBM 2.0

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 lays special emphasis on reduction of plastic waste generation and compliance of Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules dated 12.08.2021. Key focus areas include source segregation of waste; segregated collection and transportation; processing of segregated waste; setting up of Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in all ULBs; awareness generation drives etc. In addition, the following initiatives have been taken:

(i) Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States and Union Territories (UTs) is released for establishing Solid Waste Management (SWM) projects for processing of all kinds of waste,

(ii) A 'Plastic Waste Management Advisory' has been developed capturing the plastic waste generation, plastic waste management rules and various ways to manage plastic waste through reduce, reuse, recycle and recovery techniques;

(iii) 'Swachh Survekshan' and 'Star Rating Protocol' have been introduced which have been aligned with Plastic Waste Management (amendment) Rules 2021 to encourage cities to phase out single-use plastic, etc.

Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on 12th August 2021, which prohibits identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential with effect from 1st July, 2022.

MoEF&CC has notified the Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, on 16th February 2022 and Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024, on 14th March, 2024.

All States/UTs have constituted the Special Task Force (STF) under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary / Administrator for elimination of identified single use plastic items and effective plastic waste management and development of comprehensive action plan in this regard. A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

For effective monitoring of ban on identified single use plastic (SUP) items and plastic waste management in the country, online platforms that are in operation are National Dashboard on elimination of single use plastics and effective plastic waste management; Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Monitoring Module for Compliance on Elimination of Single Use Plastic and CPCB Grievance Redressal App.

Regular enforcement drives have been undertaken by CPCB, State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to implement ban on identified single use plastic items and on plastic carry bags having thickness less than one hundred twenty microns.

To develop alternatives to single use plastics, the MoEF&CC organized "India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021". Two Start-ups in the area of alternatives to single use plastics were awarded in the India Plastic Challenge Hackathon 2021. A National Expo on Eco-Alternatives to single use plastic and Startup Conference was organized on 26th and 27th September, 2022 in Chennai by MoEF&CC and Government of Tamil Nadu in which more than 150 manufacturers of eco-alternatives from across the country have participated. The eco-alternatives included material made from sea-weed, bagasse, rice and wheat bran, rice stubble, plant and agricultural residue, banana and areca leaves, jute and cloth. The list of manufacturers of eco-alternatives is available on National Dashboard https://suppwmdashboard.in/ on elimination of single use plastics and effective plastic waste management.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Tokhan Sahu, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

(Source: PIB Delhi, 25 JUL 2024)

NGT issues notice to CPCB & MoEFCC on recovery of 6 lakh fake EPR certificates from plastic recycling companies in Gujarat, Maharashtra & Karnataka

The companies claimed to generate far more certificates than what their actual recycling capacity permitted for. It was also alleged that the recycling companies generated and sold fake Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates without actually recycling the plastic waste.

National Green Tribunal: Taking suo motu cognizance news item titled "6 lakh fake pollution - trading certificates unearthed in three States" in The Hindu dated 14-07-2024, Arun Kumar Tyagi, Judicial Member and Dr. A. Senthil Vel, Expert Member issued notice to the Central Pollution Control Board ('CPCB') and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka.

In the matter at hand, the news item revealed the discovery of 6,00,000 fake Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates by CPCB from audits at four plastic-recycling companies in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The EPR certificates are used by companies that utilize plastic packaging to meet legal obligations by ensuring that a percentage of the plastic that they are using is recycled. Enviro Recyclean Pvt. Ltd (Karnataka), Shakti Plastics Industries (Maharashtra), Technova Recycling India Pvt. Ltd (Gujarat), and Asha Recyclean Pvt. Ltd (Gujarat) were implicated. As per the new piece, the CPCB found that these companies claimed to generate far more certificates than what their actual recycling capacity permitted for. It was also alleged that the recycling companies generated and sold fake EPR certificates without actually recycling the plastic waste. The CPCB, on physical inspection found the discrepancies between the claimed recycled quantities and the companies' actual capacities and sales records.

This malpractice undermines the integrity of the EPR scheme, which is designed to promote the recycling of plastic waste. The companies that purchased these fake certificates may not have met their recycling obligations, leading to potential environmental harm due to the non-recycling of significant amounts of plastic waste.

The Tribunal said that the issue raised substantial issues relating to compliance of the environmental norms, especially compliance of Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 ('Rules, 2016').

The Tribunal impleaded and issued notice to and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Maharashtra), (Gujarat), (Karnataka). Considering that the cause of action lies within jurisdiction of the Central Zone Bench of the Tribunal at Bhopal, the Tribunal directed to list the matter before the Central Zone Bench of this Tribunal at Bhopal on 08-11-2024 after Chairperson's order for transfer of the case.

Extended Producers Responsibility

Section 3(h) of the Rules, 2016 defines "extended producer's responsibility" as the responsibility of a producer for the environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life. Section 9 of the Rules provides for responsibility of producers, importers and brand owners. They are required to fulfil the extended producer responsibility and are deemed to have complied with the responsible for collection of such plastic packaging, when they fulfil their EPR certificate. The Schedule II for the Rules, 2016 provides for guidelines on EPR for Plastic Packaging and commodities made from compostable plastics or biodegradable plastics. The EPR is applicable to both pre-consumer and post-consumer plastic packaging waste.

[News Item titled "6 lakh fake pollution -trading certificates unearthed in three States" appearing in The Hindu dated 14-07-2024, Original Application No. 926/2024, Decided on: 26-07-2024]

International News

Correction year' reaches its halfway point

Research recently conducted by the tandem of Berkeley, California-based nonprofit As You Sow and environmental solutions platform Ubuntoo revealed a significant gap between global companies' stated plastic reduction commitments and their actions.

The 2024 PlasticsPromises Scorecard ranked 225 companies across 15 industries based on their ambition and actions to reduce plastic packaging pollution, judging them on six categories including recyclability goals, virgin plastic reduction and use of recycled content, among others. The results could be viewed as troubling for recycled resin markets that have spent this year contending with cheap and abundant virgin material.

In terms of recyclability, for example, the report found that only 22 of 147 companies with stated goals are on track to meet their targets, largely because of packaging that fails to align with what consumers are able to place in their curbside bins. The research also reveals that 145 companies have goals to utilize more recycled content in their packaging, but notes there is not enough recycled content supply to meet demand due to "a lack of corporate investments in packaging collection and recycling."

A recycler based in the Southeast who works with polypropylene (PP) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) says the market is relatively weaker at this year's midway point than it was in June 2023 and much weaker than in the stretch from 2020-2022, when pricing soared. In line with the Plastics Promises Scorecard report, companies' continued use of low-cost virgin material in their packaging and products has hurt recycled content markets.

"I think it's just a correction year, and once people feel like the virgin resin's found the [pricing] bottom and you're not going to see big depreciations in the value, you'll probably see some of the marketplace kind of come back," he says. "A lot of people that buy recycled material only for cost savings have flipped back to virgin now because they're able to buy it cheaper."

As of mid-June, the recycler notes that the market for his resins is a bit slow because of virgin pricing, and a squeeze on mixed-color HDPE bales led to decreased demand. "For us, we're seeing some relief in that bale price now, but it needs to come down 8 [cents] or 10 cents a pound to have a flowing marketplace, based on what we're seeing on these prices."

He notes PP has achieved a balance, but a recent drop in virgin pricing led buyers to take a "wait and see attitude," holding off on buying pounds they don't immediately need in the event prices drop further.

Lee Cornell, commodity sales manager at Omaha, Nebraska-based FirstStar Recycling, which operates a material recovery facility (MRF), says markets this year have been steady but lack the "rabid purchasing" seen over the previous two years. Instead, he says the trend has been for modest increases in bale pricing. As of mid-June, bales of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) were selling for about 17 cents per pound; natural HDPE was 38 cents per pound; mixed-color HDPE was 22 cents per pound; and PP was 10 cents per pound.

He says domestic demand is "good, but not desperate," and most tons have moved easily amid modest price increases. However, PET generation has seemed to slow in the Midwest.

"It's been a wet spring so far, and that may curtail some consumption," Cornell says. "Other grades, including HDPE, PP, LDPE [low-density polyethylene], PVC [polyvinyl chloride], TPO [thermoplastic olefin] and engineering grades all seem to be normal."

(Source: Recycling Today 30th June, 2024)

Lindner establishes subsidiary in India

Austria-based shredding and recycling equipment maker Lindner Recyclingtech GmbH has announced the establishment of Lindner Recyclingtech Bharat (India) LLP, based in Delhi. "Together with Chirag Verma, co-owner of Lindner Bharat, and Ganesh Karankal, sales director of plastics recycling, the aim in this dynamic environment is to develop sustainable recycling solutions for the waste and plastics industry," states the European firm.

With its 1.4 billion people, Lindner calls India the second most highly populated country in the world and the fifth largest economic power. While about 62 million metric tons of discarded materials are produced each year in India, and rising, Lindner says the recycling rate has growth potential.

The equipment maker says a range of initiatives by the Indian government are intended to raise the population's awareness of recycling. "However, as well as regulation, recycling requires appropriate technologies so that the wide range of reusable materials – including plastics, electronic scrap, and commercial, industrial and domestic waste – can be fed back into the circular economy," states Lindner.

"By founding Lindner Recyclingtech Bharat we want to contribute to returning greater quantities of reusable materials back into the loop or the circular economy," says Manual Lindner, CEO and owner of Lindner Recyclingtech.

Continues the CEO, "This needs the right shredders and system solutions as well as the relevant expertise. Together with Chirag Verma and Ganesh Karankal, who are both experienced and respected businessmen, we wish to promote the expansion of sustainable recycling solutions in the Indian market and contribute our expertise."

Lindner describes itself as a maker of stationary and mobile shredders for waste recovery, plastics recycling, scrap wood processing and solid recovered fuel (SRF) and refuse-derived fuel (RDF) production.

The founding of Lindner Recyclingtech Bharat represents the firm's fourth cross-border subsidiary, joining those in Germany, the United States, Singapore and France.

"Lindner has been manufacturing RDF successfully for many years," says Karankal. "With Lindner Washtech we also have a wealth of experience in plastics recycling, which will continue to grow thanks to the cooperation with Erema, the branch leader in extrusion."

Adds the India-based sales director of plastics recycling. "Lindner is synonymous with quality and expertise – characteristics that our Indian customers know and appreciate."

Remarks new subsidiary co-owner Verma, "India is a densely populated country with huge volumes of waste. According to estimates, the mountain of rubbish will rise to more than 400 million metric tons by 2050. There is a lot to do in the area of recycling. Together with Lindner, we want to support the efforts of the waste and recycling economy in India and are looking forward to this challenge."

(Source: Recycling Today 4th July, 2024)

McKinsey says most consumer packaging still going unrecycled

"As much as $100 billion of investment will be required for plastic packaging to achieve the goal of containing 20 to 30 percent recycled materials," writes McKinsey.

Bolstering the circular economy represents a way to confront climate change while also presenting a more than $1 trillion opportunity says global consulting firm McKinsey & Co.

A June article by the firm, whose current and former consultants advise executives and board rooms at companies and governments around the world, says that "every year, some $2.6 trillion worth of material in fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG)—80 percent of the material value—is thrown away and never recovered."

Replacing the "linear model of mass consumption" can break a pattern that "has contributed to the changes in our climate that, if left unaddressed, threaten to make life much more difficult in coming decades," writes McKinsey.

While building a circular economy designed to counter the linear model, the consulting firm says packaging designers and users should aspire to "optimize resource yields by circulating products, components and materials in use at the highest possible levels at all times."

Continues McKinsey, "A circular economy is a worthy goal in itself. But it also presents an opportunity for organizations to gain a competitive edge. One McKinsey study estimates that a circular economy could represent a revenue opportunity of more than $1 trillion in Europe alone in 2050."

The consulting firm, whose reputation relies in part on its concentration on corporate productivity, finds a productivity tie-in to circularity and recycling. "To reduce the massive waste our societies are currently producing, we must drastically slow emissions-heavy productive activity."

Continues McKinsey, "The clear business potential of circular consumer goods can help answer that question. Consumer goods companies should see circularity as an opportunity, not a threat. Circular business models can create a valuable link between business logic and sustainability."

In the FMCG sector, McKinsey predicts, “The market for circular nonfood FMCGs will be shaped by players’ ability to package goods in 100 percent recycled or biodegradable material.”

The consulting firm also sees textile recycling as gaining momentum. “The main driver of circular fashion and luxury in 2030 will be an up to tenfold increase in recycled, sustainably produced products, which will contain a high share of sustainable fibers,” predicts McKinsey.

Countering a multidecade trend, McKinsey also predicts a bigger market for refurbished smartphones, laptops and tablets as emerging and as “already growing fast.”

The consulting company identified plastics, lithium-ion batteries and cement and concrete as three sectors will pollution- and emissions-related challenges that will attract circular investments in the years ahead.

Regarding plastics, McKinsey writes, “For circular plastics to meet global demand, investment is needed. For example, as much as $100 billion of investment will be required for plastic packaging to achieve the goal of containing 20 to 30 percent recycled materials.”

The full McKinsey article on the state of the circular economy can be found on its website.

(Source: Recycling Today 3rd July 2024)

Report questions circularity of chemical recycling

Analyses of chemical recycling, some of them critical, previously have focused on whether or not plants have been able to reach scale or, in some cases, whether they can handle mixed plastic feedstock as well as some initial advocates of the technology claimed.

An article published in late June on the investigative journalism website ProPublica.org adds one more element of criticism in asserting that at least one process categorized as chemical recycling, also termed advanced recycling by some of its backers, do not convert much of their inbound feedstock back into plastic.

The report by ProPublica reporter Lisa Song cites several sources and portrays an attempt to gather data from numerous companies and organizations in part to determine what happens to a discarded piece of plastic when it enters either a mechanical recycling process or a chemical recycling process.

Song’s conclusion: While anywhere from 55 percent to 85 percent of discarded plastic directed to a material recovery facility (MRF) and next-stage mechanical recycling step becomes plastic again, pyrolysis-based chemical recycling processes convert just 15 to 20 percent of inbound material back into plastic.

The consensus of sources interviewed by Song was that via pyrolysis, from 80 to 85 of plastic scrap heading to a pyrolysis facility instead becomes diesel fuel, hydrogen, methane and other chemicals.

That result may be unsurprising to professionals within the recycling and polymers industries, but Song says the low-double-digit result may not be well received by people who construe the chasing arrows symbol on plastic objects as meaning the item can be turned back into plastic.

She also looked into dilution practices undertaken by users of mechanically recycled and chemically recycled materials, again finding the pyrolysis process came up short.

Users of postconsumer recycled-content resins (PCR) in some applications may need to blend that material with virgin resins, with the PCR comprising from 25 to 50 percent of the total product.

While a naphtha product that can be used in new plastic formulas is created via pyrolysis, Song writes that much of “the naphtha created using recycled plastic is contaminated” with chemical additives mixed in “to make products bend or keep them from degrading in the sun.”

Polymer makers who wish to use this naphtha can “overpower” those contaminants by diluting them with virgin naphtha made from crude oil, according to Song. She writes, though, that unlike the 25-to-50 percent blend common in mechanical recycling, “at least 90 percent of the naphtha used in pyrolysis is fossil fuel naphtha [and] nothing that comes out of pyrolysis physically contains more than 10 percent recycled material.”

Citing Steve Jenkins of energy and commodities industry consulting firm Wood Mackenzie as her source, Song concludes that three years in the future, “At best, the world could replace 0.2 percent of new plastic churned out in a year with products made through pyrolysis.”

(Source: Recycling Today July 12, 2024)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal chairs stakeholder interaction with Leather and Footwear Industry

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal chaired a stakeholder interaction with the Leather and Footwear Industry yesterday in New Delhi. The Minister encouraged the industry to aim for a bigger vision and scale up the Leather and Footwear industry to the tune of USD 50 Billion by 2030.

The Minister encouraged the industry to showcase world class products with a large-scale exhibition, inviting participation from domestic and international brands. He called for synergy within the industry to develop Design Studio with state of art infrastructure and developing globally competitive footwear designs.

Shri Goyal highlighted the importance of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for ensuring the quality of the product for the consumer and to promote Make in India brand. He also stated that the industry will benefit with the implementation of QCOs in the long- run. To address the concern of the industry in respect of QCOs, the Minister stated that the Government will take all efforts to make the QCO certification procedure smooth and flexible for the industry. He added that micro & small units under MSME continue to be exempted from the preview of QCOs.

To ensure quality footwear for consumers and to promote Make in India brand, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified two QCOs dated 15.03.2024 for the leather and footwear sector which will become effective from 01.08.2024. Manufacturers were given a chance for declaration of old stock before 01.08.2024 and selling the declared stock by 30.06.2025. Micro and Small units and imports of soles for making footwear for export purposes are exempted from the purview of QCOs.

The interaction included deliberations upon the implementation of QCOs for Leather & Footwear Sector w.e.f. 1st August 2024 and other issues pertaining to Leather and Footwear industry.

The interaction concluded with closing remarks of the Minister that he is affirmative that industry will welcome implementation of QCOs with the vision of "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" in Indian Leather and Footwear industry.

(Source: PIB Delhi, 25th July, 2024)

Export of Small Products

MSME sector has a significant contribution in GDP, employment generation, manufacturing output, and exports in the country. The sector is manufacturing a large variety of products including small products.

To augment the export from MSME sector, Ministry of MSME is implementing the International Cooperation (IC) Scheme under which financial assistance is provided on reimbursement basis to the eligible Central / State Government organizations and Industry Associations to facilitate / participation of MSMEs in international exhibitions, fairs and buyer-seller meets held abroad and for organizing international conference, seminar and workshops in India with the aim of technology upgradation, modernization, joint venture etc. Further, under the new component of IC Scheme namely Capacity Building of First Time Exporters (CBFTE) launched in June 2022, reimbursement is provided to new micro & small enterprises (MSE) exporters for costs incurred on Registration-cum-Membership Certification (RCMC) with EPCs, Export Insurance Premium and testing & quality certification for exports. These interventions under IC Scheme assist the exporters in MSME sector to increase their access to international markets.

Ministry of MSME has established 60 Export Facilitation Centers (EFCs) across the country with an aim to provide requisite mentoring and handholding support to MSEs.

Central Government supplements the efforts of the State/ UT Government through various schemes, programmes and policy initiatives for overall development and promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). These schemes/ programmes include MSME Champions Scheme, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Micro and Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) etc.

Government has taken a number of initiatives to support the MSME sector. Some of them are:

i. Collateral free loan up to a limit of Rs. 500 lakh (w.e.f. 01.04.23) to MSEs with guarantee coverage up to 85 % for various categories of loan through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) under Credit Guarantee Scheme.

ii. Rs. 50,000 crore equity infusion through Self Reliant India Fund. This scheme has a provision for corpus of Rs.10,000 crore from Government of India.

iii. New revised criteria for classification of MSMEs.
iv. Registration of MSMEs through ''Udyam Registration Portal'' for Ease of Doing Business.
v. No global tenders for procurement up to Rs. 200 crore
vi. Inclusion of retail and whole sale trades as MSMEs w.e.f. 02.07.2021.
vii. Non-tax benefits extended for 3 years in case of an upward change in status of MSMEs.
viii. Roll out of Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme with an outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore over 5 years.
ix. Integration of Udyam Registration Portal with National Career Service (NCS) of Ministry of Labour & Employment and Skill India Digital of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Registered MSMEs are enabled to reach out to trained manpower and capacity building.
x. Under Vivad se Vishwas – I, relief by way of refund of 95% of the deducted performance security, bid security and liquidated damages was provided to MSMEs. Relief was also provided to MSMEs debarred for default in execution of contracts.
xi. Launch of Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) to bring the Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) under the formal ambit for availing the benefit under Priority Sector Lending (PSL).
xii. Launch of 'PM Vishwakarma' Scheme on 17.09.2023 to provide end to end holistic benefits to the traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades.

This information was given by the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

(Source: PIB Delhi, 25th July, 2024)

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is enforcing mandatory BIS Standards for chemicals and petrochemicals

Total export quantity of major chemicals increases from 16,98,384 Metric Tons in FY 2019-20 to 26,42,179 Metric Tons in FY2023-24 with a peak at 46,26,765 MTs in FY2022-23.

The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is enforcing mandatory BIS Standards for chemicals and petrochemicals. This measure ensures that both imported and domestically produced chemicals meet stringent quality parameters, preventing the use of hazardous and substandard products. By making these standards compulsory under Section 16 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, the initiative aims to protect human, animal and plant health, ensure environmental safety, prevent unfair trade practices, and enhance national security. D/o Chemicals & Petrochemicals has notified 72 Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for Chemicals & Petrochemicals so far to make BIS Standards mandatory under Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016. Out of 72 QCOs, 41 QCOs have been implemented and enforcement date of remaining 31 QCOs has been extended from time to time.

Further, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has notified Insecticides Act, 1968 for the regulation of import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings or animals and for matters connected therewith.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified that Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC) and subsequent amendments thereof wherein hazard criteria, viz. toxicity, flammability and explosiveness has been defined to identify hazardous chemicals used in industrial processes. The Chemical Accident Emergency Planning, preparedness and Response Rules, 1996 (CAEPPR Rules, 1996) have also been notified to complement MSIHC Rules, 1989 and provide statutory backup to crisis management set up in the country with four-tier system at Central, State, District and Local Level.

In respect of the fertilizer sector, to ensure the availability of good quality fertilizer to farmers, the Government of India has declared the fertilizers as an essential commodity and promulgated the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. The FCO regulates the supply, distribution and quality of fertilizers. Under the Order, the specification of various fertilizers has been specified in respective schedules. FCO strictly prohibits the sale of fertilizers which are not of prescribed standard. Any violation of the provision of FCO invokes both penal action under Essential Commodity Act and administrative action under FCO.

Over the past five years, the overall exports of chemicals and petrochemicals and fertilizers have shown fluctuations. The total export quantity of major chemicals increased from 16,98,384 Metric Tons (MTs) in FY2019-20 to 26,42,179 MTs in FY2023-24 with a peak at 46,26,765 MTs in FY2022-23. On the other hand, the total export quantity of major petrochemicals decreased from 87,98,230 MTs in FY2019-20 to 38,50,778 MTs in FY2023-24, showing fluctuations with a high of 93,34,559 MTs in FY2022-23.

In respect of fertilizers, export reduced from 303604 MTs in 2019-20 to 154682 MTs in 2021-22, which again increased to 186148 MTs in 2022-23 and 298762 MTs in 2023-24.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Smt Anupriya Patel in Lok Sabha in reply to a question on 26th July, 2024.

(Source: PIB Delhi 26 Jul 2024)

DGFT simplifies Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme procedures to enhance Ease of Doing Business

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has announced significant enhancements to the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme aimed at simplifying processes, reducing transaction costs and promoting automation to benefit exporters vide Public Notice No. 15 dated 25th July 2024. These changes align with the commitment of the Government to create a more business-friendly environment and improving India's manufacturing competitiveness.

As per the changes, the scheme will now provide exporters an extended period to submit Installation Certificates for imported Capital Goods. This extension reduces pressure on businesses, allowing them to focus more on production and export activities.

Further, a simplified and reduced composition fee structure for extending the Export Obligation (EO) period has been introduced. This change minimises manual intervention, streamlines compliance and speeds up service delivery.

Also, from now all Policy Relaxation Committee (PRC) decisions regarding Export Obligation extensions and regularisation of exports will be implemented with a levy of uniform composition fee making it easier to implement through the system.

Benefits for Exporters:

These updates make it easier for exporters to comply with regulations, reducing the time and effort required to meet DGFT requirements. By expanding automated rule-based processes, DGFT aims to reduce human intervention, mitigate risks and improve overall efficiency in trade facilitation.

Commitment to Modernization and Efficiency:

Since the announcement of the new Foreign Trade Policy in April 2023, DGFT has been actively modernising its systems to expand automated rule-based processes. These initiatives are crucial steps towards fostering a more business-friendly environment and enhancing India's competitiveness in the global market. DGFT has already taken efforts to automate the authorisation issue process, ad-hoc norms fixation process under Advance Authorisation, export obligation extension, automatic status holder certificate issue, among others, in recent days. It is planned that in the coming months, more and more processes will be system driven with minimal or no human intervention to order to facilitate trade and industry.

For more details on these updates, please visit DGFT Website at https://www.dgft.gov.in

(Source: PIB Delhi 26 Jul 2024)

चीनी फर्मों के साथ व्यापार करने वाली भारतीय SME को सावधानी बरतने की सलाह, एडवाइजरी जारी

एक अपडेटेड ट्रेड एडवाइजरी जारी हुई है जिसमें भारतीय कंपनियों को चीनी फर्म के साथ व्यापार करने से पहले अतिरिक्त सावधानी बरतने की सलाह दी गई है.

बीजिंग, चीन में भारतीय दूतावास ने भारत के छोटे और मीडियम एंटरप्राइज के लिए एक अपडेटेड ट्रेड एडवाइजरी जारी की है जो चीन में स्थानीय संस्थाओं के साथ व्यापार कर रहे हैं. दूतावास के ट्रेड और कमर्शियल विंग ने कहा कि उसे देश में चीनी संस्थाओं के साथ व्यापार करने वाली भारतीय कंपनियों के सामने 'नियमित रूप से कई समस्याएं' आती हैं.

भारतीय कंपनियों को सलाह

इसने भारतीय कंपनियों से अनुरोध किया है कि वे इस सलाह और इसके एनेक्शर दस्तावेजों पर ध्यान दें और चीनी संस्थाओं के साथ समय सीमा के दौरान सावधानी बरतें. दूतावास ने सुझाव दिया कि किसी भी चीनी इकाई के साथ व्यापार करने से पहले, भारतीय कंपनियां इकाई की साख को वेरिफाई करने के लिए शंघाई, Guangzhou और हांगकांग में भारतीय दूतावास या भारतीय वाणिज्य दूतावासों से संपर्क करें. संबंधित मिशन ४ से ५ दिनों में जवाब देगा.

बिजनेस सर्विस कंपनियों से ले सकते हैं परामर्श

कंपनियों के लिए बड़े ट्रांजैक्शन के मामले में भी एक सलाह जारी की गई है. बड़े ट्रांजैक्शन के मामले में, भारतीय कंपनियां एक बिजनेस सर्विस कंपनी से परामर्श कर सकती हैं, जो चीनी इकाई की बिजनेस ट्रांसपेरेंसी, फाइनेंशियल हेल्थ, प्रतिष्ठा, विश्वसनीयता और साख पर एक रिपोर्ट प्रदान कर सकती है.

इसके अलावा, यह सिफारिश की गई है कि किसी भी चीनी इकाई के साथ व्यापार करने से पहले, भारतीय कंपनियों को चीनी इकाई के निवासी पहचान पत्र, मालिक के पासपोर्ट और अन्य जिम्मेदार Interlocutor की कॉपी रखनी चाहिए.

भारतीय कंपनियों को अतिरिक्त सावधानी बरतने की सलाह

इसके अलावा, दूतावास ने कहा कि उसने देखा है कि व्यापार विवाद के ज्यादातर मामलों में Shandong, Hebei, Guangdong, Jiangsu और Zhejiang प्रांतों में रजिस्टर्ड् कंपनियां शामिल हैं. इसमें कहा गया है कि भारतीय कंपनियों को इन प्रांतों की कंपनियों के साथ व्यापार करने से पहले अतिरिक्त सावधानी बरतने की सलाह दी जाती है.

(Source: CNBC आवाज July 30, 2024)

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2	**L-804. FX PIGMENTS PVT. LTD.** D-710, 7th Floor, Neelkanth Business Park, Vidyavihar, West, Mumbai - 400086, **Rep:** Shri Aniket Tanna Shri Amit Maker	**Mfrs.** of Raw Material **Mobile No.** 9320298971 **Telephone No.** 8850575488 E-mail: aniket@fxpigments.com	**Shri Jatin Raheja** **M/s CR Enterprises**
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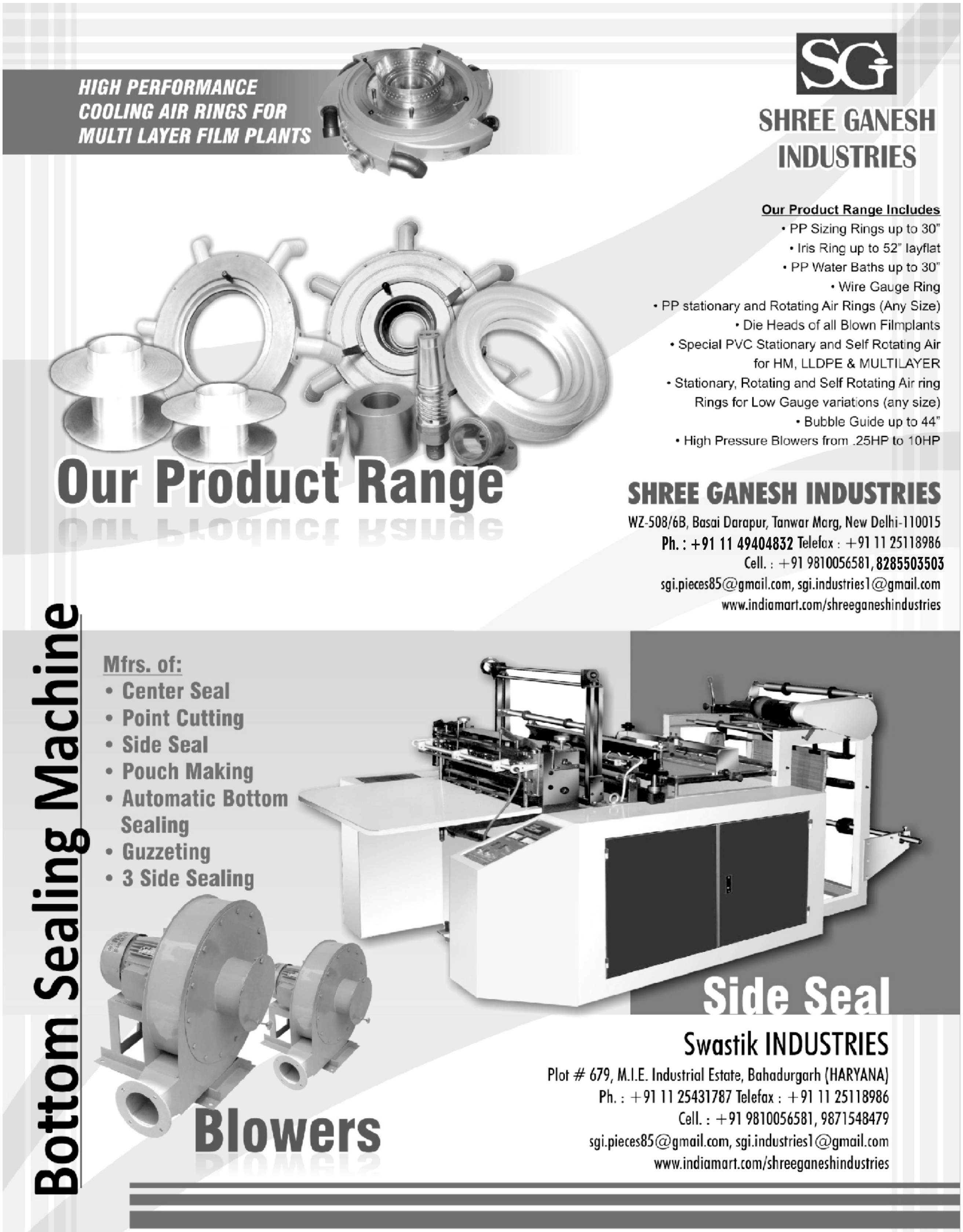

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E-mail : aipiadelhi@gmail.com, aipia1982@rediffmail.com
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Mobile No...E-mail... Web......................................
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Other Particulars

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ii. Name of the Proprietor / Partners/Directors
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