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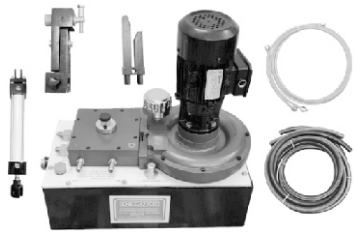

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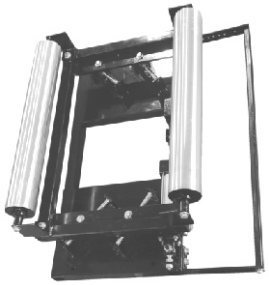

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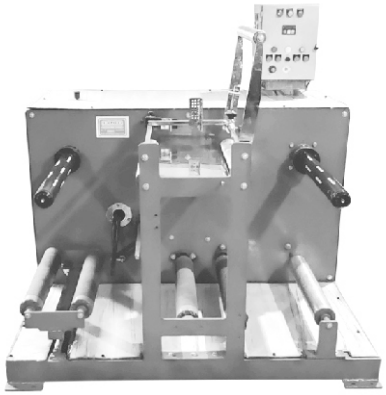

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Plastic processing and sustainability

Sustainability and circular economy are words that one often hears these days. Ever since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, environment has become a key issue everywhere. 196 countries came together to make a global effort to limit the global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius and ideally to 1.5 degrees Centigrade. The increasing pollutants in the atmosphere are the main reason for global warming.

Every business, professional and individual is impacted by this. Our Hon'ble PM Shri Modi has also committed for India that by the year 2070 India will have net zero emissions. Globally, the transition to harness clean energy is accelerating. Renewable energy mostly solar, hydropower, geothermal and wind energy are in focus now.

How does our plastic industry fit in with this clean and green environment pattern? A very simple perspective should be to use electric power more responsibly. In our country electric power is still generated by using coal. Electric power is like raw material for the plastic processing industry. Our plastic processing industry in three words is: heat, melt, shape.

Electricity is already expensive after all the fixed charges and innumerable surcharges. So, to use it efficiently and wisely is logical. To start with, please see the power factor in your electricity bill. It ideally should be 1.0, simply meaning that whatever units you are drawing, you are using. The power factor goes down, if it is not being used efficiently. The electrician will suggest simple measures to achieve it, including installation of a simple device. Secondly, think about installing solar panels. Now the equation for power distribution company is simple. The units generated need not be consumed. They will be directly fed into the grid and deducted from your consumption. Let us make a humble beginning in becoming-environment friendly.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

1. AIPIA's comments on Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)

As per the objective of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), RIO,

"The objective of this convention is to protect human health and the environment from plastic pollution, including in the marine environment [based on a comprehensive approach that address the full life cycle of plastics]. They have provided the best safeguard in principles and approaches 'Protect the environment system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of historical responsibility, equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries, taking into account developed countries historical contribution to plastic pollution due to high production and consumption levels, industrial activities, and waste management practices."

All the countries are at various stages of development and therefore the usage of plastic should be in that context. We have a large, less-educated population and to make them fall in line with international guidelines and also manage the environment effectively is indeed a stupendous task. Our suggestions are:

a. The clear-cut harmful chemicals used at any stage in the production of raw materials/articles and pose any danger of leaching in the environment should be effectively curtailed/banned.

b. The government has proposed mandatory use of recycled material in plastic packaging and also allowed the use of recycled material for food packaging applications. For this to be effective, simple standards have to be evolved so that recycling process can be confidently undertaken. BIS could be involved in this and also easy methods for measuring the quantum of recycled plastic in plastic products should also be made known to the industry and consumer alike.

c. Reducing plastic pollution in oceans is of immediate concern for this we have a few suggestions:

i. Before any tributary, big or small, merges with the main river, strong plastic nets be put, at strategic points, to capture the plastic waste flowing in it and then collect it regularly. The effort and the money spent will be effectively covered by the sale of the plastic waste so collected. This will effectively reduce the plastic waste flowing in the river on to the sea.

ii. It be internationally mandated that any river/sea faring boat/ship must have a compactor (depending on the capacity) for compressing the plastic waste generated during the journey. This will effectively reduce the used plastic being littered in the waterbodies. For recovery of the amount spent in this, the compressed plastic waste be sold at the next port of call.

iii. DCPC to undertake a study preferably through CIPET on the following aspects: use of plastic polymers, sector wise and application wise, clearly bringing out those applications that have high littering potential in the environment and cause plastic pollution and durable applications that are in sectors linked to economic growth, in India and globally.

2. Our Comments on the draft notification dated 3rd June 2025 regarding PWM Rules submitted to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change New Delhi

The draft notification elaborates the mandatory use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging. This will not only provide cost effectiveness to the final packaging product but also encourage recycling and that too of a good

quality. To be able to use recycled material, the recycling has to be of a good standard. It is the recyclers who have to ensure that their recycled material can be easily mixed with the virgin polymer to produce a final product of the decent quality. This will further incentivize good quality recycling.

Reference clause 2 of the draft notification "in the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, in Schedule-II, in paragraph 7,-

(a) In sub-para 7.2 for clause (d), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

(d) Obligation for use of recycled plastic content "Mandatory use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging".

The important question now is how is the recycled content of the packaging in question, to be determined? Unless simple, inexpensive and sound methods are evolved for checking this, it will be very difficult to implement the mandatory use of recycled plastic.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) could be roped in for devising standards for recycled plastic and methods for checking the same.

We are requesting for two standards to be evolved/made:

1. Easy standards for good quality recycling
2. Easy methods for measurement of recycled content in the final product

Important points discussed during the monthly Executive Committee Meeting held on 10th July, 2025

1. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Executive Committee Meeting (10th June, 2025)

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2025 were reviewed and confirmed.

Shri Jatin Raheja, Organizing Secretary, raised concerns regarding the change in meeting timing from 5:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., stating that the 4:00 p.m. was inconvenient for many members. After brief discussion, Shri Amrinder Singh Arora, Treasurer, proposed adjusting the time to 4:30 p.m., which was unanimously approved.

2. Review and Consideration of New Membership Applications

One new Life Membership application was received during the month and noted.

3. Approval of Expenditure for June 2025

The monthly expenses for June 2025 were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

4. Discussion on Industry-Related Matters

i. Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (PPAC) Charges

Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal, Patron informed the Committee that the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) rejected NDMC's plea to impose additional PPAC charges of over 50% for Q2 (July–Sept). He elaborated on the implications of the decision for industries operating in the NDMC areas.

ii. PWM Rules – Notification dated 4th June, 2025

Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal, Patron, shared updates on the newly proposed amendments to the PWM Rules 2016. He noted the inclusion of mandatory use of reprocessed material. He also mentioned that companies like Reliance are pursuing chemical recycling. Draft comments are being prepared for submission to the Ministry.

5. AGM-cum-Election-cum-Industry Meet for 2025–27

A tentative date of 19th September, 2025 was earlier proposed.

Shri Jatin Raheja suggested postponing the event to October/November, citing the significant efforts needed for organizing the event (sponsorship, hotel bookings, etc.). During this period, the scheduling of K-Plex Exhibition in South India, in which some EC members are participating.

He proposed The City Park – Pitampura as a centrally located and suitable venue.

The matter will be further deliberated in the next meeting.

6. Delegation to K-Fair, Germany

Since AIPIA will not be officially organizing a delegation to K-Fair Germany, it was resolved that proposals from travel agents be shared in the members' group. Interested members can directly coordinate with the travel agencies.

7. AIPIA's Seminar/Exhibition

A proposal to hold an exhibition in 2026 has been put forward by the Patron, Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal along with President Shri Devinder Pal Singh.

8. Any Other Matter with the Chair's Permission

- The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) passed a major reform allowing property tax receipts to serve as valid factory licences in Delhi's notified industrial areas, thereby eliminating the need for separate factory licences from MCD. Extra payment of 5% of property tax will have to be paid in lieu of the factory licence.
- Concerns were raised regarding fake billing practices in the Narela Industrial Area. In Noida, a door-to-door GST survey is being conducted.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI
(FACTORY LICENSING DEPARTMENT)

No.: DC/FL/MCD/2025/D-42 **Dated: 28th July, 2025**

ORDER

Subject : Deemed permission/licence under Section 416/417 of the DMC Act, 1957 to the factories operating in the industrial areas established/ recognized by GNCTD/DSIIDC under initiative of 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Doing Business'

The industrial areas established/recognised by GNCTD/DSIIDC area are, by their very purpose, meant for industrial activities. Issuing of an independent permission/licence by Factory Licensing Department, MCD to a factory operating in industrial areas established/recognised by GNCTD/DSIIDC is an additional redundant compliance burden. In issuing such permission/licence, MCD does not really make any worthwhile contribution to the cause of factories in the industrial areas established/recognised by GNCTD/DSIIDC.

2. Environmental related norms are enforced through the system of giving consent to establish/operate and/or authorisation by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC). Likewise, fire safety norms, as applicable, are enforced by Delhi Fire Service through the system of fire safety certificate. When the factory owner/occupier applies for and obtains sanction of building plan and completion certificate from MCD, the issue of structural safety is factored in the process of such sanction.

3. The permission/licence fee is, at present, charged on the basis of electric power (HP) used by factory concerned. This amounts to taxing mechanization and also tends to promote distortions in verification of the horse power.

4. The matter of reforming the permission/licence system for the factories in the industrial areas established/ recognised by the GNCTD/DSIIDC has been considered by the competent authority and a Resolution No.57 dated 10/ 07/2025 has also been passed by the Corporation.

5. In view of the above and in order to promote Ease of Living (EoL) and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), it is decided, with approval of the Competent Authority, as under:

(i) For the MSME units in the industrial areas established/recognised by GNCTD/DSIIDC, MSME Udhyam Registration Certificate is recognised/deemed as permission/licence of MCD for the purpose of Section 416/417 of DMC Act, 1957. For large industrial units in the industrial areas established and recognised by GNCTD/DSIIDC, the allotment letter /lease-deed issued by GNCTD/DSIIDC is recognised/deemed as permission/licence of MCD for the purpose of Section 416/417 of the DMC Act, 1957. This will be subject to the payment of Fee @ 5% of Property Tax, which shall be paid by the factory owner/occupier at the time of payment of Property Tax.

(ii) Upon payment of Property Tax and Fee, the factory owner/operator shall download the payment receipt which shall inter-alia have the endorsement that the MSME Udhyam Registration or allotment letter/lease-deed, as the case may be, is being recognised as permission/licence u/s 416/417 of DMC Act, 1957. The aforesaid recognition/ deeming as permission/licence of MCD will be valid subject to the factory owner/operator complying with other legal norms and obtaining at his own level the requisite regulatory compliances from other authorities concerned, as applicable. It shall be the sole duty and responsibility of the factory owner/operator to ensure safety of life and property while running his factory/trade and he will thus be solely liable for civil and criminal liabilities if there is any loss of life & property. A declaration to the aforesaid effect shall also be included in the endorsement of the payment receipt mentioned above. No separate factory licence will thus be issued.

(iii) The aforesaid arrangement will apply to conforming industrial areas as well as unplanned industrial areas/ clusters notified by GNCTD.

(iv) A Factory owner/occupier who has not taken or renewed the permission/licence as of now will upload the MSME Udhyam Registration Certificate or the allotment letter/lease-deed issued by GNCTD/DSIIDC, as the case may be, on Property Tax portal and pay the fee and then download the endorsement of deemed permission/licence, as mentioned above. The permissions/licences already issued shall however remain valid for their validity period.

This order comes into operation with immediate effect.

Addl. Commissioner
Factory Licensing Department

Circular No. 10/2025

F. No.225/30/2025/ITA-II

Government of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Revenue

Central Board of Direct Taxes *****

North Block, the 28th July, 2025

Order u/s 119 of the Income-tax Act, 1961

Subject: Relaxation of time limit for processing of returns of income filed electronically which were incorrectly invalidated by CPC - reg.

It has been brought to the notice of Central Board of Direct Taxes ('the Board') that CPC Bengaluru (CPC) has received grievances regarding erroneous invalidation, due to various technical reasons, while processing the returns filed electronically for different assessment years. The time period for processing these returns has lapsed, latest being 31.12.2024 for A Y 2023-24. Therefore, these returns need to be validated and processed as per law.

2. The matter has been considered by the Board and it has been decided to relax the time frame prescribed in second proviso to sub-section (1) of section 143 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) in exercise of its powers under section 119 of the Act. The Board hereby directs that returns of income filed electronically upto 31.03.2024 which have been erroneously invalidated by CPC shall now be processed. The intimation under sub-section (1) of section 143 of the. Act in respect of processing of such returns shall be sent to the assessees concerned by 31.03.2026.

3. All subsequent effects under the Act, including issue of refund along with interest as applicable, shall also follow in these cases. In those cases where PAN-Aadhaar linkage is not found, refund of any amount of tax or part thereof, due under the provisions of the Act shall not be made as laid down in Circular No.03/2023 dated 28.03.2023 vide F.No.370142/14/2022-TPL.

4. This may be brought to the notice of all for necessary compliance.

(Dr. Castrp Jayaprakash T)
Under Secretary to the Government of India

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Hazardous Substances Management Division)

F.No.:12/64/20W-HSM **Date:29th July 2025**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Extension in timeline for filing of Annual Returns of PJBOs and PWPs-reg.

This has reference to the a letter of CPCB dated 24th July 2025 on the above cited subject.

2. The undersigned is directed to inform that the timeline for filing of annual returns for both registered PIBOs and PWPs is extended till 30th September 2025, as a special case, for removal of difficulties and facilitating filing of annual returns by PIBOs and PWPs for 2024-25, while ensuring that environmentally sound management of plastic packaging waste is done by PIBOS and PWPs as per EPR Guidelines, thus reducing pollution caused by littered and un-managed plastic packaging waste. The above is as per the provisions under Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023.

3. This issues with approval of Competent Authority.

Amit Raj
Director

Article 1

Why it matters: Rethinking litter & responsibility in Indian cities

-By: Ina Bahuguna

While machines have the potential to help manage urban litter, an ecosystem approach is needed to bring meaningful change

Walk through the heart of any Indian city and you'll encounter a reality we've normalised — streets littered with discarded paper cups, sachets of pan masala, plastic wrappers and cigarette butts. At first glance, it's just waste. But look closer and it reveals a deeper pattern of unchecked consumption, weak accountability and a public infrastructure still struggling to keep pace with urban sprawl.

This isn't a new problem but is becoming more urgent. A recent waste audit by IDEAL Foundation in Delhi used the Gobbler litter picker machine to collect and analyse litter from Karol Bagh and Tilak Nagar — two of the city's busiest market zones. In just 30 days, the machine gathered over 64,000 items, amounting to nearly 32,000 litres of waste — or 133 full bins. On average, that's five overflowing 240-litre bins every day.

Most of the waste was low-value, single-use packaging and over 48,000 items were unbranded, underscoring the challenge of holding producers accountable.

To support the audit, a four-member research team from the non-governmental organisation accompanied the Gobbler litter picker machine during daily rounds — monitoring collection and mapping litter hotspots.

Post-collection, waste was taken to a sorting facility where two trained sorters manually segregated items. This hands-on process helped identify material types, branding patterns, and recyclability, revealing critical insights into urban consumption and packaging responsibility.

This matters for many reasons, not least of which is the direct threat to urban health and hygiene. Uncollected waste clogs stormwater drains, triggers flash floods and leaches into water bodies, affecting both ecosystems and human well-being. Cigarette filters, often made of cellulose acetate, can take up to a decade to degrade while releasing toxins like nicotine and heavy metals. Plastic wrappers, whether tossed casually or swept aside by wind and rain, never truly disappear — they simply break down into microplastics, entering the food chain and quietly polluting our soil and water.

But litter is more than an environmental hazard — it is also a mirror. It reflects a gap in civic systems, a disconnect between producers and the end of their products' life cycle, and a behavioural culture where the onus of cleanliness is disproportionately placed on municipal workers.

India's current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy is a promising tool — but only if implemented with transparency, rigour and inclusivity. Brands must be mandated to disclose the type and volume of packaging they use and take-back systems must go beyond token gestures. Without independent audits and enforcement, EPR risks becoming another well-meaning regulation that fails to shift outcomes on the ground.

On the government's part, the infrastructure for managing visible litter needs both investment and innovation. Mechanised tools, such as the Gobbler litter picker machine, have shown potential: A single unit can collect over 15,000 kilogrammes of litter in a month, significantly reducing the immediate environmental burden in crowded markets.

But machines alone are not the solution. What's needed is an ecosystem approach — one that combines technology with timely collection, smarter waste bin placement and urban planning that includes waste management as a core design principle.

And then, there's us — the public. Cleaner cities inspire cleaner habits. Research and experience show that when people encounter clean, well-maintained public spaces, they are less likely to litter and more likely to take pride in shared environments. Public awareness campaigns, school education and community-led initiatives must be seen as core strategies, not peripheral add-ons.

Ultimately, the story of litter is also the story of our shared responsibility. It is easy to see it as a problem that belongs to someone else — a street sweeper, a municipality, a nameless manufacturer. But the path to change starts with recognising that clean streets are not just about appearances. They are about the kind of society we aspire to live in — one that values dignity, accountability, and care for the commons.

(Source: Down to Earth; 7th July, 2025)

Article-2

Road to Geneva: Why Just Transition must anchor the Global Plastics Treaty

By- Mou Sengupta

It is also an appeal for unity, as developing nations, the least developed countries, and Small Island Developing States require financial aid, technology transfer and capacity-building assistance to guarantee that no one is excluded from the process.

Summary

- *To end plastic pollution, the Global Plastics Treaty must incorporate a Just Transition that ensures social equity*
- *The framework advocates for fair distribution of benefits, protection of vulnerable groups, and creation of green jobs*
- *Binding commitments are crucial to prevent exclusion and uphold the rights of informal waste workers during ongoing negotiation*
- *Financial aid, technology transfer and capacity-building assistance are essential for developing nations, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to ensure inclusivity in this process*

During its fifth meeting in March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted resolution 5/14, which mandated the creation of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

As the key decision-making body on environmental issues, UNEA resolutions also inform the work of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). INC consists of all the member states of the UNEP that are negotiating the instrument. Since 2022, the world has witnessed five sessions of the INC, convened to develop a legally binding Global Plastics Treaty.

The treaty aims to tackle plastic pollution comprehensively, but beyond bans and regulations, it's also about people especially those most affected by this transition. That's where Just Transition comes in. It has emerged as a crucial legal and policy framework to ensure that the shift towards sustainability is not only environmentally sound but also socially equitable.

Just Transition focuses on the fair distribution of economic and social benefits during systemic transitions aiming to maximise opportunities for all, especially vulnerable populations, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

At its core, Just Transition is about ensuring that the shift to sustainability is fair, inclusive, and equitable. It focuses on how we can redistribute social and economic benefits, protect livelihoods and support vulnerable groups like informal waste workers, women and marginalised communities throughout the entire plastics value chain, from production to disposal.

This transition must not create new injustices while trying to fix existing ones. It must offer real opportunities through retraining, upskilling and green jobs in sectors including recycling, renewable energy, and sustainable

packaging while protecting existing roles like those of waste pickers, who've long been on the frontlines of plastic recovery.

In the context of ending plastic pollution, Just Transition involves the design, promotion, and implementation of actions that facilitate a shift toward sustainable plastic production and consumption. It recognizes the role of workers across the plastics value chain from production to waste management and seeks to ensure decent work, livelihood security, and inclusive decision-making in all transition processes.

Particularly at stake are informal waste workers, who play a critical role in recovering plastics yet remain unrecognised and unprotected. Addressing the social and economic impacts of transition such as job loss, economic displacement, and technological disruption is central to this framework.

The framework also calls for global solidarity recognizing that transitions away from plastic pollution require collective action, technology transfer, and financial support, especially for developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Organisations like the International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP) are at the forefront of demanding recognition, rights, and transformative policies that include legal recognition fair wages, social protection, and inclusion in both national and international policy frameworks for the informal waste pickers including the treaty itself.

As part of the negotiation process, member states and regional blocs have had the opportunity to submit in-session interventions, which are publicly available through the INC Secretariat.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been closely tracking the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations since the first session (INC-1), held in Punta del Este, Uruguay in November 2022. In an effort to map evolving national and regional priorities, CSE began compiling and analysing these submissions starting with INC-3, which took place in Nairobi in November 2023. Latest to this endeavor is the compilation of submissions made by the member states based on the Chair's non-paper in Busan, South Korea during the INC 5.1.

Background: Just transition as a cross-cutting agenda

Appreciably Just Transition secured its position as a standalone article in chair's text but it should be embedded as a cross cutting agenda to strengthen the rights, roles, and livelihoods of workers impacted across the entire plastic lifecycle. Arguably, the following are key provisions where Just Transition needs to have strong visibility within the treaty framework.

Preamble: It recognises waste pickers' contribution to plastic recovery and their right to a just transition.

Article 2 — Definitions: No definition of waste pickers as informal or cooperative workers involved in collection, sorting, etc.

Article 8 — Waste Management: Includes waste pickers in para 2(f), but used "promote" a just transition for Plastic waste Management workers especially waste pickers and other informal workers. Diluting the mandatory mode

Article 9 — Existing plastic pollution: promote the engagement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society, scientists, and the private sector, as appropriate and foster the exchange of relevant technologies, experiences and lessons learned. Waste picker or other informal workers' role is missing

Article 11 — Finance: Needed a financial mechanism to explicitly support Just Transition programs, especially for vulnerable groups like waste pickers.

Conclusion: Busan and way forward

The Busan meeting made clear that reaching consensus is insufficient if it weakens ambition. The failure to meet the 2024 deadline for finalising the treaty reflects this challenge. As negotiations move forward, the global community must insist on a treaty that addresses root causes, prevents exclusion and displacement, and upholds equity and accountability delivering real, systemic change for both people and the planet.

To ensure that the Global Plastics Treaty meaningfully supports a Just Transition, it is essential that provisions particularly Article 10 are legally binding rather than voluntary. The treaty must include definitional clarity, strong policy frameworks at both national and international levels, and explicit recognition of the most impacted groups, especially informal waste pickers. Their integration into the plastics value chain should be supported through enumeration, recognition, inclusion, and capacity building. Just Transition should also facilitate the creation of green jobs in sectors like reuse and safe alternatives to plastics, backed by robust social protection measures.

Expectations: What Geneva (INC 5.2) must deliver

- Debates on mandatory vs voluntary language in Article 10 and other JT related provisions
- Re-inclusion of deleted subparagraphs and operational guidelines (possibly referencing ILO standards)
- Push for stronger interlinkages between Article 10 and financial, capacity-building, and technology transfer mechanisms
- Global South advocacy for clearly defined rights and protections for informal waste workers

A strong Global Plastics Treaty must enshrine Just Transition as a cross-cutting priority not limited to a single article by aligning with global environmental goals and upholding social justice, human rights and the lived realities of those most affected.

It's also a call for global solidarity. Developing countries, Least Develop Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) need finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support to ensure no one is left behind in this process.

Final summary: The Global Plastics Treaty aims to end plastic pollution by incorporating a Just Transition framework that ensures social equity. This approach advocates for fair distribution of benefits, protection of vulnerable groups, and creation of green jobs. Binding commitments are crucial to prevent exclusion and uphold the rights of informal waste workers. Financial aid, technology transfer, and capacity-building assistance are essential for developing nations to ensure inclusivity.

How EPR is transforming the packaging industry

EPR initiatives are encouraging packaging firms to rethink their operations, incorporate greater volumes of recycled materials and closely manage their product life cycles.

-By Mike Jones, Head of Innovation & Global General Manager - Intelligent Solutions, Mainetti

As sustainability regulations continue to reshape industries around the world, the packaging sector stands at the vanguard of the circular economy transition. Initiatives such as extended producer responsibility (EPR)—which has been enacted in seven U.S. states to date, Maine, Colorado, California, Oregon, Minnesota and, most recently, Maryland and Washington—are encouraging firms to rethink their operations, incorporate greater volumes of recycled materials and closely manage their product life cycles.

Ultimately, the guiding principle should be to reduce the corporate sphere's environmental impact through, among other means, packaging innovation.

While regulations in this area aim to standardize practices, implementation can vary wildly across regions, creating significant challenges for global companies.

The sustainability regulation puzzle

According to a 2023 meta-analysis by Roland Berger and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, 60 percent of the 192 countries surveyed had underdeveloped or incipient waste systems, where less than 8 percent of the plastic produced was recycled. These broken loops are detrimental to the environment and challenge the United Nations' broader sustainable development project.

To address some of these issues, regulation in the packaging industry is a growing trend. While undoubtedly necessary and constructive, its side effect creates a complex compliance landscape—not least because of discrepancies between jurisdictional requirements and measures.

To help demystify the state of play in the U.S. and the likely impact on the packaging industry, we will focus on EPR.

The EPR policy approach

As a policy approach that holds producers responsible for managing their end-of-life products, EPR encourages sustainable innovation in product design to uphold the circular economy.

Over the past two decades, U.S. lawmakers have shown growing interest in EPR, with recent efforts focused on reducing plastic waste from packaging. Earth Action predicts this waste will reach 220 million tons in 2024.

Maine became the first state to enact EPR for packaging in July 2021. More recently, in May 2024, Minnesota passed EPR legislation. Both efforts aim to reduce waste volume and toxicity while improving packaging recycling rates.

To drive this change, Minnesota's legislation sets ambitious targets for 2032, requiring all packaging to be either refillable with a supporting refill system, reusable within a managed reuse system or recyclable through curbside collection or an alternative system. These measures reflect a growing national commitment to sustainable packaging and a circular economy.

To comply with EPR regulations, packaging producers must contribute to a fund based on the net amount and recyclability of their packaging materials. The funds will be used to reimburse participating municipalities for eligible recycling and waste management costs, invest in state recycling infrastructure to improve efficiency and capacity and support education initiatives to help citizens better understand recycling. This system incentivizes sustainable packaging choices while strengthening local recycling programs.

Other states that are taking action to adopt packaging EPR include Tennessee, which introduced bipartisan legislation in 2024 to establish a producer responsibility organization (PRO) to develop an EPR plan for packaging. Illinois, North Carolina, Rhode Island and New Hampshire also are in the process of considering EPR programs.

While support for EPR continues to grow, implementation challenges hinder its progress.

In California, EPR legislation to address plastic waste passed in 2022. However, the March 7 deadline to finalize S.B. 54, a key law aimed at phasing out single-use plastics, passed without action from the governor's office. In response, environmental groups, local governments and lawmakers have urged California Gov. Gavin Newsom to uphold the law's original intent and timeline. They warn any delay or weakening of S.B. 54 could erode broader support for EPR nationwide, particularly given California's influential role in sustainable packaging policy. This moment underscores that while businesses must meet regulatory obligations, it's equally critical for lawmakers to deliver on commitments they've initiated.

Answering the sustainability call

Regulations such as EPR are encouraging firms to rethink their operations and harmonize the recycling of products once they reach the end of their life cycles. This is not just for packaging, but for any material that can be repurposed before it ends up in a landfill.

This year is pivotal for states under EPR regulations as key compliance deadlines approach. Companies involved in packaging, disposable food serviceware, paper products and product distribution proactively must understand and implement effective compliance strategies as data reporting requirements take effect.

Reported information by producers will include the number, weight and material categories of all covered items purchased by consumers or businesses in the state during 2024. Deadlines for reporting include July 31 for Colorado and Minnesota and Aug. 31 for California. With deadlines approaching, businesses should act now to ensure timely compliance.

Most state EPR programs use PROs, nonprofit entities that oversee compliance. So far, every state with a PRO has chosen the Circular Action Alliance (CAA) to administer its programs. Producers looking to comply with EPR requirements must register with the CAA, sign its Participant Producer Agreement (finalized in late 2024) and complete a state-specific addendum for each relevant jurisdiction.

Under EPR laws, producers are exempt from compliance if, in the previous calendar year, they generated less than $2 million in total gross revenue, used less than 1 ton of packaging material; primarily sold goods obtained through insurance salvages, bankruptcies or similar sources; or sold perishable food while using less than 15 tons of packaging material.

As corporate reporting requirements evolve, it is essential for companies to prioritize compliance to meet sustainability regulations and contribute to the global effort to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis. Ways for companies to comply include partnering with organizations such as Position Green for technical support on data reporting. Mainetti is one such company that has partnered with Position Green to complete its data reporting and support its clients.

Mainetti has developed several sustainable packaging products to align with the sector's sustainable transformation. By 2021, Mainetti also developed a closed-loop polythene recycling process called Polyloop that produces clear, low-density polyethylene (LDPE) containing up to 30 percent recycled material. With around 4,000 metric tons of recycled material produced annually, Polyloop supports a number of U.S. brands, including Walmart and JCPenney, and seeks to boost the efficiency of the supply chain.

A horizon of green potential

As we approach several climate tipping points that could see the irreversible devastation of our planet, sustainability is today more than a corporate-speak buzzword—it is an existential and regulatory imperative.

While firms have taken major leaps forward in relation to sustainable packaging use and the circular economy, plenty of work remains. Material life cycles can be streamlined further, more ESG, or environmental, social and governance, data can be sourced, and the industry as a whole can help to demystify the intricacies of compliance and how it should respond to climate shifts. Packaging does not—and should not—need to wait for regulators to force its hand.

The good news is, despite all this noise, solutions are available to the market, demonstrating a strong, productive direction for the packaging sector, which, powered by EPR, is committed to reducing its footprint on the planet.

News Concerning Plastics

Can the world beat plastic pollution in 2025?

Countries need to come together to build an international regulation not just for the transportation of nurdles but to address the issue of plastic pollution throughout its life cycle

Marine litter is a trans-boundary issue that has gained attention at international negotiations over the last decade. In fact, it is one of the foundations on which the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted resolution 5/14 to develop a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has reported that plastics account for at least 85 per cent of marine litter.

While the sources of marine litter can range from mismanaged solid waste, fishing activities, tourism activities, and more, these challenges can largely be addressed through interventions such as enforcing existing policies like bans on single-use plastics (SUP) and extended producer responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging. Strengthening operational aspects, including segregation, collection, and processing of plastic waste can significantly curb the flow of plastic litter into the marine environment.

However, it is crucial to recognise that plastic pollution is not merely a waste management or litter issue. It is fundamentally a problem rooted in unsustainable production and consumption patterns. The world today is using plastic products that are often designed for single use and lack viable end-of-life solutions. This unsustainable system has far-reaching socio-economic implications: it disproportionately affects marginalised communities who bear the brunt of poor waste management practices and live near polluted rivers and coastlines. Furthermore, the environmental havoc caused by plastic pollution from harming marine biodiversity to disrupting entire ecosystems stress the urgent need for systemic change.

One major source of marine litter is the shipping sector and the industries that are involved in the production of primary plastic polymers or virgin plastics —raw materials that are used to make plastic products. A recent event has jolted the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in southern India introducing a pollutant that cannot be remediated.

On May 25, 2025, the Liberian-flagged container ship MSC ELSA 3 capsized approximately 38 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala, while en route from the newly inaugurated Vizhinjam deepwater transhipment port to the port of Kochi. A mechanical failure in the ballast tank led to the vessel's capsizing. All of the 24 crew members were safely rescued by the Indian Coast Guard and Navy. The ship was carrying 640 containers, including 13 containers with hazardous materials such as calcium carbide. The vessel was also carrying tiny plastic pellets or 'nurdles'. Though the exact quantity of the nurdles that the ship was carrying is not known, about 858 bags weighing approximately 22 tonnes were recovered from the ocean post the accident.

These plastic granules or nurdles look and feel similar to coloured lentils and are the raw materials used for making all conventional fossil fuel-based plastic products. The plastic pellets have been continuously washing ashore post the incident on the coastlines of Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, particularly in areas like Kochu Veli, Thumba, and Vettukad. Ocean currents have further transported these nurdles to Tamil Nadu's Kanniyakumari district, raising concerns about potential threats to the ecologically sensitive Gulf of Mannar.

We must take note that India is on the crossroads of the global nurdles trade. India's maritime location between the Strait of Hormuz and Strait of Malacca places it in a unique position between the Persian Gulf region and the Far East. India is at the centre of this trade, with a very robust and strong petrochemical industry. The plastic trade also is steadily increasing. In the fiscal year 2024-25, India's plastics exports reached $12.5 billion, marking an eight per cent increase from the previous year. According to Volza's India Export data, between November 2023 and October 2024, India exported 3,402 shipments of plastic granules to 86 countries including Australia, Ireland, Spain, etc. During the same time period, India imported 5,563 shipments of plastic granules from exporters in the US, Vietnam and Singapore. All of these figures point to the giant plastic industry and its intricate relation to international trade and marine litter.

More than 100,000 ships are estimated to transit close to Indian coastal shores every year. Shipping and maritime activities are a major contributor to marine litter in the Indian Ocean region. Accidental or deliberate cargo spills and improper vessel discharges are contributing to over 0.6 million metric tons of plastic waste that is entering the Indian Ocean region every year.

The map highlights significant nurdles spills in the region over recent years. The red marker indicates the approximate location of the MSC ELSA 3 spill, while the black markers denote other major incidents over the last few years.USER

In May 2021, the Singapore-registered container ship *X-Press Pearl* caught fire and sank off the coast of Colombo, Sri Lanka releasing approximately 1,680 metric tons of nurdles into the Indian Ocean. Today, it stands as one of the most catastrophic marine plastic pollution events in history. The spill released an estimated 70-75 billion nurdles, each about 5 mm in size, which blanketed over 31 miles of Sri Lanka's western coastline. The disaster spurred increased public awareness and involvement in environmental protection. Organizations like The Pearl Protectors launched campaigns such as 'Nurdle Free Lanka' to engage volunteers in clean-up efforts and advocate for stronger environmental policies. Sri Lanka initially filed for $40 million in damages. However, a 40-member expert committee later estimated the environmental and economic impact at $6.4 billion.

Developing countries like India and Sri Lanka don't have a policy to deal with marine litter, especially incidents such as plastic pellet spills. In India, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences is mandated by the Government of India to deal with issues such as marine litter and micro plastic pollution. The National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) is actively monitoring and conducting research to gauge the socio economic and environmental impact of micro plastics and marine litter.

The problem of plastic pellet spill is not restricted to the Global South. Every year, there are multiple incidents of nurdles being washed off to beaches around the world. The North Sea ship collision in March this year risked the marine life around Norfolk, UK and its surrounding area. Countries, therefore, need to come together to build an international regulation not just for the transportation of nurdles but to address the issue of plastic pollution throughout its life cycle - from production, design, use, disposal and leakages.

In the space of multilateral environmental agreements, more than 180 member states have come together through the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to end plastic pollution across the life cycle of plastics including in the marine environment. The committee has met five times over the last three years to deliberate on critical issues such as plastic products, chemicals of concern, and product design among other issues such as production caps for primary polymers. In its fifth meeting in Busan, South Korea, the committee failed to reach consensus on at least three key articles with oil and plastic-producing countries blocking the adoption of legally binding text.

Now, all eyes are on Geneva where the committee is set to meet in early August this year. The second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) will decide the fate of plastic pollution and whether the world is united to take this challenge head on. With shrinking funds in environmental conservation, this might be our last chance to beat plastic pollution.

(Source: Down to Earth; June 5 2025)

Inside the Global Plastics Treaty-process, position and what's at stake

With global annual plastic production exceeding 430 million tonne and only 10 per cent of it being recycled, the world's plastic pollution is here to stay – unless we shift the focus from managing plastic waste to addressing the entire life cycle. In March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted the historic resolution 5/14 to develop a legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The resolution paved the way for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to bring together all the UN member states to negotiate the treaty.

After five rounds of intense negotiations between November 2022 and December 2024, the INC 5.2 is scheduled to reconvene in Geneva, Switzerland from August 5-14, 2025 with the ambition of finalising the negotiations on the global plastic treaty.

To support this process, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), GRID-Arendal, and the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) are partnering to organise a series of webinars aimed at informing and engaging citizens and stakeholders to strengthen the collective call for an ambitious global plastic treaty – one that addresses the full life cycle of plastics.

These initiatives and interactions are a part of CSE's plastic pollution campaign – Planet over Plastics.

Banning problematic plastics may save the world up to $8 trillion by 2040

Projected savings include reduced plastic waste management costs, lower emissions and fewer social and environmental impacts

A ban or phase-out of problematic plastic products could result in economic savings ranging from $4.7 to $8 trillion between 2025 and 2040, albeit with certain assumptions and limitations, according to a new study by Earth Action (EA), commissioned by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

While there may be short-term costs associated with both bans and phase-outs, these are far outweighed by the long-term benefits, the study suggested. WWF defines problematic plastics as "those with a high likelihood of ending up in the environment and potentially harmful impacts on the environment and human health."

The study also found that an immediate ban on problematic plastics currently under consideration by the United Nations Treaty to End Plastic Pollution, such as packaging made from expanded polystyrene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride and single-use items like cotton buds and straws, would be more effective than a gradual ban or phase-out.

The projected savings would be in the form of reduced plastic waste management burdens, lower greenhouse gas emissions and cuts in administrative costs, mismanaged waste and other associated social and environmental impacts.

Mismanaged waste is defined as waste that is neither recycled, incinerated nor properly disposed of in landfills and instead re-enters the environment, causing pollution.

(Source: Down to Earth; July 9, 2025)

India's plastic waste crisis could be its greatest economic chance

The scale of waste, whether plastic, e-waste, tyres, construction debris, or solar panels, is not a liability but a potential stream of raw material, value creation, and jobs.

In Short

- India can emerge as a global leader in circular economy practices
- Government has laid a strong foundation by setting up a dedicated Circular Economy Cell
- India's steps toward a circular economy are shaped by a robust policy framework

India generates nearly 3.46 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, placing it behind only the US and the European Union. Yet it recycles just 8% of that waste.

With projections suggesting a rise in plastic consumption to 70.5 million tonnes by 2035, continuing with the current systems will only raise recycling rates to a meager 11% (National Circular Economy Roadmap for Reducing Plastic Waste in India).

What appears to be a burden, waste, could actually become a productive stream of materials, income, and jobs. If addressed with urgency and clarity, India can emerge as a global leader in circular economy practices.

The scale of waste, whether plastic, e-waste, tyres, construction debris, or solar panels, is not a liability but a potential stream of raw material, value creation, and jobs.

The government has laid a strong foundation by setting up a dedicated Circular Economy Cell in NITI Aayog and finalizing action plans for 10 major waste categories. At the same time, states, industries, and communities are showing promising intent through public-private collaborations and decentralized innovations.

Policy backing and strategies focus

India's steps toward a circular economy are shaped by a robust policy framework. Action plans supported by Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), eco-labelling rules, and bans on select single-use plastics signal a deeper institutional commitment to reducing resource dependency and improving recycling.

The 2016 Plastic Waste Management Rules, the revised e-Waste Management Rules, and specific EPR targets are helping bring accountability to producers and importers.

Mission LiFE and Eco-Mark initiatives are reinforcing market demand for sustainable alternatives.

But regulations alone are not enough. The success of these policies depends on effective enforcement, clarity across jurisdictions, and regular updates that respond to technological and market changes.

Industry at the Forefront

Indian businesses are beginning to reimagine waste as a value chain input rather than a disposal challenge. The India Plastics Pact is one such initiative where businesses have come together with civil society and regulators to redesign plastic packaging and eliminate materials that cannot be reused or recycled.

Beyond plastics, the private sector is finding value in what was earlier discarded. India's metal scrap recycling industry was valued at about USD 11 billion in 2023 as per PwC. By 2025, there could be around 22.5 million end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), which could provide 5 million tonnes of steel scrap and over 1 million tonnes of aluminum and copper. If we have proper sorting and recovery systems, this waste can be reused in manufacturing, easing pressure on natural resources and lowering emissions.

Women and the Informal Sector

Much of India's recycling work is powered by informal workers, many of whom are women. Women's cooperatives, especially in states like Kerala, have set up efficient systems for household-level plastic collection and segregation.

These initiatives do not just improve recycling rates; they create stable jobs and drive local change.

However, many of these roles remain informal, underpaid, and unsupported. To unlock their full potential, their work needs to be brought into the formal system through skilling, social security, and access to finance.

Additionally, women entrepreneurs are stepping into plastic recycling businesses but face barriers such as limited access to technology, capital, and training. A more deliberate approach to support women-led recycling units could double the impact, economically and socially.

Traditional Practices, Contemporary Relevance

India's villages offer practical lessons in circular living. Food waste is composted or fed to animals. Packaging often relies on banana leaves, clay pots, and cotton or jute bags. These low-impact, biodegradable solutions have existed for generations and are seeing a revival.

The ethos of "waste is wealth" is not new in India.

What is new is the opportunity to bring this thinking into modern industry. With 350 million tonnes of agricultural waste generated annually, there's scope to produce over 18,000 MW of power. Used oil from industries can be reprocessed, cutting import dependency. Even India's growing solar infrastructure, which could produce 600 kilotonnes of waste by 2030, can become a valuable recycling stream with the right technology.

Building the Circular Ecosystem

A circular economy cannot grow from a few isolated projects. It requires different groups, producers, regulators, recyclers, researchers, and consumers, to work together with a shared goal.

To build this kind of system, we need to focus on a few practical steps:

- Enforce existing rules more consistently and improve coordination between state and central agencies.
- Invest in recycling facilities and systems that track materials to reduce losses.
- Create demand for recycled products by encouraging public procurement and clear eco-labels.
- Provide training and support especially for small businesses and informal workers so they can adopt circular practices.
- Make data more transparent, including understanding the full life cycle of materials, to help policymakers and consumers make better decisions.
- Use new financial tools like green bonds or blended finance to lower risks and help fund circular projects.

India's circular economy is not a borrowed model, it is built on indigenous wisdom, strong policy intent, and a thriving entrepreneurial spirit. It speaks to the country's future growth ambitions, while honoring the efficient, frugal, and regenerative practices of its past.

With the potential to unlock $218 billion by 2030 and over USD 624 billion by 2050 through circularity, India can show the world how economic growth and environmental responsibility can move together.

(Source: India Today, June-2025)

International News

Malaysia to set stricter plastic import controls

The new rules, scheduled to take effect July 1, will allow only approved plastic scrap imports from countries that are Basel parties.

On July 1, imports of all plastic scrap will be prohibited from entering Malaysia.

According to the Seattle-based Basel Action Network (**BAN**), the new law will bring Malaysia into alignment with the Basel Convention, including the **2019 Plastic Waste Amendments** and its trade ban on certain plastic scrap between parties of the convention, such as Malaysia, and nonparties such as the United States.

"We are ecstatic that this new law aims to stop much of the harmful plastic waste moving in containers each day from Los Angeles to Port Klang under the guise of recycling," says Jim Puckett, founder and chief of strategic direction of BAN. "The 'recycling' is doing more harm than good as only a fraction of the exports ever get recycled. The plastics that are not feasible to be recycled are often hazardous, or contain microplastics, which are commonly dumped, burned or released into waterways. The export of plastic waste for recycling is a complete sham and it is a relief that the U.S. contribution to this plastic waste shell game is increasingly outlawed."

As of July 1, under the **amended Customs Act** in Malaysia, plastic scrap imports are prohibited unless they are approved by **SIRIM Berhad**, an agency under the purview of the Malaysian Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry. BAN says SIRIM, formerly known as the Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia, is in charge of inspections and granting import permits under a new set of rules found in the **Guidelines for Importation and Inspection of Waste Plastic**.

Under the guidelines, BAN notes that plastic scrap only will be allowed from Basel parties and, thus, not the U.S., unless a special bilateral treaty is formed as allowed for under the Basel Convention. Free-trade zones will not be exempted. All exports will be subject to preinspection in the exporting countries, and any false HS code declarations will be considered noncompliance and subject to prosecution.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the country exported 35,316 tons of plastic scrap to Malaysia in 2024. United Nations Comtrade data shows that from 2021-2024, Malaysia received more plastic scrap imports from around the globe than any other non-OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development) country.

From other countries that are Basel parties, BAN says imported plastic scrap must not be mixed, with the exception of polypropylene (PP), polyethylene (PE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) mixtures. Each individual polymer must have a 99.5 percent purity level. Ban notes that experts consider this level as impossible to meet for any postconsumer plastic scrap, including electronic plastic, agricultural scrap and material arising from municipal material recovery facilities (MRFs).

Furthermore, BAN says plastic scrap cannot exceed 2 percent of nonplastic contaminants such as wood, paper or metal, with a zero tolerance for any food, oil or e-scrap mixed into the loads. BAN **cites its own data gathered in California** claiming contamination levels of plastic scrap by other plastics is routinely found to be at 8-9 percent, while contamination levels by metal or wood often are found at levels between 6-17 percent.

Additionally, BAN says it is calling on all shipping lines, freight companies, plastic recyclers and brokers to respect Malaysia's sovereignty and "cease being accomplices in global waste dumping crimes." BAN says it also is calling on all countries targeted by plastic scrap brokers to similarly use the Basel Convention to protect their people and their environment. The organization notes that other Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand and Indonesia have announced plastic scrap import bans this year.

"Our people and environment in Malaysia have suffered greatly from the pollution caused by imported plastic and electronic waste," says Wong Pui Yi, BAN researcher from Kuala Lumpur. "Other countries in Southeast Asia are likewise being harmed by foreign plastic waste daily. We sincerely hope that exporting countries will help us put a stop to waste dumping and trafficking.

"But for these new regulations to be successful, the government must enforce them transparently, swiftly prosecute those who violate the law and close any loopholes that may arise, including clamping down on corruption. We must remain vigilant and continue to spot-check the system with intelligence-led searches and seizures."

BAN says it will continue to provide governments in the region with risk-based intelligence as part of its ongoing **Operation Can Opener**.

(Source: Recycling Today; 26th June, 2025)

Eswatini government determined to ban single-use plastic despite push back by pro-plastic lobbyists

Single-use plastic ban delay by Eswatini fuels global conversations around the complex reality of phasing out plastics

Despite the Eswatini parliament's suspension of the legislation banning single-use plastics for another seven years, the country's Prime Minister Russell Dlamini has assured the recent Third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3) that the country will eventually ban their use.

Speaking in Nice, France, Dlamini said Eswatini was committed to protecting the oceans by eliminating pollutants before they reach rivers which eventually flow to the sea.

"We have taken legislative action against single-use plastics and continue to strengthen our national waste management systems to better control what enters waterways. In this light, we support the call for the global and eventual banning of plastics," said Dlamini.

"Eswatini is preparing to engage actively at the upcoming Global Plastic Treaty Conference in Geneva, where we'll advocate for equitable and inclusive mechanisms to support developing countries. These should include access to green finance, enhanced technical assistance, and incentives for innovation in sustainable packaging, product design, and waste processing," he said.

The seven-year parliamentary suspension of the law banning single-use plastics in April 2025 has frustrated local environmentalists and UN agencies, who have lobbied government over a decade to institute a law that would prohibit use of plastics.

Concerning revelations were reported by British newspaper *The Guardian* in 2023. It quoted Tearfund, a charity organisation, which said plastic waste across Africa was "spiralling out of control" and was growing faster than any other region.

"If the trend continues unabated, the region is projected to end up with 116m tonnes of plastic waste annually by 2060, six times more than the 18m tonnes of waste produced in 2019," it observed.

The Government of Eswatini then effected a law totally banning all single-use plastic carrier bags, like many African countries facing plastic environmental issues.

The initial measure was effectively from December 1, 2024, according to Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Jane Simelane. But, it was later postponed to January 31, 2025, before eventually suspended by Parliament in April 2025.

Before the law suspension, Simelane had said all retailers, supermarkets, manufacturers and vendors would be prohibited from selling or providing free single-use plastic shopping bags to customers. This encompassed bags made from traditional plastic materials, including polyethylene and polypropylene, regardless of thickness.

She said it was the government's significant step towards eliminating plastic pollution and safeguarding the planet for future generations, including positioning the kingdom as a tourism destination of choice in Southern Africa.

But pro-plastic lobbyists never rested. Before the December 1 ban in 2024, sometime in November to be precise, a collective of Swazi recyclers, waste collectors, plastic manufacturers, and other concerned stakeholders petitioned Parliament to reverse the plastic ban.

The House of Assembly selected a 7-member committee to critically look at the contests of the petition. The ban was deferred for two months, until the eventual seven-year postponement by the house.

Trash to trade

Lindiwe Myeni (47), was one of the market vendors excited by the suspension of the plastic ban. She has been supporting her household by selling plastic-made handicrafts for five years.

"I appreciate what Parliament has done. Members of Parliament (MP) have given our business a new lease of life," she said, seated at her stall pitched at Manzini Market. "Plastic waste is what I use to pay school fees for my six children."

"There is a special type of plastic I buy from the collectors operating at Manzini city's dumpsite. They charge about $1.64 or $2.19 for a batch of 15 or 20 plastics. I think government should leave plastic bags alone but ban disposable nappies instead. They are a menace," she added.

Bezi Kunene and Mhlonishwa Bongwe are grateful to their MP Sifiso Shongwe, who was at the forefront in fighting the pro-ban legislation.

The duo is among hundreds of Swazi micro-scale social entrepreneurs who use innovative waste solutions in filthy peri-urban areas like Kwaluseni, characterised by informal settlements and illegal dumpsites. The chiefdom, because of its urban proximity, provides labour to Matsapha, Eswatini's largest industrial area.

The 2007 population and housing Census estimated a total of 60,064, resulting in a population density of 2,104 persons per square kilometre.

"The ban will affect thousands of people. This includes plastic manufacturers, recycling companies, collectors and many others. The law will contribute to poverty and job losses," Bongwe argued.

Kunene and Bongwe's innovative waste management solution involves agreement with dozens of owners of one-roomed residential compounds. Depending on the size of the compound, each room is charged a monthly service fee of $0.82 or $1.09. Kunene and Bongwe, accompanied by their four employees occasionally come to collect and sort the waste. They sell plastics, cartons and scrap materials to the local recycling agency.

"We hire a local lorry to collect the waste from the respective compounds around Kwaluseni. We take time to segregate the waste and send the material we can't handle to the dumpsite. At the dumpsite, there are other colleagues who also collect it for their own benefit. Banning plastics is irrational and not a sustainable solution to the broader waste management challenge facing thousands of Kwaluseni residents," explained Bongwe.

"Plastic waste is money nowadays. Almost 80 per cent of the waste is re-usable and recyclable. Different social entrepreneurs use plastic waste to make interesting products like pavers and other handcraft products. To us, plastic waste is not a problem but a sort of solution."

They admitted that Kwaluseni's filth has impacted catchment ecosystems.

"These illegal dumpsites and informal settlements have destroyed our freshwater streams and wetlands. People are allowed to build on wetlands, that's the problem.

"The waste flowing into our streams is toxic. Now we no longer have fish, crabs and frogs. Our kids will grow not knowing these animals," protested Kunene.

However, in the face of such challenges, Kunene and Bongwe insisted that they can deal with waste effectively at Kwaluseni, provided their innovative ideas are well supported by the government or private sector.

Kwaluseni MP Sifiso Shongwe, also the seconder of the plastic ban reversal motion, said Eswatini was not ready for the plastic ban and it did not make business sense. "Remember we have investors who have already invested in the plastic recycling sector. We'll be shooting ourselves in the foot to ban plastics when we have investors who have already invested to recycle the plastics. And, we are banning a wrong plastic, a recyclable and reusable carrier bag. We are not banning styrofoam," Shongwe argued.

Eswatini Environment Authority's Head Environment Impact Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Belusile Mhlanga said beside pollution, plastic waste affects human health in various ways. "Majority of Swazis like to burn plastic waste which emits gases that affect a human body, especially children. Some exhibit stunted growth because of certain poisonous chemicals. They also affect Intelligence Quotient (IQ) which contributes to low passing rate of pupils at school," said Mhlanga.

However, Seth Maphalala, an environmental consultant at Indalo Eswatini, an environmental action group, described the reversal of the ban as tragic. "The tragedy in this issue is that as a country we are pretending to be a silo. The world is going towards banning plastics. Even in Africa, there are several countries that have banned plastics, and it is working for them. But what we are seeing now is that the plastic industry is sponsoring people to reverse the ban. That is unfortunate and tragic," said Maphalala.

"The ban doesn't say we can't use plastics. It said there can't be single-use plastics but recommended quality plastics that can be reused and recycled several times. The collectors and recyclers have not collected enough plastics that are available out there. They must go out there and collect them. We still have many plastics. They end up in the dumpsite, the streets, in the *veld* and in cattle stomachs."

Maphalala contended that even after the ban, they will still have a lot to collect. "They won't run out of business. It is still going to take us 10-20 years of recycling plastics to make a dent in the plastic debris we have in this country," he said.

(Source: Down to Earth, 28th June, 2025)

Plastics recyclers report difficult conditions

Traders reporting on behalf of the Bureau of International Recycling say low-cost virgin plastics continue to gain market share at the expense of recycled plastics.

A series of more than a half-dozen plastic recycling market reports prepared this summer for the Brussels-based Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) portray a market sector that is not experiencing a boom that was predicted for it **just a few years ago**.

Reporting from the United States, Sally Houghton of **The Plastic Recycling Corp. of California** writes, "California's reclaimers continue to run operations at reduced capacities, often below 50 percent, with major cutbacks seen in shifts, labor and bale purchases."

For those plastic scrap reprocessors, "Aggressive winter buying by Mexican companies and ongoing pressure from cheap imports continue to put strain on the market," Houghton continues.

"Without meaningful changes in market dynamics, California's entire polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycling system will be at serious risk. Reclaimers have endured nearly two years of depressed sales, and another closure could severely disrupt the state's recycling infrastructure," she adds.

The view from other continents is little better, according to the July reports.

"Recyclers operating outside legally mandated sectors such as beverage bottles are facing growing margin pressure, as end users increasingly expect recycled materials to be discounted compared to virgin, forcing many recyclers, especially in Europe, to sell at a loss," writes Max Craipeau **of Hong Kong-based Greencore Resources Ltd**.

"Prices for recyclates such as high-density polyethylene (HDPE), low-density polyethylene (LDPE), polypropylene (PP) and high-impact polystyrene (HIPS) have remained consistently low over recent months, with no sign of a recovery in demand," writes Henk Alssema of Netherlands-based Inviplast, current president of **the BIR** Plastics Division.

Natalia Cruz Cayuela **of Ferromolins in Spain** refers to "low prices for virgin plastics combined with an increase in cheap recycled plastic imports from third countries, which are often accompanied by fraudulent claims owing to a lack of transparency regarding the origin of the materials" as contributing to Europe's suboptimal plastic recycling conditions.

Steve Wong of Hong Kong-based **Fukutomi Co. Ltd.** says orders for recycled-content resins have dried up in parts of Asia.

"The recycled pellets market across Asia continues to deteriorate, with widespread reports of full warehouses, production cuts and halted procurement," Wong writes. "In Malaysia, multiple recyclers of HIPS and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) pellets confirm they have suspended most incoming purchases owing to a near standstill in downstream orders."

Malaysia also is the **site of new regulations** that could lead to a reduction in reprocessing activity. "These new requirements, combined with mandatory electronic invoicing, have raised operating costs and added complexity to import procedures," Wong writes. "Many recyclers are now suspending [scrap] imports altogether owing to uncertainty over whether shipments will clear inspection or face costly reexport."

(Source: Recycling Today; July 18th, 2025)

This August, negotiations resume for a Global Plastics Treaty

This is our greatest opportunity to scale solutions and shift towards a circular economy for plastics.

At the last round of negotiations in Busan, countries showed unprecedented alignment on key elements of an ambitious treaty. Now, momentum is building.

"Significant progress has been made. We know the solutions exist. The challenge is to bring them to scale. This UN treaty is our greatest opportunity to do so." Rob Opsomer, Executive Lead for Plastics

The majority of countries want strong global rules across the full plastics lifecycle. Nearly 100 countries have signed the 'Nice Wake Up Call for an Ambitious Treaty on Plastic Pollution', showing support for an ambitious global treaty addressing the full lifecycle of plastics including the production and consumption stages.

Over 300 businesses have joined the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, calling for the same. Their research has shown that a treaty with harmonised regulations can create economic, social and environmental value at both a global and national level.

This is a chance to meet a global crisis with a global solution - and create economic opportunity worldwide.

Now it's up to governments to deliver.

(Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 24th July 2025)

K-Alliance as international strategy of Messe Düsseldorf

K in Düsseldorf, one of the world's largest **plastics and rubber trade fairs**, will welcome over 3,200 exhibitors and visitors from around the world in October 2025.

In addition to its leading trade fair serving as the innovation hub for the entire sector every three years, global players in the plastics and rubber industry require appropriate platforms for direct market entry in growth regions. So far, Messe Düsseldorf had pooled its activities under the service brand Global Gate, which will now become the **K-Alliance**.

K-Alliance stands for the international strategy of Messe Düsseldorf, for the organization's performance promise and customer-focused service. In the international exhibition business, it is key to create professional communication platforms for global players. Messe Düsseldorf's portfolio ensures ideal offerings – both with K in Düsseldorf and around the globe.

At present, the K-Alliance comprises eleven trade fairs throughout the world. Upcoming fairs include:

- Pack Print Plas Philippines (September 18-20, 2025)
- Plastics & Rubber Indonesia (November 19-22, 2025)
- Plastindia (2026)
- Plastics & Rubber Vietnam (2026)
- CHINAPLAS (2026)

- plast alger (Algeria) (2026)
- Colombiaplast (Colombia) (2026)
- Plastics & Rubber Thailand (2026)
- Central Asia Plast World (Kazakhstan) (2026)
- Saudi Plastics & Petrochem (Saudi Arabia) (2026)
- Arabplast (United Arab Emirates) (2027)

(Source : Adsale Plastics Network Date : 17th July, 2025)

Recycling industry stakeholders testify at Congressional hearing

Representatives for organizations such as America's Plastic Makers and the Flexible Packaging Association urged federal support for recycling infrastructure, manufacturing and more.

Plastics, packaging and recycling industry stakeholders testified July 16 during a U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment hearing centered on recycling innovation and economic growth.

The subcommittee focuses on the regulation of solid, hazardous and nuclear waste, including mining, nuclear, oil, gas and coal combustion waste, and the hearing included testimony from Ross Eisenberg, president of **America's Plastic Makers**, a division of the Washington-based American Chemistry Council (ACC); Keefe Harrison, CEO of The Recycling Partnership (**TRP**), Washington; Dan Felton, president and CEO of the Annapolis, Maryland-based Flexible Packaging Association (**FPA**); and Matt Bedingfield, executive vice president of commercial strategy and growth for Texas-based electronics recycler Mint Innovation.

Representing the flexible packaging industry, Felton provided an overview of what the material is, cited several industries and products using flexible packaging and highlighted the value of flexible packaging.

"Flexible Packaging is one of the most sustainable packaging types, as it reduces water and energy consumption, improves product-to-package ratio, enhances transportation efficiency, minimizes food waste and reduces greenhouse gas emissions," he said.

Felton spoke about recycling and proposed several public policy issues on which the FPA is focused to increase flexible packaging recycling, and that could benefit from federal support. Felton pointed to the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act (**RIAA**) and the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (**RCCA**), both currently under consideration in Congress; chemical recycling technologies; the use of recycled content in flexible packaging; and support for a federal law for the labeling of packaging for compostability, recyclability and reusability.

"FPA is deeply committed to solving packaging waste issues and increasing the recyclability and recycling of flexible packaging," Felton said during the hearing. "We are collaborating with manufacturers, brand owners, recyclers, retailers, waste management companies and other organizations to continue making strides toward total packaging recovery."

Eisenberg outlined what America's Plastic Makers calls a "**3-Point Plan to Recycle More Plastics and Strengthen American Manufacturing**," aimed at "modernizing recycling infrastructure, cutting waste and making U.S. manufacturing supply chains more competitive."

According to Eisenberg, "Plastic is versatile, cost effective and essential. It's critical to American innovation, from life-saving medical equipment to safer, lighter cars. But to strengthen U.S. supply chains, we need to modernize recycling and embrace policies that drive more recycled plastic into the market."

Eisenberg's testimony aimed to highlight how chemical recycling technologies could "dramatically expand the amount and types of plastic that can be reused, turning waste into valuable new products."

America's Plastic Makers' "3-Point Plan" calls on policymakers to:

- Recognize chemical recycling as manufacturing and count plastic made this way as recycled content.
- Establish federal recycling standards to create consistency and scale plastic recycling.
- Assert American leadership in crafting a global agreement on curbing plastic pollution.

"Our '3-Point Plan' is a win-win," Eisenberg said. "It would grow American manufacturing jobs, boost recycling and position the U.S. as a global leader in plastic manufacturing and recycling."

During her testimony, Harrison advocated for "data-driven legislation" such as extended producer responsibility to help increase recycling rates. Additionally, she urged Congress to consider the Cultivating Investment in Recycling and Circular Local Economies (CIRCLE) Act, a tax credit that would reduce a private entity's tax liability when making qualified investments in infrastructure to recycle paper, metals, glass, aluminum and other materials.

In its description of the **CIRCLE Act** on its website, TRP says these investments could include machinery, operational equipment or software, and municipalities also would be eligible for a rebate equal to the credit.

According to TRP, benefits of the proposed tax credit include:

- **Strengthened domestic supply chains.** The organization estimates the act could help return $8.8 billion in valuable materials that can be used throughout the U.S. economy, including in new packaging and products. "Better recycling will reduce the need to import materials, ensuring we have the resources to grow our economy without relying on foreign nations," TRP says.
- **Job creation.** TRP says a fully developed residential recycling system could return more than $11 billion in new wages and 200,000 jobs across the country, including haulers, truck drivers, machine operators, engineers and more.
- **Advancement of American manufacturing.** TRP claims that across all materials, recycled commodities account for 40 percent of manufacturing inputs, and with additional sorting and processing capacity, including advances in artificial intelligence (AI), machinery and emerging technologies, recycled materials can account for a larger share of manufacturing inputs and be applied to a larger set of applications.
- **Less strain on local governments.** Noting that local governments often bear the cost of operating waste management programs and pass those costs on to taxpayers, the tax credit could help make it easier and more cost-effective to recycle, with governments and taxpayers seeing $9.4 billion in savings as fewer materials are landfilled or incinerated.
- **Support for rural and urban communities.** As infrastructure expands, TRP says more communities will gain access to recycling services, and incentivizing investment will expand the needed infrastructure and make recycling services more accessible to all communities across the country.

The Circle Act has gained support from a host of companies and organizations, including the Recycling Materials Association (**ReMA**), based in Washington.

"Manufacturers rely on recycled materials for a significant portion of their raw material needs, and the CIRCLE Act is a smart, targeted approach to strengthen and grow America's recycling infrastructure to ensure the recycled materials industry can continue to support American manufacturing," ReMA President Robin Wiener says. "By offering a 30 percent tax credit for investment in recycling infrastructure, equipment and technology, the CIRCLE Act will help unlock private capital, drive innovation, increase material recovery and help scale domestic processing capacity. We urge Congress to pass this critical legislation and send a clear signal: Recycling is not just good policy—it's essential to American prosperity."

"As Congress considers changes to the tax code in 2025, a Recycling Infrastructure Investment Tax Credit, as part of the CIRCLE Act, could transform the American recycling economy, build local jobs and reduce our reliance on imported materials," TRP says.

(Source: Recycling Today; 17th July, 2025)

NEWS IN BRIEF

DERC rejects plea for cost on power tariff

Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) rejected a plea from New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to levy additional power purchase cost adjustment charges (PPAC) of over 50% on electricity tariffs in the second quarter, July to Sept.

The council, in its plea before DERC, sought permission to levy and recover PPAC from its consumers for the period July-Sept 2024 quarter.

The power regulator, in its order, observed that more than 80% of the total power purchased by NDMC was from short-term and medium-term sources, and its cost was much less than the electricity procured from long-term sources. "Since the petitioner (NDMC) will be charging PPAC on the total power purchase cost, that is, from long-term as well as short-term and medium-term power purchase, the additional PPAC as claimed by the petitioner will be a substantial increase in the consumer tariff for the current quarter," DERC said in its order.

According to officials, there are nearly 70,000 power connections in NDMC areas, of which over 60% are domestic.

PPAC is a surcharge levied by power discoms to meet the variation in the power purchase costs. It is dependent upon the coal or fuel prices. As per the directions issued by the Union ministry of power in Nov 2021, every state regulatory commission has to place a mechanism for automatic pass-through of fuel and power procurement cost in tariff for ensuring the viability of the power sector. In the case of Delhi, there is no automatic pass-through, and the discoms levy the PPAC only after verification and approval of DERC.

The PPAC is levied as a percentage of the base tariff that includes the fixed cost and energy charges (units consumed) by the consumers. The DERC, in its order on Thursday, noted that the NDMC supplies power to consumers in Lutyens' Delhi, having major institutions and installations, including the Parliament House and various ministries of the Central govt.

DERC observed that the NDMC was already recovering suo motu, the PPAC of 8.75% on the total quantum of the power purchase during the current quarter, and therefore its prayer for additional PPAC cannot be considered.

(Source: The Times of India; 6 July, 2025)

India's fashion paradox: As the industry booms, it is being buried under heap of its own waste

As one of the world's largest textile producers, India must align with global sustainability trends and standards to remain competitive and responsible

India's booming textile industry, employing **45 million people** and contributing **2.3% to GDP**, is facing a growing sustainability challenge: it generates **7,800 kilotonnes of textile waste annually**, most of which ends up in landfills.

Key Issues:

- **Only 34%** of textile waste is reused; **25%** is recycled into yarn, most of which **fails to meet global standards**.
- **Waste Breakdown:**
  - **Pre-consumer (42%)** – generated during manufacturing
  - **Post-consumer (51%)** – used/ discarded clothes
  - **Imported waste (7%)** – second-hand clothes and rags
- **Post-consumer waste** is hardest to manage due to poor sorting, contamination, and fibre blends.

Global Pressure & Sustainable Trends

- Global brands are moving toward **net-zero emissions** and circular economy models.
- **The EU** is upcycling waste into high-value fashion.
- India must align with **global sustainability standards** to stay competitive.

Solutions:

1. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** – Holding manufacturers accountable from design to disposal.
2. **Policy & Infrastructure Needs:**
   - o Standardised guidelines and material tracking systems
   - o Decentralised waste collection
   - o Inclusion of **4 million informal waste workers**
   - o Urban recovery centres & industry-wide sorting systems
3. **Technology & Innovation:**
   - o RFID labelling, automated sorting
   - o R&D on **advanced recycling** and **sustainable fibres** (e.g., milkweed, wood pulp)

Role of Consumers:

- Shift from **fast fashion to conscious consumption**
- Support **second-hand markets** and **textile recovery**
- Align with India's **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** mission

Conclusion:

To build a sustainable and competitive textile industry, **India must urgently transition to a circular economy** — integrating policy, technology, local action, and consumer behaviour to reduce waste and environmental impact.

(Source: Down to Earth; June 5, 2025)

CPCB drafts India's first solar waste playbook on storage safety, sustainability

Guidelines outline ways to prevent pollution, promote recycling

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released draft guidelines on June 4, 2025 for the safe storage, handling and transportation of discarded solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, panels and cells. This marks a crucial step in India's plan to manage the growing volume of solar waste, as the country expands its renewable energy capacity.

The guidelines, issued under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, come as India's solar installed capacity has reached 110 gigawatts across ground-mounted, rooftop and floating installations. With the government sanctioning mega solar parks exceeding 500 megawatts capacity, the need for comprehensive end-of-life management of solar panels has become increasingly urgent.

Under Chapter V of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, solar PV waste is classified as 'CEEW 14' category e-waste. This classification within the Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Code is part of the extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework.

Unlike other electronic waste, solar PV waste is exempt from the EPR recycling targets. But manufacturers, producers and recyclers face specific obligations, including mandatory registration and storage permissions until 2034-35, annual return filings and compliance with CPCB standard operating procedures.

The guidelines operate on the principle that producers and manufacturers must establish comprehensive collection mechanisms from consumers and bulk users, creating take-back programmes with various stakeholders to prevent improper disposal.

Improper disposal of solar panels poses significant environmental and health hazards due to heavy metals, including lead, cadmium, arsenic, antimony, selenium, copper, silver, gallium, tellurium and tin contained within the modules. Unscientific disposal methods can contaminate soil and water bodies, while uncontrolled burning releases toxic fumes that pollute air quality.

The guidelines emphasised that unauthorised dumping in open areas or selling to unregistered entities risks releasing these toxic chemicals into the environment, potentially causing adverse health impacts for communities and workers handling the waste without proper protective measures.

Producers must establish and publicise comprehensive collection systems, providing consumers with website links containing information, helpline contact numbers for queries and support, details of collection points or

pickup services and information about authorised recycling facilities.

Manufacturers are encouraged to maintain consumer databases to facilitate collection when panels reach end-of-life.

Transportation must be conducted using covered trucks, preferably those authorised to transport hazardous wastes. When solar waste is destined for final disposal, handlers must comply with provisions under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.

The guidelines mandate specific storage requirements to preserve panels for potential reuse or recycling, while protecting worker safety and environmental integrity. Storage facilities must be covered, dry and well-ventilated to prevent moisture build-up and protect panels from elements.

Critical infrastructure requirements include impervious, non-leachable flooring to prevent groundwater and soil contamination from heavy metal leaching. Panels must be stacked in maximum 20 layers or 2 metres height, whichever is less, to prevent structural damage from crushing weight.

Storage areas require comprehensive safety systems, including fire protection arrangements, adequate firefighting equipment, clear emergency exit routes and well-defined Emergency Response Plans. All storage racks and containers must be clearly labelled with waste type for easy identification during recycling processes.

The guidelines specify minimum space requirements of 19.5 cubic metres per tonne of stored solar waste, ensuring safe and accessible handling. Regular inventory management and periodic inspections are mandatory to maintain accurate records and check for damage.

Solar panels at end-of-life contain both recyclable and non-recyclable materials including glass, aluminum frames, silicon wafers, various metals and plastics. Scientific recycling processes can recover substantial amounts of valuable materials, reducing the need for new resource extraction while conserving energy and Earth's resources.

The guidelines highlighted that proper recycling offers a promising solution — one that not only prevents environmental harm but also enables the recovery of valuable materials that can be reused as raw inputs in new manufacturing processes.

As India's solar sector continues rapid expansion, with installations exceeding 110 GW, responsible end-of-life management becomes crucial for maintaining the sustainability credentials of renewable energy. The regulatory framework balances industry growth with environmental protection, ensuring solar waste transitions safely into recycling or reuse systems.

The CPCB is currently seeking public comments and suggestions on the draft guidelines, indicating the participatory approach being adopted for this emerging waste stream management challenge.

These comprehensive guidelines represent India's proactive approach to managing the environmental implications of its renewable energy transition. They establish the foundation for a circular economy in solar energy that protects both public health and environmental integrity.

The implementation of these guidelines will be critical as India moves toward its renewable energy targets, ensuring that the environmental benefits of solar power are not compromised by inadequate waste management practices.

(Source: Down to Earth; 12th June, 2025)

US team to visit India in August for next round of talks for trade pact

A **US delegation will visit India in the second half of August** to continue negotiations on a proposed **bilateral trade agreement**. This follows the **fifth round of talks** held in Washington between **India's Special Secretary Rajesh Agrawal** and **US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch**.

Key Highlights:

- **Goal:** To finalize an **interim trade pact before August 1**, coinciding with the end of a suspension on Trump-era tariffs.
- The **US had imposed 26% tariffs** in 2020, which were suspended until August 1, 2025.
- **Key issues discussed**: Agriculture, automobiles, non-market economy rules, and SCOMET (sensitive goods and technologies).

In India's Position:

- Opposes US demand for tariff cuts on **agriculture and dairy products**.
- Seeking removal of **additional 26% tariff**, and easing duties on **steel, aluminium, and auto parts**.
- Wants **duty concessions** for **labour-intensive exports** like textiles, leather, jewellery, shrimp, fruits, and chemicals.

US Demands:

- Duty reductions on **industrial goods**, **electric vehicles**, **agri goods**, **dairy**, **wine**, **apples**, **tree nuts**, and **GM crops**.

Trade Stats (April–June FY26):

- **India's exports to US:** $25.51 billion ('↑22.8%)
- **India's imports from US:** $12.86 billion ('↑11.7%)

Outlook:

- Both sides aim to **finalize the first phase of the trade pact by fall (Sept–Oct)**, starting with an **interim agreement**.

Conclusion: The upcoming visit marks a crucial step in ironing out key differences and moving toward a balanced, mutually beneficial trade pact.

(Source: Economic Times; 21st Jul, 2025)

The Dragon shadow still looms over Make in India

India's 'Make in India' campaign aims to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence, but China remains deeply embedded in India's supply chains, especially in electronics, renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals.

Success Story: Toys

- Toy imports dropped by 80% (FY2019 to FY2024), largely due to policy changes, BIS standards, and higher import duties.
- However, many toy components are still imported from China, and toy exports slightly dipped in FY2024.

Smartphones: Assembled in India, Made in China

- India exported $24.1 billion worth of smartphones in FY2025, but imported $7.15 billion in components — over 50% from China.
- Key parts like displays, batteries, and chipsets are still sourced from China.

Heavy Dependence Across Sectors

India's imports from China dominate in:

- Electronics (semiconductors, PCBs, laptops, displays)
- Renewables (solar panels, batteries)
- Pharma (antibiotics, raw materials)
- Industrial goods (machinery, aluminium, glass)

Supply Chain Risks

- China has started restricting critical exports (e.g., graphite).
- Chinese firms are withdrawing personnel from Indian plants, impacting timelines.
- India's trade deficit with China reached a record $99.2 billion in FY2025.

India's Response

- New PLI scheme worth ₹ 22,919 crore for electronics components launched in April 2025.
- Micron's $2.75 billion semiconductor plant in Gujarat is a key step forward.
- However, switching to non-Chinese suppliers is costlier, and domestic challenges like infrastructure and skills persist.

Conclusion:

India's manufacturing push is real, but its **dependence on China is deep**. Until India builds its own robust supply chain, the **dream of self-reliance remains constrained**—with "Make in India" still tied to Chinese inputs.

(Source: The Economic Times; 21 Jul 2025)

दिल्ली : MCD ने उद्यमियों को दी बडी राहत फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस को लेकर बडा फैसला

एमसीडी सदन ने फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस के सरलीकरण को मंजूरी दी जिससे दिल्ली के उद्यमियों को बडी राहत मिली है। नए नियमों के अनुसार दिल्ली सरकार के उद्योग विभाग में पंजीकरण ही लाइसेंस माना जाएगा और संपत्ति कर का पांच प्रतिशत शुल्क तय किया गया है। इस फैसले से एक लाख से अधिक औद्योगिक इकाइयों को फायदा होगा और इंस्पेक्टर राज खत्म होगा।

दिल्ली में फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस का सरलीकरण कर MCD ने उद्यमियों को बडी राहत देते हुए राजस्व वृद्धि का बडा रास्ता तैयार किया है। मौजूदा समय में करीब 30 हजार औद्योगिक इकाई ही इसके दायरे में हैं। जबकि नए नियम लागू होने के बाद एक लाख से अधिक उद्योग इसके दायरे में आ जाएंगे।

पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण को ही लाइसेंस मना जाएगा

एमसीडी ने फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस की प्रक्रिया में बडा बदलाव करते हुए इसे दिल्ली सरकार के उद्योग विभाग या सूक्ष्म एवं लघु उद्योग पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण को ही लाइसेंस के रूप में मान्यता दी है।

साथ ही कुल संपत्तिकर का पांच प्रतिशत फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस शुल्क तय किया है। इससे संबंधित प्रस्ताव को बृहस्पतिवार को निगम सदन की बैठक में मंजूरी मिल गई है। इसके लिए सत्तारूढ भाजपा की ओर से आन टेबल प्रस्ताव लाया गया था।

इसी वित्तीय वर्ष से लागू होगी नई व्यवस्था

तय प्रक्रिया का पालन कर एमसीडी से आदेश जारी होने के बाद यह इसी वित्तीय वर्ष से लागू हो जाएगा। जिसके बाद से लाइसेंस के लिए उद्यमियों का एमसीडी कार्यालय तथा अधिकारियों के चक्कर लगाना अतीत की बात हो जाएगी।

इस सुधार की मांग दिल्ली के उद्यमी दशकों से कर रहे थे। एकीकरण से पूर्व तीन निगमों में बंटी एमसीडी ने फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस में सुधार संबंधित प्रस्ताव पारित कर दिल्ली सरकार के माध्यम से केंद्र सरकार को भेजी थी लेकिन वह संसद से पारित नहीं हो सका था।

लेकिन विधानसभा चुनाव में भाजपा ने इस मुद्दे को अपने संकल्पपत्र में जगह दी थी तथा सत्ता में आने पर सरलीकरण का वादा किया था। जो अब हकीकत हो गया है।

दैनिक जागरण ने उठाया था मुद्दा

एमसीडी द्वारा हेल्थ ट्रेड लाइसेंस में सरलीकरण के बाद 26 जून को दैनिक जागरण ने फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस में भी आवश्यक सुधार की ओर एमसीडी द्वारा कदम बढघने संबंधित खबर सबसे पहले प्रकाशित की थी।

अब प्रस्ताव के पारित हो जाने के बाद से दिल्ली के एक लाख से अधिक उद्यमियों को लाभ होगा। दिल्ली के कुल 56 औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में उद्यमियों को अलग से लाइसेंस की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। अब जब भी वे संपत्तिकर जमा करेंगे तो पोर्टल पर इससे संबंधित विकल्प होगा।

इस विकल्प को चुनते ही पांच प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त संपत्तिकर जमा करते ही लाइसेंस दिल्ली सरकार के उद्योग विभाग से मिले लाइसेंस को निगम से मान्य मान लिया जाएगा। हालांकि अग्निशमन से लेकर प्रदूषण से संबंधी मंजूरी दिल्ली सरकार को देखनी होगी।

पहले क्या होता था

- एमसीडी से लाइसेंस के लिए अलग से आवेदन करना पडघ्ता था।
- निगम का फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस विभाग कागजों का सत्यापन करता था।
- निगम के फैक्ट्री विभाग के इंस्पेक्टर साइट का निरीक्षण करते थे।
- मशीनों की क्षमता के आधार पर लाइसेंस को दिया जाता था।

अब क्या होगा

- औद्योगिक इलाकों और रीडेवलपमेंट वाले इलाकों का संपत्तिकर जमा करने के दौरान ही दिल्ली सरकार से जारी लाइसेंस स्वतः एमसीडी का लाइसेंस माना जएगा।

ईज अहफ डूइंग बिजनेस को बढावा देने के लिए भाजपा ने एक ऐतिहासिक निर्णय किया है। इसके तहत फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस देने और नवनीकरण करने की प्रक्रिया में इंस्पेक्टर राज को खत्म कर दिया। औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस को संपत्ति कर के साथ जोड दिया गया है जिसके चलते फैक्ट्री मालिकों को वार्षिक संपत्ति कर का पांच % लाइसेंस शुल्क निगम को देना होगा और दिल्ली सरकार का लाइसेंस ही निगम का लाइसेंस माना जाएगा।

- राजा इकबाल सिंह, महापौर, दिल्ली

(Source: Dainik Jagran; 10th July, 2025)

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