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No. 9

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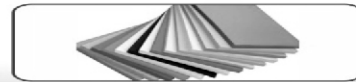
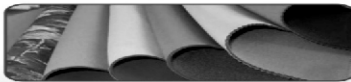
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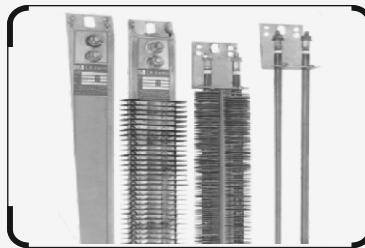
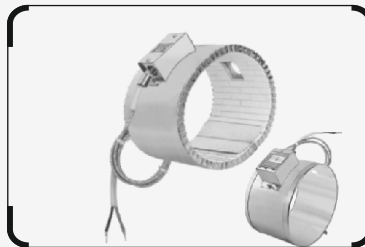
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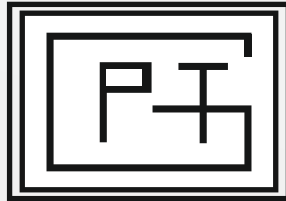
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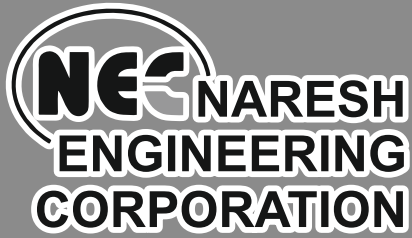
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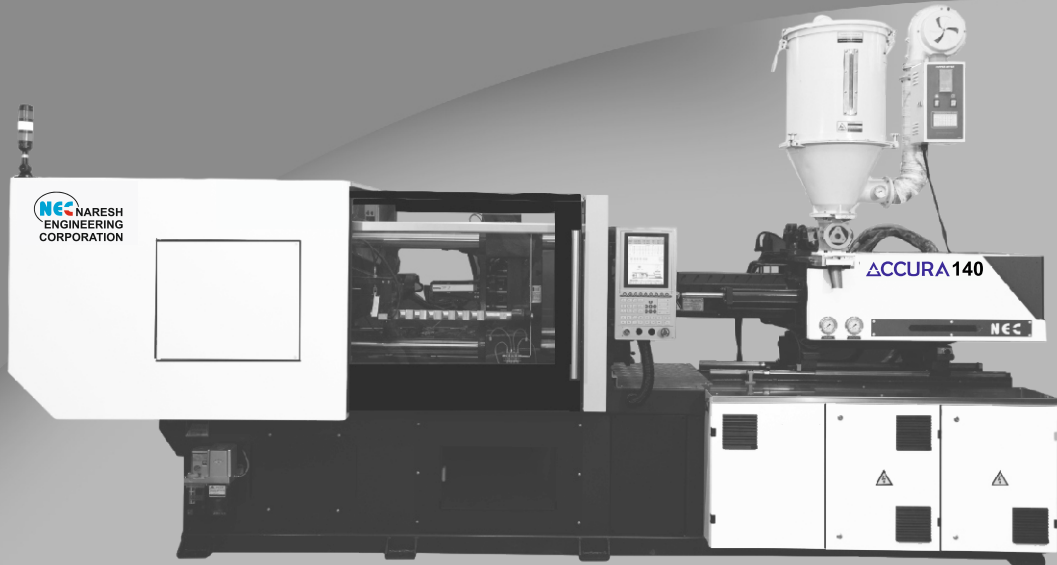
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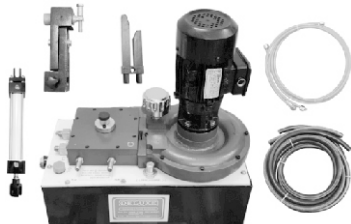
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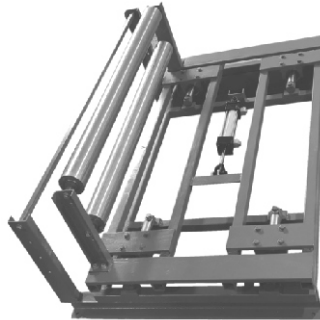
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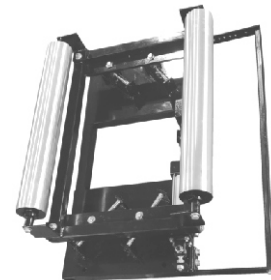
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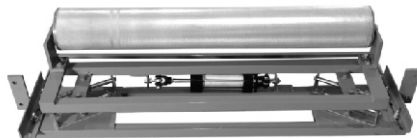
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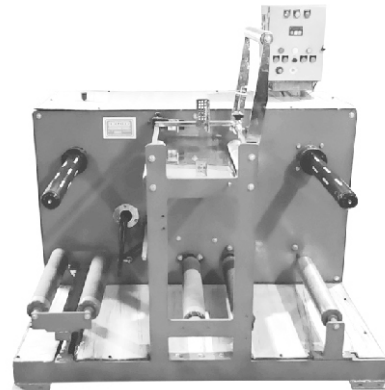
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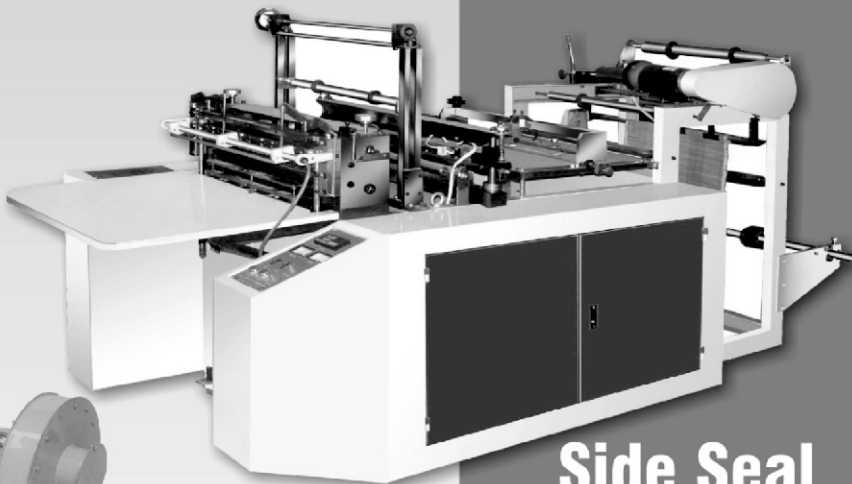
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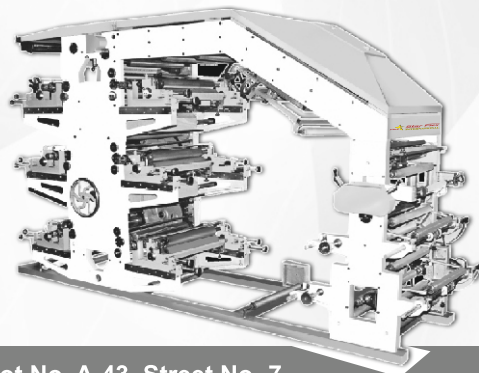
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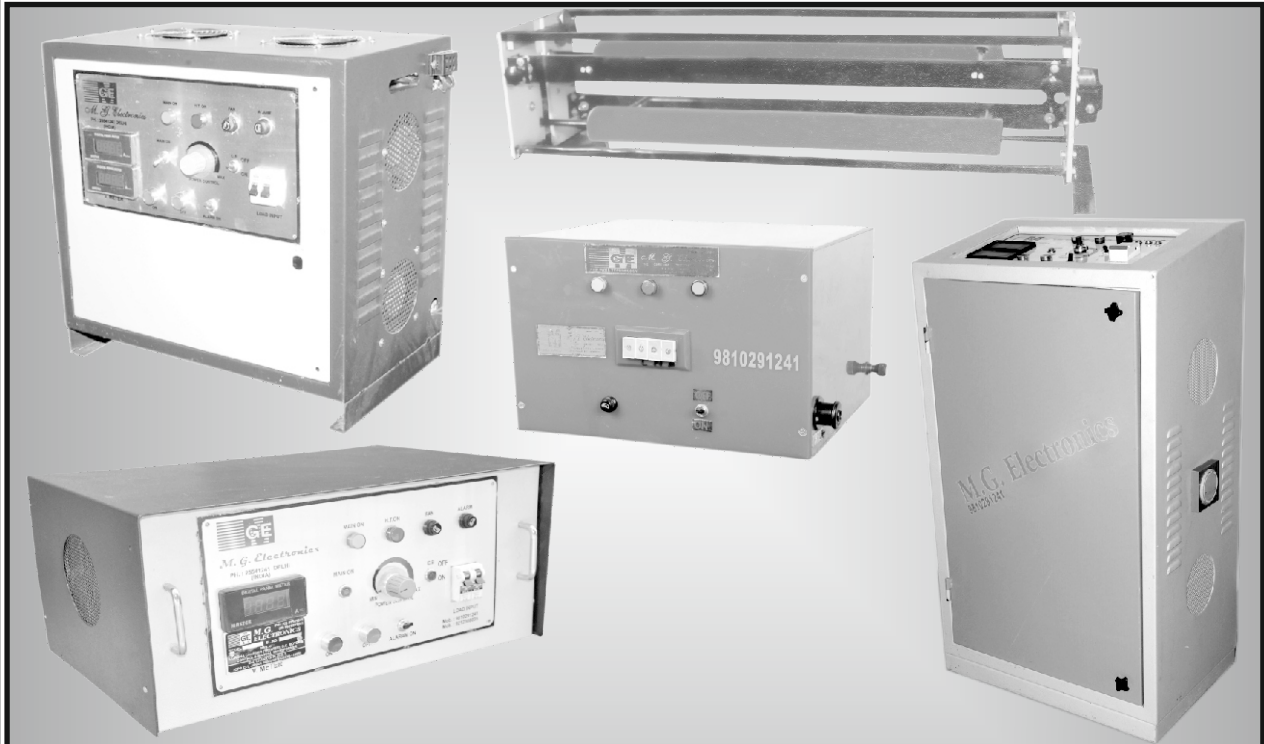
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Global Plastics Treaty Talks

Talks of a Global Plastics Treaty have been going on for quite sometime now. The sixth United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating committee, or INC5.2 met last in Busan-South Korea in December 2024. All the more than 183 countries had hoped that they will arrive at a treaty in Geneva in the next meeting, which has recently concluded on August 14, 2025.

The session was held from August 5 to 14 at Geneva, Switzerland aiming to finalize and approve the text of the agreement which would be considered and adopted at a future diplomatic conference. There were more than 2600 participants, including 1400 members from participating countries. In spite of numerous informal roundtable meetings and various official sessions, no consensus could be reached and the plastic industry all over the world was unhappy at this outcome.

Amongst the countries, broadly, there is a group which is seeking potential caps on plastic production and phase out of harmful chemicals and plastic products, on the other hand, there are countries which focus more on managing plastic scrap rather than capping production and chemicals.

Together with countries which are large producers of plastic raw materials like; China, Saudi Arabia and Russia with USA having a double stance, India also favoured downstream management of plastic scrap rather than a cap on plastic production. For developing nations like ours, capping plastic raw material production will be wrong as it will threaten crores of workers dependent on plastics. India has always argued in favour of downstream measures such as recycling and reuse. This will help us in becoming a developed nation by year 2047 as envisaged by our Hon'ble PM.

Various expert views, worldwide, on this Global Treaty are being published in this issue.

LALA PLASTICO



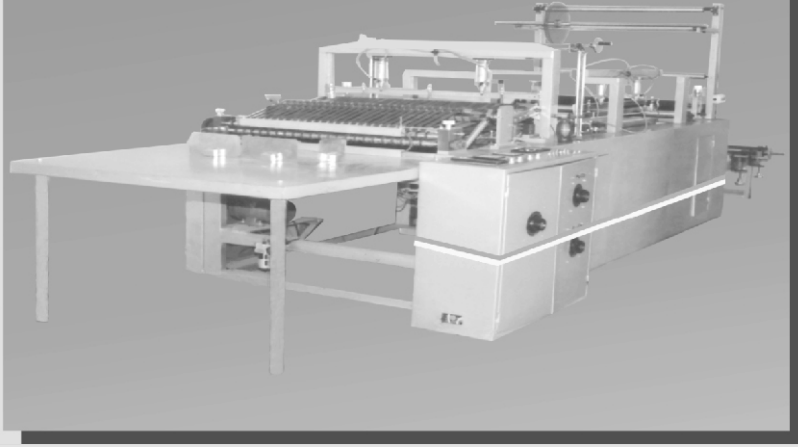
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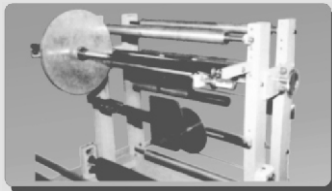
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Important points discussed during the monthly Executive Committee meeting held on 11th August 2025

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

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

Shri Parshotam Kumar, Patron, raised the matter regarding the resignation of Shri Brijesh Bhutani as General Secretary. He said that the arguments between Shri Bhutani and Shri Vipin Gupta should not have occurred and suggested that both should mutually apologise.

Shri Rakesh Sachdeva, Sr. Vice President, informed that Shri Bhutani had clearly expressed his unwillingness to continue as General Secretary and resigned on 10th July 2025 via email and WhatsApp. He further remarked that, since Shri Bhutani voluntarily resigned, there was no question of apology from his side. Shri Parshotam Kumar responded that if he is unwilling to rejoin, then the Committee should formally consider acceptance of his resignation.

2. Approval of Expenditure for July 2025

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

3. Discussion on Industry-Related Matters

- Conversion of Industrial Areas from Leasehold to Freehold

Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal informed that the newly appointed Chief Minister of Delhi, Ms. Rekha Gupta, has announced the conversion of industrial areas from leasehold to freehold. Shri Vipin Gupta pointed out that this benefit is currently not applicable to reallocated industrial areas.

It was resolved that AIPIA should formally approach the concerned authorities to seek conversion of *all* industrial areas into freehold. This would resolve a long-pending demand of the industrial community, benefiting thousands of MSME units and contributing to Delhi's industrial growth.

Shri Parshotam Kumar suggested that an AIPIA delegation should meet the Chief Minister and the industry minister to present the industry's perspective. The proposal was well received by the Committee.

4. AGM-cum-Election-cum-Industry Meet (2025-27)

- **Finalisation of Date:** Due to non-availability of dates, tentatively proposed on 29, 30, 31 October, 2025 at City Park-Pitampura, the AGM is proposed to be held in December, tentatively between 14th to 25th December, 2025.
- **Venue:** "Hotel City Park – Pitampura" was agreed upon as the preferred venue.
- **Sponsorships:** Shri Jatin Raheja, Organizing Secretary, assured full efforts in mobilising sponsors for the event.
- **Adoption of Resolution**

The Executive Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolution on Amendment of Rules and Regulations of AIPIA regarding the Composition of the Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has reviewed the current provisions of the Rules and Regulations concerning the structure and number of office bearers and elected members;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed necessary to amend the said provisions in order to streamline the functioning of the Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT the following amendments be made:

1. Removal of Posts

- One (1) post of Vice President (out of the existing two) shall be removed.
- One (1) post of Joint Secretary (out of the existing two) shall be removed.

2. Revised Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twenty-two (22) elected members, including the following office bearers:

- President
- Senior Vice President
- Vice President
- General Secretary
- Joint Secretary
- Treasurer
- Organizing Secretary

RESOLVED FURTHER that this amendment shall come into force with immediate effect upon approval by the General Body, as required under the Rules and Regulations of AIPIA.

5. Regarding AIPIA's Seminar/Exhibition

A proposal to hold an AIPIA exhibition in 2026 was jointly put forward by Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal, Patron, and Shri Devinder Pal Singh, President.

The President also informed that IPAMA is organising its exhibition 'INTRAPAK' in Greater Noida and has sought AIPIA's collaboration. The Committee gave a positive response, and it was decided to arrange a meeting with the organisers to discuss terms and conditions.

6. Any Other Matter with the Chair's Permission

● Registration with Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB)

Shri Parshotam Kumar suggested AIPIA should obtain membership of LUB and shared the details with the Secretary General.

Shri Ravi Kumar Aggarwal expressed that as both organisations share similar objectives and have common members, a separate membership may not be necessary.



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Plastics use & waste to soar in Southeast, East Asia without stringent policies, warns OECD

With the correct policy direction, implementation, mismanaged waste, including plastic leakage, could drop by 97%

-By: Kiran Pandey

Summary

- *Plastic use and waste could nearly double in Southeast and East Asia by 2050 without urgent policy reforms.*
- *The ASEAN Plus Three region faces a significant challenge, with mismanaged waste threatening ecosystems and human wellbeing.*
- *The report calls for ambitious measures to curb plastic pollution and promote recycling.*

Plastic use and waste are set to spiral out of control in southeast and east Asia, unless countries urgently overhaul current policies, warned a new report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Under current policies, plastic use in the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) region is projected to nearly double from 152 million tonnes in 2022 to 280 million tonnes by 2050. The APT region includes the 10 ASEAN countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam — along with China, Japan and South Korea.

This surge, driven largely by short-lived products like packaging, is expected to trigger a parallel rise in plastic waste, which is set to more than double from 113 million tonnes to 242 million tonnes over the same period, according to the report.

Packaging waste alone will jump from 49 million tonnes to 91 million tonnes, underscoring the scale of the region's growing waste challenge.

According to the report, China is projected to see the largest absolute increase in plastic waste in the APT region, rising from 76 million tonnes in 2022 to 160 million tonnes by 2050.

But the most dramatic relative growth will occur in lower-middle-income ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines, where plastic waste is expected to nearly quadruple — from 7.5 million tonnes to 28 million tonnes.

Context: Mismanaged plastic waste to rise 70%

Despite some improvements in waste management, most plastic waste in the region continues to be landfilled, incinerated or mismanaged. In 2022, 29 per cent of the region's plastic waste was mismanaged — far exceeding the share that is recycled — leading to increasing environmental leakage.

Even though the share of mismanaged plastic waste in the APT region is expected to decline from 29 per cent in 2022 to 23 per cent by 2050, the overall volume of waste will grow significantly, the report warned.

As a result, the absolute amount of mismanaged waste will rise from 33 million tonnes to 56 million tonnes — posing escalating risks to ecosystems and communities.

In 2022 alone, the region was responsible for 8.4 million tonnes of plastic leaking into the environment — over a third of the global total — making it a global hotspot for plastic pollution. Without urgent intervention, this annual leakage could rise to 14.1 million tonnes by 2050, largely from lower-middle-income ASEAN countries and China, with 5.1 million tonnes flowing into rivers, coasts and oceans.

Plastic pollution in rivers, lakes and oceans is projected to increase, putting biodiversity, fisheries, ocean-based economies, livelihoods and human wellbeing at serious risk.

By 2050, plastic buildup in freshwater bodies — including rivers and lakes — is projected to reach 126 million tonnes, more than double the levels in 2022. Ocean plastic could more than triple to 55 million tonnes, further damaging already fragile marine ecosystems alerts the report.

Solution: Adopting measures under Global High Stringency scenario

Once in the environment, plastics persist for decades and frequently cross borders, amplifying the regional and global impacts.

However, this could be avoided, said the authors of the report and showed the pathway. Countries in the region need to adopt ambitious measures across the entire plastic lifecycle — under the Global High Stringency scenario. Under such a scenario, plastics use in 2050 could drop by 28 per cent and plastic waste by 23 per cent, the report suggests.

The scenario offers the greatest global environmental benefits at the lowest cost. As per the report, secondary (recycled) plastics could meet all future growth in demand, enabling primary plastic use to remain below 2022 levels.

Under this scenario, the average recycling rate is projected to rise to 54 per cent, while mismanaged waste — including plastic leakage — could drop by 97 per cent compared to a no-policy-change scenario.

In view of the cross-border plastics pollution, the report called for stronger regional cooperation. It highlighted that most of the lower middle-income countries in Southeast Asia are already struggling with their own plastic waste. But these are also burdened by plastic leaking from other nations.

In fact, more than half of the coastal plastic waste from China and wealthier ASEAN countries ends up on the shores of poorer ASEAN nations like Indonesia. These waste flows don't stop there — they extend across the Indian Ocean, reaching countries along the southeastern coast of Africa as well.

It also raises alarm over the threat to climate due to plastics. In the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) region, greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic lifecycle — including production and waste management — are projected to nearly double from 0.6 GtCO₂e in 2022 to over 1 GtCO₂e in 2050, mainly driven by continued demand for primary plastic production.

The report warned that without stronger and more effective policies, the climate impact of plastics will worsen — further accelerating global warming.

Conclusion: Call for bold action ahead of final negotiations

With the final round of UN negotiations on a global plastics treaty scheduled from August 5-14, 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, the OECD report comes at a crucial moment. It outlined a clear path for Southeast and East Asia to tackle plastic pollution and shows how the region can lead by example globally.

The report urged countries to take bold action—phase out single-use plastics, strengthen waste collection, and invest in recycling systems. Most importantly, it stressed the need for regional cooperation, as plastic pollution crosses borders.

“Southeast and East Asia can become a global model for tackling plastic pollution and advancing circular economy solutions,” said OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann. “With stronger regional cooperation, ambitious policies, and targeted investments, the region could nearly eliminate plastic leakage by 2050 — bringing lasting benefits to people, ecosystems and the global economy,” he added.

Final summary: The OECD report warns that plastic use and waste in Southeast and East Asia could nearly double by 2050 without urgent policy changes. The ASEAN Plus Three region, including China, Japan, and South Korea, faces a significant challenge with plastic waste projected to rise from 113 million tonnes to 242 million tonnes. Mismanaged waste poses escalating risks to ecosystems, with plastic pollution threatening biodiversity and human wellbeing.

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Making sense of Article 6: Why plastic production measures are essential for a strong global treaty

Capping plastic supply is no longer optional, it's the linchpin of credible action against pollution, climate risk and economic fallout

Amy Youngman

Summary

- *Article 6 is central to the Global Plastics Treaty as it addresses upstream control of plastic production — the root cause of the crisis.*
- *Downstream solutions alone (recycling, clean-ups) are insufficient if plastic production continues to rise; output could triple by 2060.*
- *The current Chair's Text offers a political compromise, focusing on supply transparency rather than binding caps — but is crucial for future action.*
- *Capping production makes economic sense, restoring value to plastic and reducing public costs tied to health, waste and infrastructure damage.*
- *Treaty progress now hinges on data and reporting, which will form the foundation for future global targets and national-level interventions.*

In the race to finalise a legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution, Article 6 is not merely one of many provisions, it is the linchpin. It targets a critical point in the plastic lifecycle that directly shapes the effectiveness of all other measures.

The second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-5.2) for talks on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, also known as the Global Plastics Treaty, is taking place from August 5 to 14, 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Without upstream control of plastic production, efforts aimed at improving product design, waste management or microplastic control will be overwhelmed. Like mopping up an overflowing sink without turning off the tap, such efforts will remain reactive and ultimately insufficient.

United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 5/14 mandates that the treaty adopt a full lifecycle approach. This is more than a procedural formality; it is the legal and scientific foundation agreed by all governments at the outset of negotiations. The Open-Ended Working Group that prepared for negotiations defines this as encompassing all impacts across the entire plastic lifecycle, including raw material extraction, refining and polymerisation, design and more.

By this definition, upstream activities are clearly within scope. Yet due to push back from a handful of high-volume plastic producers and fossil-aligned interests, what began as a call for production caps has been significantly diluted. The current Chair's Text narrows the framing to "supply," reflecting a political rather than scientific compromise.

Supply measures are non-negotiable

For decades, global efforts to tackle plastic pollution have focused on downstream responses: Recycling, clean-up efforts and landfill management. Science now confirms these efforts cannot succeed if production continues unchecked.

The problem is structural. Plastic production has more than doubled in the last two decades and is on track to triple by 2060 under business-as-usual conditions. Output could increase from 460 million tonnes in 2019 to over 1.2 billion tonnes by 2060. Even the wealthiest countries cannot recycle such high volumes — the United States recycles less than six per cent of its plastic waste — and most plastic products are not designed for circularity. These systems are overwhelmed by the scale and complexity of the waste generated.

Modelling demonstrates that a 64 per cent reduction in plastic production over the next 25 years is the only pathway consistent with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (°C). This would prevent 7.1 billion tonnes of mismanaged plastic waste and avoid up to 47 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions.

Without upstream action, plastic production alone could consume nearly 20 per cent of the global carbon budget required to stay within 1.5°C. Even with renewable energy powering industry, emissions from fossil feedstocks would remain dangerously high.

The current text: A platform, not a ceiling

Rather than setting immediate limits, Article 6 in its current form provides two essential building blocks for future

ambition: (i) A process to adopt an aspirational global target for reducing plastic production and consumption and (ii) A requirement for countries to report how much plastic they produce, import and export.

This reporting provision is critical. At present, there is no comprehensive, standardised data on global plastic production by country. Without it, policymakers cannot set targets, measure progress or determine whether other treaty provisions are working.

Retaining the Chair's Text as it stands ensures that this baseline transparency is secured. It is the minimum necessary platform to operationalise the lifecycle mandate of Resolution 5/14 and should be understood as a major compromise by high-ambition countries such as Rwanda and Peru. Their previous proposals included binding global targets and tiered reduction schedules, echoing the architecture of multilateral treaties such as the Montreal Protocol.

While implementation does not impose hard limits, Article 6 would enable countries to begin establishing reliable national datasets on production and trade in plastic polymers; prepare for global targets that could be adopted in the future; and plan national supply-side interventions, including reducing unnecessary and short-lived plastics.

Why capping plastic supply makes economic sense

Controlling plastic production is not just a health and environmental imperative, it is a sound economic strategy. The unchecked expansion of virgin plastic production has flooded markets with low-value, short-lived products, devaluing the material and making sustainable alternatives economically unviable.

This overproduction drives pollution and undermines the viability of recycling and reuse systems by skewing cost structures and saturating waste streams with materials that have little or no downstream value.

Setting clear limits on production would restore scarcity and economic value to plastic. This approach mirrors the success of the Montreal Protocol, where capping and phasing down ozone-depleting substances not only delivered environmental benefits but also created regulatory certainty that accelerated investment in safer substitutes and fostered innovation.

Beyond market effects, the economic burden of plastic pollution driven by overproduction is staggering. Health systems are already incurring billions in hidden costs from toxic chemicals, additives and microplastics in air, water and food.

These are not theoretical risks: Microplastics are found in human blood, lungs, penile tissue and placentas, with early evidence pointing to links with inflammation, endocrine disruption and disease. Communities near production and waste sites are disproportionately exposed to carcinogens and fine particulate matter, creating long-term liabilities for governments.

Meanwhile, infrastructure and natural capital are also degrading under plastic's weight. Drainage systems blocked by waste cause flooding and sanitation failures. Microplastics from mulch and sludge degrade soil quality, affecting food production. Tourism suffers from beach pollution and fisheries lose revenue to plastic-damaged ecosystems and contaminated stocks. These impacts are systemic, interconnected and intensifying.

Supply-side measures offer a preventative response. Capping plastic production, particularly low-value and short-lived applications, reduces public expenditure on clean-up, landfill expansion, disaster response and healthcare. It reduces reliance on polluting incineration and shrinking export markets. Instead, it redirects resources towards innovation, reuse infrastructure and value-added industries that support jobs and resilience.

For countries seeking economic security, competitiveness and lower fiscal pressure, regulating supply is a rational move. It increases the value of circulating materials, curbs liabilities and supports sustainable development. It is not a cost, it is an economic safeguard.

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Amy Youngman is a legal and policy specialist.

Global Plastic Profiles 2025: Article 17, 18, 19 & 20

-By: Tribhuwan Singh Bisht, Kuldeep Choudhary

Global Plastic Profiles 2025: Article 17, on information exchange, enjoys general support in principle

The challenge will be to ensure that information exchange is both functional and inclusive, enabling Parties to act on shared knowledge without undermining sovereignty or operational feasibility

Summary

- *Article 17 of the Global Plastic Profiles 2025 emphasizes the importance of information exchange in tackling plastic pollution.*
- *While there is widespread support for this principle, debates continue over operational specifics, such as national focal points and confidentiality.*
- *Countries like the US and Norway advocate for transparency, while others like Saudi Arabia seek limitations based on national security.*

Information exchange is a foundational pillar in the architecture of multilateral environmental agreements, and Article 17 reflects its centrality in the global effort to address plastic pollution. The provision outlines the mechanisms for sharing data, knowledge and best practices among Parties, with the goal of enhancing transparency, scientific collaboration and evidence-based decision-making. While there is broad support for the principle of information exchange, divergences persist on the operational details—particularly regarding the designation of national focal points, the role of the Secretariat and the treatment of confidential information.

Many countries have advocated for a robust and inclusive information sharing framework. Members of the African Group, along with PSIDS and the United States, emphasized that health and environmental data should not be treated as confidential. Their proposals suggest a commitment to public access, especially when information has implications for human safety or ecological risk. PSIDS further called for the scientific and technical body to guide this process, while Norway introduced language encouraging corporate disclosure on plastic-related risks, in line with recent developments in biodiversity and sustainability governance.

Some submissions sought to strengthen the article's implementation by linking it with national reporting and data tracking. Sri Lanka, for instance, proposed better alignment with Article 15 to ensure that national-level data collection supports both domestic planning and global evaluation efforts.

Conversely, a few delegations raised concerns about the breadth and enforceability of the proposed text. Saudi Arabia and Iran pushed for significant limitations, with proposals to exempt developing countries from certain information-sharing obligations or allow countries to withhold data on the grounds of national security. Türkiye supported the overall objective but suggested technical edits, such as distinct focal points for information and waste management.

Overall, Article 17 enjoys general support in principle. The challenge will be to ensure that information exchange is both functional and inclusive, enabling Parties to act on shared knowledge without undermining sovereignty or operational feasibility.

Global Plastic Profiles 2025: Article 18 focuses on fostering public understanding, stakeholder engagement and scientific progress for effective implementation of Treaty

It recognises that tackling plastic pollution extends beyond policy and infrastructure

Summary

- *The global plastic treaty discussions highlight the need for public understanding, stakeholder engagement, and scientific progress.*
- *While states agree on the importance of awareness and research, they differ on the extent and binding nature of these commitments.*
- *Proposals include an independent science body and regular data publication, aiming for evidence-based decision-making and enhanced public access to information.*

Article 18 addresses the importance of fostering public understanding, stakeholder engagement and scientific progress to support the effective implementation of the plastic treaty. It recognizes that tackling plastic pollution extends beyond policy and infrastructure—it also requires informed societies, robust education systems and sustained investments in research and innovation.

Broadly, states support the inclusion of provisions on awareness and research, though they differ in how far-reaching and binding these commitments should be. Several countries, including the United States, proposed mechanisms to institutionalize scientific input into the treaty process. Their recommendation for an independent science body—distinct from state, industry or NGO affiliations—signals a push for evidence-based decision-making grounded in neutrality and transparency. Others, like Sri Lanka, stressed the value of publishing regular data on plastic flows to enhance public access to information and build trust.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Pacific Island countries and Fiji, emphasized the need for context-sensitive education and outreach, especially for vulnerable groups. Their proposals also encouraged separating research and innovation into a standalone focus, reflecting its strategic importance in developing system-wide solutions and sustainable alternatives.

Thailand and others advocated for expanding the scope of public education and scientific research to reflect the full life cycle of plastics, from production to waste. This shift aims to support systemic change rather than reactive responses. Similarly, language around sustainable consumption, circular economy approaches, and socioeconomic dimensions of plastic use gained traction among a group of like-minded states.

However, some divergence remains. Saudi Arabia and a few other countries sought to soften the language of the article, replacing prescriptive terms with voluntary ones and narrowing the breadth of obligations. These proposals suggest a preference for flexibility over standardized global mandates, reflecting concerns about administrative burden or national sovereignty.

While most states agree on the value of awareness and research, differences persist over how directive these measures should be.

Global Plastic Profiles 2025: Article 19 addresses health impacts of plastic pollution

Countries are divided between embedding health language throughout the treaty or creating a standalone article

Summary

- *The global plastics treaty negotiations are grappling with how to address health impacts of plastic pollution.*
- *Countries are divided between embedding health language throughout the treaty or creating a standalone article.*
- *While some advocate for strong legal obligations to protect vulnerable groups, others prefer voluntary cooperation, highlighting a key debate on the treaty's role in tackling health risks.*

Article 19 addresses one of the most complex and politically sensitive elements of the global plastics treaty—how to acknowledge and act upon the health-related impacts of plastic pollution. Two main approaches have emerged: either embedding health-related language across relevant treaty articles or developing a standalone article that explicitly outlines obligations and cooperative actions related to human health.

There is broad recognition among states that plastic pollution presents risks to human health, particularly through exposure to hazardous chemicals, occupational exposure in the waste sector, and pollution of air, water and food chains. However, this shared understanding diverges significantly when it comes to the structure, legal framing and institutional linkages of a health-related article.

Several countries and groups, including the African Group, Guinea Bissau and the PSIDS, have advocated for a more ambitious and binding article that recognizes health impacts across the plastic life cycle. These submissions often emphasize the need to protect vulnerable groups—such as waste workers and frontline communities—and call for coordination with global health institutions, including WHO and ILO. Some have also sought alignment with broader frameworks like One Health, linking human, animal, and environmental well-being.

Other submissions, such as those from Brazil and Fiji, reinforce this ambition with concrete proposals around chemicals of concern, occupational safety, and inclusive health governance. These perspectives see the treaty as a platform to not only mitigate environmental impacts but also deliver co-benefits for public health.

In contrast, several member states—including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland—prefer a softer approach, focused on voluntary cooperation, capacity-building and research. These countries support integrating health concerns into the treaty but stop short of endorsing strong legal obligations. Saudi Arabia has gone further, questioning the relevance of a health article within this treaty and advocating for its removal entirely, citing jurisdictional concerns.

The ongoing discussion reflects a fundamental question in the negotiations: should the treaty proactively tackle health risks from plastics or defer to existing health frameworks?

Global Plastic Profiles 2025: Article 20 establishes the COP as the central governing body of the Treaty

While there is broad agreement on the COP's necessity, the negotiations reflect differing views on how expansive its authority should be

Summary

- *The Conference of the Parties (COP) is central to the global plastics treaty, tasked with implementation review and international coordination.*
- *While its necessity is agreed upon, debates continue over its authority and decision-making processes.*
- *Countries propose enhancing COP's capacity with scientific bodies, while others suggest fallback voting mechanisms to prevent stagnation. The COP's structure remains a key negotiation point.*

Article 20 establishes the Conference of the Parties (COP) as the central governing body of the global plastics treaty. As the institutional anchor of the agreement, the COP is tasked with reviewing implementation, adopting rules and protocols, guiding subsidiary bodies, and facilitating international coordination. While there is broad agreement on the COP's necessity, the negotiations reflect differing views on how expansive its authority should be and how decisions should be made.

Many countries have proposed enhancing the COP's capacity through the creation of dedicated subsidiary bodies. Several submissions—including from PSIDS, GRULAC and Uruguay—have called for scientific and technical bodies to be operational from the first COP. These bodies are envisioned to bring thematic, evidence-based support to the treaty's implementation, with recommendations including specialized panels, inclusive membership, and formal reporting lines to the COP. Such mechanisms are seen as vital for ensuring the treaty evolves in step with emerging science and policy needs.

Decision-making modalities remain a contentious issue. A number of states, including the Philippines, Rwanda and Norway, have supported the introduction of fallback voting mechanisms—such as a two-thirds majority—when consensus cannot be reached. This reflects a broader concern that overly rigid consensus requirements could stall the treaty's progress or prevent timely responses to urgent plastic pollution challenges. Others have gone further by suggesting that procedural decisions, such as the adoption of rules, should not be contingent on unanimous agreement.

In contrast, some countries have shown hesitation toward expanding the COP's mandate. The United States and Saudi Arabia, for instance, have proposed limiting the COP's authority to adopt new annexes or act on implementation data. Iran has opposed a compliance-driven vision of the COP, advocating instead for a facilitative model grounded in national discretion.

The structure and powers of the COP remain a key site of negotiation, with implications for the treaty's adaptability, responsiveness, and long-term legitimacy. How states reconcile flexibility with accountability will define the strength and relevance of this core institution over time.

(Source: Down to Earth; dated 6th August, 2025)

News Concerning Plastics

प्लास्टिक संधि: यूएनईपी प्रमुख ने देशों से की ऐतिहासिक समझौते की अपील

जिनेवा में निर्णायक दौर में पहुंची वार्ता, देशों पर प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण रोकने के लिए पहला कानूनी समझौता करने का दबाव

5 अगस्त 2025 को जिनेवा में संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (यूएनईपी) की प्रमुख इंगर एंडरसन ने कहा कि दुनिया प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को खत्म करने के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक समझौते के बेहद करीब है। यह बयान प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण पर जिनेवा में चल रही अंतरराष्ट्रीय वार्ता के दौरान आया है। गौरतलब है कि दुनिया भर के प्रतिनिधि जिनेवा में वैश्विक प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण संधि (आईएनसी-5.2) को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

स्विस सरकार द्वारा आयोजित एक मंच पर एंडरसन ने कहा कि आने वाले 10 दिन बेहद महत्वपूर्ण होंगे और तय करेंगे कि क्या देश तीन साल से ज्यादा समय से चल रही इस संधि वार्ता पर सहमति बना पाएंगे।

“यह संधि वह है जिसकी दुनिया को जरूरत है। प्लास्टिक हमारे समुद्रों, प्रकृति और यहां तक कि हमारे शरीर में भी पहुंच चुका है, जहां उसका होना नहीं चाहिए। रास्ता कठिन हो सकता है, लेकिन समझौते की संभावना अब भी है।”—इंगर एंडरसन, संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (यूएनईपी) प्रमुख

गौरतलब है कि जिनेवा में चल रही इस वार्ता को आईएनसी-5.2 के नाम दिया गया है। यह प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय समझौता तैयार करने के लिए बने अंतर-सरकारी वार्ता समूह (आईएनसी) के पांचवें सत्र का दूसरा हिस्सा है। यह बैठक 5 से 14 अगस्त 2025 के बीच संयुक्त राष्ट्र के जिनेवा स्थित मुख्यालय में चल रही है।

जिनेवा में हो रही यह वार्ता 2022 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण असेंबली के प्रस्ताव 5/14 के सर्वसम्मत अनुमोदन से शुरू हुई प्रक्रिया का परिणाम है। इस प्रस्ताव के तहत एक कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी वैश्विक समझौते का मसौदा तैयार करने की दिशा में कदम उठाया गया था।

गौरतलब है कि जिनेवा में चल रही इस वार्ता को आईएनसी-5.2 के नाम दिया गया है। यह प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय समझौता तैयार करने के लिए बने अंतर-सरकारी वार्ता समूह (आईएनसी) के पांचवें सत्र का दूसरा हिस्सा है। यह बैठक 5 से 14 अगस्त 2025 के बीच संयुक्त राष्ट्र के जिनेवा स्थित मुख्यालय में चल रही है।

जिनेवा में हो रही यह वार्ता 2022 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण असेंबली के प्रस्ताव 5/14 के सर्वसम्मत अनुमोदन से शुरू हुई प्रक्रिया का परिणाम है। इस प्रस्ताव के तहत एक कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी वैश्विक समझौते का मसौदा तैयार करने की दिशा में कदम उठाया गया था।

पहले इस कड़ी में नवंबर 2024 में दक्षिण कोरिया के बुसान में पहली बैठक हुई थी, जिसमें “चेयर टेक्स्ट” और एक ड्राफ्ट रिपोर्ट तैयार की गई थी। इस दौरान कुछ मुद्दों पर सहमति दिखी, लेकिन कई अहम विषयों पर मतभेद भी सामने आए, जैसे प्लास्टिक उत्पादन की सीमा तय करना और विकासशील देशों को वित्तीय और तकनीकी मदद देना।

एंडरसन ने सदस्य देशों से “प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण से मुक्त भविष्य” पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की अपील की है। उन्होंने वैज्ञानिकों, सामाजिक संगठनों, कचरा बीनने वालों और युवाओं जैसे सभी पक्षकारों को धन्यवाद दिया, जिन्होंने सरकारों पर दबाव बनाए रखा और प्लास्टिक से होने वाले स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरणीय खतरों को उजागर किया।

एंडरसन ने कहा, फ्रंटमें यहां तक पहुंचाने में पूरे विश्व का योगदान रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि समुदायों की पहल और निजी क्षेत्र की शुरुआती नवाचारों ने पहले ही कई समाधान दिखा दिए हैं।

अगर इस महीने समझौता हो जाता है, तो यह संधि प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के खिलाफ पहला व्यापक अंतरराष्ट्रीय कदम होगी, जो आने वाले दशकों तक उत्पादन, खपत और कचरा प्रबंधन की दिशा तय करेगी।

(Source: Down to Earth, 6th August, 2025)

भारत का मॉडल : प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के खिलाफ वैश्विक समाधान

भारत के 19 सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक वस्तुओं पर लगाए गए मानदंड-आधारित प्रतिबंध ने एक ऐसा विज्ञान-आधारित मॉडल प्रस्तुत किया है, जो वैश्विक नीति निर्माण के लिए आदर्श बन सकता है

संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (यूएनईपी) के अनुसार, केवल एक बार उपयोग में आने वाले यानी सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक का वैश्विक प्लास्टिक उत्पादन में 36 प्रतिशत हिस्सा है, जिसमें से अनुमानित 85 प्रतिशत का प्रबंधन ठीक से नहीं हो पाता।

कई रिपोर्टों में यह स्पष्ट किया गया है कि प्लास्टिक कचरे के गलत प्रबंधन की लागत, उसके उचित प्रबंधन की तुलना में कहीं अधिक होती है। इसके जवाब में 120 से अधिक देशों ने किसी न किसी रूप में सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक उत्पादों पर प्रतिबंध या सीमाएं लगाई हैं, जो यह दर्शाता है कि प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण संधि पर वार्ता कर रहे सदस्य देशों में ऐसे उत्पादों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने की मजबूत इच्छाशक्ति है।

हालांकि, विभिन्न देशों और राज्यों या प्रांतों में नियमों में विसंगति के कारण इन प्रतिबंधों को लागू करना अपेक्षा से अधिक चुनौतीपूर्ण साबित हो रहा है।

यहां अगर भारत की बात करें तो सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक उत्पादों पर प्रतिबंध का एजेंडा भारत सरकार की उच्च प्राथमिकता में शामिल है। 2019 में स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर अपने भाषण में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने देश को सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक मुक्त करने का आह्वान किया था।

एक बार फिर 2025 में विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस के अवसर पर प्रधानमंत्री ने दोहराया "सतत विकास के लिए हम सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक और माइक्रोप्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को कम करने के अपने प्रयासों में पूरी तरह संकल्पबद्ध हैं।"

भारत ने सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक के खिलाफ अपनी लड़ाई एक तय योजना के साथ शुरू की। इसमें पहले ऐसे प्लास्टिक सामानों की पहचान की गई जो नुकसानदायक थे और जिनकी ज्यादा जरूरत भी नहीं थी। इस प्रतिबंध की योजना समझदारी और वैज्ञानिक तरीके से बनाई गई थी। इसमें प्लास्टिक सामानों की उपयोगिता, उनकी कीमत और पर्यावरण पर उनके असर को ध्यान में रखकर जांच की गई। इस प्रक्रिया के तहत कुल 40 सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक उत्पादों, जैसे कैंरी बैग, छोटी प्लास्टिक बोतलें, इंद्रावेनस (सलाईन) बोतलें और टी बैग का मूल्यांकन किया गया।

इसके आधार पर 19 सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक वस्तुओं की पहचान की गई, जिन्हें भारतीय बाजार में उत्पादन, भंडारण, वितरण, बिक्री या उपयोग करने से प्रतिबंधित कर दिया गया। भारत का यह विज्ञान-आधारित दृष्टिकोण किसी भी सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक उत्पाद की उपयोगिता और पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए एक अनुकरणीय मॉडल है।

भारत की यह मानदंड-आधारित रणनीति प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण संधि (प्लास्टिक पोल्यूशन ट्रीटी) की वार्ताओं में सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक पर वैश्विक प्रतिबंध व चरणबद्ध निष्कासन को अपनाते के लिए मार्गदर्शन प्रदान कर सकती है। भारत का यह मॉडल उन दूसरे देशों के लिए बेहतर साबित हो सकता है, जो दुनिया भर में एक जैसे नियम और मानदंडों के आधार पर सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक पर रोक लगाने की बात कर रहे हैं।

यह ढांचा सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक पर एक व्यापक, तार्किक और विज्ञान-आधारित वैश्विक नीति की आधारशिला बन सकता है।

संधि वार्ताओं पर नजर रख रहे नागरिक समाज संगठनों के अनुसार 140 से अधिक सदस्य देशों ने सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक पर वैश्विक प्रतिबंध और चरणबद्ध निष्कासन की मांग की है।

प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण (खासकर समुद्री पर्यावरण में) को समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से आयोजित अंतर-सरकारी वार्ता समिति (इंटर गवर्नमेंटल नेगोशिएटिंग कमेटी) की पांच बैठकों के बाद वैश्विक स्तर पर सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हुई है। लुईस वायस वाल्डविएसो द्वारा पेश किए गए चेयर टेक्स्ट (मसौदे) में भारत की मजबूत योजना से कई अहम विचार और तरीके अपनाए गए हैं।

भारत द्वारा सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों के मानदंडों की तुलना जब चेयर टेक्स्ट से की जाती है, तो दोनों में काफी समानता देखने को मिलती है। प्लास्टिक उत्पादों पर अनुच्छेद 3 में ऐसे साझा मानदंड शामिल हैं जैसे कचरा बनने की संभावना, पर्यावरण पर प्रभाव, पुनर्चक्रण की क्षमता और विकल्पों की उपलब्धता। इसके अलावा भारत का यह मॉडल षरिव्यू कमेटी के और भी जरूरी पहलुओं पर मदद दे सकता है। इनमें उत्पाद की सुरक्षा, उसकी अनिवार्यता और सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रभाव शामिल है।

विशिष्ट सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक उत्पादों पर वैश्विक प्रतिबंध से कचरा प्रबंधन और सफाई पर होने वाले खर्च को लेकर सरकारों पर पड़ने वाला वित्तीय बोझ काफी हद तक कम किया जा सकता है।

प्राकृतिक संरक्षण से जुड़े संगठन वर्ल्ड वाइड फंड फॉर नेचर (डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूएफ) द्वारा अर्थ एक्शन से कराए गए एक अध्ययन में चार सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक वस्तुओं (स्ट्रॉ, स्टिरर, ईयरबड्स और कटलरी) की जांच की गई। इस अध्ययन में यह सामने आया कि इन उत्पादों पर प्रतिबंध और चरणबद्ध निष्कासन से सामाजिक-आर्थिक लाभ उल्लेखनीय हैं।

यदि इन उत्पादों का उपयोग वर्तमान की तरह ही वैश्विक स्तर पर जारी रहता है तो 2025 से 2040 के बीच सरकारों को कचरा प्रबंधन पर लगभग 15 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर का खर्च वहन करना पड़ सकता है। वहीं, सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक के गलत प्रबंधन की वैश्विक लागत 2.5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर से भी अधिक हो सकती है।

हालांकि, यदि 2028 तक इन उत्पादों पर त्वरित और ठोस प्रतिबंध लागू कर दिए जाएं तो सरकारें कचरा प्रबंधन पर होने वाले खर्च में लगभग 12 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर की बचत कर सकती हैं, और प्लास्टिक के गलत प्रबंधन से होने वाली वैश्विक लागत

में लगभग 2 ट्रिलियन डॉलर तक की कमी आ सकती है। ऐसे कदम वैश्विक वैकल्पिक उत्पादों के बाजार को भी बढ़ावा देंगे, जिसकी अनुमानित आर्थिक कीमत इसी अवधि के दौरान 15 अरब डॉलर से अधिक हो सकती है।

चेयर के मसौदे के वाई परिशिष्ट में जिन प्लास्टिक उत्पादों को वैश्विक प्रतिबंध और चरणबद्ध निष्कासन के लिए विचाराधीन रखा गया है, उनकी सूची अर्थ एक्शन के अध्ययन की तुलना में कहीं अधिक व्यापक है।

भारत का राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबंध विशेष रूप से अधिक समग्र और विस्तृत है, जिसमें कुछ विशिष्ट उपयोगों के लिए पैकेजिंग फिल्मों पर प्रतिबंध और प्लास्टिक कैरी बैग्स पर चयनात्मक प्रतिबंध जैसे प्रावधान शामिल हैं।

इससे भारत एक ऐसा देश बन गया है जिसके पास सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक पर रोक लगाने का अच्छा अनुभव और वैज्ञानिक तरीका है और भारत अब इस क्षेत्र में दुनिया का नेतृत्व करने की स्थिति में है।

सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक के सबसे नुकसानदायक उत्पादों को धीरे-धीरे खत्म करने के लिए भारत की योजना एक अच्छा उदाहरण बन सकती है। यह मॉडल आने वाली वैश्विक प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण संधि में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है।

देश में पहले ही बड़े और साहसिक कदम उठाए जा चुके हैं, जिससे प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल अब सिंगल-यूज प्लास्टिक से मुक्त दुनिया की दिशा में नेतृत्व करने के लिए तैयार हैं। वे इस मुद्दे पर दुनिया को रास्ता दिखाने की मजबूत स्थिति में हैं।

प्लास्टिक संकट: हर साल सेहत पर पड़ रही 1.5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की मार, लैंसेट में बढ़ा खुलासा

वैज्ञानिकों के मुताबिक प्लास्टिक में मौजूद केमिकलों से बच्चों से लेकर बुजुर्गों तक कोई सुरक्षित नहीं। यह हानिकारक केमिकल प्लास्टिक के निर्माण से निपटान तक हर चरण में लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर असर डालते हैं

दुनिया में बढ़ता प्लास्टिक अब सिर्फ पर्यावरण ही नहीं, बल्कि मानव स्वास्थ्य और अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए गंभीर चुनौती बन चुका है। मेडिकल जर्नल द लैंसेट में प्रकाशित एक नई रिपोर्ट के हवाले से पता चला है कि प्लास्टिक के कारण हर साल स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र पर 1.5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर से अधिक का बोझ पड़ रहा है।

गौरतलब है कि यह रिपोर्ट ऐसे समय में सामने आई है जब जिनेवा में 180 से अधिक देशों के प्रतिनिधि वैश्विक प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण संधि (आईएनसी-5.2) को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

रिपोर्ट में इस तथ्य पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया है कि प्लास्टिक में मौजूद केमिकलों से बच्चों से लेकर बुजुर्गों तक कोई सुरक्षित नहीं है। शोधकर्ताओं के मुताबिक प्लास्टिक में मौजूद यह हानिकारक केमिकल इसके निर्माण से निपटान तक हर चरण में लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर असर डालते हैं। यह लोगों में बीमारियों से लेकर असमय मृत्यु तक की वजह बन रहे हैं।

प्लास्टिक में मौजूद केमिकल हमारे स्वास्थ्य के लिए गंभीर खतरा बन चुके हैं। वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि ये रसायन जीवन के हर चरण में स्वास्थ्य को नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं, जिसमें गर्भ में पल रहे शिशु और छोटे बच्चे सबसे ज्यादा संवेदनशील होते हैं।

भारत का मॉडल : प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के खिलाफ वैश्विक समाधान

दरअसल, प्लास्टिक आज एक ऐसा अदृश्य और तेजी से बढ़ता संकट बन चुका है, जिस पर तुरंत और ठोस कार्रवाई की सख्त जरूरत है।

माइक्रोप्लास्टिक का बढ़ता खतरा

रिपोर्ट में यह भी चेताया है कि प्लास्टिक के महीन कण जिन्हें माइक्रोप्लास्टिक के नाम से जाना जाता है, वो अब प्रकृति से लेकर मानव शरीर तक में रच बस गए हैं। हालांकि इनके सभी प्रभाव अभी पूरी तरह स्पष्ट नहीं हैं, लेकिन वैज्ञानिक इसे स्वास्थ्य के लिए गंभीर खतरा मानते हैं।

माइक्रोप्लास्टिक हमारे शरीर में रक्त, कोशिकाओं से लेकर अंगों तक में जमा हो रहे हैं। दुनिया में आज शायद ही ऐसी कोई जगह होगी जहां प्लास्टिक की मौजूदगी के निशान न मिले हों। प्लास्टिक निर्माण से निकलने वाले पीएम2.5, सल्फर-डाइऑक्साइड, नाइट्रोजन ऑक्साइड्स, और भारी रासायनिक तत्व सीधे मानव स्वास्थ्य को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं। इनसे जन्म सम्बन्धी विकार, अस्थमा, कैंसर, हृदय रोग, हार्मोन में गड़बड़ी और विकास संबंधी विकार अब आम होते जा रहे हैं।

अमेरिका के बॉस्टन कॉलेज में प्रोफेसर और इस रिपोर्ट से जुड़े प्रमुख शोधकर्ता फिलिप जे लैङ्गिन का कहना है, "प्लास्टिक बचपन से लेकर बुढ़ापे तक बीमारियों और मौत की वजह बन रहा है। इसकी वजह से हर साल स्वास्थ्य को 1.5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा का नुकसान हो रहा है।"

उनका यह भी कहना है कि बच्चों और कमजोर वर्गों पर इसका सबसे ज्यादा प्रभाव पड़ता है।

72 वर्षों में 238 गुना बढ़ा प्लास्टिक उत्पादन

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 1950 में वैश्विक स्तर पर महज 20 लाख टन प्लास्टिक का उत्पादन किया गया था, जो 2022 में 238 गुणा बढ़कर 47.5 करोड़ टन पर पहुंच गया। आशंका है कि जिस तेजी से प्लास्टिक उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है यदि वो रफ्तार जारी रहती है तो 2060 तक यह तीन गुना और बढ़ जाएगा। अनुमान है कि 2060 तक प्लास्टिक उत्पादन बढ़कर 120 करोड़ टन पर पहुंच सकता है।

समस्या यह है कि हर साल इतनी बड़ी मात्रा में प्लास्टिक उत्पादन के बावजूद 10 फीसदी से ही कम प्लास्टिक कचरा रीसायकल हो रहा है। बाकी को या तो जला दिया जाता है या फिर पर्यावरण में डंप कर दिया जाता है।

देखा जाए तो दुनिया में अब तक करीब 800 करोड़ टन प्लास्टिक कचरा जमा हो चुका है। प्लास्टिक लम्बे समय तक पर्यावरण में बना रहता है क्योंकि यह प्राकृतिक रूप से नष्ट नहीं होता।

रिपोर्ट बताती है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर 57 फीसदी प्लास्टिक कचरा खुले में जलाया जाता है, जिससे खासकर कमजोर और मध्यम आय वाले देशों में वायु प्रदूषण और स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्याएं गंभीर रूप ले रही हैं। इतना ही नहीं यह कचरा मच्छरों और जीवाणुओं को पनपने के लिए अनुकूल माहौल दे रहा है, जिससे संक्रमण और दवाओं के प्रति प्रतिरोधक क्षमता (एंटीबायोटिक रेसिस्टेन्स) जैसी चुनौतियां भी बढ़ रही हैं।

Global Plastics Treaty: India backs ‘weak’ plastic treaty draft with no cap on production, toxic chemicals

The new draft by INC Chair Luis Vayas Valdivieso keeps voluntary recycling and waste measures but drops production limits and mentions of chemicals of concern.

On the eve of the penultimate day of negotiations for a legally binding global plastics treaty, talks are in deadlock — and India has thrown its weight behind the petrochemical-producing Like-Minded Countries (LMC), accepting a weakened draft text that drops production caps and chemical controls as merely a “starting point” for talks. “We have some serious concerns on the text proposed by you, as we see many fundamental elements (scope) missing from the text,” said Naresh Pal Gangwar, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and head of India’s delegation. “Having said this, we consider this as a good enough starting point to further our work... We also urge other member states to have trust in your leadership and express their concern during the consultation process.”

The new draft, released by Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) Chair Luis Vayas Valdivieso, just ahead of the scheduled plenary on Wednesday evening, retains voluntary measures on product redesign, recycling, and waste management but deletes a previous article on production limits and omits all reference to chemicals of concern. The only nod to production appears in the preamble — a symbolic gesture far from the binding commitments sought by more than 100 countries.

India’s alignment with the LMC, led by Kuwait and including Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Malaysia, places it firmly in the camp resisting upstream measures that target the root cause of plastic pollution — the sheer volume of plastic being produced. The bloc has consistently opposed any global phase-out list, production caps, or trade restrictions on plastic products.

The EU and its 27 member states blasted the draft, saying it “doesn’t meet the minimum requirements and falls short of UNEA 5/14,” and called for reinstating strong, binding measures to curb virgin plastic output. Norway, co-chair of the High Ambition Coalition, said the text was “not acceptable as it stands.” Colombia outright rejected it as “imbalanced,” drawing applause from observers and high-ambition delegations.

Saudi Arabia called the text “a milestone”. Chile and Panama warned the proposal failed to meet the scale of the crisis.

Civil society leaders accused the chair of delivering a treaty tailored to petrochemical industry demands. “Without polymers and chemicals, there are no plastic products. This text will do nothing... to address plastic pollution,” said Swathi Seshadri of IEEFA. David Azoulay of CIEL described it as “a mockery” that would “ensure nothing will change” and warned it locks in plastic production growth indefinitely.

Ana Rocha of GAIA condemned the removal of Article 6 on production cuts and the absence of an objective to “end plastic pollution,” saying it had been reduced to “a weak, waste-management” agreement.

Valdivieso defended the proposal as a “thoughtfully balanced framework” that reflects “red lines, sensitivities, aspirations, and goals” of all sides, urging delegates to push toward a second draft in the limited time remaining. With just one day of scheduled negotiations left, the divide between production-cut advocates and petrochemical-aligned states shows no sign of narrowing. There will be a closing plenary on Thursday before which a second draft will be readied during the regional consultations and bilaterals.

(Source: *The Indian Express*; 13th August, 2025)

All over again, global plastics treaty INC-5.2 ends without agreement

The second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (**INC-5.2**), adjourned on August 15 without consensus on a text of the instrument.

The INC-5.2 adjourned without consensus. (Source: UNEP)

The session was held from August 5 to 14 at Geneva, Switzerland, aiming to finalize and approve the text of the agreement and forward it for consideration and adoption at a future diplomatic conference.

INC-5.2 saw more than 2,600 participants, including over 1,400 Member delegates from 183 countries, and close to 1,000 Observers representing over 400 organizations. Some 70 Ministers and Vice Ministers, as well as 30 other high-level representatives, also held informal roundtables on the margins of the session.

According to the Guardian, the new draft contains one mention of **plastic production**, in the preamble reaffirming the importance of sustainable plastic production and consumption. An article on production from a previous draft has been removed and there is no mention of chemicals. A reference to the “full life cycle” of plastics in a previous draft has also been removed.

Discussion on the draft treaty remains whether to set production caps and address chemicals used in plastic products, or to focus on waste management, recycling and better design.

Production caps and toxic chemicals control

Almost 100 countries, including Australia, Canada, Mexico and many African and Pacific countries, address plastic problem at source. They have called for legally binding measures to limit plastic production. Many also expressed that **toxic chemicals** in plastics need to be controlled.

Some countries that call for an ambitious treaty with production reduction target, including Colombia, the EU and the UK, have rejected as “unacceptable” and “unambitious” draft treaty that failed to include production caps and chemicals control in plastic products.

As an observer, **Greenpeace** also stands for a treaty that addresses production limit and harmful chemicals. “By failing to address production or harmful chemicals in any way, this text glorifies the industry lie that we can recycle our way out of this crisis, ignoring the root cause: the relentless expansion of plastic production,” said Graham Forbes, Greenpeace’s head of delegation.

Better design, recycling and waste management

On the other hand, oil-, gas- and plastics-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iran, reject a treaty with production caps. Instead, they aim to focus on measures such as better plastic product design, waste management and recycling. This “like-minded group” has been reportedly supported by the US and the chemical industry.

INC-5.3?

“As this session concludes, we leave with an understanding of the challenges ahead and a renewed and shared commitment to address them,” said Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the INC Secretariat. “Progress must now be our obligation.”

The Committee agreed to resume negotiations at a future date to be announced. Will **INC-5.3** succeed to reach agreement? We will see.

(Source : *Adsale Plastics Network* Date : 20-08-2025)

How industries, chemicals ministry influenced India's plastic rules

The dilution of India's plastic laws has been happening through a thousand cuts, show RTI documents.

As diplomats from 175 countries convene for a plastics showdown in Geneva, India's negotiators arrive armed with a playbook shaped less by environmental urgency and more by industry whispers.

As one of the world's leading producers of plastic waste – India's choices could tip the scales on any global treaty. But the road to Geneva is littered with decades of industry influence and diluted promises.

In the second and third week of August, countries are set to engage in an intense round of negotiations on the Global Plastic Treaty, the United Nations-led effort to tackle plastic pollution.

Previous negotiations in Busan in 2024 ended in stalemate, with India and other petrochemical producing countries refusing to set limits on plastic manufacture. In Busan, India argued in favour of "downstream measures" such as recycling and reuse, on the grounds that restrictions on manufacture would threaten millions of workers dependent on plastics.

This stance wasn't born in a vacuum, but was shaped by persistent lobbying by plastic manufacturers and industry lobbies, and driven by the petroleum and industries ministries in New Delhi.

We examined over 5,600 pages of minutes of meetings, notes, reports, and submissions obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) through the Right to Information (RTI) Act and uncovered a clear pattern: plastic manufacturers and the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) have played an outsized role in determining India's approach to plastics pollution.

This two-part series explores how India's plastic legislation evolved and, in many cases, was diluted, under industry pressure. In this first part, we trace how stringent plastic bans were softened, and how state-level attempts to enforce strict norms were superseded by the Union government at the behest of plastic manufacturing associations.

The curious case of plastic bans

India's current global stance on plastics is the culmination of a two-decade-long shift in discourse. It started with The Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999, which sought to limit the manufacture of plastic carry bags. Following this, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) set about broadening the mandate. Committees, including those formed by the Supreme Court, soon began recommending even stricter rules to deal with plastic waste.

The CPCB proposed banning laminates and multi-layered packaging, which comprises layers of plastic, paper, aluminium and other materials. These are ubiquitous in everything from chips to shampoo pouches, juices to chocolate wrappers, and are one of the biggest sources of plastic waste that is hard to recycle. Also on the proposed ban list were plastic containers, now ubiquitous in food delivery. CPCB also sought to place the financial responsibility of collection and recycling on plastics manufacturers.

The new law would be called "Plastic Manufacture and Usage Rules", emphasizing restrictions on plastics manufacture.

Internal notes show vehement objections from the chemicals ministry, which governs production of plastics. The main objection was the name itself, which the ministry felt unfairly targeted what the DCPC called a "wonder material". Buying back plastic, they argued, was "impractical and extremely difficult"—this, even as Europe and developed countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) were implementing such measures.

Plastics manufacturers echoed these concerns. "Plastics are very useful and eco-friendly...Shopping without polythene bags, picnics without disposable glass, our kitchen without rows of plastic jars, is just unthinkable," the All India Plastics Manufacturing Association (AIPMA), which represents over 22,000 plastics manufacturers, said in 2002. For them, the problem was not plastics themselves, but "waste management and littering habits of people".

O P Ratra, a plastics industry advisor, has been on multiple committees (including the 1996 National Plastic Waste Management Task Force). “I have consistently advocated the view that plastic itself is not the core problem but littering is,” he told IndiaSpend. “International organisations were intensifying their campaigns against plastics. But I have worked to show the other side of the argument.”

In governmental meetings, he found an ally in the DCPC. “They have been a supporter of these views and have actively represented our concerns,” he said.

These objections, along with DCPC’s 2007 petrochemical policy that sought to boost plastic manufacture, had an impact on the government. CPCB and MoEF diluted their positions. The draft “Plastic Manufacture and Usage Rules” became the draft “Plastics (Manufacture, Usage and Waste Management)” and eventually, by 2011, when the Rules were finally notified, the word “manufacture” was entirely removed.

The many dilutions of the single-use plastics ban

This influence over environmental policy didn’t stop there. Take the ban on single-use plastics (SUPs) – that is, items like plastic bags, plastic cutlery, ice cream sticks, plastic ear-buds and others that are used just once. In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India would be free of SUPs by July 1, 2022. In March 2019, India piloted a resolution on single-use plastic products pollution at the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)—an initiative that earned international praise with Erik Solheim, the head of UN Environment, saying that India has “political motivation, turned into practical action” that can “inspire the world and ignite real change”.

The announcement was followed by the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2021 that banned the manufacture, distribution, stocking, sale and use of 19 specific SUPs. However, experts pointed out the large gap between India’s global talk and domestic action, and noted that there were too many exceptions to the ban.

The ban is skewed against the smallest segment of the plastic industry, which is the one that needs the maximum hand holding in order to transition away from single-use plastic, experts told IndiaSpend in October 2022. India needs to make the big players accountable for their share of plastic pollution, we had reported.

The 2019 Action Plan, circulated within ministries, noted that SUPs comprised 43% of plastic consumption – but the final policy banned a mere 2-3 percent of the total plastic produced in India. How did this happen? Through myriad industry-friendly cuts.

From the outset, its ambit was determined by plastic associations. The selection of Single-Use Plastics to be banned was decided by DCPC’s expert committee, formed in 2019. Of the nine members, just two worked on environmental regulations (that is, CPCB officers), with the rest being from other government departments. Fourteen associations and organisations linked to plastic industries were represented in the discussions, while the remaining five were government ministries, research institutions and non-government organisations.

The committee weighed the ‘utility’ of plastics (hygiene of the product, safety, essentiality, social impact or convenience and economic impact) against environmental impact (collectibility of the product), recyclability, possibility of waste to energy and other “End of life” solutions, environmental impact of alternates and littering propensity. Health and ecological impacts were not considered.

Economic fallout took precedence over environmental or health impacts. Only 12 low-utility, hard-to-recycle products were targeted, sparing widely used but highly polluting plastics like small sachets on the grounds that they scored high on the “utility” index. These criteria, incidentally, were similar to those presented to the committee by AIPMA, whose stated objective is to promote the plastics industry.

Satish Sinha, associate director of Toxics Link, an NGO that works on waste and chemical issues, was among the stakeholders who met the committee in 2019. He recalls that the primary criteria used was “the economic fallout” of phasing out plastics. “A lot of the items on the shelves of department stores were not considered because if these were banned suddenly or had to be replaced by costly alternatives, then it is the consumers that will have to bear the cost. These recommendations were acceptable to all stakeholders at the time. We felt it was a starting point in the conversation.”

DCPC’s expert committee report had shown that rigid containers were widely used in food delivery but were of low utility, were difficult to collect and had relatively low recyclability. It pointed out that there were alternatives, including aluminium boxes.

The environment ministry tried to expand the ban to include rigid containers but industry associations pushed back, claiming these were “multi-use”. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) agreed, and containers were dropped from the banned list.

Similarly, bans were proposed on non-woven carry bags which are made from plastic fibres. At the time, Maharashtra and several other states had already banned such bags. Almost immediately, several associations and manufacturers wrote in claiming these bags were considered “textiles”, and that they were recyclable and reusable. Even the Prime Minister’s Office, in September 2019, forwarded a representation from the Ahmedabad-based Indian Non-Woven Fabric Manufacturer Association against the ban.

Eventually, a diluted restriction was notified in the 2021 PWM rules, whereby only non-woven carry bags less than 60 grams per square meter (GSM) would be banned. This threshold was lower than DCPC’s own expert committee, which recommended the “phasing out as early as possible” of non-woven bags that are less than 80 GSM. Documents from CPCB show that plastic manufacturers agreed to this lower cut-off as they could continue manufacturing without any disruption.

Non-woven bags continue to be a problem for states, where they are being sold as cloth bags or eco-friendly alternatives to plastics.

The great multi-layered plastics escape

The intended ban of multi-layered plastics is another case study in policy dilution due to external influence. CPCB, which had long advocated the ban of non-recyclable plastics in MLPs, noted in 2012 that MLPs are a major portion of the 0.56 million tonnes of non-recyclable plastic waste that ends up in the waste stream annually.

DCPC however had repeatedly sought to scuttle the ban, claiming that there was no alternative manufacturing and warning that processed food projects – which are often wrapped in various types of plastic films and MLPs – would be off our shelves if the ban came into force.

Eventually, the CPCB prevailed through the Plastics Waste Management Rules in 2016: “Manufacture and use of non-recyclable multilayered plastic, if any, should be phased out in two years’ time.”

The victory, however, was short-lived. As the deadline approached, objections poured in with manufacturers and product companies claiming that even if the plastic was not recyclable, it could be incinerated or converted to oil to generate electricity.

“The solution to the environmental threat posed by post-consumer MLP waste is not a complete ban on their use,” said the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), an apex body representing several large companies in the agriculture and consumer food processing sectors.

ICFA wrote to the ministry in February 2018, a month before the ban on non-recyclable MLP was to take effect: “A possible solution to counter this issue and to enhance the waste management effort is to phase out materials which are both non-recyclable and non-energy recoverable in a phased-out manner.”

In March that year, the MoEF&CC issued a gazette notification modifying the ban to only MLPs which are “non-recyclable or non-energy recoverable or with no alternate use”.

Influence to peddle dangerous technology

Industry lobbying didn’t just shape bans—it also promoted questionable solutions.

In March 2018 Mansukh Mandaviya, the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, wrote to the environment ministry that after deliberations with the Oxo-Biodegradable Plastics Federation (which represent companies that manufacture additives that can be added to plastic and help it break down faster), he found that it was a “very good technology” that would help manage waste.

At the same time, scientists and activists globally were calling for its ban as these additives break down plastics into even more dangerous microplastics. In 2019, the European Union banned the additives, followed by similar action in other countries. Documents show that in 2022, India’s environment ministry acknowledged receiving several comments seeking its ban, but no action was taken.

Oxo-degradable products continued to be marketed in India as “eco-friendly”. It was only in 2023 that the CPCB mandated that these products needed to be registered and tested before it was sold.

States vs Union govt: Who gets the last word?

The industry’s influence extended to the balance of power between states and the Union government. Internal documents reveal that industries influenced central policy to supersede state laws that dealt with plastic management.

In March 2018, four months before Prime Minister Modi’s speech to the UN, Maharashtra banned a large array of single-use products including carry bags, containers, cutlery and others. Maharashtra became the 18th state to either completely ban SUPs or enforce bans in select eco-sensitive regions. Manufacturers unsuccessfully challenged the Maharashtra ban in the Bombay High Court.

The plastics industry then sent a flurry of representations to the MoEF&CC complaining about the state bans and pointing to the stringent nature of the state laws, compared to the relaxations and exemptions given by the Union government. For instance, Maharashtra had banned all plastics less than 50 microns, including multi-layer packaging that had been allowed by the Centre.

MoEF&CC received representations for bans and restrictions in other states as well. The Indian Beverages Association objected to the ban of PET bottles of less than two litres in volume in the eco-sensitive Andaman and Nicobar Islands (as no waste processing facility exists on the Islands).

The Indian Compostable Polymers Association complained that Maharashtra and Karnataka had banned compostable plastic bags despite the Centre allowing them.

In July 2018, the Madhya Pradesh Plastic Traders Association called for uniform regulations to counter these state bans. This motto was repeated by several other manufacturers and consumer goods companies.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), India’s largest business association, called for consistency in rules. The aim, they said, was to balance Swachh Bharat, the government’s flagship sanitation programme, with the “ease of doing business”.

Samsung India Electronics also called for greater centralisation, arguing that dealing with multiple local bodies was “very costly and highly time consuming”.

By August 2021, the Plastic Waste Management, 2021 Rules effectively took away the powers of the State. “Any notification prohibiting the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use (of carry bags, plastic sheets, multilayered packaging and single-use plastic) issued after this notification shall come into force after the expiry of ten years from the date of its publication,” it stated.

“It amounts to a moratorium on policy-making, restricting the ability of state governments to institute policies to curb plastic use for 10 years,” said Satyarupa Shekhar, former coordinator of the #breakfreefromplastic movement in the Asia Pacific region. She believed this moratorium will likely be extended.

The MoEF&CC’s stance represents an inexplicable change from its own position adopted a few years earlier. In early 2016, the Plastic Manufacturers and Traders Association sought a uniform liberal policy after Punjab had enforced a strict plastic ban. The environment ministry, which was drafting the 2016 Plastic management rules at that time, had rejected the suggestion, saying: “States can have stringent norms.”

These policy twists and turns didn’t just stay on paper. They set the stage for India’s current hardline stance in global talks. As delegates gather in Geneva, the question that will be foregrounded is: Will India stick to its industry-friendly script, or is a plot twist on the horizon?

IndiaSpend wrote to the MoEF&CC and CPCB for comment on the influence of industries and the DCPC in diluting plastic regulations, and their stance on exemptions of MLPs and other items from the SUP ban, which are now creating issues in recycling, among other concerns. We will update this story when we receive a response

(Source: By: Sukriti Vats & IndiaSpend; 11 Aug, 2025)

International News

Oregon EPR program faces court challenge

The National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors has filed a suit challenging the constitutionality of Oregon's newly enacted EPR system.

The Washington-based National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) has filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon challenging the constitutionality of the Oregon law **that created its newly enacted extended producer responsibility (EPR)** program.

NAW, which describes itself as a "collective voice for the \$8 trillion distribution industry" that has 6 million employees nationwide, names the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Environmental Commission and Oregon Attorney General Daniel A. Rayfield as defendants in the **July 30 filing**.

The suing organization claims Oregon's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act, which created the EPR program, "misses the target" in terms of encouraging a circular economy and modernizing the state's recycling program. "Unfortunately, as enacted, the act and threatens the viability of the wholesale distribution industry nationwide—the cornerstone of America's supply chain," the organization says.

"While NAW supports the goal of a circular economy, the Oregon EPR law, as enacted, is unconstitutional, creates new mandates, inhibits interstate commerce and fails at its primary goal of encouraging circularity," says Eric Hoplin, president and CEO of NAW.

"Rather than encourage sustainability through a uniform and transparent system where compliance burdens are shared across industries, Oregon chose to shift the burden to the parts of the supply chain that have little to no control over decisions to design, reduce, reuse or recycle a product," Hoplin adds.

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NAW says its suit challenges the Oregon law's constitutionally on several fronts, including that it "unfairly targets out-of-state producers [and] tries to control business outside of Oregon—violating the U.S. Constitution's limits on state regulation of interstate commerce."

The Oregon EPR system also "mandates [that] producers sign contracts with a single approved private organization (the **Circular Action Alliance, or CAA**), giving up their economic freedom and due process rights," according to NAW. NAW also describes the CAA as a private, third-party group "with a financial interest in the program" it claims is operating "without clear rules or oversight."

As an example, NAW says CAA policies subject product makers and distributors "to fees and rules set by CAA without a real chance to object or appeal or transparency in the process."

In the closing section of its 23-page filing, NAW says it is asking the court to "declare the act and regulations promulgated thereunder to be invalid and unenforceable" and "issue a permanent injunction enjoining defendants from implementing or enforcing the act and regulations promulgated thereunder."

Additionally, NAW has asked the court to award it "such costs of suit and attorney's fees to which plaintiff may be entitled to by law" and to "award such other relief as the court deems just and proper."

(Source: Waste Today; 31st July, 2025)

UNEP chief urges nations to strike 'historic' deal to end plastic waste

Talks in Geneva enter decisive phase as countries face pressure to agree first legally binding treaty to curb plastic pollution

Summary

- *UNEP chief Inger Andersen warns that the world is "on the brink" of a historic treaty to end plastic pollution.*
- *Nations meet in Geneva for INC 5.2, the decisive round of negotiations on a legally binding global plastics agreement.*
- *Talks follow years of diplomacy since the 2022 UN Environment Assembly resolution, but key points of contention remain.*
- *Stakeholders, from waste pickers to youth activists, are credited with keeping pressure on governments to act.*

The world is "on the brink" of agreeing a historic treaty to end plastic pollution, the head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said in Geneva on August 5, 2025, as nations reconvened for the final stretch of negotiations on a legally binding agreement.

Inger Andersen, UNEP's executive director, told delegates at a multistakeholder forum hosted by the Swiss government that the next 10 days would be critical in determining whether governments could reach consensus on a treaty that has been three and a half years in the making.

This is a treaty the world wants and needs... Plastic pollution is in nature, in our oceans, in our very bodies, where it does not belong ... There is a path to a treaty even if it may be narrow.

Inger Andersen, UNEP's executive director

The talks, known as INC 5.2, are the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international instrument on plastic pollution. They will run from August 5 to 14, 2-25 at the Palais des Nations, the UN's European headquarters.

Negotiations follow a series of intensive consultations, including the first part of the session in Busan, South Korea, last November. That meeting produced a "Chair's Text" and a draft report outlining points of convergence, but also highlighted areas where major differences remain — such as the scope of production limits and the extent of financial and technical support for developing countries.

Andersen urged member states to keep the focus on "a future free of plastic pollution that allows everyone to prosper," and credited stakeholders — from scientists and civil society groups to waste pickers and youth advocates — for keeping pressure on governments and spotlighting the health and environmental risks of plastic.

"It took a global village to bring us to this point," she said, noting that community action and early private sector innovation had already demonstrated solutions.

The Geneva talks are the culmination of a process launched by the unanimous adoption of UN Environment Assembly Resolution 5/14 in 2022, which set in motion the drafting of a legally binding global agreement. Regional consultations were held on 4 August to prepare for the resumed session.

If governments can strike a deal this month, the treaty would mark the first comprehensive international effort to curb plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and could shape the future of global production, consumption and waste management for decades to come.

(Source: Down to Earth; 5th Aug. 2025)

Plastics treaty talks set to begin sixth phase

Familiar roadblocks remain as negotiators descend on Geneva for INC-5.2.

Global representatives have spent five sessions and almost three years negotiating a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution. From Aug. 5-14, they will make a sixth attempt at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The sixth United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, or **INC-5.2**, is billed as an extension of the **fifth session**, which took place Nov. 25-Dec. 1, 2024, in Busan, South Korea. That conference was supposed to be the finale, wrapping a two-year process to create a legally binding document. However, key differences remain between countries, including potential caps on plastic production, the establishment of a financial mechanism to implement the agreement and whether participation will be mandatory or voluntary.

According to the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), more than 3,300 delegates, including members representing more than 170 countries and observers from more than 440 organizations, met for INC-5. Through its own research, the Washington-based Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) said at the time that more than 220 fossil fuel and petrochemical lobbyists also attended.

The starting point

INC-5.2 talks will use the "**Chair's Text**" as a starting point in Geneva.

Developed by INC Chair and Ambassador for Ecuador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, the treaty text includes measures addressing product design and the development of a global list of chemicals and products of concern to eliminate while leaving options open for countries wishing to participate on a more voluntary basis—an ongoing point of contention. During the previous session in Busan, a majority group of more than 100 countries from various regions led by Mexico and Rwanda said they would not accept a treaty without binding global bans and phaseouts of "harmful plastic products and chemicals of concern." The stance was at odds with countries such as China, Saudi Arabia and Russia, which pushed for more focus on managing plastic scrap rather than capping production or eliminating certain chemicals.

Somewhere in middle is the United States, which has sided with both groups. While it previously aligned more closely with China, Saudi Arabia and Russia, advocating for a focus on a circular economy for plastics and addressing production design and scrap management, the Biden administration **shifted course in the summer months of 2024**, instead supporting a global target to reduce yearly plastic production and create a chemical phaseout list, aligning it more closely with the majority group, which includes Canada, Mexico, South Korea and European Union member states.

While the U.S. has shown interest in voluntary production caps and minimum design and performance standards on plastic products, the Trump administration's stance on the treaty and its goals remains unclear as negotiations begin. During a **July hearing** conducted by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment, ranking member Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey, a Democrat, addressed the upcoming treaty talks in his opening remarks.

"Like the climate crisis, plastic pollution is a global problem that warrants ambitious cooperation from the international community," he said. "The U.S. delegation must continue to be a strong voice at the global plastics treaty negotiations next month. We should not take a backseat or accept weaker standards."

The call to action

A host of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders has expressed a desire to see the adoption of a binding agreement at INC-5.2.

In June, the **Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty**, a group of more than 290 businesses, financial institutions and NGOs, published an open letter to negotiators urging an agreement on harmonized regulations to end plastic pollution.

"Business supports harmonized regulations because they drive consistency across borders while supporting national ambitions and provide the lowest cost option to effectively address plastic pollution," the group writes. "Voluntary efforts are not enough, and the current fragmented regulatory landscape results in increased costs and complexity.

"With a pivotal opportunity at INC-5.2, we urge you to support a treaty that includes provisions for harmonized regulations on key elements, including phaseouts, product design and extended producer responsibility [EPR]. Enabled by a fair financing mechanism, such measures would help support sustainable levels of production and consumption of plastics globally, ensure a level playing field for businesses and support all countries to deliver on their national ambitions."

Also in June, representatives of 95 countries published "**The Nice Call for an Ambitious Treaty on Plastic Pollution**," or the "Nice Wakeup Call," which stated a similar position to the business coalition.

"We are heartened by the constructive engagement of the majority of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee members to conclude an effective treaty that is urgently needed, acknowledging the scale of socioeconomic challenges that ending plastic pollution may represent for certain parties," the letter states, adding that certain points are key to reaching an agreement that is "commensurate with what science tells us and our citizens are calling for."

The five key points include:

- Reaffirming that the full life cycle of plastics includes the production and consumption stages and calling for a global target to reduce the production and consumption of primary plastic polymers to sustainable levels, to be regularly adjusted with a view of enhancing the level of ambition. "We also call for an obligation for parties to report on their production, imports and exports of primary plastic polymers, and to take measures across the full life cycle of plastics to achieve the global target," the countries write.
- The call for a legally binding obligation to phase out "the most problematic plastic products and chemicals of concern in plastic products," including those "most likely to cause harm or hinder circularity," as well as the creation of a global list of plastic products and chemicals of concern.
- The call for an improvement in the design of plastic products and the assurance they cause minimal environmental impact to safeguard human health.
- The development of an effective means of implementation and accessible, new and additional financing, noting the special circumstances of the least developed countries and small island developing states. "We underscore the need to mobilize the necessary resources from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, in a way that ensures the achievement of the objectives and provisions of the treaty and guided by the polluter-pays principle," the letter states.
- The adoption of a treaty that can evolve over time and is responsive to changes in emerging evidence and knowledge. The countries write, "To this end, the treaty should provide for the possibility of decision-making, through regular U.N. procedures, if all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted."

The Washington-based **Ocean Conservancy** is an official U.N. observer organization and has been involved throughout the negotiation process. The organization's five treaty priorities are to secure plastics source reduction; address abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded plastic fishing and aquaculture gear; address microplastics; incentivize designing plastics for reuse and recyclability; and include the expertise of the informal scrap collection sector as a critical participant.

"We needed an ambitious plastics treaty at the last round of negotiations in November, one that addresses the root causes of plastic pollution and empowers countries to work toward a future where we're not drowning in plastics," says

Nicholas Mallos, the organization's vice president of conservation, ocean plastics. "Between that last meeting in Busan and the start of the negotiations in Geneva, an estimated 7.4 million metric tons more plastics have entered the ocean, and that's why we cannot delay this agreement any further."

The Washington-based World Wildlife Fund (WWF) notes that while previous efforts to finalize a treaty have stalled, "a majority of ambitious countries" continue to push for progress, "with only a small minority hindering momentum." Much like the representatives who authored the "Nice Wakeup Call", the organization supports global bans on what it deems the most harmful plastic products and chemicals, global product design requirements, financial and technical support for developing countries and mechanisms to strengthen and adapt the treaty over time.

"The speed at which the treaty went from conception to near completion is exactly what the planet needed, but it was never going to be without challenges," says Erin Simon, vice president and head of Plastic Waste & Business at the WWF. "As we approach the final stretch, negotiators must remember why we're here. Our planet is overwhelmed by plastic waste, and it's impacting everyone and everything that calls this planet home. At the start of these negotiations, the global community collectively agreed enough was enough, now is the moment to come together to deliver a path forward."

Aid from industry

The Global Partners for Plastics Circularity (GPPC), a multinational collaboration of associations and companies that make, use and recycle plastics, says it is advocating a global agreement to "accelerate a sustainable, circular economy for plastics."

The Washington-based organization, which is supported by the World Plastics Council (WPC) and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), says governments must focus on common ground and deliver an agreement countries can implement and communities can benefit from. The GPPC says that, at the heart of an effective agreement, is circularity, where plastics are designed to be reused or recycled, collected at their end of life and remade into new products.

"This is a critical moment," ICCA President Ilham Kadri says. "The world cannot afford to miss this opportunity to forge a robust global agreement that helps end plastic pollution. Governments have made meaningful progress, and now it's time to turn ambition into action. The industry stands ready with the data, innovation and global partnerships needed to support implementation. We are not just asking for an agreement, we are prepared to help deliver it."

The GPPC says the industry is committed to supporting an agreement that can help end plastic pollution while enabling innovation, investment and continued access to "the essential benefits plastics provide," and offers a range of science-based resources, including:

- **ICCA's Plastic Additives Database**, which aggregates extensive information on thousands of additives to support transparency and capacity building efforts for developing economies to regulate chemical additives used in plastics by leveraging existing data and risk assessments conducted by governments and multilateral institutions across the globe.
- **Decision Tree to Prevent Plastic Pollution**, a step-by-step tool designed to help governments assess plastic products across three dimensions: design for circularity, local waste management capacity and socioeconomic value. The GPPC says the tool guides users through targeted actions such as redesign, improved end-of-life treatment or identifying alternatives, based on national circumstances and circularity goals.
- **Industry policy recommendations** from the GPPC to help draft an agreement that is effective, inclusive and actionable by all countries.

"The global plastics agreement is an opportunity to move towards a circular economy," ICCA Council Secretary Marco Mensink says. "We've seen promising convergence on several key areas like design, infrastructure and addressing high-leakage products. We urge negotiators to seize this moment and bring the agreement across the finish line. Let's not let the perfect stand in the way of the possible."

The warning

Treaty negotiations **were discussed** during the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) Convention & Exhibition in Valenica, Spain, in May, and Alev Somer, the BIR's trade and environmental director, warned that talks could grind to a halt with no consensus.

"Since 2022, we at the United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee have been discussing reaching the ultimate goal of a plastics treaty that would address the whole life cycle of plastics and actually, perhaps, support the recycling industry. This treaty would be addressing plastic pollution not only on land, but also at sea."

However, Somer said the "waste part" of the proposed treaty "is really dividing the negotiating committee into two groups, with low-ambition countries, oil-producing countries, pushing for it to be addressed only at the end of life so that they don't have to do any changes in terms of their production and keep the commitments light with a voluntary

agreement, and high-ambition countries pushing for the treaty to be legally binding and covering the entire life cycle of plastics.”

Describing the progress of treaty talks over the last several years, Somer said, “Basically, it’s like the Ottoman march. You make two steps forward and then one step back.”

When BIR Plastics Division President Henk Alsema asked if there was a real chance of a deal being signed, Somer said, “I think miracles can happen. But to be honest, no, I do not frankly see a binding treaty signed at the end of the session 5.2 unless there is tremendous progress, and then there might be further negotiations.”

Somer said she had spoken with the secretariat working on the proposed treaty, who explained that if no agreement is reached at INC-5.2, the resources and budget do not exist to continue the negotiations. Instead, Somer suggested that more action could be taken through the Basel Convention on Plastics and other platforms, such as the Stockholm Convention, where persistent organic pollutants (POPs), could be addressed to potentially reduce the use of chemicals in plastics.

(Source: Recycling Today; 5th August, 2025)

UN plastics treaty talks in disarray after petrostates block progress

Extended round of negotiations appears set to end without agreement

The final stages of international negotiations on plastic pollution in Geneva were in disarray after being blocked by petrochemical producers, despite talks being extended in an attempt to reach agreement.

Delegates from more than 170 countries have gathered in Switzerland over the past two weeks in a final attempt to reach a globally binding treaty. The fifth round of talks collapsed in South Korea last year after oil-producing nations blocked the inclusion of measures that would regulate plastic production.

The Geneva talks scheduled to conclude on Thursday were extended into another day for the presentation of a second draft of the treaty. But a heated final plenary meeting on Friday morning appeared set to end without agreement.

Delegates had broadly denounced the first draft version introduced on Wednesday night by the chair of the meeting, Ecuador’s Luis Vayas Valdivieso, as “unacceptable” and lacking in ambition. One negotiator told the Financial Times that the chair had conceded to oil-producing nations.

The wording of the initial draft was lambasted during a Thursday plenary meeting lasting three hours. Juan Carlos Monterrey Gómez, head of the Panama delegation, said: “Our redlines, and redlines of the majority of countries represented in this room, were not only stomped [on], they were spat on and they were burned.”

That draft text had excluded articles addressing plastic production, harmful chemicals or human health — despite widespread support from member states for their inclusion — and also drew criticism from industry and non-profit groups.

“While it is important that negotiations enter into a new stage, the text on the table is not acceptable for the EU,” said Jessika Roswall, EU environment commissioner, in response to the draft. “A weak, static agreement serves no one. The next few hours will show whether we can rise to the moment.” Over the past two and a half years of the talks, countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Kuwait have used procedural tactics to block any binding measures that address plastic production and harmful chemicals.

The US, Russia and China had also opposed limits on production.

The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, which represents 200 companies including Walmart, Tetra Pak and Unilever, said on Thursday that the first draft which had been presented offered neither the regulatory certainty nor global obligations required to tackle the plastic waste problem.

“As it stands, this text could lead to continued pollution, cost and fragmented regulation driving increased complexity for business,” the coalition said in a statement earlier on Thursday.

“Voluntary and fragmented action is not enough. We reiterate our call for a treaty with harmonised regulation.”

Environmental groups criticised the way negotiations were progressing. Greenpeace said the draft was a “gift to the petrochemical industry and a betrayal of humanity”.

“By failing to address production or harmful chemicals in any way, this text glorifies the industry lie that we can recycle our way out of this crisis,” said Graham Forbes, head of the Greenpeace delegation.

“This is not a global treaty. This a collection of national and voluntary measures that will do nothing to address the worsening plastics crisis,” said Zaynab Sadan, head of the WWF delegation.

(Source: Financial Times; 14th August, 2025)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump Tariffs: भारतीय सामानों की अब अमेरिका में एंट्री महंगी, 50% का टैरिफ लागू

Trump Tariffs: आज 7 अगस्त से भारतीय सामानों पर अमेरिका में एंट्री पर 50% का टैरिफ लागू हो गया है। भारत के साथ-साथ अमेरिका ने कई देशों पर टैरिफ को आज से लागू किया है। इसे लेकर अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप का कहना है कि टैरिफ के चलते अमेरिका में अरबों डॉलर आ रहे हैं। वहीं 50% टैरिफ को लेकर भारत के प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का कहना है कि किसानों के हित में भारी शुल्क चुकाने के लिए देश तैयार है। पीएम मोदी ने कहा कि किसानों, मछुआरों और डेयरी फार्मर्स के हितों से भारत कभी समझौता नहीं करेगा। वहीं इस मामले में भारत में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी ने कहा कि 50% की दर से टैरिफ इकनॉमिक ब्लैकमेल है।

Trump Tariffs: ब्राजील पहुंचा WTO

अमेरिकी टैरिफ से राहत के लिए ब्रिक्स देशों में शामिल ब्राजील ने विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) से संपर्क किया है। न्यूज एजेंसी एएफपी को सूत्रों से यह जानकारी मिली है। ट्रंप ने ब्राजील पर भी 50% की दर से टैरिफ लगाया है। पहले ट्रंप ने ब्राजील से अमेरिका जाने वाले कॉफी, बीफ और चीनी समेत अन्य सामानों पर 10% का टैरिफ लगाया था जिसे बढ़ाकर 50% किया गया है।

ट्रंप के पक्षपात पर उठने लगे सवाल

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने भारत पर 25% का ही टैरिफ लगाया था लेकिन रूस से कारोबारी संबंध के चलते इसे बढ़ाकर 50% कर दिया है। इसे लेकर भारत सरकार पहले ही कह चुकी है कि अमेरिका तो खुद रूस से कारोबार करता और यूरेनियम, खाद और केमिकल्स की खरीदारी करता है। वहीं सोशल मीडिया पर इसका भी जिक्र हो रहा है कि रूस से तेल की खरीदारी के चलते भारत पर अमेरिका ने 25% का अतिरिक्त टैरिफ लगा दिया लेकिन यूरोप को लेकर ऐसा कुछ नहीं किया, जबकि यूरोप भी रूस से तेल खरीदता है।

(Source: Moneycontrol-com dated 7th Aug-m 2025)

Income Tax: डिविडेंड इनकम एग्जेम्प्शन लिमिट से कम होने पर भी TDS कटा है, रिफंड कैसे क्लेम करना होगा?

Income Tax: इनकम टैक्स एक्ट के सेक्शन 139 के तहत अगर किसी व्यक्ति की कुल टैक्सबेल इनकम डिडक्शन क्लेम करने से पहले एग्जेम्प्शन लिमिट को पार कर जाती है तो उसे इनकम टैक्स रिटर्न (ITR) फाइल करना जरूरी है। इनकम इस लिमिट से कम होने पर भी व्यक्ति स्वेच्छा से रिटर्न फाइल कर सकता है।

डिविडेंड इनकम पर टीडीएस का नियम तय है। अगर किसी व्यक्ति को एक वित्त वर्ष में एक कंपनी से 10,000 रुपये से ज्यादा डिविडेंड मिलता है तो उस पर टीडीएस कटेगा।

शेयरों में इनवेस्ट करने पर डिविडेंड मिलता है। अगर किसी टैक्सपेयर की कुल इनकम एग्जेम्प्शन लिमिट से कम है तो भी उस पर टीडीएस कट सकता है। ऐसे में टैक्सपेयर को रिफंड क्लेम करना जरूरी है। क्लेम के बाद ही उसे टीडीएस का पैसा वापस मिलेगा। सवाल है कि रिफंड क्लेम करने का तरीका क्या है? मनीकंट्रोल ने इस बारे में टैक्स एक्सपर्ट बलवंत जैन से बात की।

जैन ने कहा कि इनकम टैक्स एक्ट के सेक्शन 139 के तहत अगर किसी व्यक्ति की कुल टैक्सबेल इनकम डिडक्शन क्लेम करने से पहले एग्जेम्प्शन लिमिट को पार कर जाती है तो उसे Income Tax Return (ITR) फाइल करना जरूरी है। इनकम टैक्स की ओल्ड रीजीम में यह एग्जेम्प्शन लिमिट 60 साल से कम उम्र के व्यक्ति के लिए 2.5 लाख रुपये है। 60 से 79 साल की उम्र के व्यक्ति के लिए 3 लाख रुपये है। 80 साल और इससे ज्यादा उम्र के व्यक्ति यानी सुपर सीनियर सिटीजंस के लिए यह 5 लाख रुपये है।

इनकम टैक्स की नई रीजीम में बेसिक एग्जेम्प्शन लिमिट सभी लोगों के लिए 3 लाख रुपये है। अगर किसी व्यक्ति की इनकम इस लिमिट से कम है तो उसके लिए इनकम टैक्स रिटर्न फाइल करना जरूरी नहीं है। हालांकि, वह स्वेच्छा से आईटीआर फाइल कर सकता है। अगर आपकी

इनकम से टैक्स कटा है, लेकिन आपकी कुल इनकम एग्जैम्पशन लिमिट से कम है तो आपको TDS के रिफंड के लिए आईटीआर फाइल करना होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि इसे हम एक उदाहरण की मदद से आसानी से समझ सकते हैं। मान लीजिए किसी व्यक्ति के पास लिस्टेड कंपनी के शेयर हैं, जिससे उसे पिछले फाइनेंशियल ईयर में 70,000 रुपये का डिविडेंड मिला है। इस डिविडेंड इनकम पर 2,500 रुपये TDS कटा है। लेकिन, उसकी कुल इनकम एग्जैम्पशन लिमिट से कम है। ऐसे में टीडीएस के रिफंड के लिए उसे इनकम टैक्स रिटर्न फाइल करना पड़ेगा।

डिविडेंड इनकम पर टीडीएस का नियम तय है। अगर किसी व्यक्ति को एक वित्त वर्ष में एक कंपनी से 10,000 रुपये से ज्यादा डिविडेंड मिलता है तो उस पर टीडीएस कटेगा। अगर वह व्यक्ति चाहता है कि उसकी डिविडेंड इनकम पर टीडीएस नहीं काटा जाए तो उसे फॉर्म 15जी हर उस कंपनी को सभित करना होगा, जिससे उससे डिविडेंड मिलने की उम्मीद है। फॉर्म 15जी उस व्यक्ति के लिए जिसकी उम्र 60 साल से कम है। अगर व्यक्ति की उम्र 60 साल से अधिक है तो उसे फॉर्म 15एच सभित करना होगा।

ये फॉर्म सभित करने के बाद कंपनी टीडीएस काटे बगैर व्यक्ति को डिविडेंड का पेमेंट कर देगी। टैक्सपेयर्स को यह फॉर्म साल की शुरुआत में ही सभित कर देना चाहिए। इससे उसकी डिविडेंड इनकम पर कंपनी टीडीएस नहीं काटेगी। यह ध्यान में रखना जरूरी है कि हर उस कंपनी को आपको फॉर्म सभित करना होगा, जिससे आपको डिविडेंड मिलने की उम्मीद है।

(Source: Moneycontrol-com, 5th August, 2025)

छोटे कारोबारियों को GST नोटिस से मिलेगी राहत, केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों में बनी सहमति : सूत्र

छोटे कारोबारियों को GST नोटिस से राहत मिलेगी। छोटे वेंडर्स से इंटररेस्ट और पेनल्टी नहीं वसूलने पर विचार किया जा रहा है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक इंटररेस्ट और पेनल्टी हटाने पर केंद्र सरकार और राज्यों में सहमति बन गई है।

तय टर्नओवर से ज्यादा कारोबार पर छोटे कारोबारियों को नोटिस मिले थे। कर्नाटक, UP और गुजरात के GST विभाग ने नोटिस दिए थे।

GST नोटिस मिलने से परेशान छोटे वेंडर्स का इंटररेस्ट और पेनल्टी माफ हो सकता है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक आपसी सहमति से केंद्र और राज्य छोटे कारोबारियों को राहत देने पर विचार कर रहे हैं। हालांकि इसके लिए आगामी GST काउंसिल की बैठक का इंतजार करना पड़ेगा। इस पर ज्यादा जानकारी देते हुए सीएनबीसी-आवाज केआलोक प्रियदर्शी ने सूत्रों के हवाले से बताया कि छोटे कारोबारियों को GST नोटिस से राहत मिलेगी। छोटे वेंडर्स से इंटररेस्ट और पेनल्टी नहीं वसूलने पर विचार किया जा रहा है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक इंटररेस्ट और पेनल्टी हटाने पर केंद्र सरकार और राज्यों में सहमति बन गई है।

गुजरात-कोलकाता के बीच दो गुड्स रेल लाइन, ढुलाई की लागत घटने से इंडस्ट्री खुश

सूत्रों के मुताबिक बिना GST रजिस्ट्रेशन कारोबार की इजाजत नहीं होगी। बता दें कि तय टर्नओवर से ज्यादा कारोबार पर छोटे कारोबारियों को नोटिस मिले थे। कर्नाटक, UP और गुजरात के GST विभाग ने नोटिस दिए थे। देश में गुड्स के लिए 40 लाख सालाना टर्नओवर की लिमिट है। सर्विस के लिए 20 लाख सालाना टर्नओवर की लिमिट है। इससे ज्यादा टर्नओवर होने पर रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है।

हाल में कर्नाटक, UP और गुजरात के कई छोटे व्यापारियों को UPI लेनदेन के आधार पर GST के नोटिस भेजे गए थे। इसके बाद सोशल मीडिया से लेकर कारोबारी जगत तक चिंता फैल गई कि क्या अब डिजिटल पेमेंट पर भी टैक्स देना होगा? हालांकि केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रहलाद जोशी ने इन सभी अटकलों पर विराम लगाते हुए कहा था कि ये नोटिस राज्य सरकार के वाणिज्यिक कर विभाग ने भेजे हैं, न कि केंद्र सरकार ने। उन्होंने साफ किया था कि GST दो हिस्सों में बंटा होता है- CGST (केंद्रीय) और SGST (राज्य)। ये नोटिस राज्य की ओर से जारी किए गए हैं।

(Source: MoneyControl News 6th Aug, 2025)

Supreme Court reaffirms Illegality of Cash Seizures in GST Search Operations [Read Order]

Under Section 67, goods can only be seized if liable to confiscation for suspected tax evasion.

The Supreme Court of India has rejected the Revenue Department's review petition against a Delhi High

Court order that termed the seizure of cash from a trader's residence as unlawful. A bench comprising Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih upheld the High Court's view that Section 67 of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act does not authorize officials to confiscate valuable assets merely because they are "unaccounted." The case stems from a January 2020 search by Central Tax officers at the home of a Delhi trader dealing in non-ferrous metals. Authorities seized two silver bars of 29.5 kg and 14.5 kg, ₹ 7 lakh in cash, several mobile phones, cheque books, and documents. The trader was arrested but later released on bail.

The Revenue contended that the seized items were linked to bogus or "goodless" invoices and represented unaccounted proceeds. However, no show cause notice referencing the seized property was issued within the six-month statutory limit prescribed by the CGST Act. On August 17, 2023, a division bench of Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav of the Delhi High Court had ruled for the trader. The court held that silver bars fall within the meaning of "goods" under Section 2(52) of the CGST Act, while currency constitutes "money," excluded from the definition of goods. Under Section 67, goods can only be seized if liable to confiscation for suspected tax evasion.

The expression "things" in Section 67(2), the court clarified, must be read ejusdem generis with "documents" and "books," extending only to items containing information relevant to proceedings, such as electronic devices, and not valuable assets themselves.

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The court further observed that the CGST framework does not permit seizure of unaccounted wealth unless directly connected with GST proceedings. Issues of unaccounted income fall under the Income Tax law, not GST. Accordingly, the High Court had ordered the return of the seized cash, silver, and other belongings, while clarifying that authorities remained free to raise lawful tax demands through proper procedure.

(Source: TAXSCAN; 23rd August, 2025)

Goods exports to China rise 20% to \$5.8 billion during April-July

New Delhi: India's goods exports to China in the first four months of FY26 rose 20% year on year at \$5.76 billion, or about ₹ 50,112 crore, with each month recording higher shipment than a year earlier, official data showed.

India posted the highest exports at \$1.63 billion in May, up from \$1.32 billion in the corresponding month in 2024.

"The consistent month-on-month edge over last year highlights India's improved trade performance with China and India's growing export competitiveness even as fluctuations reflect global trade conditions and seasonal variations in demand," an official said.

The trend reinforces the sustained growth trajectory of India's exports to China despite global trade uncertainties, the person added. Exports in April rose to \$1.39 billion from \$1.25 billion a year earlier, while in June, they were 17% higher on year at \$1.38 billion. In July, India shipped \$1.35 billion worth of goods to China, against \$1.06 billion in July 2024.

The steady growth in exports also signals a gradual rebalancing of trade between the two Asian economies, where India has traditionally faced a large trade deficit. India's trade deficit with China was \$99.2 billion in FY25.

As per the data, India's export growth to China in April-June 2025 was powered by a strong performance across energy, electronics, and agri-based products.

Petroleum products exports nearly doubled to \$883 million while electronic goods surged more than threefold to \$521 million, reflecting strong demand from China's industrial and consumer segments.

Organic and inorganic chemicals exports rose 16.3% at \$335.1 million while a 72.7% rise was seen in gems and jewellery exports.

New Delhi's top imports from Beijing are pharmaceuticals, electronics and semiconductors, machinery, industrial goods, chemicals and plastics.

(Source: The Times of India 21st August, 2025)

The India-China ‘thaw’, and the repercussions of Trump’s tariffs on India’s people & industries

Global media looks at GST 2.0, Modi’s govt’s step to focus on domestic industry & market, to look inward for growth, and stories of India’s ‘abandoned seafarers’, crew forsaken by shipowners.

New Delhi: *The Financial Times’* Andres Schipani and Joe Leahy look at the renewal of a pivotal strategic relationship—the “thaw” between India and China. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s visit to India, two weeks ahead of PM Modi’s first visit to Beijing in 5 years, also points to a strategy—mirroring its efforts to court other important trading partners, including the EU and Australia, as it tries to stymie US efforts to isolate Beijing.

“The two countries are reacting to Trump’s tariffs,” Amit Ranjan, a research fellow at the National University of Singapore’s Institute of South Asian Studies, told *FT*. “It’s a tactical move, not a big policy shift.”

“Praveen Donthi, senior analyst for India with the Crisis Group, said Modi’s visit marked “a significant step in the strategic re-engagement”. “After five years of heightened tensions, it was time to engage and restart economic co-operation,” he said. “Trump’s tariff war could have, at best, provided much-needed clarity to New Delhi.”

S President Donald Trump’s staggering 50 percent tariff could have massive repercussions in India—from job losses to leaving 2.5 million people “in subsistence level poverty”, reports Alex Travelli in *The New York Times*. The industries most likely to face “unbearable wipeouts” include shrimp farming, textiles, and furniture.

“We were shocked with the 25 percent tariff, and thinking about how to meet this problem, how to face this,” Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, a fourth-generation carpet maker in Bhadohi, in “the giant state of Uttar Pradesh”, has been quoted as saying. “But now it’s 50 percent, so it has become impossible. We’re afraid that a lot of people will be unemployed.”

Another industry that stands in the line of fire is jewellery.

“The potential damage the tariffs could inflict on India’s gems and jewellery industry, another big-ticket part of the trading relationship, is not yet fully clear. But insiders are raising alarms, in part because the United States is India’s biggest buyer of gems,” the report notes.

Modi’s announcement, part of his Independence Day speech, marked a new dawn: The coming of GST 2.0. A blueprint is being circulated to states and the new tax system will abandon two current rates, “leaving one of 5 percent on essential products and one of 18 percent on everything else, except some luxury and “sin” goods and services,” writes Veena Venogopal in the *Financial Times’* India Business Briefing.

“This is the first of a series of steps the government is expected to take in order to counter criticism of its failure to secure a deal with the Trump administration. Modi’s government portrays the trade hit as an opportunity for India to focus on its domestic industry and market, and to look inward for growth,” she writes. “In the past couple of weeks, a number of corporate leaders have also suggested the government should reform various regulations to make it easier for businesses to operate in India. Measures may be announced soon.”

India has the maximum number of “abandoned seafarers”, crew members forsaken by shipowners who “fail to provide for repatriation, regular provisions and wages,” reports Neyaz Farooqui in the *BBC*, delving into stories of certain seafarers who refused to abandon ship for fear of losing out on more wages.

“We were without adequate food and provisions. The ship had run out of diesel and was in complete blackout,” Prabjeet Singh, an abandoned seafarer, who had been employed on the ‘Niravana’, an Indian-owned oil tanker, told the *BBC*. “We were forced to break and burn the ship’s wood to cook food.”

“Seafarers often blame India’s maritime regulator, Directorate General (DG) of Shipping—which is tasked with verifying the credentials of ships, their owners and recruitment and placement agencies—for lax scrutiny of stakeholders. The DG Shipping didn’t respond to a request for comment.

(Source: The Print; 19th August, 2025)



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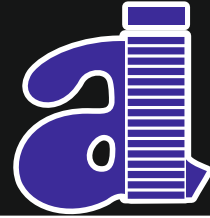
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