PLASTIC WORLD

AN OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALL INDIA PLASTIC INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

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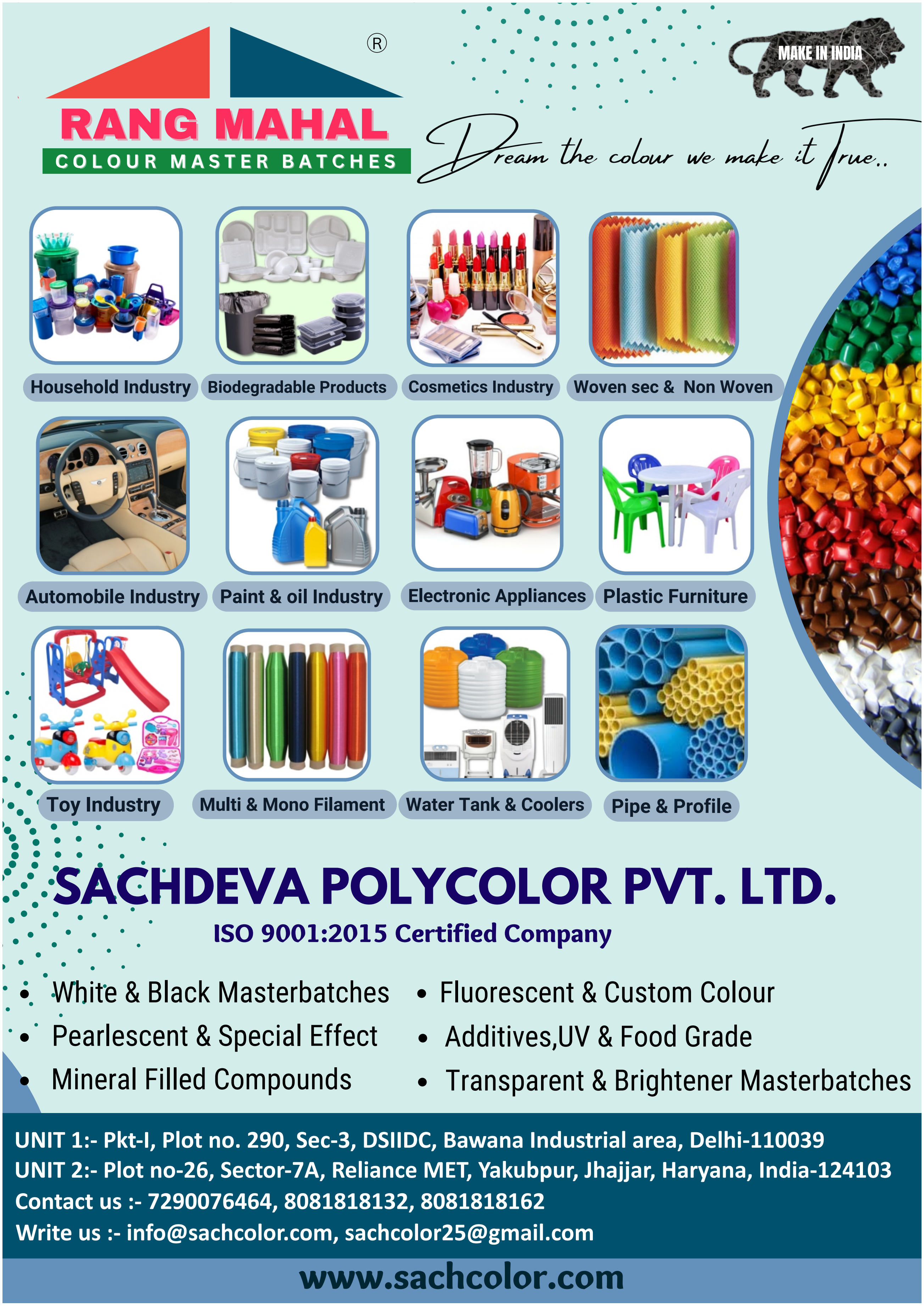
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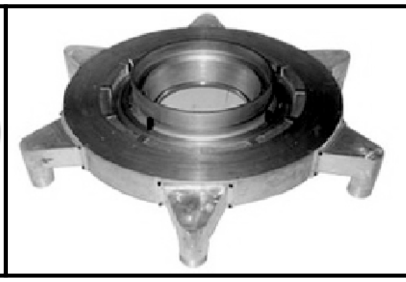
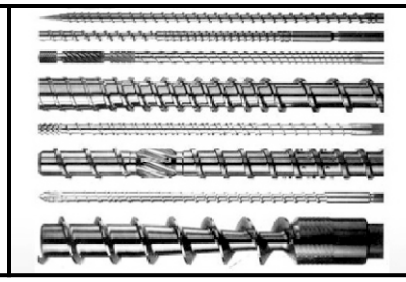
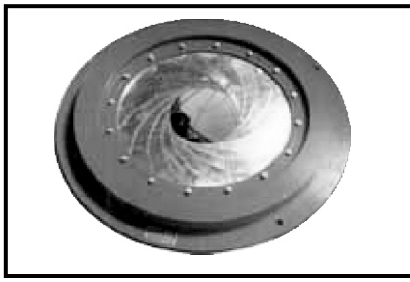


Air Ring

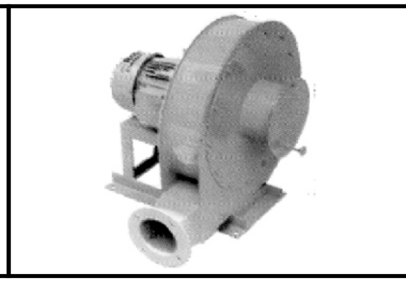


Screw Barrel

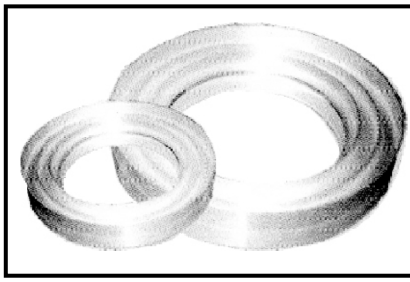


Iris Ring

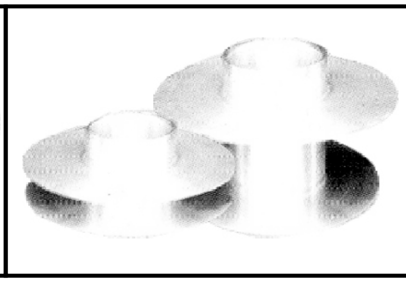
Rotating Die Heads



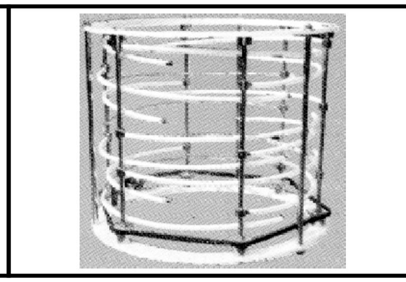
Blower



PP Water Bath



PP Sizer



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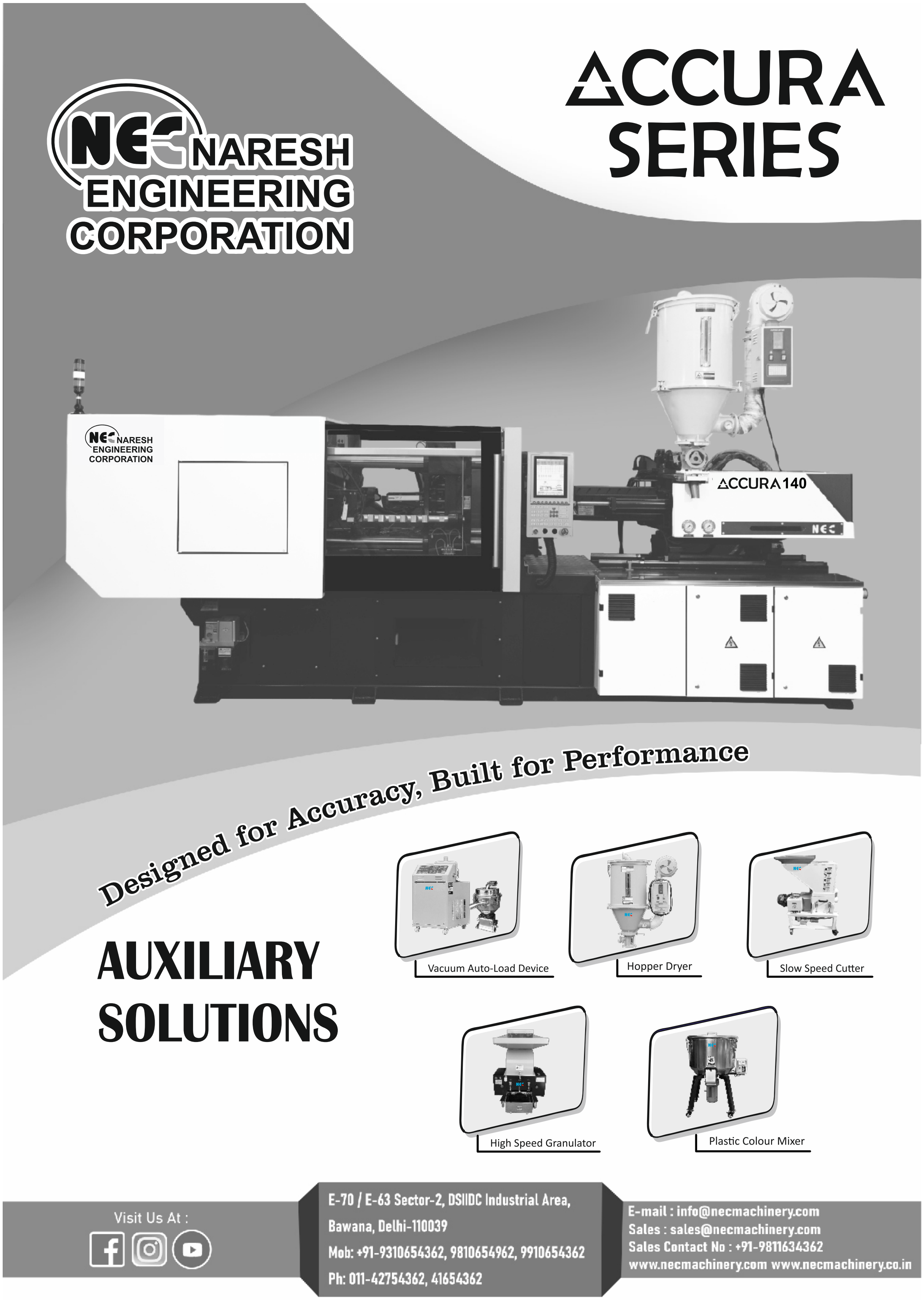
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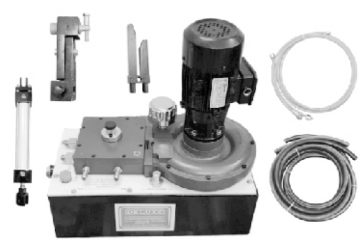
- **Stroboscope System – POKAI, Taiwan**



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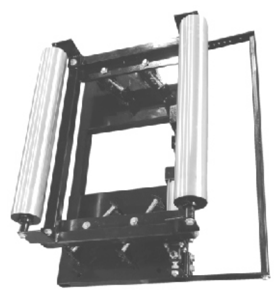
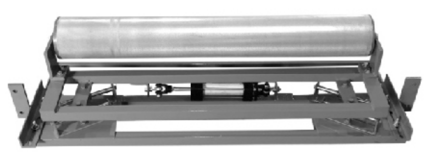
UNWINDER TRACKER

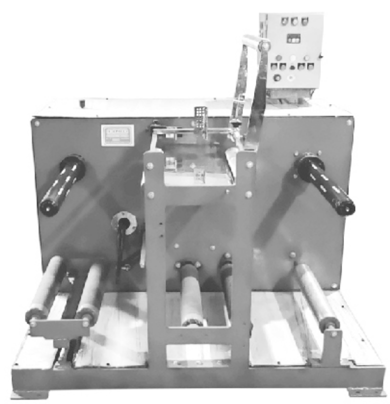


PIVOT TRACKER

AIR SHAFT



S.R.A. TRACKER



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Solution to pollution- CLEANLINESS

We are writing this editorial from Down Under. Have been on a visit to Australia for the past almost two weeks. With a land area almost 2 and a half times that of India and a population barely 2% of India, comparison at any level seems inapt. Australia, therefore, is one of the richest nations in the world.

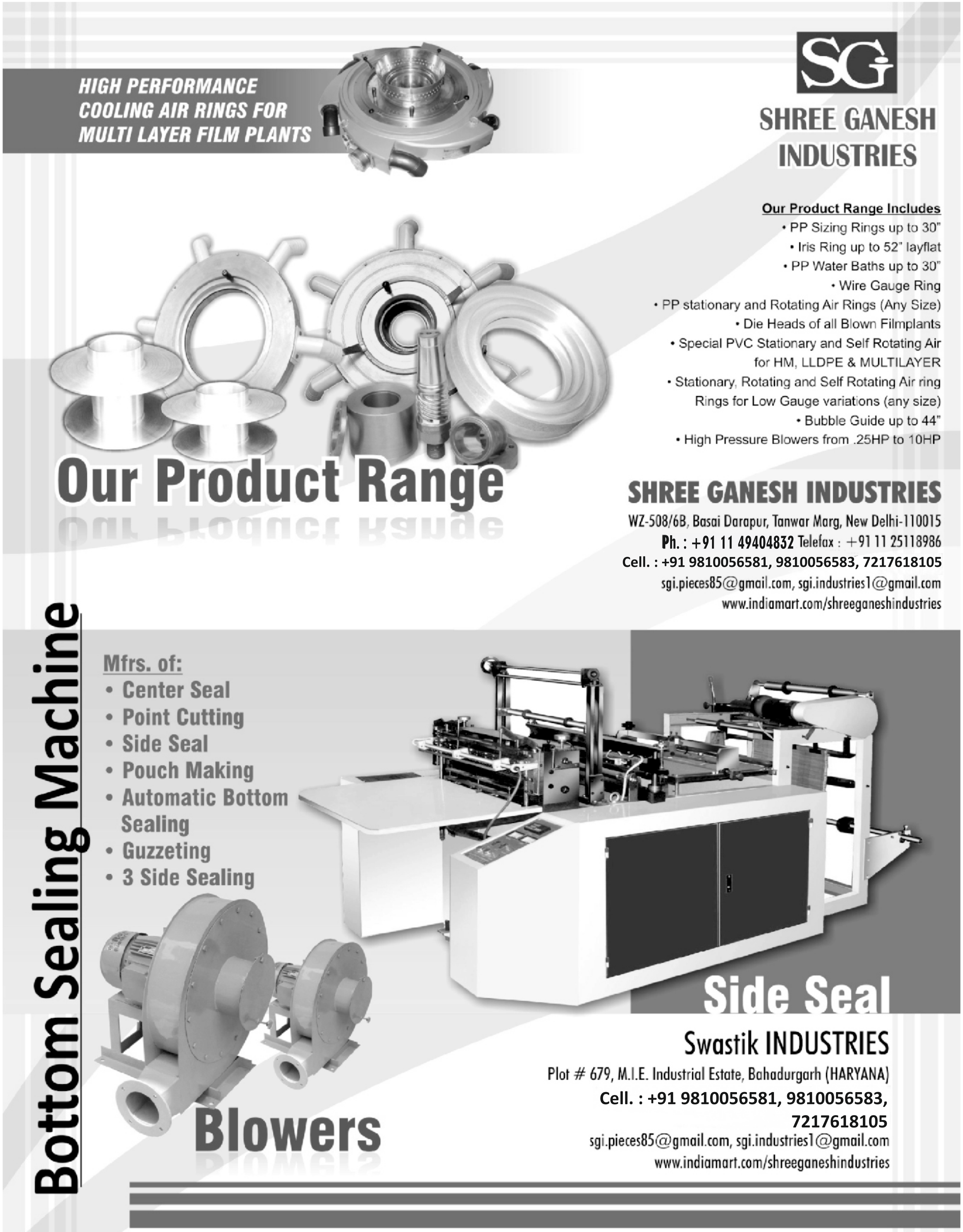
Many lessons need to be learnt from this great nation. Not many have noticed that Australia day and our Republic-day fall on the same day i.e. 26^{th} January. Yet there is a major difference in most things because of limited man power, huge natural resources and different thought processes.

What strikes the visitor most is a very basic fundamental requirement for progress at any level or multiple levels and that is CLEANLINESS. The offices, the roads, the public places and everything is spotlessly clean. Persons in our part of the world are prone to littering but after seeing such an environment, he also refrains from this bad habit.

We are back to basics once again. Our Hon'ble PM started this approach sometime back with 'Swatch Abhiyan-I' followed by 'Swatch Abhiyan-II'. With this he hit the nail right on the head of the environment problem that we are facing in our country. Cleanliness or 'swatchta' is the backbone of any movement or law linked to environment/pollution.

As everyone knows littering is the cause of all pollution. We as a very populous nation of over 145 billion cannot afford this bad habit. The authorities/government will never have funds enough to pickup the litter of this vast population. Simple solution- at least I do not litter and so you do not litter. This leaves the authorities enough funds to take the next step of segregating the waste with machines and at multiple places.

Most of us are aware of the next steps- segregation, sorting into various schemes, recycling, in short transforming the litter/waste into a resource, which it actually is. New and more efficient technologies first step remains the same- CLEANLINESS which countries like Australia effectively show.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Important points discussed during the monthly Executive Committee meeting held on 6th January, 2025

1. **To confirm the minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting held on 10th December, 2025.**
The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on **10th December, 2025** were placed before the Committee. The same were reviewed and **confirmed unanimously**.

2. **To approve the expenditure incurred during the month of December, 2025**.
The expenditure statement for the month of **December, 2025** was reviewed and **duly approved** by the Committee.

3. **Discussion on industry-related matters**.

- **Power Tariff Reduction (DERC):**
Shri **Ravi Kumar Aggarwal**, Patron, raised a query regarding the provision under DERC for reduction of power tariff from **₹ 8.30 per unit to ₹ 7.75 per unit** and sought clarification on the procedure.
Shri **Bhupesh Ralli** informed the Committee that the concerned authority requires annual updation of data, particularly the **Udyam Registration Certificate**, by **April every financial year**. In case of lapse, billing for May is done at ₹ 8.30 per unit.
He further suggested that the Association may write to the authority requesting **one-time submission of documents instead of annual submission**.

- **Possible Tie-up with SIFI – Footwear Association, Bahadurgarh:**
Shri **Manmohan Duggal**, newly elected Executive Committee Member, suggested a possible tie-up with **SIFI – Footwear Association, Bahadurgarh**, stating that the association is actively involved in industry-related issues.
Shri **Tarun Bansal** opined that SIFI's activities are limited to Bahadurgarh and function more as a political platform.

- **DPCC Enforcement Activity:**
It was noted that **DPCC** has been actively issuing **show-cause and closure notices** to units operating without requisite consent or violating norms, particularly in industrial areas such as **Narela and Bawana**.

- **Proposal for AIPIA Mobile App:**
Shri **Mayank Aggarwal** proposed launching a **Mobile App for AIPIA**. He informed that he had interacted with a known company and would share the proposal via email.
Members discussed the proposal and **recommended proceeding further**.

4. **PAN India Exhibition Outreach:**

Shri **Sudesh Gupta** suggested compiling a list of **PAN India exhibitions** and their exhibitors and approaching them to seek feedback for better preparedness. The suggestion was appreciated.

5. **To fill up vacant posts of**

The Committee took up the matter of filling the following vacant posts:
1 post of **Vice President**
1 post of **Organizing Secretary**
9 posts of **Executive Committee Members**

The following members were **co-opted as Executive Committee Members (2025–27):**

1. Shri Sudesh Gupta
2. Shri Manuj M. Gupta
3. Shri Girish Narang
4. Shri Pankaj Berlia
5. Shri Mukesh Goel
6. Shri Vikas K. Vishnoi
7. Shri Tejas Jain
8. Shri Jatin Behl
9. Shri Rishi Garg
10. Shri Mayank Aggarwal

Shri Sudesh Gupta was **co-opted as** the **Organizing Secretary unanimously**. The post of **Vice President** remains **vacant**.

6. Review of AGM – 2025

The overall response to AGM–2025 was found to be satisfactory, except for the concern regarding low attendance.

7. Plastic World Directory – 2026

Shri Brijesh Bhutani, President, suggested that the matter be taken up in the next Executive Committee Meeting.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Letter दिनांक : 23 जनवरी, 2026 sent to श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री with a copy to श्री नायब सिंह सैनी, मुख्यमंत्री – हरियाणा विषयः हरियाणा में Declaration Deed पर अनुचित अतिरिक्त स्टाम्प ड्यूटी वसूली के संबंध में

"हम अखिल भारतीय प्लास्टिक उद्योग संघ हैं, जो वर्ष 1982 से देश के माइक्रो, स्मॉल एवं मीडियम प्लास्टिक प्रोसेसिंग उद्योग से जुड़े उद्यमियों के हितों का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहा है।

सादर निवेदन है कि हरियाणा के विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में हमारे सदस्यों को Declaration Deed पर अतिरिक्त स्टाम्प ड्यूटी की वसूली के कारण गंभीर कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

HSIIDC से औद्योगिक प्लॉट प्राप्त कर विधिवत रजिस्ट्री करवाने के उपरांत, जब कोई कंपनी Private Limited से LLP अथवा Limited Company में रूपांतरण करती है, तो HSIIDC द्वारा रु100/– के स्टाम्प पेपर पर Declaration Deed पंजीकृत करवाई जाती है।

परंतु वर्तमान में स्थानीय तहसील कार्यालय उसी Declaration Deed पर पुनः, वर्तमान सर्किल दरों के अनुसार, भारी स्टाम्प ड्यूटी जमा करवाने की माँग कर रहे हैं, मानो यह कोई Sale-Purchase Deed हो।

इस संदर्भ में निम्न बिंदु विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय हैं:

- Declaration Deed किसी भी प्रकार की विक्रय/क्रय (Sale-Purchase) डीड नहीं है।
- यदि इसे विक्रय डीड माना जाता, तो इसे प्रारंभ में बिना पूर्ण स्टाम्प ड्यूटी के पंजीकृत क्यों किया गया?
- मानेसर, कुंडली आदि औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में यह प्रक्रिया पूर्व में बिना किसी अतिरिक्त स्टाम्प ड्यूटी के संपन्न होती रही है, किंतु अब अचानक इन क्षेत्रों में भी ऐसी माँग की जाने लगी है। विशेषकर बहादुरगढ़ औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में उद्योगपतियों को इस संबंध में नोटिस जारी किए जा रहे हैं, जिससे गंभीर चिंता उत्पन्न हो गई है।
- संबंधित प्राधिकरण पहले कोई स्पष्ट जानकारी नहीं देते और बाद में उद्यमियों पर एकमुश्त अत्यधिक स्टाम्प ड्यूटी का भार डाल दिया जाता है, जो MSME उद्यमियों की क्षमता से बाहर है।

माननीय महोदय, यह समस्या केवल हरियाणा तक सीमित न रहकर भविष्य में अन्य राज्यों में भी फैल सकती है, जिससे MSME सेक्टर पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा तथा "Ease of Doing Business" की मूल भावना को ठेस पहुँचेगी।

अतः आपसे करबद्ध निवेदन है कि:

1. Declaration Deed पर अतिरिक्त स्टाम्प ड्यूटी की माँग को तत्काल रोका जाए।
2. पूर्व में विधिवत पंजीकृत Declaration Deeds को पूर्णतः वैध मानते हुए उद्यमियों को राहत प्रदान की जाए।
3. सभी जिलों एवं तहसीलों के लिए स्पष्ट, एकरूप एवं लिखित दिशा–निर्देश जारी किए जाएँ, जिससे उद्योग जगत को अनावश्यक उत्पीड़न एवं भ्रष्टाचार से बचाया जा सके।

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी, हमारे सभी सदस्य, विशेषकर हरियाणा के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र से जुड़े उद्यमी, इस गंभीर विषय पर आपके सकारात्मक एवं शीघ्र हस्तक्षेप की आशा करते हैं।"

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET 2025-26

PART A

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2025-26 in the Parliament on 1st February, 2026. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

Budget Estimates 2025-26

- The total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at ₹ 34.96 lakh crore and ₹ 50.65 lakh crore respectively.
- The net tax receipts are estimated at ₹ 28.37 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 4.4 per cent of GDP.
- The gross market borrowings are estimated at ₹ 14.82 lakh crore.
- Capex Expenditure of ₹ 11.21 lakh crore (3.1% of GDP) earmarked in FY2025-26.

MSMEs AS THE 2ND ENGINE OF DEVELOPMENT

Revision in classification criteria for MSMEs

- The investment and turnover limits for classification of all MSMEs to be enhanced to 2.5 and 2 times respectively.

Credit Cards for Micro Enterprises

- Customized Credit Cards with ₹ 5 lakh limit for micro enterprises registered on Udyam portal, 10 lakh cards to be issued in the first year.

Fund of Funds for Startups

- A new Fund of Funds, with expanded scope and a fresh contribution of ₹ 10,000 crore to be set up.

Scheme for First-time Entrepreneurs

- A new scheme for 5 lakh women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes first-time entrepreneurs to provide term-loans upto ₹ 2 crore in the next 5 years announced.

Focus Product Scheme for Footwear & Leather Sectors

- To enhance the productivity, quality and competitiveness of India's footwear and leather sector, a focus product scheme announced to facilitate employment for 22 lakh persons, generate turnover of ₹ 4 lakh crore and exports of over ₹ 1.1 lakh crore.

Measures for the Toy Sector

- A scheme to create high-quality, unique, innovative, and sustainable toys, making India a global hub for toys announced.

Support for Food Processing

- A National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management to be set up in Bihar.

Manufacturing Mission - Furthering "Make in India"

- A National Manufacturing Mission covering small, medium and large industries for furthering "Make in India" announced.

PART B

DIRECT TAX

- No personal income tax payable upto income of Rs 12 lakh (i.e. average income of Rs 1 lakh per month other than special rate income such as capital gains) under the new regime.
- This limit will be Rs 12.75 lakh for salaried tax payers, due to standard deduction of Rs 75,000.
- The new structure will substantially reduce the taxes of the middle class and leave more money in their hands, boosting household consumption, savings and investment.
- The new Income-Tax Bill to be clear and direct in text so as to make it simple to understand for taxpayers and tax administration, leading to tax certainty and reduced litigation.
- Revenue of about [1] 1 lakh crore in direct taxes will be forgone.

Revised tax rate structure

- In the new tax regime, the revised tax rate structure will stand as follows:

0-4 lakh rupees	Nil
4-8 lakh rupees	5 percent
8-12 lakh rupees	10 percent
12-16 lakh rupees	15 percent
16-20 lakh rupees	20 percent
20- 24 lakh rupees	25 percent
Above 24 lakh rupees	30 percent

- **TDS/TCS rationalization for easing difficulties**
- Rationalization of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) by reducing number of rates and thresholds above which TDS is deducted.
  - o The limit for tax deduction on interest for senior citizens doubled from the present Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh.
  - o The annual limit of Rs 2.40 lakh for TDS on rent increased to Rs 6 lakh.
  - o The threshold to collect tax at source (TCS) on remittances under RBI's Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) increased from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.
  - o The provisions of the higher TDS deduction will apply only in non-PAN cases.
  - o Decriminalization for the cases of delay of payment of TCS up to the due date of filing statement.
- **Reducing Compliance Burden**
  - o Reduction of compliance burden for small charitable trusts/institutions by increasing their period of registration from 5 years to 10 years.
  - o The benefit of claiming the annual value of self-occupied properties as nil will be extended for two such self-occupied properties without any condition.
- **Ease of Doing Business**
  - o Introduction of a scheme for determining arm's length price of international transaction for a block period of three years.
  - o Expansion of the scope of safe harbour rules to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.

- o Exemption of withdrawals made from National Savings Scheme (NSS) by individuals on or after the 29th of August, 2024.
- o Similar treatment to NPS Vatsalya accounts as is available to normal NPS accounts, subject to overall limits.

- **Employment and Investment**
- **Tax certainty for electronics manufacturing Schemes**
  - o Presumptive taxation regime for non-residents who provide services to a resident company that is establishing or operating an electronics manufacturing facility.
  - o Introduction of a safe harbour for tax certainty for non-residents who store components for supply to specified electronics manufacturing units.
- **Extension for incorporation of Start-Ups**
  Extension of the period of incorporation by 5 years to allow the benefit available to start-ups incorporated before 1.4.2030.
- **Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs)**
  Certainty of taxation on the gains from securities to Category I and Category II AIFs which are undertaking investments in infrastructure and other such sectors.
- **Extension of investment date for Sovereign and Pension Funds**
  Extension of the date of making investments in Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds by five more years, to 31st March, 2030, to promote funding from them to the infrastructure sector.

INDIRECT TAX

Rationalisation of Customs Tariff Structure for Industrial Goods

Union Budget 2025-26 proposes to:

i. Remove seven tariff rates. This is over and above the seven tariff rates removed in 2023-24 budget. After this, there will be only eight remaining tariff rates including ‘zero’ rate.

ii. Apply appropriate cess to broadly maintain effective duty incidence except on a few items, where such incidence will reduce marginally.

iii. Levy not more than one cess or surcharge. Therefore Social Welfare Surcharge on 82 tariff lines that are subject to a cess, exempted.

Revenue of about ₹ 2600 crore in indirect taxes will be forgone.

Relief on import of Drugs/Medicines

- 36 lifesaving drugs and medicines fully exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD).
- 6 lifesaving medicines to attract concessional customs duty of 5%.
- Specified drugs and medicines under Patient Assistance Programmes run by pharmaceutical companies fully exempted from BCD; 37 more medicines added along with 13 new patient assistance programmes.

Support to Domestic Manufacturing and Value addition

- **Critical Minerals** :
  - o Cobalt powder and waste, the scrap of lithium-ion battery, Lead, Zinc and 12 more critical minerals fully exempted from BCD.
- **Textiles:**
  - o Two more types of shuttle-less looms fully exempted textile machinery.
  - o BCD rate on knitted fabrics revised from “10% or 20%” to “20% or ₹ 115 per kg, whichever is higher.
- **Electronic Goods**:
  - o BCD on Interactive Flat Panel Display (IFPD) increased from 10% to 20% .

- BCD reduced to 5% on Open Cell and other components.
- BCD on parts of Open Cells exempted.

- **Lithium Ion Battery**:
  - 35 additional capital goods for EV battery manufacturing, and 28 additional capital goods for mobile phone battery manufacturing exempted.
- **Shipping Sector**:
  - Exemption of BCD on raw materials, components, consumables or parts for the manufacture of ships extended for another ten years.
  - The same dispensation to continue for ship breaking.
- **Telecommunication**:
  - BCD reduced from 20% to 10% on Carrier Grade ethernet switches.

Export Promotion

- **Handicraft Goods**:
  - Time period for export extended from six months to one year, further extendable by another three months, if required.
  - Nine items added to list of duty-free inputs.
- **Leather sector:**
  - BCD on Wet Blue leather fully exempted.
  - Crust leather exempted from 20% export duty.
- **Marine products**:
  - BCD reduced from 30% to 5% on Frozen Fish Paste (Surimi) for manufacture and export of its analogue products.
  - BCD reduced from 15% to 5% on fish hydrolysate for manufacture of fish and shrimp feeds.
- **Domestic MROs for Railway Goods**:
  - Railways MROs to benefit similar to the aircraft and ships MROs in terms of import of repair items.
  - Time limit extended for export of such items from 6 months to one year and made further extendable by one year.

Trade facilitation

- **Time limit for Provisional Assessment**:
  - For finalising the provisional assessment, time-limit of two years fixed, extendable by a year.
- **Voluntary Compliance:**
  - A new provision introduced to enable importers or exporters, after clearance of goods, to voluntarily declare material facts and pay duty with interest but without penalty.
- **Extended Time for End Use**:
  - Time limit for the end-use of imported inputs in the relevant rules extended from six months to one year.
  - Such importers to file only quarterly statements instead of a monthly statement.

(Source: 01 FEB 2025 by PIB Delhi)

Article 1

EPR: Where responsibility lies

As invoices drop into their inboxes, businesses in the UK are beginning to weigh up the implications of the country's new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme.

For those invested in growing recycling capacity and rates, the adoption of EPR schemes – which are now being rolled out globally with increasing regularity – couldn't have come soon enough. John Redmayne, managing director of the European Recycling Platform, for example, heralds the arrival of EPR in the UK as a "watershed moment", fundamentally changing how the country funds packaging waste management.

"We're talking about the transfer of approximately £1.5 billion [$1.97bn] in annual costs from local authorities to packaging producers," Redmayne points out. "Think about it – for decades, households have funded collections through council tax. Now, the companies putting packaging on the market are picking up the tab for what happens to household packaging at the end of its life."

With the impact of EPR clearly significant on manufacturers, retailers, and importers, what really excites Redmayne is that, for the first time, there is "genuine alignment" between financial incentives and environmental good practice.

But while it might be hard to dispute that such an alignment exists, others are starting to raise concerns whether EPR schemes are really able to achieve their initial aims over a long-term period.

Alignment assumption

It is generally assumed that aligning costs with producers will drive forward design-for-recycling, innovation, and efficiency. A recent report from Calvin Lakhan, director of the circular innovation hub at York University's Faculty of Environment and Urban Change in Toronto, however, paints a rather different picture.

With EPR schemes having been in place in most Canadian provinces for well over a decade now, Lakhan argues that programme costs have ballooned, while recycling rates have flatlined or even declined.

An examination of EPR in Ontario lends weight to his argument. While programme costs have spiralled from CA$117.5 million in 2003, to CA$317.2m in 2021, recovery rates have returned to their initial 53 per cent, after peaking at 68 per cent in 2010.

Meanwhile, in Manitoba, programme costs soared from CA$8.73m in 2010 to CA$22.73m in 2023, but recovery rates – while improving from 52 per cent to 72 per cent in the same period, peaked at 86 per cent in 2018, before dropping back.

So, why is this happening, and how might other countries such as the UK learn from Canada as they look to implement their own EPR schemes?

Fundamental barriers

For Lakhan, the reasons are structural. The EPR scheme across the four Canadian provinces he reviewed have focused on cost transfer rather than system transformation, leaving fundamental barriers – namely, contamination, fragmented collection, and end-market weakness – unresolved.

Recovery remains tied to volatile global markets, while diminishing returns erode the cost-effectiveness of incremental improvements, he suggests. Worse still, shifts in the material mix towards lightweight and composite packaging have made recovery increasingly difficult, pushing costs higher even as outcomes deteriorate, Lakhan maintains.

In no jurisdiction have rising programme expenditures corresponded with a parallel investment in collection standardisation, sorting infrastructure, or end-market development, according to the report. Without addressing these systemic weaknesses, EPR cannot deliver sustained improvements, it concludes.

Furthermore, Lakhan believes that rather than spurring innovation, EPR has often encouraged compliance strategies. He takes aim at producers, which he says have been more focused on passing costs onto consumers or lobbying for favourable performance measurement methodologies rather than meaningfully redesigning packaging for recyclability.

Treading a fine line

While Lakhan's last point might be true, converters and manufacturers themselves would no doubt argue that passing on costs is just the natural consequence of market dynamics – and even potentially the difference between business success and failure.

I dare say that packaging producers would also contest that incentives for redesigning packaging for recyclability are largely guided by mandatory targets laid out in legislation such as the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, and not EPR schemes.

First and foremost, the point of EPR schemes should be to raise revenue in order to build the recycling capacities and capabilities that the plastics packaging industry so desperately needs. Clearly, as Lakhan rightly details, this has failed in Canada and needs addressing.

Tellingly, PackUK – the body responsible for administering EPR in the UK – has warned local authorities in the country that they will be docked millions of pounds in funding if they fail to spend the money raised from the scheme on improving recycling, as recently reported in *The Grocer*.

The warning, which forms part of government legislation designed to alleviate producer concerns, is a positive start. Industry now needs to continue putting the pressure on lawmakers to ensure this is backed up by action.

Article 2

The Lowdown on 2025's Recycling Trends—and Your Industry Forecast for 2026

By: **Arlene Karidis**, Freelance writer, Waste360

This year, the recycling world saw clear trends around commodities markets, recovery rates, and plastics processing. At the same time, packaging extended producer responsibility (EPR) jetted into the spotlight. As 2025 draws to a close, three recycling pundits detail notable trends and share their take on what they mean and what to watch for in 2026.

As with the last few years, materials recovery facilities (MRFs) continued to improve their sorting capabilities with fewer workers while gaining better yields.

Several industry gurus attribute this ongoing pattern largely to investments and improvements in optical sorters. This digital technology, which leverages cameras and sensors to identify objects, excels at handling high volumes, fast. Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robots also grew in popularity, but this newer technology did not see as widespread adoption as its quicker predecessor—optical sorters do 300 to up to 2,000 picks a minute.

Recycling waste analyst company Greyparrot vouches for improvements in sorting. This year, the tech developer analyzed over 1.24 million metric tons of recyclable material across 65 recovery facilities worldwide and found that average recoverable plastic increased from 2,500 metric tons in 2024 to 3,000 metric tons this year.

“I believe that trend will continue in the year ahead as we begin to see better recognition of objects like black trays, colored bottles, and expanded polystyrene packaging that are notoriously difficult to identify and recover,” says Greyparrot co-founder Ambarish Mitra.

Veteran recycling analyst and consultant Chaz Miller points to a related trend on the technology front that he believes is worth watching: how some MRFs are beginning to adapt to a persistently hard-to-recover stream—plastics.

“What a few operators are showing is that you can take bales of curbside recyclables (mainly PET, HDPE, and PP), pull out contaminants, and create clean bales that can then be turned into resin,” Miller says.

Republic Services seems to lead in this space, having built a few facilities that have evolved from traditional MRFs to more advanced processing plants that the company calls polymer centers. Those centers work with co-located facilities to sort mixed plastics, blend, compound, and pelletize the material to make resin. Republic has launched two such operations in the past couple years, reportedly designed to process a combined 350 million pounds of recycled plastic a year. Plans are to launch a third facility in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 2026 and possibly a fourth one in the not-too-distant future.

Looking at markets, prices are down in 2025 for most commodities as of December compared to the end of 2024. Two materials are faring especially poorly: PET and colored HDPE.

“Colored HDPE has been the biggest problem for markets because you cannot take the dye out. In answer, some processors are dying HDPE white or black and making it into piping for the construction industry. But [new construction projects] have been lower every year lately. So, HDPE has not been a good market,” Miller says.

PET’s problem, at least in the past several months, is largely around tariffs. A lot of this plastic comes from overseas, and with high tariffs, activity has slowed down. Even with limited supply to meet demand, while you might think prices would go up, they have dropped. Miller theorizes the PET slump could be in part because companies are reluctant to buy it as they await outcomes of lawsuits around the tariffs.

Coupled with these market drivers, beverage sales have tapered, driving down demand for recycled bottles and cans. While PET is the hardest hit, even recycled aluminum, which has historically done well, is down a little from last year, though it is still holding its own, as is steel. It’s simply a long-running reality that bale prices fluctuate from month to month and year to year.

But Miller says, “Recyclers know prices go up and down. And if they’re good at what they do, they know how to weather the down cycles. Otherwise, it catches up with them.”

Overall, it’s been a good few years for WM. The company is on track to invest what Brent Bell, WM vice president of Recycling, calls an “unprecedented” $1.4 billion in recycling from 2022 through 2026, with nine facilities increasing or adding new capacity. That will translate to more than 800,000 tons in 2025.

“These investments have driven record-high recovery volumes across all materials for us. As one example, WM continues to see increases in cardboard in residential programs – over 40% of the stream is cardboard boxes,” Bell says.

As with just about every recycler, plastics have been the Houston-based corporation’s most challenging materials, especially in the back half of 2025. Increased plastics imports and low virgin resin prices have made it difficult to move these recyclables. This has led to closures of some end markets. But one of the most daunting challenges today is the imbalance between supply and demand, Bell says.

“To turn recycled materials into new products, there needs to be strong U.S. end markets that buy and use these materials. Domestic markets can reduce reliance on exports, help stabilize demand, improve transparency around what happens to recycled materials, and strengthen local economies,” he says.

Moving into 2026, the waste and recycling giant plans to continue executing on its $1.4 billion investment in infrastructure, to focus on recycling education to communities, and to collaborate with customers and manufacturers to identify ways to create new products and packaging. Conversations around EPR continued to amplify this year. In Mitra's mind, EPR has the potential to be one of the most important environmental policies in the near future.

"However, while we need to shift the cost of packaging waste from taxpayers to producers, we also need to ensure regulations push brands to actually design for recovery. The way EPR is being implemented in most states and countries is a bit one-size-fits-all, with the same fees for two same-sized bottles, without accounting for labeling, color of bottle, and contamination, which all impact recovery," Mitra says.

That's where the system falls short, he attests, and advises regulators need to ensure fees are scheduled according to real-world recovery for EPR to make its intended impact. Miller is paying attention to packaging EPR, too, and suggests it's the biggest trend to watch for in 2026.

"The hard data will not be out till 2027 or 2028, but there is a lot of theory about how packaging EPR will end ups and downs in commodity markets, how everybody will recycle more and better. It's time to see what the reality is," Miller says.

What to look out for, he believes, is how the states have moved forward.

"Personally, I think it's a mistake for any state to pass an EPR law this year. I think they should wait to learn from the experience of the seven states that have adopted EPR."

Miller's take on markets?

"So much depends on what's going to happen to the economy in the next year. And I'm not particularly optimistic about where the economy is going, but I think markets are going to hold up.

"I think they're likely to stay much closer to current levels than where they were, say one or two years ago."

Article 3

The unintended consequence of EPR: Is India's plastic recycling policy missing the mark?

Navigating Industry Challenges: Weighing Regulations and Risks India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations, though sustainably conscious, are causing havoc in the food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetics industries. Although stress on circular economy and sustainability is imperative, the blanket mandate to use recycled plastic in packaging—without industry specific safety exemptions—could have undesired consequences. Packaging of food and pharmaceuticals is and must come under the most stringent standards of safety, yet present requirements do not distinguish between general-use plastic and those having direct impact on human health. The consequence of this oversight can be severe - a potential public health crisis, and an industry in dismay over regulations not grounded in real world implications.

Balancing the Benefits and Price of EPR

Since the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, India has increased stringency on plastic waste regulations. The regulations were modified in 2016 and 2018, bringing in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which was then followed by a prohibition on certain single-use plastics in 2022. Although further modifications were introduced in 2023 and 2024 to enable industries to adhere to the rules more efficiently, the current rule under Category II mandates at least 10% recycled plastic in flexible plastic packaging by the fiscal year 2025-26. Flexible plastic packaging, in this case, can be single-layered or multi-layered, comprising of different plastics under Category II of the classification. The category includes plastic sheets or films of plastic sheet, carry bags, plastic sachet, snack pouches for items like chips, namkeen, sweets, detergent refills, ecommerce delivery bags and flexible food packaging for ready-to-eat foods or frozen vegetables that need to be kept dry and gas-free to ensure product quality. Of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) actions on plastic packaging, one that requires attention immediately is the use of recycled plastic (uRep) under Category II. Though the goal – reduction of plastic waste and circularity – is commendable, the strategy is flawed. Sectors like food, pharma, and personal care cannot use recycled plastics safely without stringent regulatory monitoring. Lack of clear regulatory guidelines from FSSAI puts these sectors at risk.

Need to Rethink the One-Size-Fits-All Approach

Unlike hard PET bottles, which can be safely recycled to produce new containers, flexible plastic packaging comes with different problem. Flexible multi-layered packaging is prone to contamination and cannot be mechanically recycled to create food-grade packages, it needs chemical recycling. Even though the chemical recycling process is safer, it remains in its infancy stage in the country and lacks the scale needed for large scale operations. Flexible recycling of plastic in developed world is still a technologically demanding process.

Currently, India only recycles about 60% of its plastic waste, primarily through mechanical recycling, chemical recycling accounts for less than 1% of plastic processing; hence, safe supply of recycled material is present to meet the needs of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is limited. Expecting industries to comply with the new regulations without the necessary infrastructure in place is unrealistic.

Additional to necessary infrastructure, India currently also lacks necessary food safety guidelines. EPR mandates treating all Category II plastics the same, whether they hold detergent or baby food. This absence of differentiation is a significant oversight. Remarkably, the European Union excludes food-contact plastics from recycled content requirements, recognizing the inherent health-safety risks attached to them. India must adopt a similar stance to balance sustainability with public health. India needs to adopt a similar policy to ensure consumer health while upholding its sustainability commitment.

A Smarter Way Forward

The government must recalibrate its EPR policy to ensure safety and sustainability go hand in hand. In the short term, the use of recycled plastics in food, pharmaceutical, and personal care packaging must be deferred until required safety standards are in place.

Structurally, MoEFCC and FSSAI must establish a dedicated regulatory category for contact-sensitive plastics to ensure industries meet feasible, health-oriented standards and to accommodate for operational and financial complexities of the new requisite technologies, industries should be given an extension of at least two years for process and regulatory integration.

Long-Term, India must invest in expanding chemical recycling facilities, establish industry-specific recycling requirements, and offer incentives for safe integration of recycled plastics into packaging. The strive of EPR is admirable, but to be effective, it must base on practicalities and safety. Without strategic realignment, India may be compromising on food safety, derailing industries, and undermining its sustainability goals.

(Source: etimes.in)

Commentary | Recycling: An equation of supply and demand

EPR without recycled content commitments does not close the demand gap that plagues some recyclables.

-By Keefe Harrison, CEO, The Recycling Partnership

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) often is described as a cornerstone of the circular economy. And it is. By shifting the financial and operational responsibility for packaging waste to producers, EPR helps fund collection systems and improves material recovery. That's real progress.

But here's the hard truth. If we do not make sure there are end markets to turn all that old stuff into new stuff, EPR alone will not deliver a circular system.

Why? Because supply without demand is a broken equation.

The demand gap: The missing piece in circularity

Across the U.S. and globally, policymakers and industry leaders are investing heavily in systems to collect and process recyclables. That investment matters. But it's only half the story. If we don't simultaneously create strong, consistent demand for recycled content, we risk building a supply chain with nowhere for those materials to go.

Think of it this way: We can collect every box, can, bottle, tub and even flexible film. But if packaging producers and brands aren't buying recycled content at scale, ensuring those materials are put back into the marketplace, those materials pile up, prices dip and recycling infrastructure falters. When that happens, public trust erodes and the entire system becomes more fragile.

California's recent EPR legislation acknowledges this reality. While it sets ambitious recycling targets, it also underscores the need for end-market development. Without clear signals from brands and manufacturers that they will purchase recycled content, the system stalls, and the promise of EPR remains unfulfilled.

Lessons from Europe the U.S. doesn't need to repeat

Europe is facing the same challenge under its new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). The regulation, which went into force in February 2025, mandates that all packaging be recyclable by 2030 and sets binding recycled content targets. These include 30 percent recycled plastic in single-use beverage bottles by 2030 and up to 65 percent by 2040. It also requires minimum recycled content for other plastic packaging types, ranging from 10-30 percent by 2030, with higher thresholds by 2040.

These measures are designed to accelerate circularity, but they also expose a critical vulnerability. Europe's recycling system already is showing what happens when demand falters. According to Plastics Recyclers Europe, nearly 1 million tons of recycling capacity have shut down since 2023, with seven facilities closing in the Netherlands alone. Without strong and reliable end-market demand for recycled materials, compliance becomes nearly impossible. When virgin plastic prices drop, recyclers struggle to compete. The PPWR makes it clear: Supply-side measures alone won't close the loop. Without clear demand signals from brands, backed by procurement commitments and collaborative purchasing strategies, these policies cannot succeed in practice.

Why EPR is only half of the story

EPR is designed to fund collection and processing, and those are essential pieces to a healthier system. But EPR does not necessarily guarantee demand. And demand is what makes recycling economically viable. When recycled resin must compete with virgin plastic that often is cheaper and more predictable, processors struggle to justify investment. The result? A fragile system vulnerable to market swings. We've seen this before. When oil prices drop, virgin resin floods the market, and recycled material demand collapses. Without consistent demand, the system remains unstable.

Policy can help fix the equation

To close the demand gap, we need a combination of smart policy and bold corporate leadership.

On the policy side, governments must do more than fund collection systems. While some EPR programs include demand mechanisms, many do not. Policies must actively stimulate demand, and we must explore new policy structures. That means incorporating demand elements into EPR laws, setting minimum recycled content mandates to guarantee a baseline market, offering incentives for brands that go above and beyond and enforcing penalties for noncompliance to ensure a level playing field for responsible actors.

But policy alone won't get us there. This is where sustainability leaders at major brands play a critical role. Driving demand for recycled content isn't just a procurement decision. It isn't just about meeting targets. Embedding recycled content into the DNA of packaging design and purchasing decisions is a strategic business decision. By committing to this path, brands send a powerful message to the market: We will buy what you produce.

Scale matters here. When companies aggregate demand, they stabilize pricing and send a clear signal that the market for recycled materials is real, reliable and growing. It gives recyclers confidence to expand capacity. It attracts capital to innovation in sorting, processing and advanced recycling. And it creates the virtuous cycle that benefits people and planet alike.

What happens next?

We don't have to imagine the consequences of a demand gap in the U.S. recycling system. We are already seeing the signs. The **temporary closure of WM's Natura facility** for film and flexible plastics in Texas and the shutdowns of **rPlanet Earth's polyethylene terephthalate operations** in California and **Phoenix Technologies in Ohio** are clear market signals. Demand for recycled content was not strong or reliable enough to sustain them.

Collection without end markets simply doesn't solve. Every dollar invested in recycling infrastructure without a corresponding commitment to demand puts the entire system at risk.

Now consider what happens if we get this right. A healthy market for postconsumer recyclables can anchor resilient North American supply chains, support skilled American jobs, stabilize manufacturing costs and keep critical materials circulating at home. That is how we move from fragile progress to a durable circular economy, and why strong demand signals are not optional. It is the foundation of the future we say we want.

To those concerned about building solid supply chains: This is your moment. Circularity only works when recycled materials are consistently valued, purchased and used. That's how we solve the equation and move from aspiration to reality.

(Source: Recycling Today, 24th December, 2025)

Event/Meeting attended

Online Demo of Common EPR Single Sign-On (SSO) was held on 23rd January, 2026 it was regarding the processing of Common EPR Single Sign-On (SSO) for all five existing EPR portals.

News Concerning Plastics

Reliance expands Gujarat footprint with groundbreaking of new advanced materials facility

Reliance Industries (RIL) is expanding its presence in advanced materials and new energy with a new facility in Gujarat. The "Bhoomi Pujan" and groundbreaking ceremony on January 6, 2026, marks the formal start of this project.

This upcoming facility will focus on manufacturing advanced composite and engineered plastics products critical to enabling our all new energy verticals like Hydrogen, Solar, CBG and Wind. Reliance continues its strategic push towards sustainability and future tech, building on previous announcements for green energy complexes and manufacturing plants in the region.

The initiative strongly reinforces RIL's commitment to building world-class advanced materials manufacturing capabilities, accelerating indigenous technology development, and positioning Reliance at the forefront of new energy and high-performance materials leadership.

Reliance Advanced Materials Division manufactures resin and technical fabrics as well as Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) finished components. These materials are gaining fast acceptance due to properties including light weight, corrosion protection, flame retardant characteristics, chemical resistance, lower maintenance, and extended service life.

(Source: ICN; 9th January, 2026)

Coca-Cola Pilots Paper Carriers in Austria to Cut 200 Tonnes Plastic

Coca-Cola in Austria is testing a new packaging solution for Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, and Mezzo Mix brands in Austria, by replacing the plastic shrink wrap with a recyclable corrugated-paper handle for soft drink multipacks, reported *Economic Times*.

The new design has been developed in partnership with DS Smith and Krones. This initiative aims to eliminate around 200 tonnes of plastic from circulation each year.

How it Works

The corrugated DS Smith Lift Up solution is built for six-packs of 1.5-liter PET bottles but it can be adapted for other sizes as well. It uses a paper band and a soft-grip cardboard handle designed to make it easier for consumers to carry their drinks more comfortably.

According to the companies, the packaging uses the minimum material possible and is 100% recyclable at end-of-life, reported *Economic Times*.

As reported by Packaging Europe and The Cool Down, the design features a recyclable paper-and-cardboard handle with a wrap around the bottles to replace traditional plastic.

DS Smith President Stefano Rossi said in a press release, "We are proud to partner on this innovative packaging solution, driving out unnecessary waste and single-use plastic. The DS Smith Lift Up concept was designed using DS Smith's Circular Design Metrics approach, so it uses the least amount of material possible, reduces impact on the environment, and looks fantastic in stores and supermarkets."

Circular Packaging Gains Momentum

According to the United Nations, the world is producing 430mn tonnes of plastic per year – two thirds of which are only used for a short period of time. The report further predicted that the equivalent of over 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped in our oceans, rivers and lakes. Plastic pollution, much of which comes from disposable packaging, is set to triple by 2060 if no action is taken.

Transitioning to recyclable paper-and-cardboard alternatives, like the new corrugated handle for six-packs, directly supports global moves toward circular economy models, endorsed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Eliminating plastic packaging demand could help reduce plastic leakage into oceans, lower greenhouse-gas emissions and curb health risks associated with plastic pollution.

Chemco Group commissions PET recycling facility in India

Indian plastic packaging manufacturer Chemco Group has commissioned a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycling facility in Sanand, Gujarat, India, designed to process more than 1 billion postconsumer PET bottles per year.

Chemco says its facility will convert those bottles back into food-grade recycled PET (rPET) suitable for use in direct food and beverage packaging applications. With the commissioning, Chemco says it is strengthening India's domestic capability to replace virgin plastic with certified recycled material while maintaining stringent quality and safety standards.

Located in the industrial hub of Sanand, **Chemco** says the plant has been developed to meet global regulatory expectations. The rPET produced at the facility is U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) approved and fully compliant with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) requirements for food-contact applications in India. Additionally, the company says its operations adhere to all applicable Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) governing plastic recycling and rPET materials.

"This facility represents a strategic shift in how Chemco approaches sustainability," Chemco Managing Director Vaibhav Saraogi says. "Rather than treating recycling as an external dependency, we have built a fully integrated bottle-to-bottle ecosystem that gives our customers confidence in supply security, traceability and compliance. This is not just an investment in infrastructure; it is an investment in the future of responsible packaging."

By establishing in-house recycling capabilities, Chemco says it is enabling its brand partners in the packaging sector to meet recycled-content mandates, extended producer responsibility obligations and sustainability commitments without compromising performance or food safety.

Chemco says the new facility has been developed as a closed-loop operation, ensuring complete control across the recycling value chain. The company believes this integrated approach enhances traceability, reduces dependency on external suppliers and lowers the environmental impact associated with long logistics routes. The scale of operations also allows Chemco to deliver consistent quality and volumes required by large beverage, fast-moving consumer goods and food brands, it says.

Chemco brings more than three decades of experience in PET packaging to its endeavor, supplying rigid and flexible packaging products to leading domestic and international brands.

"The addition of large-scale rPET recycling further consolidates Chemco's position as a long-term partner for companies seeking credible, compliant and scalable sustainable packaging solutions," the company says.

As demand for food-grade recycled materials grows across global markets, Chemco says it plans to leverage its platform to support higher recycled-content applications and future capacity expansions.

Plastic purge: Cleanup Kabadkhana & shift it to green zones, orders NGT

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports on health and environmental hazards from unregulated plastic waste recycling at Bhopal's "Kabadkhana" junkyard, the National Green Tribunal's Bhopal bench has directed the Madhya Pradesh government to effectively control illegal plastic-recycling units and to frame a policy to relocate functioning units from residential areas to designated industrial zones, citing serious safety concerns for local residents.

The bench, comprising judicial member Sheo Kumar Singh and expert member Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi, has ordered the principal secretary, environment; the MPPCB; and the collectors and municipal corporations of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Rewa and Ujjain to take necessary steps to stop illegal operations and ensure that such units are moved to appropriate industrial zones. It has also directed the state government to ensure that the Multi-Layered Plastic (MLP) industry immediately works to replace nondegradable plastic in MLP packaging with biodegradable material.

The tribunal further directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to encourage units to adopt dissolution techniques for extracting aluminium from foils, separating the plastic, and to convert MLP and metalized plastic waste into laminated waste, granules, and blocks for use in value-added products. The municipal corporations of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Rewa and Ujjain are directed to examine existing plastic waste disposal facilities and take remedial measures. The MPPCB and the municipal corporations of these six cities are instructed to periodically monitor the quality of drinking water and wetlands in and around municipal areas, twice a year in a recognized lab, specifically for microplastics, and take necessary public health precautions. The tribunal has asked the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to form an expert team, including members of CPCB, ICMR, CIPET and other institutions, to study microplastic pollution, recommend standards, and suggest remedial steps for municipal areas. CPCB is also directed to study sampling, analysis and permissible limits of microplastics in water, and the health effects of consumption above those limits.

The tribunal asked the principal secretary, environment, to consider referring the issue to researchers at MANIT Bhopal to study the sources of microplastics in freshwater and drinking water, treatment efficacy, and the risk of microplastics returning to the environment via sludge and biosolids used on farmland. The tribunal directed the state government to better manage plastic waste, reduce plastic use, and minimize pollution, keeping in mind the health risks from microplastics in drinking water and food. Principal secretary, environment, must monitor implementation through state and district committees; an action-taken report from the principal secretary, MPPCB, collectors and municipal corporations is to be submitted to the tribunal within four weeks, with the next hearing scheduled for 27 March 2026.

(Source: 23rd January, 2026)

Ocean Plastic Forum secures funding for plastic recycling in India

Ocean Plastic Forum has received funding from Danida Green Business Partnerships (DGBP) for its new initiative, "From Beach to Big Bags" (FBBB), which aims to transform plastic waste into industrial big bags in Chennai, India.

The project, which will run from January 2025 to June 2026, is in partnership with Gleco A/S, Desmi RO-Clean, and Kabadiwalla Connect. It aims to create a value chain for recycled plastic.

Thomas Alstrup, head of the Ocean Plastic Forum secretariat, says, "This project is a great example of how international value chain collaborations can drive real change. By combining the expertise of each partner, we can ensure that significant amounts of plastic waste are recovered from coastal areas and integrated into scalable business models that support the circular economy."

The initiative hopes to empower local communities and curtail plastic pollution in oceans and waterways by creating industrial big bags that contain 30% recycled polypropylene (rPP). The informal waste sector collects land-based plastic waste, while ocean plastic is collected by a waste barrier supplied by Desmi Ro-Clean, a pollution cleanup company.

Value chain integration

The collected plastic waste is integrated into a value chain and converted into large industrial bags. The collection company Kabadiwalla Connect aims to collect waste that supports social and environmental goals, with the traceability and quality of materials documented for accurate certification.

Siddharth Hande, CEO of Kabadiwalla Connect, says: "This project aligns perfectly with our mission to empower informal waste collectors and integrate them into formal recycling systems."

"By providing fair wages, access to insurance, and improved working conditions, we can create a sustainable and inclusive circular economy that benefits people and the planet."

The recycled material is sent to Gleco A/S, a Denmark-based manufacturer, including industrial big bags, demonstrating the potential for a commercially viable model where recycled plastic becomes a sought-after resource.

Ethical business model

The project aims to remove plastic waste and combine environmental protection with social responsibility by integrating the informal waste sector into a "structured and fair value chain."

The partnership wants to improve working conditions by providing economic benefits for waste collectors — such as health insurance and occupational safety improvements.

Ocean Plastic Forum highlights that the project aims to create an economically sustainable model where "the final sale price of big bags remains competitive."

"Barrier systems are financed through the value of the collected plastic, and local waste collectors achieve improved living conditions."

The organization hopes the project will provide the blueprint for a full-scale commercial rollout.

Plastic waste removal

Packaging providers and NGOs are increasingly attempting to curb the amount of single-use plastic through joint projects and scientific innovation. However, ambiguous terminology and operations often hinder the conversation surrounding plastic waste, especially in marine environments.

Recently, researchers at the Riken Center for Emergent Matter Science in Japan created a biodegradable plastic material applicable to packaging that naturally decomposes in seawater. The study aimed to introduce an alternative to conventional plastic that maintains the strength and versatility of standard solutions while eliminating their long-term environmental footprint.

Meanwhile, Unilever has introduced refill initiatives for beauty products to cut plastic waste. Since 2018, it has tested over 50 refills and reuse pilots globally. Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have incorporated various refillable personal care product initiatives in the last five years, working with local communities and Transform companies.

(Source: Packaging Insight)

The ocean floor is turning into the world's biggest plastic dump site killing hundreds of underwater species

For years, the public face of ocean pollution has been the same: floating bottles, drifting bags, and beaches littered with waste. But scientists say the most dangerous build-up is happening far below the surface, on the seafloor, where debris settles and remains for decades. A global scientific review led by Professor Miquel Canals at the University of Barcelona warns that deep-sea basins and underwater canyons are becoming collection zones for human-made waste. The damage is not only environmental but biological, as plastic and abandoned fishing gear continue harming marine life long after the rubbish disappears from view.

The warning comes from a 2021 review paper published in Environmental Research Letters titled "The quest for seafloor macrolitter". The study, led by Canals and supported by an international team of researchers, brought together what scientists already know about deep-sea debris, how it is monitored, and why it is so difficult to control.

Co-authors include marine litter specialists such as Christopher K. Pham, Melanie Bergmann, Georg Hanke, Erik van Sebille, and François Galgani. The review also reflects broader European research efforts involving organisations like the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute.

The biggest plastic problem in the ocean is sinking

While floating plastic gets most of the attention, the seabed is where a large share of marine debris ends up. Once waste reaches deep water, it becomes extremely difficult to locate and even harder to remove. As a result, the seafloor can store plastics, metal, glass, and fishing gear for years, allowing pollution to build up quietly over time.

One of the most severe seafloor litter zones identified by researchers is the Strait of Messina, between Italy and Sicily. Surveys in parts of its underwater canyon system have recorded debris densities ranging from roughly 121,000 items per square kilometre to as high as 1.3 million items per square kilometre.

The area's geography and strong currents help explain why the debris concentrates there. Instead of dispersing evenly, litter is funnelled into narrow deep-sea pathways where it accumulates in dense clusters.

Underwater canyons are dragging rubbish into the deep sea

Marine litter does not simply sink straight down. It can be pushed offshore by storms, carried by ocean currents, and then pulled down into deep basins through submarine canyons. These canyons act like channels that transport waste away from coastlines and concentrate it far below the surface.

This helps explain why deep-sea debris can appear in places that seem distant from human activity. The ocean is constantly moving, and the waste moves with it.

Plastics dominate, and they keep breaking into smaller pieces

Plastics account for the largest share of seafloor debris in many studies, largely because they are lightweight, widespread, and slow to degrade. Over time, bigger items fragment into smaller pieces, increasing the number of pollutants in the environment and expanding the range of species exposed to them.

Unlike materials that corrode or dissolve more quickly, plastic can persist for long periods in deep water, where temperatures are low and biological activity is limited.

Plastic has reached even the deepest parts of the planet

Deep-sea explorers have recorded plastic debris at extreme depths, including near the Mariana Trench. The discovery has reinforced a worrying reality: even the most remote parts of the ocean are not isolated from global waste. This is no longer a coastal problem. It is a planet-wide one.

Ghost fishing turns lost gear into a long-term threat

Among the most dangerous forms of seafloor debris is abandoned fishing gear. Nets, ropes, and lines can continue catching and killing marine animals for years, a phenomenon known as ghost fishing. Because this gear is built to trap living creatures, it causes damage in a way ordinary litter does not. It also damages habitats, especially when heavy nets drag across reefs or snag onto seabed structures.

How seabed debris is killing marine life

Scientists warn that seafloor pollution harms marine animals in three main ways. First, wildlife becomes entangled in nets and ropes, which can cause injury, starvation, or drowning. Second, animals ingest plastic, either by mistaking it for food or swallowing it accidentally while feeding. Third, debris disrupts habitats by smothering the seabed, damaging corals, or altering ecosystems that are already fragile. Researchers say hundreds of marine species worldwide are affected by marine debris, with long-term risks that are still being studied.

Why deep-sea pollution is difficult to track

Unlike surface pollution, deep-sea debris cannot be monitored easily. Researchers rely on tools such as remotely operated vehicles, deep-sea cameras, sonar mapping, and specialist research vessels. These surveys cover limited areas, meaning scientists believe the problem is likely undercounted in many parts of the world. This lack of visibility is part of what makes seafloor pollution so persistent. If it cannot be easily seen, it is easier to ignore.

The only realistic solution is prevention

Cleaning the deep seafloor at scale is not practical in most places. It is expensive, technically difficult, and could disturb sensitive ecosystems. That is why scientists and environmental organisations focus on stopping waste before it reaches the ocean.

This includes better waste collection on land, stronger enforcement against illegal dumping, reducing plastic leakage through rivers and ports, and cutting the loss of fishing gear that becomes deadly ghost equipment. The message from researchers is clear. The message from researchers is clear. The ocean is not a disappearing bin. What falls into it can settle on the seafloor for decades, turning the deep sea into a hidden rubbish store that marine life cannot escape.

(Source: The Times of India; 24th January, 2026)

NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED

Sr. No.	Name of Unit / Company & Names of Representatives	Manufacturers / Traders & Contact Numbers	Introduced by
FIVE YEAR MEMBER			
1	**V-16. OM INTERNATIONAL** Kh. No. 154/178, Ground Floor, Pooth Khurd, New Delhi-110039 **Rep:** Shri Amit Garg Shri Ankit Garg	Fac. No. 8595067844 Off. No. 8368987758 Mobile No. 9958433584	Shri Parteek Bhutani M/S Shreejee Colour Solutions

International News

Plastics market turbulence could continue in new year

Recyclers weathered competition from imports and virgin oversupply in 2025, in addition to the closure of several large PET processors. Markets could continue to face difficulties in the early months of 2026.

Plastics recyclers encountered volatile markets last year as they competed against the oversupply of virgin resins and a steady stream of low-cost imports, as well as frequently changing United States trade policies that gave buyers pause.

Those looking for measures of relief in the early months of this year are unlikely to find it.

According to Andrea Bassetti, Americas team lead, Recycled Plastics, at London-based commodities consulting firm **ICIS**, 2025 was marked by an abundance of supply and weak demand for most resin types, and that could continue into the first quarter of this year.

"There was a lot of unexpected volatility [last year] that made it quite difficult for any stakeholders to make decisions past the month that was right in front of them with tariffs," she says, adding that virgin and recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET), for example, were initially exempt from the Trump administration's reciprocal tariff regimen **before a change in September**.

"Along with not being able to plan out effectively, I think that introduced a level of uncertainty in an already struggling market where demand was softer than expected and supply was pretty ample. That was sort of the cherry on top that caused a lot of cascading impacts that have brought us where we are today and where we might go in 2026, which is probably another soft year on the demand side with pretty heavy supply."

Based on trade data compiled by the U.S. government, Bassetti notes that imports of polyethylene and PET decreased in September—the last month data was published—but whether it has become a trend is not yet known.

"Our expectation is some of those trade numbers are going to decrease a little bit, maybe in the 10-20 percent range" she says. "However, imported material still provides some advantages to some domestic material. For example, on the PET side, the quality of imported material seems to be a lot higher for a pretty comparable price, so it's still a very attractive option."

Seasonality also will affect markets in the early months of this year, as MRFs destock toward the end of the year and collection slows in winter months.

"I think we'll see some price increases, but I wouldn't say it's a show of stronger demand," Bassetti says. "If anything, I'd say it's a show of supply being a little tighter as you start the new year."

Market volatility also has been acknowledged by the National Association of PET Container Resources (NAPCOR), which **released its "2024 PET Recycling Report**" in December. In the annual report, the Middleton, Wisconsin-based organization notes the PET bottle recycling rate decreased to 30.2 percent in 2024 from 32.5 percent the year before.

Additionally, NAPCOR reports sales of rPET to U.S. and Canadian end markets declined 3 percent from 2023, while rPET imports reached an all-time high, accounting for 23 percent of total rPET supply. The average amount of rPET content in U.S. PET bottles measured 15.9 percent in 2024, down slightly from 2023 due to increased volumes of virgin PET in the market.

There also was encouraging news. The report says total reclaimer inputs of postconsumer PET bottles increased 1 percent, while PET thermoform recovery rose 52 percent over 2023 to 264 million pounds.

The report claims a rise in recycling system efficiency in the U.S. and Canada, noting that the ratio of recovered outputs from PET reclamation to incoming material increased from 81.5 percent in 2023 to 85.2 percent in 2024.

“Despite ongoing market pressures, the 2024 PET recycling rate reflects the resilience of North America’s domestic reclaimers,” says Tom Busard, NAPCOR board chair, chief polymers and recycling officer for Plastipak Packaging Inc., and president of Plastipak recycling affiliate Clean Tech. “The data also underscore the importance of strengthening domestic recycling infrastructure, expanding recovery of all PET packaging formats and ensuring policies that support reliable end markets for recycled material.”

Improving markets would be a welcome sight this year, particularly when it comes to rPET. In 2025, four major recyclers of the material closed their doors, the most recent being Bowling Green, Ohio-based Phoenix Technologies International LLC, **which closed one of its two facilities** in the Northwest Ohio city Nov. 20, laying off seven. At full capacity, the reclaimer had the ability to process 140 million pounds of PET per year.

In a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification filed with the state in November, Phoenix says it took measures to avoid the closure, including cost reductions with suppliers and vendors, negotiating better pricing and reducing expenses and overhead costs.

Phoenix began manufacturing rPET pellets from postconsumer flake in 1992 and expanded its operations in 2015 to include flake production. In 2019, the company was purchased by Taiwan-based plastics producer Far Eastern New Century Corp and completed a major capacity upgrade in 2023.

(Source: Recycling Today, 26-12-2025)

US Plastics Pact releases 2024-25 Impact Report

Among details covered in the report, 54 percent of plastic packaging placed on the market by U.S. Plastics Pact members is reusable, recyclable or compostable, up from 36 percent in 2021.

The U.S. Plastics Pact (USPP) has released its **2024-25 Impact Report**, detailing continued progress toward a more circular plastics system in the United States while underscoring the sustained commitment and collaboration required to deliver impact at scale.

The Walpole, New Hampshire-based organization says the report comes at a pivotal moment as it builds on the foundation it established under the USPP **Roadmap to 2025** and advances, through the USPP member-driven **Roadmap 2.0**, into what it calls a more execution-focused phase of work.

“This Impact Report captures how our work is evolving,” **USPP** President and CEO Jonathan Quinn says. “Through our Roadmap 2.0, we are delivering more tangible, action-oriented outcomes, from practical position papers and best practice policy guidance to cross-value-chain initiatives and tools that help companies evaluate their businesses and make informed decisions across USPP targets.”

The organization says its new report highlights steady, measurable progress. The report claims 54 percent of plastic packaging placed on the market by USPP members, also known as Activators, is now reusable, recyclable or compostable, up from 36 percent in 2021. Additionally, the report claims the average use of postconsumer recycled or responsibly sourced biobased content has increased to 14 percent, up from 8 percent in 2021.

USPP also says more companies are choosing to avoid items on the organization’s **Problematic and Unnecessary Materials List**.

USPP says the report shows “clear momentum” while underscoring the scale and complexity of the work ahead. The report claims that recycling rates remain constrained by gaps in infrastructure, end market demand and consistent national data and emphasizes that scaling reuse systems and recycled content markets will require sustained engagement across the value chain, including from companies, policymakers and communities.

“Progress is real, but it is not automatic,” Quinn says. “The Impact Report takes a clear-eyed view of these challenges, outlining where progress is building and where additional alignment and investment are still needed to achieve circular outcomes at scale. USPP Activators understand that circularity is a long-term transformation. Roadmap 2.0 is about giving them the tools, clarity and collaboration they need to turn commitment into durable, real-world impact."

The USPP says its report offers transparency into progress to date, clarity on priorities ahead and a practical foundation for continued action to build a circular plastics economy in the U.S.

(Source: Recycling Today; 14th January, 2026)

OMV CEO says strict rules on plastic recycling could stifle innovation

Chief Executive Alfred Stern warned on Thursday that overly stringent rules for building a plastics circular economy risk stifling emerging technologies before they become commercially viable.

Speaking at a World Economic Forum panel in the Swiss alpine resort of Davos, Stern said the sector faces an "innovator's dilemma" as new processes must compete with petrochemical supply chains refined over decades.

It is cheaper to produce, use and then dispose of plastic materials, Stern said, adding that financial incentives were needed to invest in collection and sorting systems.

The Austrian oil and gas group sees recycling as a growth opportunity and is investing heavily, including in what it says will be Europe's largest sorting facility with service provider Interzero.

The group currently has 200,000 tonnes of mechanical and 16,000 tonnes of chemical recycling capacity.

Stern urged negotiators of a planned global plastics treaty to consider regional differences and said Europe should stop exporting waste, calling it a valuable raw material that should remain in the region.

(Source: Reuters; January 22, 2026)

New Ineos Recycl-In product made with 70 percent recycled content

Ineos says its new product is ideal for manufacturing a range of stiff, colored or translucent cosmetics packaging components.

Ineos Olefins & Polymers Europe has launched a new Recycl-In hybrid polymer grade containing 70 percent recycled content, designed to boost the sustainability of contact-sensitive cosmetics packaging.

The **Switzerland-based petrochemical producer** claims its **Recycl-In hybrid polymers** deliver the strength, aesthetics and processing ease its customers expect while increasing recycled content and reducing CO_2 emissions. The company says it combines high levels of mechanically recycled plastic with "advanced booster polymers."

The company says the new product is a natural color polypropylene homopolymer designed for thin-walled injection molding and fiber extrusion, making it ideal for manufacturing stiff, colored or translucent components such as screw caps, jars and lids; mascara reservoirs and caps; deodorant roller balls; and spray-over caps and dispenser parts.

Ineos also says key attributes of the new grade, rPP1025C, include stiffness for shape retention, a "premium feel," and reliable functionality, as well as heat resistance for stability and shelf life.

Ineos says its new product is a drop-in solution for demanding applications that is comparable to virgin polypropylene and delivers a 35 percent lower carbon footprint. The recycled materials are covered by a U.S. Food & Drug Administration letter of nonobjection and are certified as postconsumer resin (PCR) by **RecyClass**, in line with ISO 14021 environmental labeling standards.

Ineos says it offers a range of Recycl-In hybrid polyolefin compounds for rigid and flexible applications in sectors such as automotive, construction, drainage systems, packaging, sports stadiums, storage and textiles.

(Source: Recycling Today; 26th Jan., 20226)

Recycling Leadership Council forms to modernize US recycling system for plastics

The coalition, led by the Consumer Brands Association, aims to work with Congress to spur recycling innovation across the U.S., with plastics as a primary focus.

Led by the Consumer Brands Association, a broad coalition called the Recycling Leadership Council (**RLC**) has formed with the purpose of working with Congress to spur recycling innovation and American manufacturing by modernizing the country's recycling system to better manage plastics throughout their life cycle.

The group includes companies representing the recycling, manufacturing, packaging and consumer products sectors, and includes:

- **Ag Container Recycling Council**;
- **Alliance for Automotive Innovation**;
- **American Chemistry Council**;
- **American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers**;
- **Closed Loop Partners**;
- **Council for Responsible Nutrition**;
- **Household & Commercial Products Association**;
- **International Sleep Products Association**;
- **Meat Institute**;
- **National Lubricant Container Recycling Coalition;**
- **North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers**;
- **Retail Industry Leaders Association**; and
- **Vinyl Institute**

"To reduce plastic waste, we must modernize our recycling system," says John Hewitt, senior vice president at the Arlington, Virginia-based **Consumer Brands Association**. "The formation of the Recycling Leadership Council is a pivotal step toward transforming how America manages plastic waste. Leaders across technology, automotive, consumer goods, toys and other industries are working together to meaningfully address policies and practices that prohibit plastic recycling at scale."

RLC notes that plastic is "integral to modern life," keeping food fresh, enabling life-saving medical devices, protecting electronics, making transportation lighter and more efficient and keeping products affordable, among other applications.

The coalition says that as demand grows for plastic products, so does the volume of plastic waste, requiring "urgent, coordinated action" that begins with addressing "outdated frameworks" that fail to recognize emerging recycling technologies and lower consumer confidence in recycling labels and claims.

"The RLC is united in support of policy frameworks that will unlock the investment and manufacturing innovation needed to modernize America's aging recycling infrastructure to adequately handle the amount and types of plastic materials discarded today," Hewitt says. "The RLC has the strength of America's leading industries behind it, sending a powerful signal to policymakers and consumers that the urgency to act is here."

(Source: Recycling Today; 17th January, 2026)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Smaller Firms Seek Rs 5K Stamp Duty for Property Transfers Among Shareholders, Cite UP's Intra-Family Relief

Smaller firms planning to close down their business want states to allow transfer of property among its shareholders by paying Rs 5,000 stamp duty on the lines of Uttar Pradesh (UP) government's recent decision to allow intra-family transfer of commercial and industrial properties through gift deeds of upto Rs 5,000.

In a major relief to small businesses in UP, the government recently allowed the transfer of commercial and industrial properties among family members through gift deeds of a maximum value of Rs 5,000. The move was an extension of the benefit given to agricultural and residential properties.

"If a family owns a property and in case it is being divided or transferred among its members, the UP government has allowed it to be done on a stamp paper of Rs 5,000. The same treatment should be extended to properties held by small companies when the shareholders want to close the firm and transfer the properties," said Dinesh Singhal, Managing Director at Meerut-based Kanohar Electricals Ltd.

He stated that such a move would add to the ease of doing business and cut down complexities involved in shutting down a business.

Endorsing concessional transfer fees for properties held by small firms, VK Agarwal, Managing Director of Shashi Cables and former President of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) said that property related stamp duty and registration charges are prohibitively expensive in India which fuels black money generation.

"Smaller private companies should be charged lower property transfer fees when assets are divided among shareholders. The government could consider a graded fee structure—minimal for immediate family members and maybe slightly higher for other shareholders. This will lower the burden on small businesses," he said.

Agarwal also called for a flexible approach by the government in transfer of industrial plots and their objective should be to promote industrial growth instead of worrying about original allottees making some money while transferring the ownership.

Notably, the UP government recently announced a six-month remission of registration fees on specific categories of lease deeds, offering temporary relief to lessees across the state. Under the notified schedule, the registration fee has been capped based on the average annual rent and the tenure of the lease.

The remission applies to registration fees chargeable on lease deeds under Article 35 of Schedule 1-B of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, as amended for Uttar Pradesh. However, the benefit does not apply to toll or mining lease agreements, which have been expressly excluded.

(Source: KNN Bureau; 27th January, 2026)

Stricter SWM rules notified: Residential societies, government-run buildings to local bodies will have to process solid waste at source

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, on 28th Jan. 2026 to give effect to this new framework.

From April 1, urban and rural local bodies and 'bulk generators' ranging from residential societies, universities to government-run buildings will have to follow stricter solid waste management rules, which will replace the existing decade-old regime to collect, segregate and manage garbage in the country. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, on 28th Jan. 2026 to give effect to this new framework.

The new Rules broadens the scope of responsibilities, increases linkages for reuse of waste as fuel in boilers, cement kilns, to promote circular economy, and introduces clear penalties for non-compliance. It places stringent onus on bulk generators – which account for 30 per cent of waste – to process solid waste at source.

Four streams of mandatory segregation at source – wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and special care waste – have been defined. This will cover waste from paper and kitchen waste to sanitary towels and diapers to tube lights, waste batteries.

Bulk generators have been defined as entities which fulfil either of these criterion – buildings with floor area of 20,000 square metres or more, water consumption of 40,000 litres per day or more, generation of 100 kg/day waste or more. This will cover central and state government departments, local bodies, commercial establishments, residential societies, universities and hostels, among others.

(Source: The Indian Express; 29th January, 2026)

India-US trade tariff stalemate ends, what does this mean for New Delhi and its economy

India and US finally broke the trade deal stalemate as Donald Trump on Monday (Feb 2) announced a new deal with India featuring lower reciprocal tariffs. This slashes the tariffs from 50% to 18% for India. Under this agreement New Delhi would need to halt purchases of Russian oil and sharply increase imports of American goods.

What does the slash in US tariff mean for India?

This lowering of tariffs from 50% to 18% gives India an advantageous position in comparison to competing economies like Indonesia that faces tariff of 19%, Vietnam 20%, Bangladesh 20%, China 34% and Pakistan 19%.

The new trade deal is effective immediately.

While India as claimed by Trump will cut tariffs and non-tariff barriers on US goods to zero. It will also buy over $500 billion in US goods and energy, including coal, along with technology, agricultural and other products.

But what is to be noted is that the duties levied by the US on trade with India are still higher when compared to European partners like Japan and South Korea.

The new trade deal, according to External Affairs Minister will boost boost job creation, spur economic growth, promote innovation and give a fillip to the 'Make in India' initiative.

Welcoming to move Jaishankar took to X to write, "This will create more jobs, spur growth and promote innovation in both economies. It will strengthen 'Make in India' endeavours and encourage trusted technology ties."

India-US trade deal unlocks unprecedented opportunities for farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers: Piyush Goel

India-US trade deal: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that the India-US trade deal unlocks the power of two large democracies working together for the shared prosperity of their people, and the bilateral partnership will co-create technologies and co-develop solutions.

He said the trade deal unlocks unprecedented opportunities for farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers.

In a post on X, Goyal also said that the trade deal will help India get technology from the United States and accelerate India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump for the trade deal.

MSME sector's role critical in enabling effective supply chain participation: Eco Survey 2025-26

Emphasising the significance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as the backbone of India's industrial economy, the Economic Survey 2025-26 stated that they account for approximately 35.4% of manufacturing, around 48.58% of exports, and 31.1% of GDP in the country. "With over 74.7 million enterprises employing over 328.2 million people, the sector holds its position as the second-largest employer after agriculture. Globally, MSMEs make up about 90% of businesses and are responsible for over 50% of the total global employment," the Survey said.

It noted that the **MSME sector**'s role is critical in enabling effective supply chain participation, fostering local value addition, and supporting inclusive **regional growth**, especially since India's manufacturing sector is positioned for greater global integration.

It further said that India accounted for an estimated 2.9% of the global manufacturing GVA and 1.8% of global merchandise exports in 2024, indicating considerable potential for growth in global manufacturing footprint. "The limited share can be attributed to relatively low participation in GVC trade, particularly on the backward-linked side, where firms import intermediates and components to assemble for export," it said.

The Survey observed that for a labour-rich economy, export-oriented GVC participation can be a powerful mechanism for employment generation in higher-productivity manufacturing. "Going forward, continued calibration of tariffs on intermediates and capital goods, especially in high-growth sectors, can enhance cost competitiveness, deepen assembly and component ecosystems, and support India's emergence as a preferred global production base," it said.

(Source: ET Times; 29th Jan, 2026)

India-EU FTA: 'मदर ऑफ ऑल डील्स' में भारत के 93: से ज्यादा सामानों को 27 यूरोपीय देशों में ड्यूटी–फ्री एंट्री

भारत के परिधान, केमिकल्स और फुटवियर पर जीरो ड्यूटीय भारतीय बाजार में ईयू की कार–वाइन को मिलेगी रियायत एंट्री

India-EU FTA: करीब दो दशकों के लंबे इंतजार के बाद भारत और यूरोपीय संघ (EU) ने आखिरकार इतिहास रच दिया। मंगलवार को दोनों पक्षों ने बहुप्रतीक्षित मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) पर बातचीत पूरी होने की घोषणा की। यह समझौता हाल के सालों के सबसे बड़े वैश्विक व्यापार सौदों में से एक माना जा रहा है। इस समझौते के साथ भारत और EU के बीच व्यापार के दरवाजे पहले से कहीं ज्यादा खुल जाएंगे।

EU ने भारत से आने वाले लगभग 99.5 प्रतिशत सामानों पर आयात शुल्क कम करने या पूरी तरह खत्म करने का फैसला किया है। इसके बदले भारत भी EU से आने वाले 97 प्रतिशत उत्पादों पर टैक्स में राहत देगा। समझौता लागू होते ही भारत अपने और EU के बीच होने वाले व्यापार के 30 प्रतिशत हिस्से पर शुल्क शून्य कर देगा। अगले 10 सालों में यह दायरा बढ़ते हुए 93 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच जाएगा। दूसरी ओर EU पहले ही दिन से भारत के 90 प्रतिशत निर्यात पर शुल्क हटा देगा, जबकि बाकी शुल्क सात साल में खत्म होंगे।

करीब दो दशकों से चली बातचीत के बाद हुए इस समझौते को "मदर ऑफ ऑल डील्स" कहा जा रहा है, क्योंकि इससे लगभग 2 अरब लोगों का साझा बाजार बनेगा। फिलहाल भारत–EU वस्तु व्यापार करीब 136 अरब डॉलर है, जो समझौते के लागू होने के 3–4 साल में 200 अरब डॉलर से ऊपर जा सकता है। वहीं सेवाओं का व्यापार, जो अभी 80–85 अरब डॉलर है, उसी अवधि में 125 अरब डॉलर तक पहुंच सकता है।

एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी के अनुसार, ऑटो और स्टील को छोड़कर भारत के लगभग 93% से ज्यादा सामान को EU में जीरो ड्यूटी लगेगी। बाकी 6% से ज्यादा वस्तुओं पर टैरिफ में कटौती और कोटा–आधारित रियायतें (जैसे ऑटोमोबाइल) दी जाएंगी। EU- FTA लागू होने के पहले ही दिन भारत से आने वाले 90% सामान पर आयात शुल्क खत्म कर देगा। करीब 3% सामान पर शुल्क सात साल में चरणबद्ध तरीके से हटाया जाएगा। अधिकारी ने बताया कि इस तरह ट्रेड वैल्यू के 99.5% हिस्से पर EU भारत को रियायतें देगा।

India-EU FTA: ड्यूटी–फ्री पहुंच पाने वाले प्रमुख भारतीय क्षेत्र

टेक्सटाइल्स, परिधान, कपड़े, समुद्री उत्पाद, रसायन, प्लास्टिक, रबर, चमड़ा व फुटवियर, बेस मेटल्स, रत्न व आभूषण, फर्नीचर, खिलौने और खेल सामग्री। फिलहाल इन पर EU में 0 से 26% तक शुल्क लगता है।

सेवाओं के क्षेत्र में EU ने भारत को अब तक की अपनी सबसे बेहतर पेशकश दी है। 155 में से 144 सब–सेक्टर खोले गए हैं, जबकि भारत 102 सब–सेक्टर EU के लिए खोलेगा। इसमें छात्रों की आवाजाही और पोस्ट–स्टडी वर्क वीजा से जुड़े कुछ प्रावधान भी शामिल हैं।

FTA में डिजिटल ट्रेड, स्वच्छता और फाइटोसैनिटरी उपाय, तकनीकी बाधाएं और बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकार पर चौप्टर शामिल

हैं। हालांकि ऊर्जा, क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स और सरकारी खरीद पर कोई चौप्टर नहीं है।

0.1% पर आ जाए जाएगा EU का औसत टैरिफ

EU का औसत टैरिफ पहले से ही 3.8% के आसपास है, जो समझौते के बाद भारत के लिए घटकर 0.1% रह जाएगा। कुछ क्षेत्रों जैसे समुद्री उत्पाद, रसायन, प्लास्टिक और रबर में ज्यादा शुल्क हैं, जिन्हें EU भारत के लिए पूरी तरह हटाएगा।

इन क्षेत्रों से भारत का निर्यात 2024 में 35 अरब डॉलर था। इसमें से 33.5 अरब डॉलर के सामान पर पहले ही दिन शुल्क हटेगा, और बाकी पर 3, 5 और 7 साल में शून्य हो जाएगा।

India-EU FTA: ऑटो सेक्टर में कोटा–आधारित रियायत

ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर में दोनों पक्षों ने कोटा–आधारित रियायतों पर सहमति बनाई है। भारत में 25 लाख रुपये से कम कीमत वाली कारों (पेट्रोल, डीजल, हाइब्रिड) को EU भारत में निर्यात नहीं करेगाय वे चाहें तो यहां मैन्युफैक्चरिंग कर सकते हैं।

25 लाख रुपये से ऊपर के सेगमेंट में EU का इंटरेस्ट ज्यादा है। फिलहाल भारत में कारों पर आयात शुल्क 66% से 125% तक है और कोटा से बाहर कोई रियायत नहीं दी जाएगी। इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (EV) के लिए कोटा समझौते के पांचवें साल से शुरू होगा। कुछ सेगमेंट में शुल्क 35% और कुछ में 30% से शुरू होकर धीरे–धीरे घटेगा।

डेयरी, अनाज पर कोई रियायत नहीं

भारत डेयरी (पनीर सहित), सोया मील और अनाज पर कोई रियायत नहीं देगा। वहीं, EU भी चीनी, बीफ, मांस और पोल्ट्री क्षेत्रों की सुरक्षा करेगा। भारत को EU में टेबल ग्रेप्स के लिए कोटा–आधारित ड्यूटी कटौती मिली है। EU हर साल करीब 1.4 अरब डॉलर के टेबल ग्रेप्स आयात करता है।

अधिकारी के मुताबिक, भारत को करीब 1 अरब डॉलर (85,000 टन) के अंगूरों पर ड्यूटी–फ्री पहुंच मिलेगी। वाइन पर भारत सात साल में शुल्क 150% से घटाकर 20% करेगा। 2.5 यूरो से कम कीमत वाली वाइन पर कोई रियायत नहीं होगी।

(Source: Business Standard; 27th January, 2026)

The Income Tax Act, 2025 To Come Into Effect From 1st April, 2026

Union Budget 2026-27 presented by the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in the Parliament today emphasized the 'Kartavya' of sustaining the momentum of structural reforms. The Finance Minister proposed a slew of Direct tax reforms to simplify the tax regime and ensure better compliance by the citizens.

New Income Tax Act

The Income Tax Act, 2025 is slated to come into effect from 1st April 2026. The simplified Income Tax Rules and Forms will be notified in due course giving adequate time to taxpayers to acquaint themselves with its requirements. The forms have been redesigned for simpler understanding and compliance for ordinary citizens.

Tax administration

Smt. Sitharaman proposes to constitute a Joint Committee of Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Direct Taxes for incorporating the requirements of Income Computation and Disclosure Standards (ICDS) in the Indian Accounting Standards (IndAS). Separate accounting requirement based on ICDS will be done away with from the tax year 2027-28.

To support the Prime Minister's vision of home-grown accounting and advisory firms to become global leaders, the Budget proposes to rationalize the definition of accountant for the purposes of Safe Harbour Rules.

Other Tax proposals

- To curb the improper use of buyback by promoters, the budget proposes to tax buyback for all types of shareholders as Capital Gains. However, to disincentivize misuse of tax arbitrage, promoters will pay an additional buyback tax. This will make effective tax 22 percent for corporate promoters. For non corporate promoters the effective tax will be 30 percent.
- TCS rate for sellers of specific goods namely alcoholic liquor, scrap and minerals will be rationalized to 2 percent and that on tendu leaves will be reduced from 5 percent to 2 percent. TCS rate for Remittance under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of an amount or aggregate of the amounts exceeding ten lakh rupees- (a) 2% for the purpose of education or medical treatment (b) 20% for the purpose of other than education or medical treatment

- Securities transaction tax (STT) proposed to be raised on Futures to 0.05 percent from present 0.02 percent. STT on options premium and exercise of options are both proposed to be raised to 0.15 percent from the present rate of 0.1 percent and 0.125 percent respectively.
- In continuance to simplified regime and lower tax rate for corporates, set-off of brought forward (Minimum Alternate tax) MAT credit is proposed to be allowed to companies only in the new regime to encourage companies to shift to the new regime. Set-off using available MAT credit is proposed to be allowed to an extent of 1/4th of the tax liability in the new regime.
- Ending further accumulation from 1st April, 2026, MAT is proposed to be made final tax. In line with this change, the rate of final tax will be reduced to 14 percent from the current MAT rate of 15 percent. The brought forward MAT credit of taxpayers accumulated till 31st March 2026, will continue to be available to them for set-off as above.

(Source: PIB; 1st February, 2026)

विनम्र निवेदन दिल्ली सरकार से– दिल्ली सरकार मदद करे–फिक्स चार्ज व टैक्स पर व्यापारियों के लिए समाधान करे

किसी भी राज्य की सफलता उसके औघोगिक क्षेत्र से मिलने वाले टैक्सों पर निर्भर करती है।

आज दिल्ली के व्यापारियों को बिजली पर फिक्स चार्ज 250 रू प्रति KVA + PPAC on Fixed Charges (11-86%) + Surcharge on Fixed Charge (8%) + Pension Trust Surcharge on fixed charges (7%) = लगभग 317.15 रूपये प्रति KVA पड़ रहा है।

बिजली पर यूनिट 7.75 + PPAC on energy Charges (11.86%) + Surcharge on Energy Charge (8%) + Pension on energy change (7%) = बिजली लगभग 9.83 प्रति यूनिट पड़ रही है।

आज प्रति यूनिट फिक्स चार्ज + यूनिट = लगभग 15–18 प्रति यूनिट पड़ रहा है। (अधिक यूनिट आने पर 15 व कम यूनिट आने पर 18 रुपये) जो किसी भी राज्य की तुलना में 50% से 80% अधिक है।

अब तक पिछले 11 वर्षों में दिल्ली के बड़े व्यापारी दूसरे राज्यों में पलायन कर रहे है क्योंकि पिछली सरकारों ने लगातार बिजली पर फिक्स चार्ज व अन्य टैक्सों में लगातार बढ़ोतरी के कारण व्यापार में लगातार उत्पादन मूल्य बढ़ रहा है, MSME के छोटे व्यापारियों के लिए ये बहुत संघर्षपूर्ण चुनौती है।

पहले कोई फिक्स चार्ज नहीं होता था पिछले 15 साल में फिक्स चार्ज व अन्य टैक्सों के कारण दिल्ली के व्यापारियों के लिए बहुत बड़ी समस्याएं उत्पन्न हो चुकी है।

दिल्ली में भाजपा की सरकार से निवेदन है व्यापारियों के हित में इस समस्या का समाधान करें। पिछली सरकारों ने व्यापारियों पर जो बोझ बढ़ाया है उसे कम किया जाये।

तरूण बंसल। जय हिन्द।
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ऑल इंडिया प्लास्टिक इंडस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन

1 रूपया यूनिट ज्यादा क्यों?

विनम्र निवेदन दिल्ली सरकार से– जो भी व्यापारी भाई औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में कार्य कर रहे है – जिनके पास फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस नहीं है तो उन्हें बिजली पर प्रति यूनिट 1 रूपया अधिक देना पड़ता है।

ज्यादातर व्यापारी भाई ये नहीं जानते, बिजली विभाग हर 2 साल में व्यापारियों से दिल्ली में फैक्ट्री लाईसेंस माँगता है। ना जमा करवाने पर बिल में 1 रूपया यूनिट अधिक लग कर आयेगा।

उदाहरणः– सामान्य दर 7.75/– पर यूनिट है तो लाइसेंस ना जमा करवाने पर ये 8.75/– प्रति यूनिट है। आप सब भी अपने बिलों को चैक कीजिए।

ये व्यवस्था लगभग 4 साल पहले शुरू हुई थी।

हम दिल्ली सरकार से विनम्र निवेदन करते हैं कि औधोगिक क्षेत्र में चलने वाली सभी ईकाईयों पर एक समान दर की यूनिट चार्ज होना चाहिए।

सभी व्यापारियों के लिए कृपा सरलीकरण कीजिए।

तरूण बंसल। जय हिन्द।
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