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UFlex Limited unveils a report on 'Recyclability of Multi-Layered Aseptic Packaging' at a PPRDC Roundtable

Ashok Chaturvedi, Chairman and Managing Director, UFlex Limited, released a study report on 'Recyclability of Multi-Layered Aseptic Packaging' at a special roundtable organised by Plastics Packaging Research and Development Centre (PPRDC). The report was unveiled in the presence of Deepak Mishra, Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India, and Prof. (Dr.) Shishir Sinha, DG-CIPET.

Ashok Chaturvedi, Chairman and Managing Director, UFlex Limited said, "We welcome the government's initiatives toward clean India as it is a stepping-stone for a clean planet. As a global leader in packaging, we have made significant investments in industrial and MLP (multi-layer mixed plastic) waste recycling facilities across our global locations and very recently, in multi-layer aseptic recycling technology."

"Historically, multi-layer aseptic packaging is considered "non-recyclable" as the packaging structures are made of a mix of materials (such as paper, polyethylene, and aluminum foil). Multi-layer aseptic packaging mostly ends up in landfills or is incinerated. UFlex has invested in advanced Enzymatic Delamination Technology to enable aseptic packaging recycling. Enzymatic delamination utilises enzymes to break down the bonding between different layers of the packaging materials, allowing for the separation of individual layers such as paper and polyethylene/foil laminate which can be reused in the production of new products. UFlex has set up a state-of-the-art aseptic packaging recycling facility in Gwalior and would like to invite brand owners, civic bodies, NGOs, and recyclers to visit our facilities and learn more about this technology."



"This report will help brand owners and recyclers appreciate the technical processes, possibilities, and financial returns on recycling MLAP (multi-layer aseptic plastic) waste. In a country like India, this could provide a direction for the treatment of aseptic plastic waste in a sustainable manner and bring circularity in aseptic packaging."

"We all realise that this world cannot do without plastic packaging, and it is the biggest contributor to our farmers' income. 90 per cent of the produce from farmers is made available to consumers thanks to MLP packaging. While we have invested our own time and money and developed technology to pave the way for recycling in India, we believe that adequate regulatory support in creating the right environment to boost recycling is the need of the hour. Often, a well-drafted law accelerates the pace of change like nothing else."

Ashwani K. Sharma, President and CEO, Aseptic Liquid Packaging Business, UFlex Limited, said, "At UFlex, we recognise the critical role of aseptic packaging in our modern economy, and we are committed to driving innovation that aligns sustainability with economic progress. Our advanced enzymatic delamination technology is a testament to our investment and commitment to highly efficient, technologically advanced, and sustainable practices. By upcycling aseptic packaging waste into valuable industrial and daily-use products, we are paving the

way to address one of the biggest challenges of recycling aseptic packaging waste for industry and the country. We look forward to playing a critical role in creating a more sustainable future for India and beyond."

The release of the report was followed by an address on 'Aseptic Liquid

Packaging - Opportunities & Challenges', by Ashwini K. Sharma, President and CEO, Aseptic Liquid Packaging Business, UFlex. He also showcased UFlex's advanced aseptic recycling facility at Gwalior which upcycles aseptic packaging waste into several industrial and daily-use items. This was followed by a presentation on Recycling of MLP (Category III) – Recycling Methods by Jeevaraj Pillai, Chief Sustainability Officer, UFlex and Trustee – PPRDC, and Dr. Pajit Sangchai, Enzymologist, and a presentation on Meeting EPR guidelines for MLP (Category – III) by Vikas Garg from A. A. Garg and Company.

Other speakers included Mihir Banerji, Secretary General, and Coordinator, PPRDC, and Manas Sarkar, Business HR Head, and Sustainability Lead, Packaging Business, UFlex, and Council Member - PPRDC. The event was attended by brand owners and industry experts from all over the country who deliberated on the future of recycling and EPR guidelines.

Plastics Packaging Research and Development Centre (www.pprdc.in) is a non-profit research and development center established by the Multilayer Plastics Films Sanitation Trust. PPRDC recently organised a one-day round-table thematic discussion on "Sustainable Packaging and EPR Regulations" in Delhi. The event agenda included a briefing by the PPRDC executives on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) norms and best practices for building a circular economy.

inspection, sharing advice on best practices for filtration and system cleanliness.

With the switch, MTI India observed an increased oil drain interval (ODI) of more than 8 years. In addition, the company was able to lower equipment downtime and the total cost of lubrication. The company benefited with potential annual savings of Rs 2 lakh and was also able to reduce environmental impact by 630 litres and hour exposure reduction by 18 hours.

Leading lubrication innovation

The advanced formulation of Mobil DTE 25 Ultra ensures unparalleled performance even in the most demanding situations. Its exceptional thermal stability and oxidation resistance, translate into extended oil life, reduces downtime for oil changes, and enhances overall



productivity. The Mobil DTE 25 Ultra is a part of the Mobil DTE 20 Ultra Series high-performance anti-wear hydraulic oils which come with extended oil life capabilities that have demonstrated up to 2 times longer ODIs versus similar competitive oils.

They meet the stringent requirements of hydraulic systems using high-pressure, high-output pumps as well as other hydraulic system components such as close clearance servo-valves and numerically controlled (NC) machine tools. The products exhibit outstanding oxidation and thermal

stability allowing long oil life and reduced deposit formation in harsh conditions and with severe hydraulic systems using high-pressure, high output pumps. These products meet the most rigorous performance requirements of a wide range of hydraulic systems and component manufacturers, allowing the use of a single product with excellent performance characteristics.

As the plastics industry in India continues to move forward, Mobil stands as a steadfast partner, propelling growth with its innovative hydraulic oil solutions, technical know-how, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Mobil's contributions to the industry are not only driving operational ease, but also taking several steps beyond just lubrication innovation – by driving progress, efficiency, and the realisation of India's manufacturing potential. 📍

UPDATE

Must leverage AI and enzyme-based technology to reduce the environmental footprint: Ashok Chaturvedi

During his keynote speech at the 10th Specialty Films & Flexible Packaging Global Summit in 2023, Ashok Chaturvedi, the Founder, Chairman, and Managing Director of UFlex Group, emphasised the potential for accelerating sustainable innovation in the flexible packaging industry through the adoption of technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and enzymatic processing.

The UFlex Group Chairman and Managing Director reflected on the evolution of the plastics industry, stating, "Back in the 1960s, when chemical companies were developing large-scale plastic production facilities, they coined the slogan: If you want to save the planet, use plastic. We truly believe that today, if producers can reach consumers globally, it is possible only because of flexible packaging. Historically, when chemical companies were producing plastic in the 60s, they had to struggle with their selling proposition, and the production size used to be 1500 tons per year. Today, the production size has increased to a million tons per year. MLP (multi-layer plastic) as opposed to mono-material packaging, cou-



pled with a robust recycling ecosystem and bio-enzyme technology will propel the industry to the next phase of growth".

"Today, whatever we are producing needs to be recycled. At UFlex, we have made significant investments in industrial and MLP (multi-layer mixed plastic) waste recycling facilities across our global locations and very recently, in enzyme-based delamination and recycling technology for aseptic packaging. We should continue to focus on mechanical recycling. Chemical recycling may not be

happening today but will happen in the future", he added.

Chaturvedi reiterated the need to use machinery and AI to collect and sort waste rather than allowing waste workers to do that manually. "Waste collection and adequate access to post-consumer waste is one of the biggest problems that we face in India. It is critical to recognise that it is not the process of recycling that presents the most significant hurdle in addressing plastic pollution. Rather, it is the efficient and holistic collection and management of plastic waste that emerges as the cornerstone of our battle", he concluded.